

# Hereford BRAND

98th Year, Vol. Number 253 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

TUESDAY, June 29, 1999

10 Pages, 50 Cents

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## Today's weather OUTLOOK



### Partly cloudy

Tonight, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, lows in the mid-60s.

Wednesday, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, highs in the lower 90s.

### Extended forecast

Thursday, partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s, highs in the lower 90s.

Friday and Saturday, partly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms, lows in the mid- to upper 60s, highs in the mid- to upper 90s.

### Hereford weather

Monday's high, 85; low, 68; no precipitation, according to KPAN Radio.

# JAMAICA!



## There were no planes, but there was a 'train' and automobiles

There were no planes around Dameron Park on Sunday, but there were plenty of automobiles and a "train" as the San Jose Community sponsored its annual Jamaica celebration. Youngsters enjoyed "train" rides around the park, while car enthusiasts could take in the classic cars, low-riders and hot rods at the car show. The annual celebration also featured a volleyball tournament, food booths, games and entertainment.

BRAND/Mauri Montgomery



USA Today

Will there be two Sen. Clintons, one from New York and another from Arkansas? No way, according to the White House press secretary.

## Clinton bid for Senate is ruled out

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Clinton for the Senate?

"He has no intention of running for the Senate, rules out the idea of running for the Senate," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said Monday. "I think his quote to me was, 'That story is crazy and I don't know where they got it from.'"

That keeps the household political focus on first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton's possible Senate bid in New York.

While the Clintons were in New York City on Monday to attend Democratic Party fundraisers, the first lady took time to go house-hunting in the city and its suburbs.

"She took the opportunity to go look at some houses," said Marsha Berry, a spokeswoman for Mrs. Clinton. "She looked at some in the city and some in the environs."

Berry said she had no further details about the house-hunting activities. The Clintons have said they plan to settle in New York after the president's term ends in 2001, whether she runs for the Senate next year or not.

Returning to Washington in the wee hours today, Clinton was asked whether his wife had any house-hunting success. "I'm not the spokesperson for that operation," the president said, shaking his head and smiling.

# Extension service unplugs XIT

Commissioners hope issue about cell phones finally has been resolved

By Don Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

Deaf Smith County Extension Agent Dennis Newton did some shopping and has decided to get another cellular telephone service -- resolving an issue that has come up frequently at county commission meetings.

At the June 14 meeting of the county commissioners, Newton said his office's cell phone usage, particularly of the phone permanently installed in the county pickup, has exceeded the 90-minute monthly

limit. He had asked to have the limits raised to 150 minutes.

Newton was told to shop around for the best rate and report back to the commissioners.

He reported he had met with representatives of two cellular phone companies, including current provider XIT Cellular.

Newton said the current charge for four phones is about \$104 per month, with a limit of 90 minutes per phone.

Cellular One will provide service for four phones at \$115 per month, with a 150-minute limit. Also, the plan would provide for sharing of air time, which would allow a phone which had exceeded its limit to "borrow" minutes from a phone which was below its limit for the month.

Newton also said Cellular One

offers a similar coverage area and will waive the activation fee, which is normally \$35 per phone.

The commissioners also began to review the proposed budget for Fiscal 2000. The draft of the budget, which was presented by the county auditor's office two weeks ago, was reviewed by the commissioners in preparation for Monday's workshop.

The initial proposal calls for General Fund expenditures of \$3,976,993, an estimated increase of \$120,710 from the fiscal year ending Sept. 30.

The budget also projects General Fund revenues of \$3,722,865, which would see a shortfall of \$254,128. The shortfall would be absorbed by a carryover balance from previous years.

If all goes as planned, at the end

of FY 2000, the county would have a cash balance of \$656,000.

During a break in the meeting, County Judge Tom Simons said the installation of cabling for a new computer system should be completed by Friday.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a resolution in support of the Panhandle Tourism Marketing Council, which is seeking Texas Historical Commission designation of the Texas Plains Trail for the state's travel program;

- Appointed Sherri Sanderson and Janie Aguellar to the TPMHA District 3 Planning Advisory Committee; and

- Approved a policy prohibiting the county from installing culverts in state highway right-of-way.



Vice President Gore, who has a healthy lead for the Democratic presidential nomination, finds himself sagging against Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in the 2000 election. In the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll, the Texas governor is favored by 59 percent of Republicans to be the party's nominee.

See POLL RESULTS, Page A9

## Bush pulls away from GOP field

WASHINGTON (AP) — George W. Bush has pulled away from the rest of the field in the campaign for the GOP presidential nomination since opening his active campaign in June, a poll says.

Bush gained ground, and Elizabeth Dole, former Red Cross president, lost ground in the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released Monday. But Dole spokesman Ari Fleischer said his candidate is in the best position to challenge Bush.

"If Elizabeth Dole can't catch Bush, then no one can," Fleischer said. The Bush campaign declined comment.

The Texas governor had the support of six out of 10 Republicans, 59 percent, while Mrs. Dole, the former Red Cross president, dropped from

"If Elizabeth Dole can't catch Bush, then no one can."

Ari Fleischer, Dole spokesman

24 percent in May to 8 percent in the latest CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll. Bush led Dole 46 percent to 14 percent in early June.

Mrs. Dole, who had been the only other GOP candidate in double digits, is now in a statistical tie with Steve Forbes, Dan Quayle and John McCain for second place nationally, the poll showed.

Just over six in 10 Republicans said it would be better for the GOP if a clear front-runner emerged, while just over a third said it would be

better to have a number of strong candidates competing over the next year.

Republican consultant Ed Goess said recently that GOP voters have been lining up behind Bush because he comes across as a potential winner, and they intensely want to end the leadership of President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Gore remained the Democratic front-runner with a 3-1 lead over Bill Bradley in the poll taken June 25-27.

The sampling error for the overall sample of 1,016 was plus or minus 3 percentage points, but the error margin for subgroups of Democrats and Republicans was plus or minus 5 percentage points.

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# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, June 29, 1999 • A3

## Delegates selected by VFW Auxiliary

Delegates to the coming state convention were elected when the VFW Auxiliary to Roy Wederbrook Post 4818 met recently.

Those selected to represent the local auxiliary at the convention June 30-July 4 were Laura Smith, Becky Curtis, Mildred Clements and Peggy Oakes.

The business meeting, with president Smith presiding, was preceded by a meal.

In other business, the District 13 Convention held in Hereford May 15 and 16 was discussed, and Inez Houston reported on her participation at Hereford

Care Center.

Houston volunteers to serve snacks and drinks each Wednesday at the center. Volunteers are needed to assist on other days of the week.

Members were reminded that 1999-2000 dues need to be paid.

Those attending were Betty Boggs, Marie Goheen, Erma Murphey, Terrye Rhyne, Edith Richardson, Frankie Ruland, Leona Sowell, Imogene Sweeney, Winnie Tyler, Clements, Curtis, Houston, Oakes and Smith.

The next meeting will be at 8 p.m. July 5 preceded by a meal at 7 p.m.

## Recent bride honored with shower

Kristi Milton Avery, bride of Terry Avery, was the honoree at a bridal shower held June 24 in the home of Suzy Wall.

The couple was married May 14.

Greeting guests with the honoree were Joan Milton, her mother, and Kathy Gallagher and Karen Esqueda, her sisters.

Refreshments of party sandwiches, cookies and fruit punch were served by Kasi Gallagher and Kalya Esqueda, nieces of the bride.

The serving table was centered with a mixed floral arrangement and featured crystal serving pieces.

Kitchen accessories were the gifts from hostesses Carleta Harkins, Carlynn DeLozier, Linda Aranda, Dickie Dobbins, Tracey Duncan, Suzy Wall, Marguerite Cole, Sharon Caro and Ginger Olson.



Shower honoree Kristi Milton Avery, second from left, is the recent bride of Terry Avery. Joining her in greeting guests at a bridal shower in the home of Suzy Wall were, from left, Joan Milton, her mother, and Kathy Gallagher and Karen Esqueda, her sisters.

## TPMHA is safety award recipient

Texas Panhandle Mental Health Authority, which serves the 21 upper counties of the Panhandle, including Deaf Smith, won the 1999 Safety and Loss Prevention Award at the

recent 14th Annual Community Mental Health Mental Retardation Centers Staff and Trustee Training Conference in Austin.

This center was recognized for the best safety record of all

38 mental health and mental retardation centers in the state.

The award was presented by the Texas Council Risk Management Fund to Sandy Skelton, executive director of TPMHA.

Creators Syndicate

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** We have a 17-year-old son who is in love. "Josh" is a good kid, doesn't drink or do drugs, and makes excellent grades. We only want what is best for him, but Josh says he wants to marry his girlfriend. She is only 16. She has no plans to go to college and has made it clear she does not want Josh to attend school out of state. What is even more upsetting is the girl's mother is encouraging this relationship. I suspect she would like to get them married as soon as possible.

I know young love can be crushingly important, but Ann, I am scared to death that my son will be making a huge mistake. What can I do? — Nashville Mom

**Dear Nashville:** Josh must not allow this 16-year-old girl to prevent him from going to college in another state if that is what he wants to do. My hunch is, she is afraid he might meet someone who could threaten the relationship, and if the school is far away, she will not be able to see him often enough to protect her interests.

I hope Josh's favorite teacher or some adult outside the family will help him understand that he is much too young for marriage and that if what he feels now is truly love, it will last until he can make a mature, balanced decision that comes from his

head, not his hormones.

**Dear Ann Landers:** Ever since I read that letter from "Dying in the Midwest," I felt I had to tell my story. One day, my husband came home from work and told me he was exhausted and just plain burned out. He said he wanted to take early retirement, but he was one year short of qualifying for full retirement benefits. I pleaded with him to stay on the job. I told him we could go to Hawaii for a second honeymoon. I assured him that one year would be over in no time at all.

He agreed to stay on for another year. I was overjoyed. Six months later, he dropped dead of a massive heart attack. I am now living with the agony of terrible guilt. I feel as if I killed that wonderful man. He really did need to rest. He was totally exhausted and completely burned out.

I hope by writing you, Ann, that hard-working husbands and their wives will, together, make decisions about retiring that will serve them both well. — Too Late for Us in Southern California

**Dear Southern Calif.:** I can add nothing to your heart-breaking letter. You said it all. I hope, however, that you will come to believe that your husband's heart attack was his destiny and would have occurred no matter what he did.

**Dear Ann Landers:** I have been married to "Ralph" for six years. A month ago, someone called Ralph and told him to "check out his wife's new boyfriend." The caller did

not identify himself.

I have been completely faithful to my husband since we married and would never cheat. When Ralph asked me about the call, I assured him that I had no interest in any other man. I thought he believed me and that would be the end of it. Last week, I found a tape on which Ralph had recorded my phone calls. I was devastated to realize that he did not trust me and had invaded my privacy.

Although I have tried to forgive him, I cannot seem to forget his lack of faith. Every time I pick up the phone, I wonder if Ralph is still taping me. What can I do about this painful turn of events? — No Trust in Kentucky

**Dear Kentucky:** You and Ralph should have a few sessions of joint counseling. Trust must be restored as soon as possible. Get a referral from your doctor or clergyman, and please let me know you took my advice.

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

To find out more about Ann Landers and read her past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). ANN LANDERS (R) COPYRIGHT 1999 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.

## Hospital Notes

Patients in Hereford Regional Medical Center on June 28:

Robbie May Seed, Paul L. Stevens.

Patients on June 29: Barbara J. Kerr, Mary Jane Nunez, infant girl Nunez, Josefina Ruiz, Annie M. Russell, Robbie May Seed, Paul L. Stevens, Laura West.

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Fireworks finale at "TEXAS" should be more spectacular than ever for the 4th of July celebration with special performances tonight through Sunday.

## New sound system to benefit outdoor musical this season

AMARILLO, Texas — It's not the 35th anniversary season. That's next year. So is "TEXAS" just marking time this season?

Not on your life, said Blaine Bertrand, new executive director for the outdoor musical drama.

"It's always somebody's first time to see it. We try to make it a big deal for (audiences) every time," Bertrand said. "Each year in nonprofit performing arts should be a celebration."

"Every year is a progression to something bigger. If we waited to 35 or 25 or whatever, in an outdoor drama you've waited too long," he said.

This year, the focus is on a new amplification system.

"We don't want to destroy the ambient nature of an outdoor drama . . . but it does push the envelope a little bit," Bertrand said.

The new system, which includes speakers and microphones specially designed for the Pioneer Amphitheatre, will ensure that every line is clearly heard in every seat in the house, Bertrand said.

"It should let (the actors) relax a little bit more than in the past. They can be a little more dramatic . . . if they don't have to project as much," he said.

What won't change is the basic story, a celebration of the pioneers of the Texas Panhandle.

Uncle Henry, a prominent rancher, is disturbed by new settlers to the area, like Calvin Armstrong, a farmer with visions of helping the region advance.

Armstrong's dreams of a train and a town in the area aren't initially favored by Henry, who for years has grazed cattle freely on the range. Tempers flare as the characters battle nature and each other while making their homes on the Texas plains.

This year's cast of about 140 singers, dancers and actors comes from about 15 states. Most were found at eight audition sites around the country.

What draws the cast? "Neil (Hess, the director) has an incredible reputation for being able to train singers, dancers and actors alike, for building really good actors and actresses and giving them a broad spectrum of training," Bertrand said.

Contracts were signed in mid-May, giving the cast 24 days to prepare for the production's opening night.

Despite "TEXAS" reputation as the best attended outdoor drama in the country, audience numbers have been

dropping.

Attendance peaked in 1990, when 110,621 saw the show. But viewers haven't topped 95,000 since 1993; 1996 and 1998 saw fewer people attend than any year since 1972.

Bertrand blames the low numbers on shorter summer vacations for students.

State officials estimate that tourism has suffered an \$80 million blow because of the shorter season, he said.

Revenue has stayed about the same, he said, thanks to good management of auxiliaries like concessions and a slight ticket price increase.

"TEXAS" is produced by the nonprofit Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation Inc., which has more than 2,000 patrons from across the country.

The 1999 season runs through Aug. 21. Performances begin at 8:30 p.m. There are no Sunday performances except for July 4.

Tickets range from \$8 to \$19. Reservations are encouraged. For more information, call 806-655-2181.

Distributed by The Associated Press



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Starting Wednesday, June 30th, 1999

<b>WILD WILD WEST</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 1:45 & 4:12	<b>EVING</b> 7:00 & 9:30
<b>BIG DADDY</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 2:00 & 4:05	<b>EVING</b> 7:15 & 9:15
<b>STAR WARS</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 1:30 & 4:10	<b>EVING</b> 7:00 & 9:30
<b>AUSTIN POWERS</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 1:40 & 4:00	<b>EVING</b> 7:10 & 9:10
<b>TARZAN</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 1:50 & 4:20	<b>EVING</b> 7:20 & 9:20
<b>THE GENERAL'S DAUGHTER</b> SUN, THUR, SAT, MATINEES 1:25 & 4:00	<b>EVING</b> 7:05 & 9:25

Adults \$5.00 - Kids & Seniors \$3.00  
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## Special fireworks set at 'TEXAS'

The fireworks are big and bright every night at "TEXAS," but the patriotic extravaganza at the Pioneer Amphitheatre in Palo Duro Canyon will be more spectacular during special performances from tonight through Sunday.

Historically, "TEXAS" has incorporated additional fireworks following the show's finale on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The performances were so

popular, according to L. Lynn Hart, pyrotechnic and lighting designer, that the special holiday festivities have been extended to six performances.

The finale fireworks display that concludes each "TEXAS" performance includes 40 pyrotechnic shells as compared to 140 shells designated for each 4<sup>th</sup> of July performance.

Beneath the colorful splash of fireworks, the "TEXAS" cast,

costumed in red, white and blue, will perform a specially choreographed number for the holiday celebration. A gigantic American flag will wave in the back stage terrace while horsemen race across carrying the Six Flags of Texas.

The Fabulous Five will warm up the evening playing patriotic tunes on the amphitheatre stage.

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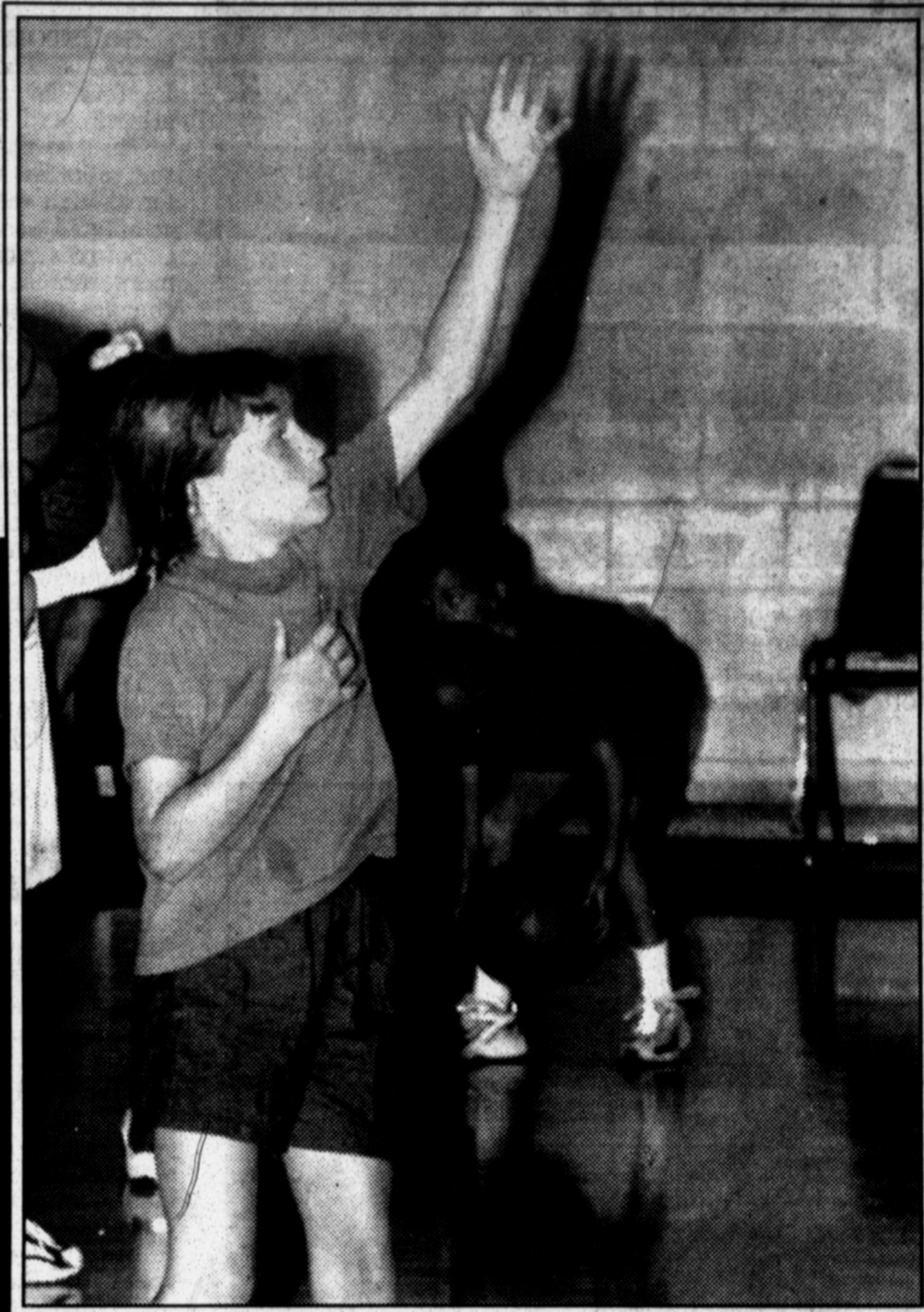
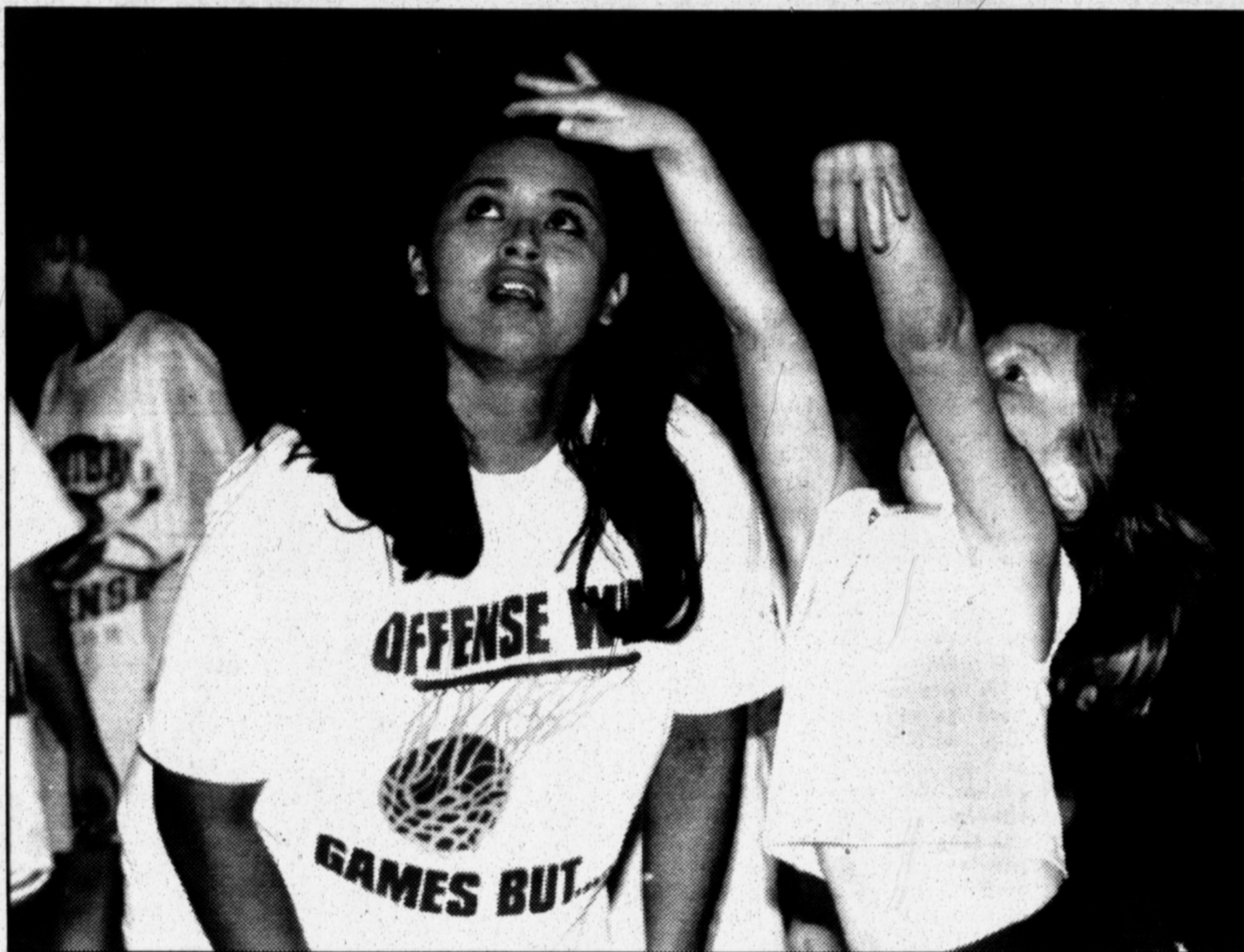
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# SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Tuesday, June 29, 1999 • A5

## Girl (Hoop) Power !!!



**Hooping It Up** — Jessica Franks (above) practices her release Monday during action at the girls basketball camp, which was held at Whiteface Gym. Hannah Harrison (left) shoots a layup under the watchful eye of coach Claudia Ramirez. The basketball camp, which is sponsored by Hereford Independent School District, runs through Friday.

## Diamondbacks extend winning streak to three

### From Staff Reports

After a weekend in which offense took the stage, the Hereford Diamondbacks have a three-game winning streak going.

The string started Friday when the Diamondbacks pounded the Friona Chieftains 20-2. Hereford banged out 19 hits in just four innings as Eric Pesina coasted to the win.

The Diamondbacks followed the Friona win with a pair of victories Sunday, defeating the Canyon Eagles 7-1 and the Randall Renegades 17-7.

Against Canyon, Hereford broke open the game in the second inning. With the score 1-1 in the bottom of the inning, Diamondbacks Freddy Garcia and Roman Alaniz driving in

runs to boost Hereford into a 4-1 lead.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Diamondbacks picked up insurance runs on a two-run single by Brandon Bigham.

Juan Ayala drove in the final run in the sixth for the 7-1 final. Michael Rhyne recorded the victory for Hereford.

Against Randall, miscues by the Diamondbacks enabled the Renegades to take quick 2-0 lead in the first.

But the Diamondbacks exploded with nine runs in the bottom of the second, thanks to RBI hits by Davis, Roman Alaniz, Westen Wilcox, Brandon Bigham, Josh Coronado and Isaiah Valdez.

After Randall cut the Hereford lead to 9-3 in the top of the

second, the Diamondbacks added four more runs for a 13-5 score.

Alaniz, Rhyne, Alonzo and Wilcox each had multi-hit games to lead Hereford to a convincing 17-7 final against Randall. They improved to 9-5-1. Isaac Alonzo picked up his fourth win of the season.

The Hereford Diamondbacks will be in action today at Whiteface Field against the Amarillo Texans. Game time is 6 p.m.

Hereford will be on the road Wednesday with a doubleheader against Amarillo River Road.

The Diamondbacks will home Friday when they take on Amarillo Tascosa. Game time in 6 p.m. at Whiteface Stadium.

## Hereford golf duo take first at Dimmitt

Two teams were represented this weekend at the Dimmitt Darlin's Golf Tournament at the Dimmitt Country Club.

The Hereford duo of Tiffi West and Linda Stevens shot 127, 63 on Saturday and 64 on

Sunday to take the first place in the Championship Flight in the tournament.

West and Stevens were six shots better than the Lubbock teams of Sabra Srader-Jana Jenkins and Deby Nichols-Diane Nichols. The teams shot

133 for the tournament.

In the first flight, Sheri Sargent and Linda Elder finished third in their category with a score of 150.

Bettye Durham and Gloria Cushmanberry of Dimmitt shot 145 for first place in the flight.

## Rangers pound Anaheim

Well-traveled Morgan pitches seven-hitter to lead Texas to 9-1 victory

ANAHEIM. (AP) — Mike Morgan doesn't like it when people refer to him as a survivor.

"I think that 'warrior' is a little better word. I compete day in and day out," the 21-year veteran said Monday night after coming within one strike of his first shutout in six years and leading the Texas Rangers over the Anaheim Angels 9-1.

Morgan (9-5) scattered seven hits, the most painful a two-out homer in the ninth by Todd Greene on an 0-2 pitch.

"The old man made it look easy," Texas manager Johnny Oates said. "I don't think there is a scout in the world who would sign him tonight

on stuff. But as far as location, changing speeds, and getting people out, a lot of teams would like to have him."

Morgan, whose last shutout was a five-hitter for the Chicago Cubs against Colorado on July 15, 1993, struck two and walked one in his first complete game since Sept. 26, 1997 for Cincinnati at Montreal.

Morgan, who has played for a major league-record 11 teams, made his big league debut with Oakland just one week after his high school graduation in 1978 and has a career record of only 130-175.

He has more defeats in the majors than any other active pitcher, and has the

longest tenure of any current player. But at 39, he is nowhere near ready for retirement.

"I'm definitely going to play next year, wherever I'm going to be," he said. "It's something that's come this far, the four decades, and not too many guys have done it."

"I probably shouldn't have been in the big leagues in 1978 and 1979. I should have been in rookie ball because I had a tough road early, but good things have happened in 21 years."

After throwing a season-high 113 pitches in his previous outing, he threw 120. The Rangers' offense, which

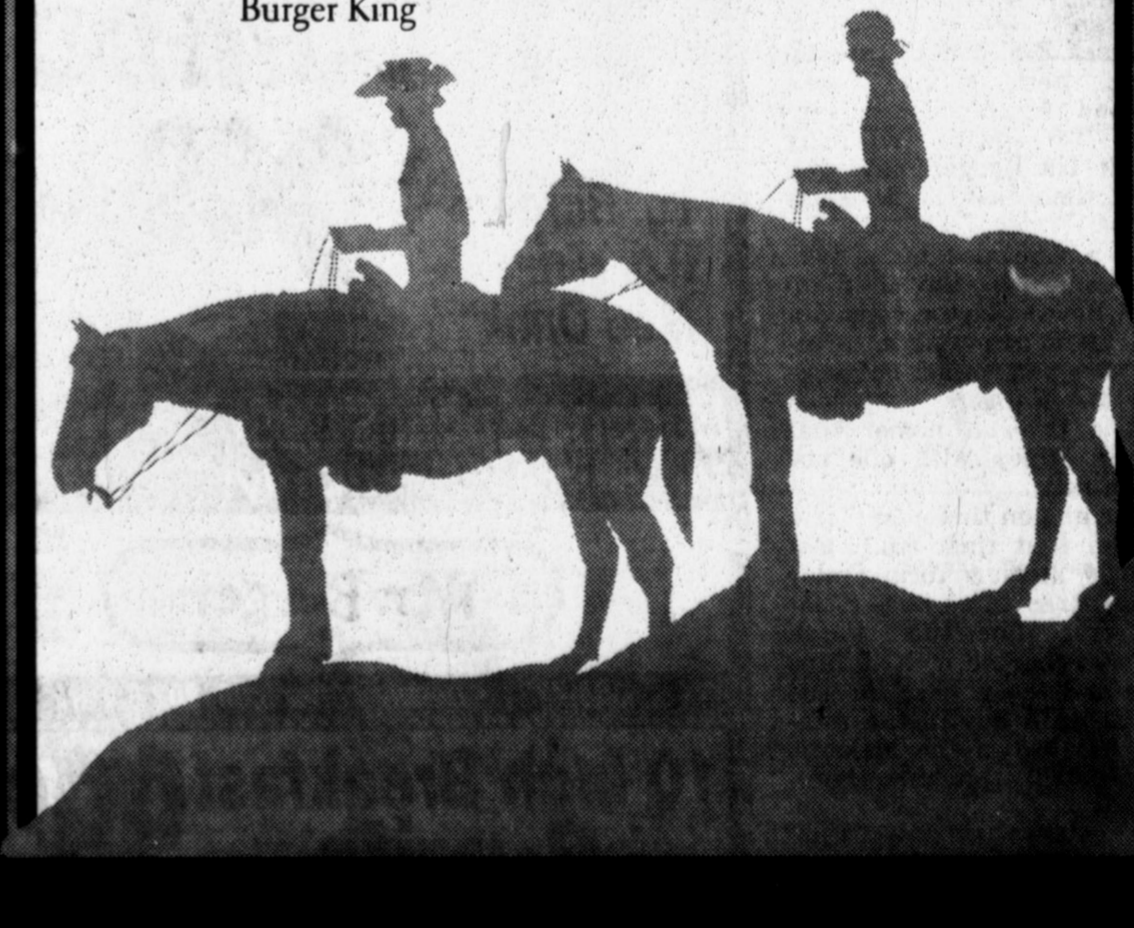
See RANGERS, Page A6

# THANK YOU

The Hereford Masonic Lodge would like to thank the following merchants for supporting The Annual Horse Show that was held on Saturday, May 29, 1999.

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## Wescott Junior Tour Winners



Brand Photos by Dianna Dandridge

Here are the winners of the Wescott Junior Golf Tour Girls' 10-11 Age Group from Monday at Pitman Golf Course: (From left), Whitney Osborne, first place; Julea Short, second place; and Carly Osborne, third place.



Here are the winners of the Wescott Junior Golf Tour CoEd Group from Monday at Pitman Golf Course: (From left), Steven Diaz, first place; Dane Bolton, second place; Samantha Stevens, third place.



Here are the winners of the Wescott Junior Golf Tour Boys' 7-9 Age Group from Monday at Pitman Golf Course: (From left), Daniel Woods, first place; Dominik Torres, second place; Jay Stevens, third place.

# Olajuwon facing possible trade to Toronto Raptors

HOUSTON (AP) — Star NBA center Hakeem Olajuwon would be traded by the Houston Rockets to the Toronto Raptors for two players and two first-round draft picks, according to the Houston Chronicle.

The newspaper in today's editions quoted sources close to the talks as saying that the discussions have been going on for about two weeks. But the sources said talks had not been completed as of late Monday.

Sources told the newspaper that negotiations became more intense Sunday and Monday and could lead to some changes in the office, potentially including another draft pick or player.

Rockets officials refused to comment about the trade negotiations.

"The main thing is there will be fewer free agents in the future under the new collective bargaining agreement," a source close to the trade talks said on condition of anonymity. "You can already see more players signed with their teams because they get more money with their current teams. Free agency as we once knew it has been curtailed."

Olajuwon, the Rockets' most successful and celebrated player in a 15-year career that followed three seasons at the University of Houston, led the NBA team to championships in 1994 and 1995.

Trades cannot be made until Aug. 1, so the Raptors would have to select players on the Rockets' behalf during the NBA draft on Wednesday.

The Rockets would acquire the Raptors' two first-round selections, the fifth pick — acquired from Denver — and the

12th pick (Toronto's own). The Raptors also would send former Rockets center/forward Kevin Willis and guard/forward Doug Christie to Houston.

Both players are under contract for one more season. Because Toronto would be under the salary cap, it would be able to take on Olajuwon's \$14.3 million salary without precisely matching the salaries of the players dealt.

Willis played two seasons with the Rockets before he was traded to Toronto last June for Roy Rogers and two first-round draft picks (with which the Rockets drafted guard Bryce Drew and forward Mirsad Turkcan). Willis, 36, averaged 12 points and 8.3 rebounds in 1999.

Christie, 29, played 31/2 seasons for the Lakers and Knicks before he seemed to blossom in his three full seasons in Toronto. He averaged 15.2 points, 4.1 rebounds and 3.7 assists in 1998 and a career-best 16.5 points and 5.2 rebounds in 1997-98.

The Rockets have been looking for position in the NBA draft. The No. 5 pick would be the team's highest draft position since they selected Olajuwon with the No. 1 pick in 1984.

But by dealing Olajuwon, 36, the Rockets would begin a rebuilding process in the wake of a disappointing first-round playoff loss to the Lakers, the team's second consecutive ouster in the first round.

The deal also could affect forward Charles Barkley, who is considering retirement and has said he wanted to return only if he thought the Rockets were title contenders.

## NBA ratings gone down

NEW YORK (AP) — It was no surprise television ratings slipped for the NBA Finals. The shock was how far they fell.

After Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls helped NBC post record numbers in last season's finals, this year's ratings were the lowest in 18 years.

The five-game average between the San Antonio Spurs and New York Knicks was a 11.3 national rating and a 21 share, down 40 percent from last year's final series.

"We knew going in that the casual fan would be a much tougher draw without the best known man in the world," NBC spokesman Ed Markey said.

Friday night's Game 5, in which the Spurs wrapped up their first NBA title, recorded a 11.0-22, down 44 percent from last season's fifth game.

The 1998 NBA Finals between Jordan's Chicago Bulls and the Utah Jazz went six games and had a 18.7 rating — the highest in league history.

The last time the NBA Finals finished with a lower rating than this season was in 1981. However, none of the six games that season between the Boston Celtics and Houston Rockets was aired in prime time by CBS.

NBC acquired the NBA in 1990 and has broadcast every game in prime time or on a Sunday since the 1992 NBA Finals.

The last time Jordan didn't play in the NBA Finals was in 1995, when Houston swept the Orlando Magic. That se-

ries posted a 13.9 national rating.

The Knicks were beaten by the Rockets in 1994, and the seven-game average rating was a 12.4. That was the same year when O.J. Simpson's freeway chase distracted viewers from basketball, and Game 5 received a 8.0 rating.

Numerous factors contributed to this year's low ratings, with the most important being Jordan's retirement. Sloppy play, the NBA lockout, the fact that San Antonio is the smallest NBA market and the series only going five games also impacted the ratings.

All five games in the series had significant dropoffs from last season. Games 1 and 5 fell 36 percent, Game 2 dropped 42 percent and Game 3 slipped 25 percent.

The rating is the percent-

age of TV households in the United States tuned to a program, and each point represents 994,000 homes. The share is the percentage tuned to a program among televisions in use.

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## RANGERS

From Page A5

had supported him with a league-best 8.95 runs per game, made it easier for him.

"I guess I got probably the worst run support ever in the history of the game over my first 20 years, but I don't get caught up in that," Morgan said.

Chuck Finley (4-8) gave up three homers as Texas stopped Anaheim's season-high four-game winning streak. The Rangers have won 10 of their last 11 decisions against Finley.

Juan Gonzalez hit a two-run homer in the first inning, Royce Clayton capped a five-run fourth with a three-run shot and Rafael Palmeiro gave the Rangers a 9-0 lead with a two-run homer that chased Finley with one out in the fifth.

Pitching on three days' rest for the first time since last Aug. 27 at New York, Finley surrendered three homers for the first time this season and was charged with all nine runs and seven hits. He was moved up a day in the rotation because of the arthritis in Ken Hill's pitching shoulder.

Gonzalez had three hits, including a single that started a five-run fourth. Finley

loaded the bases with a pair of one-out walks, Lee Stevens hit a two-run single on an 0-2 pitch and Clayton followed with his third home run of the season.

Gonzalez's homer was his 22nd. Palmeiro's was his 20th and first in 15 games since June 13 against Colorado.

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May The Sacred Heart of Jesus be Adored, Glorified, Loved and Preserved throughout the world, Now and Forever, Sacred Heart of Jesus Pray for us. St. Jude worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude Help the Hopeless, Pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.
Thank You St. Jude

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#39 - 1991 Oldsmobile
#47 - 1996 Oldsmobile
These vehicles are located at West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative located 2 miles south of Hereford on Hwy. 385. No warranty is expressed or implied on these vehicles. These vehicles are sold "as is, where is."
For information call Jerry Walker at 364-3331.
Bids will be opened at 9:00 A.M., July 2, 1999 at West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative.

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES

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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.
6-29 CRYPTOQUOTE
JZ XHZUIZX JZ DUW ZUENAP
WJHZXXZX DJZUE UAX DLOZ
EL CNAX'EJZ IUUEHZZW JUMC
PLAZ. - CHZX UMMZA
Saturday's Cryptoquote: AFTER A LONG LIFE I HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WHEN ALL THE ESTABLISHMENT IS UNITED IT IS ALWAYS WRONG. - HAROLD MACMILLAN

Schlabs Hysinger SERVING HEREFORD SINCE 1979
1500 West Park Avenue • 364-1281
Richard Schlabs Amber Griffith
Phone 364-1286 Each Trading Day After 5:30 P.M. for Recorded Commodity Update
Prices effective: June 28, 1999

Table with columns for CATTLE FUTURES, GRAIN FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, and FUTURES OPTIONS. Includes various market data points and prices.

Clinton offers reform plan

New drug benefit included in package to bolster Medicare
WASHINGTON (AP) - Retirees would pay \$24 a month if they want to take advantage of a new \$2,000-a-year prescription drug benefit that is a centerpiece of President Clinton's long-awaited proposal to bolster Medicare, sources familiar with the plan say.
The new benefit, which would cover 50 percent of prescription drug costs up to the \$2,000 annual cap, would be available as an option for retirees beginning in 2002. The monthly premium would rise gradually to \$44 and the cap to \$5,400 by 2008.
That premium increase would in part be to account for inflation, said the sources, who spoke Monday night only on condition of anonymity.
Medicare recipients already are paying a \$45.50 monthly premium to cover doctor's office visits.

Those familiar with details floated by the administration on Capitol Hill said Clinton also would propose to help low-income beneficiaries pay the premium for drug coverage.
The Medicare plan, which the administration has outlined broadly and Clinton was scheduled to flesh out today, "will have many specifics and many of them will be controversial," top White House economic adviser Gene Sperling said.
On Monday, the administration released new predictions of federal government surpluses - \$1.1 trillion more than expected - that Clinton said would make it easier to avert a cash shortage likely to face the health insurance program for the elderly and disabled in 2015.
The president proposed using \$794 billion of those surpluses for Medicare, saying "our new, large surplus will help us to strengthen and modernized Medicare while providing a prescription drug benefit."
But administration officials

warn that tough choices still had to be made in putting together the plan. Medicare beneficiaries who choose the drug benefits that Clinton will propose, for example, would have to pay new out-of-pocket fees.
"It asks people to pay a modest premium and some cost sharing for a benefit that is far better than they'd get in the private sector," said Sperling.
Other money for the drug benefit, he said, will come from changes in the way Medicare does business with health care providers - for example, occasionally replacing complex government payment formulas with competitive bidding.
Congressional Republicans, who want to reserve some government surpluses for income tax cuts, have been skeptical about how Clinton will come up with money to add an expensive new benefit to the already cash-strapped Medicare program.
And it's unclear whether the president's plan can win the public and industry sup-

port he will need to get politically perilous Medicare changes through a Congress already nervous about the 2000 elections.
The American Association of Retired Persons, the nation's largest organization of older adults, supports the concept of a new Medicare prescription drug benefit. But senior AARP lobbyist Patricia Smith said among outstanding concerns is how much Medicare clients will be asked to pay out of pocket.
"Will Medicare beneficiaries judge this to be affordable? I think the only way we're going to find out is through the political process," said Smith.
Meanwhile, drug makers are worried about how the government will decide which drugs to cover at what prices.
"It is important that the plan not include government price controls and that the choice of medicine be left to the doctor and the patient and not to a government clerk in Washington," said Alan F. Holmer, president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association.

Officials unclear about Y2K readiness

WASHINGTON - Foreign countries and the airlines and airports they oversee are starting to address the Year 2000 computer problem, but it won't be clear until later this summer where it will be safe and easy to travel overseas come the new year.
The International Civil Aviation Organization, a U.N.-based group responsible for international aviation standards, asked its 185 member nations to report on their local readiness by Thursday.
The State Department and the Federal Aviation Administration plan to use that data to issue travel advisories to the public starting in mid- to late July. The two agencies are also hoping to get insight from

the International Air Transport Association, a trade group that represents 260 international airlines. It has been conducting a private survey of airline readiness.
Because both sets of information are self-reported and won't be available for public inspection, it's unclear how reliable and useful it may be.
"It's hoped that between the two of them, we might get some kind of picture into readiness," said FAA spokesman Paul Takemoto. "The accuracy of that picture is yet to be determined."

More answers from Hubbell, but what?
WASHINGTON - After years of giving Kenneth Starr's office answers that investigators now regard as "incomplete," longtime Clinton friend Webster Hubbell is getting ready to talk some more.
The question is whether Hubbell's answers will be any more useful than the first set he gave Starr in 1995 after pleading guilty to stealing \$400,000 from his law firm and its clients.
Hubbell will plead guilty Wednesday to concealing legal work that he and Hillary Rodham Clinton performed on a fraudulent Arkansas land deal known as Castle Grande and evading taxes on consult-

ing payments from the president's friends, legal sources said Monday.
The concealment charge is a felony, while the tax charge is a misdemeanor, and Starr will recommend that Hubbell be given no jail time, the sources added. Starr also will close out the case against the other defendants in the tax indictment - Hubbell's wife, Suzy, his accountant and tax lawyer.
A no-jail-time request to U.S. District Judge James Robertson could mean Starr regards Hubbell as having little of value. It also could mean prosecutors regard the evidence he holds as significant after what the legal sources describe as meetings Hubbell has had with Starr's office.

POLL RESULTS

The Associated Press
Some results from the latest presidential campaign polls, including a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released Monday. When results don't total 100 percent, the remainder either didn't know or refused to answer.
ASKED OF REPUBLICANS
Please tell me which of these candidates you would be most likely to support for the Republican nomination for president in the year 2000.
• George W. Bush, 59 percent.
• Elizabeth Dole, 8 percent.
• Steve Forbes, 6 percent.
• Dan Quayle, 6 percent.
• John McCain, 5 percent.
• John Kasich, 3 percent.
• Pat Buchanan, 3 percent.
• Lamar Alexander, 2 percent.
• Gary Bauer, 2 percent.
• Orrin Hatch, 2 percent.
• Bob Smith, 1 percent.
(Bush led Dole 46 percent to 14 percent in early June)

ASKED OF DEMOCRATS
Please tell me which of these candidates you would be most likely to support for the Democratic nomination for president in the year 2000.
• Al Gore, 64 percent.
• Bill Bradley, 28 percent.
(Gore has held a lead about this size over Bradley in recent months.)

ASKED OF EVERYBODY
If Vice President Al Gore were the Democratic Party's candidate and Texas Governor George W. Bush were the Republican Party's candidate, who would you be more likely to vote for?
• Al Gore, 41 percent.
• George W. Bush, 56 percent.
(Bush held the same lead over Gore in this poll in March.)

The CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll of 1,016 adults taken June 25-27 has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The error margin for Republicans and Democrats is plus or minus 5 percentage points.

# New laws go into effect

**The Associated Press**

You can hula till you drop in Hawaii, but you'll need mom and dad's permission to have your navel pierced in Tennessee. And don't talk back to your teachers in Louisiana or you may be breaking the law.

New laws passed in states around the country — many of which take effect with the new fiscal year July 1 — regulate everything from chili sauce to rubber duck races. A spate of new ordinances focuses on reining in teenagers.

Teens caught smoking in South Dakota starting Thursday can be fined once for every cigarette they light up, as can the merchant who sold them the pack. Louisiana passed a law that makes students in kindergarten

**New regulations cover hula dancing, smoking, body piercing and talking back to teachers**

through fifth grade address teachers with a courtesy title such as "sir" or "ma'am."

In Utah, the marriage age was raised to 16 from 14, and in Florida, a new law calls for teen-age girls to wait up to 48 hours for an abortion to allow doctors time to notify their parents. Indiana and Tennessee enacted legislation that requires parental consent for body piercing.

"Looking at it on a broader scale, I think there is an issue of protecting kids from themselves and keeping parents in control," said Stephanie Wilson, who monitors state laws at the National Conference of State

Legislatures.

She said that in the wake of the recent shootings at Columbine High School and other schools, a nationwide trend toward closer monitoring of teens will likely continue.

"Columbine was a huge shock to everyone," she said. "I think parents really do feel a loss of control."

Many states have also taken steps to try to protect children in school.

In Alabama, teachers with unsupervised access to students must now be fingerprinted and undergo background checks. A new law allows school districts in Ne-

vada to hire a chief of school police. In Maryland, students who plant bombs or make bomb threats can lose their drivers licenses.

Of course, not all the new laws involve children. Many states raised penalties for violent crimes and for driving under the influence, and some raised so-called "sin taxes" on cigarettes and alcohol. Several passed legislation capping the awards handed out in civil lawsuits.

New Hampshire passed a law allowing homosexuals to adopt children, and also became the last state in the country to honor slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. with a permanent holiday.

South Carolina passed legislation officially legalizing interracial marriage.

"... current confidence levels point to even stronger economic growth next year than previously projected. The key ingredient is the labor market. That remains extremely strong, and that gives consumers confidence."

**Lynn Franco, associate director, Consumer Research Center**

## Consumers feel more confident

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A survey of consumer confidence rose in June to its highest level in more than 30 years, signaling even stronger economic growth ahead. A separate report out today showed that new home sales fell 5.1 percent in May — twice the rate that analysts expected.

The conflicting reports about the strength of the economy were released as Federal Reserve policy-makers were to begin a two-day meeting in Washington, where they were widely expected to boost interest rates in a bid to prevent inflation from rekindling.

The rise in the consumer confidence index to 138.4 in June from a revised 137.7 in May was the eighth consecutive monthly increase, the Conference Board reported.

Lynn Franco, associate director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Center, said the report indicates that "current confidence levels point to even stronger economic growth next year than previously projected."

She added: "The key ingredient is the labor market. That remains extremely strong, and that gives consumers confidence."

Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc. in St. Louis, noted that most analysts expect the Fed to raise rates at this week's meet-

ing. "Historically, the Fed's job is to take the punch bowl away from the party," Thayer said. A rise in rates "could cause (consumer) expectations to cool off a bit," he said.

Mortgage rates already have been rising for two months, and that apparently has put a damper on home sales. The Commerce Department reported that sales of new homes fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 885,000 units in May, down 5.1 percent from April sales of 936,000 units.

Financial markets showed little reaction to today's figures as traders awaited the Fed's announcement Wednesday. The Dow Jones industrial average was barely changed at midmorning.

Consumer sentiment is an important economic indicator because consumer spending accounts for two-thirds of the nation's overall economic activity.

In a report released Monday, the Commerce Department said that consumer spending outpaced income in May, sending the nation's savings rate to an all-time low.

Such strong spending has been the major factor pushing U.S. economic growth. The Fed has begun to worry that tight labor markets will soon increase wage pressures and lead to higher inflation.

## Tony winner set to complete run

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
**People**

**NEW YORK** — Judi Dench will return to the Broadway hit "Amy's View" on July 6 to complete the final two weeks of the play's run.

Dench left the David Hare drama after the June 22 performance to be with her husband, actor Michael Williams, in London. Williams is seriously ill with a lung infection.

"Amy's View" is a hot ticket, with only rear mezzanine seats available before the show ends its limited engagement on July 18. But with Dench absent, many were opting for refunds or exchanging tickets.

Only about a quarter of the 1,096-seat Ethel Barrymore Theater was filled over the weekend.

Earlier this month, Dench won a best-actress Tony Award for her portrayal of a stage actress named Esme Allen. In March, she won an Academy Award for playing Queen Elizabeth I in the romantic comedy "Shakespeare in Love."

### Richard Riordan

**LOS ANGELES** — The as-yet-unfinished Staples Center, a 20,000-seat downtown arena, will host the Grammy Awards in 2000.

The new center has nearly four times the capacity of the nearby Shrine Auditorium, which hosted the 41st annual Grammys in February following their three-year New York run.

Mayor Richard Riordan was to make the official announcement today outside the center, along with Michael Greene, president of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences, which organizes the awards.

Riordan had lobbied heavily to keep the Grammys in Los Angeles.

"That's where they belong," Ashleigh Adams, a Riordan spokeswoman, said Monday.

"We're the entertainment capital of the world." The \$350 million Staples Center, adjacent to the Convention Center, is to open in October. Home to the Los Angeles Lakers, Clippers and Kings, the new Staples Center also will be used for the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

### Gov. George Pataki Gov. George W. Bush

**ALBANY, N.Y.** — There's a New York feast on its way to Texas.

New York Gov. George Pataki recently bet Texas Gov. George W. Bush that New York teams would beat Texas teams in the National Hockey League and National Basketball Association championships.

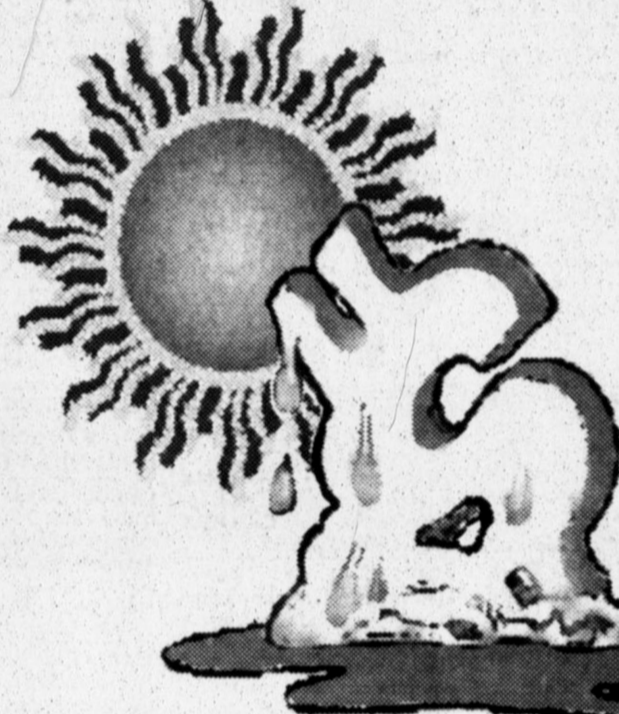
But the NHL's Buffalo Sabres lost to the Dallas Stars, and the NBA's New York Knicks lost to the San Antonio Spurs. So Pataki's ready to pay up.

As per the bet, Pataki is sending Bush hearty portions of Buffalo chicken wings and beef-on-a-stick for the Stars win, and deli sandwiches and a dozen New York City bagels for the Spurs win.

Bush will have the food by the end of the week. But Pataki managed Monday to get in a shot in at the NHL officials.

The Stars won their series in the third overtime with Brett Hull's winning shot coming while his skate seemed in the crease. The Sabres argued that the goal should not have counted.

"I would prefer if Governor Bush does not share any of the wings with the referees," Pataki said.



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1995 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer 4dr, stk# 6977TB	\$14,995

1994 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer red, stk# 7276TA	\$9,995
1998 Oldsmobile Bravada 4dr, stk# 3615GM	\$23,995
1998 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer 4dr, stk# 3685GM	\$22,995
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