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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1995

# The Hereford Brand



• Huston Hereford, home of Adam Mungia 94th Year, Vol. No. 211, Deaf Smith County, Texas 12 Pages 50 Cents

## Education bill faces conference panel Bush hopes bill will pass by session end

By PEGGY FIKAC  
Associated Press Writer  
AUSTIN (AP) - Gov. George W. Bush says he's optimistic that a special legislative session won't be needed for lawmakers to hammer out an education reform bill he can accept.

With the end of the regular session coming up May 29, the House Public Education Committee planned to work late Wednesday to finalize its version of a bill to loosen state control of public education.

A conference committee is expected to negotiate differences between the measure ultimately passed by the House and the bill passed last month by the Senate.

"I would very much like to avoid a special session ... but I reserve the right to call a special session, of course. I am optimistic that we will not have one," said Bush, whose campaign platform included a promise to push for education decentralization.

Bush on Wednesday praised the work done so far by the House panel and its chairman, Rep. Paul Sadler, D-Henderson. "I believe it's a good bill thus far," he said.

However, Bush reserved comment on the Senate measure "until we get to conference committee. Then I'll make it clear where I believe the conference ought to act."

As the Public Education Committee has taken preliminary votes on major issues in weeks of hearings.

## Three appear in court here

Probated sentences given defendants on prior convictions were modified Wednesday after the state sought revocation of probation.

Judge David Wesley Gulley in 222nd District Court placed Paul Lucio on intensive supervision for a year in modification of his probation. He originally was sentenced to a 10-year probation term on conviction for aggravated sexual assault of a child.

Another defendant, Raul John Salinas, also known as Ralph Salinas, was ordered to serve 90 days in Deaf Smith County jail on modification of terms of probation. Convicted of engaging in organized criminal activity, Salinas also was placed on intensive supervision for a year. His original sentence was eight years' deferred adjudication.

On the state's motion to revoke probation of Johnny Quiroz, originally sentenced to 10 years for attempted murder, Judge Gulley placed the defendant on intensive supervision for three months.

differences as well as points of agreement have emerged.

For example, both the Senate measure and the one in the House committee would ease the no-pass, no-play rule. The key part of sweeping education reforms was approved in 1984.

But the House panel has called for more drastic changes. The rule currently suspends failing students from extracurricular activities for six weeks.

The Senate plan would allow a school district by board policy to cut that to three weeks the first time a student fails a class. Students could get one shortened suspension in junior high school, and one during high school. They also could practice or rehearse during the suspension.

The House proposal would cut the extracurricular suspension to three weeks statewide, while students to

bring up their grades before they could resume participation. They also could practice or rehearse while suspended from the activities.

Both bills also contain provisions for "home-rule" school districts, created with voter approval to escape many state rules.

The Senate bill would require such school districts to abide by federal requirements; compulsory attendance; state curriculum, graduation and accountability requirements; the no-pass, no-play rule; teacher certification; and school funding requirements.

The House plan would have fewer requirements for home-rule districts, although in a change from an earlier committee vote, it would continue to require home-rule districts to abide by the no-pass, no-play rule, according to Rep. Scott Hochberg, D-Houston, a committee member.

## Governor marks first 100 days in office

By MICHAEL HOLMES  
Associated Press Writer  
AUSTIN (AP) - George W. Bush, only the second Republican governor since Reconstruction, marked his 100th day in office by saying lawmakers are on track toward enacting his agenda and that his opinion of them has changed.

Hosting lawmakers at a luncheon on the Governor's Mansion lawn Wednesday, Bush said his first weeks have been marked by bipartisan cooperation with the Democratic-controlled Legislature.

"I told people in a speech today, and I've said it quite often, that when I first came to Austin I thought most legislators were drunks and philanderers. And they're not," Bush said.

"They're extremely hard-working citizens of Texas who, in a limited period of time, are working for what's right for our state."

Bush said he believes the Legislature, which ends its regular session May 29, will help him make good on key campaign promises: reforming the civil lawsuit system, toughening juvenile crime laws, overhauling the welfare system, decentralizing public education and avoiding new taxes.

"I believe we're on the verge of a substantial legislative session," Bush said. "As a result of a cooperative spirit with the lieutenant governor and speaker, we've been able to put partisan politics aside and focus on what's best for Texas."

Li. Gov. Bob Bullock and House Speaker Pete Laney, both Democrats, have given Bush high marks. "We're

real good friends. We all work together," Bullock said in a recent interview.

Bush's personal popularity among average Texans is running high, too.

A Texas Poll published over the weekend put his personal approval rating at 74 percent, above the 70 percent high reached by his well-known predecessor, Democrat Dan Richards. His job approval was 49 percent favorable, compared with 32 percent for Richards at the same period of her term.

Bush's walk on the gubernatorial road hasn't been without a few bumps, however.

His decision to withdraw the proposed Texas Coastal Management Plan from federal consideration drew criticism up and down the coast. The plan would have established one policy of coastal development for agencies which already have jurisdiction and given the state oversight of federal agencies operating on the coast.

Ed Martin, executive director of the Texas Democratic Party, said Bush is lucky that his agenda mirrored that of Democratic leaders.

"Just like he was with the Texas Rangers, Bush is a limited partner in state government who has little to do with what's going on on the playing field," Martin said.

Martin said the current welfare reform plan came from a study and recommendations of state Comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat. He said Democratic lawmakers were working on education and juvenile justice well before the November election.



## First in line

Blood donor Mary Ramirez watches as phlebotomist Pam Groves of the Coffee Memorial Blood Center prepares her arm for a blood donation. The Wednesday drive in the community center was the regular drive sponsored by the Women's Division of the Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce. Ramirez, who was the first person to give blood, said she is a regular donor.

"What Bush has done is come in and try to take credit for issues and solutions that our Democratic legislative leadership has been working on session after session," Martin said.

But many lawmakers give Bush high marks for his one-on-one approach. Bush said that personal relationship helps everyone focus on the job at hand.

"You can begin to break down certain barriers," he said. "Partisan

politics can disrupt the legislative process. I think we've seen that in Washington, D.C. People are appreciative of the fact that we're debating issues based on philosophy, not based upon party politics."

Democrat Martin described Bush's appointments of state governing board and commission members as "back to the country club," but the governor said his record is one to be proud of.

His office said he has made 142

appointments so far. Of those, 39 were women and 103 were men, while 33 of the 142 were blacks, Hispanics or Asian-Americans.

"I see a continued reign of excellence," Bush said. "I've appointed very, very fine Texans from all walks of life. I appoint people - first of all, can they do the job? And then we'll worry about their gender and their race afterwards. My record will be a good one when it's all said and done."

## First House OK granted bill giving retired teachers raise

By CHIP BROWN  
Associated Press Writer  
AUSTIN (AP) - Retired teachers would receive the largest benefit increase in the history of the Teacher Retirement System under a bill given tentative approval by the Texas House.

The measure by Rep. Patricia Gray, D-Galveston, was approved Wednesday on a voice vote and still faces final House approval before returning to the Senate for action on amendments.

Ms. Gray touted the benefit increase as "taking care of those who have given the most and the best to our public school children."

During more than three hours of debate, several House members criticized the administration of the Teacher Retirement System, which operates the nearly \$39 billion teacher retirement fund. The agency was accused of gross overspending and poor management.

The state attorney general and Travis County district attorney have investigated the TRS for questionable investment practices. State auditors recently concluded that TRS operating expenses had increased 83.5 percent since fiscal year 1989.

## Bomb toll at 110, investigators follow trail of suspects in blast

By CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN  
AP National Writer  
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) - Eleven more bodies were found this morning in the ruins of the federal building, bringing the death toll from the nation's worst terrorist bombing to 110.

Eight of the bodies were found in an area firefighters call "the pit," where several floors were pancaked on top of the day care center and Social Security area, Fire Chief Gary Harris said. The three others were found elsewhere.

All were adults, he said. The discovery came as investigators piece together Timothy McVeigh's movements in the days surrounding the bombing of the federal building, which was checking along Interstate for a possible dropoff

point for the second suspect.

Authorities were canvassing restaurants, shops and other businesses along Interstate 35, which leads toward the Kansas town where the truck believed to have carried the 4,800-pound bomb was rented, a law enforcement source in Washington said Wednesday.

McVeigh is the only person charged with the April 19 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The second suspect is identified only in a police sketch as "John Doe No. 2," but a newspaper reported that he had been identified as a former soldier who served with McVeigh.

McVeigh, who was to appear at a news conference this afternoon, has "classified himself as a prisoner of war," said the source, who spoke

and the agency uses twice as much office space as it needs.

"This is an agency that had completely turned its back on the Legislature," said Rep. Ken Marchant, R-Carrollton.

TRS officials say they have been unfairly targeted. They contend that the fund is sound and employees involved in questionable investments have been terminated.

Ms. Gray's bill would dramatically alter the way TRS operates, placing the agency under increased legislative oversight.

The measure would change the way members of the TRS board of trustees are appointed, revise governance and administration of the system and establish a health insurance program for active members.

Ms. Gray said the TRS headquarters has 66,200 excess square feet, 150 extra parking spaces and a weight room available only to TRS employees - not retired teachers.

"Is there a weight problem at TRS?" asked Rep. Susan Combs, R-Austin. "Is there a muscle development problem at TRS? Why would they need a 16,000-square-foot

weight room?"

Ms. Gray said under the existing formula, the oldest retirees received benefits on a formula that is less lucrative than the one providing for more recent retirees. Her proposal gives the oldest retirees a long-overdue, cost-of-living increase that would range from \$4,000 to \$7,000 a year, she said.

The average yearly benefit increase would be \$1,800, Ms. Gray said. Roughly 6,000 retired teachers would be brought above the poverty level under the bill.

Ms. Gray said her bill's overhaul of the TRS management structure sends a strong message.

"I think the message is that this Legislature is very serious about its responsibility in managing the taxpayers' money," Ms. Gray said. "There weren't the kinds of abuses of \$1,000 gifts and trips, but there's been carelessness like renting cars from the airport to the building, which is a \$6 cab ride opposed to a \$50 rental bill."

"We don't want money spent frivolously. We want it spent to take care of these retirees."

U.S. District Judge Monti Belot granted a prosecution request to move Terry Nichols from Wichita to Oklahoma City, but he gave defense lawyers until May 5 to appeal.

## Study shows young moms at risk no matter their race

By DANIEL Q. HANEY  
AP Science Writer  
BOSTON (AP) - All pregnant teen-agers face an exceptionally high risk of giving birth prematurely, even if they are white, middle-class and married, according to a study published today.

The research casts doubt on the widely held belief that teen-age pregnancies are prone to end early solely because these girls are often minority, poor and ill-educated.

The new work found that even middle-class teen-agers are almost twice as likely as older women to deliver premature babies.

"In general, all teen-agers should be encouraged not to get pregnant," even those who are married, said Dr. Richard Ward, the study's senior author.

About 13 percent of all children in the United States are born to teen-agers.

Just how the mother's age contributes to prematurity is not known. The researchers speculated that teen-agers' bodies are still growing and therefore may be competing with their fetuses for nutrients.

Understanding prematurity is important because it is the leading cause of newborn deaths. Babies born too soon simply cannot survive outside the womb, no matter what doctors do.

Dr. Charlotte Catz, chief of pregnancy and perinatology at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, called the research "a very important breakthrough."

While young mothers' living conditions and habits may still play a role, "if we want to improve the outcome of pregnancy, we have to look at other factors as well that we didn't think were so important," Catz said.

But the study, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, is unlikely to settle the debate over environment versus biology.

The study focused solely on white, middle-class families in Utah. A skeptical editorial in the journal by Drs. Robert L. Goldenberg and Laraine V. Klerman of the University of Alabama questioned whether data on young whites in Utah could be

generalized to minorities in cities.

The study, conducted at the University of Utah, was based on a review of 134,088 white girls and women ages 13 to 24 who delivered their first babies between 1970 and 1990. Of the girls in the group under age 18, two-thirds were married and 95 percent were still in school.

The youngest girls, 13 to 17 years old, were 90 percent more likely than the women in their early 20s to deliver prematurely. The risk was still elevated, but less so, for the older teen-agers.

Seven percent of the youngest teen-agers' babies were born unusually small, compared with 4 percent of the older mothers' babies.

The study concluded that even when poverty is not a factor, the risk of prematurity remains high, especially for the youngest teen-agers.

"If you could have every pregnant teen-ager be married, not poor and get good prenatal care, you will still have had outcomes," said Ward. "Being young is enough to cause this."

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# Lifestyles

## Artwork of former resident on display at Godbold Center

The artwork of Franklin Ackerley is on display at Godbold Cultural Center in Lubbock through May 5.

The artist Franklin Ackerley is the brainchild and alter ego of Central Washington University graduate students Jeff Franklin Wheeler and James Ackerley Porter.

Ackerley was born about a year ago when Wheeler, of Hereford, and Porter, of Seattle, had a drawing class together. Porter asked Wheeler to add some images to a drawing he was

working on.

"I was hesitant at first," Wheeler said. "I suddenly had a fear of messing up his drawing. I had never felt that before." But, Wheeler did work on Porter's drawing, and with its completion came the birth of Franklin Ackerley.

"The development of Franklin Ackerley was something we really didn't discuss or plan," Porter said.

Wheeler said, "I think that's the most exciting thing about all this. None of this is preconceived, right down to the individual drawings."

The artists take turns starting the drawings.

"When I reach a point where I feel James can do something with a drawing, I sneak down and hang it in his studio, and he does the same for me," Wheeler said. "I really like walking into the studio and seeing a new drawing ready for me to finish."

Though the two collaborate to

create Ackerley's drawings, the works are Ackerley's, both students insist. They don't mind giving up the limelight.

"As long as people enjoy the work, that's enough," Wheeler said and Porter agreed.

Porter and Wheeler are working toward their master of fine arts degrees at CWU.



DENISE TEEL

## Teel is recent graduate of Realtors Institute

Denise Teel, of Don C. Tardy Co., recently received the nationally recognized GRI (Graduate, Realtors Institute) designation after completing Texas Realtors Institute courses.

hour courses of specialized instruction in subjects such as legal issues, finance, marketing, commercial and investment property, professional standards and environmental law.

The Realtors Institute is a national continuing education program offered by the Texas Association of Realtors. Graduates have completed three 30-

Teel joins approximately 7,200 active TAR member licensees who have earned their GRI designation in Texas.

## Reunion meeting for class of 1970

The Hereford High School class of 1970 will hold a planning meeting for the upcoming 25th reunion.

The meeting will be May 1 at 7 p.m. at the Sirlain Stockade.

## Ann Landers

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I work for the telephone company. Please don't print my name. I need my job.

I am an information operator. My responsibility is to assist callers in finding telephone numbers. Period. Please inform the public that I am not a physician, a veterinarian, a nutritionist, a lawyer, a horticultural specialist, a style consultant, a librarian or a family counselor. You would not believe the questions I am asked on a daily basis.

Recently, a woman wanted to know if it was OK to use 10 eggs in her angel food cake instead 12, if the eggs were especially large. Another caller asked what Mayor Richard Daley's wife's real name was. "I know they call her Maggie," she said, "but her real name must be something else." The same caller wanted to know if she should have her bunions operated on.

Every day, I am asked, "What is the temperature?" and "Should I wear my heavy coat?" I am constantly asked which TV channels carry certain programs. Yesterday, a woman asked if you should starve a cold and feed a fever, or the other way 'round. This morning, a man asked what city he was in. He said, "I know this sounds goofy, but I'm a salesman, and I travel a lot."

If you print this letter, Ann, please add that it would be nice if people said "thank you" once in a while. — Connected to the Public in Chicago

DEAR CONNECTED: Here's your letter. Maybe more people will say "thank you," but don't expect to get fewer weird questions. Mean while, remember that a sense of humor can be a valuable asset. I hope you have one.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: My son, "Horace," is left-handed. His grandmother keeps nagging me to "change him over." She is absolutely certain that being left-handed is a terrible handicap and that he will hold it against me in later years if I don't do something about it now.

This has created a problem

between us, and I need your help. Please print my letter and a supportive response.—Iowa

DEAR IOWA: My advice is leave Horace alone. Many southpaws have done very well. For example, Babe Ruth, Leonardo da Vinci, Norman Schwarzkopf, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Albert Einstein, Ty Cobb, Michelangelo, Mark Twain, Cole Porter, Robert Redford, Jerry Seinfeld, Whoopi Goldberg and James Michener.

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I am 25 and recently married to the man of my dreams. It was important for me to walk down the aisle wearing the traditional bridal ensemble. I spent a great deal of money to find the perfect white satin gown.

My cousin is getting married in a few months, and she has asked to borrow my wedding gown. "Lena" is a very nice person, and we have grown up together, but she is a slob and weighs at least 20 pounds more than I do. I am afraid she would split the seams and the gown would be a mess. I want to save my wedding gown for my daughter, if I should be blessed with one.

I don't know how to say no to Lena without creating a major family fight. How should I handle this? Please answer in a hurry. My "Aunt Molly," Lena's mother, has already called my mother twice. — Chagrined in Pa.

DEAR CHAGRINED: I'm typing as fast as I can. Tell Lena: "Sorry, no, the gown has been heirloomed. I'm saving it for my daughter." (If this hasn't been done, have the store where you purchased it do so at once.)

Ann Landers' booklet, "Nuggets and Doozies," has everything from the outrageously funny to the poignantly insightful. 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.

## Raise Your Hand for Healthcare!

The Deaf Smith Healthcare Foundation Board of Directors invites you to a

# CELEBRITY AUCTION

Saturday, April 29, 1995 - H.I.S.D. Administration Building

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Beans & Cornbread will be served for \$2.50. Items may be viewed and Silent Auction bids may be placed during this time.

7:00 p.m. - Live Auction begins.

Our Live and Silent Auctions will feature items donated by nationally known celebrities as well as from local citizens — our own celebrities! Raffle drawing for TWO American Airlines tickets to any destination in Europe will be held.

Partial listing of items to be auctioned:

Personally signed football - Troy Aikman  
 Personally signed coffee mug - Pres. & Mrs. George Bush  
 Bronze sculpture - Andy Wilks  
 Personally signed book - Gov. Ann Richards  
 Flag flown over U.S. Capitol - Sen. Phil Graham  
 Crocheted family name - Nadine Berend  
 Money Jar - First National Bank  
 Personally signed tennis ball - Andri Agassii  
 1 Beef - Bob & Nancy Josseland  
 Personally signed picture - Robert Redford  
 Massage - Perfect Touch Salon  
 Personally signed picture - Wynona Judd  
 Eel Skin Purse - Boots & Saddle  
 Personally signed watercolor print - Pres. Jimmy Carter  
 Gourmet dinner for 6 people - Mary Beth Messer  
 Condo weekend for 6-8 people - Mr. & Mrs. Hollis Klett  
 1 yr. subscription Amarillo Globe News - Larry Watts  
 Black/White Cowhide - Merrick Pet Foods  
 Ozzie Smith personally signed baseball - Dr. H.R. Johnson  
 Handpainted birdhouse - Suzie Wall  
 Complete auto detail - Hereford Auto Center  
 "The Power in You" book - Wally "Famous Amos"  
 Praline crepes for party of 30 people - Tojours Ami  
 2 bags of fertilizer - McLain Garden Center  
 2 surge protectors - Foster Electronics  
 1 yr. subscription Wall Street Journal - Ike Stevens  
 Summer Get Ready Special - Stevens Chevrolet  
 8 Jamestown Goblets - Wishes  
 Carwash, oil & tube - Crofford Automotive  
 Brighton handbag - The Pants Cage  
 Silver heart choker necklace - Etc.  
 Angel of Mercy figurine - Merle Norman  
 Western Skies throw - Caryn's Hallmark  
 Collector tractors - White Implement  
 Farm Country Set - White Implement  
 25 lb. New York Strips - Caviness Packing  
 Fine porcelain rabbit - Dr. & Mrs. Howard Haysom  
 2 burgandy pencil lamps - Poarch's & Mrs. Short  
 Life & Times of Nolen Ryan - Chamber of Commerce  
 Blown glass pitcher - West Park Drug  
 Hurricane lamp - Homeland  
 Handcrafted Santa Claus - Ruth Black  
 Remote control tractor - White Implement  
 Car bag phone - Cellular One  
 Electric buffet server - Dr. & Mrs. Nadir Khuri  
 Backyard Adventures Swing - Mr. & Mrs. S. Garrison  
 Personally signed movie poster - Whoopi Goldberg  
 Crosses from the Holy Land - Dr. & Mrs. Nadir Khuri  
 Haircuts, perm, acrylic nails - Classic Corner  
 Personally signed picture - Tipper Gore  
 Outdoor gas light - Emergas  
 Installation of gas light - Gonzales Bros.  
 Digital Clock Radio - W.H.T.V.  
 \$100 gift certificate - Edwards Pharmacy  
 China Breakfast Set - Terry's Floral & Design  
 Collector tractor - Ford New Holland  
 Ham & Chicken Strips - Hereford Meat Market  
 Print - Wendel Clark - Sagebrush Galleries

Personally signed football - Emmitt Smith  
 Personally signed tennis t-shirt - Chris Everett  
 Pewter sculpture - Kenneth Wyatt  
 Flag flown over U.S. Capitol - Rep. Larry Combest  
 Personally signed picture & music cassette - Clint Black  
 Southwest pottery - Ivan Tipps  
 Personally signed cookbook - Julia Child  
 Massage - Becky McDonald  
 Personally signed picture - Rosalyn Carter  
 Handpainted Jerusalem pottery - Sylvia Khuri  
 Personally signed basketball - Cheryl Swoopes  
 Personally signed picture - Connie Chung  
 Pheasant/goose hunt - Ernest & Carmen Flood  
 Gift basket - Touch of Class  
 15 X Bailey Straw Hat - The Range Western Wear  
 \$25 gift certificate - Barbara Tabor / Amarillo  
 Cow skull lamp & rawhide shade - Merrick Pet Foods  
 Painting - Giles Boone  
 Front End Special - Stevens Chevrolet  
 '95 American Eagle silver dollars - Hereford State Bank  
 Food baskets - Arrowhead Mills  
 Stuffed bear - Kid's Alley  
 Personally signed golf glove - Michelle McGann  
 Pager - West Texas Rural Telephone  
 25 lbs. ribeyes - Caviness Packing  
 Movies, rentals, t-shirt - Silver Screen  
 Hams - Premium Standard Farms  
 Flag case - Hereford Glass & Higginbotham-Bartlett  
 \$15 gift certificate - Inkahoots  
 Cameo portrait - Jena Rawley-Whitaker  
 Handpainted blouse & vest - Yiota's  
 Baseball sweater vest - Little's  
 1 beef - Keeling Cattle Feeders  
 Beveled stained glass cross - Bill Lyles  
 Manager/D.J. for a Day - KPAN  
 Fan stitch afghan - HRMC Surgery Department  
 The Roads of Texas - Hereford Brand  
 The Roads of New Mexico - Hereford Brand  
 Personally signed picture - Gov. George Bush  
 1 beef - McGinty & Associates  
 Personally signed picture - Carol Burnett  
 Porcelain doll - Julie Morris  
 Personally signed picture - Reba McIntyre  
 Personally signed picture - Clint Eastwood  
 Personally signed baseball - Akocem Abdul-Olajuwon  
 Pickup tailguard - The Pickup Corner  
 Bibles from the Holy Land - Dr. & Mrs. Nadir Khuri  
 Personally signed picture - Eddie Murphy  
 2 paintings - Dr. Howard Haysom  
 Signed & numbered print - Mr. & Mrs. Pat McGinty  
 Hereford grown citrus fruit - Dr. Nadir Khuri  
 Personally signed Dallas Cowboy pennant - Barry Switzer & Jerry Jones  
 2 Antique Pump Jacks - Ford New Holland  
 Jewelry Asst. & Jewelry Box - Where'd Ya Get That  
 Child's Rocking Horse - Jerry Tisdale  
 Painting - R. Russell Down - Canyon

Meal provided by K-BOB'S

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Please join us for a fun-filled evening - It's a Matter of Life & Health!

★ VOTE FOR ★  
**JEFF MATSLER**

School Board Candidate  
 For District 5

A CANDIDATE FOR THE TAXPAYERS  
 A CANDIDATE FOR THE STUDENTS  
 A CANDIDATE FOR THE TEACHERS

PRO-HEREFORD

ELECTIONS ARE  
 SATURDAY, MAY 6

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT  
 AND APPRECIATED

Pol. Adv. by Jeff Matsler

# Girl Scout Council elects Hereford residents, presents awards

Three Hereford residents were elected to positions on the Texas Plains Girl Scout Council at the annual meeting held April 22 at St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Amarillo.

Alice Eades and Kay Williams were elected as new members-at-large to the Board of Directors. Todd Gary was elected to the Nominating Committee.

Other Hereford residents already serving on the Council, and who will continue to do so, are Ryan Lawson, member-at-large and nominating committee member; and Nancy Josseland, nominating committee member.

The council recognized individuals for the years in which they had been registered as a Girl Scout with tenure pins. Receiving five year pins were Nina Brown, Melinda Henson and Lori Thompson.

Years of service pins were

awarded to adults for active service to Girl Scouts. Melinda Henson and Nancy Josseland received pins for five years of service.

Highlights and accomplishments of the past year were noted.

One council wide event was held recently in Hereford at the Community Center. The Hereford Service Unit hosted 68 Junior Girl Scouts, some from as far away as Memphis, for a special awareness event.

The event, "In Her Shoes", was designed to give the participants a

chance to experience feelings of a person with a disability. They participated in a timed wheelchair obstacle course, learned to sign the Girl Scout Promise, made their way blindfolded through "hungry mud" and took part in various other events with simulated handicaps.

The Hereford Service Unit designed the patch for this achievement.

The current scouting year will conclude on May 9 with the Court of Awards.

## Hints from Heloise

Dear Heloise: It seems that your readers ask quite a few questions about how to treat their septic systems. Often they ask for special recipes or suggestions as to products to put down the toilet to help eliminate problems.

The wholehearted opinion of leaders in the field is that septic-tank additives and the addition of yeast should be avoided.

Instead, homeowners should be advised about how to avoid problems with their septic systems. We offer 10 useful tips to help avoid problems:

- Do not dispose of fats, grease or cooking oil down a household drain.

- Do not use a garbage disposal or put coffee grounds, meat bones or other food products that are difficult to biodegrade down a drain.

- Do not dispose of household cleaning fluids down the drain, and use disinfectants sparingly.

- Never dispose of automotive fluids such as gas, oil, transmission or brake fluid, grease or antifreeze down any drain.

- Do not dispose of or rinse any containers from pesticides, herbicides or other potentially toxic substances down any drain.

- Do not dispose of any nonbiodegradable substances or objects, such as cigarette butts, disposable diapers, feminine products (particularly tampons), down any drain or toilet.

- Minimize water usage. Do not run water continuously while rinsing dishes or thawing frozen food products. Consider limiting toilet flushes.

- Run only full loads when using a washing machine or dishwasher. Try to stagger use of the washing machine.

- Do not use chemicals to start up or clean your system. They are unnecessary and may actually harm the system or the groundwater.

- Do not connect any clear water sources, such as footing and foundation sump pumps, to the sewage system.

I hope this helps your readers to understand their systems better. — Mary Margaret Minnie, Ph.D., Darien, Conn.

Thanks so much for the great information! — Heloise

### SEND A GREAT HINT TO:

Heloise  
PO Box 795000  
San Antonio TX 78279-5000  
or fax it to 210-HELOISE

### DISPOSABLE PLASTIC DROPCLOTHS

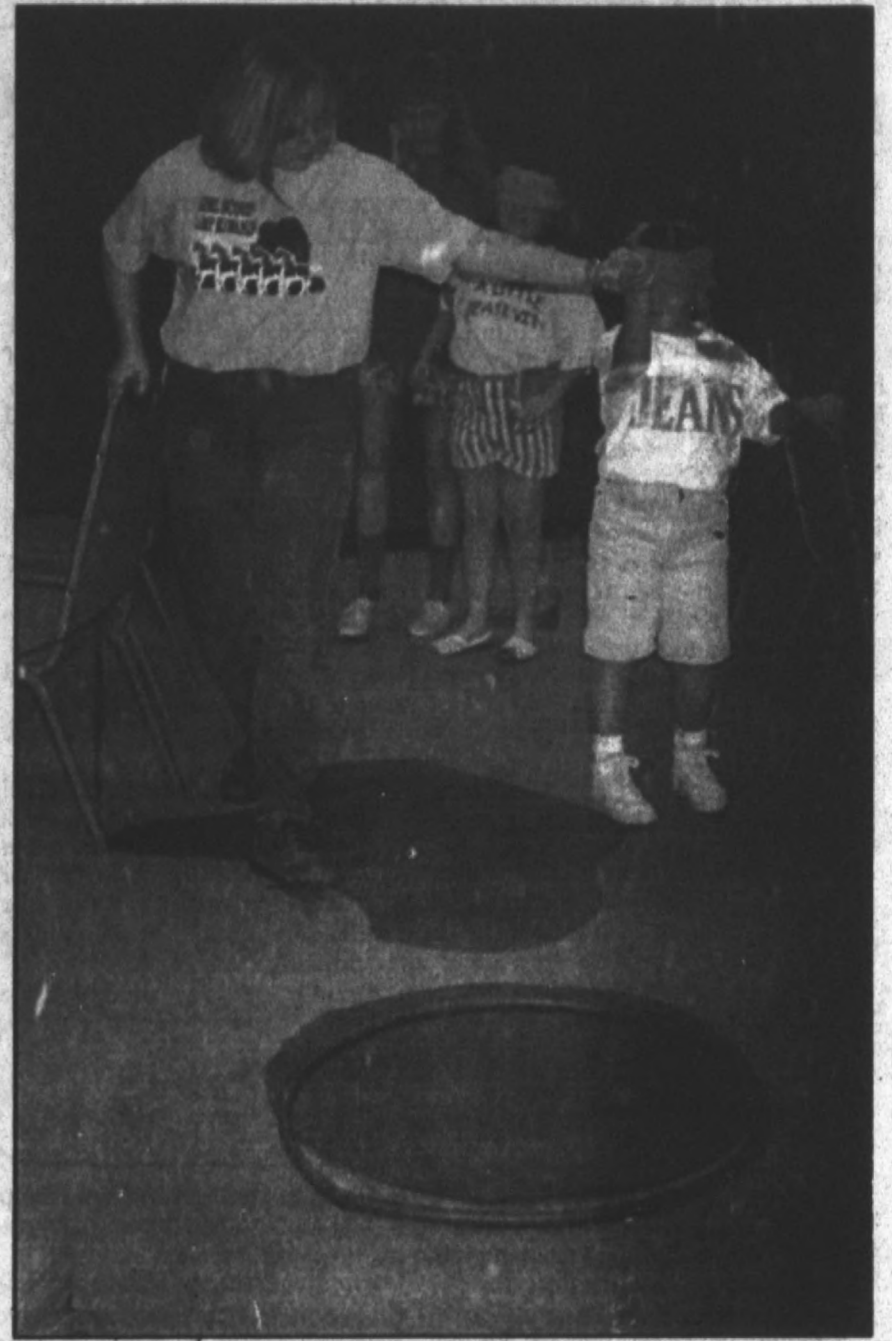
Dear Heloise: Use disposable plastic dropcloths to cover the seat in a car when taking a sick pet to the veterinary clinic.

One costs 80 cents and has saved my car from stains on many occasions. — Sandy Lusky, Houston, Texas



### Awareness event

Junior Girl Scouts from across the Panhandle participated in a special awareness event, "In Her Shoes", recently at the Hereford Community Center. The event helped the girls experience the feelings of a person with disabilities. The group pictured above is learning to sign the Girl Scout Promise. At right, girls must trust a "sighted" leader to direct them through a course of "hungry mud".



## Senior Citizens

### MENUS

**THURSDAY**-Ham, lima beans, broccoli, hash brown potatoes, coleslaw, fruit and cookie.

**FRIDAY**, Salmon loaf, scalloped potatoes, seasoned mixed greens or green beans, raspberry gelatin salad, pineapple upsidedown cake.

**MONDAY**-Beef macaroni and tomato casserole, seasoned squash, blackeyed peas, carrot, raisin and pineapple salad, cake.

**TUESDAY**-Chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans, garden salad, chocolate ice box dessert.

**WEDNESDAY**-Liver or beef patty with onions, scalloped potatoes, broccoli, tossed salad, peach crisp.

### ACTIVITIES

**THURSDAY**-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., water exercises, oil painting 9-11 a.m., birthday social 6:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY**-Line dance 9-11 a.m., water exercises.

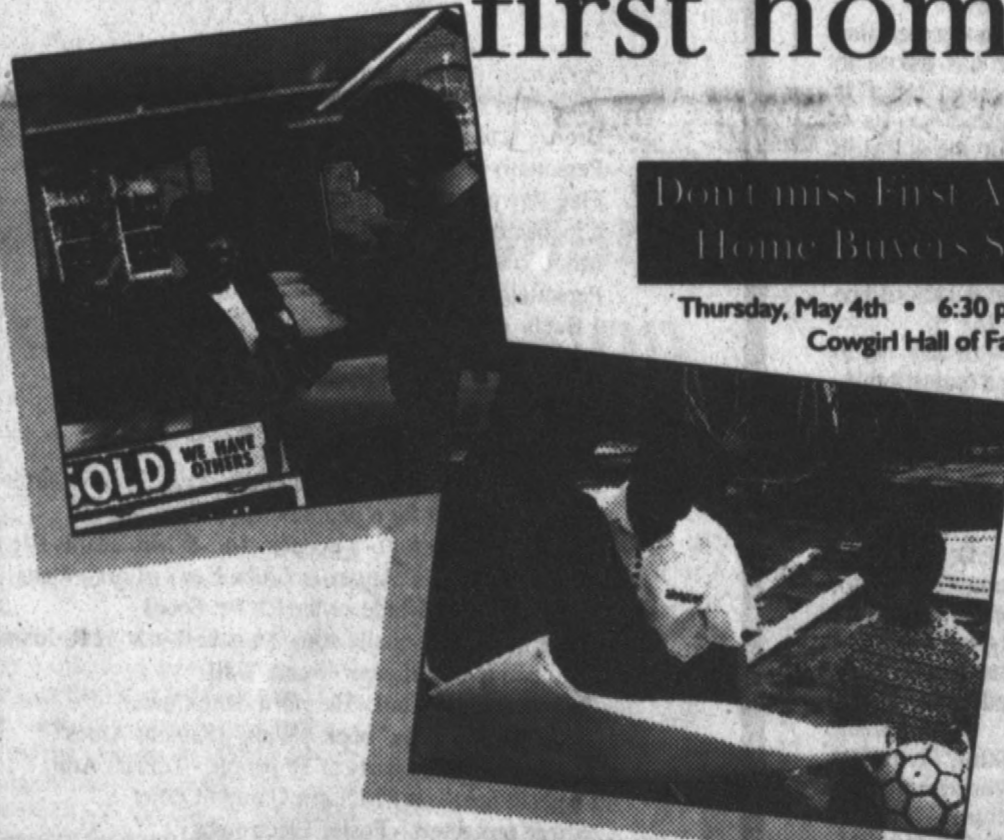
**SATURDAY**-Games 12-4 p.m.

**MONDAY**-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., water exercises.

**TUESDAY**-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., water exercises, Golden Spread 1-4 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**-Stretch and flex 10-10:45 a.m., water exercises, ceramics 1:30 p.m.

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## Washington is subject of study club program

Members of L'Allegra Study Club and invited guests met recently in the Deaf Smith County Library to hear a program by Mrs. Jean Hull of Borger.

Hull presented a comprehensive program, including a slide production, of the life of Martha Washington.

Hostesses for the meeting were Jody Skiles, Suzanne Smith and Mary McQuigg. Other members attending included Carmen Flood, Kitty Gault, Nancy Haysom, Barbara Kerr, Shelly Moss, Micah Noland, Karen Payne, Hilda Perales, Dee Anne Trotter, Ella Marie Veigel, Judy Wall and Jan Weishaar.

President Trotter presided over a

business meeting following the program.

A nominating committee was named to present a slate of officers for the coming year.

It was announced that club members will meet at the Atrium at 1 p.m. Friday to help unload geraniums and set up for the sale which will start at 4 p.m. The price was set at \$2.75 for the four inch pots with red and salmon as the colors.

Moss, finance committee chairman, recommended that proceeds from the plant sale on April 28-29 be given to the Deaf Smith County Library for the training of adult literacy tutors and the purchase of a CD rom computer for public use at the library.



### Geraniums for sale

The L'Allegra Study Club will hold its annual Geranium Sale Friday and Saturday in the Atrium. The sale will begin Friday at 4 p.m. and on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Blooming geraniums in red and salmon will be available for purchase. Pictured, from left are Derek, John and Susan Haysom. They are the children of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Haysom.

## Even fishing can be work if you are Miss Texas

By LORETTA FULTON

Abilene Reporter-News  
HAWLEY, Texas - Even when Miss Texas goes fishing, she's working.

So, if you've been thinking that being Miss Texas is all fun and no work, well, think again.

When she left Hawley after speaking to high school students Tuesday, Miss Texas Arian Archer headed back home to Dallas and then to Toledo Bend for a fishing expedition that will be filmed. The taping is for a national program called, "Get Hooked on Fishing, Not Drugs."

Miss Texas says she loves fishing, even if she's working while doing it.

"I'm not good at it, but I'm learning," she said.

Fishing may be the only thing Miss Texas isn't good at. She's very good at getting a message across to teen-agers, a message brought to them via a gifted singing voice and a youthfulness they can relate to.

Just 21 herself, Archer speaks the language of the younger generation and before they know it, students are as involved in her talk as she is.

Archer spoke to Hawley junior high students Monday and to the high school students Tuesday. The two-day appearance in this Jones County town of 600 came because of her association with high school Principal Bob Keyes.

Keyes was the athletic director and head football coach at Borger High School while Archer was a student there.

Archer's three-point talk - never give up, say no, and believe in yourself - no doubt was one the students were familiar with. But Archer wowed 'em with her renditions of "Jesus Loves Me" that reflected her stages of development.

It began with her precocious 4-year-old version, then progressed to Karen Carpenter, Barbra Streisand, an unnamed opera singer, and finally to Archer herself.

The students responded as Archer had hoped - although they laughed at the imitations, they loved the real Arian Archer "being herself."

Archer also related to the students her own version of "never giving up." She placed last in the first three pageants she entered but didn't give up and eventually won the big prize. "Nobody is going to hand you

your dreams," she said.

On a somber note, Archer told the kids of her two-year bout with clinical depression before entering the Miss Texas pageant. She urged the students to talk to someone if they are experiencing any symptoms of depression.

At the end of the program, English teacher Greg Gee got a big red kiss planted on his cheek from Miss Texas as winner of a fundraiser for the student council.

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## Gem show report given at Lapidary Club meeting

Floyd and L. D. Combs hosted the regular meeting of The Deaf Smith County Lapidary Club at the library recently.

Dale Henson, president, conducted the meeting and Dee Sturges gave a report on her recent trip to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

Lurline Cawthon showed a new video about the Grand Canyon that is available in the library.

Ralph Packard and Juanita Coker won the door prizes which were

furnished by the Hensons.

The summer meetings for the club will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Those in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nunley, Ezell Sadler, Bobbie Roberson, Bert Brown, Ruth King, Floyd Coker, Cawthon, Combs, Henson and Packard.

Whom the gods wish to destroy they first call promising.  
—Cyril Connolly

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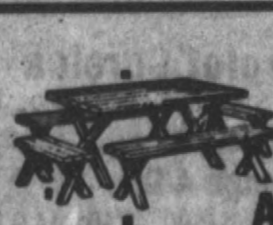
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## HHS class of 95 seeking pictures

Members of the Hereford High School senior class of 1995 are looking for embarrassing pictures of classmates.

Pictures can be given to Pam Wilson or Sue Taylor at the Tuesday and Thursday prom meetings at Sugarland Mall.

For anyone not attending the meetings, the pictures can be sent to school with your child.

Pictures are needed by the end of April.

A man's feet should be planted in his country, but his eyes should survey the world.  
—George Santayana



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# Sports

## Brown, Crox, High aim for state track meet trip

Hereford's Marquise Brown goes to San Angelo this week hoping to sprint his way to Austin. He'll compete in both the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Region I-4A Track Meet, to be held Friday and Saturday in San Angelo.

Marie Crox will represent the Hereford girls' team and compete in the 300-meter hurdles.

Michael High also will get to compete in the triple jump. He took third place at the District I-4A meet, earning alternate status. Neither of the top two finishers will compete at the regional meet, so High gets to.

Brown has a good chance to advance to the state meet in both sprints, coach Ron Young said. The top two finishers advance in each event.

"Marquise has an excellent chance in both races," Young said. "Of

course, he'll have to run the best times of his life, but he's going in with a chance to go to the state meet."

Young has lists of the best times of runners from Region I-4A, although he doesn't know for sure if those runners will all be in San Angelo, or if those will be the only runners there. He also doesn't know what factor wind played in all the times.

Brown is second on the list of 200-meter runners, tied with two others with a best time of 21.8 seconds. Payton of Estacado and Woodbury of Fort Worth Poly Tech share that time with Brown. Farr of Big Spring has the best time in the region with a 21.5. Young knows Farr and Payton will be at regionals.

Brown is fourth on the 100 list, with a best time of 10.58. Young knows that all three of the runners

ahead of Brown will be in San Angelo: Carr of Sweetwater at 10.37; Gayler of Joshua at 10.40; and Payton of Estacado at 10.52. Also competing will be a Ross from Estacado, whose best time is 10.65.

Brown seems to be peaking. He had an "excellent week of workouts last week," Young said. He beat both of the Estacado runners at a regional qualifiers' meet Friday in Odessa.

"He ran a 10.58, which was his best time all year," Young said. "(Only) a kid from (Class 5A) Monterey beat him."

Young and Brown have been concentrating on getting Brown out of the blocks, which is already a strength.

"Running a 10.58 shows his blocks were working that day," Young said.

(See TRACK, page 7)



### Regional qualifiers

Marie Crox (left) will compete in the 300-meter hurdles at the Region I-4A Track Meet, to be held Friday and Saturday in San Angelo. Erin Dunn (right) earned alternate status in the 100-meter hurdles.

### Cowboys ink 6 free agents

IRVING, Texas (AP) - Six rookie free agents have signed with the Dallas Cowboys, who now have 71 players on their roster - a total of 61 under contract.

The latest signees, including quarterback Scott Semptimbelter from Lehigh and fullback Germaine Williams of Louisiana State, were

expected to arrive in Dallas Thursday night.

Others signing contracts Wednesday were tackle Jim Hostelewski of Kansas State; center Mike Gruttadauna of Central Florida; defensive end Wayne Dickson of Oklahoma; and linebacker Freddie Coger of Georgia Tech.



### Regional qualifiers

Marquise Brown (front left) will compete in the 100- and 200-meter dashes at the Region I-4A Track Meet, to be held Friday and Saturday in San Angelo, while Michael High (back row, center) will compete in the triple jump. Alternates are Josif Gamboa in the discus (back left) and three members of the Hereford 400-meter relay: Rodney Gomez (front center), Raymond Gonzalez (back right) and Michael Brown (front right).

## Kitchens Classic kicks off

The Cuby Kitchens Classic youth basketball tournament has grown every year since it was first played in 1992. This year's tournament, which starts with eight games tonight, is about as big a tournament as Hereford can host in one weekend.

The tournament, for boys and girls aged 11-16, will include 144 games on six different courts in Hereford tonight, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Most of the 82 teams come from all over the Panhandle (including Hereford), South Plains and eastern New Mexico. Some come from as far away as Belton, Texas, and Denver, Colo.

Tonight's games will be played at 6:30 and 8 at the high school and at the junior high, where three courts will be in use.

Those four gyms plus the ones at Stanton and at the YMCA will be used Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Play begins at 5 p.m. on Friday and at 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday. Championship games will be played at 5 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

There are ten divisions or brackets—five each for boys and girls, separated by age: 11-under, 12-under, 13-under, 14-under and 16-under. There are eight teams in each bracket, except for the girls' 16-under, which has 12 teams.

The ten brackets include eight teams made up entirely of kids from Hereford, while ten more teams include at least one player from Hereford. With more than 80 Hereford kids participating, there is likely to be at least one Hereford boy or girl on a court somewhere at any one time.

Following is a listing of all teams with either all-Hereford or partial-Hereford rosters.

**11-UNDER BOYS**  
Bulls: Wade McNutt, Russell Carr, Tracey Bossert, Seth Hatley, Edward Villareal, Armando

(See CLASSIC, Page 7)

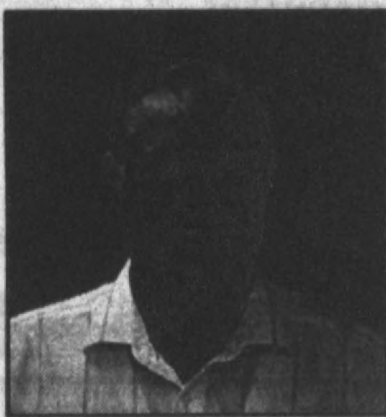
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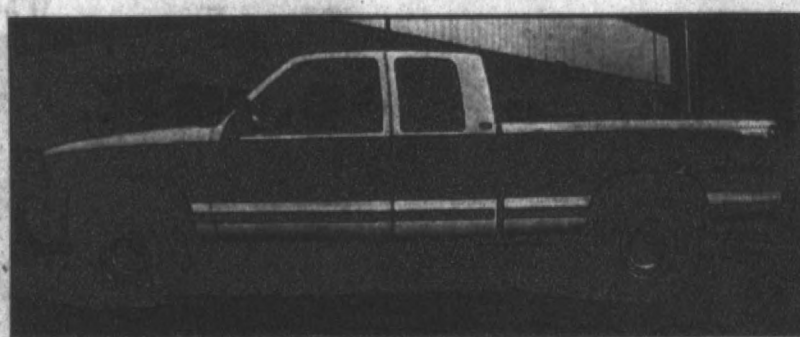
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# Rockies baptize Coors Field with 14-inning win

By **BEN WALKER**  
AP Baseball Writer  
Greg Maddux and Jeff Bagwell picked up where they left off. The Colorado Rockies, meanwhile, made a fresh start at chilly Coors Field. Maddux, winner of the last three Cy Young Awards, pitched five strong innings in Atlanta's 12-5 win over San Francisco. Bagwell, the unanimous NL MVP, homered and drove in three runs as Houston beat San Diego 10-2. The coolest moment, though, came when Dante Bichette hit a three-run homer in the 14th inning, rallying the Rockies over the New York Mets 11-9 Wednesday night: After five inches of snow were

cleared off the field during the day, the sellout crowd of 47,228 saw the longest first game at any big league stadium this century. It also was the longest game in Rockies' history, and tied the NL record for the longest season opener ever. "This game was important to win," said Bichette, who began celebrating as soon as he connected. "It was our home opener, the Coors Field opener, the first game of the season and we're in first place. It's one of the better games we've played in three years and probably the most important one," he said. In other games, St. Louis beat Philadelphia 7-6, Montreal defeated Pittsburgh 6-2, Chicago downed

Cincinnati 7-1 and Los Angeles beat Florida 4-2. Not every game drew as well as the one in Denver. Only 24,091 showed up in Atlanta for the opener. In Miami, where Los Angeles and Florida started the major league season Tuesday night, the Marlins drew the smallest crowd in their three-season history, just 18,587. In Pittsburgh, angry fans littered the field with wooden sticks that had been attached to souvenir pennants. The debris caused a delay of 17 minutes, and led to a threat that the game would be forfeited to the Expos. Before that display, Pirates shortstop Jay Bell, active in the

players' union during the 232-day strike, was loudly booed. **Rockies 11, Mets 9** Larry Walker, in his first game for Colorado, hit three doubles and drove in three runs. Brett Butler, in his first game for New York, scored three times and made a tumbling catch in center field. The temperature dropped into the mid-30s by the end of the four-hour, 47-minute game. Tempers heated up, though, when replacement umpire Terry Bovey ejected Mets third baseman Bobby Bonilla and manager Dallas Green shortly after a dispute about a checked-swing. Todd Hundley hit a grand slam for

the Mets. Mark Thompson was the winning pitcher and Mike Remlinger was the loser. At 1-0, the Rockies are over .500 for just the second time in their three-season history. **Braves 12, Giants 5** Fred McGriff homered twice and drove in five runs. He had four of Atlanta's 17 hits. The crowd was about half of what the Braves averaged last season. Among those in attendance was Felicia Shotkoski, widow of Atlanta replacement pitcher Dave Shotkoski, shot and killed during a robbery attempt in spring training. Greg Maddux allowed one hit, a solo home run by J.R. Phillips. Loser

Terry Mulholland gave up six straight hits to start the game. **Astros 10, Padres 2** Phil Plantier and Derek Bell, both sent from San Diego to Houston in a 12-player trade last December, both homered against their former team. Bagwell hit a two-run homer on the first pitch he saw from loser Andy Benes. Two days before the strike started last year, Bagwell sustained a broken hand when he was hit by a pitch from Benes. Doug Drabek was the winner. Tony Gwynn, who joined Fernando Valenzuela and other Padres players in passing out free hats outside the stadium before the game, went 2-for-4.

## Royals nearly no-hit O's; Jays explode

By **The Associated Press**  
The Baltimore Orioles couldn't hit Kansas City pitching until the eighth inning. The Oakland A's couldn't stop Toronto from hitting their pitching in the second. The Royals' near no-hitter and Toronto's 11-run inning highlighted the delayed opening day of the American League season Wednesday. The Blue Jays sent 16 batters to the plate to take a 12-1 lead in the second, and they beat the A's 13-1, giving an easy victory to David Cone, who allowed one run on five hits in six innings. "I just tried to stretch, stay loose and drink some coffee. The caffeine helps," Cone said of the 45-minute wait while his teammates rounded the bases again and again. "But I'll take

it any time. It sure is nice to see them run around the bases like that." Dave Stewart gave up nine runs, seven earned, on five hits in 1 1-3 innings for the A's, giving him his first loss in six opening-day decisions. While balls were flying around SkyDome, Royals right-hander Kevin Appier went 6 2-3 innings without allowing a hit before reliever Rusty Meacham finally gave up a single to Leo Gomez with one out in the eighth. But Kansas City easily held on for a 5-1 victory. Wednesday saw the first AL games since the players went on strike last Aug. 12. The near no-hitter was reminiscent of 1990, when no-hit king Nolan Ryan was pulled after five innings

against Toronto on opening day following an owners lockout. Ryan, 43 years old at the time, threw 90 pitches for Texas that day. Appier, who said before the game he expected to throw only 90 pitches, was pulled after making 98, with seven strikeouts and two walks. Bob Boone, making his managerial debut, was booed for bringing in Meacham. "Obviously, I'd like a chance to finish the game and get a no-hitter," Appier said. "But to throw that many more pitches is a risk, and you really can't do that. I understand where he's coming from. That's the farthest I've taken one, but I understand why I was taken out." The crowd of 24,170 was the smallest for opening day in Kansas City since 1984. The victory came on the Royals' first game on the new grass field at Kauffman Stadium. Elsewhere in AL openers, it was Boston 9, Minnesota 0; New York 8,

Texas 6; Milwaukee 12, Chicago 3; and Detroit 5, California 4. **Yankees 8, Rangers 6** Jimmy Key won his third straight opening-day start and improved his career record in openers to 6-0, and New York won its home opener for the sixth straight time. Danny Tartabull homered and drove in three runs, Bernie Williams hit a solo homer and Pat Kelly went 3-for-4 for the Yankees, pleasing a crowd of 50,245, about 6,500 fewer than last year's record attendance. Key lasted five-plus innings and gave up seven hits. John Wetteland pitched a perfect ninth for his first American League save after Texas cut a 7-3 deficit to 7-6 in the seventh. Kenny Rogers (0-1) allowed four earned runs on five hits in three innings. **Red Sox 9, Twins 0** Jose Canseco and Mo Vaughn knocked in two runs each during a seven-run sixth inning.

### CLASSIC

Torres, Seth Hoelscher, Glen Castro, Stewart Carr and head coach R.C. Hoelscher. Hereford Hornets: Tyson Yosten, Bryce West, Josh Snell, Wes Reinart, Kevin King, Andrew Carnahan, Tyler Yonzer, Stefan Priemel, Eamuel Silva, head coach Shea McGinty and assistant Lindy Yosten. **12-UNDER BOYS** Big Dawgs: Tyler Nielsen, Ritchie Sanders, Derek Mendoza, J.P. Holman, Jacob Power, Will McGowan, Kade Wilcox, Cody Marsh, Ky Wilcox, Tyler Keeling, head coach Natalie Sims and assistant Darla Bryant.

Texas Trojans: includes Chayse Rives, Cody Hodges, Slade Hodges and coach Steve Hodges. **13-UNDER BOYS** Panthers: L.J. Vallojo, Tim Dudley, Jeremy Williams, Marvin Brown, Craig Campbell, Eddie Ruiz, Kurtis Flood, Seth Pietsch, Brian Hysinger, Geoffrey Brown, head coach Joe Flood and assistant Grady Brown. Texas Warriors: includes James Miller, Eric McNutt, Steven Northern, Danile Carnahan, head coach Amy Noyes and assistant Burt Miller. **14-UNDER BOYS** Razorbacks: includes Bryant McNutt. Lubbock Warriors: includes Isaac Walker. Amarillo Spartans: includes Michael High. **11-UNDER GIRLS** Metro Stars: includes Sarah Griffin. Lady Blues: includes Tiffany Mercer.

**12-UNDER GIRLS** Texas Lady Warriors: Holly Schilling, Brionne Yosten, Audra King, Jessica Artho, Schrena Davis, Jessica Holmes, Kecia Thomas, Pam Klein, Ashley Fangman, head coach Brenda Yosten and assistant Amy Noyes. West Texas Heat: Kimberly Artho, Valerie Guseman, Emilie Hafliager, Courtney Lookinbill, Kyla May, Laura Perrin, Randi Qualls, Dondi Richardson, Leslie Torres, Tori Walker, head coach Toby Torres and assistant Jerry Walker. **13-UNDER GIRLS** Hereford Hotshots: Kristin Pangman, Meredith McGowan, Melanica Casarez, Christy Schumacher, Amy Perrin, Kristin Cole, Annie Keenan, Noelle Merrick, Nicole Alley, Toni Eicke, Kasey Torres, head coach Mike Albiar and assistant Gary Cornelius.

**14-UNDER GIRLS** Hereford Hotshots: Nichole Albracht, Aja Albiar, Misty Tice, Crystal Bailey, Staci Betzen, Sara Hendley, Meredith Tabor, Sarah Ramey, Ysa-Yvett Rodriguez, head coach Mike Albiar and assistant Gary Cornelius. West Texas Heat: includes Makenzie Rives, Kendra Wright, Julie Rampley, head coach Jackie Mercer and assistant Eddie Chavarria. **16-UNDER GIRLS** Swarms: includes Kari Barrett and Katie Beitzen. West Texas Heat: includes Heather Hodges, Julie Cole, Crystal Mercer, head coach Jackie Mercer and assistant Eddie Chavarria.

### TRACK

"He's so quick, he's ahead of everybody before they know what's going on." Girls' coach Martha Emerson wasn't able to provide any times but said Crox had one of the top 300 hurdle times in the region. "She really is in pretty good shape," Emerson said. "She has one of the top qualifying times." Emerson isn't worried too much about qualifying times. "It doesn't matter what you run before," she said. "It matters what you run this weekend." Mechelle Abbott, the Pampa girl who Crox finished second to at district, should be one of the top competitors. Brown and Crox will run preliminary races on Friday to try to get in the finals on Saturday. Preliminaries will include 14 runners,

eight of which get to advance to the finals. High will have tough competition in the triple jump, which will take place Saturday. "The triple jump is extremely tough this year," Young said, adding that High has had two good weeks of workouts. The competition includes a Big Spring jumper whose father was an Olympic triple jumper. His best distance is 49-0, while High's jump at district was 42-1/2. The regional field also includes several 47 and 48-foot jumpers, Young said.

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# Dance class provides benefits for special students

By STEPHANIE CHERRY  
Bryan-College Station Eagle  
BRYAN, Texas - Like most young girls, Rachelle Stanford looks forward to her weekly dance class. But she and the four other girls in her class have to exert a little more effort than most girls.

Learning a routine requires much more repetition. And even performing what others consider to be the simplest of steps is a great accomplishment for these girls.

All five are mentally and/or physically impaired.

Cheryl Montalbano, the owner of MCM studios in Bryan, teaches the class.

"They want to be able to do good and show their parents that they can do something ...," Montalbano said of her students.

Rachelle's mother, Pam Taylor, said the class gives the girls a sense of accomplishment.

"Each one of the girls seems to be so proud of herself for focusing in on something and reaching it," Taylor said.

And all five girls are enthusiastic about their class.

On a recent Tuesday, all were early to their class. They had changed into their dance clothes at school so they would be ready when they got to the studio.

Sue Lee said her 20-year-old daughter Belinda loves the class. She leaves there happy and makes plans for the next class well in advance. And Belinda is meticulous about how she looks during the class, halting the rehearsal at one point to tie her shoe strings.

Twelve-year-old Stephanie Batten welcomes a visitor to the class, sneaking up from behind, wrapping loving arms around the stranger's shoulders and saying "hello."

With a gleam in her eyes she proudly shows off her pink ballet slippers.

Tobi Hall, 20, is a little more bashful at first, but welcomes the attention she receives from those watching her.

Rebecca Pivonka is the group

leader. The younger girls look up to the 19-year-old as an older sister.

Rebecca gets visibly nervous about her responsibility of leading the others through their routine, especially when someone she doesn't know is watching. But she carries on, giving the others their cues and, like the others, putting every ounce of energy she has into the routine.

Montalbano said that when classes began in September the girls had problems straightening their arms before them. All have difficulty speaking clearly, and remembering the sequence of steps has been a real challenge.

But she said teaching these girls requires only one thing: patience.

"You've got to go over things five-fold with them," Montalbano said. "It takes a whole lot of repetition."

But the girls, who range from 12 to 20 years old, have just about learned a routine they will perform May 28 at Rudder Auditorium during the school's annual recital.

"We're just going to try to clean

it up and get them not afraid of people watching," Montalbano said.

Actually, the girls love the attention and applause they receive after a performance. Montalbano said the group received a very warm response following a performance at the Kiwanis pancake dinner recently.

"It really gave them a lot of self-esteem," Montalbano said. "People clap and try to make them feel good."

"As long as they're going to cheer them on, they're going to eat that up."

And Montalbano incorporates work on key problem areas into the class and routines.

At the start of class she makes them count out loud as they clap along. And she makes them talk during the class.

And in the routine the girls go to the microphone, wave their arm and say "Hi, my name is... and I'm an MCM dancer."

All this, she said, does not come easily for her students.

"They have a lot of drive," Montalbano said.

And the efforts help them out in day-to-day living.

Taylor said that prior to the class, Rachelle was "not flexible or limber at all."

Now, she says, she sees a big

difference in Rachelle's body motions.

"She's standing up straight and loosening up her body," Taylor said.

At one point during their routine, the girls lift their arms high above them and take several steps, lifting their legs as high and as straight as possible.

"That's a major accomplishment for them," Taylor said.

And Montalbano said the classes teach the girls to "have a line of concentration and to remember all the steps without stopping."

Taylor praised Montalbano's willingness and ability to learn the limitations of her students and adapt a routine around them, but at the same time set expectations of them.

"Cheryl has such a gift," she said.

But Montalbano said she feels like she gets the most out of her work.

"I feel really rewarded," she said. "I get more from it than I feel I give to them."

And she said she would like to see the class grow.

"All little girls want to dance," she said. "They've got to have the opportunity to try."

Montalbano would welcome boys into the class with open arms, saying the classes could, at the least, help them with basic motor skills and self-confidence.

But she said many parents of

disabled children are afraid to let them test their limits by trying things like dancing or swimming.

"You've got to give them a chance and see what their limits are."

Taylor said Rachelle, who is 17, has a rare birth defect for which there is no known cause.

"The doctors wanted me to institutionalize her at birth," Taylor said. But instead she put her daughter into physical, speech and occupational therapy.

"She's doing really well now," Taylor said.

And Taylor said Rachelle anticipates the Tuesday classes with eagerness, wanting to make sure everything is ready Monday evening.

"She never really had things to look forward to like other girls," said Taylor, referring to the wide variety of activities that "normal" children can participate in. "Other kids have Tae Kwan Do or piano."

"This is her thing."

Distributed by The Associated Press

# Only one-third of U.S. high school students are proficient in reading

By CONNIE CASS  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - Only one-third of high school students are proficient readers, a drop from two years ago, according to a national survey released today.

But educators refused to shoulder all the blame, saying too many students prefer the fuzzy glow of the TV to the crisp pages of a novel.

"Our children need more books," said William T. Randall, chairman of the National Assessment Governing Board. "Not more textbooks but more library books and more books of their own at home so they can develop a lifelong reading habit."

Education Secretary Richard W. Riley said the results indicate students are spending "too much time watching mind-numbing television."

He called for renewed emphasis on reading skills "both in the classroom and at home."

The test, given in early 1994 to fourth-, eighth- and 12th-graders, was designed to show how well students understand and analyze what they read. Students were judged to be at the advanced, proficient or basic reading levels, or below.

About 30 percent of the seniors failed to reach even basic, the lowest level. The younger students were even less likely to be rated basic or proficient readers for their grades.

But while the seniors' scores have dropped since 1992 - the first time the updated version of the test was given - the fourth- and eighth-graders scored about the same as their 1992 peers.

"Far too few students are reaching the proficient level of reading achievement in any grade," said James E. Ellingson, a fourth-grade teacher on the test governing board.

"Average achievement is either stuck or going down."

That contrasts with scores on the

math version of the National Assessment of Educational Process, which have been rising over the past decade, he said.

Ellingson noted that "out-of-school factors probably matter more in reading than they do in math." But he also said the schools have "a crucial responsibility" to improve reading.

Other findings included: -12th-grade scores declined for white, black and Hispanic students, and for students in private schools as well as public schools.

-Hispanic students in the fourth-grade also scored lower than in 1992.

-In all three grades, girls scored higher than boys, and the high school girls' scores declined less than the boys'.

-Private school students received higher average scores than public school students.

**CAPITOL COMMENT**  
  
U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

## Return to Texas a Reminder of Home Truths

Dorothy was right. There is no place like home. Since Congress recessed at the beginning of April, I have spent the first real break we have had traveling around our state talking to Texans and visiting our military bases. These past weeks at home have served to remind me how lucky we Texans are.

At the same time, the visits have given me an opportunity to study Texas' defense missions in detail. Texas continues to play a pivotal role in the nation's defense network — against a backdrop of uncertainty in a still-dangerous world.

The terrorist bombing of an Oklahoma City federal building April 19 provided even more proof that national defense remains the paramount function of the federal government. When such attacks can occur on our own soil, clearly, defense warrants our closest attention.

And it provides a provocative backdrop for ongoing

deliberations of the federal Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission. The third and final round of the commission's work is under way. I have consistently advocated that the base closure process take into greater account growing concern over military readiness, and the need to ensure our military forces continue to have the training and logistical support they need.

Texas' military facilities have a record and reputation for bolstering readiness that can be compared favorably with those in any other area of the country.

I remain confident that a close examination of all of the military facilities will demonstrate their continuing value to our defense effort.


During my recent visits I also have been reminded that the quality of life for military personnel stationed in Texas communities is outstanding — unparalleled, in fact. Texas communities are extraordinarily supportive of the military and its mission. They remain committed to the military and its forces.

When you combine those factors, any objective analysis can't help but conclude that these military missions can be performed better and cheaper in Texas than anywhere else.

The other issue that has been on my mind since returning home is Texans' continued desire for smaller, leaner government. While still smarting from their interaction with the IRS on April 17, many Texans have told me how burdensome they find their federal government — both in its inclination to over-regulate their lives as well as to tax them for a disproportionate share of their incomes.

They want the government to allow them to keep more of what they earn. And they know, in the long run, restoring their freedom will only be accomplished by putting their government back on a short fiscal leash and keeping it there.



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