



The Castro County News

82nd year—No. 7

Dimmitt, Texas

Thursday, May 11, 2006

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75¢

Prospects look good for ethanol plant

Town meeting draws big crowd

By **DAVIE BROWDER**
Managing Editor

The crowd at the Dimmitt City Council Chambers on Thursday was one anxious for good news. And that's what they got from Mayor Wayne Collins and two other men, who are providing the financing to re-open the Cargill plant as an ethanol plant.

"We feel like we've got everything we need to make this plant successful," Collins said.

"What we've asked for from the various taxing entities is for them to release Cargill from any debt on abatements. In return, we (the city and then the people converting the plant to ethanol) get the plant and Cargill drops its lawsuit on the 2004 and 2005 taxes.

"That money that's been in escrow would become available for the taxing entities right away. We really feel like it's a win-win situation for everyone."

On top of that, Collins said, the people financing the ethanol plant will not ask for abatements.

"That plant, once it opens, will go on the tax rolls at full value," he said.

Right now, as soon as the entities agree to drop the lawsuit over abatements, the money men will finance a two-part environmental study and an engineering study to find out exactly how much it will cost to make the conversion. Those studies alone will cost the

investors about \$300,000. Should the plant not re-open due to a problem that is unforeseen right now, the city will still own the plant and will sell it for scrap - netting anywhere from \$5 to \$10 million dollars.

That money would go to the five taxing agencies proportionately to the amount they tax.

"I believe everyone in Dimmitt would prefer to see an ethanol plant that will employ at the outset 60 plus employees rather than pursuing a lawsuit," Collins said.

The time for the studies is estimated to be 60 to 90 days.

After that, within 10 to 12 months, Collins said this plant could be producing ethanol.

And the time is right with the economy and gasoline at its current price.

More incentives than ever are available from the government to development alternate energy sources.

"Had Cargill closed several years ago, it would have been disastrous," Collins said. "But I believe that we will have an ethanol plant in Dimmitt."

Jack Robinson, one of the men who is putting together the financing assured the audience that "we're in the business of creating equity, jobs."

However, Collins pointed out that it is "absolutely imperative that all the entities try to move the process



DIMMITT MAYOR WAYNE COLLINS details the activities that have been on-going in an effort to acquire Cargill and convert it to an Ethanol plant.

ahead, which includes getting a Rail District up and running.

Although the County Commissioners have created the district, they are still taking names of people who would serve on the Rail District Board.

On Friday, at 10 a.m., the commissioners will meet to decide whether to agree to drop the abatement suit and enter into an interlocal agreement with the city.

Lance Duncan, another of the potential investor, said that with the Cargill plant, as it is today, "you're 80 percent there. You're much farther along than other towns. And you have the people who worked at

Cargill and know the plant who are willing to come back and work there.

"We feel like our best investments are in West Texas," he said. "People here have a work ethic and we've seen nothing but an eagerness to get this plant back on line. People here have been very friendly to us and to the idea of bringing an ethanol plant here. If we'd been met with hostility, it might have made us think twice. But right now, you've got 80 percent of the battle won."

"We're excited about the plant," he said. "In the last 12 months I've put together \$200 million in mergers. We're serious about this

plant. "Remember, from our side, someone here is going to be writing a check for \$50 or \$60 million dollars. When you spend that kind of money you want to believe that you're going to have a success and make money for everyone involved."

Collins said that since the Thursday meeting, he's been met with nothing but enthusiasm.

"Everything has been 100 percent positive with me," he said. "Everyone is thrilled the plant is going to be opened. Everyone is happy with Dimmitt and the jobs that are going to be created. They're also happy that many of the Cargill employ-

ees that have scattered to other places are thrilled about the chance to come back to Dimmitt.

Ethanol and biodiesel are the two alternative fuels that are most prominent with there are incentives both at the state and federal levels.

"Everyone is aware of that when you fill up your tank with gas," Collins said. "We need to get a domestic supply of energy. Everyone in town has been very cooperative and helpful in getting this done. People have volunteered and done a lot of things. It's been a truly united effort from everyone in the community and the county and we appreciate all their help and support."

Relay for Life at Sonic proves lucrative for group

You might call it a tradition, but plan an American Cancer Society Relay for Life event and it rains! But it didn't dampen the spirits of the generous hearts of Sonic customers on Friday.

Approximately \$400 was raised at the Celebrity Car-Hop from tips and a generous donation from Sonic as well. Hopefully, this even will get the community think of plans for the Relay set for June 10.

It is NOT TOO LATE to get a team together.

Just call Marcus Brockman at 945-9504 and let him know for T-shirt orders.

Cancer survivors, if they have not already done so are encouraged to contact Doris Flynt at 647-3473 to be put on the Survivor List.

If you're unable to walk, we'll have a ride for you, so call Mary Jo Brown at 647-3250, Flynt at 647-3473; or Laverne Bernethy at 647-4608 to sign-up.



It was a little damp on Friday night, but these volunteers got out and helped fill orders at Sonic. They got to keep all their tips and got an extra amount from Sonic - all of which goes to Relay for Life. Included in the photo are Trey Duggan, Camille Williams, Tara Grand, Gary and Linda Grand, Carolyn Jones, Doris Flynt, Laverne Bernethy and Karon Smith.

DISD announces new hires

The DISD board of trustees hired three people on Monday night.

Kirk White will teach high school social studies; Brenda Evins, middle school special education; and Sherry Langfitt, sixth-grade reading.

In other business, the board:

* Agreed to renew a Workers Compensation Insurance contract for which the district will get a \$9,300 credit.

* Approved a wellness policy to correlate with the district's health and physical

See DISD, Page 2

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Hispanic Voice

with Angie Arguijo, 647-0106

Hola, Hispanos. Hello, Hispanics. Sorry I didn't get the Hispanic Voice in last week, I was feeling a little under the weather. Actually, I was sick as a dog. But, fortunately, I am doing a lot better and am ready to get with it again. I hope everyone took the time to enjoy one of the many Cinco de Mayo celebrations going on in the surrounding area. I heard there were going to be a ton of big time Tejano/Norteno bands performing in Lubbock, Amarillo, Plainview and even in Hereford. I'd love to hear what you and your family did to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Josh and I headed out to the celebration being held at the Tex-Mex in Hereford and had a wonderful evening. There were tons of "antojitos" Mexicanos (Mexican dishes) such as tripas, gorditas, tacos and aguas frescas (fruit waters). The music was also great all

evening. Local groups including Los Arcos, Tex-Mex Connection and Los Reveldes got the crowd going along with several other area bands. The weather was a bit windy, but overall the crowd seemed to enjoy themselves.

The Junior and Senior classes did an awesome job decorating for the Senior Prom. It seems like every year they get more and more creative.

We had the pleasure of seeing many of the students arrive in style, some in classic cars some in boats and some in luxury limos. Everyone looked great, the girls dresses were beautiful and the guys, well, they were stylin'. The students did a great job with the decorations both outside and inside the building. The smell of buttery popcorn gave an authentic theater feel to the whole

scene. After all the hard work that was put into the evening, my hopes are that everyone had a great time.

My e-mail buddy, Lisa Aleman of Amarillo sent me the following info about her and her family...Lisa says she has been very busy trying to keep up with her grandkids schedules and sporting events. She also says that on April 3 they celebrated her son, Richard Guzman's 41st birthday. They held a big dinner for the birthday boy and had lots of fun. Lisa says her granddaughter Tara Cedillo was inducted into the National Honor's Society at Tascosa High School. Tara is a Junior this year. Changing subjects again, Lisa's grandson, Adrian Guzman participated in the Amarillo city relays. Adrian attends Austin Middle School, which has the No. 1

football, basketball, and now track teams in Amarillo!!! One more change of subject, Lisa's granddaughter, Raquel Guzman of Lubbock started her nursing classes on May 1st. Lisa says she and her family are all very proud of all her grandkids and they wish them all the very best. To celebrate Easter, Lisa and her family and friends had a cookout at her son Richard's home. After a delicious meal, the kids had an Easter Egg hunt and everyone had a blast. Lisa says even her brother-in-law from Dimmitt made it to the cookout. Now, Lisa says they have started planning their summer trip to Oklahoma and Hot Springs, Ark. They are planning on visiting her sister-in-law Lupina Fry and her family in Oklahoma and then go on to Arkansas.

Feliz cumpleaños a mi Papa, Frank Mendoza Sr. Frank celebrated his birthday on May 6, and I am sure that he and his special friend, Soila Reyes celebrated in a big way. We love you very much and hope you had a wonderful day, from your kids.

Monica Quiroz would like to congratulate her daughter Viviana on a job well done. Viviana, who is on the track team, was the only freshman to make it to the Regional track meet. Monica would like her to know that she is very proud of her for all the hard work she put into the event. Monica would also like to congratulate her cousin Luis Nino, who is a first year coach and is already taking his track team to Regionals. Many good things are to come for Coach

Nino. Best of luck to both Viviana and Luis at Regionals.

Santos G. Perez would like to thank her family and friends for helping her get through the tough times. She is recovering from surgery and says it really helps to have so many caring people around to help. She says she especially enjoys spending time with all of her Comadres and shooting the breeze with them. She says she can't wait to be fully recovered so she can get back to her old

self. Her friends and family would like to say, "Cuidate mucho Santitos, te queremos buena y sana." Take good care Santos, we want to see you good and healthy.

Bueno, esto es todo para esta semana. That's all for this week. Don't forget to send me your Cinco de Mayo news and good luck wishes for the Senior Class of '06. As always, send your info to angie79027@hotmail.com, 647-0106 or 346-3882. Hope to hear from you. Hasta luego.

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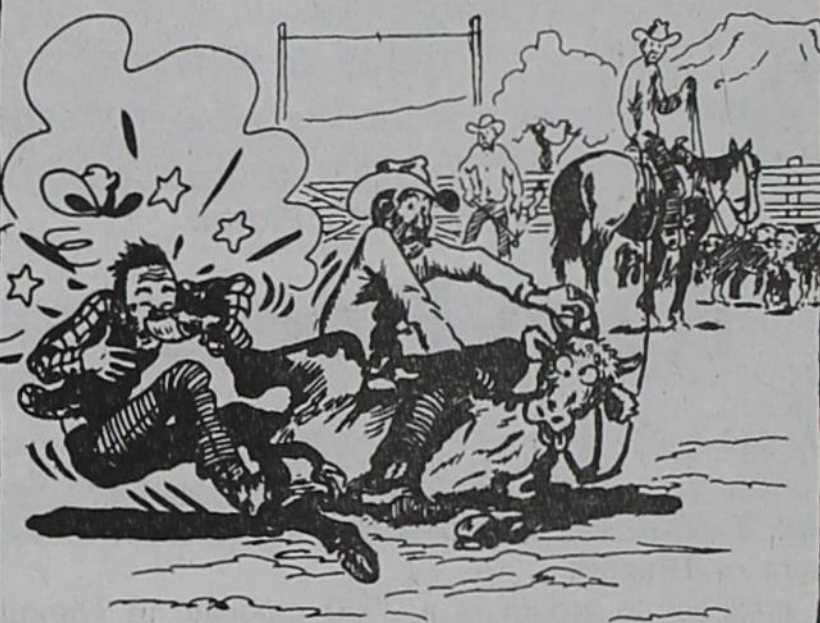
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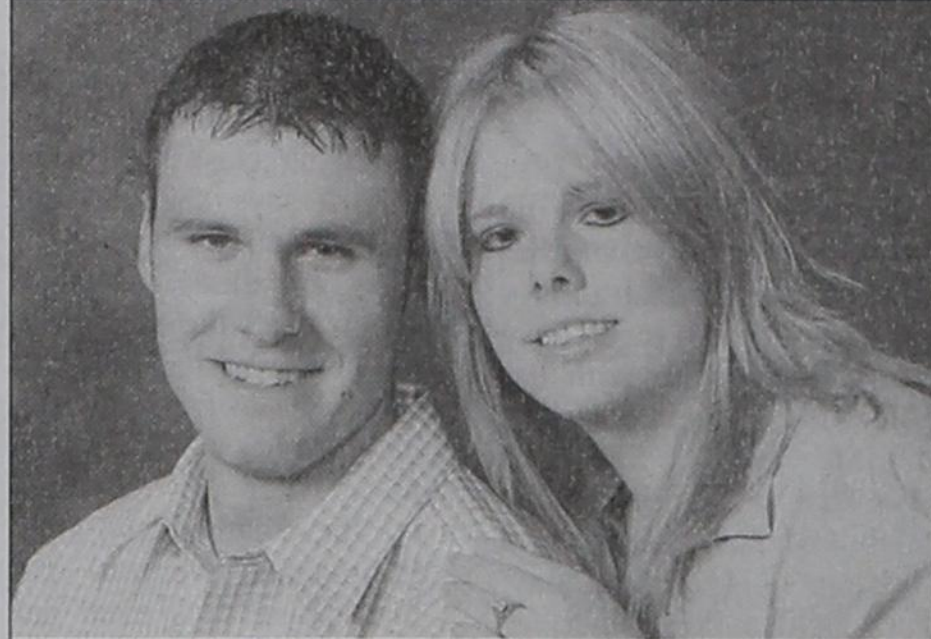
Tara Ryan and Daniel Flores

Ryan-Flores

Andy and Jackie Ryan of Greeley, Neb., have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Tara, to Daniel Flores, son of Harvey and Rena Lumbrera of Dimmitt.

The prospective groom is a 2000 graduate of Dimmitt High School and is presently employed at Gene Messer Chrysler.

The wedding is set for 3 p.m., June 17. The couple will live in Canyon.



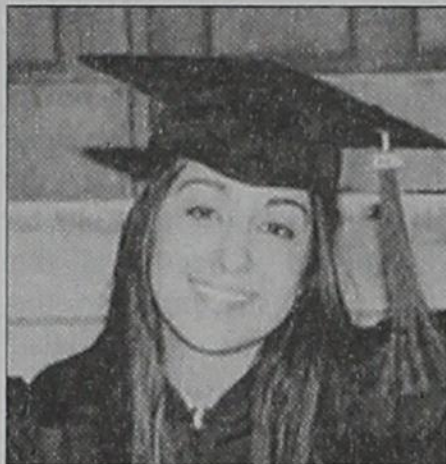
Vick-Portwood

Johnny and Janie Vick of Dimmitt announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Jade, to Bryan Portwood, son of Tommy and Paula Portwood, also of Dimmitt.

The bride-elect is a 2001 graduate of Dimmitt High School and got her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from West Texas A&M University in 2005. She teaches at Richardson Elementary in Dimmitt.

She is the grand-daughter of Clara Vick of Dimmitt and he is the grandson of

College News



Baine Saucedo

Baine Saucedo, daughter of Conrado and Olga Saucedo of Dimmitt, will graduate from Texas Tech University on Saturday, May 13, 2006, with a Bachelor of Arts and Science Degree in Spanish. She is graduating cum laude. She is a 2002 graduate of Dimmitt High School.



Wait-O'Neal

Bobby O'Neal and David O'Neal, sons of Deborah (Resch) O'Neal and John Wait Jr., Dannette Freeman and Melissa Hacker, children of John Wait Sr. announce the impending marriage of their parents.

She is employed as Office Manager at Sugarland Feedyard in Hereford and he is Shop Foreman/Machinist for Nelson Well Service in Dimmitt.

The couple will exchange wedding vows at 4 p.m., Sunday, May 28, 2006, at the Dimmitt First Assembly of God Church.

After a wedding trip to the Bahamas, the couple will live in Dimmitt.

Dimmitt's 19th Annual City-Wide Garage Sale

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce and the Castro County Dairy Ladies are teaming up this year for our 19th annual Garage Sale Day and Dairy Month on June 3rd.

Over 100 garage sales typically take place on the first Saturday in June. Daughters, mothers and grandchildren come back to Dimmitt every year to hold their garage sales. This year, the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce is having an indoor garage sale located at the Expo as well as being able to drive around to all the houses listed on the map.

The Dairy Ladies of Castro County are celebrating June National Dairy Month by having free ice cream and milk. They will set up at the courthouse square.

The Dimmitt Kiwanis Club will have hamburgers for sale. This will all take place on June 3. Maps and directions to all the events will be handed out around town. The garage sale locations are kept top secret until that morning so that everyone will have the same chance to get to all the bargains. If you would like to rent a space at the Expo or Vendors On the Square, please call the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce at 647-2524 for details.



We have the following selections:

Weddings:

June 3 *Tara Ryan and Daniel Flores*
 June 10 *Sharla Kenworthy and Ryan Wellman*
 June 17 *Missy Myers and Corey Lane*
 July 8 *Amy Garcia and Greg Hatzis*

Beslee Martin and Andrew Smith
Baby:
Styler and Jessica Haddock

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2006 Dimmitt Bobcats

The Dimmitt Bobcats might have had a little bit of a let-down after their game with Slaton on Friday was stopped after the first inning. When the teams met in Littlefield again on Saturday, Slaton opened the second inning with seven runs and never looked back in the bi-district playoff game.

All-academic teams named for spring sports

Girls Track

- Mayra Aguilar, Freshman
- Erin Black, Sophomore
- Chauncey Gilbreath, Sophomore
- Elizabeth Hill, Freshman
- Lana Reinart, Sophomore
- Dana Sandoval, Junior
- Brandy Smith, Junior
- Keshia Smith, Freshman

Girls Golf

- Darcy Fisher, Senior
- Heidi Villalba, Senior
- Kylah Riddle, Junior

Girls Tennis

- Kathy Amador, Senior
- Janae Denman, Freshman
- Monica Dozal, Senior
- Elin Geitle, Senior
- Dana Sandoval, Junior

Boys Track

- Sam Hazel, Freshman
- Casey Maurer, Senior
- Ross Myatt, Sophomore
- Marcus Perez, Senior
- Michael Razor, Sophomore
- Marshall Wills, Senior

Boys Golf

- Casey Maurer, Senior

Baseball

- Alex Chavira, Junior
- John David Gonzales, Freshman
- Daniel Jackson, Senior

Girls Softball

- Chauncey Gilbreath, Sophomore
- Clarissa Herrera, Senior
- Devonee Ortiz, Freshman
- Kamryn Steffens, Sophomore

DISD Calendar

Thursday, May 11

- Kindergarten Track Meet — 11:45
- 1st Grade Track Meet — 1:45
- DHS — FFA Banquet — 7:00
- DHS — Spanish Field Trip - Amarillo

Friday, May 12

- 3rd Grade track Meet — 11:45
- 2nd Grade Track Meet — 1:45
- 4th Grade Field Trip
- Head Start Field Trip
- 8th Grade Spanish Class "Cinco de Mayo" Celebration
- State Track Meet: GOOD LUCK MICHAEL RASOR

Saturday, May 13

- DHS — Band Banquet
- ELECTION DAY

Monday, May 15

- 4th Grade Track Meet — 12:45
- Catholic Church Sr. Banquet

Tuesday, May 16

- TSA Banquet

Wednesday, May 17

- 5th Grade Field Trip to Palo Duro Canyon
- 7th Grade Field Trip
- 8th Grade Fish Camp @ DHS

Valor Telecom supports the Dimmitt Bobcats and Bobbies, The Nazareth Swifts and Swiftettes and the Hart Longhorns and Lady Horns!

Good Luck!

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Janie Bugarin

My name is Janie Bugarin and I manage the local W.I.C. office. My husband, Engelbert and I have lived in Dimmitt for may years. Our son, Jr. was born here and now lives in Amarillo with his lovely wife, Gloria and my two beautiful grandchildren, Marissa and Manuel. My mother, Juana Guajardo and younger sister, Maria have also called Dimmitt home for many years.

I am running for Place 1 of the Dimmitt City Council. With the help of the people, I feel we can make a difference. I hear of the many problems around our town that seem to be 'swept under the bridge'. It is time to address those problems. You, the people have the power of the vote! It is up to all of us to make it work. It is your choice! Please Vote!

Thank You
Janie Bugarin

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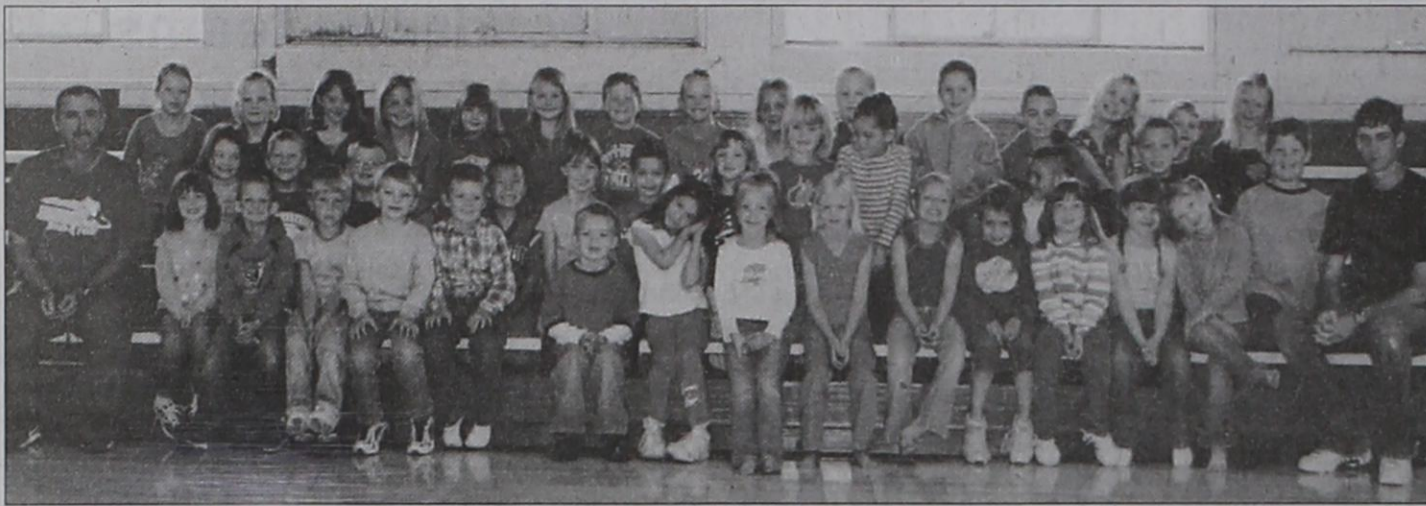
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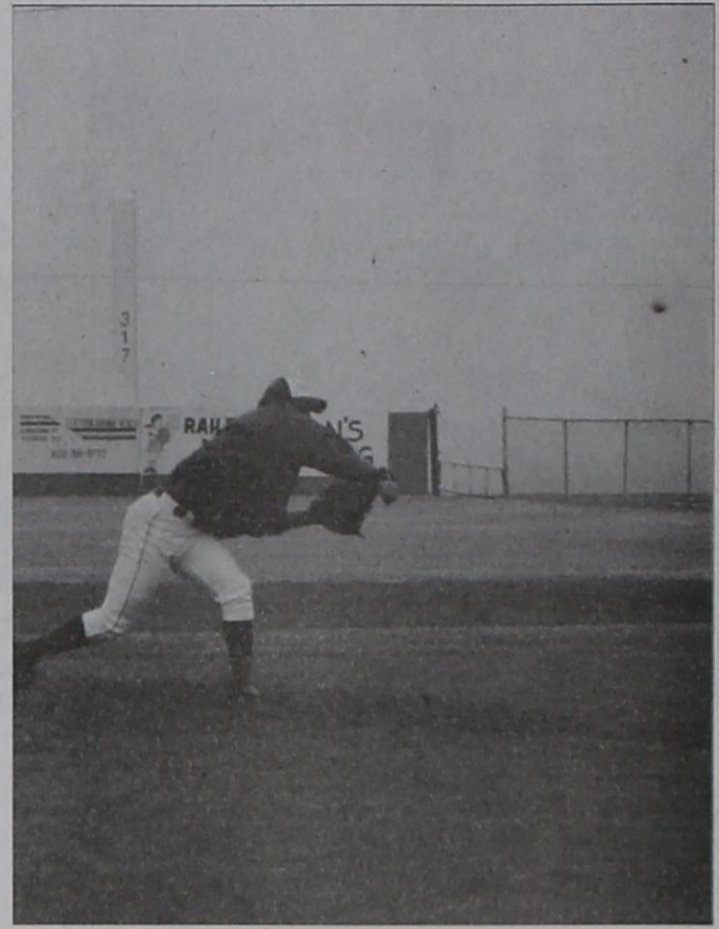
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Hard workers!

Ricky Peacock's Kindergarten and First-Grade classes should be proud of themselves. In their Jump Rope for Heart Project, they collected, \$1,955.50, which goes to the American Heart Association.



Winning district

NAZARETH'S NATE HUSEMAN got the win in the Swifts final district game against Ralls on Friday, 5-1. The Swifts won district outright and already had secured the No. 1 seed in the playoffs. On Wednesday, they traveled to Lubbock to play Haskell in the playoffs. For more information on where they go if they defeat Haskell, check with the school.

What's the Law?

Q. What is the best way to protect myself from identity theft?

A. True identity theft, where the thief assumes your identity and begins to obtain credit in your name, is not a quick process. In most cases, identity theft involves weeks or even months before the thief has really been able to assume your identity.

In my opinion there are several things you can do to protect yourself. First, protect your social security number. As a general rule, an identity thief needs your social security number to assume your identity with the credit bureau. More importantly, take advantage of the law and obtain a free copy of your credit report once a year. There are three credit bureaus. You should get a copy

from each of them at four month intervals. In this way you will be able to continually monitor your credit for suspicious activity. Carefully review the report to see if there are any changes that you do not recognize. The odds are that you will discover the identity theft before it has progressed very far. Finally, carefully read all mail and answer all the phone calls you receive from your existing creditors. They may be questioning a change in one of your accounts that could signal identity theft.

Once you suspect identity theft, immediately contact all the creditor bureaus and alert them to the problem.

Q. I received a check in the mail for \$8 from a credit card company even

though I still owe them over \$500. I'm a bit confused why I received the check, but I had a nice lunch on them after cashing the check. Why would they send me this check?

A. If you receive a check from one of your creditors when you still owe them money, it is probably a promotion for a trial membership in one of their services. By cashing the check you may enrolling in the service for a limited trial period, with an automatic renewal at a monthly cost. You should read all of the information that came with the check, especially the information printed on the back of the check, before cashing any such check. If you cashed the check and you don't want to participate in the

program, you should write the creditor and cancel the membership. Remember there is no such thing as a free lunch.

Q. Can I make my spouse the executor of my will if she is the beneficiary?

A. Yes. Basically, anyone except a minor, a person who is incompetent, or a convicted felon may serve as the executor of a will. In fact, in most cases the executor is a family member and beneficiary.

Q. I am a few days late in paying my rent. My landlord threatened to remove the refrigerator he provided in my apartment unless I pay the rent. Is this legal?

A. No! Texas law specifically precludes a landlord from removing an appliance furnished by the landlord from the premises leased by the tenant, except for a bona fide repair or replacement. Even when an appliance is removed, the law requires that the landlord promptly perform the repair or replacement.

A landlord has several options available to him when a tenant falls behind in paying rent, including eviction, but while you live in the apartment he cannot deprive you of the refrigerator.

Q. I am getting divorced. We have one child. How much should my spouse have to pay for support?

A. Texas has statutory guidelines to assist a court in determining the appropriate amount of child support payments. For one child, the statute states the amount is "20% of the obligor's net resources." Although this amount is not mandatory, and does not apply to larger incomes, most courts follow the guidelines.

Cotton News

While world consumption, U.S. exports and U.S. consumption continue to surprise market analysts, cotton prices lost ground this week, according to traders. The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) moved closer to USDA's data in its latest assessment of China's increasing cotton consumption. ICAC estimates have been approximately 3.0 million bales less than USDA's since February. In its latest figure, the committee pegged China's mill use at 45.0 million bales, only about 500,000 bales less than USDA. In other news, net sales of U.S. upland cotton for the week ended April 27, 2006, were 271,700 running bales, well above market expectations and an indication of the strong demand with cotton futures prices below 53 cents per pound. The sales figure was 19 percent less than the previous week but 24 percent more than the four-week average. Major buyers were China, Turkey, Taiwan, and Indonesia. Export shipments climbed to 416,200 bales, a level more than supportive of the USDA estimate of 17.0 million bales for the 2005-06 marketing year. A continuation of this pace should ensure U.S. exports will exceed the USDA estimate. Primary destinations included China, Mexico, Turkey, and Indonesia. Sales were healthy on the spot cotton scene as well. Online trading by producers in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas in the week ended May 4 totaled 11,529 bales compared to the previous week.

KDHN 1470 AM
Agricultural News
 Monday through Friday: 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

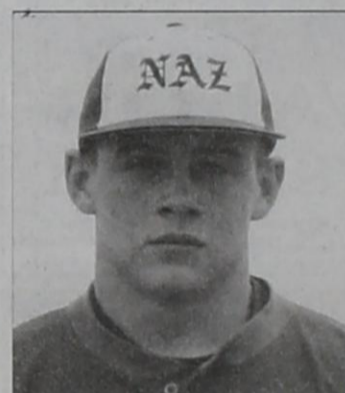

Morning Show
 Daily: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Weather forecast, local news, birthdays, anniversaries, American Folk Song, school lunch menus, Good Neighbor

Spotlight On Local Talent
 Daily: 8 a.m.

Market Reports
 :40 past the hour

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Rose Garden honors volunteers

The Rose Garden honored its volunteer workers with a luncheon and awards on Friday. Pictured, left to right: Gloria Hernandez, Cuca Ortega, Alexandria Aguilar, Bea Cole, Oralia Valles, Pat Bagley and Tomosa Leal. Not pictured is Betty Touchstone. The Rose Garden is a re-sale shop, where all the proceeds go to Hospice to help defray the cost of medicines needed by patients that Hospice serves.

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Steak and all the trimmings!

Sunday, May 14, 2006
from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Richardson Elementary Cafeteria

Adults - \$12.00, and Children 12 and under for \$8.00 Advance tickets can be purchased from any Rotarian.

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Celebrate Mother's Day!

Surprise Mom!

How can you surprise your Mom on her special day? Think about all the jobs she does for your family every day. Is there something that you can do that would be helpful and a surprise too? **What can you add to this list?**

- be very quiet in the morning and let her sleep late
- make a card and place it somewhere you know she will see it
- with an adult's help, make breakfast and serve it to her in bed
- put little, fancy soaps in a basket or on a clean face cloth in the bathroom
- save your money and buy a gift just for her (to add more fun, hide it, write a few clues on some paper, and let mom search for it)
- finish a chore that Mom didn't have time to complete
- set the dinner table by following this pattern: (this is basic, so you may want to add salad or bread plates, etc.; the folded napkin may also be placed on the plate)
- Write your own ideas here

Let's see: pancakes, bananas, coffee and juice.

I'm so excited about our plans for Mom!

First, we are going to serve her breakfast in bed. Chitter is making a card for her tray. Then, we are taking her to the park for a picnic.

Five Famous Mothers!

We talk about mothers all the time in rhymes, stories and art. Can you read these clues and fill in the names of these five famous mothers?

1. "parent" of all the natural world (not made by man)
2. "old" character in a nursery rhyme
3. "author" of a collection of nursery rhymes
4. son's painting of her in chair is famous
5. Her Gracious Majesty

If you need a little help starting a surprise, then finish this note for Mom. Fill in the middle with your ideas. Color and decorate it any way you want to give it your special touch. Cut it out and give it to your mother!

Give Mom a few quiet minutes to read!

Can you find and circle 12 words that begin with the letter "M" as in the word "Mother?"

Yum!

Or, slip this into a fancy card you make for your Mom.

Let's dip some of these into chocolate for Mom!

Happy Mother's Day!

Mom, thanks for...

With all my love.

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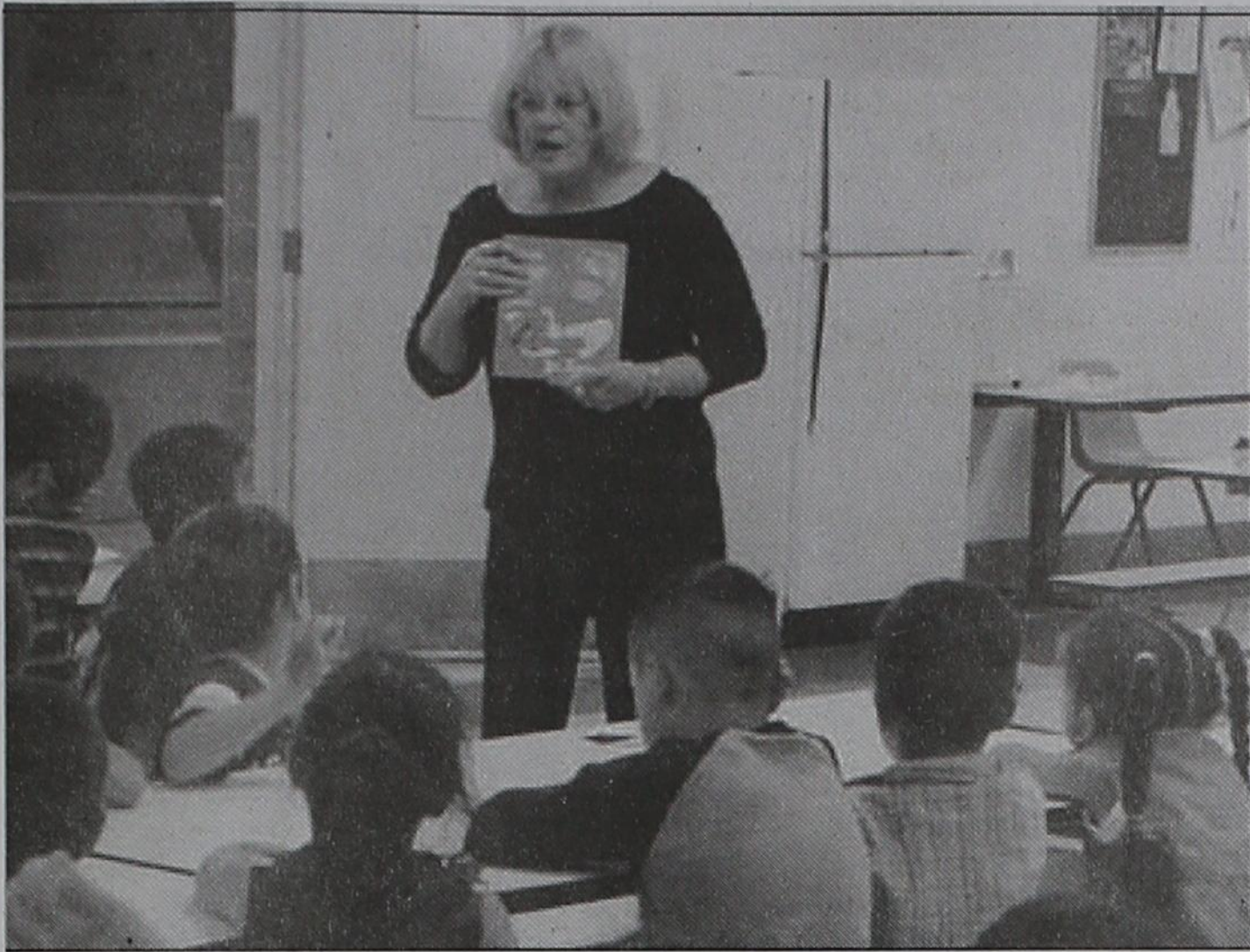
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The Finishing Touch!

I picked these flowers for Mom. I need a finishing touch to present them to her. Can you help me by crossing off the silly idea and coloring the good ideas? Next, unscramble the letters and fill in the blanks.

w o b g e a c a s e v o x b



BOOKS ARE DISTRIBUTED at Richardson Elementary recently.

DARSPA gives books to RES students

The Dimmitt Area Retired School Personnel Association distributed books to four classrooms of students at Richardson Elementary School. The Children's Book Project is an initiative of the Texas Retired Teacher's Association and was begun by TRTA in 1999. Local units across the state implement the project in their own communities and focus on providing books to young children in hopes of fostering a love of reading. DARSPA has been active in the project for five years and this year chose to dedicate the book distribution to recently deceased member, Mrs. Yuvonne Hufhines. Mrs. Hufhines was an annual supporter of the project and a valued, hard-working member of the DARSPA organization. Next year's project will be funded by the Yuvonne Hufhines Memorial Book Project which was established by her family and DARSPA. Present at Richardson Elementary for the distribution were members of Mrs. Hufhines family including her husband, Gary, daughter, and son-in-law, Keri and Russell Magby and daughter Trisha Crow.

Books for this year were donated by DARSPA members and arrangements were made by Dawn Goolsby, DARSPA's second Vice-president and Book Project Chairman. Others assisting her were president, Mary Jo Brown, Joanne Snider and Zetha Collins. Those receiving books were the students in the classes of Mrs. Karen Roberson, Mrs. Linda Shannon, Mrs. Julia Turner and Mrs. Kim Hays.

DARSPA attends State Convention in Amarillo

The 53rd Annual Texas Retired Teachers Association State Convention was held April 2-3-4 in Amarillo at the Civic Center. Attending from the Dimmitt Area Retired School Personnel Association were Barbara Bain, Shirley Barnes, Mary Jo Brown, Zetha Collins, Ralph and Avis Smith. Hosted by TRTA District XVI, theme for the meeting was "Amarillo by Morning: Dawn of a New Day for TRTA." Approximately 1,000 were in attendance. Leadership training and informational seminars were presented. During the business session by-law amend-

ments were adopted and state officers were elected. Dimmitt's delegation served as greeters for various convention events and DARSPA also provided snack crackers for the convention souvenir bags given to each registrant. The meeting ended with a "Denim and Diamonds" banquet on Tuesday, April 4.

TRTA is a strong voice for the interests of the education retirees of Texas and has approximately 66,000 members. DARSPA is one of many local units across the state and presently has 70 local members.

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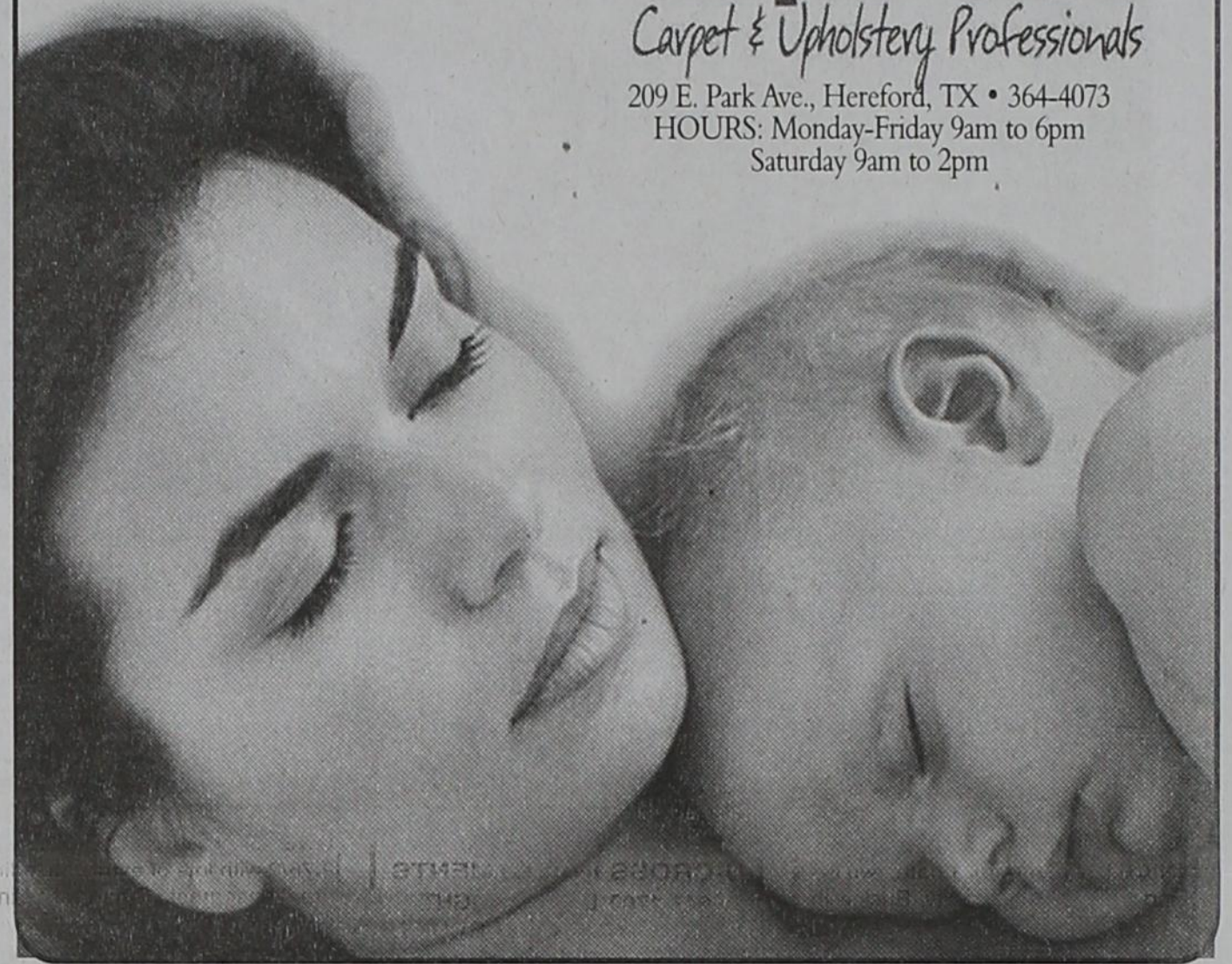


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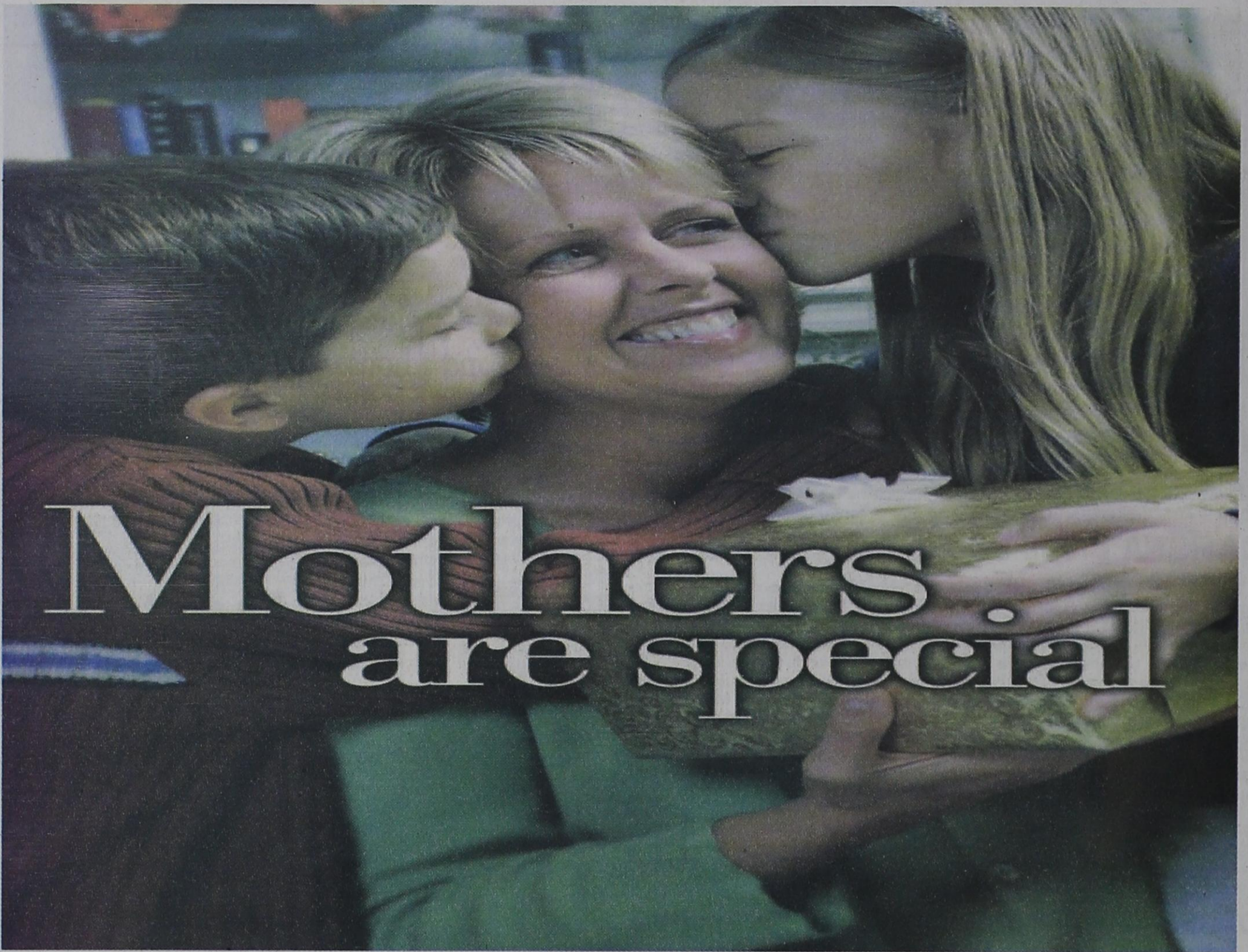
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