

The Hereford Brand



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FARM AID

Congressional committees add \$6 billion to budget proposals for overhauling crop insurance program for farmers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican lawmakers have included \$6 billion in their budget resolutions to overhaul a crop insurance program for farmers.

Budget committees in both the House and Senate began voting on the resolutions Wednesday. The \$6 billion would amount to an additional \$1.5 billion going towards the crop insurance program each year. The program currently costs about \$1.6 billion a year.

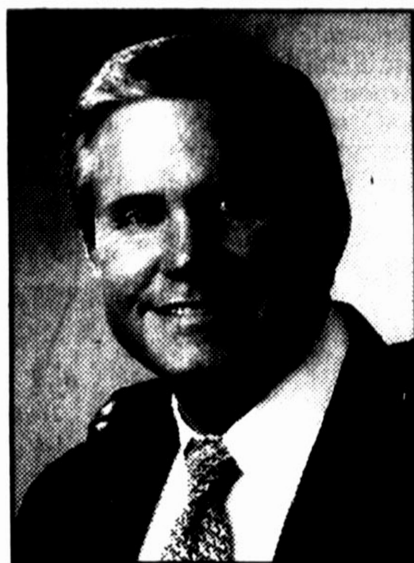
"This is nothing less than a triumph for America's farmers and ranchers," said House Agriculture Committee Chairman Larry Combest, R-Texas. "The \$6 billion contained in the budget resolution guarantees us the fiscal means to strengthen the financial safety net for farmers. I'm confident we'll now have the tools to improve the risk management system."

The budget resolutions are

essentially a blueprint for things GOP leaders would like to accomplish. But they face hurdles as they go through the legislative process.

President Clinton did not include crop insurance in his budget proposal but has expressed a commitment to making reforms. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has unveiled a plan that would

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"The \$6 billion contained in the budget resolution guarantees us the fiscal means to strengthen the financial safety net for farmers. I'm confident we'll now have the tools to improve the risk management system."
Rep. Larry Combest

Incumbent has 2 foes in city race

By Don Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

There will be a municipal election.

Until the final day for filing for a spot on the ballot, none of the three incumbents on the Hereford City Commission had drawn an opponent, which could have meant the city would not have to conduct an election May 1. However, Jose A. "Joey" Garza Jr. and Martha Rincon filed Wednesday for the Place 1 seat now held by Silvana Juarez, who filed earlier.

Garza, who lists his occupation as bus driver, resides at 612 Austin. Rincon, who is manager of food service at Hereford Regional Medical Center, resides at 207 Ave. J. Rincon was an unsuccessful candidate last year for an at-large seat on the commission.

Although Juarez drew opposition, Hereford Mayor Bob Josserrand and Commissioner Tom Coneway (Place 3) have a free ride to new terms.

Early voting by personal appearance will be 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

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BRAND/Don Cooper

Fording a stream? -- Not really, but this car did splash water in all directions as it traveled east on Park Avenue. About a half-inch of rain fell overnight, causing a stream of water to flow down Avenue C into Dameron Park. A winter storm watch is in effect for tonight, with periods of snow expected and forecasters saying up to 4 inches of accumulation is possible. The low tonight will be in the upper 20s. However, the forecasters are expecting the nasty weather to move out by the weekend.

Senate approves electric deregulation bill

AUSTIN (AP) — A plan to deregulate the state's electric business is headed to a House committee after getting overwhelming approval in the Texas Senate.

"This issue of electric utility restructuring is technical, complex and far-reaching," said Sen. David Sibley, R-Waco, the bill's sponsor.

"But the heart of the bill has a human face. It allows Texans a choice in how they buy electricity. It gives them — not the utility companies — the flexibility to make a decision that affects their daily lives."

Sibley's bill to deregulate the electric market passed by voice vote Wednesday with at least three lawmakers registering their opposition.

"If I had voted for SB7, I could not tell my constituents that it would lower costs," said Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi.

"I am not convinced that this bill will help families, residential electric rates and small businesses," Truan said. "There is no compelling reason to pass this bill."

Under the legislation, the rates of such investor-owned utilities as Dallas-based TU

Electric would be frozen at their current prices until 2002. The rates would then be lowered by an additional 5 percent for five more years.

At that point electric customers would be able to shop for a new utility company that could offer lower prices or better technology.

The incumbent utility would not be able to deviate from their reduced rate during the five-year period unless they could prove that they lost 40 percent of their customers to competitors.

The utilities have complained that the system, which

is meant to control their ability to manipulate the prices, is unfair to them.

"We are pleased that the Senate by such an overwhelming majority recognize the need for industry restructuring, however, we still have concerns about specific aspects of the bill and we will be working with members of the House on those issues," said Christopher Schein, spokesman for TU Electric.

The bill has been opposed by some consumer groups.

"We will be working hard to defeat or improve this bill in the House," said Tom

Smith, state director of Public Citizen.

Smith said there are some good parts of the bill.

"It has good consumer protections and it takes a first step to developing renewable resources, energy efficiency and cleaning up the pollution from the power plants," he said.

The bill is expected to be taken up by the House State Affairs Committee where Rep. Steve Wolens, committee chair, will co-sponsor Sibley's legislation.

"I'm sure there will be a lot of changes," said Sibley.

Forum to take ideas

Special to The Brand

Area residents are getting a chance to say something about where they want Texas and Deaf Smith County to go in the 21st century.

Residents will receive the opportunity by participating in the Texas Community Futures forum, which will be 6:30-9:30 p.m. Monday in the banquet room of the Hereford Community Center, 100 Ave. C.

The forum, sponsored by the Deaf Smith County Office of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas A&M University System, is one of the 254 forums -- one in each county in Texas -- to determine the direction of the state and counties into the 21st century.

The Texas Community Futures Forum is a new statewide process that will answer questions concerning what citizens feel are their priorities as we move into

the next century. Texans from all segments of the population will be utilized to prioritize needs and issues based on current and emerging trends.

The goal of this open forum is to poll the views of residents about the future of Deaf Smith County. The outcome of this workshop will be a prioritized list of items that citizens think could be done to help achieve goals for communities.

Dennis Newton, Deaf Smith County Extension Agent, said, "This is an ambitious undertaking. It also is a unique opportunity for many people representing many groups to work together in meeting the needs of the Texans in the 21st century."

Newton

Extension programs, which reach all Texas residents statewide, will be developed by integrating community needs and the capabilities of participating partners.

The local extension service staff are asking anyone who plans to attend to call 364-3573 by noon Monday so materials can be put together for all participants.

Campaign websites

The Associated Press

Candidate Internet sites:

- Lamar Alexander: www.lamaralexander.com
- Bill Bradley: www.billbradley.com
- Pat Buchanan: www.gopatgo2000.org
- George Bush: www.georgewbush.com
- Elizabeth Dole: www.edole2000.org
- Steve Forbes: www.forbes2000.com
- John Kasich: www.k2k.org
- John McCain: www.mccainforpresident.org
- Dan Quayle: www.quayle.org

In planning stage:

- Al Gore: www.gore2000.org
- Gary Bauer: www.bauer2k.org

Cyber-campaigns rolling

WASHINGTON (AP) — Seeking to capitalize on the Internet craze, presidential hopefuls are building Web sites that offer everything from candidate biographies and issue papers to online chats and information on how to volunteer.

Most of the 2000 campaign Web sites are remarkably similar, both in layout and content. But Steve Forbes and Rep. John Kasich offer a bit more, giving voters daily re-

ports and photos from the campaign trail and mass e-mail updates on the candidates.

Forbes declared his candidacy for the GOP presidential nomination Tuesday in an announcement carried first on his Web site. Lamar Alexander made a similar declaration during the 1996 campaign.

"The Internet combines the best of American ingenuity, innovation and high tech," Forbes said at a New Hamp-

shire campaign event.

Of the presidential hopefuls who have formed exploratory committees, Vice President Al Gore and Gary Bauer are the only ones without active campaign Web sites. Both plan to have sites on the World Wide Web soon.

Gore's site will be "fresh and dynamic" and should be up before the end of March, said Roger Salazar, spokesman

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INSIDE

THE HEREFORD BRAND
Local roundup

Family frameworks meetings

School counselors and teachers have introduced a communication and parenting skills program for parents who would like to develop better family and school relations. Sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. at Bluebonnet on March 22 and 29 and at Aikman April 12 and 19. Northwest and West Central will be scheduling sessions at a later date, but parents can attend sessions at any campus. These are bi-lingual meetings and everyone is welcome. For more information please contact the school so arrangements may be made for the meal. Door prizes, babysitting and a meal will be provided.

EQIP ranking deadlines

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has set the ranking deadlines for the 1999 Environmental Quality Incentive Program. The first ranking deadline for the 1999 program is March 31, 1999, and a second ranking in deadline is set for July 1. Applications received before March 31 will be ranked for program eligibility during April. Applications received after March 31 will be ranked after July 1. To learn more about EQIP or to submit an application contact the local NRCS field office at 364-0530, extension 3.

**Today's weather
OUTLOOK**

Winter storm watch in effect

A winter storm watch is in effect for tonight. Tonight, periods of snow, snow accumulations of up to 4 inches possible, low 25 to 30, north wind 10-20 mph. Friday, cloudy with a 60 percent chance of light snow, snow possibly changing to

light rain in the afternoon, high around 40, north wind 10-15 mph. Friday night, mostly cloudy, low 25 to 30. **Extended forecast**
Saturday, partly cloudy, high 55 to 60.
Sunday, partly cloudy, low 30 to 35, high 60 to 65.
Monday, mostly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, low in the upper 30s, high 60 to 65.
Wednesday's recap
High, 57; low, 33; precipitation, 0.48 inches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
News in brief

Wildlife rescuers won't stand trial

WAXAHACHIE, Texas (AP) — Animal rescuers assigned to round up a flock of starving emus won't stand trial for shooting them. The Ellis County grand jury declined Wednesday to indict two members of the wildlife rescue service Nature's Hope. Joe Schreiber and Jim Claytor were criticized last month by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals for using shotguns to kill six birds. Schreiber said it was more humane than putting them through the stress of a roundup and shipment to a new home. "We saved over 100 birds, and we sacrificed the last ... so they would not go through what that one did," Schreiber said, pointing to an emu he said died from the stress of being wrangled. "We're hurt, and we're tired, and now we're responsible."

Texas students sing in Scotland

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — The Denton High School Chorale sang in ancient St. Giles' Cathedral and pronounced the acoustics "fabulous." At morning service in the 900-year-old Scottish Presbyterian cathedral on Wednesday, the Very Rev. Gillesbuig Macmillan greeted the choir from the pulpit. "Texas is a very big place and I don't know where Denton is, but I am sure they do and I'm delighted to welcome them," he said. The choristers gazed up at him from their seats in the nave, girls dressed alike in black velvet bodices and pewter taffeta skirts and boys in black cutaway jackets with tails. They sang 11 pieces by European and American composers for their half-hour program, starting with the "Benedictus sit Deus" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart to John Rutter's "A Gaelic Blessing." The congregation applauded and the choir bowed. "We thank you for attending. It has been a privilege to sing for you," said conductor Ann Smith, who directs choral music at Denton High. "We wanted the choir to sing in cathedrals in England and Scotland because cathedrals were built for voices. This is part of our education," she said. "People have been singing here for hundreds of years so it's an honor to be here," said another, Heather Goodman. "We sang first in St. Paul's Cathedral in London and then in Chester Cathedral. We are all impressed by the sound in these great buildings," said Mrs. Smith. The choir has performed in New York's Carnegie Hall but this is its first visit abroad. English and Scottish cathedrals quite often invite foreign choirs. The Denton party numbers 46, including 29 choristers, accompanist, harpist, parents, chaperones and a member of the school board. The choir also held a workshop with composer Rutter at Great St. Mary's Church in Cambridge.

ELSEWHERE

HOUSING DISPUTE: The head of the Dallas Housing Authority says her agency will review its site selection standards now that a federal appeals court has rejected public housing locations based on race. ... **KIDS' HEALTH:** A bill the Texas Senate passed unanimously last week doesn't go far enough to guarantee health insurance for all children who need it, a broad-based group of House lawmakers says. The Texas Black Legislative Caucus, the Mexican-American Legislative Caucus and the Legislative Study Group presented resolutions Wednesday, calling for insurance for children up to age 19 who live within 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The Hereford Brand

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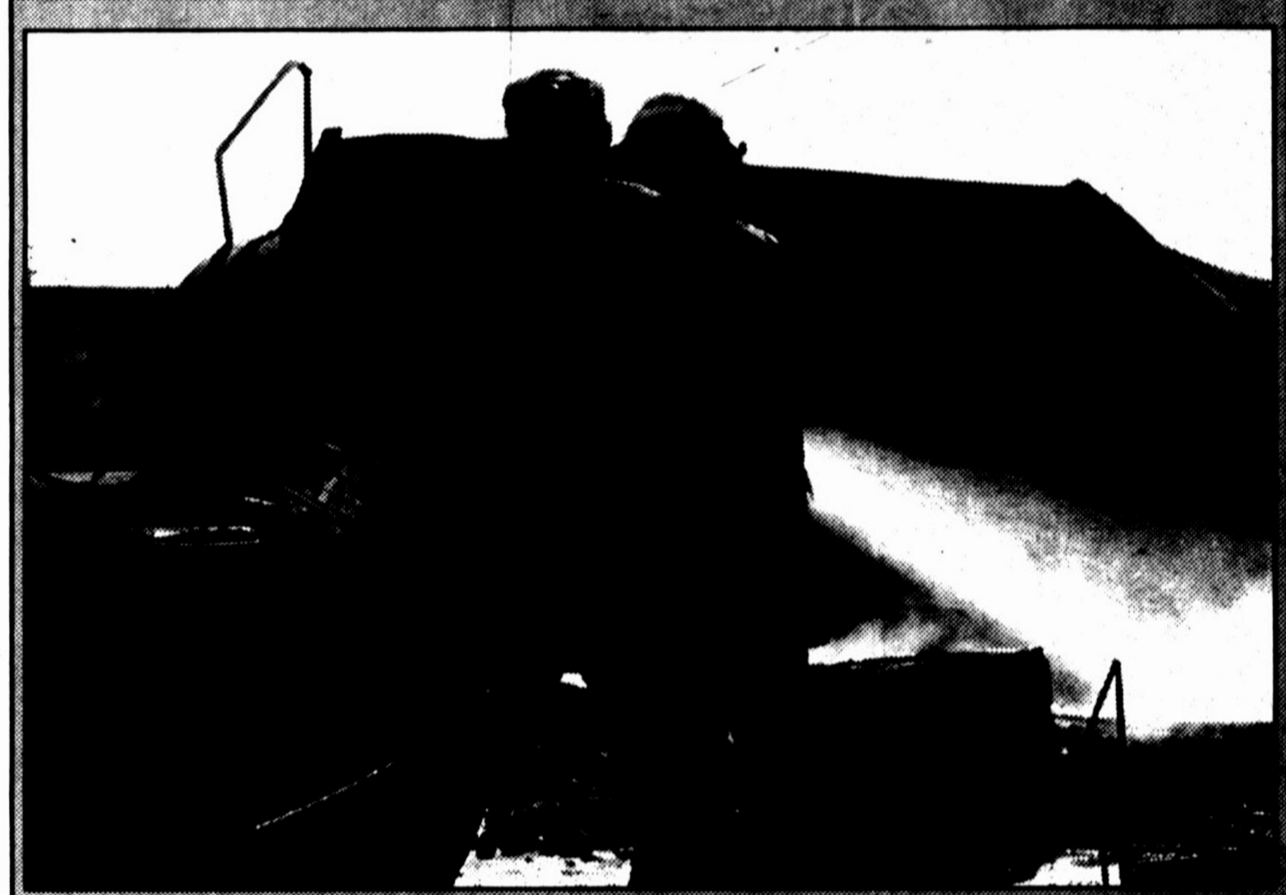
Radioactive waste threatens aquifer

ODESSA, Texas (AP) — University of Texas researchers say western Andrews County, part of which sits atop the Ogallala Aquifer, may be unsuitable for radioactive waste disposal. The report, released late last month and made public this week by UT's Bureau of Economic Geology, said the aquifer is located beneath land owned by Envirocare of Texas and may also lie beneath

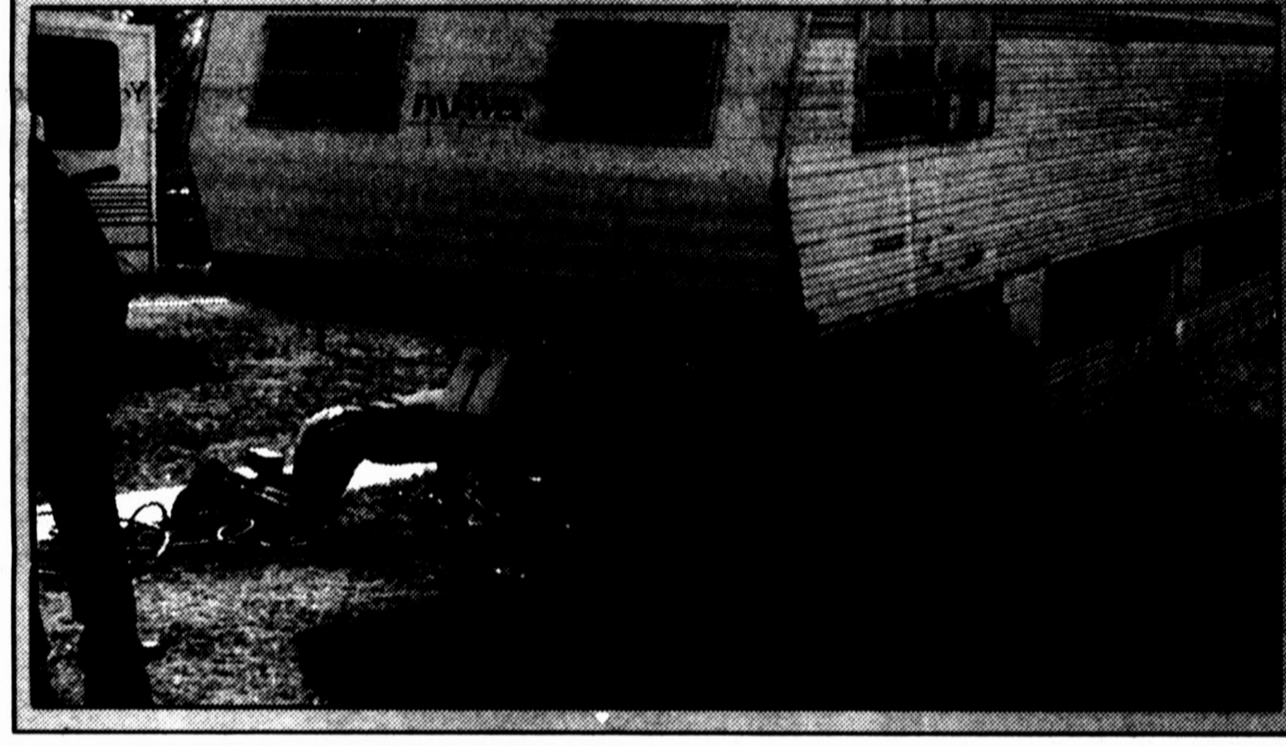
Waste Control Specialists' hazardous and low-level radioactive storage facility, the Odessa American reported. Both companies have proposed their facilities be used to dispose of low-level radioactive waste from Texas, Maine and Vermont. UT scientist Alan Dutton questions the methodology behind a recent report by Texas Tech University scientists, paid for by Pasadena-based Waste

Control Specialists. The Tech research concludes that the Ogallala aquifer was not beneath the WCS site and is often cited by proponents of the nuclear waste facility who say Andrews County is a safe site. "(Tech researchers) state that Ogallala is absent at the WCS site," Dutton's report said. "No scientific description or documentation were included with the text ... to

substantiate these interpretations." Tech researchers could not be reached for comment by The Associated Press. The UT report also states that "the description of core materials" at the WCS site resemble those found at Envirocare's 888 acres, located eight miles southeast of Envirocare's lands. Wet core samples taken from the Envirocare of Texas site reflect the presence of groundwater, the report said. Core samples taken from the WCS site for the company's 1993 application for radioactive waste disposal also were wet. Both companies have touted the presence of the Red Bed Ridge, a thick bank of "impermeable" clay, on their lands as suitable for disposal of radioactive materials. Dutton's report said the ridge itself may not be as old as previously reported, and that the thickness of the High Plains aquifer increases along the ridge by 1.25 feet per mile to the southeast. Groundwater "recharge" may be occurring at either location, the report says. "A saturated section can develop and build up across the 'Red Bed Ridge' in a given area that is presently unsaturated," the report reads. The report said the "conditions" at the WCS location "might at a later time come to resemble" those at Envirocare of Texas lands. Texas law forbids either site from being considered for radioactive waste disposal unless it can be proved that the Ogallala aquifer is not "recharged from or discharged to" either site area, a 1987 letter by Rick Jacobi, former manager for the Authority states. The report said further study of the WCS site and lands in the south-central part of the county, near the border with Ector and Winkler counties, is needed. The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Disposal Authority, the state agency charged with operating a low-level radioactive waste dump in Texas for wastes from Texas, Maine and Vermont, requested the report from the Bureau of Economic Geology in January.



More than just fires — Hereford Volunteer Firefighters responded to two fires Wednesday, within only a few minutes of each other. The first call came in at 9:33 a.m. for a structure fire three miles west of Highway 60 on County Road Four. Firefighters arrived at the R&R Trailer Washout to find the structure already demolished. Fireman Van and Cpt. Dean Turney, above, spray the remains of the structure, in hopes of preventing a stray spark from being carried into surrounding dry fields by high winds. While the washout was still smoldering firefighters received a call of a mobile home on 16th Street, Avenue H which had blown over and gas was leaking. On arrival firemen found the travel trailer had been blown off its block supports. The leaking gas was coming from an illegally installed propane tank, which had been damaged when the travel trailer fell. Below, assistant chief, Robert Murray, left, Cpt. Dan Turney, center, and Isaac ... disconnect the gas lines.



THE HEREFORD BRAND
Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for March 17, 1999, include the following:
POLICE DEPARTMENT Arrests
- A 36-year-old woman was arrested in the 600 block of Irving and charged with domestic assault.
- A 21-year-old man was arrested on Fifth Street and charged with several traffic violations.
Incidents
- A 15-year-old boy was reported as a runaway in the 300 block of Knight.
- A member of the YMCA staff was accidentally locked in the facility at closing. Officers and a representative were called to let him out.
- A reckless driver was reported in the 400 block of Paloma Lane.
- Loud music was reported in the 200 block of Avenue K. The man playing the music

caused the vehicle to flip. The car was occupied by six people, none were injured.
- Charges of criminal non-support were filed.
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Arrests
- A 36-year-old man began serving time on a driving while intoxicated conviction.
Incidents
- A criminal trespass was reported.
FIRE DEPARTMENT
- 9:33 a.m. Firefighters responded to a structure fire three miles west of Highway 60 on County Road Four. The structure at R&R Trailer Washout was totaled. The fire apparently began with a malfunctioning electric space heater.
- 10:00 a.m. Firefighters responded to a bomb scare at the post office. Investigation revealed a package of papers.
- 10:08 a.m. Firefighters responded to 16th and Avenue H where a mobile home had blown off its blocks. Firemen disconnected a leaking, illegally installed propane tank.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Texas lottery

No ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said. The jackpot was worth \$10 million. The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 50 were:
5-28-38-43-44-45
Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$14 million.

Pick 3
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:
3-5-8
Texas Press Association member 1999

Little used law helps convict former student

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — For the first time since the Supreme Court threw out the Gun Free School Zones Act in a Central Texas case, prosecutors here have used the revised law to convict a former student. Rudy Santiago, 19, received three years' probation when sentenced Wednesday by U.S. District Judge H.F. "Hippo" Garcia. The law, passed in 1990, was used to convict another San Antonio student in 1992. But an appeal to the Supreme Court resulted in its being struck down. Congress resurrected and revised the statute in 1996. Since then, the law has seen limited use and a mixed reception. During Wednesday's sentencing, Garcia said that state courts are equipped to punish anyone caught carrying a gun on campus. Garcia also questioned the logic behind a law that imposes as much as five years in prison for a class A misdemeanor. "That statute is not well written, as far as I'm concerned," he said.

THE HEREFORD BRAND
Obituaries

JESUS CADENA
March 17, 1999
Funeral services for Jesus Cadena, 75, of Hereford are pending with Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home. Mr. Cadena died Wednesday at Hereford Care Center.
JIM MCKAY
March 18, 1999
Funeral services for Jim McKay, of Perryton are pending with Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home.

LIFESTYLES

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'Bee-Lieve in Yourself'



Thomas Hammarbeck

Students win prizes in contest

Students from West Central, Shirley, Bluebonnet and Hereford Junior High schools entered the T-shirt design contest sponsored by the Academic Language Therapist Association in Dallas.

The designs were to depict the theme for the ALTA Spelling Bee, "Bee-Lieve in Yourself."

Marcos Escamilla, Krystal Fellers, Becca Gallardo, Thomas Hammarbeck, Clay Moore, Garrett Pickens, Larry Vallejo, Lina Vallejo and Eddie Villalovos competed against 212 students in the Dallas area.

Recognized at the awards ceremony for placing in the top 10 were Krystal Fellers and Marcos Escamilla. They received honorable mention ribbons.

Also recognized at the ceremony were Larry Vallejo and Eddie Villalovos for being selected second place. They were awarded ribbons and \$50 savings bonds, and their designs were printed on note cards. Proceeds from the sale of the note cards are for scholarships for teachers training to be therapists for dyslexic readers.



Front—Becca Gallardo, Krystal Fellers
Back—Garrett Pickens, Marcos Escamilla



Front—Larry Vallejo, Lina Vallejo
Back—Clay Moore, Eddie Villalovos

Creators Syndicate

Ann Landers



Ann Landers

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I have been married for 20 years. Our children are grown and out of the house. For the last 32 years, I have worked full time without a break. Part of my salary has gone to support my husband's ex-wife and his children. I have never complained.

Here's my dilemma. My job is extremely demanding and stressful. We also own two businesses, which my husband runs. I need a life. I want to garden, cook, take some classes, you name it. My husband and I agreed that when I reach age 50 (I am now 48), I would work part time so I could keep contributing to our retirement fund. Ann, we have plenty of money put away for retirement. We have no debts, own our home and have a vacation home as well.

I told my husband I want to quit NOW. I am stressed out and exhausted. I spend 10-hour days cooped up in an airless office with tinted windows. He wants me to hang in there because it's "only two more years." I can't bear the thought of it. He says I am being selfish. The bottom line is I am burned out and depressed.

Every day, I feel myself sinking deeper and deeper into despair. If I quit my job, it might be the end of my marriage, but if I don't quit, it will be the end of me. Do you see a way out? — Dying Inside in the Midwest

Dear Midwest: Your letter is a cry for help if ever I heard one. That husband of yours sounds excessively demanding. You need some time

off so you can calm your nerves and clear your head. See your doctor about an antidepressant or something to relieve your anxiety. If, after you have had a rest, you still want to quit working, do it. If your husband leaves you because of it, you haven't lost much.

Dear Ann Landers: I am sure you get many letters complaining about rude, crude and abusive sales clerks. I would like to say a word in their defense.

My job is to evaluate clerks. I have a long list of people I observe, interact with and rate according to 30 factors. They have no idea who I am. I've been doing this work for five years and have visited more than 400 "installations," from small convenience stores to large department stores.

I have demanded services to which I was not entitled and asked for "extras" the stores were under no obliga-

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Bixler gives program

Members of Xi Epsilon Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority met recently at the home of Terry Sparks.

President Connie Matthews presented Shelley Lewis with a pin honoring her as Xi Epsilon Alpha sweetheart.

Members were reminded that the next meeting will be the election of officers for the 1999-2000 year.

Holly Bixler was the hostess and Pattie Urbanczyk was the co-hostess for the evening.

Bixler gave a program on the benefits of exercise. Members then joined in a workout of the new fitness craze, "Tae Bo."

After working up a "sweat," refreshments of cheesecake, coffee and tea were served to guest

Macy Lewis, daughter of Shelley Lewis, and members Linda Arellano, Deann Harris, Melinda Henson, Kim Hollingsworth, Peggy Hyer, Gaye Reily, Susan Shaw, Kay Williams, Kami Eades, Lisa McGaw, Tamara Mimms, Lewis and Matthews.

Hospital Notes

Patients in Hereford Regional Medical Center on March 18:

Joan Ahrhart, Fannie B. Brown, Nancy Burns, Margaret E. Durham, Mary A. Frye, Esther E. Grimes, Valentine R. Hernandez, Katherine I. Hubbard, Anne S. Krieger, Willie M. Phipps, Della Stagner.

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What's Happening

Area Events

CLAUDE

Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Loralee Cooley from Pampa, with "Storyspinning," will share an evening of historical and fictional stories about women of the Texas Panhandle in the Gem Theatre, 120 Trice in Claude.

A special event of the evening will be the re-telling of "My Molly," a 40-minute, first-person story of Molly Goodnight, wife of Charles Goodnight.

Other story material scheduled to be told is "The Cowboy and the Black-eyed Pea," a delightful "western version" of the Hans Christian Anderson story, "The Princess and the Pea."

For more information on the performance, call 944-5383. Reservations can be made by phone, or tickets will be available at the door.

LUBBOCK

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center will host a Fun Day workshop for children with local artist Florence Lawrence from 1 p.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 27.

Children will spend a few hours immersed in an exciting media of art, using Easter as the theme, as they build and then take home their own project.

The Garden and Arts Center is also hosting a "Kitchen Art" multi-media art class instructed by Wayne Green from 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 23 through April 8.

Students will create art compositions for their kitchen through drawing, watercolors and clay.

For more information on the Fun Day workshop or the Kitchen Art class, call the center at 806-767-3724.

BORGER

The Kevin Spencer Family and Bobby Treece will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. March 25 in Borger High School auditorium.

The Kevin Spencer Family is a southern country gospel group that organized in June 1992. They have been awarded The Singing News "Horizon Group of the Year" and the Gospel Voice "Sunrise Group of the Year." They currently sing 230 concerts



The Kevin Spencer Family

per year in 20 different states.

BROWNFIELD

The 33rd Annual Spring Arts Festival, sponsored by the Brownfield Art Association, will be open for public viewing from March 25-27.

Hours will be 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 25; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, March 26; and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27.

Entry date for the show is March 23. For more information call Sharon Pickett at 806-637-7319.

AMARILLO

Amarillo Opera will stage Gaetano Donizetti's classic *Elixir of Love* as the grand finale for its 11th season at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 27 in the Amarillo Civic Center Auditorium.

The full-length opera, to be performed in English, is produced in association with the Amarillo College Opera Workshop.

As the show's title suggests, a remarkable "love potion" sold by a traveling salesman serves as the catalyst for romance, intrigue and loads of fun in the light-hearted musical tale.

The production will feature five guest artists singing the leading roles. The show also features a unique staging twist

by setting the story at a fictitious ranch just outside of Amarillo in the 1890s.

The guest artists performing the leading roles will be Sandra Lopez as the beautiful but fickle Adina; Javier Abreu as her charming young suitor Nemorino; Michael O'Hearn as Dr. Dulcamara, the elixir peddler; Kyle Pfortmiller as Belcore, the soldier/Texas Ranger; and Laura Pfortmiller as Giannetta, Adina's confidante.

Tickets for *Elixir of Love* may be purchased at the Civic Center Box Office, 806-378-3096.

Romance Writers of the Texas Panhandle invites interested parties to join them at the annual Spring Fling, March 27, at Pretend Time Tea Room and Gifts, 2600 Paramount in Pepper Tree Square.

Featured speaker will be Silhouette author Julia Mozingo, an award-winning author who has been writing since 1986.

Kevin Sims, KVII newsman, will present a workshop on interviewing techniques in the afternoon session.

The Society of Creative Anachronism will present a study in medieval culture.

Hours for the seminar are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Early registration will be taken through March 20. For more information, call 372-2055.



Abreu



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Lopez



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Ann

From Page A3

tion to provide. I have been deliberately antagonistic and sometimes downright nasty. I once tried to return an item that had been purchased at another store. The clerk took it and gave me a full credit. I have yet to find a sales clerk who was crude, rude or unpleasant.

When you get letters complaining about sales clerks, I would bet they are from people who have tried to return merchandise that has obviously been used or for which they have no receipt, or the customer insisted the clerk take a credit card that had expired or been maxed out. Please don't print my name or city, Ann. It is essential that my identity not be revealed. Sign me — Mystery Shopper in the USA

Dear Mystery: It appears from your incognito research that the vast majority of sales

clerks have the patience of Job. While a few may be surly and unpleasant, most people would agree with your assessment that sales clerks live by the motto "The customer is always right," even when he isn't.

Gem of the Day: Overheard on the bus: "My boyfriend designed a new car by taking the wheels from a Cadillac, the headlights from a Buick and the radiator from a Ford. Do you know what he wound up with? Twenty-two months in the state pen."

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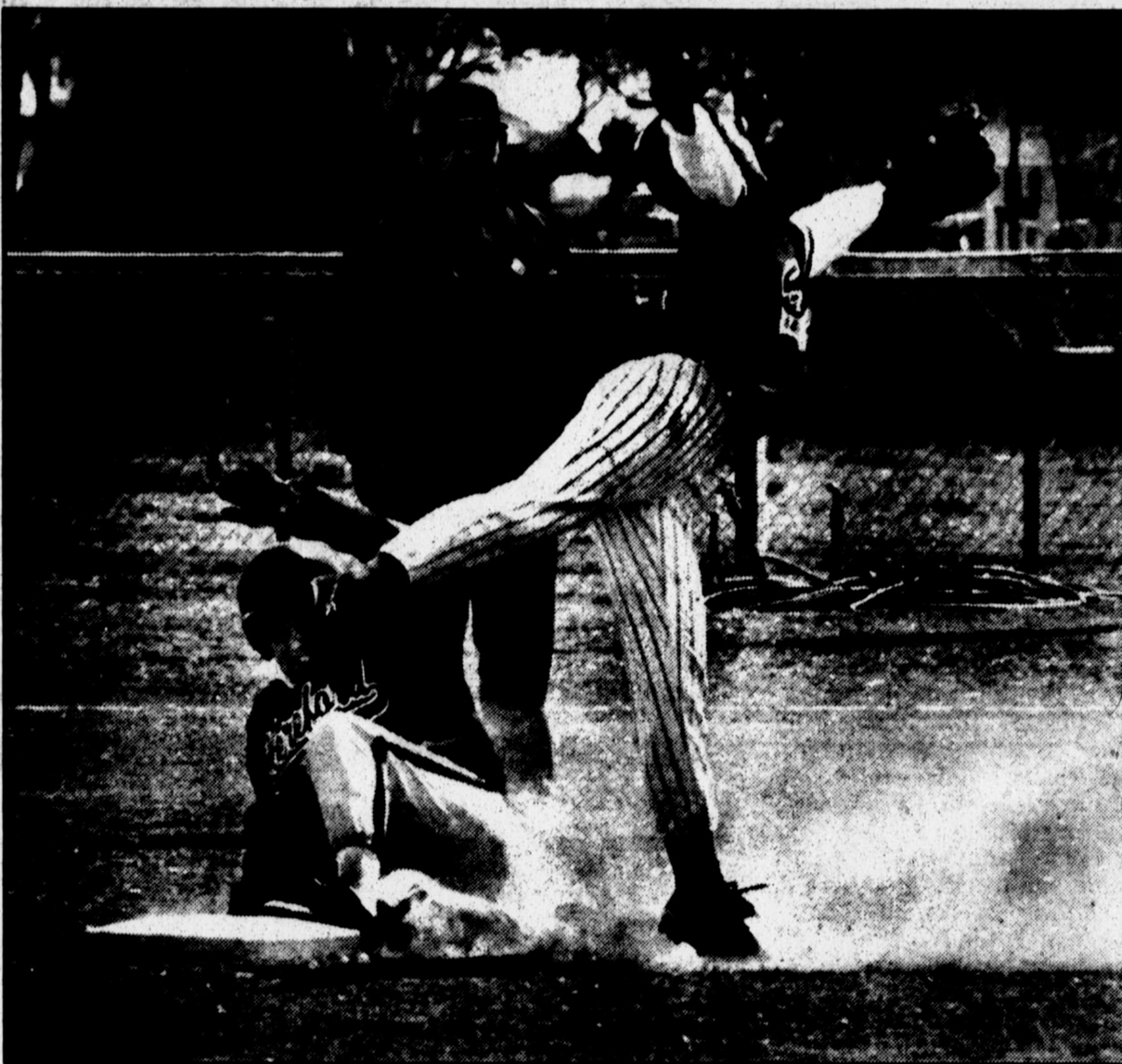
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SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, March 18, 1999 • A5

Getting it turned around



BRAND/Mauri Montgomery

SWAN DANCE

A Canyon player gracefully attempts to catch a wide infield throw while Teresa Zimmerman slides to second base here Wednesday. The Lady Whitefaces crushed Canyon 17-7 and will take a 2-2 district record into the next round of play Saturday when they travel to meet Randall.

Lady Whitefaces snap three-game slump with 17-7 win over Canyon



Directions — Coach Jack Fox

Despite 30-40 mph northerly winds which signaled the arrival of the latest spring cold front, and errors that seem to have become a permanent fixture in their game; the Lady Whiteface varsity baseball team snapped a three-game losing streak here Wednesday with a 17-7 district win over Canyon at the Hereford Baseball Complex.

The victory, earned by Monica Dominguez, improved Hereford's season mark to 5-7 and evened its stance in loop play at 2-2.

Hereford softball coach Jack Fox can live with the weather, but the errors continue to frustrate him.

"The errors are killing us," Fox said earlier this week. "We can match up with anyone on offense, but we're going to have to do a lot better on the defensive portion of our game."

The Lady Whitefaces committed 11 errors to Canyon's two — six of which came in the first inning and aided Canyon in scoring six runs on two hits.

But the Lady Whitefaces got back on track in the second inning and took quick advantage of Canyon's pitching staff.

Hereford pushed seven runs across the plate to even the game at 7-7 in the bottom of the second.

Crystal Reece singled, Cindy Bedolla walked and then Eisha Sessions drove them in on a single.

The Lady Whitefaces then loaded the bases on a walk to Salina Hastings, a single by Teresa Zimmerman and Janae Schlabs' advance after being hit by a pitch. Crystal Luna walked to score Hastings, and Monica Dominguez singled before Reece and Bedolla earned walks to bring in Schlabs and Luna.

Hereford held Canyon scoreless in the Lady Eagle's half of the third inning, but scathed Canyon with six runs.

The Lady Whitefaces stacked the deck again after Zimmerman, Schlabs and Amanda Vallejo singled.

Dominguez followed with a

single of her own to drive in two runs. Luna scored on a pitcher's balk and was followed by Dominguez and Bedolla who scored following errors on Canyon's catcher and third baseman.

Dominguez, who went 3-3 with two singles, a double and four RBIs on the day, drilled a double in the fourth to bring in two of four Hereford runs in the bottom of the fourth to cinch the win.

Hereford is scheduled to meet the Randall Lady Raiders there Saturday in the next round of 3-4A softball play.



South Plains College sets cage camps

LEVELLAND — The South Plains College Athletic Department has announced its dates for boys' and girls' basketball summer camps.

Texan head coach Shawn Scanlan's camp is scheduled for July 25-29 on the SPC campus.

The cost of the overnight camp is \$200 and a \$60.00 deposit is due with registration.

Applications may be obtained by calling 806-894-9611, ext. 2222.

The camp will offer boys 3rd-12th grade the opportunity to learn and develop better basketball skills. The camp is taught by Scanlan, who has been at the helm of the Texan program for four years, and has 22 years of professional coaching experience.

Lady Texan head coach Lyndon Hardin's camps are scheduled June 13-18 and June 20-25 on the SPC campus. The cost of the overnight camp ranges from \$125 for day campers not eating in the Texan Hall, \$185 for day campers eating in Texan Hall and \$225 for overnight campers with a meal ticket. A \$75 deposit is due with registration.

The girl's camp is open to girls 5th-12th grade, and will be taught by Hardin. Hardin has been the head coach of the Lady Texans for the past 16 years.

Applications for the girl's camp may be obtained by calling 806-894-9611, ext. 2224.

Baseball tournament scheduled

Lone Star Baseball will hold a spring Easter baseball tournament in Brenham, Texas April 2-3.

The tournament is open to 12U-13U-14U.

For more information contact Frank Dorner at 281-469-6721.

Nets slip by Dallas, 88-87

By The Associated Press

Stephon Marbury felt right at home in New Jersey. In his first home game since getting traded from Minnesota to the Nets, Marbury scored 29 points as New Jersey snapped an eight-game losing streak with an 88-87 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday night.

"When you win a game like that, it gives you confidence," said Marbury, a New York native who bought tickets for 16 relatives and friends. "Tonight, we had a game plan offensively and defensively. Tonight was a perfect homecoming game for us."

The victory, only New Jersey's fourth in 22 games, wasn't assured until Michael Finley's 18-footer spun in and out at the buzzer.

"That last shot, I was under the basket and that ball was in. I don't know what made it come out," said Jayson Williams, who grabbed 21 rebounds for the Nets despite a sore left thumb.

Interim coach Don Casey, who took over after John Calipari was fired on Monday, sprinted off the court with a big smile as his players celebrated.

"Guys were hugging and kissing and high-fiving," Williams said. Gary Trent's short jumper gave Dallas a 87-86 lead with 38 seconds left, but Kerry Kittles made two free throws with 17 seconds remaining to put the Nets back in front.

Keith Van Horn scored 19 points and Kendall Gill 15 for the Nets. Finley and Trent each had 21 points for the Mavericks.

Elsewhere in the NBA, it was Boston 118, Los Angeles Clippers 84; Philadelphia 114, Indiana 110; Orlando 103, Chicago 94; Toronto 103, De-

troit 101; Miami 86, Atlanta 85; Charlotte 119, Phoenix 111; Houston 114, Denver 109; and San Antonio 82, Golden State 78.

Sixers 114, Pacers 110
Allen Iverson scored 39 points, including several sensational baskets down the stretch, as Philadelphia snapped a 10-game losing streak to Indiana.

Iverson scored 10 of the Sixers' last 22 points despite picking up his fifth foul on

Miller's 3-point attempt with 5:25 left. Reggie Miller scored 27 points for the visiting Pacers, who lost their second straight

for the first time this season.

Celtics 118, Clippers 84
At Boston, Kenny Anderson scored 21 points as the Celtics broke a five-game losing streak with their most lopsided victory of the season.

Vitaly Potapenko, Antoine Walker and Tony Battie each scored 14 points for the Celtics. Michael Olowokandi scored 17 points for the Clippers, who have lost 20 of 21 games this season.

Raptors 103, Pistons 101
Vince Carter scored six of his 28 points in the final minute, including the winning basket with 14 seconds left as Toronto won at Detroit.

Christian Laettner, who missed the first 22 games of the season with a ruptured Achilles' tendon, had three points in 19 minutes in his Pistons' debut. Bison Dele led Detroit with 23 points.

Heat 96, Hawks 85
At Atlanta, Tim Hardaway scored 24 points and Miami survived a 3-point barrage by the Hawks to win its sixth straight.

Mookie Blaylock had a chance to win it for Atlanta, but missed a desperation

jumper from the corner as time expired, ending the Hawks' four-game winning streak, their longest of the season. Steve Smith led the Hawks with 22 points.

Hornets 119, Suns 111
Eddie Jones and Elden Campbell, acquired from the Lakers in a five-player deal last week, made successful debuts in their first home game for Charlotte.

Jones scored a season-high 29 points, including 15-of-17

from the foul line. Campbell had a career-high 19 rebounds and 14 points as the Hornets got their highest point total of the season.

Magic 103, Bulls 94
Darrell Armstrong scored a season-high 23 points and Nick Anderson added 21 as the Magic won in Orlando.

Randy Brown led Chicago with 20 points, and Toni Kukoc added 17. Mark Brown's baseline jumper gave Chicago an 88-87 lead with

4:06 left, but Armstrong and Anderson hit consecutive 3-pointers to put the Magic in front 93-88.

Rockets 114, Nuggets 109
At Denver, Hakeem Olajuwon scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter and reserve Othella Harrington added 23 points as Houston beat the Nuggets for the ninth straight time.

Olajuwon was 5-for-6 from the field and 6-for-6 from the line in the fourth quarter.

They're BACK



COURTESY PHOTO

Keeping the tradition alive — There are some different faces in the crowd, but this year's addition of the Texas Trojans basketball team is beginning to carry on where the last one left off after the club advanced to the finals and then won the championship in the 4th Annual Bluebonnet Classic Tournament held in Amarillo this past weekend. This year's team members include; from left, Hunter Bridwell, Travis Churchill, Camron Gitter, Hadley Bunch, Casey Page, Colby Marsh, Michael Fangman and Jake McCracken. Assistant coaches Kevin Bunch, back row left; and Roger McCracken, far right, are pictured with team sponsor Rick McCracken, back center. Trojan head coach Steve Hodges was not pictured.

Spurs mark ninth consecutive win

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The San Antonio Spurs can win fast, or they can win slow.

One night after winning an uptempo game at Sacramento, the Spurs won their ninth straight Wednesday night with an 82-78 victory over the slow-down Golden State Warriors.

tough, and we're not infants in this locker room."

The Spurs outscored the Warriors 28-9 at the foul line. In the past two games, Golden State has been outscored 52-14 on free throws.

The Warriors, who trailed by three at halftime, built a

56-54 lead heading into the fourth quarter. But they again blew a lead in the fourth period — the Warriors have led or been tied at the start of the fourth quarter in 13 of their 23 games this season, and have gone just 7-6 in those games.

Tim Duncan had 17 points and 17 rebounds for the Spurs. Malik Rose had 17 points off the bench and reserve guard Steve Kerr added 14 to help compensate for cold shooting by San Antonio starters David Robinson (1-for-8) and Sean Elliott (2-for-10).

Bimbo Coles had 10 of his 20 points for the Warriors in the first quarter, when Golden State had a 16-point lead. John Starks added 14 points for the Warriors, who lost their fourth straight.

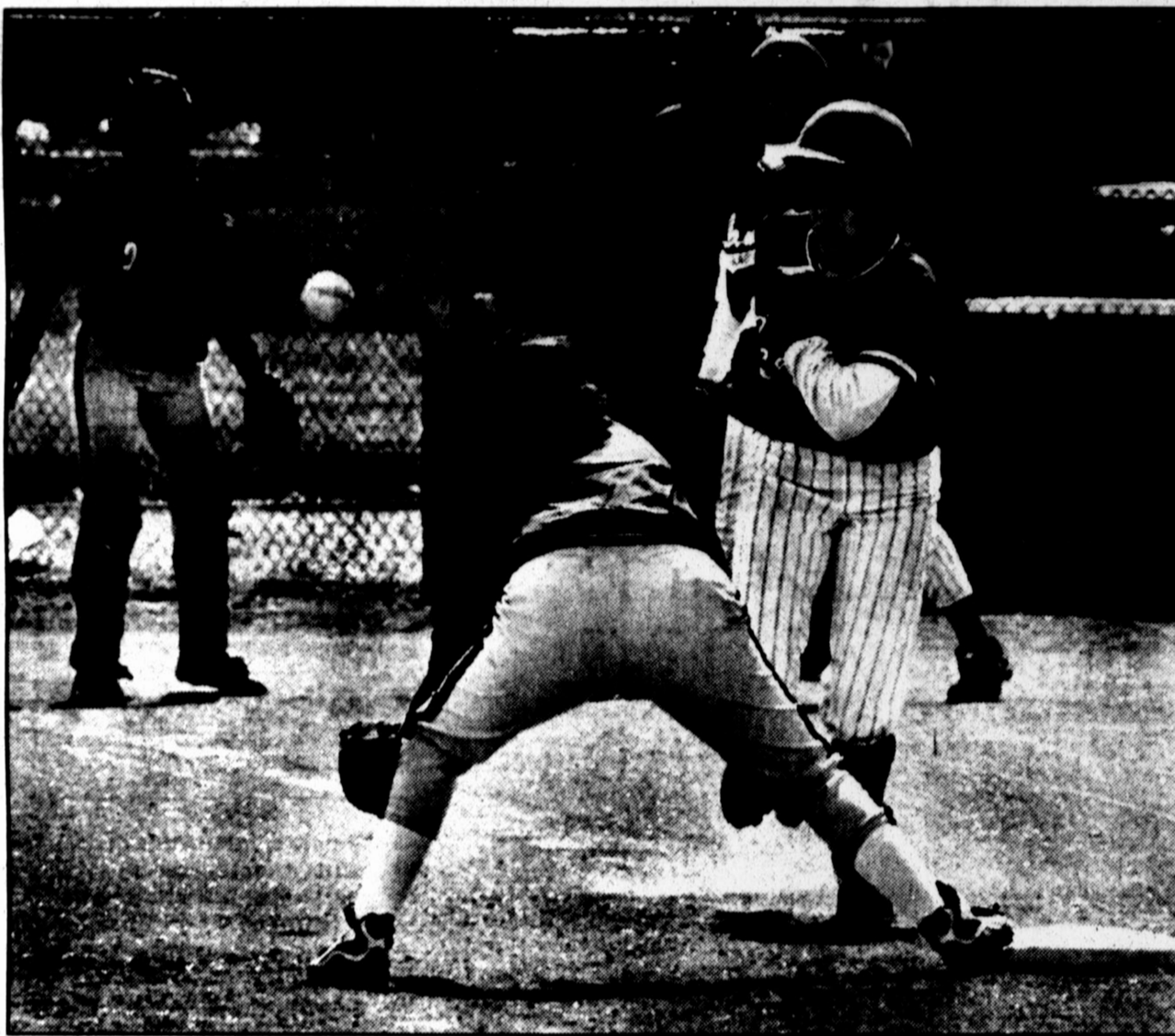
The Spurs scored 63 points in the first half Tuesday night in a 121-109 win at Sacramento, the NBA's top-scoring team. On Wednesday night, the Spurs didn't reach 63 points until midway through the fourth quarter.

Elliott said the style of game against the Warriors is becoming more and more common in the NBA. Whereas the Spurs shot 61 percent at Sacramento, they hit just 38 percent against Golden State.

"Teams are slowing it down and people are getting banged around," he said. "So the shooting percentages are going to go down."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Robinson, who had just three points and five rebounds in 23 minutes against the Warriors, appeared stiff at times. And Elliott said he and some of his teammates were tired.

"I think the first team was a little tired. My legs are really tight," he said. "The schedule has been really



BRAND/Mauri Montgomery

Squeeze play — Hereford catcher Crystal Reece and third baseman Salina Hastings try to trap a Canyon runner caught too far in her advance between home and third base Wednesday.

Lewis demands title belts from Holyfield

LONDON (AP) — Lennox Lewis returned home today endorsing the investigations into his disputed draw with Evander Holyfield in their heavyweight title fight.

Soon after touching down at London's Heathrow Airport, Lewis maintained was the victim of a "conspiracy" and that the judges had been "incompetent."

"I think everything should be looked into," he said. "There was definitely something going on, some kind of conspiracy we don't know about."

Saturday's Holyfield-Lewis showdown at Madison Square Garden in New York created an outcry when it was called a draw. Most in the sellout crowd felt Lewis had won comfortably.

Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. agreed, as did most boxing writers who covered the 12-rounder.

Each of the three judges saw the outcome differently. South African Stan Christodoulou scored it 116-113 for Lewis, Eugenia Williams of Atlantic City, N.J., voted 115-113 for Holyfield and Britain's Larry O'Connell scored it 115-115.

Investigations by state authorities are being held in New York, and the Manhattan district attorney is looking into possible criminal activity surrounding the bout.

One source close to the investigation, who asked not to be identified, said: "We could be looking at tampering or illegal payments. Then again, maybe we're looking at lousy judging, which is not a crime."

Lewis said Holyfield should

hand over the WBA and IBF titles, although the British fighter doesn't expect that to happen.

"If Evander's a man, he should admit that he got beat and give me my belts," said Lewis, who is the WBC champion. "But he's not that kind of character."

"You could say that Evander Holyfield is holding my belts right now for me. They're actually my belts but he's holding them."

Looking ahead to a possible rematch, Lewis' promoter, Panos Eliades, said he was looking at ways of removing Don King as a promoter of the fight, although

he conceded it would be very difficult.

Lewis' manager, Frank Maloney, said he would prefer the rematch to be in the United States or Britain while Eliades said he had been contacted by President Nelson Mandela who wanted the fight in South Africa.

Lewis took consolation from one thing. He believes he won over Americans who had been skeptical about his ability.

"People stopped me in the streets and said 'you got robbed'. It's weird getting so many people coming up to me and saying that," Lewis said. "When I go out on the streets a lot of people know me."

Negotiations between Dallas, Ismail are close

Sources say deal could be finalized this week

IRVING, Texas (AP) — A deal between Carolina Panthers free agent wide receiver Rocket Ismail and the Dallas Cowboys is in the works, according to published reports today.

A source told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Ismail's agent, Jack Mula, is in negotiations for a deal that could come as soon as today.

Mula told The Dallas Morning News that he expected

the receiver to pick a team this week.

"I gave all the final information to Mr. Ismail this afternoon and he and his wife are making a family decision," Mula said.

The newspaper said that Ismail was deciding between the Cowboys, after visiting the Valley Ranch complex recently, and Carolina.

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INSIDE

'ER' doctor La Salle looking for fair treatment in his career

By Lynn Elber

The Associated Press
Eriq La Salle has taken center stage on 'ER' and in a new television movie, 'Mind Prey.' And he wants to stay there.

He recently carried an 'ER' episode that took La Salle's Dr. Peter Benton and the NBC medical drama away from their Chicago home base and down to a small, Southern town that doesn't have a doctor.

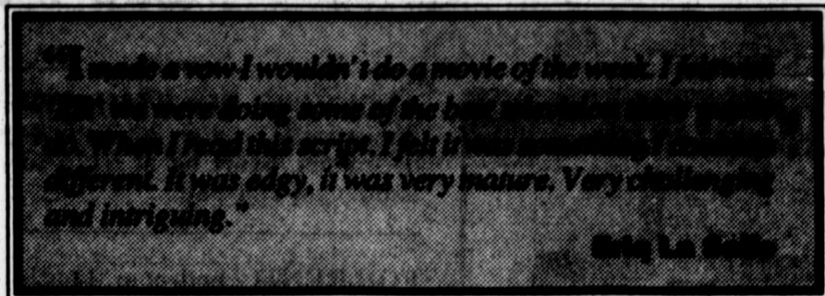
Now La Salle is starring as a maverick police officer tracking a killer in 'Mind Prey,' based on the John Sandford novel. Titus Welliver and Sheila Kelley co-star in the film (9 p.m. Monday on ABC), which La Salle co-produced.

Such opportunities don't simply rain down. As the actor tells it, his voice soft but intense, it takes careful attention to get exactly what he wants — and, on occasion, hard bargaining.

'Mind Prey,' for example, wouldn't have caught his eye if it were just another forgettable made-for-TV movie.

'I made a vow I wouldn't do a movie of the week. I felt with 'ER' we were doing some of the best television there was to do,' he said. 'When I read this script, I felt it was something I could do different. It was edgy, it was very mature. Very challenging and intriguing.'

The character of deputy police chief Lucas Davenport, featured in a series of Sandford mysteries, is written as white. For the black actor, that created added appeal.



La Salle says he would not do a movie of the week. 'It was edgy, it was very mature. Very challenging and intriguing.'

'It's more about the character, it's not about his race. There's never any reference to his race (in the film),' La Salle said. 'It's very similar to what we've been able to accomplish with the Benton character. He's a talented surgeon who happens to be black.'

'This guy is a rogue cop who does things his way. He's a great cop, and he happens to be black. ... I'm not interested in doing segregated filmmaking.'

La Salle also welcomed the chance to extend colorblind casting to other 'Mind Prey' roles. The part of a surgeon and love interest went to Nicole Parker, who is black; the part of an old flame is played by Judy Reyes, who is Hispanic.

Reyes told him she almost skipped the audition. 'I thought they were going through the motions. I never thought they would actually cast a Latina, because they never do,' she said to La Salle. 'That's the kind of hope you want to give to artists,' he said. 'I totally know what it's like to go into an audition and to be quote-unquote token actor, African-American actor, because they just want to see a couple of blacks. But if it's a really good role, it

goes to the white males.' Increasing the playing field is the challenge before producers and directors — roles which La Salle has successfully cultivated as he branches out from acting.

He directed the HBO film 'Rebound,' about fallen basketball great Earl Manigault, and created two award-winning short films. Plans are in place for La Salle to direct a film about former Black Panther Geronimo Pratt, produced by Marlon Brando and Sean Penn.

La Salle, a Hartford, Conn., native with a New York University degree in theater arts, has his own production company, Humble Journey Films.

Which is not to say that he is neglecting 'ER.' La Salle fought for what he considered the overdue showcase episode in which Benton plays a rural sawbones.

'Unfortunately, it took five years for Dr. Benton to get what every other original principal character has had not once, but multiple times on the show,' said La Salle.

'Are we wrong in asking for what our colleagues are getting in abundance? It's sad that it literally took me ... saying, 'I want to be released from the show.'

'Warner Bros. stepped in

and said, 'Let's fix this. We want you to honor your contract,' La Salle said. 'It was only after the studio stepped in that this episode came about. I think that's a really sad comment.'

He refused to say if he believed race was the reason; the facts speak for themselves, La Salle said. He also declined to say if he intended to remain with the series after next season, when his con-

tract ends.

The departure last month of George Clooney, who played series heartthrob Dr. Doug Ross, inspired tabloid rumors of La Salle issuing demands for more prominence in the series. La Salle dismisses such stories as 'loopy.' But does he think the cast shift will affect his role?

'With George having left, my desire and the goals I have for the character don't

change. I still have a lot of respect for this job and for the character and the work. So the desire and goal is the same — to have Dr. Benton presented in as multidimensional a light as you see with the other characters.

'I think there's room for improvement.' Lynn Elber can be reached at lelber@cap.org

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 Every effort is made to avoid errors in word ads and legal notices. Advertisers should call attention to any errors immediately after the first insertion. We will not be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. In case of errors by the publishers, an additional insertion will be published.

1. ARTICLES FOR SALE

NEW 99 DRESSMAKER

Sewing Machine, Free Arm, Zig Zag, School Model, (Never Used) Sew-N-Serge The Seams in One Operation, Heavy Duty, 25 Year Warranty, First Year Free Service in Home (if needed) Metal Gears, All Stitches Built-in, Make Identical Buttonhole (any size), Invisible Blindhem, Overcast, Darn, Applique, Monogram, Embroidery, Sew on Buttons, Elastic Stretch Decorative Stitches, THESE DRESSMAKERS ARE DESIGNED TO SEW ALL FABRIC, WITHOUT ADJUSTMENT. Levi's Canvas, Upholstery, Quilting, Nylon, Silk, Stretch Material, Even Hem Jeans and Sew Leather. YOUR PRICE WITH AD ONLY \$288. WITHOUT AD MFG'S PRICE \$699.95. Approved Credit, 12 payments \$28 month or \$288. Cash, Visa, Etc.

To see call local 366-3462.

REBUILT KIRBYS 1/2 price with warranty. Other name brands. \$39 & up. Sales and repairs in your home, on all makes and models. Call 364-4288.

THE ROADS of Texas and The Roads of New Mexico are on sale at The Hereford Brand in book form. Both maps are \$14.95 each plus tax. Discover roads you never knew were there. Hereford Brand, 313 N. Lee.

3-1/2' X 7' Olhausen Pool Table. 1 year old with red felt. Call 364-9147.

SEARS 12HP Riding lawnmower with trailer. Call 364-2610.

10X16 PORTABLE office. \$5195. Morgan Buildings. Call 358-9597.

14X40 GARAGE, barn style, red/white. Morgan Buildings, Amarillo. Call 358-9597.

FOR SALE! 3 shop work benches with metal tops. Call 364-6405.

FOR SALE! Six inch Land Roller pump. 330foot setting. Call 364-6962.

FREE!! WHY Not Lose Weight the AM-300 Way? Burns fat, increases energy. For free sample of all natural herbs, call 364-5719.

NICE CARPET for sale! Light beige, 4-1/2 years old. Enough for large 3 bedroom house. \$500 for all. Call 364-7827.

1a. GARAGE SALES

LARGE MOVING Sale! 514 Avenue K. Thursday and Friday. Clothes, toys, microwaves, mattresses and miscellaneous.

GARAGE SALE! Friday and Saturday, 9-4. 718 Columbia Drive. Antique upright piano, speakers, AC, electric dryer, TV, bedframe, toys, etc.

INSIDE SALE! Clothing (women's plus, kids, boys, girls), shoes, dishes, dishwasher, lots of stuff. 4-1/2 miles S. Hwy. 385, Coronado Acres, #56. Wednesday thru Saturday, 8-5 p.m.

YARD SALE! 306 Knight. Lots of everything! Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

GARAGE SALE. Friday, 8:00 til 2:00. Saturday, 8:00 til 12:00. Doors with hardware, some furniture, high chair and children's clothes, a little bit of everything.

TWO FAMILY Garage Sale! Dinette set, adult clothes, material, lots of knickknacks. Friday, 8:30 to ?? Saturday, 9:00 to ?? 234 Star.

GARAGE SALE! 204 Ironwood. 8:00 to 4:30, Friday. Lots of Stuff!!!

GARAGE SALE! 428 N. Jackson. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 9:00 til ?? Furniture, clothing, toys, home interiors, Tierra glass and tools.

HUGE INSIDE MOVING Sale! 908 S. Main. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 til ?? Lots of Everything!!

GARAGE SALE! 123 Ironwood. Friday and Saturday. Big screen TV, entertainment center, Bowflex, golf clubs, microwave, table & chairs, cookstove, clothes (tall-man size), electric heater, miscellaneous items.

GARAGE SALE! 433 Star. Friday and Saturday, 8:00 til ?? Lots of everything and some furniture.

2. FARM & RANCH

LEASE JD 9300 and 650 disc. For more information, call Ernest Flood at 289-5381.

CRP GRASS sowing and grass seed. Call Rodney Hunter at 647-5539 or mobile 647-9396, or Richard Hunter at 276-5357 or mobile 647-6054.

HEALTH INSURANCE for the Self-Employed at reasonable rates! Call toll free 1-877-813-8655. Ask for Carry King.

8-ROW 40 Hamby Disc Lister, markers, Hamby H/D gauge wheels, 21 ft. double offset Krause disc new style. Call 364-2964.

1994 AND 1995 MACK trucks and grain trailers. Both in good condition. Call 289-5564.

3. AUTOMOBILES

1994 MAZDA MXV-6 Sports Car! 6 cylinder, low mileage, standard, power windows, sunroof, air conditioner, cruise. Call 364-4477 or 364-7512.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Prepare for a bout
- 5 Sailing hazards
- 10 Illuminated
- 12 Golf feat
- 13 Without help
- 14 Sonora sendoff
- 15 Cargo unit
- 16 "Old Blue Eyes"
- 18 Drunk
- 20 Target
- 21 On
- 23 Casual shirt
- 24 Mrs. Dithers
- 26 Bronze and iron
- 28 Actress Grier
- 29 Fill
- 31 Boxing great
- 32 Nap
- 36 Nerve junction
- 39 Descartes conclusion
- 40 China variety
- 41 Bellini opera
- 43 Bar order
- 44 Kilmer poem
- 45 Deputized bunch

DOWN

- 1 Chair parts
- 2 Cockpit worker
- 3 Make amends
- 4 Sprint
- 5 Actor Penn
- 6 Nil
- 7 Stir up trouble
- 8 Morning
- 9 (purple blooms)
- 9 Bun seed
- 11 Spanish money
- 17 Wedding words
- 19 Kid's card game
- 22 Doctor's client
- 24 Cousteau's ship
- 25 Forbidding
- 27 "Golly!"
- 28 Reject
- 30 Noddy
- 33 Temptress
- 34 Domesticated
- 35 Stockpile
- 37 Byron and Howard
- 38 Soccer great
- 42 Mine find

Yesterday's answer

ALONZO'S APARTMENTS
 For rent! 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedrooms. Starting at \$175 to \$250. Call 364-8805.

FOR RENT! 2 bedroom, 1 bath house. 407-A Ross. \$350/mo plus \$100 deposit. We accept HUD. Available March 1st. 364-4113.

1 BEDROOM Triplex. Stove & fridge furnished. Water & electric paid. Call 364-4370.

PRIME RETAIL/OFFICE
 Space. 800 sq. ft., excellent location. 902 N. Lee. Call 364-0686.

REMODELED TWO bedroom house. CA/CH, carpet. Must sign 6 month lease. \$400/month plus \$100 deposit. Call 376-4176.

8. EMPLOYMENT

BRADFORD TRUCKING
 An E.C.F. Company
 Now Taking Applications

Hiring for cattle haul, refrigerated and tanker. Must have 3 years experience and be 23 years old, acceptable by insurance company, pass DOT drug screen and physical. Benefits Include: insurance and raise after 60 days, vacation after 1 year, retirement paid by Company.

Contact Odell Ward
 at 1-800-523-5164
 or Fax or Send Resume to:
 P.O. Box 129
 Cactus, Texas 79018
 fax no. 806-966-5532

\$125 SIGN-ON Bonus. Attention CNAs: Hereford Care Center is looking for dedicated team players. Apply in person at 231 Kingwood.

LET AVON Put You to Work! Make your own hours. Small sign-up fee. Must be 18 years or older and meet Avon requirements. Call 364-5719.

HELP WANTED! Start immediately! \$1,900 per month guaranteed to those who qualify. No experience necessary. Call for information 354-6702.

Now taking applications for spring and fall **Temporary Delivery Drivers.**

Qualifications are a Class C CDL license with Hazardous Endorsement, must pass a drug screen and physical.

TRI-STATE CHEMICAL
 E. Hwy. 60, Hereford, Texas
 364-3290

CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitations or discrimination. State laws forbid discrimination in the sale, rental or advertising of real estate based on advertising for real estate which is violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Writing Want Ads that really sell!

Unsure how to write a Classified Ad that will get results? Follow these pointers and you'll soon have an empty space in your storage room and cash in your pocket. For starters, look at ads which offer the same item/products. Get a sense of going rates and ideas for how to make your ad stand out. Once you're ready to write, begin with exactly what you're selling: "Dining room set, maple, six chairs." Then, remember these hints:

- Give the price. A newspaper consultant says 70 percent of classified readers won't respond to an ad with no price.
- Use key words to describe what you're selling. The key words for a car are make, model, year, body style, color, mileage and price. If it's a house, key words are location, type of construction, number of bedrooms and baths, and condition.
- Don't use abbreviations. It's tempting to abbreviate and save money if ads are billed by the line. Brand ads are billed by the words, so spell them out so readers won't be confused trying to figure out abbreviations.
- Don't be misleading. Think accurate and factual when you write. Be sure to include a phone number and the best times to reach you.

IMMEDIATE OPENING! Title Company seeking an experienced Abstractor and Escrow Assistant. Qualified candidate should enjoy working in a fast-paced, customer oriented office and have a minimum of 2 years of title experience. Must be able to work lot, block and acreage descriptions. Computer experience with Microsoft Word, Excel and Access is a plus. The Company offers many excellent benefits. We are an equal opportunity employer. Interested individuals should apply by sending resumes to P.O. Box 673-CM, Hereford, Texas 79045.

JOIN OUR NEW TEAM

RN's and LVN's
 Hereford Care Center
 231 Kingwood
 Or call 364-7113

WATER WELL Rig Helpers and Shop Helpers. Must have a valid license and a good driving record. Call Big T Pump Company at 806-364-0353 or apply in person at Big T Pump, East New York Avenue, Hereford, Texas.

WAREHOUSE WORKER
 Needed for Dimmitt location of National Animal Health Distribution Company. Must be experienced in traffic management, product handling, warehouse coordination. Send salary requirements and resume to: Warehouse, P.O. Box 818, Dimmitt, Texas 79027.

OTR DRIVERS NEEDED! Conventional Petes, insurance, rider program, vacation, teams or solos. 1 year experience. Call 800-654-0528. M-F. Artic Coastal.

9. CHILD CARE

HEREFORD DAY CARE
 Offering an excellent program of learning and care for your children 6-121 State Licensed
 Also - SPECIAL AFTER-HOURS pick-up for Kindergarten Children!
364-5062

DEPENDABLE CHILD Care. Monday thru Friday. Ages 0-4. Call Bonnie Cole at 364-6864.

CHILD CARE
 Available in My Home
 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
 Monday-Friday
 3 months to 10 years
 Please call 363-6360 and Leave Message

FOR SALE BY OWNER. Assumable loan. 305 Hickory. 1600 sq. ft. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. New metal storage building. Nice yard with automatic sprinkler system. Extra large driveway. Central air and heat. Call 355-4591 (day) or 364-1890 (night). By appointment only!

HOME LOANS. FHA, VA, HUD, conventional, impaired credit loans available. If qualify, could receive \$7500 grant towards down payment. Call Kyle, Preferred Mortgage, 356-9595.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. 1911 Plains. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large family, dining, kitchen, office/sunroom, laundry room, sprinkler system. Call 364-8826.

NICE HOME in Country for Sale! 4 bedroom, 3-1/2 bath, 2000 sq. ft. Completely remodeled. 4 miles from Hereford off pavement. Approximately 3 acres. 50x50 barn and cattle pens. Call 363-8048 or 364-8440.

5. RENTAL PROPERTY

NEED EXTRA storage space? Need a place to have a garage sale? Rent a mini storage. Two sizes available. Call 364-4370.

BEST DEAL in Town! 1 bedroom efficiency apartments. Bills paid, red brick apartments. 300 block West 2nd. 364-3566.

NICE, LARGE, unfurnished apartments. Refrigerated air, two bedrooms. You pay only electric -- we pay the rest. \$335/month. 364-8421.

APARTMENTS:
 Blue Water Gardens
 HEAT, A/C, LIGHTS INCLUDED
 Rent based on income. Accepting applications for 1, 2, 3, 4 bdrms. Call Debra or Janis TODAY for information & directions. 12-5pm (806)364-8861. Equal Opportunity.

FOR RENT! 2 bedroom apartment. Stove and refrigerator furnished. Water paid. Call 364-4870.

PLAY OF THE DAY! EL DORADO ARMS has 1 & 2 bedroom apartments for rent. They have new carpet, tile, paint, stoves and refrigerators. I pay gas, water and cable. You pay electricity. Contact Robbie at 344-2475 or 363-1254.

1994 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE Ltd., 74K, excellent condition, \$18,000. 1985 MERCEDES 500 SEL. 112K miles. Very good condition. \$7,000. Call 364-8535.

See Us Before You Buy
Marcum Motors Co.
 Clean Used Cars & Trucks
 413 N. 25 Mile Ave. 364-3565

PRICE REDUCED! 1993 LUMINA Chevrolet. Cream Puff -- 65,500 miles -- wife's car. Good gas mileage, two new, very good tires. Viper Alarm System. \$5,250. Call 364-7869.

FOR SALE! 1992 white Aerostar Van. \$5000. Call 364-7190 or 364-4542.

1994 DODGE B-250 custom van. P/W, P/L, tilt, cruise, rear/air. 7-8 passengers, automatic. Call 364-3456 ext. 25.

1994 PONTIAC Grand-Am. 4-door, 5 speed, 4 cylinder. Call 364-3456 ext. 25.

4. REAL ESTATE

HELP! SAVE My credit. Lost my job. Lost my husband. Losing my home. Call 800-820-0103. Ask for Roxanne.

MOBILE HOME. Make up 3 payments, assume 7-year note. Call 806-372-4174.

FHA REPOS! 2 doublewides and 5 singlewides. Call 806-372-4174.

FREE AIR, skirt and satellite with all new homes! Call Luv Homes, 806-372-4174.

OWNER TRANSFERRED -- forfeiting down payment. Must sell new custom ordered 4 bedroom doublewide. Call 1-800-820-0103.

DIVORCE CAUSES custom ordered singlewide home to become available! Call 1-800-820-0103.

FOR SALE BY OWNER. 537 Westhaven. 2,340 sq. ft. floor space. 3 or 4 bedrooms, 2-1/2 bath. Owner financed with \$5,000 down or trade for smaller house. Call 364-3955.

CLASSIFIEDS/NEWS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

STOP

Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault Call 363-6727

11. BUSINESS SERVICES

GARAGE DOOR and Opener Repair and Replacement. Call Robert Betzen, 289-5500. If no answer call mobile, 344-2960.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING Course is now being offered nights and Saturdays. Will include ticket dismissal and insurance discount. For more information, call 289-5851. #C0023-C0733, McKibben ADS.

WE BUY scrap iron, metal, aluminum cans, all batteries, tin, copper & brass. Call 364-3350.

TREE & Shrub trimming and removal. Leaf raking and assorted lawn work, rotary tilling and seeding of new lawns. 364-3356.

WE BUY cars and pickups running or not running! We sell used auto parts of all kinds. Call 364-2754.

"BEDLINERS" — Custom spray-on jobs \$190 to \$400. Call 364-2132.

BUY IT, SELL IT, GIVE IT AWAY! CLASSIFIEDS WORK! PLACE YOURS BY CALLING 364-2030

Brother of State Department official is probed for ties to Bosnian war criminal

WASHINGTON — In contacts under federal investigation, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's brother-in-law received thousands of dollars from an associate of accused war criminal Radovan Karadzic around the time he tried to arrange the Bosnian fugitive's surrender, according to lawyers and government officials.

Talbott's brother-in-law, Cody P. Shearer, is now telling authorities he has received mail threats from Bosnian figures who claim he took the money in 1997 with promises to win leniency for Karadzic on the war crimes charges, and demand that he pay Karadzic's family \$1 million or risk "tragedy."

Shearer's lawyer denies those claims and says the money his client received was reimbursement for expenses he incurred while helping the Karadzic associate.

Even before Shearer reported the threats, the State Department inspector general and the FBI had begun investigating whether he misrepresented his ties to the Clinton administration in his dealings with the Bosnian figures, several government officials told The Associated Press.

The contacts include a meeting Shearer had with

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS News roundup

Karadzic's family, a letter he received from the accused war criminal, his efforts to introduce a Karadzic associate, physicist Dragan Hajdukovic, to the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1997 and his efforts to assist Hajdukovic's advocacy of a Bosnia peace plan, according to documents and interviews.

Karadzic was indicted by the war crimes tribunal in 1995 for genocide in the massacre of thousands of Muslims after Bosnian Serb forces captured Srebrenica, which had been designated as a U.N. "safe zone."

Documents show U.W. officials knew that Shearer was dealing with Hajdukovic to arrange a possible surrender by Karadzic as early as summer 1997.

Freeh says U.S. nuclear secrets not always leaked intentionally

WASHINGTON — Nuclear weapons secrets could leak to China inadvertently, FBI Director Louis Freeh says, and the Energy Department is taking steps to make sure that a casual e-mail or fax

doesn't give away sensitive military secrets.

As the Clinton administration and Congress struggled to close holes in the security surrounding the nation's nuclear weapons laboratories, top officials said sophisticated spies might not be the only outlet for classified information on nuclear weapons.

Freeh told a House hearing Wednesday that the FBI still is trying to determine whether a leak to China of weapons information from Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico occurred through the actual passing of documents or simply from viewing and memorizing information that was seen or read.

Freeh said he could not rule out information getting into Chinese hands by ways in which a person "is not intending to transmit secret information."

Sometimes "information gets transferred between two scientists, and at least one of them ... had no intent at all to transfer top secret information," making the investigations more difficult, Freeh said.

Security at federal weapons labs has been troublesome for years, the FBI chief said. "The culture has not been a security-conscious, or

certainly never a counterintelligence security-conscious one," he said.

Seeking to change that culture, Energy Secretary Bill Richardson imposed new security measures for e-mail and other electronic communications from the national weapons labs Wednesday. He also ordered an internal investigation of allegations that a department official was prevented from briefing Congress on evidence of Chinese espionage.

C-Span turns 20 in usual low-key way

WASHINGTON — When C-Span debuted on March 19, 1979, the cable TV network had four employees, a \$450,000 budget and one telephone line to yield calls from creditors and viewers alike. It operated only during business hours because the satellite it shared showed sporting events at night.

Two decades later, the network boasts gavel-to-gavel coverage of Congress, a staff of 250 and a \$33 million budget. But ask chairman Brian Lamb to describe other differences between then and now and he'll say the Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network he founded remains virtually unchanged.



Courtesy Photo

First lady holding lead in NY

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton holds a lead over New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in hypothetical campaign for the U.S. Senate seat up for grabs in 2000.

NEW YORK (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton would defeat New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani in a hypothetical U.S. Senate election, according to a New York Times/CBS News poll published today.

The poll found that 48 percent of voters favor the Democratic first lady over the Republican mayor, who got the nod from 39 percent of those polled.

Voters also said they think Mrs. Clinton is more caring and would probably be more effective than Giuliani. However, four in 10 voters asked said they felt the first lady would not be an effective state representative in the Senate because she has never lived in New York.

The March 8-14 telephone poll of 1,270 New Yorkers who said they voted in 1998 or 1996 has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

Three earlier polls this year have also given Mrs. Clinton the edge of Giuliani. A Zogby International New York poll released Monday gave Giuliani the edge with 48 percent of likely voters compared with Mrs. Clinton's 37 percent.

Election

From Page A1

April 14-27 at county clerk's office.

Applications for mail-in ballots should sent to County Clerk David Ruland, Deaf Smith County Courthouse, Hereford 79045. The applications must be received on or before April 23.

HISD

Only one incumbent is facing opposition in the Hereford Independent School District board races.

Incumbent Tracy Staughan is being challenged by Lou Serrano, juvenile probation officer for Deaf Smith County, in the District 5 race.

The other candidates for the board include incumbents Dave Charest (District 1), Charlie Arrellano (District 2) and Jeri Bezner (District 7), and retired educator Carolyn Waters (District 4).

Although he is an incumbent, Charest is not the District 1 incumbent. He was elected to the District 6 seat in 1997. As a resident of District 1, Charest is seeking to complete the unexpired term of Karen Sherrod, who resigned earlier this year.

The other positions are for full terms. Absentee voting will be April 14-27 in the Deaf Smith County Clerk's office at the courthouse, 235 E. 3rd.

Hospital District

Voters in the hospital district will choose three directors, all at large, when they go to the polls May 1.

By the end of the day Wednesday, only two candidates have submitted petitions for positions on the ballot.

Pat Stone, former Deaf Smith County community organizer and now a community educator of Planned Parenthood in Amarillo, and retired farmer-businessman Bobby Owen are candidates for the at-large seats on the board.

There are three positions up for election this election cycle. The incumbents are Mal Manchee, who also serves as president of the hospital board; Chip Guseman and Chris Leonard.

The deadline for submitting petitions for positions on the ballot is April 1.

Candidates may pick up petitions for a spot on the ballot at the administration office of Hereford Regional Medical Center, 801 E. 3rd. The petitions, with the signatures of 25 registered voters, must be returned to the administration office by 5 p.m. April 1.

Early voting by person will be at the Deaf Smith County Clerk's Office, Room 203 of the county courthouse, 235 E. 3rd.

Polling Place

Voting for all three elections will be 7 a.m.-7 p.m. May 1 at the Hereford Community Center, 100 Ave. C.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

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. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-18 CRYPTOQUOTE

VA VP JSAUB URPVUG AJ QVWU

PJLUAQVBD AQRB AJ QVWU AQU

SRTA AQRA FJI RGU QVWVBD

PJLUAQVBD. — D.T. XVTQAUBCUGD Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MY IDEA OF HEAVEN IS TO SIT AND LISTEN TO THE MUSIC OF VICTOR HERBERT. — ANDREW CARNEGIE

Websites

From Page A1

for Gore's campaign.

The implications of Internet campaigning could be significant, bringing voters and candidates together in a way previously unimaginable. Some think that the power of the Internet will come to rival other mediums.

"The Internet will be to the 2000 campaign what television was to the 1960 campaign," says Todd Harris, communications director for Kasich. "It is a crucial medium that you have to employ to get your message out."

"It is the focal point for campaign activity in a high-tech world," said Jonathan Baron, communications director for former Vice President Dan Quayle. "Any campaign that makes full use of the Internet will have a competitive advantage over those who don't."

Gov. George W. Bush of Texas inaugurated his campaign Web site the day he announced formation of a presidential exploratory committee. Computers were set up at the announcement site and people were able to log on to his page — offered both in English and Spanish.

The campaign Web sites are designed to cater to activist voters — ones who will take the initiative to seek out a candidate and vote in the crucial party primaries.

"People who use the Internet to garner information on candidates are much more invested in the political process," Harris said.

He said 3,000 people have signed up with Kasich on the World Wide Web and are "now in a dialogue with the campaign."

Web sites give candidates an advantage in building and organizing a grass-roots campaign as the model for using Web sites.

"Ventura used his Web site to build his organization and get people to his events," says Sabato.

"The technology is there for grass-roots efforts," said Mark Smith, spokesman for Bauer. "You might as well take advantage of it."

The Web sites also allow the campaigns to communicate with voters directly. Candidates can offer a range of policy positions, statements, speeches and information without editing or interpretation by the news media.

Elizabeth Dole's site, for example, has video of her entire speech announcing her formation of an exploratory committee. Her campaign will eventually allow voters to "customize" the site, giving them the speeches, issue positions and other information they are most interested in.

One thing the Web sites cannot do is directly raise money for candidates through credit card donations, which are prohibited under Federal Election Commission rules. They, however, can take pledges and tell voters where to send checks.

Sabato thinks that the Internet's role is being somewhat overestimated and that it will be a tool primarily of underdog candidates.

"The real revolution will be when we have Internet voting," says Sabato, a phenomenon he thinks will occur within 10 years — changing the face of politics.

Farm aid

From Page A1

cost between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion more per year than current spending.

The commitment to overhaul crop insurance comes as farmers face another year of low prices in a sagging agricultural economy. Last year, Congress approved \$6 billion in disaster insurance to help farmers.

With low prices expected to continue, lawmakers want to use crop insurance as a safety net to help farmers through the tough times.

That was what they envisioned when they phased out decades of government subsidies in the 1996 farm law. But many farmers don't have crop insurance, saying it's expensive or inadequate.

Some GOP leaders have expressed concern about whether crop insurance is the right way to help farmers, and many Democrats have maintained that even with a crop insurance overhaul, farmers will need millions more in assistance.

"The budget resolution clearly does not respond to the present crisis in agriculture," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

Senate Agriculture Chairman Dick Lugar, R-Ind., said during a hearing Wednesday on crop insurance that he is unsure whether insurance is the best solution. "Before committing additional funds, I believe we should consider fundamental questions about crop insurance and the government's role," Lugar said.

Schlabs Hysinger



SERVING HEREFORD SINCE 1979

COMMODITY SERVICES

1500 West Park Avenue • 364-1281 Richard Schlabs Amber Griffin

INTERNATIONAL TRADING DAY AND EXPORT

Price effective: Wednesday, March 17, 1999

CATTLE FUTURES

Table with columns for CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH), CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH), and CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH) with various market data.

GRAN FUTURES

Table with columns for CORN (CASH), SOYBEAN (CASH), and WHEAT (CASH) with various market data.

METAL FUTURES

Table with columns for GOLD (CASH), SILVER (CASH), and PLATINUM (CASH) with various market data.

Table with columns for COPPER (CASH), ALUMINUM (CASH), and ZINC (CASH) with various market data.

FUTURES OPTIONS

Table with columns for CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH), CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH), and CATTLE-FUTURES (CASH) with various market data.

Table with columns for CORN (CASH), SOYBEAN (CASH), and WHEAT (CASH) with various market data.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Outstanding women shape Texas history

Women have played an important role in Texas history. Among them are:

Barbara Jordan, first African-American Texan to serve in the U.S. House 1972-79, recipient of Medal of Freedom award; Miriam A. "Ma" Ferguson, first woman governor 1925-27 and 1933-35; Soncoria Masalah-Jiles, African-American woman who purchased the Houston Defender newspaper in 1881, tripled its circulation and made it one of the leading papers in the Southwest; Nellie Hansenburg, Hortense Ward, and Ruth Brazill, first and only all-woman Texas Supreme Court for 5 months in 1925; Jovita Gonzalez de Mirales, first and only Mexican-American woman to serve as president of the Texas Folklore Society (1931-32); Emma Tenayuca Brooks, original Tejana leader of the Texas Pecan Shell strike in 1939 over wages; Lucy Gonzales Parsons, native of Waco, leader of the Chicago working class movement, a writer, editor, orator and founder of the Industrial Workers of the World; Adina de Zavala, Savior of the Alamo helped save the Alamo structure and charter member of the Texas State Historical Association in 1892; Francisca Alvarez, Angel of Goliad, a nurse at the 1836 Battle of Goliad who saved many of Col. James W. Fannin's men; Elizabeth Ney, famous German Texas sculptor whose statues of Stephen F. Austin and Sam Houston appear in the Capitol; Jovita Ibar, Tejana who established a free kindergarten in San Antonio in 1917, and supported educational opportunities for women; Mildred Ellis "Babe" Diddrison Zaharias, leading money winner between 1949-1951 of Ladies Professional Golf Association, and voted Woman Athlete of the Half-Century in 1950; Claudia Taylor "Lady Bird" Johnson, founder of the National Wildflower Research Center in 1962, and recipient of Medal of Freedom award; Kay Bailey Hutchison, first woman U.S. Senator from Texas, 1993 to present; Katherine Anna Porter, Pulitzer Prize winning author known for her short stories about Texas and her novel, *Ship of Fools*.



Barbara Jordan



Ma Ferguson



Jovita Gonzalez de Mirales

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts; *New Handbook of Texas, Black Texas Women, and Women in Texas*; Illustrations by Gilbert Conroy

'Star Wars'

Sponsor of missile defense system says opponents won't have any 'wiggle room'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chief sponsor of a missile-defense bill says there "won't be any wiggle room" for Democrats as the House takes up the legislation after a modified version sailed to Senate passage.

"We're going to force people to make a decision about the president's policy," Rep. Curt Weldon, R-Pa., said in an interview.

The House takes up Weldon's bill today, a day after the overwhelming 97-3 Senate passage.

Senate supporters said reports of missile tests by North Korea and Iran and of possible espionage by China at a U.S. nuclear laboratory helped solidify support among Democrats and the Clinton administration for the measure, long a top priority for congressional Republicans.

President Clinton has opposed legislation to commit the military to deploying a national missile defense. He vetoed an earlier version in

"We are committed to meeting the growing danger that outlaw nations will develop and deploy long-range missiles that could deliver weapons of mass destruction against us."

1995, and Senate Democrats had kept the measure from coming to a floor vote since. But Democrats and the president relented this time.

Clinton issued a statement applauding Wednesday's Senate vote. "We are committed to meeting the growing danger that outlaw nations will develop and deploy long-range missiles that could deliver weapons of mass destruction against us," he said.

Senate Democrats flocked to support a Senate version earlier this week after two amendments supported by the administration were adopted and the White House withdrew a veto threat.

port. But there won't be a chance to offer similar amendments when the House takes up the bill, according to ground rules set by the House Rules Committee.

"There will be no amendments. There will be no attempt to allow people to have cover," said Weldon, who co-sponsored the House bill with Democratic Rep. John Spratt of South Carolina.

In advance of the debate, the House goes into a rare secret session to hear from former Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other members of a commission he headed that looked into potential missile threats. The commission reported last year that such threats, either from an accidental firing or from a rogue regime, were a lot closer than the U.S. intelligence community had estimated.

The House bill states that "it is the official policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense."

One amendment, by Sens. Mary Landrieu, D-La., and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, asserts that the United States would continue to seek reductions in nuclear missiles in talks with Russia even as it prepares to field a system to shoot down ballistic missiles.

The other, by Sens. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., and Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., says funds for such a system would be decided on a year-to-year basis, through the routine congressional appropriations process.

The White House and Senate Democrats said the amendments made the bill acceptable. Republicans ridiculed the abrupt turnabout while welcoming their sup-

Westerners like Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republican members from six states endorsed Texas Gov. George W. Bush for president, saying he understands issues in the West.

Lawmakers who pledged their support were from Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Alaska and South Dakota.

"We want to show as a bloc early on we are effective in advocating this wonderful nominee of ours," said Rep. Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., one of seven lawmakers who spoke at a news conference Wednesday.

Others included Reps. Doc Hastings and George Nethercutt of Washington, Greg Walden of Oregon, Rick Hill of Montana, Mike Simpson of Idaho and John Thune of South Dakota.

Rep. Don Young of Alaska was unable to attend the news conference but said in a statement he supports Bush. "He would champion issues important to resource development in western states," said Young, who chairs the House Resources Committee.

The endorsements are hardly a surprise, as Bush

has dominated in early presidential polling. Delegations of elected officials from South Carolina, Iowa, California and many other states have made the trip to Austin to urge Bush to enter the race.

It was clear at the news conference that the western lawmakers consider Bush one of their own.

Hill said Bush could bring people together and help solve some contentious land issues in the region. "We need a Republican president who understands issues of the West," he said.

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U.S. trade deficit hits all-time high

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's trade deficit soared to an all-time high of \$17 billion in January as global financial troubles pushed U.S. exports down further while imports of autos, consumer goods and food were climbing to record highs.

The Commerce Department reported that the trade deficit shot up 21 percent from December's \$14.1 billion level and surpassed the old monthly record of \$16.7 billion set last August.

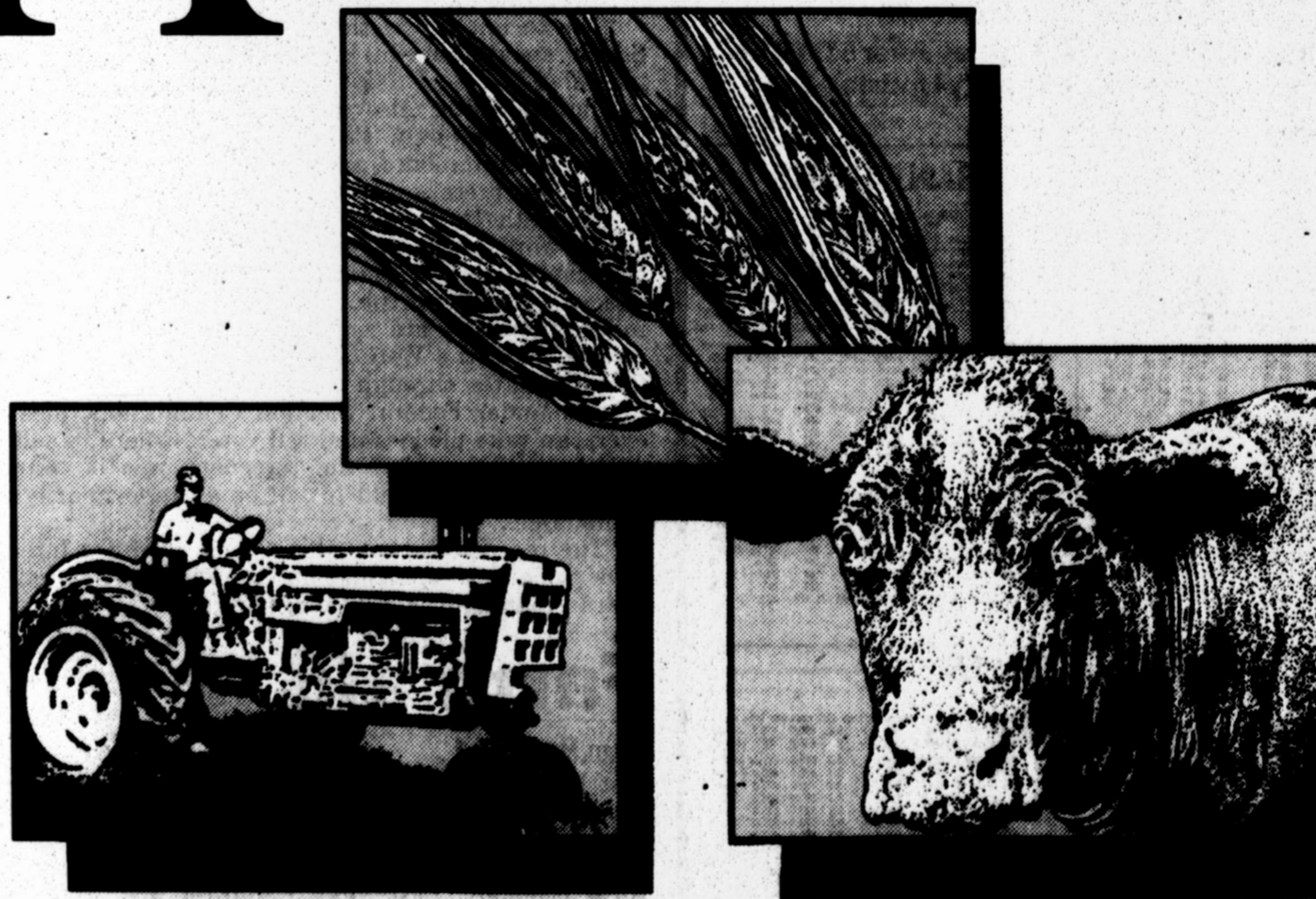
Economists believe that the deficit in 1999 will easily surpass the record \$169.3 billion imbalance set last year as the global financial crisis further depresses the ability of American manufacturers and farmers to sell in world markets.

In addition to the loss of markets for U.S. exporters, the plunge in currency values and recessions overseas triggered a flood of products into the United States, which has continued to post strong economic growth despite the global troubles.

That strong growth has sent U.S. unemployment to its lowest level in three decades despite the fact that manufacturing has eliminated 337,000 jobs over the past year.

In a separate report today, the Labor Department said the exceptionally good labor conditions are continuing with the number of Americans filing first-time applications for unemployment benefits holding under 300,000 for the seventh consecutive week — the longest such streak since 1974. Claims last week were 298,000, up 6,000 from the previous week.

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