

# Hereford BRAND

100th Year, Vol. Number 62 • Deaf Smith County, Texas

THURSDAY, September 28, 2000

10 Pages, 50 Cents

HUSTLIN' HEREFORD  
HOME OF  
Carolyn Hiltbrunner



DISTRICT OPENER  
Hereford

VS.

Borger  
7:30 p.m. Friday  
Bulldog Stadium  
Borger

Today's weather

## OUTLOOK

### • Mostly clear skies •

Tonight: Mostly clear, lows near 50, south winds 10 to 20 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny and windy, highs in the mid-80s, southwest winds 20 to 30 mph with higher gusts.

Friday night: Mostly clear, lows in the lower 50s.

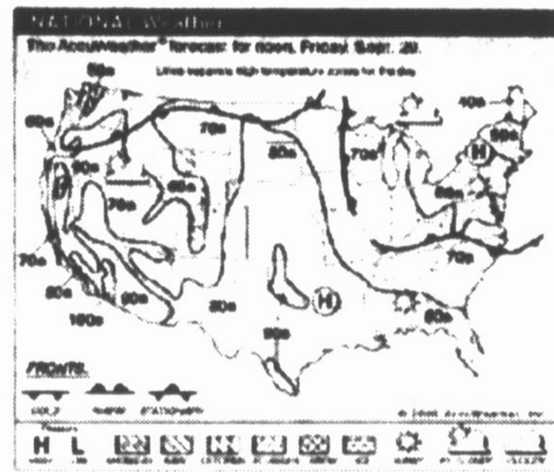
### • Extended forecast •

Saturday: Partly cloudy and breezy, highs in the mid-80s.

Sunday and Monday: Mostly clear, lows in the mid-50s, highs 85 to 90.

### • Hereford weather •

Wednesday's high, 83; low, 46; no precipitation.



The forecast for Friday shows a few showers and thunderstorms likely over the central Rockies and mountains of northern Arizona. A few showers are expected over the Pacific Northwest, while a sunny, cool day can be expected over the Northwest. A few showers and thunderstorms are likely over the Florida Peninsula.

### • Cool, dry weather • on tap for Texas

After a cool start to autumn, a slow warming trend continued today for most of Texas as a high-pressure system kept any chance of rainfall away from the state.

Temperatures underneath the cloud cover of West Texas were somewhat warmer, with a few cities recording temperatures in the lower 70s.

Other early-morning temperatures ranged from the 40s to 60s.

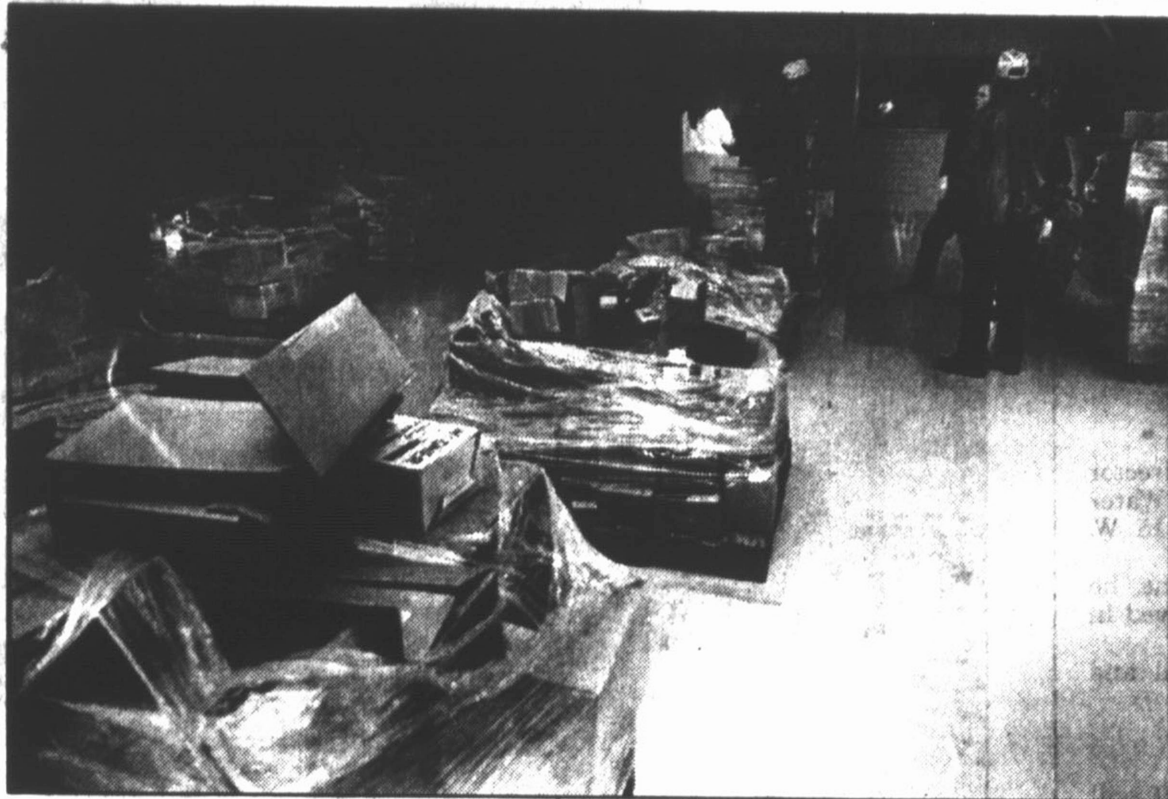
It was 49 degrees at Dalhart, Junction and McKinney and 73 at El Paso.

It was 52 degrees at Fort Worth Alliance Airport, 63 at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, 72 at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station and 59 at Abilene.

Winds were generally light and variable at less than 10 mph, with the exception of Guadalupe Pass where winds were north at 32 mph.

Daytime highs through Friday should be in the lower 80s to mid-90s along the Rio Grande. Lows overnight were expected to range from the 40s to 60s.

In South Texas, the National Weather Service said more cool, clear and dry conditions were expected through Friday.



By Becky Thorn

Hereford Brand Lifestyles Editor

How can you turn a collection of antique and classic car parts into a shelter for battered women?

Hold a garage sale. And, that is just what the executive board of the Hereford Shelter is going to do this weekend.

Proceeds from the garage sale, which will be 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday in the Bull Barn, will be used to begin the repairs and renovation of a house which has been donated for use as a shelter.

The parts that are being offered in the garage sale were donated by Terry Beavers from the David N. Beavers Trust.

"We have a large collection of antique and classic car parts which are all new and still in the boxes," Janis Robinson, president of the shelter's executive board, said.

There is also a great deal of other inventory which was not purchased when the new owners bought out an existing auto parts store in Hereford.

Brand names of many of the items will be recognized by antique and classic car collectors, certified mechanics and even the casual "weekend" mechanic.

Some of the brand names include Black and Decker, Bussman, Carter Carburetors, Evco Power Steering, Dorman Products, 3-M, Niehoff, Oil Sight and Wagner, to name a few.

The need for a women's and children's shelter in Hereford has been apparent to many in the community for a number of years, but making the shelter a reality has not been a simple process.

Creation of the Women's and Children's Crisis Center was initiated about three years ago by Hereford Regional Medical Center. The Crisis Center still operates under the auspices of the hospital.



Proceeds from the sale of items (displayed at the Bull Barn, top) will be used to repair fire damage (above) and smoke damage (right) to a house which has been donated for use as a shelter.

BRAND/Mauri Montgomery

Statistics compiled by the Crisis Center make it painfully obvious that there is a great need for a shelter in Hereford.

According to Linda Coronado, Women's and Children's Crisis Center coordinator, on numerous occasions, a victim has been housed in a local motel or taken to a shelter in another town.

Instances of domestic violence are higher in

## GARAGE SALE

■ Collection of antique, classic auto parts to be turned into a shelter for battered women

Hereford than the national average and many of these women have no place to go except back to the abuser. A women's shelter would offer them at least a temporary alternative.

The shelter will not operate under the auspices of the hospital. It will be an independent entity operating as a nonprofit corporation managed by a board of directors.

The house which has been donated for use as a shelter was partially damaged in a fire last year. The first concern of the shelter's executive board is raising enough money to repair the damage caused by the fire and make the house habitable once again.

"We hope the community will join us in this effort when they see what an immense need we have for a shelter," Robinson said.

According to Robinson, when the structural damage has been repaired and interior work begins, they will make appeals to local clubs, sororities and organizations

to "adopt" a room in the house and help with furnishing it.

"Each organization who adopts a room will receive special recognition for their help," Robinson said.

But the first — and perhaps the largest — step will be this weekend with the garage sale to raise funds to begin the work.

## Renewal of domestic violence act pushed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Women's rights groups and President Clinton began heaping pressure on the Republican-controlled Senate to renew the Violence Against Women Act that is to expire Saturday.

"It is now time for the Senate to act," Clinton said. "With over 70 sponsors in the Senate, there is no reason for delay."

Passage of the act is at "the top" of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott's list and could come up for a vote this week, his spokesman said.

The act's renewal passed the House, 415-3 on Tuesday. It authorizes \$3.6 billion over five years for programs that include law enforcement and judicial training, grants for domestic violence shelters, child abuse prevention programs and a national domestic violence hot line. It was originally passed in 1994.

National Organization for Women President Patricia Ireland said renewal "is down to the

wire."

"Some conservative members of Congress, including the leadership, apparently do not consider stopping violence against women a national priority," she said.

Judiciary Chairman Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., said action has been taken to keep money flowing even if Congress does not meet Saturday's deadline. "It remains a priority of this Congress," Hyde said.

But the Senate version may face hurdles. Senate Republicans have floated the idea of attaching the legislation to a bill that would overhaul the nation's bankruptcy laws. The twinned proposals would then be appended to one of the 11 appropriations bills that Congress still must enact to keep the government in operation. Women's rights groups oppose such action.

House members voting against the measure were Republican Reps. Helen Chenoweth-Hage

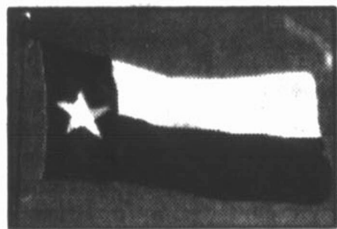
of Idaho, John Hostettler of Indiana and Mark Sanford Jr. of South Carolina.

The House action came one day after Clinton accused lawmakers of treating the measure like a political football for its stalled passage.

Vice President Al Gore said the House "has taken an important bipartisan step toward final passage of this much-needed legislation."

The measure remains without a key provision that would allow rape victims to sue their attackers in federal court. The Supreme Court said in May that it is up to states, not Congress, to choose whether to protect women in that way, and Congressional Democrats tried but failed this year to reinstate the provision in acceptable language.

As left by the Supreme Court, the law now essentially provides a federal dispensary for grants and programs aimed at preventing family violence and helping abused spouses — normally women — flee it.



## Greens outdoing Texas Demos

■ Third party puts more non-presidential statewide candidates on the Nov. 7 ballot than do the formerly dominant Democrats

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Democrats, already overshadowed by Republican Gov. George W. Bush running for president, have fielded the fewest number of candidates for statewide office of the four parties on the ballot.

The Green Party, meanwhile, is on the Texas ballot for the first time and has four candidates for statewide office in addition to presidential candidate Ralph Nader. The Democrats have only three non-presidential statewide candidates.

"We are really snowballing," said Adrienne Boer, co-chair of the Travis County Green

Party. "We are really picking up a lot of momentum."

Republicans have nine statewide candidates and the Libertarians have seven, plus their presidential contenders.

The Natural Law Party has no candidates on the state ballot because the Secretary of State's Office contends it did not collect the 37,000 signatures it needed from eligible voters. The party, which claims the state did not fairly check the names, will be in court Thursday to try get three statewide candidates on the ballot.

The Reform Party, begun by Dallas billionaire Ross Perot after he ran for president in the 1992 presidential election as an Independent, is not on the ballot, although presidential candidate Pat Buchanan is listed as an independent.

Vickie Flores, chair of the Libertarian Party of Dallas County, said increasingly voters are

viewing third-party candidates as valid contenders.

"People who have heard of us are actually starting to question the status quo," Flores said.

However, Richard Murray, a political science professor at the University of Houston, said third parties, excluding Perot's Reform Party, typically have a small impact on statewide elections.

Libertarians, for example, typically get only around 10 percent of the vote if a Libertarian is in a two-person race, he said, adding that Green Party candidates probably will follow that trend.

"In most areas, the Green Party will run in single digits," he said.

Contested statewide offices this year include a U.S. Senate seat, which Republican incum-

Please see TEXAS, Page A7

SEPTEMBER 28, 2000

HEREFORD BRAND

Local roundup

• Homecoming parade entries •

It's Homecoming time once again and the staff at the Hereford High School invite the community to enter the parade, which will be 4 p.m., Oct. 6. Awards will be given for the best elementary, best car, most creative, best business, most school spirit, best theme, and best overall.

For more information, please call 363-7620.

• Red Cross sponsors first aid class •

There will be a community first aid and safety class held 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Tri-County Red Cross office, 224 S. Main.

The class includes adult, infant and child CPR and first aid. The cost is \$35 and reservations need to be made by calling 364-3761. The class will be limited to the first 10 people who pre-register and pre-pay.

• TBSWCD holds director election •

An election of a soil and water conservation district director to serve in Zone 4 of the Tierra Blanca Soil and Water Conservation District will be 8-11 a.m., Oct. 11 at 315 W. Third.

Candidates must own agricultural land in the zone he represents, be at least 18-years old and be actively involved in farming or ranching.

For more information, contact the Tierra Blanca Soil and Water Conservation District office at 364-0530 ext. 3.

• Hospice meetings •

Crown of Texas Hospice families, volunteers and staff will gather together to celebrate the memories and lives of their loved ones on Oct. 1 at the Fellowship of Believers Church. A reception will follow.

Baptist St. Anthony's Hospice is sponsoring a six weeks support group for those who have lost a loved one. The program is free. For more information, contact the BSA Hospice at 806-212-8777.

• Early Childhood Education Clinic •

Hereford Independent School District and Region XVI will be hosting an early childhood education clinic to screen children who may have physical or learning disabilities. The clinic will be 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Oct. 13, in the HISD building. Appointments are necessary and a parent or legal guardian will need to accompany the child. Appointments can be made by calling by 363-7600.

• Senior Center's open house •

The Hereford Senior Citizens Center will host its 25th Anniversary Open House beginning at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. The public is invited to come see the center, dine, and hear the music of the Ottwell Twins and Calvary.

HEREFORD BRAND

School news

• Administration •

Hereford Independent School District's special education department will present a video explaining the ARD Committee Decision-making Process for the Texas Assessment Program (Grades 3-8) at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 16 on Hereford Cablevision.

The same video will be offered for public viewing at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 2 in the HISD Administration Building, 601 N. 25 Mile Ave.

• Hereford High School •

Homecoming dress up days will be Oct. 2-6.

Monday - Drive Harvesters Crazy, dress crazy

Tuesday - Make war, not peace on Harvesters, hippy day

Wednesday - Round up the Harvesters, Cowboy day

Thursday - Put the Harvesters to sleep, pajama day

Friday - Herd upon a Time, dress for your class float.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News digest

• Feds indict six Dallas men •

DALLAS (AP) — Federal authorities have issued arrest warrants for six North Texas men alleged to have run a two-year scheme that bilked thousands of dollars from the state's worker compensation fund.

According to federal indictments, the three chiropractors and three health workers defrauded the state by padding insurance reimbursement records with ghost employees.

Officials from the FBI, U.S. Attorney's office and the Texas Workers' Compensation Insurance Fund had scheduled a news conference related to the charges for Thursday afternoon.

The indictments charge the men with health care fraud, mail fraud, money laundering and conspiracy to commit health care and mail fraud.

The six men listed in the indictments were Abdullah Abdulle, Charles Dramiga, Rantiola Ogun, Mark Prii, Aftab Qureshi and Jesus Alejandro Villareal.

Villareal was the alleged ringleader and bag man for the group. Some of the checks from the scheme were sent to a Richardson post office box registered to a company called DFW Therapeutics.

The scheme began in Aug. 1998 when an undercover FBI agent posing as an insurance broker approached Villareal and told him he could bilk money out of insurers by adding fictitious names to workers compensation claims.

The indictments show at least \$16,467.40 in false claims from September through December of last year were sent to the post office box.

HerefordBrand

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O.G. Nieman  
Mauri Montgomery  
Donald M. Cooper  
Jay Guerrero

Publisher (1972-98)  
Publisher  
Managing Editor  
Circulation Manager

High bid items



Not just junk — As far as auctions go, the Nazarene Christian Academy school auction items are in a class by themselves. The auction, which will be Saturday, will include such items as this five-person hot tub, and the hand-built

red cedar playhouse. Other items include a 1994 Suburban, a trampoline, swingset, furniture and baked goods. The community is encouraged to come support the school or just come and be part of the fun.

SHSU Chi Omega sorority suspended

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — A date rape plot by two women against a fellow member of a Sam Houston State University sorority preceded the East Texas school's decision to shut down the campus group for hazing, according to a published report.

The sorority sisters who allegedly gave the victim the date rape drug then drove her to the apartment of a male friend, who had sex with her the following morning, according to the Houston Chronicle's Thursday editions.

The newspaper said Sam Houston State's suspension of the Chi Omega chapter's charter was the first time that a fraternal organization has been banned from the campus in Huntsville, 70 miles north of Houston.

The victim's mother said her daughter was targeted in February because sorority members had grown tired of hearing her talk about being a virgin.

"They wanted to make her like them," the mother, whose identity was withheld to protect her daughter, told the newspaper. "They kept saying, 'We're going to corrupt you — we're going to get you involved.'"

She said some sorority sisters began calling the freshman victim "Special K" after the date rape attack in an apparent reference to the date-rape drug Ketamine, which they allegedly slipped into a drink on Feb. 16.

The hallucinogenic drug has been connected nationwide to at least one death of a teen-

ager who mixed it with heroin and has also been linked to numerous sexual assaults and thefts from veterinarians' offices and hospitals.

The Walker County district attorney's office is investigating rape allegations being pressed by the mother and daughter.

The victim, who rejected requests from sorority officials that she remain with the group after the reported attack, moved into a university dormitory and then transferred from SHSU to another university later that semester after harassment by the campus group, the mother said.

"They screamed her off campus," she said, adding that SHSU was "whitewashing" her daughter's abuse by focusing on more minor hazing inci-

dents. University spokesman Frank Krystyniak said only that a seven-month investigation into unspecified hazing incidents during the fall of 1999 revealed no documented physical injuries as a result.

Chi Omega National Organization, which oversees more than 170 collegiate chapters, assisted Sam Houston's investigation.

Mary Ann Fruge, national president of Chi Omega, said the group takes hazing reports seriously.

"Chi Omega seeks to foster mutual respect for all members," Fruge said. "Thus hazing has no place in Chi Omega. In addition, Chi Omega has found that the chapter failed to adhere to Chi Omega procedures."

Sony's PlayStation 2 in short supply

NEW YORK (AP) — Sony will deliver only half the number of PlayStation 2 video game consoles it originally estimated this fall, potentially making the holiday shopping season even more stressful.

Sony Corp. said Wednesday it can only ship 500,000 consoles by its North America debut on Oct. 26, instead of the 1 million units initially projected. It was expected to be the year's hottest holiday item.

The company blames production delays stemming from a component shortage. It said

the initial shipment will be followed by 100,000 units per week until year's end.

Sony said the modified schedule will not affect availability of PlayStation 2 during the holiday season, anticipating there will be about 1.3 million units in supply.

"We will be able to supply a flow of products, instead of a huge initial spike," said Kaz Hirai, chief operating officer.

Sony Computer Entertainment America Inc. also said Wednesday that it would still meet its target of shipping 10 million units of the game

worldwide, including 3 million to North America, by March 2001.

In March, when PlayStation 2 was first released in Japan, the company had a similar problem, delaying shipment of 260,000 units because of a shortage of computer hardware.

Thousands of people lined up outside stores in Tokyo the day before the game machines went on sale and, at most shops, the PlayStation 2 sold out within an hour.

Sony is counting heavily on

the sleek, black console to give it a boost in its war against Japanese rivals Sega Enterprises, which makes the Dreamcast console, and Nintendo, maker of the N64 console and the portable Game Boy.

PlayStation 2, the successor to the 5-year-old PlayStation, has vivid graphics, an ability to connect to the Internet and can play DVD movies and compact discs. It will cost about \$300.

The company is expected to launch PlayStation 2 in Europe on Nov. 24.

UT Medical Branch resumes inmate research

HOUSTON (AP) — Officials at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston say they are close to resuming medical research involving

inmate volunteers after addressing patient safety issues raised last month by a federal agency.

The federal Office for Human Research Protections has accepted the research institution's plan to address

safety lapses, which included risky drug experiments and possible conflicts of interest with the internal boards that review research.

"Their approval allows us to re-review the studies they have restricted," Dr. John Stobo, the medical branch's president, told the Houston Chronicle in Thursday's editions. "If we find them satisfactory (and confirm the findings with OHRP), the studies can begin again."

Some of the 220 research projects using inmate patients could resume within two weeks, while others could take as long as two months.

The Office for Human Research Protections, which is a division of the Department of Health and Human Services, ordered the medical branch to halt research on Aug. 31.

The agency also ordered the University of Miami to stop some of their studies on prisoners and noted shortcomings at the University of Florida and Yale, but did not order those schools to close any research projects.

Among the safety lapses addressed by the medical

branch's review was federal investigators problems with a 37-member review board, which was charged with screening human-subject research proposals for safety and ethics violations.

Federal authorities worried one panel could not handle the volume of proposal submitted by researchers. The medical branch has proposed having two review boards of 20 members each.

The oversight agency was also concerned that a medical branch employee served as an inmate advocate on the research review board.

Medical branch officials plan to find as many as two prisoner advocates to place on each board and submit their qualifications to the Human Research Protections office.

In a letter to the medical branch, the federal agency's chief, Dr. Sanford Leikin wrote that before the institution could resume most experiments it needs to develop a plan to follow up with inmate patients after their release from prison, if needed for a study.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas lottery

Pick 3  
The winning Pick 3 numbers drawn Wednesday by the Texas Lottery, in order:

9-2-6

Lotto

One ticket correctly matched all six numbers drawn Wednesday night for the twice-weekly Lotto Texas game, state lottery officials said.

The ticket was worth an estimated \$19 million.

The ticket was sold in: Gilchrist.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night from a field of 54 were:

9-17-23-44-45-49.

Saturday night's drawing will be worth an estimated \$4 million.

HEREFORD BRAND  
Emergency services

Activities reported by emergency services personnel for Sept. 26, 2000, include the following:

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
Arrests

- A man was arrested in the 1000 block of 13th and charged with traffic violations and outstanding municipal warrants.

Incidents

- A woman attempted to sell several items in the 500 block of North 25 Mile Avenue. The reporting person felt items may have been stolen.

- A theft over \$50 and under \$500 was reported in the 700 block of La Plata.

# LIFESTYLES

HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, September 28, 2000 • A3

CREATORS SYNDICATE

## Ann Landers



Ann Landers

**Dear Ann Landers:** I am writing about the letter from "Daughters in Turmoil," whose elderly father is being taken advantage of by

strangers. (They move in, free-load, and he can't get rid of them.) There is help out there for people like that elderly gentleman.

My father was in a similar situation involving a woman he met on the Internet. She claimed she was in love with him, even though she had met him only once. The woman wanted to marry my father, get him to sell his house and move to California, even though he had medical problems and his doctor did not recommend the stress of moving. She promised to "take care of him until he died."

We contacted our local Elder Abuse Center and asked for help. Family Protective Services arranged a court date and appointed a conservator to take control of Dad's medical care and finances. This prevented him from having a quickie wedding, and has allowed him to maintain financial independence. We shudder to think what would have happened if the authorities had not stepped in. Please tell "Daughters" to contact their local elder abuse or family service agency for assistance.

— Concerned Family in Florida  
**Dear Family:** Thank you for sharing the information. Those who believe their elderly parents are being victimized by con artists will appreciate

knowing help is available to protect them.

**Dear Ann Landers:** My husband and I are expecting our first child. When I found out I was pregnant, we chose to tell only a few close friends and our immediate family members. We explained that we wanted it to be kept quiet, and everyone agreed, not to say anything.

We attended a family wedding two weeks ago, and discovered that my mother-in-law had spilled the beans to everybody. When we asked her why she did that, she said, "But it's such wonderful news." I was livid.

After the wedding, I wrote my mother-in-law a note expressing my anger and asking for an apology. Not only has she not apologized, she is upset with me because my anger showed at the wedding. Was it wrong of me to expect her to keep quiet? How can I restore the peace? — Messed Up in Maryland

**Dear Maryland:** You owe your mother-in-law an apology for that angry letter, and the sooner you do it, the better. Mom should not have blabbed, but if you don't want news to get around, don't tell ANYBODY. And next time you "get mad" at somebody, hide the writing utensils until you cool off.

**Dear Ann Landers:** Will you please say something in your column about people who have no manners at wedding receptions?

My niece was married last weekend. The decor was simply beautiful, and the food was artfully presented. The caterer prepared an elegant fruit basket with swans sculpted out of

cantaloupe and birds made from apples. It was gorgeous.

When the guests arrived, they descended on the food table like a herd of locusts. They destroyed the displays, hacked off the swans' heads, and threw the apples all over the place. One woman leaned so far over the table that her elbows were in the pasta. The groom's cousin picked all the radish flowers off the display and threw them on the floor. I was appalled.

What is wrong with these people? Was there something I could have done to stop the boorishness? — Still in Shock in Middle America

**Dear Middle America:** Probably not. Sounds as if the clods spent too much time at the bar.

Forget to save some of your favorite Ann Landers columns? "Nuggets and Doozies" is the answer. Send a self-addressed, long, business-size envelope and a check or money order for \$5.25 (this includes postage and handling) to: Nuggets, c/o Ann Landers, P.O. Box 11562, Chicago, Ill. 60611-0562. (In Canada, send \$6.25.)

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).

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**PARADES INSURANCE GROUP**  
AUTO LIFE HOME BUSINESS



Tracy Schulze (center front), bride-elect of Clay Harper, was honoree at a bridal shower Sunday in the home of Carolyn Baxter. Also pictured are Melissa Jones (right front), mother of the bride-elect; Vicki Harper (left front), mother of the prospective groom; (back from left) Alta Meadows, grandmother of the future groom; Renee Schulze, sister of the bride-elect; and Lajeane Henry, grandmother of the bride-elect.

## Bridal shower honors Schulze

Tracy Schulze, bride-elect of Clay Harper, was honored with a bridal shower Sunday in the home of Carolyn Baxter.

Guests were greeted by the honoree; Melissa Jones, mother of the bride-elect; Vicki Harper, mother of the future

groom; Lajeane Henry, grandmother of the bride-elect; Alta Meadows, grandmother of the future groom; and Renee Schulze, sister of the bride-elect.

A fall cornucopia decorated the table from which refresh-

ments were served.

A vacuum cleaner was the gift from hostesses Mary Beth White, Mysedia Smith, Pat Stone, Cindy Cassels, Judy Williams, Francyne Bromlow, Merle Clark, JoAnn Hill, Carolyn Baxter and Jeri Bezner.

## Bodner gives program during meeting of Xi Epsilon Alpha

Sharon Bodner gave the program when Xi Epsilon Alpha chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority met recently in her home.

Bodner gave a presentation on Sacagawea, the Indian guide for explorers Lewis and Clark.

During the business meeting, reports of the various

committees were presented.

Peggy Hyer quizzed members on "history" and each wrong answer netted money for the Christmas Stocking Fund.

Reports on the garage sale were given by Debbie Holmes.

Linda Arellano and Connie Matthews will be hostesses for the Oct. 3 meeting in Arellano's home.

Following the meeting, Bodner served refreshments of miniature cheese cakes, assorted pretzels and iced tea.

Members present were Melinda Henson, Marge Bell, Diane Kreig, Holly Bixler, Jana Morgan, Gaye Reily, Susan Shaw, Hyer, Mimms, Bodner, Matthews, Holmes and Arellano.

## HHS speech team earns honors

Members of the Hereford High School speech team earned honors recently at Pampa High School's Invitational TFA qualifying tournament.

Barrett Abernethy and Cassie Daniel advanced to the quarter-finals in Cross Examination Debate, and Amariah Rodriguez advanced to semi-finals in Foreign Extemporaneous Speaking, Prose and Poetry.

Placing third in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate were Jacob Spriggs and Seth Tebeest, and advancing to the quarter-finals in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate were Toby Meeks and Ammie

Wharton.

Top honors were earned by Cassie Hulseley and Aaron Landers as they won the Team

Cross Examination Debate and have now qualified for the Texas Forensic Association State Tournament to be held in March.

### Hereford & Vicinity YMCA

# STEPPING AEROBICS

5:30 am - MWF Instructor: Gayle Nielsen  
6:00 pm - MTWT Instructors: Heather Wilburn & Yvette Gambou

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

### 10:00AM

# NCA AUCTION

NAZARENE CHURCH PARKING LOT  
1410 LA PLATA STREET HEREFORD, TX  
ALL DAY CONCESSION—BRISKET—HOT DOGS—CREPES

HERD SIGNS  
Smoked Brisket

20ft TRAVEL TRAILER

94 Chev Suburban

HAND MADE CROSSES

- Two Welders
- Air Compressors
- 20 Round Bales Hay
- Vet Supplies
- Shop Equipment
- Many Other Great Items

1982 Mazda

•MATTRESS SET  
•FREEZERS  
•REFRIGERATORS  
•COMPUTER DESK  
•FURNITURE  
•50# BOXED BEEF

1988 CONVERSION VAN

Handmade Quilt

Sundance Hot Tub  
5 Person

-Car Wash-  
Casserole Sale

trampoline

1974 Intl Bus  
48 Passenger With  
Wheel Chair Lift

**All Proceeds to Benefit Nazarene Christian Academy 1410 LaPlata Street**  
Terms - Cash or Check With Proper ID - ANNOUNCEMENTS SALE DAY TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL PRINTED INFORMATION  
Auctioneer Brice Busby TX LIC. 11407 Hereford, TX 806-364-7597

### MOOVIES 6

Superfund Mall 400 N. 25 Mile Ave., Hereford, TX  
BUSINESS OFFICE CALL: 364-0101  
MOVIE HOTLINE CALL: 364-9000

Fri., Sept. 29th - Thurs., Oct. 5th

<b>THE WATCHERS</b> 1:45 & 4:00	<b>THE CELL</b> 1:45 & 4:00
<b>HIGHLANDER</b> 2:00 & 4:15	<b>THE REPLACEMENTS</b> 1:25 & 4:10
<b>URBAN LEGENDS</b> 1:45 & 4:05	<b>WHAT LIES BENEATH</b> 1:20 & 4:00

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LIFESTYLES



**In attendance** at the NSDAR Constitution Week Luncheon held Saturday at the Amarillo Country Club were (from left) State Regent Mrs. John Dale Ramp; Mrs. Ernest Brainard of Amarillo; Nell Findley of Llano Estacado Chapter NSDAR; and Jean Beene, vice regent of Los Ciboleros Chapter NSDAR.

## Constitution Week Luncheon is held at Amarillo Country Club

Los Ciboleros Chapter NSDAR was represented at the annual area Constitution Week Luncheon held Saturday in the Azalea Room of the Amarillo Country Club by Mrs. Luther Norvell, vice regent of lineage research, TSDAR; Jean G. Beene, vice regent of Los Ciboleros Chapter; and Mrs. James N. Smith of the American Indian committee.

Mrs. Ernest Brainard of Amarillo, an honorary state regent and a member of the resolutions committee of Los

Ciboleros Chapter, introduced the speaker for the day, Mrs. John Dale Ramp of Canadian, current State Regent.

Ramp's address centered on the five of the first amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, especially Amendments Four and Five which have to do with individual privacy.

Ramp stated that a major concern of the framers of the U.S. Constitution was the government not be able to intrude on individual rights and privacy, but

if they were present today, they would also be concerned about the intrusion of "big business."

Color guard for the occasion was a squad of second and third year cadets from Palo Duro High School Air Force JROTC.

Llano Estacado Chapter NSDAR of Amarillo was host chapter, with Arredondo Chapter and Ester McCrory Chapters, also of Amarillo, as participating chapters. Nell Findley of Llano Estacado led the program.

Representatives of eight area chapters were present.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

## Area Events

**AMARILLO**  
The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Circle of Friends will present the 10th Annual Susan G. Komen Amarillo Race for the Cure on Saturday, Oct. 7. Registration begins at 7 a.m. with events starting at 8 a.m. at Harrington Cancer Center, 1500 Wallace Blvd.

The 2000 Komen Amarillo Race for the Cure includes a co-ed 5K Run/Walk and a 1+ Mile Fun Run/Walk. The day will begin with an aerobic warm-up at 8 a.m., the 5K and Teams start at 8:30 a.m., with the 1+ Mile Fun Run/Walk starting at 8:45 a.m.

The awards ceremony will begin at 9:45 a.m., immediately following the race.

Entry fee for the race is \$15 if postmarked on or before Sept. 29 and \$20 after. Children 7 and under are free.

The first 2,000 entrants, excluding children 7 and under, will receive a Komen Amarillo Race for the Cure T-shirt and a race goodie bag.

For further information, contact Cinda Courtney at 806-356-1913.

The Development Council of The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center will present The Stars At Night Gala from 7 p.m.-midnight on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Amarillo Country Club.

The gala features a gourmet dinner buffet prepared by the chef of the Amarillo Country Club.

The main entertainment is Custom Made, who will perform lively dance music from the past four decades.

Guests will have the opportunity to bid on a spectacular gala art and celebrity item auction, along with a live auction.

Tickets are \$50 for the evening and are available for purchase from The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.

For information, call Tracy Dougherty at 806-356-1908.

The Crystal Clear Tour featuring Jaci Velasquez with special guest, Plus One, will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 5 at San Jacinto Baptist Church, 801 Tascosa Rd.

Velasquez made a confident stride into the Latin music market this year with her first all Spanish recording *Llegar A Ti*, for which she received RIAA certification of Latin Platinum within

seven months of the album's release.

She also received her first Grammy nomination for "Best Latin Pop Performance."

Velasquez has made appearances on "The Donnie and Marie Show" and "Cristina" and appeared on the cover of several national magazines.

Plus One is comprised of Jason Perry, Nate Cole, Jeremy Mhire, Gabe Combs and Nathan Walters. Their debut project, *The Promise*, was released on May 23 and sold nearly 20,000 records in its first week.

Tickets for the concert are \$16.50 in advance and \$18.50 at the door. Group rate is \$13.50.

For local ticket information, call 800-791-3309.

Amarillo Genealogical Society announces its Annual Fall Seminar on Saturday, Oct. 7 featuring Jim Slade, chairman of the National Genealogical Society Computer Interest Group, lecturer, writer and instructor of computer genealogy.

The seminar will be held from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. in the Amarillo College West Campus Lecture Hall, 6222 W. 9th Ave. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

Programs will include Using Technology Effectively, How to

Use the LDS Family History Library Records and Restore Your Ancestor's Image.

Lunch is brown bag or have lunch off campus. Cost is \$22.50 if postmarked before Oct. 2 or \$27 after. Mail to the Amarillo Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 19428, Amarillo, Texas 79114.

**CANYON**  
The University Study Club will hold its annual Home Tour from 2-5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 8 to earn money for the many community projects it supports.

There will be a baked goods sale at the Country Kitchen in the First State Bank of Canyon, 1908 4th Ave., during the same hours.

Tickets at \$5 in advance or \$7 at the door.

Houses on the Home tour include:

- 605 5th Ave., home of Jim and Marilyn Childers. Built in 1910 and was remodeled starting in 1998.
- 15 Bunker Pass, home of Edgar and Mattie Ruth Robinson. Built in 1989.
- County Road 298, East, home of Dr. and Mrs. Larry C. Roberts. Built in 1998-1999.
- Fourth Ave. and Brown Rd., home of Dr. and Mrs. Scott Burner. Built in 1907 with addition in 1993.

## Craft booths available

Wesley United Methodist Church will host its 20th annual Festival of Arts and Crafts from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Dec. 2 in the Hereford Community Center.

Only a limited number of booths are available, with applications being screened. Booth fee is \$10.

Applications may be obtained

by writing to Ellen Collins, 801 Miles St., Hereford, Texas 79045 or by calling 806-364-0774.



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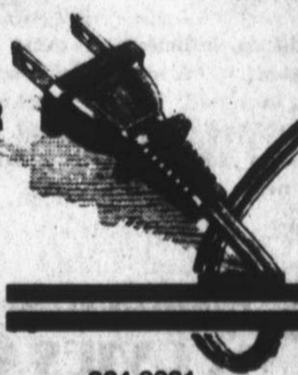
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WEEK OF Sept. 28 - Oct. 1, 2000

<b>AQUATIC PAVILION</b> Saturday, September 30, 1:00-4:00 Tonya Castillo	<b>AQUATIC PAVILION</b> Sunday, October 1, 12:00-10:00 Guerrero Family
<b>NW CORNER DAMERON W/V-BALL</b> Saturday, September 30, 3:00-6:00 Raquel Martinez	<b>VETERAN'S</b> Sunday, October 1, 2:00-10:00 Rosa Ontiveros
<b>NW CORNER DAMERON PARK W/V-BALL</b> Sunday, October 1, 5:00-10:00 Connic Soto	



Reservations are taken for a special park location on a first come, first served basis. Reservations must be made in person at the City Hall.

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# SPORTS

A5 • HEREFORD BRAND • Thursday, September 28, 2000

## Smits calls it a career

■ Foot problems force Pacer center into retirement

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Rik Smits never lost his love for basketball, but his aching size-21 feet told him it was time to get out.

The 7-foot-4 center, who played more games for the Indiana Pacers than any player except Reggie Miller, retired on Wednesday, less than a week before training camp opens.

He said he made his decision several weeks ago, but at the urging of team president Donnie Walsh took more time to think things over.

"I always felt like I would retire at or near the top," Smits said during a news conference at Conseco Fieldhouse. "This past year, I felt I went a little over the top. I said from the beginning as soon as I'm going downhill or I'm over the hill, I'd like to call it quits."

Smits, one of NBA's best shooting big men, wouldn't rule out a comeback with the Pacers, provided his legs feel better.

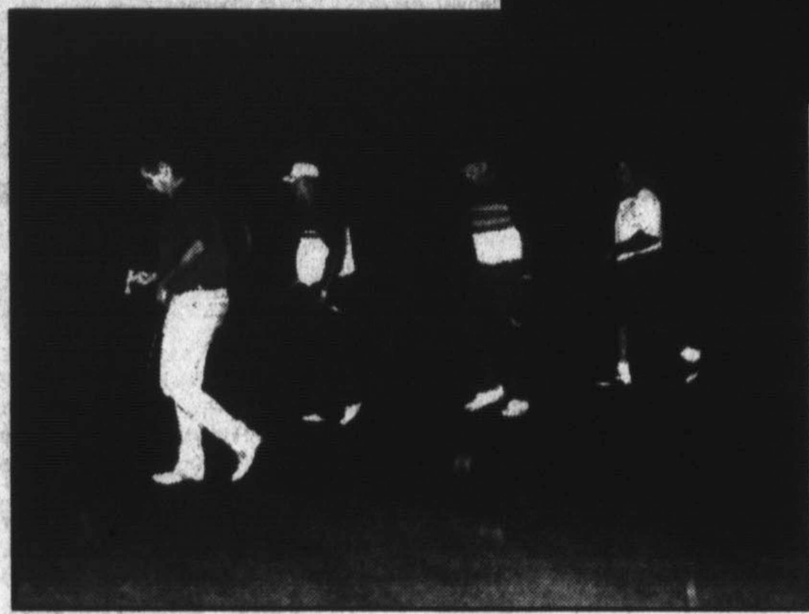
"I'll leave the door open," he said. "These years have flown by so fast, it's going to be interesting to see how fast this year is going to go. It's going to be different sitting at home watching the guys on TV every night. I'm not sure I'm going to like it or not."

"If for some reason I get real energized over this winter and get feeling healthy again, we'll see what happens next summer."



RIK SMITS

## Night Owls



## PUTTING BY TWILIGHT

The Hereford Chamber of Commerce hosted a night golf tourney Wednesday at the John Pitman Municipal Golf Course. One picture (top) captures the lights moving around hole eight throughout the evening. There is light in the gully in the middle of the shot, and light at the far right caused by cart and golfer movement. The shot also shows the slight movement of the stars in the sky above. Four golfers (below) walk off the eighth green after putting out. (Photos by Jeff Blackmon)

## Drug use plagues US at Olympics

■ United States feeling backlash about athletes doping

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — News that world shot put champion C.J. Hunter — husband of Olympic sprinter Marion Jones — failed four drug tests and that more than a dozen other U.S. drug cases were suppressed has sparked a "we-told-you-so" barrage against the United States.

"There is a perception in Europe that while the U.S. is very critical and very aggressive toward people who have responsibility for anti-doping, there isn't a lot of evidence there has been a big focus on the problem in the U.S.," said Kevan Gosper, an International Olympic Committee vice president from Australia.

"Some of the most high-profile sports in the U.S. on the Olympic program do not submit themselves to vigorous anti-doping tests. Maybe it needs something like this for the Americans to take a hard look at themselves," he said.

On Thursday (Wednesday night EDT), IOC general secretary Francois Carrard praised U.S. officials for leading the

See DRUGS, Page A6

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## District debut

■ Whitefaces look for big challenge at Borger

By Jeff Blackmon  
Hereford Brand Sports Editor

It is time to get down to business.

After posting a 2-1 record in the preseason and by beating the top ranked team in the state handedly 48-28 in Frenship last Friday, the Hereford Whitefaces are ready to begin the real part of the football season against their foes in District 3-4A starting with the Borger Bulldogs tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Borger.

Boys Athletic Director and head football coach Craig Yenzler said the Frenship game gave them a big boost at the end of a strange non-district season.

"It was a great confidence deal," Yenzler said. "We have had an unusual pre-season. We have had the highest of highs and the lowest of lows."

Yenzler said experiencing such an emotional roller coaster before the district season began has helped his team find themselves. The coach said that is a good thing because the real part of the season begins tomorrow night. Yenzler said he knows the road to success is through their district including the road to the playoffs.

"They feel good about themselves, but they know there is still a lot of work to be done," Yenzler said. "We are not by any means where we need to be yet."

"Certainly they understand the challenges ahead; however, if they do not I will make sure they understand this week," Yenzler said.

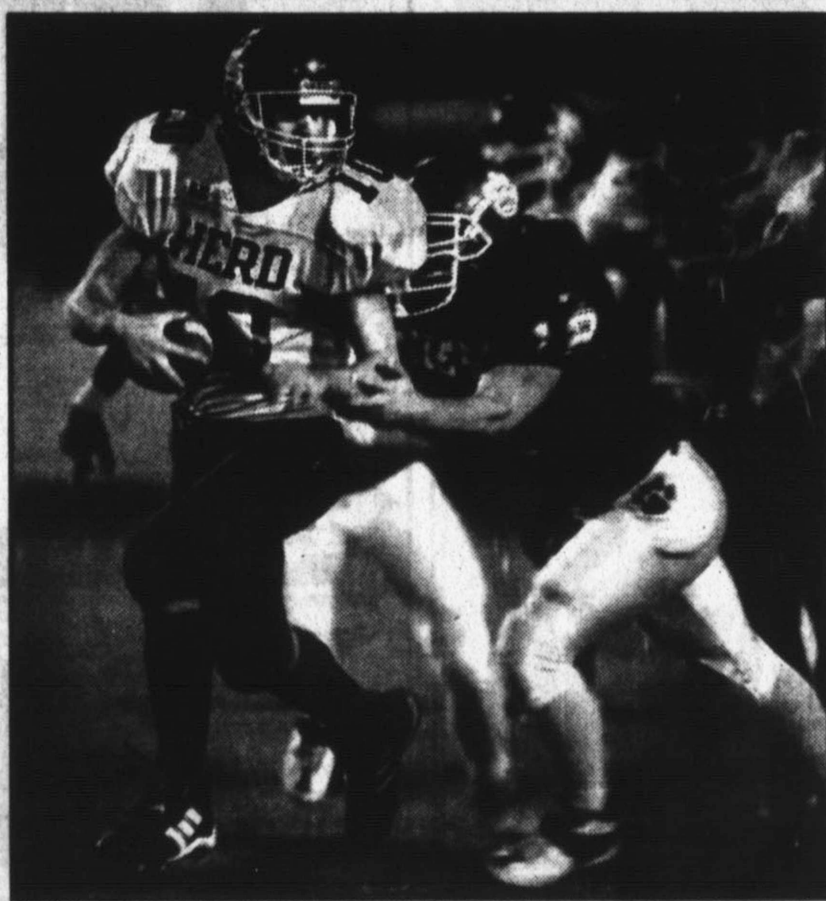
The Whitefaces will take on a Borger team that finished second in District 3-4A last

season and will be a tough test for the Whitefaces.

After playing Borger in Borger tomorrow, the Whitefaces have to play a surging

Pampa team at home. Yenzler said the idea of playing the two back-to-back is scary. The

See BORGER, Page A6



Getting away—Senior quarterback Cody Hodges eludes Frenship tacklers last Friday.

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## BAD IDEA

■ Braves closer nearly hit by beer bottle

NEW YORK (AP) — A man imprisoned in the death of his newborn son pleaded innocent Wednesday to a charge of interfering with police after a friend allegedly threw a bottle at Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rucker.

Police said the bottle was thrown from the first-base box seats.

It landed about 10 feet from Rucker as he warmed up on the mound at Shea Stadium, where the Braves played the Mets on Tuesday night.

When police tried to arrest Raymond Maniaci, of Wyckoff, N.J., his hometown friend Brian Peterson got between them and his friend and refused to step away, police told the Daily News and New York Post.

Peterson, 22, was released on his own recognizance Wednesday after pleading innocent at his arraignment. Peterson served 1-1/2 years in prison after pleading guilty to manslaughter — along with his girlfriend.



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INSIDE

# Houston clubs Pirates, 10-1

## ■ Bagwell leads Houston in numbers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Jeff Bagwell has great stats, yet nowhere to go in October. He'd much rather have average stats and a chance to play in the postseason again.

Bagwell hit his career-high 46th home run and drove in four runs as the Astros beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 10-1 Wednesday night.

"My job is not to put up big stats, it's to help us win baseball games," Bagwell said. "If I hit a certain stat that helps us get to the playoffs, that's all that matters to me. But it's not, 'Hey, I hit 70 home runs and we didn't win anything.'"

"Even Mark McGwire said that. It's great that you hit 70 and it's awesome and all that, but the bottom line is we're here to win games," he said.

Bagwell's three-run homer in the fifth came off Jimmy Anderson (5-11), two innings after Tim Bogar hit Houston's first inside-the-park homer of the season.

Bagwell has 131 RBIs and has scored 151 runs. The last major leaguer to score 150 runs in a season was Ted Williams in 1949.

"That's hard to fathom," Bagwell said. "I never feel like I'm in that category. Those are icons of the game. I'm very appreciative but it's hard for me to even relate to that."

Tony McKnight (4-1) held the Pirates to four hits for his first complete game, winning his fourth consecutive decision. He struck out seven and walked one. It was the Astros' eighth complete game.

"We gave the bullpen a night off and we haven't had many of those," manager Larry Dierker said. "He seemed to be able to hit either side of the plate whenever he wanted to. You look at the radar gun and he wasn't overpowering but he was always away from the middle of the strike zone."

Anderson opened the game by walking two hitters. Bagwell drove in one run with a fielder's choice and Richard Hidalgo doubled in the second to stretch his hitting streak.

## Borger

From Page A5

coach also said several other teams in district are showing signs of being difficult to beat.

"We've got two scary games back-to-back in Borger and at home against Pampa," Yenzler said. "Dumas is 3-0, and Randall and Canyon each won their first games last week."

"There are several teams in this district that are feeling pretty good about themselves. It is setting up to be a pretty good seven game stretch," Yenzler said.

The tough road ahead is another sign that Hereford High must focus on the game at hand and not look ahead. Yenzler said they have to take it one game at a time.

"We can't get too far-sighted," Yenzler said. "We've done a pretty good job at that except against Tascosa."

Yenzler said the Borger game will feature many Hereford and Borger students playing against each other for the third or fourth time. The coach said the two teams have faced one another several times during the years and should make for an interesting match-up.

"Borger is a quality team," Yenzler said. "Their senior class and our senior class have

battled for every year since seventh grade.

"It has always been nip and tuck, and it will be a good challenge for our football team," Yenzler said.

Borger features a one back offense that includes senior running back Eron Hanes. Yenzler said the team will run counter sweeps and throw in a lot of traps. The coach said Borger is an athletic team that can be lethal, but said he wants his team to stick with what makes them good.

"There are still a lot of things to get smoothed out, but we still must get better at the things we do," Yenzler said.

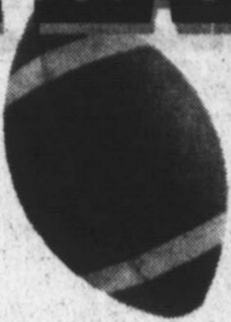
The coach also emphasized that the Whiteface defense will have to play a five man front instead of a four man front that they surprised Frenship with last week.

"We will get some of our big boys back in there up front," Yenzler said.

Going into week four, the coach said he is pleased with where things are. Yenzler said he is proud of his kids but still wants to cut down mistakes and refine their game.

"It's coming along nicely," Yenzler said.

# FEARLESS FORECASTERS



**Jeff Blackman**  
Sports Editor  
Last Week: 18-7  
Season: 45-30  
(.600)



**Mauri Montgomery**  
Publisher  
Last Week: 16-9  
Season: 52-23  
(.693)



**Don Cumpston**  
HEDC Director  
Last Week: 19-6  
Season: 53-22  
(.708)



**Rick Casteneda**  
Press Foreman  
Last Week: 12-7  
Season: 52-23  
(.693)



**Jeff Carlin**  
Booster Club Pres.  
Last Week: 18-7  
Season: 20-21  
(.680)

Tascosa at Abilene Cooper  
Permian at Lubbock Monterey  
Lubbock High at Fort Stockton  
Caprock at Canyon  
Randall at Dumas  
Palo Duro at Pampa  
Big Spring at Andrews  
Estacado at Frenship  
Snyder at Plainview  
Tulia at Muleshoe  
Littlefield at Lamesa  
Shamrock at Vega  
Kansas St. at Colorado  
Texas Tech at Texas A&M  
Oklahoma St. at Texas  
Angelo St. at WTAMU  
Missouri at Nebraska  
Florida at Mississippi St.  
Washington at Oregon  
New England at Denver  
Dallas at Carolina  
N.Y. Giants at Tennessee  
Chicago at Green Bay  
Atlanta at Philadelphia  
Tampa Bay at Washington

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Lubbock Canyon  
Dumas Pampa  
Big Spring Frenship  
Plainview Plainview  
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Vega  
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Tampa Bay

## Drugs

From Page A5

fight against drugs but said they still had work to do.

"They have shown the way. They have to follow it," he said.

The drug scandals have given International Olympic Committee officials ammunition to express the lingering anti-American resentment related to the Salt Lake City bribery case.

IOC members are still angry at being portrayed as corrupt as a whole. They're also still bitter over the scathing attacks by U.S. lawmakers and White House drug chief Barry McCaffrey, who said the IOC was unfit, unwilling and unable to lead the fight against drugs. While McCaffrey has recently praised the IOC's new anti-doping efforts, all has not been forgiven.

Even China, frequently targeted by U.S. swim coaches as being lax on drugs, has weighed in.

He Huixian, a spokeswoman for the Chinese Olympic Committee, said that, by suppressing Hunter's positive tests, U.S. track officials showed a lack of resolve in fighting doping.

"Only by properly managing your own affairs, with everybody doing a good job of their

own anti-doping work, can this big cancer be eradicated," he said. "You must start with yourself."

IOC vice president Dick Pound, a Canadian who never misses a chance to criticize the United States, said the country is in a "state of denial" about the drug problem.

"The United States has been very slow to recognize there is a problem in the U.S.," he said. "This is an opportunity to embrace the fact there is a problem, and show if they want to be a leader in world sport, that they are in fact leaders."

Although no current members of the U.S. Olympic team have been involved in the drug

case thus far, the criticism has stung America's Olympic leadership, who say they are being unfairly singled out.

"We're not aware of any positive tests whatsoever," U.S. Olympic Committee CEO Norm Blake said Thursday.

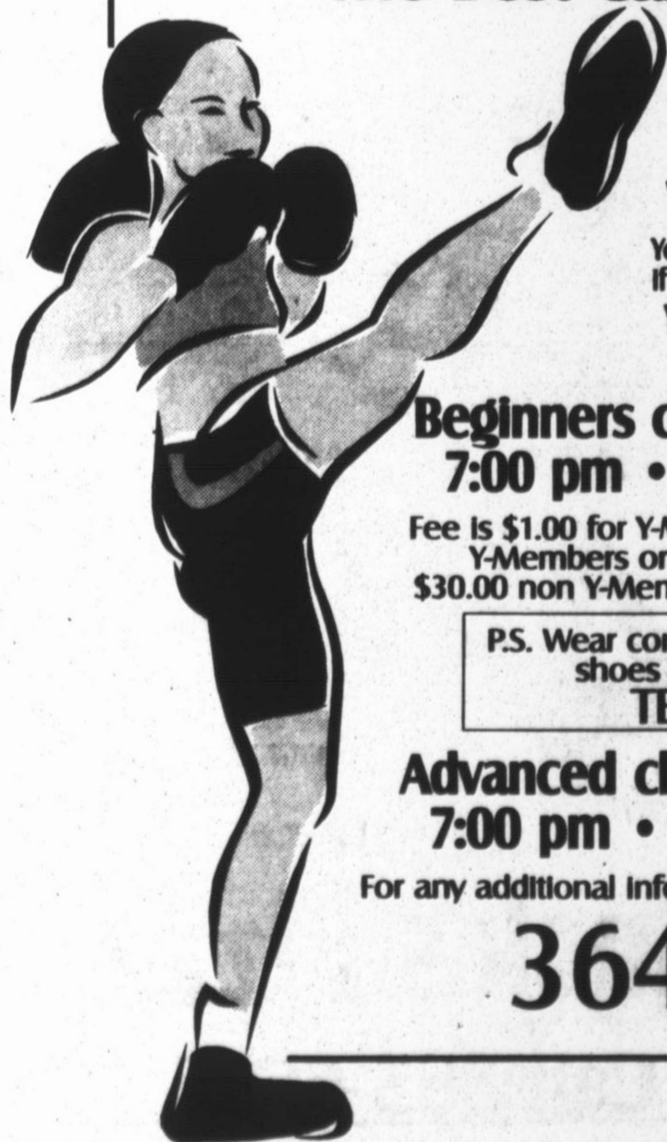
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INSIDE



Getting ready to play — Golfers line up to register Wednesday evening for the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce's annual "After Dark" tournament at John Pitman Municipal Golf Course. In another chamber-sponsored event, the fall "Fun Lunch" at noon Friday at the Hereford Community Center, 100 Ave. C. The sponsor is Ken Branum of Branum's Restaurant, which will serve the meal. The cost of the meal is \$6. Please register at the chamber office, 701 N. Main.

New trucking rules delayed

WASHINGTON (AP) — New federal rules on how long a trucker may stay behind the wheel will be put off for at least a year, upsetting highway safety advocates who say trucker fatigue contributes to hundreds of road fatalities annually. But Wolf, chairman of the House Appropriations panel on transportation, also cautioned: "I want to tell the trucking industry that we're not going to rest until there is a good rule to protect the public."

has led efforts to improve truck safety, said the compromise was fair because it would allow the Transportation Department to continue gathering data on how trucking hours can best be revised. But Wolf, chairman of the House Appropriations panel on transportation, also cautioned: "I want to tell the trucking industry that we're not going to rest until there is a good rule to protect the public."

posed rules to change an hours-of-service system adopted in 1937. Those rules were based on an 18-hour cycle of 10 hours driving and eight hours off, but since they don't account for the other six hours of the day a driver could legally stay behind the wheel for 16 hours in one 24-hour period. The department has estimated that those long hours are in part responsible for the 755 annual fatalities and nearly 20,000 injuries.

Texas

From Page A1 bent Kay Bailey Hutchison is trying to retain; two railroad commissioner spots; and three seats each on the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The Democrat running against Hutchison is retired Air Force lawyer Gene Kelly, who has run a low-key campaign and hasn't been embraced by Texas Democratic leaders.

The Democrats also have candidates running for two of the spots on the Court of Criminal Appeals. They, like the Republicans, have 106 candidates running for seats in the Texas Senate and House of Representatives. The Green Party is vying for U.S. Senate, two Railroad Commission spots and a Supreme Court seat. No Green Party candidates are running

for state Senate or House of Representatives. Democratic Chairwoman Molly Beth Malcolm in a prepared statement stressed her party's emphasis on legislative races this year. "Texas Democrats are on the verge of having majorities in both houses of the Legislature," Malcolm said. Democrats are positioned for the 2002 elections, she said.

Television

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28

Table listing TV programs for Thursday, September 28, with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and program titles.

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29

Table listing TV programs for Friday, September 29, with columns for time slots (7 AM to 12 PM) and program titles.

Table listing TV programs for Friday, September 29, with columns for time slots (12:30 to 5:30) and program titles.

Table listing TV programs for Friday, September 29, with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11 PM) and program titles.

Comics

The Wizard of Id By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



Barney Google & Snuffy Smith By Fred Lasswell



Beetle Bailey By Mort Walker



Blondie By Dean Young & Stan Drake



Marvin By Tom Armstrong









# World's top military getting frayed at edges?

WASHINGTON (AP) — The debate over whether U.S. troops are combat ready has produced a paradox about today's military: While called the best in the world, it also is described as overworked, underpaid, and short of ammunition, pilots and research dollars.

George W. Bush, the Republican presidential nominee, accuses the Clinton administration of running the military into the ground by sending it on too many overseas missions while skipping on defense dollars. Morale among the troops is sinking and combat readiness is on the decline, he proclaims.

In its defense, the Clinton administration points out that last year the troops received the biggest pay raise in a generation, that defense investment is on the rise and that the highest re-enlistment rates are among those units operating abroad on such missions as peacekeeping in the Balkans.

For their part, the chiefs of the military services are quick to boast that the U.S. military is the best in the world.

"In my 37 years in uniform, I have never been around better soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines,"

## Economy continues growth

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy roared ahead in the spring, growing at a 5.6 percent annual rate, stronger than the government previously thought. Solid investment by American businesses offset less brisk spending by consumers.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that in the April-June quarter the increase in the gross domestic product surpassed growth in the first quarter, when the economy expanded at a 4.8 percent annual rate. GDP is the nation's total output of goods and services and the broadest measure of economic health.

The government's final reading on GDP showed the economy growing more quickly than the 5.3 percent rate it estimated one month ago and the 5.2 percent rate initially calculated. The 5.6 percent rate marked the best showing since the fourth quarter of last year.

The report came six weeks before the presidential election. Whether the continuing strong economy will significantly benefit Vice President Al Gore has been the subject of much conjecture in recent weeks.

The second-quarter performance also was stronger than many analysts expected. They anticipated that growth would hold steady at 5.3 percent. In the current quarter, many analysts believe the economy has slowed to a growth rate in the 3 percent range.

Even with the robust growth in the second quarter, inflation pressures actually moderated. An inflation gauge tied to the GDP, and closely watched by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, rose at a revised annual rate of 2.1 percent in the second quarter, better than the previous estimate and down from a 3.5 percent rate in the first quarter.

The Federal Reserve has raised interest rates six times over the last 15 months to slow the economy and keep inflation under control. Many economists believe the Fed will leave interest rates unchanged at its meeting next week, given more recent signs of moderating economic growth.

The number of Americans filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell last week by an unexpected 24,000 to 287,000, a two-month low.

Army Gen. Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee on Wednesday.

Shelton quoted a former Army chief of staff, retired Gen. John Wickham Jr., as saying recently, "The truth is that America has the strongest, best-equipped, best-

trained and best-led military capability in the world."

"I think General Wickham has it right," Shelton said.

And yet, each of the military chiefs also told the Senate and House armed services committees they are worried that war-fighting capability will erode unless spending goes up dramati-

cally. "We must find the resources necessary to modernize the force," said Shelton. Otherwise the cumulative strains of carrying out peacekeeping and other overseas missions — while also preparing for major wars — will erode combat readiness, he said.

Shelton did not say how much more should be spent, beyond the current budget of nearly \$300 billion. He said specific figures could be established after a planned review of national security strategy next year.

If the military is performing so remarkably well, what's all the fuss about trouble in

the ranks?

Shelton, the highest-ranking military adviser to the president and the secretary of defense, said that for several years the Pentagon has used money that was meant to buy new weapons and equipment to pay for training and other day-to-day costs.

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