

The

Hereford Brand

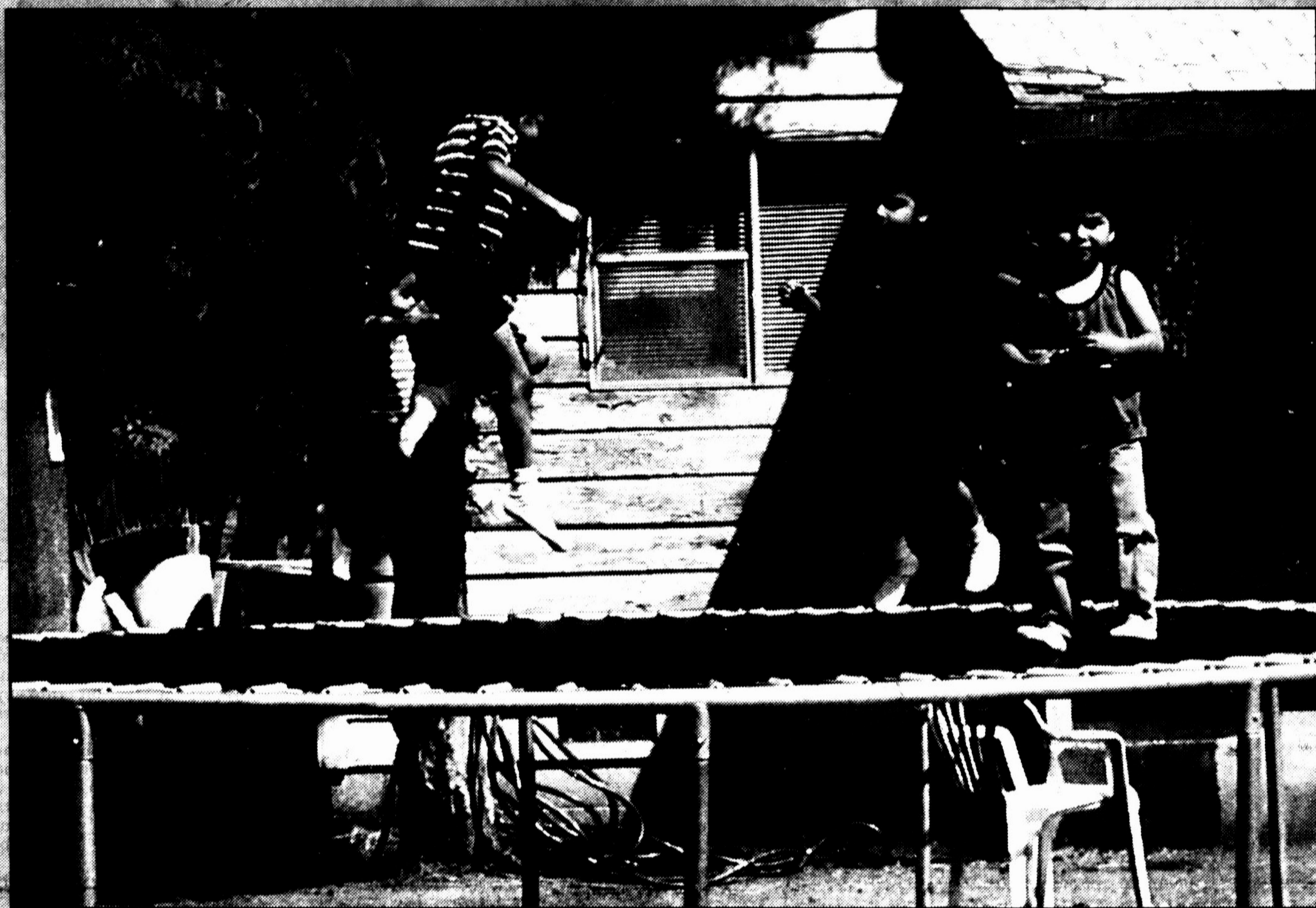


98th Year, Vol. Number 179 Deaf Smith County, Texas

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

10 Pages 50 cents

Bouncing around



It was sunny and warm -- and school's out. So, what else should these children enjoying a beautiful day and spring break do? Show off their skills on the trampoline seemed a good way to spend some of Tuesday afternoon. Bouncing around were Sylvester and Marcus Villegas, Kayla Marry and Tony Garza.

WTRT annual session on tap

Co-op's members to elect directors for Frio, Summerfield, Oklahoma Lane

Special to The Brand

The 45th annual meeting of the membership of West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative will be held March 23 at the Hereford Bull Barn.

The event will feature a catered barbecue dinner at 6 p.m. The business session will begin at 7 p.m. and will be highlighted by the election of directors for the Frio, Summerfield and Oklahoma Lane exchanges.

Incumbent Pat Robbins and Tommy Sparkman are candidates for the Frio position.

Robbins has served as the Frio exchange director since 1987. A partner in R&P Feed Yard at Frio, he serves on the board of Baptist Community Services for 1999, and is a past president of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce. He also has served on the board of trustees of High Plains Baptist Hospital in Amarillo. He and his wife, Susan, have three daughters and a son. Susan is principal at Stanton Learning Center in Hereford, working with eight programs for age groups ranging from 3-year-olds through 18 and 19-year-old high school students.

Sparkman has been a WTRT member since 1964 and operates Sparkman Cattle Co. at Frio. A long-time member of Hereford Young Farmers, he held numerous offices in that organization and worked extensively with the annual livestock show here. He also has worked with fund-raising events for the Easter Lions Club. He and his wife, Patsy, have two sons and a daughter and four grandchildren. Patsy is an insurance representative with AFLAC.

Incumbent J.B. Noland and David Euler are candidates for the Summerfield board position.

Noland has represented the Summerfield exchange on the board since 1975 and has held all board offices. A retired farmer, he and his wife, Bea, have two daughters and a son, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

See WTRT, Page A9

Nation's central documents face new perils

By Lawrence L. Knutson

The Associated Press

When the courier rode in from Chesapeake Bay with a British invasion force at his heels, State Department clerk Stephen Pleasonton understood the urgency of his message and wasted no time.

On that steamy afternoon in August 1814, Pleasonton found a stock of raw linen, had it hastily stitched into large bags and stuffed them with every state paper and important book he could reach, beginning with the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

The bagged documents were loaded on a cart and driven away from the approaching army. They spent the first night of the journey hidden in an unused grist mill on the Potomac River.

By Aug. 24, when fires set by British troops were con-

suming the timbers of the Capitol and White House, the rescued documents were arriving at safe haven in Leesburg, Va., 35 miles northwest of Washington.

Two centuries later, government officials, archivists and preservation experts still worry about the security of the ink-on-parchment documents they collectively call "the charters."

Hostile British soldiers are no longer a concern. The modern-era perils these documents face range from terrorism to air pollution to deteriorating ink. And their custodians are designing systems to keep them from harm for centuries, perhaps a millennium.

These charters are the physical emblems of the ideas on which American representative democracy is built: The Bill of Rights spelling out individual freedoms; the Constitution with its governmen-

tal clockwork of turning gears and weights and counterweights; the Declaration of Independence, which a historian for the National Archives calls "perhaps the most masterfully written state paper of Western civilization."

Of the three, the Declaration of Independence has suffered the most, mainly because there has never been a time in its 223 years that the American people have not wanted to see it.

Reproductions took their toll. The other enemy was prolonged exposure to sunlight.

For most of the last half-century the three charters have been displayed in sealed glass frames lowered at night into a vault below the rotunda of the National Archives building.

The arrangement has had its drawbacks. Specialists have been unable to obtain direct access to the documents for

decades. And the glass sheets that have been pressing directly against the documents for all those years appear to be slowly deteriorating, creating the possibility of eventual damage to the parchment surfaces.

That situation is on the road to change.

This week, the National Archives will unveil test designs of new aluminum and titanium encasements that will enclose the documents in an atmosphere of inert argon gas.

The arrangements will be fine-tuned while the Archives rotunda undergoes extensive renovations over the next few years.

After manufacture and testing, the new cases will get a tryout period while displaying the rarely shown transmittal page of the Constitution signed by George Washington. The final product will be open for view early in the new

century.

The Archives says that when these documents are at issue there is only one ultimate goal: "To assure that they will survive as long as the United States does."

Stephen Pleasonton would approve.

Lawrence L. Knutson has reported on Congress, the White House and Washington history for 30 years.

This week, the National Archives will unveil test designs of new aluminum and titanium encasements that will enclose the documents in an atmosphere of inert argon gas.

Economy slips last month

By Don Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Hereford's economy slid a bit last month, according to the Texas Comptroller's Office.

The city's sales tax rebate payment for March was \$75,641.56, down 1.6 percent from the \$76,874.84 for March 1998. The March figure also was significantly lower than the \$119,647.61 received in February.

For the year, Hereford has received \$264,858.68, down 1.6 percent from the \$269,255.15 for the same period last year.

Deaf Smith County received a payment of \$25,831.08, down 1.4 percent from the \$26,207.46 for March 1998. The March payment also was well below the \$43,420.29 for February.

For the year, the county has

received \$92,686.85, a 1.6 percent gain over the same period in 1998.

The comptroller's office delivered a total of \$172.8 million in monthly sales tax payments to 1,095 Texas cities and 118 counties, a 5.8 percent increase over the \$163.3 million allocated in March 1998. It also represented a 7.4 percent increase for the first three months of 1999, compared to the same period in 1998.

March's rebates include local sales taxes collected by monthly filers in January and reported to the comptroller's office in February.

Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander delivered monthly sales tax rebates totaling \$159.4 million to Texas cit-

ies, 7.8 percent higher than last March's payments of \$147.8 million. Rebates of \$13.4 million to Texas counties were up 13.3 percent down from the \$15.5 million allocated in March 1998. Another \$5 million went to 38 special purpose districts around the state.

By law, the state collects sales taxes for Texas cities and counties that have local sales taxes. The comptroller's office then returns the portion of the taxes on a monthly basis.

The state charges a 6.25 percent sales tax and local sales taxes can be up to 2 percent above that.

Around the area:

See REBATES, Page A10



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9
9
9

LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, March 17, 1999 • A3

Luck of the Irish

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by serving Split Pea and Ham Soup with Lucky Irish Biscuits. The natural green color of split peas and the parsley-flecked biscuits will add to the festive spirit of the day.

Split peas are a form of "field peas," green and yellow peas specifically grown for drying, then split along their natural seam lines. Ham is the perfect flavor partner for split peas. If you have leftover ham, use it to flavor this soup.

"This soup is extra-flavorful because the onion, celery and garlic are sautéed to bring out their flavors. Country-style gravy mix contributes to its creamy texture and enhances the flavor, too," Wendy Hagerman, research and development specialist for Pioneer Flour Mills, said.

Serve this Irish-style soup with Lucky Irish biscuits, cut into shamrocks or four-leaf clovers for good luck. Swiss cheese and fresh parsley add flavor and color to the biscuit dough. These moist, full-flavored biscuits are a tasty accompaniment to St. Pat's Split Pea and Ham Soup.

Round out the menu with a tossed green salad, and serve green mint ice cream and chocolate cookies for dessert. Celebrate "the luck of the Irish" this year by surprising your family or friends with



until thickened. Stir in carrot; reduce heat and simmer 5 minutes more or until carrot is tender. Discard bay leaf. Garnish each serving with a dollop of sour cream. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Lucky Irish Biscuits
2 cups biscuit and baking mix
1 cup shredded

this festive meal.

St. Pat's Split Pea and Ham Soup
1 cup chopped celery
1 cup chopped onion
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 package (1 lb.) dry split peas (about 2 cups), rinsed and drained
8 cups water
1 cup finely chopped cooked ham
1 teaspoon dried marjoram leaves
½ teaspoon garlic salt
1 bay leaf
1 package (2.75 oz.) country gravy mix
1 cup milk
1 carrot, peeled and shredded
½ cup dairy sour cream

In Dutch oven or stock pot, cook celery, onion and garlic in oil until tender. Add peas, water, ham, marjoram, garlic salt and bay leaf; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. Return to boiling. Dissolve gravy mix in milk. Stir into boiling mixture

Swiss cheese
2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh parsley
1 carton (8 oz.) low-fat plain yogurt (1 cup)
¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon skim milk (divided)
Onion salt (optional)
In large bowl, stir together biscuit and baking mix, cheese and parsley. In small bowl, combine yogurt and ¼ cup milk. Stir into biscuit and baking mix mixture to form a stiff dough. Turn out onto surface dusted with additional biscuit and baking mix; knead 10 times. Roll dough into circle about ¼ inch thick. Cut into rounds or shamrock shapes. Place on baking sheet coated with cooking spray. Brush tops of biscuits with remaining 1 tablespoon milk. Sprinkle with onion salt, if desired. Bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes or until biscuits are golden brown. Makes 12 to 14 biscuits.

"If dough is sticky, add additional biscuit and baking mix as needed to form stiff dough."

Post or the complete works of Shakespeare, get the latest news from Reuters or order a book for my mother's birthday.

Saying the Internet is just a form of communication is like saying the Library of Congress is just a lot of books or that Yale is just a lot of buildings. To lump e-mail chat rooms in with the highly reputable sites that are available through the Internet is inaccurate. Saying "I read it on the Internet" could be the same as saying "I read it at the library." The Internet is a tool. How you use it is up to you. Sign my letter — Web-Head in the USA

Dear Web-Head: Get out the wet noodle. My readers have convinced me that the Internet, when used properly, has a lot more to offer than I thought. It appears that people can now get what is tantamount to a college education without leaving their homes. This is truly remarkable.

Dear Ann Landers: This is

Noggler is speaker

Jeanie Noggler of "Creative Memories" was the guest speaker at the Monday night meeting of the Deaf Smith County Genealogical Society. She explained that even those who are not amateurs have experienced damage to or loss of pictures and clippings that they valued.

Culprits that cause damage are acids and lignin, a substance which is the cause of yellowing of newspaper items.

"Pictures and clippings are safer in a shoe box than in 'magnetic' albums," Noggler said.

She also cautioned against repeated copying of old pictures, as light is quite damaging to them.

Each person was given Life-saver candies for desiring to save valuable pictures with good care practices.

Noggler was introduced by program chairman Donita Rule. President L.J. Clark conducted the business meeting.

Members present were Miles Caudle, Don Minchew, Nolan Grady, Laquita Norvell, Nell Norvell, Wilma and L.J. Clark, Jean Beene and Rule.

The next meeting will be

April 19 at 7 p.m. in the game room of Hereford Community Center.

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Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: I am planning to marry the love of my life in June. "Phillip" is a terrific guy except when it comes to my 12-year-old daughter, "Beth," who is very sweet but has attention-deficit disorder. Phillip does not understand that she needs to be reminded of things over and over. When he asks her to do a chore, he expects her to jump to it immediately. He doesn't realize that Beth is easily distracted and forgets. She isn't being deliberately disobedient.

I think Phillip is being too hard on Beth when he says she needs more discipline. I agree that Beth may resent Phillip's presence in my life, but it doesn't help when he yells at her all the time. I love him dearly, but I'm having second thoughts about

what marrying him might do to my daughter. Help me make the right choice. — Unsure in Baltimore

Dear Unsure: Put Phillip in touch with the authority who diagnosed Beth's problem. When he understands it better, he will be a lot less judgmental. Work at smoothing the way between him and Beth. And don't let Phillip get away. In a few years, Beth will be gone, and you could be very much alone.

Dear Ann Landers: I take issue with "Joy in Mudville," who said the Internet is not a source of information but a tool for communication. She has it half right.

Joy is confusing the Internet with electronic mail. E-mail is only as reliable as the sender, but the Internet is the biggest, grandest encyclopedia anywhere. I can find revolving, 3-D images of the inside of the space shuttle and pictures of the Louvre in Paris or the Sistine Chapel in Rome. I can read The Washington

Post or the complete works of Shakespeare, get the latest news from Reuters or order a book for my mother's birthday.

Saying the Internet is just a form of communication is like saying the Library of Congress is just a lot of books or that Yale is just a lot of buildings. To lump e-mail chat rooms in with the highly reputable sites that are available through the Internet is inaccurate. Saying "I read it on the Internet" could be the same as saying "I read it at the library." The Internet is a tool. How you use it is up to you. Sign my letter — Web-Head in the USA

Dear Web-Head: Get out the wet noodle. My readers have convinced me that the Internet, when used properly, has a lot more to offer than I thought. It appears that people can now get what is tantamount to a college education without leaving their homes. This is truly remarkable.

Dear Ann Landers: This is

in response to "Left-Brained in South Carolina," who needed a solution for dealing with his scatterbrained wife.

Every incident he cited, from losing keys to leaving items in odd places, has been done by my husband. Whenever "Charlie" gets ready to leave home, he has to search for his keys, wallet, checkbook or all three. He is also a slob. Any item he touches will be spilled, dropped, torn, lost, misplaced or mangled. His study looks like a tornado hit it.

I am organized and neat and never misplace anything, but I am also bad-tempered, inflexible, demanding and a perfectionist. I hardly ever relax. Charlie is easygoing, laid back and not easily upset. Who really has it, roughest at our house? — Another Left Brain in Redondo Beach, Calif.

Dear Left Brain: I'd say it's a tie, but I'll bet your husband's blood pressure is lower than yours.

She's marrying WHOM?



Find out for yourself within the Lifestyles pages of the Brand.

Another reason to subscribe.
CALL 364-2030

Celebrate spring with make-ahead brunch

Springtime is filled with celebrations. Whether your family gets together to share a Sunday meal, a holiday, Mother's Day, or to celebrate a graduation, brunch is a wonderful way to recognize a special occasion. This make-ahead menu ensures that you will have plenty of time to enjoy your guests.

Welcome spring with this easy to prepare brunch bursting with the flavors and colors of the season. A good source of fiber and nutrition because of its whole grain oat crust, *Springtime Brunch Pie* is a delicious and easy main course that can be made ahead and reheated in the microwave oven.

Moist and flavorful *Strawberry-Banana Bread* combines the goodness of fruit and oatmeal—a whole grain ingredient that can be a low fat source of soluble and insoluble fiber while adding great flavor, texture and nutrition.

Wonderfully tangy and sweet *Festive Fruit Salad* blends the convenience of canned fruit with readily available fruits of the season. Complete your brunch menu with your favorite fresh or frozen steamed vegetables seasoned with fresh herbs and a squeeze of lemon.

Serve a variety of refreshing drinks such as flavored coffee and iced teas along with chilled orange and tomato juices. Serve the cool drinks in tall glasses and garnish them with mint sprigs, fruit slices or long-stemmed maraschino cherries for a festive look.

Decorate your table with an arrangement of flowers from the garden—colorful tulips, daffodils, lilies and greens. No matter what the occasion, this wonderful make-ahead brunch, complete with nutritious whole grain oats, fruits and vegetables, creates an instant celebration.

Springtime Brunch Pie Crust:

1 cup old fashioned or quick oats
1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
3 oz. cream cheese, softened
2 tablespoons olive oil
Filling:
4 oz. bulk Italian sausage
1 tablespoon chopped onion
1/2 cup diced tomatoes
1/2 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground pepper
1 cup half-and-half
2 eggs
1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Green pepper rings for garnish, optional.

Crust: Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Combine oats, flour, salt, cream cheese and oil until blended. Press mixture evenly onto sides and bottom of a 9-inch glass pie plate.

Filling: Cook sausage and onions in skillet until browned, drain. Add tomatoes, Italian seasoning, salt and pepper. Combine half-and-half, eggs and cheese in small bowl; pour over meat mixture. Stir to combine; pour into prepared crust. If desired, garnish with rings of green pepper. Bake 40-45 minutes or until set. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Note: Pie may be prepared and baked ahead of time and reheated in the microwave oven on "high" for six to eight minutes or until heated through, rotating plate every two minutes.

Makes six servings.
Strawberry-Banana



Springtime Brunch Pie is a delicious entree that combines a flavorful filling with the wholesome goodness of an oatmeal crust.

Bread

1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup old fashioned oats or 3/4 cup quick oats
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup chopped walnuts, optional
1 cup mashed strawberries*
3/4 cup mashed banana
2/3 cup vegetable oil
2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Lightly grease two 8x4x3-inch pans or one 9x5x3-inch pan. Combine flour, oats, sugar, cinnamon, baking soda, salt and walnuts, if desired, in bowl. In separate bowl, combine strawberries, banana, oil and eggs; add to flour mixture and stir just until moistened. Spoon batter into prepared pan(s). Bake until toothpick inserted in center

comes out clean, 50-55 minutes for smaller loaves, 60-65 minutes for large loaf. Cool 15 minutes in pan; remove to wire rack to cool completely. Serve with strawberry butter, if desired.

*Fresh or frozen whole, unsweetened strawberries, thawed, may be used.

Makes two small loaves or one large loaf.

Strawberry Butter

1/2 cup (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
2 tablespoons strawberry preserves

Beat butter and preserves until well blended and smooth. Spoon into serving dish or mold into a heart shape, place on a plate and chill until ready to serve.

Festive Fruit Salad

1 can (20 oz.) pineapple chunks in natural juice, drained

(reserve juice)
1 can (11 oz.) mandarin oranges, drained
1 cup sliced bananas
1 cup sliced peaches
1 cup sliced kiwi fruit
1 cup sliced strawberries
1/2 cup blueberries
1/4 cup sliced or slivered almonds
1/2 cup plain non-fat yogurt
1/4 cup powdered sugar
2 teaspoons orange juice
1/4 teaspoon almond extract

Combine pineapple, oranges, bananas, peaches, kiwi fruit, strawberries, blueberries and almonds in large bowl. Combine 1/2 cup reserved pineapple juice, yogurt, powdered sugar, orange juice and almond extract in small bowl; stir until well mixed and powdered sugar is dissolved. Pour over fruit and stir gently. Chill 1 to 2 hours, stirring twice. Makes about 8 cups.

Support group will listen, share

In affiliation with the Alzheimer's Association, Panhandle Chapter, the Hereford support group for family caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, will meet at 10 a.m. Thursday in Fellowship of Believers Church, 245 N. Kingwood.

Thursday's gathering will focus on listening and sharing. Typically, the group will hear from some resource person, but it is time for a break from that format.

Caregivers are, by nature, good listeners. Those who choose to share experiences, concerns and questions will receive a good listening by this kind and loving group.

Friends, relatives and neighbors of these brave caregivers are encouraged to offer to stay with the person with Alzheimer's to allow the caregiver a rest. Respite care is vital for these caregivers whose days are typically 36-hours long.

The "bible" for caregivers of

persons with Alzheimer's is entitled, *The 36-Hour Day: A Family Guide to Caring for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease, Related Dementing Illnesses, and Memory Loss in Later Life* by Mace and Rabins. Thanks to the generosity of Hereford's Pilot Club, this excellent resource is available at no cost by calling 364-0359.

Group facilitator is Nathan L. Stone, Ph.D., pastoral counselor and former senior chaplain with Family Hospice of Temple.

At the Center

Senior Citizens

MENUS

THURSDAY-Mexican stack, Spanish rice, pinto beans, salad fixings, tostados, pineapple tidbits; or smothered pork cubes.

FRIDAY-Fried pollack with lemon juice, au gratin potatoes, buttered zucchini/yellow squash, carrot and raisin salad, angel food cake; or hamburger steak, applesauce.

MONDAY-Wieners, sauerkraut, baked potatoes with sour cream, buttered carrots, peaches; or Salisbury steak.

TUESDAY-Chicken strips with gravy, Oriental rice, seasoned spinach, pineapple salad, chocolate cake with frosting; or roast pork with gravy, vanilla wafers.

WEDNESDAY-Polish sausage, cheese grits, pinto beans, breaded tomatoes, onion slices/

pickle, mixed fruit crisp; or chicken and dumplings, mixed fruit.

ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY-Pool classes, exercise class 10-10:45 a.m., oil painting 9-11 a.m., HHH wellness with weigh-in 10 a.m.-12 noon, Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

FRIDAY-Pool classes, line dance 10-11 a.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

SATURDAY-Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-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 10 a.m.-12 noon, Golden K Kiwanis 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY-Pool classes, ceramics 12:30-4 p.m., Thrift Store open 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Arrivals

Dwayne and Stacy Waters are the proud parents of a son, Samuel Ray, born March 15 in Denton Community Hospital. Samuel weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Older brother, Marshall, welcomed him home.

Grandparents are Carolyn Waters of Hereford and Maxine Armitage of Dallas.

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4:30 PM 7:20 & 9:45

CARRIE THE RAGE
TUESDAY SHOWS
4:30 PM 7:15 & 9:35

SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Wednesday, March 17, 1999 • A5

Boxing probe continues following heavyweight title decision

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York's attorney general plans to focus his inquiry into last weekend's disputed Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis fight on how boxing's sanctioning bodies govern the sport.

The relationship between the sanctioning bodies and fight promoters like Don King is "highly problematic," as is the way the three chief governing bodies choose judges for major fights, Eliot Spitzer said Tuesday.

Spitzer's criticism came as the Manhattan district attorney's office said it is now investigating possible illegalities in how the fight was judged. It is the fourth such inquiry into Saturday night's fight.

Spitzer said his public hearing Friday in New York City on the controversial draw in the Holyfield-Lewis fight will seek to find ways states or the federal government can "redefine" the roles of the principal players in the sport.

Gov. George Pataki said it was time for the federal government to step into the ring.

The IBF, WBC and WBA raise conflicts of interest questions by selecting judges for major title bouts and paying their expenses and their fees for being at ringside, Spitzer said.

When a judge selected by a governing body backs that body's champion despite evidence that his opponent did better during the bout — as the IBF-selected judge is under fire for doing in the Holyfield-Lewis fight — that calls into question the impartiality of the judging and the integrity of the sport, Spitzer said.

"The way in which judges are picked certainly breeds the lack of confidence that the public has," Spitzer said. "The entire world of judging these days is insufficiently regulated and the aura of incompetence and perhaps worse, corruption, that permeates the industry flows from this."

Spitzer said he also wants to look at how governing bodies determine their rankings and who gets title shots and who doesn't. To outsiders, fighters appear to "move up and down based upon, apparently, their relationships with promoters," the attorney general said.

See, PROBE, Page A6

Covering the plate



COURTESY PHOTO/Lloyd Ames

Not this time — Hereford pitcher Monica Dominguez covers home plate on a Dumas runner's slide Tuesday.

Lady Whitefaces fall to Dumas

DUMAS — The Hereford Lady Whiteface varsity softball team, coming off a heart-breaking 21-20 loss to Borger in a make-up game Monday, still couldn't find its game Tuesday as the squad lost to Dumas 16-2.

Hereford pitcher Victoria Perez took the loss, which brought the Lady Whitefaces to 4-7 overall and 1-2 in loop play.

And by now, the Lady Whitefaces are probably thinking they've seen more relaxing spring breaks.

While most of the Hereford academic community headed out for spring road trips, the Lady Whitefaces have been

HEREFORD, 2
VS.
DUMAS, 16

clubbing their way through a four-game stretch this week — two coming as make-up games after weather delays.

The second rematch was scheduled here against Canyon

today at 1 p.m.

"It's just tough to come back from an emotionally draining game like the one we had with Borger Tuesday," head ladies' coach Jack Fox said. "The loss was tough on me, and it was tough on the girls. We've just got to settle down and play the game we're capable of."

Crystal Luna nailed a double, one of five Hereford hits on the day, to drive in

Hereford's only two runs in the top of the fourth.

The Lady Whitefaces were held scoreless through the first three innings while Dumas jumped out with four runs in the first and five in the second.

Dumas answered Hereford's two-run spree in the fourth with seven runs to lock the game up.

"I personally believe there have been just two games this year that we lost because we were legitimately outplayed," Fox said. "We've beaten ourselves in the others on errors."

"We're creating our own pressure," he said. "I think the girls realize how good they are, and they put a lot of pressure on themselves. They're just pressing too hard."

Torre will undergo surgery

Following prostate cancer diagnosis

ST. LOUIS (AP) — A physician considered a pioneer in the detection and treatment of prostate cancer will perform surgery Thursday on New York Yankees manager Joe Torre.

Dr. William Catalona of St. Louis will perform the operation at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. Torre's prostate cancer was disclosed last week. He has taken leave from the world champions until he recovers.

Barnes-Jewish spokeswoman Kim Kitson said Catalona does similar prostate surgery 5-7 times a week at the hospital. The Yankees have seen his work before — Catalona performed successful prostate cancer surgery on then-general manager Bob Watson in 1994.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in American men and the second deadliest. The prostate gland, about the size of a small chestnut, is in the male pelvic area.

Men 50 and older are most at risk. Torre is 58.

Catalona developed the blood test used to help detect prostate cancer in men in 1989. He also led a team that developed a new test for the cancer, called "free PSA test," recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration. Researchers say the new test could reduce the need for biopsies.

Catalona also is a pioneer in the development of nerve-sparing radical prostatectomy, a procedure to remove the cancerous prostate gland while minimizing damage to surrounding nerves and tissues. He has trained other surgeons in the procedure, making the hospital one of the leading centers in the country for prostate cancer surgery.

Torre has strong ties to St. Louis. He played for the Cardinals from 1969-74. He was an all-star each year from 1969-73 and won the 1971 Most Valuable Player award with a .363 average and 137 RBIs, both tops in the National League.

Torre also managed the Cardinals, replacing Whitey Herzog in 1990. He was fired during the 1995 season. He earlier managed the Atlanta Braves and New York Mets.

Sounding upbeat and confident, he said doctors believe they detected the cancer early. He expects to be in the hospital for three or four days after the surgery.

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INSIDE

'Post-Monica'

MSNBC's now struggling with major identity crisis

"Monica's Parents: Caught in the Crossfire or Clueless in California?"

"Clinton Tell-Alls: Tell me More, or Enough Already?"

"Monica's Remorse: Truly Sorry, or Crocodile Tears?"

Tasty, zesty, spicy. These topics for discussion served up during the past few weeks on MSNBC's daily "News Chat" talk show are the television equivalent of comfort food.

While not a particularly nourishing form of public discourse, "News Chat" exists on a reassuring level for those who don't like to be challenged by shades of gray. There's no middle ground. It's always one way or the other. Yes or no. Right or wrong. Sane or crazy.

Questions don't take more than 15 seconds to address, since that's the limit for call-in participants on the "News Chat" equivalent of a basketball shot clock that counts down at the bottom of the screen.

Oh, and it helps to shout your answer.

"MSNBC's Future: Meaty News, or Tabloid Talk Sleaze?"

Sorry. That's not a real topic.

It might as well be. The clock is running on MSNBC, too. The Lewinsky saga's end has laid bare the cable

network's identity crisis.

Its aggressive rival, Fox News Channel, has recently eclipsed MSNBC in the ratings during prime-time for the first time. One attempt to turn things around, a nightly political roundtable by John McLaughlin, ended embarrassingly in less than six weeks when McLaughlin decided he wasn't up to the grind.

MSNBC's philosophy has been to take the

day's hot story, the water-cooler topic, and talk it into the ground. But now that the conversation has cooled and people are back at their desks, thinking of other things besides sex in the White House, MSNBC doesn't know what to say.

So the network gropes for direction, particularly during the daytime hours. Katie Couric and Matt Lauer should seek residuals since MSNBC, with apparently little else to do, relentlessly reruns their "Today" show interviews.

At 5 p.m. each weekday, those identity problems disappear. "News Chat" may be a lot of things — loud, opinionated and occasionally morose — but it knows what it is. It's a path that points toward more talk and less news. MSNBC's dilemma is whether to continue down

that path.

"My job is to harangue the last person who spoke, whatever they said," John Gibson, the show's ringmaster, explained over lunch one day recently. "I'm supposed to be the ultimate contrarian."

Gibson has ideal credentials for this quintessential late 1990s job: a veteran of local television in California, his big break came in covering O.J. Simpson's murder trial, where he caught Geraldo Rivera's eye and appeared almost nightly on Rivera's CNBC show.

Each night, Gibson plays his role to the hilt. He pokes, he prods and listens to opinionated viewers with a look of sheer bemusement. He'll throw up his hands in frustration or dismiss someone with a get-outta-here wave.

"News Chat" is centered around the question of the day, which doesn't necessarily have to be about Monica. Gibson begins his workday around 10:30 a.m. on the phone with producers, trying to pin down the topic.

It has to be prominent in the news, percolating enough so viewers know something about it and have developed clear opinions. There has to be a stark either-or way of looking at it.

"Believe it or not, these questions take a lot of time, as mindless as they seem," he said.

On "News Chat" and "Inter Night," which immediately follows it, Gibson said he's there to encourage the sort of behavior you wouldn't want to see around the dinner table. "Inter Night" differs primarily in that it usually features outside experts arguing

instead of call-in viewers.

"The difference between the two shows is like the difference between amateur and professional wrestling," Gibson said, ignoring the icy stare of a publicist sitting across the table.

Gibson knows, ultimately,

that it's so much hot air. He doesn't take himself too seriously, either. "I'm not Charlie Rose," he said.

If only everyone at MSNBC were that comfortable with what they're doing.

David Bauder can be reached at dbauder@ap.org

David Bauder Associated Press



TELEVISION

WEDNESDAY MARCH 17

Table listing TV programs for Wednesday, March 17, including Body Elec, Menace, Days-Lives, Amazing, Hunter, Jeopardy!, Bold & B, Secret I.D., Angel, Boxing U.S., Movie: Mo'Nique Dearest, (4:5) Movie: U.S. Marshals, (11:30) Movie: Love Affair, Home Design, Movie: Retentive, Ultimate, Movie: Kung Fu, Kipper, (11:30) Movie: Rencor, High Points, GoodTaste, Time Trax, News.

THURSDAY MARCH 18

Table listing TV programs for Thursday, March 18, including Barney, Bad Dog, Today, Goo! Troop, Hillbillies, Good Morning America, This Morning, Mask, Magic Bus, Sportscenter, Movie: Targets, Movie: Julian Po Christian Slater, (6:00) Movie: Shane, Movie: Paid Prog., Designing, Sports, CHiPs, CharlieB, Single Guy, (6:00) Despierta America, Year by Year, Garden, Lost in Space, Tiny Toon.

Table listing TV programs for Thursday, March 18, including Body Elec, Menace, Days-Lives, Amazing, Hunter, Jeopardy!, Bold & B, Secret I.D., Angel, Up Close, (12:00) Movie: Shadows and Fog, (12:00) Movie: Broadway Rose, (12:00) Movie: Color of Money, (12:00) Movie: Meet Me in Las Vegas, Home, Movie: From-Unsigned Mysteries, Ultimate, (12:00) Movie: The Valley of Gwangi, (12:00) Movie: Malsy, (12:00) Movie: Basic Instinct, Rencor, Eye-Hist., Party, Time Trax, News.

Table listing TV programs for Thursday, March 18, including 6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM.

COMICS

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart. Panel 1: A man asks 'HOW COME THESE TINY PILLS COME IN SUCH A HUGE BOTTLE?'. Panel 2: A man says 'THE WARNING LABELS HAVE TO BE IN FOUR LANGUAGES'.

Marvin By Tom Armstrong. Panel 1: Marvin says 'TELETUBBIES IS AN ENGLISH TV SHOW'. Panel 2: Marvin says 'YOU COULDN'T PROVE IT BY ME!'. Panel 3: Marvin says 'EH-OOH! POJI POJI! ZFFPD! WOOLY WIG!'.

Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake. Panel 1: Blondie asks 'WHAT'S THE SPECIAL TODAY?'. Panel 2: Blondie asks 'A THICK, RICH IRISH STEW... WITH CHUNKS OF TENDER LAMB, POTATOES, CARROTS AND BARLEY'. Panel 3: Blondie asks 'I KINDA HAD MY HEART SET ON CORNED BEEF'. Panel 4: Blondie asks 'THAT'S YOUR THIRD BOWL OF IRISH STEW TODAY'. Panel 5: Blondie asks 'CAN'T HELP IT, I MAKE IT SOUND TOO GOOD'.

Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker. Panel 1: Beetle Bailey says 'IT'S WONDERFULLY GENEROUS OF YOUR WHOLE PLATOON TO COME AND GIVE BLOOD'. Panel 2: Beetle Bailey says 'WELL, PUT IT THIS WAY...'. Panel 3: Beetle Bailey says '...WE WERE GOING TO GIVE IT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER'.

Barney Google and Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell. Panel 1: Barney Google says 'I HAVEN'T HEARD ONE SCRAP OF GOSSIP ALL WEEK LONG!!'. Panel 2: Barney Google says 'TEACHER'S GOT HER A SWEETIE!!'. Panel 3: Barney Google says 'GLORY BE!!'.

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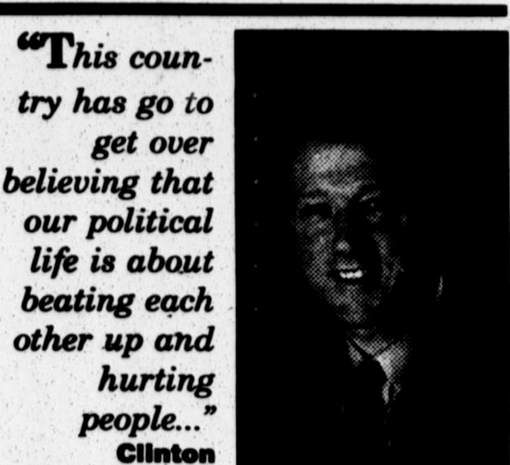
AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc.

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Table with multiple columns: CATTLE FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, FUTURE OPTIONS, WHEAT (CBT), SOYBEAN (CBT), CORN (CBT), SILVER (COM), GOLD (COM), GOLD (FUT), SILVER (FUT), WHEAT (FUT), SOYBEAN (FUT), CORN (FUT).

'Stand By Me' Old song takes on special meaning

STUART, Fla. (AP) — At a Florida fund-raiser, the old Drifters-tune "Stand By Me" took on extra meaning for a president who escaped ouster a little more than a month ago.



"This country has got to get over believing that our political life is about beating each other up and hurting people..." Clinton

sponsibility to reinvest in the communities they came from so others would have an opportunity to succeed. Gary credited Clinton with increasing the median income of black households, raising the minimum wage and providing tax credits to low-income families.

GOP ramrodding similar budgets through panels

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans are muscling a pair of similar fiscal 2000 budgets through Senate and House budget committees that would set aside Social Security's huge surpluses while reducing taxes and increasing spending for schools and the Pentagon.

Tracks lead to future

Despite the nostalgia that trains evoke, I am one of those people who believes that passenger trains are the wave of the future, not a part of the past.

WTRT

From Page A1 Bea recently retired as activities director at King's Manor Methodist Home. Euler grew up on a family farm at Summerfield and still resides at the family farm.

GOP party leaders to deliver keynote at area fund raiser

AUSTIN — Texas Republican Party Chairman Susan Weddington and Vice Chairman David Barton will be the keynote speakers this week at a fund raiser for 26 area GOP organizations.

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Rebates

From Page A1

Dimmitt received a rebate of \$21,429.10, up 12.1 percent from the \$19,111.01 it received in March 1998.

Dalhart received \$68,923.97, a 1.7 percent gain from the \$67,780.88 it received in March 1998.

Pampa received \$170,890.05, down 16 percent from the \$203,479.66 received in March 1998.

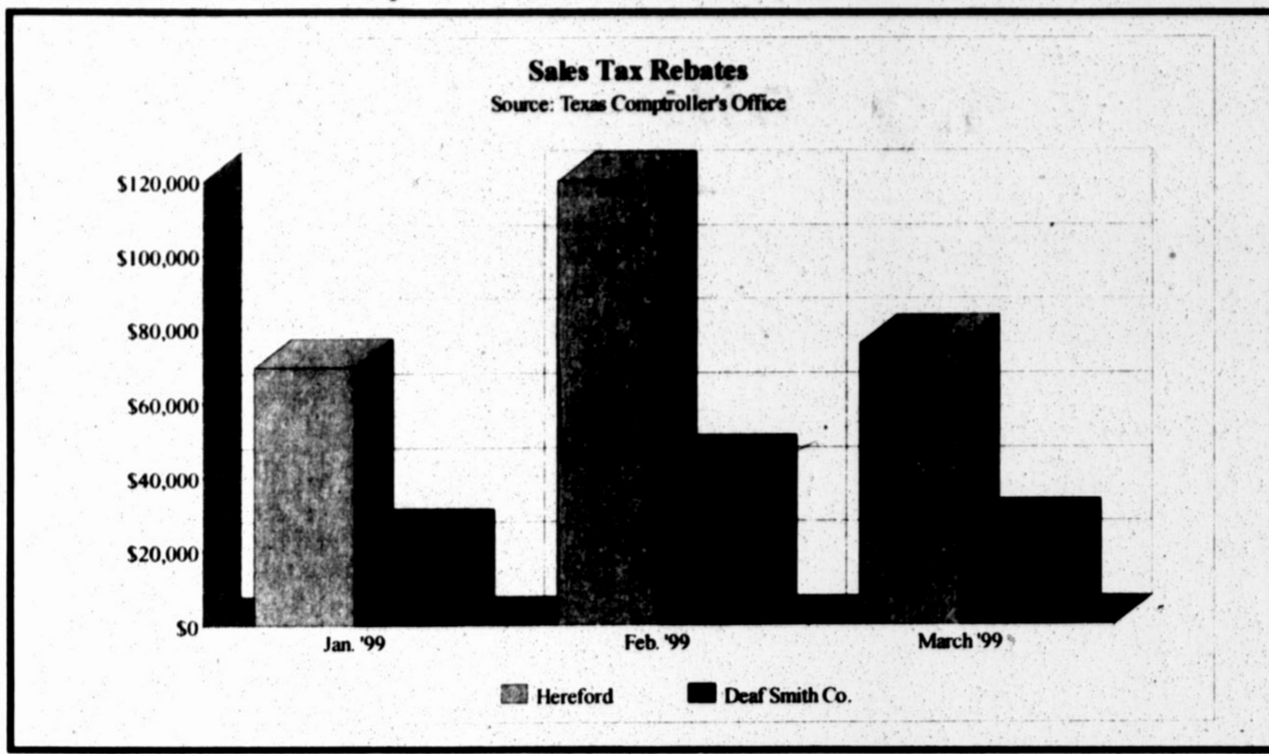
Plainview received \$181,270.46, up 5.3 percent from the \$172,116.91 for March 1998.

Borger received \$175,557.28, down 4.2 percent from the \$183,278.51 it received in March 1998.

Dumas received \$116,711.62, up 169.9 percent from the \$43,249.02 it received in March 1998.

Among the area counties, Castro County received \$10,171, up 23.9 percent from the \$8,209.90 it received in March 1998; Hale County received \$67,773.26, a 10.5 percent gain from the \$61,360.93 for February 1998.

The comptroller's next sales tax allocation will be April 9.



Filing service

The comptroller's office has established a service designed to make sales tax filing easier. The new WebFile Internet service, which is similar to the comptroller's TeleFile ser-

vice, allows taxpayers to file returns via the World Wide Web.

More than 160,000 taxpayers now qualify to use WebFile. The qualified taxpayers are short-form filers with no tax

due and long-form filers who had no sales at any of their outlets.

To get more information on WebFile, visit the comptroller's Web site at <http://www.window.state.tx.us>.

Hagman urges Congress to lift Medicare limit on drug payments

WASHINGTON -- Rattling a plastic pill case, Larry Hagman made a personal appeal to Congress to lift the limit on how long Medicare pays for anti-rejection drugs.

"I'm happy to be here," the actor and 1995 liver transplant recipient told a Capitol Hill news conference Tuesday. "I'm happy to be anywhere. I'm not kidding."

The man best-known for his portrayal of J.R. Ewing on television's "Dallas" said the anti-rejection medicines inside his little blue pill case were literally keeping him alive.

At roughly \$11,000 per year, anti-rejection drugs can be prohibitively costly for people who must pay for them out-of-pocket, he said. Medicare currently pays for only three years worth of the drugs.

Tipper Gore

SALONICA, Greece -- Tipper Gore says the plight of refugees and the quality of U.S. health care would become a personal priority if she becomes first lady.

"These are things I would like to think I'd work towards," Mrs. Gore said Tuesday at the beginning of a week-long visit to Greece. "I am an activist in the Greek tradition: to learn by doing, seeing and feeling."

The first leg of Mrs. Gore's trip was to Bosnia-Herzegovina, where the vice president's wife had "an opportunity to hear from people in the aftermath of war."

"It's important for people to understand what Bosnians are dealing with," Mrs. Gore said. "It was also environ-

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS People

mental devastation and psychological devastation."

Charles Sheen

MALIBU, Calif. -- Charles Sheen says he's clean and sober again.

"Today I had a good progress report. I have freedom from drugs and alcohol," the actor said Tuesday after a status hearing about his court-ordered rehabilitation program.

The 33-year-old Sheen, who says he wishes to be called Charles rather than Charlie, also told Municipal Court Judge Lawrence Mira he has completed 94 hours of the 300 community service hours the judge ordered.

Sheen is working with a runaway children's group and a youth baseball league in the San Fernando Valley, prosecutor Martin Herscovitz said.

Sheen was placed on two years' probation and ordered to complete the community service after pleading no contest to misdemeanor battery for attacking then-girlfriend Brittany Ashland in 1996.

He renounced his drug-taking and boozing two years ago. But on May 20, Sheen was hospitalized for use of an undisclosed illegal drug.

Carl Perkins

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The rockabilly cats who helped create rock 'n' roll deserve a museum of their own, says an associate of the late Carl Perkins who wants to give it

to them.

Groundbreaking on a \$3 million building to house the International Rockabilly Hall of Fame is planned for September in nearby Jackson, said Henry Harrison, who is still hoping to acquire the land.

"It is my fervent prayer and earnest request that music lovers from all over the world join me in building this lasting tribute to the many individuals who made rockabilly music a major part of American music history," Harrison said Tuesday.

Performers like Perkins, Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis first found fame as rockabilly performers. Perkins wrote the rockabilly anthem "Blue Suede Shoes."

Loretta Lynn

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii - Loretta Lynn's beachfront home went cheap.

The country music star's 2,000-square-foot bungalow was sold for \$2.65 million, below the listed price of \$2.9 million, said John Michael White, who represented Lynn in the sale.

White said Tuesday that the buyer is a doctor from the mainland.

Lynn and her late husband, O.V. "Mooney" Lynn, bought the North Kona property in 1982 and helped design the round home with its open-spaced interior.

Lynn lives in Hurricane Mills, Tenn., west of Nashville.

Billy Joel

NEW YORK -- The Piano Man is not quite ready to make a stranger out of touring.

Billy Joel has said his current tour will be his last big-budget concert jaunt. But that doesn't mean he's never going to hit the road again.

"I'm not saying I'll never play again. I'm just not going to tour like I've been touring," Joel said Monday night after being inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Joel, who has been dabbling in classical music in recent months, said he simply got tired of motels and lying in unfamiliar beds, staring at "cottage-cheese ceilings."

"I got homesick," he said.

Martin Frost Dick Arney

WASHINGTON -- Ice 2, Politicians 0.

Two days after Rep. Martin Frost, the House's No. 3 Democrat, slipped on the ice and broke his ankle, House Majority Leader Dick Arney, a Republican, fell and broke his wrist. The city had been hit by a snowstorm.

"We're proving in Washington that even ice is bipartisan," Arney spokesman Jim Wilkinson said.

Both legislators are Texans.

Frost slipped in a super-market parking lot last week and had to have 10 metal pins inserted to repair the fractures. Arney was taking out the garbage at his suburban Virginia home last Thursday when he fell.

'Vegetarian' Jesus sign raises hackles of some in Amarillo

AMARILLO (AP) -- An animal-rights billboard that says "Jesus was a vegetarian" has raised the ire of some residents, including an anonymous caller who threatened to burn one cat per day as long as the sign remains.

Police are looking into the threat phoned in to the local chapter of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals sometime last weekend.

The male caller said he called the SPCA because he wasn't able to find a telephone number for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, a national animal-rights group that paid for the billboard.

The Amarillo Globe-News reported that the sign generated complaints even before it was erected last Tuesday along Interstate 27.

The anonymous caller said he intends to burn a cat each day that the billboard is up. He then said, "Have a nice day," and hung up, said SPCA volunteer Prissilla Sirmon.

"I hope it is a hoax," said SPCA local board president Gayle Luna.

Dave Kemp, first assistant Potter County attorney, said the telephone call itself does not appear to break any laws because it is not a threat against a person or SPCA property.

But cruelty to animals is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by a maximum fine of \$4,000 and a year in jail upon conviction, he said.

Ms. Luna, whose group has no affiliation with PETA, said SPCA board member Benita Trnka called PETA's national headquarters about the billboard and the complaints it has headed.

"She called PETA to let them know that when you do things like this, there are repercussions," Ms. Luna said.

The advertising campaign has generated numerous letters and angry calls to the Globe-News. Most, including local clergymen, have disputed the claim that Jesus didn't eat meat.

PETA's solution is to offer a \$1,000 reward for the arrest of the man who left the message, if he carries out his threat, said Bruce Friedrich, PETA's national campaign coordinator.

"We highly doubt he is serious," Friedrich said. "Calling and leaving a message in the middle of the night on voice mail is a typical harassment technique for phonies and cowards."

As for taking down the billboard, Friedrich said it won't happen.

"It would reward this man's cowardice," he said.

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