

REPORTER STATESMAN

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VOL. 92 • ISSUE 35

NEWS • SPORTS • PICTURES

SERVING HANSFORD COUNTY SINCE 1907



(Back, L-R) Gus Birdwell Elementary Music Teacher Mechelle Curry, Spearman I.S.D. Superintendent Rodney Sumner, Cargill employees Justin Darrow - production supervisor, Darren Rayl - manager and Martina Miller - accountant, Community Resource Coordinator Cindy Blackman, and Gus Birdwell Elementary Principal Kent Hargis; (Front, L-R) Gus Birdwell Elementary Student Representatives Dillon Sumner and Mary Beth Hargis.

Cargill Donates Keyboards To Gus Birdwell Elementary

by Mechelle Curry

Last spring, Gus Birdwell Elementary received a generous gift from Cargill - twenty Yamaha keyboards. This extraordinary gift will be used to teach all elementary children to read music and develop basic piano skills.

The keyboards will be used in regular music class by each grade level throughout the school year. The keyboards will also be used for after school piano lessons. (Information about the after school program will be sent home with elementary students

during the next week.)

The administration, teachers and students of Gus Birdwell Elementary are extremely grateful to Cargill for their generosity. This kind of music technology is rare for a school of this size. It will enable the students to learn things about music that would be very difficult otherwise.

Everyone at Gus Birdwell Elementary would like to say "Thank You" to Cargill. Special thanks also goes to Cindy Blackman, who did a wonderful job helping to get this accomplished

Have Basketball Will Travel



Jeremy Mackie

Jeremy Mackie, a senior at Spearman High School, recently participated in the Travel Dynamics International Basketball Tour.

Jeremy was in Ireland from July 14-21, 1999. He participated in four basketball games, one against a United States team and three against Irish teams. The team he played on, the Lakers, placed 4th in the tournament.

Five male and five female teams participated in the tour. Each player was invited by a letter, and asked to submit an application, followed by an interview. Team members were from Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, and Indiana.

While in Ireland, Jeremy toured the Blarney Castle, the Cliffs of Moher, the Bunratty Castle, and the LeHinch Golf Course.

Jeremy is the son of Laura and Glen Ray Mackie. He has a sister, Leah, a sophomore at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, and one brother, Dustin, a freshman at Spearman High School.

Jeremy, who plays point guard, has played basketball for Spearman I.S.D. for five years.

"How To Deal With Difficult People"



Dr. Paul Matney

The public is invited to hear Dr. Paul Matney present "How To Deal with Difficult People" on Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the O'Loughlin Center in Spearman. This program is being co-sponsored by the O'Loughlin Center and the Hansford Hospice.

Dr. Matney has a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master

of Arts degree in Speech Communication from West Texas State University. His doctorate is in higher education and mass communication from Texas Tech University.

Matney spent 19 years as a television weathercaster, first with KVII-TV and later with KAMR-TV.

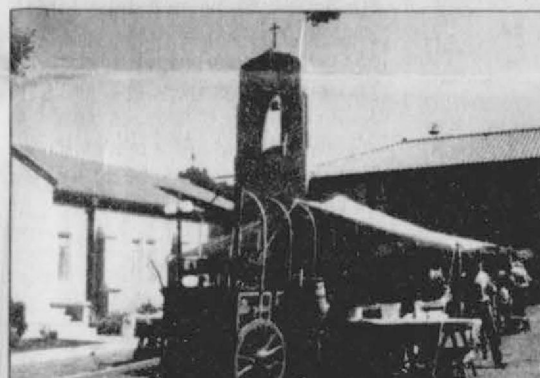
Dr. Matney conducts workshops and seminars on Media Violence and its Affects on Children; How to Deal with Difficult People and Public Speaking and Interpersonal Communication Strategies.

Please plan to attend this very informative program on "How to Deal with Difficult People".

"How to Deal with Difficult People" Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. O'Loughlin Center - Spearman

Sponsored by: The O'Loughlin Center and The Hansford Hospice.

Back In The Saddle Day



Spearman First United Methodist Church members and guests enjoyed a barbecue lunch following Sunday mornings worship services.

Back In The Saddle was the emphasis last Sunday, August 29th, at the First United Methodist Church of Spearman.

This event was designed to get members back to church after summer activities and also a time to invite friends and family to join in worship.

The music was led by the Four of Us, a quartet made up of members of the church. The Country Circuit Players band provided instrumental accompaniment for the quartet and for the congregational singing. The guest speaker for the day was Bill McCuaig, Camp Manager at CETA Canyon



Verna Lee and Jim Shirley loaned their horses and buggy to the Spearman FUMC for their "Back In The Saddle Day" celebration.

Methodist Camp.

A chuck wagon, owned by Jim Shirley, was set up on the church lawn where many people enjoyed a barbecue lunch after the morning worship services.

It was a great day that would not have happened without the hard work of many church members.

"A Message From Jonesboro: How Kids Are Learning To Kill And Learning To Like It"

Ochiltree County Attorney Bruce Roberson, the Perryton Independent School District and the Perryton Ministerial Alliance are sponsoring a program entitled "A Message From Jonesboro: How Kids Are Learning To Kill and Learning To Like It." There is no charge for the program, which will be held in the Perryton High School Auditorium on Tuesday, September 14th from 7:30-9:00 p.m. and Wednesday, September 15th from 1-4 p.m.

Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman, director of the Killology Research Group will present the program. Col. Grossman is one of the world's leading experts on the causes of violent crime. He is the author of the Pulitzer nominated book, *On Killing*, and has written numerous encyclopedia entries on the subject of violence and aggression. In his presentations, he helps the audience understand the body of scientific data linking TV, movies and video games to violent crime. Recently, he appeared on

CNN and 60 Minutes after the Littleton, CO incident.

Col. Grossman has served as a member of the Arkansas Governor's Task Force on Juvenile Justice and he will share with the audience some initiatives being considered there and elsewhere. We know that you will not want to miss out on this valuable information so that we, as concerned parents and citizens, can avoid the mistakes of Jonesboro and Littleton.

Hansford Hospice Garage Sale

The Hansford Hospice Garage Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 17th and 18th at 311 Main St., Spearman, TX, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

If anyone has donations of items for the

garage sale, please call 659-2384 or 659-2285.

Items may be taken to 311 Main Street on Friday morning, September 3rd, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

LAUGH AND LIVE



by Gary C. Smith
gcs@ren.net

Someone sent me this little piece about friends. It made me realize that I am fortunate enough to have a few "real" friends. I hope you do, too.

SIMPLE FRIENDS AND REAL FRIENDS

A simple friend can stand by you when you are right, but
A real friend will stand by you even when you are wrong.

A simple friend identifies himself when he calls.
A real friend doesn't have to.

A simple friend opens a conversation with a full news bulletin on his life.
A real friend says, "What's new with you?"

A simple friend thinks the problems you whine about are recent.
A real friend says, "You've been whining about the same thing for 14 years. Get off your duff and do something about it."

A simple friend has never seen you cry.
A real friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A simple friend doesn't know your parents' first names.
A real friend has their phone numbers in his address book.

A simple friend brings a bottle of wine to your party.
A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed.
A real friend asks you why you took so long to call.

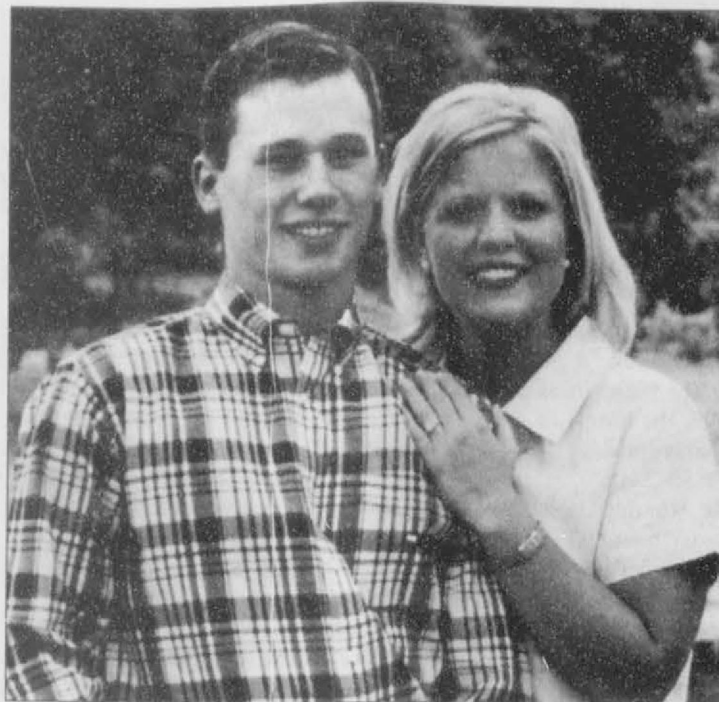
A simple friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.
A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history.
A real friend could blackmail you with it.

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest.
Real friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself/herself.

A simple friend expects you to always be there for them.
A real friend expects to always be there for you!

**Until Next Time,
May God Bless.
GCS**



Engagement Announcement

Phillip and Lynna Renner of Spearman are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Ronda Rae Renner to Leonard Dunman Haynes II, son of Frank and Brenda Haynes of Johnson City, TX.

The bride-elect will graduate in December of 1999 from Texas A&M University with a degree in Community Health. She is presently doing an internship with Child Protective Services in Bryan, TX.

The prospective groom will graduate in December of 1999 from Texas A&M University with a degree in Ag Science with an education option. He is currently doing his student teaching.

Ronda is the granddaughter of Norma Jean Mackie, Glen Mackie, and Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Renner, all of Spearman.

The wedding will be held on January 8, 2000 in Spearman.

**Hansford County Library
will be closed Saturday,
September 4th and Monday,
September 6th in observance
of the Labor Day Holiday.**

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PG
Julia Roberts
Richard Gere

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Crown Affair**

R
Pierce Brosnan • Rene Russo

Screen 2 - 7:30 p.m.

Adults - \$6.00; Children & Senior Citizens - \$4.00

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Bridal Registry

Lisa Tarango & Geder Muñoz - Oct. 2nd

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Lisa Tarango & Geder Muñoz - Oct. 2nd

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Spearman,
Texas

HANSFORD HAPPENINGS

Panhandle Crisis Center

The Panhandle Crisis Center offers services free of charge to men or women who are victims of domestic violence, whether physical or verbal. The Panhandle Crisis Center offers counseling, support, and information to these victims, plus a shelter to those who feel themselves to be in danger at home. Help is available 24 hours a day, at 435-5008. For more information, call from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For those who must call long distance, the toll-free number is 1-800-753-5308.

Zulu Trading Post Days

The Spearman Chamber of Commerce is working on a schedule of events for Zulu Trading Post Days, set for Saturday, September 18, 1999. Some of the events being planned are: City Wide Flea Market (\$10 charge, deadline for listing is September 10th), Nature Tour at Lake Palo Duro, Rough 'n Rugged Hike, Tour Adobe Walls, Wildflower Extravaganza, Drift Fence Presentation, Garden Tours, Report on THC Findings, Pioneer Lady's Tea Party, Catered Meal at Windmill Site, and Entertainment at Windmill Site. For more information, please contact Gina Gillispie at 659-5555.

Sacred Heart Child Development Center Registration

Early registration for the Sacred Heart Child Development Center for children 0-11 years of age is now being accepted. Registration will be accepted Monday-Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sacred Heart Child Development Center serves nutritious morning snacks, lunches and afternoon snacks. Services available at the SHCDC are: Full Day Care, Part Day Care, Drop-In Service, After School Care, and a new Pre-School Program (9:00-11:00 a.m., Monday-Friday). Programs are also available for low-income families. For more information, call 659-3179, or stop by the SHCDC Office at 907 Roland, and ask for Sam.

ACT Announces September Test Date

The ACT Assessment college entrance and placement exam will be administered September 25, 1999. The registration postmark deadline is August 20th. Late registration postmark deadline is September 3rd (an additional fee is required for late registration). The next nation-wide test will be administered October 23, 1999. ACT Assessment scores are accepted by virtually all colleges and universities in the nation, including all the Ivy League colleges. The cost is \$22.00. Students can take the test more than once. They can use test scores to determine any academic weaknesses and re-take the test later if they choose. Students who take the exam more than once can report only their highest composite score to prospective colleges if they choose. There are four sections to the ACT Assessment: English, reading, math and science reason. The ACT Assessment is designed to measure a student's academic achievement and the appropriate course level for college placement. For more information, including registration forms and test locations, contact Glenda Guthrie, Spearman High School Counselor, or Cathy Potts, Gruver High School Counselor, or register online at ACT's website - www.act.org.

Yards of the Week

The Spearman Chamber of Commerce has announced the Yards of the Week for August 29-September 4th. They are: Brad and Dodie Beedy, 28 Golden Circle; Vance and Irene Snider, 103 S. Barkley; Claude and Janell Sheets, 610 E. Kenneth; and Ruby Riley, 205 W. 12th Street.

First Place

Attention Men & Women! Do you desire to lose weight and/or develop healthy eating habits? First Place is for you! First Place is a Christ-centered health program which emphasizes Bible study, scripture memory, prayer and exercise, while following a health eating plan. The program is designed to help participants focus on giving Christ "first place" in every area of life. Orientation for the First Place program will be held on September 7, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the First Baptist Church in Spearman. For questions, information, and registration, contact the First Baptist Church (659-5557), Brenda Ferguson (659-2193), or Karen Patrick (659-2619). A nursery will be provided during all classes.

Power Wheelchairs Available

The Senior Wheels Program makes available Power (Electric) Wheelchairs, to non-ambulatory Senior Citizens (65 years old and up) at no out-of-pocket expense, if they qualify. The Power Wheelchairs are provided to those who are confined to a wheelchair, and can no longer self-propel in their living area, and meet the additional qualifications of the program. No deposit is required. This service may also be available to the permanently disabled if they qualify. If your need is for use in your apartment or home, please call for more information on the details of this program. No nursing homes, please. Call 1-800-360-8765.

Hansford Hospice Garage Sale

The Hansford Hospice Garage Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 17th and 18th at 311 Main St., Spearman, TX, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. If anyone has donations of items for the garage sale, please call 659-2384 or 659-2285. Items may be taken to 311 Main Street on Friday morning, September 3rd, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Emmaus Reunion Group Meeting

The Spearman Emmaus Reunion Group will meet on Monday, September 20th in the home of John and Jolinda Hutchison.

SHS Class of 1989 10-Year Reunion

The Spearman High School Class of 1989 has scheduled ten-year reunion activities for September 17th and 18th. Classmates will attend the Lynx Homecoming football game on Friday night at 7:30 p.m., followed by a reception at the O'Loughlin Center. Saturday's activities include a tour of the high school, a picnic at Palo Duro Lake and dinner at IV's Hungry Cowboy. For more information on the reunion, please contact Jan Crawford Picculti at (210) 681-8715.

Medical Fund for Garrett Rex

A fund has been established at First State Bank for the family of Garrett Rex to help defray medical costs. Garrett is hospitalized in the University Medical Center in Lubbock with heart problems. Anyone interested is asked to donate.

Texas Home Improvement Loan Program

The Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation, a Texas non-profit corporation, is now implementing the Texas Home Improvement Loan Program for low- and very low-income residents of Texas. Funds will be readily available to qualifying residents to improve the basic livability of their homes. • Maximum funding requests of \$23,000; • Three percent (3%) amortizing loans are available; • Zero percent (0%) deferred, forgivable loans are available to qualifying residents; • Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation will also pay for closing costs up to \$2,000. The home improvement loan program will be available through December 15, 1999. For more information, contact Texas State Affordable Housing Corporation at 1-888-638-3555 extension 423.

Office hours for Reporter-Statesman are Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1-5 p.m. The deadline to submit items to be published is Monday at 5:00 p.m. for that week's publication.

The Hansford County

Reporter-Statesman

213 Main Street • Spearman, TX 79081
Phone - (806) 659-3434 • Fax - (806) 659-3368
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Among The Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

Ralph Blodgett is at home recovering from an accident that barely missed being deadly serious.

On Friday he was assisting in the seed-cleaning operation at the B&B Farm Industries. He was on the second platform; had all the operation going smoothly, with the screen shaker, belts and pulleys, and started to step down. Somehow his foot slipped and he automatically threw out his hand to catch himself. His hand touched a mechanism, just a few inches farther would have been tragic.

The quick and correct action by employees Jerry Pearson and Trey Duke, prevented further injury. Grady Cline and Marilyn Cline, also rushed to his side.

Ralph was taken by ambulance to Hansford Hospital, but the injury was quickly diagnosed as requiring treatment elsewhere. The ambulance took him out on highway 207 until the medivac landed and flew him to Amarillo. The type of required surgeon was unavailable there, so he was flown on to Lubbock.

He was treated at the Texas Tech Medical University hospital. Ralph lost part of two fingers, broke four fingers, and has a broken wrist, all on his left hand. He is right-handed.

He praised the E.M.T. team of the ambulance, expressing his sincere appreciation for the concern and efficiency. They were Jason Duvall, Beatrice Comp, and Jeremy Thomas.

Mike Crawford, 57, died on Tuesday, August 23, in Grants, New Mexico. Mike and his wife, Coleen, of Tulsa, were on vacation and had stopped in Grants. She had left their motor home to go to the laundry and returned to find him dead. It was determined that the cause was a heart attack, though he had no previous history of heart trouble, and had not been ill.

Mike, the son of the late Cecil and Berdine Crawford, was a native of Spearman, and finished high school here.

He served in the Vietnam conflict as a helicopter pilot. He was awarded an impressive number of medals. The list is not available here.

After his service there, he, with his wife, Rita and son, Shawn, returned to Spearman where he engaged in crop dusting with his

helicopter.

Later he received a degree in geology, and this was his occupation at the time of his death.

Services for Mike were held in Shawnee on Saturday afternoon, with interment there. A military unit, composed of personal friends who served with him in Vietnam, conducted the impressive rites.

Mike had visited his aunt, Maxine Banister, here in October. She attended his funeral at Shawnee as did Kenneth and Margarette Evans.

He is survived by his wife, Coleen, one son, Shawn Crawford, of McLean; three sisters (all formerly of Spearman) Donna Dupre, Tucson; Marilyn Gragg, now of San Angelo, and Cathy Herring, Littleton, Colorado. All flew to Shawnee for the services.

New members of the Grandparents Club are Mary Ann and Jack Lasater of Spearman. Responsible for their initiation is Caden Wesley Riggins who arrived in Lubbock on August 18, 1999. He weighed 6 pounds, 9 ounces and was 18 inches long.

His parents are Mendy and Chad Riggins, Lubbock and his other grandparents are Carla and Rick Riggins, also of Lubbock.

Helen Etter spent a pleasant week-end in Santa Fe last week. She met friends from California there. It was the weekend of the Indian Market there which they found interesting.

Helen had just returned from a ten day trip to Alaska. She and Elvonna Davis flew to Fairbanks by way of Seattle. Helen's nephew, Tom Richardson, lives in Fairbanks. He is employed by a private firm to do inspections at the U.S. military bases in Alaska.

The ladies took some day trips in the area, places of interest to tourists. Some were seeing the above ground pipeline to the U.S. and gold mining. They did some dredging-found some gold, too, but hardly enough to start another gold rush! The weather was cool and pleasant.

Saturday afternoon the lightning struck numerous places, but the Spearman fire department was able to keep all but one of them from doing damage.

One near McKibben burned about 400 acres, Fireman Keith Goodman estimated. Three

Spearman engines fought it, and the Gruver fire department came to assist. It was in thick grass and weed, with heavy overgrowth. The weather was extremely hot, and the fireman fought it until about eleven at night.

In spite of weather recorder, Dwayne Smith's valiant efforts to keep us cool, there were six days with the temperature above 100 for the week of August 23 to 30th. The highest was on the 28th at 105; the lowest on the 24th at 65. No moisture.

The Cutting Horse Show on Saturday last at 9 Double E Arena listed winners from 194 entries. Among them were Bailey Patterson, Spearman, 2nd in Open Class; Wilma Larson, 1st in Non-Pro; Dana Larson, Gruver, 1st in 10,000 class.

Notes of the ill: Cleo George is back at home now after a couple weeks of hospitalization. She was taken to Hansford Hospital with a broken rib, then transferred to Baptist St. Anthony's for a lung condition.

Her daughter, Patsy Isham of Littleton, Colorado, has been here with her most of the time. Jane George of Post came some days as did several of her grandchildren.

The past weekend Patsy and husband, Olin, were here then left to spend a couple of weeks with their daughter. She lives in Louisville, Kentucky and her parents are arriving for the birth of a grandchild.

Fannie Venneman is recovering from cataract surgery at Hansford Manor. She had the operation in Pampa on last Tuesday.

Linda Cummings has been recovering at home since Saturday evening from surgery. The operation was last Wednesday and she had a rapid recovery at

Baptist St. Anthony's.

Linda expressed thanks for the many evidences of concern from friends and especially for their prayers.

Mrs. Betty Oltman is pleased to be back at home after a 24 day stay in the Ochiltree General hospital in Perryton. She is recuperating from complications following a diabetic condition.

Friends report that recent conversations with Tina Rex is that their 12 year old son, Garrett, did not respond to blood thinner treatments to dissolve blood clots in his heart. An electrocardiogram was to be taken to determine further treatment. He is in Texas Tech University Medical center at Lubbock. He had been in Ochiltree General, Perryton, medivaced to Amarillo, then to Lubbock to the pediatrics department. His parents, George and Tina, are with him

Ruby McCullough fell about eight weeks ago and suffered five fractures. Doctors say it will take about four months for her to heal. She is recuperating at her sister's home. The address is: 173 R. Rd. 2897, Sunset, TX 76270.

Former resident Karen Boynton was injured in an automobile accident in Lubbock last Monday, August 23rd in Lubbock.

She was stopped at a traffic light while returning home from work when her car was struck from behind. She received many bruises, sore muscles, and a concussion, but did not suffer any broken bones. The driver of the other vehicle, who apparently had been drinking, was killed instantly.

Did you notice the tinted photo of Spearman folk, John and Hazle Scott in the Sunday Amarillo Globe-News? They were scanning the artwork at the Polk Art competition on August 20.

Editorial

by Gary Smith

There is a rumor circulating throughout the county that Dr. Nick Bentley of Guymon, Oklahoma is thinking about opening a clinic in Gruver.

I hope that this is not true. If Hansford County were to have a primary health care provider outside of our county hospital district, it could have a devastating effect on our local hospital and consequently on our local economy.

Being the only primary health care provider for Hansford County, our hospital district receives certain federal and state funds. Having a physician working in this county and sending patients to hospitals in Oklahoma could jeopardize our hospital's financial base.

This could lead to higher hospital taxes with fewer services, and could even mean the possibility of the hospital ultimately having to be closed.

When an emergency arises, lives could be lost by having to drive patients to Perryton, Borger or Guymon.

A few years back, the hospital district tried to open a clinic in Gruver, but there was a great deal of resistance to the idea by some Gruver citizens. Part of their concern was that a full time doctor would not be available. I would be very shocked, indeed, if Dr. Bentley would spend as much as 24 hours a week in Gruver.

Furthermore, if Dr. Bentley opened a clinic in Gruver and later decided that it should be closed, the damage to Hansford County would have already been done.

I have been told that Pete Alberty, the administrator of the Hansford County Hospital has been asked to rent or lease the Gruver Clinic building to this doctor.

I would hope that Dr. Bentley would be concerned enough about the people of this county to investigate how his actions might impact our community.

Furthermore, I would sincerely hope that Mr. Alberty is wise enough to refuse to let any outside physicians use hospital property to compete with our local hospital.

Mr. Alberty's reply to such a request should not be a "no," but a BIG "NO."

Dr. Rick Sheppard, D.D.S.

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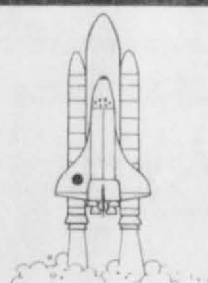
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Now taking reservations for NEWCOMB HOUSE BED & BREAKFAST - Call for available time and prices. Great place to stay for family reunions, graduations, weddings, wedding night, anniversaries, etc. Available also for small club meeting, dinner parties, etc. Special arrangements available upon request. NEWCOMB HOUSE has three bedrooms, kitchen (fully equipped), bath, living and dining room - great for home away from home with room to move about. Also a special plus is storm shelter with access through the utility room. Call Linda Latta at 659-3123 for reservations or more information.



MISSION
LAUNCH
Exploring
God & Music

Children's Choirs

Where: First Baptist Church

When: Wednesday, September 8th

Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.

King's Kids - 4-5 years old (pre-k & k)

Son Co. - grades 1-3

Genesis - grades 4-5

Come blast off with us!

WEEONES CHILDREN'S CONSIGNMENT SALE

- top quality children's clothing
- baby equipment and furniture
- bedding accessories
- toys, books, and puzzles
- games and videos
- shoes and skates
- maternity clothes
- patent dresses
- computer games
- halloween costumes

Friday, September 10th, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 11th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

• half-price sale Saturday, 1-3 p.m.

Location: 316 S. Bernice, Spearman, Texas

(three blocks south of courthouse)

For more information, call

(806) 659-3429 or (806) 435-2308

COMMUNITY WIDE FLEA MARKET & GARAGE SALE

The Spearman Chamber of Commerce Retail Merchants Association in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Zulu Trading Post Days, will sponsor a community wide flea market and garage sale.

The event will take place on Saturday, September 18th from 8 a.m. until ?

A \$10 registration fee will be charged, which will include advertising (internet, newspaper, radio) listing on the locator map, and a chance to win \$100 in Hansford Bucks.

To register, please call or come by the Chamber office at 659-5555, 0211 Main St., Spearman. The registration deadline is Friday, September 10th.

An Invitation

The children and grandchildren of
Bobby and Carolyn Hicks
request your presence at a
reception honoring their

45th Wedding Anniversary

Saturday, September 11th

2:30-4:00 p.m.

Gruver United Methodist Church

Fellowship Hall

506 Broadway

No Gifts, but cards would be treasured

Going Away Party! SMOKEY'S MOVING!

Ann Johnston & Doris Beck are hosting a going away party for R.L. (Smokey) Huse, a long-time resident of Spearman. Smokey is moving to Freeport, TX to be closer to his daughters Ann and Kay (and also his grandchildren and great-grandchildren).

You are invited to join all of us at IV's Hungry Cowboy on Tuesday, September 7, 1999 at 7:00 p.m. to wish him well. He would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to his friends, neighbors and relatives whom he has lived close to for so long.

Hope to see you there!

CORRECTION

CITY OF GRUVER MEETING TO ADOPT PROPOSED TAX RATE

The City of Gruver will hold a meeting at 5:00 p.m. on September 8, 1999 to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 1999. The proposed tax rate is 25¢ per \$100 of value which is the same tax rate ask last year.

The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Gruver by 4% over the calculated effective tax rate.

The Gruver Grapevine

by Harletta Carthel

Power Outage Reported

With the temperature hovering near the century mark, a three hour power outage in Gruver on Saturday afternoon made it a hot time in the city. The outage which occurred between approximately 5:30 until 8:30 p.m. was caused when the interchange near Old Hansford was struck by lightning. Later wind also toppled two poles in the same vicinity. Replacement parts for the interchange had to be brought in from Amarillo.

Williams Certified

Julie Williams of the Gruver Schools Business Office has received certification by the Texas Association of School Business Officials as a Certified Texas School Business Official with specialties in accounting, management information systems, and purchasing.

Julie's certification was earned through the completion of course work and other required qualifications.

Get Well Wishes

Geneva Eddleman suffered a stroke and is recovering in Hansford Hospital. She is doing light therapy and is slowly improving.

Salmans Pledges Sorority

1999 GHS graduate Erika Salmans has been extended an invitation to pledge Pi Beta Phi sorority of Oklahoma State University.

James Stedje Honored

James Stedje was honored Sunday with a celebration of his 90th birthday. Approximately 30

family members of the Stedje family gathered in the home of Mike and Judy Stedje for a pot luck dinner. The afternoon was spent enjoying games of progressive 42 and birthday cake.

The newest member of the Stedje clan, little Kaitlyn Marie Stedje, daughter of Tim and Julie Stedje and James and Ada Joyce's tenth grandchild, joined in the celebration.

James came to Texas from Iowa in 1922. He says Texas, and especially Hansford County, is a healthful and happy place to live, and he counts his blessings everyday.

Football Season Kicks Off

Coach Frick was pleased with the Hounds' scrimmage against Turpin. He states the offensive line and the Hounds' passing game is coming along. He hopes to see improvement in technique and tackling. Commenting on the Hounds' upcoming game with Canadian, Frick stated the Wildcats are big and fast and run multiple defensive fronts to which the Hounds will have to adapt. "We must play an error-free game," Frick added.

The Hounds junior varsity football game on Thursday, September 2, in Greyhound Stadium against the Frich junior varsity at 6 p.m. will begin the '99 football season.

The Hounds junior varsity roster includes Ryan Abernathy, Manuel Luciano, Evan Schmidt, Hunter Bevell, Steven Salazar, David Hernandez, Eric Munoz, Zack Christian, Tyrell King, Ishmael, Pessoa, Oscar Cruz, Chris Cordero, Aaron Cookenour, Josh Abernathy, Chase Reid, Nathan Watkins, Chad Howe, Brandon

Casdorff, David Villegas, Wes Patterson, Colton King, James Duggan, Gabriel Lopez, Aaron Boyd, Eric Lopez, and Israel Azarte.

The Hounds' season opener will be Friday, September 3, when they clash with the Wildcats in Canadian at 8 p.m.

Varsity team members are seniors Dan Odum, Dallas Henson, Derik Grotegut, Sean Cone, Daniel Hernandez, Bray Armes, Kyler Barkley, Colby Hunt, Josh Blount, and Jesus Rodriguez; juniors Greg Ehrenberg, Taos Weldon, Anthony Villalobos, Corey Schneider, Aaron Weller, Bradley Duncan, Kirby Johnson, Chad TeBeest, Chase Lamb, Jason Shoulders, and Clayton Acker; and sophomore Kade Carthel.

The big pep rally and Hounds' send-off will be at 3:10 p.m. Friday in the gym. Everyone is invited to join in the fun of the first pep rally.

Residents to Become Citizens

Luis and Elena Salazar will soon become official United States citizens.

The couple has traveled to Dallas twice recently to take the citizenship test. Luis passed the test two weeks ago, and Elena passed the test last weekend. Luis will become a United States citizen in ceremonies in Amarillo in September, and Elena will take the citizenship oath in Amarillo in October.

New Student Registers

Only one new student was reported by Gruver Schools this past week. Regina Applegate, of Beaver, enrolled in the kinder-

garten class of Rhonda Williams.

New School Employees

In addition to four new teachers and two new administrators (which will be featured in next week's Gruver Statesman), Gruver Schools also list new employees Lucy Pessoa as an elementary aide, Cecilia Trejo as migrant aide, and Donna Renteria in the lunch-



by Dorothy Hudson

Lake Depth - August 30, 1999 - 58.74 feet

Rain Saturday night brought .28 of rain, and the one Sunday evening brought .65.

There were 10 campers north of the Dam on Saturday with only 1 on the office side.

The Sacred Heart Catholic Church had the shelter on Sunday at noon.

Despite fishing being slow for most people Friday, Steve Bishop of Gruver caught a 14.5 pound blue catfish on perch. Jim thinks he will have a picture next week of this fish.

Boaters can notice in Palo Duro Creek where our eager beavers have cut some of the trees down that were in the water and going to die anyway. A flock of 50 turkeys has been seen. Many of them are from this year's hatch. Ramon has seen 5 of the mallard ducklings that the Buschmans released in the Kids' Pond.

Watch for the new bird in our area. Marian Tomlinson has called my attention to some new birds in Gruver called Eurasian collared doves. My cousins Archie and

Marguerite Nelson had also seen them, and I expect that other observant people have noticed this dove, larger than our morning dove, has a half black collar around the sides and back of the neck. Archie commented that he noticed the three part call being different. He had decided the bird was a hybrid cross between our dove and the white winged dove that has worked its way north at least to Canyon.

This dove is similar in appearance to the ringed turtle dove, but the new bird tends to be a larger and darker bird. The experts are having a good time trying to see how fast and how far the new doves will spread. A man in the Bahamas had a friend bring him some turtle doves from Europe in the early 1970's. What he got were boisterous Eurasian collared doves, not suited to captivity. He wound up freeing them in the Bahamas in December of 1974. They prospered there and then made it to Florida by the 1980's. We can hope the invasion will not turn out to be one similar to the starlings.

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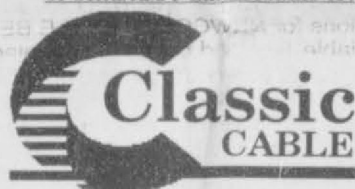
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Schoenhals/Weaver Wed



Amy Schoenhals, daughter of Mark and Margy Schoenhals of Spearman, and James Zachary Weaver, son of James and Vada Weaver of Catoosa, OK, were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at the First United Methodist Church of Spearman. Rev. Jeff Lust, pastor of St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Albuquerque, NM, officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Mark Schoenhals.

The maid of honor was Abbe Steger, friend, of Wichita Falls, TX. Bridesmaids were Nicole Burgess, friend, of Hooker, OK and Nancy Gill, friend, of Catoosa, OK.

The flowergirl was Bethany Lust, friend, of Albuquerque, NM.

The best man was Matt King, friend, of Weatherford, OK. Groomsmen were Jason Easthan, friend, of Catoosa, OK and Rob Blackman, friend, of Duncan, OK.

Candlelighters were Meagan and Ryan Smith, cousins of the bride, of Tulsa.

Ushers were Doran and Mickey Schoenhals, brothers of the bride, of Spearman, and Carlos Lopez, friend of the bride, of Spearman.

The bride carried a bouquet of thirty white roses with ivory accents. Bridesmaids carried three

white roses with ivory accents. The alter railing was decorated with ivory and the pews were decorated with navy bows and ivy.

Amy wore a sleeveless gown with a scoop neck, designed by Jasmine. The gown had a four-foot self train.

Amy is a 1996 Spearman High School graduate. She is attending Southwestern Oklahoma State University, majoring in Music Therapy. She plans to graduate in May of 2000. She is currently employed at Wal-Mart in Weatherford.

Zac is a 1995 graduate of Catoosa High School in Catoosa, OK. He attended OCU in Oklahoma City in 1995-1996. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree with honors in May of 1999 at Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He is currently working toward a master degree in Music at SWOSU. He is currently employed at SWOSU as a proctor for the Music Department.

A reception was held in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, following the ceremony.

The couple flew to Boston and traveled by Amtrak to New York City and on to Williamsburg for their honeymoon. The couple will reside in Weatherford, OK.

Rho Rho Sorority News

Rho Rho Sorority met on Monday, August 26 in the home of Melissa Sutterfield. Members were treated to a delicious k-bob meal, compliments of Craig Schumann.

The meeting was called to order by President Melissa Sutterfield. Carla Brown and Ashley Patterson were elected to head up the Float Committee. There was also discussion about the Valentine Ball in February.

After the business meeting the members enjoyed discussing their summer and the upcoming year.

The next meeting will be on September 9 in the home of Katrina Hughes.

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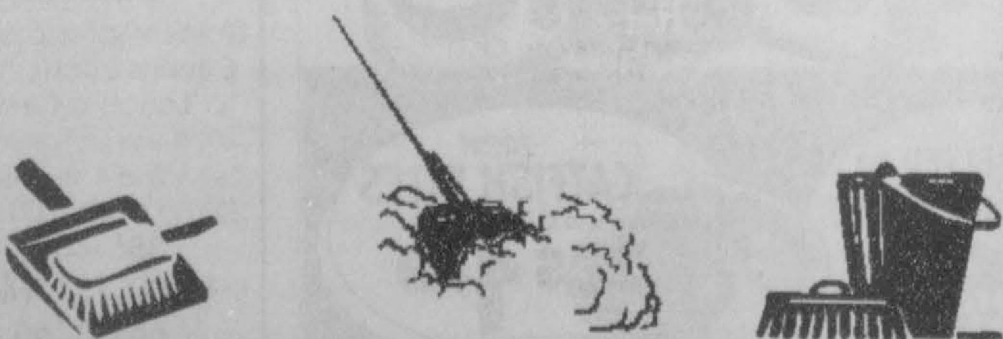
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Notice of Vote on Tax Rate

The Board of Directors of Hansford County Hospital District conducted a public hearing on a proposal to increase the total tax revenues of the Hansford County Hospital District by 7.8 percent on September 1, 1999.

The Board of Directors of Hansford County Hospital District is scheduled to vote on the tax rate that will result in that tax increase at a public meeting to be held on September 9, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Hansford Hospital.

Mayfield/Womble Wed



Gale LaRue Mayfield, daughter of Fred and Janice Mayfield of Spearman, and Chris Womble, son of Ron and Deana Womble of Morse, were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 13, 1999 at the Spearman Church of Christ. Jerry Womble of Morse, uncle of the groom, officiated at the ceremony.

The bride was given in marriage by her father, Fred Mayfield.

The maid of honor was Jennifer Whitefield of Spearman, cousin of the bride, and the bridesmaid was Dynell Vera of Spearman, friend of the bride.

The flowergirls were Sky Mayfield, Jacque Mayfield and Mattie Mayfield, nieces of the bride.

The best man was Dustin Parks of Morse, friend of the groom, and the groomsman was Ross Womble of Morse, brother of the groom.

Colton Mayfield, nephew of the bride, was the ring bearer.

Candlelighters were Jocelyn Whitefield and Lisha Whitefield, cousins of the bride.

Ushers were Edward Mayfield of Electra, TX and Dee Mayfield of Texhoma, OK, brothers of the bride, and Robert Howell of Morse, friend of the groom.

The bride's bouquet was made from red roses and white roses intermixed with stephanotis. The church was decorated with red

roses and greenery with red and white ribbon.

The bride wore a long-sleeve white satin gown decorated with sequins and beads. It had a cathedral-length train. She had a shoulder-length veil that matched the gown.

She had a penny in her shoe, placed there by her father for luck. In keeping with tradition, her something old was a pearl necklace, something new - wedding dress, something borrowed - pearl earrings, and something blue - her garter.

Gale's father and Aunt Cindy Knox sang "Rocking Years" to the couple during the ceremony.

Gale is a 1999 graduate of Spearman High School, and is cur-

rently attending Frank Phillips College.

Chris is a 1997 graduate of West Texas High School in Stinnett, and attended Liberal Vo-Tech where he received a degree in diesel mechanics. He is employed by Hansford Implement.

The bride's table was decorated with a three-tiered cake made by her mother. The groom's table fea-

tured pecan pie, which is his favorite.

Following a week-long cruise to the Bahamas, the couple will reside in Spearman.

Out of town guests were Gale's grandmother, Joe Butler and her husband, Bill of Atwater, CA, and Chris's grandmother, Evelyn Shaw of Indiana.

It's A Boy!

Linda Lou Lewis is proud to announce the arrival of her son, Christopher Franklin Lewis.

Christopher was born on Saturday, August 7, 1999 at 5:39 p.m. in Wichita Falls, TX. He weighed 8 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 21 inches long.

The very proud grandmother Mildred Lewis of Morse.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The Gruver Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6:00PM on September 14, 1999 in the board room of the high school building at 600 Garrett St., Gruver, TX. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.35	\$ *	\$ 1.35	\$ 6,669	\$ 547
Less State-Funded	\$.3596	\$	\$.3596	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Tax Relief					
Last Year's Rate Adjusted for Tax Relief	\$ 1.7096	\$	\$ 1.7096	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service **	\$ 1.60	\$ *	\$ 1.60	\$ 6,804	\$ 1,568
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.50	\$ *	\$ 1.50	\$ 6,028	\$ 1,700

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

** The Rate to Maintain the Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service does not reflect revenue available to the district in the 1999-2000 school year for the pay raise for classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time counselors, and full-time school nurses enacted by the 76th Legislature. The estimated cost of the pay raise for the 1999-2000 school year is \$141,000.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 40,038	\$ 41,184
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 17,030	\$ 17,947
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.35	\$ 1.50
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 229.91	\$ 269.21
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes	\$ 39.30	

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.7396. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.7396.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 420,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS
BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The Pringle-Morse CISD will hold a public meeting at 8:00PM on September 14, 1999 in Morse, Texas. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates					
	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$ 1.160	\$.086 *	\$ 1.246	\$ 11,042	\$ 172
Less State-Funded	\$.397	\$.000	\$.397	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Tax Relief					
Last Year's Rate Adjusted for Tax Relief	\$ 1.557	\$.086	\$ 1.643	\$ N/A	\$ N/A
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service **	\$ 1.620	\$.000 *	\$ 1.620	\$ 0	\$ 126
Proposed Rate	\$ 1.500	\$.000 *	\$ 1.500	\$ 10,050	\$ 0

* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

** The Rate to Maintain the Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service does not reflect revenue available to the district in the 1999-2000 school year for the pay raise for classroom teachers, full-time librarians, full-time counselors, and full-time school nurses enacted by the 76th Legislature. The estimated cost of the pay raise for the 1999-2000 school year is \$36,000.

Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence		
	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 22,022	\$ 21,637
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 2,022	\$ 1,637
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.2461	\$ 1.500
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 25.20	\$ 24.56
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes	\$ (.64)	

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.5868. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.5868.

Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 1,010,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 83,909



Edwin Thompson, TASB loss control manager, presents Pringle-Morse Superintendent Linda Kay Barnhart and Pringle-Morse Business Manager Paige Speck with a certificate recognizing the school's accomplishment

Pringle-Morse CISD Receives Grant

In response to a request initiated by Business Manager Paige Speck, Pringle-Morse CISD has been awarded a loss control grant of \$2000 from the Texas Association of School Boards Risk Management Fund. Grant monies will be used to purchase fire protection equipment for the school's new addition.

"Now in its second year, the grant program assists districts to address the crucial issue of loss control in the workplace," said Edwin Thompson, TASB loss control manager. "The safety and well being of all school employees and resources are district priorities shared by the Fund, and we want to do everything we can to reduce workers' compensation and property casualty losses," he said.

The grants, which were awarded to 73 Texas school districts and one college, focused on personal protective equipment, mechanical-lifting devices, and fall protection equipment. Also included were defensive driving and first-aid/CPR courses, blood-borne pathogens kits, fire protection equipment, electrical safety equipment, and school security equipment.

"Reducing injuries and auto/property losses is a win-win situation that saves valuable district resources and increases productivity. The grant program continues to be an integral part of our overall effort and commitment to assist our members achieve their loss control objectives," Thompson said. "Districts applying for grants did a fantastic job analyzing their exposures and requesting specific loss control equipment and training needed to

mitigate identified hazards. We believe the grant program will have a positive effect on participating districts, and the Fund is dedicated to continued support of their efforts towards loss reduction," he said.

TASB is a voluntary, nonprofit association established 50 years ago to serve local Texas school districts. It includes 1047 school districts and county school boards, 44 junior colleges, 48 tax appraisal districts, 157 cooperatives, and 20 education service centers. School board members are the largest group of publicly elected officials in the state. The districts

they represent have a combined annual budget of \$21 billion and employ nearly 500,000 people.

The TASB Risk Management Fund has been providing risk management Overages to Texas school districts since 1974. More than 1100 school districts, cooperatives, junior colleges, and county appraisal districts participate in one or more of the Fund's Overages.

Rural Unity Day Scheduled

A Rural Unity Day event to call attention to the plight of the American farmer will be held Friday, September 3, at Danny's Hens and Fins at 50th. and Q Streets in Lubbock, Texas. The meeting will begin with a \$.25 (farmers share) lunch at 12 noon.

Sponsored by the Texas Farmers Union, the event hopes to bring together lawmakers, business owners, religious groups, and farm leaders to call attention to the farm crisis and the need for immediate relief action by Congress.

Wes Sims, Texas Farmers Union President, states, "The impact of this crisis is not limited to the farm - rural main street feels the effects, as well." Sims cites the decline of price projections in 1999 as 42% for wheat, 39% for corn, and 26% for soybeans, since 1996. He also states that farm exports in 1999 are expected to fall to \$49 billion, the lowest level in four years.

The six goals of the Rural Unity Day are the immediate passage of adequate emergency funding to address short-term needs; structural changes to the farm program to reinforce the safety net for crop, live-stock, and dairy producers; and an end to concentration in agriculture and stepped-up investigations into anti-competitive practices in agricultural markets; more affordable crop insurance program which will also provide protection during times of reduced production and low prices; sensible trade policies and trade agreements that level the playing fields for U.S. producers; and mechanisms to reduce price-depressing stock levels such as voluntary short-term conservation reserve programs.

Farmers Union's across the country have been devoting the entire month of August to help give rural Americans a voice on the crisis now affecting them.

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How I Spent My Summer Vacation

by Waurayne Cope

I have just returned from another recent, extended visit with each of my three children and their respective spouses - and those wonderful "grands!" I spent about two weeks with each family.

First, I was with Susan and her two children, Lea and Nathan. They live in Ft. Mill, SC. While there, we toured several old historic towns nearby. We toured the very interesting Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC. This was fascinating to me as I was unaware that our money had been minted there at one time. It's a fabulous museum, and it encompasses the whole historic scenario of the area in addition to the minting aspect. Another day, we went gem-mining up in the Smokey Mountains. I didn't come away with any precious gems, but the experience was great fun and I got a few more pretty rocks to add to my rock collection! The real highlight of this segment of my trip was worshipping in a little Country Church very much like the one I worshiped in during my first 13 year so life in a tiny rural town near Fayetteville, TN.

From Susan's home, we went to my sister's home in Lenoir, NC. I

won't soon forget traveling through the Smokey Mountains in a horrible rain storm! But getting to be with my sister and brother-in-law made it all worth while - plus my niece, her husband, and their one-year-old little boy made this visit all the more special. (Not to even mention my sister's wonderful fresh vegetable dinner!)

After a good night's rest, Susan, Lea, Nathan, and I arose early and traveled to Lexington, KY, where my son Bill and his three-year-old little son, Tucker, met us. My five-year-old granddaughter stayed home with Mommy (Michelle) as they were involved in a little friend's birthday party. We all lunched and the young ones had a little play time in the McDonald's play area, then Susan and hers returned to Ft. Mill, and Bill, Tucker, and I went on our way to Bloomington, IL, where they live. We were all welcomed home, and believe me, I was well-entertained while there, too. Taylor and Tucker love to fish in the lake near their home. I got pretty good at baiting their hooks, but I was a little squeamish about removing any unfortunate fish from their hooks! Then, since I'm an avid bird

watcher, I had fun watching their cardinals that would come right up to their double glass dining room door. I also had fun teaching them bird songs from my own youth such as "When the Red-Red-Robin Comes Bob-Bob-Bobbin' Along" and "Zippity-Doo-Dah." They are both quick learners and how delightful for them to call me now that I'm home and sing the songs to me! Another highlight while there was worshipping in their Vale Baptist Church where one adult son of the famous Flying Wallenda Family was guest speaker. His two daughters and one son were with him. His wife was unable to be there as a new baby was due at any time. This man gave a powerful testimony for Christ. Later that day, with assistance from his children, he gave a free high-wire performance in the park. Talk about spine-tingling! For his grand finale, he balanced a chair on the flying trapeze, sat down in the chair, and spent a good thirty minutes sharing his Christian testimony. Then, after descending, he and his daughters were available for autographs. From his autograph, I can only say he certainly did not learn penman-

ship in Spearman Elementary! (Keep up the good work, Mrs. Orr!)

While in the Bloomington area, we also toured the fabulous Miller Zoo. We went to Matthiessen and Starved Rock State Parks. Though I had to stop at many of the available rest benches, I made it all the way down the seeming miles to the Wildcat Canyon in Starved Rock. The view was breathtaking and the waterfall was surely at least comparable to Niagara Falls!

Bill and Michelle had already planned a trip to Texas. Therefore, I was able to return with them to Amarillo. Here I got to be with my daughter, Denise, her husband, Rex, and those wonderful VanMeter grandchildren, Bryan and Cara! Bryan is a junior at Tascosa High and Cara is a freshman. Though they are older, I continue to have many wonderful and delightful times with them. Highlights of my summer experiences with them are numerous, too. One is going along as an invited passenger to wherever Bryan has to go in Amarillo. I had the joy of going to a movie with them recently. Probably an all-time highlight with Brian this past summer was his sharing the experience of a particular cave in the canyons near his home with me. The cave was awesome! And the variety of wild birds in the trees and shrubs down in the bottom of the canyon excited me to no end! Bryan was most protective of me to make sure I didn't fall or step on a snake.

As for Cara, she was able to spend some time with me in my Spearman, TX home this summer as she didn't have a full-time summer job as Bryan did. She has a lot of their home responsibilities, but she can still take some time off to come spend with me. We went for walks, we bird-watched, we shopped, and we lunched at IV's Hungry Cowboy. We had fun designing new Beanie Baby ideas! We also tried out a lot of new recipes!

I would like to share many more interesting incidents concerning my grandchildren and my time with them. However, Gary Smith kindly but firmly informed me that no, I cannot utilize the entire newspaper space for that purpose! Suffice it to say the return trip to Amarillo was wonderful, and it's good to be back home again.

It pleases me that during my travels, I'm able to go forth as sort of a volunteer good-will ambassador as to all the exciting things that are going on in my hometown of Spearman. Yes! We are definitely on the map! The world-renowned J.B. Buchanan Windmill Collection (thank you so much, Mr. Buchanan!), our excellent Stationmaster's House Museum, our great churches, our strong school system, our good variety of various businesses, our wonderful and well-qualified law enforcement agency, our medical facilities, the fire department, our public library, our beauty salons, our newspaper. And what about the Palo Duro River Authority with its many inherent recreational possibilities!

Of course, our young people are our greatest asset. I treasure the young people of Spearman. How blessed I feel to have had a part, regardless of how small, in so many of their lives. I miss teaching, yet after my physical illness, I no longer have the tremendous physical stamina that is required for teaching. Our young people are the heart of our community, though. May we always keep them

and their needs and interests at the heart of our planning. Above all, may our young people always know that we adults are more than willing to be there for them. I miss my association with them through teaching. However, I still have to give them a big hug or handshake when I see them out and about, and I love it when some of them pop in to say "Howdy" from time to time!

As I said, I'm doing really well, thanks to all the prayers. For some reason, God isn't quite through with me yet. My life belongs to Him. May all I say or do bring honor and glory unto Him. I go for a CAT scan on Wednesday, August 25, 1999, and I'll see Dr. Pillai on Wednesday, September 1, 1999. I anticipate the report will be excellent. I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I know Who holds today! I know I have this breath for this second, and every breath I have I want to use to bring honor and glory unto Him. The Lord willing, as soon as cold weather sets in and some of the other work lets up, I hope to stay busy writing my book for my children. It will be based primarily on the journals I have kept since 1973. When Bill, my youngest, started first grade, I started college, and an early college project was keeping a journal. I loved it and have continued the project ever since. It's an exciting prospect, and I think my children will appreciate it.

With love to my
Spearman Community!
Waurayne Cope

Library Booknotes

by Sheri Benton

Another school year is already underway, and summer is gone. Hansford County Library has resumed regular hours of 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday. We, like you, are wondering what happened to summer - it went by so quickly! We have already had students from the elementary and junior high in the library looking for Accelerated Reader titles to get a jump start on those points for this year. Elementary students who have participated in the Bluebonnet program in the past have also begun reading those nominees for the 1999-2000 year.

Our summer programs were very successful once again this year. Cindy Blackman, Community Resource Coordinator, and I have combined our efforts for the past three sum-

mers with great results. I think all the children involved in this summer's programs enjoyed those activities, and, perhaps, even learned a little something. The winners of the 1999 bookmark contest were Britani Vasquez, daughter of Israel and Rosa Vasquez, and Sutton Garnett, daughter of Jon and Kelli Garnett. Their picture appeared in the newspaper a few weeks ago. The new bookmarks have not arrived yet, but should be in our library in the next few weeks.

Spearman I.S.D. will be having alternative classes upstairs in the library again during this school year. This program has been very successful, and quite beneficial to all concerned - the students, the school district and the library! Students do their classwork on computers and are self-paced giving each one the opportunity to complete whatever he or she needs

to either graduate or obtain a GED.

This is also a time of repairs at the library. One of our air conditioning units finally "gave up the ghost" last week, so we are having a new one installed. Our roof also sustained enough damage in the June hailstorm to require replacement, so we will be beginning that shortly. Considering the age of our building, we are probably lucky that we don't have more problems than we do! Please keep the library in mind when you do charitable donations - it's tax deductible and the help is always appreciated!

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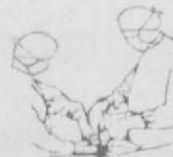
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