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 BEGINNING OF SCF 799



Special Christmas visitor

Santa Claus came to the Blue Water Gardens Apartments Thursday night for a special party for the more than 200 children who live in the complex. Here, apartment employee Gabriel Casias, left, hands a gift sack to one boy while fellow employee Angela Walker, right, holds a mob of children at bay as they await their turn on Santa's lap. The gift sacks were prepared by complex employees and contained four toys, fruit and nuts. They were provided by apartment vendors and with funds raised from a raffle of a complete Christmas meal, which was won by resident Virginia Vassaur.

Government shutdown into seventh day as talks go on

By JIM DRINKARD
 Associated Press Writer
 WASHINGTON (AP) - The Senate's two top leaders expressed hope today that a budget compromise will be found soon as President Clinton and Republicans renewed efforts to end a partial government shutdown by Christmas.

Bargainers have reached tentative accords on about \$40 billion worth of cuts in civil service benefits, banking, veterans, and energy programs, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., confirmed today. While that's just a small portion of the savings they will need to balance the budget by 2002, Daschle and others expressed optimism.

much to spend on Medicare, Medicaid, welfare and tax cuts - remained on the agenda for a noon meeting today among Clinton, Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich. Panetta, Vice President Al Gore, House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, were expected to attend the meeting as well.

The stalemate that has idled 260,000 federal employees entered its seventh day today, surpassing a six-day closure last month that kept 800,000 workers from their government jobs.

"I don't know that anyone can feel pessimistic with the discussions as they occurred yesterday," Daschle told reporters.

"I believe in two or three days of very hard work we could have a balanced-budget agreement," Gingrich told reporters late Thursday. A deal could be reached by next Wednesday or Thursday, he added. "If the president entered the room ... and we rolled up our sleeves."

Commissioners OK policy

A five-minute meeting Friday morning will keep Deaf Smith County within the law related to some drivers of county vehicles. A policy on alcohol and drug abuse was adopted by Commissioners' Court during the special meeting.

"We are negotiating," Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said on the Senate floor. "I hope we could come to some agreement soon."

Gingrich, R-Ga., said he and Dole, R-Kan., are willing to work through the weekend if necessary to reach agreement. But, he acknowledged, "The walk's pretty tough, and it's pretty uphill."

Artist sends Christmas greetings in a REALLY big way

BY JIM STEIERT
 W.T. Rural Telephone
 Holding a paintbrush lightly in her hand, clenching the shaft of another edgewise in her teeth, Darla Stengel applies finishing touches to the facial features of a one-of-a-kind Yule greeting.

husband, Richard, prepared for her in the barn at the family's farm in the Summerfield area, she frequently works late into the December nights. Richard, and their children, Robby, 10, and Micah, 7, all seem to understand Darla's Christmas compulsion.

on signboard, expressions of traditional messages of the Christmas season. They are messages that Darla feels are too often lost in the commercial crush of the holiday.

Watching her as she works, one wouldn't think that Darla is going about the addressing of Christmas cards.

At the stroke of her brush appear yard scenes and figurines--angels and shepherds, saviors and servants, manger and madonna, magi and magic.

During the rest of the year, Darla paints business signs and placards, does calligraphy, brushes intricate original border designs on the walls of homes, and decorates T-shirts. She may be seen in downtown Hereford lettering a company logo on the glass of a storefront door or window, or spacing the lettering of a message

"I love doing faces," she says. "There is just no limit to the faces that you can put on a person."

Her renditions capture, in acrylic

displayed by a local church.

Darla doesn't send her Christmas cards by mail. Her unique creations are a personal holiday greeting to the countryside at large.

They are four-by-eight foot panels of signboard, paint and personality--grand in scale and message--works of handcrafted art big enough to be seen by passing motorists.

Holiday yard scenes that she has completed for area residents include life-size figures such as a pair of ostriches pulling a sleigh, a nativity yard scene featuring figures based on Precious Moments characters, and numerous traditional nativity scenes.

Darla's "yard cards," complete with her own calligraphy messages, are just one form of the Yule greetings and figures that she creates. Their making fills her December with labors of love that leave little time for shopping.

Santa pays his respects

Among her creations likely seen by a large number of area residents is a growing collection of award-winning "Christmas Cowboy Campfire" figures that has adorned the front yard of the Kenneth Christie

Investigation under way into why plane crashed

By CHRIS TORCHIA
 Associated Press Writer
 BUGA, Colombia (AP) - Investigators found a "black box" from an American Airlines jet today amid the bits of mangled machinery and human remains that were scattered over a Colombian mountainside where the plane went down.

until relatives were notified. Rescuers reached the site Thursday, braving rocky terrain and the threat of leftist guerrillas. Local farmers who got there first pilfered belongings of the dead.

Today the Red Cross' Arizabaleta said only four survivors were accounted for. Four people were at Hospital Universitario in Cali, said Dr. Rome Espinosa. They included Gonzalo Dussan, his 6-year-old daughter Michelle and a woman, Mercedes Ramirez, of Blue Springs, Mo., according to Espinosa and paramedic Francia Victoria. The other survivor was identified as Mauricio Reyes, a Colombian business student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

The box, which contains information on the plane's operations before it crashed, could hold clues to why the flight from Miami to Cali veered 13 miles off course and crashed Wednesday night.

Reports on the number of survivors varied. On Thursday, the Red Cross in Cali said eight people were rescued and that one, a man, later died at a hospital. RCN radio reported that seven people were rescued, and that one later died.

Speaking briefly to reporters as rescuers tended to him Thursday, Dussan said he was flying home from New Jersey with his wife, daughter and a son.

Investigators also were trying to find out how at least four of the 164 people aboard Flight 965 survived. Two others reported alive on Thursday could not be accounted for today, the head of the Red Cross in Cali told The Associated Press.

Search operations resumed at dawn, when helicopters lifted off from Buga, 40 miles and four minutes flying time from Cali, in southwestern Colombia. The choppers carried Red Cross teams, soldiers and American Airlines officials.

Through the generous contributions of caring and sharing residents of Hereford and Deaf Smith County, the Christmas Stocking Fund will once again help make Christmas brighter for the community's less-fortunate families.

The investigators held out little hope of finding anyone else alive. Instead, their mission was to collect and identify the remains of the dead, and to find out why the plane went down.

Total cash donations passed the \$17,000 mark Thursday, nearing the approximate \$18,000 the anonymous CSF committee had projected for needy families this Yuletide season.

First-round deliveries have already been made on food baskets, and many of the vouchers for clothes, and assistance with utility and medical bills have been delivered or mailed.

The jetliner lost radio contact about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday. There was no word of trouble from the cockpit, but Alvaro Cala, director of Colombian civil aviation, said the plane was 13 miles east of its intended flight path.

"Rest assured that your contributions have filled a real need in the community," a CSF spokesman said today. "Our committee feels that the most needy families have received your assistance in helping make this a brighter Christmas."

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|---|--------------------|
| Margaret Schroeter | 50.00 |
| Hereford Cablevision | 100.00 |
| M/M Frank Zinser Jr. | 100.00 |
| Frances & Buddy Cowley | 20.00 |
| Don & Neil McNutt | 25.00 |
| In memory of Robert Wagner, by Lynn & Elaine Jones | 50.00 |
| In memory of Stella Wester, by Lynn & Elaine Jones | 50.00 |
| Johnnie Turrottine | 25.00 |
| Karen & Scott Keeling | 100.00 |
| Anonymous | 50.00 |
| Anonymous | 100.00 |
| In memory of Margaret Brorman, by Lawrence, Jaime, Gary & Jens Bryman | 50.00 |
| Gene & Shirley Anderson family | 50.00 |
| O.G. & Frances Hill | 25.00 |
| Total 12-22-95: | \$17,378.00 |



Darla Stengel creates unique art
 Local artist Darla Stengel, working from a farm workshop near Summerfield, creates unique yard scenes and cards for the holidays. Her talents include sign painting for merchants, customizing border designs in home interiors, and decorating T-shirts.

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Holiday spirit covers work of bank robber

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Neither Miss Lubbock nor Santa Claus could thwart a robbery Thursday at the American State Bank during a Christmas open house.

Lubbock police and FBI agents canvassed the city interviewing potential suspects, but no arrests had been made as of late Thursday.

Shortly before 1:40 p.m., a grungy man wearing a dark coat and blue hat entered the bank and waited in line until a bank teller called him to her counter, Lubbock police spokesman Bill Morgan said.

"When he walked up to her station, he handed her a large, Manila envelope that was opened to display a note written inside," Morgan said. "The note said, basically, this is a holdup. I don't have a weapon, but I do have a bomb."

The note thanked the teller and was signed, "The Bank Robber,"

Morgan added.

After the teller stuffed an undisclosed amount of cash into the envelope, he turned and walked out briskly.

Throughout the robbery, former Miss Lubbock Eve Johnson stood by the front door singing while bank customers munched on cookies.

A bank officer dressed as Santa chased the man after the heist, said FBI special agent John Truchitt.

Miss Johnson, along with several others in the lobby, didn't realize that the bank had been robbed. "I couldn't believe it," she said.

Bank customer Harold Deering said he never noticed the thief. "I was really taken up with that woman singing," he said.

Morgan said the bank teller provided a detailed description of the suspect. The quality of the in-bank video images, however, was less than ideal, police said.

Aide's notes on meeting released

Documents reveal no new facts about high level meeting

By RON FOURNIER
Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) - As early as 1993, President Clinton's attorneys inside and outside the White House were "trying to find out what's going on in (the) investigation" of Whitewater, according to notes released today after weeks of dispute.

The 12 pages of notes, taken in the barely legible handwriting of White House lawyer William Kennedy, point out that Clinton friend and attorney Vince Foster killed himself on the same day that the FBI raided offices of chief presidential accuser David Hale.

"July 20th: FBI issues subpoena and took records of municipal judge named Hale.

"Also day VF killed himself "Factor."

It was unclear why Kennedy, an old friend of Foster and Clinton, noted the raid and Foster's death in the same section of his notes. White House spokesman Mark Fabiani said Kennedy was referring to speculation

in the press that Foster's death was linked to Whitewater.

Such speculation "has since been thoroughly disproven," Fabiani said. A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Kennedy has told aides he did not think Foster's death was Whitewater-related.

The White House said releasing the notes shows it had nothing to hide, and that Republican hopes for a smoking gun were unfounded.

"Every fact in the notes was available (to the committee) at the time from non-confidential sources," said Fabiani. "It was obtained from non-confidential sources and it was available."

Investigators want the notes to determine whether White House aides improperly passed along confidential information they obtained in 1993 to Clinton's private lawyers, or used it to interfere with two Whitewater-related criminal investigations.

The White House denies doing anything wrong. Its lengthy resistance

to turning over the documents gave Republicans fresh ammunition to suggest there was something to hide.

The notes opened with a list of Clinton attorneys - both White House aides and personal lawyers - who attended the 1993 meeting at which Clinton's private attorneys were reportedly brought up to speed on the growing Whitewater investigation.

It then lists four points, presumably agenda items, including:

- "Gather the facts.
- "Try to find out what's going on in investigation.
- "Respond to requests that are made.
- "Strategy for dealing with the media - one person.

Fabiani said the second point represented the goal of Clinton's newly hired personal attorney David Kendall, who was trying to get up to speed on the controversy.

The White House released the notes, along with an inch-thick package of documents that aides said showed that none of the information

discussed in the notes was confidential at the time of the meeting. An example: The remark about Foster's death was accompanied by a memo about television reporters talking to the White House about a possible link between Whitewater and Foster's July 1993 suicide.

"Republicans alleged confidential information was passed along and that appears to be totally disproved," Fabiani said.

The president originally had refused to let Kennedy turn over the notes subpoenaed by both Senate investigators and Whitewater special prosecutor Kenneth Starr, claiming they were protected by Clinton's legal right to keep communications with his lawyers confidential.

Stung by politically damaging comparisons with the Watergate scandal and an extraordinary Senate vote this week authorizing a court challenge of Clinton, the White House reversed course.

Local Roundup

Cold temperatures linger

A cold, dry Christmas is forecast for the area although some snow flurries may appear Saturday. The low Friday night is forecast at about 10 degrees with light and variable wind. Mostly cloudy skies and some flurries are possible Saturday with a high around 30 and a south wind, 5-10 mph. For the Christmas weekend, the weather should remain dry, with lows around 20 degrees and highs in the 40s. Hereford had a trace of moisture in the form of flurries early Friday and the temperature dropped to 21 degrees. The high Thursday was 37 degrees.

News Digest

BETHLEHEM, West Bank - Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij pushed for peace when the idea was not so popular. When Israeli troops finally left his town waving a friendly goodbye, he ruefully admitted the bitterness would take time to subside.

Israelis, he suggested, are not necessarily welcome at the first Palestinian-run Christmas festivities on Sunday night.

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina - The commander of American forces in Bosnia says the burden of keeping the peace is on the onetime enemies. But NATO squads are making it harder for war to resume by dismantling roadblocks, command posts and other facilities.

AUSTIN - A man is in federal custody after being accused of getting money fraudulently by promising to obtain the release of four young Americans held in a Mexican prison in 1992.

AUSTIN - A neighbor's tip led to the reunion of a Louisiana boy with his mother after 12 years and the father's arrest on a kidnapping charge, the FBI said.

Police, Emergency Reports

Emergency services reports for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Friday contained the following information.

HEREFORD POLICE

A 38-year-old female was arrested for public intoxication.

A runaway was reported in the 100 block of South Ironwood.

Assault was reported in the 200 block of Lee.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Avenue C, where side window glass was broken out of a vehicle.

Theft of a dog was reported in the 300 block of Main.

Harassment was reported in the 300 block of East Fourth.

A report was filed in the 100 block of Union in reference to subjects fighting.

A report was filed in the 300 block of Avenue H in reference to a wooden desk being damaged.

Officers issued 19 citations.

There were two traffic accidents reported.

DEAF SMITH SHERIFF

A 36-year-old female was arrested for forgery.

A 43-year-old male was arrested for violation of probation (DWI). Theft was reported.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

No calls.

EMS

Ambulances ran on one motor vehicle accident and two medical runs.

PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL

Guadalupe Alonzo, Infant girl Correa, Sarah Correa, Roxann Florez, Martin Guerra, Howard Hershey, Infant girl Jury, Linda Jury, Irma Lamas;

Infant boy Perez, Sarina Perez, Grace K. Sanders, Johnnie Sanders, Lloyd Shulk, Rita Vega, Gabriel Villareal, Mable Williams and Emmett J. Ziehr.

ARTIST

of Christmas--that's what the season is all about. I'll do Santas and stuff if that's what people want, but it's too commercial. I'd rather put my emphasis on the Christian holiday."

There's involved work in doing a yard scene, long before the painting starts. Darla primes and braces the signboard to prevent it from warping and--after outlining an image on the board--she cuts out the character's basic outline with a jigsaw. She can turn out a single character in a couple of days.

"Shades and coloring take time. I get the outline first and go from there. I place the eyes and face, and add characteristics including shining eyes that help to bring the piece to life."

"I work on one character at a time, not several at once...just one character until I get it done. I have a hard time letting a character go until I'm satisfied with it, so I may be working on it all

hours of the day and night," Darla explains.

"Faces are fascinating to do. Norman Rockwell is my hero--he captured human characteristics so well. To create a person through painting has always been a thrill for me," she adds.

Darla says she usually doesn't receive orders for yard displays or cards until November, or even December, and she tries to complete the orders in time for Christmas.

"I would like to start watercolor work sometime, but I wish I could do yard displays and cards all year long, because that's what I enjoy doing. Maybe I'll find the right way to advertise this work and get to be that busy," she says.

(Editor's note: This article appeared in the Co-Op Connection, a monthly newsletter which Stelert edits for West Texas Rural Telephone. He is a free lance writer, author, and a former farm editor for The Brand.)



Christmas raffle winner

Vicki Wilson was the big winner Thursday in the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Raffle drawing. Chamber exec Mike Carr presented her with \$1,000 in Hereford Bucks as Vicki's happy daughters--Kayli and Johna--join in the excitement. Other winners in the contest: Calvin Goodin \$400, Clint Formby \$200, Lydia Villanueva \$100, John Stagner \$75, and Lillie Shipman \$50.

Prosecutors' survey says fair trial is available for bomb defendants

By PAUL QUEARY
Associated Press Writer
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Prosecutors say a survey of potential jurors shows that Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols can get a fair trial in Oklahoma, contrary to the claims of defense lawyers who want the trial moved out of state.

Prosecutors Thursday said they would not object to moving the trial to Tulsa, about 100 miles northeast of the bombing site, but they want it held in Oklahoma so that victims' families can easily attend.

Defense attorneys filed a motion last month contending that a fair trial would be impossible in Oklahoma because of widespread media coverage of the April 19 bombing that killed 169 people.

A survey in five cities in and out of Oklahoma showed little difference in opinions about the defendants'

guilt or innocence, said Donald Vinson, chairman of DecisionQuest, Inc., a Los Angeles-based surveying company hired by the prosecution.

The survey questioned 400 potential jurors in each city - Lawton, Tulsa, Kansas City, Kan., Denver and Albuquerque, N.M.

It found that 40 percent of those questioned in Tulsa thought McVeigh was guilty, compared with 37 percent in Lawton, 36 percent in Albuquerque, 28 percent in Denver and 36 percent in Kansas City.

When asked about Nichols, 24 percent of survey respondents in Tulsa thought him guilty, compared with 25 percent in Lawton, 24 percent in Albuquerque, 16 percent in Denver and 21 percent in Kansas City.

The trial had been set for May 17 in Lawton, about 90 miles southwest of Oklahoma City, but was delayed indefinitely after a change in judges.

Tulsa is about the same distance from Oklahoma City, but to the northeast.

"The government is engaged in a geometric exercise," said Steven Jones, McVeigh's attorney. "They want to move the trial from 90 miles to the southwest to 90 miles to the northeast, a difference without a distinction."

Jones said he would ask the court to move the trial to San Francisco or Charleston, W.Va.

The law requires defense lawyers to show proof that a fair trial could not be held in the Western District of Oklahoma, which is headquartered in the courthouse across the street from the bombing site.

The appointment of U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch of Denver to the case has fueled speculation that the trial would be held in Denver. The judge has set a Jan. 30 hearing on the issue.

SHUTDOWN

departments and other agencies have been closed because their budget bills remain unfinished. The funding cutoff has idled more than one-tenth of the federal civilian work force and left the political parties trading blame.

"I'm not an advocate of shutting down the government," Dole said. He said the Senate would take up a House-passed bill to restore funding for veterans benefits and expand it to include "other groups that might be vulnerable," such as welfare recipients.

In the House, Republicans were more adamant. Lawmakers at a party meeting were "near unanimous" that nothing be done to restore government functions until Clinton is pinned down on a budget-balancing plan, said Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio.

That, he said, would be "the best Christmas present" Congress could offer.

On Thursday, Panetta and budget committee chairman Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., and Rep. John Kasich, R-Ohio, hashed over competing plans for wrestling the budget into balance over the next seven years and pronounced the session "constructive."

They also tried to resolve differences over such items as cutting veterans and civil service benefits, said participants who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kasich appeared frustrated, and refused to answer reporters' questions after he spoke to a closed-door meeting of House Republicans.

"They're making no progress with

the White House at all," Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said after the meeting. He quoted Kasich as telling GOP colleagues: "I feel ripped off, and we're all ripped off."

The cutoff of money also threatened to delay the Department of Health and Human Services in sending out Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare checks for more than 13 million people. HHS says those quarterly payments total \$3.6 billion.

Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Thursday by the Texas Lottery, in order: 1-7-2 (one, seven, two)

Lawsuit filed over damage near Pantex

AMARILLO (AP) - A couple living near the Pantex nuclear weapons plant is seeking an estimated \$7,000 to repair damage caused to their residence by a test explosion on Oct. 4.

A plant spokesman said 80 pounds of plastic explosives was set off during an emergency exercise.

"The blast broke my house," said Jeri Osborne, who lives across the road from Pantex, a U.S. government complex where nuclear weapons are disassembled and plutonium is stored.

"It knocked pictures off the wall," she said. "You heard dishes rattling and windows rattling. A fixture over a fluorescent light fell off the ceiling. It cracked the shower and the shower pan."

The blast apparently cracked the slab, brick walls and a water line. Mrs. Osborne and her husband, Jim Osborne, said in a letter to plant officials.

Plant officials offered Osborne a \$500 settlement for repairs after visiting their farmhouse to inspect the damage.

She told plant officials she would get professional estimates and later found additional wall cracks, plumbing leaks and other damage.

She said plant representatives again viewed the house on Thursday and plan to photograph damaged areas of the home.

"I don't think we've begun negotiating, but what we have asked the Osbornes to do is give us repair estimates, two estimates, and to put their claims in writing," Energy Department spokesman Tom Williams said. "I think we're intending on trying to negotiate this to some kind of an agreeable settlement between all parties."

The Osbornes likened the blast to a mild earthquake and said they had never felt anything like it.

The plant has conducted a variety of explosives tests over the years.

In the 1960s, a piece of shrapnel that weighed about 60 pounds landed in the Osbornes' yard after an explosive test at Pantex.

Farmers whose land borders Pantex, a 16,000 acre complex 17 miles northeast of Amarillo, said officials alerted them at public meetings that the field exercise would begin with a small but loud explosion producing a plume of smoke.

"My understanding was that it was to be like a simulated blast, and my sense was it would be like a smoke bomb," said Mavis Belisle, manager of the Peace Farm, immediately south of the plant.

The Osbornes said they did not realize the extent of the damage until relatives visiting at Thanksgiving discovered flooding in the basement. Subsequently, contractors jack-hammered the walls and the slab looking for the source of leaks, inflicting further damage.

THE HEREFORD BRAND

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O.G. Homan
Mauri Montgomery
Garry Womer
Craig Homan

Publisher
Ad. Mgr.
Editor
Circulation Mgr.

Church News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
First Presbyterian would like to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas. All people are welcome to join our family for the celebration of God's gift to us.

During the Sunday morning service at 10:30, the Rev. J. Jeremy M. Grant will preach on Isaiah 7:1-16 and Matthew 1:18-25. The message, "Bowing Heads, Trusting Hearts," will focus on the angel's announcement of Mary's Savior-Child to Joseph. The McGaw family will light the Advent candles.

At the evening service at 6 p.m., Rev. Grant will speak on Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-19. His message, "Bare Gifts," speaks to the heart of the season. We will celebrate Communion followed by singing carols. The Schroeter family will light the Advent candles and the Christ candle.

Sunday Church School begins at 9:30 a.m. with a nursery provided. Fellowship Time is from 10:10-10:30 a.m.

During both Sunday services, we will collect the offering for the Children's Home in Amarillo.

We will not have Youth Groups this Sunday. The office will be closed next week.

Little Blessings Day Care will be OPEN Dec. 23! Considerate caregivers with a great ratio of staff-to-children will give your children the attention they deserve while you make that last-minute run!

AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Pastor Johnny Griffith extends a warm welcome to you and your family to join us at Avenue. There is a new face and a new spirit at Avenue and the only thing missing is YOU! Sunday School is at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11. Wednesday prayer service is at 6:30 p.m. We invite you to come to any and all of these services.

This Sunday marks our fourth Sunday in Advent. We would especially like to invite you to join us this Christmas Eve morning for a very special service.

There will be no evening service Dec. 24 or Dec. 31.

The Church office will be closed Monday and Tuesday and also on Jan. 1.

There will be a staff meeting Dec. 31 at 9 a.m.

Our Youth will leave Jan. 2 to go to Presidio where they will conduct a Bible School across the border in LaPloma. Please be in prayer for them as they faithfully give their time, efforts and gifts to the ministries of God. They will return home of Jan. 5.

We hope you have a most blessed Christmas holiday and a Happy New Year as well.

WESTWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
We at Westway Baptist Church welcome one and all to join our services.

We are a country church that still believes in and preaches God's Holy Word.

Come grow with us! Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship begins at 11 a.m. Sunday Evening at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday Craft Class 6:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening 7 p.m. Ray Sanders is the pastor and Ronny Sanders is the song leader.

COMMUNITY CHURCH
Pastor Dorman Duggan and the church congregation would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone to come and worship with them Sunday morning.

Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. and the morning worship service starts at 10:30. A nursery is provided.

The Ladies Prayer Group meets on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

The Wednesday schedule includes children's church, youth groups, and prayer time, all beginning at 7 p.m. For more information or if you need prayer, call 364-8866 or 364-2423.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Rev. Taylor and congregation would like to take this time to wish you a Happy Holiday. We welcome you to join us at 10:30 a.m. Sunday to share in praise and worship and the word of God. Pastor Ted's sermon will be "Where is Jesus?" from Luke 2:8-20.

There will be no Sunday School this Sunday or Dec. 31. We will resume classes on Jan. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

There will be no Children's Church this Sunday or Dec. 31. There will be no Wednesday night Kid Venture on Dec. 27 or Jan. 3. We will resume on Jan. 10.

Susie Merrick's Bible study class will dismiss for the holidays and resume on Jan. 9.

There will be no Day Care on Dec. 27 or 29, or Jan. 3 or 5. We will resume on Jan. 10.

Don't miss our Missions Revival with Harmon Schmelzenbach, Jan. 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. and Jan. 7 at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The deposit for the upcoming Teen Ski Trip is due Jan. 2.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ will be celebrated at St. Thomas' with a Festival Holy Eucharist at 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The title of the sermon by The Very Rev. Charles A. Wilson is "Jesus, the Reason for..." Our regular Sunday service schedule resumes on Dec. 31, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, with the Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m.

There is no Christian Education on Dec. 24 and 31. Christian Education for all ages resumes at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 7. The Adult Class, which is having a four part series on Before Death Happens, will continue with Part 3, "Making Practical Choices."

The regular Wednesday Public Service of Healing is at 7 p.m. with the Litany of Healing, the Laying-on-of-Hands with Holy Unction, and Holy Communion. The proper collect, psalm and readings will be for St. John, Apostle and Evangelist.

Intercessory prayer requests from the community are most welcome. To have them included in the Prayers of the People at all services, please call 364-0146 and leave a message. In case of emergency, or to make appointments for personal conferences, please call Father Wilson in Amarillo at 353-1734.

SUMMERFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

Summerfield Baptist Church will host a pot luck luncheon at noon

Sunday after the morning worship service.

Everyone is welcome. The evening service will be canceled.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Dancing on Christmas Candlelight" will be the title of Dr. Ed Williamson's sermon at the Sunday morning service. The scripture will be taken from John 1:1-18. The Sanctuary Choir will sing "Christmas Choral Fantasy" for the anthem and Betty Wolle and the Sanctuary Choir will sing "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion" for the offertory. Dr. Williamson and the congregation of FUMC invite you to attend Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship at 10:45.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service will be Sunday at 7 p.m. Dr. Williamson's message will be "The Silver Coin for Jesus" and the scripture will be taken from Luke 2:1-20. The Sunshine and Carol Choirs will sing "He Shall Feed His Flock." We encourage everyone to be a part of this traditional service of candlelight and communion on Christmas Eve.

COUNTRY ROAD CHURCH OF GOD

401 Country Club Drive
Pastor Woody Wiggins and the church congregation invite the public to attend all services and activities at the church.

The winter schedule of services is being followed.

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and the Sunday worship services are held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Services are conducted at 6 p.m. each Wednesday. Thursday night prayer service begins at 6 p.m.

Ladies ministry is the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 9 a.m.

A nursery is available. Pastor Wiggins said, "If you are needing a place to worship, come be with us. We are here for those who are hurting."

Our 24 hour information and prayer line is 364-5390.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

If you are interested in an exercise class, to begin in January on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 5-6 p.m., call Cookie Tarr at 364-4243.

Weight Down orientation (third session) is Dec. 28 at 7 p.m. in the Antonian Room. Classes begin Jan. 11 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. (lasting 12 weeks). Call Karla Vasek at 364-6254 for more information.

New Year's Eve liturgy is at 6 p.m.

New Year's Day liturgy is at 10 a.m.

GOOD NEWS CHURCH

400 N. 25 Mile Ave. Sugarland Mall
Pastor David Alvarado and the Good News congregation invite you to come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us in the spirit of love.

Come and experience the goodness of God and his power.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. and Wednesday services are at 7 p.m.

If you have any questions or you need prayer, please call Pastor David Alvarado at 364-5239. God bless you.

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

This Sunday we will have a short Christmas communion service at 10:30 a.m. Doug Manning will lead the service. There will not be a 9:30 a.m. class.

Please join us for this special worship service.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD

"The Innkeeper" will be the title of Pastor Gaston's Sunday morning message at 10:45. The service will conclude with the sharing of the Lord's Supper. There will be no evening service so that members may spend Christmas Eve with their families.

Rev. Jackie Thompson will be the featured speaker for the mid-week service on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

The staff and congregation of First Assembly of God Church want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY CHURCH

Pastor Don Cherry and the church congregation invite the public to attend all services at the church located on S. Main St.

We have dismissed Sunday school for the time being and changed our Sunday morning worship service time to 10:30. The Sunday evening service will remain the same (6 p.m.) as will the Wednesday night service at 7.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and the Sunday worship services are held at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Pastor Ed Warren and the church congregation invite the public to all services at the church located on S. Hwy. 385 and Columbia St.

For additional information, call 364-3487.

Danes believe leaving cookies takes spirit away

By The Associated Press
The reason there are so many Danish cookies in the world at Christmastime is that if visitors to the house during the holidays leave without tasting them, they will carry the Christmas spirit away. Or so the Danes believe.

Decrease your risks by making your own highly spiced versions. No two Danish cooks use exactly the same recipes or the same amount of spice, but these recipes will give you a point of departure. They make huge batches of cookies, to help you get through the holidays:

PEPPERNUTS (Pebernodder)
1 cup corn syrup
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup sweet butter
3-1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon cinnamon
grated rind of 1 lemon
pinch of baking soda

Boil syrup, butter and sugar in a saucepan. When cool, sift in dry ingredients. Dough must be allowed to stand for 48 hours, preferably in a warm place. Knead dough again and roll out to 1/2-inch thickness. Cut into

small pieces and form into balls. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake in moderate oven (350 degrees F) 5 to 7 minutes, or until light brown. Makes 400.

BROWN CAKES (Brune Kager)
1/2 cup dark corn syrup
5 tablespoons dark brown sugar
4 tablespoons sweet butter
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1-1/2 cups flour
1 teaspoon ground cloves
1-1/4 teaspoons ground cardamom
1-1/4 teaspoons grated lemon peel
3 ounces almonds

Heat syrup, sugar and butter in a saucepan until sugar is dissolved. Cool. Sift baking soda, flour and

ground cloves together into a large bowl. Add cardamom, grated lemon peel, then the lukewarm syrup mixture, and knead well for about 5 to 10 minutes, until the dough is smooth and shiny. Wrap in waxed paper and store in cool place for 2 hours or more.

Roll out very thin on a lightly floured surface, then cut into round shapes with a wineglass, or into diamonds, squares, shapes of little men, women, hearts, etc., with cutters or a knife. Lay out cookies about an inch apart on a greased baking sheet, then press an almond into the center of each. Bake in a 400-degree F oven for 5 to 6 minutes, until they are light gold. Let them cool on the baking sheet. Makes about 72.

Hints from Heloise

SOUND OFF
Dear Heloise: I enjoy going to garage sales, but I get annoyed when I wait until the advertised time and find out they opened two hours early.

Some people make it a point to go earlier than the appointed time to garage sales. That way, they can purchase the best items before the sale starts.

This makes it difficult for those of us who wait until the advertised time to find good items as they have already been gone through by the

"early birds." — Louise Steger, Atlanta, Tex.

Your complaint is a valid one. I'd be delighted to print the solution for you. Readers, what's your input?

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Santa's history, future unknown; it's now that counts

Legend began with St. Nicholas of Myra, enhanced by American poet's classic

By GREG HASSEL
Houston Chronicle
HOUSTON - Only two things are unknown about Santa Claus - his past and his future.

Scholars trace his origins to St. Nicholas of Myra. According to legend, the bishop gave generously to children and the needy. Once, he helped the daughters of an impoverished nobleman by throwing money down the chimney of their home. Some believe the gold nestled in stockings as they hung by the fire to dry.

There's only one problem with these accounts. No historical record of Nicholas exists. But that didn't stop his canonization, nor his emergence as one of the most popular saints. Thousands of churches have been named in his honor. When the Dutch first arrived in Manhattan, they erected a statue of St. Nicholas to thank him for their safe journey.

As Santa moved through the centuries, he evolved considerably. Europeans and Russians observed his birthday - Dec. 6 - by giving gifts. That practice was later incorporated

into the celebration of Christmas. Somebody, probably the Scandinavians, gave him reindeer and a sleigh.

Americans began contributing to his legend in the 19th century. Clement Moore called him "chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf" in his poem, "Twas the Night Before Christmas," penned in 1822. When Thomas Nast drew Santa for the cover of Harper's Weekly in 1863, he also gave him white hair, a long beard, a round figure and a jolly disposition. A Boston printer named Louis Prang introduced a Christmas

card in 1886 that portrayed Santa in a red suit.

By the 1930s, Americans had standardized the production of automobiles and other manufactured products. Now it was time to standardize Santa. The job fell to a Chicago artist the Coca-Cola Co. hired to create a Christmas advertising campaign. Using as his model a retired salesman named Lou Prentice, Haddon Sundblom created a new archetype for Santa Claus.

"Before Sundblom, the interpretation of Santa Claus was all over the place," said Coca-Cola archivist Phil Mooney. "Sometimes he was an elf. Sometimes he was larger than life. Sometimes he wasn't such a happy guy. He doled out presents because that was his job."

But America needed a hearty symbol of happy consumerism, and Haddon Sundblom gave it to us. The now-famous Sundblom Santa is no fairy-tale pixie. He looks like a kindly uncle who enjoys his work. He raids the refrigerator and takes time to play with the family pooch.

"Santa became a real flesh-and-blood guy," Mooney said. "His human qualities made him a better symbol of love and kindness and giving."

Because giving Christmas gifts often means buying, Santa's been an ideal pitchman for all sorts of stuff. But the endless use of Santa as a salesman has threatened to trivialize him. How can he be a symbol of

kindness and a tireless skill for this year's hot product?

Luckily for us, Santa's still evolving. Walk into the Northline Mall sometime and visit him enthroned there. He's a little different than Sundblom or Nast portrayed him. He's black, and the people there love him.

"Every day we get calls asking us if we have a black Santa," said Rosalind Moore, marketing director at Northline, where half the customers are African American. "If you are black, it's easier for you to relate to a black Santa."

At the Gulfgate Mall, where two-thirds of the customers are Hispanic, one of the Santas is a Hispanic man who speaks fluent Spanish. Northline also employs a Hispanic Santa.

"When I was a kid, Santa was always white. I remember visiting him for the first time, and I was really scared," said Fernando Gonzales, who portrays Santa at Gulfgate. "It

would have helped if he could have said 'Hola' to me."

One little girl recently refused to sit on Santa's lap until Gonzales calmed her with a few kind words in Spanish.

"Kids hear that and say, 'Wow! Santa speaks Spanish,'" Gonzales said. "And little white and black kids don't mind if I'm Hispanic. I'm still Santa to them."

Because Santa's image isn't fixed in stone, he's more resilient. If he ever became too static, he'd become a cartoon character, losing some of the qualities Sundblom gave him 64 years ago. If he continues to change a little, as all living things must, maybe Santa can pitch all these products and remain a vibrant symbol of what Christmas really means.

So the next time you see a Santa who looks a little different, try to smile and give him a wave, no matter how old you are. You might even try telling him gracias.

Traditions of Christmas descended in varied forms for today's holiday

By CYNTHIA PUCKETT
Amarillo Globe-News
AMARILLO, Texas - Oh, Christmas Tree. When you put one of the glorious evergreens, adorned with large red balls and tinsel, in your living room, you are honoring centuries of tradition.

The forerunner of today's Christmas tree was the Paradise Tree. In Medieval times, Dec. 24 was recognized as Adam and Eve Day. Churches would hold pageants acting out the story of Adam and Eve and the couple's subsequent fall from grace. The main stage prop was the Paradise Tree, decorated with large red apples to depict the forbidden fruit the first couple ate.

Medieval families began erecting their own Paradise trees at home and began adding communion wafers to symbolize the body of Christ. The wafers eventually were replaced with cookies, such as the gingerbread cookies used on Christmas trees today.

But long before the Paradise Tree, others were using trees to celebrate the anticipated end of winter. For Egyptians, placing green palm branches in their homes on the shortest day of the year symbolized life's triumph over death.

Romans decorated evergreens in their homes with toys and trinkets during Saturnalia, a winter festival in honor of their god of agriculture. Druid priests decorated oak trees with gilded apples for their winter solstice festivities, historians say.

As these various nations accepted the Christian religion, they continued their winter traditions, but changed their meanings to honor Christ. The evergreen trees today signify Christ bringing new life to the world after the long, dark days of winter.

Christmas trees topped with stars or angels depict the night of Christ's birth, where heavenly hosts and a star in the East guided shepherds and wise men to the manger.

Another popular type of decorating material is straw, such as tree ornaments, wreaths or sheaths made of the natural substance.

Straw decorations have evolved from a Finnish custom of spreading straw on the floor Christmas Day, symbolizing the stable and manger where Jesus lay. Before Christians adopted the custom, pagans in Slavic countries spread straw on their floors to ensure a good crop the next summer.

Another custom is to adorn a tree, mantle, doorway or table with an opulent array of fruits and flowers. This practice commemorates the Christmas legend that says that on the night of Christ's birth, all the trees and plants of the Earth bloomed and bore fruit.

What tree is complete without silvery tinsel? The tinsel custom could have originated from the legend of the poor widow who worked hard to support her many children. The woman worked all day on Christmas Eve to get food for her small ones, but had no gifts to give them. Although she was tired after a day of hard labor, the woman decided her children would at least have a Christmas tree to enjoy while she recited the Christmas story and reminded them of the true meaning of Christmas.

She went to the woods nearby and

No guest is so welcome in a friend's house that he will not become a nuisance after three days.

—Titus Maccius Plautus

felled a small fir tree. She gathered nuts, fruits, berries, scraps of paper and whatever else she could find to adorn the tree. Exhausted, she fell asleep. While she was sleeping, spiders worked on the tree, covering it entirely with their beautiful webs. As a reward for the woman's good will, God looked down on her tree and turned the webs into silver.

Lights on trees may be a combination of Roman and Hebrew customs. Romans placed candles on trees to celebrate the sun's return to the earth. Jewish people celebrate an annual Feast of Lights commemorating their victory for religious freedom. Christians now refer to Christ as the Light of the World and adorn their Christmas trees and homes with electric lights or candles.

Another popular custom is to place luminaria along a path leading to a doorway, especially on nights when there's a party inside.

Luminarias are customarily paper bags weighted down with sand and lighted with a small, votive candle inside. The custom has deep religious roots, and apparently originated in the U.S. Southwest, where natives learned of Christianity from the conquering Spaniards.

The people would set bundles of branches ablaze along roads and pathways in case Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus should once again be wandering about on a cold-winter night seeking shelter. The luminaria would guide them to a welcoming home.

Holly, with its green leaves and small red berries, has been used for centuries as a winter decoration. At Christian festivals, a circle of holly symbolizes



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Christ's crown of thorns. Because the plant bears fruit in winter, it also symbolizes the immortality he offers his followers.

No one knows who had the first Christmas tree in the United States, but some believe German settlers brought the custom with them to the New World, others say the first was set up here by Hessians, Germans who were hired by the British to fight against Americans during the Revolutionary War.

Distributed by The Associated Press

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Sports

Rampley's free throws allow sweep of Friona

By JAY FEEDEN
Sports Editor

Julie Rampley hit two free throws with 26 seconds left, breaking a tie game and tying a pretty ribbon around a Hereford sweep of Friona Thursday night in Whiteface Gym.

Rampley hit another free throw moments later - and grabbed two big rebounds in the final minute - to give the Hereford girls a 47-44 win.

The Hereford boys' last-minute heroics came in the last minutes of the first quarter, when a 10-2 run launched the Herd towards a 74-41 blowout.

Players from both Herd teams break for Christmas with visions of successful seasons dancing in their heads: the girls improved to 12-2, while the boys got on the winning side of .500 at 8-7 - that after a 0-5 start.

The Lady Whitefaces led the Squaws from the moment Catic Betzen's three-pointer made it 5-2 to the time Friona's Courtney Carthel hit two free throws to tie the game at 44-44 with exactly one minute left. Friona had outscored Hereford 9-1 over the previous two minutes to close the gap.

After a timeout with 30 seconds left, Brittney Binder inbounded the ball to Rampley, and no Squaw defended her: she drove to the hoop and was fouled. She swished both her foul shots for a 46-44 lead.

After a Friona miss on the other end, Rampley grabbed the rebound. She was fouled and hit one-of-two free throws. The sophomore even grabbed a rebound when a Friona three-point attempt bounced off the rim with two seconds remaining.

"She hit three out her last four," Herd coach Eddie Fortenberry said. "That's a lot of pressure. She came through for us. All she could do on the bench is smile. She's been in pressure situations before, but it's still not easy."

Hereford took the lead early, finishing the first quarter with a 9-2 run for a 14-6 lead. The squaws wouldn't go away, though, and Hereford couldn't put them away.

Hereford led 21-19 at halftime and 34-31 after three quarters.

"We're struggling right now, but we're playing hard" Fortenberry said. "Offensively, we're struggling. It's

been hard for us to pull away from anybody lately. We're playing hard though. I've told the kids, to work their way through this slump we're in, they've got to play hard.

"It's always good to win the close ones; that's always a confidence-builder," Fortenberry said. "Whether it should have been close or not is irrelevant."

The boys' game wasn't close. Hereford's Brian Torres completed a three-point play for a 9-8 lead, then Cory Schumacher's three-pointer beat the first quarter buzzer for a 16-10 Herd lead.

That was only the beginning; the Herd had a 13-0 run in the second

quarter and a 12-0 run in the third as Friona was outscored 26-10 and 16-8, respectively, in those quarters.

Hereford led 44-20 at halftime, 60-28 after the third quarter.

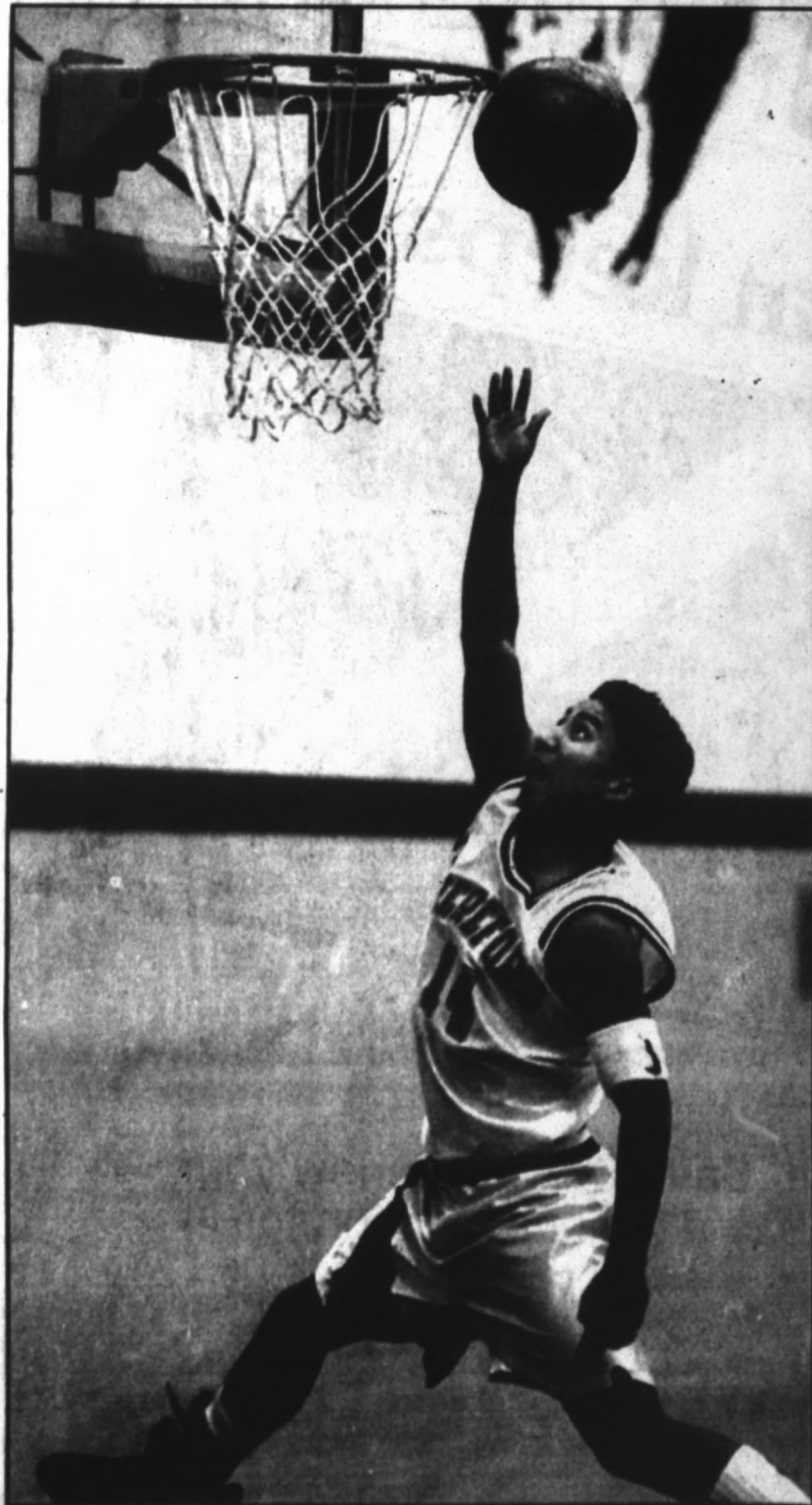
"We shot the ball extremely well

(See HOOPS, Page 7)



Everybody wave

Hereford's Julie Rampley (30) gets a pass off through a flurry of Friona hands, belonging to (from left) Britny White, Kristi Meyer and Jamie Stokes. Rampley's last minute free throws helped the Herd girls to a 47-44 victory over the Squaws Thursday night in Whiteface Gym.



Up, up and away
Hereford's Ronald Torres leaps for a layup during Hereford's 74-41 blowout of Friona Thursday night in Whiteface Gym.

Hereford spikers put four on writers' all-state teams

Hereford accounted for half of the girls selected for the Class 4A first-team all-state volleyball team by the Texas Sports Writers Association.

Junior Danielle Cornelius and seniors Heather Hodges and Brittney Binder, all of Hereford, were three of the six girls on the first team. Additionally, Hereford senior Tarabeth Holmes gained honorable mention.

"It's such an example of how team-oriented this team was," Herd volleyball coach Brenda Reeh said. "We never had one individual who

was too far above the rest. Every one of the players would credit their success to the chemistry within team. All those kids are extremely deserving, and I'm thrilled for them."

The Lady Whitefaces compiled a (See SPIKERS, Page 7)

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Gimme five

Hereford coach Key Harrison (on ground) reaches for basketball but gets only Chayse Rives' hand. Thursday was the last day of school before Christmas, and a team of Hereford Junior High coaches and teachers played an all-star team of seventh and eighth graders - the coaches won 58-55. Eric McNutt looks on from the background.

Two Tech players suspended

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) - Two players charged with felonies and suspended from the Texas Tech football team will not be making the trip today to Tucson for the Copper

Bowl. Defensive back Corey Turner, 20, and wide receiver Ronnie Burns, 20, were charged Thursday with assault on a police officer.

SPIKERS

29-4 record, won their first-ever District 1-4A championship, and advanced the state championship match, where they lost to Red Oak.

Oddly, while the all-state lists, which were announced late Thursday, included many players from state champions in other classifications - Round Top-Carmine in Class 1A, Poth in 2A, Bellville in 3A and Duncanville in 5A - Red Oak didn't place a single player.

- Class 4A**
First Team
 Danielle Corneilus, 5-10, MB, Jr., Hereford; Amy Underwood, 6-0, MH, Sr., Hallsville; Heather Hodges, 5-9, OH, Sr., Hereford; Patrice Fuller, 5-7, OH, Sr., Little Cypress-Mauriceville; Robkah Kelly, 5-9, Setter, Sr., Rockwall; Brittney Binder, 5-7, Setter, Sr., Hereford.
Second Team
 Holly Littrell, 5-7, Setter, Sr., Mesquite Poteet; Paige Smith, 5-11, MB, Sr., Brownwood; Ashley Stephens, 5-11, OH, Sr., San Angelo Lake View; Jennifer Klein, 5-9, OH, Sr., Rockwall; Brandi McCain, 5-7, Setter, So., Silsbee; Rachel Gunn, 5-8, OH, Sr., Bridge City.
Honorable Mention
 Tarabeth Holmes, Hereford; Melanie Standridge, Rockwall; Caressa Conques, SA Samuel Clemens; Cheri Beckett, SA Samuel Clemens; Erin Knight, Hallsville; Nicole McCray, Longview Pine Tree; Nickki Carter, Canyon; Natalie Irvin, San Angelo Lake View; Jane Wray, Mesquite Poteet; Jennifer Bramblett, Bridge City; Sara Roegelien, Boerne; Leah Johnson, Monahans; Misty

- Mayhill, Monahans; Jennifer Jasso, Monahans; Sandy Renfro, Silsbee.
Class 1A
First Team
 Heidi Finke, 5-7, OH, Jr., Round Top-Carmine; Lara Conrady, 5-8, Setter, Sr., Windhorst; Amelia Waak, 5-5, Setter, So., Round Top-Carmine; Gretchen Goebel, 5-10, OH, Jr., Round Top-Carmine; Amber Stewart, 5-5, OH, Sr., Windhorst; Holly Turnbough, 5-11, MB, Sr., Fort Davis; Tika Martinez, 6-0, MH, Sr., Fort Davis.
Class 2A
First Team
 Jimmie Jo Conn, 5-5, Setter, Jr., Poth; Leslie Kopecki, 5-9, OH, Jr., Poth; Kim Smith, 5-7, OH, Sr., Jewett; Leon Jody Finley, 5-10, OH, Sr., Bloomington; Cindy Hinojosa, 5-6, Setter, Sr., Freer; Cynthia Craig, 5-7, Setter, Jr., Johnson City; Lilly Ortiz, 5-8, OH, Sr., Freer.
Class 3A
First Team
 Amanda Smitheal, 5-9, Setter, Jr., Bellville; Laurie Luhn, 5-9, OH, Sr., Bellville; Sharon Lister, 5-10, MB, Sr., Alpine; Nathana Janca, 5-10, OH, Jr., Sealy; Molly Schur, 5-10, OH, Sr., Vernon; Kim Lane, 5-11, MB, Sr., Springtown.
Class 5A
First Team
 Katie Grieve, 5-9, OH, Sr., Arlington Martin; Sarah Butler, 5-10, OH, Sr., Amarillo; Keshia Wade, 5-9, OH, Sr., Duncanville; Leslie Olson, 5-6, Setter, Sr., Houston Cypress-Fairbanks; Tamika Catchings, 6-1, MB, Jr., Duncanville; Annie Gant, 5-7, OH, Sr., Arlington Martin.
 (Second team includes Brooke Longanecker, 5-7, Setter, Sr., Amarillo High; honorable mention selections include Carrie Walters and Terri Walters of Palo Duro.

HOOPS

in the second quarter." Herd coach Randy Dean said. "When we shoot the ball like that, it looks like a pretty easy game."

The press keyed the blowouts in the middle two quarters.

"Our defensive pressure wasn't always exactly the way we want it to be, but it certainly took its toll on them," Dean said. "I thought our intensity let down a little bit in the second half, but we still did some real nice things. We had some good assists, nice individual plays, and we executed some half-court set plays real well."

HERD SCORING

Boys: Brian Torres, 13; Michael High, 10; Johnathan Keenan, 9; Ronald Torres, 8; Isaac Walker, 8; Cory Schumacher, 7; Nicholas Tarr, 7; Bryant McNutt, 7; C.J. Kubacak, 3; Todd Dudley, 2.

Girls: Catie Betzen, 8; Misti Davis, 7; Tarabeth Holmes, 7; Minda Davis, 6; Julie Cole, 6; Julie Rampley, 6; Brittney Binder, 5; Heather Hodges, 2.

Hereford's junior varsity teams made it a four-game sweep with a pair of easy victories over Friona's JV teams.

The Hereford boys rolled to a 61-43 win, outscoring Friona 17-4 in the third quarter. Dustin Hill led Hereford with 22 points, while Curt Sherrod added

11 and Anthony Lopez had nine. The Herd JV girls outscored Friona in every quarter but the third and won 41-27. Makesha Rives scored 10 points and Christina Kuper chipped in nine.

The Lady Whitefaces weren't at full strength on Thursday - not to mention the cheerleading squad.

A pair of Hereford High School cheerleaders - Amy Andrews and basketball team member Kari Barrett - were in Hawaii.

Both earned the All-America designation by the National Cheerleader Association, also earning the chance to be on the sideline at the Aloha Bowl. The Christmas day game between Kansas and UCLA will be televised by ABC (Hereford Cablevision Channel 7) starting at 2:30 p.m.

With Crystal Mercer playing in the girls' game Thursday night, Cassie Abney was the only varsity cheerleader at court-side for the girls' game. She was assisted by four junior varsity cheerleaders.

The Players of the Week for the boys' basketball team are Isaac Walker on offense and Johnathan Keenan on defense.

The whole team was picked for the academic award, as all players passed in the most recent grading period.

The Fans of the Week are Leroy and Alice Burgess.

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295 Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Chronicles Chap. 24 and II Kings Chap. 12 consolidated

ZECHARIAH A YOUNG PROPHET
ZECHARIAH HAD BEEN STONED TO DEATH WITH KING JOASH'S APPROVAL, BUT, WITH HIS DYING BREATH, THE YOUNG PROPHET HAD WARNED THE KING THAT THE LORD WILL PUNISH HIM, AND NOW....

...IF KING JOASH IS WORRIED AT ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY, HE SHOWS NO SIGN OF IT, BUT....

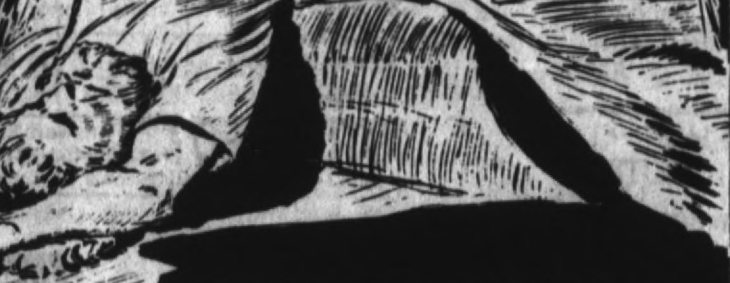
...WITHIN A SHORT TIME, THE ARMY OF KING JOASH IS DEFEATED BY A MUCH SMALLER SYRIAN ARMY - A SURE SIGN THE LORD HAS TURNED AGAINST ISRAEL....



...AND LYING DEAD ON THE FIELD, AFTER THE BATTLE, ARE THE BODIES OF THE PRINCES WHO CONSPIRED AGAINST ZECHARIAH, AND KING JOASH, HIMSELF, SORELY....



...WOUNDED IN THE BATTLE, IS SOUGHT OUT AT NIGHT AND MURDERED IN HIS OWN BED BY MEMBERS OF HIS HOUSEHOLD! THIS ZECHARIAH'S PROPHECY IS CARRIED OUT TO ITS LAST AND FINAL WORD - ALL OF WHICH HAS BEEN RECORDED IN I CHRON. CHAP. 24, AND II KINGS - CHAP. 12



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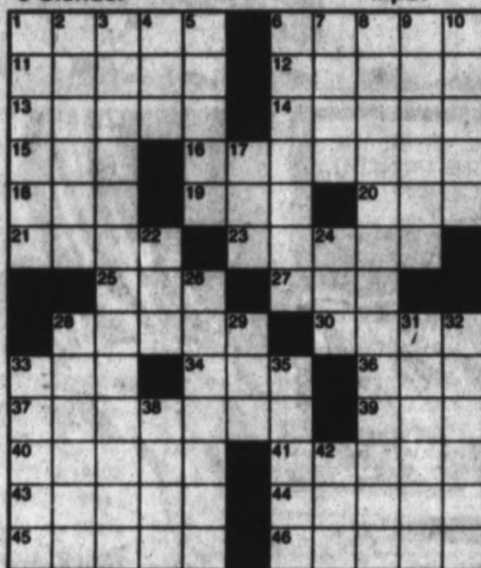
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24 Deep groove
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Texas business leaders' wishes aim at hopes for others and themselves

By LESLI HICKS
San Antonio Express-News
Texas business leaders are the ones checking their holiday wish lists twice this year.

Their letters to Santa are plum-full of requests for items as elusive as a balanced U.S. budget to the more attainable, such as books on leadership.

"You know what I want for the New Year more than anything in the world?" asked Ginger Purdy, a founder of the Women's Chamber of Commerce in San Antonio.

"I want the small group of white anglo males who run this town to really mean it when they say they're going to include women in decision-making areas, not just pay us lip service," she said.

On a lighter note, Purdy wishes for "more time to play with my grandchildren. That is pure joy."

Bianca Rhodes, chief financial officer of Kinetic Concepts Inc. in San Antonio, wishes for profits, both visceral and bottom-line.

"I would wish for a spiritual awakening for our country," she said, adding that she also hopes "everyone in the world who needs KCI's

therapies would have access to them."

Finally, she not-so-secretly wishes Bill and Hillary Clinton would attend "Healthcare Reform School" and that she'll soon get a week's vacation not in New Jersey.

Gulf Coast holiday wish lists are similarly spiced with silliness and seriousness.

"What I want most for Christmas is a ranch in tranquil South Texas that is simply covered with Christmas trees the kind for drilling oil, that is," said Jill Cloud, treasurer and chief information officer for Hollywood Marine Inc., a canal-barge shipping transportation company in Houston.

"I also want America to become a safer place, especially for senior citizens and our children, where we can freely enjoy the beautiful things that our city has to offer, with no fear or harm," she added.

Herb Kelleher, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Dallas-based Southwest Airlines Inc., wishes for a month-long Christmas party.

"So I can get better acquainted with the 4,329 employees we've hired this year," he said. That brings the

carrier's total payroll to more than 20,500 people.

Kelleher, who is known for knowing employees on a first-name basis, has another dream for two of his kids who are awaiting the birth of children.

He wishes for "a healthy child for my son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Lisa, and a quiet child for my daughter and son-in-law, Ruth and John."

Dane Harris, president of the Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce in Austin, deigns to wish for a balanced U.S. budget.

"I think that would restore some financial integrity to the government and create some new economic opportunity for individuals and Texas and the nation," Harris said.

He also wants "a little more free time to spend with the family over the holidays."

He has a wife, four grown sons, two daughters-in-law and one grandson.

Lou Miller, chairman of the 55-member African American Chamber of Commerce, wishes for "independent multicultural marketing

for tourists and conventions for this city."

His personal wish is to be the "best golfer that South Texas has ever seen."

Right now, he typically shoots an 83.

Leo Gomez, president of the San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, last year wished for more members and a pair of size 8-D ostrich cowboy boots.

He got both.

His wife gave him the boots last Christmas and membership is up to 1,200.

So what does he want this year? "I would love to have a timing service for Manual Leo (his four-month-old son) that tells him he can't wake up yet," Gomez said.

It seems the infant thinks 4:30 a.m. is a good wake-up time, rather than the usual 5 a.m.

As for a work-related wish, Gomez wants two things: more time to read, and a book called "Prelude to Leadership," based on JFK's 1945 European diary.

"I really love reading, and I love books on leadership," Gomez said.

Texas family converts landscape for holiday

By LOUISE POPPLEWELL
The Victoria Advocate

BEEVILLE - First came the mountain and then seasonal decorations which have become a Gray family tradition since the first scene of a man and a huge, round bale of hay went up for Halloween in 1991.

Traveling state Highway 202 between Beeville and Refugio, a stranger might be surprised to see an eight-foot bunny or turkey, in the proper season, perched high up on the 30-foot manmade mountain.

People who travel the road frequently are not surprised. They have come to expect the art work of Joyce and Norman Gray, their four children and their spouses, and seven grandchildren.

The mountain has been there a long time.

"Because we love Colorado and we love the mountains, one year my husband said 'I'll just build us our own little mountain,'" Joyce Gray said.

And he did, using dirt dug out for ponds. The final touch was to add two pine trees ... or so they thought.

Then the idea came to add the huge, round bale of hay and a man.

That went up on a smaller hill near the highway. When that scene disappeared - mysteriously on the night of the Refugio High School bonfire - and then a second one vanished, the Grays were disillusioned. So the next holiday they commemorated with larger figures on a taller hill and put a spotlight on it.

Joyce remembers that first effort with affection. The man was dressed in new boots that pinched Norman's toes and an old, old ragged pair of jeans. People teased; "Norman, those must be your jeans ... they look just like you," Joyce remembers with a chuckle.

During the year, the holidays they celebrate are Easter, the Fourth of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. But between holidays, Norman tries to provide some kind of entertainment for motorists. Just recently, the hill was affluted with decorative flags.

"If there is nothing up there, people will stop and ask us why not," Joyce said. "It has gotten to be quite

a tradition. We enjoy it so much and the people and kids of the area do too." While some of the scenes are not lit, the Christmas one will be.

This year's display is an eight-foot Santa waving to passersby and a four-foot toy bag, and all sizes and shapes of colorful toys tumbling down the mountainside.

The main figures are cut from eight-foot sheets of plywood, hence the eight-foot everything. Toys, Joyce explained, come into being when Norman and son-in-law Kevin Shreckengost twirl a scrap piece of plywood around until something appears.

One of the men might exclaim, "Oh, look this has become a sailboat."

Joyce said everyone helps decide what will go up. The men do the sawing, and she the painting.

Norman Gray might go to bed thinking all the work is done, only to get up the next morning and find Joyce has painted over everything during the night and started over.

"I'm very, very picky about what goes up there," she explained.

Each season sees new additions to last year's scene and each season brings a lot of new visitors from far and near. And there is a lot of picture taking.

Joyce remembers opening a big-city newspaper one day and seeing a bunny. "My, that looks familiar," she thought before realizing it was hers.

The mountain has become a familiar landmark. When people ask directions, Joyce will tell them to stay on the highway until they see an eight-foot witch or whatever is there at the time.

The frequent response, she said is, "Oh. We know where that is." Joyce said putting up and taking down the decorations is a lot of work and time consuming, but "It's a very interesting thing to do."

The Grays' mountain, which is slowly evolving into several mountains, is on state Highway 202, 12 miles west of Refugio and 20 miles east of Beeville, in Bee County.

Distributed by The Associated Press

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.

12-22 CRYPTOQUOTES

SGVD Z YZEA VQUND
LGPZCDWVC ZC DGDV HUN
LVO WVEA XAUXYA RUPFAD
DGA XVCD SZDG DGA

XPACAOD - MUO WVPNTZC
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: OH, FOR THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN PEOPLE WOULD STOP CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WHEN THEY RAN OUT OF MONEY!—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

'Twas the night before Christmas when all through the house Not a creature was stirring—not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.
—Clement Clarke Moore

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Success of first year in governor's office drives Bush's popularity in state higher

By MICHAEL HOLMES
Associated Press Writer
AUSTIN (AP) - After a year in the state's top job, George W. Bush is one happy guy. And why not?

With help from the Legislature, the new governor saw his four key campaign promises fulfilled. State taxes didn't go up. And polls show that his personal popularity remains high.

The Texas Rangers didn't make it to the World Series, but hey, Bush had to give up his job as managing partner of the baseball team when he took office.

"I like it, a lot," Bush said in an interview. "There's something very gratifying in being able to do what you say you're going to do in a real visible position. And we did."

So what's a governor do for an encore? This one wants to tackle tax reform.

"The experts will tell you, and I agree, that tax policy is always a treacherous situation in the Legislature. That doesn't deter me," he said.

During his 1994 campaign against the popular Democrat, Ann Richards, Bush focused on four key issues. He never stopped talking about decon-

trolling education, reforming welfare, toughening juvenile justice laws, overhauling the civil justice system.

He kept on talking right through his inauguration and his first 140-day legislative session.

All four passed. Lawmakers ratified Bush's proposal for "home rule education districts" to give local districts the option of shedding much state control.

They passed a series of tort reform bills, limiting punitive damages and taking other measures to end what Bush saw as injustices in a growing mountain of civil lawsuits.

The Legislature enacted a package of welfare changes, including requirements that recipients work, get education or job training to obtain benefits.

And lawmakers approved building a larger juvenile detention system, increased sentences for violent youths and boosted funding for community-based programs to deter youthful offenders.

The Republican governor is generous in sharing credit with legislative leaders, particularly Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and House Speaker

Pete Lancy. Both are Democrats; both have long Capitol experience.

"I think they heard what Texans said (in the election), and being good public servants, they listened," Bush said.

"I don't think there was a single moment when we sat down and said, 'OK, let's be friends.' There was a concerted effort on all three of our parts to get to know each other better. I like and respect and enjoy the company of Gov. Bullock and Speaker Lancy."

Bush says lawmakers rose above partisanship. Texans, always an independent bunch, appreciate that approach, he believes.

"When I say Texans can run Texas, it doesn't matter whether you're Democrat or Republican, conservative or liberal. Most people absolutely agree with that concept. They say, 'You bet, governor. We sure can do it better.'"

Since lawmakers adjourned, no school district has opted for home rule; federal officials have yet to approve the new welfare program; and many consumer groups object strongly to the tort reforms, saying injured Texans lost their rights.

Bush rejects critics but says his job isn't done until the new laws are working. "My job is really just beginning. It's to execute the will of the Legislature."

Another chore he's assigned himself is changing the state's property-heavy tax system to provide what Bush believes Texans are demanding - school property tax relief.

It's a tall order. Two blue-ribbon task forces have studied the issue in the past decade, and not much changed except for sales and other tax rates to rise. Bush insists that won't happen this time.

First, he said, "I am absolutely convinced we should not have a personal income tax in this state."

Second, any change will be "revenue-neutral," meaning that for every dollar of new tax, school property taxes must drop a dollar.

Third, the plan must be simple, straightforward and understandable.

"If it doesn't meet those criteria, I won't participate," he said.

But he says the goal is worth the effort. "This will be the Property Tax Relief Bill. And that will be fine."

Then what? Might Bush try to become the first Texas governor since the 1970s to be re-elected?

"I'll make my political decisions about running again after the Legislature in 1997," he said emphatically.

Then he grinned. "If I were a betting person, I suspect that my family situation will be such and my level of enthusiasm will be such it will be time to do it again. But I haven't made up my mind. And Texans shouldn't have a governor who's constantly trying figure out if he's going to run for re-election."

Families looking for alternatives to credit card holiday shopping

By LOANA M. GONZALES
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO, Texas - It might be better to give than to receive. But at Christmas time, this mentality can spell financial doom for many shoppers.

Maxed-out credit card bills are not a welcome addition to the new year. But there are ways to spread yuletide generosity to family and friends without drawing money out of your retirement fund.

For Sandra Martin and her family, Christmas means returning to old-fashioned methods of showing others how much you care.

Years ago, when she and her husband of 13 years were still newlyweds, Martin put an end to carefree Christmas shopping sprees that she wound up struggling with for months after the tree had been de-trimmed.

Opposed to getting neck-high in debt during the spending season, she offers some helpful hints to tone down gift-giving.

Martin said she encourages her two children to make and create gifts for the people on their list, such as friends and relatives.

She said this is an especially good idea for keeping out-of-school kids busy when it's too chilly for outside play and the only inside option is cartoon overkill.

Plus, she said, it teaches both the young and old a valuable lesson.

"Kids shouldn't have to worry about their gifts being acceptable," she said. "And adults shouldn't expect expensive presents from children. People know kids don't work."

Martin helps her children come up with gift ideas.

Last year, her 10-year-old son used scissors, poster board, glue and glitter to create custom frames - complete with his picture - for his two grandmothers. He added a magnet on the back of each for refrigerator hanging.

Martin's daughter helped decorate Christmas cookies to give to her kindergarten teacher before school let out for the holidays. The 6-year-old also collected several family photos

to make a picture collage for her father to put in his office.

So, parents can help children tone down shopping expenses. But what about buying for youngsters?

Christine Torres said the adult members in her family usually draw names for Christmas gifts, though the children are not included. Still, she manages to spare some of the expense when shopping for nieces and nephews.

Torres, who has a brother with four children, said group gifts are a good cost-cutting idea. Rather than buy each child something individually, she usually gets the kids a popular board game they can all enjoy.

Drawing names and putting a price limit on gifts is a popular way to go for many families, particularly those with many members.

Vera Burns said she and her family have two separate drawings, one for the adults and one for the teen-agers and children.

She said the adults have a \$20 limit and the kids have a \$5 limit.

"So when we all get together, everyone can feel good knowing they haven't gone broke because of the gifts," Burns said with a laugh.

Burns has four adult children, all of whom have children of their own. She said her family started drawing names about seven years ago when one of her sons suggested it.

"Everyone had to get used to it the first year, especially the little ones," she said. "But I think it's helping them see that Christmas isn't just about getting."

Burns said families who decide to draw names should make sure everyone agrees to abide by the guidelines. That means no buying extras and no going beyond the price limit, she said.

Since they started drawing names, Burns said she and her husband have noticed a gradual shift in focus during Christmas.

"We talk, catch up, watch movies or sports, look at pictures, things like that," she said. "Of course the gift part is still fun, but it's not the main thing anymore."

For the rest of her Christmas gift list, Torres said she prepares long

before December by saving spare change and scratch-off lottery tickets with small prizes. Last year she ended up with about \$500 for Christmas gift expenses.

Torres said anyone who has gotten in debt before can appreciate cost-cutting measures. She added that avoiding bankruptcy during the holidays is a matter of will power. "If you set your mind to it, you can do it," she said. "It works."

As for her list, Martin said she still buys some not-so-inexpensive gifts. But she said her spending habits have improved over the years.


"I really try to find the best price on something I know I'm looking for, and I try to stay away from credit cards and all that interest."

And although Martin said she doesn't have time to make as many gifts as she'd like, she encourages those who can to do so.

"You really shouldn't worry about the cost of a present and you shouldn't feel badly if you give something homemade," she said. "Those gifts show that a lot of time and love went into them."

Distributed by The Associated Press

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Peanut Britts
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Kidd top, 13" full scallop
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BOOTS & SADDLE
Western Wear
Across from Sugarland Mall

Names in the news

RADNOR, Pa. (AP) - Brooke Shields says her romance with Andre Agassi has yet to yield The Big Diamond, and she chalks it up to his personality.

"He's not a gift-jewelry person," Shields said in the Nov. 4 issue of TV Guide. "He'll buy you a car. He'll get your house painted, or you'll come back and your garage will be de-spidered."

But, Shields added, "I wouldn't be giving him this much of myself and making him as important a part

of my day if I didn't think I was going to spend the rest of my life with him."

"But we're not engaged yet." Agassi did recently give Shields a friendship ring with a gold band and a small diamond.


The first proof of a well-ordered mind is to be able to pause and linger within itself.

-Seneca

Mrs. Abalos Restaurant

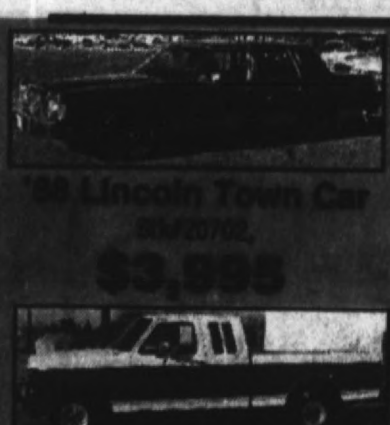
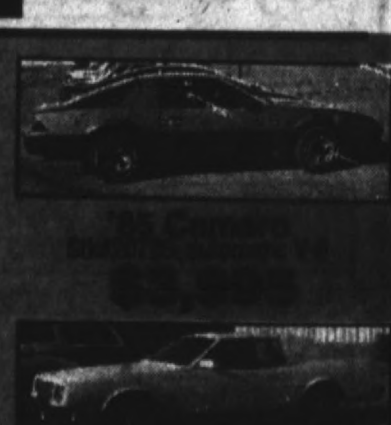
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Feliz Navidad
Paul & Pilar Abalos



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