

Papers To Combine

Starting April 5 **The Spearman Reporter**, **The Hansford Plainsman** and **The Gruver Statesman** will be united into one paper covering all of Hansford County.

The resulting paper will be called **The Hansford County Reporter - Statesman**.

The **Reporter-Statesman** will contain all the features and columns of the **Reporter** and **Plainsman**, plus the addition of the news and features of the **Statesman**. This will make for a bigger paper, and one that will give more complete coverage of what is happening in Hansford County.

The **Reporter - Statesman** will be published once a week on Thursday. The deadline for turning in news releases and placing

or cancelling classified or display ads will be Tuesday noon. This will enable the staff of the paper to do the best job they can in making sure your story or ad is accurate and well presented to the people of Hansford County.

Stories and ads can be submitted at the same offices 213 Main Street, Spearman, that the **Reporter** and **Plainsman** have occupied for many years.

The cost to subscribers and advertisers of the **Reporter** and **Plainsman** will not increase because of the merger. Even though the union of the three papers is expected to produce a greater number of pages in the new paper, there will not be an immediate increase in subscrip-

tion rates or advertising rates for the Spearman customers.

People who are currently subscribing to both the Spearman papers and the Gruver paper will be given credit on their next year's subscription to the **Reporter - Statesman**.

The staff of the **Reporter - Statesman** will do our best to meet the information and advertising needs of the people of Hansford County. If you have suggestions as to how the Hansford County paper can better serve you, please drop by our offices or write us a note. The mailing address for the paper is Post Office Box 458, Spearman, Texas 79081. Please address your comments to Mike Hulett, publisher.



A "gang" of pre-schoolers were in the county jail for a tour of the facilities. Caught in this picture are [l-r] Allison Behney, Amy Watley, Chelsea Wall, Garrett Griffin, Dustin Mackie, Dace Mahaney, Matthew Francis, Adam Cherry and Spearman Police Chief Joe Raper. One of the gang not pictured was Courtney Wall.

Absentee Voting Opens Monday

AUSTIN - The extended absentee balloting period opens on Monday, April 2 for those registered to vote in the Tuesday, April 10 runoffs, Texas Secretary of State George Bayoud said.

Registered voters will have until Friday, April 6 to appear at county courthouses and polling places across Texas to cast absentee ballots in the April 10 Democratic and Republican party primary runoff elections, said Bayoud, the state's chief elections officer. The deadline to register to vote in the runoffs was March 11.

"If you have made up your mind who you are going to vote for, consider taking advantage of the extended voting period," Bayoud said. "It's real convenient and you can avoid the lines on election day."

Under a 1987 state law that relaxed absentee balloting requirements, registered voters

need not give a specific reason for casting in-person, absentee ballots during the extended period, Bayoud explained. In the March 13 primaries, about 15 percent of those who voted cast their ballots during the extended period.

On April 10, the primary runoffs will determine the outcome of those races in which no candidate received more than 50 percent of the votes cast on March 13.

At the statewide level, Democratic Party primary voters will nominate candidates for governor, state treasurer, and one seat each on the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Republican Party primary voters will nominate on the statewide level candidates for Agriculture Commissioner and Land Commissioner.

The secretary of state's toll-free number for election information is 1-800-252-VOTE (8683).

WEATHER			
	High	Low	Preci.
Fri.	34	25	
Sat.	25	19	.25
Sun.	36	24	
Mon.	59	26	Month 1.24
Tue.	52	34	Yr. 3.86
Wed.	52	42	
Thurs.	39	33	.53
Fri.		32	1 in. Snow

The Hansford
Plainsman

25¢
Per Copy
4 Pages

Volume 21, No. 22 YOUR HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER Sunday, April 1, 1990

'Cowboy Jack' Called Rising Star



Dr. Larry Behney went back to kindergarten on Wednesday. Here he is showing the kids in Jan Howard's afternoon class how to listen to their heartbeats.

"Cowboy Hats"

by Stan Cobb
"told" by Cowboy Jack Moody

Not much happened in Spearman, Texas today except the men and boys' store had a sale and I bought a hat. I try to tell folks who've never been to l'il ol' Texas towns about men and their hats... but they don't believe it.

I tell ya, a boy and his dog may have a special relationship. A man's eyes may be the window to his soul, and his home may be his castle, but nothin' quite says as much about a man as his durned ol' hat.

A hat's like a tick on a dog. That is to say, it depends on the dog for life existence and survival. In the same way, a hat gets its life and character from the man who wears it.

A new hat is like a cowboy on a green-broke horse: it just sits there nervously. It's not used to bein' there. And you can tell by lookin' at it it could come off at any time.

By the same token, a well-worn hat is like an old hand on a well-saddled cuttin' horse. Even after the best workout, it's still settin' right in the middle, right on top, none the worse for the ride.

I've asked many a friend how long it takes to train a good hat,

and they all had lots of good stories, but one fella put it best when he said, "Jack, it ain't the years, it's the mileage." Another, in contradictory cowboy-fashion, said, "Horse hockey, Jack! They're like bottles of good wine. They improve and mellow with age."

If you get a new one, you'd just as well get it wet and dirty. It'll save your horse from havin' to get grass slobbers on it, or your kids from re-shapin' it and proudly showin' it to you. You may find it in a sandbox as a storage bin for big rocks.

Have ya ever noticed that short guys like tall crowns on their hats? They kinda think it makes 'em look taller. And tall skinny guys like wide brims that look like hubcaps on a fence post. They think it makes 'em look broader. And fat guys wear small hats that look kinda like derbies. Kinda slims 'em down, don't ya think?

You know, the crease is a man's soul. It's very individual. I prefer the mule-kick myself. It gives me an excuse for thinkin' of stuff like this.

Yeah, I try to tell folks about our men and their hats, but they don't believe it, 'cuz nobody'd think we have so many big hats for such a small little town.

Spearman's Own "Cowboy Jack"

by Jean Ann Behney

"Nothin' much happened in Spearman, Texas today 'cept..."

This is how Cowboy Jack Moody's stories all begin, whether they detail the history of Texas's "national pastime"--dominoes--or laud the residents of the Panhandle as "God's favorite people." Others compare Main Street's bricks to the people living in Spearman, the sky to endless time, and our churches to "little homes scattered about" with Jesus as the fireplace keeping those inside "warm and well-lit."

All these stories end with the confession that Cowboy Jack tries to tell other folks about these things, but he is not believed, because "nobody'd think" we'd have them "in such a small town."

Cowboy Jack is Stanton Winfield Cobb, who has lived in Spearman and practiced dentistry here since 1984. A tall lanky man with little round wire-rimmed glasses, behind which keen blue eyes take in everything, it is easy to see Stan stepping right back into the simpler past which is so frequently featured in his cowboy stories.

But Stan actually grew up in the "mid cities"--between Dallas and Fort Worth, and it wasn't until he

was a man with his own family to love and support that he escaped this metropolitan milieu for the small-town life he declares is superior to any other kind of existence in today's world.

The son of a dentist, Stan nevertheless had a childhood which included living out on a few acres where there were horses to ride. He rode bulls in high school, competing at rodeos, but Stan's real heroes weren't rodeo winners but "real" cowboys like Roy Rogers and Sky King, who had clean-cut images and embodied the best of the frontier spirit--a strong sense of family and community spirit--to the impressionable boy.

This love of cowboy lore was coupled with his parents' emphasis on the cultural arts, so young Stan and his brother and sister had lessons in art, drama and dancing.

"My parents really stressed education," Stan recalls, stretching out his legs more comfortably from his seat on the floor. "so I was taking college courses by my senior year in high school. In my family, it was either that or work! My parents were kinda tough." After earning a degree in chemistry from Texas Wesleyan College in 1978, Stan plunged right ahead into dental school at Baylor Uni-

versity.

He admits today that he gave serious thought to becoming a medical doctor instead of a dentist, but says what rerouted him was the fact that he never wanted to work a doctor's terribly long hours. An excellent dental student, Stan found a release from all the academic pressure by playing the comedian.

When his future wife, Pam Forbus, a dentist's daughter and granddaughter from Dumas who was attending dental hygienist school at the time, got her first glimpse of Stan, he was doing a hilarious impression of Diana Ross and the Supremes at a dental school party. "I knew then that he was unusual and very unique!" Pam recalls. Stan interjects, "And I knew on our first date that I wanted to marry Pam!" The couple's mutual love of dancing and the way Stan made Pam laugh led to more dates and marriage in 1981.

Stan's proclivity for joking around did not sit well with some of the dental school dons, in spite of his obvious academic gifts (later he would be asked to specialize in dental surgery), and he was instructed to dress up his "look" and tone down the comedy "or else" by the end of his freshman year. That, Stan says, is when he began to look and act like a "preppy," although his actual preference for blue jeans and cowboy humor never died inside.

Stan's decision to move to a small Panhandle town to practice dentistry probably crystallized after the years he and Pam spent living in "the slums" of Dallas while he finished his schooling.

"It was awful and I hated every minute of it!" he declares today, remembering that it wasn't safe for Pam to leave their apartment unless he accompanied her. With the birth of Katie in 1983, the resolve to find a safer, saner environment for his family was of paramount importance to Stan. (Katie's sister Grace was born in 1985.)

After spending a year practicing with his father and teaching gum surgery at Baylor, the Cobbs simply picked Spearman, Texas out on a map and decided to make it their home after a one-hour "tour" of the town.

Although they were very happy in Spearman "from day one," according to Stan, he was still living the dentist "stereotype" and had let his poetry and song-writing hobbies lapse. A year ago, Stan decided to put the pleated pants away, pull on his jeans, take out his cowboy hat and

be himself again. At about this time, he had the fortune to meet Jerry Jeff Walker, a songwriter and country-western singer from Austin, whose music Stan says "reached his fiber."

"I just went up to him after his concert in Amarillo and introduced myself," Stan reminisces. An invitation to a party followed on the heels of this impromptu conversation, and Stan ended up talking for hours to Walker and another new friend, a Montana cowboy who told Stan "You can do anything you want to!"

That was all the go-ahead Stan needed, because although he'd been writing prior to meeting these mentors, he'd only shared his work with Pam, her family and a few friends. Within a short time, Cowboy Jack Moody was born and George Young was featuring Stan's Cowboy Jack stories on the local radio station.

"Cowboy Jack is really Stan Cobb," Stan confesses with a ready grin. "There is no separation between me and him." Pam adds, "Some people just don't know how funny and creative Stan really is."

Cowboy Jack is a personality, a cowboy "character" who writes and tells many stories and poems on topics ranging from home and hearth to the use of artificial insemination in the cattle breeding world! Stan himself spends time doing "real cowboyin'" with a couple of his rancher friends, Joe Hutchison and Randy Kirk.

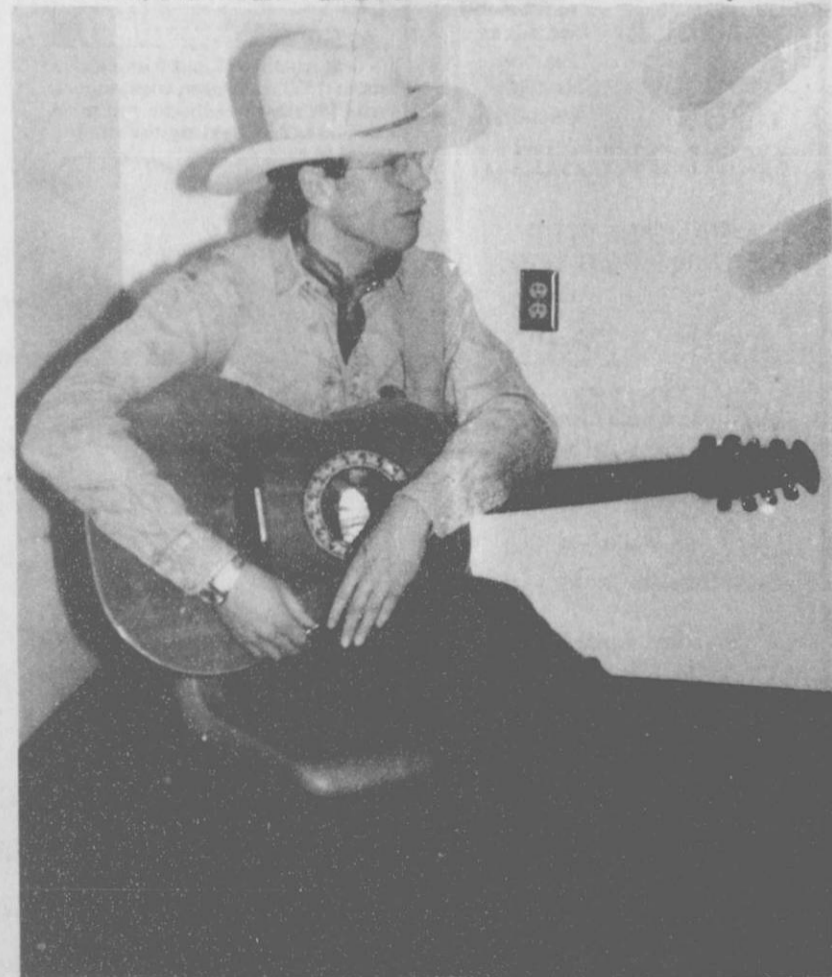
Stan's inspiration for his storytelling style, including the "Nothin' much happened in Spearman, Texas today" lead-in came from the late Hondo Crouch, a cowboy storyteller who "hung out" in Luchenbach, Texas, down in the Hill Country.

"The first time I heard some of Hondo's stories, I was so moved by them I wanted to write stories about Spearman," Stan says.

"The simple things were what was important to Hondo, and they are for me, too," he explains.

Some of Stan's story-telling found an outlet at the Western Prairie Cowboy Poets' Association in Goodwell, Oklahoma. He found out about the group and its gatherings through a patient and "just went up and read my poetry to the guy in charge," Stan says. Now when he attends meetings of the group, he is asked for his autograph. But that is getting ahead of the story--

Stan's first "show biz" break came when Gary P. Nunn and his band arrived in Spearman for last



Cowboy Jack

Chamber Chatter

by Brett Whitford

March is now in the past and April is here. We have several items of interest going on. Remember that April is the month for the Golden Spread Radio-Thon. The date has been set for April 19. The exact time is still not definite. This year it will be headed up again by Pete and Brenda Wall. They have done an excellent job in the past at getting all the local talent for the Radio-Thon. Be sure you don't miss that. Remember to get out and vote on Tuesday, April 10 in the Runoff Election. Our races are important to our county and community, and the candidates need your support! Remember to vote. The Round-Up Committee will meet on Monday night, April 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the Chamber office. The Round-Up is going to be fun! The committee has a lot of fun ideas planned. The dates again, are June 2 and 3 for the Rodeo, the Miss Hansford Pageant will be Friday night,

June 8, and then the Round-Up Celebration on Saturday, June 9. We will be letting you know the specific times of events at a later date. If your club or organization is wanting to have a food or game booth, be sure and let us know! We have some signed up and hope to have many more. The Miss Hansford entry forms are now out and you may pick them up at ChaLor's, J.G.'s, Kids' Stuff or the Chamber office in Spearman, or Main Street in Gruver. These need to be back in the office by May 4, 1990. Cindy Blackman, pageant director, is doing a terrific job and the 1990 Pageant looks to be a great one. Easter is on April 15. Be sure to have enough Easter eggs for the kids! School will be letting out early on Thursday, April 12, and then will be out all day on April 13 and 16. Have a happy Easter Holiday. Until next time, Brett Whitford

Hansford ACS Unit Meets

The Hansford unit of the American Cancer Society met recently to finalize plans for its annual Cancer Crusade, a main fundraiser which will begin during the first week in April. This meeting was called to order by President Mozelle McClellan on March 22 at B and B Industries. The members enjoyed the noon luncheon of pizza and desserts. Clementine Renner read the minutes from the previous meeting and Arbetta Nobles gave the treasurer's report. Council chairmen gave reports on the fight against cancer in Hansford County. Field representative Amy Marshall from Amarillo gave a review of "The Great American Food-

fight," which will take place April 19. This is patterned after "The Great American Smokeout" which is held in November. The "Foodfight" will publicize the nutritional aspects used in the prevention of cancer. Cookbooks and other recipes will be available. For any information, you may contact any of the Hansford County unit members. Those attending this meeting were Mozelle McClellan, Mary TeBeest, Pat Morley, Dolly McWhirter, Arbetta Noble, Georgia Holt, Clementine Renner, Joy Henderson, Betty Davis, Vera Dominguez and guest Amy Marshall.

Among The Neighbors

by Helen Fisher

Recently Rose Roberts and her cousin Arlene Camp spent several days at Albuquerque. Shopping and sight seeing was their main entertainment. They especially enjoyed touring Old Albuquerque. Mrs. Camp, from Davenport, Iowa was a guest of Mrs. Roberts for a few weeks. She has visited here on several occasions. Weekend guests of Owen and Olive Pendergraft were Mrs. Alene Self of Oklahoma City and her granddaughter, Lenzy Moore of Denver. Earlier guests of the Pendergrafts had been Mr. and Mrs. Bob Tevebaugh of Amarillo. Mary Schumann with Craig, Vic and Debbie Schumann were all in Carman, Oklahoma one day last week to attend the funeral of Vernon Pelter, their cousin. Mr. Pelter died March 19. He

was known by several here as he had business interests here. Mr. and Mrs. Andy Etter returned to their home in Clathe, Kansas after spending a week here with his uncle, Tom and Helen Etter. In making every effort to see that the ladies of Spearman get the benefit of all the latest trends, styles and products, five Spearman Hair Dressers attended the Four States Beauty Conference held in Amarillo last weekend. Those taking advantage of the opportunity were Missie Sumner and Barbara Sharp representing Barb's Beauty Salon; Vickie Bullard and Shirley Greeson of the Vogue and Ivan Allen of Boyd's Beauty Salon. They all report a very interesting and beneficial conference.



These Spearman students competed in the UIL Academic meet Thursday, Friday and Saturday at panhandle. Competing in Expository Writing and Listening Skills were Alisha LaRoche, Carrie Pearson, Phillip Sanders, Elizabeth Pipkin, Kelly Shieldknight, Greg Elliott and Brent Collins.

Spiritually Speaking

by Bill Miller
Spearman Union Church

U.S. News/World Report, local papers and television specials have recently informed us that depression is at epidemic proportions in the U.S and most industrialized countries. Those who have accepted Jesus into their lives know this shouldn't be the acceptable norm. Jesus promised...a life of mental rest...light burdens (Matt. 11:28-30). God also offered to us a trade. He said: "You give me your spirit of heaviness and I'll give you a Garment of Praise (Isa. 61:1-3) His reason for making this trade, according to Him, is that (1) we might be planted securely in life, (2) our lives might bring glory and honor to the Lord. However, for those 100% of us who've suffered even one day with depression, we know that trite advice like "don't worry - be happy" only irritates us further. So what's the bottom line...in the end analysis, we'll have to admit that prior to the time that depression rules us, we yielded too much to our self-life or natural man. The list of self-life attitudes and activities are in that list in Galatians 5:16-21. The same passage (Galatians 5:16-26) informs us that our only hope for defeating the self-life, and henceforth "depression," lies in having a renewed relationship with Mr. Holy Spirit. A lady named Leah had been depressed. (Genesis 30) But the birth of a child encouraged her and she named him "Happy" or "Asher" in the Hebrew language. The Deuteronomy 33 predicts four superlative blessings for Asher or the "happy ones." (1) He'll be a blessed son or he'll father or parent many blessed sons. (2) He'll get along well with his relatives--we can all use that one. (3) His material and spiritual needs will always be met abundantly. (4) No matter how hard the task put before him, he'll always have the strength to finish it and do it well. With this list of promises in mind, it makes me want to do whatever is necessary to yield less to the self-life described in Galatians 5 and to yield more to the activity of the Holy Spirit described in the same chapter.

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Star From Page 1

summer's Round-Up. Stan had been instrumental in getting the band to come after meeting Nunn in Austin, where he was attending Jerry Jeff Walker's birthday party. While they were in town, Stan read the band members one of his stories. The manager and producer of the group promptly told Stan, "I like your stories. If you'd ever be interested in recording them..." Only weeks later, Stan found himself in the A.O. Communications recording studio in Austin, where Gary P. Nunn himself records, reading his stories to produce a cassette tape titled "Cowboy Jack: So Much in a Small Town." Bow Brannon, an "Austin Picker" and studio musician, added the background guitar-playing to Stan's Cowboy Jack stories. The tape, available locally and through mail order, paid for itself in 90 days and people all over Texas and then the Southwest began to recognize the voice and style of Cowboy Jack. It wasn't long before fan mail and invitations to perform started cropping up in the Cobbs' Spearman post office box. Stan describes the tape as something people should listen to "with their feet propped up on the fireplace, with lights turned out." The pace of the story-telling is indeed very relaxing and folksy in style. "I want my stories to allow people to draw visual images and generate warmth. Maybe that's why city people like them so much," this "fireside poet" muses. "Spearman is some little Mayberry town, and that's a place they'd kinda like to be." As we speak, he suddenly stretches his arms up over his head in an open, contented gesture and crows, "We have so much goodness for such a litty bitty place!" (He also unabashedly brags that we have "the best doggone moon the country has got.")

hailed Stan as "the newest rising star" in their field. "I kept thinkin'--pinch me! Is this really happening?" Stan recalls, amazement still written on his face. And it wasn't long ago, that he was recognized by fans in the Dallas-Fort Worth Airport. "Hey, it's Cowboy Jack!" A Cowboy Jack book is now in the works, as well as a children's book. Stan is also doing more performing, and he recently gave permission for his Cowboy Jack tape to be used at the University of Hawaii in an American Heritage course. Most recently, he was contacted by the executive director of the Music Heritage Foundation in Kerrville, "and she's interested in my stuff!" he reports happily.

Asked about her role in this new Cowboy Jack mania, Pam just laughs and says, "Stan says I keep him sane!" She claims she is scarcely aware of when Stan does his writing. "He generally sits in his rocking chair over there," she gestures, "and now and then he'll say, 'What do you think of this?' and read me something." Stan writes his stories and lyrics longhand in plain notebooks, which he stores in saddle bags. He claims the ideas just come to him and take very little time to work into stories and poems.

And where will all this end? On the way home from Austin after his radio debut there, Stan and Pam both commented on how beautiful that area of Texas is. "But then we both said how glad we were to be back home."

Panhandle Events

An immunization clinic is set for Thursday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Texas Department of Health office, 720 S. Archer in Spearman. The clinic will offer vaccines against several childhood diseases, including polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, rubella and mumps. The Texas Department of Health is charging money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount of money charged will be based on family income and size, and the ability to pay.

Holy Week Luncheon Schedule
Monday, April 9: First Baptist
Tuesday, April 10: First Christian
Wednesday, April 11: Apostolic Faith
Thursday, April 12: Lutherans & Presbyterians
Friday, April 13: Church of Christ
Location: First United Methodist Church (Fellowship Hall)
Time: 12:00 noon - 1:00 p.m.

The first mailboxes were erected in Paris in 1653. However, messengers, fearful for their livelihood, put mice in the boxes to destroy the mail.



"If the bank wants you to sleep with 'em, you sleep with 'em at the bank." You will sleep easier, no matter where it is, knowing you have all of your valuables in a safety deposit box at FIRST STATE BANK. We can't fit the cattle in one, but we do have a size to fit your needs. Rest easy! Come in and rent yours today.

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Amarillo 352-8961

Mr. and Mrs. Cardale Rosales
request the honour of your presence
at the marriage of their daughter
Diana Rosales
to
Karl Joseph Bynum
the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Bynum
on Saturday, the seventh of April
nineteen hundred and ninety
at four o'clock in the afternoon
First Christian Church
29 South Bonnie
Spearman, Texas
Reception following

Hansford County ♀ presents
"SKATE NIGHT for KIDS"
Friday, April 6th
7:00 - 11:00 p.m.
at the ♀
\$3.00
* Bring your own skates
* Well supervised
* Games
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* Concession stand

The Hansford Plainsman
Your Hometown Newspaper
USPS 2346-6000
213 Main, Box 458, 659-3434
Spearman, TX 79081
Published Weekly at
213 Main, Spearman, Texas
Owned and Operated by:
Texas Independent Newspapers, Inc.
16607 Blanco Road, Suite 701
San Antonio, TX 78232
Second Class postage paid at
Spearman, Texas 79081.
Any erroneous reflection upon the character of any person or firm appearing in these pages will be gladly and promptly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.
Publisher - Robert M. Hulett
Copy Editor - JoAnn Morton
Bookkeeper - Cayla Eaton
Subscription Rate: Hansford County, combination with the Spearman Reporter \$19.95; out of county, \$24.95 annually.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Hansford Plainsman, Box 458, Spearman, TX 79081.
The publisher reserves the right to revise or reject at its option any advertisement which it deems objectionable, either in subject or phraseology, or which it may deem detrimental to its business.
Advertising and Story Deadlines: Monday 12:00 p.m. for Spearman Reporter, Thursday 12:00 p.m. for Hansford Plainsman.
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3 10.75 OZ. CANS **\$1**



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ASST. 4 ROLL **.99**

BOLD HOLD SHAMPOO & SPRITZ
OR SHAMPOO & SPRAY
TWIN PACK **\$1.49**
7 OZ. TO 11.5 OZ.



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MEDIUM SIZE 3 LBS. **\$1**



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SHEDD'S COUNTRY CROCK
3 LB. TUB **\$1.49**

UNITED HOMO MILK
1/2 GALLON **\$1.09**

Meat

USDA CHOICE SUPER VALU PAK BONELESS ROUND STEAK
SINGLE PAK ~~\$2.18~~ LB. **\$1.98**



GOOCH GERMAN SAUSAGE
REGULAR OR MESQUITE 12 OZ. PKG. **.89**



POTTER'S WHOLE HOG PORK SAUSAGE
REGULAR OR HOT 1 LB. ~~\$1.49~~ 2 LB. PKG. **\$2.97**



FINE FARE HALFMOON CHEESE
CHEDDAR OR COLBY 10 OZ. PKG. **\$1.58**

