

# The Bovina Blade

VOLUME 49, NUMBER 26

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2002

EIGHT PAGES

Only 12  
days 'till  
Christmas

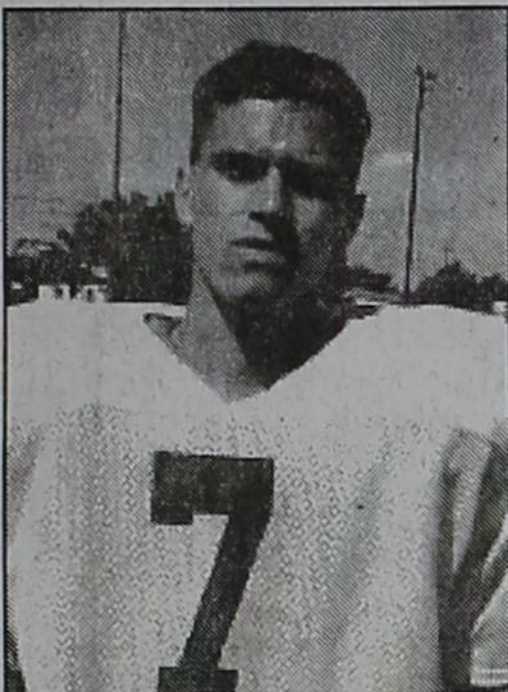


## Caroling For Kids Set For Dec. 20th

Christmas caroling for Bovina's kids will be Friday, December 20. The annual event is sponsored by the Bovina Chamber of Commerce and our local Girl Scout troop.

The cotton trailers full of carolers will be pulled around town assisted by the Bovina Volunteer Fire Department and Bovina Police Department. The trailers will leave the EMS building at 6:30 p.m. and return about 7:30 p.m. for hot dogs and cokes for everyone.

If you would like to help with this call Billy Smith at 251-1677 or Deanna Curtis at 251-9930.



JAKE STEELMAN

**OOPS!..** Last week we misidentified Jake Steelman as Jeff Steelman. We are sure everybody knew the difference but apologize to both guys. Jake was selected All-District Secondary first team defense.

As of December 12, 2002  
**94,748**  
Bales of cotton had been ginned in Parmer County.  
*Bovina Blade Survey*

## Where Did The Christmas Spirit Go?



FFA STUDENTS Courtney Jamerson and J. C. Contreras stand amidst boxes of fruit ready for delivery if they knew where to deliver it. The order forms were stolen. If you ordered fruit, contact an FFA student or the high school office ASAP. See story for details.

## If You Ordered Fruit, Please Contact FFA

The Bovina FFA students need your help. As most folks know, the FFA sells meat and fruit each year as fundraisers for their projects.

The meat has been delivered. The money collected was stolen from the Ag office, along with a folder containing the order forms for the fruit the kids sold.

Consequently, the fruit has now been delivered to the ag office, but since the order forms you filled out were stolen, the FFA students do not know where to deliver your fruit.

If you ordered fruit from

an FFA student, please contact that student and tell them what you ordered so they can deliver and collect.

If you ordered but don't remember which student you ordered from, contact the high school office at 251-1317, or

ag instructor John Villalba.

Help the FFA students out by claiming your fruit ASAP, especially before the holiday break. Thanks for your continued cooperation and support of school fundraising projects.

## County Updates 911 Mapping Software

All emergency 911 calls in Parmer County are routed first to the Friona Police Department, then dispatched to the Sheriff's Office or the appropriate EMS or fire department.

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission (PRPC) maintains the 911 systems of the 26 counties in the Panhandle except for Potter and Randall counties. The PRPC recently upgraded Parmer County's 911 system with new mapping software.

With our extensive county road system it is not always easy for dispatchers to pinpoint the exact location of an emergency. The new software is a step toward minimizing the location problem.

The Friona Police Department received the new software, new computer keyboards and two new flat-screen monitors. Senior dispatcher Donice Jones attended a one-day seminar in Dumas to train on the new software and will in turn train the local dispatchers on its use.

In addition to viewing the Parmer County map, dispatchers have access to the road systems in all 26 PRPC counties.

Dispatchers can enlarge map areas on the computer screens. Use of an arrow in the program can pinpoint block or mile markers, compute distances between points of reference, and provide longitude and latitude position coordinates for use by Lifestar helicopters.

When a 911 call is received, a red telephone icon on the computer screen shows at the exact call location, in addition to displaying the phone number and address of the caller.

One problem that technology has not yet solved is pinpointing locations of cell phone calls. Mrs. Jones says that in today's society, more and more 911 calls are being made from cell phones.

"This software program will definitely help dispatchers assist law officers and first-responders faster and more efficiently," Jones said.

## Pheasant Season: Only The Patient Need Apply!

For over a quarter of a century, Parmer County has played host for an annual pheasant hunt in December, which has in the past drawn a lot of folks from downstate to the area.

But, based on what the experts tell us, even the serious hunters may find it difficult to even get off a shot during the 2002 season.

The season runs from one-half hour before sunup on Saturday, December 14, to a half hour after sundown on Sunday, December 29.

Jack Patterson, spokesman for the Parmer County Game Management Association, tells us that this may be the bleakest hunting season in recent years, if not since the hunt began.

"We put out some feed for a pair of pheasants and their young brood early in the summer, and



they came by for several days, then just seemed to disappear. I haven't seen them since," Patterson said.

The local hunting guru said that some folks think that coyotes, one of the birds' natural enemies, may have beat the hunters to their prey.

"...We have had some coyotes, that's for sure. But some of the farmers in the Rhea community do a good job of keeping this predator down, as evidenced by the number of hides you see on the fences in the area," Patterson concluded.

## Annual Christmas Card Fund Drive Kicks Off

Donations are being accepted again this year for the annual Christmas Card Fund. Instead of, or in addition to, mailing Christmas cards, the suggestion is to donate to the Christmas Card Fund.

Donations are divided equally between the Bovina Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and the Bovina Volunteer Fire Department. Using the gift of money in this way benefits all citizens of Bovina.

Donations to the Christmas Card Fund may be made at FirstBank in Bovina or given to any EMS or Fire Department volunteer. Thank you and Merry Christmas.

## Council Approves Plat For Venable Subdivision

Bovina's Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2002. Attending were Aldermen Stan Miller, Mike McCallum, John Blackwell, Kevin Hughes, and Jessie Stone, city manager Ernest Terry, city secretary Bonnie Scaff, and chief of police Leon Saddler.

In the absence of both the mayor and mayor pro-tem, Alderman Jessie Stone served as temporary mayor pro-tem.

After approval of the previous minutes and voucher payments, city manager Terry reported on the status of well #6 and noted that insurance had been approved and purchase of the land had been completed.

Alderman Kevin Hughes, who is mayor pro-tem, arrived at 7:33 p.m. and Stone relinquished the meeting to him.

The council reviewed a preliminary platting of "Venable Subdivision". After

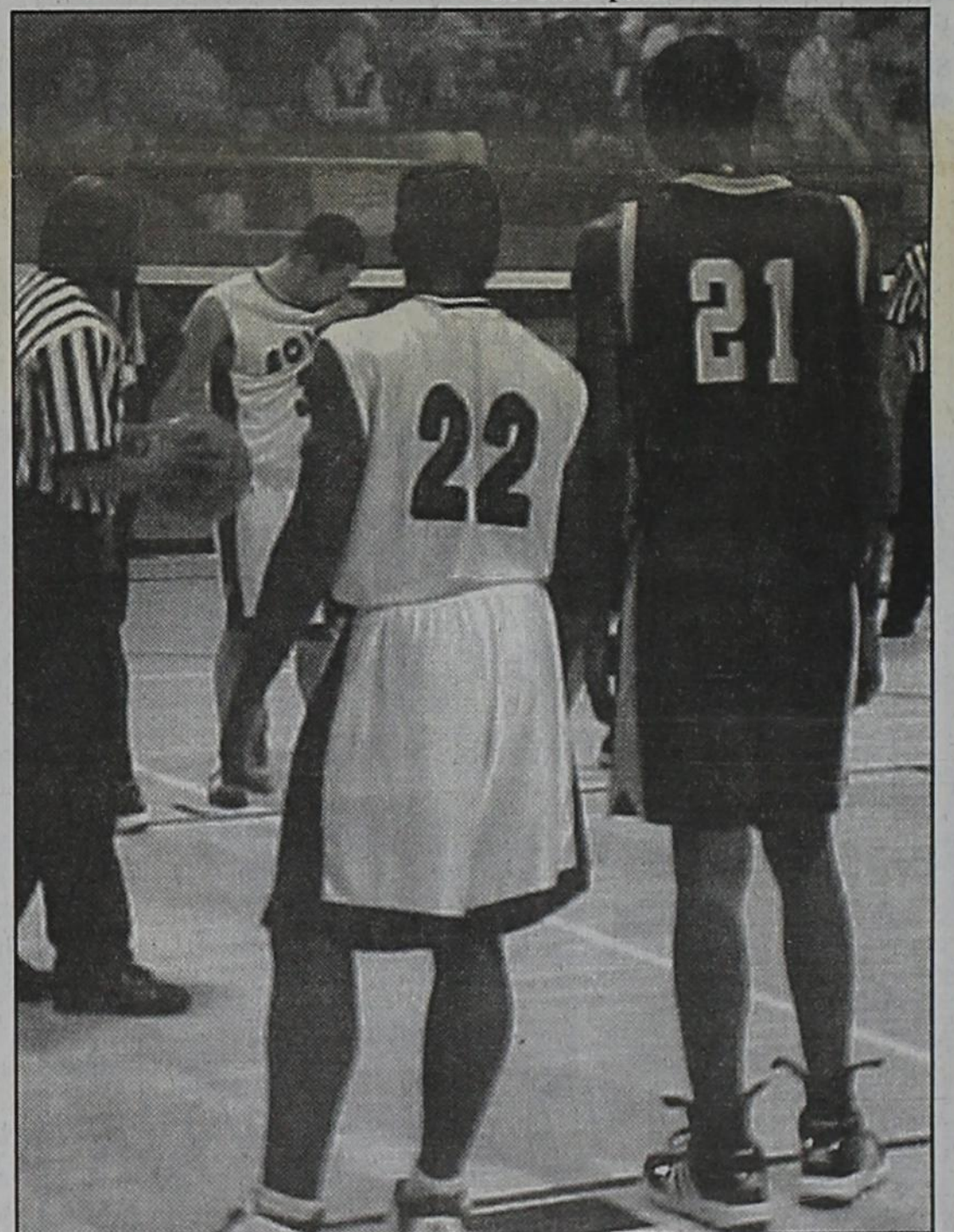
review, McCallum made a motion to approve the platting, Miller seconded and the motion passed. However it was understood that the utility lines for the city will be added to the plat and installed in its entirety, prior to the first hookup of a residence, at the expense of the subdivision owner.

The proposed subdivision will be located south of Highway 86 on Avenue K roughly between Fourth Street and Boyce Street. The area is zoned single family dwelling.

Elton and Marie Venable, owners and developers of the property, plan to sell lots in the subdivision. Four of the lots are 150' X 150' corner lots, plus smaller interior lots.

The city manager gave financial reports and police and municipal reports.

The next council meeting is Monday, January 6 at 7 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.



MUSTANG Johnathan Chisom (22) is not a small guy but he looked like one beside Morton's sophomore post K. Johnson (21) who is reported to be 6'7". Morton is ranked number one in state 1A after moving down from 2A last year. ron carr photo

## Bovina Chamber Will Sponsor Lighting Contest

The Bovina Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a home and yard Christmas lighting contest for city residents. Cash prizes will be given to the first, second and third place winners in the amounts of \$100, \$75 and \$50.

Homes will be judged the week before Christmas and entrants need to leave their lights on until 11 p.m. nightly. Entry forms can be found below in this issue of *The Blade*, at City Hall and with any Chamber director.

Winners will be announced December 19. Mail entry or bring by 804 Halsell or drop off at City Hall before December 18 by 5 p.m.

## Bovina Chamber of Commerce 2002 Lighting Contest

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

IT JUST WON'T BE Christmas...unless Aunt Rhoda brings her plum pudding. Or, unless Grandma bakes her customary coconut cake (or in the case of our extended family, unless someone TRIES to make the coconut cake the way Grandma used to make hers.)

Christmas is undoubtedly the one American holiday where family tradition comes into play--and thank goodness for that!

When you're newly married, you may not have your traditions, although most young married folks still go to their parents' home for Christmas, and in this way these family customs eventually get passed down to another generation.

When do you open the gifts at your family's Christmas gathering? It is said that about 75 per cent of families open their gifts on Christmas Day, while the other twenty-five percent couldn't wait, and open theirs on Christmas Eve.

When Ye Editor was younger, everyone congregated at Grandma and Grandpa's on Christmas Eve. It was a short trip for yours truly, since I was raised by the grandparents.

As each individual family arrived and added their gifts under the tree, the pile just grew and grew, and the youngest members of the family were just chomping at the bit to get started opening those packages.

But alas, we couldn't start until brother Darrell and his family got there, and they were always late. I suspect almost everyone has a family member in this category.

After Carol and I had our family, up to the present, we sort of split the difference on when presents are opened. Most years we allow at least the youngest (which now are our grand-kids) to open at least one present on Christmas Eve, and save the others 'till the next morning.

Experts say that about half of Americans on the average put up an artificial Christmas tree, of the households who put up one at all, while the other half still opts for the real thing.

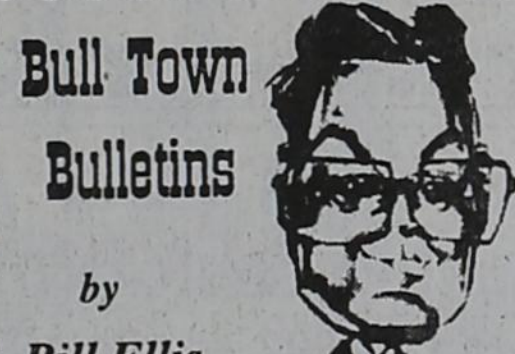
Seems to me that in our area the artificial trees might earn a slightly larger percentage than the real ones. I think it was about the time that our oldest son Stanley was a toddler and pulled our "real" Christmas tree over two or three times that season that Carol opted for an artificial tree. Seems she was still getting pine needles out of that shag carpet the following July.

Does your family watch a movie during the holiday season? If so, it's probably "It's a Wonderful Life," or "Miracle on 34th Street."

Do you hang Christmas stockings in your home? Around 60 percent of Americans hold to this custom, in hopes of getting something--except perhaps a lump of coal.

What is the traditional meat dish at your family gathering? Most people serve turkey (unless they had one for Thanksgiving). Ham usually comes in a strong second, and a beef dish, especially roast, is a favorite for many--and our local industries applaud this group!

Hope your Christmas is merry, and that you get to have your children and grandchildren home for the holidays. In our family, it gets harder all the time to have everyone home at the same time, due to job obligations, etc. But it looks like we might make it one more time with every chair filled at the Christmas table. That, after all, is the greatest Christmas tradition of all.



Bill Ellis

Bull Town  
Bulletins  
by

# BOVINA REFLECTIONS

...from the files of The Bovina Blade

**45 Yrs Ago-Dec. 11, 1957**  
Coach Charles Don Smith's Bovina Fillies finished second in Farwell's Invitational Tournament last weekend and will be shooting for the trophy this week as they are entered in the tournament which begins here Thursday. Members of the team are Lexie Stevenson, Celia Berry, Nancy Cumpton, Joanie Ezell, Arlene Clayton, Sandra Martin, Nita Beth Estes, Kay Hartzog, Janice Richards, Mildred Young and Joy Redden.

**40 Yrs Ago-Dec. 10, 1962**  
Bill Christian, Inc., developer of Bovina's new housing area, Ridgelea, will conduct a lot sale Sunday afternoon.  
Bovina will soon have a Spudnut Shop. Odis White, who recently bought the City Cafe building, announces that he and his wife will open a spudnut business in the location around the middle of December 22.

**35 Yrs Ago-Dec. 13, 1967**  
Ridgelea Elementary is the name of Bovina's new grade school classroom building located across Highway 86 from Ridgelea Addition. The building is expected to be ready for occupancy sometime after January 15.

**30 Yrs Ago-Dec. 13, 1972**  
Approximatley 200 people attended the Christmas Concert of the Bovina Junior High Band and "The Mustang Band" in Bovina School Auditorium Sunday.  
Unusually severe winter weather and an unusual harvest-time increase in the price of milo were the most talked about things this week in farming circles.  
Bovina Schools Cafeteria was the scene Monday night of the Mother-Daughter Salad Supper, sponsored by Future Homemakers of America Chapter at Bovina High School. Approximately 100

attended.  
Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Estes entertained friends at their traditional Christmas season Open House, Sunday afternoon

**25 Yrs Ago-Dec. 14, 1977**  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Stevenson were injured in an automobile accident in Shallowater about noon last Sunday. Oakley Stevenson, son of the couple, told *The Blade* on Tuesday afternoon that a car, occupied by three persons, ran a stop light and struck his parents' vehicle.

The sisters and brother of Mrs. Hazel Bowers and Mrs. Maxine Hart of Bovina enjoyed a get-together for the first time in 16 years in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bowers on Sunday, December 4.  
James Symcox, a trooper with the Texas Department of Public Safety, has just recorded and released a religious album. Stationed in San Marcos, Symcox exemplifies the professionalism of the Texas Highway Patrol. However, he has displayed a uniqueness—a law enforcement officer who expresses a vibrant love of God with outstanding singing ability.

**20 Yrs Ago-Dec. 15, 1982**  
Laverne and John Brownlow have returned home from a 5,000 mile vacation and spent Thanksgiving in Florida.  
Richard Lowe, son of Gene and Barbara Lowe, is among four Fort Hays State Tigers that have been named to the All-Central States Intercollegiate Conference first teams.

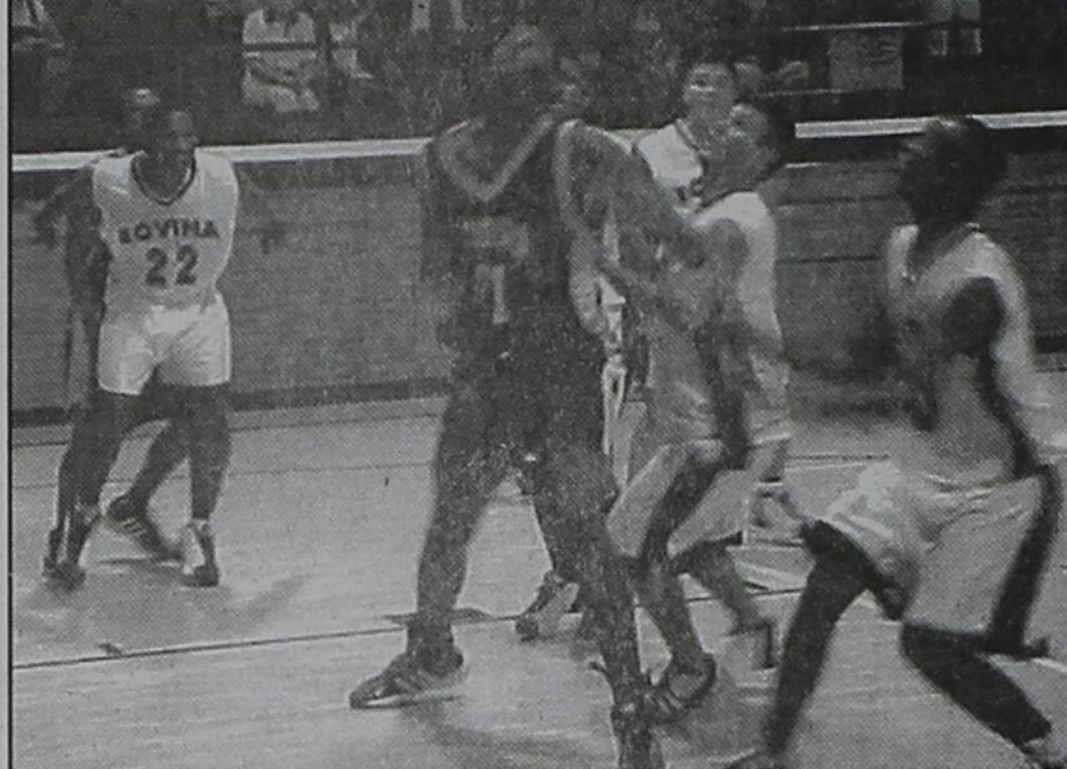
**15 Yrs Ago-Dec. 16, 1987**  
The first snowfall of the year turned out to be what could be a record snowfall for the area in December. The snow started at an early hour on Sunday and continued throughout the day on Sunday and Sunday night. Weather officials said that a total of 14 inches of snow was received in the local area. The snow continued much of the day on Monday. Bovina Schools were cancelled on Monday and Tuesday due to the snow and bad roads.

**10 Yrs Ago-Dec. 12, 1992**  
A.M. Wilson added his name to the Bovina Blade's all-time football contest's honor roll for the second time, after holding on for the title in the 1992 contest for a one-point win. Wilson received \$100 cash for his 133 points.  
Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Kerby will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on December 14, 1992. They have two children, Paula Tarter of Muleshoe and Al Kerby Jr. of Bovina. They have five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Al Kerby and Jeanne Fredrick were married December 14, 1942 in Oakland, California.

**5 Yrs Ago-Dec. 12, 1997**  
Bovina Mustangs Varsity basketball is off to a good start as the Mustangs have earned a 7-0 record in basketball action



**SOPHOMORE FILLIE Isabel Guevara (21) chases a Morton player during a fast break attempt. The Fillies continue to improve.**  
ron carr photo



**THE TOWER....Mustangs surround Morton's 6'7" post, K. Johnson (21) in search of a rebound. Johnathan Chisom (22) and B. J. Shepherd, right, close in.**  
ron carr photo

## J. Englant Is Buried

Funeral services for Jordy Lee Englant, two days old, were held at 2 p.m. Friday, December 13, 2002 in the First Baptist Church of Bovina.

Rev. Bob Webb of Burkburnett, Texas conducted the services. Burial was in Bovina Cemetery under the direction of Blackwell Funeral Home.

The Bovina infant was born December 5 in Muleshoe and died Saturday, December 7, 2002 at the University Medical Center in Lubbock.

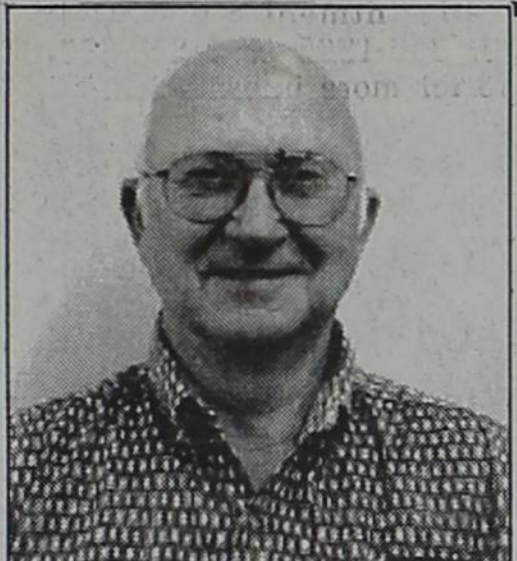
Survivors include the mother, Randa Englant of Bovina; and grandparents, Mark and Sue Englant of Bovina and Sandra and Randy Hudson of Nazareth, Texas; and numerous aunts and uncles.

## The Bovina Blade

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**FILLIE SENIOR Courtney Jamerson (33) takes a shot during the Morton game. Sandra Moreno (55) waits for the rebound.**  
ron carr photo



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Member, FDIC  
101 North Third 251-1442

**Holiday Open House**  
Dec 17-18-19

*Come By to visit during our holiday Open House.*

Dec 17-18-19

*Join us for refreshments and holiday wishes.*

**AUCTION**  
**REAL ESTATE \* RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**  
Tuesday, December 17, 2002 ----- Sale Time 10:00 a.m.  
Located: 328 South Main Street, Muleshoe, Texas  
**T J's Donut Shop**

The following will be sold at Public Auction. Call Fletcher & Company Auctioneers (806) 866-4201.

**REAL ESTATE Sells at 10:00 a.m.**  
Located on the corner of Main and Avenue D, Muleshoe, Texas.  
20 ft x 137 ft, Red Brick Front, Cinder Block Building, Flat Roof, 1-Front Door, Glass Display Window, 3-Side Doors, 2-Glass Windows on Rear Offices, 2-Bathrooms, Fluorescent Lighting, 2-Ref-Air Units, Nearly New, Sidewalk on Two Sides.  
This building could be divided into two rental properties.

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**  
1-Hoshizaki Ice Machine, Model KM800MAE  
1-Booth Drink Dispenser, 5 Spickets  
1-Beverage-Air Display / Storage Commercial Ref-Freezer, Glass Sliding Doors, 2 Sides, Mdl MT17-54  
1-Lucks Gas Donut Fryer, (Model G-2424) SS with Belshaw Bros Cake Donut Machine and Hood, SN 100357  
1-Hobart Mixer, Model S-601, SN 1079203  
1-Spudnut Convection Oven, SN PP1178  
1-Frigidare Custom Imperial Elec Stove  
1-Spudnut Glazing Container on Caster, 20" x 38" Storage Compartment  
1-Glaze Drain Table on Casters  
1-Toastmaster Deep Fryer, Electric  
1-Frymaster Deep Fryer, Gas  
1-Cambridge Engineering Hood  
1-APW-Wyott 24" x 48" Grill, Gas  
1-Aero SS Table for Above Grill, 48" x 30"  
2-Bunn-O-Matic Coffee Makers  
1-Brewmatic Coffee Ground Machine  
1-Bunn Warmer, Model WX-2  
1-Cecil Ware Corp Mini Whipper Cappuccino Machine, Model 4914-0  
1-Bunn Stainless Steel Tea Dispenser  
2-Brewmatic Plastic Tea Dispenser  
1-Hamilton Beach Milk Shake Machine, Stainless Steel, 3 Mixers  
1-Maytag Jet Clean Dishwasher  
1-Traulsen Double Door Com-Freezer, Model GHT 2-32, SN 100760  
2-Roper Upright Freezers

**RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT**  
1-Magic Chef Refrigerator Freezer  
1-Gibson 200 lbs Chest Freezer  
1-Schaefer Top Door Ice Cream Freezer  
1-Ross Temp Drink Dispenser Ice Machine, Model RF-600-DD  
1-Berkel Type 910 Slicing Machine  
1-Gideco Ice Type BWC-No 4995 Freshcone Machine  
1-Anetsberger Bros Model BFG 18 x 26 Gas Fryer, Damaged  
1-Acme 12-1023 Crust Roller  
1-Custom Made Gas Grill, Not Complete, 21" x 41"  
1-Lot Frying Cradles  
1-Lot Frying Racks  
1-Lot Bun Pans  
1-Lot SS Pans, Square, Round  
1-Wash Tub Type Round Pan, SS  
1-Wash Tub Type Round Pan, Metal with Stands

**TABLES & CHAIRS**  
8-Double Restaurant Booths  
2-Corner Round Restaurant Booths  
4-Single Restaurant Booths, Ends  
10-42" x 30" Tables, Metal Legs  
1-48" x 30" Table, Metal Legs  
1-36" x 36" Table, Metal Legs  
2-48" Round Tables, Metal Legs  
2-High Chairs on Casters  
2-Booster Chairs  
24-Chairs  
1-Metal Roll About Table, 2 Shelves, 24" x 36"  
1-Wood Table, Metal Top, 24" x 50"  
1-Wood Table, Metal Top, 22" x 27"  
1-6 ft Folding Table  
1-30" x 32" x 34" SS Top, 2 Shelf Table  
1-30" x 120" x 36" SS Bordered Table, Pipe Frame, Legs with Under Shelf  
1-24" x 48" x 13" SS Double Sink  
1-27" x 48" x 3" SS Bordered Sink Drain  
1-30" x 74" Glass Display Case  
2-60" x 84" Display Cases  
1-23" x 96" Bar

**OFFICE EQUIPMENT**  
1-2 Drawer with Safe Metal Filing Cabinet  
1-Victor 511 Cash Register, SN 5554-305  
1-Victor 120 Adding Machine  
1-20 x 26 x 34 S/S Farmer Bros 2 Shelf Table  
1-Office Chair  
2-Office Desks, Metal  
2-Wall Clocks  
2-Telephones

**RESTAURANT SUPPLIES**  
1-Bun Rack on Casters  
2-Menu Signs (Coke)  
1-SS Top, 26" x 23"  
2-Filter Holders  
2-Roll A Round Dolly Pads  
1-Air Compressor  
3-Step Ladders  
3-Custom Made Metal Racks  
1-Lot Water Glasses  
1-Lot Froste Glasses  
1-Lot Froste Glasses  
1-Lot Coffee Cups  
1-Lot Plates  
1-Lot Spoons, Knives, Forks  
1-Lot Salt Shakers  
1-Lot Napkin Holders and Dispensers  
1-Lot Baskets (Burger)  
1-Lot Ash Trays  
1-Lot Traps  
1-Lot Plastic Bowls, Lids  
1-Lot Pots & Pans  
1-Lot Metal Scoops (Ice, Flour)  
1-4 Slice Toaster, 1-2 Slice  
1-Can Opener  
1-SS Rolling Pin  
1-Miller Bun Divider  
1-Hexagonal Donut Rolling Pin Cutter  
1-Katzinger Cake Filler  
1-Lot Storage Containers  
2-Electric Fans  
1-Master Mechanic Wet-Dry Vacuum Cleaner  
1-Lot Mops, Brooms  
2-Mop Buckets, Roll A Round  
Lot of Items Too Numerous to Mention

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# Around Town

## Santa in the Park Monday

Bring the kids to see Santa at Friona City Park Monday, Dec 16, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Women's Division of the Friona Chamber of Commerce.

## Muleshoe tour of homes Dec 15

The Muleshoe Christmas Tour of Homes is Sunday, Dec 15, from 1-5 p.m. The tour will benefit Park view Health Care Center. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at Carolyn's Christmas Creations. The tour includes six homes plus the new Park View Center and refreshments. Call 806-272-5911 for information.

## Bovina bank open house Dec 17-19

First Bank in Bovina will hold their Christmas open house during business hours Dec 17, 18, & 19. All customers and friends are invited to stop by.

## First Baptist Bovina musical Dec 15

Bovina's First Baptist Church will present a Christmas musical program Sunday, Dec 15 at 7 p.m. The children's and adult choirs have prepared a program of various holiday songs. Everyone from the community is invited to attend and join in the holiday celebration. A fellowship with refreshments will follow the presentation.

## Muleshoe bazaar Dec 14

The Moonlight Extension Education Club and Texas Cooperative Extension will hold their annual arts and crafts bazaar on Saturday, Dec 14, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bailey county Civic Center in Muleshoe. Admission is free. Come enjoy the Christmas parade at 10 a.m. and do your Christmas shopping.

## Sweet Adeline chorus performs Dec 19

Come hear the Palo Duro Metro Chorus (part of Sweet Adelines) on Thursday, Dec 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Friona High School auditorium. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Chorus & the Pioneer Heritage Museum in Friona. Some local women are members of this chorus so be sure to come hear them.

## Prairie Acres Christmas party Dec 19

Friends and family of the Prairie Acres and Heritage Estates staff and residents are invited to come by for a Christmas party Thursday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Prairie Acres dining room. Also you can sponsor a resident this Christmas season. Call Prairie Acres at 250-3922 for information. And thanks for your support.

## GED orientation in Bovina Jan 6-9

The Bovina ISD will hold a GED orientation from 6:30-9:30 p.m. each night from Jan 6-9, 2003. Beginning on Jan 14 the free class will meet every Tuesday from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Instruction is provided via the videoconference system at Bovina ISD. Call 251-1336 for more information and to sign up.



# Out Here

by Ron Carr

## Stressed For Success

A group of professors at Texas Woman's University in Denton have some helpful suggestions to get you through the holiday season.

Professors, because they are professors, are smarter than we are so they feel obligated to impart their knowledge to sooth and calm us so we can enjoy the season without being arrested for domestic violence or Santa abuse.

I received a packet of press releases from TWU this week with not one, not two, but seven separate topics, each neatly stapled in the upper left hand corner.

I'll condense them for you, and pass along the surefire ways to make your holiday bright and peaceful. I never realized that the Christmas season held such hidden dark emotions.

The first doesn't need much discussion. It discusses when children will discover the truth about Santa. The first sentence says parents worry when is the right time to tell the kids that there really isn't a Santa. Is this an efficient use of a professor's time?

Most of the time parents don't tell the kids anyway. Other kids tell them. And kids often know there isn't a Santa but keep parents thinking they believe. You get more presents that way. Ever told one of your kids there isn't a Santa and they say "yeah, I've known that since kindergarten."

Dr. Karen Petty, assistant professor of child development at TWU says, "If you don't believe, then he doesn't exist. But if you choose to believe, he becomes a part of your family's holiday traditions."

That's nice Dr. Petty. You can go back to your class now.

Beating stress during the holidays was discussed by Dr. Roberta Nutt (appropriate name huh?). She suggests working mothers shouldn't try to do all the Christmas shopping and planning. Hire someone to put up your lights, clean house and do odd jobs, she says.

Keep up your exercising during the holidays too. Walk from store to store when you are shopping. Go for a walk after you eat a big holiday meal. How about parking at the back of the shopping center and walking to the store's customer service counter to return those really dumb presents. Stay fit or throw a fit. Both are good ways to handle stress.

Another prof, Dr. Joyce Armstrong, offers advice on avoiding conflicts. You gotta' communicate to avoid stress and starting a family brawl. Decide in advance how much to spend and stick to it can prevent a source of conflict.

Have family meetings she said. Establishing family goals for the holidays are a powerful way to communicate. All well and good, but a family meeting also has potential to make for some unrealistic goals that end with mom and the kids crying and dad throwing in the towel.

Dr. Nutt also says being alone on the holidays doesn't mean being lonely. "You can celebrate the holidays by yourself," the Nutt(y) prof says. "Buy yourself a gift and take yourself out to dinner." (I'm not making this stuff up.)

Be with people by volunteering to serve Christmas meals at a homeless shelter, take goodies to people who have to work on

Christmas, or buy gifts for an underprivileged child. Since the holidays are stressful (see above) your alone quiet time can be a gift to yourself.

And then of course there are the obligatory tips for healthy holiday habits, provided by Dr. Sally Stabb, associate professor of psychology. "A severe diet makes people resentful, hungry and often just plain miserable." The conclusion is that it is alright to eat more than normal. If you get stressed about all the food during the holidays, please reread the stress and exercise suggestions above.

Finally, Dr. Jo Ann Engelbrecht, tells how to buy toys for your tots that they will actually play with. Of course, Dr. Jo Ann doesn't know squat about the quirks of your kid, but professors have to write stuff in order to keep their professor rating intact when contract time rolls around.

I won't take up space with all of her toy suggestions. Suffice to say she suggests you buy toys that your kids can't eat and get choked on. She doesn't say how a kid might eat a DVD player or Tonka truck. Don't buy your nieces and nephews a drum set unless you hate their parents.

After your kids have opened all three dozen of their toys Christmas morning, Dr. Engelbrecht says hide most of them and bring a few out every few weeks. Hide the ones they have been playing with. In professor terminology, this is called "rotating the toys." By doing this, its like discovering new toys every rotation. Of course you might get stressed trying to remember when to bring the toys out, especially if you don't remember where you

put them. Better still, tell them there isn't a Santa and take them shopping at the After Christmas sales. It'll be cheaper which means less stress.

You know what I think? I think I am getting stressed, just trying to remember all these things I'm supposed to do to make the holidays nicer. To heck with it. Do whatever you want. I don't care.

Merry Christmas.

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# FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

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### THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE LAND

THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT THERE ARE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO GIANTS AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A RACE. ONE RACE WERE THE ANAKIMS WHO HAD CITIES IN CANAAN. WHEN HEBRON WAS CAPTURED BY THE HEBREWS THE ANAKIMS ESCAPED DESTRUCTION BY FLEEING TO THE CITIES OF THE PHILISTINES. BUT UNTIL THAT TIME THEY RULED THE LAND, TAXING THE OTHER INHABITANTS AND, IN GENERAL, CONTROLLING THEIR LIVES. THE NOTORIOUS GOLIATH OF GATH, WHO WAS KILLED BY DAVID, WAS ONE OF THE ANAKIMS. AFTER THIS INCIDENT WE HAVE NO FURTHER RECORD OF THE GIANTS.



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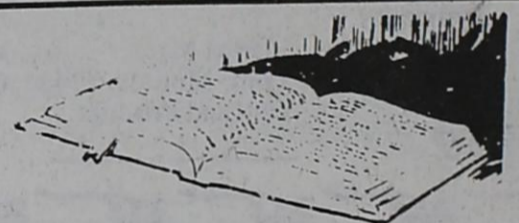
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