

Hereford BRAND

100th Year, Vol. Number 112 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

FRIDAY, December 8, 2000

12 Pages, 50 Cents

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Bonnie Rhodes

Today's weather OUTLOOK

• Mostly cloudy skies •

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain, rain may change to light freezing rain or light snow late, lows near 30, south winds 10 to 15 mph.

Saturday: Partly sunny with highs around 60, southwest winds 10 to 20 mph.

Saturday night: Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 30s.

• Extended forecast •

Sunday: Partly cloudy, highs around 60.

Monday: Windy and much colder, cloudy with a chance of light snow, lows near 20, highs in the upper 20s.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light snow, lows around 12, highs in the mid-20s.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light snow, lows 10 to 15, highs in the upper 20s.

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light snow, lows around 15, highs near 30.

• Hereford weather •

Thursday's high, 62; low, 31; no precipitation, according to KPAN Radio.

• Weather turns colder •

Light freezing rain or snow could start the weekend for West Texans in what forecasters say will herald several days of increasingly cold weather.

Early-morning temperatures today ranged from the 30s to 50. It was 32 degrees a. Amarillo and 47 at Galveston.

Other readings were 33 at Conroe and 45 at both Spur and Odessa.

Winds were mostly northerly and southerly at 5 to 15 mph in the north and west, with gusts in the Panhandle, and light and variable conditions elsewhere.

Patchy fog shrouded some locations in the southeast and in eastern parts of North Texas, along with the Coastal Plains.

With the latest cold front's approach, a slight chance of rain was forecast through the weekend, with precipitation possibly turning to light freezing rain or light snow late at night in the Panhandle.

Daytime highs should range from near 40 in the Panhandle to almost 70 along the Rio Grande.

'A MERRY OLDE CHRISTMAS'



BRAND/Becky Thorn
The Hereford Chamber Singers presented "A Merry Olde Christmas" Thursday evening as the lord of the manor entertained Christmas guests. Entering the banquet hall (Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church) are (from left) Lady Bera Boyd, Lord Chad Beavers and Lady Christine Beavers.

Chamber singers entertain 'guests' with performance

A procession of lords and ladies in their finest, formal attire entered the hall led by the lord and lady of the manor, ascended the risers and entertained their guests with most excellent Christmas music while they dined on mixed herbs and greens, roasted leg of ox, pomme de terre, lentils, trenchers, pekoe or coffee and sweet paystree.

By Becky Thorn

Hereford Brand Lifestyles Editor

"A Merry Olde Christmas" was presented by the Hereford Chamber Singers Thursday evening in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church.

Lord and lady of the manor were portrayed by Duffy and Claudia McBrayer and the herald was Chad Beavers.

The singers were directed by David Cox and accompanied by pianist, Linda Gilbert

and flautist, Christine Beavers.

Other members of the group were Nathan Abernethy, Charles Axtell, Gayle Binder, Bera Boyd, Jeanie Conway, Nancy Cox, Sharon Cramer, Trish Elliott, Paula Eubanks, Susan George, Amy Gilliland, Carolyn Jansa, Leota Kelso, Barbara Kerr, Jerry Killingsworth, Trow Mims, Susan Shaw and Gene Streun.

The Hereford Chamber Singers was originally organized in 1975 with Bill Devers as director. The group has given numerous local and area performances. The singers have performed for the Texas State Chorale Directors Convention in San Antonio and traveled as far as Romania and Australia to perform.

The current singers re-organized in 1999 with Gene Streun as president of the group.

The next scheduled performance is Dec. 14 at the annual Lions Club Christmas party.

Pheasant season's opening

Donald Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Pheasant hunters won't be getting their traditional sendoff this year, however, as long as there are plenty of birds, they probably won't mind.

For several years, Hereford's First United Methodist Church has sponsored a pheasant hunters' breakfast on the opening day of the season. However, the church is not holding the breakfast this year, sending the hunters into local restaurants before they hit the fields.

The pheasant season opens Saturday and runs through Dec. 24. The daily bag limit is three roosters, with a possession limit of six.

Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife (TDPW) officials are predicting a good season. The agency's annual census of the pheasant population indicates higher populations in the traditionally good counties, such as Deaf Smith County, and expanding populations in other counties.

Among the areas cited by the TDPW as having good pheasant populations is the farming country east of Hereford and southeast of Canyon, where the agency reported a surprising number of birds.

Although the 1999 season was considered a disappointment because of dry conditions and hailstorms which hit during the spring nesting season. However, there was adequate moisture during this year's nesting season, resulting in an excellent hatch through much of the Panhandle. Also, the survival rate of hatchlings appears to have been good.

The season also means big bucks for area businesses. Field guides, hotels, restaurants, service stations, entertainment establishments and shopping outlets all benefit from the hordes of hunters.

According to the TDPW, nearly 22,000 hunters converged on the High Plains last year, spending an average 1.8 actual hunting days. Some hunters are said to spend \$1,200 to \$2,000 for the first weekend hunt.

In an article in last week's Hereford Brand, Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce executive vice president Sid Shaw said the first weekend of the season means at least \$20,000 to the local economy.

"We're packed solid for the first weekend, and we have a long waiting list," said Cindy Isaacson, new owner of the Best Western Red Carpet Inn. "The second weekend is still open, but the opening weekend is always the busiest."

"Everyone benefits when the hunters come to town," Isaacson said. "Some of these guys are

Please see HUNTERS, Page A8

Seniors request warmth

Two senior citizens, age 73 and 71, both with serious health problems and grieving over the death of a son, are asking for a gift of simple warmth this holiday season.

The husband is confined to a wheelchair; the wife is battling diabetes. They get by on their Social Security check.

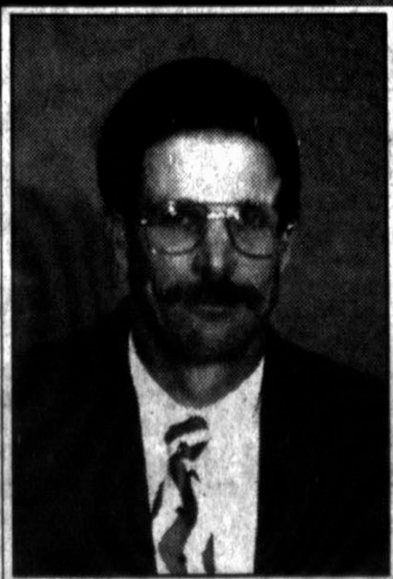
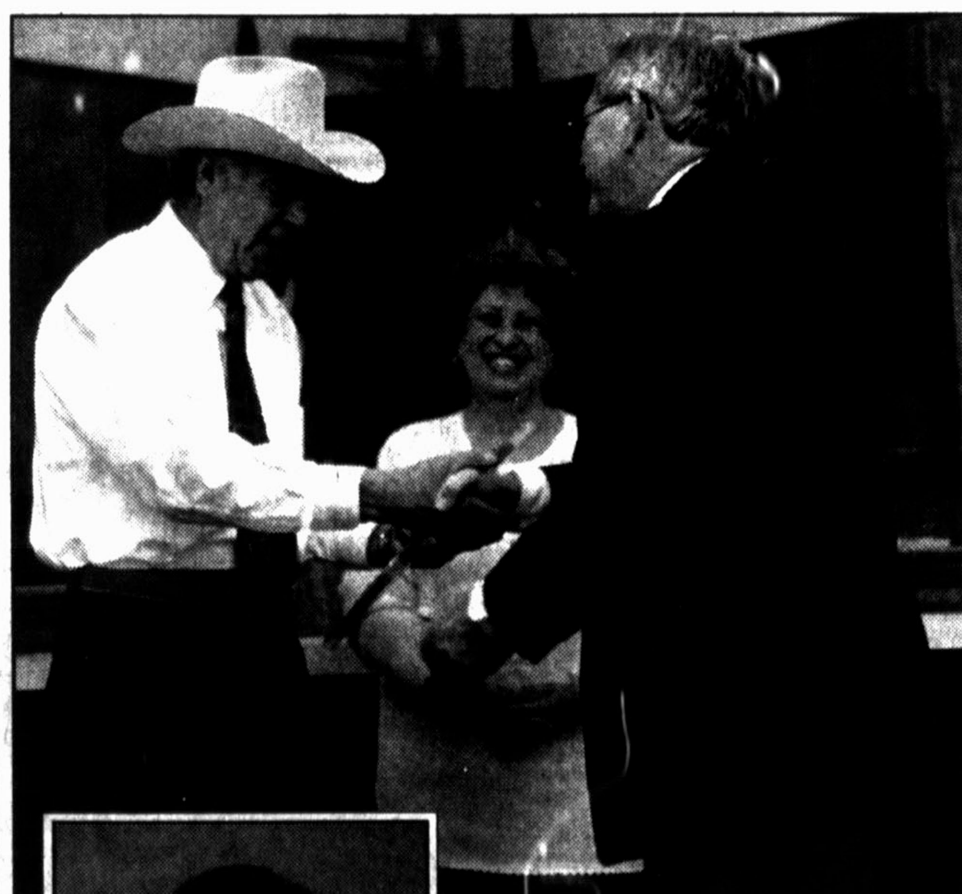
This couple has asked for help with blankets and food from the Christmas Stocking Fund.

Generous contributions from local residents will make it possible for CSF to help this couple and many others of the community's less fortunate during the Yule season.

The anonymous committee of volunteers administering CSF give the needs of the young and the elderly a high priority in their decisions on assistance. With the caring and sharing help of the local community, CSF will address as many needs as possible during the 2000 campaign.

You can help CSF to extend maxi-

Please see FUND, Page A8



BRAND/Don Cooper
Deaf Smith County Judge Tom Simons (right) presents a plaque to Sheriff Joe Brown as Tax Assessor-Collector Margaret Del Toro watches. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Brown, Del Toro and Precinct 1 Commissioner Wayne Betzen (left) this morning during a party for the outgoing county officials. The three officials' terms will expire Dec. 31.

HOLIDAY MAIL

Time is running out for getting overseas packages to post office

By Donald Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

As holiday shoppers crowd malls and other retail outlets, the holiday mailers are crowding post offices.

Time is running out for people who want to use the U.S. Postal Service to send packages to loved ones. All air packages to Europe should be sent by Monday. For air packages to Canada, the deadline is Dec. 15.

Cards and letters bound for Europe should be mailed by Monday. For Canada, the deadline for cards and letters is Dec. 15.

Hereford Postmaster Charles Britten said recently the crunch here is less severe than it was 10-15 years ago. Unlike post offices in some larger cities, Hereford is not hiring temporary workers to help handle the holiday mail.

If this year's holiday mailing season is like past years, Britten said he anticipates the busiest days to be Dec. 21-23.

According to a recent Associated Press article, Nicholas Barranca, head of the Postal Service operations planning/processing, officials are confident the agency will be able to handle the increased vol-



BRAND/Don Cooper
Postal worker Harriet Trujillo sorts mail at the Hereford Post Office.

ume. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Postal Service handles an average of 150 pieces of mail each day.

The peak day for the Postal Service is expected to be Dec. 11, when about 280 million items are expected to be postmarked. A second peak is expected Dec. 18, with the busiest delivery days Dec. 13-Dec. 20.

For last-minute shoppers, Express Mail will be delivered on Sunday, Dec. 24, and on Christmas Day itself, according to the report.

DECEMBER 8 2000

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, December 8, 2000 • A3

Unknown wedding guests are no-no

Dear Ann Landers: I would appreciate your help with a sticky etiquette question. My husband and I have been invited to a wedding. We know the bridal couple and their parents quite well. I have been informed discreetly that the bride and groom are paying for this wedding themselves.

The question is this: Our two sons have girlfriends who are not yet known to the bride and groom. Both sons have told us they would like very much to bring their girlfriends to the wedding because there will be dancing. I am not sure if this would be appropriate. Would it be OK for me to phone the young couple and ask whether I can mail them a check for the girls' dinners — or would that be tacky?

Please let me have your answer. I value your opinion. — Glendora, Calif.

Dear Glendora: According to Letitia Baldrige, authority on manners, those who attend a wedding are there to help the bride and groom celebrate. Other than one's fiancée, it would be rude to bring anyone the bride and groom do not know. There are probably close friends and family members who had to be excluded because of the cost — which these days can be considerable. (And P.S.: Your sons might meet some interesting new people there.)

Dear Ann Landers: I read



CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ann Landers

your column every day and love it. I've read many "how we met" stories, and wondered if you might like to hear a "first date" story.

On our first date, he arrived at the door with a tiny piece of tissue stuck to his chin. He had cut himself shaving. He also arrived in a Corvair instead of the Corvette that my girlfriend had mistakenly said he drove. The Corvair died at the drive-in theater and had to be pushed into the viewing space. During our first kiss, his capped front tooth fell out and left a large hole. Then, when he brought me home, he leaned on our freshly painted door and got white streaks all over his coat. We have been married 20 years and couldn't be happier. The moral of this story is, don't be too quick to judge. — Denise in Harbor City, Calif.

Dear Denise: Judging from your first date, your relationship had nowhere to go but up. Thanks for a frank and funny letter.

Dear Ann Landers: I read the letter from "Jennifer in Coral Springs, Fla.," whose car

spun out of control. She was grateful that a tow truck stopped, as well as a young man across the road. She said it restored her faith in mankind.

I can tell you why Jennifer received so much instant help. She is probably young and attractive. I'll bet an old, plain-looking woman would never have gotten that kind of attention. — Fred in Raleigh, N.C.

Dear Fred: Why are you so cynical? There are many kind and caring people in this world. Open your eyes and you will see them. They're out there.

Dear Ann Landers: I have been selling real estate for 10 years in order to earn a degree and embark on a new career. I want to tell all buyers and sellers it isn't easy to make a living selling real estate. Sometimes I barely make expenses.

More and more people are using Realtors' services and not paying for them. Sellers use real estate agents to find out what their homes are worth, then sell them on their

own. Buyers often use real Realtors' services for three months to a year, then buy a house that's "For Sale By Owner."

I couldn't have made it without my wife and children's loving support. I want to thank them, as well as those clients who did put their trust in me and valued my hard work and expertise. — Realtor in Minneapolis

Dear Realtor: Few home buyers and sellers appreciate the amount of work Realtors put into helping them. Thanks for the reminder.

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

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Winner of the Christmas floral arrangement given away by Xi Epsilon Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was Nancy Urbanczyk. The drawing for the arrangement, made by Terry Sparks, was held Sunday during the Christmas Open House at the Deaf Smith County Museum.

Committees report to Xi Epsilon Alpha

Committee reports were the main items of business on the agenda at the monthly meeting of Xi Epsilon Alpha Tuesday in the home of Diane Kreig.

President Shelley Lewis presided during the business session.

The treasurer's report reflected that Nancy Urbanczyk was the winner of the floral arrangement donated by Terry Sparks. The drawing was held at the Christmas Open House Sunday at the Deaf Smith County Museum. A total of 437 tickets were sold.

Service committee chairman Peggy Hyer collected toiletry items to be donated to the Child Protective Service Agency. A child's names was taken from the tree at Hereford State Bank and a gift will be purchased and placed under the tree for that child.

Susan Shaw quizzed members on first ladies and wrong answers netted money for the Christmas Stocking Fund.

Kay Williams, chairman of the social committee, announced that a couples Christmas party is set for 7 p.m. on Dec. 8 with dinner at Baldos followed by an ornament exchange at the home of Sharon and Julius Bodner.

Program and yearbook chairman Melinda Henson reported that the next meeting will be Dec. 19 in the home of Deann Harris. It will be the annual member Christmas party.

Following the business meeting, hostess Kreig presented a program on "The Sixth Sense." Then she and co-hostess Henson served refreshments of ice cream sundaes, hot spiced-cider and lemonade.

In attendance were Linda Arellano, Marge Bell, Kim Hollingsworth, Connie Matthews, Tamara Mimms, Jana Morgan, Gaye Reilly, Hyer, Shaw, Williams, Bodner, Harris, Henson, Kreig and Lewis.

Special observances set at local churches

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - The 30-voice youth choir, Raging Fire, has been working for months on its musical, "Code Red: An E.R. Christmas," to be presented Dec. 16 at 7:00 and Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. The main point of this musical is to share Christ with your friends before it is too late.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - The Christmas cantata, "The Winter Rose," will be presented at 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. The candlelight Christmas Eve Communion service will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24.

AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH - This Sunday evening at 6, the combined choirs of Avenue Baptist, Frio Baptist and Temple Baptist will present the Christmas Cantata, "Bless That Wonderful Name," at Avenue Baptist Church. Everyone is invited to stay after the cantata for finger foods and fellowship.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC

CHURCH - Christmas Liturgies are Sunday, Dec. 24 at 9 a.m. (the only morning liturgy), 6 and 8 p.m. Christmas Day Liturgy is at 10 a.m.

WESTWAY BAPTIST CHURCH - The Christmas program will be Dec. 17, featuring the children and others. There will be Christmas carols, the Christmas story and perhaps a surprise visitor. The celebration will conclude with a fellowship time.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - The Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 p.m. There will be singing of traditional Christmas carols, scripture reading, candle lighting and Holy Communion.

WHAT'S FOR LUNCH

School Menus

HEREFORD I.S.D.

Breakfast

MONDAY-Mini pancakes with syrup; or cereal, buttered toast, fruit punch juice, milk choice.

TUESDAY-Breakfast pizza; or cereal, buttered toast, orange smiles, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Scrambled eggs with sausage; or cereal, buttered toast, orange pineapple juice, milk choice.

THURSDAY-Sausage patty, biscuit and gravy; or cereal, buttered toast, diced peaches, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Fruit yogurt, glazed donut; or cereal, buttered toast, apple juice, milk choice.

Lunch

MONDAY-Spaghetti with meat sauce, creamy coleslaw, green beans, cornbread, hot apricot cobbler, milk choice.

TUESDAY-Taco salad in edible bowl with picante sauce, lettuce and tomatoes, Spanish rice, seasoned pinto beans, pineapple tidbits, cinnamon roll, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Rib-a-que on bun, vegetarian beans, tater tots with catsup, orange cream bar,

milk choice.

THURSDAY-Turkey and dressing supreme with gravy, mashed potatoes, green peas, cranberry sauce, angel biscuits, pumpkin chiffon pie, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Hamburger, burger salad, French fries with catsup, fresh fruit choice, no bake cookie, milk choice.

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

MONDAY-Pigs in a blanket, potato wedges, pork and beans, pears, milk.

TUESDAY-Chili with beans, corn, cornbread, apricots, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, bread, pineapple Jello, milk.

THURSDAY-Cheese pizza, carrot and celery sticks, sweet peas, mixed fruit, milk.

FRIDAY-Frito pie, pinto beans, lettuce and tomatoes, brownies, milk.

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SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, December 8, 2000 • A5

Spurs fail to hold off New York

Knicks come from behind to surprise San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Lerry Johnson and the New York Knicks failed to stop Tim Duncan in the 1999 NBA Finals, and they lost. They weren't going to make that mistake again.

The Knicks double-teamed Duncan, giving Johnson some defensive help, as they surged back from a 14-point deficit to beat the San Antonio Spurs 86-83 Thursday night.

Duncan missed four jump shots after New York took its first lead of the game with 9:09 left in the fourth quarter on two free throws by Chris Childs. Derek Anderson missed three 3-point attempts in the final 2:37, including two in the last 12 seconds, to seal the Knicks' victory.

New York's defense — rated No. 1 in the NBA — held the Spurs to 40.9 percent shooting.

"They are a good defensive team," Duncan said. "They always have been and they always will be. But it comes down to getting it done. They did and we didn't," he said. "They (the Spurs) are giving me the ball and asking me to do it. I'm not hitting them down the stretch. That responsibility falls on me."

Duncan, who played all but two minutes of the game, finished with a game-high 26 points despite going 8-of-14 from the foul line. Anderson had 15 on 4-of-11 shooting, while David Robinson went 3-of-15 for 11 points.

"There's not much you can say after a loss like that," Robinson said. "I had some good looks and I missed some easy shots. It's frustrating."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said the team didn't do enough to overcome the Knicks' defense in the final quarter.

"We haven't put our foot on someone's neck," he said. "It's disappointing to play so hard and so well and not finish it off. We have to keep playing and not get paranoid."

The Knicks pulled it off even while three of the players guarding the twin towers of Duncan and Robinson racked up five fouls apiece. As usual, the 6-7 Johnson

See SPURS, Page A6

Will work for millions

Baseball's free agents try to find work while GM's talk trades at winter meetings

NEW YORK (AP) — Tony Gwynn stayed with the San Diego Padres and David Cone left the New York Yankees as 11 free agents re-signed with

their former teams Thursday and 77 parted ways at a midnight EST deadline.

Twenty-eight free agents were offered salary arbitration by their former teams, but 77 prominent players were not.

On the eve of the start of the winter meetings, Mark Grace's 13-year tenure with the Chicago Cubs ended, setting up a deal with Arizona.

Andres Galarraga and the Atlanta Braves also parted ways, as did John Wetteland and the Texas Rangers.

Pitcher Frank Castillo, however, found a new home with Boston, agreeing to a \$4.5 million, two-year contract. The Red Sox also re-signed knuckleballer Tim Wakefield to a \$6.5 million, two-year contract and agreed to a minor league deal with Pete Schourek that would pay him \$1 million if he makes the team.

Players offered arbitration by midnight have until Dec. 19 to accept or reject. In the meantime, they can continue

to negotiate with their former teams through Jan. 8.

Players who refused arbitration can't re-sign with their old clubs until May 1. Many teams waited until nearly midnight to make their decisions public.

Among those offered arbitration were Alex Rodriguez by Seattle; Juan Gonzalez by Detroit; Mike Hampton and Bobby J. Jones by the New York Mets; Kevin Appier by Oakland; Darren Dreifort by Los Angeles; and Manny

Ramirez, Sandy Alomar and David Segui by Cleveland.

Others offered were Mark Petkovsek by Anaheim; Tom Gordon by Boston; Charles Johnson and Harold Baines by the Chicago White Sox; Tom Lampkin by Seattle; Mike Munoz and Ruben Sierra by Texas; Alex Gonzalez and Craig Grebeck by Toronto; Bobby Bonilla, John Burkett, Wally Joyner, Scott Kamieniecki and Terry Mulholland by Atlanta;

See AGENTS, Page A6

QUICK SHOT



BRAND/Julius Bodner

Taking the shot—Sophomore guard Sarah Griffin takes a shot during the Lady Whitefaces' game against Dimmitt on Nov. 28. The Ladies are competing in the Cal Farley Tip-Off Classic this weekend.

Boys knock off Hornets

Girls team earns fourth win beating El Paso Hanks

The streak is still alive. The Hereford Whitefaces rocked Tulia in the Canyon Classic 65-35 to extend their winning streak to six games and improve the team's record to 6-2.

The Herd never trailed Tulia after taking a nine point lead after the first quarter 17-8.

By halftime the Hornets were warming up the bus falling behind 37-11.

Cody Hodges, senior guard, scored 22 points to lead the team over Tulia High. Thursday's game marked the fifth straight that Hodges

See HERD, Page A6

HERD WRESTLING

DEC. 8-9	ULYSSES KS TOURNEY	AWAY
DEC. 12	AMARILLO HIGH	HOME
DEC. 16	RANDALL TOURNEY	AWAY
DEC. 21	TASCOSA	HOME
JAN. 2	RIVER ROAD	AWAY
JAN. 5-6	GRAPEVINE DUALS	AWAY
JAN. 11	PALO DURO	HOME
JAN. 13	HEREFORD DUALS	HOME
JAN. 15	CAPROCK HIGH	AWAY
JAN. 19-20	VERNON TOURNEY	AWAY
JAN. 23	RANDALL HIGH	HOME
JAN. 26-27	TEXAS DUALS	AWAY

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Kings beat Dallas, 5-2

Stars lose to ninth place Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles Kings resurrected an old slogan from last year to inspire them in a rare win against the Dallas Stars.

"Our theme was to get back to being tough to play against," coach Andy Murray said. "We felt we could be a little stingier, a little grittier."

The Kings were all those things in a 5-2 victory Thursday night, getting a goal and an assist from Ziggy Palffy and solid play from Stephane Fiset in his second start of the season.

Fiset stopped 29 shots in recording the Kings' second victory in their last seven games. He returned Saturday

after missing 10 weeks with a knee injury to earn his first win against Minnesota.

"I was relaxed. I was ready," said Fiset, who was consumed by nerves in his comeback last weekend. "It's not the same practicing as playing. You're so focused to watch the puck you don't feel the knee."

Palffy's 19th goal and second-period assist added to his NHL-leading total of 42 points.

"We're asking Ziggy to work both ends of the rink," Murray said. "It was a good defensive play to steal the puck (and score)."

Dallas backup Marty Turco made 20 saves as the Stars lost in Los Angeles for just the third time since the 1994-95 season.

"I certainly didn't help myself on that first shot (Palffy's

goal), and then getting a crazy bounce on the second goal," Turco said. "The most frustrating thing is that I can't just go back in there the next game and show what I can do."

The Kings led 4-0 after two periods on goals by Palffy, Stu Grimson, Luc Robitaille and Bryan Smolinski.

"We shot ourselves in the foot right off the hop," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We knew this team was sitting here in ninth place (in the Western Conference), playing with desperation, and we just turned it over a couple of times and really hurt ourselves."

Grimson, an enforcer who rarely scores, had a surprised look on his face after getting his first goal of the season.

The puck bounced off his stick and head and into the net to give Los Angeles a 2-0 lead in the first.

"I saw it and was trying to get out of the way," said Grimson, who notched his 14th goal in 647 career games. "You certainly don't remember the ones that go in off your head."

Robitaille took a pass from Palffy in front of the net and punched in the puck for his 14th goal at 2:03 of the second. Smolinski's power-play goal on assists by Robitaille and Rob Blake at 4:28 made it 4-0.

With Mattias Norstrom off for high-sticking on a penalty that occurred at the end of the second period, Hull scored his 16th goal 42 seconds into the third.

Agents

from Page A5

Mark Wohlers by Cincinnati; Shawson Dunston and Scott Radinsky by St. Louis; and Dave Magadan by San Diego.

In addition, the Braves offered arbitration to pitcher Andy Ashby, whose \$22.5 million, three-year contract with Los Angeles has not been finalized.

Grace's deal with the Diamondbacks could be announced as soon as Friday.

"This is a business, and when your employer doesn't want you back you have to find work elsewhere," the first baseman told Phoenix television station KPNX. "Now I'm a Diamondback."

Cubs president and general manager Andy MacPhail said it was tough call "because Mark meant so much to the franchise."

"When you boil it down to its most basic level, Mark expects to play three or four more years," MacPhail said. "Sooner or later, we're going to have to introduce younger players."

Cone, coming off a 4-14 season, could have stayed with the World Series champions for about \$500,000 guaranteed and the chance to earn more in performance bonuses, a sharp cut from his \$12 million salary this year.

Because the free-agent pitcher wasn't offered salary arbitration, he is ineligible to

re-sign with the Yankees until May 1.

"It seemed best for both sides to go their separate ways," said Cone's agent, Steve Fehr. "I know David once said he wanted to remain a Yankee for the rest of his career, but sometimes circumstances change in ways you cannot quite foresee."

Gwynn, who has spent 19 seasons with the Padres and won eight NL batting titles, agreed to a \$2 million, one-year contract that gives him the chance to earn \$3.7 million more in performance bonuses.

"I wanted an opportunity to play my whole career here," Gwynn said. "When you think about all the options that you have, that was foremost in my mind. I'm glad that it worked out."

"Ultimately, the thing that kept me here was the fact that I'm happy here," he said. "I really like it here. I'm really comfortable here."

Said Padres general manager Kevin Towers: "It's good to have this behind us."

"From a baseball standpoint, if Tony's as healthy as he says he is right now, our ballclub will be a much better ballclub with him in the middle of our lineup once again. He's going to be out there everyday unless he says he can't," he said.

SHOULD AGE MATTER?

■ This year's Heisman Trophy is about more than just wins and numbers

NEW YORK (AP) — Before Florida State's Chris Weinke came along, age was never a factor in determining who won the Heisman Trophy. On Saturday night, it just might be the difference between winning and losing college football's most prized individual award.

This year's Heisman race is too close to call between the 28-year-old Weinke and Oklahoma's Josh Heupel. But if some of the 922 Heisman voters leave Weinke's name off their ballot because of his age, Heupel would have an even stronger chance to win the trophy given by the Downtown Athletic Club.

"It would be a travesty if he doesn't win because age was a factor," Florida State coach Bobby Bowden said. "That shouldn't be a factor."

But because it's there, age has become an issue. Some argue Weinke has an unfair advantage because of his ma-

turity and his experience as a pro baseball player, and won't even consider him a candidate. Others argue that Weinke should be admired for having the "audacity," as Bowden calls it, to come back and think he could excel after playing minor league baseball for six years. Ballots were due Friday, but no matter who wins and for what reason, this Heisman race might end up as one of the closest in history.

The tightest Heisman voting was Bo Jackson's 45-point win over Chuck Long in 1985; the second tightest was Ernie Davis of Syracuse beating Bob Ferguson of Ohio State by 52 points in 1961. Says Weinke, who won the Davey O'Brien Award on Thursday night to go with his Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award: "If they don't want to vote for me, OK," he said, "but there is nothing on the Heisman ballot that says you can't be 28."

These two quarterbacks led their teams to a national championship game in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 3 — a matchup that is likely to feature a Heisman winner against the runner-up.

"I have no idea how it's going to come out," Bowden said. "You've got one who has taken his team to an undefeated season and has done everything you've got to do to get there. Then you've got the other who has played superlative football and is unique in his age."

Perfect season honors go to Heupel, who threw for 3,392 yards and 20 touchdowns in leading No. 1 Oklahoma (12-0) to the brink of its first national title since 1956. Weinke led the nation with 4,167 yards passing and threw 33 TD passes with 11 interceptions. He returned to Florida State in '97 and is trying to bring a second title to the Seminoles (11-1).

Herd

from Page A5

has scored at least 20 points.

Senior guard Slade Hodges netted three shots for six points, and junior guard Geoffrey Marquez added four points.

The game also featured several Hereford post players getting into the action including junior Cody Marsh (9 points) and senior James Stowe (8 points). Senior posts Tim Dudley and Chayse Rives also contributed to the win by scoring four and five points respectively.

The team will have another game this afternoon against Levelland.

The girls also pulled off a game one win at the Cal Farley Tip-Off Classic in Amarillo.

The girls beat El Paso Hanks 38-37 in the closest game of the opening round.

The leading scorer for the girls' team was sophomore Sarah Griffin who had 15 points for the Lady Whitefaces.

The girls team was in action again this morning facing Canyon Randall at 8 a.m.

Spurs

from Page A5

ran into foul trouble guarding the 7-foot Duncan. But then Marcus Camby and Luc Longley descended on Duncan.

"Luc has a height advantage over Larry and a weight advantage over Marcus," Latrell Sprewell said of the 7-2 reserve. "Luc doesn't give up anything in either department. He definitely was a big factor out there for us tonight."

The 6-11 Camby, who is slimmer and more athletic than his predecessor at starting center, Patrick Ewing, also contributed to the win by scoring 16 points, 10 of them in crucial third quarter.

In a 5:40 span, the Knicks reduced the Spurs' lead from 14 to two. Camby threw down

a dunk to spark an 8-0 run by New York to make it 65-62 with 2:43 left in the period. Sprewell, who topped the Knicks with 20 points, helped out by nailing a layup.

On their way to ending the Spurs' eight-game home winning streak, the Knicks finally grabbed the lead in the fourth quarter and then widened it to five with 4:25 left on a jumper by Glen Rice, who finished with 19 points.

San Antonio got it to 84-83 with 1:08 left on a layup by Sean Elliott followed by a jumper by Anderson.

But after Duncan missed a 15-foot jumper, Allan Houston fired a 22-footer over Anderson's outstretched arm

to make it 86-83.

Anderson threw up an airball from 3-point range with 11.2 seconds left. After Houston was tied up for a jump ball, Anderson missed a 3-pointer in the final seconds.

Houston finished with 17 points on 6-of-17 shooting.

Duncan grabbed 10 rebounds for the Spurs but shot just 8-of-14 from the foul line.

"I missed six and we lost by three," he said. "We have to make those. It all comes down to making baskets."

Notes: The Philadelphia 76ers are now the only NBA team with a perfect record at home this season. The Spurs had been riding an eight-game home winning streak. ... The

Knicks made it to the foul line only 14 times to the Spurs' 34, but shot 85.7 percent from the line to the Spurs' 73.5 percent. ... Anderson wore a bandage over his right eye because of a cut he got against Sacramento on Tuesday.

Hereford Young Farmers and Buyers Bash Committee are holding a meeting on **Monday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. Community Center Ballroom** on 2001 Country Stock Show & Sale. Exhibitors parents on Buyers are urged to attend.

YMCA BASKETBALL

MEN'S 5 ON 5

The YMCA Men's Basketball league is designed for men (no age limit) to show their athletic ability in ball games and to try their hand in winning a trophy. (1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place). Length of the league will be 6 weeks plus double elimination tournament. The team captain or manager will be responsible for the collection of the entry fee and to have all players listed on the roster in accordance with league guidelines by the start of the third game of the league. Out of town residents may participate in the league. Players must play at least 1/3 of the regular season games to be eligible for the tournament. Games will have 2 referees paid and scheduled by the YMCA.

STARTING DATE:	Sunday, January 7, 2001
GAME DAY:	Sundays, starting at 1:00 p.m.
SIGN-UP DEADLINE:	Thursday, January 4th, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
ENTRY FEE:	\$320.00 per team
LENGTH OF LEAGUE:	Six (6) weeks plus double elimination tournament

Rosters will be available at game site. Individual players must have name on roster and be properly registered with their team before playing. As soon as a player participates in a league game they shall be deemed as starting the season. There will be no grace period. Team may start with 3 player, if they are not present then it will be called as a forfeit. Anytime players on the court or on the bench join an altercation that team/teams shall forfeit.

Teams arriving without enough players to field a team may enlist temporary substitutes in order to field a team. The game will be a forfeit but this will allow those present the enjoyment of playing. If there is an odd number of teams, one team will play twice on game day. Intentional foul will be 2 free shots and ball out of bounds.

If you have questions please call the YMCA at 364-6990

YMCA Elementary Basketball

Basketball

ENTRY DEADLINE: December 31, 2000

The YMCA Basketball League is designed for elementary boys and girls grades K-5 thru 6th. All girls and boys are eligible to play regardless of athletic ability. Teams are coached by adult volunteers. Every game is supervised and referees are provided. The league specializes in wholesome competition while teaching the fundamentals of team play and good sportsmanship. Every girl and boy plays in every game. We will have three divisions: K-5 - 2nd, 3rd & 4th and 5th & 6th grades. The teams will be drawn at the YMCA office. **PLEASE DO NOT REQUEST PLAYERS TO BE ON CERTAIN TEAMS!!!**

RESTRICTION: Grades K-5 to 6th only

DATES: Teams play and practice once a week after the season starts. Practice starts the week of January 8th (depending on availability of gyms) and games begin Saturday, January 13th.

COACHES MEETING: Scheduled for January 6th at the YMCA.

LEAGUE FEE AND ELIGIBILITY: League fee will be \$23.00. Additional children in same family \$18.00 each. All participants must be YMCA members. YMCA memberships for youth are \$7.25 for three months. *****ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM!!!!*****

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarships are available for those who need and qualify for assistance. (contact Weldon or Norma Jean at 364-6990)

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INSIDE

Putin may pardon ailing U.S. prisoner

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

a lot, and he should be let go," commission head Anatoly Pristavkin said, according to the Interfax news agency. Pristavkin had said Thursday that Putin usually abides by the committee's recommendations. Pope, 54, was convicted of espionage Wednesday despite his claims of innocence and sentenced to a maximum-security prison.

California taps power from huge pumps

FOLSOM, Calif. — California's strained electric grid tapped enormous water pumps for emergency power and was able to avert blackouts, but authorities worry an expected cold snap could push energy demands beyond the system's capacity. State officials declared a Stage Three alert Thursday because as utilities struggled to meet evening demands, the state's electricity reserves dipped to critical levels. The unprecedented emergency followed hours of increasing stress on California's electricity grid, which has been strapped by cold weather, power plants idled for maintenance and repairs, and dwindling imports. The alert allows operators to obtain emergency power and ask certain customers to curtail usage and warns of the possibility of blackouts.

Forest Service steps up firefighting efforts

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — With a pot of new money from Congress after a record season of wildfires, the U.S. Forest Service is hiring extra firefighters and boosting prescribed burns and thinning operations to prevent future blazes. The \$1.8 billion to help cover the tab for last year's wildfires as well as prepare for next year marks the first time in recent years that federal wildfire funding has been enough to make a difference, said Mike Edrington, a Forest Service regional director.

MOSCOW — Russia's presidential pardons commission recommended on Friday that President Vladimir Putin free U.S. prisoner Edmond Pope, who was convicted of spying earlier in the week and sentenced to 20 years in prison. "Pope is a sick man who has gone through

ECONOMY: U.S. unemployment rate edges up to 4% last month; job growth weak

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's unemployment rate edged up to 4.0 percent in November as job growth remained weak for a second consecutive month, the latest sign that the red-hot economy is cooling.

The Labor Department said it was the first increase in the jobless rate since August, when it rose to 4.1 percent. For the past two months, the unemployment rate has been at a 30-year low of 3.9 percent.

Economists had expected the jobless rate to tick up as a slowing economy reduced the need for new workers.

"We're slowing, not stumbling," said Bill Cheney, chief economist for John Hancock Financial Services.

The number of new payroll jobs created last month was up by just 94,000 after an even weaker increase of 77,000 in October. The weakness last month stemmed from a big,

54,000 loss in government jobs as cities and states cut back on education employment and the federal government hired fewer postal workers for the holiday.

On Wall Street, stocks rose on fresh evidence of a moderating economy. The Dow Jones industrial averaged gained around 70 points and the Nasdaq was up around 130 points in morning trading.

The Federal Reserve, trying to slow the economy to a more moderate pace as a way to keep inflation at bay, pushed interest rates up six times from June 1999 to May of this year.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan on Tuesday, in what was seen as a major shift in policy, said that economic



Federal Reserve chief Alan Greenspan warned policy-makers to be alert to unexpected shocks.

growth slowed "appreciably" and policy-makers needed to be alert to unexpected shocks that could jeopardize the record-long economic expansion.

His comments triggered a huge one-day rally on Wall Street Tuesday as investors read Greenspan's comments as signaling the central bank was no longer considering raising interest rates and in fact stood ready

to cut rates as early as Jan. 31, 2001.

Both George W. Bush and his running mate, Dick Cheney, have expressed concerns in recent days that the slowdown in economic growth may be threatening a full-blown recession and have said this is

a major reason why Congress next year should pass the Republicans' \$1.3 trillion tax cut proposal.

Over the past year, the jobless rate has stayed within a narrow range of 3.9 percent to 4.1 percent. The low rate was helped through June by sizzling economic growth rates, including a 5.6 percent annual growth rate for the gross domestic product in the April-June quarter.

Growth slowed sharply in the summer with the gross domestic product rising at just a 2.4 percent rate in the July-September quarter.

Average hourly earnings rose for the second month in a row by 0.4 percent in November to \$13.94 an hour, slightly faster than the 0.3 percent increase many analysts were expecting.

For the 12 months ending in November, earnings are up 4 percent, the largest increase since January 1999.

Financially strapped Up With People closes

BROOMFIELD, Colo. (AP) — The curtain is closing for Up With People, but many cast members who toured the world to spread the group's musical message of peace and understanding remained hopeful it would someday rise from financial collapse.

The nonprofit organization

decided on Wednesday to shut down because of its \$7.3 million debt. It lost \$3.2 million in the fiscal year that ended in June and \$860,000 in the previous year, when it was forced to dip into its endowment.

"This is one of the steps you have to take to make it

to the next generation," said Scott Nelson of Denver, who toured with the group in Australia in 1985.

The organization, which left open the possibility of a reorganization, will lay off its 262 employees in 10 offices around the world and sell its main building north of Denver.

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Lennon fans pay tribute

NEW YORK (AP) — Unfazed by swirling snow and chilly temperatures, hardy John Lennon fans gathered Friday in Central Park to mark the 20th anniversary of the ex-Beatle's death.



John Lennon 1940-80

The crowd, which was expected to swell as the day went on, arranged candles to spell "J-O-H-N." Lennon's music wafted through Strawberry Fields, which was renamed for the hit Beatles' single after his death.

singer and his message of peace.

Fran Power, 34, flew in from Liverpool, England. Although there were ceremonies in Lennon's hometown, Power felt this was the year to make the pilgrimage to New York.

"Out of respect," he said. "The music is timeless. It's jumped generations."

Although the fans had hoped to keep the vigil going into Saturday, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani refused to waive the park's curfew — despite a personal appeal from the lord mayor of Liverpool.

The crowd will have to leave the park by 1 a.m.

By late morning, about 50 fans were listening to the late singer's music in Strawberry Fields, a section of the park opposite the apartment house where a deranged fan gunned him down Dec. 8, 1980.

"John's spirit is in this park," said Dave Reahle, 46, who drove overnight from his home of Warren, Ohio. "It's been a lifelong dream to come up here."

Fund

From Page A1

mum help to as many of the less fortunate members of the community as possible this holiday through your generous gift.

CSF extends assistance in numerous forms including help with food, utilities, medical and pharmacy bills, blankets, and clothing. All assistance, with the exception of food, is

via vouchers payable to the merchants, utilities, or medical facilities cooperating with CSF. Food assistance is in the form of staple goods that are boxed and delivered.

This year's primary assistance delivery date is Dec. 22.

Donations to CSF may be made in person at the *Hereford Brand*, 313 N. Lee, or

mailed to CSF in care of the *Brand* at P.O. Box 673, Hereford 79045. Those contributors who wish to remain anonymous should so designate their gifts.

The *Brand*, official collection point for CSF, periodically publishes a listing of contributors and keeps a running tally of the sum collected by CSF.

Hunters

From Page A1

spending \$150-\$200 per gun, probably \$30 a day for meals, and \$65 to \$75 for a room, plus all the other things like gasoline, snack foods and miscellaneous items."

Before the start of the season, TDPW biologists travel established routes of 20 square miles, counting the number of

birds spotted in each location. Officials are predicting a good season, although not a record one.

Pheasant populations are very closely tied to the amount of available cover, feed, and the severity of the winter. Local pheasant populations peaked in the late 1970s and

early 1980s when row irrigation was at a high point.

"Deaf Smith County is going to have an abundance of birds this year. It's a pheasant hunter's paradise," Shaw said.

The hunters who traveled from all over the country to bag a bird hope he's right.

Comics

The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



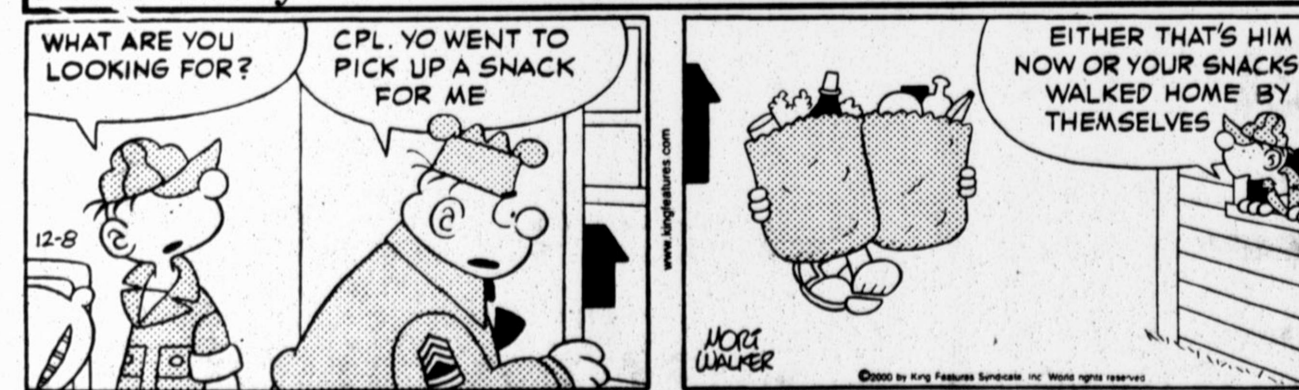
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



Marvin

By Tom Armstrong



Barney Google & Snuffy Smith

By Fred Lasswell



FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

Table of TV and radio programs for Friday, December 8, including channels like News, Entertainment, and Sports.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9

Table of TV and radio programs for Saturday, December 9, including channels like Earth, Kids, and Sports.

Table of TV and radio programs for Saturday, December 9, continuing from the previous table.

Table of TV and radio programs for Saturday, December 9, continuing from the previous table.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Table of TV and radio programs for Sunday, December 10, including channels like Sesame Street, Monster, and Sports.

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Bush contends Fla. court lacks any jurisdiction

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — As four court cases to decide the legality of Florida ballots steamrolled toward conclusion Friday, George W. Bush's team made a last-minute legal maneuver in the Florida Supreme Court.

The Bush lawyers filed a rare clarification with the state high court — which was deliberating Al Gore's request to set aside Bush's victory and count more ballots — telling the justices they didn't have authority to do so.

"This Court does not have authority to grant such relief under Florida law or federal law," the Bush petition said, clarifying comments Bush attorney Barry Richard made Thursday in oral arguments that the high court had "limited" jurisdiction.

Gore's lawyers countered by telling the Supreme Court that Florida law made it clear that "the results of this election — and every election" were subject to judicial review.

Both filings were attempts to get the last word, with Bush lawyers saying they found it "remarkable" that Gore attorneys were claiming the Supreme Court had original jurisdiction to decide the contested issues.

Gore was counting on a ruling from the Florida Supreme Court for the come-from-behind surprise he needs to overtake Bush's 537-vote lead.

Gore adviser Ron Klain said the vice president's team viewed the state Supreme Court as "the final arbiter of Florida law" and he acknowledged the obvious in saying a loss there "would be a setback for us, and a major one."

Should Gore lose there, he could still look for relief from three judges considering requests to toss out absentee ballots. At stake were Florida's 25 electoral votes and the presidency.

Two judges in Leon County Circuit Court were considering Democratic requests to throw out 25,000 absentee ballots because election officials in two GOP-leaning counties allowed Republican officials to alter absentee ballot applications.

And in federal court in Tallahassee, an additional 2,400 overseas absentee ballots were under attack by Democrats in a proceeding before U.S. District Court Judge Maurice Paul. Democrats argued Thursday the ballots should not be counted because they arrived after Election Day, although within a 10-day period Republicans say was legal.



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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

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

12-8 CRYPTOQUOTE

Z P H ' A F K P E A K H O G Y K
A P G X A T H A O N H S N H B U I
F O K H F K F G H A A P C A N L T U G A K
U T X S A P Z P C P L K A O N H B E P J

T C ? — B . K . U K C C N H B

Yesterday's Cryptquote: THERE ARE MIGHTY FEW PEOPLE WHO THINK WHAT THEY THINK THEY THINK. — ROBERT HENRI

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Dec	75.15	75.17	Dec	2.09 1/4	2.09 1/4
Jan	75.40	75.42	Jan	2.11 1/4	2.11 1/4
Feb	75.65	75.67	Feb	2.13 1/4	2.13 1/4
Mar	75.90	75.92	Mar	2.15 1/4	2.15 1/4
Apr	76.15	76.17	Apr	2.17 1/4	2.17 1/4
May	76.40	76.42	May	2.19 1/4	2.19 1/4
Jun	76.65	76.67	Jun	2.21 1/4	2.21 1/4
Jul	76.90	76.92	Jul	2.23 1/4	2.23 1/4
Aug	77.15	77.17	Aug	2.25 1/4	2.25 1/4
Sep	77.40	77.42	Sep	2.27 1/4	2.27 1/4
Oct	77.65	77.67	Oct	2.29 1/4	2.29 1/4
Nov	77.90	77.92	Nov	2.31 1/4	2.31 1/4
Dec	78.15	78.17	Dec	2.33 1/4	2.33 1/4

METAL FUTURES		
Dec	3.50	3.51
Jan	3.55	3.56
Feb	3.60	3.61
Mar	3.65	3.66
Apr	3.70	3.71
May	3.75	3.76
Jun	3.80	3.81
Jul	3.85	3.86
Aug	3.90	3.91
Sep	3.95	3.96
Oct	4.00	4.01
Nov	4.05	4.06
Dec	4.10	4.11

FUTURES OPTIONS			
Dec	1.50	1.52	1.54
Jan	1.55	1.57	1.59
Feb	1.60	1.62	1.64
Mar	1.65	1.67	1.69
Apr	1.70	1.72	1.74
May	1.75	1.77	1.79
Jun	1.80	1.82	1.84
Jul	1.85	1.87	1.89
Aug	1.90	1.92	1.94
Sep	1.95	1.97	1.99
Oct	2.00	2.02	2.04
Nov	2.05	2.07	2.09
Dec	2.10	2.12	2.14

INSIDE

(IN)DECISION 2000

Bush poised to announce who will hold posts in White House

AUSTIN (AP) — George W. Bush is ready to name a White House staff, but is holding off until a decisive go-ahead signal from the courts on the Florida presidential election.

Bush supporters were ready to stage a quick victory rally should the Texas governor get the nod.

Otherwise, Bush was staying out of sight on Friday, planning to remain in the governor's mansion and host an evening party for his Secret Service detail and his personal staff.

"We'll see what happens," was all that the Republican governor would say about a ruling from the Florida Supreme Court that could be decisive.

Bush has settled on some key White House appointments, said senior advisers who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

These include Josh Bolton, top policy aide in the campaign, who will take a similar

role at the White House.

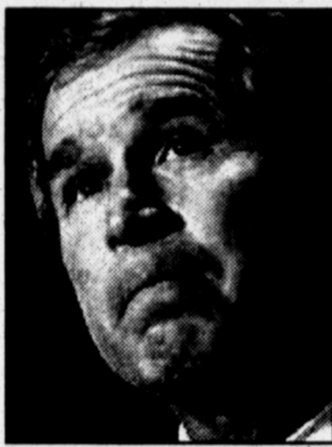
Bush previously had decided to name:

- **Karen Hughes** as a senior White House counselor. She was communications director and top spokeswoman for the campaign, but will have less to do with the press corps at the White House.

- **Ari Fleischer** as his spokesman in charge of daily briefings. Fleischer works for Hughes now.

- **Larry Lindsey**, a Federal Reserve member during Bush's father's administration, as Bush's top economic adviser at the White House.

- **Stanford University** administrator **Condoleezza Rice**



GEORGE W. BUSH
Texas governor reportedly has settled on more key White House appointments.

as national security adviser.

Bush already has designated Andrew Card as his prospective White House chief of staff.

Still unresolved, said Bush campaign officials, was a position for Karl Rove, Bush's chief campaign strategist. Colleagues expected him to end up with a top policy position.

Bush aides expect that, should the courts rule in his favor and rival Al Gore concede, he first would speak to supporters at a victory rally, then announce some top appointments the following day.

Then, Bush likely would fly to Washington to announce some Cabinet posts and pay a courtesy call on President Clinton, aides said.

GOP hints at possible NM recount

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — Democrats, working against a deadline, are prepared to ask for a recount of votes in the presidential race if Republicans do the same.

Although Al Gore has been certified the winner of New Mexico's five electoral votes, "that isn't to say we're not prepared to do something if we need to defend our margin," said state Democratic Chairwoman Diane Denish. The deadline for requesting recounts is 5 p.m. today.

The Democratic vice president beat Texas Gov. George W. Bush by 366 votes out of nearly 615,000 cast in the general election.

Republicans planned to assess the results of their inspections of impounded ballots to determine if there were any treasure troves of uncounted votes that would make it worth asking for a recount.

Candidates may request recounts.

"I'm hard-pressed to tell you I think we would win," said Mickey Barnett, the Republican National Committeeman from New Mexico.



CHENEY

Question about his residency to be decided by high court

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The question of whether Dick Cheney is a Wyoming resident, and thus qualified to serve as George W. Bush's vice president, is heading to the U.S. Supreme Court.

After losing a bid before a federal appeals court to have Cheney declared a Texas resident, lawyers for three Texans said they would file a final appeal with the high court by Monday.

The Texans' lawsuit cites the 12th Amendment, which bars electors from giving their votes to two residents of their own state.

Bush is Texas' governor. Cheney, a former Wyoming congressman, lived in Dallas while he was chairman of Halliburton Co. until he changed his voting registration to Teton County, Wyo.,

on July 21. Four days later, he became Bush's running mate.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said Thursday that Cheney is a Wyoming resident. The ruling came after an hourlong hearing in which a lawyer for the Texans claimed Cheney had lived in Texas since he bought a house and moved to Dallas in 1993.

The three judges took a short recess after arguments. Then Patrick Higginbotham, a Republican appointee like the other two judges, returned to the bench and announced the decision.

"It is clear beyond a reasonable question to us that Secretary Cheney was at all relevant times an inhabitant of Wyoming," Higginbotham said.

Clinton, Congress narrow differences

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton and congressional leaders are narrowing differences over school spending, immigration and other budget disputes, raising hopes that the contentious 106th Congress could finally adjourn as early as next week.

Staff-level negotiations were planned for Friday, a day after Clinton and the leaders spent more than an hour in the White House's Oval Office. That session produced no final agreements but left both sides describing progress and a sense of optimism, though acknowledging that more work remained.

"I think we've narrowed our differences further," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., told reporters. He later said on the Senate floor that the lame-duck Congress might complete its business next week.

"Hopefully we could finish as early as the end of next week," said Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., though he said it might be "a challenge to do that."

Some conservatives, among them House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas, have taken an aggressive position during the standoff, which is focused on four overdue spending bills. They believe the best way to limit spending boosts for hiring teachers,

modernizing schools and other initiatives Clinton favors is to delay a final deal until after Jan. 20, when Republican George W. Bush seems likely to become president.

Lott and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. — along with the White House, top Democrats, and many weary lawmakers of both parties — prefer a deal now. That would be the finale for a Congress that began in 1999 with Clinton's Senate impeachment trial and is ending with talk that the House might have to decide whether Bush or Democrat Al Gore will be the next president.

Many GOP leaders think ending the budget battle would give a Bush presidency a fresh start. Democrats want to lock in big spending increases for social programs that a budget pact would bring.

Lott and other GOP leaders still want Clinton to agree to deeper cuts in a massive \$350 billion education, labor and health bill.

Clinton has offered a \$2 billion reduction in a record \$18 billion increase that bargainers tentatively agreed last month. Republicans asked Thursday that the cut be closer to \$6 billion.

The GOP proposed that the reduction come from a combination of scaling back particular programs plus a 2 percent

across-the-board reduction in much of the bill, said a Republican speaking on condition of anonymity.

A new GOP offer on immigration that Democrats find close to acceptable includes help for relatives of permanent residents applying for residency. But it ignores Clinton's far broader proposal to legalize all illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States before 1986 and many Central American political refugees.

The GOP also seems ready to accept an extra \$1.7 billion over five years that Clinton wants in Medicare and Medicaid benefits for rural and home health care, teaching hospitals and other areas, said one GOP aide. That would be added to a \$30 billion, five-year boost in Medicare reimbursements for health care providers both parties have sought.

Some members of both parties, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the final agreement was likely to leave unfettered a new Clinton administration rule requiring employers to take steps to prevent workplace injuries. Business opposes the regulation, and labor supports it.

But one Republican said the GOP was still fighting to include machinery to allow Bush to erase the rule quickly should he be president.

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