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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2012

Notice!

We apologize for any mistakes or problems with this week's edition. Cathy was in the hospital in Amarillo all week. If you have anything that needs to be changed or corrected, please let us know.

Thank you,
Gary Smith, Publisher
Hansford County
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(806) 659-3434
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Spearman Lynx/Lynxettes

12/14 - JVG (5), JVB (5), VG (6), VB (8) vs. Gruver

12/17 - JVB (7) & JVG (7) vs. Fritch

12/21 - VG & VB vs. Panhandle

12/27-29 - VG & VB at Caprock Tourney (Lubbock)

Gruver Greyhounds/Lady Hounds

12/14 - JVG (5), JVB (5), VG (6:30), VB (8) at Spearman

12/20 - JVG (4), JVB (5:15), VG (6:30), VB (8) vs. Hooker OK

12/21 - JVG (2:30), JVB (1), VG (1), VB (2:30) at Claude

12/22-26 - Gruver ISD Athletic Facilities Closed

12/27-29 - VG & VB at Gruver Holiday Classic



Weekly Update

Texas, December 10 - Average retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen 3.4 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.08/g yesterday. This compares with the national average that has fallen 4.8 cents per gallon in the last week to \$3.34/g, according to gasoline price website TexasGasPrices.com.

Including the change in gas prices in Texas during the past week, prices yesterday were 0.4 cents per gallon lower than the same day one year ago and are 9.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago. The national average has decreased 12.2 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 5.5 cents per gallon higher than this day one year ago.

"The national average has continued to see a steady decline over the last week, and that trend will likely continue through this week at the very least," said GasBuddy.com Senior Petroleum Analyst Patrick DeHaan. "Last week, the Energy Information Administration reported one of the largest single week increases in gasoline inventories in my recent memory, which will likely contribute downward pressure to wholesale gasoline prices in the days and perhaps weeks ahead," DeHaan said.

GasBuddy operates, TexasGasPrices.com, and over 225 other local gasoline pricetracking websites that follow prices at over 125,000 gasoline stations in the United States and Canada. GasBuddy also uses Facebook (facebook.com/gasbuddy) Twitter (twitter.com/gasbuddy), and phone apps to keep motorists ahead of changing gasoline prices.



Operation Christmas Greeting

The Hansford Hospital Auxiliary has begun their yearly fundraiser - Operation Christmas Greeting. Instead of mailing greeting cards, individuals who wish to, may donate money to the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and have their greeting published in this paper. The money is used to purchase equipment and supplies that are not budgeted at the Hospital and Manor.

If you would like to participate in this holiday greeting, please mail your donation to: Operation Christmas Greeting, Chairman Judy Nelson, 130 Nelson Road, Spearman, Texas 79081. Checks should be made to Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and marked Operation Christmas Greeting. Thank you so much for supporting this fundraiser.

Armes Competes at NFR



Bray Armes of Gruver, Texas, who has qualified for the first time for the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. Armes is the 15th-ranked steer wrestler in the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association heading to the NFR, set for Dec. 6-15 in Las Vegas.

Armes Wrestles His Way to the NFR

November 30, 2012

When the 2012 ProRodeo season began, Bray Armes promised himself he was going to try to make it to the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo this season.

Armes is a man of his word.

The plan comes to fruition during the sport's grand championship, set for Dec. 6-15 at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas. The Gruver, Texas, cowboy finished the regular season 15th in the steer wrestling world standings, just earning the qualification to the NFR - only the top 15 contestants in each event get to play for the biggest pay in ProRodeo.

"It means the world to me," said Armes, a four-time College National Finals Rodeo qualifier while attending Howard County Junior College in Big Spring, Texas, and Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. "It's been a goal for me for a very long time."

The NFR is the dream of every young cowboy and cowgirl who has world championship aspirations. It's the year-end championship boasting a purse of \$6.5 million. Go-rounds pay winners \$18,000 in each event for 10 straight nights.

"I just made up my mind that I was going to try to make the finals, so I went outside the circuit and rodeoed full time instead of just weekends like I did in 2004," he said, referring to the season in which Armes won the Texas Circuit title and the average championship at the Texas Circuit Finals Rodeo.

That feat is nothing to sneeze about. It's proof that he has had the ability to be one of the best for a long time. But he took time away from the game, just returning to the rigors of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association this year. But he didn't just return to ProRodeo - he matched his will to win with a proven winner, Dean Gorsuch, a two-time world champion from Gering, Neb.

"He deserves to be there because he bulldogs outstanding," said Gorsuch, who has qualified seven times for the NFR. "That guy will make the finals as many times as he wants to."

"He's a great guy to be around, fun to travel with. He's got a great family, and we both want the same things. He's a winner. He's got a great attitude, and there ain't a steer he can't throw down."

He even threw ones when he had to at the end of the season. Armes won four rodeo titles this season, two of which came in September just as the 2012 campaign was coming to a close: The New Mexico State Fair and Rodeo in Albuquerque and the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo. The latter was on the last weekend of the season and Armes' final run of the season - steer wrestlers are allowed to enter 70 rodeos each year, and Kansas City was Armes' 70th.

"I was pretty nervous, but it was pretty easy," said Armes, whose father, David, wrestled steers when he was younger. "I either made a good run and made the finals or I didn't."

He did. Armes threw the steer down in 3.6 seconds to share the American Royal title with NFR veteran Todd Suhr. The \$2,326 he earned propelled Armes into the NFR field by just \$55 over Jason Miller, the 2007 world champion.

"I was plumb full of emotion when I found out I got into the NFR," he said. "My wife and I sat in the front yard just hugging and in tears. I couldn't believe it was finally happening. It was something

I'd dreamed about for a long time, and it was finally coming true."

Yes, it is.

But he's earned the right to dream big, and he has a big support system behind him, including his wife, Neelley, and their two children, son Drake and daughter Breely.

"To me, family's first," Armes said. "If it was a choice of doing something different for my family, then that's what I'd choose. Probably the hardest part for me is being away from my family so much while I'm out rodeoing. I wish my family could be there with me every step of the way."

"My family's behind me 150 percent in this deal. Without them, I don't know if I'd be in this position right now. My wife has made lots of sacrifices so I can do this. I'm very proud to have her as my wife. I'm very fortunate to have such a wonderful woman and two great kids that love watching their daddy rodeo."

If that's not a motivating factor, what is? But he gets that from many angles, whether it's family or his traveling partner or the animal he uses in competition, primarily Gorsuch's horse, Skip.

"He gets a lot of credit," Armes said of the horse. "He gave me a chance to win every time. He scores great. I'm just very fortunate to be able to ride him."

It all gives him the opportunity to chase his gold buckle dreams.

"Traveling with Dean Gorsuch was probably one of the greatest things that's ever happened to me," Armes said. "He's been there and done that, and he knows the ways to get it done. He helped me tremendously throughout the year. Having Dean there to help build me up was a pretty great experience."

Armes Grapples His Way to NFR Money

December 9, 2012

The Wrangler National Finals Rodeo features the most pressure-packed competition in the sport every year.

Sometimes the best way to handle all that is to just relax and enjoy. Bray Armes did that Saturday night in the third go-round of ProRodeo's grand championship, and it paid off with a 3.8-second run, which put him in a tie for second place in the round worth \$12,662.

"It was great to finally get that money off the back and get rolling," said Armes, a first-time NFR qualifier from Gruver, Texas. "I think the first two nights, I'd been trying too hard. I just needed to let it happen."

It did. Five-time NFR qualifier Wade Sumpter won the round with a 3.6, and Armes shared second place with Les Shepperson, who is competing in Las Vegas for the second time in his career.

"I had just a good, solid, honest steer that didn't have any tricks to him," Armes said. "We just set a game plan to relax and just bulldog. It felt a lot more natural."

That's easier said than done, especially in a setting like this. Among the bright lights and excitement of Las Vegas is ProRodeo's largest purse of the season, with first-place checks worth \$18,257 being paid each night.

"I'm a little in awe, I guess," said Armes, who enlists the help of Skip, a steer wrestling horse owned by two-time world champion Dean Gorsuch. "I've bulldogged with these guys for a long time. I think anyone of us can win it any given night. It's great to have Dean in my corner, because he's been through it all. He knows the ropes, and he can keep me calm and re-

laxed." It's been a wonderful blessing and a gift from God."

What advice does Gorsuch provide?

"We went back to the trailer and talked," Armes said. "He said, 'You bulldog as good as anybody. Don't back off, but quit trying to make it happen.' We'll just try to keep doing that."



Armes Places in NFR for 2nd Straight Night

December 10, 2012

Steer wrestler Bray Armes is comfortable in his surroundings at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo.

After failing to place among the top six in the first two go-rounds, Armes has gone back-to-back in Rounds 3-4. His most recent stroke of success came Sunday with a 3.6-second run on the fourth night of the rugged 10 rounds of competition, which will decide the 2012 world championship.

"It's been great so far," said Armes, a first-time NFR qualifier from Gruver, Texas. "We just need to keep it rolling."

Yes, he does. Sunday's run was worth \$14,429 and marked the second straight night he finished among the top two - his 3.8 on Saturday night helped Armes share second place with Les Shepperson, a two-time NFR qualifier. In all, Armes has earned \$27,091. Only four other cowboys have earned more: Casey Martin, \$32,097; Billy Bugenig, \$30,919; Dean Gorsuch, \$28,858; and Luke Branquinho, \$28,269.

Each of those men has been to the NFR before, with Gorsuch and Branquinho owning multiple gold buckles.

"My confidence is good," Armes said. "I just want to keep staying relaxed and keep letting things happen instead of trying to make them happen. If I can do that, God will continue to bless me."

That's been the case much of this season. The Texan utilized first-place finishes the final two weeks of the campaign to secure his first bid to ProRodeo's championship event, which provides a purse of \$6.125 million.

This is the richest event in the sport, which is why it's so important to have a solid performance inside the Thomas and Mack Center each night. Armes utilizes his partner, Skip, a solid palomino owned by Gorsuch.

"Skip was great," Armes said. "He knew we had a steer we needed to take a good start in if we were going to catch him in time, and he blew in there and worked perfectly."

Armes Continues to Celebrate at NFR

December 11, 2012

Drake Armes turns 4 years old Wednesday, and his family can celebrate in style.

On Tuesday night, his daddy, Bray Armes, placed for the third time in six rounds at the Wrangler National Finals Rodeo. He rode Dean Gorsuch's horse Skip to a 4.1-second finish to place third in the round and collect an additional \$10,895.

That buys a lot of balloons.

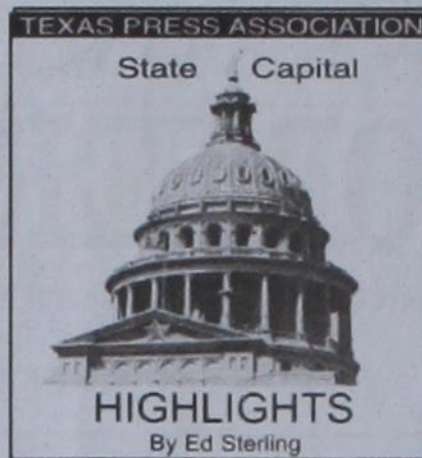
Continued on Page

Wolf Creek Heritage Museum Notes

by Virginia Scott
The museum is closed during the month of December to allow the volunteers to rest and enjoy the holidays with the communities around us as well as our families. We wish everyone the Merriest Christmas and hope each of you have a great holiday. Each community has a celebration each year with the arrival of Santa Claus and the lighting of the town tree. The weather is wonderful this year, so take a round trip and check out the decorations of each com-

munity. I have it on good authority that Darrouzett has some new decorations this year. Christmas celebrations include the celebration of Jesus Christ with the telling of the Christmas story from the Bible and decorations of the manger scene. The season is also one that includes the man in the red suit. To people all over the world, Christmas is a season of giving and receiving presents. He is known as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, or Saint Nicholas. He comes into

the houses during the night and leaves gifts for the children. Another character, the Norse God Odin, rode on a magical flying horse across the sky in the winter to reward people with gifts. All of these legends have been passed down to the present day Santa Claus with his flying sleigh drawn by reindeer. Next week I will revisit the story "Yes, Virginia there is Santa Claus." Enjoy all the parties and preparations for Christmas.



STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS



by Ed Sterling

Lawmaker asks to use rainy day fund for drought needs

AUSTIN — Legal proceedings to seize Yearning For Zion Ranch, a 1,700-acre property in Schleicher County, are under way, the Office of the Texas Attorney General announced Nov. 28.

That day, the state filed an affidavit for a search-and-seizure warrant in the 51st District Court of Schleicher County. The state claims the property is contraband and therefore subject to forfeiture "because it was acquired with proceeds of or was used or intended to be used in the commission of sexual assault, aggravated sexual assault, bigamy, engaging in organized criminal activity and/or money laundering."

Each of those acts is categorized as a felony under state law.

As stated in the announcement, the filing of the warrant "begins the final chapter of the State's nearly five-year effort to pursue widespread criminal misconduct at the YFZ Ranch."

The affidavit says the ranch was purchased on the orders of Warren Jeffs, who sought a rural location where the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (not affiliated with the mainstream Mormon church) "could operate a polygamist compound where the systemic sexual assault of children would be tolerated without interference from law enforcement authorities."

At least nine FLDS members including sect leader Warren Jeffs were successfully prosecuted by the state for sexually assaulting children at the YFZ Ranch, according to the AG's office.

Gov. Rick Perry, who supports such legislation, said it would give local school districts "discretion to enact changes at a level and pace that is right for them."

Furthermore, State Board of Education member Thomas Ratliff of Mount Pleasant penned a Nov. 29 opinion suggesting several needed education and testing reforms including the repeal of the "15 percent rule." Ratliff wrote that high-stakes, standardized testing "is sucking the individuality and creativity out of classrooms all across the state."

In other state education news, Texas tied for the third-highest high school graduation rate in the country for all students and placed first in graduation rates for Asian and white students, according to preliminary data released by the U.S. Department of Education on Nov. 30.

Steen steps into new role

Gov. Perry on Nov. 27 appointed San Antonio attorney John T. Steen Jr. Texas' 108th secretary of state.

The job includes service as the state's chief elections officer, the governor's liaison on border and Mexican affairs, and Texas' chief protocol officer for state and international matters.

The Office of the Secretary of State is the state agency that serves as the formal repository for official and business records, publishes government rules and regulations, keeps the state seal and attests to the governor's signature on official documents.

Steen, a former member of the Texas Public Safety Commission, succeeds Esperanza "Hope" Andrade of San Antonio as secretary of

state.

Chair files tax relief bill
State Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, on Nov. 29 filed House Bill 213, legislation to make permanent a tax exemption for companies that earn less than \$1 million a year.

In 2009, the state Legislature temporarily raised the franchise tax revenue exemption for small businesses to \$1 million, offering tax relief to nearly 40,000 additional small businesses across the state.

In 2011, Hilderbran, who serves as chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, spearheaded an effort to amend legislation that extended the \$1 million exemption through the end of 2013.

Open gov't panel meets

The digital world's array of effects on how public business is conducted and how public records are created, maintained and made accessible to citizens were topics of invited testimony heard by the Senate Select Committee on Open Government during a Nov. 26 meeting.

Chaired by Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, the committee soon may take up and consider legislation that addresses issues such as text messaging by public officials during public meetings, public access to text messages and emails that were transmitted or received on public officials' personal smart phones, public information cost guidelines, illegal access and manipulation of public and confidential information maintained by local governmental bodies and state agencies, information retention schedules, and much more.

SPEARMAN Chamber & Economic Development News

by Tex Kopke, Spearman Chamber of Commerce Director

Christmas is on the way and we have lots of really pretty decorations and lights all around town. If you would like to nominate a home, business or large windmill for the Christmas decorating contest sponsored by the Chamber please give me a call at 659-5555 and I'll let the Chamber board know to check out the location before they vote at the December 21 meeting.

This week I want take a moment to thank our latest partners renewing their Chamber memberships for 2013 including: the James Cunningham Family, the J.D. Willbanks family, Stationmaster House Museum, the Bill Pittman Family, Brock Insurance Agency, H&H Water Well Service, Nursanickel Motel and Crop Chasers. These businesses and individuals believe enough in the Chamber and in Spearman to financially support the work we are doing and we hope that you will support us also for the year to come. We're depending on you and your support to help us make this next year in Spearman a really good one with lots of fun activities and business boosting promotions. Remember that business memberships start at just \$115 per year and memberships for individuals are only \$40 per year. We hope that as people realize they don't have to operate a business to be a supporting member we will have many more individuals join and support the Chamber this year. All it takes to have a personal membership for you and your family is to send a check for \$40 to the Chamber of Commerce at P.O. Box 161.

The Chamber is already starting to make plans for our annual Heritage Days county celebration this coming year. With your support we plan to make it even bigger and better than the last one. We are work-

ing with the rodeo association to try to have a rodeo during the celebration this year, even bigger name



bands for the free street dance and more events for Cinco de Mayo.

Grading rule is set aside

Texas Education Commissioner Michael L. Williams announced Nov. 30 that he has deferred implementation of a certain grading requirement for the 2012-2013 school year.

A student's score on the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness end-of-course examinations would have counted 15 percent of the student's final grade in each test subject area if the rule were implemented.

Williams' decision, he said, will allow the Texas Legislature pass a law making the 15 percent rule optional. Proposed legislation to that effect has been filed.

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3	8	9	6	5	1	7	4	2
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Advertising
Open Display rates are \$4.00 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$7 for the first 20 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week if billed.

Member of
Gruver Chamber of Commerce
Spearman Chamber of Commerce
Texas Press Association and Panhandle Press Association

HOLIDAY SONGS

ACROSS

- Muslim woman's headscarf
- Found on a keyboard
- *What mommy gave Santa
- Idealized image
- Beatle bride
- *Saturday Night Fever* music
- Yo-Yo Ma with a cello, e.g.
- Like sashimi
- Team event in track
- **Away in a _____
- Number of football players on field per team
- Zeus, e.g.
- Dog pest
- Boozing
- Red Cross supplies
- Like Tinkerbell
- Absent soldier
- Like Civil War reenactment battle
- **_____ Baby*
- Down in the dumps
- Up and about
- Tranquil scene
- Officially allowed
- Hokkaido people
- Calm by deception
- Like Thai cuisine, e.g.
- Eye amorously
- Bro's sibling
- Used for drying
- Inflated feeling

DOWN

- That guy
- Mosque V.I.P.
- Cup of Joe
- Maturing
- Double-drums
- Millimeter of mercury
- RNs' org.
- B in IBS
- Chicken _____
- _____ of Man
- PET or CAT
- _____ sauce
- **I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my _____
- Swelling
- **Mele Kallikimaka* wreath
- Dissenting clique
- **Santa Baby, slip a _____ under the tree, for me*

57. Cream cheese on a bagel, e.g.
60. *Pipe smoker
63. Fictional cemetery dweller
64. Be in the red
66. In an unfriendly manner
68. *Seen with Santa
69. *Given name of famous crooner
70. Rance's wrap
71. Blouses
72. Ottoman officer title
73. Heavy walk

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Happy Birthday!

December 13 Birthday - Betty Burk, James Burk Jr., Holly McCloy, Barbara Schnell, Muriel Boyd, Linda Butt, Bobby Smith, Jack Reed, Georgena Hart, Dan Roach, Dana Wattier, Robert Zamora, Marilyn Cline, Blythe Finley, Leah Smith

December 14 Birthday - Bradley Clawson, Ray Etter, Todd Parker, Penny Ralston, Barbara Stavlo, Elaine Odegaard, Ron Schmehr, Bradley Sanders, Lynn Cook, Sandra Grover, Eddie Herrington, Cale Curry, Amy Gift, Betty Redwine, Kellianne Bynum, Ben Butler, Ed Herrington

December 15 Birthday - Dallas Henson, Harvey Proffitt, Hal Shufeldt, April Davis, Bob Pearson, Abbe Steger, Clarence Eller, Rosa Pierce, Stephanie Crossland, Donny Davis, Maria Ortiz, Jennie Jones, Jose Vargas, Jim Norton, Jose Bynum, Randall Sauer, LeAnn Shields, Eric Vasquez, April DeLaRosa

December 16 Birthday - Linda Lackey, Clint Patterson, Marty Bennett, Melanie Clausen, Jennifer Lozano, Colton Cator

December 17 Birthday - Patsy Novak Underwood, Patsy Bevell, Sergio Favela, Charles Kruse, Stephanie TeBeest, Brandy Urban, Lupe Guerero, Francis Floyd, Viola Hutton, Russell Shaver, Lorene Raiz, Charles Layton, Sandi Rich, Michael Park, Pam Cassady, Jimmy Traylor, Stephanie Tyler, Art Maestas, Britta Vandenburg

December 18 Birthday - Jimmy Faren, Ronnie Schaefer, Cassie Butt, Malory Martin, Ben Gruver, Monalisa Garcia, Juanita Vera, Nolan Holt

December 19 Birthday - Steve Bevell, Jim Norton, Steve Watkins, Fausto Ruiz, Betty Vernon, Georgia Gaither, Nan Nicholson, Irene Reed, Sara Dossett, Pat Dear, Gwen McLain, Ford McIntyre, Zachary Brelans, Billy Jo Miesner, Delphine Etling, Cindy Walton, Ruby Katherine Thornton, Marguerite Nelson, Kate Davis, Kristi Jones

December 20 Birthday - Harletta Carthel, Doug Garrett, Esmeralda Renteria, Bill Turner, Peggy Papay, Charles West, Quentin Hayes, Britni Beedy Sanders, Alicia Nikolas, Lexie Woodward, Mary Webster, Quentin Harper, Brock Schroeder, Megan Evans, Haylin Derington, Pete Wall

December 21 Birthday - Lidwine Carpioux, Cammie Steele, Anita Ruiz, Linda Garnett, Dalasene Reynolds, Eddy Rojas, Thomas Rodriguez, Johnny Kenny, Terry Womble, Chunky Blackburn, Betty Clifford, Nick Dettmann, Clyde Conley, Michael James Renteria, Robert Dahl, Cheryl Evans, Elaine Bain

December 22 Birthday - Ted Evans, Richie Fletcher, Molly Blackman, Danna Kay Willis, Tammy Jackson, Andy Watley, Mary Moore, Steve Womble, Temp Shepard, Deanna Kenney, Diane DeLaCruz, Shirley Molden, Solomon Tarenjo, Becky Beedy, Frank Dominguez

Our Sympathy

OLGA LAVERNE LANE GAFFORD Olga LaVerne Lane Gafford, 91, passed away Friday, December 07, 2012.



Graveside services will be Monday, December 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the Edith Ford Memorial Cemetery in Canadian, TX. The body will be available for viewing at Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home in Spearman on Saturday and Sunday, December 8 and 9, and starting at 10:00 a.m. on Monday at the Church of Christ in Canadian, TX.

Olga was born July 12, 1921, in Turkey to Gerald Cleveland and Veda Bellah Lane. She was united in marriage to J.D. Gafford in 1939. He preceded her in death in 1963. Olga was a member of the Spearman Church of Christ. She was a master seamstress and bread baker and loved sharing her gifts with many. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought joy to her life. Doing for others gave her much satisfaction and fulfillment.

The legacy she leaves behind: God comes first in everything; always do what is right, regardless of the outcome; treat others with respect; strive to do the best in all you attempt - you can always do anything anyone can show you and always go the extra mile; work hard each and every day; and remember home is where families belong. In addition to her husband, J.D., she was also preceded in death by her parents, a son, Condyke, and two brothers, Dean and Tink Lane. Survivors include three sons: Gary Glyndon Gafford and wife Dorothy of Hendrix, OK, Max Rodney Gafford and wife Yvonne of Merino, CO, Ladd Lane Gafford and wife Cathy of Spearman, two daughters: Deanne Miller of Canadian, TX and Marlene Nollner and husband Sonny of Spearman, 15 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews.

The family suggests favorite charities: The High Plains Children's Home, 11461 S. Western St., Amarillo, TX 79118 or Hansford Hospice, 707 Roland St., Spearman, TX 79081

Words from Faith & Grace



by Cecil R. Biggers, Lutheran Lay Minister

In the third week of the Season of Advent we have reason to shout for joy as we study Zephaniah 3: 14-20, Isaiah 12: 2-6, Philippians 4:4-7, and Luke 3: 7-18.

The theme of Zephaniah chapter three is hope, rejoicing, and reprieve! "Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The Lord has taken away the judgments against you..." The prophet has issued prophecies of judgment against Israel; later, he will issue prophecies of judgment against other nations; but, in this message a repentant Israel is told to rejoice even though the Day of the Lord is coming. A message of hope. That message rings down the centuries to us, dear Christian. The day of the Lord's second coming will be a day of judgment and turmoil; yet, we are told that we who believe should have no fear, but rejoice for our salvation is near!

Instead of the Psalms, we listen to the words of the prophet Isaiah: "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation." We, as believers, should not fear Hamas, Hezbollah, Republicans, Democrats, or any who work evil, for their destruction is within them. We should not fear cancer, heart disease or any infirmity for they attack only the body. We have lit the Advent candles of Hope, Peace and now prepare to light the candle of Joy, for our salvation has come and is coming again!

Paul advises the Church at Philippi to not be anxious about anything but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to let their requests be made known to God. By abiding in God's love, Paul explains that, "The peace of God which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus". Truly, we as believers can experience Joy even in the midst of adversity.

John the Baptist opens his sermon to the people with "You brood of Vipers!" Most of us as pastors would be reluctant to be so blunt; yet, for John this is a good opening for a sermon on repentance. John tells the people that they cannot rely upon "being the Sons of Abraham" of "being the chosen people", for God can create from stones such. One can only rely upon repentance and a right relationship with God. The people ask, as should we, "What then should we do?" John answers them that they should do justice, act honestly, be satisfied with what you have. Our repentance is a 'turning around' from the way we were living and instead living in God. We show this abiding in God by loving our neighbor as ourselves.

May the Holy Spirit enable you to abide in God's love so that you may share that love with your neighbors. In this you will find Joy.

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HYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Medical Fund Established for Jeremy Frost

A fund has been set up at First National Bank for Kylee and Jeremy Frost. To donate you can either call the bank at 659-5544 or mail it to Box 337, Spearman.

John DeLaRosa

A medical account has been opened for John & Deborah DeLaRosa at First National Bank. John has been diagnosed with oral cancer. He will be going through radiation and chemo treatment.

Spearman Food Bank 1st Thursday

If you would like to help the Spearman Food Bank, they need help unloading the truck at 11:30 each 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Cecil Biggers for more information.

Gruver Booster Club Fund Raiser

This year the Booster Club has decided to sell raffle tickets for a chance to win 1/4 beef rather than the Greyhound Grand! This is our major fundraiser for the year and allows us to help ALL Greyhound athletic programs where needed!! Please contact Mack McLain or Greg Haight if you would like to buy some tickets and support the Gruver Greyhounds!

Flu Shots

Flu shots are available through the Gruver school nurse's office. They are \$15 each. Contact Sahala at 733-5415.

4-H Smoked Meat Sale

4-H members across Hansford County (Spearman, Gruver & Morse) sold smoked meats for their annual fund raising efforts. We have some extra smoked meat for sale. Items available include: Sausage Links, Sausage Gravy, Whole Hams, Spiral Hams, Hunter Pack, Pork Chub, Sausage Wrap, Pepper Bacon, Smoke Bacon, Turkey and Pumpkin Roll. Please call the office at 659-4130 - if you are interested in purchasing smoke meats.

Rushing Wind Emmaus Community

The Rushing Wind Emmaus Community will meet Saturday, December 8, at 6 p.m. in the Waka Christian Center for our Christmas celebration. A potluck meal will be served followed by sponsors training and a praise and worship service. Plans are being made for the coming year and your support will be appreciated.

Gruver Blood Drive

Angels for the Gruver PTO Angel Tree will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 18, 2012 during the Gruver Holiday Open House at Gypsies, Lamps & Beads. The Angels will then be moved to Gruver City Hall where they will continue to be available for pick up. Angel gifts must be returned to Gruver City Hall by Thursday, December 13 at 5 p.m. Please have them wrapped in 4 packages and bundled together. Thank you for supporting the Gruver PTO in helping to brighten the holiday season for children in our schools!

Back in Control Parenting Workshop

S.T.A.R. (Services-To-At-Risk Youth & Their Families) brings you another "Back in Control" Parenting Workshop on Saturday, December 8, 2012, from 8:45 AM-4 PM at the Texas Panhandle Centers Children's Services Building, 1500 S. Taylor Street, Amarillo, Texas 79101. Must pre-register by calling 359-2005. Instructor: Janice James, MA, QMHP. CEUs available for LPCs & MSWs; General CEUs available, also (must attend full class for certificate). NO CHARGE. Seating is limited. No Childcare is provided. STAR is a TDFPS funded program of TPC.

Gruver PTO Angel Tree

Angels for the Gruver PTO Angel Tree will be ready for pick up on Sunday, November 18, 2012 during the Gruver Holiday Open House at Gypsies, Lamps & Beads. The Angels will then be moved to Gruver City Hall where they will continue to be available for pick up. Angel gifts must be returned to Gruver City Hall by Thursday, December 13 at 5 p.m. Please have them wrapped in 4 packages and bundled together. Thank you for supporting the Gruver PTO in helping to brighten the holiday season for children in our schools!

Rainbow Room Needs Your Help

Stephanie Brock is gathering up names for sponsors for children to benefit the Rainbow Room in Borger. This particular project is for Christmas. This organization does service Hansford County. There was an overwhelming response last year. Just get your names to Stephanie Brock at 659-1774 or email her at sbrock@ptsi.net. You can request a young child (around \$75) or an older child (around \$125) You can even go in with another person to purchase something off the child's wish list. It is a tax deductible expense. It is truly a worthy project and one that blesses many children.

Education Tapes for Education

The Gruver Elementary School is participating in the Education Tapes for Education. Help our school earn credit for free educational equipment by saving your receipts from any Lowe's. Our collection boxes are located in the Elementary School Lobby or the South entrance. They are also located in the City Library, City Hall, Night & Day Beauty Salon and Shear Style. The collection boxes will be open from August 17th, 2012 - March 31st, 2013.

Hansford Co. Library Thrift Shop Accepting Donations

Alley Katz (Library Thrift Shop) is accepting donations of quality items. You may ask for the key to the Thrift Shop at the library desk during regular hours (9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday). Alley Katz is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each Wednesday.

Firefighters Wanted

The Spearman Volunteer Fire Department is actively recruiting new members. Both men and women age 18 and over are welcome. The number of volunteers has dropped to dangerously low levels and the roster needs to be increased. If you have an interest in helping to keep your community safe, the SVFD would like to talk to you. All new candidates will have access to the best training available. All interested parties should either come to the fire station located at 513 S Hazelwood or call Kimmi Rivera at 806-202-6374. The SVFD meets every Thursday night at 7 PM. Bring a friend and come join the team.

Hansford Hospice

Volunteering for Hospice is very flexible and easy to work into your schedule. Our volunteers provide important services to the people we serve, whether it is: providing companionship to patients and their families; helping with clerical duties in the office; helping with special projects such as cooking food, baking, running or helping with community outreach. If you are interested in being a Hansford Hospice Volunteer, please contact us at 806-659-5811.

Texas SNAP Benefits Assistance

Need help applying for SNAP benefits? We can help! High Plains Food Bank is providing application assistance for Texas SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) in your area. Telephone application assistance is available. If you need to apply for benefits, please call us today at 806374-8562 or 1-800-774-8564.

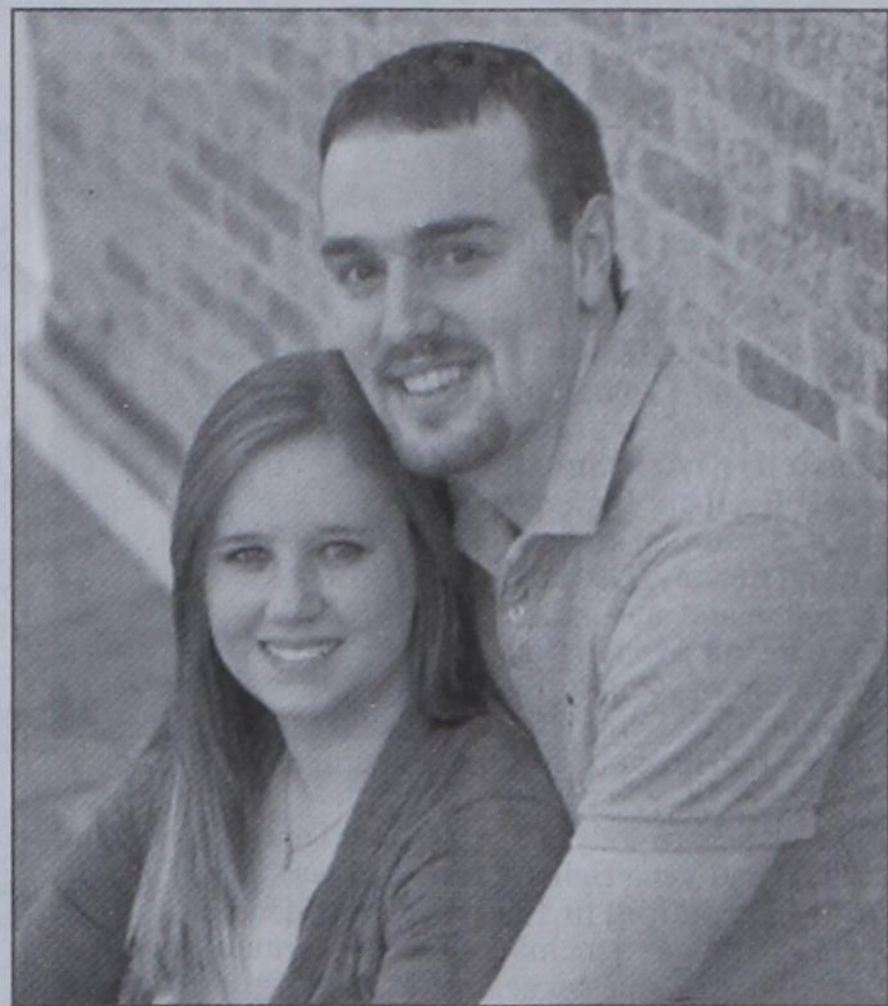
Don't Text and Drive Decals

If you would like to purchase a lime green 'AMT 1994-2009 Don't Text and Drive' window decal in memory of Ali Tyler, please contact Stephanie Tyler at 806-736-0019. All proceeds go to the Ali Tyler Memorial Scholarship Fund. Decals are also available at Hansford County Floral Company on Main Street in Spearman.

Help Available for Breast Cancer Survivors

Any woman who has had breast cancer surgery and cannot afford undergarments and prosthetics can get help from the American Cancer Society through a grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. The Amarillo Area Breast Prosthesis and Lymphedema Accessory Program will provide financial help to women in need of breast forms or prostheses, mastectomy bras and accessories to help with lymphedema, which is swelling of the arm caused by a build-up of lymph fluid. For more information, call the American Cancer Society office in Amarillo at (806) 353-4307 or 1-877-227-2345.

Thomas, Winegarner Wedding



Chasity Thomas and Brett Winegarner along with their parents wish to announce their wedding. It will take place on December 29, 2012 in Lubbock, Texas. Chasity is a senior at West Texas A & M University majoring in business. Brett is a senior at Texas Tech University majoring in broadcast journalism. They will graduate in May of 2013. Chasity and Brett are 2009 graduates of Spearman High School.

Chasity is the daughter of Gary Thomas and Audra Wells. She is the granddaughter of Penny Thomas of Commerce City, CO and the late Jim Thomas and Don Burke of Perryton, TX and the late Carol Burke. Brett is the son of Verlan and Brenda Winegarner. He is the grandson of Herbert and Delma Winegarner of Springfield, CO and Mike and Mary O'Brien of Natick, MA.

Chasity and Brett will reside in Lubbock, Texas after a honeymoon in Las Vegas, Nevada.

It's A Girl!



Jordan and Kelci Brock of Virginia Beach are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Evie Fern-Elyse Brock. She was born on September 26, 2012 and was 6 lbs, 9 oz. She has a big brother, Benjamin who is 3.

Grandparents are: Kim and Stephanie Brock of Spearman; Royce and Marianne Hart of Post; great-grandparents are Dave and Nan Warren of Dallas, J.L. and Mary Brock of Spearman, and Fern Jones of Post.



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honoring
Chasity Thomas
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on Saturday, December 15, 2012
from 10-11:30 a.m.
in the home of Judy Nelson
130 Nelson Road Spearman, Texas

Harrington Breast Center Mobile Coach Coming to Spearman

The Harrington Breast Center Mobile Mammography Coach will be in Spearman at the Hansford County Hospital on Friday, December 21st from 9:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. to provide women 35 and older in the area with their yearly mammograms.

Featuring the largest program of its kind in the state of Texas, the Harrington Breast Center Mobile Mammography Coach has provided mammograms to women of the High Plains region since 1989. Our program features full-field digital mammography equipment, screenings performed inside our self-contained unit, fast appointments at convenient times and quick reporting back to patients.

For appointments and cost information, please contact the Harrington Breast Center at 1-800-377-4673. The Hansford County Hospital is located at 707 S. Roland. We look forward to serving you during our visit.

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HANSFORD COUNTY

Continued from the 12/6/12 Edition of The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman



LCS (L) (3) 124 Riding at anchor, Tokyo Bay, February 1946

If we were under way, the smoke generator, stationed on the stern, would trail the smoke out behind, but at anchor (we had a stern anchor) the smoke-- an oily mess--would cover the ship with a coat of oil. After cleaning the ship from one of these incidents, the crew moved the smoke generator to the bow when at anchor! We spent many nights anchored at smoke stations and at AA (Anti Aircraft) stations in daytime.

At other night times we were assigned to Skunk Boat patrol, codenamed "Fly Catcher". Earlier in the Philippine Invasion, several LCS's were sunk or severely damaged by this type

of fast suicide (kamakazi) boat which was loaded with a big charge of TNT in the bow. Okinawa had a number of smaller islands around it that had not been invaded or cleared of Japanese. On two nights we found unidentified blips on our radar screen and called for illumination of the area by star shell from the shore or capital ships. Neither was identified as enemy.

The 124 participated in the invasion of two small islands off the shores of Okinawa, Ihey Shima and Aguni Shima. Fortunately, our troops met no resistance after we had shelled the shore with rockets and 40mm shells ahead of their landing. This type of service is what these gunboats were designed to do originally. Later in the day an airplane approached the convoy in an unfriendly manner and all the ships started firing at him as he flew low through the convoy! Later it was determined that it was a friendly plane approaching the convoy incorrectly. I do not remember his IFF showing up on the radar that would have told us he was a friendly plane. He was lucky that he didn't get shot down.

A floating mine was sighted on the 27th as we patrolled. I was standing aft and witnessed this mine floating right along the starboard side. We were lucky that it was a dud, for it scraped our side. We were given permission to destroy it and shot at it with a rifle, 50 Cal machine gun, 20

mm gun, finally sinking it with the 40 mm gun. It did not explode, but the gunners thought they sunk it.

On one occasion as we were moving through the harbor at Okinawa, I looked up and saw the ATA 200 approaching off our port bow. Here came my old friend, P. A. Lyon again! We got to wave at each other as we passed.

On July 10 we formed up with other members of Flotilla Four and sailed to the Philippine Islands for rest, recreation and repair. July 14 found us in Leyte Gulf. While there, we practiced invasion formations with other ships, put the crew ashore at recreation areas, and had some repairs made, all getting ready for the invasion of Japan. We learned of Japan's surrender on August 10, and the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

On September 2, we set sail for Tokyo Bay, Japan and arrived there in the morning of the September 11. While there we were assigned to picket duty, taking liberty parties from the major ships to Yokosuka and Tokyo, carrying as many as we could, probably as many as 100 at a time ashore and taking them back to their ships.

On one occasion, Christmas Day, 1945, we were assigned to go to Kizaru to pick up mail from the airfield there. Unfortunately, we got stuck on a sandbar in the harbor and spent Christmas there, but our cooks made us a great turkey (some said it was sea gull) dinner.

One of the 124's assignments was to escort several small boats outside Tokyo Bay up the east coast of Japan to Choshi, where the Army was destroying Japanese war materials by dumping them in the ocean. Unfortunately, a storm came up and all the boats got swamped, sunk, or floundered ashore. We picked up the Japanese crews, and went back to Yokosuka from which we had departed. I was given the order to go to Choshi by rail from Tokyo to report to the Army Commandant about the misfortune. I still have copies of the reports about each boat that I gave to the Army Major. The Japanese leader of the boat crews spoke English very well. He told me that English was the second language of Japan and that he had learned it in a Methodist mission school before the War.

My time came up to go home in February. I was ordered to the USS Golden

City for transportation to Seattle, Washington, where I was released from active duty. I was held in the Inactive Naval Reserve until October 1954 when I was released or discharged from the Naval Reserve. I had been advanced the Rank of Lt. jg. a few months before discharge.

Upon returning home, I completed my degree in Business at Texas Tech in 1947.

Barbara Jean Daily and I were married December 28, 1947. In the meantime I had entered the family enter-

prises, and spent 30 years selling and servicing farm machinery.

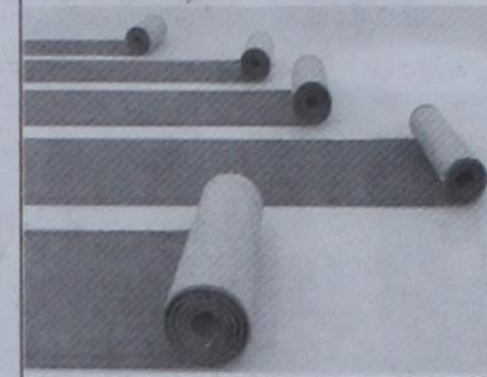
In 1978 I accepted an appointment as the Hansford County Judge and served in that capacity until 1991.

Barbara and I had four children: David Arthur, MD, William Richard (Bill), DVM, Rebecca Sue (Becky) Madison, and Jean Ann (Jeanie) Holston. Barbara died February 26, 1996. I continue to live in our home in Spearman, ending this tale begun in 1999 and ended its writing in 2009.

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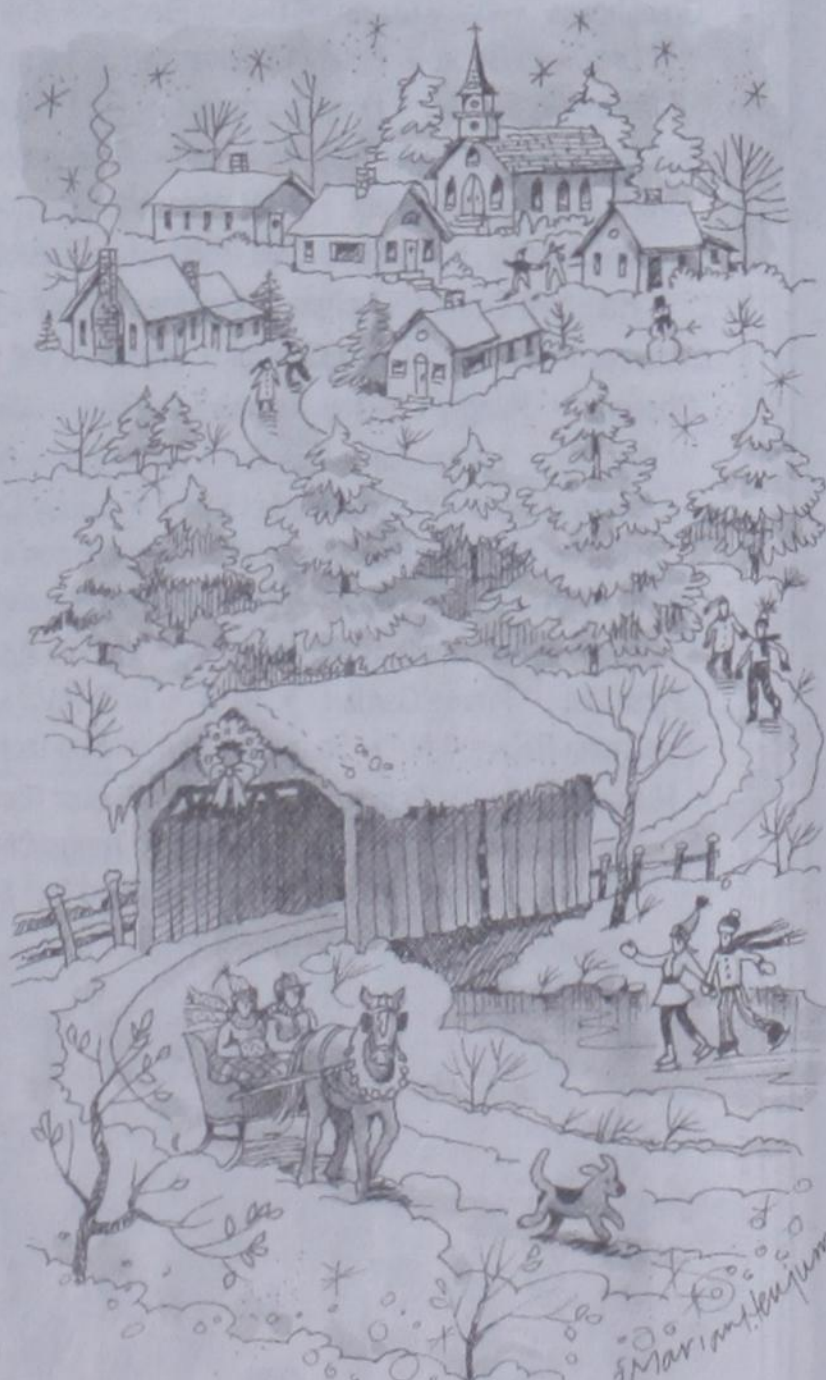
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Panhandle Youth Compete in District 4-H Food Challenge

Two hundred and fifty youth from 19 Panhandle counties gathered at MK Brown Memorial Auditorium and Civic Center in Pampa Nov. 28 to compete in the 4-H Food Challenge sponsored by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The Food Challenge is modeled after such competitions as the Food Network's Iron Chef, according to Brandon Dukes, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service 4-H and youth specialist in Amarillo.

The 4-H Food Challenge allows teams of three to five 4-H members to create a dish using a predetermined set of ingredients. From these ingredients, 4-H members must identify, prepare and then present information related to the preparation process, nutritional value, serving size and cost of the dish, Dukes said.

Throughout this process, 4-H members are applying the knowledge and skills gained through participation in the 4-H foods and

nutrition project, he said, demonstrating their culinary and food safety skills, and continuing to learn about making healthier food choices.

The Hansford team of Finley Garnett, Maren Garnett, Maddie McCloy, Brantly Shields, and KD McCloy won the gold medal in the Bread & Cereal category by defeating 10 other teams in this category of the Junior Food Challenge.

Armes Continues to Celebrate at NFR

Continued from Page 1
"We're going to have him a little birthday and make it all about him," Bray Armes said.

In all, Armes has scored on all six runs and has the fifth best cumulative time in the competition, 36.8 seconds. He has earned \$37,987 in Las Vegas. He needs just \$7,865 more, and he will have doubled his regular-season earnings.

"It feels great," Armes said. "This place is amazing. You can come in here last and still have a shot to be up there at the front."

"I've been very blessed to be able to ride the very best horse here. I'm just thankful to have Dean on my side. Every night we talk and come up with a game plan and try to go through it. I've been very fortunate and blessed by God and thank Him so much for everything He does for me."

He also has his family by his side. They try to spend the days together, then get to the rodeo. It's important for them all, wife Neelley, daughter Breely and, of

course, Drake, the birthday boy.

"During the day when I don't have things to do, we just hang out and try to spend time with the kids," Armes said.

That's important. Between autograph sessions and other appearances, time is limited during the 10-day slugfest that is the NFR. The focus turns to steer

wrestling upon arrival at the Thomas and Mack Center.

"I'm just trying to catch them all and throw them down, then I'll see where I end up," Armes said. "I'm really trying to win in the rounds. I feel like I haven't made a great run yet."

"Hopefully it'll all fall together real good, and I'll feel good about it. I feel real good about where I'm at."



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7. Have they ever special-ordered something for you and then given you a discount?
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10. Have they ever bought a show animal from local children or supported them in a bike-a-thon?

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RAYMOND'S RECYCLING: Will haul scrap iron and junk. Call 435-9712 or 435-2761.

WANTED

OLD MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS If you have any type of musical instruments laying around...

PUBLIC NOTICE

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS IN THE INTEREST OF BRAXTON ALIZEA SMITH A MINOR CHILD

CAUSE NO. CV05189 IN THE 84TH DISTRICT COURT OF HANSFORD COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: UNKNOWN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, Respondent, GREETING

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

The petition of Rhonda Louise Smith, Petitioner, was filed in the 84th District Court of Hansford County, Texas on the 11th day of November 2012 against Unknown respondent in the above entitled cause.

The suit request Original Petition for Termination and Adoption as is more fully known by Petition on file in this suit.

The date and place of birth of the child who is the subject of the suit is: Braxton Alizea Smith; BIRTH DATE: 07/17/2002.

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding on you, including the termination of the Parent-Child Relationship, the term of pa-

Word search grid with words like OLIVE, ERE, RADIO, LIMIT, EAR, ENDOW, etc.

RAYMOND'S RECYCLING Will haul SCRAP IRON AND JUNK. Call 435-9712 OR 435-2761.

Letters to Santa

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman will print Letters to Santa from children in Hansford County in our annual Christmas edition...

Letters may be mailed to: Santa Letter, % Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman TX 79081, or dropped by the Reporter-Statesman office...

In order for your letter to appear in the Christmas issue, it must be at the Reporter-Statesman office by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 17th.

CASH & CARRY Tile • Laminate • Wood • Carpet Grout • Adhesives • Underlayment WITT FLOORING CENTER 806 N. Main

HELP WANTED We need you! Duncan Chevrolet in Stratford, TX is looking for a full time experienced mechanic...

Get a Free Knife with any purchase of \$20.00 or more, while supplies last. Come see us at the Knife Tables at Country Market...

BEST KNIFE PRICES OF THE SEASON Already discounted prices cut even more on CASE, BOKER, TREEBRAND, GERMAN EYE and HEN & ROOSTER brands.

hchd Hansford County Hospital District 707 S. Roland • Spearman, TX (806) 659-2535

Number grid with numbers 1-9 arranged in a 9x9 pattern.

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Interest Rates are at historic lows... Homes are available... prices are LOW!! The Perfect Combination! Call TODAY!

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We have BUYERS, but we need LISTINGS! Call Us Today & Let us put the Two of you together!

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1200 SOW FALLOW TO FINISH OPERATION - Moore Co., TX - New 5 yr. lease with major hog company...

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ternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption. ISSUED and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Spearman, Texas, Hansford County this the 10th day to December 2012.

Merry Christmas! from HANSFORD COUNTY FLORAL COMPANY 300 MAIN • SPEARMAN, TX • 806-644-4000

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK TexSCAN

TextSCAN Week of December 16, 2012 BOOKS FOR SALE EDUCATION/TRAINING AIRLINES ARE HIRING ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE DRIVERS DRIVERS REGIONAL FLATBED HOME DRIVERS - STUDENTS DRIVERS - HIRING EXPERIENCED/INEXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS! DRIVERS - STUDENTS DRIVERS - HIRING EXPERIENCED/INEXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS! DRIVERS - STUDENTS DRIVERS - HIRING EXPERIENCED/INEXPERIENCED TANKER DRIVERS!

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.

First State Bank Hosts Annual Hot Dog Cookout



Operation Christmas Greeting

The Hansford Hospital Auxiliary has begun their yearly fundraiser - Operation Christmas Greeting. Instead of mailing greeting cards, individuals who wish to may donate money to the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and have their greeting published in this paper. The money is used to purchase equipment and supplies that are not budgeted at the Hospital and Manor. Your donations can be mailed to Operation Christmas Greeting Chairman Judy Nelson, 130 Nelson Road, Spearman, Texas 79081. Checks should be made to Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and marked Operation Christmas Greeting. Thank you so much for supporting this fundraiser.

Merry CHRISTMAS

from Gary & Cathy Smith Dennis & Judy Nelson

Merry Christmas!

Let us help you decorate this holiday season!

- Christmas Centerpieces with or without Candles
- Fall ceramic containers for plants or fresh flowers
- Gourmet baskets for Christmas (or anytime)
- Poinsettias • Gift Baskets • Christmas Home Decor

All Occasion Flowers

202 N. Bernice (across from the Post Office)
659-5180 • Spearman

Christmas - Tuesday, 12/25 • New Year's Eve - Monday, 12/31
New Year - Tuesday, 1/1

Merry Christmas

from **Medic Pharmacy**

314 Main • Spearman
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Check out our **Thursday Night Savings**

Different Special Each Thursday!

Open until 8 p.m. each Thursday in December

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

2012 Holiday Schedule

SANTA LETTERS: The Reporter-Statesman will publish Santa Letters in the Thursday, December 20th edition. The deadline to submit information for this issue will be Monday, December 17th.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS: Anyone wishing to place a holiday greeting in the newspaper is encouraged to call or come by the Reporter-Statesman office as soon as possible (310 Barkley Street). Holiday greetings will be included in the December 20th Christmas edition, and the December 27th New Year's edition. The deadline for the December 20th and December 27th issues is Thursday, December 13th at 5 p.m.

OFFICE CLOSED: The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman office will be closed December 18-January 1st for the Christmas Holidays. (The deadline for the December 20th and December 27th issues is Thursday, December 13th at 5 p.m.)

MURMUR'S

MurMur's Cafe
26 Archer St
Spearman TX
806-659-3580

Snow Cone Stand
Monday-Friday
2-8 p.m.

Are You A Victim of Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse or Physical, Emotional or Sexual Assault?

Call Toll Free Hotline
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