



Accident Site
 Rescue crewman Gerry Hollinger inspects the ditch where Danny Gallardo suffocated while trying to dislodge a rock from a sewer line just east of Hereford Ford Lincoln Mercury. Gallardo, 25, fell into mud and water when the west side of the five-foot deep ditch caved in on him.

Senators say Soviet ready for radical offers

MOSCOW (AP) — U.S. senators who met with Soviet Communist Party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev quoted the Soviet leader as saying he is ready to make "radical" offers to reduce nuclear arms if the United States stops testing space weapons. Gorbachev also may be willing to accept some research on space weapons, they said Tuesday.

The eight senators left Moscow today aboard a U.S. Air Force plane bound for Edinburgh, Scotland, where they will stay two days before returning to Washington.

Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the Senate minority leader, said after a 3½-hour Kremlin meeting that Gorbachev "indicated that if the U.S. were prepared to discuss the question of preventing the militarization of space, it would then hear from the Soviet side the most radical proposals on strategic arms and intermediate-range weapons."

The senators said that although Gorbachev might be willing to accept some research on space weapons, his definition of research is very narrow.

"He defines it essentially as being what you do in a laboratory, and under the narrowest interpretation of the remarks he is saying 'We will allow you to think' (about space weapons) but not much more," said Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga.

Nunn said Gorbachev's statements were constructive, but that he told the Soviet leader he should put proposals on the table at U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva, where negotiators are discussing long-range and medium-range nuclear weapons, as well as space weapons.

Byrd said Gorbachev's approach to arms control differed from that of Soviet defense officials the senators met Monday. Gorbachev hinted at flexibility and will "be positive in his approach at the summit" with President Reagan in November, Byrd said.

Byrd described Gorbachev as "articulate, tough, able, serious."

He said he handed Gorbachev a letter from Reagan at the start of Tuesday's meeting. The Soviet leader smiled and said it was a good letter, Byrd told reporters, without divulging the contents.

Byrd said little progress had been made on the issues of Afghanistan and human rights.

Sen. Dennis Deconcini, D-Ariz., said there could be no real improvement in U.S.-Soviet relations without progress on human rights.

The U.S. delegation also included Sens. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., John Warner, R-Va., Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., and George Mitchell, D-Maine.

Inmates locked, search conducted after weekend

AUSTIN (AP) — In the wake of four inmates' deaths over the Labor Day weekend, nearly a quarter of Texas prisons' inmates are locked in their cells while authorities launch exhaustive weapons searches, authorities say.

Tuesday's lockdown was an "outgrowth of the bad weekend," Texas department of Corrections spokesman Phil Guthrie said, adding that the TDC is evaluating thousands of prisoners to determine whether their freedom should be curtailed.

Although the total number of stabbings has decreased over last year, 22 inmates have died at the hands of other prisoners in the last eight months, compared with 25 in all of 1984, he said.

Guthrie said all inmates were confined to their cells at the Ellis I, Ellis II, Ramsey II and Clemens units, where the four stabbing deaths occurred, to begin a weapons search.

In addition, he said, the department confined an additional 2,000 inmates in "close custody" wings at eight other units.

About 9,000 of the 38,000 inmates in the nation's second-largest prison system were confined to their cells in Tuesday's lockdown. Normally, about 1,800 prisoners are locked in their cells.

"For the great bulk of those people, that's a temporary condition," Guthrie said. "We plan to gradually unlock them over the next three to five days."

Guthrie said TDC officials plan to ask a federal court to limit provisions of the prison reform lawsuit that allow inmates to write to prisoners in other units and to contact fellow inmates for legal assistance.

He said officials believe inmates are using letters and visits to discuss legal issues as a cover to set up gang killings and other "various nefarious activities."

While prison officials have found no direct link between the four killings, Guthrie said the prison system will examine "all known and suspected gang members" in an effort to reduce gang-related violence.

In one of the most recent attacks, Ramond Delgado, 22, died at the Ramsey II Unit near Rosharon at 8 p.m. Monday after being stabbed three times, TDC spokesman Charles Brown said.

Another inmate, Rudy Lopez, 32, is in critical condition today after being stabbed as many as 14 times Tuesday morning, Brown said.

Lopez' stabbing brings to 172 the number of inmates knifed during non-fatal attacks this year, Brown said.

Employee suffocates while repairing city sewer line

A 25-year-old city employee died late Tuesday morning when the side of a ditch caved in and suffocated him.

Danny Gallardo was calf deep in mud and water trying to repair a troublesome city sewer line just east of Hereford Ford Lincoln Mercury. Crouched over the pipe, Gallardo was digging out dirt so he could get his hand inside the pipe and dislodge a rock.

He heard his fellow workers shouting and he glanced up eastward from the bottom of the five foot deep ditch.

The west bank of the hole which they noticed was beginning to slide went unseen by Gallardo and he was buried face down.

Carlee Graves and Donnie Rhyne, fellow workers, jumped into the ditch with a shovel. Reaching down shoulder-deep, they still could not find Gallardo. While the fire department rescue team came, they pushed a large clump of dirt away from the body with the backhoe which had dug out the initial ditch.

The rescue crew was unable to revive Gallardo at the scene or at Deaf Smith General Hospital.

City workers told police that they had been having trouble with the line for about three months. The crew (See GALLARDO, Page 2)

Local Roundup

Several mischiefs reported

Three criminal mischief reports were filed Tuesday along with two thefts and a burglary.

The criminal mischief reports included a broken window from a car, wires cut on a government vehicle, and BB shots in a window.

Wheel covers and a spare tire were reported missing in two other reports.

There was a possible break in at a business on West U.S. 60 and some blue jeans were stolen from a residence.

There were no arrests Tuesday, but the holiday weekend found 14 persons jailed. Nine were on liquor related charges, the rest on traffic warrants, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, assault, and trespassing.

Migrant Council burglarized

Deaf Smith County deputies are investigating the burglary of the Texas Migrant Council in which a typewriter, cassette player and several other items were reported missing.

The office also took a missing purse report.

Season tickets available

Whiteface Stadium season ticket holders can pick up their 1985 package at the Hereford Schools administration office, or reserve the seats by calling 364-0606.

Ticket holders will keep the same seats as last year. There are some seats available in Sections B and C. Season tickets are \$12 for the four home games.

Herd pep rally set

The annual city-wide kickoff party for the Hereford High School football season will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in Dameron Park.

All Whiteface fans are invited to join in the party-pep rally for the Herd's season opener against the San Angelo Central Bobcats Friday night in San Angelo.

Weather

TUESDAY'S HIGH: 96 OVERNIGHT LOW: 63
 OUTLOOK: Mid 90s today with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms tonight. Lows in the mid 60s. Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms and highs in the lower 90s.

Hurricane path still under curfew

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Emergency officials sought shelter for people left homeless by Hurricane Elena, and dusk-to-dawn curfews remained in effect today along the stricken Gulf Coast as lantern fuel, gasoline and ice were in demand in areas still without power.

At least 17,390 dwellings in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and

Florida sustained some damage during the storm, according to estimates by the American Red Cross and other officials.

Mississippi Gov. Bill Allain, who declared the state's coast a disaster area Monday, is waiting to learn whether federal disaster assistance will be available to help residents rebuild their homes and businesses.

Declared disaster area

State officials agreed Tuesday to ask the 1986 Legislature for as much as \$12.5 million to help communities along the coast match the federal aid.

"Right now, it's time to get back on our feet and get this community back in shape," said Harrison County Civil Defense director Wade Guice, who faced Hurricane Camille in 1969.

May be buried

Pay equity study considered

WASHINGTON (AP) — Conservative lawmakers, brushing aside charges of sexism, say they'll use an avalanche of amendments to bury a House bill that proposes to study whether women in the federal work force are victims of pay discrimination.

The "pay equity" study, supported by most major women's groups and opposed by the Reagan administration, is one of the first items of business Congress is expected to consider soon after reconvening this week.

The bill's sponsors, led by Rep. Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, say the measure is necessary because previous studies and congressional testimony indicate that many women are locked into low-paying federal jobs.

"Should nurses and secretaries in the federal government be capped at salaries in the GS-5 (about \$14,500-a-year) category just because their jobs are in a certain classification?" Ms. Oakar said

Tuesday in a telephone interview from her Cleveland district. "All we're proposing is a study of a federal wage classification system that hasn't been examined since 1923."

But the leaders of the opposition, Rep. Richard Arney, R-Texas, and Dan Burton, R-Ind., say the bill is a

step toward artificially measuring the comparable worth of all jobs.

To build support for their cause, Arney, Burton and Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., scheduled a news conference today at the Washington headquarters of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

AIDS drug patent sought by U.S. firm

DALLAS (AP) — A California firm has filed the first application for approval to market a drug to treat AIDS or a pre-AIDS condition, a U.S. Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman says.

Newport Pharmaceuticals International of Newport Beach filed asked Tuesday if it could market isoprinosine to treat AIDS-related complex, a condition believed often to precede AIDS, FDA spokeswoman

Faye Peterson told The Dallas Morning News.

Acquired immune deficiency syndrome destroys the body's defenses against disease. Patients with AIDS-related complex have impaired immune systems but have not yet suffered infections associated with full-blown AIDS.

Isoprinosine has been used in

(See AIDS, Page 2)



Crossing Safely

School crossing officers are out reminding drivers that classes are in session and that cars must yield to students in school crossing lanes.

Lifestyles

Axe, Schuder vows exchanged in Vega

Standing beneath a white wrought iron archway in her parents' backyard, wedding vows were spoken by Sherri Axe of Vega and Kyle Schuder of Hereford Aug. 17.

Performing the afternoon ceremony was the Rev. Jim Bozeman, retired Baptist minister of Hereford.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Axe of Vega and the bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Troy Schuder of Hereford.

Terri Richardson of Vega served her sister as matron of honor and Steve Welch of Amarillo was best man.

"The Wedding Song" was vocalized by Beth Sunderman of Vega.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was attired in a tea-length ivory cotton and lace dress fashioned with a boat neckline and sheer full sleeves enhanced by lace appliques and gathered at the elbow. The full skirt, which was marked at the

natural waist by an ivory ribbon, was also adorned by lace appliques.

She carried a bouquet of pink tinted minuet roses embellished by fern and greenery.

The groom's sister, Troyce Kriegshauser of Hereford, served punch and coffee and cake was served by the bride's sisters, Donna Duggan of Thicket, Tx. and Karen Artho of Umbarger.

The bride's table, covered with a blue cloth, was decorated by the bride's cake and centered with a mixed spring floral arrangement. The groom's table, also covered with a blue cloth, held the groom's cake and was also enhanced by a spring floral arrangement.

The bride is a communication graphics major at West Texas State University and the groom, who is majoring in marketing at WTSU, is currently employed at Moore's Jack and Jill.



MR. AND MRS. KYLE SCHUDER

Fall's First Glitz planned Sunday

Fall's First Glitz has been scheduled from 5 until 8 p.m. Sunday at the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center.

Tickets are priced at \$7.50 and include cocktails and hors d'oeuvres.

Three collections will make up the trunk showing which will be presented by continuous modeling by local women. Included on the collection agenda are Geiger of Austria, A Southwest Collection, and Two Friends of Fluvana.

Models will be Jeanette Case, Carmen Flood, Carolyn Hays, Lisa Roark, Betty Rudder and Dee Ann Trotter.

Artists bringing work to the Glitz include:

-Keith Black with bronzes and hanging bronze, plus woodcarvings from Prairie Grove, Ark.

-Tom Eudi of Turkey with his porcelain birds.

-Danny Gamble, a western artist from Canyon, who will paint a demonstration piece while at the Glitz. The piece will be auctioned at

the affair.
-Ben Konis of Amarillo with his western pieces.

-Rex Martin, "The windmill photographer," who will bring his windmill photos and some of wildlife.

Bidding for the citizens of Bearford, Tex. will conclude at the Glitz also. The imaginary town of Bearford is inhabited by teddy bears dressed and named for Hereford citizens.

Ray Jenkins will stroll with his violin throughout the party.

A percent of the sales from the exhibited pieces will benefit the CGHF.

Host couples are Julian and Frances Berry, Brent and Kay Lynn Caviness, Melvin and Freda Cordray, Rex and Shirley Easterwood, Homer and Mary Garrison, Lloyd and Helen Kirkeby, Jan and Gayle McElhaney, John and Sue Merritt, Troy Don and Kathy Moore, Bill and Gerry Taylor, Bill and Norma Walden and Wayne and Marsha Winget.

Oversupply of beef not reflected in market prices

While ranchers are reeling from the drop in this year's beef prices, the consumer has yet to experience lower prices in the grocery store.

"Live beef prices have declined 25 percent since January, but the reduction in the retail supermarket, on the average, has been only three percent," said John Merrill, director of the Ranch Management Program at Texas Christian University.

"This creates a problem," he said. "Normally when you have increased supply, the price goes down, the consumers notice the bargain and eat larger quantities of beef."

The volume of sales has remained the same, and this has caused a backlog in cattle ready to slaughter.

Merrill predicted this backup will probably last into the fall.

"One of the pleas of the National Cattleman's Association to retailers has been to pass this savings on to the consumer so that we can eat our way through this oversupply of beef and then return to normal prices," he said.

"What has happened is that retailers, knowing the surplus of beef, have been reluctant to cut their prices in the store, thinking that very soon they would have to raise prices back up. By leaving prices level, the thought has been that there would be less disturbance in the consumer market," explained Merrill.

Senior Citizens Opportunities

Activities scheduled this week (Sept. 5 through Sept. 11) at the Hereford Senior Citizens Center include the following:

EVERY WEEKDAY - Quilting 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THURSDAY - Noon meal 11:30 a.m., games 1-5 p.m., NARFE meeting 1 p.m.

FRIDAY - Noon meal 11:20 a.m., games 1-5 p.m.

MONDAY - Noon meal 11:30 a.m., games 1-5 p.m., devotional 1 p.m., line dancing 1:30 p.m., bridge 7 p.m.

TUESDAY - Noon meal 11:30 a.m., games 1-5 p.m., blood pressure 1-3 p.m., Goebel hearing aid 1:30-3 p.m., "Christmas in September" program by Louise Walker, 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY - Noon meal 11:30 a.m., games 1-5 p.m., craft sharing

1:30 p.m.

MENU

THURSDAY - Italian pork chops with potatoes, vegetables, molded cranberry salad, bread, oleo, eclairs.

FRIDAY - Baked fish fillet, macaroni with cheese, vegetables, cabbage salad, sherbert, bread, oleo.

MONDAY - Chicken and noocles, turnip greens, carrot and raisin salad, lemon pudding, bread, oleo.

TUESDAY - Baked ham with raisin sauce, scalloped potatoes, Italian green beans, cottage cheese and pineapple salad, pumpkin custard, roll, oleo.

WEDNESDAY - Barbeque chicken, pinto beans, potato salad, coleslaw, onion slice, dill pickles, Texas toast, fresh fruit.

Nuptials exchanged

Wedding vows were exchanged by Mrs. Pearl Brock of 607 Irving and W.N. (Bill) Schaefer of 204 Ave. A Sunday afternoon with the Rev. J.L. Bozeman, retired Baptist minister, officiating.

A floral arrangement of pink and white carnations decorated the couple's new residence at 603 Irving where nuptials were spoken.

The bride's daughter-in-law, Mrs. Kenneth Brock, poured punch and coffee at the reception held in the home immediately following the ceremony.

Amy Embry, great-granddaughter of the bride, served the white tiered cake which was adorned with pink roses. It was placed on the main refreshment table centered with pink

and white carnations.

Other members of the houseparty included the bride's children and grandchildren.

Out-of-town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Brock and sons of Canyon; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brock of Carlsbad, N.M.; and Mrs. Leonard Schmidt and Mrs. Lupe Canales and daughter, all of Hale Center.

Financial planners can help design business strategy

For many people, trying to decide how to invest money can be a disconcerting experience.

"If you don't have much knowledge about business affairs, you may need a financial planner," suggests Dr. Gary French, a finance professor at Texas Christian University's M.J. Neeley School of Business.

A basic financial plan, which could cost around \$200, would give a synopsis of the person's current financial situation and what investments are needed to achieve the client's goals.

A more involved and expensive plan could include a management contract where the financial planner

would oversee the ongoing management of the investments. French says a management contract can run anywhere from one-half to one percent or more of annual assets.

The business professor says there has been an increase in the number of financial planners in the last few years, but not as many as people may think.

"Since there is no regulatory agency or state board that requires you to get some kind of designation, I would recommend that someone look for a professional designation such as the CFP (Certified Financial Planner), CPA or tax attorney," he said.

In the 1930s, the average American farmworker produced enough food and fiber for 11 people. Today, one farmworker raised food and fiber for 78 people—52 in the United States and 26 abroad.

The first steamboat to ply the Great Lakes, the Walk-in-the-Water, left Black Rock near Buffalo in 1818 for Detroit.

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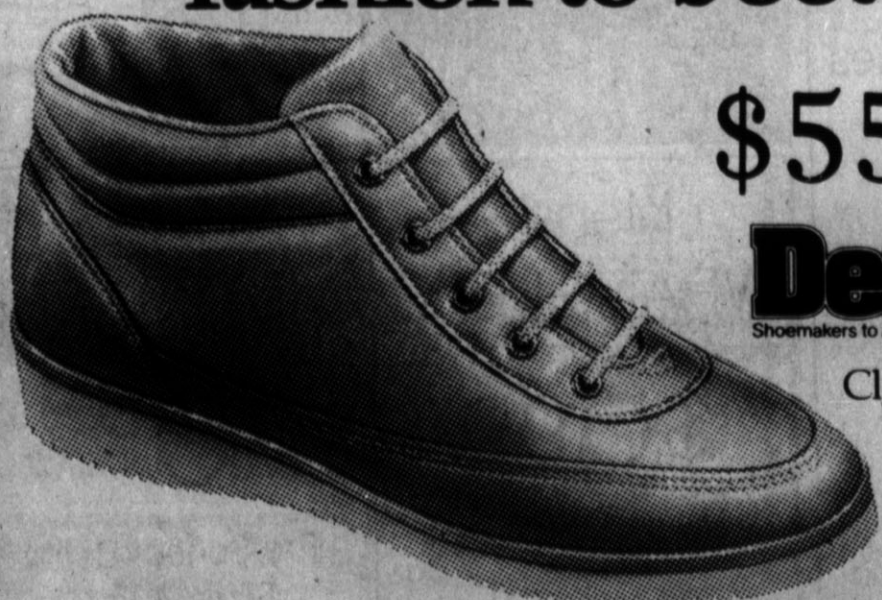
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Ann Landers

Give her a break



DEAR ANN LANDERS: I couldn't believe it! Another letter about whether the toilet seat should be up or down.

With all the people who are struggling with life-and-death problems, why do you waste space on such a non-consequential issue? I think you must have a screw loose. —REALIST IN S. CAROLINA

DEAR REALIST: This columnist consistently deals with suicide, loneliness, homosexuality, child abuse, battered wives, drunk drivers, alcoholism, drug addiction, shoplifting, abortion, kinky sex, psychotic relatives, rape, abducted children, pornography, cancer, heart attacks, epilepsy, diabetes, animal experimentation, the physically and mentally handicapped, obesity, bulimia, nuclear war, etc.

No one wants to read only about the depressing aspects of life day in and day out. If my column didn't have a laugh now and then it would be deadly. Give me a break, will you?

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I got so mad the other night, I almost spoiled the evening for my family.

We went to a high school play. Because the kids are small, we knew it would be crowded and the seats were unreserved, we made a special effort to arrive early. We went to the fifth row, which was nearly empty, and started to slide in.

A man in the row behind us

shouted, "Those seats are taken." It was clear that whoever had "taken" them had not yet arrived. Rather than make a scene, we moved.

We then spotted several empty seats in the eighth row, but a teenager told us those seats were taken too. This time, I traded a few rude remarks with the kid and my wife pulled me away.

By then, many more people had entered the auditorium, so we had to settle for mediocre seats on the side, halfway back. I was angry for the rest of the evening.

What is the proper protocol in such a situation? Should we have remained seated or moved?—UNJUSTLY DEPRIVED

DER DEPRIVED: It's a different world today. Twenty years ago I would have said, "Remain in those empty seats and ignore people who claim squatter's rights for late arrivals. When eats are unreserved, it's first come, first served."

Today, however, with so many nuts running loose, not to mention people who are high on drugs, it's risky to tangle with strangers. Yes, even in a high school auditorium.

Better to sit halfway back than have someone pull a knife or a gun on you. If you think I'm overstating the case, read the newspapers.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: My 19-year-old daughter signed a joint lease for an apartment with a young woman she met at work. They

agreed to split the rent. The friend turned out to be a slob. She also let several men stay all night, which my daughter found upsetting. They got into a big fight and the roommate moved out.

The manager of the building told my daughter that she is responsible for all of the rent. Can this be true? It seems so unfair. Please check.—IT DIDN'T PLAY IN PEORIA

DEAR PEORIA: Your daughter is stuck. Even if it was a joint lease, the person who remains is responsible for all the rent.

A no-nonsense approach to how to deal with life's most difficult and most rewarding arrangement. Ann Landers' booklet, "Marriage—What to Expect," will prepare you for better or for worse. Send your request to Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11995, Chicago, Illinois 60611, enclosing 50 cents and a long, stamped, self-addressed envelope.

CCA members may attend concerts

Members of Hereford Community Concert Association are entitled to attend free of charge a concert featuring Guy Lombardo Royal Canadians.

One concert is scheduled at 8 p.m. Saturday in Pampa and another at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in Dimmitt.

Dietitian tells how to pack lunches

Fall marks the time when mothers everywhere face the dilemma of whether to pack little Johnny's lunch or trust his choice in the school cafeteria.

A nutrition expert at Texas Christian University says that many times children do not choose the things that are best for them and it is necessary to educate the child to choose an adequate meal.

"Some parents prefer to send

lunch to school with their children because they feel they can monitor their needs much more closely," said Dr. Nell Robinson, chairman of TCU's Department of Nutrition and Dietetics.

"With the thought in mind that you want to give your children the best lunch possible, you need to be sure they get a food from each of the food groups," she emphasized.

This includes milk or a milk pro-

duct such as cheese or yogurt, fruits or vegetables, meat and bread.

"Children who are very active and not overweight can eat almost anything they want to eat, except that we have found that if children are given more nutritious foods they do perform better in school," continued Dr. Robinson.

Foods which impede performance include carbohydrates, sweets and fat, she said.

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What children need to know before staying home alone

With the beginning of the school year, many youngsters will be staying home alone after school while parents are at work.

"Once parents have decided their child is mature enough to stay alone, it's their responsibility to teach safety habits," says Dorothy Taylor, a family life specialist with the Texas A&M University Agricultural Extension Service.

"Even children who have stayed by themselves in past school years probably need to review safety precautions," she adds.

Taylor advises parents to cover the following areas of home safety with their youngsters:

-Have at least one home fire drill to be sure there are two escape routes. Instruct children that they must not try to put out a fire, but should get out of the house immediately and go to a neighbor's to get help in calling the fire department.

-Review phone procedures and have emergency numbers visible and attached to the phone or wall. Have the child check-in by phone with a parent or other responsible adult at a set time each day. Make sure the youngster has other numbers to call if they get lonely.

-Make sure that children know to keep doors locked and not admit anyone.

-Teach children to keep keys out of sight at school or when walking down the street. Never write names and addresses on keys. It's a simple matter to replace lost keys, rather than

giving access to your home.

-Have nutritious snacks within easy reach for children.

-Have a first aid kit available and instruct your child on using it.

-Encourage your youngsters to spend their time in a variety of activities including reading, playing games, exercising, doing homework or chores and watching television.

-Establish basic home safety rules about using the stove, microwave or other appliances, and climbing on furniture or ladders. Teach them to never play with matches, guns or sharp knives.

-Designate a set area, such as a fenced back yard, where the child is allowed to play. Set as a rule that friends are not allowed to come over and play until parents return home.

"In all safety talks, emphasize what children can do to protect themselves, rather than the bad things that might happen to a person," Taylor says.

A calm, matter-of-fact approach to this new responsibility can help children mature and develop a sense of personal security and safety, the specialist explains.

The cyclone that hit Darwin, Australia, on Christmas Day 1974 reached wind speeds of up to 160 mph. The storm killed 50 people and destroyed 90 percent of the city on Australia's remote north coast. An airlift evacuated half the 45,000 population. The code adopted for Darwin's rebuilding now bars structures incapable of withstanding cyclone-force winds.

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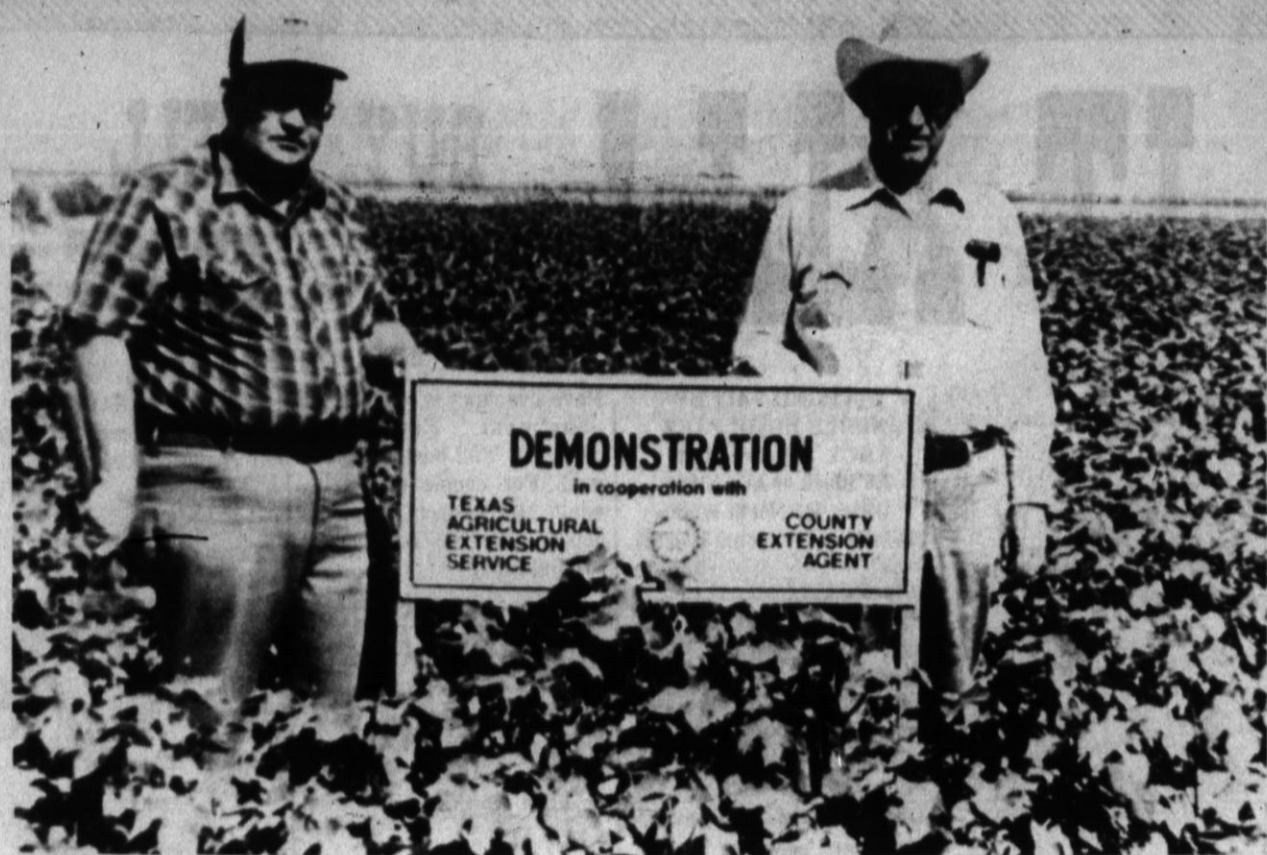
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Ready For Tour

County Extension agent Dennis Newton and Miles Caudle have erected a sign at Caudle's cotton demonstration south of Hereford. The stop is part of the annual crops tour set for Thursday. At 10 a.m. the group will be at the Ted Richardson farm six mile north of Dawn on FM 809; the Roy Carlson farm one mile west of Milo

Center on 1057; the Gerald Marnell farm, 1½ miles east of Simms and four miles south and on Ray Schlabs' farm six miles north of Hereford. Also, the Weldon Stephan farm, the Charles Schlab farm and M&W Carrot one mile south on U.S. 385, and half mile east on a county road.

Wheat on downward trend reflecting sluggish exports

WASHINGTON (AP) — As of mid-August, the price of wheat at the farm was \$2.86 per bushel, down from \$3.43 a year earlier, according to preliminary figures by the Agriculture Department.

Not since the 1978-79 marketing year have early season wheat prices on the farm averaged less than \$3 per bushel, says the department's Economic Research Service. But there the similarity ends.

"The difference between this year and that season is that prices were on their way up after beginning as low as \$2 per bushel in 1977-78," the agency says in a new analysis. "The 1978-79 market was supported by heavy export sales, strong loan activity, some delays in harvesting and the beginning of farmer-owned grain reserve program."

In contrast, current wheat prices are on a five-year downward trend from a peak in 1980-81, reflecting sluggish export shipments.

"The high-valued dollar, which has stymied exports of U.S. grains for the last two seasons, has been trending downward for the past four months," the report said. "But so far, it is difficult to pinpoint any positive response in U.S. wheat sales overseas as U.S. prices are still non-competitive."

According to agency projections, wheat prices at the farm in the 1985-86 marketing year that began on June 1 may average \$3.05 to \$3.25 per bushel, compared with \$3.38 in

1984-85 and \$3.53 in 1983-84.

With a fourth of the 1985-86 marketing year already gone, wheat export commitments are only about one-half the volume of a year ago, with major buyers falling short of last year's pace.

"Prospective large crops in the Soviet Union and China and other importing countries are limiting their purchases," the report said.

Not even export subsidies, announced earlier this year by the Reagan administration under pressure from Congress, have done much. Under this program, sometimes called export PIK, government-owned surplus commodities are used as payment-in-kind bonuses to exporters for cutting sales prices to designated foreign countries.

"The effect of this program will be determined over the next three years," the report said. "Nevertheless, competitor nations are likely to emphasize maintaining their market share, even in a somewhat reduced 1985-86 market."

But analysts held out some hope that wheat prices might improve later this season. One reason has been the reluctance of farmers to sell wheat at low market prices, opting instead to use the price-support loan program.

As of Aug. 14, there were 316 million bushels of wheat under loan, more than quadruple the amount of a year earlier.

Winter wheat farmers are planting next year's crop, although no 1986 program has been announced. That has been held up with Congress' deliberation of a new farm bill, although some type of land-idling feature or acreage set-aside is likely.

"At this time, growers can only delay seeding as long as their geographic location permits, hoping for program announcements," the report said.

Farm TDA urging grocery chains to promote Texas beef

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Department of Agriculture is urging retail grocery chains to join in a special promotion of Texas beef, hoping the effort will help trim a surplus and boost falling cattle prices.

"There is a massive surplus of beef that has built up in Texas feedlots this year, causing cattle prices to plummet to the lowest level in seven years and threatening many ranchers with bankruptcy," assistant state agriculture commissioner Susan DeMarco said Tuesday.

"To cut into this price-depressing surplus and to help Texas consumers benefit from cheaper beef prices, we're asking Texas supermarket chains to join in a statewide September beef sale," she said.

HEB Stores of Texas, Kroger stores in Texas and the Houston division of Safeway already have agreed to participate, the TDA said. Other retail grocery chains also are being asked to take part.

The beef promotion began over the Labor Day weekend and will continue through mid-October, said Andy Welch, TDA spokesman.

According to department officials, Texas ranchers have been losing as much as \$150 per head in recent months on cattle sent to slaughter.

Producers are being paid an average of 53 cents per pound for choice steers, the lowest price since 1978.

Nationwide, the beef industry deficit during the first half of 1985 is estimated at \$1 billion, Welch said.

Ms. DeMarco said that unless prompt action is taken, "That kind of loss will inflict deep and lasting economic wounds in Texas, which is the nation's No. 1 beef-producing state, where rancher sales of beef have traditionally totaled \$5 billion a year."

Faced with the surplus, she said the TDA initiated talks with the Safeway, Kroger and HEB chains and, "The retailers responded quickly and positively by agreeing to work with TDA on special in-store promotions that will sell more Texas beef."

According to the grocers, the beef promotion will include price reductions on different cuts of meat, use of

the TDA's "Taste of Texas" logo to help consumers find Texas meat, plus special advertising.

"This kind of cooperation helps both Texas consumers and Texas ranchers. When TDA asked Kroger to assist, we eagerly jumped at the promotion," said Peter Larkin of Dallas, a spokesman for the chain.

Texas ranchers produced 360 million pounds of red meat during July. Another 1.9 million head of cattle and calves currently are on feed in Texas feedlots, the TDA said.

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Corn in dent stage

WASHINGTON (AP) — An estimated 56 percent of the 1985 corn crop is in the dent stage of kernel development, 3 percentage points ahead of normal for this time of the season, says the Agriculture Department.

In Illinois, for example, 77 percent of the corn was dented by Sept. 1, compared with an average development of 73 percent, the USDA said Tuesday in a weekly report. Iowa corn was shown at 60 percent dented.

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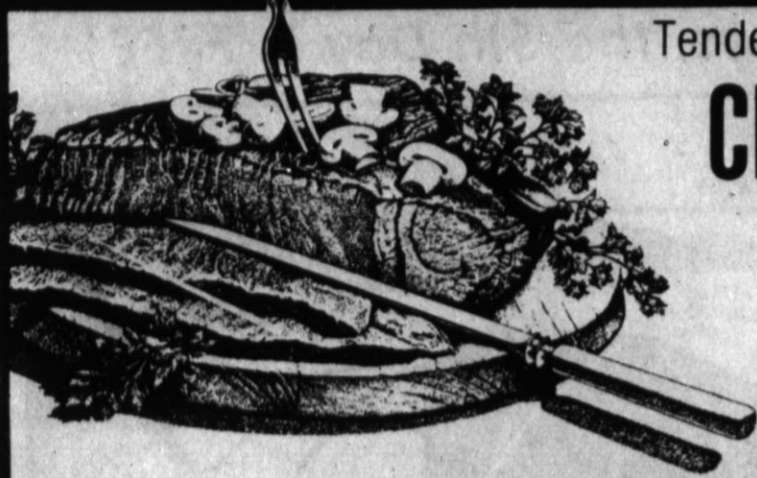
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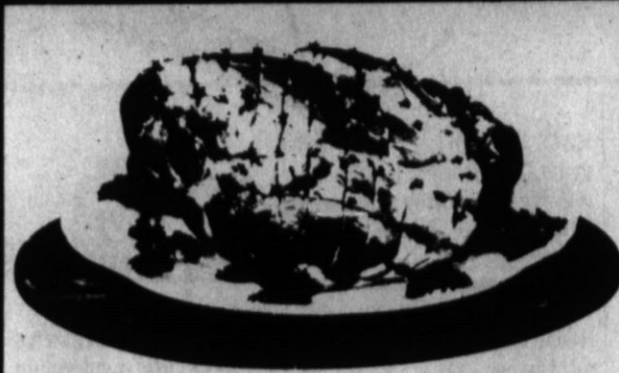
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