

Absenteesism hits 10% in S.I.S.D.

Winter months bring more local school absences

"As soon as we get this latest bug passed around, we'll bounce right back," said Eddie Gage, Spearman's elementary school principal.

He refers to this month's school attendance rate, which is down from its average of 95 to 97 percent to around 90 percent due to student illnesses. Typically, January and February are the months when the Spearman schools experience their highest rate of absenteeism. The early fall months statistically have the lowest number of pupil absences, particularly October.

"We stress good attendance the most at the beginning of the school year," Gage commented. "And the kids are still fresh then from summer vacation, so there aren't as many illnesses being spread then." School attendance at the elementary school in October ran slightly greater than 98 percent.

October is also the month when the schools' state funding is determined by student attendance, so administrators and teachers emphasize it all the more in that month, according to Gage.

"Just this week I'm running 10 percent absenteeism, which is very high for our school. We had 36 students out with sore throats and

flus on Friday, Jan. 13," Gage reported. The elementary school has a total of 379 pupils. "It seemed like the second grade was hardest hit, but that is due in part to it being the largest grade and every class still had two or three absences."

He added that the absenteeism of teachers is less predictable, because most of them have built an immunity to the bugs affecting their pupils. "Teachers just hate to miss school, so if you've got one out, you know he or she is really sick or at home with a sick child," Gage explained. The elementary staff is usually the one with young children of their own. "We are very fortunate in Spearman to have a school board and superintendent who are very pro-family," Gage commented. "They support a teacher's responsibility to his or her own sick children when they have to take care of them at home. And it is both the mothers and the fathers who stay home, often trading off if they are both employees of the school system."

The average daily attendance at the junior high is 235 students out of 243 students, but on Monday, Jan. 16, a total of 28, or about 8 percent, were absent according to

Phyllis Collins, school secretary. "It seems like we have the flu and a lot of other illnesses going around," she said. "This high rate of absences only happens a couple of times during our winter months. Usually a maximum number of absent students would be about 15."

Junior high principal, Richard Olsen said, "Overall, I'm pleased with the school's attendance. As soon as a student is well, we want them back in the classroom, though, because you can't learn when you're not here, and eventually this is reflected in a student's grades."

At the high school, secretary Wanda Archer reported that October is traditionally the best month for attendance. "We simply don't have the illness then that we do later on in the year," she explained. "Something in the fall, allergies cause absences, but we aren't affected by colds and flus until December most years."

On a daily basis 233 to 235 of the high school's pupils are present out of a total of 242 for an average attendance rate of approximately 97 percent, or approximately 7 students absent per day.

This month, however, there

have been 5 to 10 pupils absent per day, mostly due to respiratory infections, and the stomach flu. "When we have our ten absent, we really keep track of things, because we think that's too many," Archer commented. Principal Ken Freimel said, "The kids that just don't show up are few and far between, and when this happens, I go hunting!" He noted that keeping track of high school students is easier when administrators and staff know them each by name. "Our parents are good about phoning in to report a sick child, and our staff also calls parents to find out where the students are and why they are absent," Freimel commented.

All three schools are treated with "Hospital III," a commercial disinfectant product dispensed by a fogger machine. Billy Hayden, head custodian, described this as an alcohol-based product which acts as a killer of various bacteria, such as staphylococci, and fungi.

"I try to keep track of how much sickness there is going through the school," Hayden explained. "If it starts to increase and more children or absent, we spray, and I do think it makes a difference." He said that the attendance always

goes back up within two days of spraying which indicates the same germs, living in the classrooms, in the air, and on surfaces, have been killed instead of passed on to the next group of students.

Hayden reported that he has used this type of disinfectant for about 20 years in the Spearman School System. He recalled a flu season several years ago when neighboring school systems had to close because of an epidemic, but the Spearman schools remained opened with only an average number of absences. At this time, Spearman used the disinfectant procedure and the other districts did not. Currently, Gruver schools use the fogger too.

Superintendent Larry Butler agreed that "We seem to see an improvement in attendance when we do the fogging." He noted that the fieldhouse is treated as well as the classrooms, hallways and restrooms. "I can rarely remember an athlete missing a game due to illness," he commented. "We think that using the fogger makes a difference." Butler added that treating school buildings with this procedure is an acceptable health practice in most school districts.

On the subject of attendance in

general, Butler reported that normally the Spearman school district is well above both the State and National averages. "We normally have 95 to 97 percent attendance overall in Spearman's schools. I think our parents are more concerned and more involved here and see the need for education. We have good cooperation between the schools and the community." Butler mentioned big metropolitan areas typically have a busier pace of life for parents and their children and there is statistically more drug abuse, both factors which affect student attendance rates adversely.

When asked their own "theories" for why January and February bring colds and flus, Butler, Gage, Freimel, and Olsen all cited this years extremely dry weather. "Sickness will run higher when it's dry than when it's wet," said Freimel. They theorize that the air isn't being cleaned of germs by precipitation as often in the winter. Dry air also seems to be very irritating to people's throats and nasal passages, they said. In addition, students' close proximity to one another at school creates good opportunities for "bugs" to spread.

Panhandle students jump rope for heart

Students in 38 area elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools are planning to jump rope to raise funds for local divisions of the American Heart Association this year.

Jump Rope for Heart features teams of students who take turns jumping rope for a total of 3 hours. Depending on the school, the event is either conducted over the course of several physical education classes or as an after-school or weekend event. Jump Rope for Heart encourages teamwork, fun and fitness using jumping rope as a form of aerobic exercise.

In the event, students recruit families and friends to make donations or pledges based on each minute their team jumps rope. Funds are collected and turned in so that students are eligible for prizes according to the dollars they raise. Prizes range from colorful jump ropes, t-shirts, and sweat-suits to a watch radio and a portable AM/FM Cassette Recorder.

In turn, each participating school is eligible to receive statewide

prizes based on total dollars raised. In 1988, Linda Nichols and her students at Rex Reeves Elementary School in Canyon were the top money raisers in the Panhandle, collecting \$8,696 for the American Heart Association and winning \$250 of physical education equipment for the school. St. Andrew's Episcopal School students, led by Kim Buccola, raised \$90 per participant, which was the highest in the 35 schools participating throughout the Panhandle last year.

Jim Brock, director of health and physical education for the Amarillo Independent School District, encourages all P.E. teachers to register to conduct a Jump Rope for Heart event. "Jumping rope is great physical exercise. It requires a minimum of space and equipment, and can be pursued and enjoyed throughout life while strengthening one's heart," Brock stated. He added, "In Jump Rope for Heart, we're working toward a dual purpose--to teach children about the importance of aerobic exercise in staying healthy, and to

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support the American Heart Association in their fight against early death from heart disease."

Jump Rope for Heart is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD). More than 100,000 students across Texas are expected to participate this year, including more than 6,500 in the 25 counties of the Panhandle.

Jump Rope for Heart schools and their coordinators in Hansford County include: Gruver Elementary, Terry Brax and Spearman Junior High, Karla Flowers.

For more information about Jump Rope for Heart in your community, call Veronica Young or Jo Rogers at the American Heart Association, 374-8291.

Low income Texans eligible for help with heating bills

Some low-income Texans may be eligible for help in paying heating bills this winter through the Home Energy Assistance Program, according to Texas Department of Human Services Acting Commissioner Charles Stevenson.

Stevenson said the one-time payment is available to many low-income households. Applications for energy assistance were mailed to households that received food stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, or Supplemental Security Income in December. Other low-income individuals may request an application from local DHS offices during the enrollment period of Jan. 16 through Feb. 16.

Eligibility is limited by gross income and resources. Aid is available for a one-person household having less than \$589.49 gross income per month. The gross income limits are \$781.49 for households of two persons, \$973.49 for three, \$1,165.49 for four, \$1,357.49 for five, and \$1,549.49 for six.

Households are eligible if the cost for heating is included in the rent payment or if the household pays a portion of its home energy costs.

Energy assistance checks are sent directly to the people who are eligible for assistance. However, the checks are made payable to the energy provider.

People receiving one of these energy assistance checks should mail it or take it in person to the energy provider business office with their regular energy bill. The check can be cashed only by the energy provider. If the HEAP check is more than the energy bill, the additional amount will be credited to the person's account for the next month's bill. If the energy bill is higher than the check, the person is responsible for paying the difference.



Mechelle Graham

Graham makes All State Choir, performs Feb 11

Mechelle Graham who is currently serving as Miss Hansford County, has recently made the Texas All State Choir. Graham participated in three auditions to make the All State Choir which will perform in San Antonio, Tx. on Feb. 11.

Graham qualified for all Region Choir, then All Area Choir, before going on the Midland, Tx. in January to try out for All State Choir. The All State Choir will be under the direction of Robert Shaw this year. He was former director of the Atlanta Sym-

phony Orchestra and music clinician.

Besides named to the All State Choir as a 1st soprano, Graham has been a member of the Spearman Celebrate Choir for three years and Texas Baptist All State Choir for two years. Another of her accomplishments includes being first runner-up Miss Wheatheart 1988-89. She is a member of the First Baptist Church in Spearman.

Graham will be accompanied to San Antonio by Rosemarie Scott, Bill and Kathy Howell, Carol Pack, and Ellen and April Graham.

Quentin Harper shows Grand Champion steer at Nationals

Quentin Harper, 10-year-old son of Tony and Lee Harper of Gruver, and grandson of Bob and Olene Cluck of Gruver and Carroll and Joyce Harper of Spearman was the recipient of the biggest prize at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. this past weekend. He showed the Grand Champion steer in the junior market.

The grand prize he was awarded for his efforts was a \$10,000-1989 Dodge Dakota pickup.

His steer, Popeye, a red and white spotted short horn, also brought young Quentin honors in other shows. The weekend of Jan. 7 and 8 the steer was named Grand Champion in the stock show in McKinney, Tx. and before that it was Breed Champion in several other shows including the ones at Amarillo and Abilene.

Quentin Harper has had the responsibility of feeding and all grooming including shampooing, rinsing and blow drying the animals hair since his parents bought the steer at the National Western Show in Denver last year. The 1295-pound steer brought \$25,000 in the auction following the show. With the excitement of the prizes, came the difficult part of the ordeal for young Harper, knowing that his giant friend would soon be slaughtered.

He noted, "It hurts, and it's



10-year-old Quentin Harper expresses his pride and love for his Grand Champion Steer, Popeye, after the National Western Stock Show in Denver last weekend.

hard to talk about." But the young man who plans to be a rancher one

day said of the disappointment, "You have to learn to live with it."

Chamber banquet scheduled for Feb 4

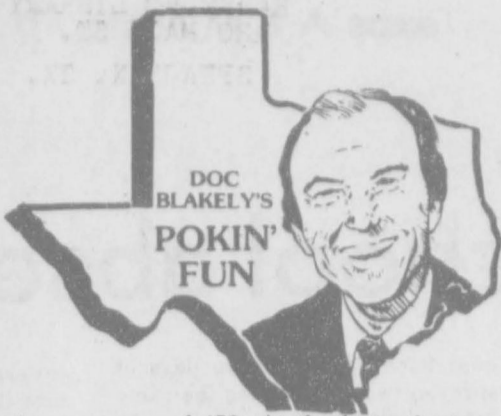
The Chamber of Commerce is making plans and arrangements for their 60th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet. The banquet will be held Feb. 4 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Spearman High School

Auditorium. The theme for the banquet is "Looking Back to the Future." The menu planned for the event includes steaks, baked potato, salad, dessert and beverage. Tickets will be available soon from Chamber

members. Prices will be \$12.50 for chamber members and \$15 for non-members.

Speaker for the event has not yet been named. Citizen of the Year and Citizen Over the Years awards will be presented at the banquet.

Bell Peals For Thee



Dr. Norman Vincent Peale is a household name in this country and many others. Writer of many books, the best known perhaps is *How to Win Friends and Influence People* and founder of *Guideposts* magazine. He is a New York preacher blessed with expressive gifts and commonsense. He once said, "People are so stressed and tense nowadays that they're not even falling asleep in church anymore."

Well, he should come to our church. We have a pastor who can dull your wits so quick you won't be fully alert until you realize that he's gone overtime again, you've missed kick-off, and his sermon has gone into sudden death.

Preachers have hit the big time now. Robert Schuller has a drive-in church with an express lane for two sins or less. Jerry Falwell is telling Christians how to vote and the Pope still has the Cardinals do his warm-up act. Sure would be nice if Billy Graham would do something nice like that for the Dallas Cowboys.

Think about it. Preachers usually have an assistant pastor or several secretaries, youth directors, plant supervisors, and lots of volunteers to teach and do assorted jobs. Then on Sunday, they have an organist, pianist, soloist, sometimes a large choir headed by a music director, 2,000 years of history and rituals to draw from, they speak for 20 minutes, and it takes four men to carry in all the money.

So what are they doing out on the lecture circuit? I don't know, but I strongly suspect they are looking for a higher class of sinner.

Recently, the Hyde Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, had Dr. Peale booked for their annual Sunday School Party, a "small"

group of 450. At the last minute, the 91-year-old dynamo came down with a virus and had to cancel. My old friend, Lewis Timberlake, who was in charge of the program, called my office on Sunday afternoon for a desperate attempt to line up a replacement for the Monday night meeting. He got my answering machine; then got creative and asked the operator to call me at my unlisted number. "We can't do that unless it's an emergency," she said. "Lady, this is an emergency. Dr. Norman Vincent Peale is very sick and if I don't get through to Dr. Blakely, I may die."

The A T & T operator called my unlisted phone at my hangout down at the Loose Goose Saloon.

As soon as I called Lewis' number, I knew he was in trouble. "Only two people in the whole world can replace him," he said. "One of them is me and the other is you." Roughly translated, that means that nobody else was available and he couldn't do it because they know him.

"Now, our folks are conservative Baptists and very particular about who speaks to them," he said.

"Have you ever been a preacher?"

"No," I answered.

"Are you a Baptist?"

"No."

"Do you subscribe to *Guideposts*?"

"Yes, I do."

"That's close enough for me," he sighed.

I did the banquet and we had a wonderful time. In the final analysis, there's probably not that much difference between the Protestants, Catholics, and Jews. For the main course, we even had Methodist swordfish.

That's chicken.

Very short beak.

New bookkeeping measures expected to ease state budget

State Comptroller Bob Bullock said Friday that a series of bookkeeping measures could ease the squeeze on the state budget without new taxes by freeing up \$1 billion in existing funds to give Texans some breathing room while the Texas economy is recovering.

"New taxes would have a depressing effect on our recovery -- both real and psychological," Bullock said. "Texans need a gasp of fresh air free of higher taxes while they put the economy back together and get Texas on its feet again."

The heart of Bullock's proposal to the Legislature is the temporary transfer of special fund balances to the General Revenue Fund to allow the Comptroller to increase the amount available for certification and the elimination of some escrow or trust accounts.

Bullock said that the state has traditionally "borrowed" from many special funds to pay bills drawn on the General Revenue Fund in order to maintain our "pay-as-you-go" provision of the constitution.

Much of the state's money is locked in special funds that can be spent but not necessarily counted in the certification process when the Legislature writes a budget, he

said. Bullock said the state's complex fund structure is a straitjacket that makes it difficult to get the right money in the right fund at the right time.

Bullock said the average business has the flexibility of shuffling money between accounts to meet day-to-day needs.

Bullock's official revenue estimate forecasts an increase of \$4.2 billion in revenue from all funds in the 1990-1991 budget period, including \$1.6 billion in additional money in those funds directly available to the Legislature.

Bullock said that the success or failure of his bookkeeping proposals would depend on the Legislature's willingness to amend existing laws governing the state's financial procedures.

These would include temporarily moving special fund balances into the General Revenue Fund; prepaying 1990-1991 budget expenditures in the 1988-89 budget; consolidating some special fund payments; and depositing mass transit authority funds in the General Revenue Fund instead of special accounts.

Details of the plan went to legislative leaders and lawmakers in a letter sent Friday.

Obituary



Darla [Moyer] Holloway Amber, William, and Erin

Darla Moyer Holloway, 26, Amber Nicole Holloway, 6, William Scott Holloway, 4, and Erin Renee Holloway, 3, were killed in a fire at their home in Power Spring, Tenn. on Jan. 12.

Mrs. Holloway was a student at Spearman High School and worked in Spearman for several years.

She was a member of the Warwick Chapel Baptist Church in Luttrell, Tenn.

The Holloways are survived by husband and father, Scott Holloway of the home; Darla's father, Ray Moyer of Amarillo; her mother Helen Moyer of Weatherford, Tx.; Darla's sister, Brenda Moyer of Weatherford; and a host of other

relatives including aunts and uncles of Spearman. Darla was preceded in death by her grandmother and longtime Spearman resident, Donnie Moyer.

Interment was at New Loyston Memorial Gardens in Maynardville, Tenn. on Jan. 15.

Ada Belle Lomax

Ada Belle Lomax, 94, of Abilene, named Texas Mother of the Year in 1980 by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, died Tuesday at a local nursing home.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home Chapel of Faith, U.S. Highway 277, with the Revs. Don Wood and Pete Knight officiating. Burial will be in Elmwood Memorial Park.

Porn in Benedict, Neb., she moved from Spearman to Abilene in 1953.

She attended school in Groom, was a member of the Bible Baptist Church in Clyde and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ladies Auxiliary.

She was the widow of Bela J. Lomax.

Survivors include three daughters, Wanda Terrell of Abilene, Betty (Mrs. Doyle) Davis of Arlington and Georgia McLeod of Spearman; five sons, Howard Lomax of Abilene, Pete Lomax of Klamath Falls, Ore., Robert Lomax of Ira, H.M. Lomax of Hermleigh and Kenneth Lomax of Tuscola; a sister, Opal Mead of Amarillo; 24 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; 42 great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

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Towns recognized for trees on Arbor Day

By caring for its trees, a city can be recognized by the National Arbor Day Foundation as a "Tree City USA."

To be recognized, a community must have a legally constituted municipal tree body, adopt a city tree ordinance, have a comprehensive community forestry program, and hold an annual Arbor Day observance. This year, National Arbor Day is Jan. 20.

The tree ordinance should designate the department or board responsible for managing the city's trees. It should include the duties of the tree board or other legal group and provide details on operations of the tree program.

The comprehensive community forestry program may include a tree inventory and other plans for

planting, maintenance and removal of trees. The program must be financed at a minimum of \$2 per capita. Many programs the community already finances, such as utility line clearance, may qualify for this required \$2 per resident. Funds from organizations within the community qualify for this requirement.

Cities designated as a Tree City USA will receive a special flag, a walnut mounted plaque, and signs for city entrances.

"With just a little effort from the citizenry, a community may qualify as a Tree City USA and, in the process, improve the aesthetics," Walterscheid said.

Tree City USA information can be obtained from Walterscheid at (409) 845-1351 or from the Texas Forest Service at (409) 845-2641.

Don't Leave Town!

March 23 and 24

or

You'll Miss

FCA's thirty something

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You'll take it off here.

JOIN FOR ONLY \$8

You Save \$17.00

We'll take it off here!

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- This is the weight loss program that you can really count on in 1989. Come discover it for yourself!

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Offer Ends January 29, 1989

Come to the Weight Watchers meeting nearest you.

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Starts Thurs. Jan. 19th

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TDH warns Texas residents about severe climate dangers

Although Texas is not among the states noted for severe winters, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) warns that extreme cold is part of the Texas climate, and residents should know its dangers.

Dr. Clift Price, TDH Associate Commissioner for Personal Health Services, said, "Each year, people die from the cold in Texas. And despite our health warnings and more accurate weather forecasting, their numbers seem to be increasing. These are people whose primary cause of death is extreme loss of body heat-hypothermia."

In 1987 alone, some 27 Texans died from excessive cold according to the TDH Vital Statistics Bureau. The previous year that total was 26.

The most frequent victims of hypothermia are very young children, the sick, and the elderly, Dr. Price explained. Children's small bodies radiate reserved heat faster than adults'. People who are chronically ill, using medications, drugs, or excessive alcohol may have lower resistance to sharp temperature changes, and may react slowly in emergencies.

The increasing number of homeless people are further at risk where temporary shelter is unavailable. Also, beyond age 65, some persons begin to lose their natural reflex to shiver, which is both an automatic warming mechanism to stimulate the circulation and a means of alerting the individual to

dangerous temperature. Hypothermia starts when the deep body temperature drops to 95 degrees, just less than four degrees below normal. The victim becomes lethargic and confused. Drowsiness, slurred speech, falling blood pressure, shallow breathing, and a bloated or pinkish tint to the skin develop, and unless the individual receives warmth, coma and death are imminent.

"Many hypothermia victims die in their own homes, quietly, before anyone realizes the danger," Dr. Price said.

Relatively few people "freeze to death," since death occurs long before the body temperature reaches the freezing point, although extremities may freeze if exposed to severe cold, Dr. Price explained.

Anyone who must be outside in very cold weather should pay attention to weather forecasts and should heed changes, such as increases in wind. They should wear loose-fitting, layered clothing, gloves and face covering, and should have an emergency plan for staying warm if conditions worsen.

Dr. Price added that common sense and at least a rudimentary understanding of the dangers of wind-chill are essential for anyone preparing to be outdoors in severe cold. "The best advice is to stay home and stay warm. But if you must go out, know what you are up against and prepare for it," Price said.



Mitzi [Pearson] Mires

Pearson - Mires wed

Mitzi LaNelle Pearson and Allen Gregory Mires were united in matrimony in a double ring ceremony on Dec. 30 in the Spearman United Methodist Church, with Rev. Todd Dyess officiating. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Pearson and Mr. and Mrs. Don Lane Whitefield. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eschol Blankenship.

Vocalist for the ceremony was Mrs. Betty Womble who sang "God, A Woman and A Man", "Together" and "The Lords Prayer." Mrs. Sheryl Meek and Mrs. Verna Strawn provided the accompaniment on the organ and piano. Family members were ushered in as the couple's favorite hymn "How Great Thou Art" was being played.

Decor for the sanctuary was the large lighted Chrismon tree and red poinsettia. The altar was adorned with greenery and large red and white candles. The bride and groom faced an arch shaped candelabra with a red bow and red bows were used on the pews.

Candlelighters were Adam Landrum, of Dumas, and Curtis Pearson, brother of the bride. Adam and Curtis also served as ushers with Vinoka Morris of Petersburg, cousin of the groom. Carrying the bride's train was Shae' La Pearson of Spearman, cousin of the bride.

Maid of honor was Tiffany O'Quinn of Perryton. She wore a tea length dress of royal blue satin with a ruffled scoop neckline. She carried a wrist bouquet of white carnations, blue babys breath, and ribbon.

Vernon Tindle of Spearman, served as best man. Vernon wore a black tuxedo with white shirt, royal blue tie and cummerbund. The groom wore a white cutaway tuxedo with tails, a white shirt, tie and cummerbund. He wore a carnation and babys breath boutonniere to compliment the brides bouquet.

The bride was attired in a formal length gown of white satin, heavily beaded with pearls and sequins on lace. A scalloped neckline and long sleeves on the lace bodice connected to a full skirt and train which were accented with scalloped lace. To complete her ensemble, the bride wore a fingertip veil cascading from a band of

lace with pearls and sequins. The bride carried a bouquet of miniature carnations and babys breath.

A reception followed the ceremony in the fellowship hall of the church. The brides' table was covered with royal blue with white overlay. Blue bows adorned the corners. A mirror and blue candle were used behind the brides' bouquet at the center of the table. Punch was served from a crystal bowl.

The wedding cake was three tiered, decorated with hearts and light blue flowers and topped with a china bride and groom. The groom's table was covered with a royal blue ruffled cloth. Chocolate cake decorated with hearts and a large "M" and coffee from a silver service were made by Debbie Pearson, stepmother of the bride.

The bride will continue her education at Tascosa High School in Amarillo and the groom will continue his college education by attending Amarillo College and West Texas State University. He is employed by Buckners Children's Home in Amarillo.

Grandparents attending were Mr. and Mrs. Murl Pearson, Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Scroggs, Mrs. Harvey Whitefield, all of Spearman, and Mr. A.P. Sanders of Lockney.

Out of town guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hansel Sanders, Lockney; Mr. and Mrs. R.G. Morris, Mr. Vinoka Morris, Alica, Audra and Amber, Petersburg; Shelly Heck, Tulia; Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Landrum, Ben and Adam, Liz Coyle, Julie Saddler, Michelle Owens, Ann Stinson, and Shelby Allen from Dumas; and Carl Bynum stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina.

Texas A & M hosts meeting for county judges, Jan 24 - 26

About 750 county judges and commissioners from across Texas will assemble here Jan. 24-26 to study ways to strengthen county government.

John A. Gilmartin, general chairperson and county officials program leader with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, said the county leaders will take part in educational sessions of the 31st Annual County Judges and Commissioners' Conference. The training has been designed especially for the county officials.

"A special orientation also is planned for newly-elected county judges and commissioners," Gilmartin said.

He said some key state, national and county leaders are scheduled to address the conference at the College Station Hilton on subjects ranging from county budgets to risk management and updates on county jails.

State Attorney General Jim Mattox of Austin will speak at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 25 on the open meetings law. Other members of his staff will be featured during various segments of the meeting.

In addition, Theodore J. Maher of Washington, D.C., program leader for local government with the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Science and Education Agency, will be a panelist for a risk management discussion Jan. 25. Sam Seale of Austin, the director of the Texas Association of Counties, will address the conference several times.

Dr. Zerle L. Carpenter, director of the Extension Service, will welcome the county judges and commissioners.

The educational activity is planned by Extension's V.G. Young Institute for County Government, composed of Gilmartin and Joe Rothe, in cooperation with the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas and officials of Texas A&M University's Office of Continuing Education. Coryell County Judge Douglas H. Smith is association president.

Reimer named to Dean's List

Gregory Howard Reimer of Spearman was named to the Southwestern Oklahoma State University's Dean's List. To be named to the Dean's List at S.O.S.U. a student must have completed 15 semester hours with a grade point average of 3.0 ('B') or higher, with no grade lower than a ('C').

Club News

Rho Rho
by Janie Kunselman

Rho Rho Sorority held a meeting in the home of Pat Cudd on Jan. 12. After the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, president, Tina Wilmeth, read a letter from the International Office. Stephanie Crossland made a motion to donate to the National Endowment Fund. Samme Goehring seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pat Cudd reported on the New Year's Eve Party and the upcoming Valentine Ball. There will be a tea for the past Valentine Queens on Feb. 9.

Samme Goehring reported on the Ways and Means Project. Stephanie Crossland thanked everyone for helping with Meals On Wheels on the month of December. Rosebud Chairman, Samme Goehring, read the birthdays and anniversaries for the month. Members were reminded to pay dues and fines. President, Tina Wilmeth read a letter from the Spearman Chamber of Commerce seeking nominations for Citizen of the Year and Citizen Over the Years. The Sorority made nominations for each.

Pat Cudd gave an informative presentation on "Maintaining and Developing Friendship." The group was served refreshments and reviewed the Founder's Day tape for 1988 for the new pledges.

Members present were: Tina Wilmeth, Pat Cudd, Janie Kunselman, Denise Donnell, Stephanie Crossland, Samme Goehring, Kristi Ramon, Laura Dear, Patti Schnell, and LeeAnn Sheets. Honorary members present were: Francis Cudd and Mary Lou Wysong.

Pointers For Parents

Rising To The Rock 'n Roll Challenge

"My sister never made love to anyone else but me...incest is everything it's said to be,"—Prince; "Suicide is the only way out, don't you know what it's really about?,"—Ozzy Osbourne; "I want action tonight...if I can't have her, I'll take her and make her,"—Poison. Popular music lyrics, such as these and others too graphic to print here, are part of a growing trend that popularizes incest, suicide, rape, murder, violence, the occult, alcohol and drug abuse in musical entertainment marketed to children.

"Shoot up heroin, I don't care. Do it, have fun, it's your life!" Irresponsible advice, such as this hard-to-believe quote by Motley Crue, is typical advice by some musicians who glorify drug and alcohol abuse in concert.

Now there's help for parents. "Rising To The Challenge" is the new 30-minute video which is sure to change the way you and your children listen to music!

Through the research of the Parents' Music Resource Center, founded by Susan Baker, Tipper Gore, Sally Nevius and Pam Howar, you can learn more about the music your children are growing up with and how you can counter themes that are at odds with the values you teach at home.

The PMRC, through "Rising To The Challenge," offers the following recommendations for concerned parents:



Ozzy Osbourne claims he doesn't promote suicide.

- Listen to your children's music and share your concern over lyrical content.

- Focus on the message, not the musical style.

- Go and see at least one rock concert with your child. Make sure that proper safety procedures are followed.

Remember, there is plenty of rock 'n roll with a positive message. For more information, write to the Parents' Music Resource Center, 1500 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22209 or send \$27.50 and receive your copy of "Rising To The Challenge."

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Sea World has new winter schedule


During the winter months, Sea World of Texas' operating schedule is as follows:

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday and closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

Hours and days of operation at the world's largest marine life park will be expanded as the summer vacation season draws nearer.

For up-to-date schedule information, call (512) 523-3611.

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Low-interest mortgage money available to buyers of homes

U.S. Senator Phil Gramm announced Saturday the State of Texas will make available low-interest rate home mortgages to qualified buyers of foreclosed properties owned by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"This state-federal initiative was developed to reduce the inventory of foreclosed properties in Texas while enhancing the ability of low- and moderate-income families to qualify for a loan," Gramm said in a press conference in Dallas.

Thomas T. Demery, Federal Housing Commissioner, said the \$16.9 million Texas Housing Agency financing program will be offered exclusively to first-time homebuyers of low- to moderate-income who elect to buy one of 3,685 HUD-owned properties in Texas.

The average purchase price of these properties is \$36,531.

"I am delighted to be able to announce this good news for the hundreds of hard-working families throughout Texas," Gramm said. "The attractive home prices available on HUD properties coupled with this affordable state financing program should allow families earning as low as \$15,000 to qualify for an average-priced HUD property," he said.

The downpayment required on a typical property ranges from \$100 to \$500 with the balance of the home to be financed at an interest rate ranging from 8.05 percent to

9.55 percent, depending on the home. In contrast, the prevailing interest rate on conventional loans reported for December is 10.19 percent.

A typical buyer purchasing an average priced home in this program will save \$20,260 over the life of a loan as a result of this below-market rate financing, said Kenneth G. DeJarnett, Chairman of the Texas Housing Agency.

"This unique program will create opportunities for homeownership among lower-income renters who never dreamed they were in a position to afford a home," DeJarnett said. "If a family is paying \$275-\$300 a month rent and has a stable job and few debts, we strongly encourage them to apply for a loan under this program."

The first date to apply for a home loan is January 18, 1989.

In order to participate in this financing program, a buyer must select a foreclosed property, make an offer through a broker on the property which is acceptable to HUD, and present an executed sales purchase agreement to a participating lender at time of loan application.

Listings of HUD properties are published periodically in the newspaper or can be obtained from local real estate agents. Additional information on this program and a list of participating lenders may be obtained by calling the Texas Housing Agency at (512) 472-7500.



Shonda [Corley] Odegaard

Corley-Odegaard wed

Shonda Brooke Corley of Sherman, Tx. and James Gregory Odegaard of Spearman were united in marriage on Saturday, Jan. 14 at the Woods Street Church of Christ in Sherman. John Scott of the Spearman Church of Christ officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby D. Corley of Sherman. She graduated from Sherman High School and attended Abilene Christian University.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roger G. Odegaard of Spearman. He graduated from Spearman

High School and attended Texas Tech University. He is self-employed as a farmer.

Attendants for the bride were Mrs. Stephani Swan, sister of the bride, of Crowell, Tx. as matron of honor and Shanna Corley, sister of the bride, of Oklahoma City as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Mrs. Cindy Steward of Lubbock and JoAnne Odegaard, sister of the groom, of Huntsville, Tx.

Flower girls for the occasion were Corlie and Halie Swan, nieces of the bride of Crowell. Bret Bennett of Sherman was ring bearer.

Best man was Mark Hood of Spearman. Groomsman and ushers were Hunter Novak of Archer City, Tx., Edward McIntyre of Spearman and Kyle Corley, brother of the bride of Arlington.

Wedding music was presented by the bride and groom and Bob Corley, Stephani Swan, Shanna Corley, and Kyle Corley.

A reception was held in the Family Life Building following the ceremony, with the bride's parents as hosts.

Members of the house party included Tina Walton of Denton, Tina Gregory of Sherman, Sherry Means of Dallas, Sharon Kathol of Denison and Angie Royal of Sherman.

The couple will be at home in Spearman after a wedding trip to the Bahamas.

The bridegroom's parents were hosts to a rehearsal dinner Friday, Jan. 13 at Mr. L's in Sherman.

Out of town guests attending the ceremony were Mr. and Mrs. John Scott with Matthew, Tyler, and Katelin; Mr. and Mrs. James F. Greene; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wofford; Jeff Lackey; Edward McIntyre and Beth Lesly all of Spearman.

Out of town guests included Mr. and Mrs. Edward Zschiesche and Joshua of Midlothian, Tx.; Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Novak of Archer City, Tx.; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Paul of Dallas; Mary Louise Thompson of Greenville, Tx.; Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Thompson of Paris, Tx.; Mr. and Mrs. John Ingelbretson of Wilmar, Minn.; and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bloch of Eden Prairie, Minn.

Adult smoking rate declines in Texas

The Texas cigarette smoking rate has hit the lowest level ever recorded, with 23 percent of adults smoking in 1987, according to a survey done by the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

In last year's sampling of more than 1,100 adults, TDH found a reduction in the percentage of adults who smoke, compared with a 1984 state survey in which, 27 percent of adults smoked. Smoking rates in Texas now are below the national level of 26.5 percent, according to a survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in 1986.

The data on smoking behavior was collected as part of TDH's statewide Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, initiated in 1987.

Three 8th graders write stories for newspaper

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The following stories were written by three students of Mrs. Wynette Mullins 8th grade Advanced Pupil Training class. They were instructed to write stories concerning careers that they might be interested in choosing.

Sophia Salgado who is interested in journalism had the assignment of writing a feature article for the newspaper. Randie Renner showed an interest in medicine, and her assignment was to interview a local doctor and write a short story on that interview. Eonette Cater who is interested in photography, was assigned the task of writing her opinions about that subject in an editorial type article.

Jerold Blan - All State Athlete

by Sophia Salgado

Jerold Blan, a seventeen-year-old senior from Spearman, has been very successful this year in cross country and track. Jerold, son of Jimmy and Helen Blan, was born here in Spearman. Besides two brothers and three sisters, Jerold has three nephews and two nieces.

He first began running in the fifth grade. In high school, Jerold became interested in cross country when his friends started asking him why he wasn't in cross country. When he was the only person in boys' cross country this year, Jerold says he felt lonely. But, Jerold wasn't lonely when he found out he was going to State. "I was surprised at first," Jerold says. "Then I started to feel real good."

This year, Jerold got ninth at state, and last year, seventh in the two mile. Jerold claims he can run his best in chilly, cloudy weather. Before a meet, he concentrates on his workout for the week and how he will run.

Jerold would like to go into an athletic career if he gets a scholarship, but he would also like to work in his dad's irrigation company.

If Jerold had a chance to go to the Olympics, he would "go for it" and work his hardest. In long distance running, he admires Danny Sanchez from Ozona. If Jerold were unable to participate in athletics, he would use his skills to help other people run their best. Carl Louis is the one athlete he would be if he could. Jerold thinks starting kids in competitive sports at an early age is good to a point, but not if the consequences are tough.

Jerold says running is "cool" because it keeps you in shape. While he runs, he says, he has time to think about problems.

His tips to kids beginning to run: "Hang in there, and don't be embarrassed if you don't do good on your first try."

Medicine as a Career

by Randie Renner

Dr. Behney is a new family practitioner in Spearman. He was graduated from Indiana University School of Medicine, which is the biggest medical school in the country. Approximately 300 people are graduated from Indiana University every year.

Dr. Behney lived in Oklahoma while doing his residency. He has had a medical practice in Missouri and Spearman, which he prefers. He has been an M.D. since 1984.

Dr. Behney decided to become a doctor at the age 22 because of his long interest in physiology, and he always wanted to know what was medically wrong with other people.

Dr. Behney's parents were

pleased with the idea of him becoming a doctor. During his education he married Jean Ann, who is from Indianapolis. Dr. Behney and Jean Ann have three children: Monica five, Allison four, and Nicholas, two.

Dr. Behney's favorite thing about being a doctor is trying to figure out what is wrong with his patients from their symptoms. His least favorite thing is getting too anxious about the outcome of seriously ill patients.

About an average of fourteen patients come in his office daily. He spends approximately nine hours at his office a day, and when he has patients in the hospital he spends about 30 to 45 minutes there twice a day, once in the morning, and once in the evening.

There are several serious illnesses Dr. Behney has treated, such as heart attacks and serious asthma. He only performs small operations that have to do with infections. He takes turns being on call with the other two doctors. If he had it to do over again Dr. Behney stated that he would stay in the field of medicine.

Dr. Behney's hobbies include doing things with the computer, jogging, going to the movies, spending time with his three children, and astronomy. According to his wife, Dr. Behney had six telescopes at one time in one of their small apartments.

Photography - Career or Hobby

by Bonette Cater

Photography is a great hobby and can be an excellent career. This is the basis for my question: Is it necessary for photography to be a hobby before it becomes a career?

In my opinion it is definitely necessary to have photography as a hobby before it becomes a career. A person needs to acquire the special skills of picture-taking before relying on it as a way of earning a living.

Some of the skills necessary for taking good pictures include, being able to "see" what would make an interesting photograph, the best type of camera to be used for the different types of pictures, and of course lighting and distance are also important in taking pictures.

Karen Goodman, editor of the Spearman Reporter, also agrees that it is best to have photography as a hobby before a career. She stated that as an amateur photographer she definitely needed these skills in her present position.

In conclusion, if you are serious about photography, try first obtaining experience and enjoying it as a hobby before making it a profession.

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