

Hereford Brand



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Tallying the score

Senior citizens can often be found playing dominoes at the Senior Citizens Center. Here, Ruth Morris tallies the scorecard in a game of Mexican Train on Wednesday.

Heavy rains, floods drench North Texas, claims three lives

DALLAS (AP) - Heavy rains and flooding that have killed at least three people were expected to continue today in North Texas, officials said. Dean Harrold Olson, 50, of Fort Worth, was struck by lightning and killed about 12:20 p.m. Wednesday after getting out of his truck because of an accident on Interstate 20 in Hutchins, southeast of Dallas. Olson was hit while walking back to check on the occupants of a van that he had struck, said Sgt. David Landers of the Hutchins police. The driver of the van suffered minor injuries related to the wreck, he said. In the northeastern suburb of Wylie, a 22-year-old Plano man was killed when his compact car swerved on a slick road and slammed head-on into a pickup. Ryan Patrick Ellis died shortly

after the 1:45 p.m. accident on FM 544. In Denton County, north of Fort Worth, an 18-month-old toddler drowned after he was swept out of a car after Janet Lynn Rayburn of Decatur, his mother and twin brother escaped the submerged vehicle, Sgt. Roland Ridge of the Denton County Sheriff's Office said. The toddler was found in knee-deep water in a field south of Texas 114 after an extended search, Ridge said. Justin Aaron Rayburn was taken to Denton Community Hospital, where he died. Flash flooding stalled traffic in some areas and kept residents from their homes. "It was up to the buildings all the way back from the middle of the

highway," said Tommie Alvice, a resident of suburban Saginaw, which had flash floods up to 5 feet deep. Rainfall across north central Texas averaged about an inch, but some areas reported more than 3 inches, said Lori Bovitz, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fort Worth. Rainfall of 1.77 inches Wednesday at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport broke the record of 0.8 inch set in 1941, she said. So far this year, Dallas-Fort Worth has recorded 5.88 inches of rain for the month and 6.21 inches for the year. The normal year-to-date level is 2.38 inches, Ms. Bovitz said. The unusual winter rains have been caused by a strong upper-level storm system over northern Mexico, coupled with moisture spreading north from the Gulf of Mexico.

Alaskan teen shoots principal, student in schoolhouse assault

BETHEL, Alaska (AP) - High school students say they were waiting for class when a 16-year-old loner who had talked of killing the principal walked into the lobby with a shotgun and a paper bag full of shells. The teen-ager fatally shot a popular student and the principal and wounded two other students during a 20-minute rampage Wednesday morning in this small Alaska town, police said. "Everybody better run," students quoted him as saying. "I was running out of the school thinking, 'I'm running for my life,'" said Kathleen Kline, 14. The teen, a junior at Bethel Regional High School, eventually surrendered after exchanging shots with police, authorities said. He was to be arraigned today. Josh Palacios, a junior, was shot in the lobby and died 10 hours later at an Anchorage hospital. Ron Edwards, principal at the 435-student school for four years, was ambushed in a hallway and died at a nearby hospital. The two other students were treated at a hospital and released. Police would not release the arrested teen-ager's name because he's a juvenile, but witnesses in the town of 4,700 identified him as Evan Ramsey, foster son of the school superintendent and son of a locally notorious ex-convict.

"People knew about it but they didn't think he was going to go through with it."
Rayna Blakesley Student

he had mentioned killing Edwards. "People knew about it but they didn't think he was going to go through with it," said Rayna Blakesley, 15. Authorities aren't yet sure what sparked the shooting, but several witnesses offered some clues. Palacios was a gregarious, popular student who sometimes teased Ramsey, and Edwards, a father of three, was a disciplinarian who frequently gave Ramsey detention, students said. Ramsey wandered the hallways after shooting Palacios, firing sporadically as teachers tried to talk him into dropping the shotgun, said Erick Hodgins, a senior who hid behind a planter in the lobby, afraid to move until the siege was over. "I really wanted to help him because he'd been shot, but the guy with the shotgun was still out there," Hodgins said of Palacios. The school was closed and counselors were brought to the cultural center, where about 50 students discussed the shooting in hushed tones. School is also closed today and most civic events have been canceled. Bethel, at the mouth of the Kuskokwim River about 400 miles west of Anchorage, is the regional center for the dozens of river villages that dot the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta in southwest Alaska.

Rapist who chopped off victim's arms arrested for second slaying

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Three weeks after learning his neighbor had been convicted of raping a teen-age hitchhiker and chopping off her forearms, Danny Sales walked a deputy to the man's front door. Lawrence Singleton answered, dressed in shorts and a T-shirt, his chest and face covered with blood, Sales said. A woman's naked, bloody body lay on his living room floor, and Singleton was arrested. "They framed me the first time, but this time I did it," Singleton said as he left a police station with his hands cuffed behind his back for the trip to jail.

Singleton, 69, was charged with murder Wednesday night, 10 years after his parole in the California rape angered prosecutors and struck fear into residents. The woman found in Singleton's home died of multiple stab wounds in her upper body, said Hillsborough sheriff's Lt. David Gee said. She was not immediately identified and her connection to Singleton wasn't clear. The deputy was responding to a 911 call from a man who had entered the house when he heard sounds of a fight, and saw the woman struggling with Singleton, police said. The man left to make the call.

The caller, Paul Hitson, is a house painter who had been working on Singleton's home, neighbors said. "I think he was strangling her," Hitson told WFTS-TV. "He told her to shut up and then hit her with his fist. I would have done something, but I was scared." Singleton "had blood all over his chest and on the side of his face," said Sales, who accompanied the deputy to the door to help control the suspect's Rottweiler. "He said he cut himself chopping some vegetables. "The deputy asked to come in, and he was like, 'We don't need to do that,'" Sales said. But when Singleton walked back inside to answer a ringing telephone, the body was visible, Gee said. In California, residents were outraged when Singleton was freed eight years into a 14-year sentence for the 1978 mutilation-rape of a 15-year-old hitchhiker, who was left to die along a road. She survived and testified against him. After Singleton was paroled, angry residents demonstrated and even filed lawsuits to try to keep him out of their communities. Authorities ended up housing him in a mobile home at San Quentin Prison until his parole ended in 1988. Singleton returned in 1989 to his home state of Florida. But at his first house, residents protested and a car dealer offered him \$5,000 to leave the state. A homemade bomb was detonated near the house but nobody was injured. He also had several run-ins with Florida police. In 1991, he was sentenced to two years in jail for shoplifting a \$3 hat from a Wal-Mart. In 1990, he served 45 days for

King family wants Ray to stand trial again for murder of MLK

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - James Earl Ray's fingerprints were on the hunting rifle found a few hundred feet from the motel where Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968. Ray admitted buying the rifle and bringing it to Memphis, and pleaded guilty to killing King. But now he wants new scientific tests on the 30.06 Remington in hopes of proving it wasn't the murder weapon and he was not the murderer. Criminal Court Judge Joe Brown was to hear Ray's lawyers argue today for the tests, which Ray hopes will help him in his attempt to withdraw his plea and go to trial. But prosecutors said Ray has used up his appeals in Tennessee courts. "He's the confessed killer. Nothing else out there can really be looked upon as credible evidence," said state prosecutor John Campbell. Ray, 68, began trying to take back his guilty plea three days after he gave it in 1969. State and federal courts have upheld it seven times. Ray is seriously ill with liver disease. King's family and civil rights leaders who fear Ray will take the truth to the grave want a trial now. Conspiracy theorists have argued for years that Ray was a bungling, petty criminal who could not have pulled off the assassination alone. Their theories, some of which include claims of government wrongdoing, often note that authorities have never proven that Ray's gun was the murder weapon. To have new tests, Ray's lawyers must first convince the courts that

improved technology can determine if the rifle found at the scene killed King. They would then have to show that test results in his favor help prove his innocence.

"He's the confessed killer."
John Campbell
State prosecutor

Having a guilty plea overturned on a claim of innocence is difficult, since the law assumes a person knows if he's guilty or not at the time the plea is given. The courts also have held that Ray's plea was freely given. "There might have been other people involved. But to say because others were involved Ray should be released from jail is just nuts," Campbell said.

King was killed on a motel balcony while in Memphis to help organize a strike by city sanitation workers. Ray, using an assumed name, rented a room in a flophouse across the street the day of the killing. Ray fled Memphis moments after King was shot and was captured two months later in London. Defense lawyer William Pepper contends Ray pleaded guilty because he had no other choice, since the evidence had been stacked against him. Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Kids Inc. baseball registration set for Saturday at HCC

Kids Inc. has announced that registration for baseball and softball will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hereford Community Center. The boys' program is for ages 5 to 15, and the girls' program is ages 5 to 16.



Playing cards

The dining room tables at the Hereford Senior Citizens Center are filled with card and domino players almost every day. Here, Betty Jo Carlson plays a hand of Skip-Bo on Wednesday. In the background is Vera Secrest.

FEB 20 1997

Local Roundup

Light snow forecasted

Hereford reached a high of 40 degrees on Monday with an overnight low of 36 degrees and a trace of precipitation, according to KPAN Radio. For Thursday night, look for mostly cloudy skies with a 20 percent chance of light rain or snow. Forecasters call for a 20 percent chance of light snow Friday morning, followed by decreasing cloudiness. The high will be in the 40s. The five-day forecast calls for mostly clear skies and a slight chance of light snow.

Spring TAAS testing set

The Exit level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) writing, math and reading tests will be given Feb 25-27. The tests will begin at 8:30 a.m. All sophomores and juniors will test at the high school. The seniors who have not taken or who have not passed a section or sections of the TAAS will be tested at the administration building. Transportation will be provided for seniors. Buses will leave at 8:20 a.m. from the high school. All students in Texas must pass all sections of the test to be eligible to receive a high school diploma. All freshman will take a practice TAAS test on Feb. 25 and will attend school all day on Tuesday. Students not testing will not report to school on these three days until 11:25 a.m.

Chamber banquet tickets on sale

Tickets are on sale for \$14 for the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce banquet, which will be held March 13. The tickets can be purchased from any Hereford Hustler, C of C board member or at the C of C office, 701 North Main. Josh Davis, the winner of three Olympic gold medals in the 1996 Atlanta Games, will be the guest speaker. For more information, contact the C of C at 364-3333.

Emergency Services

Activities reported by law enforcement agencies Thursday:

POLICE DEPARTMENT

-- Animal bite reported in the 200 block of Blevins.

-- Child custody dispute reported in the 400 block of Sycamore Lane.

-- Disturbance reported in the 2900 block of East First Street.

-- Criminal mischief reported in the 600 block of East Fourth Street.

-- Domestic disturbance reported in the 500 block of Roosevelt.

-- Criminal mischief reported in the 600 block of Irving.

-- Runaway reported in the 200 block of Avenue B.

-- 50-year-old male cited for theft in the 300 block of North Miles.

-- 37-year-old male cited for theft and public intoxication in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue.

-- 39-year-old female cited for theft in the 500 block of North 25 Mile.

-- 32-year-old male arrested for criminal non-support warrant in the 900 block of South 25 Mile Avenue.

-- 29-year-old male arrested for domestic violence assault in the 300 block of North Street.

-- 19-year-old male arrested for domestic violence assault in the 300 block of North Street.

-- 17-year-old male arrested for public intoxication on Park Avenue

and Highway 60.

-- 21-year-old male arrested for theft by check warrant in the 500 block of West First.

-- 19-year-old male arrested for felony violation of probation warrant in the 800 block of South Texas.

-- 25-year-old male arrested for trespassing in the 500 block of Ross Street.

-- 36-year-old male arrested for possession of a controlled substance, resisting arrest and aggravated assault on a police officer.

-- 21-year-old female arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

-- One accident reported without injuries.

-- Eleven citations issued.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

-- No calls.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

-- 18-year-old male arrested for violation of probation.

-- 30-year-old male arrested criminal trespassing.

-- 27-year-old male for criminal mischief.

-- 52-year-old female arrested for violation of probation.

-- Burglary of a motor vehicle reported.

-- Forgery reported.

-- Attempted suicide reported.

Charge against confessed murderer could be dismissed on technicality

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - A legal technicality may force authorities to dismiss a murder charge against a man who confessed to stabbing his toddler son to death because he wouldn't stop crying for his imprisoned mother.

The 4th Court of Appeals Wednesday ordered 226th District Judge Sid Harle to hold a hearing to determine if prosecutors had a good reason for not getting a timely indictment against Anthony John Torres, 39.

Torres told authorities in 1995 that

he slit his 3-year-old son's throat, packed his body in a picnic basket and disposed of it in a trash dumpster.

The appeals court ruled that if "no good cause" is found for the delay in obtaining the capital murder indictment, the indictment is to be dismissed with prejudice, meaning it cannot be refiled.

"In this case, we had a helpless child murdered. It's almost unbelievable that this happened," said Mary Jane Peterson, San Antonio chapter leader of Parents of Murdered Children.

"It's unfortunate, should the 4th Court of Appeals let the man walk on a technicality like this."

Harle said Wednesday he is presiding over a lengthy trial and he will hold a hearing in the matter in mid-March.

Torres has been held in jail since April 1995 in lieu of \$200,000 bond.

Prosecutors had at one time sought the death penalty for Torres, but in recent months decided to seek only a life sentence.

Authorities say Torres gave police three separate confessions.

He said he drugged "John John" and killed him because the child would not stop crying for his mother, who had been imprisoned a few weeks earlier after her probation on an embezzlement case was revoked.

The boy's body never was found. Texas criminal law requires that a defendant who is in custody or on bail must have his case dismissed and bail discharged if there is no indictment by the end of the term of the next grand jury panel convened following his arrest.

Grand jury panels, which meet to determine whether there is sufficient evidence to bring formal charges in a criminal case, are convened for two-month terms in Bexar County.

A defendant is arrested in one term and must be indicted by the end of the next term.

Court records show Torres was arrested April 27, 1995, and was indicted for capital murder on July 25, 1995. The grand jury term following his arrest ended in June.

Court-appointed defense lawyers Joel Perez and Catherine Babbit filed a motion to have his case dismissed six days after he was indicted.

District Attorney Steve Hilbig says he will fight to keep Torres from being released.

Hilbig said the situation in the Torres case is a culmination of different problems in several different areas, but he did not specifically give the reason for the delay in that case.

The biggest problem, he said, is that grand jury terms in Bexar County are only two months while those in other jurisdictions are sometimes as long as six months.

"Technically if somebody is arrested at the end of one term, police have less than 60 days to get their investigation and information for an indictment," Hilbig said.

The prosecutor said another problem is getting autopsy reports from the medical examiner's office in a timely manner.

"We have one case from October where we still don't have a report," he said. "Sometimes the Police Department has to wait for the medical examiner, too."



Students of the Six Weeks

The Hereford Lions Club recognized the Students of the Six Weeks at St. Anthony's Catholic School at their noon meeting on Wednesday. Boss Lion L.J. Clark, in background, presented the awards. Pictured, from left, are Molly Meeks, teacher; Sharla McKiernan; Brant Newton; and Ann Lueb, principal. McKiernan is the daughter of Sherri McKiernan. Newton is the son of Roy and Jennifer Newton.

Lusty phone bills result of Internet scam

WASHINGTON (AP) - Hundreds of Internet users trying to download erotic pictures over the last two months ended up with an unwanted bonus - a lusty phone bill charging them with calls to a country in Eastern Europe.

The Federal Trade Commission on Wednesday announced the breakup of an Internet scam that racked up thousands of dollars to unknowing consumers seeking adult entertainment.

Visitors to three sites on the World Wide Web were told they could access erotic photographs by downloading a free software program. Unknown to the customers, the program cut them off from local Internet providers and reconnected them to a number assigned to Moldova, a country that borders Romania.

The calls, however, never made it to Moldova. Instead, they were routed to a site in Canada, but billed as if they had reached Moldova. Phone charges of up to \$3 a minute continued to mount until the computer was turned off.

"It's a high-tech scam. The defendants in this case are using software to hijack the computer's modem," said Jodie Bernstein, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection.

RAPIST

swiping a \$10 disposable camera from a drug store.

Neighbors said Singleton, who had lived alone in the neat, one-story home for about a year, was quiet and unassuming until three weeks ago when Sales and his father found him in his van, a nozzle attached to the exhaust pipe leading into the window.

Sales' father, David Sales, said neighbors learned of Singleton's past shortly after he and his son pulled him out of the van in front of his home.

"The first thing I thought was should I have left that man in there," David Sales said. "If I had known, I probably would have at least given it a second thought."

Other neighbors said the news of Singleton's past frightened them, but they thought he deserved another chance.

"I didn't think he would be stupid enough to do anything again," said Gloria Deneen, who lives across the street in the blue-collar neighborhood seven miles east of downtown Tampa.

News of the slaying came as little surprise to people who helped drive Singleton out of California.

"It's as if someday, somewhere, I was expecting something," said Nancy Fahden, former Contra Costa

County supervisor. "It's very chilling."

Fahden was county supervisor when a mob of 500 residents in the small town of Rodeo successfully forced Singleton to leave after his release from prison in 1987.

The residents swarmed the apartment building where Singleton was living, holding banners that read: "Drop dead, Larry," and "Get the maniac out."

Eileen Harrington, associate director of the FTC's marketing practices division, said a treaty governing international phone systems requires AT&T to pay the Moldova phone company for all calls billed to the country. The treaty does not distinguish calls made under fraudulent circumstances.

Bernstein said she has no evidence the government of Moldova was formally involved in the scheme. Many countries sell their long distance service but most don't keep tabs on how the companies that buy it use it, she said.

A temporary restraining order to shut down the operation was issued under seal last week by a federal judge in New York. It was made

public Wednesday morning.

The FTC lawsuit accused three people and two companies, Promo Line Inc. and Audiotex Connection, of false and deceptive advertising, failing to disclose information about the computer program and misrepresenting long-distance phone billing.

Lawyer Joel Dichter said his clients voluntarily pulled their Internet services at the end of

Law enforcement officials nab suspect with 4 tons of marijuana

LEWISVILLE, Texas (AP) - A 50-year-old man who eluded authorities for 24 years was in custody Wednesday after authorities arrested him and seized 9,000 pounds of marijuana.

Glenn Moore Rice Jr. was convicted of a heroin charge in Harris County in 1973. He became a fugitive when he failed to appear for sentencing, said Daryl Fields, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in San Antonio.

"Our belief is that he's been out of the country as well as several areas within the United States," Fields said Wednesday. Rice's last known address was Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, federal authorities in

January, several weeks before the FTC action. He also said accurate disclaimers were provided on each Web page.

The FTC said the companies received part of the proceeds from the phone company in Moldova.

The case came to the FTC's attention when AT&T workers noticed an increase in calls to Moldova.

Austin filed a criminal complaint last October charging him with a count each of conspiracy and possession with intent to distribute thousands of pounds of marijuana.

U.S. marshals tracked Rice to a Lewisville hotel, where he was arrested Monday. Law enforcers then found the 4 1/2 tons of marijuana at a Carrollton warehouse owned by James Ernest Gregory, Deputy Marshal Randy Moon said.

Gregory, 50, of Walnut, Calif., also was arrested.

News Digest

STATE

AUSTIN - Three weeks after proposing a property tax relief plan to the Legislature, Gov. George W. Bush says he's not discouraged by mounting questions from lawmakers.

AUSTIN - State Sen. Drew Nixon faces up to 180 days in jail after his arrest in front of a church on a charge of soliciting an undercover police officer for sex.

AUSTIN - The Texas Lottery Commission will meet in March to decide whether it should continue business with its main contractor or reopen its primary contract for new bidders.

DALLAS - They've argued it with each other, they've argued it with mediators, now they'll argue before a board of arbitrators. The contract quarrel between American Airlines and its pilots is set to begin next week before President Clinton's three-member emergency board.

HOUSTON - A key prosecution witness failed to explain her multiple versions of events surrounding the slaying of a Houston police officer nearly 15 years ago, but would not budge from her assertion that a former death row inmate, Ricardo Aldape Guerra, was the gunman.

AUSTIN - The death toll on Texas highways went up with the speed limit last year, and auto insurers say the state is to blame for increasing speeds before studying the possible effects.

EL PASO - At a time when more minors are risking illegal border crossings, U.S. and Mexican officials have begun collaborating on a videoconferencing system designed to speed the juveniles' safe return home.

SAN ANTONIO - A legal technicality may force authorities to dismiss a murder charge against a man who confessed to stabbing his toddler son to death because he wouldn't stop crying for his imprisoned mother.

AUSTIN - Deborah Sosa lives in a Dallas suburb and works in a doctor's office. But as a single parent with three children, Ms. Sosa says she can't afford to insure her children's health. Ms. Sosa and other parents like her are the targets of a bill meant to encourage health care coverage for 1.3 million Texas children who are currently uninsured.

HOUSTON - A state district judge has ruled that the so-called "cheerleader mom" will not have to undergo a psychological evaluation before she is released from prison.

AUSTIN - A civil court jury has ruled that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department was responsible for the 1987 deaths of two brothers who drowned while fishing at Pedernales Falls State Park.

LAREDO - Defense lawyers are attempting to force a discredited forensic expert to testify at a hearing in connection with a 1991 triple ax murder.

Obituaries

JACKIE W. THOMPSON SR.

Feb. 19, 1997

Jackie Wayne Thompson Sr., 60, of Hereford, died Thursday.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday in First Assembly of God Church in Hereford with the Rev. Teddy Teeter, pastor of Assembly of God Church in Olton, and the Rev. Robert Slaton, District superintendent of West Texas District Assemblies of God. Burial will be in West Park Cemetery by Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home.

Mr. Thompson was born Oct. 17, 1936 in Hereford. He married Glenda Hess in 1957 in New Deal. He was a

minister, missionary and public relations director for Assembly of God Children's Home. He was a member of First Assembly of God in Olton.

Survivors include his wife, a son, Jackie Wayne Thompson Jr. of Olton; a daughter, Glenda Kay Chadwick of Hereford; his parents, Lesslie and Hester Thompson; two brothers, Bob Davis of Manteca, Calif. and Lesslie Thompson Jr. of Metkakatla, Ala.; a sister, Shirley Neighbors of Whitesboro; and eight grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Pleasant Hills Children's Home in Fairfield.

LOTTO TEXAS

TEXAS LOTTERY

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

2-9-5
(two, nine, five)

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Lotto Texas numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery:

2, 20, 27, 31, 45, 50
(two, twenty, twenty-seven, thirty-one, forty-five, fifty)
Estimated Lotto Texas jackpot: \$8 million

THE HEREFORD BRAND

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Lifestyles

Ann Landers

Reader wants to know why felons get time off when victims don't

Dear Ann Landers: You've printed a few letters from readers who seem to think there is too much self-pity in the world. They suggest that people stop whining and "get on with their lives."

I would like to know how family members of someone murdered in a drive-by shooting are supposed to "get on with their lives." Or a child molested by a neighbor -- do you think that child's life will ever be the same?

What about the young man whose world is torn apart when a stray bullet pierces his brain and he is paralyzed for the rest of his life? Or the mom and dad who lose their only son to drugs? Or the relatives of the family killed on their way home from church by a drunk driver who had seven drunk-driving convictions?

And then, Ann, to make matters worse, you print letters from prisoners who say being incarcerated is unfair, unjust and inhuman. They complain about our prison system and think their civil rights are being trampled. And a lot of your readers seem to agree with them.

What about the other side of the story? The victims' family members are sentenced for life, and they are not the ones who were on the wrong side of the law. The people in prison made the choice by pulling the trigger, driving drunk or selling drugs. It burns me up to hear convicted felons screaming about

their rights. Doesn't anyone care about the victims and their rights? Victims don't get parole or time off for good behavior. Their family members will NEVER come back, no matter how good their behavior is. -- D.K., Riverside, Calif.

Dear D.K.: You ask, "Doesn't anyone care about the victims and their rights?" Well, I do, and I have spoken out on their behalf many times over the years.

The issue, however, is not about "rights." It is about warehousing prisoners who, if given proper training and counseling, could be self-supporting, law-abiding citizens when they return to society.

We now know that simply locking people up is not the solution. We must try to give them tools to build a better life, not only for their sake but for the safety of society. Education is the best tool I know of. While it will not work for everyone, it will work for some, and I say it certainly is worth a shot.

Dear Ann Landers: I was married for 22 years to a man I helped put through engineering school. We had three great kids. They are all doing well.

About two years ago, my husband started to work too many nights to suit me. I became suspicious and hired a private detective to tail him. Sure enough, he was having an affair with a woman in his office. I am now getting a divorce.

The problem is complicated, and I need your help. We had a joint credit card. He went hog wild and ruined my credit. I have seen a lawyer and learned that I am responsible for whatever was charged to our joint account. Those accounts have now been closed by me. I'm afraid, however, that my reputation has been ruined. Do you have any suggestions? -- Blindsided in Dixie

Dear Dixie: Let your creditors know you are not a deadbeat. Call them or write a letter explaining that things are tight now but you intend to pay your bill as soon as possible. You might also contact a member of the National Foundation for Consumer Credit by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: National Foundation for Consumer Credit, 8611 Second Ave., Suite 100, Silver Spring, Md. 20910, or call 1-800-388-2227 for the nearest local agency.

An alcohol problem? How can you help yourself or someone you love? "Alcoholism: How to Recognize It, How to Deal With It, How to Conquer It" will give you the answers. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Alcohol, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

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Installation held

New officers for King's Manor Auxiliary were installed during Tuesday's meeting in the Lamar Room. Conducting the installation was Juanita Brown, right. New officers are, from left, Rosalee McGowen, president; Ruby Stevenson, vice president; Ruth Robbins, secretary; Morgan Cain, treasurer; and Marguerite Cole, social chairman.

College students from Hereford receive degrees, earn other honors

TEXAS A&M

Texas A&M University in College Station has named its honor students for the 1996 fall semester, including six students from Hereford.

The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes students taking at least 15 student credit hours who have maintained at least a 3.75 grade point ratio out of a possible 4.0 during the most recent grading period.

A second designation, Distinguished Student, recognizes students who earned a 3.25 to 3.75 GPR while taking at least 15 hours.

Included on the Dean's Honor Roll were Aimee Rachelle Alley, Cady Marie Auckerman and Taylor Ann Sublett.

Names as Distinguished Students were Brent Marcus Marnell, Clifford Alcie Skiles III and Jeb S. Skiles.

David Richard Bone was among the more than 3,300 Texas A&M

University graduates who received diplomas during December commencement ceremonies.

Bone graduated cum laude with a GPR between 3.5 and 3.699, receiving his Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering.

WTAMU

Lance Ortiz of Hereford is a member of the West Texas A&M University Forensics Team which placed third in overall sweepstakes at the spring Texas Intercollegiate Forensics Association Competition held on the WTAMU campus Feb. 7-9.

The team also placed third in the debate competition and fourth in individual event sweepstakes.

Ortiz is a sophomore speech major. Other team members are Joseph Maxie, a freshman speech major from Amarillo; Sarah Robertson, a freshman speech/English major from Amarillo; and Justin Vinyard, a sophomore speech major from Borger.

In individual placings, Ortiz placed second in prose, third in individual sweepstakes, fourth in after-dinner speaking and fifth in poetry.

Team placings include Ortiz and Robertson placing fifth in duo speaking.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Feb. 20, the 51st day of 1997. There are 314 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
On Feb. 20, 1962, astronaut John Glenn became the first American to orbit Earth as he flew aboard the Friendship 7 Mercury capsule.

On this date:
In 1790, Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II died.

In 1792, President Washington signed an act creating the U.S. Post Office.

In 1809, the Supreme Court ruled the power of the federal government is greater than that of any individual state.

In 1839, Congress prohibited dueling in the District of Columbia.

In 1895, abolitionist Frederick Douglass died in Washington, D.C.

In 1933, the House of Representatives completed congressional action on an amendment to repeal Prohibition.

In 1938, Anthony Eden resigned as British foreign secretary in a dispute with Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain.

In 1944, during World War II, U.S. bombers began raiding German aircraft manufacturing centers in a series of attacks that became known as Big Week.

In 1965, the Ranger 8 spacecraft crashed on the moon after sending back thousands of pictures of the lunar surface.

In 1971, the National Emergency Warning Center in Colorado erroneously ordered radio and TV stations across the United States to go off the air; some stations heeded the alert, which was not lifted for about 40 minutes.

Ten years ago: Soviet authorities released Jewish activist Josef Begun. A bomb blamed on the Unabomber exploded behind a computer store in Salt Lake City, seriously injuring a store executive.

Five years ago: Texas billionaire Ross Perot told CNN's "Larry King Live" he would run for president if his name were placed on the ballot in all 50 states.

One year ago: Patrick Buchanan won the New Hampshire Republican primary by a slim margin over Bob Dole. Gangsta rapper Snoop Doggy Dogg and his former bodyguard were acquitted of murder in the 1993 shooting death of an alleged gang member.

Today's Birthdays: Fashion designer Gloria Vanderbilt is 73. Movie director Robert Altman is 72. Actor Sidney Poitier is 70. Jazz-soul singer Nancy Wilson is 60. Singer-songwriter Buffy Sainte-Marie is 56. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Phil Esposito is 55. Actress Sandy Duncan is 51. Rock musician J. Geils is 51. Actor Peter Strauss is 50. Rock singer-musician-producer Walter Becker (Steely Dan) is 47. Actor Edward Albert is 46. Country singer Kathie Baillie is 46. Newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst is 43. Basketball player Charles Barkley is 34. Rock musician Ian Brown (Stone Roses) is 34. Actor French Stewart ("3rd Rock from the Sun") is 33. Model Cindy Crawford is 31. Actor Andrew Shue is 30.

Thought for Today: "There is no hope of joy except in human relations." - Antoine de Saint-Exupery, French author-aviator (1900-1944).

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To Your Good Health

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I'm 73 and live alone. I have vertigo and had a typical spell of it the other evening when lying on a couch. When I awoke, the room was spinning around. I finally reached a phone to call a friend. My friend took me to the emergency room, where I got a shot and anti-dizziness pills. They did blood tests and sent me home. Ménière's syndrome was mentioned. That's all I know. -- Mrs. L.F.

ANSWER: Rather than recite the 70 possible causes of dizziness, I'll list three likely ones, including the Ménière's possibility.

There's a dizziness that comes on when the head assumes a certain postural attitude. Moving it into that provoking position brings dizziness. It's called "benign positional vertigo," an inner-ear balance problem. I must say, though, that your description seems to point in other directions, your dizziness coming as you wake up.

A siege of dizzy spells can point to inner-ear viral infections. Such patients respond to general anti-vertigo drugs, such as Dramamine and Antivert.

A doctor would suspect Ménière's syndrome when hearing loss and ear ringing accompanies the dizziness. The cause is fluid accumulation in the inner ear.

A low-salt diet and avoidance of caffeine products can work wonders for the Ménière's patient. Surgical procedures range from insertion of tubes to draw off fluid to severing nerves carrying the troublesome symptoms. Sometimes you can reduce the fluid by instilling the antibiotic streptomycin.

An otolaryngologist specializes in diagnosing ear problems.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: My husband has stopped smoking cigarettes.

But he has taken up cigars, which I find odious. He says there is no danger in smoking cigars. I beg to differ with him. I think you should weigh in with the medical truth. -- Mrs. R.

ANSWER: Cigar smoking is not healthy. It increases the risk of mouth cancer and larynx cancer. It also increases the risk of lung cancer, although to a lesser degree than cigarette smoking.

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Hospital Notes

Report from Hereford Regional Medical Center on Feb. 20:
Admissions: None.
Discharges: Lenora Pierson, Manuel Orosco.

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Sports

Nazareth, Adrian to open 1A playoffs tonight

TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

Area high school basketball enthusiasts will get a chance to feed their addiction with two of the best high school boys programs in the state tonight. And they won't have to go very far to do it.

The Nazareth Swifts, one of the state's most storied Class A programs, will invade Hereford's Whiteface Gym tonight to face Adrian in the bi-district round of the state playoffs.

The game is slated for a 7 p.m. tip-off. Ticket prices are set at \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

The Swifts, who have missed the state playoffs just once in the last 15 years, come into tonight's game sporting one of the state's top records. Nazareth, coming off Saturday's 73-62 warm-up victory over Spearman, has put together a 26-4 mark this fall. Adrian, the District 4 runner-up, sports an 18-8 record.

The Swifts, under the direction of sixth-

Class A Bi-District Playoff Nazareth

vs.
Adrian

7 p.m., tonight in the Whiteface Gym.

year head coach Mark MacEver, advanced

to the state semifinals last fall before falling to eventual champion Avinger. They haven't missed a beat this year, finishing the regular season as the District 3-1A champs.

Height should be a problem for neither team. Nazareth sports a lineup dominated by three players who stand 6-2 or better. Adrian, as a team, averages 6-foot-3 per man.

Seniors Nathan Hoelting and Bryan Braddock pace the Nazareth offense. Both Hoelting, a dominating 6-foot-4 post, and

Braddock, a 5-foot-10 guard, are averaging better than 16 points a game this season.

Rounding out the starting lineup for the Swifts are wind Marcus Brockman and Josh Bingham, and postman Nick Gerber. Brockman is a 6-foot-2 senior, while Bingham stands in at 5-foot-9. Gerber will likely be the tallest player on the floor when the game begins. The senior standout stands 6-foot-5 and controls the patrols the underneath for the NHS cagers.

Eagles take aim at HPCAA crown



One to go

The Nazareth Christian Academy Eagles will play for the High Plains Christian Athletic Association's state title this Saturday afternoon in Amarillo. The Eagles, 13-3 overall, won a bye in the first round by winning the North Zone and posting the best overall record in the Texas-New Mexico Christian league. The Eagles, who won just three games in the first three years, will play at 4 p.m. at St. Andrew. Members of the 1996-97 NCA squad are Jeremy Gonzales, Justin Ward, Chayse Rives, Jeremy Henning. Head coach Keith Lowe, (front row) Teel Merrick, Jacob Power, Jeremy Williams, Tyler Keeling, and Kris Bridwell.

Grandfather of Texas high hoops keeps rolling along

LEVELLAND, Texas (AP) — Dean Weese got "stuck" coaching girls' basketball 38 years ago. Ever since, he's been sticking it to his opponents.

"I was playing semipro baseball and having a pretty good time," Weese said. "Then the superintendent from Spearman came along and said if I went there, he'd get me a (draft) deferment."

The year was 1958, amid the brief peacetime spell between the Korean and Vietnam wars, and Weese merely assumed he was heading into military service.

"Sure enough, he got me a deferment and I went to Spearman and stayed there 15 years," he said. "I coached both boys and girls for a while, but later I had to make a choice."

"I got stuck with girls' basketball, and I've been there ever since."

While the 61-year-old jokes about how he became the dean of girls'

basketball in Texas, Weese is serious about winning.

He won three championships at Spearman between 1965-72, then won two amateur titles at Wayland Baptist University in the 1970s. Since coming to Levelland in 1980, he has won six state championships and 16 straight district titles.

Starting with a job he practically accepted on a lark, Weese helped lay the groundwork for girls basketball in this part of the country.

"He's been the most important factor in my career," said Texas Tech coach Marsha Sharp, who got her first coaching break under Weese at Wayland Baptist in the 1970s. "I've said many times the

things I learned from him at Wayland have impacted me every single day. The fundamental skills I learned and things he instilled in people that it took to make them winners have been things I've tried to emulate my whole career."

Some counterparts refuse to accept Weese's basic coaching philosophy that's led to a 1,162-179 career record, he said.

"I think I didn't coach them any different than I coached boys," he said. "A lot of people told me you can't coach them the same way, but the same people that have been telling me that haven't been win-

See WEESE, Page 5

TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

A Hollywood screen writer couldn't have written the Nazareth Christian Academy Eagles' rise to the top of the High Plains Christian Athletic Association world.

Even Ernest Hemingway and William Shakespeare would have been hard pressed for words.

You see, Nazareth Christian Academy's quest to be, started with a team that struggled not to be a

doom. And not very successfully.

"These kids have earned what they've achieved," said first-year Eagles' coach Keith Lowe. "Before this year, this team had won only three games in the past three years. I think a lot of it has been that the kids matured."

"It's unbelievable how far they have come," said Lowe.

Three years removed from a one-win season, the Eagles have rebounded nicely. Nazareth

Christian Academy rolled through the 1996-97 season with ease, posting a 13-3 record. Along with that impressive record, the Eagles

SEE NCA, Page 5

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Girls Playoff Pairings
CLASS 6A
Region I
 All games at Chaparral Center, Midland
Friday semifinals
 Amarillo (30-3) vs. FM Marcus (29-6), 6 p.m.
 Lubbock Coronado (29-3) vs. Duncanville (28-6), 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
Region II
 All games at the Farrell Center, Waco
Friday semifinals
 Longview (30-2) vs. Temple (34-3), 6:45 p.m.
 Skyline (28-5) vs. Copperas Cove (27-5), 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday final, 6 p.m.
Region III
 All games at Campbell Center, Aldine
Friday semifinals
 Aldine Nimitz (29-6) vs. Katy Mayde Creek (29-6), 6 p.m.
 Aibel Elask (34-1) vs. Galena Park North Shore (29-7), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 2 p.m.
Region IV
 All games at UT-San Antonio Convocation Center
Friday semifinals
 Laredo Cigarroa (27-6) vs. San Antonio East Central (32-1), 6 p.m.
 Converse Judson (24-8) vs. Corpus Christi King (28-7), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
CLASS 4A
Region I
 Levelland (28-3) vs. Canyon (30-0) 7:00 Friday at Wayland Baptist, Plainview.
Region II
 Lincoln (20-6) vs. Cedar Hill (32-3) 7:30 Friday at Garland Lakewood.
Region III
 Bay City (32-2) vs. Stabee (27-3) 7:30 Friday at Langham Creek.
Region IV
 Corpus Christi Calallen (26-8) vs. Waco Midway (27-6) 7:30 Friday at Alamo Stadium Gym, San Antonio.
CLASS 3A
Region I
 All games at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum

Friday semifinals
 Clint (31-1) vs. Aledo (23-5), 7 p.m.
 Dimmitt (22-12) vs. Comanche (26-4), 8:30 p.m.
 Saturday final, 5 p.m.
Region II
 All games at University Field House, Commerce.
Friday semifinals
 Malakoff (20-11) vs. Wynnboro (20-11), 6 p.m.
 Canton (25-7) vs. DeKalb (18-11), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 3 p.m.
Region III
 All games at Sam Houston State, Huntsville
Saturday semifinals
 Madisonville (26-5) vs. Palestine Westwood (27-4), 6:15 p.m.
 Barbers Hill (33-4) vs. Lufkin Hudson (32-2), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
Region IV
 All games at Texas A&M-Kingsville
 Liberty Hill (27-4) vs. Corpus Christi West Oso (25-7)
 Dripping Spring (27-9) vs. Aransas Pass (29-7)
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
CLASS 2A
Region I
 All games at Moody Coliseum, Abilene.
Friday semifinals
 Idalou (19-11) vs. Shallowater (34-3), 6:30 p.m.
 Spearman (18-14) vs. Ozona (29-2), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
Region II
 All games at Wisdom Gym, Stephenville
Friday semifinals
 Gunter (33-1) vs. Hamilton (27-5), 6 p.m.
 Holliday (20-10) vs. Van Alstyne (23-8), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 2 p.m.
Region III
 All games at Tyler Junior College
Friday semifinals
 Edgewood (26-7) vs. Woden (26-4), 6 p.m.
 Hawkins (31-3) vs. East Chambers (31-3), 8 p.m.
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
Region IV

All games at St. Edwards, Austin
Friday semifinals
 Bloomington (30-5) vs. Poth (29-4)
 Flotina (23-10) vs. Karnes City (21-9)
 Saturday final, 1 p.m.
CLASS A
Region I
 All games at the Texan Dome, Levelland
Friday quarterfinals
 Meadow (26-7) vs. Spur (27-4), noon
 Gruver (25-7) vs. Whitmarl (26-2), 1:30 p.m.
 Whiteface (30-1) vs. Borden Co. (22-7), 5:30 p.m.
Region II
 Claude (21-10) vs. Sudan (29-4), 7 p.m.
Saturday semifinals
 Games 1 and 2 winners, 9:30 a.m.
 Games 3 and 4 winners, 11 a.m.
 Saturday final, 7 p.m.
Region III
 All games at Kimbrell Arena, Abilene
Friday quarterfinals
 Henrietta Midway (28-5) vs. Sarto (21-10), 2 p.m.
 Sands (21-9) vs. Iron Co. (16-15), 4 p.m.
 Ponder (23-10) vs. Brock (23-9), 6 p.m.
 Gandy (18-11) vs. Garden City (21-8), 8 p.m.
Saturday semifinals
 Games 1 and 2 winners, 9 a.m.
 Games 3 and 4 winners, 10:30 a.m.
 Saturday final, 7 p.m.
Region IV
 All games at Johnson Coliseum, Nacogdoches
Friday quarterfinals
 Sani Rayburn (27-4) vs. Trinidad (16-11), 1 p.m.
 Mt. Enterprise (22-9) vs. Zavalla (25-6), 3 p.m.
 Celeste (28-3) vs. Kamack (27-3), 5:30 p.m.
 Laneville (24-4) vs. Big Sandy (24-8), 7:30 p.m.
Saturday semifinals
 Games 1 and 2 winners, 10 a.m.
 Games 3 and 4 winners, noon
 Saturday final, 7 p.m.
Region V
 All games at Blinn College, Brenham
Friday quarterfinals
 Cranfills Gap (22-5) vs. Zephyr (26-6), 2:30 p.m.
 Round Top-Camine (20-4) vs. Port Aransas (28-5), 4 p.m.
 Huckabay (25-3) vs. Brooksmith (25-6), 6:30 p.m.

Weese

ning, and I have."
 His West Texas success sent him globe-trotting in the late 1970s at Wayland Baptist, the Plainview school that was a major national women's collegiate force from the 1950s through Weese's tenure.
 He coached a series of all-star games in the Soviet Union in 1975, and took the Queens on a road trip to Hong Kong three years later.
 Following a one-season stint with the Dallas Diamonds of the ill-fated Women's Basketball League, Weese found himself looking to the high school ranks once again.
 "My son lost his playing eligibility when we moved to Plano (for the Dallas job), and when I was getting ready to leave I was told he wasn't going to be eligible the next year in Texas," Weese said.
 Mistakenly thinking he had to leave the state to preserve son Todd's ability to play high school ball, Weese interviewed for the boys' job in Portales, N.M.
 "The superintendent at Levelland tracked me down some way and called me while I was in Portales, and he wanted to know if I'd talk to them," Weese said. "That's how I got to Levelland."

The girls' program here had never done anything until Weese's arrival. Since 1981, the Loboettes have gone 499-55.

Weese's basketball principles are simple: defense, pinpoint execution and fundamentals.

"When I watch (Levelland's) games, I may as well be watching our Wayland team back when I played," said Kathy Harston, an assistant coach at Texas and a Flying Queen under Weese.

Weese has found a home in Levelland, and the people here have responded in kind. His name

appears prominently on the sign leading into town proclaiming the Loboettes' six state titles.

"I've been offered several jobs since I've been here," he said. "We like it here. I don't know how much longer I'm going to coach, but I'm pretty sure I'm not going anywhere."

Senior post Missy Frazier, barely bigger than a basketball herself when Weese came to town, can't imagine her hometown before Weese arrived.

"Oh yeah," she said with a frown. "It would be lots different."

Houston among finalist for NHL franchise

HOUSTON (AP) - A Houston group headed by Chuck Watson and Bob McNair remained in the running for an NHL franchise after the league pared down its applications from 10 to six on Wednesday.

The NHL rejected applications by Houston Rockets owner Leslie Alexander and the Maloof family of Albuquerque, N.M. Watson owns the International Hockey League Houston Aeros and Arena Operating Co., which owns the lease to The Summit, where the Aeros and Rockets play.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said Watson's bid had more of what the league sought.

"With respect to the building situation, we think the Watson group would be the type of ownership we're looking for and they control The Summit," Bettman said.

"There was nothing wrong with the Maloof and Alexander proposals but we had a higher comfort level with the package presented by Watson."

The other cities still in contention for what could be four expansion spots in 1998 and 2000 are Columbus, Ohio; Nashville, Tenn.; Oklahoma City; Minneapolis-St. Paul; and Atlanta.

A Raleigh-Durham, N.C., group took itself out of contention before

the committee meetings began Tuesday.

"We're delighted that the league has selected us and that there won't be any more confusion as to who will get an NHL club if the league decides to award one to our city," Watson said.

An NHL franchise initially could play in The Summit.

"The Watson application contemplates a variety of scenarios," Bettman said. "One may be playing on an interim basis in The Summit, another may be playing in the Summit as it's being renovated and another is a new building."

A new arena is clearly the preferred option.

"One of the issues they're going

to be working on in their application is that they are in competition now with five other cities and the building is one of the issues that will continue to be a factor that will have to be focused on," Bettman said.

Watson now hopes to work with Alexander to build a new arena.

"There is still a lot of work left to be done," he said.

NCA

claimed the HPCAA North Zone championship and earned the state's No. 1 ranking heading into this weekend's state finals in Amarillo.

By winning the North Zone and finishing with the league's best record, the Eagles earned an automatic bid into Saturday's finals. San Jacinto, the defending High Plains champion, is scheduled to face Trinity Fellowship this evening in the semifinals, with the winner advancing to face South Zone titlist Plainview Christian for the right to meet Nazarene Christian in the championship game, which is set for 4 p.m. at St. Andrew Episcopal.

"I guess right now, we're considered the favorites," said Lowe.

"But aren't looking at it like that. We know we'll have to go out and play our best basketball at that level,"

The Eagles should be considered the favorite of the Texas-New Mexico Christian school league heading in. Nazarene Christian Academy has beaten all three of the teams in the state tournament this season.

Offense, or the huge amount of it to be more precise, has been a key to the Eagles' success this season. Nazarene Christian Academy racked up over 60 points a night - outscoring their opponents by a staggering 50 percent. Opposing teams have averaged a mere 30 points a game this year against the NCA defense.

"We're very proud of our defense," said Lowe. "We play our best when we play good teams. We've got good balance. We may not be spectacular, but we do a lot of things right defensively."

Nazarene Christian Academy is led this year by Chayse Rives, a 6-foot-2 post. Rives is averaging better than 12 points a night. Jeremy Gonzales and Jeremy Williams are also key players. Gonzales is a slick-shooting post. Williams is the team's point-guard.

Tyler Keeling and Jacob Power also start for the Eagles, while Jeremy Henning and Justin Ward stand out as the team's top reserves.

Other members of the NCA squad include Teel Merrick and Kris Bridwell.

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Valets jump into driver's seat of plush vehicles

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Call them Lords of the Lot. Embraced by some, scorned by others, car jockeys poised in front of trendy restaurants, boutiques and hotels jump into the driver's seats of the most pampered metal in town - machines called Ferrari, Bentley and Jaguar.

I think of Alicia Silverstone. As a wealthy Beverly Hills teen-ager in the movie "Clueless," she's asked if she wants to practice parking for her driver's test. "What's the point?" she asks. "Everywhere you go has a valet." And she's right. In this image-conscious town, stepping out of a

\$200,000 luxury car and nonchalantly tossing keys to a valet signals you have truly arrived - in every sense of the word.

"We're the caviar," said Chuck Pick, owner of the area's premiere parking outfit Chuck's Parking Service, official valet service for the hip eateries Eclipse, Morton's and the Bistro Gardens.

The blue-jacketed Chuck's valets also cater to private parties. They've even parked cars for O.J. Simpson's Brentwood guests ("That was a white back") and the Los Angeles Lakers players ("You should see THOSE cars!").

And in a town where cars confer status, parking attendants become the ultimate arbiters of star treatment.

Pull up in a battered Toyota and it - along with your reputation - will be banished to oblivion, or at least to another another lot. The Rolls-Royce, Porsche, Mercedes-Benz and Dodge Viper, meanwhile, get the conspicuous, up-front parking spots. The parking pecking order satisfies the customer and supplies an air of elitism to the establishment.

It also encourages bigger tips, which range from nothing to \$200 and more, though the average valet earns about \$12 an hour, tips included.

"They are great tipppers. Over the years, many give \$100 bills. (Frank) Sinatra used to give \$100 bills," Pick said.

Parkers are taught to smile, always open the woman's door first, run park with the wheels straight and never, never change radio stations. No autographs, either.

"I feel very comfortable with valet parking attendants, especially when driving a car such as my Ferrari," said legendary custom car builder Boyd Coddington.

"In fact, valet attendants take better care of my car because it is a high-profile vehicle. In most instances, it is parked right up front."

Another advantage for up-front parking? "I don't want to move that car that much," Pick says. "If it doesn't move much, there's less of

a chance something will happen to it."

Jenny McCarthy, formerly of MTV's "Singed Out" and now with her own upcoming MTV series, fears muggers so she's happy to let valets park her new Jaguar.

Doesn't she worry about joy-riding parkers?

"No, because if I found out I would kill them," she said, adding she always says, "Baby, here's the keys, park it for me."

But some in the you-are-what-you-drive crowd grimace when they steer toward an entrance and see valets are the only option. Imagine handing a complete stranger the keys to a car

that cost more than most homes.

"OK if I park it myself? Here's \$5," is the standard line.

Motor Trend magazine editor C. Van Tune is one of those.

"Because I prefer to park my own car, I offer attendants double the cost of the valet charge to self-park and keep my own keys. With the number of very expensive cars that Motor Trend tests, I consider this cheap insurance," Tune said.

General Motors even outfits its Corvette ZR1 muscle car with a special valet switch that keeps the engine from going more than a few miles per hour to help combat joy-riding parking attendants - or

perhaps teen-age children at home.

Dan Phillips, associate publisher of Robb Report magazine, which caters to the affluent, is astonished by the carelessness of some movers and shakers.

"A Fortune 500 guy, lawyer or actor can leave all sorts of things behind. The more expensive the car,

Hereford leading supermarkets and grocery stores advertise in the pages of the Hereford Brand. Shop the Brand ads to look for money-saving coupons and to compare prices. Many Hereford households use The Brand ads to do their shopping at one of Hereford's fine supermarkets!

Five questions with: Dan Cortese

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Dan Cortese - that sports jock from MTV, that in-your-face guy from the Burger King commercials, that libido-driven hunk on "Single Guy" - sits down at a restaurant and orders lunch. Hamburger? Pizza? Maybe a beer? "I have one question," he says to the waiter. "Is it possible to get just a fruit plate? And an Evian, please."

Go figure. A lot of things are surprising about this gorgeous, 29-year-old actor who comes off as a guy's guy of the worst kind on TV but in person exudes charm. To boot, he talks glowingly of his wife of three years, Dee-Dee, whom he met in college.

The son of an Italian immigrant father and a Croatian mother, Cortese recently began a recurring role on NBC's "Single Guy" as part of a development deal aimed at creating a sitcom for himself in the fall.

Cortese is also starring in the upcoming ABC television movie, "Volcano: Fire on the Mountain," in which he plays a geologist who tries to warn a mountain resort about an imminent volcano. It's one of several recent theatrical and television movies featuring natural disasters.

1. What's your favorite disaster movie from the 1970s?

Cortese: It wasn't a disaster film but I loved the original "Planet of the Apes." It was an action-type of disaster, I guess.

2. What's the closest you've ever been to a natural disaster?

Cortese: The Northridge (Calif.) earthquake.

2 : Where were you when it hit?

Cortese: I was in bed at my house in the Pacific Palisades and it shook pretty good out there. I have lived in L.A. for seven years now and I'd gone through a number of earthquakes and they had never really bothered me before. I always thought they were kind of cool. But that one left an impression in my mind. And the next day I told my wife, 'OK, I'm ready to move.' It scared me real good, just the length of it.

3. Have you been to Italy?

Cortese: A couple of times. Last May we went with some friends of ours to a week-long cooking course in the middle of the hills of Tuscany which was just magnificent.

4. Do you speak Italian?

Cortese: Some. My father rarely spoke it in the house because it wasn't the hip thing to do. I thought the first time I went to Italy I would be able to get by. And we were in Rome and I had no idea what they were saying because my father speaks with a Calabria dialect. When I came back I told him 'You speak homeboy Italian.'

5. Aside from golf and weight lifting, what do you do with your free time?

Cortese: I try to spend as much time with my wife as I possibly can.

Comics

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart

NICE GOING...
YOU CALL THIS PLEA BARGAINING?
YOU WERE GOING TO THE GUILLOTINE!

Marvin By Tom Armstrong

BONK! BAM! BING!
MARVIN, WOULD YOU PLEASE QUIET DOWN!!!
MOM ALWAYS GETS FUSSY WHEN SHE'S MISSED MY NAP.

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake

HONEY, I NEED A SIX-LETTER WORD THAT MEANS PURE PLEASURE
SKNXX-X
I'LL BE DARNED, IT FITS

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker

WOOF!
WHY DO YOU WANT TO STOP HERE, OTTO?
IT HAS THE BEST RESTROOMS
MEN
WOMEN

Barney Google and Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell

HEEP
HEEP
I DON'T RIDE HEE-CUPPY MULES!!

Television

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20																														
6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM																				
22	Movie: "batteries not included" PG	(35) Movie: Splash (1984) Tom Hanks, Daryl Hannah.	(25) Movie: Cry Freedom Kevin Kline. *** PG	23	News	Ent. Tonight	Friends	Single Guy	Seinfeld	Naked Truth	ER	News	(35) Tonight Show																	
24	Newshour With Jim Lehrer	Antiques Roadshow	Mystery!	Record Row	Computer	Charlie Rose	25	News	Wh. Fortune	Movie: Unforgiven (1992) Clint Eastwood, Gene Hackman. ****	News	Seinfeld	Nightline																	
26	Fam. Mat.	Bzzz!	Hercules-Jrny.	Xena: Warrior Princess	H'mooner	News	Wiseguy	Heat	27	News	Home Imp.	Diagnosis Murder	Moloney	48 Hours	News	(35) Late Show														
28	Roseanne	Mad-You	Martin	Single	New York Undercover	Star Trek: Deep Space 9	Mad-You	Cops	Real TV	29	Sportstr.	College Basketball Michigan at Iowa	College Basketball Louisville at Marquette	Sportscenter	30	Waltons	Highway to Heaven	Rescue 911	700 Club	Carson	Carson	3 Stooges								
31	(5:40) Movie: *** Urban Cowboy John Travolta. 'PG'	Movie: Showgirls Elizabeth Berkley. * R'	(15) Movie: Lap Dancing * R'	32	Movie: In the Line	Movie: Crossworlds Rufus Hauer.	Movie: Serial Killer Kim Delaney. ** R'	Gang War: Little Rock	Tracey	33	Movie: Brady Bunch	Movie: Just Another Girl on the I.R.T. 'R'	Movie: Waiting to Exhale Whitney Houston. *** R'	Movie: The Sweeper 'R'	Movie: Goose-Gander	Movie: Edge of the City (1957) ***	(45) Movie: Pressure Point (1962) Bobby Darn *** R'	Movie: A Patch of Blue												
34	Dukes of Hazzard	Championship Bull Riding	Prime Time Country	Today's Country	Dallas	Dukes	35	Wings of the Red Star	Wild Discovery	Movie Magic	Next Step	Cronkite Remembers	Wild Discovery	Movie Magic	36	Equalizer	Biography	Ancient Mysteries	Unexplained	Law & Order	Biography	37	Designing	Designing	Unsolved Mysteries	Movie: Hostage (1988) Carol Burnett. *** R'	Living	Mysteries	Mysteries	Mysteries
38	FOX Sports News	FOX Sports News	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Houston Rockets	College Basketball: Ariz. St. at Ora. St.	39	In the Heat of the Night	Movie: In the Heat of the Night (1967) Sidney Poitier. ****	(20) Movie: Duel at Diablo (1966) James Garner. ***	40	Doug	Rugrats	Alex Mack	Happy Days	I Love Lucy	Munsters	M.T. Moore	Rhoda	Taxi	Odd Couple	Bewitched										
41	Highlander: The Series	Murder, She Wrote	Figure Skating Reflections of Ice	Wings	Stalkings	42	Bendita Mentira	Marla la del Barrio	Sentimientos Ajenos	Bienvenidos	Permiso	P. Impacto	Noticiero	La Tocado	43	Air Combat	War of God	Civil War Journal	Automobiles	Year by Year	Wrest-God	44	RPM 2Night	NHL Hockey Philadelphia Flyers at Tampa Bay Lightning	NHL 2Night	Auto Racing	Motoworld	Basketball		

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21																																	
7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30	12 PM																							
22	Pooh	Mermald	Wonderland	Umbrella	Grounding	Pooh Cnr.	Ducktales	Care Bears	Dumbo	Wonderland	Gumm!R	23	Today	Leeza	Geraldo Rivera	Sunset Beach	Days-Lives																
24	Nutrition	Nutrition	Sesame Street	Puzzle Place	Mr Rogers	Storytime	Reading	Arthur	Barney	Lamb Chop	25	B. Hillbillies	Bewitched	Little House on the Prairie	3's Co.	Mama	Griffith	Griffith	(05) Matlock	Movie:													
26	Good Morning America	Live - Regis & Kathie Lee	Caryl & Marilyn: Friends	Medicine Woman	News	27	Superman	Freakazoid!	Woody	Bewitched	Griffith	Empty Nest	In the Heat of the Night	Geraldo Rivera	News	28	This Morning	Ricki Lake	Price Is Right	Young and the Restless	News												
29	Ducks	Bobby	Mask	Peter Pan	Fox After Breakfast	Step-Step	Mr. Cooper	K. Copeland	Paid Prog.	Gunsmoke	30	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sportscenter	Sr. PGA	31	Highway to Heaven	Waltons	700 Club	FIT TV	Rescue 911	Home									
32	Movie: Lady-Shanghai	Movie: A World Apart Barbara Hershey. *** R'	Movie: Alfie (1966) Michael Caine, Shelley Winters. 'PG'	Movie: Little Women Winona Ryder. *** R'	Movie: Firstborn Tom Garr. *** PG-13	Movie: Kings Row (1941) ***	33	Movie: Rise and Fall	Movie: Batman Forever Val Kilmer. *** PG-13	Movie: Firestorm (1940) ***	Movie: Little Women Winona Ryder. *** R'	Movie: Trapped-Para.	34	Movie: *** Mystery House	Movie: Patient-Rm. 18	(15) Movie: City for Conquest (1940) ***	Movie: Kings Row (1941) ***	35	(Off Air)	VideoMorning	Dallas	Aleene's Crafts	Wildhorse										
36	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Assignment Discovery	Home Matters	Housesmart!	Start	Interior Mot.	Home	37	McMillan and Wife	Lovejoy Mysteries	Mike Hammer	Quincy	Equalizer	38	Baby Knows	KidsDays	Sisters	Debt	Our Home	Handmade	Living	Our Home	Designing									
39	FOX Sports News	FOX Sports News	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	Paid Prog.	M. Sharp	J. Dickey	Fishing	40	Scooby Dooby Doo	Flintstones	Flintstones	Gilligan	Gilligan	Knots Landing	CHiPs	Thunder	41	Looney Tunes	Rugrats	Busy World	Rupert	Muppets	Allegra	Gullah	Little Bear	Blue's Clues	Busy World				
42	Mighty Max	Sonic	Murder, She Wrote	Movie: Nightmare (1991) Victoria Principal. **	Major Dad	Lost-Earth	USALIVE	43	Gros T.V.	El Chavo	Cheprito	Papa Solt.	Dr Perez	Dos Mujeres Un Camino	Bajo un Mismo Rostro	44	Classroom	History Showcase	Real West	Movie: A Walk in the Sun (1946) Dana Andrews. *** R'	High Points	45	Flex Appeal	Bodyshape	Crunch	Training	Flex Appeal	Crunch	Gotta Sweat	Fitness	Flex Appeal	Bodyshape	Sports Babe

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21																																							
12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4:30	5 PM	5:30																														
22	C. Brown	Donald	Pooh	Movie: Ewoks: The Battle for Endor	C. Brown	Tale Spin	Ducktales	Chip 'n' Dale	Goof Troop	23	Days-Lives	Another World	Jenny Jones	Maury	Oprah Winfrey	News	NBC News																						
24	Body Elec.	Antiques Roadshow	Painting	New Garden	Kitchen	Wishbone	C. Sandiego	Science Guy	Creatures	Magie Bus	25	(12:05) Movie: *** Fletch (1985)	JonQuest	Flintstones	Flintstones	Brady	Dreams	Saved-Bell	Fam. Mat.	Fam. Mat.																			
26	Jeopardy!	One Life to Live	General Hospital	Montel Williams	Rosie O'Donnell	News	ABC News	27	News	Streets of San Francisco	Beauty and the Beast	Beverly Hills, 90210	Fam. Mat.	Dreams	Saved-Bell	Saved-Bell	28	Bold & B.	As the World Turns	Guiding Light	Dating	Newlywed	Am. Journal	Hard Copy	News	CBS News													
29	Gunsmoke	Little House on the Prairie	Matlock	Batman	Spider-Man	Beetlejuice	Rangers	Fresh Pr.	Simpsons	30	Inside PGA	Senior PGA Golf: American Express Inv. - First Round	PGA Golf Tucson Classic - Second Round	Up Close	Sportstr.	31	(12:00) Home & Family	ShopDrop	Shopping	Animal	Animal	Bloopers	Bloopers	C. Burnett	C. Burnett														
32	(12:00) Movie: High Spirits	(45) Movie: Funeral in Berlin Michael Caine. * R'	Movie: Carry On Columbus Jim Dale. **	Movie: A World Apart 'PG'	33	Movie: Trapped-Para.	Movie: The Magic Bubble Diane Salinger.	Lifestories	Movie: Ladybugs Rodney Dangerfield. *	Juror	Movie:	34	Movie: Come Back	Movie: Clueless Alicia Silverstone. 'PG-13'	(15) Movie: The Legend of Billie Jean Helen Slater. **	Movie: Nell (1994) 'PG-13'	35	Movie:	(10) Movie: Navy Blues (1941) Martha Raye. ***	Movie: Nobody Lives Forever (1946) ***	Movie: The Secret Six	36	Wildhorse	VideoPM	America's Country Hits	Dallas	Wildhorse Saloon	Club Dance	37	Home	Housesmart!	Interior Mot.	Start	Great Chefs	Great Chefs	Travelers	Bey. 2000	Next Step	
38	Equalizer	McMillan and Wife	Lovejoy Mysteries	Mike Hammer	Quincy	39	Nurses	Movie: Line of Fire: The Morris Dees Story (1991) *** R'	L.A. Law	Comish	Supermk!	Debt	40	Outdoors	Drag Racing	Bowling Super Bowl High Roller	Snow	Playing	E. Sutton	Big 12 Show	Fishing	41	Thunder	H.W. the West Was Won	Wild, Wild West	Movie: Pat Garrett and Billy the Kid (1973) ***	In the Heat of the Night	42	Papa Beaver	Lcney	Beetlejuice	Tiny Toon	Muppets	Chipmunks	Gadget	You Afraid?	Rocko's Life	Clarissa	Tiny Toon
43	USALive	USA Live	USA Live	USA Live	USA Live	Wanted	Top Cops	Wings	Renegade	44	Bajo-Rostro	Pecado de Amor	Cristina	Primer Impacto	Dr Perez	Noticiero	45	High Points	Air Combat	Real West	Movie: A Walk in the Sun (1946) Dana Andrews. *** R'	High Points in History	46	Sports Babe	NBA 2Night	NBA Finals	Auto Snow	Thrills & Spills	Drag Racing	Country	Glory Days								

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21																																							
6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM																													
22	Movie: We're Back!	(15) Movie: A Troll in Central Park 'G'	Movie: The Muppets Take Manhattan 'G'	(05) Movie: The Great Outdoors ** PG'	23	News	Ent. Tonight	Unsolved Mysteries	Dateline	Homicide: Life	News	(35) Tonight Show	24	Newshour With Jim Lehrer	Wash. Week Wall St.	Brownville Concert	New Red Gr.	Fawty T.	Keeping Up	Charlie Rose																			
26	Videos	Videos	(05) Movie: The Fly (1986) Jeff Goldblum. ***	(15) Movie: Carrie (1976) Sissy Spacek, John Travolta. ***	27	News	Wh. Fortune	Movie: The Flintstones (1994) John Goodman. ***	20/20	News	Seinfeld	Nightline	28	Fam. Mat.	Bzzz!	Hercules-Jrny.	Xena: Warrior Princess	H'mooner	News	Wiseguy	Heat																		
29	News	Home Imp.	Dave's	Raymond	JAG	Nash Bridges	News	(35) Late Show	30	Roseanne	Mad-You	Sliders	Millennium	Star Trek: Voyager	Mad-You	Cops	Real TV	31	Sportstr.	Figure Skating European Championships	Winter Sports Festival	Sportscenter	Stronman																
32	Waltons	Highway to Heaven	Rescue 911	700 Club	Carson	Carson	3 Stooges	33	Movie: A World Apart 'PG'	Movie: Devil in a Blue Dress *** R'	Extras	Outer Limits (45) Outer Limits	Movie: Mad Max (1979) 'R'	34	Movie: Deliver Them	Movie: Kiss of Death David Caruso. 'R'	(45) Movie: Profile for Murder Lance Henriksen. 'NR'	Dennis M.	Sex Bytes	35	(5:00) Movie: Nell (1994)	Movie: Girl 6 (1996) Theresa Randle, Isaiah Washington.	Movie: Money Train Wesley Snipes. * R'	Erotic	36	Movie: The Secret Six	Movie: Pat and Mike (1952) Spencer Tracy. ***	Movie: The Philadelphia Story (1940) ***	Movie:	37	Dukes of Hazzard	Damoclon Derby Showdown	Wings of the Luftwaffe	Wild Discovery	Invention	Bay. 2000	Wings	Wild Discovery	Invention
38	Equalizer	Biography	Emma	Profiles	Biography	39	Dish	Pandora	Wire	40	FOX Sports News	NHL Hockey Phoenix Roadrunners at Houston Aeros	FOX Sports News	Sports	41	In the Heat of the Night	NHL Basketball Chicago Bulls at Washington Bullets	Inside-NBA	Movie: From Beyond (1986) ***	42	Dcug	Rugrats	Kablani!	Happy Days	I Love Lucy	Munsters	M.T. Moore	Rhoda	Taxi	Odd Couple	Bewitched								
43	Highlander: The Series	Movie: The Paperboy (1994) Alexandra Paul. *** R'	La Femme Nikita	Movie: Risky Business (1983) ***	44	Bendita Mentira	Marla la del Barrio	Sentimientos Ajenos	A Traves del Video	P. Impacto	Noticiero	Gala	45	Air Combat	O.K. Corral	Ghosts	Movie: For Us the Living: The Madjar Evers Story	Year-Year	O.K. Corral	46	RPM 2Night	Motorcycle Racing AMA Supercross Series	Drag Racing NHRA ATSCCO Nationals Qualifying	NHL 2Night	NBA 2Night														

Area Events

PAMPA

To celebrate "Texas Independence Day" (March 2), Pampa Fine Arts Association presents Andy Wilkinson and friends in an evening of original Texas songs and poetry on Saturday, March 1, at M.K. Brown Auditorium in Pampa at 8 p.m. It is co-sponsored by the White Deer Land Museum of Pampa. The concert is called "Tribute to the Texas Plains."

Andy Wilkinson, the featured performer, is well known for his creative artistry in telling the history and culture of the Texas Panhandle.

Joining Wilkinson on the program will be several members of the Maines family, including Lloyd, Kenny and LaTronda, as well as Joe Carr and Alan Munde.

A special attraction will be an exhibit of the panoramic photos of Trish Neush who specializes in wide vistas of the Texas plains.

Following the concert, complimentary ranch cobbler will be offered until it runs out.

Tickets for the evening are \$7 for adults and \$5 for students 12 years old and under.

Call the Pampa Fine Arts office at 806-665-0343 or the White Deer Land Museum at 806-669-8041.

PORTALES/ CLOVIS

Country Swing Workshops/Socials are planned by Eastern New Mexico University Extended Learning, Portales for Friday, Feb. 21 from 6-11 p.m., and at Clovis Community College on Friday, Feb. 28 from 5-10 p.m.

Preregistration is required for the CCC workshop.

Derived from the East and West Coast Swing, Country Swing is one of the hottest dances of country western dance.

The workshop is conducted by long time dancers and Greater Phoenix Swing Dance Club members Schirete and Michael Zick.

Cost is \$20 per couple and offers five hours of instruction as well as refreshments.

For more information, call ENMU at 505-562-2165, CCC at 505-769-2822 or evenings 505-356-4431.

WTAMU

West Texas A&M University's Willson Lecture Series Committee has announced Dr. James W. Sire as the guest speaker for the lecture series scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 25 and Wednesday, Feb. 16 on the WTAMU campus.

Sire is the senior editor of InterVarsity Press and is a writer and author on Christian worldview issues.

The lecture series begins at 8 a.m. Tuesday with "Tolerance, Relativism and a Just Society." Other lectures are scheduled throughout the day Tuesday and until noon Wednesday when the concluding lecture, "The Christian as a Scholar," will be given.

Sire received a doctoral degree in English from the University of Missouri, a master's degree in English from Washington State College and a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Nebraska.

All lectures are free and open to WT students and the general public.

WTAMU's Branding Iron Theatre has opened the spring semester with "South Pacific," a musical depicting the dramatic times of World War II.

Performances are at 8 p.m. from Thursday through Saturday and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

Tickets are \$10 at the door or can be purchased in advance at the Department of Art, Communication and Theatre.

For more information, or to reserve tickets, contact the WTAMU Department of Art, Communication and Theatre at 806-656-2798.



Presents Pampa concert

Andy Wilkinson will be the featured performer in a concert called "Tribute to the Texas Plains" to be held in Pampa on March 1 at 8 p.m. in the M.K. Brown Auditorium.

For sixth straight year State's infant mortality rates continue to drop

AUSTIN (AP) - Mananin Benavidez watched her 14-month-old son, Rene, ham it up for cameras. It was a welcome sight considering that without help, his mother may never have had a healthy child.

Mrs. Benavidez is one of hundreds of Texas mothers who benefited from March of Dimes programs that helped the state reduce its infant mortality rate in 1995 for the sixth straight year. The agency and state officials called a Wednesday news conference to highlight the improvement.

"It was so hard," Mrs. Benavidez said of her first pregnancy, which resulted in a stillbirth.

Her second pregnancy produced a child without a brain - a neural tube defect. She now has two healthy children, including Rene.

Mothers who deliver children with neural tube defects face a 4 percent chance delivering other children with the same defect. With folic acid treatment, the chance decreases to 1 percent, according to the March of Dimes.

Folic acid is a trace B vitamin found in citrus fruits and dark, leafy vegetables. The government recommends that all women of childbearing age consume 400 micrograms of folic acid every day, but studies show the average woman gets only half that.

The Texas infant mortality rate in 1995 was 6.5 deaths per 1,000 births. That was lower than the national average of 7.5 deaths per 1,000 births and also beat the U.S. Public Health Service's national goal of seven deaths per 1,000 by the year 2000. It marked a significant improve-

ment over 1994, when the state recorded 7.1 deaths per 1,000 births.

The March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation attributes the improving rate to better and regular prenatal care, improvements in treating premature and low birth-weight babies and increased parental education.

"We've come to celebrate," Texas Health Commissioner Dr. Patti Patterson said. "Have we done all we can do? Have we done all we should do? No. Are there still steps that we can take? Absolutely."

Rebekahs will hold bake sale

Hereford Rebekah Lodge will have a bake sale Saturday at Homeland. Homemade cakes, cookies, pies and other goodies will be available.



Having a birthday party for your youngster? Experts say the best rule of thumb is to invite only a limited number of guests—at a rate of no more than 1 plus the child's birthday. That is two guests for a one year-old; three for a three year-old; four for a four year-old, and so on.

Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: We have eight children, seven grandchildren, their spouses and lots of relatives.

For Christmas last year, I purchased calendars (with themes to match each person's likes or personality) and added birthdays and anniversaries with the years on the correct date. I also made a master list of addresses and phone numbers, which I taped to the back page.

Now everyone has the information and it is up to them to follow through with a card or phone call, or at least a thought of that person on their day. My family all appreciated the gift. — Rose Marie Quinn, Pompano Beach, Fla.

Be sure to keep those calendars to look back on years from now. They should provide some interesting family history. — Heloise

JACKET CUFFS

Dear Heloise: I looked everywhere for replacement ribbed knit cuffs for a lightweight jacket.

One day while gardening I noticed that my work gloves had just the type of cuffs I needed, and I also had a new pair in the garage that were the right color.

The gloves cost less than \$2 and I now have a wearable jacket. — Jean LeWarne, Mason City, Iowa

Dear Heloise: For an easier way to sharpen brow pencils, eyeliners and lip liners, place them in the freezer for three hours prior to sharpening.

You will be surprised on how easy that job turns out to be. — Marie Livermore, Columbia, S.C.



Doing the swing

Carol Griffith and Raul Rosa, who were students at the first Country Swing workshop offered through ENMU, practice new moves and patterns.

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3. VEHICLES FOR SALE

For Sale: 1992 Explorer in good condition. 364-5347 or 364-3709. \$8500.00. 33412

For Sale: 1986 Black Short Wheel-Base Silverado Pickup. 92,000 miles. \$6,000.00. Call 364-5473. 33482

1994 Chevy Ext. Cab 4x4 Silverado, loaded, all options, 52,000 one owner miles. White, Mint condition, like new. \$19,500.00. 364-5450. 33657

For Sale: '95 Z34 Red Monte Carlo loaded. Low mileage, still under warranty. \$17,000 OBO. (806) 364-1129, leave message. 33669

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4. REAL ESTATE

For Sale: Country Home, 84 acres, CRP, 2 wells, with improvements including barn & 2 garages. Will trade for house in town. 364-7676 or 276-5605. 33227

For Sale By Owner: 3 BR, 3 Bath, Brick home. Good area. Call 364-5403. 33583

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5. HOMES FOR RENT

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CROSSWORD

by THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 -- Smile
- 44 Baseball's Tony
- 45 Frolics
- 46 Lewd look
- 5 Chocolate substitute
- 10 Guinness and Baldwin
- 12 Bouquet
- 13 Computer dot
- 14 Israel's Yitzhak
- 15 Greek vowel
- 16 From one extreme to the other
- 18 Renter
- 20 Dove call
- 21 Singer
- 23 Wilder's -- Town
- 24 Unadulterated
- 26 "My mistake!"
- 28 Balloon fill
- 29 Bridge
- 31 Feel sorry
- 32 Furtive ones
- 36 Children's card game
- 39 Numero
- 40 Chapel head
- 41 Car type
- 43 Make law

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Yesterday's Answer

- home oneself
- 11 Shirt 30 Greek letter
- 17 Born 33 Actor
- 19 Knight 34 Scoundrel
- 22 Scoundrel 35 Sub system
- 24 Actress 37 Producer
- 25 Lot buy 38 Liberal
- 27 Counting 42 Wing
- 28 Abase

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45								

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 --Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.
 --Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition.
 --Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Brand ads are billed by the words, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.
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Entertainment

Cable News Network tries to move beyond crisis

ATLANTA (AP) - Everywhere you turn at the CNN Center, there's a risk of running into a contractor.

New offices are constantly being created to make room for the network's burgeoning empire - CNN Interactive, the financial network CNNfn and the CNN-SI sports channel. There's even staff to produce news reports to flash on pagers and for televisions in airports.

It's a good thing, too, because these aren't easy times for the Cable News Network itself, which started the whole franchise 17 years ago.

Increased competition from MSNBC, the Fox News Channel and ever-expanding local newscasts have combined with a relatively slow news period. The result? Sagging ratings and questions about whether CNN can thrive in times of noncrisis.

"That's a great concern to me," said Ed Turner, executive vice president of CNN. "What do you do when the earth isn't on fire?"

CNN's reputation as a go-to network when there's a big news story was confirmed the night President Clinton's State of the Union address conflicted with the verdict in O.J. Simpson's civil trial. Its ratings were double what they are on a normal night.

Unfortunately for CNN, these nights come far too infrequently.

Nielsen Media Research has given the network some ugly numbers lately. The average number of homes that tuned in to CNN, for instance, dropped from 572,000 in 1995 to 327,000 in 1996, Nielsen said. Prime-time ratings sank 33 percent in 1996.

In contrast to 1992, when CNN

took advantage of Larry King's new status as the favorite interviewer of presidential candidates, the network suffered last year from the public's lack of interest in the Clinton-Dole campaign. International stories didn't pick up the slack either.

CNN's ratings also may have been artificially high in 1995 because of O.J. Simpson's criminal trial, said Larry Gerbrandt, a media analyst with Paul Kagan Associates.

To try to tweak this year's ratings, the network is making some changes.

"Burden of Proof," the midday program with Roger Cossack and Greta Van Susteren that was an outgrowth of the Simpson trial, has joined the glut of prime-time legal shows. It will be repeated at 8:30 p.m. on weekdays, and will go live when the stories are compelling.

Two of CNN's up-and-coming anchors, Joie Chen and Leon Harris, will be teamed to host the 10 p.m. news hour.

And on March 2, CNN will debut "Impact," a weekly newsmagazine that is a collaboration between journalists from CNN and its new corporate partner, Time magazine.

There also have been trade publication stories saying CNN is talking with other network's news executives about coming in and shaking things up.

Improving ratings while maintaining CNN's reputation as a hard-news source is a delicate job. It can hype news stories - All O.J. All the time! - but runs the risk of turning off the serious news junkies that are CNN's bedrock viewers, Turner noted.

A greater emphasis on talk shows could move CNN away from what it

does best and blur the distinctions between it and newer rivals MSNBC and Fox.

"If you're going to be an all-news network, you better pretty much be an all-news network," Turner said. "We are limited in what we can do."

Given the main network's ratings woes, it's natural to wonder whether CNN is stretching itself too thin.

Gerbrandt doesn't think so. He believes the diversification is wise, and there are some signs CNN is beginning to see how integration can work. When the Clinton speech and Simpson verdict conflicted this month, CNN told viewers it could see uninterrupted Simpson coverage on CNN Headline News. The result was that offshoot's highest one-night ratings ever.

Some of CNN's former viewers also may be on computers and dialing up the network's Web site, Gerbrandt said.

"They have established a brand name there," he said. "When you look at their erosion, you have to give them back some of their viewers who may be watching CNN online."

The network also may be strengthened by its ties to Time

Warner's stable of magazines, with CNN-SI the most obvious example. "Impact" will be the test case for CNN's news side; already, Turner said, CNN reporters have worked with Time employees for a report on Simpson's finances.

"That gives us a great advantage," he said. "So far, it has been very pleasant."

Birthdays

In the spotlight: Johnny Cash

The man in black with the whisky voice intones, "Hello ... I'm Johnny Cash."

In his 40-year career, Cash, who celebrates his 65th birthday on Feb. 26, has received many honors, including a Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievement last December in Washington, D.C.

"This is for you, Dad," said his daughter, Rosanne, when she walked out on stage. Then she launched into "I Walk The Line," followed by "I'll Fly Away," two of his most popular songs.

"When I was a kid, I always knew I'd sing on the radio some day," says Cash, who grew up on an Arkansas cotton farm. "I never thought about fame until it started happening to me."

His first hit was "Folsom Prison Blues," which he wrote in 1955 after seeing the movie "Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison." He never served a prison sentence but he has performed in prisons across the country.

Cash was a contemporary of Elvis Presley and was part of the rise of rock 'n' roll at Sun Records in Memphis, Tenn., in the 1950s.

He joined the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn., when he was 25 years old.

"Everybody was wearing

rhinestones, all those sparkle clothes and cowboy boots," he recalled. "I decided to wear a black shirt and pants and see if I could get by with it. I did. And I've worn black clothes ever since."

The perception of him as an outsider, loner and rebel is largely correct, Cash says. "I've always been outside of Nashville, physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Cash explored the ties shared by folk and rock and country along with Bob Dylan in the 1960s. By the 1970s, he was a living country music icon.

He has won seven Grammy Awards, 16 gold and platinum records and nods from the American Music Awards and the Gospel Music Dove Awards. He has been inducted in both the Country Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Cash has recorded more than 1,500 songs, many of them focusing on the toil of achieving the American dream. His themes made him a forerunner of such performers as Bruce Springsteen, John Mellencamp and Bob Seger.

He has entertained U.S. presidents, had a network TV show, starred in more than a dozen movies and kicked a drug habit. "Ring of Fire" and "Man in Black" are among his signature tunes.

Cash has sung duets with Waylon Jennings ("Heroes" album) and has performed as a quartet with Jennings,

Willie Nelson and Kris Kristofferson called the Highwaymen.

On the "Class of '55" album with Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison and Carl Perkins, Cash paid tribute to Elvis with the gospel ballad, "We Remember the King."

His latest album, "Unchained," includes "Mean Eyed Cat," a remake of the tune he recorded at his very first session for Sun Records.

Other celebrity birthdays:

Feb. 23: Actor-director Peter Fonda, 58; actress Patricia Richardson ("Home Improvement"), 46; rock musician Brad Whitford (Aerosmith), 45; actress Kristin Davis ("Melrose Place"), 32; actor Marc Price ("Family Ties"), 29.

Feb. 24: Actor Abe Vigoda ("Fish" and "Barney Miller"), 76; actor Steven Hill ("Law and Order"), 75; movie composer Michel Legrand, 65; actor James Farentino, 59; actor Barry Bostwick ("Spin City"), 52; actor Edward James Olmos, 50; singer Michelle Shocked, 35; rhythm and blues singer Brandon Brown (Mista), 14.

Feb. 25: Actress Diane Baker, 59; rock singer-musician George Harrison, 54; talk-show host Sally Jessy Raphael, 54; actress Karen Grassle ("Little House on the Prairie"), 53; rock singer-musician Mike Peters (The Alarm), 38; actor Sean Astin, 26.

Feb. 26: Actor Tony Randall, 77; singer Fats Domino, 69; singer Johnny Cash, 65; singer Mitch Ryder, 52; singer Michael Bolton, 44; actress Jennifer Grant ("Beverly Hills, 90210"), 31; rhythm and blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul), 25.

Feb. 27: Actress Joanne Woodward, 67; actress Elizabeth Taylor, 65; actress Barbara Babcock, 60; actor Howard Hesseman, 57; actress Mary Frann ("Newhart"), 54; rock musician Paul Humphreys (Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark), 37; actor Adam Baldwin, 35; actor Grant Show ("Melrose Place"), 35; rock musician Mike Cross (Sponge), 32; rhythm and blues singer Chilli (TLC), 26; rhythm and blues singer Roderick Clark, 24; rhythm and blues singer Bobby Wilson (Mista), 17.

Feb. 28: Actor Charles Durning, 74; actor Gavin MacLeod ("Love Boat" and "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"), 66; dancer-choreographer Tommy Tune, 58; actress Mercedes Ruehl, 49; actress Bernadette Peters, 49; actor John Turturro, 40; actress Rae Dawn Chong, 36; actor Robert Sean Leonard, 28.

March 1: Singer Harry Belafonte, 70; actor Robert Conrad, 62; rock singer Roger Daltrey, 53; actor Alan Thicke, 50; actor-director Ron Howard, 43; actress Catherine Bach, 43; actor Tim Daly ("Wings"), 41; rock musician Bill Lee (The Gin Blossoms), 35; actor Mark-Paul Gosselaar ("Saved By the Bell"), 23.

AXYDLBAAXR IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-20 CRYPTOQUOTE

WP SMF JSPRI ITLRWMN
LEC ZMQPKPYR' WSPYQSW
VIIBR BLNI JMWS WSI RYE,
WSI CLA MR L BIKBIWYLT
FPKEMEQ.—SIEKA WSPKILY
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HE WHO SELLS
WHAT ISN'T HIS'N MUST BUY IT BACK OR
GO TO PRISON.—DANIEL DREW

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Mar 87 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.473	Mar 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Apr 88 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.463	Apr 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
May 89 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.453	May 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Jun 90 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.443	Jun 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Jul 91 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.433	Jul 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Aug 92 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.423	Aug 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Sep 93 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.413	Sep 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Oct 94 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.403	Oct 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Nov 95 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.393	Nov 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Dec 96 50 57.5 57.5 57.5	1.383	Dec 795 280 281 281	256 56.00
Est vol 1.745, vol Tu 4.418, open Int 34.322, -316.		Est vol 17,000, vol Tu 15,970, open Int 74,376, +486.	

METAL FUTURES	
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Apr 97 340 340 340 340	2,980
May 97 340 340 340 340	2,970
Jun 97 340 340 340 340	2,960
Jul 97 340 340 340 340	2,950
Aug 97 340 340 340 340	2,940
Sep 97 340 340 340 340	2,930
Oct 97 340 340 340 340	2,920
Nov 97 340 340 340 340	2,910
Dec 97 340 340 340 340	2,900
Est vol 37,000, vol Tu 21,825, open Int 184,364, -1	

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Strike Call Put	Price
80 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45	0.57 0.55
85 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45	0.57 0.55
90 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45	0.57 0.55
95 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45	0.57 0.55
100 1.00 1.15 1.30 1.45	0.57 0.55
Est vol 5,774 Tu 1,853 calls 498 puts	

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Going to the Mat for a Balanced Budget Amendment

As this is being written, the U.S. Senate is engaged in an historic debate over a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It is unfolding as one of the most suspenseful, most defining moments of our times.

Will Congress deliver a Balanced Budget Amendment as the American people have demanded? Will we win this struggle we have undertaken on behalf of generations to come?

I and many of my colleagues have been fighting for this amendment through more than one Congress. This time we are determined to go to the political mat to make balancing the federal budget a reality.

Meanwhile we continue to spend, to live beyond our means, to accumulate debt at a breath-taking rate. For more than 50 years Congress has been afflicted with a near-fatal case of "other people's money" syndrome — it's always easier to spend other people's money than your own. Unfortunately, "other people" is us.

Because I have seen how hard it has been for Congress and the President to agree on how to achieve this balanced budget, I want to prohibit future Congresses from ever mortgaging the future of our children.

A Constitutional amendment is the only way to force the federal government to balance the budget each and every year. That there is such serious, organized opposition to the amendment is a sure indicator we are debating a measure which threatens the status quo.

Some argue that the Balanced Budget Amendment will tie the government's hands (which many Americans have come to believe wouldn't be a bad idea at all). Other opponents of the Balanced Budget Amendment wonder, "What if there's a war or an emergency?" Here is the short answer to such a Chicken Little argument: The amendment incorporates a safety valve — to be triggered in times of national danger or dire emergency. Congress can enact an unbalanced budget with a three-fifths vote. In times of war, only a majority is required.

Nor does the Balanced Budget Amendment threaten the nation's retirement security. The real threat to retirement security for all Americans is our mounting debt. If we continue on this course, awash in red ink, we risk not being able to meet our obligations in the future or taxing our people at an 80 percent rate in the future.

What have we to offer instead?

* Lower interest rates that encourage private investment. In the absence of federal budget deficits, real, non-residential investment could jump by 4 percent or more.

* Robust economic growth. By 2005, inflation-adjusted Gross Domestic Product would increase by \$170 billion. This translates to about \$1,000 additional disposable income per household at today's prices!

In plain terms, a balanced budget would mean lower interest rates, cheaper mortgages for home buyers and lower car payments. With our budget in balance, working Americans will have an easier time sending their kids to school or buying their first home.

A balanced budget doesn't just mean a better future for our kids — it also will put more money in the pockets of working Americans today. This is what is at stake.

FCC designates 311 for nonemergencies

WASHINGTON (AP) - Your dog has wandered off, or a middle-of-the-night party next door wakes you up. Should you call 911?

If you said yes, then you're part of a problem that has clogged the emergency calling system with irksome but not urgent situations - delaying police response to genuine emergencies, such as crimes in progress, accidents and fires.

The Federal Communications Commission on Wednesday designated 311 as the number for reporting nonemergencies. Communities will have to activate the 311 system before it can be used.

The FCC acted in response to a request from President Clinton last July for a number that would be "as easy to use and remember as 911."

To help combat crime, Clinton asked the agency to designate a number for community policing and other nonemergency calls to take the pressure off the 911 emergency calling system.

Available for use nationwide, the 311 code could improve the effectiveness of 911 service by cutting down the number of calls made to it, the FCC said. In Los Angeles alone, 325,000 callers to 911 hung up two years ago because the jammed line denied them immediate help.

"It's a three-digit solution to the pressing problem of 911 congestion," said FCC Chairman Reed Hundt. Attorney General Janet Reno agreed. The FCC's action does not require local governments to use 311 but

ensures the number will be available if they choose to.

Baltimore, where more than 60 percent of 911 calls are estimated not to be for emergencies, became the first city - and according to the FCC the only one so far - to institute 311 service.

That Maryland city can route 311 calls directly to local precincts and can treat as 911 calls emergencies inadvertently reported to the new number. Since the program began in October, the number of 911 calls dropped by one-third and only a fraction of calls to 911 required transfer to 311, the Justice Department says.

The FCC chose 311 because it's not widely used.

Companies, individuals or governments that currently use 311 for purposes other than nonemergency police calls can retain the number until their local government activates the new service.

A uniform number for community policing and for nonemergencies nationwide will minimize confusion and provide consistency as people travel or move to new communities, the Justice Department says.

Clinton hailed the FCC's action, in a speech at the University of Massachusetts in Boston on Wednesday.

"To all of you out there who are just citizens, I say, use both numbers and talk to your neighbors about using them in the right way. Be a part of neighborhood watch," he said. "We'll do our part. You have to do your part."

Police detectives enraged over Fuhrman's new book

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A war of words erupted Wednesday between the cops-turned-authors who once investigated the O.J. Simpson criminal case.

Police Detectives Tom Lange and Phillip Vannatter denounced former colleague Mark Fuhrman for comments he wrote in his new book trashing them as incompetents who blew the Simpson case.

Fuhrman, a disgraced former detective who was later branded a racist during Simpson's criminal trial, responded by accusing the two senior detectives of writing fiction.

"Mark Fuhrman's book ... is a desperate, cynical and cowardly attempt to redeem himself at our expense," the authors of "Evidence Dismissed" said in a 15-page, single-spaced statement Wednesday.

Lange and Vannatter suggested that if Fuhrman's book was a sworn affidavit, he would risk another indictment for perjury.

Fuhrman, reached by phone during his own promotion tour for "Murder in Brentwood," said he would gladly submit to an affidavit or deposition under penalty of perjury because "I can verify everything in my book."

Texas crop report Rain helpful, but more needed

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) - Beneficial rains fell across the state last week filling stock ponds, encouraging the growth of spring crops and preparing the soil for future summer forages, reports Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Dr. Sim Reeves of Overton, Extension forage specialist, said the recent rains have filled up many stock ponds and lakes in East Texas, but many still need more rain.

"We had three to four inches of rain in most of the area which has helped to fill up most of our lakes," Reeves said. "But we still need more in order to fill them up completely."

Dr. David Bade of College Station, Extension forage specialist, said the southeastern portion of Texas is in good condition for a vigorous growing season.

"Our rains have been widespread over the last couple of weeks, but we've had at least two inches overall," Bade said. "We've had enough moisture for a good spring green-up, as far as production goes."

Scott Durham of San Angelo, Extension District director, said pastures and ranges are looking good with the recent rains.

"Pasture and range conditions are improving greatly with much needed rains. Some pasture grasses are greening up," Durham said. "Tanks are also receiving much needed runoff water."

In the eastern region of the state, recent rains have built up deep soil moisture said Reeves. This deep

moisture will be beneficial to the spring crops, but it also is expected to assist the summer forages.

Reeves said, "The rains have provided moisture deep in the soil which is helping warm weather rye grass clover and small grains. But our deep moisture will still be there for the summer grasses."

Bade said even though the rains in the eastern part of the state are helpful now, more rain will be needed in the spring to help the green-up for future hay supplies.

"These rains are good, but we need more after the green-up in March and April to replenish hay supplies," Bade said. "For now though, we are set for a good green-up."

Rains have delayed some spring crop planting for producers.

"We have had a delay in planting of row crops," Bade said. "The problem has been getting the fields dry enough to work."

Drier fields may not mean the soil moisture will be depleted. Bade said producers should not worry about having a lack of soil moisture once row crops are in the ground.

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by district Extension directors:

PANHANDLE: Moisture short to adequate. Range conditions rated fair to good. Cattle in good condition. Market steady and strong; supplemental feeding continues. Wheat rated fair to good. Irrigated wheat

continues to provide grazing.

SOUTH PLAINS: Moisture short. Moisture beneficial to wheat and pastures; more needed. Supplemental feeding of livestock required. Land preparation under way as weather allows. Snow received late in the week.

ROLLING PLAINS: Moisture adequate. Range conditions improving with rainfall. Supplemental feeding continues. Rain filling stock ponds. Cotton harvest complete. Insect activity light in heavily grazed fields. Wheat fields gaining strength.

NORTH TEXAS: Moisture adequate to surplus. Pastures greening up. Livestock prices improving; feeding continues. Home gardeners tilling soils and planting onions and potatoes. Rains filling stock ponds. Corn planted; wheat burned by cold temperatures.

EAST TEXAS: Moisture surplus. Pastures saturated. Hay and supplemental feeding required. Cattle condition fair to good. Good calving season. Vegetable planting under way. Fruit tree pruning; planting. Some blooms in early variety peaches.

FAR WEST TEXAS: Moisture very short to short. Pastures benefiting from moisture. Livestock being supplemented. Alfalfa being cut and baled. Field preparations under way for spring row crops. Pecans harvested; transplanting under way.

WEST CENTRAL TEXAS: Moisture short to surplus. Pastures and range condition improving with rains.

Supplemental feeding required. Wheat condition good. Greenbug damage to wheat. Tanks receiving runoff water. Onions and row crops being planted.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Moisture surplus. Cattle supplementation required. Rains helping small grain growth as weather warms. Rains preventing producers from working in fields. Land preparation under way for planting. Early vegetables planted.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: Moisture adequate to surplus. Livestock supplementation required. Soil being prepared for planting; equipment being repaired. Pecans being sprayed with dormant oil. Excessive rainfall not helpful. Peach trees in full bloom.

SOUTHWEST TEXAS: Moisture short to adequate. Pastures and ranges showing improvement. Livestock condition fair to good. Fields ready for planting. Harvesting cabbage, spinach and southern greens. Onion planting escaped damage from hard freezes.

COASTAL BEND: Moisture adequate to surplus. Winter pastures showing good growth. Supplemental feeding of livestock required. Herbicide applications continue on cultivated land. Corn and grain sorghum seed distribution. Winter pruning activities under way.

SOUTH TEXAS: Moisture short. Pasture and range in fair to poor condition. Corn planted, but growth slowing. Fertilizer being applied. Vegetables being harvested. Sugarcane growth slow with cold temperatures, little moisture.



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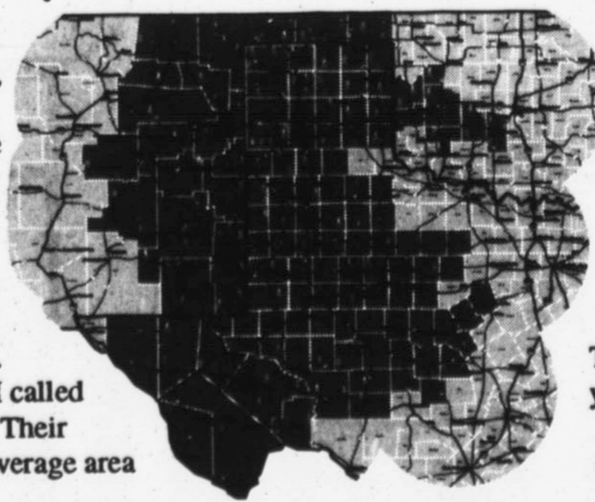
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