

Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 215 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2000

10 Pages 50 Cents

**HUSTLIN' HEREFORD
HOME OF
Vernon Tohm**

Today's weather OUTLOOK

Mostly clear skies

Tonight: Mostly clear with a low in the mid-50s, south to southeast wind 5 to 15 mph.

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a high near 85, south wind 10 to 20 mph.

Thursday night: Mostly clear with a low in the mid-50s.

Extended forecast

Friday: Partly cloudy, high in the mid-80s.

Saturday: Partly cloudy with a slight chance for thunderstorms, low around 60, high around 85.

Sunday: Partly cloudy, low in the mid-50s, high 80 to 85.

Hereford weather

Tuesday's high, 69; low, 42; no precipitation.

City closer to decision on a plant

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Hereford is one step closer to bringing its wastewater treatment plant into compliance with state regulations.

However, it's not clear what that step will be.

The city commissioners agreed Tuesday night to make a decision May 15 on which option -- facultative or aerated lagoons -- will be best for the city.

Although the commissioners did not reach a consensus, City Manager Chester Nolen said this morning he believes a majority of the commissioners are leaning toward the aerated lagoon system.

Nolen said the aerated lagoon system is more efficient, but more expensive to operate. The facultative system is less expensive to operate, but it also is less efficient and requires more land area.

However, either plan is capable of dealing with 1.2-1.5 million gallons of effluent generated each day by the wastewater system's customers.

Under the facultative system, the wastewater goes into the lagoon, where it stays at a constant level. Wave action from the wind aerates the wastewater and bacteria dissolve the solids.

For the facultative system, the city would need three lagoons, each 10-12 feet deep covering an area of about 68 acres.

The aerated lagoon method would require about 34 acres of land. There would be three aerators in each lagoon that would treat the effluent.

This system would require the installation of pumps and motors, as well as electricity. While much more efficient than the facultative system, the aerated method also is considerably more expensive.

Because the commissioners' decision was made during a workshop session, no formal action could be taken. The commissioners will vote on the plan at the May 15 meeting.

Following the formal adoption of the plan, Oller Engineering Inc. will be directed to begin drafting plans for the plant.

In December, Nolen sent a letter to state regulators explaining the

Please see CITY, Page A9

HHS team to compete in contest

Special to The Brand

A seven-man team from Hereford High School scored better than 450 other teams of eight persons in the Ford AAA Auto Skills contest to qualify for a spot in the state competition Friday and Saturday at the Johnson Space Center near Hous-

Please see TEAM, Page A9

CINCO DE MAYO: Organizers of San Jose's annual celebration changing some things

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Organizers of San Jose's 11th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration are changing things this year.

Missing will be the car show and softball tournament. Also, the activities will be indoors, not outside at Veterans Park.

The celebration will be 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday at the Hereford Community Center, 100 Ave. C.

Cinco de Mayo is a national holiday in Mexico and is celebrated by

Mexican-American communities throughout the United States.

The celebration observes the Battle of Puebla, which was fought May 5, 1862, when Mexican forces defeated the better-equipped and larger French army, which had attacked the forts of Loreta and Guadalupe.

Although the French invaders eventually conquered Mexico and in 1864 installed Archduke Maximilian of Austria as Mexican emperor, the French withdrew in 1867 and Maximilian was deposed by the revo-

lutionary forces of Benito Juarez.

The Cinco de Mayo celebration will feature food, entertainment and the presentation of the annual Hispanic Citizen Award.

The recipient of the award last year was Martha Rincon, who serves on the Hereford City Commission.

Other recipients of the award have been Edward Maldonado, Steve Cortez, Margaret Del Toro, Joe Soliz, Artura Gonzales, Janie Niño, the Rev. Daryl Birkenfeld and Deacon Jesse Guerrero.

Entertainment will include performances by folkloric dancers, Orgullo Mexicano of Friona; magician Lyndy Phillips, and disc jockey Joe Tindell and his "karaoke" sound system.

The food will feature fajitas and German sausage (San Jose style) with rice, beans, salad, tea and dessert. Plates are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, age 12 and under. Carryouts are available for an extra 50 cents, and the German sausage may be purchased by the pound.



Three-year senior members — These Hereford High School senior students were honored as three-year members of the Prime Choice chapter of the National Honor Society during the organization's banquet and initiation ceremonies. Pictured are (front, from left) Lisa Coneway, Cathy Higgins, Shyla Martin and Lynita Dotson; (center) Sarah Artho, Mandi Klein, Kimberly Scott, Toni Eicke and Kylee Auckerman; and (rear) Kurtis Flood, Ian Isaacson, Nelson Beville, Tan Nguyen, James Crawford, James Miller, Harrison Hoffman, Riley Hall, Joshua Briones and Darren Sliney.

64 students earn NHS laurels



Senior initiates — Initiated as new members of the Prime Choice chapter of the National Honor Society at Hereford High School were seniors Jerry Baird (left) and Nick Celaya.

■ Prime Choice finds prime scholars at HHS

Sixty-four of Hereford High School's top students were honored Monday night at the Prime Choice chapter of the National Honor Society's annual banquet and initiation ceremonies.

The event was held at the Hereford Independent School District administration building.

Twenty-four three-year senior members, nine two-year senior members and 12 two-year junior mem-



Two-year senior members — Honored as two-year senior members of the Prime Choice chapter of the National Honor Society at Hereford High School were (front, from left) Sheena Stokes, Audrey Cabezuola, Candice Huckins; and (standing) Christopher Diller and Ashley Henson.

bers were recognized and helped to welcome three seniors, three juniors, and 13 sophomores into the organization.

Each member and initiate was presented with a certificate by Superintendent Elizabeth Abernethy. NHS members also received a carnation that they, in turn, presented to their parents.

During comments on what the

National Honor Society is, three-year senior member and NHS vice president Darren Sliney said the concept of the organization carries beyond basic skills and the integrity championed by NHS is the backbone of many other organizations.

"Leadership and service to the community are important attributes

Please see STUDENTS, Page A9

RABIES

Skunk found to be rabid; officials say not epidemic sign

By Dianna F. Dandridge

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

A case of a rabies within the Hereford city of limits has been confirmed by state officials.

Officers were notified Friday of a skunk acting peculiarly in the 500 block of North Lee. Animal control officer Javier Frausto arrived and found the skunk and had it taken to Hutto Veterinary Clinic, where it was prepared for testing.

The skunk's carcass was tested with fluorescent antibody techniques and state officials on Tuesday informed Dr. Aaron Hutto the animal was rabid.

"Finding rabies in a skunk is not unusual," said Hutto. "What is unusual is finding the skunk that far into city limits."

Skunks, according to Hutto, are often asymptomatic, meaning they show no signs of illness, yet carry the virus.

Frausto said last year he had picked up an above-average number of skunks and this year looks like it might be a repeat.

Hutto emphasized finding one positive skunk is not reason for an epidemic scare, but it is a good time for people to check their animal health records and update vaccinations if needed.

Hydrophobia, commonly known as rabies, is a viral infection which affects only warm-blooded animals. Leading carriers are skunks, bats, raccoons and coyotes. Slobbering, which is symptomatic of late stage disease is caused by the paralysis of the throat muscles, it is not a fear of the water.

State law requires all dogs and cats be vaccinated annually. Vaccinations are required of all pets three months old or older. Hutto said the state requires pets be vaccinated with three-year serum, as a precaution. But the state also requires annual vaccination.

"It protects old Rover, in the case the owners get busy and forget about the vaccinations, and it protects the people who come in contact with Rover," Hutto said.

Hutto said a big problem is the number of unprotected cats.

"Lots of people get their dogs vaccinated, but most cats go unprotected,"

Observation time for a known animal, with an uncertain vaccination history is 10 days. Should an unknown animal bite a human, officials act on the side of the human and destroy the animal for immediate testing.

Unvaccinated animals which come in contact with possibly rabid animals need to be quarantined for at least 10 days prior to vaccination.

"The best thing to do is have your animals vaccinated, before they come in contact with a possible carrier," said Hutto.

Officials encourage all residents to be wary of stray animals; refrain from petting or catching wild animals or strays and to report any unusual animal behaviors to the animal control officer.

Frausto said the department will

Please see RABIES, Page A9



Last-minute tips

Anthony Haschke and Brice Banner get last-minute pointers on the engine of a Ford automobile from Western Ford technician Christopher Gale (right) and their instructor Monty Smith. The students travel to Houston Friday for the two-day competition against other high school students from across the state.

Courtesy Photo

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HEREFORD BRAND

Local roundup

Retirement party scheduled

Members of the Hereford Fire Department cordially invites the public to a retirement reception in honor of Jay C. Spain on Saturday, May 6 from 1-5 p.m. at the Hereford Fire Department, 215 N. Miles.

Quad Counties Job Fair planned

Employers who need workers or unemployed and underemployed workers will have a chance to get together next month at the Quad Counties Job Fair.

The job fair for Castro, Deaf Smith, Oldham and Parmer counties will be 10 a.m.-4 p.m. May 10 at the Hereford Community Center, 100 Ave. C. It will feature free registration and a meal. The deadline to register is May 1.

Booths will be provided and there will be door prizes and goody bags.

The fair is sponsored by the Texas Department of Human Services, chambers of commerce, Texas Workforce Commission and Catholic Family Services.

For registration forms, contact Nora Pesina, TDHS, 363-8612; Marin Rivas, TWC, 364-8600; or Belle Braddock, TDHS, 647-4181, extension 24.

Northwest Scholastic book fair

Northwest Elementary school will hold a scholastic book fair through Friday. Hours will be 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Thursday and 8:30-10 a.m. on Friday.

Daniel seeks veterans

Cassie Daniel, a freshman at Hereford High School, is seeking interviews with veterans and families of veterans for her History Fair project which she will present May 12-13 in Austin.

Her project deals with the Vietnam War and whether John F. Kennedy would have prevented United States combat involvement, had he lived.

Cassie can be reached at 532 Willow Lane or at 364-5787.

Peabody reception scheduled

The Deaf Smith County Farm Service Agency will host a going away reception for Ted Peabody 1-4 p.m. Thursday at the FSA office, 317 W. 3rd.

The public is invited.

Historical Society annual meeting

Deaf Smith County Historical Society will have its annual meeting May 9 at the Hereford Country Club. The meeting begins at 10:30 a.m. and will be followed with a luncheon.

This is an open meeting for all historical society members or anyone interested in joining.

For reservations, contact Paula Edwards at 363-7070 by May 5.

Day of prayer in Bayne Park

Hereford residents are invited to participate in the National Day of Prayer Thursday at noon in Dudley Bayne Park, behind City Hall. Prayers will be offered for our schools, our city, our state and our country.

Supper for pageant hopefuls

The Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce will hold a salad supper at 6 p.m. Thursday in the home of Francie Farr, 2026 Plains, for young ladies interested in participating in the Miss Hereford Scholarship Pageant and their mothers.

Information about the pageant will be provided with registration forms available.

Chamber seeks re-union organizers

Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is seeking information from graduation reunion organizers regarding events for the upcoming Town and Country Celebration. Organizers are asked to call the chamber office at 364-3333.

High School happenings

Hereford High School staff will present the annual H Awards May 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Top students in each subject as well as top 5 percent of each class will be recognized.

Senior awards will be Tuesday May 16, 7:30 p.m. at the varsity gym. Scholarship awards and valedictorian and salutatorian will be named.

Please contact Sara Pessina at 363-7620 if you would like to present a scholarship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

Bonfire fate known by June

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — The fate of Texas A&M University's hallowed bonfire tradition — marred by last year's collapse that killed 12 Aggies — now rests in the hands of school president Ray Bowen.

After hearing a report on Tuesday from a specially created commission that concluded flawed construction techniques and a lack of adequate supervision by A&M officials over students assembling the stack contributed to its collapse, Bowen said he will decide by mid-June whether the 90-year bonfire tradition continues.

"I have not made up my mind yet," Bowen said during a news conference after the commission he created presented its report. "I will try to do what's best for our students, for our university."

HerefordBrand

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O.G. Nieman
Mauri Montgomery
Donald M. Cooper
Jay Guerrero

Publisher (1972-98)
Publisher
Managing Editor
Circulation Manager

New FFA officers



New year, new officers — Hereford FFA Club ended their year Tuesday evening with the annual banquet. As always new officers were chosen for the coming school year. The new officers from the back left are Wil McGowan, sentinel; Peyton Ward, vice president; and Tyler Keely, reporter; front row: Glenn Kahlich, treasurer; Jerad Johnson, president; Ivory Isaacson; secretary; Catherine Beville,

student advisor. Star greenhand award was presented to Catherine Beville; Star Chapter award was given to Glenn Kahlich and Jerad Johnson received the Lone Star Award. High School principal Linda Lowe was named honorary FFA member. Eddie Trotter was named as Senior Creed Speaker of the year and also received the top award for fruit and meats sale.

Clinton addresses bio-tech safety

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration today announced a series of steps intended to assure the public of the safety of biotech foods, including a formal process for reviewing gene-altered crops and standards for food makers to follow in labeling products.

The plan would require biotech companies to notify the Food and Drug Administration at least four months in advance of releasing new genetically engineered ingredients for food and animal feed and to provide the agency with their research data.

Biotech companies now voluntarily consult with the FDA before going to market, but the new plan would codify the practice. Once the FDA reviews a new food or animal feed, the agency's conclusions and product safety data would be posted on its Web site for consumers to read.

The agency also will set standards for food processors who want to label products made with or without the use of bioengineered ingredients. The guidelines will ensure that such labels are "truthful and informative," the agency said.

"FDA's scientific review continues to show that all bioengineered foods sold here in the United States today are as safe as their non-bioengineered counterparts," Commissioner Jane Henney said today. "We believe our initiatives will provide the pub-

lic with continued confidence in the safety of these foods."

The FDA will seek comments from the public before the new rules take effect.

Besides the changes FDA is making, the Agriculture Department will begin certifying new scientific tests designed to detect the presence of biotech ingredients in food. The tests would ensure that food labeled biotech-free meets uniform standards.

The administration will conduct a six-month review of its environmental regulations dealing with generically engineered crops.

The food industry applauded the plan, but it falls short of what many critics of the biotech industry have wanted, including requirements for additional testing of crops and mandatory labeling for all products containing genetically engineered products. Administration officials say that is unnecessary, and the food industry has argued that it would unfairly stigmatize biotech food.

"We think this is a good step to make sure that this process is open and transparent," said Brian Sansoni, a spokesman for the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

Reaction from biotech critics was mixed. "This plan is like some fat-free foods. It's not very good and there isn't much substance," said Rebecca Goldberg, a senior scientist for Environmental Defense.

Carol Tucker Foreman, director of the Consumer Federation of America's Food Policy Institute, said the plan showed "good intentions" but that it is yet to be seen whether the new rules FDA will propose will require sufficient review of new ingredients.

Crops have been engineered to stay fresher longer or to resist pests and herbicides. The National Academy of Sciences concluded recently that the biotech food now on the market is safe, but critics say there isn't enough proof, and some U.S. food processing companies and fast-food companies have been turning away from the crops.

FDA bowed to public concern and held a series of hearings on crop biotechnology last year.

Meanwhile, 13 governors are joining the biotechnology industry in an effort to persuade the public of the benefits of genetically engineered crops and the safety of the food that is made from them.

"It makes sense to say that this isn't just the big, bad chemical companies trying to engineer something to jam

down your throats," North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer said Tuesday.

The governors hope to coordinate their message with the biotechnology companies, who last month launched a \$50 million advertising campaign to counter criticism of the industry, said Schafer, a Republican who is co-chairing the Governors Biotechnology Partnership with Iowa Gov. Tom Vilsack, a Democrat.

"I don't think they (the governors) are doing their farmers or their consumers any benefit by promoting a technology that hasn't proven to be safe," said Charles Margulis, a spokesman for Greenpeace, an environmental group that has led the opposition to biotech food. "I don't think it's going to make much difference to our side."

Other governors in the group include Democrats Mel Carnahan of Missouri and Tom Carper of Delaware, whose states are home to two leading biotech companies, Monsanto and DuPont.

TPA 2000

HEREFORD BRAND

Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for May 2, 2000, include the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT Incidents

- A woman reported being verbally assaulted by another woman in the 1100 block of West First.

- Theft of a trailer and welder was reported in the 700 block of East New York.

- A domestic disturbance was reported in the 300 block of Avenue A. The woman reported her 16-year-old daughter began yelling and pulling the mother's hair after being told to do dishes.

- A welfare check was requested of a 16-year-old woman in the 800 block of Irving.

- A possible aggravated sexual assault of a 4-year-old girl was reported in the 600 block of Irving.

- A two vehicle accident was reported at the intersection of Witherspoon and Fourth. No injuries were reported. One driver was cited for failing to yield right of way at a stop sign.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Arrests

- A 41-year-old woman was arrested and charged with public intoxication.

- A 38-year-old man was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated.

- A 22-year-old man was arrested and charged with public intoxication.

Incidents

- Two minors in consumption were reported.

- Criminal mischief was reported.

- Theft was reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas lottery

Cash Five

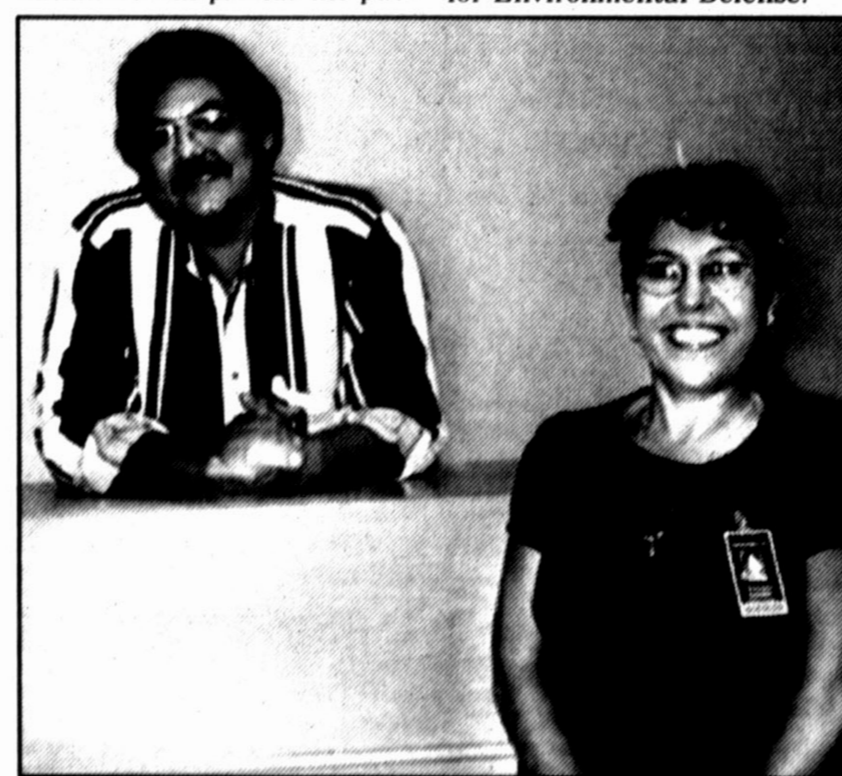
The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:

22-21-17-1-98

Pick 3

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

3-3-7



Appreciate the effort — Behind the scenes of numerous Hereford Independent School District functions exist the efforts put in by district custodians who make sure facilities are clean before a major event and clean up after the event is over. Isidro Jimenez, left, and Romelia Fuentes are among the unseen workers who make sure the facilities are at their best.

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LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, May 3, 2000 • A3



Katerina Malouf, second from left, bride-elect of David Vermillion, was feted with a bridal shower brunch Saturday at Hereford Country Club. Joining her in greeting guests were from left, Linda Malouf, her grandmother; Yiota Malouf, her mother; and Linda Vermillion, her future mother-in-law.

Brunch, shower fetes Malouf

Hereford Country Club was the site of a bridal shower brunch honoring Katerina Malouf, bride-elect of David Vermillion.

The couple will be wed May 28.

Guests were greeted by the honoree; Yiota Malouf, mother of the bride-elect; Linda Vermillion, mother of the prospective groom; and Linda Malouf, grandmother of the bride-elect.

Presiding at the guest regis-

try was Candace Ingram, cousin of the bride-elect.

Background music was provided by Keith Ann Gearn on the piano throughout the brunch and shower.

Served at the brunch were quiche, tiropita, spanakopita, assorted fresh fruit, assorted muffins, whimsy cake, Greek pastries, dessert bakalava, orange juice and coffee.

Table decorations were stacked china cups filled with

bouquets of spring flowers.

A vacuum cleaner was the gift from hostesses Aggeliki Stavianodaki, Karen Wimberly, Carmen Flood, Kaye Matthews, Judy Kriegshauser, Melody Betzen, Kathy Moore, Helmi Batterman, Jeri Bezner, Keith Ann Gearn, Betty Taylor, Ruth Black, Eileen Alley, Brenda Barrett, Ann Reiter, Annie Brown, Ginger Wallace, Carmen Rickman, Joyce Wartes and Sylvia Khuri.

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Beefbrisket, hash brown potatoes, baked beans, carrot-raisin salad, plum cobbler; or Polish sausage, stewed tomatoes, purple plums.

FRIDAY-Catfish fillet with lemon wedge, buttered parsley potatoes, buttered Scandinavian

vegetables, fruit coleslaw, lemon ice box pudding; or cook's choice, D'zerta pudding.

MONDAY-Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, Normandy vegetables, dream salad, macadamia cookie; or baked chicken breast, diet cookies.

TUESDAY-Chicken strips with gravy, mashed potatoes, buttered peas and carrots, pickled beet salad, pound cake with topping; or brisket, mixed fruit.

WEDNESDAY-Meat loaf, noodles Alfredo, buttered turnip greens, garden salad with tomato wedges, bread pudding with raisin sauce; or chicken and noodles, applesauce.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes,

quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., oil painting 9-11 a.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m., doll class 6-9 p.m.

FRIDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., line dance 10-11 a.m., Thrift Store 9 a.m.-5 p.m., **SATURDAY**-Dance 8-11 p.m., games 7:30-11 p.m.

MONDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., line dance 10-11 a.m., Retired School Employees 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., doll class 1-4 p.m., Nutrition Council 1 p.m., progressive "42" tournament 7 p.m.

TUESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., Beltone 10 a.m.-noon, Golden K Kiwanis noon.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, quilting 9 a.m.-3 p.m., ceramics noon-4 p.m.

CREATORS SYNDICATE

Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: My husband's ex-wife makes our lives miserable regularly by using visitation privileges as a weapon to punish him for the divorce. Please do all blended families a favor, and print these guidelines for appropriate behavior between ex-spouses and their families.

1. Your children's father is no longer your husband. This means he is no longer responsible for mowing your lawn, fixing your car, or doing any other household chores. Please

stop expecting him to be available for any of the above.

2. Do not make the children feel guilty for spending time with their father by telling them "how much you miss them." When you do this, you suggest they are disloyal for being away from you. This makes them feel sad and confused.

3. When you deny visitation, you are in contempt of court, regardless of the rea-

See ANN, Page A4

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- **TRUST & WILL:** Which is for you!
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San Jose's 11th Annual Cinco de Mayo! Celebration & Comida

Sunday, May 7, 2000
Hereford Community Center
11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Join us for special celebration and recognition of
Hereford's Hispanic Citizen Award!

Sponsored by Coors & Coors Light & La Familia Soliz Masonary Const.

**Folklorico Dancers-Orgullo Mexicano, Friona
Magician - Lyndy Phillips & D.J. Joe Tindell
& His "karaoke" sound system!**

Fajitas & German Sausage (San Jose Style!) with rice, beans, salad, tea & dessert.	Adults	Children Under 12
	\$5.00	\$3.00

Carry-outs available - 50c extra.
German Sausage sold by the lb.

Tickets available at the door! • For more information or tickets call:
San Jose Catholic Church 364-5053 or come by 735 Brevard.

HEREFORD REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Better

HEALTH

Begins Here

Visit Hereford Regional Medical Center's Annual
Health Fair, May 6, 2000 for tips on healthy living.

There's lots going on at this year's health fair. Free screenings for blood pressure, glucose and much more! Plus free information from more than 30 exhibitors. Don't miss it!

Saturday, May 6th
Hereford Community Center
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**Hereford Regional
Medical Center**



LIFESTYLES



A bridal shower honoring Renee Banner, second from right, bride-elect of Kevin Buse, was held at the E.B. Black House. Also pictured are, from left, Angela Baker, sister of the bride-elect; Janie Banner, her mother; and Irene Reinart, her grandmother.

Black House site of shower

Renee Banner, bride-elect of Kevin Buse, was feted with a bridal shower Saturday in the E.B. Black House.

The couple plans to exchange marriage vows on May 27.

Greeting guests with the honoree were Janie Banner, her mother; Irene Reinart, her grandmother; and Angela Baker, her sister.

Shawna Henderson and Melissa Cloud, who will serve as bridesmaids during the ceremony, presided at the guest register.

Refreshments were cinnamon blintz, cherry crisp, mini muffins, breakfast breads, bacon crisp, fresh fruit, sparkling punch and Costa Rica Arabica coffee.

The serving table was covered with a checkered cloth in the bride-elect's chosen colors of

black and white. Decorations included a green topiary with baby's breath surrounded by gold vases holding candles and accented with greenery, baby's breath and pansy petals.

A Crossill Bed-in-a-Bag was the gift from hostesses Karen Abney, Annette Albracht, Virginia Artho, Nadine Berend,

Cheryl Betzen, Opal Blakely, Linda Briones, Michelle Brisendine, Jan Brorman, Nancy Buchanan, Judy Cloud, Judy Detten, Oleta Hoffman, Wanda Jesko, Renee Kuper, Ann Lueb, Christine Marnell, Teresa Munoz, Bernice Orel, Martha Paetzold, Charlotte Paetzold and Jeanette Rogers.

Ann

From Page A3

son. No excuse is good enough. 4. When you try to use us as baby sitters and we are unavailable, do not tell your children that we "don't want them." This does not hurt us, but it is devastating to the kids.

5. Screaming obscenities and calling us names may make you feel better, but it sets a poor example for your children, and it frightens them. Control yourself.

6. Do not undermine the stepmother's authority with your child when she is responsible for his care. If the child refuses to listen to me, it impedes my ability to keep him safe from harm.

7. Do not ask that child support be paid in cash. We do not pay any bills in cash, especially those for which we need a record as proof of payment.

8. Child-support money is intended for the benefit of the children, not for you. When you spend it on yourself, we know it. You aren't fooling anyone.

Thanks, Ann, for letting me unload. I feel better now. — Tired of Abuse in San Jose

Dear San Jose: You've made some excellent points, and I thank you. Something tells me a great many ex-wives are going to receive clippings of this column in the mail.

Dear Ann Landers: This is for "Keeping the Faith in California," who lost his job when he was 57 years old and

said, "I am too old to start at the bottom without a college degree." I have a different story to tell.

I am a 54-year-old divorcee who had not worked in 30 years. I, too, was in a position where I had to start over. With fingers crossed, and a giant leap of faith, I went back to college at age 51, took two classes each semester, and am now a senior, majoring in psychology, and planning to go to graduate school.

Most state universities provide an excellent education, and it doesn't cost much if you are a resident of the state. California has a fine higher education system. Being in your 50s is not too old to be in a classroom. Professors love having

students with life experience. Please tell "Faith" and everyone else contemplating finishing college that they are not too old to go back to school. I attend a prestigious university, will graduate with honors, and am not the oldest student here. I am looking forward to a new career with renewed enthusiasm for life. You can print my name. I'm proud of my decision. — Joanna Hilgenberg, Wellesley College, Belmont, Mass., Class of 2001.

Dear Joanna: You have every right to be proud. At 54, you are at Wellesley! It doesn't get any better than that. Thank you for an inspiring can-do letter that is sure to encourage others.



L'Allegra Study Club members Shelley Menke, front, and Mary Janet Brecker stand in front of the historic E.B. Black House which will be the recipient of funds from the club's annual Plant Sale to be held Thursday and Friday at Hereford Community Center. Sale hours on Thursday will be noon-6 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. until all plants are sold.

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SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, May 3, 2000

Frenship ends Lady Herd's playoff run

■ Summers proud of team's achievements after 8-1 loss against the Lady Tigers

By Jeff Blackmon

Hereford Brand Sports Editor

After beating Canyon High 4-2 and narrowly defeating Pecos 10-9, the Lady Whitefaces just could not pull out another playoff win Tuesday evening.

The Hereford High School softball team lost to Frenship 8-1 in Frenship ending their bid for a state championship.

The Lady Whitefaces end the season as area champs completing an incredible year.

"They came a long way," head softball coach Penny Summers said. "Tonight we just made too many mental mistakes."

In each of Frenship's big innings, the Lady Whitefaces made a total of three errors with each of those runners coming in to score.

Frenship scored one run in the first inning off two singles by catcher Amanda Milam and first baseman Marcie Jones.

In the second, the Lady Tigers pushed three runners across and never looked back taking the lead 4-0. Hereford pitcher Victoria Perez looked strong on the mound striking out the first batter she faced but then walked two Lady Tigers. Perez then got another strikeout, and it seemed HHS might get out of the inning. With two out, Frenship's second baseman Kristina Rodriguez delivered a crushing blow by driving a pitch into the left field gap scoring two runs, and a wild throw to get Rodriguez out at third resulted in an easy stroll home for Rodriguez. Perez said after the inning the team was discouraged, but they still knew they could battle back.

"We got down, and we tried to get ourselves back up," Perez said. "They are a good team though."

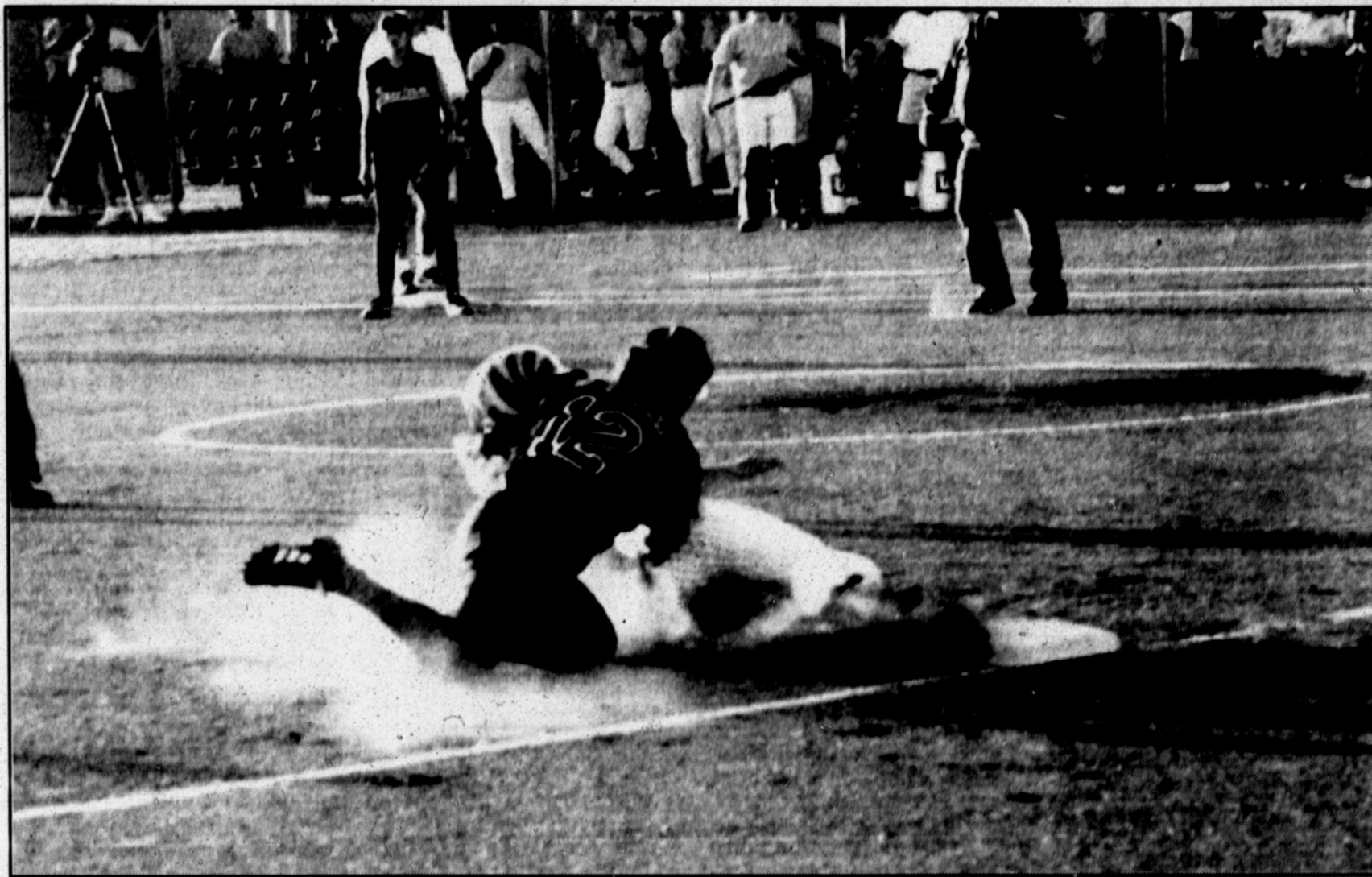
Summers said she was proud of Perez's pitching effort on Tuesday, and she can tell Perez continues to learn how to pitch with every game.

"Vikki was really on in the first inning but had a couple of walks that hurt her," Summers said. "The pitchers are learning, and they are a lot better than they were at the beginning of the year."

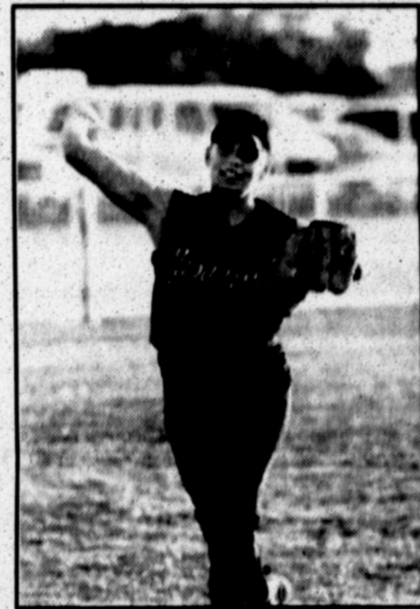
Frenship tacked on another run in the bottom of the fifth off one hit and a wild pitch by relief hurler Teresa Zimmerman.

Hereford scored its lone run in the top of the sixth inning after catcher Crystal Reece and center fielder Janae Schlabs walked to get things started. After a fly out by short stop April Trevizo, Reece crossed home off an error by Frenship's Rodriguez. Ashley Gonzalez hit the ball to Rodriguez and received the only RBI for the Lady Herd making the score 5-1. With two on and two out in the top of the sixth, Frenship ended Hereford's rally when pitcher Courtney Jenkins struck out Zimmerman for her fourth strikeout.

Just when it seemed the Lady Whitefaces might have a chance for a last inning comeback, the Lady Tigers dismantled any hopes in the bottom of the sixth. Zimmerman started the inning on a high note getting Rodriguez to fly out to first, but Jenkins and short stop Cristi Clift each reached base following the out. Jenkins reached on an error and Clift walked after



Courtesy/Bryan Hedrick



Brand/Jeff Blackmon

Lady Herd—The Hereford Lady Whiteface softball team ended their season Tuesday night with an 8-1 loss at Frenship. Dayanara Garcia (above) guards third during the fifth inning. Ericha Albracht (left) warms up before taking the field. Albracht and center fielder Janae Schlabs are seniors and played their last game for the Hereford High School softball team. The team ends their season at 16-10 and reached the playoffs for the first time in Hereford softball history.

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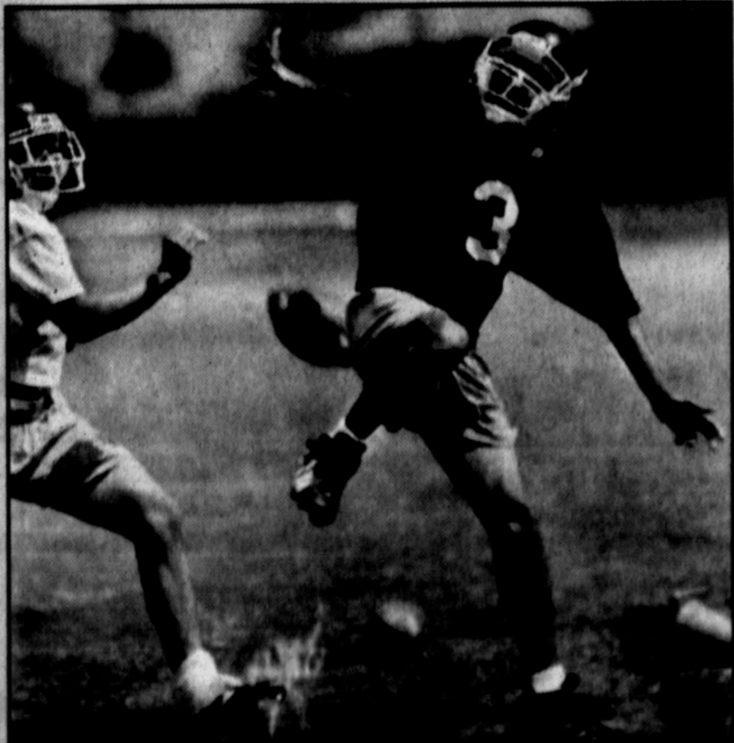
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SPRING TRAINING



Brand/Mauri Montgomery

Warming Up—The Hereford Whitefaces began their football spring practice last Friday. The team is coming off their incredible run at the district 4A championship. Coach Bill Bridge (top) schools some of his players during Saturday's practice while a Hereford receiver (right) misses a pass. This is the first year that district 4A is allowed to practice during the spring, and the Whitefaces are taking advantage of it. The team continued practice on Tuesday and will continue to practice through May.



Brand/Mauri Montgomery



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SPORTS

Suns end Spurs' season

■ Kidd comes back while Duncan sits on bench

PHOENIX (AP) — Only six weeks after he broke his left ankle, Jason Kidd came back, newly blond and just as dynamic as ever, while Tim Duncan sat and watched.

With Kidd running the show again, and Duncan still sidelined with a knee injury, the Phoenix Suns knocked the defending NBA champion San Antonio Spurs out of the playoffs, 89-78 Tuesday night.

Penny Hardaway and Rodney Rogers, winner of the NBA's Sixth Man Award, scored 23 points apiece as the Suns won the best-of-five series 3-1.

But Kidd was the catalyst. "Jason was a big differ-

ence," San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich said, "a huge difference. Big doesn't do him justice, and not just because of the emotion. He played his fanny off."

Coach Scott Skiles admitted he felt a little uneasy about Kidd playing, and Kidd knew there were doubters.

"Any time you come back from an injury like this at a pace that I did, there are going to be some people who are nervous or skeptical, who just feel that maybe we should wait a couple of days," Kidd said. "But it was up to me, and I felt great."

Rogers, who also had 10 rebounds, scored eight points and Hardaway seven in the fourth quarter as Phoenix fought off one last San Antonio challenge to advance past the first round for the first time in five years.

The Suns play the winner of the Los Angeles Lakers-Sacramento series in the Western Conference semifinals.

The Spurs became the first defending champion to be eliminated in the first round since the Philadelphia 76ers lost to New Jersey 3-2 in 1984. The 1998 champion Chicago Bulls failed to make the playoffs last season after Michael Jordan's retirement.

David Robinson tried to carry the load with 21 points and 16 rebounds, but he didn't have enough help. Mario Elie was the only other San Antonio player in double figures with 12.

"There is no way to prepare for the end of a season," Robinson said. "It's like falling off a cliff. You always think there's tomorrow. I can't even think straight right now."

The Suns' Cliff Robinson missed 10 of his first 12 shots, but made two crucial outside jumpers in the fourth quarter to finish with 10 points.

Kidd started and made his

first three shots, the last one a 3-pointer, and finished with nine points and 10 assists in 31 minutes.

"When they announced that Jason was going to play, the team went crazy," Hardaway said. "They knew that the fans were going to react in a great way, and they did. I was so happy because I knew he was going to make my job a lot easier."

Duncan, a free agent at the end of the season, might have played his last game for San Antonio. He didn't play at all in the series because of a slight ligament tear in his left knee. Duncan practiced Monday, but decided Tuesday the leg was too sore.

The Spurs were down to 10 players, and only one power forward, after Malik Rose left with a torn medial collateral ligament in his right knee with 4:07 left in the first half and the Suns leading 31-28.

Without Duncan, Rose, and Jerome Kersey, who dislocated his foot in Game 2, Samaki Walker was the only power forward left for the Spurs, and he drew his fourth foul a minute into the third quarter. That left Sean Elliott at the power forward spot, and he got his fourth foul with 7:42 left in the third.

It was that kind of season for the Spurs, who went most of the way without Elliott, who made a remarkable comeback after a kidney transplant.

"We didn't have a healthy team all season and nobody ever gave us a chance," Elie said. "I wish we would have had our team all season, but that's the NBA."

Hardaway's fadeaway jumper with 17 seconds left in the period put Phoenix ahead 68-55, and the Suns led 68-56 entering the final quarter.

Wood's return keeps Astros down

■ Lima falls to 1-5 during 11-1 loss to Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — Kerry Wood always knew he'd be back.

Now that he is, he can breathe a little sigh of relief. He may have a reconstructed elbow, but he's still scary-good like he was in 1998. Or close enough, anyway.

Pitching in a major league game for the first time in almost 19 months, Wood gave up just one run — a homer — and three hits in six innings Tuesday night as the Chicago Cubs routed the Houston Astros 11-1.

"I'm glad it's over," he said. "I don't have that little bit of doubt back there that said, 'Hey, I haven't made it there yet.' I knew when I was doing the rehab starts I was going to be fine, but I wasn't here yet. Now, I've got the first one out of the way."

The Astros didn't come close to touching him until Daryle Ward's homer to right in the sixth, putting just six others on base and getting only one past second.

And the elbow that was surgically repaired April 8, 1999, after he blew it out in spring training? Just fine, thank you very much. Wood even hit the third home run of his career.

"A night game, the electricity in the air and Kerry on the mound, it was better than scripted for me," Cubs manager Don Baylor said.

Wood wasn't the same, dominating power pitcher he was the last time he faced the Astros at Wrigley Field, when he tied a major league record with 20 strikeouts in just his fifth career start.

The 1998 NL Rookie of the Year returned to the mound just four days shy of the two-

year anniversary of that May 6, 1998 game.

He struck out four, but only one in the first four innings. Most of his outs were on fly balls to the outfield, and he got some help from his teammates, including a jaw-dropping, diving, back-hand catch by Sammy Sosa in the second inning. He threw one wild pitch, walked four and sent a couple Astros jumping out of the way of wicked inside pitches.

"He's not close to where he was two years ago," Astros manager Larry Dierker said. "He's still got an explosive fastball, but his breaking ball wasn't much of a factor."

But that's only Dierker's opinion. "Larry can say what he wants, he doesn't have to hit doubt back there that said, 'Hey, I haven't made it there yet.' I knew when I was doing the rehab starts I was going to be fine, but I wasn't here yet. Now, I've got the first one out of the way."

"Very encouraged," said catcher Joe Girardi, who estimated Wood threw between 93 to 98 mph. "I think I was most encouraged because I thought he got better as the night went on."

Wood showed he can hit the ball almost as well as he throws it, too. He hit a two-run homer just over the left-field fence in his first at-bat, the 11th home run allowed this year by Jose Lima (1-5).

The Cubs rocked Lima for four runs in the second inning, and chased him in the fifth after five more. Lima, whose ERA swelled to 9.59, tipped his cap to the crowd as he left the field.

"It can't get any worse. Nothing is going my way right now," Lima said. "I've got many more starts and things have to change. I didn't win 21 games last year by luck."

While it takes most pitch-

ers about 18 months to recover from "Tommy John" surgery, that hasn't tempered the expectations for Wood. Fans can't see the scar on his right elbow, and most expect him to come back just as scary-good as he was in 1998, when he drew comparisons to Nolan Ryan and Roger Clemens.

"I knew eventually I would be back," Wood said. "From day one, after the surgery, I didn't have a second thought in my mind I could make it back to the same level I was."

"We've still got a little work to do, but I'm very pleased with the way I threw tonight."

Wood got a standing ovation as he left the dugout before the game, but he didn't show any reaction or do anything to indicate this game was special. He tip-toed over the third baseline as he walked to the mound, but he does that before every inning.

The sellout crowd of 38,121 cheered every warmup pitch, and there was a huge roar when Biggio fouled off the first pitch of the game for a strike.

Wood didn't get two strikes on anyone until Mitch Meluskey, the second batter in the second inning. And he didn't get his first strikeout until Lima came up in the second inning.

Lima went down on a called strike, and the fans cheered and waved the "K" signs they've had in storage the last 19 months.

"I got chills," Mark Grace said. "I've been through a lot of exciting stuff before, but the fans really get behind this kid and it's fun to play behind him."

"As a friend, I'm real proud of him and ecstatic at what he accomplished — four months before he was supposed to."

Playoff

From Page A5

running the count full. With two on Frenship's Milam stepped to the plate and took Zimmerman deep to center crushing the ball into the parking lot. The three-run homer gave the Lady Tigers an 8-1 lead. Frenship closed out Hereford's season in the top of the seventh with a 1-2-3 inning.

Summers said she attributes the Frenship win to their starting pitching. Frenship's Jenkins limited the Lady Herd to only three hits and one run in seven innings. Summers said Jenkins demonstrated her self-discipline while Hereford hitters were impatient.

"I tried to tell the girls that if she pitches a strike she is going to come back with trash," Summers said. "She is a very disciplined pitcher."

Summers said she is proud of her girls for the season they put together and is glad they made the playoffs for the first time in Hereford softball history.

"They did great," Summers said. "No one expected them to go this far, and I am appreciative to the fans and supporters in Hereford."

Summers said she saw the team's talent and potential early in the year and hoped it would take them far.

"I saw talent that needed to be leashed like a wild horse," Summers said. "They have extreme strength and talent."

Summers said she is especially proud of the team's two graduating seniors, Janae Schlabs and Ericha Albracht, but is glad to be returning eight juniors to the team.

"They have got a lot to hold up to," Summers said. "They've got to step up and do the same thing next year."

Next year could be tougher for the Lady Whitefaces and all of Hereford High School sports because of realignment. District 3-4A now will include ten district teams including Canyon and Randall. Summers hopes the team remembers to think about softball during the off season so they can compete in the larger district.

"They need to be thinking softball and not need someone to remind them," Summers said.

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INSIDE

HEREFORD BRAND

Court records

MARRIAGES
-Gerardo Mendoza and Senaida Garza.

DIVORCES
--Anthony Montelongo and Kari Montelongo and in the interest of Jordan Nicole Montelongo, Shawn Patrick Montelongo, a minor child, April 22; and,
--Allen Dean Crofford and Billie Jean Crofford, April 18.

CIVIL CASES
Order withholding from earnings for child support to employer was issued to:
--Anthony Montelongo and Kari Montelongo and in the interest of Jordan Nicole Montelongo, Shawn Patrick Montelongo, a minor child, April 22.

Final order winding up partnership and disbursing funds was issued in the case of:
--Saundra Fields King and Illy Rhae Inman Fade vs. Dora Ruth Gilley; Thomas Warran Inman; Thelma Charlene Baker; Teresa Berg; Larry E. Inman and Robert D. Inman, April 18.

Orders were issued in the cases of:
--Providian National Bank vs. Emma O. Castillo, April 17; and,
--Robert Carl George vs. Texas Department of Public Safety, April 24.

Order in suit affecting the parent-child relationship and establishing the parent-child relationship was issued to:
--Donna Cruz and Ruben Cruz and in the interest of Sergio Cruz and Priscilla Marie Cruz, children, April 17.

Orders establishing the parent-child relationship were issued to:
--Joann B. Pesina and John Pesina III and in the interest of April A. Pesina, a child, April 26; and,
--Mary Gomez and Willy Sturgeon and in the interest of Sabrina Rebecca Gomez, a child, April 26.

Order granting motion to dismiss without prejudice was issued in the case of:
--Conseco Finance Servicing Corp. vs. Lisa M. Valdez, April 24.

Orders of non-suit were issued in the cases of:
--The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company vs. Messer Construction Co., Inc., April 17; and,
--Deaf Smith County vs. Raul De La Paz, April 22.

Order transferring suit affecting parent-child relationship was issued in the case of:
--Trammy Brown, petitioner, vs. Westley Brown, respondent, and in the interest of James Colton Brown and Westley Dalton Brown, children, April 17.

Order of non-suit without cost was issued in the case of:
--Deaf Smith County vs. Jesus M. Hernandez, April 22.

Order for arrest in response to the state's motion to revoke probation was issued to:
--Alfred Abrego Casarez, April 17.

Orders of judgment on plea of guilty before court waiver of jury trial, state jail felony, were issued to:
--Carlos Duran, April 17;
--Fred Gonzales Fuentes, April 18;
--Troy Kurt Simons, April 18;
--Robert Rosenberry, April 18; and,
--Johnny Joe Beltran, April 18.

Orders placing defendant on community supervision were issued to:
--Carlos Arturo Duran, April 17;
--Robert Rosenberry, April 18; and,
--Johnny Joe Beltran, April 18.

Orders revoking probation and sentence were issued to:
--Ruben Olivo, April 17; and,
--Fred Gonzales Fuentes, April 18.

Orders agreeing modifying probation were issued to:
--Daniel Berumen, April 17; and,
--Modesto Ellis, April 18.

Order agreeing modifying deferred adjudication probation was issued to:
--Remedios Gomez Rivera, April 24.

Order of judgment after deferred adjudication was issued to:
--Adam Cortez, April 18.

Order on motion to dismiss motion to revoke probation was issued to:
--Jose Ramirez Rodriguez, April 22.

Orders of judgment on plea of guilty before court waiver of jury trial, state jail felony, were issued to:
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--Jose Ramirez Rodriguez, April 22.

hbnews@wrt.net

Ringo, All-Starr Band to hit road

NEW YORK — Ringo Starr can't wait for the upcoming tour of his All-Starr Band, but he's not looking forward to the rehearsals.

"I love the show but rehearsal for me is always the worst," the former Beatle said Monday.

"We have to get to know each other. We have to rehearse long hours. It takes that in my case, so you're really comfortable when we're

doing the show. I don't think people should pay money to come watch us rehearse."

The tour of 29 cities runs from May 12 to July 1. It will include bassist Jack Bruce from Cream, singer Eric Carmen from the Raspberries, guitarist Dave Edmunds, drummer Simon Kirke and saxophonist Mark Rivera.

Starr, who is 59, is among several 50-plus rockers hitting the road this summer for a

tour. "We're blessed we're still alive. Blessed people would like to come and see us," he said.

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Television

WEDNESDAY

MAY 3

Television schedule grid for Wednesday, May 3, listing programs from 6 PM to 11 PM across various channels.

THURSDAY

MAY 4

Television schedule grid for Thursday, May 4, listing programs from 7 AM to 12 PM across various channels.

Television schedule grid for Thursday, May 4, listing programs from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM across various channels.

Television schedule grid for Thursday, May 4, listing programs from 6 PM to 11 PM across various channels.

Comics

Marvin

By Tom Armstrong



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



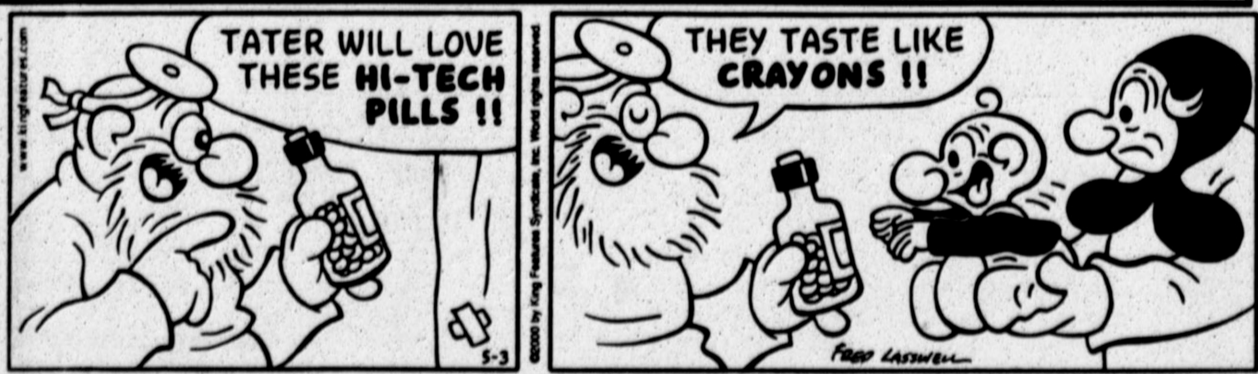
Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Barney Google & Snuffy Smith

By Fred Lasswell



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Watchdogs: Low emissions fees mean state's pollution worsens

HOUSTON (AP) — Environmental regulators who allow the largest polluters to pay relatively low emissions fees are letting Texas get dirtier while other states clean up their skies and water faster, watchdog groups say.

State legislators should re-examine the dozens of fees that provide most of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's \$390 million annual budget, according to a new report by the Texas Center for Policy Studies, an Austin advocacy group.

The report says the TNRCC, which is up for Sunset Act review, should make companies pay for the full amount of pollution they are emitting and provide incentives to lessen emissions.

"In the same way we've increased taxes on cigarettes to pay for the health problems associated with smoking, as well as for an incentive to

smokers to lessen consumption, we should place taxes and fees on industries to pay for environmental damage as well as to provide an incentive to reduce pollutants,"

Cyrus Reed, a project director for the center, told the *Texas Journal of The Wall Street Journal*.

Environmentalists want to eliminate what they call a volume discount on pollution fees charged by the agency euphemistically referred to as "Train Wreck" — from its acronym — which was created by combining other state agencies.

For emissions from plants using coal and other sources of power, polluters are now charged \$26 a ton per pollutant, with TNRCC capping the

fee at 4,000 tons.

The 12 plants with the most emissions in 1997 paid a total of \$3.3 million in fees, according to the report, compared with \$21.8 million if no cap existed. The net effect, it is argued, is a subsidy for heavily polluting industries.

The report said one of the biggest polluters, TXU Co.'s Martin Lake plant south of Longview, paid \$285,584 in fees in 1997. But without the cap, the utility would have paid \$3.6 million.

Environmentalists also argue that the Legislature should allow TNRCC to tax companies in a state that leads the nation in release of toxic chemicals and where 39% of

its surface-water bodies don't meet state or federal standards.

"The more you pollute, the more you ought to pay," Tom Smith, director of Public Citizen's Austin office, said. "Clearly, the system we have now isn't working."

But Bob Huston, the TNRCC chairman, said instituting a progressive tax on emissions "isn't the issue" that should be discussed in the sunset review process. Huston wants the agency to be able to freely shift fee revenue from program to program, which he says would improve its ability to monitor polluters.

In fiscal 1999, the agency says, it inspected only 41 percent of Texas' 3,083 industrial and residential wastewater treatment plants. During the same period, the agency examined only 76 percent of public water-supply systems.

"The more you pollute, the more you ought to pay. Clearly, the system we have now isn't working."

TOM SMITH,
Public Citizen



Getting ready to pour — Construction workers prepare the roadbed in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue for pouring of concrete. Asphalt has been sprayed and workers smooth the sides of the roadway in preparation for the pouring of concrete.

Libyans go on trial for 1988 bombing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

CAMP ZEIST, Netherlands — The trial of two alleged Libyan intelligence agents accused of blowing Pan Am Flight 103 out of the sky over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 opened today before three Scottish judges at a special court on this former U.S. air base.

A Scottish High Court judge, Lord Randal Sutherland, opened the proceedings against defendants Abdel Baset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, who surrendered for trial last year following nearly a decade of sanctions against Libya.

If convicted of murder or endangering the safety of a commercial aircraft, al-Megrahi and Fhimah face a mandatory life sentence in a Scottish prison.

Members of the court rose as the judges, wearing white wigs and dressed in flowing ivory robes with embroidered red crosses, were led into the chamber by a sentry bearing a silver mace, the ceremonial staff symbolizing authority in Scottish courts.

The three judges and one reserve judge took their seats on the bench underneath a Scottish royal crest bearing the Latin words: "Nemo me impune lacessit," which literally means "None dare meddle with me."

"It is time for justice. We want to hold the government responsible, not these guys," said Bruce Smith, an American whose British wife, Ingrid, was killed in the crash. "I am convinced that they have a good case against the Libyan government. This should be the start, not the end."

Protesters wait to be expelled from island

VIEQUES, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rican protesters waited for U.S. federal authorities to expel them from the U.S. Navy's prized training ground — even as several U.S. lawmakers and a religious leader promised to come show their support.

Some 50 protesters on several campsites in the bomb-littered range and dozens more in front of its main gate say authorities will have to arrest them to clear the range, which has been idle since stray bombs killed a civilian guard in April 1999. A few have threatened to scatter into the bomb-strewn bush, endangering themselves and any pursuers.

Pentagon officials say a raid would be carried out in an FBI-led operation, and tensions have mounted since three U.S. warships arrived off Vieques Sunday, reportedly carrying 1,000 Marines to help secure the base perimeter once

the area is cleared. Helicopters have been flying over the area, but authorities have given no hint of when an operation will begin.

At a briefing Tuesday, the Pentagon spokesman, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, refused to answer questions about a planned operation but vigorously defended the Navy's position that the inhabited island alone offers the Atlantic Fleet "the opportunity to combine both the amphibious training, the naval gunfire training and the air-to-ground ordnance training."

"Today there's only one Vieques," Quigley said.

That argument has failed to win over the Vieques activists, who enjoy broad support in Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory of 4 million Spanish speakers where local feelings run strong.

The U.S. National Council of Churches, the Geneva-based World Council of Churches and the Pastors for Peace human rights group in Chicago — which sent several bishops and pastors to the bombing range this weekend — appealed Tuesday to President Clinton to reconsider any planned arrests.

FDA sets new steps for biotech food regulation

WASHINGTON — The food industry is applauding a plan by the Clinton administration to provide more oversight of gene-altered crops and to set standards for labeling foods that claim to be free of biotech ingredients.

But the plan being announced today falls far short of what consumer advocates have wanted, which is mandatory labeling for all products containing genetically engineered products. Administration officials say that is unnecessary, and the food industry has argued that it would unfairly stigmatize biotech food.

The plan would require biotech companies to notify the Food and Drug Administration in advance of releasing new genetically engineered crops and provide the agency with their research data, according to industry officials who were notified of the plan Tuesday.

The FDA also intends to set standards for labeling biotech-free food, an idea the food industry proposed last year.

In addition, the plan calls for the Agriculture Department to begin validating new scientific tests designed to detect the presence of biotech ingredients in food, *The Washington Post* reported in today's editions. The tests would ensure that food labeled biotech-free meets uniform standards.

James Maryanski, FDA's biotechnology coordinator, declined to comment on the agency's plan Tuesday.

"We think this is a good step to make sure that this process is open and transparent," said Brian Sansoni, a spokesman for the Grocery Manufacturers of America.

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