

Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 118 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, December 16, 1999

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD
HOME OF
Irene L. Twa

Today's weather OUTLOOK

Chilly night gives way to warming

Freezing temperatures across much of the state overnight are giving way to a slight warming trend, with some highs heading for the 70s in South Texas, according to The Associated Press.

Under a high pressure system's influence, skies today are mostly clear to partly cloudy. Overnight lows ranged from the teens to 40s across the state.

Readings were 16 degrees at Marfa, Wink and Amarillo, with 33 at Childress, 27 at Nacogdoches, 38 at Dallas Love Field, 51 at McAllen, 20 at Junction and 50 at Brownsville.

Winds were generally southerly to southwesterly at 5 to 15 mph, with 10 mph in the Panhandle and light and variable elsewhere.

Afternoon highs Wednesday were in the 50s. Lows ranged from 18 degrees at Abilene to 37 degrees at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Wednesday state temperature extremes ranged from 15 degrees at Dalhart in the Panhandle to 66 degrees at McAllen in South Texas.

More sunny skies are expected today over North to Southeast Texas and the Hill Country, with afternoon highs through Friday in the 60s to near 70 in deep South Texas and along the Rio Grande.

Overnight lows should be in the 20s to 30s.



Mostly cloudy skies

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with a low in the upper 20s, northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Friday: Partly sunny with a high around 50, north wind 10 to 20 mph.

Extended forecast

Saturday: Increasing cloudiness, low around 20, high around 50.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy and breezy, chance of snow, low 20 to 25, high 40 to 45.

Monday: Cloudy and cold, chance of snow, low 15 to 20, high near 30.

Hereford weather

Wednesday's high, 48; low, 23; no precipitation.

Poli: Bush, Gore ahead

WASHINGTON (AP) — Front-runners George W. Bush and Al Gore remain comfortably ahead in their separate parties' battles for the presidential nomination, says a national poll released today.

Bush, the governor of Texas, leads both Vice President Gore and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley in head-to-head matchups with the two Democratic candidates, according to an NBC-Wall Street Journal poll.

Of the challengers, Arizona Sen. John McCain has tripled his support since September, 18 percent compared to 7 percent in the same poll.

But Bush remains well ahead, with the support of 59 percent. Bush's support was at 68 percent in the October NBC-Wall Street Journal poll.

The other Republican candidates were in single digits. Bradley closed the gap steadily through the summer months, but Gore has held about a 20-point lead.

Young family lost everything in house fire

Home and hearth and all of the joys of the season that go with them are especially dear to us at Christmas time.

A young family of five that includes three children under the age of 10 is without their home or possessions as Christmas rapidly approaches. Tragically, they lost their home and all of their possessions in a fire.

The parents were already struggling to make financial ends meet, and the mother was attending college in hope of bettering her family's future.

In the wake of a devastating fire, thoughts of a beauti-

fully-decorated tree and brightly-wrapped gifts beneath it are far from the minds of this family this Yule season.

The parents are requesting help with the simple amenities of shoes, socks, and clothing for their kids from the 1999 edition of the Christmas Stocking Fund.

**1999
Christmas
Stocking
Fund**



these fire victims a high priority in their decisions on assistance.

With the caring and sharing help of the local community, CSF is able to address pressing circumstances like those faced by this unfortunate family.

You can help CSF to extend maximum help to this family and as many of the less fortunate members of the community as possible this holiday through your generous gift.

CSF extends assistance in numerous forms including help with food, utilities, medical and pharmacy bills, and clothing. All assistance, with the exception of food, is via vouchers payable to the mer-

chants, utilities, or medical facilities cooperating with CSF. Food assistance is in the form of staple goods that are boxed and delivered.

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

Donations to CSF may be made in-person at the Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee, or mailed to CSF in care of The Brand at P.O. Box 673, Hereford 79045. Those contributors who wish to remain anonymous should so designate their gifts.

The Brand, official collection point for CSF, periodically keeps a running tally of the sum collected by CSF.

O, CHRISTMAS TREE

Tree sales expected to increase

By Dianna F. Dandridge

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Environmentalists and conservationists alike may cringe at the notion, but the sale of live and live-cut Christmas trees is expected to increase by at least 1 million trees this season, according to the National Christmas Tree Association.

Fresh-cut tree sales in the area seem to back up the NCTA's expectations.

Also manager David Jorgenson ordered 100 trees for this holiday season and fully expects to sell most, if not all, of them before Christmas.

Don Money, assistant supervisor of Allsup's, and Richard Selmon, manager of Homeland, have both seen good sales of live trees.

Money said about 1,200 trees were ordered for the five local stores and the tree lot at the store at 515 N. 25 Mile Ave. Homeland ordered about 50 trees.

"Most of the stores are about out of trees. We'll distribute the rest of the trees from the tree lot to all the stores later this week," Money said. "This year the sales have been better than in the past few years. And we did order more trees than in the past."

Jorgenson attributes the increased sale of live trees to



Trees are still available at lot in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

the earlier cold weather, which, he says, makes people look at real trees over artificial ones.

More than the smell or the tradition of choosing a live tree goes into the decision to purchase a live tree or use an artificial one.

"Artificial trees — good ones — are pricey and artificial is still artificial," said Money. "Some people just like having a real tree."

"People are looking at prices, not size," Jorgenson said. "We sell mostly Scotch pine. People coming in looking at the trees are looking at price, not the size."

Tree buyers may opt to purchase a fresh cut tree based on price, but in the coming years may have to reconsider as many Christmas tree farmers are getting out of the business.

Texas recorded more than

500 Christmas tree farms in 1989, but now counts less than 200. As the farmers go out of business, tree prices may increase.

Regardless of the reasons for the increased sale of live trees, Texas Christmas tree growers expect to cut and sell 200,000 holiday evergreens.

For now, retailers are pleased with the sales and expect to purchase live trees again.

Local economy closes out '99 on an upswing; tax rebate up

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Hereford's economy surged last month to close out the year on a high note, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office.

The city's sales tax rebate payment for December was \$111,091, up 45.9 percent from the \$76,147 received in December 1998. The rebate also was well above the \$92,943 received in November.

For the year, Hereford has received \$1,069,906, up 0.3

percent from the \$1,066,859 for the same period in 1998.

Deaf Smith County received a payment of \$39,836, up 55.9 percent from the \$25,718 for December 1998. The December payment also was well above the \$25,636 received in November.

For the year, Deaf Smith County has received \$368,038, up 1.1 percent from the \$364,181 for the same period last year.

The comptroller's office delivered \$223 million in monthly sales tax payments

to 1,105 Texas cities and 119 counties. December's rebates bring the total sales tax allocated to local taxing entities in 1999 to \$3.5 billion, a new one-year record for local sales tax revenue and an increase of 7.1 percent for 1998.

Another \$7.3 million went to 47 special-purpose taxing districts around the state. Texas' six Metropolitan Transit Authorities and two City Transit Departments received a total of \$85.3 million in rebates.

"Local sales tax allocations

for 1999 confirm the message I have been delivering across the state this year. The Texas economy is robust, consumer confidence is high, and economic growth is creating paychecks and jobs for Texans," Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said.

December's \$223 million in sales tax rebates to cities and counties is a 26.4 percent increase over the \$176.3 million allocated in December 1998. Cities received \$204.6 million, 26.4 percent higher

Please see SALES TAX, Page A9

Banks seek to allay Y2K worries

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Around the country, a number of banks plan to open for business on New Year's Day to reassure customers worried about Y2K computer foul-ups.

"We've worked long and hard on getting our systems up to speed and Y2K-ready, and we don't expect any problems," said Scott Kisting, executive vice president at Cali-

fornia Federal Bank, one of the nation's biggest savings and loans. "However, the Y2K issue has been such a hot topic in the press we can't ignore the fact that many people may have some concerns."

This customer-comforting gesture has not been embraced by many large, nationwide banks, though many smaller regional banks, including Sum-

mit Bank in the Northeast, Community First Bankshares in the Midwest and CalFed in California and Nevada, have decided to keep some branches open Jan. 1.

The coming of the year 2000 has prompted widespread concern among people who fear computers will think it is 1900 and malfunction. However, even professional doomsayers aren't worried that cash ma-

chines will malfunction, or bank accounts will get lost.

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan has said that banks will be the safest place for people to keep their cash at the end of the year. And Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman Donna Tanoue said America's banks are ready for Y2K, with contingency plans that will allow them to take deposits.

Budget battle starts

"Unfortunately, the Republican rhetoric does not match the reality of massive, irresponsible tax cuts they continue to advocate that would drain the Social Security surplus and cause deep cuts in key priorities from defense to education."

Barry Toiv

WASHINGTON (AP) — Political maneuvering over the 2001 budget has started with the White House attacking Republicans for demanding President Clinton protect Social Security surpluses and forgo tax increases.

"Unfortunately, the Republican rhetoric does not match the reality of massive, irresponsible tax cuts they continue to advocate that would drain the Social Security surplus and cause deep cuts in key priorities from defense to education," White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Wednesday.

Toiv spoke after House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, sent Clinton a letter urging him to "commit your administration to achieving these important goals."

They also wrote that Clinton's spending blueprint for fiscal 2001 should shrink government while boosting defense spending.

"As Republicans, we believe — and we're sure you do as well — that these principles are non-negotiable, now and in the future," Hastert and Armey said.

On Feb. 7, Clinton plans to release a spending blueprint that will total roughly \$1.8 trillion.

The four "principles" that Republicans are insisting on are striking for how modest they are, underlining the diminished expectations for legislative achievement during the upcoming election year.

While Clinton is expected to renew his call for higher taxes on tobacco and some narrow business activities, he is considered likely to assert that his budget would leave Social Security money alone. He is also expected to seek higher defense spending while claiming his proposal would create a leaner, more efficient government.

The GOP letter said

Please see BUDGET, Page A9

DECEMBER 16 1999

HEREFORD BRAND

Local roundup

Christmas for children toy drive

Deaf Smith County Social services is taking donations of new toys or money to purchase new toys for the Christmas for Children Toy Drive.

Toys or donations can be dropped off at First National Bank, FirstBank Southwest, Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union, or Stevens Chevrolet. Donations can be dropped off any time before the close of business Friday.

Deaf Smith County Social Services staff will distribute the toys between Dec. 20-22.

West Central open house

Students, staff and faculty of West Central Intermediate School invites the public to a Christmas Open House 7 p.m. today.

Parade of Champions

A "Parade of Champions" will be held Tuesday, Dec. 21 to honor the Whiteface volleyball, football and girls cross-country players and coaches.

The parade will begin at 4:45 at Hereford High School, then west on Grand to 25 Mile Avenue, then North to Moreman, then to Whiteface Stadium. The Mighty Maroon Marching Band will lead the parade. Spectators are encouraged to line the parade route, then move to the stadium after the parade has passed by.

A brief program will be held at the stadium about 5:10, with introduction of each varsity player and coach. Special presentations will also be made to each head coach, and plans for a "Season of the Century" project will be revealed by the Whiteface Booster Club.

All Herd friends, families, and fans are invited to attend the event, which is sponsored by the Whiteface Booster Club and HISD.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

DEA agent arrested

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent based in Mexico is suspected of trying to arrange a hit on the teen who had been accused of killing his cousin.

It's the latest twist in a case that involved three murder trials for a boy accused of pulling the trigger at age 13, and suspicion from the victim's family that the murder was a message from a powerful drug cartel to the victim's brother, a veteran DEA official.

Salvador Michael Martinez, 37, is scheduled to appear in federal court this afternoon for a detention hearing.

Martinez was arrested in Brownsville Tuesday after the FBI's McAllen office discovered the alleged murder-for-hire plot. Investigators would not say whether other arrests were expected.

"The investigation is continuing," FBI spokeswoman Brenda Burton said.

U.S. Magistrate Judge John William Black ordered Martinez held without bond at a hearing Tuesday.

The news was a shock to Martinez's cousin, retired DEA agent Phil Jordan, whose brother, Lionel "Bruno" Jordan, was killed during a carjacking on Jan. 20, 1995 in El Paso.

Bruno Jordan died just days before Phil Jordan, former head of the DEA's Dallas office, took over as director of the El Paso Intelligence Center. The DEA and other federal agencies run the center together.

Convicted murderer executed

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Almost a quarter century after a paralyzed Korean War veteran was murdered during a robbery at his Houston apartment, his killer was put to death.

Sammie Felder Jr.'s execution Wednesday night closes one of the longest capital murder cases in Texas.

The seventh-grade dropout was tried three times for capital murder in the death of 41-year-old James Hanks and spent 23 years on death row, avoiding the executioner's needle long enough to climb to fourth in seniority among the state's 460 condemned inmates.

Felder, 54, spoke only briefly after he was strapped to the death chamber gurney.

Six minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

Felder became the second inmate in as many days to receive lethal injection in Texas and the 35th and last to be put to death this year. The 1999 total is second only to the record 37 executions in Texas two years ago.

Felder also became the 199th Texas death row prisoner to be executed since the state resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982.

Nationally, Felder was the 98th inmate executed, making 1999 the most active for capital punishment in the United States since 105 were put to death in 1951. No other executions are scheduled.

At least nine Texas inmates already are scheduled to die in January.

Tyler to pay \$250,000

TYLER, Texas (AP) — Tyler city officials have agreed to pay a veteran \$250,000 because he was falsely arrested and held for a drug offense that occurred while he was serving with the U.S. Army in Korea.

Tyler City Council members approved the settlement payment after meeting in an executive session for more than five hours and then opening the meeting on Tuesday.

An informant identified Vincent Sirles from an old mug shot as being the person who sold \$50 in crack cocaine to undercover officers in Smith County on July 21, 1997.

The seller was identified by an informant as the former Army private following review of a video recorded during a sting. Sirles was indicted and then arrested at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio.

Sirles was held for 30 days in the Smith County Jail before his release. He was held despite an affidavit given Smith County officers by Sirles' captain two days after the arrest that said he was in Korea at the time of the offense.

HerefordBrand

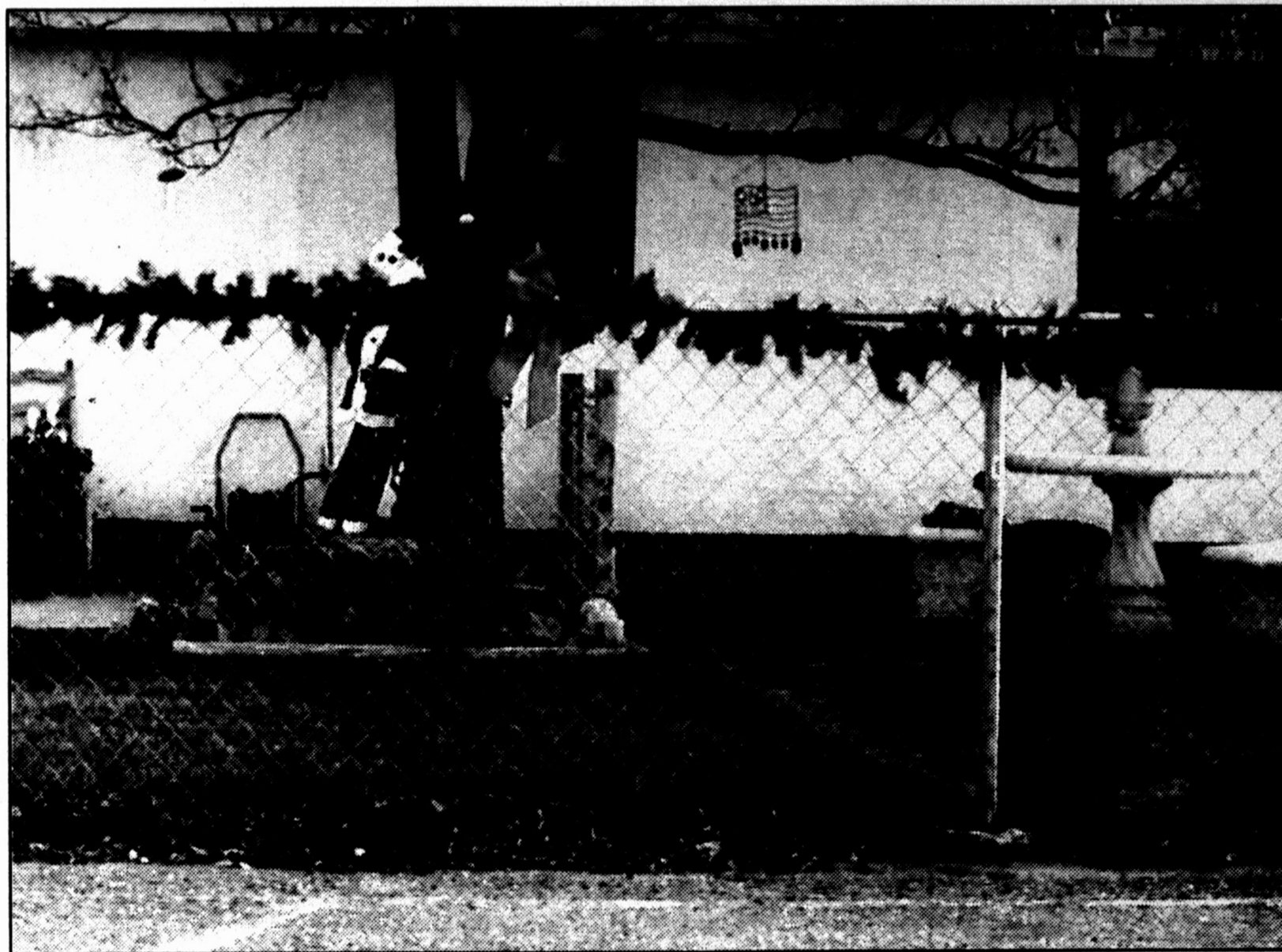
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Keeping Santa hostage



Can't get past me -- Decorations adorn the fence, door and the yard of this house on Sixth Street and an unidentified Rottweiler plays the part of guard dog. It's not sure if he's keeping Santa from escaping or keeping others away from the old elf so he can get his work done, but he seems to take the position quite seriously.

Age weakens Toys for Tots program

Older marines pick up slack

BOSTON (AP) — The jolly old elves behind the Toys for Tots program aren't getting any younger.

The program started by the Marine Corps Reserve 52 years ago has never lacked for volunteers. But some say fewer young leathernecks are replacing their elders, leading to concern that the tradition of giving, like old soldiers, is fading away.

"Us old ... retirees are picking up the slack," said James Cavanaugh, 75, a retired Marine reservist. "How much longer can we do that?"

Cavanaugh coordinates the Boston-area Toys for Tots program, the state's largest. Each year, he and other volunteers collect as many as 70,000 toys for needy children.

The national program, which began in 1947, generates a flood of donated toys. Eleven million toys were given to nearly 5 million children in 1998, the best year ever.

But some worry the tradition's days are numbered. Volunteers like Cavanaugh say they're getting too old to con-

tinue lugging toy-filled boxes onto trucks and lifting gift-laden garbage bags into bins.

And they see little hope in the younger generation of reservists.

"The young guys have their own priorities," Rudy Wieners, 74, a retired Marine, said Wednesday as he took a break in the South Boston Seaport warehouse where toys are sorted for distribution. "They're too young to understand that other people need your help, too."

The aging of the Toys for Tots volunteers is exacerbated by the consolidation in recent years of Marine Corps Reserve centers across the country. In Massachusetts, centers from Lawrence, Weymouth and Cape Cod will all have moved by next year to the Devens Reserve Forces Training Center in Ayer.

Those moves leave Toys for Tots to be run by enthusiastic — but often older — volunteers without the network of young reservists attached to the reserve centers.

"Where we have Marine Corps reserves, it's a much younger group, with the average age probably in the 30s," said Bill Grien, 51, vice president for marketing and development for the Quantico, Va.-based Toys for Tots Foundation. "That could be a problem

in Boston in the years to come if we can't fill the shoes of some of the folks there."

Cavanaugh said most of his Toys for Tots volunteers in Boston are in their 70s.

Additionally, the closure of

The aging of the Toys for Tots volunteers is exacerbated by the consolidation in recent years of Marine Corps Reserve centers across the country.

serve centers across the country, and about 150 independent groups of Toys for Tots volunteers — a number that had increased much more quickly than the number of reserve centers that had closed, Grien said.

And not every center is short of people standing in for Santa.

At Devens, Staff Sgt. Marie Sebastian said Toys for Tots organizers had little trouble attracting help among the young reservists, many of whom are just out of high school or in college.

"We have plenty of volunteers," she said.

However, Cavanaugh said two of his older volunteers died this year, and he didn't know how much longer the group could keep up its numbers.

"I don't know what they're going to do next year," said 81-year-old Rocky LaVacca, one of Cavanaugh's crew. "I'll keep coming in as long as I'm able."

other reserve centers around the country — in Seattle and Evansville, Ind., for example — has led to the end or reorganization of Toys for Tots programs in those areas.

One bright spot are the independent groups helping to offset some of the losses.

There are 188 Marine re-

HEREFORD BRAND

Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Dec. 15, 1999, include the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT Incidents

- A terroristic threat was reported in the 600 block of Irving.

- A forgery was reported in the 300 block of North Schley.

- Criminal mischief was reported in the 100 block of Bradley.

- A runaway was reported in the 700 block of La Plata.

- A suicide was reported in the 300 block of South Texas.

- A lost wallet was reported in the 700 block of West First.

- Burglary of a habitation was reported in the 200 block of Ross.

- A two-vehicle accident was reported in the 100 block of Avenue B. No injuries were reported.

- A two-vehicle accident was reported in the 100 block of Avenue E. No injuries were reported.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Arrests

- A 24-year-old woman began serving time on a violation of probation conviction.

- A 25-year-old woman began serving time on a theft conviction.

- A 23-year-old man began serving time on an assault conviction.

- A 20-year-old woman was arrested and charged with false report.

- A 27-year-old man was arrested and charged with assault.

- A 25-year-old man was arrested and charged with driving while license was suspended.

FIRE DEPARTMENT - 3:55 p.m. Firefighters responded to 1612 N. Avenue K to a structure fire. The oven overheated. No damage was reported.

- 5:52 p.m. Firefighters responded to 333 Centre for an alarm malfunction.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Texas lottery

Lotto Texas

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were:

11-13-22-24-25-44.

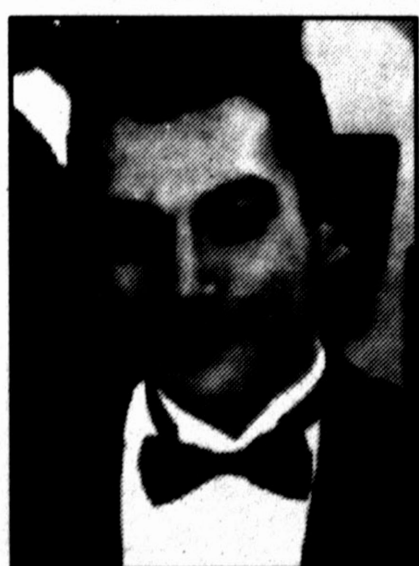
Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$7 million.

Pick 3

The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

5-3-7

HEREFORD BRAND Obituaries



ANTHONY JOHN FLORES Dec. 8, 1999

Memorial services for Anthony John Flores, 18, formerly of Hereford will be 7 p.m. Friday at San Jose Catholic Church with Deacon Jesse Guerrero officiating. Services were Dec. 11 at Westover Hills Assembly of God Church in San Antonio. Burial was in First

Memorial Park Cemetery. Mr. Flores died Dec. 8, 1999 in San Antonio.

He had lived in Hereford as a boy.

Survivors include his father and step mother Raymond Flores, Sr., and Tina Riojas, both of Hereford; mother, Hortencia Morales of San Antonio; one sister, Briana Flores of Hereford; three brothers, Brian Flores of Hereford, Raymond Flores, Jr., and Jerry Flores, both of San Antonio; grandmother Lupe Flores; and maternal grandparents Natalia and Chris Herrera; and a number of aunts and uncles.

He was preceded in death by his grandfather, John Flores, Sr.

Hereford Brand, Dec. 16, 1999

JIMMY VILLA Dec. 15, 1999

Services for Jimmy Villa of Hereford are pending with Parkside Chapel Funeral Home. Mr. Villa died Wednesday in Hereford.

Hereford Brand, Dec. 16, 1999

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, December 16, 1999 • A3

Pot in this relationship calling kettle black

Dear Ann Landers: My "significant other" (I'll call her Jasmine), after shacking up for two days with a former lover, suggested that we continue to be "companions." We were once married, but divorced after a few years, and have been going steady for nearly 20 years. We do not live together, but those who know us consider us a couple.

We had agreed if there was a problem, we would discuss it and try to work out a solution. The first inkling I had of the affair was when Jasmine called me from the airport to say she was headed out to meet her former lover, who was only in this country for a short time. I did not ask her any questions about her plans, and she didn't volunteer any details.

When she returned, she said there was no reason we couldn't continue our relationship as we had in the past, and that she intended to see the other guy three or four times a year. I told Jasmine she had no moral standards and that I wanted nothing more to do with her. She claims she cannot understand my pain and disappointment, and sees no reason for me to be upset. Is this woman a sociopath, or am I missing something? — Perplexed in Portland

Dear Portland: You say you have been "going steady" with this woman for nearly 20



Ann Landers

years, and now, she wants to meet a former lover three or four times a year? You are complaining that she has no moral standards. It sounds to me like the pot is calling the kettle black.

If you want this woman all to yourself, why haven't you remarried her? I think you two need a rest from one another so you can step back and re-evaluate your relationship. I recommend it.

Dear Ann Landers: I could not resist the opportunity to tell "Freaking Out in California" how right she is. Cell-phone users have become downright rude.

My husband, along with others throughout the country, happens to own a scanner that can pick up cell-phone conversations. It truly amazes me that these yakkers are so free with their talk. It's like the old days when we had party lines, and all the neighbors could listen in on your telephone calls. Anyone with a scanner can pick up these conversations. Much of what I hear is unfit for human ears. Warn your readers to please

watch their language, Ann. — Iowa Reader

Dear Iowa: You told 'em, and I hope they listen. I have had many letters from readers who pointed this out, and I hope you cell-phoniacs who read this will be aware that your conversations are NOT private. You should speak as if your minister were listening, because he just might be.

Dear Ann Landers: Your response to "Tom in Atkinson," whose friend still had his deceased wife's voice on the answering machine, was heavy-handed.

I married my wife after her father died. Her mother still keeps his voice on their answering machine, even though it's been five years since he passed away. The message he left is very funny, saying he's a robot. Whenever my wife calls and gets the machine, she says, "Hello, Daddy-bot," and leaves her message.

Nobody expects him to call back, nor do we think he's really alive somewhere. My wife is not living in denial. It's just a sweet way to re-

member her father's voice. — Greg in Lanham-Seabrook, Md.

Dear Greg: I see your point, and stand corrected. Thanks for hauling me up short. I had it coming. As I said before — to each his own. If keeping a loved one's voice on the answering machine is comforting, so be it.

Have trouble sleeping at night and don't want to get involved in a novel? "A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" is the perfect bed-stand mate. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562 (in Canada, \$6.25).



Donations of Christmas toys for children can be placed in this box at First National Bank. Donna Hathaway and other bank employees are encouraging the community to contribute new toys for community children before the close of business Friday. Other collection points are FirstBank Southwest, Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union and Stevens 5-Star Car and Truck Center. Toys will be distributed by county social services employees and volunteers beginning Dec. 20.

Girl Scouts report on trip to Washington, D.C.

The summer of 1999 was one to remember for our group of six girls and four adult sponsors from Hereford's Girl Scout Cadette Troop 283. We traveled on a 16-day "once in a lifetime trip" to New York City and Washington, D.C.

On the first part of our trip from Hereford to Lebanon, Mo., it rained most of the way. In Lebanon, we stayed overnight in a church camp and visited the Hemlock Girl Scout Council in Harrisburg, Pa.

In New York City, we stayed in a hotel at Seventh and Lexington. We rode on a double-decker touring bus and visited the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty on Liberty Island, Chinatown, Little Italy, Little Korea, Greenwich Village and Times Square.

Our group traveled on the Brooklyn Bridge and saw Central Park, the Mets Life building, the Sears' Tower, and the Chrysler

building. We visited the National Girl Scout Center at 420 Fifth Avenue, and we spent time shopping at the department stores of Saks and Macy's.

We enjoyed eating lunch from a street vendor selling hot dogs. One evening, we went to Times Square and had a great time attending the Broadway musical, "Footloose."

Next, it was on to Washington, D.C. We learned how to ride the metro bus system, and one of the first things we saw was the Smithsonian Castle. We spent one day touring two Smithsonian Museums: the National Museum of American History and the National Museum of Natural History.

Some of the favorite things we saw there were Dorothy's red shoes, the dinosaur exhibits, the Hope diamond, the tractor from Hereford, Oscar the Grouch, Fozzi's leather jacket, and the hat and jacket of Indiana Jones.

We saw our government in action when we toured the Capitol Building. We had the chance to witness sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Also, we walked through the Capitol library and visited the office of Kay Bailey Hutchison and Phil Gramm.

We learned even more about the history of our country when we toured the memorial buildings of Lincoln, Washington, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Jefferson. It was awesome to realize the price of freedom when we visited the Vietnam Wall, the Korean Memorial and the Women in Military Service for America memorial.

At the Arlington National Cemetery, we were moved by the rows and rows of white tombstones marking the graves, and we watched the solemn ceremony of the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and we saw the eternal flame at

John F. Kennedy's grave site.

We also had the opportunity to tour Ford's Theater and Museum where Abraham Lincoln was shot, the National Cathedral, the Daughter's of the American Revolution Museum and the White House.

On our way home, we enjoyed stopping at Hilton Head Island to walk along the beach of the Atlantic Ocean, and we drove through Savannah, Ga., which is the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts.

We would like to thank the people and businesses of Hereford for helping us fund-raise enough money to take this "once in a lifetime trip." We collected souvenirs, photographs, postcards, patches, pins and most of all, memories. We appreciate your generosity and support.

Any Hereford organization that would like to hear about our trip in more detail can call 364-5787 and schedule a time that we can come and make a presentation. We want to share this adventure with the people that helped make it possible.

This article was written by the members of Cadette Girl Scout Troop 283 that went on the trip to help complete the requirements of their Travel badge. These Girl Scouts included Cassie Daniel, Dani Haws, Stephanie Henson, Jennifer Lee, Jami Lyons and Clarissa Zamora. The adult sponsors were Lorna Haws, JoNell and Steven Lyons and Ester Zamora.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Dec. 16, the 350th day of 1999. There are 15 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

One hundred years ago, on Dec. 16, 1899, Sir Noel Coward, the English actor, playwright and composer, was born in London.

On this date:

In 1944, the World War II Battle of the Bulge began as German forces launched a surprise counter-attack against Allied forces in Belgium.

In 1960, 134 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-8 and a TWA Super Constellation collided over New York City.

In 1985, reputed organized-crime chief Paul Castellano was shot to death outside a New York City restaurant.

In 1991, the UN General Assembly rescinded its 1975 resolution equating Zionism with racism by a vote of 111-to-25.

Ten years ago: Federal

appeals court judge Robert S. Vance was killed by a mail bomb at his Alabama home. Walter Leroy Moody Junior was later sentenced to death for killing Vance, and received seven life terms on federal charges in that killing and the death of civil rights attorney Robert E. Robinson.

Five years ago: The White House and Republicans traded barbs over whose tax plan was fairer to the middle class, a day after President Clinton presented a package of proposed tax cuts. White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers an-

nounced she was leaving her job at the end of the year.

One year ago: President Clinton ordered a sustained series of airstrikes against Iraq by American and British forces in response to Saddam Hussein's continued defiance of UN weapons inspectors. The House delayed a debate set to begin the next day on four articles of impeachment against President Clinton.

Today's Birthdays: Author Sir Arthur C. Clarke is 82. Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 63. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 62.

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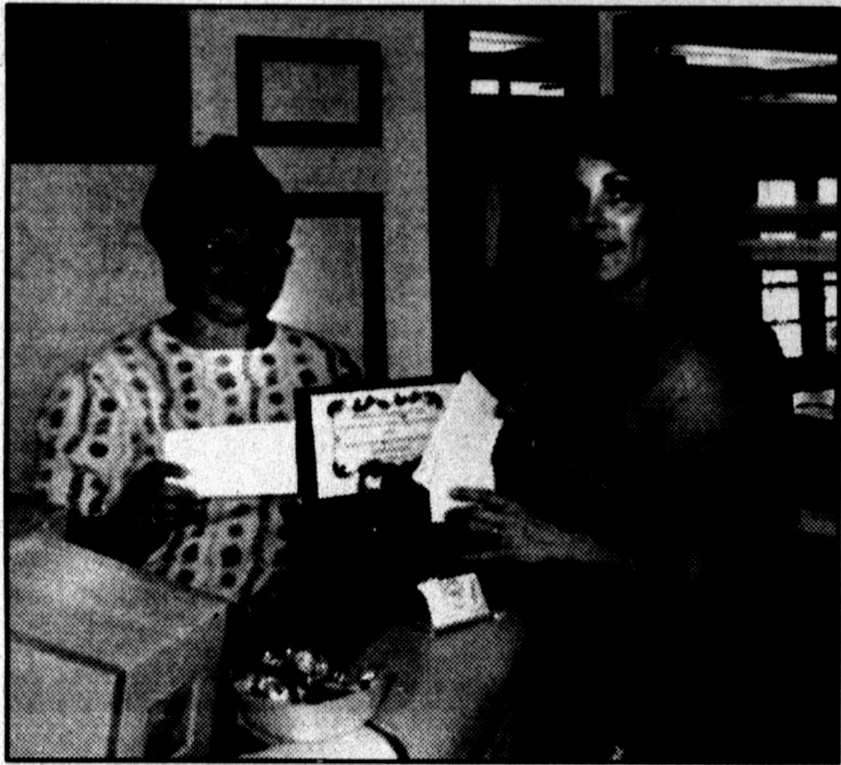
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Christmas luncheon is held at ABC

Members of Kingdom Seekers Sunday School Class held a luncheon Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall of Avenue Baptist Church. Hostesses were Trudie Gray, Rosie Wall and Dorothy Sargent.

Sargent presided over a short business meeting. Plans were made to serve refreshments for the birthday party at Westgate Nursing Home on Dec. 17.

Games were led by Nancy Duncan and gifts were exchanged. Secret pals were revealed and names were drawn for new secret pals for the year 2000.

Photos were taken by the teacher, Pauline Landers.

Those attending were Madalena Hudson, Perry Keyes, Marvene Mathis, Dorna Kirby, Luella Thomas, Erma Bain, Nell Saul, Laquita Norvell, Inez Houston, Jessie Sumner, Ruby Skelton, Ruby Stevens, Landers, Duncan, Wall, Gray and Sargent.

Contributions to Project Christmas Card can be made through Dec. 22 at canisters like this one at Touch of Class beauty salon, shown by Carol Gilliam and Lynn Kriegshauser. Canisters have been placed at numerous locations in Hereford by L'Allegra Study Club, who sponsors the project each year. Residents are asked to contribute the amount they would normally spend sending individual Christmas cards and their greeting to the entire community will be published in the Christmas Eve edition of the Hereford Brand. Proceeds from the project will be used for a recovery room bed for Hereford Regional Medical Center.

What's Happening

Area Events

AMARILLO

Scratch Cookin' inc. is sponsoring a blood drive in memory of J. Patrick Barnes from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday at 3221 Church Street, across from Ruby Tequila's restaurant.

Barnes died on Nov. 6, at the age of 33, after a battle with Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura. This is an unusual disease in which a person makes antibodies (autoantibodies) against their own platelets. Barnes' treatment included the use of many units of blood and blood products giving those close

to him a clear understanding of the critical importance of a safe, adequate blood supply.

The holiday season is traditionally a time when donations are down not only in the Panhandle but also nationwide, so the success of this blood drive is vital to ensure that the blood supply remains at a safe level. As a special thank you, all donors will receive a coupon for dinner at Ruby Tequila's or Calico County.

The Annual Christmas Pageant presented by Paramount Terrace

Christian Church will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday through Monday and at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Civic Center Auditorium.

The Christmas Pageant portrays the true meaning of Christmas by telling the life story of Jesus Christ with the spectacular use of music and drama.

Tickets are free and can be obtained from the music ministry office located at the east entrance of the church at 4000 Mays Ave. For more ticket information, call 371-3023.

American Cancer Society offers kit to help put down cigarettes

AUSTIN—If you are one of the many who will pledge to put down the cigarettes and start the millennium smoke-free, the American Cancer Society can help.

The American Cancer Society's "Stop Now - Here's How" Quit Kit is available free of charge to smokers attempting to quit for their new year's resolution. The Quit Kit can be ordered by calling the society's 24-hour information line at 1-800-ACS-2345.

The kit provides information on the immediate and long-term benefits of quitting. The kit also contains quit tips, a self-help guide, relaxation exercises, facts on nicotine and non-nicotine replacement products as well as other information to help smokers achieve a smoke-free lifestyle.

"We know that about 90 percent of successful quitters do so on their own. We also know that quitting smoking is not easy, so we want to provide the "Stop Now - Here's How" quit kit to assist smokers who are trying to stop," Sharon Kohout, chair of the ACS's tobacco control committee in Texas, said.

According to survey, smokers often try to quit more than once before they succeed, with 70 percent of ex-smokers making one to two quit attempts, and 22 percent making three to five quit attempts. Smokers should not give up trying, since most ex-smokers cycle through the quitting process several times before becoming long-term quitters.

People who quit smoking live longer lives than those who continue to smoke.

"If you or someone you know tried to quit during the Great American Smokeout, but didn't quite make it, New Year's offers

another chance to begin the year on a healthy note," Kohout said.

For more information from the American Cancer Society, call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-

based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer, through research, education, advocacy and service.



Hat recipient — Becky Thorn, left, has become a member of the AMBUCS Big Hat Club by sponsoring three new members in the last 12 months. Presenting her "big hat" is George Pacheco who is also a member of the Big Hat Club.

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SPORTS

A5 • HERFORD BRAND • Thursday, December 16, 1999

Monahans' Curry wins 500th Game

By John Erfort
Odessa American

ODESSA — It seemed like just another victory in another high school basketball tournament, but it was much more than that to Monahans boys coach John Curry.

With a victory against Coahoma Dec. 3 at the Coahoma Tournament, Curry earned his 500th career victory in the sport.

Curry, who is in his 32nd year of coaching, has the Lobos off to a 9-3 start this season, his fifth at Monahans. He has a 69-63 record at the school. His career record, including this year's games, is 502-392. Coming into this season, Curry was No. 36 on the victory list among Texas high school basketball coaches.

Curry said the only reason he knew about it was because some of his players asked him about his record before the season began. Texas Basketball Magazine, produced yearly by Bob Springer (an ex-coach who lives in the Houston area), lists all of the top coaches and their records.

"Some of my kids had reminded me," Curry said. "I guess they had seen it somewhere in one of the basketball magazines. One of my players also asked me about it before the season and I told him to forget about that, there were more important things to do."

Curry is a graduate of Seminole High School and graduated from McMurry University, where he played basketball. He said his attachment to athletics was so strong he couldn't help but get into coaching.

"Oh no," he said when asked if he ever thought he would coach this long. "I was just going to try it on a trial basis and just because I'd been involved in athletics all my life it was going to be hard for me to just quit being around them. I tried (coaching) for a year and fell in love with it."

Curry began his career with a six-year stint at Van Horn. That was followed by one year at Levelland, and then Curry took a year off and got into private business.

He couldn't stay away, though. The next year he was back at Van Horn and this time he stayed there seven more years. His teams twice qualified for the state tournament and his 1971 team won a state title by beating Garrison in the semifinals and Pottoboro in the championship. Van Horn also made it to state in 1978, but lost to Snook in the first round.

"We had a bunch of good kids and Lady Luck was on our side," Curry said of those Van Horn teams. "We had some kids who could play and we had the element of surprise because no one had ever heard of us. But Van Horn was really good. In the 1950s, when they were in Class B, they went four years in a row to the state tournament, I

think from 55-59.

"The principal out there the first year I was there had a bronze medal from the 1936 Olympics. His name was Greer Skousen and he played for Mexico. He grew up in a Mormon settlement in Mexico at Academia Juarez. A couple kids from there were on their national team, and that was the first year they played basketball in the Olympics was 1936. That's the kind of people I was around out there in Van Horn."

Curry then coached for 13 years in Ozona and has been at Monahans for five seasons. While at Ozona, Curry shared principal's and basketball coach's duties at one point and later did double duty as athletic director and basketball coach.

Asked if he'd be retiring any time soon, Curry said he didn't know. He said he's taking everything one year at a time.

"As long as I enjoy it and I'm still in good health I'll keep going," he said. "We've enjoyed living here in Monahans and we've had some good folks to work with and some good kids too. It's been a challenge to try to get the basketball built to respectability and we're tickled with the progress we've made."

"They've exceeded my expectations. I'm really tickled with how they've played so far, but we're going to be in a tough league once Crane gets all their guys together and Greenwood's tough. Then with us, Alpine, Kermit and Presidio it'll be a pretty good district."

Asked about being in the company of some of the state's best coaches, Curry said he was pleased. However, he pointed out, the credit doesn't all go to him.

"Those 500 wins represent dealing with a lot of good kids through the years," he said. "Not just good basketball players, but good kids."

"Winning No. 500 really does feel good, but let's put that in perspective. When Ken Cleveland was my age I think he was working on No. 800 or somewhere around there. When you keep at it long enough good things are going to happen to you."

Curry said coaching in last summer's Texas High School Coaches Association all-star game was one of his career highlights because the coaches of the North and South teams are selected by their peers. Curry coached the North team in that game, which beat the South team 99-92.

"Just being recognized by your peers was a real treat for me," he said. "We had seven Division I kids on our team and that was a treat too. I'm not surprised at all by Chris Ogden getting to play a lot at Texas, or by Charles Tatum playing at Arkansas. Not only were they outstanding players, but also outstanding young men."

Going Other Ways



Seth Pietsek, shown here converging on Weatherford's Mark Pierce, will hang up his helmet and pads for wrestling shoes and ear guards. Pietsek, along with Kris Hammerbeck, Valentin Sustaita, Michael Barba, Gilbert Hernandez and Daniel Fangman, will hit the wrestling mat this weekend at the Canyon Randall Tournament. Cody Hodges, Slade Hodges, Cody Marsh, Tim Dudley, Steven Northern, Chayse Rives and Mike Bedolla will hit the hoops court Friday when the Whitefaces host Canyon.

NCA beats San Jacinto, 48-39, improves to 6-2

From Staff Reports

The Nazarene Christian Academy boys team defeated San Jacinto Academy 48-39 on Wednesday. They improve to 6-2 on the year.

Josh Casey led the Eagles with 19 points. Landry Lloyd added 17 points.

Rounding up the scoring are Edward Silva with 6 points, Mitchell Sanders with 4 and Cade Hansard with 2.

Nazarene Christian will face Adrian today.

YMCA to have Winter Volleyball League

The Hereford YMCA announces the start of the Adult Winter Coed Volleyball League.

The league will start on Dec. 13, with games starting at 7:15 p.m. Cost per team is \$102.

Four teams needed to build a Division. For more information, contact the YMCA at 364-6990.

YMCA to start Elementary School Hoops League

The Hereford YMCA announces the start of the K-5 through 6th Grade Elementary School Basketball League.

League fee is \$23 and an additional \$18 for additional children in the same family.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 364-6990. Scholarships available.

Correction

Wednesday's issue of the *Hereford Brand* listed the All-District 3-4 football teams. It failed to mention Slade Hodges as a District 3-4A first-team selection. We regret the error.

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Spurs survive Rockets, 83-77

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Moral victories are beginning to ring hollow for the Houston Rockets.

After leading defending NBA champion San Antonio for 3 1/2 quarters, the Rockets wilted down the stretch and lost 83-77 to the Spurs on Wednesday night.

"The theme of the year so far seems to be moral victories," said Houston coach Rudy Tomjanovich, who saw his team lose for the fifth straight time since Charles Barkley suffered a career-ending knee injury on Dec. 8 in Philadelphia.

"We need a tangible one right now," Tomjanovich said. "It comes down to what's inside of us. It's like a 3-2 pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning in a baseball game. Do you hit it or whiff at it? It's typical of a young team, it just happens so many times."

San Antonio has not been playing well lately, having lost four of five before winning the last two.

"We played poorly. We're confused and discombobulated," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said. "We have a heck of a lot of work to do. It's a matter of concentration, turnovers, different people and different defenses. We just have to keep working at it."

Tim Duncan had 20 points and David Robinson added 14 for San Antonio, which made only 41 percent of its field-goal attempts and turned the ball over 14 times against the Rockets.

"We're not playing our best basketball," said Duncan, who grabbed 10 rebounds. "I'm happy we won. The ball didn't bounce our way, but it's a win in the books no matter what."

Steve Francis had 24 points for Houston, which placed only two players in

double figures, with Shandon Anderson adding 13 points.

The Spurs were trailing by seven with 7:08 left in the game before going on a 12-0 run to take a 76-71 lead. Robinson scored six points in the run.

A free throw by Cuttino Mobley with 1:54 to play closed Houston to 76-73. San Antonio answered with two free throws apiece by Duncan and Terry Porter sandwiched around a jump hook by Houston's Kenny Thomas, giving the Spurs an 80-75 lead with 23 seconds left.

Mario Elie connected on three free throws for San Antonio in the final 15 seconds.

"We lost it at the free-throw line," said Tomjanovich, who saw his team make only 14 of 26. "I feel for these guys. They deserve to win the game in a lot of ways, yet you don't deserve it when you miss those free throws. We had a great chance to beat the defending champions on their own floor."

Houston dropped to 7-17 with the loss. The Rockets lost 101-90 to the New York Knicks on Tuesday night in Houston.

"We outplayed them for three quarters and then gave it away the last six minutes," Francis said. "In the last two days we have played both the teams that played in the championship last year, and it seems like we gave both games away."

San Antonio, fourth in the NBA in field-goal percentage defense, held Houston to 40 percent shooting.

"Our strength and character of this team has to be our defense," said Robinson, who had four of the Spurs' 11 blocked shots. "I have to be our defensive leader. I have to make things happen. I have to block shots. I see that as my job. This was an ugly but good win."

Carolina's Carruth arrested after nationwide manhunt

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Rae Carruth was arrested Wednesday in western Tennessee, a day after the Carolina Panthers wide receiver failed to turn himself in to face murder charges in the death of his girlfriend.

Carruth was arrested Wednesday night at a hotel in Wildersville, Tenn., about 100 miles northeast of Memphis, the FBI said. He was hiding in the trunk of a car belonging to a woman friend who had registered at the motel.

Authorities said they had received tips that Carruth could be found at the Tennessee motel and FBI agents staked it out Wednesday afternoon. They checked the room, then searched the car parked in the motel's lot, agents said.

"He was cooperative during the course of the arrest and processing," said Victor O'Korn, FBI assistant special agent in charge in Charlotte.

Carruth was being held in the Madison County, Tenn., jail Wednesday night on a federal charge of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. An extradition hearing before a federal magistrate was planned Thursday morning.

The unidentified woman hadn't been charged as of Wednesday night, FBI spokeswoman Joanne Morley said.

Carruth was charged with first-degree murder following the death Tuesday of 24-year-old Cherica Adams, who was 6 1/2 months' pregnant when she was shot four times Nov. 16 in her car. The shooting forced doctors to perform an emergency delivery.

If convicted, Carruth could be sentenced to death or life in prison.

Carruth's name had been entered earlier Wednesday into the National Crime Information Center computer, which is linked to police across the United States.

Adams was shot in the neck and chest from a passing vehicle as she drove through a Charlotte neighborhood.

Carruth was in a car near the shooting, and the three other men were in a separate vehicle, talking by cell phone, prosecutors said.

The condition of the baby, Chancellor Lee Adams, has improved since the shooting. He was moved out of a neonatal intensive care nursery earlier this month.

Carruth, 25, was the Panthers' first-round draft choice in 1997 out of Colorado. According to the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he is the first active NFL player to face a murder charge.

Carruth and the other men were originally charged with conspiracy, attempted murder and related charges. Carruth was free on \$3 million bail on the earlier charges when Adams died.

Michael Eugene Kennedy, 24; Stanley Drew "Boss" Abraham, 19; and William Edward Watkins, 44; were charged with first-degree murder Wednesday and were being held without bail. They were to make their first court appearances Thursday on the murder charge.

Carruth's mother, Theodry Carruth, had gone on national television Wednesday morning to say her son would turn himself in to authorities when he was ready. She said she had spoken to him by telephone Tuesday.

Investigators did not know if she knew his whereabouts at the time, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police deputy chief Larry Snider said.

"It's quite obvious the information the mother was supplying was incorrect. He didn't turn himself in and he was found hundreds of miles away from Charlotte," Snider said.

Beamer wins AP Coach of the Year

Virginia Tech coach helped No. 2-ranked Hokies to championship game

BLACKSVURG, Vir. (AP) — Frank Beamer is coaching less and enjoying it more.

The easy-going Beamer is not as heavily involved in offensive and defensive strategy as he used to be, saying he has total confidence in his coordinators at Virginia Tech.

"Now that I think about it," Beamer said, laughing, "it seems the less you coach, the more honors you get."

On Wednesday, Beamer was chosen The Associated Press' College Coach of the Year in balloting by AP member newspapers, TV and radio stations.

"It's a tremendous honor for our program," Beamer said. "You can't get this if you don't have a staff that has been together for some time. We have that."

Beamer, finishing his 13th season at Virginia Tech, received 27 of the 84 votes in the AP balloting. Hawaii's June Jones was second with 19 votes and Minnesota's Glen Mason was third with nine votes.

Beamer's staff includes defensive coordinator Bud Foster and offensive coordinator Rickey Bustle.

"I was very involved in the offense at one time, then the defense," Beamer said. "Now I let them do it."

And the players responded so well that the second-ranked Hokies (11-0) will play No. 1 Florida State (11-0) for the national championship in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4.

"The key to us was how fast our offense would come along," Beamer said.

How does warp speed sound? Redshirt freshman quarterback Michael Vick was the surprise star of the season, throwing for 1,840 yards and 12 touchdowns and running for 585 yards and eight TDs. Add a topnotch defense and the nation's best special teams, and Beamer had himself a sensational season.

The Hokies have been good for years, but not until this season have they gained so much national attention. Virginia Tech will be playing in its seventh straight bowl game.

"All these national awards are new to us," Beamer said. "And believe me, we appreciate every one of them."

All-America defensive end Corey Moore won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman and the Nagurski trophy as the nation's top defensive player, and Vick finished third in the Heisman Trophy balloting behind Ron Dayne and Joe Hamilton. Beamer has collected several other coach-of-the-year honors.

The 53-year-old former Hokies defensive back has handled the spotlight well. When his team was criticized for playing a weak schedule, and when computer wizards were trying to figure out how a once-beaten Nebraska could edge the Hokies in the final Bowl Championship Series stand-

ings, Beamer kept his cool.

"We can do nothing, absolutely nothing, about our schedule, somebody else's schedule or how somebody else is going to play. All we can control is how we prepare," Beamer said frequently.

Beamer is Virginia Tech's most successful coach, compiling an 88-59-2 record and three Big East titles.

Beamer knew his Hokies were good, but how good depended on Vick, sophomore wide receiver Andre Davis and a young offensive line.

"If our offense came along, we knew we'd be a balanced team," Beamer said. "And then our quarterback goes out and plays better than we had ever hoped, the schedule fell right and we didn't have many injuries. Things just fell into place."

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1 day per word	.20	\$4.00
2 days per word	.31	\$6.20
3 days per word	.42	\$8.40
4 days per word	.53	\$10.60
5 days per word	.64	\$12.80

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 \$5.30 per column inch.

LEGALS
 Ad rates for legal notices are \$5.30 per column inch.

ERRORS
 Every effort is made to avoid errors in word ads and legal notices. Advertisers 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.

1. ARTICLES FOR SALE

But, hurry! Place a Madame Alexander collector doll under the tree this Christmas. Prices: \$34.95 to \$59.95. Call 364-1530.

REBUILT KIRBYS 1/2 price with warranty. 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.

FOR SALE!! Pecan Firewood. Call Quality Grain at 364-4700.

FREE DOG! Outdoor medium size pet dog to give away. Great with kids. Call 364-1903.

6X26 FT Hale. Goose Neck covered live-stock trailer. 18ft Goose neck flat bed trailer with loading ramps. African Millet round bales. 16-400 Wheat pasture heifers. Had shots. Hot wire broke. Call LeRoy Williamson at 258-7765.

TAXIDERMYPHEASANTS-FLYING Or standing, three pin ball machines, HO scale model trains & equipment, miniature doll house furniture kits. Call 364-4109.

FOR SALE! Concrete rebar, stockade fence sections, gas fireplace log unit, large antique safe (on wheels), 3 cash registers, adding machines. Some are collectibles. Call 364-6405.

1a. GARAGE SALES

ESTATE SALES By Renee. Let us sell for you. We do complete liquidation of personal property in the home. Call (day) 364-6603 or (evenings/weekends) 363-1909.

YARD SALE! 100 Cherokees. Thursday, Friday, Saturday 9:00 til 5:00.

2. FARM & RANCH

CUSTOM GRASS Seeding and Field Preparation. Includes: Working new ground, plowing out grasses for new stands, or over seeding current grasses. **JOE WARD** 364-2021 (day) or 289-5394 (night).

DUE TO Land being put in CRP, have 10, 292 Chevy well motors. All ran in 1999. Must take all. \$1,000 each. Call 806-276-5569.

3. AUTOMOBILES

FOR SALE! 1996 Grand Am. V-6, Green, 100,000 Miles. See at Hereford Credit Union.

onlyusedcars.com Where used car customers and used car dealers get together.

FOR SALE! 1993 Suburban. 2WD, Tan/Blue, tan interior, like new condition. Call 364-4113 or 346-4113.

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

FOR SALE! 1993 Ford F150. 4X4, Extended Cab. Call (daytime) 364-6603 or (night) 363-1909.

EXCEPTIONAL 1987 Olds. Power, leather seats. This car is in tip top shape. Call Gid Brown at 364-2384.

1992 CHEVY Suburban. 350 Engine, Red/Red, Very good condition. Call 364-0439 344-4451 leave message.

1996 WHITE Pontiac GT. 4 cylinder, 69,400 miles. See at Credit Union.

1957 WINDSOR Chrysler. Black with white top, 4-door, 77K actual miles. Good condition. \$4,500. Call 806-655-4035.

1992 ACURA Integra. 5-sp., sunroof, \$5,995. Great school car. Call 364-7792.

1992 SUBURBAN. 2 WD, Front & rear heat & air, cruise, tilt, power seats & windows. \$8,950.00. Call 364-6617 or 344-4617.

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.

2 BEDROOM Mobile Home. Stove, fridge, fenced. 2 Bedroom duplex. Stove, fridge, fenced. Water paid. Call 364-4370.

5. RENTAL PROPERTY

1100 sq. ft. Office Space 4 Offices, Carpeted In good shape and ready to go!

NEED EXTRA Storage space? Need a place to have a garage sale? Rent a mini storage. Two sizes available. Call 364-4370.

BEST DEAL In Town! 1 bedroom efficiency apartments. Bills paid, red brick apartments. 300 block West 2nd. 364-3586.

NICE, LARGE, Unfurnished apartments. Refrigerated air, two bedrooms. You pay only electric -- we pay the rest. \$336/month. 364-8421.

APARTMENTS: Blue Water Gardens (HEAT, A/C, LIGHTS) INCLUDED. Rent based on income. According to regulations for 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. Call Dora or Jenni TUSH for information & directions. 12:00pm (806)364-6601. Equal Opportunity.

CROSSWORD

CROSSWORD
 By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

ACROSS

1 Software	2 Director
3 Lily	3 Reitman
5 Heathen	4 variety
10 State	4 Like a
11 Small	5 monarch
12 "Othello"	5 Pamphlet-
13 Rubbish	6 Mexican
14 Icy treat	7 Attain
16 Rocket	8 Homer's
20 Docu-	9 Negating
23 Small	11 Lipstick's
24 Dodge	15 Heart
25 Scenic	17 Russian
27 Crony	18 Cager
28 Blazer	Archibald
29 Paint	19 Coup
32 Forest	20 invigorates
36 Software	21 Jai --
upgrade	22 Tug
offer	25 Roof
39 River to	34 Table salt
the	35 Moose's
Caspian	topper
40 Van Gogh	36 Equip
painting	37 Blunder
41 Support	38 Life
42 Dozen	Quincy
squared	
43 Wings	

DOWN

1 Speaker's	30 Bidding
stand	phrase
	31 Refers to
	33 Spoken
	34 Table salt
	35 Moose's
	cousins
	36 Equip
	37 Blunder
	38 Life
	story

Yesterday's answer

DODO LARS
INERT GALEN
DUMBO UVULA
USE RANAMOK
PEAHENS NAY
SNOUT MID
SPIRE
BIT WARTS
SUN NATCHEZ
MCGWIRE EVE
AKRON ROBES
SLAKE START
HEMS TREY

Now Leasing

Guardian Self Storage
 1409 E. Park Avenue
 364-5778

ALONZO APARTMENTS 1-2-3 and 4 Bedrooms. Starting \$150.00 to \$275.00. Located on the 300 block of Bradley. No bills furnished. Call 364-8805.

2 BEDROOM Apartment for rent! Stove, fridge, W/D hookups. Water paid. Call 364-4370.

FOR RENT! 2 Bedroom Apartments. Stove and fridge furnished, fenced backyard, water and cable paid. Call 364-4370.

Call **C&R Co.**
 806-364-4670

EL DORADO Apartments. Available One and Two bedroom apartments. No deposit through December. Call 363-1254 or 344-2475.

2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath House for rent. W/D Hookups, No pets. References required. Call 364-2613 after 6:00p.m.

THREE BEDROOM House for rent. Beautiful home! Will go quickly. \$475/month, half of bills paid. HUD customers welcome. See at 126 Avenue B or call (806)647-5243.

2 BEDROOM House with basement. Near Schools. No pets. Deposit and references required. Call 364-1854.

REDUCED TO \$195 Acre. 545.8 acres NW of Hereford. Mostly native grass. Also 55 acres dryland cropland adjoining the grass at the same good price. Call The Tardy Company, 364-4561.

APARTMENTS: Blue Water Gardens (HEAT, A/C, LIGHTS) INCLUDED. Rent based on income. According to regulations for 1, 2, 3, 4 bedrooms. Call Dora or Jenni TUSH for information & directions. 12:00pm (806)364-6601. Equal Opportunity.

Hereford Regional Medical Center

Immediate Openings
Laboratory Phlebotomist
 Home Health: LVN's
 OB: RN's
 Please contact: Personnel
 801 E. 3rd
 Hereford, TX 79045
 FAX: 806-364-6341
 PHONE: 806-364-2141

AVON REPRESENTATIVES Needed. Sell to friends or wherever you work. Call 364-0899.

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 90 days, vacation after 1 year, retirement paid by Company.
 Contact Odell Ward
 at 1-800-522-5164
 or Fax or Send Resume to:
 P.O. Box 129
 Cactus, Texas 79018
 fax no. 806-998-5532

Earn Huge Income with the Internet!
 ...up to \$2,000 your first month!
 (part time, no computer needed)
 For Details, Call Now! 3 min. toll free message
 1-888-303-1152 Code # 44

9. CHILD CARE

QUALITY CHILD CARE. Drop-ins. Also evenings and weekends. 364-6331.

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

11. BUSINESS SERVICES

GARAGE DOOR And Opener Repair and Replacement. Call Robert Betzen, 289-5500. If no answer call mobile, 344-2960.

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 605-763-5628. #C0023-C0733, McKibben ADS.

WE BUY Scrap iron, metal, aluminum cans, all batteries, tin, copper & brass. Call 364-3360.

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 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!

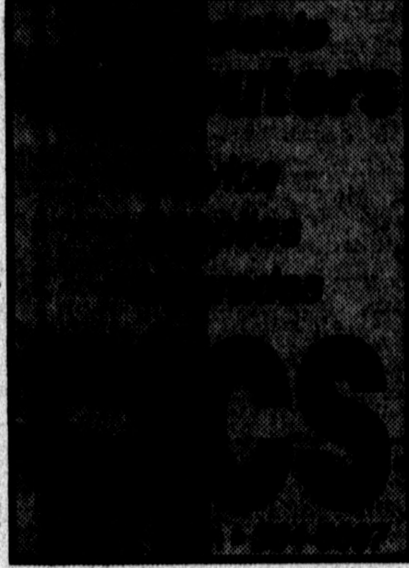
Unsure how to write a Classified Ad that will get results? Follow these pointers and you'll soon have an empty space in your storage room and cash in your pocket.
 For starters, look at ads which offer the same item/products. Get a sense of going rates and ideas for how to make your ad stand out. Once 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.

TREE & Shrub trimming and removal. Leaf raking and assorted lawn work, rotary tilling and seeding of new lawns. 364-3366.

WE BUY Cars and pickups running or not running! We sell used auto parts of all kinds. Call 3 6 4 - 2 7 5 4

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.

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.



KIRBY SALES & Associates is now offering a pick-up and delivery service in Hereford. We repair all makes and models of Kirby's. \$17.50 clean-up special. Call 373-7722. 46 Years Same Location.

A & H Fencing. All types and free estimates. Call 655-0773 or (mobile) 680-1643.

ROOFING WELDON Toews & Son. Composition, wood, metal, flat work, tar & gravel. Free estimates call 364-5643.

BOB'S CARPET Service. Linoleum-Tile-Carpet. Restretch and repairs. 27 years experience. Call 363-1901 Have references.

WILL CLEAN Your house, according to your needs. Reasonable rates. Best time to reach 5:00a.m. til 8:00a.m. and 6:00p.m. til 10:00p.m. Call 364-1249.

BUY IT, SELL IT, GIVE IT AWAY!
CLASSIFIEDS WORK!
PLACE YOURS BY CALLING 364-2030

CLASSIFIEDS

STOP

Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault
Call 363-6727

ST. JUDE Novena

May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be Adored, Glorified, Loved and Preserved throughout the world, Now and Forever, Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us. St. Jude Worker of miracles, Pray for us. St. Jude Help the Hopeless, Pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 9th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank You St. Jude

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OPEN BIDS

Deaf Smith County Commissioners Court will open sealed bids for the sale of a Scotchman Iron Working machine in open court at 9:00AM, Monday, December 27, 1999. Machine is equipped with a 90 degree notch, 2" die holder, approximately ten dies, and four punches. Detailed specifications can be obtained by contacting Greg Conn, Precinct 4 Foreman, at the percent barn or by phoning 806-267-2142. Deaf Smith County Commissioners reserve the right to refuse any and all bids.

Budget

From Page A1

nothing about abiding by legal spending limits that affect a third of the budget, covering everything but automatically paid benefits like Social Security.

This past year began with Republicans promising to obey the limits. But facing spending demands from members of both parties, they ended up striking an agreement with Clinton that exceeded those caps by \$32 billion.

With spending pressures likely to be even greater next year, the two sides are expected to ignore the limits for fiscal 2001.

In this year's budget fight, Republicans made their chief goal a pledge to not spend Social Security surpluses to finance other federal programs.

Even though the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said they ended up spending \$17 billion in Social Security funds, Republicans say that using their own calculations they succeeded.

Leaving Social Security surpluses unspent does little to guarantee the future solvency of the system, but members of both parties agree that promising to protect the program's money has enormous political appeal.

'Godfather of Soul' likes Strom

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS People

COLUMBIA, S.C. — When asked by *Rolling Stone* magazine to name a hero of the 20th century, the "Godfather of Soul" cited Sen. Strom Thurmond.

James Brown's tribute is remarkable since the 97-year-old Thurmond ran for president in 1948 as a Dixiecrat to oppose Democrats' efforts to desegregate America.

"Senator Thurmond has been able to stay afloat all these years, and he's great for our country," the black soul singers says. "When the young whippersnappers get out of line, whether Democrat or Republican, an old man can walk up and say, 'Wait a minute, son, it goes this way.' And that's great for our country."

Thurmond's response? "James is very generous with his comments."

Abraham Polonsky

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — The late screenwriter and director Abraham Polonsky was praised for his dignity and sense of humor about being on the infamous "Hollywood 10" blacklist.

About 200 people on Tuesday attended a second memorial service for Polonsky, who died Oct. 26 at the age of 88.

"His career was just starting and very promising. Then the blacklist struck," recalled screenwriter Ring Lardner Jr., whose was put on the list in 1947.

The blacklist was an outgrowth of anti-communist fears across the country, which included House Un-American Activities Committee hearings into communist influence in the movie industry. Polonsky was among the screenwriters shunned by the entertainment industry after he was named in 1951 as a former member of the Communist Party.

Polonsky wrote, directed or did both on nine films, including "Body and Soul," "Force of Evil," and "Monsignor."

Heather Pillar

"His career was just starting and very promising. Then the blacklist struck."

Ring Lardner Jr.

television movie that aired recently.

Cathy Hainer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Cathy Hainer, a *USA Today* reporter who wrote poignantly about her fight with breast cancer, has died at the age of 38.

She died of the disease in a hospice Tuesday night.

She began keeping a diary, much of which was published in the newspaper, after her cancer was diagnosed in January 1998. The first entry: "Once Dr. Petrucci had left, I turned to my boyfriend, David, and said, 'This guy is crazy. I'm 36 and in love. How could I possibly have cancer?'"

The final entry, Dec. 6, recounted a note found on the unique joy in our midst."

A native of Virginia Beach, Va., Hainer graduated from the College of William & Mary and worked at *New York* magazine before joining *USA Today*.

Survivors include her father and stepmother, Stan and Shirley Hainer of Virginia Beach, and three brothers. Her mother died of breast cancer.

Sales tax

From Page A1

than the \$161.9 million for December 1998. Allocations to counties in December were \$18.2 million, up 26.3 percent from the \$14.4 million in December 1998.

December's sales tax rebates include local sales taxes

collected by monthly tax filers in October and reported to the comptroller's office in November.

By law, the state collects sales taxes for Texas cities and counties that have local sales taxes. The comptroller's office then returns the portion

of the taxes on a monthly basis.

The state charges a 6.25 percent sales tax and local sales taxes can be up to 2 percent above that.

Around the area: Dimmitt received a rebate of \$31,863, up 24 percent from

the \$25,691 for December 1998.

Dalhart received \$107,482, up 45.8 percent from the \$73,714 for December 1998.

Pampa received \$228,032, a 10.7 percent improvement over the \$205,943 payment for last December.

Plainview received \$214,407, up 8.2 percent from the \$198,076 received in December 1998.

Borger received \$223,810 in December, up 15.9 percent from the \$183,141 for the previous year.

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.

12-16 CRYPTOQUOTE

GPASZ OY OK ECKWHQ

AKSOB OS BHCQKY SP BPPV

ATPK EHSY CY DAQOHY.

— RABIHQ-BGSSPK

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE ARE MANY PERSONS WHO LOOK ON SUNDAY AS A SPONGE TO WIPE OUT THE SINS OF THE WEEK. — H.W. BEECHER

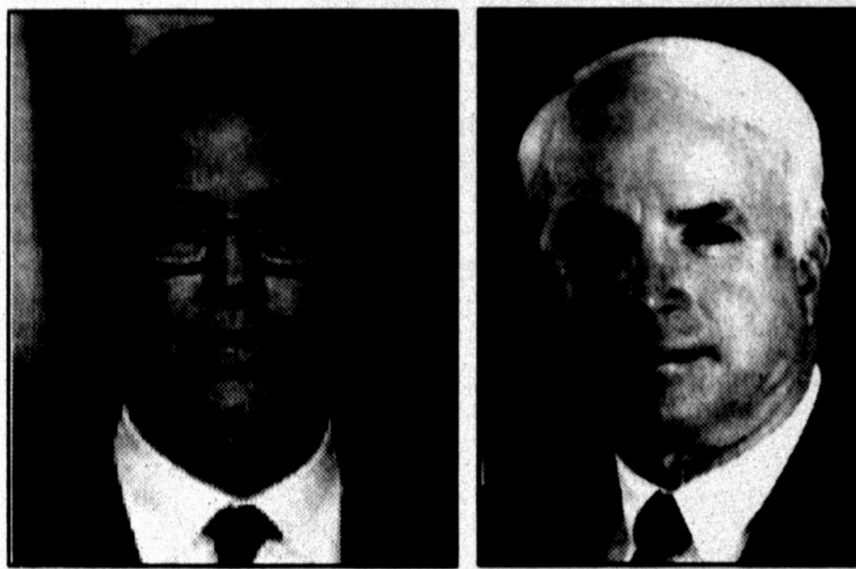
Schlabs Hysinger **SH** SERVING HEREFORD SINCE 1979 COMMODITY SERVICES

1500 West Park Avenue • 364-1281
Richard Schlabs Amber Griffith

Prices effective: December 16, 1999

CATTLE FUTURES				GRAIN FUTURES			
Jan	54.25	54.75	55.25	CONN (COT) 5000 lbs., cents per bu.	Dec	112	115
Mar	54.50	55.00	55.50	Dec 112	115	118	
Apr	54.75	55.25	55.75	Jan	116	119	
May	55.00	55.50	56.00	Mar	120	123	
Jun	55.25	55.75	56.25	Apr	124	127	
Jul	55.50	56.00	56.50	May	128	131	
Aug	55.75	56.25	56.75	Jun	132	135	
Sep	56.00	56.50	57.00	Jul	136	139	
Oct	56.25	56.75	57.25	Aug	140	143	
Nov	56.50	57.00	57.50	Sep	144	147	
Dec	56.75	57.25	57.75	Oct	148	151	
Jan	57.00	57.50	58.00	Nov	152	155	
Feb	57.25	57.75	58.25	Dec	156	159	
Mar	57.50	58.00	58.50	Jan	160	163	
Apr	57.75	58.25	58.75	Feb	164	167	
May	58.00	58.50	59.00	Mar	168	171	
Jun	58.25	58.75	59.25	Apr	172	175	
Jul	58.50	59.00	59.50	May	176	179	
Aug	58.75	59.25	59.75	Jun	180	183	
Sep	59.00	59.50	60.00	Jul	184	187	
Oct	59.25	59.75	60.25	Aug	188	191	
Nov	59.50	60.00	60.50	Sep	192	195	
Dec	59.75	60.25	60.75	Oct	196	199	
Jan	60.00	60.50	61.00	Nov	200	203	
Feb	60.25	60.75	61.25	Dec	204	207	
Mar	60.50	61.00	61.50	Jan	208	211	
Apr	60.75	61.25	61.75	Feb	212	215	
May	61.00	61.50	62.00	Mar	216	219	
Jun	61.25	61.75	62.25	Apr	220	223	
Jul	61.50	62.00	62.50	May	224	227	
Aug	61.75	62.25	62.75	Jun	228	231	
Sep	62.00	62.50	63.00	Jul	232	235	
Oct	62.25	62.75	63.25	Aug	236	239	
Nov	62.50	63.00	63.50	Sep	240	243	
Dec	62.75	63.25	63.75	Oct	244	247	
Jan	63.00	63.50	64.00	Nov	248	251	
Feb	63.25	63.75	64.25	Dec	252	255	
Mar	63.50	64.00	64.50	Jan	256	259	
Apr	63.75	64.25	64.75	Feb	260	263	
May	64.00	64.50	65.00	Mar	264	267	
Jun	64.25	64.75	65.25	Apr	268	271	
Jul	64.50	65.00	65.50	May	272	275	
Aug	64.75	65.25	65.75	Jun	276	279	
Sep	65.00	65.50	66.00	Jul	280	283	
Oct	65.25	65.75	66.25	Aug	284	287	
Nov	65.50	66.00	66.50	Sep	288	291	
Dec	65.75	66.25	66.75	Oct	292	295	
Jan	66.00	66.50	67.00	Nov	296	299	
Feb	66.25	66.75	67.25	Dec	300	303	
Mar	66.50	67.00	67.50	Jan	304	307	
Apr	66.75	67.25	67.75	Feb	308	311	
May	67.00	67.50	68.00	Mar	312	315	
Jun	67.25	67.75	68.25	Apr	316	319	
Jul	67.50	68.00	68.50	May	320	323	
Aug	67.75	68.25	68.75	Jun	324	327	
Sep	68.00	68.50	69.00	Jul	328	331	
Oct	68.25	68.75	69.25	Aug	332	335	
Nov	68.50	69.00	69.50	Sep	336	339	
Dec	68.75	69.25	69.75	Oct	340	343	
Jan	69.00	69.50	70.00	Nov	344	347	
Feb	69.25	69.75	70.25	Dec	348	351	
Mar	69.50	70.00	70.50	Jan	352	355	
Apr	69.75	70.25	70.75	Feb	356	359	
May	70.00	70.50	71.00	Mar	360	363	
Jun	70.25	70.75	71.25	Apr	364	367	
Jul	70.50	71.00	71.50	May	368	371	
Aug	70.75	71.25	71.75	Jun	372	375	
Sep	71.00	71.50	72.00	Jul	376	379	
Oct	71.25	71.75	72.25	Aug	380	383	
Nov	71.50	72.00	72.50	Sep	384	387	
Dec	71.75	72.25	72.75	Oct	388	391	
Jan	72.00	72.50	73.00	Nov	392	395	
Feb	72.25	72.75	73.25	Dec	396	399	
Mar	72.50	73.00	73.50	Jan	400	403	
Apr	72.75	73.25	73.75	Feb	404	407	
May	73.00	73.50	74.00	Mar	408	411	
Jun	73.25	73.75	74.25	Apr	412	415	
Jul	73.50	74.00	74.50	May	416	419	
Aug	73.75	74.25	74.75	Jun	420	423	
Sep	74.00	74.50	75.00	Jul	424	427	
Oct	74.25	74.75	75.25	Aug	428	431	
Nov	74.50	75.00	75.50	Sep	432	435	
Dec	74.75	75.25	75.75	Oct	436	439	
Jan	75.00	75.50	76.00	Nov	440	443	
Feb	75.25	75.75	76.25	Dec	444	447	
Mar	75.50	76.00	76.50	Jan	448	451	
Apr	75.75	76.25	76.75	Feb	452	455	
May	76.00	76.50	77.00	Mar	456	459	
Jun	76.25	76.75	77.25	Apr	460	463	
Jul	76.50	77.00	77.50	May	464	467	
Aug	76.75	77.25	77.75	Jun	468	471	
Sep	77.00	77.50	78.00	Jul	472	475	
Oct	77.25	77.75	78.25	Aug	476	479	
Nov	77.50	78.00	78.50	Sep	480	483	
Dec	77.75	78.25	78.75	Oct	484	487	
Jan	78.00	78.50	79.00	Nov	488	491	
Feb	78.25	78.75	79.25	Dec	492	495	
Mar	78.50	79.00	79.50	Jan	496	499	
Apr	78.75	79.25	79.75	Feb	500	503	
May	79.00	79.50	80.00	Mar	504	507	
Jun	79.25	79.75	80.25	Apr	508	511	
Jul	79.50	80.00	80.50	May	512	515	
Aug	79.75	80.25	80.75	Jun	516	519	
Sep	80.00	80.50	81.00	Jul	520	523	
Oct	80.25	80.75	81.25	Aug	524	527	
Nov	80.50	81.00	81.50	Sep	528	531	
Dec	80.75	81.25	81.75	Oct	532	535	
Jan	81.00	81.50	82.00	Nov	536	539	
Feb	81.25	81.75	82.25	Dec	540	543	
Mar	81.50	82.00	82.50	Jan	544	547	
Apr	81.75	82.25	82.75	Feb	548	551	
May	82.00	82.50	83.00	Mar	552	555	
Jun	82.25	82.75	83.25	Apr	556	559	
Jul	82.50	83.00	83.50	May	560	563	
Aug	82.75	83.25	83.75	Jun	564	567	
Sep	83.00	83.50	84.00	Jul	568	571	
Oct	83.25	83.75	84.25	Aug	572	575	
Nov	83.50	84.00	84.50	Sep	576	579	
Dec	83.75	84.25	84.75	Oct	580	583	
Jan	84.00	84.50	85.00	Nov	584	587	
Feb	84.25	84.75	85.25	Dec	588	591	
Mar	84.50	85.00	85.50	Jan	592	595	
Apr	84.75	85.25	85.75	Feb	596	599	
May	85.00	85.50	86.00	Mar	600	603	
Jun	85.25	85.75	86.25	Apr	604	607	
Jul	85.50	86.00	86.50	May	608	611	
Aug	85.75	86.25	86.75	Jun	612	615	
Sep	86.00	86.50	87.00	Jul	616	619	
Oct	86.25	86.75	87.25	Aug	620	623	
Nov	86.50	87.00	87.50	Sep	624	627	
Dec	86.75	87.25	87.75	Oct	628	631	
Jan	87.00	87.50	88.00	Nov	632	635	
Feb	87.25	87.75	88.25	Dec	636	639	
Mar	87.50	88.00	88.50	Jan	640</		

UNDERDOGS



Though both served long stints in Congress and have raised tens of millions of dollars in political donations, Democrat Bill Bradley (left) and Republican John McCain are running as Washington outsiders committed to scrubbing the system clean.

McCain, Bradley pledge to overhaul finance law

WEST LEBANON, N.H. (AP) — In a summit of presidential underdogs, Republican John McCain and Democrat Bill Bradley are courting independent voters and jabbing their front-running rivals with a joint pledge to overhaul campaign finance laws.

"It's a brilliant campaign strategy," said Clark Hubbard, political science professor at the University of New Hampshire. "It's an attempt by the underdog candidates to wrest control of the agenda."

And for today, anyway, they are likely to do so.

Their high-profile town hall and joint news conference drew dozens of journalists to the town of Claremont, N.H. The pair is expected to recreate the 1995 handshake by which President Clinton and Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich promised a commission to study campaign finance changes.

The commission never materialized.

Though both served long stints in Congress and have raised tens of millions of dollars in political donations, McCain and Bradley are running as Washington outsiders committed to scrubbing the system clean.

They have mounted surprisingly strong challenges to their party favorites — Vice President Al Gore for the Democrats and Texas Gov. George W. Bush for Republicans. Their high-profile session gives McCain and Bradley attention outside the front-runners' shadows, and it plays into their election strategies.

"I think it's a win-win for

both of them," said Democratic consultant Bill Carrick of California, who is not tied to a presidential campaign. "They are using campaign finance reform to differentiate themselves from their opponents."

"It might be a gimmick, but it's a good one," said GOP consultant David Carney of New Hampshire.

Hubbard said the joint appearance helps the Republican the most, because it helps cast the race as a McCain-Bush contest — even though four other candidates are competing. Bradley, a former New Jersey senator, is already Gore's only rival.

"All future (news) reports will refer to them both as the anti-establishment candidate taking on the anointed ones," Hubbard said. "That plays especially well up here."

Both need strong support from independents, particularly in a state such as New Hampshire that opens its party primary to all voters. Campaign finance reform is a compelling issue to many independents.

The strategy carries a risk for McCain, because Republican leaders and special interest allies object to changes in campaign finance laws that could upset their fund-raising advantage over Democrats. The Arizona senator is urging rank-and-file Republicans to see the issue as a conservative cause, arguing Wednesday that special interests fight against cuts in government, tax reform and sensible military spending.

Gore, Bush share stage in Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Vice President Al Gore was in town to talk about the \$115 billion price tag of his proposed education reforms today at a local high school in the city where his campaign is headquartered.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush planned to read to young students at an elementary school a few miles away before going to a fund-raiser at the Wildhorse Saloon.

"We'll just have to see whose turf it is," said Bush spokeswoman Mindy Tucker. "Governor Bush has a solid organization in Tennessee and we look forward to campaigning there in the primary and, hopefully, in the general election."

Bush was making his first trip onto the vice president's home territory. He planned to stop by Nashville's Una Elementary School to read to children there before picking up around \$750,000 at an evening fund-raiser at the Wildhorse, scene of a Gore fund-raiser Wednesday night.

The vice president was using a speech Thursday at Pearl-Cohn High School to flesh out his education agenda, and then, before heading to New Hampshire, was taking a few hours off to cram for his Friday debate with Bill Bradley.

Gore sketched the outline of his education program earlier this year, but aides confirmed Wednesday the proposal

would cost \$115 billion over 10 years. Gore has been pressed by Bradley to say how much his proposals would cost.

Almost half the money, about \$50 billion, is for universal preschool for 3- and 4-year olds. The plan also includes higher salaries and tougher accountability for teachers, the aides confirmed.

The New York Times first reported the financial details of the plan in today's editions.

Another chief element is salary increases of up to \$10,000 for all teachers in high-poverty school districts, provided the district adopts an aggressive plan to improve teacher quality and get rid of low-performing teachers. Most teachers would receive a \$5,000 raise paid for by the federal government, though master teachers who meet advanced professional standards would get a \$10,000 increase.

"You know one of my causes is protecting the environment," Gore deadpanned to the crowd at the Wildhorse on Wednesday night. "And you know Governor Bush is going to be here tomorrow. And since I believe in recycling so much we're going to leave all these (Gore 2000 campaign) signs up."

Gore's campaign said he raised about \$1.6 million in the two events Wednesday, one a smaller reception for fund-raisers from around the country and the second an open, \$35-per-head party.

U.S. trade deficit widens

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. trade deficit widened to another record of \$25.9 billion in October as rising crude oil prices pushed the petroleum deficit to an all-time high. The deficits with Japan and China were also at record levels.

The Commerce Department reported today that the deficit in trade in goods and services was up 7.4 percent from the August imbalance of \$24.2 billion.

Imports climbed 1.6 percent to an all-time high of \$107.9 billion, reflecting the rising oil import bill and record imports of consumer goods ranging from clothing to camping gear.

Exports edged down 0.1 percent to \$81.9 billion as sales of farm products, telecommunications equipment, computers and tobacco all fell.

Through the first 10

months of this year, the U.S. trade deficit is running at an annual rate of \$262 billion, far surpassing last year's record deficit of \$164.3 billion.

The trade deficit has set a new monthly record seven out of 10 months this year as America's performance on trade has continued to suffer from the lingering effects of a global financial crisis that depressed U.S. exports and contributed to a flood of cheaper imports into the country.

The trade deficit is the one major blot on an otherwise stellar economic performance. Even though manufacturing has been forced to cut one-half million jobs in the past two years as export sales have fallen, the overall unemployment rate has fallen to a 30-year low of 4.1 percent.

In a second report today, the Labor Department said

that the number of Americans losing jobs and filing claims for unemployment benefits dropped to 266,000 last week, the lowest level in 26 years. The decrease of 29,000 from the previous week showed that the U.S. labor market remains exceptionally tight.

Critics of President Clinton's trade policies have seized on the soaring deficits to support their argument that the administration's pursuit of big trade deals is not working.

Earlier this month, the biggest trade event ever held in the United States, the 135-nation World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, failed to overcome wide differences to launch a new round of global trade talks.

The discussions were marked by massive street demonstrations by WTO opponents, who contended the Geneva-based organization to oversees

global trade rules was ignoring worker rights and environmental protections in its push to meet the demands of multinational corporations to break down trade barriers.

The administration is vowing to push ahead with efforts next year to get a new round of trade negotiations under way and it also faces a major fight in Congress to win approval for a trade agreement clearing the way for China to become a member of the WTO.

Administration officials say the agreement it struck last month with China will mean billions of dollars in increased sales for U.S. manufacturers, farmers and service companies such as telecommunications because of the promises China made to lower its trade barriers in exchange for America's support of its WTO bid.

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