

Musical acts, heartwarming stories are in holiday special

Special to the Brand

The American Red Cross will mix chart-topping musical acts and heartwarming stories in its third annual network television special, "A Holiday Music Spectacular from Miami Beach," set to air on FOX, at 8 p.m. Saturday, locally seen on Channel 11 on the Fox Network.

The special, sponsored by the agents and employees of State Farm Insurance, will show how the Red Cross touches the lives of people in Hereford and throughout the world.

Hosted by Access Hollywood's Nancy O'Dell, the one-hour special showcases performances by music favorites Marc Anthony ("I Need to Know"), Jessica Simpson ("I Wanna Love You Forever"), Brian McKnight (**ANY-TIME and BACK AT ONE**), SheDAISY (Little Goody-byes" and "This Woman Needs") and Tony Bennett (**Bennett Sings Ellington/Hot and Cool**).

With electrifying performances, soulful harmonies, hot rhythms and holiday favorites, this line-up is sure to have something for everyone. Celebrity narrators also share the spotlight as they introduce powerful stories about people whose lives have been forever changed by their involvement with the American Red Cross.

"This television special is a wonderful opportunity to tell the

Red Cross story to millions of Americans," Cynthia Welty, manager of the Tri County Chapter in Hereford, said. "Each day, right here in Hereford the Red Cross is making a difference in the lives of families.

"And during this holiday season, millions of FOX viewers will see exciting musical performances and inspiring stories of lives saved, families connected and hearts enriched by the American Red Cross."

"On behalf of our more than 16,000 State Farm agents and 80,000 employees, we're thrilled to extend our partnership with the Red Cross to this holiday event," Jeff Torbert, State Farm agent in Hereford, said. "Usually people think of the Red Cross and State Farm in times of crisis, but with this event, we can bring some holiday spirit."

The American Red Cross "Holiday Music Spectacular from Miami Beach" is produced for the third consecutive year by Bob Bain and Michael Levitt of Bob Bain Productions ("Teen Choice Awards," "The Billboard Music Awards") and Melinda Farris of Looking Glass Productions.

Founded in 1922, State Farm specializes in personal lines of insurance in the United States and Canada. Based in Bloomington, Ill., State Farm is the largest U.S. insurer of autos, homes and pleasure boats. De-

spite its large size, State Farm built its reputation on personal service. "Like a Good Neighbor, State Farm is There" is more than just a slogan - it's the company's way of doing business.

The American Red Cross is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world.

A humanitarian service organization currently operating on a budget of \$2.7 billion, the American Red Cross annually mobilizes relief to the victims of more than 63,000 disasters nationwide and has been the primary supplier of lifesaving blood and blood products in the United States for more than 50 years.

The American Red Cross also trains more than 11.7 million people in vital lifesaving skills, provides direct health services to 2.5 million people, provides more than 24 million locally relevant community services, assists international disaster and conflict victims in more than 50 countries, and transmits nearly 1.4 million emergency messages between members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families.

Dr. Bernadine Healy is president and CEO of the American Red Cross.

For more information about the Tri County Chapter of the American Red Cross, contact Welty at 806-364-3761.

Local churches schedule special services

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - The candlelight Christmas Eve Communion service will be at 6 p.m. on Dec. 24.

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.

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.

HEREFORD CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE - The regular Sunday morning service with Holy Communion will

be at 10:30 a.m. There will also be Holy Communion at the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH - At 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve, the choir from St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Amarillo will put on a spectacular show of Christmas music. At 6:30 p.m., there will be a special Christmas Festival of the Holy Eucharist, followed by a reception with refreshments.

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH - Immanuel will celebrate Christmas Eve with a candlelight service at 7 p.m. Sunday. There will be a Communion Service at 10:30 a.m. on Christmas Day.

SAN JOSE CATHOLIC CHURCH -

Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m. will be in Spanish. Misa de Gallo at 9 p.m. will be a bilingual service. Christmas Mass will be at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Monday.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH - The Lord's Supper will be observed in the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday. There will be no evening service.

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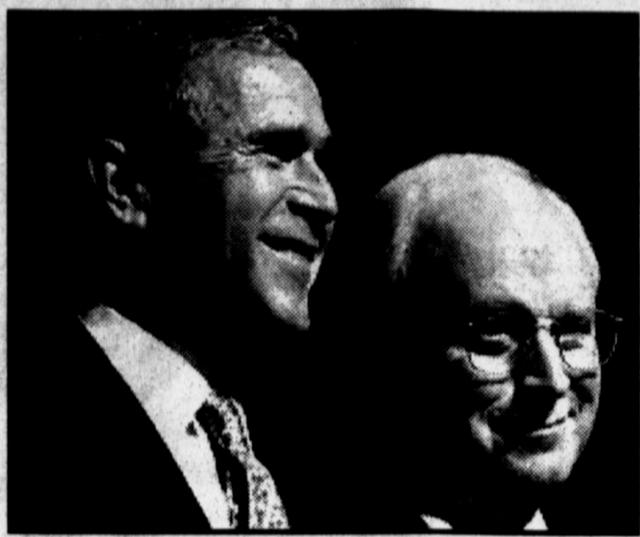
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WASHINGTON (AP) — When President-elect Bush announced that Paul O'Neill would serve as his treasury secretary, O'Neill volunteered that he and Dick Cheney "go back many years" together to their days in the Ford administration.

When Bush sat down to breakfast with Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chief's long-time friend Cheney was right there at the table.

When the government handed over keys to the presidential transition offices, it was Cheney who gladly accepted them.

Americans are seeing a lot more of Dick Cheney and his crooked smile than they ever did of past vice presidents-elect, even the notably visible Al Gore.

Bush's appointment of O'Neill was only the latest sign of Cheney's extraordinary influence in the work-in-progress Bush administration. Another candidate backed by Cheney, former Sen. Dan Coats of Indiana, is seen as the leading candidate for defense secretary.

"It's unbelievable, really," said Paul Light, a Brookings Institution scholar who has written a book about the vice presidency. "Al Gore had an amazing vice presidency — he really upped the ante for future vice presidents. Dick Cheney has already broken every precedent that Al Gore set. He has extraordinary range of authority."

Almost by definition, Cheney's role is broad: He is simultaneously wearing three hats as chief of Bush's transition operation, vice president-elect and future president of an evenly divided Senate where he will hold the tie-breaking vote.

Even a heart attack two weeks after the election didn't slow Cheney down for long. He has worked long hours and weekends on Bush's transition, wielding a phalanx of cell phones from his home in the days before a transition office was established.

Bush and Cheney interview job applicants together and Cheney plans to join Bush whenever there's a personnel announcement.

CHENEY'S ROLE

Bush's appointments show strong influence that's being exerted by the veep-elect

Beyond all that, Bush has demonstrated that he is personally comfortable working with Cheney, ever since putting him in charge of his vice presidential search operation and then deciding that Cheney himself would be the best choice.

Cheney's job description in the new administration is still being written, but Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said Wednesday: "It's going to be serious, it's going to be heavy."

"One of the reasons that Governor Bush chose Secretary Cheney to serve on the ticket was because of his unparalleled experience and his ability to carry very ably a wide and diverse portfolio," Fleischer said.

Light said even highly effective vice presidents like Gore and Walter Mondale had limited roles early on as their relationships with the president were still developing. Gore, for example, got slapped down in his early efforts to take a leading role on health care and welfare overhauls, settling instead for the Reinventing Government program to stream-

line the federal bureaucracy.

Cheney, by contrast, "has already passed through that portal," said Light. "It's as if there were no trial period in the world. George Bush trusts him."

Erwin Hargrove, a professor of political science at Vanderbilt University, said Cheney's influence is clear although he tries to avoid leaving his fingerprints.

"A lot of it is behind the scenes," he said.

That is by design. The fewer specifics publicly known about Cheney's influence, the fewer opportunities there are to identify power struggles or places where Cheney fails.

In one largely behind-the-scenes skirmish, Cheney appears to have the gained the advantage as Coats emerges as Bush's likely choice to run the Pentagon over another candidate favored by Colin Powell, tapped to be secretary of state.

Keeping quiet about the specifics of Cheney's role also helps to diminish speculation about whether Bush is ceding him undue authority.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:
A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

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

12-21 CRYPTOQUOTE

S M F C T L K P T C T L M W
T W P T A Z A D L M W J W P F
G M W Z L M W F W T Z A L M C Z O P T
T M A N G A F Z P T L M W T M A N N W F
— L C F W E T M A N N W F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ANOTHER CHRISTMAS MIRACLE IS HOW EVERYONE RECEIVES MORE CHRISTMAS CARDS THAN HE SENDS. — SOURCE UNKNOWN

YMCA awards



Hereford and Vicinity YMCA board of directors recently honored two of its most committed volunteers for their work in furthering the YMCA's annual goals within the community. Mike Schueler, FirstBank Southwest president, was recognized (top left) for his and the bank's support in underwriting half the purchase price for YMCA league T-shirts this past year. Appreciation was also shown to Ann Ames, who this past year volunteered her time to keep and maintain financial records for the organization. In addition to other special recognitions, President-Elect Mike Schueler presented Gloria Ellis (above) with a gavel plaque that marked her efforts as out-going president of YMCA.

Audit

From Page A1
mal budget amendments needed to be presented to the commission.

According to the audit report, the city began Fiscal 2000 with a fund balance of \$243,905 and ended the year (Sept. 30) with \$111,387.

The showed total FY 2000 revenues of \$4,263,747 and expenditures of \$5,033,868, leaving a deficit of \$770,121. That deficit was offset by a net transfer from the Water & Sewer Fund of \$700,000, leaving the city with a final deficit of \$70,121.

The main source of city revenue was charges for services, which generated \$1,573,206, and ad valorem taxes, \$1,097,504.

Other sources of revenue were:

- Sales and occupancy taxes, \$741,066;
- Licenses/permits, \$19,194;
- Fines/forfeitures, \$173,652;
- Gross receipts tax, \$406,766;
- Miscellaneous, \$23,754;
- Grant income, \$17,541;
- Contributions, \$8,282; and
- Investment income, \$5,064.

The largest expenditures were for public safety, \$1,605,653. Other expenditures were:

- Administration, \$327,604;
- General government, \$541,791;
- Streets/highways, \$554,771;
- Sanitation/health, \$758,168;
- Culture/recreation, \$779,337;
- Airport, \$88,072;
- Capital outlays, \$209,793;
- Debt service, \$26,050; and
- Interest/fiscal charges, \$3,025.

The Water & Sewer Fund showed operating revenues of \$2,516,388, with operating expenditures of \$1,477,055, leaving a net operating income of \$1,039,333.

Net non-operating expenses were \$20,815, which left the income before operating transfers of \$1,018,518. After a \$700,000 transfer to the General Fund, the Water & Sewer Fund showed net income of \$318,000, which combined with the carryover balance from FY 1999 gives the fund \$494,527 to start FY 2001.

HEDC, which is an independent agency that reports to the city, began FY 2000 with a balance of \$237,739 and closed its books on Sept. 30 with a balance of \$1,230,701.

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Jan 08.00 91.50 91.50	Jan 218.25 220.25	Jan 218.25 220.25	Jan 218.25 220.25
Feb 89.75 90.50 90.50	Mar 220.25 222.25	Feb 218.25 220.25	Feb 218.25 220.25
Mar 89.50 90.25 90.25	Apr 222.25 224.25	Mar 218.25 220.25	Mar 218.25 220.25
Apr 89.25 89.75 89.75	May 224.25 226.25	Apr 218.25 220.25	Apr 218.25 220.25
May 89.00 89.50 89.50	Jun 226.25 228.25	May 218.25 220.25	May 218.25 220.25
Jun 88.75 89.25 89.25	Jul 228.25 230.25	Jun 218.25 220.25	Jun 218.25 220.25
Jul 88.50 89.00 89.00	Aug 230.25 232.25	Jul 218.25 220.25	Jul 218.25 220.25
Aug 88.25 88.75 88.75	Sep 232.25 234.25	Aug 218.25 220.25	Aug 218.25 220.25
Sep 88.00 88.50 88.50	Oct 234.25 236.25	Sep 218.25 220.25	Sep 218.25 220.25
Oct 87.75 88.25 88.25	Nov 236.25 238.25	Oct 218.25 220.25	Oct 218.25 220.25
Nov 87.50 88.00 88.00	Dec 238.25 240.25	Nov 218.25 220.25	Nov 218.25 220.25
Dec 87.25 87.75 87.75	Jan 240.25 242.25	Dec 218.25 220.25	Dec 218.25 220.25

METAL FUTURES	
Gold (Com. Dlx. NYM) 1000 troy oz. \$ per troy oz.	1000 troy oz. \$ per troy oz.
Jan 372.00 372.00 372.00	Jan 372.00 372.00 372.00
Feb 371.00 371.00 371.00	Feb 371.00 371.00 371.00
Mar 370.00 370.00 370.00	Mar 370.00 370.00 370.00
Apr 369.00 369.00 369.00	Apr 369.00 369.00 369.00
May 368.00 368.00 368.00	May 368.00 368.00 368.00
Jun 367.00 367.00 367.00	Jun 367.00 367.00 367.00
Jul 366.00 366.00 366.00	Jul 366.00 366.00 366.00
Aug 365.00 365.00 365.00	Aug 365.00 365.00 365.00
Sep 364.00 364.00 364.00	Sep 364.00 364.00 364.00
Oct 363.00 363.00 363.00	Oct 363.00 363.00 363.00
Nov 362.00 362.00 362.00	Nov 362.00 362.00 362.00
Dec 361.00 361.00 361.00	Dec 361.00 361.00 361.00

FUTURES OPTIONS	
Cattle-Feeder (CME) \$0.000 lbs. cents per lb.	Gold (COM) 100 troy ounces \$ per troy ounce
Jan 08.00 91.50 91.50	Jan 372.00 372.00 372.00
Feb 89.75 90.50 90.50	Feb 371.00 371.00 371.00
Mar 89.50 90.25 90.25	Mar 370.00 370.00 370.00
Apr 89.25 89.75 89.75	Apr 369.00 369.00 369.00
May 89.00 89.50 89.50	May 368.00 368.00 368.00
Jun 88.75 89.25 89.25	Jun 367.00 367.00 367.00
Jul 88.50 89.00 89.00	Jul 366.00 366.00 366.00
Aug 88.25 88.75 88.75	Aug 365.00 365.00 365.00
Sep 88.00 88.50 88.50	Sep 364.00 364.00 364.00
Oct 87.75 88.25 88.25	Oct 363.00 363.00 363.00
Nov 87.50 88.00 88.00	Nov 362.00 362.00 362.00
Dec 87.25 87.75 87.75	Dec 361.00 361.00 361.00

Bush

From Page A1
Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, told the president-elect Wednesday he did not want the job.

The move upgraded the prospects of Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, a favorite of conservatives. Other candidates include outgoing Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo. and former Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo.

"I'm just at a point of time in life and with my family that I'm not sure that that would be in our best interest," Racicot told The Associated Press after a private meeting with Bush.

Bush, on a hurry-up schedule to press his legislative agenda, was promoting his education plans on Thursday, hosting 19 members of Congress for lunch, mostly Republicans. On the agenda were Bush's proposals to increase local control of schools and institute greater accountability.

Bush has pledged to make improving schools a top priority, but he faces an uphill battle on Capitol Hill selling controversial elements of his education plan, including giving parents taxpayer-funded vouchers to attend private schools.

Economy

From Page A1
marked a dramatic slowdown from a sizzling 5.6 percent GDP growth rate in the April-June quarter.

The sharp falloff in economic growth in the summer and mounting evidence of more recent weakness, including disappointing Christmas sales, have increased worries about whether America's record 10-year economic expansion was in danger of toppling into a recession.

In another report indicating weakness, the Labor Department said that the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits jumped a sharp 34,000 last week to 354,000. That pushed the four-week moving average for claims to the highest level since July 1998.

Both President-elect Bush and his running mate, Dick Cheney, have talked openly about the possibility of an economic downturn, using the economic danger to promote their \$1.3 trillion tax cut proposal.

Wall Street has grown increasingly nervous about what slower growth will do to corporate profits. On Wednesday, the technology-heavy Nasdaq index plunged by 7.2 percent. The Nasdaq has lost more than half its value since hitting highs in March.

President Clinton, however, insisted in a meeting with Bush at the White House this week that the economy was simply experiencing a needed slowdown. He said most economists are still looking for moderate, sustainable growth in the coming year, although at much lower pace than the past four years.

Since 1997 the economy has been racing ahead at annual growth rates above 4 percent, the best stretch of prosperity since the mid-1960s. The strong growth drove unemployment to its lowest levels in three decades.

Analysts believe that growth for all of 2001 will average just 3 percent. While this would be far from a recession — defined as two consecutive quarters of falling GDP — it would be far below the 5 percent growth expected for all of this year.



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