

Hereford BRAND

100th Year, Vol. Number 126 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, December 28, 2000

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD,
HOME OF
Judy Baker

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

■ New Year's
means day off
for most workers

All federal, state, county and municipal offices will be closed Jan. 1 to allow their employees to observe the New Year's Day holiday.

All financial institutions will be closed on New Year's Day, as will all post offices. There will be no residential or business mail delivery, although special delivery mail will be delivered. Financial institutions and the U.S. Postal Service will resume normal operations Jan. 2.

The *Hereford Brand* will close at 2 p.m. Friday and will be closed New Year's Day. The newspaper office will reopen at 8 a.m. Jan. 2.

Deadlines for the Jan. 2 edition of the newspaper will be noon Friday for both classified and display advertising.

Classes in the Hereford Independent School District will be closed this week. Students will return to classes Jan. 8, 2001.

Today's weather

OUTLOOK

• Partly cloudy skies •

Tonight: Partly cloudy with lows around 14, north to northwest winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny with highs around 36, northwest to west winds 5 to 15 mph.

Friday night: Clear with lows around 20.

• Extended forecast •

Saturday: Partly cloudy, highs 36 to 42.

Sunday and New Year's Day: Cloudy with a chance of snow, lows 12 to 18, highs 22 to 28.

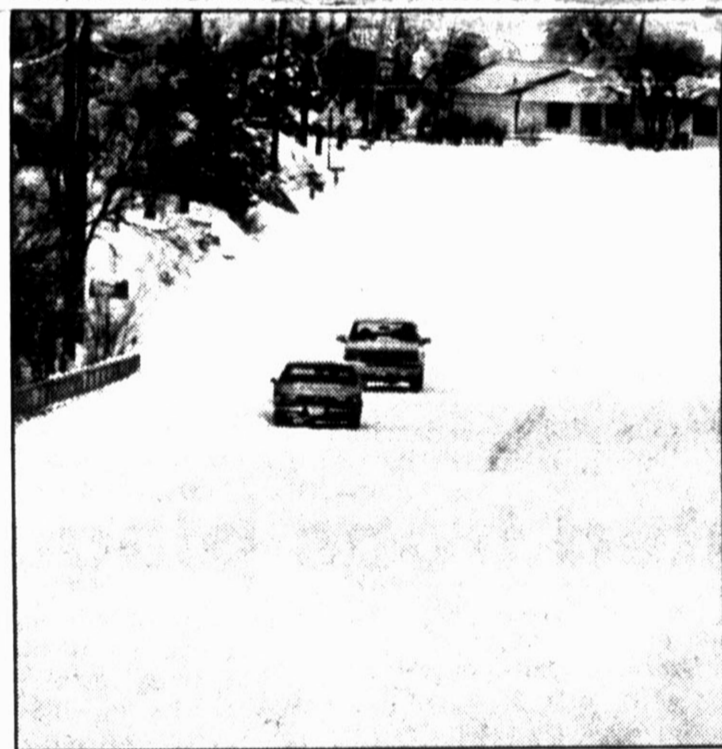
Tuesday: Cloudy, lows 10 to 16, highs 24 to 30.

Wednesday: Mostly cloudy, lows 14 to 20, highs 28 to 34.

• Hereford weather •

Wednesday's high, 27; low, 16, according to KPAN Radio.

WINTER POSTCARDS



BRAND/Mauri Montgomery

Thirteen inches of snow blanketing the city may be beautiful (top), but it also plays havoc with residents' lives. Two vehicles (above, left) move slowly along South Main and residents on Bradley Street have to wield snow shovels.

Life returning to normal

By Donald Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Neither rain nor snow ...

Well, not exactly. Hereford residents found out Wednesday that more than a foot of snow on the ground will stop delivery of the U.S. mail.

For the second time in six months, the Hereford Post Office was unable to deliver mail to residences and businesses. In late June, lightning struck a transformer at the Southwestern Public Service Co. substation on New York Street, knocking out power for residences and businesses east of Main Street.

When the power went out, the Hereford Post Office was in the dark, preventing postal workers from sorting mail. Because everything at the post office is run by electricity, there were no lights and the sorting equipment would not run. So, the carriers could not make their runs.

James Downs said Wednesday the snow was too deep for the letter

carriers' vehicles to maneuver. The post office was open only from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Mail was distributed among boxes and residents who made it to the post office were able to claim their mail.

However, the Hereford Post Office was not alone in its plight. Post offices across the Panhandle did not make deliveries. Mail deliveries were expected to resume today.

Most area highways were reopened Wednesday. In Parmer County, traffic was moving along U.S. Highways 60 and 84 by 6 p.m.

In Deaf Smith County, road conditions were said to be better than had been expected. Precinct 3 foreman Bobby Hammock said the winds were not severe, which prevented significant drifting of snow. Also, the western part of the county received only about half the snow that fell in the immediate Hereford area.

The Deaf Smith County Courthouse did not open until 1 p.m. Wednesday and until 9 a.m. today.

No major accidents have been reported, according to the Hereford Police Department.

Many Texans to be in dark up to two weeks

The Associated Press

A New Year's resolution for many Texans hit by a crippling winter storm may simply be to get out of the dark.

Officials with area utility companies said it could be as long as two weeks before electricity is

restored to some of the thousands of residents who were in the path of a storm that arrived Christmas Day and has been slow to pull away from the state.

"This is not a scare tactic — it's realistic," said Scott McCloud, a spokesman for AEP/Southwestern

Electric Power, said of the two-week estimate. "This is a devastating storm."

McCloud said the problem was more than just a simple power outage. He said workers are having to rebuild damaged transmission lines in order to restore service.

"We're trying to reroute lines so we can at least get some of the critical care facilities back on, but we have at least 25 wooden structures destroyed and at least six metal transmission towers on the

Please see STORM, Page A9



Amarillo
Republican Teel Blivins is one of several senators being considered for lieutenant governor.

official is an executive position normally elected by the people and not merely an officer of the senate. Livingston's decision later was up

Please see SENATE, Page A9

DECEMBER 28 2000

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, December 28, 2000 • A3

Book addresses question: How do we do good wisely?

DALLAS — The title of a new book sounds like an attack on the year's most generous season: *The Ethics of Giving and Receiving: Am I My Foolish Brother's Keeper?*

The first essay, by University of Chicago philosophy professor Leon Kass, does read a little like "how the Grinch studied Aristotle." Dr. Kass' answer to the title question is a qualified "no."

Philanthropy, he asserts, should be linked with justice. And justice, he writes, creates standards for wise giving.

People responsible for their own misfortune drug addicts, for instance should get bumped to the end of the line. And help should generally be issued with strings attached, such as requiring someone on welfare to eventually get a job.

But the point of the book is really to find an intelligent way to answer the title question with a qualified "yes," said the book's co-editor, Southern Methodist University philosophy professor William May.

"After all, no single one of us is exempt from being foolish," he said.

The book, published this month by Southern Methodist

University Press, tries to make philosophy practical. Using academicians and philanthropy professionals, it brings the tools of philosophy and ethics to bear on the question of how to do good wisely.

The first section consists of competing essays by Dr. Kass and three SMU ethics professors. But most of the book is about and by people who do philanthropy for a living through foundations, voluntary organizations or faith-based agencies.

While many of the essays are about large-scale giving, the discussion also applies to smaller donations. This is a season when most people's mailboxes are stuffed with requests for donations from a wide spectrum of seemingly worthwhile causes. So anyone but a complete Scrooge gets a daily pang wondering which if any causes are worth supporting.

"We're publishing in a part of the country where many people may not state the argument as well as Leon Kass, but a lot of people are thinking it," Dr. May said.

So what kinds of answers does the book offer? Mostly, it suggests that we err on the

side of basic benevolence, while admitting that there must be standards set to divide limited resources.

For instance, it's pretty hard to decide who is and is not deserving, suggests SMU ethics professor Steven Sverdluk. The close calls would require an unwieldy, courtroom-like, adversarial system.

Robin Lovin, dean of the SMU theology school, is concerned about the physical and emotional distance between the wealthy and the needy in America. He fears more that potential donors will lose the empathy needed for compassion than that they will apply too-strict standards of justice to their charity.

And Charles Curran looks at giving through a Christian lens. The SMU ethics professor suggests that God's expansive compassion, as set forth in Christian Scriptures, offers a model for people to view their obligations to the poor.

The writing is high-minded but readable. And that, too, was a goal of the book, Dr. May said. He wanted the writers to avoid the pitfalls of academic jargon and too-simple

See BOOK, Page A4

BIRTHDAY TIME



Monthly parties honoring Hereford Care Center residents who celebrated birthdays that month are sponsored by various churches and clubs in Hereford. Recently Summerfield Baptist Church served birthday cake and punch to the honorees and all the Care Center residents while Ray Cox entertained with his banjo. Pictured are (seated from left) honorees Beatrice LaComb and Lavarda Steward; (middle row) honoree Richard Esquivel and Mrs. Ray Cox; and (back row) Ray Cox and Janie Moffins, activity director.

CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: Last year, my husband, "Bernie," lost his job at the age of 50. It was a blow to his ego, and pushed him into a midlife crisis. Bernie decided to search for an old girlfriend he had not seen in 20 years. He told me he made a mistake marrying me 15 years ago and that he should have married "Doris." Our sex life ended abruptly. He said he no longer cared about me, and had to be faithful to his long-lost love.

Bernie found Doris, who had been married for 18 years, and he attempted to resume the relationship. She told him she was not interested and to please stop writing and calling. Now he blames me for "ruining his life."

Bernie says he will stay with me because he feels obligated to keep his marriage vows. Our sex life has been nonexistent for almost a year, and frankly, I am miserable. I did not get married to have a roommate. I have considered divorce, but am better off financially if I stay with Bernie. Also, I'm sure the children would be happier living with both parents. I am sinking into a depression, and can't decide what to do. Should I

stay with Bernie or kick him out? — Torn in Pittsburgh

Dear Pittsburgh: Bernie sounds irresponsible, conflicted and unreliable. Are you sure you want him? There are several issues that need working on, and it is not possible for me to help you with a few lines in the column. I strongly recommend joint counseling. I wish you luck. You are going to need it.

Dear Ann Landers: When I read the letter from "Reluctant Mother of the Bride," who said her beautiful, intelligent daughter was marrying the "village idiot," it sounded like my own family.

My mother considered my fiancé, "Ed," beneath me socially because he didn't have a college degree. She viewed his family as "foreigners" because they lived in a working-class neighborhood. She tried everything she could think of to break up our relationship because she thought I was destroying my life. She snubbed Ed's family at the engagement party, and cried in the kitchen during our wedding reception.

After we married, Ed went to night school, graduated magna cum laude, and went on to graduate school. Now, 13 years later, Ed has a prestigious job and has given my mother two beautiful grandchildren. Mom has come around full circle. I no longer am allowed to criticize this

man, or my mother will let me have it. She thinks Ed is a saint, and brags about him to anyone who will listen. The remarkable turnaround is a joy to me, and living proof that my husband has real class. He overlooked my mother's rotten behavior, and never held it against her.

I hope "Reluctant Mother of the Bride" sees my letter and learns from it. — Married to My Dream Man in Florida

Dear Florida: I hope so, too. Time did its work, and your faith in your husband paid off. Thanks for a letter with a storybook ending.

Dear Ann Landers: What do you think of a 38-year-old man playing tickle games in the basement with his teenage nieces? I'm talking about my husband rolling around on the floor with these girls, laughing and screaming. He says there is nothing wrong with it, but I'm disgusted. Am I — Overreacting in Colorado?

Dear Colorado: The "games" your husband is playing with his nieces are unwholesome and downright goofy. Put a stop to the basement shenanigans at once, and make sure there are no more unsupervised visits. Your husband sounds like he has rocks in his head, and your nieces need your protection. Don't let them down.

Is alcohol ruining your life or the life of a loved one? "Alcoholism: How to Recognize It, How to Deal With It, How to Conquer It" can turn things around. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Alcohol, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

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

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LIFESTYLES

Amarillo YMCA starts water aerobics classes for diabetics

The Amarillo YMCA will offer new water exercise classes designed for diabetics starting Jan. 8 at the Downtown YMCA, 816 S. Van Buren.

The 45-minute classes will be offered at a variety of times: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Mondays; 6 p.m. on Tuesdays; 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Wednesdays; 6 p.m. on Thursdays; and 9 a.m., 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on Fridays.

Junior Garcia, Y aquatics director, and Cindy Gibson, fitness director, both completed a diabetic education course at

Northwest Texas Healthcare System earlier this month and will be the instructors for the classes.

"The needs of diabetics are so specific that we needed training in how their body responds to exercise due to diabetes," Gibson said. Exercise is one of the ways people can have some control over their diabetes, she added.

Class participants must wear water shoes for the protection of their feet. They also must have completed a diabetic education class at the hospital of their

choice. The Y expects to have some water shoes available. Class participants will be able to progress at their own pace, and modifications will be shown, Gibson said.

The cost is \$4 per class for non-Y members or \$3 per class with a 10-class punch pass. It is free for Y members.

Anyone needing financial assistance to participate may pick up a scholarship application at the Downtown Y front desk.

For more information, call Gibson or Garcia at 374-4651.

Harris home site of Christmas meeting for Xi Epsilon Alpha

Xi Epsilon Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met recently in the home of Deann Harris for the annual Christmas meeting.

President Shelley Lewis conducted the business meeting during which Peggy Hyer, service chairman, quizzed members for the final time to net money for the Christmas Stocking Fund. A total of \$200 was collected and donated

in memory of Avis White.

Melinda Henson, program chairman, reported that the next meeting will be Jan. 2 in the home of Gaye Reily. The program will be "Have You Ever Seen a Ghost?"

Rosebud Chairman Linda Arellano reported that Tamara Mimms had a baby girl named Macie Calin.

Members brought their favor-

ite holiday treats to share for refreshments, then gifts were opened from secret sisters.

Present were Marge Bell, Holly Bixler, Sharon Bodner, Kim Hollingsworth, Debbie Holmes, Diane Kreig, Connie Matthews, Jana Morgan, Susan Shaw, Stacey Urbanczyk, Kay Williams, Arellano, Harris, Henson, Hyer, Lewis and Reily.

Book

From Page A3

popularizing.

"I wanted to encourage a kind of writing that goes out and over to an audience of intelligent inquirers," he said.

Most of the experts in the book have some connection to the Dallas area. That connection was by design, to demonstrate the quality of local thinking about this subject, Dr. May said.

"Dallas is given to an inferiority feeling and brings its celebrities in from elsewhere," he said.

The book grew out of conferences held at in 1996 and 1997 by SMU's Cary M.

Maguire Center for Ethics and Public Responsibility, where Dr. May served at the center's first director. One of the center's goals is to find ways to move its work beyond the campus, he said.

"A book converts a conference into an extended public conversation," he said.

Dr. May chose Dr. Kass to "keynote" the book partly because the two are friends and partly because Dr. Kass is a particularly articulate advocate of the conservative position on giving, Dr. May said.

"Given finite resources, how

should we be good stewards in their use?" he said. "Liberalism, in the past, insufficiently attended to that challenge."

The timeliness of the book, published during the pre-Christmas rush of shopping and charity appeals, was not part of a plan, though.

"The gestation period for books is so long and so erratic," Dr. May said. "I can't claim some mastermind was in the background planning this."

Distributed by The Associated Press

LOOKING BACK

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Dec. 28, the 363rd day of 2000. There are three days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Dec. 28, 1945, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

On this date:

In 1694, Queen Mary II of England died after five years of joint rule with her husband, King William III.

In 1832, John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Andrew Jackson.

In 1846, Iowa became the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

In 1856, the 28th president of the United States, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton, Va.

In 1897, the play "Cyrano de Bergerac," by Edmond Rostand, premiered in Paris.

In 1917, the New York Evening Mail published a factitious — as well as fictitious

— essay by H.L. Mencken on the history of bathtubs in America.

In 1937, composer Maurice Ravel died in Paris.

In 1944, the musical "On the Town" opened on Broadway.

In 1973, Alexander Solzhenitsyn published "Gulag Archipelago," an expose of the Soviet prison system.

In 1989, Alexander Dubcek, the former Czechoslovak Communist leader who was deposed in a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in 1968, was named chairman of the country's parliament.

Ten years ago: The government reported that its chief economic forecasting gauge, the Index of Leading Indicators, plunged 1.2 percent the previous month, the fifth consecutive monthly drop. Two people died in a subway fire in New York; 33 people were injured in a trolley collision in Boston.

Five years ago: CompuServe obeyed a German order to suspend member access to 200 Internet news groups deemed pornographic. President Clinton vetoed a

\$265 billion defense bill, saying it would waste money on an unneeded missile defense system. (Congress failed to override the veto.)

One year ago: Clayton Moore, television's "Lone Ranger," died in West Hills, Calif., at age 85.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lou Jacobi is 87. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pop Staples is 86. Bandleader Johnny Otis is 79. Former United Auto Workers union president Owen Bieber is 71. Actress Dame Maggie Smith is 66. Rock singer-musician Charles Neville is 62. Rock singer-musician Edgar Winter is 54. Rock singer-musician Alex Chilton (The Box Tops; Big Star) is 50. Actor Denzel Washington is 46. Country singer Joe Diffie is 42. Country musician Mike McGuire (Shenandoah) is 42. Actor Chad McQueen is 40. Country singer-musician Marty Roe (Diamond Rio) is 40. Actress Mackenzie Rosman ("7th Heaven") is 11.

Thought for Today: "The masses gladly take revenge for the honors they render us." — Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821).

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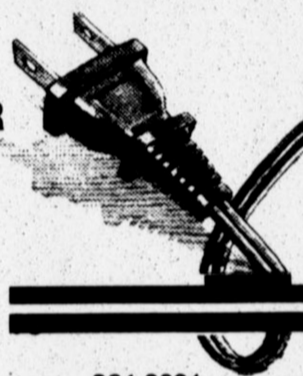
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Back in action

■ Super Mario proves his comeback is a good idea for Penguins and city of Pittsburgh

PITTSBURGH (AP) — That didn't take long. Mario Lemieux really IS back.

Bringing back memories of his first NHL game in 1984, Lemieux got an assist on his first pass of the first shift of his unprecedented comeback, setting up Jaromir Jagr's goal just 33 seconds into the Pittsburgh Penguins' game against Toronto on Wednesday night. Minutes after his No. 66 jersey was pulled down from the Mellon Arena ceiling to signal his return to the sport he dominated, Lemieux took the opening faceoff in his first game since April 1997.

On the Penguins' initial rush to the net, Lemieux put the puck on the skate of Jan Hrdina, who deflected it to Jagr, who stuffed it into the right side of the net as he was being pulled off his skates by defenseman Dimitri Yushkevich.

Jagr inadvertently dislodged the net as he charged to the net, and the play was reviewed by a video replay judge before the goal was allowed, triggering a huge ovation from a standing room only crowd inside Mellon Arena.

It was reminiscent of

Lemieux's first shift in the NHL in 1984, when he scored on his first shot less than two minutes into his first game.

Lemieux took the ice at 7:05 p.m., amid a flurry of flashing cameras about 40 minutes before a game that almost was an afterthought to the spectacle that was his return.

On the streets outside Mellon Arena, where a huge spotlight flashed "Mario 66" atop the arena's retractable steel roof, the few scalpers with tickets were commanding \$750 a seat — an unprecedented sum for an otherwise routine midseason game.

As usual, Lemieux skated without a helmet during warmups. He was the last player on the ice, as he almost always was before he retired, and drew cheers with every practice shot he put into the net.

Think of the loud cheers Mark McGwire draws when he hits a batting practice home run, and you get the idea.

Lemieux acknowledged being nervous before his first game since April 26, 1997, a loss in a first-round playoff



AP Photo

Return specialist—Pittsburgh owner/player Mario Lemieux made his return official Wednesday night playing for the Penguins.

series against Philadelphia. One of hockey's greatest players ever has only rarely laced up his skates since, mostly for a few charity appearances, but his pre-game skating was fast and fluid.

Of course, if any athlete

knows about comebacks, it is Lemieux, who made three memorable returns in his previous life as a Penguins player from 1984-97 — from a three-month layoff following back

See MARIO, Page A6

Pirates sink Texas Tech, 40-27

■ East Carolina jumps out to 34-0 lead to shock Red Raiders

HOUSTON (AP) — When it was over, only the East Carolina Pirates and their gleeful fans went home happy.

East Carolina scored 34 straight first-half points, including two 1-yard runs by Leonard Henry and a 71-yard punt return by Keith Stokes, as the Pirates stunned Texas Tech 40-27 in the first galleryfurniture.com Bowl on Wednesday night.

"I never thought we'd come out like that at the start," said Pirates quarterback David Garrard, voted the game's most valuable player and offensive player of the game. "But we wanted to keep on pounding and pounding. We did that all the way."

A crowd of 33,899 saw the first bowl game played in the Astrodome since the last Bluebonnet Bowl in 1987. But ticketing problems caused hundreds of fans to miss much of the first half standing at the will-call window waiting to get their tickets.

In a game expected to be an offensive shootout, only East Carolina came through

in the first half with an assortment of trick plays and fancy running by Stokes. He had 266 total yards in the game and was voted the special teams player of the game.

"I knew all we needed was a spark, whether it happened on offense or special teams," Stokes said. "This time it happened on special teams."

Stokes had five kickoff returns for 105 yards, three punt returns for 82 yards, rushed for 33 yards on two carries and caught five passes for 46 yards.

"To come out the first series and go down the field like that was big," Henry said. "It established the whole concept of the game for the team. We knew we had to establish the run because they were not going to let us go deep with the pass so we had to run the football and make short passes."

Stokes returned the opening kickoff 37 yards and Garrard capped the drive with a 6-yard touchdown run.

The Pirates followed with

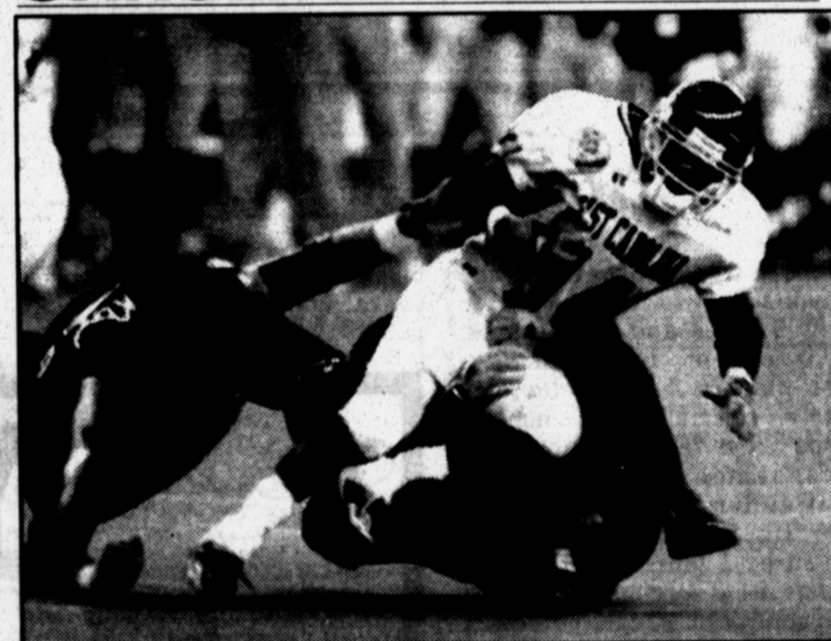
an on-side kick that was recovered by Marcellus Harris.

Although that surprise play didn't result in any points on

the drive, Stokes took Tech's next punt 71 yards for a

See BOWL, Page A6

CAROLINA TERROR



AP Photo

Powerful Pirate—East Carolina's Keith Stokes racked up 240 yards against Texas Tech.

MOOVIES 6

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

STARTING DATE: Sunday, January 7, 2001
GAME DAY: Sundays, starting at 1:00 p.m.
SIGN-UP DEADLINE: Thursday, January 4th, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.
ENTRY FEE: \$320.00 per team
LENGTH OF LEAGUE: Six (6) weeks plus double elimination tournament

Rosters will be available at game site. Individual players must have name on roster and be properly registered with their team before playing. As soon as a player participates in a league game they shall be deemed as starting the season. There will be no grace period. Team may start with 3 player, if they are not present then it will be called as a forfeit. Anytime players on the court or on the bench join an altercation that team/teams shall forfeit.

Teams arriving without enough players to field a team may enlist temporary substitutes in order to field a team. The game will be a forfeit but this will allow those present the enjoyment of playing. If there is an odd number of teams, one team will play twice on game day. Intentional foul will be 2 free shots and ball out of bounds.

If you have questions please call the YMCA at **364-6990**

MAGIC'S ILL OUT

■ Hill to have surgery on ailing ankle

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Grant Hill will have season-ending surgery on his ankle, a devastating blow to the Magic and their hopes the five-time All-Star would lead them to an NBA title.

Hill said he was sitting down because he had become a distraction to his teammates who were uncertain he could play. Doctors said he should make a full recovery.

Hill, acquired from Detroit in the offseason, is ex-

pected to be sidelined for 8 months, general manager John Gabriel said Wednesday.

"Our focus is to put Grant Hill in the best possible position to return as the player that we all know he is," Gabriel said. "We have great confidence in the outcome and wish Grant a speedy recovery."

The 6-foot-8 forward was originally injured at the end of last season while with the Pistons. He had surgery April 28 to repair a broken bone in his left ankle in what

See HILL, Page A6

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Gaza explosion kills one Israeli

JERUSALEM (AP) — One Israeli was killed and three injured Thursday in an explosion along Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, military sources said.

The roadside explosion occurred near the Sufa crossing point in the southern Gaza Strip, the sources said. Details were sketchy and no one immediately claimed responsibility.

The blast took place only hours after an explosion in Tel Aviv that injured 14 people.

Police sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the explosion went off when the Israelis were attempting to dismantle the device.

The military and the police declined to give any details on the Israeli victims.

Since Israeli-Palestinian violence began three months ago, Israeli targets have come under frequent attack by Palestinian gunmen and bombers.

About 6,500 Israeli settlers live in isolated settlements in the Gaza Strip, and they have come under regular attack.

More than 1 million Palestinians live in the territory, and have long demanded that the settlements be dismantled.

U.S. population is 281,421,906

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's population has grown to 281,421,906, the Census Bureau said Thursday as it announced the first figures from the decennial head count that will reshape America's political boundaries.

The figures were expected to show more seats in the House are on the way for those Southern and Western states that experienced a population boom during the past 10 years.

"The census is a cornerstone of our representative form of government," Commerce Secretary Norman Mineta said. "America's population is the largest ever."

The new national figure is a 33,399,123 gain from 1990.

Arizona and Texas were expected to be the biggest winners in the Census Bureau's release of the first results

from the 2000 count, numbers to be used to reapportion the 435 House seats among the 50 states.

The numbers landed on President Clinton's desk a few hours before Mineta and Census Director Kenneth Prewitt made the announcement.

"Today, I am pleased to receive from the Department of Commerce the first data released from Census 2000, our country's 22nd decennial census," Clinton said in a statement. "Most importantly, I want to thank the American people for their participation in Census 2000."

Arizona and Texas, which have burgeoning immigrant populations, would gain two representatives each in the House if forecasts based on 1999 figures by private demographic research groups hold true.

BUSH'S AGENDA

Supporters say political realities to require president-elect to move slowly on trying to fulfill promises

WASHINGTON (AP) — New presidents like to hit the ground running but even President-elect Bush's supporters say political realities will force him to move by inches at the start.

Bush's campaign platform was ambitious, delving into the fundamentals of Social Security, education, Medicare, national defense and more. Two priorities, better schools and affordable prescription drugs for the elderly, enjoy appeal across party lines, at least in broad terms.

But his plan for \$1.3 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years does not. And while his proposal to partially privatize So-

cial Security intrigues some Democrats, the subject promises a roaring debate that Bush seems disinclined to invite before a lot of work goes into selling Americans on the idea.

He got a splash of cold water when he visited Washington last week, only to find fellow Republicans reluctant to swallow his across-the-board tax cuts in one gulp.

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., wanted to deal with the package "a piece at a time" and spoke of incrementalism, hardly the talk characteristic of a party rising to power in the White House.

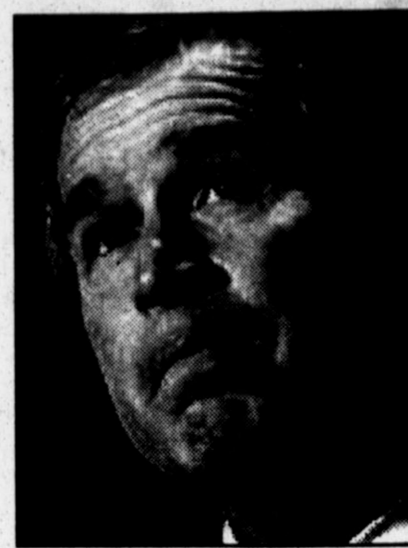
On Social Security, Bush is

dealing not just with a sacrosanct program before a closely divided Congress but a jumpy stock market that may make Americans think twice about trusting private accounts to give them a secure retirement.

Bush himself sounded a cautious note on his plan, noting his first move will be to form a commission on Social Security's future.

"I'm going to look at (it) to make sure it's the right policy," he said last week. "I think it is."

He described tax relief, free trade, Social Security reform and cuts in regulations as the cornerstone of his plan to



keep the economy robust.

Policy analyst David C. John of the Heritage Foundation, a group that has provided some of the intellectual horsepower for conservative measures embraced by Bush and many congressional Republicans, says the new president has no choice but to be measured.

"He's got to build more political capital than most presidents do," he said. Yet "there are ways of having small victories. Rather than going for everything at once, you take small deliberate steps toward your final goal."

CAMPAIGN PROMISES

The Associated Press

ABORTION

Opposes abortion rights except in cases of rape or incest or when a woman's life is endangered. Would nominate "strict constructionists" to Supreme Court, taken by some to mean justices sympathetic to abortion restrictions. Said he was disappointed by federal approval of the abortion pill but did not think a president could overturn it. Would sign ban on procedure called partial birth abortion by critics.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Ban unregulated "soft money" from corporations and unions, not from others. Allow political "issue ads." Increase disclosure.

CIVIL RIGHTS

Opposes racial preferences inherent in affirmative action, supports existing "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays in military. Opposes gay marriage.

DEATH PENALTY

Supports.

DEFENSE

Sees nuclear stockpile as excessive and favors cuts even if Russia does not match them. Would build robust missile defense system, seeking Russia's agreement to amend Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, but proceeding if necessary without such agreement. \$20 billion more for weapons research and development over five years, \$1 billion more a year for military pay raise, giving average soldier \$750 more in first year.

EDUCATION

\$47 billion, 10-year plan. In first five years, \$5 billion more for literacy, \$8 billion more for college scholarships and grants, \$300 million fund (rising to \$500 million) to reward states that improve achievement based on increased student assessments. Five percent cut in education money to states where performance lags. Let families save, tax-free, \$5,000 per year per student for education expenses at all ages. More spending flexibility for states that

administer national test to samplings of students or a compatible state test approved by Washington. More charter schools.

Would let federal tax dollars be used to help parents send children to private schools, when public schools in poor areas fail to meet standards for three years.

ENVIRONMENT-ENERGY

Increase domestic production and exploration, including in the protected Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska. Increase reliance on natural gas. Halve capital gains taxes when landowner sells property for conservation. \$50 million in matching grants with states for landowners to restore habitat or protect rare species while farming or ranching. Opposes unilateral extension of federal control over forests, seashores and monument properties. Opposes ratification of Kyoto agreement on global warming.

FARM AID

Supports eventual "transition to a market economy." Sets aside

extra \$7.6 billion for crop insurance over 10 years.

GUN CONTROL

Raise age for handgun possession to 21. Background checks at gun shows if they are instant. Would sign a bill requiring child-safety locks to be sold with guns. Says existing gun laws have not been adequately enforced. Says it's up to states whether law-abiding citizens should be allowed to carry concealed guns.

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