

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD HOME OF Anna Lisa Castaneda

Today's weather **OUTLOOK**

Partly cloudy skies

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low in the lower 30s, east wind 5 to 15 mph, becoming south late.

Wednesday: Considerable high cloudiness and breezy with a high in the upper 60s, south wind increasing to 15 to 25 mph and gusty.

Wednesday night: Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, some storms may be severe, low near 40.



Extended forecast

Thursday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, high in the upper 50s.

Friday: Partly cloudy, low near 35, high in the lower 60s.

Saturday: Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and thunderstorms, low in the mid-30s, high 60 to 65.

Hereford weather

Monday's high, 70; low, 37; no precipitation.

Dry conditions fuel worries of wildfires

By Dianna F. Dandridge

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

As the month of March rolls in, firefighters, forestry officials, weathermen and farmers are all looking for a little green.

Deaf Smith County commissioners heeded the plea of Fire Marshal Jay Spain and issued a countywide burn ban. As a reminder, red burn-ban flags are being flown at the courthouse and the Hereford Fire Station.

The Texas Forest Service has issued an extreme fire danger warning, according to the TFS regional fire coordinator Les Rogers. High

winds, low humidity and heavy fuel load have created the potential for wind-driven fires.

Rogers is requesting that all residents in the Panhandle and South Plains postpone all outdoor burning.

The National Weather Service has issued alerts, warning motorists and residents to take special care during any activity which may cause a spark.

"It's going to stay this way until we get some rain and things start to green up around here. And it will take more than just a little rain. It's

Please see **DRY**, Page **A9**

County OKs burn ban

By Julie L. Carlson

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Tinderbox conditions caused the Deaf Smith County commissioners on Monday to OK a burn ban.

"We're sitting on a powder keg. They're (fires) all around us and I'd like to stop it before it's too late," Deaf Smith County Fire Marshal Jay Spain told the commission.

Under the policy, which Spain recommended to the commissioners, burning of residential trash is limited to 8 a.m.-noon Saturday and Sunday and when the wind is less than 10 mph. Any other burning must have received prior approval by the fire marshal. Violations of the burn ban could draw a \$1,000 fine and a maximum of six months in jail.

The lack of rainfall, high winds and unseasonably warm weather have been blamed for numerous fires throughout the Panhandle.

Deaf Smith County recently was designated as a disaster area because of the threat of wildfires.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Granted permit to cross a county road in Precinct 1 with a water line. The job has been contracted by Gary Schumacher;

- Granted permission for extension of County Road 25 from State Highway 809 east 2 miles to County Road A in Precinct 4. Foreman Greg Conn said construction will not begin until an attorney has been contacted and questions concerning easement have been resolved.

Child dies of carbon monoxide

■ Two other children, three adults treated at hospitals

By Dianna F. Dandridge

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Plastic-covered windows and stove burners used to heat a dwelling are blamed in the death of a child and the carbon monoxide poisoning to two other children and three adults.

Rescue teams and police were called to 127 Ave. B just before 9 a.m. Monday when George Luna arrived to take one of the residents to work.

Police reports indicate Luna knocked on the door and received a slow response. Rachel Rodriguez responded, but was incoherent and staggering.

Luna called for emergency help and then managed to get two children, Jesse Celaya, 3, and Mariah Nicole Rodriguez, 6, out of the house.

Police arrived to find Rachel Rodriguez, 19, and the two children semi-conscious in the yard. Two men,



Rescue personnel prepare to transfer an adult who suffered carbon monoxide poisoning to Covenant Lakeside Medical Center in Lubbock.

Vincent Celaya, 23, and Jose Alfredo Lara, 28, were unconscious in the house. The youngest victim, 11-

month-old Joseph Carlos Celaya, was pronounced dead at the scene. Emergency teams arrived to find

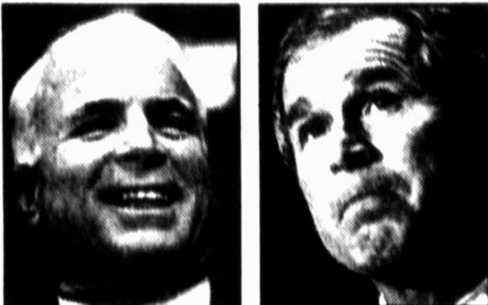
three burners on the kitchen stove being used to heat the dwelling and plastic covering the windows. The rent house, which is owned by Primitivo Garcia, is located behind the Garcia residence. Garcia was out of town and could not be reached.

The two men, one of whom was found in the living room, the other in the bedroom farthest from the stove, were transported via helicopter to a Lubbock hospital. The two older children were transported to Hereford Regional Medical Center, and later to Covenant Lakeside Medical Center, in stable condition, but as a precautionary measure.

Rachel Rodriguez also was transferred to the Lubbock hospital.

Deaf Smith County Justice the Peace Johnnie Turrentine has ordered an autopsy of Joseph Carlos Celaya.

Inside Today



■ George W. Bush struggling to regain control of Republican presidential race from John McCain. — **Page A10**

■ Polls conclude McCain is more popular than Bush, except with the Republican voters. — **Page A10**

"Wherever your political philosophy might be, if you're not for George Bush being the next president of the United States, I consider that to be almost treasonous if you're a Texan."

■ Texas Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, after casting his Republican primary ballot early Monday.



■ Texas lieutenant governor casts early ballot, plugs Bush candidacy. — **Page A10**

Perry: Internet sales tax to be studied

AUSTIN (AP) — The explosive growth of untaxed Internet sales could force Texas to rethink its historic reliance on sales taxes, which account for about half of the state's revenue, some officials say.

"I think the Internet is going to change things so that we may, in five or six years, look at the entire taxing system both in the nation and at state level in a different light," Lt. Gov. Rick Perry told the *Austin American-Statesman*.

Perry said there is no need for a new tax on Internet sales right now because sales tax revenue has been rising fast. But that could change if

main street businesses continue to lose ground to shops in cyberspace.

If that happens, the state will look for new ways to raise revenue. "And this may give us some substantially different ways to raise the money to run our governments, pay for our schools, keep our roads up and what have you, but I don't know yet," he said.

Ray Sullivan, a spokesman for Perry, said the lieutenant governor opposes any state income tax.

Texas companies are required to charge sales tax on Internet sales to Texans at whatever rate the buyer would pay at a local store — at least

6.25 percent.

However, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the state's power to tax remote commerce stops at its borders, so a Texas e-commerce site will collect sales tax on purchases made by Texans but not by buyers in other states.

The financial effects of the arrangement now are becoming apparent.

The state comptroller's office estimates the state will not collect between \$25 million to \$50 million in sales taxes on goods sold through the Internet to people and businesses in other states.

Researchers at the University of Tennessee predict Texas will forgo more than \$932 million in sales taxes a year by 2003. If the economy slows, the impact could be even greater, they say.

That is why Sen. Bill Ratliff, R-Mount Pleasant, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, is so concerned about pledges by Perry, Gov. George W. Bush and others not to levy an Internet tax.

Ratliff said it could be a mistake to wait until the problem grows and too many people get accustomed to tax-free e-commerce. "It might be easier to do something now," he said.



FCE Woman of the Year — Audrey Rusher (right) was named Family Community Education Club Woman of the Year at the 2000 FCE Appreciation Luncheon Monday in Hereford Community Center. In recognition of her work, she was presented an engraved silver tray by Becky Thorn, lifestyles editor of the *Hereford Brand*. The *Brand* has sponsored the Club Woman of the Year award for 49 years. Please see related story, photo on **Page 3A**.

MEDICARE

Clinton hopes to persuade GOP to back overhaul plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton today released a new state-by-state study that he hopes will convince congressional Republicans to back away from a large tax cut and adopt his plan to overhaul Medicare and add a prescription drug benefit.

The study was released to coincide with Senate Finance Committee hearings on the program today.

"This report is the most compelling evidence to date that we must strengthen and modernize Medicare for the long run," Clinton told reporters today before departing for a fund-raising trip to Florida.

He said the report will make it clear to lawmakers that if they pass "huge, risky tax cuts," there would be no money available to extend Medicare's life. Plus, he said, the report illustrates that their inclination toward limiting prescription benefits to only the poorest Medicare recipients would lock out a large number of elderly people with modest incomes who also need that coverage.

"I believe that, when they read this report, they will understand what the consequences of such a decision would be," Clinton said. "We owe it to the American people to seize this opportunity this year."

Referring to the hearings, White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said Clinton believes Medicare reform should be a legislative priority this year. "And if packaging this information focuses attention on it, it's all for the better."

In addition to adding the prescription drug benefit, the president has proposed ways to make the program more competitive and efficient and called for dedicating the non-Social Security portion of the on-budget surplus to Medicare.

"All the statistics support the policies that the president is promoting on Capitol Hill," said Chris Jennings, a White House adviser on healthcare.

Poverty among the elderly has dropped nearly two-thirds since the creation of Medicare in 1968. But the number of beneficiaries will double to 80 million over the next 30 years and the study warned that

Please see **CLINTON**, Page **A9**

FEB 29 2000

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, February 29, 2000 • A3

Rusher is Club Woman of Year; others recognized at Appreciation Luncheon

Special to The Brand

Audrey Rusher was announced as the Family Community Education Club Woman of the Year at the 2000 FCE Appreciation Luncheon Monday in Hereford Community Center.

Rusher, a 16-year member of the Wyche FCE Club was honored for leading her club members in outstanding community service. In recognition of her work, she

was presented an engraved silver tray by Becky Thorn, Lifestyles Editor of the *Hereford Brand*. The *Brand* has sponsored the Club Woman of the Year award for 49 years.

Rusher is an active member of FCE club and council activities assisting with dinners, fund-raisers, the Tasting Bee luncheon and cookbook and attending District meetings.

She is a member of First Baptist Church. She visits those in the hospital and those who are home bound and



Vernis Parsons
...63 year member



Sue Thweatt
...50 year member

maintains a ministry of sending greeting cards for birthdays and to the sick and bereaved.

In her spare time, Rusher enjoys oil painting and ceramics.

Tom Bailey, minister of Central Church of Christ, was featured luncheon speaker and focused his remarks on his observance of families in Africa.

Bailey said that education was needed in Africa to rebuild the family. They need to be taught what it means to be

a mom and dad and the responsibilities that come with that, he said.

"In Africa, as in America, we need to change the way people think and change the way people live by education, like the FCE clubs have done for years," Bailey said.

Other special events for the day included honoring members of long standing. Sue Thweatt was recognized for 50 years of service and Vernis Parsons for 63 years. Long-time members not present were Tillie Scott with 60 years

and Louise Axe with 54 years of service.

Norma Stockesberry, a member of the Ford FCE Club, was given a star paperweight in appreciation for her outstanding work in making the FCE quilt top for the last four years.

The drawing for the 1999 quilt was held with Shelly Menke of Hereford the winner.

Perfect attendance awards were presented to club and council members including Kate Bradley, Mariellen Homfeld, Sue Thweatt, Perry Keyes, Tonie Vaughn, Katherine Paschel, Maudette Smith, Carolyn Evers, Grace Covington, Jo Lee, Thelma Auten, Argen Draper, Carol Sartain, Louise Axe, Dorma Kirby and Audrey Rusher.

Elected county officials were honored for their work in the county and support of the FCE program. Hereford Rotarians were recognized as special guests.

College Report

Pedro Hernandez of Hereford has been named an honor student for the fall semester at Oklahoma State University in Okmulgee, Okla.

Hernandez earned above a 3.0 grade average on a 4.0 system throughout the 15-week semester.

Grade point averages are computed on the student's grade in his/her major area of study and related general education subjects. Hernandez is enrolled in automotive service technology-Toyota.

The West Texas A&M University Speech Team won the Texas Intercollegiate Forensic Association Texas State Championship Feb. 4-5 in Lubbock.

George Pacheco and Brandon Stow of Hereford were members of the team, along with Bridget Brown, Raul Rodarte, Jake Simmons and Carrie Stockstill of Amarillo, Tommy Toliver of Canutillo, Casey Adkins and Andee Clark of Canyon, Mendy Meurer of Corpus Christi, Sarah Matz of Lago Vista, Zenobia Harris of San Angelo and Christin Marchbanks of Seminole.

The WTAMU team competed against nationally ranked speech teams from Texas. In

winning, WTAMU accumulated 143 points to surpass the University of Texas at Austin's 113 points and Rice University's 83 points.

Pacheco placed first in Duo Interpretation and Stow placed first in Poetry Interpretation. Both are sophomore speech communication majors.

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CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: "Rebecca in Mississippi" wrote that her husband continues to give money to his grown daughter, "Linda." The

girl calls every month crying about some financial emergency or another, and her father sends a check immediately. You told Rebecca the problem isn't financial, it's emotional and it isn't her problem. It is Rebecca's problem as well. She's his wife, remember? Both Rebecca and her husband should make sure they have a will that his leech of a daughter cannot contest. Rebecca should also have an income separate from her husband's, so her money will not be going to support the lazy bum. All their property should be held jointly, in both her name and her husband's. Otherwise, when Daddy dies, Linda could take everything.

Too many divorced parents

overindulge their children because they feel guilty about not staying in the marriage. This is what I call "unearned guilt." I almost married the sweetest man on earth, but he had a 22-year-old son who lived at home, slept all day, and partied all night. Dad picked up the tab for food, clothes, cars, and everything else. The kid didn't even do his own laundry. Had I been his stepmother, I would have been in a terrible spot. That sweet man died a few years ago, and his irresponsible son had to go to work or be on welfare. I don't know which he chose, and I'm glad it's not my problem. — G.T. in Oklahoma

Dear Oklahoma: Your letter should be a case study for parents who have a tendency to be overly generous to their children. Sometimes, too much generosity can be crippling. Money can be a curse as well as a blessing.

Warren Buffett, one of the richest men in America, and his wife, Susan, raised their children to be independent and

self-supporting. None of them are sitting around waiting for an inheritance. They are all achieving something on their own, and are the better for it.

Dear Ann Landers: You recently printed a letter from "Trapped in D.C.," whose controlling mother-in-law would come into her home uninvited (she had a key), go through her mail, rearrange her cupboards and underwear drawer, and so on. When she finally got up the nerve to ask her mother-in-law to stop, "Grandma" retaliated by spoiling the grandchildren rotten, doing their homework, and giving them money. Later, she bought them all cars.

Please, Ann, tell "Trapped in D.C." to send her mother-in-law to me in California so I can adopt her. I would love to have someone come into my house and straighten out my drawers, clean my refrigerator, sort my mail, and give a little extra money to my children. Just sign me — Willing to Trade Places in L.A.

Dear Willing to Trade: Not so fast. You might love it

for a week or two, but once the drawers got straightened and the refrigerator cleaned, you would wish that your "adopted" mother-in-law were not so intimately involved in your life. Take my word for it.

Dear Ann Landers: You sometimes print a joke to lighten up a column. Here's one that made me laugh:

A man walks into a bar and says to the bartender, "Give me three double shots of whiskey — and FAST."

The bartender says, "OK, but what's the hurry?"

The man replies, "You'd be in a hurry, too, if you had what I have."

The bartender gasped, "Oh, my Lord — what do you have?"

The man replied, "Fifty cents."

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

Branum gives massage program at meeting of La Madre Mia Club

Jody Branum gave the program on the "Benefits of Massage Therapy" during the recent meeting of La Madre Mia Study Club in the home of Betty Taylor with Linda Cumpton as co-hostess.

Branum gave a massage demonstration and explained

her massage techniques.

Winner of a door prize drawing for a massage was Tricia Sims.

After a short business meeting refreshments were served to Carolyn Baxter, Francyne Bromlow, Merle Clark, Kay Hall, Lajeane Henry, Mary Her-ring, Susan Hicks, Betty Lady,

Jan Metcalf, Bettye Owen, June Owens, Nancy Paetzold, Susan Robbins, Georgia Sparks, Nicky Walser, Mary Beth White, Cumpton, Sims and Taylor.

The next meeting will be a tour of Terry Sparks' home on March 9.



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Infant daughter of Becky and Jerry McDonald, Mackenzie Chaise, was honored with a baby shower Sunday afternoon. Guests were greeted by, front row from left, great-grandmothers Marvine Mathis, Naomi Scarbrough, the new mother and daughter, and great-grandmother Pauline McDonald; and back row, grandmothers Carolyn Christie and Carolyn McDonald.

New baby honored at shower

A baby shower honoring Mackenzie Chaise McDonald, infant daughter of Jerry and Becky McDonald, was held Sunday afternoon in the home of Marilyn Bell.

Mackenzie was born Jan. 26. Joining the new mother in greeting guests were grandmothers Carolyn McDonald and

Carolyn Christie and great-grandmothers Naomi Scarbrough, Pauline McDonald and Marvine Mathis.

Refreshments were fresh fruit plates, banana bread and sherbet punch.

The serving table was centered with a puppy in a wicker bassinet with baby pink roses and

as assortment of Winnie the Pooh items.

A play pen, musical telephone, scrap book pages and magnetic toys were gifts from hostesses Judy Watts, Stephanie Woodard, Rhonda Banner, Diane King, Pam Ruckman, Susan Patterson, Kim Dawson and Marilyn Bell.

Daniel earns consultant's degree

Kris Daniel, daughter of Ronnie and Mary Helen Daniel of Hereford, recently earned her diploma as a certified bridal consultant/wedding coordinator through the Professional Career Development Institute.

She obtained this degree through a process of study and reading of bridal affairs and by passing a number of exams covering the duties of a consultant, working with the couple arranging the reception, organizing the guest list,

building a vendor list and organizing the actual ceremony.

The course also required a knowledge of wedding etiquette, traditions and customs, how to acquire a wedding budget, arranging pre-wedding parties and planning a successful honeymoon.



Daniel

Daniel is a junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in communication sciences and disorders. She is a member of the Arts and Sciences Student Council and the Oklahoma State Student Alumni Board. She is also a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a national pre-medical honor society and is a three-year member of Chi Omega fraternity.

She is a 1997 graduate of Hereford High School.



Baby shower honorees, Jamie and Cory Campbell, center, were joined in greeting guests by, front from left, Mary Sharp, Cory's grandmother; and Teresa Watson, Cory's mother; and back from left, Rick and Deana Seawright, Jamie's parents; and Penny Davis, Jamie's grandmother.

Prospective parents are feted

A baby shower honoring prospective parents Jamie and Cory Campbell was held Sunday afternoon in First United Methodist Church Welcome Center.

Joining the Campbells in greeting guests were future grandparents Rick and Deana Seawright and Teresa Watson and future great-grandparents Penny Davis and Mary Sharp.

Refreshments were sausage

balls, finger sandwiches, assorted fresh fruits, assorted desserts, mints, nuts and tea.

The serving table was covered with handmade baby quilts with a centerpiece of spring flowers and baby boy toys in a Tonka truck.

A gliding rocker was the gift from hostesses Daphne Narrell, Margaret Williams, Helen Langley, Kim Sliney, Angie Wilhelm,

Deloris Dowell, Leslie Woodard, Nancy Denison, Tami Charest, Melinda Bridge, Connie Fuller, Kris Dollar, Linda Davis, Sally Nolen, Stacey Urbanczyk, Karen Sherrod, Debbie Tabor, Vicky Higgins, Sharon Bodner, Michelle Brisendine, Betty Coneway, Billee Landrum, Karla Fellers, Julia Laing, Barbara Kerr, Beth Killebrew, Betty Wolle and Jamie Parrish.

Women's Division of Deaf Smith C of C continues with annual membership drive

The membership drive for the Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is entering its final month according to Donna Hathaway, chairman of this year's drive.

Current members have been placed on two teams and will compete to see which team can sign up the most new members.

Losers will fix dinner for the winners at the quarterly meeting in April. Team captains are Elvira Enriquez and Rita Bell. Members may call Hathaway at 363-2265 (days) or 364-6936 (evenings) to find out which team they are on.

Women's Division officers for 2000 are Shannon Redwine, president; Leslie Easley,

president elect; Donna Hathaway, vice president; Francie Farr, secretary-treasurer; Gail Richardson and Sheila Wagner, directors; and Kim Leonard, parliamentarian.

Memberships in the Women's Division are \$20. Additional information may be obtained by calling Hathaway at the numbers listed above.

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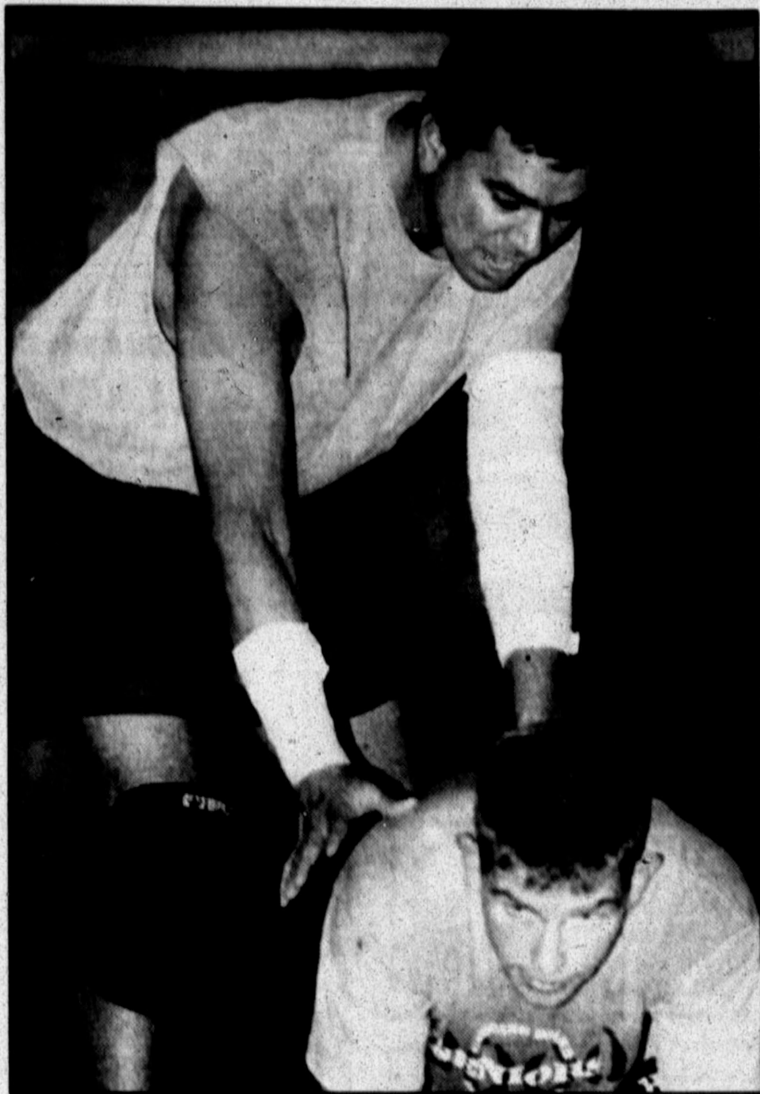
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A Directory of Professional Services

SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, February 29, 2000 • A5

Returning with honors



Striving for perfection — Hereford wrestling coach Mike Dominguez works with Seth Pietsek.

■ Hereford wrestlers nab state finishes for second consecutive year

By Mauri Montgomery
Hereford Brand Publisher

The Hereford High School wrestling program enjoyed a continuation of its early success this past weekend in the state's crown jewel of wrestling competition — taking four state qualifiers to the mats of the UIL State Wrestling Championships and bringing home three All-State finishers.

The program, which took its first breath of consciousness under the direction of former Dumas wrestling coach Mike Dominguez two years ago, has inched its way to the top rungs of wrestling contention in spite of a clear lack of experience.

And, according to Dominguez, experience is the only thing keeping some of his grapplers within arms' reach of

a state crown.

"If you throw in a little more luck and a little more experience, then it is easy to imagine some of our kids bringing home outright state championships," Dominguez said. "I'm elated with the way all four of our wrestlers performed, but that little extra you need to win in the semifinals still isn't there and won't be until our wrestlers learn a little more from experience."

Hereford heavyweight Kris Hammarbeck, a sixth place state finisher last year, advanced to the semifinals Saturday, but ran into a brick wall against this year's eventual state heavyweight champion Nick Leaky (20-0). Hammarbeck fought Leaky for more than a minute before Leaky turned him for a reverse and a 5-4 lead and then pinned Hammarbeck in 4:08 for a 7-4 win.

That loss sent the HHS wrestler into the consolation semifinals where he then met Mark Farmington of Kline — who Hammarbeck defeated

3-2 in opening competition on Friday. This time however, Farmington snatched a 3-1 overtime victory to finish Hammarbeck's hopes of garnering more than a fifth place finish.

Both of Hereford's stalwart lady wrestlers, sophomore Rachael Rodriguez and senior Danielle Garza, repeated last year's performance at state a f t e r Rodriguez finished second and Garza took fourth.



Danielle Garza (left) and Rachael Rodriguez

Rodriguez (9-2) raced through the early rounds of the 138-pound weight division.

The HHS wrestler met Jade Williams of South Grand Praire and pinned Williams in 24 seconds, and then surprised Laqienta Crenshaw of Arlington Houston (14-2) with a pin in three minutes.

But Rodriguez was later overwhelmed by Krista Hartman of Katy in the finals after Hartman managed to pin Rodriguez in three minutes.

Wrestling in the 165-pound division, Garza (2-2) pinned Austin Lanier's Jaime Bottornley (17-4) in 2:25 before losing to Arlington High's Geanie Jaffee (18-2) on a technical fall.

Garza then met Nakea McCrae (8-4) of Killeen Ellis and fell behind 11-4 with two minutes remaining before she earned a reverse and a pin with 32 seconds remaining in the match.

Garza wrestled Bottornley again to decide third and fourth place tournament finishes, but lost after the Austin wrestler pinned her in 4:08.

"Anytime you get to the semifinals at state, it gets pretty dicey," Dominguez said. "Most of the matches at the level can go either way. When we won, we won close matches. When we lost, we lost close matches."

"We're going through our growing pains now, and the disappointments for our wrestlers are very real. They wanted to win some state championships. But when you take two boys and two girls to state and three come home as All-State finishers, that's a successful season."



Two Dons — Don Cumpston putts and teammate Don Clements watches the break.

WARM-UP

■ Icebreaker Open heralds spring and local golf season

By Jeff Blackmon

Hereford Brand Sports Editor

Unlike the last two years, the Third Annual Icebreaker Open was held with perfect weather — clear skies and warm temperatures.

No one, including the Hereford Golf Association — the scramble's organizer — seemed to mind the change.

The Open was held at the John Pitman Municipal Golf Course Saturday Feb. 27.

The 29-team field consisted of a champion-

ship flight followed by a first flight and a second flight. The winners of each flight earned a prize of \$300 the second and third place teams earned \$180 and \$120 respectively.

The championship flight was won by Amarillo natives Matt Irwin and Dan Lowrance. Irwin shot a 4-under-par 67 while Lowrance shot a 7-under-par 64 for a combined total of 131 to win the tournament.

The team narrowly defeated Griego and

See **ICEBREAKER**, Page A6



Mad scramble — B.J. Weaver and John Kovacs challenge the 16th green.

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the
games
people
play.

Find out how
well
they did.

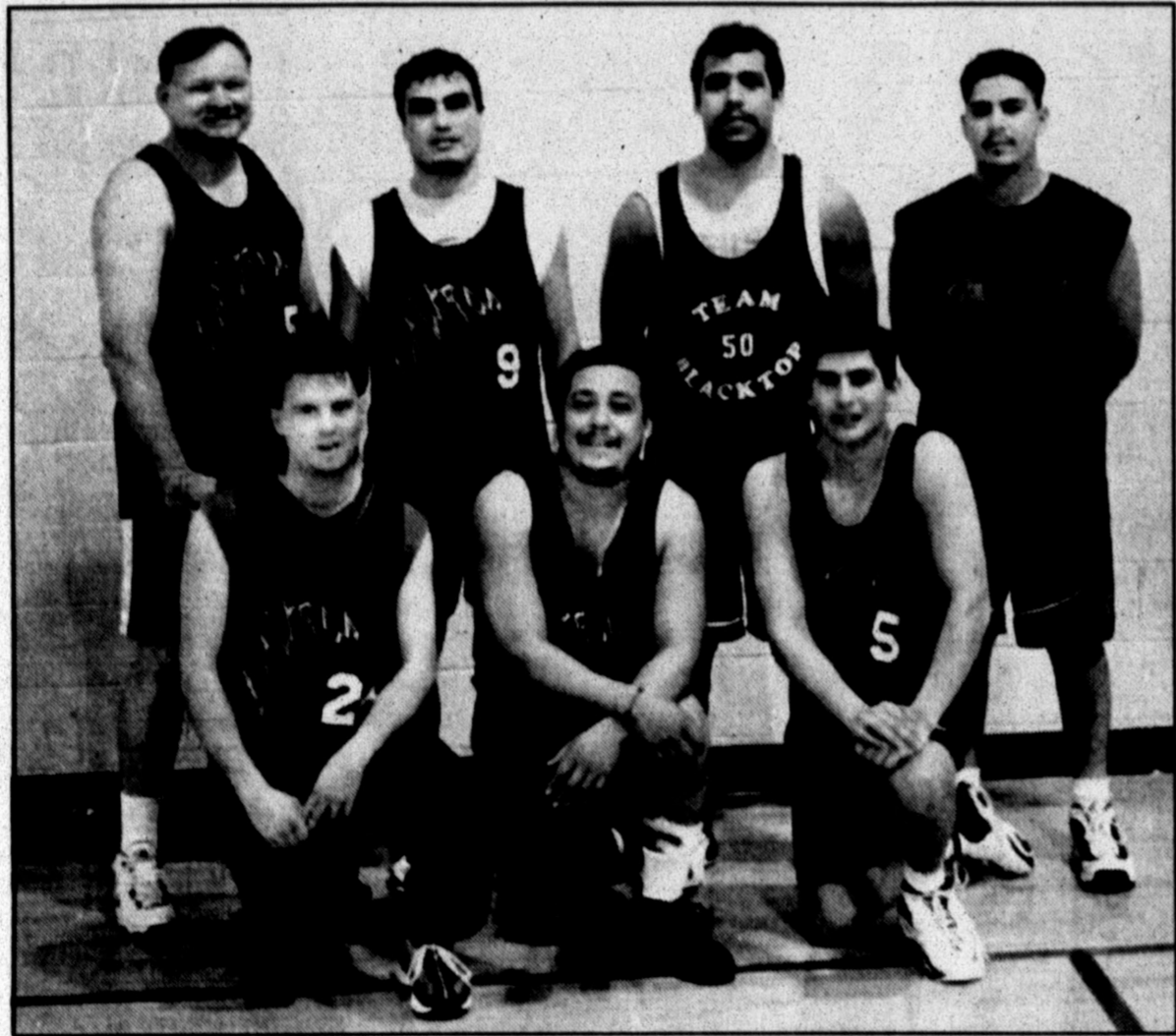
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SPORTS

CHAMPS



Champs — Team Blacktop defeated 4-Deep 47-45 to win the YMCA Mens' Basketball Championship recently. Members of the team, which was sponsored by EE Trucking, are: (front from left) Ken McLaughlin, Chuck Garcia, Isaac Walker; (back from left) Kenny Henson, Rick Chavez, Daniel Garcia and Gilbert Casarez. Not pictured were Key Harrison and Jerry Stevens.

Herd splits against Wildcats; 8-12, 16-7

■ Posts first win of the year after second game victory

After a heartbreaking 12-8 loss in game one to River Road, the Hereford baseball team rallied to win the second half of the twinbill against the Wildcats at River Road Saturday.

HHS was able to salvage the second game of the afternoon with a 16-7 victory to boost its season mark to 1-3.

Ice-breaker Open

From Page A5

Trujillo from Clovis who carded a score of 132.

Third place resulted in a tie between Cory Newton and Bill Brown of Hereford and Mike Mitchell and Mike Burnett of Amarillo. Both teams finished with a 5-under-par 133.

The first flight was won by Hereford's own Kevin Kelso and Keith Kelso. Kevin Kelso shot even par while Keith Kelso shot four under for a combined round of 136.

Ray Lott and Joe Guston of Amarillo placed second only after losing a sudden death playoff to the Kelso brothers on the fifth hole.

Harold Johnson and Ray Johnson of Amarillo placed third in the first flight with a combined score of 140. Harold Johnson wound up 3-over-par for the day with a round of 73 while Ray Johnson finished with a 3-under-par 67.

The second and final flight was won by the team of Buse and George from Amarillo. Buse shot a 6-over-par 76 while his teammate George shot even par for the day. Their total score for the afternoon was 140.

Second place went to Joel Sturgeon and Bobby Valdez of Hereford with a combined score of 149. Sturgeon finished with a 5-over-par 75 and Valdez shot one better with a round of 74.

Third place resulted in a three-way tie between Chuck Chase and Danny Smith of Canyon, Darren Nikkel and Leonard Nikkel of Hereford and Lou Hurst and Clay Gerber of Amarillo. Each of these teams finished Saturday with a score of 150.

With the scramble's conclusion, the Hereford Golf Association also announced the deadline for handicap fees and association dues is Wednesday. All local golfers who haven't met their fee and due requirements will be placed on inactive status.

Senior George Castillo took the mound for game two and led the Whitefaces to victory with a strong pitching performance. Castillo allowed six hits and seven runs while striking out 10 batters in six innings.

The Whitefaces scored two runs through four innings and then caught fire. In the fifth inning, Senior Brady Daniel led off with a double and began a long inning for the River Road Wildcats. The major blow came when Daniel, at bat for the second time in the inning, hit a long fly ball deep to right field that scored three runs. Following Daniel's bases clearing hit, junior Eddie Lacey and Castillo followed with RBI singles. When the Whitefaces were finished, they had scored 10 runs, giving pitcher Castillo a lot of breathing room.

After the 10-run fifth the HHS offense still was not through. They struck again in the sixth scoring four more runs. With the bases loaded junior Richard Salinas hit a triple, clearing the bases.

Salinas then scored off a single by sophomore second baseman Andrew Villareal.

After two very close games Hereford finally came away with a win. The victory puts the HHS baseball team at 1-3 for the season.

In the first inning, Daniel scored off a single up the middle by Lacey followed by a River Road error.

Daniel scored again in the third after singles by Lacey and seniors LJ Vallejo and Castillo.

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 Bargain Matinees on Weekends

Mavs down Boston

BOSTON (AP) — Dallas coach-general manager Don Nelson gambled when he selected Dirk Nowitzki instead of Boston's Paul Pierce two years ago in the NBA draft.

On Monday night, he took another chance when he inserted his backup unit to

start the second half, and it paid off.

Nowitzki hit a pair of 3-pointers down the stretch and finished with 26 points, giving the Mavericks a 108-100 victory over the Celtics on Monday night.

"We took a gamble because I didn't like the energy," Nelson said. "I was very disappointed with our starting team. We got back in the game and I credit our bench with this victory."

Dallas improved to 4-4 since the arrival of Dennis Rodman, who was on his best behavior as he scored four points and grabbed 16 rebounds. Erick Strickland added 19 points and Michael Finley 17 for the Mavericks.

Boston used a 24-11 second-quarter run to take a 61-44 lead with 1:17 left in the first half and grabbed its largest lead of the game, 78-58, on Pierce's jumper midway through the third quarter.

But the Mavericks rallied with Pierce out with foul trouble. Reserve center Sean Rooks scored all 11 of his points in a third-quarter run in which Dallas closed within four.

Dallas took its first lead since early in the first quarter when Rodman grabbed an offensive rebound and kicked it out to Finley, who sank a 3-pointer for a 90-87 advantage. Cedric Ceballos' three-point play capped a 35-9 spurt that made it 93-87.

Hereford JV beats Dons

On Monday the Hereford High Junior Varsity baseball team overcame a 7-2 deficit to win their season opener 9-7.

The Herd fell behind 7-2 after three innings before the rally began. In the fourth inning, the Herd scored three runs off of a double by Michael Rhyne and a sacrifice fly by Albert Cruz cutting the Palo Duro lead to only two runs.

The score remained the same until the bottom of the sixth. The Herd took control with the help of a triple by Anthony Ramirez and a single by Nick Foster. The Herd was then up for good with a 9-7 lead. The victory gives the Herd J.V. a 1-0 record for the season.

Michael Rhyne pitched all seven innings for the win. Rhyne finished the afternoon striking out 15 and allowing 6 hits.

The Herd J.V. will face the Tascosa Rebels J.V. team this Saturday at 1 p.m.

Kids Inc. schedules league sign-ups



The Deaf Smith County Kids Inc. will have a sign-up for all baseball and softball leagues on March 4 at the Hereford Community Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This sign-up is for all ages of boys and girls who are at least five years old by Aug. 1, and all leagues including Babe Ruth, who are interested in participating in the program.

League participation fees are: first child, \$35; second child, \$30; third child, \$25; fourth child, free and all Babe Ruth players, \$45.

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 Classified advertising rates are based on 20 cents a word for first insertion (\$4.00 minimum), and 11 cents for second publication and thereafter. Rates below are based on consecutive issues, no copy change, straight word ads.

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1 day per word	.20	\$4.00
2 days per word	.31	\$6.20
3 days per word	.42	\$8.40
4 days per word	.53	\$10.60
5 days per word	.64	\$12.80

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Saturday's answer

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Unsure how to write a Classified Ad that will get results? Follow these pointers and you'll soon have an empty space in your storage room and cash in your pocket.
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 * Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.
 * Use Key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition.
 * Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Broad ads are billed by the word, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.
 * Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

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CLASSIFIEDS

Dry

From Page A1

tinderbox dry out there," Spain said. Firefighters responded to a grassfire Monday which started when a driver pulled her car onto the tall roadside grass because of a flat tire. The hot exhaust kindled the grass and the burning grass ignited the car. The car was totaled, but firefighters were able to control the grass fire before very much damage could be done.

"If this had happened just a little way down the road, it could have gotten out control pretty easily," Spain said. "Right now, if we see smoke, then the fire trucks are going to roll. That's about the only way we can keep them from getting out of control."

"People in the Panhandle just have to get used to the idea of feast or famine," said Lance Goehring, National Weather Service meteorologist. "Right now, we're in the famine portion of a climatic cycle."

Goehring said the months of December, January and February are traditionally dry months with normal precipitation averaging less than 1 1/2 inches.

Deaf Smith County received .08 of precipitation in January, compared to .40 in a normal year. February totals will not be in for another few days.

Meteorologists are predicting about a 40 percent chance of rain Wednesday with a clearing tendency Thursday.

"It's not much, but it's probably the best chance of rain we've had in quite a while," Goehring said. "This storm probably will not produce any violent weather locally. It may produce some farther south."

Goehring said the precipitation shortage could be made up in one good rainstorm, but that would only help for a few days if the temperatures continue to climb and strong southwest winds continue to blow.

Area producers, of course, are looking for sufficient moisture for pre-plant preparations. Stockmen are seeing the effects of the dry weather on livestock. Some are already making plans to cull herds or bring in additional feeds and water.

The western portions of the county are the driest, with many farmers needing as much as 10 inches of moisture to bring the soil up to capacity level.

Deaf Smith County Agricultural Extension Agent Dennis Newton has reported numerous cracks in the fields and numerous playas drying up.

hbnews@wrtt.net hbnews@hotmail.com

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it: AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW. One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-29 CRYPTOQUOTE QSOOMB SIM MBXMRFSYYC ZPM OMMH KL ZPM XYSFO. ZPM XIMZZC RSO NMZ SESC EFZP SOCZPFON.

— MTMYCO ESJNP Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT RELIGION IS SOMETHING TO LIVE BY AND NOT TO TALK ABOUT. — HARRY TRUMAN

Clinton

From Page A1

Medicare must change to deal with the increase. "Medicare has not been given the tools it needs to be as competitive and efficient as it needs to be in the 21st century," according to the study. "Despite modern medicine's reliance on pharmaceuticals, the program does not cover prescription drugs."

Republican lawmakers have questioned whether offering prescription drug coverage to all participants would be too costly, and they have proposed offering such a benefit only to the neediest beneficiaries.

According to the study, most seniors enrolled in the program are classified as middle income or higher and therefore wouldn't qualify for a restricted benefit.

Only 22 percent of U.S. companies offer retiree health insurance with prescription drug coverage, and only one-quarter of Medicare beneficiaries receive such coverage.

The graying of America will have obvious effects on the Medicare system. According to the report, 10 percent of the Medicare populations in 40 states are 85 or older.

States in the upper Midwest — the Dakotas, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa — have the highest population of what the report dubbed "old elderly."



President Clinton

Clinton may tap strategic oil reserves to force down prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton said today that he may tap the nation's supply of emergency oil if other options fail to reduce prices.

"I have not taken the petroleum reserve issue off the table, and I certainly wouldn't do that in the event that we don't seem to have any other options," Clinton said before leaving the White House for a political trip to Florida.

Several Northeast lawmakers have urged the administration to release oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, but Energy Secretary Bill Richardson and other adminis-

tration officials have repeatedly said they do not intend to do that. The reserve is designed to ease supply disruptions and not to influence prices, administration officials have said.

There is also concern that if the strategic reserve were tapped it would make it more difficult to convince OPEC oil producers to increase production when they meet in March to consider future production strategies.

If production goes up, "then oil prices will go down, the gasoline prices will go down, and that's really what is needed here," Clinton said.

TAX CUTS

Congressional GOP plans, candidates' to be different

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congressional Republicans say their still emerging proposals to cut taxes this election year will likely differ markedly from the proposals of GOP presidential contenders George W. Bush and John McCain.

Though no final decisions have been made, GOP lawmakers are virtually certain to propose cutting taxes by more than the roughly \$500 billion over 10 years that McCain, a Republican senator from Arizona, favors. Eager to avoid any tax increases, they also are likely to ignore McCain's call to raise revenue by closing some corporate loopholes.

Likewise, they are likely to propose a far smaller tax cut than the \$1.3 trillion, 10-year reduction advocated by Bush, the Texas governor. And they are unlikely to propose trimming income tax rates, as Bush would do.

Some like House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, worry that Democrats will try to exploit any differences among Republicans over tax cuts. Kasich, a Bush supporter, has argued in internal GOP meetings that the budget Congress writes this year should leave room for a Bush-sized tax cut.

"A Republican Party that doesn't stand for cutting taxes has no purpose," he said recently.

Even so, most GOP leaders on Capitol Hill say they want this year's budget fight with President Clinton to focus on

specific Republican proposals like reducing taxes for education and healthcare costs.

"You have to give some consideration" to keeping the congressional tax cut close to the GOP presidential nominee, said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss. "I'm not an advocate of that. We have our work to do and schedule to live with."

Some specific elements of the congressional plan will resemble those of the presidential hopefuls — such as proposals to reduce the marriage penalty, the extra taxes many people owe because they are married. And once Republicans have chosen their presidential nominee, many will no doubt embrace his tax plan and lawmakers could make their own proposal closer to his.

Still, the emerging contrast between GOP lawmakers and the party's presidential candidate on cutting taxes — whoever it is — could make it harder for them to have a unified tax message this fall. Since the presidential nominee will get far more exposure during the fall campaign than lawmakers will, congressional Republicans want to be in tune with the nominee as much as possible.

Another risk for Republicans is that during this fall's general election, Democrats could focus on the differences between GOP tax plans to raise questions about the wisdom of one proposal or the other.

Congress demanding answers

News digest

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress are demanding to know why it took the Pentagon five years to warn the armed forces that suits designed to protect soldiers from chemical or biological weapons were potentially defective.

"The holes in these protective suits show the holes in the Pentagon's procurement process," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. "It's alarming that it took two inspector generals' reports and five years for the Pentagon to finally stop use of these dangerous suits."

"This is yet another example of Pentagon wasteful spending and conal's criminal investigators first warned the Defense Logistics Agency that the manufacturer of the suit, New York City-based Istratex Inc., was alleged to be intentionally producing inferior merchandise, the investigators have said.

"At the time we're trying to prepare for the threat of terrorism using chemical or biological agents and putting all this money into training and equipment, to have this kind of thing happen is very disheartening; it's outrageous," said Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa.

Weldon said he may demand hearings. First he will ask the Pentagon to brief the House Armed Services military research and development subcommittee, which he

chairs. "Somebody responsible is going to have to answer to members of Congress and the public," Weldon said. "There should be some type of punitive action taken."

Eichmann: Holocaust biggest crime in history

JERUSALEM — Overseer of Nazi death camps Adolf Eichmann described the Holocaust as the biggest crime in history, but portrayed himself as only a small cog who had no choice but to follow orders, according to his prison memoirs released today by Israel.

Eichmann, a Nazi bureaucrat who historians say played a key role in the genocide of 6 million Jews, penned the 1,300-page manuscript in the months leading up to his 1962 execution by Israel. It was titled "False Gods," an apparent reference to his claims that he had been blinded and led astray by Nazi ideology.

Although long reluctant to release the document, Israel relented so that it could be used as evidence in a pending libel suit against American university professor Deborah Lipstadt.

British historian David Irving says a book by Lipstadt maintains that he denies the Holocaust and distorts statistics. Irving said he does not deny Jews were killed by the Nazis, but challenges the number and manner of Jewish concentration camp deaths.

The case is being tried in a British court.

Leading Holocaust scholars in Israel have argued the document has no historic value because Eichmann distorted events to diminish his own role.

The manuscript had been locked up for nearly four de-

cades in Israel's State Archives because Israeli leaders feared the writings could be misused by Holocaust deniers or that Eichmann's family could profit from its publication.

Will feds prosecute in Diallo case?

LOS ANGELES — The cases of Rodney King and Amadou Diallo appear to be mirror images. In each, four white policemen attack a black man. The authorities are acquitted, setting off protests and demands for federal intervention and perhaps another trial.

King lived after his brutal beating in Los Angeles; Diallo, shot 19 times, died. But in both cases, excess use of force is alleged. In each trial, a change of venue may have influenced the verdict.

But experts say the similarities may be outweighed by enough differences to make the demand for a federal trial charging the officers with violating Diallo's civil rights an uphill battle.

"The similarities are striking," said Erwin Chemerinsky, a constitutional law professor at the University of Southern California. "But there are some major differences. One is that you don't have the same degree of public outrage as in Rodney King. The political pressure here was enormous. There had been a riot."

"Then there is the question of whether federal prosecutors think they can win the case that was lost in state court, whether they can prove an intentional violation of civil rights."

In Washington, Justice Department officials were reviewing the Diallo case for a possible federal civil rights trial. Attorneys for the officers have called for a speedy decision.

Loyola Law School Profes-

Indian casino gambling looming in California

LOS ANGELES — Sunny images of schoolchildren, homes and a health clinic flash across the TV screen as a solemn tribal leader asks voters to give Indian gambling a thumbs-up one more time.

Jobs and other benefits will be lost, he warns, if a constitutional amendment making Indian gambling legal isn't approved on March 7.

His grave tone belies an anticlimactic end to the state's battle over Indian gambling. In 1998, the two sides spent \$88 million, the nation's most expensive campaign.

This time, the initiative has barely cracked \$20 million. The tribes are expected to emerge victorious with rights to form possibly the most lucrative gambling market in the country.

The ballot measure will make California "one of the largest gambling states, if not the largest," said Bill Eadington, director of the Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming in Reno, Nev.

"For all practical purposes, they will be comparable to Nevada casinos," he said.

Approval of the ballot measure, Proposition 1A, authorizes the governor to negotiate gambling compacts with federally recognized tribes to run slot machines and card games on California Indian reservations. Unlike a change in law voters approved in 1998 that was struck down as unconstitutional, the new version will actually amend the state Constitution.

Few Leap Day computer glitches are reported

The Associated Press Agency, weather monitoring stations reported double-digit rainfall even though no rain fell outside, while computers at six observatories failed to recognize Feb. 29.

Elsewhere in Japan, seismographs at more than 20 sites considered today March 1, and the postal service had problems with receipt printers for registered mail and display screens for interest rates. In addition, 1,200 automated teller machines at post offices

shut down, though officials were unsure whether Leap Day was to blame.

In New Zealand, merchants had trouble verifying banking transactions and government experts said as many as 4,000 money transfer terminals might have been affected before the problem was fixed.

The Jakarta Stock Exchange was closed today as a precaution due to fear that the automatic trading system would encounter computer problems,

while the Singapore subway system rejected some riders' cards.

The problems were dismissed as minor by Bruce McConnell, who heads a United Nations-World Bank monitoring group for Y2K.

"I would conclude that, as we predicted, there will not be any significant disruptions, and the world will barely notice Leap Day," he said from Washington late Monday.

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Table with multiple columns for various commodity futures including CATTLE FUTURES, GRAIN FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, and FUTURES OPTIONS. Includes prices, changes, and market data.

McCain more popular than Bush, except with GOP voters

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain would be thriving these days as a presidential candidate in the general election. His problem is that he's still running against George W. Bush for the Republican nomination.

McCain has grown more popular with the public as Bush's popularity has slipped, polls suggest.

Two-thirds of Americans have a favorable view of McCain, the Arizona senator, according to a CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll released Monday, while about a fifth have an unfavorable view. Just under six in 10 said they have a favorable view of Bush, the Texas governor, while a third view him unfavorably.

McCain's popularity has been rising in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup and ABC News-Washington Post polls in the past few months,

while Bush's popularity has been slipping. McCain's favorable rating has gone up 24 percentage points in the ABC-Post poll to 60 percent, while Bush's has slipped 20 points in that poll to 49 percent.

McCain is about 15 percentage points ahead of the leading Democratic contender, Al Gore, in a possible November matchup among registered voters in the two polls. Bush is about 6 points ahead of the vice president among registered voters in both polls.

Bush still leads McCain, however, in the voting preferences of Republicans and those leaning Republican nationally, 57 percent to 33 percent in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll.

McCain's unexpectedly strong challenge to Bush has raised public interest in the

campaign, according to Thomas Patterson, acting director of the Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy. The center is conducting an ongoing voter survey that has found interest in the election surging, with more than half of Americans paying at least some attention to the campaign and a quarter paying close attention. Before the New Hampshire primary on Feb. 1, six of 10 said they were paying little or no attention.

"The excitement surrounding the McCain candidacy is a major reason for the shift," Patterson said.

But McCain is fast approaching a day of reckoning for his candidacy, despite the public enthusiasm.

After contests today in Virginia, Washington state and North Dakota, McCain will

face a tougher challenge in California, New York and several other states where only GOP votes will determine who gets delegates to the Republican National Convention. Bush generally leads McCain among Republicans.

The biggest prize, 162 delegates from California on March 7, could prove a major obstacle for McCain, who remains 20 points behind Bush among California Republicans in a new Field poll. McCain is tied with Bush in some New York polls of Republicans, and behind 46 percent to 36 percent in a CBS-New York Times poll released today.

When McCain and Bush are measured on public perception of their leadership qualities in the CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll, two-thirds said McCain is "sincere and authentic" and a "strong and decisive leader." Just over half said Bush is "sincere and authentic."

"We will, in a dramatic moment, make a strong personal case for Bill Bradley's candidacy and why he would make a better president than Al Gore."

Eric Hauser, spokesman, Bradley campaign

Bradley to argue case on TV spot

LOS ANGELES (AP) — While Washington state votes its preference today, Bill Bradley is preparing to argue his case against Al Gore directly to the nation in a paid, five-minute network TV appearance on Thursday night.

"People make up their mind in the last week," said Bradley, promising to continue to reach out as "the only reform candidate on the Democratic side" in an election where "reform is a good thing."

Bradley arrived in San Francisco late Monday night, ready to focus on one of the most crucial states in next week's "Super Tuesday" week.

Bradley is trying to chip away at Gore's 5-1 lead in California as the two candidates vied for votes up and down the Pacific Coast.

The vice president, meanwhile, campaigned as if he were already the Democratic presidential nominee, ignoring Bradley and, instead, ridiculing the Republicans' "huge identity crisis." The two leading GOP contenders are "trying to figure out who they are and what they stand for," said Gore.

Gore planned a midmorning address to the Hispanic community.

On Monday, Bradley, while in San Francisco, hammered at Gore's old record in Congress of opposing tighter gun controls, but acknowledged a struggle. "We have a way to travel here in California," he conceded in an interview with San Francisco's KPIX-TV.

Bradley campaign spokes-

man, Eric Hauser, squashed hopes in the Gore camp that Bradley's unusual, and unexpected, prime-time nationwide appearance on CBS on Thursday might be a concession speech.

To the contrary, declared Hauser, "We will, in a dramatic moment, make a strong personal case for Bill Bradley's candidacy and why he would make a better president than Al Gore."

Still, in these final days before the decisive "Super Tuesday" primaries next week, the Bradley network TV ad, which has not yet been taped, amounts to a "Hail Mary" pass from the insurgent who has been dropping further behind in polls and is in desperate need of something to shake up the race.

He took a calculated risk by concentrating on today's non-binding primary in Washington state, hoping a win there would help him overcome the vice president's formidable lead in time for the March 7 primaries in California, New York and other states.

"We're going to do the best we can," Bradley said Monday, before leaving Washington state and a week of campaigning there.

"If we win overwhelmingly (in Washington) it would send a message. But I didn't come here expecting we would do that," Bradley said during a stop at a women's health clinic in Seattle, where he was endorsed by abortion-rights leaders and clinic workers.

Bush fights to regain control of GOP race



CLEVELAND (AP) — As voters go to the polls today in Virginia, Washington state and North Dakota, George W. Bush is struggling to reclaim control over the Republican presidential race from John McCain.

Not only has the Arizona senator enjoyed a fund-raising surge and built a 96-93 delegate lead over the

supposed front-runner, but he also is finding success in controlling the sometimes bitter dialogue between the two campaigns.

On Monday, Bush visited Washington, where he tried to play up his education initiatives, including urging Internet millionaires to put their money to a higher use.

"I'm going to call upon them to use their brainpower and innovation to help reinvent education," the Texas governor said during a meeting with educators at Bellevue Community College.

A continent away, McCain stole the news coverage by lambasting leaders of the religious right and criticizing Bush for affiliating with them.

The senator's criticism came one day after Bush delivered

a belated apology for not condemning the religious and racial policies at Bob Jones University, a South Carolina Christian school he addressed on Feb. 2.

"Neither party should be defined by pandering to the outer reaches of American politics and the agents of intolerance, whether they be Louis Farrakhan or Al Sharpton on the left, or Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell on the right," McCain said during a speech in Virginia Beach, headquarters for Robertson's Christian Coalition.

Conservative activist Gary Bauer, who endorsed McCain after dropping his own presidential bid, said today the senator's remarks reflected a "very personal" dispute between McCain and the two Christian leaders. He said McCain went too far by comparing them to "fringe" leaders on the left, but urged conservative voters to support McCain as the candidate more strongly opposed to abortion and same-sex marriage.

"Politics is an uncomfort-

able business," Bauer said on NBC's "Today."

Bush accused McCain of "playing the religious card," and the continuing criticism grew too much for the co-chairman of the senator's recent South Carolina campaign. He announced Monday he was resigning from the McCain team.

"People at Bob Jones are not racist and they don't hate Catholics," said state House Speaker Pro Tem Terry Haskins, a Bob Jones alumnus. He blasted "the public lynching of this college."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who is Catholic, came to his brother's defense today, telling NBC that "Religion, like

race, is a Bush wedge issue that appeals to people's emotions. ... Shame on Senator McCain."

In today's voting, there were 56 delegates at stake in Virginia, 19 in North Dakota and 12 of the 37 available in Washington.

The contests were expected to set the tone for voting next Tuesday, when 13 states with 613 delegates go to the polls. A total of 1,034 delegates are needed for the nomination.

A third competitor for the nomination, former Reagan administration diplomat Alan Keyes, vowed Monday to continue his campaign despite registering in single digits in polls.



BILL BRADLEY

"People make up their mind in the last week."



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TREASON?

Perry casts vote, urges Texans to support Bush



RICK PERRY

"... if you're not for George Bush being the next president ... I consider that to be almost treasonous if you're a Texan."

AUSTIN (AP) — Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, casting his Republican primary ballot early Monday, plugged George W. Bush's presidential candidacy and urged Texans to join him in voting for the Texas governor.

"Where ever your political philosophy might be, if you're not for George Bush being the next president of the United States, I consider that to be almost treasonous if you're a Texan," Perry said.

Bush, who's found the go-

ing tough against Arizona Sen. John McCain in several recent contests, can count on winning his home state's 124 Republican National Convention delegates, predicted Perry, who is chairman of Bush's Texas campaign.

Texas Democrats had a different view. Party chair Molly Beth Malcolm said Bush's reputation took a beating by waiting three weeks to apologize after making a campaign appearance at a South Carolina school with anti-Catholic views.

"It shows a tremendous insensitivity, a lack of judgment and a failure to respond to problems in a responsible and timely manner. When you add it all up, it shows a failure of leadership and a lack of compassion," she said.

Early voting for the March 14 primaries began Monday.

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