



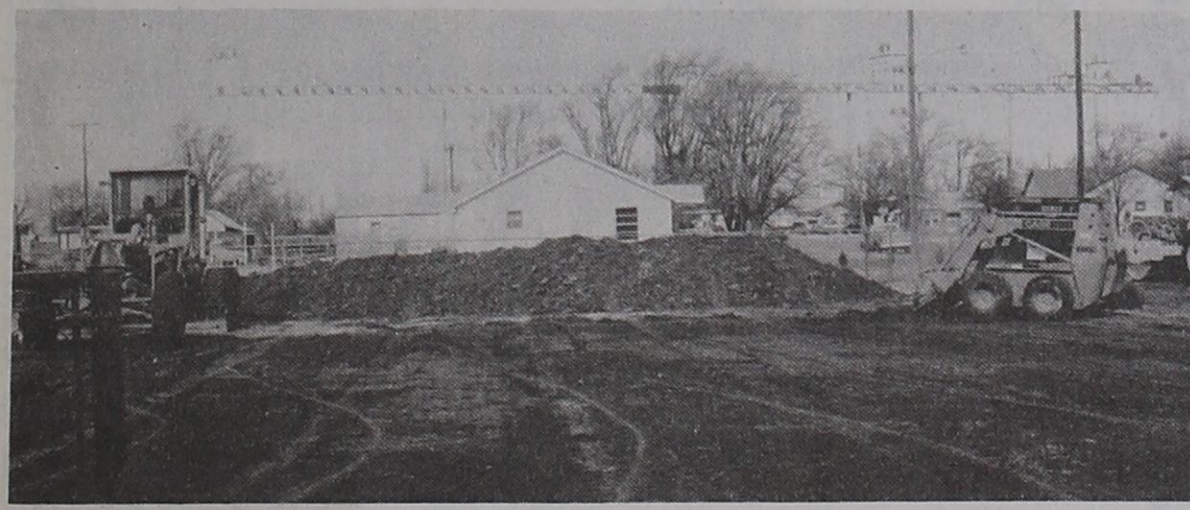
GRAND CHAMPION BARROW....J'Lond Jarecki's 200 pound Crossbred barrow won the light medium-weight class at the Parmer County Junior Livestock Show last weekend and was later named Grand Champion. He is a Friona showman.



GRAND CHAMPION STEER....Alicia Smith of Friona was the owner of the 1300 pound Cross steer that was named Grand Champion at last weekend's junior livestock show.



GRAND CHAMPION LAMB....M'Kell Jarecki of Friona is shown here with her Medium Wool lamb that was named Grand Champion of the 1998 Parmer County Junior Livestock Show. Her 127 pound lamb had earlier won the light heavyweight division.



MOVING DIRT.....Workers are shown grading the site for the new school administration building at the north end of the school property. Construction is being managed by Thurman James, the construction contractor from Amarillo who remodeled the school cafeteria

Blood Drive Set For This Monday

The Coffee Memorial Blood Center is asking all residents to give the "gift of life" at the Bovina blood drive Monday, February 2 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Ambulance Center.

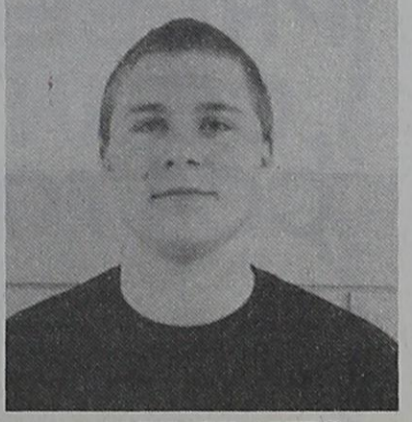
Blood donors may give every 56 days. Please contact the Blood Center if you are unsure of your eligibility to donate (806) 358-4563.

City Hall To Close at Noon Hour

Effective February 1, 1998, Bovina's City Hall will close from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. for the noon hour.

The noon closing was passed at the Alderman's meeting on January 8. The one-hour closing will be effective daily as of Feb. 1.

Citizens are asked to plan to transact business with the city before noon or after 1 p.m.



YANCY GRAVES Student Of The Week

Bovina freshman Yancy Graves was selected as student-of-the-week.

He was nominated by teacher Lawrence Widner as a student that does a good job in class, represents the school in UIL and is always willing to do his part and to help others.

Yancy participates in JV football, is a basketball manager, and in the livestock show.

Election Sign-ups Nearing

Residents are reminded of the May 3 election for city council and school board.

There will be three openings on the city council. Terms for Mayor Galen Hromas and Aldermen Kenneth Waters and Radford Venable will be expiring.

The school board will have three openings as terms for board members Mike Beauchamp, Bob Owen, and Elizabeth Ortiz will expire.

Applications for any of these positions will be available starting February 16 and the last day to sign up as a candidate will be March 18.

The election will be held Saturday, May 3, 1998.

Information on placing your name in nomination is available at city hall or at the school superintendent's office.

COMBEST SAYS Clinton Took Credit For GOP Legislation

"President Clinton took credit for many of the Republican-sponsored programs in his State of the Union address Tuesday, some of which earned him the polite applause of members of congress."

So said Larry Combest (R-Lubbock) in a teleconference Wednesday morning with some of the publishers in his district. Bovina Blade/Friona Star publisher Bill Ellis took part.

"He basically took the Republican agenda for the past few years and bragged on it," Combest stated. "He (Clinton) battled us tooth and nail against many facets of the balanced budget bill, welfare reform and IRS reform. But Tuesday night he took credit for every one of these, as if they were his ideas," the area congressman said.

Those who have followed Clinton's moves as president are all too familiar with this trait of his.

The congressman did not initiate any reference to Clinton's current sex scandal, saying that at the present time it was not his place to be concerned. But he did politely answer questions by the publishers on the subject. (See related story).

"He made an excellent speech. I've always been impressed with his speech-making ability. It's just that I hated to see him taking credit for our (the GOP leaders) work," Combest said.

The president mentioned a budget surplus which money he would like to apply to other programs.

"If you add up all of the programs he proposed last night, there will be no surplus to worry about. I would much rather see this money returned to the taxpayers in the form of tax reduction," the lawmaker said.

Any new programs the president might get passed will turn out to be "money pits" for taxpayers an arm and a leg to fund for years to come, he explained.

Challenging Clinton's assertions, Combest said about the following:

"*We (the congress) created the first balanced budget in 16 years. The key to his address, as far as I'm concerned, was that he didn't promise the taxpayers that he wouldn't run out to spend the \$40 to \$50 billion estimated surplus.

"*Social Security is not in bad shape as the president indicated. There is a lot of extra money in the Social Security money. I realize that we need to keep Social Security solvent, but we'll look into our options to make

sure the system is better off in the future.

*On IRS reform: "We passed some legislation before Christmas, to which the president says he's opposed. Although the IRS is saying they are becoming more 'user friendly,' we're waiting to see how taxpayers are treated during audits, etc.

*On tax reform: "This should be a major item. I don't know how willing Clinton would be to sign a tax reform bill. I hope the public will make him WANT to sign one. I come from a farming background, and I particularly don't want to see farmers and small businessmen hurt or lose money. I'm also against taxation of investment

income. This is one of my big priorities."

*On the Farm Bill: "We'll be looking at the Farm Service Agency (Agriculture's credit division) and the Conservation agency"

Rep. Combest said in his personal opinion, the state of the nation was "quite good." "The economy looks promising. There are some areas we need to watch. In our area, we're always hoping for good crops and good crop prices," he said.

Combest did say that the current sex scandal hanging over the president's head might hold him back, but said it should not affect the lawmakers in the immediate future.

Combest Defends Intern Program

Congressman Larry Combest told a group of publishers Wednesday that congress, as well as the president, has an intern program. "At the present time, I have two interns, one from Texas Tech and one from West Texas A&M," he said.

"The intern program is great. We have had some very bright youngsters as our interns. The universities choose them for us."

"The gut-wrenching thing about it (the possible scandal hanging over the president) is IF this happened with the intern, I just don't understand how a man of 50, and particularly the president, could do such a thing. It would be reprehensible. The possibility just turns your stomach."

"I cannot believe the people who say that if no laws were broken, then such (an affair) would be okay. I feel that it would definitely NOT be okay, under any circumstances."

"I treat my interns like they were my children, and I think most in congress do likewise."

The congressman said that during the summer months, members of congress may have from six to eight interns.

Quizzed by publisher Bill Ellis about what his reaction would be should the president have to step down in favor of VP Al Gore, Combest said "I feel Gore would be much more difficult to deal with than Clinton. The thing that concerns me about Gore is his blind devotion to environmental controls through the EPA."

"I don't think this congress would implement many of the things Gore would impose. But there are several things along this line that we might be able to change under Clinton that we might not be able to do under Gore," Combest stated.

"If Clinton is able to weather the storm, I feel like Gore will have some Democratic opponents in 2000. If he (Clinton) has to step down and Gore complete the term, then he most likely wouldn't have any Democratic opponents for a new term."

A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO in this column, I discussed the forthcoming millennium. There was some rebuttal regarding my statement that the 20th century will not end on December 31, 1999 but will actually end on December 31 in the year 2000.

Since being challenged on this, I've been checking with some experts and doing further research on the subject. The final authority turns out to be Harvard Professor, Dr. Stephen Jay Gould who has written a book entitled "Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide To A Precisely Arbitrary Countdown."

Dr. Gould points out that the calendar is strictly a human invention. Of course, keeping track of things by days, has to do with the revolution of the earth; months have to do with the cycles of the moon; and the year with earth's orbit around the sun. But these natural cycles are not an even multiple of each other, so it is difficult to set up a simple calendar with a precise number of days.

The Roman calendar, which our current calendar grew out of, has gone through many changes over the centuries. It started out with ten months and 360 days. Then Julius Ceasar added two months, and changed it to 365.25 days in the year, which requires us to throw in an extra day every four years which we call "leap year."

But that was not precisely right either, so then in the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church decreed that in order to keep the calendar correct in the future, we must drop the extra leap year day in the last year of every century that can be divided by 400. This is our Gregorian calendar which was adopted by England and America in 1752 and differed from the Julian calendar by 11 days.

I mentioned all this just to point out that counting the days, years, and centuries gets to be quite complicated and it has never been a precise science.

For instance, we use the birth of Christ as the point from which we count backward and forward in time: like 325 BC, or 1998 AD. But there are problems there, too. We have no historical records to know exactly when Jesus was born. It is well-documented that King Herod died in 4 B.C. because Herod was a major political figure of that time. So we estimate that Jesus was born around 4 B.C. or a little earlier.

We know that the earth is 4.5 billion years old and that man has been on earth for about 200,000 years. However the BC calendar goes back only to 5,000 BC. So you can see that our calendar is not really a very accurate measure of real time.

In the sixth century when the BC/AD system was begun, they started with the year 1 AD, not with a year called 0. There wasn't a zero in Western mathematics in the sixth

(Continued on Page 7)



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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

389 *Facts About The* **BIBLE** BY JOHN LEHTI

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EVIL HAMAN
HAMAN, HOPING TO GET THE KING'S PERMISSION TO HANG MORDECAI, IS ENRAGED BECAUSE HE MUST LEAD HIS INTENDED VICTIM ALL THROUGH THE CITY, SHOUTING THE KING'S DELIGHT IN HIM....

IF THE KING HONORS MORDECAI, HOW CAN HAMAN PREVAIL AGAINST HIM?!

IF THE KING HAS HONORED MORDECAI, THE JEW, THOU SHALT SURELY FALL BEFORE HIM!

GO TO THE ROYAL BANQUET! BUT KNOW THAT THOU SHALT SURELY PERISH IF THOU CANST NOT HANG MORDECAI!

WITH THIS DIRE PREDICTION FROM THE WISEST OF HIS FRIENDS, HAMAN IS PLUNGED INTO DEEP DESPAIR—EVEN ZERESH, HIS WIFE, HOLDS OUT NO HOPE TO HIM...

ALL HONOR TO MORDECAI, BY THE ORDER OF THE KING!

...NOW HAMAN HURRIES TO HIS HOME AND FRIENDS....

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