

The Hereford Brand



97th Year, Vol. No. 50 Deaf Smith County, Texas Friday, September 12, 1997 14 Pages 50 Cents

"My goal is to grow as much as I can using the least amount of water and do it without sacrificing yield or acreage. With the LEPA program, I've found that sugar beets will respond just as well even though I'm using less water."

- Gary Schumacher,
Deaf Smith County farmer

Farmer saves water, still gets good yield

By DIANNA F. DANDRIDGE
Staff Writer

An area sugar beet farmer uses a low-energy irrigation system to conserve water and produce a quality crop. Low-energy precision application (LEPA) irrigation systems have been proven to reduce irrigation needs, in some cases, by as much as 30 percent.

Gary Schumacher, who farms 1,300 acres in Deaf Smith County, produces not only sugar beets, but also corn, cotton and wheat, using the LEPA irrigation systems.

One half-mile pivot circle irrigates approximately 100 acres of beets and another 100 acres of cotton.

Water is applied with the use of plastic sleeves, in place of the spray nozzles, which slide over the drop tubes and drag along furrows to distribute water evenly and efficiently.

"My goal is to grow as much as I can using the least amount of water and do it without sacrificing yield or acreage," said Schumacher.

"With the LEPA program, I've found that sugar beets will respond just as well even though I'm using less water," he said.

Schumacher considers irrigation as a supplement to rainfall and by using furrow dikes, he is more able to maintain a consistent yield.

"More and more farmers are seeing the benefits of using some sort of LEPA or other low-pressure irrigation system to produce good beet crops," said Stan McCabe, an agricultural consultant with Holly Sugar.

Flexibility of LEPA systems provide a variety of benefits for the crops, the soil and the producer.

McCabe says that by dragging hoses in furrows, water moves into the seed bed more efficiently during germination and prevents soil crusting.

During later stages of development, beets grown using LEPA systems suffer less wind damage and trauma caused by water evaporation.

Producers using LEPA systems have experienced less incidence of Cercospora leaf spot, because soil level watering helps keep the plants drier.

Schumacher uses furrow dikes on every other row. The dikes cam up the rows about every 3 feet, and prevents excessive runoff from irrigation or rainfall.

About 1 inch of water is required for every ton of beets that a field is expected to yield per acre, according to McCabe.

A field which is expected to produce 25 tons per acre will need between 16-18 inches of irrigation as well as any rain received during the growing season.

McCabe said Schumacher applied about an inch of pre-irrigation water to get his crop started and has added only another 14-15 inches during the summer. "This year, there are about 18,000 acres of sugar beets, which are all contracted for by Holly Sugar," said McCabe.

McCabe expects sugar beets to be big money makers because high prices of consumer demand.

oOo

In another agriculture news, several million acres of Panhandle-South Plains farmland could possibly be saved from the effects of erosion and blowing dust storms, according to U.S. Rep. Larry Combest, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee.

Combest is urging land owners to make good use of the newest U.S. Department of Agriculture information regarding competitive CRP proposals during the upcoming sign-up.

The National Conservation Resource Service will issue specific guidelines for the region on Sept. 15.

"Anyone with highly-erodible land should carefully consider how to package their best CRP bid, according to USDA's new conservation goals," said Combest.

"USDA's new approach in the fall CRP sign-up provided the Panhandle-South Plains a new opportunity, with an improved scoring system from what was used in the spring sign-up."

Combest said the rural region of the South Plains will receive higher scores in recognition of their quality benefit of farmland that is covered and not plowed each season.

Landowners should be aware their bids can earn an additional 10 points for not seeking USDA cost-share assistance and an offer to accept a lower CRP contract payment can count for a maximum of 15 more points for every dollar under the maximum county rental rate.

Combest has pushed the USDA officials into providing very specific guidelines on the type and the amount of grassland cover that will score the most favorable consideration for winning a CRP contract.

The USDA will continue to help with 50 percent of a landowner's cost on setting new seedlings.

Acceptable ground cover types and the amount of acreage planted in covering will be set Sept. 15, by the State NARCS.

Landowners should not use last sign-up's 259-point eligibility level as a yardstick because the USDA will have set a different cumulative point goal for CRP contract offers this fall.



Saving water

A local sugar beet producer, Gary Schumacher displays the LEPA system he uses to produce high quality sugar beets and at the same time save water and irrigation expense.

Dry spell doesn't affect corn

WASHINGTON (AP) - Despite a spell of dry weather in early August across parts of the Corn Belt, the nation's corn harvest forecast was virtually unchanged from last month at 9.27 billion bushels, the Agriculture Department reported today.

Although the corn acreage to be harvested remained nearly the same at 74 million acres, yield prospects for Indiana and Wisconsin decreased slightly. The September corn prediction was about 8.2 million bushels lower than the August figure.

Corn yields were predicted at 125.2 bushels per acre, slightly less than last month's estimate and down 1.9 bushels from 1996. Price projections from this year's corn crop were expected at between \$2.45 and \$2.85 a bushel.

The corn crop was progressing ahead of normal nationwide, despite persistent dry weather in early August that stretched from Missouri to New York. Later in the month, widespread rain brought relief to the dry fields.

The news for corn was not entirely positive: USDA predicted that exports would be down 25 million bushels this year because of increased competition from China.

Soybean production was forecast at 2.75 billion bushels, a bit higher than last month's estimate but 15 percent more than 1996. If realized, the soybean

crop would be a new record.

Yields for soybeans were estimated at 39.3 bushels per acre, 1.7 bushels more than 1996. Soybeans are expected to bring between \$5.60 and \$6.70 a bushel.

Production for all types of wheat was forecast at 2.51 billion bushels, a 1 percent drop from the August estimate but 10 percent over last year. The projected yield of 39.5 bushels per acre would equal the all-time record.

Durum wheat and other kinds of spring-planted wheat both will have lower yields this year, but the winter wheat crop was 225.4 million bushels ahead of 1996.

The forecast for durum wheat, used in making pasta, was 90.1 million bushels - down from 115.8 million bushels last year - while other spring wheat was down almost 19 percent at 561.5 million bushels, USDA reported.

Cotton crop estimates of 18.4 million bales would be the fourth highest harvest on record but still down 3 percent from 1996. Yields are expected to average 658 pounds per acre, down 49 pounds from last year.

The cotton forecast was 4 percent above the August prediction, largely because of rain that raised production forecasts in Texas by an estimated 400,000 bales, as well as by 110,000 bales in Arkansas.

Wholesale prices record moderate gain in August

WASHINGTON (AP) - Breaking an unprecedented string of seven monthly declines, prices paid to factories and other producers climbed a moderate 0.3 percent in August, pushed higher by rising vegetable and gasoline costs.

The seasonally adjusted increase in the Producer Price Index for finished goods, prices paid by wholesalers, was both the first and worst since December's 0.5 percent rise, the Labor Department said today.

Even with the August jump, which was expected, the index still was falling at an annual rate of 2.2 percent this year. It had posted declines ranging from 0.1 percent to 0.5 percent from January through July, the most consecutive drops since the government began compiling the index in 1947.

The streak was broken primarily because of a 1.4 percent jump in energy prices and a 0.3 percent rise in foods. Core prices excluding the volatile food and energy sectors inched just 0.1 percent higher in August after a decline of the same amount the month before.

In another report today, the Commerce Department said retail sales rose 0.4 percent in August, topping off a three-month summer rebound after a cool spring had kept shoppers at home. Still, that was a bit less than predicted.

Also, the Agriculture Department left its corn harvest forecast unchanged at 9.27 billion bushels, despite a spell of dry weather in early August across parts of the Corn Belt. Soybean production was forecast at 2.75 billion bushels, a bit higher than last month's estimate.

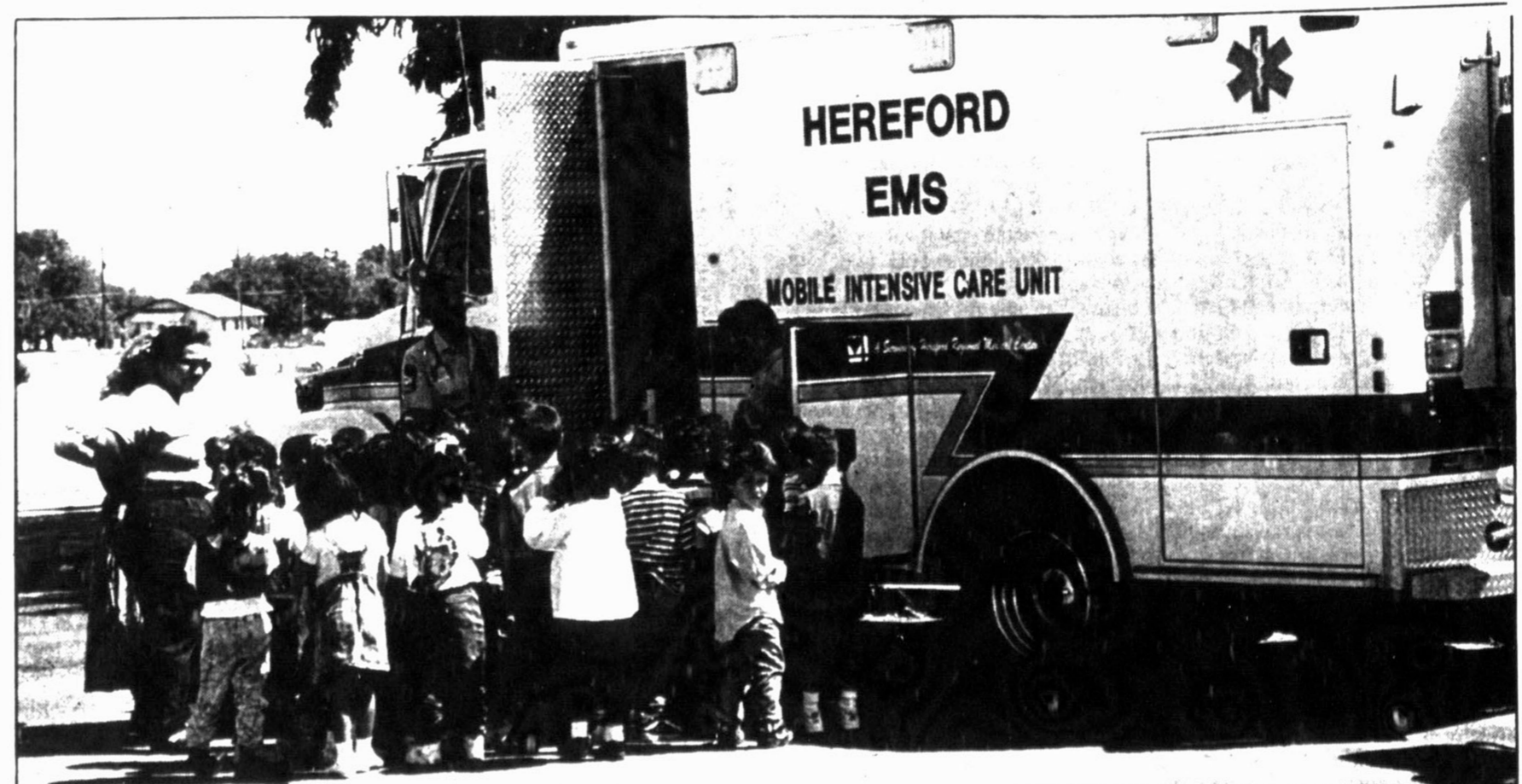
The price and sales reports were welcome on inflation-sensitive Wall Street. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond, which moves in the opposite direction from prices, fell to 6.63 percent this morning from 6.69 percent late Thursday.

Private economists, Wall Street traders and Federal Reserve policy-makers have been watching the producer index and other price measures closely for signs that strong economic growth and low unemployment are pressuring businesses to raise their prices faster than before.

So far that hasn't happened. Service inflation has remained contained and goods inflation has all but disappeared. That's permitted the Federal Reserve to hold short-term interest rates steady since late March. And that, in turn, has helped fuel record stock market gains.

Only in the last six weeks have stocks faltered as traders have become increasingly nervous about prospects for inflation, interest rates and corporate profits.

In August, energy costs were led higher by a 5.9 percent jump in gasoline prices, the largest in 16 months. Fuel oil rose 1.8 percent and residential natural gas, 0.7 percent. But residential electricity declined 1 percent.



Children see ambulance

Hereford Emergency Services paramedics Terry Hazlett and Ron Roberts gave kindergarten students at Tierra Blanca Primary School a tour of an ambulance. The paramedics closed out Thursday's visit with a blast of the siren.

Report: Diana's bodyguard unaware of deaths

LONDON (AP) - The bodyguard who survived the crash that killed Princess Diana, Dodi Fayed and their driver doesn't yet know they are dead, according to a published report today.

The Mirror newspaper quoted doctors treating Trevor Rees-Jones at a hospital in Paris as saying he is still too ill to be told, and may not be informed for a few more weeks.

Rees-Jones, 29, who was Fayed's bodyguard, was the sole survivor of the Aug. 31 crash in a Paris tunnel. He suffered severe chest injuries and is still recovering from 10 hours

of surgery a week ago to reconstruct his face.

In Paris, *Le Figaro* daily quoted an unidentified source close to the investigation as saying Rees-Jones may not even be able to remember the crash.

Rees-Jones had received heavy doses of anesthesia, which could have caused partial amnesia that wiped out his memory of the crash and the hours immediately beforehand, the source said.

Investigators hope that Rees-Jones will be able to describe what happened that night.

SEPTEMBER 12 1997

Lifestyles

Guest column

Why Sunday School?

By REV. JEREMY GRANT
First Presbyterian Church

When I was a little boy, my Sunday school teacher gave us stars on a chart for learning things like the Lord's Prayer and John 3:16. Little did I know that she was helping to lay the foundation of knowledge which God would use to bring me to faith.

We sang songs occasionally in Sunday school. I can still remember many of those songs... "The B-I-B-L-E, yes that's the book for me..." "Jesus love the little children..." "Jesus loves me, this I know..." They went with me on the playground. They carried me to sleep. They helped the time go more quickly on long road trips. Who would have thought that God's promises were becoming embedded in my heart through music in Sunday school?

In sixth grade Sunday school, where I met my future wife by the way, I had a wonderful teacher. He looked at me with such interest, such caring. He listened to me attentively. He laughed at my jokes. And, once in a while, he brought donuts! I don't remember what we studied that year. I do remember that at the church I met people who really valued me. I remember that, with his attention, I received something I hungered for.

My mother had just remarried. My step-dad had two children: one a year older than me, one a year younger. It was a big change for a boy who had been an only child for 11 years. My Sunday school teacher gave me the space to figure out who I was in God's eyes. He let me know that the folks at church loved me. More importantly, he let me know that God my Father loves me.

Finally, in high school, my Sunday school teachers introduced me to a new excitement for the Bible. In a class called "Love Letters from God," we would explore what God was telling us and how that told us of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. I had never had such fun studying the Bible. This middle-aged couple brought a fresh perspective on our study! I began to hear the Scriptures as God's very important message to me and my church today.

In short, my Sunday school years as a child and youth shaped my life in ways that I may never completely fathom. At Sunday school, I received personal attention from those who were eager to love me. I was guided in the knowledge of God and of myself, the foundation which the Holy Spirit used to draw me to faith in Jesus Christ. I was given direction for the ways in which I felt about myself, the things I did, and the way I treated others.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone had such an experience? Will you make sure to bring a child or youth to Sunday school this week? Please attend your Sunday school or one of the many fine offerings in this community.

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I am at my wit's end about my mother. She constantly orders things from magazines in order to enter their sweepstakes and contests.

Mom is almost 80 and has more unread condensed books, unopened videos, unopened cassettes and unread magazines than she will ever use if she lives to be 100. Some magazines are on child care, pets, biking and things she has no interest in.

I've told Mom that the sweepstakes clearly state that you don't have to buy something to win, but she feels she has a better chance if she does. Is it true that your chances of winning are the same whether you buy something or not? I'd like to convince my mother that she doesn't need to spend so much money. -- Her Daughter in Minneapolis

Dear Mpls.: A person need not buy anything to win, but buying something enhances their chances because every time they order, they get additional mailings and more chances to enter. If you never buy anything, eventually, you're off the mailing list.

For years, I've been telling my readers to stay away from these gimmicky games, and I want to repeat that advice. Their ads entice the elderly, who can least afford it, and the chances of winning are about the same as finding that proverbial needle in a haystack.

Dear Ann Landers: I am so sick of seeing parents holding their children on their laps in the front seats of cars. I must see this at least three times a week in my neighborhood alone. It's mostly women holding babies or toddlers.

Isn't there a law against this? I'm only 16, but I know this is irresponsible and even a minor accident could get one of these children killed. Please print my letter so parents who drive like this will know how dumb it is not to put their kids in car seats or at least seat-belt them in the back. -- Worried in Southern Maryland

Dear Worried: You have a good head on those 16-year-old shoulders. I hope mothers of babies and toddlers will pay attention to what you've

Hospital Notes

Report from Hereford Regional Medical Center on Sept. 12:
Admitted: Dora Howell, Thelma Daniel, Bessie Matthews.
Discharged: Edd Haskins.

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Study club opens year

Toujour Amis Study Club met recently to begin the new club year.

Officers for 1997-1998 year are Sandy Josserand, president; Sally Nolen, vice president; Jan Reeve, secretary; Diana Griffin, treasurer; Tammy Yenzen, reporter; Tonja Horrell, historian; and Jill Savoini, parliamentarian.

The yearbook committee hosted a "Happy Birthday Party" at Skaters. Members received a birthday present, party favors and their new year books.

The hostesses, Donna West, Kim Porter, Lisa Formby, Chrystal Anuszkiewicz, Lauri Paetzold, Josserand, Nolen, Reeve, Yenzen and Horrell, served pizza, cokes and a birthday cookie to Cindy Black, Tami Charest, Melinda Bridge, Elaine McNutt, Trish Brown, Judy Barrett, Marsha Winget, Becky Reinart, Donna Kemp, Kim Bigham, Julia Laing and Griffin.



Club officers

Officers for Toujour Amis Study Club who will serve during 1997-1998 are, from left, Sandy Josserand, president; Sally Nolen, vice president; Jan Reeve, secretary; Diana Griffin, treasurer; Tammy Yenzen, reporter; Tonja Horrell, historian; and Jill Savoini, parliamentarian.

Menus

HEREFORD I.S.D.

Breakfast
MONDAY-Pancake with syrup; or cereal, cinnamon raisin toast, diced pears, milk choice.

TUESDAY-Breakfast burrito; or cereal, cinnamon raisin toast, orange juice, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Scrambled eggs, cherry muffin square; or cereal, cinnamon raisin toast, mixed fruit, milk choice.

THURSDAY-Little smokies, biscuit and honey; or cereal, cinnamon raisin toast, orange wedges, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Texas style cinnamon raisin toast; or cereal, cinnamon raisin toast, banana, milk choice.

Lunch

MONDAY-Toasted ham and cheese sandwich, tator tots with catsup, vegetable stix with dip, fruit salad, milk choice.

TUESDAY-Oven fried chicken with gravy, mashed potatoes, green peas, hot cherry cobbler, whole wheat rolls, milk choice.

WEDNESDAY-Spaghetti with meat sauce, cabbage/apple/raisin salad, seasoned corn, fruit freeze bar, cornbread, milk choice.

THURSDAY-Nacho grande with picante sauce, lettuce with tomatoes, seasoned pinto beans, Spanish rice, sliced peaches, cowboy bread, milk choice.

FRIDAY-Hamburger, burger salad, French fries with catsup, fresh fruit choice, milk choice.

ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL

MONDAY-Canadian bacon pizza, corn, tator tots, applesauce, milk.

TUESDAY-Sloppy joes, vegetarian beans, French fries, apple cobbler, milk.

WEDNESDAY-Baked stuffed potatoes, green beans, whole wheat roll, fruity Jello, milk.

THURSDAY-Lasagna, sweet peas, blackeyed peas, toast, cookie, milk.

FRIDAY-Hot dogs, ranch style beans, coleslaw, cherry cobbler, milk.

Robinson gives club program

Patricia Robinson gave the program on "Fall Arrangements with Pizazz" when the Bud to Blossom Club met recently in her home for a brunch and meeting.

Robinson discussed the ever-changing influence reflected in English, Chinese and Japanese arrangements with European and Oriental traditions depicting abstract,

nature, arts and industry. Roll call was answered by relating "Summer activities in the garden and home."

Members present were Phyllis Brown, Mildred Fuhrmann, Wilma Bryan, Ursalee Jacobsen, Lou Hall and the hostess.

The next meeting will be in the home of Wilma Bryan.

Sometimes it takes a miracle to get a couple into church.



Every Child in Sunday School

Hereford Church of the Nazarene

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Sunday School - 9:30 am Worship - 10:30 am

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Hereford Toastmasters have guest speaker

Hereford Toastmasters heard a special presentation titled "Free Enterprise" by Amber Brumley during the regular Thursday meeting at the Ranch House.

Scheduled speakers for the meeting were Jigger Rowland and Wayne Winget.

Rowland spoke on "What If?" and was evaluated by Rick Jackson.

"An American Institution" was the topic of the speech by Winget which was evaluated by Dan Hall.

Winget was voted best speaker and

Jackson was voted best evaluator. Hall presided at the meeting with Rowland leading the pledge and Jackson giving the invocation.

Toastmaster was Mike Morrison; timer, Adolfo Del Toro; AH counter and grammarian, Jackson; and wordmaster, Sharon Cramer. She introduced the word "precarious."

Margaret Del Toro was general evaluator. Guests attending were Mary Limon, Amber Brumley, Adolfo Del Toro and Dennis Dettman.

Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: After years of trying to solve the problem of those horrible rust rings on the bathroom vanity from shaving-cream cans, I finally found a solution. I had tried numerous plastic lids.

I was throwing out an empty can of baking powder (which lasts 100 years), when I removed the plastic lid, and tried it, and it fit perfectly on the bottom of the brand of shaving cream that I use. I don't know if it will fit all brands, but it's sure worth a try.

Just remember to let everyone in the family know to remove it before throwing out the empty can, because

it will be another 100 years before you get your hands on another! — MaryAnn Caponegro, Parsippany, N.J.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:
Heloise
PO Box 795000
San Antonio TX 78279-5000
or fax it to 210-HELOISE

SELECT YOUR EXCHANGE STUDENT TODAY!



Anna from Norway, 16 yrs. Likes skiing, swimming, dancing and art. Anna hopes to join a drama club as an exchange student.

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Klaus from Germany, 15 yrs. Loves camping and playing soccer. Klaus dream has been to spend a school year in North America.

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The Hereford Brand

Sports

On the Sidelines

Team	District Season	PF	PA
Canyon	0-0	1-0	49
Dumas	0-0	1-0	41
Borger	0-0	1-0	41
Randall	0-0	1-0	28
Caprock	0-0	1-0	21
Pampa	0-0	0-1	3
Hereford	0-0	0-2	0

Last week's games
 Friday: Canyon 49, Amarillo River Road 3; Borger 41, Perryton 13; Dumas 41, Dalhart 13; Amarillo Caprock 21, Levelland 0; Canyon Randall 28, Lubbock High 14; Amarillo Tascosa 6, Hereford 0.
 Saturday: Lubbock Estacado 19, Pampa 3.

This week's games
 Amarillo Palo Duro at Hereford, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Amarillo Tascosa at Borger, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Canyon at Levelland, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Sanford-Fritch at Amarillo Caprock, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Amarillo River Road at Dumas, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Amarillo High at Pampa, 7:30 p.m. Friday.
 Wellworth Friendship at Canyon Randall, 7:30 p.m. Friday.

American League

Oakland 8, Toronto 7
 N.Y. Yankees 14, Baltimore 2
 Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 5
 Texas 7, Minnesota 0
 Kansas City 4, Anaheim 2
 Detroit 3, Seattle 1

Only games scheduled
Friday's Games
 N.Y. Yankees (Mendoza 5-6) at Baltimore (Erickson 16-5), 6:35 p.m.
 Boston (Suppan 6-2) at Milwaukee (D'Amico 8-5), 7:05 p.m.
 Cleveland (Wright 6-3) at Chicago White Sox (Drabek 10-10), 7:05 p.m.
 Minnesota (Miller 0-3) at Texas (Burkett 7-12), 7:35 p.m.
 Kansas City (Rosado 9-12) at Anaheim (Watson 11-10), 9:05 p.m.
 Toronto (Clemens 21-5) at Seattle (Oliver 6-10), 9:05 p.m.
 Detroit (Keagle 1-4) at Oakland (Ludwick 1-1), 9:35 p.m.

National League

San Francisco 5, Philadelphia 3
 N.Y. Mets 9, Montreal 5

Only games scheduled
Friday's Games
 Cincinnati (Reminger 6-8 and Schourek 5-7) at Philadelphia (Stephenson 6-5 and Leiter 9-15), 2:40 p.m.
 San Francisco (Rueter 11-6) at Florida (Hernandez 9-0), 8:05 p.m.
 Chicago Cubs (Batista 0-3) at Pittsburgh (Schmidt 8-7), 8:05 p.m.
 Montreal (Valdes 4-4) at N.Y. Mets (Jones 14-8), 8:40 p.m.
 Colorado (Thomson 7-8) at Atlanta (Maddux 18-4), 8:40 p.m.
 San Diego (Ashby 8-10) at St. Louis (Morris 9-8), 7:05 p.m.
 Los Angeles (Park 13-6) at Houston (Reynolds 6-10), 7:05 p.m.

IN BRIEF

JV Maroon wins

From staff reports
AMARILLO -- The Hereford Whiteface Maroon routed Amarillo Palo Duro 41-14 in junior varsity football action Thursday night.

Nick Whatley ran for two touchdowns, a 15-yarder to start the scoring and a 60-yard dash in the second half to lead the Maroon. Pedro Hernandez tossed a pair of touchdown passes, a 75-yarder to Moris Penalber and 28 yards to Seth Pietsek.

Pietsek also added a 17-yard touchdown run in the second half to extend the Maroon's lead to 34-14.

Hereford scored their final touchdown when Jeremy Lopez returned a punt blocked by Kurtis Flood 45 yards. Lopez also intercepted a pass. Flood and George Castillo both recovered fumbles for Hereford.

With the win, the Maroon are now 1-1 on the season. They will host Lubbock Coronado's junior varsity 7 p.m. Thursday at Whiteface Stadium.

Sports calendar

Friday Football
 Amarillo Palo Duro at Hereford, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday Volleyball
 Amarillo Caprock at Hereford, 2 p.m.
 Hereford Freshmen at Dumas Tourney, TBA.

Cross Country
 Hereford at Plainview

Tennis
 Hereford at Pampa

Tuesday Volleyball
 Hereford at Borger, 6 p.m.
 St. Andrews at Nazarene Christian Academy, 4:30 p.m.

Football
 St. Andrews at Nazarene Christian Academy, 4:30 p.m.

Tech tailback wins fifth year of eligibility

LUBBOCK (AP) -- Texas Tech tailback Adrian Ervin on Thursday won back a year of eligibility lost to injuries in 1994, a decision that fortifies one of the Red Raiders' most questionable positions.

Ervin backed up superstar Byron Hanspard for the last two seasons. He ran for 446 yards on 60 carries in the 1995 and 96 seasons, but his NCAA eligibility expired at the end of last season. It was extended Thursday. "I'm excited to get back out on the

field with my teammates," Ervin said in a news release. "Whether or not I can make a significant contribution in games is still up in the air."

The 6-foot, 205-pound Ervin has been working out with the team since Sept. 2, but coach Spike Dykes said Thursday his only senior tailback won't play Saturday against Southwestern Louisiana.

Ervin, a Houston-area high school product, transferred to Texas Tech from San Bernardino Junior College

in 1994 but was unable to compete that season because of a severe ankle sprain and kidney infection.

While much of his playing time has come in mop-up roles, he rushed for a career-high 68 yards on 10 carries in the fourth quarter of last year's 21-14 loss to Kansas State. Hanspard left the game with a minor injury.

"Adrian is a hard worker who has been through a lot during his career," Dykes said. "He ... really didn't get

a good chance to show his abilities (behind Hanspard)."

Hanspard, a junior, opted for the NFL last December.

Ervin's 1997 debut probably will be against North Texas, Tech's last non-conference game before a string of eight straight Big 12 games.

Currently, true freshman Ricky Williams appears to have captured first-string status over redshirt

freshmen James Easterling and Rickey Hunter and sophomore Anthony Malbrough. A spy Ervin could render all of them reserves.

"But, I want to help the team however, I can, whether it is providing senior leadership, playing on the scout team or carrying the ball in games," he said. "I'm looking forward to playing this season, graduating in December and looking toward my future."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

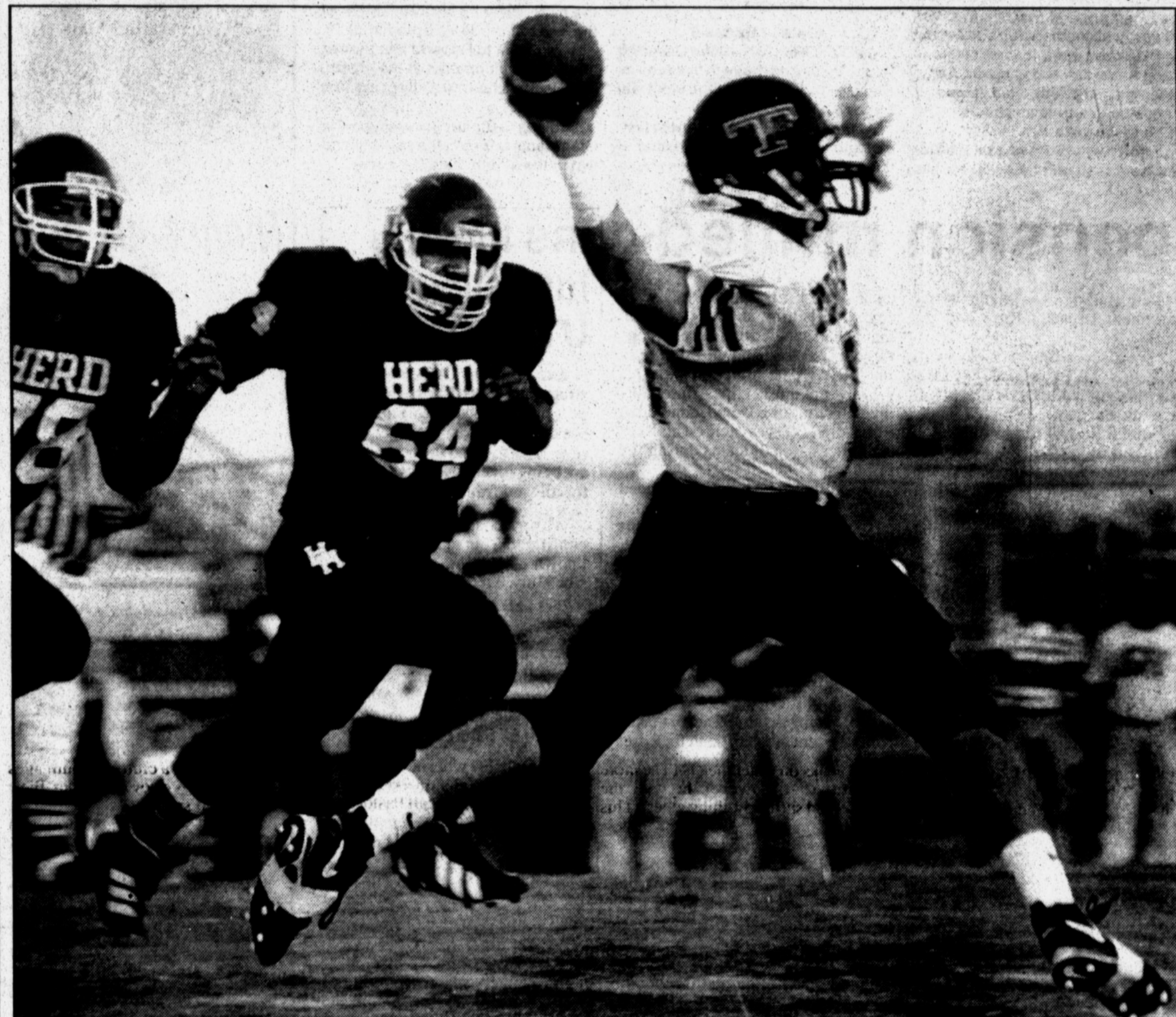


Photo by Mauri Montgomery

Bobby Barba (78) and Tranquilino Garza (64) of Hereford hurry the throw of Amarillo Tascosa quarterback Ryan Jackson last Friday night at Whiteface Stadium. Tascosa won 6-0. The

Whitefaces will be looking for their first victory of the season tonight at Whiteface Stadium against the Amarillo Palo Duro Dons.

PARALLEL COURSE

Two teams on convergent paths set to square off against each other

By BOB VARMETTE
 Staff writer

They're two teams in the process of rebuilding once-great programs. Both head coaches focus on the same words -- character, commitment, trust -- when discussing their team's vision for the future.

Both teams are winless this season. Both teams are on a collision course with each other -- they will square off at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Whiteface Stadium.

But after tonight, there will be one big difference between the two teams -- one team will have a victory.

The Hereford Whitefaces and the Amarillo Palo Duro Dons, teams with similar pasts, teams with similar plans for the future, seemed destined to play this game.

Both Hereford head coach Craig Yenzer and Palo Duro head coach Steve Culwell acknowledge the parallel paths the two schools have followed in recent years. Both acknowledge they are charting correspondent courses in their separate journeys back to pre-eminence.

"I really do," said Yenzer when asked if he saw the parallels between the two programs. "He's spending a lot of his time talking about things we talk about -- commitment, trust and building character, integrity. . . . That's why we respect them. (And) they're getting there."

"Coach Culwell has done a tremendous job with P.D. He came in and started from scratch and built them back to what they used to be,"

Yenzer said.

Ditto from Culwell.

"Coach Yenzer and his staff have really done a fine job rebuilding that program," he said. "I have a lot of respect for what they've done."

Enough of the mutual admiration society, there's a football game to be played.

And both teams want that first win of the season.

It's not that they haven't come close. Hereford has lost its first two games, although they've surrendered only 23 points. Palo Duro lost its first game last Thursday, a 13-7 decision to Plainview.

"I felt like we could have won at Plainview," Culwell said. "But we

Please see CONVERGENT, page 7

While one player has two teams diverging

DALLAS (AP) -- Tellis Redmon showed last weekend what a difference one player can make.

His new school, which went 0-10 last year, is 1-0.

His old school, which went 15-0 last year, is 0-1.

Coincidence? Probably not.

Redmon helped Grapevine win the Class 4A Division I title last year, then transferred to Colleyville Heritage, where many of his friends

Please see DIVERGING, page 7

Tide surges past Vandy

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- A new coach for Vanderbilt, same old result for Alabama.

The 15th-ranked Crimson Tide beat Vanderbilt 20-0 Thursday night, extending its winning streak to 13 straight at the expense of Woody Widenhofer, the Commodores' third coach this decade. Alabama is 36-2 against Vandy since 1960.

Alabama (2-0 overall, 1-0 Southeastern Conference) ruined Widenhofer's chance of becoming just the second Vandy coach since World War II to win his first two games despite an offense that gained only 120 yards through three quarters.

Warren Foust blocked Joe Webb's punt in the first quarter and Steve Harris recovered at the 22. That set up Freddie Kitchens' 17-yard touchdown pass to Ed Scissum with 53.6 seconds left in the first quarter, all the points the Crimson Tide would need.

Please see TIDE, page 6

Avoiding history

UCLA hopes to avoid 0-3 start by beating UT

By CHIP BROWN
 The Associated Press

AUSTIN -- UCLA has opened the season 0-2 for only the second time in the past 26 years.

Traveling to 11th-ranked Texas (1-0), the Bruins will try to avoid making the wrong kind of history Saturday by falling to 0-3.

That hasn't happened since 1971, when Pepper Rodgers was coach and the Bruins started 0-4 before finishing the year 2-7-1, the school's worst record in the past 35 years.

"For them, it's make or break

game," said Texas nose tackle Chris Akins. "Coming out 0-3 would be a hard way to start things off. This game could turn around their whole season."

That's what second-year UCLA coach Bob Toledo is hoping.

After going 5-6 in his first year and coming under fire for play calls in the final minutes of narrow losses to Washington State (37-34) and Tennessee (30-24), Toledo could use a victory Saturday to help quiet critics.

"This team is not dead and

buried," Toledo said. "We are going to fight and kick and battle. We are going to stick together as a family."

"I'm going to keep all the nice letters I'm getting, so that I can write back at the end of the season and thank them for sticking with us."

Toledo was quick to note that UCLA opened 0-2 in 1993 and went on to finish 8-4 with a berth in the Rose Bowl.

"The last four Rose Bowls UCLA went to, they didn't win the first

Please see HISTORY, page 7



Photo by Mauri Montgomery

Readying for Caprock

Hereford head volleyball coach Brenda Kitten runs the Lady Whitefaces through drills recently at Whiteface Gymnasium. Hereford will host Amarillo Caprock at 2 p.m. Saturday in a District 1-4A matchup.

FEARLESS FORECASTERS



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Convergent

committed 10 penalties; that was our biggest error. (And) we made several mistakes in our kicking game. The problem with penalties is one with which Yenser can relate. His Whitefaces were flagged nine times last week against Amarillo Tascosa in a 6-0 loss to the Rebels.

"We're getting better," Yenser said. "We've worked hard this week at putting the kids under pressure. And with the added pressure they've handled it well."

Yenser now hopes it will translate to fewer mental mistakes during game situations.

Culwell sees the parallel to his Dons.

"All the penalties, those are mental mistakes," he said. "You're going to make more earlier in the year, and when you're young, you're going to make even more. . . . We're still young, kind of like Hereford."

But both teams have the opposing coach approaching this game with apprehension.

"Hereford scares us," said Culwell. . . . They've always had a good passing attack (and) a good scheme. Against Hereford, you have to defend the whole field. It's not like against Plainview last week, where they were primarily a running team."

Ditto for Yenser.

"They could really cause us some problems," he said. "(Offensively,) they shift, then they'll motion back off of it. They gain an advantage if you don't adjust. They've got the athletes to hurt you if you don't."

One of those athletes is C.C. Combs, one of three returning starters in the Dons' backfield. In 1996, Combs was a second-team all-district selection in District 3-5A, rushing for 1,018 yards on 200 carries and scoring five touchdowns.

"He's a fine athlete," said Yenser. "Definitely. He's certainly very concerning to us."

"Our offense is based around our tailback, C.C. Combs," said Culwell. "But we have to be able to throw the ball to run. We try to look complicated, but really we're very simple in what we're doing."

Combs is not the only player to worry Yenser and his staff. Another of those returning starters in the offensive backfield is quarterback Aaron Lewis.

Lewis runs the I-formation attack for Culwell and last year he averaged more than 100 yards per game through the air, tossing nine touchdowns against only four interceptions.

"Aaron Lewis has been starting since he was a sophomore," Yenser said. "His scrambling ability, his passing ability really concern me."

Lewis isn't the only quarterback in the game that has the opposing coaching staff concerned. The other is Hereford's Jeremy Urbanczyk.

"We need to stop their tailback," Culwell said. "But we can't ignore their quarterback. He can hurt you. We need to pressure Urbanczyk; we need to stop him."

Stopping opponents hasn't presented much of a problem for either the Whitefaces or the Dons. Palo Duro surrendered only 269 yards and 13 points in their loss to Plainview; Hereford is averaging 204.5 yards per game in total defense.

Stopping the big play is a whole other matter.

"Defensively, we did a pretty good job stopping the run last week," Culwell said. "Except for two big plays. Those two plays hurt us."

Welcome to the Whitefaces' world. Being hurt by the big play is a recurring theme for this year's Herd.

Three plays in two games may be what separates the Whitefaces from being 2-0 instead of 0-2.

Both coaches say injuries shouldn't present a major problem. Yenser reports Jay Wilson, a backup senior defensive end, will probably be missed the most.

"Losing him definitely hurts us depth-wise," said Yenser. Wilson tore an anterior cruciate ligament and will be sidelined indefinitely.

Also scratched from the game is junior defensive tackle Abram Hill, who is still recovering from an appendectomy.

Listed as doubtful are Ulysis Tabares and Roger Gaitan.

Culwell says the Dons have some minor nagging minor injuries, but also doesn't foresee them having a major impact on the outcome of the game.

One other similarity -- both coaches are very positive about the direction their programs are headed.

"We feel like we're better," Culwell said. "We have better athletes, a better work ethic. Like Hereford, I think we're on the verge of being a solid team."

Ditto for Yenser.

"I tried to impress upon the kids they've done everything they've needed to do this week," he said. "We had probably the best three days of practices this year this week. Now it's time to transform it to under the lights Friday night."

... It's a big game for both of our programs," Yenser said. "You want to deep on climbing the ladder one step at a time."

Ditto.

Hereford YMCA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

Our YMCA Volleyball League will offer girls the chance to get ahead by learning the fundamentals of volleyball, sportsmanship and team play. Volleyball will be fun and exciting, it can also provide enjoyment throughout a lifetime.

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DATES: Registration will be from now until September 12th. Teams play and practice once a week. Games will be played on Saturday mornings. (Coaches will be notified of the game location and time)

LEAGUE FEE: Fee will be \$18.00. All participants must be YMCA members. YMCA memberships for youths is \$29.00 per year and includes use of the YMCA facility throughout the year. Expired memberships must be renewed. ***ENTRY MEMBERSHIP FEES MUST ACCOMPANY ENTRY FORM!**

EQUIPMENT: Girls will have to supply their own shoes and knee pads (optional). Only tennis shoes will be permitted for play and practice.

Volunteers are needed to help coach and referee. (Parents are welcome.)
 If you are interested please fill out a form that can be picked up at the YMCA office.

For more information please come by the YMCA office and pick up a registration form.
 Scholarships are available for those who need assistance.

Parents are welcome to all games, you can make this a family event.
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Diverging

went when it opened last fall. Last Friday, Redmon had 223 all-purpose yards and a touchdown as Heritage beat Azle 21-0 for the first victory in school history. At the same time, Grapevine lost for the first time since 1995, falling 40-36 to Denton Ryan, which won just one game last year.

Redmon's impact on both programs earned him top billing on the season's first Associated Press honor roll.

One of the major dramas of this season was supposed to be whether Redmon would be able to kick-start the young Heritage program.

But his new teammates, both encouraged by his arrival and motivated to avoid a repeat of their disastrous 1996 season, made sure he didn't have to do it all himself.

"I think he makes a difference, no doubt, but for someone to say he is the reason for the turnaround would not be accurate at all," said Chris Carmichael, an assistant coach at

Grapevine for 11 years before becoming Heritage's first coach last year. "Our kids have put in countless hours training in the offseason, and I think that's the reason for the turnaround."

Azle, though, went into the opener keying only on Redmon. For much of the game, nine Azle defenders were committed to stopping him.

The strategy backfired as Heritage threw for two touchdowns against the two-man secondary. Consider wider passing lanes another benefit that comes with having someone like Redmon.

The 6-foot, 175-pound senior still had his moments, such as carrying the ball on all five plays of a 43-yard scoring drive, capping it with an 18-yard touchdown run.

He finished with 139 yards rushing (the first 100-yard game in school history), 47 yards receiving and 37 return yards, most of it on a blocked field goal that nearly set up another score.

"He was able to find the holes that the offensive line made," Carmichael said. "With our scheme, if we can get our bodies on their bodies, he can make things happen."

Redmon made a lot happen for Grapevine last year, rushing for 941 yards and gaining another 490 on receptions in seven regular-season games. He then had another 962 yards and 11 touchdowns in five playoff games, including 239 yards and two scores in the 34-19 championship victory over Hays Consolidated.

After Redmon's transfer, it would've been easy for him to walk into Carmichael's office expecting the coach to kiss his cleats. Instead, he has been nothing but humble.

"He's really special in that regard," Carmichael said. "He never gave off the attitude he was going to be our savior and turn our program around. He's basically blended in. He has really become a part of what we're doing here."

History

league game," Toledo said, having done his homework to find some positives amid the gloom.

"This season is not over, and we weren't playing Sisters of the Poor in our first two games. Sometimes, when you get so close and you had it in your grasp, it's tougher."

In UCLA's loss to Washington State, the Bruins went for it and failed on fourth down at the Cougars' 1 late in the game rather than kick a field goal and force overtime. Toledo used the next week of practice to chew out his team.

In the wake of the Bruins' loss to Tennessee, in which UCLA failed on a fourth-and-3 pass play at the Volunteers' 20 with 27 seconds to go, Toledo said he would "be the upbeat guy" in preparation for Texas.

While dismissing the notion of a moral victory following the Tennessee game, Toledo said he isn't worried about the morale of his team -- which rallied from a 27-6 deficit at the beginning of the fourth quarter against the Volunteers.

"We've had two tough losses," Toledo said. "It hurts. I'm in pain, and I don't like it. But I'm not going to let them get down."

Texas coach John Mackovic said he will prepare his team with the notion that UCLA could just as easily be 2-0 and ranked in the Top 10.

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Stevens Chevy-Olds will close at 3:00 pm this **Saturday, September 13th** to prepare for our Annual Fall 2-Day Close-out Sale on all remaining new 1997 vehicles and all used cars and trucks in stock!

The 1998's are on their way and we MUST REDUCE our 1997 inventory of new and used vehicles!

Shop our large inventory on Saturday and Sunday. All vehicles will be clearly marked with our NO HASSEL RED TAG SALE PRICE. No salesmen will be present, so you can relax and shop at your leisure.

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Business Briefs

NEW DIANA BOOKS HIT STORES

LONDON (AP) - Cash registers will ring this week when new books about Princess Diana hit the stores.

At least 20 Diana projects - some new, some rewrites of old books - are reportedly in the works. One of the first new books will be "Diana Princess of Wales," by former royal reporter Tom Corby, was to be published Thursday.

Publishers and booksellers insisted Wednesday they are not taking advantage of tragedy. The chain Books Etc. will give 20 percent of all Diana book receipts - roughly half of the profit margin - to charity.

ESPY ENTERS NOT-GUILTY PLEA

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy, saying he is eager for trial, pleaded innocent to charges of accepting \$35,000 worth of sports tickets, travel and lodging from companies his department regulated.

"Through this trial, the public will now hear my side of the story," Espy said Wednesday after entering his plea in federal court.

Sixteen of the 39 counts against him involve Arkansas-based Tyson Foods Co., the nation's largest poultry processor. The trial of Espy, who now practices law in Jackson, Miss., probably will not start until next year.

GATEWAY 2000 BIDDING FOR BUSINESS

NEW YORK (AP) - Gateway 2000 Inc., a big, mail-order seller of consumer computers, is aggressively grabbing for business customers by offering a full line of machines that run computer networks.

Gateway unveiled its server computers as well as new business desktop computers Wednesday amid slowing consumer demand for its flagship PCs. Last week, Gateway warned of disappointing third-quarter profits.

Based in North Sioux City, S.D., Gateway may be battling uphill in a business-computer market dominated by the biggest names in computing, including Dell Computer Corp., Compaq Corp. and IBM Corp.

AIRLINE TO BOOST HISPANIC HIRING

MIAMI (AP) - American Airlines plans to hire more minorities and boost donations to Hispanic causes after a boycott threat over a company manual that depicted Hispanics as often drunk and unruly.

In an agreement announced Tuesday with the National Council of La Raza, American said it had made a commitment for "full employment parity, at all levels of the corporation, for all minorities, including Latinos."

The airline also agreed to donate air travel to community and youth groups as part of its increased philanthropy to Hispanic groups. It restated plans to review all company manuals and remove offensive references to minority groups.

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DEADBEAT PARENTS MAY LOSE LICENSES

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Deadbeat parents might as well hand over their car keys in Nebraska: A new law gives the state power to suspend the driver's licenses of parents who fall behind on paying child support.

Recreational and professional licenses - for anything from fishing and hunting to cutting hair and practicing law - also could be yanked under the law, which takes effect Saturday.

It allows the state to suspend the licenses of parents who are at least 90 days behind on paying child support and who refuse to enter into a payment plan.

It will be at least January, though, before regulations are adopted and the Department of Health and Human Services is ready to begin suspending licenses. It is estimated that more than \$323 million is owed in past due child support in Nebraska.

Recreational licenses will be exempt initially, partly because of the daunting task it would create to search records manually to find out if a delinquent parent has a hunting or fishing license.

"ANTI-ESTROGEN" LACKS BAD SIDE EFFECTS

CINCINNATI (AP) - A study indicates that a new drug may help aging women who would benefit from estrogen, but are fearful of taking supplements of the hormone because of side effects.

The drug, an "anti-estrogen" called raloxifene, works in a manner similar to estrogen by helping increase bone mass and reduce blood cholesterol levels, said Dr. Edward Lufkin, lead author of the study.

"But unlike estrogen, it avoids certain side effects such as stimulation of the uterus and breasts. Uterine bleeding was avoided and it did not cause any breast soreness," he said Thursday.

The study did not indicate what effect the drug might have on breast cancer. There has been no proof that estrogen treatment causes breast cancer, although many women fear that it does.

Lufkin, of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., presented the findings at the annual meeting of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

Estrogen is a natural reproductive hormone that helps keep women's hearts and bones strong. After menopause, when the body produces less estrogen, women sometimes take supplements to fight menopausal hot flashes and to prevent heart disease and bone-thinning osteoporosis.

BOSNIA SERBS END BOYCOTT

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The Serb member of Bosnia's joint presidency ended a two-month boycott of its meetings today, showing up for a session in Muslim-dominated Sarajevo.

Momcilo Krajisnik, who is also top aide to No. 1 war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic, had refused to attend meetings with his Muslim and Croat counterparts ever since July 10, when British troops killed one Serb war crimes suspect and arrested another.

His appearance today was the latest in a series of turnabouts by Bosnian

hard-liners in recent days, following intense diplomatic pressure on them and on their patrons in Serbia and Croatia.

Krajisnik, though not indicted by the U.N. war crimes tribunal, had previously said he feared arrest if he came to Sarajevo. Krajisnik played almost as big a part in the Serbs' war effort as Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb wartime leader.

PRIVACY GUIDELINES PROPOSED BY CLINTON

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration's proposed rules to safeguard the privacy of health records are a victory for law enforcement. Police access to health records, which varies by state, would not change under the plan.

The administration's proposal, presented Thursday, would bar use of health records without a patient's permission unless it were for a health purpose. There also are exceptions for the public good: to ferret out health fraud, look for public health threats and conduct academic research.

"Our recommendations represent tough choices and difficult tradeoffs," Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala told the Senate Labor and Human Relations Committee.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who has introduced his own, stricter privacy legislation, objected. "Today's recommendations ... would allow any police officer to walk into a doctor's office and demand to see the medical records of their patients," he said.

BERGER: WHITE HOUSE RARELY CHECKED ON VISITORS

WASHINGTON (AP) - During the last campaign, the White House checked infrequently with national security aides about foreign visitors who met with President Clinton and Vice President Gore, the president's national security adviser told a Senate committee.

New procedures are in place that require intelligence checks with the State Department and CIA before foreign visitors are admitted to the White House, Samuel R. Berger told the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on Thursday. Clinton insisted on tightening the controls, he said.

The failure to check the background of a Chinese arms merchant, a Russian businessman with alleged mob ties and other visitors - admitted at the request of Democratic Party officials - never influenced foreign policy, Berger said.

At a closed-door briefing after the hearing, Attorney General Janet Reno and the directors of three intelligence agencies updated committee members on their investigations into whether the Chinese government sought to influence last year's election through donations to party organizations and candidates.

Mourners queue up for last time

CALCUTTA, India (AP) - For many, today was the last day to be close to Mother Teresa, to touch a flower to the glass coffin or to gaze at the peaceful face of a woman who had reached out to the powerful and to the poor.

Hundreds lined up despite the pouring rain today to see her lying in state at St. Thomas' Church. On Saturday, she will be buried after a state funeral attended by presidents, prime ministers and cardinals, as well as the poor and sick for whom she worked.

Viewing hours were extended for an hour to handle the crowds, but police still had to turn away hundreds

of mourners at 4 p.m. Scores of the disappointed stormed a police barrier and headed to the church, but police dissuaded them without any violence.

While mourners lined up outside, Mother Teresa's chosen successor, Sister Nirmala, held her first news conference outside the room that will be the famous nun's tomb.

Mother Teresa's closest relative, niece Agi Bojaxhiu, and Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro were among those visiting St. Thomas' today. Bojaxhiu, who grew up in Italy, first met her late father's sister 30 years ago.

"The first meeting was very moving," Bojaxhiu told Calcutta's

The Telegraph newspaper. "I never guessed at the time that she would be revered by the whole world one day. To me, she was just my aunt."

This morning, a nun from her Missionaries of Charity order lifted a small boy over the barrier and allowed him to touch the platform on which Mother Teresa rested in her blue-trimmed white sari.

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WORKER: TEXAS FEARED LOSING TOBACCO REVENUE
AUSTIN (AP) - A worker deposed in Texas' lawsuit against tobacco companies says state leaders decided in 1990 not to discourage smoking because they were struggling with the budget and feared losing cigarette tax revenue.

The *Austin American-Statesman* reported today that state revenue estimator Tamara Plaut said in an April 10 deposition that legislators opposed a move in Congress to increase the federal excise tax on cigarettes.

"In terms of policy decisions about cigarette smoking going down, they (legislators) didn't care at all," Ms. Plaut said in the deposition. "All they cared about was getting enough money to fund the school finance proposals they were considering at the time."

Plaut also testified, however, that the decision had less to do with smoking than making the state budget work.

"There were considerable budget pressures," she said. "This was not a policy decision; it was a money decision."

CHURCH TO APPEAL ORDER TO RETURN TITHES
HOUSTON (AP) - A judge ordered a Baytown church to return \$23,000 in tithes from a legally bankrupt member, after a company sued the church to recover debts the member owed the firm.

County Civil Court Judge Tom Sullivan issued a trial verdict Wednesday for Cedar Bayou Baptist Church to surrender offering plate donations from member Leland Collins.

They are to be paid to the Houston air conditioning company of Gregory-Edwards Inc.

Church attorney Don Knabeschuh said church officials are committed to a full appeal of the judge's verdict - and will appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary.

He said the ruling and the state's creditor law violate the First Amendment freedom to exercise religion.

U.S., MEXICO ISSUE WARNING ON GUNS
MATAMOROS, Mexico (AP) - U.S. and Mexican officials are warning Americans that illegally carrying firearms across the border could result in stiff penalties.

At least 21 U.S. citizens have been arrested this year in Matamoros and other nearby border cities for illegally carrying guns or ammunition, U.S. Consul George Kopf said at a news conference Thursday.

Mexican authorities arrested the same number of people during the first eight months of 1996, Kopf said.

"It shows it's an ongoing problem," he said.

Kopf was joined by the Mexican consuls in McAllen and Brownsville, Texas, in urging Americans to keep their guns at home before crossing the border. Prison sentences for possession of firearms in Mexico can be as long as 30 years, officials said.

LAKE TEXOMA MARINA OWNERS INDICTED
DALLAS (AP) - A federal grand jury has indicted the operators of a well-known Lake Texoma marina, accusing them of 32 counts of tax fraud, insurance fraud and other offenses.

Thursday's indictment named C.D. Loe Jr.; his wife, Babo Loe; their son, Blume Loe; Andrew Scott Howard; and Roger Benton Foltz.

The Loe family has operated Loe's Highport Marina, on the lake's southern shore near Pottsboro since 1945.

Mike Bradford, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, said some of the charges stem from an alleged insurance fraud, and others concern rent owed the Army Corps of Engineers, which oversees operations at the artificial lake.

AIRLINE BLAMED FOR COLOMBIA CRASH

MIAMI (AP) - Survivors and relatives of the passengers killed in the crash of an American Airlines jet in Colombia had prepared for a monthlong trial, seeking to pin blame on the airline for the 1995 accident that killed 159.

Instead, U.S. District Judge Stanley Marcus on Thursday found the airline guilty of willful misconduct after only four days of arguments, removing the airline's liability limits and canceling a trial. Marcus said that no reasonable jury could find otherwise.

"I think the truth won in the end," said Mauricio Reyes, one of four survivors of the crash and now a 21-year-old University of Miami junior. "We haven't been able to go on with our lives because of this."

The airline immediately said it would appeal the ruling. If it stands,

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it means survivors and relatives can seek damages above a \$75,000 limit. One lawsuit seeks \$1 billion.

"Simply put, no reasonable jury could find that acts of the pilots of Flight 965 - and in particular the pilots' decision to continue their descent at night from a grievously off-course position in mountainous terrain - amounted to anything less than willful misconduct," Marcus wrote in his 118-page ruling, known as a summary judgment.

The Boeing 757, en route from Miami to Cali on Dec. 20, 1995, strayed from the planned path and flew into a mountain.

"Neither the airline nor our flight crew intentionally took action that resulted in the accident," the airline said in a statement.

Colombian investigators said pilots entered the wrong codes in a flight computer, which took the plane off course, and failed to notice the error as they descended. The pilots also died in the crash.

American, which is based in Fort Worth, Texas, claims the flight computer was defective and is suing the companies that made and programmed it, Honeywell Air Transport Systems of Phoenix and Jeppesen Sanderson Inc. of Englewood, Colo.

LUNG ASSOCIATION AWARDS "PHEMMYS"

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) - "Seinfeld's" Kramer gets booted from a restaurant for lighting up, then throws a smoking soiree at his apartment.

On "Cybill," Cybill Shepherd fires up a stogie during a poker game with the boys. Dennis Franz befriends a suspect on "NYPD Blue" with an offer of a cigarette.

The performances may have helped the shows earn Emmy nominations, but the American Lung Association is fuming to see TV role models glamorizing tobacco use.

The association bestowed its second annual Phlemmy Awards on the three series Thursday.

The Emmy week event also honors shows that put tobacco "in its true light" - issuing Pink Lung awards to "Chicago Hope," "Touched by an Angel" and "Spin City."

"You don't want to be a Phlemmy winner," association president Donald Clark said. "TV stars are some of our children's role models, and when they smoke, it just encourages young people to use tobacco."

Birth rate not affected by law

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) - Four years after New Jersey became the first state to cut off additional aid to welfare mothers who continue to have babies, a new study indicates that the law has had no effect on birth rates among such women.

In preliminary findings completed more than a year ago and released Thursday, Rutgers University researchers said the birth rate declined almost identically among two groups of welfare mothers - those who were denied benefits for additional children and those who were not.

Human Services Commissioner William Waldman, whose agency paid for the research, said Thursday his gut feeling is that the "personal responsibility" message is reaching welfare recipients.

The group gave a special "dishonorable mention" to three NBC comedies - "Suddenly Susan," "Seinfeld" and "Friends" - whose female leads joined the latest Hollywood fad of smoking cigars.

MEXICO OFFERS TO TAKE CONDEMNED KILLER

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) - Mexico has offered Gov. George Allen a deal: Spare Mario Benjamin Murphy's life, and the Mexican government will find a place for the convicted hit man in one of its prisons.

Murphy, a Mexican citizen, is scheduled to die by injection Wednesday night for the 1991 contract killing of a Virginia Beach man.

The Mexican government on Thursday filed a clemency petition with Allen and offered to imprison Murphy for a mutually satisfactory term if the governor calls off the execution.

"Happily, my government is in a position to shoulder whatever small risk might be entailed by commutation of Mr. Murphy's sentence," Angel Curria, Mexico's foreign affairs secretary, wrote in a letter to Allen.

Murphy's lawyers also have asked Allen for clemency and appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. They claim Virginia officials denied Murphy the right to contact the Mexican consulate after his arrest as required by a 1963 treaty.

Mark Christie, the governor's lawyer, said Allen will carefully consider Mexico's petition.

Mexican officials and Murphy's lawyers also have asked the State Department to counsel Allen on the international ramifications of allowing the execution to proceed.

YELTSIN CRACKS DOWN ON MOONSHINING

MOSCOW (AP) - Russians will keep drinking a lot of vodka until their lives improve dramatically, President Boris Yeltsin said today as he launched a new crackdown on illegal alcohol production.

"If the people would have good jobs, high wages and an optimistic view of the future, they will have no reason to drink, or rather, to drink hard and turn into drunkards," Yeltsin said in a radio address.

Yeltsin did not mention his own drinking habits, which his former chief bodyguard described in a recent memoir. In the book, Alexander Korzhakov said he routinely watered down Yeltsin's vodka to save the president from drinking himself to total ruin.

The main problem with alcohol in Russia, Yeltsin said, was that people were buying too much moonshine thereby leaving the government short of cash.

Yeltsin noted that according to official figures, alcohol production dropped sharply last year. Drinkers have simply switched to cheaper booze produced illegally or smuggled into the country.

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385 *Facts About The BIBLE* BY JOHN LEHTI

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Esther, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

EVIL HAMAN
AS HAMAN'S MEN WORK DILIGENTLY THROUGH THE NIGHT, CONSTRUCTING A GALLONS ON WHICH TO HANG MORDECAI IN THE MORNING, THE KING, UNABLE TO SLEEP, LISTENS TO REPORTS BEING READ, NOW...

...SLAY THE KING IN HIS SLEEP AND DID FOIL THIS FOUL PLAN!

HEARING OF MORDECAI'S HEROISM IN FOILING THE PLAN TO KILL HIM, THE KING BECOMES INTERESTED...

WHAT HONORS HATH BEEN GIVEN MORDECAI FOR HIS GREAT LOYALTY?

NOTHING HAS BEEN DONE FOR HIM!

WHO IS IN THE OUTER COURT? HAMAN STANDETH IN THE COURT!

AMHM! WHEN THE KING ASKS FOR ME LIKE THIS, HOW COULD HE FAIL TO GRANT MY SLIGHTEST WISH?!

HAMAN, IN HIS EAGERNESS TO GAIN THE KING'S PERMISSION TO HANG MORDECAI EARLY IN THE MORNING, HAS HURRIED TO THE PALACE LONG BEFORE THE BREAK OF DAWN, NOW...

ENTER, HAMAN! THE KING DESIRES THY PRESENCE!

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