

The

Hereford Brand



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Armed standoff may not end very soon

By MARK BABINECK
Associated Press Writer
FORT DAVIS, Texas (AP) - Optimism is fading that the armed standoff between Texas separatists and police will end anytime soon: Talks have broken off, bloodhounds have been brought in and authorities apparently have cut off power to the renegade group's "embassy."

As the standoff entered a fifth day today, self-styled Republic of Texas leader Richard McLaren was not talking with either his attorney or police negotiators and hadn't since Tuesday.

The silence came as attorney Terry O'Rourke and authorities both thought they had an agreement with McLaren to end the siege.

"For those of you who are not from Texas, we have a little expression here: 'Sometimes a wheel falls off.' Unfortunately, we've lost a wheel," said Mike Cox, spokesman for the Department of Public Safety.

Late Wednesday night, police decided to cut off electricity to the headquarters trailer McLaren calls his "embassy," O'Rourke said.

Cox would not discuss the state's tactics, saying that "the most important thing is for us to hear from Mr. McLaren. We can't make any progress at all until he gives us a call."

Earlier, O'Rourke told reporters that he hadn't talked to his client since Tuesday night, but he believed the agreement, which all parties refused to discuss in detail, was still intact.

"Here in Texas you don't have to sign agreements to have a deal. I would say that there's an understanding. And here, you know, they say a handshake is a deal and your word is your bond," he said.

Police, using one of two armored personnel carriers at the scene, delivered a "diplomatic pouch" of

documents prepared by O'Rourke to McLaren's headquarters Wednesday evening.

Another batch of documents was being prepared for another delivery, said the attorney who represents both McLaren and his wife.

Cox even went so far as to say authorities might be willing to allow a face-to-face meeting between O'Rourke and McLaren if the Republic leader would only make contact.

O'Rourke said McLaren, who faces state charges of engaging in organized crime, is not seeking diplomatic immunity but wants a federal court hearing.

Noting that today is designated as a national day of prayer, O'Rourke also asked that people "say a prayer that peace works out."

Earlier Wednesday, seven men carrying a variety of weapons were arrested 70 miles to the north in Pecos, apparently headed to Fort Davis. Three of the men carried Republic of Texas membership cards.

Reeves County Sheriff Arnulfo Gomez said he believes more members of the group are coming because people identifying themselves as Republic members had been calling his office.

The standoff in the Davis Mountains, 175 miles southeast of El Paso, began Sunday after members of the group took two neighbors hostage in retaliation for the arrests of two followers.

Both hostages were released Monday in exchange for one of the jailed followers, a man arrested on weapons charges. The other follower, a woman, remained jailed on two contempt charges.

Cox said 13 people - all adults - are believed holed up in McLaren's trailer, including at least two women.

United Way sets 'Day of Caring'

Volunteers needed on Saturday

Get out your paint brushes, rollers, and ladders. It's time to paint the town.

The town's YMCA gym walls, that is.

The Deaf Smith County United Way will hold its "Day of Caring" project at 9 a.m. on Saturday at the YMCA, United Way Executive Director Karen Sherrod said.

The volunteers should bring paint rollers and ladders, if they have these painting supplies. Volunteers also will need a willing hand and lots of energy, Sherrod said.

The United Way will provide snacks and drinks, she said.

This is the first project of this type that the United Way has done. The United Way had hoped to complete this project last fall, but their paint request did not come through until this month,

Sherrod said.

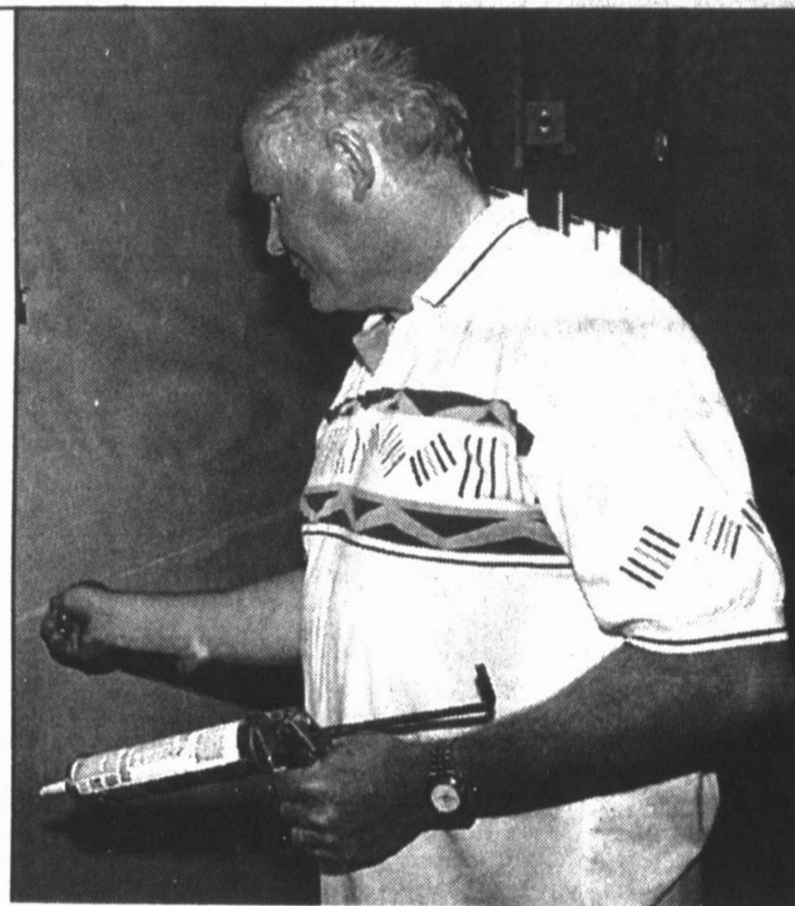
"Volunteer efforts are very important to our community. We have so many places where volunteers are making a difference in Hereford.

"Many of our residents may not be able to commit to a long term project, so this is the perfect opportunity for them to be a volunteer," she said.

It is fitting that the "Day of Caring" has come together during the week of the President's Summit on Volunteerism, Sherrod said.

If you can help with this volunteer effort, call the United Way office at 364-5220 or come by the YMCA on Saturday.

"We can make a difference here, but it is up to us. Please be an active part of our community," she said.



Preparing for the painters

The Deaf Smith County United Way will hold its "Day of Caring" project at 9 a.m. Saturday at the YMCA. Volunteers will paint the inside gym walls. Here, YMCA Director Weldon Knabe prepares the gym walls for painting.

White House, GOP leaders eager to close budget-balancing deal

WASHINGTON (AP) - White House and congressional leaders are on the brink of a budget-balancing deal but nervous the product of their secret negotiations might prove a tough sell to Democratic liberals and GOP conservatives.

Clinton administration and congressional bargainers were resuming secret sessions today aimed at completing a pact on balancing the budget by 2002 and reducing taxes. Recent days have seen intensified bargaining at the Capitol and over the telephone as the White House and GOP leaders seem eager to close a deal this week.

"We are much closer to getting a genuine balanced budget," Senate Majority Trent Lott, R-Miss., told reporters Wednesday evening. But he added, "We're not there yet. There are gaps in a couple of critical areas."

"There are still a lot of significant hurdles in the road," said one White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Early today, another administration official said

the biggest hurdle was selling ideas acceptable to Clinton to more liberal House Democrats.

At a House Republican meeting Wednesday night, Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich said an agreement could be reached as early as today. He urged roughly 25 conservative GOP colleagues to accept a modest increase in domestic discretionary spending as "the price of admission" to a budget deal with a Democratic president, several GOP sources said.

Kasich, R-Ohio, said President Clinton was prepared to accept roughly \$115 billion in Medicare savings over five years - \$10 billion more than the most recent public White House offer, according to GOP sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Some modest premium increases would be included under this scenario, the GOP sources said.

The House GOP leadership was meeting this morning before briefing the full Republican conference on the negotiations. Two sources said there was only muted GOP opposition voiced at the evening meeting and that the biggest obstacle to an agreement was Clinton signing off on a few concessions his negotiators tentatively embraced Wednesday night. An administration official said morning discussions with Democratic lawmakers were planned.

Earlier in the day, sources on both

sides said the White House was objecting that the five-year tax cuts of \$135 billion to \$150 billion the negotiators have discussed could balloon to \$400 billion over the next decade.

But Kasich told the evening meeting there was general agreement on a tax cut package totaling \$150 billion, to be offset by \$60 billion in revenue increases.

It seemed all but certain that a tax credit for children and reductions in the estate and capital-gains levies would be included, as well as some version of Clinton's campaign pledge to offer tax credits to defer college costs.

As difficult as the process has been, both sides know that agreeing to the framework of a package is merely a first step. Congress will

McVeigh portrayed as harmless daydreamer

DENVER (AP) - Timothy McVeigh's attorney portrayed him as a mere Walter Mitty, a harmless daydreamer victimized by two admitted drug users who agreed to testify against him to save themselves from prosecution.

Defense attorney Stephen Jones spent much of Wednesday attempting to lessen the effect of damaging testimony by Lori Fortier, who told jurors that McVeigh disclosed his plans to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building months before the explosion.

During his painstakingly detailed cross-examination of Mrs. Fortier, Jones likened McVeigh to the character in James Thurber's short

story "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty." Like Mitty, an everyman who fantasizes about becoming a hero, McVeigh talked about taking action, but never did, Jones said.

McVeigh used phony names and aliases, "talked about government conspiracies in the U.N.," and "kind of lived out of his car," but didn't commit crimes, Jones said.

"In all of the times that you saw Tim McVeigh, did you ever see him do anything - and we're not talking about what he talked about but about what he did - did you ever see him do anything that you knew to be a crime?" he asked Mrs. Fortier.

McVeigh blew up a pipe bomb and said he stole weapons, she replied.

Jones attacked Mrs. Fortier about drug use to which she and her husband have admitted, and he criticized the couple for declaring McVeigh innocent in the days after the bombing, but implicating him when they feared they would be arrested.

Prosecutors planned to call McVeigh's friends and associates today to show he tried to buy bomb components in the months before the April 1995 blast ripped the face off the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building.

Among the witnesses expected was Greg Pfaff, who has said McVeigh asked him if he could get any "det cord," a detonator for a bomb. Also on the list was David Darlak, who has said McVeigh wanted him to get racing fuel.

On Wednesday, explosives expert Paul Rydland described how to build a bomb similar to the one authorities say was used in the blast.

Rydland said it was relatively cheap and easy to acquire the materials for a large ammonium nitrate-fuel oil bomb, which could send a shock wave through a building at 13,000 mph. A 50-pound bag of the key ingredient - ammonium nitrate - costs \$5.

Gas retailers settle suit on conspiring to raise prices

BIG SPRING, Texas (AP) - Several Big Spring gasoline retailers settled out of court Wednesday with Texas Attorney General Dan Morales over claims that they conspired to raise gasoline retail prices 4 cents a gallon in 1994.

The defendants must pay \$300,000 under the agreement, not violate the state's antitrust laws and report to Morales any attempts from competitors to fix gasoline retail prices.

"In a large state like Texas, where consumers rely heavily on the automobile, it is imperative that competition in the retail gasoline market remain vibrant," Morales said in a statement.

In April 1996, Morales filed suit against defendants Big Spring Fuel Company; Desert Oil Company of

Big Spring; Park Fuels Inc. of Big Spring; Ackerly Oil Company Inc. of Big Spring; Town & Country Food Stores Inc. of San Angelo; Robin Stanford, vice president of Big Spring Fuel Company; Charles Dunnam, president of Ackerly Oil Company and Bob Charles Parks, vice president of Parks Fuels Inc.

Steve Stephens, chief executive officer of Town & Country Inc., said the companies settled to avoid the cost of taking the case to court.

The other companies declined comment.

"There was never any admission of guilt, and I believe in court we would not have been found guilty," Stephens said.

The case had been scheduled to go to trial May 5.



Golfers win memberships at Pitman

Jeff Shelton and Cliff Arnold, center, won drawings for memberships at John Pitman Golf Course Wednesday. The Ladies Golf Association, represented by Mary Shelton and Tiffi West (left) and the John Pitman Golf Course Association, represented by Bill Brown and Paul Hamilton (right) are shown with the winners. The prizes, valued at \$400 each, came from fund raisers by the two golfing associations.

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Lifestyles

Dodson, Cramer, Varner receive top honors from Toastmasters

Jeff Dodson, Sharon Cramer and Pat Varner received top honors at the recent meeting of Hereford Toastmasters.

Dodson was voted best speaker for his presentation titled "Straight from the Horses Mouth" which was evaluated by Cramer, who was voted best evaluator.

Varner received the most votes for best topic speaker based on her response to the question, "Why do people collect Coke bottles?"

Speaker for the meeting, in addition to Dodson, was Wayne Winget. He spoke on "God's Nature Check" and was evaluated by Charles Minchew.

Margaret Del Toro served as general evaluator.

Joe Don Cummings served as topicmaster. Besides Varner, other topic speakers responding to questions were Linda Minchew to "What was your favorite Christmas and why?"; Mike Morrison to "What do you know about Bear Bryant?";

Dan Hall to "Do you think professional sports got out of hand?"; and Clark Andrews to "What town would you go to buy a Coke bottle?"

Morrison presided at the meeting, Charles Minchew led the pledge and Winget gave the invocation.

Varner was toastmaster; Andrews, timer; Morrison, AH counter; Hall, grammarian; and Linda Minchew as wordmaster introduced the word

"reticent." Guests at the meeting were Louis Mungia and Adolfo Del Toro.

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Rainy day play

Allyssa Veigel, Chloe Kirk and Colton Kirk were playing with puzzles at the Deaf Smith County Library on a recent rainy day. Pre-school Story Hour is at 10 a.m. every Thursday with activities for school age children scheduled for Monday and Tuesday afternoons. Please call 364-1206 for further information.

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Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I'm responding to the letter from the nurse in Lawrence, Kan., who married her patient. She said he is a hypochondriac who expects her to take care of him all the time. You asked to hear from other nurses who married their patients and whether they would recommend it. I don't fall into that category, but I know a few nurses who do.

One was a prison nurse who married a man serving a life sentence. Another did not marry her prisoner "sweetheart," but she unlocked a door and helped him escape. I have worked with several nurses who have married alcoholics and drug abusers. I believe it's an occupational hazard since most nurses enter the field to be

caregivers. They just need to be needed.

If we are incapable of separating our professional lives from our personal lives, we risk winding up with people who need to be nursed routinely. And the older they get, the more needy they become. -- Mary in Traverse City, Mich.

Dear Mary: You've written a very frank letter that demonstrates a great deal of introspection. Keep reading for more:

Dear Ann: This is in response to the nurse who advised other nurses not to marry their patients. I hope they listen. I also met my husband when he was my patient. He is not a hypochondriac and doesn't like being sick or dependent on anyone for his

care. However, he thinks I know as much as any doctor and that I should be able to take care of his medical needs.

Although he was a patient for an extended period and should know how hard nurses work, he doesn't have a clue. The man has no sympathy whatsoever for women in my profession and no inkling of the stress related to nursing. Our marriage has been extremely rocky because of his lack of consideration. If I had it to do over again, I would not marry this man. Nor would I advise any nurse to marry her patient. -- N.Y. R.N.

Dear N.Y. R.N.: I was surprised at the number of nurses who share

your views. A few wrote to say it was a good idea. Read on:

Dear Ann: If a dental assistant can be considered a nurse, I am qualified to speak on the subject of marrying my patient. My husband and I met over a root canal (his).

I have always been extremely cautious when it comes to making a commitment, so we dated for nearly five years before we married. As far as I can tell, we are happier and treat each other better than most couples. -- Mount Prospect, Ill.

Dear Ann: My grandmother was a nurse who married her patient. He was a flyer in the Royal Canadian Air Force. My mother married her patient, too. He was injured in an industrial accident. I am engaged to a man I took care of when he had his gallbladder removed. I've observed that divorces run in families and so do happy marriages. So far we have a perfect record of happily married nurses. -- Hamilton, Ont.

Dear Hamilton: According to the statistics I've seen, you are right. But in all fairness, the stigma of divorce that women experienced 60 years ago no longer exists. The reason? They have alternatives. Today, more women are better educated and independent financially, which means they no longer are forced to stay in miserable and unrewarding marriages. I call this real progress.

Gem of the Day: A woman told the picture framer, "Please frame this certificate and be very careful because it cost \$100,000." She then unwrapped her son's college diploma.

Do you have questions about sex, but no one to talk to? Ann Landers' booklet, "Sex and the Teen-Ager," is frank and to the point. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Teens, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$4.55.) ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1997 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

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Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: It's adoptathon time — that lifesaving spring weekend when animal organizations join together to find a home for each and every pet in participating shelters throughout the world.

This year Pet Adoptathon will take place on May 3 and 4 and over 1,000 animal shelters and humane societies are registered to participate.

Once again, North Shore Animal League and the Iams Company are sponsoring this international event, which will take place in shelters and

humane societies throughout the United States, Canada, England, Venezuela and South Africa.

Animal lovers should visit their local adoptathon shelter on May 3 and 4 and adopt a loving adult dog or cat, puppy or kitten. Best of all, you will get a lifetime of companionship and unconditional love from a cute and cuddly furry friend.

For the name of the shelter nearest you, call the adoptathon hotline: 1-800-863-4267 today through Sunday, May 4, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight time. You can also visit our website at www.nsal.org. — Michael Arms, North Shore Animal League, Port Washington, N.Y.

You have my vote for a worthwhile cause. Our two adoptees, BlackJack and J.D., agree. Call to find out how you can bring one of their four-legged buddies into your home. — Heloise

SALES RECEIPT
Dear Heloise: I found a wonderful way to keep track of all my sales receipts should I decide to return the article I purchased. I pin the receipt to the store's hanging price tag or place the receipt in the box with the merchandise. It saves a lot of time and frustration when searching for the sales receipt.

After I know I'm keeping the merchandise, I file the sales receipt. — Lee Parker, Boca Raton, Fla.

Send a money- or time-saving hint to Heloise, PO Box 795000, San Antonio TX 78279-5000 or fax it to 210-HELOISE. I can't answer your letter personally but will use the best hints received in my column.

Aquatic Center offers courses

Hereford Aquatic Center has announced the following dates for Red Cross lifeguard courses: May 2, 3, 4; and May 14, 16, 17, 18.

A Red Cross water safety instructors course will be conducted May 30-June 1.

For more information, contact the Aquatic Center office at 363-7144.

Rebekah Lodge plans bake sale

Hereford Rebekah Lodge will hold a bake sale starting at 9 a.m. Saturday at Homeland.

Pick up a delicious homemade baked item as a special treat for your family.

Shirley PTO to hold fund-raiser

Shirley Intermediate School PTO is having its annual Spring Fling fund-raiser Friday.

The concession stand and game booths will operate from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

An auction, with Brice Busby as auctioneer, will start at 7 p.m.

Some of the items donated for the auction include an original Danny Gamble watercolor, a session for a 30-minute massage, meals from local restaurants, and other items too numerous to mention.

The public is welcome to come join in the fun and bidding.

Hospital Notes

Report from Hereford Regional Medical Center on May 1:

Admitted: Isabel Ramirez, Manuel Oroso.

Discharged: None.

Make Reservations Early For Your Park Activity!

CURRENT PARK RESERVATIONS

AQUATIC PARK
 American Federation of Grainmillers
 Saturday, May 3, 1997 - 9am-9pm

JOHN PITMAN GOLF COURSE
 Owens Corning Tournament
 Friday, May 2, 1997 - Tee Times Available Call Golf Course

AQUATIC PARK
 Nouvelle Amis
 Sunday, May 4, 1997
 10am-10pm

JOHN PITMAN GOLF COURSE
 Nunn Electric
 Saturday, May 3, 1997
 Course Closed Until 12:30

Reservations are taken for a specific park location on a first come, first served basis. Reservations must be made in person at the Parks & Recreation Office at the Community Center.



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Area Events

CANYON

Touchin' Stuff '97 gallops into the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon in June. This year's program topic is "Equines, a.k.a. Horses" and is designed for students ages 5 through 16 years.

Participants will once again tour hidden areas of the museum's collections and participate in special tours and activities. The program will include special tours of West Texas A&M Horse Center, American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum, blacksmithing, spur-making, cutting demonstrations, saddle-making and veterinary medicine demonstrations.

Session I, for students ages 5 through 8, is scheduled for June 17-19. Session II, for students between the ages of 9 and 16, is scheduled June 24-26. Programs begin each day at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m.

Reservation deadline is May 15. Cost for each session is \$45, except for Panhandle-Plains Historical Society members who receive a \$5 discount. No telephone reservations will be accepted; all reservations must be pre-paid. For additional information and reservation forms, contact the museum's education department at 806-656-2233.

PANHANDLE

The Square House Museum in Panhandle is pleased to exhibit a series of prints by Scott Hyde of Amarillo. This exhibition consists entirely of color pictures printed on office-type color copiers.

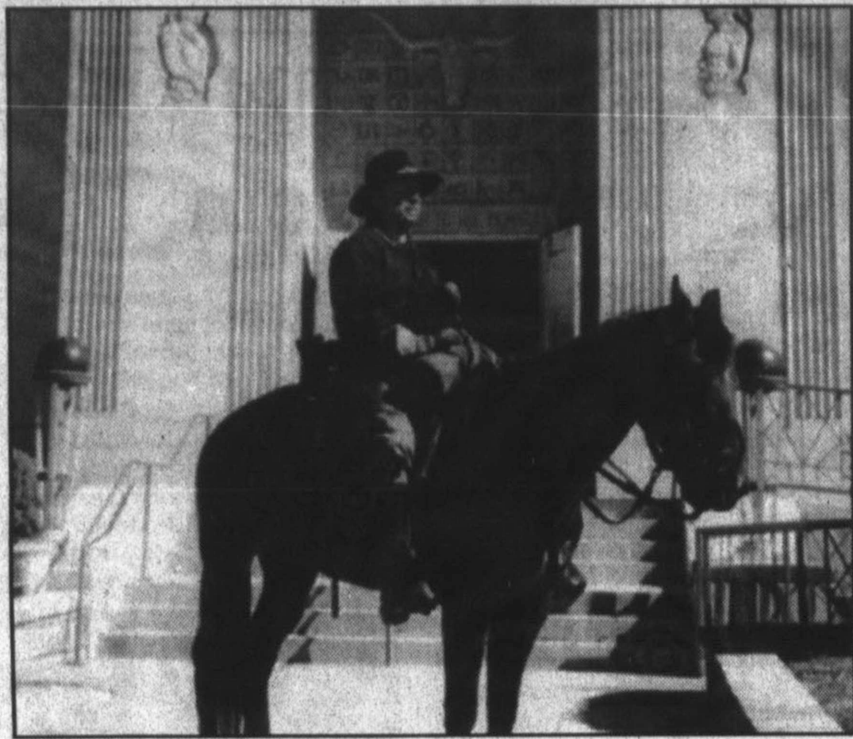
The use of these remarkable machines represents Hyde's latest medium in a 50-year-long career of experiments with non-traditional picture-making processes.

Born in 1926 in Montevideo, Minn., Hyde has been a commercial and fine arts photographer for 50 years. He studied photography first in Los Angeles and then in New York City, where he also taught photography from 1968-1973.

Hyde titles his exhibition "Through the Seasons." The pictures are arranged as a cycle through the seasons, beginning in spring and ending back in spring again.

The public is invited to a reception for Hyde from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. on June 1 in the gallery.

The exhibit can be viewed in the Opal Weatherly Purvines Gallery in the Square House from May 6



Part of summer program

Gene Barksdale, a member of the U.S. 4th Cavalry Memorial Regiment, will participate in the Touchin' Stuff '97 program, "Equines, a.k.a. Horses," at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon on June 17-19 and 24-26.

through June 29.

AMARILLO

The American Cancer Society with support from Crown of Texas Hospice will hold a four-week Life After Loss seminar.

The seminar is for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Dates are May 6, 13, 20 and 27. Sessions are from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Crown of Texas Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo.

The seminar will cover what to expect, process of grief, living with the memories, needs when you are grieving and what now.

Facilitator is Ellen Lawrence, MA, LSW, CGC.

RSVP by May 5 at 806-353-4306.

For the full benefit of the program, plan on attending all session. Children under 16 are not allowed to attend.

Immigration Counseling Services, a division of Catholic Charities of Dallas, will host a seminar for employers about compliance with immigration laws in the workplace on May 16.

The seminar will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the Boatmen's First Bank on 8th and Taylor, and will conclude at

12 noon.

The seminar, funded by a federal grant, will provide up-to-date information on the rights and responsibilities of employers in the hiring process, including how to properly complete the I-9 form without engaging in unlawful discrimination against immigrant workers.

Speakers will include a representative from the U.S. Department of Justice; Office of Special Counsel; the Executive Assistant of the Dallas District, Immigration and Naturalization Service; and other immigration experts.

A pre-registration fee of \$15 covers a continental breakfast and all materials. For registration information or any questions regarding the seminar, contact Mario Martinez at 214-946-4889.

The Rotary Club of Amarillo is sponsoring the annual Shrimp and Catfish Roundup as a fund-raiser for at-risk children on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Tri-State Fairgrounds Sports Arena in Amarillo.

Cost of the event is \$20, which entitles attendees to consume all the boiled shrimp and fried catfish they can eat.

Tickets for a 1997 Cadillac Catera

will be available for \$100 each.

Those attending the dinner can also bid on more than 100 items being sold at a silent auction.

The programs benefiting this year are the Opportunity School, Family Support Service's Families and Schools Together Program, Amarillo Opera's Arts: An Alternative, and Achievement through Commitment to Education at Palo Duro High School.

WTAMU

West Texas A&M University's Upward Bound is hosting "Preview and Orientation Day" from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 10 at the Virgil Henson Activities Center on the WTAMU campus.

Upward Bound, a college preparatory program, will be discussed. A special session on the Upward Bound Academic Summer Camp will be presented. The summer camp provides academic enrichment in math, science, English, calculus, Spanish, communications and study skills. Additionally, students will participate in leadership, cultural and recreational activities during the summer camp.

Potential participants and parents will have an opportunity to find out about participation in the summer and academic-year program.

To qualify, a student has to be the first generation to attend college, low-income, or physically disabled. Potential participants must be enrolled in one of the Amarillo, Hereford, Tulia, Kress or Hart High Schools. Those attending the May 10 program are welcome to ride the regularly scheduled Upward Bound school buses.

For more information about Upward Bound or the "Preview and Orientation Day," contact Martin Lopez or Victoria Villanueva at 806-656-2351 or a high school counselor for an application.

Hereford post will host district VFW convention

Roy Wederbrook Post 4818 Veterans of Foreign Wars and Hereford VFW Ladies Auxiliary will host the District 13 Convention Saturday and Sunday at the Post Home.

Special guests will include Donald L. Harwood, past State Commander, district officers and members of the other 16 posts in District 13.

District 13 Commander is George R. (Bob) Clark. Deanna Duke is District Auxiliary President.

Registration starts at 2 p.m.

There will be Loyalty Day Ceremonies at 5 p.m., followed by a social get-together at 6 p.m. The evening concludes with a country western dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Registration resumes at 8 a.m. Sunday. Memorial services will be held at 9 a.m. A joint meeting of the VFW and Auxiliary will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a welcome address by County Judge Tom Simons.

The convention ends with a luncheon at noon Sunday.

ELECT LINDA MINCHEW H.I.S.D. SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 6



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- A resident of Deaf Smith County for 29 years
- A graduate of Dimmitt High School
- 2 sons and a foster niece graduated from Hereford High School
- A member of the Central Church of Christ
- Active in Community Affairs:
 - ★Charter Member of Pilot Club
 - ★Hereford Toastmaster Club
 - ★Women's Division of Chamber of Commerce
- Employed as Buyer for Arrowhead Mills for 4 years
- Employed in CPA Office Setting for 20 years

Pd. Pol. Ad paid by Treasurer, Shannon Redwine, 433 N. Texas, Hereford, Texas

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 1, the 121st day of 1997. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish fleet in Manila Bay.

On this date:

In 1786, the opera "The Marriage of Figaro," by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, premiered in Vienna.

In 1893, the World's Columbian Exposition was officially opened in Chicago by President Cleveland.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated.

In 1931, singer Kate Smith began her long-running radio program on CBS.

In 1941, the Orson Welles motion picture "Citizen Kane" premiered in New York.

In 1945, a day after Adolf Hitler committed suicide, it was announced that Admiral Karl Doenitz had succeeded Hitler as leader of the Third Reich.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was proclaimed.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane near Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1967, Anastasio Somoza Debayle became president of

Nicaragua.

In 1967, Elvis Presley married Priscilla Beaulieu in Las Vegas. They divorced in 1973.

In 1971, Amtrak, which combined and streamlined the operations of 18 intercity passenger railroads, went into service.

In 1978, Ernest Morial was inaugurated as the first black mayor of New Orleans.

Ten years ago: During a visit to West Germany, Pope John Paul II beatified Edith Stein, a Jewish-born Carmelite nun who was gassed in the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz.

Five years ago: On the third day of the Los Angeles riots, beaten motorist Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, asking, "Can we all get along?" President Bush delivered a nationally broadcast address in which he vowed to "use whatever force is necessary" to restore order.

One year ago: PLO leader Yasser Arafat received a statesman's welcome at the White House, where he met with President Clinton for 45 minutes, then lashed out at Israel for keeping its borders closed to Palestinian workers.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Glenn Ford is 81. TV personality Jack Paar is 79. Actor Dan O'Herlihy is 78. Author Joseph Heller is 74. Former astronaut Scott Carpenter is 72. Country singer Sonny James is 68. Singer Judy Collins is 58. Singer Rita Coolidge is 52. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 43. Former jockey Steve Cauthen is 37. Rock musician Johnny Colt (The Black Crowes) is 31. Country singer Tim McGraw is 30. Rock musician D'Arcy (Smashing Pumpkins) is 29.

Thought for Today: "He who is swift to believe is swift to forget." - Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, Polish-born scholar (1907-1972).

ELECT PEGGIE FOX May 3rd

Deaf Smith County Hospital Board
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Sports

Jordan lifts Bulls to win over Bullets

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
AP Basketball Writer

Shame on those who said the Chicago Bulls wouldn't win 72 games again.

It just took them a little longer than it did last year.

The Bulls, coming off a 69-win regular season, completed a first-round sweep of the Washington Bullets with a 96-95 squeaker Wednesday night.

As usual, Michael Jordan carried the load in the fourth quarter, leading Chicago back from a nine-point deficit. And when Jordan uncharacteristically let the ball slip out of his hands with 10 seconds left, Scottie

Pippen caught it and went in for a slam dunk that proved to be the clincher.

There were no such fourth-quarter theatrics in the night's other game, but the Los Angeles Lakers certainly came close. After trailing by 26 entering the final period, the Lakers closed within six before falling 98-90 to the Portland Trail Blazers.

It reduced the Blazers' deficit to 2-1 in the best-of-5 series, which will resume Friday night.

With the playoffs now one week old, half of the first-round series have been decided and two more can come to an end tonight.

Miami, with a 2-1 edge on

Orlando, plays host to the Magic. And the Phoenix Suns, with a 2-1 lead on Seattle, have a home game against the Sonics.

The other undecided series resumes Friday when Detroit, with a 2-1 lead, plays Atlanta.

Bulls 96, Bullets 95

The Bullets put up an excellent fight in their last game with their current nickname. They will be known as the Wizards next season.

The only wizard on the Landover court in the final few minutes was named Jordan.

Washington led 90-81 with 5:11 left before Jordan went to work. He hit two straight jump shots and

followed a free throw by Rod Strickland with another jumper. After Juwan Howard missed for the Bullets, Pippen hit a 3-pointer to pull Chicago to 91-90 with two minutes left.

Strickland scored in the lane and Jordan responded with an 18-footer. Strickland then missed, and Jordan hit a runner to put the Bulls up with 1:12 remaining.

Howard's two foul shots put Washington up 95-94 with 22.1 seconds to go, and Jordan had the ball in his hands as the clock ticked down to 10 seconds.

As Jordan drove into the lane and pulled up for a jumper, the ball slipped out of his hands and flew

right to Pippen, who drove to the basket and jammed the ball as he was being fouled by Harvey Grant.

"We executed the play to perfection," Pippen said in jest. "It hung in the air for a while, and when I got it I just took it to the baseline."

Pippen missed the free throw, and the Bullets, out of timeouts, ran upcourt and got the ball to Calbert Cheaney, who fired up an air ball from 20 feet as time expired.

Jordan, coming off a 55-point effort Sunday, scored 10 of his 28 points in the final 3:58. Pippen had 20 and Toni Kukoc 16.

"We had the opportunity. We were in a position to win, and that's

what you ask for in this situation," Bullets coach Bernie Bickerstaff said. "We lost to a very good basketball team. The best basketball team."

Trail Blazers 98, Lakers 90
At Portland, the Trail Blazers jumped ahead behind Kenny Anderson's 17 first-quarter points.

See NBA, Page 6



Putting for the prize

After four teams tied for first place in the Wednesday Scramble at the municipal golf course, only the losers took home a prize. An anonymous gift of lottery tickets was offered to the last place team, and three teams tied. Marin Rivas (shown putting) won a putt-off contest for his team of L.V. Watts, Sam Metcalf, Rosie Gonzalez and Richard Davila. The prize fund for first place carries over to next week.

Rumors fly as Holtz visits Pokes' practice

IRVING, Texas (AP) - It wasn't a surprise visit by Lou Holtz to the Dallas Cowboys' Valley Ranch headquarters, but the former Notre Dame coach did raise some eyebrows nonetheless.

Holtz said Wednesday he was in Dallas to visit a friend and also asked permission to watch practice camp, which was granted.

"I miss coaching, I miss the relationship of players, I miss the highs and lows and - not that I'm planning on getting back in - but I thought I'd come and do a little checking, which I did," he said.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones once said Holtz was considered a possibility for the coaching job.

Dallas coach Barry Switzer laughed when reporters asked him about the visit, joking that assistant coaches didn't have to worry because Holtz was asking about receivers coach Hubbard Alexander's job.

"All our coaches are laughing about that down there," Switzer said. "Look at all the speculation that's being created up there. We were laughing about that."

"That's the way you guys work it," he told reporters. "Yeah, we were. I told our staff that Lou is in here to evaluate them and look at them. And Ax (Alexander), I said,

he's asked about you - what job you did and I think you're the first to go."

Holtz announced Nov. 19 he was leaving Notre Dame after 11 years, but few took that to mean he was finished coaching.

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Keeling, Power lead Nazarene Christian Academy to golf title

By TOMMY WELLS
Managing Editor

Move over Tiger, Tyler Keeling is in the house.

Keeling shot a 43 Monday afternoon and helped teammate Jacob Power lead the Nazarene Christian Academy Eagles to an easy win on the Second Annual NCA Junior High Golf Tournament, which was held at John Pitman Municipal Golf Course.

The Eagles clipped runner-up Trinity seven strokes in the final team standings, winning by a 197-204 margin. San Jacinto was a distant third at 227 - one stroke better than the NCA B team.

Keeling and Power had no trouble in the tournament. They finished

See NCA, Page 6

Second Annual NCA Junior High Golf Tournament NCA Boys

Player	Score
Tyler Keeling	43
Jacob Power	47
Jeremy Gonzales	51
Chayse Rives	52
Kris Bridwell	56
Jeremy Williams	56
Justin Ward	58
Jeremy Henning	62

Girls

Lindsee Goforth	57
Lyndzie Torbert	65
Sloane Merrick	65
Macy Hill	71

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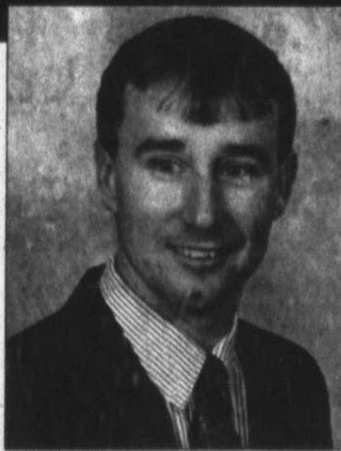
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Oilers still unsure where they will play

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) - The NFL's Houston Oilers know where they will spend training camp. The location of the first game of the 1997 season remains anyone's guess. They could be forced to finish out their lease and play in the Astrodome USA in Houston. A settlement in slow-going negotiations to break that lease could see the Oilers playing in Memphis' Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium. The NFL hasn't set a firm deadline for the Oilers to make a decision. "A couple of years ago, the Raiders went up to August before

deciding whether it would be Oakland or Los Angeles," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said Wednesday.

Oilers' spokesman Dave Pearson had no comment.

The past few weeks have been filled with rumored deadlines for an Oilers' decision. But nothing has been announced.

Tennessee fans have a wait-and-see attitude. Houston fans have had no better luck since tickets, which most NFL teams start selling in March, still haven't gone on sale. Last season, tickets didn't go on sale

until late May as the Oilers tried, but failed, to leave early for Tennessee.

Bill Wilson of Memphis, the Liberty Bowl manager, had thought he would know by Thursday whether the Oilers would be using his stadium this fall.

"We were all looking forward to the May 1 deadline, so we're going to be let down if it's not decided," said Wilson.

Even if the Oilers don't play the whole season in Memphis, Wilson has some sod to replace on the field before the Liberty Bowl hosts a

preseason game Aug. 2 between the Oilers and the New Orleans Saints.

"We would love to know if for no other reason than our event staff would know," Wilson said. "We have nine games on the schedule right now... We all like to make vacation plans and know when a work day is."

Clues from the Oilers have been mixed.

Training camp will be held in Tennessee, and the team announced a Nashville practice facility site two weeks ago. Oilers vice president

Mike McClure said that site could be ready by Aug. 15 for the team.

But the Oilers hedged in their 1997 schedule, released earlier this month. The home dates work in either Houston or Memphis, where the team will play until 1999 when a 67,000-seat stadium is completed in Nashville.

The hangup has been the Oilers' lease, which ties the team to the Astrodome one more season even though it drew less than 28,000 in five games in 1996.

Oilers' owner Bud Adams offered to drop a lawsuit against the Astrodome seeking \$2.5 million in damages for a preseason game canceled in August 1995 with no rent payments for 1997.

Astrodome USA owner Drayton McLane turned that down in early April, saying he thinks Houston fans will watch the Oilers this fall for the "sentimental value" of the team's final season there.

In the meantime, the Oilers have been very visible in Nashville, where their only draft day party was held April 19. Running back Eddie George and other players will attend

Nashville's stadium groundbreaking Saturday.

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Speculation surrounds Bird as Brown resigns

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) - Larry Brown repeated his oft-stated hope that he could end his coaching career in Indiana.

However, frustration at being unable to take the Pacers to an NBA championship and growing discord with players sent him packing again Wednesday in search of another coaching job.

"It's tough to leave here because I'm in a basketball state, and I know how people feel about the game, and I appreciate that support, but that's one of the main reasons I'm leaving: I don't think we played the way we were expected to play or they demanded us to play, and that was my responsibility," Brown said in announcing his resignation as Pacers coach.

While praising the players, he also expressed frustration that his veteran team didn't always play to its abilities or the way he asked. No players attended his news conference.

"I was little bit nervous that maybe some of the players might have tuned me out a little bit. I was a little bit concerned about the fact that maybe because there's changes I felt need to be made for some reason, they might not have been able to happen, and I didn't want that to be an issue," Brown said.

In four seasons with the Pacers, Brown became the winningest coach in the franchise's history at 190-138, including a franchise NBA record 52-30 in both the 1994-95 and 1995-96 seasons. The Pacers had never won an NBA playoff series before he arrived, but he took them to the Eastern Conference finals in 1994 and 1995.

The Pacers finished 39-43 this year, becoming only the second losing team that was coached by Brown an entire season. The other was San Antonio, 21-61 in 1988-89. The Pacers missed the NBA playoffs for the first time since 1989.

“
I'm leaving because I think it's time to move on. This year was really disappointing.”

”
Larry Brown
Former Pacers' coach

"I'm leaving because I think it's time to move on. This year was really disappointing," Brown said. "I didn't accomplish what I was hired to do."

He defended his decision to leave the Pacers after four years, saying the NBA had seen more than 50 coaching changes since he took the job here. His four years in Indianapolis were the longest of his five stints coaching NBA teams. Brown, 56, is sixth on the list of career pro coaching victories, having compiled a 624-480 record.

"Sometimes being a coach is like being a second lieutenant in a combat

zone - eventually you're going to be shot," Brown said.

Brown said he wanted his next job to be one in which he could develop young players. He traveled to Philadelphia to talk to the 76ers about their vacant head coaching position, but emphasized he had not accepted his next coaching job yet. His name also has been linked to openings at Boston and Golden State.

"I'm not ready to make a decision about where I'm going. I don't have a job in place," Brown said.

Pacers president Donnie Walsh said he had talked to former Celtics great and Indiana basketball legend Larry Bird about the Pacers job, but said those talks were preliminary. "He's the only person that I've

talked to to gauge interest," Walsh said. He said he did not begin compiling a list of potential coaches until after meeting with Brown on Wednesday.

The team president said he wanted his next coach to be someone who has credibility with players and is demanding of them, and who has definite ideas on what to do with the players currently on the Pacers roster.

Walsh said Brown, a friend from their college days at North Carolina, had given the Pacers credibility as an NBA contender.

"He's left his mark here on the Indiana Pacer basketball scene, and it's going to be hard for somebody else to come in and kind of have the impact that he did," Walsh said.

Four teams tie for top spot in weekly scramble

Four teams carded a 5-under par score of 31 on the back nine at Pitman Municipal Golf Course to create a tie for the Wednesday Scramble. The prize fund will be carried over to next week.

Tying for first place were the following teams: Bill Brown, Connie Martin, Chon Rangel, Mary Shelton and Joel Sturgeon; Bill Davis, John Robinson, Leland Shelton, Don Davison and Doc Weaver; Jeff Shelton, Denny Gibson, Carlos Mendez and Lillie Shipman; Lewis McDaniel, Ted Hoelscher, Gayle Cornelius, Joe Saucedo and Jerry Shipman.

Cliff Arnold and Jeff Shelton won the two annual memberships which were given away in a drawing after the scramble. The John Pitman Golf Course Association and the Hereford Ladies Golf Association gave the prizes, valued at \$400 each, in a fund-raising project.

An anonymous donor also awarded lottery tickets to the last-place team in the Wednesday Scramble. Three teams tied with a score of 34, and Marin Rivas won a putt-off contest to win the tickets for his team of L.V. Watts, Sam Metcalf, Rosie Gonzales and Richard Davila.

NCA

first and second, respectively, in the individual medalist standings. Power closed out the nine-hole meet with a round of 47.

The win was Nazarene Christian Academy's second straight victory on the links. They had won the Trinity Tournament earlier.

Keeling and Power weren't the

only NCA golfers enjoying outstanding efforts. Jeremy Gonzales contributed to the Eagles finish by carding a score of 51. Chayse Rives shot a 52.

Kris Bridwell and Jeremy Williams each finished at 56, while Justin Ward and Jeremy Henning posted scores of 58 and 62.

Lindsee Goforth carried the NCA Lady Eagles to a second place finish in the team standings. The NCA girls notched a score of 258 - 26 strokes off Trinity's winning mark of 232.

Goforth was spectacular on the course, however. She carded a 57 and finished second in the individu-

al standings. NCA teammates Sloane Merrick and Lyndzie Torbert also played well. Both shot rounds of 65 and placed sixth in the individual race.

Macy Hill and Denae Brinkman both turned in scores of 71.

NBA

and it stayed a blowout through three quarters.

But the Lakers outscored Portland 24-6 to start the fourth quarter to close their deficit to 90-82 on Kobe Bryant's two free throws with 3:15 to play.

Bryant, who scored 14 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter, twice cut Portland's lead to six in the final 33 seconds, but Clifford Robinson and Anderson each made a pair of free throws to finally ice the win. Portland was 1-for-14 from the field in the fourth period.

"We've got to look at this game as a butt-kicking. We've got to look at it as a 30-point loss," Lakers coach Del Harris said. "We can't say,

"Everything's fine. We almost had it. It's not."

Anderson made his first eight shots and had a career playoff high of 30 points on 9-of-11 shooting. Rasheed Wallace added 20 points and Robinson 18.

Shaquille O'Neal had 29 points and 12 rebounds, but got little help from his teammates until the final period. O'Neal outscored Portland center Arvydas Sabonis 29-0, but the rest of the Blazers' starters outscored the rest of the Lakers' starting five 80-15.

"I don't care about the Lakers. I just know they're going to have to check back into their hotel. I hope they don't have any rooms," Anderson said. "We've got a series now."

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Creating a design

Lynn Kriegshauser creates a colorful design on a flower pot that will be for sale during First Presbyterian Church plant sale and frozen casserole and bake sale starting at 9 a.m. Saturday. The sale will offer a variety of items, including bird houses, bedding plants, painted flower pots, recycled plants, casseroles and baked goods. Area gardeners who have thinned plants are asked to contribute their surplus plants to the church for re-sale. First Presbyterian Church is located at 610 Lee Street. The sale will be held in the parking lot behind the church and in fellowship hall. Baked goods and coffee will be on sale for refreshment and a door prize will be awarded.

Caleb Brumley of Hereford was among 78 Clarendon College graduates who participated in commencement ceremonies April 26 in the Harned Sisters Fine Arts Auditorium.

Valedictorian Nadia Jouridova of Pampa served as the evening's commencement speaker. A native of Latvia, Russia, Jouridova graduated with a 3.98 GPA.

West Texas A&M University and the College of Education and Social Sciences hosted a banquet recently to recognize outstanding students and scholarship winners within the college.

Seven Hereford students and one Dawn student were among those receiving recognition.

Jeri Ann Parker from Dawn, a junior political science major was the recipient of the Travis McBride Political Science scholarship.

Cindy Bailey, a junior mathematics major was the recipient of the Jim L. and Sue Carole Kidd scholarship.

Lee Childers, a senior criminal justice major was recipient of the John B. and Mary O. Coleman scholarship.

Also receiving the John B. and Mary O. Coleman scholarship was Travis Gilliam, a senior applied arts and sciences major.

Sophomore generic special education major, Barbara Kerr, was the recipient of the Arnold Gentry Atteburry and Vivian Dunn Atteburry scholarship.

Sherry McKibben, a senior

sociology/political science major received the Nona L. Moore scholarship.

The Allene J. Stovall scholarship was awarded to Claudia Ramirez, a senior kinesiology major.

Political science graduate student Louis Serrano received the Harrington Foundation scholarship.

Members of the WTAMU Student Senate hosted the banquet.

Guest speaker for the evening was Jane Stephens, assistant superintendent of instruction and curriculum at Canyon Independent School District.



SELENA VARNER

Selena Varner of Hereford, a freshman at Abilene Christian University, has been installed into Phi Eta Sigma, a national scholastic

honor society.

The requirements for membership in this organization are high, an average of 3.5 or better during the freshman year. It is the greatest scholastic distinction a freshman can attain. Only a small percentage of the students in the freshman class attain the honor each year.

Varner is the daughter of David and Pat Varner.

Seventy-six West Texas A&M University students, including four from Hereford, were inducted into the Texas Zeta Chapter of Alpha Chi, a national academic honor society, April 13 in the Agriculture and Natural Sciences Building.

Hereford inductees were Erin

Bullard, a senior nursing major; Travis Gilliam, a senior criminal justice major; Olga Leal, a junior interdisciplinary studies major; and Tami Monroe, a junior general business major.

Membership in Alpha Chi is by invitation and limited to students who have a cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or higher or a 4.0 scale and rank in the top 10 percent of their respective classes.

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ANSWER: Peripheral neuropathies bring a cold sweat to my brow.

That umbrella term, which means "nerve damage," covers so much ground that it's difficult to supply a meaningful answer.

Peripheral nerves are those not located in the brain or spinal cord. The nerves branch far and wide in the body, relaying messages to muscles, skin, bones and organs.

Damaged peripheral leg nerves can cause a lurching, stumbling gait like the kind of someone who has had too much to drink.

Other peripheral neuropathies produce painful sensations. Symptoms depend on which nerves have been damaged.

Cure depends on finding the cause of nerve malfunction. Here we come to the stumbling block, for possible causes abound, and the cause often is difficult to track down. A pared-down list of causes includes inherited nerve diseases, diabetes, alcohol abuse, vitamin deficiencies and kidney ills. Even when a doctor goes through the entire list, item by item, the cause often remains elusive.

If the cause remains obscure, you are not left without help. A cane or leg braces can give you the stability you lack when you walk. A physiatrist, a doctor who specializes in physical medicine and rehabilitation, can evaluate your needs and suggest practical approaches to your neuropathy.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: Recently my niece, who is 62 years old, was diagnosed as having mycosis fungoides on the inside of her upper left arm. From what I've heard, it sounds pretty grim as to prognosis and lack of effective treatment. The onset seems to be a mystery. When signs first appeared, she was treated for a rash. Any hope? — S.C.

ANSWER: Mycosis fungoides sounds like a fungal disease. It is not. It is a form of a special kind of cancer.

Cancerous lymphocytes, one type of the body's white blood cells, infiltrate the skin. In the early stages, the infiltration looks like a red, scaly rash, somewhat like psoriasis.

Untreated, mycosis fungoides progresses into the tumor stage. The affected skin sprouts growths that look like mushrooms. That's where the "fungoides" name came from.

Caught early, mycosis runs a prolonged course. Nitrogen mustard, a chemotherapy drug, is applied to the skin to contain its spread. Electron beam irradiation also can be used to keep the unusual cancer in check.

Sure, there's hope, especially when the illness is caught in its early stages.

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.

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First daughter plans to enroll in Stanford University this fall

STANFORD, Calif. (AP) - Stanford University is one of the nation's most prestigious schools and boasts a picturesque setting under sunny California skies. It's also 3,000 miles away from Mom and Dad.

What more could a college freshman want?

At least, it's what first daughter Chelsea Clinton wants. The only child of President Clinton announced Wednesday that she will enroll at

Stanford this fall.

Chelsea had her pick of Ivy League and other top schools, including Georgetown, her father's alma mater a mere three miles from the White House.

But the 17-year-old senior, who is thinking of becoming a doctor, decided to head west, to the delight of students biking to class or sipping lattes under the oaks outside the student union.

"I think it's great," freshman Courtney Lischke said. "I thought she'd stay on the East Coast, but I'm happy she's coming here."

Chelsea's announcement came in a single-sentence statement from her mother's press office, ending eight months of speculation and rumor.

The president said he did not try to influence his daughter's choice. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, who had toured Stanford with

Chelsea last September, was glad the college quest was finally over.

And she offered some insight into why Chelsea chose a distant university.

"I think she wanted to branch out and be her own person ... make her own mark in the world," Mrs. Clinton said.

Chelsea, who attends Washington's private Sidwell Friends School, was one of only 15,000 high school students to qualify as a National Merit semifinalist. She was one of the 1,610 students chosen from a field of 16,840 applicants for Stanford's class of 2001.

Stanford, 30 miles south of San Francisco, boasts 10 Nobel Prize winners and 19 winners of the National Medal of Science on its faculty. It is also one of the nation's the most scenic universities, with a central campus sprawling over 1,800 acres at the foot of rolling hills that rise into coastal mountains.

Students said the combination of those factors - along with the relaxed attitudes, good weather and ethnic and cultural diversity - may have been why Chelsea chose Stanford.

After all, that's why they're willing to pay more than \$27,000 a year for tuition, room and board.

"Most of the people who come here do so because of the academic quality," freshman Wayan Garvey said. "But they also come because of the atmosphere."

Volleyball coach Don Shaw said Chelsea, a member of her high school team, was welcome to try out for the squad, the defending NCAA champions.

"It would increase our attendance with just the Secret Service alone," he joked.

Security could be a problem, said students, predicting that it won't be easy for Chelsea to combine coursework and a new life on her own with bodyguards constantly around.

The university said that Chelsea would be, as much as possible, a "regular Stanford student." That means she'll have to live on campus for the first year. Ninety percent of Stanford's 6,440 undergraduates do, anyway.

Junior Robyn Nordstrom hopes to manage a dormitory next year, perhaps Chelsea's.

CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Budget Showdown Shouldn't Result in Shut Down

Congress shouldn't have to choose between making decisions in haste — decisions that may turn out to be unwise — or letting large sectors of the federal government grind to a halt. In the fall and winter of 1995, our government shut down twice because Congress and the executive branch failed to reach consensus on the 1996 fiscal year budget.

But I don't believe Congress should have to throw money on the table because it is forced to meet a budget deadline — or be faced with shutting down the government. Shutting down the government shouldn't be an option. And a government shut down, when all is said and done, doesn't solve anything because Congress cannot in good conscience refuse to pay government employees (who, by law, are forbidden to work as volunteers without pay even if they so desire).

Prudent budget decisions have to be made without a threat hanging over the heads of Congress. And the American people have a right to expect that their government will continue to operate in a safe, orderly and reliable fashion regardless of political differences.

I am sponsoring a bill to prevent a government shutdown in the fall of 1997 if the appropriations process collapses as it did in the fall of 1995. It is not that I expect another crisis to occur. But my legislation offers the American people insurance — and assurance — the past won't be repeated.

The 1995 episode had an enormous impact on people's lives. More than 600,000 government employees were furloughed, including thousands of Texans. People going on long-awaited vacations couldn't enter parks and museums. Veterans worried if their benefits would arrive on time.

My bill establishes an automatic "safety-net" funding mechanism for fiscal year 1998 that will be triggered only if regular appropriations bills are not signed into law by the President. It would authorize continued funding of all government functions at 98 percent of fiscal year 1997 levels while Congress and the executive branch continue to negotiate.

This will keep the government functioning while we work toward completion of the appropriations process.

Attempting to create a balanced budget is one of the toughest tasks government faces whether on the local, state or federal level. While legitimate debate is critical to the democratic process, we should have a safeguard in place to protect the American people from indecision. The bill I have introduced offers just such a fail-safe mechanism.



Tea anyone?

Joyce Stevens, left, and Sylvia Khuri share a cup of tea from cups that are part of a handcrafted tea service from Greece. The service is hand-painted with an intricate design in 24K gold. It is just one of the international items that will be offered in the Deaf Smith Health Care Foundation Auction to be held May 10 beginning at 6 p.m. in the HISD Administration Building. Dinner will be available, there will be a silent auction and the live auction begins at 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used to purchase a respirator for the ambulance.

Poisonous, disease-carrying weed harms crops, humans

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) - Federal and state agents are searching North Carolina for a poisonous, disease-carrying weed that kills crops and can be dangerous to humans.

The invader is called tropical soda apple. It has its origins in Latin America but showed up in Florida in 1988 and has been reported as far north as Pennsylvania. The weed has been known to take over grazing ground and carries diseases that affect tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, eggplant and other crops.

"Tropical soda apple is bad," said Randy Westbrook, national weed coordinator for the Agriculture Department. "It has cost millions of dollars in damage."

In 1994, the weed covered a million acres in Florida, causing \$11 million in losses to the cattle industry as it took over pasture land. The Florida Division of Plant Industry has dubbed it "the plant from hell."

It killed plants in Sampson County, N.C., last summer, said Gene Cross of that state's Agriculture Department.

The weed is easy to spot.

"If you get it in your garden, you know you've got something strange," Cross said.

Rapidly growing several feet tall, the bush has highly unusual fruit - about the size of a quarter. The immature fruit is green and mottled like a watermelon and turns yellow as it matures.

"It interferes with forest production and pastures but also grows in natural areas," Cross said. "It grows in sun and shade. It's an economic and an ecological concern."

The plants infest gardens, yards and farms, as well as forests and other undisturbed territory. In pastures it can take over shady areas, crowding out cattle and increasing heat stress on the animals.

When the leaves fall off and the fruit matures, cattle, deer, raccoons and other animals eat it, depositing seeds in their manure. It was manure from South Carolina cattle that carried the weed into North Carolina.

Seeds of the weed have also been found in packages of composted cow manure shipped from Florida to North Carolina, and in packages of bahia grass seed.

Florida has since restricted the shipment of manure.

Cross' office has made posters explaining how to stop the spread of the weed. Apart from stopping its entry into the state by checking seed, manure and turf shipments, the North Carolina Agriculture Department will monitor about 100 likely sites this year to see whether tropical soda apple shows up.

"The main thrust is prevention," Cross said. "If you wait 10 more years, you're going to have to spend \$100,000 to control this thing."



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