

The Castro County News

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, January 25, 2001

50¢

14 pages plus supplements

76th year—No. 43



JACKIE BYRNES (LEFT), TEACHER OF THE YEAR
... Accepts award from past winner, **Kathy Lust**

Photo by Linda Maxwell



ANN HENDERSON ACCEPTS 'CITIZENS THROUGH YEARS' AWARD
... Good friend **Brenda Bruton** awards plaque

Photo by Anne Acker



JOE JOSSELET (LEFT) IS CITIZEN OF THE YEAR
... Presenting plaque is **Barbara Bain**

Photo by Anne Acker

Byrnes, Josselet, Hendersons, Jones win honors

A crowd topping 250 enjoyed a melt-in-your mouth filet mignon dinner and celebrated with Jackie Byrnes, Ann Henderson, Joe Josselet, and the crew at E.M. Jones Ditching Co. as they were presented the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce's top awards Saturday evening at the Expo Building.

Byrnes was named the Teacher of the Year; Henderson and her late husband, Bill, were honored as Citizens Through the Years; Josselet was recognized as the Citizen of the Year; and E.M. Jones Ditching was named the Chamber Member of the Year.

Cheryle Pybus of Dimmitt served as emcee for the event and guest speaker was Tony Crone, a teacher with the Nazareth Independent School District.

Crone spoke about the importance of community unity and reminded Dimmitt citizens to work together and stand by each other, similar to the way a flock of geese support each other as they fly from one destination to another.

Dimmitt businesses decorated tables for the event, following the banquet's theme of *Castro County: Cattle, Cotton, Corn 'n Cowboys*.

Those receiving special recognition for their table decor were Dimmitt Printing and Office Supply, which received the "Best Ranching Display Award;" Castro Co-op Gin (table decor by Darreen Collins),

Best Farming Display Award;" and First Texas Federal Land Bank, "Best Overall Table Award."

The top door prize which was two round-trip Southwest Airlines tickets, good for anywhere Southwest flies in the Continental US, were won by Cindy Seward. Wayne Collins received the second door prize, which was a set of Castro County Commemorative Coins.

Citizen of the Year

Joe Josselet

Josselet moved to Dimmitt 25 years ago and immediately became active in community and school projects.

He was described as someone who "the community can depend on when something needs doing," by Barbara Bain, who presented him with the Citizen of the Year award Saturday night.

He was born and raised in Haskell and graduated from high school there. He attended Lubbock Christian College on a track scholarship. He transferred to Texas Tech University, where he earned his degree. He served with the Army National Guard for six years.

He worked for Plainview Savings and Loan before moving with his wife, Pam, and their baby daughter to Dimmitt where he went to work for High Plains Savings and Loan.



BILL SAVA PRESENTS CHAMBER MEMBER OF THE YEAR PLAQUE
... Leroy Edwards (left) accepts for E.M. Jones Ditching Co.

Photo by Anne Acker

He accepted a job with First State Bank 20 years ago and he is still employed with the institution—now First United Bank—today, serving as senior vice president.

Josselet has served as a coach,

referee and umpire at various sporting events through the years as he raised his three children here. Each graduated from Dimmitt High School.

He has been actively involved in

the Bobcat and Bobbie Booster Club for the past 15 years and served as the group's president twice.

"You might find him painting yard signs, working in the concession stand, organizing send-offs, selling shirts or caps or assisting with the Bobcat Relays," Bain said.

The Lions Club has been another organization that has benefitted from Josselet's work, and he has served as the president and "tail-twister" for the club in past years. He has helped organize the club's annual broom sale.

"If you have attended some of Dimmitt's meals, you have probably seen this person behind the grill. You might find him cooking hamburgers, pancakes or fajitas. He also has used cooking skills for visiting pheasant hunters, sporting events and local benefits," Bain said.

Josselet helped with this year's successful Relay for Life cancer benefit and has helped with the Meals on Wheels program here for many years. He also serves on the Child Protective Services Board.

He has served on the City Council and is a past president of the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce.

He also has offered his services during the Harvest Days celebration each year, helping to build floats and direct the parade, and assisting with

clean-up details after the event.

Citizens Through the Years

Ann & Bill Henderson

The Hendersons, two people who have dedicated hours to helping promote Castro County through their work in numerous organizations, were recognized as Dimmitt's Citizens Through the Years. A longtime friend of the couple, Brenda Bruton, presented the award.

"Tonight, we are honoring two very special people from Castro County. They both attended Castro County schools. They married, and raised their children here. They've owned a business in Dimmitt for about 40 years," Bruton said. "I have worked on several committees with both and have enjoyed their friendship very much."

Bill Henderson died last December, but his wife accepted the award Saturday on behalf of the couple.

Bruton listed the many organizations which benefitted from the Hendersons' work through the years including the Dimmitt Rotary Club, Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce, VFW, VFW Auxiliary, Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, Square Dance Club, Home Demonstration Club, Dimmitt Senior Citizens, Castro County Fair Association, Lee Street Baptist Church and more.

(Continued on Page 2)

Agribusinesses feeling pinch of gas prices

Farmers are not the only ones in agriculture that are being hurt by the increase in natural gas prices.

Many agribusinesses also are looking at difficulties due to the problems their customers are facing.

"If they [farmers] do good, then I do. If they don't, then I don't," said Bill Condit, manager at Texas Equipment in Dimmitt. "Our business is in direct relation with our customers."

Condit said it is hard to gauge the effect of the higher gas prices just

yet, "but it's definitely going to hurt."

He said many of his customers are worried about their financing, and may put off any purchase decisions until next year.

"It is a domino effect," said Max Ellison with Pro-Ag. "When the farmers don't know what they can do, it will definitely affect us."

Many farmers are using this down time to try to get notes paid off or refinanced, according to Tommy

Hoelting of Hoelting Supply. He said the uncertainty will be more noticeable as future plans are made.

"Farmers don't know what they want to plant. We definitely will see a slow down in the spring," Tommy Hoelting said. "It's not going to be good for anyone's business. We will have to cut back, too. It affects all of us one way or another."

"If this shuts down the farmers, there is not a whole lot to fall back on in this area," said Jim Hoelting of

Agro Distribution in Dimmitt. "We all depend on the agriculture situation. We just hope there is some kind of relief in sight."

Fertilizer is a big concern in the ag picture, too. Jim Hoelting said that all the fertilizer plants have either curtailed production or shut down because the natural gas is too expensive to use for fertilizer production. He said prices are 150% to 160% higher than they were last year, and "it probably won't change

at least through April."

Jim Hoelting said there will be drastic changes if the gas price doesn't go down, especially with corn.

Many businessmen reported that farmers have been talking about cutting back on corn production and going with more cotton.

"We like to see people plant cotton, but if they can't make a profit it's no good anyway," Jim Bradford of North Gin in Dimmitt said. "I'd

rather see them make a profit on cotton than see them 'lose less' on any crop."

He noted that cotton is a little more risky crop than corn.

Last year at this time, a pretty good quantity of contracts were already in hand for the following year, according to Rodney Hunter at DeBruce Grain. This year a lot are still up in the air, he said.

Other options some are considering include switching to diesel engines or electricity to run irrigation engines.

"Some are looking at converting to electric, but there's a back log. They can't build lines fast enough,"

(Continued on Page 2)

1:1

By Don Nelson

When I saw it in the Hertz Rent-a-Car office, I could hardly believe my eyes.

I knew that Cadillac, Buick and other GM cars had those guidance programs that work off of the Global Positioning System (GPS) satellite. But I had no idea you could get one as a bolted-in add-on in a rental car.

Hertz calls it the "Never-Lost." The part that you touch and read is about the size of a kid's hand-held video game.

"Hey, can I have one of those in my Taurus?" I asked as I pointed to the Never-Lost display model at the counter.

"Sure," the nice lady said. "We

(Continued on Page 2)

Time to BRAG

It's time for grandparents to pull out those cute pictures of their grandchildren and show them off on the News' Valentine Brag Page, which will be printed on Feb. 8.

Just bring a photo of your grandchild to our office at 108 W. Bedford St. in Dimmitt and we will place it in a special display frame with your grandchild's name and yours for a \$10 fee.

Pictures must be received by Friday, Feb. 2, to be included on the Brag Page. For more information, call the News at 647-3123

PCS has \$456,000 for energy assistance

Panhandle Community Services has \$456,000 available in utility funds for direct payment assistance, according to Johnny Raymond, executive director of PCS.

The funding, made available from the Energy Division of the Texas Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs, will be spread out through the 26 counties covered by the 13 offices of PCS. Families meeting the income limitation of 125% of poverty income will qualify for assistance.

"The funds will be a blessing for many families living on limited income," Raymond said. "The need is greater than the amount of funds

allotted. Many of our retired citizens, disabled citizens, and single-parent families are faced with bills that exceed 50% of the family income and are getting behind on utility payments."

He encourages families to contact the nearest PCS office for possible assistance before they get behind on their bills. The Dimmitt office may be contacted at 647-3244.

"People seeking assistance should bring past-due bills with them, along with proof of income," Raymond said, "and please call for appointments to prevent a wasted trip, due to extreme demand for services."

(Continued on Page 2)

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	24	21	Tr.
Friday	34	15	Tr.
Saturday	39	15	
Sunday	52	19	
Monday	48	19	
Tuesday	57	22	.04
Wednesday	41	28	.02

January Moisture 0.22
2001 Moisture 0.22

Readings taken every day at 7 a.m. at KDHN, official National Weather Service recording station for Dimmitt.

More about Agribusinesses . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
Jim Hoelting said.

"Some are considering using diesel engines on trailers that can be moved from place to place," Condit said.

Some may be looking at the option of livestock, too, Jim Hoelting said.

"I don't know what's going to happen or what it will do to the farmers, who can't make a profit anyway. If more go with cotton, it will be good for our business, but I don't know if it would be good for the entire area," said Monty Phillips with Hart Producers Co-Op Gin. "From what I have heard, farmers will probably plant about a third more cotton."

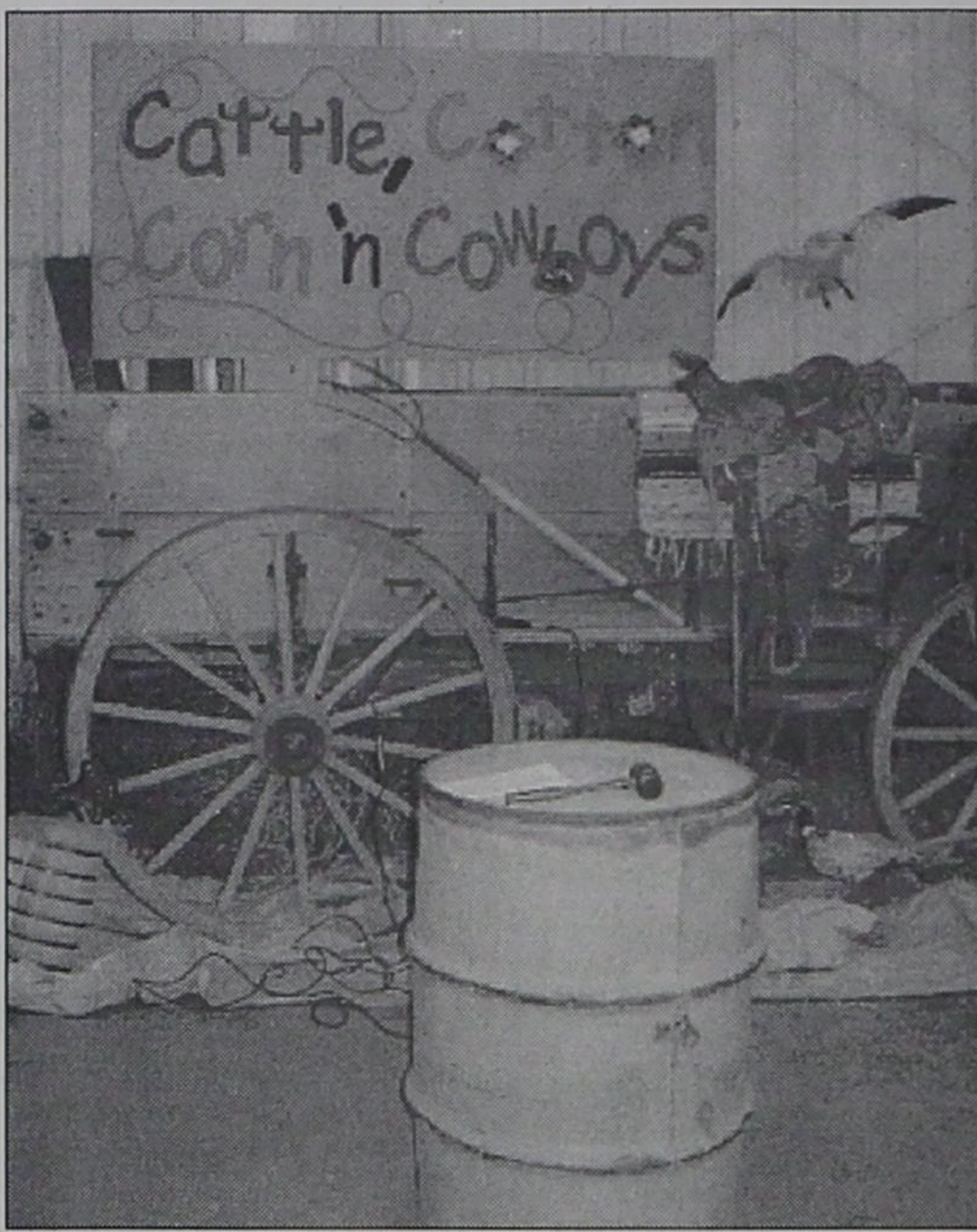
All of the businesses also said their own natural gas bills have gone up, some doubling and tripling from last year.

Phillips said last year the monthly charge for Hart Producers had been in the \$20,000 range, but this year it has reached the \$60,000 range.

"I am a little nervous," Hunter said concerning how expenses will be when they use their gas burners at corn harvest. "I hope prices fall considerably before we have to fire them up."

"It is affecting us quite a bit, not directly through fuel, but just what it is doing to the farmers. I wish someone could come up with a solution," Ellison said.

"President Bush says he will do something about it, but that remains to be seen," said Jarrell Sewell of Cargill AgHorizons. "We will have to re-evaluate how we do business. We will do what we have to do."



WAGONS, CORN, COTTON, PHEASANT, BARREL & MORE . . . Served as decorations at Chamber of Commerce banquet
Photo by Linda Maxwell

TDA offers tips on buying firewood

A roaring fire in the fireplace may be just what's needed during this bitterly cold Texas weather, but in the rush to keep the home fires burning some consumers may be getting short-changed because they don't know how much firewood they are buying.

"By law, firewood can only be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "Anything else and consumers may be getting burned."

A standard cord of firewood is 128 cubic feet of wood, generally a pile measuring 8 feet long by four feet tall by four feet deep. The wood should be placed in a line or row with individual pieces of wood touching and parallel to each other. The cord of wood should be compact.

Other units, such as "rick," "truckload," "face cord," "rack" or "pile" are not legitimate measurements, and people have no way of determining how much firewood they are actually receiving.

If you think you have been short-

changed, contact the TDA regional office or TDA's Weights and Measures Program at (512) 463-7483 or 1-800-TELL-TDA (835-5832).

TDA offers other helpful hints for buying firewood:

◆ Only buy well-seasoned wood. If you try to burn green wood, the heat produced by combustion must dry the wood before it will burn, using up a large amount of the available energy in the process. Well-seasoned firewood generally has darkened ends with visible cracks or splits. It is relatively lightweight and makes a clear "clunk" when pieces are hit against each other. Green wood on the other hand is very heavy, the ends look fresher and it tends to make a dull "thud" when struck.

◆ To prevent the spread of oak wilt, only buy well-seasoned oak firewood. Although the fungus that causes oak wilt is heat sensitive, storing contaminated, unseasoned wood may help spread the disease. The beetles that carry the fungus may fly off and infect healthy trees. Well-seasoned oak firewood is dried to the point where the bark is falling off and the wood is cracked. The fungus is no longer alive in well-seasoned wood.

◆ Wood should be stored off the ground if possible and protected from excess moisture when weather threatens. The ideal situation is a wood shed with a roof and open or loose sides for plenty of air circulation to promote drying.

◆ Only burn a little pine, even construction scraps, as kindling.

◆ Packaged natural wood offered for sale in quantities less than one-eighth of a cord or 16 cubic feet must display the quantity in terms of cubic meters or cubic feet or any fractions of cubic meters or cubic feet, and must meet TDA's labeling requirements for accuracy.



Who's New

OUT OF TOWN
Mario and Sulema Moreno of Dimmitt are the parents of a baby boy, Marcos Mario Moreno, who was born Jan. 18 at 7:44 p.m. at Baptist/St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo. The infant weighed 10 pounds and 14 ounces and was 22 inches long. Grandparents are Andreas and Gloria Gonzales of Dimmitt and Antonio Padilla of Edcouch.

More about Chamber honors . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

"As they traveled across the state of Texas to various meetings, we could be assured that Dimmitt was well represented," Bruton said.

Teacher of the Year

Jackie Byrnes

Kathy Lust, the 1999 Teacher of the Year honoree, began her introduction of Byrnes, the 2000 award recipient, by saying, "I have personally been on the receiving end of this teacher's thoughtfulness and generosity many times since I've lived in Dimmitt, so I'm grateful for this opportunity to give something to her for a change."

"This teacher truly cares about the children she teaches," Lust said.

Byrnes teaches kindergarten at Richardson Elementary School and she is one of the most giving people in the community, according to Lust.

Byrnes was born in Amarillo and was raised in Dimmitt, graduating from school here.

"For her entire life she has been visible in this community," Lust said. "She supports not only her own students, but she's a loyal supporter of all the school's athletic teams, UIL teams, band and the youth activities in her church. She's a leader in civic activities as well."

"Whenever she sees a job that needs to be done, she never hesitates to take the initiative and get something going. I don't think there's ever been a bridal shower in Dimmitt that she didn't help with."

"Our children went through the Dimmitt schools together and she was always involved and had a sincere interest in the lives of those kids," Lust said.

She added that any student who was ever in a class taught by Byrnes remembers her as being a very sweet, soft-spoken teacher.

"She sees every student as someone very special. She sees great potential in every student she teaches and she lets them know it," Lust said. "Her students don't forget her kindness and they continue to strive for many years to reach the potential that she first recognized. Students are enthusiastic when they talk about her, their first teacher."

After graduating from Dimmitt High School, Byrnes attended Texas Tech, graduating from college in 1974.

Byrnes' first teaching assignment was at the Hart Independent School District, and she had 52 kindergarten students without a teacher's aid, in her first class.

Chamber Member of the Year

E.M. Jones Ditching

A previous commitment out of town prevented E.M. Jones from

attending Saturday's banquet, and when he was notified that he was to receive an award, Jones told Chamber of Commerce Director Bill Sava to present the award to someone else—his employees.

Leroy Edwards accepted the award on behalf of E.M. Jones and the ditching company.

According to Sava, Jones said, "I want you to give this award to my employees because I didn't do the good job. They did it. They got the business for me and they kept me in business."

"That's the kind of generous and good man we honor with this award," Sava said.

Jones started his ditching business in Dimmitt about 30 years ago. He had been an employee of the City of Dimmitt and started finding jobs he could do after hours. Eventually that led him to start his own ditching business.

"He has helped virtually every farmer in Castro County. His concern for his customers is such that they took care of him. He truly believed that if he took care of his customers, they'd take care of him," Sava said.

Sava said Jones and his employees were a tremendous help to the Chamber during the past year.

"I needed a jail for a skit in the Follies and I couldn't imagine how I was going to come up with one. I relied on E.M. and his employees and when it was time for the Follies we had a jail," Sava said. "They also helped us put up the 'Welcome to Dimmitt' signs, first by building the posts to hold the signs, then mounting those signs."

Jones planned to retire last April, but the impending retirement was moved back to June, then August and then September.

"He finally shut his doors in December," Sava said.

More about 1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

have a Taurus equipped with one, and it's just \$6 a day extra."

Verbie and I were in Houston, the nation's fourth-largest city, on a dark and rainy night last Thursday. We were already four hours late after having gone through a flight cancellation and the standby routine at the Lubbock Airport. We were 40 minutes from our hotel and I was already late for a meeting.

I had been dreading this drive all day.

Also, I'm old and I'm entitled. How much more justification does one need?

"I'll take it," I said.

When we first fired it up in the Hertz lot and went through its introductory routine (we really didn't know diddly about this GPS technology), we realized that we didn't have enough time to learn how to use it right then, and that we'd better stick to our written directions for getting to our hotel.

The traditional method worked out so-so, with a traditional rube-in-the-big-town foul-up or two involving Beltway 8, punctuated with the traditional cusswords.

We were at the Adam's Mark Hotel two nights for the mid-winter convention of the Texas Press Association. Then it was time to go to the suburb of Missouri City to spend Saturday night and Sunday with our son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Karen, and our grandchildren, Jake and Allie.

I spent some time in the hotel parking lot Saturday morning learning how to operate the Never-Lost, realizing that this thing could be a god-send to anyone trying to navigate in a strange city.

Our children's home is in the Sienna Plantation development, a fairly new residential area. The Never-Lost wouldn't recognize the name of some of the shorter individual streets in the development—including theirs—but it picked up on Sienna Parkway nearby. Good enough.

I keyed in the destination, and off we went. That thing knew exactly what street we were on and what intersection we were at, and showed us on a 3"x2" colored screen, with little green arrows showing the way along a pink-highlighted street and a triangular icon representing the car and its direction. The map flowed on and off of the screen and the car stayed in the center as we progressed.

"You will have a left turn in four miles," the thing said in an accent-free female voice. Then after 3 1/2 miles: "You will have a left turn in point-five miles." Half a block from the turn: "You are approaching a left turn." At the same time, a large white arrow would appear onscreen, giving a 3D indication of your upcoming turn.

And just as we would reach the intersection, the thing would give you a double-gong, just in case you were blind.

We intentionally tried to give it a headache. After we turned onto the Beltway, it said, "You will proceed for eight miles, then take a right exit." Instead, we followed Nathan's directions and turned off at the Murphy Street exit after two miles.

"Proceed to the highlighted route," the female voice said. It was a polite way of saying, "Get back on track, stupid!"

We ignored it. Then, after a couple of minutes came the announcement: "Recalculating route."

Which it did. The screen went blank for 10 or 20 seconds, then came back up, showing exactly where we were on the new street, and how to proceed from there.

So it will still take care of you even if you head for the boonies.

The drive from Nathan's and Karen's home to the Bush Intercontinental Airport takes 45 minutes to an hour.

Nathan told us to get on 501 and go to the Beltway, then follow it around the city to the airport on the other end of Houston.

We decided to punch in "Return to Hertz" on the Never-Lost, just to see if it agreed.

As it turned out, it didn't.

Before we realized what was going on, it directed us off of the Beltway after a couple of miles and put us on US 59, which goes straight south-to-north to the airport—but right through downtown Houston.

For all of its gee-whiz technology, the GPS didn't know there was ramp construction along US 59, and ramps closed, and detours past Joe's Used Cars and Madam Stella's Palm Reading—all of which resulted in a Sunday afternoon traffic jam in the smack-dab middle of the fourth largest city in the US.

It took us two hours to get to the airport.

Lesson learned: Sometimes you need to get onto your preferred route before you turn on the GPS, and let it calculate your directions from there.

Are we going to fool with a GPS unit again? You bet.

In fact, Russel Birdwell tells me that you can order the thing to take you to any restaurant you want, just by choosing from its detailed menu. So I think I'll try that next time.

I wonder where it will take us for Chinese.

More about PCS . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Anyone wishing to donate to PCS for utility assistance can do so by sending their contribution to PO Box 32150, Amarillo 79120 or to the nearest PCS Center. All funds will be used for direct assistance in the county designated by the donor.

PCS has delivered utility assistance for many years.

"This is the biggest demand for winter assistance we have ever had," Raymond said.

In addition, Stella Devers, center coordinator for the Dimmitt office of PCS, said that Energas has donated \$30,000 to PCS to be divided between the 26 counties of the Panhandle to aid families who do not meet the eligibility guidelines for low income, but who still need assistance with utility bills.

Devers said that amounts to an average of \$1,700 per county.

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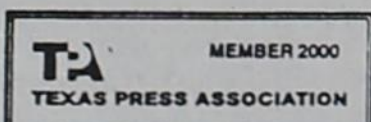


Table with 2 columns: Advertising categories and their deadlines. Includes Agriculture, Business & Industry News, Sports, Social and Church News, Community Correspondence, Personal Items, and General News, City and County.

Table with 2 columns: Staff roles and names. Includes Editor and Publisher (Don Nelson), News Department (Anne Acker, Linda Maxwell), Advertising Composition (Paula Portwood), Advertising Sales (Don Nelson), Page Composition and Photo Lab (Joyce Nelson), Bookkeeping (Anne Acker, Paula Portwood), and Community Correspondents (Dorothy Hopson, Dimmitt, Virgie Gerber, Nazareth).

Last Puzzle Solution: A crossword puzzle grid with words filled in. Includes words like MACK, UPON, NIRO, DENT, ACE, BUCKLES, YELL, INABATTLE, CRITIC, AMIRROBIO, GUSANO, ELEE, ENNIS, BALLLOONGLOWS, DEALLS, KILLER, EM, LILA, ONEEYED, DUCTILE, FER, ER, GOOFS, NAVIGATE, GILLIS, GILLET, OAR, RDS.

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison. Copyright 2000 by Orbison Bros. Includes crossword grid and clues for Across and Down.

On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

Christmas time found Van Earl and Waurayne Hughes checking out of one hospital (Van Earl was a patient in Plains Memorial Hospital) to make a quick trip to Corsicana to the bedside of Frank Marx, the husband of Waurayne's sister, Katharine.

In spite of this being anything but a trip for fun, when Frank began to improve, the Hugheses joined other family members there for Christmas celebrations. They enjoyed an extravagant church Christmas musical drama with their nephew Frank Marx III and his wife, Risa.

Following the Christmas program, Van Earl and Waurayne were included in a Mexican buffet at the home of Frank and Risa, with 38 other guests.

On Christmas Day, Risa's parents were hosts to 35 relatives for a traditional Christmas dinner in their lovely white restored two-story home (early 1900's-vintage). This created a special, old-fashioned Christmas setting for Van Earl and Waurayne.

I try very hard to keep this column upbeat and positive. I don't usually report things like illnesses or deaths. These are in the obituaries or on your church prayer lists. The "On the Go" column is to tell about people having fun, sharing family times, weekend get-aways or once-in-a-lifetime vacations.

But if I did take the liberty to share some rather depressing news, I'd tell you that Percy and Margaret Parsons, Dimmitt residents for a number of years, have moved to Friona. I would tell you that they have moved to Friona because their daughter, Rhonda Murphree, and her husband, Jim, and their six children live there.

The Parsons try to make every game of basketball, volleyball, tennis or whatever the grandchildren are playing. The oldest Friona grandchild is Amy, a 15-year-old sophomore who plays on the varsity Friona

Squaws basketball team. Seth, 10-months, is the only boy in the Murphree family. Margaret said, "That means at least 17 more years of ball games. We might as well move now so we won't miss any of them."

If you are ever in Friona, drop by to see them and give them a bad time for moving away. Their address is 610 Arrah St., Friona 79035.

Speaking of upbeat and positive, here is some good news. Loren Vandiver has been here visiting with his father, Dr. Charles Vandiver, and they bagged eight quail on a hunting lease near Roaring Springs.

January has been a cold, "put another log on the fire" kind of month. Christmas and New Year's have come and gone. Just about the time things really begin to get dreary it is Chamber of Commerce Banquet time.

Because I was helping to sponsor and transport a group of young people from Primera Iglesia Bautista to the youth jamboree, "Hot Hearts," in Lubbock, I missed the banquet. I'm sure you can read all about it in this week's News, but I wanted a different viewpoint. I called Cheryle Pybus, who served as emcee, for her perspective.

Cheryle said she had planned to come dressed in a Jersey cow costume so that she would be in keeping with the banquet theme of "Castro County: Cattle, Cotton, Corn 'n' Cowboys," but she didn't. However, she did have "cow print" trimmings on her overalls, with a matching overskirt topping off her outfit. She made a risqué move in raising her overskirt to show she didn't wear the "udder" costume after all.

Cheryle wanted to recognize and thank those who worked so hard to make the banquet a success, including Gary Langford and his wife, Linda, Brenda Bruton, and Pam Josselet, who made up the decorating committee. Cheryle gave a very spe-

cial word of appreciation to Kenny Paxton for all of his hard work. She mentioned what a good sport her husband, Doug, is—he escorted her to the banquet, overalls, skirt and all, and smiled good-naturedly at her public ribbing. That is almost above and beyond a husband's duty.

As usual, the tables were unusual and beautiful and fun. The businesses and organizations that decorated them did a wonderful job. It adds so much to our banquet and gives it that personal touch.

I would like to join Cheryle in thanking Bill Sava. He not only works hard to prepare for the banquet, he always works hard to put the Expo building back in top-notch condition before he returns the key to us. We appreciate him.

The boys from Dimmitt who attended "Hot Hearts," the Christian youth festival in Lubbock, were Fabien Lopez, Ismael Rodriguez, Andy Garcia, Rene Villegas, Johnny and Gabriel Morales, and Harald and Sveree Vogt. These guys were chaperoned by J.R. Cano, youth minister at Primera Iglesia Bautista. The boys stayed overnight at the Neiman home in Shallowater.

The girls who attended were Cynthia Barrera, Clara Pedrosa, and April and Bianco Torres, sponsored by Erica Beanes of Hart. She is working on her master's degree and is secretary to Wayland's Chancellor Dr. Wallace Davis. The girls were guests of Deanne Clark in her Lubbock home.

Here is a follow-up on the story concerning the oldest Baptist church in Texas. Butch and Pam Strickland have accepted the call to pastor this historical place of worship. If you are ever near Independence, be sure to go by and see them. Butch will be preaching behind the same pulpit that Pastor Burleson was using the Sunday that Sam Houston became a born-again Christian on Oct. 19, 1854.



DIGITAL "GLAMOUR SHOTS" TO REMEMBER 2000 CHAMBER BANQUET ... Photos produced Saturday night by (from left) Cliff, Jinna and Jim Wright

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Nazareth with Virgie Gerber, 945-2669

The "Boys State Pool Tournament," sponsored by the American Legion, was held this weekend at the Legion Hall.

Singles winners were: 1. Greg Schulte, 2. Mike Gesling, 3. Olin Schulte, and 4. Clyde Schulte.

Doubles winners were: 1. Keith Gerber and Dwight Acker, 2. Tom Hoelting and Olin Schulte, and 3. Heath Schulte and Mike Schmucker.

A benefit steak dinner to help with the medical expenses of Brad Klein was well-attended Sunday at the Nazareth Community Hall. It was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and the Christian Mothers.

The Band Bake Sale will be held this weekend at the CCD Building after Mass on Saturday evening and again Sunday morning after Mass.

Bryan Charanza left on Wednesday for basic training at Fort Benning, Ga. Basic will be followed

by five months of specialized training in Fort Gordon, Ga. We wish him well.

Prayers are asked for Brad Klein, Leonard Gerber, Edith Huseman, Lori Huseman, Margaret Brockman, Tammy Drerup, Robert Fisher Sr., and Ray Schmucker.

Happy 40th birthday to Glenda Birkenfeld. Now she's old enough to enjoy a movie and dinner with her

older siblings. Sandee Hoelting, Malinda Gerber, Tricia Rose, Donna Charanza and Virgie Gerber helped her celebrate Saturday night in Amarillo.

Dan, Karen and Cliff Gerber enjoyed the weekend at Angel Fire skiing to celebrate Dan's birthday. Also skiing with them were Quint Waggoner and his two sons.



What's Cooking

In the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Schools

Here are the breakfast and lunch menus for the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth schools for Jan. 25 to Feb. 2.

DIMMITT Breakfast to go

THURSDAY: Pancake on a stick with sausage, grape juice and milk.

FRIDAY: Cinnamon rolls, fruit cocktail and milk.

MONDAY: Chocolate chip granola bars, orange juice and milk.

TUESDAY: Teddy grahams, apple juice and milk.

WEDNESDAY: Rice Krispie treats, orange wedges and milk.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: N/A.

Preschool-First Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Nachos with cheese, Mexipinto beans, plums, jalapeno peppers and milk.

FRIDAY: Chicken enchiladas, refried beans, Fideo Mexicano and milk.

MONDAY: Lasagna with ground beef, Mexicali corn, tossed salad, French bread and milk.

TUESDAY: Pigs in a blanket, whole new potatoes, gelatin, hot wheat rolls and milk.

WEDNESDAY: Southern fried chicken, seasoned black-eyed peas, orange wedges and milk.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: N/A.

Second-12th Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of nachos with cheese, barbecued rib patty or pork tamales; Chinese-style vegetables, lyonnaise carrots or Mexipinto beans; tossed salad, fresh fruit snack or plums; assorted muffins, hot cheese rolls or Spanish rice; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

FRIDAY: Choice of chicken enchilada, Chinese plate or fish nuggets; baked potato, tomato and okra gumbo or refried beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad or fruited gelatin; hot wheat rolls, Fideo Mexicano or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

MONDAY: Choice of lasagna with ground beef, chicken fried chicken on a bun or chicken taco; mashed potatoes and gravy, Mexicali corn or broccoli with cheese sauce; tossed salad, fresh spinach salad or taco condiment salad; hot rolls, garlic bread or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

TUESDAY: Choice of pigs in a blanket, beef stir fry or salad plate; parsley buttered potatoes, fried okra, or savory green beans; tossed salad, fruit fantasy or gelatin; hot wheat rolls, assorted muffins or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

WEDNESDAY: Choice of southern fried chicken, pork tamales or hoagie submarine sandwich; mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned black-eyed peas or vegetable medley; tossed salad, hamburger salad or orange wedges; cornmeal yeast rolls, hot rolls or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY: N/A.

HART Breakfast

THURSDAY: French toast sticks, Canadian bacon, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.

FRIDAY: Scrambled eggs, sausage, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.

MONDAY: Breakfast pizza, variety of cereal, graham crackers, applesauce, raisins, assorted fruit juice and milk.

TUESDAY: Waffles, sausage, variety of cereal, graham crackers, raisins and milk.

WEDNESDAY: Biscuits, ham, scrambled eggs, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers, raisins and milk.

THURSDAY: Biscuits, sausage, graham crackers, variety of cereal, raisins, assorted fruit juice and milk.

FRIDAY: Scrambled eggs, ham, biscuits, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.

Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of pizza, burrito or fish strips; cornbread, macaroni and cheese, salad, assorted fresh fruit, carrot sticks, peaches and milk, punch or tea.

FRIDAY: Choice of burrito or hot dog on a bun with chili and shredded cheese, pinto beans, peaches, gelatin dessert, carrot sticks and milk, punch or tea.

MONDAY: Choice of chef's salad, hamburger and potato chips or chicken nuggets; rolls, gravy, mashed potatoes, salad, green beans, apple cobbler, cherry cobbler, peach cobbler, assorted fruit juice, fresh fruit and milk, punch or tea.

TUESDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, chef's salad or barbecued rib sandwich with chips; pinto beans, lettuce, tomato, pickles, peaches, gelatin dessert, sweetened applesauce, ginger cookies, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.

WEDNESDAY: Choice of chef's salad, chicken sandwich with chips or burrito; sliced cheese, dill pickles, corn on the cob, peaches, salad, brownie and milk, punch or tea.

THURSDAY: Choice of burrito, pizza or lasagna with ground beef; wheat rolls, salad, peaches, green beans, gelatin dessert and milk, punch or tea.

FRIDAY: Choice of pizza, hamburger basket or nachos with ground beef; sliced pickles, pinto beans, fresh fruit, salad, gelatin

dessert, ice cream, banana pudding and milk, punch or tea.

NAZARETH Breakfast

THURSDAY: Breakfast pocket, cereal, orange juice and milk.

FRIDAY: Canadian bacon on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.

MONDAY: Cinnamon roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.

TUESDAY: French toast and sausage, cereal, orange juice and milk.

WEDNESDAY: Sausage on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.

THURSDAY: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.

FRIDAY: Pancake and sausage on a stick, cereal, orange juice and milk.

Lunch

THURSDAY: * Burrito or baked potato, tossed salad, pinto beans, orange, Rice Krispie treats and milk or juice.

FRIDAY: Ham, turkey or bologna sandwich or corn dog, tater tots, lettuce, corn, fruit cocktail, dessert and milk or juice.

MONDAY: * Frito pie or chef's salad, tossed salad, corn, pineapple, peanut butter chews and milk or juice.

TUESDAY: * Barbecued sandwich or hamburger, potato cubes, lettuce, beans, apricots, dessert and milk or juice.

WEDNESDAY: * Hot turkey sandwich or pizza, tossed salad, stuffing, applesauce, cranberry sauce and milk or juice.

THURSDAY: * Beef taco or hamburger and French fries, lettuce, green beans, peaches, dessert and milk or juice.

FRIDAY: * Pizza or chicken stir fry, tossed salad, pork and beans, pears, dessert and milk or juice.

Items designated with an asterisk () will be served to elementary school students.



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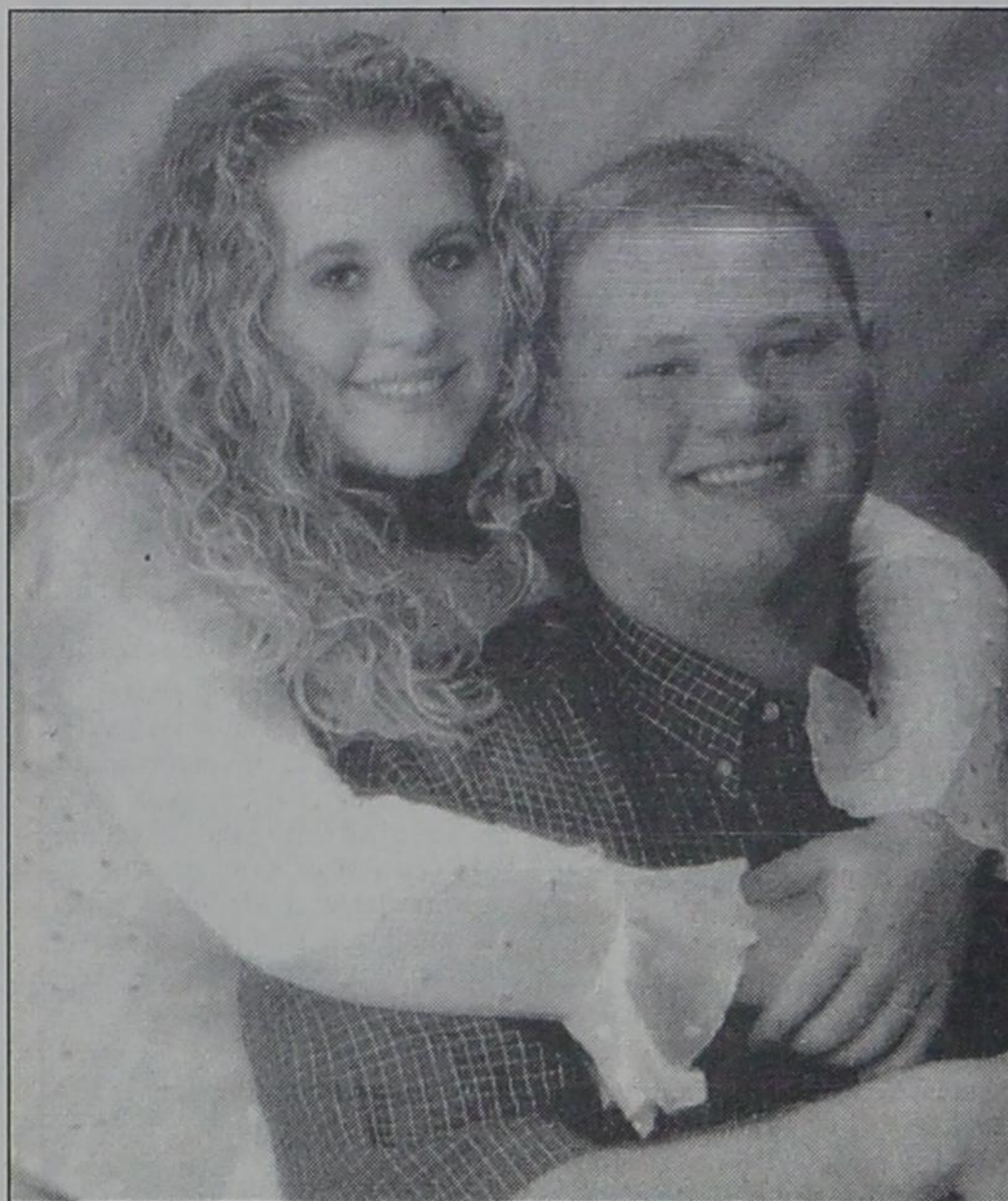
- ✓ No Long Distance in the Continental U.S.A. While calling from home area
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People



Lacy Louder and Justin Levin Conway

Louder, Conway plan wedding

Lance and Terri Louder announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Lacy, to Justin Levi Conway, son of Tom and Janice Conway of Cheyenne, Okla.

The couple will exchange vows on March 17 at 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt.

The bride-elect is a 2000 graduate of Lazbuddie High School.

The prospective groom is a 1998 graduate of Cheyenne High School. He is currently employed with Helmerich and Payne Drilling Company of Oklahoma.

The couple plans to establish their home in Cheyenne following the wedding.

Benefit barbecue for Stotts family is planned Sunday

A barbecue meal and raffle are being organized by employees at Texas Equipment Company in Dimmitt and proceeds from the two will go to benefit the Roy Stotts Kidney Fund.

Stotts, an employee at Texas Equipment, has been diagnosed with glomerulonephritis, a form of kidney disease. He is currently undergoing dialysis and he is on the waiting list for a donor kidney.

The barbecue supper has been

planned for Sunday at Country Club of Dimmitt. The meal will begin at 5 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person for a "steaming plate of barbecue with all the trimmings."

A raffle for a new John Deere LT133 riding lawn mower is being held in conjunction with the meal and tickets are currently available from any Texas Equipment employee or at the Texas Equipment office in Dimmitt. Tickets for the raffle are \$5 each.

'Jailbirds' raise over \$5,500 in MDA lock-up

A makeshift "jail" at K-Bob's Restaurant in Dimmitt housed 14 local business people recently, and those individuals raised \$5,565 in pledges for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

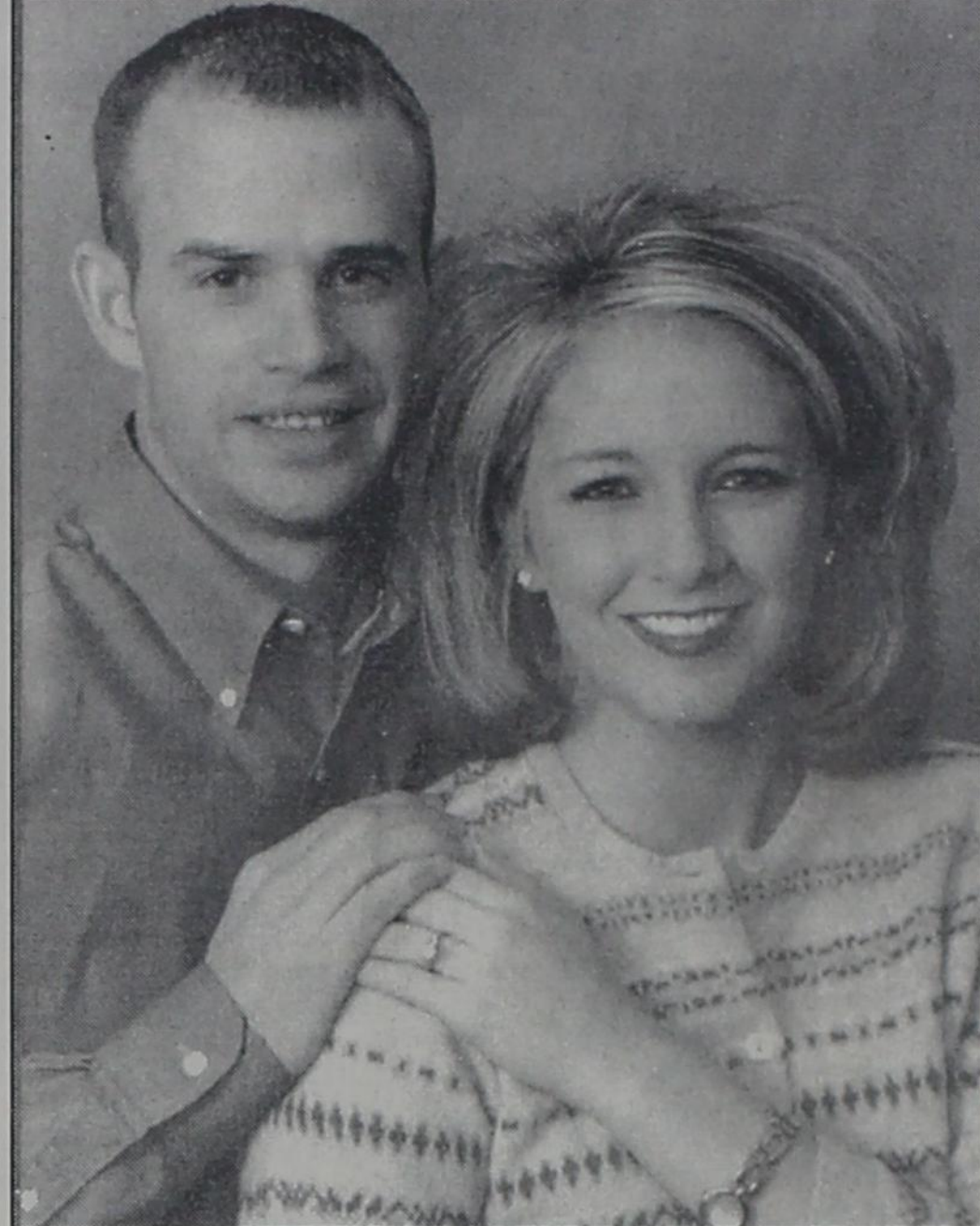
The benefit lock-up is one of many events which is held to raise funds for MDA. Money raised goes to help fund programs and services to those in this area who are battling any one of 40 neuromuscular diseases that MDA covers.

Clinic services, wheelchair purchase and repair, summer camp for children and monthly support groups can continue because of the

generosity of these "jailbirds" and their sponsors.

Those incarcerated for the fundraiser were Dolores Baldrige, Benny Barrera, Vicki Buckley, Nikki Davis, Tonya Ethridge, Jim Hoelting, Reba Holt, Rodney Hunter, Mary Lockhart, Eddie Luemas, Brenda Miller, Pam Odom, Raneta Patton and Kenny Paxton.

The "jailbirds" were presented will cellular phones furnished by Plateau Telecommunications, and they were able to call friends and other businesses to raise the "bail" money which benefitted MDA.



Travis Schulte and Shawna Kenworthy

Kenworthy, Schulte to wed

Tommy and Sherri Kenworthy of Dimmitt announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Shawna, to Travis Schulte, son of Greg and Karen Schulte of Nazareth, and the late Leon Schulte.

The couple are planning to exchange wedding vows at 3 p.m. on June 16 at the First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt.

The bride-elect graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1999. She attended dental hygiene school at Amarillo College.

The prospective groom is a 1992 graduate of Nazareth High School. He holds a degree in kinesiology from West Texas A&M University in Canyon and is currently employed by the Hereford Independent School District. Following the wedding, the couple will reside in Amarillo.

Youth groups asked to join 'Souper Bowl'

Local youth groups are encouraged to observe the eighth annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Sunday. The event was established to help raise money for the hungry.

Last year's effort raised more than \$3.1 million, with more than 11,000 congregations participating from across the US, Canada and Puerto Rico, representing 50 denominations.

Youth from each congregation are encouraged to get permission to stand at the exit doors of their church on Sunday and collect \$1 donations in large soup containers, then send all the proceeds to a local food pan-

try or other organization of their choice.

Then the youth are requested to report the results of their effort by calling 1-800-358-SOUP or by logging on to the Souper Bowl of Caring website at www.souperbowl.org.

"Souper Bowl of Caring organizers never touch the donations or tell participants where to send it," said Rev. Brad Smith, executive director of the Souper Bowl. "The Souper Bowl of Caring demonstrates the power of working together. Our nation-wide effort is a subtle reminder that ordinary people, with God's help, can do extraordinary good if we work together."

Class of 1991 plans reunion

Members of the Dimmitt High School Class of 1991 are making plans for their 10-year reunion, which has been set for Saturday, July 28.

The event will be held at the Country Club of Dimmitt, and the cost will be \$25 per person.

All members of the class are asked to get in touch with Jamie Baker Mendoza at 647-0443 or log on to the reunion web site at www.angelcities.com/members/dhsc1991/index.html and leave their information.

"We are working hard to try to make this a memorable occasion, but we need your help," Mendoza said. "Please call or log on."

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Deaf Smith Electric awards scholarships

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative will award five \$2,000 scholarships in May to eligible applicants of immediate families of active members

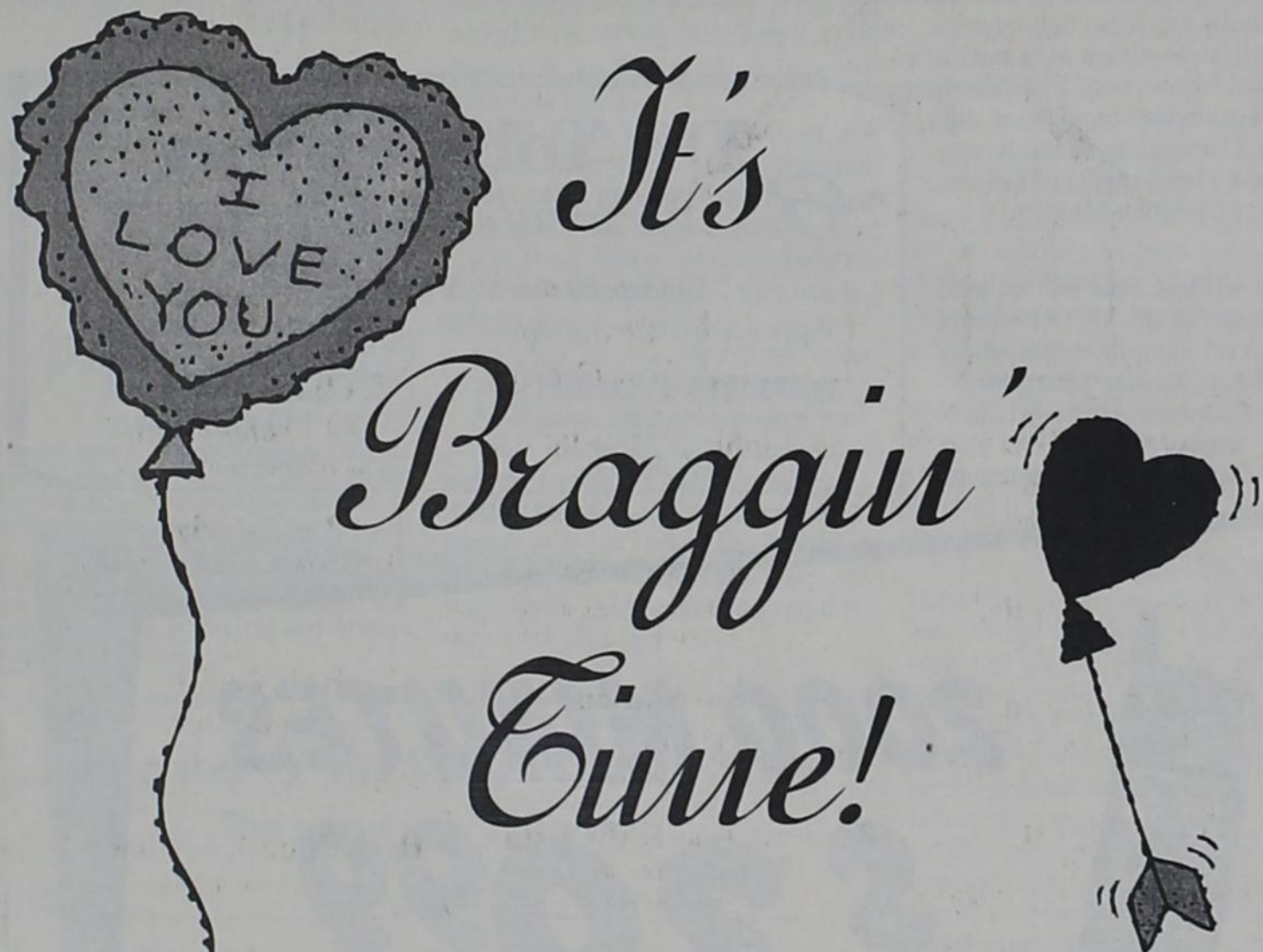
and active employees of Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative.

Applicants may be either traditional high school graduates or students wishing to continue their education after an extended absence.

Applicants must be of good character as evidenced by at least three letters of recommendation from teachers, principals or counselors.

Selections will be based on grade point average, community activities, service work and recommendations. Secondary criteria will include: written essay, SAT/ACT scores and academic honors.

Applications must be received no later than March 9. Awards will be announced within sixty days of this date.



GRANDPARENTS:

Here's your chance to brag on **YOUR GRANDCHILD!**

Send or bring us a photo of your grandchild (we promise to return it unharmed), and we'll place it in a special display frame like the one at left, with your grandchild's name and yours, and on

Thursday, Feb. 8

your little Valentine will appear in the paper!

The cost is only \$10 per picture.

Hurry! DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, FEB. 2nd.

The Castro County News

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- Dimmitt Thriftway
- Fast Stop
- Lockhart Pharmacy
- Naz Stop, Nazareth
- The Pancake House
- Pay & Save Food, Hart
- Red X Travel Center
- Snuffs, Puffs and Stuff
- Town & Country Food Store



Brian Simpson and Jody Loveless

March vows are planned

Jody Loveless of Amarillo and Brian Simpson of Dimmitt plan to exchange wedding vows at 5:30 p.m. on March 24 at the First Baptist Church in Amarillo.

The bride-to-be is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jay Oakley of Amarillo and Mr. and Mrs. Butch Loveless of Tulia. Parents of the prospective groom are Veve and James Simpson of Dimmitt.

Miss Loveless is a 1994 graduate of Tascosa High School in Amarillo and she attended Amarillo College. She is employed by Amarillo Community Federal Credit Union.

Simpson graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1994 and Texas Tech University in 1999. He holds a bachelor's degree in agronomy from Texas Tech. He is self-employed in the farming business.

After their wedding, the couple will establish their home in Dimmitt.

Farmers Union convention set in Abilene this weekend

Hundreds of Texas farm and ranch families are expected to gather in Abilene this weekend for Texas Farmers Union's 99th anniversary convention.

Theme for this year's convention is "Fair prices, fair markets and fair trade."

The convention will be held Friday and Saturday.

A reception on Friday evening will feature entertainment by Prairie Fire, a country and western band from Roby. The convention will conclude Saturday evening with a banquet featuring National Farmers Union president Leland Swenson as a speaker.

"A new congress signals a fresh start for the development of a new family farm and ranch policy," said Wes Sims, Texas Farmers Union president. "While some of the names have changed we face many of the same problems that farmers and ranchers saw as we began last year. This year we will gather to address issues such as low prices, concentration and the failed farm law."

Con. Charles Stenholm, State Reps David Counts and David Farabee will address the convention along with Waylon Shurley, state FSA director; Larry Mitchell of Washington, D.C., USDA assistant

executive director; and Dan Hunter, president of Southwest Peanut Growers Association.

Dr. Mary Hendrickson from the University of Missouri will present a program on a study she and Dr. Wilhan Heffernon prepared concerning the concentration of the retail food industry in the US and the rest of the world.

Delegates will consider and adopt Texas Farmers Union policy for the coming year considering many issues that affect rural Texans. Some of the issues to be addressed will be water policy changes which will be considered by the Texas legislature this session, the need for a "Bill of Rights" for contract producers and additional state funding for the boll weevil eradication program.

A great lesson to learn is how to make a sound argument without making a lot of noise.

A wise mother gives her children to choices at mealtime-take it or leave it.



Jon Randles will speak in Hereford

Jon Randles, a well-known national speaker for Promise Keepers and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will be speaking at the Hereford Church of the Nazarene in a series of meetings Sunday through Wednesday.

He will speak Sunday at 10:30 a.m., and Monday through Wednesday at 7 p.m., and the public is invited to hear him speak.

Also, the church is holding a special Super Bowl Party starting at 5 p.m. on Sunday, and Randles will speak during the halftime activities. Teens will have a tailgate party in the gym, adults will have a giant screen in the fellowship hall, and the children will have movies in KID's Church. There also will be table games for adults who aren't interested in the football game.

Randles also will be the featured speaker at lunches at the church on Monday through Wednesday and everyone is invited to attend at no charge. Serving will start at 11:45 a.m. In addition, Randles will speak at various schools in the area.

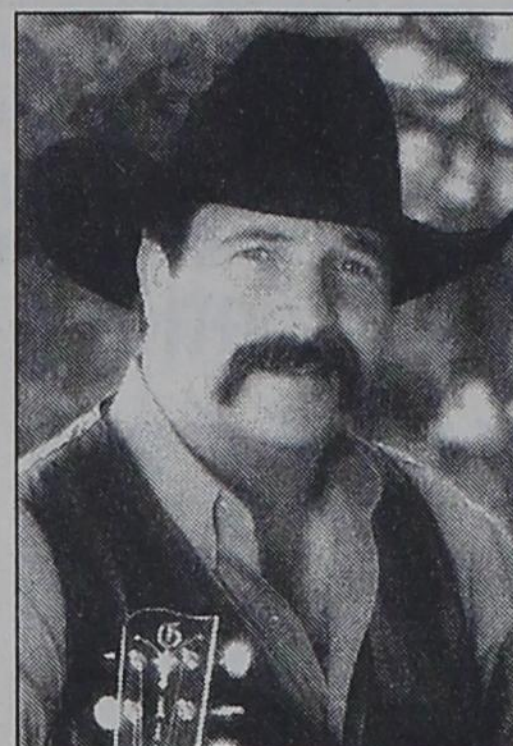
As founder and president of the Jon Randles Evangelistic Assoc. and Randles, Inc., located in Lubbock, Randles is involved in evangelism, church growth conferences and evaluations, discipleship, student ministry, and missionary endeavors worldwide through speaking engagements, books and tapes.

Through Randles, Inc., he provides non-religious motivational concepts of excellence and success to universities, public and private secondary schools, government agency personnel, and private sector business and industry through speaking engagements, conferences, books, and tapes.

He also is a sought-after speaker for motivating collegiate athletic teams. As a speaker for the FCA, he also speaks at student camps and retreats.



Bergundi Rose



Ed Montana

Montana and Rose set concert Feb. 4

On Feb. 4, country and western music lovers can hear two rising stars in a double-header show when Bergundi Rose and Ed Montana perform solo acts in concert at the Home Mercantile Building in Nazareth.

The public is invited to attend the event, and donations will be accepted. The evening will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the concert at 7 p.m.

Rose, 20, is the daughter of Garry and Angel Jones of Dumas. She is a junior at West Texas A&M University, majoring in music business. She was in the musical, "TEXAS" last summer, and in September she was featured in a musical at the Amarillo Civic Center, "Gospel, Strauss and Patsy Cline." She has recorded two CDs in Nashville and is currently working with Dar-la Music to further

her professional career. He music can be heard on jukeboxes throughout the Panhandle.

Montana is from Amarillo, but grew up in Utah, working on the family ranch, but also playing guitar and banjo. At age 10 he was touring with his father's polka band throughout the Midwest. Since 1980, Montana has been the front man of the Coors Cowboy Band, which has traveled throughout the US, performing at rodeos sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He also has entertained for six consecutive years at the National Finals Rodeo. Since 1989, he has spent time each summer as a solo performer at music festivals in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. His current CD was recorded in Branson, Mo., with his new band, "The Honky Tonk Heroes."

Children are unpredictable. You never know what inconsistency they will discover about you next.

The most experienced person at hitting a moving target is a mother feeding an infant.

Childbirth classes will begin Feb. 5

"Special Deliveries," a series of childbirth preparation classes, will be offered at Medical Center of Dimmitt beginning Monday, Feb. 5.

The classes will continue on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. through Feb. 26.

The classes are geared for women in advanced pregnancy—at least 28 weeks—who wish to prepare for labor and birth.

Topics of instruction will include the process of labor and birth, signs and stages of labor, comfort in labor using breathing and relaxation techniques, and complications of labor and birth.

Partners and support persons who plan to attend the labor and delivery are encouraged to participate because labor coaching also will be included as part of the curriculum.

Registration forms for the class are available at Medical Center of Dimmitt and should be completed and returned to Cindy Ellis, c/o Medical Center of Dimmitt.

Cost of the four-week course is \$25 per couple and the payment should accompany the registration form.

For more information contact Ellis, Monday through Wednesday, at 647-4124.

Happiness is not setting the alarm on Friday night.

A mother is a smile when you're sad.

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The First United Methodist Church
Morning Worship Service
Sundays, 10:45 a.m.
On KDHN 1470

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- New Hope Memorial Baptist**
300 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Bobby Stadings.....647-2889
- Sunnyside Baptist**
Sunnyside
Bennie Wright.....647-5712
- First United Methodist**
Hart
Tom Long.....938-2462
- La Asamblea Cristiana**
400 NW 5th, Dimmitt
Manuel Rodriguez
- First United Methodist**
110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt
Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106
- Iglesia De Cristo**
E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt
Pedro A. Gonzalez
- Immaculate Conception Catholic**
1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt
Fern Couture.....647-4219, 647-0105
- Jesus and the Love of God Church**
(Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Felix Sanchez.....647-3668

Praise to thee, my Lord, for all thy creatures.

—St. Francis of Assisi

Attend the Church of Your Choice

- Church of God of the First Born**
611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt
- St. John's Catholic**
Hart
Fern Couture.....647-0105
- Church of Christ**
SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4435
- Rose of Sharon Temple**
407 NE 4th, Dimmitt
- Primeria Iglesia Bautista**
9th and Etter, Dimmitt
Antonio Rocha
- Immanuel Baptist**
501 SE 3rd, Dimmitt
- Rosa De Saron**
411 NE 6th, Dimmitt
Maria Castaneda.....647-5598
- First Baptist**
302 Ave. G, Hart
Aaron Reed.....938-2316

- Abundant Life Family Church**
113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Tom and Kay Mullins
- First Assembly of God**
300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Leonard A. Broseker.....647-5662
- First Baptist**
1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Howard Rhodes.....647-3115
- Lee Street Baptist**
401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt
Jeff Addison
- First Christian**
600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
- La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito**
East Halsell Street, Dimmitt
- Presbyterian**
1600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Connie Nieto.....293-7361
- Holy Family Catholic**
Nazareth
Peter Otto.....945-2616
- Hart Church of Christ**
416 Avenue H, Hart
Aaron Lee.....938-2267

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- C&S Battery, Inc.**
301 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
647-3531
- Cerestar USA Dimmitt Inc.**
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647-2802
- Lowe's**
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- Rafter 3, LTD**
FM 1055
647-5103
- Texas Equipment Company, Inc.**
Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3324
- Video Magic**
200 S. Broadway, Dimmitt
647-2822
- Westway Trading Corporation**
North Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3138



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ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



FSA is taking applications for emergency farm loans

Applications for emergency farm loans to help offset losses caused by various disasters are now being accepted at the Castro County Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Dimmitt. Castro County is one of 243 counties in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman as being eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from various disasters.

Ed Luebken with Castro County FSA said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75%.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30% loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Luebken said. "Farmers participating in the Federal Crops Insurance Program will have

to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss."

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until Aug. 20, but farmers should apply as soon as possible.

"Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Luebken said.

FSA is a credit agency of the US Dept. of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are US citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which US citizens hold a majority interest.

The FSA office in Dimmitt is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.



MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES at Saturday's Chamber of Commerce awards banquet was Cheryle Pybus, who was decked out in an outfit catered to the theme of "Castro County: Cattle, Cotton, Corn 'n Cowboys." Photo by Linda Maxwell

PLN sets 12th annual Southern Plains Conference for Feb. 3

The Promised Land Network (PLN) will convene the 12th annual Southern Plains Conference at the Home Mercantile Building in Nazareth on Feb. 3.

The theme for the conference will be "Ethical Dilemmas in Agricultural Biotechnology." How human beings view and treat nature is an ethical issue, according to the PLN. This conference aims to equip participants with a greater awareness of key le-

gal, economic, ecological, social and theological implications of agricultural biotechnology.

Registration for the conference will begin at 8 a.m., with the first presentation set for 8:30 a.m. and adjournment set for 4:30 p.m.. The cost of the conference is \$10 per person, which includes lunch. There is a \$5 rate for students.

Sessions will include Dr. Dick Richardson, professor of genetics at

the University of Texas at Austin, providing a short history of genetic engineering; Tony Laos, CEO of Stauffer Seeds, Inc., speaking on "The Promise of Biotechnology for Agriculture"; Dr. Drew Kershen, a Hereford native and professor in the College of Law at the University of Oklahoma, who will address the legal/economic implications of ag biotechnology; Dr. Judith Scoville of Northland College in Wisconsin and Richardson, who will address ecological implications; Holy Cross Brother David Andrews, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, will outline some social implications of ag biotechnology; and Scoville will treat important theological implications.

Each presentation will be followed by facilitated breakout sessions where further questions and discussion can take place. Following the final session, a roundtable discussion will be held with all five presenters.

For more information, call Lydia Villanueva at 364-4445.

SEC offering two \$500 scholarships

Swisher Electric Cooperative will award two \$500 scholarships in March to eligible applicants. The scholarships are available to any student who is a member or spouse or child of a member, or child whose guardian is a member of SEC.

Applicants may be high school graduates, currently enrolled college students or persons wishing to continue their education after an extended absence. Recipients will be

chosen based upon character, community involvement and service work, and recommendations. Secondary criteria will include a written essay, SAT/ACT scores and academic honors.

Applications may be obtained from area high school counselors or by calling Swisher Electric Cooperative at 995-3567. Applications must be received by March 2, and the awards will be presented at the SEC annual meeting on March 29.

Golden Spread Electric Cooperative of Amarillo, a generation and transmission cooperative owned by 10 Texas and one Oklahoma electric distribution cooperative also is offering a \$1,200 scholarship.

The Golden Spread Electric Cooperative Directors Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of individuals who were dedicated to the development and advancement of rural electrification for the benefit of their member/consumers. The scholarship provides financial assistance to electric cooperative family members seeking post-high school education in fields of study which are generally beneficial to electric cooperatives. It is available to an entering freshman college or university student who is a member, or spouse or child of a member, or child whose guardian is a member of a rural electric cooperative which is an (owner) member of Golden Spread Electric Cooperative.

Applications for the Golden Spread Electric Cooperative Directors Memorial Scholarship may be obtained from SEC or The Opportunity Plan, Inc., P.O. Box 1035, Canyon 79015-1035, which is the administrator of the scholarship.

Breast cancer screening is slated Feb. 12

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on Feb. 12 and appointments are still available.

Those who wish to have an exam should call 1-800-377-4673 or (806) 356-1905 to schedule an appointment.

The clinic is being conducted by the Women's Center of the Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered nurse.

Funding is available through the Texas Dept. of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance.

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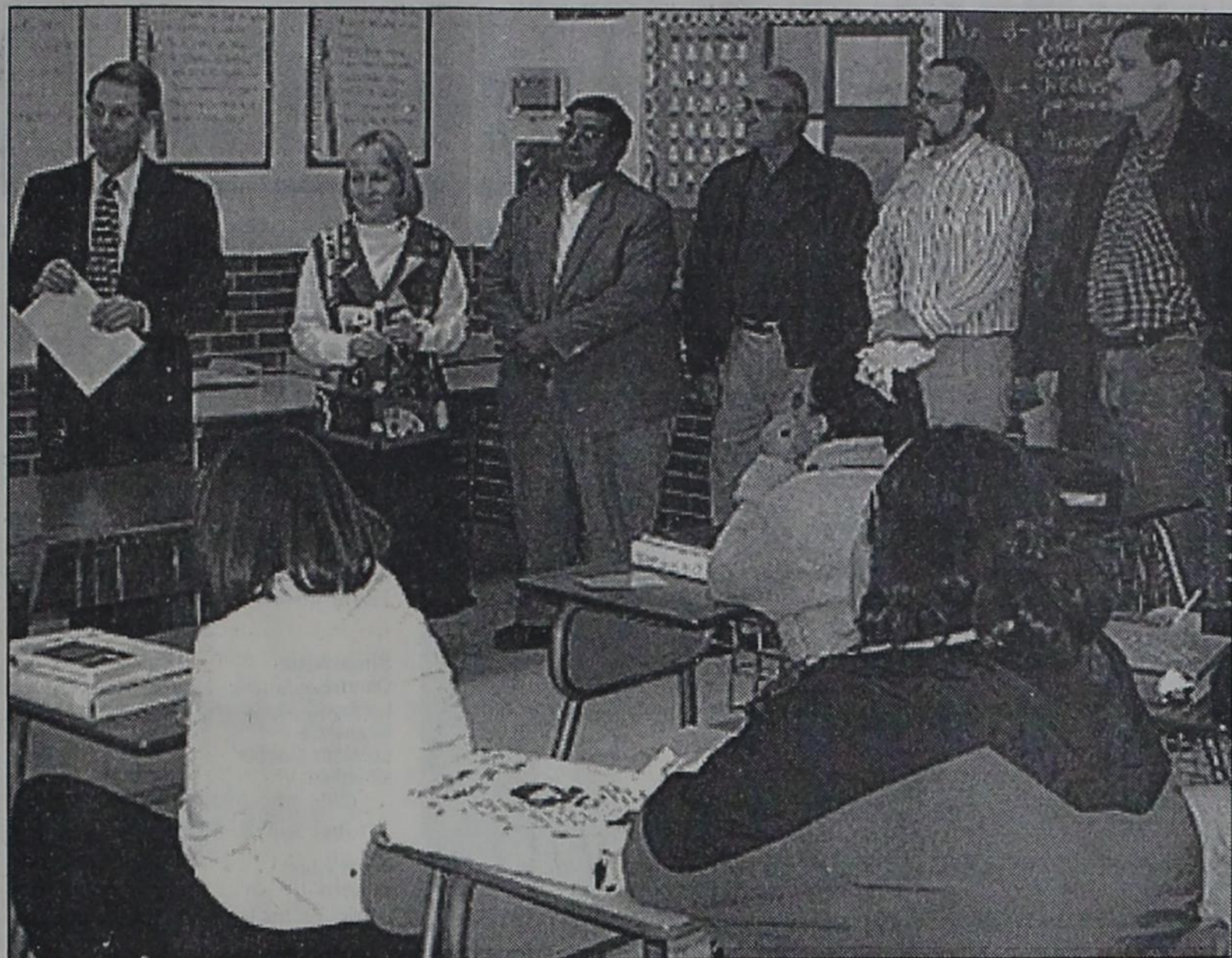
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\$15,000 GRANT—Three science teachers at Dimmitt High School were presented with a grant from Xcel Energy, parent company of Southwestern Public Service Co., last week. Participating in the ceremony are (standing, from left) Paul Rhodes, general manager of Energy Supply South for Xcel; Cinnamon Bradley, DHS science teacher; Albert Ramirez, director of Xcel's Plant X; Paul Fry and Francis Purcell,

DHS science teachers; and Bryan Irons, technical specialist at Plant X. Irons became aware of the grant through his workplace and notified the school. Darlene Collins, of the AEP campus, helped in writing the grant application. The money will be used to transform the courtyard/patio area at the high school into an environmental showcase, with indigenous plants and animals. Photo by Linda Maxwell

ACGA convention will focus on new farm bill

The preliminary agenda for the ninth annual American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) convention includes panels of farm leaders, elected officials and agriculture experts who will give their views on the new farm bill, renewal fuels, biotech corn, labor, trade, energy and environmental issues.

The American Corn Growers Association was founded in 1987 by corn producers, including Carl King of Dimmitt, who wanted more representation than they were getting from existing commodity groups. Since then, the organization has grown into one of the country's most respected voices exclusively for corn growers.

The ACGA focus is on the farmer. Its board of directors are all corn growers. Its producer members approve all policy decisions. Associate members provide support.

The 2001 convention will be held Feb. 1-4 in San Antonio. It is open to all guests and members of ACGA.

"Add your voice to solving our growing economic problems in rural America by joining farmers and their city neighbors at the convention," said Virginia Solheim, convention chairwoman.

The convention will be held at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio and registration for the event is \$85 per person, payable to ACGA Convention, Box 18157, Washington DC 20036.

The convention will feature banquets, issue seminars, talks by elected officials, farm leaders and ag experts, entertainment including tickets for the San Antonio Spurs' NBA game, and more.

Feb. 1 is the opening day for the convention, and the highlight of the day is the ACGA board of directors meeting from 1 to 5:30 p.m. Registration for the convention is planned from 7 to 10 p.m., and includes an opening reception at the Menger Hotel.

On Feb. 2, activities are planned from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and among the highlighted events is the panel discussions, scheduled throughout the day.

The ACGA awards banquet, additional panel discussions and more are planned for Feb. 3.

"We are entering a new era in American agriculture, and the American Corn Growers Association will be in the forefront of change," said ACGA President Keith Dittrich. "With the fellowship of farmers and their town and country neighbors we can make a difference. That's why we would like you to join us at our ninth annual convention in San Antonio. We hope the convention will build friendships and give direction to a new policy that benefits family farmers."

The National Association of Farmer Elected Committees will hold its convention on Feb. 4 in conjunction with the ACGA meeting.

For more information about the convention, call (202) 835-0330.

Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

The meeting of the Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) board of directors brought producers together in support of a common set of legislative goals for the coming year.

The action affirming the organization's goals followed on the heels of months and months of effort by PCG board members and staff. Much time was spent identifying exactly the hurdles producers face to maintain the viability of their operations and determining the types of change that would be most beneficial to producers at every level.

The conclusions were remarkably consistent and illustrated that significant benefits could be attained through a few key changes to current farm policy.

PCG will now take its ideas directly to other producers in the Cotton Belt in an effort to illustrate the common benefits that would accrue to all growers.

PCG's position, as adopted, will reflect an effort designed to gain immediate short-term changes and then shift focus to long-term modifications to current farm policy that need to become part of the next farm bill.

In the short term, PCG is advocating an immediate increase in loan rates for all commodities. A key component of this change is elimination of the legislatively-imposed cap preventing the cotton loan rate from moving higher than the current 52¢ level.

PCG also is seeking to have the minimum loan rate for cotton increased from its current level to 60¢.

Next on the list of short-term changes is the ongoing need for additional support in both 2001 and 2002 in the form of authorization of a second Production Flexibility Contract (PFC) payment at the higher 1998 payment rate.

PCG also will be monitoring the situation surrounding cottonseed prices and requesting funding for a 2001 Cottonseed Assistance Program, if necessary.

PCG's long-term policy goals are predicated on the need to maintain the basic provisions of the 1996

Farm Bill with significant modifications to strengthen the safety net protecting growers from economic harm brought on by influences beyond their control.

According to the PCG policy, key provisions that must be part of any new farm program dealing with cotton include the following:

- ◆ A "marketing loan" program with generic certificate authority and loan rates calculated from an increased minimum loan level using current loan rate formula provisions.

- ◆ The cotton 3-Step Competitive Program.

- ◆ Inclusion of a de-coupled payment program (for example, Production Flexibility Contract-type payments) at a 6- to 8-cent level with payments provided based on modified base acreage and yield information.

- ◆ Initiation of a Voluntary Resource Conservation Program that provides producers with an incentive to set aside some portion of their acreage in exchange for payments based on a fixed payment schedule.

- ◆ Development of a counter-cyclical price protection mechanism that will extend protection to up to at least the average cost of production. Ideas for how to structure this type of program are still being evaluated and include the modified version of the Supplemental Income Program (MSIP), first advanced by Con. Charles Stenholm, and the effects of a return to the old target price system employed before 1996.

- ◆ Continued effort to fully implement the enhanced crop insurance program pushed through by House Ag Committee Chairman Larry Combest last year with appropriate future changes to further improve the program.

The current PCG position reflects a slightly different set of recommendations than those presented to and adopted by the Texas Cotton Producers in December.

PCG notes that its efforts to derive a set of recommendations based on grass-roots input strengthens the arguments it is preparing to make and encourages continued communication to foster additional support, improvement and identification of program alternatives.

Game night set Friday at Senior Center

The Dimmitt Senior Citizens Center will host a game night on Friday, starting at 6 p.m.

All members of the center are encouraged to attend, and those interested in joining the Senior Citizens also are invited.

Membership is open to all who are age 55 or older, and the membership fee is only \$15 per year.

For more information, call the center at 647-2654, or Rayphard Smithson at 647-4519 or Joyce Davis at 647-5362.

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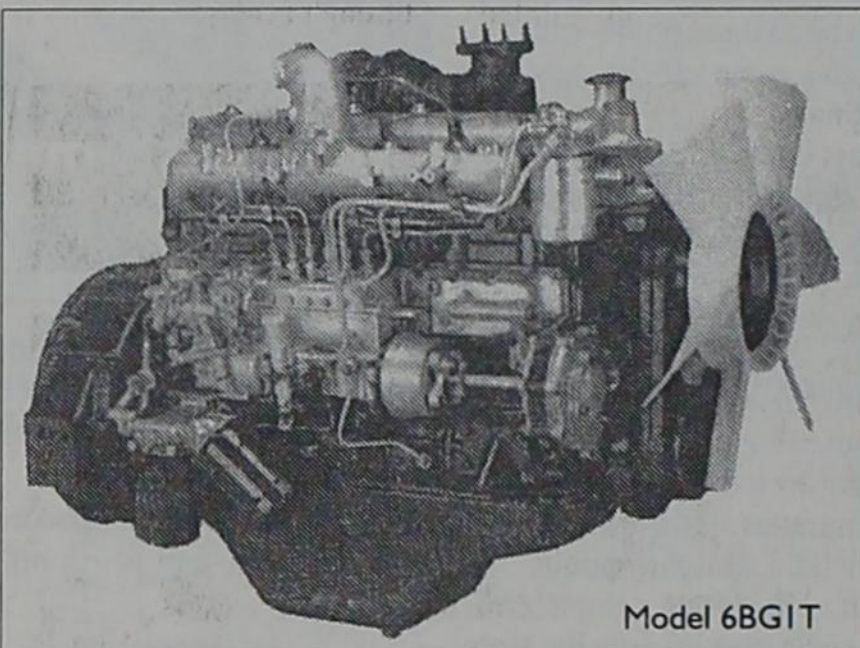
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Sports



Cats, Bobbies top Littlefield

The Bobbies scored their second district win over Littlefield's Lady Cats and the Bobcats rode a second-quarter blitz to victory in their first meeting with the Wildcats Tuesday night at Littlefield.

The wins left the Bobbies still in the playoff hunt with a 4-2 mark in District 2-3A (12-13 overall), while the Bobcats improved to 16-7, 3-1 to stay in second place behind Shallowater.

Bobbies 58, Littlefield 33

In the first meeting between the Bobbies and Lady Cats two weeks ago in Dimmitt, Littlefield's Stephanie Webb scored 21 points and almost took the game away before the Bobbies eked out a 49-46 win.

But at their place Tuesday night, it wasn't even close. The Bobbies held Webb to three points and controlled the game all the way to a 58-33 finale.

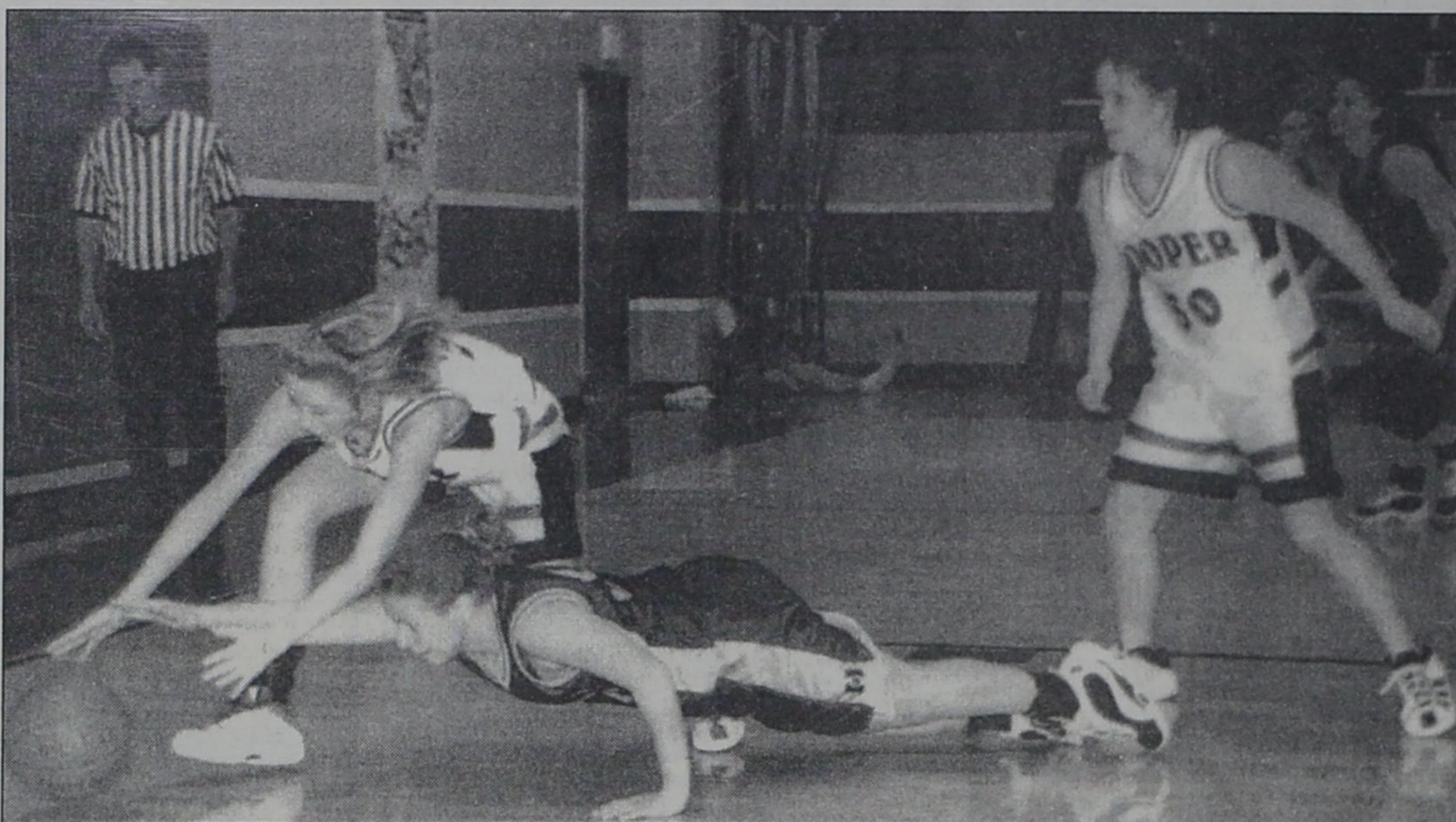
Almost every girl on Dimmitt's squad got into the scoring act. Heather Black netted 18 and Tamara Robertson 12 to lead the way.

Audrey Saenz sank Dimmitt's first two baskets and Robertson contributed one as the Bobbies struggled to a 6-5 lead in the first three minutes. But then Black scored 12 straight points for Dimmitt, including three free throws and a trey, to give the Bobbies an 18-8 lead by the end of the quarter, and Littlefield never threatened after that.

During a slow 8-7 second quarter, more points were scored off of free throws (9) than field goals. At halftime it was 26-15.

The second half started like a pick-up game at the firehouse, then settled into a free-shot and three-shot contest as the Bobbies increased their lead to 14 points, 41-27, by the end of the third.

Coach Tim Gilliland rotated his players freely throughout the fourth



S-T-R-E-T-C-H! — Dimmitt's Lori Schulte gives it her best effort but can't quite reach the loose ball in a scramble with a Lubbock Cooper player near the baseline Friday night at Woodrow. This action occurred

frame as the Bobbies outscored the Lady Cats 17-6 to polish off a 25-point win.

Bobcats 61, Littlefield 48

Maybe it was those three-for-three free throws that Littlefield's J. D. Walls sank to give the Wildcats a 10-9 lead before Dimmitt's Austin Sherman scored the final field

goal of the first quarter on a six-foot overhand layup at the buzzer.

Or maybe it was Taylor Allen's three-pointer that gave the Wildcats the lead again, 13-11, to open the second quarter.

Whatever it was, something really lit the Bobcats' wicks and inspired them to stage a ferocious 21-2 run and take control of the game for good.

with 3:23 left in the game and the Bobbies holding a comfortable 48-36 lead. Dimmitt went on to win, 55-40. In right background are Dimmitt's Audrey Saenz and Heather Black.

Photo by Carter Townsend

After Allen's trey, Littlefield got no more field goals in the second period. The Wildcats managed only two scattered free throws as the Bobcats combined sharp shooting and a fierce defense to roll to a 32-15 halftime lead.

Dee Norman led the blitz with two treys and a back-door layup, while Daniel Proffitt contributed 4, Austin Sherman 3 and Matthew

Wright, Matthew Sandoval and Julian Velo 2 apiece.

Littlefield outscored Dimmitt in the second half, but by then it was all over but the final tallying. The Wildcats won the third quarter 15-14 and the fourth 18-15.

Norman finished as Dimmitt's top scorer with 21, while Proffitt came in with 12 and Sherman with 11.

District Standings

Here are the District 2-AAA, District 4-A and District 3-A standings through Tuesday night's games.

DISTRICT 2-AAA

Girls		
District	Overall	
Shallowater	5-0	21-4
Dimmitt	4-2	12-13
Lubbock Roosevelt	4-2	19-7
Muleshoe	3-3	13-12
Lubbock Cooper	1-4	5-17
Littlefield	0-6	5-17

Boys

District	Overall	
Shallowater	3-0	12-9
Dimmitt	3-1	16-7
Lubbock Cooper	2-1	10-13
Muleshoe	2-2	7-5
Lubbock Roosevelt	1-3	13-11
Littlefield	0-4	11-9

DISTRICT 3-A

Girls		
District	Overall	
Sudan	6-0	18-5
Farwell	5-1	14-9
Springlake-Earth	3-3	11-14
Bovina	2-3	8-12
Hart	1-5	10-13
Kress	0-4	N/A

Boys

District	Overall	
Farwell	6-0	19-5
Sudan	4-2	16-8
Springlake-Earth	3-3	8-10
Hart	2-4	9-14
Bovina	1-4	11-10
Kress	1-3	4-17

DISTRICT 4-A

Girls		
District	Overall	
Nazareth	2-0	22-4
Happy Valley	1-1	12-11
Valley	1-1	14-5
Silverton	0-2	12-14

Boys

District	Overall	
Nazareth	2-0	16-7
Silverton	1-1	13-9
Happy Valley	1-1	12-9
Valley	0-2	9-9

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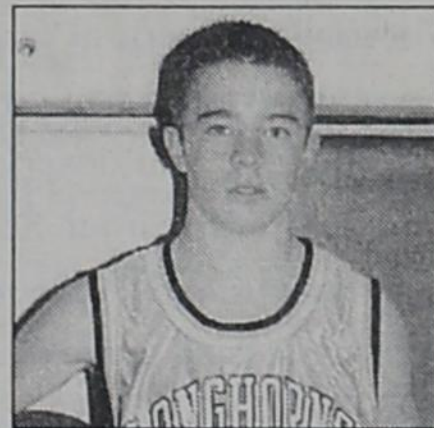


**FRIDAY: Ladyhorns & Longhorns
vs. Sudan, There**

**TUESDAY: Ladyhorns & Longhorns
vs. Bovina, Here**



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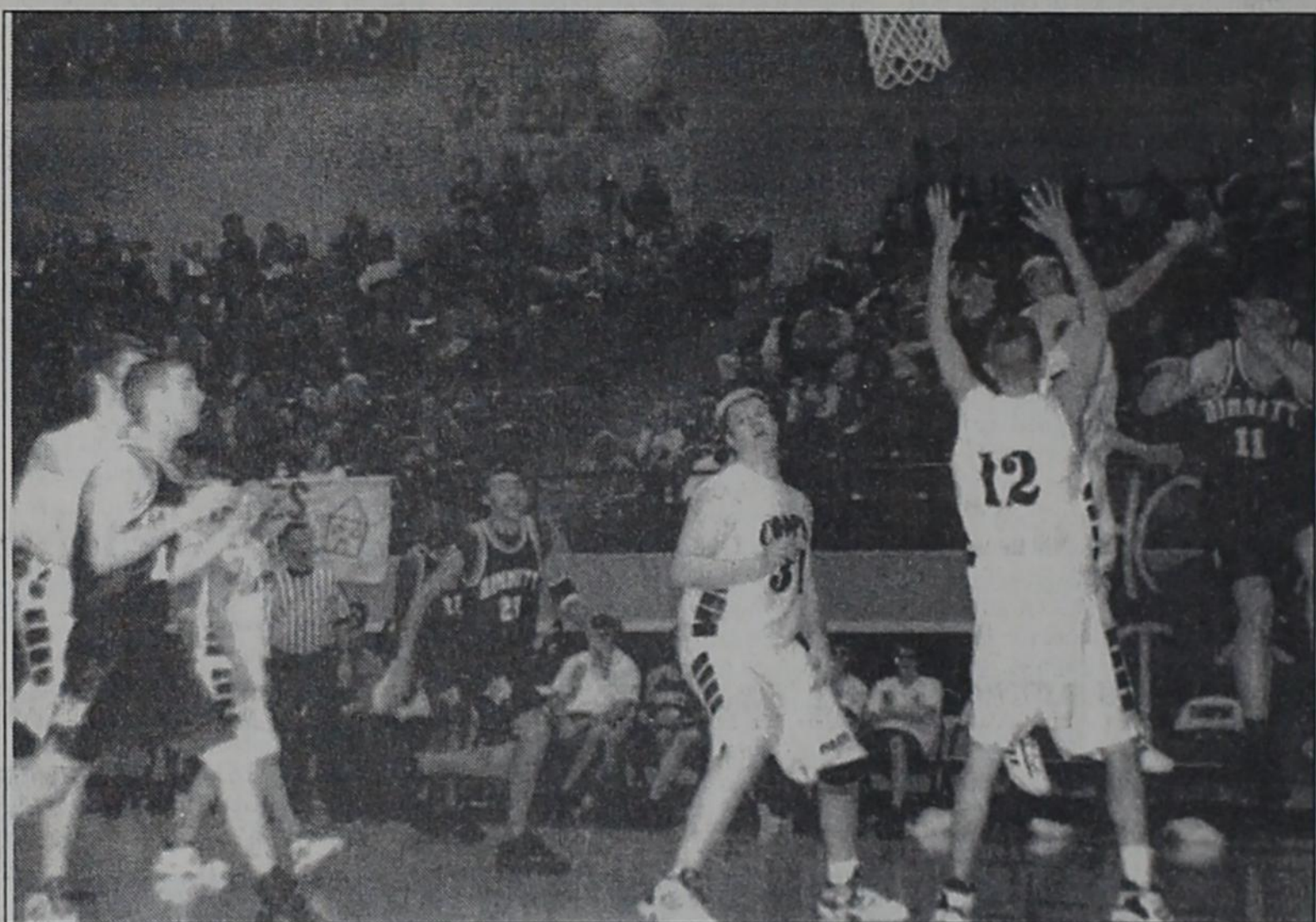
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BASELINE PLAY—After driving the baseline and drawing a crowd of Lubbock Cooper defenders, Dimmitt's Daniel Proffitt (11) dishes the ball off to teammate Matthew Wright (left foreground) for a shot in Friday night's District 2-3A boys' game at Woodrow. In background are Dimmitt's Matthew Sandoval (23) and Austin Sherman (12). The Bobcats defeated the Pirates, 53-43. *Photo by Carter Townsend*

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6:30 p.m. **Bobbies vs. Shallowater**
8:00 p.m. **Bobcats vs. Shallowater**



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Scoreboard

LATE SCORES

JV Bobbies 50, Shallowater 42
 Dimmitt 9 14 11 16 —50
 Shallowater 11 11 10 10 —42
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Jenna Steinle 23.

JV Bobcats 57, Muleshoe 53
 Muleshoe 9 7 16 20 —53
 Dimmitt JV 13 12 17 15 —57
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Colby Williams 18, Kenneth Worsham 14, Lee Brown 12.

JV Bobbies 47, Muleshoe 42
 Muleshoe 4 11 17 10 —42
 Dimmitt JV 18 5 11 13 —47
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Jenna Steinle 15, Caitlin Buckley 10.

Norman is named all-state

Cherie Norman of Dimmitt has been selected to the Class AAA girls' all-state cross country team. The honorees were selected by the Texas Girls Coaches Association and the all-state teams were announced this week. Norman, a senior at Dimmitt High School, was a four-year member of the Bobbies' varsity cross country team. She qualified for state her sophomore year and was a regional qualifier four times.

Longhorns 54, Kress 52
 Kress 12 9 5 26 —52
 Hart 18 12 6 18 —54
SCORING: Hart—Keith Finch 29, Isaias Garcia 8.

FRIDAY
Bobcats 53, Lubbock Cooper 43
 Dimmitt 15 11 12 15 —53
 Cooper 13 4 13 13 —43
SCORING: Dimmitt—Marcus Larra 16, Dee Norman 14.

Bobbies 55, Lubbock Cooper 40
 Dimmitt 19 12 15 9 —55
 Cooper 5 8 9 18 —48
SCORING: Dimmitt—Heather Black 15, Rachel Fabela 9.

JV Bobbies 45, Lubbock Cooper 21
 Dimmitt JV 18 2 16 9 —45
 Cooper 2 2 9 8 —21
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Caitlin Buckley 14, Lyndee Behrends 10.

JV Bobcats 58, Lubbock Cooper 65
 Dimmitt JV 12 11 15 20 —58
 Cooper 18 23 10 14 —65
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Lee Brown 19, Matthew Sanders and Kenneth Worsham 14.

Swiftettes 63, Happy 34
 Happy 7 9 14 4 —34
 Nazareth 17 21 7 18 —63
SCORING: Nazareth—Stephanie Thiel 17, Whitney Hoelting and Lesley Brockman 15.

Swifts 73, Happy 37
 Happy 4 12 11 10 —37
 Nazareth 20 23 10 20 —73
SCORING: Nazareth—Kade Wilcox 19, Eric Schilling 15, Daryl Pohlmeier 14, Trey Robb 12.

Lady Horns 31, Springlake-Earth 58
 Hart 8 7 6 10 —31
 S-E 16 10 13 19 —58
SCORING: Hart—Crystal Diego 14, Lacie Curry 13.

Longhorns 54, Springlake-Earth 66
 Hart 12 16 9 17 —54
 S-E 17 17 17 15 —66
SCORING: Hart—Keith Finch 28, Velasquez 12.

TUESDAY
Bobbies 58, Littlefield 33
 Dimmitt 18 8 15 17 —58
 Littlefield 8 7 12 6 —33
SCORING: Dimmitt—Heather Black 16, Tamara Robertson 12.

Bobcats 61, Littlefield 48
 Dimmitt 11 21 14 15 —61
 Littlefield 10 5 15 18 —48
SCORING: Dimmitt—Dee Norman 21, Daniel Proffitt 12, Austin Sherman 11.

Swiftettes 87, Silverton 30
 Nazareth 27 24 19 17 —87
 Silverton 5 3 11 11 —30
SCORING: Nazareth—Stephanie Thiel 24, Wendy Black 19, Marsha Black and Erica Gerber 14.

Swifts 87, Silverton 50
 Nazareth 26 26 20 15 —87
 Silverton 19 8 8 15 —50
SCORING: Nazareth—Eric Schilling 30, Kade Wilcox 25.

Lady Horns 26, Farwell 80
 Farwell 11 19 22 28 —80
 Hart 4 7 4 11 —26
SCORING: Hart—Meagan Farris 12, Yadira Anzaldua 8.

Longhorns 50, Farwell 64
 Box score not available

JV Bobbies 50, Littlefield 40
 Dimmitt JV 17 9 9 15 —50
 Littlefield 9 7 12 12 —40
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Caitlin Buckley 19, Ashley Irons 13, Jenna Steinle 10.

JV Swiftettes 52, Silverton 21
JV Swifts 48, Silverton 51 (OT)
JV Lady Horns 5, Farwell 43

Hart teams fall to pair of tough adversaries

The Hart Lady Horns and Longhorns saw hopes for a playoff bid slip a little further away this week as they dropped games to Springlake-Earth and Farwell in District 3-A play.

The Lady Horns fell victim to the Lady Wolverines on Friday, 31-58; then suffered another loop loss to Farwell Tuesday, 26-80.

The Longhorns fared a little better in their battle with the Wolverines, but still came up short, losing the battle 54-66. The Longhorns also battled Farwell to the wire, but were edged by the district leading Steers, 50-64.

With the losses, Hart's girls dropped to 10-13 on the season and 1-5 in district play. The Longhorns fell to 9-14, 2-4.

Leading District 3-A play on the girls' side is Sudan, with a perfect 6-0 mark. Farwell is currently in second place with a 5-1 record while Springlake-Earth has a 3-3 mark in third.

The boys' race is headed by Farwell, undefeated with a 6-0 mark. Sudan is currently second at 4-2 while the Wolverines are third with a 3-3 record.

Springlake-Earth's girls jumped out to a 16-8 lead in the first quarter with Hart Friday, and the Lady Wolverines' defense kept the Lady Horns out of sync for most of the game enroute to the 58-31 win.

By halftime, Springlake-Earth had constructed a 26-15 lead, then added on to that margin in the third by outscoring Hart 13-6.

Hart's offense found a small spark in the fourth quarter, but the Lady Horns couldn't keep up with Springlake-Earth.

Hart's Crystal Diego finished with 14 points to lead her team while Lacie Curry chipped in 13.

In the boys' game Friday, Hart suffered a third-quarter drought that allowed the Wolverines to extend a small lead into a comfortable margin that resulted in a 66-54 Springlake-Earth win.

Hart trailed by five after the opening stanza, 12-17. The Longhorns matched the Wolverines almost bucket-for-bucket in the second quarter, but still trailed by six at the break, 28-34.

The Wolverines opened up a big

lead in the third quarter by holding Hart to nine points and owned a 51-37 lead headed into the final period.

Hart outscored Springlake-Earth 17-15 over the final eight minutes, but the Wolverines were able to offset the rally attempt with some key baskets and free throws to preserve their win.

Hart's Keith Finch poured in 28 points to lead the Longhorns.

The Lady Horns ran into a brick defensive front that yielded almost nothing Tuesday night when they hosted the Farwell girls.

Farwell allowed Hart only four points in the first and third quarters and the Lady Blue offense ran wild enroute to the 80-26 win.

Farwell turned an 11-4 first-quarter lead into a 30-11 halftime advantage. In the second half, Hart managed just 15 points as Farwell put the game on ice with a 50-point half.

Meagan Farris had 12 points to lead Hart while Yadira Anzaldua added eight.

Hart's boys had a close battle with Farwell, but the Steers prevailed, 64-50. No other information was available at press time.

Classified ads get results!

Good Luck, Bobbies and Bobcats!

FRIDAY: Bobbies & Bobcats vs. Lubbock Roosevelt, There
 Starting at 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY: Bobbies & Bobcats vs. Shallowater, Here
 Starting at 6:30 p.m.

Schedule and Scores

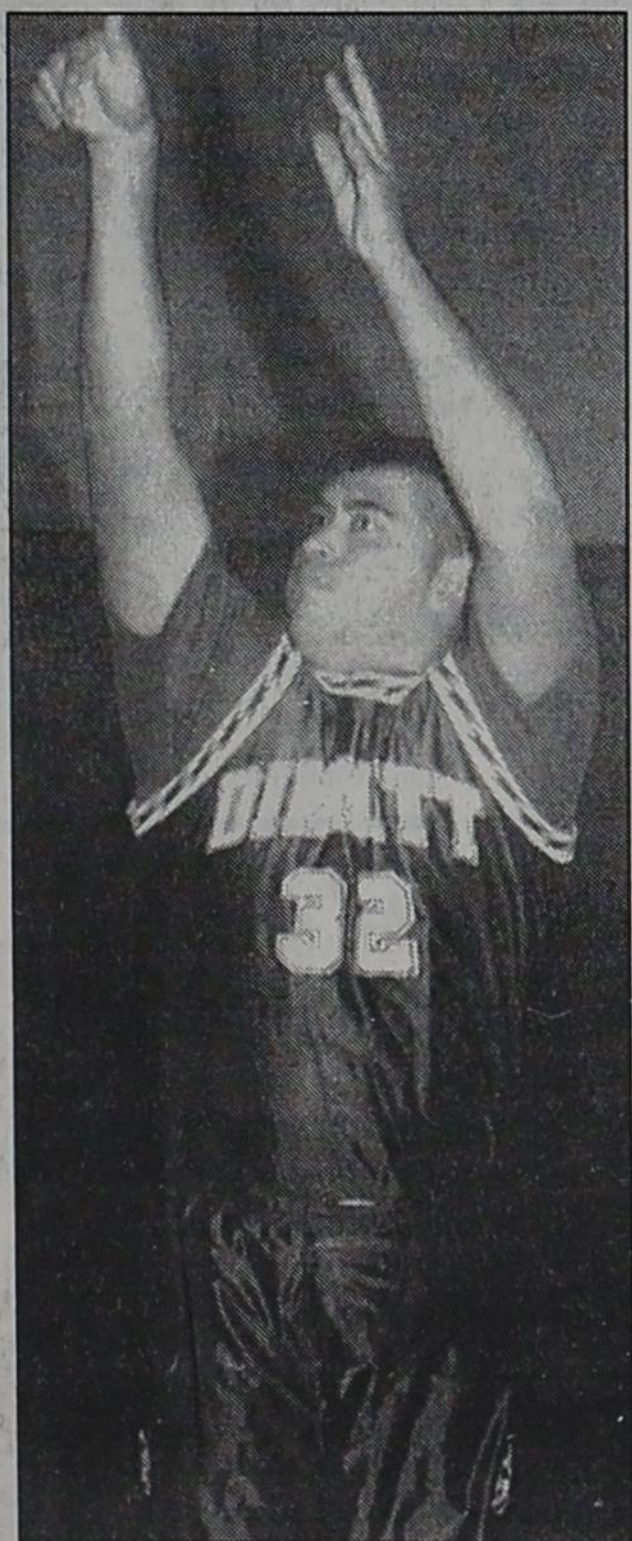
Jan. 26—*Roosevelt, There
 Jan. 30—*Shallowater, Here
 Feb. 2—*Muleshoe, There
 Feb. 6—*Cooper, Here
 Feb. 9—*Littlefield (Boys), Here
 Feb. 12—*Roosevelt (Boys), Here

Bobbies

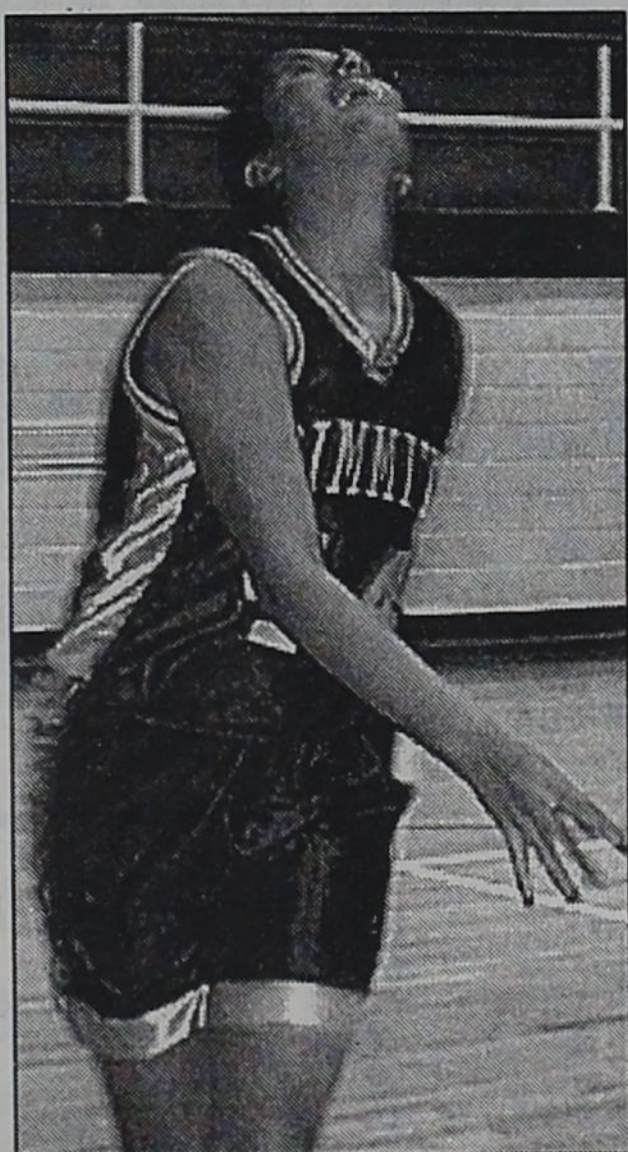
42, Randall 54
 39, Levelland 58
 44, Borger 62
Queen's Classic
 41, Randall 55
 57, Muleshoe 44
 68, Vega 70 (OT)
 59 Hereford 55
Canyon Classic
 36, Tascosa 71
 51, Panhandle 63
 65, Godley 35
 41, Tulia 44
 57, Abernathy 52
 49, River Road 65
 43, Amarillo High 81
Caprock Tournament
 68, Amarillo Caprock 43
 51, Lubbock Coronado 61
 51, Andrews 46
 49, El Paso Franklin 33
 47, Stephenville 39
 49, Littlefield 46
 42, Roosevelt 45
 49, Shallowater 70
 59, Muleshoe 49
 55, Lubbock Cooper, 40
 58, Littlefield 33
Season Record: 12-13
District Record: 4-2

Bobcats

49, Randall 68
 60, Levelland 67
 69, Borger 62
 43, Hereford 52
Plainview Tournament
 63, Plainview 53
 56 Paducah 40
 70, Hale Center 40
 75, Tulia 55
Big Spring Tournament
 81, Sweetwater 55
 66, Clyde 48
 54, Merkel 41
 70, Abernathy 61
 71, River Road 39
 73, Amarillo High 79
Caprock Tournament
 62, Lubbock Estacado 60
 45, El Paso Montwood 46
 63, Lubbock Coronado 66
 73, Tulia 48
 55, Amarillo 52
 50, Shallowater 54
 62, Muleshoe 59
 53, Lubbock Cooper 43
 61, Littlefield 48
Season Record: 16-7
District Record: 3-1



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Junior Post



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Swiftettes wrestle loop win from aggressive Cowgirls



BATTLING HER WAY INSIDE is Nazareth's Lesley Brockman (22). Brockman forces her way past two Happy Cowgirls and gets off a shot Friday night in a District 4-A Division II game at Nazareth. The Swiftettes jumped out to an early lead then overcame a huge third-quarter drought to hand the Cowgirls a 63-43 loss. Brockman was one of the Swiftettes' scoring sparkplugs, pouring in 15 points.

Photo by Dwayne Acker

When push came to shove Friday night, the Nazareth Swiftettes showed why they are the No. 1-ranked team in the state as they handled a super-aggressive Happy squad enroute to a 63-34 District 4-A victory at home.

Nazareth improved to 21-4 on the season and stands at 1-0 in conference play while the Cowgirls dropped to 11-11, 0-1.

Three players fouled out of Friday's contest—Nazareth's Wendy Black and Mandy Hoelting and Happy's Casey Cuttrel.

Nazareth attacked the Cowgirls from all corners in the first half Friday, jumping out to a 17-7 first-quarter lead, then extending that advantage to 38-16 at halftime.

But Happy battled back and nipped that lead to 11 points in the third quarter when Nazareth went stone cold from the field. That was as close as the Cowgirls would get.

After scoring just one point in the first 7:38 of the third quarter, Nazareth ended the stanza with back-to-back three-pointers in the final 22 seconds to regain a 15-point lead, 45-30.

Over the final period, Nazareth was able to outscore the Cowgirls 18-4 for the big win.

The Swiftettes took a 5-0 lead on a three-pointer by Lesley Brockman and a transition bucket by Stephanie Thiel.

Happy's big senior post, Buffy Adkins, answered with a jumper and pair of free throws to pull the Cowgirls within a point, but her team never owned a lead in the game.

Baskets by Mandy Hoelting and Stephanie Thiel, and a couple of free shots and a three-pointer by Whitney Hoelting elevated the Swiftettes' lead to 14-6 with two minutes left in the quarter.

Brockman, who had one of her best offensive games of the year, popped another three-pointer with 50 seconds left for a 17-6 Swiftette advantage.

Happy's Casey Cuttrel cut it to 10 with a free throw near the end of the stanza.

Nazareth opened scoring in the second with a rebound and put-back by Whitney Hoelting, then the teams traded free throws over the next two minutes, with each counting four to their total score.

Nazareth took a 27-11 lead with 3:45 left when Whitney Hoelting scored on a strong inside move, but

she injured her ankle on the play and sat out for the rest of the half.

Her backup, Erica Gerber, came in and gave the Swiftettes a 19-point lead when she popped a three with 2:43 left.

Thiel, who had been battling to get free from an aggressive Brittany Spradling for most of the first half, hit her first three of the game, launching the shot from way outside the three-point mark as the buzzer sounded, and that gave Nazareth a 38-16 lead at the break.

Happy's Adkins sisters, Buffy and Chandra, along with Spradling and Cuttrel, were able to spark the third-quarter comeback bid.

With Nazareth missing its first nine shots over 7:38 of the quarter, and the Swiftettes making just one of two free throw attempts during that span, the Cowgirls enthusiasm erupted and resulted in a 12-1 Happy run.

Happy went inside for most of those points, scoring layup after layup and short jumpers.

Chandra Adkins scored first, then Buffy Adkins followed a Spradling miss with a put-back.

Thiel hit one of two free throws with 6:22 left and that was the only point Nazareth would see until 22 ticks were left in the period.

Black and Wendy Hoelting each picked up their fourth fouls in the quarter and spent half of the period on the bench.

That's when Happy really started rolling. A basket from Cuttrel and a coast-to-coast drive and layup by Spradling pulled the Cowgirls within 15, then Buffy Adkins added a shot to trim the deficit even more.

Another Spradling layup with 2:46 left pulled Happy within 11, but that was it for the comeback.

Brockman hit a three with 22 seconds left to end the Nazareth drought, then Tara Kleman just beat the buzzer with another long-range bomb, giving Nazareth a 45-30 lead.

When Happy's defense limited Nazareth's access to the inside, the Swiftettes adjusted the offense and Whitney Hoelting stepped outside to pop a pair of threes in the fourth quarter, the second giving Nazareth a 52-30 lead.

Over the final three minutes, Kleman, Thiel and Brockman all added baskets to allow Nazareth to maintain its advantage.

Thiel finished with 17 points for

Nazareth while Whitney Hoelting and Brockman chipped in 15 apiece.

Nazareth had a lackluster shooting night, hitting just 19-of-61 attempts from the field; but the Swiftettes still made 11 three-pointers. The Swiftettes also hit 14-of-18 free throws.

Happy was 12-of-48 from the field with only one trey; and the Cowgirls counted 9-of-13 free throws.

Happy turned the ball over 16 times, compared with 11 miscues by Nazareth.

Nazareth out-rebounded the Cowgirls, 39-27.



CAUGHT OFF-GUARD—Tyler Ehly (30) of Nazareth drives around a Happy defender and gets open for a jumper Friday night. The Swifts had no problems handling the Cowboys, posting a 73-37 District 4-A victory at home.

Photo by Dwayne Acker

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vs. Valley, There

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TUESDAY: Swiftettes & Swifts

vs. Happy, There

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Swifts smother Happy in district opener, 73-37

One of the main focuses of Happy's attack Friday was to shut down Nazareth sharpshooter Kade Wilcox and contain the Swifts' big post player Eric Schilling.

The Cowboys did succeed in shutting down Wilcox—for the first quarter. But Schilling was unstoppable. Nazareth also got scoring production from its entire roster as the Swifts prevailed, 73-37, over the defending regional champions.

Happy fell behind 0-7 early in the game after Nazareth used a three by Trey Robb and two big inside plays by Daryl Pohlmeier and Schilling to claim control.

Schilling would finish with nine points in the first quarter as Nazareth jumped out to a 20-4 lead.

Wilcox, who was chased around the court by Happy's Bobby Parish, missed his first five shots of the game before connecting on a fast-break layup in the second quarter.

Happy couldn't stop him after that. He tallied 11 in the second quarter while Pohlmeier added six and Nazareth boosted its lead to 43-16 by intermission.

Nazareth's defense annihilated Happy's offensive scheme, forcing 19 Cowboy turnovers in the first half and 34 for the game. Happy attempted just 16 shots during the first half and only made six of those.

Nazareth turned steal after steal into easy layups in the second half, and counted several inside-the-paint jumpers as they continued to add to their lead.

Pohlmeier gave Nazareth a 53-23 lead with an inside move at the 3:32 mark in the third, but Happy scored twice against Nazareth's second team before the quarter was up and Nazareth led 53-27.

Over the final quarter, Nazareth outscored Happy 20-10 for the big win.

The Swifts made 31-of-68 shots in the game while Happy counted just 13-of-38. Nazareth was a perfect six-of-six from the charity stripe while Happy connected on 11-of-16 attempts.

Wilcox finished as the Swifts' leading scorer, tallying 19. Schilling finished with 15, Pohlmeier added 14 and Robb finished with 12.

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Here are the junior livestock show rules

Here are the rules for the 2001 Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, scheduled Feb. 8-10, sponsored by the Dimmitt Young Farmers.

OFFICIALS

Young Farmers President	Curt Summers
General Superintendent	Curt Summers
Assistant Superintendent	Andy Williams
Vice President	Andy Williams
Reporter	Malcom Sager
Secretary	Matt Gfeller
Treasurer	Chad Davis
Steer Division Superintendent	Justin Nelson
Assistant Steer Superintendents	Chad Davis, Rodney Hunter, Robert Boozer, Rick Bagwell, Tod Bradley, Greg Odom, Roy Schilling
Lamb Division Superintendent	Tim Wales
Assistant Lamb Superintendents	Jason Wooten, Lonnie Robb, Malcom Sager, Kurt Wales and Chaun Gunstream
Swine Division Superintendent	Matt Gfeller
Assistant Swine Superintendents	Andy Williams, Jason Nelson, Matt Gfeller, Danny Underwood and Jay Davis
Auctioneers	Jack Howell, John Davis, Greg Odom, Jason Wooten, Kenneth Gregg
Building Superintendent	Danny Underwood
Assistant Building Superintendent	Kurt Wales
Clerks	Dimmitt Young Farmers
Public Relations Liaison	Greg Odom
Floor Buyers Committee	Dimmitt Young Farmers
Judges:	
Steers	Billy Copeland
Barrows	Gaylon McCune
Lambs	Billy Copeland

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL

- All entries must be sent to the Young Farmers, Vo. Ag Dept., Dimmitt High School, 1505 Western Circle Drive, by 5 p.m. on Feb. 2. Any incomplete, unsigned or late entry will be fined \$25.
- Entry fee—To be used for bedding, show expenses, etc.: \$15.
- All livestock must be in place by 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, and no earlier than noon Wednesday, Feb. 7. Weighing will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 11. Entries must be ready by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 7.
- All animals must be weighed at the time of entry by the officials. Only one weigh-back will be allowed if the animal does not make the limit set. This weigh-back must be within one hour of the first weighing, or at the discretion of the superintendent.
- All animals must receive state validation from the county agent or ag teacher.
- Each exhibitor will not be allowed to enter or show more than three steers, three barrows and three lambs. An exhibitor will be allowed to sell no more than three animals and only two in any division. If an individual shows more than three animals, he must notify the superintendent immediately after judging as to which three animals he will place in the sale.
- The number of animals that will be sold through the auction will be as follows: 125 barrows, 125 lambs or 75% of the total animals that are weighed in, whichever is the smaller number. Due to the decline in the number of steers and heifers, up to 15 head will sell; or 75% of the total, whichever is greatest.
- The percent of the animals to be sold will be figured on each class. If an animal eligible to sell is pulled, the next animal in line from that class will sell. This will be at the discretion of the superintendent.
- Animals that make the show but do not make the sale will be sold with the floor animals, unless the exhibitor pulls the animals by one hour after showing.
- All livestock will be sifted by weight.
- Two showmanship trophies will be awarded for steer, swine and sheep. The senior showmanship trophy will be for the exhibitors aged 14 and older, and the junior showmanship will be for the exhibitors aged 13 and younger. The animals must have been owned, fitted and groomed by the exhibitor for the exhibitor to be eligible for a showmanship award.
- No steer will be allowed in the show that has not been owned as of July 1, 2000. Barrows

and lambs must have been owned as of Nov. 1, 2000.

- Only active 4-H and FFA members are eligible to show. All livestock entered in the show must have been fed under the supervision of the Castro County Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher of Dimmitt, Hart or Nazareth High Schools and must be so certified by one of the above on the entry card.
- To be eligible to show, all 4-H Club members must be enrolled in a Castro County 4-H Club under the supervision of the Castro County Agent. All FFA members must be enrolled in a Castro County School. All exhibitors must reside in Castro County, be at least nine (9) years of age, or in the third grade, and be enrolled in a public or private elementary or secondary school located within Castro County. Any exceptions must be approved by the Dimmitt Young Farmers.
- All animals must be reasonably dry and clean before weighing. Any animal not so may be declared ineligible to show by the committee in charge of the division.
- Animals are the responsibility of the exhibitor until they are loaded on the truck. Any animal left in the barn after trucks are loaded are the responsibility of the seller.
- The Dimmitt Young Farmers shall reserve the right to disqualify any exhibitor or animal for any reason that is deemed necessary. Also, the Young Farmers will not be responsible for any injury, loss or damage to persons or property arising from the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale.
- Exhibitors and show officials will be the only persons allowed in the showing ring.
- Any animal sold on the floor must have been entered in the show.
- Any exhibitor found violating the rules may be subject to a fine of up to \$200 and suspension from the county show for a period of one year. The person signing the entry card may also be fined up to \$200. Entry cards will not be accepted from the offending organization until the fine is paid.
- All protests must be in writing and be accompanied by a deposit of \$50, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal, and must be delivered to the livestock show management immediately after occasion for such protest. The protest committee will consist of the Young Farmer officers and the various division superintendents. All committee decisions are final. The Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale and the Dimmitt Young Farmers are indemnified from any and all liability for all legal and other proceedings which may ensue from the committee's decision.
- No animal may leave the stock show premises from the time of weigh-in until after the show without the approval of the superintendent. All take-home animals must be checked out of the barns by noon on Saturday, 10.
- Each club will be responsible for cleaning their pen. If pens are not cleaned, a fine of \$200 will be levied. Checks will be held until the fine is paid. All pens must be cleaned by 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.
- No change in the pattern or highlighting of any animal by painting or dying in all three barns will be allowed (water only).
- No adults in show ring during show or classification.
- Exhibitors ineligible to participate at the Castro County Junior Livestock Show due to the "no pass, no play" rule cannot have another or others exhibit the animal or animals in question.

II. CLASSIFICATION

Lambs will be weighed and classified at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, in the show ring. Steers will be weighed upon arrival at the show and classed by weight. Steer classes will be determined by the superintendent. Hogs will be classified by owner. Any animal not classified at the proper time must wait until last to be classified. Hog weights must be turned in by 4 p.m.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

- Lambs—9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 9.
- Steers and heifers—Immediately following lambs on Friday, Feb. 9.
- Barrows—Following steers on Friday, Feb. 9.

III. STEER DEPARTMENT

- Steers and heifers are eligible to show.
- All calves in the show must weigh at least 900 pounds; however, 1,350 pounds is the top pay weight.
- Awards:
 - Placings—Ribbons.
 - Grand Champion—Banner.
 - Reserve Grand Champion—Banner.
- If there is not enough of any one class to be placed in a separate class, they will be classified with another class.

IV. LAMB DEPARTMENT

- Both wether and ewe lambs are eligible to show.
- There will be a possibility of four breeds only. Definitions of breeds are as follows: A. Fine Wool—This breed shall include only purebred Grade Rambouillet or Delaine or a cross between these two breeds; B. Fine Wool Cross—This will include lambs sired by Suffolk, Hampshire, Corriedale or Columbia Rams and out of Fine Wool ewes. Lambs that carry more than 50% Medium Wool breeding will go into the Medium Wool. The decision will be left to classifiers; C. Medium Wool Class—This shall include only purebred or Grade Hampshire, Suffolk, Corriedale and Columbia or other Medium Wool Cross; D. Southdowns—This is only for purebred Southdowns or lambs that exhibit predominant Southdown characteristics.
- Weight Classes: Breeds of lambs will be divided at supervisor's discretion. The minimum weight will be 80 pounds. There will not be a top weight, but the maximum pay weight will be 130 pounds.
- Lambs will be classified into classes according to breed numbers at the superintendent's discretion. A classifying judge will assist the superintendent in placing the animals in the proper class. Classifier's decision will be final.
- Champion and Reserve Champion of each breed will compete for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the show.
- Lambs wool should be uniform in length and no more than 1/4 of an inch in length. Top knots are permitted.
- Where four animals are not available to make weight classes, then lightweights and heavyweights will be grouped into a single breed class.
- Awards:
 - Placing—Ribbons.
 - Grand Champion—Banner.
 - Reserve Grand Champion—Banner.

V. SWINE DEPARTMENT

- Only barrows are eligible to show.
- Barrows weighing less than 175 pounds or more than 260 pounds will be sifted from the show. A weigh-back may be done on any barrow at the discretion of the Dimmitt Young Farmers. A 10-pound variance up or down will be allowed from write-in weight. Any barrow not meeting the weight will be disqualified.
- No feeding in aisles. All feed will be dumped outside south of the barn.
- It takes five head to make a breed. Those not making a breed will be shown in the Cross class. There will be eight breeds of barrows as follows: A. Berkshire; B. Chester White/Other Pure Bred; C. Duroc; D. Hampshire; E. Spot; F. Poland China; G. Yorkshire; H. Cross.
- Weight classes: Breeds of barrows will be divided by weight at the discretion of the superintendent.
- At the judge's discretion, any obvious violation of classification will result in disqualification of the animal in question.
- First- and second-place barrows from each class will compete for Champion and Reserve Champion of the breed.
- Champion and Reserve Champion of each breed will compete for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the show.
- Where five animals are not available to make weight classes, then lightweights and heavyweights will be grouped into a single breed class.
- Barrows will be sold at weigh-in weights.
- Minimum floor weight will be 220 pounds (no exceptions).

VI. SALE

- Exhibitors selling livestock must have their animals ready to be brought into the auction ring when their number is called.
- Sale order:
 - A. Grand Champion steer, barrow, lamb.
 - B. Reserve Champion steer, barrow, lamb.
 - C. All Breed Champions.
 - D. All Reserve Breed Champions.
 - E. 1/3 of the lambs.
 - F. 1/3 of the steers.
 - G. 1/3 of the barrows.
- All animals that are to be sold as take homes must be listed on the sale sheet prior to the sale.

Farmers' options are limited in bankruptcy action

Farmers facing hard times are left without the option of filing Chapter 12 bankruptcy, due to unfinished business by Congress, according to a news release from the Texas Farmers Union, with headquarters in Waco.

"Chapter 12 provisions guide bankruptcy procedures for farm and ranch estates," said Wes Sims, TFU president.

Chapter 12 authorization expired on July 1. The provision has had bipartisan support in the past, and was included in a larger bankruptcy bill passed by Congress last month. However, President Clinton has warned that he will veto the comprehensive bill, since sections of the bill, unrelated to Chapter 12, weaken consumer protection.

A number of farm and ranch groups wrote a letter to Congress on Nov. 13, urging members to pass legislation to reauthorize Chapter 12 before adjourning. However, while the House passed a separate extension before adjourning, the Senate was unable to agree to the extension.

Chapter 12, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986, was originally enacted as a response to the farm crisis of the 1980's that caused a large number of farm failures. It allows farmers and ranchers to reorganize their debt and provides a repayment plan that is based on the earnings of the debtor rather than the value of assets that would otherwise be liquidated. It allows farmers to submit a repayment plan that can reduce the amount owed if this amount is at least what creditors would receive if the farmer were to liquidate under the individual bankruptcy provisions of Chapter 7.

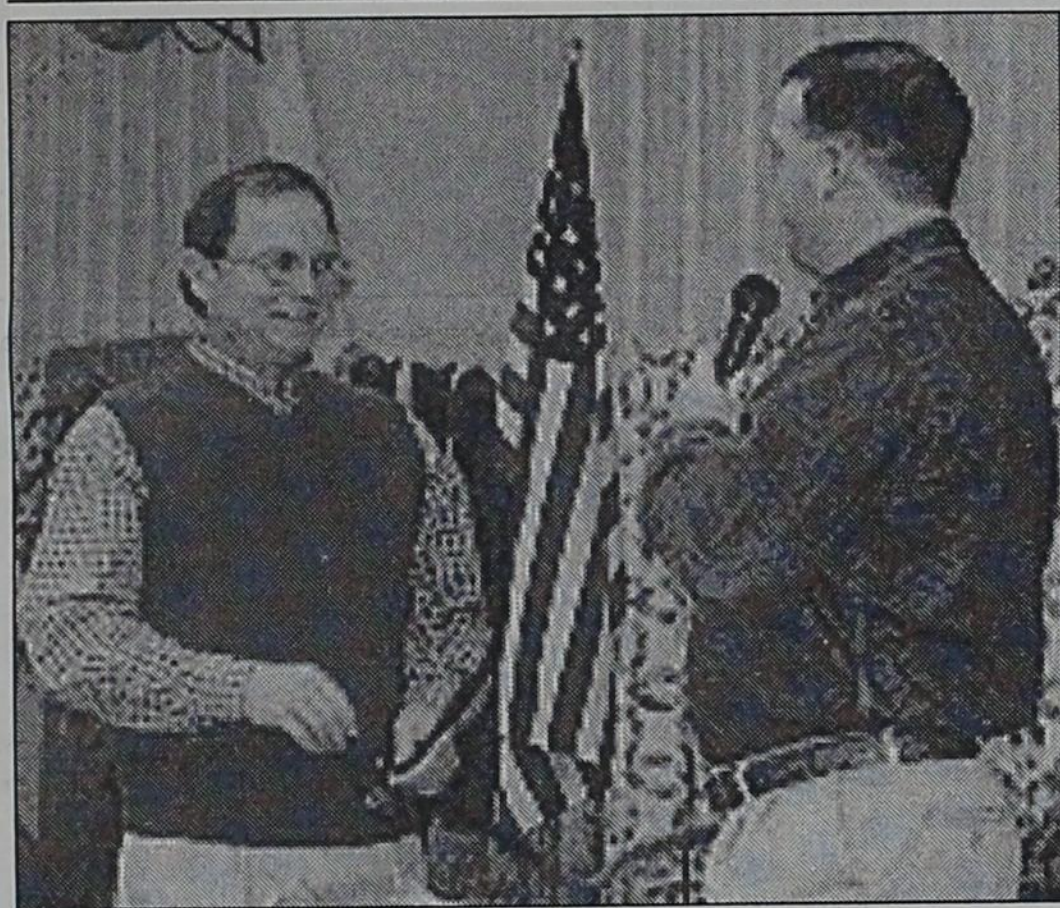
Local school seeks box tops

Dimmitt's Richardson Elementary School is participating in the "Box Tops for Education" program sponsored by General Mills.

Schools may send in the specially marked box tops and labels to the food company and receive money for purchase of equipment or other school needs.

There is a school bus-shaped box in the elementary library where the specially marked box tops and labels may be deposited by community members who want to help the school. Also, the tops may be sent to school with the students.

The school will receive 10 cents for each box top or label that is sent in.



PASSING THE GAVEL

... Gary Langford accepts Chamber president gavel from Mike Bain
Photo by Linda Maxwell

TxDOT plans workshop to outline grant criteria

Area organizations and government entities interested in applying for statewide enhancement funds can attend a workshop Wednesday at the Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT) district headquarters in Lubbock.

Those conducting the workshop will explain the criteria and guidelines for the program and will explain the best way to complete the application process.

The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 noon Wednesday in the Mesquite Room at the TxDOT office at 135 Slaton Road.

TxDOT recently announced a program call for the 2001 Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program—a federally-funded program that provides dollars for transportation-related projects that are economically or aesthetically beneficial to a community. Nearly \$130 million in transportation enhancement funds are available this year to Texas communities.

"The purpose of the workshop is to help each nominating entity understand the process," said Jerry Cash, Lubbock engineer and coordinator for the area program. "We want to make sure they are on the right track before they get too far into the application process. It is

important that organizations planning to nominate an enhancement project, attend the workshop."

Categories eligible for funding include:

- ◆ Historic preservation.
 - ◆ Landscaping or other scenic beautification.
 - ◆ Scenic or historic highway programs.
 - ◆ Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
 - ◆ Provision of safety and education activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - ◆ Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites.
 - ◆ Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities, including historic railroad facilities and canals.
 - ◆ Preservation of abandoned railway corridors, including conversion and use for pedestrian and bicycle trails.
 - ◆ Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
 - ◆ Archaeological planning and research.
 - ◆ Environmental mitigation.
- Applications can be picked up at the Texas Dept. of Transportation at 135 Slaton Road. Nominations are due in the Lubbock district office by 5 p.m. on June 18.

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LOCATED NEAR ELEMENTARY—Two bedroom house, fenced backyard, and single garage. \$30,000.

RUSKIN CIRCLE DRIVE—Three bedrooms, two baths, double garage, isolated master bedroom, covered patio and storage building. \$54,000.

NEW LISTING—Three bedroom, two bath, fireplace, central heat/air. Built-in microwave with new dishwasher, new tile, and a large shop in the back. \$65,000.

REMODLED HOME—Nice two bedroom, one bath house with a carport. \$35,000.

Call Kenny Doss, Agent, 647-3248 or Jerry Cartwright, Broker, 647-1701

REDUCED! Three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, with adjoining efficiency apartment. Good rental. \$27,900.

ELEGANT COUNTRY FEELING at edge of city. 2,660 sq. ft., three bedrooms, two baths, great sunroom, storm cellar, and lots of built-ins. \$130,000.

THREE BEDROOMS, two baths, den, carport, built-ins, nice neighborhood. \$38,000.

THREE BEDROOM with isolated master, 1 1/2 baths, two-car garage. Reduced to \$66,000.

DRASTICALLY REDUCED! Owner says sell this prime home with three bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, basement and more.

HOME OF DISTINCTION—This four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath is one of Dimmitt's finest.

HART—Three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, central heat and air. Large metal building. \$57,500.

WE HAVE THREE CHOICE commercial properties. One can be sold with adjoining CRP land.

CALL ABOUT APARTMENTS in Nazareth and large nice home in Earth.

1/2 SECTION LAND SE OF DIMMITT. Good water, two wells, two sprinklers. Price negotiable.

GEORGE REAL ESTATE

S. Hwy 385 647-4174

Jimmie R. George, Broker
Mobile, 647-7942

Mary Lou Schmucker... 945-2679

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

HOUSE FOR SALE. Nice 1998 double-wide trailer for sale. 28 x 44, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, new carpet throughout. Very nice and clean. \$31,800. Call 647-3747 for details. 1-42-4tp

2001 16-WIDE, 3+2, just \$1,000 down, \$171.74 month. 1-800-830-3515. (Se Habla Espanol). \$18,900 to finance, 10%, 360 months with approved credit. 1-42-4tc

MORRIS PROPERTY GROUP

Scott Morris, Broker

SUNSET CIRCLE—Extra nice, three bedrooms, two baths, den, kitchen, dining, fireplace, double garage, patio with fenced yard. Ready to move in. Near school. \$80,000.

WEST OF DIMMITT. Five bedrooms, three full baths, basement, extra large two-car garage, large kitchen with lots of storage, brick. \$120,000.

NEWLY REMODELED, three bedrooms, one bath, one-car garage. \$39,950.

THREE BEDROOMS, two baths, double garage, patio, fenced yard, corner lot. \$58,000.

260 ACRES IRRIGATED LAND with Center Pivot, south of Dimmitt.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE—1200+ sq. ft., three offices, receptionist area, two bathrooms, coffee bar, easy access to a bank, lots of parking. \$45,000.

218 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-3734, Office

Don and Shirley Cornett, Agents
647-5642, Home
647-6517 or 647-8155, Mobiles

FOR SALE: Mobile home. Good condition. 1-1/2 baths, 2 bedroom with nice 2-car garage, concrete cellar. Large deep footage in back for garden. \$20,000. Call 364-1738, 364-5139 or 647-5677. 1-43-2tc

2—Farms For Sale

CASTRO COUNTY Buy 400 acres with 280 acre circle, 3 irr. wells, municipal effluent and return system, Quonset barn with concrete floor, lease 75 acres with one irr. well, lake pump, cattle barn & steel pens. Section south of Hart with pivot for 1/2 mile sprinkler & irr. wells, wheat, corn, cotton allotments, excellent yields, pavement. 1/2 section east of Dimmitt with pivot for 1/4 mile sprinkler, 2 irr. wells with access to 5 more wells, part C.R.P., part native grass.

SCOTT LAND COMPANY
Ben G. Scott (806)647-4375 day or night

3—Real Estate For Rent

HOUSE FOR RENT. 3 bedroom, 1 bath. 306 NW 3rd, Dimmitt. 647-4495. 3-42-3tc

DIMMITT SENIOR CITIZENS APARTMENTS

622 N.W. 5th
ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Call 647-2638
S&S Properties

Azteca Complex APARTMENTS

910 E. Jones, Dimmitt
★ NOW LEASING ★
1, 2 or 3 Bedrooms

We have Rent Assistance for qualified tenants (agricultural workers)



For more information, call (806) 647-3406 TDD 1-800-735-2989 Joe Franco, Manager

3—Real Estate For Rent

FOR RENT: 504 SW 6th, Dimmitt. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, washer/dryer hookups. \$275/mo. References required. 655-1273. 3-37-tfc

MOVIE THEATRE fully equipped, Dimmitt, approximately 375 seats, snack bar, ticket counter, projector, turn-key bargain. Lease \$450/month. 806-797-6481. 3-31-tfc

Stafford Apartments

Call for availability, 647-2631.

5—For Rent, Misc.

RENT TO OWN NEW TYS, VCR'S & APPLIANCES No credit checks. KITTRELL ELECTRONICS 647-2197 Dimmitt

6—For Sale, Misc.

FOR SALE. 18 HP Sears riding lawn mower. 945-2526 or 945-2642. 6-42-tfc

10—Agricultural Services

CUSTOM FARMING: No-till, drill, mini-till, tillage equipment. Kenneth or Ashley Heard. (806) 945-2270 or (806) 627-4623. Mobile, 657-7980 or 647-7981. 10-8-tfc

CUSTOM SWATHING AND BALING. Call Roy Schilling, 647-2401, hon. 647-7066, mobile. 1-27-2tc

CUSTOM SWATHING AND BALING. Matt Gfeller, 647-4551, home; 647-6754, mobile. 10-49-tfc

CRP SOWING and/or shredding. Seed available. Call Gerald Acker, 945-2274 or 647-6005, mobile. 10-41-16tp

11—Feed, Seed & Grain

SPRING OAT SEED—Forage type, graze or bale. Delivery available. Call Gayland, 1-800-299-9273. 11-42-5tc

13—Livestock, Pets

TO GIVE AWAY—10 puppies. Black and brown and multi-colored, playful. Born Nov. 21. Weaned. Mixed breed. Come by house at Easter intersection, with two old barns and blue silo or call 276-5563. 13-42-2tc

AKC-REGISTERED SIBERIAN HUSKY for sale. Very reasonable price. Very sweet disposition. 6-month-old male. 276-5563. 13-42-2tc

14—Automobiles

1999 4X4 SUBURBAN. Loaded, 50,194 miles. (806) 647-4375, day or night. 14-43-tfc

22—Notices

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 945-2553. 22-40-4tc

3—Real Estate For Rent

17—Business Opportunities

FSBO West Texas Mini Storage SE 4th & Stinson, Dimmitt 33 rental units, 6000 sq. ft. Financial information available to qualified individuals. Possible owner financing to qualified persons. Tom Aday, P.O. Box 380, Plainview, TX. Office: 806-296-6125 Home: 806-296-2241

18—Services

TAX REFUND? Don't wait! We will do your tax returns free for your new home business. 1-888-539-7780. 18-42-4tc

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NEED A NEW HOME? We trade for almost anything. Call Bell Mobile Homes. 1-888-539-7780. Se Habla Espanol. 18-42-4tc

I'M MAD... at banks who don't give real estate loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do. Call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475. 18-43-1tp

20—Help Wanted

WANTED: Assistant director of security. Salary starting at \$18,000-plus. Must have high-school diploma or GED. Must be able to work 50 hours per week. Must get along well with people. Point of contact is Security Director located at the main guard shack. W. Highway 60, Excel in Friona. Phone (806) 295-8357. 20-42-3tc

LVN/RN FULL TIME CHARGE NURSE

Ranked among the top 10% of nursing homes in the state of Texas Runningwater Draw Care Center, Olton, is looking for a caring, qualified Charge Nurse to work the 7-3 and 3-11 shifts. Exceptional pay. Call Cynthia or Dona (806) 285-2677

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\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS. Flatbed drivers. Good pay, excellent benefits with retirement. Peterbilt conventionals. Air ride flats. Specialized Hauling - 1-888-831-0870.

COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced, 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT * Coast to coast runs * Teams start up to 46 cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

DRIVER - OWNER OPERATORS and company drivers - Call now! Great pay and benefits. High weekly miles. West Coast lanes. Trucks governed at 72mph! Your choice - Late-model Peterbilts, Freightliners, Kenworths. Call today! 1-800-528-3675. John Christner Trucking. EOE.

DRIVER - YOU WILL see the difference in SRT. *Great pay. *Paid weekly. *Excellent benefits. * \$1,250 sign-on bonus. *Student graduates welcome. Call SRT today toll free: 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY (1-877-244-7293).

DRIVERS-OWNER/OPERATORS: Run regional. Home weekly! Paid: Base plus, permits, fuel taxes. 81 cpm. Loaded and empty plus fuel surcharge. 1-800-454-2887. Arnold Transportation.

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee products or services advertised. We urge readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact the Texas Attorney General at 1-800-621-0508 or the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP. The FTC website is www.ftc.gov/bizop

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- ✓ Each consecutive time you run your ad with no changes, it will cost 25 cents per word with no minimum.
- ✓ A Card of Thanks will cost \$7.50.

Where to find ads:

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2. Farms for sale
3. Homes and apartments for rent
4. Things people want to rent
5. Miscellaneous items for sale
6. Garage sales
7. Household goods for sale
8. Farm equipment and supplies
9. Agricultural services
10. Feed, seed and grain for sale
11. Farm produce for sale
12. Livestock and pets
13. Automobiles for sale
14. Recreational vehicles
15. Auto parts and supplies
16. Business opportunities
17. Services
18. Insurance
19. Students seeking work
20. Help wanted
21. Notices
22. Lost and found
23. Cards of thanks
24. Legal notices

20—Help Wanted

20—Help Wanted

DIRECTOR OF NURSING

Canterbury Villa of Dimmitt, a long-term care facility, has a current opening for a Registered Nurse to direct our nursing department. Our nurses play an integral role in the care of our patients and in the environment of our center. If you are a person who likes to utilize your skills to the fullest, we want to talk with you. We offer a very competitive salary/benefit package. If interested, please send a current resume or contact:

Paul Chassion, Administrator
Canterbury Villa of Dimmitt
1621 Butler Blvd., Dimmitt, TX 79027
806-647-3117 Fax: 806-647-5212

LVN, 11 PM - 7 AM, 54-bed Medicaid certified nursing home. Health Insurance, paid holidays and vacation after 90 days full-time employment. (Your birthday is a holiday!) Contact Terri Brown, DON, Muleshoe Area HealthCare Center, Muleshoe, TX 79347. 806-272-7578. 20-42-3tc

25—Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE

We, the undersigned County Judge and Commissioners in and for Castro County, Texas, hereby certify that we have this date made an examination of and compared the County Treasurer's Quarterly report, filed with us on this 22nd day of January, 2001, and have found the same to be correct and in order, and that the total of all funds held by the County Treasurer, as well as other assets in her hands, total the sum of \$1,997,425.08

First United Bank—Dimmitt, Texas

	Working Fund Balance	Certificates of Deposit
General Fund	\$1,321,907.89	
Precinct #1	\$146,664.72	
Precinct #2	\$121,405.83	
Precinct #3	\$91,675.46	
Precinct #4	\$315,771.18	

WITNESS OUR HANDS, officially, this 22nd day of January, A.D. 2001.

IRENE MILLER, County Judge
NEWLON ROWLAND, Pct. 1 Commissioner
CLYDE DAMRON, Pct. 2 Commissioner
BAY BALDRIDGE, Pct. 3 Commissioner
DAN SCHMUCKER, Pct. 4 Commissioner

24—Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS

Castro County EMS would like to send this long overdue thank you to emergency personnel in the county. You are appreciated very much for all that you do help us in emergency situations. Thank you to the dispatcher at the sheriff's office, to the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff's Deputies who lead us into the scene, to the fire department in Dimmitt, and to the volunteer EMS Services in Hart and Nazareth who have the patient ready for us. You have to realize that if it wasn't for all these people, our job would be a lot harder. If you know one of these people, tell them thank you. It may be one of them that saves you or your loved one's life next time.

THANK YOU!
CASTRO COUNTY EMS
24-43-1tc

CREDIT CARD DEBT? Avoid bankruptcy. *Stop collection calls. *Cut finance charges. *Cut payments up to 50%. Debt consolidation. Fast approval. No credit check. Call 1-800-270-9894.

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PURPLE MARTIN BIRD houses, \$29.95. Large and small martin gourds, and telescopic poles, 38" tall finch feeders. Free catalog. Order today! Call toll free, 1-800-658-8908. www.sk-mfg.com.

UNDELIVERED BUILDINGS DUE to winter storm! Save thousands on arch steel buildings. 25x40, 30x50, 50x110. Great Workshops/garages. Call 1-800-341-7007. www.steelmasterusa.com.

HELP WANTED

AIR FORCE. GREAT career opportunities available for high school grads, ages 17-27. Plus up to \$17,000 enlistment bonus if you qualify! To request additional information call 1-800-423-USAF or visit www.airforce.com.

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LEGAL SERVICES

ATTENTION: PPA USERS (phenylpropanolamine) dextarim and triaminic hemorrhagic stroke/bleeding of brain. Grossman & Waldman, 1-800-833-9121. Free confidential consultation. No fees/expenses if no recovery. Bank certified. Principal office - Houston.

Five are indicted

Five people were indicted on seven charges by the Castro County Grand Jury last week.

Santiago Rodriguez, 20, of Dimmitt was indicted on three counts of forgery by passing.

Homer Turner Brim, 38, of Nashville, Tenn., was indicted for possession of a controlled substance over 1 gram and under 4 grams.

Burglary of a habitation was the charge against James Earl Ellis, 37, of Plainview.

Sergio Guerrero, 22, of Hart, was indicted for burglary of a building.

Driving while intoxicated, third or more offense, was the charge listed in the indictment against Lonnie Joe Ramirez, 31, of Dimmitt.



100 DAYS OF SCHOOL—First graders at Dimmitt's Richardson Elementary School learn what 100 is by assembling 100 items on posters, including toothpicks, pennies, and other items. They turned the assignments in on Jan. 17, and those with perfect attendance for 100 days also were recognized with certificates. Those with perfect attendance are (front, from left) Patrick McGrorey, Tori Addison, Haley Bonilla, Andres Rodriguez, Monique Aleman, and Tiffany Olivero; (middle, from left) Veronica Porras, Gabby Aguilar, Marco Medrano, Briana Prieto, and Josslene Torres; and (back, from left) Noe Jackson, Kale Johnson, John Falcon and Austin Cluck.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

BSA Hospice offers education, support groups

Baptist/St. Anthony's Hospice in Amarillo is offering grief education and support groups for adults throughout the area who have experienced the death of a loved one.

The sessions will be held at the Hospice Den at 600 N. Tyler in Amarillo, and they are free of charge. The groups will meet for six consecutive weeks.

The evening group will meet on Mondays from 7 to 8:30 p.m., starting this Monday (Jan. 29), and an afternoon group will meet Wednesdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m., starting this Wednesday (Jan. 31).

To pre-register or for more information, call 212-8777.

The program is offered to Amarillo and surrounding communities, as well as to families who have been served by BSA Hospice.

22—Notices

CERTIFIED NURSE AIDE CLASSES
Feb. 5-March 2, 4 p.m.-7:30 p.m. M-F.
Financial assistance available to those that qualify. Call or come by for an application. Runningwater Draw Care Center, Olton, Texas, 285-2677.
22-41-4tc

Unemployment insurance rates decrease for Texas employers

Texas employers have been receiving Unemployment Insurance tax rate notices in the mail during December and the news is good—the rate is going down.

The 2001 average tax rate that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will assess employers is 0.94%, down from 1.02% in 2000. The rate reduction results from fewer UI benefits payments in 2000 than in 1999. Further, the amount of UI benefits paid but not charged to a particular employer declined from 1999 to 2000.

"This is great news for everyone," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "The economy, employers and Texans will benefit as businesses reinvest their savings in our state."

The average experience tax rate

The hardest part of being a mother is to do the job well.

for 2001 also has dropped—to 0.75% from 0.85% in 2000. The experience tax rate is based on benefits paid to former employees and charged to the employer's account. These charges are called chargebacks.

Nearly 75% of Texas employers will have a minimum tax rate of 0.24%.

"Texas is a great place to do business," said T.P. O'Mahoney, commissioner representing labor. "Both employers and workers benefit from the decreased tax obligation."

TWC administers UI taxes and benefits under the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act. Qualifying claimants who are terminated from their jobs through no fault of their own receive weekly payments that are a portion of their salary for a

Start each day with a smile—you may not get a chance later on.

specified period of time. In the meantime, recipients are required to actively seek re-employment. Benefits expire when the claimant re-enters suitable employment or when the specified payment period lapses, whichever occurs first.

Because of the drop in claims from 1999 to 2000, Texas employers will save a total of \$62.3 million in 2001.

"We in Texas have consistently kept Unemployment Insurance taxes as low as possible," said Ron Lehman, TWC's commissioner for employers. "Lower taxes allow more dollars to circulate in the economy and give employers the flexibility to spend more on their needs."

More information about UI taxes is available on the TWC web site at: www.texasworkforce.org.

She who walk in another's track leaves no footprints of her own.

Police Calls

Friday at 4:15 p.m., Guadalupe Moreno of Dimmitt told police that someone broke out the window on her 1984 Plymouth van while it was parked at the Azteca Complex. No estimate was given on the damage.

Saturday at 3:56 a.m. a 20-year-old Dimmitt man was arrested for DWI, first offense.

On Jan. 17, a suspect was arrested on Northwest 11th at 4:40 p.m. on a traffic warrant for speeding.

Friday at 10:35 p.m., a suspect was arrested in the 400 block of North Broadway on a capias pro fine for driving without a license.

Saturday afternoon, a Dimmitt man, 21, was jailed on traffic warrants for speeding and failure to appear.

Saturday evening, a 33-year-old Hart man was jailed on three warrants for theft by check.

Early Monday, a 28-year-old Dimmitt man was jailed for driving with license suspended and a warrant for DWI, third or more offense. Jail Count

There were nine inmates in the county jail as of Tuesday morning.

Last Thursday at 10:45 a.m., a 1998 Chevrolet pickup driven by Emory Boyce Carter, 77, of Dimmitt,

Dominguez enters plea

slid through a slick intersection and struck a 1991 Ford Explorer driven by Floyce Carpenter George, 69, of Dimmitt. Damage to both vehicles was rated light and no injuries were reported. Police said Carter was south-bound in the 100 block of Northeast Second and attempted to stop at a stop sign, but slid and hit George, who was west-bound in the 200 block of East Bedford.

On Jan. 11 in 242nd District Court, Catalina Dominguez entered a plea of guilty/nolo contendere to charges of tampering with government records on May 4, 1998.

Judge Ed Self set the terms of the plea bargain at two years in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice-State Jail Facility for two years, probated for five years.

Dominguez also was assessed a fine of \$1,000, court costs of \$266.25, restitution of \$1,443 to the Texas Dept. of Human Resources, \$250 in attorney fees and a \$50 donation to the Castro County Crime Line. She also must perform 200 hours of community service.

Buyers' Clubs seek donations

The Buyers' Clubs in Castro County are seeking donations from individuals who would like to help the groups buy the animals of youngsters who will participate in this year's Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, set for Feb. 9-10.

County youth have been working many months with their show animals, and the buyers' clubs want to help give as many as possible a good price in the sale ring.

Those interested in donating to the Dimmitt Buyers' Club may contact Greg Odom at 647-3504, or Chaun Gunstream or Chad Davis at First Bank, Muleshoe, Dimmitt

Branch, at 647-2265, or Bob Anthony at the Farm Bureau at 647-5106, or mail to Dimmitt Buyers' Club in care of First Bank, PO Box 1099, Dimmitt 79027-1099.

For the Hart Buyers' Club, call Sandy Farris at 938-2135 or Laura Hart at 938-2178 or 938-2634, or mail donations to Hart Buyers' Club in care of PO Box 461, Hart 79043.

For the Nazareth Buyers' Club, contact Dwayne Acker at Higginbotham-Bartlett Co. in Dimmitt, Virgil Huseman, Dale Brockman, Dennis Kern, Olen Schulte or Dwayne Kleman; or donations may be mailed to Nazareth Buyers' Club, PO Box 192, Nazareth 79063.

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Obituaries



Lillian Opal Gressett

Graveside services for Lillian Opal Gressett, 90, of Canyon, mother of Geneva Schaeffer of Dimmitt, were held Tuesday morning at Dreamland Cemetery with Dr. Strauss Atkinson, retired minister and longtime family friend officiating. Burial followed under the direction of Brooks Funeral Directors of Canyon and Happy.

Mrs. Gressett died Saturday at her son's home in Amarillo.

She was born April 19, 1910, in Cornvalley, Wheeler County, where she made her home prior to moving to Canyon in 1940. She married Bruce Gressett of Childress on July 9, 1932. He died on Feb. 4, 1961.

The couple raised their six children in Canyon, where she held various jobs including one at Gibson's and another at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

For the past five years she had been living in the home of her son, John. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Canyon.

She was preceded in death by her husband, a grandson, her parents and four sisters.

Survivors include four daughters, Geneva Schaeffer of Dimmitt, Bobbye Horn of Mobeetie, Joan Meason of Las Cruces, N.M., and June Porter of Carlsbad, N.M.; two sons, John Gressett of Amarillo and Jamey Gressett of Sanger; two brothers, J.F. Cook Jr. of Hurley, N.M., and John Cook of Bartlesville, Okla.; three sisters, Mary Finsterwald of Wheeler, Fern Murrell of Amarillo and Tommye Cummings of Borger; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Crown of Texas Hospice, 1000 S. Jefferson, Amarillo 79101.

Marcelo Salinas

Marcelo Salinas, 28, of Dimmitt, died at 10:19 p.m. Sunday at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at Abundant Life Family Church in Dimmitt with the Rev. Tom Mullins, pastor, officiating. Burial followed in Castro Memorial Gardens under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mr. Salinas was born Oct. 6, 1972, in Caldwell, Idaho. He had lived in Dimmitt his entire life. He attended Dimmitt schools and was employed by Dimmitt Feedyard.

He was preceded in death by his father, Rogelio Salinas.

Survivors include his mother, Albesa Salinas of Dimmitt; a son, Marcelo Salinas Jr. of Dimmitt; a daughter, Marcela Salinas of Dimmitt; a brother, Rogelio Salinas Jr. of Caldwell; four sisters, Sofia Salinas, Maribel Villegas, Julia Salinas and Melissa Salinas, all of Dimmitt; and his grandmother, Julia Aguilar of Edinburg.

County looking at grant for courthouse work

The Castro County Commissioners heard a report at their Monday meeting from architect Ken Burns concerning the Texas Historical Commission's grant program for preservation of courthouses throughout the state.

Burns said that if grant funding is approved, the THC would pay 85% of a project's cost, with the county paying only 15%. He gave the example that if a project cost \$1 million, the county would only have to pay \$150,000.

He said the grant program is in its third round of funding, but the county could still win consideration with an adequate proposal. Burns said the county needs to develop a master plan that must be submitted and reviewed by the grant committee before a grant application will be sent to the county.

Points are awarded in the grant process for projects that include restoration work, with a full restoration gaining more points than a partial restoration.

Burns said it will probably take three to four months to prepare a master plan, and it will cost around \$50,000. He said the fee would count as part of the county's 15% contribution toward the project cost.

Burns said he would like to use some outside consultants in preparing the master plan, because they can bring in additional expertise in areas that will earn additional points for the project.

The courthouse has some ceiling and wall moldings that were covered over when the dropped ceilings were installed, according to Burns. He said that would be one of the items the THC would be interested in seeing restored.

County Judge Irene Miller asked Burns if the project could just include making the district courtroom handicap-accessible and not make any changes to the rest of the courthouse. Burns said it is possible, but not as likely to be approved for a grant. He said it would be more likely that the THC would allow the county to make the ADA changes to the courtroom and allow that to count toward the county's 15% on a more extensive project.

Burns told the commissioners that submitting a master plan and receiving a grant application is still no guarantee that the county's project will be accepted for funding. He said that the application can be resubmitted for future rounds of funding. He noted that the \$50,000 fee also would cover help in resubmitting the proposal. Burns also said that his firm could work with the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission in writing the grant application.

He advised the commissioners to think about the possibilities and contact him when they are ready to start work on the master plan.

In another matter, the commissioners agreed to purchase 12 kits for handling blood-borne pathogens. The kits will be placed in the courthouse, the jail and in the Sheriff's Dept. patrol cars. The cost will be \$130 each for a total of \$1,560.

Corey Haden of K & K Chemicals told the commissioners that the kits have enough items for at least five uses and they are refillable. Housed in a sturdy plastic box, the kits include heavy gauge latex gloves, chemical-spill resistant masks, goggles, trash bags, a sharps container, alcohol swabs, surgical wipes, booties, aprons, hand

sanitizer, "Puke-Up," and Quatex. Puke-Up is used to make it easier to clean up vomit, and Quatex is a special germicidal cleaning formula that is certified to kill HIV, TB and other germs and viruses.

Haden said he will come and demonstrate use of the items in the kit to local personnel and certify that they have been instructed. He said the kits offer protection not only for personnel, but also for the county in potential liability situations.

Sheriff CD Fitzgerald said the only protection his officers have right now is a kit that includes latex gloves and a mask. He said the units cost \$30 a package and they are not reusable or refillable. If the envelope holding the items is opened, even if officers decide it is not needed after all, then all must be discarded.

Haden said the items in his kits may be refilled locally, except for the Puke-Up and Quatex, which are registered products of K & K.

In other business, the commissioners:

—Postponed a decision on removing the fence at the Extension office until the purchase contract with Energas can be checked to make sure there is no reference to leaving the fence in place. The matter will be placed on the agenda of the Feb. 12 meeting of the commissioners.

—Tabled action on the bids for a telephone system for the courthouse. The only bid received was for \$15,350 from Douglas Telecom of Plainview. The commissioners wanted to have a representative of the company come and answer questions about the proposal.

—Agreed to go out for bids on casualty and liability insurance proposals. The commissioners decided to reject Uphaw Insurance's proposal to serve as the county's insurance broker.

—Approved a contract with the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock to provide autopsy services for the county at \$900 for an external and internal autopsy, with toxicology services additional. Miller said the county has been using the Tech Center, but there had been no contract before.

—Appointed Dimmitt Municipal Judge Garner Ball to serve as acting Justice of the Peace in case of the absence of JP Tana Young and acting JP Jo Campbell. He would be paid the same fee that Campbell receives for such duties.

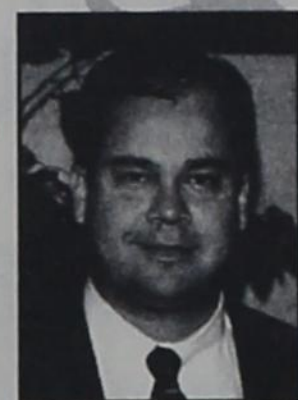
—Signed a resolution of support

for the Central Plains MH/MR in its efforts to obtain additional government funding for community services.

—Authorized Miller to continue using the same guidelines for distributing money to indigent persons in the county.

—In a special called meeting, the commissioners approved a resolution showing support for an application to continue funding of the Victims of Crime Assistance Grant, which helps pay the salary for Delbert Morris, special investigator for the County/District Attorney's office. He also serves as Crime Victim Liaison.

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Energas addresses customer concerns

Energas Co. is taking immediate steps to address customer service concerns and provide more options for customers to contact the company, according to Energas President Tom S. Hawkins Jr.

Because customers have many questions about the nation-wide increase in the cost of natural gas, the company expanded the access to its Customer Support Center and is offering computer technology as another option for customers to contact the company.

"Our number one goal is accessibility for all our customers in a timely manner," Hawkins said. "Considerably colder-than-normal temperatures and the extraordinary rise in natural gas costs have resulted in call volumes at our Customer Support Center three to four times greater than normal."

In response to these greater call volumes, the company has installed more telephone lines at the center and is using its website and e-mail to make it easier for customers to contact the company. Hawkins said these measures should eliminate busy signals at the center and allow customers to choose the most convenient method for them to reach the company.

Energas will continue to monitor the customer service options to ensure a high level of accessibility for customers, according to Hawkins.

In addition to the expanded service options, Energas works closely with energy assistance agencies throughout West Texas. These agencies also will benefit from a one-time contribution this year totaling \$107,000 to help with the increased requests for assistance.

Stella Devers, Panhandle Community Services Center Coordinator

in Dimmitt, said that \$30,000 of that amount has been designated for PCS to distribute in the 26 counties it serves.

Customers are reminded that natural gas costs across the country have increased 100% or more over last winter, based on the same units of consumption, and could rise even more in the coming months.

"The cost of natural gas is not a source of income for the company. Changes in natural gas costs—either up or down—are passed through to the customer on their monthly gas bill," Hawkins said. He noted that the company charges for the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas and the cost of providing service. Any changes in these costs must be approved by a regulatory agency.

"Energas is extremely concerned about the rising natural gas cost and its effect on our customers," Hawkins said. "We join with all of our customers in the hope that natural gas costs will soon return to a lower level."

The expanded service offered by Energas includes:

—Additional customer service telephone lines and more Customer Service Associates have been added to answer customer inquiries at the Customer Support Center. The number is 1-888-363-7427 and it may be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

—The new company e-mail address is Customer@energas.com

—The company's website, www.energas.com, offers conservation tips, information about the impact of higher natural gas costs, and lists of energy assistance agencies and authorized payment center locations.

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Marka stays busy with other hospitals, schools, institutions and individuals in our area, so in order to see her, you need to make an appointment.

To do so, just call the Dietary Department at Plains Memorial Hospital, 647-2191, and have them schedule an individual appointment for you.

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