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# Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 5 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

FRIDAY, July 9, 1999

12 Pages, 50 Cents

## HUSTLIN' HEREFORD HOME OF Carolyn Tackiu

### Today's weather OUTLOOK



#### Chance of storms

Tonight, partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s.

Saturday, partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of mainly afternoon thunderstorms, highs near 85. Saturday night, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, lows in the lower 60s.

#### Extended forecast

Sunday, partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms late, highs in the upper 80s.

Monday and Tuesday, partly cloudy with a chance of mainly afternoon and nighttime thunderstorms, lows around 65, highs around 90.

#### Hereford weather

Thursday's high, 96; low, 69; no precipitation, according to KPAN Radio.

## Hereford native gets top position

### Special to The Brand

WASHINGTON — A Hereford native is the new chairman of the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association.

Stan Sigman, president and chief executive officer of SBC Wireless, was chosen at a recent meeting of the cell phone association.

CTIA President Tom Wheeler said, "Stan Sigman is a true telecommunications visionary. He brings enormous energy, expertise and vision to CTIA and the entire wireless industry."

Sigman earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from West Texas State University in Canyon, Texas, in 1970. Born in Lubbock, he calls Hereford his hometown. He and his wife, Gerry Lynn, have a son and daughter.

As president/CEO of SBC Wireless Inc., Sigman is responsible for all of SBC's domestic wireless operations, including Southwestern Bell Wireless.

Sigman began his career in 1965 with Southwestern Bell Telephone as a stockman in Hereford. After progressing through a number of management assignments in Texas, Oklahoma and Missouri, he was named executive vice president at Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems in 1986.

In 1993, he became Southwestern Bell's vice president-general manager for the Oklahoma market area. He was then appointed executive vice president for Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems in 1994, and became president and chief executive officer of Southwestern Bell Mobile Systems, now called SBC Wireless, in 1995.



BRAND/Dianna F. Dandridge

It was a roundtable discussion Thursday for the Hereford Independent School District board. Participating are (clockwise from top) Superintendent Elizabeth Abernethy and trustees Carolyn Waters, Jeri Bezner, Lloyd Ames, Mark Landrum, Raul Valdez, Lou Serrano and Dave Charest.

## Abernethy gets her list of goals

By Dianna F. Dandridge

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Now Elizabeth Abernethy has a clearer picture of what's expected of her.

The members of the Hereford Independent School District board and the new superintendent conducted a session Thursday evening to set goals for Abernethy's first year at the helm of the district.

Abernethy, who assumed the duties as superintendent on July 1, used the session to get a better feel for the issues that board members think need to be addressed.

In a roundtable discussion, the trustees listed six concerns, which they pared to four:

- Continuation of student achievement, with the district being named exemplary;
- Continuing strong student safety and security measures with a focus on consistent discipline, throughout the district;
- Encourage students to pursue higher education through integration of technology in the curriculum;
- Completion of the district construction projects.

See GOALS, Page A7



## At the ol' fishin' pond



Eliseo Leon, 9, gives pointers to Nikki Martinez, 4.

## Residents find way to break monotony

By Kitt Jennings

Hereford Brand Staff Writer

Amid typical complaints of summer monotony, some Hereford residents have chosen to trade conventional boredom-busters like movies, parks and swimming for something a little different.

On any given night, several residents can be found fishing at the Hereford Aquatic Center pond.

According to one angler, Gloria Orozco, the pond offers an opportunity to spend some quality time with the family.

"I enjoy being with my kids, and it's something we can all do. I think people need someplace they can go without worrying about drugs or drinking," she said. "It's peaceful."

Raymond Davis' motivation is similar.

"I come out here because of my grandson, Jayde. We come out whenever he comes down from Virginia," Davis said while checking his fishing pole.

Alice Cerna also thinks fishing promotes family togetherness. Along with a row of half-full sodas, she supervises Ruben Leon, 12, Eliseo Leon, 9, Vincent Cerna, 9, Crystal Roman, 7, Nikki Martinez, 4, and Zackery Cerna, 2 as they plunk their bait into the pond.

"Me and the boys come out here every day just about, for four hours at a time," Cerna said. "The kids

enjoy it, and it's something to do besides sit in front of the TV."

"We come out here because it's boring at home. And the fish need friends," Derrick Rodriguez, 11, said with a laugh and a glance at his friends. Five other youngsters scampered along the pond's bridge with Rodriguez, including his sister, Crystal Rodriguez, 12, and Michael Garcia, 9.

And after only a couple hours, a five-fish catch testified that, apparently, the barefoot sextet of seasoned grade-school veterans knew what they were doing.

"We caught two yesterday, and we stay here a long time. We're always the first ones here. Morning is best," whispered Garcia as he divulged his secret.

Cerna and Davis also say that catching a few fish per day is fairly common.

Davis contends that evenings bring better conditions "just as the sun's going down, and when the wind's not blowing."

With the right conditions, a can of corn and a kernel of patience, fishing is a breeze, according to Davis.

"But I don't want to catch anything I have to do anything with. We just catch 'em and turn 'em loose," he said.

"I don't let the kids take (the fish). I make them put 'em back. If



BRAND/Kitt Jennings

Crystal Roman, 7, tries to see if holding the rod high in the air will make the fish more likely to bite.

they ever catch anything," joked Orozco.

Most of the fish left in the pond are goldfish or small catfish, although rumors of a 'Big One' are out there. Many anglers, including Rodriguez and Garcia, claim to have seen catfish as large as 12 pounds.

"But it was dead," said the younger Rodriguez.

"If there is a 25-pound catfish, he's sure keeping himself hid well," said Davis.

"Yesterday, the boys were out here with bait and a big fish pulled the fishing rod in. So we lost it."

Cerna said with a weary laugh.

City Manager Chester Nolen accredits the walkways, picnic areas, and main pavilion near the pond with helping to attract people.

"We have the Kid Fish competition and, of course, the Aquatic Center itself draws a lot of people, too," Nolen said.

The fish that really are in the pond get there via a concrete ramp on the pond's west side. There, with catfish- or trout-filled trailer units, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department provide the HAC pond's stock.

## Wars on poverty: many battles, fewer victories

By Deb Reichmann

The Associated Press

Like President Clinton, who has just finished a four-day poverty tour, President Johnson made a swing through the nation in 1964, allowing TV cameras to give comfortable Americans a glimpse of life in the poorest pockets of the country.

He considered the trip in 1964 while on the phone with Alex Rose, a union leader in New York.

"If I could have a tour organized — just go to the most poverty-stricken places in New York and let the press follow me and let me go

there and visit with the people," Johnson said, according to transcripts of his White House tapes. "Yeah, maybe I'll go out into Harlem. ... Maybe I'll go somewhere where we have the real slums and the lowest living conditions so we dramatize."

The publicity promoted Johnson's "War on Poverty." But while the anti-poverty programs begun in the 1960s helped lift the incomes of millions of individuals above the poverty line, they and other initiatives since have had less success nurturing economic revival in im-

poverished places.

That's what Clinton aims to do. But historically, more progress has been made among poor people than poor places.

"There was never a war on poverty," said Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who went with Clinton on his poverty tour. "Maybe there was a skirmish on poverty for a brief period of time. We have done the broad people-based programs — Social Security, Medicaid, welfare. But we have never done intensive geographically targeted work."

Clinton said these ignored areas

of America are the untapped markets of tomorrow. He wants Congress to give tax incentives, tax credits and loan guarantees to people who invest there. But the president had barely left Appalachia this week when cynicism began to seep into conversations in Barbourville, Ky.

"I think the Clinton visit took people by surprise that he would come here, but I think now that it's over," said local historian Michael Mills. "There's more people saying now 'What will be the result? Will anything REALLY happen that's tangible because of his visit?'"

No, according to critics of Clinton's poverty initiative.

"You know how many times we've saved Appalachia?" said Robert Rector, analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

Doug Besharov, scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said government money given to communities is sometimes spent unwisely. If it does improve people's status, they often pack up and move out, he said. "I would aim for a people strategy, not a place strategy," he said.

See POVERTY, Page A7

JULY 9 1999



# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, July 9, 1999 • A3

## Genesis Church sets Vacation Bible School

Genesis Church invites all children age 3 through sixth grade to take part in Vacation Bible School, July 12-14 from 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m. This year's focus will be "Climbing to New Heights with Jesus." Teachers, or expedition outfitters as they are called, are gearing up for "An Expedition to Mt. Extreme: The Ultimate Good News Challenge." Every day will include an exciting worship rally in the Mountain Lodge. Then kids will traverse through adventure-

filled Bible stores, create a mountain of crafts, explore unique mission sites, experience extraordinary Mt. Extreme music, and climb to new heights in recreation. Genesis Church is happy to offer this "once-in-a-lifetime" expedition opportunity to every child in the community. Parents are invited to join the campers Wednesday at 8 p.m. Bus rides are available by calling 364-4747. The church is located on N. Highway 385, 1/2 mile outside the city limits.



**Beef winner**—Fred Ruiand, left, receives a certificate for half a beef as the winner in the drawing held recently by Spirit Wind, represented by Flint Dollar. Spirit Wind is the Northwest Texas United Methodist Church youth choir. Proceeds from ticket sales will help defray expenses for a New Zealand trip the choir will take next summer. Other Hereford choir members are Holly Coneway, Cathy Higgins, Lisa Coneway, Taylor Charest, Hannah Williams, Becky Fuller, Seth Laing, Matthew Langehennig, Justin Kerr, Amanda Fellers, Amy Ruland and Kara Landrum.

## Winget gives speech for Toastmasters

"Big Boy Toys" was the topic of the speech given by Wayne Winget at the Thursday morning meeting of Hereford Toastmasters. David Castillo served as evaluator for the presentation. Margaret Del Toro presided at the business meeting and Jigger Rowland gave the invocation. Toastmaster was Mike Schumacher. Timer was Del Toro, and Sharon Cramer served as AH counter and

grammarian. The word "incentive" was introduced by Del Toro as wordmaster. Serving as topic master, Rowland selected topics for speakers Dan Hall, Castillo, Cramer and Del Toro. Del Toro was awarded the vote as best topic speaker. Lydia Villanueva was general evaluator. One guest, Adolfo Del Toro, was also in attendance.

Creators Syndicate

## Ann Landers



**Dear Ann Landers:** We have all read and heard a great deal about the recent tragedy at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo. Please inform your readers of the importance of youth involvement in community service. It is a fine way to help reduce violent behavior and build healthy communities.

Research shows that young people who are involved in service programs are less likely to be engaged in destructive social behavior. Teens who help others are 50 percent less likely to use drugs, join gangs or get pregnant. Their dropout rate is lower, and they achieve higher grades throughout high school. Youth service is an effective teaching method in thousands of school districts and universities. Through service, students learn tolerance for others as well as an empathy for environmental and social issues.

Young people often say they do not volunteer because they don't know where to go or what to do. Please, Ann, let your readers know they can find or post volunteer opportunities in their area by calling 1-800-VOLUNTEER (1-800-865-8683) or by writing to us at Youth Service America, 1101 15th St. N.W., Suite 200, Washington, D.C. 20005-5002 (www.servenet.org).

What happened at Columbine was a tragedy, but it should not distort the picture of what our young people are like today. The truth is, they are smarter, more religious, more inclined to volunteer and possibly the finest generation of Americans in our history.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve." Isolation and intolerance are a terrible burden for too many adolescents, and every teenager deserves to experience greatness. Please help me point them in the right direction. — Steven A. Culbertson, president and CEO, Youth Service America.

**Dear Steven Culbertson:** Your message is a splendid one, and it comes at a time when we all need to hear it. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share it with my readers.

**Dear Ann Landers:** The following note, in fancy printed

script, on expensive paper, was included with a wedding invitation I received recently. It was the bride-to-be's second marriage. Apparently, she thought it was clever. I would like to know what YOU think of it, Ann Landers. Here it is: Shall it be a toaster ... oh no, they are already lined up on the pantry shelf.

What about a picture frame ... I think not! We have enough to use for all our grandchildren's memorable moments.

Where would we put any more vases, dishes, linens, blenders, etc., etc. ... Our home is already overequipped with all of the above.

Well, then, what would be the perfect solution ... A monetary gift would be more than welcome. Thank you.

No name, city or state if you print this, Ann. — Strictly Anonymous

**Dear Strictly:** To include a request for "a monetary gift" with a wedding invitation is in the worst possible taste. I would ignore it and send a modest gift.

**Dear Ann Landers:** Here's a Gem for you. I got it on the Internet:

A man said, "The definition of an optimist is a lady who, when the minister says, '... and in conclusion,' starts to put on her shoes."

A colleague spoke up, "I have a better one. It's the deaf man across the aisle who sees the woman putting on her shoes and turns on his hearing aid." — Ann Fan for Many Years

*An alcohol problem? How can you help yourself or someone you love? "Alcoholism: How to Recognize It, How to Deal With It, How to Conquer It" will give you the answers. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$3.75 (this includes postage and handling) to: Alcohol, 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.

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## Amarillo church is fulfillment of dream

AMARILLO, Texas — The dedication of Our Lady of Vietnam Catholic Church was a feast for the soul and the senses. Parish members pulled out all the cultural stops to praise God for the church building they have waited for since 1975.

Bernard Cardinal Law, archbishop of Boston, was welcomed to the church grounds on Sunday with firecrackers, a dragon dance and a balloon launch. Liturgical dancing by adolescent girls clad in traditional costumes of pink and gold was a highlight of the dedication Mass. After the ceremony, parishioners and guests gathered beneath the shade of a tent, where they were treated to a stage show and heaping plates of green salad, egg rolls, battered fish and shrimp fried rice.

"You have done a great work," Law told the overflow crowd in the church's newly remodeled building at 2001 N. Grand St. "As beautiful as is this building, however, of far greater beauty are your lives of faith and hope and love."

Law, who is top-ranking in seniority among the 384 American bishops, dedicated the building with prayers, the sprinkling of Holy Water and the burning of incense as choir members sang in Vietnamese and Latin.

"Here may the poor find justice; the victims of oppression, true freedom," Law prayed as he stood before a congregation of immigrants with much to celebrate on Independence Day.

"In the dedication of this church, we must remember the history of the Vietnamese martyrs, of the church in Vietnam which continues to suffer restrictions on its freedom," Law said. "So many of you came to this country at great personal peril."

Vietnamese who came to Amarillo beginning in the 1970s were "escaping from the darkness that had descended on Vietnam," said Thanh Hoang, parish council president. "It was not an easy beginning. Today we have reached a high point."

Hoang asked that all who worship in the new building "will be a faithful witness and messenger of God's love."

Bishop John Yanta of the Diocese of Amarillo closed the dedicatory service by announcing that the parish's debt to the diocese has been forgiven.

Yanta said about 10 days ago he decided to cancel two-thirds of the nearly \$33,000 the parish had borrowed to help complete purchase of the former Christ Lutheran Church building. But "God was not happy with what I did," Yanta said. "The Holy Spirit was angry with me, and even his eminence (Law) was scolding me this morning."

So after consulting with Law, Yanta said, he decided to wipe out all the parish's debt to the diocese.

"Effective June 30, this beautiful parish of our Lady of Vietnam owes nothing to the Diocese of Amarillo," Yanta said amid enthusiastic applause.

Church pastor the Rev. Polycarp Nguyen Duc Thuan said he was happy to hear the debt had been canceled, because he remembered it as being more like \$53,000.

"God has blessed you so much, and you are such a blessing to the diocese," Law said. "I plead with you to be an active participant in the life of this diocese. You have had your debt forgiven. I hope it will encourage you to lead

in generosity all the other parishes of this diocese."

Parishioners had met for several years in the basement of the old Alamo Catholic High School while raising funds for their own building. The church had been a "quasi-parish," but was dedicated Sunday as a full-fledged "personal parish," which means it has no geographical boundaries but rather is open to all Vietnamese members in the diocese "to help them preserve their language and customs," Yanta said.

"Now we have a building that we can call a church, and we became a parish," member Anh Tien Bui said. "It's a great feeling. It's a great, great honor to have him (Law) here today." Law's relationship with

Vietnamese immigrants dates back to his days as bishop of the Springfield / Cape Girardeau Missouri Diocese. When Our Lady of the Ozark Seminary in Carthage, Mo., closed, then-Bishop Law invited and sponsored the Vietnamese order of the Mother Co-Redemptrix to take over the empty property. Duc Thuan was associated with Law during those years.

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# SPORTS

HEREFORD BRAND • Friday, July 9, 1999 • A5

## Braves get dusted

### Braves get swept in doubleheader against Amarillo

By Yuri Soto

Hereford Brand Sports Editor

The season for the Hereford Braves may be drawing to a close, but on Thursday it looked like the team started a new season.

That's because the Braves haven't seen any action since June 25, when they claimed a 4-0 victory over Clovis.

The Braves played a doubleheader with the Amarillo High Dusters at Whiteface Field on Thursday and the rust of a two-week layoff showed. The Braves lost both ends of the doubleheader, falling 4-1 and 15-1.

"We didn't have much practice and we had a lot of games canceled on us," Braves Coach Jon Dan Alaniz said. "It had a lot of effect on the guys because we had a lot of strikeouts."

In the first game, Shawn Gotcher's double to centerfield scored Jason Gotcher and gave Amarillo a 1-0 lead in the third inning.

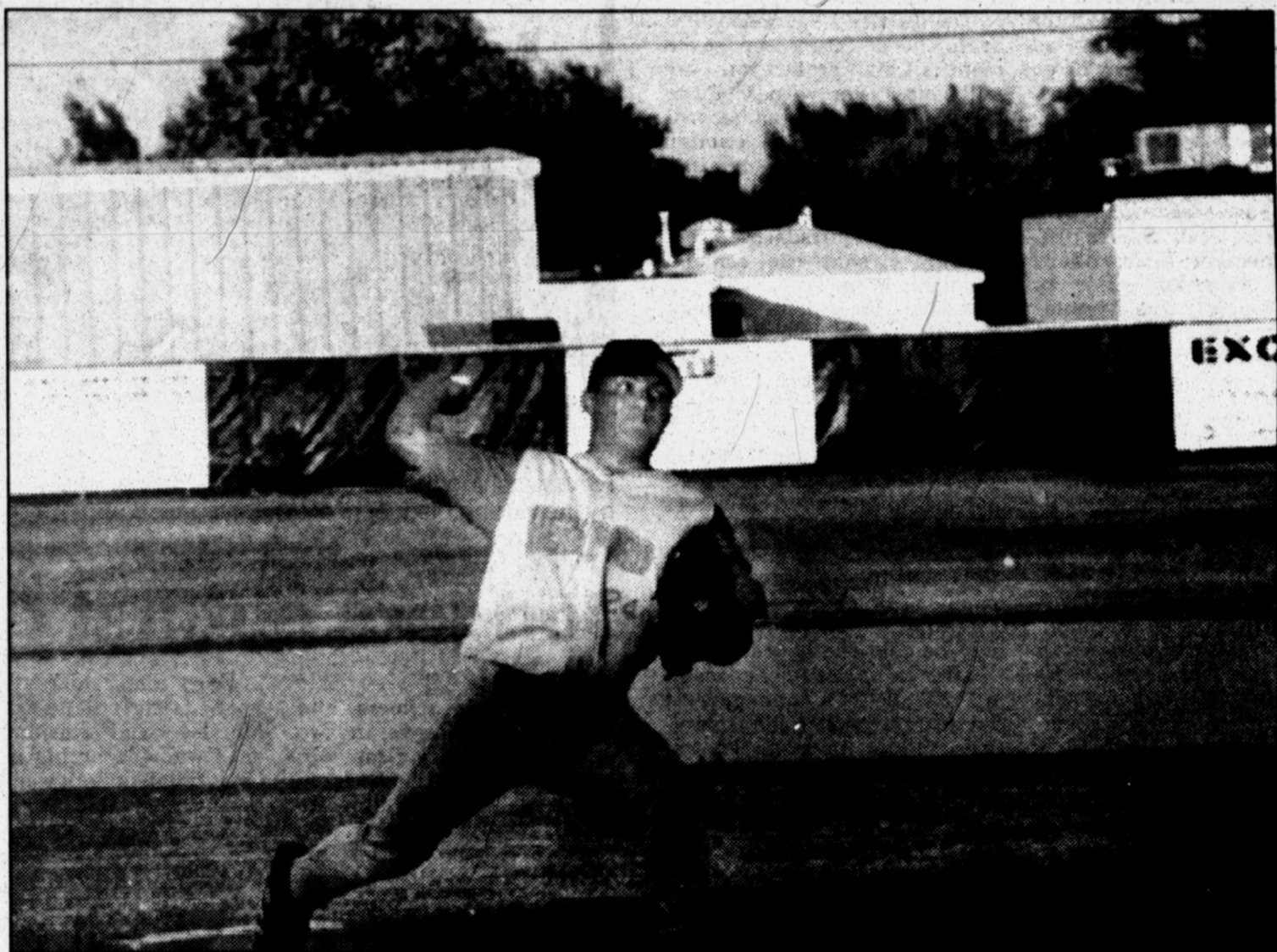
The Braves came back to tie the game when Andrew Ramirez scored off a single by Brady Daniel in the fourth inning.

However, the Dusters moved out to a 3-1 lead in the fifth when Mike Williams scored on an RBI single by Denin Flippo, with Flippo coming across on a throwing error by Eddie Lacey.

Hereford had a chance in the fifth inning, but Ramiro Zambrano was thrown out at home plate.

Amarillo closed out the scoring in the sixth when Eric Davis doubled home Brad Henson.

The rust would really show for the Braves in the second game as



Brand/Yuri Soto

Ramiro Zambrano pitches against the Amarillo Dusters in the second game of the Braves' doubleheader against Thursday. He allowed four runs in two innings of work as Amarillo High. They lost Game 2, 15-1.

the Dusters scored seven runs in the top of the first, with walks providing several base runners.

Justin Dees ripped a double to left field and scored two runs for a 5-0 lead by the Dusters.

The rest of the runs were scored off walks served up by Braves pitcher Hector Zambrano.

Zambrano was replaced in the

second inning by L.J. Vallejo, who allowed three runs, two off home runs and gave the Dusters a 10-0 lead.

A fielding error by Craig Campbell scored Eric Davis and gave Amarillo 11-0 lead. That lead would mount to 13-0 before the Braves got on board, thanks to an RBI single by Landon Nolan.

However, the Braves think they'll be all right after the Thursday debacle.

"We are going to start practicing again Friday," Alaniz said. "We'll be OK."

The Braves have two games scheduled for Saturday, which brings on a whole new beginning for the Braves.

## YMCA to sponsor Memorial 10K run

The Hereford YMCA, Plains Insurance and Hereford Cablevision will sponsor the Greg Black Memorial 10K Run, Two-Mile Fun Run and Two-Mile Walk August 7.

The race is scheduled to start at 8 a.m.

Men and women of all ages are eligible to enter the race.

There will be 10K races for ages 13 and under, 14-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49 and 50 and over. There also will be a wheelchair race.

The two-mile races are open for men and women.

First place finishers will receive a duffel bag and a medal. Second- and third-place finishers will receive medals. Two-Mile Fun Walk finishers will receive ribbons.

The entry fee is \$10 in advance, \$12 the day of the race. Entrants who pay before July 31 will receive a free running cap. All participants will receive a free T-Shirt.

For more information, contact the YMCA at 364-6990.

## Track offers drive-thru gambling

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (AP) — You say you just don't have the time to gamble? A Texas race track is looking to make things a little easier — with a drive-through.

Starting today, gamblers at Lone Star Park can play the horses the same way they buy fast food. The four service lanes are in the track parking lot, just off Belt Line Road, a main thoroughfare.

Lone Star is the nation's second thoroughbred track to offer drive-up windows, following Keeneland, a track in Lexington, Ky., that started similar service last year, Lone Star general manager Corey Johnsen said.

The booths will be open from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. on race days.

"You just drive right up and make your wagers and pay for them and off you go," Johnsen said. He promised face-to-face service, "no Jack-in-the-Box speakers or anything."

One occasional bettor, Del Solis, said he likes the idea and is more likely to try his luck at the drive-through. "Sometimes I can't be there when the race starts so this will make it easier," he said.

Sue Cox, executive director of

See ASTROS, Page A6

See LONE STAR, Page A6

## Diamondbacks sting Astros, 8-7

PHOENIX (AP) — Arizona manager Buck Showalter summed up the wild night with three words.

"Some game, huh?" he said.

His Diamondbacks blew their 14th save in 29 opportunities, then fell behind in the 10th and 11th innings Thursday night before rallying with two runs to beat the Houston Astros 8-7.

Matt Williams singled down the left-field line to drive in Jay Bell with the game-winner.

"You like to put an emphasis on a game here and there, key points during the year," Bell said, "and there's no question this can be one of them."

Each team used six pitchers in a game that lasted 4 hours and 16 minutes.

"It was just one of those wacky games," Houston's Craig Biggio said.

To get the victory, Arizona had to score off Billy Wagner, who hadn't given up a run on the road since May 20. Wagner struck out the side in the ninth and had two outs and a 6-5 lead in the 10th.

But pinch-hitter Bernard Gilkey doubled just inside the foul line in right field, then scored on Damian Miller's line-drive double up the middle to tie it 6-6 and send the game into the 11th.

"Usually when Billy goes out there with a lead it's a lock," Williams said. "Damian did a good job of hitting against one of the premier closers in the game. It's the type of game that builds confidence."

Of the eight runs Wagner has allowed all season, six have been scored by Arizona.

Wagner was spent after two innings.

"He was out of steam," interim manager Matt Galante said.

So the Astros turned to Brian Williams to try to hold the 7-6 lead in the 11th.

But Tony Womack doubled with one out and Bell, who had a two-run double in the fourth, doubled to deep left-center to drive in Womack and tie it at 7.

The Astros intentionally walked Luis Gonzalez to get to Williams, the NL's RBI leader who already had an RBI double in the game.

"I hit behind Barry Bonds for a lot of years, I'm used to that," Williams said. "I look at it as an opportunity to win the game."

Williams hit the ball just inside the left-field line past third base.

"We've been tested so much," Showalter said. "These guys just refuse to

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## Olympic Committee makes budget cuts for 2002 Games

Cuts, estimated at \$113 million, would save games

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Spending cuts netting \$113 million were proposed to a Salt Lake Olympics management committee, which had few questions but sought assurance that the 2002 Winter Games would not suffer.

Salt Lake Organizing Committee executives said Thursday that the savings would shrink the red-ink gap between revenue and spending from \$300 million to \$185 million.

With corporate sponsors in the pipeline, it should not be difficult to close that gap, said SLOC President Mitt Romney, who has spent recent weeks traveling around the country meeting with chief executives.

He and chief operating officer Fraser Bullock proposed the cuts Thursday, but the board management committee won't vote on a new \$1.34 billion budget until September. The biggest shares of the \$113 million in cuts are \$30 million out of staffing and \$38 million out of the inflation cushion.

Of the \$113 million, \$72 million in cuts are on a list of items the committee would restore if enough money is raised.

The board tabled a measure sought by ex-officio member Randy Dryer to affirm leaving legacy venues for Utah residents as a top objective of the committee.

"Maybe the city won't be dressed up as much, but we think we can still do a great job with the games," Bullock said.

Romney promised, "The kind of changes we're making we don't think will be noticed by the spectators or athletes."

Former SLOC President Frank Joklik, who stepped down amid the bribery scandal but remains on the board, praised the cuts.

"It is almost 12 months since the original \$1.453 billion budget was put together. To me it is gratifying, with all of the additional information (available now), to have only an 8 percent reduction," he said. "The secret ... is expert management."

Bullock said, "We started with a great series of documents he (Joklik) put together."

The board Thursday also approved ethics, open meetings and open records policies promised last winter during the height of the scandal over how Salt Lake bent the rules to win the 2002 Winter Games. And the board voted to expand itself by three members, to 53.

They included Luke Bodensteiner, a cross-country skier in the 1992 and 1994 Games who is helping design the nordic venue; Don Leonard, a Utah Sports Authority member; and Hillary Lindh, a downhill skier in three Olympics and a member of SLOC's environmental advisory committee.

Also appointed were West Valley City councilwoman Margaret Peterson; Chris Robinson, a businessman and board member of The Nature Conservancy of Utah; Bill Shiebler, a member of the state Business and Economic Development board and Park City International Music Festival board; and environmental activist Ann Wechsler.

The new ethics policy requires trustees and top executives to disclose all personal and family conflicts of interest regularly, to turn over to SLOC any gifts worth \$100 or more, and to get permission to spend SLOC money on meals or gifts worth more than \$25.

The committee will soon name an ethics officer — a part-time volunteer — to resolve ethical questions.

An information room will be stocked with the committee's public documents, but if a staffer has to dig into files, the cost will be \$25 an hour. Many documents, particularly those dealing with sponsor agreements, will remain closed, as will the detailed budget.

SLOC staffers will be subject to a separate ethics policy, still in the works.

One of the raps on the bid committee — and the organizing committee it became — was that a closed atmosphere allowed corruption to go undetected. Gov. Mike Leavitt promised the new policies would open the committee to greater public scrutiny.

Bid committee executives have been blamed for spend-

ing more than \$1 million on shopping sprees, travel, cash, free medical care and scholarships for International Olympic Committee members and their families.

The Justice Department has been investigating for seven months, but prosecutors are still going over witness interviews, documents and records to see if there is enough evidence to bring criminal charges. No decision is imminent, a Justice Department official said Thursday.

Romney said the scandal no longer is an issue with the executives he solicits to sponsor Salt Lake's games.

"Their interest in the games is not shadowed by the scandal. I've heard time and time again, 'That's old news.'"

Though he is proposing to cut 8 percent of the SLOC budget, Romney said he wants to add two more sales people to go after sponsors.

"One thing you never want to cut back on is the people knocking on the doors, selling," he told the board.

After a closed-door meeting, the board's management committee authorized executives to negotiate a renewal of the \$170 million line of credit with NationsBank.

Trustee Ken Bullock, executive director of the Utah League of Cities and Towns, opposed the vote and two members representing the state Legislature and governor abstained.

At issue is the question of when the state, cities and towns get \$58 million from SLOC, a payback of a sales tax collected since 1989 and used to build skating rinks, ski jumps and the luge track.

Years ago, before SLOC knew that it would not get the bulk of its broadcast revenue until March 2002, it agreed to pay back the money in January 2002.

NationsBank and Romney want the state and cities to wait. Otherwise, SLOC will have to borrow the \$58 million at a cost of \$2 million plus in interest and games cancellation insurance.

Ken Bullock said cities and towns should not be asked to wait if other parties — such as the U.S. Olympic Committee and IOC — don't make similar sacrifices.

## Smile and Cheer



Fans watching the Hereford Braves enjoy themselves in the shadowed bleachers covered by the visiting bleachers of Whiteface Stadium.

## Dodgers outlast Rockies, 11-8

DENVER (AP) — Eric Karros hit two homers and Chan Ho Park drove in two runs to earn his first win since May 26 as the Dodgers outlasted the Colorado Rockies 11-8 Thursday.

Park (5-7), who had lost his previous four starts, won despite allowing 10 hits and seven runs in five innings. His ERA rose to 6.52.

In a typical Coors Field game, the Dodgers built leads of 5-0 and 10-5 before holding on for just their second win in 11 games.

It was the 28th time this year a team has scored 10 or more runs at Coors Field. The first eight runs in the game all scored with two outs.

Mark Grudzielanek had three hits and three RBIs and Karros hit solo homers in the second and ninth innings.

Gary Sheffield and Karros both singled, and Raul Mondesi and Adrian Beltre each walked, forcing in a run. Grudzielanek followed with a three-run double to right cen-

ter. Angel Pena reached on third baseman Shumpert's error, and Park hit an RBI single, chasing Brian Bohanon (9-7), who lost his fourth straight start.

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## RANGERS

From Page A5

roll over."

Galante said this was the kind of loss that can keep hurting.

"We had two leads in the 10th and the 11th and we couldn't hold them," he said. "Worst of all, we used our whole bullpen and we've got more games to play."

Gregg Olson (4-4), activated from the DL earlier in the day, got the victory even though he gave up a run in the 11th.

Biggio, who doubled and

homered earlier, stretched what looked like a two-out single into a double. Derek Bell singled up the middle to put Houston ahead 7-6.

Houston, which trailed 5-2 entering the eighth, scored twice in the inning, then tied the game in the ninth on Bell's double off Vladimir Nunez. The Astros then took the lead in the 10th when Carl Everett tripled and scored on Bill Spiers' sacrifice fly.

Arizona scored twice in the seventh on Steve Finley's RBI triple and Travis Lee's RBI single to go ahead 5-2. But the Astros rallied in the eighth on Spiers' two-run double down the right-field line off reliever Dan Plesac.

Arizona starter Armando Reynoso left in the seventh with a 3-2 lead, a runner on and no outs. It was the sixth time this year he has left with a lead and wound up with no decision.

## Lone Star

From Page A5

the Texas Council on Problem and Compulsive Gambling, said the setup might make it a bit too easy for compulsive gamblers.

"It's just going to make it an impulse reaction as opposed to planned activity," she said. "When it is a simple act to whip in and buy a ticket, it takes it out of the recreational category (of) capturing the beauty of animals and a real sport."

Gamblers can also cash winning tickets at the windows. For security reasons, the most they can collect on a ticket at the window is \$100. They will get a voucher to pick up the rest of their winnings inside.

The 2-year-old horse track was the state's first to offer cash machines for gamblers and has tried to make itself family friendly, with a playground and picnic grounds.

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### COMMUNITIES SAY IT'S BAD

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### EXPERTS SAY IT'S BAD

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### BUSINESSES SAY IT'S BAD

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### CONGRESS SAYS IT'S BAD

The Joint Economic Committee found that the costs to collect the tax are roughly equivalent to what it takes in - a little over 1% of the federal budget.<sup>1</sup>

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**The Death Tax is a bankrupt idea.**

1 the polling company/14 January 1998  
2 "The Economics of the Estate Tax," A Bipartisan Joint Economic Committee Study, December 1998  
3 Aaron Henry and Alicia H. Munnell "Reassessing the Role for Wealth Transfer Taxes" National Tax Journal 45, No. 2 (June 1992): 119-143  
4 Family Enterprise Center of Kenness State College and the Center for Family Business at Loyola University

INSIDE

## UNITY '99

### Bush visit irks minority group

SEATTLE (AP) — More than 6,000 minority journalists found themselves in the middle of a news event as their Unity '99 conference became the place to be for presidential hopefuls.

Democrat Bill Bradley made a scheduled appearance and Republicans Gov. George W. Bush and Sen. John McCain also made last-minute stop.

Vice President Al Gore was scheduled to address the gathering today.

Bush's unscheduled appearance Thursday seemed to generate ill will, rather than enthusiasm.

The Texas governor initially declined an invitation — his office said he was too busy. Then he showed up for a 15-minute walk-through, but without a speech.

"I was just really disappointed. He used us as a glorified photo opportunity." Nancy Baca

That's a serious blot, said Art Norman, a Chicago TV anchorman and member of the National Association of Black Journalists. "He should be here. He should not overlook us."

With the election so far away, political observers say it's hard to tell what effect, if any, Bush's perceived snub of the Unity conference will have on his campaign.

Western Washington University political science professor Ken Hoover said

of the Unity alliance." Bush later downplayed the political ramifications.

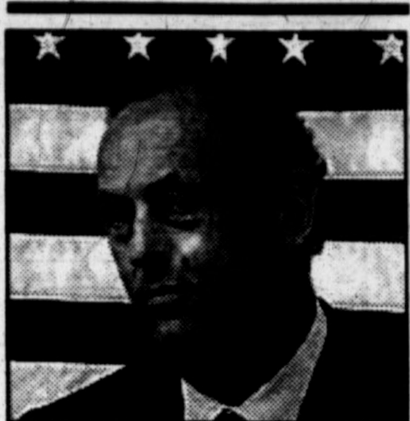
"My presence there hopefully reaches out and says I'll be an inclusive-type president," Bush said. He said he decided to drop by after reading news coverage that criticized him for not attending the conference while in Seattle on his initial Washington state campaign visit.

Delegates said they approved of Bush's decision to attend, but felt insulted by the brevity of his visit. "It upset me that he did not make a commitment ..."

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"Let me just say at the beginning, I did not change my schedule."

**Bill Bradley**

Bush's decision was surprising for a candidate who has a reputation for reaching out to Hispanic voters and other minorities.

For the most part McCain, who spoke and answered questions for about an hour, escaped the criticism. McCain said he also made his last-minute decision after reading news coverage.

"We should all, Republican and Democrat, be working toward a new American unity," the Arizona Republican said. Asked about affirmative action, McCain replied that he supports affirmative action, but only in the form of training and education programs that create "an equal playing field."

Bradley, who spoke shortly before McCain, emphasized the difference between his appearance and those of the Republicans.

"Let me just say at the beginning, I did not change my schedule," Bradley, a former senator from New Jersey, said to much applause.

## Oprah joins Hearst with new magazine

NEW YORK (AP) — Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is starting a magazine next spring with the magazine publisher Hearst Corp.

Hearst said in a statement Thursday that the new magazine will offer articles on community, family, relationships, health and fitness, fashion and beauty, and books.

"I love the printed word and have always appreciated the unique connection between author and reader," Ms. Winfrey said. "This magazine provides a different way for people to be informed and inspired."

Hearst publishes a variety of major magazines, many of them aimed at women, including *Cosmopolitan*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Country Living* and *Harper's Bazaar*.

The new magazine, which will debut with 850,000 copies, will have a cooperative relationship with the *Oprah.com* Web site.

**John Hockenberry**  
NEW YORK (AP) — John Hockenberry is 0-for-2 when it comes to MSNBC.

The cable television network has canceled his second show in as many years. Hockenberry announced on the air Wednesday that his next show would be his last. One of his final discussion topics, he told viewers, might be why cable TV "sucks."

Instead, he used his last minutes of air time Thursday to thank a litany of staffers and show snapshots of his children.

MSNBC spokesman Cory Shields confirmed the cancellation but had no further comment. Hockenberry will return to work as a reporter for "Dateline NBC." His week-

### PEOPLE

end newsmagazine, "Edgewise," was canceled by MSNBC two years ago.

The network, which is struggling in prime-time against Fox News Channel, is expected to announce a new schedule soon.

It is expected to include a new hourlong biography series anchored by Matt Lauer, "Headliners and Legends," CNBC's "Hardball," with Chris Matthews as host, may also soon shift to MSNBC.

### Courtney Love

STRATHMORE, Alberta (AP) — Courtney Love and members of her band came to the aid of two crash victims after an accident on the TransCanada Highway.

Members of the band, Hole, were en route to Calgary for the Edgefest music festival when they saw a car flip about 18 miles outside of town Thursday.

The rockers brought the two victims inside their bus and offered them hot tea and first aid until help arrived, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said. The victims were later taken to a hospital.

"They were obviously in shock, so shelter was important and part of the first aid, she provided," said RCMP Constable Daryl Bedard.

Bedard said Love later offered the victims free festival tickets.

### Emma Thompson

LONDON (AP) — Emma Thompson says she's flummoxed over what name to give her child.

"Every name I think of gets pooh-poohed by my part-

ner, the young Mr. Greg Wise," Thompson said. "I have sort of given up thinking of names now."

Thompson, who won an Academy Award in 1991 for her performance in "Howards End," made her remarks before a screenwriting awards ceremony — her last public outing before her October due date, she said.

"I have been toying with names like Winston and Clementine, but I don't think they are going to wash," Thompson said, referring to Winston Churchill and his wife.

### Hugh Hefner

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hugh Hefner and *Playboy* magazine have apparently lost a bid to dismiss a breach-of-contract lawsuit by Hefner's ex-girlfriend.

Superior Court Judge Paul Boland tentatively refused Wednesday to dismiss Carrie Leigh's suit, which seeks unspecified damages for use of a nude photograph of her in the recently released book "Inside the Playboy Mansion."

The suit, claiming invasion of privacy and defamation, said Hefner and *Playboy* violated terms of a previous agreement by using the photo. Defense lawyers asked for dismissal of the suit, arguing it could chill First Amendment rights.

Ms. Leigh's complaint said she has not been in the public eye since 1988 and is "attempting to live her life as a mother and wife without connection to her past life with *Playboy* and Hefner."

*Playboy* attorney Anthony Glassman characterized the suit as a "publicity stunt."

Ms. Leigh filed a \$35 million palimony suit against Hefner in 1988.

## Poverty

From Page A1

Poverty experts agree, however, that many programs aimed at helping individuals have worked.

When LBJ declared a war on poverty in his 1964 State of the Union address, 19 percent of the population was living in poverty.

By 1997 — the most recent data available — that number had fallen to 13.3 percent of the population. That's one of every seven Americans.

Social Security drastically reduced the poverty rate among the elderly. Still, the poverty rate for children remains near 20 percent, a bare improvement from Johnson's day.

Former Peace Corps Director Sargent Shriver was Johnson's "Mr. Poverty." Many of the programs launched then remain today — Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start and Job Corps.

Their efforts, however, stalled during the Vietnam War. Confidence in the government's ability to solve social problems waned. By the time Ronald Reagan became president, many Americans agreed with him that the government had gotten too big and solutions should come from the private sector.

"President Reagan said the war on poverty was a failure," Shriver said in an interview. "It was not a great success, that's true, because

## Goals

From Page A1

Board members also included the teen pregnancy problem, but decided this issue could be best met through early education rather than making that a priority for Abernethy.

The items will be formally presented to the board during the next regular meeting, at which time they are expected to approve the goals set for the new superintendent.

Abernethy used Thursday's meeting, her first formal meeting with the board since taking over as superintendent, to develop a team attitude with communication as the basis.

"If we are going to work well together, then we have to understand how to deal with each other," Abernethy said. She reviewed district policy

we didn't have the money. I told Lyndon Johnson myself that we needed two or three times the money we had to overcome the problem."

The problem has been the government's competing agendas, said Peter Dreier, a public policy professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles. While funds are spent to revitalize cities, the government built the federal highway system that made it possible for people and business to move out. The Federal Housing Administration focused its mortgage loans on middle-class homeowners in the suburbs, he said. Tax policies lured shopping malls, manufacturing centers and industrial parks to suburbia.

"All the programs that have sought to bring business and jobs into the poor areas have been swimming against the tide of the federal government's other policies, which have encouraged an exodus of business and middle-class people from those areas," Dreier said.

That's the idea behind Clinton's poverty plan, Cuomo said. "If we can seduce the private sector with tax benefits the way we seduced them to the suburbs, if we can seduce them to these areas by infrastructure work, roads, houses etc. ... then that's a legitimate role for government," Cuomo said.

with the board members, making sure everyone would be working the same way. "Communication is the key to the success of our team of eight," Abernethy said. "I will visit with Dave" (Charest, board president) at least once a week and will be sending each board member a letter detailing the week.

Abernethy discussed some of the changes which will be affecting the board, but said she would present them with more information as Texas Association of School Boards give her more definite rules.

She will include all the information in agenda form for the board to vote on during the July meeting.

No action was taken Thursday because was just a goal-setting session.

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Tobacco lawyers have options

MIAMI (AP) — Tobacco industry lawyers still have many options in their attempts to fend off what could be a huge penalty in a lawsuit holding them responsible for making thousands of Florida smokers sick. Tobacco company lawyers could try to argue that smokers bear personal responsibility for lighting up even though they knew the health risks, legal experts said Thursday.

The fight could push back any final ruling from the jury on monetary damages for weeks or even months. In the first class-action lawsuit by smokers to go to trial, the jury on Wednesday said the nation's five largest tobacco companies engaged in "extreme and outrageous conduct" in making a defective product that causes emphysema, lung cancer and other illnesses. In the next phase, the jury will decide how much to award the lawsuit's nine original plaintiffs. The judge also must deal with claims of the other members of the class-

action suit, which could number up to 500,000 sick smokers. "There's a lot of complicated stuff here," said Stephan Landsman, a law professor at DePaul University. Perhaps the biggest threat to the lawsuit is the industry's demand that the class-action be decertified, meaning that the nine smokers who have sued would be barred from representing thousands of others. Circuit Judge Robert Kaye, who presided over the trial, will hold a hearing on the issue later this month, but is

not expected to dissolve the class. That means an appeal to higher courts is certain. Most courts thus far have rejected such class actions, saying that the reasons for smoking and the diseases are too different to bundle all smokers together. The plaintiffs want at least \$200 billion in damages. Named as defendants are Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co., Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp., Lorillard Tobacco Co. and Liggett Group Inc., as well as the Council for Tobacco Research and the Tobacco Institute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

Bloody execution in Florida leads to delay of next electrocution

STARKE, Fla. — As electricity coursed through the body of Allen Lee Davis, blood gushed from the mask covering his face, poured over his collar and chest and then oozed through the buckle holes on the chest strap holding him in Florida's brand-new electric chair. The execution horrified death penalty critics, who moved immediately to protect other condemned inmates from what they called the barbarity of Florida's electric chair.

brella group of opposition partics that organized Thursday's rally and others in the country. The influential Serbian Orthodox Church has sided with the opposition and has itself called for Milosevic to resign. Network translates cancer language WASHINGTON — It was supposed to be a routine physical, but then Frank Luton's doctor felt the lump. Prostate cancer. "I'm only 46," Luton thought in a panic. "I thought this was an old man's disease."

Witnesses said the blood that covered the front of his white shirt appeared to come from his mouth and chest. But state officials said it was a nosebleed and insisted Florida's new electric chair worked properly during the execution early Thursday.

Doctors were racing him from biopsy to treatment decisions, yet he didn't understand his options — often because the doctors used medical jargon that even highly educated laymen, like Luton, don't know. That doesn't have to be a man's experience anymore. The National Comprehensive Cancer Network, a collection of top cancer hospitals, and the American Cancer Society are translating into patient-friendly language the actual cancer testing-and-treatment guidelines doctors use — so that patients can better understand their care.

Anti-Milosevic protests continue in Yugoslavia PROKUPLE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Opposition protesters kept up demands for President Slobodan Milosevic to resign, brawling briefly with a handful of his supporters and ignoring gunshots fired in the air to disrupt the demonstration.

Policy makers split on future launches WASHINGTON — Members of Congress concerned that China and other countries may be learning U.S. scientific secrets by rocketing civilian satellites into space want the United States to expand its launch capabilities.

About 4,000 people demonstrated Thursday in the southern Serbian town of Prokuplje, the latest in a series of almost daily protests aimed at bringing down Milosevic. No one was seriously injured, but tensions soared as protesters and a handful of government supporters shoved each other and traded punches, while protest leaders and a few police appealed for calm. "We will chase him (Milosevic) out," vowed Goran Svilanovic, a top figure in the Alliance for Change, an un-

There's one key problem with the plan: Upgrading Air Force launch pads at Cape Canaveral, Fla., and Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., could cost up to \$600 million and, for now, there's little money in the federal budget to do the work. "It is in the national security interest of the United States to increase U.S. domestic launch capacity," said Rep. Christopher Cox, R-Calif., chairman of a select House committee that urged an increase in U.S. commercial launch capacity.

Things look up for youth

WASHINGTON (AP) — Statistically, things are looking up for American kids. Vaccinations and preschool enrollment are up. Teen smoking, childbirth and youth violence are down, according to a government report. "The trend is in the right direction. We're sailing with the wind," said Kristen Moore, president of Child Trends, a research group. Still, Moore notes that there's been no progress in reducing teen alcohol consumption or increasing health insurance coverage, and even the areas that have seen improvement are still disturbing. "We're not where we should be," she said.

Among the findings: Most children and teens had diets that needed improvement. For instance, in 1996, 24 percent of children ages 2 to 5 had a good diet and 8 percent had a poor diet. The rest needed improvement to meet federal recommendations. Those numbers generally got worse for older kids. The number of 10th and 12th graders smoking dropped in 1998 after gradually increasing since 1992. But 22 percent of high school seniors and 16 percent of sophomores still smoked.

The annual report, released Thursday, is designed to be a broad assessment of the state of the nation's children, a collection of statistics from across the federal government. Backers hope it will someday reach the prominence of the annual economic report to the president. "I would contend that our children are as important to the future of the country as the economy," said Dr. Duane Alexander, director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. "The stock market will never depend on it, but I hope the report will annually at least focus attention on the status and condition

of our children." The number of poor kids to get all their vaccines edged up in 1997 to 71 percent, up from 69 percent in 1996. Lately, much of the attention on teens has dealt with violence, as the nation struggles to understand school shootings in Colorado, Georgia and elsewhere.

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Table with columns for CATTLE FUTURES, GRAIN FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, and FUTURES OPTIONS. Includes sub-sections for CATTLE-FEEDER (CME), CATTLE-LIVE (CME), HOGS-LEAN (CME), SOYBEANS (CBT), CORN (CBT), and WHEAT (CBT).

Table with columns for METAL FUTURES and FUTURES OPTIONS. Includes sub-sections for GOLD (COMEX) and SILVER (COMEX).

Table with columns for CATTLE-FEEDER (CME) and CATTLE-LIVE (CME) under the FUTURES OPTIONS section.

Powerful storm floods simmering Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A powerful summer storm transformed this simmering desert city into a raging river that swamped hundreds of cars, smashed mobile homes and killed at least two people. "It's a wide strip of devastation," Gov. Kenny Guinn said after taking a helicopter tour of flooded areas Thursday evening, when the water finally started to recede. Las Vegas isn't used to this kind of downpour, with 3 inches falling in just a few hours Thursday. The Las Ve-

gas area usually receives slightly more than 4 inches in an entire year. Ron McQueen, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service, said it was the city's worst flooding in 15 years: Water turned parts of Interstate 15 into a lake, most intersections were under water much of the day and firefighters rescued stranded motorists from their waterlogged cars. Subscribe to The Brand

**Keeping an eye on Texas**

**Sales tax on food items can be taxing**

Flour, sugar, bread, milk, eggs, fruits, vegetables, and other groceries are not taxable. However, candy, soft drinks, gum, and popsicles are taxable. Food served in restaurants and similar places of business is also taxable. Here are some guidelines.

Sales tax is collected on these food items:

- All food sold with eating utensils.
- Food kept hot (ready to eat), such as barbecued chicken (whether it's a whole chicken or just parts), chili, soups.
- Ready-to-eat sandwiches (but not frozen sandwiches.)
- All ice cream sundries, unless sold prepackaged in boxes of six or more.
- All soft drinks (including powdered drink mixes), diluted juices, beer and wine.
- All doughnuts, muffins, cookies, bagels, biscuits, etc., sold from a snack bar or lunch counter when your customer buys five or less.
- Ice.
- Individual-sized portions or packages of food (including super-sized servings) when it's sold from a lunch counter or snack bar (chips, peanuts, etc.)

SOURCE: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, (www.window.state.tx.us)

**Echándole el ojo a Texas**

**No todos los alimentos están libres de impuestos**

Alimentos tales como harina, azúcar, pan, leche, huevos, frutas y verduras, entre otros, están libres de impuestos. Sin embargo, dulces, refrescos (sodas), goma de mascar y paletas heladas no lo están, así como tampoco la comida que se sirve en restaurantes y lugares similares. A continuación se proporciona una guía.

Los siguientes alimentos pagan impuestos:

- Todos los alimentos que se venden junto con utensilios para consumirlos.
- Comida caliente (lista para consumirse), como pollo a la parrilla (ya sea entero o en partes), estofado tipo "chili", sopas.
- Sandwiches listos para consumirse (pero no congelados).
- Todo tipo de helados, excepto los que se venden empaquetados en cajas de seis o más unidades.
- Todos los refrescos o sodas (incluyendo mezclas en polvo para preparar bebidas), jugos diluidos, cerveza y vino.
- Todo el pan dulce, las donas, mantecadas (panqués), galletas, bagels, bizcochos, etc., que se venden en mostrador, y siempre y cuando el cliente compre cinco unidades o menos.
- Hielo.
- Porciones o paquetes individuales de comida (incluyendo las porciones grandes llamadas "super-size") cuando se venden en mostrador o en anaquel de botanas (papas fritas, cacahuates, etc.)

FUENTE: Comptroller de Texas para Cuentas Públicas (Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, www.window.state.tx.us)

**GOP tax plans shape up**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican tax relief packages are beginning to take firm shape in Congress, with the House GOP offering new tax breaks for education and a key senator preparing to release some parts of his plan.

The Senate's top tax writer, Republican William Roth of Delaware, is scheduled to give this week's GOP radio message and likely will focus on the income tax cuts in his draft bill, estimated at \$792 billion over a decade.

House Republicans, meanwhile, have spent this week sketching out pieces of their tax cut estimated at \$850 billion over 10 years, but some of the biggest items are yet to come.

The education proposal Thursday from Rep. Bill Archer, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, sets the GOP on a collision course with Clinton, who vetoed a bill with similar private school benefits last year.

But Archer, R-Texas, said the measure — a priority for Republican conservatives — would "lighten the education tax bite" and give parents "more choices as they design the best education for their



**REP. BILL ARCHER**  
His proposal puts Republicans on collision course with Clinton

children." The plan, a version of which is already moving in the Senate, would allow private universities for the first time to offer prepaid tuition programs like those currently used by 19 states for public universities. It would also make both types of plans completely tax-exempt instead of deferring taxes, as current law permits. Archer also wants to ex-

pand IRA-like savings accounts for education so that they apply to the costs of public or private elementary and secondary schools, not just higher education. The maximum annual amount that could be contributed would rise from \$500 to \$2,000.

In addition, the proposal would change rules for revenue bonds so that state and local governments could more easily raise money for public school construction projects.

All told, the three proposals would cost about \$8 billion over 10 years. Democrats said the private school benefits would divert too much federal money away from public schools and would do less than a Clinton alternative to help needy public schools modernize or replace dilapidated buildings.

"While they purport to provide assistance to millions of families, the benefit is a pittance to all but the very wealthy," said Rep. Charles Rangel of New York, top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee.

Archer has previously announced plans to cut top capital gains rates from 20 percent to 15 percent and create

new tax breaks for people who care for an elderly relative at home.

Still to come are some of the most costly pieces of the plan, including a broad reduction in income taxes, cuts in inheritance taxes and elimination of the "marriage penalty" in which millions of two-earner couples pay more tax than if they were single.

Aides say Archer is considering three alternatives for the cut in income taxes: adjusting one or more brackets so that more income is taxed at lower rates, an across-the-board rate reduction that would gradually reach 10 percent over a decade and a "bottom-line" cut in which taxpayers could take a certain percentage off their taxes on Internal Revenue Service forms.

The Ways and Means Committee plans to begin moving its tax package next week. Its greatest significance may be as a Republican political statement, since Clinton is unlikely to sign it into law and wants some of the money used for Medicare and increased spending.

It also faces uncertainty in the Senate.

**Clinton prods Congress on HMO rules**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — With political maneuvering over a "patients' bill of rights" intensifying on the airwaves and in the Senate, President Clinton is pressing lawmakers to set rules for health maintenance organizations.

Clinton was addressing a group of medical professionals and educators at the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center today as senators in Washington prepared to begin debate on the legislation when they return from recess on Monday.

The president's own proposal to increase patients' rights died on Capitol Hill last year, and he has dis-

missed an alternative offered by Republicans as being too limited in scope and in terms of the people it would cover.

"We must do more to make sure that when health care plans cut costs, they don't cut quality, and that the bottom line never becomes more important than patients' needs," Clinton said in a radio address last month.

The political strategizing over the measure intensified this week.

Business and insurance groups launched a \$750,000 ad campaign aimed at undecided GOP senators, while Republican leaders positioned themselves to limit debate on

the issue.

Some of the same groups that helped defeat Clinton's plan for universal health care are now trying to beat back the patients' rights bill with a TV ad blitz arguing that it would raise the cost of insurance.

Recently, the debate has been over the limited choices patients have for care. But the counter-argument could gain some traction as the number of uninsured Americans continues to grow.

Despite prosperous economic times, there were 43.4 million uninsured Americans in 1997. That was up 4 million since Clinton proposed

his universal health insurance plan in 1994.

Clinton wants legislation that would ensure patients have access to health care specialists and emergency room services, and protect them from being forced to switch doctors in the midst of treatment.

The most controversial — and most expensive — provision that Democrats are pushing would give patients the right to sue health plans and collect damages when treatment is withheld.

Republicans have said the Democratic measure is too expensive and could lead employers to drop coverage.

**Gun dealer not affiliated with any extremist groups**

PEORIA, Ill. (AP) — Federal agents are investigating whether a white supremacist group and its leader helped Benjamin Smith carry out his shooting attacks last week against minorities.

Attorney General Janet Reno said Thursday it is too soon to tell if the probe will lead to charges against the World Church of the Creator or its leader, Matt Hale.

Prosecutors said they could find no other links between extremist groups and Donald Fiessinger, the man authorities say illegally sold Smith his weapons.

Federal agents wanted to know whether Fiessinger, 64, sold Smith the guns as part of an effort to supply firearms to racist extremists.

Fiessinger faces a charge

of selling firearms without a federal permit. He was freed after meeting a \$10,000 bond Thursday.

Smith is believed to have used the guns on a three-day killing spree through Illinois and Indiana that targeted blacks, Jews and Asians. Two people were killed and nine others injured before Smith apparently shot himself and bled to death after a police chase.

Smith may have seen Fiessinger's classified ads in a local newspaper, said prosecutor Tate Chambers. Fiessinger had no knowledge of Smith's racist beliefs when he sold Smith a .308-caliber handgun on June 26 and a .22-caliber handgun on June 29, Chambers said.

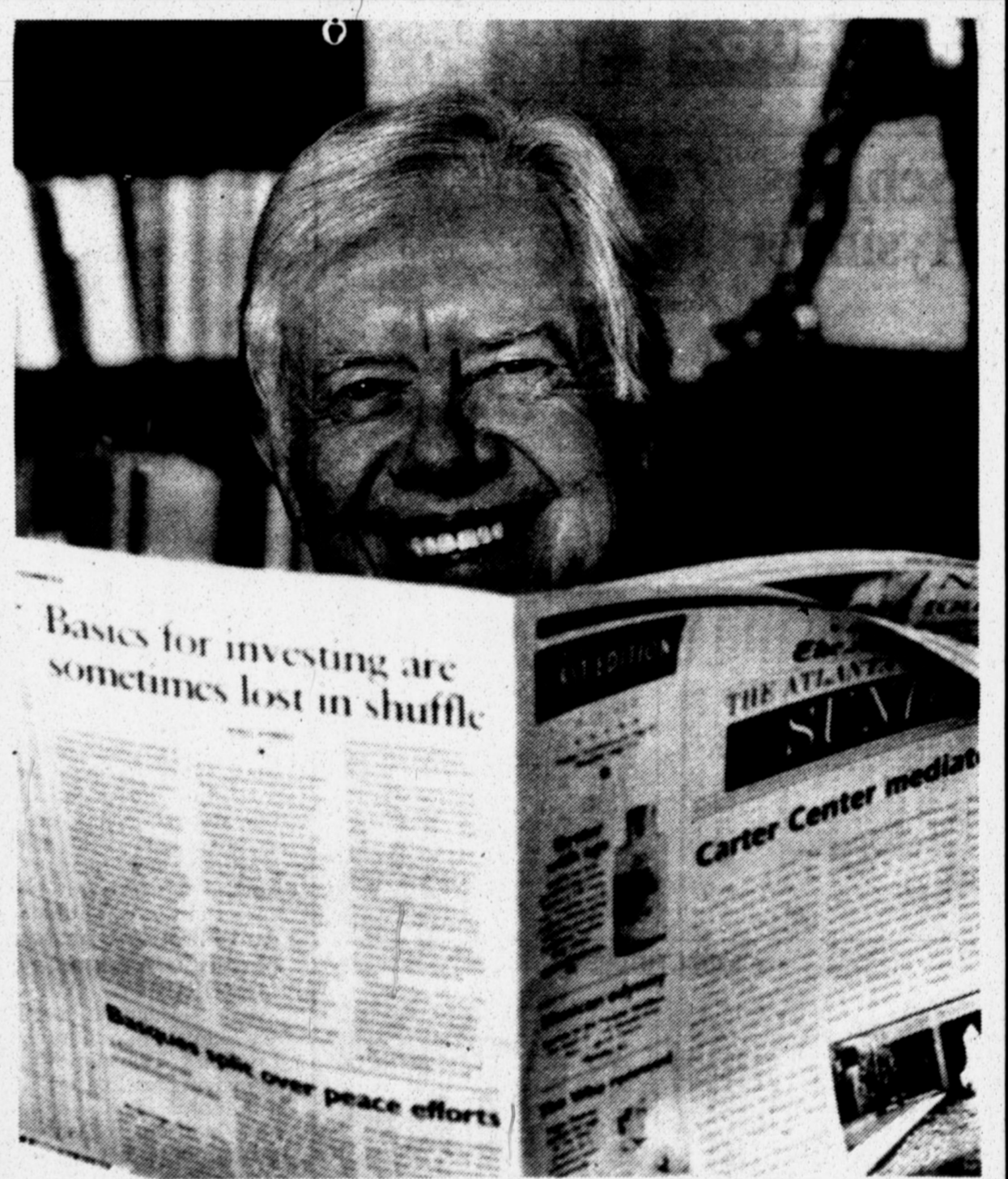
Investigators say Smith

bankrolled his rampage by cashing investments of \$10,000 to \$20,000 in the last 30 days, the *Chicago Sun-Times* reported today.

"It looks like he was going on a road trip," said Skokie police Lt. Barry Silverberg. Earlier this week, authorities said they would investigate the source of Smith's cash to help determine if he acted alone.

Authorities are examining Smith's personal computer, which was found in a storage locker he shared with Hale. Silverberg told the newspaper. Authorities say they also found hate literature, a Nazi flag and an armband.

Agents with the FBI have interviewed Hale at the East Peoria home where he lives with his parents.



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