

# Hereford BRAND

100th Year, Vol. Number 111 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, December 7, 2000

12 Pages, 50 Cents

## 'HUSTLIN' HEREFORD, HOME OF Ollie Mae Walker



**Farewell  
party  
planned**

The public is invited to attend a farewell party for outgoing Deaf Smith County officials — Precinct 1 Commissioner Wayne Betzen (top left), Sheriff Joe Brown and Assessor-Collector Margaret Del Toro (above) from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Friday in Room 200 of the Deaf Smith County Courthouse, 235 E. 3rd.

### Today's weather

## OUTLOOK

### • Partly cloudy skies •

Tonight: Partly cloudy, lows near 30.

Friday: Areas of morning low clouds and fog, otherwise mostly cloudy with a less than 20 percent chance of rain and highs in the lower 40s.

Friday night: Mostly cloudy, lows in the upper 20s.

### • Extended forecast •

Saturday: Partly cloudy, highs around 50.

Sunday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow, lows in the lower 20s, highs around 40.

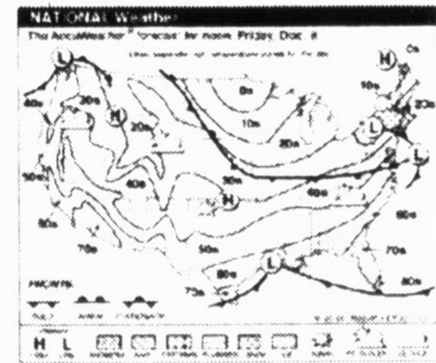
Monday: Cloudy with a chance of snow, lows 15 to 20, highs 20 to 25.

Tuesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow, lows around 5 above, highs 20 to 25.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of snow, lows 5 to 10 above, highs 25 to 30.

### • Hereford weather •

Wednesday's high, 48; low, 30; no precipitation, according to KPAN Radio.



The forecast for Friday shows a storm system over the Northeast will produce rain over southern New England with snow falling inland. A disturbance along the Gulf Coast will dampen the Deep South. Cold conditions are on tap across the Plains despite the sun. It will be mild and dry across the desert Southwest.

### • Cold front moves south across Texas

A cold front crept south through the state on Wednesday, bringing clear skies to West Texas and parts of South Texas. Skies were overcast elsewhere.

The weak front had little effect on temperatures, which ranged from the 40s to the 60s, but produced strong winds of 15 to 25 mph.

Temperatures ranged from 43 degrees near Guadalupe Pass to 54 degrees in El Paso. Highs today should warm into the 60s.

Skies should continue to clear from the north and west today and highs may rise slightly higher to the 60s and 70s before cooling Friday.

Sunny skies in the western parts of North Texas also had little effect on temperatures, which ranged from 46 degrees at Mineral Wells to 51 at Waco.

## As time runs out, Gore makes case

The Associated Press

Al Gore's lawyer pleaded with the Florida Supreme Court this morning to order a new round of manual recounts that could revive the vice president's fading quest for the White House. George W. Bush looked to the state's justices to finally count his rival out.

"I represent the vice president and Senator Lieberman," said David Boies in the opening moments of an hourlong hearing, but that was all he could say before Chief Justice Charles T. Wells cut him off and pressed him to explain why the court should be settling the issue.

The stakes could hardly have been higher as Boies rose to speak one



tumultuous month after Election Day. The vice president is hoping to overturn a trial judge's ruling earlier in the week that refused to order manual recounts, and left unmolested Bush's certified 537-vote margin of victory in the state that stands to

pick the next president.

"Good morning and welcome once again to the Florida Supreme Court," Wells said shortly after he and the six other justices filed into the neoclassical courtroom. That was a passing reference to arguments little more than two weeks ago in the same place.

"Now is the last chance for a legal judgment to be rendered in this case," Gore's lawyers argued in papers filed Wednesday on the eve of formal arguments.

That was fine with Bush, certified the winner in Florida by 537 votes and eagerly looking forward to a presidential transition and inauguration. "It seems like all the different court suits are working their way to

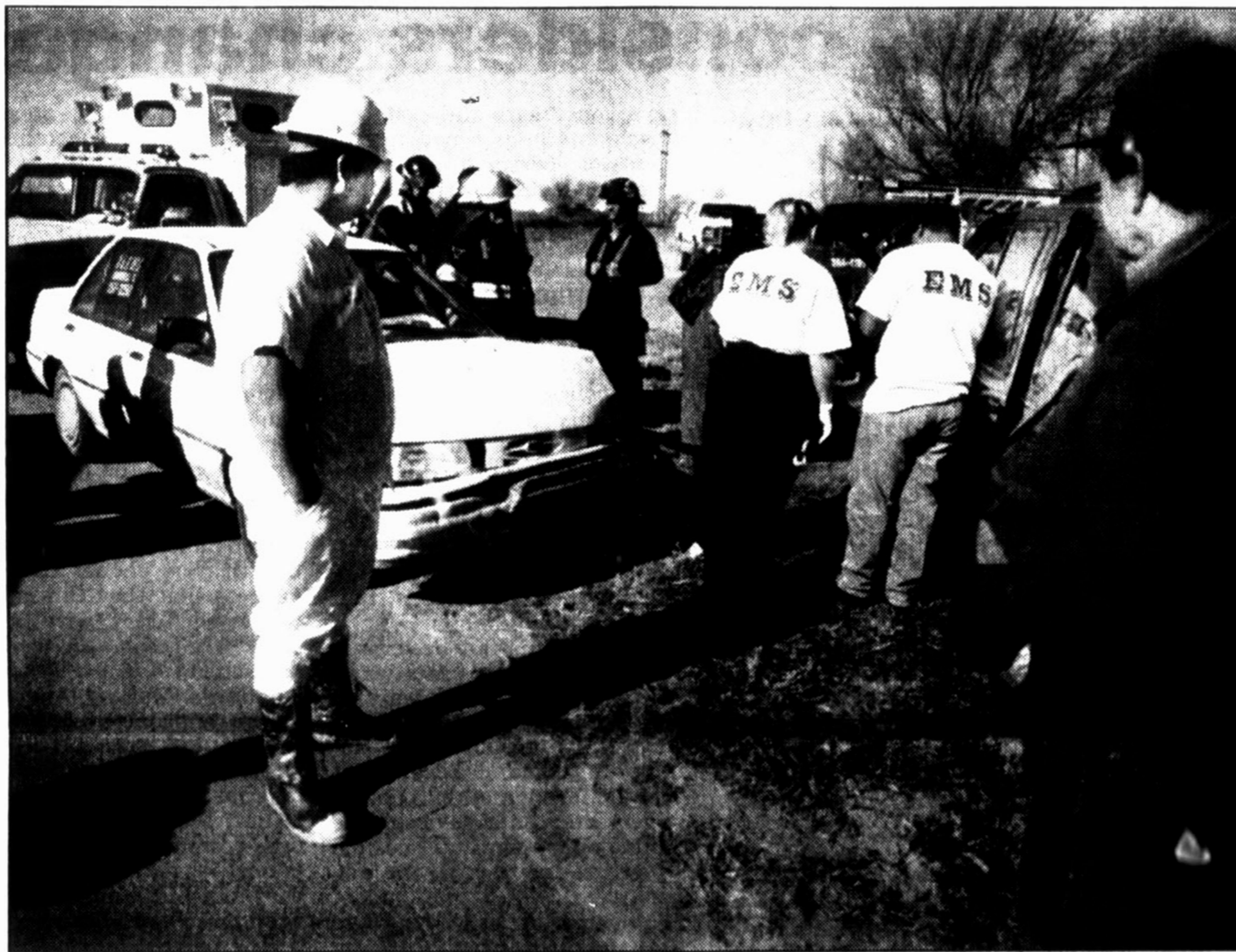
finality and hopefully we can get this over with quickly," he said.

There were other subplots in America's riveting election drama, including an announcement that the GOP-controlled Florida Legislature would meet in special session to appoint its own slate of electors.

Nothing captured the national uncertainty better than a ceremony marking the beginning of work on the stands outside the Capitol in Washington where the next president will deliver his inaugural address.

"Hopefully, we will have the answer of 'who' sometime soon," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Kentucky Republican who chairs the commit-

Please see FLORIDA, Page A11



**Two-car collision** — Hereford emergency personnel responded about noon Wednesday to a two-vehicle accident at the intersection of Guadalupe and Raymond streets in the San Jose community. According to reports, a white Ford Escort driven by Elizabeth Garcia collided with a Ford Explorer driven by Inez Ruiz.

## Jingling across US



**Holiday season  
is critical time  
of the year for  
most retailers**

By Donald Cooper  
Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Those sounds you hear across the United States at Christmas time are the jingling of cash registers. The holiday shopping season is critical for retailers. According to the Census Bureau's most recent data, retail sales by the nation's department stores (including leased departments) totaled \$44.2 billion in December 1999, a 50 percent jump from November (when retail sales registered \$29.4 billion). No other month-to-month increase last year came anywhere near that.

The gains between November and December for other U.S. retailers include a 46 percent jump for apparel and accessory stores, 179 percent for jewelry stores, 84 percent for book stores, 76 percent for sporting goods stores and bicycle shops, 65 percent for electronics stores and 49 percent for variety stores.

Meanwhile, mail-order sales were \$11.5 billion in December 1999, a 26 percent increase over November, which was \$9.2 billion, and online shopping totaled \$5.2 billion between October and December 1999.

For department stores (including leased departments), the December sales of \$44.2 billion accounted for one-seventh of the year's total of \$302.4 billion. For jewelry stores, the proportion was even higher, accounting for about one-fourth of the annual total of \$23.9 billion.

Another element of the sales activity is what's left in the stores when the holiday shoppers disappear. The nation's department stores built up their retail inventories by 23 percent between August and November, only to see them fall by 22 percent in the last month of the year.

When hitting the stores, holiday shoppers might occasionally wonder where those gifts were manufactured.

It's possible that present that will be unwrapped on Christmas morning will have the "Made in USA" label. After all, the Census Bureau reports there were 242 establishments around the country manufacturing dolls and stuffed toys in 1998. These factories shipped \$307 million worth of these goods. There also were 778 plants that produced games, toys and children's vehicles. Their total shipments were \$4.3 billion.

However, many of the presents were produced overseas. Between January and August 2000, China shipped \$638.7 million worth of dolls. The Chinese also shipped stuffed toys, \$754.9 million; electric trains, \$31.9 million; puzzles, \$20.7 million; ice and roller skates, \$79.4 million; sports footwear, \$153.3 million; golf equipment, \$15.5 million; and basketballs, \$29.2 million.

Another popular item during the season are Christmas cards. In 1997, the nation's greeting card publishers shipped more than \$571 million worth of Christmas cards, which is about twice as many as any other type of seasonal greeting card.

Of the Christmas cards produced, counter cards accounted for about \$255 million and packaged cards, \$316 million.

And, one of the most familiar sights during the holiday season is the Christmas tree. In 1999, the nation's tree farmers made \$460 million in Christmas tree sales, a 4 percent gain over the previous year.

The largesse is not limited to the U.S., however. Between January and August 2000, China shipped \$545 million in Christmas tree ornaments to this country, as well as \$78.2 million worth of artificial trees and \$210.5 million in lighting sets.

## Jobless claims drop, but signs indicate labor market loosening

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans filing new claims for state unemployment insurance fell last week but still hovered at a level suggesting that the economy's hunger for an ever-increasing supply of workers is easing.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new claims for jobless benefits dropped by 9,000 to a seasonally adjusted 352,000 for the week ending Dec. 2. That was the lowest level since Nov. 18.

On Wall Street, stocks continued Wednesday's losses. In the first half-hour of trading, the Dow Jones industrial average lost 18 points and the Nasdaq index dropped 55 points.

Many analysts were expecting jobless claims to rise.

The more stable four-week moving average of jobless claims, which smoothes out week-to-week volatility, rose to 345,250, the highest point since July 18, 1998, when claims were at 355,250.

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates six times since June 1999 to slow the high-flying economy enough to keep inflation in check but not so much as to cause a recession.

The economy slowed dramatically in the third quarter, growing at an annual rate of 2.4 percent, compared with the sizzling 5.6 percent rate registered in the second quarter.

As the economy continues to moderate, many economists believe that the nation's unemployment rate in November will rise to 4 percent from October's 30-year low of 3.9 percent. The government releases the employment report Friday.

Although the red-hot labor market has been cooling a bit in recent months, businesses are still struggling to find qualified workers to fill openings.

While that's good for workers, economists are always watchful for signs that the tight labor market will trigger wage and price inflation.

## Cattlegirls helping CSF

A generous gift of ground beef from the Hereford Cattlegirls is going to help make the fare more nutritious, and the holiday a little brighter for those receiving food assistance from this year's edition of the Christmas Stocking Fund.

With the generous cooperation of Hereford Meat Market, the Hereford Cattlegirls are providing vouchers for 225 pounds of ground beef, enough for five pounds for each of the 45 food assistance packages to be delivered on December 22.

The vouchers, good only for the special beef gift and not good for cash, will be redeemed at Hereford Meat Market as a special service to the CSF committee.

The beef will help to round out food packages that are heavy on staple foods and a number of toiletry items. All food package items are purchased locally.

"We're so pleased to have this generous gift available to complete our food packages. The beef makes for well-rounded food packages, and represents a gift from an important segment of the local economy. We also appreciate the great help that Hereford Meat Market has provided us this season,

and through the years of CSF campaigns," commented a spokesman for the local holiday charity.

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

All assistance, with the exception of food, is via vouchers payable to the merchants, utilities, or medical facilities cooperating with CSF. Food assistance is in the form of staple goods that are boxed and delivered.

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

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

Donations to CSF may be made in person at the Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee, or mailed to CSF in care of the Brand at

Box 673, Hereford 79045. Those contributors who wish to remain anonymous should so designate their gifts.

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



DECEMBER 2000

HEREFORD BRAND

# Local roundup

• **Newberry memorial fund** •

Students, staff, and faculty members at West Central Elementary School have established a memorial fund in honor of Betty Newberry at Hereford State Bank. Mrs. Newberry touched many students with her acts of kindness. The memorial fund will be used to perpetuate her kind deeds.

• **Post Office holiday hours** •

The Hereford Post Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Dec. 9 and Dec. 16 to accommodate holiday mailers.

• **Code red Christmas** •

The youth choir of the First Baptist Church will present "An E.R. Christmas" at 7 p.m. Dec. 16 and 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 17. Both concerts will be at 500 N. Main. No admission and a nursery will be provided.

HEREFORD BRAND

# School news

• **Jr. High Christmas dance** •

Hereford Jr. High will host a holiday dance from 7-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 15. Cost is \$5 or the contribution of a new toy which will go to help charity. Student ID's are required.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# News digest

• **Popular scooters recalled** •

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Nearly 100,000 scooters are being recalled because of handlebar problems that caused riders to lose control, USA Today reported.

About 90,000 Kent Kickin' Mini Scooters are being recalled because the handles can come out of the steering column and about 7,500 Racer X-2-O scooters from Kash 'N Gold are being recalled because a joint between the handlebars can break, the paper said.

Consumers are urged to stop riding the recalled scooters. They can call Kent International at 800-451-5368 to receive a free replacement handlebar.

The Racer X-2-O scooters can be returned to the store where they were purchased for a refund or a new scooter with a metal joint.

The paper said six injuries have been attributed to the problems prompting the recall and that the Consumer Product Safety Commission reports 30,000 people have gone to emergency rooms this year for other injuries from scooter accidents.

The federal agency advisers riders to wear helmets, kneepads and elbow pads.

• **TxDOT goes bats for bats** •

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — Continuing a bat conservation program that has received nationwide recognition, the Texas Department of Transportation is again going to bat for the flying mammals.

Workers at TxDOT have modified a drainage culvert system along Highway 83 South so that Mexican free-tailed bats could roost there.

About 500,000 bats might choose the culvert as their new home, Mark Blosscock with the TxDOT Bats and Bridges Program told the Laredo Morning Times in Thursday's editions.

The Laredo structure was the first built specifically to house bats while at the same time functioning as a storm water drainage system, officials said.

For their efforts, employees in TxDOT's Laredo District were awarded the agency's 2000 Environmental Achievement Award.

Brian Keeley of Bat Conservation International, an Austin-based organization that aided TxDOT in the program's creation, said he's received calls from countries in Europe and Africa as well as from Mexico and Australia.

The two-month project, which culminated in May 1999, cost \$25,000.

Central Texas is home to the world's largest bat colony, numbering more than 20 million.

The agency's bat protection project received national recognition when it received the USDOT Design for Transportation Award in May 2000. Agency officials, Blosscock said, began developing the project back in the mid-1990s when they noticed bats were roosting in culverts and bridges, the most famous of which is the Congress Avenue Bridge in Austin. Blosscock said about 1.5 million bats roost there on a seasonal basis.

Texas is home to more than 30 bat species. Blosscock said bats help pollinate plants and eat insects.

• **Shooting endangers task force** •

VICTORIA, Texas (AP) — Law enforcement officials said the shooting death of Gonzales County Deputy David Furrh could jeopardize the future of the narcotics task force where the slain officer worked.

Furrh was the first lawman in the county known to have died violently in at least 100 years when he was shot in neighboring Caldwell County while serving a search warrant at a drug suspect's home.

Gonzales County Sheriff Glenn Sachtleben said the future of the task force could hinge on a Texas Rangers' investigation of the shooting.

"We've been doing a lot of narcotics work ... We're going to probably have to take a good look at how we do that," Sachtleben said in Thursday's editions of the Victoria Advocate.



**First year** -- Organizers and directors waited a long time to get the First National Bank up and running, but were pleased to celebrate one year of business Wednesday. Wade Easley, president of FNB and Rita Bell, vice president and head cashier cut the cake to celebrate.

# FCC considers changes

## Technology forces new industry standards

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computer owners take it for granted that they don't have to buy a new machine each time they want to add or upgrade a program.

Now regulators are clearing the path for a new breed of wireless phones, personal organizers and other gadgets that could add new capabilities just as easily.

It's made possible through an emerging technology called software-defined radio that is so versatile it could enable one product to switch seamlessly between serving as a cell phone and receiving FM radio broadcasts.

The innovation works by allowing wireless devices to download new software to add capabilities or perform different functions. For example, a wireless phone that is only used for voice calls can do just that. But with the new technology, the phone could download new features so it can receive Internet access — without requiring new hardware.

Down the road, that could

save consumers the cost and hassle of buying new phone handsets, personal organizers or other devices. Instead, they could keep their existing gadgets and simply upgrade them by downloading new functions.

To bring these developments to the market, the Federal Communications Commission is eyeing some changes in its policies. Existing federal rules only permit authorization of devices with a fixed set of parameters.

Making room for the changes in technology, the agency was expected Thursday to propose rules for approving new equipment that can be altered.

The commission has taken particular interest in software-defined radio as a way to better manage the nation's airwaves — a resource increasingly in demand because of the proliferation of cell phones, pagers and other devices. The technology makes it possible to switch the part of the airwaves on which the gadget can operate. That way it could seek out less crowded frequencies that are not being used.

The problem with most current wireless systems is that "they can only do one job,"

said Lee Hamilton, president and chief executive officer of AirNet Communications Corp. His company has created base stations that use software-defined radio at cellular antenna sites. That means companies can deliver new services without having to buy new equipment each time.

With companies saving on this cost, it "should mean consumers are going to get newer services faster and see more innovation in the types of services they are going to get it," Hamilton said.

Consumers also stand to benefit from phones and other gadgets that they can hold on to longer. Today, wireless devices are built to work in frequencies and using specific standards. Making them operate on multiple systems adds weight and size to the devices, making them unwieldy for consumers.

But with the new technology, a caller could use a cell phone in parts of the world that use different standards than the United States.

The technology also has important consequences for public safety personnel who use communication systems operating on different frequencies.

# Old Sparky gets new home

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum plans to add an electric chair to its macabre crime and punishment gallery that already includes medieval torture devices.

The exhibitor of the weird and unusual bought Tennessee's purported original electric chair, nicknamed Old Sparky, for more than \$25,000 Wednesday. It will be displayed at its museum in the Great Smoky Mountains tourist town of Gatlinburg, where about

500,000 visitors flock each year.

Gawkers could view the leather-strapped, electrode-equipped white oak chair — responsible for 125 executions in Tennessee from 1916 to 1960 — as early as next month.

"This chair will fit in very, very nicely," said Edward Meyer, Ripley's vice president for publishing, who negotiated the acquisition.

The purchase comes a day after an online auction of the

chair was prematurely stopped because of questions about its authenticity.

The seller, who identified himself as Arthur Rosenblatt, had offered the chair on eBay and then negotiated directly with Orlando, Fla.-based Ripley's.

"I feel that any opportunity to expose the chair to the greatest possible audience is the only correct way to dispose of it," said Rosenblatt, a collector and seller of "murderabilia."

Meyer said Ripley's has been trying to get an electric chair for years.

"We have always felt that an electric chair is something that the general public wants to see and is interested in," he said.

HEREFORD BRAND

# Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Dec. 6, 2000, include the following:

**POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**Arrests**

- A 19-year-old man was arrested in the 200 block of East First and charged with outstanding municipal warrants and numerous traffic violations.

**Incidents**

- A missing person report was filed in the 300 block of Avenue A.

- A two-vehicle accident, with minor injuries, was reported in the 800 block of South 25 Mile Avenue.

**SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

**Arrests**

- A 30-year-old man was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

- A 23-year-old man was arrested and charged with violation of probation on a possession of marijuana conviction and a warrant for failure to appear.

- A 28-year-old man was arrested and charged with theft by check.

- A 29-year-old man was arrested and charged with violation of probation on a tampering with government records conviction.

- A 31-year-old woman was arrested and charged with violation of probation on a theft by check conviction.

- A 19-year-old woman was arrested and charged with theft by check.

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

**Incidents**

- An intoxicated driver was reported.

- A theft was reported.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

- 11:53 a.m. Firefighters responded to a wreck rescue in the San Jose Community.

- 5:17 p.m. Firefighters responded to a wreck rescue in the 800 block of South 25 Mile Avenue.

- 10:59 p.m. Firefighters responded to a wreck rescue in Veterans Park.

HEREFORD BRAND

# Obituaries

**RAY L. GRAHAM**

Dec. 1, 2000

BOONE, N.C. — Memorial services for Ray L. Graham, 60, of Boone, N.C. will be Saturday in Boone. Mr. Graham died Friday in Las Cruces, N.M.

Mr. Graham was born July 1, 1934 and graduated from Hereford High School in 1952 and West Texas State University in 1956. He had a doctorate in mathematics and was a retired mathematics professor at Appalachian State University in Boone, N.C.

Survivors include his wife, Mary; three sons, Kelly of Hilton Head, S.C., Kyle of Boulder, Colo., Kent of Boone, N.C.; one sister, Peggy Shertz of New York City, N.Y.

# Phone numbers in short supply

WASHINGTON (AP) — Numbers may seem finite, but not the precious seven- and 10-digit variety which consumers use to dial homes, cell phones, fax machines and pagers.

Faced with a shrinking supply, the government is working to more efficiently use and conserve the billions of numbers in its pool. But regulators say they will steer clear for now of one drastic measure: forcing consumers nationwide to dial 10 digits to call a neighbor in the same area code.

The demand for numbers and proliferation of new area codes has taken a toll on the current system which, left on its own, could expire in the next 10 years.

Seeking to push back this date by several decades, the Federal Communications Commission is weighing measures it could implement Thursday to make better use of the 2 billion numbers already allocated and several billion more still untapped.

For example, the commission has sought comment on whether to charge phone companies for numbers they now get for free. That could force carriers to ensure they have exhausted their supply before requesting new numbers. Indubers at a time — was that if a company had only 100 customers in a given region, the remaining 9,900 numbers of the block were tied up.

The FCC hopes that these preservation tools will make it possible to avoid more extreme measures, such as adding new numbers or mandating that consumers nationwide dial area codes even for local calls. That would have required a consumer to dial 10 digits to reach someone within the same area code.

The commission staff has advised against adopting such a nationwide policy, and the agency's chairman planned to accept that decision on Thursday, commission officials said.

The telephone industry has supported 10-digit dialing because it would create a uniform system nationwide. It would also add to the numbering pool, because seven-digit numbers cannot now begin with 0 or 1, but they could if preceded by an area code.

Six states already have some form of 10-digit dialing.

But state regulators argue a nationwide requirement would place enormous burdens on consumers and small businesses. That would force them to reprogram their equipment and reprint stationery or other material.

"It won't save enough numbers to be worth the incredible inconvenience," said New Hampshire Public Utilities Commissioner Nancy Brockway.

States should focus first on making better use of existing numbers, she said. In New Hampshire, the switch from allocating 10,000 to 1,000 number blocks will allow the state to stick indefinitely with its existing one area code.

Some consumers say dialing the extra digits is not a big deal, given that many people program numbers into their phones that they can dial with a few strokes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Texas lottery

**Lotto**

Two tickets correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The tickets were worth an estimated \$38 million.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were:

1-9-16-35-39.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$4 million.

**Pick 3**

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

**HerefordBrand**  
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# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, December 7, 2000 • A3



**Auxiliary donation** - Hereford Regional Medical Center Auxiliary recently purchased a slide projector for use in the hospital blood lab. Pictured with the new equipment are technicians Tonya Lookingbill (left) and Erin Howard (right) and Auxiliary members (front from left) Patsy Giles, Lupe Cerda, Marion Yosten and (back from left) Ann Cummings, Quintna Waits and Bettie Dickson.

## Miniature series by Hunt artist depicts winter celebrations

By Gerard Maccrossan

Kerrville Daily Times

KERRVILLE, Texas — From pagan to Christian holidays, the evolution of winter celebrations has been painstakingly recreated in a series of eight miniature exhibits by Hunt artist Dolores L. Petersen.

Petersen said she created the exhibit, titled "The Many Ways of Christmas", because she was "appalled by the lack of spirituality in the holiday season."

The exhibition shows how the Christian meaning of Christmas has become hidden under layers of commercialism.

Petersen worked on the eight miniature scenes for six years, beginning with a celebration of ancient pagan Sumerians. She, with help of her husband, Tom, made almost everything in the scenes, including the models, backdrops and accessories.

Each miniature was carefully researched to ensure the historical accuracy of the decor, celebration, costumes and beliefs.

Petersen researched the winter celebrations of the harvest, where drinking, dancing and even sacrifice of children took place to appease pagan gods and assure future abundance. Pagans also put up decorations of green garlands, red ribbons and red balls or apples, traditions that survived.

The second scene shows Mary presenting the newborn Jesus to Joseph. Petersen said she placed the Holy Family in a cave because that was historically more accurate than the traditional stable. She said the miniature shows shepherds in the distance, representing hills a mile away in the artist's space of only a few inches.

The third scene shows a Roman household with rich and poor people sharing a meal in the early centuries A.D., not celebrating Christmas. Although Christian, Petersen said, the early Christians con-

centrated on Christ's resurrection rather than his birth. This scene is completely without decorations or gifts.

A miniature replica of Frari's Basilica in Venice, Italy, around 1520 shows a Christmas day Mass, where the people are dominated by Titian's painting of The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. Petersen said the religious observance was the only celebration of Christmas in this period.

Petersen created all of the 56 figures in the exhibition by hand using a polymer and wire to sculpt the detailed figures precisely so that even the movable fingers are positioned to the artist's satisfaction. Petersen said she worked on the figures for a year before she was satisfied with the design. Each figure takes at least three days because none of them are molded.

The miniatures are scaled to 1/12 of the original, although some of the figures are smaller still to show the effect of distance between the front and rear of the Basilica. The only decoration is a simple nativity scene.

The fifth scene is a century later, a miniature re-creation of the artist Peter Paul Rubens' Antwerp home where he entertained Spanish, Italian and Dutch aristocrats. A blooming tree has been brought inside to decorate the room, while a small nativity scene sits at the side hardly noticed among the social festivities.

In 1850s America, a Victo-

rian-style home is the backdrop for feasting among friends and family. Guests sing carols about the season. A Christmas tree with candles and homemade decorations of red ribbons, wreaths and red balls and sometimes a nativity sits in the corner.

Petersen notes the first introduction of Santa Claus, who brings gifts for the good children. Petersen's Victorian house is decorated to the smallest detail with stoves, furniture, harpsichord and a child reading "The Night Before Christmas."

The last two scenes depict the modern era: the shopping mall where everyone is running around looking for gifts and music dedicated to Santa Claus, reindeer and celebrating with bright and gaudy decorations.

The other scene is of a house where a couple is surrounded by new gifts and take-out food wrappers, engrossed in sports on TV, their yard decorated with large ornaments, and not even a nativity scene recalling the original reason for the Christmas celebration.

Petersen said the meaning of the festival is often lost in the midst of lavish decorations and concern over what gifts people want for Christmas. She added she wished people would think of doing something nice for people rather than just buying token gifts.

Distributed by The Associated Press

### Liquidation Sale at Mani & Pat's Gift Shop

1406 W. 1st Street • (806) 364-2350

(by Pizza Hut across from Ranch House)

Starts Wed. 12-6-00

Eagles up to 40% off; Porcelain Doll & Crystals 50% off; Jewelry 50% off; Toys 60% off; & much more.

Everything must go!!

CREATORS SYNDICATE

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I am the mother of a 40-year-old professional man who lives across the country from his family. He is not married, does not date, and does not speak of any female companions. My husband and I have come to the conclusion that he is gay. Is there a discreet way to let him know we are aware of it, that it's OK, and we will love him regardless of his lifestyle?

We have never discussed this with him. I believe he is afraid it would not sit well with his father, who is a high-profile military man and an accomplished sportsman. Our son also has been a top achiever in sports as well as in scholastics, and holds a high office in his company.

When we last visited our son, we saw evidence that someone is living with him. There were slacks and jackets in a larger size, and books and music he would never buy. What do you advise, Ann? Should we ignore our discoveries or confront him and ask for a "confession"? — Ambivalent Parents in Los Angeles

Dear Parents: If ever there was a time when you should adhere to the old Ann Landers caveat — MYOB — this is it. Your son does not need to know that you are aware of his sexual orientation. The fact that you've never met his significant other suggests that he does not wish to be open with you about the relationship. So, please go about your business, and don't get involved with him.

Dear Ann Landers: Please tell "Undecided Mom" not to

give up on her son's pregnant girlfriend. Allowing her to stay in a safe place could make a huge difference in her life.

I was in the same situation five years ago — pregnant, enrolled in college, and scared to death. My boyfriend's family made it clear they wanted nothing to do with him — or me. My parents, however, welcomed "Ed" into our home, and we lived there for several months. Neither of us asked for a hand-out. My parents' support allowed us to attend school full-time while he worked part-time. When our daughter was born, I missed only one week of school, and was able to make up all the work.

We married two years ago, and are in the process of buying our own home. I graduated from college with honors and am now a teacher. My parents' support made a tremendous difference in our lives, and we will never forget it. — Been There and Got Through It in Wisconsin

Dear B.T. and G.T.I.: I don't need to tell you what wonderful parents you have. You already know. How wise they were to

keep their hearts and their home open to you in your time of trouble. The rewards were great, and the dividends will last a lifetime. Everybody won.

Dear Ann Landers: I have been dating a lovely woman for several months, but one thing about her bothers me. She uses the bathroom across the hall from her 11-year-old son's bedroom. After she takes a shower, she dries off, and fixes her hair and make-up with the bathroom door wide open. Her son's TV faces the open door, and he can see everything.

Also, she walks around naked when he is at home, and uses the bathroom while he is in the shower. When I brought this up, she became angry. She insists they have been behaving like this since he was an infant and that I have a dirty mind.

Is her behavior inappropriate now that her son is 11? — Concerned in D.C.

Dear D.C.: Definitely. That 11-year-old is very much aware sexually. Mom's nudity is inappropriate and unhealthy, and she should knock off the strip tease promptly.

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December 3-8

6:00 pm Sunday • 7:00 pm Monday-Friday

Evangelists Ron and Mary Marr of Winter Garden, Florida will be at 606 East 15th, Hereford and is being sponsored by First Assembly of God.

They have traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Cuba, and Europe ministering the Word of God in power with miracles and gifts of healing. They have ministered at seminars, conventions, camp meetings, and The African World Conference, and for many other organizations.

Rev. Marr is the author of "To Hell and Back." He will be giving his Testimony of how the miraculous hand of God touched him after 10 tons of steel fell on him crushing one third of his body. He will be sharing how Jesus walked into the hospital, laid his nail scarred hands on his body and gave him a new heart, a new lung, a new kidney, took gangrene out of his leg, grew his leg four inches, and taught him how to walk again.

Many people have been touched and healed by the hand of God as Ron has shared this testimony.

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LIFESTYLES



Signing the guest book at the Christmas Open House Sunday at the Deaf Smith County Museum were long-time Hereford residents Hilery and Mary Lou Aven. Presiding at the register was Lois Gilliland. Guests who attended the annual event, sponsored by the Deaf Smith County Historical Society, were treated to a variety of demonstrations, live entertainment by local artists and refreshments.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Area Events

NAZARETH

The String Technicians will present, "A Tumbleweed Christmas," a special evening of Christmas music and song at 7:30 p.m. on Dec. 10 in the historic Home Mercantile Building, located in the center of downtown Nazareth.

The performance will include Christmas music from long ago and some contemporary songs of today. There will be old time fiddle, western swing, ballads, old favorites and some surprises, too.

Admission is \$5 per person at the door. Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

This program is the fourth in a series of eight community events slated for the Home Mercantile from now until April. The Home Mercantile is an historic building in Nazareth, which is being renovated to serve as a community resource for creative arts and the preservation of local cultures.

CANYON

Palo Duro Canyon State Park will host the second annual "Christmas in the Canyon" from 2-5 p.m. on Dec. 16.

Park visitors are invited to the Interpretive Center for refreshments, fun and holiday cheer. Children of all ages will be able to make ornaments, bird feeders or enjoy Christmas stories. Santa Claus will make a special appearance and the center will be decorated for the event.

Regular park day fees will be waived on Dec. 16 and nonperishable food items will be collected for the High Plains Food Bank. Admission fees for the park will be one food item per person (regardless of age) and will be collected at the front gate. There will be no additional charge for this event.

For more information, contact Heather Lanman at 806-488-2227, ext. 49.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park is located 12 miles east

of the city of Canyon on Hwy. 217.

LUBBOCK

The 22nd Annual Candlelight at the Ranch at the National Ranching Heritage Center, 3121 Fourth St., Lubbock, will be Friday and Saturday.

Times will be 6-8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 5-6 p.m. Saturday for special needs visitors and Junior Rough Riders members. (Events both evenings will continue until visitors who have been admitted by 8 p.m. have completed the tour.)

Luminarias will light the paths through the historic site, where Ranch Hosts will reenact holiday activities of the past two centuries. Visitors will experience pioneer and ranching holiday celebrations, illuminated by lanterns, firelight, luminarias and candles. There will be hot cider and traditional dancing in the 6666 Barn.

Admission is free.

LOOKING BACK

Today in History

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, Dec. 7, the 342nd day of 2000. There are 24 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese forces attacked American and British territories and possessions in the Pacific, including the home base of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii.

On this date: In 1987, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev set foot on American soil for the first time, arriving for a Washington summit with President Reagan.

In 1988, a major earthquake in the Soviet Union devastated northern Armenia; official estimates put the death toll at 25,000.

Ten years ago: As President Bush arrived in Venezuela on the last stop of his South American tour, his chief spokesman, Marlin Fitzwater, warned Iraq that there was "no lessening in the threat of war," despite Iraq's promise to release its hostages.

Five years ago: Under Republican pressure, President Clinton reluctantly presented a seven-year balanced-budget plan that was quickly criticized by GOP lawmakers. A

746-pound probe from the "Galileo" spacecraft hurtled into Jupiter's atmosphere, sending back data to the mothership before it was presumably destroyed.

One year ago: NASA scientists all but gave up hope of contacting the Mars Polar Lander, last heard from four days earlier as it began its descent toward the Red Planet.

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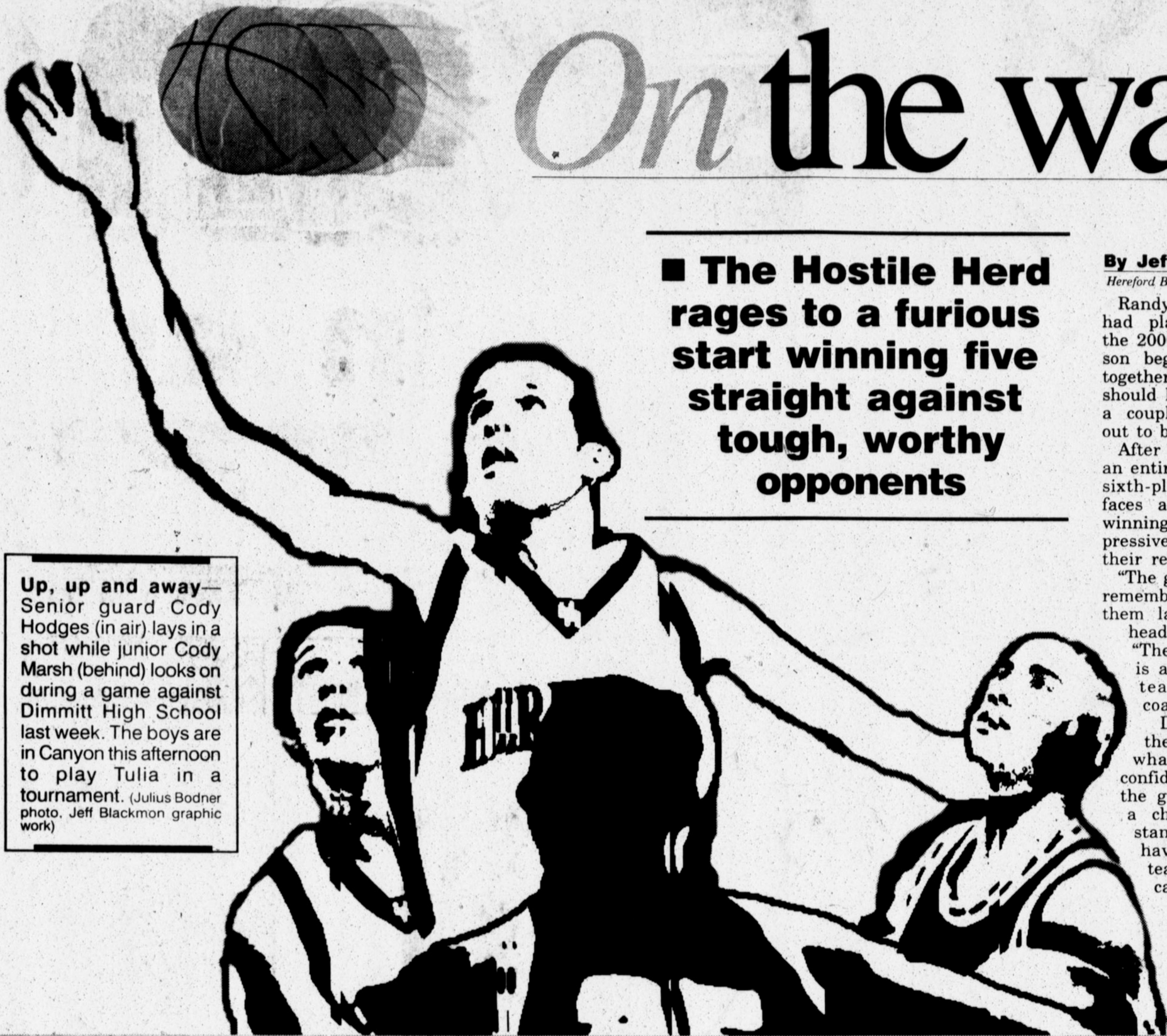


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# SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, December 7, 2000 • A5

## On the way up...



**Up, up and away**—Senior guard Cody Hodges (in air) lays in a shot while junior Cody Marsh (behind) looks on during a game against Dimmitt High School last week. The boys are in Canyon this afternoon to play Tulia in a tournament. (Julius Bodner photo, Jeff Blackmon graphic work)

### ■ The Hostile Herd rages to a furious start winning five straight against tough, worthy opponents

By Jeff Blackmon  
Hereford Brand Sports Editor

Randy Dean knew his team had played together before the 2000-2001 basketball season began and would come together eventually, but what should have taken as long as a couple of months turned out to be a couple of weeks.

After less than a month as an entire unit, the pre-season sixth-place Hereford Whitefaces are on a hot streak, winning their last five in impressive fashion to improve their record to 5-2.

"The good thing is that they remember things we taught them last year," Dean, boys head basketball coach, said. "Their competitive spirit is also stronger than any team I have ever coached."

Dean said he attributes their recent success to what he calls "positive confidence." The coach said the guys realize they have a chance to be an outstanding team, and they have a vision of how good they can be.

"Our guys have confidence that we are a good team," Dean said. "Now what we can do is focus and zero in the things that can take us

to the next level."

Hereford started the year without nine of its varsity players because of football and stumbled to an 0-2 record. But since then, the nine players have returned to lead the team to five straight wins.

But these wins are not just any ordinary pre-district season wins. After only one practice together after Thanksgiving, the team beat a fearless Dimmitt Bobcat team, two state-ranked opponents (Plainview and Estacado) and took care of Hale Center to win the Plainview Lions Pioneer Classic. Then on Tuesday night, the Whitefaces dropped the Clovis (N.M.) Wildcats 57-51.

"Obviously, it is nice to win five games in a row, but I think what is even more pleasing to me is that they have been quality wins," Dean said.

Dean said the wins against Estacado, Dimmitt, Plainview and Clovis were especially welcomed, because they are worthy and tough opponents. "All of those teams are very athletic and to come out with wins is just going to be a bigger asset to us," Dean said.

All of this was done before the football players' cleats even had a chance to cool off. Dean attributes their ability

See CAGE, Page A8

## What happened to the NFL?

### ■ National Football League fans stranded in land of mediocrity

Do you remember the days when a National Football League fan could pretty much guarantee that San Francisco, Dallas and Green Bay would probably be winners on most Sundays?

Or, how about that the 49ers and Cowboys would dominate their respective divisions almost every season?

Well, the year 2000 has showed that those days are over. There are hardly any dominant teams this season or anytime in the near future.

Maybe that is good. Even St. Louis, the one team that had been blowing everyone away with a high-octane offense, has stumbled to 8-5. In case you missed it, Ram QB and captain Kurt Warner looked more like Star Trek's Captain Kirk on the football field in Carolina throwing four interceptions in

his team's loss, contributing to more NFL mediocrity. The Rams have also lost three in a row at home, and they have a chance to let the division title slip away and miss the playoffs. Who would've guessed that?

I got to find out first hand that picking NFL games in the *Hereford Brand's* weekly Fearless Forecasters was going to be troubling by missing games I thought were a cinch. I missed 11 games this weekend partly because of the six NFL games I came out the loser on.

So why the mediocrity? I think the most obvious reason is the salary cap. In fact,

it is the main reason no one knows if there are any favorites to win anymore. The salary cap is just a rule required by the NFL that teams can only spend so much on personnel a season. A good comparison is to look at Major League Baseball which has no salary cap and only the rich get richer (Mike Mussina going to the Yanks for \$88 million, while they already have Pettitte, Clemens and El Duque Hernandez). Is anyone else going to get tired

of one team ruling a sport for years?

I think the cap is a good thing though. It may give me a hard time picking winners of games, but it levels the playing field a bit for teams who do not have big bucks. It also keeps team spending from going through the roof.



Jeff Blackmon

See JEFF, Page A8

**Hereford Young Farmers and Buyers Bash Committee** are holding a meeting on **Monday, December 11, 6:00 p.m. Community Center Ballroom** on 2001 Country Stock Show & Sale. Exhibitors parents on Buyers are urged to attend.

## BAND STUDENTS



We proudly introduce for the week of 11/17 L-R: Dusty Clark, Rebecca Fry, Natalie Torres & Dawn Auckerman.

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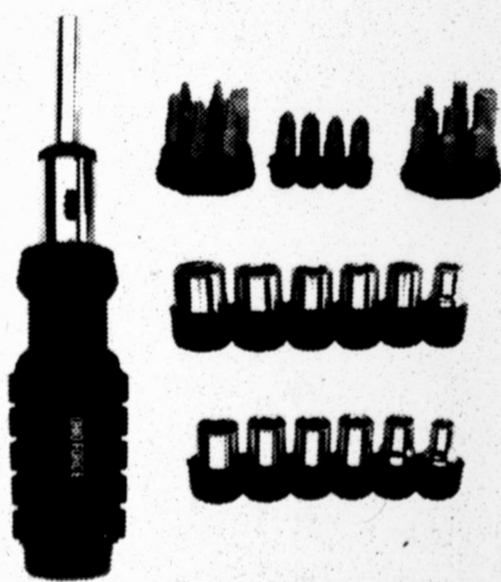
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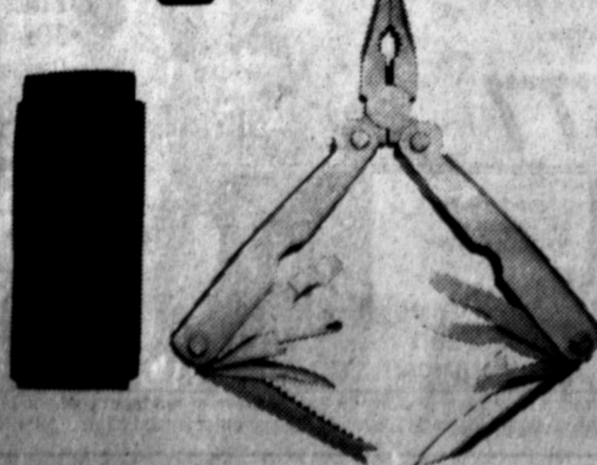
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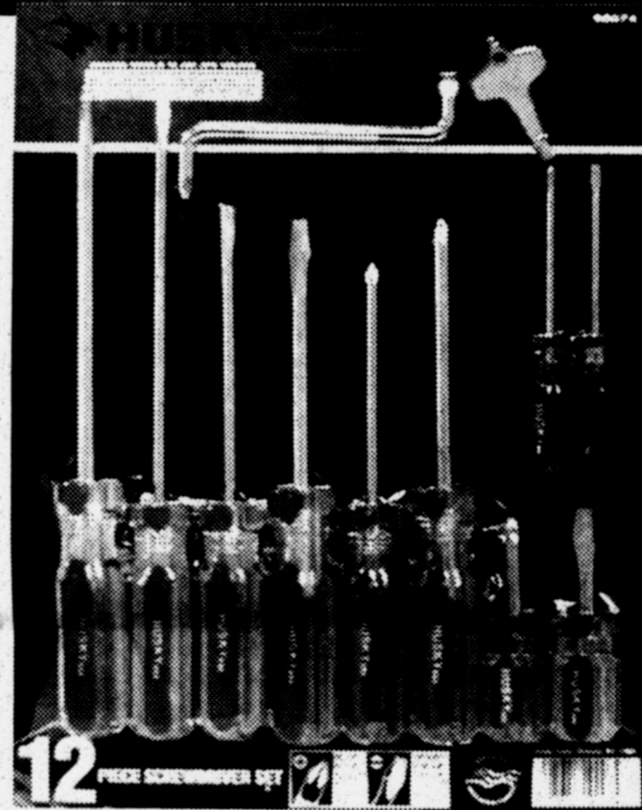
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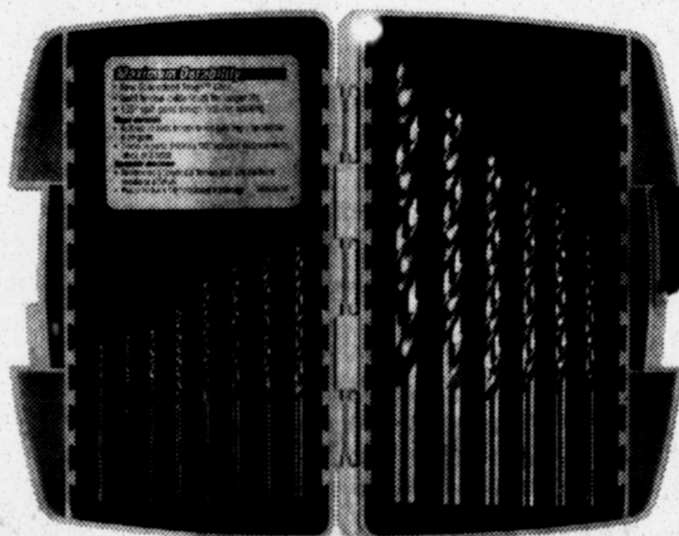
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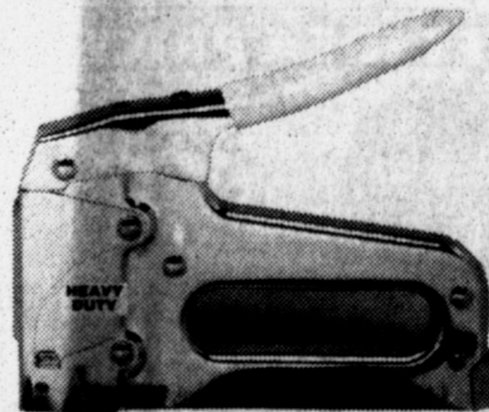
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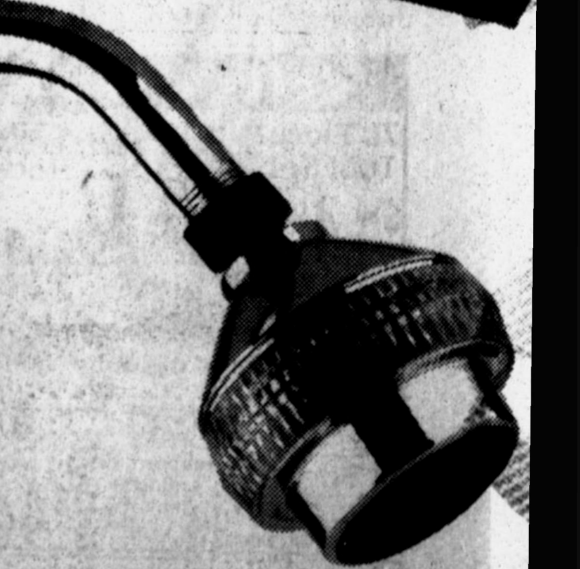


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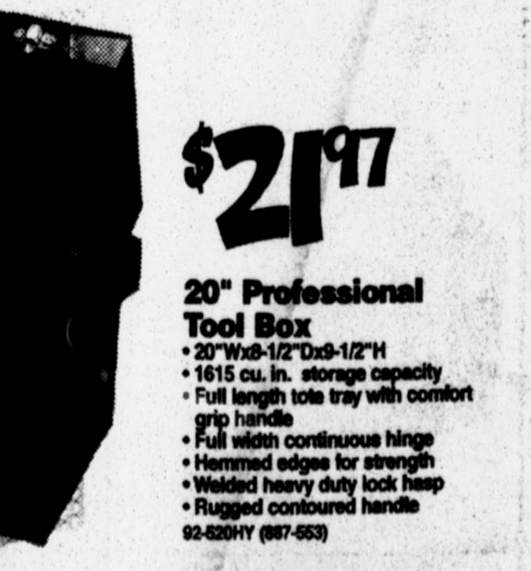
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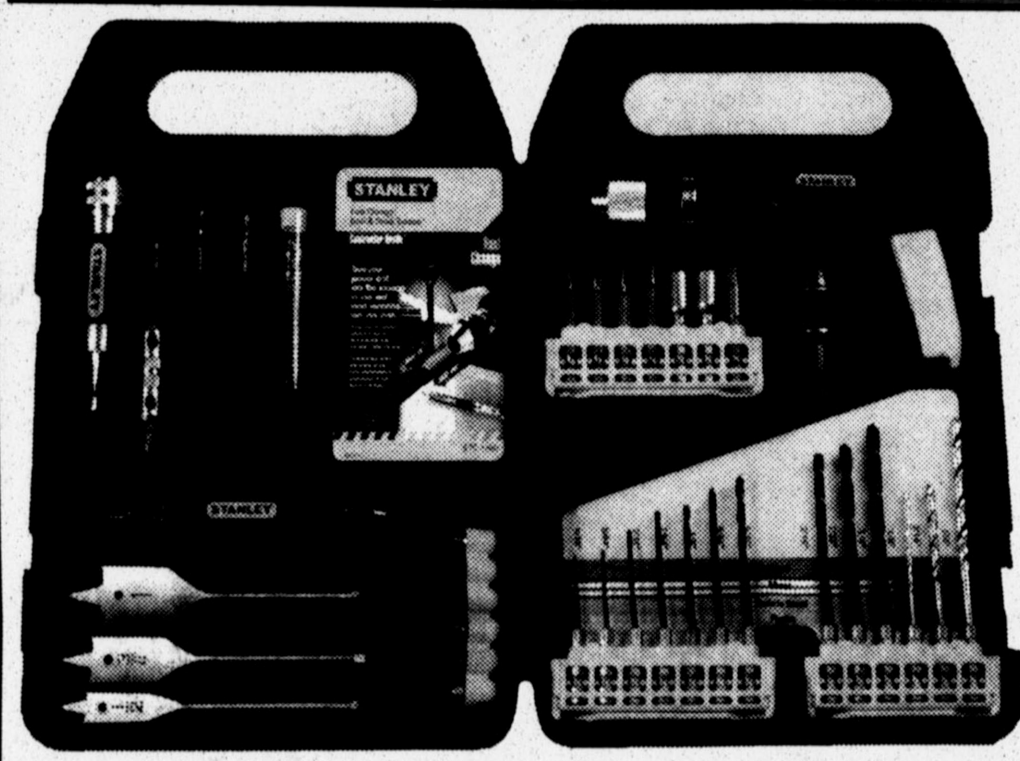
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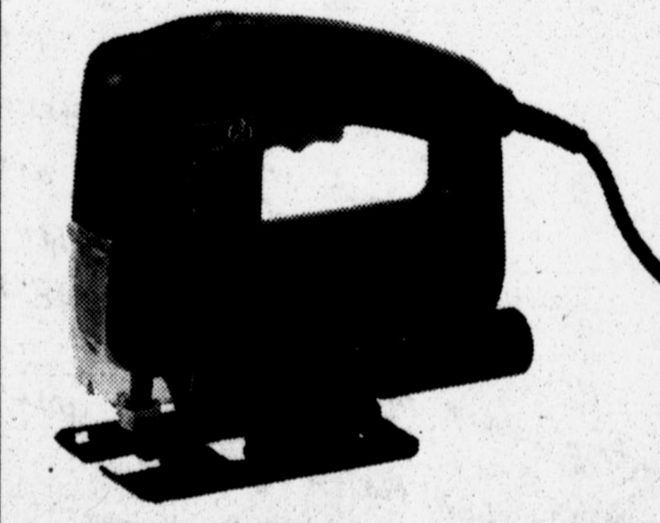
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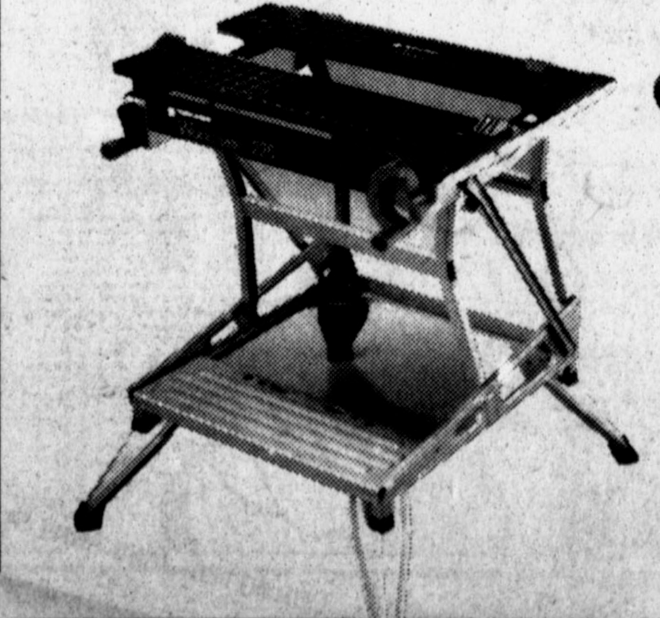
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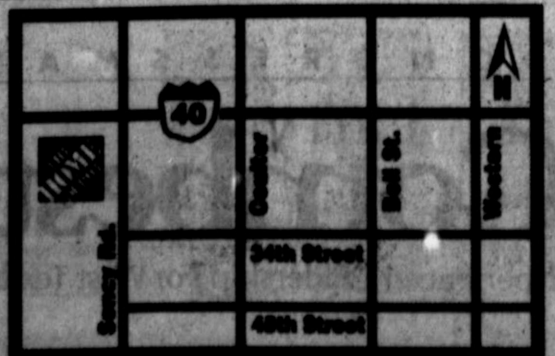
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# Nelson wins 938th game

## Coach hits milestone after cancer diagnosis

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Mavericks coach Don Nelson will remember Wednesday night's victory over the New York Knicks for two reasons.

The win was the 938th of his career, tying him with his mentor, Red Auerbach, for fourth on the NBA career list. Auerbach was Nelson's long-time coach on the Boston Celtics.

Equally important was the fact that Nelson's players dedicated the victory to him the day after he learned that he has prostate cancer.

"This is a very special win for me personally because I had two mentors (as a player),"

Nelson said. "One was Jack McMahon, my first coach in the NBA with the Chicago Zephyrs, and the other was Red Auerbach, who I played for and was my general manager at Boston for so long. To tie him is indeed a special evening for me, and I would hope that Red would sign (the game ball)."

Nelson will continue to run the team despite the cancer diagnosis. Nelson said before the game that he will explore his options for treatment as soon as possible and then will determine how much time he will miss.

Michael Finley scored 21 points, Howard Eisley added 17 and Steve Nash 14 as all five of Dallas' starters scored in double figures.

Dirk Nowitzki had 12 points and 14 rebounds and Davis

added 15 points for the Mavericks, who improved to 4-0 against the Eastern Conference. After the game, the focus was on Nelson and his

battle with cancer.

"We love to play for him, and we said congratulations to him after the game," Nowitzki said.

## WRESTLERS WIN FIRST DUAL

### Hereford High wrestlers win first dual against Borger Tuesday night

#### BORGER RESULTS

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1. MATT ESPINOSA   | WON BY DECISION 10-3   |
| 2. HENRY CASTILLO  | PIN AT 2:37 INTO MATCH |
| 3. LUIS PEREZ      | WON BY DECISION 7-5    |
| 4. JAVIER ALONZO   | PIN AT 2:48 INTO MATCH |
| 5. GUS HIGAREDA    | PIN AT :53 INTO MATCH  |
| 6. JAMES WITKOWSKI | WON BY DECISION 8-7    |
| 7. PAUL ESTRADA    | PIN AT :31 INTO MATCH  |
| 8. ROY PENA        | PIN AT 3:11 INTO MATCH |

## Cage

From Page A5

to quit one sport and immediately begin another in sparkling fashion to the team members having played together for so long in AAU events (Amateur Athletic Union), at the junior high level and high school. Dean said some of his team members are beginning their first year of varsity level play. The coach also said his players have sharp minds, which also helps a bunch.

"The amount of time these guys have played basketball and the amount of time they have played together helps," Dean said. "They've been able to remember from the past years what we do and try to accomplish."

The gutsy performances the team has put on after just two weeks of full squad practices are enough to make any coach drool about the capability of his team. Coach Dean is excited, but he realizes they have a long way to go — and the season is young.

"We still are not in basketball shape yet," Dean said. "You couple that with fatigue

from the road, and you begin to have some concern."

The Whitefaces are in the midst of a lengthy road trip that already has included trips to Clovis and Plainview. The team still has to travel to Canyon today and will not have another home game until Dec. 22, when it plays host to Caprock for the first district game.

"I think this stretch will be good for us because of the environments we are having to walk into," Dean said.

"Take Tuesday night for instance: We knew things were going to be difficult before we even took the floor. The

fact that we were going out of state (Clovis) and play a quality team like Clovis is only going to help us when we have to go to Randall or Palo Duro."

Dean said he hopes the experience of this long stretch will especially help the team Jan. 2 when it takes on talented district foe Canyon Randall. The Raiders are 9-0 on the season and are blowing out the opposition, scoring 80 points on several occasions.

"They are off to a fantastic start," Dean said. "We knew they would probably be the best team in district we would

have to face."

The cage coach said he does like his team's chances of surviving the district season because the Whitefaces know what it takes to win. Dean said his guys know what it takes to come out on top in crunch time.

"The one thing winning in crunch time has to do with is not coaching, it is the competitive spirit these guys have," Dean said. "You could take them out there in the gym and play basketball, marbles or tiddlywinks but it doesn't matter."

"They are going to compete," Dean said.

## Patterson likely TCU's top coaching choice

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — Defensive coordinator Gary Patterson appears to be Texas Christian's choice to replace Dennis Franchione, who is leaving the Horned Frogs to be the coach at Alabama.

TCU athletic director Eric Hyman wasn't in his office Thursday morning and didn't immediately return phone

calls. Athletic department officials denied reports that there would be a news conference on campus later in the day to name Patterson as the 30th coach TCU's 105-year football history.

Patterson, 40, has been a college assistant coach 18 years but never a head coach.

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## Jeff

from Page A5

I guess I just find it strange that I picked Philadelphia, Washington, Buffalo and Oakland and none of them won this past weekend.

#### Blackmon's Notes:

• The 2000-2001 wrestling season is under way. The team's first home match is 5:30 p.m. Monday.

• The Lady Whitefaces' district season begins Dec. 12 on the road at Borger, while the Whitefaces' season begins Dec. 22 against Caprock at Whiteface Gymnasium. It is time to get into basketball mode for the two teams' runs.

• Don Cumpston, executive director of the Hereford Economic Corp., came out on top in our Fearless Forecasters competition.

Cumpston officially receives bragging rights as Hereford's top game picker.

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SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 1:30 & 4:00      EVENINGS 7:30
<b>DUNGEONS &amp; DRAGONS</b>
SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 1:40 & 4:00      EVENINGS 7:05
<b>RUGRATS IN PARIS</b>
SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 1:45 & 4:05      EVENINGS 7:30
<b>UNBREAKABLE</b>
SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 1:30 & 4:00      EVENINGS 7:00
<b>102 DALMATIANS</b>
SAT. & SUN. MATINEES 2:00 & 4:05      EVENINGS 7:05
<b>HOW GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS</b>
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INSIDE

# Julian Lennon writes about his late father

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**People**

LONDON — With the 20th anniversary of John Lennon's death approaching, the pop legend's 37-year-old son has written about the breakdown of their relationship.

A statement on Julian Lennon's Web site — [www.julianlennon.com](http://www.julianlennon.com) — says he lived with his father for only a few years and, after that, saw the ex-Beatle only a "handful of times before he was killed."

"Sadly, I never really knew the man," the younger Lennon wrote.

Mark David Chapman fatally shot John Lennon on Dec. 8, 1980, outside the New York apartment where Lennon lived with his second wife, Yoko Ono, and their son Sean.

"Although he was definitely afraid of fatherhood, the combination of that and his life with Yoko Ono led to the real breakdown of our relationship," Julian Lennon wrote. "I just wanted to say that wherever he is I hope he realizes the mistakes he's made as I realize them and hope never to repeat them."

**Robert Zemeckis**  
UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. — Academy Award-winning director Robert Zemeckis will receive the American Cinema Editors' filmmaker of the year award.

Zemeckis is best known for his work on "Forrest Gump,"



**Julian Lennon** (right), 37-year-old son of slain former Beatle John Lennon, has written about the breakdown of their relationship.

which won the Oscar for best picture. He has also directed "Contact," "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," and the "Back to the Future" trilogy.

The award, known as the Golden Eddie, honors those in the film industry who have made "significant contributions to the advancement of motion pictures."

The group announced its selection for the award Wednesday. Steven Spielberg will present the award to Zemeckis on Feb. 25 in Beverly Hills. Past recipients include Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Francis Ford Coppola.

**Prince Edward**  
LOS ANGELES — Four Westchester High School students got the royal treatment this week.

Britain's Prince Edward presented awards Wednesday to the pupils who are taking part in the U.S. version of a worldwide student achievement and mentoring program founded by his father, the Duke of

Edinburgh. The program stresses extracurricular self-development, responsibility, community service and projects of each student's choosing.

The 36-year-old prince is a gold award winner himself in the Duke of Edinburgh program.

"Life is not about academic work. That never inspired me. But getting involved in an activity that was different, that was a little bit broader, that was what inspired me," the youngest son of Queen Elizabeth II said.

The four students, who began the program in February and were visited by the prince's father earlier this year, received certificates as bronze award winners for achieving personal goals in target areas.

**Maury Povich**  
FORT SHAWNEE, Ohio — Maury Povich is promising to replace a kitten and computer he had given to an 8-year-old cancer victim who lost the items in a fire.

Ashleigh Lowe received the gifts from the talk show host last month while in New York to tape an episode of the "The Maury Povich Show."

The kitten was killed and the Barbie computer destroyed in a trailer fire Sunday.

"We will do it again with good wishes and hopefully this will make a little difference in what she is going through," Povich said Tuesday from his New York office.

## Best Buy to acquire Musicland

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — Best Buy Co. will buy Musicland Stores Corp. for about \$425 million, giving the consumer electronics retailer access to more than 1,300 retail outlets including Sam Goody's, Suncoast, Mediaplay and On Cue.

The agreement, announced Thursday, also gives Minneapolis-based Best Buy access to Musicland's four commercial Web sites. Richard M. Schulze, Best

Buy's chairman and chief executive, said the deal will let his company reach new groups of consumers: those in rural areas and malls, and "early technology adopters" — people who like to try out new gadgets and technological innovations.

The acquisition, expected to close in the next four months, values Musicland's common stock at \$12.55 per share. Best Buy would also assume \$260 million in debt.

"We feel this is a unique opportunity to grow with a company that not only is a good fit for our business but also shares our Minnesota heritage and passion for retail," said Jack W. Eugster, Musicland's chairman and chief executive.

Schulze will lead the combined companies as chairman and chief executive. Eugster will join Best Buy's board of directors.

## Television

### THURSDAY DECEMBER 7

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
2	News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Cursed	Will & Grace	Just Shoot	ER		News	(3:5) Tonight Show	
3	Annabelle's Wish	Santa Is Coming to Town	Christmas Miracles				Early Edition		700 Club	Boss?	
4	News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Cursed	Will & Grace	Just Shoot	ER		News	(3:5) Tonight Show	
5	Movie: Life Size Tyra Banks. **			(40) Movie: A Mom for Christmas Olivia Newton-John.	Emperors	Jersey	(20) Jersey	Zorro			
6	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	(05) Movie: Any Which Way You Can (1980) Clint Eastwood. ** 1/2	(45) Movie: Planet of the Apes (1968) ****							
7	News	Fortune	Be a Millionaire	Shooting War				News	Seinfeld	Nightline	
8	News	Home Imp.	48 Hours	City of Angels	Diagnosis Murder	News	(3:5) Late Show				
9	Spin City	Real TV	Ultimate Auction		M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Frasier	Cops	Voyager		
10	College Basketball Kansas at Wake Forest			College Football Awards			Sportscenter		Hoops		
11	Movie: Devil's Arith.	Movie: Molly Elsiebeth Shue. ** 1/2	PG-13	Extras-What	RudeAwk	Movie: Meeting Daddy Lloyd Bridges. R	Movie: Twin				
12	Real Sports	Inside the NFL		Movie: The Suburbans Craig Bierko. R	Vertical	Sex Bytes	Inside the NFL				
13	(5:15) Movie: Entrapment	(15) Movie: Deep Blue Sea Thomas Jane. ** 1/2	R	Movie: Traces of Red James Belushi. ** 1/2	R						
14	Movie: Story-Castle	Movie: Gunfighters of Casa Grande (1965) **		Movie: The Outriders (1950) Joel McCrea. ***							
15	Martial Law	SheVary Merry Christmas	Movie: Secret of Giving (1999) Reba McEntire.	Martial Law	Shooter						
16	Wild Discovery	Real L.A.P.D.	Great Siberian Explosion	How Did Dinosaurs Fly?	Justice Files	LAPD					
17	Law & Order	Biography	Murder One	Murder One	Law & Order	Biography					
18	Intimate Portrait	Unsolved Mysteries	Movie: A Christmas Romance (1994) **	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Designing					
19	Football	Last Word	SW Sports	Football	NHL Hockey Dallas Stars at Los Angeles Kings						
20	Pretender	NBA Basketball New York Knicks at San Antonio Spurs			NBA	Movie: One Night Stand (1997) ** 1/2					
21	Hey Arnold!	Rugrats	Pelwick	Thornberrys	Gilligan	Hillbillies	Facts of Life	Facts of Life	3's Co.	3's Co.	All in Family
22	JAG	Nash Bridges	Movie: Death Wish II (1982) Charles Bronson. *	Martin	Martin	Strip Poker					
23	Locura de Amor	Mujeres Enganadas	Laberintos de Pasion	El Gran Blablazo	P. Impacto	Noticiero	Viviana-Med				
24	History	History IQ	Wrath of God	Tanks	Suicide Missions	World War II					
25	Babylon 5	Tales-Crypt	Crypt Tales	Movie: Village of the Damned (1995) Kirstie Alley. ** 1/2	Crossing	Twilight Z.	Fri. the 13th				
26	Fresh Pr.	Suddenly	Movie: The Marrying Man (1991) Alec Baldwin. **	News	Suddenly	In the Heat of the Night					

### FRIDAY DECEMBER 8

	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM
2	Sesame Street	Barney	Zoboo	Dragon	Arthur	Caillou	Clifford-Red	Mr Rogers	Teletubbies	Body Elec.	
3	Angela	Kids	Itsy Bitsy	CBN Special	700 Club	Itsy Bitsy	Itsy Bitsy	Rotten	Bobby	Donkey	
4	Today					Housecalls	Judge Lane	Tell Truth	Change	Days-Lives	
5	Bear	Pooh	PB & J Otter	Out of Bx	Rolie Polie	Bear	Pooh	PB & J Otter	Out of Bx	Rolie Polie	Madeline
6	DiffWorld	DiffWorld	Little House on the Prairie	Little House on the Prairie	Mama	Cosby	Matlock	Hunter			
7	Good Morning America				Live With Regis	The View	Rose O'Donnell	News			
8	Early Show				Dr. Laura	Price Is Right	Young and the Restless	News			
9	Magic Bus	Martha Stewart Living	Real Life	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Benny Hinn	Life in Word	Kenneth C.	Life Today	Divorce	
10	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	
11	Movie: The Voyage Richard Burton. PG	(35) Movie: The Crimson Cult ** PG	(15) Movie: Martin's Day Richard Harris. ** PG								
12	Movie: Guilty by Suspicion *** PG-13	(45) Movie: Digging to China Kevin Bacon. ** PG	Half Past Autumn: Life of Gordon Parks								
13	Movie: (35) Movie: Outland (1981) Sean Connery, Peter Boyle.	Movie: A Pyromaniac's Love Story PG	(15) Movie: Message in a Bottle PG-13								
14	(6:30) Movie: **** Fort Apache (1948) John Wayne.	Movie: Where the Boys Are (1960), Dolores Hart ** 1/2	Movie: Light in the Piazza (1982) ** 1/2								
15	Paid Prog.	Renker	Starky and Hutch	Starky and Hutch	Starky and Hutch	Starky and Hutch	Starky and Hutch	Waltons			
16	Paid Prog.	Assignment Discovery	Home Matters	Design	Christopher Lowell	Home					
17	Northern Exposure	L.A. Law	Murder, She Wrote	Magnum, P.I.	Night Court	Newscradio	Law & Order				
18	Designing	Designing	Murphy	Murphy	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Unsolved Mysteries	Lifetime Live	Movie:		
19	Sports	National Sports Report	Sports	Geniuses	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Nutt		
20	Lois & Clark-Superman	ER	ER	Movie: Two Mules for Sister Sara (1970) ***							
21	Thornberrys	Rugrats	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Little Bill	Franklin	Dora	Maggie	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Kipper
22	Burnett	Burnett	Something	Hearts Affre	Jesse	Ned-Stagey	Wings	Veronicas	Working	Larroquette	
23	(6:00) Despierta America			Marta Susana	Pobre Diable						
24	Civil War Journal	Weapons at War	20th Century	True Action	Great Blind	FBI-Story	Crimes	Black Sheep			
25	Sightings	Sentinel	DarkShad	Crossing	Visitor	Visitor					
26	Clueless	Charles	Parent	Wayans	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	MacGyver	Matlock	News		

	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
2	Sewing	Painting	Fine Art	Attenborough in Paradise	Wishbone	Reading	Clifford-Red	Dragon	Arthur	Lions	
3	Mega Bab.	Candy	Kids	Stingiest Man in Town	Movie: Babes in Toyland (1986) Drew Barrymore. **	Night Before Christmas					
4	Days-Lives	Passions	Montel Williams	Men Are From Mars	Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News				
5	Rupert	GrowPains	GrowPains	Totally	Famous	Smart Guy	BoyWorld	Jersey	Even	Famous	BoyWorld
6	Hunter	Movie: Nowhere to Land (2000) Jack Wagner. **	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Full House	Full House	Roseanne	Roseanne			
7	Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Maury	Brown	Judge Judy	News	ABC News			
8	Bold & B.	As the World Turns	Guiding Light	Sally	Hollywood	Family Feud	News	CBS News			
9	Attorney	Roseanne	Mad	Grace Under Nanny	Dinoz: rs	Rangers	X-Men	Digimon	Simpsons	3rd Rock	
10	Sportscenter of the Decade: The 1990s	Behind Skatepark Tour	Motorcity's Racing	Baseball	Up Close	Sportscenter					
11	Movie: Something Short	Movie: Finding Buck McHenry	(05) Movie: Stanley & Iris Jane Fonda. ** 1/2	PG-13	(05) Movie: Hall Caesar *						
12	Movie: The Iron Giant PG	Movie: The Muse Albert Brooks. PG-13	Proof of Life	Movie: A Perfect World (1993) Kevin Costner, Clint Eastwood. PG-13							
13	Movie: Message-Bottle	Movie: In the Line of Duty	Movie: Brokendown Palace Claire Danes. Shoes Off!	Movie: Rain Man (1988) R							
14	Movie: Light	Movie: My Man Godfrey (1936) William Powell. ***	Movie: To Be or Not to Be (1942) Jack Benny. *** 1/2	Movie: Barkleys-Brdwy							
15	Waltons	Bloopers-Jokes	McCoy's	Alice	Dukes of Hazzard	Waltons	Starky and Hutch				
16	Home	Design	Christopher Lowell	Epicurious	Epicurious	Your New House	Wild Discovery				
17	Law & Order	Northern Exposure	L.A. Law	Murder, She Wrote	Magnum, P.I.	Night Court	Newscradio				
18	(12:00) Movie: ** Children of the Bride	Movie: Stranger in My Bed (1986) Lindsay Wagner. **	Murphy	Murphy	Golden Girls	Golden Girls	Golden Girls				
19	Nutt	Cowboys	Okta. St.	Ok. Sooners	Stant	Big 12 Show	World Sport	Bluetorch TV	Geniuses	NBA Action	
20	(12:00) Movie: ** 1/2 Ebenezer (1997)	Due South	Pal Factor: Chronicles	Pensacola: Wings of Gold	ER						
21	Franklin	Doug	Doug	Catdog	Catdog	Catdog	U Pick	Pinky	Thornberrys		
22	Doctor	Martin	Martin	PGA Golf World Golf Championship/World Cup - Second Day				Walker, Texas Ranger			
23	Siempre	La Casa en la Playa	El Gordo y la Flaca	Cristina	Primer Impacto	El Blablazo	Noticiero				
24	Black Sheep	History IQ	20th Century	True Action	Great Blind	FBI-Story	Crimes	Black Sheep	Squadron		
25	Visitor	Visitor	Visitor	Quantum Leap	Xena: Warrior Princess	Sliders					
26	News	Caroline	Bzzz!	Change	Street	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.	7th Heaven	Full House	Clueless	

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM
2	News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Cursed	Will & Grace	Just Shoot	ER		News	(3:5) Tonight Show	
3	Christmas Elves	Providence's Christmas	Cricket on the Hearth	Early Edition	Law & Order				700 Club	Fearing	
4	Heartbeat	Movie: Ernest Saves Christmas PG	(15) Movie: Uncle Buck John Candy. ** 1/2	PG	Heartbeat	So Weird	Zorro				
5	Fresh Pr.	Fresh Pr.	(05) Movie: The Hand That Rocks the Cradle (1991) ***	(25) Movie: Malice (1993) Alec Baldwin. ** 1/2							
6	News	Fortune	Two Guys	Dot Comedy	Norm	Madigan	20/20	News	Seinfeld	Nightline	
7	News	Home Imp.	Fugitive	CSI: Crime Scn	Nash Bridges	News	(3:5) Late Show				
8	Spin City	Real TV	Police Videos	NASCAR World Records	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Frasier	Cops	Voyager		
9	Helaman	20 Years of NASCAR	NASCAR Winston Cup Awards				Sportscenter		Rodeo		
10	(5:05) Movie: Hall Caesar	Movie: The Princess and the Barrio Boy	Stargate	(45) Outer Limits	Beggars and Choosers						
11	Inside the NFL	Movie: Beverly Hills Cop II Eddie Murphy. (45) Movie: Guilty as Charged Rod Steiger. ** R	Movie: Chill Factor (1999)								
12	(5:00) Movie: Rain Man R	(15) Movie: Striking Poses Shannen Doherty. ** R	Movie: Lake Placid Bill Pullman. ** 1/2	R	Bedtime	Movie:					
13	Movie: Barkleys-Brdwy	Movie: Watch on the Rhine (1943) Paul Lukas. ****	Movie: The Search (1948) Montgomery Clift. ****								
14	Martial Law	Championship Rodeo	RollerJam	Motor Madness	Martial Law	Rodeo					
15	Wild Discovery	On the Inside	News	Science	Hospital	Justice Files	On Inside				
16	Law & Order	Biography	Competition	Poirtot	Law & Order	Biography					
17	Intimate Portrait	Unsolved Mysteries	Figure Skating Trophies Laique	Onca and Again	Golden Girls						
18	Football	Last Word	SW Sports	Figure Skating Grand Slam Super Teams							

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Chrétien's choice  
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metal runway 36 Actor  
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**Yesterday's answer**

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12-7

## 4. REAL ESTATE

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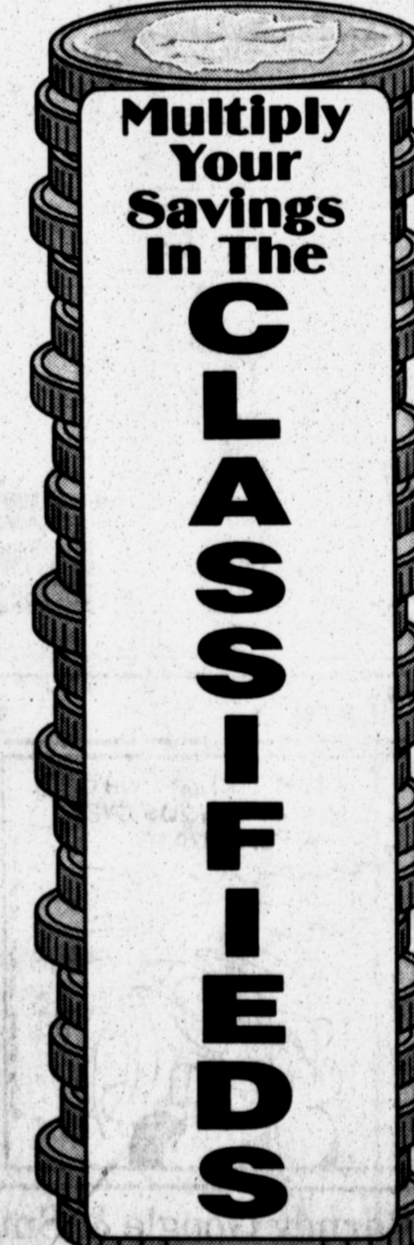
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Then remember these hints:  
• Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.  
• Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition. Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Brand ads are billed by the words, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.  
• Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.



CLASSIFIEDS

# Perry starting transition

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Rick Perry took a step toward a transition of his own Wednesday by naming an advisor to oversee a move into the governor's office, should George W. Bush win the presidency.

James Huffines, a director of an investment banking firm and an appointee of former Gov. Bill Clements in the late 1980s, will be Perry's transition coordinator.

It is an unpaid position that would last only as long as the transition period, said Perry's spokeswoman, Kathy Walt.

Bush is waiting on legal battles over the Florida vote to learn whether he'll become president. He has not resigned as Texas governor, a post he has held since 1995.

If Bush does resign, Perry, a fellow Republican, will automatically be sworn in without an election to be governor the remaining two years of Bush's term. The Texas Senate would convene to select Perry's successor as lieutenant governor.

"Though events in Florida are still ongoing, I think it is important that we begin to plan for an orderly transition that will call upon some of the brightest and most talented individuals of our state to serve

in leadership positions," Perry said.

Huffines currently is principal and director of the investment banking firm Hester Capital Management, L.L.C. He was secretary of appointments under Clements from 1986 until 1990.

"I welcome this opportunity to serve Lieutenant Governor Perry and the people of this state in overseeing this imminent transition," Huffines said.

In a Perry transition, Huffines would help oversee the hiring of 150 to 200 employees of the governor's staff. As lieutenant governor, Perry

has 48 employees.

No hiring decisions would be made until it is certain Bush would become president and Perry would move up to take his place, Walt said.

Current members of Perry's staff and of Bush's staff interested in working in the governor's office under Perry are submitting resumes for those posts, Walt said.

"Texans can look to the future with confidence as their next governor builds an administration that reflects the diverse talents of our great people," Huffines said.

## HISTORY

### Florida Legislature picked electors amid 1868 partisan feud

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — Democrats charged that a GOP-controlled Legislature wanted to pick its own slate of electors for fear the Republican candidate would lose Florida.

This familiar scenario actually dates to 1868, when Ulysses S. Grant was the Republican candidate. Republicans in Florida's Reconstruction-era Legislature turned aside Democratic protests and sent three GOP lawmakers to the Electoral College to vote for Grant.

It was the only time in state history that legislators selected Florida's electors, although it could happen again this week.

Most states had abandoned this practice by the time Florida gained statehood in 1845. The only legislature to do so since then was Colorado's in 1876.

The *Floridian*, a weekly newspaper in Tallahassee, criticized the Legislature's decision to pick Florida's 1868 electors.

"We regard the whole thing as anti-republican, unconstitutional, revolutionary, null and void," the newspaper editorialized. "It is simply a farce. It is taking from the people the right of deciding an important matter for themselves and leaving to a few men who have constituted themselves sense-keepers of all and singular without so much as saying by your leave."

Present-day Democrats may have similar complaints, but that's about where the analogy ends.

While Florida's 25 electoral votes would decide whether Bush or Democrat Al Gore becomes president, its three votes in 1868 hardly mattered. Grant defeated Democrat Horatio Seymour 214-80 in the Electoral College although the popular vote was much closer — 52.7 percent to 47.3 percent.

There is another big difference. The 1868 Legislature did not wait until after an election before injecting itself into the presidential race. Lawmakers decided in August there would be no presidential election in Florida that year.

They met again on Nov. 3 and selected Assemblymen James D. Green, of Manatee County, and John W. Butler, of Santa Rosa County, both white, and Sen. Robert Meacham, of Jefferson County, who was black, as electors.

Gov. Harrison Reed, also a Republican, argued that cash-strapped Florida could not afford another election after holding one in May of that year to fill state offices and adopt a new constitution, according to "The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida," a book published by Columbia University in 1913.

The author, William Watson Davis, a University of Kansas historian, wrote that Democrats, instead, contended the only thing Republicans were worried about was losing.

Most Florida Republicans then were blacks, Northern "carpetbaggers" such as Reed, and Southerners who sympathized with the Union during the Civil War and were derided by Confederate partisans as "scalawags."

More blacks than whites were registered to vote in Florida, but the Republican Party was undergoing deep internal strife, including four attempts to impeach Reed. Violence against blacks by white "regulators" and the Ku Klux Klan also was rampant even though federal troops were still in the state.

## Florida

From Page A1

tee in charge of inauguration arrangements.

The Florida Supreme Court set aside an hour for the two legal teams to argue their points — Gore's attorneys seeking to overturn a trial court ruling that let Bush's certified statewide victory stand, and the Texas governor hoping to sustain it.

The court set arguments on an unusually condensed timetable, a gesture to the overriding national importance of the issue and a Dec. 12 deadline for picking electors. It was only Monday when Leon County Circuit Judge N. Sanders Sauls rejected Gore's challenge to Bush's certified statewide victory and refused to order any recounts.

Even before Sauls' courtroom had cleared, Gore's lawyers rushed to file an appeal, and the state Supreme Court announced on Tuesday it would allow the lawyers to make their cases in public. Florida's high court will allow television cameras to broadcast the proceedings.

It was not clear when the state's justices would deal with another case, this one instructions from the U.S. Supreme Court to clarify a ruling last month that allowed manual recounts to proceed beyond a state-mandated deadline. As a result of that ruling, Gore cut Bush's lead by nearly 400 votes.

Bush was in Texas, the vice president in Washington, as their attorneys clashed for the prize of Florida's 25 electoral votes. The statewide winner of Florida stands to gain the White House and take the oath of office as the nation's 43rd

*"The only thing missing on the proclamation is the postmark from Austin, Texas. ... the legislature has now become the political arm of the Bush campaign."*

■ Rep. Lois Frankel, Florida Legislature

president on Jan. 20. The plan to summon the legislature into session drew sharp criticism from Democrats. "The only thing missing on the proclamation is the post mark from Austin, Texas," charged Rep. Lois Frankel, leader of the House Democrats, referring to the Bush campaign.

Appearing today on NBC's "Today" show, she said "it really saddens me to say that the legislature has now become the political arm of the Bush campaign. ... They are determined to make sure that George Bush wins this campaign at all costs."

The GOP leaders, Speaker Tom Feeney and Senate President John McKay, said they were acting to preserve the state's right to have its electors counted in the Electoral College on Dec. 18, and had not been pressured by Bush's campaign to act.

"Our sole responsibility will be to put forth a slate of electors that is untainted and ensures that Florida's 25 electoral votes count in this election, regardless for whom they voted," said McKay at a news conference.

He added, though, that his preference was for electors loyal to Bush, saying they should be appointed "based upon the vote totals that were available on November 14, and equally im-

portant, on the laws that were in place as of the date of the election on November 7."

House Majority Leader Mike Fasano, also appearing on the "Today" program today, said the legislature's decision to name a slate of electors for the people of Florida.

There were parallel trials in two Florida courtrooms over lawsuits filed by Democrats seeking to have absentee ballots thrown out.

Seminole County's elections supervisor, Sandra Goard, admitted in a deposition read aloud in court Wednesday that she had let Republican Party officials fill in voter ID numbers on absentee ballot applications.

And a federal appeals court in Atlanta that denied Bush's bid to throw out the results of manual recounts already completed.

The Atlanta court ruled that since Bush was ahead before the recounts, and still ahead afterward, he had not suffered "irreparable injury."

The judges did not rule on the constitutional claims advanced by the Texas governor, a point that Bush's lawyers stressed afterward.

Gore's aides seized on the ruling, saying it cleared the way for Florida's high court to decide the election by counting additional ballots requested by the vice president. "We're very pleased that the court rejected the Bush campaign's effort to throw out hand counts," spokesman Doug Hattaway said.

## 11. BUSINESS SERVICES

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**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES**

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

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

**12-7 CRYPTOQUOTE**

FQJII RIJ WBMQFO HJP  
AJGAKJ PQG FQBZX PQR  
FQJO FQBZX FQJO FQBZX.

— IGEJIF QJZIB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: SUCCESS IS A POISON THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN LATE IN LIFE AND THEN ONLY IN SMALL DOSES. — ANTHONY TROLLOPE

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Jan 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Jan 01 212 212 211 211 1/4 271 1/4 2.94	
Feb 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Mar 01 220 220 219 219 1/4 279 1/4 3.52	
Mar 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Apr 01 227 227 226 226 1/4 287 1/4 4.10	
Apr 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		May 01 234 234 233 233 1/4 294 1/4 4.68	
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May 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Aug 02 339 339 338 338 1/4 399 1/4 13.38	
Jun 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Sep 02 346 346 345 345 1/4 406 1/4 13.96	
Jun 00 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Oct 02 353 353 352 352 1/4 413 1/4 14.54	
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Apr 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Jun 04 493 493 492 492 1/4 553 1/4 26.14	
May 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Jul 04 500 500 499 499 1/4 560 1/4 26.72	
May 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Aug 04 507 507 506 506 1/4 567 1/4 27.30	
Jun 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Sep 04 514 514 513 513 1/4 574 1/4 27.88	
Jun 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Oct 04 521 521 520 520 1/4 581 1/4 28.46	
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Sep 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Apr 05 563 563 562 562 1/4 623 1/4 31.94	
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Dec 01 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Oct 05 605 605 604 604 1/4 665 1/4 35.42	
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Jun 02 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Sep 06 682 682 681 681 1/4 742 1/4 41.80	
Jun 02 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Oct 06 689 689 688 688 1/4 749 1/4 42.38	
Jul 02 80.50 80.50 + 30 80.50 80.50		Nov 06 696 696 695 695 1/4 756 1/4 42.96	
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# GOP trying to narrow gap with Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are dropping their demands for a tax-cutting package but insist on less spending than President Clinton wants as the two sides test whether they can finally end their yearlong budget war.

Congressional leaders of both parties might journey to the White House for another try Thursday at reaching a truce with Clinton over four overdue spending bills and disputes over immigration, workplace safety and other issues.

Despite internal GOP divisions, an Oval Office meeting this week left House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Trent

Lott, R-Miss., hopeful that an agreement between the two lame ducks — Clinton and Congress — might be near. A deal would complete the \$1.8 trillion budget for fiscal 2001, which began Oct. 1.

"We're trying to see if we can't get it all wrapped up," Senate Majority Whip Don Nickles, R-Okla., said Wednesday after GOP leaders ordered their bargainers to craft a counteroffer to present to Clinton. "I think we're getting pretty close."

Erasing one contentious issue, Republicans decided to scrap their 10-year plan designating \$240 billion in tax cuts for long-term health costs,

investments in poor communities and on many small businesses and pension plans. Coupled to it, and now likely to die as well, was a \$1 boost in the \$5.15 hourly minimum wage, which Democrats and their labor allies had sought.

GOP leaders decided they were better off trying for a larger tax package after Jan. 20, when it looks increasingly as if Republican George W. Bush will become president. Clinton had threatened to veto the tax measure because he said some of its provisions were focused too much on the wealthy.

Still alive, though, is another piece of the tax mea-

sure: a \$30 billion, 10-year plan to boost Medicare payments for many health care providers. Clinton seems likely also to win proposals to expand Medicaid coverage for some low-income disabled children, single mothers and others.

On another dispute, Clinton's sweeping demands for eased restrictions on hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants were likely to produce an agreement covering far fewer people, said participants from both sides speaking on condition of anonymity. They cautioned that no final decisions have been made.

The biggest battleground is

a \$350 billion bill financing labor, health and education programs that includes a massive \$18 billion increase over last year. Clinton and Democrats consider that boost — for hiring teachers, establishing after-school centers and other Democratic priorities — their biggest potential prize in the budget fight.

Eager to lock up most of that increase, Clinton has offered to pare it by about \$2 billion. Republicans have spoken about a deeper reduction of at least \$5 billion.

"We've said that we're willing to negotiate and make



**Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (below, left) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert are working to reach an accord with President Clinton (top) and wrap up work on the federal budget.**

this easy, but we need cooperation from all sides," said White House spokesman Jake Siewert.

Siewert said White House bargainers have "signaled some flexibility."

## Organic food standards to be released

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### News digest

WASHINGTON — National standards for organic food will be released soon, and they will make clear that such products aren't safer or more nutritious than conventional products, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman says. The rules have been debated inside and outside the department throughout Glickman's nearly six years in office.

#### EEU: reform necessary before adding members

NICE, France — Their goal: to complete a "great mission" by bringing Europe together. But as the leaders of the European Union's 15 nations gathered here Thursday to revamp their organization and make room for young democracies from Eastern Europe, success was far from assured. During a planned three-day

summit in this French Riviera resort, the EU nations were likely to restate their commitment — first made in 1993 — that other European nations, from Turkey to the Baltics, are welcome to join and must work hard to get in shape for membership. But enlarging the European Union isn't that simple. The EU consistently brushes aside demands by the 13 candidate countries for firm entry dates.

#### 30 cases of e-coli from ground beef confirmed

MINNEAPOLIS — The number of people sickened by an E. coli outbreak involving ground beef bought at Cub Foods has risen to 30, with cases confirmed in three states.

Three of those sickened, including a 16-year-old girl, remained hospitalized Wednesday, said Buddy Ferguson, spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Four new cases of the foodborne illness were confirmed in the state Wednesday, adding to the 22 confirmed earlier. One person in Iowa and three in Wisconsin also have been sickened.

Cub Foods' supplier, American Foods Group Inc., has voluntarily recalled 1.1 million pounds of ground beef prepared at its Green Bay, Wis., plant in early November. American Foods said it has found no evidence the E. coli bacteria entered the ground beef on its premises.

The recall involved Cub Foods stores and stores supplied by Supervalu Inc., Cub's parent company, in Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

#### Here come the pandas — Long may they reign!

WASHINGTON — It was time for a change in the nation's capital. The old regime was fine — although whispers of "dysfunctional" and "cantankerous" dogged its fi-

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nal years — but sentiment can go just so far, and then you need new blood. Welcome to Washington, Mei Xiang and Tian-Tian, but know this: It's a tough town, where dynasties come and go in the wink of one of your huge panda eyes. The black and white creatures — Mei Xiang, a 2-year-old female, and Tian-Tian, a 3-year-old male — arrived at the National Zoo on Wednesday. A smooth 17-hour flight on a specially equipped FedEx jet dubbed "Panda One" and an easy landing led to a decision to allow them to lodge together immediately, instead of spending their first two nights in separate quarters as originally planned.

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## Amtrak derailment causes 10 injuries

WEED, Calif. (AP) — An Amtrak train carrying 153 people derailed early Thursday after it clipped a tank car that had fallen off a parallel track, injuring about 10 passengers and crew members.

None of the injuries was serious, said Amtrak spokeswoman Brenda Follmer.

The 16-car Coast Starlight was traveling from Seattle to Los Angeles when it derailed just before 2 a.m. north of Dunsmuir, near Mount Shasta.

Five cars left the tracks, Follmer said. Both engines landed on their sides, while a baggage car, a crew dorm car and a passenger car derailed but did not fall over.

There were 134 passengers and 19 crew members on board. Early reports indicated that the most serious injury was to the train's engineer, who may have cracked ribs, she said.

"It was a hell of a jolt," said passenger John Pierre of Edmonds, Wash., who was en route to Oakland.

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