

Hereford BRAND

100th Year, Vol. Number 120 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

WEDNESDAY, December 20, 2000

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD,
HOME OF
Brianna Scott

Prospects to visit HRMC

Today's weather

OUTLOOK

• **Partly cloudy skies** •
Tonight: Partly cloudy with lows 12 to 16, northeast winds 10 to 20 mph becoming light and variable after midnight.
Thursday: Partly cloudy, highs around 36, light and variable winds becoming south 5 to 15 mph.
Thursday night: Mostly clear, lows around 16.
• **Extended forecast** •
Friday: Mostly sunny and windy, highs near 55.
Saturday: Partly cloudy, lows 21 to 26, highs around 42.
Sunday: Partly cloudy, lows near 20, highs around 42.
Christmas: Cloudy with a slight chance of sleet or snow, lows in the lower 20s, highs in the lower 30s.
Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow, lows around 20, highs in the lower 30s.
• **Hereford weather** •
Tuesday's high, 56; low, 38; no precipitation, according to KPAN Radio.

By Donald Cooper
Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Two prospective physicians will be visiting Hereford next month as part of the Hereford Regional Medical Center's recruitment program.

HRMC administrator James Taylor told members of the Deaf Smith County Hospital District board Tuesday night that Dr. Joseph A. Spirito Jr. of Danbury, Conn., will visit Jan. 4-6 to look at the hospital and the community. Spirito, who will be accompanied by his wife and two children, is an internal medicine specialist.

Also, Dr. Bill Bone of Terre Haute, Ind., is expected about mid-January. Bone, who is a family practitioner with obstetrics expertise, will be making his second visit to Hereford, Taylor said. He was here recently and the hospital administration has asked him to come for a second visit.

Taylor said the hospital is engaged in a very active effort to recruit new physicians because he

said there is a direct relationship between the access to health care and the hospital's revenues.

Speaking recently to the directors of the Hereford Economic Development Corp., Taylor emphasized the need to bring more physicians into the community.

"Access to care is a major issue to the community. Dr. (Howard) Johnson is the only physician at (Hereford Health Clinic). There is a physician's assistant," but the patient load for Johnson is excessive, he said.

"Coupled with the need of improving access to health care here is the economic status. We're taking steps to recruit new physicians," he said. Taylor said the pri-

mary effort is directed at a family practitioner who is also trained in obstetrics-gynecological (OB-GYN) and an internal medicine specialist.

Almost 65 percent of the Deaf Smith County population is either seeking or being referred for hospitalization outside the county, which results in a negative economic impact on both the county and the city, Taylor said.

In 1995, Taylor noted, 51.6 percent of all county patients who needed to be admitted to a hospital were admitted to HRMC. By 1999, that figure had fallen to 34.7 percent, a decline of almost one-third.

"Increasing the availability of physicians in the community will greatly improve access to health care services and bring health care dollars back into the community," Tay-

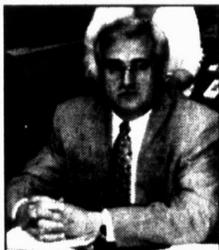
lor stated.
"When there is not access to health care services, people drive to Amarillo, buy gas on the way, eat at a restaurant there, go to the mall. Their dollars are going elsewhere," Taylor said.

In the presentation of the financial reports, the board learned the hospital finished in the red for the second straight month in Fiscal 2001. The hospital showed a net loss of \$76,503 for November. Combined with the October loss, the hospital is showing a year-to-date loss of \$141,739.

Total operating revenue for November was \$826,892 and total operating expenses were \$909,021, leaving an operating loss of \$82,130. The operating loss was partially offset by \$5,826 in interest income.

Compared to budget, the November net loss was \$71,790 more than had been projected. Although the operating revenue was slightly more

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HRMC administrator James Taylor reported on recruiting efforts by the hospital.

O, CHRISTMAS TREE

Late buyers to find few available

By Dianna F. Dandridge
Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Smelling the evergreen, trimming and leveling the trunk before adding the decorations and keeping the yuletide symbol watered is all part of setting up a fresh-cut Christmas tree.

The old traditions may sound good, but holiday revelers wishing to continue the traditions have nearly waited too long to purchase their trees — at least if they plan on getting them in Hereford.

Stores which normally carry the trees are reporting sales went very well this year. The Allsup's stores, Alco and Homeland are completely sold out. McLain's Lawn and Garden Center still has several left, but have already marked them at half price in order to move the stock.

Rhea Scott, owner of McLain's, said her trees came from Wisconsin and there are more left than hoped when the trees were ordered.

Walking among the trees in the man-made forest, buyers can see the trees resting in large vats of water, helping to keep the cut trees green and fresh. The smell of the trees evokes days of old when families cut their own and celebrated the holidays in only a few short days.



BRAND/Dianna F. Dandridge

Most stores that stocked Christmas trees are sold out.

Homeland manager Richard Selmon said his store received about the same number and variety as in past years and that they moved at about the same rate.

Most cut trees sold in the area come from Colorado and New Mexico, but the Texas Agricultural Commissioner's Office reported a growing number of Texas landowners are turning to Christmas tree farming.

More than 100,000 Christmas trees were grown and sold in Texas last year and more than 120 growers across the state offered holiday deco-

rators the opportunity to choose and cut their own trees this year.

Typical varieties of Christmas trees grown in Texas include the Virginia pine, Afghan pine, Leyland cypress and the Eastern red cedar.

Late Christmas tree hunters may have to travel a ways to bring home that special tree because one of the closest growers is near Lubbock.

Relative newcomers to the tree-farming business may have some smaller trees to offer, but to get some of the larger trees, consumers will have to go into Central and East Texas or to another state.

Housing starts up

WASHINGTON (AP) — Housing construction rose a solid 2.2 percent in November, the biggest jump in nine months, as builders broke ground on more new apartments and condos but fewer single-family homes.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that builders began work on all new homes at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.56 million last month, a 2.2 percent increase from October.

Starts of single-family homes slipped by 0.4 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.22 million, while starts of apartments, condos and other multifamily housing projects increased by a strong 12.9 percent to a rate of 342,000.

On Wall Street, fears about a harsh economic slowdown and continuing weakness in corporate earnings sent stocks sliding. The Dow Jones was down 172 points in morning trading.

Many economists were expecting only a small rise in all housing starts in November.

The 2.2 percent increase in housing starts, fueled entirely by the West, marked the biggest increase since a 4.5 percent rise in February. The 1.56 million level was the highest since 1.57 million in June.

In October, housing construction fell by 0.6 percent, according to revised figures, weaker than the

Please see ECONOMY, Page A9

Inside Today

W. PREPARES FOR JAN. 20



President Clinton (right) welcomed President-elect Bush to the White House Tuesday for lunch and briefings.

■ **NEW TEAM:** Bush is expected to nominate Pennsylvania businessman Paul O'Neill to head Treasury department. — Page A10

■ **BOOK DEAL:** Republicans have muted reaction to first lady's \$8 million contract to write memoirs. — Page A7

■ **WHAT NEXT?:** Clinton keeping quiet about his post-presidency plans, but he's ruling out running for public office. — Page A10

Postal workers handle record volume Monday

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a busy day at the post office.

The U.S. Postal Service handled a record 314 million items on Monday. The Monday before Christmas is traditionally the agency's busiest day of the year.

This year's holiday workload of stamped cards, letters and parcels topped the previous record set the Monday before Christmas in 1995, when 297 million items were handled.

Overall, the post office expects to handle some 20 billion items during the holiday season.

ON THE NET

U.S. Postal Service:
<http://www.usps.com>

CSF still accepts gifts

Area residents can help CSF to extend maximum help to as many of the less fortunate members of the community as possible this holiday through your generous gifts.

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.

CSF extends assistance in numerous forms including help with food, utilities, medical and pharmacy bills, 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 Friday.

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.

2000 Christmas Stocking Fund CURRENT BALANCE

(Correction)	
Nolan & Vide Grady	50.00
Balance Forward 12/19/00	13,262.00
Peggy Higgins	100.00
In memory of Joe Rogers by Faye Rogers	50.00
Ruth Allison	100.00
In memory of Bill Struve by Florene Struve	25.00
K. Don & Melba Spurgin	30.00
Lola Faye Vessey	25.00
Anonymous	100.00
Ruth Fortenberry	100.00
Genevieve Summers	100.00
Anonymous	100.00
Carl & Helen Kleustkens	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. F.L. Elike	100.00
V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary	50.00
Little B. Hastings	100.00
Mills, Amy & Will Schueler	200.00
In memory of Ruby & great granddaughter, Vanessa by T.L. Sporkman	100.00
Joni, Jan & Triche Salazar	50.00
Hereford High School Faculty	130.00
Anonymous	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Leroy McDonald	100.00
TOTAL	15,047.00

Auditors: HISD books in order

By Dianna F. Dandridge
Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Auditors from Brown Graham & Co. presented the Hereford Independent School District with a clean financial report Tuesday — after a year in which the district spent considerable time cutting costs and crunching numbers.

The auditors reported the district's books are in order and in full compliance with auditing standards. The fund balance at the end of Fiscal 2000 (Aug. 31, 2000) was \$3,259,946, which Superintendent Beth Abernethy said is an increase over the previous year.

School board members jumped from the financial stability of the district to the academic progress of its students, only to hear both good and bad news.

The good news, according to the Academic Excellence Indicator System report, is HISD students are successfully competing with other students in the region and the state in most TAAS-tested subjects.

AEIS report indicates that 87.5 percent Hereford students taking the exit level math TAAS test in 1999 passed the exam, compared to 83.7 percent of students in the region and 81.6 percent of students statewide.

Reading and writing scores were not quite as high, but still within a few percentage points of state and regional points. For the same period, 88.6 percent of Hereford students passed the writing, compared to 92.8 percent of regional students and 90.6 in the state.



NENA MANKIN
Deputy superintendent viewed AEIS report.

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2000

HEREFORD BRAND

Local roundup

• Housing grant available •

The Panhandle Community Services has been selected by the USDA Rural Development to administrate a housing preservation grant in the amount of \$83,432 to renovate existing housing within the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle. Recipients must come from communities of less than 10,000 population and whose incomes are considered low to very low in relation to the incomes within the county.

This money must be used in conjunction with the home weatherization program of Panhandle Community Services. Persons who feel they qualify and would like to inquire about the assistance should contact the local PCS office to apply.

For more information contact Margaret Wolf at 1-806-372-2531, ext. 220.

• Special train days •

The Nolon Henson train display at the Hereford Senior Citizens Center will be open from 2-5 p.m. Saturday and from 2-5 p.m. every Saturday in January. The special hours are to allow as many visitors as possible to view the display in its final year.

• West Central retires the flag •

West Central Elementary School will hold a special flag retirement ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Thursday. Boy Scouts will perform the ceremony and new flags which have been flown over the state and federal capitals will be raised.

• Holiday dismissal •

All Hereford Independent School District campuses will dismiss between noon and 1 p.m. Friday for Christmas. Stanton will dismiss at noon; primaries at 12:10; intermediates at 12:30; junior high at 12:40 and High School at 12:50. Buses will run on these schedules. Parents are asked to make arrangements for non-bus students for these times. Classes will resume Jan. 8, 2001.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

• Education overtakes crime •

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Education has overtaken crime as the most pressing concern facing Texans, an annual crime survey taken by Sam Houston State University has found.

This year's survey, the 23rd annual conducted by the Huntsville school's Criminal Justice Center, also shows a continued strong but somewhat softened support for the death penalty in Texas, where the 40 executions this year set a record and where high-profile capital punishment cases focused national and international attention on the state as the nation's busiest for executions.

The survey results focused on comparisons and shifts in attitudes since a similar survey six years ago when Republican George W. Bush ousted Democratic incumbent Ann Richards as governor.

Overall, only 8 percent of the respondents in the 2000 Texas Crime Poll cited crime as the most important problem facing the state. Education, one of the chief topics cited by Bush in his successful White House campaign, was the single most prevalent issue mentioned by 23 percent of those questioned in the most recent survey.

In 1994, 35 percent mentioned crime as Texas' issue No. 1. The problem of drugs ranked second in the survey, cited by 17 percent as the top problem.

Only 5 percent of the people surveyed six years ago listed education as the single most important problem in the state.

• Mother wants body returned •

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The body of Tillie Blount's son is just across the Texas-Mexico border, buried in an unmarked grave, but it might as well be on the other side of the world.

To return James Abell's body from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico for a Texas burial will cost Blount about \$2,000 in what has become her holiday quest. She wants an autopsy for her eldest son, who was beaten to death in a Mexican jail.

"I'm not satisfied with the information I've been given," she told the San Antonio Express-News in Wednesday's editions. "I want him here complete. I don't want to do away with any evidence of any kind."

Blount is spending the holiday season trying to scrape together the rest of the money needed to return her son's body across the border at Laredo. The retired sales clerk has received donations from car dealer Red McCombs and some neighborhood churches, but she's still \$1,400 short.

According to Mexican reports, Abell was arrested in Nuevo Laredo in September for possession of 600 tranquilizer pills.

Mexican authorities said he was behaving erratically and was beaten by five prisoners and a guard. He died five days later from internal injuries while being transported to a Nuevo Laredo hospital. Mexican prosecutors have charged six men in connection with Abell's death.

Blount says a month passed before U.S. consular officials in Nuevo Laredo informed them that Abell, 43, had been arrested. He was dead and buried by then in Nuevo Laredo's municipal cemetery.

• Elsewhere •

TEXAS MIGRATION: Every president makes a mark on Washington, with his personal style and the people he brings with him. When George W. Bush moves into 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., it's certain some Texas twang will be heard in the new administration. ... **HOSPITALS-PUBLIC RECORDS:**

Information about treatment of hospital patients in Texas was released Tuesday. The Texas Health Care Information Council called release of the data on 1.2 million patients a major step toward studying and comparing treatment at hospitals statewide.

HerefordBrand

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O.G. Nieman
Maury Montgomery
Donald M. Cooper
Jay Guerrero

Publisher (1972-96)
Publisher
Managing Editor
Circulation Manager

Retired with respect



With all due respect — Members of Boy Scout Troop 52 honored the retired flags of Hereford Junior High with all the proper respect due the American and Texas flags. Troop leader Jeff Milam led the ceremony explaining why the flag is cut into its separate colors and why each color is burned apart from the others. Troop members laying the flag on the fire were (from the left) Ryan Buchanan, Chris Jesko, Jonathan Paschel, Aaron Franks, Josh Schroeter and troop leader Jeff Milam. The new flags were raised over the school and presented to Junior High Principal Kelli Moulton. Another flag retirement ceremony will be held Thursday at West Central at 1:30 p.m.

ACLU challenges filtering rules

WASHINGTON (AP) — Schools and libraries must begin using Internet filtering software next year to protect children from pornography or risk losing federal money — thanks to a mandate approved by lawmakers before they left town.

The requirement is raising concerns among free speech advocates who say it violates the Constitution and, perhaps ironically, from software makers worried that filtering technology is not a cure-all for protecting kids.

"This is a mandated censorship system by the federal government," said Chris Hansen, a lawyer for the American Civil Liberties Union, which plans to sue in an effort to block the law.

After the law takes hold, "no adult anymore can read what they want at the library," Hansen said Tuesday.

Supporters believe the law will withstand a court challenge and provide a reasonable way to protect children from Internet smut.

"We drafted it to make sure it was constitutional," said John Albaugh, chief of staff

for Rep. Ernest Istook, R-Okla. who helped push the measure.

At issue is the Children's Internet Protection Act, which was unexpectedly attached to a \$450 billion federal spending bill Congress passed last Friday before recessing for the year. President Clinton is expected to sign the bill into law.

Any school or library that refused to install filtering software on its computers would lose vital federal funds for technology upgrades.

The measure's appearance in the larger spending bill surprised those who had been following the issue — some of whom didn't discover it until Monday. Several versions of the mandatory-filtering plan had floated through Congress in recent months.

The ACLU has made successful challenges to similar laws passed to keep kids from seeing objectionable material online, including the Communications Decency Act, Children's Online Protection Act and several state measures.

The censorship argument is only part of opponent's attack.

Opponents also say the filtering programs don't work, blocking more Web sites than they should while letting some pornography sites through.

Recently, anti-filtering

groups have shown top filtering programs to block out sites belonging to human rights group Amnesty International, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, and a digitized copy of the novel "Jane Eyre."

Supporters of the bill, including the office of Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., acknowledge the programs aren't perfect but say that any protection is better than nothing at all.

The ACLU's Hansen disagreed.

"The First Amendment doesn't have a 'good enough' requirement as part of it," Hansen said. "Suppose we said it would be better than nothing for someone to go into Barnes and Noble and burn every tenth book. That sort of casual insensitivity to censorship is disturbing."

The legislation states that the filtering software can be disabled by a library administrator for adult use only for "bona fide research or other lawful purpose."

A representative from the filtering industry leader also disagreed with the bill.

"Things that mandate specific technologies probably aren't the best solution here. Let the free market decide, and let us improve these products all the time," said Susan Getgood, a SurfCONTROL vice president, in an interview.

SurfCONTROL owns the

two most-used filtering tools, CyberPatrol and SurfWatch. Its technology also powers America Online's Web filter.

"My chief criticism is that I don't think it's necessary because schools are already doing what they need to do to protect their students," Getgood said.

Some conservative groups also object to the bill because it takes local control away from communities who run schools and libraries and doesn't provide new money to buy or maintain the software.

Last year, the town of Holland, Mich., decided in a local referendum not to use filters in their library. The federal legislation would override that vote.

The Clinton administration tried to soften the measure, offering more choice to communities, but faced stiff resistance in Congress. Presidential aides decided the concerns weren't worth jeopardizing the entire spending bill.

The ACLU plans to file its suit next year after President-elect Bush is in office. Another filtering opponent, Peacefire, is offering a different solution.

It has released a program it says "can disable all popular Windows blocking programs with the click of a button."

HEREFORD BRAND
Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Dec. 19, 2000, include the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Arrests

— A 49-year-old man was arrested in the 200 block of Avenue A and charged with domestic assault.

Incident

— Assorted tools were taken during a burglary of a vehicle in the 300 block of Hickory.

— Criminal mischief was reported in the 400 block of 14th.

— The theft of a coat and a back pack was reported in the 700 block of North Miles.

— T-shirts were reported stolen from the 2900 block of East First.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Arrests

— A 25-year-old man began serving time on a possession conviction.

— A 40-year-old woman began serving time on a felony theft over \$15,000 conviction.

— A 17-year-old man was arrested and charged with failure to comply with compulsory school attendance laws.

— A 19-year-old woman was arrested and charged with violation of probation on a perjury conviction.



Christmas on the Vista — Residents along Rio Vista Drive went all out this year decorating their street. One house even sports a thin cowboy-type Santa inviting everyone to "Deck them halls, ya'll." Rio Vista drive was among the winners of the decorations. Residents are invited to drive by and see the sleigh, snowmen, shepherds and Nativities displayed.

E-mail local and school news to danna@herefordbrand.com

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, December 20, 2000 • A3

CAROLING TIME



San Jose Christian Formation students in first through sixth grades celebrated Christmas with a party Saturday in the San Jose Community Center. In the spirit of the season, they sang Christmas carols accompanied by Raul Guerrero on guitar, and high school youths Jennifer Almaraz on trumpet and Lindsey Almaraz leading the singing.

Alzheimer's support group invites caregivers to share

In affiliation with the Alzheimer's Association, the Hereford support group for family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in Fellowship of Believers Church, 245 N. Kingwood, with group co-facilitators Roy Puentes, LSW, and Shelly Moss, social services director at King's Manor.

A support group is a gathering of people with common problems, needs and interests to share their feelings, thoughts, questions, experiences and concerns in a combined effort to better cope

with and survive the challenge they face daily.

This Thursday the gathering will be a sharing with other caregivers, followed by Christmas music and refreshments. A special invitation is being issued to any caregiver and bi-lingual assistance will be available.

Friends, relatives and neighbors of caregivers are encouraged to offer to stay with the person with Alzheimer's to allow the caregiver a rest and the opportunity to participate in the support group and interact with those who share the same problems and concerns. Respite care is vital for

these caregivers whose days are typically 36-hours long.

The "bible" for caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's is entitled, **The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life** by Mace and Rabins. Through the generosity of the Hereford Pilot Club and the Fellowship of Believers Church, this resource is available now in English or Spanish at no cost by calling 364-0359.

Achievers continue community service

Achievers 4-H Club, a community service club, met Monday at St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Dawn Auckerman led the pledge to the flag and Amanda Smith led the 4-H Pledge.

Seth Hoelscher gave a report on the pillar of character, respect.

Members exchanged Christmas gifts then prepared Christmas cards for residents of August Care Center. After the meeting,

they went to August Care Center and wrapped presents for the residents.

They will attend the August Care Center Christmas party on Dec. 22 and help serve refreshments and pass out gifts.

Present were members Gary Brown, Tyler Keeling, Lark Duncan, Auckerman, Smith and Hoelscher and leaders Diane Hoelscher and Sue Smith.

CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: Apparently, you said in a recent column that couples should have sex three times a week. Thanks a lot. My husband

read that and announced triumphantly, "Ann Landers says we should have sex three times a week." I looked him in the eye and said, "How nice of Ann. When is she coming over?"

If you think my husband should have sex three times a week, you had better come by twice a week because once a week is plenty for me. Please stop giving such lousy advice. Most women have a tough enough time with this problem, and comments like yours don't help. — Not OK in Oklahoma

Dear Not OK: I'm sorry I made trouble for you. However, your husband misquoted me. I said couples should compromise when it comes to sex. Sexual appetites vary. No third party can determine how much is too much or not enough. And THAT is all I am going to

say on the subject.

Dear Ann Landers: The letter from "Looking Back in Sadness," the man who had no relationship with his grandparents when he was younger, broke my heart. He said his grandparents could manage cruises and trips, but they never bothered to visit their grandchildren. Here's the other side of the story:

I have two grandsons, ages 12 and 7. My daughter has not let me see them for four years. I have no idea why. She won't tell me. When her sons ask why Grandma and Grandpa don't come to visit, she tells them we live too far away. They know we have traveled to Mexico and Canada, which means we are perfectly capable of getting to their house.

I do not want to put these precious children in the middle of their mother's conflict with her parents. I send photographs and write letters, because that is all I can do. There is no way to tell my grandsons that our absence is NOT our choice. Saying so would only make things worse, and I might lose all contact with them. How can I let my grandchildren know I love them dearly and would like

nothing better than to spend time with them? I don't want them to grow up like "Looking Back in Sadness," believing we don't care. — Grieving in St. Louis

Dear St. Louis: There will be no healing until your daughter gets into therapy and finds out why she has such hostile feelings toward you. Apparently, a healthy mother-daughter bond was never established. The problem may go back to your relationship to your mother.

I hope I have opened some doors of thought for you and your daughter, and that she will consider counseling to help her resolve the problems she has had with you all these years. Only then will she realize how important it is for you to be allowed to see your grandchildren.

Dear Ann Landers: This is in response to the woman who wanted to start her own tradition of having Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners in her home, but who had to fight her mother-in-law for the privilege.

I once walked in her shoes. I, too, wanted my children to have memories of Christmas dinners at home. Time takes

care of everything. My mother-in-law is now in a nursing home, and I'm the only daughter-in-law willing to cook dinner for 30 people. I wish I could go back to the days when all I had to do was show up at my mother-in-law's with a jello mold. — Cooked My Own Goose in Pennsylvania

Dear Pennsylvania: There's no "going back," so thank the good Lord you have the energy to cook for 30 people. That in itself is a blessing.

Drugs are everywhere. They're easy to get, easy to use and even easier to get hooked on. If you have questions about drugs, you need Ann Landers' booklet, "The Lowdown on Dope." Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at www.creators.com. ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 2000 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

South Carolina secedes this day in history

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 20, the 355th day of 2000. There are 11 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Dec. 20, 1860, South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union.

On this date:
In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase was completed as ownership of the territory was formally transferred from France to the United States

during ceremonies in New Orleans.

In 1864, Confederate forces evacuated Savannah, Ga., as Union Gen. William T. Sherman continued his "March to the Sea."

In 1879, Thomas A. Edison privately demonstrated his incandescent light at Menlo Park, N.J.

In 1980, the government of the Soviet Union confirmed that former Premier Alexei N. Kosygin had died two days earlier at the age of 76.

In 1987, more than 3,000

people were killed when the Dona Paz, a Philippine passenger ship, collided with the tanker Vector off Mindoro island.

In 1989, the United States launched Operation Just Cause, sending troops into Panama to topple the government of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

Ten years ago: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze shocked Soviet lawmakers by announcing his resignation, warning that "dictatorship is coming."

Five years ago: An Ameri-

can Airlines Boeing 757 en route to Cali, Colombia, slammed into a mountain, killing all but four of the 163 people aboard. In Bosnia-Herzegovina, NATO began its peacekeeping mission, taking over from the United Nations.

One year ago: The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that homosexual couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples of the opposite sex. Country music legend Hank Snow died in Nashville, Tenn., at age 85.

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Christmas day is fast approaching and a question on many people's minds is what to take to the family gathering.

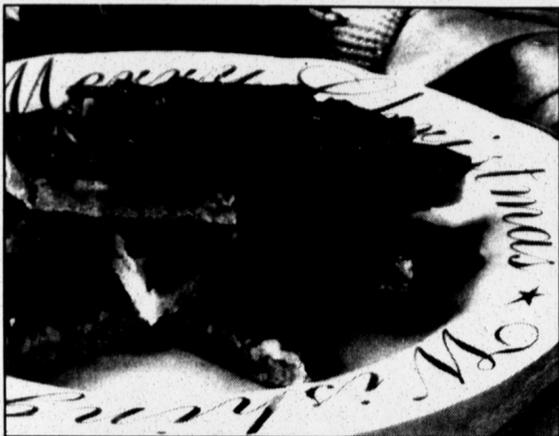
On one hand, time is at a premium - especially during the holiday season - so it needs to be something quick and easy. On the other hand, this is Christmas, so it must be something especially tasty and delicious.

This recipe for Chewy Caramel-Pecan Bars, developed by the culinary professionals at Pioneer Flour Mills, is both: quick and easy, yet tasty and delicious. It'll please everyone who tastes it, and - better yet - it will please you because it is so easy and good.

Just wait for the compliments to come your way.

"Chewy Caramel-Pecan Bars are rich, chewy and wonderful," Wendy Hagerman, research and development specialist for Pioneer Flour Mills, said. "It's hard to imagine that anything with only five ingredients could taste so good."

Chewy Caramel-Pecan Bars
 2 cups buttermilk biscuit and baking mix
 1-2/3 cups packed light brown sugar (divided)
 1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened (divided)
 1 package (6 oz.) pecan halves (1-1/2 cups)
 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
 In food processor container, combine biscuit and baking mix, 1 cup of the brown sugar and 1/2 cup of the butter. Pulse until mixture resembles



Chewy Caramel-Pecan Bars are quick and easy, yet tasty and delicious.

coarse meal. Press on bottom of 13x9x2-inch baking pan coated with cooking spray to form crust.

Sprinkle pecans evenly over crust. In 8-cup glass measure or microwave-safe bowl, combine remaining 2/3 cup brown sugar and 1/2 cup butter. Microwave on High for 4 minutes or until mixture is thickened and syrupy, stirring every minute.

Pour evenly over crust and pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 18 to 20 minutes or until caramel layer is bubbly. Remove from oven; sprinkle with chocolate chips. Let stand 3 minutes. Using a knife, swirl chips over caramel to create a marbled effect. Cool completely; cut into bars. Makes 36 bars.

Hypothermia can kill Texans even in years of record heat

AUSTIN - Heat waves, a prolonged drought, occasional flooding and tornadoes have dominated the weather news in Texas in recent years. Winters have been mild. However, health officials warn that even in statistically warm years, vulnerable Texans can die from cold temperatures.

Just last winter, at least 21 people died in Texas from hypothermia, or severe or prolonged loss of body heat, because of the cold. Of those 21, at least 17 (81 percent) were age 60 or older, and many of them died unexpectedly in their own homes.

"While extreme or extended cold is dangerous to anyone, some people are more likely to suffer hypothermia in temperatures that may not seem dangerous to most healthy adults," Sam Wilson, director of the Emergency Preparedness Division at Texas Department of Health (TDH), said.

Wilson, who also is a paramedic, said that infants and small children are at risk in cold temperatures because their bodies radiate heat faster than bodies of adults. People who are sick and those taking certain prescription drugs or alcohol may lack resistance to low temperatures. Homeless people, auto or boating accident victims and others unable to find temporary shelter also are endangered during extremes of cold.

"But those people most susceptible to hypothermia," Wilson said, "are usually age 60 and older." Several factors combine to make cold weather more hazardous for people as they age. Often, an older person's metabolism is slower than that of a young person, or the older person may already be in poor health and

taking medications that can alter awareness of dangerously low temperature.

People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people, since the human body's natural alarm signal - the reflex of shivering that increases blood flow - lessens with age, Wilson said. Some hypothermia victims die because they are simply unaware of gradual temperature changes.

In addition, many people, especially the elderly on fixed incomes, may set their thermostats dangerously low for fear of high heating bills. Add to that the fact that elderly people may live alone and unsupervised, and the stage is set for tragedy, Wilson said.

Hypothermia begins when a person's deep body temperature falls below 95 degrees Fahrenheit, less than four degrees below normal. Because the temperature drop may be gradual, and since an early sign of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know there is an emergency. Drowsiness and coma leading to death can occur while the victim remains unaware of any problem.

Besides confusion and drowsiness, symptoms of hypothermia may include:

- Slurred speech,
- Falling blood pressure,
- Shallow breathing,
- A pinkish tint to the skin.

Anyone with these symptoms related to cold temperatures is in immediate danger.

Wilson urged people to check on elderly friends and relatives, especially during cold weather. Any symptoms of hypothermia should be taken seriously.

In addition to taking precautions for the elderly, no one at any age should underestimate weather changes, Wilson said. People who have to be outside in cold weather should wear loose-fitting, layered clothing; gloves; and a face covering to block wind chill.

The term wind chill refers to the cooling effect wind has on the skin. Not only can wind chill cause rapid heat loss from the body, but also it can cause frostbite - actual freezing of tissues. A strong wind, even in moderately cool weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.

Meteorologists use a table designed by the U.S. National Weather Service to calculate wind chill, using thermometer readings and wind speed. Anyone planning outdoor activities in cold weather for themselves or others should refer to local weather media for current forecasts.

AT THE CENTER

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Chicken fillet with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, mixed fruit salad, ice cream.

FRIDAY-Catfish with lemon juice, hash brown potatoes, buttered vegetable medley, fruited Jello, lemon ice box dessert.

MONDAY-Closed for Christmas.

TUESDAY-Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes,

seasoned green beans, cabbage slaw, pound cake with fruit topping.

WEDNESDAY-Pork roast with gravy, sweet potato patties, black-eyed peas, garden salad, bread pudding with lemon sauce.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., oil painting 9-11 a.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

MONDAY-Closed for Christmas.

TUESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., Beltone 10 a.m.-noon, Golden K Kiwanis 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., ceramics noon-4 p.m.

Christmas Eve services planned

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. Peters 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.

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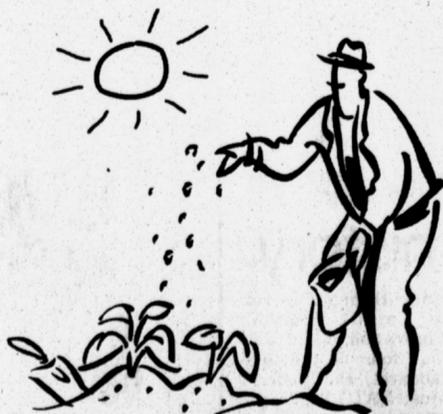
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SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, December 20, 2000 • A5

J.W. Boren named to All-American football team

■ Boren makes grandparents Chuck and Sue Cosper proud

Special to the Brand
STEPHENVILLE- Hereford residents Chuck and Sue Cosper and Billie Boren learned of some exciting news last week as grandson J.W. Boren of Tarleton State University was named to the 2000 Daktronics, Inc., Division II All-American football team.

Boren, a sophomore at the 7,545-student university in Stephenville, was the second place-kicker on the All-American team, as selected by the sports information directors of NCAA Division II member institutions.

Boren, who qualified for balloting with his selection to the All-West Region first team, is the son of Jay and Pam Boren of Stephenville. He was one of just three Lone Star Conference players and only six sophomores to be included on this prestigious All-American team.

Boren enjoyed a record-setting sophomore season, including marks for field goals made in a game (5), season (16) and career (28), as well as field goals attempted in a game (6) and season (20). He ranked among the top five in NCAA Division II in field goals per game (1.45) and field goal percentage (.800).

The 5-8, 180 pound Stephenville native set Lone Star Conference records for most field goals made (5) and attempted (6) in a game and fell short of matching the league mark for most field goals made in a season.

"J.W. obviously had a great year, and he was the difference in a couple of victories for us," Tarleton head coach Todd Whitten said. "We're really proud of him, and we feel like he's probably as good a kicker as there is anywhere."

A three-time winner of the LSC's special teams Player of the Week award, Boren kicked five field goals to score all of the Texans' points in a 15-13 win over Abilene Christian, an effort that also earned him NCAA Division II special teams National Player of the Week honors by d2football.com.

He kicked a game-winning 46-yard field goal against Texas A&M Commerce and nailed a career long 49-yard field goal in the Midwestern State game. For the season, he finished 6

See BOREN, Page A6

Astros slugger staying put

■ Bagwell should end career with Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros didn't want to take a chance on losing Jeff Bagwell.

"I couldn't imagine putting on another uniform," Bagwell said Tuesday after agreeing to an \$85 million, five-year contract extension through 2006.

"When I finish, I'll have worn the uniform for 16 years and that's something I'm proud of. There's a ton of money out there but I'm happy with the money I got. They made it an easy decision."

Bagwell grew up in New England as a Red Sox fan when Ted Williams and Carl Yastrzemski were names synonymous with his favorite team.

"Nowadays when you say Houston Astros, you think of

(Craig) Biggio and Bagwell, and I'm proud of that," Bagwell said. "I want people to continue to say that. I want to be a Houston Astro the rest of my career and retire, and with the help of the organization they made it an easy decision."

The deal includes a \$7 million buyout of a club option for 2007 and averages \$17 million, matching Toronto first baseman Carlos Delgado for the third highest in baseball

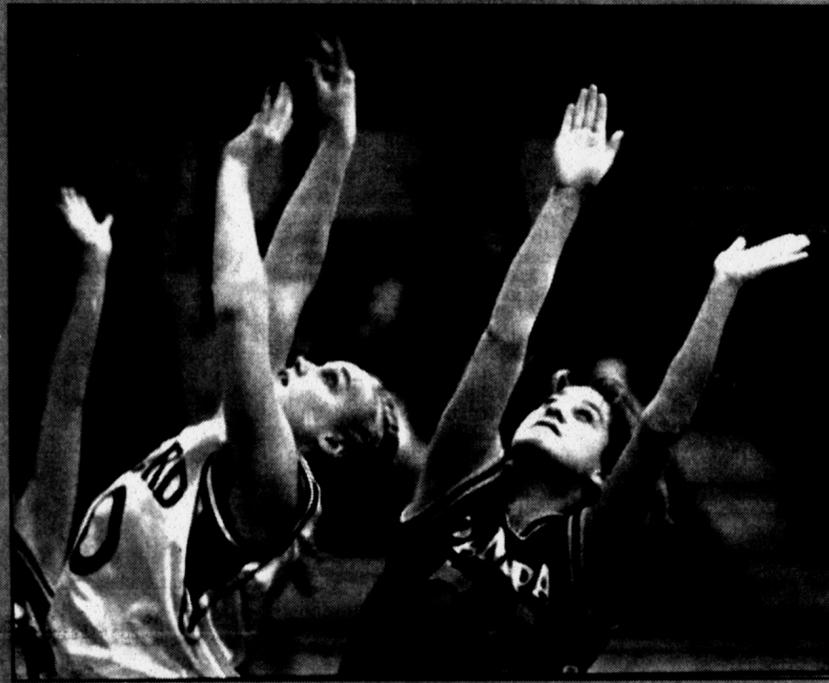
behind Texas shortstop Alex Rodriguez (\$25.2 million) and Boston outfielder Manny Ramirez (\$20 million).

With another good season, Bagwell could have gotten even more next year as a free agent, possibly from the New York Yankees, whose contract with Tino Martinez ends after next season. But Manny Ramirez's \$160 million, eight-year contract with Boston probably ended the chance of a deal with the Red Sox.

"He's the heartbeat of this team," Astros owner Drayton McLane Jr. said. "Fans relate to him. In the business world, one of the most significant things are brand names. I keep telling Jeff, 'You're our brand name.' Fans identify with the players and we have one of the unique things of having a player of Jeff's caliber to finish his career with one organization."

See SLUGGER, Page A6

INSIDE ACTION



Rebound battle—Hereford senior Holly Schilling takes on a Pampa player for the ball last Friday during the Lady Whitefaces' home district win. The team hosts Caprock High for their third district game Friday at 8 p.m. The boys take on the Longhorns immediately afterward for their first district test of the year.

Hentgen going to the Birds

■ Former Card is Baltimore's first free agent signee of off-season

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles finally snared their first free agent of the off-season, agreeing Tuesday to a \$9.6 million, two-year contract with former AL Cy Young Award winner Pat Hentgen.

Hentgen, 32, went 15-12 with a 4.72 ERA in 33 starts with the St. Louis Cardinals this year. He struck out 118 and allowed 89 walks in 194 1-3 innings.

The right-hander brings 120 career wins and much-needed leadership.

The Orioles rotation contained only two proven starters — Jose Mercedes and Sidney Ponson — following the loss of staff ace Mike Mussina, who signed as a free agent with the New York Yankees. The Orioles also are without

Scott Erickson, who will likely miss the season after arm surgery.

Until Hentgen signed, Baltimore's only significant transaction was acquiring minor league first baseman Jay Gibbons from Toronto in last week's draft of players not on 40-man rosters.

"Just when everyone thought we were sleeping, we woke up," said Syd Thrift, the Orioles vice president of baseball operations, who hinted that Baltimore might soon bring back free agent shortstop Mike Bordick.

Hentgen spent his entire career with the Blue Jays before being traded to the Cardinals last November. This was essentially the first time he was a free agent, and Hentgen chose the Orioles after talking with five different teams.

Thrift said negotiations were initiated during the winter meetings in Dallas last week.

"It's funny how free agency

See PITCHER, Page A6



J.W. BOREN

Carlile receives NAIA awards

■ Hereford native recognized as SNU's most lethal weapon

Southern Nazarene University volleyball member and former Hereford High standout Lyndi Carlile was named to the first team All-Region in the NAIA Sub-Region VI team.

Carlile, a sophomore, led SNU this season with 295

kills while establishing herself as a force in the Southwest Region.

Carlile, daughter of Jeff and Lynn Carlile



LYNDI CARLILE

Hereford, played in 101 games this season and totaled 810 kill attempts, 81 digs and 14 solo blocks.

Carlile was also named to the 2000 NAIA Region VI Fall Sports All-Region Team.

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The YMCA Men's Basketball league is designed for men (no age limit) to show their athletic ability in basketball 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**

'WE ARE THE CHAMPS'



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Volleyball champs—

Winners of the Hereford YMCA's volleyball tournament included group B winners (top left) Dean Crawford, Geary Gear, Weldon Knabe, (front row) Jamie Warren, Laura Mungia, Jania Scott and (not pictured) Candy Robins. The team beat New Beginning 13-15, 15-11 and 11-9 to win their division. Group A (bottom) winners named Majik included (back left) Phillip Foster, Feliz Mungia Jr., Tony Benavidez, (front row left) Christina Vallejo, Dorina Guerrero, Heather Mungia and (not pictured) Sabrina Garcia. The Majik beat Legend 15-6, 7-9 and 11-3 on Dec. 12.



Slugger

from Page A5

Bagwell, 32, gets \$6.5 million next year in the final season of his current contract. The new deal calls for a \$15 million signing bonus — payable \$3 million a year from 2002 through 2006 — and salaries of \$8 million in 2002, \$10 million in 2003, \$13 million in 2004, \$15 million in 2005 and \$17 million in 2006. Houston holds an \$18 million option for 2007.

The 1994 NL Most Valuable Player, Bagwell holds team records for career home runs (310) and RBIs (1,093) while hitting .305.

He was a minor-league third baseman when he arrived in a 1990 trade-deadline deal with the Red Sox, who received veteran reliever Larry Andersen. He quickly was moved to first base, where he has played since.

Bagwell hit a career-high 47 homers, drove in 132 runs and scored a club-record 152 runs, the most in the major leagues since Lou Gehrig's 167 in 1936.

Bagwell said moves the Astros have made in the offseason helped fuel his desire to negotiate a long-term contract.

A trade with Detroit brought back catcher Brad Ausmus and reliever Doug Brocail to the Astros. The team also signed free agent reliever Mike Jackson, a Houston native.

"A lot of people say we didn't make a blockbuster deal, but a lot of times, those blockbuster deals don't make your club a better club," Bagwell said. "You could add another big bat, but is that what we need? No. We added a veteran catcher that's going to be able to handle our pitching staff. We have young pitchers coming up and they'll need leadership."

General manager Gerry Hunsicker was upbeat as the Astros try to reverse the fortunes of 2000, when they inaugurated Enron Field with a 72-90 record.

"It was pretty obvious from the start that one of the drags on the negotiations was how Jeff felt about the state of the franchise and the direction we were heading," Hunsicker said.

"We didn't make any national headlines for spending millions with these changes, but I think Jeff recognized how much we improved."

Boren

from Page A5

of 8 on field goals of 40 yards or more.

Boren was 30 of 33 on extra point attempts, giving him 78 total points, which ranked first among LSC kick scorers.

Earlier in the post season, Boren earned first team All-Lone Star Conference South Division honors, as well as first team Daktronics All-West Region acclaim. HE helped Tarleton to a 6-5 record, marking only the second winning season in 22 campaigns of scholarship football at TSU.

This All-America team, in its eighth year, is sponsored

by Daktronics, Inc., an acknowledged world leader in scoring, timing and programmable display systems for virtually every sport at every level of competition.

Texas A&M Kingsville center Robert Garza was the LSC's only first team All-America player, while West Texas A&M running back DeWayne Miles joined Boren on the second team. The top vote getter on the team was North Dakota State running back Lamar Gordon, who was picked on 68 of the 79 ballots.

MONDAY NITE MISFITS

1. WRT	35	24
2. DIMMITT READY MIX	35.5	24.5
3. WISHES	35	25
4. BRANDON AND CLARK	33	27
5. HEREFORD RECREATION CENTER	30.5	29.5
6. JONES PULLING SERVICE	30	30
7. HOLLOWPOINT GUN SHOP	29.5	30.5
8. GOODIN FUELS	27	33
9. WATER INDUSTRIES	24.5	35.5
10. AMERICAN HOME PATIENT	19	41

HIGH GAME: NANCY WALTERS (213), LAUREL BORTON (181), DENISE HEGGESTAD (178) AND VELINA JOHNSTON (178)

HIGH SERIES: NANCY WALTERS (343), DENISE HEGGESTAD (303) AND LINDA WILCOX (495)

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Pitcher

from Page A5

works," Hentgen said. "I never really thought the Orioles and I would fit, but it worked out. It's a comforting feeling knowing where I'll be the next two seasons."

Hentgen gets \$4.5 million in each of the next two seasons, and the Orioles have a \$6 million option for 2003 with a \$600,000 buyout. Hentgen can earn more through performance bonuses.

"If he's alive, with his track record, he'll be making \$6 million a year," said Hentgen's agent, Bob LaMonte.

Hentgen said he picked the Orioles in part because he wanted to return to the American League after a one-year absence.

"I was anxious to get back to the AL. I just think that in my heart I'm an American League pitcher," Hentgen said. "It's good to have someone hit for me. I ended too many innings last year."

Baltimore was a particularly appealing because of the huge crowds that regularly fill Camden Yards and because the team has a reputation for catering to its athletes.

"It's a class organization with great players," Hentgen said. "When you see B.J. Surhoff crying over going into a playoff situation in Atlanta, you think, 'Baltimore has got to be pretty nice.'"

Surhoff was traded to the Braves last July as part of a house-cleaning process that signified the beginning of a long overdue rebuilding process. Bordick was also dealt in the purge.

Hentgen, whose 120 career wins is by far the most on the current Baltimore staff, could start on Opening Day. He also plans to provide stability on a rebuilt staff that will include several relatively inexperienced arms.

"I think the young pitchers

can look to me for experience and knowledge," Hentgen said.

"We needed more than just a starting pitcher. We needed someone who could bring a lot to the table other than just pitching," Thrift said. "He brings leadership, too."

And a potent right arm. Hentgen won the AL Cy Young Award in 1996 while with the Toronto Blue Jays, when he went 20-10 with a 3.22 ERA. He led the league in innings pitched in 1996 and 1997 and has averaged over 30 starts over the last nine years.

"When you look at service time in the league and some of the things I've done over my career, I bring some experience to the rotation, no doubt," Hentgen said.

In another move Tuesday, the Orioles and pitcher Jason Johnson agreed to a \$350,000, one-year contract. The right-hander can earn another

\$450,000 in performance incentives.

Johnson, who earned \$300,000 this year, had been eligible for salary arbitration. He went 1-10 with a 7.20 ERA in 25 appearances with Baltimore.

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14.95 plus tax
Cash or Check Only Please.

YMCA Elementary 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 refereed as 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)

INSIDE

WHAT'LL HE DO?

■ Clinton keeping quiet about his plans for after he leaves White House, but rules out running for office

WASHINGTON (AP) — He isn't saying exactly what he'll do when he leaves the White House, but President Clinton has ruled out running for three public offices — at least for now.

Mayor of New York?
"No," Clinton told CBS' "60 Minutes II" in an interview aired Tuesday.

Governor of Arkansas?
"No."

Governor of New York?
"I loved it," Clinton said,

referring to speculation swirling around him about what he'll do. Then he added: "No." His answers were a bit fuzziest to questions about whether first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton would run for the White House.

"What I've urged her to do is, No. 1, solidify her roots and her ties with the people of New York state, have an agenda for New York, have an agenda for America. ... Stay on the forefront of ideas. Keep pushing and getting things done. And, you know, the future will take care of itself."

Clinton said Mrs. Clinton intends to serve her term in the Senate.

"We already assume there



President Clinton's advice for Sen. elect Hillary Rodham Clinton: Solidify ties with people of New York, have an agenda for New York and have an agenda for the United States.

are a lot of other people who will run for president again four years from now, including the vice president," Clinton said. "And of course he would have a big leg up, because he won the popular vote this time."

Turning to one piece of unfinished business, Clinton said he doesn't think he should be indicted by the independent counsel after he leaves office.

"I don't believe I should be charged," he said, but added: "If that's what they want, I'll be happy to stand and fight."

On an array of other is-

suess, Clinton called former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "a brilliant adversary, and a complicated man," and the National Rifle Association, which has opposed the president's gun-control proposals, "an effective adversary, but I think on balance, a negative force."

He described his affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky as a "sad chapter in my life that I wish were not public." But he said he thought his impeachment was wrong, and he believes historians will agree.

About President-elect Bush, Clinton said if he had to recommend one movie to his successor, it would be "High Noon," a film about a lawman, played by Gary Cooper, who has a showdown with a gunslinger.

"Gary Cooper does the right thing even when people leave him, and even though he's scared," Clinton said. "He doesn't pretend to be macho. He's scared to death, and he does the right thing anyway."



\$8 MILLION WOMAN

Republicans have muted reaction to first lady's big deal to write memoirs

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Newt Gingrich inked his \$4.5 million book deal in 1994, Democrats began howling it was improper. But Republicans have greeted Hillary Rodham Clinton's \$8 million memoir with few harsh words.

With President-elect Bush pressing for bipartisan cooperation after a bitter battle for the White House, Congressional Republicans seem wary of picking a fight with New York's famous senator-elect.

"I'm not going to start off being critical of her," Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., said on NBC's Meet the Press. Lott had warned ominously just after the election that Clinton had better get used to being one of 100 coequals in the Senate.

The controversy over Gingrich's book prompted the House to revise its ethics guidelines to bar members from accepting advances, but there is no similar ban in the Senate as long as the deal is "usual and customary."

Television

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
News										
Movie: Up, Up and Away										
Movie: The Truman Show										
Movie: Never Been Kissed										
Movie: I Remember Mama										
Movie: Martial Law										
Movie: Wild Discovery										
Movie: Law & Order										
Movie: Intimate Portrait										
Football										
Movie: Hey Arnold!										
Movie: JAG										
Movie: Locura de Amor										
Movie: History										
Movie: Babylon 5										
Movie: Fresh Pr.										

THURSDAY DECEMBER 21

7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
Sesame Street										
Angela										
Today										
Bear										
DiffWorld										
Early Show										
Bus										
Sportscenter										
Macross-IV										
Movie: Prelude to a Kiss										
Movie: A Tree Grows in Brooklyn										
Movie: The Male Animal										
Movie: Paid Prog.										
Movie: Northern Exposure										
Movie: Murphy										
Movie: Sports										
Movie: Lois & Clark-Superman										
Movie: Thornberrys										
Movie: Burnett										
Movie: (8:00) Despierta America										
Movie: Civil War Journal										
Movie: Sightings										
Movie: Clueless										

12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
Sewing										
Movie: Richie Rich's Christmas Wish										
Movie: Days-Lives										
Movie: Hunter										
Movie: Jeopardy!										
Movie: Bold & B.										
Movie: Law & Order										
Movie: PGA Tour										
Movie: (12:00) Movie: ** Off Beat										
Movie: Franklin										
Movie: Doctor										
Movie: Siempre										
Movie: Black Sheep										
Movie: Twilight Z.										
Movie: News										

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
News										
Movie: The Ultimate Christmas Present										
Movie: Fresh Pr.										
Movie: News										
Movie: Spin City										
Movie: College Basketball										
Movie: Once a Thief										
Movie: (5:15) Movie: I.Q. (1994)										
Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance	Movie: (4:15) Movie: Die Hard With a Vengeance
Movie: Martial Law										
Movie: Wild Discovery										
Movie: Law & Order										
Movie: Intimate Portrait										
Movie: Football										
Movie: Pretender										
Movie: Hey Arnold!										
Movie: JAG										
Movie: Locura de Amor										
Movie: History										
Movie: Babylon 5										
Movie: Fresh Pr.										

Comics

Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Marvin</

CLASSIFIED ADS
Classified advertising rates are based on 25 cents a word for first insertion (\$5.00 minimum), and 11 cents for second publication and thereafter. Rates below are based on consecutive issues, no copy change, straight word ads.

Times	Rate	Min
1 day per word	25¢	\$ 5.00
2 days per word	31¢	\$ 7.20
3 days per word	42¢	\$ 9.40
4 days per word	53¢	\$11.60
5 days per word	64¢	\$13.80

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY
Classified display rates apply to all other ads not set in solid word lines --those with captions, bold or larger type, special paragraphs, all capital letters. Rates are \$5.70 per column inch.

LEGALIS
Ad rates for legal notices are \$6.00 per column inch.

ERRORS
Every effort is made to avoid errors in word ads and legal notices. Advertisers will be required to proof ads before running and should call attention to any errors immediately after the first insertion. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. In case of errors by the publishers, an additional insertion will be published.

SINCE 1901
Hereford BRAND
P.O. BOX 673 • 313 N. LEE
364-2030
Fax (806)364-8364
E-MAIL hbnews@wtrt.net

1. ARTICLES FOR SALE

TASCOSA BEEF
100% Genuine Hereford Beef
Locally grown and fattened in Hereford, Texas
No implants--No hormones
"Just Pure Beef!"
Fed whole corn, red top cane and supplement
TASCOSA INDUSTRIES
P.O. Box 871
212 E. New York St.
Hereford, Texas 79045
806-364-3109

FOR SALE: Two lane sage green recliner chairs. Good condition. 364-2136.

FOR SALE 2 7/8" Pipe. Call 1-580-497-2183 or 1-580-497-6358.

2. FARM & RANCH

PORTABLE WELDING And Repair Service. Call MD Franks, 364-9192 leave message or 344-6092.

PEANUT HAY For sale: \$45/ton. 806-638-4090.

BUTCHER HOGS For sale. Maranos para venta. Listos para los chicharones. Call 258-7210.

ROUND BALES Of Hay for sale. Call 267-2865 or 538-6822.

Classifieds Work!!
Call 364-2030

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS
1 Remote
7 Like some cheddar
11 Perfect place
12 Stubborn one
13 Late
14 Bridge utterance
15 Vital
17 Sty group
20 Some exams
23 Flightless bird
24 Arthur's home
26 Expanse
27 Lamb tender
28 Exploit
29 Line workers
31 Pod item
32 Mongrel sound
33 Make coffee
34 Learn completely
37 Physics topic
39 Rust and others
43 Give out
44 Comparative phrase
45 Visionary
46 "Cut that out!"

DOWN
1 Trapper's ware
2 Had lunch
3 Flier of myth
4 Starts the bidding
5 Penalty
6 Kismet
7 Current unit
8 Texas river
9 City trains
10 — Moines order
16 Stadium tops
17 Nuisances
18 Words of explanation
19 Avocado dish
21 Also-ran
22 Chop house order
24 Prison units
25 Reverent fear
30 Seinfeld neighbor
33 Excellent, in slang
35 Fling
36 Way to go
37 TV spots
38 Corn setting
40 Party staple
41 Actor Wallach
42 Go down

Yesterday's answer

L	A	T	T	E	M	E	L	T	S
A	X	I	O	M	A	G	O	R	A
S	L	E	E	P	I	N	G	B	A
T	E	D	L	O	T	E	I	E	
			L	O	U	I	S		
D	E	C	A	Y	S	P	O	T	S
O	M	A	R	A	R	E	A		
T	U	R	K	S	C	R	E	E	D
			S	N	E	A	K		
A	W	L	A	L	T	A	M	A	
S	H	O	P	P	I	N	G	B	A
K	O	R	E	A	I	N	U	S	E
S	A	D	A	T	P	U	T	T	S

GUARANTEED HOME FOR CHRISTMAS
COVENANT TRANSPORT
\$1,000 Sign-on Bonus for Exp. Company Drivers
Teams Start up to 46¢

Benefits, we've got ALL the bells & whistles
Owner Operators Solos 83¢ Teams 88¢
LEASE PURCHASE PROGRAM AVAILABLE
Experienced Drivers
1-800-441-4394
Owner Operators
1-877-848-6615
Graduate Students
1-800-338-6428

PEN RIDER Needed in commercial feedyard. Must have own horses and tack. Competitive pay and rent payment issued on horses. Excellent Health insurance and 401k retirement plan. For more information call Darren (806)225-4400 ext. 23 or come by Caprock 5, Bovina, Texas.

CATTLE TOWN Feedyard is taking applications for the Doctoring process crew. See Gary at the Feedyard.

KINGS MANOR Methodist Home needs weekend RN Supervisor. Supervision only! 8 hour shifts, pay scale negotiable, share weekend responsibility with a friend. For information and application, call Jacque Carter at 364-0661.

AVON! START Free. For information call 364-0899.

SEEKING ASSISTANT Manager! We offer competitive pay, paid vacations, insurance. Previous experience is a plus. Please turn in resume to: BK 11403, 825 S. 25 Mile Avenue, Hereford, Texas 79045, Attn: George Lovato.

MEDICAL RECORDS Clerk-Experience and strong organizational skills a must. Please submit application to Hereford Care Center. EOE.

THE CITY Of Hereford will accept applications for the following position: SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD, Salary: \$5.40/hour. Job description and application form may be picked up at the City Hall, 224 N. Lee, Hereford. Applications will be accepted until job is filled.

NEED BREAKFAST Cook for busy restaurant. No night work, good hours, paid vacation. Call 10a-1p for appointment. Ranch House Restaurant, W. Hwy. 60, 364-8102.

BRADFORD TRUCKING
An E.S.O.P. Company
Now Taking Applications
Hiring for cattle haul. Must have 3 years experience and be acceptable by insurance company, pass DOT drug screen and physical. Benefits Include: Insurance and raise after 60 days, vacation after 1 year, retirement paid by Company and Sign on Bonus
Contact Robbie Stanberry at 1-800-522-5184 or Fax or Send Resume to: P.O. Box 129 Cactus, Texas 79018 fax no. 806-966-5532

ALL real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.
State laws forbid discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of real estate based advertising for real estate which is violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Writing Want Ads that really sell!
Unsure how to write a Classified Ad that will get results? Follow these pointers and you'll soon have an empty space in your storage room and cash in your pocket.
For starters, look at ads which offer the same item/products. Get a sense of going rates and ideas for how to make your ad stand out. Once you're ready to write, begin with exactly what you're selling: "Dining room set, maple, six chairs."
Then remember these hints:
• Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.
• Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition.
• Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and 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 you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

The BARGAIN BARN

- Renewed mattress sets start at \$99 set
- Antique Vanity's
- English Armoires
- New Stock Arriving Weekly
- Easy Credit Terms!

"Lots of Stuff"
ALL USED in GOOD CONDITION
Located in the BACKROOM
BARRICK Furniture & Appliances
W. Hwy 60 • Hereford • 364-3552
NEW & USED • ALL IN ONE LOCATION!!

REBUILT KIRBYS And G3 & G4 1/2 price with warranty. Repossessed Upright Electrolux and Ti-Star Compact and other name brands. \$39 & up. Sales and repairs in your home, on all makes and models. Call 364-4288.

THE ROADS Of Texas and The Roads of New Mexico are on sale at The Hereford Brand in book form. Both maps are \$14.95 each plus tax. Discover roads you never knew were there. Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee.

1 YEAR Old Hot Spring spa. Call 364-4775.

ENTERTAINMENT CENTER, Video case, console record player & radio. Call 363-6456.

MALDONADO'S USED Furniture year end clearance. 50% Off all knick-knacks in store. Starts Monday, December 18th through Saturday, December 30th. 208 N. Main, 364-4418.

Farm Fresh Pecans
1/2 miles west of Hart on FM 148
806-939-2206

3. AUTOMOBILES
See Us Before You Buy
Marcum Motors Co.
Clean Used Cars & Trucks
413 N. 25 Mile Avenue • 364-3565

1993 TOWN Car. Excellent condition. 364-2131.

1997 FORD Taurus. 64,300 miles. Good condition. \$7,000 FIRM. Call 364-4189.

FOR SALE: 1988 Buick Century. Runs good. Looks good. \$1,450. 364-1097, 364-1606.

1994 CHEV Extended cab. Step side Z71 off road package. Great shape. Call 364-6844, 934-0947 or 1-800-259-8417.

1995 BLAZER Red/Tan. All options. \$8,500OBO. Call Gayland Ward, 364-2946.

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!!

4. REAL ESTATE
HOME BUYERS! 1999 Government Assistance Program is available to first-time home buyers with low to moderate income. You could receive up to \$7,500 in assistance. Call Kyle Michaels at 356-9444 to apply.

SHOP BUILDING And 8.4 acres with domestic well, previously occupied by Dearing Wrecking, owner financing will be considered for qualified Purchaser, shop building is 80ft by 50ft. Call for details. Gerald Hamby, Broker 364-3566.

COUNTRY HOME Acreage. Northeast edge of Hereford, Avenue K. 25+ acre tracts. Owner financing. Mr. Dixon 972-239-7708.

NORTHWEST 3 Bedroom, isolated master bedroom, 2 baths, fireplace, central heat and air, at 241 Hickory. Price \$60,500.00, get new loan or purchase equity and assume non qualifying loan approx. 347,500.00. Shown by appointment. Equal Housing Opportunity. Gerald Hamby, Broker 364-3566.

2 BEDROOM, 2 bath mobile home. Stove & refrigerator furnished. 920 18th Street. Call 935-3130 for an appointment.

HOUSE FOR Rent! 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, built-ins, 1 car garage. References & deposit required. 364-3750.

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home. W/D hookups, fenced yard, water paid. Deposit required, HUD preferred. 364-4503, 346-3530.

APARTMENTS:
Blue Water Gardens
HEAT, A/C } INCLUDED
LIGHTS }
Rent based on income. Accepting applications for 1,2,3,4 bdrms. CALL Debra or Janis TODAY for information & directions. 1-5pm (806)364-6661. Equal Opportunity.

Now Leasing Guardian Self Storage
1409 E. Park Avenue
364-5778

5. RENTAL PROPERTY
DIAMOND VALLEY ENT. INC.
MOBILE HOME PARKS
Hereford-Amarillo Commercial Buildings
Doug Bartlett - 415 N. Main
364-1483 (Office-Hereford)
383-2183 (Office-Amarillo)
364-3937 (Home)

BEST DEAL In Town! 1 bedroom efficiency apartments. Bills paid, red brick apartments. 300 block West 2nd. 364-3566.

FOR RENT: New Central Heating! 200 Bennett. 4 bedroom, 2 bath, W/D Hookup. \$400/month, \$100 deposit, \$100 deposit. Call 364-4908.

2 BEDROOM. Stove & fridge furnished. 212 Avenue I. \$225/month, \$100 deposit. Call 364-6489.

2 BEDROOM House. Fridge and stove furnished. W/D hookups. 364-2733.

8. EMPLOYMENT
CNA OPENINGS 2-10 and 10-6. Earn "Paid Time Off" from your first day and health insurance after 90 days; shift/weekend differentials and sign-on bonuses. Apply in person at King's Manor Methodist Home, 400 Ranger, Hereford.
CNA's
New wage scale and shift differentials. Apply in person to Hereford Care Center

9. CHILD CARE
CHILD CARE Available for all ages, in a loving & dependable environment. Call Elva Castillo at 364-2945.

HEREFORD DAY CARE
Offering an excellent program of learning and care for your children 0-12! State Licensed
Also - SPECIAL AFTER-HOURS pick-up for Kindergarten Children!
364-5062
248 E. 16th

KING'S MANOR METHODIST CHILD CARE
*State Licensed *Qualified Staff
Monday thru Friday
6:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Drop-ins Welcome
MARILYN BELL/DIRECTOR
364-3972 • 400 RANGER

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
TRIM UP For the new year! Ready to loose those unwanted pounds! Call toll free 866-270-2348.

PUSH BOATS with the CLASSIFIEDS!
364-2030
Hereford BRAND

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.
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• Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

CLASSIFIEDS

11. BUSINESS SERVICES

DEFENSIVE DRIVING Course is now being offered at the Ranch House, 10:00AM the 3rd Saturday of every month. Will include ticket dismissal and insurance discount. For more information, call 1-800-454-6051 or 505-763-5628. #C0023-C0733, McKibben ADS.

TREE & Shrub trimming and removal. Leaf raking and assorted lawn work, rotary tilling and seeding of new lawns. 364-3356.

F&G ROOFING And Construction. 15 years experience in all types of roofing needs. Free estimates. Good references. Insurance Bonded. Call 364-4770 or 344-4770.

"NEED MUSIC LESSONS?" Tejano, Country, Rock & Blues. Ages 10 years and older. Call Jesse @ 364-0492.

Advertisement for CS (Computer Services) with phone number 364-6067.

STOP

Call 363-6727

FORREST INSULATION. We do all kinds of insulation and small home repairs. We build and repair all types of fences. FREE ESTIMATES!! Call 364-5477 or (mobile) 346-2143.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Jose Luis Robles, Deceased, were issued on December 18, 2000 under Docket No. 4571 pending in the County Court of Deaf Smith County, Texas, to Elizabeth Ann Robles.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: Elizabeth Ann Robles, Independent Executrix, Estate of Jose Luis Robles, Deceased, c/o Jerry Smith, P.C., Attorney At Law, P.O. Box 1191, Hereford, Texas, 79045.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

Dated: December 18, 2000.

Jerry Smith, P.C. Attorney At Law 205 West Fourth Street, Ste. 101 Hereford, Texas, 79045 Telephone: 806/364/8100 Telecopier: 806/364/8103 Jerry Smith, SBN18597300 Attorney for Applicant

HISD

From Page A1

Reading was the lowest score of the three, with only 85.1 percent of Hereford students passing. By comparison, the figure was 91.3 for the region and 88.8 for the state.

The AEIS reports percentages remain very close, if not exceeding the state and region for all grades tested.

One of the low points of the AEIS report focused on the dropout rate in the district. For the 1998-99 school year, HISD had a 1.5 percent dropout rate and 1.2 for the previous year. Over a four-year period, the district lost about 13.1 percent of its students as dropouts.

Deputy Superintendent Nena Mankin said the district is continuing to work on means of retaining the students and catching them before they get to the point of dropping out. She also said the district has implemented numerous programs to reclaim some students who have dropped out.

The AEIS report delivered good news as far as staffing is considered. More than 85 percent of HISD teachers have a bachelor's degree and 12.7 percent hold master's degrees. Only 6.2 percent of teachers are beginning teachers; 28 percent have 1-5 years of experience; 25.1 percent have 6-10 years of experience and nearly 20 percent of the district's teachers have more than 20 years of experience.

In other business, the board accepted a \$31,574 bid from Safe Play International Co. of Rockwall to install new flooring for the all-weather athletic facility.

The material for the flooring will be very similar to what is used in the Dick Bivins Stadium, except the base material is made completely of ground rubber rather than a combination of rubber and sand.

By the end of the school year, HISD will sport two new 16 passenger buses, much like the Walcott School District buses. The buses will replace the district's vans.

The board accepted a bid of \$85,520 from Blue Star. Each bus will have a Ford chassis and engine mounted on a Bluebird frame and will have seats similar to those in the activity buses.

The trustees also accepted the resignations of Sherri Martin, Lachella Coley, and Lisa McGaw. Replacing them will be Carol Gage, who has come out of retirement; Kendra Cornett and Ryan Capps. Ortenica Mendez will take the position of assistant principal at Northwest.

HRMC

From Page A1

than \$225,000 less than estimated, the operating expenses also were \$158,610 less than budgeted.

The Hereford Health Clinic, however, showed improvement, although it finished the month with a net loss of \$4,059 — a 90.1 percent improvement when compared to November 1999, which reported a loss of \$41,075.

For the year, the health clinic is showing a net loss of \$5,534, a significant improvement over last year.

In other business, Taylor said state Sen. Teel Bivins of Amarillo is working with the board attorney on language for legislation to amend the hospital district's enabling act.

At the November meeting, the board approved a request that the Texas Legislature amend the enabling legislation to change directors' terms of office to three-year staggered terms, add methods to be used by the district in recruiting medical professionals and allow the creation of a 501(a) corporation.

The board also approved hospital privileges for Drs. Neelan Verma and Hend Azhary, both family practitioners who will be affiliated with South Plains Health Providers Inc. The two physicians will join the clinic during the first quarter of 2001.

Economy

From Page A1

government previously reported. Cheaper mortgage rates helped builders last month. The average interest rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage was 7.75 percent in November, down from 7.79 percent in October but up a tad from 7.74 percent in November 1999.

Despite cheaper mortgage rates, the National Association of Home Builders, in a survey released Tuesday, said that builders in December are less confident about the market for new homes.

Builders said they are worried that the recent decline in consumer confidence, stock market volatility and rising energy costs will dampen sales.

Between June 1999 and May of this year, the Federal Reserve boosted interest rates six times in an effort to slow the economy.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it: AXYDLBAAXR 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.

12-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

J F W N T K Z B T Z L H N R J H R L Z J B G K L H T W S K U K Z V W F K Z K B K L U K H R W Z K B T Z L H N R J H B J Z X H N T J F T K H K F X H

— H W C Z B K C F I F W S F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: A SKI RESORT IS USUALLY KNOWN FOR ITS SETTING OF SNOW AND MOUNTAINS — AND BONES. — ANONYMOUS

Schlabs Hysinger



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Clinton issues new health privacy rules

WASHINGTON — President Clinton is issuing sweeping new privacy protections that for the first time will sharply limit doctors, hospitals and insurance companies from sharing confidential medical information about their patients. Until now, there's been no federal law protecting medical privacy, even as technology allows personal information to bounce swiftly from one computer to the next. Under the rules, patients could sign a one-time consent form on their first visit to a doctor allowing disclosures for routine matters like billing and treatment. But they would have to explicitly authorize most other uses of their records, said administration officials and others who have been briefed on the rules.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

Two Palestinians killed, seven hurt in Gaza
 GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip opened fire on a Palestinian fire truck Wednesday, killing one Palestinian civil defense officer and critically injuring a second, hospital officials said. Elsewhere in Gaza, a young Palestinian boy was killed and six others hurt, they said. The Israeli army confirmed a heavy exchange of fire at Rafah in southern Gaza, where the child was killed, but said it knew of no shooting at Netzarim crossing, where the fire truck was hit. The violence brought the death toll over the past 12 weeks to 334, nearly all of them Palestinians. It came as U.S. and Israeli mediators were holding preliminary consultations in Washington aimed at restarting stalled peace talks.

India extends Kashmir cease-fire by month
 NEW DELHI, India — India on Wednesday extended a Ramadan cease-fire in Kashmir and urged Islamic guerillas to begin negotiations to end the 11-year insurgency in the Himalayan province. India had promised not to initiate combat during the Islamic holy month of fasting as a peace gesture toward the Pakistan-based rebels. That cease-fire was scheduled to end Dec. 28. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told parliament it would be extended to Jan. 26, the day India adopted its constitution in 1950. The truce has been relatively successful, and army officials said violence in the Kashmir Valley had been reduced significantly.

Study: Most prefer malls over online shopping
 NORTH ATTLEBORO, Mass. — Researchers from the nonprofit Pew Internet and American Life Project found that fewer than 20 percent of Internet users have bought gifts online this year. Among Internet users rejecting online gift shopping, 85 percent say they like seeing their purchases and 80 percent fear sending credit-card numbers through cyberspace. Nearly half worry about getting items on time, and 41 percent complain that Web sites are too confusing. Many Americans have used the Internet to look for gifts or to compare prices before buying the items at retail stores. Though there are indications that online shopping is on the rise this year, e-commerce is still expected to represent no more than 3 percent of all holiday sales.



WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush was nominating Pennsylvania business executive and former Ford administration budget expert Paul O'Neill as treasury secretary today. The Associated Press learned. Three other Cabinet positions were to be filled by day's end.

His transition truncated by the 36-day election standoff, Bush also planned to nominate longtime friend Don Evans as commerce secretary, former Cuban refugee Mel Martinez as housing secretary and Californian Ann Veneman as agriculture secretary.

Two GOP sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Bush decided to name O'Neill during a two-day visit to Washington that ended Tuesday night.

He was making the announcements in two separate news conferences at the University of Texas. The events were sandwiched between

meeting with leaders of charitable organizations to discuss ways to encourage faith-based groups to provide social services for the poor.

O'Neill, 65, has been chairman of Alcoa Inc. since 1987. He was deputy budget director under President Ford when Vice President-elect Dick Cheney was President Ford's chief of staff. O'Neill and Cheney now serve as directors of American Enterprise Institute, a conservative think tank in Washington.

Cheney is head of Bush's transition team, and has left his fingerprints on several Cabinet selections, including the yet-to-be-determined defense secretary.

The Senate, divided 50-50 between Republicans and Democrats, must confirm Bush's nominees.

Evans, 54, is chief executive of Tom Brown Inc., a Denver-based oil and gas company with an office in Mid-

NEW TEAM

■ Bush is expected to nominate Pennsylvania businessman to be treasury secretary; other Cabinet selections to be filled during day

land. He was instrumental in helping Bush raise a record \$100 million for his presidential race, then helped guide the campaign to a narrow victory over Vice President Al Gore.

Martinez, chairman of Orange County, Fla. — which encompasses Orlando — co-chaired Bush's campaign in Florida and is a close ally of his brother Jeb, the state's Republican governor. Martinez, 54, fled Cuba to the United States in 1962 when he was 15 years old and played a starring role in the Elian Gonzalez saga earlier this year.

Veneman, 51, served as director of the California Food and Agriculture Department from 1996 to 1998. Appointed by former Republican Gov. Pete Wilson, she was the first woman to head the agency. She was also the highest-ranking woman in the U.S. Department of Agriculture from 1989 to 1991, when she served

as deputy secretary for international affairs and commodities programs when Bush's father was president.

Martinez and Veneman made the three-hour flight from Washington to Austin on Bush's plane Tuesday. Also aboard was Stephen Goldsmith, former Indianapolis mayor, who has been considered a potential housing secretary. Goldsmith worked with Bush during his campaign on the faith-based initiative and was traveling to Texas to participate in Wednesday's forum.

Montana Gov. Marc Racicot, a longtime Bush ally, was flying to Texas Tuesday night for a meeting with Bush. He is the top candidate for attorney general, as well as a prospect for interior secretary. Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, a favorite of conservatives, some of whom oppose Racicot for attorney general, left Tuesday for a four-day trip to Bosnia.

Black ministers skeptical about Bush meeting

WASHINGTON (AP) — President-elect Bush's latest overture to black Americans, an invitation to black ministers to discuss "faith-based solutions" to social problems, ran into skepticism Tuesday from some black clergymen.

Several ministers said the session, scheduled Wednesday in Austin, Texas, smacks of an attempt to split black leaders and gloss over hard feelings that many black Americans hold toward Bush for the election outcome in Florida, which awarded him the Electoral College votes necessary to win the presidency.

"Here's another one of those old schemes of divide and conquer," said the Rev. Amos Brown, pastor of Third Baptist Church in San Francisco and a member of the city's board

of supervisors. Brown said Tuesday he was not invited to meet with Bush.

"You can't repair anything unless you admit the problem, and Mr. Bush is going on like it ain't no big thing that black folks were disenfranchised in Florida," Brown said. "Mr. Bush has never suffered, walked or cried with black folk. He excludes black leaders who don't talk his party line but who have a part of the truth to add to his half-truths to get to the truth."

Bishop T.D. Jakes, a Texas-based evangelist who was invited to the meeting but is traveling abroad and cannot attend, said he hopes Bush would use the session to "ally the fears" of blacks leery of his conservative philosophies.

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