

# The Hereford Brand



96th Year, Vol. No. 161, Deaf Smith County, Texas      Wednesday, February 19, 1997      10 Pages      50 Cents

## Due to budget shortfall HRMC will raise room rates, cut on expenses

Deaf Smith County Hospital District directors, in a regular monthly meeting Tuesday night, discussed construction and financing plans for a new doctor's clinic, approved increasing room rates by 12 percent, approved bids on financing a new ambulance and purchasing a freezer for the hospital kitchen, tabled bids on employee health insurance, called for a hospital board election, and heard regular reports.

Jim Robinson, HRMC administrator, reported that a reduction in disproportionate funds from the Texas Department of Health had caused a shortfall of \$265,000 in the budget. He said some of the deficit could be made up in increased hospital charges and by cutting expenses. He said some departments had already been asked to cut about 15 percent.

After studying some proposed room rate charges, the board approved an increase of 12 percent in the rates, effective March 1. Rates had not been increased in about three years. A semi-private room is currently \$265 and ICU has a \$625

rate. Rates at Baptist St. Anthony's in Amarillo are \$320 for a semi-private room and \$850 for ICU.

Robinson pointed out that the hike in room rates would not increase income by a large amount, because about 70 percent of patients are covered by Medicare and Medicaid and these amounts won't change.

The new ambulance, expected to arrive March 5, was financed at \$95,000. Government Capital Corporation of Irvin had the low interest rate of 5.92 percent; Hereford State was next at 6.19, and Bank One of Amarillo was 6.22.

Trustee Scott Keeling recommended the board take the HSB bid, which amounted to \$414,36 more interest over three years. The board agreed that the administrator use the HSB financing agreement.

The board accepted the lone bid of Shannon Wilburn for a commercial freezer at \$3,448. It was a budgeted item. The board received bids on employee health insurance but tabled the matter to give the insurance committee time to study the bids.

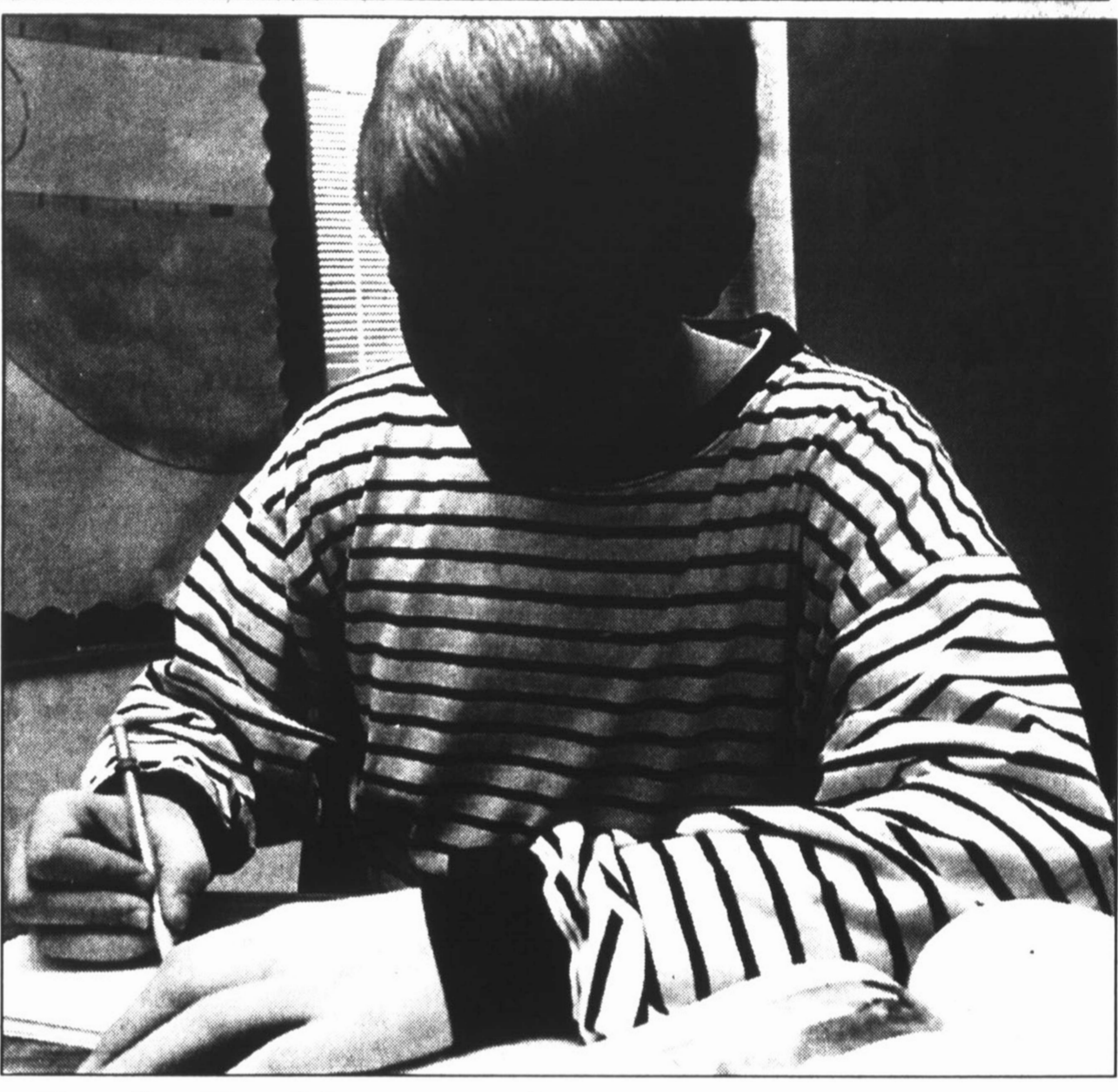
Directors formally called for the

annual board election on May 3. The terms of Mal Manchec, Jo Beth Shackelford and Scott Keeling expire this year.

Robinson reported that hospital admissions were 164 for January, compared to 195 a year ago. Total admissions to date are 80 below the figure a year ago. He reported that an increase in outpatient visits has contributed to a lower average daily census.

Trustee Boyd Foster gave the financial report, which reflected a decrease of about \$75,000 in net patient revenues from December to January. For the year to date, the total was down about \$64,000. With tax revenues, a net loss of \$74,953 was reported for the year to date. At this time last year, a gain of \$211,158 was reported.

The board held an executive session to discuss a proposed land acquisition, but no action was taken. Mrs. Lee Roy Oswalt is offering to sale property north of the hospital, formerly occupied by an Allsup's store.



### Conducting his research

Jacob Power, an eighth-grader at Nazarene Christian Academy, completes notecards for his science fair project. The students have been working on the research portion of their projects for the school's science fair, which will be held in March.

## Hospital board frustrated over big hike in clinic rent

**BY SPEEDY NIEMAN**  
Editor-Publisher

Henry Reid, local Realtor and landlord of Dr. Howard Johnson's clinic, has spurred the hospital board to move quickly on plans for a new doctor's clinic.

Directors of Deaf Smith County Hospital District, upset with Reid's action in raising the rent on Dr. Johnson's clinic, Tuesday night discussed ways to move from the building as soon as possible.

Jim Robinson, Hereford Regional Medical Center administrator, reported that rent on the Professional Center at 110 N. 25 Mile Ave. had been raised to \$6,000 a month in February.

The rent had been \$1,850 a month under the old lease, which expired

Jan. 15. Reid had informed the board in January that rent under a new four-year lease would be \$4,000 a month if renegotiated in 30 days, or would rise to \$6,000 a month without a lease contract.

Robinson also informed the board that he received a certified letter from Reid's attorney concerning the lease at the Professional Center. The letter stated that unless a new lease agreement has been made in 30 days, or the office is vacated by that date, a forcible entry and detainer action will be filed in the appropriate court.

Robinson said he had informed Reid that the board could not legally sign a four-year lease. Trustee Dean Crofford said he believed that Reid was mad because the hospital district didn't purchase the building, at what

Crofford called an inflated price.

Dr. Johnson, who was present for the meeting, told directors he would cooperate "with the district in making a temporary move or whatever it takes to avoid paying the exorbitant rent." He pointed out that it affected not only the hospital district, but also taxpayers as well.

Mal Manchec, board president, said directors agreed that Robinson should proceed with plans to initiate construction on a new doctor's clinic as soon as possible. The board received bids at the meeting for a construction/management contract from Wilburn Investments of Hereford and Plains Builders.

Robinson was authorized to make a contract with Shannon Wilburn, who would serve as general contractor for the new facility to be built on the west side of the hospital grounds. Under the construction/management contract, Wilburn would not be eligible to bid on the project.

Meanwhile, Robinson will be exploring several possibilities in relocating Dr. Johnson. With the St. Mary's Clinic soon to be completed, the board will explore the possibility of moving Dr. Johnson to the old Revell office, across from the hospital, or check the potential of renting the Family Medical Clinic now occupied by Drs. Gerald Payne and D.E. McBrayer.

Directors were told that it would take about six months to build the proposed new clinic at the hospital. The proposed office facility would require about 12,000 to 15,000 square feet of floor space. Estimated costs \$750,000 to \$1 million.

## HBA's Main Street project could start sprouting soon

**By TOMMY WELLS**  
Managing Editor

Locust are coming. Enough to cover the Main Street with a good shade. Not the plant-eating locust, mind you. The shade tree kind.

The Hereford Beautification Alliance announced Monday that its goal of renovating the look in the downtown area was moving along well. The HBA said it had placed orders for 16 Shade Master Locust trees, and that the planting of these trees could possibly coincide with their April 15 State Trash-Off campaign.

"I think it will make downtown look really beautiful," said HBA president Pat Riley to a gathering of the Hereford City Commissioners. "We have checked with every business, but most of the businesses we have spoken to are in favor of this."

The item was placed on the March 3 City Commissioners docket for final approval.

The Hereford City Commissioners also announced that the City of Hereford would be holding elections on May 3, 1997 for three positions, including Mayor, and commissioner seats in Place One and Three.

In other business, commissioners approved the reappointments of five

members of the Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Authority, Inc. Board of Directors as well as approved its request for an issuance of revenue bonds in an amount of not more than \$250 million.

The Panhandle-Plains Higher Education Authority, Inc. is a non-profit entity created by the City of Hereford to help provide a means for financing college and university educational opportunities. The city is in no way responsible for the loan.

Those persons being approved included Dr. Charles Bassett, Waldo

Baxter, Duane Howard, Jan Patterson and John Sherrod.

Commissioners also voted to approve an easement agreement with the Las Areas Grain Company, which would help the prospective new owners to close the deal for the elevator on the west side of Lee Street.

The company had brought about the request because the elevator extends into the city's right-of-way by approximately 2-3 feet. The City of Hereford has a 70-foot right-of-way even though the road is 30-foot

## Senators pass bill under banner of victims' rights

AUSTIN (AP) - State appeals courts couldn't throw out criminal convictions for "harmless errors" that occurred at trial under a bill passed Tuesday by the Texas Senate under the banner of victims' rights.

"Crime victims all across the state are asking the Legislature to make it very, very clear that criminals are entitled to a fair trial. They're not entitled to a perfect trial," said Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, author of the bill.

The measure goes to the House for consideration.

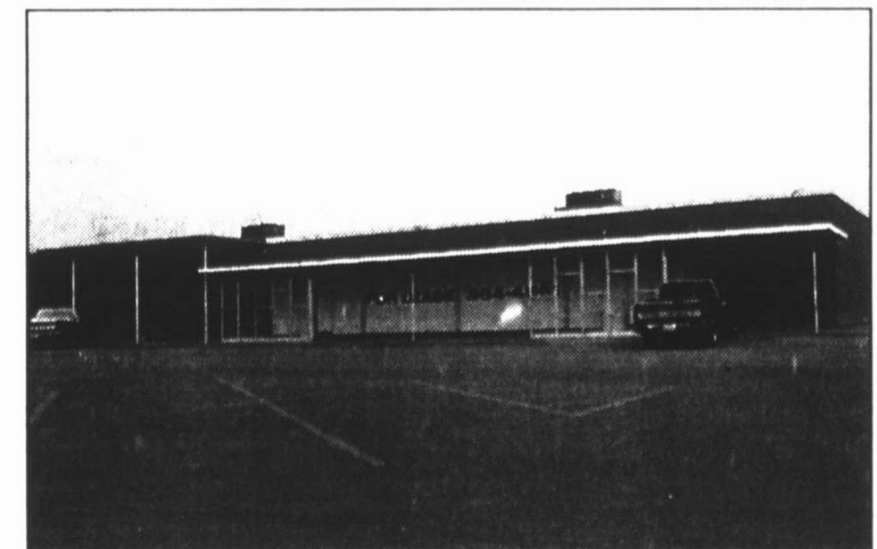
Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, said

he supports crime victims but voiced concern that the bill would upset the balance between their rights and those of defendants.

"The passage of a bill like this pretty much allows trial court judges to pick and choose the standards that they want to enforce," West said.

Under the bill, appeals courts could not reverse a case unless the record showed it was "more probable than not" that a trial court error affected the verdict or sentence to the defendant's detriment - unless the error involved constitutional rights.

# Commissioners approve 'Moovies' project



Hereford City Commissioners approved a resolution Monday night that clears the way for the former Furr's Supermarket to become a movie theatre.

**By TOMMY WELLS**  
Managing Editor

Tyrannosaurus Rex is coming.

And the Hereford City Commissioners are sure the residents of Hereford won't be looking for a place to hide - especially if they have a place to watch a movie.

The Hereford City Commissioners removed the final hurdles standing in the way of the proposed opening of a movie theatre in the Sugarland Mall on Monday. Commissioners unanimously voted to designate the mall as a development area, which would make it possible for the Hereford Economic Development Corporation to complete its dealings with Big Spring theatre owner Gary Moore to open a cinema.

Moore, speaking to the commis-

## 'Moovies 6' cinema to open with Jurassic Park II

sioners during their regular meeting, said he planned to have the theatre, which will be known as "Moovies 6", ready for operation in approximately 90 days. He said construction on the former Furr's Supermarket would begin within weeks.

"We're very glad to be here," said Moore, the president of Premier Cinemas. "The concept we proposed wasn't a radical one. We like working in small towns. We have a pretty good history of working in a smaller community."

Moore indicated the theatre would be a six-screen complex capable of seating approximately 1,000 movie-goers. The six screens, he said, would enable the theatre to show a greater variety of movies and draw from a larger area.

"We look to have it open on May 23," said Moore, who also owns theatres in Abilene, Waco, Midland-Odessa and Houston. "That's the date we've promised Universal Studios that we'd be open for the release of Jurassic Park II."

The HEDC had approved the deal

with Moore last week, but needed the city's designation of the Sugarland Mall area to finalize the agreement. By designating the mall as a development area, the HEDC was able to offer the new business an incentive-laden contract to help promote its economic growth.

Under the proposal agreed to by the HEDC and Moore, the cinema would get a \$100,000 loan, which would be forgiven at the rate of \$10,000 a year over a 10-year period. The cinema would also get a \$75,000 loan.

Moore said the patrons of the movie complex would likely see lower fares at the Hereford complex than those in Canyon or Amarillo. He indicated tickets price are tentatively set at \$2.50 for senior citizens and children and \$4.50 for adults.

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# Lifestyles

## Senior Citizens

### MENUS

**THURSDAY**-Barbecue chicken, potato salad, pinto beans, tossed green salad, apricots, sugar cookies, garlic bread; or Polish sausage, Jello.

**FRIDAY**-Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, Brussels sprouts, coleslaw, cornbread, peach cobbler; or beef stew, peaches, Jello.

**MONDAY**-Pepper steak, buttered egg noodles, Harvard beets, peach/cottage cheese, French bread, vanilla pudding; or smothered pork chops.

**TUESDAY**-Turkey with giblet gravy, cornbread dressing, Scandinavian mixed vegetables, rosy applesauce, rolls, pound cake; or roast turkey.

**WEDNESDAY**-Chicken a-la-king,

rice, Oriental vegetables, 7-Up salad, biscuits, sherbet; or meatballs, mixed fruit.

### 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.

**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 class 1-4 p.m.

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

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

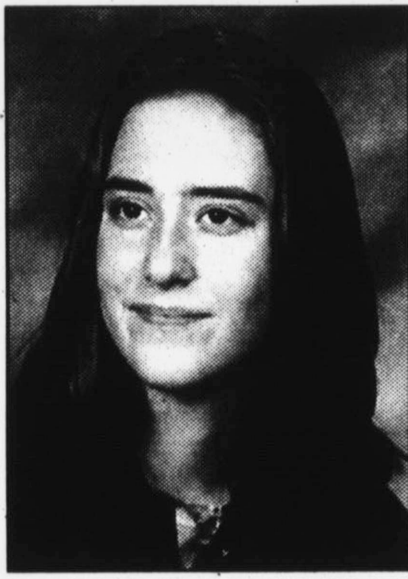
## Granddaughter named as scholarship finalist

Sharee Williamson, a native of Hereford and granddaughter of LeRoy and Mary Williamson, has been named as a finalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

Williamson, 17, is the daughter of Kim and Karen Williamson. She attended Marshall High School through her sophomore year, then was accepted as a freshman at Austin College in Sherman in 1996.

She is currently pursuing a degree in chemistry with a minor in music and is a violinist with the Sherman Symphony.

National Merit Scholarships will issue an announcement in April as to the monetary value and sponsor of the scholarship for the Austin College student.



SHAREE WILLIAMSON

## To Your Good Health

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** Could you please give me some information about Berger's disease? I've had blood in my urine for five years, and it has been blamed on Berger's. — S.B.

**ANSWER:** Berger's disease is a kidney ailment with some odd twists and turns and varying outcomes.

Despite the presence of blood in the urine, the ailment is usually diagnosed only after a routine urinalysis — as part of a general physical, for example.

You might wonder why the urinary blood doesn't provide warning. It often appears as red blood cells in the urine, invisible to the naked eye.

Other symptoms can be virtually nonexistent.

So what's going on? Berger's disease is explained as the deposition of antibodies on the kidneys' filtering stations, the glomeruli. Why is unclear. The best explanation for deposition of the destructive antibodies in the kidneys is a stimulation of the immune system, part of an autoimmune response.

Prognosis is difficult. Some patients display blood symptoms for decades without deleterious effect on kidney function. But others experience a rapid deterioration in function.

If kidneys show signs of deterioration, then you might need cortisone drugs to temper the antibody production.

I don't know what else to tell you, except to say that five years of Berger's disease without a hint of kidney trouble augurs well for you, even though you continue to show

microscopic urinary blood evidence. While researching the ailment, you might run across another name for it: — IgA nephropathy. "IgA" refers to the troublesome immunoglobulin A antibodies.

**DEAR DR. DONOHUE:** Can you address myofascial pain? Could it come from dropping an object on the head? Exactly what is myofascial pain? — A.R.

**ANSWER:** I hasten to note at the outset that I have never heard of myofascial pain arising after a head injury. The best I can do here is describe myofascial pain.

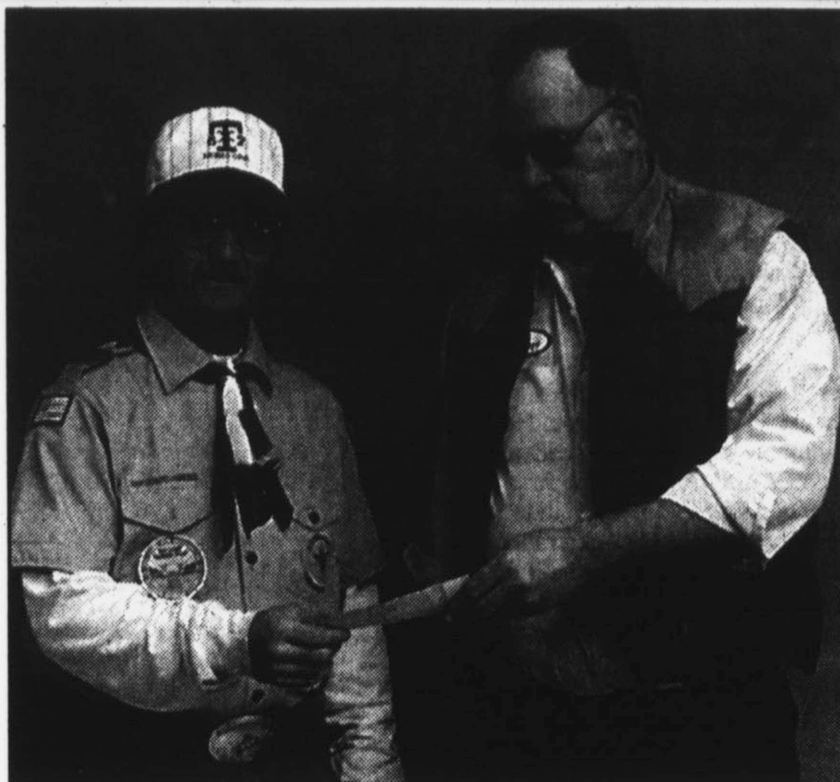
"Myo" refers to muscle, "fascia" the dense muscle covering. Myofascial pain is the kind that confines itself to body regions, chiefly the neck, shoulders or lower back.

The doctor might find hard knots of tissue in the affected areas.

You might be confusing myofascial pain with fibromyalgia, the ache-all-over illness also known as "fibrositis." Muscle stiffness and restless sleep leave the fibromyalgia patient an exhausted wreck. With fibromyalgia, you have pain trigger points, but they are not firm knots as with myofascial pain.

Treatment is similar for similar ailments. Heat, massage and sometimes injection of numbing agents make the pain more bearable.

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Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him at P.O. Box 5539, Riverton, NJ 08077-5539.



## VFW makes contribution

Randy Laing, left, Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 52 accepts a check from Robert Kubacak, commander of Roy Wederbrook Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4818. The contribution was made to help offset expenses of the troop's ski trip to Ruidoso.

## Women's Division still seeking new members

The Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a membership drive which will continue through March.

The Women's Division sponsors a number of community activities including the Little Miss Hereford Pageant, an annual style show, Christmas lighting contest, Beauty Spot of the Month, Featured Artist, the Sneak Preview Night held prior to the "Eat-Your-Heart-Out-Neiman-Marcus" Fun Breakfast, and "Woman of the Year."

They are also responsible for decorations for the annual Chamber of Commerce banquet.

The current member of the Women's Division who signs the most new members during the drive will receive a Brighton purse from the

Pants Cage. The names of all new members will be included in a drawing for 25 Hereford Bucks.

Winners will be announced at the quarterly meeting April 8 at 7 p.m. in the Hereford Community Center.

Applications for membership are available at the Chamber office, 701 N. Main, or from any Women's Division member.

The 1997 officers of the Women's Division are Elvira Enriquez, president; Nancy Denton, president-elect; Shannon Redwine, vice president and membership chairman; Kristi Hollingsworth, secretary-treasurer; Linda Daniel and Janie Alejandre, directors; and Julia Laing, parliamentarian.

## Parenting presentation sponsored by Camp Fire

Amarillo Area Camp Fire Foundation and Camp Fire Boys and Girls invite you to hear an inspiring, entertaining, common sense message for parents, "Assuming the Power of Parenthood" presented by John K. Rosemond.

The presentation will be from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Thursday in First Christian Church in Amarillo.

Rosemond is a recognized family psychologist and author of many books. Throughout the year he is in

demand as a public speaker. His parenting presentations and workshops have drawn high marks from parent and professional groups all over the country.

Rosemond's message is that empowerment in the parent-child relationship is a two-way street. The first step involves positioning the marriage (or single parent) at the center of the attention in the family. The second step is that of clearly and calmly expecting children to obey.

The program is offered free of charge by Northwest Texas Healthcare System. For more information call the Amarillo Camp Fire office at 373-7922.

## Manchee included on President's List

Karen M. Manchee, a student at Wayland Baptist University in Plainview, has been included on the spring 1997 President's List. The list recognizes students obtaining a 4.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Manchee, a mathematics major, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mal Manchee of Hereford.

## Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** I couldn't resist writing to you after reading the letter about children and their messy rooms. When my third daughter was the only one left at home, I knew we were in for a year of battling. She was an unbelievable slob. There was no need for a closet. All her clothes were on the floor.

Perhaps the smartest thing I ever did was decide that I would spend a warm, wonderful year with my youngest child in preparation for empty nesting. (I had been a single parent since she was 15 months old.) I decided that an honor student who never broke curfew and was an athlete, a musician and a wonderful person could have a messy room.

I later read a piece she wrote in high school in her creative writing class. I gained a new perspective on how she felt. It made me grateful that I had made my decision to stop nagging and not escalate a dirty room into a power play. Perhaps her poem might help other parents see this problem in a different light. — Martha Healy, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

**Dear Martha:** Your letter will give hope to mothers of slob everywhere. How nice that your slob is so talented. Here's her poem: A Picture of a Messy Room by Sarah Healy

I love a mess,  
I take comfort in it.  
I snuggle in the disarray  
And huddle in the chaos.  
I pull my blanket,  
Warm and fuzzy,  
Up to my ears  
And grin from ear to ear.  
The room is mine.  
I lie surrounded by upheaval,  
Glorified in my pig sty,  
Reveling in my pig pen,  
And reaching out to touch the mess  
That is forever,  
For always,  
For good,  
All mine.

**Dear Ann Landers:** We raised five kids. From the time they were little, they were taught to pick up after themselves. It was simple arithmetic. There were five of them and one of me.

When we found a large old house with a pool, the kids begged us to buy it. We had a family meeting and told them the only way we could afford the house would be for me to go back to work. I explained I couldn't work all day and come home and do housework and laundry, too, so they would have to pitch in. Not only did they agree to do the housework and laundry, they offered to do the dinners as well. I must admit, some evenings we had rather odd meals, but we ate.

In the big house, their rooms were upstairs, and their dad's and mine were downstairs. I never went into their rooms without permission. If I needed something from upstairs, all the kids rushed to get it. I scheduled inspection for Saturday morning. It was apparent that they knew how to clean from the way they kept the downstairs, and I must say, they did a wonderful job.

Buying that house was a wise move. They are all neatniks now. — G.L.W. in Redlands, Calif.

**Dear G.L.W.:** Three cheers for the neatniks and for you. Your children sound like a great group. Be proud.

When planning a wedding, who pays for what? Who stands where? "The Ann Landers Guide for Brides" has all the answers. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Brides, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.)

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## THANKS

to all HRMC employees, the people of the Hereford community, and beyond who generously participated in our recent raffle of one processed hog. The proceeds will help benefit in the decoration of the HRMC OB department. The winner of the February 18th drawing is Jeanette Heinrich of Slaton. She is the mother of Gina Kalka, R.N. an HRMC employee.

Sincerely,  
The nurses of the HRMC OB Department

## Q & A

### What is an I.R.A.?

An Individual Retirement Account (IRA) is a special savings plan authorized by the Federal Government to help you accumulate for your retirement.



Gail Golden  
I.R.A. Representative

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You are cordially invited to attend a reception honoring  
**Charles and Barbara Greenawalt**

on Thursday, February 20, 1997, at 4:30 p.m.  
at the Administration Building, in the Banquet Room.  
The program will begin at approximately 5:00 p.m.  
Charles and Barbara will be leaving Hereford I.S.D.  
in early March because they have accepted  
positions with Kingsville I.S.D.

A scrapbook of memories is being prepared and we invite YOU to participate in this endeavor. Please send your letters, comments, pictures, tapes, etc., to the reception committee as soon as possible, or call Carolyn Hillbrunner Adm. Bldg. 364-0606 or 364-7353  
Carolyn Waters HJH 363-7630 or 364-0596

# Sports

## Lubbock sweeps pair from Hereford

**TOMMY WELLS**  
Managing Editor

**LUBBOCK** — The Hereford Whitefaces' 1996-97 season didn't quite get off to the kind of start head coach Pete Rodriguez probably had hoped for Tuesday. Hereford managed just four hits en route to dropping a double-header to Lubbock High School.

The Whitefaces got off to a rough start to the 1997 season. Lubbock, courtesy of several HHS errors, roughed up the Hereford defense for six runs in their first trip to the plate.

Hereford's defense managed to get its bearings from there on, however. Whiteface ace Eric Ambold and the Herd defense held Lubbock scoreless through the final six innings of play.

Ambold, the losing pitcher, turned in a solid effort against Lubbock. He allowed just six hits in the affair.

Lubbock's Joe Barrera didn't have defensive woes to deal with. The LHS pitcher cruised through the first few innings. Overall, he allowed just three hits in the game.

The Whitefaces, though still both-

ered by fielding troubles, looked better in the second game. Hereford grabbed a quick 1-0 lead as they scored in their top of the first.

The Whitefaces' luck didn't hold out, however. Lubbock cranked out two runs in each of the first two innings and then cruised to a 10-1 victory.

Lubbock, which benefited from five Hereford errors, racked up 14 hits, including five doubles, in the six-inning contest. Hereford, 0-2 overall, managed just one hit off the LHS pitchers.

## Bears acquire Mirer from Seattle

**CHICAGO (AP)** - Finally, Rick Mirer is on his way to Chicago.

After four months of trade talks and more than a week of speculation, the Seattle Seahawks on Tuesday night dealt their former quarterback of the future to the Bears for a first-round draft choice.

"We believe Rick has the qualities to be an outstanding player and help us get to the next level," Bears coach Dave Wannstedt said in a statement.

Mirer couldn't get the Seahawks to the next level.

After passing for 41 touchdowns at Notre Dame, he was the second overall pick in the 1993 draft. He had a promising rookie season, starting all 16 games and completing 274 of 486 passes for 2,833 yards. But he never realized his potential and spent much of 1996 as John Friesz's backup.

Mirer signed a three-year contract with the Bears, who gave up the 11th overall pick in the April 19 draft. Seahawks spokesman Steve Wright said Seattle completed the deal by giving a fourth-round choice to Chicago.

The Bears tried and failed to get Mirer before last October's trading deadline. They refocused their attention on Mirer last week, with media outlets reporting daily that the deal was almost done.

Seattle gave the Bears exclusive rights to talk to Mirer, who turns 27

next month. San Francisco also was interested in him.

Bears spokesman Bryan Harlan said Mirer and the team had 48 hours to negotiate a possible fourth contract season. The Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune reported today that the deal Mirer agreed to was for \$11.4 million for three years, including a signing bonus worth more than \$2.5 million. Mirer had one year left in his contract with Seattle and was under a \$2.5 million salary cap.

Mirer, who was expected to be in Chicago for a news conference today, said the last several weeks of negotiations took a toll on him as he worried about alienating his new teammates and fans.

"To be honest, this really bothered me," Mirer said. "I never wanted it to look like it was about money because it wasn't."

"It was a career decision and I wanted the timing to work out. I want to finish there. I want this to be my last move and I wanted the numbers to make sure that happens," Mirer said.

Now that the deal is done, Mirer said he's looking forward to playing for the Bears.

"I'm very optimistic," said Mirer, who grew up in Goshen, Ind., about a two-hour drive from Chicago. "I'm very excited about going to a great city where there are great fans, and playing outdoors is important to me. These are the things you kind of look forward to."

The 6-foot-2 Mirer was 2-7 as a starter last season. He passed for 1,546 yards, with five touchdowns and 12 interceptions, and his quarterback rating of 56.6 was the lowest in the AFC by almost 12 points. He missed five games because of a knee injury.

Despite his struggles, he figures to start for the Bears, who were 7-9 last season. Erik Kramer, who set numerous team records in 1995, but was sidelined with a neck injury for almost all last season, is unsigned and might not return. Dave Krieg was the

Bears' quarterback for most of 1996, but is 38 years old.

Friesz, who was playing well until breaking his right leg last season, signed a two-year contract extension with the Seahawks and should be their starter in 1997.

Once Mirer was benched, the Seahawks tried to trade him to Atlanta for Jeff George.



### YMCA Division A Champs

The Classic Cattle spikers nailed down the recent YMCA Co-Ed A volleyball championship recently by downing McCracken Loader Service 15-13, 15-10 in the title bout. Members of the Classic Cattle team are: (back row, left to right) Alfonso Gonzalez, Toni Benguidez, Gustavo Vazquez, Cesae Vazquez, (front row) Sharon Rector, Linda Coronado and Alma Vazquez.

## Kids Inc. baseball registration set for Saturday at HCC

Kids Inc. has announced that registration for baseball and softball will be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Hereford Community Center.

The boys' program is for ages 5 to 15, and the girls' program is ages 5 to 16.



## BETTER COVERAGE ALWAYS LOOKS GREAT!

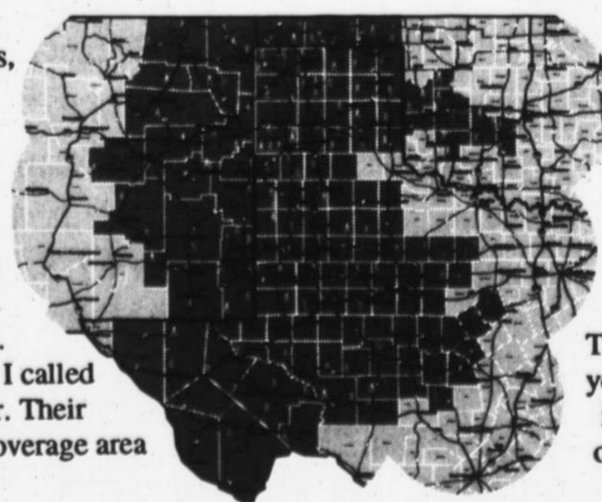
Getting cellular service and the convenience it offers, is a great idea. But things can get a little hairy if your cellular company doesn't provide the coverage you need.



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# Sulphur Springs poet works on third volume

SULPHUR SPRINGS, Texas - Charles Behlen, poet and apartment manager, has some very stringent guidelines determining who qualifies as a prominent purveyor of poetry.

"In order to be a great poet you must be raised by a Cherokee Baptist grandmother, which really narrows it down," he tells listeners at poetry readings. "T.S. Elliot, William Carlos Williams, all of them are going to fall short, really."

"You don't know the fear of God until you've been raised by a Cherokee Baptist grandmother."

Behlen, 48, a published poet living and working in Sulphur Springs, is currently enduring "false labor" pains as he endeavors to complete his third solo book of poetry, "The Voice is Under the Floor." A chance encounter with the bearded, bespectacled poet at the Sulphur Springs Public Library eventually led to a lesson in poetic esthetics and the West Texas landscape.

Born in the Lubbock County town of Slaton, Behlen moved to Posey in Northwest Hopkins County at the age of 10. There he nurtured rural West Texas roots.

It was also this change of address that might have saved his life, if not his writing career.

"It was a nice change of pace

because I lived in the demilitarized zone in Slaton, between the ghetto and the upper working class neighborhood ... where picking up a loaf of bread could be a harrowing experience," he recalled.

Behlen said he began writing poetry at 13, but it wasn't until his late teens and early 20s when he stopped penning "derivative doggerel" and found his own voice.

He published his first book of poetry, "Perdition's Keepsake," in 1978 under the direction of mentor Dave Oliphant, whom he met at New Mexico Junior College. His second book, "dreaming at the wheel," followed 10 years later.

This 10-year cycle is something Behlen hopes will continue to turn in 1998.

"I just wait for 10 years and then - boom! - the book appears," he said. "I'm going through false labor right now. It could happen anytime. My water could break and you would have to rush me to a publisher."

Supporting himself as a house painter through the years while his work appeared in magazines and eventually books, Behlen finally made the leap from "house painting poet to being poet in residence" for the Texas Commission on the Arts in 1984. He traveled between Texas,

New Mexico and Arkansas, writing and teaching to about 3,000 students annually for about six years.

The pace finally took its toll on Behlen's health, however, and in 1991 he found himself in Sulphur Springs and manager of a local apartment complex. The experience is already feeding his poet's psyche.

"I'm (also) working on a book of poems which will chronicle the lives of tenants of an apartment building and I'm drawing on my experience as an apartment manager to deal with that," he said.

"I call it the crying-secular humbleness of the working class ... it's a tad awkward but it says what I feel about the lives I see that come and go," Behlen explained. "Rooms being filled and then rooms being emptied and then rooms made ready for another family until they leave."

"You scrub their lives off the wall until other lives can fill the room."

An unseasonably warm Texas winter afternoon found Behlen meandering along the outskirts of his metaphorical canvas of transient lives. He casually stabbed at pieces of trash with a pointed stick on a nearby street as if seeking enlightenment - or maybe just a discarded milk carton - in the cracks of the asphalt. Few would guess his upstairs apartment bedroom holds five bookshelves brimming with a 1,000 volumes of poetry.

"I think more poets should be apartment managers," he claimed.

The sweeping plains of the West Texas Panhandle first grounded the poet's imagination and gave birth to private metaphors which now seem like public myths.

"Many of my poems during the '70s chronicled the lives of big-boned, wind-burnt farm folk," he explained.

"You might call it a sort of Brazos River Anthology if you don't mind taking your hat off to Edgar Lee Masters," added Behlen, referring to

the American poet whose "Spoon River Anthology" became famous for its portrait of individual rural lives.

The succeeding years brought a distinguished gray to his beard and thick hair, as well as a looser form to his pen.

"I began to write poems that were grand reservoirs of thankfulness of life," he said. "They weren't so much stark portraits of rural life in West Texas - and now I don't know where I am."

All the familiar themes can be found in Behlen's poetry - the break with convention, experiencing rites of passage and river-rafting along the subconscious - but he asserts his work

his borne out of powerful experiences rather than the dull idolatry of motifs.

Take one of Behlen's shorter pieces from "dreaming at the wheel," entitled "Grandfather Encountered in Elm Cemetery":

"The wind points the grass another

way where I find you hiding under a stone that is knee-high, like the kitchen chairs you edged around when I played 'hide-and-seek' You never found me, you never looked.

You stared out to your fields for rain.

Now I stand overhead and search

for my car. Our eyes cannot meet and we have no words

where the grass, your grass, points another way."

His most recent accomplishments include winning the Dobie Paisano Fellowship from the University of Texas and the Texas Institute of Letters in 1995 and the first Frank Waters Writers-in-Residence in Thos, N.M. He is currently working on reviving his 1970s "Chewed Rawzin" magazine series featuring Texas poets on the Internet, as well as a screenplay and other projects.

Distributed by The Associated Press

## Names in the news

NEW YORK (AP) - A Harlem librarian is seeing red over "Primary Colors," the Joe Klein book she contends has people thinking she slept with President Clinton.

"My acquaintances do think I had an affair," Daria Carter-Clark, who is suing Klein for \$100 million, told The New York Times for today's editions. "It's ridiculous. It's indecent. It's ludicrous."

Carter-Clark said the first chapter of "Primary Colors" - in which a married Southern governor running for president sleeps with a Harlem librarian - echoes a 1991 visit that then-candidate Clinton made to her library.

Carter-Clark said she and Clinton did have "a very private conversation" away from students and reporters who covered the visit.

## Comics

Marvin

By Tom Armstrong



Blondie

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Beetle Bailey

By Mort Walker



The Wizard of Id

By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith

By Fred Lasswell



## Television

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19

Television schedule table for Wednesday, February 19, listing programs from 6 PM to 11 PM.

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20

Television schedule table for Thursday, February 20, listing programs from 7 AM to 12 PM.

### 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM

Television schedule table for Thursday, February 20, listing programs from 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM.

### 6 PM to 11 PM

Television schedule table for Thursday, February 20, listing programs from 6 PM to 11 PM.

Income Tax

Earned income tax credit worth more

By DAVE SKIDMORE  
Associated Press Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) - The earned income tax credit for the working poor is worth more than ever before with the completion of a three-year expansion initiated by President Clinton's 1993 budget. The maximum credit now is \$3,556 for families with two or more children in 1996, up from \$3,110 last year and more than double the \$1,511 maximum before the expansion. The maximum for families with one child is \$2,152, up from \$2,094 last year and \$1,434 three years earlier. For childless people, the credit is \$323, up from \$314 last year and zero three years ago.

Republicans, who fought unsuccessfully to cut the program, point out that it's more than a tax credit. For many, it's a government income supplement. Even if your credit exceeds your tax liability, you still get it. With inflation, the amount you can earn and still be eligible has increased for 1996. With no children, the maximum credit is reached when income hits \$4,200 and starts declining when income reaches \$5,300, hitting zero at income of \$9,500. With one child, the maximum credit is reached when income hits \$6,300 and starts declining when income reaches \$11,650, hitting zero

at income of \$25,078. With two or more children, the maximum credit is reached when income hits \$8,850 and starts declining when income reaches \$11,650, hitting zero at income of \$28,495. Any credit you receive won't be used in determining your eligibility for Aid to Families with Dependent Children, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income, food stamps and low-income housing. Your tax return's instructions booklet has a series of questions to determine if you're eligible, plus a worksheet for determining the credit. Publication 596 has the rules in detail, but these are the basics:

In a change for 1996 returns, people with investment income of more than \$2,200 won't be eligible. Generally, that's the total of dividends and interest, both taxable and tax-exempt. People who were nonresident aliens any part of 1996 also can't claim the credit, unless they are married to a U.S. citizen and choose to be treated as a resident alien. Also, remember to put down a correct Social Security number for every person on your return - yourself, spouse and dependents - born before December, 1996. This is important. The IRS will deny the credit if you don't. If you need to get a number, apply by filing Form SS-5 with the Social Security Administration. It takes about two weeks. Childless people can take the credit on forms 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040. You must be at least 25 years old but younger than 65. If you're married, either you or your spouse must be between those ages. You can't be a dependent on someone else's return. If you have a child, you can't use Form 1040EZ. Attach Schedule EIC to your return, either Form 1040A or Form 1040. To qualify, your child must be younger than 19 at the end of the year, younger than 24 and a full-time student, or any age and permanently and totally disabled. The child must be your own son or daughter, adopted child, grandchild or stepchild and must have lived with you in the United States for at least half the year. Foster children qualify if they lived with you all year. People who are married but file separate returns can't take the credit. Also, only one person can claim the credit when an unmarried couple lives together with a qualifying child. The person with the highest adjusted gross income is the one allowed to claim the credit. The Internal Revenue Service is promoting an advance payment feature that allows people with children to receive a part of their earned income credit every time they get paid instead of waiting until the end of the year. File a Form W-5 with your employer. If you received advance payments in 1996, you must report them on line 49 of Form 1040 or line 26 of Form 1040A.



Puppets on a stick can foster child's creativity

Playing with puppets is an entertaining way to foster your child's creativity. Kids can make up exciting stories, tell jokes or even sing songs with the characters. For young children, it's especially fun when the puppets are their favorite animals, whether they come from the barnyard or the rain forests of South America. First, thumb through some animal books and pick your favorites, then get out your craft supplies and you'll be ready to create simple animal puppets on a stick. Draw animal shapes, about 3 by 3 inches in size, on heavy construction paper, poster board or cardboard from an empty cereal box. Cut out the shapes and paint them. Add craft feathers and glitter to dress a glitzy parrot, apply stripes with a cotton swab for a zebra, or clip a length of tissue and shred the edges for a lion's mane. Let your creativity run wild. To complete your cast of characters, make puppets of your family members to take on animal safari adventures. Glue individual photos on poster board and cut them out. Make a handle for each puppet by gluing a craft stick to the back, making sure the bottom of the stick is exposed. When the glue is dried, you are ready to put on a show. Here's a simple way to set the stage: Take a shallow baking dish and add some clean sand, a few toys and nature finds to create an outdoor scene. Grab your puppets and let the adventure begin!

Cultural FCE has meeting

Cultural Family Community Education Club met on Valentines Day with six members and two guests in attendance. President Nell Pope presided over the business meeting. Topics for discussion were the upcoming Appreciation Luncheon on Feb. 24 and the Tasting Bee on March 4. Both events will be held at the Community Center. Recommendations for 1997 were read and approved by club members. The program, "Prescription for Family Health," was given by Marilyn Smith. Members and guests were presented red and white crocheted heart pins made by Pope. In keeping with the Valentine theme, Pope served refreshments of cake, candy and spiced cedar. Guests present were Tonie Vaughn and Mary Alvarado. Members in attendance were Fannie Townsend, Virginia Sumner, Edna Marnell, Perry Keyes, Pope and Smith.

Glossary of terms you'll encounter

A glossary of some terms you'll encounter as you do your taxes:  
**GROSS INCOME:** All income not specifically exempted from taxation, such as interest on municipal bonds. Earned income includes wages, salaries and tips. Unearned income includes interest, dividends, rent and capital gains.  
**CAPITAL GAIN:** The profit from the sale of property such as real estate, stocks and bonds.  
**ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME:** Gross income, minus adjustments such as Individual Retirement Account contributions, moving expenses and alimony paid.  
**TAXABLE INCOME:** Adjusted gross income, AGI, minus deductions and exemptions.  
**DEDUCTION:** Expenses the tax code allows you to deduct from your income, such as mortgage interest, charitable contributions and state income taxes. Itemized deductions are listed on Schedule A of Form 1040. The standard deduction is an amount in lieu of itemized deductions. This year, it's \$6,700 for married couples and \$4,000 for single people.

**EXEMPTION:** An amount subtracted from income, \$2,550, for yourself, your spouse and your dependents. A married couple with two children, for instance, would have four exemptions totaling \$10,200.  
**CREDIT:** A credit, such as the one for child care expenses, is subtracted directly from your tax liability. Thus, it's much more valuable than either an adjustment to income or a deduction. If you're in the 28 percent tax bracket, a \$1,000 deduction reduces your tax bill by \$280. A \$1,000 credit takes \$1,000 off your tax bill.  
**CAFETERIA PLAN:** These plans allow you to use pre-tax dollars to pay for certain expenses such as health insurance, group-term life insurance and child care. They're often more valuable than a tax credit because they reduce not only your income tax but also your Social Security and Medicare taxes.  
**MARGINAL TAX RATE:** Sometimes called a tax bracket, the marginal tax rate is the rate applied

to the last dollar of taxable income you earned. There are five brackets: 15 percent, 28 percent, 31 percent, 36 percent and 39.6 percent.  
**EFFECTIVE TAX RATE:** The actual percentage of your income paid in taxes. A married couple, for instance, pays 15 percent of their first \$40,100 in taxable income, 28 percent of the amount from \$40,101 to \$96,900 and 31 percent of the amount from \$96,901 to \$147,700. Thus a married couple with a taxable income of \$100,000 would pay \$22,880 for an effective tax rate of 22.9 percent. (Because of inflation adjustments to the brackets, that's down \$222.50 from 1995.)  
**IRA, 401(k), KEOGH:** All three are tax-sheltered retirement savings accounts. IRAs - Individual Retirement Accounts - are self-administered plans for individuals. Contributions are deductible for many taxpayers. 401(k) plans are offered through employers and often provide bigger tax savings than IRAs, as do Keogh plans, which are for self-employed people.

Today in History

By The Associated Press  
Today is Wednesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 1997. There are 315 days left in the year.  
Today's Highlight in History:  
On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines landed on the Western Pacific island of Iwo Jima, where they encountered ferocious resistance from Japanese forces. The Americans took control of the strategically important island after a monthlong battle.  
On this date:  
In 1473, the astronomer Copernicus was born in Torun, Poland.  
In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution. (However, Congress did not get around to formally ratifying Ohio statehood until \_ believe it or not \_ 1953.)  
In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr was arrested in Alabama. (He was subsequently tried for treason and acquitted.)  
In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin.  
In 1878, Thomas Edison received a patent for his phonograph.  
In 1881, Kansas became the first state to prohibit all alcoholic beverages.

In 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order giving the military the authority to relocate and intern Japanese-Americans.  
In 1942, during World War II, about 150 Japanese warplanes attacked the Australian city of Darwin.  
In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.  
In 1963, the Soviet Union informed President Kennedy it would withdraw "several thousand" of an estimated 17,000 Soviet troops in Cuba.  
In 1986, the U.S. Senate approved a treaty outlawing genocide, 37 years after the pact had first been submitted for ratification.  
Ten years ago: Taking Democratic leaders and even some of his closest aides by surprise, New York Gov. Mario Cuomo announced during a radio call-in program that he would not run for president in 1988.  
Five years ago: Former Irish Republican Army member Joseph Doherty was deported from the United States to Northern Ireland following a 10-year battle for political asylum.  
One year ago: Republican

presidential hopefuls argued taxes, trade and negative ads in a final burst of contentious campaigning on the eve of New Hampshire's leadoff primary, with Bob Dole the principal target. Baseball showman Charlie O. Finley died in Chicago at age 77.  
Today's Birthdays: Hall-of-Fame jockey Eddie Arcaro is 81. Singer Smokey Robinson is 57. Singer Lou Christie is 54. Actor Michael Nader is 52. Rock musician Tony Iommi (Black Sabbath) is 49. Actor Jeff Daniels is 42. Talk show host Lorianne Crook is 40. Britain's Prince Andrew is 37. Tennis Hall-of-Famer Hana Mandlikova is 35. Singer Seal is 34. Actress Justine Bateman is 31.  
Thought for Today: "In America everybody is, but some are more than others." - Gertrude Stein, American author (1874-1946).

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# On Nickelodeon channel Anxious youngsters await auditions for new TV show

NEW YORK (AP) - The waiting room outside Nickelodeon's Manhattan office is clogged with toddlers, their mothers pulling hair into pigtails or watching young legs run in circles by the elevator.

A security guard marvels that the network's receptionist manages to maintain a smile amidst the din.

Despite the appearance, children don't really run the place. They're waiting their turn for a tryout on the popular "Blue's Clues" show.

In a sense, children ARE in control here. Nickelodeon is convinced that listening to young people's ideas and not being afraid to take chances has made the network the dominating force in children's television.

Nick has pulled into a tie this television season with Fox in average ratings for viewers aged 2-11, beating other competitors like ABC, CBS, UPN, the WB, the Cartoon Network and Disney. Only Nickelodeon and UPN have gained viewers from last year, according to Nielsen Media Research.

Given that Nickelodeon is a cable network available in only two-thirds of the nation's homes, that's impressive.

Given that Nick is 17 years old and is devoted almost exclusively to children's programming - with the exception of nighttime reruns of old sitcoms - that's a little less impressive.

What took them so long? Nickelodeon had to learn something from the tykes who compose its audience.

Awash in programming like puppet shows a decade ago, Nick surveyed viewers with this humiliating result: Children considered Nick to be their parents' idea of what kids wanted to watch on TV - the ultimate kiss of death, said Herb Scannell, network president.

"We really started talking to kids and kids became the barometer of everything Nick does," Scannell said. The network runs about 200 focus groups a year and communicates frequently with viewers by computer.

The result, coupled with a commitment to produce new shows, has led to something of a golden era for Nick. Among its top shows: "Rugrats," a cartoon featuring a baby's eye-view of an adult world; "Kenan & Kel," a buddy series featuring two teens; "The Secret

World of Alex Mack," about a 13-year-old girl with superpowers; and "Blue's Clues," which challenges preschoolers to solve puzzles with a mix of live action and computer animation.

Of the 20 highest-rated series on cable television last year, 17 were on Nickelodeon, Nielsen said. Its most recent weekly roster gave Nick 11 of the Top 15 programs.

"They make very unusual programs that break the mold. They aren't violent and they aren't stereotyped," said Amy Jordan, a senior researcher on children's television at the University of Pennsylvania and mother of children aged 8, 3 and 2.

Nick keenly recognizes the differences in what each age group wants from television, she said. Knowing that pre-schoolers like activities that keep them stimulated, the host of "Blue's Clues" talks to them and asks questions, she said.

A show like "Hey Arnold!" recognizes that older children are concerned about peer pressure and the mysteries of the adult world, she said.

Nickelodeon has also smartly set its schedule to carve out a niche. New episodes of programs are shown on Sunday mornings - not Saturdays in direct competition with other networks - and are rerun on Saturdays and after school.

Repetition has helped build a loyal audience.

Last fall, Nick began running original children's programming at 8 p.m. seven nights a week. With shows like "Friends" talking about orgasms at that hour, Scannell said the networks had pretty much abandoned the idea of family hour.

"That was a sign to me that kids don't matter, because these aren't

shows that kids are going to access," he said.

Nick is now the top-rated network among children aged 2-11 on four nights a week, he said.

Nickelodeon's success is affecting what other networks do. Some networks are seeking a special niche; struggling CBS said it will specifically target pre-teens. Scannell's predecessor, Geraldine Laybourne, was hired by ABC.

In general, it has proven that children's television can be a profitable venture, a far cry from the 1980s - when the genre was filled with unimaginative shows modeled after toys or movies.

The network's success can only help increase the number of choices for children, said Kathryn Montgomery, president of the Center for Media Education, a Washington think tank.

The danger is that a quest for profits will become so strong that it squeezes out the incentive for innovation, Montgomery said. She's already disappointed with the programming lineups introduced by networks for next fall.

Nickelodeon can be expected to keep coming with the original fare. Viacom, its corporate parent, recently announced it was sinking \$420 million into series development, which should produce a dozen new shows over the next five years, Scannell said.

Perhaps even better than the ratings, a telling sign of Nickelodeon's consistent quality came in a survey Jordan and her colleagues at the Annenberg School for Communication conducted last year.

Asked to name some of their favorite programs for their children, many parents simply said, "Nickelodeon," she said.

"Over the years they have really evolved into almost a safe island for parents," she said.

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## Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: If there is any prevention or cure for weevil infestation, please let me know.

Lately I have been forced to destroy many boxes of grain products because of this problem. A lot of the packages had not been opened. This is an expensive insect problem, to say the least.

Please help! — E. Stanley, Philadelphia, Pa.

It sure can be a real waste of your food dollars, can't it? Usually what happens is that when you bring home a grain product from the store, it is already infested with weevils or their eggs. Once the eggs hatch, they quickly spread to all the other grain products in your pantry.

So, unfortunately, as you learned, you need to throw away all of the grain products that are infested with the weevils. This can include pasta, rice, cornmeal, flour, spices and even dry dog food.

Next, take everything out of your pantry and wash down the shelves with hot, soapy water. Then spray the shelves with an insecticide that will kill weevils (it will say so on the label) and be sure to follow the label directions exactly.

One way experts suggest to prevent weevils from invading your pantry is to put all grain products in your freezer at zero degrees for seven days to kill any eggs. Storing food in large clear jars or sealable plastic bags will also help prevent infestation from spreading to other foods.

Following is a letter from Mrs. E. Joubert of Metairie, La., about her way of handling weevils that many readers swear by. — Heloise

**BAY LEAVES TO THE RESCUE**

Dear Heloise: One of my all-time favorite hints in the kitchen is placing bay leaves into containers of flour, rice or other dry ingredients. This eliminates weevils.

**SEND A GREAT HINT TO:**  
Heloise  
PO Box 795000  
San Antonio TX 78279-5000  
or fax it to 210-HELLOISE

**LATE DINNER**


Dear Heloise: My hint I learned while the children were growing up. If dinner is going to be a little late, go ahead and set the table. Makes everyone think it's about ready. — Cathy Bly, Manhattan, Kan.

### AXYDLBAAXR is LONG FELLOW

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

#### 2-19 CRYPTOQUOTE

DP QDU WPEEW QDBJ YWO'J  
DYW'O LTWJ RTV YJ RBHM UC  
IU JU GCYWUO.—NBOYPE NCPQ  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: ...BUT ONCE YOU'VE SLEPT ON AN ISLAND, YOU'LL NEVER BE QUITE THE SAME.—RACHEL FIELD

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#### CATTLE FUTURES

**CATTLE-FEEDER (CME) 56,000 lbs., cents per lb.**

Mar	47.40	47.40	47.40	47.40	47.40
Apr	48.40	48.40	48.40	48.40	48.40
May	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
Jun	51.00	51.00	51.00	51.00	51.00
Jul	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00	52.00
Aug	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00	53.00
Sep	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00
Oct	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	55.00
Nov	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00	56.00
Dec	57.00	57.00	57.00	57.00	57.00

**CATTLE-LIVE (CME) 48,000 lbs., cents per lb.**

Feb	45.55	45.75	45.95	46.15	46.35
Apr	46.55	46.75	46.95	47.15	47.35
Jun	47.55	47.75	47.95	48.15	48.35
Aug	48.55	48.75	48.95	49.15	49.35
Oct	49.55	49.75	49.95	50.15	50.35
Dec	50.55	50.75	50.95	51.15	51.35

#### GRAIN FUTURES

**CORN (CBT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.**

Mar	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
Apr	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00
May	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00
Jun	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00
Jul	41.00	41.00	41.00	41.00
Aug	42.00	42.00	42.00	42.00
Sep	43.00	43.00	43.00	43.00
Oct	44.00	44.00	44.00	44.00
Nov	45.00	45.00	45.00	45.00
Dec	46.00	46.00	46.00	46.00

**SOYBEAN (CBT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.**

Mar	30.00	30.00	30.00	30.00
Apr	31.00	31.00	31.00	31.00
May	32.00	32.00	32.00	32.00
Jun	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00
Jul	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00
Aug	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
Sep	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
Oct	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
Nov	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00
Dec	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00

#### METAL FUTURES

**GOLD (CME, Div. NYMEX) 100 troy oz., \$ per troy oz.**

Feb	348.30	348.30	348.30	348.30
Apr	349.30	349.30	349.30	349.30
Jun	350.30	350.30	350.30	350.30
Aug	351.30	351.30	351.30	351.30
Oct	352.30	352.30	352.30	352.30
Dec	353.30	353.30	353.30	353.30

**SILVER (CME, Div. NYMEX) 100 troy oz., cents per troy oz.**

Feb	33.00	33.00	33.00	33.00
Apr	34.00	34.00	34.00	34.00
Jun	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00
Aug	36.00	36.00	36.00	36.00
Oct	37.00	37.00	37.00	37.00
Dec	38.00	38.00	38.00	38.00

#### FUTURES OPTIONS

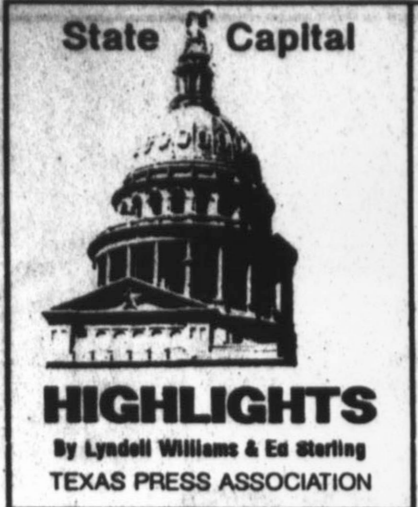
**CATTLE-FEEDER (CME) 56,000 lbs., cents per lb.**

Strike	Call	Put
47.50	1.37	0.57
48.50	0.35	1.59
49.50	0.25	2.59
50.50	0.15	3.59
51.50	0.05	4.59

**CORN (CBT) 5,000 bu., cents per bu.**

Strike	Call	Put
37.50	0.10	0.10
38.50	0.10	0.10
39.50	0.10	0.10
40.50	0.10	0.10
41.50	0.10	0.10

# THE HEREFORD BRAND



**AUSTIN** — Moving to prevent a "time crunch," Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock announced the creation of a special Senate committee to consider legislation dealing with property tax relief and public school finance.

"While tax legislation must originate in the House, the Senate should not postpone discussion of a subject that is multi-faceted and complex," Bullock said. "Action now will decrease the chances for a logjam near the end of the session."

"A proposal of this magnitude demands thorough study and deliberation. This will provide that opportunity for Senate members and those who are interested in the legislation. Hopefully, it will help lawmakers avoid a time crunch in the final stretch."

The committee will be chaired by Sen. Ken Armbrister, D-Victoria. Sen. Teel Bivins, R-Amarillo, was named vice chairman of the 11-member committee. Also appointed were Sens. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin; John Carona, R-Dallas; Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock; Rodney Ellis, D-Houston; Troy Fraser, R-Horseshoe Bay; Chris Harris, R-Arlington; Greg Luna, D-San Antonio; Drew Nixon, R-Carthage; and Florence Shapiro, R-Plano.

**Campaign Donations Questioned**  
Meanwhile, Bullock said last week he knows of no one who

has coerced contributions to his re-election campaign. University of Texas officials denied coercing colleagues into contributing money to Bullock or any other politician.

UT System officials were interviewed in response to a report in the *San Antonio Express-News* in which a UT-San Antonio vice president alleged that his superior coerced him to give to Bullock.

The report showed that higher education officials had contributed \$170,850 to Bullock since 1992, including 22 contributions from UT-Austin totaling \$10,150 and contributions of \$59,500 from regents and former regents over the past four years.

Chancellor William Cunningham and UT-Austin President Robert Berdahl did, however, tell the *Austin American-Statesman* they made calls several years ago to fellow UT executives, suggesting they make donations.

**No Tax Plan From Sharp**  
Bullock and Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson, last week asked state Comptroller John Sharp to write an alternative to Gov. George W. Bush's property tax relief plan, but Sharp said he wasn't going to do it.

"Our role right now is to be supportive in a technical sense. My fear is if you put something else on the table, you might confuse the issue," Sharp said. Bush's plan would levy a 1.25 percent tax on businesses with more than \$500,000 in sales. The tax would be on earnings above that amount, after the costs of raw materials and capital investments are subtracted from the gross.

Sharp said he would help to make Bush's plan work if it is approved by the Legislature.

**Senate OKs Zero-Tolerance Bill**  
A bill that would suspend the driver's licenses of those younger than 21 caught with alcohol in their possession or in their systems passed the Senate without objection.

Sponsored by Sen. Royce West,

D-Dallas, the legislation hits underage drinkers where it hurts most: it takes away their "wheels," the *Dallas Morning News* reported.

Under West's bill, an underage drinker caught with even a trace of alcohol could face fines, community service and jail time.

Police would be allowed a choice of either taking a minor who is not driving, but in possession of alcohol, to the police station for a breath or blood test or issuing a citation on the spot.

And, for those who were not driving but have been consuming alcohol or have misrepresented their age, penalties would be similar to those assessed to minors caught driving under the influence.

**Other Capital Highlights**  
College students would find it easier to get credit for courses when they transfer under a bill passed by the Senate last week. Sen. Bivins, the measure's sponsor, said it would not only make life easier for college students but also save tax dollars because students would not have to retake the same courses.

The Senate also passed a school uniform bill authored by Sen. Harris. The measure would require a petition by parents for a school to consider requiring uniforms. After development by a campus-level committee, the uniform plan would have to be approved by the school superintendent and voted on by parents before going to the school board for a vote.

A state law requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets would be repealed for adults under a bill the Senate State Affairs Committee approved. The committee voted 9-2 to repeal the 1989 state law requiring motorcyclists—age 18 and older—to wear head protection. The bill now goes to the full Senate for consideration.

The Senate Nominations Committee ignored protests from environmentalists and voted 7-0 to confirm Barry McBee's 1995 appointment as chairman of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

# New welfare reform pushes recipients into world of work

**EDITOR'S NOTE** - Welfare reform soon will push hundreds of thousands of public-aid recipients into the world of work, testing the limits of job-training programs designed to ease the transition.

By **DAVID FOSTER**  
Associated Press Writer  
RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) - They arrive by bus and battered car, filing into the welfare-office lobby with the glum look of people who would rather be anywhere else.

Summoned here to a Riverside County program called Greater Avenues for Independence, these reluctant pioneers of welfare reform have been given a simple choice: Look for work or lose welfare benefits.

For many of the men and women sitting in the GAIN lobby, it's as if they had been commanded to sprout wings and fly.

"They tell us to get a job, but there ain't no jobs to get," says Jennifer Bryant, 28, a mother of two who has been on welfare since 1989.

President Clinton and Congress have decreed that welfare recipients must go to work, but helping hundreds of thousands of chronically unemployed Americans develop the skills needed to find jobs will strain the ingenuity and budgets of welfare administrators nationwide.

It's not that training and welfare-to-work programs don't exist. There are hundreds of them: West Virginia

subsidizes jobs in private industry. Tennessee helps welfare recipients turn home-grown enterprises, such as baby-sitting and cooking, into full-time businesses. Wisconsin pays those on welfare to work in community service.

Riverside County's GAIN program is considered one of the best, pioneering a widely copied "work first" approach.

Even the most successful programs have yet to prove themselves on the scale envisioned by the new welfare-reform law. Last year, job-training programs served just 650,000 people, or 16 percent of the 4 million adults receiving federal Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

The new law says 25 percent of each state's welfare caseload must work or participate in job-training programs this year, and that figure rises to 50 percent by 2002.

Any welfare program can find jobs for a few people. But what about the half of all welfare recipients who are high-school dropouts? What about the estimated one-quarter to one-third who have never held a regular job?

"It's going to be a tough few years," says Dennis Boyle, director of Riverside County's Department of Public Social Services. "We're entering uncharted territory."

It's the first day of Job Club, a support group attended by nearly all those who go through the county's GAIN program. Twenty women and

two men sit around tables in a small classroom, offering reasons why employment has eluded them.

"I think I've been turned down because of my tattoos," says Mercedes Vera, 31, holding up blue-stained hands.

"It's been 20 years since I worked. All I did was raise kids," says Audrey Shannon, 42. Classmates nod in sympathy.

Employment counselor Su Catron nods, too, and then pounces on a teaching moment. So Audrey is a homemaker, Catron says. Are there any work skills she may have gained from that?

Child care, someone suggests. Housecleaning, another says. Catron writes down each answer, then adds her own: "You're all on aid. You know how to manage a tight budget."

"You got that right," one woman says, to more nods all around.

Such scenes, program managers say, are a big part of what makes GAIN work. There are no bolts of lightning. In Job Club, in supervised job searches, in follow-up sessions after a client has been fired from a job, employment counselors push people to accept the notion that they choose to be on welfare and so can choose instead to work.

Along with attitude adjustments, GAIN offers practical help. Young kids at home? GAIN will subsidize child care for a year. No high school diploma? About 15 percent of GAIN participants go into basic education.

## School officials expect taxes Surprise tax abatement could cost Perryton annual revenue

**AMARILLO, Texas (AP)** - Perryton school board officials are worried that a surprise tax abatement for a giant hog operation could cost the district up to \$375,000 in annual revenue.

Texas Farm Inc. has applied for pollution-control tax exemptions of up to \$4 million through the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

Ochiltree County and Perryton school officials said they were shocked. "It was a surprise to the Commissioners Court as a whole, and there is not a single member that is pleased with this," County Judge Ken Donahue said.

Texas Farm already has an agreement to receive a 50 percent abatement from the county for five years on its first four facilities.

"It was the entire community's feelings that was the only type of tax break we thought they were going to ask for on their ad valorem (property) taxes," Donahue said.

The pollution control tax exemption always has been part of the plan, countered Don Clift, general manager of the massive northern Panhandle "silk pork" operation.

Local banker and community leader Carl Ellis, a vocal proponent of the Japanese-owned farm, agreed with Clift.

"When we in the community were told about the tax benefit of having Texas Farm in our community, those calculations were done expecting the current (pollution control) application," he said. "I'm convinced that when we sit down and analyze the numbers, this is going to be much ado about nothing. There won't be an appreciable difference."

Perryton ISD disagrees. Once the first phase of the farm is completely operational in mid- to late 1999, school board president Scott McGarragh said he and others expected more than \$1.5 million annually in taxes.

The TNCRCC tax exemption could mean a 20 percent to 25 percent reduction, or \$300,000 to \$375,000.

## 'America's Most Wanted' aids in arrest of suspect

**AMARILLO, Texas (AP)** - A 24-year-old woman who eluded West Texas law officers for three months was arrested in Tennessee after "America's Most Wanted" aired a segment on the case.

Brittany Holberg, 24, is accused in the death of A.B. Towery Sr., 80. He was beaten and stabbed to death Nov. 13 in his apartment.

Ms. Holberg will be returned to Amarillo, where she will be arraigned on a murder charge, said Lt. Ed Smith, coordinator of the Potter-Randall Special Crimes Unit.

Investigators have evidence that

Towery's killer also robbed him, so a Randall County grand jury may upgrade the charge to capital murder, Smith said.

After "America's Most Wanted" publicized the story earlier this month, investigators received more than 300 phone calls in connection with the case, and the U.S. Marshal's office intensified its efforts from coast to coast, Smith said.

Investigators received about eight tips indicating Ms. Holberg was in the Memphis area. Police arrested her at 3:30 p.m. Monday outside a McDonald's restaurant in Memphis.

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