

# Hereford BRAND

99th Year, Vol. Number 166 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, February 24, 2000

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD  
HOME OF  
Craig Nieman

## Today's weather OUTLOOK

### Partly cloudy skies

Tonight: Partly cloudy with a low in the mid-30s, southwest to west wind 10 to 20 mph and gusty.

Friday: Sunny and windy, cooler with a high in the mid-50s, west wind 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts.

Friday night: Clear with a low in the upper 20s.

### Extended forecast

Saturday: Partly cloudy, high in the mid-60s.

Sunday: Mostly clear, low in the mid-30s, high in the lower 70s.

Monday: Partly cloudy, low around 40, high 65 to 70.

### Hereford weather

Wednesday's high, 71; low, 41; no precipitation.

## Teen hurt in accident at city park

A 17-year-old boy is in stable and guarded condition at Hereford Regional Medical Center today following treatment for a knife wound sustained Wednesday at Dameron Park.

Hereford Police Chief David Wagner said the accident occurred after one boy started sharpening a knife and the other boy entered into a "game."

In the make-believe scuffle, Eliseo Rivera was accidentally stabbed in the lower abdomen. He was taken to HRMC by a friend.

Reports indicate the boys had left Hereford High School campus for lunch. One boy went to his mother's and picked up a car. The knife was in the car, not at the high school.

The name of the boy wielding the knife has not been released, pending investigation. Police expect to file charges of aggravated assault.



FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 5

## 48 county youth at Houston show

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

When the judges begin checking the animals shown at the 2000 Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo's junior exhibit, they will encounter a large Deaf Smith County contingent.

The county representatives will include 30 FFA and 18 4-H members. The junior show got under way today at the Astrohall.

More than 14,000 entries, representing 1,014 Texas 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, will compete at the junior show. A wide variety of animals will be shown in both the junior and open divisions of the livestock competition, including market steers, market barrows, market lambs, market poultry, beef and dairy heifers, breeding gilts, breeding sheep, goats, llamas, ostriches, commercial steers and breed-

ing rabbits.

The four market animal categories — steer, lamb, barrow and poultry — represent animals raised by exhibitors for food sources. The finest animals in each of these categories are eligible for the market auctions. In 1999, the junior market auction reported sales of \$5.4 million, including a record \$550,000 for the

Please see SHOW, Page A9



**Blood donor** — Doris Huckert elevates her arm after donating a pint of blood Wednesday at a blood drive held at Hereford State Bank. The blood drive was sponsored by the bank and Coffee Memorial Blood Center. Lisa Rose waits to donate blood.

## ELECTION

### Kitten files for spot on city ballot

By Donald M. Cooper

Hereford Brand Managing Editor

While most Deaf Smith County voters are focusing on the March 14 primaries, filing is under way in three other elections.

Voters will go to the polls May 6 to select members of the Hereford City Commission, Deaf Smith County Hospital District directors and Hereford Independent School District trustees.

Four positions will be on the ballot in the city commission and hospital district elections, while three school board seats are up for grabs.

### CITY

In the city election, Places 1 and 4, as well as two at-large seats will be on the ballot. The incumbents are Angie Alonzo, Place 2; Wayne Winget, Place 4; and Roger Eades and Carey Black, at-large.

Michael Kitten filed Wednesday morning for an at-large seat.

Kitten, whose residence is 112 Redwood, is a safety director with AzTx Cattle Co. of Hereford.

Alonzo is completing her first term on the commission, while Winget, Eades and Black

Please see VOTE, Page A9

## Farm income likely to fall

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. farm income will likely fall over the next two years until global demand cuts into the big stocks of grain that are keeping commodity prices relatively low, the government said today.

Net farm income reached \$48 billion last year, largely because of a record \$22.7 billion in direct government payments. Farm earnings are expected to fall to \$40.4 billion this year and then to \$34.4

billion in 2001 before turning back up in 2002, the Agriculture Department said in its economic projections for the next decade.

The projections don't account for the possibility that Congress will approve another multibillion-dollar package of farm assistance this year.

Food prices, meanwhile, are expected to increase at an annual rate of about 2.1 percent throughout the coming decade, less than the projected 2.7-

percent-a-year increase in the overall cost of living. Food prices are driven largely by labor and marketing costs.

With an economic recovery under way in Asia and elsewhere, "global demand and trade are strengthening and gains in U.S. agricultural exports are projected to resume in 2001. The buildup of global supplies is projected to keep agricultural prices under pressure over the next several years," USDA said.

U.S. farm exports are expected to remain flat this year at \$49 billion but rise to \$51.2 billion in 2001 and then to \$75.9 billion by the end of the decade.

U.S. exports could be much stronger, depending how much China buys, the department said.

"Future trends in China's agricultural trade are key in the global outlook for commodity trade and prices," USDA said.

## Boosters charter a bus for playoff

The Whiteface Booster Club has chartered a bus to take fans to Odessa for the Class 4A area playoff game between Hereford and San Elizario.

Tipoff is 7 p.m. Friday at the Odessa Permian High School gymnasium.

Bus tickets are \$25 per person. The bus will leave Hereford at 2:30 p.m. from the north side of Whiteface Stadium. It will return after the game.

The club must sell 40 seats by 5 p.m. today. To reserve a seat, payment must be made at the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce office, 701 N. Main. Checks should be made payable to Whiteface Booster Club.

For more details, call the chamber at 364-3333.

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We support Whiteface Basketball

## Cagers' poster available

The Whiteface Booster Club is selling storefront posters picturing this year's edition of the Hereford Whiteface boys basketball team — commemorating the Herd's first outright District 3-4A championship since 1977, and the team's continuing playoff quest.

The 18-inch by 24-inch poster "Hog'in the Court" is available at the general offices of the Hereford Brand, 303 N. Lee, and KPAN Radio, 218 E. 5<sup>th</sup>.

The cost is \$2 per poster and all proceeds will benefit various booster club projects.

## U.S. factory orders drop

WASHINGTON (AP) — Orders to U.S. factories for big-ticket manufactured goods fell in January, led by the steepest decline in orders for electronic and other electrical equipment in 2½ years.

The Commerce Department reported today that orders for durable goods dropped by 1.3 percent last month, the first decline since October, to a seasonally adjusted \$214.8 billion.

That followed a sizzling 6.3 percent advance in December — the biggest gain in seven years. The December increase had been reported earlier at 5.5 percent.

Even with the drop, January's performance was stronger than the 2 percent decline many analysts were forecasting.

Economists, who were pre-

dicting a decrease, have cautioned that a drop in durable-goods orders shouldn't be viewed as weakness in the industrial sector. Economists said the underlying trend in orders remains firm and they expect manufacturers to perform well this year.

Orders in January were 6.5 percent higher than the same month last year. Strong business and consumer spending is fueling the red-hot economy. On Friday, the government will release a revised estimate for the economy's growth in the last

three months of 1999 and some economists believe it will be much stronger than the 5.8 percent rate the government initially estimated.

The inflation-sensitive market for government bonds already was rising when the figures came out and held on to the early gains. Yields on 30-year Treasury bonds, which fall when prices rise, dipped to 6.08 percent in early trading today from 6.12 percent late Wednesday.

Stocks headed down today. The Dow Jones blue-chip average lost more than 200

points in the first 90 minutes of trading and dropped briefly below the 10,000 level. The Nasdaq index, reversing earlier gains, dropped 50 points.

In a separate report today, the Labor Department said the number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits last week fell by 7,000 to 278,000, suggesting that employers continue to have trouble finding workers to fill job openings.

The Federal Reserve has bumped up interest rates four times since June, totaling a full percentage point. Even though those actions made borrowing more expensive for businesses and consumers, the higher rates still haven't had much impact in terms of significantly slowing the economy.

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# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, February 24, 2000 • A3



**Ready to bowl** — Hereford State Bank employees are ready to bowl for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hereford in the second annual Bowl for Kids Sake set for April 1 at the Hereford Recreation Center. Team members include, from left, Vonnie Elliott, Steve Gilbert, Charlene Sanders, Phillie Garza and Judy Myers. To sign up your team, call 364-6171.

## Bowl for Kids Sake will benefit local Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hereford is hosting its second annual "Bowl for Kids Sake" on April 1 at the Hereford Recreation Center.

Thirty teams participated in the event in 1999 raising more than \$8,000 for Big Brothers Big Sisters. This year's goal, according to BBBS executive director Stacey Urbanczyk, is to have 40 teams competing.

Each team consists of five members with each member receiving a T-shirt, two hours of bowling, refreshments and

chances to win door prizes.

The entry fee is \$250 per team and the team raising the most dollars will win a prize. Prizes are also given for teams with high and low scores.

Something new this year is a cash prize to be given to each person who bowls a strike in the fourth, sixth and eighth frame of the first game, and in the third, sixth and ninth frame of the second game.

"Last year's event was a

great success and a lot of fun," Urbanczyk said. "We had teams from businesses, civic groups, clubs and organizations and even family members. There are lots of possibilities for getting a team together."

All donations are tax deductible and all money raised stays in Hereford and is used in matching at-risk children with mentors in a one-to-one relationship, she said.

For more information, call Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hereford at 364-6171.

### CREATORS SYNDICATE

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** I need to know if I am becoming paranoid or what. I am a large woman. When I say "large," I don't mean a

little overweight. I mean LARGE.

I must move because the building I now occupy is being sold, and will soon be demolished. A very nice apartment building only three blocks away is near completion. There is a sign in front that says, "Applications Being Accepted. Apply Within." I went "within" to inquire. A very unpleasant man behind a big desk asked, "How much do you weigh?" I replied, "That is a personal question." He then said, "We are putting in very expensive wooden parquet floors, and they will crack if there is too much pressure."

I got the picture, and replied, "I know I am heavy, but I don't believe I would break a wooden floor." He just sat there, looking at me, with no response. Not wanting to get into a discussion with him, I simply said, "Thank you," and left.

Well, Ann, I DO want to move into that building, and would like your advice on what to do next. Thank you. — Still Looking in L.A.

**Dear L.A.:** In many places, it is against the law to discriminate against someone be-

cause of his or her weight. You can check with an attorney to find out what your rights are. Meanwhile, go back to the building manager, and tell him you still want to rent an apartment. If he asks you AGAIN what you weigh, tell him, "Some women don't tell their age. I don't tell my weight. If I break your floor, I will pay to have it replaced." That should clear his sinuses.

**Dear Ann Landers:** I would like to say "amen" to your pronouncement that putting a smiley face on medical bills is moronic. I hope this letter will strike another blow for "professionalism."

A while back, I had to cash a check. When the bank teller handed me the money, she chirped, "Have a nice day." My wife had died only a few hours earlier. I wanted to slug that bank teller. Of course, I controlled myself, but when I got to my car, I just sat there and cried.

Whenever I hear someone say, "Have a nice day" (and I hear it quite often), I want to tell the person how inappropriate it is, and that a simple "thank you" or "goodbye" is a lot more professional. I am writing to you, and hope you will join my crusade. — Patrick G. in Minneapolis

**Dear P.G.:** I fear your crusade to eradicate "Have a nice day" is a lost cause. It is too deeply embedded in the public psyche. I have, however, heard people say, "Have a good one," which is a cheery substitute.

**Dear Ann Landers:** Do

you want to save a cop's life? If the answer is "yes," please print this letter.

Most police departments have a directive that says when a cop handcuffs a prisoner, he or she must do it from the back. Yet invariably, the cop ignores these instructions, and cuffs the prisoner in the front.

We had a situation here in Florida where a killer was handcuffed in the front. He was wearing a medallion around his neck. It looked like a religious medal, so the officers left it alone. They put the killer in the back seat of the car. In a matter of minutes, he got a gadget out of the medallion that unlocked the handcuffs, reached for one of the officer's guns, and killed both cops. Locking the cuffs in front is sheer stupidity, yet cops all over continue to do it. Please tell them how dangerous this is. — David in Boca Raton, Fla.

**Dear David:** Most police officers are well aware of the danger of cuffing a criminal improperly. But thanks for reminding them.

That first kiss, that first embrace... Remember all those things that brought you and your loved one together? Ann Landers' new booklet, "How We Met," is now available. For a copy, please send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.50 (this includes postage and handling) to: How We Met, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, IL 60611.

## Demonstration given for L'Allegra

L'Allegra Study Club met in the home of Sylvia Khuri with Shelley Menke demonstrating how to prepare Grand Marnier Creme Brulee.

According to Menke, the secret is to know when they have cooked long enough.

While the Creme Brulee cooked, Khuri gave a talk on the different kinds of coffee,

from Caffe Latte to rich roasted coffees.

The cooked Creme Brulee were garnished with fresh raspberries and mandarin oranges. A dot was hidden on the bottom of one of the ramekins for the members to find, and Khuri was the winner of a set of ramekins.

Fresh strawberries and spinach-egg phyllo roll were served from a table centered with fresh tulips to members Mary Janet Bricker, Melissa Clarke, Kitty Gault, Diana Griffin, Mary Kay McQuigg, Karen Payne, Hilda Perales, Jody Skiles, Suzanne Smith, Judy Wall, Jan Weishaar, Khuri and Monke.

## Retirement options listed for Xi Epsilon

"Safeguarding Your Retirement" was the program topic at the recent meeting of Xi Epsilon Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi Sorority. The meeting, held at Hereford State Bank, featured local insurance agent James Self of New York Life Insurance Co., who spoke on various retirement options to consider.

A business meeting followed Self's presentation. President Shelley Lewis highlighted the international sorority's endowment and relief fund and the chapter voted to financially support research of diseases such as Lupus and Multiple Sclerosis in addition to children's diseases.

Service chairman Susan Shaw collected baby food for the Hereford Food Pantry, along with plastic bags.

Peggy Hyer, program and yearbook chairman, advised members that the next meeting will be March 7 with Linda Arellano and Debbie Holmes as hostesses and Tamara Mimms as co-hostess.

Sharon Bodner reminded those attending of the couples

evening out on Feb. 26 in honor of sweetheart Melinda Henson. The event will feature dinner at Rafter G Restaurant in Umbarger, followed by a movie.

The evening culminated in a surprise birthday party for Gaye Reily as cake, ice cream, nuts and beverages were served to Holly Bixler, Jana Morgan, Kim Hollingsworth, Diane Kreig, Kay Williams, Connie Matthews, Lewis, Henson, Hyer, Shaw, Arellano, Bodner and Reily.

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# Annual relay raises funds, recognizes cancer survivors

By Becky Thorn

Hereford Brand Lifestyles Editor

In the last three years, most area residents have become familiar with the Relay for Life.

The relay is an annual American Cancer Society fundraising event that also recognizes cancer survivors and provides cancer prevention information.

Relay for Life 2000 event chairman Bryan McGaw has announced that this year's relay will be June 2-3 in Whiteface Stadium.

"The relay is a time to recognize the survivors and pay tribute to those who have lost their battles with cancer. This year in addition to the celebration it is one of many objectives to promote cancer prevention awareness," McGaw said.

On the day of the relay, teams of people gather at the football field and take turns walking, jogging or running laps. Each team is asked to keep at least one representative of their team on the track at all times.

A total of 35 teams participated in Hereford's third annual Relay for Life last year which collected \$42,000 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

"Our goal for the 2000 relay is to have 45 teams and collect \$45,000," McGaw said.

Over the past three years



Hereford has primarily raised all donations from individuals and three or four companies.

"This year we wish to extend the opportunity to as many companies in Deaf Smith and the surrounding counties as possible," McGaw said.

In order to accomplish this, packets containing information about various levels of contribution have been sent to local businesses.

Businesses and/or individuals can determine a level of involvement that is appropriate for them.

Some levels of involvement

will include having the company name and logo on a T-shirt or cap. Others may decide to contribute to such specific relay programs as the cancer survivor's celebration, luminary service, hospitality, entertainment or incentive.

"It is also time for anyone interested in participating in the relay itself to begin forming teams," McGaw said.

Team recruitment and team captain coordinator is Jennifer Eggen.

Teams are composed of 10 members and each member is asked to raise a minimum of \$50 from donors before the event.

Teams may also hold fundraisers to benefit their individual teams and the money raised is added to team totals.

Awards are given in a variety of categories including most money raised by a team and an individual, most laps walked by a team and an individual, etc.

Teams will have an opportunity to take part in a variety of entertaining and educational events during the course of the 24-hour relay.

Anyone interested in contributing, forming a team or finding out more about the Relay for Life is welcome to call McGaw at 364-1166 days or 364-0572 evenings.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Area Events

#### AMARILLO

John Southern, M.Ed., LPC, will speak on "Grief Issues" at the sixth and last educational series on Mental Health at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4100 S. Coulter, from 6-8 p.m. this Sunday.

Grief comes in many different forms and can be experienced after any life change whether it is a good or a bad change. Southern has been a grief counselor for more than 20 years and is with Samaritan Counseling Center in Amarillo and Pampa.

Parents, educators, clergy Sunday school teachers, youth workers and other interested persons are welcome to hear Southern speak.

For more information call 806-364-2191.

Amarillo Little Theatre has announced that open auditions for its musical finale to the 1999-2000 season, "The Secret Garden," will be held March 6-8.

Roles are available for 11 men, 10 women, one young girl and one young boy.

Auditions will be hosted at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 6 for all children, 8 p.m. for adults and Tuesday, March 7 at 7:30 p.m. for adults.

Final callbacks will be at 7:30 p.m. on March 8.

For information on preparation of vocal selections or other

questions, call the ALT box office at 355-9991.

#### CANYON

St. Ann's Catholic Church, will host its 9th annual Czech Sausage Dinner from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on March 5 at the Parish Family Center, 38th St. and Conner Dr.

The menu includes Czech sausage, sauerkraut, parsley potatoes, bread and cobbler.

Cost is \$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children. Take out is available. Children 5 and under eat free.

#### LEVELLAND

Heath Wright, lead singer of the country music band, Ricochet, will return to South Plains College March 3 to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of his alma mater's pioneering educational program in country music.

Wright is among several hundred former students expected to return for the country music anniversary celebration March 2-4.

Festivities will kick off March 2 with a special performance of Thursday Nite Live at 7:30 p.m. in the Tom T. Hall Studio in the Creative Arts Building. Admission is free.

A reunion of former students is scheduled from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on March 4.

Festivities will wrap up at 7:30 p.m. with a reunion concert

featuring former students.

For more information call 806-894-9611, ext. 2274.

#### LUBBOCK

The Lubbock Municipal Garden and Arts Center has announced its March classes and workshops.

A one-day Gardening Workshop will meet from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 4. The workshop will be taught by Ken Hargeshimer.

A class of Free Hand Drawing for Beginners will be taught by Fred Cowart on Tuesdays, March 7-April 4, from 6-9 p.m.

Creative Spirits is the name of a class for 6-12 year olds that will help them develop their self-expression through a variety of hands-on art projects. Teacher will be Florence Lawrence. Classes will meet Saturdays, March 4-April 1 from 9:30-11 a.m.

Lawrence will also teach a class for 4-5 year olds and their parents called Creative Art for Parent and Child. This class will meet on Thursdays, March 2-March 30, 1-2:30 p.m.

A class of fundamentals of drawing, Beginning Drawing for Kids, will be taught by Wayne Conn on Saturdays, March 4-April 8 from 1-2:30 p.m.

All classes will be at the Center, 4215 University Avenue.

For lists of supplies and costs of the classes, call 806-767-3724.

## Today in History: Johnson impeached

#### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 2000. There are 311 days left in the year.

#### Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 24, 1868, the House of Representatives impeached President Andrew Johnson following his attempted to dismiss Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

#### On this date:

In 1821, Mexico declared its independence from Spain.

In 1863, Arizona was organized as a territory.

In 1903, the United States signed an agreement acquiring a naval station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

In 1920, a fledgling German political party held its first meeting of importance in Munich; it became known as the Nazi Party, and its chief spokesman was Adolf Hitler.

In 1945, American soldiers liberated the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese control during World War II.

In 1955, the Cole Porter musical "Silk Stockings" opened at the Imperial Theater on Broadway.

In 1980, the U.S. hockey team defeated Finland 4-2 to clinch the gold medal at the

Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, N.Y.

In 1981, Buckingham Palace announced the engagement of Britain's Prince Charles to Lady Diana Spencer.

In 1983, a congressional commission released a report condemning the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II as a "grave injustice."

In 1989, a state funeral was held in Japan for Emperor Hirohito, who had died the month before at age 87.

**Ten years ago:** Magazine publisher Malcolm Forbes died in Far Hills, N.J. at age 70. Fifties balladeer Johnnie Ray died in Los Angeles at age 63.

**Five years ago:** Under pressure from farm-state Republicans, House leaders abandoned a campaign promise to disband the food stamp program.

**One year ago:** The Senate voted overwhelmingly to give the nation's military the biggest benefits increase since the early 1980s. Lauryn Hill won a record five Grammys, including album of the year and best new artist, on the strength of her solo debut album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Abe Vigoda is 79. Actor Steven

Hill ("Law & Order") is 78.

Movie composer Michel Legrand is 68. Actor John Vernon is 68. Opera singer Renata Scotti is 65. Actor James Farentino is 62. Actor Barry Bostwick is 55. Actor Edward James Olmos is 53. Singer-writer-producer Rupert Holmes is 53. Fox News anchor Paula Zahn is 44.


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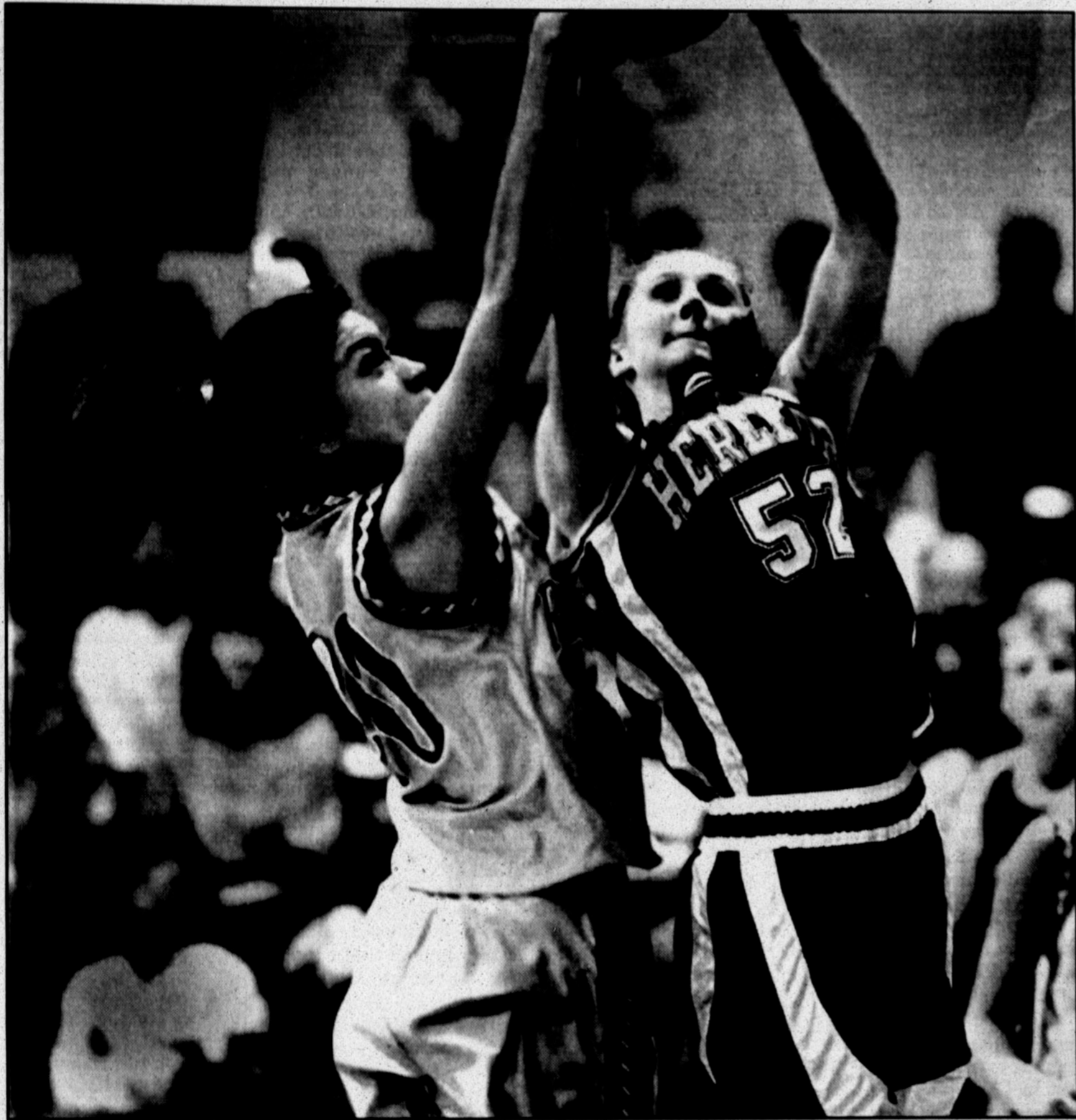
# 364-5255

## A Directory of Professional Services

# SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, February 24, 2000

## Girls, coach net 3-4A honors



Finishing in style — Lady Whiteface Tori Walker puts up a shot against Canyon Randall in bi-district.

### Harrison, Walker, Guzman and Eicke receive All-District girls' basketball recognition

Hereford High School head girls' basketball coach Key Harrison was named earlier this week as the District 3-4A coach of the year, and three of his players joined him on the plank of league honors.



**TORI WALKER**



**VALERIE GUZMAN**



**TONI EICKE**

Seniors Tori Walker and Valerie Guzman were selected to the All-District first team and Toni Eicke, also a senior, was named to the All-District second team.

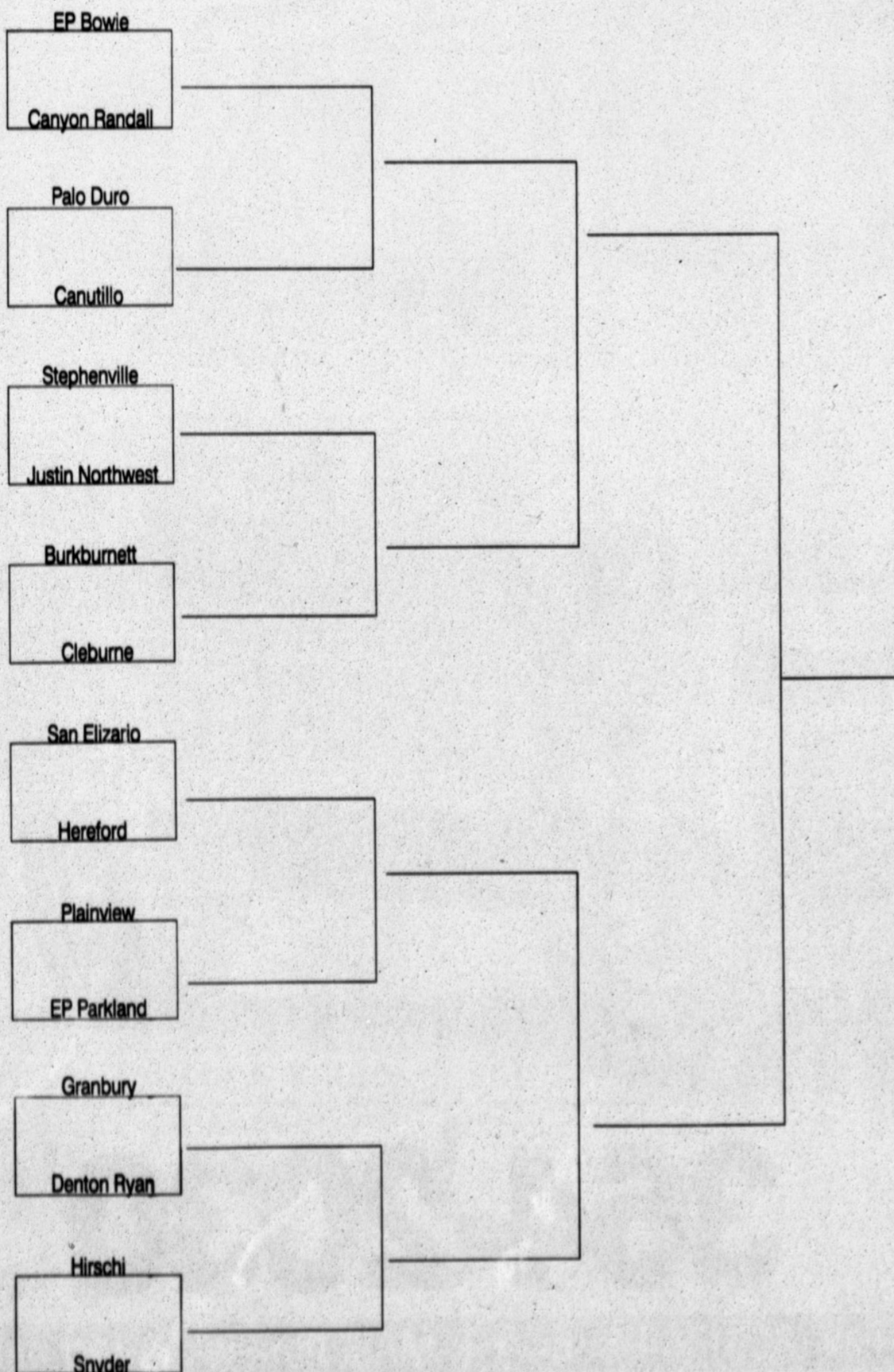
The district honors capped a 24-8 season which saw the Lady Whitefaces advance to the Class 4A Bi-district playoffs.

Hereford lost the first playoff round 55-48 against top-ranked Canyon Randall at the Box on the campus of West Texas A&M.

The district's top-seed Amarillo Palo Duro placed four on the All-District team. Palo Duro senior Casey Jackson was named the league's Player of the Year. She was joined by first team sophomore Joyce Benson and Toya Gonzales and Juliana Morrison who were named as second team selections.

### Boys' Class 4A Region I Playoff Pairings

| Area<br>Feb. 24 & 26 | Regional Quarters<br>Feb. 28 & 29 | Regional Semis<br>Mar. 3 | Regional Finals<br>Mar. 4 | State Semis<br>Mar. 9 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|



### Sooners down Texas Tech

Lead Raiders by 20 at halftime to take 93-65 win and end recent losing streak

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma pushed the ball up the floor, shot it well and won easily — for a change.

The 20th-ranked Sooners have struggled in recent weeks, shooting below 40 per-

cent in three of their previous four games while having to try to grind out victories. They had lost two of three, both by three points.

That changed Wednesday night in a 93-65 victory over Texas Tech. Freshman Hollis Price scored a career-high 20 points, Eduardo Najera had 19 and the Sooners shot 56 percent.

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1999 Cadillac Sedan DeVille **\$27,995**  
White/burgundy leather, all the bells & whistles, extra nice car, stx#394GM.

1999 Pontiac Grand Am Sedan **\$14,995**  
Bright red, gray cloth, air, auto, AM/FM cassette, tilt, cruise, warranty, stx#405GM.

1999 Pontiac Sunfire Sedan **\$10,495**  
Bright silver metallic, gray cloth, AM/FM cassette, air, auto, warranty, stx#376GM.

1999 Chevrolet Monte Carlo **\$14,495**  
White, power windows, locks, mirrors, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette, air, warranty, stx#366GM.

1999 Oldsmobile Bravada **\$24,995**  
White, gray leather, AM/FM cassette, tilt, cruise, power windows, seats & mirrors, stx#375GM.

1999 Pontiac Montana **\$22,495**  
Maroon w/gold accent, power, air, auto, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette, warranty, stx#392GM.

1999 Chevrolet Blazer **\$23,995**  
4x4, bright red, power windows, mirrors & locks, tilt, cruise, AM/FM cassette, auto, air, warranty, stx#381GM.

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# GOP leaders rip Bush's tactics

By Ron Fournier

WASHINGTON (AP) — His cloak of inevitability in tatters, George W. Bush is now being second-guessed by supporters who object to his campaign tactics and warn that rival John McCain is a serious threat to the establishment-backed candidate.



Bush

Governors, fund-raisers and ranking GOP officials are critiquing Bush's campaign in the aftermath of McCain's sweep of Michigan and Arizona in Tuesday's primaries. The complaints ranged from his decision to visit a conservative South Carolina university — which one governor called "stupid" — to the \$1 million TV ad campaign in McCain's home state.

"I think there's a learning curve happening right now in terms of running a national campaign," said Chris DePino, chairman of the Connecticut Republican Party and a staunch Bush supporter.

The allies said they still believe Bush will prevail in upcoming primaries. "When it comes down to it, and they actually have to choose a nominee and a president, voters are going to be looking for the guy who had done stuff and not just look at the slogans and a lot of rah," Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said. "That's when Governor Bush will prevail."

But their willingness to critique the campaign underscores a growing concern about the candidate they anointed a front-runner long before the first votes were cast.

McCain, meanwhile, crowed about his "overwhelming and phenomenal victory" during a

Washington state swing, as both campaigns drew up strategies for a two-week stretch of contests in 16 states and four American territories.

Republicans were hit with the stark realization Wednesday that they may be in for a long, expensive race that could produce a weakened nominee.

"There's a lot of people who signed on early with Governor Bush who are wondering why this is going on so long," New Hampshire party chairman Steve Duprey said.

The sentiment was echoed throughout GOP circles, as the fallout from the Michigan defeat engulfed Bush's closest allies.

Several said his visit to Bob Jones University, renowned for anti-Catholic sentiments, gave McCain an issue in Michigan and several other primary states with large Catholic populations.

"I think it was stupid," Connecticut Gov. John Rowland said.

Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, one of Bush's closest allies, questioned why the Texan spent \$1 million to air TV ads in Arizona. Bush lost the state by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, though McCain didn't broadcast any ads.

"You want to play in every state and show that you're a national candidate, but obviously a sitting senator's home state is not a place you want to invest many resources," Keating said.

DePino, one of Bush's early fund-raisers, sighed loudly into the telephone when the subject of Arizona spending came up. "I just wish I had a little more input on how they directed some of this money," he said.

Bush struggled to defend the Arizona spending, telling reporters, "I never expected to win Arizona. It was just part of our overall strategy."



# CALIFORNIA GOP McCain gains endorsements from top Republican officials

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — San Diego Mayor Susan Golding is endorsing Sen. John McCain for president today, saying his character and his command of foreign policy make him the best candidate for the White House.

The Republican mayor of the nation's sixth-largest city planned to announce her endorsement at an appearance with McCain in Sacramento. She becomes the second prominent California Republican to join the Arizona senator's camp in recent days.

Secretary of State Bill Jones, the highest-ranking Republican in the state, switched from supporting Texas Gov. George W. Bush to McCain on Feb. 16.

McCain arrived in Sacramento early today, his flight from Washington state delayed

for about four hours after his chartered campaign plane got a couple of wheels stuck in the mud when the pilot missed a turn while maneuvering on the ground. The wheels, mired in about a foot of mud, were dug out, but then the plane had to be refueled before it could take off.

The McCain party finally arrived in Sacramento about 2 a.m. PST.

Golding said in an interview late Wednesday that it



■ Gore fires salvos at both McCain and Bush. — Page A9

was McCain's character, rather than any single policy position, that swayed her.

"These races should be about character," she said. She agreed with both McCain and Bush on a wide range of issues, but said:

"Ultimately the next president is going to make decisions on problems and issues that we can't predict, and that's when someone's character, and ability to lead, come into play."

Golding said McCain had an "instinctive understanding" of foreign relations, and of the military's role. "He is the

best person we could have in the presidency in a time when the world is uncertain and when relations between nations are fraying," she said.

Golding said McCain's conservative credentials are solid, and added that he will have special appeal to minorities and women — key voting blocs in California.

"I think it's ironic that there are some in the party who are saying, 'Is he a Republican?' They have very short memories," she said. "John is as Republican as they come, but he also understands this country is made up of a broad variety of people."

"I admire what George W. Bush has done," she said. "However, I think John McCain is the best choice for the presidency of anyone who is running today."

Federal Consumer Protection has determined that the fuel saving theories of this advertisement are 100% accurate.

## Platinum Device May Increase Gas Mileage

BOSTON - National Fuelsaver Corp. of Boston has developed a low cost automotive accessory called the Platinum Gas Saver which has the theoretical ability to increase gas mileage while meeting all emission standards.

With a simple connection to a vacuum line, the Gas Saver adds microscopic quantities of platinum to the air-fuel mixture entering the engine.

Platinum has the unique ability to make non-burning fuel burn. With platinum in the flame zone, you increase the percentage of fuel burning inside the engine from 68% of each gallon to 90% of each gallon, a 22% increase.

Since unburnt fuel leaving an

engine is pollution, that 22% of each gallon would normally burn when it reaches the platinum of the catalytic converter.

Unfortunately, the converter's burning process takes place in the tail pipe, where the heat and energy produced from burning this fuel cannot be harnessed to drive your vehicle.

But when the Gas Saver adds platinum to the air-fuel mixture, 22% more of each gallon burns inside the engine so that, in theory, 22% fewer gallons are required to drive the same distance.

After studying this process for five years, the government concluded: "Independent testing shows greater fuel savings with

the Gas Saver than that claimed by the developer."

In addition to this government study, the Gas Saver has received patents for cleaning out the carbon deposits and raising octane, making premium fuel unnecessary for most vehicles.

Joel Robinson, the developer, commented: "We have sold over 400,000 Gas Savers. To our surprise, as many people buy the Gas Saver because it extends engine life (by cleaning out the abrasive carbon deposits) as buy it to increase gas mileage or to raise gasoline octane."

For further information call: 1-800-LESS-GAS 1-800-537-7427

## Government Produced Test Data

The government studied fuel saving test data on vehicles made by several auto makers using the Gas Saver. This is the data they produced from a fleet of 15 identical 5-liter vehicles.

| Vehicle Number | Miles/gal. without Gas Saver | Miles/gal. with Gas Saver | Percentage Increase |
|----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| 1              | 12.0                         | 17.8                      | 48.3%               |
| 2              | 11.3                         | 16.6                      | 46.9%               |
| 3              | 14.1                         | 20.7                      | 46.8%               |
| 4              | 13.0                         | 18.8                      | 44.6%               |
| 5              | 12.2                         | 17.1                      | 40.2%               |
| 6              | 9.6                          | 13.3                      | 38.5%               |
| 7              | 13.3                         | 17.9                      | 34.6%               |
| 8              | 9.8                          | 13.1                      | 33.7%               |
| 9              | 14.3                         | 18.4                      | 28.7%               |
| 10             | 10.8                         | 13.9                      | 28.7%               |
| 11             | 14.1                         | 17.6                      | 24.8%               |
| 12             | 15.8                         | 17.5                      | 10.8%               |
| 13             | 14.4                         | 15.9                      | 10.4%               |
| 14             | 13.1                         | 14.0                      | 6.9%                |
| 15             | 12.9                         | 11.3                      | -12.4%              |
| Average        | 12.7                         | 16.3                      | 28.3%               |

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INSIDE

# SANTANA

## Guitar great wins 8 Grammys, ties Jackson's mark



**CARLOS SANTANA**  
Comeback completed with big night at 42nd Annual Grammy Awards.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The comeback of Carlos Santana is triumphantly complete.

The guitar great who had just one minor Grammy to his credit in a 30-year career won eight on Wednesday, tying the record set by Michael Jackson in 1983 for most trophies in one night. Santana's awards included the top honors, record and album of the year.

Santana brought grace, humility and spirituality to a show full of glitz and glamor. The 52-year-old musician known best for his breathtaking guitar work said he set out to make "Supernatural" a radio-friendly record to spread a message of hope.

"If I can do it, people from the ghettos, the barrio, the shantytowns can do it," the Mexican-born Santana said. "I know, because I came from there."

Other top winners at the 42nd annual Grammys included the soul trio TLC, who won two Grammys — for best rhythm 'n' blues for their frank put-down of men, "No Scrubs," and best R&B album for "Fanmail." "No Scrubs" was also named best R&B song.

Eminem won two awards, for best rap solo performance and best rap album.

Country's leading ladies, the Dixie Chicks and Shania Twain, won two Grammys apiece. George Jones, who had a near-fatal traffic wreck last year, won best male country vocal for "Choices."

Tony Bennett, now 73 and enjoying his own commercial resurgence, took the Grammy for traditional pop vocal for his tribute to Duke Ellington.

"This is my ninth Grammy, and boy, I just feel like going back in the recording studio and coming up with another one," he said.

Christina Aguilera staged a mild upset for best new performer over fellow teen queen Britney Spears. Aguilera said she was so sure someone else would win that she did not prepare a speech.

"I was expecting it to go to somebody actually who had more singles out this year, so this is totally, totally unexpected," Aguilera said.

Sting scored his own upset for male pop vocal with "Brand New Day," beating out younger, Latin-influenced singers Marc Anthony and Ricky Martin. Sting also won for pop album.

Santana's wins were clearly no upsets. He was the favorite of the audience, which gave him standing ovations and cheered each time his name was mentioned as a nominee.

"This validates that together, we can heal this planet," he said. "There's so much gossip and sensationalism, it's nice to demonstrate to people that dignity and class can do as well."

Santana's triumph was reminiscent of the Grammys

two years ago, when rock veterans Bob Dylan and John Fogerty won top awards. Neither Dylan nor Fogerty, leader of Creedence Clearwater Revival, had won Grammys in their prime years in the 1960s.

Despite continued critical acclaim for Santana, recent records have sold modestly compared to multi-platinum 1970s albums as "Santana" and "Abraxas." A deeply spiritual man who is a longtime devotee of Indian guru Sri Chinmoy, Santana's first words upon winning album of the year were a Hebrew prayer, which translates to: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts."

Santana's other honors included best rock album, pop collaboration with vocals, rock instrumental and pop performance by a duo or group with vocals. With nearly 6 million copies sold, "Supernatural" is the best-selling album for Santana, whose career caught fire after Woodstock in 1969.

Much of the credit for the album's success goes to Santana's musical guests, including fellow guitar veteran Eric Clapton and younger musicians such as Lauryn Hill, Dave Matthews, Everlast, Wyclef Jean and Rob Thomas, who co-wrote and sang on "Smooth."

## Investment options examined on PBS show

**Special to The Brand**  
**AMARILLO** — The U.S. economy is booming. February marks the 107th month that the nation has experienced economic growth — the longest growth spurt in American history.

Unemployment is at a 30-year low; consumer confidence is at a 50-year high. Since March 1991, 20 million new jobs have been created across the country. By one estimate, the number of millionaires has doubled, to 9 million. Half of all households now own stock. So, why isn't everyone cashing in on all this prosperity?

Where should people be investing the money they save? Is the stock market for everyone? These are just some of the questions that will be discussed at 8 p.m. Monday in an hour-long special, "Perspective: Taking Stock of Your Investments."

"Many people don't know how to go about investing or what their options are," program producer Ellen Robertson Neal said. "Until they get down-to-earth information, and get it from reliable sources, they'll never know which investments are right for them, or feel truly comfortable in

taking those crucial first steps in developing a financial plan. This show gives viewers a chance to ask the questions they most need answered, and to get expert answers."

Host Larry Lemmons will be joined in the KACV-TV studios by guests Ann Holt, Amarillo National Bank Investment Officer; Sam Lovelady of Lovelady, Christy & Associates LLP; Richard McElreath of A.G. Edwards & Sons; and Dr. Barry Duman, chairman of West Texas A&M University's Division of Accounting, Economics and Finance.

# TELEVISION

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24

| 6 PM                    | 6:30                    | 7 PM                    | 7:30                    | 8 PM                    | 8:30                    | 9 PM                    | 9:30                    | 10 PM                   | 10:30                   | 11 PM                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    |
| Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables |

## FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25

| 7 AM   | 7:30        | 8 AM          | 8:30        | 9 AM     | 9:30     | 10 AM       | 10:30      | 11 AM     | 11:30      | 12 PM |
|--------|-------------|---------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|-----------|------------|-------|
| Barney | Teletubbies | Sesame Street | Arthur      | Dragon   | Barney   | Teletubbies | Noddy      | Zoboo     | Str Rogers |       |
| Angela | Mary Kate   | Itzy Bitzy    | CBN Special | 700 Club | Learning | Itzy Bitzy  | Itzy Bitzy | Storytime | Bobby      |       |

| 12:30      | 1 PM     | 1:30  | 2 PM   | 2:30    | 3 PM               | 3:30                | 4 PM                   | 4:30                   | 5 PM                   | 5:30                   |
|------------|----------|-------|--------|---------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Body Elec. | Painting | House | Noddy  | Reading | Arthur             | Wishbone            | Zoom                   | Arthur                 | Creatures              | Wishbone               |
| Donkey     | Monster  | Candy | Angela | Angela  | Movie: Bushwhacked | (1995) Daniel Stern | Movie: Deadly Invasion | Movie: Deadly Invasion | Movie: Deadly Invasion | Movie: Deadly Invasion |

| 6 PM                    | 6:30                    | 7 PM                    | 7:30                    | 8 PM                    | 8:30                    | 9 PM                    | 9:30                    | 10 PM                   | 10:30                   | 11 PM                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    | News                    |
| Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables | Movie: The Untouchables |

# COMICS

## The Wizard of Id



## Marvin



## Blondie



## Beetle Bailey



## Barney Google & Snuffy Smith







CLASSIFIEDS

Show

From Page A1

grand champion market steer. Representing Deaf Smith County will be: FFA

Jerry Baird, market steers, market barrows; Catherine Beville, market steers, market lambs; Lauren Beville, market steers; Nelson Beville, market steers, market lambs; Deiter Brannon, market steers, market lambs; Craig Campbell, market steers; Stephen Edwards, market steers; Joshua Joseph Fetsch, market steers, market barrows;

Also, Ryan Hoelscher, market steers, market barrows; Seth Hoelscher, market steers, market barrows; Evan Isaacson, market steers; Ian Isaacson, market steers; Ivory Isaacson, market steers; Jerad Johnson, market steers, market lambs, market barrows; Justin Johnson, market steers, market lambs, market barrows;

Also, Glenn Kahlich, market steers, market barrows; Jarret May, market steers, market barrows; Roy Henry Messer, market steers, market barrows; Victoria Rose Messer, market barrows; Amanda Blain Moss, market steers, market barrows;

Also, Stephanie Reinart, market barrows; Steven Reinart, market barrows; Blake Schilling, market barrows; Chad Schilling, market barrows; Holly Schilling, market barrows; Janae Schlabs, market lambs; Ben Sublett, market barrows; Eddie Trotter, market steers; Camille Vasek, market barrows.

4-H

Dawn Auckerman, market lambs; Kylee Auckerman, market lambs; Jerry Baird, market lambs; Macy Brannon, market lambs; Chelsea Campbell, market steers; Lark Duncan, market steers; Brynne Huffaker, market lambs; Kristen Huffaker, market lambs; Evan Isaacson, market barrows; Ian Isaacson, market barrows;

Also, Ivory Isaacson, market barrows; Gelina M. Meiwes, market barrows; Kailey D. Meiwes, market barrows; Joanna Olson, commercial steers; Gary Schlabs, market barrows; Keely Schlabs, market barrows and Amanda Jade Smith, market lambs.

The 30 county FFA chapter members are showing a total of 22 market sheers, seven market lambs, and 18 market barrows.

The 18 county 4-Hers will be exhibiting a total of two market steers, seven market lambs, three commercial steers and eight market barrows.

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DAILY CRYPTOQUOTES — Here's how to work it: AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-24 CRYPTOQUOTE

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Table with columns for CATTLE FUTURES, GRAIN FUTURES, METAL FUTURES, and FUTURES OPTIONS. Includes various contract details and prices.

Gore slams GOP rivals

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP) — Al Gore says Republican presidential rivals George W. Bush and John McCain are two peas in a pod that are both "going over to the dark side."

Declaring in an interview with USA Today that he is not taking his own nomination for granted, the vice president said it has been "an education and illuminating experience" for the country to see Bush and McCain "in their true colors."

"They both have the same right-wing record," Gore said in the interview appearing in today's editions. "And in terms of their rhetoric, they're both going over to the dark side."

He added: "They both lack the courage to speak out against the flying of the Confederate flag above the statehouse (of South Carolina). They both want to take away a woman's right to choose. They both want to privatize parts of Medicare. They both want to drain money away from public schools. They both are appealing to the extreme right wing."

Gore insisted that he is "not in the least overconfident" about defeating former Sen.



AL GORE

"They both lack the courage to speak out against the flying of the Confederate flag above the statehouse (of South Carolina). They both want to take away a woman's right to choose. They both want to privatize parts of Medicare. They both want to drain money away from public schools. They both are appealing to the extreme right wing."

Bill Bradley for the Democratic presidential nomination, but directed his fire at his Republican opponent — whoever it is. "I think they're two peas in

they're on the warning track heading full speed for the wall," said Gore.

A forward-pitched strategy for the general election campaign threads through Gore's schedule.

With less than two weeks before the potentially decisive "Super Tuesday" primaries, Gore's tentative itinerary for the coming week looks past the March 7 contests to Arizona and Colorado. And, he has returned to fund raising to replenish the coffers for what he presumes will be a battle with the Republican nominee.

On Wednesday, Gore went out of his way to visit South Carolina — flying from Florida to North Carolina, then doubling back an hour by car to Fort Mill, S.C. — even though that state's primary isn't until March 9 and Bradley is not considered a threat there.

When Bradley stopped in South Carolina earlier this month, he was handed a letter by state Democratic chairman Dick Harpootlian at the airport saying it was time for him to drop out of the race.

Vote

From Page A1

are completing their fourth terms. Both Winget and Eades have served longer than the four terms because they were appointed to complete unexpired terms. Winget has been on the commission since 1990; Eades, since 1991.

HOSPITAL DISTRICT

The four seats on the hospital district board are all at-large and are now held by Mark Collier, Dean Crofford, Jesse Rincones and Karen Solomon.

While Collier, Crofford and Solomon are completing full terms, Rincones is filling out the unexpired term of Jeremy Grant. Grant resigned last fall.

Collier has been a director since 1996; Crofford, since 1994; and Solomon since 1997. Solomon was appointed to complete an unexpired term, then won a full term in 1998.

Candidates for seats on the hospital district board must submit a petition with 25 signatures of registered county voters by 5 p.m. April 6.

Petitions are available in the Hereford Regional Medical Center administration office during regular office hours. Completed petitions must be authenticated as signed by registered voters by the candidate in the County Clerk's Office before being submitted to HRMC administrative assistant Carolan Garza.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

The three HISD trustee seats on the ballot are now held by Lloyd Ames, Dave Charest and Mark Landrum.

Charest has been on the board since 1996; Ames and Landrum both were elected in 1997.

Filing for spots on the city and school district ballots will end March 22. Filing for spots on the hospital district ballot will end April 6.

The deadline to register to vote in these elections is April 6. Voters who want to vote by mail-in ballot must apply between March 7 and April 28. Early voting in-person will be April 19-May 2.

HEREFORD BRAND

Court records

Civil cases

Orders withholding from earnings for child support were issued to:

--Anita Chaves Mungia and Filiberto Mungia and in the interest of Phil Matthew Mungia, Coby Adrian Mungia, Timothy Andrew Mungia and Samantha Britany Nicole Mungia, minor children, Feb. 8; and,

--Ramiro Medeles and Dora Ruiz and in the interest of Ramiro Medeles, Jr., Feb. 11.

Order granting nonsuit was issued to:

--Antonia Guadalupe Estes and Glenn Wilson Estes, Feb. 4.

--Prietal order dismissing suit to establish the parent-child relationship was issued to:

--Darrell Wayne Patterson and Sabrina L. Stubbs and in the interest of Samuel Kayton Stubbs, a child, Feb. 3.

Order in suit affecting the parent-child relationship was issued to:

--Dora Ruiz and Ramiro Medeles and in the interest of Ramiro Medeles, Jr., a child, Feb. 11.

Orders establishing the par-

ent-child relationship were issued to:

--Maria Perez, Esequiel Zambrano, and Emilio Montano and in the interest of Emanuel Arroyo and Oscar Zambrano, children, Nov. 8, 1999;

--Louisa Hernandez and Jose Garza and in the interest of Megan D. Hernandez, Joshua J. Hernandez and Jared R. Hernandez, children, Feb. 7;

--Ramona Guerra and Osafaldo Mejia and in the interest of Benjamin Mejia and Joel Mejia, children, Feb. 7; and,

--Elizabeth D. Murillo and Joe Antonio Galan and in the interest of Emanuel Isiah Galan, a child, Feb. 7.

Orders enforcing child support obligation were issued to:

--Kenneth Holder and Ginger Ree Zaber and in the interest of Jennifer Maria Holder, a child, Feb. 7; and,

--Jose Salcido and Danna Mann-Hagood and in the interest of Christina Ann Salcido, Joseph Daniel Salcido, Deborah Maxine Salcido, John Anthony Salcido and Daniel Edward Salcido, Feb. 7.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

France will send troops to Kosovo

WASHINGTON — Responding to a call by NATO military commanders to reinforce the peacekeepers in Kosovo, France is preparing to dispatch an additional 600 to 700 soldiers, and U.S. Marines may follow.

A U.S. official said Wednesday that allied political authorities at NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, were considering whether approximately 1,200 peacekeepers may be needed in addition to the French soldiers.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified, said a U.S. Marine unit was among several allied forces designated for potential use as reinforcements in Kosovo. But he stressed that no decisions had been made on increasing U.S. troop involvement in the ethnically divided Serbian province.

French Defense Minister Alain Richard told a Pentagon news conference Wednesday that his government had approved sending 600 to 700 more troops to help quell the rising violence in Kosovska Mitrovica, an ethnically divided city in northern Kosovo. That represents about one-third of the reinforcements requested by NATO commanders.

"It is simply normal military business to decide ... to make the real provisions so that we take control of the situation there," Richard said. France already has about 4,500 troops in Kosovo.

Defense Secretary William Cohen, appearing with Richard, said no decision had been made on whether more American troops would go. He said that would be decided after it was clear what NATO commanders needed.

"We frankly don't anticipate that this is going to be a long-term problem but rather a flashpoint that has erupted in the last few days or weeks, and that's the reason we think that a greater show of force and a greater capability is going to be essential," Cohen said.

Town flashpoint in 'strain' over Hispanics

SILER CITY, N.C. — You can't miss the growing Spanish-speaking population in this little town in the middle of North Carolina.

Eighty percent of the workers at Siler City's two poultry plants are Hispanic, as are 40 percent of students in the local elementary school.

Hispanics represent the fastest-growing segment of the population nationwide, a trend reflected in communities like Siler City, a town of 5,500.

To some, that's a problem.

They voiced their opinions over the weekend, at an anti-immigration rally led by former Ku Klux Klansman David Duke that underscored the tension underlying the rapid influx of Hispanic immigrants into North Carolina.

"It's truly an American tragedy, what's happening in Siler City, and it's symbolic of what's happening to America," Duke said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Some, like Duke and the 100 or so people who attended Saturday's rally, say the burgeoning Hispanic population is creating a burden on the local economy. Many disagree.

Report: States have unspent money for welfare

WASHINGTON — A coalition of anti-poverty groups said states are hoarding \$7 billion in unspent federal funds earmarked to help poor Americans and called on governors to see to it that the money is used to assist low-income families.

Seventeen states each have accumulated more than \$100 million in unspent federal funds from 1997 to 1999. Other states have tens of millions of dollars they haven't spent, a study by the National Campaign for Jobs and Income showed.

California had the most, with \$1.6 billion. New York had the second highest amount — \$1.1 billion — and Ohio was third, with nearly \$734 million. Forty-five states and the District of Columbia had surpluses, the report showed.

The group's study, released today ahead of a weekend meeting of the National Governors Association, added up state funds that had not yet been committed to anti-poverty programs and funds that were earmarked for

Story ideas or suggestions?

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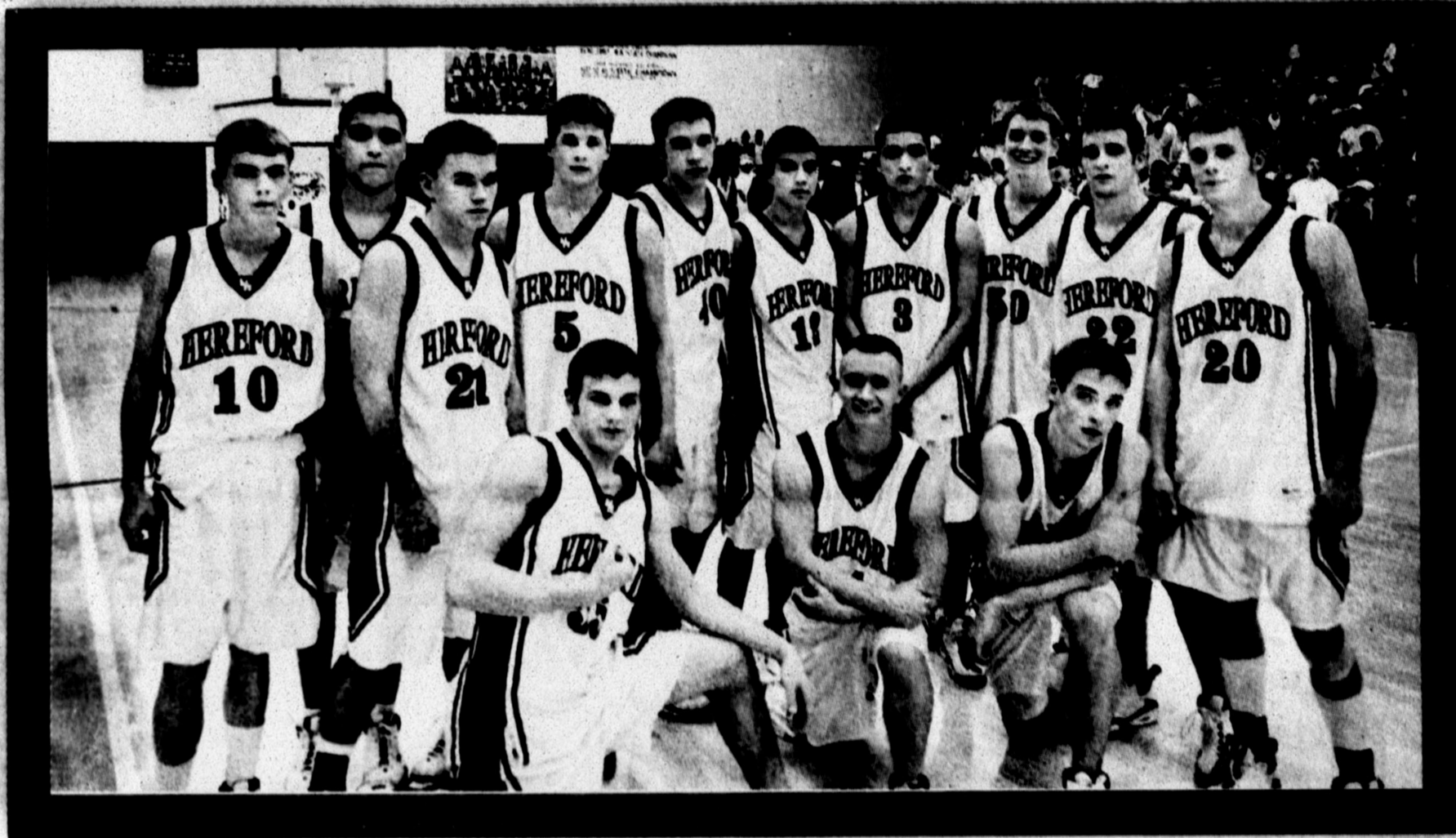
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