

THE END IS NEAR.

By DON NELSON

Yes, the 1900s will end Friday at midnight.

It won't really be the end of the 20th century, or the beginning of the 21st—that won't happen until Jan. 1, 2001—but the world is treating it as the start of the "new millennium" because of the numbering switchover to 2000.

It's a new year fraught with potential trauma because so much of the world's activities and services are guided by computers, and some of those older computers may have trouble recognizing 00 as the next year after 99. If a computer finds itself trying to deal with an abstract time before it even existed, it may just shut itself down. And that could lock a cash register, turn off a motor, stop the flow of water, cancel out a financial balance, or . . .

That's why governments, utilities, high-tech companies, businesses and everyone who owns a computer have been working for a year or

more to solve the inherent problems of "Y2K"—Year 2000.

Just to be on the safe side, many are stocking several days' extra supply of water, canned food, cash and other essentials, on the basis that it can't hurt to be prepared.

Others are predicting and preparing for calamities that range from the comical to the tragic.

There's a concern that outdated computers in Russia will launch all of the former Soviet Union's nuclear missiles, most of them aimed at targets in the US.

Another concern is that Y2K could bring about such a breakdown in law and order that widespread looting and martial law might result. The sales of handguns are up 13% in the last month.

At least one fundamentalist preacher in East Texas sees Y2K as Armageddon. In a questionable career move, he's openly predicting Judgment Day and the Second Coming for Saturday.

Border guards in Washington state and Canada have uncovered a very real threat of Y2K terrorist activity with the arrest of a Middle Eastern man who tried to enter the US in a van that contained terrorist-type explosives and timing devices. Law agencies worldwide are keeping an eye out for suspicious activities, and both President Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright are advising Americans who are traveling to exercise extra caution and not place themselves in harm's way.

Judging from polls conducted throughout the nation over the last two weeks, most Americans are disregarding both the opportunistic party-pushers and the grizzled doomsayers, and are planning, they say, to:

1. Spend a quiet new year's eve at home;
2. Watch the bowl games; and
3. Put up with whatever glitches the new year might bring.

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS—Santa Claus hands out presents last Thursday to extended care patients at Plains Memorial Hospital, along with family members and

guests. Santa had clear travel conditions, and the New Year's weekend is expected to continue with partly cloudy skies and highs in the upper 50s.

RU ready 4 Y2K?

As the turn of the century approaches this weekend, the main question everyone is asking is, "Are you ready for Y2K?"

The Year 2000 date change can disrupt or otherwise adversely affect any system that uses computer programs or computer chips.

The reason for this disruption is that many software programs and computer chips store calendar dates as two-digit rather than four-digit numbers. These software programs record the year 1998 as simply 98. This method of storing dates will work until the year 2000, when the 00 may be read as 1900 instead of 2000.

While most utility companies, banks and other major businesses and industries say they are as ready as humanly possible for the arrival of the so-called new millennium, many people are still wondering whether or not they'll have water, electricity or phone service as the clock strikes midnight on New Year's Eve. They also are worried about the safety of

their money deposited in banks, and whether or not they'll have food and water.

The American Red Cross suggests that Americans need to look at Y2K in terms of preparing for a winter storm or some other form of adverse weather.

Y2K Preparedness Checklist, Page 11

Most experts predict that any Y2K problems in the US will be more in the nature of inconveniences and minor service interruptions than major or threatening problems.

Although some precautions may be in order, common sense will probably do more to ease the transition into the next century than any extreme measures.

Local radio and television stations will be the best sources for news about any problems with electric service in this region on New Year's

Eve. Southwestern Public Service Company and other energy providers in the area are confident that electric service will not be interrupted by the so-called Y2K bug; however, vehicles colliding with utility poles, as well as blizzards and ice storms—even squirrels playing in electric substations—could cause service outages on New Year's Eve, just as they do at other times.

Energy consumers who want to know the cause of any energy-reliability problems in the region on Dec. 31 or Jan. 1 should tune to area radio and television stations.

SPS and other utilities will be working closely with area broadcasters. The plan is to inform the public quickly about the actual causes of any interruptions to electric service.

The rural electric cooperatives and government-owned utilities in the region also are making plans to apprise news media of New Year's Eve service problems and restoration (Continued on Page 16)

Be thankful for

LIFE

A good resolution

(Editor's Note: Johnnie Ruth Holcomb, an attorney in Little Rock, Ark., was raised here and graduated from Dimmitt High School. This story of this remarkable woman's battle with breast cancer first appeared in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, and is reprinted with permission.)

By PHYLLIS D. BRANDON
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette
On the sunny first Saturday of fall, Johnnie Holcomb pounded the pavement of downtown Little Rock as she joined 22,000 of "our closest friends," who ran and walked in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. "Kay Cook and I walked over the Broadway and the Main Street bridges," she says. "That was our goal."

An award for Holcomb announced at the end of the Sept. 25 race was a surprise that caught her off guard. No, she hadn't run or walked the fastest. But Anne Jansen presented her the "You Can Make a Difference" medal from Kellogg's, a national sponsor of the survivors' part of the race.

Selected by the board of the Arkansas chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, Holcomb was saluted as the person "who has demonstrated an understanding and awareness of issues related to breast cancer survivorship and has demonstrated a commitment to educating the public with the life-saving messages about the importance of early detection."

"It was very easy for the Arkansas race to choose Johnnie," says Wendy Saer, this year's race chairman. The award was presented again later that morning at the survivors' luncheon, where Holcomb had a chance to respond. The

event's air of celebration made a happy contrast to the news that had hit the honoree just three years earlier.

Two days after the 1996 Race for the Cure, Holcomb—then 49—was told she had inflammatory breast cancer.

During a previous surgical procedure, a precancerous condition called ductal carcinoma in situ tissue had been found in Holcomb's breast. This raised a red flag, and her doctor recommended that she

have a mammogram every six months.

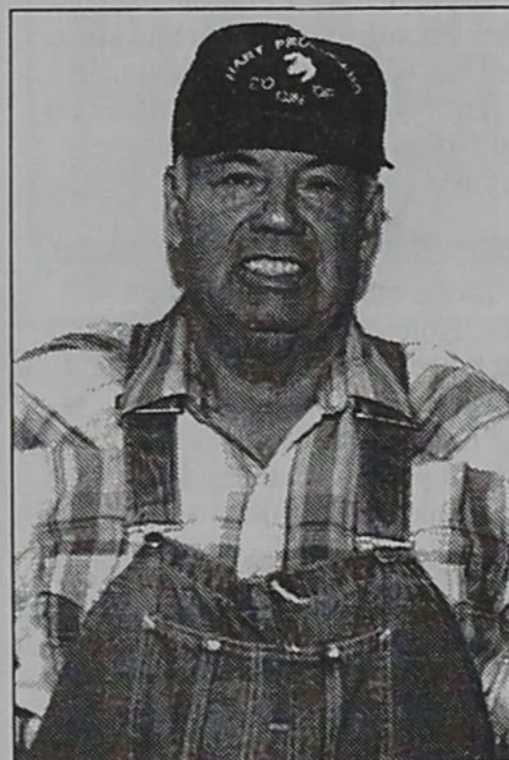
The first one in March 1996 was clear. But while on a trip to China in May she felt tightness and discomfort in her breasts. Despite an all-clear report from her gynecologist (who said, "I'll see you in December"), she scheduled a mammogram for September.

Dr. Jim Hagans and the radiologist could readily see on the X-ray that she had the worst type of breast

(Continued on Page 2)



JOHNNIE RUTH HOLCOMB
... Entering the new year with hope



Harold Smith

Smith is candidate

Harold Smith of Hart is a candidate for Castro County Commissioner of Precinct 1, subject to the Democratic Primary in March.

"I am asking for your support," Smith said. "I am willing to debate anyone in the Commissioners' Court or anyone seeking the office of commissioner."

Smith said he will try to be a good public servant and a good steward.

(Continued on Page 10)

Matthews seeks return as C/DA

Jerry Matthews is seeking reelection to the position of Castro County/District Attorney, subject to the Democratic Primary in March.

"I have lived in Castro County basically all my life," Matthews said. He was born in Littlefield, but was raised here, graduating from Dimmitt High School in 1972.

He obtained his bachelor's degree in entomology from Texas Tech University and returned to Tech for his law degree, finishing in 1988.

He was first elected to the office of county/district attorney in 1992. He is a member of the Texas County and District Attorneys Association and the National District Attorneys Association.

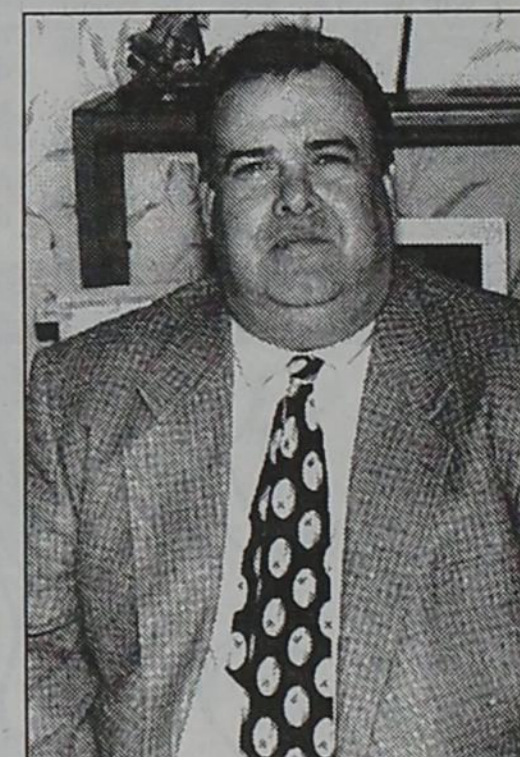
Matthews also is a member of the State Bar College, an organization within the State Bar, in which members must maintain 40 hours of continuing legal education each year.

"I feel that after the seven years I've served, I have a working knowledge of what is required of the DA and what is needed in this office," Matthews said.

He said he has upgraded the office and has developed a good working relationship with the Dimmitt Police Dept. and the Sheriff's Office.

"I secured a continuing grant to pay for an investigator's position in Castro County," Matthews said. "We are able to do a better job of investigating, and we have cases better prepared to go to trial."

He said that because of the better



Jerry Matthews

preparation, his office is able to put more pressure on defendants to accept plea offers, which helps the county by reducing the cost of trials.

"I have a 90%-plus conviction rate in cases that do go to trial," Matthews stated.

Matthews also was instrumental in helping establish stricter guidelines used by local law enforcement in prosecuting family violence cases. He said the guidelines have helped to reduce family violence cases.

"I am asking for your vote," Matthews said. "I will continue to serve the people of this county to the best of my ability."

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	38	22	
Friday	51	21	
Saturday	54	23	
Sunday	48	23	.03
Monday	53	27	
Tuesday	53	29	
Wednesday	67	30	

December Moisture 1.52
1999 Moisture 33.21

Readings taken every day at 7 a.m. at KDHN, official National Weather Service recording station for Dimmitt.



More about

Be thankful for . . . LIFE . . .

(Continued from Page 1) cancer.

"If I had waited until December, I probably wouldn't be telling this story," Holcomb says.

The race for a cure became a personal journey for this Arkansan born in Lubbock, Texas.

A graduate of high school in Dimmitt, which lies halfway between Amarillo and Lubbock, Holcomb came to Arkansas when her parents moved to Booneville. She enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, where an older sister was already a student.

With a marketing degree, she returned to Texas to work in Dallas with the Howard Wolfe fabric stores, called Fabrics 2. Five years later, a friend suggested she "would be good in the courtroom," and so she returned to Little Rock and

enrolled in the School of Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

A part-time job at Stephens Inc. helped with law-school expenses. After graduation, she joined the firm full time in the public finance department, which does bond financing for government units. After eight years she became a vice president in product development, where she has been for the last 15 years.

"We look at various things going on in the market and whether Stephens should be involved," she explains, "and also introduce clients to the particular Stephens' departments which specialize in their needs."

Her law degree in 1978 "was a credential that opened a lot of doors for me in terms of things that I have been able to do," Holcomb says.

"The combination of marketing and law has helped me be more creative about what it is we're doing, because there's this piece of me that wants to go at it with a flair, and there's a piece that understands, 'You're a regulated industry.'"

Full-time volunteer

As an active volunteer, Holcomb represents the Arkansas Komen Foundation on the Breast Cancer Control Board, a program administered by the Arkansas Health Department to educate women on the importance of early detection. The board's chairman this year, she finds her survivor's experience "gives me a different piece of empathy."

With eight representatives including doctors, nurses, women's advocates, a radiation oncologist and a surgeon, the board has the mission of providing awareness, education and clinical services through screening, diagnosis and treatment.

Since the middle of February, the board's (877) 670-CARE number has received 15,000 calls. More than 4,000 people have enrolled in the BreastCare program, and 30 women and one man are receiving treatment.

Created by the Arkansas General Assembly in 1997, BreastCare is designed to reach those who are uninsured, under 40 and at least 200 percent below the poverty level.

Recently, the board decided to provide treatment to anyone diagnosed with breast cancer at any age who otherwise fit the eligibility criteria.

"I think we need to work a balance on this board between educational awareness and clinical services," Holcomb says.

Board members have debated the amount of advertising that is needed. One doctor on the board, having voiced concern that there were too many ads, came to the next meeting to report that he had a patient who was motivated to get a

mammogram because she had seen the TV commercials. She was diagnosed with cancer.

"You cannot tell too many stories," says Holcomb. "You cannot do too much to encourage your

friends [to get a mammogram]."

One in eight Arkansas women will have breast cancer in her lifetime, according to the Arkansas Department of Health.

Annette Connaway, a board member and breast cancer survivor, says Holcomb has worked tirelessly for the board.

"She is really working two jobs, one at Stephens and one with the board," says Connaway. "On the board, she exhibits true leadership. She shows her wonderful sense of humor. She is at all times thinking about her role in the community in respect to spreading the message of early detection of breast cancer, which is a prevention of death."

Calling Holcomb immensely brave, Connaway adds, "To me she is intelligent with good common sense. She is warm, caring and laughs with people and at her self. She lifts people up through her friendship."

Even television

Perhaps Holcomb will get to tell her story on *The Rosie O'Donnell Show*, which invites a Kellogg recipient to be on television during October as O'Donnell showcases Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

After Holcomb's diagnosis was confirmed by a biopsy, she underwent chemotherapy beginning in October 1996. She had a double mastectomy that December, more chemotherapy and radiation therapy at the same time, and a stem cell transplant at the breast cancer unit of Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas.

Her treatment was slightly different from that given many other breast cancer patients, she explains, because physicians have learned that inflammatory breast cancer will likely spread after surgery. With chemotherapy, her doctor first reduced the tumors, then operated.

Despite all this, the cancer returned at the end of November 1997. "It was actually there longer, but I thought it was something else," she says. "Finally, I decided those little red spots [on her chest] weren't going away."

Another round of chemotherapy continued through August 1998, but she also went to the University of Louisville for an experimental treatment with a drug called Photofrin.

By early October a year ago, the cancer was back again. Ironically, she made that discovery the day of the national Komen luncheon in Dallas.

In November 1998, she had another Photofrin treatment and since then has taken a weekly treatment of Herceptin, approved by the Food and Drug Administration just last October.

Education and experience

Based on her grueling experience, Holcomb believes strongly that women should have the right to supervise their own health care.

"If you don't feel something is right, if you're not being told what you think is happening in your

body, take charge!" she says. "I am educated and not intimidated easily, and I still didn't think it could happen to me.

"If something is going wrong, it must be connected with something else," she adds. "Inflammatory breast cancer is about 2 percent of breast cancers. It's the most aggressive. So the fact that I'm still alive is probably amazing."

Another reason Holcomb wants women to take charge of their own health care relates to how she discovered that Photofrin might help her. She learned about the medication from a colleague and read about it on the Internet.

"I got the information and number of the doctor to call and took it to Dr. Jack Sternberg at Arkansas Oncology and asked him to call the other doctor," she says. "He said, 'Well, I will, but you know enough about your disease that if you will call the nurse, you will get more information than I will.'"

When Holcomb talked to the nurse, her chemotherapy was working, and she didn't have any visible lesions — so the advice was to use Photofrin only as a last resort. She remembers that Sternberg said, "If it's such a good thing as a last resort, then why isn't it a better thing when it has less to treat?" So she "got an appointment and was accepted into the program and had that treatment."

Without having done some of her own research and without a doctor willing to listen to her, "that wouldn't have happened," she says. "I went back about a month ago, and out of those who these doctors had treated with Photofrin for breast cancer, I am doing the best. But I also was doing the best when they began the treatment."

Important medical care

Holcomb thinks the combination of everything she has done has prolonged her life.

Now she has a weekly treatment of Herceptin, which will benefit her because she has the Her-2/neu gene. Women who have the gene often have very aggressive cancers that make treatment difficult. Cancer cells, she explains, multiply as fast as they can. "The Herceptin latches onto that cancer cell and says, 'Don't you multiply.' And the cell says, 'But I want to, I want to.'"

Initially, the Herceptin hurt because of the interaction of the cells. The treatment no longer hurts, but she tires easily. So now on the day she takes Herceptin, she keeps her schedule light. Every four weeks she takes Taxol as chemotherapy.

"Some of the latest studies show that the combination of Herceptin and Taxol are prolonging life," she says. "Because I had two recur-

rences, and because the inflammatory breast cancer is so aggressive, and because other than stopping treatment and having it recur again is the only way you can know whether those little pesky things are hanging around in there, I'll be on treatment indefinitely.

"I have no hair and no breasts, but I'm alive."

Holcomb expresses the deepest empathy for "the younger women at 28 or 34 who have to deal with the disease. I am at a place where people like me or they don't. It's not about my body. It might have been when I was 27 or 28. So I try to be concerned with the stuff that I can do something about."

The continuing treatments keep her hair from growing back. She tells her nieces and nephews, "If you see my nose dripping, please tell me. I don't know it because I have no nose hair."

To help keep her spirits up, Holcomb has a beautiful wig so she doesn't have to fix her hair every morning. Except for the day she takes Taxol, "I try to go into the office every day. Some days I am more productive than others. But I would not be doing as well as I'm doing if I were not getting up, getting dressed and going to work. If I think my attitude is such that I would be a detriment to me and everybody around me, I don't go in."

A trusted friend

Through all the treatments, Holcomb has had a trusted steward. "Kay Cook is my salvation," she says.

Cook first met Holcomb when she served on the Worthen Bank Advisory Board when Cook worked in banking. She drove Holcomb when she went for her first biopsy.

They learned the diagnosis together from a book and the doctor. From the beginning, says Holcomb, "she knew more about me than I did. So we made a deal: You can make my chemo schedule." Cook accompanies her to appointments. "After 34 chemo treatments, she has missed two."

Besides providing moral support, Cook has made chemo day fun. "It takes a special person who

can sit there and be about what is going on with you," Holcomb says, adding, "She has been equally good and inspirational to other people at the clinic."

"Something very special about Johnnie," Cook says, "is that she makes the opportunity to focus on those she is around."

Holcomb makes them feel at ease and can usually ease a problem they are having with her signature phrase, "I've got a good story."

Cook explains. The story might be to a fellow patient who is concerned about losing her hair. Holcomb breaks the ice by relating how her wig blew off in a strong wind, and after she entered the office, a nurse picked leaves out of it, asking, "How did you get these leaves in your hair?"

However, Cook has a weakness—it's needles. Holcomb has had a "port" installed so she doesn't have to undergo the discomfort of intravenous punctures every time she's treated. Once when Cook tried to help by removing the access to Holcomb's port after a treatment, she felt weak and was afraid her pulling on the needle was hurting. So Holcomb went to the bathroom and removed it herself.

"Now she knows, 'I can ask a lot of you, but not having to do with needles,'" Cook says.

"Johnnie goes about meeting each goal with a positive attitude," she says. "When you analyze treatment options, you have to have a positive attitude to accomplish that goal. Education and awareness are top priorities for her. She is a true inspiration."

Holcomb did not have the known risk factors for cancer. She didn't smoke and "there was no cancer in my family," she says.

"They tell you cancer doesn't hurt, and I was having pain. Surely, it wasn't cancer. You can never be too careful, because cancer has too many faces. It's not a respecter of age, race, economics. We've all got to stick together to take care of each other.

"Have you had your mammogram? That seems kind of personal, but someone else's death is real personal, too."

Police Calls

Azteca Complex manager Miguel Velasquez told police Dec. 21 that someone spray painted some walls at the complex.

Unknown suspects ran over a stop sign, a street name sign and a metal pole at the intersection of Northwest Fifth and Youts. Damages were estimated at \$128.

A suspect drove off without paying for \$18.36-worth of gas on Dec. 24 at Allsup's.

Early Christmas Eve, two Dimmitt men, ages 17 and 23, were stopped for DWI, first offense, in separate incidents.

On Tuesday, a Friona man, 33, was jailed for DWI, first offense.

Jailed on warrants were:

—Dec. 22, a 39-year-old Amarillo man, on motion to revoke probation, stemming from forgery charges.

—Friday, a Dimmitt man, 23, on warrants for burglary of a building and delivery of marijuana to a minor, and a Dimmitt man, 53, theft by check.

—Sunday, a Dimmitt man, 32, on a Bailey County warrant for theft by check; and an Odessa woman, 41, warrants for no valid inspection certification and failure to appear.

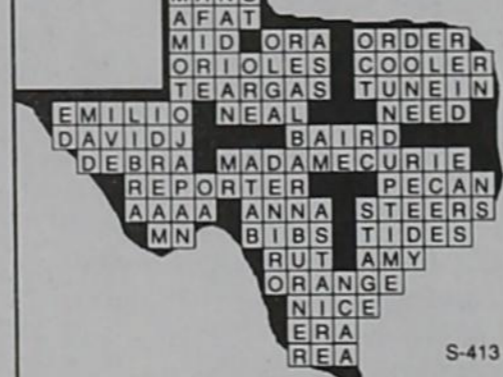
Wright is only DISD candidate

Rick Wright is the only candidate who signed up to serve in Place 2 of the Dimmitt School Board.

Since it is an uncontested race, there will be no election. The board may appoint Wright to the position at its next meeting.

Wright will fill the unexpired term of Earl Behrends, who resigned due to moving out of the district he represented.

Last Puzzle Solution



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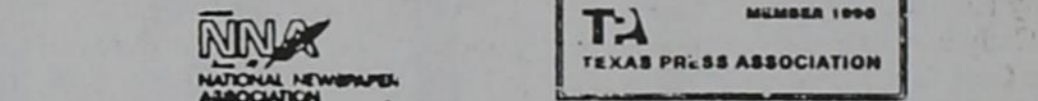


Table with 2 columns: Category and Day/Time. Includes Display and Classified Advertising, Agriculture, Business & Industry News, Sports, Social and Church News, Community Correspondence, Personal Items, General News, City and County.

Table with 2 columns: Role and Name. Includes Editor and Publisher, News Department, Advertising Composition, Ad Sales, Page Composition and Photo Lab, Bookkeeping, Community Correspondents.

ACROSS

- 1 TX Hank Thompson hit: "Six-___ to Go"
5 "___ old cowhand"
6 Univ. of Houston is a "suit" school
7 Tyler FM radio
8 TXism: "if ___ couldn't stand it"
18 Dallas Stars League
19 TXism: "kick up your heels"
20 TXism: "Sunday ___ to meetin' clothes"
21 Big Bend National
22 Abilene Cooper's class
23 ___ bomb
28 TXism: "wood ___ diplomacy" (punish)
29 groove-billed ___ can be found at Bentzen Rio Grande Park
30 TX ZZ Top album: "___ Grange"
32 TXism: "___ a preacher on payday"
34 was Oswald part of a ___ to kill JFK?
35 TX Sessions headed this federal agency
36 TXism: "fast as ___ gossip"
37 SE Asian country
38 Baylor alumnus
39 animal docs
40 how Cowboys pick rookies
42 TXism: "got 'em in my cross ___"
43 TXism: "we're gonna say our ___ (get married)"
44 "rant and rave"
45 Houston's Indian nickname
46 TX Debbie Reynolds film: "The Singing ___"
47 TXism: "he'd be ___ a battle of wits" (dumb)
49 TX Lyle Lovett performs with his ___
50 Troy Aikman signals
51 TXism: "___ it or lose it!"
52 TXism: "couldn't find hide ___ hair of it"
53 Davy's home state (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 before music, TX Bob Willis made a living by
2 TX Clay Allison's epitaph: "he never killed ___ did not deserve it"
3 business dress style in panhandle
4 TXism: "prayer bones"
9 XIT Ranch once had 3-million ___
10 TX Kenny Rogers' "I Don't ___ You"
11 TX group: Little Joe ___ Familia
12 TXism: "let it ___"
13 Los ___ Ferry crosses Rio Grande
14 pride is a common ___ of Texans
15 state pub. school assessment test
16 DFW abbr.
17 TXism: "a ___ burner"
21 TXism for active child (2 wds.)
23 TX Neiman, et al.
24 TX golfer Kite
25 TXism: "fits like scales ___ fish"
26 lawyer Bell who defended Jack Ruby
27 ___ Bois Park is at Ray Roberts Lake
28 TXism: "___ it up" (finalize)
29 TXism: "got ___ of corn to shuck" (big chore)
31 deadly virus
33 found on trees around Caddo Lake
34 governor who was impeached in '17
35 TXism: "compadre"
37 he started the AFL Dallas Texans
38 Darren Mc ___ was in TX-based "Bullet for a Badman"
41 TXism: "could out ___ six-legged bobcat"
42 TXism: "If I ___ dime for every time ___"
45 confederate Texans
48 TX Babe won gold in '32 Olympics in 80-___ hurdles

Advertisement for CCHD (Castro Co. Hospital District Health Care System). Features a clock graphic and the headline 'As The Clock Strikes Midnight...'. Text includes: 'We'd like to wish our loyal customers health, wealth, and love in the new year!' and contact info: 'Dimmitt, Texas • (806) 647-3785'.

Crossword puzzle advertisement titled 'The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD by Charley & Guy Orbison'. Includes a crossword grid and a list of clues for across and down words.

On the Go with Martha Jo Hyman, 647-2255

By DOROTHY HOPSON

As I prepared this column inquiring about the holiday plans of nearly everyone I saw, I came to this conclusion: This column's name, "On The Go" is very appropriate. Dimmitt people and all their relatives are really on the go.

Some Dimmitt people traveled to Houston or nearby. Other people traveled from Houston to Dimmitt to celebrate. We have news bits from Kansas, Louisiana, Iowa and Florida and next week we'll tell you about Don & Paula Graham's visit to the Linsky family in Canada if Martha Jo wants to.

To begin the holiday season the First United Methodist Church choir presented "Love Came Down at Christmas" under the direction of Charles Axtell. Don Nelson, Terri Louder and Jamie Mendoza were the soloists. Instrumentalists were Marie Winders, organist; Connie Dickerson, pianist; and Beth Buckley, keyboards. Charles Wales was the narrator.

During the evening services at First Baptist Church, the FBC choir presented "Christmas Sing Noel." Wayland Hazel was the director and soloist Elaine Hazel sang *Heaven Knows*. The duet of Tami Griffitt and Leon Joplin sang *Speak the Name of Jesus*.

Howard Rhodes was the narrator and a nativity drama was presented by Morgan Hazel, who portrayed Mary; Daniel Proffitt, who acted as Joseph; Stuart Sheffy and Jared Griffitt, shepherds; and Charles Vandiver, Simon. Accompanists included Walter Maynard, pianist; Paula Proffitt, keyboards; and Ruth Waylan, organ.

These musicals set the mode for a lovely Christmas in Dimmitt.

Jerry Heller, Leon Joplin and Tami Griffitt were invited to sing at the Amarillo Business and Professional Women's Club's Christmas Party. Delores Heller, Pam Joplin and Randy Griffitt went along to hear them sing and to enjoy the festivities. The group's invitation was extended by Leon's mother, Vera Brunk, who is a member of the club.

David and Ann Hays celebrated a little early with their children, Dondi of Amarillo, Scott and Allison Hays and son, Hayden of Fort Worth. Ann and David's focus was on Hayden and Hayden was focused on Santa Claus who was coming to see him in Dimmitt at his grandparents' house.

Cody, Kelly and Taylor Fry flew in from La Fayette, La., for an early Christmas with parents Van and Carole Hopson and grandparents Rex and Jerry Wooten and V.C. and Dorothy Hopson.

Cody is working on oil rigs out in the Gulf. Until October of this year he was a cowboy (horse and all the

trimmings) at Rafter 3 Feedyard.

Kelly and 2-year-old Taylor are enjoying the warm climate, easy access to shopping centers and being near Uncle Steve and Aunt Sally Stanton and their daughter, Shelby. Steve is the son of Tammy Stanton and Sally is the daughter of Jerry Wooten, both of Dimmitt.

Doris Flynt entertained her children in her home. Teresa and Kent Lindsey of Dimmitt helped her with the host duties and they greeted Dr. Robert and Evelyn Lindsey of Plainview, their son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Katie Lindsey of Cleburne. A daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Billy Holland of Fort Worth joined them. Jeff Lindsey and his wife, Susan, came in from Dallas and the celebration began.

Evelyn Lindsey is the daughter of Hazel and Eulless Waggoner of Sunnyside and Dimmitt. Hazel is a new resident at Canterbury Villa.

After visiting with the family at Doris Flynt's house, Kent and Teresa Lindsey and children, Van, Heather and Kris, spent the rest of the holiday with Teresa's parents, Dr. Bill and Ruby Lee of Lake Tanglewood near Amarillo.

Louise Mears spent the Christmas festivities with her daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Zay Gilbreath, in Amarillo. There were other members of Charlotte's family present including grandchildren, and that brightened her day.

A note to Bill Sava: We agree, Dimmitt is a wonderful place to live and shop. Margaret Parsons and I shopped for the children on the Chuck Colson Prison Ministry Christmas Project. The Methodist and Baptist Churches supported this project very generously. The people at Alco, Dollar General and Bealls gave us time, energy and personal attention, helping us find sizes and presents for the 23 kids we had on our list.

Ruthie Thomas, Bealls' store manager, had an employee of the store bring jackets from the state of Kansas to fill some of the Christmas requests. I'm telling you folks, it doesn't get any better than this.

Carolyn Jones was busy for days decorating, baking and anticipating a visit from her granddaughter, Frances, who came all the way from Ferdinand, Fla.

Frances is 5 and she brought along her mom and dad, Frederick and Tina Pat Hanold. Uncle Robert and Aunt Becky Jones and cousins Allison and Abigail came from Friona. They brought with them their Uncle Steve Garrison from Iowa.

Jewell Connell was a guest of her grandson, Jerry Pearce and his family at Sugar Land. He'd made her plane reservations for a few days longer

than she'd planned to stay, but felt pretty good that he'd wanted her with them that long. Sounds like a next grandson to me.

As I was leaving church yesterday, I heard Jolene Gleghorn say, "Bro. Howard, I want you to meet my daughter, Kim." I took the cue and gleaned this news item on the spot. Dwight and Jolene had been delighted with visits from several family members including Kim and Robert Watson and sons, Josh and Brendan of Olathe, Kan.

Perhaps you remember Robert, who was an exchange student from Ireland. His Dimmitt parents were Fred and Bobbie Bruegel and family. Robert liked Texas so much he returned, married the pretty girl he'd left behind and became one of us.

The Gleghorn's second daughter and her husband, Kay Lynn and Wayne Flores of Bedford, joined the group. Wayne is an engineer and Kay Lynn works for North Western Mutual Insurance.

Dwight, Jolene and the family traveled to visit the Gleghorns' son, Justin and his wife, Kara. Kara is the daughter of Joe and Pam Josselet of Dimmitt.

Kara and Justin have just moved into a new home. Justin completed his master's and will soon begin working on his doctorate. Kara is enrolling in Tech.

I walked up to the check-out counter behind Phyllis Mooney and Janet Mooney Wohlgenuth a day or two before the Big Day and learned that Max and Janet are teaching school in Deer Park and Galena Park, suburbs of Houston. They have two daughters.

Phyllis and Janet had big plans for Christmas. Janet and Max were planning Christmas Day with his brother, Mark and family of Austin at Mom Charlie's house. Then on Sunday they were on their way with Bob and Phyllis to sister Janice and brother-in-law Gerald Davis's home in Amarillo to share Christmas with Joe Mooney, Susan Mooney White, Judy Mooney Moore and many of their kids. All of the children of Bob and Phyllis were to be there except Jane Ann Mooney Coffin who couldn't make it this year. She lives near Houston, also.

Mauzee Youts, who is the grandmother of the Mooney clan, was probably celebrating with all of them too. Mauzee lives at Ware Memorial Nursing Home in Amarillo.

William Howard Taft, 27th U.S. president, started the presidential custom of throwing out the first ball at the 1910 major league game between the Washington Senators and Philadelphia Athletics.

The real name of the Hunchback of Notre Dame was Quasimodo.

Newlyweds Kris and Jill Keith of Austin spent a week in Hawaii for their honeymoon following their Dec. 11 wedding in Dimmitt. They spent time on Maui, where they learned to surf and also enjoyed a luau. On Oahu they went scuba diving and toured the island.

They were able to come home over the Christmas holidays and see their parents—John and Doricell Davis and David and Patricia Keith.

Martha Jo Hyman had Christmas with Jo and Bill Settle, and Leigh, Curtis and Aubrey Durbin at home. She's doing well and we're grateful.

Cindy and Kaci Lee of Hart just returned from Pattison, which is near Houston. They spent Christmas with Todd, Dawn and Madison McDaniel. They live on a horse ranch next door to Drew Musick, son of Leta Dennis. Todd and Drew train cutting horses there.

A large family reunion was hosted by Mrs. Henrietta Nazworth of Dimmitt on Dec. 26 in her home. All of her children and in-laws were present along with most of her grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. In all, there were 50 present.

Those attending were her daughters and families, Joyce and Andrew Brown and family of Pottsville; Doris Pettiet and family of Lubbock; Minnie and Carl Don Allen of Fort Smith, Ark.; and Pat and Max Goforth of Hereford. Also attending

were her stepson and his wife, Dean and Wanda Nazworth of Clarendon; her sister-in-law, Billie and Troy Kirby and family; and a brother-in-law, Orville Cleavinger of Springlake.

A great day was enjoyed by all with a fish fry featuring fresh fish

furnished by the Browns of Lake Texoma.

Dr. Wallace Davis, president of Wayland Baptist University, will speak at Presbyterian Church Sunday at 3 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

IT'S TIME TO Celebrate!

This will certainly be a year to remember, and we hope it will be simply sensational through and through for you and your whole family. You've been so good to us—thanks!

Happy 2000!

Hart Producers Co-op Gin

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

Happy New Year to all our friends and neighbors. Thanks for visiting us!

Garner Ball Photography

New Year's Greetings To All

May your fondest hopes and dreams be realized in 2000. We wish you a bright and exciting new year.

Thank you so much for letting us serve you.

El Sombrero Restaurant

Floyd Lopez & Family
We will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 3.

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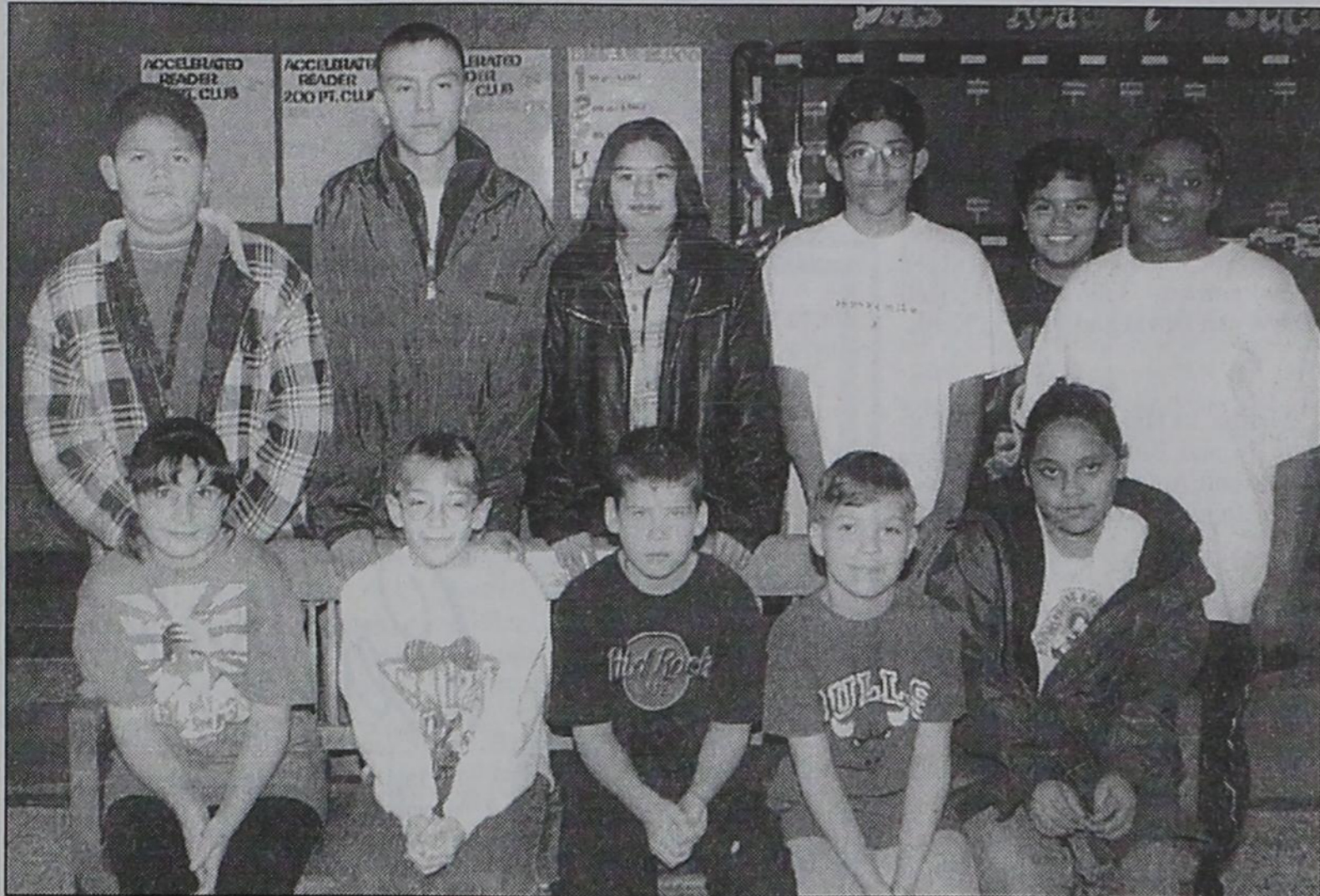
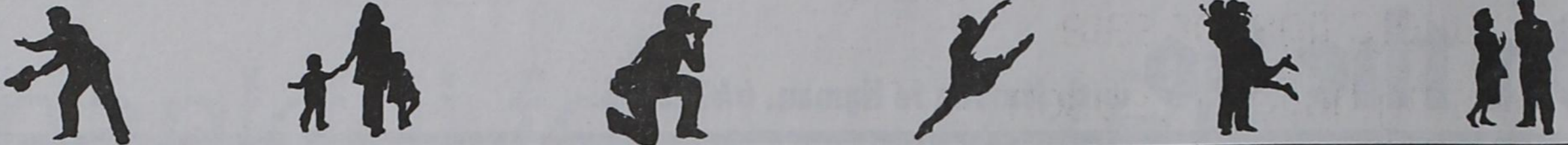
We hope your celebration includes our very best wishes for a joyous new year and much happiness throughout 2000. We're grateful for your business.

Have a terrific new year!

FIRST UNITED BANK

Member FDIC

People



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH at Dimmitt Middle School are (front, from left) Mandi Ebeling, Erin Black, Houston Sutton, Edward Wait, and Arica

Cisneros; and (back, from left) Daniel Jackson, Nicky Gauna, Christy Hernandez, Chuck Cruz, Candis Rodriguez, and Felisha Starling. Staff Photo

Mr. and Mrs. Kris Keith establish home in Austin

Mr. and Mrs. Kris Keith have established their new home in Austin following a honeymoon trip to Hawaii after their Dec. 11 wedding.

The bride is the former Jill Lynn Davis, daughter of John and Doricell Davis of Dimmitt. The groom is the son of David and Patricia Keith, also of Dimmitt.

The couple exchanged vows in a formal, double-ring ceremony in the First United Methodist Church of Dimmitt, with Rev. Howard Rhodes, pastor of Dimmitt's First Baptist Church, officiating.

Jeanne Gabel of Earth served her sister as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Holly Davis of Dimmitt, sister in law of the bride, and Amber Matthews of Lubbock, a friend of the bride.

Michael Keith of Austin served his brother as best man. Groomsmen were Scott Hunter of Lubbock and Ryan Moore of Dallas, friends of the groom.

Flower girl was Cassie Gabel and ring bearer was Clay Gabel, both of Earth, niece and nephew of the bride. Candle lighters were Kandy Oldham, cousin of the bride, and Jennifer Parten, friend of the bride, both of Belton. Ushers were Chad Davis of Dimmitt, brother of the bride, and Chris Stanford of Austin, friend of the groom.

Deanne Clark of Lubbock served as the organist and Dwight Joiner of Dimmitt was the pianist. Kaci Schulte of Canyon sang *The Lord's Prayer*.

The front of the church was decorated with a large floral arrangement of red roses, designed by Mary Cluck, aunt of the bride. Pew markers were made from tulle bows entwined with English ivy and holly berries, and the windows of the church held groupings of candles accented with English ivy and tulle.

The unity candle was placed in a brass holder.



MRS. KRIS ZACHRY KEITH
... She's the former Jill Lynn Davis

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a waist-cinching two-piece corset gown designed by Maggie Sottero. Made of delustered matte satin ivory, the gown had gold embroidery on the bodice, double tails and border of the hem of the chapel-length train of the skirt. The veil, designed by the bride and made by her mother, was fashioned of satin ivory tulle in a triangle shape attached to a jeweled clip. Her ensemble was completed with matching ivory satin single strap shoes. She wore the traditional blue garter, a penny minted in the year of

her birth, and her maternal grandmother's wedding ring for something old. For something borrowed, the bride wore diamond earrings belonging to her best friend, Amber Matthews. Her bouquet, designed by Kay Gfeller, was fashioned with red roses accented with pink berries.

The feminine attendants wore floor-length burgundy taffeta dresses with off-the-shoulder straps, high waists and gorged skirts. They carried arrangements of novelty roses that were white and tipped in red, tied together with red rose buds, bound with iridescent pink and gold silk bows, also designed by Gfeller.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the fellowship hall of the church.

A white tablecloth covered the bride's table. Crystal appointments set on mirrors with greenery and grapes accented the tables. The bride's cake was decorated with off-white icing and consisted of three tiers, with each tier covered in red rose buds and red berries.

The groom's table also was covered in white, with crystal appointments and a red rose bouquet.

Several red rose bouquets were scattered about the fellowship hall to complete the decorations. The windows were decorated with greenery and candles.

Members of the house party were Linda Langford, Kay Gfeller, Glenda Sims, Margaret Parsons, and Beth Odum.

The bride is a 1998 graduate of Dimmitt High School and plans to continue her studies in computer science at the University of Texas.

The groom is a 1992 graduate of DHS and a 1998 graduate of Texas Tech University. He is employed with HNTB, an engineering firm in Austin.

Shot clinic will be held in Dimmitt Jan. 6

The Texas Dept. of Health will conduct an immunization clinic in Dimmitt on Jan. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Dimmitt City Hall.

The immunization clinic will offer protection against several childhood diseases.

Vaccines offered will give protection against polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, mumps, rubella, HIB (haemophilus influenza type B) and varicella (chicken pox).

The Texas Dept. of Health is charging money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount of money charged will be based on family income and size and the ability to pay.

Tots and Teens

Sincerely appreciates your patronage in 1999

And we look forward to serving your needs in 2000

Offering Special Things for Special People!

Thank You!!

Happy New Year!!!

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Christmas may be past, but you'll find big discounts in your future!

All Christmas Decorations, Items 50% off	Home Decorations 50% off
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Just Imagine
Mandy Gfeller and Jill Millican
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Ring In the New!

As we usher in 2000, we would like to extend our best wishes to everyone who helped make us so successful. We really appreciate your loyal patronage.

A happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all!

**Hereford Texas
Federal Credit Union**

2000

Breast cancer screening is set for Jan. 6

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on Jan. 6 and appointments are now being accepted.

Those who wish to have an exam should call 1-800-377-4673 or (806) 356-1905 to schedule an appointment.

The clinic is being conducted by the Women's Center of the Don & Sybil Harrington Cancer Center and Baptist/St. Anthony's Health System.

Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered nurse.

Funding is available through the Texas Dept. of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance.

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 a breast self-exam each month.

RING IN THE New!

A new year. A new start. A new chance to show our gratitude to all our good friends both old and new. Hope your year is a resounding success. Thanks, friends!

Dimmitt Printing & Office Supply

New Year's GREETINGS

The time has come for us to wish you much happiness and success in this exciting new year.

We appreciate your patronage, and hope that you will continue to do business with us in the future.

Best wishes in 2000!

Production Credit Association

Mark L. Kleman, Vice-President and Manager
Edna Sanders, Office Assistant

10...9...8...7...
6...5...4...3...2...1...

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you for taking time out to visit us this past year. We wish you all the best to come.

Brown, Graham & Co., P.C.

TxDOT offers tips for safe travel during holiday season

Texans with New Year's travel plans should take extra precautions when hitting the road this holiday season. But the Texas Dept. of Transportation (TxDOT) says heavy holiday traffic volumes and the possibility of harsh winter weather are bigger concerns than problems caused by the Y2K transition.

"Although we encourage Texans to prepare for Y2K, we believe it will be human factors that cause the most safety problems for travelers," said Carlos Lopez, TxDOT's director of traffic operations.

He said there is a potential for a high number of celebrants since this New Year's Eve marks the beginning of a new millennium and falls on a Friday.

"There aren't any Y2K problems with safety belts and car safety seats," Lopez said. "Using them properly, along with traveling at an appropriate speed and never drinking and driving will make it a safer holiday."

TxDOT says there are several tips that can help to minimize holiday travel headaches.

Here are some pre-travel tips:

- ◆ Plan ahead to allow extra travel time to and from your holiday destinations.

- ◆ Inspect your vehicle before any trip to make sure it is in good driving condition. Inflate tires properly and check that the battery and lights are in full working order.

- ◆ Pack an emergency safety kit that includes such items as a blanket, flare and flashlight.

- ◆ Plan ahead when filling your car with gas. It isn't likely that Y2K will cause delays in fuel delivery, but stormy winter weather can.

Here are some travel tips:

- ◆ Use safety belts and car safety seats properly, drive at a speed appropriate for the conditions and use common sense.

- ◆ Always designate a driver and ensure that person does not drink and drive. Those under 21 shouldn't drink at all—Texas is a "zero tolerance" state.

- ◆ Use your car radio to monitor rapidly changing winter weather conditions.

- ◆ It is especially important to pay attention to the road in severe weather or heavy traffic. Be mindful of "distractions," including cellular

phones, car stereos and other passengers.

- ◆ Traffic lights may fail in the event of a power outage. Motorists should take extra care at an intersection with a traffic signal that is not working, and they should be prepared to give other drivers the right of way if necessary.

- ◆ If you begin to feel sleepy while driving, find a safe location to get off the road and take a break. Recent studies show that drowsy driving may be just as dangerous as drinking and driving.

- ◆ Call the Texas Dept. of Public Safety's stranded motorist hotline at 1-800-525-5555 in case of vehicle difficulties.

Chamber banquet set Jan. 22

2000: A New Beginning.com is the theme for this year's Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce banquet, which will be held Jan. 22, 2000, at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

The annual event recognizes the city's Citizen of the Year, Citizen Through the Years, Chamber Member of the Year and Teacher of the Year.

Nominations for these awards will be accepted at the Chamber of Commerce office and must be returned prior to the annual membership meeting which will be held at 12 noon on Jan. 5.

We'd like to see a lot of nomination forms turned in because we know a lot of deserving people," said Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Sava. "If it's not convenient for someone to pick up a form, we'll mail them out. They just need to give us a call at 647-2524."

Sava said nominations also may be submitted in letter form, but are generally more complete and effective if a regular nomination form is used.

Tickets for the Chamber banquet are on sale now, according to Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Sava.

Tickets will be mailed to Chamber members with their January newsletter, Sava said. Those not planning to attend are asked to return the tickets to the Chamber before Jan. 19.

Sava asks that those planning to decorate a table for this year's banquet contact him as soon as possible.

DISD sets in-service for substitutes

Those planning to serve as substitute teachers for the Dimmitt Independent School District must attend a special in-service workshop.

A session will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m. at the DISD Administration Office at 608 W. Halsell.

New substitutes are asked to bring their Social Security card and driver's license when reporting for the workshop.

Those who have already taken a training session for the 1999-2000 school year do not have to attend another session.

New Year's Eve dance is set in Nazareth

A New Year's Eve dance for those 18 and older will be held Friday from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Nazareth Community Hall.

Sponsored by the Nazareth Order of Foresters, the dance will feature music by the group "Sizzlers."

Admission is \$10 per person and you must be 18 to attend.



GREEN THUMB WORKERS Mary Edna Hendrix (seated, left) and Maria Reyna (seated, right) were honored with a breakfast reception in December by the Green Thumb Coordinator for Castro County, Fay Varner (standing). Hendrix has worked at the Castro County Museum under the Green Thumb program for more than 14 years. Reyna, who works at the Hart Elementary School Library, has been involved in the Green Thumb program since February 1998. Varner recently attended a Green Thumb training session in Waco. *Courtesy Photo*

The average spider that makes a round web takes 30 to 60 minutes to finish it.

The first golfer to win the Masters tournament four times was Arnold Palmer in 1958, 1960, 1962 and 1964.

In 1988 and 1989, Curtis Strange became the first golfer since Ben Hogan in 1950 and 1951 to win two consecutive U.S. Opens.

The human blinks about once every five seconds.

Hear
The First United Methodist Church
Morning Worship Service
Sundays, 10:45 a.m.
On KDHN 1470

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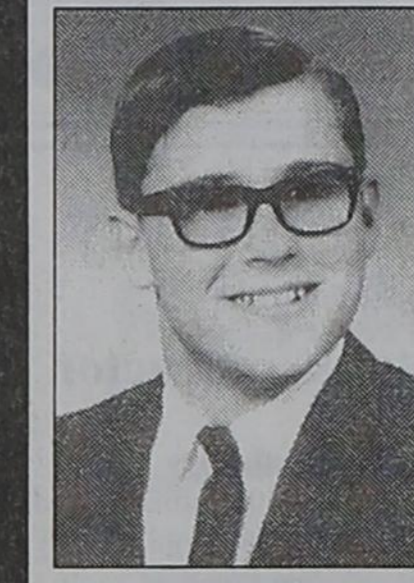
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806-647-3123

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We at **Abundant Life Family Church**, a spirit-filled Christian community, will gladly pick you up and bring you to our 10:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. Sunday services and 7 p.m. Wednesday services.
Call 647-5288 for arrangements.

Youth Nights Monday and Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

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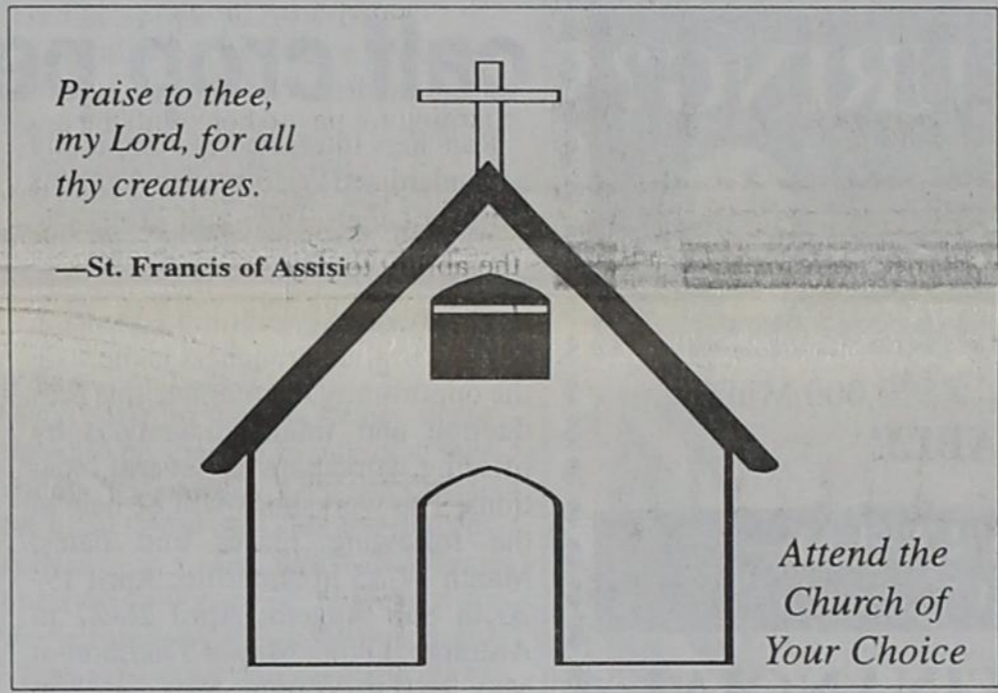
Christmas trees all wrapped in **Garland** come but once a year. Your birthday also rolls around, and now the **50th** one is here!

**We love you!
Happy Birthday!**

50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50

Church Directory

- New Hope Memorial Baptist**
300 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Bobby Starlings.....647-2889
- Sunnyside Baptist**
Sunnyside
Bennie Wright.....647-5712
- First United Methodist**
Hart
Kelly Inman.....938-2462
- La Asamblea Cristiana**
400 NW 5th, Dimmitt
Manuel Rodriguez
- First United Methodist**
110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt
Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106
- Iglesia De Cristo**
E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt
Pedro A. Gonzalez
- Immaculate Conception Catholic**
1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt
Fern Couture.....647-4219, 647-0105
- Jesus and the Love of God Church**
(Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Felix Sanchez.....647-3668



- Church of God of the First Born**
611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt
- St. John's Catholic**
Hart
Fern Couture.....647-0105
- Church of Christ**
SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4435
- Rose of Sharon Temple**
407 NE 4th, Dimmitt
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
9th and Etter, Dimmitt
Antonio Rocha
- Hart Church of Christ**
416 Avenue H, Hart
Aaron Lee.....938-2267

- Abundant Life Family Church**
113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Tom and Kay Mullins
- First Assembly of God**
300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Larry Gilliam.....647-5662
- First Baptist**
1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Howard Rhodes.....647-3115
- Lee Street Baptist**
401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt
Jeff Addison
- First Christian**
600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
- La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito**
East Halsell Street, Dimmitt
- Presbyterian**
1600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Connie Nieto.....293-7361
- Holy Family Catholic**
Nazareth
Peter Otto.....945-2616

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938-2189
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- E.M. Jones Ditching**
North Hwy. 385
647-5442
- Lockhart Pharmacy**
107 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-3392
- Lowe's Pay & Save Foods**
410 Broadway, Hart • 938-2312
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320 S. Broadway
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- Texas Equipment Company, Inc.**
Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3324
- Westway Trading Corporation**
North Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3138



WELCOME TO THE 21ST CENTURY



Hope everything gets off to a great start in the new year. Thank you so much for treating us well, and we hope to continue our friendship over the coming year.

Agro Distribution, L.L.C.

Weed control program can boost wheat yields and grain quality

Wheat can improve their crop's yield and grain quality potential by controlling weeds that rob crop plants of nutrient, water and light, said a Texas Agricultural Extension Service agronomist.

"The best defense against weeds is to grow a vigorous, competitive crop by using a combination of good cultural practices, crop rotation and approved herbicides," said Todd Baughman, Extension agronomist based in Vernon. "Plant good, clean seed in a well-prepared fertile seed bed. Using the right planting date,

seeding rate row spacing and fertilizer will also help produce a healthy stand that can out-compete weeds.

"Scout your fields early for any sign of weed competition and be prepared to make a timely herbicide application according to label directions if a treatment is necessary."

Treating fence lines and the edges of fields also is a good idea, the agronomist said. Left untreated, these areas can soon harbor enough weeds to become a "weed nursery."

"You will achieve the best control when weeds are young," he said.

"Letting the weeds go and relying on a pre-harvest herbicide treatment is not a good idea. By then, the weeds have already cost you some yield, they are harder to kill and they are a source of seed for future infestations.

"At harvest, it is a good idea to cut your cleanest fields first and to clean the combine thoroughly between fields. This will help keep weeds from spreading and it will help you keep the grain clean and avoid dockage at the grain elevator."

Removing small infestations by

hand, treating fence rows and ditches, rotating with summer crops, grazing the crop and seeding later in the fall are other ways to keep grassy and broadleaf weeds in check. Waiting for a fall flush of weeds, plowing and then seeding wheat is a good option, but it can reduce the crop's grazing potential, Baughman said.

"When a herbicide treatment is necessary, your choices will depend on the type of weeds present, their stage of growth, your crop rotation plans and whether you are growing wheat for grain, grazing or both," Baughman said. "Some products cannot be used at all on wheat that will be grazed while others may not be compatible with your summer rotation crop.

"Because of their chemistry, some products are even variety specific. They are only labeled for use on certain wheat varieties. Even so, there are several herbicides and combinations (tank mixes) that will provide good control of broadleaf and grassy weeds if you follow label directions carefully."

There are no "one-year, cure-all" herbicide treatments for controlling all weed problems in wheat. Instead, producers should adopt a three- to four-year goal of controlling or eliminating weeds by program approach of using preventative cultural practices and applying herbicides (when needed) at recommended times and rates.

Producers can get information on controlling weeds in wheat by calling

Baughman at (940) 552-9941 or from their local county Extension agents. Texas A&M's soil and crop science department web site also contains information on wheat weed

control. Go to <http://soil-testing.tamu.edu> and click on "Crops, Weeds and Facts." Select publications under "Weed Control," then select "Small Grains."

Vegetable conference set Jan. 18 in Hereford

A full day of presentations and workshops awaits vegetable growers Jan. 18 at the West Texas Vegetable Conference in Hereford, said a Texas A&M University horticulturist.

"Our speakers this year will address topics such as pesticide laws and regulations, how to do business with large retail chains, water management, and crop health," said Dr. Roland Roberts, horticulturist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Lubbock. "We will also have a potato health workshop at this year's conference."

The conference, which routinely draws growers from five states, will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Hereford Community Center (100 Avenue C at Park Avenue). Registration begins at 8 a.m. and costs \$25 per person, which includes a luncheon provided by the Deaf Smith County 4-H Parents Association and admission to a trade show stocked with commercial and education displays.

"Participants can earn CEUs toward their pesticide applicator li-

censes. Certified crop advisors can earn professional development credits, and certified master gardeners can earn six hours credit toward their vegetable specialty certification," Roberts said.

The morning session will include a potato health workshop, and presentations on pesticide laws and regulations; plant breeding at Texas A&M University; and how to do business with large retail chains.

Keynote luncheon speaker John McClung, Texas Produce Association, will explain how retail consolidation may affect Texas growers-shippers, Roberts said.

A lunch break will allow participants to visit the trade show and see poster displays on drip irrigated watermelons, potato seed piece treatments, post emergent weed control in chile, food and clothing pesticide safety, and smart lunches for the field.

Speakers at the afternoon session will discuss implications of the Food Quality Protection Act, Texas produce leadership and needs, consumer food safety, vegetable establishment

techniques, soil and water salinity management, chile production techniques and pesticide record keeping.

"This is an invaluable opportunity for vegetable growers, market gardeners and crop consultants to learn the latest techniques for establishing and maintaining healthy vegetable crops," Roberts said. "More importantly, all of the information is portable—you can take it home and put it to use right away."

Conference sponsors include the Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX), High Plains Vegetable Growers and Shippers Council, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), Deaf Smith County Extension Vegetable Development Committee, Deaf Smith County Chamber of Commerce, Texas Tech University and the Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

For more information on the Jan. 18 West Texas Vegetable Conference in Hereford, contact Dr. Roland Roberts at (806) 746-6101 or the Deaf Smith County Extension office at (806) 364-3573.

ACGA annual convention set for February in Las Vegas

The eighth annual convention of the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) will be held at the Circus Circus Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev., on Feb. 3, 2000.

This year's meeting will feature top-notch speakers including Barry Weber of Farm Dayta, who will give interesting and timely discussions, great entertainment and a live broadcast of AgriTalk with Root.

According to Rob Koskan of Wood, S.D., convention chairman, this year's convention will be the best yet for ACGA members and guests.

The convention opens on Feb. 3, 2000, with a board of directors meeting. That evening will feature the opening reception.

The meeting moves into full swing on Friday, Feb. 4, 2000, with a panel discussion featuring the presidents of many of the major farm organizations in the country. They will discuss the current failed policies of the Freedom to Farm bill and what must be accomplished in Congress to change the program so that it works for production agriculture.

Following the discussion will be a live broadcast of AgriTalk with Ken Root. This will be the third straight year that AgriTalk has attended the ACGA convention and it has turned out to be one of the highlights for convention attendees.

Panel discussions on the opportunities for ethanol's future and farmer concerns with genetically-modified crops are planned for the afternoon on Feb. 4.

On Saturday, Feb. 5, a discussion of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) air quality rules and how they affect farmers is planned. Also on the agenda will be a presentation by Gene Paul, president of the National Farmers Organization; and a policy and resolutions session.

At noon on Feb. 5, ACGA is planning its annual awards luncheon where outstanding individuals will be recognized and thanked for their contributions to agriculture.

Attendees can enjoy two live family shows in Las Vegas on Feb. 4 and Feb. 5.

Those planning to register for the convention should do so as soon as possible.

Room rates are \$69 per night for a standard room and \$79 per night for a mini-suite. To make reservations, call the Circus Circus Hotel at 1-800-634-3450 and give them the group code number D02ACGA and tell them you are with the American Corn Growers Association.

Registration fee for the convention is \$85 for ACGA members and \$75 for spouses and guests.

ACGA's board of directors has made the registration fee voluntary due to the crisis facing farmers with low agricultural commodity prices.

For more information, call the ACGA Washington office at 202-835-0330.

Hardwick wins Chamber prize

James Hardwick of Dimmitt won the \$100 in Dimmitt Dollars awarded by the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce last week.

Other weekly winners of \$10 in Dimmitt Dollars were Sam Raper Jr. and Frances Anes.

Hardwick registered at Seale Florist while Raper signed up at Dimmitt Thriftway and Anes registered at Unique Gifts & More.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Sava expressed his thanks to the merchants who sponsored this year's drawing.

"This year we were able to give away \$600 in the drawings. We congratulate all the winners," Sava said. Sales of Dimmitt Dollars as gifts and incentive awards also were up over previous years, Sava said.

"We like to see this money designated to be spent with our local merchants," Sava said. "Dimmitt Dollars are available at the Chamber of Commerce year round. Each certificate costs \$5 and may be redeemed for the full amount with local businesses. There is a very small accounting cost for the Chamber, but the Chamber absorbs that cost as part of its retail development effort. We sell them for \$5 each and we redeem them for \$5 each."

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Serving Dimmitt, Hart, Nazareth, Hereford and Friona

Human reason needs only to will more strongly than fate, and she is fate.
-Thomas Mann

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-Mark Twain

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In the unlikely event you experience problems with your natural gas service throughout the evening of December 31, 1999, please call the above toll free number for general service inquiries or emergencies.

In the event you have lost your telephone service, please go to the Castro County Courthouse located at 100 E. Bedford to report service problems or emergencies.

• Always remember, if you smell natural gas, do not operate anything that could produce a spark. Leave your home and report the situation to us as soon as possible.

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11542	'99 F150 4X4	\$31,510	\$4,035	\$27,475
348	'99 F150 Lariat	\$32,330	\$4,080	\$28,250
11510	'99 F150 4X4	\$30,230	\$3,830	\$26,400
11644	'99 F350 P/S	\$36,370	\$1,520	\$34,850
75219	'99 Mountaineer 4X4	\$33,760	\$3,110	\$30,650

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Sports



Bobbies, Swiftettes win first games at Caprock

The Dimmitt Bobbies and Nazareth Swiftettes enjoyed first-round victories in the big Caprock ABC Holiday Tournament at Lubbock Tuesday, but the Bobcats and Swifts lost in their opening contests.

The boys and girls tournaments each feature 32 teams and each team is guaranteed three games.

The Bobbies toppled Lamesa, 50-30, in a morning thriller Tuesday while the Swiftettes slaughtered Lubbock Cooper, 77-38.

Both girls' teams were scheduled to play their second games late Tuesday night, but results weren't available at press time.

The Bobbies' defense proved to be too much for Lamesa in the first and fourth quarters, holding their opponent to six points in the first and four in the fourth for the win.

Dimmitt turned an 11-6 first-quarter lead into a 27-21 advantage at halftime.

Lamesa was able to keep it close in the third, matching Dimmitt point-for-point, but the Bobbies still held a six-point advantage as the teams took the floor for the fourth quarter.

That's when Dimmitt's defense took over and the Bobbies wore down Lamesa, outscoring the team 16-4 for the big win.

Heather Black was the leading scorer for Dimmitt, finishing with 10 points.

That win advanced the Bobbies into the championship second round against Shallowater on Tuesday night, but results from that game were unavailable.

The Bobcats controlled the first half of their game with Big Spring Tuesday, but couldn't hold on to the momentum in the third quarter and that proved costly.

Dimmitt led 15-14 in the first and 29-27 at the break before Big Spring took charge, outscoring the Bobcats 18-9.

Dimmitt came back in the fourth quarter, but Big Spring was able to hold off the Bobcats' rally in the fourth and walked away with a 54-42 win.

Leading Dimmitt in the game was Daniel Flores, who finished with 14 points.

The Bobcats dropped to the consolation side of the bracket, where they were scheduled to play Amarillo Caprock at 12 noon Wednesday.

The Swifts ran into a tough Seminole squad in their first-round game Tuesday, and the Indians took advantage of big second and third quarters to post a 75-52 win.

Nazareth kept it close in the first quarter and trailed by just a basket, 12-10, at the end of the stanza.

Seminole opened up the game in the second quarter, outscoring Nazareth 20-14 to extend its lead to eight points.

The Indians took complete control of the game in the third quarter, holding the Swifts to 11 points while reeling off 26.

Both teams added 17 points to their scores in the fourth, but Seminole's big run in the middle of the game was too much for the Swifts to overcome.

Kade Wilcox finished with 22 points for the Swifts while Ky Wilcox added another 14.

Nazareth was slated to face Brownfield at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in a second-round consolation game.

The Caprock Tournament continues through today (Thursday), with the final games slated for this evening.

Hoop Scores

HOOT OWL TOURNAMENT

First Round

Lady Horns 60, Cotton Center 23

Hart 19 25 7 9—60

Cotton Center 9 4 8 2—23

Scoring: HART—Geneva Finch 18, Vanessa Carrasco 12.

Longhorns 58, Cotton Center 61

Hart 15 15 13 15—58

Cotton Center 14 9 23 18—61

Scoring: HART—Joey Pantoja 14, Keith Finch, Jeremiah Velasquez and Jacob Reyna 11.

Consolation Semifinals

Longhorns 69, Kress 61

Hart 18 20 10 22—69

Kress 14 13 20 14—61

Scoring: HART—Joey Pantoja and Jacob Reyna 17, Jeff Bennett 16.

Championship Semifinals

Lady Horns 45, Silverton 39

Hart 13 8 10 14—45

Silverton 4 10 4 11—39

Scoring: HART—Geneva Finch 17.

CAPROCK ABC HOLIDAY TOURNAMENT

First Round

Swifts 52, Seminole 75

Nazareth 10 14 11 17—52

Seminole 12 20 26 17—75

Scoring: NAZ—Kade Wilcox 22, Ky Wilcox 14.

Swiftettes 77, Lubbock Cooper 38

Nazareth 22 21 24 10—77

Lubbock Cooper 15 7 9 8—38

Scoring: NAZ—Stephanie Thiel 22, Shawna Gerber 12, Cassie Birkenfeld and Wendy Black 10.

Bobcats 52, Big Spring 54

Dimmitt 15 14 9 14—52

Big Spring 14 13 18 9—54

Scoring: DIMMITT—Daniel Flores 14.

Bobbies 50, Lamesa 32

Dimmitt 11 16 7 16—50

Lamesa 6 15 7 4—32

Scoring: DIMMITT—Heather Black 10.

Lady Horns reach finals in Hoot Out

The Hart Lady Horns rolled over Cotton Center, then edged Silverton to reach the championship finals in the Silverton Hoot Out Tournament.

The Longhorns stumbled in their first tournament game, falling to Cotton Center, but they rebounded to beat Kress Tuesday and earned a spot in the consolation championship.

Both final round games were scheduled to be played Wednesday.

In the Lady Horns' first game on Monday, Geneva Finch led the attack with a game-high 18-point performance as Hart won, 60-23.

Hart jumped out to a 19-9 lead in the first quarter, then totally dominated the Lady Elks in the second quarter, running up a 44-13 lead at halftime.

Over the second half Hart outscored Cotton Center 16-10 for the big first-round win.

Joining Finch in double figure scoring was Vanessa Carrasco, who finished with 12 points.

In the Lady Horns' second game on Tuesday, Finch finished with 17 points to boost her team to a 45-39 win over Silverton.

After claiming a 13-4 lead in the first quarter behind a dominating defense, the Hart girls had a few problems in the second period and allowed Silverton back in the game.

The Hart girls turned their 21-14 lead at halftime into a 31-18 lead after three quarters, though, then held on through a tough fourth quarter for the slim win.

Hart was scheduled to face Claude Wednesday at 6 p.m. for the tournament championship.

The Longhorns had their hands full Monday with Cotton Center in the first round, and lost control of the game in the second half, falling to the Elks, 58-61.

After claiming a 15-14 lead in the first quarter and extending that advantage to 30-23 at halftime, Hart struggled in the second half.

Cotton Center was able to close the deficit and claim the lead in the third quarter, outscoring the Longhorns 23-13. Cotton Center held the Longhorns off in the final minutes to pull off the 61-58 win.

Hart almost suffered the same fate in Tuesday's consolation semifinal game, but the Horns were able to bounce back with a strong fourth quarter for a 69-61 win and a spot in the consolation finals on Wednesday.

Just like the first game, the Longhorns held a good lead after the opening period and enjoyed a 38-27 lead at halftime.

Kress cut that margin in the third quarter, outscoring Hart 20-10 to pull within a point headed into the final quarter.

But the Longhorns were able to regroup and regained control over the final eight minutes, pouring in 22 points while holding Kress to 14 for the win.

The Longhorns were scheduled to play Bovina at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in the consolation finals.

The Indians took complete control of the game in the third quarter, holding the Swifts to 11 points while reeling off 26.

Both teams added 17 points to their scores in the fourth, but Seminole's big run in the middle of the game was too much for the Swifts to overcome.

Kade Wilcox finished with 22 points for the Swifts while Ky Wilcox added another 14.

Nazareth was slated to face Brownfield at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in a second-round consolation game.

The Caprock Tournament continues through today (Thursday), with the final games slated for this evening.

THE CASTRO COUNTY NEWS PRESENTS

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WEEK 17
Games of Jan. 1-3

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4	
3	
2	
1	

136 TOTAL POINTS

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HOW TO PLAY

Select a winner from each of the week's games, listed below. Select in descending order of your CONFIDENCE in your choices. Win points at left for each correct selection toward possible total of 136 points. See complete rules below. You must be at least 8 (eight) years old to enter. To enter, clip along dotted line, then place game entry in POWER POINTS container at co-sponsor's retail outlet(s). Entrants must list name, address and phone number below.

LIMIT: You may enter only once weekly.

DEADLINE: 2 P.M. THURSDAY DEC. 30

TIEBREAKER 1 Total points scored (both teams) in COWBOYS game.

TIEBREAKER 2 Total offensive yards (both teams) in this game.

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Arizona at Green Bay	Oakland at Kansas City
Baltimore at New England	St. Louis at Philadelphia
Cincinnati at Jacksonville	San Diego at Denver
Detroit at Minnesota	Seattle at NY Jets
Indianapolis at Buffalo	Tampa Bay at Chicago
Miami at Washington	Tennessee at Pittsburgh
New Orleans at Carolina	San Francisco at Atlanta
NY Giants at Dallas	Texas vs. Arkansas

LOCALLY WIN \$20 WEEKLY!

Deposit Your Entries at Castro County News 108 West Bedford by 2 p.m. Thursday Dec. 30


POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

- Object of the game is to amass as many of the 136 possible points as you can. Simply review the week's schedule of games, listed on entry form, and decide which game you are SUREST of picking a winner in. Write the name of your projected winner on the 16-point line. If that team wins its game that week, you win 16 points. Write the name of your second-surest winner on the 15-point line, and so on down to the 1-point line, which game you figure to be a toss-up. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's designated game. If this step fails to produce a winner, the judges will apply Tiebreaker 2, total offensive yardage from scrimmage in this game. If a winner still doesn't emerge, a drawing will be held among those contestants still tied. Decisions of the judges are final. The weekly statewide winner of the contest will receive \$1,000.
- Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified.
- Entries that fail to forecast a winner from each and every game will be disqualified, as will entries that fail to distinguish between the Jets and Giants of New York and other similar teams.
- No points are awarded on tie games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week.
- Entering POWER POINTS constitutes permission by contestant for his or her name and photograph to be used for news and reasonable promotional purposes at no charge.
- Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.
- Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.
- No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container at participating co-sponsors.
- Weekly deadline for entry will be 2 p.m. Fridays except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form.
- Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.
- Limit: one entry per person per week. Each entry must represent the original work of one entrant; "group" entries, "systems" or other attempts to enter multiple entries will be disqualified. Filing out extra forms and putting your friends' and relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.
- Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play.

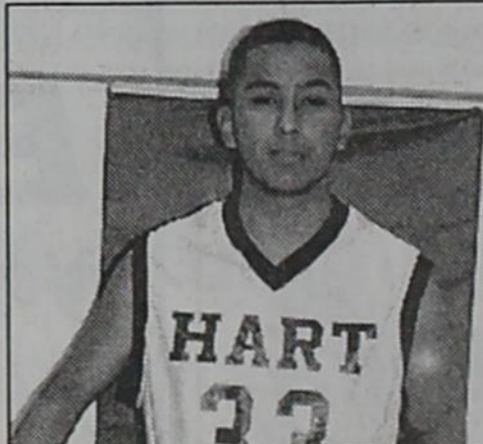
Good Luck, Ladyhorns and Longhorns!

FRIDAY: Ladyhorns and Longhorns vs. Friona, Here

TUESDAY: Ladyhorns and Longhorns vs. Morton, There



Vanessa Carrasco
Junior Guard

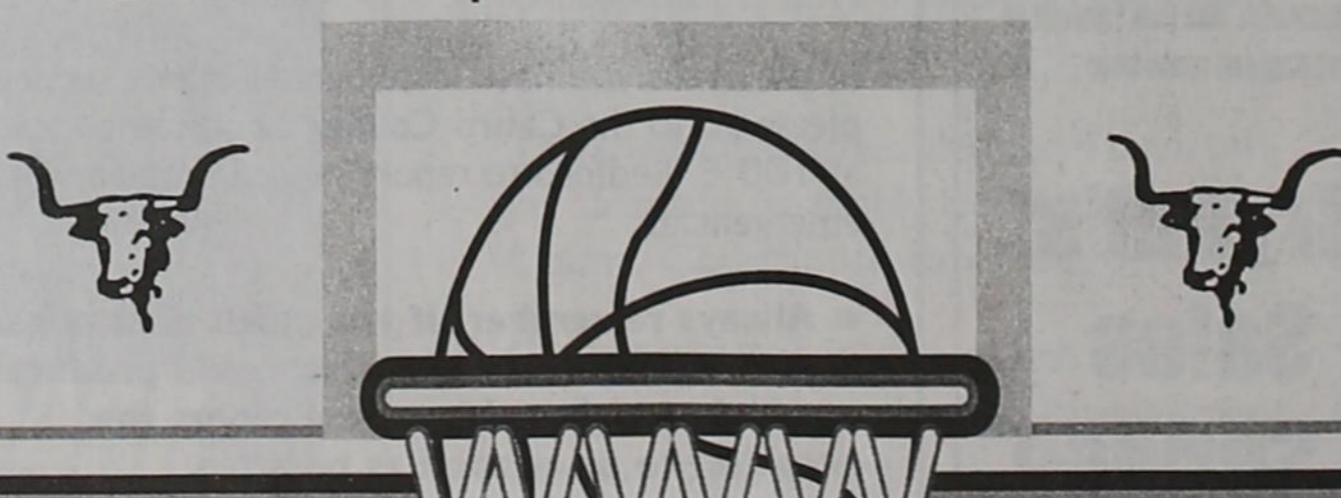


Marcos Flores
Senior Wing/Post

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Triple A Pump Co., Inc.
Wilbur-Ellis



TCFA's market director gives predictions for 2000

If cattle feeders liked what they saw the last half of 1999, they should find the "Millennium Year" of 2000 to be much to their liking as well, as the outlook for tightening beef production projects continued health in the fed cattle market.

"That's good news for cattle feeders who are healing from two or three challenging years," says TCFA Market Director Jim Gill, whose outlook for 2000 is a mixed bag of bright spots and caution lights for cattle feeders. Gill offered his predictions recently during the annual TCFA year-end news conference.

"Beef production in 2000 will be near 25.5 billion pounds, 3% below the 26.2 billion pounds in 1999," Gill predicted. "This will be the first year to show a decrease in beef production since 1993 and will put annual consumption near 68 lbs. on a retail weight basis. Average carcass weights are expected to be lower than the record 736 lbs. in 1999, dropping to a more normal 700 lbs. to 705 lbs."

However, pork and poultry will continue to offer stiff competition in the protein market. Gill expects pork production in 2000 to be near 18.5 billion pounds.

"While that's down 3% from the record 19.3 billion pounds in 1999, it's still well above the past five-year average of 17.8 billion pounds," he

says. Poultry production is expected to increase 4% to 42.9 billion pounds in 2000.

Taking all the factors into account, Gill predicts cattle feeders will see fed cattle prices range from \$67 to \$71 per cwt. in the first quarter; \$66 to \$72 in the second; \$68 to \$72 in the third quarter; and \$72 to \$76 in the fourth quarter.

Looking at the feeder cattle market, Gill says feeder cattle supplies will continue to tighten over the next few years, reflecting the liquidation that has been ongoing since 1996.

"Prices for a 750-lb. feeder steer, which averaged near \$74 in 1999, will average in the high \$70s during 2000," he predicted.

Grain prices, which stayed competitive in 1999, will continue to play a strong role in cattle feeders' purchasing and placement behavior, Gill says.

"Corn production during 2000 will likely again be near the 9.5 billion bushel level we saw in 1999. However, exports will play a pivotal role in grain prices and will likely lift average prices above 1999's low levels," he said.

While tightening cattle numbers will be a major market factor in 2000, consumers will continue to enjoy abundant beef supplies at good prices.

"Retail beef prices averaged \$2.65 per pound in 1999, up about 8 cents from last year's \$2.77," he said. An unexpected turnaround in beef demand in the US, coupled with improving export markets, pushed prices slightly higher in 1999.

"With the anticipated drop in beef and pork production in 2000, prices may edge higher and reach an average around \$2.89 per pound during 2000," he said.

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- 7:05 a.m.....Texas State Network Sports
- 8:10 a.m.....Sports Texas

Tuesday:

Dimmitt Bobbies and Bobcats

VS.

Slaton Tigers

6:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.



1470 A.M.

Good Luck,

Bobbies and Bobcats!

★

FRIDAY: Bobbies and Bobcats vs. Littlefield, starting at 2 p.m., There

★

TUESDAY: Bobbies and Bobcats vs. Slaton, starting at 6:30 p.m., Here

Schedule and Scores

- Dec. 31—Littlefield, There
- Jan. 4—Slaton, Here
- Jan. 7—Muleshoe (Boys), There
- Jan. 7—Perryton (Girls), There
- Jan. 11—Tulia, Here
- Jan. 14—River Road, There
- Jan. 18—Sanford-Fritch, Here
- Jan. 21—Dalhart, There
- Jan. 25—Tulia, There
- Jan. 28—Perryton, Here
- Feb. 1—Sanford-Fritch, There
- Feb. 4—River Road, Here
- Feb. 8—Dalhart, Here
- Feb. 11—Perryton (Boys), There
- Feb. 25-26—Girls Regional, Lubbock
- Mar. 3-4—Boys Regional, Lubbock
- Mar. 2-4—Girls State, Austin
- Mar. 9-11—Boys State, Austin

Bobbies

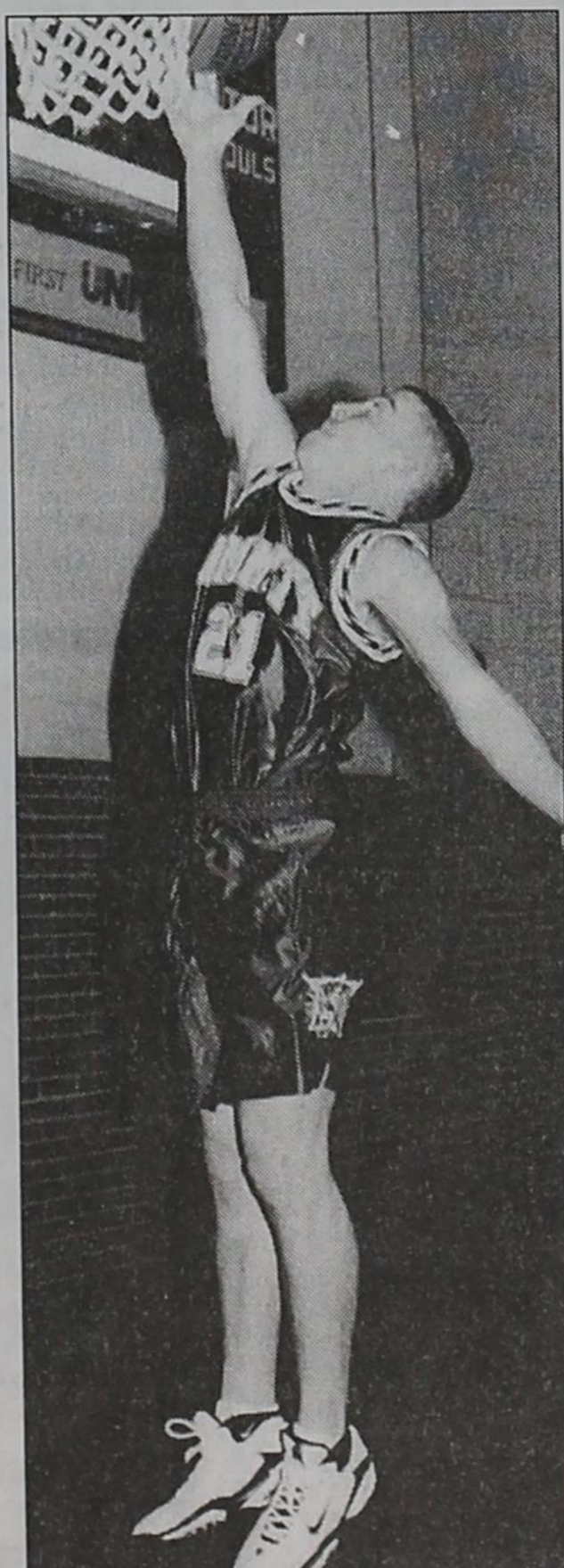
- 32, Randall 56
- 32, Levelland 37
- 31, Borger 66
- Queen's Classic
- 27, Plainview 66
- 62, Vega 69
- 55, Hale Center 40
- 35, Hereford 49
- Levelland Invitational
- 40, Idalou 42
- 49, Slaton 51
- 57, Muleshoe 59
- 46, Levelland 50
- 40, Friona 53
- 46, Lubbock Coronado 85
- Caprock Tournament
- 50, Lamesa 32
- Season Record: 2-12

Bobcats

- 54, Randall 61
- 69, Levelland 60
- 67, Borger 60
- 74, Farwell 57
- 60, Hereford 33
- Pioneer Classic
- 67, Estacado 66
- 47, Hale Center 50
- 78, Muleshoe 72
- Abernathy Tournament
- 64, Trinity Christian 84
- 40, Muleshoe 45
- 50, Idalou 38
- 54, Friona 42
- 56, Lubbock Coronado 62
- Caprock Tournament
- 52, Big Spring 54
- Season Record: 8-6



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- Tidwell Spraying Service
- Town & Country Insurance
- Western Ford-Lincoln-Mercury
- Westway Trading Corp.

★ POWER POINTS FOOTBALL CONTEST ★

Wo! Worst week yet!

It was a perfect week to have Christmas, with all its presents, eggnog and good cheer.
That way, you didn't have to think about your score in Week 16 of the POWER POINTS Football Contest.

It was the worst week yet for grid-pickers. With 136 points just waiting to be scored, 75 won the local prize money in DeSoto, 88 won it in Canyon, 94 in El Campo. In Childress, two women tied with 97 points and had to go to the tiebreaker to determine a winner.

For the first time this year, an out-of-county subscriber to the News won the contest here. He is Doug Smith of Amarillo, whose wife is the former Debbie Murdock of Dimmitt. Smith somehow came up with 99 points to outscore all other local entrants.

"Gosh, I didn't think I had a chance with a score like that—I even threw my copy away," said Smith, a sales rep for XpEdX. "I guess I got lucky once."

Smith faxes his entry form to the News each week.

After deciding to have his \$20 cash prize mailed to him instead of having his father-in-law, Bob Murdock, pick it up for him, Smith said he would probably take Debbie out to dinner with his winnings.

Statewide, out of the rubble came one halfway decent score—a 121 tallied by Veronica Hullett of Lindale, who entered through the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Now, off we go to Millennium Week, where more havoc undoubtedly lurks. But after Week 16, nothing could be worse. Could it?

This week's POWER POINTS Football Contest—the final one of the season—is on Page 8. To enter, just make your picks according to the rules, clip out the form and turn it in at the News office, 108 W. Bedford St., by 2 p.m. Friday. Good luck!

Percentage of poor declines in county

By T.P. CRUMP

The Census Bureau recently released its annual report on poverty in the US. The report indicated that the national poverty rate was 12.7% in 1998. This would mean that 34.5 million Americans had incomes below the poverty level, which the Census Bureau defined as \$16,660 for a family of four persons or \$13,003 for a family of three persons. This most recent decline in the national poverty rate is considered to be an extremely positive economic signal.

Other Census Bureau reports, median family income data issued by the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, and other federal sources indicate that the poverty rate in Castro County was 20.2% in 1998. This would mean that an estimated 1,685 residents of Castro County had incomes below the poverty level at that time.

It should be noted that the federal government does not include a number of non-cash benefits available to the poor in its computation of family incomes. These benefits include food stamps, rent subsidies, and Medicaid among

others.

The national poverty rate is slightly lower than it was in 1989 when 31.5 million Americans or 12.8% of the national population fell below the poverty level. However, the Census Bureau refers to the difference between the 1989 and 1998 poverty levels as "statistically insignificant." Figures provided by the Census Bureau show that 2,658 residents of Castro County or 29.3% of the county's population fell below the poverty level in 1989.

The poverty rate in America has been declining since 1993 when the national poverty rate stood at 15.1%. Analysts had attributed increases in the poverty from 1989 through 1993 to the economic recession. It was generally expected that the poverty rate would decline as economic conditions improved and unemployment declined.

Poverty rates vary substantially between persons depending on differences in place, age, race, and living arrangements.

Among regions, the West had the highest poverty rate in 1998. An estimated 14% of its residents fell below the poverty level. The

Midwest, at 10.3%, had the lowest poverty level. The poverty rate for the Northeast was 12.3% in 1998 while the poverty rate for the South was 13.7%.

Young people were far more likely to be poor than any other age group while the elderly were less likely. According to the Census Bureau, 18.9% of all Americans under 18 years of age were poor in 1998 while only 10.5% of Americans aged 65 and more were poor at that time.

Among ethnic groups, non-Hispanic Whites had the lowest poverty level at 8.2% in 1998. African-Americans had the highest poverty rate, 26.1%, at that time. The Census Bureau estimated that the poverty rate for Hispanics was 25.6% in 1998 while the poverty rate for Asians and Pacific Islanders was 12.5%.

The 1998 poverty rate for Blacks was the lowest recorded since the Census Bureau began gathering income data in 1959. The poverty rate for Hispanics had also dropped very significantly.

Nativity also appears to be a significant factor regarding poverty. The incidence of poverty among foreign born non-citizens is also much higher than the incidence of poverty among foreign born citizens. According to the Census Bureau, 22.2% of non-citizens were poor in 1998.

The majority of all poor American families continue to be headed by women. Of the estimated 7.2 million poor families in the US in 1998, the Census Bureau estimated that approximately 3.8 million of these families were headed by women. The poverty rate among families headed by women was 29.9% and these families made up 53.0% of

poor families.

Still, there have been significant changes in poverty rates, both nationally and in Castro County, since the federal government first began its efforts to identify and reduce poverty.

Changes in national and local poverty rates vary considerably. The most thorough, detailed, and reliable statistics on poverty are obtained by the Census Bureau every 10 years. Comparing these long-term poverty rates illustrates the differences in local and national poverty trends.

In 1959, the national poverty rate was 22.4% while the poverty rate in Castro County was 35%. By 1969, the national poverty rate had declined to 12.1% while the poverty rate in Castro County had declined to 30.1%. The national poverty rate was 11.7% in 1979 while the poverty rate in Castro County was 36.1% at that time. By 1989, the national poverty rate was 12.8% while the poverty rate in Castro County was 29.3%.

The Census Bureau's report on poverty stressed that positive growth in real income caused poverty rates to fall below the pre-recession levels of 1989. This trend appears to have been apparent in Castro County since the local poverty rate of 20.2% was less than the local poverty rate in 1989.

Sources of data were excerpts from the Census Bureau's recent report on poverty, POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES: 1997, MONEY INCOME IN THE UNITED STATES: 1998, EXPERIMENTAL POVERTY MEASURES, 1997, THE UNITED STATES CENSUS CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION for 1960, 1970, and 1980 and the UNITED STATES CENSUS-SUMMARY OF SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS, 1990 all published by the Dept. of Commerce through the Census Bureau, and unpublished material available on CD-ROM from the Census Bureau.

Other sources were the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development's MEDIAN FAMILY INCOMES-1997. Other material includes the FOOD STAMP STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS for 1990 published by the Dept. of Commerce and unpublished food stamp data obtained from the Department of Agriculture.

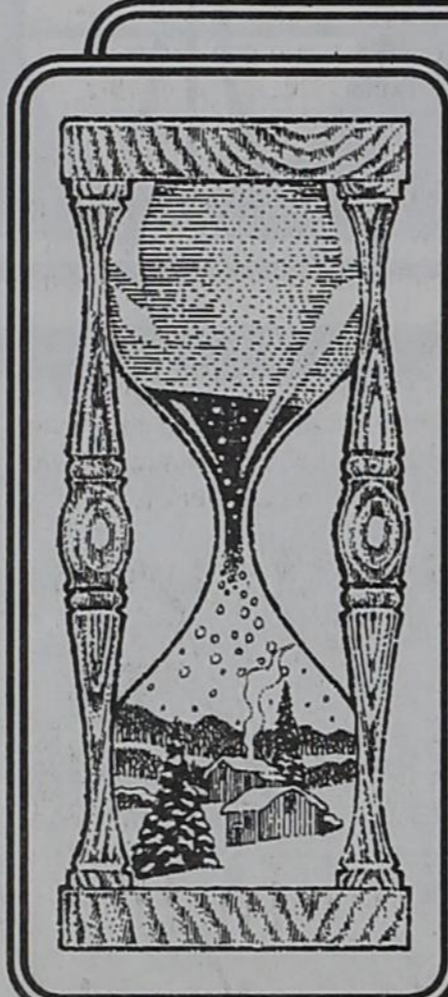
Since the Census Bureau's statistical explanations and methodologies are often highly complex, I consulted an outside expert, Richard Followill, Ph.D. while preparing this article. Dr. Followill is the Head of the Dept. of Finance at the University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls, Iowa.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US

The air is ripe with anticipation, Plus our best wishes and admiration, For all of you who have made our year A cause for celebration and good cheer.

Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.



TIME TO SAY "Thanks"

May the coming year bring lots of great moments for you and your loved ones.

We thank you for sharing so many good times with us this past year.

The 19th Hole
Nazareth

More about Smith . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

ard of the taxpayers' money.

"I am promising to try to work with the other county commissioners to get as many all-weather roads in the county as possible," Smith said. "I attended road building schools in Arlington and San Antonio a few years back and found out their recommendations on building all-weather roads.

"They recommend using most of your road-building money on these all-weather roads and trying a fly-ash mixture, which I have already done on Railroad Avenue in the City of Hart," he said.

Smith said that in 1979 and 1992 Castro County was sued for not abiding by the US Redistricting Law.

"They lost both suits and not only had to pay their attorneys, but had to pay the opponents' attorneys as well. (It cost the county about a million dollars simply because they didn't want to abide by the law.

"In March of 1992 Castro County held an illegal election. The law states that the precinct lines have to be pre-cleared by the US Justice Dept. before an election can be held, which wasn't done.

"I plan to go to Washington, D.C., in January and find out what needs to be done in redistricting after the 2000 census, so that we won't be sued again."

Smith said he plans to work over 40 hours a week if elected, and wants to lower the commissioners' salary. He said he also plans to work with the municipalities in the county to help them have better streets.

Two enter pleas in 242nd Dist. Court

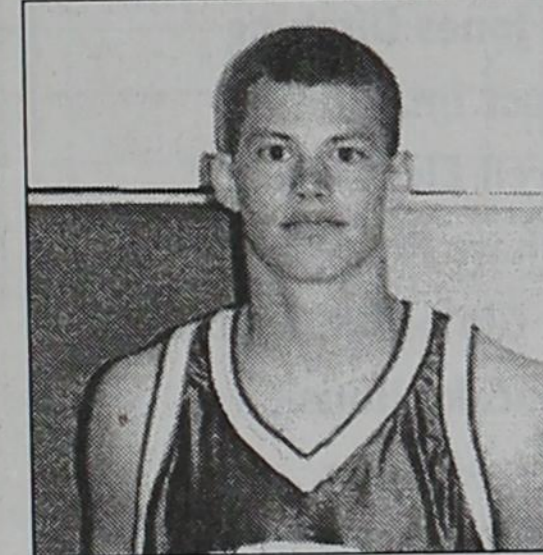
Two men entered guilty pleas in the 242nd District Court on Dec. 13, with Judge Ed Self officiating.

Leon Rodriguez pled guilty to forgery. He was sentenced to two years at a state jail facility. The confinement was suspended in favor of five years of community supervision. He also must pay a \$1,000 fine, \$540 in restitution, \$261.25 in court costs, a \$50 donation to Crime Line, and perform 200 hours of community service.

Liborio Olmos entered a plea of guilty to charges of DWI, third or more offense, a third degree felony. He was sentenced to five years in the Institutional Division of the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, probated out to five years. He also must pay a \$1,000 fine, \$261.25 in court costs, a \$50 donation to Crime Line, and perform 400 hours of community service. After a one-year suspension of his driver's license, he must have an ignition interlock device on any vehicle he drives. He also must complete a repeat offender program and DWI education classes.



Whitney Hoelting
Junior Forward



Daryl Pohlmeier
Sophomore Post

Good Luck, Swiftettes and Swifts!

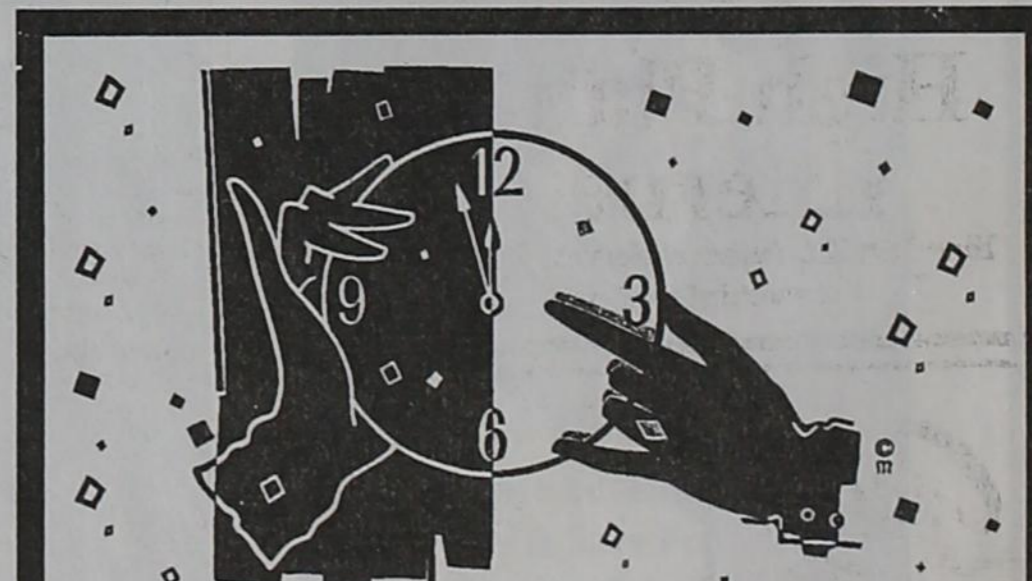
★ **FRIDAY:** Swiftettes vs. Groom, starting at 3:30 p.m., Here

★ **TUESDAY:** Swiftettes and Swifts vs. Sanford-Fritch, starting at 6 p.m., at Amarillo Highland Park

NAZARETH, TEXAS ★ HOME OF CHAMPIONS!

- Agro Distribution, L.L.C.
- Kent Birkenfeld Seed Co.
- Castro County Hospital District
- Castro County News
- Cerestar USA, Inc.
- Chubby Buns II
- Dale's Auto & Salvage
- Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative
- First United Bank of Dimmitt

- Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union
- Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
- Nazareth Booster Club
- Naz Stop
- George Nelson Trucking, Inc.
- The 19th Hole
- Pro-Ag, Inc.
- Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer & Myatt
- Thriftway Supermarket/Dimmitt Market



TIME TO CELEBRATE

We don't want to let another minute go by without letting you know how much we appreciate your friendship and support.
Happy New Year and many thanks.

Zockhart Pharmacy
107 E. Bedford, Dimmitt 647-3392



THERE WASN'T MUCH LEFT of the kitchen area in this mobile home after a fire started near the kitchen stove in November, but a mother and her young sons were saved from the burning home by three Dimmitt teenagers who noticed smoke coming from the home. Denita Mirelez and her two sons, 6-year-old Kolby and 2-year-old Oscar, were sleeping

in the home. Mirelez was awakened by a sound of something breaking, then she heard the three teens, Eric Enriquez, Josh Chancey and Solomon Torres, at one of the bedroom windows. The teens were able to help the Mirelezes escape through a bedroom window. Photo by Anne Acker

Letter

Texas Speaker Pete Laney earns praise from county judge

Dear Editor:
In reflecting on the many events of the past year for which I am thankful, it would be remiss if I didn't express my deep appreciation to Speaker Pete Laney for his leadership in the House of Representatives during the last legislative session.

I'd like to offer my thanks to Speaker Laney and to the citizens of the 85th Legislative District for electing him. His leadership has an impact far beyond the boundaries of the district and we are all fortunate to

have legislators like him serving the citizens of Texas in Austin. All my wishes for a happy new year.

CARL R. GRIFFITH, JR.
Jefferson County Judge

Texas is a big state and our lawmakers are inevitably confronted with competing regional priorities or working to strike a balance between urban and rural interests. Nowhere was that urban vs. rural struggle more apparent last session than in the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Both the cities of Houston and San Antonio forecast growth over the next 50 years that will create greater demands for water than their current supplies will accommodate. Rather than trying to manage that growth or create additional sources of water, lawmakers in those areas sought to make it easier to transfer water from other parts of the state by easing restrictions intended to protect water rights in those areas from which the water was to be transferred.

This was an important issue to Speaker Laney and thanks to his leadership, the measure died in committee.

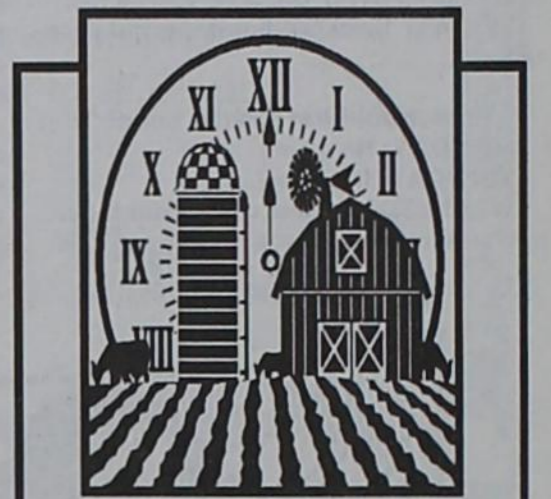
He demonstrated a commitment to fairness that all too often in places like Austin and Washington gives way to political expediency.



A New Year Is On The Horizon

Hope this is the best year yet. We look forward to seeing you again throughout 2000!

Nazareth Feed & Supply



MILLENNIUM COUNTRY

Sending everyone a bumper crop of good wishes for the new year!

Pay & Save Foods
Hart

Y2K preparedness checklist

Governments and businesses have spent billions of dollars to ensure that computer systems will make a successful transition to the next century. Although it is unlikely that the Year 2000, or Y2K, issue will create significant problems in the US, no one can say for sure that there won't be temporary disruptions in some services.

Such interruptions are expected to be short-lived, like temporary problems in service caused by storms, and while inconvenient, are not expected to cause long-term problems. The following recommendations will help you and your neighbors prepare for any difficulties that may occur:

Local information:

Read Y2K notices provided by local government officials, banks, power and telephone companies, health care organizations and other important service providers. Adapt the recommendations in this checklist to what you learn locally and to your past experiences with local service providers.

Food, water and other supplies:

—Prepare as you would for a long holiday weekend by having at least a three-day supply of food and water (one gallon per person per day). The food industry is not only ready for Y2K, but it is resilient and accustomed to dealing with unexpected disruptions (e.g., storms). As always, it is a good idea to make purchases early.

—Make a personal assessment of items and services that are critical to your family, including special items or services required by family members with special needs, such as infants, the elderly, and persons with disabilities.

—Make sure that you have adequate clothing, tools and supplies, flashlights, batteries, a battery-powered radio and a first aid kit, as recommended by FEMA and the American Red Cross. For further information, visit: <http://www.fema.gov/pte/emprep.htm> and <http://www.redcross.org/disaster/safety/emerp.html>, or call FEMA at 1-800-480-2520.

—Follow all appropriate safety instructions for fuel storage and use of heating and cooking devices or other emergency items.

Important records:

Keep copies of important records—particularly your bank and financial statements, medical records and prescription drug information—in the few months before and after Jan. 1, 2000. When you receive a transaction receipt, check it for accuracy and save it to compare against your statement.

—Develop a list of phone numbers for hospitals, police and fire departments and neighbors.

Cash:

If you decide to withdraw cash, hold only as much as you would for any holiday weekend. Withdrawing large amounts of cash is unnecessary and may invite theft. Remember that financial institutions are well prepared for the date change and you have more than one payment option (e.g., checks, credit cards, debit cards, traveler's checks).

Medicine:

As always, refill prescription medications when you have a five- to seven-day supply remaining. The pharmaceutical and health care industries are confident, based on experience, that following this standard

practice is all that is needed for Y2K. If you have any questions about your health care needs, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or other health care provider.

Gasoline:

As you would in preparation for a winter storm, keep your automobile gas tank above half full. Service stations are re-supplied regularly, sometimes as often as every other day.

Consumer electronics:

Check with manufacturers to see if the essential electronic equipment you use around your home is Y2K ready, especially personal computers, monitored security systems or programmable thermostats.

Telephones and Internet:

Use telephones and the Internet only as necessary on Jan. 1. "Testing" the systems to see if they work or engaging in long conversations could create delays greater than those experienced during high volume usage periods such as Mother's Day.

Scams:

Beware of Y2K scams. Be skeptical if someone tries to sell you a product, service or investment that is "Y2K safe" or wishes to sell you Y2K insurance. Never give out your bank account, credit card or Social Security number unless you initiated the call or contact.

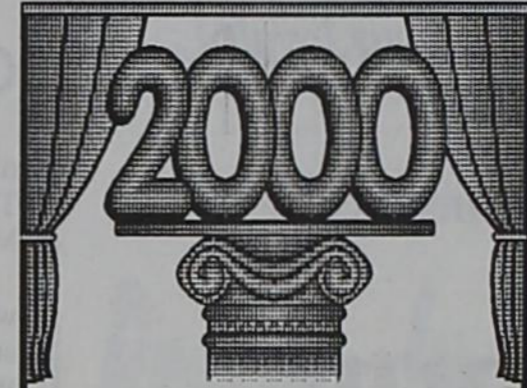
This information is included in "Y2K and You," a booklet prepared by the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Federal Trade Commission. Additional copies of the booklet may be obtained through the Y2K Council's web site at www.y2k.gov or by calling, toll-free, 1-888-872-4925.



Sing In the New Year!

Hope 2000 is a harmonious year for you and yours. We are deeply grateful for your loyalty and friendship.

Alvin's Drive-In Cleaners



Now Appearing...

The biggest event in our lifetime is nearly here, and we're sending out our very best wishes for a stellar year ahead. Thanks for being so loyal to us.

Dale's Auto & Salvage
Nazareth

Set Course for a NEW YEAR



Hope it's smooth sailing all through the year. We're grateful for your visits.

Don's Wrecker Service & Body Shop
Don, Trish and Tim Elliot

UNMEASURED
INTERNET
ACCESS FOR 647-XXXX NUMBERS
\$19⁹⁵ per month.
now only
Now using Southwestern Bell digital phone lines.
EXPERIENCE THE INTERNET THE WAY IT SHOULD BE!
647-4005
High Plains Internet
Your LOCAL Internet Service Provider
www.hiplains.net

Old-Fashioned New Year's Greetings
Our new year's wish to you and yours is for health, wealth, and love in the new year and beyond.
Many thanks for your patronage.
Insurance Solutions
Dimmitt and Hart

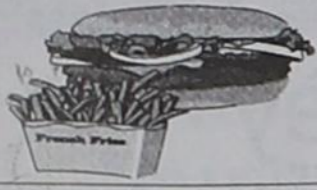
Happy New Year!
Dr. & Mrs. Rob Lindsey & Staff
Serving the orthodontic needs of Castro County since 1980
at 306 W. Bedford Street, Dimmitt; and at our main office at 2801 W. 24th St., Plainview.

Have a Noteworthy New Year!
We don't want to blow our own horn, but we are mighty proud to have you for our customers.
Happy New Year and resounding thanks!
Red X Travel Center

Just Before Midnight

We'd like to send out our very best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to our many friends and neighbors all over the region. We have enjoyed serving you and look forward to seeing you all through 2000.
K-Bob's Steak House

A NOTEWORTHY NEW YEAR
As we ring in this auspicious new year, we'd like to express our sincere appreciation for your loyalty and support. Feel free to stop in and visit us anytime!
Happy New Year, folks!
Dimmitt Consumers, Inc.



What's Cooking

In the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Schools

Here are the breakfast and lunch menus for the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth schools for Jan. 3-7.

DIMMITT Breakfast

MONDAY: No school.
 TUESDAY: No school.
 WEDNESDAY: Rice Krispie treat, orange wedges and milk.
 THURSDAY: Corn Pops cereal, fresh banana and milk.
 FRIDAY: Breakfast burrito, grape juice and milk.

Preschool-First Grade Lunch

MONDAY: No school.
 TUESDAY: No school.
 WEDNESDAY: Beef taco, Spanish rice, taco condiment salad, corn tortilla and milk.

THURSDAY: Southern fried chicken, seasoned black-eyed peas, fresh banana and milk.
 FRIDAY: Red Baron pepperoni pizza, savory green beans, cantaloupe and milk.

Second-12th Grade Lunch

MONDAY: No school.
 TUESDAY: No school.
 WEDNESDAY: Choice of beef taco, bean chalupas or chicken tetrazzini; Spanish rice, Mexipinto beans or southern collard greens; taco condiment salad, tossed salad or gelatin; corn tortilla, crackers or hot rolls; and white milk, chocolate milk or punch.
 THURSDAY: Choice of southern fried chicken, pork tamales or hoagie submarine sandwich; seasoned black-eyed peas, potatoes au gratin or vegetable medley; fresh banana, hamburger salad or tossed salad; cornmeal

yeast rolls, hot rolls or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

FRIDAY: Choice of Red Baron pepperoni pizza, chicken pot pie or nachos with cheese; savory green beans, baked potatoes and tomato and okra gumbo; cantaloupe, tossed salad or pineapple sunset salad; Fideo Mexicano, crackers or hot cheese rolls; chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

HART Breakfast

MONDAY: Sausage, biscuit, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.

TUESDAY: Pancakes with syrup, sausage, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers, variety of cereal and milk.

WEDNESDAY: Breakfast sausage pizza, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers and milk.

THURSDAY: Waffles, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, toast and milk.
 FRIDAY: Biscuits, ham, variety of cereal, graham crackers, raisins and milk.

Junior High/High School Lunch

MONDAY: Choice of hamburger with potato chips, chalupe or corn dog; salad, Spanish rice, brownie, and milk, punch or tea.

TUESDAY: Choice of burrito, sausage link or macaroni and cheese; wheat rolls, carrot sticks, salad, gelatin dessert, pears and milk, punch or tea.

WEDNESDAY: Choice of chicken sandwich with chips, chicken strips or chicken nuggets; gravy, mashed potatoes, peaches, cherry cobbler, and milk, punch or tea.

THURSDAY: Choice of hamburger with potato chips, burrito or enchilada casserole; corn, salad, fresh fruit, pineapple pudding, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.

FRIDAY: Choice of hamburger and potato chips, chicken sandwich with chips or barbecued rib sandwich with chips; pinto beans, sliced pickles, lettuce, tomato and pickles, peaches, gelatin dessert, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.

EMT class will begin on Tuesday

The Castro County EMS will conduct an EMT-basic class beginning Tuesday and continuing through May 16 for the general public.

Those interested in taking the class were asked to contact Leland Harris at 647-2191, Ext. 426 before Wednesday, Dec. 29.

The classes will be held in the assembly room at the Castro County Courthouse, 100 E. Bedford in Dimmitt. Each class will start at 6 p.m.

Cost for the course is \$375 and that includes a book, state exam fees, and CPR certification fees.



THE WINDSHIELD WIPERS can't keep the water off of the windshield of this pickup, which was swept off of US 385 in deep flood waters caused by heavy

rains in late April and early May. Rainfall totals during the series of storms ranged between five and 11 inches, causing floods across Castro County.

Photo by Kelby Bradley



OFF-ROAD VEHICLE—Many motorists found themselves stranded in Dimmitt early in December when a heavy winter storm dropped more than a foot of snow in the area, forcing the closure of county

roads. This 1996 Blazer owned by Norma Velasquez of Dimmitt, slid off the road on SH 86 west of Dimmitt during the storm, but no one was injured and the vehicle had no damage.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

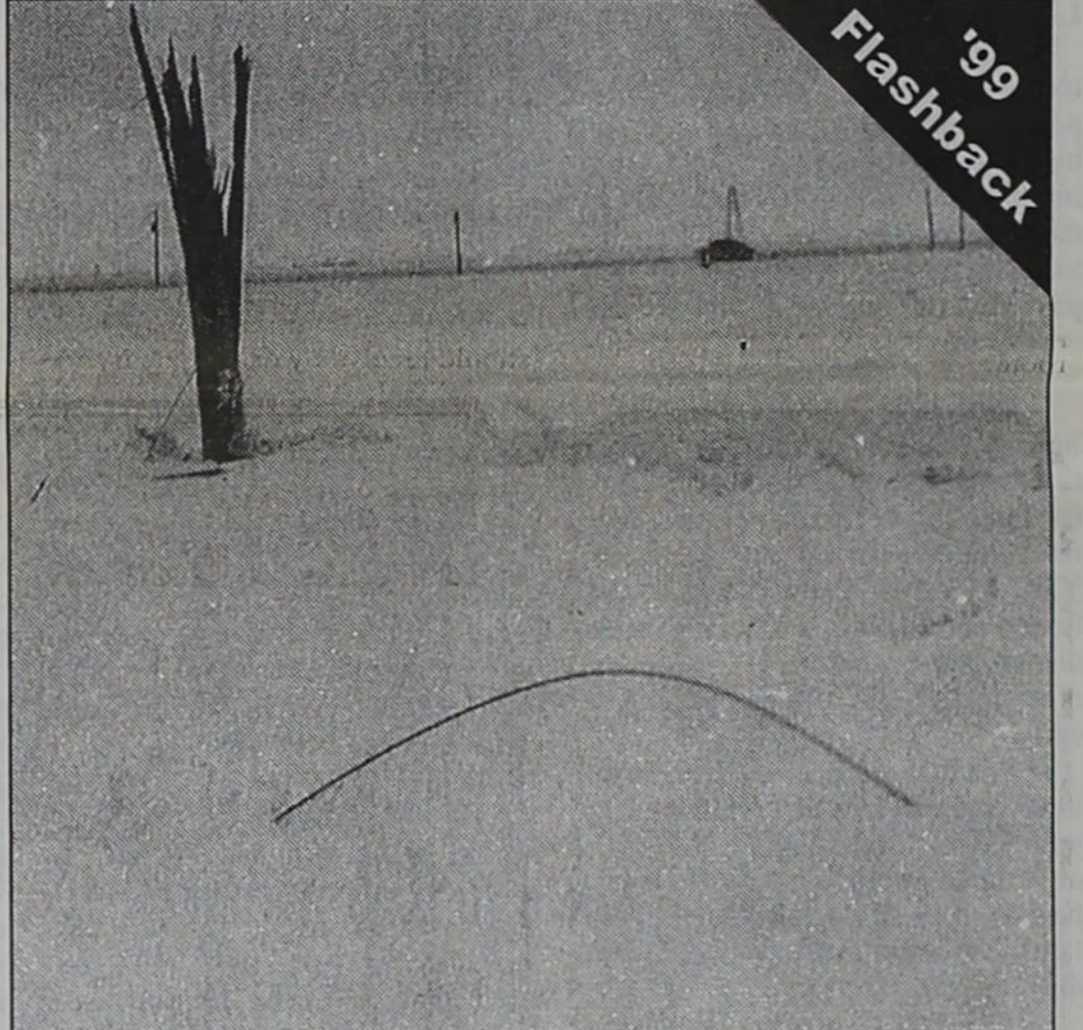
4-H'ers plan sign-up for stock show

4-H'ers with livestock projects they plan to enter in the 2000 Castro County Junior Livestock Show should plan to fill out their entry forms Jan. 10-14, 2000.

"During this week, please come by the 4-H office and sign up for this year's county stock show. All entry fees are \$15 per animal," said Castro County Extension Agents Pammy Millican and Benny Martinez.

Judges for this year's stock show are Billy Copeland for lambs, Galen McCune for swine and Greg Jones for steers.

For more information, contact Millican or Martinez at 647-4115.



THIS UTILITY POLE along Highway 86 east of Dimmitt splintered under the weight of heavy ice last January, bringing down lines (sticking up out of snow) and plunging homes into darkness. The heavy winter storm caused hundreds of broken poles, cross-arms and downed power lines across Castro County, especially along the eastern edge, where many residents were without power for almost a week.

Photo by Anne Acker

May you and yours enjoy peace, love and understanding in this new era we are about to embark upon together. We are ever grateful for your loyalty and patronage.

All the best in the new year!

AgriFarm Industries, L.L.C.

CELEBRATION 2000

We're welcoming in the new millennium with a sincere wish for all the best to our loyal customers throughout the area. We are most appreciative of your kindness and support in the past, and hope we can continue our friendship through the coming year.

FIRST BANK
 DIMMITT BRANCH
 215 W. Bedford • 647-BANK
 Member FD.I.C.

TIME'S RUNNING OUT...

To say "Happy New Year, and many thanks for your patronage."

George Real Estate

here ye, here ye...

the new year has arrived!

The year 2000 is upon us, and we hope everyone enjoys all good things throughout the coming days and months.

We appreciate your doing business with us, and look forward to serving you again in this new millennium.

COLEMAN PHARMACY



A FAMILIAR SIGHT throughout the county this year was this one, of roofers working from dawn 'til dusk to repair hail damage on hundreds of homes and businesses. Here, Jesus Miramontes (foreground) of Littlefield and Marco Zarate of

Nazareth re-roof the Farm Service Agency's building in the 100 block of West Belsher Street in Dimmitt. Roofers worked almost continuously through the late spring and summer months, and some continue to replace damaged roofs today. Photo by Don Nelson

TDA gives CEU options for pesticide applicators

The Texas Dept. of Agriculture offers pesticide applicators several options for getting the continuing education units (CEUs) necessary to renew their license, Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs said. Many pesticide applicators face a Feb. 28, 2000, renewal date.

"The Texas Agricultural Extension Service and several private vendors offer traditional classroom CEU courses," Combs said. "But we're always exploring more convenient ways to help applicators keep current on changing regulations and products."

The Ag Ed Group and Advanced Professional Education made home study an option a few years ago. Private applicators can take classes via video for 10 hours but must complete the other five credits in a classroom.

Private applicators also may earn the required credits by passing a 200-question recertification exam that includes questions on information covered in continuing education courses. If an applicator passes the exam, a certificate of completion for 15 CEUs is issued. The exam costs \$50 per attempt.

The latest option is on-line courses. While commercial and non-commercial pesticide applicators can get all their credits this way, they may use the on-line option only every other year.

Private applicators must renew their license every five years and obtain 15 CEUs during that period. Two credits must be in integrated pest management and two in laws and regulations. Applicators must self-certify their credits by listing them on the renewal form they should receive by early January.

Private applicators cannot simply retest to renew their license. A license must have been expired for a year before an applicator can take the private applicator training course and test.

Commercial and noncommercial applicators renew each year and must earn five CEUs annually, including one CEU in each of two of the following categories: laws and regulations, integrated pest management and drift minimization.

Combs advises pesticide applicators to check with their county Texas Agricultural Extension Service office for courses offered or call the Texas Department of Agriculture at 1-800-TELL-TDA or (512) 463-7548 for a list of approved courses. A list of CEU courses is available on TDA's web site:

www.agr.state.tx.us/pesticide/ceuhome.htm

Wayland president will speak at local Presbyterian Church

Dr. Wallace Davis Jr., president of Wayland Baptist University, will speak at Presbyterian Church Sunday at 3 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. Dr. Davis became the 11th president of Wayland Baptist University on July 3, 1991, after spending 17 years at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where he served as vice president for academic affairs.

An educator since earning his bachelor's degree in history and German at Baylor University in 1951, Dr. Davis spent 36 years in Corpus Christi, teaching elementary, secondary and higher education. He began his career as a high school teacher in Iowa Park in 1952.

After serving in the United States Army, he moved to Corpus Christi to teach in elementary schools in 1955.

In 1959, Dr. Davis began a five-year term as principal, then was named assistant director of elementary education for the Corpus Christi Independent School District in 1964. He became the director of elementary education in 1966 and assistant superintendent for instruction in 1967. He served in that capacity until becoming one of the first four educators employed by the newly-founded Corpus Christi State University (now Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) in 1973.

He served 16 years as the dean of the university's College of Education. In 1989 he was named vice president for academic affairs, and was named interim president in 1990, guiding the institution until Dec. 1, 1990. In 1996, Dr. Davis was awarded the title of vice president for academic affairs emeritus at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Dr. Davis has been active in many school, civic, professional and church committees and has won several awards.

He has addressed many professional organizations, teacher convocations and university forums across the state.

The only way to make a man trustworthy is to trust him; and the surest way to make him untrustworthy is to distrust him and show your distrust.

-Henry Lewis Stimson

To Old Acquaintances AND NEW ONES, TOO!

We'll never forget the kindnesses of the many good friends and neighbors we've had the privilege to serve this past year. Happy New Year to all of you.

Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer & Myatt

We Never Forget Old Acquaintances

Or new ones, either!

Here's hoping your New Year is the best in an elephant's memory.

Many thanks!


Pro-Ag, Inc.



Before New Year's Winds Down...

We'd like to wish everyone a fine celebration, and health and happiness in the coming year. Thanks for stopping by!

The Pancake House



HEAR YE... HEAR YE...

ANOTHER GREAT YEAR IS ON THE WAY!



On this annual occasion We'd like to issue a proclamation To all our friends both far and near Who helped us have a banner year So please accept with all sincerity Our best wishes for good health and prosperity.

Castro Co-op Gin

A BRIGHT YEAR AHEAD



May the months to come treat you and your family as kindly as you have treated us. We truly appreciate your support, and look forward to continuing our friendship.

A very happy new year to you!

Smothermon Ditching

We lay irrigation, gas line and repair plastic and concrete pipe lines.

806-276-5563



**Happy New Year to You...
Happy New Year to You...
Happy New Year Everybody...
Happy New Year to You!**

We hope everything in this new year will be exciting, and that all your dreams will come true!

Cerestar USA, Inc.

Classified Advertising Buy, Sell or Trade



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or any intention to make any such reference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that the dwellings advertised in the newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

- **SUPER COUNTRY** living on three acres. Three bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, double fireplace. Exceptional shop.
- **THREE BEDROOMS**, two baths, living with fireplace, sunroom. New on market. \$60,000.
- **BEAUTIFUL HOME** in the country. Over 2,900 sq. ft. Three bedroom, two baths, fantastic kitchen, large living, office and more. \$141,000.
- **EXCEPTIONAL NEIGHBORHOOD**. Three bedroom, 2-3/4 baths, sprinkler, living, den with fireplace on large lot. \$85,000.
- **NEW ROOF**, new heat and air. Great buy on three bedroom, 1-3/4 bath in good neighborhood. \$55,000.
- **LOTS TO OFFER**. Three bedroom, 2 baths, great basement with bedroom and 1/2 bath. \$150,000.
- **GOOD LOCATION** Office and shop.
- **COMMERCIAL** in good location.
- **TWO MILES SOUTH** of Sunnyside, 317 acres, two sprinklers, three wells, shop and other buildings, nice brick home. Priced at \$950/acre.

This is just a sample of our properties priced from \$18,500 to \$225,000. Watch next week for more listings.

GEORGE REAL ESTATE

S. Hwy 385 647-4174
Jimmie R. George, Broker
Mobile, 647-7942

Mary Lou Schmucker... 945-2679

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

MORRIS PROPERTY GROUP

Scott Morris, Broker

331 ACRES CRP, south of Nazareth, 4-bedroom house, 2 bath, 2-car garage, 2 storage sheds. Sold together or separately. \$165,500.

LEE STREET—Two bedrooms, two bath, two-car garage, large kitchen and living room, beautiful patio. \$47,500.

THREE BEDROOMS, one bath, laundry room, carport, large building in back. \$40,000.

WEST OF DIMMITT. Five bedrooms, three full baths, basement, extra large two-car garage, large kitchen with lots of storage, brick. \$120,000.

TEN ACRES with house north of Dimmitt. Three bedrooms, two baths, all highway frontage. \$85,000.

NEWLY REMODELED, three bedrooms, one bath, one-car garage, \$45,000.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE—1200+ sq. ft., three offices, receptionist area, two bathrooms, coffee bar, easy access to a bank, lots of parking. \$45,000.

1950 SQ. FT. BRICK OFFICE BUILDING, corner lot, abundant parking, nice location, \$117,500.

112 W. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-3734, Office

BEEF FACTORY—11 circles, fenced and watered for cattle, 3 1/2 circles in Bluestem, balance in cult., excellent cattle or farming operation.

C.R.P.—Approx. 567 acres C.R.P. & 330 acres native grass, house rough, barns, pens, fences fixable, approx. 1 1/2 miles of frontage on Hwy. 60. Owner says sell!
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY—Buy two commercial buildings at a much reduced price and get 15 lots with a view overlooking the Hereford golf course in addition. Buildings have rail facilities and multiple uses.

LET'S LOOK—4 acres & approx. 4 miles out of Hereford, pipe & cable fence with roping box, three bedroom, two bath home with basement, good condition, possible owner financing.
PLEASE CALL for details on ranches throughout the southwest, choice farms in the Texas Panhandle. We need your listing.

SCOTT LAND COMPANY
Ben G. Scott (806)647-4375 day or night

REMODELED HOME for sale by owner. 727 Oak. 1,600 square feet, large kitchen and living area. 647-4332. 1-33-tfc

3—Real Estate For Rent

DIMMITT SENIOR CITIZENS APARTMENTS

622 N.W. 5th
ONE AND TWO BEDROOM
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Call 647-2638
S&S Properties

Stafford Apartments

Call 647-2631 or 647-3696 evenings

TWO-BEDROOM house for rent. 647-5559. 3-29-tfc

FOR RENT: Ruidoso condo. 3/3, sleeps eight. Call Debbie at (505) 420-6700 or (806) 285-3053. 3-30-tfc

5—For Rent, Misc.

RENT TO OWN

NEW TY'S, YCR'S & APPLIANCES
No credit checks.
KITRELL ELECTRONICS
647-2197 Dimmitt

6—For Sale, Misc.

CELL PHONES! CELL PHONES! 400 minutes for only \$39.99. Comes with free Nokia 918 cell phone in leather case, car and home chargers. Call Richard, 806-292-9500. Cellular TOUCH authorized CellularONE dealer. 6-23-tfc

GAS FURNACE for sale. Ideal for shop or barn. 647-3201. 6-18-tfc

FOR SALE: One like-new hospital bedside table on wheels, shower chair, one electric lift chair, brown, in good condition; one Cashmiracle tan coat, size 18-18 1/2, hardly worn. 945-2667. 6-39-2tc

PECAN FIREWOOD 938-2206

10—Agricultural Services

CUSTOM SWATHING and baling. Call Roy Schilling, 647-2401. 10-31-tfc

CUSTOM FARMING: No-till, drill, mini-till, tillage equipment. Kenneth or Ashley Heard. (806) 945-2270 or (806) 627-4623. Mobile, 657-7980 or 647-7981. 10-8-tfc

11—Feed, Seed & Grain

HAY FOR SALE: Small square bales. Oats, \$3.75; alfalfa, \$4.95. Nazareth Feed and Supply, 945-2291. 11-17-tfc

TRITICALE HAY for sale. 1,700+ lb. round bales. Good amount of grain in heads. \$65/ton. (806) 627-4209. 11-36-4tp

12—Farm Produce

FARM FRESH PECANS 938-2206

CORN SILAGE, forage sorghum silage and cotton burs for sale. 1980 Chevrolet feed truck with 320 Oswalt box. Call 647-4544 or 647-4551. 12-38-tfc

20—Help Wanted

BUSINESS IS BOOMING—Now hiring management personnel, salary negotiable. 1-800-866-0196, Ext. 221, Ed Guerra. 20-38-2tc

TAKING APPLICATIONS for pen riders/animal health crew. Call or apply in person at Lubbock Feeders, 806-745-4587. 20-38-2tc

20—Help Wanted

NOW HIRING!!! Reasonable pay. Third shift clean-up (Excel-Friona). Please come by our office and pick up your application today. T&G Service Company, 1304 W. 9th, Friona, Texas. Monday-Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 20-37-4tc

PART-TIME HELP in the production department. Contact Roger Malone at Dimmitt Printing Company, 647-3286. 20-39-4tc

HELP WANTED: Part-time or full-time individual needed for sales and other duties at KDHN Radio. Call 647-4161. 20-39-4tc

CANTERBURY VILLA OF DIMMITT has immediate openings for CNAs, LVN or RN. Flexible hours and competitive wages. Apply at 1621 Butler Blvd. 20-39-2tc

INDEPENDENT SALES REP. Needed for corporate apparel company selling to agricultural, automotive and other industries. Representative would be responsible for selling caps, jackets, golf shirts with embroidered company logos. Part-time or full-time. Draw paid on commissions. For more information, please call Pro Image Sportswear, toll-free, 888-545-5822. 20-39-1tc

D.O.N. OPPORTUNITY

with an established non-profit campus of care including Independent and Assisted Living as well as a 79-bed nursing home. We require strong management skills along with a thorough knowledge of long-term care. Located 50 miles south of Amarillo. Please fax resume to 806-364-0675.

21—Wanted, Misc.

WANTED—Good, used hot tub. Call 647-2623 or 647-7063. 21-38-tfc

22—Notices

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 647-2577. 22-35-5tc

24—Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS
We wish to thank all of those who showed so much care and concern not only at the time of Nub's death, but also during his long illness. Your thoughtful gifts of flowers, cards, food, visits and prayers were greatly appreciated.
THE FAMILY OF ED "NUB" CALHOUN
24-39-1tc

Call before noon Tuesday to place your classified ad:

647-3123



What your ad will cost:

- ✓ The first time your ad runs it will cost at least \$5 (25 cents per word with a \$5 minimum).
- ✓ Each consecutive time you run your ad with no changes, it will cost 25 cents per word with no minimum.
- ✓ A Card of Thanks will cost \$7.50.

Where to find ads:

- Homes and land for sale
- Farms for sale
- Homes and apartments for rent
- Things people want to rent
- Miscellaneous items for sale
- Garage sales
- Household goods for sale
- Farm equipment and supplies
- Agricultural services
- Feed, seed and grain for sale
- Farm produce for sale
- Livestock and pets
- Automobiles for sale
- Recreational vehicles
- Auto parts and supplies
- Business opportunities
- Services
- Insurance
- Students seeking work
- Help wanted
- Notices
- Lost and found
- Cards of thanks
- Legal notices

Give her a shot to dribble on something other than your kitchen floor. Make sure she gets her baby shots now.

Every child deserves the best opportunities life has to offer. Especially yours. Of course, the odds of her playing pro basketball are a long shot. But the chances are more than 1 in 4 that your baby isn't protected against childhood diseases like polio, measles, chicken pox, tetanus and others. So, even if you're sure your child is up to date and on schedule with her baby shots, ask your doctor at every visit. It couldn't hurt. In fact, it could give her a shot to be a star in any profession.

Even if you're sure, ask again. 1-800-232-2522

A large swarm of desert locusts can consume 20,000 tons of vegetation a day.

Classifieds get results!

J-Cross INVESTMENTS

304B W. Bedford, Dimmitt

THREE BEDROOM, 1-3/4 bath home with fireplace. Nice yard with enclosed patio, carport and lots of storage. Owner is moving and ready to sell. \$43,000.

NICE THREE BEDROOM, two bath brick home. Has wood privacy fence, covered patio, grill and two-car garage. Included is a storage building wired for electricity. \$54,000.

RECENTLY REMODELED two bedroom, one bath home. Storage building and grill included. This is a very nice, clean home. \$34,500.

WE HAVE OTHER PROPERTIES available—call us. Also, if you want to sell your property, we would greatly appreciate you allowing us to sell it for you.

Call Kenny Doss, Agent, 647-3248 or Jerry Cartwright, Broker, 647-2302

3—Real Estate For Rent

3—Real Estate For Rent

Azteca Complex APARTMENTS

910 E. Jones
★ NOW LEASING ★

1, 2 or 3 Bedrooms
We have Rent Assistance for qualified tenants (agricultural workers)



For more information, call (806) 647-3406 Night 647-2677 Miquel Velasquez, Manager



TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of December 26, 1999

ADOPTION

Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

A BRIGHT FUTURE awaits your newborn in 2000. Give your child loving, stable parents. Financially secure and happy home with church ties. Call Janet, 1-888-592-7779.

ADOPTION - HAPPILY MARRIED couple (stay-at-home mom) promises to give your baby a lifetime full of love, happiness, adventure and attention. Call Steven/Susan, toll free, 1-888-337-9666.

ALLISON AND GRAHAM from UK wish to adopt newborn or twins to share a loving, secure, happy family life near London. Call 0-800-648-1807.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS! Set your own schedule. Control your own income. Be an Avon Representative. Free start-up kit through January 7th. Call 1-888-942-4053.

AFFORDABLE! EASY! EFFECTIVE! Call 1-512-477-6755 or your local newspaper today! Find out how you can place display advertising in more than 200 Texas newspapers with just one phone call. Ask about nationwide display advertising, too!

DRIVERS WANTED

\$1,000 SIGN-ON. Top \$\$\$ OTR/Regional singles, teams and O/Os. Vans, flatbeds or specialized. Class-A CDL and 1 year experience. Roadrunner Trucking, 1-800-945-BIRD (2473).

COMPANY DRIVERS AND Owner Operators. Call today and ask about our great new compensation and bonus packages! Boyd Bros., 1-800-543-8923 (O/Os call 1-800-633-1377). EOE.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT *Coast to coast runs *Teams start 35c-37c *\$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers and owner operators, 1-800-441-4394. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

DRIVERS - FLATBED - START 2000 with the best. Experience pays. Up to 37 cpm. *Regional opportunity/48-states *401k, medical, dental, life *3 years OTR/1 year flatbed. H/H needed! 3 year OTR/1 year RGN Lowboy experience. Owner!

NOTICE: While most advertisers are reputable, we cannot guarantee their products or services advertised. We urge our readers to use caution and when in doubt, contact your local Better Business Bureau for information about the company before sending money.

Call this Newspaper to Advertise Statewide and Regionally or Call 512-477-6755.

operators welcome! Call Al, 1-800-290-2327, Combined Transport.

DRIVERS - NEW PAY package. Applications processed in 2 hours or less. Long-haul and regional drivers. Class-A CDL required. Continental Express, 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS - NOW HIRING! OTR drivers. Company and O/O. Super teams split up to: 40c - Company, 84c - O/O. 1-800-CFI-DRIVE, www.cfidrive.com.

DRIVERS - SOLOS START up to 36 cpm. Teams up to 38 cpm. \$10,000 longevity bonus. Minimum 23 with 6 months OTR experience. Vernon Sawyer, 1-888-829-9565.

DRIVERS/FLATBED - Little John Trucks, Inc., 3000-4000 miles/week. Health insurance paid 100%. Tarp pay, drop pay, monthly bonus. Average 31 cpm. Call 1-800-647-3864.

OWNER OPERATOR *** Are you averaging 113 cpm? FFE offers: *90% Loaded miles, *Pick your own area to run, *Free base plates/permits, *\$1,000 sign-on bonus, *Tractor purchase and lease program, *Non-forced dispatch. Call Now! 1-800-569-9298. Company and trainee positions also available.

OWNER OPERATORS AND fleet drivers don't miss out! We are hiring now! Call recruiting today! Get the "Elite" facts. National Carriers, the "Elite" Fleet, 1-800-654-6710.

SMX - HIRING COMPANY drivers, owner operators, regional, x-country, bonuses, referrals, safety, direct deposits, medical, dental, vision, 401k, vacation, Ryder Plan, per-dium, excellent pay. 1-800-247-8040.

SWIFT TRANSPORTATION HIRING drivers and teams! Contracted CDL training available. Excellent pay and benefits, consistent miles, assigned equipment. Ask about sign-on bonus! 1-800-587-1013 (EOE - M/F).

EDUCATION/TRAINING

COMPANY SPONSORED TRAINING and first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport. OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced, 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

DRIVER - INEXPERIENCED? LEARN to be

an OTR professional from a top carrier. Great pay, executive-style benefits and conventional equipment. Minimum investment required. Call today! US Express, 1-800-879-7743.

DRIVER/INEXPERIENCED ... EARN up to \$35,000 the first year. Tuition reimbursement available. Experienced drivers earn \$800/wk. USA Truck, 1-800-237-4642.

TRI-STATE SEMI Driver Training, Inc. *Job placement assistance before training. *Tuition loans available, no credit check. *17 day training. *3001 N I-45 Palmer, TX. *Call 1-888-854-7364.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

NEED CASH? IMMEDIATE cash paid for lottery winnings and legal settlements for medical malpractice, personal injury and wrongful death. Call Singer Asset at 1-800-605-5007. www.singerasset.com.

FOR SALE

AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES - Wolff Tanning Beds. Buy factory direct. Excellent service. Flexible financing available. Home/commercial units. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1310.

BUILDINGS SALE ... NO Salesman. Go direct and save. Final clearance. 20x26, \$2,600; 25x30, \$3,145; 30x40, \$4,750; 35x50, \$6,100; 40x60, \$7,800; 48x90, \$12,000. Others. Pioneer, 1-800-668-5422.

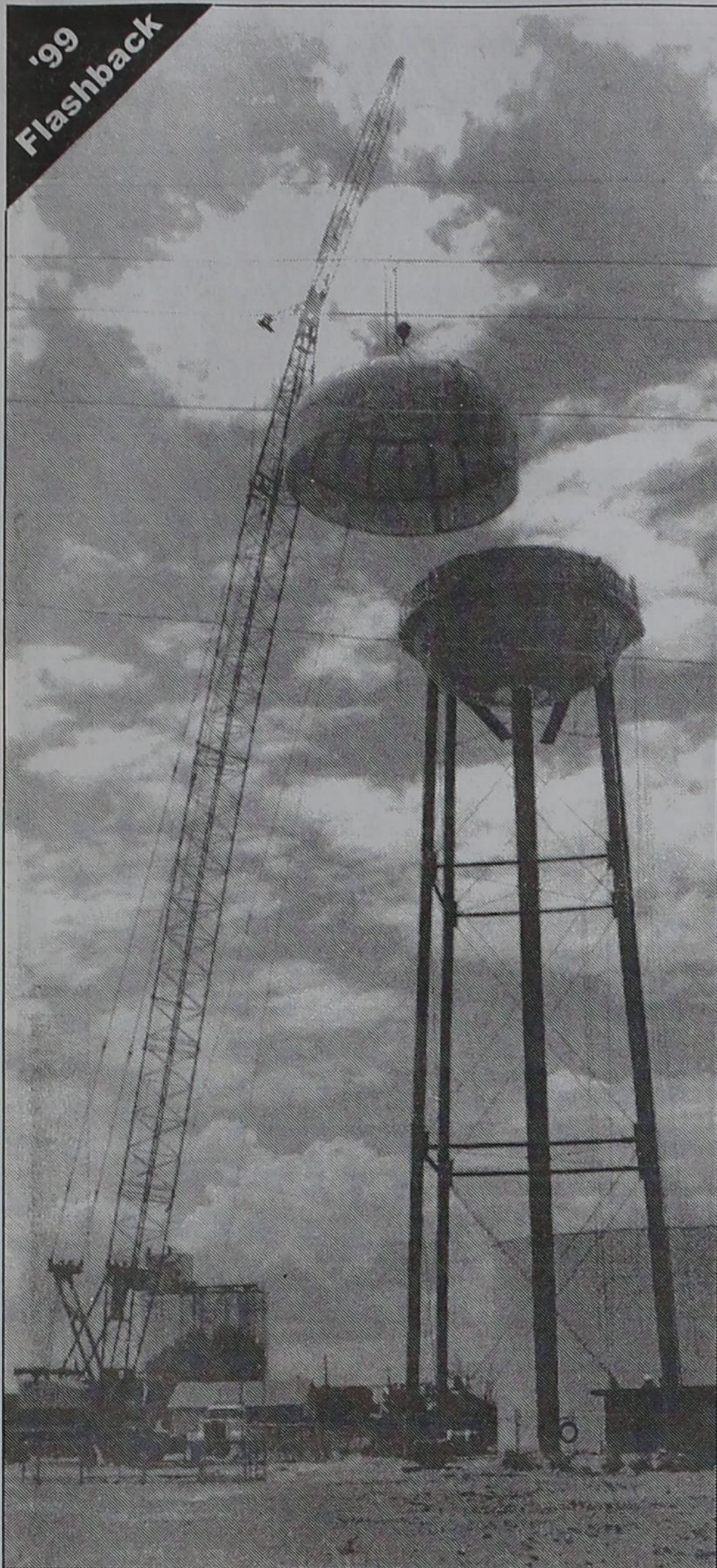
GATEWAY COMPUTERS...FACTORY direct. \$0 down. Low monthly payment. Pentium-III 600 available. Resolved credit problems okay. Call by Dec. 31, for free printer. OMC, 1-800-477-9016. Code A29.

LEGAL SERVICES

NURSING HOME ABUSE - Neglect, bedsores, burns, assaults, malnutrition, falls, deaths. Call free confidential consultation. David P. Willis, Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Lawyer. Houston, TX principal office, 1-800-883-9858.

MISC. SERVICES

CHARITY CARS - DONATE your vehicle, tax deductible, free towing. We provide vehicles to needy families. As seen on Oprah and People magazine! 1-800-442-4451, www.charitycars.org.



CAPPING IT OFF—A new water tower was constructed in southeast Dimmitt during 1999, and Caldwell Tanks of Kentucky was one of the companies that helped construct the tower, which has a capacity of 150,000 gallons of water. Once work on the new tower was complete, the city was able to begin tearing down the old water tower east of the city warehouse. *Photo by Linda Maxwell*

Nazareth

with Uirgie Gerber, 945-2669

Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy new year to everyone.

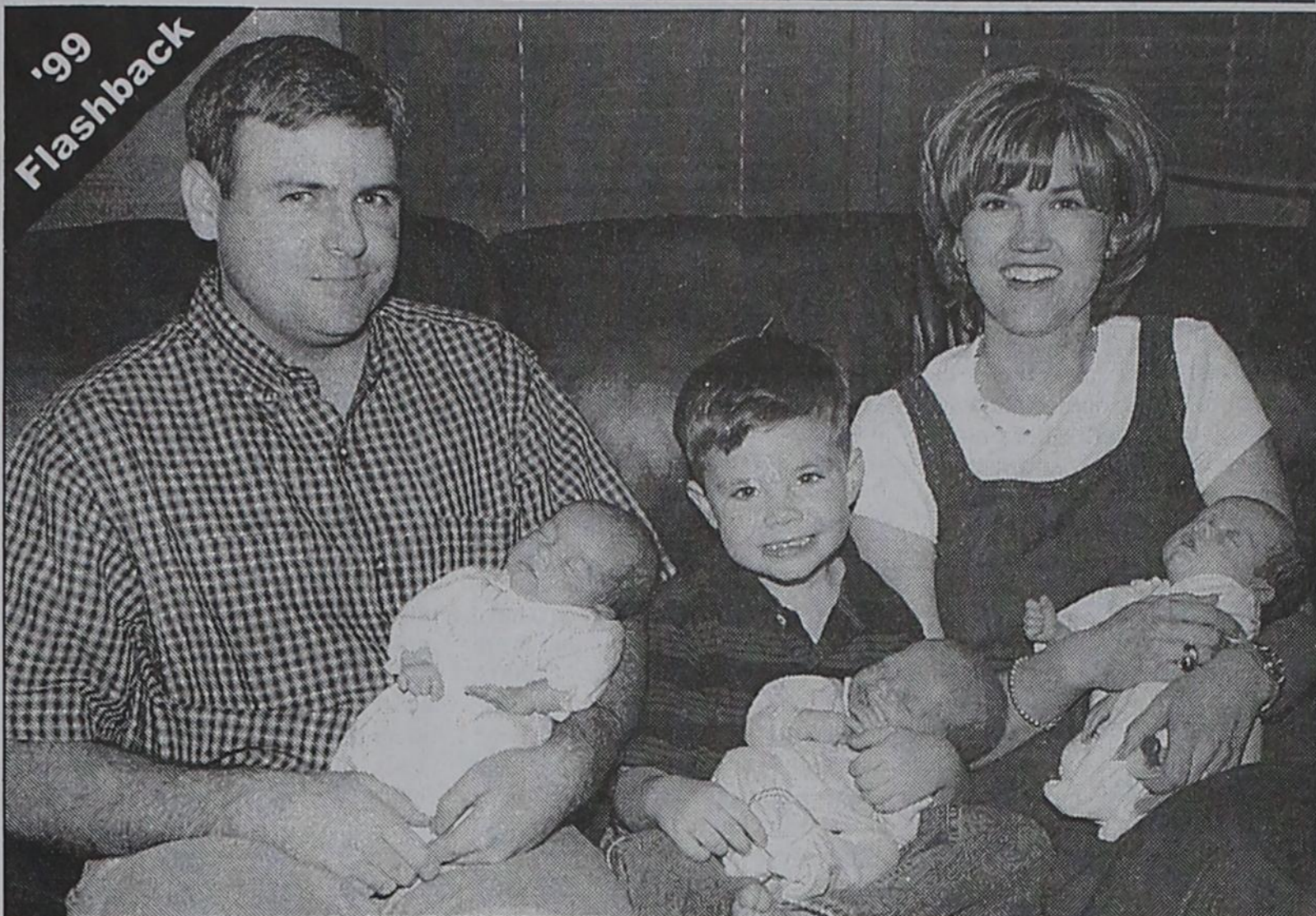
Our services in Holy Family Church were all beautiful and gave us much to think about. Our church is decorated beautifully. A big thanks to all who gave of their time and talent.

It was great to have so many single and married couples come back to Nazareth to spend quality time with their families here. Others are coming this week to celebrate New Years Day.

A steak supper and casino night was held Sunday evening at the Community Hall. The steak supper was hosted by the Christian Mothers, Knights of Columbus and the Hall Committee.

The casino games were sponsored by the fire department and the Knights of Columbus. All proceeds from both events will benefit the Nazareth Volunteer Fire Department.

Prayers are asked for Florene Brockman, Lori Huseman, Sue Schneider, Anna Huseman, Gene Schacher, Leonard Gerber, Leonard Wilhelm, Paul Venhaus, Alvin Anderle and Virgil Brockman.



TIM AND SHELLY FARRIS of Dimmitt found their hands full this year as they welcomed triplets Hanna, Tate and Halle to their family on March 25. The trio of newborns was also welcomed by big brother, Trey

Farris. When this picture was taken, the triplets were seven weeks old, had gained about two pounds apiece and weighed over six pounds. *Photo by Linda Maxwell*

Whales shed tears to protect their eyes from salt in the sea.

Don't let stress make you sick for the holidays

Sniffles, cold symptoms, aches and pains can all result from pushing too hard during the holidays, but if you learn to control the stress, you can avoid many of these problems.

"Plan now to stay in control of your holiday schedule or you may find that stress has made you sick," said Joe Sloan, chief executive officer of the Castro County Hospital District.

Some helpful hints to help avoid stress during the holidays are:

1. Learn to say "no." Participate in the activities that are important to you and your family. You don't have time to do everything during the busy season, so set your priorities.

2. Accept less than perfect. Trying to make the holidays perfect is one of the primary causes of stress. The beautifully decorated rooms, perfect trees and gourmet desserts pictured in the magazines are the result of a

whole army of experts working for days. Don't fault yourself if you can't achieve that perfection on your own.

3. Take some time to "hear the angels sing." After all, the holidays are a time for religious observances. Your stress will stay under control if you carve out quiet time every day for you and your family.

If there is anything that we wish to change in the child, we should first examine it and see whether it is not something that could be better changed in ourselves.

-Carl Gustav Jung

Those who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.

-Edgar Allen Poe

More about

RU ready 4 Y2K? . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

efforts. In the event of an extreme storm or other disaster—at any time—the region's utilities and emergency response agencies will work primarily with three regional radio stations. The three, which can operate without general utility services, are the designated national Emergency Alert System stations for the region and they are KGNC of Amarillo at 710 on the AM dial; KFYO of Lubbock at 790 on the AM dial; and KCKN of Roswell, N.M., at 1020 on the AM dial.

Electricity

SPS and Deaf Smith Rural Electric Cooperative aren't expecting any major problems relating to Y2K.

SPS does not expect any disruption of services on New Year's Eve, according to Robert C. Ray, New Century Energies Year 2000 Program Manager.

The company completed work on all critical systems and equipment and June and work has continued on low-priority systems, testing and contingency planning.

Ray says all critical embedded systems are considered Y2K ready, including 44 generating units. He added that all major power plants are now operating in the Year 2000.

Although problems are not expected, Ray said the company has developed response procedures for worst-case scenarios such as a loss of communications or a disruption in the national electricity grid.

"We have identified additional staff and technicians who will be on site Dec. 31 to help deal with any unexpected issues."

Deaf Smith Rural Electric Cooperative has initiated Year 2000 assessments and remediations, according to Executive Assistant Mike Veazey.

"We believe this program will prepare our company to handle any problems with the coming of the new millennium," Veazey said.

Veazey said Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative has done assessments in all of the following areas: computer hardware and software, communications systems, critical systems, substations and metering equipment. No major problems have been identified in the equipment. Company computers have been repaired or replaced to satisfy Y2K compliance.

Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative will be open Friday and crews will be on duty the night of New Year's Eve, just in case there are isolated communication problems to be solved. Crews will periodically check in at predetermined locations in the various communities in the area to address concerns regarding Y2K.

Those crews plan to visit sites located at the Castro County Courthouse and Nazareth Community Hall as well as other areas in its service area.

Gas

Natural gas service provided here by Energas, should be free from interruption on New Year's Eve, but just in case something does happen, the company has set up a toll-free phone number for general service inquiries and emergencies.

That number is 1-888-363-7427 and callers can reach an Energas representative at that number 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If the telephone service is down, you can report problems at the Castro County Courthouse.

Energas issues the following safety reminder to the public: *Always remember, if you smell natural gas, do not operate anything that could produce a spark. Leave your home and report the situation as soon as possible.*

Energas says it has identified potential Y2K compliance problems and implemented Year 2000 solutions on all of its systems. The company also has been assured that its third-party vendors and suppliers also are Y2K-compliant.

Energas has replaced its customer information system, accounting and financial reporting system and human resources system with systems that are Year 2000 ready.

Financial

If you decide to withdraw cash from your bank or credit union because you are worried about the Y2K bug, hold only as much as you would for any holiday weekend.

First United Bank of Dimmitt, First Bank of Muleshoe—Dimmitt Branch, Hereford TX Federal Credit Union and Hale County State Bank's Hart Banking Center are ready for Y2K and don't expect any interruption in service.

placed on what impact the Year 2000 date change will have on various businesses, including financial institutions," said a spokesperson for the First Bank of Muleshoe. "We are totally committed to maintaining the level of service and excellence you have come to expect from us and have placed great emphasis on eliminating the possibility of any Y2K related problems with your accounts. All of our operating systems have been tested and retested and were Y2K ready well before Jan. 1, 2000."

"Our computer systems have been thoroughly checked out," said a spokesperson for Hereford TX Federal Credit Union. "We have worked diligently to make our computers and accounting procedures as Y2K-ready as possible and we will have extra cash on hand for the beginning of the new year. Accounting computers at Hereford TX Federal Credit Union have long-since been programmed to handle Y2K. Members are strongly cautioned that withdrawing all of their assets in cash is not a wise move. Money hidden around the house isn't insured. Your accounts are."

The Farm Credit Bank of Texas assures its customers that all of its affiliates, including the Federal Land Bank Associations and Production Credit Associations, both of which have offices in Dimmitt, are ready for the Year 2000.

The lender was rated Y2K-ready in August by the Farm Credit Administration.

To meet the rigorous standards set by the Farm Credit Administration for Y2K preparedness, the bank tested all of its mission-critical software programs, computer hardware and other computer-based systems over a 16-month period. It also determined that all of its vendors, suppliers and clearing houses are Y2K compliant.

Hale County State Bank officials say they have been working under FDIC guidelines for nearly three years to get ready for potential Y2K problems, and at this time, all testing indicates that the Plainview bank and its branches, including one in Hart, are ready for the new year.

"During this process, a special Y2K team has spent countless hours developing realistic contingency plans to cover any problems that might arise. We do not foresee any problems with those things that we are able to control and we are confident that we are ready to meet the needs of our customers and out community in the year 2000 and beyond," said Rodney Watson, vice president and director of training at Hale County State Bank.

A plan was developed and implemented to test and upgrade or replace all computer hardware and software programs where possible problems were found. All upgrades and replacements were tested by the vendors prior to purchase, and again after being installed at Hale County State Bank.

Water

"We don't feel like there will be any problems in Dimmitt (in relation to Y2K)," said Dimmitt Mayor Wayne Collins. "We have received letters from all people who provide services to us—gas, electricity, telephone—and they assure us that they are ready."

Collins said the City of Dimmitt has upgraded its computer systems within the city offices and those systems are now Y2K compliant.

He added that the city's water system also has been checked to ensure that all computer systems directing the water supply are compatible, and if not, checks were initiated to make sure that a manual switch can be flipped to override any problem.

"If the electricity goes down, we have a backup generator that can still

operate our water pumps," Collins said. "We feel like everything is ready."

The City of Hart doesn't anticipate any problems with its services, either, especially since it doesn't have a computer.

"If the power goes out, we'll still be able to pump water from our storage supply, at least for awhile," said Virginia Reed at Hart City Hall.

Telephone

GTE is ready for the Year 2000 rollover.

Customers can confirm that their local telephone line is Y2K compliant by going to GTE's Year 2000 Readiness web site at <http://www.gte.com/customer-support/y2k/npanxx.htm>. Additional information about GTE's Y2K preparedness program can be viewed at <http://www.get.com/y2k>.

GTE has spent nearly \$400 million so that phones work when customers need them during the Year 2000 rollover and beyond. Mission critical systems have been tested during multiple drills within the company and with many equipment vendors.

Between Dec. 31 and Jan. 4, GTE will have roughly 1,000 employees working at its Y2K command centers located around the world. Another 1,000 employees will be on call.

Law enforcement

Local law enforcement departments are planning to have a full staff on duty, and off-duty officers will be available for emergency needs.

"Everybody will be on stand-by," said Sheriff CD Fitzgerald, "in case there are any problems, but I do not foresee anything."

Fitzgerald said the 911 system is all prepared for the roll-over, as well.

He echoed the concerns of others in saying that they are most worried about people trying to "test" the 911 or telephone systems "just to see if they work."

If there are any communications failures, citizens are welcome to come to the Sheriff's Office for emergency communications only.

Fitzgerald said the courthouse has an emergency generator that will kick in if there is any interruption in power.

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Federal Trade Commission Rule: All funeral homes must accept delivery with no charge to families.

FREE DELIVERY WITHIN 100 MILES OF HEREFORD



Have A Great Little New Year!

Get the year off to a great start with our best wishes for health, wealth, wisdom and love. Let's keep our friendship going strong in 2000! Hope it's the best year yet!

B&W Aerial Spray

FRI.- SUN. ONLY!

MILLENNIUM MADNESS

SAVE AT OUR NEW YEAR'S SALE & CLEARANCE!

50% OFF LADIES' & MEN'S FALL OUTERWEAR

Leather, all-weather and wool. Reg. 40.00-295.00, SALE 20.00-147.50. *Excludes Chaps & Columbia® outerwear.

50% OFF MISSES' & WOMEN'S HOLIDAY SEPARATES

Exciting party looks in a variety of fabrics. Reg. 28.00-46.00, SALE 14.00-23.00.

50% OFF JUNIORS' HOLIDAY SEPARATES

By Wrapper®, Heart & Soul®, Axiom®. Reg. 18.00-62.00, SALE 9.00-31.00.

50% OFF ALL REG.-PRICED FLANNEL SLEEPWEAR

Ladies' and men's night shirts & pajamas. Reg. 20.00-30.00, SALE 10.00-15.00.

PLUS ...

EXTRA

33%

OFF

ENTIRE STOCK GREEN-TICKETED MERCHANDISE STOREWIDE!

50% OFF MISSES' SELECTED CAREER SEPARATES

From Sag Harbor®, Teddi® & Korel®. Reg. 28.00-72.00, SALE 14.00-36.00.

50% OFF TOPS & BOTTOMS FOR JUNIORS

From Mad Knits®, Anxiety®, Vintage Blue®, Reg. 24.00-38.00, SALE 12.00-19.00.

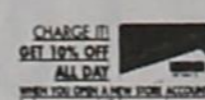
50% OFF SELECTED FAMILY ATHLETIC SHOES

Discontinued styles. Nike, Reebok®, Adidas®, Riddell®. Reg. 35.00-75.00, SALE 17.50-37.50.

50% OFF ALL YOUNG MEN'S, MEN'S SWEATERS

Reg. 28.00-135.00, SALE 14.00-67.50. *Excludes designer collections.

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647-5484
117 SE Second St. Dimmitt



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Obituaries

Antonio Chavez

Antonio Chavez, 54, of Lubbock, brother of Rey Estraca of Dimmitt, died Monday in the University Medical Center of Lubbock.

Cremation is under the direction of Calvillo Funeral Home. Memorial services will be held at a later date.

Mr. Chavez was born Jan. 17, 1945, in Three Rivers. He moved to Lubbock from Wilson in 1973. He was a Catholic.

He is also survived by one other brother and four sisters.

Beatrice Hawkins

Services for Beatrice "Bea" Hawkins, 84, of Dimmitt, were held Monday afternoon at the First Presbyterian Church in Dimmitt with Ed Freeman, retired minister, and Gene Hawkins officiating.

Burial followed in Westlawn Memorial Park under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Hawkins died at 8:36 p.m. last Thursday, Dec. 23, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

She was born March 9, 1915, in Gurnee, Ill. She attended high school at Breckenridge in San Antonio where she graduated. She graduated from the University of Michigan. She taught school in Chelsea, Farmington and Northville, Mich. She taught first grade for 24 years. She taught school in Dimmitt for 23 years.

She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Academic Sorority. She attended the First Presbyterian Church of Dimmitt where she was an elder.

Survivors include three nieces, Roylene Keel of Amarillo, Irene Reager of Reedsport, Ore., and Ceil Holden of San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; three nephews, Gene Hawkins of Lubbock, Erith Hawkins of Bovina and Harold Hawkins of Mineral Wells; and a sister, Josephine Seip of Michigan, Ind.

The family suggests memorials be to the First Presbyterian Church of Dimmitt or to a favorite charity.

Love consists in this, that two solitudes protect and touch and greet each other.
-Rainer Maria Rilke

A powerful male gorilla may weigh as much as 450 pounds.

The first fashion photographs appeared in the Parisian journal La Mode Pratique in December 1891.

Depression affects millions of seniors

Depression can be treated, and treated very successfully. The first step in treating depression is to recognize that the condition exists. The next step is getting a proper diagnosis so treatment can begin.

Knowing the symptoms of depression in the elderly can be lifesaving. Depression is a serious problem for senior citizens, according to Janice Ruff of Welch Home Place, a mental health facility for seniors 55 and older.

"There are many symptoms of depression," she said. "Some of the easier ones to spot are a change in appetite or weight, a major change in sleep patterns, restlessness or decreased activity and fatigue or loss of energy."

Other symptoms include feeling sad, tearful or empty with little interest or pleasure in activities that used to be enjoyed, as well as feelings of worthlessness and difficulty concentrating or making decisions.

"Clinical depression affects more than 17 million Americans every year and is especially high among seniors," Ruff said. "This is due to the loss of a loved one, retirement or loss of job and the inability to care for themselves."

The good news is that depression is highly treatable, once a diagnosis has been made. Joe Sloan, CEO, Castro County Hospital District explained that Welch Home Place provides a range of services to meet the mental health needs of people 55 and older.

"Welch Home Place not only has inpatient services, but also has an outpatient program that allows patients to spend the day and then return home at night," said Sloan.

Because the unit is located in Plains Memorial Hospital, the professional team of experts care for the patient's physical health as well as emotional needs. Welch Home Place can be the answer for seniors who are suffering from depression.

If a man does not keep pace with his companion, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away.
-Henry David Thoreau

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"Much public attention has been