

The Hereford Brand



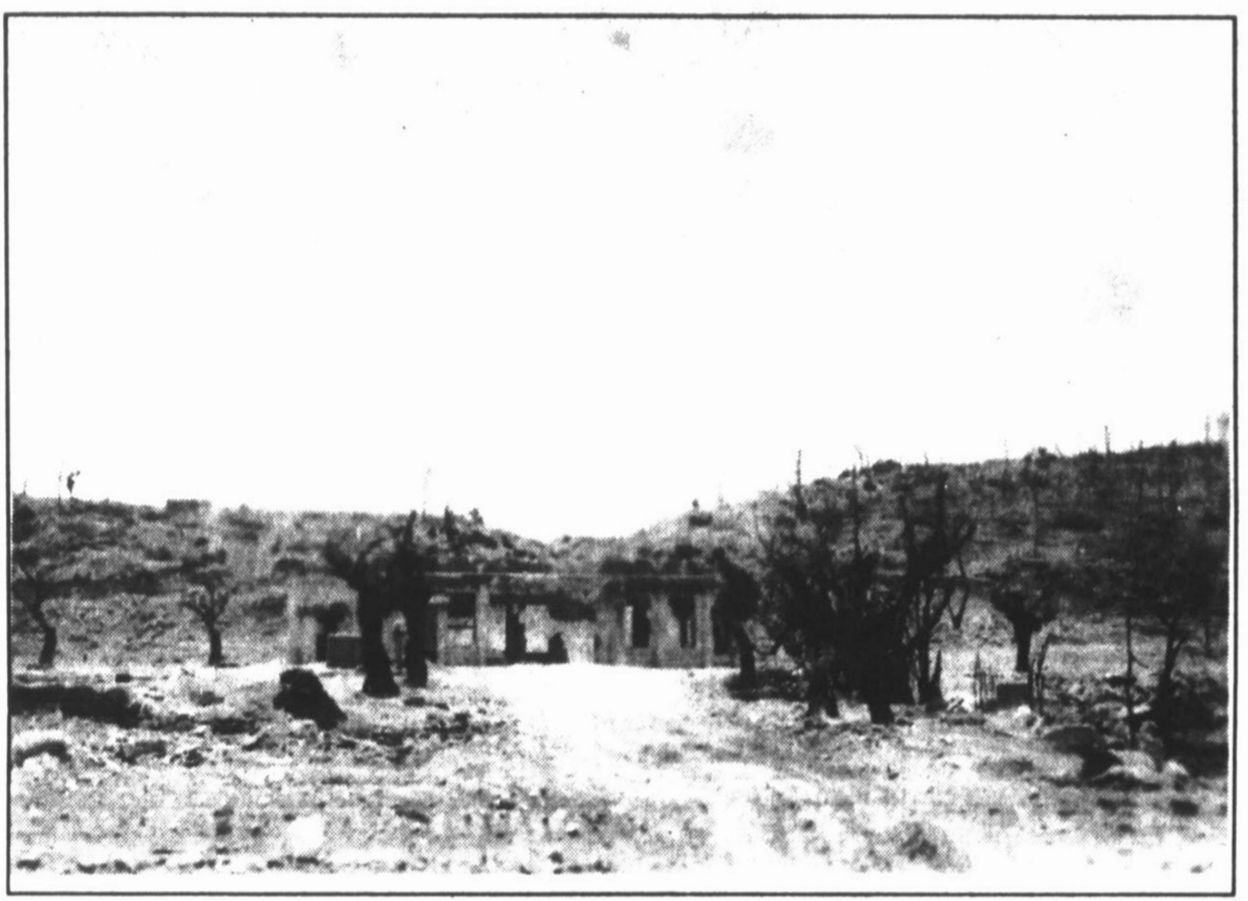
96th Year, Vol. No. 191, Deaf Smith County, Texas Wednesday, April 2, 1997 10 Pages 50 Cents

A Time To Remember

52 years after the fall of Okinawa, Hereford man still remembers WWII's "Last Battle"

By TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

For most, the dawn of April is reason to look ahead toward the sprouting flower and return of warmer temperatures. For Chester Harrison, the start of April is different. It's a time to look back. A time to pay his respects to his buddies who will never have the opportunity to see April's showers bring forth May's flowery display. A time to remember the price that was paid for the peace we have today.



(Photos by Chester Harrison)

A time to remember Okinawa - the last, and bloodiest, major battle in the Pacific during World War II.

"I don't care if anyone hears my name, or if it gets printed," said Harrison, the former manager of Hereford's Piggly Wiggly store.

"I just want some recognition for the boys that served over there and lost their lives, and the ones still living."

"I think it's important for everyone to know what these men did for us," he added. "I just don't want them to be forgotten."

The invasion of the small island on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, cost the U.S. 49,000 casualties - almost twice as many as involved in the battle for Iwo Jima - and gave the U.S. government an indication of the fanatical resistance that could be expected on Japan's home islands.

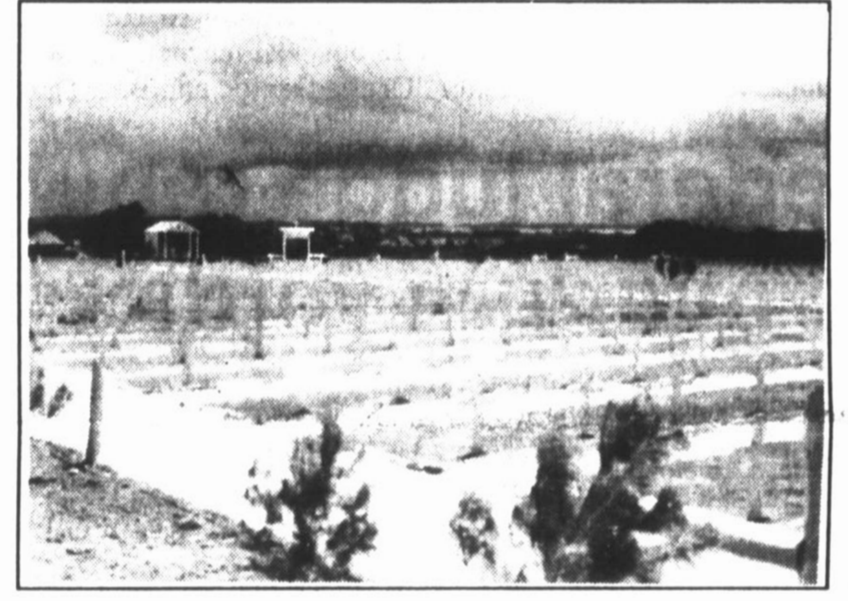
Those losses proved to be one of the main reasons the U.S. decided to forego an invasion of Japan in favor of dropping the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

"This was the last stepping stone for us before we hit Japan," said Harrison, who was an 18-year-old sergeant serving in the United States Marine Corps. "On Easter Sunday - April Fool's Day - we made the invasion. It was like everything cut loose at once

on both sides of the island. The Navy was letting loose with their guns, and the big bombers were bombing." In all, seven American divisions, comprising one of the greatest naval armadas in history, swarmed the tiny island, which is approximately 60 miles long and two to 18 miles wide in the East China Sea. To seize the island, the U.S. sent more than 40 aircraft carriers, 18 battleships, 260 destroyers and hundreds of transport, supply ships, mine sweepers

and landing crafts - a total of 1,457 ships carrying more than half a million men of the 1st, 2nd and 6th Marine divisions and the 7th, 27th, 77th and 96th Army divisions. The forces amassed for the Okinawa attack - dubbed Operation Iceberg by the military - was second largest armada in history behind only the Normandy Invasion forces some 10 months earlier.

At first, there was little resistance by the Japanese forces to the Allied forces' landing. Japanese



The U.S. Marine Corps cemetery on Okinawa was the final resting place for thousands of Americans.

Gen. Mitsuru Ushijima chose to withdraw his men to maze of tunnels that had dug underground, where they planned to wage guerrilla and kamikaze warfare. The Japanese tunnels waved their way through 60 miles of old castles, forts and tombs.

Only 25 U.S. men perished in the first day of the invasion, most caused by two suicide planes. The Marines quickly cleared the northern part of the island, while the

See WWII, Page 2

In meeting with Clinton Israeli leader seeks support

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton, hoping Mideast peacemaking can rebound from a new round of violence, will meet here next week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on a proposal for fast-track negotiations with the Palestinians.

The one-day visit was announced Tuesday after Clinton called on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to declare "zero tolerance" for terrorism. Clinton said a serious effort to stop attacks on civilians was a precondition to successful negotiations.

"There has to be an attitude of zero tolerance, a determination to do all that can reasonably be done to maintain the peace, so that then negotiated progress can be made," Clinton said. "And that's what the United States expects, and that's what we will continue to press for."

His appeal was prompted by a failed bombing attempt Tuesday in Gaza that was denounced by the State Department. Recalling the bleak prospects for peace last fall after a spate of anti-Israel terrorism, spokesman Nicholas Burns said an

agreement nonetheless emerged on Hebron, the West Bank town Israel has turned over in large part to the Palestinian Authority.

"We certainly are not in a position or inclined to give up," he said.

Clinton, while meeting Tuesday with Jordan's King Hussein, said, "I don't believe there is an excuse for terrorism in any case. I believe terrorism is always wrong."

Netanyahu is looking for Clinton's backing as he tries to persuade Arafat to agree to an accelerated schedule for resolving disputes over Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood aspirations, refugees and other touchy issues within six to nine months.

Netanyahu also has proposed a summit meeting with Arafat, but White House spokesman Mike McCurry said, "I haven't seen a discussion related to a hypothetical summit emerge."

Clinton said he would send Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on a diplomatic mission to the Middle East "at the right time," but otherwise gave no hint of the strategy he would adopt to put negotiations back on track.

HISD names 8 finalists for superintendent's job

Eight finalists for the position of Hereford Independent School District superintendent were announced at a special meeting Tuesday, Board President Dave Charest said.

- The finalists, in alphabetical order, include:
- Les Farmer, superintendent of Hubbard ISD.
 - Luis Gonzalez, superintendent of School City of East Chicago in Indiana.
 - David Hutton, superintendent of Takoka ISD.
 - Jack Patton, superintendent of Menard ISD.
 - Arvel Rotan, superintendent of Irion County ISD.
 - Barbara Skipper, assistant superintendent of Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District.
 - Nena Veazey, assistant superintendent of Hereford ISD.
 - Stephen Waddell, superintendent of Sunray ISD.

The trustees will interview the finalists on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Then three finalists will be announced Monday, Charest said.

Future looks bleak for ethanol industry

WASHINGTON (AP) - On the surface, the future looks bleak for the industry that makes ethanol, the federally subsidized motor fuel that for years has survived against Big Oil through tough farm-state lobbying and the savvy politicking of producers such as the Archer Daniels Midland Co.

Ethanol tax breaks are under attack by powerful interests led by Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas, and ethanol's longtime chief defender, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., is gone from Congress.

The biggest ethanol player, ADM, has been hit by a series of legal problems.

Criticism of federal "welfare" for corporations is at a crescendo.

Now a new study by the General Accounting Office is undermining the industry's main arguments in favor of the corn-based fuel.

So what's the prognosis for the tax breaks? Not bad, at least for the next few years - and that is testimony to the deep lobbying roots ethanol interests have put down since their federal subsidy was created during the 1970s oil crisis, experts say.

"What keeps this tax giveaway going is the political muscle and influence of (ADM chairman) Dwayne Andreas and Archer Daniels Midland," said Stephen Moore, an analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute, which opposes federal subsidies.

ADM has been a steady source of political money for both parties. Last year, the company gave \$918,000 to candidates for the House and Senate and to the national Democratic and Republican organizations.

A coalition involving corn growers, the Farm Bureau and ethanol makers is seeking to shore up backers both on Capitol Hill and in the Clinton administration - particularly the Environmental Protection Agency, which has boosted ethanol as an environmentally friendly alternative fuel.

Last week, the Farm Bureau sent an action alert to its 50 state affiliates, asking them to "call friendly House members" to urge signing a pro-ethanol letter being sent to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and minority leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo.

(See ETHANOL, Page 2)

Senate okays 'bare-bones' budget; has unfunded wish list \$5.5 billion

AUSTIN (AP) - Will Texas fund a program to give youngsters extra help in reading? How about a proposal by universities to produce more college graduates? Should state government employees get a pay raise?

Those questions were left unanswered Tuesday as the Texas Senate approved a proposed \$83.3 billion "bare-bones" budget to fund education, prisons, welfare and other government programs from Sept. 1, 1997 through Aug. 31, 1999. The vote was 30-0.

The reading, higher education and pay raise proposals are among items on a separate \$5.5 billion wish list that lawmakers will pay for if money becomes available.

The House earlier passed its own

budget, which has a bottom line almost identical to that of the Senate and also includes an unfunded wish list.

What items get financed from that list will be determined by a budget conference committee composed of lawmakers from the House and

McVeigh jurors asked about death penalty

DENVER (AP) - Timothy McVeigh, wearing a buzz haircut and blue oxford shirt, leaned forward in his chair and watched as several men and women were asked if they could order his execution.

"The person that committed this crime should get the death penalty," a man who works in a paint warehouse wrote in his questionnaire about the Oklahoma City bombing.

The married father of a 15-month-old son was also asked Tuesday if he could base his decision on the evidence alone.

"You won't make a decision until the fat lady sings?" U.S. Attorney Patrick Ryan asked.

Senate. Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, said only up to \$600 million in state general revenue money may be available for wish-list proposals.

Budget-writers have left on the table another \$1 billion that Gov.

George W. Bush has proposed using for property tax relief. Lawmakers are working on a separate tax-relief proposal.

"You can see that the conference committee has a formidable, formidable task if what we're talking about is \$600 million in available general revenue," Ratliff said.

Conference committee is going to be a very agonizing, priority-setting process."

The proposed \$83.3 billion budget for fiscal years 1998-99 represents an increase in total state funding of \$2.6 billion, or 3.3 percent from the previous two-year budget period.

It covers expenses for increasing school enrollment and provides for growth in criminal justice and welfare programs while holding spending below projected inflation, said Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who presides over the Senate.

Change to DST starts Sunday
Daylight Savings Time will be making its return Sunday, so Deaf Smith County and area residents have just three more days of being on Central Standard Time.
The past few years, DST started the first Sunday in April and remained in effect until the last Sunday of October. This year, CST will be coming back Oct. 26, 1997.

April Fool! KPAN reports sale of Brand
How could you take Captain Billy serious, especially on April Fools' Day?
No, Chip Formby did not buy The Hereford Brand and take over on Tuesday, as reported by KPAN's infamous Captain Billy. Chip, who was out of town Tuesday, called Brand Publisher Speedy Nieman Monday afternoon and warned him of the April Fools' joke planned for Tuesday morning.
"I appreciated the advance notice," said Nieman. "I didn't tell anyone except my wife. Lavon gets a little riled when I forget to tell her what is going on."
"We took a few calls wanting to know if the newspaper had actually been sold. I guess most folks got a laugh out of the prank," said Nieman.

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Lifestyles

Hereford American Legion Post to host 18th District Convention

Hereford American Legion Post 192 will host the 18th District Spring Convention of American Legion in the post home on Saturday and Sunday.

The 18th District includes the entire Texas Panhandle.

Registration begins at 8 a.m. Saturday.

A Health Fair will be conducted from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Medical volunteers from Amarillo Veterans

Medical Center will provide medical testing for blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar and other tests. Results will be given at the completion of the tests. All veterans and their spouses are encouraged to participate.

At 1:30 p.m., following the Health Fair, a joint American Legion and Auxiliary meeting will be conducted by Tony Griego of Amarillo, 18th District Commander, and Bettye

McKone of Tulia, 18th District President.

A banquet honoring 18th District officers and award winners will be held beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday. Music will be provided by Hereford High School Swing Choir under the direction of Margaret Williams. Justice of the Peace, Johnnie Turrentine, will discuss Americanism and why we have problems in our homes, state and nation, and possible solutions to these problems.

A Sunday memorial service is scheduled at 9 a.m. Business sessions of Post and Auxiliary will follow.

At the close of business, a luncheon will be served.

Jess L. Robinson, Commander of Hereford Post 192, and Auxiliary extend a cordial welcome to all veterans, delegates and guests.

Miss Hereford hopefuls will attend tea Sunday

All young women interested in participating in the 1997 Miss Hereford scholarship pageant should attend the pageant's Miss Hereford Tea at 2 p.m. April 6 at 328 Centre.

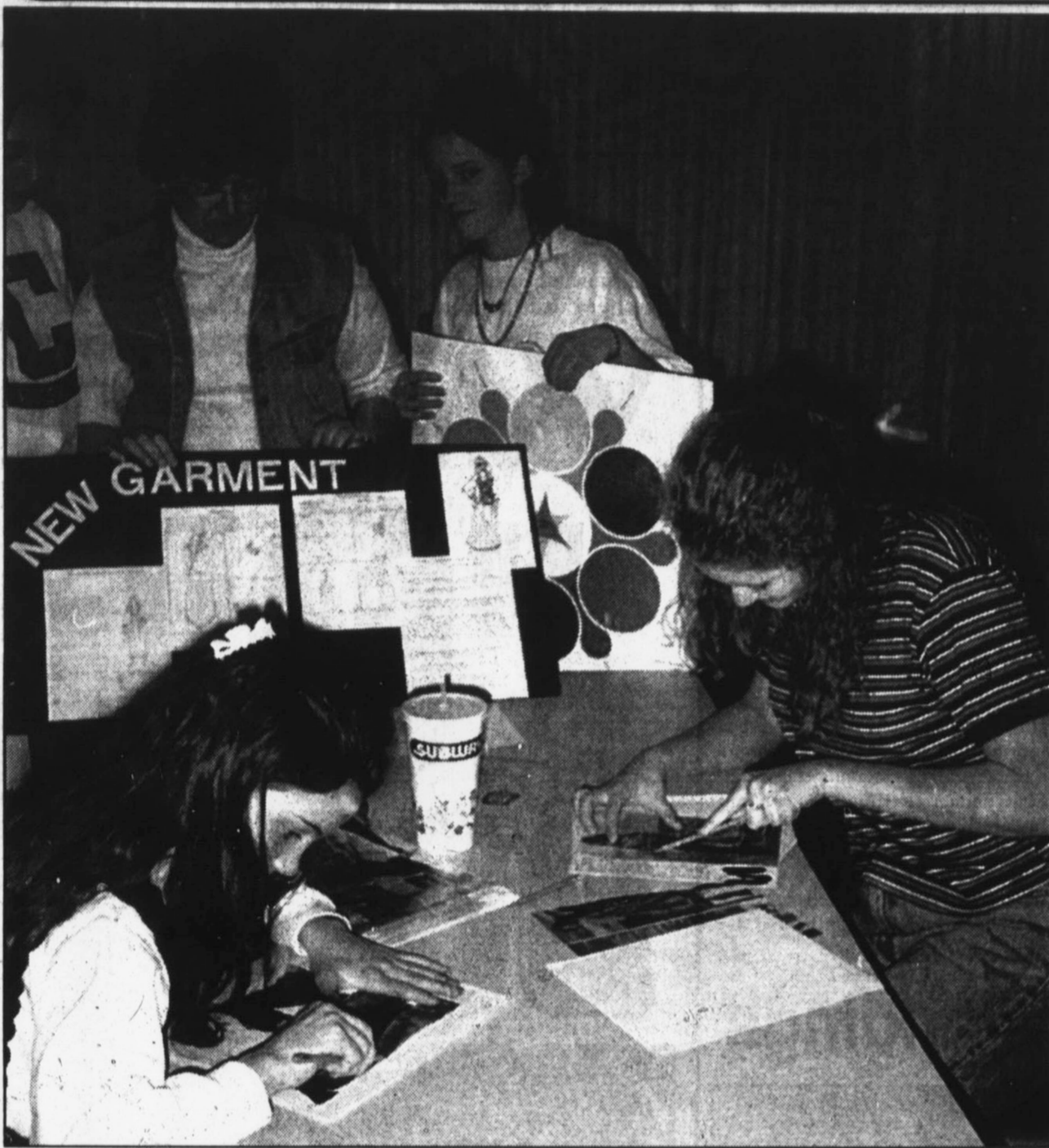
The tea is being held so that potential contestants and their mothers may become acquainted with pageant committee members. The members will be available to answer any questions about the pageant.

The Miss Hereford pageant will be June 7. The pageant is open to all young women between the ages of 16 and 21. Contestants will vie for scholarships and prizes.

Each contestant will participate in an interview by judges, talent competition and evening gown competition.

Application forms are available at the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce office, 701 North Main Street. Entry forms must be turned in by 5 p.m. April 30.

Miss Hereford pageant steering committee members are Betty Drake and Betty Taylor, co-chairmen, Elvira Enriquez, Peggy Fox, Linda Daniel, Julia Laing and Kim Leonard.



Learning to design

Teen 4-H leader, Amber Vasek (holding graphic design) and adult 4-H leader, Karla Vasek, teach the principles of design to senior level 4-H'ers Joanna Brumley (back left) and Erin Louder and Miriam Wilks (from left in front) who are preparing their designs to enter in pattern adaptation, textiles design, new garment designing and accessory design. The 4-H'ers were recent participants at a clothing and design workshop. The annual county 4-H Fashion Show will be at 7 p.m. Thursday in King's Manor. The public is invited.

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Mexican stack, Spanish rice, pinto beans, salad fixings, tostados, mixed fruit; or turkey stack.

FRIDAY-Breaded fish with lemon wedge, corn grits with cheese, Brussels sprouts, coleslaw, French bread, peach cobbler; or Salisbury steak, peaches.

MONDAY-Beef stroganoff, steamed rice, herbed green beans, cottage cheese, fruit cocktail, biscuit, sugar cookies; or chicken stroganoff, vanilla wafers.

TUESDAY-Chicken strips, creamed new potatoes and peas, Harvard beets, frosted lime-walnut salad, Boston cream cake; or Polish sausage, peas.

WEDNESDAY-Baked ham, new potatoes, broccoli with cheese sauce, raisin carrot salad, pineapple tidbits, French bread, brownies; smothered steak.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes, oil painting 9-11 a.m., choir practice 1-2 p.m., Thrift Shop open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (No exercise class.)

FRIDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., Thrift Shop open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY-Games 12 noon-4 p.m., Dance 7:30-10:30 p.m.

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

TUESDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., decorative tole painting 1-3 p.m., Beltone 10 a.m.-12 noon, NARFE 1 p.m., Long Term Care Seminar 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., ceramics 1-3 p.m.

Hospital Notes

Report from Hereford Regional Medical Center on April 2:
Admissions: Mary Benavidez.
Discharges: None.

'Always...Patsy Cline' is coming

Country music fans, young and old, will not want to miss a night of music, nostalgia and laughter.

The Hereford Community Concert Association will sponsor The Amarillo Little Theatre's (ALT) traveling show "Always...Patsy Cline" at 7:30 p.m. April 11 in the Hereford High School auditorium.

Advance tickets are \$5 for Community Concert members and \$7 for non-members.

Individual student tickets are \$5. Also, group rates are available. The musical is based on the true story of country and western singer Patsy Cline.

Tammy Hysmith of Fritch made her debut with ALT when it was presented on stage in Amarillo recently.

Hysmith wowed the audiences with her replication of the Cline's singing. Those who were fans of this country music legend will reminisce and enjoy the renditions of Cline favorites such as "Crazy" and "Walkin' After Midnight" among more than 20 other songs.

"Always...Patsy Cline" centers around the relationship of Louise Seger (Cindy Bulla) and Cline from 1957, when she was just simply beginning her rise to fame, until her death in 1963.

It is a simple, heartfelt tribute that centers not so much on Cline's biography, but rather on how her music affected the lives of people who still find her classics fresh and vital today.

An ensemble of western musicians led by ALT Music Director Loren J. Strickland along with a technical support team headed by ALT's Gregg Dunlap will accompany the cast.

Sell-out crowds have seen this show in Clarendon, Claude and Vega. Hereford should be no exception.

To purchase tickets, contact 364-0294, 364-3486, 364-3717 or any Community Concert board member.

Ossenbeck is Flame speaker

Vonna Ossenbeck of Amarillo will be the guest speaker at the Hereford Flame Fellowship meeting at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Ossenbeck is an ordained minister. She and her husband, Bill, attend God's Covenant Family Church in Amarillo, where they serve in many leadership roles.

She was founder of the Amarillo Flame Fellowship and served as president for 3-1/2 years.

Ossenbeck ministers on a weekly basis in a two-hour Bible study at the Nat Neel Unit Women's Prison in Amarillo.

They are witnessing an awesome move of God in the broken lives of those in prison, she said.

The meeting is open to the public.

Pain may be eliminated for millions

(SPECIAL)--A drug that is exciting researchers in the treatment of pain has been formulated into a new product known as "Arthur Itis," and is being called a "Medical Miracle" by some, in the treatment of debilitating conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, painful muscle aches, joint aches, simple backache, bruises, and more. Although the mechanism of action is unclear, experiments indicate that Arthur Itis, relieves pain by first selectively attracting, and then destroying the messenger chemical which carries pain sensations to the brain, thus eliminating pain in the affected area. Arthur Itis, is available immediately without a prescription in an odorless, greaseless, non-staining cream or new easy applicator liquid form. Arthur Itis, is guaranteed to work or your money back.

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Breast cancer screening set

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic at South Plains Health Care Providers, Inc., 603 E. Park, on April 11.

A minimum of 15 women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns.

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

All exams are done by appointment only. Call 806-359-4673 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.

New Arrivals

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Guinn of Harrah, Okla., formerly of Hereford, are proud to announce the arrival of a grandson, Koster Brandon, born to Mr. and Mrs. Brent Ingraham of Mesquite, on March 19.

The infant weighed 8 pounds, 9 ounces.

His great-grandmother is Mildred Guinn of Hereford.

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Sports

Late rally lifts Pampa past Herd

By TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

PAMPA - For six and a half innings, Eric Ambold and the Hereford Whitefaces weaved a spell of magic that left the heavy hitting Pampa Harvesters shaking their heads in disbelief.

Then, with just three outs to go, the spell came apart, and handed the Whitefaces their toughest loss yet, a 7-6 setback.

Pampa, which had entered the game sporting a team batting average of .403, used an error and three straight bunt singles to push home the game-winning in the bottom of the seventh inning, and cap a torrid Harvester comeback. Pampa scored four runs in its last two at bats, rallying from a 6-3 deficit to garner its first District 1-4A win of the year.

The loss left Hereford winless in loop play at 0-4, and stretched their current slump to nine straight games.

Pampa, which had pulled to within 6-5 in the sixth on Duane King's two-run home run, caught a break in the opening minutes of the seventh when the throw on a routine

grounders from short sailed high, enabling the lead-off batter to reach base. The ensuing batter wasted little time in reacting. On Ambold's first pitch from the plate, he dropped a bunt that squirted past the HHS pitcher for a single.

It only got worse for the Whitefaces from there. Ryan Schumacher followed the bunt single with another - this one a hard roller down the first base line that loaded the bases. On the next pitch, Miller broke from third and watched on as King pushed a bunt back toward the mound that scored the winning run.

King, who had entered the game with just seven runs batted in this season, drove home three runs against Hereford, and came on to pitch the final three innings to collect the win.

King's home in the sixth keyed Pampa's rally. After Schumacher had reached base on a single to center, King took a 1-2 pitch and deposited it over the 340 mark in right, tying the game at 6-6.

The Whitefaces, who enjoyed their most productive day at the plate in quite a while, seemed to

DISTRICT 1-4A STANDINGS

Team	District	Overall
Canyon	3-0	9-8
Dumas	3-1	13-6
Randall	2-1	7-15
Caprock	2-2	9-9-1
Borger	1-2	9-8-1
Pampa	1-2	9-6
Hereford	0-4	6-11

Tuesday's Games:
Canyon 12, Caprock 11;
Randall 5, Dumas 4; Pampa 7, Hereford 6; Borger was open.

Gavina followed with an RBI bloop single. Jeremy Urbancyk, pinch running for Gavina, tallied the Whitefaces' other run moments later on a fielder's choice.

Hereford, now 6-11 on the year, finished the game with 10 hits.

Ambold cruised through the middle innings of the contest. After giving up a run to the first batter in the third, the Herd right hander set down nine of the next 10 batters to come to the plate. Pampa's only hit in the third, fourth and fifth innings came on a wind-aided double by Jared Knutson in fifth.

Pitching wasn't the only way Ambold helped the Herd. He rapped out a clutch hit in the third that enabled Hereford to break open a 2-2 deadlock. With two out, Dustin Hill singled to left. Anthony Lopez followed with a walk. Both batters advanced a base seconds later when Schumacher first pitch to Ambold bounced in and evaded the catcher. Ambold made the mistake a costly one on the ensuing pitch by cranking out a two-run single to right.

Pampa cut the Herd's lead to 4-3 in the bottom of the third.

The Harvesters, who improved to 9-6 with the win, grabbed the early lead in the matchup, scoring twice in the first inning on three hits.

The Herd tied the game in the

second on runs by Lopez and Jeremy Scott.

In other 1-4A action, Canyon downed Caprock, 12-11, and Randall upset Dumas, 5-4.

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Herd golfers fall to second in 1-4A standings

By TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

PAMPA - After teeing off at the first hole, Keith Riley and Greg Reinart probably never thought about the team standings.

They didn't need to. Riley and Reinart turned in solid rounds Monday afternoon and helped the Whiteface golf team stay within striking distance of Borger in the race for the District 1-4A title. Hereford, playing on the Pampa Country Club course, finished the second round of loop play with a score of 338 - just six strokes off the pace set by Borger.

Overall, the Herd golfers fell to second place in the 1-4A chase - by six strokes. Borger, Hereford and Randall had all entered the second round tied for the top spot in the team standings. Only the Bulldogs and Whitefaces kept up their pace. Borger fired a round of 332, while Randall fell into third with a mark of 341.

Riley didn't fall anywhere as he turned in one of the better games in the tournament, which was marred by winds gusting up to 24 miles per hour. The HHS standout scored an 83 and moved into second in the individual medalist race with a two-round total of 162. Caprock's Jeremy Dockery, spurred on by a round of 79, is the district's top golfer after the first two tournaments, shooting a 159.

Reinart also put himself in the chase for the individual crown. After carding an 84 Monday, he stands fifth in the medalist standings with a 36-hole mark of 166. Borger's Aaron Smith and Josh Morroco are tied for third at 165.

Jeremiah Baros also turned in a good round for the Whitefaces, shooting an 11-over-par 83. Over the first half of the district race, Baros has accumulated a score of 172.

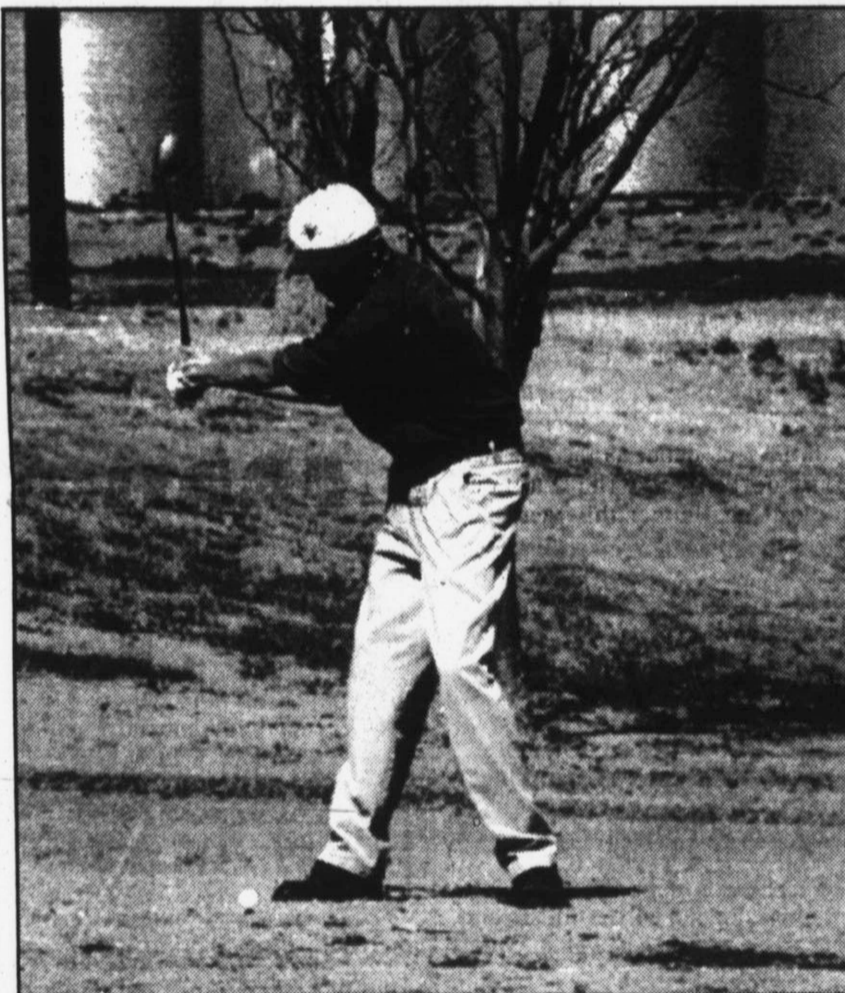
Cory Schumacher and Heath Henderson rounded out the Herd's effort with scores of 88 and 94, respectively.

Like the Whiteface boys, the Hereford girls slipped into second in the team standings falling 45

DISTRICT 1-4A GOLF (After two rounds)

Team	Rd1	Rd2	Tot
1. Pampa	369	364	733
2. Hereford	375	403	778
3. Randall	409	392	801
4. Borger	401	402	803
5. Pampa JV	434	423	847
6. Hereford JV	455	467	922
7. Borger JV	459	463	922
8. Canyon	464	460	924
9. Dumas	455	472	927
10. Caprock	497	489	984
11. Randall JV	510	519	1029

Boys	Rd1	Rd2	Tot
1. Borger	337	332	669
2. Hereford	337	338	675
3. Randall	337	341	678
4. Canyon	342	339	681
5. Pampa	343	341	684
6. Pampa JV	356	348	704
7. Caprock	350	357	707
8. Borger JV	344	366	710
9. Hereford JV	358	355	713
10. Randall JV	356	369	725
11. Canyon JV	356	391	747
12. Dumas	417	400	817
13. Caprock JV	433	498	831
14. Dumas JV	492	497	989



Two down, two to go

The Hereford Whiteface golf teams completed the second round of the District 1-4A race Monday afternoon in good standing. Both the HHS boys and girls are second heading into this weekend's third round in Pampa.

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Award presented

Linda Dutton, left, president of VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4818, presents an appreciation award to Becky Camp, Lifestyles editor for the Hereford Brand, in recognition for her work and support with the Auxiliary, VFW Post 4818 and Hereford.

Auxiliary holds banquet to honor contest winner

VFW Ladies Auxiliary 4818 held a Voice of Democracy Banquet recently to honor Amber Brumley, winner of the Voice of Democracy essay contest. Miss Brumley, daughter of Mike and Janice Brumley, was the winner of the essay contest last year as well.

Also to be presented at the banquet was a personal recognition award to Becky Camp, Lifestyles Editor for the Hereford Brand, for her outstanding work and support with the Auxiliary, Post and Hereford. The award was presented to her at the Brand office.

The business meeting opened with the draping of the charter in memory of Lily Muller, by president Linda

Dutton.

Reports were given by Anita Vardell.

Four new members were welcomed to the Auxiliary. They are Inez Houston, Maxine Rickman, Brenda Thomas and Jennifer Maeder.

The Auxiliary will sponsor a fire safety poster contest in May for third, fourth and fifth graders.

Members present for the meeting were Peggy Oakes, Pixie Forbus, Winnie Tyler, Imogene Sweeney, Leona Sowell, Dora Lea Howell, Essie Martin, Betty Boggs, Erma Murphey, Vardell and Dutton.

The next meeting will be April 7 with supper to be served at 6:30 p.m.

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: Last year, my 4-year-old son's tennis shoe became trapped between the step and the sidewall of an escalator. He was standing next to my husband at the time. The impact pulverized his foot immediately, causing him to lose three toes and slicing the bottom of his foot. After two weeks in the hospital, seven surgeries, skin grafts, months in a wheelchair, a walker and walking casts, by the grace of God, he is able to walk again.

I thought my son's experience was a freak accident until I learned about a side plate that successfully prevents accidents of this type. I was shocked to learn, however, that not all escalators have these side plates because our government does not require them.

In 1994, the Consumer Products Safety Commission reported that 1,500 children under the age of 5 suffered from falls and/or the loss of fingers, toes and feet due to escalator-related accidents. Why have manufacturers chosen to ignore available remedies in favor of saving money when a child's safety is at stake? These side plates should be mandatory.

The next time you ride an escalator with a child, insist that the youngster stand in the middle of the step, pointing his or her shoes forward. Hold the child's hand, and be especially careful if the little one is wearing rubber-soled shoes. -- Houston Mother

Dear Houston: You have written a letter that is sure to get the attention of every parent who rides an escalator with a child. Thanks for preventing some awful accidents.

Dear Ann Landers: I read with interest your reply to the woman who didn't want to get stuck with her fiancé's elderly parent and handicapped sister. I hope her fiancé finds someone a bit more caring and compassionate to marry.

My situation is similar. When my handicapped brother needed care, I placed him in a group home so my wife would not be burdened with him.

Now, my mother, age 93, can no longer live alone. She is frail and forgetful, and my brother and I are her only children. I have taken her into my home and am happy to care for her. Mom has a lovely disposition and is grateful for my help and company. I prepare her breakfast and come home from work to give her lunch. I also prepare half the family's evening meals, at which she joins us. I do her laundry and have arranged for someone to come in to bathe her and give her physical therapy.

My burden, however, is not my mother but my wife, to whom I have been totally faithful for 28 years. She begrudges everything I do for my mother and every minute I spend with her. She wants my mother out of our home. I am reassessing the high regard I had for my wife. Her bitterness and nagging are turning me against her. She screams at me and refuses to listen to anything I have to say on the subject.

My wife recently welcomed our two grown children and a grandchild into our home without consulting me. They are noisy and sloppy and have no respect for me. If I utter one word of criticism, my wife hits the roof. I need an outsider's opinion on what I should do. Can you help? -- Beside Myself in Oregon

Dear Oregon: Your marriage sounds like a nightmare. Although you didn't say it, I suspect you moved your 93-year-old mother into your home over your wife's objections. She retaliated by bringing in the children to even the score and give her some support.

You need joint counseling at once. I hope it isn't too late. The anger on both sides has exceeded civilized limits. Please seek a mediator immediately.

ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1997 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

The Brand welcomes news of friends, relatives, grandkids. Send to The Brand, Box 673, or call us. We're interested in local news!

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, April 2, the 92nd day of 1997. There are 273 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On April 2, 1792, Congress passed

the Coinage Act, which authorized establishment of the U.S. Mint.

On this date:
In 1513, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de Leon landed in Florida.
In 1860, the first Italian Parliament met at Turin.

In 1865, Confederate President Davis and most of his Cabinet fled the Confederate capital of Richmond, Va.

In 1917, President Wilson asked Congress to declare war against Germany, saying, "The world must be made safe for democracy."

In 1932, aviator Charles A. Lindbergh and Dr. John F. Condon turned over \$50,000 in ransom to an unidentified man in a New York City cemetery in the Bronx, in exchange for Lindbergh's kidnapped son. (The infant, however, was not returned, and was found dead the following month.)

In 1942, Glenn Miller and his orchestra recorded "American Patrol" at the RCA Victor studios in Hollywood.

In 1974, French President Georges Pompidou died in Paris.

In 1982, several thousand troops from Argentina seized the disputed Falkland Islands, located in the south Atlantic, from Britain. (Britain seized the islands back the following June.)

In 1986, four American passengers were killed when a bomb exploded aboard a TWA jetliner en route from Rome to Athens, Greece.

In 1995, baseball owners accepted the players' union offer to play without a contract, ending the longest and costliest strike in the history of professional sports.

Ten years ago: The U.S. Senate, rejecting a plea from President Reagan, overrode his veto of an \$88 billion highway and mass transit bill that the president had denounced as

containing "pork-barrel" items.

Five years ago: Mob boss John Gotti was convicted in New York of murder and racketeering; he was later sentenced to life in prison. French Premier Edith Cresson, who had served 10 turbulent months as France's first woman prime minister, resigned after election setbacks for the ruling Socialists. The space shuttle Atlantis returned from a nine-day mission.

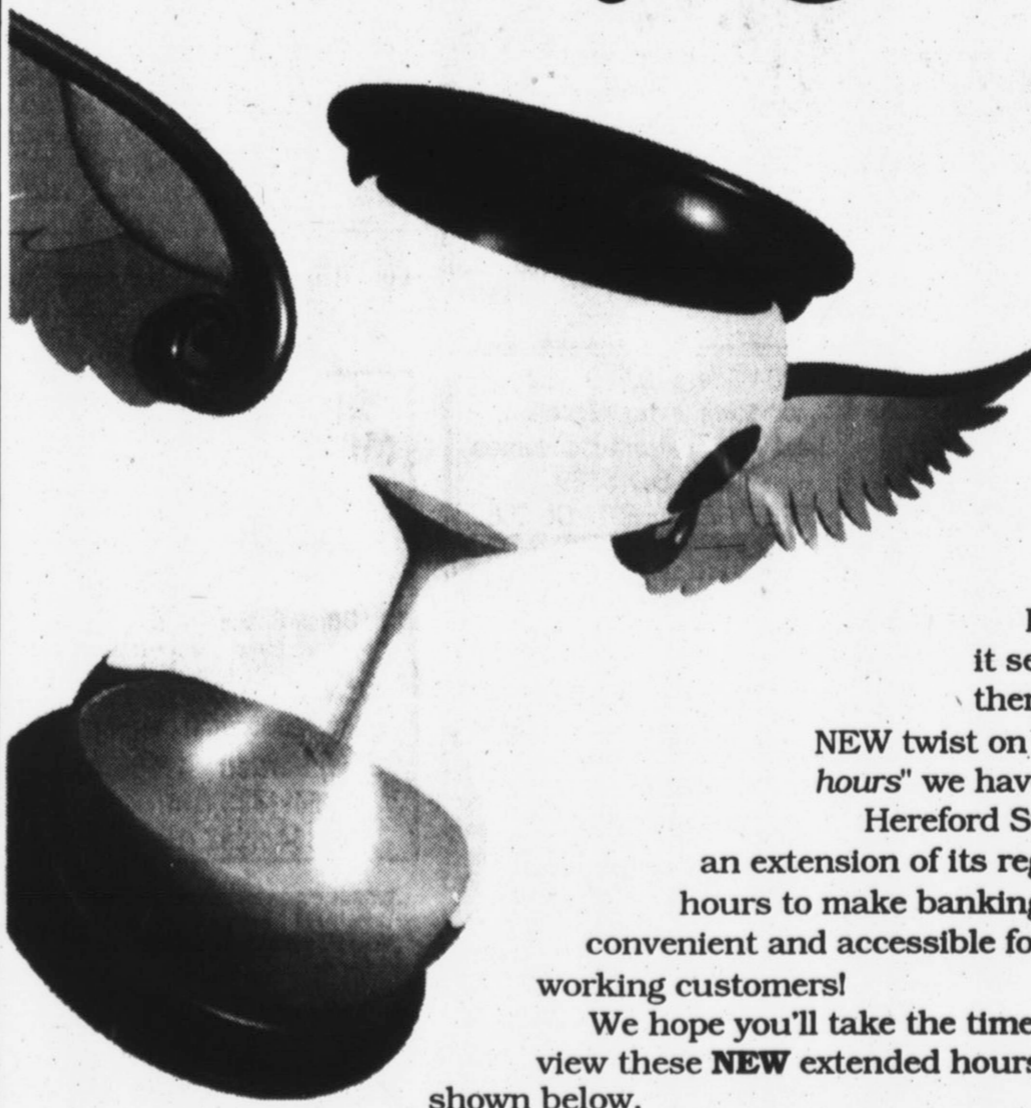
One year ago: A federal appeals court rejected New York state laws banning doctor-assisted suicide, saying it would be discriminatory to let people disconnect life support systems while refusing to let others end their lives with medication.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Buddy Ebsen is 89. Actor Sir Alec Guinness is 83. Actress Sharon Acker is 62. Singer Leon Russell is 56. Jazz musician Larry Coryell is 54. Actress Linda Hunt is 52. Singer Emmylou Harris is 50. Actress Pamela Reed is 48. Actress Debralee Scott is 44. Actor Ron Palillo is 43. Country singer Billy Dean is 35.

Thought for Today: "We crucify ourselves between two thieves: regret for yesterday and fear of tomorrow." - Fulton Oursler, American journalist and author (1893-1952).

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Baby, oh baby

Hereford High School seniors need to turn in their baby pictures to Mrs. Angela Straffuss in Room 217. Students need to put their names on the back of the pictures. The baby pictures will be used at the prom and senior banquet. The deadline to turn in pictures will be Friday. Here, Kris Daniels, Rachel Bezner, Christina Kuper and Sy Olson look over some of their baby pictures.

Mysterious disease shuts down farms, threatens turkey industry

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) - North Carolina's \$582 million-a-year turkey industry is threatened by a mystery disease that already has shut down 42 farms and forced operators to consider loan restructuring and bankruptcy.

"If you don't fix this, that means you cannot grow turkeys anymore," Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, a member of North Carolina State University's research team working on the disease, said at a farmers meeting.

With nearly 900 turkey farmers, North Carolina is the nation's top turkey producer. The industry estimates the disease, which impairs turkeys' immune system, cost it \$55 million last year, up more than 60 percent from 1995.

WLR Farms, the nation's No. 2 turkey producer, disclosed on March 20 that it would not restock its hardest-hit farms. The action affected 42 North Carolina turkey farmers, including 31 in Union County, where the disease was first identified in 1991, and three in South Carolina.

Researchers say there is no cure

for the disease, which they say poses no risk to humans. Sick birds continue to eat, but do not gain weight. Contaminated birds cannot be marketed.

At a meeting Monday night, farmers discussed their unattractive options, including loan restructuring and bankruptcy.

Leonard Deese said he borrowed \$250,000 11 years ago to get into the turkey business. On Monday, he started work at a job off the farm.

"I can't afford to lose the money that I lose every year," said Deese, who raised turkeys for Circle S Ranch, another Union County contractor.

Broadway, Va.-based WLR Farms has offered a settlement to farmers whose turkey operations it will not restock and help in finding jobs elsewhere in the company, including at its Marshville, N.C., processing plant.

"We know this is going to be hard on people," said Gail Price, a WLR spokeswoman. "We want to do everything we can to help them

through it."

WLR is conducting private research and contributing to a \$2 million fund to find a cure. None is in sight.

The disease has occurred on both established and new turkey farms, officials said. Researchers say the disease is infectious, but they have not identified the carrier.

Vaillancourt said an antibiotic seems to reduce the disease's impact, but he calls it a Band-Aid, not a cure. "It's an emergency situation," he said. "These guys are saying if we don't find a solution ... some of us are just going to go out of business, and this is not a matter of many years."

He said researchers are looking into the possibility that a high concentration of turkey farms might be a factor in the disease's spread. If the farms' density can be reduced, the disease might be controllable, Vaillancourt said.

"The biggest question is: How much can you produce in a region?" he asked. "Is there a limit?"

Steve Woods, a lawyer from the Land Loss Prevention Project, a nonprofit public-interest law firm, urged the farmers not to sign WLR's proposed settlement.

"I'm not telling anybody tonight they have a case against" WLR, he said, "but I would recommend against signing this agreement, at least until you have talked to an attorney."



The planet closest to Earth is Venus, which, at times, is 26 million miles inside Earth's orbit.

Rev. Graham expects young people to show enthusiasm Youth crusade set Saturday in Alamodome

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Of the thousands of South Texans attending his upcoming crusade at the Alamodome, the Rev. Billy Graham expects young people to be among the most enthusiastic.

"Young people are searching for something today," Graham said.

"They are searching for something more in life than materialism and pleasure and drugs and sex and all these things that we're told will bring a fulfillment in life. The only fulfillment that comes is in the person of Jesus Christ," he said.

Graham, the Christian evangelist who has counseled presidents and kings, kicks off his four-day non-denominational crusade Thursday. It is his first in San Antonio since the one in 1968 held shortly after the assassinations of Martin Luther King and Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Then and now, Graham said, he saw "the same sense of emptiness and search on the part, especially, of young people."

The crusade's youth celebration Saturday, featuring a concert by Michael W. Smith and dc Talk, should be one of the most popular events, Graham said.

Organizers offer no precise attendance predictions for the four-day crusade, as tickets are free. In other Graham crusades, youth programs have broken stadium attendance records, organizers say.

The downtown Alamodome seats approximately 65,000 people.

In a news conference Tuesday to launch the South Texas crusade, Graham said parents must set an example for children by the way they live.

"I don't think children appreciate being preached at. I think you love them and listen to them," he said.

"They have things that are on their hearts that you may not know about."

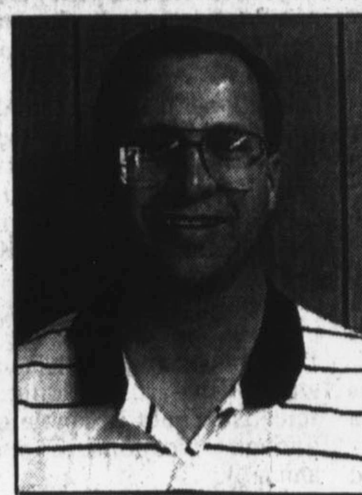
On the subject of abortion, Graham didn't directly answer a question about whether he approves of proposed state legislation that would require parental notification for youths seeking abortions.

But, he said, he believes life begins at conception and said he is opposed to abortion in most cases. "I'm against abortion. I think that life is sacred," he said, then added,

"There comes a time when the mother's health may be in extreme danger or when there's been incest or rape."

Asked why he believes so many people attend his crusades, Graham said: "They know that when they come to our meetings they'll get a straight gospel message."

"We are Christians only when we surrender our lives to the person of Jesus Christ," he said. "There is hope and there is life in Christ and that's what we want to talk about."



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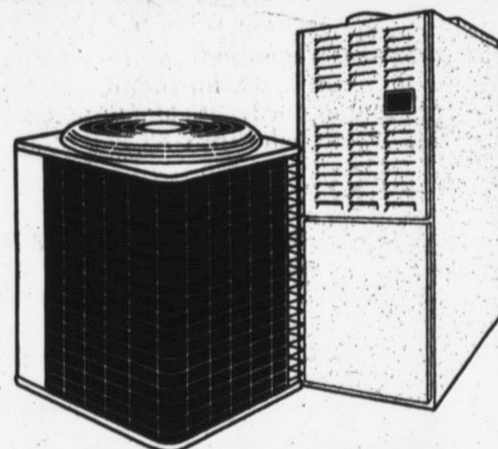
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SBC completes third largest merger in U.S.

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - SBC Communications Inc., Tuesday acquired Pacific Telesis Group in a deal worth \$16.7 billion, completing the third-largest merger in U.S. history.

California regulators on Monday gave final approval to the merger, which creates a local telephone powerhouse covering seven states.

SBC agreed to conditions set by the state's Public Utility Commission, which included a refund of \$213.5 million over five years to customers of Pacific Bell, PacTel's phone subsidiary.

The Federal Communications Commission approved the merger in January, rejecting challenges from competitors.

SBC Chairman and CEO Edward E. Whitacre Jr. said the deal emphasizes "exploding demand for Internet access and high-speed data services," as well as wireless communications.

The new SBC will provide local phone service in California, Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. Its 100,000 employees will include 1,000 new jobs promised by the companies for four new headquarters buildings in California.

The combined company will offer products and services under some of the strongest brands in the industry. The Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell brands will continue to be used in California and Nevada, the Southwestern Bell brand in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas, and the Cellular One brand in Illinois, Massachusetts, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and New York.

While the corporate headquarters will be in San Antonio, the company will maintain headquarters of Pacific Bell and Nevada Bell in California and Nevada.

The only bigger mergers in U.S. history were Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.'s \$25 billion purchase of RJR Nabisco Inc. in 1989, and Walt Disney Co.'s \$19 billion acquisition of Capital Cities/ABC last year.

A \$23 billion merger between two other Baby Bells, Bell Atlantic Corp. and Nynex Corp., is still awaiting approval by the FCC and the U.S. Justice Department.

The two companies want to join under the Bell Atlantic name to create the nation's second-largest phone company after AT&T Corp. The new company would serve 26 million customers in 13 states and Washington, D.C.

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