

The Hereford Brand

96th Year, Vol. No. 6 Deaf Smith County, Texas

FRIDAY, July 12, 1996

12 Pages 50 Cents

Food prices may rise faster than inflation

WASHINGTON (AP)--A scoop of ice cream, a pint of milk and the bacon and bread for a BLT are all costing more these days because of hot, dry weather and short grain supplies.

That isn't supposed to happen: Farm prices usually have little to do with store prices.

That was before record grain shortages, fueled by strong exports and a streak of bad weather in the Midwest, raised the index of farm prices a record 19 percent from last June.

Milk production has ebbed because of heat, high feed costs and a lack of good hay - and a gallon of 2 percent milk that cost \$2 last year is now closer to \$3 in some markets.

Food prices may rise faster than inflation instead of holding it back. Overall food price inflation has averaged 2.4 percent the last three years. Some economists now predict increases of 4 percent to 5 percent.

"That's with good crops," said John M. Schnitker, economist with

the consumer group Public Voice.

Others call that prediction too high, because other prices are lower. A beef surplus is holding down beef prices, but those are bound to rise again. And a cereal price war is holding down prices at the breakfast table.

"It's a complicated story," said the Agriculture Department's chief economist, Keith Collins.

Cynthia Latta, an economist with DRI-McGraw Hill Inc., said the news at the grocery store is not likely to be good in coming months. "We are going to be plagued by more increases in food prices. Worldwide demand is increasing and harvests are not particularly good," she said.

Today's economic reports from the Agriculture and Labor departments brought a mixed message on food prices.

The Labor Department producer price index reported the biggest surge in food costs in more than six years.

Food prices at the wholesale level jumped 1.6 percent in June with sharp

increases in both beef and pork.

The price of fruits increased 22.6 percent with prices for strawberries, cantaloupes, lemons and pears all turned sharply upward. The rise in food costs would have been even higher, but vegetable prices actually fell by 5.4 percent last month, reflecting lower costs for lettuce, eggplant and beets.

And today's production, supply and demand report from the Agriculture Department offered mixed signals. Corn stockpiles coming into the Sept. 1 harvest season narrowed to barely a two-weeks' supply - still a 50-year-low, but not as far down as some had feared. The projected harvest dropped slightly to 9.1 billion bushels because of lowered yield forecasts.

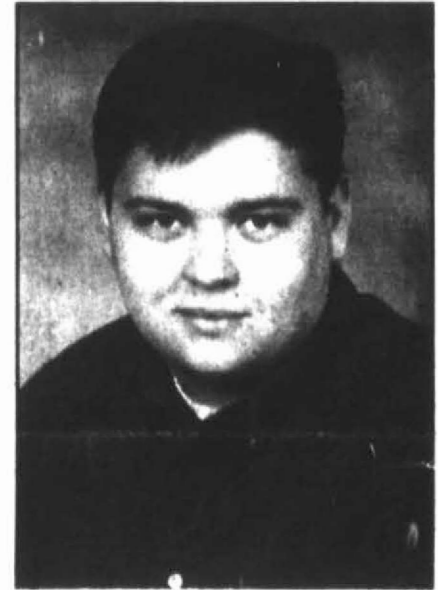
Wheat supplies were projected up and prices down because of higher production estimates and lower demand. Production this year was put at 2.26 billion bushels, up 4 percent from last year, because of a better winter wheat harvest than expected, the largest durum wheat crop since 1982 and the second-highest production of other spring-planted wheat on record.

Production forecasts for soybeans were unchanged, although supplies going into the Sept. 1 harvest season were lowered.

Corn, wheat and soybeans either go directly into food products, or go indirectly as feed for livestock.

The basic raw milk price should reach \$1.29 a gallon this year, up from about \$1 a year ago, said John Hitchell, in charge of buying milk for The Kroger Co. grocery chain. That doesn't include extra charges for drinking-quality milk and to recover feed costs.

"In almost all markets where we do business, milk production is down from a year ago," Hitchell said.



JOHN MESSER



BAO NGUYEN

Messer is member of Super Congress

By SHERRI MARTIN
Staff Writer

Two Hereford High School 1996 graduates--John Messer and Bao Nguyen--recently participated in the National Forensic League competition in Fayetteville, N.C.

Messer, one of 28 students in the nation to participate in the National Student Senate, became the first HHS student to advance to Super Congress.

After participating in the debate competition, Messer better understands how Congress works and knows why it seems like nothing ever gets done.

"It's a real tedious process," he said.

As a Senator from the Tall Cotton District, he took part in Student Congress, which is the first round of the competition.

Messer said the debate competition was a mock session of Congress. The students, divided into seven district chambers, presented three minute speeches. In the session, they also debated legislation, lobbied for or against bills and voted on bills.

A parliamentarian and scorer were

present in the session. The parliamentarian enforced strict rules of parliamentary procedure, he said.

Messer said scores were based on the speeches. A score ranging from three to nine was given to each student. Nine was the highest possible score.

At the end of the session, the parliamentarian and the scorer each selected a student to be placed on a ballot. The four students with the highest score were also placed on the ballot, he said.

Then, Messer said, the district chamber preferentially ranked the six students on the ballot. Of the six, the four students with the lowest scores advanced to Super Congress.

Super Congress followed the same procedure as Student Congress, except it was a "more intense, fast paced" debate, he said.

"Everyone was so serious that it wasn't fun," Messer said.

He was one of three students to represent Texas in Super Congress. A student from Arlington won the debate, he said.

(See STUDENTS, Page 2)

Wall Street stocks fall

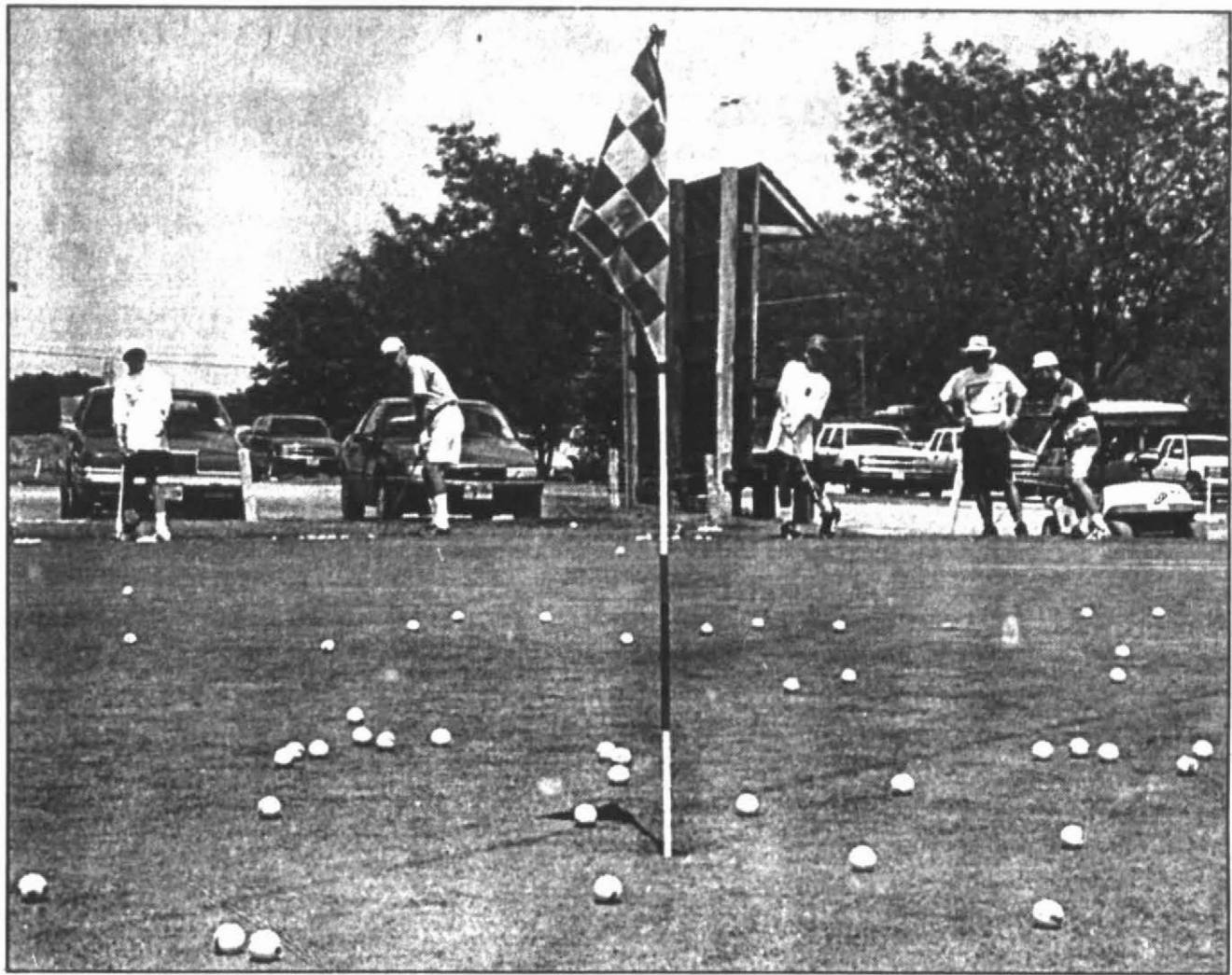
NEW YORK (AP)--Bad news has been bad news in the stock market. In a frenetic sell-off that seemed to represent a big change of Wall Street psychology, stocks tumbled Thursday on worries about economic weakness.

That was a sharp contrast from other recent drops caused by good news, like more jobs and fatter paychecks. Conversely, the market often did well in response to bad economic news.

The Dow Jones industrial average, the stock market's most widely followed index, lost almost 134 points before recovering somewhat to close with an 83.11 point loss at 5,520.54, its second big loss in a week.

Investors have viewed healthy trends in the economy with alarm, fearing they meant higher inflation that diminishes the value of stocks and bonds. But it was news of skimpier corporate profits that deflated the market Thursday.

Much of the worry involved the poor performance of the technology sector and health maintenance organizations, creating a ripple effect through the market.



Practice makes perfect

Golf balls litter the putting green at Pitman Municipal Golf Course as four young golfers practice their chipping. The boys - from left, Tyler Keeling, Heath Henderson, Eddie Lacey and Brad Reinart - received instruction from Hereford High School coach Stacey Bixler (pictured second from right) as well as members of the Pitman staff during the Hereford Junior Golf Camp, which was held this week.

House okays social spending, draws White House veto threat

WASHINGTON (AP)--House Republicans are stamping their new, more moderate imprint on social spending, even as fraying election-year GOP unity has cost conservatives trying to rein federal efforts against workplace injuries.

In a marathon debate that stretched until nearly an hour after midnight, the House voted 216-209 today to approve a \$65.7 billion measure for 1997 financing education, health, labor and other domestic programs. The Senate has yet to write its own version of the bill, one of the biggest of Congress' 13 annual spending measures.

Because the bill provides \$7.8 billion less than President Clinton wants, it has drawn a White House veto threat. But the measure perfectly illustrates this year's GOP drive to abandon some of the deep cuts sought a year ago, and to emphasize programs the party is seeking to expand, such as initiatives for preventing violence against women.

"While we move toward balancing the budget," the GOP will "maintain our commitment to some of the most vulnerable people we have," said Rep. Susan Molinari, R-N.Y., at a news conference where several Republicans sounded themes that could have come from Democrats.

As the GOP tries to distance itself from the "extremist" label Clinton and Democrats have sought to attach to them, some conservative goals have suffered.

One fell by the wayside Thursday as the House voted to let the Occupational Safety and Health Administration take actions to prevent repetitive stress injuries, one of the American workplace's fastest growing health hazards.

By a 216-205 roll call, the House rejected a conservative provision in the bill that would have forbidden OSHA from collecting data on such injuries and preparing guidelines to prevent them. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, who sponsored the expunged language, said the regulations would cost jobs and cut business profits, and said companies could protect their workers by themselves.

"I wish they understood the

interests of small business," Bonilla told reporters after the vote, referring to the 35 Republicans who opposed his language. He attributed the vote to "members who feared the strong arm of labor."

But Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Bonilla had simply gone too far, exceeding current law that allows data collection but prohibits federal guidelines.

"Their language was so extreme," she said.

Bertha hits Carolinas

SUNSET BEACH, N.C. (AP)--Heavy rain and high surf lashed the Carolina coasts today as a revived Hurricane Bertha spun closer to land, with top winds increasing to 90 mph after passing over the Gulf Stream.

Gusts were as high as 64 mph near Wilmington, N.C., and 58 mph in Myrtle Beach, S.C., where waves pushed up the steps of the boardwalk at high tide this morning, and whitecaps stretched to the horizon.

The warm Gulf Stream waters energized Bertha and pushed the center of the storm on a more northward path, making it more likely that the storm's most punishing winds would cross between Myrtle Beach and Wilmington, near the state line, sometime this evening.

"It's had a chance to rewire itself just before landfall," said Steve Lyons, a meteorologist at the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

Earlier, landfall had been predicted further southeast, between Charleston and Myrtle Beach, near where Hurricane Hugo came ashore in 1989 with winds of more than 130 mph. The storm sent more than 250,000

residents and vacationers fleeing inland on clogged highways. Almost 14,500 people, many of them turned away from packed hotels, stayed in Red Cross shelters overnight.

About 7,000 people remained in 50 shelters in North Carolina and South Carolina today.

"The response has been very orderly," American Red Cross acting president Gene Dyson said this morning in Wilmington. "People have done basically as they have been told, although there are a few who always want to experience a hurricane."

Bertha's winds had been as high as 115 mph when the hurricane battered the Caribbean, killing six people. The wind weakened to 80 mph Thursday before strengthening to 90 mph this morning. The most intense winds would be north and east of the center. Bertha showed little signs of strengthening further.

"Once it gets over land, it'll probably just become a nor'easter," said Jerry Jarrell, deputy director of the National Hurricane Center.

Hereford youth facing bone marrow transplant



DREW MIDDLETON

By BECKY CAMP
Lifestyles Editor

When the bone marrow's production of blood cells decreases, the result is aplastic anemia.

This was the diagnosis for Drew Middleton, 10, two months ago.

If the disease is severe, a bone marrow transplant offers the best hope of recovery.

Drew will undergo a bone marrow transplant on July 26 at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center.

The events leading to the transplant have progressed rapidly for Drew since the aplastic anemia was diagnosed.

When Dr. John Iacuone from Lubbock made the diagnosis, a search was started for a suitable donor.

"It was a miracle to find a donor

so quickly, but the unbelievable part is that two suitable donors have been found. That's just unheard of," said Holly Middleton, Drew's mother.

Ms. Middleton was preparing to start a new job the morning they received the call that donors had been found.

"The doctor said I might have to wait a year, but I am ready to get it over with," said Drew.

An honor roll student at West Central School, Drew is interested in sports and is a talented artist.

He was a member of the Marlin's baseball team, but had to give up playing when the disease was diagnosed.

"He bruises very easily and his blood doesn't clot, so he could bleed to death from even a minor injury,"

said Drew's mother.

Dr. Iacuone has been "very aggressive" with Drew's treatment. He has had several experimental drugs including one that he still receives twice daily, according to Ms. Middleton.

In order to avoid so many punctures from injections and to make drawing blood samples easier, a catheter has been placed in Drew's chest.

"He has to flush heparin through the two lines twice every day," said Ms. Middleton. "He's a champ. He does it himself and never complains."

Laurie Kahlich, a nurse with Deaf Smith Home Health Care, visits Drew at home and draws blood through the catheter so it can be tested. Depending on the test results, Drew receives

a blood transfusion about once every two weeks and platelets twice a week.

"Laurie has really connected with this kid. She tells Drew he will have to dance the jitterbug with her when he gets well," Ms. Middleton said.

Drew, his mother and his sister, Megan, age 6, make the trip to Lubbock each time he needs blood or platelets.

"She's helped me out," Drew said of his sister.

Megan has been "really great through all this" according to Ms. Middleton. "She doesn't want to go swimming because Drew can't go swimming. They are very close."

Ms. Middleton's parents, Jerry and Cheryl Hodges, will help take care of Megan during Drew's extended recovery period.

According to Drew's mother, his attitude is good and his spirits are high even though he is not pleased about some of the side effects from taking steroids, which serve as an anti-rejection drug.

"Drew's face is puffy from the drugs, his eyebrows are thicker and he has facial hair he doesn't like, but he has grown three inches in the last two months and he thinks that's great," said Ms. Middleton.

Since Drew has no immune system, he has to be careful about being around other people.

"But he's been fortunate," said his mother. "He's been exposed to several things but has never been sick. He's healthy now."

And this, along with his attitude, (See MIDDLETON, Page 2)

JULY 12 1996

Lifestyles

Ann Landers

Reader says it pays to wait for right man, even if you must wait until you're 63

Dear Ann Landers: I am fascinated by some of the stories in your column about how some people met their mates. I believe my story is unique and am eager to see if you think it's worth printing.

I was born in the house my father built and lived in it for over 50 years. I was his eldest daughter. I made friends with a female neighbor, who was a major in the Salvation Army. "Ruth" and I were best friends, and since neither of us ever married or thought we would, we decided to be roommates. We roomed together for 24 years. We went to the same church. I sang in the choir, at weddings, prisons and funerals, and on three different radio stations in our city.

The wife of the church pianist was stricken with cancer and decided to

spend her last days in a nursing home. I went to see her. She knew she was going to die and asked if I would sing at her funeral. I promised I would.

Later, her husband called me on the phone and said he would like to talk to me about his wife. I wondered what there was to talk about. He said it was his wife's desire for him to marry me.

Needless to say, I was shocked! While living with Ruth for 24 years, I never kept company with any man. Being raised in a Christian home and taught to pray to God for guidance, I did just that and felt a sweet peace in my heart.

On our first real date, he asked if I had thought about what he had said earlier regarding his wife's last wishes. I said I had. He then asked if I had an answer. I replied, "I do. The

answer is yes."

We were married by my nephew, who was the pastor in a little country church near our city. Six years later, my husband built us a beautiful new home with mountain and valley views, after he was 70 years of age. We have been married 26 years. He is 91, and I'm going on 90.

It pays to wait for the right one, even if you must wait until you're 63. -- J.A.B., Seattle, Wash.

Dear J.A.B.: What a beautiful story. Thanks for proving that age is only a number.

Dear Ann Landers: I am enclosing a poem for all those people who drop their dogs and cats off in the country, hoping they will find another home. These people should know there are alternatives to abandoning a pet. Maybe this poem

will make a difference. -- Lorna, a Stars and Stripes Reader

Dear Lorna: Thank you on behalf of all pet owners. I agree that it is not only thoughtless but cruel to drop a pet off on the highway, hoping someone will pick it up. Your contribution is sure to make a difference. A Dog Sits Waiting by Kathy Flood

A dog sits waiting in the cold autumn sun,

Too faithful to leave, too frightened to run.

He's been here for days now with nothing to do

But sit by the road, waiting for you.

He can't understand why you left him that day.

He thought you and he were stopping to play.

He's sure you'll come back, and that's why he stays.

How long will he suffer? How many more days?

His legs have grown weak, his throat's parched and dry.

He's sick now from hunger and falls, with a sigh.

He lays down his head and closes his eyes.

I wish you could see how a waiting dog dies.

What's the truth about pot, cocaine, LSD, PCP, crack, speed and downers? "The Lowdown on Dope" has up-to-the-minute information on drugs. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Lowdown, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

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Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses. --Confucius

Hints from Heloise

PAPER CLIPS

Dear Heloise: I enjoy all your articles and have followed them for a long time. I was 82 in June.

I read how to put a rubber band on the bottom of toothpaste as you use it. I use two smaller paper clips as I roll the tube, inserting them one on each side. Or I use a large one, but the smaller ones in color are neat.

Continue your good ideas. -- Bernice Vanderveen, Havana, Ill.

SHAMPOO BOTTLE ID

Dear Heloise: In the process of washing one's hair, to distinguish between a bottle of shampoo and a bottle of conditioner, merely put a large rubber band around either one.

— Evelyn Larson, Hunt, Texas

PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

Dear Heloise: Enjoy your column and your books. I found another great use for the plastic grocery bags.

If I'm outside with muddy or wet shoes or boots, I put my feet in a bag and tie the handles in a bow to walk into the house without making a mess. Then I just untie or rip them off when I get back outside.

One does have to be careful on uncarpeted floors to prevent slipping. — Rick Dowdell, Macon, Ga.

SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise
PO Box 795000
San Antonio TX 78279-5000

Support group meets Sunday

The Parkinson Support Group will meet at 3 p.m. Sunday at 825 S. Miles.

For further information call Valerie Manley at 364-8022 or 364-1736.

Lamar Room is site of meeting

The King's Manor Auxiliary will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Lamar Room of King's Manor.

This will be a social hour as well as a business meeting.

Church News

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

You are always welcome at First Baptist Church!

Our schedule of activities includes:

Sunday

9:45 a.m.--Bible Study for all ages

11 a.m.--Praise and worship

4 p.m.--Children's handbells

4:30 p.m.--Youth choir/drama

5:30 p.m.--Discipleship training

6:30 p.m.--Evening praise and worship

Monday

6:30 p.m.--Adult handbells

Wednesday

5:30 p.m.--Fellowship supper

6 p.m.--Children's choirs

6:15 p.m.--Prayer meeting

7 p.m.--Children's missions

7:10 p.m.--Adult choir

There is room for you in each of the above areas of fellowship and ministry. There is a place for you at First Baptist Church.

CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY

The leadership and congregation of Christian Assembly welcome you to worship the Lord with us.

Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. Come, be a blessing and be blessed.

Sunday worship is at 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Wednesday evening worship is at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 364-5874 or 364-0974.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On Sunday morning at 10:30, Rev. J. Jeremy M. Grant will deliver a message on "One Little Word" based on Old Testament lesson Genesis 1:1-5 and Psalms 107: 23-31 and New Testament lesson Mark 4:35-41.

Sunday Church School for adults and children begins at 9:30 a.m.

Come to the Fellowship Hall before worship at 10:10 a.m. for fellowship and light refreshments.

No youth groups will meet on Sunday.

Little Blessings Day Care will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday and Tuesday.

Prayer group meets Monday at 6 p.m.

Adult Choir practices Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

CPR classes start this Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

For more information, call the church office between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 364-2471.

CHRIST'S CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Pastor Bill Weaver and congregation invite you to join them at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday for Bible classes for all ages followed by the worship service and K.I.D.S. Church at 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday visitation is at 7 p.m.

PRECEPTS Bible study is held at 7 p.m. on Monday and at 10 a.m. on Wednesday.

The Wednesday night supper is at

5:30 followed by choir practice at 6. Bible Clubs at 6:30, Teens at 6:45 and praise, Bible study and prayer (for adults at 7.

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Pastor Gaston and all the church family invite you to our church Sunday at 9:45 a.m. for Sunday School. There are classes provided for all ages.

Morning worship service begins at 10:45 and a nursery is provided. Children's Church will be held in the fellowship hall at 10:45 a.m.

Choir practice will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday.

Rev. David Morris will be the special guest speaker Sunday evening at 10 a.m. Tuesday, continuing their video Bible study of the Old Testament.

Royal Rangers and Missionettes, will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday. There is a club for every age group. Kids are our number one priority at First Assembly of God.

The youth group will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the fellowship hall.

The mid-week worship service is Wednesday at 7 p.m. There will be a special guest speaker. A nursery is provided.

(See CHURCH, Page 4)

Tanning Hut

618 E. Park

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Tanning Sessions & Products

For more information call:

364-7422 or 364-8396



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For more information about the many healthcare services of HRMC. Call 364-2142 - Ext. 317

CHURCH

AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

Here at Avenue Baptist Church we have a number of activities going on. We have youth group, aerobics, visitation, church night at the park and co-ed softball. We would like to invite you to come and take part in these activities with us.

Of course, these are extra activities. Our main thrust is to teach God's word.

We offer Sunday School classes for every age group. Along with our Morning Worship Service at 11 Sunday we also are involved with experiencing God at 5 p.m. and the teaching of the 16 gifts in preparation for ministry.

Wednesday evenings at 6:30 we conduct an intercessory prayer service.

It is our vision to touch the people in our community physically and spiritually. I am Bro. Johnny Griffith, the pastor of Avenue Baptist and I would like to encourage you to come join us.

Avenue would like to remind everyone of the ABC Fellowship Picnic Saturday at Thompson Park beginning at 4 p.m. Wonderland will be from 5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Parkinson's Support Group will meet in the Manley Home, 825 S. Miles, Sunday at 3 p.m.

RA Camp is next week. If you have a boy grade 4-6 that would like to attend please contact the church office at 364-1564.

Church Appreciation Dinner and Swim party will be at 6 p.m. July 19. The Youth will host a barbecue sandwich supper, then a swim party will follow at Green Acres from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. It is their way of saying thanks to everyone who has supported and donated toward their activities and fundraisers through the year.

If you need prayer please call the prayer chain at 364-1564 or 364-4979.

IMMANUEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday School is at 10 a.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church. We have classes for all ages.

Our Adult Bible class will continue with the study of "turning your heart toward the lost."

Morning worship is at 11 a.m. "How Sin Operates" is the subject of discussion, and the text is Romans 7:15-25.

Immediately following the morning worship service will be the quarterly voter's meeting and fellowship meal. This is an important meeting. Please make plans to attend.

ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Knowing, Understanding and Doing What We Ought" is the title of the sermon by The Very Rev. Charles A. Wilson on the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 11 a.m. and there is a coffee hour following.

The regular Wednesday Public Service of Healing is at 7 p.m. with the Litany of Healing, the Laying-on-of-Hands with Holy Unction, and Holy Communion. The proper collect and readings will be those for the major feast of St. Mary Magdalene.

Intercessory prayer requests from the community are most welcome. To have them included in the Prayers of the People at all services, please call 364-0146 and leave a message. In case of emergency, or to make appointments for personal conferences, please call Father Wilson in Amarillo at 353-1734.

St. Thomas' will have a "Backyard Party" on Saturday, July 27 at 6:30 p.m. Please see the Sunday service leaflet and the July-August newsletter for more information.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The congregation of the Nazarene Church would like to invite you to join us for praise and worship at 10:30 a.m. this Sunday. Pastor Ted's sermon, "The God Encounter," is taken from the life of Jacob.

We will celebrate our Prayer, Praise and Fasting at 6 p.m. Sunday.

This Sunday, SWoD (Single, Widowed or Divorced Fellowship) is having a Mexican stack lunch at the Danley's home following the morning service. Singles of all ages are welcome.

On Friday, July 19, we will take a group to Palo Duro Canyon to attend the outdoor drama "TEXAS." Meet at the church at 6 p.m.

Children, Pastor Carol will teach on how "God Made You Special." Wednesday night "Sermon on the Plains" is going great.

There will be no Kid's Zone for the month of July.

Youth are invited to join us for Club Paradise at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.

Pastor Jim is teaching summer "College Class" at 9:30 a.m.

Our next Barn Church meeting will be July 18 with Spenser Sunny Rice, a cutting horse trainer from East Texas. Our music is led by Buster Ready and Chuck Danley. Invite a friend and come to the B-S Arena at 7:30 p.m.

ST. ANTHONY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

A lock-in for fifth and sixth graders will be held from 7 p.m. on July 25 until 9 a.m. on July 26 at St. Anthony's School. Call Elaine at 364-8408 or Diana at 364-5906 for details.

Weigh Down orientation will be given July 23 at 7 p.m. in the Antonian Room. The first class will be Aug. 1 at 6:30 p.m. If you have questions, call Karla at 364-6254.

The next Baptism Preparation Class is at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the Antonian room.

Chris Kelley receives his Parvuli Dei, a hard-earned church award for Cub Scouts, this weekend at the 9 a.m. liturgy. His faith family joins the rest of his family in congratulating him on receiving this distinctive medal.

All district deputies, grand knights, deputy grand knights and financial secretaries are urged to attend a special Diocesan Knights of Columbus meeting from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on July 20 at the K.C. Council #4635 in Amarillo. A state officer will be there to conduct the meeting and lunch will be provided for \$5 each.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

The pastor, H. Wyatt Bartlett and the congregation of Temple Baptist Church, 700 Avenue K, invite everyone to come worship with them Sunday and the coming week.

The Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with worship service at 11 a.m. We have classes for all ages. The evening worship begins at 6 when we will have church training in the Fellowship Hall. Our worship continues at 7 p.m. The pastor will preach at both morning and evening services.

Wednesday we will have our mid-week prayer meeting at 7 p.m. We are continuing our study of the Book of Psalms. This week will be Chapter 37. This is also business meeting night.

COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Dorman Duggan and congregation invite you to come and worship and praise with them Sunday morning.

Sunday school for all ages begins at 9:30 a.m. and the morning worship service starts at 10:30. A nursery is provided.

The Sunday evening service is at 6 and a nursery is again provided.

The Intercessory Prayer Group meets Monday night at 7 p.m.

Tuesday morning at 9:30 the Ladies Prayer Group meets.

The Wednesday service, children's church and youth group all begin at 7 p.m.

For more information or if you need prayer, call 364-8866 or 364-2423.

TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and the Sunday worship services are held at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Pastor Ed Warren and the church congregation invite the public to all services at the church located on S. Hwy. 385 and Columbia St.

For additional information, call 364-3487.

WESTWAY BAPTIST CHURCH

We welcome you to join our church for all services.

We are a friendly church that has classes for all ages--nursery through adults.

God has blessed us this year. Please come and join us for Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. followed by worship at 11 a.m.

Sunday evening service begins at 6:30.

The Wednesday worship service is at 7 p.m. followed by choir practice.

Ronny Sanders is music minister and Ray Sanders is pastor.

COUNTRY ROAD CHURCH OF GOD

401 Country Club Drive
Pastor Woody Wiggins and the church congregation invite the public to attend all services and activities at the church.

The following is the schedule of services.

Sunday school begins at 10 a.m. and the Sunday worship services are held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. Services are conducted at 7 p.m. each Wednesday. Thursday night prayer service begins at 7 p.m.

A nursery is available. Pastor Wiggins said, "If you are needing a place to worship, come be with us. We are here for those who are hurting."

Our 24 hour information and prayer line is 364-5390.

GOOD NEWS CHURCH

400 N. 25 Mile Ave.
Sugarland Mall

Pastor David Alvarado and the Good News congregation invite you to come and worship the Lord Jesus Christ with us in the spirit of love.

Come and experience the goodness of God and his power.

Sunday services are at 10 a.m. and Wednesday services are at 7 p.m.

If you have any questions or you need prayer, please call Pastor David Alvarado at 364-5239. God bless you.

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

1204 Moreman
Pastor Danny Parnell and the membership of Bible Baptist Church invite you to visit this week for Sunday School and worship services.

Sunday School for all ages begins at 10 a.m., with the Sunday morning worship service at 11 a.m.

Sunday night services, featuring a study of the book of Acts, begin at 6 p.m., while Wednesday night services are at 7 p.m.

SUMMERFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

The public is invited to attend all of the church services. Sunday school is held at 10 a.m. and the Sunday worship services are held at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Wednesday service is held at 7 p.m.

For more information, call 357-2535.

BARN CHURCH

Barn Church is a non-denominational Christian ministry. Our goal is to worship God and fellowship with each other. Barn Church is for everyone that likes things a little on the country side. We'll have some singing, some preaching and maybe a testimony or two.

It's come as you are, so dust off your jeans and come on out. Bring the family and tell your friends.

Barn Church will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Services are held at the B-S Indoor Arena which is 6 miles west on FM 1058 and 2 miles north on FM 1057.

The next service is July 18 when Sunny Rice, a cutting horse trainer from East Texas, will be the guest speaker.

FRIO BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Larry Perkins and the congregation of the Frio Baptist Church invite you to join them for services each Sunday and Wednesday.

Sunday School begins at 10 a.m. and is followed by worship at 11 a.m. Evening services begin with Discipleship Training at 6 as we continue our study of "Becoming a Contagious Christian," and are followed by evening worship at 7.

We would also like to invite youth to join us and our youth minister David Splawn.

Wednesday evening prayer services begin at 7:30.

FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS

The Fellowship of Believers invites you to attend services this Sunday. The Bible study class begins at 9:30 a.m. and is being led by Doug Manning. Manning will be the speaker at the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Classes for children are at 9:30 a.m. and are available through elementary ages. Nursery facilities are available during the worship service.

If you need transportation to the church services, please call 364-0359. The youth group will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

13th and Avenue H
Pastor Elda Olivarez and congregation invite you to worship with them.

Sunday School is at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship is at 10:30. Evening worship is at 6 on Sunday and 7 on Wednesday.

The youth meet Friday at 7 p.m. There are monthly meetings for men and women.

New Hope Church of the Nazarene was founded by Pastor Olivarez in June 1992, right in the center of the barrio. We are reaching out to single mothers, teenagers, the elderly and lots of children.

We are in severe need of Sunday School rooms. The current 30' X 60' building, located at Avenue H and 13th Street, houses one 9' X 12' Sunday School room, a 9' X 9' kitchen and a 30' X 40' sanctuary.

The children of the church are currently conducting a campaign for quarters, the youth are holding car washes and the women are serving dinners. If you see any of these activities, please be generous.



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Sports

Hearing on Smith delays Irvin's trial

By MELISSA WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer
DALLAS (AP) - Testimony in Michael Irvin's felony drug trial was delayed today for a hearing on how much testimony of an ex-policeman's girlfriend jurors can hear.

Topless dancer Rachelle Smith's highly anticipated testimony, expected later today, was the subject of a pending hearing on evidence procedure.

The hearing was planned outside the jury's presence. Prosecutors have argued that Smith can tell jurors about Irvin's relationship with Angela Beck, one of two topless dancers found with him in a police raid and about her connection to drugs seized there.

Smith is the girlfriend of Johnnie Hernandez, a former Dallas policeman who was arrested June 27 on a charge of trying to hire a hitman to kill Irvin.

She is also a friend of Beck and Jasmine Nabwangu, the second woman found with the Dallas Cowboys receiver and former teammate Alfredo Roberts during the March 4 bust at an Irving motel.

On Thursday, jurors heard that Irvin's fingerprints were the only ones identified on plates containing cocaine and marijuana.

The discussion of whether and where Irvin's fingerprints appeared and whether police properly handled the evidence took up most of the sixth day of testimony Thursday.

Irvin is charged with second-degree felony cocaine possession, which carries a punishment ranging from probation to 20 years in prison.

Irving criminalistics officer Kelly Morrow told the jury Thursday under questioning by prosecutor Aaron Wylie that only the fingerprints of Irvin and police officers were distinguishable on drug paraphernalia found in the motel room.

Morrow said Irvin's left thumb

print was found on the face of a salad plate found on an end table in the motel room, while prints from his left pinkie and left middle finger were found on the bottom of the plate.

Irvin's right ring fingerprint was found on the bottom of the dinner plate recovered by police from under a love seat in the room, Morrow testified.

But neither Irvin's prints nor those of Roberts, Beck or Nabwangu were identified on other items recovered by police, including a glass vial, some cigarette rolling papers, plastic baggies and some razor blades, Morrow said.

Beck and Nabwangu also were charged with drug possession. Roberts was not.

During his cross-examination of Morrow, defense lawyer West appeared to suggest that the Irving Police Department had improperly handled the evidence because a specialist hadn't been called to photograph and dust the items before they were moved by other officers.

Morrow conceded that if he had been called to the scene, he would have photographed the items, dusted them for fingerprints and then conveyed them to the police department's property room.

That wasn't done by just one person in this case, Morrow said.

In the afternoon, prosecutors called Camille Davis. She is general manager of the Residence Inn by Marriott where Irving police were summoned for the March 4 disturbance call.

Prosecutor Mike Gillett asked her general questions about her duties and the motel's layout, including some during a video of the motel grounds and the interior of Room 624, where the group was found. But testimony ended for the day just as Gillett was inquiring about motel records for several dates in February and early March 1996.

Bowe-Golota fight sparks crowd riot

By BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - The "real" heavyweight championship ended in unreal fashion. It also might have ended boxing at Madison Square Garden for a long time.

Riddick Bowe, who billed himself "the people's choice" and "the real heavyweight champion," even though he owns no official title belts, was being battered by unheralded Andrew Golota of Poland on Thursday night. But when Golota hit Bowe with a low blow in the seventh round - after earlier being penalized three points for such blows - Golota was disqualified.

As Golota pounded the ropes in frustration, Rock Newman, Bowe's manager, jumped into the ring, pointing his finger at the fighter.

"You just can't let a fighter foul another fighter like that," Newman said.

Almost immediately after Newman came through the ropes, with Bowe squatting on the canvas, a member of his camp, Bernard Brooks Jr., shot across the ring toward Golota.

Brooks later claimed he was defending his father after the senior Brooks tried to calm down Golota. But Brooks Jr., with a walkie-talkie in his hand, was seen taking several swings at Golota, who left the ring with cuts on the back and top of his head.

That was the beginning of long minutes of mayhem in an arena

from which significant boxing was absent for more than a decade after problems with crowd control in the early 1980s. Dozens of people stormed into the ring, and Garden security was overwhelmed.

When the disqualification was announced, fights broke out throughout the building, many of them involving hundreds of supporters of Golota at the east end of the arena. The fights spread toward the ring, many involving blacks vs. whites, as security people attempted to intervene.

"This was the product of a few people who acted like criminals," New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani said.

Several minutes after the bout was stopped by referee Wayne Kelly, New York City police appeared. They, too, had difficulty breaking up the many fights, which included chair-throwing.

It was more than 30 minutes after the bout that peace was restored and the building was evacuated. Ten people were arrested.

Police commissioner Howard Safir said there were 14 injuries, all minor, and that eight officers also suffered minor injuries.

Lou Duva, Golota's trainer, was taken to NYU Medical Center after suffering chest pains during the post-fight melee. He was reportedly in stable condition and was held overnight for observation, but did not suffer a heart attack, as first feared.

All-Stars play Saturday

Hereford's 13-year-old Babe Ruth League All-Stars will play in the state tournament this weekend at the North Randall Complex in Amarillo.

The Hereford team, which qualified by whipping Canyon in two games, will play their first game at 8 p.m. Saturday. Their opponent will be determined Saturday afternoon.

The tournament includes only five teams: North Randall, Dumas, Hereford, Seminole and another West Texas team that hadn't been determined as of Thursday.

The tourney starts Saturday and

ends Tuesday. The North Randall Complex is south of Amarillo, on Hollywood Road just east of the Owens-Corning plant.

The players are Kyle Artho, Adrian Garza, George Castillo Jr., Freddy Garcia, Slade Hodges, Thomas Maldonado, Andrew Villarreal, Richard Salinas, Isaiah Valdez, J.P. Holman, Toby Torres, Joel Cerda and Nathan Horrell.

The coaches are Toby Torres, George Castillo, Randy Iruegas and Gregg Kalka.

Local kids to play in Nike tourney

Several boys from Hereford will be participating in a national basketball tournament sponsored by Nike this weekend in Denton.

Isaac Walker and Bryant McNutt - both members of the Hereford High School varsity team - are going. Each played on a team that qualified for a national AAU tournament, but they chose to play in the Nike All-American Shootout instead.

The Nike tournament is closer by and less expensive, said Elaine McNutt, Bryant's mother.

The tournament starts tonight and continues through Monday on the campus of North Texas State University.

Walker's team, the Lubbock Warriors, will compete in the senior division, while McNutt's team, the Amarillo Stars, will play in the junior division.

Another team that includes six Hereford boys will play in the freshmen and sophomore division. The Warriors include Eric McNutt, James Miller, Greg Ewing, Steven Northern, L.J. Vallejo and Daniel Carnahan.

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Cowboys get Walker as backfield backup

While the Dallas Cowboys returned to their past, the San Francisco 49ers did a double take.

Seven years after he was traded away, Herschel Walker once again is a Cowboy.

"There are some things I'd like to accomplish in this league, and winning the Super Bowl is No. 1," said Walker, who was released by the New York Giants last month.

The 34-year-old Walker is fourth on the NFL's all-purpose career yardage list with 15,881 yards and 18th on the career rushing list with 8,122 yards. His trade to the Minnesota Vikings in 1989, when Dallas received 12 players and draft picks, is considered the key to the enormous success the Cowboys have had since then.

Among current Cowboys who can be linked to the Vikings deal are running back Emmitt Smith, cornerback Kevin Smith and All-Pro safety Darren Woodson.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but it is believed Walker accepted a low salary for the chance of fulfilling his championship dream.

"If you talk about terms with me, I don't think you understand me," Walker said. "I've done very well financially in the business world and the athletic world. Money wasn't a deciding factor on what I was going to do."

Walker is expected to back up

Smith at tailback and Daryl Johnston at fullback, perhaps come out of the backfield for passes on third-down situations and take some of the kick-returning load off receiver Kevin Williams and cornerback-receiver Deion Sanders.

In his first stint with Dallas, Walker led the NFC in rushing with 1,516 yards in 1986.

In San Francisco, identical twins Sean and Sam Manuel signed identical contracts with the 49ers.

The Manuels, both seventh-round draft picks, signed two-year deals worth \$315,000 and got \$20,000 signing bonuses, the 49ers announced.

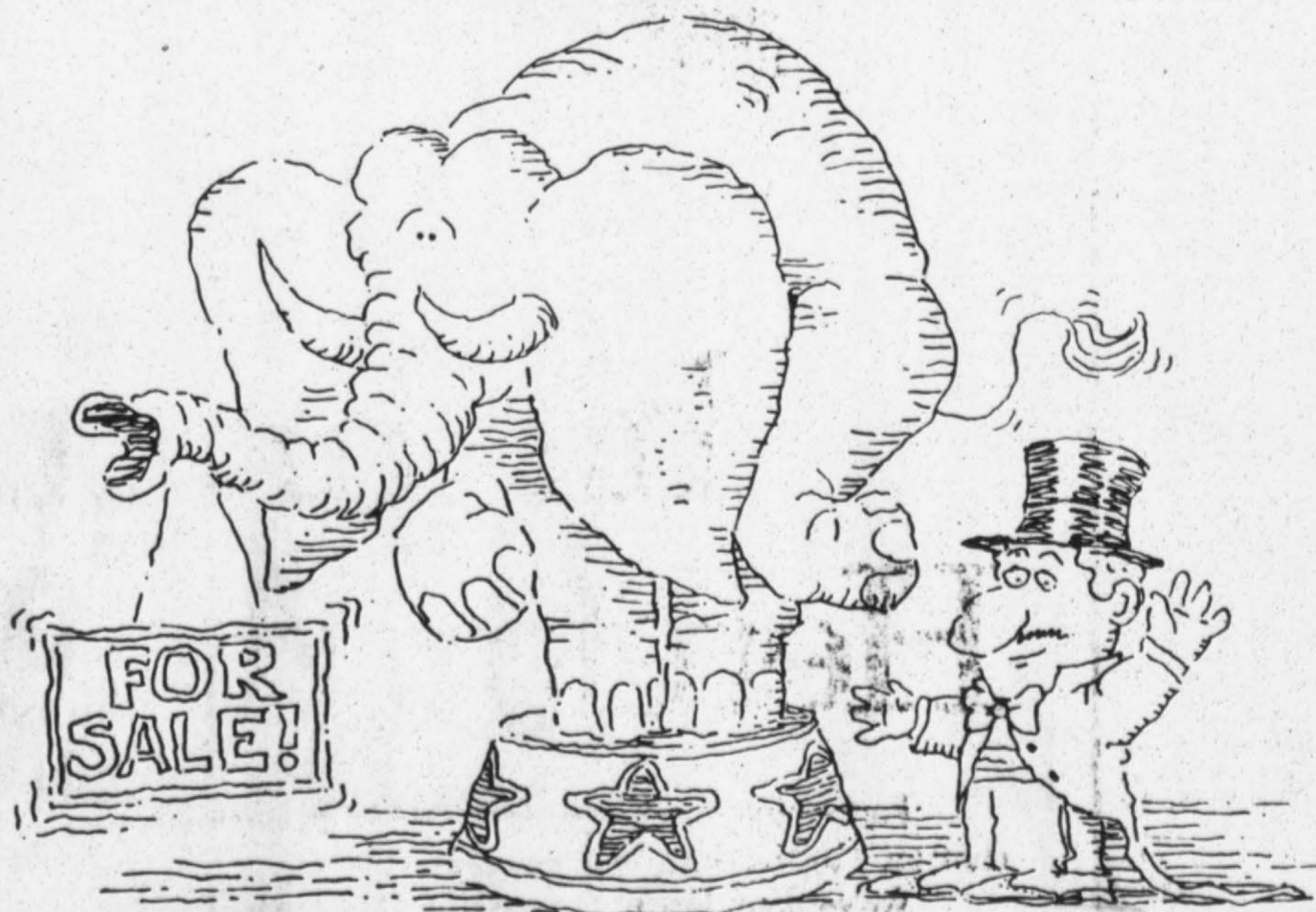
Sean Manuel, a tight end, was the 239th overall pick in this year's draft, while Sam Manuel, an outside linebacker, was No. 254. Both played at New Mexico State.

"Sean should've gotten more than me because he was drafted ahead of me, but it didn't matter to him," Sam Manuel said.

The 49ers also signed free-agent linebacker Mark Sander, who played last season with the Scottish Claymores of the World League, and free-agent defensive back Tyrone Smith, a rookie out of Baylor.

Tight end Keith Jackson, who held out six weeks last season before signing with Green Bay, signed a two-year deal Thursday with the Packers.

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Atlanta struggles to prepare for Olympics

By PAUL NEWBERRY
AP Sports Writer
ATLANTA (AP) - Let the Games begin - but not just yet.

There are still a few, er, kinks to work out as far as the press is concerned.

The world's view of Atlanta will be shaped largely by the thousands of journalists credentialed to cover the Games, and let's just say the initial impression of many who have already arrived isn't favorable.

For starters, some reporters were forced to temporarily stay in a homeless shelter because accommodations weren't ready, and telephone service had not been installed in many work areas of the Main Press Center.

"This is the worst I've ever experienced," said Johann Bures, communications director for the Deutsche Presse Agency in Germany who has been coming to the Olympics since 1980. "Even Moscow and Sarajevo were better with the organization of their communications."

Tim Franklin, associate managing editor of sports for the Chicago Tribune, concurred that the press center wasn't ready, "and that's putting it mildly."

"We've got people we're spending \$200 a night on to be here," he said, "so it would be nice if they could actually work from the MPC."

By most accounts, workers from Atlanta Committee for the Olympics Games were attentive to the complaints and doing their best to sort things out amidst the myriad companies - AT&T, BellSouth, Sprint, MCI, to name a few - involved with the telecommunication system.

ACOG officials noted that work on the press center couldn't begin until a trade show vacated the building - actually an exhibition hall in the heart of downtown - on July 2. Besides, they said, the Games don't begin until July 19 and most work is done, despite the general impression of disarray in the building.

"I don't know what 'on time' means," ACOG spokesman Bob Brennan said Thursday. "I think some people are nervous because of what happened in Los Angeles (in 1984), where they didn't have telephone lines for a couple of weeks. They're worried that they're going to have the same experience here, but that's not going to be the case. As you can see, we've gotten a lot of work done."

Not on everything, however. Some news agencies reported that furniture they already had paid for was still missing. And then there was the scary tale of "The Refrigerators and Microwave Ovens from Hell."

"The refrigerator that was delivered to us looked like it had mold from 4-year-old cheese growing inside," Franklin said. "And the microwave looked like some sort of technology from the early '70s. It was the Tyrannosaurus Rex of microwaves."

Some reporters arrived in the city only to find their rooms at Clark Atlanta University still under construction. Interim accommodations were arranged, but some balked when they learned what ACOG had in mind.

"They wanted to put us in a homeless shelter," said Mike Sargent, Olympic coordinator for Agence France Presse. "So me and another guy grabbed a car and drove by the place. We saw people out front drinking out of bags."

One of the reporters who went to the shelter was Morley Myers, sports editor of United Press International. After he got a look at the Clark dormitory that finally opened late

Wednesday afternoon, he would have preferred to stay put.

The 8-by-10 dorm rooms came with a dresser, a spot to hang clothes and a small bed that's built 4 feet off the floor to provide extra room for storage underneath.

"I need a safety net when I sleep," Myers said. "You can get a nosebleed in those beds."

The dorms are equipped with kitchens, but there were no utensils or pans for cooking. Journalists could forget making a phone call, too, because those lines had not yet been installed.

"I think Dracula was the last occupant of my room," Myers joked, "because there's not a mirror in the place."

Atlanta police sweep area

ATLANTA (AP) - Police made 35 arrests during a special crime sweep around the Atlanta University campus, one of the Olympics' main gathering spots.

Meanwhile, security officers said Thursday there was no indication that terrorists are targeting the Games, though they conceded that some fake threats have been made against the organizing committee.

"Certainly at an event of this magnitude, it's reasonable to expect that some threats will be made," said Bill Rathburn, director of security for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games. "We've checked them out, and they don't go anywhere. It's nothing that causes us any great concern."

Police chief Beverly Harvard, during a briefing on Olympic security measures, said that state and local officers took part in the Wednesday night crime sweep around the Atlanta University campus.

The campus, a group of colleges located in the middle of one of Atlanta's most crime-ridden neighborhoods, is the site of field hockey and basketball competition, serves as a training site for some athletes and provides housing for the media.

"We've had some complaints about harassment and minor criminal activity in the Atlanta University area," Rathburn said.

Currently, CBS is in the second of a six-year deal to televise the Fiesta and Orange bowls. The contracts, though, are similar to the bowl alliance agreement, meaning that after three years the deal could be canceled.

"It's really complicated," French said. "Not only do you need to get everyone to sign on to it, but everyone has his own problems and needs."

For years, the Rose Bowl has shied away from joining a national championship package, choosing instead to insist its game was still the granddaddy of them all. Now, even the Rose Bowl is resigned to changing.

"We started the whole bowl thing and we have a stake in what makes it successful," French said. "We're at a crossroads. There's interest in the conferences and bowls in playing a national championship, and we'd like to be part of it."

Rose Bowl could reach deal with Bowl Alliance

By RICHARD ROSENBLATT
AP Football Writer
NEW YORK (AP) - Slowly, ever so slowly, college football is moving toward a true national championship game.

And the way bowl officials were talking on Thursday, that day might not be too far off. In fact, Jack French, executive director of the Tournament of Roses Association, says the Rose Bowl is very close on a proposal with the bowl alliance that would add the Big Ten and Pac-10 into the national title mix.

French said a deal could be struck within 60 days. And that could lead to a long-awaited true national title game by January 1999.

"What we're trying to do is accommodate the Big Ten and Pac-10," French said of the Rose Bowl, which matches the champions of the two conferences but is not in the alliance. "We've made good progress and we're hoping something will happen in the best interests of college football."

The bowl alliance includes the ACC, Big East, SEC, Big 12, Big Ten and Pac-10 conferences, Notre Dame and the Fiesta, Sugar and Orange bowls. Since the Rose Bowl matches the Big Ten and Pac-10 champions, the alliance picks the two highest-ranked teams from the rest of the group to play in either the Fiesta, Sugar or Orange bowls.

Last year, the first of a six-year bowl alliance package, the setup worked perfectly, with No. 1 Nebraska meeting No. 2 Florida in the Fiesta Bowl. This season, the

Sugar Bowl hosts the top game, with the Orange Bowl set to host the best matchup after the 1997 season.

A deal to bring the Rose Bowl into the bowl alliance would take time because an assortment of contracts between conferences and TV networks would have to either expire or be re-worked.

"The bowl alliance, the conference commissioners and Notre Dame are looking at various options. This is not a Rose Bowl decision," French said. "We've told them what we'll do to accommodate them to help get No. 1 vs. No. 2."

Neither French nor Roy Kramer, commissioner of the Southeastern Conference, would discuss details of the latest talks.

"Yes, we've had serious discussions," Kramer said. "And that would include participation in some fashion of the Pac-10 and Big Ten champs if they qualify as No. 1 or 2."

"There is no agreement at this point in time. Time will tell if the discussions are fruitful."

Although the Rose Bowl is willing to enter the bowl alliance, it has one stipulation. If the Big Ten and Pac-10 champs end up Nos. 1 and 2 in the AP writers' poll and CNN-USA Today's coaches' poll, the Rose Bowl must be the site of the national title game. The other bowls are said to be against such a requirement.

Still, all parties appear headed in the right direction.

The bowl alliance deal has a renewal clause. After three years, which would fall on April 15, 1997,

the alliance can be terminated if a majority of members fail to agree on renewal.

"My feeling is that even though the deadline is eight to 10 months away," French said, "it's possible some resolution can come sooner than that."

Earlier this week, the six conferences and Notre Dame met in Chicago to discuss how to bring the Rose Bowl into the national title picture. USA Today reported that ABC, which has the rights to the Rose and Sugar bowls, initiated the talks, and could eventually wind up as the sole network of a revised bowl alliance.

Currently, CBS is in the second of a six-year deal to televise the Fiesta and Orange bowls. The contracts, though, are similar to the bowl alliance agreement, meaning that after three years the deal could be canceled.

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Table with columns for cattle futures prices, including categories like CATTLE-PENDER (CASH), CATTLE-LIVE (CASH), and BEEVES (CASH) with their respective market values.

GRAIN FUTURES

Table with columns for grain futures prices, including categories like CORN (CASH), SOYBEANS (CASH), and WHEAT (CASH) with their respective market values.

METAL FUTURES

Table with columns for metal futures prices, including categories like GOLD (COM. DIV.), SILVER (COM. DIV.), and COPPER (COM. DIV.) with their respective market values.

FUTURES OPTIONS

Table with columns for futures options prices, including categories like CATTLE-PENDER (CASH) and CORN (CASH) with their respective market values.

Water parks expect to sell more than 50 million tickets

By SHEILA NORMAN-CULP
Associated Press Writer
RIVERHEAD, N.Y. (AP) -- It takes 102 steps to reach the top of the 80-foot-high Cliff Diver, the latest attraction at the Splash Splash water park.

That's enough time for legs to ache, minds to question, hearts to pound and stomachs to flip.
Looking down from the tower, the Long Island Expressway undulates to the horizon in a ribbon of asphalt. Hawks circle below. Those waiting to take the plunge stand above the treetops, above the rest of the park, above anything else in sight.

And a four-second free-fall is the way out.
When Popsicle juice runs sticky-sweet down your palms and grumpy children whine and snap in the heat, sitting in a plastic wading pool just won't do.

Get thee to a water park. You'll have lots of company. Last year, 50 million people visited the 900 or so water parks in the United States, according to Al Turner, executive director of the World Waterpark Association.

That record -- which includes repeat customers -- is apt to tumble this summer. Fifty new water parks have been built since then.

Water parks vary widely, from mega-operations such as Wet'n Wild in Orlando, Fla., Water Country in Williamsburg, Va., or The Oasis in Palm Springs, Calif., to municipal pools that have at least one 350-foot-long, 35-foot-high slide. About 100 parks are considered major -- those serving 100,000 people a year.

At Splash Splash on a recent summer's day, Jesse Semerano of Bedford Hills, N.Y., and eight friends were celebrating his 14th birthday. Were they having fun? You bet.

"No parents!" they chorused. "Wild rides! Great music!"

Charisma Perry, 13, broke into a spontaneous dance. Others squeezed water from their hair. Silly grins popped out like mushrooms after a rain.

"Gotta go!" Jesse said, as the group raced off to the next ride.

Still, the day is hardly a cheap thrill. At Splash Splash, anyone over 48 inches -- say, a tall 8-year-old -- pays the full \$18.95 adult fare. And no one can be a free bystander -- not even grandma.

The emphasis this year is on safety and families.

Water parks were stung by the accidents of the mid-1980s, when a dozen or more drownings occurred a year among 25 million people, half of today's attendance figures. Last year, there were two deaths.

"That's two too many," Turner commented, detailing an industry-wide safety push that he said has made water park lifeguard training far more advanced than that for a typical pool.

Melanie DeCostanzo, a 17-year-old lifeguard at Splash Splash, said she and her colleagues practice CPR and do accident-role-playing every day at work. They also rotate shifts every 20-25 minutes to keep sharp. Turner says the goal is to reach people in distress in 20 seconds.

An independent firm comes to Splash Splash unannounced three times a summer to conduct an all-day safety audit, testing lifeguards and checking equipment, said the park's president, Chip Cleary. The park has won a National Gold Elite Award for safety five years in a row.

The safety push is part of a campaign to get the whole family -- not just thrill-seeking teens -- into water parks, since parents with

families spend much more money than teens alone.

Newer parks have more varied kiddie pools -- with baby swings into the water, car washes for kids, and dozens of ways to dump water on willing parents. They also have expanded less strenuous attractions such as lazy rivers, where riders slowly float on tubes down a stream of moving water, so grandparents can play in the water as well as the kids.

"We have gone from a little pool that keeps kids out of the way to a pool that keeps the family together," Turner says.

Well, not quite. "The last thing the 6- and 5-year-olds want to do is hang around the kiddie pool," said Hugh Kelly, 34, of Norwalk, Conn., as he played with his 2-year-old son, Theo. "We've had to split up the family -- but it's still very nice."

The most unusual new water park ride this year is the Master Blaster, an uphill water coaster at the Schlitterbahn water park, 25 miles north of San Antonio, Texas.

Schlitterbahn, which built the first uphill water coaster in 1994, promises this ride will thrill even water park veterans. Starting on a six-story platform, riders swoop down through hills, valleys and curves like a roller coaster. At the bottom of each uphill section -- there are six in all -- high-powered water nozzles blast the two-person inflatable raft up, up, up until it's ready for the next plunge.

It's 1,000 feet in a wild, whirling minute.

"We expect this to be a hit," said spokeswoman Sheri Brammel, adding that most of the 700,000 people who came to Schlitterbahn last year rode on the Dragon Blaster, the world's first uphill water coaster.

But popular attractions don't have

to be new: Wave pools, with machines that make artificial surf, are old-time favorites still going strong.

The first wave pool in the United States opened in 1969 at Big Surf, in Tempe, Ariz. However the wave pool itself is not an American invention. The first known wave pool was built in 1876 for King Louis II of Bavaria, and the largest wave pool in the world -- at 172,000 square feet -- is in Siam Park in Bangkok, Thailand.

But at the end of the day, it's the thrills -- not the lazy rivers -- that visitors remember. And that means freefall slides.

The first freefall slide appeared in 1983 at Atlantis-The Water Kingdom in Hollywood, Fla. The tallest freefall slide -- 120 dizzying feet -- opened last year at Disney's Blizzard Beach in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

On a recent trip to Splash Splash's Cliff Diver, half a dozen teens mulled around the top of the ride, sick with fear. An equal number braved the abuse of their friends to walk back down.

"Go, Carrie! Go, Carrie! Go, Carrie!" one group at the bottom chanted.

Those who laid down, crossed their arms and legs and willingly slid off into the void emerged with fluttering stomachs in a whoosh of spray.

It's an 80-foot, almost vertical slide with an inch or two of water to cushion the ride, until you slow down in the runoff.

"It's cool -- really cool -- but I waited 10 times before I went down," said Amitar Perlina, 10, of Dix Hills, N.Y.

One teen-age youth who would not give his name limped off the Cliff Diver runoff.

"It's too fast and you get a wedgie big time," he groaned.

Park superintendent concentrates on protecting beauty of national park

By JEAN H. LEE
Associated Press Writer
YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) -- It's show time at Yosemite National Park, where tourists stand transfixed amid soaring waterfalls and flowering dogwoods.

For Superintendent B.J. Griffin, summer in Yosemite means bumper-to-bumper traffic and the pressing question of how to preserve the park's beauty while welcoming visitors.

It's Griffin's second summer season overseeing the spectacular Sierra Nevada region that became one of the nation's first national parks more than a century ago, thanks to naturalist John Muir.

At 54, she became the first woman to head a major national park when she was named superintendent in February 1995. Her debut year was marked by natural disasters, freak accidents and a kidnapping of a park employee.

To top it off, Griffin is recuperat-

ing from recent surgery to remove a benign brain tumor.

These days, Griffin is concentrating on her vision of protecting Yosemite's 1,200 square miles of beautiful beauty while sharing it with visitors.

"I am always in awe -- it never fades -- of what I am responsible for," she said. "To have this precious space to keep healthy and whole for the American people: To me, it's a very exciting but also a humbling thought."

The mission is daunting. Attendance at Yosemite has swelled by one-third over the past decade, from 3 million visitors in 1986 to 4.1 million in 1995.

Rangers have had to turn visitors away at the gate occasionally during the summer season that starts the weekend before Memorial Day and lasts through Labor Day.

Over the years, visitors and cars have trampled fragile vegetation and have pushed native animals like the

peregrine falcon and bighorn sheep toward extinction.

In 1980, the National Park Service issued a general management plan to restore nature and reduce traffic in Yosemite.

Sixteen years later, park officials are completing proposals to install large parking lots west of the park, shuttle buses and day-use reservations. Officials plan to solicit public opinion on the proposals in the fall. Some have criticized the plans as lacking vision, while others say implementation is taking too long.

Yosemite shares federal funding with 369 other national parks, some of which don't even have visitors' centers yet, she said. She spends much of her time in meetings with state and local park officials, members of Congress, lobbyists and environmentalists.

In more than 25 years with the National Park Service, Griffin has earned a reputation as a negotiator skilled in budget analysis and

management.

A native of Shreveport, La., she was 22 when she landed a temporary job as a clerk for the agency in Virginia. "It was complete serendipity," she said.

Within 10 years, she was working as a budget analyst in Atlanta. In 1984 she became superintendent of her first park, the fort Castillo de San Marcos in St. Augustine, Fla.

She came to Yosemite as assistant superintendent in 1987 before heading regional operations in San Francisco and in Philadelphia.

Griffin, who admits she never saw a national park until she was in her 20s, first toured Yosemite as a visitor in 1979. Driving up Highway 41 through the Wawona Tunnel and emerging to see Inspiration Point was "overwhelming," she said.

She still tries to see as much of the park as she can, covering the vast back country by horseback or on foot.

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