

# Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 176 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, March 9, 2000

10 Pages 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD  
HOME OF  
Juan & Sylvia Hernandez

## TOP SPELLERS

# UIL NO.1

### HHS has lead in Lone Star Cup rankings

Hereford High School remains in the news — even after the boys' basketball team saw its season end in the regional semifinals — by being named the top-scoring Class 4A school in Texas Dodge Dealers Lone Star Cup.

The University Interscholastic League and the Texas Dodge Dealers join forces each year to honor academic and athletic teams for their performances in state UIL competitions.

The program recognizes one high school in each of the five UIL classifications with each sport or event earning a designated number of points.

As of Jan. 25, Hereford teams had received 30 points, but this number is expected to change with the new posting on March 12 and again on May 21 and June 11 when points for all spring events are tallied.

Team events eligible for the Dodge Dealers Lone Star Cup include girls and boys, baseball, basketball, football, softball, volleyball and soccer at 4A and 5A schools.

Individual sports include boys and girls cross country, golf, track and field, swimming 4A and 5A, and wrestling and co-ed team tennis.

Non-athletic events include marching band, one-act play and the state academic team.

Points are based on team success at the district and state level in the UIL activities.

Team sports earn four points for each regular season district championship and playoff berth and two points for a playoff berth only. During playoffs, the team earns two more points for each victory or advancement.

The winning school in each class division will earn a plaque to be displayed in the school. Along with the plaque, the winning school will receive scholarship funds for a participating student. The student winning the scholarship will be chosen by the teachers, coaches and sponsors of participating events.

### Today's weather OUTLOOK

#### Partly cloudy skies

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low 30 to 35, southwest to west wind 10 to 20 mph, becoming northwest.

Friday: Partly sunny with a high in the mid-50s, northwest to north wind 10 to 20 mph.

Friday night: Partly cloudy with a low around 30.

#### Extended forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high 60 to 65.

Sunday and Monday: Partly cloudy, lows in the lower to mid-30s, highs in the upper 60s to around 70.

#### Hereford weather

Wednesday's high, 70; low, 30; no precipitation; peak wind gust, 40 mph from west, according to KPAN Radio.

### 4th grader was 'preconditioned' for a spelling win

By Becky Thorn

Hereford Brand Lifestyles Editor

Bluebonnet Intermediate fourth grader John Warren correctly spelled "preconditioned" in the 14th round of the Deaf Smith County Junior Spelling Bee to be declared the Junior Champion during competition Wednesday at the Deaf Smith County Library.

The competition then continued for 11 more rounds before Nazarene Christian School fifth grader Matthew Harris claimed the runner-up title by correctly spelling "mentality."

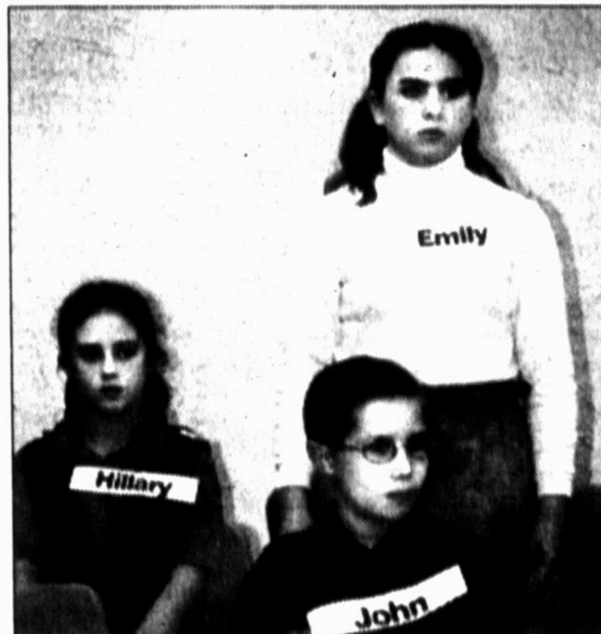
As junior champion, Warren will return to compete in the Senior Spelling Bee, which was scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. today in the county library.

The winner of that contest will be declared the county champion and will be qualified to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee, which will be conducted April 15 on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

Warren, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Warren of Dawn, was awarded a \$50 savings bond from FirstBank Southwest of Hereford as junior champion.

Harris collected a \$25 share account from Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union as runner-up. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Harris.

Other spellers were Joshua Davis, Vanessa Saucedo and Johnny Benavidez, from Bluebonnet Intermediate; Emily Luther, Jeff Lawlis, Oletta Jackson and Kayla Stevens, from West Central Intermediate; Chris Montoya, Klarissa Torres, Marcos Castro and Nadiya

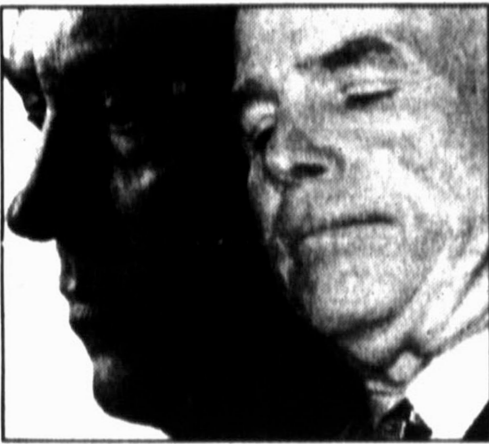


John Warren, a fourth-grade student at Bluebonnet Intermediate (above, left), was the champion in the Deaf Smith County Junior Spelling Bee competition, while Matthew Harris, a fifth-grade student at Nazarene Christian School, was the runner-up. Spellers Hillary Edwards of Community Christian School (left, seated), Emily Luther of West Central Intermediate and Warren watch the competition.

BRAND/Mauri Montgomery  
Dominguez, from Shirley Intermediate; Hillary Edwards from Community Christian; and Abby Metcalf from St. Anthony's.

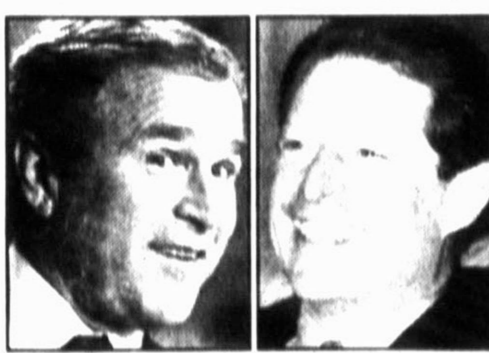
## Inside Today

### POLITICS



Bill Bradley will abandon his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination, will endorse Al Gore; aides to John McCain say he will suspend his campaign for the Republican nomination, but he won't endorse his rival, George W. Bush. — Page A9

### ROAD AHEAD



One third of Americans see Bush as too conservative and about a third see Gore, the Democratic vice president, as too liberal, most national polls say. Both aligned themselves with core constituencies for the primaries and now must shift back to the middle in preparation for the general campaign. — Page A9

## Early voting to close

Early voting for the March 14 primary will end at 5 p.m. Friday, with the number of ballots cast running about average, according to Deaf Smith County Clerk David Ruland.

The Republican primary election is drawing the most interest with 472 casting early ballots through Wednesday, Ruland said. Only 186 voters have cast in-person early ballots in the Democratic primary.

Part of the problem for Democrats is the lack of candidates in many of the statewide races. At the local level, Democrats have only one contested race, Precinct 1 county commissioner, while the Republicans have contested races for both county commissioner races on the ballot as well as for sheriff.

Also, interest generated by Gov. George W. Bush's bid for the GOP presidential nomination has drawn some Democrats across party lines.

The polls will be open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. March 14.

#### DEAF SMITH COUNTY

##### Commissioner, Precinct 1

Democrats: Armando Gonzalez; Joe Henry, Margaret Del Toro.

Republicans: (i) Wayne Betzen; Alfred Ortiz.

##### Commissioner, Precinct 3

Democrats: none

Republicans: Mike Brumley; (i) Troy Don Moore.

#### Sheriff

Democrats: (i) Joe Brown.

Republicans: Brent Harrison; Fidel Reyna.

#### Tax Assessor/Collector

Democrats: Teresa Garth.

Republicans: Jeannine Zimmerman.

#### Constable

Democrats: none

Republicans: (i) Bryan Hedrick.

#### Congress 19th District

Democrats: none

Republicans: (i) Larry Combest.

#### Texas Legislature House District 86

Democrats: none

Republicans: (i) John Smithee.

#### STATE

##### President

Democrats: Bill Bradley, Al Gore, Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr.

Republicans: Gary Bauer, George W. Bush, Steve Forbes, Orrin G. Hatch, Alan Keyes, John McCain, Charles Bass Urban.

##### U.S. Senate

Democrats: H. Gerald Bintliff, Don Clark, Charles Gandy, Gene Kelly, Bobby Wrightman-Cervantes

Republicans: (i) Kay Bailey Hutchison.

#### Railroad Commission Full term

Democrats: None

Republicans: (i) Charles Matthews.

#### Unexpired term

Democrats: None.

Republicans: Andy Draughn, (i) Michael Williams.

#### Texas Supreme Court Place 1

Democrats: None.

Republicans: Valorie W. Davenport, (i) Nathan Hecht.

#### Place 2

Democrats: None.

Republicans: (i) Priscilla Owen.

#### Place 3

Democrats: None.

Republicans: (i) Al Gonzales, Rod E. Gorman.

#### Court of Criminal Appeals Presiding Judge

Democrats: Bill Vance.

Republicans: Sharon Keller, Connie Kelley, Tom Price, J. Gary Trichter.

#### Place 1

Democrats: None.

Republicans: John Boston, Alan Curry, Tom Greenwell, Charles Holcomb, Guy Williams.

#### Place 2

Please see VOTE, Page A10

## Lawmakers eye gasoline prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Some lawmakers are proposing that a 1993 gas tax of 4.3 cents a gallon be lifted temporarily to ease the burden of motorists having to cope with soaring gasoline prices this summer.

House and Senate tax writing committees were cool to the idea, but a number of Republican senators said the proposal might gain momentum if prices at the pump, now at more than \$1.50 a gallon in many places, continue to climb.

"We've got to take down the price of gas this summer," said Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, suggesting one way to help do that was suspending the 1993 excise tax.

And the tax could become an issue in the presidential campaign.

Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., said Wednesday that the tax was imposed in 1993 when the Democrats held a majority with solid GOP opposition, and he made a point to say that Vice President Al Gore cast the tie-breaking vote.

"That was (the administration's) energy policy," Nickles said. But some Republican lawmakers also questioned whether tampering with the federal gas excise tax might be an overreaction, especially if it gets reimposed once gas prices decline.

"I am for tax reduction whenever you can put them on the books. I'm a little concerned when we say we're going to do it, then we're going to take it back," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the House Ways

and Means Committee, which considers tax legislation.

And Archer questioned how much good a 4.3 cent difference would make when gasoline — as some predict — hits \$2 a gallon during the peak driving period this summer.

Sen. William Roth, R-Del., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, has not made a decision and will discuss the proposal with other lawmakers in the coming days, an aide to the senator said Wednesday.

While it might be politically attractive, such a tax cut, even if temporary, also would take billions of dollars away from the federal trust fund for highway construction, something that does not set

well with lawmakers planning the transportation budget, nor the powerful highway lobby.

Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, another senator favoring the idea, said lost revenue could be made up later when gas prices go down.

Meanwhile, Murkowski on Wednesday used the brouhaha over high oil and gasoline prices to once again push legislation that would open up an environmentally sensitive Alaskan wildlife refuge to oil drilling.

He long has argued that drilling could be conducted on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in northern Alaska without harming wildlife or the area's ecology.

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HEREFORD BRAND

Local roundup

**KidFish set this month**

Youthful anglers will get a chance to show off their skills, or learn about fishing, at the spring KidFish, set for 10 a.m.-1 p.m. March 25 at the Hereford Aquatic Center pond. The Texas Department of Parks & Wildlife will stock the pond with rainbow trout. Anyone who wants to volunteer to help with KidFish should contact the city manager's office at City Hall, 363-7100.

**Memorial fund established**

A memorial fund for Joseph Rodriguez Celaya has been established at the FirstBank Southwest to help with funeral expenses. Celaya was the 11-month-old victim of the carbon monoxide poisoning accident on Feb. 28.

**Benefit fund at HSB**

Friends and family of Vincent Celaya have established a benefit fund at Hereford State Bank to help with living and medical expenses incurred after a carbon monoxide poisoning accident sent he and his family to the hospital.

**HISD hosts parenting seminar**

The Parent Educators from Hereford campuses will host an "Effective Home and School Communication" seminar in two sessions, for all families. Sessions are 6:30-8 p.m. March 14 and March 21 at the HISD Administration Building, 601 N. 25 Mile Ave. Sessions will be presented in both English and Spanish. Session 1 is "Why won't my children listen to me" and Session 2 is "Parenting Styles". Food, door prizes and childcare will be provided. All parents are invited.

**PLN hosts Irish concert**

The Promised Land Network will host an Irish and Celtic Music Concert March 19 at the historic Home Mercantile in Nazareth. The concert will feature the String Technicians. Advanced tickets for the concert may be purchased for \$8 by calling the PLN office at 364-4445.

**Girls Scouts sponsor contest**

Girl Scout Troop 203 will hold a Celebrity Cookie Stacking Contest at 3 p.m., Saturday at the Moovies 6 theatre. A free movieticket will be given to anyone who purchases two boxes of cookies. Proceeds from the sale go to the local Brownie Troop 203 and the Girl Scout Council.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

**Department merges INS, FBI files**

WASHINGTON (AP) — It will take five years and cost well over \$200 million to merge the fingerprint files of the FBI and Immigration and Naturalization Service in a bid to avert a repeat of the INS' release last year of a suspected "railroad killer," the Justice Department says. Congress ordered the department to devise such a plan when it enacted this year's budget. It was reacting to the case of a Mexican drifter, Angel Maturino Resendiz, who used the alias Rafael Resendez-Ramirez. Last June 2, he was picked up by Border Patrol agents for illegal entry into the United States and sent back to Mexico. Agents said they were unaware he was wanted by Houston police and the FBI for questioning in connection with several murders along rail lines. The department said Wednesday that it plans to put the INS fingerprints on the FBI's computerized system and upgrade it so that Border Patrol agents can check the records of the 1.5 million illegal aliens they seize each year in two minutes or less.

**Condemned killer wants forgiveness**

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — One of two former grocery workers convicted of capital murder in a woman's torture and slaying begged for forgiveness from the victim's family and claimed he's become a Christian, according to a published report today. Michael Wayne Hall, who once joked and bragged about torturing and shooting a mentally challenged Arlington woman during a videotaped interview, told the Arlington Morning News in a copyright story he's since had a jailhouse conversation. "People look at me like I'm a monster or something. I am not this bad person you think I am," Hall told the newspaper in his first interview since his capital murder conviction last month. "I'm free inside." Hall, now held at the Terrell Unit Correctional Facility in Livingston, maintained during a two-hour interview Wednesday that his role in 19-year-old Amy Robinson's slaying was minimal, but regrets his videotaped confession to reporters. He was convicted in February and sentenced to lethal injection.

**Elsewhere:**

**CRIMINAL COURT:** The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday reversed the death sentence for a young Navarro County man because the jury was told to ignore some evidence in the case. The court upheld the murder conviction of David D. Ovalle, but ruled that the judge at his trial wrongly instructed his jury not to consider evidence presented in the punishment phase. A jury convicted Ovalle of capital murder in April 1998.

**HerefordBrand**

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**Proclamation signing** - Mayor Bob Josserand signs a proclamation declaring March National Red Cross Month in Hereford urging citizens served by the local Tri-County Chapter to continue to show support for their chapter and to become active participants in advancing the mission of the Red Cross. Observing the signing are, from left, board members Sally Walker and Freddie Valdez, and Tri-County executive director Deanna Edwards.

**Air Force postpones training missions**

**Commercial air traffic considered major reason**

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — The Air Force has postponed a decision on whether it will conduct low-level bomber training in West Texas while it meets with Lubbock city and airport officials worried about the impact such missions could have on commercial air traffic. Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, was to meet with Air Force, city and airport officials today to discuss the matter.

"We've been put on hold," Lt. Col. Dale Garrett, an Air Force spokesman in Virginia, told the Abilene Reporter-News. The Air Force has proposed connecting existing military airspace pockets in West Texas and northern New Mexico to create a larger area for training runs by crews of B-1 and B-52 bombers. The planned training site, called the Lancer, is located southeast of Lubbock and covers parts of eight West Texas counties, including Scurry, Kent, Fisher, Stonewall, Garza, Borden, Dawson and Lynn.

Bombers currently conduct low-altitude training in South Dakota, Utah and Nevada. But Air Force officials want the missions closer to Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, where B-1s are based, and Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana, home of B-52s. Low-level training flights help pilots learn to avoid radar-guided and heat-seeking air defense systems, military officials said, with some runs below 5,000 feet. Air Force officials said nothing would be

**Life-threatening infections increase with smoking**

Smokers are four times more likely than nonsmokers to get life-threatening blood infections or meningitis from a bug that usually causes pneumonia, researchers reported today. "We're used to thinking of smoking as causing terrible results long in the future. But smokers in this study had a much higher risk of this immediate infection," said Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. And the more cigarettes a person smokes, the higher the risk of an infection. The researchers aren't sure why this is so, but noted, among other things, that cigarette wnoke makes it harder for the lungs to expel foreign material. The CDC and researchers in Atlanta, Baltimore and Toronto looked at 228 patients with invasive pneumococcal disease — Streptococcus pneumoniae infections — and at 301 people without the disease.

HEREFORD BRAND **Obituaries**

**ZULEMA CASTILLO**  
March 7, 2000

Services for Zulema Castillo, 68, of Hereford will be 2 p.m. Friday at St. Anthony's Catholic Church with Msgr. Orville Blum and Rev. Rosendo Herrera of St. Laurence Cathedral in Amarillo officiating. Prayer vigil will be 8 p.m. today at Rix Chapel. Burial will be in West Park Cemetery under the direction of Rix Funeral Directors. Mrs. Castillo died Tuesday at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo. Mrs. Castillo was born May 18, 1931, in Asherton to Segundo and Cleminicia Bosquez. She married Matias Castillo in 1949 in Carrizo Springs. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church. Survivors include two sons, Lupe Castillo and Danny Castillo, both of Hereford; three daughters, Dalia Hernandez and Selma Castillo, both of Hereford and Belinda DeLeon of Houston; one brother, Segundo Bosquez of Hereford; four sisters, Elva Marry of Hereford, Olga Bolado of Houston, Ofelia Maldonado of Fort Collins, Colo., and Josefina Robles of Lamar, Colo.; 15 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband. The family suggests memorials be made to the Hereford Senior Citizens. *Hereford Brand, March 9, 2000*

**GEORGE FRANK MARTINEZ**  
March 8, 2000

Services for George Frank Martinez, 50, of Hereford will be 10 a.m. Friday at Rix Chapel with Deacon Jesse Guerrero, La Iglesia de San Jose officiating. Burial will be at St. Anthony's Catholic Cemetery. Mr. Martinez died Wednesday. He was born July 4, 1949, in Hereford to Jorge Martinez and Maria Amaro. He attended

Hereford schools. Mr. Martinez was a cement finisher and a member of La Iglesia de San Jose. Survivors include one daughter, Mary Ann Martinez of San Diego, Calif.; six brothers, Hilario Garcia, Telesfor Garcia, Johnny Amaro, Peter Amaro all of Hereford, Joe Garcia of Amarillo, Herminio Garcia of Roswell, N.M.; four sisters, Daisy Garcia, Anita Amaro, both of Hereford, Adelina Lucero of Villa Nueva, N.M. and Celia Flores; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, and two brothers. *Hereford Brand, March 9, 2000*

**RUBY IRENE BRANNON**  
March 8, 2000

Services for Ruby Irene Branon, 84, of Hereford will be 2 p.m. Friday in the Rose Chapel of Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home with Rev. Woody Wiggins, pastor of Country Road Church of God officiating. Burial will be in Rest Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery under the direction of Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home. Mrs. Brannon died Wednesday at Westgate Nursing Home in Hereford. She was born July 11, 1915, in Bushyhead, Okla., to H.E. Redfern and Florence Willingham. She married Lee Roy Brannon on May 16, 1931 in Bartlesville, Okla. She came to Deaf Smith County in 1953 from Las Cruces, N.M. Survivors include two sons, Johnnie Brannon of Hereford, Jerry Brannon of Las Vegas, Nev.; three daughters, Alice Ash, Jean Powell, and Donna Fortenberry, all of Hereford; 24 grandchildren; 45 great-grandchildren; and six great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by one daughter in 1996, twin sons in 1942, one grandchild and 2 great-grandchildren. The family suggests memorials be made to Kings Manor/Westgate Nursing Home. *Hereford Brand, March 9, 2000*

**Officials explore Texas academic research funds**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Concerned that Texas' public universities aren't getting enough federal research money, Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on Wednesday convened a summit of academics and elected officials to explore the issue. Despite its rank as the nation's second most populous state, Texas ranks sixth among all states in share of federal research and development funding, the Texas Republican said at a Capitol Hill news conference. "When it comes to federal research funding in Texas, our state just isn't in the winner's circle often enough," she said. "That's not acceptable given the world-class research that Texas universities and colleges have been doing for years." The chancellors of the Uni-

versity of Texas and Texas A&M systems, and Texas Tech attended the event, as did the A&M and University of Texas at Austin presidents and the dean of the University of Houston. So did more than a dozen House members and Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas. In 1998, Texas institutions of higher learning received \$846,000 in science and engineering research money — lagging well behind top recipient California's \$2.3 billion and behind New York, Maryland, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania. To boost Texas' share, the participants suggested working more closely with the congressional delegation, honing each system's unique research abilities and avoiding duplication within Texas programs.

HEREFORD BRAND **Emergency services**

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for March 8, 2000, include the following: **POLICE DEPARTMENT** **Arrests** - A 13-year-old juvenile was arrested in the 700 block of La Plata and charged with assault by threat. - A man was arrested in the 600 block of Irving and charged with criminal trespass. - A woman was arrested in the 600 block of Irving and charged with outstanding municipal warrants. **Incidents** - A forgery was reported in the 100 block of West Park Avenue. Charges have been filed. - Lost property was reported in the 100 block of North Schley. - Theft, more than \$50, less than \$500 was reported in the 500 block of Avenue G. - A dog which was reported missing in May of 1999 was located in the 200 block of Irving. - A 911 hang-up call was

made from the 100 block of East First. - A field fire was reported in the 1200 block of East 16<sup>th</sup>. - A fight was reported in the 700 block of 15<sup>th</sup>. **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT** **Incidents** - A criminal mischief was reported. **FIRE DEPARTMENT** - 7:09 p.m. Firefighters responded to a grassfire at 16<sup>th</sup> and Avenue J. Officials believe the fire was started by kids smoking.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS **Texas lottery**

**Lotto Texas** No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game. The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were: **1-13-17-28-29-44.** Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$13 million.

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# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, March 9, 2000 • A3

## Screenings available at local health care clinic

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a breast cancer screening at South Plains Health Care Providers, Inc., 603 East Park, on April 7.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered nurse.

A minimum of 15 women needs to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns. All exams are done by appointment only.

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

Call 806-356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.



St. Anthony's School principal Nancy Neusch, left, and PTO president Diana Griffin display a print titled "The Guiding Hand" which has been donated to the St. Anthony's School Auction by Terry's Floral and Design. The annual fund-raiser will be held Sunday at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Country Club Road beginning with a donation hamburger lunch at noon. The event is open to the public.

## Williams will give FUMC presentation about Alzheimer's

Kakie Williams, with the Alzheimer's Disease Education Program, will give a presentation on Alzheimer's disease at 6 p.m. on March 12 in Ward Parlor at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Main St.

The presentation is open to the public and families and friends are invited to attend as nearly every household has experienced a loved one with the disease.

More than 4 million Americans, including more than 50,000 people in West Texas, suffer from Alzheimer's disease. This progressive and irreversible disorder of the brain causes symptoms that eventually lead to the patient being totally dependent upon a caregiver.

Alzheimer's disease costs the United States more than \$100 billion each year. Yet this cost is overshadowed by the emo-

tional toll wreaked upon families.

The Alzheimer's Disease Education Program provides dementia-related education and support to caregivers and family members of people living with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders.

Through presentations to groups and one-to-one contacts with patients and families, the program provides information about the disease process, the diagnostic process and caregiving strategies. These programs are designed to raise awareness of the special needs of families living with dementing illnesses.

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CREATORS SYNDICATE

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** "Heartbroken in Mississippi," who spoke of losing his wife of 37 years to a heart attack, touched me deeply. Her only symptoms were backaches, shoulder pain and a burning in her chest. My sister died of a heart attack. Her only symptoms were indigestion and heartburn. She went to bed one night, and never woke up. But what prompted me to write is another tragedy people might learn from.

My daughter took her 17-year-old son, "Wayne," to the emergency room a year ago. He was having chest pains. The doctors ran a few tests, and determined the pain was due to stress. (Wayne had had an argument with his girlfriend.) After telling his mother he was OK, the doctors sent him home. He died in his sleep that night. An autopsy determined the cause of death was pericardial tamponade, a condition involving compression of the heart caused by blood or fluid accumulation in

the sac around the heart.

Wayne was tall (6 feet 3 inches), thin and had long, slender fingers. I'm told these are some signs that may indicate a heart problem. I was also told such problems are often the cause of death for athletes who die suddenly. If the doctor had taken my grandson's chest pains seriously and kept him in the hospital overnight, he might be alive today. — A Heartbroken Grandma in Lakeland, Fla.

**Dear Grandma:** I'm so sorry you lost your dear grandson. What a heartbreaker. Hindsight is always a sure thing, but looking ahead is fraught with uncertainty. It is best to heed the wise words of Omar Khayyam: "The Moving Finger writes; and, having writ, Moves on; nor all your Piety nor Wit shall lure it back to cancel half a Line, Nor all your Tears wash out a Word of it." So, accept what you cannot change, and carry on. Here's more:

**Dear Ann Landers:** I am writing in response to "Heartbroken in Mississippi," regarding his wife's undiagnosed heart problem. I was cross-country skiing when I felt signs of unusual fatigue and

had some trouble getting my breath. I attributed this to a virus. Two days later, an astute friend (a retired physician) suggested I see my doctor, because I might have had a silent heart attack.

Sure enough, that's what had happened. I never had chest pain of any kind, and have since learned that women often don't. Their symptoms go unrecognized and untreated, and approximately 45 percent die within the following year. I might add that I am a vegetarian, exercise regularly, do not smoke or drink, and am not overweight. I had no idea a virus could cause heart problems. — M.H., Salisbury, Vt.

**Dear Ann:** Doctors often do not take women patients' complaints of chest pain seriously. It is usually diagnosed as heartburn, stress, or many other possible ailments. Eighteen months ago, I had the second of two heart attacks (the first one went undiagnosed). Thankfully, I decided to call the doctor to see if he could do anything else for the heartburn. I was already taking a prescription drug, plus an antacid. I drove to the doctor's office, and he immediately ran an EKG. I ended up

in an ambulance, and had open-heart surgery the next morning — three bypasses, with blockages of 100 percent, 90 percent and 60 percent.

I was 52 years old then, overweight and diabetic, but had no heart problems as far as I knew. I was not nauseous, had no arm or back pain, did not feel hot; and had none of the typical symptoms of a heart attack. I cannot overemphasize the importance of everyone (not just women) seeing a doctor immediately when experiencing shortness of breath or any kind of chest pain. — Evansville, Ind.

Now, Dear Readers, you've received some invaluable medical advice today — and no bill.

"A Collection of My Favorite Gems of the Day" is the perfect little gift for that special someone who is impossible to buy for. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Collection, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562 (in Canada, \$6.25).

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### Memories.

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### Women's Division of Chamber seeking to increase number of active members

The Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is currently holding its annual membership drive. Chairman of this year's drive is Donna Hathaway.

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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LIFESTYLES



**Thanks, guys** -- Plaques of appreciation were presented to Scott Hall, left, with Circle 3 Feedyard, and Jerry Curtis, right, with Beef Tech, by Oasis Shrine Club president Ray Reddinger for the beef that was donated for the club's annual fund-raiser drawing. Proceeds from the drawing are presented to the Khiva Temple to support the Crippled Children's Hospital in Houston.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Area Events

**CLAUDE**  
Cowboy balladeer Larry Buchanan will be featured in a show at the Armstrong County Museum's annual fund raiser barbecue banquet at 6 p.m. Friday in the Armstrong County Activity Center, S. Hwy. 207 in Claude.

Buchanan's show will recount the western and pioneer ways of life as he yodels an old Jimmy Rodgers tune, croons a sentimental cowboy ballad, sings one of his original compositions or swings out a spirited hoedown on his fiddle.

Admission charges for the banquet and show are \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

**MULESHOE**  
Margaret Therkluson will be the speaker for the Eastern New Mexico and West Texas Women's

Spiritual Growth Retreat on April 7-8 in the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe.

Therkluson is a speaker and teacher on prayer and the spiritual life from Lexington, Ky. She is the author of "Realizing the Presence of the Spirit" and "The Love Exchange."

For more information on the retreat, call 800-452-6818 or contact Rachel Clark at 806-295-6811.

**PANHANDLE**

An exhibit of large color photographs of Texas cowboys and ranch life is on display at the Square House Museum in Panhandle through April 2.

The 20 images are part of a larger exhibit of photographs, called "Texas Cowboys," produced by the American Quarter Horse Museum and Heritage

Center in Amarillo.

All the photographs were taken by internationally known photographer David Stoecklein and appear in a book of the same name.

Stoecklein photographed ranches all over Texas in 1997, documenting the daily life of the cowboy. The Square House has selected those ranches which are located in or near the Texas Panhandle, including the 6666, Harrell, JA, LX, Moorhouse, and Pitchfork Ranches.

The exhibit is showing in the Hazlewood Arts and Education Building, at the intersection of Hwy 207 and Fifth Street in Panhandle. Gallery hours are Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and from 1-5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free.

For more information, call the museum at 806-537-3524.

Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, March 9, the 69th day of 2000. There are 297 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:**

On March 9, 1862, during the Civil War, the ironclads Monitor and Virginia (formerly Merrimac) clashed for five hours to a draw at Hampton Roads, Va.

**On this date:**  
In 1796, the future emperor of France, Napoleon Bonaparte, married Josephine de Beauharnais. (The couple divorced in 1809.)

In 1916, Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, N.M., killing more than a dozen people.

In 1933, Congress, called into special session by President Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

In 1945, during World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers launched incendiary bomb attacks against Japan.

In 1954, CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow critically reviewed Wisconsin Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy's anti-Communism campaign on "See It Now."

In 1975, work began on the Alaskan oil pipeline.

In 1977, about a dozen armed Hanafi Muslims invaded three buildings in Washington D.C., killing one person and taking more than 130 hostages. The siege ended two days later.

In 1989, the Senate rejected President Bush's nomination of John Tower to be defense secretary by a vote of 53-47.

In 1996, comedian George Burns died in Beverly Hills, Calif., at age 100.

In 1997, gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G., whose real name was Christopher Wallace, was killed in a drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

**Ten years ago:** Dr. Antonia Novello was sworn in as surgeon general, the first woman and the first Hispanic to hold the job.

**Five years ago:** House Republicans unveiled their long-promised tax cut for families, businesses and investors. President Clinton eased travel restrictions on Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams and invited him to the White House for St. Patrick's Day. Los Angeles police detective Mark Fuhrman took the stand at the O.J. Simpson murder trial, denying ever meeting a woman who had accused him of making racist remarks.

**One year ago:** RJR Nabisco Holdings Corp., the food-and-tobacco conglomerate, announced it was getting out of the cigarette business.

**Today's Birthdays:** Author Mickey Spillane is 82. Singer Lloyd Price is 67. Ac-

trix Joyce Van Patten is 66. Actor-comedian Marty Ingels is 64. Country singer Mickey Gilley is 64. Singer Mark Lindsay (Paul Revere and the Raiders) is 58. TV personality Charles Gibson is 57. Chess player Bobby Fischer is 57. Actress Trish Van Devere is 55. Rock musician Robin Trower is 55. Singer Jeffrey Osborne is 52. Country musician Jimmie Fadden (The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) is 52. Magazine editor Michael Kinsley is 49. Actress Linda Fiorentino is 40. Actress Juliette Binoche is 36. Rock musician Robert Sledge (Ben Folds Five) is 32. Actor Emmanuel Lewis is 29. Actress Jean Louisa Kelly ("Mr. Holland's Opus") is 28. Actor Kerr Smith ("Dawson's Creek") is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "Your friend is the man who knows all about you, and still likes you." — Elbert Hubbard, American author (1856-1915).

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**Alfred Ortiz**  
Republican for Commissioner Pct 1

My wife Vickie, our three sons and I have made Deaf Smith Co. & Pct 1, our home for 35 yrs. I have worked in Pct 1 for 13 yrs. I believe I can address and alleviate most of the problems in Pct. 1. I will be a hands on commissioner, listening and talking to all voters in Deaf Smith Co. & Pct. 1. I feel we can all make a difference working together. I'm asking for the opportunity to be your Commissioner Pct. 1.

El. Pol. Ad-Vickie Ortiz, Treas. Rt. 3, Box 258, Hereford, TX 79045

Drivers needed

The Deaf Smith County chapter of the American Cancer Society is currently seeking drivers for its "Road to Recovery," which provides free transportation for local cancer patients. Volunteers will receive some training and can be reimbursed for their mileage. Information for cancer patients needing transportation or anyone interested in volunteering is available by calling 364-7200.

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# SPORTS

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## PEP TALK



Penny Summers will try to rally her team as they attempt to bounce back and improve their record to 9-5 with a win against Lubbock Cooper on Friday.

## Astros, Rangers win

John Smoltz's season-ending injury overshadowed some other big events at spring training: Charlie Manuel's return to Cleveland's dugout and wins for the New York Yankees and Los Angeles Dodgers.

The 56-year-old Manuel had been hospitalized following emergency colon surgery Feb. 28. He was released Sunday from Winter Haven Hospital and rejoined the Indians for Wednesday's 12-1 loss to Kansas City at Winter Haven, Fla. "It felt good to be back in the dugout, but when I saw 20 hits and all those runs ... I think they were testing me to see how strong I was," Manuel said. "It seemed like a long game."

Team doctors said Manuel, who got to the field in a golf cart but walked to the dugout from the clubhouse, is allowed

as much physical activity as he feels comfortable with. He will be required to undergo a follow-up surgical procedure sometime this summer.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Andy Pettitte pitched four scoreless innings, and Tino Martinez and Luke Wilcox hit three-run homers as the Yankees beat the Boston Red Sox 10-4 following an 0-6 start.

New York had been outscored 56-21 without holding a lead in its first six games. Last year, the Yankees were 14-19 in spring training, then went 98-64 and won the World Series for the third time in four seasons.

At Vero Beach, Fla., Todd Hundley hit a two-run homer and Orel Hershiser pitched three scoreless innings as the Dodgers beat the Detroit Tigers 12-5, also stopping a 0-6 skid.

"Anybody who knows anything about baseball knows these games don't mean anything," Eric Karros said. "Don't get me wrong, it's nice to win games, but there are a lot of other things we're more concerned about."

**Astros 5, Marlins (ss) 4**  
At Kissimmee, Marc Sagmoen hit a two-run homer, his second ninth-inning, game-winning hit this spring. He is 3-for-6 with two homers and team-leading five RBIs. Houston's Jose Lima, making his third appearance, allowed two unearned runs and three hits in three innings.

**Marlins (ss) 6, Mets (ss) 2**  
At Viera, Fla., Brad Penny, bidding for the fifth spot in Florida's rotation, pitched three scoreless innings and Derrick Lee doubled twice.

**Blue Jays 11, Braves 7**  
At Kissimmee, Chen pounded

for four runs — three earned — and four hits in three innings. Toronto broke a 5-all tie with five runs in the eighth inning, keyed by two-run doubles from Anthony Sanders and Brent Abernathy.

**Rangers 8, Twins 6**  
At Fort Myers, David Hulse hit a two-run single in a three-run 10th inning and Frank Catalanotto went 5-for-6 with a home run and three RBIs. Mike Lamb went 4-for-6 with two RBIs as Texas got 20 hits.

**Pirates 6, Reds 4**  
At Sarasota, Fla., Ken Griffey Jr. hit his second home run of the spring, connecting off Mike Garcia leading off the seventh inning.

**Padres 6, Cubs 2**  
At Mesa, Ariz., Damian Jackson had two hits and two RBIs, and Wiki Gonzalez had two hits and two runs scored for the Padres.

## Canyon triathlon date set

By Shawn Hughes

Guest Writer For The Brand

Canyon-The West Texas A&M University Sprint Triathlon is set for Sunday, April 15 at the Virgil Henson Activities Center on the WTAMU campus.

The Sprint Triathlon is sponsored by WTAMU Wellness Services. The triathlon will include a 400-meter swim, a 10-mile bike ride and a three-mile run.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. A mandatory race meeting begins at 9:30 a.m., and the triathlon begins at 10 a.m.

Participants can compete on teams or as individuals. The individual competition will be divided into 10 age groups. Three people enter the team competition, with one member involved in each event. Men and women can participate on the same team.

"Competitors usually come from around this area, but

hopefully by advertising on the Internet we will see people from all over," Shawn Hughes, coordinator of Wellness Services, said.

Entry fees before March 31 are \$25 for individuals and \$40 per team. WTAMU students pay \$15 per individual and \$25 per team.

For those who enter on or after March 31, the entry fee will be \$35 for individuals and \$50 per team. WTAMU students pay \$25 per individual and \$35 per team.

"The Spirit Triathlon is a great way for WTAMU to be recognized by a wide variety of people and also to raise scholarships," Hughes said.

Each participant will receive a free t-shirt and have a chance to win a variety of door prizes. Registration forms can be obtained at [www.racegate.com](http://www.racegate.com) or by calling Wellness Services at 806-651-2335.

## Hereford native wrestling champ

Former Hereford native Jeremiah Beltran recently won the state wrestling title for his class in Kansas.

Beltran completed his season undefeated at 27-0. Last year Beltran had compiled a 35-0 record going into the finals and was beaten in his final match.

"I think that was one of my problems last year, because I was going into the finals," said Beltran. "I was thinking 'I've got to get a pin, I've got to get a pin, I've got to win, I can't lose.' This year I didn't think that way; it was just another match."

After last year's loss, Beltran decided to concentrate hard at bringing home a title. He wanted to make his last stop at state a memorable one.

"There's not a bitter taste in my mouth like there was last time," said Beltran.

Beltran helped lead the Olathe South Falcons to the 6A state-championship. Beltran

and his teammate Justin Dyer became the first Falcons to win state titles since 1994.



Jeremiah Beltran

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# Smoltz out for season

KISSIMMEE, Fla. (AP) — John Smoltz will miss the season because of a torn ligament in his right elbow, a jolt that shakes up the Braves' Big Three rotation and jeopardizes Atlanta's chances for a return trip to the World Series.

"It was pretty obvious," Smoltz said Wednesday, three days after lasting only 1 2-3 innings in his lone exhibition outing. "The last few days have been the worst for me."

It was another startling spring setback for the NL champions, who last year lost slugger Andres Galarraga to a cancer operation and closer Kerry Ligtenberg to an elbow injury before opening day.

And this blow came just when things seemed to be settling down in camp after the arrival of John Rocker. The Braves had begun thinking about going to their ninth straight NLCS, and beyond, behind Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux.

"We felt we had all the pieces falling nicely into place," general manager John Schuerholz said.

Now, the Braves must figure

out how to fill the spot the 32-year-old former Cy Young winner has held since 1988 and hold off the New York Mets in the NL East.

Bruce Chen and Terry Mulholland had been competing for the No. 5 job in the rotation, and this might give both of them the chance to start. Steve Avery also is back on the team, hoping his shoulder heals.

"We think we have the arms in this camp to do it," Schuerholz said. "I think we have enough to win. But if an opportunity presents itself in terms of a trade, we'll listen."

Added manager Bobby Cox after an 11-7 loss to Toronto: "Our guys already have it figured out. The other pitchers, they know what they have to do."

Smoltz, on the disabled list twice in 1998 and twice again in 1999 because of elbow trouble, will have surgery March 23 by Dr. James Andrews in Birmingham, Ala.

The diagnosis of a torn medial collateral ligament came Tuesday night after an MRI

exam.

"I've been through so much that in a weird way, this was a relief. I need to get the surgery in order to be able to pitch another good, solid, three to four years," Smoltz said.

"I still enjoy pitching," he said. "If I didn't, this would be a retirement speech. And it definitely is not."

Smoltz was 11-8 with a 3.19 ERA in 29 starts last season. He is 157-113 in his career and has been the Braves' most effective postseason pitcher, going 12-3.

One of those October defeats came last season, when the New York Yankees beat him to finish a World Series sweep. Smoltz helped Atlanta win its only Series championship in 1995, then won the 1996 Cy Young by going 24-8.

"There's nothing that's going to replace having No. 29 on the mound in a big game," said third baseman Chipper Jones, the NL MVP.

Smoltz felt in his right elbow Sunday when he allowed

three runs and five hits in 1 2-3 innings Sunday against Tampa Bay. He threw about 20 knuckleballs, hoping to reduce the stress on his arm.

Prior to the 1998 season, Smoltz had arthroscopic elbow surgery to remove bone chips. He also had arthroscopic elbow surgery in September 1994 to remove a bone spur and chips, and was only 6-10 with a 4.14 ERA in 21 starts.

"He's pitched in a lot of pain for the last couple of years," Maddux said. "When your arm hurts more than it should, it's no fun. You hate your job."

Added Glavine: "Hopefully, it will be just for this year."

Combined, the Big Three has won seven Cy Young Awards: Smoltz (1996), Glavine (1991 and 1998) and Maddux (1992-95). Kevin Millwood joined the rotation last year on a full-time basis and won 18 games.

The Braves went 103-59 last season and won their eighth straight division title despite missing Galarraga and

Ligtenberg for the year. Also, All-Star catcher Javy Lopez was sidelined for several months.

"It's going to hurt us, but this club is used to dealing with adversity and injuries," Jones said.

Smoltz will get his salary of \$8.5 million this season, with insurance covering almost all of it for the Braves. The team has an option on him for \$8 million in 2001.

Ligtenberg, whose comeback is progressing nicely, talked with Smoltz about his recovery.

"I told him it's going to be a tough rehabilitation," the reliever said. "There are going to be days when you don't want to do it."

But Smoltz and his teammates were sure they'd be OK.

"I think last year has given us a sense that we know we can do it without our big guns," Millwood said. "I think that gives us a little confidence. Maybe there's a sense that we did it once, we can do it again."

## Coaches sponsor event

The Harlem Ambassadors will be performing in Canyon on March 28 at 7 p.m.

The Ambassadors will take on the Oxygen Busters at Canyon High School.

The event is sponsored by the Canyon area school coaches and Amarillo Bankers.

Ticket prices are \$6 for students and seniors and \$10 dollars for adults. All seats at the door will be \$10.

For more information or to buy tickets go by All States Truck Accounting, Inc. and ask for Pat.

Your Hereford Brand sports editor can be contacted at [hbnews@hotmail.com](mailto:hbnews@hotmail.com)

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# Rodman released

■ Mavs forward loses favor with another NBA team

DALLAS (AP) — Now that Dennis Rodman's tenure with the Dallas Mavericks is over, there's a good chance his NBA career is finished, too.

The Mavs released their biggest drawing card Wednesday as soon as he became their biggest pain. Comments critical of owner-in-waiting Mark Cuban might have been the last straw.

Rodman, who turns 39 in May, is likely to remain out of work the rest of this season. Even if a team wanted

him, he wouldn't be eligible for the playoffs.

He might not find any takers next season, either. Dallas was probably the last team willing to take a chance on him, mainly because the Mavericks needed the attention he draws as much as the rebounds he grabs.

Any would-be employers will surely note that Rodman lasted 29 days in Dallas and 48 with his previous team, the Los Angeles Lakers. The Mavericks insisted they signed Rodman to help them close an eight-game gap for the last playoff spot in the West. Dallas went 4-9 since he started playing Feb. 9, falling to 10 1/2 games back, which Cuban said was the reason he was released.

"If we were three games out of a playoff position, we would not be releasing him," Cuban said. "This has to do with creating playing time for the younger guys and creating continuity for next year. We just didn't think it would serve Dennis or the Mavs well if we just sat him down and didn't play him."

The Internet billionaire thought Dallas would be different for Dennis. Cuban was willing to let Rodman skip practices and arrive for games later

than teammates. He even rented out his guest house to Rodman.

Buddying up to the league's biggest thorn jeopardized

Cuban's pending approval as an owner; he had to answer questions about it at the league office last week.

Rodman showed his appreciation by turning on his newest friend Tuesday night following Dallas' fifth straight loss, a 101-86 drubbing by Seattle.

"He doesn't need to be hanging around the players like he's a coach or something," Rodman said. "That's like Jerry Jones, and it's dumb. That's why the Cowboys went down. He needs to be the owner, step back and put people in who can get this team in the right direction."

Cuban said he "absolutely" considers Rodman still his friend.

"I think the world of Dennis," he said. "He is a great competitor and rebounder."

Dallas begins the post-Rodman era tonight at home against Minnesota.

If this is the end of Rodman's career, there's no doubt he'll be remembered for his tattoos, body piercings, frequent hair color changes and a public appearance in a wedding dress.

While those provocative moments were stunning, it's worth remembering that it was his seven rebounding titles and five championships that gave him the platform

# Oklahoma students pass school probe

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — The University of Oklahoma said Wednesday that its review of high school financing for seniors Eduardo Najera and Victor Avila found nothing that would affect their college eligibility.

The university reviewed the issue as a result of a question posed by a reporter at the San Antonio Express-News.

Najera and Avila attended Cornerstone Christian School in San Antonio.

"Any aid they received was provided by the school and was part of the school's aid program available to all students at the school," the university said in a statement Wednesday. It said the school's program was consistent with NCAA rules.

Najera, a native of Mexico, attended Cornerstone Christian during the 1994-95 school year. The San Antonio newspaper said an official of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools said the tuition was subsidized by the

Mexican National Basketball Federation.

The university said its information confirmed that neither Najera nor Avila did not receive any financial assistance of any kind from the Mexican Basketball Federation or from any other people or organizations to attend the school.

This season, the NCAA has penalized basketball players who have had third parties outside their immediate family pay for prep school tuition. Oklahoma State freshman Andre Williams missed five games as the result of such an investigation.

OU said the review involved the Big 12 Conference, the NCAA, Cornerstone Christian and the Mexican Basketball Federation.

*"He doesn't need to hang around the players like he's a coach or something...That's like Jerry Jones and it's dumb."*

**Dennis Rodman**  
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 SAT & SUN MATINEES 2:00 & 4:10 EVENINGS 7:10 & 9:05

**WHAT PLANET ARE YOU FROM**  
 SAT & SUN MATINEES 1:30 & 4:15 EVENINGS 7:20 & 9:10

**TIGER**  
 SAT & SUN MATINEES 2:00 & 4:00 EVENINGS 7:00 & 9:00

**SIXTH SENSE**  
 SAT & SUN MATINEES 1:45 & 4:00 EVENINGS 7:00 & 9:15

Adults \$5.00 • Kids & Seniors \$3.00  
 Bargain Matinees on Weekends

INSIDE

'DROWNING MONA'

Nearly everyone had reason to kill her

By Bob Thomas

Early in "Drowning Mona," Bette Midler commandeers her son's battered yellow Yugo and barrels down a country road. As she approaches a turn at the top of a cliff, she discovers to her horror that the brakes have been disconnected. She crashes through a fence and flies through the air, landing in the Hudson River and a damp grave.

What's this? The Divine Miss M relegated to a bit part? No, she returns in flashbacks that illustrate that her character, Mona Dearly, is the opposite of divine. She is a superwitch who spreads misery to all around her.

"Drowning Mona" takes place in the New York hamlet of Verplanck, where all the inhabitants seem to have IQ's in the lower double digits. Most of them drive rattletrap Yugos, remnants of a long-ago promotion by the car company.

Only police chief Wyatt Rash (Danny DeVito) seems to be a bit higher on the intelligence scale. He quickly deduces that at least a half-dozen people might have been motivated to

REVIEW

disable the yellow Yugo and assure Mona's demise.

The suspects include: Mona's husband Phil (William Fichtner) and son Jeff (Marcus Thomas), who have endured years of her calumny; the trumpy diner waitress Rona (Jamie Lee Curtis), who is having a hot affair with Phil and would like to see Mona out of the picture; Jeff's partner in a landscape firm, Bobby Calzone (Casey Affleck), who has been cheated and persecuted by Mona.

Even the chief's daughter, Bobby's fiancée Ellen (Neve Campbell), might have a motive for offing Mona.

Fashioning a murder farce with dull-witted characters in absurd situations requires skill, and writer Peter Steinfeld and director Nick Gomez come through remarkably well. Some dry patches remain, but there are enough hearty laughs to offset them.

The ensemble actors give it their all, and that's as it should be in an absurdist comedy of

this sort. Bette Midler has never been nastier, and Jamie Lee Curtis and Neve Campbell play their brainless roles with straight faces. Casey Affleck as the picture of innocence is a real find; he could give Leo a run for his money.

Danny DeVito, whose company coproduced the film, provides some much-needed sanity amid all the nut cases.

The Destination Films release of a Neverland Pictures/Jersey Shore film was produced by Al Corley, Bart Rosenblatt and Jonathan Weisgal. The rating is PG-13.

"Drowning Mona" is showing at the Moovies Six, 400 N. 25 Mile Ave.

Motion Picture Association of America rating definitions: G - General audiences. All ages admitted.

PG - Parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 - Special parental guidance strongly suggested for children under 13. Some material may be inappropriate for young children.

R - Restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

NC-17 - No one under 17 admitted.

Dion worrying about her putts

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. (AP) - Forget the Titanic - Celene Dion is worried about sinking a few putts.

The Grammy-winning singer plans to take part in the Nabisco Championship Celebrity Pro-Am golf tournament later this month at Mission Hills Country Club.

The event, March 21-22, is the first major Ladies Profes-

sional Golfing Association tournament of the year.

"I have an almost obsessive love for golf, so I am very excited about playing in the Nabisco Championship Celebrity Pro-Am," Dion said Wednesday. "The game is always a great challenge and great fun."

The entertainer well known

for her work on the "Titanic" soundtrack has been playing golf for three years near her Jupiter, Fla., home, and she spends summers at a golf course she and husband Rene Angelil own in Canada.

Other singers competing in the Pro-Am include Michael Bolton, Alice Cooper, Glenn Frey.

New system sells movie tickets on line

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Tickets to the latest must-see movie could be just a couple of mouse clicks away under a system being tested by Moviefone.com.

The new system allows customers to bypass the box office by allowing them to buy tickets online with a credit card and print them out. The tickets contain bar codes readable by scanners at the theater.

Moviefone.com already has an Internet-based ticket ordering system for the movies in several major cities. But while the tickets can be reserved online, they still must be picked up at the box office.

Moviefone.com, operated by AOL Moviefone Inc., and United Artists Theatres began testing the new admission system in Seattle this week and six other leading

movie chains announced Wednesday that they have similar ventures in the works.

Entertainment Web site Hollywood.com also plans to join the fray with MovieTickets.com.

The site is scheduled to debut around Memorial Day, in time for "Mission: Impossible 2" and other big summer releases. Theater chains AMC and National Amusements are partners in the site, and CBS on Wednesday announced it bought 5 percent of MovieTickets.com in exchange for \$25 million worth of advertising on the networks TV and radio stations.

"When Tom Cruise's 'Mission: Impossible 2' opens, it's going to be very hard to get a ticket," Hollywood.com President Laurie Silvers said Wednesday.

Television

THURSDAY

MARCH 9

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and rows for various TV programs including Newshour With Jim Lehrer, 60 Minutes, and various news and entertainment shows.

FRIDAY

MARCH 10

Table with columns for time slots (7 AM to 12 PM) and rows for various TV programs including Barney, Sesame Street, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table with columns for time slots (12:30 to 5:30) and rows for various TV programs including Body Elec, Donkey, and various news and entertainment shows.

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and rows for various TV programs including Newshour With Jim Lehrer, 60 Minutes, and various news and entertainment shows.

Comics

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Marvin By Tom Armstrong



Blondie By Dan Young & Stan Drake



Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell



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 You Got It!  
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 Fax: 364-8364  
 313 N. Lee

**CLASSIFIED ADS**  
 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.

Times	Rate	Min
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

**CLASSIFIED DISPLAY**  
 Classified display rates apply to all other ads not set in solid-word lines -- those with captions, bold or larger type, special paragraphs, all capital letters. Rates are \$5.30 per column inch.

**LEGALS**  
 Ad rates for legal notices are \$5.30 per column inch.

**ERRORS**  
 Every effort is made to avoid errors in word ads and legal notices. Advertisers should call attention to any errors immediately after the first insertion. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. In case of errors by the publishers, an additional insertion will be published.

**1. ARTICLES FOR SALE**

**REBUILT KIRBYS** 1/2 price with warranty. Other name brands. \$39 & up. Sales and repairs in your home, on all makes and models. Call 364-4288.

**THE ROADS** Of Texas and The Roads of New Mexico are on sale at The Hereford Brand in book form. Both maps are \$14.95 each plus tax. Discover roads you never knew were there. Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee.

**AKC BOSTON** Terrier puppies. 3-male, 5-female. Accepting deposit now! Puppies ready April 15, 2000. \$300.00 each. Call 806-276-5835.

**NEW ZEALAND** Buck Rabbit. Grey & White, 1-year old. Call 364-8551.

**Free - No Obligation!**  
 Birthday Reminder Service  
**Greene's Gifts, Etc.**  
 "Gift baskets for all Occasions"  
 363-6893  
 Now offering Balloon Bouquets! Pokemon & Star Wars Balloons available. Customized gift baskets & Deliver available.

**1a. GARAGE SALES**

**YARD SALE!** 204 Douglas. Saturday 8:00 til 4:00. Moving sale, house-ware, books, many odds & ends collected over 49 years.

**GARAGE SALE!** 5-miles South US 385. Lot #51, Coronado Acres. Friday, Saturday 10:00am-7:00pm, Sunday 1:00pm-7:00pm. Air comp, tools, incubator (holds 50 chic eggs), chic feeders, small kitchen appliance, canning jars (1/2 gal to 1/2 pt), canner, lots of household items. NO CLOTHES!

**GARAGE SALE!** 621 Star. Friday 9:00-1:00, Saturday 8:00-3:00. Infant, toddlers, women & men's clothing, toys, toddler bed, twin size car waterbed, shoes (all sizes), home decor & law equipment. Something for everyone!

**GARAGE SALE!** 114 Bradley. Friday, Saturday 9:00 til 4:00. Living room chairs, clothing, toys, kitchen stuff, pots & pans, two hospital beds. Everything sells cheap!

**2. FARM & RANCH**

**CUSTOM GRASS** Seeding and Field Preparation. Includes: Working new ground, plowing out grasses for new stands, or over seeding current grasses. JOE WARD 364-2021 (day) or 289-5394 (night).

**SEED CONTRACT** - Need 120 acres clean ground for spring oat seed production. Gayland Ward 258-7394.

**GREAT PLAINS** Module builder, \$4,500. Big 12 Bowl Buggy, \$2,000. Call 276-5240.

**HAY FOR Sale!** Round bales. Call 289-5564.

**3. AUTOMOBILES**

**1997 FORD** Thunderbird. 82,000 Miles. Excellent condition. \$8,250. Can see at HRH Insurance. Call 359-7493 (night), 364-6633 (day) Ask for Wade.

**FOR SALE!** Chrysler LeBaron Coupe. Runs good. Good tires. Call 364-7661.

**See Us Before You Buy**  
**Marcum Motors Co.**  
 Clean Used Cars & Trucks  
 413 N. 25 Mile Ave. 364-3565

**4. REAL ESTATE**

**HOME BUYERS!** 1999 Government Assistance Program is available to first-time home buyers with low to moderate income. You could receive up to \$7,500 in assistance. Call Kyle Michaels at 356-9444 to apply.

**LOVELY HOME** For sale. 3 Bedroom, 2 1/2 Bath, large office, sunroom/den, large utility room, plantation shutters. Call for appointment 364-6505.

**For Sale By Owner!**  
 LARGE 3 Bedroom House. 2 living areas, 2 baths, utility room. Lots of storage. Double garage. Good well. Big barn. Big barn separate shop building. 5 Acres. Call 289-5836

**HOUSE FOR Sale** to be moved. 3 bedroom, approximately 1,700 sq. ft. Priced to sell. Call 352-0047.

**FOR SALE!** Beautiful brick home. 3 bedroom, 2 bath. Approximately 1,800 square feet, 1 1/2 car garage, good size back yard and garden area. See at 429 Miles. Call 363-6592.

**FOR SALE** By Owner: Two residents for one price. The main house is a 3/2 1/2, 2 car garage, lg. kitchen dining & living room. The small house is perfect for Mom & Dad with 1 bdrm & bath, lg. living area & kitchen. No built-ins. \$145,500. Ph. 364-1530 for appt. Serious inquiries, only, please.

**SW HWY.** 60 Reinauer Bldg. loading dock 6,012sq.ft., Main Bldg. 20,000sq.ft. Office area very nice. 19.4 acres. Call The Tardy Co. for details 364-4561.

**1410 W. Hwy 60.** Commercial. Very nice offices. Great traffic area. Covered parking area in rear. Call us for sale or lease. The Tardy Co. 364-4561.

**5. RENTAL PROPERTY**

**NEED EXTRA** Storage space? Need a place to have a garage sale? Rent a mini storage. Two sizes available. Call 364-4370.

**Now Leasing**  
**Guardian Self Storage**  
 1409 E. Park Avenue  
 364-5778

**CROSSWORD**

**CROSSWORD**  
 By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

1 Peaceful learning  
 5 Knight's quest  
 10 Baseball's Jesus  
 11 Spring  
 12 Earth's neighbor  
 13 "Mame"  
 14 Business graph  
 16 Rests, to Brits  
 20 Last words  
 23 Alley —  
 24 Sunday entree  
 25 Woman's accessory  
 27 Harvest goddess  
 28 Dressed in  
 29 Carouse  
 32 Obsolete ones  
 36 Minute part  
 39 Molokai neighbor  
 40 Oak seeds  
 41 Fiat  
 42 — -turvy  
 43 Editor's base

**DOWN**

1 Scout's home  
 2 Jai —

**Yesterday's answer**

20 Easy gait  
 21 Pueblo people  
 22 Simplicity  
 25 Pal of Piglet  
 26 Anonymous cards  
 30 Scents

31 Simpleton  
 33 Four-star review  
 34 Membership cost  
 35 Basin  
 36 Posed  
 37 Writer Umberto  
 38 Member of the force

**BEST DEAL** In Town! 1 bedroom efficiency apartments. Bills paid, red brick apartments. 300 block West 2nd. 364-3566.

**NICE, LARGE,** Unfurnished apartments. Refrigerated air, two bedrooms. You pay only electric — we pay the rest. \$335/month. 364-8421.

**NICE 2 Bedroom,** 2 bath mobile home for rent. Call after 6p.m. 363-6391.

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**FOR RENT!** Furnished apartment. Clean, bills paid. Single person. Call 364-6045.

**ELDORADO ARMS** Has 1 & 2 bedroom apartments for rent. Free gas, water & cable. Call 363-1254 or 344-2475.

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**APARTMENTS:**  
 Blue Water Gardens  
 HEAT, A/C LIGHTS } INCLUDED  
 Rent based on income. Accepting applications for 1,2,3,4 bdrms. CALL Debra or Janis TODAY for information & directions. 1-5pm (806)364-6661. Equal Opportunity.

**FOR RENT!** Nice & Clean one bedroom & two bedroom apartments. Starting as low as \$175/month. 305 Bradley Street. Call 364-1918.

**2-BEDROOM DUPLEX** For rent! New paint and new carpet. Call 363-1254.

**FOR RENT:** Nice apartments. 3 bedroom, 2 bath with fireplace, also 1 bedroom, kitchen appliances furnished, city utilities, furnished and cable furnished. NO PETS. Call 364-4267.

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 PLACE YOURS BY CALLING  
 364-2030

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Hiring for cattle haul. Must have 3 years experience and be acceptable by insurance company, pass DOT drug screen and physical. Benefits Include: insurance and raise after 60 days, vacation after 1 year, retirement paid by Company.

Contact Odell Ward  
 at 1-800-522-5164  
 or Fax or Send Resume to:  
 P.O. Box 129  
 Cactus, Texas 79018  
 fax no. 806-966-5532

**SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST** FOR Small business. Must be familiar with Quick-books and operation of regular office machines. Send resumes to: P.O. Box 30, Hereford, Texas 79045.

**CNA'S NIGHT** Shift hours (10-6) available now. We pay for experience with flexible scheduling. Apply in person Hereford Care Center.

**ATTENTION: NEED** Two people to help me in appliance business. Must have car and leadership abilities. Call 374-1688, 10am-4pm, Monday-Friday.

**NOW TAKING** Applications at Higginbotham-Bartlett Lumber Co. Sales person, deliveries must be able to lift 100 lbs. No Phone Calls, Please.

**Do you like to talk?**  
**Do you need a new position?**  
 Farmers Insurance Group  
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At least 18 years old and valid driver's license and be insurable under foundation fleet insurance policy. No experience necessary. Outdoor work. Ag background helpful.

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FRIONA 410 W. 12th Street Friona, TX 806-247-8008	MULESHOE 710 N. 1st Street Muleshoe, TX 806-272-5122	LITTLEFIELD 805 E. Hwy 84 Littlefield, TX 806-385-4819	SPRINGLAKE Hwy 70 - Farm Rd. 199 Springlake, TX 806-986-4200
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Equal Opportunity Employer

**COTTON ... A Texas Tradition.**

The City of Hereford will accept applications for the following temporary positions:

**Grounds Maintenance (3 in Parks Department) (1 at Golf Course)**  
 Salary: \$5.15/hour

Job descriptions and application forms may be picked up at the City Hall, 224 N. Lee, Hereford. Applications will be accepted until job is filled.

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination.

State laws forbid discrimination in sale, rental or advertising of real estate based advertising for real estate which is violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**Writing Want Ads that really sell!**

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.

For starters, look at ads which offer the same item/products. Get a sense or going rates and ideas for how to make your ad stand out. Once you're ready to write, begin with exactly what you're selling: "Dining room set, maple, six chairs." Then, remember these hints:

- 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. Brand ads are billed by the words, 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 write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

**Sylvia's**  
 Needing a Hair Stylist  
 Part time & Full time  
 810 S. 25 Mile Ave.  
 364-2828

**MILLWRIGHTS NEEDED**  
 Minimum 36 months experience on conveyors, belts, motors. Call 806-357-2254.

**NOW HIRING RNs/LVNs** as charge nurses/supervisors. Different shifts available with differential on night shift. Excellent working environment/benefits. EEO. Apply in person to: DEB Hendley, Director of Nursing, Prairie Acres, 201 E. 15th, Friona, Texas 79035. 806-250-3922.

**Retail Sales Manager**  
 Local Cellular Company. An aggressive growing telecommunications company now hiring energetic, motivated, experienced manager to run cellular sales center in Hereford, TX. Successful retail sales background preferred. We offer a great opportunity within one of the fastest growing industries that includes: Stability of a base salary plus an attractive commission structure. Rapid advancement opportunities.

Please submit your resume and cover-sheet to:  
**ATTN: Sales Manager**  
 4801 Frankford Stec. 1  
 Lubbock, TX 79424  
 or fax to: 806-792-5813

**MOM SEEKS** Loving, creative care-giver for four toddlers. Must engage them in physical, learning, craft, musical activities. Fridays 9:00am-1:00pm at local church, \$6-\$8/hour. Love children/God a must! Send resume and references to P.O. Box 673-ZZ, Hereford, Texas 79045.

**Hereford Regional Medical Center**  
**Immediate Opening**  
 Chief Financial Officer

Responsible for all financial operations of the organization. Bachelors degree in accounting, CPA License preferred. Five years work experience in accounting and/or two years in a health care setting.

Contact Personnel  
 P.O. Box 1858  
 Hereford, Texas 79045  
 Fax: 806-364-3852 Call: 806-364-3141

**9. CHILD CARE**

**DEPENDABLE, CHRISTIAN,** Care-giver would love to care for your child Monday-Friday. Please call Cindy Ashcraft at 364-6725.

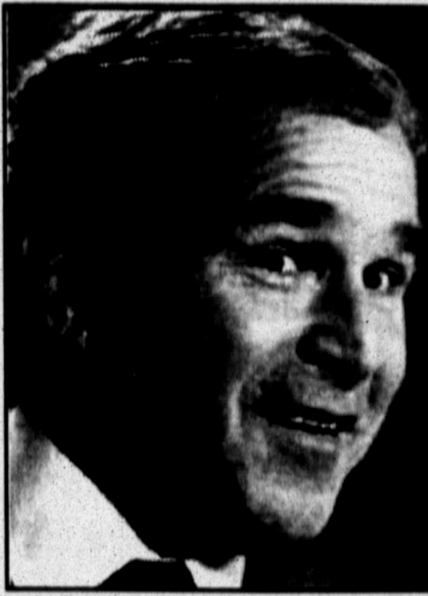
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CLASSIFIEDS

# THE ROAD AHEAD

■ One third of Americans see Bush as too conservative and about a third see Gore, the Democratic vice president, as too liberal, most national polls say. Both aligned themselves with core constituencies for the primaries and now must shift back to the middle in preparation for the general campaign.



## Bush, Gore bid for independents

WASHINGTON (AP) — After solidifying their base voters to win big in the presidential primaries this week, George W. Bush and Al Gore begin a new campaign — for the independents.

A bruising GOP primary battle left Bush with the big job of winning over independents, who once preferred him over Gore by a wide margin. The two are now virtually even among that group, which became energized in large measure due to Republican John McCain's insurgent candidacy.

"John McCain tapped into a vein," Bush, the Texas governor, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "The McCain supporters will hear my message of reform: reforming schools, reforming the military, reforming the tax code, and renewal, renewing the spirit of America."

Independent voters in GOP primaries Tuesday were about evenly split on whether they had a favorable or unfavorable view of Bush, according to exit polls by Voter News Service, done for the AP and television networks. He started his campaign by appealing to independents and moderates.

As for Gore, he lately has invoked McCain's name more

than President Clinton's. In a round of TV interviews Wednesday, he twice started a sentence saying, "Like John McCain..."

Both nominees-in-waiting are scouring exit polls that validate McCain's ability to draw Democrats, independents and first-time Republican voters into the political process. In Republican contests Tuesday, 60 percent of the independent voters backed McCain.

One third of Americans see Bush as too conservative and about a third see Gore, the Democratic vice president, as too liberal, most national polls say. Both aligned themselves with core constituencies for the primaries and now must shift back to the middle in preparation for the general campaign.

"It's a bigger problem for Bush than Gore, but both of them are going to have to focus on a broader constituency than they have so far," said Al From, chairman of the moderate Democratic Leadership Council.

Bush had planned to hoard his money and stick to a moderate message throughout the primaries, but scrapped the strategy when McCain thumped him in New Hampshire. Bush seemed to lurch to the right,

visiting a staunchly conservative university in South Carolina, refusing to meet with a gay GOP activists group and fostering informal ties with evangelical leader Pat Robertson.

Mimi Mathews, a 57-year-old Republican from Ellicott City, Md., said Bush's battle with McCain gave Bush a right-wing image that is unfair.

"I think that he got labeled as 'Christian right,' but that's not the way he really is," said Mathews, a budget official with the Howard County Sheriff's Office. "That whole Bob Jones thing was just a debacle, but he's more mainstream than that."

Gore suggested in a debate that he would require top military leaders to accept gays serving openly in the military. He backed off the remark, but Republicans plan to use it against him in the fall. Bush allies are poised to accuse Gore of putting himself in the pocket of organized labor in exchange for its support in the primaries.

Independent Josene Cook, 23, of Westfield, Mass., joined the Democratic Party to vote for Bill Bradley, and said Gore "seems to believe what he hears in the polls."

"Bush has his work cut out for him," said Andrew Kohut,

director of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. "He has to get the independents back and the Democrats who once had wandered away from Gore."

While the candidates tinker with the message, their operatives are getting general election campaigns into shape:

- The Republican and Democratic national committees are planning multimillion dollar ad campaigns to benefit their nominees.
- Gore is considering moving his campaign manager, Donna Brazile, to the DNC to oversee the party. Bush plans to install an ally at the RNC.
- Bush's team in Austin, Texas, was meeting with RNC officials this week to discuss how the party is gearing up for the general election. One topic: Opposition research on Gore that asks about his "flip-flopping" on abortion, his claim to have invented the Internet and his involvement in questionable 1996 fund raising.
- Bush plans to raise \$10 million in the next few weeks to refill his campaign coffers. Gore plans to raise an additional \$3 million to supplement federal subsidies for his campaign.

## Clock runs out for two

■ Bradley prepares to end quest, throw his support to former foe



**BILL BRADLEY**  
Abandoning his quest for the Democratic presidential nomination.

NEW YORK (AP) — The clock has run out on Bill Bradley's drive to win the Democratic presidential nomination, and the former professional basketball star and ex-senator was preparing to announce he is passing the ball to Vice President Al Gore.

Bradley scheduled a news conference today near his New Jersey campaign headquarters, and aides said he would endorse Gore, who swept the 15 Democratic contests held earlier this week.

Advisers said Bradley plans to stay active in public life and is not expected to rule out another presidential run. But they added he has no interest in being vice president — a position Gore was unlikely to offer based on Bradley's failure to win any of the primary contests held so far.

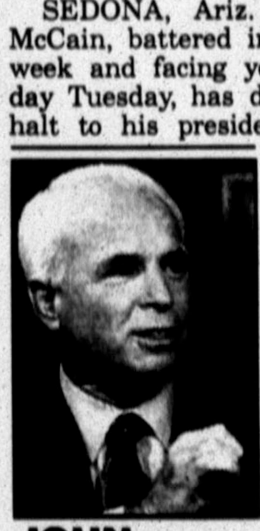
Bradley launched his underdog campaign 15 months ago at a Newark, N.J., community center, and his hopes soared through much of 1999 as he pitched his ideas for universal health insurance, an assault on child poverty and strict gun controls.

He walked picket lines, spoke of his commitment to race relations and assailed Gore for past ambivalence on abortion. Still, the Democratic Party's core constituencies — organized labor, minorities, and abortion-rights groups — rallied around Gore.

Other factors working against Bradley included his distaste for political hardball, his decision to challenge Gore in Iowa and competition from Republican John McCain for independent voters.

Time and again, Bradley declined to do more than jab at one Gore soft spot, the Democratic Party's fund-raising excesses in 1996. And when he did take the gloves off, using past votes in Congress to paint Gore as a closet conservative, for example, the party rushed to Gore's defense.

■ McCain aides say Arizona senator will suspend campaign, but he's not expected to give endorsement to Bush



**JOHN MCCAIN**  
Suspending his bid for the GOP nomination.

SEDONA, Ariz. (AP) — John McCain, battered in primaries this week and facing yet another grim day Tuesday, has decided to call a halt to his presidential campaign, aides said.

McCain scheduled a news conference to announce his decision and the only suspense was whether he would out of the race entirely, or simply put his campaign on hold.

He was not expected to endorse Rival George W. Bush at his news conference. Advisers were still discussing tactics to keep the themes McCain raised a part of the debate.

After absorbing a Super Tuesday primary drubbing, McCain huddled with senior strategists and major financial backers at his mountain cabin here to assess the situation.

It didn't take long for strategists to conclude that soldiering on made little sense, and within a few hours the campaign schedule was scrapped. Campaign events in Colorado and

Illinois were canceled, and aides said McCain had no public events after today's announcement. Two senior campaign aides confirmed that McCain was halting his bid for the nomination.

Most of McCain's senior aides have been urging him to withdraw, saying Bush has built an almost impossible lead in the delegate count. Any doubt of that was erased in this week's round of primaries, aides argued.

"At some point it becomes a math issue," said one aide.

There are disagreements, however, about how to handle the exit strategy.

Some have urged McCain to launch a third-party bid, pointing to his strength with independents in the primary season. Putting his campaign on hold would keep that option in play, but McCain has consistently ruled that out, arguing he's a "loyal Reagan Republican," and an aide said "there's no change in that position."

McCain's campaign added a spark to a GOP contest that most had expected Bush to dominate, and he rocked the campaign with upset wins in New Hampshire and Michigan.

## Israeli, Palestinian leaders launch new talks

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt (AP) — In a summit today hosted by the Egyptian president, the Israeli and Palestinian leaders formally embarked on what they hope will be the final phase of more than six years of stop-and-go peace talks.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader

Yasser Arafat both made concessions this week to end the latest crisis, with Israelis allowing greater U.S. involvement in the negotiations and the Palestinians accepting territory that wasn't bordering Jerusalem.

The compromise was to be sealed today in the Egyptian

Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, under the auspices of two key mediators — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Even though the original peace timetable was already outdated in large parts, Barak and Arafat agreed in two summit meetings this week to stick to the most important deadline

— a full peace treaty by Sept. 13.

Under a new timetable, Israel will withdraw from 6.1 percent of the West Bank in the next few days. Negotiations on a final peace treaty will resume in Washington around March 20, after the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

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**DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES**

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it:  
A X Y D L B A A X R  
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.

**3-9 CRYPTOQUOTE**

S M N V D T Q B B N E D X Y Q I J

X V N K D N K T D X S W D

V Y D I X Y D Z E S H H Z

— S I N I Z E N A B  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IT IS ALWAYS BEST TO SPEAK THE TRUTH, UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU ARE AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD LIAR. — JEROME K. JEROME

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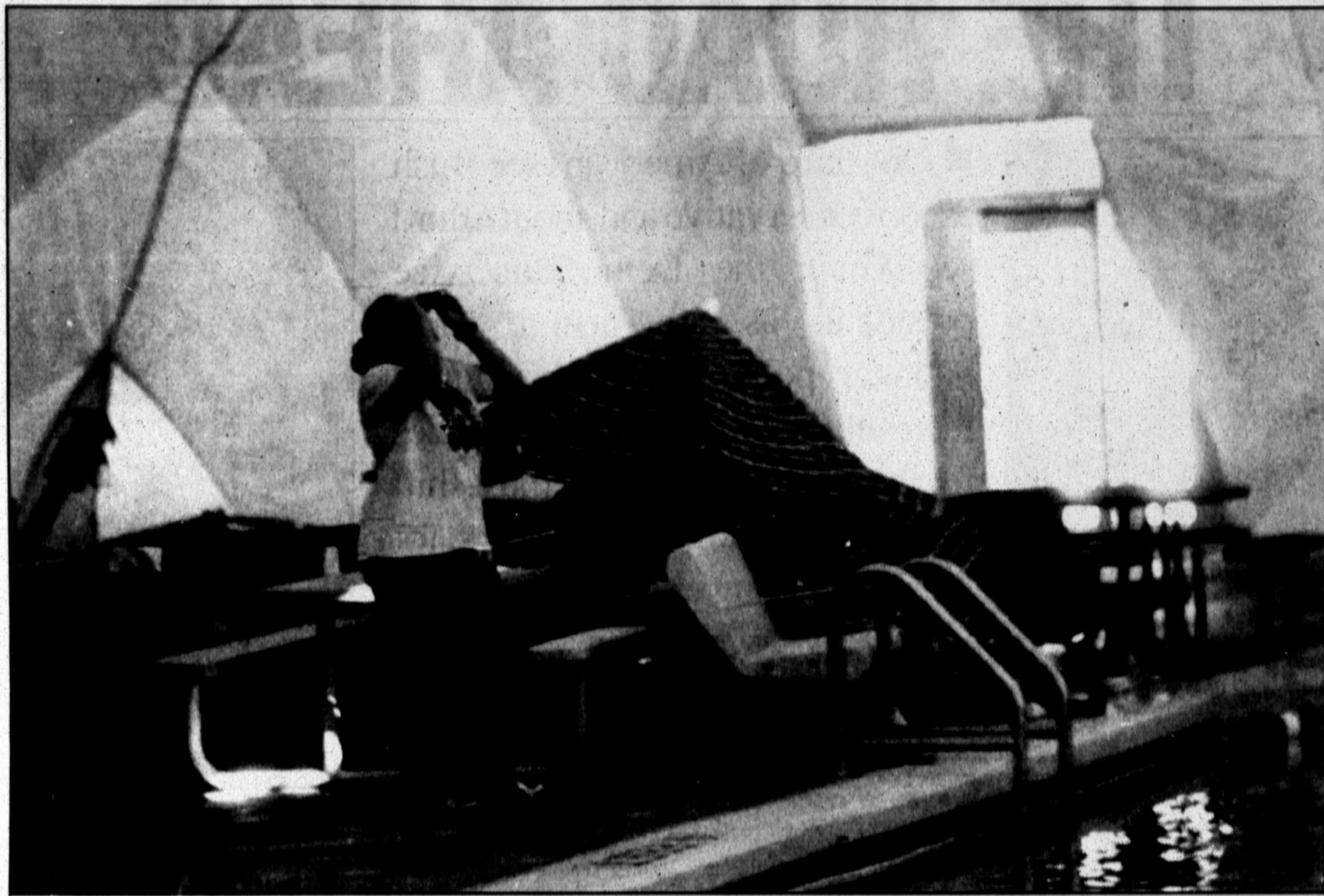
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CATTLE FEEDER (CME) 36,000 lbs., cents per lb.	CORN (CBOT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.	SOYBEANS (CBOT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.	WHEAT (CBOT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.
Mar 03 84.23 83.90 84.53	Mar 03 211 217 219 1/4	Mar 03 1118 1119 1120 1/4	Mar 03 212 213 214 1/4
Apr 03 84.87 84.51 85.24	Apr 03 214 220 222 1/4	Apr 03 1120 1121 1122 1/4	Apr 03 214 215 216 1/4
May 03 85.17 84.80 85.79	May 03 216 222 224 1/4	May 03 1121 1122 1123 1/4	May 03 215 216 217 1/4
Jun 03 85.80 85.43 86.46	Jun 03 218 224 226 1/4	Jun 03 1122 1123 1124 1/4	Jun 03 216 217 218 1/4
Jul 03 86.43 86.06 87.09	Jul 03 220 226 228 1/4	Jul 03 1123 1124 1125 1/4	Jul 03 217 218 219 1/4
Aug 03 87.06 86.69 87.72	Aug 03 222 228 230 1/4	Aug 03 1124 1125 1126 1/4	Aug 03 218 219 220 1/4
Sep 03 87.69 87.32 88.35	Sep 03 224 230 232 1/4	Sep 03 1125 1126 1127 1/4	Sep 03 219 220 221 1/4
Oct 03 88.32 87.95 88.98	Oct 03 226 232 234 1/4	Oct 03 1126 1127 1128 1/4	Oct 03 220 221 222 1/4
Nov 03 88.95 88.58 89.61	Nov 03 228 234 236 1/4	Nov 03 1127 1128 1129 1/4	Nov 03 221 222 223 1/4
Dec 03 89.58 89.21 90.24	Dec 03 230 236 238 1/4	Dec 03 1128 1129 1130 1/4	Dec 03 222 223 224 1/4
Jan 04 90.21 89.84 90.87	Jan 04 232 238 240 1/4	Jan 04 1129 1130 1131 1/4	Jan 04 223 224 225 1/4
Feb 04 90.84 90.47 91.50	Feb 04 234 240 242 1/4	Feb 04 1130 1131 1132 1/4	Feb 04 224 225 226 1/4
Mar 04 91.47 91.10 92.13	Mar 04 236 242 244 1/4	Mar 04 1131 1132 1133 1/4	Mar 04 225 226 227 1/4
Apr 04 92.10 91.73 92.76	Apr 04 238 244 246 1/4	Apr 04 1132 1133 1134 1/4	Apr 04 226 227 228 1/4
May 04 92.73 92.36 93.39	May 04 240 246 248 1/4	May 04 1133 1134 1135 1/4	May 04 227 228 229 1/4
Jun 04 93.36 92.99 94.02	Jun 04 242 248 250 1/4	Jun 04 1134 1135 1136 1/4	Jun 04 228 229 230 1/4
Jul 04 93.99 93.62 94.65	Jul 04 244 250 252 1/4	Jul 04 1135 1136 1137 1/4	Jul 04 229 230 231 1/4
Aug 04 94.62 94.25 95.28	Aug 04 246 252 254 1/4	Aug 04 1136 1137 1138 1/4	Aug 04 230 231 232 1/4
Sep 04 95.25 94.88 95.91	Sep 04 248 254 256 1/4	Sep 04 1137 1138 1139 1/4	Sep 04 231 232 233 1/4
Oct 04 95.88 95.51 96.54	Oct 04 250 256 258 1/4	Oct 04 1138 1139 1140 1/4	Oct 04 232 233 234 1/4
Nov 04 96.51 96.14 97.17	Nov 04 252 258 260 1/4	Nov 04 1139 1140 1141 1/4	Nov 04 233 234 235 1/4
Dec 04 97.14 96.77 97.80	Dec 04 254 260 262 1/4	Dec 04 1140 1141 1142 1/4	Dec 04 234 235 236 1/4
Jan 05 97.77 97.40 98.43	Jan 05 256 262 264 1/4	Jan 05 1141 1142 1143 1/4	Jan 05 235 236 237 1/4
Feb 05 98.40 98.03 99.06	Feb 05 258 264 266 1/4	Feb 05 1142 1143 1144 1/4	Feb 05 236 237 238 1/4
Mar 05 99.03 98.66 99.69	Mar 05 260 266 268 1/4	Mar 05 1143 1144 1145 1/4	Mar 05 237 238 239 1/4
Apr 05 99.66 99.29 100.32	Apr 05 262 268 270 1/4	Apr 05 1144 1145 1146 1/4	Apr 05 238 239 240 1/4
May 05 100.29 99.92 100.95	May 05 264 270 272 1/4	May 05 1145 1146 1147 1/4	May 05 239 240 241 1/4
Jun 05 100.92 100.55 101.58	Jun 05 266 272 274 1/4	Jun 05 1146 1147 1148 1/4	Jun 05 240 241 242 1/4
Jul 05 101.55 101.18 102.21	Jul 05 268 274 276 1/4	Jul 05 1147 1148 1149 1/4	Jul 05 241 242 243 1/4
Aug 05 102.18 101.81 102.84	Aug 05 270 276 278 1/4	Aug 05 1148 1149 1150 1/4	Aug 05 242 243 244 1/4
Sep 05 102.81 102.44 103.47	Sep 05 272 278 280 1/4	Sep 05 1149 1150 1151 1/4	Sep 05 243 244 245 1/4
Oct 05 103.44 103.07 104.10	Oct 05 274 280 282 1/4	Oct 05 1150 1151 1152 1/4	Oct 05 244 245 246 1/4
Nov 05 104.07 103.70 104.73	Nov 05 276 282 284 1/4	Nov 05 1151 1152 1153 1/4	Nov 05 245 246 247 1/4
Dec 05 104.70 104.33 105.36	Dec 05 278 284 286 1/4	Dec 05 1152 1153 1154 1/4	Dec 05 246 247 248 1/4
Jan 06 105.33 104.96 106.00	Jan 06 280 286 288 1/4	Jan 06 1153 1154 1155 1/4	Jan 06 247 248 249 1/4
Feb 06 105.96 105.59 106.62	Feb 06 282 288 290 1/4	Feb 06 1154 1155 1156 1/4	Feb 06 248 249 250 1/4
Mar 06 106.59 106.22 107.25	Mar 06 284 290 292 1/4	Mar 06 1155 1156 1157 1/4	Mar 06 249 250 251 1/4
Apr 06 107.22 106.85 107.88	Apr 06 286 292 294 1/4	Apr 06 1156 1157 1158 1/4	Apr 06 250 251 252 1/4
May 06 107.85 107.48 108.51	May 06 288 294 296 1/4	May 06 1157 1158 1159 1/4	May 06 251 252 253 1/4
Jun 06 108.48 108.11 109.14	Jun 06 290 296 298 1/4	Jun 06 1158 1159 1160 1/4	Jun 06 252 253 254 1/4
Jul 06 109.11 108.74 109.77	Jul 06 292 298 300 1/4	Jul 06 1159 1160 1161 1/4	Jul 06 253 254 255 1/4
Aug 06 109.74 109.37 110.40	Aug 06 294 300 302 1/4	Aug 06 1160 1161 1162 1/4	Aug 06 254 255 256 1/4
Sep 06 110.37 109.99 111.02	Sep 06 296 302 304 1/4	Sep 06 1161 1162 1163 1/4	Sep 06 255 256 257 1/4
Oct 06 111.00 110.62 111.65	Oct 06 298 304 306 1/4	Oct 06 1162 1163 1164 1/4	Oct 06 256 257 258 1/4
Nov 06 111.63 111.25 112.28	Nov 06 300 306 308 1/4	Nov 06 1163 1164 1165 1/4	Nov 06 257 258 259 1/4
Dec 06 112.26 111.88 112.91	Dec 06 302 308 310 1/4	Dec 06 1164 1165 1166 1/4	Dec 06 258 259 260 1/4
Jan 07 112.89 112.51 113.54	Jan 07 304 310 312 1/4	Jan 07 1165 1166 1167 1/4	Jan 07 259 260 261 1/4
Feb 07 113.52 113.14 114.17	Feb 07 306 312 314 1/4	Feb 07 1166 1167 1168 1/4	Feb 07 260 261 262 1/4
Mar 07 114.15 113.77 114.80	Mar 07 308 314 316 1/4	Mar 07 1167 1168 1169 1/4	Mar 07 261 262 263 1/4
Apr 07 114.78 114.40 115.43	Apr 07 310 316 318 1/4	Apr 07 1168 1169 1170 1/4	Apr 07 262 263 264 1/4
May 07 115.41 115.03 116.06	May 07 312 318 320 1/4	May 07 1169 1170 1171 1/4	May 07 263 264 265 1/4
Jun 07 116.04 115.66 116.69	Jun 07 314 320 322 1/4	Jun 07 1170 1171 1172 1/4	Jun 07 264 265 266 1/4
Jul 07 116.67 116.29 117.32	Jul 07 316 322 324 1/4	Jul 07 1171 1172 1173 1/4	Jul 07 265 266 267 1/4
Aug 07 117.30 116.92 117.95	Aug 07 318 324 326 1/4	Aug 07 1172 1173 1174 1/4	Aug 07 266 267 268 1/4
Sep 07 117.93 117.55 118.58	Sep 07 320 326 328 1/4	Sep 07 1173 1174 1175 1/4	Sep 07 267 268 269 1/4
Oct 07 118.56 118.18 119.21	Oct 07 322 328 330 1/4	Oct 07 1174 1175 1176 1/4	Oct 07 268 269 270 1/4
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Dec 07 119.82 119.44 200.47	Dec 07 326 332 334 1/4	Dec 07 1176 1177 1178 1/4	Dec 07 270 271 272 1/4
Jan 08 120.45 120.07 121.10	Jan 08 328 334 336 1/4	Jan 08 1177 1178 1179 1/4	Jan 08 271 272 273 1/4
Feb 08 121.08 120.70 121.73	Feb 08 330 336 338 1/4	Feb 08 1178 1179 1180 1/4	Feb 08 272 273 274 1/4
Mar 08 121.71 121.33 122.36	Mar 08 332 338 340 1/4	Mar 08 1179 1180 1181 1/4	Mar 08 273 274 275 1/4
Apr 08 122.34 121.96 123.00	Apr 08 334 340 342 1/4	Apr 08 1180 1181 1182 1/4	Apr 08 274 275 276 1/4
May 08 122.97 122.59 123.62	May 08 336 342 344 1/4	May 08 1181 1182 1183 1/4	May 08 275 276 277 1/4
Jun 08 123.60 123.22 124.25	Jun 08 338		



**Dome came down** — The dome over the Hereford Aquatic Center came down Tuesday night when debris hurled by the high winds that moved through the area ripped holes in the fabric. Hereford City Manager Chester Nolen said this morning all

activities at the center have been resumed and damage to the dome, a life guard station and some umbrellas amounted to less than \$1,000. Bridget Beltran, a center employee, takes photographs of the damage.

## Working couples see each other only in passing

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**News digest**

WASHINGTON — Almost half of working women who are married or live with a partner are seeing their significant other only in passing because the two work different shifts, an AFL-CIO poll found.

In households with children under age 18, women surveyed were even more likely to say their work hours differed from their spouses — 51 percent, compared with 46 percent overall.

"If you can't afford child care, then you work a different schedule than your husband," said Karen Nussbaum, director of the AFL-CIO's working women's department.

The labor federation released the Jan. 6-11 telephone poll of 765 working women over age 18 today.

It is part of the AFL-CIO's efforts to keep tabs on the priorities of working Americans and mobilize them to vote in this fall's elections. The labor federation has endorsed Vice President Al Gore and is also mounting a vigorous campaign on behalf of pro-labor congressional candidates, mostly Democrats.

Women played a key role in helping Democrats keep the White House and win more congressional seats in 1996, with 54 percent voting to reelect President Clinton, compared with 43 percent of men.

Gore is scheduled to address a gathering of female union members, organized by the AFL-CIO, in Chicago this weekend.

### Firefighter arrested in ambush at fire

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The firefighters came like they always do, responding to reports of a smoky house fire in a Memphis neighborhood.

But when they arrived Wednesday afternoon, witnesses said, a man came out of the garage firing a shotgun and shouting, "Get away! Get away!" By the time the attack was over, two firefighters and a sheriff's deputy were dead. The body of a fourth victim, reportedly the suspect's new wife, was found in the garage.

The suspect is Fred Williams, a 41-year-old Memphis firefighter. He was wounded in the ambush and was in

critical condition early today at a hospital. He was also under arrest.

"We don't expect this," said Fire Chief H.J. Pickett. "We're here to fight fires. You want to say it's part of the job, but it's not."

J.C. Fleming, deputy director of the fire department, said Williams did not work at the same station as the men who were killed, but they probably knew each other.

A group of firemen clutched each other in a tight embrace and wept after the fire was put out. One solemnly placed his helmet on top of the body bag of one of his co-workers.

Williams had returned to work this week after an extended leave on disability, Police Director Walter Crews said. Pickett wouldn't discuss the man's work history or a possible motive.

### German bank merger to make powerhouse

FRANKFURT, Germany — German giant Deutsche Bank — already the world's richest — confirmed plans today to get even bigger by merging with rival Dresdner Bank in a deal to create a global powerhouse with more than \$1.2 trillion in assets.

The deal must still be approved by each bank's supervisory boards, but is expected to go through by July 1. The merger brings together Germany's biggest bank and its No. 3 player, and could trigger an international grab for partners in the banking sector.

As the Deutsche-Dresdner deal was being announced, the Berlin daily *Die Welt* reported that Britain-based HSBC Holdings was eyeing a buyout of Commerzbank AG, Germany's fourth-largest bank.

Commerzbank declined comment.

Most of the recent megabank deals have been within national borders, although Deutsche Bank swallowed New York-based Bankers Trust last year to claim the No. 1 spot in terms of assets, with \$840 billion.

Another pending deal involving Japanese giants Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank, Fuji Bank and the Industrial Bank of Japan, with roughly \$1.3 trillion in assets, would top the combined Deutsche-Dresdner merger, but it will not be completed until 2005.

While the German banks called today's deal a "merger of equals," Deutsche Bank will be the dominant partner, holding between 60 percent and 64 percent of the combined banks and Dresdner the rest.

## GOP bids to tie minimum wage to tax reduction

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a \$1 boost in the minimum wage all but inevitable, House Republicans are aiming to put their stamp on a traditionally Democratic issue by coupling the legislation with a 10-year, \$122.7 billion package of tax cuts intended to ease the wage increase's impact on small business.

"There's an understanding that we will have a vote on this wage bill," said Rep. Rick Lazio, R-N.Y. "We're looking for a fair balance."

Disregarding President Clinton's veto threat, the House today planned votes on both the tax cuts and competing proposals to increase the \$5.15-an-hour minimum wage: the GOP's increase of \$1 over three years and an alternative two-year increase.

Clinton cast the Republican bill as a triumph of special interests over workers.

"Once again the Republican leadership has derailed what should be a simple vote on the minimum wage with a

maximum of political maneuvering," the president said. "Congress should send me a bill I can sign, not one that I have to veto."

GOP leaders were struggling to line up the necessary votes amid complaints from some Republican conservatives about an amendment that would strip out their provision allowing states the option of implementing the \$1 wage increase. The dispute threatened to delay the legislation, as it was last year.

"We have a Democrat bill with Democrat amendments that the leadership has put forward," said Rep. Tom Coburn, R-Okla. "We're not going to support that."

When the smoke clears, GOP leaders hoped to merge the victorious minimum-wage version with the business tax breaks and send the bill to the Senate, which has already approved a \$1 increase in the wage and its own package of tax cuts.

## Vote

From Page A1

**Democrats:** William R. Barr.  
**Republicans:** Pat Barber, Barbara Parker Hervey, W.B. "Bennie" House, Sally L. Ray, Jim Wallace.  
(I) — incumbent

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