

The Bovina Blade

Good News In
Bovina
For The Past
44 Years

VOLUME 45, NUMBER 34

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999

EIGHT PAGES



ON CALL.....State Trooper Taylor Carrasco, 4, is ready to patrol Parmer County highways if he only had a driver's license. He is the son of Isabel and Dee Anna Carrasco. His dad, Isabel "Izzy" Carrasco is a DPS Trooper. Taylor's authentic trooper uniform was made for him by his grandmother and he wears it proudly.

Deaf Smith Electric Annual Meeting Set

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative members will receive capital credit refunds from 1986, 1987, 1988 and a portion of 1989 totaling \$1,000,000 at the Cooperative's annual meeting and dinner Tuesday, March 30. The meeting begins at 5 p.m. in the Hereford Bull Barn.

A fish, chicken and beef dinner will be served and the Palmetto State Quartet will provide the entertainment following the meal. A short business meeting to elect two directors will follow the Palmetto State Quartet's first performance.

Position 1 candidates are incumbent Gilbert (Nick) Yosten and nominee Dwight Jesko. Position 2 candidates are incumbent Anthony Acker

and nominee Vincent Gerber.

Another highlight of the evening's activities will be drawings for attendance prizes totaling more than one thousand dollars. A color television set will be awarded as the grand prize.

The Palmetto State Quartet, making their second consecutive appearance at Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative's annual meeting have enjoyed tremendous success for the past five decades.

Throughout the years, they have hosted several television programs, including the nationally syndicated "Bob Poole's Gospel Favorites," which broadcasts to 128 stations nationwide.

They appear annually at

the National Quartet Convention and have been the host group at the Grand Ole Gospel Reunion held every year in Greenville, South Carolina.

In the past few years, the quartet received many nominations as one of the best male quartets in gospel music today and are consistently placing songs in the "Top 40" radio charts.

The Palmetto State Quartet's goal of delivering a first-class performance filled with excitement, energy and lots of traditional Southern Gospel Music are traits which have proven to play an essential role in the success they have enjoyed.

Rep. L. Combest Opposes Clinton Policy In Kosovo

Washington D.C.--Rep. Larry Combest (R-Tx.) announced today that he steadfastly opposes President Clinton's policy of committing air strikes and additional American resources to Kosovo.

"Given the history of this Administration's open-ended promises of committing our troops to places in the world where we frankly don't belong, and their history of not providing a clear exit strategy or living up to their promises of bringing our troops home, I think it is a mistake to commit troops to further action," Combest said.

However, Combest maintains that since American air strikes have already begun in Kosovo, he strongly supports the American troops that have been deployed there. "To be sure, I support unwaveringly our American men and women who bravely risk their lives so that we can sustain our freedom; I simply do not agree with the policy that put them there. Too often with this Administration, the foreign policy tactic is to rush into conflicts with no definitive strategy or accomplishing the long-term mission or of getting our troops home."

Rep. Combest fears that

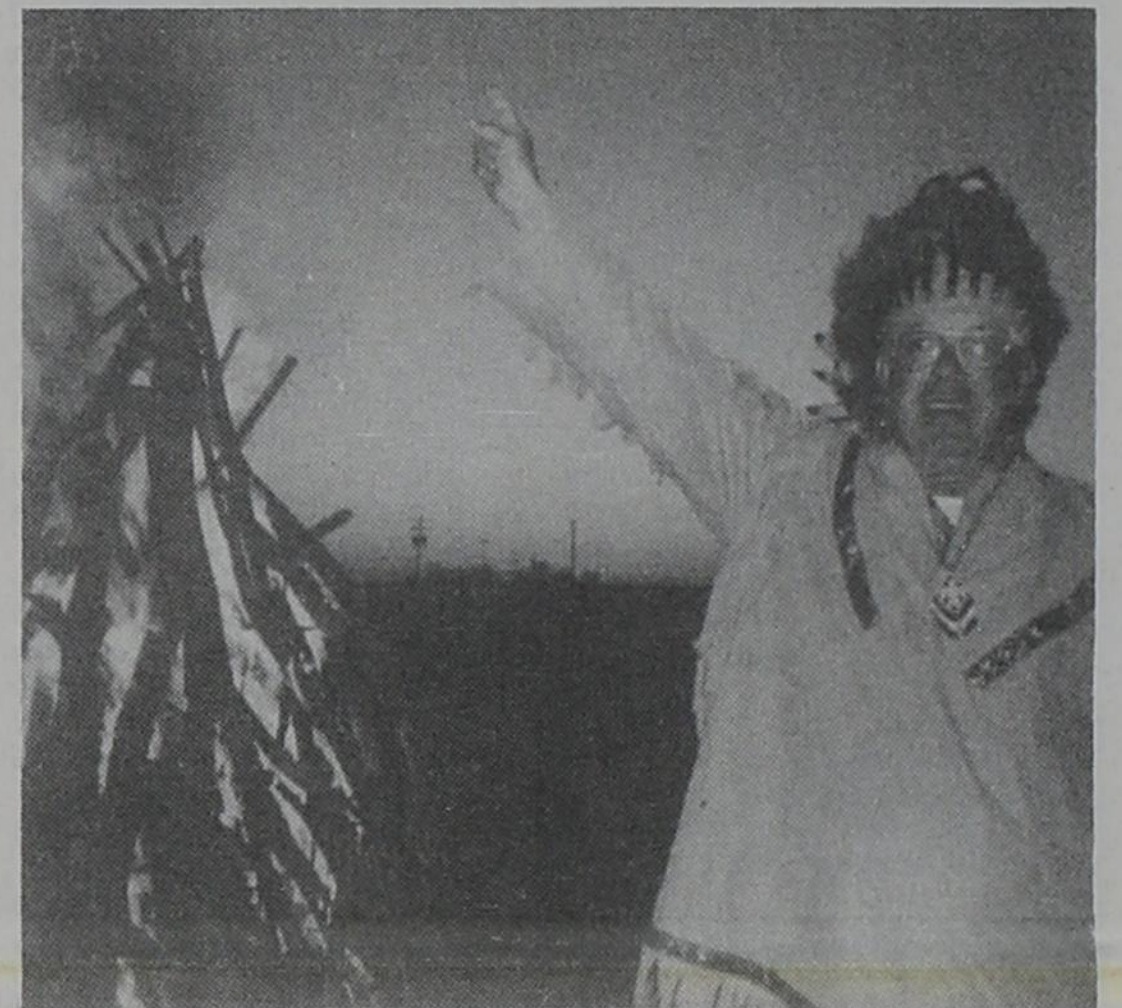
the Administration's policy towards Kosovo is yet another intervention that will put American lives at stake. "You may remember that this Administration initially promised that our American troops would be in Bosnia for only one year. The fact is, we do not commit troops for only a small period of time and the initial policy never met the recommendations or calculations that are necessary before committing troops."

Combest notes that there are three basic criteria that he uses when considering any proposal to commit American troops: (1) Is the U.S. national security at risk? (2) Is there a clear, well-defined mission and exit strategy? and (3) Would he send his own son/daughter to fight for

this cause?

Currently, the U.S. has tens of thousands of American troops committed in over 40 foreign countries. American troops are still in Haiti, Bosnia and Iraq, with no end in sight. We have spent \$10 billion and counting on the Balkan conflict, and the cost of the Kosovo deployment alone is estimated to be between \$1.5-\$2 billion annually.

Combest concludes, "This is a further escalation of the President's open-ended Bosnia policy for which, up to this point, none of the prerequisite recommendations or calculations have been met. I cannot look into a parent's eyes and say that sending our troops into harms way was the right thing to do in the case of Kosovo."



ANOTHER DRY SPRING....."Chief" Weldon Crim of Lazbuddie conducted his annual "fireburning" ceremony Monday and the results, according to Crim, say farmers could be in for a dry spring and summer. Crim learned the ancient ritual from his father, who learned it from his father, who learned it from the Plains and Cherokee Indians. Crim claims an 80 percent accuracy rate, but missed the mark last year. Crim has been carrying on the family tradition since 1983.

Forecast Looks Poor Says "Chief" Crim

BY SCOTT ROBINSON

While every town has a weatherman, only a few of them are truly famous. The world's most famous one is Punxsutawney Phil, otherwise known as the ground hog. Amarillo has the popular "Doppler" Dave Oliver. And the local area has a guy by the name of Weldon "Chief" Crim.

Phil, while being the most

famous, has the worst accuracy rating. He reportedly is correct less than half of the time. I haven't heard any recent reports on "Doppler" Dave, but he seems to hit a lot more than he misses. Then there is the "Chief", who has historically hit on approximately eighty-percent of his forecasts.

Unfortunately, even getting eight out of ten correct means missing a couple. For the local "Chief", last year was one of the misses. Crim called for an average Spring, but it turned out to be less than that.

Due to last year's miss, odds are better than usual that this year's forecast will be on the nose. This isn't good news for the locals as the "Chief" is calling for a dry Spring based on his "fireburning."

"The southwest wind calls for a poor Spring," said the "Chief." "That is the worst direction, so conditions are going to be dry."

"My dad used to say that the southwest wind meant you should load up the squaw and the kids and move to Oklahoma."

The "fireburning" is conducted annually on March 22 by stacking wood in a teepee shape and setting fire to it. The direction the wind blows the smoke at exactly sunrise predicts the weather for coming Spring season.

Weldon is carrying on a family tradition that began in 1910 with his grandfather Taylor. Taylor learned the ritual from the Comanche and Plains Indians near El Paso. Taylor passed the tradition on to his son, J.W., who conducted the "fireburnings" from 1923 until 1980. Weldon picked up the tradition from his father, and he has been conducting the "burnings" since 1983.

Growers Approved Eradication

The Texas Department of Agriculture announced this week that cotton producers in the Northwest Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone have voted to establish a boll weevil eradication program in the five-county zone.

Final results were 1,441 voting "for" and 476 voting "against" establishing an eradication program.

In addition, producers in the zone voted to set a maximum annual assessment for the program not to exceed \$12 per land acre for irrigated cotton and \$5 per land acre for dryland cotton.

To officially establish a boll weevil eradication program in the Northwest Plains Zone and set an assessment, the propositions had to be approved by a two-thirds vote, or those voting in favor needed to farm more than 50 per cent of the zone's acreage.

"Producers in the Northwest Plains have shown they want an eradication program," said Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "We look forward to working with them and the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation in eliminating this costly pest in Texas."



RE-ELECTED AS DIRECTORS at the West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative annual meeting this week were, l-r, Pat Robbins, Charles Christian, and J. B. Noland.



WHERE'S THE BEEF...Grand prize winners at the West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative annual meeting were Les and Rose McCain of Bovina. They are shown with co-op director Ernest Flood. The prize was for 200 pounds of beef.

ron carr photo

May 1 Election Candidates

On the ballot for the school board election will be Josie Alonzo Coffey, Susan Kerby, and Justin Brozek.

On the ballot for the city council (alderman) election will be Charles Wilkins, Kevin Hughes, Linda Marshall, and Bill Gist.

There are two positions open on the school board and three for city council. The election will be held on Saturday, May 1.

THE OTHER DAY Ye Editor looked around the office and decided that things have surely changed in the publishing industry in the four decades Carol and I have been in the business.

There is hardly a facet involved with publishing that hasn't undergone a complete overhaul.

For starters, the main camera in use when I was in college and for starters at the Friona Star was the "Press 25." This was the type you see in the old film clips when a celebrity is mobbed by the press corps: it was about a foot square, used the "one time only" flash bulbs, and weighed about 25 pounds.

My late friend and publisher Ben Ezzell used to say that his right arm was a foot longer than his left arm simply because he had spent all those years roaming the football or basketball sidelines lugging this trusty picture-maker.

The Press-25 used 4x5 inch (single) negatives. Everything on the film was crystal clear, and with this large negative, you could have enlarged a print to four feet by six feet (if they made print paper that size), and everything would have been in perfect focus.

Cameras have gone every which-way, from Polaroids to high-tech 35-mm cameras, but basically you can't get anywhere close to the quality of photos with today's mostly-automatic cameras that we did with the old ones.

When I did my student editing on the Texas Tech newspaper, and later at the San Mateo (Daily) Times in California, "hot type" was still the vogue for newspapers. The type was set on the 189th-century style Linotype machines, and pages were put together in a dark, inky and hot backshop. You had to learn to read in reverse, since all of the type was set that way.

On the daily papers, editors would make a "dummy" on miniature page mock-ups. When the printers finished a page, they would "pull a proof" and send it up front to be proof-checked. Galleys of type were proof-read earlier, so this in effect was the final proof before going to press.

None of the printers I worked with in the letterpress system, as it was known, were ever very excited about making proof corrections. In those days, it was a chore to re-set the individual lines, and then replace the erroneous ones with the correct lines.

The printers and/or Linotype operators would not have believed how easy it is to make corrections, change type sizes or styles, and even move paragraphs around like we can today on our computers.

The offset printing process really spawned numerous changes in the publishing business. It also burst on the scene in an industry which had seen no big changes in a half-century or more.

Offset was not even mentioned by my Texas Tech profs. Apparently the old-time printing companies thought that offset might be just a "flash in the pan." I think they must have believed if they ignored offset it would go away.

Having spent four years at Tech and three post-graduate years working on newspapers produced by the old letterpress method, Ye Editor landed in Friona, where the new offset printing method was not only in use, but a new central printing plant was in full swing, doing printing for several other newspapers in the area.

I was similar to the guy who said that the first car he ever rode in, he was also serving as the driver. On-the-job training, I guess. It has been a good learning experience, and one we wouldn't trade.

I strayed off the subject somewhat, so I'll have to discuss the other things that have changed so drastically in a future column. That's "30" for today.

Bull Town Bulletins

By Bill Ellis



PANHANDLE ORGANIZATION Schools, City Of Friona Benefit From Network

The Panhandle Information Network (PIN) saved \$2.5 million thanks to collaboration and an efficient use of state grant money.

State Senator Teel Bivins' response to news of PIN's accomplishment is, "I am very proud of the Panhandle Information Network and their ability to get the best bang for the buck in investing these grant monies in high technology."

"No longer are students, librarians, health service providers and others bound by the limitations of geography in their ability to share resources and information in a timely and cost effective manner."

Local members of the network are Friona I.S.D., the City of Friona, and Bovina I.S.D.

PIN helped supply 1,400 computers to 46 of the smallest school districts in the Texas Panhandle and bring the Internet to 13,745 teachers and students. According to Mr. Rex Peeples, Superintendent of Darrrouzett I.S.D., "I am extremely proud of the training and advancement of educational opportunities that Internet access through PIN has provided for teachers and students alike. We are excited about these new opportunities and I believe it is going to enhance education for our students." The grant money to accomplish this was provided by the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIFB).

In addition the Texas Education Agency/Technology Integration in Education (TEA/TIE) grant placed 18 videoconferencing sites connected through the PIN network in location throughout the region.

Brenda Campbell, Technology Coordinator at Hart I.S.D., finds a variety of uses for the videoconferencing equipment located at their school.

Using the videoconferencing equipment saves travel time and expense for those using the facility. According to Dr. LeAnn McKinzie, Director of Academic Services for Information Technology, "West Texas A&M University is pleased to be a PIN videoconferencing site because it gives us a presence in each of these local communities. We are a regional university and want to support the students where they are. Our goal is to make getting an education easier for them."

Dr. LaVelle Mills, Executive Director of PIN states, "Panhandle Information Network was developed to meet the needs of Panhandle communities in their quest to find the best way to access telecommunications services to create an electronic Panhandle community."

PIN is an administrative agency comprised of a diverse mix of governmental entities

in the Texas Panhandle, including ISDs, universities, and community colleges, public libraries, hospitals, the regional planning commission, the education service center and several cities and counties. Over 90 entities are members of PIN.

PIN's mission is to avoid the costly problems associated with independent efforts, such as duplication of equipment and services, and create a centralized network. According to Mr. Ned Burns, Superintendent of Dalhart I.S.D. and Chair of the PIN Board of Directors, "PIN's goals include furthering the missions of its respective members and providing service at the lowest possible cost for all members regardless of their geographic location in the Panhandle."

The PIN Internet Collaborative used a \$6,128,448 grant from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board (TIFB) to aid 46 of the smaller ISDs in the Panhandle and the 4.5 million-dollar grant from the Texas Education Agency/Technology Integration in Education Fund (TEA/TIF) awarded to 34 collaborating districts to fund the massive undertaking and in the process worked together to save millions.

The overall savings in the PIN Internet Collaborative grant was almost \$2 million for the 46 PIC schools.

'Spring Grim' Says Crim

(Continued From Page 1) and the kids and move to Oklahoma."

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A FULL HOUSE enjoyed the K-Bob's meal at the West Texas Rural Telephone Co-Op annual meeting Tuesday. In lower photo, Byron Boyd, the Co-Op's attorney conducts the election of directors as, l-r, Dick Fellers, co-op manager Tom Hyer, Jimmie Cockerham, and Charles Meyers look on. ron carr photos

Clinic Set April 21

The Women's Center of the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System will conduct Breast Cancer Screening Clinics at Parmer County Hospital, 1307 Cleveland Avenue in Friona on April 21.

Breast cancer affects one in eight women. The key to winning the battle against cancer is early detection by having an annual breast exam, mammogram and performing breast self-exam each month.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a Registered Nurse. The total cost is \$75. A minimum of fifteen women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns.

Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance. All exams are done by appointments only. Call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information.



PICKING THE WINNERS...WTRTC director Charles Christian turns the barrel as Nathan Paschel drew the door prize winners at the cooperative's annual meeting. ron carr photo



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER....Amber Richardson, a senior at Lazbuddie High School, was the winner of the district VFW "Voice of Democracy" contest. She was recognized at a Monday night banquet at Veterans Hall. Vets Joe Lafuente and Avis Henry made the presentation. ron carr photo

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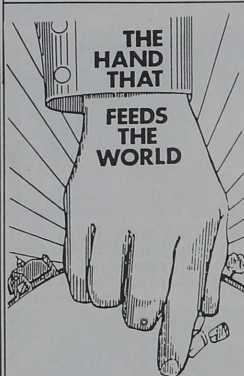
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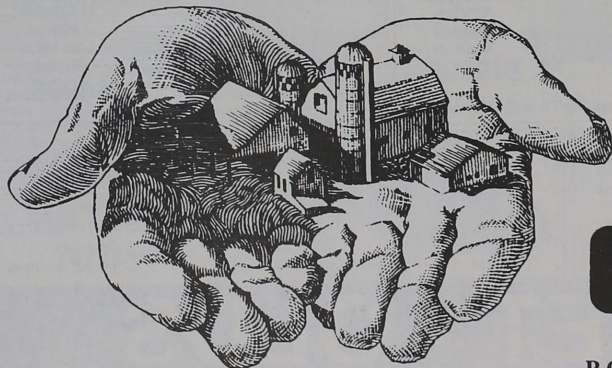


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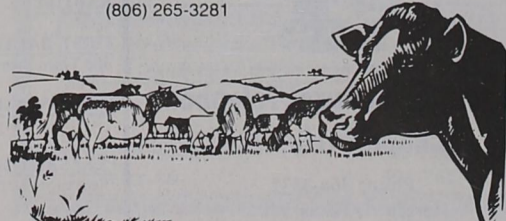
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FRIONA/BOVINA DEVOTIONAL PAGE

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

This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Joshua, intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

OTHNIEL'S TRIUMPH

BLINDED BY THE SUN REFLECTED INTO THEIR EYES BY OTHNIEL'S SHIELD BEARERS AND BESET BY DEADLY VOLLEYS OF ARROWS AND STONES, THE GIANTS ARE NOW IN A STATE OF CONFUSION...

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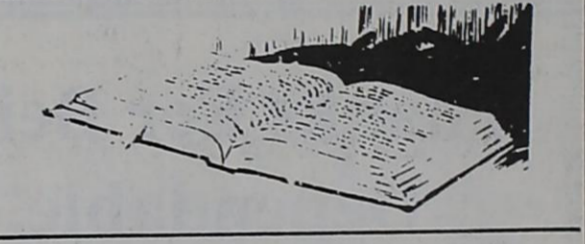


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2 BR, 1 bath
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3 BR, 1-3/4
3 BR, 2 bath
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Out Here

By RON CARR

Billy Jeff vs. SlobbyDon: Seek Peace Or Die!

The American people should be happy this week. Unless the Balkan war ended since I wrote this yesterday, your president is back at work, doing his job for the American people.

Of course the Serb people are not having a good time. Or is it the Albanians? I think in this war, we are rooting for the Albanians, even though the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), is an Albanian group that was once listed as a terrorist organization by the USA.

So the American People are basking in their comfort zones because president Billy Jeff, national security adviser Sandyburger, and secretary of state Maddie Allright are in charge of the war.

What's that you say? This is not a war? The Yugoslavian president Slobby Don Milosebich thinks so. He announced on Yugo TV that his country was at war.

Then he kicked out all the journalists from the NATO countries and we are indignant. We are also pretty naive and stupid. It is war, folks. Plain and simple.

Right now the American People are feeling patriotic. If it happens, and we all hope it does not, that a few Americans are killed in this war, the tone of the American People will change from patriotic to "let's get the hell out of there."

From what I understand, the Serbs and Albanians have been going at it for 600 years. That is almost 400 years longer than America has been here.

Acting on the advice of his advisers (and lawyers?) Billy Jeff is going to bomb Slobby Don into submission and force him to sign a peace treaty.

Some say he should have done this 3-4 years ago. Others, like Panhandle congressman Larry Combest,

say he shouldn't be doing this at all.

One lady caller to C-SPAN Thursday morning was an immigrant from Kosovo. Came to America in 1967 and has never been back there. Yet she was shouting "shame on America" for bombing her homeland. Doesn't sound much like a homeland if she hasn't visited it for 32 years.

At least this action will keep you American People from thinking about China for awhile. Remember that situation? They got their hands on some nuclear secrets through a Chinese guy that we knew was spying three years ago.

I wouldn't know a nuclear secret if I saw one. Some of the stuff we get on our fax here at the office look like nuclear secrets, but how do you tell.

I am not going to say much about this China thing 'cause I don't believe the American People care one way or the other. But I want to mention a couple of people you should watch over the next few months.

First is Samuel Berger. They call him Sandy. He was appointed by Billy Jeff as his National Security Adviser, which I guess means that he gets up every morning and gives the president advice on how to keep America secure.

To make him easy to recognize, we'll call him Sandyburger. He is a roly-poly little guy that "hems and haws" a lot during TV interviews.

Before he was appointed to guard the security of America, he was a speechwriter for Billy Jeff in 1992. Before that, he was a paid professional lobbyist whose clients included a Chinese National Trade Organization.

Sandyburger was paid by China to go to Washington

and lobby for their interests. Now, he is National Security Adviser. The Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory in New Mexico is where a Mr. Lee stole nuclear secrets. Doesn't sound secure, Sandyburger.

The second name to remember is Bill Richardson. He is also a Democrat from New Mexico, former delegate to the United Nations, but now is the Secretary of Energy. He was appointed by Billy Jeff.

The Secretary of Energy oversees nuclear affairs. The nuclear lab, where a Mr. Lee stole nuclear secrets, is located in New Mexico, where Richardson is from.

Billy Jeff and Al Gore are alleged to have gone dancing with the Chinese to get money so they could get re-elected.

Energy Secretary Richardson says that the administration has taken aggressive steps to tighten security at the nuclear lab now. He said they were giving lie detector tests and tightening up their E-mail rules.

Excuse me, sir. This is 1999. Why have we waited so long to realize that the Chinese are stealing our nuke stuff?

I just don't trust you boys. I think you are all three in over your heads. You can bomb SlobbyDon until we run out of money and he ain't going to sign a treaty. Forget about it.

As the Billy Jeff legend unfolds, remember to watch Billy Jeff, Sandyburger, and Energy Bill. They feel your pain.

But if you find any nuclear secrets, fax them to me here at the office, 806-250-5127.

I need the money.

EQUIP Date March 31

Agricultural producers are reminded that applications for cost-share assistance for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) are being ranked and considered for funding for the 1999 program year.

Parmer County is one of 8 counties designated as a priority area to receive funding. Emphasis will be to fund applications with the greatest water savings, environmental and economical benefits.

Irrigation pipeline to new sprinkler systems, converting sprinklers to low pressure and subsurface drip irrigation will receive highest priority.

Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or the Farm Service Agency to make an application.



PARMER COUNTY'S FINEST?.....The law team of Parmer County played basketball against Hereford and Muleshoe to benefit Crimestoppers. From left are Joe Herrera, Randy Gerles, Walt Yerger, Keith Payne, Rachel Howard, Izzy Carrasco, Scotty Ward, Tim Smith, Julian Dominguez, and Donna Kirton. ron carr photo.

61st ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1999
5 P.M. • BULL BARN
HEREFORD, TEXAS

\$1,000,000
of Capital Credits from 1986, 1987, 1988, and a portion of 1989 will be returned to Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative members

- PLUS... A short business meeting!
- PLUS... A meal of beef, fish, and chicken!
- PLUS... Entertainment by the Palmetto State Quartet!
- PLUS... Door prizes valued at more than \$1,000 will be awarded!

DEAF SMITH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
East 1st Street • Hereford • (806) 364-1166 • 800-687-8189

Electric Company To Give Credits

Southwestern Public Service Company customers in Texas will see an ongoing price reduction of about eight percent, beginning with April electric bills.

The Texas customers also will see a one-time credit to April bills, reducing the bill for an average home by about one-third.

The changes were approved last Friday by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

They reflect a \$44 million annual reduction in the fuel-cost portion of future bills from SPS.

SPS residential customers in Texas using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of service monthly will see a \$3.74, or 6 percent, drop in their bills. The one-time credit, for a home typically using 1,000 kilowatt-hours, will reduce the April bill by \$19.32.

Commercial and industrial customers of SPS in Texas will see reductions of up to 11 percent, because fuel accounts for a greater portion of their overall bills.

SPS customers in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas already are enjoying similar reductions in their electric bills. Regulations in those states differ from regulations in Texas, but the price changes are equivalent.

SPS also is providing lower prices to its regional wholesale customers.

The one-time credit and the ongoing reductions in customers' future bills reflect savings SPS has achieved in costs for fuels that fire the boilers at its power generating plants.

The reductions reflect, especially, lowered costs of transporting coal by rail from mines in Wyoming to the coal-fueled SPS plants near Amarillo and Muleshoe. SPS announced the reductions in November, noting that a dispute with the rail carrier-ongoing since 1990-had been

settled, allowing significant savings. Also, costs of natural gas and coal generally are down, allowing additional reductions.

SPS's electric rate in 1999 will be 25 percent lower than they were 16 years ago. By contrast, overall consumer prices have increased 67 percent during the past 16 years.

The inflation-adjusted price of electricity from SPS has declined 55 percent since 1983, which means the "real" cost of electricity from SPS today is less than half of what it was in 1983.

RANGERS WITH PSP!!

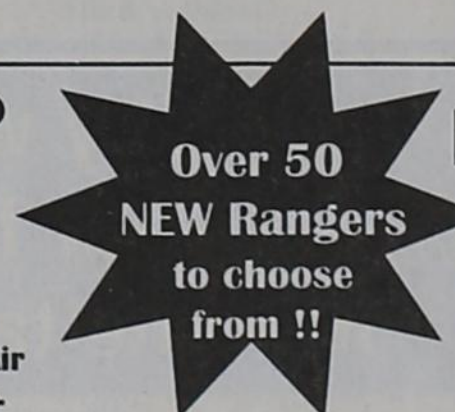
NEW '99 RANGER PICKUP
\$0 DOWN



Bright Red Clearcoat-XLT Sport Group-Outline White letter tires-Air Conditioner-Rear Sliding Window-AM/FM CD-Chrome Wheels-Tachometer #695440

START AT **\$139***
/MO. FOR 6 MONTHS

THEN **\$239**
/MO. FOR 54 MONTHS



NEW '99 RANGER SUPERCAB
\$0 DOWN



Bright Red Clearcoat-XLT Sport Group-Outline White letter tires-Air Conditioner-Rear Sliding Window-AM/FM CD-Chrome Wheels-Tachometer #695540

START AT **\$164***
/MO. FOR 6 MONTHS

THEN **\$264**
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