

Gorman Progress



"Serving Gorman For Over 99 Years"
Gorman, Eastland County, Texas 76454

1999 Member
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JULY 22, 1999

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PRESS POINTS
JOE BENNETT - PUBLISHER

— J —

The weatherman hasn't been cooperating with us that past couple of weeks. The rain showers we had been receiving has slipped away and things are sure needing moisture around here. Some spots in the area have gotten rains while others did not. With the earlier rains the prospects for a good peanut crop, grain and grass production has risen. However, things are really drying out fast and much of the area sure needs rain. Ask the Lord to Bless us again with rain.

— J —

"THANK YOU"

Hi Guys!
Please forgive me for taking so long in sending this "formal" Thank You, but it's like you always said "She's kind a SLOW!"

Leaving the Progress was one of the hardest things I've ever done. I miss you guys like crazy but I'm having fun at the clinic. We opened on the 28th.

I was going to put a note of thanks in the paper after I left to say thank you to everyone for the wonderful (but surprise) party. It made leaving even harder because I loved that job and the people there. It was fun and I got "paid" for it!!! I truly had a lump in my throat and couldn't even talk about you guys without crying! Thanks for the subscription (don't miss typing Heritage though!) the money (yeah!) the party, but most of all thank you for being the best bosses this ol' gal ever had. I grew to love you guys and Doris like my own family and carry you in my heart wherever I go!

Maybe you can make sense of this ambling mess...if not, all it says is...Thank you, Miss you, and love you always!

Elania

P.S.: DON'T Spoil Ms. Jackie!!!

Gosh we sure felt great after Elania's note. We didn't realize we were that great. Ha! We loved and appreciated her very much.

We have noticed that the construction on the New Post Office is in the final stages. It is sure looking great. The grass has been put in for the lawn and most of the interior work is done. So before you know it the facility will be up and running.

Sure hope that all the bickering and arguing "For" or "Against" the St. Jude facility will stop and folks can begin to get back to some normalcy in our town and community. There has been so much said and done that does not really describe the type of people we have in our community and it is really making our town seen like a terrible place. But folks, this is a great place with loving people who have been split over this project. We all love God and remember that we all have to live together. So let's quit the senseless bickering and return to being a community of love and concern for each other as we have been in the past.

And remember to smile -- Because God Love You!!!!

Terry Langford Appointed County Auditor

On Wednesday, July 14, 1999, Mr. Terry W. Langford was administered the oath of office of County Auditor for Eastland County. Mr. Langford will hold the position previously held by Mr. Don Hazelip who recently passed away.

The County Auditor's job was created by the Texas Legislature in 1905. Texas law currently mandates that all counties having a population of 10,000 or more must appoint a county auditor. The county auditor is appointed by the district judge to serve a two year term. To be qualified to serve as county auditor a person must be:

1. A competent accountant with at least two years experience in auditing and accounting.
2. Thoroughly competent in public business details; and
3. A person of unquestionably good moral character and intelligence.

(Texas Local Government Code Section 84.006)

Mr. Langford grew up in Stephens County and received his degree from Tarleton State University in 1972. Mr. Langford has more than twenty-five years accounting experience and has most recently been associated with the accounting firm of Lindy Maus, C.P.A., in Republic, Missouri.

Mr. Langford, his wife, Lisa, and their family will be residing in Eastland County.

Correction For Dress Code 1999 - 2000 School Year

Students will be allowed to wear shorts in the School Building that are a reasonable length just above the knee until Thanksgiving. Shorts will not be allowed to be worn between Thanksgiving and Spring Break.

Peanut Festival Notice

The Gorman Peanut Festival Committee is trying something new! There has been many express interest in supporting the festival as a family. We have always had many businesses support us and we are thankful. For those individual people or families who would like to support this years festival, we are selling individual supporter ads for \$10.00. These individual supporter ads will be a list of names on the stage area. To add your name, contact Deann Powell at 254-734-3322.

Once Again,
Thanks to all who support the Festival!!!!

Attention Pre-K thru 6th Grade!

You're invited to the Gorman Church of Christ Vacation Bible School, Saturday, July 24th at the Gorman Church of Christ on 419 N. Kent Street, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be tons of food, (including lunch), lots of games, and TONS of fun!!

An Open Letter

To ALL Citizens of Gorman:

This community has become so divided over this issue. Everyone is entitled to his or her opinion, just be sure that opinion is based on facts and make your opinion a well-informed one. Don't just follow the crowd or "go along" just because your friends are. It's called "peer pressure". If you can't stand up to it as an adult, how can you possibly expect your children, any child for that matter, to stand up to it. You're entitled to your opinion, just make sure it's YOUR opinion, and stand up for it. Quit trying to CHANGE everyone else's opinion. Don't let this issue come between you and your family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and business associates.

To those of you who are adamantly OPPOSED to this facility—who are you to sit in judgement of children you don't know? What have they done to you? Have you never wanted (or needed) a second chance—whether it is to better yourself, or to make amends to someone (or for something), or to just have a chance at life? Do you know how it feels to not be loved, have someone to guide you, help you overcome your fears? Do you know how difficult it can be to overcome those feelings when they have been instilled in you your entire life? How hard it can be to know that you don't "measure up", no matter how hard you try? THINK ABOUT IT. Are you aware of the problems with some of the kids that are already in our community,

youth that have lived here most of their lives? We already have troubled youth in our community, and the communities around us. Have you banished them and their families? Forbid your children to attend school because of them? Run them out of town? Do you know the past of ALL or your neighbors and friends? Are you so sure there isn't anyone you know that doesn't have a skeleton in the closet? A sordid past, or has had a troubled childhood? I doubt it, so what's the REAL problem?

To those of you who are fighting FOR this facility, congratulations. You have overcome the prejudice, and hatred at the IDEA of something different, of change. You are willing to accept the challenges to "make a difference". A lot of good can come from this facility. This is a chance to shape minds, heal broken hearts and spirits, instill good moral values, and help break the cycle that brought these youths to this point in their lives, and make a difference in their future. Whatever their nationality or background, they deserve a second chance. Everyone does. They need support and guidance, and the chance to be shown that people do care, and that they can overcome their past, be proud of their accomplishments, and know that they can become anything they want to be.

For those of you who are undecided--this facility will affect you sometime. Make your decision an informed one, and listen to your heart (and your conscience).

If you don't care--I'm sorry. You should care. This is your community. Don't jump on the bandwagon and start complaining if you don't like the way things turn out. (Kind of like voting in local, state, and national elections).

To EVERYONE--There is no valid reason for the division of this community. These children, whether they are abused, neglected, abandoned, minor thefts, drugs, whatever, they got that way BECAUSE OF AN ADULT. They didn't ask for any of it, but they are having to pay the price--once from their parents, and again because of the prejudice and hate from a community that isn't willing to accept them, because of their past. Please consider the consequences of your actions. Are you a merchant? Do you sit on the school board? Are you a faculty member or

Melon Patch Tour 1999

De Leon, Texas -

It's Time To Register

The Melon Patch Tour '99 will be held on Saturday, August 7, 1999, and it is time for you to register if you want to join in the fun this year. The selection of routes has been expanded and if you are brave and love the heat (and are a very good cyclist) you can ride the 89 mile, but we do have routes from 6 to 60 miles. Since the weather is so demanding, be sure to

An Open Letter

An open letter to the citizens of Gorman,

I feel I must write this letter, maybe for my own benefit, I am not sure. My name is Kellye (Stewart) Johnson. I know many of you, and I am sure you know me as well. I was raised in Gorman, and still return often to see Mother. I have been keeping up with the news for years. Recently when all the news of the St. Jude's Ranch came up I didn't think much about it. I have heard that a lot of you are against the idea. I am sure you all think you have valid issues. I don't understand the attitudes though. I was taught from an early age right from wrong. I received an excellent education and what I consider to be a well rounded up bringing by my parents, family and friends in the community. I was taught not to turn away from those who needed help, especially when I did not know the whole story or had never met the people involved.

I have taught school in Texas for 18 years. The last 12 (and I hope 20 more) years have been teaching in a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed teenagers. I know first hand what these kids are like. They are NOT BAD KIDS. They are good kids who need a chance for change. I don't know for sure what the age ranges of these boys at St. Jude's would be, but you can be sure that they are just kids like YOURS AND MINE. It is only by the GRACE OF GOD that they are not our kids. I wish each of you could spend some time with the kids I work with in Waco. All they want and need in most cases is some guidance and someone to care.

How would you like to be chained to a bed post for 36 days with only two pieces of bread and a glass of milk a day, because you broke a neighbor's window playing ball? How would you like to be put into a tub of scalding water at 18 mo. old because you would not stop crying? How would you like to grow up with those scars? Would you be angry?

How would you have liked it if at 7 years old you had to find food for yourself and your 2 year old sister, because

room mother? Are you a deacon in the local church? Will you be refusing services to patrons who disagree with your opinion? Will you refuse services to the facility or their staff? Will you be teaching prejudice to our children in school? Will your children bring your views to school and provoke arguments and fighting among themselves? Will you deny these children a place to worship God? This issue affects everyone in the community, regardless of your point of view.

This facility will open--like it or not, with or without your support. The focus now should be on LICENSING. The opportunity will come for you to make your decision. THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY. This facility can be regulated by the state if properly licensed. Although the state, with its regulations does still have faults (as we all do), there are guidelines in place for the protection and welfare of these youth as well as the staff. This also paves the way for a valid complaint issues and legal recourse, should that need arise. This can be a good thing. However, WITHOUT a license, that leaves the doors open for anything to happen. This can be a bad thing, and your worst fears can become a reality. You have an opinion, use it wisely.

(s)Karen McCleney

Paid Advertising by Karen McCleney

All-State Basketball Game Scheduled For Monday July 26

The Texas High School Coaches Association, All-State Basketball Game will be played in the Texas Christian University Campus, Wilkerson Greines Activity Center, in Fort Worth on Monday, July 26 at 7:30 p.m. Richard Svarovsky will play for the North All-Stars. Richard and the Panthers won District and Bi-District and played for Regional. Also playing on the North Team will be Marcus Bobb of Ponder.

See you at the ballgame.

select a route that you have trained for. There will be rest stops along the way offering a wide variety of food and drink, from bananas and oranges to popsicles and cookies, as well as all the water and Gatorade that you can drink. There will also be drawings at each stop for prizes from local merchants and bicycle shops, so be sure to take the break and see how lucky you are. The rest stops are also manned by the friendliest, most enthusiastic volunteers, so you need to stop and visit anyway.

Each preregistered rider also will receive a MPT 1999 T-shirt and coffee mug, plus other assorted goodies. Also, all preregistered riders will have their names in a drawing to win a BBQ Cooker from Higginbotham's or a bicycle from Coca-Cola. The First Methodist Church of De Leon will be offering a Breakfast at the start/finish area for a small fee, and after the ride you can buy a Spaghetti Lunch from De Leon's Study Club. The Ride will start from the Senior Citizens area off Reynosa, and you can

Mom was on a three day weekend with her boyfriend and left the two of you alone repeatedly?

How would you like to be abused by every one of your Step-father's friends from the time you were 6 until 14? Wouldn't you be afraid of men?

How would you like to be beaten up every time you wet the bed because of a physical problem? Dad said you were doing it to make him mad. Worked didn't it?

How would you like to get picked up by the police for picking trash out of a can in a wealthy neighborhood, because you had to try and raise your 9 mo. old twin siblings by yourself at 8 years old? Mom and Dad ran off with the drug dealers, and you were living the street. Wouldn't you be a little angry?

I tell these stories to make a point. Nine times out of ten it is the parents who need to be locked up, but because they are "MATURE ADULTS" it is o.k. for them to have these behaviors. The children are usually the ones who suffer.

My husband and I have had one child stay with us after he went through our program in Waco. One time he was 18, (big strapping football player) and went to bed. I went in and asked if there was anything he needed. I bent over gave him a kiss on the forehead and said I love you. He had big tears in his eyes as he said to me, "This is the first time I have ever been tucked into bed." Eighteen years old. This man now resides in Houston with his wife and new baby and works for a school system there.

These kids need a chance to change, not a chance to be a danger out on the streets. They need your open ears, support and love. What they don't need is closed hearts and minds. God created all of us with the same rights. Some of us though don't get the same chances. Don't turn away from the greatest opportunity to ever knock on your door.

Remember the song:
Jesus loves the little children
All the children of the world
Red and Yellow Black and White
They are precious in his sight
Jesus loves the little children of the world.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to be heard. I still say I am from the greatest little community in the world. Please don't disappoint me!!!!!!
(s)Kellye Stewart Johnson

I would encourage all of you to visit a home for special children. You will be amazed.
Paid Advertising by Kellye Johnson

register there from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday night, August 6.

Please pick up a brochure in De Leon at the Chamber of Commerce, First American Bank, or call 254-893-1360. There also is an application on the internet at our site at www.deleontexas.com. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult and riders under 18 must have their entry form and waiver signed by a parent or guardian. If you register by July 28th, the cost of the ride is less so come in before the deadline.

Join us and have some fun. See why so many people drive so far to ride in the Melon Patch Tour!

De Leon Study Club's Spaghetti Lunch Planned

Plan now to attend and enjoy the Annual Spaghetti Lunch on Saturday, August 7th. The De Leon Study Club hosts this lunch. It will be served in De Leon Senior Citizen's Building, 1100 W. Reynosa, which is the site where the Melon Patch Tour begins and ends. Serving hours are 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and ticket prices are \$5.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children 10 and under. Tickets purchased in advance will be eligible for the door prize drawings. Many local merchants donate the prizes.

Get you advance tickets at the De Leon Free Press office, De Leon's Monitor office, Kathy Skaggs at First American Bank, or any Study Club member. You do not need to be present to win.

Watch the local papers for more information about the sponsors and the door prize contributors.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Gorman Primitive Baptist Church has Services Every Sundays. Services begin at 10:30 a.m. Barry Brown, Pastor - 1st and 3rd Sundays; Elder Dale Majors - 2nd Sunday - Everyone Welcome To Attend.

SANDRA CAGLE WILL BE IN GORMAN THE THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE CITY OFFICE TO RENEW AUTO LICENSE PLATES. HER NEXT VISIT WILL BE AUGUST 18TH FROM 9 - 12 NOON.

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC -- Every 3rd Wednesday at Gorman Community Center from 10:30 to 11:30. Sponsored by CMS Health Care.

Gorman Oaklawn Cemetery Association is accepting donations for the Care of the Cemetery. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or In Honor of someone, please send to Rt. 3 Box 121A, or Security State Bank, Gorman, Texas 76454.

Gorman Masonic Lodge No. 716 A.F. & A.M. Regular stated meetings are 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Members are urged to attend. Visitors are always welcome. Gaylord Battenfield, Worshipful Master — Roscoe Reeves, Secretary.

DUSTER SCHOOL REUNION

The Duster School Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 7th, 1999 at 5:00 p.m. at the Heritage Hall in De Leon. In you are a Ex-Student of Duster School make plans to attend.

HUNTERS EDUCATIONAL COURSE

There will be a Hunters Educational Course held at the Gorman Senior Citizens Center on July 31, 1999 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a Parks and Wildlife approved Education Course. If interested call David Guthery at 734-2836.

Notice to Members of Citizens for a Safe and Prosperous Community

In response to a letter received from your legal representative we have taken the initial steps to secure counsel.

Saint Judes Ranch for Children welcomes honest differences of opinion but will no longer accept the "Libel", "Slander", and/or "Defamation" that you are printing in local papers and stating publicly at local community, city and county meetings.

The half truths, lies, and false implications that your members have presented must stop. The continued publication of false and defamatory statements about Saint Judes Ranch for Children is causing serious injury to our reputation, financial investments, and fund raising ability.

We have communicated this warning to your legal representative by telephone over two weeks ago, without any positive results.

We will seek both "actual damages" to recover the harm that we have suffered, and "punitive damages" to punish those who have caused our program of caring for abused, neglected, and abandoned children, harm.

This action will be taken against your organization as a whole and your members individually.

Your slander and libel is causing damage to our reputation and lowering our standing among members of the therapeutic community, and citizens of the city, county, and State.

(s) William A. Brewer
Campus Director
Paid Advertising by Saint Judes Ranch for Children

Notice of Public Hearing

PURSUANT TO SECTION 152.905 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, THE DISTRICT JUDGE OF EASTLAND COUNTY WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE COMPENSATION TO BE PAID FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1999-2000 FOR THE FOLLOWING OFFICE, TO-WIT: COUNTY AUDITOR, ASSISTANT AUDITOR, AND COURT REPORTER. THE HEARING WILL BE CONDUCTED ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 1999 AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE 91st DISTRICT COURTROOM, EASTLAND COUNTY COURTHOUSE, EASTLAND, TEXAS.

(s) Steven R. Herod
Steven R. Herod
District Judge
91st Judicial District

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Jan, 17 yrs.

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Skaggs Reunion Scheduled

The late Bro. Frank and Lizzie Browning Skaggs descendants will hold their annual reunion on Saturday, July 24 at the DeLeon City Hall. Everyone is invited to attend.

Letter to the Editor

We, too, are concerned about St. Jude's Home for Children and the impact it may have on the children placed in the home; our school, children, and personnel; as well as community.

Let me say to begin with, that we certainly are not against these young people. We want the best for them, as well as all concerned. Is this really the best place for them? Do we have the resources that are available in the larger cities, i.e., YMCA, YWCA, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, or professional athletes that might work with such a program? We all know that the answer to this question is "no". These children have special needs that I believe can be better met with more resources.

When we first heard about this facility, I put myself back in the classroom and knew that even with the best of facilities such as this, that there would be many problems for the classroom and teacher. I am sure that discipline problems would increase. A teacher in the Cisco School talked to us last year about the problems he experienced there when these students were admitted in their school. School officials at Cisco have also talked about some other problems. They had a total of 58 of these students last year, but received money for only 11 because each student stayed there only a short period of time, not long enough for them to feel that they had helped any one of them. They also said that most of these students came from the larger cities, that they considered Cisco a "hick town" and they wanted to get away from there as soon as possible anyway they could. A lot of times, they caused trouble, just to get kicked out of that "hick school".

In our search for facts, we have visited with professional people from other children's homes. I believe that I have heard the statement coming from St. Jude's that they will take these level 4 or 5 youths, and through guidance and counseling, within 60 days they will be at level 3, and then within another 60 days they will be down to level 1 or 2. Other establishments working with troubled youth use the general rule of thumb: It takes a month for each year of a child's life (in other

Ronald Boswell Laid to Rest

Ronald A. Boswell, 75, died Saturday, July 17, 1999 at the Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in DeLeon.

Services were Tuesday, July 20 at 11:00 am in the Nowlin Funeral Home Chapel. Services were officiated by Rev. Jackie Auvenshine and Rev. Charles J. Lowman. Burial was in the DeLeon Cemetery.

Mr. Boswell was born on April 8, 1924 in DeLeon, Tx. He married JoAnn Ware in Comanche on February 13, 1949. He was a car dealer and had served as a Corporal in the U.S. Army during World War II. He had lived in the DeLeon area all of his life and was a Baptist.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Ann Boswell of DeLeon; 1 son, Ronald Michael Boswell of Gainesville, Tx.; 2 daughters, Cynthia Ann Lowman of Foley, Alabama and Betty Van Meter of DeLeon; 5 grandchildre and 1 great grandchild.

He was preceded in death by brother, Elton, J.T., Joe Edward and Arnold Boswell and sisters, Vivian Hilton, Evelyn Smith and Barbara Jean Boswell.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to DeLeon Senior Citizens Center, 133 N. Ballpark Loop, DeLeon, Tx. 76444.

Lonnie Frasier Laid to Rest

Lonnie Cole Frasier, age 73 of Stephenville, formerly of Gorman passed away Wednesday, July 14th at a Stephenville Nursing Home.

Services were 2:00 pm Friday, July 16th in the Higginbotham Funeral Home Chapel. with Jeff Smith officiating assisted by Denver Rainey. Burial was in the Oaklawn Cemetery.

Mr. Frasier was born July 19, 1925 in Comanche County to Jonathan and Minnie (Snider) Frasier. He married Melba Kitchens on July 29, 1950 in Palo Pinto County. Mr. Frasier was a veteran of World War II and a Methodist. He worked for Gorman Peanut Company and then Birdsong Peanuts for about 30 years before retiring. He had lived in Gorman about 70 years before moving to Stephenville.

Survivors include his wife, Melba Frasier of Stephenville; one son, Dennis Frasier of Lake Leon; two brothers, Richard Frasier of Gorman and Alvin Frasier of Snyder; one granddaughter and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and five brothers.

Mona Thomas Laid to Rest

Mona L. Kimmell Thomas, 66, died Sunday, July 18, 1999 at the DeLeon Hospital.

Services were Tuesday, July 20 at 2:00 pm in the Nowlin Funeral Home Chapel with Kenneth Wilson officiating. Burial was in the DeLeon Cemetery.

Mrs. Thomas was born on March 23, 1933 in DeLeon. She married Frank Thomas on February 20, 1970 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mrs. Thomas was a homemaker and had previously worked as a secretary for a telephone company. She had resided in DeLeon since 1995, coming from Newark, Texas. She was a member of DeLeon Primitive Baptist Church.

Survivors include her husband, Frank Thomas of DeLeon; one brother, Wesley Kimmell of DeLeon; 4 sisters, Joyce Chupp and Wilma Wilhite, both of DeLeon, Loyce Wolford of Rhome, Texas and Wanda Spencer of Mansfield.

She was preceded in death by her parents, G.B. Kimmell and Myrtle Dillard Kimmell and one sister, Luetta Coan.



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NEW LISTING: 10 acres, lots of timber, seasonal creek, pavement frontage native grasses. \$11,000.00 terms possible.
NEW LISTING: 40 acres east of Gorman, all in coastal, 1 stock tank, 1/4 mile CR frontage, good building site. \$900.00 acre
80 ACRES: 3-2-2 brick w/1940' LA, CH/A. 30x80 metal bldg. w/enclosed shop. 65 A coastal, corral. \$140,000.00
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172 ACRES - 2 miles No. of Gorman, with 2 BR, 1 bath, Rock home. Nestled among majestic pecan trees. Irrigation wells, equipment & pit. Coastal and cultivation. Won't last long. Call today! HA8

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by Robert More
I want something kind to think of
When the sunlight dreams have fled;
Something bright as the starlight
That twinkles over my head;
Something the heart can cherish
When pleasure has passed me by;
Something to live through life's winter;
Something that cannot die.
And so I have planned for my keeping
Kind deeds, as onward I go;
Kind deeds to be given freely,
Alike to friend and foe.
And when at last the gloaming
Falls o'er moor and fen,
I'll have something kind to think of--
The love of my fellowmen.

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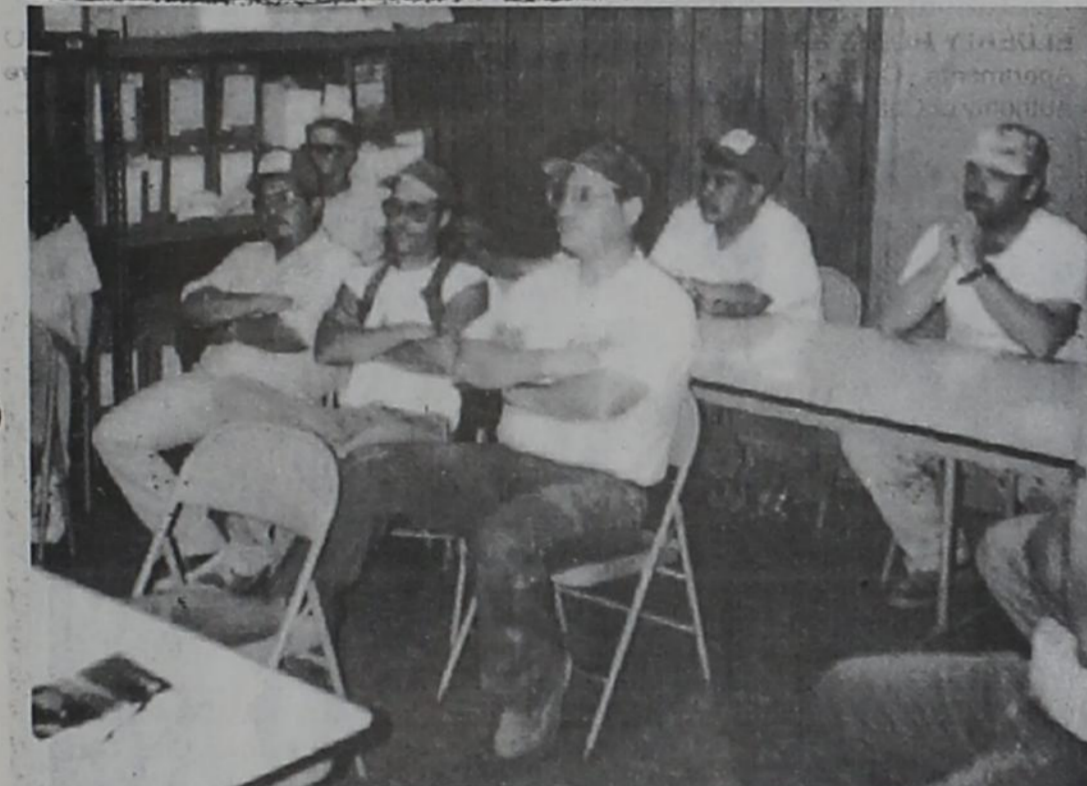
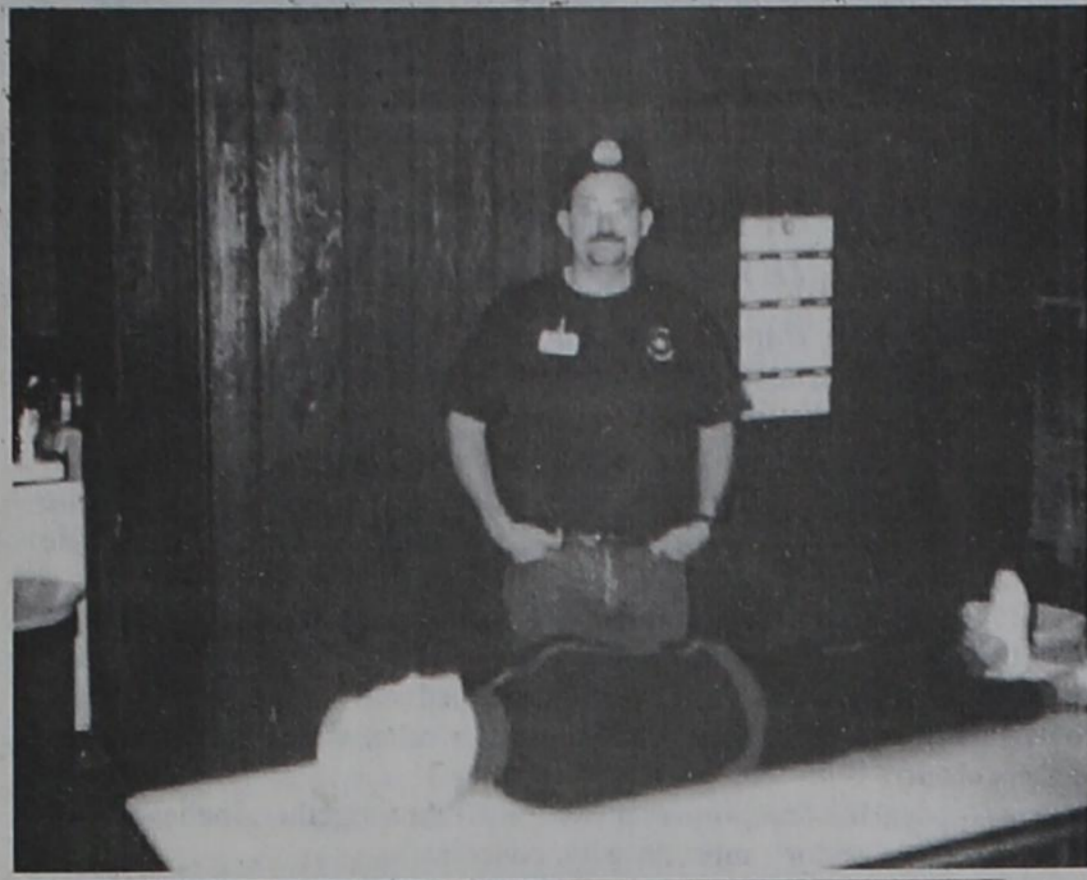
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Abuse Claiming More Kids

72 In State Die This Year; Officials Puzzled By Rise

By Barbara Kessler - Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News



Tiana, Joelle, Jabrille. Not long ago their lilting names were penned on baby books. Now they are etched on gravestones.

Texas children are continuing to die at the hands of caregivers at a pace that defies recent declines in crime overall.

Across the state, 72 children died of child abuse or neglect during the first six months of the 1999 fiscal year, suggesting that last year's steep increase in such deaths was not an aberration.

The state reported a 71 percent increase in child abuse homicides for fiscal 1998, recording 176 cases compared with about 100 cases per year throughout the early and mid '90s.

Officials attribute some of the surge to better reporting and classifying of cases. But they think the leap is largely real. As for the causes, they are, in part, mystified.

"I can't pinpoint any one thing that's caused it. We looked in detail at this, and we just couldn't find anything that jumped out," said James Hine, executive director of the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services.

Some suspect that children may be suffering the downside of an otherwise beneficent economy.

"Stressed households are definitely a factor" as parent work longer hours and later shifts, hustling to outmaneuver rising housing cost and mediocre child care, said Michael Kharfen, a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

"More work means more stress and less time with kids, and perhaps less ability to cop with kids, particularly very young kids," he said.

Similarly, Dallas police Lt. Bill Walsh speculated that the "constellation of factors" that has improved the overall crime picture does not necessarily profit children.

Crime is down--including teen violence--but small children appear to be no safer, he said.

One possible reason: Burglaries and robberies, among other crimes, are committed by strangers, but young children are most often hurt by close family members.

People who have "unrealistic expectations of kids--who expect them not to cry or wet themselves" may be as inclined as ever to turn wrathful, said Lt. Walsh, head of the child-abuse and exploitation unit.

"The issues of why parents abuse their kids have not gone away," agreed Cheryl Sutterfield, head of the Dallas Child Advocacy Center. "Kids are still that helpless, easy target."

In Dallas County, nine children have been the targets in lethal incidents since last September--nearly as many as the 10 cases recorded in fiscal 1998.

One of those cases occurred Tuesday, when 3-year-old Octavia Bryant of Dallas died of head injuries. The medical examiner ruled the death a homicide. Child Protective Services is investigating. Octavia's mother had earlier lost custody of a half-brother for abuse involving burns, but officials were not aware that the boy had a sister.

Rose Mae Webb, 42, and her son, Ennis Dewayne Davis, 26, were charged late Thursday with injury to a child in connection with the death of Octavia, who was beaten in their home. Also arrested on a lesser charge of injury to a child was Fatima Mitchell-Sear, 20, a friend of Octavia's mother who was staying at the Pleasant Grove home.

CPS was inundated with suspected child-abuse fatalities last week as six other cases were reported in the Dallas area. They included the apparent homicides of a 7-month-old in Waxahachie and 2-year-old in Greenville, said Marleigh Meisner, spokesman for DPRS Dallas-Fort Worth region.

CPS case files brim with children imperiled by adult caretakers who are drug-addicted or lack the maturity for parenthood and a supportive family network, Ms. Meisner said.

"I'm seeing a lot of single moms who are stressed caring for their kids on their own and have financial stress," she said. "They're bringing home boyfriend after boyfriend, and [they're] not protecting their children."

National trends
Across the country, several populous states have seen an increase in child abuse deaths, though not as great an increase as in Texas; a few large states have reported a drop in the numbers, Mr. Kharfen said. Because states differ in how they define, record and track such crimes, it is not possible to identify a national trend, he said.

Nationally, child abuse cases overall dipped slightly over the last four years but have remained relatively steady since the late 1980s, Mr.

Kharfen said.

Child abuse responds to cultural changes more slowly than other crimes because it often originate in the offending adult's own childhood, said Kathryn Harding, acting director of research for Prevent Child Abuse America.

"As social conditions improve, it might affect youth crime right away, but not a parent who didn't have a good role model growing up. It takes a generation," she said.

At DPRS, which oversees Child Protective Services, authorities began searching for solutions when they first noticed the increase in fatalities last year.

The agency ordered a study, which examined homes where a child was killed and compared them with a control group. Its findings were common-sense: drug abuse and a lack of bonding between parents and children correlated to a child's risk of being killed in the home.

Course of action

Next came new training based on the report, to help caseworkers pinpoint the subtle features of homes considered at risk for severe child abuse and enable them to act sooner, said DPRS spokesman Marla Sheely.

The new checklist makes home evaluations more concrete and gives caseworkers something more than their intuition to take into court when they want a child removed from a home, Ms. Sheely said.

"Before they might have said, 'Gosh I just don't feel right about this, and yeah, there are some red flags, but there's nothing screaming at me: I have to take this child out,'" she said. "Now they'll have this risk assessment tool."

"Irrational human behavior is not predictable. But what clues and hints there are in the family, we're trying to make sure they get into the case study so we can make the best decision we can," said Jon Bradley, a Dallas accountant and member of the DPRS board.

"When you're dealing with over 100 deaths a year, each percentage point is a life."

Ms. Sheely is careful to say that CPS is not necessarily looking to pull children out of homes sooner--families in jeopardy may get home counseling or parenting classes first. And even when children are removed, they may end up with kin.

But the changes are in keeping with a shift nationwide to refocus the courts and child protective agencies on keeping children safe and avoiding the temptation to preserve the family at all costs.

Too often parents who have harmed their children get an undeserved, ill-fated "second bite at the apple," Lt. Walsh said.

Caseworkers are mandated to use every "reasonable effort" to keep a family together, but too often in recent years "family preservation" obscured the primary goal of keeping kids safe, Mr. Kharfen said.

Setting priorities

Last year, Congress signaled that it wanted child safety to be the guiding principle, renaming the Family Preservation program the Promoting Safe and Stable Families program.

The Federal government also put more money into foster programs to try to relieve the endemic shortage of foster care that can work as a barrier to getting kids out of dangerous homes.

Texas lawmakers followed this year, providing more money for foster family payments, so that children who are taken into "the system" have a place to go.

With a relative windfall from the Legislature this year of just over \$200 million in additional money, DPRS also is hiring about 300 new caseworkers and 84 new supervisors during the new biennium.

The agency hopes to raise salaries for caseworkers, reduce caseloads and ultimately reduce turnover among CPS caseworkers, which at 37 percent annually is the highest of any state agency.

The raises will bring the entry level salary for an investigative caseworker, who must have a college degree, up from about \$24,000 to about \$26,000.

DPRs hopes to make the job more attractive in other ways, too, offering flexible hours and possibly laptop computers.

Wendell Teltow, director of Prevent Child Abuse Texas, fears that won't be enough to retain quality caseworkers who will still juggle more than 20 cases.

"It will help attract some, but I'm not sure it will do that much to keep them," he said.

Even with the best results from its

new effort, DPRS still can affect only the 40 percent of child fatality cases in which the agency has prior involvement with the family.

Difficult changes

Making a difference in the other 60 percent of cases will require broader cultural changes--a higher priority on the safety of children and more communities willing to intervene, Ms. Sutterfield of the Child Advocacy Center said.

The nine Dallas fatalities included cases with and without past CPS involvement; cases that might have been predictable and case that arose suddenly. They included:

■ The deliberate poisoning deaths of two girls, Joelle Vallet, 15 months and Tiana Nzeakor, 8 last November, a case that took neighbors form the eldest girl's schoolteachers by surprise. They said the girls seemed happy. Their mother, who tried to kill herself as well, is awaiting trial on capital-murder charges.

■ The death of Jabrille Walder, age 3, from blunt-force injuries. His family had been under CPS supervision until shortly before the homicide. His mother and father are charged in the case.

■ A newborn boy left to die after birth.

■ A 3-year old girl, whose name was not released, killed by causes not yet fully determined.

■ Several children and babies killed by blows to the head, including:

Psalm 35

(A Psalm of David)

1. Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.
2. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help.
3. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation.
4. Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt.
5. Let them be as chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the Lord chase them.
6. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the Lord persecute them.
7. For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul.
8. Let destruction come upon him at unawares: and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall.
9. And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in his salvation.
10. All my bones shall say, Lord, who is like unto thee, which deliverest the poor from him that is too strong for him, yea, the poor and the needy from him that spoileth him?
11. False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.
12. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul.
13. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom.
14. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother.
15. But in mine adversity they rejoiced and gathered themselves together: yea, the abjects gathered themselves together against me, and I knew it not; they did tear me, and ceased not:
16. With hypocritical mockers in feasts, they gnashed upon me with their teeth.
17. Lord, how long wilt thou look on? rescue my soul from their destructions, my darling from the lions.
18. I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people.
19. Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.
20. For they speak not peace: but they devise deceitful matters against them that are quiet in the land.
21. Yea, they opened their mouth wide against me, and said, Aha, aha, our eye hath seen it.
22. This thou hast seen, O Lord: keep not silence: O lord, be not far from me.
23. Stir up thyself, and awake to my judgment, even unto my cause, my God and my Lord.
24. Judge me, O Lord my God, according to thy righteousness; and let them not rejoice over me.
25. Let them not say in their hearts,

Child Abuse Statistics

■ Every year 1,200 to 2,000 children die of child abuse and neglect nationwide. Estimates vary because not all states use the same definitions, some lack adequate tracking systems and many are believed to underreport fatalities.

■ For every death, hundreds more children are abused and neglected. Nationally, more than 3 million child abuse and neglect reports are investigated annually. About 1 million are substantiated.

■ In Texas, caseworkers with Child Protective Services handled 111,147 reports of abuse and neglect in 1998; 29,766 cases involving 44,532 children were substantiated.

■ In Dallas County, CPS caseworkers handled 10,581 reports of child abuse and neglect in 1998; 3,252 cases were confirmed. The rate of abuse for the county and the state was eight confirmed victims per 1,000 children.

a 3-year-old Octavia Bryant; a 3-month old girl, whose name was not available; 23-month-old Cedric Seamster and 18-month-old Luke Johnson.

Handling all these cases has been "more depressing than I can articulate," Ms. Meisner said. "It seems like it's been rampant."

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Ah, so would we have it: let them not say, We have swallowed him up.

26. Let them be ashamed and brought to confusion together that rejoice at mine hurt: let them be clothed with shame and dishonour that magnify themselves against me.

27. Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant.

28. And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and of thy praise all the day long.

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"Children do not have a baby Jesus inside them or a junior Holy Spirit. They have the full-sized Son of God inside them. They may be immature in the natural realm but mighty in spirit." Evangelist David Walters

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Reducing Your Risk of Heat-Related Problems

The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and people are starting to spend time outside. As we move into the hotter summer months, more and more people are participating in outdoor physical activities while others work outside in the heat every summer day.

To reduce your risk of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke during physical activity you should:

- Have an unlimited amount of water available to drink.
- Drink two 8-ounce (8-ounces equals one full measuring cup of fluid) glasses of water, juice or a sports drink up to two hours before any physical activity.
- Drink as much fluid as you can tolerate every 15 to 20 minutes during heavy physical activity.
- Avoid drinks with caffeine and alcohol-they may cause muscle cramping.
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables to maintain adequate amounts of sodium, calcium and potassium.
- Avoid taking salt tablets--most foods provide enough sodium.
- Avoid activities during the heat of the day.

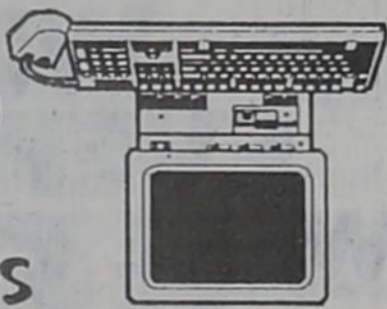
These tips should help you avoid heat-related problems while taking part in physical activities in warmer temperatures.

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"Unity in the Community" Area Wide Crusade Set for August

Unity--sometimes barely visible, sometimes completely elusive. Yet, nearly 25 Mineral Wells area churches are combining efforts for an area wide evangelistic crusade Aug. 13-15. They have chosen "Unity in the Community" as the crusade theme.

Co-chairmen Rev. Carl Clinton, pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, and Rev. Calvin Brown, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, note that the seeds of cooperation were planted about a year ago when local ministers began praying together. They added that the reorganization of the Mineral Wells Ministerial Alliance in January 1998 also contributed to a growing desire to work together.

"We want to focus on ministering together in the community because we realize that we can do more together than we can do separately," the two clergymen said. "Last spring, we began talking about the need for an area crusade. We are working together for a common cause."

Clinton and Brown emphasized that the nondenominational effort is supported by the community and area businesses through prayer, service on crusade committees and financial contributions.

National evangelist Frank Harber of Fort Worth will speak at 7 pm each evening. Sam Jones will lead music. A former skeptic and atheist, Harber is considered an expert in apologetics, the reason for faith.

Several other activities will appeal to all age groups. A ladies' luncheon will be held at noon on Friday, Aug. 13 at Holiday Hills Country Club, with a men's breakfast at 6:30 am on Aug. 14, also at Holiday Hills.

Children will enjoy puppets, drama, games, prizes, hot dogs, soda and cotton candy with a Noah's Ark theme at a children's rally in West City Park on Saturday, Aug. 14 from 10 am to 2 pm. On Saturday at 7 pm, teenagers will rock to the contemporary sound of the Christian rock group Between Thieves in concert at the rodeo grounds.

Persons who would like more information about the events or churches and individuals interested in serving or making financial contributions may call Clinton at 325-6352 or Brown at 328-1128. Contributions may also be sent to Mineral Wells Area Crusade, P.O. Box 216, Mineral Wells, Texas 76068.

The German prince, Albert, after his marriage to Queen Victoria, brought the custom of decorating a Christmas tree to England and German immigrants brought it to America.

4-H Camp Huge Success

July 9 marked the first annual Tri-County 4-H Camp held at the DeLeon City Park. Approximately 110 youth and adults attended this camp which was a joint venture of Eastland, Comanche and Erath County 4-H programs. Its purpose was to provide youth a fund day as well as workshops aimed at different nontraditional 4-H project areas.

After the youth registered, they rotated to the various groups throughout the morning. Eastland County 4-Hers, Blair Bailey, Miriam Nicks and Pam Osborne led the "Team Building" workshop. This session consisted of different exercises showing how only a team could accomplish a goal instead of just one or two people. It was fun to see how the teams decided to work together so their team could win!

Jack Whiteside and Clay Erwin, Comanche County 4-Hers, led the session on Golf showing 4-Hers the basics of golf. There is a lot of interest in a golf project for 4-Hers--they certainly enjoyed the time they had trying to hit the golf ball!

Patsy Walker who works at Express Photo in Eastland presented an excellent workshop on photography. She talked about different cameras and gave tips on good picture taking and then let the kids take a picture with a polaroid camera so they could have an "instant" picture to take home with them. There are many opportunities within 4-H to take pictures and enter them in such events as West Texas Fair, State 4-H Round-Up and the local 4-H Project Show.

Mary Grave, Erath Co. Extension Agent, and 4-Her K.R. Aberhoff and student intern Sandy Price led the "Sportsfishing" workshop which also focuses on a new 4-H project. 4-Hers learned how to cast and how to tie several different types of knots in the monofilament fishing line. Safety in the sun was also discussed.

Sam Womble, Erath Co. Extension Agent and 4-Hers Adrian Ziboral and Trey Pool led the Archery session where the youth were given the basics in archery and got to shoot an arrow and try to hit the target!

After the sessions were over, lunch was served by 4-H Adult Leaders from all three counties. Water games and a scavenger hunt were enjoyed by all after lunch. Special thanks goes to all the 4-Hers and leaders who participated in this event.

If you are interested in joining 4-H, please call your local county Extension Office. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. The Texas A&M University System, US Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Court of Texas Cooperate.



WHY Y2K WON'T BE BUGGING YOUR ATM

By U.S. SEN. PHIL GRAMM



There should be no need for Texans to resort to hiding their money in piggy banks or under mattresses come New Year's Eve this year. The banking industry appears to be better prepared than most for the possible computer problems resulting from the Year 2000. I recently visited the Federal Reserve banks in

Dallas, Houston and San Antonio to view their facilities and discuss what procedures they have implemented to get Texas banks ready for the Year 2000. As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, I want to know what the banking and financial services industries have done to inoculate themselves against the "Y2K Bug."

What started over thirty years ago as a simple cost-saving measure to record dates in a mainframe computer has evolved into the Year 2000 problem (Y2K) and, through neglect, it has come back to haunt not only the computer world, but all of us.

In the 1960s and 1970s, decisions were made to write the date in computer programs as two digits in order to save precious memory on computers which, by current standards, are dinosaurs. So, the year 1970 was written as "70" with the "19" being taken as understood by the computer system. To calculate the age of someone born in 1940, represented as "40," a computer sees "99" for the year 1999, subtracts the birth year "40" and determines that the person's age is 59.

Problems may develop when we reach midnight on December 31, 1999. Computers left unfixed will then see the date "00" and interpret it as 1900, not 2000, because "19" is what the computer has been programmed to understand. So on January 1, 2000, someone born in 1940 would be "00" minus "40" or -40 years old. And since someone can't have a negative age, he would be viewed by the computer as non-existent.

Since dates are used extensively to determine if someone should receive or not receive something -- Social Security, checks, private pensions, Medicare benefits, drivers licenses, voter registrations, school grades, tax refunds -- you can appreciate how important the Y2K bug is, even if you never touch a computer. Dates are particularly important in banking and finance -- due dates, checking account deposits, mortgages, loan payments. Without reliable systems, you could be over-billed, your interest rate could be miscalculated, or your ATM might simply refuse to recognize you, cutting you off from your checking account.

This problem is not a computer virus, in the true meaning of the word. The phrase "millennium bug" has become widely used to describe the problem, but the computer systems are doing exactly what they have been programmed to do. They need to be re-programmed.

Fortunately, banks in Texas seem to be in good shape and getting better. They are doing what needs to be done to ensure that their customers see a smooth transition from 1999 to 2000. Tremendous amounts of energy and time have been spent to update computer systems, run simulations, check and double-check and prepare back-ups.

A year ago, state and federal banking regulators launched a program to make sure that all banks are prepared for the Year 2000. Banks are being compelled to review and test all of their systems and to purchase whatever new equipment and software are necessary to ensure that their systems are immune from glitches.

The job is enormous. The United States Federal Reserve System provides us with cash, processes checks, makes electronic payments and settlements, receives tax receipts, maintains accounts, and issues, transfers and redeems federal securities. In 1998, it averaged 390,000 electronic fund transfers per day totaling more than \$1.3 trillion. Obviously a well-oiled Federal Reserve is highly critical to our nation's monetary stability and security. I am happy to report that the Federal Reserve has been quite proactive in addressing the Y2K issue, and in testing all mission-critical systems has achieved 98 percent Y2K compliance thus far.

In addition, the Federal Reserve has plans to increase the amount of money it has on hand by approximately fourteen percent over current levels by the end of this year in anticipation of possible customer demands for extra cash. Remember, your money in federally insured institutions will remain insured up to \$100,000 per financial institution. If a bank were to experience any Y2K problems, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation will protect your insured deposits. No person has ever lost a dime of insured funds for all of the FDIC's 65 years of existence. But money kept in cookie jars or in wallets is not insured. I intend to keep using my checkbook, credit card and ATM card.

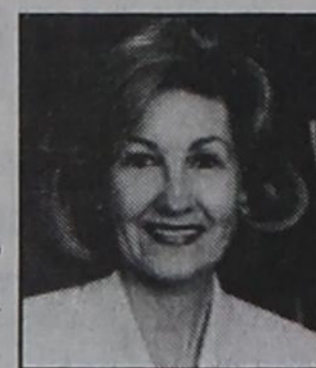
Finally, there are a couple of things you can do to get ready for the New Year. The FDIC, which insures most banks, has a pamphlet available at its insured banks which lists some questions you should ask to determine whether your bank is ready for the Year 2000. Ask your local bank for the pamphlet, "The Year 2000 Date Change," or call the U.S. General Services Administration's Consumer Information Center toll free at 888-878-3256 and ask for "Item 613F." They will mail you "The Year 2000, Your Bank and You."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Sen. Gramm wants to hear from you on this and other issues facing Texans. To send him your views, please write him at 370 Russell, Washington, D.C., 20510. To learn more about what's happening in Washington, you may also wish to visit Sen. Gramm's Web site at <http://gramm.senate.gov>)



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO STRENGTHEN TEXAS AGRICULTURE

Agriculture is still the backbone of the Texas economy, and a key element of American success in the global marketplace. To ensure that American agriculture prospers in the next century, we need to free it from government policies established in the last century. By strengthening our agricultural competitiveness, we benefit from strong exports while the rest of the world benefits from the availability of high quality, affordable American agricultural products.

In June I unveiled a comprehensive proposal to boost agricultural competitiveness, designed to stabilize farm income, increase exports and address unfair trade practices. In addition, we need to revisit the way Congress provides farmers and ranchers with emergency relief when weather-related disasters occur.

My proposal has four primary provisions. Taken together, I believe it will address the farm sector's most pressing concerns:

- **Tax Relief:** I want to create Farm and Ranch Risk Management (FARRM) Accounts. FARRM accounts will allow farmers and ranchers to contribute up to 20 percent of their income to a tax-deferred, IRA-type account from which they could draw during bad years.

- **Last year Congress permanently restored income averaging for farmers.** Combining FARRM accounts with income averaging should help farmers combat the year-to-year fluctuations in income that are a hallmark of the agriculture business. And it would give farmers and ranchers the freedom to manage their own incomes and the opportunity to make their own business decisions with less government intervention.

- **Trade Equity:** The next provision of my bill would require the development of a comprehensive, government-wide strategy to address foreign market-distorting practices that affect the U.S. agriculture industry.

- **Texas' ailing sheep industry offers a textbook example of why this is so badly needed:** Over the past five years, lamb imports have doubled. Imported lamb has been priced as much as 60 percent below domestic prices.

- **In accordance with the requirements of current law, American lamb producers filed an action with the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) in accordance with the 1974 Trade Act.** Last February the ITC voted 6-0 to approve a finding that a surge in imports has hurt domestic producers. To date the administration has taken no action on the ITC finding, which would permit appropriate restrictions on imports according to current domestic and international law. I wrote to the president in June urging him to seek action on the finding, but Texas lamb producers and I are still waiting.

- **Sanctions Reform:** My proposal would prohibit the imposition of agriculture sanctions on any country unless it were listed by the U.S. State Department as one that supports terrorism. It directs the Secretary of State to undertake a comprehensive review of this list of nations and revise it as appropriate.

- **Emergency Aid:** The bill would create a congressional commission to overhaul the current emergency spending process and develop new procedures for providing federal assistance in the event of natural disasters such as floods, droughts and tornados. Families plan for emergencies, the federal government should, too. The commission would be charged with developing a way to set aside a certain amount each year for true emergencies. Once such a fund is established, it could be tapped without throwing the rest of the federal budget out of balance. We should be able to meet emergency needs without resorting to last-minute, crisis budgeting.

Agriculture is at a turning point. The production of food and fiber by family-owned farms and ranches in America is too valuable an asset -- one we can't afford to lose. Tax and trade measures which strengthen agriculture, in the long run, will benefit all of us.



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Estelle Craddock is our Representative for the Gorman Area
She may be reached by calling 254-734-2363.

We now have a Portable Cement Mixer available for Rental. The Mixer can hold 1 1/4 yards of concrete. From the time of batching the mix, you have around 45 minutes to get the mixer to your site. Come by to see the mixer and discuss with us your needs. We also have other concrete tools, bull float, trowels, and etc.

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DESDEMONA NEWS

By Vonnie Guthery

De & Vicki Robinett, Derek Robinett of DeLeon--Billy & Nikki Febinger & son, Christopher of Stephenville--Keith Robinett & Chris Ray of Amarillo--Gary & Jody Walston of Desdemona visited recently with Bernard and Ann Keith.

Desdemona monthly musical will be on Saturday, July 24 at the Community Center. All area musicians and visitors are invited to attend. Come early for good food and sandwiches, homemade pie and drinks at the concession stand.

Community Center recently purchased a piano for the musicals and other social events held there. The old antique piano is now for sale--call 254-758-2665 if you are interested.

Marsha Johnson and son, Billy of Lovington, New Mexico visited the past weekend with her parents, Bob & Merlene Wisdom. Chris, she spent a few weeks with his grandparents re-

turned home with his mother to get ready to start to school. They all attended a family reunion over the weekend.

Dorothy (Williams) Robert, Ruth (Williams) Daffron, Leo & Eloise Williams all of Desdemona, were in Stephenville last Saturday night, July 17 to attend the birthday party for Fay Williams in the home of W.T. & Evelyn (Williams) Yardley. Other attending were Fay's husband, Debert Williams of Stephenville, Charles & Sara Williams of Granbury, Fay's daughter sue and a granddaughter. These cousins stay busy each year celebrating all their birthdays.

Albert & Pat Holdman visited their daughter, Don & Ann Vardeman and family in Tomball over the weekend. Tim, a grandson returned home to get ready for another school term.

Mary Alice (Burns) Ficklen is slowly improving since a recent stroke,

Card of Thanks

I, Joyce Eaves have retired as of July 1, 1999. To all my customers many thanks for supporting me in my years of business. I will probably miss it for awhile, but I am looking forward to more time for some rest and fishing.

Thanks again
Joyce Eaves

Lou (Echols) Boyd is taking daily therapy since surgery for a broken arm and knee cap. Leo Williams will have cast removed Monday following an accident of a broken arm. Bobbi Haggard is doing very well since her recent surgery, Alpha Thiebaud and Lorene Koonce continue to be patients in the DeLeon Rest Home. So may other in our area are on the sick list and some are shut ins. Remember these with your cards and prayers.

Scotty & Pat Koonce and family enjoyed a nice vacation out west and on in to New Mexico. They toured Carlsbad Caverns and other places of interest.

Desdemona Homecoming and School Reunion will be held on Saturday, August 14. Morning program starts at 10:00 am--noon meal catered. Invitations have been sent to ex's who live out of town. If any of those read this news column, please contact this reporter if you have plans to attend so we can get a good count on the noon meal. This is very important for those who cater the meal. Your help will be appreciated. Thanks!

Class of 1949 will have their 50th Class Reunion on Saturday eve, August 14 at the First Baptist Annex (formerly Methodist Church) starting at 3:00 pm. Supper will be catered at 6:30 pm by Jami's Catfish of Desdemona (owned by Virgil & Tracy Holdman). Class members are Winford Lindley, Pug Guthery, Ray Brazell all of Desdemona, Tommy Jacobs of Pasadena, don Wittie of Snyder, Ernest Key of Mesquite, Billy Paul Lewis of Cisco, Nell (Grimshaw) Ragland, La Rue (Carr) Campbell of Desdemona, Mildred (Hogg) Barker of DeLeon, Marie (Files) Ross of Houston, Helen (Craig) Spellman of Denver, Colorado,

Elaine (Lewis) Battenfield of Gorman, Regina (Read) Cooper of Whitewright, Juanita (Hoskins) Langlitz of Eastland, Jo Ann (Paul) Good of Carbondale, Kansas, Evelyn Jean (Obel) Nixon of Burnet.

Dixie Ryon and granddaughters, Kristen and Kelsey Menzel spent last Saturday in Abilene shopping while their mother, Vivian Menzel and other grandmother Bea Menzel of DeLeon were in Fort Worth to attend a play.

Church of Christ visitors last Sunday were B.J. & Clarene Melton of Richardson and Ronnie Bush of Ranger.

Roberta Johnson, wife of Willie Paul Johnson of Slaton, passed away on Sunday morning. Services will be on Tuesday at 10:00 am in Lubbock and graveside services at 4:30 pm on Tuesday at Howard Cemetery north of Desdemona.

Dorothy Roberts was lucky and won four tickets for the Texas Rangers ballgame. Tickets were won at the W.H. Smith Store in DeLeon.

Have A Nice Day--Vonnice Rue

4-H Members Learn the Ropes

Thirty-seven 4-H members recently attended a three day intensive leadership and team-building retreat in Palestine and Grapeland, Texas. Attending the District 8 4-H Leadership Institute from Eastland County were Blair Bailey and Pam Osborne. They represented the 200 plus 4-H members enrolled in various clubs within the county.

Corporate sponsor for the retreat was SPRINT Telecommunications, who provided primary financial support of the District 8 4-H Leadership Institute. In addition to totally funding the training on both low and high Ropes elements, SPRINT Telecommunications provided each attendee with a commemorative T-shirt of the Ropes course training. Also to celebrate their 100th Anniversary of serving the telecommunication needs of their customer SPRINT provided a 5-minute prepaid calling card to every participant so they could call home and share their experiences.

4-H members attending the District 8 Leadership Institute were given in-depth training on the changing demographics in Texas and specifically for their respective county. A one-day group was held and each participant developed a county-specific action plan they would implement in the upcoming 4-H year to increase program participation. The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is committed to increasing the awareness and participation in the Texas 4-H program by minority youth so they can appreciate the diversity of project offerings of this dynamic youth organization.

Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Services serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin. To learn more about joining 4-H or the volunteer opportunities available, call the Eastland County Extension Office at 626-2222 or 629-1093.



Some people think it unlucky to see an owl or a crow.

CARBON NEWS

By MICHELLE THACKERSON

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer. The weather is cooperating for lots of swimming.

Carbon Community Baptist Church young adult Sunday School class had a swimming party at Jody & Wendy Forbus' house. We grilled hamburgers and had homemade ice cream. We had a wonderful time visiting and swimming.

Carbon Community Baptist Church had G.A.'s recognition service Sunday night. They received awards for their hard work and studies. Also we

had missionaries Jerry & Barbara Clower from Singapore there to speak and show slides. They had a wonderful message. We had a full house and enjoyed all the different homemade ice cream following the service. The G.A. girls and leaders would like to thank our church and community for all your help and support.

If you have anything at all you would like to put in our Carbon news I would appreciate it very much. Please call me at 639-2244.

Thank you and God Bless.

I would also like anyone to know that if they would like to sign a petition against the St. Judes Boys Home. Please call me and I will get one to you to sign.

Thank You and God Bless
Michelle Thackerson

This does not necessary reflect the opinion of this newspaper

Paid Advertisement

KOKOMO NEWS

ZELDA JORDAN - PHONE 254-639-2289

Summertime has been true to its name with the temperature in the nineties. A nice cool rain would sure be welcome.

Harold and Beth Welch of Gorman were visitors at the Kokomo Baptist Church on Sunday morning. The special music was rendered by the choir: Kay Snider, Glynda Bond, Norma Webb, Ruby Lee Kinser, Helen Browning, Jimmy Little, Oren Webb, Joe Bond and Woodrow Browning. "Happy Birthday" was sun to James Little who had a birthday on July 20.

Those from the Kokomo Baptist Church going to the Cisco Baptist Association Gospel Jubilee at the Bethel Baptist Church in Eastland on Monday night were Bro. Clarence Wilson, Nancy Hendricks, Zelda Jordan and Norma Webb. Really enjoyed the beautiful singing.

Visitors with Nancy Hendricks were Johnnie B. Griffith, JoNell Torrez of Gorman, Ruth Bryant and Hope Joines.

Lindsey Eaton of Ovalo spent Sunday night and Monday with her grandmother, Juanita Fuller.

Hazel Snider and LaVon Snider

visited with Dianne, Justin and Sandra Snider at Gorman on Saturday afternoon.

Gene and Kay Snider and Dan Snider visited with Hazel Snider on Monday.

June and Gladine Cates of Big Spring visited with Vernon and Deon Fields and Lindell.

Anna Snider Celebrates 2nd Birthday

Jamie and Stephanie Snider honored their daughter, Anna, with a birthday party in their home on Saturday evening, July 17. Anna was two on July 19. "Noah's Ark" was the theme for the birthday cake.

Those helping Anna celebrate and enjoying the barbecue sandwiches, Birthday cake and ice cream were her parents, Jamie & Stephanie and brothers, Kael, Craig, Matthew and Andrew, her grandparents, Ted & Charlotte Snider, and Robert & Jan Slampa; great-grandmothers, Ileta Cavitt of DeLeon and Hazel Snider; and aunts, uncles and cousins, LaVon Snider of Brownwood, Susan, Clay, Kinsey, Caitlin and Kyann Wheat of Ranger and Stephen, Kim and Chloe Slampa of Gorman.

Concerned About Older People?

One of The Phone Numbers Given Here Can Help

"The Texas Bar Foundation was one of the early supporters of the Nursing Home Advocacy Project," says Randy Chapman, Executive Director of the Texas Legal Services Center, where the tollfree hotline is housed. "Basically, they gave us money to get the word out to nursing home residents and their caregivers."

Through television public service announcements and other forms of publicity, these residents and caregivers were given the tollfree number--1-888-343-4414-- that would enable them to speak to attorneys familiar with elder law free of charge. That way callers could determine if legal action against a given nursing home should be considered. If the answer

was yes, the caller would also get a referral to an attorney who had agreed to work at a reduced fee.

"The Nursing Home Advocacy Project seemed a natural adjunct to one of our other services," Chapman explained. "We also sponsor the Legal Hotline for Older Texans, where callers can get all sorts of free advice and information on a range of legal topics." This hotline's number is 1-800-622-2520.

Chapman found that those who called the Nursing Home Advocacy Project, however, could frequently be served by another organization. "Basically we refer the calls with relatively minor complaints--room temperature, say, or food-- to the Area Agencies on Aging ombudsmen (1800-252-2412). Serious abuses, on the other hand, would have to be reported to the Texas Department of Human Services Long Term Care Regulatory Division (1-800-458-9858). Or maybe the caller just wanted to volunteer at a nursing home, in which case we'd refer him or her to Adopt A Nursing Home (1-800-889-8595)."

Serving as a clearinghouse of sorts doesn't bother Chapman because "in a way we're all, in the same business, which is helping solve the problems that nursing home residents and their loved ones have."

At its inception, Chapman points out, the Nursing Home Advocacy Project brought representatives of all the above agencies and quite a few more together "to make sure they knew what we wanted to do and make sure, too, that we knew what they were doing." These included the Texas Advocates for Nursing Home Residents (1-888-826-4748), Advocates for Nursing Home Reform (1-512-266-1961), Texas Gray Panthers (1-512-458-3738), and American Association of Retired Persons (1-512-480-9797). The project also sought the advice of State Senator Judith Zaffirini, Chapman said. Zaffirini (1-512-463-0360) has long been a proponent of improved nursing home care.

Anyone who want further information on the Nursing Home Advocacy Project should write NHAP, Suite 110, 815 Brazos, Austin TX 78701 for a brochure. "It lists all of the agencies involved," Chapman says, "so it's a good reference as well as a description of what it is we do."

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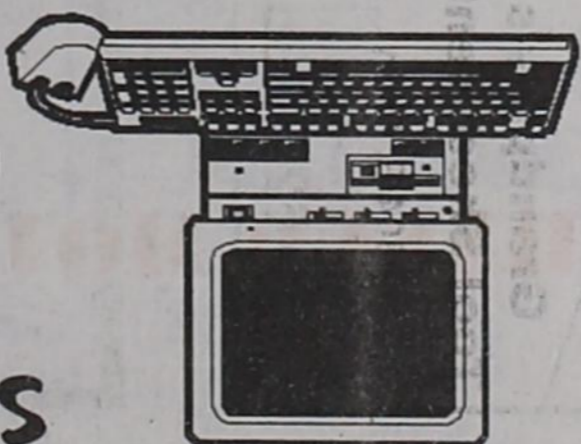
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POSITION FOR HIRE

The Eastland County Crisis Center is accepting applications for the position of Clerical Assistant. This person will work sixteen hours a week with the potential to become full-time. The salary is \$7.50 per hour. The position will not be allowed overtime.

JOB SKILLS REQUIRED:

Someone at least 21 years of age, with a high school degree or GED. College education is preferred, but experience may be substituted for this area. A candidate would be able to type at least 50 WPM with 10-key touch capability. Previous office experience is a must. Applicant should be able to provide documentation of prior experience in the following areas: inventory, filing, correspondence, copying, customer service, and answering the phone. This person must be responsible and able to function on a tight schedule. Computer experience is required. The applicant must have a working knowledge of Windows 95, Microsoft Office 95, databases, and spreadsheets. This person must be available to work on a 24 hour basis. There will be some work necessary after office hours.

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

It is required that the person hired complete an extensive training course to qualify for the position. The person hired must complete the course at the next scheduled training session.

To obtain applications, please call 254-629-3223 M-F from 8-5 or write the Eastland County Crisis Center, Inc., P. O. Box 1010, Eastland, Texas 76448. ATTN: Keli Aiken.

WALK-INS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

Heritage Manor News

By Nancy Hendricks

A Note From The Administrator

Has anyone been by to see our July 4 "Holiday Pine"? It has all kinds of really neat red, white and blue patriotic ornaments on it. Our "Holiday Pine" is dressed differently each month according to holidays or some event that happens during the month. You

ought to come by and see how creative Ina and the Nursing Home Residents can be. See you at the Nursing Home. (s)Jeff

The next Birthday Party will be Thursday July 29th at 2:00 pm. Honorees are Muriel Prewitt, Buddy Winn, Modess Self and Velma Bennett. Guests are welcome.



Jack Bellows' Observe Diamond 70th Anniversary

On Wednesday, July 14th at 2:00 pm, Darrell & Pat Graham hosted an Anniversary Party honoring Pat's parents, Jack & Mildred's "Diamond" 70th Anniversary at Heritage Manor.

Jack & Mildred were married July 13th in 1929 in Durant, Oklahoma. J. Ashley performed the ceremony.

They lived in Ector, Texas before moving to Gorman, to Heritage Manor to be near Mr. & Mrs. Graham.

Other children are Donny & Sally Bellows of Dallas and Ronnie Bellows of Denton, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

The beautiful Anniversary cake bore the inscription "Happy 70th Anniversary". It has computerized pictures of the 1929 wedding picture, 50th Anniversary and 60th Anniversary.

The table had a white linen tablecloth, centered with a yellow rose centerpiece give to them by Heritage Manor and a beautiful Anniversary card with everyone's autographs. Happy Anniversary napkins, plates and cups were used to serve the Anniversary cake and frosted punch.

Mrs. Bellows is noted for her sweet smile and Mr. Jack, his white hat. In his wedding picture he has his hair parted in the middle. He still had a middle part, just a little wider.

Enjoying the happy occasion were Inez Rogers, A.V. Seay, Modess Self, Ollie Halcomb, Dorothy Beaty, Velma Bennett, Veno Hale, Frankie Jarrett, S.D. Gilmore, Myrtle Hale, Joe Bennett, Ruth Campbell, Ruth Bryant, Ina Smith, Vickie Rich, Ashley Rich, Mona Zameskal, Kathy Torrez, Nancy Lewis, Pat Murphy, Victoria Perez, Muriel Gomez, Jennifer Overstreet, Rose Hamilton, Tonya Burgess, Nancy Hendricks, the honorees Jack & Mildred and hosts Darrell & Pat Graham.

Visiting Ima Lee Burselon were Chris & Whitney Morris from DeLeon, Jim & Karen Burselon, Howard & Georgie Lee Iley of Desdemona and Inez Rogers.

Thursday morning Ina Smith had "word game" for Modess Self, Velma Bennett, Veno Hale, Frankie Jarrett, A.V. Seay, Ollie Halcomb and Iola Johnson.

June Salik visited her aunt Doris Fowler.

Thursday afternoon with 95 degree weather the home made ice cream with Ina Smith sure tasted good to Inez Rogers, Veno Hale, Ollie Halcomb, Frankie Jarrett, S.D. Gilmore, Modess Self, Dorothy Beaty, Estelle Morris and Velma Bennett.

Visiting Modess Self and Olla Walker were Dave & Lanita Freeman, Ken & Betty Sue Heathington, Eunice Love, Howard & Pat Hagood and Christine Self.

Some of Irene Heathington's guests were Ken & Betty Sue Heathington, Dave & Lanita Freeman, Eunice Love, Clarence & Leona Wilson and Hope Joiner.

Some of Vadis Phelp's guests were Faye Tucker, Mitzi McGaha, Kellye Carruth, Birdie Hogan and Elnora

Lindley.

Some of Venita Hammon's guests were Johnny Torrez, Emily & Sam Torrez, Becky & Jeremy Torrez of DeLeon, Rev. Clarence & Leon Wilson of Stephenville.

On Sunday morning, Bro. Harold & Beth Welch taught the Sunday School lesson for Veno Hale, Ollie Halcomb, Jack Bellows, S.D. Gilmore, Inez Rogers, Iola Johnson, Frankie Jarrett, Velma Bennett and Ora Mae Atchison.

Visiting Patti Whitehorn and Frankie Jarrett were Dub & Lovelle Crowley of Comfort, Rev. T.D. Whitehorn, Mary Estes, Marie Cook and Ina Reynolds of Carbon, Kay Watson, Mark Watson, Clifton Jarrett, Hope Joiner, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Eunice Love and Samantha Krause.

On Sunday afternoon, those coming from the Kokomo Baptist Church were Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson, Daryl Hirst, Ruby Lee Kinser, Woodrow & Helen Browning, Joe & Glynda Bond, Jimmy & Verna Lee Little, Hope Joiner, Ruth Bryant and Nancy Hendricks. Residents were Veno Hale, Ollie Halcomb, A.V. Seay, Jack & Mildred Bellows, (guest Pat Graham), Estelle Morris, Inez Rogers, Velma Bennett, Ava Rodgers, Myrtle Hale, Frankie Jarrett and Ora Mae Atchison.

Some of Ava Rodgers guests were Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Daryl Hirst, Joe & Glynda Bond, Ruth Bryant, Hope Joiner, Faye Tucker, Samantha Krause, Eunice Love, Jimmy & Verna Lee Little, Ima Brown, Jana Grice, Jimmy Rodgers of Midlothian.

Some of Ed Johnson and B.T. Hanna's guests were Nolan and Mandy Treadway of Midland, Dale Johnson, Fay Johnson, Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Jeff Smith, Sheila Gibbs and Haven Dawn.

On Friday morning, Ina Smith had bingo for Ava Rodgers, Veno Hale, Ollie Halcomb, Patti Whitehorn, Dorothy Beaty, Jack & Mildred Bellows, Frankie Jarrett, S.D. Gilmore, A.V. Seay, Inez Rogers, Ora Mae Atchison, Iola Johnson, Modess Self, Cynthia Earles and Velma Bennett.

Some of Mary Williams guests were Hope Joiner, Maxine Frasier of DeLeon, Durwood Webb, Howard & Pat Hagood, Samantha Krause, Irene West, Ina Reynolds, Juanita Files, Nancy Hendricks, Ruth Bryant, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Fred & Mary McMullen of Melrose, NM.

Visiting Hazel Wisdom and Stella Files were Ken & Pat Kincannon of Hico, Bob Wisdom and Eloise Williams of Desdemona, Audrey Pond, Hope Joiner, Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Eric Kincannon of Bryan.

On Friday afternoon, Ina Smith had crazy bingo for Patti Whitehorn, Veno Hale, Frankie Jarrett, S.D. Gilmore, Jack & Mildred Bellows, A.V. Seay and Inez Rogers.

Visiting Veno Hale and Iola Johnson were Jimmy & Verna Lee Little, Hope Joiner, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson, Sam Kruse, Eunice Love, Ina Reynolds and Ruby Norris of Carbon.

Some of A.V. Seay and Myrtle Hale's guests were Mr. & Mrs. Frank Reeves of Irving, Thurman Hale of DeLeon, Ennis & Nina Joiner, Argie & Margie Hale, Audrey Pond, Hope Joiner, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson

of Stephenville, Samantha Krause, Chris Sanders, Mr. & Mrs. L.T. Fair of Stephenville.

On Monday morning, Ina Smith had bingo for Velma Bennett, A.V. Seay, Inez Rogers, Veno Hale, Ollie Halcomb, Myrtle Hale, Iola Johnson, Frankie Jarrett, Modess Self and S.D. Gilmore.

Visiting Estelle Morris and Velma Bennett were Leon & Ollie Childress of Sidney, Kendra Brown, Benny Duske, Ruth Campbell, Margie & Paige Duske, Eunice Love, Howard & Pat Hagood, Samantha Krause, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson.

Visiting Muriel Prewitt were Grace Townley, Libby, Eunice Love, Samantha Krause and Howard & Pat Hagood.

On Monday afternoon, those coming for the Sing-A-Long were Ruby Lee Kinser, Ernestine Campbell, Ethel Weaver, Marjorie Treadway, Nina Joiner, Daisy Slaton, Alpha Mae Andry, Ruth Bryant and Nancy Hendricks. Residents were Cynthia Earles, Inez Rogers, A.V. Seay, Myrtle Hale, Velma Bennett, Estelle Morris, S.D. Gilmore, Mildred Bellows, Ollie Halcomb, Ima Lee Burselon, Frankie Jarrett, Veno Hale, Doris Fowler and Patti Whitehorn.

Some of Agnes Akard and Volita Richardson's visitors were Patsy Hubbard, Jennifer Hubbard, Allison Hubbard of Venezuela, Molly Gains, Ty and Nicole of Temple, Dianne Snider, Vicki Doyle of Ranger, Bill & Cliffla Vaughn, Pat & Howard Hagood, Jo Etheredge, Eunice Love, Samantha Krause, Eunice Love, Rev. Clarence

and Leona Wilson of Stephenville and Nancy Hendricks.

On Tuesday morning, Betty Duke of Desdemona came and played the electric organ and led singing for Ora Mae Atchison, Iola Johnson, Veno Hale, A.V. Seay, Ollie Halcomb, Velma Bennett, Myrtle Hale, Modess Self, Mildred Bellows, Frankie Jarrett, Stella Files, S.D. Gilmore, Jack Bellows, Dorothy Beaty, Inez Rogers, Estelle Morris and Ima Lee Burselon.

Visiting Ollie Halcomb and Dorothy Beaty were David & Denna Halcomb, Eunice Love, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville.

Some of S.D. Gilmore's guests were Durwood Webb, Howard & Pat Hagood, Eunice Love, Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville and Tonya Burgess.

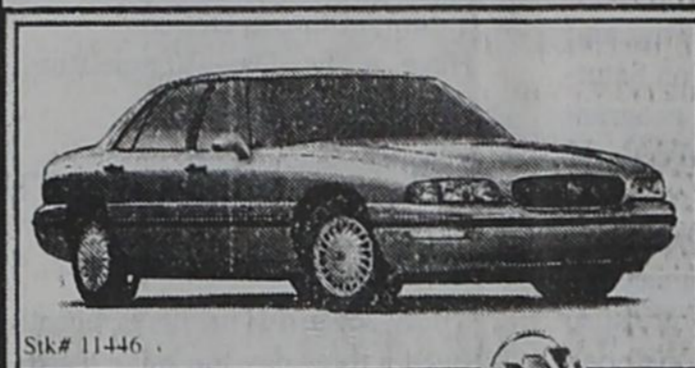
On Tuesday afternoon Ina Smith

had Alphabet bingo for Velma Bennett, A.V. Seay, Jack & Mildred Bellows, Ollie Halcomb, Veno Hale and Inez Rogers.

Visiting Ora Mae Atchison and Inez Rogers were Buddy Rogers of Ranger, Chesley Atchison, Edie Nichols, Rev. Clarence & Leona Wilson of Stephenville, Quida Joyce and Kacie Gartman of Camey, Dixie Ryon and Violet Watson of Desdemona, Fred & Joy Rogers, Eunice Love, Samantha Krause of Carbon, Lugene Morris of DeLeon, Letty Craddock and Dwight Rogers.

On Wednesday morning, Bro. Durwood Webb from Church of Christ brought Chapel for Iola Johnson, Inez Rogers, Ollie Halcomb, Patti Whitehorn, Jack & Mildred Bellows, A.V. Seay, Veno Hale, Velma Bennett, S.D. Gilmore and Ora Mae Atchison.

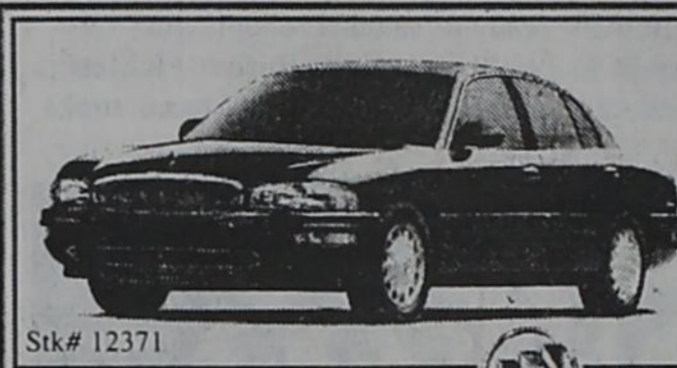
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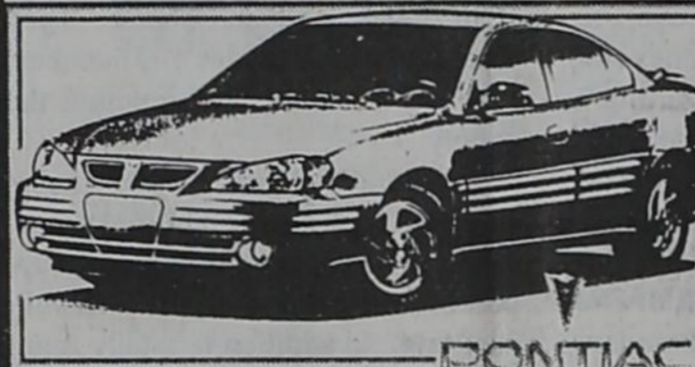
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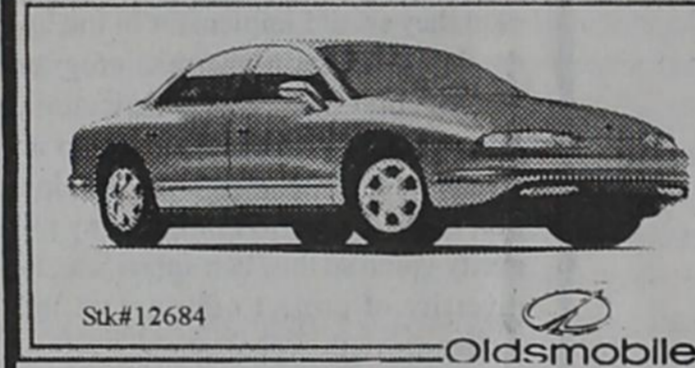
MSRP \$25,955
36 mo. S.B. per mo. \$378.⁰¹



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Auto, Air, Cruise, Tilt, AM/FM Cass., CD, 36 Mo./36,000 Mile Factory Warranty

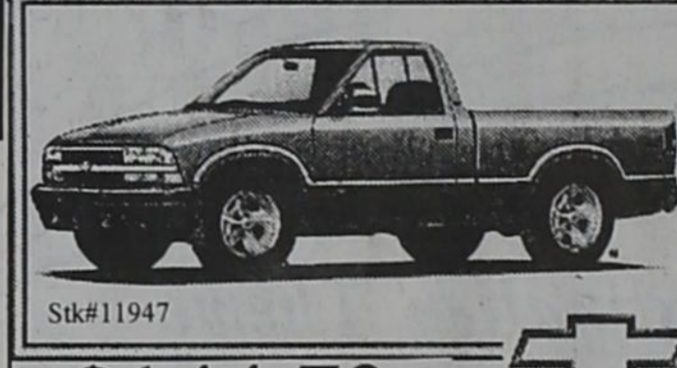
MSRP \$17,600
36 mo. S.B. per mo. \$205.⁷⁶



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36 mo. S.B. per mo. \$440.³³



1999 Chevy S-10 Pickup

Air AM/FM Stereo, 36. Mo./36,000 Mile Factory Warranty

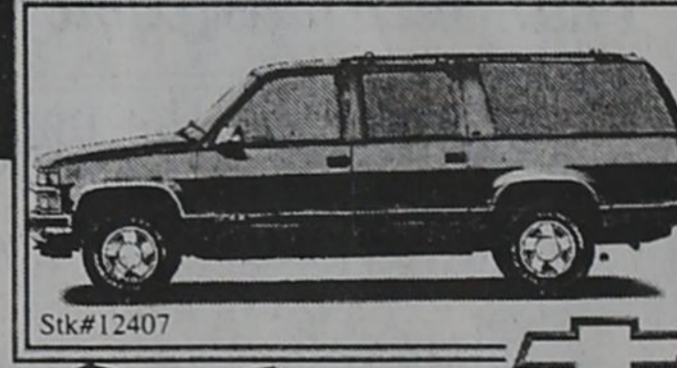
MSRP \$12,963
36 mo. S.B. per mo. \$144.⁷²



1999 CHEVY SILVERADO PICKUP

1/2 ton extended cab 4x2 Silverado, 4300 V-6, air, cruise & tilt, AM/FM stereo, 36 months/36,000 miles, factory warranty

MSRP \$19,915 +TT&L



1999 Chevy Suburban

Front & Rear Air, Cruise, Tilt, AM/FM Cassette, 36 Mo./36,000 Mile Factory Warranty MSRP \$30,082

MSRP \$329.⁰⁶
36 mo.S.B. per mo.

*S.B. - GMAC Smart Buy. Option to Own, Trade, Sell or Walk Away At End of Term. All Pmts. Shown Based on \$1,000 Down plus TT&L Final Payment on Grand Prix - \$11,940.08% - On Montana - \$13,750.15. On Alero - \$10,032.84. On S-10 - \$7,539.28. On Suburban - \$20,154.95. On Aurora - \$18,080.51. Based on 12K miles per year. All Rebate & Incentives to Dealer. Picture & Vehicle may vary. All W.A.C. All prices +TT&L.

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