

# Hereford

99th Year, Vol. Number 122 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

WEDNESDAY, December 22, 1999

12 Pages, 50 Cents

**HUSTLIN' HEREFORD  
HOME OF  
Keely Schlabs**

## Today's weather OUTLOOK

### Mostly clear skies

Tonight: Mostly clear, Low 15 to 20, southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, becoming northwest late.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, high in upper 40s, north wind 5 to 15 mph.

### Extended forecast

Friday: Partly cloudy, low 20 to 25, high 55 to 60.

Christmas Day: Partly cloudy, low in the upper 20s, high 60 to 65.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, low 30 to 35, high 50 to 55.

### Hereford weather

Tuesday's high, 31; low, 28; wno, 0.5 inch; precipitation, 0.04 inches, according to KPAN Radio.



### Temperatures slowly warm up across state

Cloudy skies and cool temperatures continued to blanket the state early today.

Early morning temperatures in West Texas were mainly in the 20s and 30s. Extremes ranged from 19 degrees at Marfa to 34 at Dryden.

## CHRISTMAS MOON



A near-full moon peeks through the clouds Tuesday night to add to the aura of the Christmas season and shines as a harbinger of winter. The moon will be full tonight and today marks the first day of winter, the shortest day of the year.

BRAND Mauri Montgomery

## Holiday deaths — 62

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Public Safety has estimated as many as 62 people could die on Texas roads this holiday season because of unfastened seat belts, speeding and alcohol.

"Texans need to buckle up, slow down and designate a driver. We repeat the same words every year, and every year people neglect to take their own safety into account and pay a terrible price," said Col. Dudley M. Thomas, director of the DPS.

Officials said they are especially concerned this year because of cold, rainy weather in many parts of the state this week and parties celebrating the millennium.

As many as 30 people could die from traffic accidents from Christmas Eve to Dec. 26; and 32 more could die from New Year's Eve to Jan. 2.

If the weather worsens, the number of motor vehicle fatalities "is going to go up," Thomas said.

In 1998, a total of 68 people died in car accidents — 33 in the 78 hours leading up to and after Christmas and 35 in the 78 hours leading up to and after New Year's.

## Retailers getting Christmas wish

NEW YORK (AP) — When the nation's retailers made their wish list for this Christmas, a strong selling season was right on top.

Santa may be bringing them what they wanted.

"The retailers largely have a good one in the bag," Jim Neal, a retail consultant with the Atlanta-based firm Kurt Salmon Associates, said Tuesday. "Now, they have visions of profits dancing in their heads."

The nation's booming economy has consumers on a buying binge this holiday season at the mall and on the Web, and new data indicates many merchants will likely meet or exceed their sales forecasts.

"We're buying more because the economy seems so good," said Gene Skoog, a shopper at the Mall of America outside Minneapolis.

Unlike in years past, many retailers are even doing well enough that they aren't slashing prices across their stores and won't have to rely as heavily on a surge in after-Christmas buying to achieve respectable sales.

Overall, 1999 has been a very strong year for the nation's merchants, and many hoped the sales gains would

continue through Christmas. With low unemployment and big gains on Wall Street, Americans have been comfortable about their financial well-being and eager to shop.

At the start of the season, analysts projected holiday sales at traditional stores would rise a healthy 5 percent to 6 percent from last year to more than \$180 billion, while online sales were expected to at least double to \$6 billion.

Sales at malls are up a strong 6.6 percent from the day after Thanksgiving through Sunday, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

On the Internet, growth — as expected — is even bigger. Online market research firm BizRate.com found that the number of orders to Web merchants between Nov. 28 to Dec. 20 increased 328 percent compared with the same period a year ago.



Two wishes likely are being received as this package is scanned at a local store because someone will be getting that special Christmas present and a retail merchant will ring up a sale.

BRAND Julie L. Carlson

"This has been a very strong holiday season, one of the best shoppers ahead.

I've ever seen," said John Konarski, director of research for the New York-based ICSC.

With Christmas fast approaching, the pace has picked up.

A national survey of 1,000 people on Sunday night by America's Research Group in Charleston, S.C., found that more than 57 percent of shoppers still had some holiday buying left to do.

And while the Christmas season online is winding down, the traditional stores still have a few important shopping days to go. Last year, 20 percent of sales came in the four days before Christmas and 11 percent were tallied right after the holiday.

Of course, any bad weather or sudden downturn on Wall Street could keep home in the days

## Newspaper sets holiday ad deadlines

The Hereford Brand office will close at 5 p.m. Thursday for the Christmas holiday. The newspaper office will resume normal hours at 8 a.m. Dec. 27.

The Brand will publish a weekend edition on Friday so the newspaper employees can observe the Christmas holiday. The deadline for display and classified advertising in the Friday paper will be 1 p.m. Thursday.

Also, subscribers who do not receive their Friday newspaper must call the circulation department by 6 p.m.

City Hall will be closed Thursday and Friday so city employees can enjoy the holiday. Deaf Smith County employees will be off Friday.

FirstBank Southwest, First National Bank, Hereford State Bank and Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union will close at noon Friday; First American Bank will close at 3 p.m. Friday.

## Y2K APPROACHES

## SS checks will go out a day early

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a precaution against Year 2000 computer problems, the post office and banks will receive January Social Security checks and electronic files for direct-deposit benefits a day earlier than usual.

The 44 million elderly and disabled Americans who collect Social Security benefits should expect to get their money on time, said Social Security Commissioner Kenneth S. Apfel. For most people, that's Jan. 3.

"So many Americans rely on Social Security for that benefit," said Apfel. "We had to be there, and I believe we are."

Social Security transferred to the Treasury

**"So many Americans rely on Social Security for that benefit. We had to be there, and I believe we are."**

**Kenneth S. Apfel, commissioner, Social Security Administration**

Department on Tuesday the last of the necessary Y2K-compliant files for electronic payments through bank accounts. From Treasury, they will go, through the Federal Reserve, to banks across the country by Dec. 30, a day earlier than usual, to ensure on-time posting of direct deposits to individuals' accounts.

About three-quarters of Social Security recipients have benefits deposited electronically into their bank accounts. For those who get mailed paper checks, they are printed and will be in the U.S. Postal Service early, Apfel said.

Supplemental Security Income benefits, known as SSI, which go to 6 million low-income older people and disabled Americans, are not affected because they normally are

Please see **SOCIAL SECURITY**, Page A11

## Poll: Public becoming less worried about computer bug

WASHINGTON (AP) — Public anxiety about the Y2K computer bug has eased in the past six months, says an Associated Press poll, but a majority of Americans expect minor problems and a third say they plan to stock up on supplies.

"It's stupidity not to at least take precautions," said 48-year-old Diana Chavez of Bernalillo, N.M., near Albuquerque. "What does it take to get a few canned goods?"

The poll, conducted for the AP by ICR of Media, Pa., said that 70 percent of Americans expect minor problems, 23 percent expect no problems and only 5 percent expect major problems. The number of people who expect major problems dropped from 11 percent in a July poll on the same topic.

The percentage of people who think Y2K problems will last more than two weeks

dropped by half, from 32 percent to 16 percent, and the number who think the problems will be confined to less than a few days has increased from 22 percent to 36 percent.

"We've been pleased with the growing level of awareness of the public, and increasing level of confidence with the public that the transition will not lead to a major disruption in their lives," said John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion.

The administration has been repeatedly reassuring people that the Y2K problems should be manageable.

"We have been advising people for some time that they should be prepared for a long winter weekend," Koskinen said. "When

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## HEREFORD BRAND

## Local roundup

## Lacey memorial scholarship fund

A children's scholarship fund has been established at Hereford State Bank in memory of Ed Lacey. Lacey, a former long-time local businessman, died Sunday, Dec. 19, 1999, of a sudden illness. The late Mr. Lacey is survived by his wife, Priscilla; one son, Eddie, both of the home, and two daughters, Lori Betzen and Ann Davis, both of Hereford.

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## News digest

## Dallas icon flies again

DALLAS (AP) — For decades it was a beacon in the Dallas night, a swift winged steed taking flight over the skyline. The 30-by-50-foot flying red horse was more than a rotating metal-and-neon sign atop the city's first skyscraper. Built 65 years ago as an oil company symbol, the Pegasus came to represent Dallas ascendant.

The great horse has not rotated for 25 years. Around the time it was given to the city of Dallas, it was bolted down so the rusted pieces would not fall. Two years ago, the lights went out, the neon tubing battered by wind and time. And finally, in July, Pegasus was dismantled and taken away.

But now the winged horse of Greek mythology will fly again, just as Dallas enters a new millennium.

At the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve, organizers of a \$600,000 restoration project will illuminate a duplicate of one of the city's most cherished landmarks.

"Pegasus stands for renewed hope and imagination," said Gail Thomas, co-chairwoman of the Pegasus Project. "We could not bear to have the lights of Pegasus go out very long."

The money came from individual and corporate donations, including \$100,000 from the sign's former owner, Mobil Corp., now part of Exxon Mobil Corp.

The Pegasus is two flat, porcelain-covered panels outlined in neon. Because the original was too damaged to repair, American Porcelain Enamel Co. of Dallas created the 15-ton duplicate, which was then installed earlier this month atop what is now the Magnolia Hotel.

The original Pegasus is on display in a shed at the Dallas Farmer's Market.

The Pegasus, still a symbol of Exxon Mobil Corp., was first erected by Mobil's predecessor, Magnolia Petroleum Co., for a 1934 oil industry convention. Putting Pegasus on the 29-story Magnolia Building, then the tallest building south of Washington, sent a powerful message to convention-goers that Dallas intended to be a player in the oil industry.

"It emerged about the same time as Dallas reached a certain degree of prominence," said Darwin Payne, a Dallas historian and professor at Southern Methodist University. "It signified that Dallas had come somewhere and arrived."

## Texans expect higher gas prices

HOUSTON (AP) — On average, Texans will find gasoline prices nearly 27 cents higher this holiday season than last year's, the American Automobile Association's Texas affiliate said Tuesday.

Self-serve regular unleaded gas in Texas is averaging almost \$1.24, compared with 97 cents last December, AAA Texas spokesman Patrick O'Reilly said.

The price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is up about a nickel from mid-November.

The average price of a gallon of gas in Texas has leapt more than 33 cents since oil exporting nations promised cutbacks in production last March.

## Magnet games to be recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 21,000 magnet games are being recalled because of a possible lead-poisoning hazard to young children.

Safari Ltd., in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is recalling the games because paint on metal figures contains levels of lead that exceed federal standards for children's products.

Each game comprises a black magnetic base about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and about 60 multicolored metal figures. They were sold from January through November of this year at about \$6 each.

The games came in a triangle-shaped box and were identified as: Magnetic Butterfly Rainbow — Item No. 6652-16, Magnetic Frog Fantasy — Item No. 6653-16, Magnetic Coral Reef Collage — Item No. 6654-16.

The boxes also bear labels that read in part: "Ages 7 to 70 ... SAFARI ... MADE IN TAIWAN."

Consumers should immediately discard the metal figures and contact Safari Ltd. for replacements at (800) 615-3111 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. EST Monday through Friday.

## Hacker gets five years probation

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — A man who hacked into America Online's computers and replaced their programs with his own has been sentenced to a year in jail and five years without a home PC.

Jay Satiro, 19, "is to have no computer in his room and no computer access at home," Judge John Perone said Tuesday.

In pleading guilty to computer tampering, Satiro violated the terms of his probation for an earlier offense: using bogus money orders to pay for computer equipment he bought on the Internet.

AOL would not elaborate on how access was gained or what effect it may have had but said the damage cost \$50,000 to repair. The Internet service detected the intrusion, traced it to Satiro's computer and notified authorities.

Satiro had once worked as a technical support volunteer at the Internet service and had used his AOL knowledge to his advantage, prosecutors said.

His lawyer, Robert Mancuso, said Satiro suffered from depression and a social phobia.

The judge said that after Satiro's release from jail, he will be allowed computer access only if required at school or at work.

## Hereford Brand

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The Hereford Brand was established as a weekly in February 1901, converted to a semi-weekly in 1948, and to five days weekly on July 4, 1976. O.G. Nieman Publisher (1972-98) Mauri Montgomery Publisher Donald M. Cooper Managing Editor Jay Guerrero Circulation Manager

## Government bungles Indian funds

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a stinging move, a federal judge will directly oversee efforts to fix a \$500 million trust account system for American Indians that he said has been mismanaged by the government since the 19th century.

U.S. District Judge Royce Lamberth, decrying "governmental irresponsibility in its purest form," ruled Tuesday that the federal government had violated its responsibility to safeguard the trust money.

Because of mismanagement dating to the 1800s, the government cannot say how many accounts should exist or how much money should be in them, Lamberth wrote in his 142-page ruling.

"The court knows of no other program in American government in which federal officials are allowed to write checks — some of which are known to be written in erroneous amounts — from unreconciled accounts — some of which are known to have incorrect balances," Lamberth wrote.

But the judge rejected proposals to put the trust program into receivership, instead choosing to give the Interior and Treasury departments "one last opportunity to carry through on their promises." Lamberth will require progress reports every three months.

Government officials were pleased that Lamberth did not order the system into receivership. And lawyers for the Indians were happy that efforts to correct decades-old mismanagement of the accounts would be overseen by Lamberth, who already has held two cabinet secretaries in contempt of court in the case.

"It is odd," Bureau of Indian Affairs head Kevin Gover said. But both sides actually have the same goal — reforming the system of more than 300,000 accounts for individual Indians, he said.

A group of Indians sued the government in 1996 over mismanagement of the accounts, which contain proceeds from government-approved leases of Indian land for grazing, logging, oil drilling and the like. The Indians have sought not only court oversight of reforms but billions of dollars in compensation. Lamberth has not set a date for a trial to determine how much the government owes.

Lawyers for the Indians said Tuesday they wanted Lamberth to keep the pressure on the government.

"We're not going to let the government ... get away with Band-Aid fixing," said Eloise Cobell, the Blackfeet banker who is the lead plaintiff. "We've got to take the time to make

this system right."

Gover said a court-appointed receiver or "special master" could have hampered reform efforts already under way.

"This decision is actually very artful in that respect," Gover said. "It's just sort of the right blend of outrage over what has gone on in the past and enthusiasm about what we are and can be done to fix it."

"We didn't exactly win ... but this decision is going to

help us fix the system."

Lamberth had ordered the Indians and the government to try to reach an out-of-court settlement in the case, and had withheld his ruling for months while both sides tried to reach an agreement. The judge relented on Tuesday after lawyers for the Indians said the negotiation process "has no hope of success."

Earlier this year, Lamberth held Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Gover and then-Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin

in contempt of court for failing to turn over documents to Indian lawyers.

An investigator appointed by Lamberth reported earlier this month that Treasury Department officials inadvertently shredded 162 boxes of documents that could have related to the case, then waited three months to tell Lamberth. Lawyers for the Indians have said they plan to ask Lamberth for another contempt ruling against the government.

## Winner's door



**Christmas creativity** — Christmas is undoubtedly a time for children, and Cathy Avery, the Latchkey teacher for Aikman students at Hereford Day Care Center, helped the students win second place in the door decorating contest. The tree is made of cut-outs of students hands and decorated with pictures of the students. Creativity starts at an early age and Avery gets her afterschool kids involved and being creative as often as possible.

## Drowsiness contributes to wreck numbers

HOUSTON (AP) — Like many overachieving college students, 21-year-old Adrienne Barna was no stranger to exhaustion.

But the Baylor University senior should have been well-rested on the afternoon she fell asleep, drove off a central Texas highway, and died along with two passengers and classmates, her brother says.

"As far as I know she had at least six to eight hours of sleep the night before the accident," recalls Andrew Barna of Iowa City, Iowa. But he adds, "She did work a double-shift the day before."

No one will ever know if the long hours Ms. Barna spent as a waitress at a seafood restaurant contributed to the deadly Aug. 19 wreck. But a study released Tuesday clearly links long work hours with sleep-related crashes.

The University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center found that working more than one job, getting less than six hours of sleep or driving in the wee hours increase the chances of nodding off behind the wheel.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that 100,000 crashes — 3 percent to 4 percent of accidents — occur each year as a result of drivers falling asleep, causing 76,000 injuries and roughly 1,500 deaths. But some experts believe the actual cost of drowsy driving could be four times that high. Researcher Jane Stutts and her colleagues interviewed

1,402 North Carolina drivers for the study, which was sponsored by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety and was the first to examine causes of sleep-related crashes.

Among those involved in accidents last year, half had slept less than six hours the night before their accidents, the study found. And drowsy drivers were almost twice as likely to be working more than one job and four to five times as likely to be working the night shift.

"Almost half of the drivers we talked with said they felt only slightly or not at all drowsy before they crashed," she said. "I think the message here is that we can't always have a lot of warning before we fall asleep at the wheel."

Jesse Blatt, a researcher for the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration in Washington, D.C., said the study's results parallel what he has learned through investigation of the dangers associated with shift work.

"This is not only a problem of youth," he said. "Our whole society is moving toward a 24-hour, seven-day-a-week operation."

The toll of America's open-all night culture is often exacted on the highway, Blatt said. "We find that shift workers as a group are very, very highly at risk driving home from work for auto crashes," he said. "Almost everyone we talk to has a horror story to tell."

Stutts said many of the drivers questioned took measures in an effort to keep themselves alert, like opening a window, turning up the air conditioning or playing music.

"This does not work to keep you awake," she warned. "The only truly effective action ... is to stop driving immediately, to pull over and get some rest, or let someone else take over the driving for you."

Experts say drinking coffee

and stopping for a 15- to 20-minute nap are the only effective short-term remedies.

But the best prevention for drowsy driving is for people to get more sleep.

"As simple as this sounds it can be an extremely difficult thing to accomplish in our current culture," Blatt said. "If you can't get more sleep, at least get better sleep."

Meanwhile, highway tragedies continue across the nation.

## HEREFORD BRAND

## Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Dec. 21, 1999, include the following:

## POLICE DEPARTMENT Incidents

— Criminal trespass was reported in the 300 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

— Criminal trespass was reported in the 200 block of Avenue F.

— An accident was reported in the 1700 block of East Highway 60.

— An accident was reported in the 800 block of North Avenue K.

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Arrests

— A 33-year-old man was arrested and charged with criminal non-support.

— A 22-year-old man was arrested and charged with theft over \$1,500.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

— 9:11 a.m. Firefighters responded to a semi wreck five miles east on Highway 60. The driver was westbound on Highway 60, lost control of his vehicle, crossed the median, and blocked both eastbound lanes. The driver was not injured.

— An accident was reported in the 1700 block of East Highway 60.

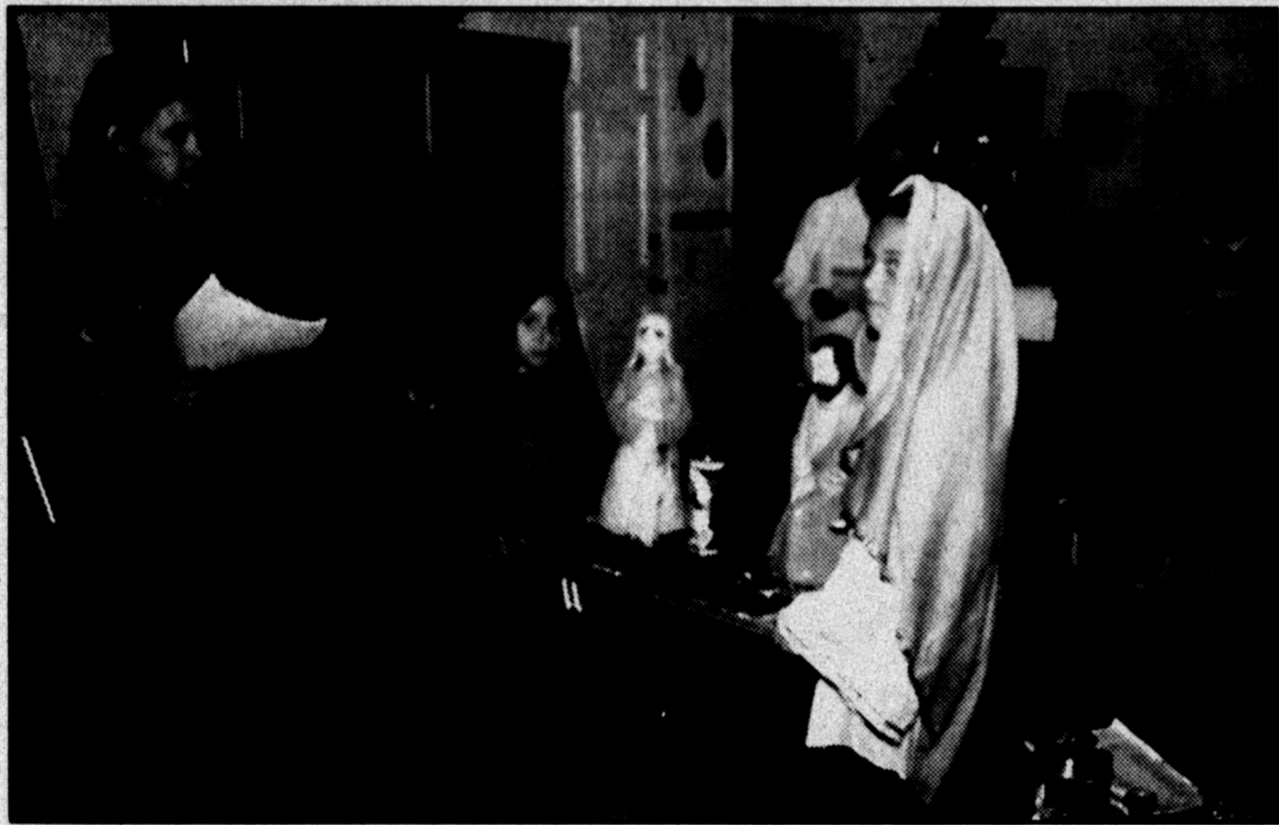
## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Texas lottery

**Cash Five**  
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:  
8-19-28-32-39

**Pick 3**  
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:  
1-4-0

# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, December 22, 1999 • A3



**Special observances**, such as this La Posada, remind participants of the true meaning of Christmas. The reenactment of Joseph and Mary seeking shelter is held for nine consecutive nights — each night at a different residence, concluding at San Jose Catholic Church on the last night. Portraying Mary and Joseph are Jessica and Jesse Dylan Moya.

Creators Syndicate

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** This is in response to the letter from "Want to Help in Louisville, Ky.," who baby-sat for a child she believed was being emotionally abused. While your answer was very good, Ann, I believe I can provide more information that could be helpful.

Emotional abuse can have severe and long-lasting effects on a child. It can be as painful as physical abuse, with scars that last a lifetime. A parent's love is so important that withholding it can cause a child to struggle through adulthood feeling insecure and unworthy. Children who are abused emotionally often exhibit signs of depression, hostility, apathy and hopelessness.

Please tell "Want to Help" to be a friend to that child's mother, and talk to her about her behavior and where she can turn for help. Suggest parent groups, therapy or Childhelp's National Child Abuse Hotline, 1-800-4-A-CHILD

(1-800-422-4453) for crisis counseling and referral services. And just as importantly, be a friend to the child as well, and offer your love, attention and encouragement. Children need adults to help them, because too often, their voices aren't heard. When you see or hear something suspicious, you must do something about it. Only then will children be safe from abuse. — Michael Caplin, Director of East Coast Operations, Childhelp USA

**Dear Michael Caplin:** Your letter is going to be read by millions of people, and your suggestions are invaluable. Thank you for a sensitive and helpful letter. You have found the job that fits you to a T.

**Dear Ann Landers:** Your response to "Single File in Aurora, Ill.," surprised me. "Single" complained that her husband didn't want to participate in social events. You said he was probably unsure of himself in social situations, and suggested he could be cured by gradual exposure to increasing numbers of people.

Why is it that perfectly sane and respectable folks are allowed to say that an evening of Mozart would bore them to

tears, yet, when someone says the same about an evening of coffee and chatter, he is considered "peculiar"? Just as some people cannot carry a tune or run a mile in under four minutes, I am not able to sit in a room and engage in mindless chatter. This does not mean I am unsure of myself in social situations. I am plenty sure of myself. I just hate these occasions the same way someone else might hate an afternoon of drag racing, heavy-metal music or foreign films. It's a matter of personal preference.

I am a successful career woman. I work with 11 full-time and 30 seasonal employees. I enjoy my work, and relate well to others. I have been married for 14 years to a wonderful, outgoing man. However, it drives me crazy to sit in a room with people for three hours and listen to non-stop chitchat. My brain turns to mush, and my eyes glaze over.

Perhaps you could have suggested that "Single" work out a compromise with her husband. He could agree to a certain amount of socializing in exchange for a guilt-free pass the rest of the time. He doesn't need to be cured. He isn't

## Winners announced for lighting contest

Winners in the Christmas Lighting Contest have been announced by the Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce.

**Residence**  
1. Dr. Stan Fry Jr., 401 Centre  
2. Mike and Cindy Axe, 212 Fir  
3. Lori Page, 326 Centre  
**Honorable Mention:**  
• Ralph and Judy Detten, 147 N. Texas

• Wendel and Merle Clark, 139 N. Texas  
• Brenda Fuentes, 703 N. Lee

**Business**  
1. Secret Garden, 411 Main  
2. NAPA Auto Parts, 124 N. 25 Mile Ave.

**Honorable Mention:**  
• Terry's Floral, 315 E. Park  
• Messer Construction, E. Hwy. 60

## Cancer screenings set

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a breast cancer screening at South Plains Health Care Providers, Inc., 603 East Park, on Jan. 14.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction

in self-examination by a registered nurse.

A minimum of 15 women needs to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns. All exams are done by appointment only.

This clinic is available only to women who need financial assistance. Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance.

Call 806-356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.

DALEINE T. SPRINGER  
SPRINGER INSURANCE AGENCY

**CASKETS AND MONUMENTS**  
"SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS!"  
FREE DELIVERY to your funeral home of choice within 100 miles of Hereford  
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'Tis the Season  
TO SAVE ON MEDICAL BILLS!

Call Doris Huckert to see if you qualify for 20 days of FREE services.

Hereford Care Center  
364-7113

## Greene's Gifts Etc.

Open til 6:00 pm Christmas Eve for all your last minute shopping!



All Holiday Baskets

25% OFF

"Inside Top of Texas Tans"  
407 N. Main Street,  
Next to the Secret Garden  
Gift for all ages!

Gift Baskets for all occasions!

This Christmas think about giving your family, your friends and yourself


# SOMETHING NICE FOR THE HOME!



...including sale priced items, but does not apply to previous purchases.

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Gwen Collier  
Secretary




L.V. Watts  
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Patsy Sparkman  
Pre-Arrangement Counselor




Jay Claborn  
Pre-Arrangement Counselor




Nicky Walser  
Director




Pablo Villarreal  
Staff



Elmo Hall  
Director



J.L. Marcum  
Director



Mike Bradford  
Director

Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness.



**Coloring experts** - A Christmas coloring contest was sponsored by South Plains Health Providers and winners are shown with their prizes. First place in the 6-9 age group was Brenda Carrillo, center right. Second place went to Jaci-Guerrero, right. Winner in the 3-5 age group was Ruby Castro, center left, while second place went to Jessica Ramos, left. Also pictured are, back row from left, Frank San Miguel, judge, and SPHP employees Hope Buentello, Linda Palacios and Dixie Erickson.

At the Center

# Senior Citizens

**MENUS**

**THURSDAY**-Roast beef with gravy, mashed potatoes, pickles-onions, black-eyed peas, rosy applesauce, sugar cookies; or cook's choice.

**FRIDAY**-Closed for Christmas Eve.

**MONDAY**-Chili dogs, baked potato with sour cream, baked beans, relishes, ice cream with fruit topping; or Salisbury steak, sherbet.

**TUESDAY**-Chicken strips with gravy, mashed potatoes, French green beans, pineapple

cottage cheese salad, German chocolate cake; or roast pork with gravy, mixed fruit cup.

**WEDNESDAY**-Salisbury steak, macaroni and cheese, buttered capri vegetables, garden salad, Jello cubes with topping; or great northern beans with ham cubes, D'zerta cubes.

**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**-Closed for Christmas Eve.

**SATURDAY**-Closed for Christmas Day.

**MONDAY**-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., line dance 10-11 a.m., doll class 1-4 p.m.

**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 noon.

**WEDNESDAY**-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., ceramics noon-4 p.m., Thrift Store 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

# Legend of candy cane

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas candy cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus.

He began with a stick of pure, white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the church and firmness of the promises of God.

The candymaker made the candy in the shape of the letter "J" to represent the precious name of Jesus - who came to earth as our Savior. It also represents the staff of the Good Shepherd, with which He reaches down into the world to lift up the fallen lambs who have gone astray.

Thinking that the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with the red stripes. He used three small lines to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received (through which we are healed). The large red stripes represent the blood Christ shed while on the cross (the promise of eternal life).

Unfortunately, for most people the candy came to be known primarily as a candy cane - a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas. But the meaning is still there for "those who have eyes to see and ears to hear."

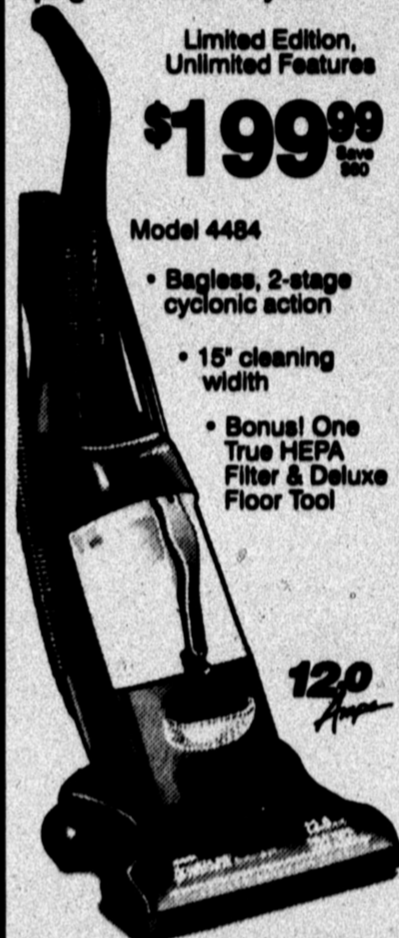
I pray that this symbol will again be used to witness to the wonder of Jesus, to God's great love that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the universe today.

hbnews@wrtt.net

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Looking Back

# Today in History

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Wednesday, Dec. 22, the 356th day of 1999. There are nine days left in the year. Winter arrives at 2:44 a.m. EST.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On Dec. 22, 1894, French army officer Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of treason in a court-martial that triggered worldwide charges of anti-Semitism. Dreyfus was eventually vindicated.

**On this date:**

In 1864, during the Civil War, Union Gen. William T. Sherman sent a message to President Lincoln: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah."

In 1941, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill arrived in Washington for a wartime conference with President

Roosevelt.

In 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge, U.S. Brig. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe reportedly said, "Nuts!" to German demands for American surrender.

In 1963, the official 30 days of mourning ended following the assassination of President Kennedy.

In 1971, the U.N. General Assembly voted to ratify the election of Kurt Waldheim as secretary-general.

In 1984, New Yorker Bernhard Goetz shot four black youths on a Manhattan subway, claiming they were about to rob him.

In 1990, Lech Walesa took the oath of office as Poland's first popularly elected president.

In 1941, the body of Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, an American hostage murdered by his captors, was found dumped

along a highway in Lebanon.

**Ten years ago:** Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, the last of Eastern Europe's hard-line Communist rulers, was toppled from power in a popular uprising. Playwright Samuel Beckett died in Paris at age 83.

**Five years ago:** North Korea handed over the body of American pilot David Hilemon, killed when his helicopter was shot down over the communist country three days earlier. House Democrats chastised Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich for accepting a \$4.5 million book advance from Rupert Murdoch's media empire.

**One year ago:** A third Chinese dissident, Qin Yongmin, was sentenced to prison for trying to organize an opposition party.

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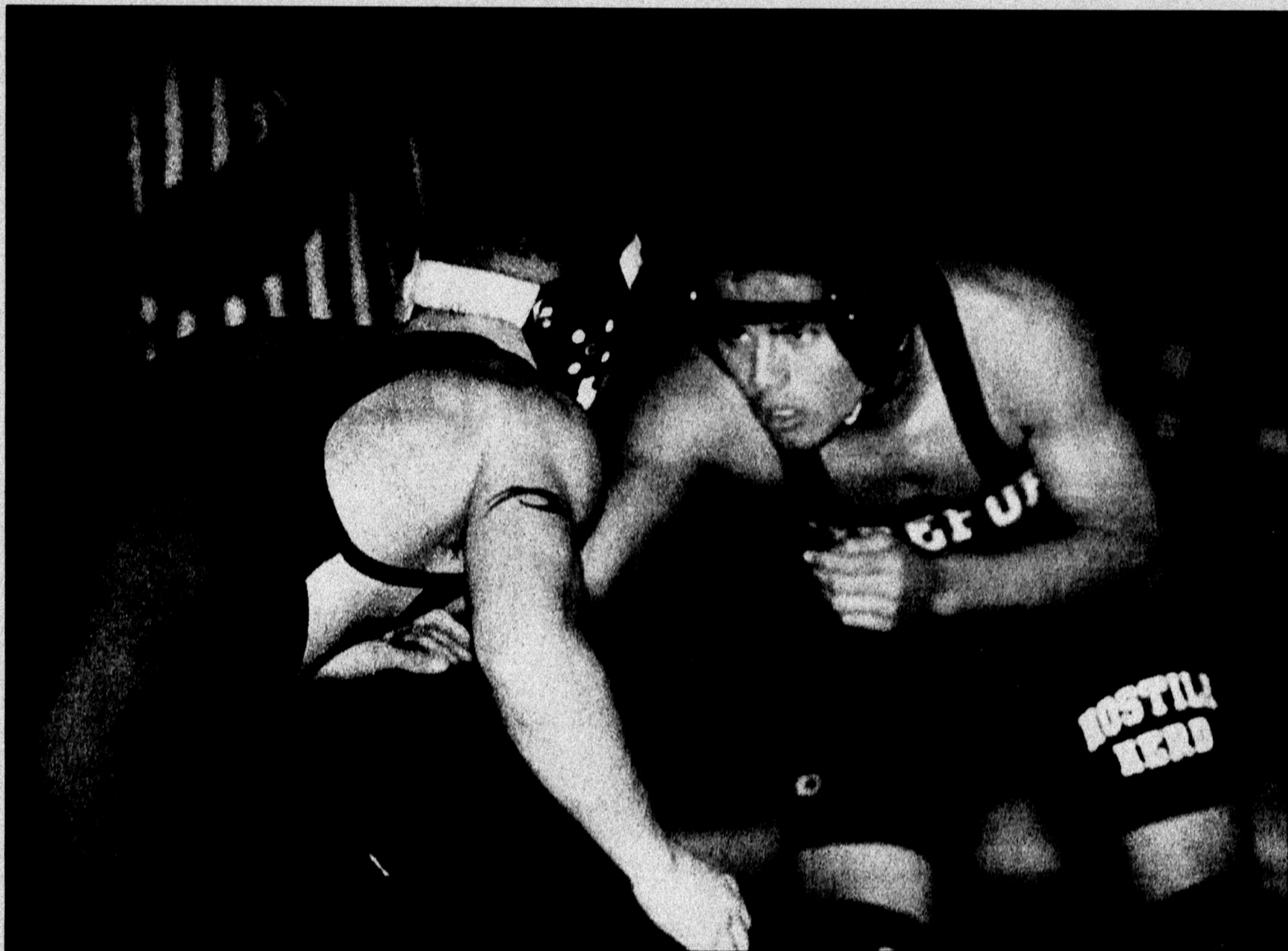
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# SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, December 22, 1999

## Grappling to improvement



Brand/Yuri Soto

**Grab Him** — Hereford's Luis Perez, shown here in action against Amarillo River Road, won his match Tuesday against Borger's Jeremy Galindo by pinfall.

**Wrestling continuing individual successes despite team losses**

**From Staff Reports**

The Hereford wrestling team returned various people from the football team. Still, the Whitefaces experienced some struggles on Tuesday afternoon.

Hereford hosted the Borger Bulldogs and were beaten in the dual matches by the Bulldogs, 57-28, despite turning in some impressive matches and victories.

Nationally-ranked heavy-weight wrestler Kris Hammerbeck won by fall against Borger's Brandon Anderson.

Lewis Perez continued his climb to excellence with a pin of Jeremy Galindo in the 125-pound division.

Borger's Matt Lewis was the next victim in the 130-pound class as he was pinned by Jeremiah Castillo.

William Shows won in the 145-pound class by a major decision, 17-8, against Robert Head.

Gilbert Hernandez defeated Casey Phillip in the 189-pound division by fall.

In other matches, Chad Cooper defeated Glenn Khalich by fall in the 103-pound class; Chris Gavina lost by fall against Clay Cooper in the 112-pound division; 119-pounder Morris Penaber lost to Jesse Sanchez by fall; 135-pounder Guillermo Saenz lost to J.D. Parker by fall; Joaquin Rodriguez lost his match by fall against Rene Nolasco in the 140-pound class; Chris reed pinned Tyler Yenser in the

See **WRESTLE**, Page A6

## Spurs outshine Suns in OT, 91-90

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Phoenix Suns guard Jason Kidd insists that getting triple-doubles is all about luck.

Even though Phoenix saw its four-game winning streak come to end with a 91-90 overtime loss to the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday night, Kidd again led a Suns charge that nearly pulled off the victory against the defending NBA champions.

Kidd posted his third triple-double in four games with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists against San Antonio. It was his 29th career triple-double, moving him ahead of Michael Jordan and into sixth place on the NBA list.

"It's a lot of luck," Kidd said. "I'm just trying to help the big guys rebound. I'm just trying to help them for 48 minutes, so if I can help them in that aspect, then my big guys and shooters help me with the assists. That's what this game is all about. Even though we lost, we had a great time out there."

"He's playing so well right now and we are relying on him so much," Phoenix coach Scott Skiles said. "Our tough schedule has really added to the craziness. We know we are short-handed right now, but this team just follows Jason Kidd."

On Tuesday, the Spurs stole one from the Suns as a steal by Mario Elie led to his game-deciding free throw with 3.1 seconds remaining in overtime.

Even in victory, Elie raved about Kidd. "Jason Kidd looks like three guys out there," Elie said. "I love the way he plays and their team competes."

San Antonio improved to 12-1 at the Alamodome.

"We played the kind of defense we haven't been playing for a while," San Antonio coach

Gregg Popovich said. "We played a great team in Phoenix. We just kept playing and kept playing. We didn't get down. That's this team's personality."

Tim Duncan led San Antonio with 25 points and 16 rebounds, while David Robinson had 21 points and 15 rebounds.

"We were just trying to make plays down the stretch," said Duncan, who was 9-for-15 from the field. "We kept our composure and our heads in the game. We gave ourselves a chance to win."

Despite fouling out late in the fourth quarter, Clifford Robinson led Phoenix with 26 points, while Rex Chapman added 19.

Elie came up with his steal after Avery Johnson's miss was rebounded by Chapman near the free-throw line. As Chapman turned upcourt, Elie swiped the ball away and was fouled.

He made his first free throw and missed the second, but Johnson came up with the offensive rebound and ran out the clock.

"I just went to the line and wanted to hit the free throw," said Elie, who added 10 points for the Spurs. "I am proud of our team. We hung in there. We didn't want two overtimes."

The loss was the first for Skiles since being named the Suns' head coach on Dec. 13.

Phoenix connected on only 34 of 92 field-goal attempts against San Antonio.

"We just didn't make shots," Kidd said. "We had great looks, it just didn't go in for us. That's the name of the game, to put the ball in the basket. We're not down because we played a tough team in the Western Conference and gave them a run for their money."

San Antonio opened the

overtime with a 6-0 run to lead 86-80 on two free throws by Johnson with 3:54 to play. Two free throws by Kidd capped a 7-1 Phoenix run which tied the score 87-87 with 2:07 to play.

After a free throw by Robinson, Phoenix took a 90-88 lead with 1:03 remaining as Chapman converted a three-point play. Robinson tied the game at 90-90 with a tip-in with 43 seconds left.

After trailing since the middle of the third quarter, San Antonio used a 6-0 run to lead 78-77 on Elie's 22-foot set shot with 31 seconds remaining in regulation. After a Phoenix turnover, Terry Porter added two free throws with 12.8 seconds to play, giving San Antonio an 80-77 lead.

Kidd sent the game to overtime with a 3-point field goal with 6.8 seconds to play.

Robinson and Duncan combined for 25 first-half points, pushing San Antonio to a 48-41 halftime lead.

### Pippen's return to Houston sparks boos, 89-79 victory

HOUSTON (AP) — Scottie Pippen, booed every time he touched the ball, made two baskets in the tight closing minutes as the Portland Trail Blazers beat the Houston Rockets 89-79 Tuesday night.

Pippen was greeted with resounding boos when he was introduced in the starting lineup. He finished with 13 points, eight assists and eight rebounds.

It didn't stop the entire game, but the razzing dropped off when Pippen kept Portland ahead with a basket with 4:19 to play and a 3-pointer with 3:15 left. Houston had pulled to 79-77 before Pippen stepped up.

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# YMCA MEN'S 5 ON 5 BASKETBALL

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

**STARTING DATE:** Sunday, January 9, 2000  
**GAME DAY:** Sundays, starting at 1:00 pm  
**SIGN-UP DEADLINE:** Tuesday, January 4th, 2000 - 3:00 pm  
**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**

# TCU's Franchione proves to be man of his word

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Along with everything he's done to help turn Texas Christian's football program around, coach Dennis Franchione has proved to be a man of his word.

He first came through last season, fulfilling a promise to his players to dye his hair blonde if the Horned Frogs went to a bowl game.

This year, he promised to get a tattoo if they won their conference — and that's the first thing Franchione did when TCU arrived at the inaugural Mobile Alabama Bowl.

There's no telling what he'll do if TCU (7-4) beats No. 20 East Carolina (9-2) in the Wednesday night game.

"They did their part, so I had to live up to my end of the deal," said Franchione, whose Horned Frogs won a share of the Western Athletic Conference title.

Franchione did get a tattoo in Mobile. He refused to say what it was or if it was permanent, only revealing that it was on his right arm.

The coach is slowly learning to watch what kind of deals he makes with his team.

When he arrived at TCU two years ago, he inherited a team coming off a 1-10 year. His wide receivers had dyed their hair blonde and asked Franchione if he'd do the same if they went to a bowl. TCU went to the Sun Bowl, where it upset heavily-favored Southern Cal.

And Franchione died his hair.

"When you inherit a one-win team, you say 'Yeah, sure, I'll do it,'" he said. "And then they went and did it and I was stuck."

After consecutive seven-win seasons, TCU's first since 1958-59, Franchione has learned his lesson.

Still, he might look for just a little incentive to beat East Carolina on Wednesday. It's the first meeting between the two schools, but won't be the last — TCU is joining East Carolina in Conference USA in 2001.

"Obviously, for us to be playing a team from Conference USA is certainly a preview for what's ahead in the upcoming years," Franchione said. "We're excited. It's a young and growing conference with great vision, much like our athletic department."

Luckily for East Carolina, it will be their only meeting with TCU running back LaDainian Tomlinson.

Tomlinson set an NCAA Division I-A single-game record earlier this year by running for 406 yards against UTEP. He's already said he'll return for his senior season, but will be gone by the time TCU joins C-USA.

The school is already kicking around ideas for a Heisman Trophy campaign for Tomlinson next season, which doesn't surprise East Carolina coach Steve Logan.

"This kid is a great player and I know they are talking about a Heisman Trophy run for him next year," Logan said. "I think that is an appropriate conversation for them to be having."

But Logan isn't overly worried about stopping Tomlinson because of the Pirates' much-improved defense.

Under first-year defensive coordinator Tim Rose, East Carolina has improved in every recognized defensive statistical category and risen from No. 65 in the country in total defense to 38th.

Rose said Logan's faith in him started the turnaround.

"We were provided autonomy by Steve for the defensive staff to do our jobs," Rose said. "That's been a big plus. He's let us do what we want to do and allowed us to employ an aggressive approach to stopping opponents."

East Carolina, which returned only six defensive starters this season, two of whom were lost early in the season with injuries, is one of only three teams this season to hold at least five teams to nine points or less in a game. And the Pirates are only allowing opponents 3.2 rushing yards a carry.

"We're not a dominating defense but we have the ability to make big plays," Rose said. "Someone has made a big play on each drive in most every game we have played lately."

# Stars, Flames battle to 0-0 tie

## Goalies Brathwaite, Belfour defend 63 total shots

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Although there were no goals scored, the game between the Dallas Stars and Calgary Flames certainly did not lack excitement.

Calgary's Fred Brathwaite made 32 saves and Dallas' Ed Belfour stopped 31 shots as the Flames and Stars battled to a 0-0 tie Tuesday night.

"It was very intense, there was some big body checks, and both goaltenders made some great saves," Flames forward Rene Corbet said. "It was fun to watch."

Brathwaite got his third career shutout, including his second against the Stars. Calgary extended its home unbeaten streak to six games (5-0-1). The Flames have lost just two of their last 10 (5-2-3).

"It was a good game, very entertaining to watch," Stars coach Ken Hitchcock said.

The shutout was the 47th of Belfour's career as Dallas remained undefeated (1-0-2) after the third game of a four-game road trip. The Stars are 8-2-2 in their past 12.

Brett Hull had eight of the Stars' shots but couldn't beat Brathwaite, who has yielded just three goals in his last four starts.

"I don't know what it is about goalies, but sometimes they just get on a streak where the puck just hits them more than anything else," said Hull, who has just one goal in his last nine games.

Three of Hull's shots came on a two-man advantage in the second period after Calgary's Hulse and Bobby Dallas took slashing penalties 29 seconds apart.

The Stars had five shots during the advantage, with Brathwaite making an acrobatic kick save on a shot by Hull from the top of the face-off circle.

"On those I just wind up and shoot as hard as I can,"

Hull said.

Each team had opportunities to score in overtime. Brathwaite stopped Kirk Muller from the slot, and Belfour smothered a loose puck at the side of the net after Jarome Iginla tried to poke the puck in.

It was the second game in less than a week between the two clubs, with the Stars winning 5-1 in Dallas last Wednesday.

"When we play Dallas, we have to play desperate hockey," Brathwaite said. "They're a very talented team — with the forwards they have and the goaltending they have, it doesn't leave much space for mistakes."

Phil Housley had one of Calgary's best chances to score during a first-period power play, but rang a slap shot off a goalpost.

The Stars played without Joe Nieuwendyk (ribs), Derian Hatcher (calf) and Jere Lehtinen (ankle).

Calgary goalie Grant Fuhr's arthroscopic knee surgery performed Tuesday afternoon was successful. Fuhr, who had some scar tissue removed as well as having rough surfaces in the knee cleaned up, is expected to be lost for at least three weeks. In his place, goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere was recalled from Saint John of the AHL.

# UT beats ASU, 76-63

Longhorns stay in nation's 25th ranking, improve record to 8-3

AUSTIN (AP) — Edwina Brown scored 28 points, including 14 in a decisive second-half run, to lead No. 25 Texas past Arizona State 76-63 Tuesday night.

Brown, who leads the Big 12 Conference in scoring, was 14-of-24 from the floor. Texas shot 53 percent.

Although listed as a forward, Brown is the Longhorns' best ballhandler and created most of her points on drives to the basket against Arizona State's man-to-man defense. She also had four assists.

Asha Hill added 15 points and eight assists and Dana Godfrey scored 12 points for Texas (8-3). Alisha Sare added 13 points in her first start for the Longhorns.

Kitch Kitchen led Arizona

State (7-2) with 17 points but after going 7-for-7 shooting in the first half was only 1-of-8 in the second.

Sarah Allen gave Arizona State a 43-36 lead on a 3-pointer with 17:09 to play before Brown's layup sparked a 22-2 Texas run.

Brown scored the first six points in the run that put Texas ahead 60-45 with 9:39 left.

Arizona State cut the deficit to 64-55 on Rachel Holt's layup but got no closer.

Kristine Sand scored 16 points and Theresa Jantzen added 10 for Arizona State.

The Sun Devils shot 50 percent in the first half but just 36 percent in the second.

The teams combined to shoot just nine free throws.

Texas was 0 for 2 from the foul line, the first time since 1977 the Longhorns have played a game without making a free throw.

## Wrestle

From Page A5

Torres lost to Joey Luna by fall in the 160-pound division; Valentin Sustaita lost to Tony Smith by fall in the 180-pound class; Seth Pietsek lost 8-5 to Corey Johnson in the 171-pound class; and Tim Schlabs lost by fall against Alex Chavez in the 215-pound class.

Hereford's next wrestling action is scheduled for January 4 as they host Lubbock Estacado.

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**ENTRY DEADLINE:** December 31, 1999

**RESTRICTIONS:** Grades K-5 to 6th Only

**DATES:** Teams play and practice once a week after the season starts. Practice starts the week of January 10th (depending on availability of gyms) and games begin Saturday, January 15th.

**LEAGUE FEE & ELIGIBILITY:** League fee will be \$23.00. Additional children in same family \$18.00 each. All participants must be YMCA members. YMCA membership for youth are \$7.25 for three months.

**\*\*\* ENTRY FEE MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FORM!!!!\*\***

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

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INSIDE

COURT RECORDS

MARRIAGES

--Gerald Ray Crawford, Jr. and Chasaidy Dawn Weddel;  
 --Ted Eugene Peabody III and Jodi Lynette Wilburn;  
 --Ramon Hernandez, Jr. and Connie Castaneda;  
 -- Baltimore Ramirez and Jessica Faye Reyes;  
 --Juan Guadalupe Rodriguez and Sonya Aguilar Flores;  
 --Ashley Davis Noland and Kara Danette McCollum;  
 --Honer Hector Castro and Maria Elena Martinez;  
 --Matthew Lyle Shappard and Susana Rodriguez;  
 --Jay Holden McCabe and Arra Ninnisi Walling;  
 --Terence M. Dickenson and Anita Ponder Johnson;  
 --Donald Wilson Rieves and Judith Ann Scruggs;  
 --Carlos Gilberto Carbajal and Maribelle Badillo.

DIVORCES

--Tonya Michelle Dickson and Jeffrey John Harmon Dickson and in the interest of Montana Lauren Dickson and Aspen Cheyenne Dickson, minor children, Dec. 20.

CRIMINAL CASES

Orders appointing attorney were issued to:  
 --Scott Fein, Dec. 2;  
 --Nick Garcia, Dec. 2;  
 --Donald Gene Ewing, Dec. 6;

--Johnny Joe Beltran, Dec. 7. Order suspending sentence was issued to:  
 --Claude Curnett, Dec. 7. Orders placing defendant on community supervision were issued to:  
 --Claude William Curnett, Dec. 7;  
 --Santiago Cordova, Jr., aka Jimmy Valdez Cordova, Dec. 7.  
 --Amended orders placing defendant on community supervision were issued to:  
 --Thelma Marquez Gonzales, aka Bernice Gonzales, Dec. 2;  
 --Martin Murillo Martinez, Dec. 8;  
 --Grace Uvalle, Dec. 20.  
 Orders revoking community supervision, imposition of sentence state jail felony were issued to:  
 --Sammy Rosalio Quintanilla, Dec. 8.  
 Orders agreeing modifying probation were issued to:  
 --Shirley Ann Adams, Sept. 29;  
 --Anthony Mejia, Dec. 8.  
 Orders releasing from substance abuse felony punishment facility were issued to:  
 --Eduardo Martin Zapata, Dec. 7;  
 --Kenneth Merle Fick, Dec. 7;

--Diana Mungia Guerrero, Dec. 7.

Orders revoking probation and sentence were issued to:  
 --Grace Uvalle, Dec. 8;  
 --Daniel Chavez, Dec. 8;  
 --Guadalupe Segura Garcia, Dec. 8.

Orders agreeing modifying deferred adjudication probation were issued to:  
 --Wesley Wynn, AKA Wesley McGee, Dec. 8.

Orders for judgment on plea of guilty before court waiver of jury trial were issued to:  
 --John Anthony Garcia, Dec. 8.

Orders for judgment after deferred adjudication were issued to:  
 --Santiago Cordova, Jr., AKA Jimmy Valdez Cordova, Dec. 8.

Orders suspending sentence were issued to:  
 --Martin Martinez, Dec. 8.

CIVIL CASES

Orders in suit affecting the parent-child relationship were issued to:  
 --Esmeralda Medina and Oscar Medina and in the interest of Nicole Medina, child, Dec. 7;  
 --Amelia Oroscio and Javier Baca and in the interest of Christopher Delarosa, Dec.

6. --Employer's order to withhold earnings for child support were issued to:  
 --Kathy Ann Wyssmann and Robert Link Wyssmann and in the interest of Staci Ann Wyssmann and John Robert Wyssmann, children, Dec. 2;  
 --Tonya Michelle Dickson and Jeffrey John Harmon Dickson and in the interest of Montana Lauren Dickson and Aspen Cheyenne Dickson, minor children, Dec. 20;  
 --Jo Ann Castillo and Enrique Castillo and in the interest of Teresa Castillo, Enrique Castillo, Jr. and Brittany Nicole Castillo, minor children, Dec. 20.

Orders for medical child-support were issued to:  
 --Tonya Michelle Dickson and Jeffrey John Harmon Dickson and in the interest of Montana Lauren Dickson and Aspen Cheyenne Dickson, minor children, Nov. 20.  
 Agreed orders were issued to:  
 --Jo Ann Castillo and Enrique C. Castillo and in the interest of Teresa Castillo, Enrique Castillo, Jr. and Brittany Nicole Castillo, minor children, Dec. 20.



Courtesy Photo

**Joins "35 Club"** — Second-grade student Christina Rodriguez joined the "35 Club" recently during a special day of reading at Aikman Primary School. The day was dedicated to encouraging students to read, and the 370 students participating in the program visited the Deaf Smith County Public Library and checked out more than 800 books during the day. However, the students had to do more than read, they were required to take and pass a test on each book before going on to the next book. They received a half-point for each book and Christina has read 70 books since the first day of school to join the "35 Club."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

Government warns Americans about possible terrorist attacks

WASHINGTON — The government is telling Americans all over the world it believes terrorists may target them from now through mid-January, especially at holiday gatherings and millennial celebrations.

Airport security is being tightened, and manhunts are under way for up to three people suspected of ties to an Algerian arrested last week at Port Angeles, Wash., and for a California man said to have ties to a terrorist network headed by Osama bin Laden, the alleged mastermind of the bombing of two U.S. embassies in Africa last year.

The stepped-up warning Tuesday night from the State Department, the second in 11 days, said the arrest of 13 suspects in Jordan may have forestalled attacks on hotels, tour buses and tourist sites in the Arab kingdom.

"We cannot rule out the possibility that attacks still may be planned for this and other parts of the world," a department statement said.

The Federal Aviation Administration said travelers at U.S. airports should expect tightened security precautions, including stricter enforcement of parking regulations.

The agency said it would make more use of devices to check airline passengers for small traces of explosives and additional bomb-sniffing dogs and uniformed police would patrol airports as the new year approaches.

The new warning to Americans was stated clearly: "The U.S. government believes that terrorists may be planning to conduct attacks, including against official and non-official Americans, in and around the New Year period, from now through mid-January 2000."

Sri Lankan president re-elected, denied a mandate on Tamil war

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Sri Lanka's president won re-election today, yet she was denied a strong mandate by voters disappointed by her failure to end the war with Tamil rebels.

Elections monitors, meanwhile, said voting Tuesday was marred by flagrant violations and said results from Tamil regions should be thrown out completely because of fraud.

Chandrika Kumaratunga won 51 percent of the vote in Tuesday's election, ahead of her nearest challenger, Ranil Wickremesinghe, who garnered 43 percent, said Election Commission official D.N.P.B. Dassanayake in a televised announcement today. The result was far less than the landslide 62 percent Mrs. Kumaratunga won in 1994, when she came into office promising to negotiate peace with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Mrs. Kumaratunga, who was targeted Saturday by an assassination attempt, was sworn in today by Sri Lanka's chief justice in a quiet ceremony at her official residence.

The president called the latest election 11 months earlier than scheduled, seeking a broad mandate for her policy of trying to crush the Tamil rebels unless they accept her peace plan.

Justice worried about probe's focus on Lee, Reno reported

WASHINGTON — As early as 1997, federal prosecutors feared the FBI had focused too narrowly on U.S. nuclear weapons scientist Wen Ho Lee and ignored other leads in their investigation of alleged Chinese spying, Attorney General Janet Reno disclosed to Congress.

The FBI probe focused on Lee and his wife, Sylvia, when there were others at the Los Alamos, N.M., weapons lab where Lee worked who may have had a better motive to help China, Reno told a closed-door meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee in June. A transcript of her testimony was released Tuesday.

Lee, a Taiwan-born U.S. citizen, had been investigated more than a decade earlier for his links to Taiwanese officials, Reno said. That made him even more of an unlikely suspect for spying for China, which considers Taiwan a breakaway province, Reno said.

Because of those concerns, Justice Department lawyers rejected an FBI request to seek court approval to bug Lee's home and office, Reno said.

Documents previously described to The Associated Press by government and law enforcement officials showed that doubts about the evidence against Lee surfaced more than a year ago and were expressed to FBI Director Louis Freeh.

The newly disclosed testimony shows Reno also was aware of problems in the case, and that she discussed them with Congress this summer.

At the time of the 1997 bugging request, Lee and his wife, who was a former data analyst at Los Alamos, were suspects in the alleged theft by China of information about the W-88, the smallest and most sophisticated warhead in the U.S. nuclear arsenal.



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INSIDE



**All-State recognition** — Hereford Independent School District migrant recruiters recently were honored with all-state honors at the Texas Migrant Education Conference in San Antonio. With their certificates of recognition are (standing, from left) Fannie Deleon, Maggie Guerrero, Eva Villegas and Elvira Gonzales, and (seated) Anita Gomez.

**Actor, Globe settle suit**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Arnold Schwarzenegger and the *Globe* have settled a \$50 million libel suit brought over a 1998 article that described the actor as being in poor health and worried about a heart attack.

The tabloid will print a retraction and apology to Schwarzenegger in its next issue, the actor said in a statement Tuesday.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but Schwarzenegger

was in excellent health, and came 18 months after he had successful heart surgery.

*Globe* spokesman Richard Valvo would not comment on the case.

The *Globe* was bought last month by American Media, publisher of such rival tabloids as the *National Enquirer* and the *Star*.

Schwarzenegger had sued after the *Globe* story appeared in August 1998. He said it appeared at a time when he

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**Television**

**WEDNESDAY**

**DECEMBER 22**

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News

**THURSDAY**

**DECEMBER 23**

7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
Barney	Teletubbies	Sesame Street	Arthur	Dragon	Barney	Teletubbies	Noddy	Zoboo	Mr Rogers	Mr Rogers

12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
Body Elec.	Alexander	Jenkins	Noddy	Reading	Arthur	Wishbone	Zoom	Arthur	Creatures	Wishbone

6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News

**CBS takes ratings top spot**

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS held on to its season-long frontrunner status with another narrow ratings win last week. Generally, it was business as usual as "ER" came in first and NBC's other four Thursday series were nestled in the top eight, according to Nielsen Media Research figures released Tuesday.

ABC's "Monday Night Football" took seventh place, while CBS's "60 Minutes" tied for fifth with NBC's drama "Law & Order."

Overall, CBS won for the week of Dec. 13-19, with an average prime-time audience of 13 million viewers (a 9.0 household rating, 15 share). NBC ranked second with 12.9 million viewers (8.9, 15) and ABC had 10.4 million viewers (7.2, 12).

Fox had an average prime-time audience

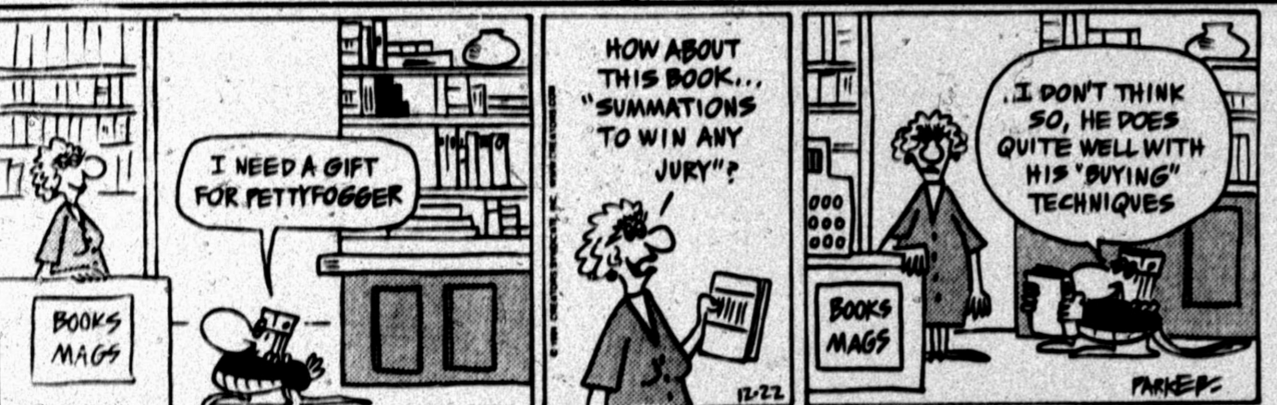
of 8.3 million viewers (5.5 rating, 9 share). Inching back above UPN after two weeks, the WB had 3.7 million viewers (2.7 rating, 4 share), while UPN had 3.6 million viewers (2.5 rating, 4 share).

For the week of Dec. 13-19, the top 10-positioned shows, their networks and ratings were: "ER," NBC, 20.0; "Frasier," NBC, 19.0; "Friends," NBC, 15.0; "Stark Raving Mad," NBC, 14.1; "60 Minutes," CBS, and "Law & Order," NBC, both 13.4; "NFL Monday Night Football: Denver at Jacksonville," ABC, 13.3; "Jesse," NBC, 13.2; "Everybody Loves Raymond," CBS, 12.2; "CBS Sunday Movie: Miracle on the 17th Green," CBS, and "Touched By an Angel," CBS, both 11.4.

**Comics**

**The Wizard of Id**

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



**Barney Google and Snuffy Smith**

By Fred Lasswell



**Marvin**

By Tom Armstrong



**Blondie**

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



**Beetle Bailey**

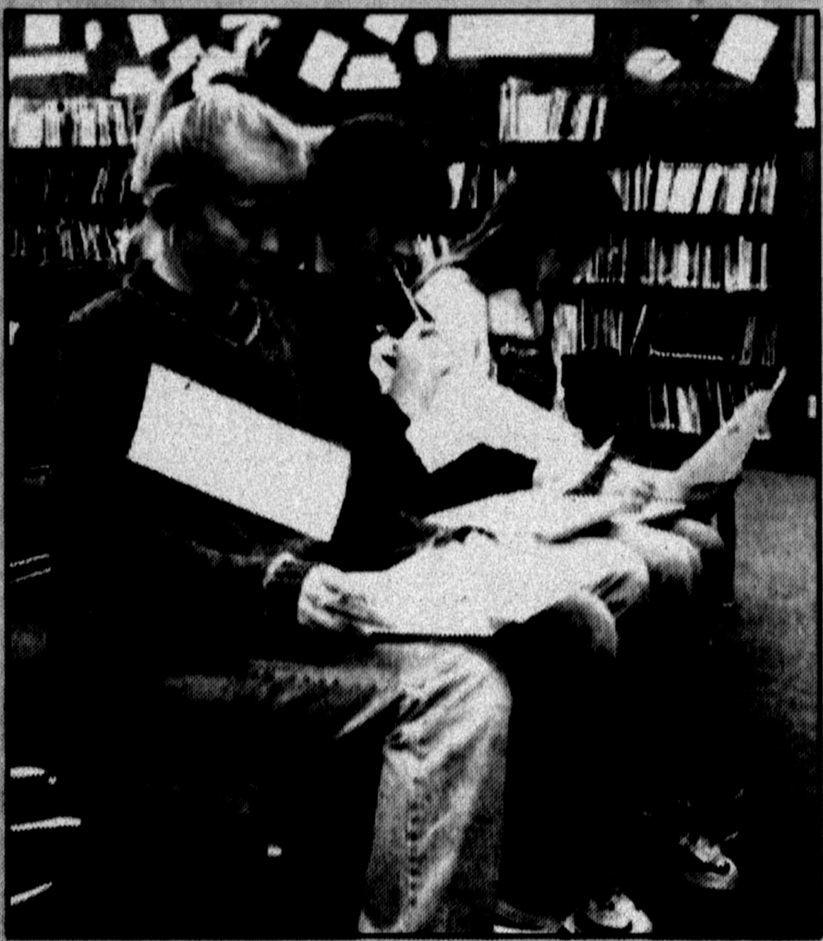
By Mort Walker





INSIDE

MAP READERS



Courtesy Photo

Winners (from left) Keely Schlabs, Emily Luther and Sarah Johnson look over maps during the West Central Geography Bee. The girls placed first, second and third, respectively, in the school Bee. The school-level Bee, at which students answered oral questions on geography, was the first round in the 12th Annual National Geographic Bee. The Bee is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Keely will take a written state-qualifying test. Up to 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete April 7 in their state Bee. More than 40 students participated in the West Central Bee.

Bradley, Gore back gay rights

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Setting aside for a moment a string of arguments they've waged, Democratic presidential rivals Bill Bradley and Al Gore both declared themselves unwavering backers of gay rights. Gore spoke to about 250 gay and lesbian activists Tuesday night and called for employment discrimination bans, allowing gays to openly serve in the military and a national hate crimes law. "I will stand for you and I will speak for you," Gore said. "A president who is willing to wage that fight can make all the difference." Aides to Bradley distributed to reporters accounts in gay publications praising Bradley's

stance on the issue. "He is much better on this issue than Gore, who has flip-flopped a number of times," said aide Jim Farrell. The two had spent much of Tuesday fighting over education issues, and Gore was set today to unveil a \$50 billion plan to bolster preschool programs. Under that proposal, states would get federal grants — about \$2,700 for each student — for guaranteeing four-year-olds access to preschool programs, said aides who spoke on condition of anonymity. "This preschool initiative places a strong emphasis on flexibility for states and offer choice for parents," said background briefing papers pre-

pared by the campaign. Under the effort, states could use the money to offer preschool programs in a variety of community settings, and could set the curriculum. States would be required to partially match the federal grants and there would be a sliding fee for wealthier parents. The \$50 billion is part of a larger, \$115 billion education package Gore has offered. The money would come from the budget surplus. The two candidates fought Tuesday over education, with Gore complaining Bradley "has no comprehensive plan" for the nation's schools. Bradley, in turn, contended the vice president's own edu-

cation plan doesn't add up and predicted that Gore's "politics as usual" strategy would fail in Iowa. Gore lectured against school violence at a Cedar Rapids school, while Bradley visited seniors and touted his health care plan at a children's hospital in Des Moines. The two traded barbs while charting their separate paths. "I've put together a comprehensive \$115 billion plan to help hire more teachers and raise the quality of public schools. Senator Bradley has said he may not make a speech — much less a comprehensive proposal on education," Gore said. "I think we ought to debate that."

Forbes radio-TV ads rip Bush

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Publisher Steve Forbes rips into Texas Gov. George W. Bush in new campaign commercials that attack Bush for not being aggressive enough on tax reform. Bush aides worried the spots, though limited to radio, could set the stage for yet another round of attack politics in the GOP presidential campaign. The radio commercials began airing Tuesday in New Hampshire and Iowa and quote conservative news organizations raising questions about

Bush's commitment to the issues. "We're making sure the voters very clearly see the differences between Steve and the governor," said Bill Dal Col, a Forbes strategist. He argued that, should Bush get the Republican presidential nomination "there will not be real reform." Forbes began airing two new radio commercials in the key early states, one assailing Bush on taxes and the other boosting his own proposals on a broad variety of issues.

The attack on Bush is among the most direct that have been used in campaign commercials. The radio spot features comments from the *Manchester, N.H., Union Leader* and from conservative columnist Bob Novak being critical of Bush. "Bush arranges his tax cut backwards, sizing it so it fits the federal government's status quo of big spending," the spot quotes the newspaper as saying. It quotes the columnist warning "Bush is alone among Republican candidates in disavowing tax reform."

McCain vows clean campaign — no matter what

NEWBERRY, S.C. (AP) — Republican presidential contender Sen. John McCain says he would rather lose than be accused of attacking the integrity of his opponent. "It's not that important for me to be president," McCain said Tuesday, vowing to keep his campaign clean no matter what his opponents slings at him. "I know this is getting very intense," McCain said during his second campaign swing through upstate South Carolina in a week. McCain says his message of reform — not bashing fellow Republican contenders — is giving his campaign momentum in the polls. The Arizona senator, who

has said South Carolina's Feb. 19 primary will be crucial to his campaign, said he was not concerned about rival Texas Gov. George W. Bush's promise to focus more sharply on their differences heading into the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 1. McCain said Bush's comments in an interview published Tuesday in *The Boston Globe* mean that "our campaign has been successful." Bush said he would begin to highlight differences with the Arizona senator over tax cuts, education and campaign finance. "I haven't started drawing the distinctions yet," Bush said.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Mindy Tucker stressed Tuesday that Bush will continue to refrain from making personal attacks on his GOP rivals. "Governor Bush is going to continue to run a positive, issue-oriented campaign," she said. "He will contrast and compare positions on issues." McCain said there's nothing wrong with comparing records as long as it doesn't turn nasty. He noted that Bush, the front-runner for the GOP presidential nomination, earlier had promised not to go negative and said, "I'll be sad if he broke his word." "It will not be negative on my part under any circum-

stances," McCain said. "If I could think of a way constitutionally, I would ban negative ads." Bush said he expected a sharper focus would improve his standing in New Hampshire. "There's a feisty side of me you haven't seen yet," he told the *Globe*. One bone of contention is McCain's signature issue — a campaign finance proposal to eliminate "soft money," the large, unregulated donations

to the political parties. The money is supposed to be used for party-building activities, but increasingly has been used for the indirect benefit of presidential and congressional candidates. Bush argues the proposal, if enacted, would hurt the GOP unless unions — a traditional Democratic ally — are restricted from using members' dues for political purposes.

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1:30 & 4:15 7:15 & 9:05

**GREEN MILE**  
1:30 & 4:30 6:00

**BICENTENNIAL MAN**  
1:15 & 4:15 7:15 & 9:35

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CLASSIFIEDS

Poll

From Page A1

they're reporting they are buying extra food and water for the weekend, we think that's appropriate behavior."

The number of people who plan to stock up on supplies for the Y2K transition has remained stable over the last six months — about a third. Women were more likely than men and blacks more likely than whites to say they were going to stock up.

But people have shifted their focus on what is likely to be the biggest problem. The number one concern in the AP poll in July was banking and financial services, mentioned by a third of those polled.

In the new telephone poll of 1,010 people, taken Dec. 15-19, the most frequently mentioned concern was the power supply, mentioned by a third, followed by banking and financial services, the transportation system, phone systems and food distribution.

The poll's margin of error rate was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

"I'm not a rocket scientist, but I'm very frightened by the whole thing," said Marian Sullivan, a 77-year-old retiree from Westbury, N.Y., on Long Island. "The thing I fear the most is if the electricity goes out, the pipes freeze over and they burst. The water comes down like Niagara Falls. Last time it happened, we had to take the rugs up."

It's been difficult to properly prepare people for Y2K "because the unknowns are so great," said Norman L. Dean, executive director of the Center for Y2K and Society. "No one really knows the extent of problems we'll face. I encourage people to prepare ... I don't know how likely there is to be a problem, but there certainly is a chance there could be significant disruptions."

The so-called Y2K problem exists because many older

computers and software programs recognize only the last two digits of the year and could mistakenly interpret "00" as 1900.

Some researchers caution people are missing the point if they think the Y2K bug will only be evident in the first few days of the year.

"Most people think there will be a moment of truth," said Paula Gordon, a researcher on the topic at George Washington University. "There are going to be many moments of truth." She recommended preparing for two weeks of inconvenience with plenty of nonperishable foods and water.

And she wondered whether government efforts to reassure the public may have made them too comfortable. "In part they've done this because they have not wanted to unduly alarm people — they consider it undue alarm — I question whether this has been a good policy on their part."

While many plan to stock up, two-thirds of the public say they don't.

John Campbell, who works at a lumber mill in New Bern, N.C., says he doesn't plan to race to the store.

"I'm just a working stiff," he said, "and I don't have time to worry about it."

One out of five people say they plan to get some money out of the bank, a slight drop from one out of four in July.

For 21-year-old Godfrey Jackson of Atlanta, it makes sense to buy supplies and take a little money out of the bank, even if the problems are minor.

"I think there's a possibility America might have problems," he said, noting things likely will be worse in less developed places like his native Trinidad.

"Most folks there are thinking they'll just go back to how it was in the 1950s and 1960s," he said, laughing. "They're not too worried."

Native Americans planning powwow for the millennium

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) —

There won't be a big ball dropping from atop a building to help ring in 2000 here. But the mood will be no less festive as representatives from indigenous groups kickoff a 10-day world's fair and millennium powwow.

The New Millennium First Peoples' World Fair and PowWow — "Thunder in the Desert" — was organized by Tucson-area Indians to mark the new year and "to bring our children into the new millennium," said event coordinator Fred Snyder.

Snyder expects a crowd of 250,000, making it "the most-attended gathering of indigenous people ever held in any corner of the world that I know of," he said. "And I've been chasing powwows for 35 years."

In addition to 150 American Indian tribes, native groups from Mexico, Canada and as far away as Australia

plan to attend, he said.

Cultural events, including native songs and dances, arts and crafts exhibitions, food festivals and a symposium for native writers, actors and producers, will conclude Jan. 9 after three days of competition powwows.

Roseanne Salinas, an Aztec from Mexico City, will perform with her husband and son in a special midnight friendship round dance on New Year's Eve and a sunrise blessing ceremony.

"To bring together that many dancers in a circle, in a land that is not ours, around people that want us there and respect what we do, it just means so much to us," said Mrs. Salinas, wearing the headdress with 5-foot-long pheasant feathers and vivid beaded, sequined dress.

Carole J. Garcia, Snyder's wife, said tribal elders felt it important to mark the millennium in a special way.

Poll

From Page A1

delivered on the last business day of the month. That's Dec. 30 this year, since the 31st will be a federal holiday with New Year's Day falling on a Saturday.

The Social Security Administration — among the first organizations to detect and begin to rectify Y2K problems, a decade ago — has been using Y2K compliant computer programs to send benefits out for more than a year.

"In many ways Social Security has been a leader in the federal government in dealing with the Year 2000," said John Koskinen, the White House's top Y2K advisor.

However, in case delays somehow occur in the first benefits payments of the new year, possibly caused by problems at local banks or with the nation's transportation system, the agency has emergency plans.

The 1,300 local Social Security service centers across the

country, for example, will be capable of handing out checks to people in serious financial trouble, up to \$999 per person.

In a normal month, about 40,000 people's Social Security benefits are reported late or missing, the vast majority paper checks misplaced during mailing. About 3,000 to 4,000 people who get electronically deposited payments report problems in a month.

Social Security plans to have an extra 2,500 operators working its toll-free help lines on Jan. 3, in case complaints are more numerous than usual.

The agency says all its systems are ready and tested for the Y2K rollover, an effort which took \$48.3 million to fix 35 million lines of computer code.

Nevertheless, the Social Security Administration is operating a Y2K command center out of its Baltimore headquarters from Dec. 20 to Jan. 21. Verification that systems nationwide are working will begin shortly after the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve.

"We're taking every precaution," Apfel said.

Magnet games to be recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) — About 21,000 magnet games are being recalled because of a possible lead-poisoning hazard to young children.

Safari Ltd., in conjunction with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, is recalling the games because paint on metal figures contains levels of lead that exceed federal standards for children's products.

Each game comprises a black magnetic base about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and about 60 multicolored metal figures. They were sold from January through November of this year at about \$6 each.

The games came in a triangle-shaped box and were identified as: Magnetic Butterfly Rainbow — Item No. 6652-16, Magnetic Frog Fantasy — Item No. 6653-16, Magnetic Coral Reef Collage — Item No. 6654-16.

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.

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Table with multiple sections: CATTLE FUTURES, GRAIN FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, and FUTURES OPTIONS. Each section contains columns for month, price, and other market data.



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# U.S. economy grows by 5.7%

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy saw growth sprint ahead to an annual rate of 5.7 percent in the fall, even faster than the government previously estimated.

The Commerce Department reported today that the increase in the gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — in the July-September quarter followed an anemic 1.9 percent rate of growth in the April-June quarter.

A number of factors contributed to the third-quarter growth, including robust consumer spending, a strong buildup in inventories held by businesses and an increase in exports.

The revised third-quarter estimate shows the economy is growing at a more robust pace than the 5.5 percent rate the government reported one month ago and the 4.8 per-

cent rate originally estimated. Many analysts expected third-quarter growth to stay at the previously estimated 5.5 percent rate.

The 5.7 percent third-quarter rate of increase marked the biggest spurt in growth since a 5.9 percent rate posted in the fourth quarter of 1998.

In the current fourth quarter, many economists are pegging economic growth in the 5 percent range, considerably higher than the Federal Reserve's preferred 3 percent speed limit, believed to be the growth rate that can be sustained without sparking inflation.

The third-quarter GDP figure was released one day after the Federal Reserve, at its last meeting for the year, decided to leave interest rates unchanged, citing uncertainties about the Y2K computer date change. But the Fed ex-

pressed concern that continuing strong economic growth could spark inflation down the road.

Many economists believe the Fed, which has boosted rates three times this year to slow the red-hot economy and keep inflation under control, will raise rates again early next year.

Also today, the government said the profits of U.S. companies increased at an annual rate of \$3.7 billion in the third quarter. That was lower than the government previously estimated and reflected the impact of Hurricane Floyd.

But the third-quarter performance was an improvement over the previous quarter where profits decreased by a \$6.5 billion rate as companies were pinched by increasing labor costs resulting from the lowest unemployment rate in three decades.

An inflation gauge tied to the third-quarter GDP rose 1.7 percent, the same as previously estimated. It was a better showing on inflation compared with the 1.9 percent increase the measure posted in the second quarter.

The booming U.S. economy has been powered by robust consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity.

The government said today that consumer spending in the third quarter rose at an annual rate of 4.9 percent, stronger than previously estimated and slightly less than the 5.1 percent growth rate in the second quarter.

The government did not revise the nation's personal savings rate — savings as a percentage of disposable income — which stood at 2.1 percent the third quarter, an all-time low.



**Discuss Christmas plans** — Markus Jesko (left) and Nathan Goodall discuss Christmas plans "elf" to "Rudolph" before they perform in "Santa's Holiday Hoedown," the musical production presented by fourth-graders at West Central's open house. The production was directed by music teacher Joan Latham.

## First lady presses for unifying media ratings systems

OYSTER BAY, N.Y. (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton says the different ratings systems for TV, movies and video games are too confusing for parents and should be replaced with one uniform system.

"In whatever medium it appears, violence is violence," she said at a forum on youth violence at the Boys' and Girls' Club of Oyster Bay-East Norwich, an affluent community on Long Island. "Parents need clear guidance and not alphabet soup."

Mrs. Clinton said she will press for the ratings changes if she is elected to the U.S. Senate next year.

Currently parents must decipher between PG-13 for motion pictures, AC for adult content on premium cable TV, TV14 for broadcast television programs with a strong parental warning, and various codes for video games. "I don't think that a uniform ratings system would be an imposition on anyone or any industry," Mrs. Clinton said.

She said studies show a link between violent behavior and the amount of violence appearing in the media. "Going back into the 1970s, we've had surgeon generals' reports about the impact of violence on television. There have been now sufficient numbers of psychological research reports that demonstrate that a steady diet of violence does desensitize children," Mrs. Clinton said.

She added: "I don't think we should take a chance that we are creating an environ-

ment in which some children who are vulnerable for whatever reason ... could be pushed over the edge into violence."

She emphasized the system should be voluntary.

"I don't favor censorship," Mrs. Clinton said. "But I also think that we as adults have the right to say we're not going to buy this and we're not going to let our children watch it."

After the Oyster Bay event, Mrs. Clinton was asked by a reporter to comment on the decision by a state appeals court to move the trial of four white policemen charged with murdering an unarmed African immigrant from the Bronx to Albany.

It was unclear from her response whether she supported the move or not, and reporters were not given an opportunity to ask additional questions.

"I think it's unfortunate that the trial — apparently for legal reasons — had to be moved, and I hope that there will be a fair and an effective trial in the new venue in Albany," she said.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, likely Republican candidate for the Senate, has voiced clear support for moving the trial. Giuliani agrees with the state Appellate Court's decision that the officers could not have gotten a fair trial in the Bronx because an impartial jury of pretrial publicity, protests and potential juror bias.

The Diallo family and their supporters have decried the move as a means for the officers to escape justice.



**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**

"In whatever medium it appears, violence is violence. Parents need clear guidance and not alphabet soup."

## Study: Reform fails to produce savings

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawsuit reforms in Texas have not produced the big savings for consumers that some have claimed, a national consumer group said.

According to a study released Monday by the Consumer Federation of America, premiums are rising more slowly in Texas since reforms were approved in 1995, but lawsuit restrictions have been only a minor factor in controlling rates.

Safer cars, the aging of the baby-boomer generation leading to fewer accidents, and increasing competition between insurance companies are the reasons for slower rate increases, said former Texas Insurance Commissioner J. Robert Hunter, author of the study.

"Let's give credit where credit is due," Hunter said. "Slowing of insurance rate increases in Texas is due to the same reasons rates are stable or lower across the nation."

Premiums for coverages affected by lawsuit reforms have increased 8.2 percent since 1995, Hunter said.

The Texas Department of Insurance has estimated that Texas consumers have saved \$2.9 billion over five years because of lawsuit reforms. Hunter calls that figure greatly exaggerated and said the real savings were closer to a quarter of that figure.

Current state Insurance Commissioner Jose Mehtemayor said the \$2.9 billion estimate is firm.

Texas is saving money more in commercial insurance, such as product liability and medical malpractice, than in consumer coverage such as auto insurance policies, a state Insurance Department spokesman said.

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