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The Hereford Brand



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Moment of glory

Hereford High School volleyball players Danielle Cornelius and Julie Rampley (13) hug on the court following the team's victory Tuesday over the Dumas Demonettes in District 1-4A action. The 15-11, 12-15, 15-10 win gave the Lady Whitefaces a half-game lead in district in their final contest. The Demonettes play Canyon on Saturday. If they win, they end the season as co-champions and play Hereford again next week to determine post-season seedings. See game roundup, photos, Page 6.

Drug policy too vague, Simons says, and will be re-examined

By WILLIAM SEELEY
Staff Writer

After nearly a year of planning, consultation and revision a panel of Deaf Smith County Officials distributed the new Personnel Policy Manual to the approximately 100 employees who will be subject to its rules starting Nov. 1.

However, one section of the manual needs further consideration, County Judge Tom Simons said on Monday.

The drugs and alcohol policy as it is appears now fails to address, among other issues, the mandatory drug testing of approximately 20 county employees licensed as commercial drivers to operate county vehicles.

"The policy is too vague," Simons said. "We need some hard and fast rules for what we're going to do if someone violates the policy."

The Commissioners' Court has asked the revision oversight

committee to take a closer look and possibly revise the county's drug and alcohol policy, Simons said.

Jim English, assistant criminal district attorney and committee member, said the group recently met with a Texas Association of Counties representative regarding the policy's vague spots.

"We'll have to schedule (another) meeting with TAC after we discuss (the policy) amongst ourselves," English said.

The language throughout the drug and alcohol policy needs to be tightened, the issue of testing needs to be addressed in writing and disciplinary actions for policy violators need to be spelled out, English said.

The County Personnel Policy Manual will govern the on-the-clock and in some cases off-the-clock actions of all county employees.

Once the panel amplifies the policy, an addendum will be

distributed to employees, an assistant in Simons' office said.

The currently used manual is more than a decade old and, according to its cover, was outdated as of March 11, 1991. That manual was written in 1983 by an Amarillo-based consultant for a fee many in county government called "excessive."

The committee assigned to review the policy includes Simons, English, Precinct 3 Foreman Bobby Hammock, County Commissioners Troy Don Moore and Tony Castillo, County Clerk David Ruland, County Tax Assessor-Collector Margaret Del Toro and County Treasurer Nan Rogers.

Gene Schaffer and Michelle Arceneau, TAC District Representatives, worked with the committee during its year-long revisions.

In nearly 50 pages the new manual covers as many policies on every subject from the employment application to death or termination,

On-campus medical mall focus of board

By GARRY WESNER
Managing Editor

The Deaf Smith County Hospital District has turned its sights on building an "on-campus" facility for a proposed medical mall following lengthy discussions on Tuesday.

Directors, meeting in regular session, heard a report from Jim Robinson, administrator of Hereford Regional Medical Center, on several companies contacted about serving as construction manager for the project.

A medical mall is being proposed as a way to combine a number of services currently being offered at various locations around town. The mall would tentatively include rural health clinics currently operated by Dr. Jesse Perales on East Park Avenue and by Dr. Howard Johnson on North 25 Mile Avenue; the Title 5 Women's and Children's Clinic located on West Fourth; and the South Plains Health Provider Organization clinic on East Park Avenue.

The mall, Robinson has said, would enable patients to pursue a variety of services in one location and would save money by consolidating medical records and billing.

Directors have looked at a variety of buildings in Hereford to purchase and renovate.

On Tuesday, Robinson told directors that Loren Barrick offered the buildings occupied by Barrick's Furniture for sale to the hospital.

Following a closed session in which the offer was presented, director Jo Beth Shackelford made a motion to purchase that facility.

It was seconded by director Larry Watts, but failed on a 2-4 vote.

Director Boyd Foster then made a motion that Robinson be directed to "expeditiously pursue additional design-build contractors" with an eye toward building a new facility on the hospital property.

The board earlier directed Robinson to look for a company that could handle the design of a medical mall and oversee construction of the project.

Robinson reported Tuesday that only two companies he contacted -- Cooper Medical Building in Oklahoma City, Okla., and Plains Building in Amarillo -- have the proper design personnel and the ability to manage construction work.

Of those two, Cooper estimated new construction at \$87 per square foot and \$48 per square foot for remodeling.

Plains had projected around \$70 per square foot for new construction and \$40-\$47 per square foot for remodeling.

Shackelford balked at the new construction costs, saying she had hoped to get a new building built for about \$60 a square foot.

Robinson noted, however, that a building that will be used by as many people as a medical mall will have to have durable construction or the

hospital will be faced with renovation costs fairly soon after opening.

Other items, he said, like air conditioning, heating and electricity cannot be cut back.

"Yes you can cut corners," he said, "but when you do, it's not going to be satisfactory."

Shackelford said the board originally said it wanted to undertake such a project for under \$800,000, whereas the two options presented would cost \$1.4 million or more to

(See HRMC, Page 2)

Mauro stops in Hereford on Demo campaign tour

BY SPEEDY NIEMAN
Publisher-Editor

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, who also serves as chairman of the Texas Clinton/Gore '96 Advisory Committee, brought his statewide goodwill tour to Hereford Tuesday morning for a Democratic campaign rally at Hereford Community Center.

Mauro touted economic gains produced by President Bill Clinton and the Democratic leadership and proclaimed the number of business leaders endorsing the Democratic ticket "keeps rising all the time, and we will carry Texas in November."

Leo Witkowski, longtime county Democratic Party worker, presided at the rally in the absence of County Demo Chairman Roddy Allred. The rally attracted approximately 50 people.

Mauro characterized the statewide tour as a move to "get back to the grassroots and talk to party members." He went on to say that "our programs are about helping all people achieve the American dream. That's why they will cast their vote for four more years of Democratic national leadership."

He said the economic figures in Texas speak for themselves. "The Texas unemployment rate has declined from 7.6 to 5.7 percent, and Texas has added over 900,000 jobs in 42 months."

Referring to the character issue, Mauro said "Clinton had the character to stand up against a Republican-

controlled Congress and veto a budget that made too many cuts."

Mauro was going on to Lubbock and Odessa for campaign rallies Tuesday. Local Demo officials at the meeting included Sheriff Joe Brown, Tax Assessor Margaret Del Toro and County Commissioners Tony Castillo and Lupe Chavez.

John W. Sawyer, Demo candidate for U.S. Representative, 19th Congressional District, spoke briefly while the audience awaited Mauro's arrival from the airport.

Sawyer served on the faculty of medicine at Texas Tech University before becoming a fulltime candidate. He graduated from Duke University and earned his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina.

He served on the faculties at Johns Hopkins and Wake Forest before going to Tech. His wife, Dr. Martha Elks, is a professor of medicine at Tech. They have two daughters, ages 6 and 4.

Sawyer claims the Republican Party takes the 19th District for granted and "even snubbed Larry Combest when he was line for House Ag Committee chairman."

And that signifies, said Sawyer, that "Newt Gingrich will make the decisions on what is best for agriculture, and their farm policy is now clear...the farmers who feed and clothe us can sink or swim without public help." Sawyer added, "Only a Democratic Congress can fix the mess the Republicans have made of agriculture."

Jack Frost hits cotton at the right time

By MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer

COTTON CENTER, Texas (AP) - Jack Frost chose a cotton-picking good time to make his grand entrance into Texas this week.

The fields around this crossroads a half-hour north of Lubbock glimmered on a frosty Tuesday morning with sheets of white. No snow here, mind you, but endless rows of cotton as far as the eye can see.

Freezing temperatures that can destroy some crops fit right into South Plains cotton farmers' time tables. Once the thermometer dips below 32 degrees, it's harvest time.

"Now we want the weather to stay just like it is right now," area farmer Aaron Kirby said while checking prices Tuesday at the Midcot Gin. A

little more cold air won't hurt, he said, but rain can reduce lint quality.

Icy air is a signal for nearly mature cotton stalks to burst forth with the puffy white fiber they've spent the summer developing.

Without a cold snap, growers must spend anywhere from \$6 to \$14 per acre on harvest-aid chemicals that defoliate the plants and artificially cause bolls to open.

"It's time to quit growing, open up, drop your leaves and let us harvest you," said cotton expert John Gannaway of the Texas A&M Agricultural Experiment Station north of Lubbock. "If you don't have to use those chemicals, it's a money saver. A light freeze right now could be a positive economic factor."

At current prices and expected yields, farmers with average crops

can gross around \$400 to \$600 per acre this fall. Government yield estimates for Texas stand at 3.9 million bales, a million fewer bales than the state made in 1993 and 1994, but better than earlier predictions.

A surge in sorghum production from the Rio Grande Valley to the Panhandle has occupied acreage usually bleached with cotton. Drought conditions eliminated still more potential cotton patches, particularly south of Lubbock.

"Anytime you see news reports that we're making all this cotton, the price just goes down," Kirby said, adding that he knows fellow farmers who won't strip an acre this month.

Hail, drought and wind forced many farmers to plant in mid-June, which is extremely late in a region

with a relatively short growing season. By contrast, Valley farmers began harvesting in August.

While overall production is down, some individual crops will produce three bales per acre, a full bale better than usual.

"It's been a much better season than we would ever had predicted," Gannaway said.

Farther north in the Panhandle, a better-than-expected corn harvest is wrapping up, while most early planted sorghum is maturing in the fields and won't be affected by the freeze.

Some late-planted sorghum, which was behind schedule because of a cool late summer and early fall, might produce little if any of the feed grain after this freeze.

Lost records could mean new trial for Saldivar

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP) - A missing box of court records could mean a new trial for the woman serving a life prison term for killing Tejano singing star Selena, prosecutors and defense attorneys say.

The missing records are needed by a state appellate court now considering the appeal of Yolanda Saldivar, the former Selena fan club president convicted of killing the singer in March 1995.

"It's a sticky mess," Nueces County District Attorney Carlos Valdez said Tuesday.

"It's terrible to have a conviction like this and have something like this happen that is not our fault or the defense's fault. For our conviction to be jeopardized by something like this is horrible. It's terrible."

During Ms. Saldivar's trial in Houston last October, defense attorneys subpoenaed business records that belonged to Selena's father, Abraham Quintanilla Jr.

State District Judge Mike Westergren viewed the records and ruled that the defense was not entitled to see most of them. Westergren then ordered the documents sealed as part of the court record.

The judge's decision is one of 16 points of error raised by Corpus Christi attorney Patrick McGuire in Ms. Saldivar's appeal, filed in August with the 14th Court of Appeals in Houston.

McGuire wants Ms. Saldivar's conviction should be thrown out, citing a section of Texas law that says a defendant is entitled to a new trial

if any exhibits have been lost or destroyed through no fault of the defense.

Westergren said he personally carried the records to Houston for the trial and last saw the documents in the judge's chambers he used while in Harris County.

"I left them in the chambers with directions to the clerk to make them part of the record," the judge said.

It's unclear what happened after that. Crystal Robertson, a supervisor with the Harris County District Clerk's Office, said in an August affidavit that the sealed records were not included in any of the Saldivar files maintained by that office.

Sandra J. Oballe, the Houston court reporter who transcribed the trial, also signed an affidavit in

September saying that she does not know where the records are. Nueces County court officials also say they don't have the records.

Valdez said he hopes the records will surface. If they don't, Valdez said there are a few options, including getting duplicate records from Quintanilla.

But McGuire said that won't be good enough.

"We were never allowed to see what (Quintanilla) produced the first time," McGuire said. "How do we know that what he's coming up with the second time was what he produced the first time?"

Prosecutors accused Ms. Saldivar during the trial of embezzling more than \$5,000 from the singer.



Mauro in Hereford

Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro appeared in Hereford Tuesday morning for a Clinton/Gore Democratic campaign rally. Mauro says he will cover all parts of Texas in the goodwill "grassroots" tour.

OCT 23 1996

Local Roundup

Snow, what snow?

Hereford recorded a high temperature Tuesday of 52 degrees, sending Monday's snow soaking into the ground. The overnight low Wednesday was 33 degrees, according to KPAN Radio. The forecast calls for the low tonight to be 35-40 degrees under mostly cloudy skies. Winds from the south will be at 5-15 mph. Thursday will be partly sunny, the high in the mid-60s. South to southwest winds will be recorded at 10-20 mph.

Pep rally set Thursday

There will be a pep rally on Thursday to cheer the Hereford Whiteface football team as they prepare to head to Dumas for a District 1-4A match on Friday. The pep rally will take place on the Whiteface Stadium field following the conclusion of Thursday's junior varsity football game against Dumas. The game starts at 7 p.m. and the pep rally will begin sometime between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to turn out and cheer on the JV team, then stay for the pep rally and encourage the Herd in its quest for another district win.

Morales campaign party set

Dani Morales, wife of Democratic United States Senate candidate Victor Morales, will campaign for her husband on Sunday at Soliz Civic Center, 150 Pine Street, from 12-4 p.m. Mrs. Morales will speak about her husband at 1:30 p.m. Free food and soft drinks will be provided by San Jose Men's Group. Live Tejano music is scheduled. The afternoon event is open to the public.

Obituaries

LEE CALDWELL

Oct. 18, 1996
Lee Caldwell, 93, died Friday at the Fulson Convalescent Home in Sacramento, Ca. Services are scheduled in California Thursday at 11 a.m. in the Mount Vernon Mortuary Chapel. Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. Monday, Oct. 28, in West Park Cemetery of Hereford with Rev. Terry Cosby, pastor of First Baptist Church, officiating. Arrangements are by Gililand-Watson Funeral Home.

Mr. Caldwell was born Feb. 11, 1903 in Nash, Ok. He was a Deaf Smith County resident from 1930 to 1942, and he was an electrician. His wife, Mary Estelle, died in 1996. They had married in Hereford.

Survivors include a daughter, Katherine Hatfield of Citrus Heights, Ca.; two sons, Bob Caldwell of Willow, Ca., and Charles Caldwell of Ingleswood, Ca.; two grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

News in Brief

Lili Won't Stop Large-Sugar Crop in Cuba

HAVANA (AP) - Hurricane Lili will not stop Cuba from harvesting its biggest sugar crop in years even though domestic food production was badly damaged by the storm. "We are convinced that we are going to increase the next harvest," Nelson Torres, minister for the crucial sugar industry, said in remarks published Tuesday by Cuba's official news media. International aid officials and private citizens, meanwhile, began assembling aid for Cuba after Lili dumped more than 12 inches of rain and lashed the island with 96-mph winds Friday.

Jailhouse Fire Claims Lives of 26 Inmates

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - The 12-foot-by-12-foot concrete jail cell was black as a coal mine. Piled on top of one another were 26 bodies, some of them embracing. Most of their hair and clothes were burned off, their tongues protruding, their eyes opened wide in terror. Flames that roared through the holding cell at La Planta jail in downtown Caracas early Tuesday caused one of the worst tragedies in a prison system that human rights groups label among the worst in the Western Hemisphere.

HRMC

Watts pointed out that the hospital was planning to put \$500,000 down on the project, meaning there will be some debt involved. Foster noted that previous discussions have focused on if the new building would bring in enough revenue to the hospital to help pay the construction costs. In other action Tuesday, directors approved the regular monthly reports and heard from Chief Financial Officer Rodney Bailey about two proposed computer systems. Bailey said the board has already approved funding for the Home Health Care computer and a Laboratory Information System. The home health care computer would save Deaf Smith Home Care Service one part-time employee position and would save time by printing out information rather than typing it. Posting of charges, he said, would be more accurate as well. Bailey said hospital staff evaluated seven different computer systems, then set up two for hands-on demonstrations. Of the two, one, the Lewis "Prompt" system won out, he said, on price, features and installations in other facilities. In addition, he noted, there is a lease option that would make the first-year acquisition costs just over \$12,000, rather than \$43,000 or more for purchase of the software. The hospital would purchase hardware from Foster Electronics, Bailey said. Shackelford asked that the hospital look at a lease of the networking system, which would save money in case hardware upgrades are needed in the future. Bailey told the board that the laboratory system has been proposed for years, but has only recently become necessary, due to changes in Medicare rules that require all tests conducted

to be "medically necessary." An information system, he said, would present results more quickly and reliably to doctors and nurse doctors to get confirmation of diagnoses from the system. Bailey said 10 systems were examined and three made the "short list." Of those, the Fletcher/Flora system was chosen for price, quality, reliability and other factors. The proposed cost is just over \$28,000. No action was taken on either report, which were presented for information only. In operations reports: -- Hereford Health Clinic reported 464 patients had direct contact with Dr. Jesse Perales or Physician Assistant Narin Phoung, and that there was a \$4,682.78 loss for the month, with expenses of \$31,131.10 offsetting revenue of \$26,448.32. -- HRMC reported 158 admissions in September and 2,047 for the year to date, both of which are down from last year. Robinson said the declines are part of a continuing trend in health care.

However, there were 3,934 lab tests for the month, 880 outpatient visits, 977 radiology and diagnostic procedures performed and 2,313 home health visits conducted, all increases from last year. The hospital reported its total fund balance of just over \$4.5 million at the end of September, compared with \$3.89 million last September. For the year to date, the hospital's net gain is \$580,846, which is more than double the net gain of \$236,500 in September 1995. Following the closed session late Tuesday, the board also voted to direct Robinson to pursue negotiations on the purchase of a small tract of land behind the hospital's doctors offices on East Fourth Street.



Key Club donation

Hereford Key Club president, Matthew Artho, and secretary, Carey Lyles, present a check for \$200 to the Special Olympics. Receiving the check are Trisha Davis and Vicki Cates.

Medicaid to reap sizeable surplus in current budget

DALLAS (AP) - Predictions two years ago of a huge deficit in Medicaid haven't materialized, and the state's largest health care program is instead expected to reap a sizeable surplus in the current budget cycle. The Texas Journal of the Wall Street Journal reported today that a surplus of almost \$279 million is now anticipated for the two-year budget cycle ending next Aug. 31. The publication quoted state officials as crediting Texas' continued economic growth. It's reduced the number of people eligible for Medicaid, a state-federal health-insurance program for the poor, elderly and disabled. In the 1995 legislative session, state Medicaid officials requested big funding increases for the two-year budget cycle starting Sept. 1, 1995. They based their request on projections that the number of Medicaid recipients would continue to surge - rising 14 percent in fiscal 1996 and 8 percent in fiscal 1997. But that scenario hasn't played out. Instead, the number of Texans receiving Medicaid held steady through last month at about 2.1 million, the publication reported. According to an analysis by the Texas House Appropriations Committee, the lack of growth in enrollment means state Medicaid

coffers will post a surplus of \$278.8 million for the current budget cycle. State Medicaid officials don't dispute the projection. The anticipated surplus follows years of explosive growth. The state Medicaid budget nearly tripled to \$9.7 billion in fiscal 1995 from \$3.3 billion in fiscal 1990, primarily because of changes in federal rules that required states to cover more people. The Medicaid program "has become a budget monster for the states and federal government," state officials wrote in a May 1994 report. Though Texas then ranked 48th among the states in per-capita spending on Medicaid recipients, the program consumed 26 percent of the state's budget, the report said. During the 1995 legislative session, state officials fretted that Medicaid faced at least a \$2 billion shortfall. Officials from the state departments of Health and Human Services had asked for \$7.1 billion in state funds to keep the program afloat during the 1996-97 budget cycle. The Legislature's final spending plan for the program, \$5.9 billion, was close to the Legislative Budget Board's recommendation. The program, however, didn't fall on hard times - in fact, just the opposite. Flat enrollment has turned

Plea agreement apparently reached in Ruby Ridge case

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal prosecutors investigating top FBI officials in the deadly Ruby Ridge siege expect to be armed with the cooperation of an FBI headquarters manager now charged with obstructing justice. Suspended FBI executive E. Michael Kahoe apparently reached a plea bargain with prosecutors who still are scrutinizing four other suspended FBI officials for their role in the 1992 shootings at the remote Idaho cabin of white separatist Randy Weaver. The four include former Deputy Director Larry Potts, who supervised the case from headquarters.

A one-count felony information was filed Tuesday by federal prosecutors here against Kahoe, who headed the FBI's violent crimes section at the time of the standoff. The charge carries a top penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. The filing of a criminal information rather than a grand jury indictment almost invariably means the defendant has agreed to plead guilty and cooperate with investigators. A Justice Department official, familiar with the case but requesting anonymity, saw no reason for Kahoe's case to depart from that practice. No court date was set immediately. The FBI had no comment. Kahoe could not be reached. During the FBI's August 1992 standoff with Weaver, a bureau sniper shot and killed Weaver's wife, Vicki, and wounded Weaver and a friend, Kevin L. Harris. The FBI got involved after Weaver's son, Samuel, and a deputy U.S. marshal, William F. Degan, were killed in gunfire Aug. 21 as marshals scouted for a way to arrest the elder Weaver for failing to appear in court on gun-sale charges. "The government needs to prosecute those who issued the rules of engagement that resulted in the death of these people," said Weaver's lawyer, Gerry Spence. "The federal government is good at diverting our attention away from the real case" and toward a coverup case.

The government charged that between January and April 1993, Kahoe destroyed a written FBI "after action critique" so that it would not be available to prosecutors when Weaver and Harris were tried on charges of killing Degan. They were later acquitted. The Constitution requires prosecutors to give the defense any government information that might help clear defendants - Weaver and Harris, in this case. The government charged that Kahoe not only destroyed his copies of the report but ordered an unidentified subordinate at FBI headquarters "to destroy all copies of the Ruby Ridge after action critique and to make it appear as if the Ruby Ridge after action critique never existed." A key issue is who approved a controversial "shoot on sight" policy for snipers at the siege. Potts and the

FBI's field commander at Ruby Ridge, Eugene Glenn, have disagreed under oath over whether Potts approved it. Glenn claimed Potts ordered that agents "could and should" shoot to kill any armed adult male spotted in the open, but Potts denied saying "shoot." Later, FBI Director Louis Freeh - who took office after the shootings - concluded the FBI sniper was not following this order. Nevertheless Freeh revised FBI weapons policies to preclude shooting except where necessary to prevent injury. Potts attorney, Dan Webb, said, "Potts never saw the after action report and had nothing to do with preparing or destroying it. Kahoe has no information harmful to Potts." Kahoe was in charge of gathering all the main FBI participants in the standoff at a headquarters review conference on Nov. 2, 1992.

Emergency Services

Emergency services reports for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. Wednesday contained the following information.
HEREFORD POLICE
A 17-year-old male was arrested for drag racing. The back window of a 1996 van was reported broken out while it was parked in the 700 block of La Plata Drive. Damage was set at \$200. In the 600 block of Irving, a front door was reported damaged in the amount of \$50. Someone scratched a van parked in the area of Third and McKinley. Damage was estimated at \$100. The side passenger window of a car was reported broken out while the vehicle was parked at Hereford High School. Damage was estimated at \$200. A 12-year-old boy was warned not to return to a residence in the 800 block of Irving. A 15-year-old was reported as being assaulted by a teenage male in the parking lot of Hereford Junior

High School. Class C assault charges are pending. A 27-year-old male was cited to playing his music too loud at a residence in the 100 block of Avenue A. Officers issued one speeding citation and eight other traffic citations. There was one traffic accident reported with possible injuries and three traffic accidents reported without injuries.
DEAF SMITH SHERIFF
A 36-year-old female was arrested for theft by check.
FIRE DEPARTMENT
No calls.
SEX OFFENDER
The following information is being released by the Hereford Police Department on a newly-registered child sex offender. The individual who registered is a 25-year-old male who lives in the 400 block of Sycamore. He was convicted of sexual assault of a child.

HHS students to compete in tournament

LEVELLAND -- Students from Hereford will be among more than 500 students from 30 Texas high schools competing Saturday in the fourth annual South Plains Forensic Classic at South Plains College. "This is the largest forensic tournament we have had; the meet this year is attracting competitors from Amarillo to Dallas to El Paso. We are very pleased with the increasing student participation and with the people who have volunteered to judge the competition," said Natalie Bryant, SPC assistant professor of speech and director of forensics. Competition in 15 events begin at 7:30 a.m. with debate in the Science, Administration and Creative Arts Buildings. Judges are still needed for CX debate and public speaking. The meet is sponsored by SPC's Communication Department and is a Texas Speech Association forensic qualifier. Other schools represented at the meet are Levelland High School, Levelland Junior High, Sundown High School, Lubbock High, Coronado, Roosevelt and Monterey, Friona, El Paso Montwood, Amarillo Caprock, Highland Park, Tascosa and Palo Duro, Pampa, Odessa, Grand Prairie, Springlake-Earth, Sudan, Wall, Jayton, Greenwood, Dumas, Canyon, Frenship, Muleshoe, Farwell, San Angelo Central, Denver City, Andrews and Post. More than 500 students, 150 judges and 35 coaches will be on hand for the contest, Bryant said. People who want to judge can contact her at 894-9611, ext. 2452. Students will be competing in such areas as CX debate, Lincoln Douglas debate, duet acting, duet improvisation, prose, poetry, cold interpretation, United States extemporaneous speaking, foreign extemporaneous speaking, impromptu, oratory, radio announcing and T.V. announcing.

High school students who are U.S. citizens and have a grade point average of 'B' or better are eligible for a \$1,000 college scholarship. To receive an application, send a request by Dec. 15 to the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation at 721 North McKinley Road, P.O. Box 5012, Lake Forest, IL 60045-5012; fax a request to (847) 295-3972; or e-mail a request to "scholar@ecif.com." All requests for applications must include the student's name, permanent home address, city, state, zip code, name of high school, approximate GPA and year in school during the 1996-1997 academic year. Applications will be fulfilled by mail only, on or about Jan. 15, 1997. Winners will be selected on the basis of academic performance, involvement in extracurricular activities and some consideration for financial need. A total of \$175,000 will be awarded 175 winners.

Hereford youth eligible for funds

High school students who are U.S. citizens and have a grade point average of 'B' or better are eligible for a \$1,000 college scholarship. To receive an application, send a request by Dec. 15 to the Educational Communications Scholarship Foundation at 721 North McKinley Road, P.O. Box 5012, Lake Forest, IL 60045-5012; fax a request to (847) 295-3972; or e-mail a request to "scholar@ecif.com." All requests for applications must include the student's name, permanent home address, city, state, zip code, name of high school, approximate GPA and year in school during the 1996-1997 academic year. Applications will be fulfilled by mail only, on or about Jan. 15, 1997. Winners will be selected on the basis of academic performance, involvement in extracurricular activities and some consideration for financial need. A total of \$175,000 will be awarded 175 winners.

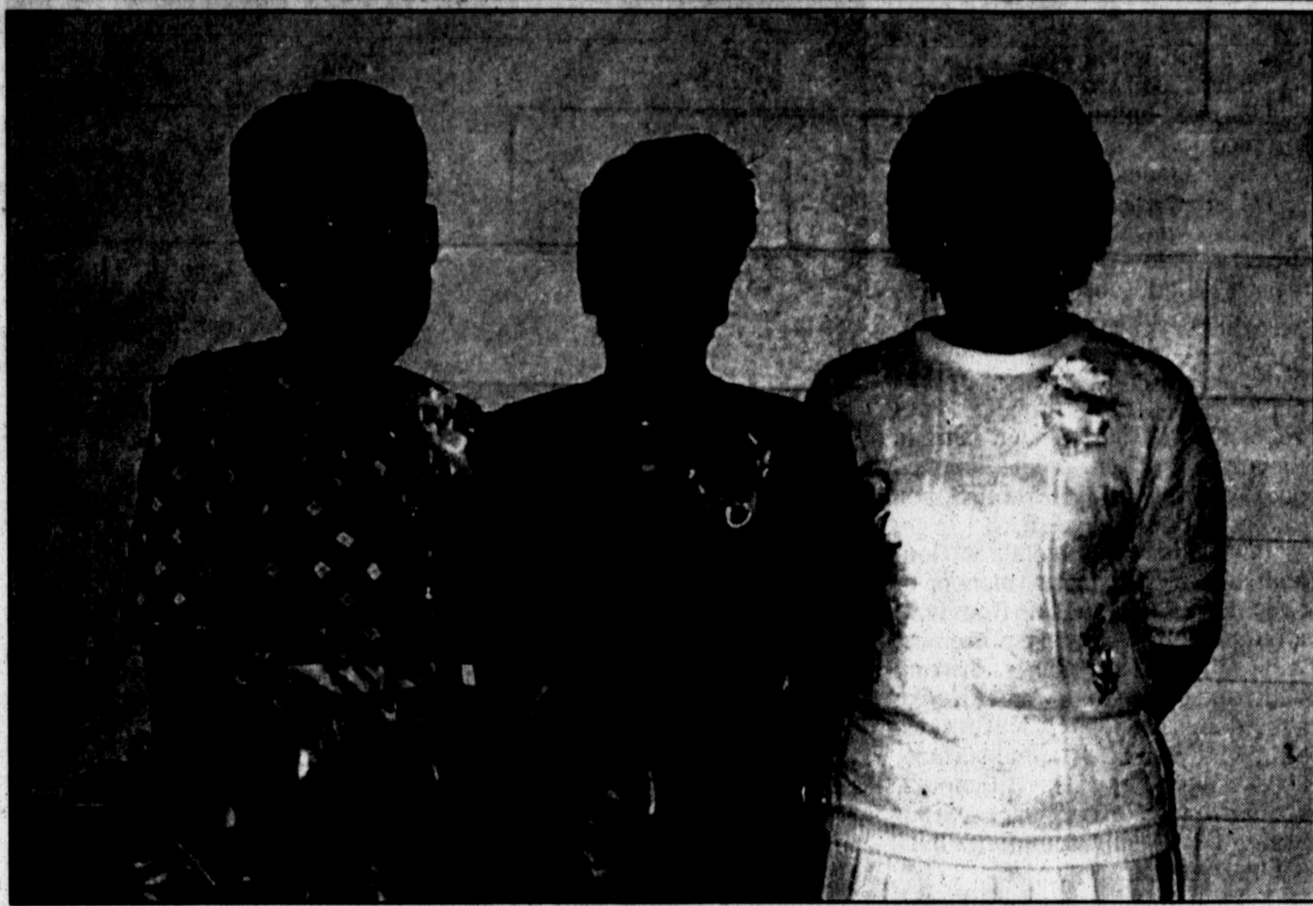


Lottery

AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Cash Five numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery:
6-10-15-29-38 (six, ten, fifteen, twenty-nine, thirty-eight)
AUSTIN (AP) - The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Tuesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
1-5-9 (one, five, nine)

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Lifestyles



Honored with bridal shower

Karen Wright, bride-elect of Keith Hacker, was honored with a bridal shower in the Antonian Room of St. Anthony's Church. Guests were greeted by, from left, Gwen Hacker, mother of the prospective bridegroom; the honoree; and Jean Maxwell, mother of the bride-elect.

Antonian Room is site of shower honoring bride-elect of Hacker

A bridal shower in honor of Karen Wright, bride-elect of Keith Hacker, was held Oct. 19 in the Antonian Room of St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

The couple plans to wed Nov. 23. Greeting guests with the honoree were Jean Maxwell, her mother and Gwen Hacker, her future mother-in-law.

Heather Thomas and Jeannine Shackelford presided at the guest register.

Refreshments of breakfast casserole, assorted breads, fresh fruit with dip, spiced tea and coffee were served from a table covered with a hand-crocheted cloth and centered with a large English ivy accented with a red bow. Appointments were in

crystal and silver.

A comforter and sheets were gifts from hostesses Kee Ruland, LaNell Kendrick, Barbara Rule, Lynn Schroeter, Betty Hager, Rosie Foster, Gertrud Grotegut, Toddy Flippo, Billie Kelley, Patti Dirks, Nancy Urbanczyk, Marilyn Bell, Nadine Berend, Wanda Jesko, Lois Lomenick, Oleta Diller, Marilyn Kahlich, and Annette Albracht.

Certificate of commendation is awarded for life saving efforts

Sgt. William Brad Harguess, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Harguess of Elk City, Ok., recently received a U.S. Marine Corps certificate of commendation for his efforts in saving the life of a fellow Marine.

Sgt. Harguess and his parents are former Hereford residents. Sgt. Harguess graduated from Hereford High School in 1989 and served in the Persian Gulf War. A tree was planted in the 15th Street city park in his honor.

His father, Tom, is pastor of the Second and Adams Church of Christ in Elk City. His sister, Pam, is married to Mark Lytal, son of Joel and Martha Lytal of Hereford.

Sgt. Harguess is currently stationed in Amarillo. The life-saving episode occurred July 2, 1994, while the two Marines were on duty at Camp Wilson. The Marine whom Harguess aided was a heat casualty and needed medical evacuation.

Utilizing his civilian expertise as an Emergency Medical Technician, Sgt. Harguess transported him to an aid station. At the time, Harguess was transporting a live missile into a training area.

He was cited for "using sound judgment by returning the missile to the regimental ammunition supply point instead of driving back to the

missile issue area." He was further cited for exercising "sound judgment" that "saved the Marine's life."

The citation concluded that Harguess' initiative and courage in the face of uncertainty about the consequences of his actions reflect great credit upon himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps.

More recently, Sgt. Harguess had received the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his professional achievement in the performance of his duties.

He was in charge of an operation involving 60 Marines establishing a barrier plan for all live ranges in his mission. The citation notes he worked for more than 40 hours without sleep during the training mission.

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Mexican stack, pinto beans, Spanish rice, salad fixings, tostados, vanilla pudding; or baked chicken, D'zerta pudding.

FRIDAY-Breaded fish pollock, lemon wedge/tartar sauce, macaroni and cheese, Harvard beets, cabbage/carrot slaw, cornbread, sherbet; or brisket, apricots.

MONDAY-Stuffed bell peppers, whole kernel corn, yellow squash casserole, Waldorf salad, whole wheat bread, tapioca pudding; or sliced ham, D'zerta pudding.

TUESDAY-Beef brisket with barbecue sauce, oven brown potatoes, steamed cabbage, green onion/dill pickle, tossed green salad, French bread, cheese cake with fruit topping; or smothered chicken, angel food cake.

WEDNESDAY-Salmon patties with pea sauce, cheese grits, mixed green; coleslaw, cornbread, lemon pie; or smothered pork chops, D'zerta lemon pie.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., oil painting 9-11 a.m., choir practice 1-2 p.m., Thrift Store open, birthday social 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., Thrift Store open. SATURDAY-Games 12 noon - 4 p.m.

MONDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., doll classes 12:30-4 p.m., F.O.T. 9 a.m.

TUESDAY-Pool classes, exercise 10-10:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., ceramics 1-3 p.m.

Westway Bazaar booths available

Westway Country Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for Nov. 9 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Hereford Community Center.

Proceeds from the bazaar benefit 4-H and other community projects. Booth space is still available.

For more information or booth rental, call Carolyn Evers at 364-4739 and leave a message.

Need some furniture? Hereford's furniture stores offer a wide selection, and they invite you to shop through ads in The Brand. For best buys in furniture, look to The Brand!

We missed your 40th Birthday, So, we have only one thing to say, Cheer up on your 41st Things could be worse! Happy Birthday, "Kippi" From, Your Crazy Friends

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Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: My grandson is getting married in a few weeks. His grandfather (my ex-husband) has announced that he will attend. "Fine," you say? Well, no one invited him.

Because of the bitterness I feel toward this man, I cannot tolerate being in the same room with him. He had two illegitimate daughters while married to me and gave me no money for child support when we divorced. One of his illegitimate daughters is collecting a huge inheritance from her husband's grandmother. The grandmother died at 102 and owned a horse ranch in Wyoming. I have a hunch the newly rich daughter is outfitting this loser for the affair. Last I heard, he didn't have a dime.

I wonder if I should be upfront and tell my grandson's new family why I will not be attending the wedding or if I should lie and say I'm not well enough. Please advise. -- No Name in Florida

Dear Florida: Please do your grandson as well as other family members a huge favor and restrain

yourself. While it may be extremely tempting to unload the family garbage, I don't recommend it.

I hope you will reconsider and decide to attend your grandson's wedding. You should not deprive yourself of the pleasure of witnessing this event simply because your former husband will be there. Get a new dress, put a smile on your face and have a great time. To have lived long enough to see a grandchild marry is a special blessing. Don't miss it.

Dear Ann Landers: Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would ever write to you, but please settle an argument between my husband and me.

When I dated "Robbie," I often witnessed his mother tickling his back, either under his shirt or when his shirt was off. I'm not talking about a normal back rub, I'm talking about tickling. She would very softly and sensuously tickle his back with one finger. I thought it was odd but said nothing.

Robbie and I now have two daughters, age 12 and 9, and he does

the same thing to them. When the girls were very young, I didn't say anything, but now that they are older (and developing), I told Robbie that this is inappropriate and he should stop it. He became angry and said I was accusing him of sexual abuse or something close to it.

Actually, I am not accusing him of anything. I just happen to believe that this type of contact is odd and inappropriate. What do you think, Ann? -- Uneasy in Lafayette, Ind.

Dear Uneasy: You are right. Nine- and 12-year-old girls are not suitable candidates for "playful" tickling.

The erotic overtones of tickling are ever present, whether conscious or not. If your husband refuses to listen to you, just hand him this column and put the blame on me.

Dear Readers: It's time to get your annual flu shot. If you're 65 or over, it's free. Medicare began covering this important preventive measure in 1993, but too many of us still don't get it. The flu shot can save lives, and contrary to what some people say, it cannot give you the flu. It's best to get it by Thanksgiving, before flu season starts. Get the flu shot, NOT the flu. I know I'll get mine.

Elliston is hostess for meeting of La Afflatus Estudio Club

La Afflatus Estudio Club met recently in the home of Lois Lemons with Opal Elliston as hostess.

Mary Williamson, president, called the meeting to order by asking Virginia Curtsinger to lead the Club Collect.

After a short business meeting, Williamson brought the program on

"Milk Thistle."

Those attending were Virginia Beasley, Leola Cook, Alberta Higgins, Aileen Montgomery, Roxie Phipps, Della Stagner, Louis Streun, Emily Suggs, Margaret Baxter, Merle Boozer, Curtsinger, Elliston and Williamson.

The next meeting will be in the Streun home.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press
 Today is Wednesday, Oct. 23rd, the 297th day of 1996. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 Fifty years ago, on Oct. 23, 1946, the United Nations General Assembly convened in New York for the first time, at an auditorium in Flushing Meadow.

On this date:
 In 1864, forces led by Union Gen. Samuel R. Curtis defeated Confederate Gen. Sterling Price's army in Missouri.

In 1910, Blanche S. Scott became the first woman to make a solo, public airplane flight, reaching an altitude of 12 feet in a park in Fort Wayne, Ind.

In 1915, 25,000 women marched in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein in Egypt.

In 1973, President Nixon agreed to turn White House tape recordings requested by the Watergate special prosecutor over to Judge John J. Sirica.

In 1980, the resignation of Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin was announced.

In 1983, 241 U.S. Marines and sailors in Lebanon were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut

International Airport. A near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers.

Ten years ago: The Reagan administration declared a cease-fire in its diplomatic dispute with the Soviet Union, saying it would not retaliate for the expulsion of five more American diplomats from Moscow. In Game 5 of the World Series, the Boston Red Sox defeated the New York Mets 4-2, taking a 3-2 lead in the series.

Five years ago: Cambodia's warring factions and representatives of 18 other nations signed a peace treaty in Paris. The Atlanta Braves won Game 4 of the World Series, beating the Minnesota Twins, 3-2.

One year ago: President Clinton met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Hyde Park, N.Y. The leaders agreed that Russian troops would help enforce peace in Bosnia, but remained deadlocked on the issue of NATO command. A jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldívar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena.

Today's Birthdays: Former "Tonight Show" host Johnny Carson is 71. Soccer great Pelé is 56. Author Michael Crichton is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins of the Dixie Cups is 53. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 40. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 37. Singer David Thomas of Take 6 is 30.

One-dish casseroles pair chicken, biscuits

NASHVILLE -- "What's for supper?"

These days, more likely than not, the answer is chicken.

According to the National Broiler Council, each of us eats more than 70 pounds of chicken annually, which is more than the per capita consumption of beef, pork, turkey or seafood.

This shouldn't surprise anyone in the South where folks have long had a special fondness for chicken. In fact, some would argue that fried chicken is the South's culinary gift to the world, while others just couldn't imagine a world without chicken and dumplings.

Inspired by this historic alliance are three new one-dish casserole recipes that pair easy chicken fillings with another southern staple -- biscuits made with self-rising flour or "biscuit flour," as it is sometimes called.

1 cup self-rising flour
 1 tablespoon sugar
 1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
 6 tablespoons cold water
 1/3 cup toasted slivered almonds
 Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a shallow 2-quart baking dish. In large skillet, cook bacon. Remove from skillet with slotted spoon and set aside.

Cook onion, pepper, garlic and curry in bacon drippings until vegetables are just tender. Stir in tomatoes, chicken, raisins, cooked bacon and salt; bring to a boil. Spoon into greased baking dish.

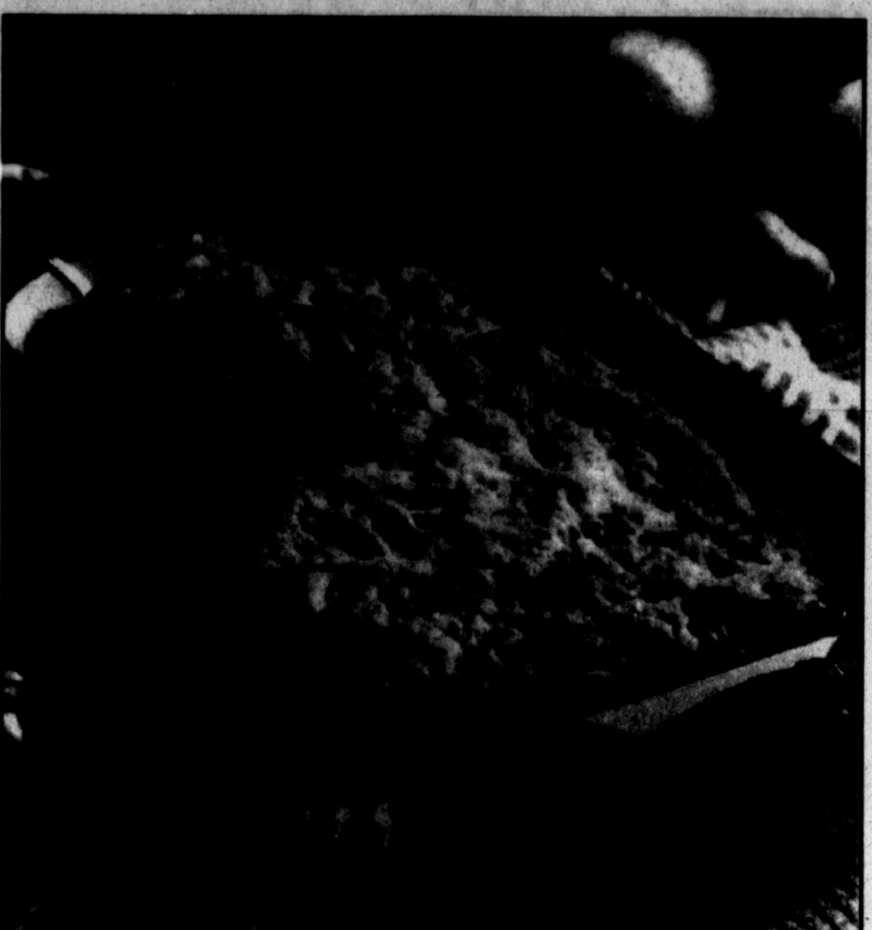
In medium bowl, combine flour and sugar. Using pastry blender or two knives, cut butter into flour until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Add almonds, stir gently. Stirring with fork, add enough water to make a soft dough and mixture leaves sides of bowl. On lightly floured surface, knead dough gently just until smooth, about 5 times. Pat into shape to fit in baking dish. Gently place dough over chicken mixture.

Bake at 400 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. 4 to 6 servings.

Chicken A La King Pot Pie
 Filling:
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 2 cups sliced mushrooms
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 (10 3/4-oz.) can condensed cream of mushroom soup
 1/2 cup milk
 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 1 (2-oz.) jar chopped pimiento, drained
 3 cups diced, cooked chicken
 Pour-on Batter:
 1 cup self-rising flour
 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
 1 cup milk
 1/2 cup butter or margarine.

Each of the three casseroles -- Chicken Country Captain Pie, Chicken A La King Pot Pie and Smothered Chicken Bake with Black Pepper Biscuits -- is topped with an easy variation of the traditional southern biscuit. One features drop biscuits, another an easy pour-on batter that becomes as tender as pastry, and the third has a crust made by patting out the biscuit dough to fit the casserole dish.

Chicken Country Captain Pie
 Filling:
 3 slices bacon, chopped
 1 medium onion, chopped
 1 medium bell pepper, cut in thin slices
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1 tablespoon curry powder
 2 (14.5-oz.) cans diced tomatoes
 3 cups diced, cooked chicken
 1/3 cup golden raisins
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 Crust:



What's for supper?

It could be this Chicken Country Captain Pie which features an easy-to-make tomato chicken curry topped with a toasted almond biscuit crust.

melted
 Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a shallow 2-quart baking dish.

In a large skillet, melt butter. Stir in mushrooms and onion; cook until onions are tender and mushroom are lightly browned. Stir in soup, milk, Worcestershire sauce and pimiento.

Spread chicken in greased baking dish. Pour mushroom mixture over chicken.

In medium bowl, combine pour-on batter ingredients; stir until smooth. Pour over chicken mixture in baking dish.

Bake at 400 degrees for 40 to 45 minutes or until golden brown. 4 to 6 servings.

Smothered Chicken Bake with Black Pepper Biscuits
 Filling:
 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
 3 carrots, peeled and sliced
 1 large onion, cut in thin wedges
 3 celery stalks, sliced
 1 (10 1/4 oz.) can condensed cream of celery soup
 3/4 cup chicken broth
 3 cups diced, cooked chicken

Drop Biscuits:
 1-1/2 cups self-rising flour
 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
 1/3 cup milk
 3/4 teaspoon coarse ground black pepper

Heat oven to 400 degrees F. Grease a shallow 2-quart baking dish.

In large skillet, melt butter. Stir in carrots, onion and celery; cook until just tender, about 8 minutes. Stir in soup and broth; blend well.

Spread chicken in greased baking dish. Pour vegetable mixture over chicken.

In medium bowl, combine biscuit ingredients; stir with fork just until dry ingredients are moistened. Drop by tablespoons over chicken mixture.

Bake at 400 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown. 4 to 6 servings.

Send Us Your Recipes!

The holidays are nearly upon us and The Hereford Brand wants to help make this season shine by sharing special holiday recipes with our readers.

We want to publish as many of our readers' traditional holiday favorites as we can during the holiday season -- from Thanksgiving's turkey dinner through New Year's Day's black-eyed peas.

Anyone wanting to submit a recipe may do so to The Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee, in any of five categories -- Main Dish, Appetizers/Beverage, Vegetables/Salads, Desserts and Candies/Cookies.

Each recipe must include the name of the person submitting it, complete list of ingredients and preparation directions, plus a short history of the recipe, including the name of the cookbook where it originally appeared, if applicable.

The Brand staff will select the best of these recipes to publish during the holidays.

All recipes must be typed or neatly handwritten. Deadline for submission is 5 p.m. on October 25.

So please, share the holidays with your friends and neighbors by sending us your favorite traditional holiday recipes.

Breast cancer screening clinic to provide mammogram, exam

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct a breast cancer screening clinic at South Plains Health Care Providers, Inc., 603 E. Park, Hereford, on Nov. 8.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction on self-examination by a registered nurse. The total cost is \$70.

A minimum of 15 women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns.

All exams are done by appointment only.

Call 806-359-4673 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.

Aikman seeking former students

Aikman Elementary School is celebrating its 40th birthday with special programs on Nov. 25 and 26.

They are looking for Aikman students from the 1956-1957 school year to participate in the celebration.

If you are one of these former students, please call 363-7640 and leave your name, address and phone number.

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Weakening winds give hope to California firefighters

By **MATTHEW FORDHAL**
Associated Press Writer
MALIBU, Calif. (AP) - The powerful, erratic winds that propelled flames through 35,000 acres of Southern California weakened today, giving firefighters a chance to contain the destructive wildfires.

Four major fires, spread by gusts up to 71 mph and fueled by oil-rich eucalyptus trees, have destroyed more than 100 homes in Malibu and other communities since Monday.

Six firefighters were badly burned Tuesday when a flare-up caught them on their stalled truck in a Malibu canyon.

One of the firefighters was in critical condition today with burns over 70 percent of his body. Doctors said the 52-year-old man may not survive.

Another was listed in fair condition with 25 percent of his body burned. A civilian burned Monday in a San Diego County fire also was in critical condition.

The wildfires, driven by the helter-skelter Santa Ana winds, exploded across four counties Monday, chasing thousands of people from homes, schools and businesses.

Forecasters called for sustained winds of just 10-20 mph today, with even less wind by afternoon. Stronger winds, however, could return this weekend, forecasters said.

Gov. Pete Wilson declared a state of emergency in San Diego, Orange

and Los Angeles counties. There also was damage in San Bernardino County. Wilson asked President Clinton for a federal declaration to enable victims to qualify for disaster aid.

The Malibu fire was the largest of four major blazes, scorching about 14,000 acres and destroying at least six homes. Among those fleeing the celebrity enclave was actress Loretta Swit of the TV series "MASH."

"This was very scary. When I opened my door, I was surrounded by

flames, the smoke was so thick you couldn't keep your eyes open," she told the syndicated TV show "Access Hollywood."

The town hardest hit by the wildfires was Carlsbad, in northern San Diego County, where flames destroyed at least 98 houses. Many residents returning Tuesday found homes reduced to charred hulks.

"I saw the news and they were standing in the rubble of our home," said Lou Stark.

Margaret Anne Lozuk clutched her

teen-age daughter's blackened jacket and pointed to a smudged cheerleader outfit in the driveway.

"She was supposed to cheer Friday night. She's so upset," Lozuk said.

Another 10 homes were destroyed and 19 damaged in the exclusive Lemon Heights section of Orange County, and one home was destroyed in San Bernardino County.

Marine volunteers were sent from Camp Pendleton to help firefighters. Huge air tankers bombed the flames

with water sucked from the ocean and reservoirs, joined by cargo-hauling helicopters fitted with big water tanks.

Eleven aircraft made repeated flights near Malibu, including two Air National Guard C-130s, each dumping 27,000 pounds of fire retardant.

Other wildfires included:

- A 9,000-acre southern San Diego County blaze in the Otay Mountain area at the U.S.-Mexico border. No structures were threatened, officials

said.
- A 1,800-acre blaze on the Rincon Indian Reservation in northern San Diego County. Six structures were destroyed, said Carol Stein of the California Department of Forestry. Full containment was expected by tonight.

- A 1,040-acre fire in Big Sur's Los Padres National Forest flared up again after being almost completely contained Monday. Firefighters said they had it about 60 percent contained.

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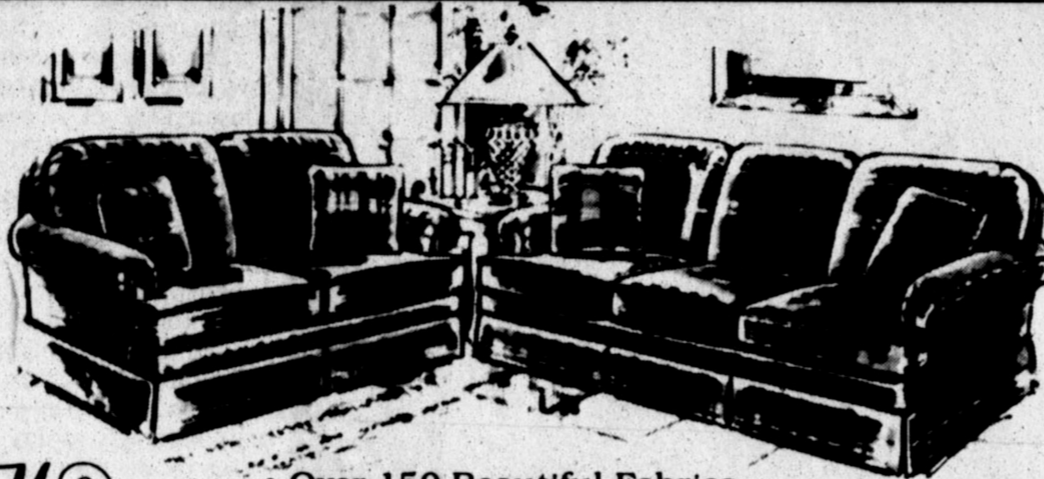
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Strong storm claims seven in Northeast

By **JERRY HARKAVY**
Associated Press Writer
PORTLAND, Maine (AP) - About 120,000 people couldn't take showers, brush their teeth or flush toilets after flooding caused by a powerful nor'easter ruptured a pipeline that supplies water to Maine's largest city.

After being cut off early Tuesday, much of the water pressure was restored by evening, but officials urged residents not to use the water until noon today to help build up pressure in case of a fire. If they did use water for drinking, it should be boiled, officials said.

The weekend storm was blamed for at least seven deaths from New Jersey to New Hampshire, and caused widespread flooding. One person was missing in Maine.

"No showers, no coffee, and I can't even use the bathroom," said Laurie Davis of Westbrook. She said she was stranded in her house without bottled water because two nearby bridges were washed out.

A 48-inch main that carries water about 25 miles from Sebago Lake to Portland was broken in at least four places when floodwaters apparently washed away soil supporting the pipeline.

Rainfall totals shattered old records as Portland had 10.5 inches for the 24-hour period ending at 2 a.m. Tuesday.

After declaring a state of emergency in three counties, Gov. Angus King assured homeowners that low-interest loans would be made available to repair flood-related damage.

In New Hampshire, flooding also shut down the water supply for Exeter, and service was not expected to be restored for two to three weeks. An estimated 1,000 people were evacuated.

Authorities in Rockingham County, N.H., moved 115 inmates out of the county jail because the bottom floor was under 2 feet of water.

With 6 feet of water in their driveway in Scarborough, Maine, Tim Faulkingham and his family hopped in their motorboat for a trip to the local Wal-Mart.

"We figured it was a once in a lifetime thing to take a boat ride in front of your house," Faulkingham said.

Classes were canceled for his two children, ages 5 and 7, and Faulkingham said they didn't mind going without showers for a day.

Divers and a helicopter were used to search for Robert Snow, 42, of Scarborough, who was reported missing after his pickup truck got trapped by a washout. His wife swam to safety.

The storm wasn't all bad: It helped clean coastal marshes fouled by last month's 170,000-gallon oil spill in Portland Harbor, which was caused by a tanker that crashed into a bridge.



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Sports

Lady Whitefaces hold off Demonettes

Third-game heroics allow Herd to grab share of 1-4A crown

By JAY PEDEN
Sports Editor

The Hereford volleyball team had already blown a 12-6 lead to lose the second game of Tuesday's match with Dumas in Whiteface Gym. The Lady Whitefaces certainly didn't want to do the same thing in the third game.

So, when Hereford took the same 12-6 lead in the third game, and Dumas started to come back, the Herd responded. Instead of letting Dumas roll off nine straight points like in the second game, Hereford let Dumas have four, then no more.

Hereford then got three points quickly on a lift by Dumas and kills by Cassie Abney and Julie Rampley. That gave Hereford a 15-11, 12-15, 15-10 victory, avenging the Lady Whitefaces' only loss of the season.

"We knew what had happened (in the second game)," said senior setter Kari Barrett. "We were thinking, 'Be smart and place the ball instead of

hitting in their blocks.'" Abney's kill was a fastball that was dug into the rafters, and the Demonettes misplayed a carom off of one of the rafters. Rampley's kill was a soft tip that seemed to take forever to fall eight feet. A Demonette missed by inches getting to it and keeping it alive.

"We found out what it was like to lose to Dumas (on Sept. 28)," Abney said. "We don't want to ever feel that way again."

Hereford's win clinches no less than a co-championship in District 1-

4A for the Lady Whitefaces. Hereford, at 11-1 in district play, is actually a half-game ahead of Dumas at 10-1. Hereford's regular season is over while Dumas will host Canyon Saturday. Canyon clinched the district's third playoff spot, but Dumas will still be the favorite to win.

If Dumas wins Saturday, that will force a seeding playoff match between Hereford and Dumas next week. It would probably be played Tuesday in Amarillo, but all the details have not been worked out.

Hereford won the first game with relative ease, leading by scores of 10-6 and 13-8. Dumas pulled back within 14-11 on two consecutive points: a kill and a stuff block by 6-foot middle blocker Mindy Ratliff. However, Hereford's own 6-foot middle blocker, Danielle Cornelius answered with two straight kills for a sideout and the 15th point.

The second game set the tone for the third and deciding game.

Hereford was able to put together a 10-1 run - something rarely done against Dumas - in the second game

to take a 12-6 lead.

Things fell apart at that point. Two straight hitting errors by Hereford were followed by two Ratliff kills, letting Dumas pull within 12-10. Hereford called a timeout, but it didn't help - in only two more rotations, Dumas had won the game, 15-12.

"I think there was a little sigh of relief that we were that close to winning," Hereford coach Brenda Reeh said of the 12-6 lead. "But there's never a lead too great on Dumas. The closer we get to winning a match, the more aggressive we have to be."

The Lady Whitefaces remembered that in the third game, when a 7-0 run took Hereford from trailing 6-5 to leading 12-6. Ratliff had two straight kills to pull her team within 12-8, but that was it for her.

"What made the difference in the third game was that we blocked Mindy Ratliff several times," Reeh said. "That made a difference in her aggressiveness."

Dumas pulled to within 12-10 on two Hereford errors, but that was as close as they got. Abney had kills for two sideouts, keeping Dumas from scoring.

After Dumas was called for a lift to make it 13-10, another Abney kill made it 14-10. Dumas called a timeout, and one of the longest volleys of the match followed. Dumas wouldn't give up, but neither would Hereford; Catie Betzen, Meredith Tabor and Barrett all had impressive digs before Rampley put the ball down for the point and the win.

The Lady Whitefaces were upset with their loss to Dumas during the first district round, and they focused on beating Dumas this time.

"We've been waiting to play them since the last time, just to get a piece of them," Barrett said.

"We've been working hard in practice, and I think it showed," Abney said.

Now they have to play Dumas again in a week, then possibly again in the regional finals in two weeks.

"We can't let up, because we still

have a lot of matches left to go," Abney said. "This isn't even close to the end."

HERD VOLLEYBALL STATS

Kills: Julie Rampley, 13; Cassie Abney, 12; Catie Betzen, 10; Danielle Cornelius, 9; Meredith Tabor, 5; Kari Barrett, 3; Sarah Ramey, 1. Barrett had 41 set assists.

Stuffs: Cornelius, 7; Betzen, 1; Rampley, 1.

Aces: Rampley, 3; Cornelius, 2; Barrett, 1.

Digs: Barrett, 15; Betzen, 12; Abney, 9; Rampley, 8; Tabor, 7; Briar Baker, 3; Kendra Wright, 3; Cornelius, 1.

Dumas took the junior varsity match which preceded the varsity match, winning 15-10, 15-7. The final record of the Herd JV was 18-9, and 9-3 in district.



Celebration

Hereford's Kari Barrett (right) raises her arms to celebrate a kill by Danielle Cornelius (left). There was plenty of celebrating going on Tuesday in an absolutely-packed Whiteface Gym, as the Lady Whitefaces defeated Dumas, 15-11, 12-15, 15-10.

District 1-4A

Volleyball standings

	District	Overall
Hereford	11 1	26 1
Dumas	10 1	21 5
Canyon	8 3	16 8
Pampa	5 6	15 11
Randall	3 8	8 16
Borger	1 10	6 13
Caprock	1 10	3 20

Tuesday's results

Hereford def. Dumas

15-11, 12-15, 15-10

Randall def. Caprock

15-8, 12-15, 15-7

Canyon def. Pampa

15-1, 15-9

Borger was off

Saturday's matches

Hereford is off

Canyon at Dumas

Borger at Randall

Caprock at Pampa

End of regular season

HJH gridgers win 3, tie 1 vs. Pampa

The Hereford Junior High football teams took three games from Pampa Tuesday in Pampa and Hereford, and the only game HJH didn't win was the seventh grade B team's scoreless tie.

In Hereford, the seventh A team won their game 12-6 on the strength of two Cody Marsh-to-Geoffrey Marquez touchdown passes, of 15 and 20 yards.

Coach John Nino wanted to

recognize linemen Javier Martinez, Jacob Liscano, Jesse Hernandez, Andrew Carnahan, Nathan Pesina, Ray Pena, Arturo Gonzalez, Jesse Sifuentes and Will McGowan.

The Hereford eighth grade teams hit Pampa like the Vikings hit England, winning two by a combined score of 83-6.

The A team got the shutout at 34-0. Quarterback Cody Hodges three

TD passes - two to brother Slade Hodges, of 30 and 40 yards - and ran for another.

Hodges' 25-yard touchdown run was followed by a two-point pass to Slade Hodges for an 8-0 lead. Cody Hodges also hit Joe Mendoza for a 55-yard TD pass. Ramiro Zambrano kicked two of the extra points.

In the B game, Eddie Lacey ran for one TD and threw to Eric Ramos for

three others, on plays of 80, 40 and 20 yards.

Tony Escamilla started the scoring with a four-yard TD run. He also kicked an extra point.

The final two scores came on Toby Torres' 45-yard fumble return and Marvin Brown's 13-yard run.

Lacey hit William Shows for two-point conversions after each of Hereford's last three TDs.

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Yankees grab victory

Braves prove they're not invincible

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) - No, there won't be a sweep. And, no, the Atlanta Braves aren't invincible. The New York Yankees aren't that bad either, are they?

In case you decided to do something else Tuesday night, and who could blame you after a pair of horrific evenings in the Bronx, listen up.

The World Series is worth watching again.

New York won its sixth straight postseason road game, 5-2 over Atlanta, trimming its deficit in the best-of-7 series.

Suddenly, everything about this Series seems different.

"Everyone was talking about how great the Braves were, where their place in history was," said David Cone, who allowed one run in six innings to win Game 3. "Well, if we get one more win, the series goes back to New York. That's interesting."

Twenty-four hours earlier, the Yankees appeared ready to begin their off-seasons prematurely. They couldn't do anything offensively in the first two games against John Smoltz and Greg Maddux. Their starting pitchers didn't deliver and they seemed anxious to flee New York, where the fans were getting restless.

But with Cone leading the way and Bernie Williams returning to his October form with a two-run homer and three RBIs after disappearing for two nights, the Yankees again are strutting with the same confidence they showed in making short work of the Baltimore Orioles in the ALCS.

One win was all it took. One more and it's a best-of-3.

"I believe with one win that the whole mood and momentum changes," New York manager Joe Torre said. "Maybe getting away from home is the blessing. We've played unbelievably well on the road all season."

The Yankees have another thing going for them tonight as well. For the first time, they won't be facing a pitcher named Smoltz, Maddux or Tom Glavine. Left-hander Denny Neagle is no walk-over, but his name doesn't bring a chill to the spine.

New York will counter with lefty Kenny Rogers, who was only granted a start in the series when Game 1 was postponed by rain.

"I think they're still going to be the same Yankees we've seen this

series," Neagle said before Game 3. "They'll try to come out and score early. In the first two games, we got the lead, and that makes a difference."

The Yankees learned that lesson in falling behind 2-0 in the series. Atlanta jumped to an early lead in both of those games by manufacturing a run with positional baseball: Get

a man on, move him over and get him in.

Tim Lincecum walked leading off the first inning of Tuesday's game, and Derek Jeter followed with a well-placed sacrifice bunt. Williams, hitless in Games 1 and 2, then lined a 1-2 pitch from Glavine to center, bringing in Raines.

The Yankees had one run, and it felt like five.



I got it

Hereford's Catie Betzen makes contact with a serve from Dumas as Meredith Tabor looks on. Hereford beat Dumas in volleyball Tuesday night at Whiteface Gym.

JJ's downplaying game

By DENNE H. FREEMAN
AP Sports Writer
IRVING, Texas (AP) - No salvos. No blood. The pregame hype for Sunday's Dallas-Miami game has taken a blindsided hit.

Jerry Jones and Jimmy Johnson masked their feelings Tuesday about how they really feel about each other heading into Sunday's showdown, saying they are willing to let bygones be bygones.

This was supposed to be the week their old feud boiled over again in a war of words.

Jones, the Cowboys owner who hired and fired Johnson after a five-year tenure that included two Super Bowl titles, said, "Our feelings make no difference how this game comes out."

Johnson, in a national teleconference call, agreed, saying "my relationship with the owner and coach (Barry Switzer) have nothing to do with this game. Obviously, there's some emotional ties with a lot of players and assistant coaches I have a lot of feelings for. . . . I vowed to myself I wasn't going to let my emotions enter into it."

Johnson, who took over the Dolphins this year after Don Shula retired, said he doesn't have to tell his players how he feels.

"Our players understand this is an emotional game for me," Johnson said. "What is important is we're 4-3 and trying to get back on the winning track and playoffs. That's what's important."

Jones praised Johnson, his former teammate at the University of Arkansas, although their divorce came because they couldn't get along.

"Jimmy inspired me, he brought out the best in me," Jones said at a crowded weekly luncheon. "We have

a competition this Sunday. I'm not about to tarnish what we did for five years. If I did that, I couldn't look in the mirror. Both teams have a lot at stake and you can't drum it up any more than that."

Johnson said he still has a lot of respect for Jones despite their feud.

"I've always said he's the greatest businessman I've ever known in my life," Johnson said. "Jerry was always very good. He always relied on people who had expertise. We had no problems there."

Jones described his relationship with Johnson as "no relationship."

He said: "We worked together five years. We shared something special for five years, low times and exhilarating times. I have a lot of respect for him and I always have. I hired him because he was smart, energetic, and positive."

"I felt we could work together and we did. The facts are life has been good to both of us since Jimmy left."

Johnson said: "I decided I wanted to part company and move to South Florida. I was pleased then and I'm pleased now."

Jones said all the hype around the game "is enjoyable. This game is getting a lot of visibility and I like that. But we're behind the 8-ball at 4-3 and I don't like that."

Jones added, "I'm glad to have Jimmy back in the NFL. Nobody likes sizzle and entertainment like I do and Jimmy brings that to the NFL. Jimmy is a great football coach."

Switzer, who had a 5-3 record against Johnson in collegiate games, said he had no special feelings about meeting Johnson in the professional ranks.

"A victory means more to me than who it's against," Switzer said. "Jerry and Jimmy aren't going to be

out on the field playing and, thank God, I won't either. The players will either win or lose."

Switzer, whose Oklahoma teams were 5-0 against Johnson's Oklahoma State clubs, was 0-3 against Johnson after he moved to Miami.

"I had the better talent at Oklahoma when we played Jimmy and he had the better talent when he moved to Miami," Switzer said. "That's the way it was. As far as I'm concerned this is just the eighth game on our schedule. It will be two 4-3 teams who are struggling and needing to play well."

Johnson said Switzer had it right.

"He (Switzer) had a better hand when I was at Oklahoma State, but at Miami we beat him three times for a national title and pretty well resolved that issue," Johnson said. "I've congratulated him on his Super Bowl victory."

Johnson, who once guaranteed an NFC championship victory over San Francisco and pulled it off, said he wouldn't try that for Sunday's game.

"It might be a good time to guarantee a win if I had that same team I had four or five years ago," Johnson said.

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Despite polls, Clinton worried about campaign

MIAMI (AP) - Can a presidential candidate be TOO far ahead in the polls? Bill Clinton seems to think so.

At every opportunity Clinton is talking as if his comfortable lead in opinion polls could be a liability on Election Day; people will figure he'll win anyway, so why vote.

"This election is not over yet," the president told a Democratic fund-raising gala at the Biltmore

Hotel in Coral Gables, Fla., on Tuesday night. "It hasn't even happened yet."

Even as he was exhorting his supporters not to get lackadaisical, his campaign aides were whispering to reporters about a new poll that showed a 20-point Clinton lead in California - the biggest electoral catch and the state on which Republican Bob Dole is pinning his

comeback hopes.

The Los Angeles Times poll indicated Clinton's lead was 54 percent to 34 percent for Dole, nearly the same as its mid-September survey: 53-36. That compares to a California Field poll last week that had the race at 48-38.

The Times Poll interviewed 1,551 Californians Thursday through Monday, starting the day after the

final presidential debate in San Diego and before Dole's campaign announced it would make a major, \$4 million push to win California's 54 electoral votes - one-fifth of the 270 needed to win election. The margin of error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

In Florida, where Clinton and Dole were campaigning today for the state's 25 electoral votes, the race is much closer. Joe Lockhart, the Clinton-Gore campaign press secretary, said the campaign's internal polling shows the president with about a six-point lead in the traditionally GOP state.

An Election Day victory for Clinton might not translate into a sweep of other Democrats into Congress. A New York Times-CBS News poll today said 48 percent of

registered voters surveyed said if Clinton were re-elected, they would rather have a Republican Congress. The poll of 1,148 voters indicated that 41 percent wanted a Democratic Congress as well as a Democratic president.

After a campaign rally and several fund-raising appearances in the Miami area Tuesday, Clinton was heading north to Daytona Beach, Fla., today to wrap up a four-day campaign swing that took him to five states.

In Daytona Beach, he was boasting about a new Health and Human Services Department report being issued in Washington about collecting delinquent child support payments.

The report says a record amount of delinquent child support - more than \$1 billion - was pulled out of federal income tax returns for the

1995 tax year. This is allowed under a law passed before Clinton became president.

From Daytona Beach, Clinton was flying back to Washington for a fund-raising dinner. It is the finale in a series of three fund-raisers Clinton attended this week to raise up to \$15 million for the Democratic National Committee and the party's political arms in the House and Senate.

Until recent days, Clinton had said little about his lead in the opinion polls. Now that Election Day is less than two weeks away, he seems worried about complacency from the electorate.

At a campaign rally at Miami Dade Community College on Tuesday, Clinton boomed. "You will decide by how you vote; you will decide whether you vote."

Dole hopes for upset victory

WASHINGTON (AP) - Trying to shore up his support in the traditionally Republican South, Bob Dole was courting Georgia and Florida in an accelerated push to pull an upset on the scale of Harry Truman's 1948 surprise victory. "America's worth fighting for," he said.

Coming off a 10-city Midwest swing, Dole's campaign plans hopscotch stops in several other states, including up to three days in California - a 54-vote electoral prize the Republican nominee will contest to the end.

A new poll today indicated it will be an uphill battle - one Dole seems to relish; Clinton holds a 20-point lead over Dole among likely California voters, according to a Los Angeles Times poll.

"I fought for America before, and I'm ready to fight for America's future again and again," Dole said Tuesday in Westerville, Ohio, referring to his World War II service.

"We're very excited about this race."

The Times poll put Clinton ahead 54 percent to 34 percent, virtually the same as a month ago when he led 53 percent to Dole's 36 percent.

The Times Poll interviewed 1,551 Californians over a five-day period beginning the day after the final Clinton-Dole debate in San Diego on Oct. 16. The sample included 1,038 registered voters who said they are likely to vote Nov. 5. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

At a series of stops Tuesday in Michigan and Ohio, Dole repeatedly urged people not to count him out despite Clinton's solid double-digit lead in the polls, including some bedrock Republican states.

Dole vowed to pull an upset akin to Truman's narrow 1948 victory over Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

"I never did meet President Dewey, did you? No. I'm like Harry Truman. I'm from the Midwest and

I'm plainspoken, and I'm going to win whether you like it or not!" Dole said at one rally, brimming with optimism despite a cold that has left him hoarse.

One of the most famous political photos in American political history is Truman holding aloft a newspaper mistakenly proclaiming his defeat at the hands of Dewey. Now, Dole insists the country is in for a similar surprise, that voters will turn to his message of honest leadership.

"The headline for Nov. 6 will be: Ohio goes for Dole - Bob Dole elected president of the United States," declared Ohio Gov. George Voinovich. "Regardless of what the pundits are saying, this election is about character and keeping your word."

Although Dole enjoys the symbolism of Truman's victory, there are some important differences:

Truman was the incumbent president, with all the political advantages of the White House. He used that edge to the utmost on a 9,504-mile train trip through 18 states that drew hundreds of thousands of people as the election hit its stretch run.

A Gallup organization survey showed that Truman had shaved Dewey's lead from 13 points in mid-August to just 5 points in mid-October - before the train trip that drew intense media attention.

The Dole campaign has not shown the same kind of movement, at least in opinion polls. And the former Kansas senator is still battling to shore up states that should be certain GOP strongholds like Alabama and Arizona.

Still, Dole repeatedly urged his audiences Tuesday to work hard in his behalf, taking heart in the boisterous response he got from GOP

partisans.

"This is the kind of spirit that will win the election," he said in Troy, Mich. "America's worth fighting for. Let's give America back to the people."



AUSTIN — It's going to be easier for Texans who have had problems buying home insurance to find companies that will offer them coverage, under the state's new Market Assistance Program.

The MAP includes a computerized system to link residential property owners in underserved areas with insurance companies that might insure their homes.

Last week, Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer announced that insurance companies representing about 80 percent of the state's residential property insurance market have agreed to participate in the program.

"I am pleased with the reaction so far and hope even more companies will sign up as the program becomes better known," Bomer said.

The MAP will be phased in over the next six months. Phase one began last week for residential property owners in Harris, Dallas,

Bexar and Tarrant — Texas' most populous counties — and all or part of 11 South Texas counties.

Phase two opens Jan. 15 with the addition of almost all of Galveston and Nueces counties, plus parts of Travis, El Paso, Jefferson, Lubbock and Wichita counties and all or part of several other West Texas counties. Beginning April 15, the last phase will add part of McLennan County and a number of rural counties.

The MAP is mandated by House Bill 1367, an antidiscrimination measure sponsored in 1995 by state Rep. Harold Dutton and state Sen. Rodney Ellis, both Houston Democrats.

Under the MAP, Bomer can require all property insurers to participate in the plan if he determines the voluntary approach is not finding insurance for enough eligible applicants.

Ellis Sorry About Taping
Sen. Rodney Ellis apologized last week for secretly tape recording conversations with colleagues on the Senate floor during the 1995 legislative session.

A camera crew followed Ellis into the Senate chamber and captured uncensored conversations between senators. The tape of Ellis winning Senate approval of one of his bills is about a 10-minute segment of a four-hour television documentary, "Vote for Me — Politics in America" to be broadcast nationally on PBS Oct. 28 and 29.

The week before last, Sen. Jeff

Wentworth, R-San Antonio, sent Ellis a letter demanding a formal apology and proposing a rules change to prohibit secret recordings on the Senate floor, the *Houston Chronicle* reported.

"You have betrayed the trust I had in you," Wentworth wrote. Several other senators also demanded an apology from Ellis.

Ellis then sent fellow senators a letter that said: "I apologize if I have violated your trust in me for participating in the film."

Ellis said he forgot he was wearing a wireless microphone after a day of working with the documentary film crew, but said, "On my part it was dumb. My agreeing to participate was just indefensible."

Tony Proffitt, a spokesman for Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who presides over the Senate, said, "It was an unfortunate event and he (Bullock) hopes it will not be repeated ever again — and he's not too pleased with PBS either."

Bullock does not believe, however, that Ellis' actions were malicious, Proffitt said.

Lottery Funded Scholarships
The state Board of Education has endorsed a plan to tie the Texas Lottery to education by using lottery revenue to fund a new college scholarship program.

Supporters of the plan said about 80,000 high school students could initially qualify for the \$1,000-a-year scholarships if they graduate with at least a B average in

recommended courses and attend a public college or university.

The proposal, which must be approved by the Legislature, would cost about \$80 million in its first year and \$160 million in the second year. The lottery generates about \$1.1 billion a year for the state treasury.

Board member Jose Garcia De Lara of San Antonio drafted the proposal, emphasizing that it would address the demands of many Texans that some lottery money be earmarked for education.

"The perception is that the lottery was intended to go to education," De Lara told the *Dallas Morning News*. "Quite frankly, the people are angry in my district."

Before approving the plan on a 9-5 vote, board members debated the use of lottery money for education and whether they should be considering programs not aimed at public school children.

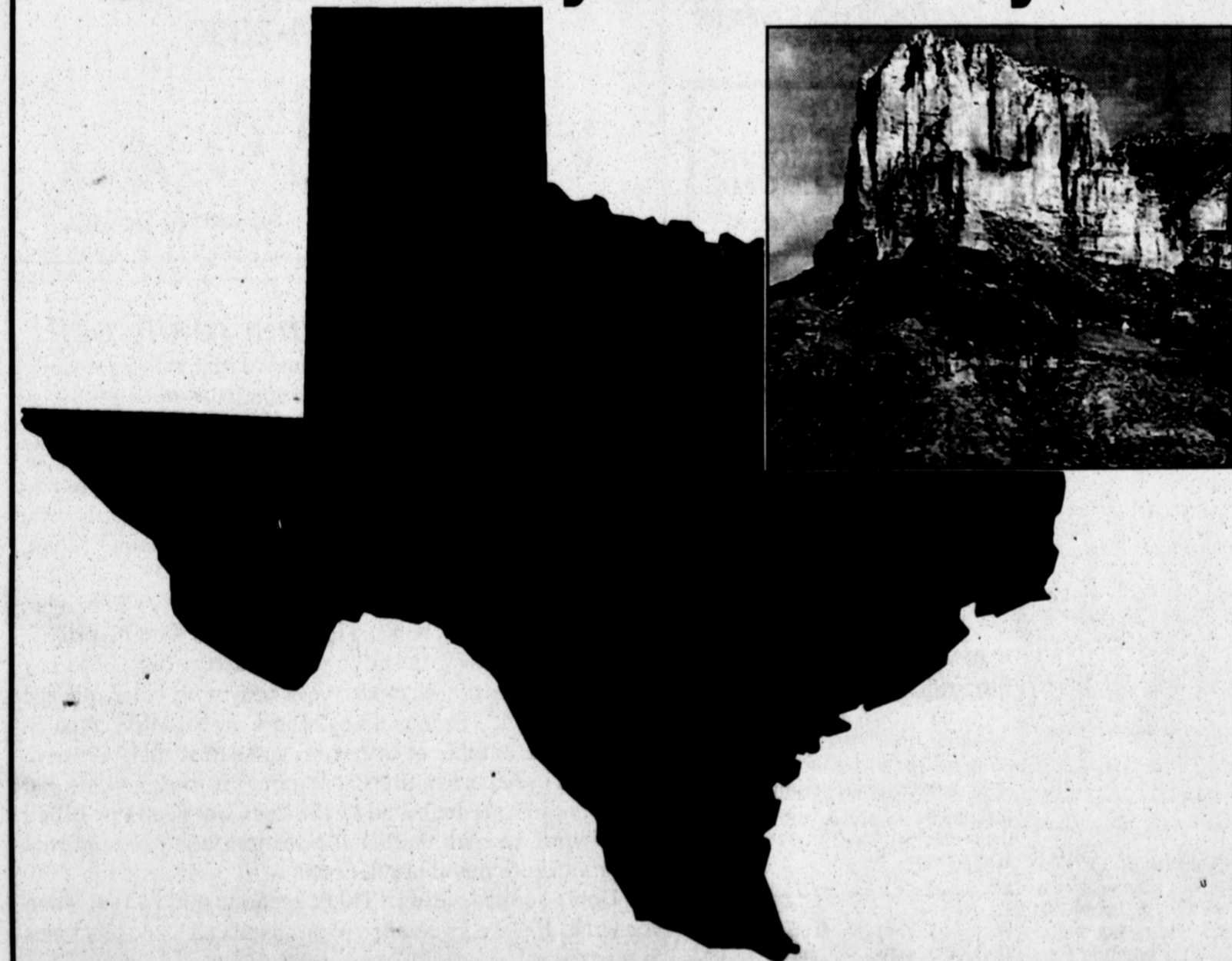
Workers Comp Layoff
The Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund will lay off as many as 221 employees this week because of a decline in business.

"We find that our premium volumes are going down as competition heats up in the workers' compensation market," said Terry Frakes, a senior vice president of the fund.

The fund's premium volume has dropped from \$623 million at the end of 1994 to about \$400 million now, Frakes said, and it is expected to drop again next year.

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Lawyer says conviction won't affect abortion law

By PAULINE ARRILLAGA
Associated Press Writer
CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (AP)-
Abortion laws probably won't be affected by the case of a drunken driver convicted of killing a baby born prematurely after an accident, an abortion rights lawyer says.

"The reality here is there was a live birth, and that is the traditional place the courts have drawn the line in this area. As long as it's consistent with that line, the potential for damage is relatively small," said Kathryn Kolbert, vice president of the New York-based Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, a nonprofit law firm specializing in abortion rights.

Ms. Kolbert said her organization considered the case of Frank Flores Cuellar "no big deal" and was much more concerned with cases in which states are seeking to prosecute pregnant women for injuring their unborn babies.

Cuellar was sentenced to 16 years in prison Monday for intoxication manslaughter in the death of Krystal Zuniga. Krystal was delivered 1-1/2 months premature after Cuellar crashed his truck into her mother's car. She died 44 hours after birth from head injuries suffered in the wreck.

Cuellar's attorney, Anne Marshall, said she will appeal the conviction on the premise that Cuellar cannot be held responsible for Krystal's death because she was not legally a person when the accident occurred.

State law defines a person as an individual who "has been born and is alive." In Roe vs. Wade, the landmark case affirming a woman's right to legalized abortion, the Supreme Court also said personhood begins with birth.

With the Cuellar case headed to an appeals court, lawyers and figures on both sides of the abortion debate

disagreed Tuesday on its possible impact on abortion laws.

Jay Jacobson, executive director of the Texas American Civil Liberties Union, said the case could lead to a new interpretation of Texas law regarding crimes against the unborn.

The appeals court will have to decide whether criminal statutes should use the same definition of personhood as the Supreme Court uses in abortion cases, he said.

"If the case were to reach the Supreme Court, it could have more widespread implications on the definition of personhood as it relates to criminal cases, Jacobson said.

"They may distinguish for criminal statutory purposes," he said. "It would be a nuance to the old definition."

However, others predicted the issue of personhood would not even come into play.

George Dix, a criminal law professor at the University of Texas, said the Cuellar case was a clear example of criminal homicide.

"If I were to plant a bomb before a child was born and the child later was killed by the bomb, would I somehow be immune from homicide charges?" Dix said.

"The child was born and later died. It did not die before it was born," he said. "There's a big difference."

In 1994, a state appeals court overturned the conviction of a Walker County woman charged with reckless injury to a child for smoking crack while pregnant, ruling the Legislature had limited the application of laws to conduct that injures a human being who has been born.

Ms. Marshall cited that case as precedent for overturning her client's conviction. However, District Attorney Carlos Valdez said the case is not applicable because it took into account the mental state of the

defendant, which is not required in intoxication manslaughter cases.

Using the Cuellar case as the impetus, Texas anti-abortion groups plan to lobby the Legislature next year for a new law enhancing penalties for crimes against pregnant women and their unborn children.

"There are a number of cases that are quite similar to this where district attorneys have not been willing to prosecute," said Bill Price, president of Texans United for Life. "There's a black hole there."

Abortion rights activists vowed to fight any such efforts.

"If our opposition is successful in defining in Texas law that life begins at conception, as soon as they get control of the Supreme Court, it's over for us," said Pauline Cashion, executive director of the Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

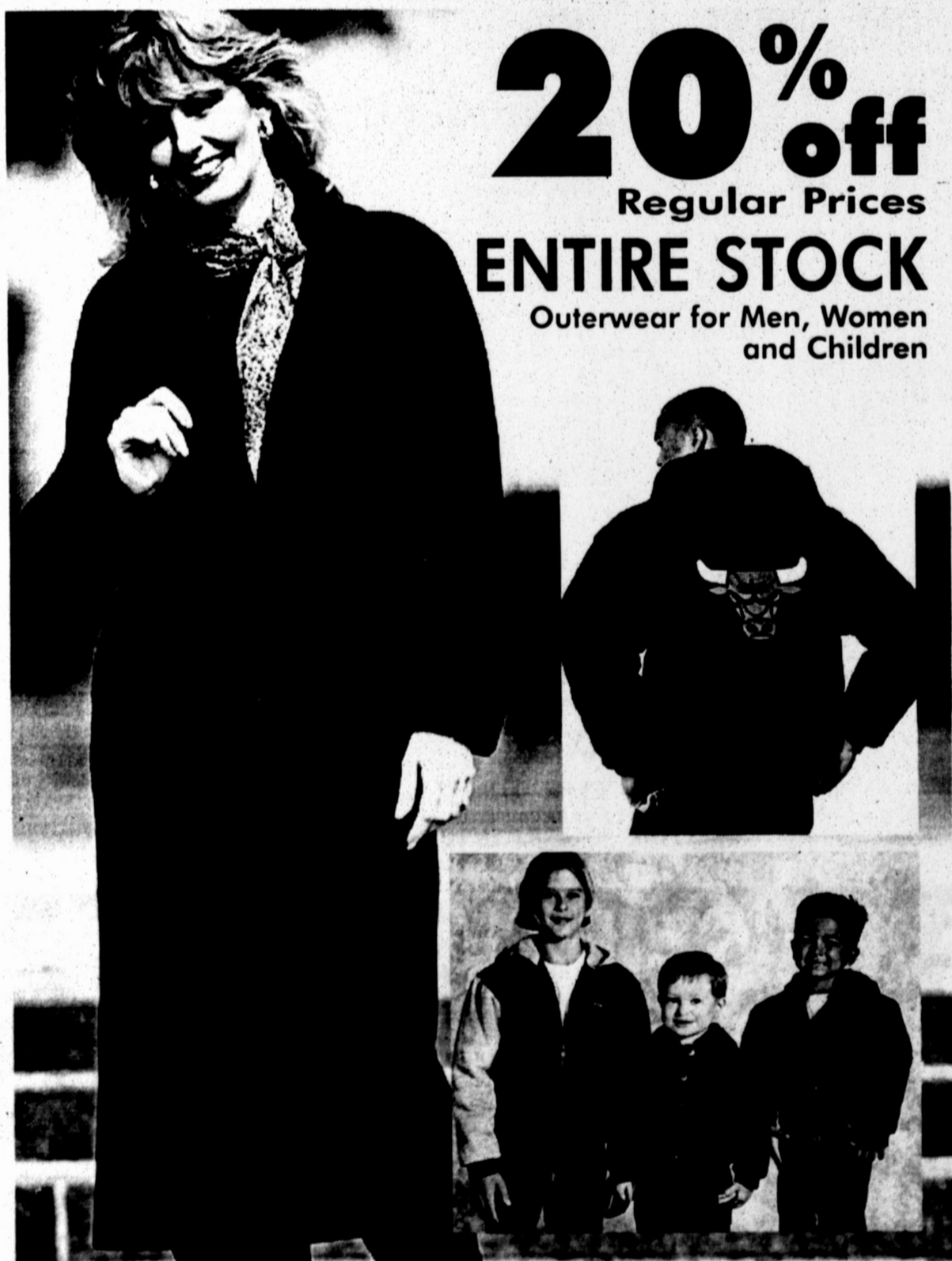
"That's a dangerous step, but I don't know that this case is going to be a precedent for that."

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