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Hustlin' Hereford, home of David Kreig

# The Hereford Brand



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## NEWS in brief

### Cubans welcome exiles to Havana in anticipation of pontiff's visit

HAVANA (AP) - Cubans joyously welcomed returning exiles and state-run news media heralded "His Holiness" in the last hours before Pope John Paul II arrived today for a historic visit to the land of Fidel Castro. State-run Radio Rebelde urged Cubans - "believers and nonbelievers" - to line the pontiff's route from the airport. Castro's government gave workers in the capital the afternoon off so they could turn out. Yellow-and-white Vatican flags flapped over the capital's streets, where bicyclists veered through trails of bus exhaust. "It's very good for Cuba," said mailman Jorge Puig Lopez, who said he would go to see the pope. "I hope he makes an appeal for us against the U.S. embargo. That's the No. 1 thing." Cuba's only daily newspaper gave the pope front-page prominence rarely granted anyone other than Castro: "Welcome Holiness John Paul II" it declared in black and red letters alongside a large photo of the pope.

### Psychiatrist's report concludes Kaczynski competent to stand trial in Unabomber case

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) - For now, the Unabomber trial is on. But The Associated Press learned Tuesday that plea negotiations between the Justice Department and defense attorneys have resumed, prompted by a psychiatrist's report that says Theodore Kaczynski is competent to stand trial - and that he is mentally ill. That illness, paranoid schizophrenia, could make it harder to execute him if he's convicted. Under a possible deal, the 55-year-old Kaczynski would avoid the death penalty by pleading guilty to at least some of the Unabomber attacks. The defense has dropped all conditions but one - that Kaczynski retain the right to appeal the legality of the initial search of his Montana cabin, sources close to the case said. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Kaczynski has abandoned a demand that he never be placed in a federal psychiatric facility. Kaczynski's previous offers to plead guilty to escape a death sentence were refused by the government. Negotiations resumed following a report filed by Dr. Sally Johnson, a Bureau of Prisons psychiatrist appointed by the court to examine Kaczynski last week. Sources said Johnson - whose report was filed under seal - found that Kaczynski was competent but suffered from paranoid schizophrenia, a disease characterized by delusions of persecution that can lead to violence.

### Whitewater investigation expanding in sexual harassment allegations

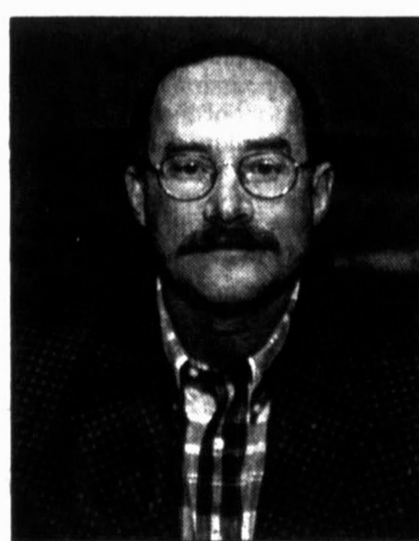
WASHINGTON (AP) - Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr's 31/2-year investigation has expanded into new territory - whether President Clinton tried to influence a former White House intern's testimony in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit. The former intern, Monica S. Lewinsky, has signed a declaration in the Jones' lawsuit denying she ever had a sexual relationship with the president and stands by that assertion, her lawyer said. Attorney William H. Ginsburg of Los Angeles said his client has not been formally interviewed by prosecutors but that he has met in Washington with Starr's investigators. Ginsburg said the Justice Department had approved a formal expansion of the Whitewater investigation. "I know that Janet Reno has definitely signed off," he said.

### U.S. trade deficit narrows as oil imports fall, auto exports hit new high

WASHINGTON (AP) - America's trade deficit, helped by a big plunge in oil imports, narrowed to \$8.04 billion in November - the best showing in eight months. U.S. auto exports climbed to an all-time high and the politically sensitive deficits with Japan and China both shrank. The Commerce Department said today that America's deficit in goods and services was down 11.6 percent from a revised October figure of \$9.09 billion. The improvement could turn out to be a short-term reprieve from an expected deteriorating trade picture over the next year as the U.S. economy is buffeted by the economic crisis sweeping Asia. Many economists are shaving their economic growth forecasts for this year by between one-half and a full percentage point. They expect currency devaluations in Asia will cause America's trade deficit to widen sharply as Asian products become cheaper and U.S. exporters find it harder to sell their goods in Asia. Commerce Department chief economist Lee Price said that it was too early to tell what impact the Asian currency crisis will have on the trade deficit. He said U.S. exports to Thailand and Indonesia, two of the hardest hit countries, were actually up and even with the turmoil the overall U.S. economy remains strong.

## Jones picked to take over Fox's old post

Danny Jones, longtime appraiser/collector, has been appointed chief appraiser of the Deaf Smith County Appraisal District, the district directors announced recently. Jones, 41, will succeed Fred Fox who is retiring, effective Jan. 30. The board also appointed longtime staff member Mark Powers as deputy chief appraiser. Jones is a native of Hereford and a 1975 graduate of Hereford High School. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Jones, are deceased. His stepmother, Mary Jones, lives here. While finishing college, Jones worked in farming and trucking with his father. He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business economics from West Texas State University in 1982. He started work as a deputy assessor-collector for Hereford Independent School District in 1979 and moved to the county appraisal district in 1981.



**DANNY JONES**  
He has dual state certification as a practicing appraiser and as a tax assessor-collector. He and his wife, Cruz, have two children, Jordan, 8, and Skylar, 2. They reside at 815 Baltimore.

## Office complex to open April 1

By DONALD M. COOPER  
Brand Editor

Shannon Wilburn hopes events won't play an April Fool's joke on him. Wilburn, who is construction manager for the Hereford Regional Medical Center's medical office project, told the Deaf Smith County Hospital District directors Tuesday night the construction is on track, with a target date of April 1 for the new occupants to be in the complex. Wilburn said he expects the

completion date of construction to be March 1, with the final month to be used for installation of furniture, painting and finishing other interior projects. He also suggested the board needs to determine what and where it wants the sign for the complex. Last week, the construction crews installed the 21 modules which are housing the complex. The installation, in which a giant crane lifted the modules and placed them on pilings, drew a crowd, Wilburn said.

"I guess we should have charged admission," he joked. Wilburn said roofers will sealing the seams between the modules today. Also, measures have been made and the trusses for the facade will be built, plumbing and electrical work is under way; welders also will be involved in attaching the modules to the pilings. In a related item, hospital administrator James Robinson said the Texas Department of Health wants to rent space in the complex for

an office and an immunization clinic. The space, about 1,400 square feet, had been considered for a pharmacy, but Robinson said it will be to the mutual benefit of the hospital and TDH if the state agency gets the OK to rent the space. The board unanimously approved renting the space to the health department, with the fee to be negotiated later. Financial director Rodney Bailey See HRMC, Page 9



### From farm to table

Locally grown vegetables, grown by Panhandle produce producers were on display during the annual vegetable conference Tuesday at the community Center. Marketers, planters, chemical companies, and seed companies were on hand to provide growers with information.

## Vegetable production viewed at meet

By DIANNA F. DANDRIDGE  
Staff Writer  
Panhandle area vegetable growers had the opportunity Tuesday to talk with experts in the field of edible produce, from researchers of test varieties to the market specialists, at the 1998 vegetable conference. Area residents are familiar with the sight of fields of onions, cabbages, potatoes, corn, carrots, black-eye peas, peppers, and even green beans; however, there are fewer and fewer of these fields around. Robert DeWitt of DeWitt Seed Co. in Norman, Okla., told the conference participants "recent years have seen a decline in the number of commercial producers, due mainly to competition." DeWitt said that as Mexico uses more and newer technology, more vegetables are being produced at lower cost. As a result, area producers convert to other, more profitable, cash crops. But, for those producers still interested in vegetable crops, the conference provided the latest information on seeds, planting and harvesting implements, marketing and gleaning of the fields. Gleaning is simply the retrieval of produce which

would normally be left in the fields to rot. The produce is perfectly edible, but may have flaws or imperfections making it unusable for commercial use. Gleaned vegetables can be used fresh, stored for later use or, in some cases, dehydrated and made in to other vegetable products. The Breedlove Dehydration Plant, a 48,000-square-foot facility in Lubbock, accepts carrots, potatoes, onions and other vegetables; dehydrates the products and with the help of technology produces a high quality, high nutritive value soup with excellent flavor and texture. Breedlove gets its raw product from surplus farm produce, food processors and the second harvest network. RoseAnna C. Klan of Breedlove said the company's products go to numerous churches, charities, and food pantry organizations, which help feed hungry people. Participants also were encouraged to attend a number of sessions headed by agriculture extension agents, management professionals, researchers and plant pathologists. Exhibitors set up displays, ranging from single row seedling planters to preventing skin cancer for field workers and safe lunches to be carried to the field.

## More soy in U.S. diet suggested

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A soy drink a day might keep the doctor away. So say scientists and nutritionists studying the potential of soy to lower the risks of cancer, heart disease and osteoporosis and diminish the hot flashes of menopause. They've focused on estrogen-like components of soy protein called isoflavones that appear to somehow protect health. "I don't know of any food that brings so much to the table as soy foods," said James Anderson of the University of Kentucky, a leading nutrition researcher. The problem with telling people to eat more soy is that food labels don't tell how much isoflavones are in the product - even the isoflavone-rich drinks from the sponsor of a "Health Impact of Soy Protein" symposium Tuesday. The \$50,000 symposium was underwritten by Protein Technologies International of St. Louis, a DuPont subsidiary that makes soy protein. Soybeans have long been a staple of Asian diets and may be responsible for lower cancer rates in that region. Though they have been cultivated in the United States since 1829, they caught on more as cattle feed than as something for the dinner table. But proponents say that should change, given the apparent health benefits for both women and men. "We're beginning to see the rationale for how soy has an effect in cancer, heart disease, and potentially the bone and brain," said Stephen Barnes, a pharmacology and toxicology professor from the University of Alabama. Like raloxifene, a designer estrogen that builds bone in menopausal women without promoting breast cancer, soy isoflavones act selectively. Barnes said there is no evidence that they promote cancers stimulated by estrogen. Thomas Clarkson, a professor in the department of comparative medicine at Wake Forest University, See SOY, Page 9

## BEEF BROUHAHA

### Trial begins in cattlemen's beef against talk show host

AMARILLO (AP) - The Oprah Winfrey show is under way at a Texas courthouse. A jury was selected in one day to hear a more than \$12 million defamation lawsuit filed by Texas cattlemen against the television talk show host. Opening statements were to begin today. The TV star took notes and listened intently as a pool of 57 was narrowed Tuesday to eight women and four men - none who are avid "Oprah" viewers. Ms. Winfrey jokingly smirked and then smiled at one prospective juror who said she didn't always enjoy her talk show, an admission that got the woman excused from the jury. Ms. Winfrey left the courthouse without saying anything about the case, but not without dropping some names of stars who might come to town to tape shows while the trial is under way: Houston Rockets forward Charles Barkley. Actress Janine Turner. Singer Kenny Rogers. "We'll have Clint Black ... oh, and Patrick Swayze," added Ms. Winfrey, who was greeted with cheers when she left for her lunch break. Both the trial, estimated to last five weeks, and the visiting stars are making big news in this Panhandle city of 165,000. The cattle industry is the region's economic engine, and U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson dismissed 13 prospective jurors for implying they couldn't objectively hear the case. No regular viewers of Ms. Winfrey's show made the jury cut. At least three people with past beef connections did. "I'm too involved in the science of cattle feeding," said one failed prospect, adding wryly: "I don't know how we've made cattle mad." Amarillo cattle feeder Paul Engler sued after watching vegetarian activist Howard Lyman's appearance on "Oprah" over comments he and Ms. Winfrey

made about beef safety. Lyman said feeding ground-up animal parts to cattle, a practice banned in the United States last summer, could spread mad cow disease to humans in the United States. To applause from the studio audience, Ms. Winfrey exclaimed: "It has just stopped me cold from eating another burger!" After the broadcast, already slumping cattle prices fell to some of their lowest levels in a decade. The plaintiffs are seeking to recoup losses of more than \$12 million, plus unspecified damages. Defense attorneys blame the collapse on factors such as oversupply and decreased demand. The case also is likely to include free-speech issues. Mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy, is a brain-destroying disease that has afflicted cattle in Britain since the late 1980s. In 1996, British scientists announced that humans might have contracted a similar brain disease by eating infected beef. The plaintiffs are suing under a 1995 Texas law holding liable anyone who makes false and disparaging statements about perishable food products. Besides Ms. Winfrey, the defendants include her Harpo Productions Inc.

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# NEWS in brief

### Gingrich says Clinton unfair to Netanyahu

**CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)** - Jumping to the defense of Israel, House Speaker Newt Gingrich says the White House's treatment of prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is "below the dignity of the United States of America." His remarks at a town hall meeting, which won hoots and cheers from a Republican audience Tuesday night, underscored Netanyahu's support in American conservative circles as President Clinton squeezes for concessions in peace talks.

The House speaker said he was riled by media reports suggesting that Clinton denied Netanyahu his usual red-carpet treatment to express displeasure with Israel's reluctance to bend.

Gingrich said Clinton should fire the aide who, knowing his identity was protected, characterized the schedule as a snubbing. "It is profoundly wrong for any member of the administration to undermine and denigrate the legitimate government of Israel," he said.

Gingrich then aimed his criticism directly at Clinton. "You can have policy differences and policy disputes but to have a state dinner for the president of China, a dictator, and not have lunch with the prime minister... I just thought, frankly, was below the dignity of the United States of America and the wrong signal," Gingrich said.

### GOP wins majority in Virginia Assembly

**RICHMOND, Va. (AP)** - Republicans have won their first majority in the Virginia Senate, adding to the GOP's sweep of the top three state government offices and its share of power in the House of Delegates.

Republican William C. Mims won a special election Tuesday to fill a vacant state Senate seat, giving the GOP a 21-19 edge. He received 11,119 votes, or 60 percent, to 7,156, or 39 percent, for Democrat Jean Brown, according to unofficial totals.

During Reconstruction, the GOP was part of a coalition that controlled the General Assembly, but the party has never had an outright majority in either chamber until now.

### Interest rates rise in Treasury auction

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - Interest rates on short-term Treasury securities rose in Tuesday's auction.

The Treasury Department sold \$7.26 billion in three-month bills at an average discount rate of 4.980 percent, up from 4.965 percent last week. An additional \$7.29 billion was sold in six-month bills at an average rate of 4.995 percent, up from 4.910 percent.

The rates were the highest since Jan. 5, when the three-month bill sold for 5.115 percent and the six-month bill averaged 5.130 percent.

The new discount rates understate the actual return to investors - 5.114 percent for three-month bills with a \$10,000 bill selling for \$9,874.10 and 5.195 percent for a six-month bill selling for \$9,747.50.

In a separate report, the Federal Reserve said Monday that the average yield for one-year Treasury bills, the most popular index for making changes in adjustable-rate mortgages, fell to 5.18 percent last week from 5.25 percent the previous week.

### Senator threatens to block surgeon general vote

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - The White House wants a vote on surgeon general nominee David Satcher but a Republican senator working to kill the nomination won't rule out a filibuster.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry called the charges politically motivated, pointing out that a Senate committee already voted to confirm Satcher. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and several other medical groups support Satcher's nomination.

Flanked by leaders of the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council and the editor of the conservative weekly Human Events, Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft said Tuesday he hopes to derail the nomination before a Senate vote is taken.

### U.S. waits for Arafat's response to Netanyahu

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - President Clinton's struggle to revive long-stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will focus on Yasser Arafat now that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has spelled out his conditions for another pullback on the West Bank.

"He has a good understanding of what he can and cannot do," a senior White House official said of Clinton after he wound up the last of two rounds of talks with Netanyahu a few minutes before midnight Tuesday.

Aided by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, the president offered what the White House official called "a proposal, a suggestion for what he thought was necessary" to narrow the immense gap between Israel and Arafat.

It did not produce a miracle. "The gap that has existed for a year is not going to be closed in a night," the weary official told reporters. "I think we have a lot of work to do still."

### Report: Military wants more mixed training

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - In a report that appears to run counter to one issued a month ago, a Pentagon advisory panel on women's issues argues that most men and women in the military think the sexes should be mixed more, not less, during military training.

The panel, known as the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services, said "most service members from every service believed that more gender integration of training was needed than currently existed in their service."

The new report contradicts the findings of another panel that issued a controversial report in December. A team of academics and retired military officers headed by former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker faulted the Army, Navy and Air Force's integrated training programs as failing to instill proper military values.

That report called for toughening basic training and putting men and women in segregated units during their first six weeks of training and in separate housing units in basic and advanced training programs.

### Judge OK's banishment of rebellious teen

**OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)** - Cheers, whistles and a burst of courtroom applause welcomed a judge's ruling that the parents of a rebellious teen had the right to send him to a strict treatment program in Jamaica.

Superior Court Judge Ken Kawaichi ruled against a prosecutor who alleged David Van Blarigan was kidnapped and falsely imprisoned. The prosecutor had asked the judge to have David returned so he could speak for himself in court, but Kawaichi refused.

In deciding that Jim and Sue Van Blarigan exercised proper parental power, the judge said: "It is not that easy a line to draw as to what is appropriate and what is not."

Kawaichi said he had no evidence that David is being abused at Tranquility Bay, the highly supervised camp where he was sent last November after being taken away from his Oakland home in the middle of the night by two men hired by his parents.

Family attorney Dan Koller said David was a "troubled youth," although he would not discuss what those troubles were in open court.

### Illinois, Arizona execute convicted killers

**CREST HILL, Ill. (AP)** - Lloyd Wayne Hampton went to his death today apologizing to his family but not to the 69-year-old man he tied up, tortured and then stabbed in the throat.

"I've been running from myself since I was a small boy in Texas, and my 44 years have been filled with intense anger and rage!" Hampton said in a statement dictated before his execution. "I blame no one but myself, and I hope my loved ones will forgive me for the sorrow I've caused them."

The Texas drifter made no mention of Roy "Jasper" Pendleton, the Troy resident he killed in 1990.

"I offer no excuses for things I have or haven't done," he said. Hampton was one of two killers executed by injection early today. Arizona's longest-serving death row inmate, Jose Ceja, was put to death for killing a Phoenix couple in 1974.

The time between Hampton's conviction and execution was the shortest so far in Illinois, largely because he skipped some appeals.

Hampton was sentenced to die in June 1990, four months after he was arrested for another crime while driving Pendleton's car. Police found Pendleton's body at a hotel.

### Teacher looks forward to astronaut role

**BOISE, Idaho (AP)** - Barbara Morgan's enthusiasm hasn't waned a bit in the 13 years since she and Christa McAuliffe were tapped to become teacher-astronauts.

Through all those years, the 46-year-old mother of two has never doubted she would get her chance to continue her colleague's legacy on a space shuttle flight.

Now that NASA has given Morgan the go-ahead, the third-grade teacher plans to enter mission specialist training this summer. She is expected to join a shuttle crew in about two years.

"It was not unexpected because we've been working very hard on this for many, many years," Morgan, who teaches in McCall, told reporters Tuesday. "I had full confidence that at some point, when the time was right, decisions would be made and we would move forward."

Morgan was on the ground at Cape Canaveral, Fla., as the Teacher in Space backup when the Challenger exploded on Jan. 28, 1986, killing all seven astronauts, including Ms. McAuliffe, a high school teacher from New Hampshire.

### Judge dismisses lawsuit in Ramsey case

**BOULDER, Colo. (AP)** - An attorney's bid to force prosecutors to file criminal charges in the JonBenet Ramsey slaying has been dismissed by a judge.

District Judge Roxanne Bailin threw out the lawsuit Tuesday, finding no evidence that District Attorney Alex Hunter was refusing to prosecute the case. She wrote that "at a time when many detectives are still working full time on the investigation, it cannot be said that the district attorney has refused to prosecute."

### Philippines seeking \$5 billion in credit

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** - The Philippines is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund and others for up to \$5 billion in credit, the government said today.

President Fidel Ramos said he is seeking standby funds of at least \$2.7 billion from the IMF. Finance Secretary Roberto de Ocampo added that the Philippines also was negotiating with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for further credit.

De Ocampo would not specify how much, but said the amount from all three sources likely would be between \$3 billion and \$5 billion.

The IMF has provided bailouts totaling more than \$100 billion for Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea since Asian currencies started sliding last summer. Though the peso has sunk from 26 to the U.S. dollar in July to 40 today, the Philippines has not sought an IMF bailout.



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