



LOCAL/STATE

Day in the Life

Midlander Robert Mills spends his days in a world where success and failure exist within the same 1,000th of an inch./1B



SPORTS

GHS football

Quarterback Michael Otho is one of several seniors who are hoping to lead the Rangers to greener pastures this season./1C

Midland Reporter-Telegram

Daily 50¢, Sunday \$1.50

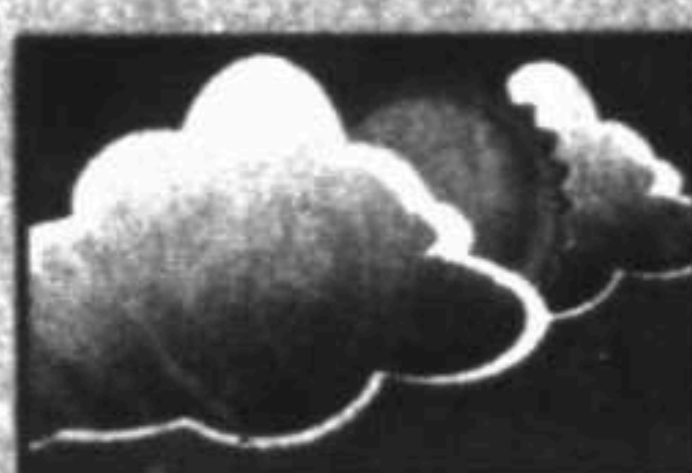
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1997

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A.M. BRIEFING

TODAY

Partly cloudy with high in mid-90s. Weather on 4A



Anit-Israel protest

Palestinians chant anti-Israeli slogans during a march at the Palestinian Legislative Council in Gaza city protesting the Israeli closure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip following the market suicide bombing Monday. Protesters also demonstrated against the 26-day closure of Bethlehem.

Story page 2A

Leader sentenced

BERLIN — A German court on Monday sentenced the last hard-line communist leader of East Germany, Egon Krenz, to six years in prison, on charges of being responsible for the shooting deaths of people trying to cross the Berlin Wall.

Story page 3A

Breast implants

DETROIT — Dow Corning Corp. offered Monday to pay more than 200,000 women up to \$2.4 billion to settle claims that its silicone breast implants cause illnesses when they leak. Under the offer, the Midland, Mich.-based Dow Corning would not admit that breast implants cause disease, but said it was making the offer to "agree to disagree" with the women.

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Property insurance rates to jump

Insurance rates to increase an average of 14.2 percent statewide under new standards, but West Texas rates could increase by as much as 22 to 30 percent.

By Alice Ashmore

Staff Writer

Homeowners in Midland could be in for a jolt next year when benchmark rates for property insurance increase dramatically under new standards recently approved by Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer.

Statewide, the increase averages 14.2 percent, but West Texas benchmark rates are soaring by 22 to 30 percent, according to figures supplied by the Texas Department of Insurance.

Benchmark rates are a guideline for insurance rates, but rate regulated companies are allowed to quote rates as low as 30 percent below benchmark and as high as

30 percent above benchmark.

"I am reluctantly allowing homeowner's benchmark rates to climb because Texas Department of Insurance actuaries have verified that this is justified by the data," Bomer said. The new rates take effect Feb. 1, 1998.

Mark Hanna, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Insurance, said the increase is "pretty much weather related."

Bea Williams, Personal Lines Department Manager with Mims and Stephens, said she is "very surprised" by the increase in benchmark rates.

"We have not had any really bad weather," she said. "1988 and 1989 were the last storms of any significance."

Diane Partidge, an agent with West Texas Insurance Exchange, was dismayed by the news. "I dread it," she said. "All of our companies are rate regulated."

Ms. Partidge said the increase could cause monthly mortgage rates to go up as insurance costs are included.

Please see RATES/4A

NEW RATES FOR HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE IN TEXAS

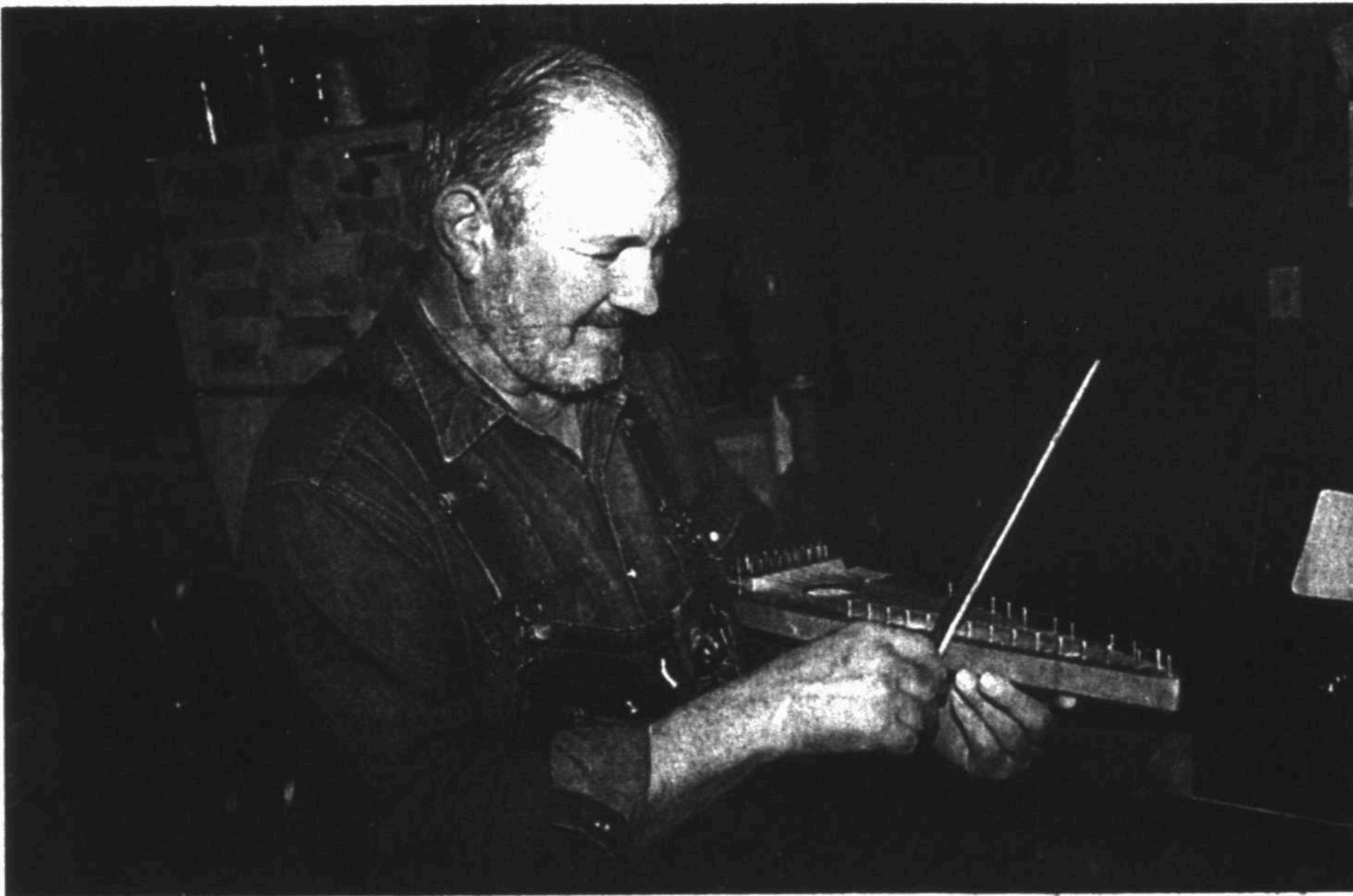
The following average annual rates in the West Texas area are for an \$80,000 brick-veneer home with a \$250 deductible and other typical coverages. These are the benchmark rates, insurance companies may charge up to 30 percent above or 30 percent below the benchmark rates. The rates become effective February 1, 1998.

CITY	CURRENT RATE	NEW RATE
Midland	\$723	\$916
Odessa	\$723	\$935
Big Spring	\$723	\$982
San Angelo	\$723	\$982
Sweetwater	\$723	\$1029

Figures were not available for Martin, Andrews, Dawson and Glasscock counties, but rates are expected to increase similarly.

Source: Texas Department of Insurance.

NATIVE TALENT



Johnnye Montgomery/Reporter-Telegram

Wayne Davis may not be a musical expert but he has taught himself to play a psaltery, which he also builds.

Psaltery maker crafts music from wood, wire and determination

By Johnnye Montgomery

BIG SPRING — Wayne Davis can't read music. Not a note. He's hardly a student of ancient history, and he's not into religious ceremonies. Yet, over the past five years, he's built three psalteries, taught himself to play, and now has another one about half finished. He's also begun playing his psaltery with a band.

Davis said he became interested when he met a psaltery maker in Henrietta, just this side of the Oklahoma border.

"I was on a muzzleloaders' rendezvous, and I heard him playing that thing, and it sounded so pretty. I didn't have any idea what kind of instrument it was," he said.

The psaltery maker began to tell him about the instrument, and the next thing he knew, Davis had laid his money down, and was the bewildered owner of a psaltery.

"I taught myself to play the harmonica when I was about eight, but I don't have any musical education whatsoever," he said. "I didn't know the first thing about playing a psaltery."

There are numerous biblical and apocryphal references to the psaltery, an ancient stringed instrument that was

used ceremonially in Hebrew and other ancient religious services. Through the centuries, it has evolved in shape, size and method of playing. Some are plucked. Others, Davis's among them, are played with a bow.

The bowed psaltery is triangular, with a soundhole in the middle, a pinblock assembly across the base of the triangle, a bridge above the tuning pins and anchor pins along the other two edges. The sharp and flat notes are on one side of the triangle: naturals on the other.

Davis said it took him about a year to learn to play.

"I had to know enough about music to learn to play, so I found some really simple music, with the notes printed out on the score, A, B, C, and then I had to learn how to tune it. I was having to learn how to play, how to tune it, and how to read the music, then out of the blue, I decided to build me a psaltery."

Davis, a lifelong woodworking hobbyist, said he had no clue of the job he had undertaken.

"I sent off for a set of plans, and when I got them, I thought I'd be able to build it in an afternoon. I had ordered the piano wire and pins from a piano repair shop in Lubbock, and I

Please see MUSIC/4A

Commissioners OK tax increase by vote of 3 to 2

By Ed Todd

Staff Writer

In a 3-2 bloc vote, the Midland County Commissioners Court on Monday voted to raise the county's 1997 property taxes by 2.95 percent above the effective tax rate but below 1996's actual tax rate.

And in so doing, the commissioners casting the three prevailing votes rejected a united effort by County Judge Jeff Norwood and Commissioner Guy McCrary to bring about a tax cut.

But the proposed 23.11-cent adopted tax rate, which was approved by Commissioners Henry Goulet, Louisa Valencia and James Brezina, is one cent below the tax-cutting 22.11-cent rate touted by Norwood and McCrary.

For the owner of the "average" Midland home valued at \$64,640, the impact is in the \$6.46 per-year difference between the two rates, County Tax Assessor-Collector Kathy Reeves said.

"The difference between the tax rate that the judge and Guy McCrary wished to adopt and the tax rate that was adopted is \$6.46 per year," Ms. Reeves said.

At the 23.11-cent rate, taxes on the "average" Midland home would be \$149.38 per year. At the 22.11-cent rate, taxes would be \$142.92.

"And the difference between what (taxpayers) paid last year in taxes and what they will pay this year in taxes is \$4.28 or about 35 cent a month difference," Ms. Reeves noted.

The one-cent tax-rate increase represents \$442,000 in income, which, Ms. Reeves noted, means that the 23.11 cents would generate \$10.2 million in revenue based on the current \$4.427-billion countywide tax base.

"If we didn't collect sales taxes, our rate would be a little over 39 cents," Ms. Reeves said. The difference, she said, is "a substantial saving."

Goulet had proposed the one-cent tax-rate increase above the Norwood-McCrary rate to fund \$236,832 in "omnibus" budget amendments approved earlier Monday by the five-member court.

"I think 22.11 (cents) is an unrealistic approach to the budget," Goulet said.

"I couldn't in good conscience support anything higher than that (22.11-cent rate)," McCrary said.

In opting for the 23.11-cent rate, Goulet had rejected McCrary's stance that revenue to support the amend-

Please see COUNTY/4A

Florida settles tobacco industry lawsuit

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — The \$11.3 billion settlement Florida reached with the tobacco industry Monday includes some of the toughest prohibitions on advertising and marketing to children, yet gives the industry some breathing room not in the proposed national deal.

Some critics contend the state's landmark pact highlights the need for Congress to approve the \$368 billion national pact so the federal government can regulate nicotine and set penalties for failing to clamp down on smoking by children.

Others, however, suggest Florida has shown individual states can earn more on their own than as part of a national deal, which would supersede Florida's deal if approved.

Gov. Lawton Chiles helped negotiate the 17-page agreement, which he said includes provisions to protect children, reimburse the state for Medicaid money spent treating sick smokers and "blows away the smoke screen of lies."

"We wanted acknowledgment of the havoc they had caused in the past and some indica-

tion that would change in the future," Chiles said. "There is a debt long past due for big tobacco to pay."

The state had been seeking \$12.3 billion based on claims the industry manufactured a defective product and deceived the public about smoking's dangers. Jury selection began Aug. 1.

Florida will receive an initial payment of about \$1 billion within one year and at least another \$10.3 billion to be paid out over 25 years. The settlement will be enforced by Florida courts and does not need to be approved by state or federal lawmakers.

The state will spend most of the money on programs geared toward children and health.

"This is another step in a process to end the climate of confrontation and litigation that has marked the national debate on tobacco-related issues," the industry said in a statement.

Arthur Golden, an industry attorney who

Please see LAWSUIT/4A



AP Photo
Reporters and television crews swarm Governor Lawton Chiles and Attorney General Bob Butterworth walking to a news conference in Florida Monday where Chiles announced the historic agreement between the state and tobacco companies.

Bosnian political rivals take duel to airwaves

New York Times Service

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The signal went dead in the middle of Monday's episode of the Venezuelan soap opera "Cassandra," the most popular program in this Bosnian Serb enclave.

"It was done to frustrate our viewers," said Marinko Ucur, the news editor at the television station here. "It was a message that we are on our own."

The signal was being sent, as it had been on previous days, from the main Serbian broadcast outlet in Bosnia, in Pale, for relay by the station here in Banja Luka.

But last weekend, in a reflection of a growing power struggle between Bosnian Serb leaders in Pale and Banja Luka in the self-styled Serb republic, television reporters in Banja Luka said they would no longer work under the direction of the hardliners in Pale, a suburb of Sarajevo. And Monday's break in the signal from Pale, in the eastern half of the Serb republic, was taken here as a sign that Pale had now severed all links with its former partners here.

The political struggle pits supporters in Pale of Radovan Karadzic, the former Serbian leader who has been indicted for war crimes by the international tribunal in The Hague, against Biljana Plavsic, the Bosnian Serb president and his onetime aide.

One result of the split is that a fierce propaganda war has broken out on the airwaves with the two rival stations pumping out the kind of hate messages and distorted reporting they once reserved for Muslims, Croats and foreigners.

On the second floor of the city hall in Banja Luka, where Ms. Plavsic has her office, the station's news staff on Monday prepared the evening report. It comprised a half hour of glowing tributes to Ms. Plavsic and was followed by a rebroadcast of her afternoon news conference.

The second half of the news was taken up by a report from the city of Mrkonj Grad,

25 miles south of Banja Luka, where the police chief, Brane Pecanac, urged Serbs to follow "the honest and holy path tread by President Biljana Plavsic."

Ms. Plavsic has accused Karadzic and his followers of stealing millions of dollars in state revenues and jeopardizing the viability of the impoverished Serb republic. Her criticisms last month, which were never broadcast by Pale, grew into an open confrontation when she tried in vain to dissolve the Bosnian Serb Parliament, which meets in Pale.

"Pale called up and told us to get street interviews about President Plavsic," said Ucur. "We sent them feed after feed of people praising the president. Our chiefs in Pale said they wanted other opinions about her. We called back and told them that in Banja Luka there were no other opinions."

The news broadcasts Sunday and Monday night, the first by the renegade reporters and editors, looked in form, if not in content, exactly like their rival station's in Pale. And while everyone at the station said they had

split with Pale to build "a free and independent media," nobody among them who was interviewed today could think of any report on Pale television before the current power struggle that they had disagreed with.

In fact, Nikola Deretic, one of the senior editors, made it clear that the political struggle between Pale and Banja Luka does not include a difference in point of view about the Bosnian Serb cause in general.

"We have no trust in the foreign media," said the editor. "We have lived through this war watching outsiders tell monstrous lies, such as the reports made about our so-called concentration camps. We remain proud of what we accomplished in the war, about our protection of the Serb people and Serb land. It is we who are the real defenders of the unified and independent Serb state, not Pale. We are fighting over who are better equipped to defend the interests of the Serb people."

As for Karadzic, the editor said that the leader in Pale "may be against us now, but he is not a war criminal and should not go to The Hague. There is not a Serb here who supports his extradition."

Strident reports, many of which turned out to be wildly exaggerated or fabricated, have been a staple at the radio and television stations taken over by Serb nationalists.

During the war the so-called "ethnic cleansing" campaign by the Bosnian Serb army, in which over 200,000 people were killed and more than a million people were driven from their homes, was ignored by the Bosnian Serb media. Instead, these reporters insisted that Muslims in Sarajevo, who were being shelled daily by heavy Serb guns, were killing their own people to gain international sympathy.

They also reported that no unarmed Muslims were killed in 1995 in Srebrenica, despite evidence gathered by the United Nations that as many as 8,000 people may have been rounded up, executed and buried in mass graves.

'Pale called up and told us to get street interviews about President Plavsic. We sent them feed after feed of people praising the president. Our chiefs in Pale said they wanted other opinions about her. We called back and told them that in Banja Luka there were no other opinions.'

— Marinko Ucur, news editor at the television station in Banja Luka

Protests lead to tense Bethlehem showdown

Associated Press

BETHLEHEM, West Bank — Armed Palestinian police intervened Monday to keep Israeli soldiers from chasing stone-throwers into Palestinian territory, training their assault rifles on the Israeli troops in a tense half-hour standoff.

The confrontation came in a day of angry, violent protests over Israel's siege of Bethlehem, which has sealed in the city's residents since shortly after the July 30 suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

The tensest showdown of the day started when dozens of Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli-controlled enclave in the Palestinian-run town of Bethlehem.

Israeli soldiers fired rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse the stone-throwers, then started approaching the Palestinian-controlled area. Palestinian policemen quickly took positions behind walls and barricades, pointing their Kalashnikov assault rifles at the soldiers.

"It's on the edge. If they come closer, we will shoot," declared one Palestinian policeman, who would not give his name.

The Palestinians eventually lowered their weapons when the fighting eased, but remained in position.

The armed showdown signaled a further deterioration in relations between Israel and the Palestinians, brought to their latest crisis by last month's bombings by Islamic militants.

Israel reportedly believes that two masterminds of the bombings may be hiding in the city.

Angry at the 26-day siege of Bethlehem, Palestinians used a bulldozer, shovels and their bare hands to tear away one of the rock and cinder-block barricades blocking their city.

Chanting, "God help us," about 40 protesters — including Bethlehem's mayor, Palestinian legislators and priests in black robes — dragged away boulders and dug into mounds of earth with shovels.

"This is a decision by the people to remove all the barricades surrounding Bethlehem,"

said Hanna Nasser, leader of the half-Christian city. "There is no reason to have this blockade."

At first, Israeli troops watched without acting. But when the Palestinians brought in a bulldozer, Israeli troops climbed on top of what was left of the barricade to protect it, while an army commander grabbed a loudspeaker to order the crowd away.

The protesters eventually withdrew, promising to return Tuesday if Israel did not lift the siege by then.

Dozens of Palestinians marched on another Israeli roadblock on the outskirts of Bethlehem later in the day, hurling stones at Israeli troops. Israelis fired back with tear gas and rubber bullets.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasized today that Israel will ease travel restrictions on Palestinians only when Palestinian leaders fully cooperate in reining in Islamic militants.

"When we have cooperation with the Palestinians on security issues, then we will be able to lift the closure," Netanyahu told Israel radio in a telephone interview from Japan, where he is visiting.

Netanyahu alleges that the Palestinians have made no real effort to track down Hamas militants.

Palestinians — who have appealed to the United States to pressure Israel to end the siege of Bethlehem — complain that the closure amounts to collective punishment for the bombings. The Palestinians say Israel is using the restrictions to extract Palestinian concessions at the negotiating table.

"We are not collaborators for any Israeli security branch and we don't want civil war," Abdel Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian Authority, told about 1,000 Palestinians today a Gaza City rally in support of Yasser Arafat.

Elsewhere, Israeli bulldozers demolished two Palestinian homes in the Jerusalem suburb of Al Zayim in the West Bank and two more in the village of Nahalin near Bethlehem, saying they were built without permits.

Despite national disarray, Columbia's leader prospers

New York Times Service

BOGOTA, Colombia — The Letters to the Editor column in El Tiempo one recent day read like the script for a movie that could be called "Country on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown."

The first note was from a woman to her husband who had been kidnapped months ago, urging him not to lose hope. Another reader exploded over the "swindlers, juvenile delinquents, phony civil servants, peddlers selling umbrellas, videos, books, dogs, taffy, knives, kites, predators, murderers just out of jail" who besiege him the moment he leaves home each morning.

A third brought up a promise President Ernesto Samper made, that his last year in office would be a "striptease," unveiling great works. With interest rates on savings accounts falling short of inflation, the pledge rang true in a way, the reader said. "We've been completely fleeced."

Three years into his four-year term, Samper has proved himself a far shrewder, more audacious politician than his opponents in Washington or at home imagined in the adrenaline-filled days when the clamor for his resignation echoed from streets to boardrooms.

Samper has won the battle over the drug corruption charges against him. Nobody expects him to leave office before his term expires next August. And yet his victory is dubious. By virtually any measure,

Colombia is in its worst shape in decades, demoralized, angry and broke.

"He's a political genius," said Francisco Mejia, an economic consultant who was one of those calling for Samper to step down. "But it doesn't matter. He doesn't have credibility, nobody trusts him, and without that, you can't really run a country."

Pardoned by Congress on charges that drug dealers from the southern city of Cali pumped \$6 million into his election campaign, Samper has used control of jobs, pork-barrel projects and the airwaves to avoid resigning.

Supportive members of Congress have been rewarded with cash for enormous, often unnecessary projects in their districts, devastating the country's once enviable economy.

Economists like Mejia estimate that the district of Heyne Mogollon, who came under severe criticism for playing down the case against Samper when he chaired the Congressional Committee of Accusations, has received an estimated \$20 million in assorted contracts.

"Most of the upper classes live off the state, and the president has tremendous pull," said Hernan Echeverria, who stood at the forefront of the drive among business leaders to remove the president, only to watch their commitment dissipate as time passed. "He has so many contracts, so many jobs, to give out."

Economic growth, which had been running upwards of 5 percent a year before Samper took office, is down to an expected 1.5 percent this year, while the major international investment houses are advising their clients to look elsewhere. Revenues gained from privatization have gone largely to pay salaries rather than to build public works necessary for future growth. The unemployment rate, once at 6 percent, has more than doubled.

With the government soaking up domestic sources of finance, Colombian companies have increasingly turned to foreign banks. During Samper's term, foreign debt has soared to \$32 billion from \$17 billion. And government spending as a share of the gross domestic product has swollen to 33 percent from 20 percent, said Mejia.

In social and political terms, the situation is hardly more optimistic. About 70 percent of all the kidnappings in the world occur in Colombia. More people died violent deaths in the first nine months of 1996 than all of last year in the United States, which has nearly eight times the population.

Jose Miguel Caballero and John Murphy, two gung-ho entrepreneurs who make bulletproof fashion wear, are busy outfitting. If the candidates for next year's presidential elections.

In order to prevail over his enemies, Samper has had to curry favor with power bases that are frequently at odds, much as he has

tried to satisfy the Rodriguez Orejuela brothers, the Cali traffickers who allegedly financed his election, as well as officials in Washington, who criticize him for protecting the interests of the drug lords.

A perfect example has been a bill to reinstate extradition, which the president launched as Washington prepared its annual report card on Colombia's cooperation in fighting drug exports.

The United States, which would like to be able to try the Colombian drug lords in its own courts, is eager to have an extradition treaty with Colombia, and Samper's proposal has effectively muted Washington's criticism. But the law would not apply to drug dealers who turn themselves in, like the Rodriguez Orejuelas. And a twist in the bill announced last week means that passage of a second law, under the next president's administration, will be necessary.

Such weak leadership has been a boon to the right-wing paramilitary groups and the leftist guerrillas, who together control more than half the country's territory.

In the atmosphere of lawlessness beyond any sense of proportion or shame, some crimes veer into the surreal. Last week, a legislator reported that a 32-foot-wide metal bridge weighing 40 tons had disappeared from his district. Residents of San Agustín, in Neiva state, said they neither saw nor heard anything.

Europe suffers through heat wave, air pollution

New York Times Service

PARIS — In Norway, tropical nights — more than a dozen this summer when the temperature never dropped below 68 degrees, or 20 degrees centigrade — the most since records have been kept. By early August, Norsk Iskrem had sold 20 million more ice cream cones than usual.

In France, scorching days — 15 consecutive in August alone when the temperature hit 86 degrees, or 30 degrees centigrade, or higher — the longest heat wave this century.

In central England, the average temperature this month reached nearly 68 degrees, almost as high as in 1995, when the August temperature set an all-time record there.

It's been an unpleasant heat, bringing with it temperature inversions and air pollution that was so

severe in Paris last week that authorities cut fares in half on subways and buses.

Europeans have had more than usual to complain about with their weather this year, starting with an April drought and a late-spring cold snap that produced snow in the Loire Valley in early May. June was cold and wet in most places, and prolonged heavy rains in central and eastern Europe caused devastating floods in the Czech Republic, Poland, and eastern Germany in July.

August then turned so balmy in most parts of Europe that penguins had to be smeared with sun-lotion at the Edinburgh Zoo, according to authorities there who said the heat had caused the birds

to moult so heavily that they were in danger of sunburn.

"We don't yet have enough information to say whether the unusual weather has anything to do with global warming or the El Nino current in the Pacific," said Alain Foidart, a weather forecaster in Toulouse.

"There was a stagnant situation in July when a low pressure area kept sucking cold air from Russia down into Central Europe and producing rain there," Foidart said, "and there's been another stagnant situation since the 6th and 7th of August, with high pressure over the Continent and low pressure off the French Atlantic coast bringing up warm and dry air from the Sahara."

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Israel decides to build dam on land claimed by Syria

New York Times Service

JERUSALEM — Israel has decided to build a dam just inside the boundary of land claimed by Syria, officials said on Monday, even though that step is bound to worsen prospects for peace between the two countries.

The site designated for the dam on the Yarmuk River is one mile upstream from one selected by Israel's previous Labor Party government, the Israeli officials said. The original site was not in disputed territory.

The Israeli officials said the decision to choose another site was intended to underscore Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's rejection of Syria's demands that Israel withdraw from the Golan Heights to a line that divided the two countries at the outset of the 1967 war.

The new site still lies within Israeli territory as defined by international borders. But the decision, first reported by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, is certain to be seen as provocative at a time of a deepening crisis in Israel's relations with the Palestinians, and of violence involving Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon.

If Israel goes ahead with construction at the new site, it could provoke the kind of outcry that followed

its decision in March to begin construction of a housing project on the East Jerusalem hilltop known to Jews as Har Homa.

Just as Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, has accused Netanyahu of trying to create facts on the ground in Jerusalem that would be difficult to revise in the final peace settlement that is supposed to determine the status of the city, so President Hafez Assad of Syria could accuse the Israeli leader of beginning to create facts on the ground in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Syria has condemned the plan, with a senior official telling Reuters that it "proves that Netanyahu does not want peace and wants only to escalate tensions in the region."

And Jordan's foreign minister, Fayez Tarawneh, said on Monday that to build the dam in territory claimed by Syria would be "totally against the spirit" of the peace accord that Israel and Jordan signed in 1994.

The pledge to build the dam at a point where Israel and Jordan meet was included in the treaty as a reward for Jordan, which after the structure is built would be able to divert river water for its own use.

Israel's water commissioner, Meir Ben Meir, was quoted in Haaretz on Monday morning as saying Jor-

danian officials had "agreed unequivocally" on the new site, and it was unclear on Monday night what effect the new Jordanian objections might have. But if Israel insists on the new site, King Hussein and his government might then have to choose between alienating Syria and doing without the new and badly needed water supplies.

As its price for peace, Syria has insisted that Israel withdraw to the lines it held on June 4, 1967, just before the outbreak of the war that ended six days later.

That demand, stretching beyond the recognized international border, exceeds what even the previous Labor Party government appeared willing to concede as part of a peace deal. It includes the enclave of Al Hama, which for a few months after the state's founding in 1948 was recognized as part of Israel, but which Syrian forces infiltrated beginning in 1949. At the outset of the 1967 war, it lay within a demilitarized zone respected by both countries.

In an effort to avoid provocation before an Israeli-Syrian peace accord could be reached, the plan endorsed by Yitzhak Rabin, the prime minister at the time, had called for the dam to be built a half mile downstream from the old demilitarized zone. But Israeli officials said on Monday that the gov-

ernment felt it was important to use the dam to make clear that Israel rejected Syria's most far-reaching land claim.

Meir, the commissioner, was quoted on Monday as saying: "The area is part of the state of Israel from the British Mandate period. It is not Syrian and never was."

Israel and Syria are still technically in a state of war that goes back to 1948. They last held peace talks in January 1996, at a time when Shimon Peres was Israel's prime minister, having filled the position after the assassination of Rabin. Netanyahu, who ousted Peres in the elections of May 1996, has said he would be willing to resume the talks "without preconditions."

But because Netanyahu has repeatedly declared his opposition to handing back the Golan Heights as a price for peace, Syria has firmly rejected the offer to talk. It has said Netanyahu's proposal is nothing more than shorthand for scrapping the land-for-peace principle that all sides agreed on at the Middle East peace conference of 1991 in Madrid.

Israeli officials said on Monday that the decision to build the dam had been made quietly last year by Ariel Sharon, the national infrastructure minister, and had been endorsed by the prime minister.

Former East German leader sentenced for deaths at Berlin Wall

New York Times Service

BERLIN — A German court on Monday sentenced the last hardline communist leader of East Germany to six years in prison, on charges of being responsible for the shooting deaths of people trying to cross the Berlin Wall.

The conviction of Egon Krenz, who ruled East Germany for just a few weeks before its government collapsed in December 1989, marked the final and most ambitious attempt to hold East Germany's top political leaders responsible for the hundreds of people killed during the cold war while trying to escape to the West.

Besides Krenz, who was immediately taken in custody, the court also convicted two other top members of the former Politburo and sentenced them to three years in prison each.

Monday's decision was the last of more than 50 trials against some 100 soldiers, military officers and government officials who were charged in connection with shootings at the border. Of those, 55 have been convicted, and most receiving either short or suspended prison sentences.

But this case was notably different, because prosecutors went after the former East Germany's top political leaders, people who had no direct role in the shootings but who were in charge of overall government policy.

Prosecutors presented no evidence that Krenz or his associates had ordered any shootings, or that they had directly supervised activities of the border patrols. The strongest evidence of a direct link was that Politburo members were always informed about shootings at the borders. Beyond that, prosecutors pointed to Politburo documents containing brief praise for the border patrols.

Prosecutors and civil rights advocates argued that Krenz and his comrades had to face trial, because the soldiers and military officers were ultimately just carrying out orders from the Politburo.

Critics of the process, from both sides of the former division of Germany, have angrily complained that the trial itself violated a tenet of human rights:

that people should not be punished for actions that were not illegal under laws in effect at that time. Many also argued that prosecutors had tied Krenz and the other Politburo leaders to the shootings on very tenuous grounds.

In recent polls, Germans in both the former East and West have been divided almost equally between those who wanted tough punishments and those who said the former officials were being unfairly prosecuted.

Civil rights advocates and government officials say they have confirmed that more than 260 people were killed trying to reach the West in the three decades after the building of the wall in 1961. But most experts believe that the actual total is far higher, possibly more than 900 dead.

Krenz, 60, remained defiant and pugnacious about his innocence throughout the trial, denouncing it as a sham and literally daring the judge to convict him.

"I would be ashamed to be acquitted as long as the wrongful verdicts against border guards and my imprisoned friends are not reversed," he said in his closing statement in the trial, one week ago. "My honor means so much to me that I would rather go to jail than to sell out on bended knee."

Krenz took over the reins of government from Erich Honecker, the autocratic leader who became severely ill in the last days before the fall of the wall. Before that, Krenz was the Politburo member responsible for security policy.

But he argued that East German border policies were dictated by the former Soviet Union. To that end, he reminded listeners that President Reagan pleaded during a speech here in 1987 that Russia tear down the Berlin wall. "He did not cry, 'Honecker or Krenz, tear down the wall!'" Krenz said. Reagan, referring to the last Soviet leader, had said, "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down that wall!"

In his ruling on Monday, Judge Josef Hoch refused to accept that defense. The judge said the German officials' dependence on Soviet authority did not exclude responsibility for criminal activity.

The judge did offer a measure of leniency, sentencing Krenz to 6 years in prison rather than 11 as the prosecutors had requested. Indeed, Krenz's sentence was shorter than the one handed down to the former minister of defense, Heinz Kessler, who was sent to prison for more than 7 years.

One of the other two people

convicted on Monday was Guenter Shabowski, a top spokesman for the Politburo who was also the person who almost inadvertently opened the Berlin Wall in 1989 when he mistakenly said that border traffic would be opened up immediately, prompting a spontaneous flood of people crossing to the West.

Shabowski, 68, distanced himself markedly from Krenz during the trial, arguing that he had no role whatever in setting border policies and had not been one "who murdered from behind a desk."

But Shabowski was also far more contrite about the moral and political failings of the old system and his own role in both. "Those who died at the wall are part of the burden we inherit from our misguided attempt to free humanity from its plagues," he said at the outset of the trial, nearly two years ago. "Our search for utopia led us to lay everyone on a Procrustean bed in which the individual was

cut to what was thought to be the ideal size."

The third Politburo member convicted on Monday was Guenter Kleiber, 65. He was responsible for East Germany's disastrous economic policy when the Wall came tumbling down, and was also the country's leading

hard-line socialist ideologist.

All three Politburo officials have said they will appeal Monday's decision to Germany's constitutional court. If that fails, Krenz said last week he will appeal to the European Court for Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

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WEATHER

Midland forecast

3-day forecast



Today
Partly cloudy
High 94
Low 66



Wednesday
Partly cloudy
High 95
Low 66



Thursday
Partly cloudy
High 95
Low 66

The forecast from the National Weather Service at Midland International Airport is for mostly sunny skies today, temperatures in the mid-90s, and southerly winds at 5 to 15 mph.

The low temperature tonight is to be in the mid-60s.

For Wednesday, the weatherman is calling for high temperature in the mid-90s and sunny skies.

The record high temperature for Aug. 25 in Midland is 103 degrees in 1936, and the record low temperature for that date is 58 degrees in 1970.

The record high temperature for Aug. 26 is 103 degrees in 1964, and the date's record low temperature is 56 degrees in 1966.

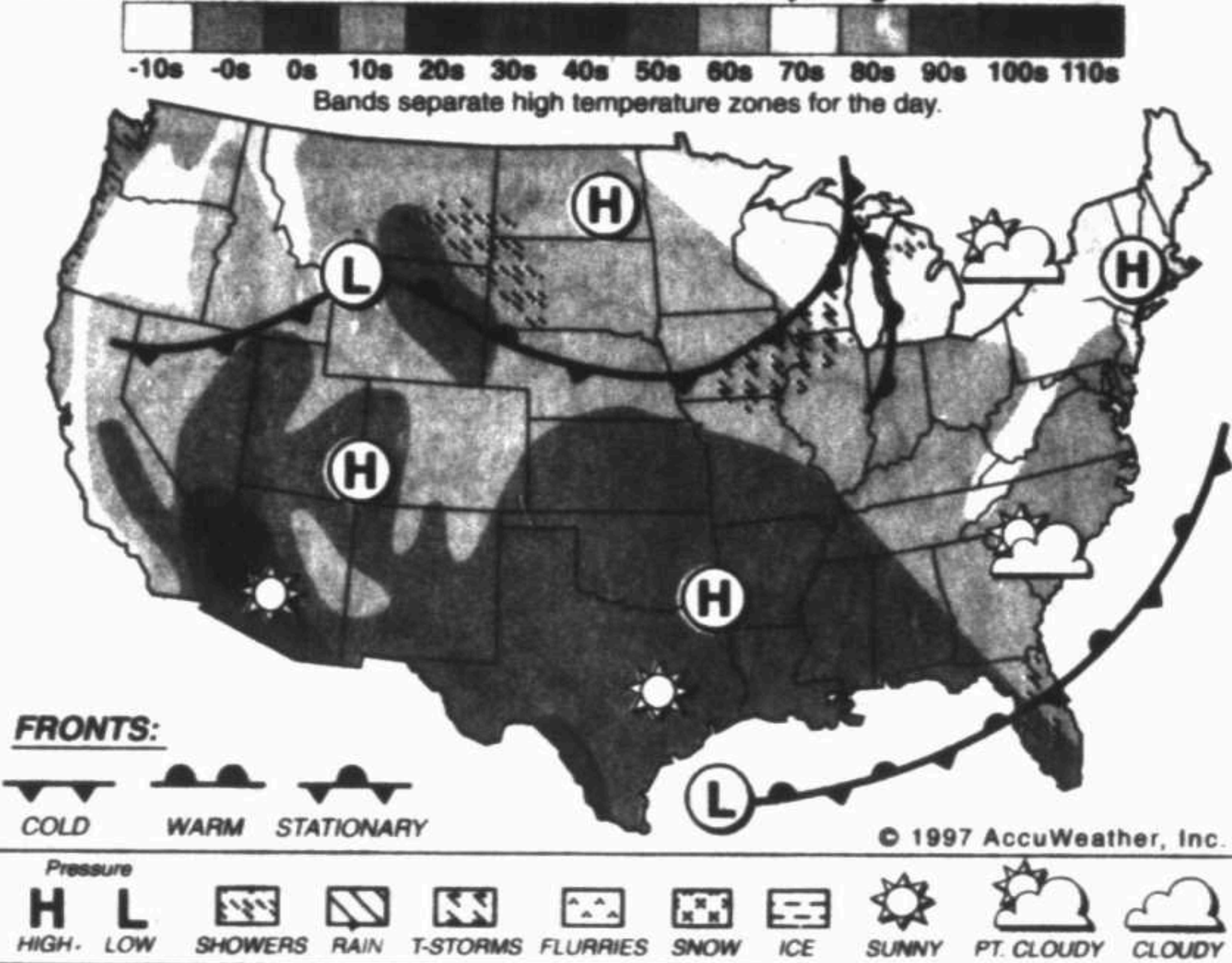
Yesterday's precipitation
Rainfall Sunday .00 in.
Rainfall Monday .00 in.
Total for month 2.42 in.
Total for year 12.87 in.

Yesterday's temperatures
High .92
Low .64
Normal high .92
Normal low .67

Sunrise 7:20 a.m. Sunset 8:20 p.m.

National forecast

The AccuWeather® forecast for noon, Tuesday, Aug. 26.

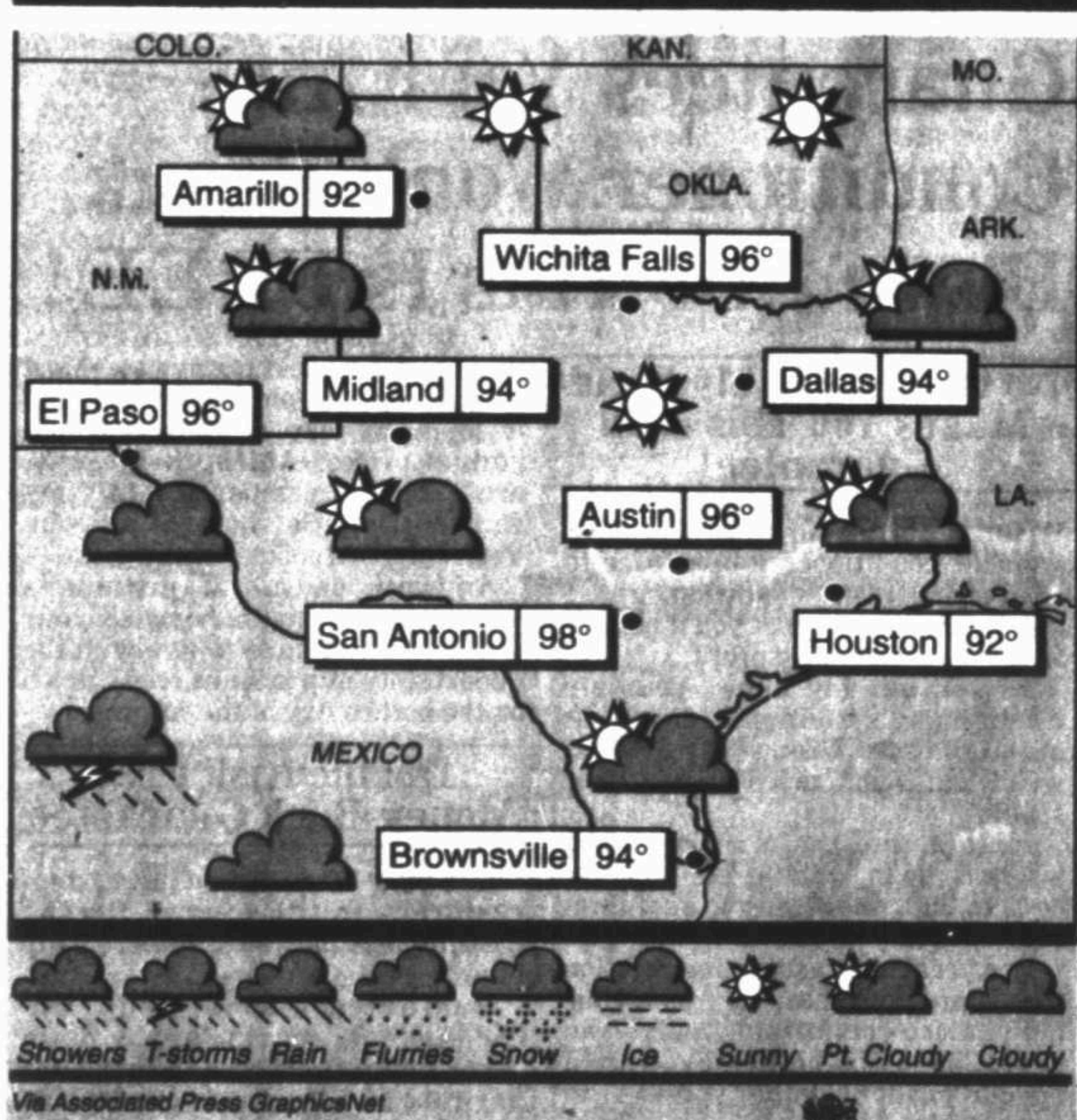


United States temperatures

Temperatures indicate previous day's high and overnight low to 8:30 p.m. EDT.

City	High	Low	Prc	Outk
Albany, N.Y.	78	57	cl	
Albuquerque	88	66	cl	
Anchorage	90	63	cl	
Anchorage	91	61	cl	
Asheville	80	52	cl	
Atlanta	84	62	cl	
Atlantic City	78	55	cl	
Baltimore	80	60	cl	
Birmingham	85	58	cl	
Bismarck	89	68	cl	
Boise	87	57	cl	
Boston	74	60	cl	
Brownsville	93	73	cl	
Buffalo	73	57	cl	
Burlington, Vt.	77	52	cl	
Casper	90	54	cl	
Charleston, S.C.	87	60	cl	
Charleston, W. Va.	76	61	cl	
Charlotte, N.C.	87	64	cl	
Cheney	82	57	cl	
Chicago	72	60	cl	
Cincinnati	79	63	cl	
Cleveland	72	60	cl	
Columbia, S.C.	89	56	cl	
Columbus, Ohio	78	63	cl	
Concord, N.H.	79	52	cl	
Dayton	76	64	cl	
Denver	99	60	cl	
Des Moines	87	67	cl	
Detroit	71	61	cl	
Duluth	88	53	cl	
Evansville	83	66	cl	
Faribault	87	67	cl	
Fargo	87	68	cl	
Flagstaff	78	53	cl	
Grand Rapids	70	60	cl	
Great Falls	80	51	cl	
Greensboro, N.C.	83	57	cl	
Hartford, Spfld.	78	54	cl	
Helena	81	44	cl	
Honolulu	92	77	cl	
Indianapolis	78	60	cl	
Jackson, Miss.	87	59	cl	
Jacksonville	85	69	cl	
Juneau	64	53	m	
Kansas City	89	67	cl	
Las Vegas	105	85	cl	
Little Rock	91	63	cl	
Los Angeles	88	68	cl	
Louisville	77	63	cl	
Memphis	87	61	cl	
Miami Beach	91	77	cl	
Minneapolis	86	62	cl	
Mobile, Ala.	78	62	cl	
Nashville	83	59	cl	
New Orleans	89	73	cl	
New York City	79	68	cl	
Norfolk, Va.	79	64	cl	
North Platte	93	61	cl	
Oklahoma City	88	63	cl	
Omaha	89	69	cl	
Orlando	92	74	cl	
Philadelphia	84	62	cl	
Phoenix	106	86	cl	
Pittsburgh	85	55	cl	
Portland, Ore.	75	59	cl	
Portland, Me.	77	53	cl	
Providence	80	63	cl	
Raleigh-Durham	78	56	cl	
Rapid City	83	65	cl	
Reno	87	47	cl	
Richmond	84	58	cl	
Sacramento	90	59	cl	
St. Louis	86	70	cl	
Salt Lake City	97	63	cl	
San Diego	78	71	cl	
San Francisco	76	63	cl	
San Juan, P.R.	89	77	m	
Santa Fe	87	57	cl	
St. Paul	74	50	cl	
St. Pete Beach	73	60	cl	
Shreveport	88	62	cl	
Sioux Falls	84	66	cl	
Spokane	76	52	cl	
Syracuse	75	58	cl	
Tampa-St. Ptblg	91	75	cl	
Topeka	92	68	cl	
Tucson	96	76	cl	
Tulsa	88	70	cl	
Washington, D.C.	83	67	cl	
Wichita	89	66	cl	
Wilkes-Barre	88	58	cl	

State forecast



Texas temperatures

Highest temperature last 12 hours, lowest past 18 hours and precipitation for 24 hours ending at 7 p.m. CDT.

City	High	Low	Pcp.
Abilene	90	65	
Amarillo	90	63	
Arlington	91	64	
Austin	90	70	
Beaumont	88	67	
Brownsville	93	73	
Burnet	91	66	
Childress	92	62	
College Station	91	66	
Comstock	91	66	
Corpus Christi	90	76	
Corpus Christi	90	66	
Cotulla	97	72	
Del Rio	92	68	
Dallas	92	73	
Del Rio	96	72	
El Paso	93	69	
Fort Stockton	92	65	
Fort Worth	90	67	
Galveston	89	78	
Haltom City	93	73	0.19
Hondo	95	69	
Houston Hobby	90	73	
Houston Intercontinental	89	66	
Huntsville	88	65	
Junction	92	62	
Killebrew	94	74	
Laredo	100	73	
Lubbock	93	67	
Lufkin	89	61	
Marfa	84	55	
McAllen	93	73	
Midland	92	64	
Mineral Wells	92	62	
New Braunfels	92	61	
Palacios	91	70	
Paris	92	64	
Packard	90	75	
San Antonio	93	67	
Terrell	88	68	
Waco	89	61	
Wichita Falls	89	66	
Wink	94	65	

RATES: Weather named as culprit for increase

(From 1A)

ed in those payment. "Even though I sell insurance, I am a homeowner too — it just makes me sick."

She too is surprised that weather is named as the primary culprit in the benchmark increase. "Lately we have not seen that many hailstorms — we have been lucky."

In West Texas, Sweetwater faces the highest increase, with the benchmark rate for an \$80,000 brick veneer home jumping 30 percent from \$723 to \$1029. Midland benchmark rates are climbing 22 percent from \$723 to \$916 for the same type dwelling.

Larry Holder, Agency Field Executive for State Farm Insurance, said the benchmark increase may not hold all bad news.

"The fact that we have had an increase does not necessarily

mean that rates are going to go up," Holder said. "I would not anticipate significant rate increases."

He noted that the leeway (30 percent) allowed below the benchmark may permit companies to quote rates that are comparable to rates before the benchmark increase.

Holder noted that a change in the weather pattern over the last 10 years "had made roofing issues a big topic."

He said that some policy owners could receive discounts for roofs made of materials that are resistant to wind and hail.

A community's fire fighting ability also affects the benchmark rate for the first time. Texas has previously been the only state not to consider that factor in determining insurance rates.

Under the new system, each community is assigned a Public Protection Class score. The scores

range from 1 (best) to 10 (worst). For example, Midland and Sweetwater, both within the same rating territory, have very different benchmark rates because of the quality of their fire fighting capabilities.

Cities can lower local property insurance rates by upgrading their fire protection system, Bomer said.

The benchmark rate applies only to rate regulated companies, which write about 25 percent of homeowners policies in the state of Texas.

"We write a majority of rate regulated companies," said Mrs. Williams. "They have a fund to protect policy owners."

Rate regulated companies are backed by the Texas Property and Casualty Guaranty Fund. This fund provides up to \$100,000 of coverage to consumers in the case of failure of a rate regulated company.

Mrs. Williams said she "could see policy holders selecting a lot higher deductibles" to offset the rate increases.

"A higher deductible will help," said Ms. Partridge. "But not everyone can afford that."

"We suggest people shop around," said Hanna. "Don't feel committed to a particular company."

Hanna noted that consumers could "save an estimated \$100 on their home insurance for an hours worth of work."

But Ms. Partridge noted that shopping around is not always the best option. "The rate is based on their past claims," she said. "If you have had past claims you need to stay where you are."

A rate guide on auto and homeowners is available from the Texas Department of Insurance by calling 1-800-SHOP, Hanna said.

MUSIC: Limited in range, psaltery sound is pure

(From 1A)

had the wood. But the thing took me about three weeks to get it done."

One of Davis's toughest challenges was the positioning of the pins so that the strings when stroked would sound the right notes.

But once he got it right, he built another — and another. One of his psalteries won top prize in the arts and crafts division at the Howard County Fair, an honor that both surprised and delighted him.

The psaltery's base is maple, because the high sugar content of the wood locks down the pins so that they don't turn unless you want them to. The soundbox is of Sitka spruce, the wood of choice for fiddles, Davis says, and his unvarying choice in making psalteries.

The soundhole can always be round, but Davis is more innovative than that. In one psaltery, he carved a clef symbol, in another a heart-sort-of-with its tail curling off to one side. The final top and bottom veneer is usually of cherry wood.

A Davis-built psaltery is a thing of beauty, no doubt about it. But the real test is in the sound it makes.

He drags the bow across the strings to demonstrate. The poignant strains of "Faded Love," "Remember Me" and "Amazing Grace" fill the room with memories. He says the psaltery is less versatile than the violin because of its lack of range and the inability of the bow to negotiate through the pins. But oh, the sound is pure! Davis still plays harmonica on

muzzleloader rendezvous and other gatherings around the area, but he said more and more, the psaltery is his primary instrument.

And now, he and two of his friends have formed a band. They call themselves "The Country Classics."

"Not a one of us can read music. I have to ask them what key. But we play for the nursing home, and the Big Spring State Hospital, and they really love it," he said. "We're having a blast."

COUNTY: Commissioners vote 3-2 to raise taxes

(From 1A)

ments would be generated by additional sales-tax revenue not reflected in the budget.

While the budget projected \$6.8-million from the county's half-cent sales tax, McCrary said that the adjusted "conservative" revenue would be \$7.05 million or, more likely, \$7.5 million based on 1996's sales-tax revenue.

"The numbers are stronger than we anticipated," Norwood said. "It's only a projection," Ms. Valencia countered.

McCrary moved that the court recognize his sales-tax estimate to reflect budgeted revenue. Norwood backed his motion, which then failed to garner more votes.

"I don't understand that," Norwood said.

Ms. Valencia, who joined Brezina in approving Goulet's 23.11-cent tax-rate proposal, had said that "if we go down on the tax rate, we are not going to have the money" next year for fund a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) pay raise for the county's more than 400 employees.

Taxpayer David Porter, who was critical of Goulet's tax-rate

proposal, claimed that Goulet's motion was "an act of political cowardice" since it falls just below a 3 percent tax-rate increase which, by law, would mandate a public hearing.

"I think our taxes are too high at the federal level, the state level, and the local level," Porter said.

The new rate, which becomes effective on Oct. 1 at start of the county's 1998 fiscal year, is to generate \$10.2 million toward funding the county's \$20.3-million budget.

Goulet said that his 23.11-cent rate is "a slight increase in taxes" over the 22.44-cent effective tax rate, which he termed "totally unrealistic," "because of the valuations of property in Midland have been increased" and so appraised by the Midland Central Appraisal District. He called his proposal a "reduction" from last year's tax rate "of 23.73-cent per \$100 valuation."

The effective tax rate is that rate necessary to generate the same revenue from year to year. As County Auditor Carole Wayland noted, Midland County's tax base increased about 10 percent from \$4.098 billion in 1996 to \$4.427 billion in 1997. As a result, the 1997

effective tax rate became 22.448 cents to generate the same revenue which 23.733 cents generated a year ago.

Following the vote, Norwood charged that the Goulet-proposed tax rate was "deceptively" done and unmerited.

"All five members of the Commissioners' Court voted to file a budget that called for a proposed tax rate of 22.11 (cents), which would have been a significant tax cut for the people of this community," Norwood said.

But at the 11th hour, without public notice, they (Goulet, Ms. Valencia, and Brezina) passed the highest tax rate that they possibly could under the law without a public hearing.

"I think it was deceptively done," said Norwood, who allowed that he is "very, very disappointed that the county is not going to provide tax relief to the people of this community. It was merited. The county is in excellent financial condition," including \$10 million in surplus funds that are to drop to \$6.6 million next year in making up for a \$1-million-plus deficit and \$2 million toward jail expansion.

"No tax increase was needed,

warranted, or necessary," Norwood claimed.

Last year, Norwood headed up a 7.9 percent tax cut below the effective tax rate and 10.2 percent below the 1995 actual rate.

"But at this point," Norwood said, "I am not very hopeful that we will be able to control taxes on spending with three people on the court who support increasing the size of government and increasing the revenue to government."

Goulet argued that his tax-rate proposal was "not deceptively done. It was needed, simply, this time," and will "enable us to consider a COLA (cost of living adjustment) in the future."

Of the sales-tax figure heralded by McCrary, Goulet said, "You cannot spend intangibles."

McCrary explained that his "conservative" sales-tax increase "was an attempt to get the court to see reason that we don't need to raise taxes in order to pay for the additional (amended) expenditures. We would clearly be able to generate those sales-tax numbers in the \$7-million range minimum" and possibly up to \$7.5 million.

Company accused of fraud with help of Clinton photo

MIAMI (AP) — A jewelry company used photos of its executives posing with President Clinton to help defraud 15,000 investors of almost \$40 million in a pyramid scheme using cheap necklace kits, investigators say.

The executives fled overseas before the collapse of the fraud, one of the costliest credit card scams in U.S. history, according to authorities.

Losses for banks and financial service institutions could run higher than \$20 million after many investors tried to issue "chargebacks" to stop credit card payment to Unique Gems International Corp.

A judge shut down the company in March after authorities uncovered the illegal "Ponzi scheme."

In such a fraud, early investors are paid off — not through legitimate profits, but with money coming in from more recent investors. Some investors lost their homes and savings.

Richard Sharpstein, attorney for Unique Gems President Enrique Pirela, said the company was not a pyramid scheme, but was hurt by the premature enforcement by Florida's attorney general.

"We say Unique Gems was a well-intentioned business, not a fraud," Sharpstein said Monday. "The attorney general jumped in far too quickly to shut it down."

A court-appointed investigator, Lewis B. Freeman, said about 30

Unique Gems executives and workers attended a Democratic National Committee fund raiser at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables last fall, buying their seats to the Miami dinner with \$85,000 that was contributed to the DNC by others. Investigators were trying to determine whether such donations by third parties may be a violation of federal law.

During the event, Freeman said, the executives posed for photos with Clinton, and later reproduced the pictures in newsletters mailed out to potential investors.

The fliers showing a smiling Clinton with a company executive said: "The company has been honored by President Clinton for its role in helping many people with real opportunities to earn a

well above-average income." DNC spokesman Steve Langdon said the Democrats have no record of contributions from Unique Gems and "to the best of our ability, we'll be assisting the receiver (Freeman) to determine whose names are connected with the donations. The DNC will refund the appropriate amount of money."

Will Dwyer, spokesman for the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said the information about the Unique Gems' contributions is being circulated among committee members, who have focused their investigation on improper contributions to the political parties and to Clinton.

LAWSUIT: Settlement reserves right for Florida to return to court

(From 1A)

helped negotiate the deal, refused to comment.

Under the state's deal, all billboards would be removed, starting with those within 1,000 feet of schools or playgrounds, and bans most tobacco advertising on sports arenas and public transportation.

The state settlement includes \$200 million, which must be paid by Sept. 15, for an anti-smoking advertising campaign.

Florida still will allow some tobacco advertising at sporting events, including NASCAR races and other events sponsored by cigarette makers. The national deal would wipe out all billboard advertising.

The state's agreement also allows for vending machines in adult-only facilities — something the national agreement would eliminate altogether.

Nonetheless, Florida's settlement "highlights the fact that we need a national settlement," said John Coale, a Washington attorney who helped negotiate the proposed national deal.

Only the federal government, not individual states, has the authority to regulate nicotine and fine cigarette makers if teen-age smoking doesn't drop, Coale said.

However, Brian Fox, a researcher at the Institute for Health Policy Studies at San Francisco, said state deals do more for the taxpayers and avoid unnecessary federal intervention.

Dow Corning tries to settle implant claims

DETROIT (AP) — Dow Corning Corp. offered Monday to pay more than \$2.4 billion to settle claims that its silicone breast implants cause illnesses when they leak.

Under the offer, the Midland, Mich.-based Dow Corning would not admit that breast implants cause disease, but said it was making the offer to "agree to disagree" with the women.

"We still believe very strongly that the scientific evidence shows there's no connection between breast implants and medical conditions, although we do know there are local complications and that implants can occasionally rupture," Dow Corning chief executive Richard Hazleton said.

The \$2.4 billion offer is part of Dow Corning's attempt to get out of bankruptcy court, where it has been trying to settle implant claims. The plan requires the approval of a bankruptcy court and a two-thirds majority of women suing the company.

The Dow Corning plan marks an increase from the company's original \$2 billion settlement offer that was part of a \$4.2 billion global settlement offer made by several breast implant makers.

That plan fell apart because an unexpectedly high 440,000 women sought payments. The offer comes days after Dow Chemical, which owns half of Dow Corning, lost a key negligence case in Louisiana over implants.

Jama Russano, who has had an implant for 26 years, said the \$200,000 payment she could receive wouldn't cover her nearly \$300,000 in medical bills.

"I felt almost insulted. I felt like this is such a tragedy," said Mrs. Russano, 40, of Northport in Suffolk County, N.Y. "Many women will bear the burden of Dow's mistake."

Gayle Troutwine, a Portland attorney representing 550 women who have filed claims against Dow Corning, said the offer "doesn't sound reasonable."

"It averages out to about \$5,000 per woman. I guess I'd have to say that is paltry," she said.

The offer is structured so that the more women vote for it, the more money is made available — up to a total of \$2.4 billion. If any money is left over, it would go to research "to continue to research what does cause autoimmune-type diseases," company spokesman T. Michael Jackson said.

The precise payment each woman would receive depends on how many approve the pact and the extent of the injuries they claim implants caused them. Individual

settlement amounts range from \$650 to \$200,000.

The company said it would also cover the cost of removing implants.

Dow Corning attorney Barbara Houser said the settlement money could be available by late spring or early summer of next year.

If a two-thirds majority is not met, company officials said they would pursue other legal means to recover from bankruptcy.

In order to expedite the smallest settlements — \$650 to \$1,000, depending on the number of women voting to settle — a woman must give the company evidence she has a Dow Corning implant and sign an affidavit saying she was harmed by the product. Higher claim amounts would require a doctor to verify the woman's condition.

The \$2.4 billion would go mostly to breast implant claims, but also includes claims made by people with other medical devices containing silicone, such as joint implants, as well as other devices.

A Louisiana state jury ruled last week that Dow Chemical was negligent in testing silicone for breast implants, lied about the possible risks and plotted with Dow Corning to hide potential health dangers.

Nearly 200,000 plaintiffs worldwide have claimed they suffered from autoimmune and other disorders due to the implants.

Women seeking settlements had gone after Dow Chemical after Dow Corning filed for bankruptcy under the weight of thousands of breast implant claims.

Social Security repairs top Clinton's fall agenda

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Clinton's top advisers have quietly started laying the groundwork for major repairs to the nation's 62-year-old Social Security program.

Early preparations have included informal consultations with senior citizens' advocates and key lawmakers. The main topic so far: how to broach the sensitive subject with the American public and Congress.

"There's some work being done to review options," said a White House official who asked not to be identified.

On his vacation, Clinton took papers prepared by White House staff suggesting ways he could open a national dialogue. Ideas include a series of presidential speeches across the country, or a bipartisan commission that would involve Republicans in public forums.

The key recommendation that I carried into the White House is that we need to spend some time bringing the American people into this discussion," said John Rother of the American Association of Retired Persons, among those consulted by Clinton's staff.

Such an overture also would be important because Republican congressional leaders say a clear, public show of leadership from Clinton is imperative if they are to consider changing

Social Security while congressional elections loom in 1998.

Without Clinton in front, "precious little will happen," said Ari Fleischer, spokesman for House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Archer, R-Texas. That's because Democrats want to ensure Republicans are equally exposed to any voter backlash.

The nation's pension plan is projected to have to start spending reserves in 2012 to keep ahead of more than 70 million baby boomer retirements expected about then. By 2029 the reserves will be gone, and Social Security payroll taxes won't bring in enough each year to cover retirement checks.

Last January, a panel of economic advisers appointed by the Clinton administration suggested investing Social Security money in the stock market rather than in comparatively low-yield government bonds, as now required.

Panel members, however, disagreed on whether the government should invest on workers' behalf, or whether people should be allowed to invest mandatory savings themselves.

Other suggestions made recently — by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., a key lawmaker on Social Security issues — include adjusting annual cost of living increases received by retirees.

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Bush's political star is glittering

It seems that since he was elected Governor of Texas in 1994, about everything George W. Bush has said or done has added to his political "war chest."

And we don't necessarily mean monetary contributions to his campaign for re-election next year. Believe it or not, an individual still needs more than money to get elected in this country. And Bush has more — intelligence, charisma, believability, name recognition.

For example, Bush got top billing and the coveted Saturday night speaking position at the Midwest Leadership Conference in Indianapolis over the weekend — and left being touted as the hottest figure in Republican circles.

Bush said all the right things and apparently did all the right things. He endorsed a balanced budget amendment, tort reform, tougher penalties for juvenile offenders and a smaller Washington bureaucracy declaring, "Limited government works."

We have watched Bush's political star rise in recent years just as we watched his father, former President George H. W. Bush,

move into the political limelight. It's always exciting to watch excitement build around a political candidate.

Of course, it's still early in the political season for the 2000 presidential election, but political insiders know that Bush is a young, dynamic governor who can talk to people on the street as comfortably as he does to an overflow crowd at a major event. He's a down-to-earth fellow who looks people in the eye and tells them what he truly believes and he can work with politicians from both parties.

As excitement builds for the 2000 presidential election, we expect to hear Bush's name being mentioned on a regular basis. We're not pushing his candidacy for president. Now he's only seeking re-election as governor and we believe he has a strong shot at getting to spend another four years in the Governor's Mansion. He has already shown that he does that job well and has the best interests of Texans at heart.

But the Republican Party will be looking for a leader and an attractive candidate as the 2000 election draws closer and it would be naive not to consider someone of Bush's qualifications.

ANOTHER VIEW Beef recall justified to protect consumer

The recall of 1.2 million pounds of hamburger patties produced at Columbus, Neb., has caused legitimate concern about the safety of the nation's food supply. Nonetheless, if people pay attention to what safety experts are saying about the E. coli bacteria strain that led to the recall, long-term damage to the beef industry should be minimal.

Federal authorities ordered the recall to protect consumers from a particularly harmful variety of the E. coli. Hudson Foods Co., the owner of the Columbus plant, had initially recalled 20,000 pounds of the patties and then another 20,000

pounds. The company acted after 20 people in Colorado became ill with E. coli symptoms after eating the meat.

Americans have come to expect the cleanest, safest food supply the world has ever known. People are troubled when they are told that something in their food could make them sick. But as the stories about the Hudson recall have demonstrated, there is cause for reassurance. Strenuous efforts are being made to make the clean, safe food supply even cleaner and safer.

— Omaha World-Herald
 Omaha, Neb.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 26, the 238th day of 1997. There are 127 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:
 On Aug. 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, guaranteeing American women the right to vote, was declared in effect.

On this date:
 In 55 B.C., Roman forces under Julius Caesar invaded Britain.
 In 1847, Liberia was proclaimed an independent republic.
 In 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa began erupting with increasingly large explosions.
 In 1957, the Soviet Union announced it had successfully tested an intercontinental ballistic missile.
 In 1961, the official International Hockey Hall of Fame opened in Toronto.
 In 1964, President Johnson was nominated for a term of office in his own right at the Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City, N.J.
 In 1972, the summer Olympic games opened in Munich, West

Germany.

In 1974, Charles Lindbergh — the first man to fly solo, nonstop across the Atlantic — died at his home in Hawaii at the age of 72.

In 1978, Cardinal Albino Luciani of Venice was elected the 264th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church following the death of Paul VI. The new pontiff took the name John Paul I.

Ten years ago: In an attempt to eliminate a superpower stumbling block, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said his country would destroy its 72 Pershing 1A rockets if Washington and Moscow scrapped all their intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

Five years ago: A federal judge declared a mistrial in the Iran-Contra cover-up trial of former CIA spy chief Clair George (George was convicted of perjury in a retrial, but was then pardoned by President Bush). The United States, Britain and France imposed a no-fly zone over the southern one-third of Iraq aimed at protecting Iraqi Shiite Muslims.

CAL THOMAS

Drug companies use children to boost sales

Recent press stories tell of a growing number of children who suffer from depression and how parents and the pharmaceutical industry prescribe drugs as the solution. One story in The New York Times told of a 15-year-old girl who has been taking Prozac for depression since she was 5.

Prozac sales fell 5 percent last year as the adult market for prescription drugs has become saturated. Drug companies are looking for new customers, and they are eyeing children. Some want the Food and Drug Administration to clear the way so they can market their antidepressants and other mood-altering drugs to kids.

Before rushing to the medicine cabinet, someone should ask this question: Why are so many children depressed? Why are we (ital) daily (unital) experiencing 1,000 unwed teenage girls becoming mothers; 1,106 teenage girls getting abortions; 4,219 teenagers contracting sexually transmitted diseases; 500 adolescents starting on illegal drugs; 1,000 adolescents starting to consume alcoholic beverages; 135,000 kids bringing guns or other weapons to school; 3,610 teens assaulted, including 80 who are raped; 2,200 teens dropping out of high school; and six teens committing suicide? (Statistics compiled by the Children's Defense Fund and the book "13th Generation" by Neil Howe and Bill Strauss.)

Clinical psychologist Jeff Berryhill, who works with children in the high-stress Washington, D.C., area, tells me that broken homes and the failure to establish meaningful relationships because of too much work are the primary contributors to childhood depression. "Everybody is stressed out," says Berryhill, "and the children get caught in the shuffle. Parents are preoccupied with themselves and life has become harder after a two-decade diet of self-direction."

Berryhill says using drugs to control the behavior of children becomes "a management tool to improve the comfort level of whoever the kid is living with." He's not



Thomas

sure what impact prescription-drug use on children will have in the "war on drugs" designed to persuade teenagers not to experiment with the illegal kind. Well, I'm sure. If drugs are used to alter the mood of a child, what moral authority do adults have to persuade a teenager not to alter his or her mood with marijuana, heroin or cocaine?

While not all medication for children should be considered a bad idea, too many in our modern culture turn to pills first. That's because an entire generation has come to believe that any kind of suffering is bad. We have become intolerant of any form of discomfort, including boredom. So, rather than do the heavy lifting that comes with personal responsibility, we take a pill, snort or shoot up.

After reading the press report on the 15-year-old who has been taking Prozac since she was 5, Berryhill tells me that it "sounds as if she has an anxiety disorder, possibly she is obsessive-compulsive, not depressed." The story tells nothing of her family situation, but Berryhill says "by using medication, it allows us to ignore

everything else about the problem. Taking a pill makes the feeling go away, and we don't have to think about the cause of the depression or anxiety."

The insurance companies prefer drugs to more expensive counseling. And parents who are on life's fast track will persuade themselves that they are doing what is in their child's best interest. Except that the child's best interest would be parents who had more time for them.

There's nothing new about rearing a child. It is the most important work adults do (or don't do). Even though the culture doesn't affirm good parenting, think of it this way. Which would you rather hear at your funeral — your boss extolling you for your dedication to the office or your child praising you for your dedication to his or her life?

No drug can substitute for right parenting. And, except where medically necessary, love, not drugs, is a far better prescription.

Cal Thomas' column is distributed by the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.



CHARLEY REESE

Tax money used to save endangered insects

I noticed the other day that on the endangered species list there were some insects and arachnids, or spiders, and ticks. To tell you the truth, I could get along without those insects and spiders and ticks.

As the late Carl Sagan would put it, there are millions and millions of insects, so what's a few less? Of all those millions and millions, about the only insects I've ever been partial to are honeybees, bumblebees, butterflies, doobies, ladybugs, lightning bugs, June bugs, crickets, bait worms and dragonflies.

That's about 10 out of millions and millions. There are no spiders or ticks on the list. I've never met a spider I really cared for, even those we called granddaddy long legs. Certainly not a tick or a flea. Or a wasp or a roach.

I cannot write objectively about roaches because I admit that I am prejudiced and discriminate against them every chance I get. I'd vote for Jim Roach laws in a NASA nanosecond. I suppose there are some entomologists who like them, but I don't know any ordinary people who do.

Down here in Florida where I rusticate, the roaches are so big you can trip over them. The big ones breed outdoors, and then they slip into



Reese

your house like cat burglars and eat anything they can get their mandibles on. They have obnoxious personalities. They are furtive and sneaky. And also aggressive.

In the long ago days of my youth, I rented an apartment in an old Victorian house that I discovered (after I had paid my deposit and moved in) was already occupied by roaches. We had a war. And they knew it was to the death.

One night I spotted one high on the wall across the living room. As I sat there, strategizing how to kill him, he launched himself, flew across the room and landed on top of my head. Now, folks, you never want to squash a big, gooey Florida roach on top of your own head. I guess he thought he was being smart, but I knocked him off onto the floor and then squashed him.

Another attack occurred one night in the kitchen. I had just poured myself a glass of juice when a roach darted out from underneath the refrigerator, across my shoe and up my pants leg. I did some instant stomping. With every stomp, some of the juice took off for the ceiling, made a graceful arc and returned to splash on me. I did a whole lot of stomping and splashing until I got that little dude off my leg and within range of the sole of my shoe.

So that's why I don't like roaches. Honeybees, though, are the only insects I know of that make a useful product. Bumblebees are just funny. Aeronautically speaking, they are supposed to be unable to fly, but they do, and I like critters who defy the establishment.

Butterflies, dragonflies and lightning bugs are just beautiful to look at. June bugs are nice to listen to, as are crickets, though I can't hear the soprano crickets anymore on account of having fired too many rounds through my 45.

Ladybugs are cute. My affection for doobies (ant lions, actually) is just nostalgic. It was great fun as a kid to stir their pits with a straw and catch them. They walk backwards, by the way, and eat ants. Bait worms, of course, have a fine utility not only as bait but also for keeping the soil loose in your garden.

Still, I'm not too happy to learn that the might of the federal government and my tax dollars are being used to preserve bugs from probably well-deserved extinction. Furthermore, I'm sure the experts over at the Agricultural Department would like to know from the experts at the Environmental Protection Agency just how you manage to get an insect species to die out. The Ag Department has been trying for most of its existence — without success — to eradicate a number of bugs.

That's typical of government, though. You've got some federal guys trying to kill bugs and some federal guys trying to protect bugs. And we're having to pay for both. Doesn't that bug you?

Charley Reese's e-mail address is OSOREese@aol.com.

Charley Reese's column is distributed by King Features Syndicate.

RHETA GRIMSLEY JOHNSON

Build a fence, increase the value of your home

The experts say to boost the value of your home you should build a deck, or renovate a kitchen or bathroom. That way you cannot go wrong.

So I built a picket fence.

I had been in Key West recently on a work trip, mighty pleasant duty. Perfect pastel houses stood chockablock on every block. They had the kind of porches that made you want to change your name to Blanche and fall into the nearest hammock. And almost all of the houses had neat or creative fences.

Inspired by the many pickets of Key West, I decided to act, finally, on a decades-long desire to fence myself in. Why, other than the exotic plants, the expert carpentry and the proximity of the seashore, I saw no reason my place couldn't achieve the same look. All that was lacking were a few hundred pickets.

First chance, I splurged on a wooden necklace, wrapped it around a piece of yard that before had been uninspired real estate full of crabgrass and nandina.



Johnson

It worked. Not up to Key West standards, perhaps, but not bad for North Mississippi. A notable transformation.

Instead of a drab old farmhouse, I now have a cottage. A charming cottage, worthy of a happy ending. I could rent it out to the Seven Dwarfs.

But I must warn those of you who might be tempted to follow my example. Such perfection is not for the wishy-washy.

It took me forever to decide on a style, for instance. There were so many choices. I like short pickets with curved or ornate tops, but fancy pickets suggest that beyond them live Ozzie, Harriet and two curly-haired toddlers in pinafores.

Add an arbor over the gate and get the romantic, English countryside look. But then you have to dress for dinner.

I opted for the palisade style — tall, simple pickets with sharp, serious points, a fence to hide behind if need be.

Whether or not to paint the pickets became the next pressing decision. Don't get me wrong, I like the sparkling white fences, clean as a row of model's teeth, smiling large around zinnias or hollyhocks.

But a fence gives a first impression, and it ought to be an honest one. I just don't hail from a white-picket-fence sort of family. And I didn't see myself with a paint bucket over my arm

every summer, maintaining the status quo.

My pickets will weather to gray soon enough, and red roses look wonderful against boards the color of tree trunks. The treated wood is guaranteed to last 40 years, and by the time I'm 84 a few rotten pickets will be the least of my problems.

The real work has only just begun. You expect a lot from a yard with such a fine fence. You expect a flagstone path to wind through shoulder-high flowers to a small, sweet bench where you can sit to write poetry or hold hands with Jimmy Stewart. Something like that.

I'll have to bury my nose in the gardening catalogs and find shortcuts to the final look I want — an uncontrolled profusion of flora. That should be easy. All I need is lots of free time, a full-time gardener and millions of dollars.

Meanwhile, I'll just enjoy the secure feeling those plain-Jane pickets provide, the sense of a nest well built, an anchor dropped deep. They stitch out a small haven on the face of this troubled earth.

And the pickets point skyward, like a perpetual thumbs-up to passersby. My picket fence is plenty friendly, as buffers go.

Rheta Grimsley Johnson's column is distributed by King Features Syndicate.

Food contamination runs rampant

WASHINGTON (AP) — Alfalfa sprouts contaminated by E. coli. Hepatitis-tainted strawberries in school lunches. Children sick from unpasteurized apple juice, and 140 people struck by bacteria-laden raw oysters.

The recall of 25 million pounds of hamburger is merely the latest scare about dangerous germs contaminating Americans' food. Keeping hamburger safe mostly takes common sense — cook meat thoroughly. But consumer advocates say a larger threat may come from germs lurking in unexpected places — such as raspberries or fresh basil — that slip through the government's patchwork of safety rules.

"Almost monthly we are seeing new causes for concern based on food problems," said Caroline Smith DeWaal of the advocacy group Center for Science in the Public Interest. "We don't have a government system to fix those problems."

But the government and food makers are preparing to fight back. The Food and Drug Administration is considering putting warning labels on unpasteurized apple juices and ciders — perhaps as early as this week — after dozens of children were sickened by E. coli that got into one trendy brand. Pasteurization kills potentially deadly E. coli bacteria.

Scientists are investigating whether irradiating beef could kill E. coli and other disease-causing microorganisms, and whether irradiating fresh berries would kill cyclospora, a parasite that sickened about 1,400 Americans who ate Guatemalan raspberries this spring.

And manufacturers are beginning to advertise to consumers when they adopt a safety program called HACCP — an ungainly acronym that means companies check for contamination repeatedly as ingredients move from harvest to grocery store.

The idea is "how many hurdles can we put in the way of bugs so we reduce the risk? We're not going to be able to go to zero," said Dane Bernard of the National Food Processors Association.

The latest scare comes after 16 Colorado residents got E. coli linked to hamburgers processed by Hudson Foods Inc. The Agriculture Department says an outside slaughterhouse likely was the source, but Hudson recalled a massive 25 million pounds of hamburger after investigators discovered the company used leftover raw meat from one day in the next day's production, potentially causing a chain of contamination.

Although the U.S. food supply is considered the world's safest, about 9,000 Americans still

die every year from food poisoning. A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study says between 6 million and 80 million Americans are sickened each year — a good count isn't possible because many mild cases go unreported.

The easiest protection is good hygiene, says FDA food safety chief Janice Oliver. She's amazed by people who admit they had no idea fruits and vegetables should be washed before eating.

The new CDC study says the biggest food poisoner — a bug called campylobacterium that lurks in unpasteurized milk and raw poultry — particularly strikes young men with "poor food preparation skills." In other words, they don't wash their hands between putting raw poultry on the grill and setting the table.

Then there are raw oysters, which every year sicken hundreds of Americans. Cooking oysters kills the bacteria, but aficionados say that just isn't the same. On Friday, the FDA warned that 140 people in Canada, California and Washington had been sickened and shipments of live oysters from northern Pacific waters were stopped.

Yet thorough cooking and cleaning only help so much. The Clinton administration has asked Congress for \$43 million to begin, in October, hiring more government food inspectors and researching better poisoning prevention.

The best protection, says CDC's Dr. Mitchell Cohen, is to rapidly identify an outbreak's cause and set up steps to keep that contamination from happening again. That happened in the Hudson recall, when Colorado — one of a handful of states capable of DNA fingerprinting food poisonings — discovered 15 patients with the same E. coli strain. It matched a sample of Hudson beef from one patient's freezer.

Produce growers already are searching for more hygienic ways to grow everything from lettuce to alfalfa sprouts, both of which have sickened Americans with E. coli. To prevent another outbreak, officials need to know if something as simple as using manure as fertilizer — common among organic growers — was to blame.

But some foods may simply be too hazardous to allow in this country, said consumer advocate DeWaal. She points to frozen strawberries that gave about 150 Michigan schoolchildren hepatitis A last spring. They were secretly imported from Mexico, where investigators are probing whether they were irrigated with dirty water.

Sexual misconduct hearing ends

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The six women who brought sexual misconduct allegations against the Army's top enlisted man were described Monday by prosecutors as heroes and attacked by the defense as opportunists.

"Don't let them down," lead prosecutor Lt. Col. Michael Child said of the women, as he urged that Sgt. Maj. of the Army Gene McKinney be ordered to stand trial.

But defense lawyer Lt. Col. James Gerstenlauer said McKinney is "an outstanding soldier who has served this country proudly" and is confronted by "baseless allegations."

Charles Gittins, McKinney's civilian defense lawyer, said his client didn't get to be the Army's top enlisted man "because he's a leech. To become sergeant major of the Army he had to undergo an extensive background check."

To Child, McKinney was a manipulative man using his powerful position to prey on vulnerable women. "He used even the death of his son as part of this manipulation," the prosecutor said. McKinney's son was killed in an automobile accident.

The Fort McNair hearing ended with both sides summing up their cases. Now a hearing officer must consider whether McKinney should be court-martialed or can return to his Pentagon post.

Col. Robert Jarvis, the presiding officer, has 15 days to make his recommendation. But given the length of the hearing, which began two months ago and included testimony from more than 30 witnesses, Jarvis could get an extension. The transcript runs thousands of pages.

Jarvis' recommendation would go to Col. Owen Powell, the next senior officer in the chain of command. The final decision on whether the case should go forward would be made by Maj. Gen. Robert F. Foley, commander of the Military District of Washington.

Gittins has said repeatedly that he expects the Army to order McKinney to stand trial on sexual misconduct charges.

Jarvis also can recommend revising the charges, and Child urged him to add rape to the list.

The first of the women to testify against McKinney, Sgt. Christine Roy, said she reluctantly had sex with McKinney when she was nearly eight months pregnant. The prosecutor said that incident amounted to rape.

Gerstenlauer said the recom-

mendation by Child was "offensive." He said there was "no credible evidence to corroborate the charges by Sgt. Roy."

If a court martial is ordered,

"They knew exactly what they had to expect if they came forward and they came forward anyway. They're heroes, they saw wrong and they were willing to report it."

— Lt. Col.

Michael Child, lead prosecutor

McKinney is the first black sergeant major of the Army.

McKinney, who has served in the Army for nearly 30 years, has asked to be allowed to retire.

Gerstenlauer seemed to appeal to the Army to take that route when he said, "Is there a better way to handle this? Is there an administrative way to handle this?"

In their summations, the lawyers on both sides offered starkly different views of the accused and his accusers.

Child said the six women who came forward to say McKinney had made improper sexual advances to them knew they would face harsh examination of their personal lives.

"They knew exactly what they had to expect if they came forward and they came forward anyway," he said. "They're heroes, they saw wrong and they were willing to report it."

"The government would have you believe women don't make false allegations," said Gittins, who described McKinney's accusers as "a group of women who are opportunists."

Gittins and McKinney's two military lawyers questioned the truth of the stories of each of the accusers.

"Baseless allegations like these, motivated by the basest of motives, only destroy discipline, breed timid supervisors and encourage contempt for the system," said Gerstenlauer.

Gingrich speaks to teen about drugs

New York Times Service

CONCORD, N.H. — House Speaker Newt Gingrich, in a personal quest for political rehabilitation, shared his sad stories of substance abuse Monday with New Hampshire teenagers fighting drugs. In return, he got a hug and a "warm, fuzzy" piece of yarn.

The scene cast a stark contrast with Gingrich's last visit to New Hampshire. Two years after he triumphantly toured the state as a leader of the Republican revolution and possible presidential candidate, Gingrich made the centerpiece of his return Monday a modest chat with a small group of anti-drug advocates, most of whom were too young to vote.

There was no summit with President Clinton, as there was in 1995. No nationally televised images of Gingrich moose-watching. No horde of 200 journalists in tow.

With his poll numbers at an all-time low and his strategists struggling to burnish his image after a failed coup last month by his top lieutenants, Gingrich presented a humbler picture of himself to the students who crammed into a cinder-block room with him at New Hampshire National Guard headquarters.

"Do you have a problem keeping your own morale up when you get rejected?" Gingrich asked the teenagers, as if he were searching for his own answer.

The question surfaced midway through Gingrich's 12-day, nine-state tour, which is aimed at reclaiming stature he has lost in a series of jolting setbacks, including a major House ethics violation and a swell of discontent in his own ranks. Just last weekend, GOP conservatives such as former Vice President Dan Quayle accused Gingrich of caving in to Clinton on the recent budget agreement.

Amid Gingrich's travails, speculation has risen that he might abandon his beleaguered speakership and seek the presidency in 2000, despite his dismal poll numbers that show a favorable rating of only 15 percent. New Hampshire, site of the first presidential primary, is the only Northeast state on Gingrich's whistle-stop tour.

Gingrich, in a brief news conference Monday with New Hampshire's two Republican House members — Representatives Charles F. Bass and John E. Sununu — said of his visit: "There's no place in America where you can have a greater chance to set the issue agenda for 2000 than you can in New Hampshire."

Gingrich cited a drastic change in President Bush's popularity as evidence that his fortunes could shift. And he lashed back at his conservative critics, defending the recent budget deal as a wise compro-

mise. "I'm willing to take responsibility for trying to get things done," he said.

"If that means some people would rather sit out there on the right flank and say, 'No, don't do anything,' that's their prerogative. But I don't think it's very responsible."

Although he did not rule out a presidential candidacy, Gingrich said he would keep his pledge to serve as speaker until 2002 as long as his constituents and Republican colleagues continued to support him.

Otherwise, Gingrich focused largely on the anti-drug forum with members of the New Hampshire Teen Institute. And he wanted them to know he understood their struggle.

He recalled four high school friends who got drunk and wanted to see how fast their car

could go. The car crashed into a tree at about 120 mph, Gingrich said, killing three of his friends and crippling the fourth, a cheerleader, for life.

Gingrich told about one of his cousins, who used drugs and "has spent more than 30 years in and out of mental hospitals." And he recounted the case of a staff member's sister who went on a date, took "some synthetic drugs" and went into a seizure. "She celebrated her 20th birthday in a coma," he said, "and a year later is still in the hospital."

"For me," Gingrich told the teenagers, "this is all very real, very personal."

Before he departed for a \$50,000 fund-raiser for Bass and Sununu, Gingrich received a hug from Becky Raymond, a senior at Hopkinton (N.H.) High School. Another Hopkinton student, Benji Davies, tied what the students call "a warm, fuzzy," a bit of yarn, onto Gingrich's jacket as a symbol of friendship.

Gingrich told the students he would carry their anti-drug message across the country. He did not say when he would be back.

"Do you have a problem keeping your own morale up when you get rejected?"

— House Speaker Newt Gingrich, speaking to teens in New Hampshire

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Around the Basin

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Midland Reporter-Telegram

Nanny ends 17 years on the run; helps other battered women

Associated Press

DENVER — Every morning, for five years, Kerry Winthrop would look out across the ocean from a beautiful house in Half Moon Bay, Calif., before getting the children ready for school.

But they weren't her children. It wasn't her house. And Winthrop wasn't her name.

The woman who called herself Kerry Winthrop had left her name behind in Colorado, where she also had skipped out on a prison sentence.

Since 1980, she had called herself Winthrop, living a straight-as-an-arrow life — most recently as a nanny — and dying to go back to her own four children. But she knew she couldn't go back, not ever.

It was the winter of 1971 in St. Louis and 19-year-old Karlene Keyes was in love. The trouble was, she was in love with a black man.

"My father said, 'If you go with this guy, you are no longer my daughter. You are out of this house. You are not mine,'" Keyes recalls. "But I really loved him and I thought he was the one."

They married and moved to Colorado. Keyes is matter-of-fact as she recalls how her husband started slapping her around. She claims her husband, whom she declined to identify, could never find work — even after she became pregnant.

"He would come home and yell that there was no money, there was no groceries in the house. 'Go and get some groceries in the house.' And I'd tell him we have no money," Keyes says.

He insisted she write checks though there was no money in the account, she says; she claims he would tell her her paycheck would cover the checks, but then

he would take her money.

Keyes was pregnant again when she was arrested in 1974 for check fraud. Prisons would not take pregnant women then and she was to report to the penitentiary five days after her child was born.

Keyes says her husband refused to let her report. Abuse, she claims, continued. "By that time — I have a half-moon scar on my forehead, that took 18 stitches. That was — um — a belt buckle," Keyes says.

She says she wanted to leave, but that there was nowhere for her to go. There were few battered women's shelters and Keyes said she could not go back to her family. Police were little help.

"Seventeen years ago what they thought of domestic violence is a world away from what we think of it now," says Denver criminal defense attorney Larry Pozner. "Then it was, 'We're not going to arrest him. He'll just go back.'"

She admits she wrote thousands of dollars in bad checks, but says the abuse was its root. She claims she was let out of the house only to write the checks. The husband was never charged in the check-writing scheme.

Keyes ended up in the state penitentiary in Canon City in 1976. Over the next four years, she was in and out of prison. Behind bars, she suffered horribly, and even was impregnated by a guard (authorities investigated the allegation, and rejected it); released, she returned to her husband, and to writing bogus checks.

Keyes arrived at a Denver halfway house in 1980. She had been there a month when she heard rumors she was being sent back to Canon.

"I knew if I went back to Canon something very,

very bad might happen. And if I walked away from the halfway house, my life would never, ever be right," she says, her usually strong voice cracking. "I wouldn't be able to fight for my children — I wouldn't even be able to see them."

"But I knew that if I went back (to Canon City) I might not even be able to see them. So I walked away."

A family in a book she read on the way to California was named Winthrop, and she took the name. But she couldn't give up all of herself: "Ever since I was a baby, I've been Kerry. To anyone who was close to me, I'm Kerry. I thought, 'OK, I need to stay with Kerry, because I am Kerry.'"

Kerry Winthrop arrived in San Francisco in 1980 and "I did anything that was honest. Anything to survive."

In 1985, she became a nanny. She found a place and a family.

"Birthdays and Christmas and all of that were really hard," she says through tears. "I would just pray that somebody was looking out for the boys."

In 1990, she took a class. She returned to St. Louis. By that time, she had ended her relationship with her family, and she contacted her sons, who were raised by their father. She quickly landed a job as a nanny for the son of two doctors.

Then, at 5:30 a.m. on March 8 of this year, the doorbell rang. Kerry Winthrop threw on some sweatpants and slippers and answered the door. An officer said her car had been vandalized — not surprising, since her neighbors had had the same problem a few days earlier.

When she walked out of her house, the St. Charles

County sheriff appeared from behind a building and put her in handcuffs.

"Here we go," she thought. Somebody close to her had given her up, she was told.

Karlene Keyes was wanted on a warrant 17 years old. She was back in the Colorado system by April; as she awaited extradition, "I thought, 'It can't be happening.' But it had."

But what seemed to be misfortune turned out to be good luck.

She did not rot in prison; in fact, she was paroled in July. And while she sat in the Denver Reception and Diagnostic Center, waiting for her release, Keyes saw something she didn't like.

"They had alcohol groups for women, drug groups," but none for battered women, she says. "I went to my parole officer and said, 'If I have to stay here, I want to do something worthwhile.'"

"She opened the doors by corresponding and developing an interest for a battered women's program," says Stephen Rodgers, who was Keyes' parole officer in the 1970s and is now a case manager at the DRDC.

By giving women counseling and help in becoming independent, "at least it's a chance they can turn their lives around," Keyes says.

Keyes also has begun writing a book. "Holding on to Kerry" is for all the women who may be suffering as she did, she says.

She is 45 and living alone in St. Louis, and is becoming reacquainted with her sons, now ages 20 to 24. Her ex-husband doesn't bother her; she's been hired as a preschool teacher. And she's able to breathe easily like she never could before.

Public schools achieving popularity, research says

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — More affluent students — or maybe their price-conscious parents — are abandoning private colleges in favor of their cheaper, public counterparts, researchers said.

The big, brand-name schools such as Harvard and Princeton still pack in the well-to-do. But smaller, four-year private liberal arts schools are increasingly losing their full-paying customers to public universities, according to The Student Aid Game, a book to be published in November.

Its authors said private colleges will adapt, but poorer students at public schools may not fare as well.

"The idea was always that you would create these great institutions that would then be accessible to a ybody who had the motivation and talent to go. That kind of fundamental promise of higher education is really being thrown into question," said co-author Michael McPherson, president of the private Macalester College in St. Paul.

McPherson and co-author Morton Schapiro found that about 38 percent of college freshmen from the richest families enrolled in public institutions in 1994, compared with 31 percent in 1980. The richest families were those making more than \$200,000 a year.

For upper-middle income families — those who earned between \$100,000 and \$200,000 — freshman enrollment at public schools rose to 48 percent in 1994 from 42 percent in 1980, they found.

Part of the draw of public schools is the cheaper cost. Consumers also are making less of a distinction in the relative quality of public and private educations, partly because of the acceptance of well-publicized "best-buy" guides, McPherson said.

Money magazine's annual college ratings due out in September, for example, rank the University of Florida 80 notches above Dartmouth as a best buy. But as more affluent families flock toward public universities, states end up subsidizing wealthier students. On average, a state subsidizes each student by about \$12,000 a year, no matter how much their parents earn.

David and Linda Mona, an Edina, Minn., couple who own a public relations firm and several other businesses, let their two sons decide whether to go to public or private schools.

Kirk Mona chose the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, while his older brother, Erik, chose Emerson College, a private school in Boston that cost \$15,000 more a year.

Mutation causes colorectal cancer, study shows

BALTIMORE (AP) — A genetic mutation previously thought to be harmless has been found to lead to one type of colorectal cancer in Jews, a discovery that could shed new light on the disease's development, researchers announced Monday.

The mutation was found in 6 percent of the 766 Jews studied, prompting the researchers to recommend genetic testing for Ashkenazi Jews who have a history of familial colorectal cancer.

That type of cancer accounts for 15 to 50 percent of all colorectal cancers, said Dr. Bert Vogelstein, lead researcher of the Johns Hopkins University team.

"Really, the importance of this observation for the public at large is this is a whole new mechanism for people being predisposed to cancer," said Dr. Sanford Markowitz, who was not involved in the research. He is professor of cancer genetics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

Another outside cancer expert rejected the researchers' recom-

mendation for expensive medical tests.

The gene controls cell growth. A more severely mutated form has been previously identified with a more aggressive form of colorectal cancer.

Researcher Steve Laken said people refer to the gene "as the Trojan Horse because it's not damaged, but it can mutate very quickly."

Markowitz agreed. "Most of the cancer genes that have been reported over the last several years have been genes where the people who got the cancer were born with a damaged

version of the gene," he said. "What's new about the Hopkins finding is that the gene itself that these individuals are born with functions normally, but it's a less stable form."

The findings are reported in the September issue of Nature Genetics.

Those studied were all Ashkenazi, or Eastern European, Jews,

who comprise 95 percent of the 6 million Jews in the United States. Researchers looked at 211 Ashkenazi Jewish colon-cancer patients and found one in eight had the mutation; among those who developed cancer before age 60, one in six had the mutation. The researchers estimated that 600,000 Ashkenazi Jews in this country have the mutation.

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Authorities try to deal with new marijuana laws

New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — In San Jose, police prodded a group of residents to grow their own marijuana. In Fort Bragg, authorities rejected a proposal to establish a medicinal marijuana dispensary in the local police precinct. In Arcata, officials are considering licensing individual pot smokers who claim they have a medical need for the weed.

These are some of the myriad ways communities across California are dealing with the passage last year of a statewide voter initiative, Proposition 215, which legalized marijuana for medical use but failed to outline how to regulate distribution of the drug.

Some communities — Berkeley and Oakland, for instance — have adopted a "hands-off" policy that generally discourages city interference in pot distribution.

Other cities, such as San Jose, are attempting to strictly regulate distribution. Still others have passed temporary moratoriums on the distribution of medical marijuana in the hopes that state legislators may pass laws that clarify how the drug can legally be distributed.

"There's a big segment of the criminal justice system that has to readjust their thinking to medical marijuana," said Santa Clara County Assistant District Attorney Karyn Sinunu, who oversees drug prosecutions. "We're getting educated."

Sinunu, a prosecutor for 12 years, said that after seeing a good friend use marijuana to ease the suffering of stomach cancer, she had become convinced that the drug should be legal for medical use.

"It's really difficult getting quality dope to people who need it," she said. "There's no such thing as FDA-approved dope, but there should be."

Few authorities argue that a sick person with a recommendation from a doctor is now allowed to grow, possess and use marijuana. But finding a source is a sticky issue, because the production and distribution of marijuana is still illegal.



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BASIN BRIEFING

Border patrol

Border Patrol agents took to the banks of the Rio Grande in force Monday as the government began a new initiative aimed at curbing illegal immigration along the Texas border. At daybreak, about 30 agents were dispatched to a 2 1/2-mile stretch of river south of downtown Brownsville, signaling the launching of Operation Rio Grande.

Story on 3B

Teen birth control

It could cost at least \$200,000 to ensure \$27,000 in state funds doesn't pay for birth control and other prescription drugs for minors who lack parental consent, a Texas Department of Health official testified Monday. The agency does not intend to begin asking minors to get parental consent before obtaining birth control because that could jeopardize federal family planning money, said Carol Pavlica, director of family planning for the Health Department. So to comply with a new state law requiring minors to get parental consent for state-funded prescription drugs, the agency may have to set up a tracking system to ensure no state funds pay for minors' prescriptions, she said.

Story on 3B

TODAY'S AGENDA

For information on checking out books, library hours and how to get a library card, call the Midland County Library Information Line, on CITYLINE, 560-2400, Category 7100.

Sack Lunch/Parent Education Mtg. for answers and information, Alamo library, 12-1 p.m.

Midland Chess Club, 7 p.m., Memorial Rehabilitation Hospital.

Battered Anonymous Support Group, 8:30-9 p.m., 689-9428.

Battered Women's support group, 6:45 p.m., 683-1300 or 1-800-967-8928.

Tx TOPS Morning Chapter, 8:30 a.m., Grace Presbyterian Church.

Morning Lions Club, 6:45 a.m., Carrows Restaurant, 2201 W. Wall St.

Pop-Up Toasters, 6:30 a.m., Kay Sutton Realtors, 702 Andrews Highway, 694-4271 or 694-3716.

Midland West Rotary Club, noon, Furr's Cafeteria.

Midland Chapter No. 253, OES, 7:30 p.m., Masonic Temple.

Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary, 8 p.m., at the Aerie Home, behind Rogers Ford, 697-3131.

Licensed Vocational Nurses Assoc., 7:30 a.m., Trinity Towers.

Ranchland Hills Ladies Association, 7 p.m., Couples Bridge, RHCC.

Toastmistress Club 7:30 p.m., Memorial Christian Church.

55-Plus Dance Club, 7:30 p.m., Downtown Lions building, 694-3422.

Golden Park Independent Retirement Community, 3100 W. Kansas Ave., 699-0914; Senior Citizens Brunch, 10:30 a.m.

Midland County Young Democrats, 5:30-8:30 p.m., 3802 Avondale Dr., 684-5548 or 694-4152.

Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Guadalupe, #9215, 7:30 p.m., Parish Hall, Cherry Lane & Tyler St.

Midland County Child Welfare Board meeting, 4:30 p.m., Department of Human Services, 2301 N. Big Spring St., 693-5411.

ACOA non-smoking, 8 p.m., Holy Trinity Episcopal Parish Hall.

AlphaOmega Group, 8 a.m., 4400 N. Big Spring St., Suite C-41.

Bellydancing classes 7-8 p.m., Hawaiian/Tahitian classes 8-9 p.m., 520-4852 or 694-2250.

Study Club, 7:30 p.m., Unity Church of West Texas, 210 E. 12th St., Odessa, 332-5890.

Schizophrenics Anonymous, 7 p.m., Glenwood Hospital.

Healthy Alternatives: ADD, 7 p.m., 711 W. Indiana Ave., 570-0272.

Dust Devil Divers Scuba Club, 7 p.m., COM swim complex, 570-8761.

Cityline
560-2400

For Local, National and World Updates, call CITYLINE, and enter category 1200 for the main news menu.

Unemployment down in Midland

■ Texas Workforce Commission report coupled with survey from local temporary help firm indicate healthy economy.

By Mella McEwen
Staff Writer

The Texas Workforce Commission reported last week that the City of Midland's unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in July, indicating a healthy local economy.

Those indications have been strengthened by Manpower's quarterly Employment Outlook Survey, released by the temporary help firm Monday. The survey projects a 6 percent increase in hiring in the final three months of the year.

The survey, which covers the fourth quarter, found

that 16 percent of local companies questioned plan staffing increases, 10 percent expect cutbacks, 58 percent see no change and 16 percent were uncertain. In the survey for the third quarter, 33 percent of those surveyed anticipated staff additions and none expected cutbacks.

For the same quarter a year earlier, 16 percent of those surveyed expected to add workers and 6 percent planned staff reductions.

"The labor market has gotten a lot tighter," noted Donna Duree, district manager for Manpower. While companies seem to be holding employment steady, she noted that "there's an increase in employers needing more workers and that's made the market pretty tight."

She added that she has talked with companies who were not surveyed for the outlook and they were also finding conditions to be tight.

Ms. Duree attributed the tightness to the area's low unemployment rate.

"Those wanting to work have a job," she said. "Oth-

ers are making a transition, moving from one company to another; some are relocating, but not many. The new businesses that have come to town have also added to the tight labor market."

The survey found that the best employment prospects this fall are in durable and non-durable goods manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade and services. Ms. Duree said this is due in part to hiring for the Christmas season. Too, she said, companies will be conducting end-of-the-year spending to close out their annual budgets.

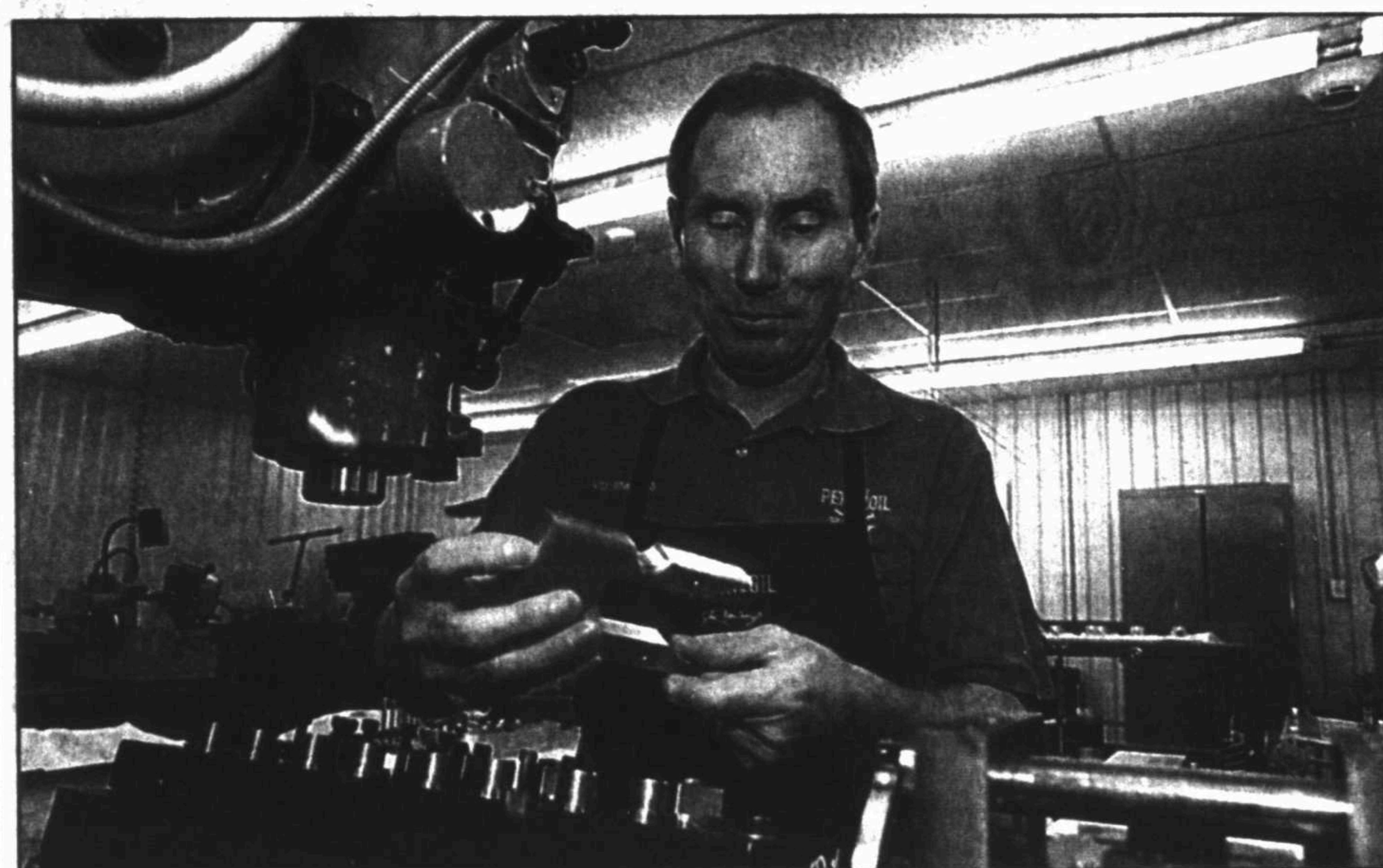
The survey predicts cutbacks in mining, education and public education.

Still, Ms. Duree said, "Industry out here is looking pretty good."

In Manpower's survey of the state's major metropolitan areas, the biggest workforce increases can be expected in Bryan-College Station, Amarillo, Longview and Victoria. The state average for workforce increases

Please see ECONOMY/2B

A Day in the Life of Robert Mills



Curt Wilcott/Reporter-Telegram

Robert Mills with VDS Engines works at his mill.

Precision technology can make one go from zero to hero

By Gary Shanks
Staff Writer

Native Australian and long-time Midlander Robert Mills spends his days in a world where success and failure exist within the same 1,000th of an inch.

Mills is a machinist for VDS Racing Team, Inc., a Midland company that builds racing engines for the 200-plus mph Indy car circuit, of which the Indianapolis 500 is the premier event.

With five drivers, each requiring 7-8 engines, business is currently brisk at the VDS complex on West Highway 80, Mills said.

All of the components of the racing engines are manufactured at the Ilmore company in England. Any Indy racer running an Ilmore engine comes to VDS.

Each component of these engines, from valve to piston to crankshaft must be machine fitted perfectly into place, Mills said. There is very little space between hero and zero in the racing business.

Competition and the race for better technology is

fierce in the Indy world. The engines are leased from Ilmore and VDS must never allow even outdated motors to leave their facility.

"Everything is accounted for," Mills said. "The old days of racers owning engines are gone, for security reasons," he said.

Mills was indoctrinated into the racing business as a teenager in Adelaide, Australia. The British formula racing circuits have always made use of the Australian series, as it offers clear-weather racing during the English off-season winter months.

Growing along with the sport of racing, Mills found himself in Midland in 1982 and has been here ever since.

He met his American wife, Johanna, in Syracuse, N.Y., years earlier when he was traveling with racing teams between England and the U.S.

He has four children, two born in Australia and two in Midland. Amy, 19, is going to St. Edwards University in Austin and there are Peter, 17, John, 12, and Megan, six.

Mills is the lynch pin of the machine shop at VDS and

Please see MILLS/2B

Tobacco deal has no impact on Texas case

■ Florida settlement with tobacco companies comes as Texas forges ahead with lawsuit seeking \$14 billion in damages

By Michael Holmes
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Florida's multibillion-dollar settlement of its lawsuit against the tobacco industry has no immediate impact on the Texas suit scheduled for trial next month, the attorney general's office said Monday.

In action similar to that filed by Florida, Texas is seeking \$14 billion from tobacco companies. The money would pay reimbursement of state and federal Medicaid money spent on treating Texans' tobacco-related illnesses since 1968.

A trial in the Texas case is scheduled to open Sept. 29 in federal court in Texarkana.

"We are preparing for trial," said Ward Tisdale, spokesman for Attorney General Dan Morales. "We're already moving documents up to Texarkana in semi-trailer trucks."

The Florida case had been in jury selection since Aug. 1. But on Monday, Gov. Lawton Chiles announced that the lawsuit was being settled for \$11.3 billion.

Florida forced the industry to admit in the settlement that cigarettes kill and nicotine is addictive. The industry agreed to pull down all of its billboards within six months.

Florida became the second state to reach an agreement to recover Medicaid funds. The deal came even as Congress looks over a proposed \$368.5 billion national settlement with 40 states. Mississippi, the first state to take the industry to court, settled last month for nearly \$3.6 billion.

In Texas, Tisdale said, the state's lawyers have heard nothing from the tobacco industry indicating it might be ready to settle this lawsuit as well.

"We've not had any offers on the table," he said.

Chuck McDonald, a spokesman for Philip Morris, also said that at this point, the industry expects the Texas trial

Please see TOBACCO/2B

Judge issues injunction blocking enforcement of new records law

By Peggy Fikac
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A new state law limiting public access to traffic accident records will be blocked, at least temporarily, under a court order agreed upon Monday by lawyers for the state and two newspaper groups.

District Judge Paul Davis of Travis County granted the temporary injunction, ordering that the law not be enforced until a judge holds a hearing and decides whether to permanently prohibit the measure from taking effect.

The Texas Daily Newspaper Association and Texas Press Association, which together represent nearly all Texas newspapers, are challenging the law passed by the 1997 Legislature. It had been scheduled to take effect Sept. 1.

The law would prevent people from getting traffic accident records unless they knew the name of at least one person involved, and either the location or the date of the crash.

Please see BLOCKED/2B

Here's looking at you, kid

Midland Lion's Club members Harold Gilliam and Sue Fitzgerald snap a Polaroid of Greenwood kindergarten student Zami Totty. The club's project, photo-screener, is designed to help detect eye defects in children of young ages.

Curt Wilcott
Reporter-Telegram



GARY OTT

Don't rock the jukebox—country-western sounds better

More rambling thoughts ...
— Does the entertainer formerly known as Prince ever regret changing his name to a symbol?

— Speaking of such, how does he sign his checks?

— Overheard: "That man complains so much that the first thing he says when he gets up is 'good morning.'"

— It is very strange, and irritating, when seeing O.J. Simpson appear in an old movie on TV.

— It is even more irritating to suddenly realize you are enjoying the movie.



Or

— Do construction workers still whistle at women when they walk past their work site?

— Good advice: "Whenever you fall, pick something up."

— Airplanes represent a wonderful advancement in our society, of course, but I sometimes miss those old-fashioned summer vacations that were taken by the entire family in a car without air conditioning.

— For some reason, country-western music really does sound better when it is played on a jukebox.

— Hector Berlioz once said, "Time is a great teacher, but unfortunately it kills all its pupils."

— And then Thornton Wilder said this: "Seek the lofty by reading, hearing and seeing great work at some moment

every day."

— Do little children still get a thrill from jumping up and down on a bed?

— Maybe it is because the afternoon temperatures are still in the mid-90s, but for whatever reason it seems way too early for college and professional football to be starting.

— I now keep a notepad and pen beside my bed, but typically, I have not been overcome with any great words of wisdom during the middle of the night.

— There is something satisfying about seeing a person who has lost a great deal of weight gain it back, especially if that person took obvious delight in bragging about the accomplishment.

— Irvin S. Cobb, many years ago, defined an epitaph this way: "A belated advertisement for a line of goods that has

been permanently discontinued."

— Call me weird if you must, but I've never been terribly resentful of authority.

— It is a scary feeling when you realize you don't have your wallet and you're not quite sure where you left it, though you think, and hope, it is still at the house.

— Can you believe there was a time, not all that many years ago, when sporting a Playboy bunny on the bumper of your car was considered cool?

— And today's final quote comes from Coco Chanel, who once said, "Nature gives you the face you have at 20. Life shapes the face you have at 30. But at 50 you get the face you deserve."

Gary Ott is city editor of the Reporter-Telegram.

POLICE REPORTS

Midland Police Department Sunday
Criminal Mischief: A 1989 Oldsmobile Cutlass automobile sustained rock damage, including a shattered windshield, at 4201 N. Garfield St. The incident was reported to police at 9:42 a.m.

Burglary of a Residence: Gene Elvis Morris at 8:09 a.m. reported a burglary at 2006 Gulf Ave. and the unauthorized use of Honda Accord and Lexus automobiles.

Theft: A bicycle was reported stolen at 2900 W. Illinois Ave. The theft was reported at 4:51 p.m.

Graffiti: A fence was spray-painted in the 200 block of Canyon Drive. The marring was reported at 5:05 p.m.

Assault and Vulgar Language: Lyndia Thornberry at 7:04 p.m. reported the assault of a juvenile and the use of vulgar language at 4200 Cedar Spring, which is the address of Jane Long Elementary School.

Theft: The theft of cigarettes was reported at a business in the 3600 block of West Wall Avenue. The theft was reported at 10:15 p.m.

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia: A 33-year-old woman was arrested for possession of a crack-cocaine pipe in the 300 block of South Tyler Street.

Theft: Theft by shoplifting of cassette tapes was reported at

Hastings Books, Music & Video Store at 3111 W. Cuthbert Ave. The theft was reported at 2:15 p.m.

Midland County Sheriff's Department Sunday
Theft: The theft of \$10 in gasoline by the driver of a blue Chevrolet Blazer sports utility vehicle was reported at Friend's Convenience Store at 13220 West U.S. Highway 80. The theft was reported at 4:03 p.m.

Monday
Assault: T.L. Porter suffered a cut on her arm from glass that was shattered by a thrown rock at 3901 E. County Road 190. The incident was reported at 12:46 a.m.

Vandalism: Darrell Siems at 6:45 a.m. reported broken windows in the Greenwood High School at 2700 Farm-to-Market Road 1379.

Theft: The theft of tools and miscellaneous items from a storage unit was reported at 1310 W. County Road 114. The theft was reported at 9:17 a.m.

Ector County Sheriff's Department
ODESSA - Cory Charles Gillette, 20, was charged with possession of marijuana after Ector County Sheriff's deputies ferreted him out as a fugitive from justice. He was arrested at his 2201 Westwood apartment following the serving of a search warrant.

OBITUARIES

Mavis Williams

WEATHERFORD — Mavis Moore Williams, mother of Midlander Joe D. Williams, passed away August 16, 1997, at her residence in Weatherford.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m. Tuesday, August 19, 1997, at Oakland Cemetery in Weatherford under the direction of Cotten-Bratton Funeral Chapel.

She was born August 28, 1920, and lived in Parker County all of her life.

After spending her early childhood in Hightower Valley in southern Parker County, her family moved to Weatherford.

During World War Two, she worked at Convair in Fort Worth, then traveled throughout the Southwest and Kansas with her husband, Wallace Williams, as he worked in the oil field.

She was a homemaker and was affiliated with the Baptist church. She was preceded in death by her husband in October 1973.

Other survivors include a brother, David Moore, of Weatherford, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Aurther Balkum

Aurther E. "Slim" Balkum was born January 19, 1925, in Byrd, Texas near Miles. He was reared and educated in San Angelo. After having served in the U.S. Navy at Subic Bay in the Philippines during World War II, "Slim" as he was nicknamed by his fellow crewmen, returned home to San Angelo, where he met and married Marion Gressett of Ballinger, Texas. Mr. Balkum began a career in the oilfield in the early 1950's, working for Arrow Drilling Company in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico and Wyoming.

The family settled in Midland in 1963. During the next 26 years of his 38 year career in the drilling industry, he worked for BBM Drilling Company, Tom Brown Drilling Company, F.W.A. Drilling Company and Tri Service Drilling Co. He retired from Tri Service as superintendent of drilling operations in 1989. Mr. Balkum was a member of Oak-

lawn Park Baptist Church and Masonic Lodge #623, both of Midland. His favorite pastime was fishing and more fishing.

He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Wiley Lee Balkum and Myrtle C. Balkum; two sisters, Mrs. Sam "Rachel" Bitner and Mrs. John "Inez" Whitteberg, all of San Angelo; and by his brother, Eddie Lee Balkum of Katy, Texas.

He is survived by his wife, Marion Gressett Balkum of Midland; a daughter, Karen Steele of San Angelo; two sons, Wiley and Wesley Balkum of Midland; two sisters, Mrs. Willie "Loleta" Aclim of San Angelo and Mrs. Bill "Ruthie" Myrick of Brownwood; three grandchildren, Kathryn Lockhart of Waco, Texas, John Robinson of Irving, Texas and Kelly Robinson of San Angelo; two great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests that any donations or memorials be made to American Cancer Society, 2304 W. Wadley, Midland, Texas, 79705.

Mr. Balkum died at his Midland home on August 23, 1997, after a brief illness.

Memorial services will be held at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 27, 1997, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. William Simpson, of Tall City Baptist Church officiating.

Pallbearers will be friends of the family.

Graveside services will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday, at Lawnhaven Memorial Gardens Cemetery in San Angelo, Texas with the Rev. Robert Webb officiating. Pallbearers will be nephews. Arrangements are under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

Hattie Stringer

Hattie Jewel Stringer, former longtime resident of Midland, died Friday, August 22, 1997, at the Twilight Nursing Home in Corsicana, Texas, at the age of 90.

Mrs. Stringer was born to Van Manning Lundie and Katie Mae (Davis) Lundie of Midland, Texas on March 23, 1907, one of six children. She married Lert Lon Stringer on May 24, 1926, and

together they had eight children. The Stringers spent many years in the Midland area but also lived in Copperas Cove, Houston and their final years in Corsicana. Hattie spent most of her life being a good wife, mother and homemaker to Lert, her children and her grandchildren. She was a member of Trinity Baptist Church of Corsicana where she helped in many of the ladies activities.

Funeral services for Mrs. Stringer will be under the direction of Corley Funeral Home in Corsicana, in their chapel, at 1 p.m. Wednesday, August 27, with the Rev. Bill Thompson of Trinity Baptist Church officiating. Graveside services will follow immediately after in the Hamilton-Beeman Cemetery in Retreat, Texas, just outside Corsicana.

Pallbearers will be her grandsons, Jerome Alexander, Jason Bales, Paul Beene, Ryan Beene, Larry Lewis, Nelson Scroggins and Van Stringer.

Mrs. Stringer was preceded in death by her parents; a brother, William Jean "Jack" Lundie; two sisters, Daisy (Lundie) Breeze and Lucille (Lundie) Howell; her husband; two sons, George Edwin Stringer and Timothy Kyle Stringer; a daughter, Minnie Laura Stinger; and an infant granddaughter, Sonja Jewel Stringer.

She is survived by two brothers, Jerome Thomas Lundie of Midland and Edward Lee Lundie of Mountain Park, New Mexico; three daughters, Theresa Jane Dunnun of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Patsy Marie Lewis of Duarte, California and Mary Beth Scroggins of Gun Barrel City, Texas; two sons, Charles Manning Stringer of Houston and Emmett Moore Stringer of Grants Pass, Oregon; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren.

Viola Stewart

Viola Reavis Stewart was born February 26, 1909, in her parents home at Dry Creek Ranch near Barksdale in the Nueces Canyon

country of Texas. She married J. Ralph Stewart on February 28, 1926, and they spent their early married life in Campwood, Texas, where he was the owner and editor of the local paper, The Messenger of Light. She assisted him in those duties while raising the four children born in Campwood: Evelyn, Ray, Lucille and Chris. They lived in Sabinal for a year before moving to San Angelo in 1939. Her husband, J. Ralph Stewart, was active in the oil business in that area for many years. After their son Mike was born, they moved to Christoval where they lived until moving to Uvalde in 1977.

After the death of her husband in 1984, she remained in the Uvalde area until 1994, when she moved to Leakey.

She passed away August 22, 1997, after a brief illness. She was a life long member of the First Baptist Church of Campwood and the Christoval Baptist Church and affiliated with the Church in the Valley of Leakey, Texas. She was a staunch Republican and supporter of conservative causes.

She was preceded in death by her husband, J. Ralph Stewart; two daughters, Lucille Smith and Chris Wixon; and two sons, Mike Stewart and John Stewart, Jr.

She is survived by her son, J. Ray Stewart and wife Doris of Ruidoso, New Mexico; a daughter Evelyn S. Graham of Leakey, Texas; brother-in-law, Carroll Stewart and wife Corrine of Uvalde; sister-in-law, Eula Stewart of San Antonio; daughter-in-law, Sigrid Stewart of Midland, Texas; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; and 18 great-great-grandchildren.

Services were held at 10 a.m. August 25, at the First Baptist Church of Campwood with interment at Vance Cemetery with the Rev. Carlton Caudle and the Rev. Ray Miller officiating.

Pallbearers were Leonard Rotter, Brian Graham, Greg Graham, John Goodman, Randy Sinclair and Larry Rose.

DEATH NOTICES

Willie Walker

Willie Walker, Jr. died Saturday, August 23, at a hospital in Odessa.

Funeral services have been set 3 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Ellis Funeral Home Chapel with Elder L.W. Dixon of Kermit Church of God in Christ officiating. Burial will be at Fairview Cemetery under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home.

He was born June 1, 1929, in Oklahoma City, Okla.

He grew up and attended public school in Oklahoma City. As a child, he joined the Church of God in Christ. He married Christel Huey on Dec. 24, 1963.

He was preceded in death by one brother.

Survivors include his wife, Christel Walker of Midland; eight daughters, Patricia Brown, Dorethea Walker, Latrese Kendrick and Louis Parker, all of Midland; Mary Robinson and Alma Nealy, both of Odessa and Clementine Walker and Wassalea Walker, both of San Angelo; a son, Willie Wayne Walker of Monahans; 19 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives and friends.

Ronnie Duckworth

ODESSA — Ronnie Lee Duckworth, 47, father of Midlander Ron Conner and brother of Midlanders Billy Ray Duckworth, Winnejo Ivey and Judy Duckworth, died Saturday, Aug. 23, in Cloudercroft, N.M.

Funeral services are to be at 10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at First Baptist Church with the Rev. Dr. Ernest Easley officiating. Burial will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, in Stewardson Cemetery near Santa Anna. Arrangements are under the direction of Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors.

He was born Feb. 6, 1950, in Brady and married Susan Slusher on Dec. 5, 1980, in Odessa. He was a salesman for G.Q. Salmon & Sons and Lone Star Drum.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth Duckworth.

Other survivors include his wife of Odessa; other sons, Matt Duckworth of Odessa and John Conner of San Angelo; a daughter, Jennifer Norris; other brothers, Horace Dean Duckworth of Odessa, and R. A. Duckworth of San Angelo; and one granddaughter.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn., 38105-1905.

Ida Farmer

WHEELER — Ida Caddell Farmer, 88, died Saturday, Aug. 23, in Midland.

Funeral services are to be at 2 p.m. Aug. 26, at First Baptist Church in Wheeler with the Rev. Toby Henson, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in the Wheeler Cemetery by Wright Funeral Home.

She was born Oct. 9, 1908, in Denton County and married Elvis (Ebb) Farmer in Wheeler Jan. 9, 1932. She moved to Midland in 1985. She was a member of the First Church, Order of the Eastern Star and the '54 Study Club in

Wheeler.

She was preceded in death by her husband on June 29, 1967; three sisters; and two brothers.

Survivors include one son, Glen Farmer of Midland; two brothers, Vernon Caddell of Dallas and Curtis Macon Caddell of Granbury; four grandsons; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Boys Ranch or a favorite charity.

Jessieline Yates

Jessieline Yates died Sunday, Aug. 24, at a local hospital.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 28, at First Presbyterian Church with Dr. Jerry M. Hilton officiating.

Midland viewing will be Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon at Ellis Funeral Home. Arkansas services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, at First United Methodist Church in Magnolia, Ark. Burial will be at New Ramah Cemetery in New Ramah, La. Magnolia viewing will be Friday and Saturday at Lewis Funeral Home.

She was born Aug. 14, 1916, in Haynesville, La. and married Earl Yates on Oct. 11, 1936. She moved to Midland in 1996.

She was preceded in death by her husband in Oct. of 1990; three brothers; and one sister.

Survivors include two daughters, Judy Warren of Midland and Linda Weeks of Houston; a brother, Roland Sanders of Haynesville, La.; a sister, Belle Bacon of Boone, N.C.; three grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Building Fund, First Presbyterian Church, Midland or Building Fund, First United Methodist Church, Magnolia, Ark.

Eunice Ingersoll

Eunice Ingersoll died early Monday, Aug. 25, at her Midland residence.

Graveside services have been set for 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 27, at Denver City Memorial Park in Denver City with Skip Rogers officiating. Midland visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Ellis Funeral Home. Following the services, the family will fellowship at the Church of Christ.

She was born Sept. 5, 1905, and married Raymond "Bud" Ingersoll in 1928.

She moved to Midland in 1994. She was a member of the Church of Christ and was active in the hospital auxiliary and Order of Eastern Star in Denver City.

She was preceded in death by her husband in Nov. 1974; and by a daughter, Donna Ingersoll in 1991.

She is survived by a daughter, Patricia J. Chiles of Midland; a sister, Mildred Jeffery of Alexandria, La.; three grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Hospice of Midland, P.O. Box 2621, Midland, 79702.

MILLS: Pride in work has never been greater

(From 1B)

spends his days operating a computerized milling machine to cut pistons and other components to precise tolerances.

Because Indy cars were reaching top speeds that frightened some officials, boost on the turbochargers has been drastically cut over the last 10 years, he said. This boost packs more air and fuel mixture into the engine cylinders which is equated with pure power on the track.

With the maximum boost cut in half, engine builders are using rpm (the speed in which the engine is turning) to make up the difference.

Mills' engines turn better than 14,000 rpm, more than twice the sustained rpm that would destroy most V-8 engines on the street.

At these speeds, the force on a

At a Glance: Robert Mills

Place of birth: Adelaide, Australia.

Favorite food: Homemade pizza.

Favorite vacation spot: The mountains of Fort Davis.

Favorite movie entertainer: Harrison Ford.

Hobbies: Woodworking, making furniture and restoring old vehicles.

If you won the lottery, what would you do: "I would keep working."

connecting rod, which holds a piston to the crankshaft, is more than seven tons — like balancing three medium sized cars on one small metal rod.

By balancing energies such as this, Indy engine builders have not allowed drivers to slow down.

Now a family man, Mills doesn't travel to the races as he did in his youth, he said. But the pride in his work was never greater.

Today's race cars have computers that keep track of temperature and oil pressure and,

perhaps more importantly, everything the driver is forcing the engine to do. These are much like the black boxes recovered in airline crashes.

If a VDS engine explodes on the race track, machinists there expect the recording to prove driver fault, and Mills has enough faith in his skills not to chew his fingernails until the data is recovered.

But an air of intensity surrounds the VDS crew, since racing is about winning and there is

no room for error in a winning run. "A lot of people can run second and third," Mills said.

So far, out of 14 Indy races this year, VDS has taken four wins and everyone there is looking toward this weekend's big race in Vancouver.

Interestingly, raw power is not necessarily the key in racing as it has evolved, Mills said.

Engines are being made smaller and lighter to allow for smaller and lighter cars. Because of fuel capacity restrictions and the need for pit stops, the deciding factor in a race is often fuel economy — even at the Indy norms of one and a half miles per gallon of methyl alcohol.

"The fastest boy probably won't win, today," Mills said.

BLOCKED: Newspaper groups claim law violates constitution

(From 1B)

Lawmakers said they passed the measure to keep ambulance-chasing chiropractors, lawyers and others from improperly soliciting injured victims.

The newspaper groups charge that the law violates the free speech, press, equal protection and due process provisions of the Texas Constitution.

The lawsuit names Attorney General Dan Morales; the state; and the police chiefs of Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Galveston, Austin, San Antonio, Snyder and Decatur. The chiefs serve areas covered by the newspaper association members and would enforce the law.

"We want to make sure that the barratry laws in the state of

Texas are certainly enforced, but we certainly don't want to place such restrictions that the (news) media doesn't have appropriate access that it needs," said First Assistant Attorney General Jorge Vega after the injunction was agreed upon.

"I think there is a way that those can be reconciled. I think that gives us an opportunity to look at that," he said. Barratry refers to the improper solicitation of accident victims as clients.

Austin lawyer Richard Hile, special counsel to the attorney general's office, said the temporary injunction allows the two sides to consolidate all their efforts into one trial concerning a permanent injunction.

Dolph Tillotson, publisher of The Galveston County Daily

News, said of the temporary injunction, "I think that it does indicate that the parties are willing to talk to one another and listen to one another, and as long as that's the case, we feel like we've got a good opportunity for a proper resolution to this case."

Tillotson, co-chairman of the newspaper association's legislative advisory committee, added, "I personally have a little bit of a problem with the state telling even chiropractors what the limits on their free speech are."

"But be all that as it may, should the state choose to do that, there are better ways to do it than a blanket law that restricts access to records that are clearly owned by, compiled by, paid for and set up to serve the public."

Lawmakers approved two bills

restricting public access to accident reports.

Gov. George W. Bush vetoed one, by Rep. Toby Goodman, R-Arlington. But the provision also was slipped into a second bill — by Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth — that became law. Bush's office said the second bill's provision went unnoticed.

Goodman said he worked to find a way to allow the media to have access to the reports while shielding accident victims from groups such as a referral service that gives potential clients' names to lawyers and others. If a way could be found to allow the media continued access, Goodman said he would be open to it.



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 For more information, call Rebecca Sawyer, Director 684-7821

TOBACCO: Trial set for late September

(From 1B)

al to proceed.

"Attorneys for the tobacco industry are working furiously and expect to go to trial on Sept. 29,"

McDonald said.

One provision of the Florida agreement is that about 400 confidential tobacco industry documents would be made public. Tisdale said it appears Texas could use them in its trial.

DEAR ABBY

Reunion of mother and daughter may only be a registry away

By Abigail Van Buren

DEAR ABBY: Several years ago you published the address for International Soundex Reunion Registry in Carson City, Nev. Please print it again and again.

When I was 17, I gave birth to a baby girl and put her up for adoption. I had no choice about it. I wanted her to have a good life. I always wanted to know my daughter and wanted her to know how much I loved her, so when she



Van Buren

reached 18, I registered with ISRR. I faced a lot of criticism when I decided to let her find me.

Yesterday, she found me! It is the most wonderful, amazing thing that has ever happened to me. I've waited 33 years to know her and it was well worth the wait. She's beautiful inside and out, articulate and a college graduate. Never a day went by that her parents didn't let her know how loved she was.

When she walked in, she handed me a gift and said, "Happy Mother's Day." I have no other children and have waited all my life to hear those words. She had been searching for me since 1996, and had sent her registration to ISRR last week. At 4:30 Tuesday afternoon they called her and told her they had found her mother.

I'd like to offer a huge thank-you to the Websters for taking such good care of Laura Marie, and for guiding her and raising her. Her mother died last July of lung cancer, and I am heartbroken that I could not know her.

Another huge thank-you to International Soundex Reunion Registry. They made it all possible! To birth parents and adoptees: Register with Soundex. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

Abby, please feel free to publish any or all of my letter, and our names. I want the world to know how happy we are. — KATHLEEN KOEHLER, SANTA ANA, CALIF.

DEAR KATHLEEN AND LAURA MARIE: I'm pleased that your search ended so happily. It's grat-

ifying to know I was able to help you find each other. Congratulations to you both.

The International Soundex Reunion Registry is a group I have recommended for many years. They are efficient, honest, and operate with the philosophy that neither the identity of the birth parents nor the adopted child shall be disclosed unless all parties are agreeable to a reunion. Birth parents and children can register, and when the children reach legal age — if both parties are registered and want to find each other — a match is made.

The address is: International Soundex Reunion Registry (ISRR), P.O. Box 2312, Carson City, Nev. 89702. Send a long (business size), stamped, self-

addressed envelope to the registry and request Soundex forms.

DEAR ABBY: I am fuming! I heard it again today on the news — I refer to the term "elderly." It went something like this:

"The elderly 63-year-old woman was able to give the police a description of her stolen automobile ..."

Abby, I am 69 years old and do not consider myself "elderly." Perhaps I don't walk as fast as I used to, but I still perform all my duties with enthusiasm and a clear mind. So I ask you, Abby, what age is "elderly"? — JUST WONDERING IN CHICAGO HEIGHTS

DEAR WONDERING: My dictionary defines "elderly" as "being

past middle age," a definition with which a growing number of people might disagree. I suspect that when many people use the term "elderly," what they really mean is "decrepit," which means "wasted and weakened by, or as if by, the infirmities of old age," which is no compliment.

Readers, please write and tell me how YOU would define "elderly."

Everybody has a problem. What's yours? Get it off your chest by writing to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, Calif. 90069. For a personal reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. St. Kansas City, Mo. 64111; (816) 932-6600.

Abigail Van Buren's column is distributed by Universal Press Syndicate.

Judge hears arguments on validity of parental consent law

AUSTIN (AP) — It could cost at least \$200,000 to ensure \$27,000 in state funds doesn't pay for birth control and other prescription drugs for minors who lack parental consent, a Texas Department of Health official testified Monday.

The agency does not intend to begin asking minors to get parental consent before obtaining birth control because that could jeopardize federal family planning money, said Carol Pavlica, director of family planning for the Health Department.

So to comply with a new state law requiring minors to get parental consent for state-funded prescription drugs, the agency may have to set up a tracking system to ensure no state funds pay

for minors' prescriptions, she said. State and federal family planning money currently is mingled in the agency's budget.

Ms. Pavlica testified in a lawsuit that Planned Parenthood of Houston and Southeast Texas, Inc. brought against the department, challenging the parental consent requirement.

The provision, which goes into effect Sept. 1, was one of hundreds attached to the state's 800-page budget signed into law by Gov. George W. Bush earlier this year.

State District Judge Scott McCown said he would rule on the case by Friday. He questioned the validity of the agency's plan to circumvent the provision in state law.

"It does not seem that the fed-

eral government would go for this," he said.

Ms. Pavlica also said that even with a tracking system, the agency is concerned the provision could endanger \$94 million in family planning money from the federal government. The federal government prohibits requiring parental consent for the use of family-planning money.

The only funds directly affected by the state law are state funds matched by federal Medicaid money, she said. Of \$267,000 in state and federal money spent on minors' prescription drugs in fiscal year 1996, the state kicked in \$27,000, she said.

Besides creating a tracking system — that could cost "hundreds of thousands of dollars" — to

ensure that no state funds were routed to minors, the state would have to find other federal money to make up the difference, Ms. Pavlica said. She said the Health Department is still trying to decide where the money would come from.

"We are trying to do all this without jeopardizing federal funds," she said.

McCown questioned where the Health Department would find the alternative funding.

"If you rob Peter, you got to pay Paul," McCown said. "What's not going to get done at the end of the day?"

Planned Parenthood criticized the law and the Health Department's alternative funding structure.

Even with the new plan, federal funds are at risk, said Martha Dickie, attorney for Planned Parenthood.

David Duggins, also an attorney for Planned Parenthood, argued that the provision was illegal because it was attached to the state budget and not subject to public debate.

"This is about the prerogative of the state to decide how to use tax money," said DeDe Wilburn, assistant attorney general representing the department. "The Legislature, in the interest of parental rights, has decided that state funds cannot be used for prescription drugs without parental consent."

State Sen. Steve Ogden, who pushed through the provision, said he was disappointed with the

Health Department's handling of the case.

"I thought that the Department of Health was sabotaging the case," he said. "They didn't protect the state's interest like they should have."

He said Ms. Pavlica should not have testified about the possible administrative costs.

"It could not cost that much," said Ogden, R-Bryan. "If it does, we need to take a close look at the Health Department."

Ogden added that the real question is whether the state has the right to decide where it spends its money.

"Planned Parenthood is attacking the Legislature's fundamental right to set public policy," he said.

Indictments handed down in case involving deaf Mexicans

GREENSBORO (AP) — A husband and wife were charged in a federal grand jury indictment Monday with conspiring to smuggle deaf Mexicans into the country so they could peddle key chains and other trinkets on the street.

The 16-count indictment charges Marcos Campos-Sanchez, 39, and Guadalupe Palencia-Moises, 42, who lived in Sanford, with conspiring to recruit Mexican nationals in Mexico City to work for them selling items for \$1 to \$5 apiece in the United States.

Both defendants also are deaf and mute.

The two were arrested last month when Immigration and Naturalization officers raided a Sanford home, rounding up 13 adult Mexicans, two juveniles and a baby.

The indictment alleges the operation began in 1991. Investigators brought a window sticker showing the U.S. flag and the Statue of Liberty to Monday's news conference.

On the back, it read: "Hello. I am deaf. This flag sticker is \$1 or \$2. These items are for support of my family. God bless you and thank you."

In reality, federal prosecutors said, the peddlers kept little of the money they collected from people at shopping malls, parking lots and outside large sporting events like NASCAR stock car races.

According to the indictment, the defendants promised to give half of the money raised to their recruits. But they typically would deduct lavish fees for things like rent, car repairs and other expenses.

The defendants are scheduled to appear in court Wednesday in Winston-Salem. They are currently being held without bond in a Charlotte prison on deportation orders by an immigration judge.

The rest of the Mexicans are in INS custody in Atlanta, Holton said. Many have been given until December to leave the country voluntarily, although some have been asked to remain in any criminal trials.

Holton reiterated several times during the news conference that the indictment does not charge the defendants with running a slavery ring. But he added there was "clearly some element of coercion to keep these people here."

Operation Rio Grande underway along border

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Border Patrol agents took to the banks of the Rio Grande in force Monday as the government began a new initiative aimed at curbing illegal immigration along the Texas border.

At daybreak, about 30 agents were dispatched to a 2 1/2-mile stretch of river south of downtown Brownsville, signaling the launching of Operation Rio Grande.

Ten green-and-white Border Patrol trucks, positioned just one-eighth of a mile apart, lined the river's edge as other units prowled the winding embankment in search of would-be crossers.

Amid the row of trucks, utility workers installed portable and permanent flood lights that, come nightfall, will illuminate usually darkened paths that shroud river bandits and illegal aliens.

The rush of activity created an imposing site along a stretch of river normally patrolled by just three Border Patrol units daily.

From the Mexican side, a few potential crossers warily watched the action.

By Monday afternoon, no one had attempted to cross into the United States along the targeted section of river, which usually sees more than 100 illegal immigrant apprehensions daily, said Brownsville Border Patrol Chief Ernesto Castillo.

Agents stationed along the

river's edge confirmed that activity had ground to a halt, at least for now.

"I think they're curious," Agent Amado Davila said.

Operation Rio Grande aims to reduce illegal immigration along the Texas and New Mexico borders through increased manpower and equipment.

The effort is starting in Brownsville and will expand west along the border as agents detect shifts in illegal activity, said Doris Meissner, chief of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

"I am confident that over time, people living all along the Texas-New Mexico border, as well as in Mexico, will experience substantial improvements in their quality of life ... as we gain and maintain control of illegal immigration," Ms. Meissner said at an afternoon news conference along the river's edge.

On Monday, 69 agents from across the country were deployed to Brownsville to take part in the operation. By January, they will be replaced by trainees who will remain in Brownsville permanently.

In all, the McAllen Border Patrol sector, which includes Brownsville, will receive 230 new agents under Operation Rio Grande. More than 750 agents will be stationed throughout the sector by the end of September, with

about 250 in Brownsville alone.

Other Border Patrol stations in Texas and New Mexico also are receiving additional manpower and equipment, but the bulk is headed to South Texas, which trails only San Diego and Tucson, Ariz., as the nation's third-busiest crossing point for illegal immigrants.

About \$3.5 million has been allocated toward Operation Rio Grande into the next fiscal year, and Ms. Meissner said the INS is lobbying Congress for more money to maintain the initiative.

"We are not simply bringing people in for spot operations and removing them," Ms. Meissner said. "This is a permanent investment in border enforcement."

In Brownsville, the operation began in a section of the city designated as Zone 1, which includes downtown and 2 1/2 miles of river directly south of it.

In addition to the agents stationed along the river, about 30 agents will patrol the streets of

downtown in vehicles, on bicycles and on foot. Once activity decreases in Zone 1, agents will shift into five other zones around the city while maintaining a presence downtown.

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Lubbock County pathologists again under scrutiny

LUBBOCK (AP) — Officials in three counties have suggested they'll stop seeking autopsies here now that all the board certified medical examiners have left town, the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reported.

Officials in Ector, Potter and Randall counties are worried about the quality of forensic pathological work done here. Even Lubbock County itself has gone outside its own contractual agreement for an autopsy.

"I have spoken with my chief of police and my sheriff and we will not be using that office any more," Ector County District Attorney John W. Smith said from his office in Odessa.

Randall County District Attorney James Farren and Potter County Justice of the Peace Haven Dysart, both of whom have sent bodies from the Amarillo area, also balked at local pathologists' lack of certification.

Two certified pathologists who recently quit Lubbock County blamed the October 1996 appointment of Dr. David Hoblit to chief medical examiner despite the fact that he holds no certification.

"I did not feel that the individual

who had been appointed as the chief medical examiner had the training, experience and knowledge to lead the office," said Dr. Randy Frost, who left to work in Bexar County.

Former co-worker Dr. Charles Harvey said the reason he left town Saturday was "because I was promised that the chief medical examiner would be a board certified forensic pathologist."

Hoblit, who has been providing autopsy services in Lubbock since 1992, was appointed after no one else expressed interest in the job, said County Judge Don McBeath.

In the wake of the departures of Frost and Harvey, Hoblit has hired two young pathologists who have just completed fellowships under more experienced doctors.

Each doctor will be eligible to take board exams next spring, Hoblit added, noting that there are fewer than 400 board certified pathologists in the country.

"We recruited the two best persons we could find to come to Lubbock, and they're here now," said Hoblit, who runs the only privatized medical examiner's office in the state.

However, Lubbock County pros-

ecutors are flying in former chief medical examiner Dr. Sparks Veasey to conduct an autopsy, despite a \$430,000 contract with Hoblit's practice.

"I don't think it's a vote of no-confidence," District Attorney Bill Sowder said. "I think right now, they're in transition. People are leaving, and people are coming, and we don't know who they've got."

Though he'd prefer pathologists to have board certification, Sowder said it's not a necessity. His counterpart in Randall County disagrees.

"Obviously, I could never agree to using somebody who's not a board certified forensic pathologist," Farren said.

The Lubbock Medical Examiner's Office was formed three years ago in the wake of a series of

botched or faked autopsies by Dr. Ralph Erdmann, whose work earned him prison time and affected many cases.

Hoblit said he and his new staff will continue to gain the respectability Lubbock County lost during the Erdmann era.

"The first mission of this office since I came in March 1992 was to restore the credibility, the professionalism, the integrity and honesty to the office," he said. "That is still our mission, to have the confidence of not only law enforcement, but the community at large."

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Labor Day Deadlines

The advertising and business offices of the Midland Reporter-Telegram will be closed Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

The following advertising deadlines will be observed:

Edition
Wednesday
Sept. 3

Deadline
Friday
Aug. 29 Noon

The circulation department will be open until 11am Monday.

Midland Reporter-Telegram

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HOW TO READ THE MARKET IN REVIEW

HOW TO READ THE MARKET IN REVIEW

Dow Jones	 7859.75 -28.34	<table> <tr> <td>High</td><td>7974.08</td></tr> <tr> <td>Low</td><td>7791.75</td></tr> </table>	High	7974.08	Low	7791.75	August 25, 1997 <table> <tr> <td>Highest close</td><td>8,259.31</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">August 6, 1997</td></tr> </table>	Highest close	8,259.31	August 6, 1997	
High	7974.08										
Low	7791.75										
Highest close	8,259.31										
August 6, 1997											

The graph displays the Dow Jones Industrial Average from 1990 to 1999. The vertical axis represents the index value, with major grid lines at 7450, 7850, and 8250. The horizontal axis represents time in years. The line starts at approximately 7400 in 1990, rises to about 7800 by 1992, then continues to climb with some fluctuations to nearly 8250 by 1997. In 1997, there is a sharp decline to around 7800, followed by a recovery to 8100. In 1998, another sharp decline occurs, dropping to about 7600, before a recovery to 7900 by the end of the year.

Year	Number of people (millions)
1970	6800
1975	7000
1980	7200
1985	8100
1990	7900

5/1/97	6/1/97	7/1/97	8/1/97	9/1/97				
INDEXES								
52-Week		Name	Last	Net Chg	Chg	% Chg	YTD Chg	52-wk % Chg
High	Low							
2,299.49	5,561.46	Dow Jones Industrials	7,859.57	-29.34	-36	+21.89	+36.04	
3,021.34	1,892.27	Dow Jones Transportation	2,940.88	+3.86	+13	+30.38	+42.92	

243.29	206.98	Dow Jones Index	231.78	+44	+19	-32	+6.36
496.81	347.15	NYSE Composite	478.03	-90	-18	+21.85	+34.32
654.89	641.02	Amex Index	646.85	+302	+47	+13.02	+15.85
1,636.49	1,118.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,091.57	+2.88	+18	+24.05	+40.58
964.17	643.97	S&P 500	920.18	-3.39	-37	+24.22	+36.80
421.75	326.15	Russell 2000	418.08	+26	+57	+15.30	+26.11
29,110.42	6,394.66	Wilshire 5000	8,802.69	-13.15	-15	+22.29	+35.31

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Name		Value	Change	YTD %	52-Week High	52-Week Low	Volume	Market Cap	PE Ratio	Dividend Yield	Dividend Payout	Dividend Date	Dividend Frequency	Dividend Growth	Dividend Yield	Dividend Payout	Dividend Date	Dividend Frequency	Dividend Growth
AAPL		135.00	+0.10	1.2%	140.00	125.00	100,000,000	1.0T	25.0	0.8%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	15%	0.8%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	15%
MSFT		375.00	+1.50	0.4%	380.00	360.00	50,000,000	0.8T	35.0	0.7%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	12%	0.7%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	12%
GOOGL		2,800.00	+10.00	0.4%	2,850.00	2,750.00	20,000,000	0.7T	28.0	0.8%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	10%	0.8%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	10%
AMZN		175.00	+0.50	0.3%	180.00	170.00	10,000,000	0.6T	30.0	0.6%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	8%	0.6%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	8%
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NVDA		420.00	+5.00	1.2%	430.00	410.00	2,000,000	0.4T	40.0	1.0%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	18%	1.0%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	18%
TSLA		240.00	+3.00	1.3%	250.00	230.00	10,000,000	0.3T	60.0	0.5%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	5%	0.5%	100%	2023-09-15	Quarterly	5%
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BUSINESS BRIEFING

OIL PRICES

FUTURES
Monday \$19.26
Previous Close \$19.70
Year Ago N/A

POSTED
Today \$17.00
Previous Close \$17.50
Year Ago N/A

NATURAL GAS PRICES
Monday \$2.490

Prices retreat

Gasoline futures fell sharply Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange amid anticipation the country will be flooded with new supplies just as the summer driving season begins winding down. Crude and heating oil futures also retreated.

Gasoline futures have come under pressure in recent days by Tosco Corp.'s restart of its large Bayway, N.J., refinery, which is easing the severe tightness of reformulated gasoline mandated by most Northeast states.

Some of the nation's larger refineries also have come back on-line following a series of outages for maintenance and because of mishaps. Talk also circulated among traders that as many as 20 large cargoes of gasoline were destined for U.S. ports, Kevelson said.

Further pressuring the market is Iraq's renewed exporting under a United Nations-sanctioned deal that allows that country to sell oil for food and humanitarian aid. Iraq has been flooding the market with crude, shipping as much as 14 million barrels in eight days. It is hurrying to meet a quota and deadline set under the U.N. agreement.

Crude and heating oil futures fell on the weakness in the gasoline market. Unleaded gasoline for September delivery fell 2.98 cents to 64.50 cents a gallon.

October crude fell 44 cents to \$19.26 a barrel.

WTGS luncheon

The West Texas Geological Society will meet today at the Midland Center beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Mark Holtz, reservoir engineer at the Bureau of Economic Geology in Austin will present "Reservoir Characterization to Identify Reserve Growth." He will show that in the last decade, over 98 percent of the reserve additions in Texas have come from existing reservoirs. Cost is \$7.

Dollar rises

NEW YORK — The dollar rose against other major currencies in a lackluster session Monday on predictions that Germany's central bank won't immediately raise interest rates and worries about Japan's sluggish economy.

Stability in U.S. stock and bond markets also helped the dollar, which was quoted in late New York trading at 1.8205 marks, up from 1.8166 late Friday. The dollar was at 118.79 yen, up from 118.31.

Other late dollar rates in New York, compared with late Friday: 1.4985 Swiss francs, up from 1.4983; 6.1310 French francs, up from 6.1115; 1,774.30 Italian lire, up from 1,769.50; and 1.3914 Canadian dollars, down from 1.3933.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.6051, down from \$1.6093.

Mortgage program

Local residents earning between 50 and 80 percent of the local median income may qualify for the Norwest Homeownership Assistance Program.

This program provides up to \$2,000 or 6 percent of the total mortgage to assist eligible low- and moderate-income homebuyers obtain closing costs or down payment funds toward a home mortgage.

The program was expanded after a \$348,000 grant by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines.

Texas Utilities to buy communications firm

■ Lufkin-Conroe Communications is fourth largest local telephone company in Texas.

N.Y. Times News Service

Texas Utilities Co. announced Monday that it had agreed to buy Lufkin-Conroe Communications Co., the fourth-largest local telephone company in Texas, for \$320 million in stock.

Many utilities have been venturing in telecommunications, seeing such diversification as a way to hold on to their own customers as the utility industry deregulates. The utilities assume that by offering a bundle of services, like phone ser-

vice and home security systems in addition to providing electricity, they can increase profit and build loyalty among their customers, who may prefer such one-stop shopping.

While these utilities have entered into joint ventures with telecommunications companies, few have gone as far as to buy a phone company.

Texas Utilities is "putting their toes in the water to see if they want to swim," said Dan Scotto, a utility-industry analyst with Bear, Stearns & Co.

If the combination of phone companies and utilities can get customers to buy a variety of services, it could lead to more and larger combinations between the two industries, Scotto added.

Lufkin-Conroe, a privately owned com-

pany that has grown rapidly, has about 100,000 access lines in southeastern Texas. Texas Utilities serves about 40,000 customers in the same area.

Erle Nye, chairman and chief executive of Texas Utilities, said, "We believe that the ability to offer a full array of competitive services will be extremely important in attracting and retaining customers in the future."

Lufkin-Conroe owns fiber optic cable systems and provides Internet access, radio communications tower rentals, cellular phones and radio paging services.

Another Texas-based utility, the Central and South West Corp. of Dallas, formed a joint venture in January with ICG Communications of Englewood,

Colo., to sell long-distance and local phone service in Austin and Corpus Christi, Texas.

Central and South West has experimented with offering Laredo, Texas, customers the ability to read their meters automatically, and it set up controls that enabled customers to use their appliances during off-peak hours when the utility charged lower rates.

Under the agreement to acquire Lufkin-Conroe, Texas Utilities will swap \$320 million of stock and also assume \$8 million of debt. The companies said they expected to conclude the transaction by early next year.

Shares of Texas Utilities were unchanged Monday at \$35.0625 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Markets take breather after volatile sessions

■ Dow falls 28 points despite strong day among smaller-company stocks.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Blue-chip shares sagged Monday, masking another strong day among smaller-company stocks as the market calmed after two stormy weeks.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up as much as 56 points during the session, but trailed lower into the close, falling 28.34 to 7,859.57.

The weakness among blue-chips weighed down several other popular stock indexes even though advancing issues outnumbered decliners in the broad market.

"Smaller and mid-sized companies are starting to move higher, and there's a logical case for that happening," said Richard E. Cripps, chief market strategist for Legg Mason of Baltimore. "The big concern with the Coca-Cola's and Gillette's is valuation. On a relative basis, (smaller companies) are cheap."

With no major economic reports to move the market on Monday, the most noticeable aspect of the session was the relaxed tone.

On the New York Stock Exchange, volume totaled just 388.97 million shares as of 4 p.m., the first full-session tally below 400 million since May 19.

"Historically, when we have a very volatile period like we've had, you don't really want the volume to drop off," said Cripps. "It suggests people are pulling back to try and figure out what's going on. The course of action at this point in time for a lot of people is to stand pat — not to do anything because you don't know what to do."

The markets were particularly volatile over the last two weeks amid scattered hints of weaker company profits and mild inflationary pressures that could prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest

rates in the coming months.

Although the Dow did move slightly more than 100 points from high to low on Monday, it was the first time in seven sessions that the blue-chip barometer didn't swing 100 points in either direction from the previous session's close.

The most volatile of those seven sessions came Friday, when the Dow wiped out all but 6 points of a 177-point slide, and the previous Friday, when it tumbled 247 points.

"It was overdue that we would have a quiet day," said Robert Freedman, chief investment officer for the John Hancock Funds in Boston. "I would guess that this week will be fairly quiet as we approach the (Labor Day) holiday. A lot of people are still away on vacation."

Although the economic calendar is relatively light this week, there was some concern ahead of Tuesday's reports on durable goods orders, existing-home sales, and last week's retail activity, Freedman said.

Consumer product shares were the Dow's weakest issues on Monday: Procter & Gamble fell 2 1/4 to 136 1/4; Coca-Cola fell 1 to 59 11/16; and Johnson & Johnson fell 15/16 to 57 3/4. General Motors was among the Dow's strongest components for the second consecutive session, rising 1 3/8 to 66 3/16.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by nearly a 4-to-3 margin on the NYSE.

The Standard & Poor's 500-stock list fell 3.39 to 920.16, and the NYSE composite index fell 0.90 to 478.03.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies rose 2.36 to 418.09. The American Stock Exchange composite index, which is dominated by smaller companies, rose 3.02 to 646.85.

The Nasdaq composite index, which also has a large constituency of smaller companies, rose just 2.88 to 1,601.57, weighed down by some sluggishness among its blue-chip technology shares. Intel fell 2 to 94 3/16, and Microsoft slipped 3/4 to 136 1/2.



A trader on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange looks at a video monitor during morning trading Monday in New York. After climbing as much as 56 points, the Dow Jones Industrial average ended the day down 28.34 points at 7859.57.

Hicks Muse buys SFX radio stations for \$1.2 billion

■ Acquisition would make Dallas-based firm third biggest radio group.

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hicks Muse Tate & Furst Inc., already a sizable force in the media business, is paying \$1.2 billion in cash for the radio stations owned by SFX Broadcasting Inc.

The Dallas-based buyout firm is making the purchase with its Capstar Broadcasting Corp. affiliate, which already owns more radio stations than anyone else with 243. SFX's 71 stations will give Capstar 314 radio outlets.

Analysts estimated the deal that was announced Monday will make Capstar the third-biggest radio group in terms of revenue behind Westinghouse Electric Corp.'s CBS unit and the planned Chan-

cellor-Evergreen Media combination expected to occur next month.

The SFX acquisition underscores the consolidation frenzy that has engulfed the radio industry since an overhaul of telecommunications laws last year freed companies to own more radio stations in a market.

Owners are trying to take advantage of their expertise in running radio stations by acquiring clusters of radio outlets in multiple markets, saving money by centralizing administrative functions and gaining clout with advertisers.

The deal will take Capstar into larger markets. More than half of SFX's stations are in markets that rank among the 50 largest in the country, while Capstar traditionally has owned stations in markets ranking 50th to 150th.

New York-based SFX Broadcasting owns multiple radio outlets in Dallas, Houston, San Diego, Pittsburgh and Mil-

waukee, for example. It owns or has deals to buy five or more outlets in Hartford, Conn., Jacksonville, Fla., Richmond, Va., Albany, N.Y., and Greenville-Spartanburg, S.C.

SFX's biggest shareholder, executive chairman Robert F.X. Sillerman, said while he believes the radio business remains attractive, "the premiums being placed upon companies such as SFX have led us to respond to the flurry of acquisition offers we have received."

John Reidy, analyst for Smith Barney, estimated Hicks Muse was paying 13 to 14 times SFX's projected 1998 cash flow, which he said would be in line with recent radio deals for stations considered well-run.

Hicks Muse and Capstar are paying \$75 a share in cash for each of SFX's Class A shares. The shares had traded below \$25 a share late last year.

It is paying \$97.50 a share for each of

the Class B shares held by senior management of SFX. Sillerman, who has a 10 percent stake in SFX, is expected to get more than \$100 million.

In addition to buying the stock, Hicks Muse is assuming about \$900 million in SFX debt.

Before the sale, SFX plans to spin off to its shareholders its nonradio business, which involves concert promotion operations in the New York area and the Midwest. That business is expected to trade near \$5 a share and generate about \$120 million in revenue this year.

Thomas O. Hicks, chairman and chief executive of Hicks Muse, will be chairman of the combined Capstar-SFX.

The Capstar-SFX management team will continue to be led by R. Steven Hicks, Thomas' brother, as president and chief executive. No changes are planned for SFX station management, personnel or station format.

INVESTOR'S GUIDE

Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 creates new Roth IRA

By Eric Tyson

Q: Retirement planning gives me a headache. I work for an employer and free-lance. Just when I thought I was beginning to get a handle on the different types of accounts that I might contribute to, the whole mess seems to have gotten more complicated!

Now I hear that the recently enacted tax law has created a new type of individual retirement account in addition to the old one. What exactly is it?

A: After digesting the recent changes to our nation's income tax laws, it's clear to me that the idea of tax simplification is out the window. While advocates are touting "The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997" as the first tax cut in the past 16 years, the bad news is that your personal tax return — and your personal-finance decisions, such as what type of retirement accounts to use — will likely grow more complex in the years

ahead. During the next few years, as new laws are phased in, things are bound to be especially confusing.

The new account you mentioned is the Roth IRA, named after Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Dele., chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The Roth IRA, also known as "IRA Plus," allows — starting in 1998 — for up to a \$2,000 annual contribution for couples with adjusted gross incomes below \$150,000 and singles less than \$95,000.

While the new IRA does not offer a tax deduction on funds contributed to it, it does offer benefits not offered by other retirement accounts, including regular IRAs. The biggest benefit of the Roth IRA is that all the earnings on your contributions are not taxed upon withdrawal so long as you wait at least five years after establishing the account and are at least 59 1/2 when you start withdrawals.

An exception to the age 59 1/2 rule is made for first-time home buyers, who can withdraw up to \$10,000 from a Roth IRA toward a home purchase. Remember, however, that your Roth IRA must be in existence for at least five years before you are allowed a tax-free withdrawal for a home purchase.

Investors with regular IRAs also

would be allowed penalty-free withdrawals for a first home purchase; however, they would owe income tax on the accumulated earnings withdrawn.

Another potentially beneficial feature of the Roth IRA: There are no mandatory distributions once the holder passes age 70 1/2.

Consider contributing to a Roth IRA — which you can do for the first time next year, if you've exhausted your ability to contribute to tax-deductible retirement accounts.

Choosing between a Roth IRA and a standard IRA depends on the deductibility of your standard IRA contributions. If you're already covered by another type of retirement plan such as a 401(k) or Keogh, you start to lose your ability to deduct contributions to a standard IRA once your adjusted gross income hits a certain threshold. For 1998, the threshold increases to \$30,000 for single filers and \$50,000 for marrieds filing jointly. If your adjusted gross income is higher than that, then the Roth IRA is probably the more attractive option.

If the Roth IRA's tax-free withdrawals of accumulated earnings appeal to you, you might be interested

in knowing that the new laws also allow a person with money in a regular IRA to pay income tax on the current account balance, withdraw the money without having to pay early-withdrawal penalties, and then put the money into a Roth IRA.

Don't consider such a conversion if you can't afford to pay the tax without dipping into the retirement account itself.

Compare the extra money you expect to net from the Roth IRA because of the absence of taxation on the account's earnings with the lost tax dollars paid now to do the conversion.

Converting is less beneficial for people who expect to be in a lower tax bracket in retirement. Also keep in mind that a future Congress could fiddle with the law and take away some of the Roth IRA's benefits.

Eric Tyson is author of "Investing for Dummies" and "Personal Finance for Dummies" and teaches personal finance at the University of California at Berkeley. He can be reached via e-mail: Eric-Tyson@aol.com.

Questions for Investor's Guide can be sent in care of the Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, Texas 79702.

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SPORTS BRIEFING

1997 Season Preview

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Aug. 23 Parker
Aug. 24 Stanton
Aug. 25 Garden City
Today Greenwood
Aug. 27 Andrews
Aug. 28 Lamesa
Aug. 29 Big Spring
Aug. 30 MHS
Aug. 31 Lee

TV Sports

TENNIS — U.S. Open Tennis Championships, men's and women's opening rounds, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., USA.

BASEBALL — Houston Astros at Atlanta Braves, 6:35 p.m., TBS. Florida Marlins at Chicago Cubs, 7 p.m., WGN.

Texas Scores

BASEBALL — Milwaukee Brewers 7, Texas Rangers 3.
TEXAS LEAGUE — San Antonio Missions 3, Midland Angels 0.

Sports Today

VOLLEYBALL — Snyder and Pecos at Midland Lee in dual match, 5 p.m.

Midland High in dual match at Andrews vs. Andrews and Brownfield, 4:30 p.m.

TEXAS LEAGUE — Midland Angels at Wichita Wranglers, 7 p.m. RADIO: KCRS (550 AM).

Parish retires

CHICAGO — Robert Parish, who played in more NBA games than any other player, retired Monday, ending a 21-year career that included three championships with the Boston Celtics and another last season with the Chicago Bulls.

"I think it's time. My time has run out of time," Parish told ESPN's "Up Close." "I know in my heart that it's time to walk away. I'm just tired of it. Not playing, but the other things — like training camp."

Parish, who turns 44 on Saturday, played in 1,611 NBA games over 21 seasons, averaging 14.5 points and 9.1 rebounds. He passed Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's record of 1,561 games during the 1995-96 season.

"I was blessed health-wise and took care of myself," Parish said. "But I won't be back. I'm all done playing basketball."

Agent Jim McLaughlin said Parish is considering coaching or broadcast commentary as a second basketball career.

"He is going to take some time off and see what people offer him," McLaughlin said from his office.

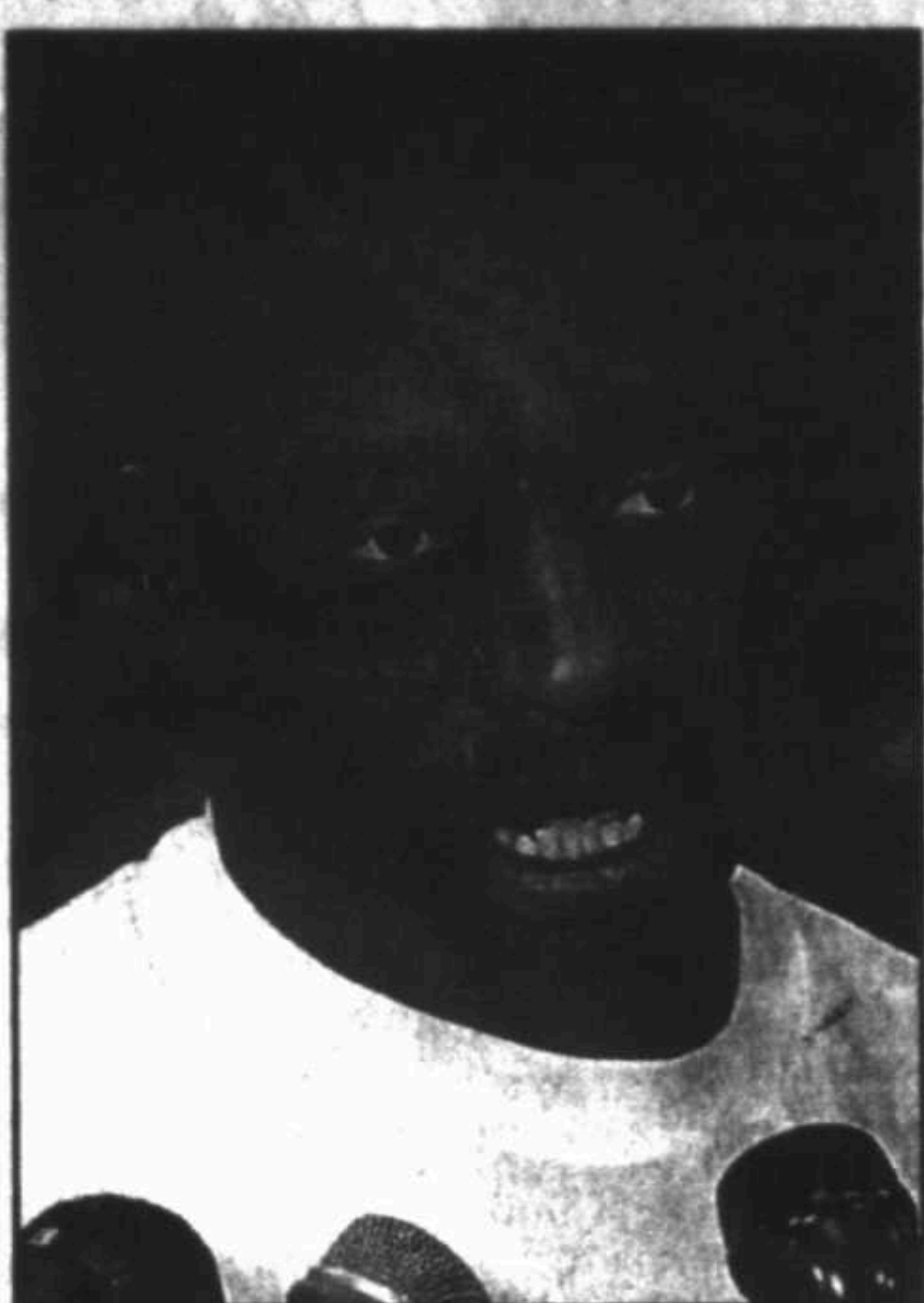
"He had fears he'd be forced to retire because of injury, but he has his health and he's decided to end the playing portion of his career. He goes out with a ring for each finger — three with the Celtics, one with the Bulls and one for being picked as one of the Top 50 NBA players." Last season with Chicago, Parish averaged 3.7 points and 2.1 rebounds in 43 regular-season games, starting three. He played in two playoff games off the bench before the NBA Finals.

The 7-foot-1 Louisiana native graduated from Centenary in 1976 and was picked in the first round, eighth overall, in the NBA draft by Golden State that year.

He played four seasons with the Warriors before moving on to Boston, where he stayed for 14 years.

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Ashe lauded as U.S. Open commences

By Steve Wilstein
AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK — In a spectacular tribute to Arthur Ashe, the greatest collection of tennis champions ever assembled gathered Monday night at the dedication of the new U.S. Open stadium named in his honor.

The emotional one-hour ceremony epitomized the dignity and grace that characterized Ashe's life, and the mood of the night blended solemnity with joy.

Ashe "embodied the best in tennis and sports," John McEnroe told the sellout crowd of 22,500. "He was a remarkable athlete who led an even more remarkable life. ... He was far and away the greatest ambassador tennis has ever had."

South African Bishop Desmond Tutu, paying homage to Ashe for joining the fight against apartheid, was among the dozens of celebrities attending the ceremony.

Jeanne Moutoussamy-Ashe received two warm, standing ovations from the crowd as she spoke of her late husband's emphasis on "inclusion" in tennis and in all walks of life.

From Don Budge and Jack Kramer to Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, from Louise Brough to Billie Jean King, from Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova to Monica Seles and Steffi Graf, 37 U.S. singles champions from the past 60 years attended the ceremony.

Among the notable absentees was Andre Agassi, who attended a players' dinner earlier in the evening but skipped the ceremony. The crowd booed when it was announced he was "unable to attend."

Pete Sampras also failed to join the parade of champions, staying in the locker room while waiting to play qualifier Todd Larkham. Sampras, seeking his third straight U.S. Open title and fifth overall, cruised through his opener 6-3, 6-1, 6-3.

Whitney Houston sang "One Moment in Time" as scenes of the champions in action were shown on the two giant screens atop the new stadium, and fireworks lit up the night sky at the end of her song.

There were scenes of Ashe teaching children, one of his life's passions, and winning the first U.S. title of the Open era in 1968 and Wimbledon in 1975.

Five years ago at a clinic for juniors, 12-year-old Venus Williams met Ashe and posed with him for a photograph she keeps among her tennis treasures.

On Monday, in a match that would have made Ashe proud, Williams debuted at the U.S. Open on the first day of play in Arthur Ashe Stadium and drilled a 119 mph ace on her final point to close out a 5-7, 6-0, 6-1 victory over Larisa Neiland.

Ashe devoted his last years to encouraging inner city kids like Williams, who learned the game on the courts of Compton, Calif., on the southern edge of Los Angeles, where the sound of gunfire was not too distant. She still remembers stopping practice once against her sister, Serena, when they thought the bullets were headed their way.

Williams' arrival at the U.S. Open, appropriately enough, came amid the birthday celebration of another black tennis pioneer, Althea Gibson, who turned 70 and won the first of her two straight national singles titles 40 years ago. A few months ago, Williams got the chance to talk with Gibson on the phone.

"It was definitely a privilege playing on this court," Williams said. "And it was definitely a perfect name to name the court after. Arthur did a lot for the game, a lot for the world. He was a great role model. Not just on the court, but off the court."

"For players like myself and a lot of other African-American players on the tour, (Gibson) paved the way for us. So it's important that we recognize this, that I recognize it, and for me to know my history."

Of her 119 mph ace, which matched the fastest serve of her career and was just a bit off Brenda Schultz-McCarthy's 123 mph record, Williams nonchalantly said she could hit it that fast whenever she wants.

"She's a breath of fresh air," McEnroe said.

Two-time women's champion Monica

Dallas figures in backer

By Charles Richards
Associated Press Writer

IRVING — To make room for Deion Sanders, the Dallas Cowboys released second-year linebacker Alan Campos on Monday, a move coach Barry Switzer said was made possible by Vinson Smith's stellar play in the team's final exhibition game.

"We're down to five linebackers, but Vinson Smith was the best surprise of the

Dallas linebacker Vinson Smith speaks in a locker room interview at the team's practice facility. Coach Barry Switzer said Smith was the best surprise of the last pre-season game against the Oilers.

game," Switzer said. "He showed that he's a (middle) linebacker. He can play strong, he can play (weak). He has played all three positions. If we get an injury, he can plug in all those places."

Campos, a fifth-round draft pick in 1996 from Louisville, played in all but one regular-season game last year and in one playoff game. In his only extended action, he had one solo tackle and three assists against Washington.

Smith, who played for Dallas from 1990-92 and won a Super Bowl in his last season, signed with the Cowboys this summer as a free agent after playing for the Chicago Bears. He said he doesn't mind being asked to back up all three linebacker spots.

"I've been through so much it really

doesn't matter," he said. "When they need me to fill in someplace, I will be ready."

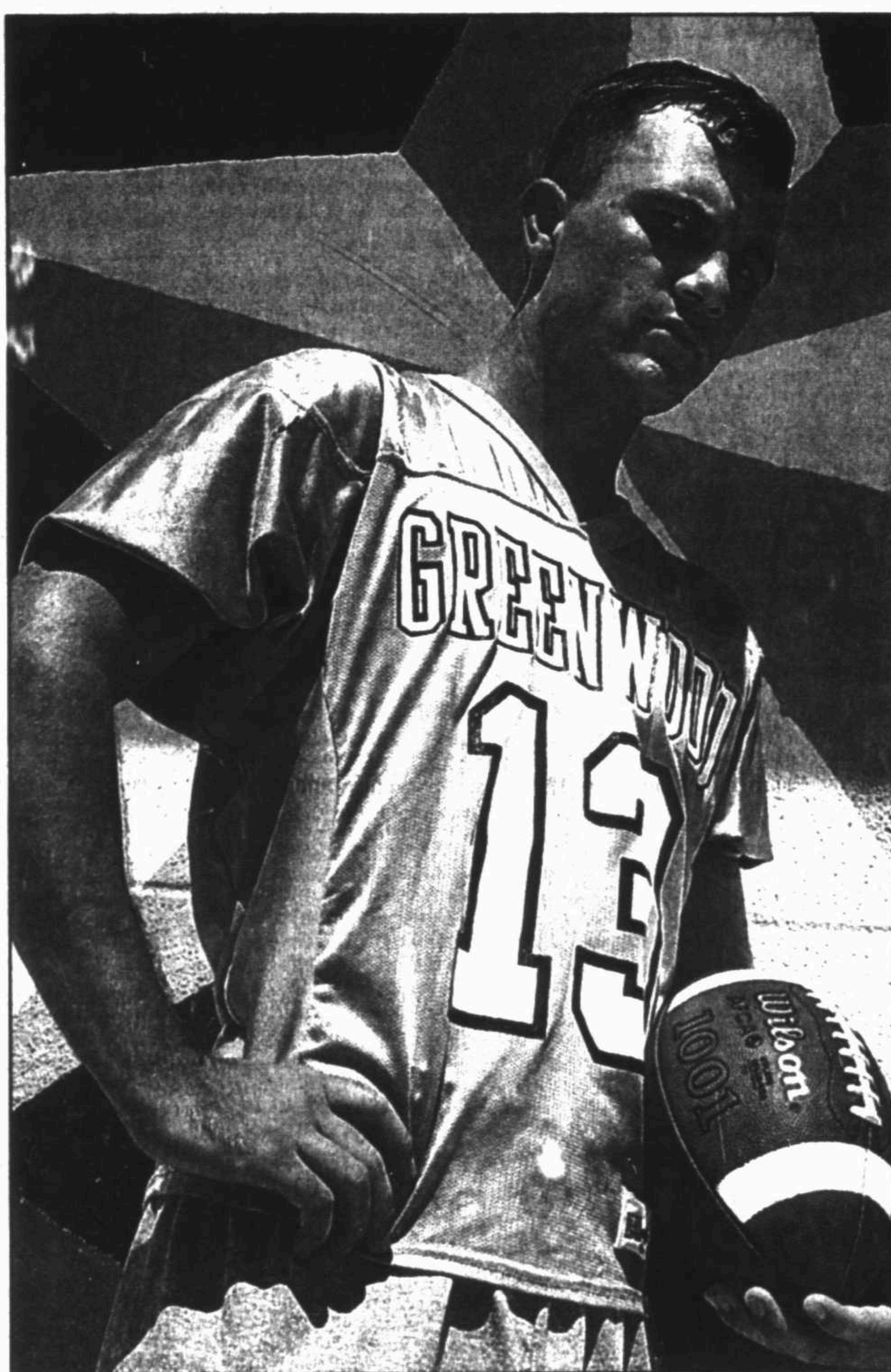
The Cowboys open the season Sunday in Pittsburgh. Smith said the Dallas defense will have its hands full trying to contain quarterback Kordell Stewart.

"You're talking about probably THE most talented overall player in the league," Smith said. "He has the ability to make things happen instantly, no matter what position he's playing. He makes things happen so fast, you have to be prepared."

If the Cowboys are looking for more help at linebacker, there is an interesting option to consider: Kevin Greene, Please see COWBOYS/2C

GREENWOOD

Greenwood's time is now



Quarterback Michael Otho is one of a group of several key seniors who have played together for several years and hope to carry Greenwood into the playoffs this season.

■ Rangers feel experienced group can take them far in 1997.

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

GREENWOOD — The Greenwood Rangers are looking at 1997 as a year to turn it around in their favor.

They also hope to take their turn in winning District 4-3A and take their turn in shining in the spotlight. In the eight years that the district has been together, every team has won the district title at least once.

The Rangers just may do it this year. After all, with a large senior class that's known each other since they were youngsters, and the desire to put 1996's 3-6 record way in the distant past, it's hard to discount the Rangers.

"We are much improved over last year's class because we have a lot of kids back," said Greenwood coach Bob Purser (87-60-1 overall, 61-40-2 in 10 years at Greenwood). "Our senior class has been a good class all the way up. There's a lot of leaders in that group."

"We're optimistic for this year. The kids played pretty hard last year but I think we were just out-gunned most of the time."

But first things first as the Rangers must get their top two tailbacks in Phillip Morrison and Steven McFadden healthy. Both suffered off-season injuries.

Second, the Rangers hope they won't be beaten up by the time district play comes around. A tough pre-district schedule is on the horizon with Ballinger, Seminole, Denver City, Alpine and Hamlin — all of which are playoff contenders. Add on tough scrimmages against Monahans and Pecos.

"We're going to have to be awfully good to win any of those (pre-district) games," Purser said. "We think we can but they're all going to be good opponents."

When they do get to district, the Rangers are hoping for a little payback and look to catch up '96

Please see RANGERS/8C

Astros-Braves may be playoff preview

By Paul Newberry
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves and Houston Astros are clinging to leads in their divisions, which adds a sense of excitement to the three-game series that begins Tuesday night at Turner Field.

And if both teams manage to hang on to first place, they'll meet again five weeks from now in a series that would have even more importance — the NL

divisional playoffs.

So, wouldn't this be a good opportunity for the Braves to send a message to their possible playoff opponent? The players hardly see it that way.

"I wouldn't call it a playoff preview," Atlanta shortstop Jeff Blauser said. "We're not there and neither are they. There's 32-33 games left. A lot can happen."

Maybe it's the familiarity of both teams that prevents them from getting too pumped up about gaining an upper

hand in August when there could be another meeting at the end of September.

Of course, both teams must be more concerned with what's behind them rather than what's ahead. Heading into Monday's play, the Florida Marlins trailed Atlanta by only four games in the NL East, while the Astros' lead in the Central had dropped to just three games over the streaking Pittsburgh Pirates.

"It may be a bigger series for them,"

Please see PLAYOFFS/2C

Once blazing Wagner now getting torched

By Michael A. Lutz
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — Earlier this season, rookie Billy Wagner was throwing heat with his blazing fastball. Lately, he's been receiving the heat.

Blessed with a high-90s fastball, Wagner became the Houston Astros' closer and appeared unhittable. Until recently.

He's still throwing hard and he's still on pace to set a major league record for average strikeouts per nine innings, but hitters have been ignoring his curve and zeroing in on his fastball. Wagner has 19 saves and 89 strikeouts in 56 innings, but he's had trouble holding leads.

An example came Saturday when Wagner gave up a three-run homer to Colorado's Vinny Castilla in the ninth inning Saturday giving the Rockies a 6-3 victory. Castilla hit a fastball after Wagner brushed off catcher Bradi Aus-

mus' call for a curve.

Still, Wagner says he's not in a slump, just a victim of high expectations.

"I'm not struggling, never was struggling," Wagner said. "People have told me I'm a prisoner of my own success. I've done some things now and people expect me to go out there and do it every time."

"This is major league baseball and you've got to learn that these hitters are going to make adjustments. Things I got away with earlier, I'm not getting away with now."

Wagner is averaging 14.3 strikeouts per nine innings, which would break the major league record of 14.1 set by Rob Dibble in 1992.

"I wish it was easy to go out there and strike out everybody, but it's not," Wagner said. "But I've never gotten down on

Please see WAGNER/2C



Houston Astros pitcher Billy Wagner is interviewed Friday in Houston. Wagner, who's been taking some heat lately after some subpar performances, has been taking advice from Nolan Ryan.

Brewers pull back to even against Rangers

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Phil Garner is happy his Brewers are back at .500, not that Milwaukee is just 3 1/2 games behind first-place Cleveland in the AL Central.

"It's been an objective for us since the start of spring training," he said after Milwaukee beat the Texas Rangers 7-2 Monday night behind Julio Franco's two-run homer.

"We've been there. We've fallen back," the Milwaukee manager said. "It seems like we keep stubbing our toes on this hurdle."

Milwaukee (.65-65), at .500 for the first time since Aug. 5, has won three straight and eight of 11 to close on the Indians. Joel Adamson (4-2), who started in place of injured Bryce Florie, allowed two runs and four hits in six innings.

Terry Clark (1-6) lost his third straight start, allowing four runs and eight hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Milwaukee took a 3-0 lead in the second on Mike Matheny's RBI single, a run-scoring throwing error by shortstop Benji Gil on a potential double-play grounder and Jose Valentin's run-scoring double.

Tigers 7, Twins 6, 12 innings
MINNEAPOLIS — Brian Hunter's RBI single in the 12th

Baseball Roundup

inning off Rick Aguilera (4-4) was the Twins' fourth straight loss and 14th in 15 games.

Minnesota's Paul Molitor went 2-for-5 and moved into 14th place on the career hits list with 3,144.

Matt Walbeck opened the 12th with a single, advanced to second on Deivi Cruz's sacrifice, before scoring on Hunter's bloop single to left.

Dodgers 8, Pirates 2
Pirates 4, Dodgers 3

PITTSBURGH — Ramon Martinez won his first official start in more than two months and the Los Angeles Dodgers, roughing up Jason Schmidt for eight runs in 4 1/3 innings, beat Pittsburgh in the first game of a doubleheader.

Martinez (7-3), who went on the disabled list retroactive to June 15 with a slight tear in his right rotator cuff, gave up two runs — one earned — and struck out five over five innings.

In the second game Mark Smith and Joe Randa homered on consecutive pitches off Todd Worrell in the ninth as the Pirates stunned the Dodgers for a doubleheader split.

Worrell (2-4) walked Eddie



Texas Rangers Benji Gil, applies a tag to Milwaukee Brewers, Julio Franco in the third inning Monday in Milwaukee. Franco tried to stretch a single into a double and was tagged out at second.

Williams and Randa followed with a shot to straightaway center that Otis Nixon couldn't catch despite nearly climbing the wall. Smith hit the next pitch for his second dramatic game-winner of the season.

Reds 7, Rockies 6

DENVER — Bret Boone and Reggie Sanders hit two-run homers as Cincinnati jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

Cincinnati got to Frank Castillo (10-11) for seven runs — only four earned — in the first five innings.

Phillies 6, Padres 4
Phillies 10, Padres 1

PHILADELPHIA — Rico Brogna homered and drove in two runs as Philadelphia completed a doubleheader sweep. Midre Cum-

mings went 6-for-9 in the doubleheader, getting his first four-hit game in the opener and driving in two runs.

Ron Blazier (1-1) got the win with two innings of relief in the second game, and Ricky Bottalico worked a perfect ninth for his 24th save as five pitchers combined on a five-hitter, sending San Diego to its sixth loss in eight games. Andy Ashby (6-10), who allowed five runs and eight hits in six innings, is 0-4 since July 20.

Mark Leiter (9-13) won the first game, scattering 10 hits and striking out nine.

Giants 7, Mets 1

NEW YORK — Brian Johnson hit a two-run homer and Shawn Estes (17-4) beat New York for the

third time this season, allowing the one run and six hits in 6 2/3 innings and sending the Mets to their 11th loss in 16 games.

Cubs 3, Marlins 1

CHICAGO — Doug Glavine broke a 1-1 tie in the seventh with a two-run, bases-loaded single as Chicago beat Florida for the first time in eight games this season.

Kevin Tapani (3-3) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings.

Expos 2, Cardinals 1

ST. LOUIS — Pedro Martinez (15-6) took a two-hit shutout into the ninth and lowered his major league-leading ERA to 1.61. He set a career best for wins, allowing four hits and striking out 13 in 8 2/3 innings.

Grand jury to decide on Newton

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas County grand jury is expected to meet Tuesday to consider a sexual assault complaint a Grand Prairie woman filed against Dallas Cowboys offensive lineman Nate Newton.

The 31-year-old woman said through her lawyer that Newton, 35, assaulted her June 15 at her mobile home where she lives with her two young sons. Both the woman and Newton confirm that they had a lengthy relationship.

Newton, through his attorney, has denied the sexual assault accusation. Both Newton and his accuser have some explaining to do, according to lawyers and prosecutors involved in the case.

Norm Kinne, Dallas County's first assistant district attorney, says Newton must explain a recorded phone conversation in which the athlete seemingly acknowledged to the woman that some type of misconduct took place.

"I went wrong when you said, 'No,' I should have just stopped," Newton is heard telling the woman during the phone call.

Angels fall to San Antonio again in eighth

Staff Report

SAN ANTONIO — Paul LoDuc's two-run single in the bottom of the eighth inning opened up a scoreless game and led the San Antonio Missions to a 3-0 win over the Midland Angels Monday at Nelson-Wolff Stadium.

With the win, the Missions picked up their fourth win in five nights over Mitch Seane's squad, which opens its final five games of the season in Wichita against the Wranglers.

The win keeps the Missions (36-21 for the second half) two games out of first place in the Texas League West's second-half race while the Angels (29-38) fall to nine games back of El Paso.

LoDuc came to the plate with runners on second and third with

one out. Garey Ingram, who also had two doubles, opened the hitting in the eighth with a third hit of the night, and J.P. Roberge followed with a double down the left-field line. LoDuc singled off Angels' starter Rob Bonanno, who had pitched 7.1 scoreless innings to that point. LoDuc later scored the game's final run on an infield single by Dan Melendez.

The game, however, was about pitching. Bonanno (4-10) took his second-straight tough-break loss of the series. Twice, Bonanno lost to the Missions by 3-0 scores. He had worked his way out of two jams in the two previous innings. He just got no offensive production from the Angels who are playing with just nine position players thanks to the trade of Aaron Guiel and the promotion of Jamie Burke.

The Angels only had four hits off three Missions' pitchers. Rick Gorecki allowed three hits over seven innings before turning the game over to the Missions' relief corps. Jose Garcia (2-1) picked up the win, working a perfect eighth inning.

Joe Lagarde pitched the ninth inning, allowing one hit. Lagarde picked up his 17th save of the season.

HALO HAPPENINGS: Midland's Jarrod Washburn (14-12, 4.88) will go for the Angels' season record for wins tonight against the Wranglers. Washburn, who already has set the team record for strikeouts, is tied with Donnie Moore and Marty Reed. Phil Grundy is the probable starter for Wichita.

San Antonio Missions 3, Midland Angels 0

Midland	AB	R	H	E	San Antonio	AB	R	H	E
Center cf	3	0	1	0	Gibbs cf	4	0	0	0
DeVallito ss	4	0	2	0	Spearmen lf	4	0	0	0
Norton lf	3	0	0	0	Ingram lf	4	1	3	0
Herrick rf	4	0	0	0	Roberge 2b	4	1	2	0
Burbaum 3b	4	0	1	0	LoDuc c	4	1	1	2
Bilderback dh	3	0	0	0	Richardson 3b	2	0	0	0
Dalton lf	2	0	0	0	Kirkpatrick 1b	2	0	0	0
Ryder c	3	0	0	0	Melendez 1b	2	0	1	1
Lulioa 2b	3	0	0	0	Richardson dh	0	1	0	0
					Cora ss	2	0	1	0
Totals	29	0	4	0	Totals	31	3	9	3

Score by Inning
Midland 000 00000X — 0

San Antonio 000 00003X — 3

E-Dalton, Melendez, DP — Midland 1, San Antonio 2.

LOB-Midland 5, San Antonio 8. 2B-Ingram 2, Roberge.

Sac-Cora, SB-B, Richardson, CS-DeVallito.

IP H R ER BB SO

Midland

Bonanno L, 4-10 7 1 9 3 2 1 3

Janicki 0 2 1 0 0 0 1 0

San Antonio

Garcia W, 2-1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0

Lagarde S, 17 1 0 1 0 0 0 0

JWP-Janicki, HBP-B, Richardson (By Bonanno) 7-2-30.

OPEN: Youth served on opening day

(From 1C)

Seles, seeded No. 2 behind Martina Hingis, cruised predictably past Kristie Boogert, 6-1, 6-2 in the evening's first match. Seles showed no fatigue from the fever and sore throat that forced her to default from a tuneup tournament near Atlanta last week.

Change was in the air all around the U.S. Open during the balmy afternoon as teen-agers Anna Kournikova and Lilia Osterloh also scored impressive victories.

Kournikova, a 16-year-old who is

one of the most promising prospects on the women's tour, crushed Sabine Appelmans 6-2, 6-0. Kournikova reached the fourth round of the Open last year in her Grand Slam debut.

The 19-year-old Osterloh, who won the NCAA title last spring as a freshman at Stanford after leading the school to the team championship, gained her first victory as a pro by beating Barbara Rittner 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

The first match in Arthur Ashe Stadium was won by Tamarine Tanasugarn, a 20-year-old from

Thailand, who beat Chanda Rubin 6-4, 6-0.

Men's No. 4 Goran Ivanisevic, who has been making an art of getting upset in curious ways in Grand Slam matches, fell 4-6, 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3) to No. 9 Dinu Pescariu of Romania. Ivanisevic lost in the first round at the French Open to Magnus Gustafsson, then lost in the second round at Wimbledon to Magnus Norman despite serving 46 aces.

This time, Ivanisevic served a mere 24 aces, played from the baseline as if he were on clay, and

dumped a lot of balls into the bottom of the net. He hit 75 unforced errors to Pescariu's 43.

No. 14 Mark Philippoussis got through his opening match, edging Karim Alami of Morocco 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-4.

In a match between two players who once would have been seeded high and expected to meet in at least the quarters, unseeded Todd Martin showed he's recovered from elbow surgery in a 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 victory over Jim Courier.

WAGNER: Hurler may need second pitch

(From 1C)

myself and said I'm not good enough to pitch here."

Wagner gets panned on sports talk shows, but there's one key fan who is still on his side. Nolan Ryan visited the locker room pri-

or to Friday's game against the Rockies and said he's been impressed by Wagner.

But Ryan added that Wagner could struggle if he doesn't have a second pitch to keep the hitters honest.

"I don't worry about him because of his makeup," Ryan said. "Not only does he have great ability, but he's got the makeup you like to see in a stopper."

Any pitcher will struggle with only one effective pitch, Ryan

said.

"When I got my breaking ball over for a high percentage, I was very successful. And when I didn't, I struggled," Ryan said. "I don't think any fastball-curveball pitcher is any different."

PLAYOFFS: Astros battling Braves' staff

(From 1C)

said third baseman Chipper Jones, who made a critical error Sunday in a 6-4 loss to Cincinnati that ended the Braves' four-game winning streak. "Their lead's only three over the Pirates. We need to keep winning too, putting pressure on the Marlins. Four games can evaporate mighty quick."

The Braves have been in a miserable hitting slump most of the month, but their starting pitching has prevented a prolonged skid. The Big Four — Greg Maddux,

Tom Glavine, John Smoltz and Denny Neagle — have a combined record of 8-3 with a 2.04 ERA in August.

Glavine (11-6), Maddux (17-3) and Neagle (17-3) will start against the Astros, who were swept by Atlanta in a two-game series at the Astrodome last week. For the season, the Braves hold a 5-3 edge.

"We've had some success with them, and I have more success against Houston than a lot of other clubs," said Glavine, who will start Tuesday night against Shane

Reynolds (6-8). "But they'll play you close. They're a scrappy bunch with good contact hitters, improved pitching and reliable defense."

The Astros have lost six of 10 after showing signs of running away in the Central. Bagwell is having another MVP-type season (34 homers, 108 RBIs) and Darryl Kile (17-3, 2.28) is a top contender for the Cy Young Award.

Kile will start the final game of the series against Neagle.

"I like a lot of hits in a game, but if I were a fan I'd sure watch

Thursday's matchup," Blauser said. "That's two guys with a Cy Young chance. Kile's having a great year. When hitters talk about nasty pitchers, they mention Maddux, (Florida's Kevin) Brown and Kile. But you're hearing more and more talk about Denny. He's had a nasty year."

One thing that's almost certain in the Braves-Astros series: every game will be close. Of the eight meetings this season, five were decided by one run and the others by two.

COWBOYS: Team expects Deion to show

(From 1C)

who led the NFL in sacks last year but was released Sunday by the Carolina Panthers after a prolonged hold out over his contract. Dallas would probably have trouble fitting Greene under its salary cap, but team vice president Stephen Jones said the Cowboys are interested.

Switzer said he's expecting Sanders, still playing baseball with the Cincinnati Reds, to be with the Cowboys on Sunday. But

Switzer said he has to prepare for the possibility Sanders won't be with the Cowboys.

He said coaches are trying to get Wendell Davis and Kevin Mathis ready for duty in the secondary.

"Everyone relies on Superman to come up, but maybe his cape's still in the laundry. You know, maybe he's not ready to play," Switzer said. "I don't have any indication anything is wrong with him. I expect him to jump out of the phone booth in Pittsburgh. But

we've got to prepare for Deion not being there."

Switzer said the team had a good practice Monday. He specifically mentioned the work of offensive guard Nate Newton, who has been sidelined with injuries.

"He's not there yet, but he's trying to get some conditioning with pads on and some full-speed pass rush," Switzer said. "He won most of them, got beat a couple of times."

Clay Shiver, a 6-foot-2, 294-pound

second-year player out of Florida State, has won the starting job at center, Switzer said. Shiver won an endorsement from quarterback Troy Aikman.

"Clay's going to be fine. He's a very athletic guy, a lot in the same mold as Mark Stepnoski — not overly big, but athletic and very agile," Aikman said. "I think the guys up front feel comfortable playing with him, and I certainly feel comfortable having him in front of me."

Spahn recovering after surgery

BOSTON (AP) — Hall of Fame pitcher Warren Spahn is recovering from surgery to remove an aortic aneurysm, he said Monday, and he will miss this weekend's Boston Braves reunion.

Spahn, 76, was operated on six weeks ago and has been recuperating at his home in Broken Arrow, Okla.

"I'm coming along. It's been a slow progress," he said in a tele-

phone interview with The Associated Press. "I haven't been able to travel because of my surgery, so how am I going to come up there to Boston?"

Spahn was 363-245 with a 3.09 ERA over parts of 21 major-league seasons, pitching for the Boston and Milwaukee Braves before going to the New York Mets in 1965 for his final season.

LOCAL SPORTS

Mangum, Miller win national titles

MOULTREE, Ga. — Midland's Jennifer Mangum won four national titles and Tassi Miller won two at the Grand Masters National Diving Championships at the Moss Farms Aquatic Complex.

Mangum, the Sable Award winner for the outstanding diver in the country, took home (30-34 year-old) age-group titles in the one-meter, three-meter springboard events and also added the title in the platform event. The final gold medal came in the Grand National event which featured just national champions. In all, Mangum has won eight national titles this season.

Miller competed in 25-29 age group and finished with the title in one-meter springboard and platform events. It was the first diving competition for the former gymnast.

Midland women gear for tourney

The 34th annual Midland Women's City Golf Tournament has a new twist for 1997. It's being played in October instead of July.

This year's top woman will be crowned during the Oct. 13-Oct. 16 playing date, which again features play at all four of Midland's golf courses.

The qualifying round is set for Oct. 13 at Ranchland Hills Country Club. First round matches begin on Oct. 14 at Midland Country Club and move to Green Tree Country Club for the second round on Oct. 15. The final round will be on Oct. 16 at Hogan Park.

All three rounds of the tournament will be match play. Contestants must have been a resident of Midland for a minimum of 30 days and have a current handicap.

Anyone with a handicap index of 16.9 or less must qualify. Anyone else may also qualify. Qualifying (Oct. 13) is for placement in the championship and first flights.

Entry deadline is noon, Oct. 10. Sign up sheets are posted at each club course. Entry fee is \$30 and does not include a cart. All of the country clubs now require soft spikes to play.

Defending champion Jo Dickson is planning on defending her title this year.

For more information, Midland women golfers should contact Emily Goodfellow at 684-5042, or Karin Sanford at 697-2649.

Jacks sign two players

ODESSA — The Odessa Jack-

alopes added two more forwards to their roster, signing left-winger Ryan Golden and center Patrick Bergeron.

Golden, a 6-foot-4-inch and 210-pound forward from Boston, was the seventh round pick of the Boston Bruins in 1993 and played 16 games with Saginaw in the Central Hockey League last year.

Bergeron is a 22-year-old from Montreal who has had consecutive 100-point seasons in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey league and with Halifax in 1994-95. Last year, Bergeron played in the East Coast Hockey League.

That addition of the two brings the number of players signed to 15. Training camp opens Oct. 1, and the Jacks have two home exhibition games (Oct. 7 and Oct. 11) before opening their Western Professional Hockey league schedule.

Rossen's team wins Pro-Am

The team of Ronnie Rossen, Mike Whitworth, Tom Hill and Barre Simmons shot a team score of 113 to win the title at The Kent Companies 22nd Annual, Buffalo Trail Council Boy Scouts Pro-Am Monday at Hogan Park.

Rossen's team was good enough to beat the teams of Brian McKinley, Jeff Morton, Lew Neweohner and Mike Marshall; and Chad Davis, Mike Gresham, Ray Lindsey, Jim Lindsey by three strokes. The teams were comprised of four golfers which included one area professional.

In the professional division, Green Tree's Chris Carpenter and Hogan Park's Brian McKinley tied for first with 67's. Vince Jewell and Scotty Niemann tied for third at 68.

Results from the Kent Companies 22nd Annual Buffalo Trail Council Boy Scouts Pro-Am held at Hogan Park.

Pro Scores: 1. (Tie) Chris Carpenter 67; Brian McKinley 67; 3. (Tie) Vince Jewell 68, Scotty Niemann 68; 5. (Tie) Clayton Friend 69, Ken Livingston 69, Clay Kincaid 69.

Team Scores (Pro listed first): 1. Ronnie Rossen, Mike Whitworth, Tom Hill, Barre Simmons 126; 2. Brian McKinley, Jeff Morton, Lew Neweohner, Mike Marshall 116; 3. Chad Davis, Mike Gresham, Ray Lindsey, Jim Lindsey 116; 4. Scotty Niemann, Ted Collins, Bob Williamson, Tommy Richardson 117; 5. Greg Sikes, Rob Hall, Carl Sikes, Marcus Crow 117; 6. Vince Jewell, Chuck Swallow, Kyle Womack, Jara Rush 118; 7. Leon Van Rensburg, Larry Tyson, David Schmidt, Fred Phillips 118; 8. Mike Reschke, Pete Hader, E.J. Raschke, Tommy Stinger 120; 9. (Tie) Lynn Elms, Kelly Eng, Bryan Eng, George Eng 121; Bryan Ham, John Blakely, Jack Wilson, Carlton Robertson 121; 11. Ken Livingston, Judy Harrell, John Johnson, Don Deamus 123; 12. (Tie) Wiley Osborne, Jack Dixon, Rodney Sargent, Kenny Dressel 124; Terry Lester, Blake Arthur, Ed Jones, Russell Rasmussen 124; 14. (Tie) Clayton Friend, Josh Jacobs, Clarence Young, Jim McCaskey 125; Doug Bryant, Bill Perkins, Jim Reeves, Cory Stoppel 126; 16. (Tie) Larry Bryan, Chad Freeman, Paul Westphal, Bill Holland, Scott Tumball 132; 22. Thad Reese, Darrell Dillard, Warren Wallace, Steve Castle 135.

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By Jeffrey Blair

Associated Press Writer

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Triple threat takes Rattlers to Arena win

By Mel Reiser

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX — If there was any doubt that Hunkie Cooper is a prototype of the triple-threat player that Arena Football League teams long for, he erased it in the Arena Bowl.

Cooper caught a pass for a touchdown, returned a kickoff 56 yards for another and ran back an interception for a third in the Arizona Rattlers' 55-33 victory over the Iowa Barnstormers on Monday night.

It was an emotional triumph for the receiver-linebacker, who cut off the ends of two toes in an April 3 lawn mower accident and finally got back to full strength for the biggest game of the year.

"The team has been carrying me all year," Cooper said. "I'm just thankful that I had a chance to give them something back."

Danny White, the only coach the Rattlers (15-2) had since they entered the league in 1992, said winning before a partisan crowd of 17,436 was even better than his 1994 title, when Arizona upset the Predators in Orlando, Fla.

"It's sweet to do it at home," White said. "It makes a big difference in how you feel when the gun goes off."

The victory denied the Barnstormers (13-4) a championship in two straight trips to the Arena Bowl. Last season, Iowa came up

a yard short of a score at the end of a 42-38 loss to Tampa Bay.

Cooper, the league MVP in 1993, caught a 4-yard TD pass from Donnie Davis, a rookie pressed into service when Sherdick Bonner broke his leg late in a semifinal victory over Tampa Bay, to break a 10-10 tie in the second quarter.

Then, after Iowa's Mike Black kicked his second field goal with 28 seconds left in the half, Cooper fielded a kickoff that bounced off the net deep in his end zone, burst up the middle and turned around the last defender with an inside-outside move about midfield.

In seven seconds, the Rattlers had a 24-13 halftime lead. It held up because Black missed from 33 yards at the 9-foot-wide goal points before the half ended.

"Missing the field goal hurt," coach John Gregory said. "Then they came back and scored to start the second half."

Cooper made it 38-13 with 6:45 left in the third quarter when he leaped high for a pass thrown by Iowa's Kurt Warner, came down in the clear and bolted 30 yards for his third TD.

Davis, who threw a scoring pass to beat the Storm in overtime Aug. 18, but was making his first start, also threw 49- and 28-yard scoring passes to Calvin Schexnayder and scored on a 1-yard run.

The long pass to Schexnayder was an Arena Bowl record, and so were Schexnayder's 138 receiving yards.

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U.S. Open Tennis

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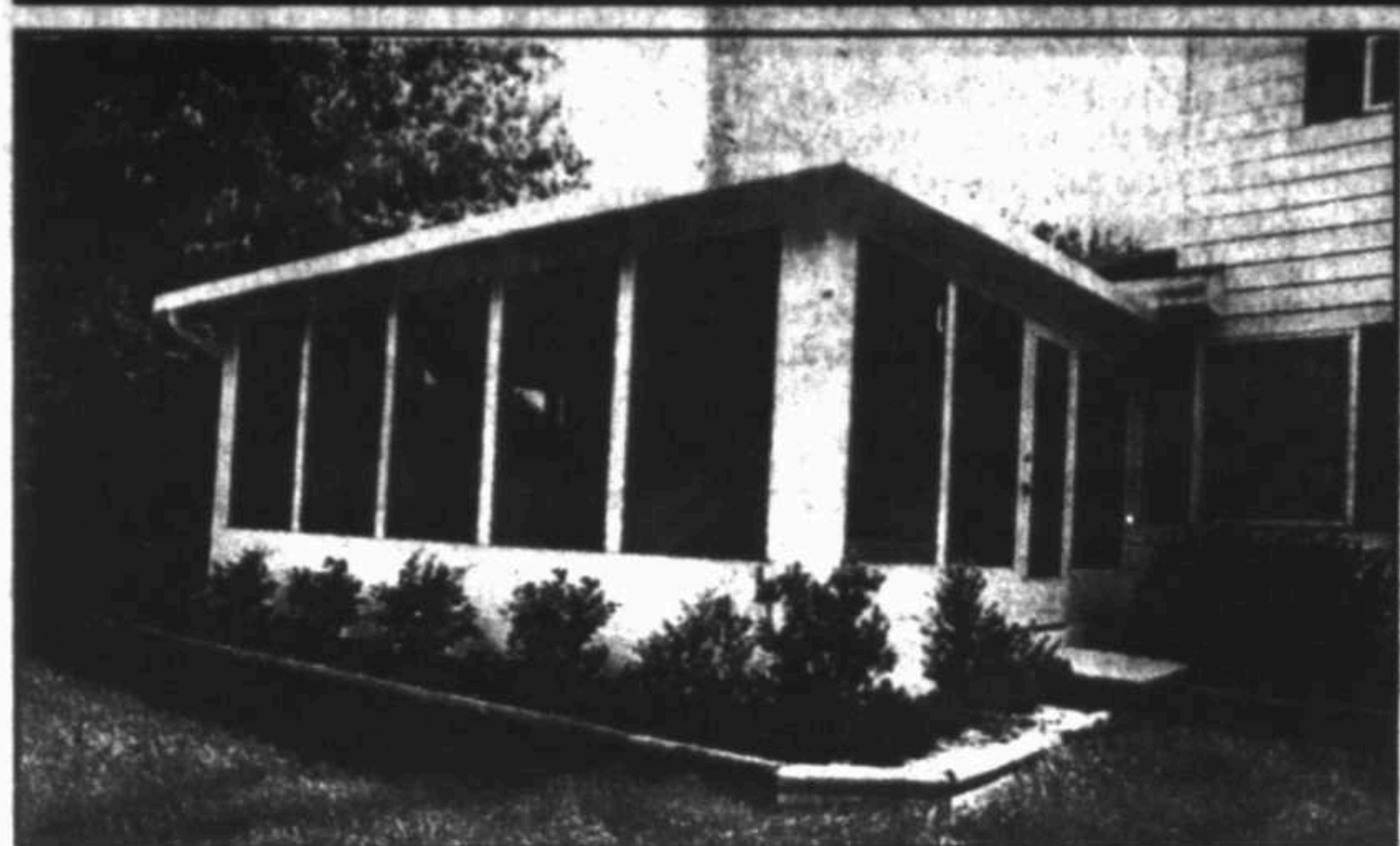
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Enjoy cool evenings with patio enclosure from Mid-West

This time of year, the best part of the day is in the evening. The sun is low in the sky, the breeze feels good, the day is cooling down. It's a wonderful time to unwind and enjoy a quiet few minutes on the back porch. It would be even better with a patio enclosure to let breezes in and keep pesky insects or that occasional sudden thunderstorm outside.

To help you really enjoy those late summer and fall evenings, Mid-West Glass is offering a 15 percent price reduction on Vinyl-Tech's attractive and durable patio enclosures. Mid-West installs these maintenance-free rooms as a complete package, eliminating hidden costs. They can be added under an existing roof, on an existing pad, or Mid-West can add whatever you need, from a mono slope to a gable roof.

A patio enclosure is perfect as a quiet retreat, a place to entertain, a safe children's play area, exercise room, family room or anything else you can imagine in that extra space.

Choose from a wide selection of breezy window styles, including casement, sliding, single-hung raising and stationary (non-opening, like a picture window). The four-track vertical sliding window's unique design lets you open the window from the top or from the bottom and catch the breeze from up to 75 percent of the window's space. Cleaning is easy, too: the panels can be removed. Want to reduce the sun's rays? Tinting is also available, as are insulated windows. Windows can be glass or vinyl material. Or start with just screen material and add windows later.

The vinyl windows are able to ruggedly stand up to the punishment of most activities. When it's poked by a piece of furniture or blunt object, it returns to its original shape in a few minutes. That's why these enclosures come with a 10 year warranty on materials manufactured by Vinyl Tech.

Each enclosure includes a cabana door whose window matches that of the other windows you order in most cases.

Installation by Mid-West Glass is easy. Once you decide on the style that's right for you, Mid-West will carefully measure the dimensions. Then it will take about two weeks to get the finished pieces from the factory. Because the pieces are ready made, installation takes only one day in most cases, meaning you're enjoying the great outdoors in no time.

Remember, fall is approaching with its cool, clear evenings. Make the most of the good things West Texas weather has to offer. Call Mid-West Glass today and find out how easy and affordable it can be to add enjoyment to your home.

Mid-West Glass offers glass and windows for any use, as well as Vinyl Tech patio enclosures. Located at 906 West Front, the phone number for a free estimate is 682-7373.

Don't boil your engine this summer

Everybody's concerned about their auto air conditioning in the summer—they want to stay cool. But few worry about their engine coolant until fall, when it's time to check the anti-freeze. But Tex Stoner at Classic Automotive says engine coolant is critical in summer, too, especially for vehicles with Midland water in them.

"The minerals in this water can clog parts of the radiator, greatly reducing its ability to cool the engine," Tex explains. Since few vehicles come with temperature gauges, he lists warning signs that could mean your engine is overheating.

If your car clatters while running, if it idles rough or if it keeps running after you turn off the ignition, it could indicate the engine is running too hot. "Don't wait for the engine light to come on," Tex warns.

Classic Automotive can check your cooling system and back flush it if necessary, or perform almost any other needed repair. They can also make sure it has the right mix of water to anti-freeze, a 50-50 blend.

Don't wait till winter—let Classic check your cooling system now.

Classic Automotive is located downtown at 108 N. Weatherford. Owned and operated by Tex Stoner, the shop does most repairs on domestic and European vehicles including Jaguar, Volvo, BMW, Mercedes, Porsche, Audi and Saab. They accept Visa and Master Card. The phone number is 570-6470.



Tex Stoner at Classic Automotive tracks down a problem in an MG.

Al Escamilla of Edward Jones

New legislation puts money in your pockets

Have you ever found money in your pockets or purse that you didn't realize you had? It's a great feeling to have a "windfall" of extra cash.

Thousands of West Texans are experiencing that same feeling as a result of new tax and spending legislation Congress recently passed. Congress agreed on landmark legislation that will provide the biggest tax cut in 16 years and is projected to balance the budget by the year 2002.

The legislation is intended to cut taxes \$151.6 billion over the next five years. It includes \$35 billion in education tax credits, tax credits for people with children, lower estate and capital gains taxes, added health coverage for thousands of poor children and deficit reduction.

In essence, this legislation will affect almost every area of our lives, from buying a home to paying for our children's college education to planning for retirement.

The top rate for capital gains taxes was reduced from 28 percent to 20 percent for assets held longer than 18 months. For securities purchased after the year 2001 and held at least five years, the top rate will be 18 percent. This rewards investors who employ a buy-and-hold strategy.

In addition, the package contains a break for homeowners. You now won't have to pay capital gains on the sale of your home if the profit is below \$500,000 and you file jointly. Single individuals may exclude up to \$250,000 of gain upon the sale of a home.

And, the legislation increases the estate-tax exemption from \$600,000 to \$1 million over 10 years. For the owners of qualified small businesses and family farms, the exemption is immediately raised to \$1.3 million.

The tax breaks associated with the Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) have expanded substantially. The package lifts the adjusted gross income (AGI) limits for tax-deductible contributions for those who are covered by a retirement plan at work, the new "phase out ranges" (the AGI range where deductibility is phased out) is \$80,000-\$100,000 for couples by year 2007 and from \$50,000-\$60,000 for individuals by year 2005.

In addition, the legislation paves the way for some new IRAs. You'll now be able to make contributions to a Roth IRA. Although contributions to the Roth IRA are not tax-deductible, all earnings grow tax-deferred. Distributions from the Roth IRA are tax-free and

penalty-free if they are taken five years following the first taxable year in which you made your first contribution and due to the death of the account holder, disability, age 59-1/2 and for first-time home buyers (up to \$10,000). Couples with AGI of less than \$150,000 and individuals with AGI of less than \$95,000 are allowed to contribute to a Roth IRA.

While annual contributions to a traditional IRA or a Roth IRA are still limited to \$2,000, and additional nondeductible contribution of \$500 per child can be made to an Education IRA. To contribute to the Education IRA, the child must be under age 18 and your AGI must be less than \$150,000 for couples and less than \$95,000 for individuals.

You'll also have greater flexibility. You will now be allowed to make penalty-free withdrawals from your IRA for college expenses or up to \$10,000 for first-time home buyers. All in all, IRAs are more attractive than ever before.

Middle-income families stand to benefit greatly, receiving income-tax credits for having children and putting them through college. Single parents with incomes as low as \$12,000 and two-parent families making up to \$110,000 are eligible for the "kiddie tax credit." Parents will receive a \$400 tax credit per child ages 16 and under for 1998; this will increase to \$500 per child in 1999. Couples with incomes as low as \$18,000 can take advantage of the credit. Even if they don't pay taxes, they'll receive a check from the government.

Middle-income families also benefit from tax breaks designed to offset the costs of college tuition. Parents will receive a tax credit each year, and some middle-income families will be able to deduct interest on student loans up to a pre-set limit.

In general, tax credits are more valuable than deductions because they are taken right off a person's tax bill. For example, if you owe \$7,000 in taxes and have two children, your tax bill would immediately be reduced to \$6,200.

As you can see, the new tax and spending bills are good news to parents and investors alike.



Al Escamilla

Al Escamilla's Edward Jones office at 1200 Whitney will host a special satellite broadcast program discussing key tax provisions for individual investors. If you would like to view this program, to air on September 3, please call the office at 699-2147. Seating will be limited.

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MONEY MATTERS

How will key provisions of the Taxpayer Relief Act affect you?

On August 5, the President signed the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 into law. The act contains the most sweeping legislation since 1982. Among it's key provisions are changes which will impact the individual investor. To receive a summary of the changes in the law, call 620-6070.

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FYI

Advertising continued

PC Solutions Group offers DirecPC

Serious speed available for serious Internet users

For business or personal use, you're on the Internet or World Wide Web a lot. Much of that time is spent waiting for downloads. Time you or your machine could use more productively. You thought your 28.8 or 33.6 kbps modem would be the answer. Actually, it did help, but not nearly enough. Now you're looking into ISDN to get even faster speeds. But wait: ISDN is no longer your only option for high speed downloading.

PC Solutions Group in Midland brings you DirecPC, which allows you to download off the Web using the wider bandwidth available through satellite communications. It achieves speeds 14 times faster than a 28.8 kbps modem, and three times faster than even an ISDN line can give you.

Here's how DirecPC works: Using your own Internet Service Provider (ISP) and your current modem/phone line, you locate the desired web site and request it to download the file you need. That file is then sent to you by satellite at speeds of up to 400 kbps, radically slashing the time required for even multi-megabyte downloads.

PC Solutions Group can arrange for the entire installation, from installing and grounding the dish, running the wiring, to installing the hardware and software into your computer. You'll need a PC with a Pentium processor, 16 MB of RAM, 20 MB of hard drive space, Windows 95, a modem and an ISP, plus zero tolerance for waiting on downloads. Of course, you also need a place to install the dish and a clear view to the south.

Stephen Jordan, owner of the PC Solutions Group, says that while the initial cost for DirecPC is higher than that for an ISDN connection, the monthly savings and increased performance make it worthwhile. "With DirecPC you avoid the monthly ISDN charges from the phone company. Most ISPs also charge extra to provide ISDN service, which is not necessary with this service," Jordan explains.

Modems of up to 56.6 kbps are available, he adds, but there is no current standardization for them, meaning you could buy one that would not be compatible with your ISP. Also, you only get the 56.6 kbps in one direction...outgoing signals still only travel at a rate of 33.6 kbps.

The higher speeds available from DirecPC are tremendously beneficial to researchers who spend much time waiting for large files to download. It also benefits serious computer gamers who

download game files typically 38 MB or larger.

One thing even satellite technology can't overcome, however, is the dreaded "Host contacted, waiting for reply" message. Jordan says that usually means the host server is overloaded in responding to requests. Some of that bottleneck can be reduced by getting on at less busy times of day. Once the download starts,

however, the satellite speed is realized.

DirecPC offers a variety of pricing structures depending on your usage patterns and time online.

PC Solutions Group sells a wide variety of computers, software and other services. They are located in San Miguel Square at Midkiff and Wadley. The phone number is 570-5267.

New owners celebrate year of planning leisure, business travel at Great Destinations

It's been a year since Linda Deaver and Peggy Brown bought one of Midland's oldest travel agencies. In that year, Great Destinations has developed into a true full service travel agency. The agency's mix of commercial, leisure and group travel has provided all their clients with the expertise to successfully meet both the usual and unusual travel requests.

Because it is fun to travel as a group, especially a group with shared interests, the agency has made group travel a major part of their business. Great Destinations has made arrangements for senior trips to Cancun, scuba diving adventures to the famous Blue Hole in Belize, a special birthday cruise celebration for a group of 30 and several bus trips to Taos for a local corporation.

They are taking reservations now for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's and spring break. If you are planning a ski trip over the holidays to Colorado or Utah—or considering something different like skiing the Canadian Rockies, NOW is the time to secure your place and make your deposit.

It's also time now to plan for the trip of the century—no, the trip of the millennium. If you want to see in the year 2000 in an exotic place, time is running out. Peggy says some cruises and locations are already full, so don't wait any longer.

You will always receive personal service on pleasure or business travel at Great Destinations. Getting one person or a group from here

to there with hotel, car and other reservations is as simple as a phone call. What about meetings where participants converge on one location from multiple office locations? While this could take a tremendous amount of secretarial time and create huge headaches for a business, Great Destinations can do it all for you. They'll arrange to get everyone there in a timely fashion, reserve the hotel and meeting rooms, ground transportation, side trips and many other things needed, while getting you the very best prices available.

Great Destinations also offers assistance to businesses and corporations in providing employee sales incentives or award trips or company-sponsored appreciation trips for employees or clients.

Located downtown, Great Destinations is itself a great lunchtime destination for anyone considering an excursion. Browse through travel brochures until your head is full of exciting possibilities—or until it's time to return to work. They offer free ticket delivery, assistance with frequent flier programs, city maps and local guides for your destination, worldwide weather reports and many other services.

To celebrate their first anniversary, Great Destinations will host an open house Thursday, August 28 from 3-6 p.m. They will give out door prizes from American Airlines, Royal Caribbean and gift certificates from Great Destinations.

Great Destinations is a full service travel agency owned by Linda Deaver and Peggy Brown. Located downtown at 400 West Texas, on the corner of Texas and Big Spring, their phone number is 682-8645.



One of Midland's oldest travel agencies celebrates one full year under the ownership of Peggy Brown and Linda Deaver. Left to right in the picture are: Terry Rodgers, Ellen Wishing, Peggy Brown, Linda Deaver, Lee Ann Hopkins and Vicki Rymal.

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More Sports/8C

Cuba uses Games as a showcase

By Howard Fendrich
Associated Press Writer

CATANIA, Sicily — Cuba is one nation that's taking the World University Games quite seriously.

While some eligible athletes are passing on the 19th edition, the starting lists announced Monday by organizers contain several Olympic and world championships medalists, and Cuba has the most.

The Caribbean island nation has brought long jumper Ivan Pedroso, winner at the World Championships in Athens, Greece, earlier this month, and a man who's always a threat to erase Mike Powell's record of 29 feet, 4 1/2 inches.

He's joined by triple jumpers Yoelvis Quesada and Aliecer Urrutia, first and third in Athens, respectively, as well as 800 meters silver medalist Norberto Tellez. And Anier Garcia, world indoor champion in the 60 hurdles, will run the 110 hurdles here.

South Africa also has a formidable cast, including world champion Marius Corbett in the javelin, and Llewellyn Herbert, silver medalist in the 400 hurdles. Note-worthy people who could have come but didn't include sprinter Marion Jones and shot putter John Godina, both world champions.

"My biggest question to them would be, 'Why not come?' I think a lot of it has to do with the fact that it's been a very long year for a lot of the world class athletes," U.S. men's track coach Harvey Glance said.

Monday's light schedule saw China pick up three medals and Italy two. Chinese divers Lu Haisong and Chen Lixia were first and second in the women's 1-meter springboard, while Michelle Rojahn of the United States took bronze. Italy's Valentina Vezzali defeated countrywoman Anna Giacometti 15-9 in the women's foil final. China's Aihua Xiao and Hungary's Idiko Minca, the semifinal losers, each gained a bronze.

In women's basketball quarterfinals, the United States scraped past Russia 78-70, while Italy beat Portugal 57-45, the Czech Republic beat Sweden 80-58 and Cuba routed Latvia 95-58.

Elsewhere, the Canadian women's volleyball team outlasted Italy 3-15, 17-15, 15-9, 12-15, 16-14 to the semifinals. Canada next faces the United States, a 15-9, 15-8, 2-15, 15-5 winner over China. The other semifinal has Russia against Japan.

In the tennis semifinals, top seed Yoon Yong Il of South Korea beat Germany's Alexander von Hugo 7-6 (7-4), 6-4. He'll meet 16th seed Pavel Kudrnat of the Czech Republic, who upset third seed Ling Bing-Chao of Taiwan, 6-2, 6-1. The women's top seed, Taiwan's Wang Shi-Ting, beat Italy's Germana Di Natale 6-2, 6-2, while Maria Callen of France got by No. 2 Jeon Mi Ra of South Korea, 2-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-0.

With the games heading into their second and final week, much attention will turn to the new swimming pool in Messina and the refurbished Cibali Stadium in Catania, both of which see competition begin Tuesday. In the long jump, Pedroso will be pushed by Jamaica's James Beckford, who claimed the silver at the Atlanta Olympics.

The United States has a team with several athletes who could be set for a breakthrough. Vincent Henderson of Arkansas is the only one of the 100 dash entrants to have run 10 seconds flat, while 200 runner Tony Wheeler from Clemson has run faster than all other competitors here, 20.23.

Former Virginia leading scorer guilty of assault

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP) — Former Virginia basketball player Courtney Alexander was convicted in Albemarle County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court of assaulting his girlfriend and sentenced to four days in jail.

Joel Coleman, 21, cited the fifth amendment and refused to testify during Monday's trial, but Judge Jannene Shannon still found Alexander guilty and sentenced him to 60 days in jail. She suspended 56 days of the sentence.

Alexander was arrested July 18 after Coleman told police he hit, choked and kicked her in the ribs at their Charlottesville apartment. Coleman is the mother of Alexander's infant child.

Virginia basketball coach Jeff Jones suspended Alexander indefinitely the next day, and on Aug. 21, Alexander said he was leaving the school. Alexander's lawyers said they have appealed the ruling to Circuit Court, and Alexander will not serve the time while the appeal is underway.

Last season, the 6-foot-6 forward led Virginia with a 14.8 scoring average. In two years, he started 42 of the 53 games in which he played.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE



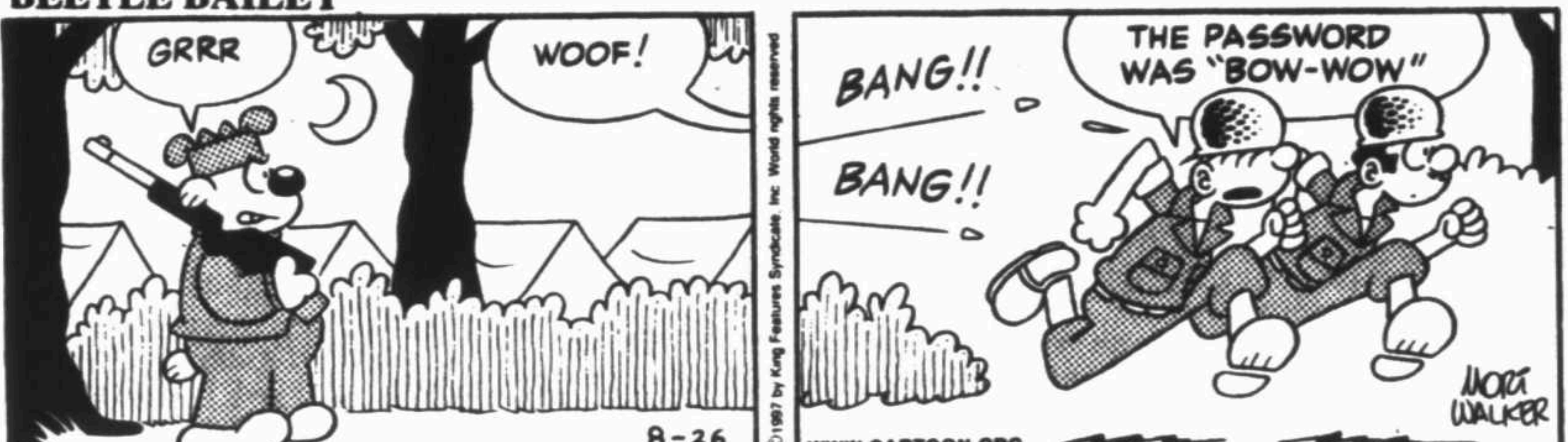
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TUESDAY, AUG. 26, 1997

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Aug. 26, 1997: This year's focus is on relating and expanding options. You find a partner or associate a bit rigid. Trying to change him will not help; only he can make that choice. Pressure and manipulation won't work. Claim your power, and zero in on what you want. Bypass obstacles through creativity and a responsible approach. If you are single, romance flows after January 1998. You could find communicating stilted at times. If attached, recognize your limits, as well as your mate's. Be accepting of each other, and work together toward the same goal. GEMINI admires you.

BORN TODAY Actor Macaulay Culkin (1980), news talk-show host Geraldine Ferraro (1935), musician Branford Marsalis (1960)

ARIES (March 21-April 19) ★★★★★ You might be overly serious dealing with communications. You will be happier if you relax and worry less. The odds are that you are going to have to reaffirm a message. Clear your desk, pay bills and get work done. Tonight: Socialize.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) ★★★★★ Be careful with budgets, money and any detail-oriented work. You might not be the one who flubs up. Check information and sources. Don't be surprised if you hit an obstacle, but don't make a big deal out of it. Tonight: Indulge yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ★★★★★ Don't worry about getting things done, once and for all. That isn't going to happen! Instead, be easygoing, and live in the moment. Popularity soars to a new level. You are adored. Emphasize jovial interchanges. Tonight: Do your thing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) ★★★★★ What isn't done today, can wait until tomorrow. Don't be so fastidious; let things happen. Romance builds, if you can be flexible. Instincts are right with a tough boss; still, it is better to relax. Concern yourself with work problems in a few days. Tonight: Play ostrich!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ★★★★★ Go for what you want. Socialize, network and take it easy. You think you are direct, but you might need to go over a business or personal matter one more time. Let humor and laughter in. Tonight: Don't worry about a change in plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) ★★★★★ You are putting undue stress on yourself to produce. Stay light with others. They have their own demons. Assume responsibility, but be easy on a difficult partner. It becomes a challenge to get your message across. Tonight: Clear your desk.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Good news rings your doorbell. Look to different styles. Break past restrictions, and examine what has held you back. Dynamic thinking allows an overhaul that is overdue. It might not be time to make a general announcement! Tonight: Go to the movies.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) ★★★★★ Close relating is fun, if not groundbreaking. You think you have reached new terms, but you might be incorrect. You will have to blaze this path again. Be careful with work, funds and a money decision. You can be more negative than you realize. Tonight: Enjoy a hot date!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) ★★★★★ Defer to another. You don't need to take a stand. It might be more important for others to express themselves. You learn a lot by listening. A loved one behaves negatively. Something could be bothering them on a deep level. Go with the flow. Tonight: Be easygoing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) ★★★★★ Concentrate on work, to get the job done. You feel someone is dragging you down. There is a lot you are driven to accomplish. Domestic issues are on the burner; you can no longer ignore them. Trust your work ideas. Tonight: Work out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) ★★★★★ Let your imagination come out in communications. You might not be able to find the words for your feelings, though there are certainly other ways to express them. Talks could be stilted now; you might decide to begin them again! Tonight: Go to a favorite spot.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) ★★★★★ You come from a stable point of view. Your serious attitude about money pays off in the long run. Consider a new budget, and seek out information to that end. Be frank with a family member about what you see as a limitation. Discussions are key. Tonight: Relax at home.

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NORTH			
♠ 9 8 2	♥ K Q	♦ A K J 9 7	♣ A J 6
WEST			
♠ Q J 10 7	♥ 10 4 2	♦ Q 8 5 3 2	♣ 10
SOUTH			
♠ A 6 5 4	♥ A 6 5	♦ 4	♣ 9 7 4 3 2

The bidding:			
EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
Pass	Pass	Pass	10
20	Pass	Pass	Db1
Pass	34	Pass	44
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: Two of ♡

The standard of play in the Ladies events at the recent European Championships was particularly high. Here's an example from the Monaco-Turkey match in the qualifying round.

East's jump overcall of two hearts showed hearts and a minor suit. After North reopened with a double, South had to do something constructive, hence the leap to three spades. North elected to raise with a weak three-card holding, so South had to declare a four-spade contract that appeared to have no play. There are three trump losers, and declarer has to worry about two possible club losers as well.

CLOSE TO HOME

clubs were discarded on the ace and king of diamonds, and a diamond was ruffed in the closed hand. Declarer crossed back to dummy with the remaining heart honor and ruffed the last diamond. By now there were eight tricks in the bank: three diamonds, two hearts, two diamond ruffs and the ace of trumps. The aces of hearts and clubs brought declarer's total to 10. West's two trump tricks and East's two club tricks were telescoped into the last two tricks.



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PEOPLE

Former governor working hard as ever, she says in keynote speech

DALLAS — No one can accuse Ann Richards of resting on her laurels since she lost her gubernatorial re-election bid two years ago.

"After a year with the trainer who works me harder than a funeral home fan in July, I am leg-pressing 180 pounds and I'm having to shop for smaller sizes," the 63-year-old former Democratic governor of Texas said.

She was the keynote speaker Saturday at "Visions: The Women's Expo."

Richards, who works as a senior adviser for a Washington-based lobbying firm, said she's having the time of her life traveling the country and spending more time with her family.



Richards "working harder than a funeral home fan in July," she tells expo crowd.

family when his career in the Royal Navy ends in 1999.

Andrew, who is divorced from the former Sarah Ferguson, shares custody of their two daughters.

ROME — The probable heir to the Fiat auto empire, Giovanni Alberto Agnelli, is back home in Italy recuperating from cancer surgery in New York.

The 33-year-old chairman of the Piaggio motor scooter company is suffering from a rare form of intestinal cancer. He had chemotherapy this spring at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and underwent surgery last week, a spokesman said.

The handsome Agnelli, often called the "Italian JFK Jr.," returned to Turin Sunday evening aboard a private flight. The spokesman described his condition as stable.

The Agnellis are Italy's uncrowned royal family and the young Agnelli is, by all accounts, being groomed to take over Fiat, which the family controls. He is the nephew of family patriarch Giovanni Agnelli, honorary chairman of Fiat. His mother's family controls Piaggio.

Fiat is the country's largest auto maker and private employer, accounting for 5 percent to 7 percent of the gross national product.

LOS ANGELES — Michael Jackson can still draw a crowd.

More than 1.4 million people in 29 countries have already seen the second leg of the entertainer's HIStory World Tour, tour promoter Paul Gongaware said Monday.

"With the worldwide concert market being soft, it is absolutely fantastic that we have been doing this great. I anticipate we will play for well over 2 million by the end of the already scheduled dates," Gongaware said.

Jackson is currently performing in Finland.

"We recently added dates in South Africa, and with business being good, we're considering several other offers prior to completing the tour in October," the promoter said.

Compiled from Reporter-Telegram wire reports.

TODAY'S TV SCHEDULE

TUESDAY EVENING				August 26, 1997				For Complete Information Please Check Movie Listings					
Broadcast	Channel	6:00	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
(3) KMD	2	News 423	Wheel of Fortune	Recess: Into That Good Night 277	Home Improvement	Spin City 3056	NYPD Blue: Simone Says 605	News 615438	Chernobyl (10:30)	Headlines (11:00)	Warren	Warren	Warren
(5) KPEJ	24	The Simpsons	Home Improvement	Pal Factor: Chronicles of the Criminal	Mad About You	Vibe 361676	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis	U.S. Open Tennis
(7) KQBA	7	News 2501	Entertainment Tonight	JAG: Pilot Error 91776	The Other Women (10:30)	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501	News 2501
(8) KWES	9	News 550	Entertainment Tonight	Mad About You	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550	News 550
(9) KMLM	42	The Light of the Southern Cross 881861	The Creation of the Universe 72601	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson	Robinson
(10) KOCV	30	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001	NewsHour With Jim Lehrer 11001
(11) KNCB	8	Money Club	Shuttle and Shuttle	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time	Equal Time
(12) WGN	10	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters	Family Matters
(13) WTBS	11	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?	Who's the Boss?
(14) BRAV	19	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning	Cloning
(15) BET	20	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233	Planet Groove 415233
(16) DISN	21	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World	Disney's Magical World
(17) FAM	22	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion	The Waltons: The Reunion
(18) CNN	30	Moneyline	Crossfire	Pr. News	Burden	Larry King Live 409609	The World Today	The World Today	The World Today	The World Today	The World Today	The World Today	The World Today
(19) ESPN	30	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter
(20) USA	37	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster	Webster
(21) FX	38	Miami Vice 861961	The X-Files 617335	NYPD Blue 6161775	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color	In Color
(22) A&E	30	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York	Law & Order: The New York
(23) TLC	40	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife	HomeLife
(24) NICK	41	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn	Dr. Quinn
(25) LIFE	42	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait	Intimate Portrait
(26) OUTDR	47	Ball 180180	Global Family	The World of Nature 434249	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild	Ball on Wild
(27) UNI	48	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border	On the Border
(28) HSE	50	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554	For Sports News 65554
(29) COM	51	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily
(30) COM	51	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily	The Daily
(31) DISC	14	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(32) AMC	15	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard
(33) TBN	16	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard	Duke of Hazzard
(34) TBT	17	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend	Kung Fu: The Legend
(35) MAX	22	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(36) VCT	23	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(37) CHTS	30	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(38) CHTS	31	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(39) TMC	32	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(40) SHOW	33	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(41) HBO	34	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the
(42) HC	35	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the	NewsHour: The Last of the



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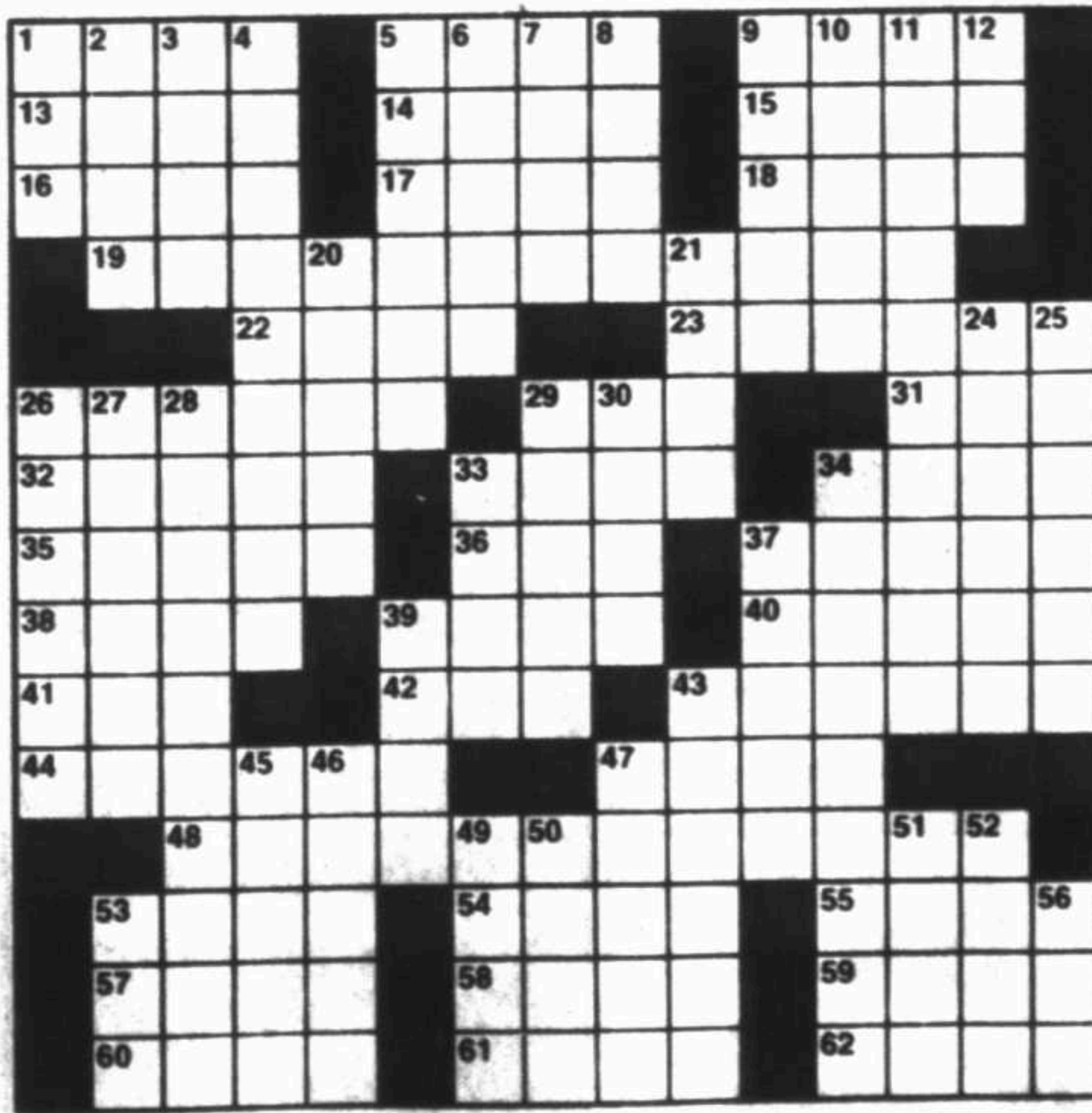
DAILY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Edited by Trude Michel Jaffe

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| 60 — Stanley | | | |
| Gardner | | | |
| 61 Lease | | | |
| 62 Before long | | | |

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

B	A	B	A	R	A	L	M	A	T	A	R	A
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By Frances Ragus
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8/26/97

Senior Rangers look to finish on high note

By Oscar LeRoy
Sports Writer

GREENWOOD — Since elementary school, this group of Greenwood Ranger seniors has been through the tough times and is looking forward to the very best of times as this 1997 season progresses.

From a 3-6 record they posted in 1996, these Rangers are looking at turning around their bad fortunes — and that means a playoff spot out of District 4-3A.

In order to do so, however, they need to survive what they call their toughest schedule yet with perennial playoff teams around every corner. With that in mind, you can say Greenwood coach Bob Purser is thankful he's got an experienced bunch to take into battle.

"I like these kids and I liked the way they've worked. And I think they like each other," Purser said. "Most of them have grown up together, and out here, Greenwood's had a tradition of pretty fast growth and a lot of kids have moved in. But this is one of those classes where most of them started in kindergarten together."

"We've had a pretty good tradition over the last 10 years. Last

year was just one of those rough years," Purser added. "When you have a year like that, you really want to get back to where you've been. Like I said, they've grown up here, so they've seen a lot of teams that have been successful and they don't want to go out as the class that didn't get it done."

"We started out as a big team when we were little. Now we're down to a couple," said senior defensive tackle Mario Jurado. "I guess only the strong can survive. I hope give it all I have. Hopefully everything works from there."

"We've been together since we were in grade school. You know what everyone can do and know our capabilities. I think we can pull out a great season."

That familiarity with each other also excites second-year starting quarterback Michael Otho.

"It lets you believe more in each other. It lets you know that you can count on the people you're playing with just because you've played with them for so long. It's pretty much a brotherhood," Otho said.

This brotherhood of Rangers is hoping that their experience and familiarity equals a formula for confidence and success.

"Our schedule is tough. There's a lot of teams with good players.

Greenwood Rangers

Coach's district favorite picks: Crane, Colorado City
Key quote: "When you have a young group like we did last year, you kind of take your lumps. And when you have a senior group like we have now, you expect to be successful," Greenwood coach Bob Purser said.

Returning starters: 9 on offense, 7 on defense.

Returning offensive standout: Michael Otho, 616 yards rushing, 311 yards passing

Returning defensive standout: Leeland Foster, 81 tackles

New wrinkles: Emphasize more of the passing game

Last playoff appearance: 1995

Last season's record and district finish: 3-6 overall, 2-3 in district, fourth

Biggest rivals: Crane, Alpine

Team colors: Columbia blue and white

Schedule		
Sept. 5	at Ballinger	8 p.m.
Sept. 12	Seminole	8 p.m.
Sept. 19	Denver City	8 p.m.
Sept. 26	at Alpine	8 p.m.
Oct. 3	Hemlin at Post	8 p.m.
Oct. 10	*at Colorado City	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 17	*Kermit	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 24	*Crane	7:30 p.m.
Oct. 31	*at Sonora	7:30 p.m.
Nov. 7	*Reagan County	7:30 p.m.

* denotes district game

I'm looking forward to playing Colorado City myself. We owe back a lot of people this year," Jurado

said. These seniors are looking to go out in style.

Redskins' Westbrook finally says he's sorry

By Joseph White
AP Sports Writer

ASHBURN, Va. — Michael Westbrook strode out of the locker room, whistled an upbeat tune, scratched his head, shared a laugh with a member of the Redskins staff, then walked out the back door into a sea of microphones and did his duty.

"I thought it was very important that I came out here to say an apology to Redskins fans, the owner, my teammates, because it's a great embarrassment for the way I reacted out there on the field," Westbrook said in a soft-spoken, rehearsed manner.

"I think it's important now just to move on and not let this thing be a distraction to my team. We have to come together, and I learned a great lesson Tuesday. Thank you."

Westbrook then turned and went back inside Redskins Park, refusing to take any questions about his bloody attack six days ago on teammate Stephen Davis.

Without more insight from Westbrook, it remains a mystery what prompted the third-year receiver to punch Davis several times on the sidelines during a practice, leaving the running back face down and bleeding. Westbrook has been fined \$50,000 for the attack, was suspended for last week's exhibition game at Miami and will not start Sunday's regular season opener against Carolina.

The Redskins have reportedly asked him to undergo counseling.

"Something like this you just don't put behind you in one day," coach Norv Turner said. "There's a process you go through, and we're going to be going through that process."

Monday was not only Westbrook's first public statement since the punch-up, but was also his first practice since. He apologized privately to Davis and then to the rest of the team Saturday, but left before the players took the field.

More Sports/1D

With the Redskins operating under their regular-season rules, reporters were allowed to watch only the last 15 minutes of Monday's practice. Westbrook appeared to take part without incident.

"I didn't see any problems," quarterback Gus Frerotte said. "I think everything went fine, went smooth. Michael's back in the system, and we need him back."

Davis, his vision back to normal after having his eye swollen shut by Westbrook's punches, also practiced. He has denied provoking Westbrook, although sources indicate Davis was taunting Westbrook and called him a name. Davis also has refused to rule out legal action.

Turner would not say who would start at receiver at Carolina — although it's almost certain to be Alvin Harper and Henry Ellard — or how much Westbrook will play. But the demotion of the No. 4 overall draft pick in 1995 is another blow to an aggressively self-confident man who has spent more time talking about his talent than displaying it through two injury-plagued seasons.

"You all know what I think of myself. I think I'm great," Westbrook said with a straight face during training camp. "I don't care where I was drafted. I could've been picked 21st in the draft. Fortunately I was picked fourth and I made a lot of money, but I don't care. I just think that I'm that good. Let me stay healthy, God willing, I'm going to be that good. I'm not being cocky or nothing, it's just the way I think."

Westbrook, whose nonchalant attitude toward workouts and practices has irritated coaches, has caught only two touchdown passes in 68 receptions over two seasons.

Sapp's attorney claims client was arrested after illegal stop

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — A tape of the 911 call that alerted police to an alleged drug transaction involving Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive tackle Warren Sapp was played in court Monday.

Sapp was charged with misdemeanor marijuana possession after police, acting on the anonymous tip, stopped the football player's Mercedes in June and found 3.7 grams of marijuana in the car's console and nine more in a backpack that a passenger told police did not belong to Sapp.

A motion filed by attorney Ronald P. Hanes contends the June 7 traffic stop was illegal, noting that police observed no reasonable suspicion of criminal activity and that Sapp did not violate any traffic laws.

The caller on the 911 tape is heard identifying Sapp as one of two men who entered a home in an east Tampa neighborhood to purchase drugs from a third man. Police also were provided with the

license plate number of the player's car and a description of the clothing that Sapp and the other man were wearing.

Sapp, who pleaded innocent and has not commented on the case publicly, did not attend Monday's hearing before Hillsborough Circuit Judge James V. Dominguez. Hanes urged that the evidence be suppressed because police didn't corroborate information received from the 911 call before stopping Sapp's vehicle.

Prosecutor Melissa Polo presented four witnesses, including a communications supervisor who relayed details of the 911 call to a police dispatcher.

Two officers sent to the scene in an unmarked car testified they parked near the house and observed Sapp's car outside the home. However, they did not notice any suspicious activity or get a good enough look at the men to identify Sapp when the men left the house.

RANGERS: Greenwood must start well

(From 1C)

playoff teams Colorado City and Crane.

"It's tough to pick from both of them (of who's favored to win district)," Purser said. "Crane is a little bigger but Colorado City is a little faster."

In order to contend for that district title, the Rangers should know after the third game of district play. By then, a trip to Colorado City and home games against Kermit and Crane will be under their belts.

"By then we'll know whether we're in it or not," Purser said. "We're playing the top three opponents in the first three games."

Aside from getting the top tailbacks healthy for the Rangers'

wishbone offense, Purser said that the offense just needs to gel and gain some confidence.

"Usually teams go one way or the other," Purser said. "This team just needs for good things to happen to them. They need to win and have that confidence. If they'll do that then maybe they'll head into the right direction."

"When you have a young group like we did last year, you kind of take your lumps. And then when you have a senior group like we have now, you expect to be successful."

Early on, as with any team, the defense is going to have to shine while the offense gets that much-needed confidence. During two-a-days, Purser called his defense the strongest part of his team because

of the injury to the tailbacks on offense. The defense is led by junior linebacker Leeland Foster, who averaged nine tackles per game in '96, and defensive linemen Michael Glasscock, Jason Brooks, and Mario Jurado.

"We have a lot of strength on the defense, we have a lot of quickness, and I think it'll come through," said Jurado, a senior defensive tackle.

Offensively, at full strength, nine starters return with Michael Otho leading the charge at quarterback for the second straight year.

"Usually when we have a quarterback return as starter, then usually our offense is a little better because of the confidence at that position," Purser said.

"I think we have a chance to be pretty good," Otho said. "We've got a lot of young talent and we've got a lot more experience this year than we did last year. Our line is definitely an improvement with a lot more size up front. We also have a lot of people playing one way this year instead of playing both ways."

With Otho, Morrison and McFadden, there are also two experienced fullbacks in Foster and senior Tyrell Warren.

"We owe a lot of people this year," Otho said. "I think that if we play together and we work hard as a team, I think we'll have a successful season. I look forward to making the playoffs."

Things are definitely looking good in Ranger country.

SMU figures to have plenty of arms and legs

By Whit Canning
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Having settled his quarterback problem for the moment, SMU coach Mike Cavan says the Mustangs might be able to kick the stuffing out of several opponents this year.

Cavan says he has two outstanding quarterbacks, starter Ramon Flanigan and backup Chris Sanders, and two formidable kickers, senior Anthony Scotti and freshman Roy Rios. Flanigan, beginning his sixth year at SMU, has been selected as the starter over Sanders, a highly regarded redshirt freshman from Marcus.

"I guess I could have decided that a little earlier, but I really wanted to make sure they both came out here ready to compete for the job and play their best," Cavan said.

"Does this mean that Ramon played better than Chris? No, it doesn't. Actually, they were pretty even. They both played well, and

I still feel that they will each see a lot of playing time this year."

"But I thought that Ramon deserved the chance to start because of who he is and what he's done here. He's meant a lot to this program over the last several years; he's meant a lot to this school."

"But we also have to build for the future, and I think everyone understands that. So Chris will see a lot of playing time, too. Right now, Ramon has more experience, so I think we need him in there."

Flanigan, who took one redshirt year and was awarded another by the NCAA for medical hardship, has amassed 6,460 total yards and needs 425 more to become the most prolific back in SMU history. He is also comfortable with Cavan's I-formation attack, since he ran it in high school.

Sanders threw for more than 7,500 yards in high school and was the state's Class 5A offensive player of the year in 1995.

As for the kicking game, Cavan said he thinks both kickers will do well, but he's still concerned about the supporting cast.

"Scotti is a fine punter, and I'm sure he'll be OK," Cavan said. "We just need to make sure we've got people who can snap the ball to him and go downfield on coverage. I'm more concerned about the punting unit than the punter."

Scotti, entering his fourth season as the team's punter, averaged 41.4 yards on 43 punts last year.

Rios, a freshman from Harlingen, was an all-state selection and was on some All-America teams last year after hitting two 49-yard field goals and punting for a 43-yard average. During his career at Harlingen he made 33 of 42 field-goal attempts.

He also played quarterback, throwing for 975 yards last year.

"I like kickers who have played at another position, because they understand the game and know what's going on," Cavan said.

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Blazers

By Bob

AP SPORT

Trail Blazers sit on the sidelines, took a hit from the agent.

Grant, that, son, lion over, largely for the Blazers.

After was his, ago, and just 24, scopie worry.

"He's the man who always positive think we Whitsett really, and a qu, son, If t, the gam, single d.

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Photo Rob \$1 m

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Blazer owner defends large Grant contract

By Bob Baum
AP Sports Writer

PORTLAND, Ore. — Portland Trail Blazers president Bob Whitsitt scoffs at suggestions that he took a huge gamble in signing free agent Brian Grant to a big contract.

Grant signed a deal Saturday that, sources say, is worth \$63 million over seven years. Signing a largely unproven young player for that kind of money could leave the Blazers stuck if he doesn't live up to expectations.

After all, Grant's best season was his rookie year, three years ago, and last season he played in just 24 games because of arthroscopic shoulder surgery. Not to worry, Whitsitt said Monday.

"He's the premier free agent on the market, a 25-year-old player who already is ready to do a lot of positive things, and a player we think will continue to improve," Whitsitt said. "He is a guy who really wanted to be in Portland, and a quality guy, a first-class person. If that's a gamble, these are the gambles we want to take every single day."

Whitsitt wouldn't talk about specifics of the deal, but he said the Blazers did not exceed Grant's market value. Grant's agent said Cleveland came up with a late offer that exceeded Portland's, but Grant wanted to play for the Blazers.

Grant is listed at 6-foot-9, although some scouts say he's shorter than that. He has played mostly at power forward, but that spot is reserved for Rasheed Wallace in Portland. The Blazers figure Grant can play small forward against most teams.

Grant and Wallace "are two of the best running frontcourt guys in the game and running together, they should be quite a tandem," Whitsitt said.

Whitsitt said Grant gives the Blazers yet another option in what has become a roster crowded with front-court players.

"I don't think we have to label the forwards," Whitsitt said. "If you just take the forwards on our team, whether it's Rasheed, Brian Grant, Jermaine O'Neal, Gary Trent, Donte Williams, or Stacey Augmon, there are a whole bunch of ways you can match up."

"The more strengths we have on the floor, the harder it will be for visiting teams to take anything away from us," Whitsitt said. "I think we're very, very strong in the front court. If that's the problem — that we have too many good players in the front court — that's something we can sort out down the road."

Trent, who has had several brushes with the law this year, could be trade material. His contract is up after one more year. Wingfield also could be trading material.

But the biggest question mark surrounds backup center Chris Dudley. The Yale graduate's decision to opt out of the final three years, and \$13 million, of his contract with Portland seems hard to understand. Now he's re-signed with the Blazers for the league minimum of \$272,250.

Several newspapers, including The Oregonian, have reported that the Blazers had tried to trade Dudley to the New York Knicks but were thwarted by the NBA front office.

The three-team deal would send Dudley to New York and John Wallace from the Knicks to Toronto. Portland would get a first-round draft pick.

The catch apparently was whether the Knicks would be able to give Dudley a big pay raise after one season under the "Larry Bird" exception.

Phoenix signs Robinson for \$1 million deal

PHOENIX (AP) — The Phoenix Suns tried to trade for Clifford Robinson. When NBA free agency began July 1, he was the first player they called.

Their courtship of the 6-foot-10 free agent paid off Monday, when Robinson accepted a one-year, \$1 million contract — all the Suns could offer under their salary cap exemption.

Robinson, who ranks second in Portland history in block shots (726) and 3-pointers (492) after eight years with the Trail Blazers, said he was influenced by the desire to remain close to his two sons in Portland and by the fact that Suns coach Danny Ainge is a former teammate.

"It's not the best situation as far as salary is concerned but, all things considered, next year they'll have a lot of capital and I'll be able, hopefully, to go out there and show what my value is," Robinson said.

Robinson was seeking up to \$6 million a year, but poor performances during the playoffs the past few years dropped his stock.

Portland has been knocked out of the playoffs in the first round each of the past five years, and Robinson's career playoff scoring average is 10.3 points, compared with 16.2 during the season.

Agent Bradley Marshall said he discussed his client with teams on both coasts.

"Of course, everyone wanted Clifford to come there," Marshall said.

The deal is similar to one that brought Danny Manning to the Suns three years ago. Manning turned down better money on the promise that he would be rehired after his initial contract ended and compensated for the one-year loss of income.

Even though Manning tore a tendon midway through the 1994-95 season, Suns president Jerry Colangelo kept his word and gave him a multiyear contract worth about \$6 million a year.

Ainge said he pushed for the acquisition because of Robinson's ability to play any of the three inside positions, as he often did for the Blazers. That ended Saturday, when Portland renounced its rights to Robinson, 30, and three other players to clear cap room to sign Brian Grant and re-sign Chris Dudley.

"One thing that stands out in my mind about Cliff is his effort, his intensity, his ability to play a versatile style of basketball," said Ainge, who spent two seasons with the Blazers before he came to the Suns as a free agent in July 1992.

Mark Bryant, who played seven of his nine seasons with Portland, also is on the Suns' roster.

Robinson was the last link to the Blazers teams that made the NBA Finals in 1990 and 1992 and has been in the playoffs every season of his career. The Suns also have made eight straight playoffs.

He averaged 15.1 points and 4.0 rebounds last season, his lowest numbers in five years, but still became the fifth Blazer to score over 10,000 career points and finished the season third on the list with 10,045.

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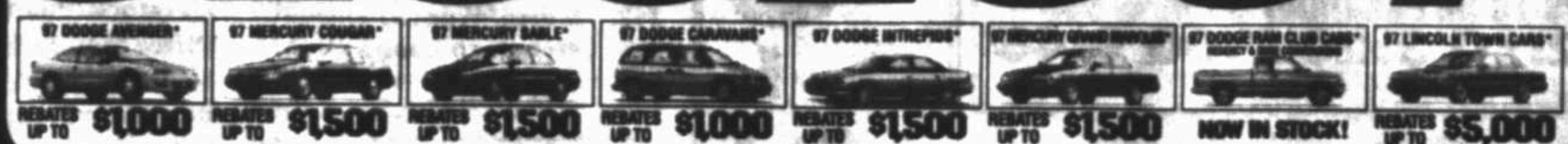
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Eight. Regency. \$5,500 miles. White/Blue interior. Spoke wheels. Excellent condition. \$3,500. 683-3390.

CADILLAC 1987 Fleetwood
Well maintained, excellent condition, really nice. Runs great. Leather. Will consider trade-in. \$4,190. 694-0300.

PONTIAC 1994 Sunbird 2 door, automatic, power door locks, am/fm cassette, 2 new tires, 31K miles. \$6,800. Call, 689-8732.

CHEVROLET 1985 Caprice
Station Wagon. \$1,350. Would make good family car. 697-7269.

CHEVROLET 1978 Corvette
L82. Highest book from 1974. 1989. Cold air, aluminum wheels, new paint, new leather. Matching numbers. \$8,995 699-1748.

CADILLAC 1987 Brougham D
Elegance, blue with blue leather interior, 4 door, well maintained. \$5,500. After 5, 694-1290.

CHRYSLER 1996 Sebring JX
convertible, green with L, top, leather, 13,000 miles, 6 disc CD. \$17,500. 685-3227.

PLYMOUTH 1993 ACCLAIM 4 door. Electric locks, tilt, cruise, rear defogger, AM-FM cassette. Will consider trade. \$4,475. 563-7615, pager.

SATURN 1993 SL2 Loaded, sporty, sunroof, extended warranty. \$9,000. Big Spring, 264-6607, after 4 pm.

210 Autos Imports

AUDI 1984 4000S, automatic, red, great school car, lots of new. \$3,650 o. b. o. 687-5708.

HONDA 1991 Prelude, 40K miles, excellent condition, automatic. Runs great. 694-3005.

HYUNDAI 1993, Scoupe, Sporty, 2 door, automatic, air, clean. 56K. Below wholesale, \$4,400 682-6924.

VOLKSWAGEN 1974 bus, Pop top camper, air, am/fm cassette, low miles on 2,000 c.c. engine. \$2,650 520-8599.

210 Autos Imports

MITSUBISHI 1995 Galant
Must sell immediately. Automatic, burgundy, tinted. Must see. Will take payoff of note only \$11,999. 94-1203.

MERCEDES 1986 420 SEL
Totally restored, new engine, transmission, tires, brakes, radiator, excellent. \$16,900. Call 682-8276 days, 699-0389 evenings.

TOYOTA 1995 CAMRY, Two door, white with tinted windows. 21K asking \$14,900. 570-7852, 683-1747.

BMW 1990 735i Dark cherry, gray leather, hands free phone, guaranteed 150 mph, non smoker, no children. \$13,900. Pager 560-2549.

HONDA 1995 Civic DX
hatchback, red, 5 speed, 68K, immaculate, 40 mpg. Maintenance records available. Second owner. \$8,850. Call, 697-2100.

Honda 1995 Civic EX
2 door, low miles, power windows & door locks, tilt, cruise, alloy wheels, moonroof.

HYUNDAI 1992 Scoupe good condition. \$2,500. 520-6033 after 5:00.

LEXUS 1995 SC400 One Owner. Coupe, pearl /tan leather, 50K miles. Below wholesale - \$32,950. 684-5824, 682-7752.

MAZDA 1990 929 Fully loaded, sunroof, tinted glass. Priced to sell. See at 700 Andrews Highway, Midland. 682-3897/694-5809.

MITSUBISHI 1992 Eclipse 2 door coupe. Great back to school car! Must sell \$6,500. 685-0970.

SAAB 1989 9000CD Turbo
Loaded, leather seats, new air, very good condition. \$9,500. 699-4058.

210 Autos Imports

TOYOTA 1995 Avalon XLS
Ruby pearl, leather, anti-lock brakes, moonroof, premium sound, low miles.
Special price! \$21,495

TOYOTA 1997 Camry LE
Power windows & door locks, tilt, cruise, cassette, auto. 3 to choose from!
Competitively priced!

TOYOTA 1997 Corolla
Low miles. Automatic, air, power steering & brakes. Toyota quality at a low price!
3 to choose from!

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To assist general counsel of independent gas and oil company. Non-smoking, self-starter with superior verbal and written communication skills, must be proficient in MS Word 7.0. Professional Legal Secretary. Certification required. Certified Legal Assistant desired. Salary negotiable, depending upon qualifications. Tom Brown, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer, offering excellent benefits. Please mail resume to:

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or Fax to: (915)682-9707

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318 Sales Help Wanted

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AUTOCAD OPERATORS wanted with piping and instrument walkdown experience. Must be level 1 AutoCad Certified in release 13 or higher. AutoCad. Requisite Testing. Send resume to: Drafting, P.O. Box 10863, Midland, TX 79702-0863.

CONSULTANT Stay Together Consultant. Bachelor's Degree and two years experience working with children and families. One year of related experience may be substituted for one year of college. Spanish/Bilingual required. Reimbursed travel within a 17 county area serving families in their home. 20K annually. E.O.E. Please call for application or pick up at High Sky Children's Ranch Stay Together, 8701 W. County Rd. 60, Midland, TX 79707 (915)699-1466.

DIRECTOR Terrace Gardens Nursing Center. Director of Nurses. Long term care experience required. Apply in person only. Resume with references. George Garock, Facility Administrator, 2901 W. Ohio, Midland.

ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD Technician for Midland Office. 0-2 years environmental experience. Science or technical background preferred. Salary plus benefits. Submit resumes to E & G, 2208 A Warehouse Road, Midland, Texas 79703, Attn: Scott.

FAMILIES TOGETHER Consultant. Bachelor's Degree in a related field working with children and families. Reimbursed travel within a 17 county area serving families in their home. 20K annually. E.O.E. Please call for application or pick up at High Sky Children's Ranch Families Together, 8701 W. County Road 60, Midland, TX 79707 (915) 520-8370.

FINANCIAL CONSULTANT Merrill Lynch. We are looking for individuals who have a minimum level of personal achievement to fill the position of financial consultant in our Midland office. Qualified applicants should send their resume to: 1901 University, Lubbock, TX 79410 Attention: Resident Vice President.

FULL TIME Maintenance person required. Previous experience in plumbing, air conditioning, and electrical work would be a plus. Apply in person at Ramada Inn, Midland Airport.

TEACHER for Mother's Day Out class, Tuesday/Thursday. Experience required, education degree preferred. 684-3063.

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*CASHIER/BOOKER

Immediate opening for a cashier/booker. Benefits include:

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- Paid Vacation
- Health Insurance
- Sick Leave

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Friendly Pontiac

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Secretary West Texas Bank is seeking Consumer Lending Secretary with two-three years experience in installment loans. Must have good verbal, written and interpersonal skills. Candidates should have successfully completed one two years college. Send resume to: Box P-06038, c/o Midland Reporter-Telegram, P.O. Box 1650, Midland, TX 79702. An equal opportunity employer.

DATA ENTRY/Computer Clerk. Apply 602 N. Baird, Ste 200, Midland.

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PART-TIME Clerk, \$6 an hour, keyboard proficiency, good communication skills. Send resume to: Benny Patterson, 4500 W. Illinois, Ste 310, Midland, Texas 79703. No phone calls please.

HYDRAULIC SERVICEMAN capable of troubleshooting systems, repair of pumps and valves. Hourly wage determined by experience. Must have own tool kit, Paid Insurance and uniforms. 1001 W. Florida.

LABORERS AND WELDERS wanted for metal building erection. 2 years minimum experience. Salary DOE. 520-9421.

MACHINIST NEEDED

Engine Lathe or Mill Operator. 2 years experience. Must be able to read blueprints & have own tools. Benefits include: Paid vacation, uniforms, holidays, medical insurance. Salary DOE. Call 686-0405

NEEDED SHEET METAL

worker, requirements: 5 years experience, read blueprints, fabricate and install duct work & supervise others. Great benefit package, salary DOE. Call Raul at 915-685-0003.

PAINTERS, drywall finishers, wall covering installers needed immediately. Must have 5 years experience. Apply in person 3009 Garden City Highway, Suite C. Call 570-8558.

PLUMBERS - must be experienced and licensed. Service work - residential and commercial. Must have good driving record. Great benefits package. Call Jimmy, 915-685-0003.

TRUCK DRIVER/warehouse man. Must have class CDL with HazMat endorsement. Good driving record required. EOE. Pioneer Chemical, Inc. 4315 South CR 1290 Odessa, Texas 7765. (915) 663-0030.

WELDERS. Lead Hand Welder must pass 6-G Test. Salary depends on experience. Excellent benefits. Apply at Don-Nan Pump & Supply Co., 3427 E. Garden City Hwy. No phone calls please.

REBAR TIRES/Rod busters. MUST be experienced. Drug testing mandatory. 563-0456.

319 Oil Industry Help Wanted

PETROLEUM ENGINEER & FIELD SUPERINTENDENT

Field operations, workover, drilling experience. Send resumes: Box 4863, Wichita Falls, TX 76308.

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Seeking Service Advisors, Domestic and Import Technicians

Great Working Environment

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An industry leader in the Permian Basin would like to talk to you today about becoming part of our Dawson team. We are looking for people who are dedicated, hard working, willing to make a commitment and establish a stable career.

We offer competitive wages, career advancement. Benefits package includes, medical/dental/vision insurance, short-term disability, life insurance, vacation, safety incentives, a safety award program and a 401k plan.

TRAINEES & EXPERIENCED WELL PULLERS

Immediate Openings

Must have in-hand current Texas Drivers License; Class A CDL is a plus, must pass drug screen and physical. Please apply in person at:

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

OILFIELD - Monahans Area. Needed Experienced Oilfield Pole Linemen and Hole Digger Operator. Minimum 5 years experience. Vacation, 401K, Medical. Call 1-800-396-8177.

PUMPER with 30 years experience WANTED more wells. Will also do Roustabout. Call 559-7499 or 687-5966.

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*ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

Minimum requirements for this position are as follows:

- AS Degree in Electronics and/or Electronics exp.
- Troubleshooting Electronics to component level
- Electronics testing and assembly

Send resumes to: Production Manager

P.O. Box 9157 Midland, Texas 79708-9157

CERTIFIED HVAC Maintenance, salary negotiable. Apply in person: Canyon Creek Apartments, 5422 West Loop 250.

CUTTER OPERATOR. Progressive commercial printing company is seeking two experienced high quality cutter operators for our 3rd shift. If you are a team player with commercial experience, we need you. Applicants must have 4+ years experience and be willing to work overtime as needed. Your future is with Teraco. Apply in confidence to: Plant Manager, Teraco, Inc., P.O. Box 3170, Midland, Texas 79702.

DRYWALL FINISHER. 5 years experience preferred. Full time position. Leave message, 559-4879.

HYDRAULIC SERVICEMAN capable of troubleshooting systems, repair of pumps and valves. Hourly wage determined by experience. Must have own tool kit, Paid Insurance and uniforms. 1001 W. Florida.

LABORERS AND WELDERS wanted for metal building erection. 2 years minimum experience. Salary DOE. 520-9421.

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DRYWALL FINISHER. 5 years experience preferred. Full time position. Leave message, 559-4879.

HYDRAULIC SERVICEMAN capable of troubleshooting systems, repair of pumps and valves. Hourly wage determined by experience. Must have own tool kit, Paid Insurance and uniforms. 1001 W. Florida.

LABORERS AND WELDERS wanted for metal building erection. 2 years minimum experience. Salary DOE. 520-9421.

MACHINIST NEEDED

Engine Lathe or Mill Operator. 2 years experience. Must be able to read blueprints & have own tools. Benefits include: Paid vacation, uniforms, holidays, medical insurance. Salary DOE. Call 686-0405

NEEDED SHEET METAL

worker, requirements: 5 years experience, read blueprints, fabricate and install duct work & supervise others. Great benefit package, salary DOE. Call Raul at 915-685-0003.

PAINTERS, drywall finishers, wall covering installers needed immediately. Must have 5 years experience. Apply in person 3009 Garden City Highway, Suite C. Call 570-8558.

PLUMBERS - must be experienced and licensed. Service work - residential and commercial. Must have good driving record. Great benefits package. Call Jimmy, 915-685-0003.

TRUCK DRIVER/warehouse man. Must have class CDL with HazMat endorsement. Good driving record required. EOE. Pioneer Chemical, Inc. 4315 South CR 1290 Odessa, Texas 7765. (915) 663-0030.

WELDERS. Lead Hand Welder must pass 6-G Test. Salary depends on experience. Excellent benefits. Apply at Don-Nan Pump & Supply Co., 3427 E. Garden City Hwy. No phone calls please.

REBAR TIRES/Rod busters. MUST be experienced. Drug testing mandatory. 563-0456.

320 Skilled Trades

*ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

Minimum requirements for this position are as follows:

- AS Degree in Electronics and/or Electronics exp.
- Troubleshooting Electronics to component level
- Electronics testing and assembly

Send resumes to: Production Manager

P.O. Box 9157 Midland, Texas 79708-9157

CERTIFIED HVAC Maintenance, salary negotiable. Apply in person: Canyon Creek Apartments, 5422 West Loop 250.

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GARAGE SALES

Hidden treasures? Just? Buy/sell your unwanted items! Call 682-2222 today. A friendly qualified customer will help you make the most of your garage sale.

79703

GARAGE SALE SERVICES

SALE 117 THORNBRIDGE Sunday, Monday, Tuesday. Shop cabinets, screen tent, desk, lamp, storm door, bathtub shower doors, Guess, Pepe and Wrangler jeans and lots of miscellaneous.

\$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20

GARAGE SALE AD PACKAGE \$20

*7 Lines (approx. 28-35 words) *2 Days

*Garage Sale Kit (Includes Signs, Stakes, Marker, Balloons, Helpful Hints, \$5 Value)

*Package of Flavored Drink Mix (For the Kids to Open a Drink Stand!)

*\$3.00 Classified Coupon (Place an ad to sell those left-over garage sale items & get \$3 off)

Or Get 3 Days for Only \$24!

Call 682-6222 Today!

\$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20 \$20

GARAGE SALE SERVICES

DON'T MISS OUT!

The deadline for a Saturday Garage Sale is Friday at Noon.

Please be sure to call 682-6222, before noon, to ensure your ad will be in Saturday's paper.

Tami, Pam, Brandi, Pat, Paula or Sandy are ready to help you!

341 Child Care Providers

LEARNING PROGRAM for toddlers. Clean, safe, loving environment. Breakfast, lunch snack. First aid/ CPR, 694-9871.

REGISTERED - QUALITY Child care, Monday thru Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. Lunch and snacks provided. Please call 697-5226.

350 Business Opportunities

SEIZED CARS from \$175. Porches, Cadillac, Chevy, BMW's, Corvettes, Also, Jeeps, 4WD's. Your Area. Toll Free 1-800-218-9000 Ext A-1523 for current listings.

Attention Readers

Occasionally ads found in this section come from distant points and the Midland Reporter-Telegram cannot always keep the merits of the ads. We suggest when you are in doubt that you call the Better Business Bureau before signing any contract.

CHILDRENS CLOTHING Store. Great opportunity. Call for more information. Days 520-9779, nights 520-7935.

PERMANENT BASIN Personnel Agency, very lucrative. Reply to: P.O. Box 4682, Midland TX 79702.</

NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 16, 1997 the City of Midland (City), Midland County, Texas will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for the following:

Environmental Assessment Projects: Removal of Dilapidated Structures (\$62,000); Park Improvements at Ullmer Park (\$31,400); Hill Park (\$17,150); Garret-Brown Park (\$20,000); Hidalgo Park (\$14,300); Taylor Park (\$17,150); Midland Soup Kitchen Facility Improvements (\$20,000); Salvation Army Shelter for Women and Children (\$20,000); Boys & Girls Club Half Park Facility Improvements (\$10,000).

Categorically Excluded Projects: Homeownership Incentive Program (\$63,000); Housing Rehabilitation (\$280,000).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT It has been determined that such a request of release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the City has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190). The reason for such decision not to prepare such a Statement is based upon the fact that all environmental concerns could either be minimized or mitigated.

The City has prepared an Environmental Review Record (ERR) on the above projects which documents the environmental review of the projects and set forth the reasons why an EIS is not required. The ERR is on file in the Community Development Office, City Hall, at the address below and is available during regular business hours for public examination and copying upon request.

No further environmental review of the projects is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of Federal funds.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON FINDINGS. All interested agencies, groups and persons desiring with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration to the City at the address set forth below. Written comments should be received at the address specified on or before September 10, 1997. All comments received will be considered and the City will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified above.

RELEASE OF FUNDS The City will undertake the projects described above with Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the fiscal 1997 program under grant number 8-97-MC-48-0023 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The City is certifying to HUD that the City and Mr. Robt. E. Burns, Jr. in his official capacity as Mayor, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval the City may use the Block Grant funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act. HUD will accept an objection to its approval only on one of the following bases: (a) that the certifications were not in fact executed by the certifying officer or other officer of the City approved by HUD; or (b) that the ERR for this project indicates omission of a required decision, finding or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) and should be addressed to HUD, P.O. Box 2905, Fort Worth, Texas 76113-2905. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by HUD. No objections received after September 30, 1997, will be considered by HUD.

Robt. E. Burns, Mayor
City of Midland, Texas
300 N. Lorraine
P.O. Box 1152
Midland, Texas, 79702

Legal Notices
appropriate Federal laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will ensure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award. Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Tom R. Mangrum, Area Engineer, Alpine, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction and Maintenance Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the bidder.

REQUEST FOR BIDS ON TEXAS HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION
Sealed proposals for 2.732 km of miscellaneous construction on US 67 from intersection FM 170 and US 637 N. of Cibola Creek Bridge to International Bridge on US 67 covered by CD 104-9-28 and BU 67-A from intersection of BU 67 and Spur 203 covered by CD 104-11-5 in Presidio County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., September 9, 1997, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!! GPM GAS CORPORATION TRIAD AREA

Encourages any person planning to dig to call TESS (Texas Excavation Safety System) 48 Hours in advance. TESS will contact member/owners of buried facilities and piping before you dig. Triad personnel will mark our lines for you. This will make your excavation job safe.

TESS: 1-800-344-8377

GPM SPRAYBERRY PLANT: 915-368-1715
OR 1-800-666-5027

GPM ODESSA 24 HOUR EMERGENCY:
1-800-367-1266

THE GPM TRIAD AREA HAS GAS PIPELINES IN CROCKETT, GLASSCOCK, HOWARD, MARTIN, MIDLAND, MITCHELL, REAGAN AND UPTON COUNTIES.

GPM Gas Corporation, owned by Phillips Gas Company a wholly owned subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum Co., is a major gatherer, processor and marketer of natural gas and the largest producer of natural gas liquids in the United States.

ADVISO PUBLICO

LLAME ANTES DE EXCAVAR GPM GAS CORPORATION ÁREA TRIAD

Le pide a cualquier persona que pensando excavar que llame al Sistema de Seguridad de Excavación en Texas (TESS en inglés) 48 horas con anticipación. TESS se pondrá en contacto con miembros/ dueños de facilidades y oleoductos enterrados antes de que ud. escave. El personal de Triad le señalará a ud. nuestra línea. Esto hará que su trabajo de excavación sea seguro.

TESS: 1-800-344-8377

PLANTA SPRAYBERRY DE GPM: 915-368-1715
O 1-800-666-5027

PARA EMERGENCIAS LAS 24 HORAS EN LA OFICINA
DE GPM EN ODESSA:
1-800-367-1266

EN EL AREA TRIAD, GPM TIENE LINEAS DE GAS EN LOS CONDADOS CROCKETT, GLASSCOCK, HOWARD, MARTIN, MIDLAND, REAGAN Y UPTON.

GPM Gas Corporation, propiedad de Phillips Gas Company, una compañía subsidiaria que es completamente propiedad de Phillips Petroleum Co., es una de las principales recolectoras, procesadoras, y vendedoras de gas natural y la mayor productora de líquidos de gas natural en los Estados Unidos.

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2 BEDROOM duplex. Jacuzzi, courtyard, totally private. \$650 monthly plus deposit. 570-8000 days, 570-0511 evenings.

LEASE/ Sale. 2 Bedrooms, 1 bath, garage, appliances with washer & dryer hookups. No house pets. \$400 per month, \$350 deposit. Or call 822-5500. 2614 Roosevelt. 694-4815.

2206 NEELY 5 bedroom, 4 1/2 bath, 2 story. Pool, brick floors. \$1,800 monthly. Carriage Co. Realtors 694-5881.

4010 AVONDALE. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, living area. \$450 month, \$250 deposit. 697-2148, after 5.

LEASE/ Lease Purchase. Three bedroom, 2 bath, 2 living areas. \$575 monthly. 682-8816. Tierra Realtors.

DUPLEX. 2503 Baynes, 1,600 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, large living area, fireplace, carpet. New paint, central air. \$625 a month plus \$300 deposit. 520-0238.

3 BEDROOM, 2 1/2 Bath, Living Room, Dining room, Study, Pet deposit. Creditable area. \$1,100 month. Call 915-694-2859.

4 BEDROOMS, 3 baths, 2 living areas, formal dining. \$1,200 monthly. 682-5775 or 688-5672.

EXECUTIVE 3 Bedroom, Formal dining room, pool & jacuzzi. Totally private! \$900 month. 570-6900, 570-0511 after 6.

FOR LEASE: Duplex. 3 Bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage, fireplace, new carpet & paint. \$700 month, 1 Year lease. No pets. Like new condition! 4011-A Illinois. Call Norma Barnes, Re/Max of Midland, 682-8820.

LEASE OR BUY- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, den, living room, new carpet. Garage, fenced yard. No Pets. Good References. \$400 monthly/ deposit. 684-7725.

SEVERAL nice homes & apartments. \$250-\$725. Jeannie Printz, Agent 684-8202.

602 W. STOREY. 4 bedroom-2 1/2 bath. Large remodeled older home. Central air. Fireplace. \$750/ month. \$375 deposit. Williams & Assoc., 694-9663.

LEASE/ SALE 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, large living area with free standing fireplace, formal dining, large backyard with patio and dog run. Close to elementary school and downtown. Great starter home! \$550 per month. First and last plus deposit. Sell \$44,500. Call 682-4575.

OFFICE WAREHOUSE space for lease. 800 to 40,000 Square Feet. Some with fenced yards. 683-8681.

750 - 1,500 Square feet, office, warehouse, secured yard, overhead door, heat and air. 683-5697. 520-8666 or 682-4789.

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