

The Castro County News

73rd year—No. 35

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, December 4, 1997

50¢

16 pages plus supplements

'Roadside' to go by wayside?

Castro County Sheriff CD Fitzgearld told the Dimmitt City Council Monday night that local law enforcement personnel would like to close down 'Roadside Park' south of Dimmitt at the intersection of US 385 and SH 194.

He said he would like to petition the state to shut it down under the nuisance abatement law. He cited 73 call sheets referring to incidents that happened there in the past two years, including fights, minors in possession, DWI and cases of hit and run.

The park is a popular gathering place for local youth and is outside the city limits, and thus is not subject to the city's curfew ordinance. However, city police have been authorized to patrol the park for any violations of county or state ordinances, and sheriff's deputies also patrol it.

Fitzgearld told the council he fears that youths may be hurt in a traffic accident as they enter or leave the

entrances to the park or at the highway intersection.

Fitzgearld proposed that the local law enforcement agencies buy the property and build a law enforcement center on the site. He suggested a building that could be shared by both the Sheriff's Dept. and the Police Dept., and including a new 48-bed jail with adequate space to house local prisoners, and possibly contract out a few spaces to the state or surrounding counties.

Fitzgearld said he has already received an offer from someone willing to donate the money needed for purchase of the land. He said the cost of the land has been estimated at \$3,000, based on market value of \$600 per acre.

Fitzgearld said another area town that built a 56-bed facility spent \$1.9 million.

He told the city council that the county commissioners will not be

able to consider any construction for at least two more years, due to the payments that must be made on the settlement of the redistricting lawsuit. However, he said it would be helpful if the groundwork for the project could be started now, looking toward starting the project in 18 months to two years.

He suggested that it could solve several problems at one time. Closing 'Roadside' would eliminate a nuisance site; and taking the Sheriff's Dept. out of the courthouse would free up additional space for the Extension service and possibly other departments needing more room. Taking the Police Dept. out of city hall would free up more space there, as well.

Fitzgearld told the council that the county jail is barely managing to stay ahead of state jail inspectors, and is in dire need of heating and air conditioning, among other things.

Sheriff's Deputy Mitch McDonough told the council that if a jail is ever shut down by the jail inspectors, then it must be totally brought up to standards before it can reopen. He said a jail might be

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\$25,000.

Two Hereford men, Ricardo Chavez, 17, and Andy Marquez, 18, both received two indictments each for criminal mischief—mark graffiti in connection with incidents on Nov. 5 in which graffiti was placed on a "polling place" (Dimmitt Market) and "an educational program" (Dimmitt High School). Bail was set at \$5,000 on each charge.

Two men were indicted on charges of DWI, third offense, and bail for each was set at \$3,000. Luis Munoz, 32, of Plainview, was charged in connection with a Nov. 16 incident; and Armando Meza Medina, 44, of Hereford, was charged in connection with an Oct. 26 incident.

Weather

	High	Low	Pr.
Wednesday	75	36	
Thursday	58	37	
Friday	64	33	
Saturday	53	33	
Sunday	53	30	
Monday	55	28	
Tuesday	50	29	.24
Wednesday	41	28	.25

November Moisture 0.69
December Moisture51
1997 Moisture 24.25

Temperatures and moisture are recorded each day at 7 a.m. at KDHN Radio, official National Weather Service reporting station.

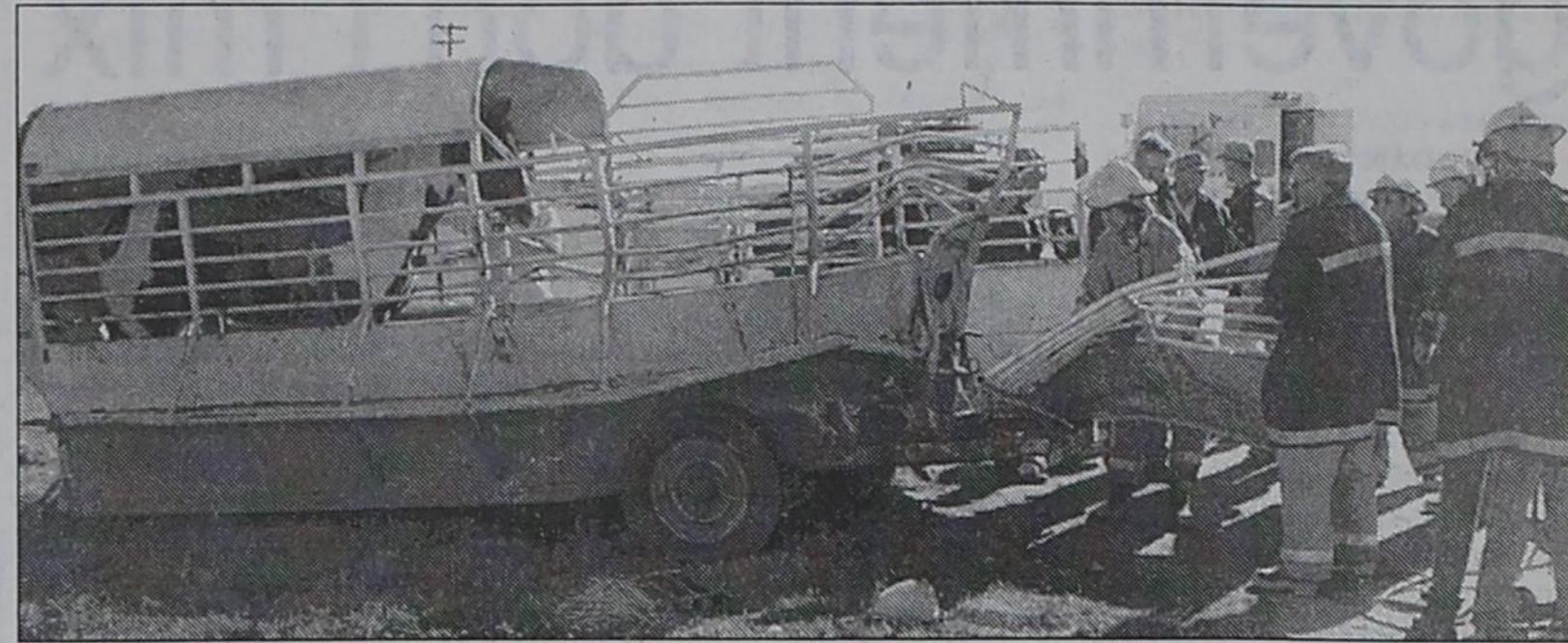


Photo by Don Nelson
FIREMEN USE CUTTING TORCH TO FREE HORSE AFTER SUNDAY ACCIDENT
... Rear-end blow from pickup jammed gate; horse escaped with a cut leg

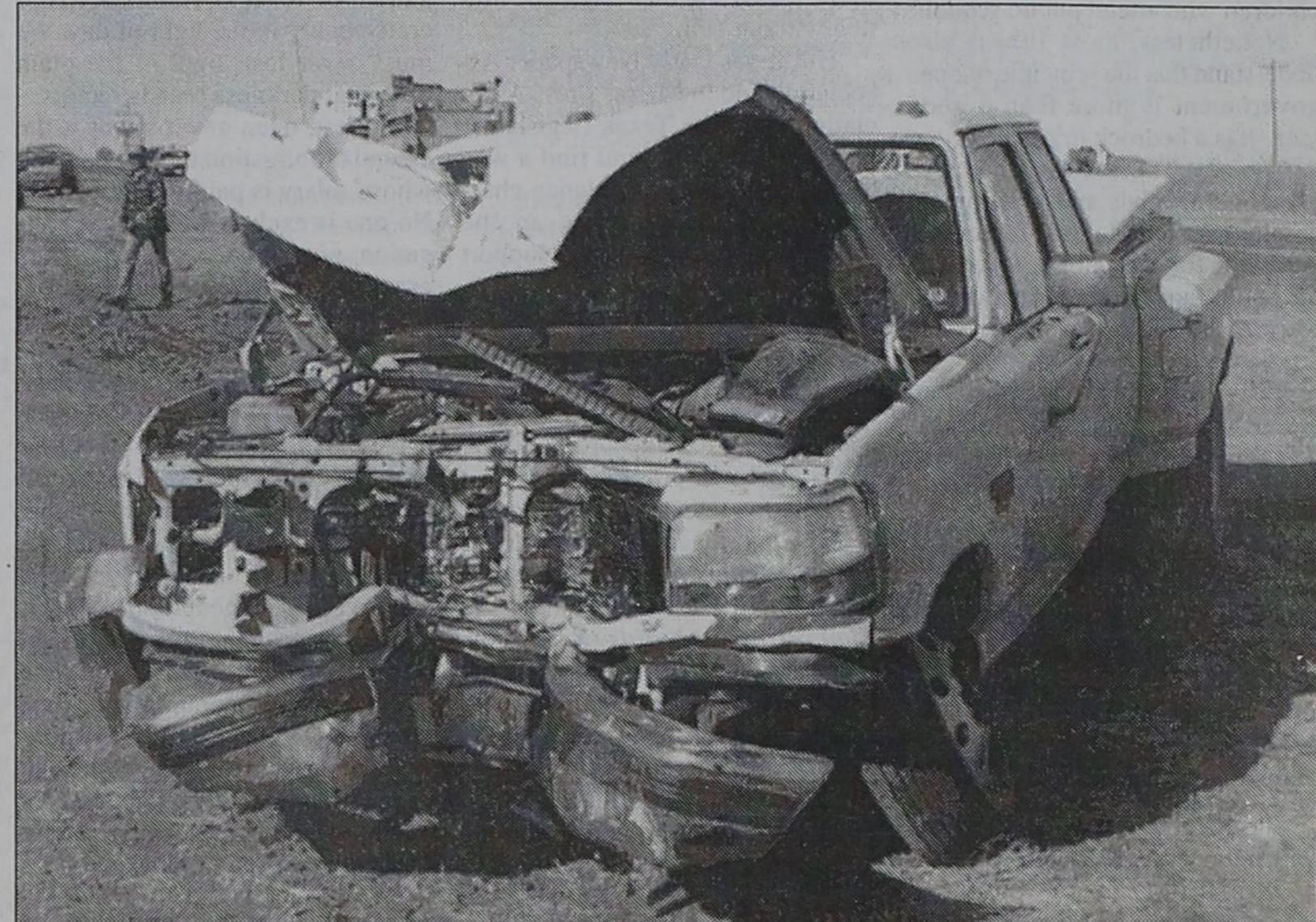


Photo by Don Nelson
SILVA PICKUP AFTER COLLIDING WITH REAR CORNER OF HORSE TRAILER
... Trailer-towing pickup also damaged; drivers and one passenger treated and released

Grand Jury indicts six

Peralez indicted for aggravated assault

The Nov. 25 session of the 242nd District Court Grand Jury issued eight indictments against six men.

David Soto Peralez, 31, of Dimmitt, was indicted on charges of aggravated assault with a firearm in connection with a Nov. 24 incident. The charge states that Peralez threatened imminent bodily injury to the victim and exhibited a deadly weapon—a firearm. Bail was set at \$10,000.

Mario Garza, 37, of Dimmitt, was indicted for possession of a controlled substance over one gram and under four grams. The charge stated that on Nov. 6, Garza knowingly possessed a controlled substance—cocaine. Bail was set at

\$25,000. Two Hereford men, Ricardo Chavez, 17, and Andy Marquez, 18, both received two indictments each for criminal mischief—mark graffiti in connection with incidents on Nov. 5 in which graffiti was placed on a "polling place" (Dimmitt Market) and "an educational program" (Dimmitt High School). Bail was set at \$5,000 on each charge.

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1:1

By Don Nelson

The county may be short of Aggies this weekend.

Many of the maroon-clad faithful will be in San Antonio for the Big 12 championship game between Texas A&M and Nebraska.

I hope the Aggies can pull it off. Remember, Texas was an underdog to Nebraska last year, too.

The Aggies are happy, but for the rest of the major-college teams in Texas, it has been a forgettable football season.

The 10 major-college teams in the Lone Star State had a combined record of 46 wins and 64 losses this

(Continued on Page 16)



SWIFT SPIRIT—Nazareth FHA members Trina Johnson (left) and Sara Birkenfeld look over the Christmas tree decorated in blue and gold, and holiday train at the home of Greg and Karen Schulte. The Schulte home is one of five that will be featured during a holiday home tour Sunday in Nazareth. Tickets for the tour will be \$5 and can be purchased at any of the homes on the tour. The event is being sponsored by the FHA. Other homes being featured are those of Doyle and LaDawn Schulte, Fritz and Julene Gerber, Marty and Lisa Martin, and Edith and Paul Huseman.

Photo by Anne Acker

'Tour of Homes' set Sunday in Nazareth

A holiday home tour will be held in Nazareth Sunday afternoon from 2 to 4, and new and recently remodeled homes will be featured on the tour.

Admission to the tour is \$5 per person and tickets will be available at each of the five homes featured on the tour.

Those homes are Doyle and LaDawn Schulte's, located 1-1/2 miles south of Nazareth on FM 168; Fritz and Julene Gerber's home, located two miles south on FM 168,

then 1-3/4 miles west on County Road 617; Marty and Lisa Martin's, a two-story house located 1-1/4 miles east on Highway 86; Greg and Karen Schulte's, the first brick house south of school on First Street in Nazareth; and Edith and Paul Huseman's, located one-half of a mile south of Nazareth on FM 168.

There will be baked goods available at Karen Schulte's home and poinsettias will be sold at LaDawn Schulte's home.

Project Angel Tree application deadline is extended to Friday

The application deadline has been extended to Friday for needy families who would like help in providing Christmas gifts for their children through Project Angel Tree.

To qualify to receive a Christmas gift through the project, the family must prove financial need and the child must be under 11 years old. Applications may be picked up at area churches, Panhandle Community Services, or the Texas Dept. of Human Services. Applications must be returned to PCS by Friday. Children selected for the project will be notified by PCS.

The annual Angel Tree Project is being organized by the Castro County Ministerial Alliance and Panhandle Community Services. The project will provide gifts for needy children in Castro County, with the success of the project relying on the generosity of county residents.

The goal of the project is to provide one Christmas gift for approximately 100 less fortunate children living in the county. About 50 appli-

cations had already been received by Tuesday morning.

Christmas trees will be set up by Dec. 9 in each of the banks in the county, including First United Bank, Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union, First Bank of Muleshoe-Dimmitt Branch, and Hale County State Bank of Hart. The trees will be decorated with paper cut-out "angels," listing the first name and age of a needy child, along with a gift the child wants.

Those interested in helping ensure that a child has a Merry Christmas may select one or more "angels" from the tree, purchase the requested

gift, which will be within a \$20 price range, and take the wrapped gift, along with the "angel" card, to Panhandle Community Services, 108 SW Second in Dimmitt, by Dec. 19.

Church and civic groups have the option to select more than one "angel" to sponsor, or may contact PCS about sponsoring an entire family, according to a spokesman of the project.

Parents of children selected for participation will be able to pick up the gifts on Dec. 23 at the PCS office or the Hart First Baptist Church, for those in Hart.

Hays announces for county judge

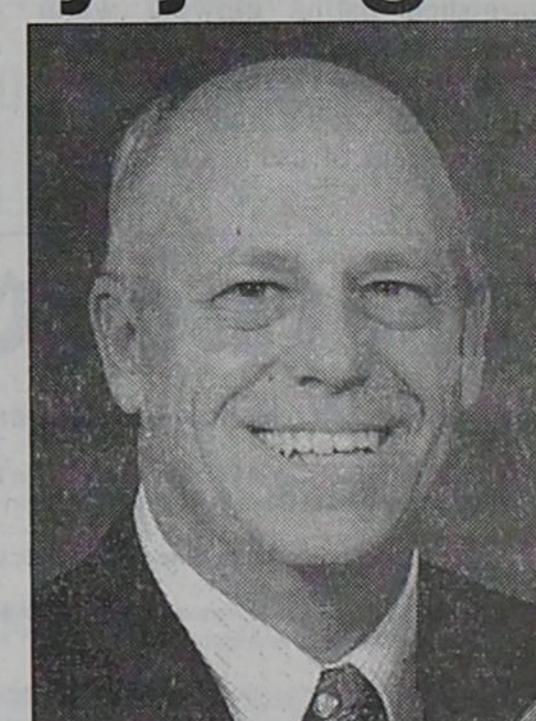
Norman Hays of Dimmitt has announced his candidacy for the office of Castro County Judge, subject to the Democratic Primary in March.

Hays said the decision was made "after much thought and prayer over the past few months, and with the support and encouragement from several people in Castro County."

Born and raised in Dimmitt, Hays graduated from Dimmitt High School and attended Texas Tech University. He returned home to work for his father, Jim, and brothers, David and Doug, in the farm equipment business for several years. Three years ago he obtained his insurance license and is currently employed by Snider Insurance Agency.

Hays has been involved in Dimmitt Kids Inc., and enjoys supporting all young people in their activities. His wife, Kim, is a teacher at Richardson Elementary School in Dimmitt. They have a daughter, Taryn, who is a junior at DHS, and a son Ryan, who is an eighth grader at Dimmitt Middle School. They attend Dimmitt's First Baptist Church.

Hays said he believes the position of county judge "not only requires honesty, openness and fairness, but also accessibility to the public."



Norman Hays

He also believes that the judge should be able to work with the county commissioners on what is important to the county and to keep all of the departments within the courthouse running smoothly.

He said it is his sincere belief that this could be achieved for Castro County with working together, cooperation and much effort.

"I sincerely request and would appreciate your vote," Hays said.

Op-Ed

Opinions, Editorials, Letters, Features

Speak out!



Secrets and good government don't mix

By DAN MORALES
Texas Attorney General

When does a government employee or a public official have a right to keep secrets from the people who pay his or her salary? My answer is: "Almost never."

Most citizens understand there are times when government secrecy is required, such as in cases involving national security or investigations to determine criminal wrong doing. In fact, there are other reasonable "exceptions" to the requirement of open government, such as the protection of personal records of children who attend public schools.

Nonetheless, most Texans also understand that the principle of open government is more than a good idea. It is a bedrock principle of our democracy. Those of us who serve as public officials and government employees should never forget that we work for the public, to benefit the public, and we should expect our work to be subject to public scrutiny.

Last spring, the Texas Legislature passed a bill making public information about traffic accidents harder to get. The problem they were trying to fix was a legitimate one. Many people felt that certain professionals were engaged in "ambulance chasing" by scrutinizing public accident reports and then calling people who had suffered severe injuries in these accidents in order to solicit their business. These victims were being harassed.

The effort to protect privacy was well intended, but it created a real

obstacle to the public's right to know. In one case, the mayor of a Texas city and his wife were involved in a car crash that involved a fatality. The Texas Department of Public Safety, in its effort to follow the new law, refused to release information regarding that accident.

Several Texas news organizations challenged the law, and for good reason. They understood that it interfered with their right to know, and consequently, the public's right to know.

As Thomas Jefferson once wrote, "Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost."

The Texas Daily Newspaper Association and the Texas Press Association want the Texas Legislature to revisit this issue and find a way to deal with the "ambulance chasers" without infringing on the public's right to know. We support that effort.

In another recent instance, our office was asked by a non-profit organization whether the phone records of the Texas Supreme Court were open to the public according to the Texas Public Information Act.

We drew on a number of court cases which made a distinction between the *court records* of the judiciary, which are excluded, and the *administrative records* of the judiciary, which are not, in our view, excluded from the Act. We ruled that while the judiciary was clearly granted an exemption under the Act, the telephone records that were subject to the request were *administrative* in nature, not judicial.

The state Supreme Court, in what we believe was a good faith disagreement, rejected our ruling, and reading the law very literally, said that all of their records were exempt and they had no intention of releasing any of them.

It will surprise no one that lawyers disagree. We interpret the law differently than the Supreme Court. But that disagreement can serve as an opportunity for all of us to look beyond differing interpretations of the law. We must never lose sight of the spirit of our open government laws which articulate a moral obligation for Texas government to operate openly in the light of day. We must never lose sight of the plain truth that darkness breeds secrets.

Honest, open government is the essential obligation of every person whose salary is paid by tax dollars. No one is excluded from that obligation, not presidents or governors or attorneys general or judges.

The preamble of the Open Records Act (since renamed the Public Information Act) says it best: "It is the policy of this state that each person is entitled, unless otherwise expressly provided by law, at all times to complete information about the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

A Dimmitt woman was charged with hindering apprehension after deputies and a US Marshal attempted to arrest her grandson Nov. 26 for possession of marijuana (50 pounds) on a warrant out of Potter County. Deputies said the elderly woman told officers that she had not seen her grandson in about a week, but later agreed to allow a search of the residence, located out in the county northeast of Dimmitt. The suspect, a 22-year-old Bovina man, was later found in one of the bedrooms of the residence.

A case of simple assault was reported to deputies the afternoon of Nov. 21 at Westway. A Dimmitt woman made the complaint.

Police received a report from a Dimmitt woman the afternoon of Nov. 26. She said a suspect at the Azteca Complex had threatened to shoot her.

Friday night, an 18-year-old Dimmitt man was jailed on charges of evading arrest and possession of marijuana under 2 oz. Police said the suspect fled after being told by an officer to stop. The incident happened at the Azteca Complex.

Abraham Wiebe of Nuevo Casas Grand told deputies Nov. 26 that he has been unable to locate a Dimmitt man who sold him some farming equipment for \$9,000, but failed to deliver it after being paid \$2,500 in the form of a check and \$1,060 in cash. He said the transaction took place in September.

Lucia Fuentes of Dimmitt, owner of El Viejo Package Store on East Bedford, told police Nov. 25 that someone burglarized the business, taking over \$300 in liquor, beer, cigarettes, and lighters, and vandalized a window and window frame and four bottles of liquor.

Nacola Furr of Dimmitt told police Sunday morning that someone took her 1991 Chevy pickup without her consent and also took a check book from the vehicle. The pickup was recovered.

Jim Wright of Dimmitt told deputies Saturday that someone had taken some items from a residence out in the county, about a quarter mile east of the intersection of CR 520 and CR 614.

Reba Holt of Friona told police Friday morning that someone broke out the driver's side window of her pickup and took a cellular phone valued at \$60.

The district manager of the Town & Country Store in Dimmitt reported a theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000. He told police Nov. 25 that an employee had been selling merchandise at lower prices.

A 32-year-old Dimmitt man was jailed for DWI, first offense, and tampering with government records last Thursday. The man had been stopped for not using his seat belt, when police discovered he had false papers with him.

Clyde Schulte of Nazareth told police Nov. 26 that an unknown vehicle had struck the north door and frame at West Texas Gas Co. in Dimmitt, causing \$500 in damage.

Charles McLean told police Nov.

of, and none is quite so poignant—or cheerful—as the sudden and unexpected call of home to poor Mole as he and friend Ratty trudge through the snow at the end of their grand adventures in "Dulce Domum," that wonderful chapter from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*.

After finding the mole tunnel and then the passageway and then the little door, with the dusty lantern and the neat garden seat beside; after entering and dusting and rummaging for a tin of sardines and a bottle of wine; after opening the door to the caroling field mice and the feast and celebration that ensued, Ratty and the weary Mole settled in for a winter night's sleep.

"But ere he closed his eyes, (Mole) let them wander round his old room." And in the mellow glow of firelight he let his eyes wander around the familiar and friendly things and saw "the special value of some such anchorage in one's existence."

The spirit of Christmas can be found in the memories of personal moments, in our assimilated history and in the collected literature of all time. All furnish the heart with recognition of God's gifts.

Christmas is in here someplace. Bless us as we search for it, everyone.

And how, on the fourth day, the storm cleared, and Pa came across the snow, emerging icy and hungry from his shelter under the bank of the creek where, lost in the blizzard, he had sustained himself with some of the goodies in his pocket.

And now, in the cabin, laughing, the snow melting from his boots, he pulled out the single remaining tin of Christmas goodies: "I ate up the oyster crackers, and I ate up the Christmas candy, but by jinks, I brought the oysters home!"

Homecoming is the story that many Christmas stories are made

of, and none is quite so poignant—or cheerful—as the sudden and unexpected call of home to poor Mole as he and friend Ratty trudge through the snow at the end of their grand adventures in "Dulce Domum," that wonderful chapter from Kenneth Grahame's *Wind in the Willows*.

Also, influenza and pneumococcal vaccines will be available.

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On the Go with Mary Edna Hendrix, 647-3343

Jack and Charlene Howell went to Oklahoma City to see the American Quarterhorse World Show and Sale.

They visited with Gaines, Crystal, Clint and Misti Howell, and they watched Misti play basketball and watched a skit they were all involved in for Thanksgiving at their church.

On Saturday they watched Clint play basketball and saw the County 4-H Share the Fun Contest, which won first overall in the Junior Division.

The Jack Howells, Jimmie Howells, the Kennen Howells, Kelly Howell and Moss Howell spent Thanksgiving with Melvin and Gayle

Stovall at Fritch.

The Milton Bagwell family had most of their children and grandchildren home for the Thanksgiving holidays.

Randy Bagwell of Denver arrived Wednesday at noon. Carol Bagwell, Heather and T.J. of Wichita Falls got there about 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Then Scott, Carolyn, Austin and Ian of Lubbock arrived around 8:30 p.m.

On Thanksgiving day they all gathered at the home of Ivor Bagwell where their daughter, Nelda Fallwell of Dallas, was spending some time

with them.

They enjoyed the day eating the feast, watching television and playing with the little ones.

On Friday evening Kyle and Sandy Bagwell of Lubbock came with their daughter, Jessie, to spend some time with the family.

Steve and Anita and their family of Fort Worth didn't come this year, so they missed having the whole family there.

Tom and Sharon Smith and children, Ty and K of Dalhart were in Dimmitt visiting Elbert and Frances Smith for a late Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday. They enjoyed dinner in the home of Dwayne and Shelly

Smith and their children, Brandy, Keshia and Macey.

Doug Moke of Fort Worth, Coby and Kendra Moke of Amarillo, and Trampas Moke of Dimmitt enjoyed Thanksgiving dinner with Don and Carolyn Moke.

Gary and Ronda Wise, Buster and Maxine Tidwell attended the Turkey Classic basketball tournament on Thanksgiving day to watch Heather Wise and the Dimmitt Bobbies play Odessa. Afterwards, they had Thanksgiving dinner at Furrs. Hayli and Hanna Wise stayed with "Gran Gran," Shirley Wise, and played with cousins who were visiting. The Bobbies lost to Hereford on Friday, but won their game on Saturday.

Hiram and LaVerne Vaughan of Lamesa were guests in the home of his brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Betty Vaughan, and they celebrated Thanksgiving.

Donna Underwood spent Thanksgiving with her sister and brother-in-law, Kay and Mark Allison, in Enid, Okla.

Elois McMasters entertained family members over the Thanksgiving holidays. Her daughter and son-in-law, Shirley and Jerry McDonald, and their sons, Dusty and Cody, came Wednesday night. Donna and Danny Cade and their son, Brad, came Thursday morning.

Tami and Randy Griffitt and boys Tanner, Jared and Kaden, and Delores Griffitt and her sister, Opal, all enjoyed Thanksgiving together. Cody stayed until Sunday afternoon.

David and Sue Vaughan of Dallas and Mary Lynn Lankford of Amarillo were guests in my home on Thanksgiving day. Mary Lynn and I went to Lubbock on Friday and David and Sue went to Amarillo to take Charles Vaughan to the airport. They later picked up Brent and Tiffany Vaughan, who were coming in from Dallas.

They visited with Kevin and Neely Lankford and family, Adria, Matt and David, while they were in Amarillo.

Dorothy Sheffy's family joined her in worship Sunday where some members of the family lit the first candle of the Advent wreath.

The Bob and Jeanette Duke family have been with the Robert Dukes this week.

Kristi Sheffy of Dallas was visiting her family for the holidays.

The Webb family came to see Allen Webb.

Ardith Field of Iowa is here visiting her daughter and son-in-law, Dianne and Charles Axtell.

Beth Blanton of Nashville, Lance Louder's cousin, and his mother were in church with the Loudders. Lacy Louder sang a solo.

The Percy Parsons family hosted Margaret's sister, Florene Knight, who was visiting from Sayre, Okla.

Bill and Deanne Clark went to Lubbock to be with friends and family over the holidays.

Dale and Marie joined their children in Plainview and Mike and Vickie Bryant's home.

Shirley Wise had two Friona grandchildren with her.

Jack and Clara Patton went to Amarillo to the Patton Family Reunion two weeks ago and to Austin to see their children over Thanksgiving.

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High Plains Irrigation Conference set Jan. 7

Ideas and technologies that guide irrigation decisions will be the focus of the annual High Plains Irrigation Conference and Trade Show set for Jan. 7, according to Leon New, agricultural engineer with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"Our goal is to give growers information they can use to make key decisions," said New, who has organized the event scheduled at the Civic Center for more than two decades.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the program's first hour to include time for trade show tours and free coffee and donuts. The \$7 registration fee also includes a catered lunch.

The opening session begins at 9:30 a.m., where speakers will address topics featuring irrigated soybean production, and well and pump performance. Other sessions will include precision production using yield monitors and site mapping.

An overview of the Texas Water Plan (with a review of S.B. 1) will be presented by C.E. Williams, manager of the panhandle Ground Water District. A panel that includes growers will discuss key "real world" issues involving precision production tech-

nology.

Continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to private, commercial and non-commercial chemical applicators completing the day's program. The event is conducted annually by the Extension Service.

For more information, contact New, irrigation specialist, or Regina Linder at (806) 359-5401, or any county agricultural agent.

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People

Your emotional health

Beating the seasonal blues

By STEVE BARCHENGER



Barchenger

The holiday season is back again and earlier than last year. Obviously stores lengthen the holiday period to capture additional sales, but this increased time span has both positive and negative effects.

The good news is the lights, trees and other decorations offer a much needed break from real life problems. On the downside, lengthening the holiday period increases the probability of sadness and depression. Many people find themselves experiencing seasonal blues.

Loneliness is felt more acutely with friends thousands of miles apart, financial stress is experienced and sad memories are revisited in this season of remembering.

Fortunately, the effects of holiday depression can be minimized with planning and some simple techniques.

Help others. It's the true spirit of the Christmas season and will improve one's mood.

Only important stuff. Choose what you can do and excuse the rest.

Lessen the cost of gifts. Overspending is directly linked to both holiday and post-holiday blues.

Yule feel better in January.

While there is some evidence of post-holiday depression, typically when the holiday is over, most people feel better. If the pains and worries persist, some professional assistance may be in order.

'Tis the season to celebrate the spirit of giving and caring, and the time of year when we are encouraged to do what we should be doing all year long.

Happy holidays!

Steve Barchenger is program director of the Welch Home Place unit of Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt.

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MRS. VAL MARTIN STEFFENS

...Laura Lee Whiteley

Alabama is home for newlywed couple

Mr. and Mrs. Val Martin Steffens are home in Prattville, Ala., after they were married Nov. 1 in a formal ceremony at Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth.

The bride is the former Laura Lee Whiteley, daughter of Beth Gage of Tulia and Walter L. Whiteley of Snyder. She is the niece of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Devin of Tulia. The groom is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Frank Steffens of Nazareth.

The church was decorated with wine-colored roses and gold pew bows, along with two brass candelabra.

Given in marriage by her uncle, Lee Devin, the bride wore an Alford DeAngelo creation with a full skirt finished with a re-embroidered lace cover with pearls over organza white satin. The bodice was made of re-embroidered lace with long illusion sleeves covered with pearls. The dress featured a semi-cathedral train.

Matrons of honor were Marfa Leatherman of Tulia, the bride's twin sister, and Becky Steffens of Tulia, the groom's sister-in-law. Bridesmaids were Jeanie Whiteley of Happy, Kaylen Whiteley of Snyder, sisters of the bride; and Meegan Whiteley of Tulia, sister-in-law of the bride.

Flower girls were Kaitlyn Whiteley of Tulia, niece of the bride; and Kayla Steffens of Tulia, the

groom's niece.

Bridal attendants wore gowns of black velvet with long gold sashes.

They carried bouquets of wine-colored roses and gold accents enhanced with large gold bows.

Best man was David Steffens of Tulia. Groomsmen and ushers were Victor Steffens of Dimmitt, Howard Steffens of Nazareth and Richard Steffens of Mesa, Ariz., brothers of the groom; and Chris Weathington of Nacogdoches, brother-in-law of the groom.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Nazareth Community Hall.

The bride's three-tiered wedding cake was accented with white frosting roses, green leaves and gold beads. A Precious Moments figurine served as the cake topper.

The groom's cake was decorated with a hunting theme, featuring a confused hunter on a hunting trip.

Champagne and mock champagne were served to guests.

Tables were covered with white lace cloths, large gold bows and the matrons of honor's bouquets.

After the couple cut the cake, guests enjoyed a food buffet and dance. Music for the dance was provided by a friend of the family as a gift to the couple.

Following a trip to Amarillo and a week spent with relatives, the couple established their home in Prattville.

Local students are named to Who's Who

Several county students have been included in the 31st annual edition of *Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1996-97*.

Who's Who, published by Educational Communications, Inc., in Lake Forest, Ill., is the largest high school recognition published in the country. Students are nominated by high school principals and guidance counselors, national youth groups, churches and educational organizations based upon their academic achievement and involvement in extracurricular activities. Traditionally, 99% of *Who's Who* students have a grade point average of B or better and 97% are college bound.

Dimmitt students included on the list are Brandon Allison, Kacie Bell, Cody Brockman, Jacy Buckley, Juary Cavazos, Cassandra De La Cruz, Laura Martinez, Amy Garcia, Sarah Goldsmith, Taryn Hays, Sharlamar Jackson, Jacob Larra, Serge Linsky, Lezly Martin, Bryan Portwood, Tony Ramos, Jerry Rivera, Oscar Rueda, Charley Sanders, Robert Sepeda, Jared Townsend, Lindsey Welch, Rusty Wooten, Rosendo Amador, Laura Bradford, Derek Buckley, Francisco Cavazos, Crystal De La Cruz, Michael Everett, Alicia Fierro, Maria Garcia, Valerie Gonzales, Andy Hill, Bradley Kinser, Jennifer Lilley, Rusty McDaniel, Monica Ortiz, Raymond Powers, Jeff Riggs, Josh Roberts, Teresa Robertson, Fabian Salinas, Kaci Schulte, Eva Sloan, Elizabeth Velo and Jessica Wilson.

Hart students recognized are Josue Beanes, Ashley Davis, Adrian Gonzalez, Wyndi Law, Denise Mories, Angel Pantoja Jr., Miguel Pantoja, Dora Rodriguez, Ysa Rodriguez, Roberto Yebra, Stacey Bennett, Veronica Gonzales, Justin Hawkins, Allison Martinez, Dusty Ortiz, Michael Pantoja, Paola Rivera,

Teresa Rodriguez and Efrain Salazar. Nazareth students on the list are Celina Braddock, Kourtney Robertson, Susan Book, Joy Long, Laura Birkenfeld, K'Lynn Gerber, B.J. Kern, Dustin Ramakers, Mitchell Brockman, Nicholas Gerber, Amy Pohlmeier and Jill Schulte.

Students featured compete for \$200,000 in scholarship awards and participate in the publication's annual survey of high achievers, an annual opinion poll of teen attitudes.

Scholarship fund to benefit Wattses

A scholarship fund has been established at Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union in Dimmitt, in memory of Laurie Watts who died recently after a long battle with cancer.

The fund will benefit Watts's two daughters, 4-year-old Catlin and 8-year-old Cassidy.

Those interested in contributing to the fund should do so at the Credit Union.

Who's new?

PLAINS MEMORIAL

Ricardo and Jessica Quiroz of Dimmitt are the parents of a baby girl, born at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 24 at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. Their daughter, Xochitl Estell Quiroz, weighed in at 7 lbs., 5 ozs., and was 21 inches long. She has a big brother, Ricardo E. Quiroz Jr., who is 1. Paternal grandparents are Jacinto and Xochitl Quiroz of Dimmitt. Maternal grandmother is Estella Garcia of Dimmitt. Great-grandmother is Teresa Vasquez of Hereford.

It's a girl for Ty and Stacy Annen of Dallas. Reagan Paige Annen was born at 5:38 p.m. on Nov. 13 at Trinity Medical Center in Dallas. She weighed 6 lbs., 10 ozs., and was 19 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Jerry and Debbie Annen of Dimmitt and Tommy and Kathy Walker of Rocksprings. She has two great-grandmothers in Dimmitt, and a great-grandmother and two great-grandfathers in Uvalde.

OUT-OF-TOWN

It's a girl for John and Shawn St. Vrain. Their daughter, Jordyn Ariana, was born at 1:48 p.m. on Nov. 9 at Pueblo, Colo. She weighed 8 lbs., 12 ozs., and was 21 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Darlene Stanton and Tommy Stanton, both of Dimmitt, and John and Deb St. Vrain of Pueblo. Great-grandparents are Harlin and Bobby Dodd of Dimmitt.

Juan and Alice Casas of Brownwood are the parents of a baby girl, Camille Nicole, who was born at 10:27 p.m. on Nov. 7 at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan. Camille Nicole weighed 5 lbs., 14 1/2 ozs., and was 19 inches long. She has a big sister, Claudia Elizabeth, who is 2. Maternal grandparents are Cesario and Felicia Garza of Dimmitt. Paternal grandparents are Ruben and Carmen Casas of Dimmitt. Great-great-grandparents are Theodora and Erminia Tijerina of Dimmitt and Maria Casas of Alice.

Rudy Mendez and Maria L. Gil Ramirez of Dimmitt are the parents of a baby boy, Rudy Nathaniel, who was born at 12:36 p.m. on Nov. 24 at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. Rudy weighed in at 7 lbs., 8 ozs., and was 21 inches long. He has an older sibling, 18-month-old Esperanza Sofia Gil Ramirez. Paternal grandparents are Elvira and Paul Ramirez of Hart. Maternal grandparents are Jose and Maria Gil of Dimmitt. Great-grandparents are Raul Ramirez Sr., Elvira Ramirez, Josephina Reyna and Romanta Reyna, all of Hart; and Manuela Lopez of Abilene.

DHS art class displays work

Dimmitt High School's art department is holding its fifth annual art show at Rhoads Memorial Library in Dimmitt through Dec. 12.

The Winter '97 Art Show features works created by fall semester art students.

The display will be open to the public during regular library hours through Dec. 12 and the public is invited to view the art.

Wanting to "do over" or simply add to your Christmas decorations? We have beautiful gold tree ornaments, gold rope and tassels; angels, angels, angles; cute and bright colored Krinkle Klaus Santas and Angels; lighted houses and accessories: SNOW VILLAGE, DICKENS VILLAGE, CHRISTMAS IN THE CITY and NORTH POLE SERIES; also, Mickey and Minnie and their castle are just waiting for a good home; and, yes, we have Christmas pottery, candles, and a Santa Claus to "top it off".

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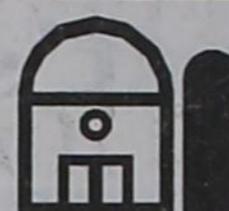
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4-H stock show is set Saturday

The Castro County 4-H stock show will be held Saturday at the Expo Building.

Also planned are showmanship clinics for barrow, lamb and steer showmen. These clinics will be held in the morning before the show begins.

"The showmanship clinics will be a good opportunity for first-time showers to ask any questions," said Castro County Extension Agent Rebek Royall.

4-H'ers planning on exhibiting a barrow, lamb or steer in the show may bring their animals to the show barns at 7:30 a.m. Saturday. Weight cards will be due at 10 a.m.

The showmanship clinics will begin with a program on steers at 9 a.m. The barrow showmanship clinic is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m., and will be followed by the lamb clinic at 11.

The 4-H stock show will start at 1 p.m. with the steer show. The swine show will start at 2 p.m. and the lamb show will begin at 4:30 p.m. Showmanship will be awarded in each division.

Judging this year's show will be Jeffrey Osborne of Canyon.

For more information about the county show, call the Extension office at 647-4115.

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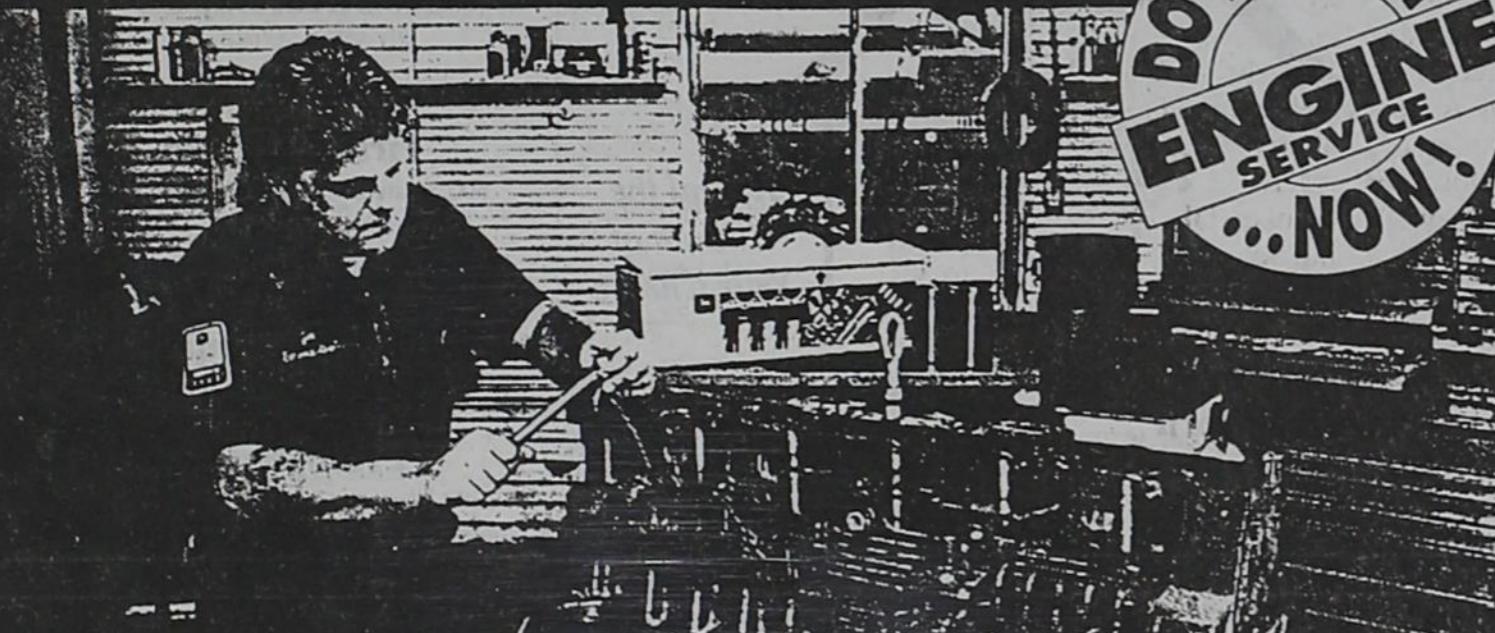
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Ricky Kuntz attends ag marketing workshop

Ricky Kuntz of Flagg Fertilizer recently completed a new ag marketing workshop.

The workshop, sponsored by Texas Ag Industries Association, was developed for managers of Texas agricultural retail locations. It focused on developing marketing strategies for the ever-changing crop protection and plant food markets.

"This workshop was based on practical field experience and offered presentations, discussions and workshop sessions," said Bob Sasser, vice president of marketing for the association. "When a manager completes the workshop, he has an implementation plan developed for a segment of his business."

The day-long program was held Nov. 18 in Austin. Workshop leaders included managers and experienced agricultural marketing.

Agenda topics included a focus on the changes in agriculture and the forces behind these changes, segmenting and targeting customers and their needs. Other topics were analyzing their business, business strengths and weaknesses and building a new marketing strategy.

Chamber suggests afghans for gifts

Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Sava said that the Castro County afghans available for sale through the Chamber would make a unique, quality gift suitable for Christmas giving.

The afghans sell for \$35 each and feature artwork depicting all three communities in the county, as well as some of the major industries and landmarks.

Minding Your Own Business

By DON TAYLOR
Thinking small—A surefire way to stay small



Don Taylor

In the past 10 years I've worked one-to-one with more than 2,000 small business owners. Many of their companies are still companies because the owners think small.

Sam Walton would have been a successful merchant with just one Ben Franklin store. However, Sam had a bigger dream. Today, millions of people shop in Wal-Mart stores every week.

Walt Disney was a successful cartoonist and film maker. But Walt had a larger thought—family entertainment. Today, millions enjoy Disney theme parks.

Henry Ford knew how to build luxury automobiles. However, Henry had a bolder vision—affordable transportation for everyone. Today, Ford Motor Company is one of America's largest and most profitable companies.

There are hundreds of other names that we could add to this list. Folks who started small, but decided not to stay that way.

If you are a business owner, you have a decision to make. You can stay small, or you can dream a bigger dream. I'm aiming this column at those of you who are already dreaming.

The bigger picture

James Allen said, "You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you." Here are some tips for achieving a bigger tomorrow.

• **Take charge of your attitude.** When you are in control of your attitude, no wall is too high, no river too wide and no dream too big. No business challenge can overwhelm you when you sincerely believe you can. A positive attitude is a little lever that lifts a big load.

• **Plan for success.** After you've taken charge of your attitude, develop a plan to turn your dream into reality. Begin with an assessment of where you are today and why you're there, then write down your goals. Where do you want to be? What do you want to accomplish? Now you can begin to lay out the steps to get from where you are to where you want to be.

• **Set your sights on improvement.** The best way to achieve fast growth is to get better at what you're already doing well. Capitalize on your strengths, but don't ignore your weaknesses. You will have to improve in those areas as well. However, you will accelerate into the big-dream mode by staying focused on those things you do better than anyone.

• **Be open to opportunities.** If you're looking for big opportunities, seek big problems. Opportunities hide in difficulties, problems and challenges. When you see problems, search for solutions. Therein lie potential opportunities.

• **Surround yourself with good people.** Walt Disney said, "You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it requires people to make the dream a reality." You'll need good people with talent to take your business to the next level. If you can't afford to hire the best, don't hire anyone.

• **Watch your costs.** Benjamin Franklin said, "Beware of little expenses—a small leak will sink a great ship." Sometimes when you focus on a big dream it is hard to remember to manage the details. I've seen some promising enterprises fail because no one rode herd on expenses. Keep your costs low. You'll never be sorry you became the low-cost provider.

• **Don't let anyone else spoil your success.** The world is full of people who have never accomplished anything of importance. They will be quick to tell you why you can't possibly succeed. Don't listen to them. Stay focused on your goals.

"That thing will never fly," they said.

But the Wright Brothers went and flew it.

So, when someone says to you, "You can't," Just go ahead and do it.

Don Taylor is the co-author of "Up Against the Wal-Marts." You may write to him in care of "Minding Your Own Business," P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

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Water District begins collecting data for pre-plant soil survey

Personnel from the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) are now collecting data for the 1998 pre-plant soil moisture survey.

The survey is conducted annually to determine general pre-plant soil moisture availability and deficit trends within the 15-county water district service area. Using this information, area producers can conserve ground water by applying only what is needed to bring the soil profile to field capacity during pre-plant irrigation.

"As a result of above-average rainfall, we expect pre-plant soil moisture conditions within some areas of the water district to be better than we have seen in recent years," said Ken Carver, High Plains Water District assistant manager.

Even though above-average rainfall has improved general soil moisture conditions, Carver noted that Interstate 27 could be used as a dividing line to differentiate between wetter and drier soil conditions within the district.

"The portion of the Water District located east of Interstate 27 should reflect wetter soil conditions due to above-average rainfall. The portion of the district west of Interstate 27 did not receive as much rainfall as the eastern portion and will be somewhat drier," he said.

Three teams are collecting pre-plant soil moisture data in the northern counties of the water district. They will work their way south as the soil moisture survey data collection progresses.

"We begin this process in November each year to avoid as much bad weather as possible and to finish before producers begin irrigating winter crops," said Gerald Crenwelge, USDA-NRCS soil scientist.

Terry Bridges and Glenn Blackmon will take soil moisture readings in Armstrong, Potter,

Randall, Hale, and Lubbock counties. Arnold Husky and Scott Orr will work in Parmer, Bailey, Lamb, and Cochran counties. Gerald Crenwelge and Kevin Coffman will work in Deaf Smith, Castro, Floyd, and Crosby counties. Data will be collected later in Hockley and Lynn counties. Data collection will be completed by Dec. 15, weather permitting.

Water district and USDA-NRCS personnel use Troxler neutron moisture meters to gather soil moisture data at 300 permanently-installed soil moisture monitoring sites. Readings are taken at six-inch intervals throughout the five-foot root zone soil profile by lowering the neutron probe into a previously-installed aluminum access tube.

Precipitation information is also gathered from rain gauges installed at each soil moisture monitoring site.

Soil moisture monitoring sites are selected according to soil types, local saturated thickness of the Ogallala Aquifer which indicates potential water well yields, and local crop water requirements. Each site represents typical dryland or irrigated farming practices in the general area where the site is selected.

Data collected will be used to construct maps illustrating the amount of soil moisture available for plant use within the root zone soil profile and the amount of water needed to bring the soil profile to field capacity.

These maps, as well as the results of the 1998 pre-plant soil moisture survey, will be distributed to area news media and will be published in The Cross Section prior to the pre-plant irrigation season.

Additional information about the 1998 pre-plant soil moisture survey is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, 2930 Avenue Q, Lubbock, TX 79405-1499, or by calling (806) 762-0181. The district's web site address is www.hpwd.com.

Tire recycling to continue as state ends scrap tire program

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) will end its scrap tire recycling program on Dec. 31.

The program was not continued by the legislature and so, as of Jan. 1, there will be no state recycling fee added to the purchase of each new tire. The current fee is \$2 for a new automobile tire, \$3.50 for a new truck tire, and \$1 for each used tire.

Beginning Jan. 1, tire dealers may add a fee to the price of tires they sell to pay for the delivery of tires to a recycler or disposal facility. The amount of the fee is solely at the dealer's discretion and not regulated by the state.

Although state-mandated tire recycling will end, the TNRCC will retain authority over the disposal of used tires. Effective Jan. 1, landfills may accept split, shredded or quartered tires. In recognition of a continuing problem, approximately \$9 million has been appropriated to the TNRCC for the cleanup of nearly 300 existing waste tire dumps.

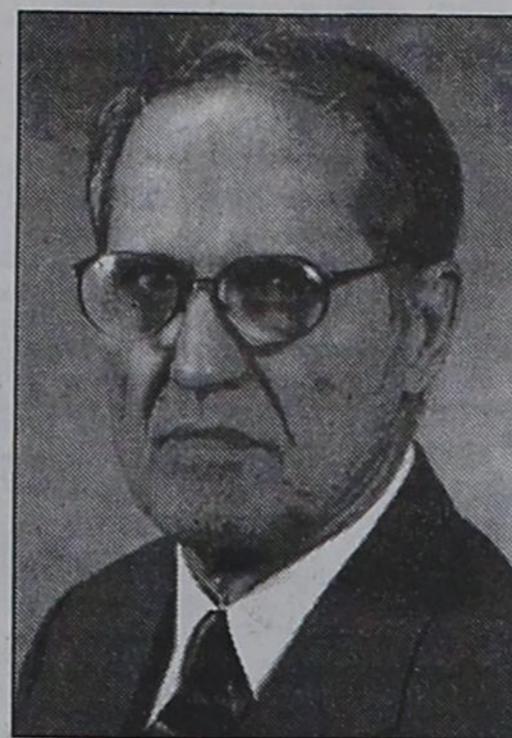
Tire dumping is still illegal. To prevent unauthorized dumping, a registration and manifest system will continue to track used tires until they are recycled.

Because the recycling program will end and fees will be discontinued, there will be no state funds available to pay scrap tire transporters and processors who have been picking up waste tires and delivering them for recycling under the current program. Local governments are encouraged to get involved in tire recycling for many uses, such as playground material, road construction, and landscape mulch. Shredded tires can be used as daily cover or in leachate collection systems in landfills.

Another recently developed use for tire shreds is in on-site sewage facilities, or septic systems. Tire shreds can be used in place of gravel in the construction of lateral lines and leach fields, often at a lower cost.

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Ed True

True to run for Congress

Ed True, a north Texas attorney, last week entered the Democratic primary as a candidate for the US House of Representatives for the 13th District of Texas.

True's background includes 20 years in private law practice, including the last 10 years representing disabled Texans in their claims for Social Security and SSI disability benefits, and 20 years as an attorney in the US Air Force.

True said, "A lot of political attention has been focused on our country's conflicts and problems, but the basic causes are not being addressed. For instance, some proposed major changes in the tax laws may sound appealing, but the changes seem likely to aggravate our problems instead of helping solve them. They don't address the real frustration most people have with the tax system, which is unfairness."

"For another example, many of the recent changes in human support programs actually sharpen the conflicts between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots', further dividing our society."

"When problems have arisen, our government has recently reacted by enacting more and restrictive and controlling laws. I certainly believe that law and order must be maintained, but I also believe that caring and compassion are essential."

True said his is not a "politician," but said as a concerned citizen he has thought a great deal about what he can do to be part of the solution.

"I believe that, having lived this long and having had the varied experiences I've had, I've gained some sense and wisdom that would be useful to the people of this district and the country. What wisdom I do have is certainly for sale; but only in exchange for votes, not money," True said.

For the past decade, True has listened to his clients express frustration and anger at the bureaucratic roadblocks they encounter in trying to get help after a serious illness or accident. True found, however, that most of these people saw no reason to vote, having lost faith that voting would make any difference in the government they were dealing with.

"If there is one message I can get across by running for Congress, I want it to be this: the laws that the government makes control much of our lives, and we can't control the government unless we vote," True said.

Although True is a Nebraska native, he has lived in Texas for nearly 30 years. "I am a Texan by choice," he said.

An administrative change by the Federal Crop Insurance Corp. (FCIC) in the way transitional yields (T-yields) are calculated will definitely impact growers on the Texas High Plains, according to Plains Cotton Growers, Inc., of Lubbock.

FCIC proposes to change T-yields from a calculation based on a percentage (between 70 and 120%) of frozen 1985 Farm Service Agency (FSA) program yields. New T-yields will be calculated based on a 10-year county average yield per planted acre, supplied by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The proposal is not without its faults and changes are being sought for the future. One problem is the new calculation being based on yield per planted acre as opposed to yield per harvested acre.

Like most changes to the crop insurance program, this one will have winners and losers in terms of the T-yield applied to a producer's actual production history.

PCG and other cotton industry groups feel the use of yield per harvested acre is a much fairer number and reflects a more accurate depiction of producer yield potential than yields last updated more than a decade ago.

Using an average yield per harvested acre would be more indicative of the current production capabilities of producers in a county. T-yields for all crops other than cotton are figured using yield per harvested acre.

FCIC appears to be moving toward fairer treatment of cotton in relation to other crops. This change is part of that process and will generally be

Cotton Talks

considered beneficial to producers.

If current negotiations with FCIC work out, producers will be eligible to receive T-yields based on harvested acreage as soon as 1999. For 1998, efforts are underway to ease the transition from the old system to the new T-yield based on NASS numbers.

One option being discussed is allowing producers to choose either the new NASS-based T-yield in 1998

or the old FSA-based calculation. New T-yields may be phased in over a period of years, avoiding drastic changes in a producer's actual production history database.

A producer's actual production history will still be subject to yield "cups" (no annual reduction larger than 10%) and "caps" (no annual increase greater than 20%), even with the incorporation of the new 10-year average county yields.

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Sports



Bobbies down Odessa, Sudan to finish fifth in Frenship tourney

The Dimmitt Bobbies rebounded from a heartbreaking 49-45 loss to Hereford on Friday and downed Sudan, 48-35, on Saturday to finish fifth in the Frenship Turkey Classic.

The Bobbies opened the tournament with a 56-42 win over Odessa, but lost a nip-and-tuck battle with Hereford Friday. That dropped the Bobbies into the fifth-place game with Sudan. Hereford went on to edge Frenship, 49-47, for the tournament championship.

Dimmitt had the Odessa girls for Thanksgiving lunch Thursday, jumping out to an early lead, then coasting to the 56-42 victory.

Dimmitt shooters were hot, nailing seven treys in the game. Shawna Kenworthy, who led the Bobbies in scoring with 15 points, had three of those treys while Carol Summers and Jacy Buckley popped in two apiece. Buckley, Summers and Amber Matthews each had eight for the Bobbies.

Dimmitt took a 17-10 lead after

the first eight minutes and went ahead 28-19 at halftime.

The Bobbies exploded for 15 points in the third quarter and their defense limited Odessa to four points in the stanza for a 43-23 lead.

Odessa outscored the Bobbies 19-13 over the final eight minutes, but it was too little, too late.

Odessa's leading scorer was Chanie Southerland, who finished with 17.

In the championship quarterfinal game, the Bobbies were able to erase a 13-8 Heford lead in the second period and lead 24-21 at halftime, but the second half belonged to the Lady Whitefaces.

Hereford, paced by Julie Rampey's 11-point performance, outscored Dimmitt 28-21 in the second half to take the 49-45 win.

Dimmitt shooters, who had been hot from three-point range on Thursday, couldn't get the shots to fall Friday. The only tree the Bobbies made was by Amy Matthews. Here-

ford was able to bury three treys in the game.

Free throws proved to be the difference in the game. Dimmitt was whistled for 19 fouls while Hereford was charged with 17. Both teams had numerous attempts from the line, and Hereford was able to capitalize on most (18-of-22) of its attempts. Dimmitt struggled from the charity stripe, hitting just 8-of-18 tries.

Amber Matthews poured in 14 points to lead the Bobbies and Buckley finished with seven.

The Bobbies got back on track Saturday, using a strong defensive effort to gradually pull away from Sudan throughout the game, and they claimed the fifth-place trophy with a 48-35 win.

Dimmitt limited Sudan to seven points in each of the first two quarters and led 22-14 at half. The Bobbies widened their lead in the second half, outscoring the Hornets 26-21 for the win.

The Bobbies improved their free throw shooting, nailing 22 of 32 attempts.

Amber Matthews' 12-point performance was game-high, while Summers and Heidi Weaver added 10 apiece for the Bobbies, who improved to 3-3 with the win.



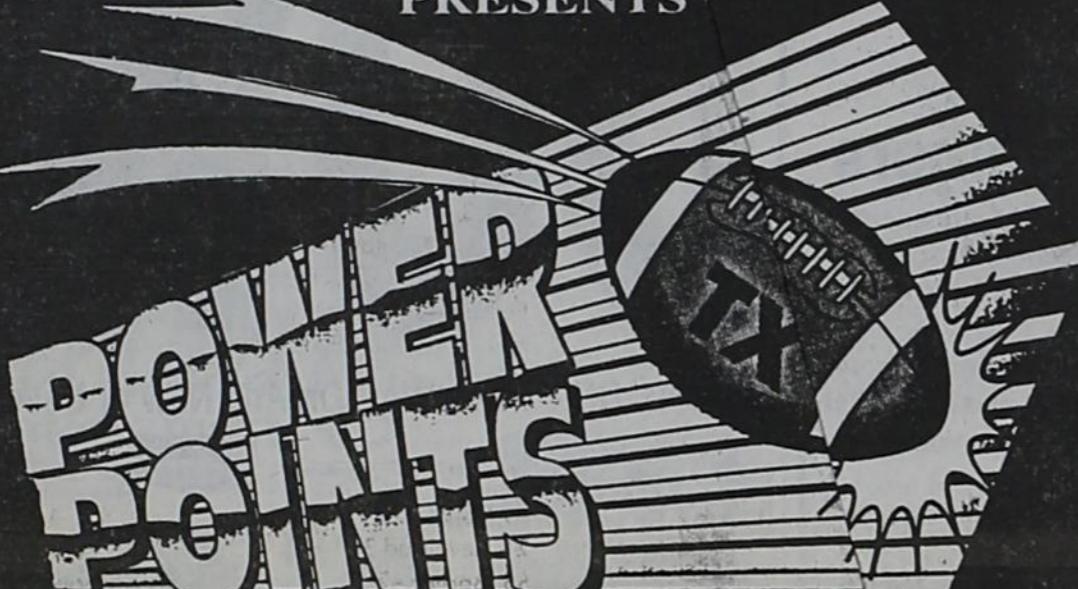
HEIDI WEAVER (32) goes high in an attempt to block a Sudan shot during the fourth-place game in the Frenship Turkey Classic Saturday. Other Bobbies

closing in are Carol Summers (12), Heather Wise (33) and Tonya Robertson (34). The Bobbies won the game handily, 48-35.

Photo by Dan Nelson

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Games of Dec. 6 - 8

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HOW TO PLAY

Select a winner from each of the week 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.

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

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

THIS WEEK'S GAMES

Buffalo at Chicago
Denver at Pittsburgh
Green Bay at Tampa Bay
New England at Jacksonville
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Oakland at Kansas City
St. Louis at New Orleans
Seattle at Baltimore

Atlanta at San Diego
Indianapolis at N.Y. Jets
Minnesota at San Francisco
Washington at Arizona
Detroit at Miami
Carolina at Dallas
Army vs. Navy
Texas A&M vs. Nebraska

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1. 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 you figure to be a toss-up. Next, fill in Tiebreaker 1, the total points scored by both teams in the week's Cowboys 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.

2. Any entry form that does not contain a legible name, address, etc., will be disqualified.

3. 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 Pitt and Pittsburgh.

4. No points are awarded on the games or in case any game is not played for any reason during its scheduled week.

5. 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.

6. Employees of this newspaper and their immediate families are ineligible to participate.

7. Any inquiry about or protest of weekly results must be made by noon on the Friday following the announcement of winners.

8. No purchase necessary. Facsimile game entry

POWER POINTS OFFICIAL RULES

forms will be accepted. Enter contest by dropping entry form into POWER POINTS container at participating co-sponsors.

9. Weekly deadline for entry will be 2 p.m. Fridays except when noted otherwise on weekly entry form.

10. Neither this newspaper nor any co-sponsor will be responsible for illegible entry forms or those lost, stolen or damaged in any way.

11. 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. Filling out extra forms and putting your friends' and relatives' names on them violates this rule. Any such entries are destroyed prior to grading.

12. Contestants must have reached the age of eight (8) years by the Sunday of any week's play.

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Swiftlettes draw Merkel first in Canyon

The Nazareth Swiftlettes will take on Merkel at 4 p.m. today (Thursday) in first-round action of the Canyon Classic.

The eight-team tournament also features Vernon, Muleshoe, Roswell, Goddard, Canyon, Tascosa and Happy.

If the Swiftlettes beat Merkel, they will advance to the championship semifinals against the winner of the Vernon-Muleshoe matchup. The semifinal will be played Friday at 7 p.m. Should the Swiftlettes lose their first-round game, they will take on the Vernon-Muleshoe loser in the consolation semifinals Friday at 4 p.m.

Saturday's schedule opens with the seventh-place game at 1:30 p.m., followed by the consolation final at 3. On the championship side of the bracket, the third-place game is slated for 4:30 p.m. Saturday while the championship will be played at 6 p.m. Saturday.

Bobbies will meet Levelland 'Red' in opener

Dimmitt will face one of two Levelland teams entered in the Levelland Basketball Tournament in first-round action today (Thursday) at Levelland High School.

Tip-off in the Bobbies' game with the Levelland "red" team will be at 3:30 p.m.

Levelland's "white" team will meet El Paso Eastwood at 8 p.m. today (Thursday). Other first-round games today (Thursday) will feature Midland Lee against Slaton at 5 p.m. and Randall against El Paso Bowie at 6:30 p.m.

Winners of the Dimmitt-Levelland and Randall-EP Bowie first-round games will meet in the championship semis Friday at 6:30 p.m. Losers of the two games will meet Friday at 5 p.m.

On Saturday, tournament play resumes with the seventh-place game at 2:30 p.m. and consolation championship at 4 p.m. On the championship side of the bracket, the third-place game will begin at 5:30 while the championship game will begin at 7.

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Bobcats nab seven first-team AD spots

Five Dimmitt Bobcats claimed seven spots on the all-district first-team roster and the Bobcats nabbed four spots on the second-team squad.

Charley Sanders earned first-team mention as a tight end and defensive end.

Zack Matthews also claimed first-team honors on offense and defense as running back and as a secondary player. Matthews also earned second-team all-district honors as punter.

Michael Keith of Dimmitt made first-team as an offensive lineman and was on the all-district second-team as a defensive lineman.

Stuart Sutton made first-team as a receiver and was second-team all-district in the secondary.

Rudy Alaniz made first-team as a linebacker.

Others earning second-team all-district honors was running back Beau Hill.

Earning honorable mention all-district honors were Dimmitt's Andy Hill, offensive lineman; Derek

Buckley, quarterback; Travis Crow, defensive end; John Paul Ramos and Jerry Thomas, linebackers; and Casey Smith, defensive back.

Here's a complete list of the all-district selections:

ALL-DISTRICT 1-AAA

First-Team Offense

Linemen: Michael Keith of Dimmitt, Erick Terrel of River Road, Ricko Aguirre of Muleshoe, Landon Wiseman of Friona, and Tanner Alexander of Perryton.

Tight end: Charley Sanders of Dimmitt.

Receivers: Stuart Sutton of Dimmitt, Angel Vega of Friona and Eric Gomez of Dalhart.

Quarterback: Aaron King of Friona.

Running backs: Zack Matthews of Dimmitt, Allan Adkison of Perryton and Matthew Kendrick of Friona.

Kicker: Rafael Medina of Perryton.

First-Team Defense

Linemen: Erick Terrel of River Road, Jesus Hernandez of Perryton, Ricko Aguirre of Muleshoe and Eloy Trejo of Friona.

Defensive ends: Charley Sanders of Dimmitt, Quint Ellis of Friona and Ryan Culwell of Perryton.

Linebackers: Rudy Alaniz of Dimmitt, Tanner Alexander of Perryton and Luis Ramirez of Friona.

Secondary: Zack Matthews of Dimmitt.

Aaron King of Friona, Trey Duke of Perryton and Adam Ornelas of River Road.

Punter: Jerry Billington of River Road.

Second-Team Offense

Linemen: Perry Hanes of Friona, Jesus Hernandez of Perryton, Chris Culwell of River Road, Jeremy White of Dalhart and Jared Walker of Sanford-Fritch.

Tight end: Quint Ellis of Friona.

Receivers: Andy Dunlap of River Road, Brian Gilbert of Perryton and Manuel Campolla of Muleshoe.

Quarterback: Jerod Fikac of River Road.

Running backs: Beau Hill of Dimmitt,

Trent Mills of River Road and Gilbert Vela of Muleshoe.

Kicker: Derrick Bailey of River Road.

Second-Team Defense

Linemen: Michael Keith of Dimmitt, Shawn Eckhardt of Perryton, Justin Wesley of Tulia and Christian Cadenedo of Friona.

Defensive ends: Cecil Cooper of Friona and Brian Gilbert of Perryton.

Linebackers: Jose Barron of Dalhart, Konrad Carroll of Perryton, Jeff Hamilton of Friona and Lenard Christensen of River Road.

Secondary: Stuart Sutton of Dimmitt, Carlos Del Toro of Muleshoe, Brandon Kinard of River Road and Michael Cleavinger of Perryton.

Punter: Zack Matthews of Dimmitt.

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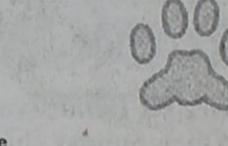
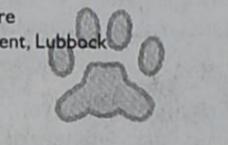
6:00 a.m.....	Texas State Network News	7:03-7:20.....	Live Market Report
6:05.....	TSN Agribusiness Report		TSN Sports Report
6:30-6:45.....	Voice of Southwestern Agriculture Daybreak Report		Current Weather Conditions
	Live Ag Market Update		Consumer Report
6:46.....	Day Book for Agriculture Cow Country News	7:20-7:30.....	Great American Folio Songs
	TSN Agri Weather		Plant Talk Texas
	Current Local Conditions	7:30-7:43.....	Live Local News
6:50.....	News of Agriculture	7:43-8:00.....	TSN News
6:55.....	TSN News		School Lunch Menus
7:00.....	Sports Texas		Weather Forecast
			Birthdays & Anniversaries
			Good Neighbor of the Day
		8:00.....	TSN News Update
		8:11.....	Spotlight on Local Talent
		8:16.....	Dallas Cowboy Report
			Sports Texas (High School/College)



KDHN 1470 A.M.

Schedule and Scores

Dec. 4-6—Plainview Tournament (Boys), There
Dec. 4-6—Levelland Tournament (Girls), There
Dec. 9—Caprock (Boys), There
Dec. 9—Amarillo High (Girls), There
Dec. 11-13—Seminole Tournament (Boys), There
Dec. 12—TBA (Girls)
Dec. 16—Open
Dec. 19—Perryton (Girls), Here
Dec. 20—Coronado (Boys), Here
Dec. 29-31—Caprock Tournament, Lubbock
Jan. 3—*River Road, There
Jan. 6—*Tulia (Girls), Here
Jan. 6—Estacado (Boys), Here
Jan. 9—*Dalhart, There
Jan. 13—*Muleshoe, Here
Jan. 16—*Sanford Fritch, There
Jan. 20—*Friona, Here
Jan. 23—*Perryton, There
Jan. 27—*Tulia, There
Jan. 30—*River Road, Here
Feb. 3—*Muleshoe, There
Feb. 6—*Sanford Fritch, Here
Feb. 10—*Friona, There
Feb. 13—*Dalhart, Here
Feb. 17—*Tulia (Boys), Here
Feb. 20—*Perryton (Boys), Here



Bobbies

49, Randal 78
21, Levelland 34
55, Borger 42
Turkey Classic
56, Odessa 42
45, Hereford 49
48, Sudan 35
42, Hereford 60
Season Record: 3-4

Bobcats

47, Randall 71
65, Levelland 29
62, Borger 57
89, Abernathy 34
64, Hereford 56
Season Record: 4-1

Good Luck, Bobbies
in the Levelland Tournament!

FIRST GAME: Bobbies vs. Levelland Red, Thursday, 3:30 p.m.

Good Luck, Bobcats
in the Plainview Tournament!

FIRST GAME: Bobcats vs. Canyon, Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY: Bobbies vs. Amarillo High, There

TUESDAY: Bobcats vs. Caprock, There

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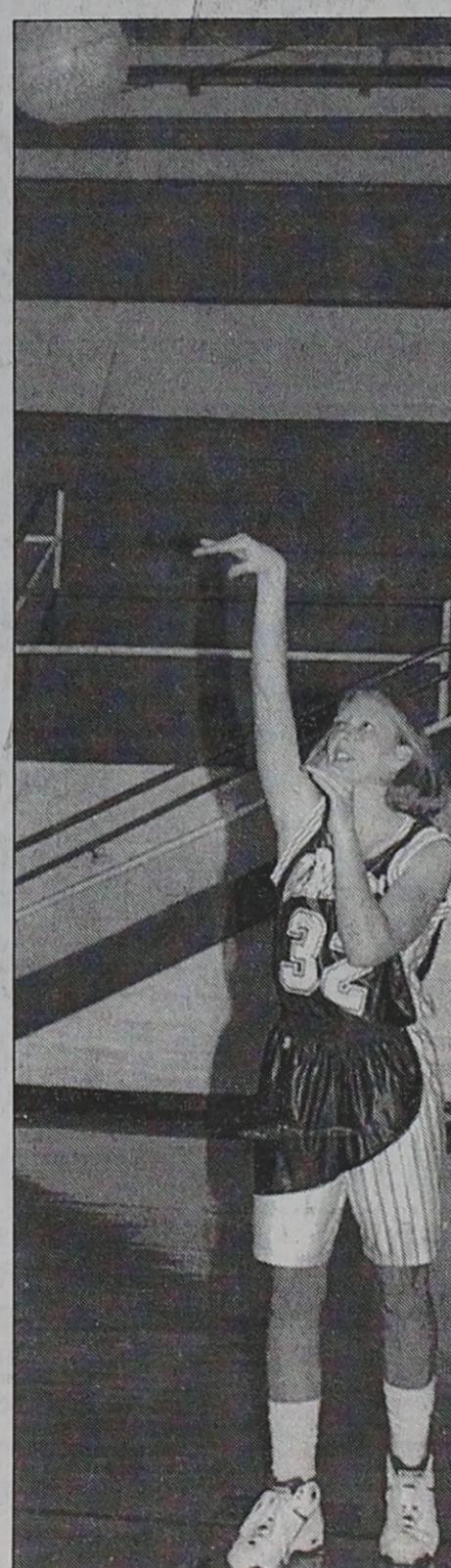
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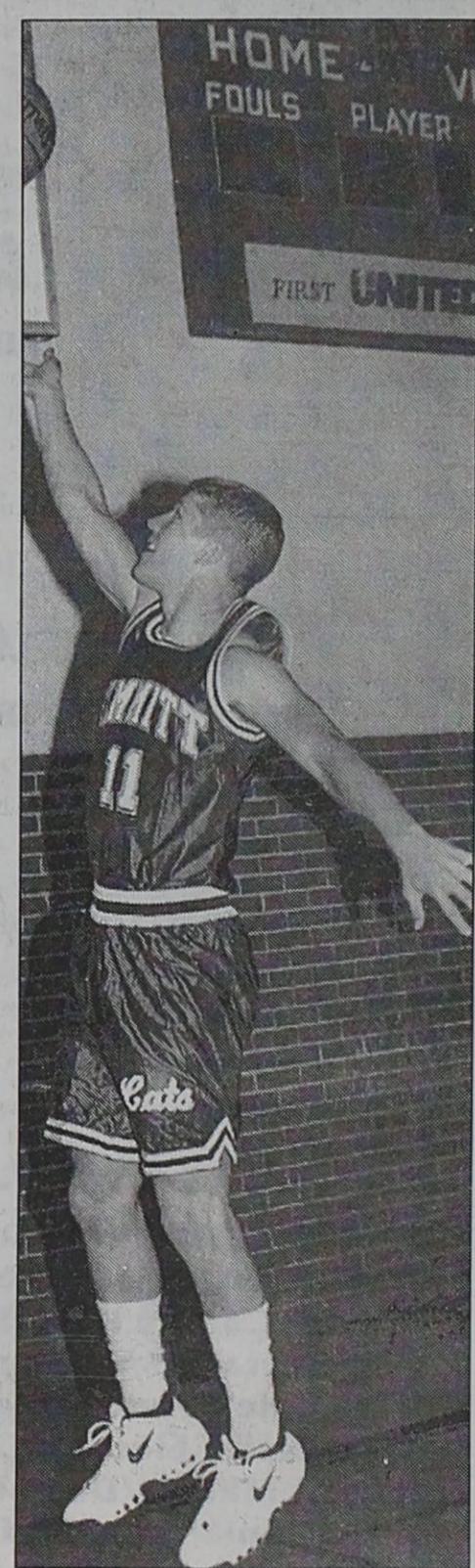
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Senior Guard

Hart teams and Swifts ready for Friona Tourney

The Hart Longhorns and Lady Horns and Nazareth Swifts will try and best the field in the Friona Tournament this week.

The seven-team tournaments will be held under a "pool-play" format because one team in each division dropped out of the tourney, leaving seven teams entered in each. The teams will be divided into pools of 4 and 3 teams, and the teams' records will be compared to determine who plays the consolation, third-place and championship games on Saturday.

Boys' teams entered in the tournament are Friona, Floyd, Farwell, River Road, Friona JV, Hart and Nazareth. Girls' teams joining the Lady Horns will be Friona, Floyd, Farwell, River Road, Friona JV and Lockney.

The Nazareth Swifts open the

tournament today (Thursday) by taking on Friona's Junior Varsity at 8:30 a.m. The Swifts will face River Road Friday at 2:30 p.m.

The Hart boys will meet Friona today (Thursday) at 11:30 a.m., then will meet Floyd at 5:30 p.m.

On Friday, Hart will take on Farwell at 5:30 p.m.

The Lady Horns open with Floyd today (Thursday) at 1 p.m. They will face Friona Friday morning at 8:30 in their second game, then will play Farwell Friday at 4.

On Saturday, the girls' consolation game will be played at noon, followed by the boys' game at 1:30 p.m. The third-place games will feature the girls at 3 p.m. and the boys at 4:30 p.m. The championship round will begin at 6 p.m. with the girls' game, followed by the boys' game at 7:30 p.m.



KIMBERLY NEWLAND of Dimmitt wins a rebounding battle during the Bobbies' game against Sudan's Hornets for fifth place in the Frenship Turkey Classic Saturday. The Bobbies won, 48-35.

Photo by Don Nelson

Hayli Wise is recognized

Hayli Wise, daughter of Gary and Ronda Wise, has been named "Student of the Week" in Mrs. Damron's and Mrs. Spring's rooms at Dimmitt Middle School.

Wise was born Oct. 13, 1987, in Dimmitt.

Among her favorites are pizza, the white tiger and the book, *Where the*

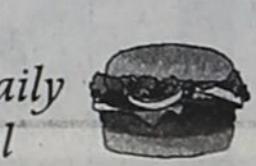
Red Fern Grows. She says she does well in sports and wants to be better in art. She likes physical education and music at Dimmitt Middle School.

When she grows up, Hayli hopes to be a professional ice skater. She admires Shirley Wise.

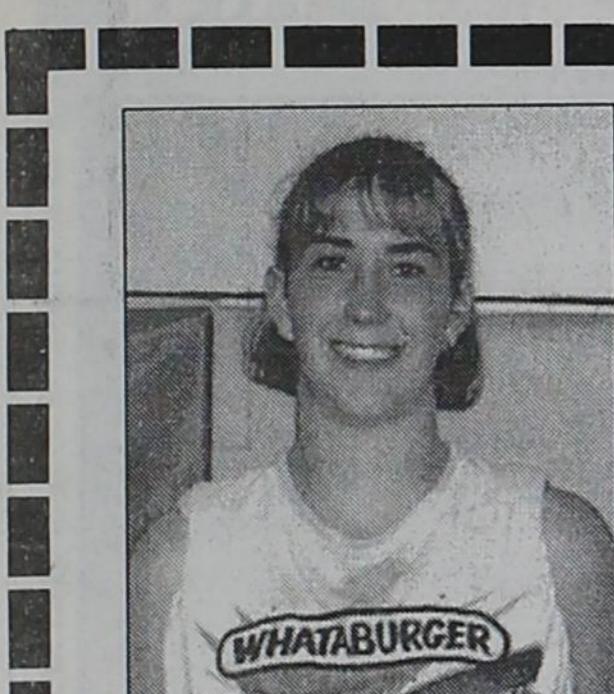
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**Good Luck, SWIFETTES
in the Canyon Tournament!**

FIRST GAME: Swiftettes vs. Merkel, Thursday, 4 p.m.

**Good Luck, SWIFTS
in the Friona Tournament!**

FIRST GAME: Swifts vs. Friona JV, Thursday, 8:30 a.m.

**TUESDAY:
Swiftettes and Swifts
vs. Plains, There**

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Free throws pay off as Cats top Borger

"We won the game at the free-throw line," Coach Alan Steinle said after his Bobcats had notched a hard-fought 62-57 win over the Borger Bulldogs Nov. 25.

Borger had one more two-point field goal and one more three-pointer than Dimmitt to gain a five-point advantage from the floor.

But the Bobcats collected 10 more points than the Bulldogs at the free-throw line. Dimmitt hit 16 of 21 (76%) while Borger made six of 13 (46%). And that was the difference.

Three Dimmitt players hit crucial free throws in the stretch.

With the Bobcats trailing by a point, Jerry Thomas hit two charity shots to put Dimmitt back into the lead by one.

Then Stuart Sutton hit two-of-two to hike Dimmitt's lead to three.

Casey Smith hit five of six free throws in the fourth quarter, including four-of-four late in the game, and

finished with seven of eight from the line. Twice late in the game, the Bulldogs fouled him intentionally, but it didn't work for them.

As a team, the Bobcats connected on nine of 10 free throws during the crucial fourth quarter.

"It was close all the way, and anyone's game," Coach Steinle commented. "It was good for us to finish it like that."

The Bobcats' scoring was well balanced with Smith hitting 20, Derek Buckley and Charley Sanders 14 each and Thomas 12.

Thomas was Dimmitt's top rebounder with 10, followed by Sanders with eight.

Smith had a tremendous individual game with 20 credits for his floor play (steals, assists, etc.) to go with his 20 points and five rebounds.

Borger also had four players in double figures—Reggie Briggs, Jose Coldeen, Tony Powell and Kevin Massey.

Hoop Roundup

NOV. 25

Swiftettes 38, Whiteface 57

Nazareth 10 8 8 12-38
Whiteface 17 14 10 16-57

SCORING: NAZ—Wethington 12,

Gerber 10.

Swifts 61, Whiteface 66

Nazareth 12 17 15 17-61
Whiteface 16 16 20 14-66

SCORING: NAZ—Shane Ethridge 18,

Barry Hoeling 14.

Bobbies 55, Borger 42

Dimmitt 11 11 10 23-55
Borger 12 12 9 9-42

SCORING: Dimmitt—Jacy Buckley 11,

Kimberly Newland 10.

Bobcats 62, Borger 57

Dimmitt 14 20 13 15-62
Borger 20 13 14 10-57

SCORING: Dimmitt—Casey Smith 16,

Derek Buckley, Charley Sanders and Jerry Thomas 14.

Lady Horns 26, Springlake-Earth 56

Hart 2 7 10 7-26
S-E 10 14 10 22-56

SCORING: HART—Ysa Rodriguez and Charla Lee 8.

Longhorns 40, Springlake-Earth 45

Hart 9 7 11 13-40
S-E 8 19 7 11-45

SCORING: HART—Jared Aven and Lupe DeLaFuente 9.

JV Longhorns 26, Springlake-Earth 48

JV Lady Horns 11, Springlake-Earth 44

JV Bobbles 45, Borger 58

JV Swiftettes 56, Whiteface 32

JV Swifts 30, Whiteface 33

JV Bobcats 46, Borger 64

TURKEY CLASSIC

First Round

Bobbies 56, Odessa 42

Dimmitt 17 11 15 13-56
Odessa 10 9 4 19-42

SCORING: Dimmitt—Shawna Kenworthy 15.

Championship Quarterfinals

Bobbies 45, Hereford 49

Dimmitt 8 16 7 14-45
Hereford 13 8 12 16-49

SCORING: Dimmitt—Amber Matthews 14.

Fifth Place

Bobbies 48, Sudan 35

Dimmitt 9 13 12 14-48
Sudan 7 7 9 12-35

SCORING: DIMMITT—Amber

Matthews 12, Carol Summers and Heidi Weaver 10.

Classifieds get results!

FRIDAY

Bobcats 89, Abernathy 34

Dimmitt 17 20 16 36-49
Abernathy 3 11 7 13-34

SCORING: DIMMITT—Casey Smith 22, Charley Sanders 18.

JV Bobcats 61, Abernathy 45

MONDAY

Freshman Bobbles 54, Tulla 28

Dimmitt 16 13 17 8-44
Tulla 2 6 6 14-24

SCORING: Dimmitt—Tamara Robertson 12, Ruby Rodriguez 10.

TUESDAY

Bobcats 64, Hereford 56

Dimmitt 18 12 11 23-64
Hereford 15 12 14 15-56

SCORING: DIMMITT—Jerry Thomas 20, Casey Smith 15.

SWIFTS 47, Kress 48

Nazareth 11 16 11 9-47
Kress 8 13 13 14-48

SCORING: NAZ—Darren Huckert 17, Billy Don Cannon 10.

Lady Horns 40, Happy 45

Hart 9 11 7 13-40
Happy 12 8 9 16-45

SCORING: HART—Veronica Gonzales and Ysa Rodriguez 11.

Swiftettes 90, Kress 36

Nazareth 22 25 20 23-90
Kress 8 8 9 11-36

SCORING: NAZ—K'Lynn Gerber 19, Cassie Birkenfeld 16, Tanya Wethington 12, Shawna Gerber 12, Whitney Hoeling 11.

Longhorns 63, Happy 50

Hart 15 11 16 21-63
Happy 10 13 8 19-50

SCORING: HART—Lupe De La Fuente 16, Moses Reyna 11, Michael Pantoja, Rick Urvin and Jeremia Velasquez 10.

JV Swifts 37, Kress 44

JV Bobcats 38, Hereford 54

Bird's nest soup is made from the lining of swifts' nests, a sort of jelly secreted by the birds' well-developed salivary glands. Since the nests are found on steep cliffs, the soup is very expensive and served only at special feasts.

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Crime Line offers \$500 reward in vehicle vandalism

The Castro County Crime Line is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for vandalism of a vehicle.

The damage was done Nov. 25 to a 1996 green Mitsubishi Eclipse belonging to Cassie McLean, while the vehicle was parked at the Dimmitt High School gym.

The caller may remain anonymous and the reward may be paid through a drop system.

Anyone having information may call the Crime Line at 647-4711 or the Dimmitt Police Dept. at 647-4545 or the Castro County Sheriff's Dept. at 647-3311.

Primary candidate filing ends Jan. 2

Applications for a place on the political party primary ballots may be received from Dec. 3 through Jan. 2.

The applications for a place on the Democratic Primary ballot may be filed with Oscar Wylie of Dimmitt through Friday. Don Newman will accept the applications after Friday, continuing through Jan. 2.

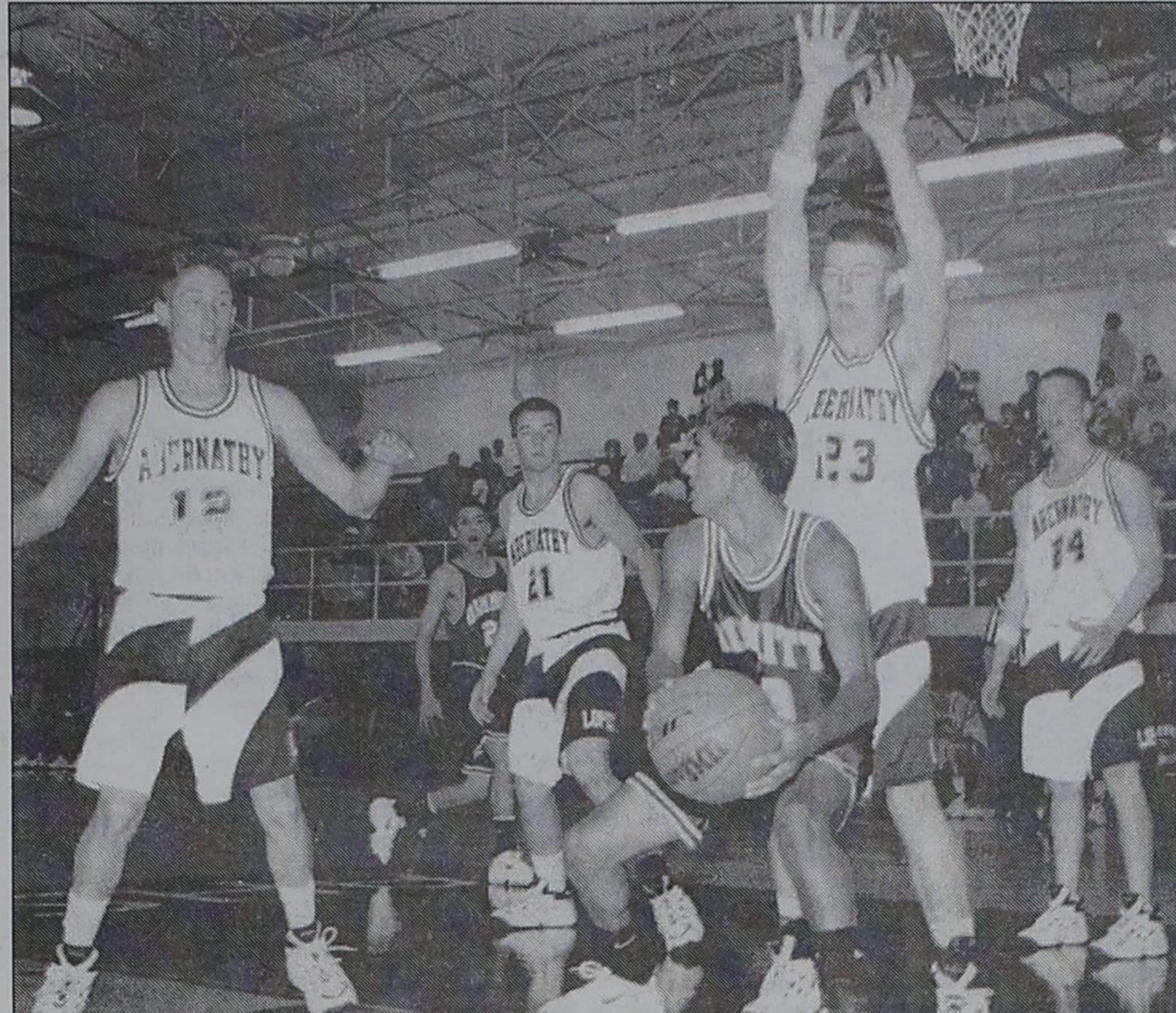
Applications for a place on the Republican Primary ballot may be filed with Deanne Clark through Jan. 2. Clark said that during the Christmas holidays another individual may be designated to receive the applications. Applicants may check at the courthouse for notification.

An individual who signs a petition for a party candidate may only vote in the party primary of that candidate. Also, signees may only sign a petition for a single individual in any particular race.

For example, if an person signs a candidate filing petition for a Democratic candidate running for county judge, then that person would be obligated to vote in the Democratic primary and could not sign the petition for any other candidate running for county judge.

The periodical variety of cicada take 13 to 17 years to develop but then live only a few weeks. They are also called 17-year locusts.

Delaware was the last state in which physical beatings were a legal form of punishment for crimes. The state prohibited the practice in 1972.



TRAPPED—Dimmitt's Derek Buckley looks for help as he is surrounded by Abernathy players in the Bobcat-Antelope game Friday night at Abernathy.

The Bobcats roared to a 17-3 lead in the first quarter, then won it in a walk, 89-34, with Buckley contributing eight points.

Photo by Carter Townsend

Cats corral Herd with free throws

The Bobcats collected 27 points from the free-throw line—including 12 in the last three minutes—to outlast the Hereford Whitefaces for an eight-point win, 64-56, in Cleveland Gym Tuesday night.

Just as they had done at Borger the week before, the Bobcats connected on 77% of their free throws—27 of 35—off of 26 Hereford fouls to ice the win.

The Whitefaces, meanwhile, made 10 of 16 free throws (62 1/2%) off of 20 Dimmitt fouls.

Jerry Thomas turned in a stellar performance at post on both offense and defense, leading the Bobcats with 20 points. Casey Smith scored 15, including a pair of treys and seven free throws.

Hereford post Bryant McNutt led all scorers with 24 points, while Cody Hodges notched 10 for the Herd.

The game was close all the way, with Dimmitt leading 18-15 after one

quarter and 30-27 at halftime. The score was tied at 41-41 going into the fourth.

The lead changed hands five times and the score was tied seven times as the two teams matched furious defenses—Dimmitt in its zone and Hereford in its man-to-man. Both teams played full-court defense most of the first half, but switched to half-court and more deliberate offense in the second half.

The game got rough in the final minutes as Hereford went back to a full-court press and started fouling deliberately in an attempt to catch up.

But after Jacob Larra gave the Bobcats a 56-51 lead on a put-back basket and a pair of free throws with 1:09 remaining, the Bobcats sank eight more free throws down the stretch off of the two-shot fouls while holding the Herd to a trey by McNutt and a pair of free throws by Mitch Wagner.

In the varsity girls' game, the Lady Whitefaces—who had defeated the Bobcats by just four points in the Frenship Turkey Classic last week—exploded for 21 points in the second quarter and 21 more in the fourth to coast to a 60-42 victory.

Hereford's tight man-to-man defense gave Dimmitt fits all night, although the Bobcats managed to outscore the Lady Whitefaces 6-5 in the first quarter and 17-12 in the third, closing Hereford's lead to nine points, 39-30, going into the fourth.

Jacy Buckley and Amber Matthews led the Bobcats' scoring with eight points each. For the Lady Whitefaces, Julie Rampley scored 17 and Catie Betzen 13.

Hereford also won the JV girls' game, 51-41.

Bobcats vault over Abernathy, 89-34

Dimmitt's defense held Abernathy to three first-quarter points and continued to dominate the Lopes throughout the game Friday as the Bobcats coasted to an 89-34 victory.

Abernathy couldn't handle Dimmitt's Casey Smith inside the paint or from three-point range. The senior exploded for 22 points to lead the Bobcats and nailed 60% of his shots from two-point range and 67% of his shots from long range.

In addition to Smith, two other Bobcats recorded double-figure scoring, including Charley Sanders, who finished with 18, and Jerry Thomas, who had 12. Every Bobcat stepped up Friday scored in the game.

Dimmitt jumped out to a big 17-3 lead in the first quarter, sparked by an eight-point performance by

Thomas. Abernathy's only points came on a three-pointer by Michael Leeson.

Dimmitt continued its domination of the Antelopes in the second quarter, outscoring Abernathy 20-11, using an explosive seven-point performance by Smith to pace the run.

Dimmitt extended its lead in the second half, and capped the scoring frenzy with a 36-point fourth quarter for the 89-34 win.

The Bobcats shot 56% overall and were 60% accurate from two-point range. Dimmitt made 59% of its free throws.

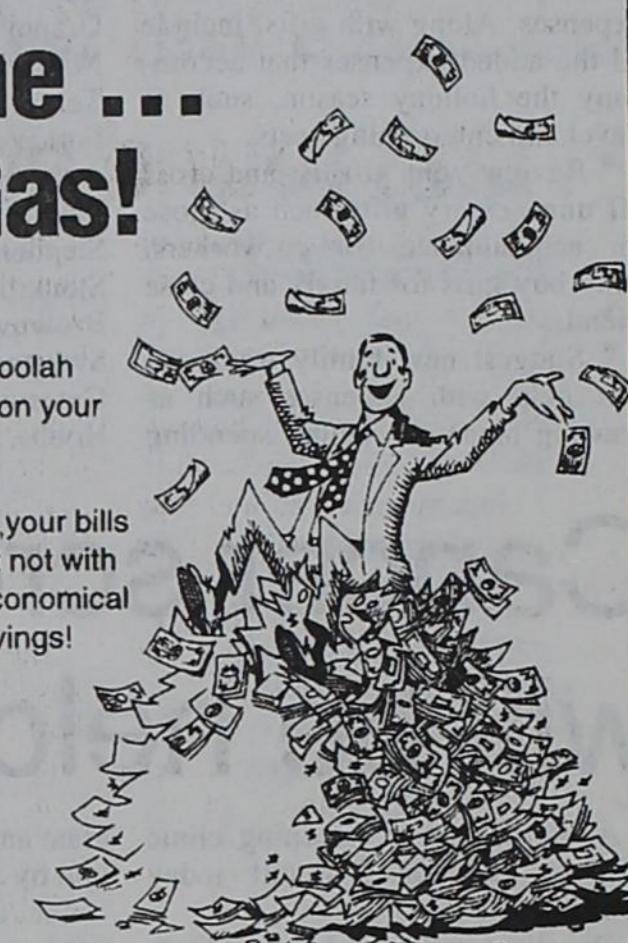
Dimmitt recorded 40 rebounds in the game, with Thomas leading the way with 10.

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The 65th Annual Meeting
of the Stockholders of
Dimmitt
Consumers
will be held at the
DIMMITT CITY HALL
MEETING ROOM
Thursday, Dec. 18
at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear the audit report, elect two board directors, and transact any business that may come before the board. Door prizes will be awarded.

PLEASE TRY TO COME

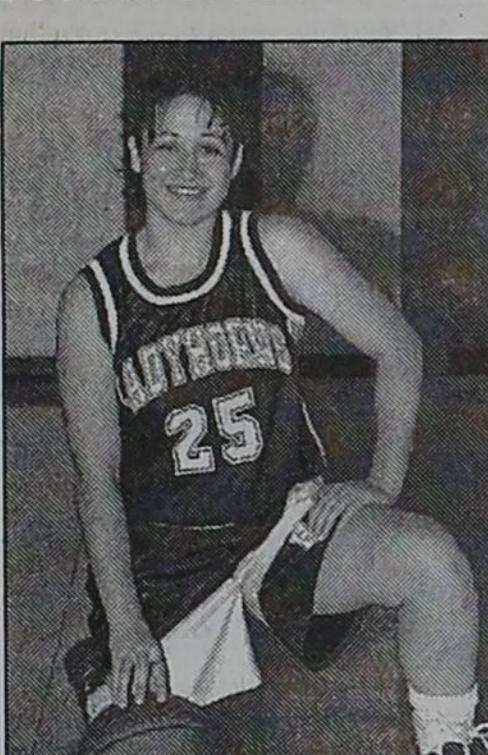
Dimmitt

Consumers, Inc.

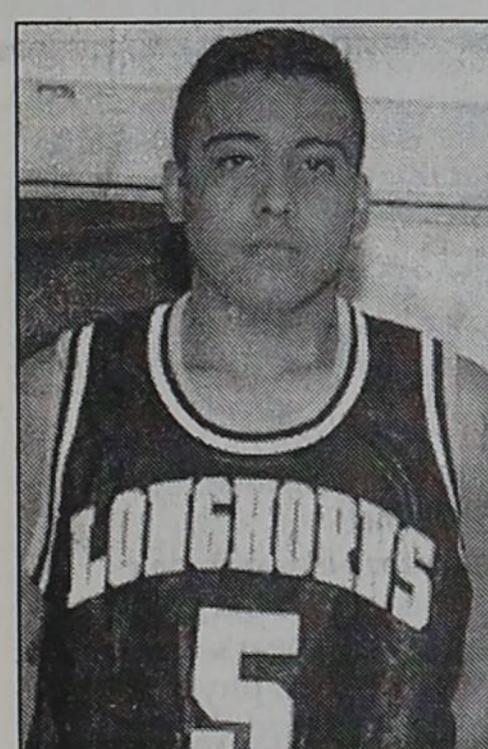
Danny Rice, Manager

217 E. Bedford

647-4134



SELINA CARRASCO
Senior Wing



RUDOLPHO GONZALES
Senior Guard

We're proud of our Ladyhorns and Longhorns!

**Good Luck,
LADYHORNS
and
LONGHORNS
in the
Friona
Tournament!**

FIRST GAME: Longhorns vs. Friona,
Thursday, 11:30 a.m.

FIRST GAME: Ladyhorns vs. Floyd,
Thursday, 1 p.m.



TUESDAY: Ladyhorns and
Longhorns vs. Crosbyton, There

Bennett Grain & Fertilizer

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Castro County News

Dimmitt Market/Dimmitt Thriftway

First United Bank of Dimmitt

Hart Auto & Farm Supply

Hart Booster Club

Hart Producers Co-op Gin

Hi-Plains Irrigation, Olton

Kittrell Electronics

Castro County Hospital District

Pay and Save Foods

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Texas Equipment Co.

Wilbur-Ellis Tide Division

Consumer Credit Counseling offers tips to prevent overspending

The day after Thanksgiving is the busiest shopping day of the year, and if consumers fail to plan for their expenses, many will find themselves in financial trouble with overspending during the holiday season.

With five weeks left before Christmas, Consumer Credit Counseling Service warns consumers it's still not too late to prepare a holiday spending plan.

"It is easy to get caught up in pre-holiday sales and incentives; however, if consumers establish strict guidelines for shopping and other expenses, the end result will be a more enjoyable holiday season, free from the worries of credit and debt problems due to overspending," according to Marianne Gray, president of Consumer Credit Counseling Service.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service offers the following tips for surviving the holidays debt-free:

- Prepare a list of all your holiday expenses. Along with gifts, include all the added expenses that accompany the holiday season, such as travel and entertaining costs.
- Review your gift list and cross off unnecessary gifts such as those for acquaintances or co-workers. Only buy gifts for family and close friends.
- Suggest new family traditions that help with expenses such as drawing names or setting spending limits.

limits. Don't spend more than you've allotted each person on your list.

• There's still time to take advantage of lay-away programs. Pay for your gifts with cash and avoid using credit if possible.

• When using deferred billing plans, begin putting funds aside immediately to avoid any interest charges when the bill comes due next year.

• If you must use credit, use only those cards or accounts with the lowest interest rates and most advantageous re-payment plans.

• Once you've purchased items for everyone on your list, STOP SHOPPING.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service is a non-profit community service organization that provides professional counseling and guidance to financially troubled consumers.

Headquartered in Fort Worth, it has branch offices in Abilene, Grapevine, Killeen, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, San Angelo, Temple, Waco and throughout the Fort Worth area. It also has offices in Azle, Big Spring, Brady, Cleburne, Lampasas, Mansfield, Mineral Wells, Stephenville, Weatherford, Fort Stockton, Plainview, Granbury, Brownwood, Hillsboro, Mexia, Sweetwater, Sonora, Burleson, Gatesville, Lamesa, Levelland and Hobbs, N.M.

Cancer screening will be held today

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held in Dimmitt today (Thursday).

The clinic will be at Medical Center of Dimmitt and will be conducted by the Women's Center of the Don and 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.

Cost for the screening is \$75 and a minimum of 15 women must be registered before the mobile mammography clinic will visit area towns.

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.

Classifieds get results!



GENEROUS DONATIONS by local businesses made it possible for a group from Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Dimmitt to attend the Texas Music Jubilee Nov. 22 at the Dimmitt High School auditorium. The program was sponsored by the Castro County

Sheriff's Dept. and Sheriff CD Fitzgerald. Although the turnout was less than expected, Fitzgerald said the program raised about \$2,000 for drug dog training and fighting the drug problem in Castro County.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Bailey Bazaar slated this weekend

The annual Bailey County Arts and Crafts Bazaar will be held Friday and Saturday in Muleshoe in the Bailey County Civic Center at 2200 W. American Blvd.

On Friday, booths will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and on Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. There is no admission charge.

In addition to the booths, there will be some special program presenta-

tions.

On Friday, programs will include: "Holiday Food Gifts and Holiday Meal Make Over" at 11 a.m., presented by Debbie Pollard and Vickie Villareal; "Microwave Magic" at 2 p.m., by Holly Bills; and "Candle Making" at 4 p.m., by Marilyn Neal, Castro County Extension Agent.

On Saturday, at 10 a.m. "Tree Skirts" will be presented by Gail Gladden; at 1 p.m. "Holiday Candy" by Gladden and Bills; and at 3 p.m., "Tree Ornaments" by Gladden.

The Bazaar is sponsored by the Moonlight Family and Community Education Club and the Texas Agricultural Extension office of Bailey County.

Entry forms are available at Hale County State Bank, Lowe's Pay and Save, City Hall or from any W.I.T.H. member. Entry fees and completed forms should be delivered to Aurelia Perez at Hale County State Bank.

Talent sought for benefit show

If you can sing, dance, play an instrument, make people laugh, sing, tumble, or have any other talent, you are invited to perform in a benefit talent show and dinner Feb. 1 at the Nazareth school cafeteria.

The meal will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will be followed by the talent show.

Proceeds from the show will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Entry fee is \$10 and those who wish to enter should contact Don Wood at 945-2231. Monetary awards will be given to winners of the talent competition.

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SATURDAY, DEC. 6
(Closed Sunday, Dec. 7)

&

MONDAY THRU SATURDAY, DEC. 8-13

Joe's Boot Shop
2nd annual!!

MULESHOE, TEXAS
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Across from McDonalds in Muleshoe, Texas

9 AM - 6 PM EACH DAY!

Tony Lama, Justin, Panhandle Slim, Larry Mahan

Prices from \$19 and none over \$99!

Stop at Joe's Boot Shop for Directions
(Across from the Mule in Muleshoe, Texas)

Hurry! Don't Wait
7 Days Only!
Must See To Believe!!!

Thousands of BELTS \$5 & \$10

Kyra-Make Rodeo JACKETS \$36

ONE BIG LOT! Your Choice

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Tony Lama Bullhide SUPER ROPERS

\$49

Bailey FELT HATS \$49

Langenburg & Bailey STRAW HATS \$19

Smooth Ostrich, Lizard, Snakeskin & Buckaroos BOOTS

\$79

Mulehide, Calf Skins, WORKBOOTS



When you need to see a doctor, see one of these health-care providers at the Medical Center of Dimmitt. From left are Dr. Gary R. Hardee, Dr. Leon Joplin, Family Nurse Practitioner Kim Sava, Dr. Bill D. Murphy and Dr. Dhiraj Patel. The Medical Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. You may "walk in" for care, or call 647-2194 for an appointment with a specific provider.

They Care for You.

The word "care" has many meanings. It has a special meaning for the health-care providers at the Medical Center of Dimmitt.

Care is what they provide, and care is what they feel for their patients.

We are very fortunate to have these dedicated health-care providers at the Medical Center: Dr. Gary R. Hardee, M.D.; Dr. Leon Joplin, D.O.; Dr. Bill D. Murphy, M.D.; Dr. Dhiraj Patel, M.D.; and Kim Sava, F.N.P.

The Medical Center of Dimmitt should be your "first stop" when you have a health problem. The Medical Center is a "primary" health-care clinic, and in 70% of the cases, primary care is what is needed. Our health-care providers concentrate on "family practice"—basically, diagnosis and treatment. If you need the services of a specialist, they will help you find one.

carefully, diagnosis and treatment. If you need the services of a specialist, they will help you find one.

The Medical Center also provides immunization shots, minor surgeries, pregnancy testing, Pap smears, obstetrical/gynecological services, physical exams, checkups, electrocardiograms, blood-pressure checks, routine lab tests, hormone injections, allergy injections . . . all the services that you go to the "doctor's office" to receive.

Also, we provide childbirth classes, periodic breast cancer screening, hearing tests and other special testing.

When you need to see a doctor, the Medical Center of Dimmitt is your local doctor's office.

Medical Center of Dimmitt

A Division of the Castro County Hospital District
"LOCAL PEOPLE CARING FOR LOCAL PEOPLE"

647-2194 • 112 W. Jones St., Dimmitt

Dimmitt Post Office extends holiday hours

As a special holiday season convenience for Dimmitt postal customers, the Dimmitt Post Office will extend its business hours for Saturdays in December beginning this week.

The post office will be open from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays during December, according to Postmaster Jay Lewter.

"The holidays are here, and we're here to help," said Lewter.

Lewter also noted that the Dimmitt Post Office will continue to provide its other convenient services to assist customers, such as Stamps by Mail, Stamps by Phone (1-800-STAMP24), and Priority Mail and Express Mail services.

W.I.T.H. group sponsors home decorating event

The W.I.T.H. Association in Hart will sponsor a holiday home decorating contest in Hart and each home entering the contest will be charged a \$15 entry fee.

Deadline to enter your home in the contest is Dec. 12.

Hart residents will vote by secret ballot Dec. 15 through Dec. 19 and the winner will be announced in the Christmas edition of *The Hart Beat*. The winner will receive a yard decoration.

Entry forms are available at Hale County State Bank, Lowe's Pay and Save, City Hall or from any W.I.T.H. member. Entry fees and completed forms should be delivered to Aurelia Perez at Hale County State Bank.

Obituaries

Dixie Bradley

Dixie Bradley, 97, of Dimmitt, died at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 24 at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Dimmitt after a lengthy illness.

Services were held Nov. 26 at the Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ in Dimmitt with Dean Wise man, minister, officiating. Burial followed at Castro Memorial Gardens under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Bradley was born June 12, 1900, in Okfaha, Okla. She graduated from Olustee High School in Oklahoma. She married Gordon Bradley in Quanah on Dec. 24, 1919. They moved from Olustee to a farm in Sunnyside in 1925. She belonged to the Home Demonstration Club and enjoyed quilting, canning and sewing.

She moved to Melrose, N.M. in January 1942, then to Tucumcari, N.M. in 1954. She owned and operated Tucumcari Motel from 1954-1973. She was a member of the Tucumcari Senior Citizens in New Mexico and had been a member of Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ in Dimmitt for 68 years. She had been a resident of Canterbury Villa for 12 years.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1973; a son, Weldon, in 1993; and by a grandson, David Bradley, in 1996.

Survivors include three sons and daughters-in-law, Dent and Bessie Mae Bradley of Dimmitt, Harold and Gervadine Bradley and Keith and Faith Bradley, all of West Fork, Ark.; two daughters and sons-in-law, Anna D. and Al Gibbs of Dimmitt and Emma Lou and Odus Hastings of Fruita, Colo.; a daughter-in-law, Irene Bradley of Dimmitt; a sister, Pauline Allredge of Bullard; 18 grandchildren; 47 great-grandchildren; and 36 great-great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to a favorite charity.

Wayne Broadstreet

Memorial services for Wayne Allen Broadstreet, 34, of Amarillo and formerly of Dimmitt, were held the afternoon of Nov. 23 at the First Assembly of God Church in Dimmitt, with Rev. Larry Gilliam, pastor, officiating.

Graveside services were held Nov. 24 at Llano Cemetery in Amarillo under direction of Memorial Park Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mr. Broadstreet died Nov. 19 in Amarillo.

He was born and raised in Dimmitt and moved to Amarillo in 1996. He was a restaurant worker.

Survivors include two sisters, Valerie Cooksey of Dimmitt and Elaine Broadstreet of Amarillo; his parents, Gene W. Broadstreet and Ruby J. Gowdy, both of Dimmitt; two nephews; and numerous friends and family members.

The family suggests memorials to the Baptist/St. Anthony's Hospice in Amarillo.

Lena Mae Crum

Graveside services for Lena Mae Crum, 92, of Dimmitt, were held Wednesday afternoon at Castro Memorial Gardens in Dimmitt with Rev.

Foskey, Lilley, McGill Funeral Home

647-5171
208 W. Halsell, Dimmitt



- Complete pre-need funeral arrangements.
- Cemetery monuments and markers.
- Complete burial and funeral insurance.
- All out-of-town funeral and burial insurance honored.

Dedicated To Service

Rusty Dickerson officiating.

The family received visitors at Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home in Dimmitt on Wednesday, and local arrangements were handled by the home.

Mrs. Crum died Saturday at her son's residence in Brownsville.

She was born Jan. 4, 1905, in Snyder, and she moved to Dumas when she was 8. She lived there until 1927, when she married H.L. Crum and moved to Dimmitt. He died on Feb. 2, 1978.

Survivors include a son, Leon Crum of Brownsville; four grandchildren, Kevin Crum of Brownsville, Tonya Wyatt of Atlanta, Ga., Barry Crum of Dallas and Scot Louis Crum of Brownsville.

Pallbearers were family members. The family requests memorials be to American Cancer Society.

Vernon Harman Sr.

Funeral services for Vernon Henry Harman Sr., 89, of Canyon, were held Monday afternoon in University Church of Christ in Canyon with David Lough, minister, and Bob Shepherd officiating.

Burial was in Rose Hill Cemetery at Tulia by Holley Funeral Home Inc. of Canyon.

Mr. Harman died Nov. 30.

He was born in Hiawatha, Kan., and was a longtime area businessman and civic leader. He attended Union Hill High School in Swisher County from 1921 to 1925, and graduated from West Texas State Teacher's College in 1929. He received a doctor of laws degree in 1988 from Lubbock Christian University. He was a former principal and teacher in various high schools in the Panhandle area, and had been a partner for 31 years in Harman-Tolles Elevator Co. at Arney, Happy, Tulia and Wayside from 1938-1969. He was involved in farming and was a co-owner of Swisher County Cattle Co. and Texas Tops Inc.

He married Mary McGlaun in 1930. She died in 1991. Mr. Harman was a member and elder of Happy Church of Christ and later of University Church of Christ at Canyon. He was a member of the Lions Club, with 55 years perfect attendance, and was a Mason. He was a founder of Opportunity Plan Inc. of Canyon and served on several boards and associations.

He is survived by two sons, V.H. Harman Jr. of Tulia and Rickey L. Harman of Lubbock; a brother, Otis of Tulia; two sisters, Mary Elliff of Tulia and Dorothy Donaldson of Farwell; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to WTAMU Opportunity Plan, Lubbock Christian University, or a favorite charity.

Clarence Nelson

Clarence L. Nelson, 84, of Dimmitt, died at 4:06 a.m. on Nov. 26 at his home after a brief illness.

Services were held Friday afternoon at Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ in Dimmitt with Harry Riggs, Ronnie Parker and King Burney officiating. Burial followed at Westlawn Memorial Park under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mr. Nelson was born Sept. 15, 1913, in Alexander City, Ala. He

married Opal Bordofskie on Feb. 17, 1934, in Altus, Okla. He lived in Abernathy from 1949 to 1970. He moved to Dimmitt in 1980 from Guymon, Okla. He was a past member and president of the Abernathy School Board, and was a past elder of the Church of Christ of Abernathy. He was a Sunday School teacher. He was a member of the Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Shirley Kent, in 1979. Survivors include his wife; his father, Paul Sawyer of Snyder; a daughter, Holly Jo Sawyer of Snyder; three sons, Tommy Sawyer of Beaumont, Travis Sawyer Jr. of Childress, and Clint Sawyer of Snyder; three sisters, Janice Cates of Midland, Dorothy Fay Newton of Odessa, and Kay Wardlaw of Canyon; two brothers, Douglas Sawyer of Snyder and James Sawyer of Kerrville; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Dan Nelson and Corky Nelson, both of Dimmitt, and Jim Nelson of Lubbock; a daughter, Earlene Myatt of Dimmitt; a brother, Earl Nelson of Quanah; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Robert Nelson, Steve Myatt, Layne Myatt, Gregg Nelson, Michael Nelson and Barry Nelson.

Honorary pallbearers were Jessie Hutcheson, Rex Wooten, Zane Ellison, Carroll Webb, Ray Robertson, Bill Gregory, Gene Penny, Carlos Calvert, Winston Waggoner, John White, Lupe Murillo, Ray Hughes, Victor Saenz, Tony Gonzales, Johnny Gonzales, Gerald Thomas, Rene Villegas, Mike Odom, John Campos and Aaron Ray.

The family requests memorials be to Children's Home of Lubbock.

Travis Sawyer

Funeral services for Travis Wesley Sawyer, 58, of Snyder, the brother of former Dimmitt resident Kay Wardlaw, were held Tuesday morning at Bell-Cybert-Seale Chapel in Snyder with Rev. C.J. Smith officiating.

Burial was in the Snyder cemetery.

Mr. Sawyer died Nov. 29 at Cogdell Memorial Hospital.

He was born April 14, 1939, in Snyder. He married Billie Newham

on Dec. 21, 1958, in Snyder. He was a rancher and a US Army veteran. He worked in the oil industry in Alaska and helped build the trans-Alaska pipeline.

Survivors include his wife; his father, Paul Sawyer of Snyder; a daughter, Holly Jo Sawyer of Snyder; three sons, Tommy Sawyer of Beaumont, Travis Sawyer Jr. of Childress, and Clint Sawyer of Snyder; three sisters, Janice Cates of Midland, Dorothy Fay Newton of Odessa, and Kay Wardlaw of Canyon; two brothers, Douglas Sawyer of Snyder and James Sawyer of Kerrville; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife; his father, Paul Sawyer of Snyder; a daughter, Holly Jo Sawyer of Snyder; three sons, Tommy Sawyer of Beaumont, Travis Sawyer Jr. of Childress, and Clint Sawyer of Snyder; three sisters, Janice Cates of Midland, Dorothy Fay Newton of Odessa, and Kay Wardlaw of Canyon; two brothers, Douglas Sawyer of Snyder and James Sawyer of Kerrville; and a granddaughter.

Survivors include his wife; three sons, Dan Nelson and Corky Nelson, both of Dimmitt, and Jim Nelson of Lubbock; a daughter, Earlene Myatt of Dimmitt; a brother, Earl Nelson of Quanah; 11 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Robert Nelson, Steve Myatt, Layne Myatt, Gregg Nelson, Michael Nelson and Barry Nelson.

Honorary pallbearers were Jessie Hutcheson, Rex Wooten, Zane Ellison, Carroll Webb, Ray Robertson, Bill Gregory, Gene Penny, Carlos Calvert, Winston Waggoner, John White, Lupe Murillo, Ray Hughes, Victor Saenz, Tony Gonzales, Johnny Gonzales, Gerald Thomas, Rene Villegas, Mike Odom, John Campos and Aaron Ray.

The family requests memorials be to Children's Home of Lubbock.

She was born Sam A. Swopes on Oct. 17, 1928, in Olton. He died in October 1985.

She was a member of the Hart First Baptist Church and attended the Easter Sunday School Class. She and her late husband had farmed and raised sheep south of Hart until 1960, when they moved to Venita, Okla., and farmed. They moved back to Hart in 1985. She lived her life caring for others.

She was preceded in death by her husband; a son, Truman Swopes in 1975; a sister, Blanche McLain in 1963; and six brothers, Everett McLain, Ira McLain, Ewell McLain, John McLain, E.I. McLain and D.L. McLain.

Survivors include a daughter and

son-in-law, Louise and Cecil Ray Jones of Hart; two grandsons, Charles Jones of Houston and Dan Jones of Frisco; and two great-grandchildren, Hannah Jones and Sam Jones, both of Frisco.

Pallbearers were Arnold Gilcrease, Wayne Beavers, W.T. King, Bob Bowden, Larry Davis, Brad Barnes and Bob and Allen McLain.

The family requests memorials be to the Hart Fire Dept., PO Box 111, Hart 79043; or the Hart Cemetery Association, PO Box 174, Hart 79043.

Laurie J. Watts

Laurie J. Watts, 35, a lifetime resident of Dimmitt, died at 6:50 a.m. Saturday at Baptist-St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo after a lengthy illness.

Services were held Monday afternoon at the First Baptist Church in Dimmitt with Rev. Howard Rhodes, pastor, and Rev. Paul Kenley, former pastor, officiating. Burial followed in Castro Memorial Gardens under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Watts was born Oct. 26, 1962, in Dimmitt. She graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1981. She married Joe E. "Jody" Watts on July 1, 1983, in Dimmitt. She worked for Castro County in the county clerk's office and in the DPS office from 1983 to 1995. She was an active member of First Baptist Church and she taught Girls in Action.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Sue Ewing and Arlene Ewing.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Cassidy Watts and Catlin Watts, both of the home; two brothers, Edward Ewing of Dimmitt and H.N. Ewing of Amarillo; three sisters, Peggy Ehlly, June Ewing and Irene Miller, all of Dimmitt; her

parents, Arlon and Edna Ewing of Dimmitt; and seven nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Mike Odom, Emmett Heard, Dwayne Smith, Curtis Durbin, Coby Gilbreath and Jerry Vera.

Honorary pallbearers were members of the Adult II Sunday School Class.

The family requests memorials be to the Cassidy and Catlin Watts Education Fund in care of the Hereford Federal Credit Union, 212 West Bedford, Dimmitt 79027.

You can buy The Castro County News

at the following locations:

The 19th Hole, Nazareth
Coleman Pharmacy
Dimmitt Market
Dimmitt Thriftway

Fast Stop

Lockhart Pharmacy
McLain's Corner, Hart

Naz Stop, Nazareth

The Pancake House
Pay & Save Food, Hart

Red X Travel Center

Richard's Town Pump

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HOLIDAY SAVINGS on great stocking stuffers from The Shack®



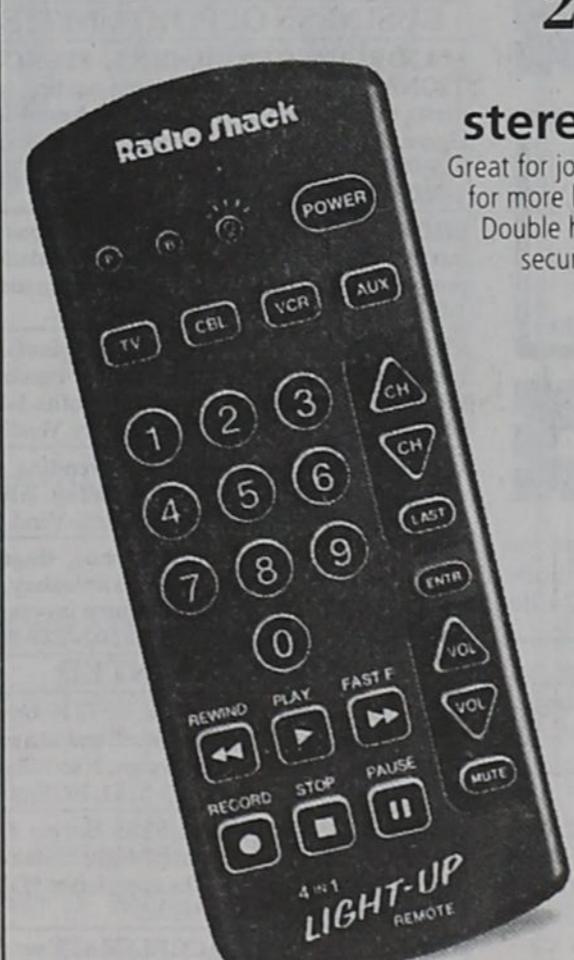
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Digital coding provides call security.
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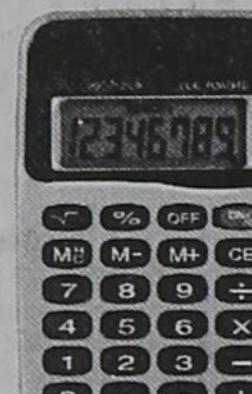
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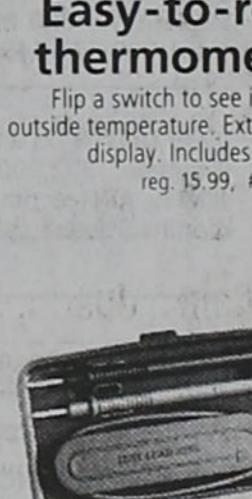
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Large illuminated buttons for channel surfing in the
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component. Easy to set up.
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4.99
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Compact calc
with big display

Easy to read and fits in your pocket!
3-key memory, square root and
percent keys. Dual powered.
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17.99
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Pocket digital
multimeter



Check audio and AC cords, fuses,
outlets, and switches. Measures
AC/DC volts and resistance.
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Cordless pencil
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You've got questions. We've got answers.®

Sale prices good through 12/24/97. Prices apply at participating RadioShack stores and dealers. Items not available at a participating store can be special-ordered (subject to availability) at the advertised price. A participating store will offer a comparable value if the product is sold out. Independent RadioShack dealers and franchisees may not be participating in this ad or stock or special-order every item advertised.

Classified Advertising

Buy, Sell or Trade



1—Real Estate Homes & Land

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.

GREAT BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY! Ruskin Swim Club completely equipped. Lots of possibilities. \$75,000.

OVER 2,000 SQUARE FEET, two living areas, fireplace, large bedrooms, well located. \$95,000.

NAZARETH—Three bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, good location. Lots of possibilities. \$37,500.

EARTH off Highway 70 on five lots. Three large bedrooms, two baths, large living area with fireplace, sunroom and wet bar. \$55,000.

MUST SEE! Well located, three bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, large living with fireplace. \$55,000.

EDGE OF CITY—Three bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, two car garage, living with fireplace, built-ins. New on market! \$55,000.

GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD. Three bedrooms, 1-3/4 baths, hardwood floors. Ready for new owner. \$49,000.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath on corner lot by golf course. Two living areas and fireplace. \$75,000.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath on Pine, Greenwood and storage. \$55,000.

LARGE HOME at affordable price. Central heat and air, fireplace, large storage. \$33,500.

TWO LIVING AREAS, three bedrooms, two baths. Great price! \$45,000.

THREE BEDROOM, 1-1/2 bath brick on quiet street. Free standing fireplace. Large carport and yard. \$48,000.

THREE BEDROOMS, one bath, one car garage, storm windows. \$37,500.

FARMS
We always have good farm and ranch listings. Give us a call or stop by.

**GEORGE
REAL ESTATE**

S. Hwy 385 647-4174

Jimmie R. George, Broker
Mobile 647-7942

Mary Lou Schmucker..... 945-2679

OWNER READY TO DEAL! Good location, brick, three bedrooms, two baths and oversized garage. Central heat and air. Call 647-5523 after 6 p.m. 1-32-tfc

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 721 Cleveland. 2100 sq. ft. home, three bedrooms, two baths. Large living area, extra large garage. Newly remodeled. 806-257-3451, days; 806-647-2932, after 9. 1-27-tfc

3—Real Estate For Rent

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

MORRIS REAL ESTATE

C.W. George, Broker

THREE BEDROOMS, one bath, laundry room, carport, storage building. \$30,000.

WEST HWY 86, 2515 sq. ft., three bedrooms, two baths, extra large living area and kitchen, fireplace, two-car garage. \$131,500.

PINE STREET, extra large living area with fireplace, three bedrooms, two baths, one-car garage. \$71,500.

WEST OF DIMMITT. Five bedrooms, three full baths, basement, extra large 2-car garage, large kitchen with lots of storage, brick. \$140,000.

THREE BEDROOM, one bath, central heat and air, large lot. Great starter house. \$40,000.

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

GRANT STREET, three bedrooms, two baths, one car garage, corner lot, storage building, large kitchen. \$60,000.

MAPLE STREET, 3,700 sq. ft., three bedrooms, two full baths, two half baths, one 3/4 bath, two-car garage, fireplace, finished basement with fireplace, bar, dishwasher, bathroom, sprinkler system front and back. \$175,000.

THREE BEDROOMS, two full baths, two-car garage, central heat and air, fence, corner lot. \$60,000.

SUNSET CIRCLE, three bedrooms, two baths, large living area, fireplace, two-car garage. \$75,000.

FARMS

80 ACRES between Nazareth and Hart. Comes out of CRP in October. \$300 per acre.

330 ACRES west of Dimmitt, 12 tower Valley nozzled at 650 with 60° spacings, two wells. \$550/acre.

615+ ACRES west of Dimmitt on Highway 86, five wells—two gas and three electric. Highway on two sides. \$550/acre.

300 ACRES close to town, three wells, one quarter mile pivot, perfect cattle farm. \$425/acre.

160 ACRES in the Sunnyside area, sprinkler, good water. \$850/acre.

We still have several tracts between Dimmitt and Nazareth. Please call for terms.

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

SCOTT MORRIS
112 W. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-3734, Office
647-3686, Night 647-9325, Mobile

\$499 DOWN on all single-wide homes. Example: \$21,900, 3 bed, 2 bath with \$499 down at 10.5% APR = pmts of \$202.06 for 300 months. O.A.C. Please call 1-800-372-1491. 1-30-tfc

\$999 DOWN on all double wides. O.A.C. Example: \$32,900 with \$999 down at 10.5% APR = pmts of \$291.81 for 360 months. Please call 1-800-372-1491. 1-30-tfc

14 X 70 3 bedroom, 2 bath, \$3,500 cash. Please call 1-800-372-1491. 1-30-tfc

TWO-STORY HOUSE for sale to be moved, Nazareth area. Call Larry at (806) 655-2165. 1-35-3tc

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

FOR SALE: WELL ESTABLISHED AUTO REPAIR BUSINESS, complete with all equipment and parts inventory. 3,200 square foot building in a very good location on three lots. \$90,000.

THREE BEDROOM, two bath home on Oak Street. New carpet, new paint, large storage house.

TWO BEDROOMS, one bath, large living area, storage house. Priced to sell on Grant Street.

Let us help you with all your real estate needs.

GREGORY REAL ESTATE

BILL GREGORY, Broker

Phone 647-5421

NEW ON MARKET—3 bedroom brick, 1014 W. Grant. Large open living and kitchen areas. For more information, call 647-2147. 1-35-tfc

2—Farms For Sale

PLEASE CALL

if you need a nice home for your family or a son or daughter and their family, together with a good set of feedpens fully equipped with covered working area, truck/cattle scale, concrete bunks, office, large commodity barn, on pavement.

WE HAVE other farms and ranches in Texas and N.M.

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day or night.

3—Real Estate For Rent

THREE BEDROOM, two bath house for rent. Carla, 647-3399; or 915-267-4279. 3-32-tfc

300 ACRES close to town, three wells, one quarter mile pivot, perfect cattle farm. \$425/acre.

160 ACRES in the Sunnyside area, sprinkler, good water. \$850/acre.

We still have several tracts between Dimmitt and Nazareth. Please call for terms.

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

Stafford Apartments
One, two and three bedroom apartments. Call for availability. Call 647-2631 or 647-3696 evenings.

**DIMMITT
SENIOR CITIZENS
APARTMENTS**
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ONE AND TWO BEDROOM
APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Call 647-2638
S&S Properties

5—For Rent, Misc.

RENT TO OWN NEW TVs, VCR'S & APPLIANCES No credit checks.

KITRELL ELECTRONICS
647-2197

6—For Sale, Misc.

IBM COMPUTERS with color monitors for sale: 386, \$200; 486, \$400. (806) 355-8011 after 6 p.m. 6-34-tfc

CONSOLE/SPINET PIANO for sale. Take on small payments. See locally. 1-800-343-6494. 6-35-1tfc

IF YOUR CARPET is stain resistant, then you need HOST, the Dry Extraction Carpet Cleaning System. Don't void your carpet's warranty with improper cleaning. Some methods can actually destroy your carpet's protective coating. But the makers of StainMaster, Wear-Dated and Worry-Free carpet say the HOST System won't void their warranties. HOST was rated #1 by a leading consumer magazine. Available at Higginbotham-Bartlett Co., 109 N. Broadway, Dimmitt, 647-3161. 6-35-1tfc

10—Agricultural Services

WILHELM CUSTOM FARMING: Lavern, 945-2518; Henry, 647-5425. Subsoil and conventional plowing. 10-51-tfc

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. 10-4-tfc

ROUND BAILE HAULING: Donald Shelton, 647-3558, 647-7568, mobile. 10-31-tfc

CUSTOM SWATHING and baling. David Schulte, 1-806-965-2489 or 647-7740. 10-19-24tp

13—Livestock, Pets

FREE PUPS: Five males, eight weeks old. Mother, German Shepard, father, lab. On their way to the dog pound, please come get yours as soon as possible. Come by 707 W. Etter or call 647-2055. 13-35-1tfc

13-35-1tfc

14-35-2tfc

14-35-3tfc

14-35-4tfc

14-35-5tfc

14-35-6tfc

14-35-7tfc

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14-35-29tfc

14-35-30tfc

14-35-31tfc

14-35-32tfc

14-35-33tfc

14-35-34tfc

1

24—Card of Thanks

24—Card of Thanks

To thank you
for your kindness and sympathy
at a time when it was
deeply appreciated

Ab and Dorothy Jackson

CARD OF THANKS
Our family would like to express our appreciation to you. Acts of love were expressed in so many ways, and we thank you so very much.

THE JANELLE HAYDON FAMILY
24-35-1tp

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Clarence Nelson expresses their appreciation for the kind words and deeds of sympathy during the illness and death of their husband and father.

Thank you for the visits, the calls, the flowers and food, for every action of love and kindness that helped make this time a little easier.

OAL NELSON
DAN & HAZEL NELSON
CORKY & VIRGINIA NELSON
JIM & SHARON NELSON
J.H. & EARLINE NELSON
and the GRANDCHILDREN
24-35-1tc

CARD OF THANKS
We would like to say thanks to everyone in this great community of ours, for all the prayers, thoughts and expressions of sympathy shown to us during the loss of our loved one.

GENE BROADSTREET FAMILY
24-35-1tp

22—Notices

NOTICE
The Nazareth Independent School District Board of Education will hold a public hearing Dec. 10, 1997, at 7 p.m. for the purpose of informing the parents and public of the 1996-97 Academic Excellence Indicator System Report as prepared by the Texas Education Agency.

22-35-1tc

Classifieds get results!

25—Legal Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
The Castro County Sheriff's Office will conduct a public auction of seized motor vehicles on Dec. 15, 1997, at 10 a.m. in the front foyer of the Castro County Courthouse in Dimmitt, Texas.

The following motor vehicles will be sold at public auction:

1982 Toyota 2-door passenger car, VIN/JT2RA64L4C6054133, 98 Texas LIC/BDS55D.

1993 Chevrolet Pickup, VIN/2GCEK19K9P1188297, 98 Texas LIC/DH8715.

1983 Oldsmobile 2-door passenger car, VIN/1G3AM47A8DM301225, 94 Texas LIC/BBX84L.

1984 Ford 2-door passenger car, VIN/1FABP0542EW107335, 92 Texas LIC/FYT74H.

Persons wishing to inspect these vehicles before the day of the public auction may contact Sheriff CD Fitzgearld at the Castro County Sheriff's Office at (806) 647-3311.

CD FITZGEARLD, Sheriff
Castro County, Texas

By: JERRY W. JANSA, Deputy
14-35-2tc

LEGAL NOTICE

The Castro County Commissioners Court is now accepting bids on the following:

Proposal #1: To trade one (1) used 1988 model 770b John Deere motor grader for one (1) new tandem-powered motor grader.

Bid specifications may be picked up at the County Judge's Office, Courthouse, Dimmitt, Texas. Bids will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, 1997. Bids will be opened on Monday, Dec. 8, 1997, at 10 a.m.

Castro County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the right to waive formalities.

IRENE MILLER, COUNTY JUDGE
25-34-2tc

LOTS OF MUSIC was provided by the Texas Music Jubilee in Dimmitt Nov. 22, sponsored by the Castro County Sheriff's Dept. and Sheriff CD Fitzgearld. Groups performing included Cody Dillenger and the Tule Creek Country Boys, the bluegrass-gospel group

"Now and Again," and the Top of Texas Cloggers. Other performers included Jeanette Lunsford and Lindsey Delk. Attendance was less than expected, but community support was very good, according to Fitzgearld.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

More about**'Roadside' to go by the wayside . . .**

(Continued from Page 1)

granted some temporary waivers in some areas, but once a closing is ordered, all waivers would be void. He said a small county south of here had its jail shut down. He said they were told, "You're closed. Get them all out by 5 p.m. today." From that point, the county would have to farm out all its prisoners until the jail could be brought up to standards.

Fitzgearld

told the council that the county jail is frequently overcrowded. With a rated capacity of 18 prisoners, the jail has held as many as 34, according to Fitzgearld. He said it costs the county as much as \$45 to \$55 per day to "farm out" prisoners to other area jails, although the county sends the overflow to Muleshoe as much as possible. The county has an agreement with the sheriff of Bailey County to house each other's overflow when possible at a rate of \$20 per day.

McDonough said that law enforcement personnel just wait and hope that some cases will go to court and allow disposition of the prisoners, and in some cases, arrests are delayed until there is jail space available.

The city contracts with the county to house city prisoners, paying a portion of a dispatcher's salary in exchange for jail space.

Council member Lyman Schroeder asked whether there were more problems at Roadside than at any other

place in the city, and Fitzgearld replied, "Yes." He said that the second most problematic single location would be the Azteca housing complex.

Schroeder agreed to go with Fitzgearld to view the law enforcement center at Levelland, which houses the Police Dept., Sheriff's Dept. and jail there.

Council members inquired about possible outside funding for a facility, but the sheriff said a representative of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission told him it would be unlikely.

City Attorney Jack Edwards said that closing Roadside will not solve the youth problem, but merely relocate it.

Fitzgearld said he had talked with representatives of the Texas Dept. of Highways and Public Transportation, and only one person was against closing Roadside. Speaking against it was an out-of-town engineer.

Fitzgearld said the area is practically unusable by travelers due to its usual occupation by the youth. Schroeder said he could see the need for the park if it were used appropriately and asked if any alternatives were discussed. Fitzgearld said the Tx DOT said they could install signs at the park directing travelers to the roadside park at Sunnyside.

Fitzgearld said he had spoken with Police Chief Ray Aleman and that he favored closing down Roadside. Aleman was not present for Monday

Chamber needs more land for pheasant season

Pheasant season officially opens on Dec. 13, and Bill Sava at the Chamber of Commerce is seeking landowners who are willing to allow hunters to use their land.

"We're getting quite a few calls each week for information on what we'll have going on through the season," said Sava. "So far, I have very little information for them. So, if you have land or if your group or organization is planning a meal, hunt or anything else that might encourage hunters to spend a little time or a few dollars here, call me at the Chamber."

The verse, "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star," was written by two English sisters Ann and Jane Taylor in 1804.

**Even Santa Needs New Ideas**

Christmas is just around the corner and even old Saint Nick is running out of last-minute gift ideas!

Year after year, he vows to plan ahead--and year after year, the Castro County News comes to the rescue with great gift ideas from convenient local stores.

One good gift that keeps giving all year long is a subscription to the News. Just call us at 647-3123, and we'll send a gift subscription card in your name to that special person on your list. The cost is just \$20.00 for a year--and that's something to ho-ho-ho about!

The Castro County News

647-3123 • 108 W. Bedford, P.O. Box 67, Dimmitt, TX 79027

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BLUE BUNNY ALL FLAVORS Ice Cream	1/2 GAL. 2 FOR \$5.00
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BUY A 44 OZ. PLASTIC HONCHO DRINK AT REGULAR PRICE, & GET A BEAUTIFUL COCA-COLA Collectors Ornament (REG. \$7.99 VALUE)	\$2.99 FOR ONLY \$1.49

Pepsi-Cola

12 OZ. CANS 6 PACK	3 LITER
\$1.49	\$1.69

COMBO MEAL DEAL

BREAKFAST COMBO

Allsup's Chimichanga or Beef & Salsa Burrito & a Tallsup	\$1.69
Allsup's Breakfast Burrito, Hash Brown & 22 oz. Fountain Drink or 16 oz. Coffee	\$1.69

SPAM	SUNNY COOKIES	PAPER TOWELS	SHURFINE BLEACH
\$2.39	2/\$1	2/\$1	\$1.39
<small>12 OZ. CAN</small>	<small>5 OZ. PKG.</small>	<small>VALLEY FAIR</small>	<small>GALLON</small>

CHECK YOUR FRIENDLY ALLSUP'S STORE FOR ADDITIONAL MARKDOWN SPECIALS!

PRICES EFFECTIVE DEC. 4-Dec. 10 • OFFER GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES

647-5289 • 501 BEDFORD, DIMMITT

Hospital holding its own through extended services

As Home Health visits continue to increase, the number of acute-care admissions to Plains Memorial Hospital continues to drop.

Hospital District CEO Joe Sloan presented reports to the hospital board at its Nov. 25 meeting that compared activity figures of October 1996 with those of October '95.

Fifty-two patients were admitted to Plains Memorial for acute care in October '96, but only 22 during October '97. The average daily census of acute-care patients dropped from 4.59 last year to 1.94 this year.

However, the hospital is bridging the difference with its extended services. The report showed that the month's admissions to the hospital's skilled nursing program, hospice, extended care and Welch Home Place resulted in an average daily census of all patient types of 8.78 this October, compared with 8.42 last October.

Meanwhile, home care visits by the Home Health Agency numbered 2,177 this October, compared with 1,584 last October.

The Physical Therapy department almost doubled its number of treatments over the same period last year, with 239 this October compared with 123 last October. For the fiscal year to date, the PT department has provided 1,612 treatments vs. 761 by this time in fiscal 1996.

The board opted not to contract with Blue Cross/Blue Shield on Home Health services because, as Connie Wilhelm will instruct 4-H'ers in a pre-Christmas clothing workshop at 6:30 p.m. next Thursday, Dec. 11, at the Extension office. Under Wilhelm's supervision, 4-H'ers will make polar fleece mitten and headbands.

"This class is great for beginning sewers," said Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal.

Cost of materials will be \$2, and those planning to attend should call the Extension office at 647-4115 to register.

HIGH PLAINS

Ag REPORTER

Volume 1 Number 5 December 1997

A supplement to Canyon News, Plainview Daily Herald, Tulia Herald, Castro County News, Abernathy Weekly Review, Idalou Beacon

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Safety tips to keep your farming accident-free

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Excel beefpackers make move to better serve the customer

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COMING next month

Farm Show
Highlights from the Amarillo Farm & Ranch Show



A supplement to Canyon News, Plainview Daily Herald, Tulia Herald, Castro County News, Abernathy Weekly Review, Idalou Beacon

Hunting on the High Plains

A look at the economic and agricultural impacts

Earl Moseley

Ag Reporter correspondent

Hunters usually leave the Texas Panhandle area with game but replace it with money for local merchants.

Donnie Adams of the Canocita Ranch in the southeastern corner of Randall County, where various hunts are conducted, offers an example: "One group here from Illinois spent \$3,500 one afternoon at Boots & Jeans."

Area hunting interest list the purchase of food and lodging by visiting hunters in search of game, as economic assets for the cities and counties involved.

Randall County Agricultural Extension Agent Robert Devin says he does not have the figures in terms of dollars from hunters coming here, but admits, "it's important for some landowners."

In Adams' situation, his hunter clients have been upper, middle class or wealthy for the most part since he opened for business in October 1989.

During these years he has seen about 80 deer hunters, 12 here for turkey, 40 for Aoudad sheep, 200 for quail, and about 2,000 for pheasant.

The season for pheasant is 16 days beginning Dec. 13.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife calendar for 1997-98 lists hunting seasons for white-tailed and mule deer as Nov. 2-Dec. 7 for the Texas Panhandle in counties where it is permitted; quail statewide Nov. 1-Feb. 22; and turkey Nov. 1-Jan. 4 then April 4-May 10.

Adams reports the Aoudad sheep season has been extended year-around.

"A few years ago I raised my own birds (for hunting)," Adams says. "Now I buy them from a man at Dickens."

Rick Hales of Quality Hunters, located north of Dawn, expects 200 pheasant hunters this year for the season which covers three weekends.

"We apparently will have more



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

This mule deer is an example of the wildlife hunted in the Texas High Plains. Hunting has a tremendous impact on the local economy with the purchase of food and lodging.

people than ever this year, because we have seen more birds than ever," says Hales. "It looks like an excellent crop."

Not so last year, Hales recalls. Pheasant numbers then were well below the average.

"The increased number probably accounts for more hunters expected this year," he maintains.

Hales is in partnership with Jim Steiert of Hereford.

Wildlife-related pursuits are an under-appreciated growth industry in the Texas High Plains, according to Deaf Smith County Executive Vice-President Don Cumpton.

Hunting tops fishing in dollar amounts, he reports.

"Dollars spent on all hunting in the Ogallala Aquifer region of Texas in 1995 were estimated at \$100.2 million and for 1996 are

projected at \$103.2 million. Dollars projected to have been spent on fishing in 1995 in the same area were \$67 million and the projected value in 1996 is \$69 million.

"This dollar value ripples throughout the High Plains economy with significant impact," says Cumpton.

Based on 1985 data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that was adjusted for inflation in a 1989 report, hunters spent \$83.9 million in the Panhandle/High Plains region in 1989 on food, lodging, leases, equipment, and other trip-related expenses.

"Using a 3 percent inflation factor since 1989, the dollar value of hunter spending in the Ogallala region of Texas has steadily increased," Cumpton points out.

Hunter spending was \$86.4 million in 1990; \$89.4 million in 1991; \$91.7 million in 1992; \$94.4 million in 1993; \$97.3 million in 1994; and is projected at \$100.2 million for 1995; \$103.2 million in 1996; and \$106.3 million in 1997.

Hunters spent an average of \$832 each while pursuing their chosen game in 1989. In 1995, that figure was projected at \$993 each; the 1996 estimate is \$1,022; and the 1997 projected estimate is \$1,053.

Spending on fishing in the High Plains region was pegged at \$56.1 million in 1989. With the same 3-percent inflation factor, angler spending was estimated at \$57.8 million in 1990 and \$69 million in 1996.

Anglers spent an average \$736 each in 1989. That spending total increased by 1995 to a projected \$878. The average for 1996 is \$904.

"The economic impact of wildlife-related enterprises could be even more significant were wildlife opportunities in the Panhandle not limited

This dollar value ripples throughout the High Plains economy with significant im-

to sparse habitat," Cumpton says.

"One factor limiting economic impact is the extremely short duration of the highly-popular ringneck pheasant season in the Panhandle," he contends.

"While hunters throughout Texas and many other states come to this region in quest of good pheasant hunting, they have only 16 days to pursue this game bird."

Yet, Cumpton points out, in that brief span, they spend about \$7 million.

Other states with comparable pheasant populations have a 60 to 90 day season.

"Adverse weather during only one weekend of the Panhandle season can cripple the economic opportunity stemming from the hunting of this game bird," Cumpton says.

Another very important factor in the economic impact is weather, he maintains.

"If summer and fall rainfall is abundant, numerous playa lakes are

see Hunting on page 18

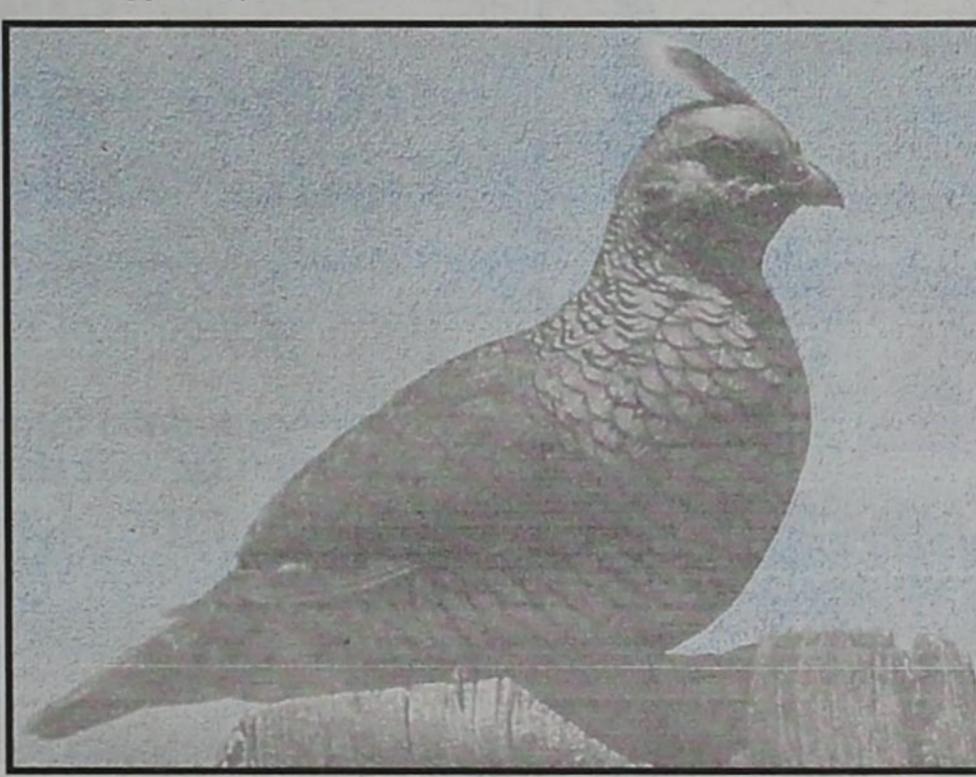


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE

Scaled quail are one of many birds found on the Texas High Plains.

CALENDAR

December 4**Wheat Producers meeting**

"Preparing for the 21st Century," Texas Wheat producers and New Mexico Wheat Growers combined annual meeting held at the Civic Center. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Grand Plaza Room. Programs will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

December 4-5**Livestock Convention**

Kansas Livestock Association Annual Convention in Wichita, Kan. Call 913-273-5115 for more information.

December 6**Christmas Parade**

Amarillo's Christmas spirit will shine a bit brighter during the 2nd annual Christmas in the City Electric Light Parade. The parade begins at 6 p.m. at 10th and Polk downtown and will continue down Polk to 2nd Avenue. All entries will be lighted with electric lights or anything that glows.

December 6**Super Bazaar**

Cannon Air Force Super Bazaar at Cannon AFB, outside Clovis, N.M. Housed in a huge hanger, the bazaar offers vendors selling arts and crafts, clothes, jewelry, antiques, furniture, cosmetics and more. Entertainment included. Free and open to the public. Call (505)784-2826 for more info.

December 9-11**Marketing for Profit**

Dec. 9 in Guymon, Okla., Dec. 10 in Clovis, N.M. and Dec. 11 in Hereford, a Marketing for Profit workshop will be held for sorghum growers. For more information, call (806)298-4501.

January 7**Irrigation Conference**

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is sponsoring an irrigation conference with a focus on ideas and technologies that guide irrigation decisions. Registration is at 8:30 a.m. and the opening session is at 9:30 a.m. The \$7 registration fee includes lunch. For more information, contact Leon New at (806)359-5401.

January 9**Ag Computer Workshop**

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is sponsoring this computer workshop in Spearman, as well as one Jan. 14 in Amarillo, Jan. 26 in Booker and Feb. 6 in Amarillo. Programs taught will be Quicken 6 and BUDPRO. For more information, call (806)359-5401.

January 17-18**Roping School**

Justin Hogue and Josh Crow will be hosting a roping school at the Double EE Arena in Amarillo. For more information or to register, call Hogue at 1-800-363-2808.

January 28-30**Women in Agriculture**

Business Management Program at Lubbock Holiday Inn Plaza in Lubbock. Also offered in College Station. For more information, call 409-845-7171.

February 4-7**Beef Convention**

1998 Convention of National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Denver. For more information, call 303-694-0305.



COURTESY PHOTO
Pictured are (l-r)
Gene Hansen,
service manager,
Valmont Irrigation;
Doug Dale,
territory manager,
Valmont Irrigation;
Don Mooring,
Brooke Pipe &
Supply of Hereford
and Rick Andrus,
parts manager,
Valmont Irrigation.

Hereford business wins service award

Valmont Irrigation has announced that Guy Brooke of Brooke Pipe & Supply in Hereford has earned the Parts and Service Quality Circle Award. The award was presented at the company's regional sales meeting in Omaha, Neb.

Jim Eiting, vice president of sales at Valmont Irrigation, says the award is based on customer satisfaction.

"Our customer surveys show that the quality of their dealer is one of the farmer's most important consid-

erations in the buying decision," he adds. "At our meeting, we

shared information on new remote control technology, 'smart computer' controls, advanced water conservation practices and other ways to increase profits for irrigators. The local dealer plays a critical role in bringing new ideas to market by delivering information, technology and service to the producer. That is why Valmont is dedicated to providing education programs for our Valley dealers and

why our dealers are the best in the business."

Valmont Irrigation is the world's leading manufacturer of mechanized irrigation equipment. For more than 40 years, Valley products have been enhancing food production while conserving and protecting natural resources. Valmont has sold over 100,000 Valley center pivots and linear machines worldwide, irrigating roughly 10 million acres in more than 90 countries.

Area conference to focus on irrigation

"Our goal is to give growers information they can use to make key decisions."

Leon New

tered lunch.

The opening session begins by 9:30 a.m. where speakers will address topics featuring irrigated soybean production and well and pump performance.

Other briefings will include pre-

cision production using yield monitors and site mapping.

An overview of the Texas Water Plan (with a review of S.B. 1) will be presented by C. E. Williams, manager of the Panhandle Ground Water District.

A panel that includes growers will discuss key "real world" issues involving precision production technology.

Continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to private, commercial and non-commercial chemical applicators completing the day's program.

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9"	-	7	-	1320'	=	112.00 Roll	12"	-	9	-	1320'	=	188.00 Roll
10"	-	7	-	1320'	=	119.00 Roll	12"	-	10	-	1320'	=	204.00 Roll
10"	-	9	-	1320'	=	152.00 Roll	15"	-	7	-	1320'	=	187.00 Roll
10"	-	10	-	1320'	=	167.00 Roll	15"	-	9	-	1320'	=	229.00 Roll

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15"	1500	1700

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1"	9
1 1/2"	21
2"	37

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OPINION-ISSUES

**Robert Lee**

LONGTIME RESIDENT FROM HAPPY

Happy Tales

Melton McGehee looks just like what he is. An old cowboy that has done well. He is able to reach back in his mind and bring forth memories of favorites horses from fifty and sixty years ago. A true lover of horseflesh, acquired from years in the saddle, his eyes show his delight as he tells about the horses of his youth.

The McGehee's broke their own horses. Melton said that back before they had any good horses, Miles has a two-year-old horse that needed breaking. One Sunday afternoon, they decided to ride him.

Melton said, "We snubbed him up to the saddle horn on another horse to keep him from bucking. After we saddled him up and was riding away from the barn, Miles just kept giving a little more slack. I told him to take him up a little because he's going to go a' bucking. Miles didn't do it. He just kept giving him a little more slack. In a little bit, the horse broke in two with me. Miles just threw that rope in the air. I tell you what. I went for the darest bronc ride you ever saw. He bucked out, went through a gate and bucked out in a field about fifty years. Had his head right down between his forelegs. You couldn't even see his head. He made a right angle turn and looked like he was going right into a hog wire fence. I decided that this was a good time for me to step off but I didn't clear the cattle of the

saddle. We went down and rolled right in the bottom of the fence."

"Well, we rode that horse a while," Melton continued. "I got back on him and rode him about a mile and a half over to the old Dunn place. Got over there and Miles decided he wanted to ride him. He got on him and got about a hundred years ahead of DeWitt and me when that son-of-a-gun broke in two again. Miles did a pretty good job of riding him but he was finally bucked off. We caught him and Miles got back on him. Miles had him stretched out in a pretty good trot. I rode up behind Miles and come down on the bronc's rump with a catch rope and that son-of-a-gun broke in two again. After Miles was bucked off the second time, DeWitt decided he'd show that bronc who was boss. The first move that horse made was straight up. He threw DeWitt on the second jump. We finally broke that horse and he made a heck of a cow pony but he'd buck anytime you called on him."

After school turned out in 1930, about eight or ten students from Lubbock showed up at the McGehee home one weekend. They were hoping to find work during the approaching wheat harvest. Melton's mother had eight or ten members of her own family to feed and care for, but she made them welcome, fed and cared for them. DeWitt and Melton had about fifteen or

twenty two-year-old horses and mules. They decided to gather them up and ride some broncs to entertain their company. Riding broncs was their Sunday afternoon entertainment.

Melton said that though they had always had horses, they got into the real good horse business by accident. The McGehee's had a good paint stallion that was an outstanding horse, being able to do about anything they needed for him to do. They were putting on a rodeo at their place, when a horse breeder from Tulia spotted the paint. The Tulia man has a young horse that he raised, call Sargent. He was one of the best-blooded horses that ever hit this country, according to Melton. He swapped that horse for the paint, even money. That is what put the McGehee's in the quarter horse business. Buying some good mares from the J.A. Ranch, they began to raise some fine horses in about 1941 or 1942.

"The J.A. had the fine horse everybody wanted," said Melton. "We'd buy those good mares for about thirty-five dollars each. About two years after I bought one of those mares, I showed her in the first quarter horse show held in Amarillo. I sold her for twelve hundred and fifty dollars. I thought I had all the money in the world. In 1944, we bought a fine horse called Bartender. The horse business just keep getting better and better."

On my drive back to town, still savoring the stories of Melton's early days, I felt compelled to thank God for Melton and the many others like him the paved the way for us.

Blaine Barnes also deserves credit for bringing the good horseflesh into the Panhandle.

piece of wood."

That same technology that kills insect infestation in wood also works elsewhere, he told cattle feeders.

"You have an infestation problem in feed? No longer. You have a fungus problem in feed? Trivial to kill it—one burst. Absolutely, completely and relatively inexpensively."

That same technology, ready for licensing and application, also does a number on bacteria like e. coli and salmonella, he said.

"I'm talking about a system that costs about \$200,000 that can take every side of beef, hit it with a single blast of accelerated electrons, and take out the e. coli."

The catch, he says, is there's still no quick detector to test for bacteria after beef has been electronically pasteurized. Again, Webb looks at military technology and says an application is nearly ready for commercial use.

"If you see a cloud rolling down from Amarillo, is that anthrax that the Iraqis have just dumped on us or is it dirt?" Military technology can "interrogate" that cloud with a laser beam to see if it's some form of biological warfare. "We can take that same system and interrogate a package of beef and tell you

See Rutherford on page 6

**Bob Givens**

KGNC AGRIBUSINESS DIRECTOR

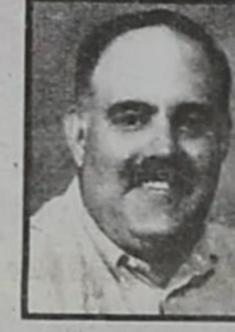
A "Texas" Holiday

not only can be a hit for the chef, but can help give a big boost to the overall Texas economy.

The early holiday buffet I enjoyed at the Big Texan started with a salad. Brian Murray, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Marketing and Agribusiness Development with TDA in Austin, told me that vegetable production in Texas, from which my salad came, brings in \$453 million to our state's economy. That is just the value of the vegetable crop, which not only comes for the Winter Garden area in South Texas, but also from the Texas Panhandle and South Plains.

Any buffet lunch includes dinner rolls and everytime you butter yours, this holiday season, thank the Texas Wheat Industry. Texas wheat farmers contribute, according to Murray, \$285 million per year to the Texas

See Holiday on page 6

**Monte Winders**

FUTURES SPECIALIST

When will the range bound markets end?

that possible snow in the plains, the first of December, could have on the trade. One source has said cash prices could be pressured ahead of any snow and rain but the board should move up on support from such predictions. Many cattle feeders and traders are questioning why the first storm had no more effect than it did.

The technical side on the December live cattle shows that the main trend is up. The cycle date is November 28 - December 1 with a trend reversal price of \$66.10. The support area is \$66.95 and the resistance area is \$68.25.

Corn
The corn market has seen no export news with liquidation at

See markets on page 6



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**Burt Rutherford**

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR OF TCFA

Quotable notes from the convention

"Need we ever worry further about e. coli?"

Nearly all of the more than 650 cattle feeders at the Annual Convention of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, in Austin in November, were very interested in hearing the answer to that question.

The speaker who asked it, Dr. Dale Webb, associate director of the Mid-Continent Technology Transfer Center, was quick to give the answer. He told cattle feeders that technology exists within the star wars defense system that can essentially eliminate any infestation problem that exists in ag products.

The Mid-Continent Technology Transfer Center is a cooperative venture between NASA and Texas A&M University that allows scientists to look at inventions developed for military and space ventures and adapt them for commercial use.

Webb called the star wars technology "electronic pasteurization" and said that the U.S. and Russia are already working out an agreement to use the

system to "pasteurize" logs harvested in Russia and imported to the United States. "The Russians have timber, but they're starving to death. We have sawmills all over the country that need a little work."

Webb said he'd like to be able to buy a big piece of birdseye maple and make something with it, but it's very hard to find. "Why can't we get it?"

Our government says we can't import from other countries because (the wood) may have bugs and beetles and orers and worms." So U.S. and Russian scientists looked at the weapons we used to have aimed at each other and saw some possibilities.

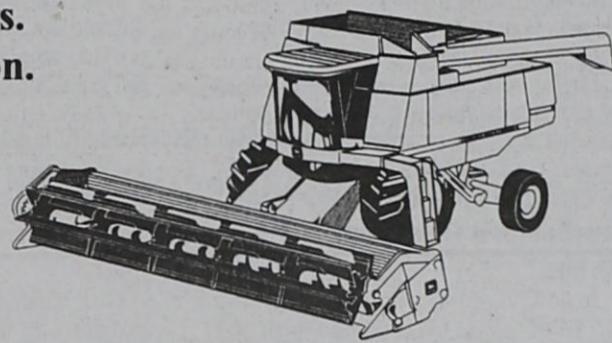
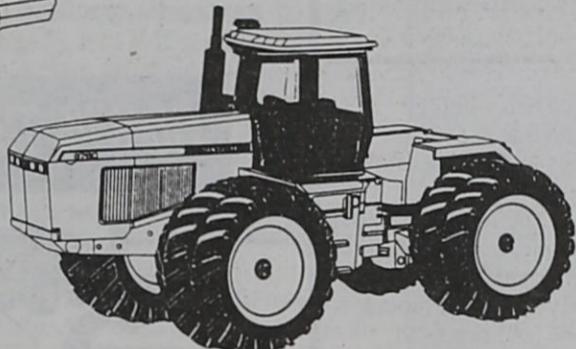
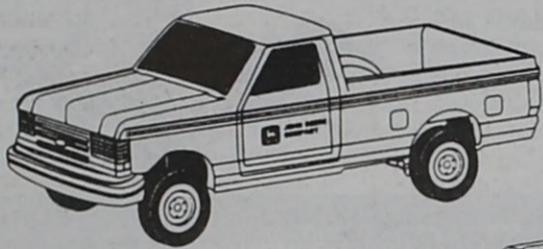
"We went over to Russia and said 'you know that great big anti-rocket system that will bore a hole through the atmosphere and take out a missile?'

"Guess what it does to beetles?" So now we're working out a deal with the Russians. We can disinfest enormous quantities of goods, bring them over here and put our own home folk to work and you and I can buy a

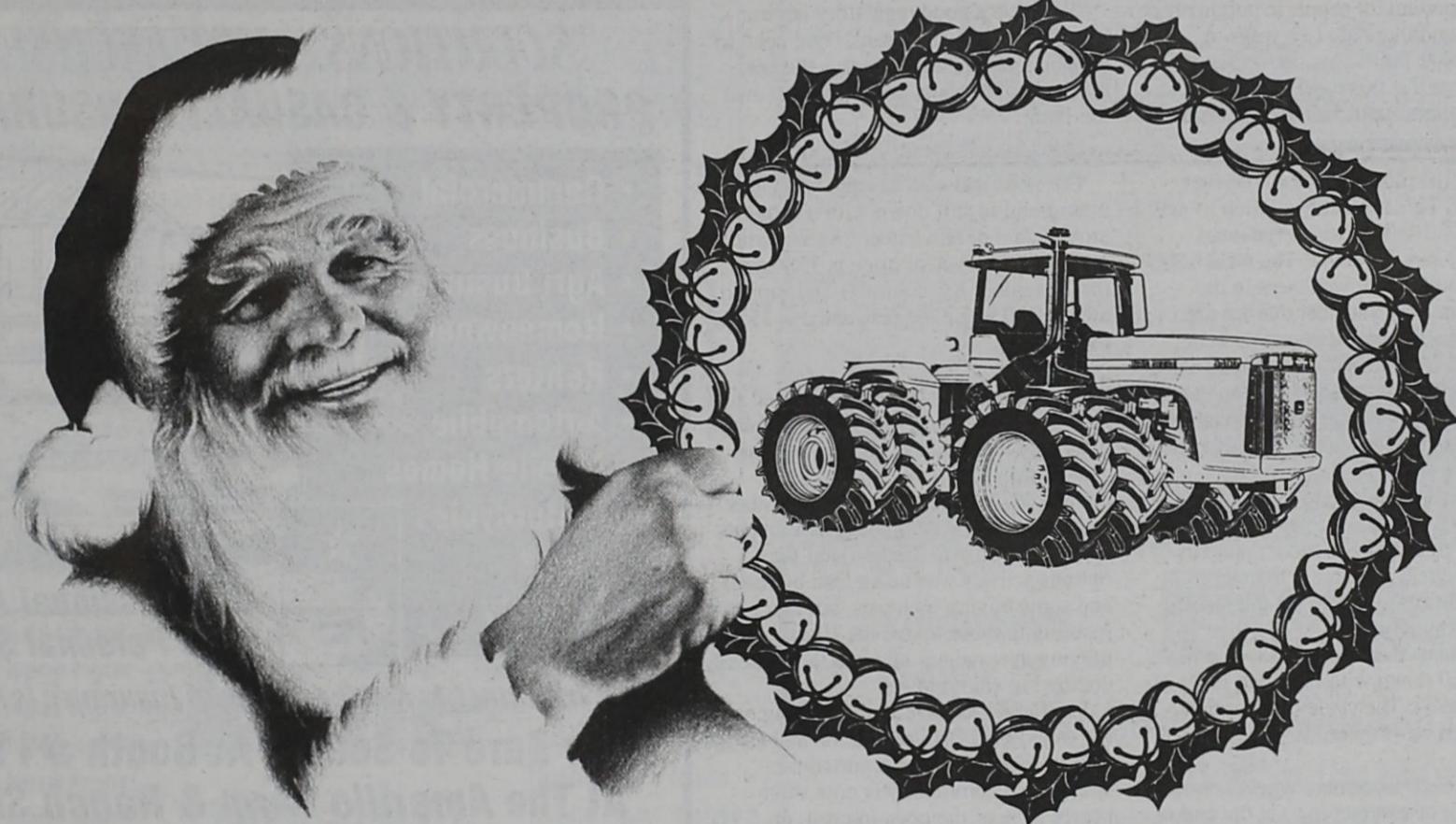
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NOTHING RUNS LIKE A DEERE. 

Holiday from page 4

economy.

No holiday feast is complete without sweet potatoes. The highest production area for this specialty crop is Northeast Texas, but it's worth \$8.5 million to the state's economic coffers. The more traditional potatoes on the menu, which included mashed potatoes at the Big Texan Holiday Buffet, don't have to be imported from Idaho. We grow plenty of spuds around Muleshoe and in Gaines and Seminole Counties.

As you carve your turkey this holiday season, it very well can be a Texas bird. The poultry business is big-time in the Lone Star state, contributing almost \$1 billion to the economy. Murray is quick to point out that Sanderson Farms has recently moved into Texas to join Tyson and Pilgrim. And, if you have had your turkey quota already this season at Thanksgiving, perhaps a juicy ham may be in order for Christmas. The pork industry is expanding by leaps and bounds in Texas, primarily in the Panhandle, and already is a major contributor to the economic well being of our state.

By far and away, however, the biggest part of the economic pie, when it comes to what agriculture contributes to the economy of Texas, is the beef industry. According to Murray, it is worth \$6.2

Rutherford from page 4

it's fine."

In addition to encouraging words from Dr. Webb, Texas Gov. George Bush told cattle feeders attending the TCFA Convention that the role of government is not to create wealth.

The role of government is to create an environment in which people are willing to risk capital.

"I can't make it rain and I can't make markets respond and I can't make feed prices line up with cattle prices," he told cattle feeders. "One thing we can do in Texas is make sure we have the best business environment in the United States. And I think we do."

But he said it's also important to have clean air and water.

"It's important for people in public office to understand there are two ways to approach that issue. One, us versus you. Two, we're all in this together and we can work together to achieve a better tomorrow."

Markets from page 4

the end of the month ahead of the first notice day. This market has fallen to new lows on fund selling with Prudential being seen as a big seller. The weakness, also, coincided with weakness in the wheat. Many analysts feel that we are seeing some December contracts being rolled-over to March. A report has seen a larger concern with a lack of export sales interest and rumors that some already booked Asian business may be canceled. This comes from the shock in the receiving countries due to the currency devaluation. The stock market falling in the Asian countries has more concerns than many grain traders are letting on.

The technical numbers for the December corn is support seen at 271 then 265 and resistance at 278 then 283. The main cycle is still down with the trend reversal price at 286 1/4. The cycle date for this was seen on November 21.

Wheat

The Chicago December wheat contract set new life of contract lows at the end of November. This was lead by the declining corn market and liquidation of the December positions. Losses were limited, though, by bargain hunting buyers, including some who said that Canada did not bid on a Pakistani tender. This could increase the chances for another U.S. sale.

Contacts said the results of the latest USDA Crop Progress report have helped the deferred trade with a mild premium. The USDA noted a drop in the good to excellent rating for the U.S. winter wheat crop down 2% points from last week. Dry soils in the hard red winter states are said to be a factor in the slightly lower condition rating.

billion. That should prove we enjoy a good steak once in awhile, between the holidays. And, to my knowledge, there is no written law that prohibits any Texan to enjoy a filet mignon on Christmas day. Just make sure it's Texas-grown!

As you, perhaps, top your holiday feast off with dessert, it makes no difference whether it is pumpkin pie or pecan pie. Chances are, most of the ingredients were grown in Texas. Murray told me pecans are grown in 152 Texas counties and Floydada, Texas, as you know, is the "Pumkin Capital" of the World.

Almost any item on your "Totally Texas" holiday menu may use a dairy product. The dairy industry thrives in several areas of Texas, including Sulphur Springs, Stephenville and El Paso. Then, you might complete your "Totally Texas" experience this season, with a Texas produced wine from Texas grown grapes.

It's a bountiful and diversified Texas we live in.

It is rich in natural resources, favorable climate and industrious people that can provide a holiday meal, not only good, but good for you.

As you enjoy Texas-grown products, not only thank the farmers and ranchers for producing them, but thank them, also, for helping Texas be economically strong.

row."

Gov. Bush detailed two wildlife programs in the state that encourage cooperative solutions to environmental issues.

"One is the Texas Landowners Incentive Program, which is a unique approach to dealing with rare birds and animals. The state provides money and helps provide incentives for private landowners to provide habitat."

The second is the Wetlands Conservation Plan that lays out a blueprint to encourage private landowners to protect wetlands.

He told cattle feeders that TCFA has been actively involved in the development of both those initiatives.

"We have a good regulatory environment in Texas," Bush said, "one open to cooperation and one that says the best stewards of the land are those who own the land."

The technical data has shown that the main trend is still down with a turnaround date of November 28 - December 1. The trend reversal price is 358 basis the December KC contract. The support area is 340 while the resistance is 355 1/2 then 361 1/2.

Cotton

This market has been range bound for most of the month of November. Brokers have said that the options are the most active and supportive factor in this market. The last few days of November saw a lot of calls being bought with puts sold against them. Traders said the options activity was being lead by funds and some buying by locals, but the inability to move above the 10-day moving average has allowed the March contract to slump lower.

Most analysts have been focusing on the weekly NYCE Speculation and Hedge Report. The exchange reported the speculative community is now short nearly 29% of the open interest, up 5.9%. Everybody and his brother is short and looking for someone else to sell the market down, one broker was heard saying. Many traders have been watching the seasonals. A few contacts noted that there was a seasonal buy date at the end of November. There is a series of key seasonal lows that have formed the last 30 years on November 21, 24 and 27. This suggests that the reversal pattern may have more lasting power than some suspect.

The technical data for the March cotton shows a main trend is still down with a bottom date being on November 26. Support shows at 7070 then 7100 with resistance at 7225.

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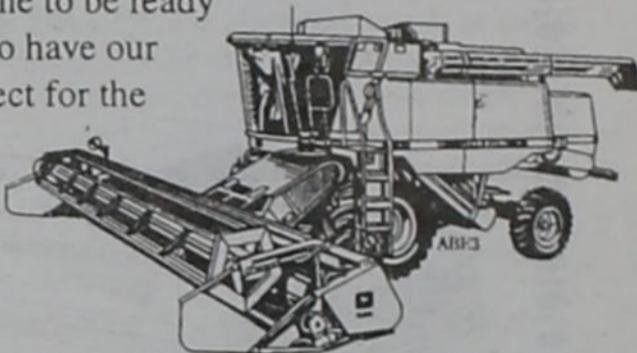
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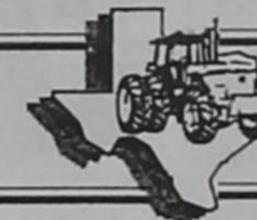
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Cotton Center FFA team makes history at nationals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - It's said that good things come to those who wait.

Last year, Cotton Center FFA's agricultural issues team gave up the chance to go to Kansas City to watch the national FFA convention in exchange for the opportunity to perform in the spotlights of this year's convention.

The six-member team was runner-up in the national agricultural issues forum competition at the 70th National FFA Convention placing second behind Emery, Utah.

Team members are Aaron Gast, Zeb Land, Deidra Howell, Christy Oden, Holly Blount and Jeremy McFerrin.

Cotton Center earned a berth in the contest by capturing the state title in that event last December. But sacrifices had to be made along the way. A little more than a year ago, the team was beaten in district competition by Plainview, but Cotton Center was able to advance to area by virtue of their second place finish.

"We really wanted to have a shot at state with this team," says Cotton Center FFA Advisor David Howell. "So I asked one of the judges at the district contest what we could do to beat the Plainview team at area, and he told me that shooting of couple of the Plainview kids was about the only way it could happen," he says jokingly.

Howell and his crew didn't concoct an assassination plot but instead killed their planned trip to the

national convention. During the two weeks between the district and area contests, Howell and his students completely reworked their presentation. The sacrifice paid dividends.

Cotton Center won the area contest and won the state crown two weeks later becoming the first team of any kind in Cotton Center school history to qualify for a national event.

Howell says that the area contest was the defining moment for his team.

"Honestly, we faced the toughest competition at the area contest last year," he says.

Plainview FFA Adviser Tom Maynard who coaches the Plainview teams in the ag issues event remembers that chain of events.

"We knew we had a real strong team, but we also knew that David and his kids were working day and night to knock us off," he says. "In the end, they were the ones that executed when it counted."

"Obviously, we would have liked to have won that encounter, but we're all real proud of what they've accomplished over there," Maynard says.

"I think it speaks well of the level of competition we have in this part of the state," he says.

In the agricultural issue forum event, a team of three to eight members prepare a presentation concerning an issue of importance to the agricultural industry. The teams present both sides of the case and

answer questions from a panel of judges.

Between Cotton Center's state win and the national contest, a new presentation was researched and written.

"Our first presentation was about the conservation reserve program, and since that was pretty much a dead issue, we had to come up with another one," Howell says.

Howell says that his team's new issue dealt with government regulation of the Ogallala Aquifer.

Cotton Center competed against 18 other teams in the preliminary round of the national contest Wednesday morning and was one of six teams to be named to as a finalist.

They competed in the final round Thursday morning against teams from Indiana, Michigan, New Mexico, Utah and Virginia.

Deidra Howell, a junior at CCHS says that the team was a bit disappointed to finish in second, but nonetheless happy to have been a national finalist.

"We're just real happy to be here," she says. "I think that we learned that good things can happen to you if you just work real hard."

Results from the final round of competition were: first: Emery, Utah; second: Cotton Center; third: Turner Ashby, Va.; fourth: Southmont, Ind.; fifth: Cassopolis, Mich. and sixth: Aztec, N.M.

Other results from the National FFA Convention can be accessed at www.ffa.org.

Local 4-H member's recipes

Old Fashion White Bread

from Dustin Artho

- Ingredients**
- 2 1/4 cups non fat milk
 - 3 tbsp light margarine
 - 3 cups all purpose flour
 - 2 pkg. active dry yeast
 - 2 tbsp sugar
 - 2 teaspoon salt

Directions:

- Heat milk and butter to 120 degrees.
- In large mixer bowl, combine 3 cups flour, yeast, sugar, salt and warmed mixture.
- Mix with dough maker at highest speed for 3 minutes. Add 2 3/4 cups flour and continue kneading 3 more minutes. If dough is sticky, knead in enough of 1/2 cup flour to form a stiff dough.
- Place dough in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled about 1 hour.
- Punch down and divide into 2 equal parts. Shape into loaves and place in 2 greased 9x5x3 pans. Cover and let rise until doubled in size.
- Bake in preheated 350 oven for 35 minutes. Remove from pans and cool on a wire rack. Brush with melted light margarine. *Dustin is a Randall County 4-H member.*



Artho

Crusty Honey Wheat Bread

from Tiffany Aller

- Ingredients**
- 1 cup milk
 - 1 cup water
 - 1/2 cup honey
 - 3 tbsp butter
 - 3 1/2 - 4 cups flour
 - 2 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
 - 2 pkg. dry yeast
 - 1 egg
 - 1 tbsp salt

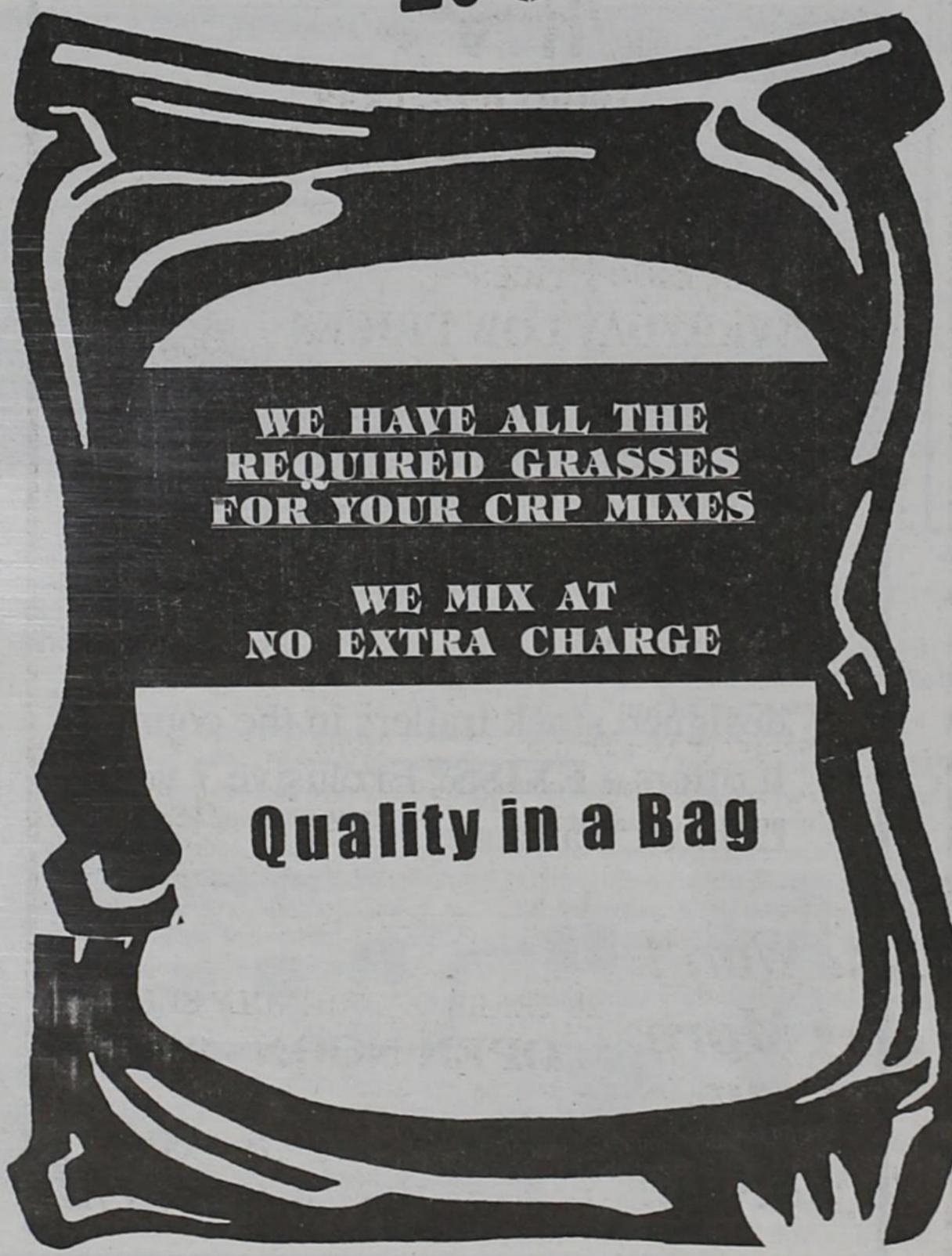
Directions:

- Heat milk, water, honey and butter to 120 degrees.
- In large mixer bowl, combine 2 cups flour, 1 cup wheat flour, yeast, egg, salt and warmed milk mixture.
- Mix with dough maker at speed #12 for 3 minutes. Gradually add remaining wheat flour and white flour to form stiff dough. Knead for 4 minutes.
- Place dough in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top.
- Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled about 1 hour.
- Punch down and divide into 2 equal parts. Shape into loaves and place in 2 greased 9x5x3 pans. Cover and let rise until doubled in size.
- Bake in preheated 375 oven for 30-35 minutes. Remove from pans and cool on a wire rack. *Tiffany is a Randall County 4-H member.*



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University updating research farm with newest technology

David McDonnell
special to the Ag Reporter

Construction is well under way at West Texas A&M's new feedlot research center located on the Nance Ranch west of Canyon.

The new center will assist in researching beef feeding techniques and other elements of the cattle industry.

The university is building a new processing barn, adding 15 ten-head pens and totally renovating the feed mill with money WT received from the legislature last session.

Dr. Russell Long, WT president, said the school received \$1.1 million for construction of the research facility.

Dr. David Parker, WT professor and environmental scientist, said WT was an ideal place for the facility here in the Panhandle.

The cattle feeding industry is big business in the Texas Panhandle, according to Parker. About five million head of cattle are fed each year in this area said Parker.

"We're real lucky to have it with the industry we have here," said Parker of the facility.

The facility will allow WT faculty and students to study and research things that weren't previously possible in commercial feedlots, according to Parker.

The new feed mill will allow students to specially control how much feed and what type of feed is fed to each cattle pen.

This will allow greater understanding and study of feed efficiency, or how many pounds of feed it takes to produce a pound of beef.

In commercial feedlots it's impossible to have very much control over how much feed is fed to which cattle, and what affect it has on them said Parker.

Another unique feature of the facility is the ability to control the amount of water is going to each pen and how much of it is used.

This will allow in-depth study of water consumption, something Parker said hasn't been studied very much in the industry.

To study weight gain on the cattle they will be weighed and vaccinated if needed once every two weeks to a month. In commercial feedlots it's cost prohibitive to weigh, or process, cattle that often, Parker explained.

The processing will be done in a state-of-the-art processing barn on site.

The cattle will be led into a circular pen inside the barn from there they will be led one by one down a narrow corridor into a squeeze chute.

The corridor is shaped in a circle from the holding pen to the squeeze chute. This was done to reduce stress on the cattle.

Cattle are leery of corners and shadows so this new facility was designed to eliminate both Parker said.

"It's designed with the cow in mind," said Parker of the barn.

WT had professional cattle consultants come in and help with the layout, according to Parker.

Even the squeeze chute is state-of-the-art with springs attached to the walls. This way when a calf runs into the chute the walls will give a little instead of just slam against him Parker said.

The squeeze chute is just one of several modern innovations the new facility will incorporate Parker explained.

"There's a lot of neat stuff that we're able to put into this that isn't available in commercial feedlots," said Parker.

From the processing barn the cattle will be led into sorting pens just east of the barn.

In the sorting pens students will sort out

eight to ten head of specific cattle to place in each pen said Parker.

The 15 new pens are being constructed to be identical with the existing pens. This way students can eliminate variables in their experiments Parker explained.

Also the ground slope of each pen will be identical so Parker can measure the runoff off of each pen to research the effect feedlots have on the environment.

To further research what effects different feeds have on cattle the feed bunk will have dividers so each pen will be fed a different type of feed, according to Parker.

Parker said that with addition of the 15 pens the facility will be able to feed 300 head.

However, the school hopes to one day feed larger numbers of cattle.

"Our dream is to add 18 or more pens that hold 50 head of cattle," said Parker. "Then when we can conduct research on large numbers of cattle."

The feed mill is in the center of the operation and it is being totally rebuilt to allow specialized control of what's being fed.

The last structure being remodeled is the loading chute at the facility. Like the processing barn, it too will be built in a circular fashion to reduce stress on cattle.

It will have two loading areas. The first will be lower to the ground and smaller to allow a few cattle to be loaded onto an individual trailer. The second area will be higher and will be able to accommodate large cattle trucks Parker said.

The facility is being built by local contractor Joe Burnett through his construction company.

Steve Butler was the architect on the processing barn. Enviro-Ag Engineering of Dumas did the rest of the engineering work for the feedlot. Parkhill Smith and Cooper, Inc Engineering out of Lubbock engineered the feed mill.

Parker said the school hopes to have the facility finished as early as February or March.

When finished the facility will greatly benefit students Parker said.

"It'll be great for teaching because there's only so much that can be taught in a classroom," said Parker.

While one full-time employee will manage the facility, students will help with the care and feeding of the cattle Parker said. This will also give them hands-on experience.

In addition to benefiting WT, Parker said the unique facility will be a model to other feedlots.

"It'll be a premier facility that's for sure," said Parker. "It'll be top notch."

The school hopes to offer tours of the facility to members of the public as well as to other people in the industry said Parker. The tours will demonstrate modern technology currently available for cattle feeders.

The whole ag department will also benefit from the facility because a variety of ag-related courses can be studied there, according to Parker.

In addition to cattle feeding techniques, Parker said environmental impact studies and ag economics classes could be conducted at the facility.

Studying the environmental impacts of manure and runoff from the facility could even be applied to future crop classes Parker said.

Also, economics classes can study the costs of feed and feed efficiency said Parker.

"It (the facility) will tie in real well with the whole ag department," said Parker.

Long said the facility will be a great help with research WT will be able to conduct.

"We can do many more kinds of research and a better quality of research with this,"



DAVID McDONNELL
Dr. David Parker of West Texas A&M University, examines a rotating headgate at Nance Ranch, the construction site of WT's updated research feedlot.

said Long. "Graduate students as well as undergraduate students will benefit."

With the addition of the facility WT can now attract new graduate students, according to Long.

"We've gotten graduate students that we wouldn't have gotten a year ago," said Long.

In fact 10 new graduate students have come to WT just because of the facility, according to Parker.

In addition to the legislative funding to build the facility funding was made avail-

able to attract research grants said Parker.

The school will use the funding for matching grants from outside research institutions he said.

This wasn't previously an option for the department.

"When you don't have money it's hard to get money," said Parker.

All of the research and teaching will be used to help WT students perform better in the ag industry said Parker.

"That's the bottom line - helping the industry," said Parker.

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Future of market is not based on past

Earl Moseley

Ag Reporter Correspondent

Forecasts in cattle marketing indicate that between 1998 and the end of the century the sound of "moo-sic" will be more clearly heard in the pocketbook.

However, Texas Cattle Feeders Association Communications Director Burt Rutherford reports that cattle prices this November are less than they were 12 months previously.

Still, forecasters see a bright future.

"There is a great future (for beef)," said Jim Pattillo, who is CEO of XL Foods Ltd. in Calgary, Alberta, in addition to being a rancher and cattle feeder. "But it is up to us to crystallize the vision and in today's world, carefully reshape the sector influence, how we work together, and replace the trust that was in beef for so long and is quickly dissipating."

Pattillo is a Canadian packer who spoke at the Texas Cattle Feeders Association "Visualizing the Future" Convention in Austin.

The need to vision is evident, Pattillo said, because "beef now has serious competitors. We must turn the light on our infrastructure and the consumer - for after all, we are all in the food business."

On the week ending Nov. 15, 1996, cattle were selling at \$72-\$72.50 per hundred weight.

"We are a few dollars off that, and mainly because the cattle supply is very ample," says Rutherford.

In the next couple of years and through the turn of the century, Rutherford expects a general upswing in fed cattle prices.

"We are at a point where we see a total number of cattle in decline. As that happens, we might see a rise in prices."

But Rutherford points out that E-coli still

continues to be a problem here.

"We have spent millions and millions of dollars on research and more millions and millions on how to stop it, but it keeps cropping up. (However), we still keep trying to get our arms around it."

Ty Jones of Ty Jones Cattle Co. in Randall County, says the largest problem for feeder cattle at this time is the lack of pen space.

"The pens are mostly full," says Jones.

Scott Fixsen, assistant manager of Tascosa Feed Yard southwest of Bushland, says what cattle marketing needs is "more

experienced people in the marketing of cattle."

Fixsen believes the experienced person "would be able to market in a better way."

But General Manager Bill Kimmell of Lone Star Feed Yard at Happy, believes problems in cattle marketing are "one big complex problem."

"There has been so much talk about changes needed in cattle marketing, but I don't think anybody has a great plan."

"But I don't think we are in a posture to change because there are so many indepen-

dents in the industry to unite, to do what it takes," says Kimmell.

The situation will change, Pattillo told the cattle feeders, because consumers will demand it.

And if done correctly, with the consumer in mind, all in the cattle industry will benefit.

"Beef is a generic product that when protocolled, gives you an identity and a future," Pattillo said.

"If we further develop a product and market it properly, the value will follow."

(TCFA contributed to this article.)



ANGIE WELCH

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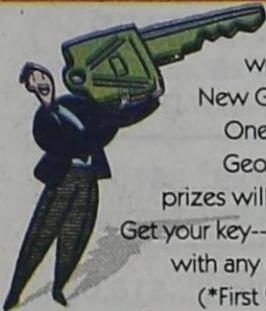


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Jowar Foods of Hereford offers specialty product made from local sorghum grain

Angie Welch
Ag Reporter staff

A Hereford business takes its sorghum grain seriously. Serious enough to develop products that are distributed nation-wide.

Jowar Foods Inc. has been in business for over three years and is already developing new products and selling into new markets. The business took its name, Jowar, from the Hindu language word for sorghum.

Jowar is a hard, white-seeded grain, with excellent milling characteristics.

"The flour we produce must come from a genetically white grain with a white endosperm and from plants with tan plant color to meet company quality standards," said Dr. Fred Miller, vice president for research of Jowar. "We also select only fields for harvest that meet our criteria from having been grown under environmentally and agronomically sound practices."

Jowar Food's products include whole grain, pearled grain, whole and pearled grain flours, grits and mixes for muffins, brownies and pancakes.

The two newest are Jo-Krisps and possibly 50/50 chips.

Jo-Krisps is a gluten-free, wheat-free breakfast cereal. They are made from 100 percent grain sorghum with no additives or flavorings.

The naturally sweet and nutty flavor of grain sorghum is enhanced through processing to deliver a wonderful tasting cereal that retains its crispness in milk, according

to Barbara Kliment of the Nebraska Grain Sorghum Board.

The 50/50 chips, which are made from 50 percent sorghum flour and 50 percent corn flour, are still in the taste-testing stage, according to Armon Lauderback, secretary treasurer of Jowar.

"We have a mail order business," said Lauderback. "We work out of Hereford, have a page on the Internet and sell through distributors."

Lauderback said the product reaches the public through a Houston distributor, a Lubbock distributor and health food stores in the Denver area.

The first consumers to buy Jowar flour were people who grew up eating sorghum-based foods, such as immigrants from India, according to Lauderback.

Another market for the sorghum-based products are people with an allergy known as Celiac disease, a disease in which their digestive system cannot tolerate the gluten in wheat. Sorghum does not contain gluten.

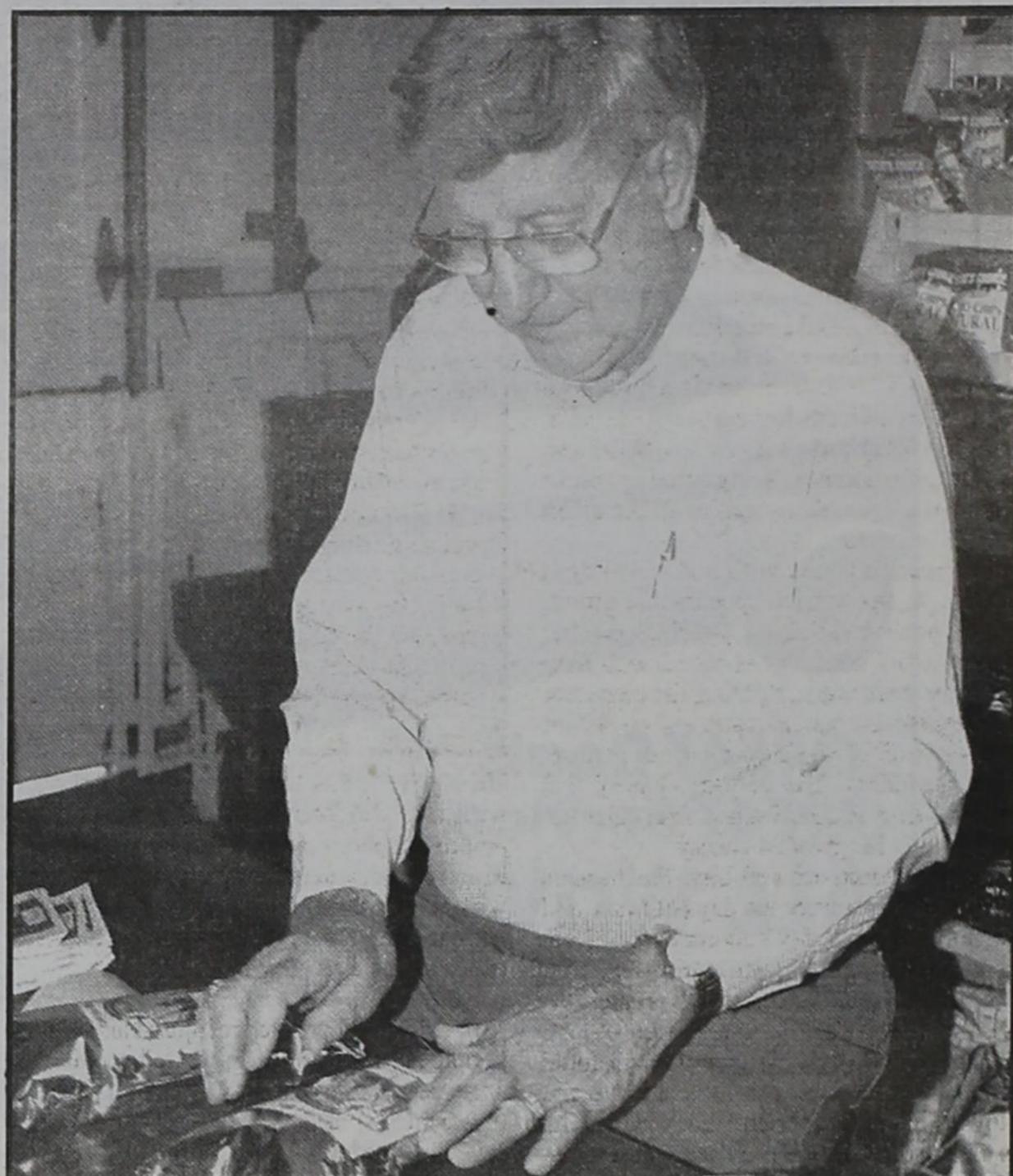
"Celiac people picked up on the product," Lauderback said. "Nearly every large city has a Celiac Association."

Lauderback said Jowar Foods communicated with Celiac associations to get the word out about their products.

Lauderback said business is good and the next step is the building of their own building.

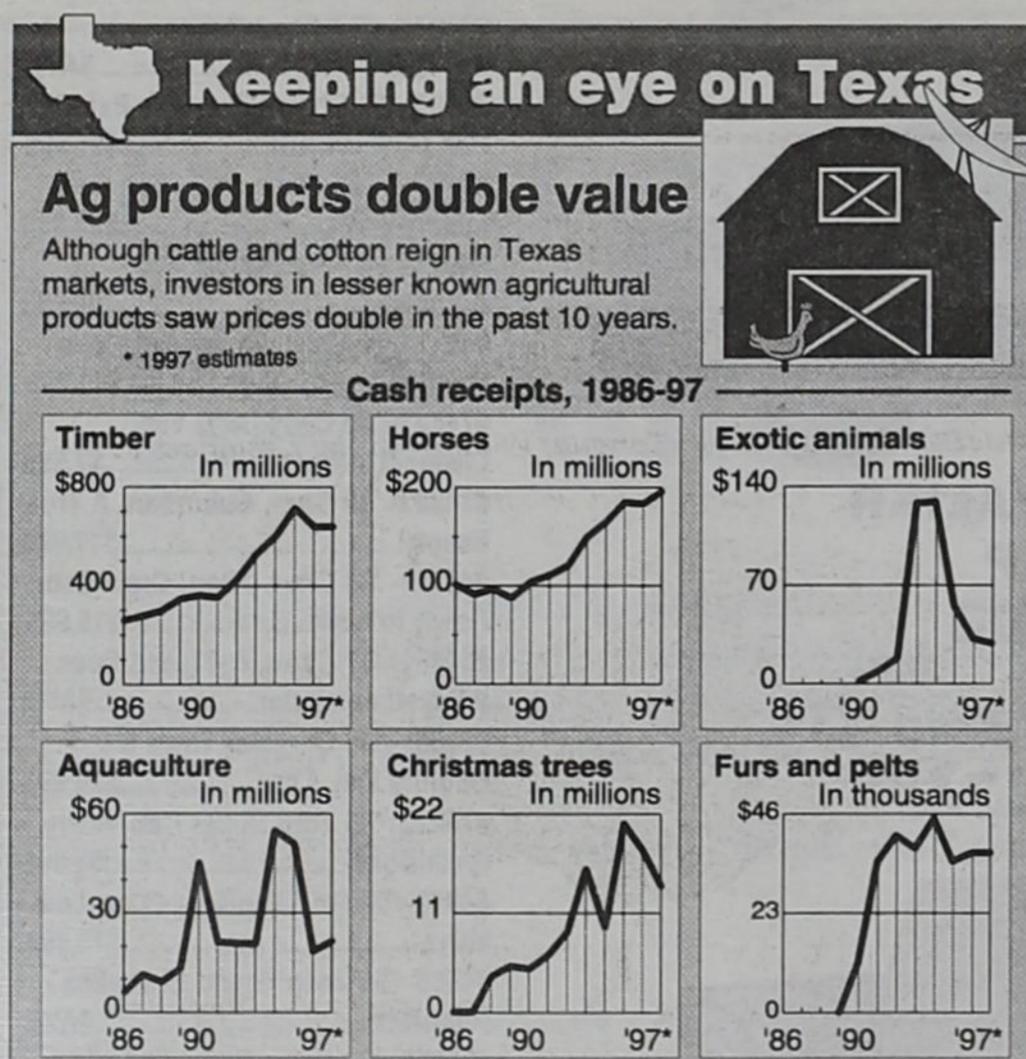
The business currently works out of Panhandle Corn Products north of Dawn.

For more information about Jowar Food Inc. and/or its products, call 1(806)363-9070.



ANGIE WELCH

Armon Lauderback of Jowar Foods in Hereford puts labels on products before distribution.



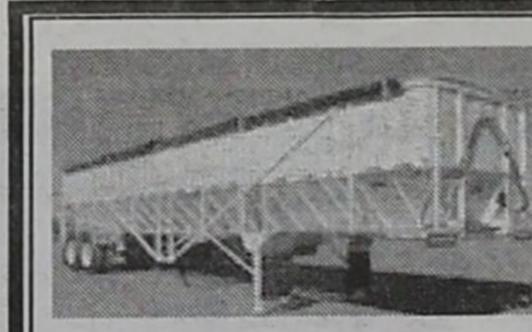
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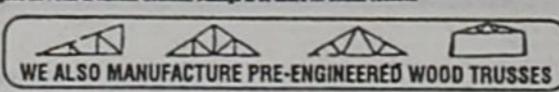
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Tips on avoiding farm related accidents, injuries year-round

Paul and Kerri Elders
special to the Ag Reporter

In the cold days of winter, while breaking ice on stock tanks and trying to repair equipment in time for the spring plowing, his hands frozen to the bone, the only solace to the farmer and rancher is that the days are shorter this time of year. His mind tends to wander, hearkening back to the past summer when beautiful sunsets blushed over the wheat fields and cornfields of a country we have all come to know and love. This land allows a man to be his own boss, controlling his own destiny, enjoying the beautiful outdoors and all it has to offer. Fresh air, beautiful sunrises, living a free and brave life on the open plains makes all the effort worth the cost.

A farmer is faced with a double-edged sword. On one hand, it appears that a modern farmer lives life in a blissful Utopia; but on the other hand, he is faced with long hours of hard work, fighting the elements, the government bureaucracy, and an old and familiar enemy: the danger of farm equipment accidents. The very machinery that makes him so productive and so efficient all too often is his greatest enemy.

Farm accidents are a problem that farmers have lived with since the days of horse and plow through to today's air conditioned, sophisticated, powerful farm equipment.

A farmer's tractor can be his greatest asset—with it, he can farm a section of land much quicker than his grandfather could have farmed a single acre with a horse and plow. But this same friend that permits him to farm so many acres of land has sometimes threatened his very existence. Farm safety has been a subject that most farmers don't have the time or the desire to think

The following recommendations can help prevent most of the accidents related to the farming industry:

1. Equip your tractor with a roll-over protection system (ROPS). 55% of all tractor fatalities are the result of overturns.

2. Don't boost or jump-start your tractor by connecting directly to the starter terminals, bypassing the starter safety interlocks. If you accidentally forgot to take the tractor out of gear, it could start and run over you. This has happened to many an unlucky farmer, resulting in 25% of all tractor related deaths each year.

3. Do not operate the tractor without protective shields in place. Do not attempt to unclog a machine without first shutting it off. This may cost you a small amount of time, but the consequences of taking this shortcut can result in injured or amputated limbs, or even cost you your life. The time

saved is not worth the risk.

4. Watch that PTO! A spinning PTO shaft operates at speeds of 540 to 1000 Rpm's. Loose fitting clothing and a spinning PTO equal danger.

Too many people have had their clothes wrap around the shaft. Some have had their garments torn away, but others have suffered serious injury or death. PTO accidents can be some of the most serious confronting the farmer.

Suffocation, severe bleeding, and amputations can result from entanglement in PTO-powered machinery, and the emergency treatments required can be tricky. One danger of rural farming is that as we all know, the farmer's life is often a solitary one. Working alone, a farmer can encounter a dangerous situation with no help close at hand.

5. An excellent investment in your own well-being is a transportable cellular phone

(commonly called a "bag phone"). Cellular phone rates have dropped dramatically in the last few years, and the phones themselves are more portable than ever. For a small monthly fee, you can have help at your side on the tractor or off. A cellular phone can be a lifesaver, allowing you to summon help at the push of a button.

Program in your own phone number and your local EMS (Emergency Medical Service) number for quick dialing in an emergency.

6. When traveling on public roads, equip your tractor with a slow-moving vehicle emblem and flashing amber lights.

7. Watch out for power lines when transporting anything by tractor or when digging.

If your tractor has a front-end loader, be especially cautious when moving around power lines!

about. Yet it has taken too many fathers, sons, and daughters from a loving family and made them memories. Only when we lose a friend, a neighbor, or a loved one are we forced to think about the hazards of farm equipment and to take seriously the threat it poses in our everyday lives.

According to National Safety Council statistics, 130,000 people are injured and 1100 people are killed in farm-related accidents each year. An average of 27,000 children under the age of 20 are injured and 300 are killed in accidents on US farms and ranches annually.

Farm related injuries amount to approximately \$2.5 billion in hospital and rehabilita-

tion costs each year.

Between 1/3 and 1/2 of fatal farm injuries involve tractors. Farmers become so involved in producing a good crop, keeping the machinery running, fighting the elements, worrying about commodity prices, and constantly thinking about government interference in their daily lives, that they do not take the time to think about their own personal safety.

Seldom do they realize that just one lapse in concentration can be deadly.

The unselfish farmer risks his life every day to produce food for his family and the world's tables, giving little thought to his own safety.

Yet the most important piece of equipment he owns is his life.

Without it, the rest of his farm machinery is only steel and pig-iron.

It is essential that he take all necessary precautions to protect his family's investment: himself.

All too often the time saved by ignoring the danger at hand is not worth the price so many farmers have paid.

We have all heard the old cliché: "haste makes waste."

Always take time to be safe. Farming ranks among the top three most dangerous industries (the other two are construction and mining).

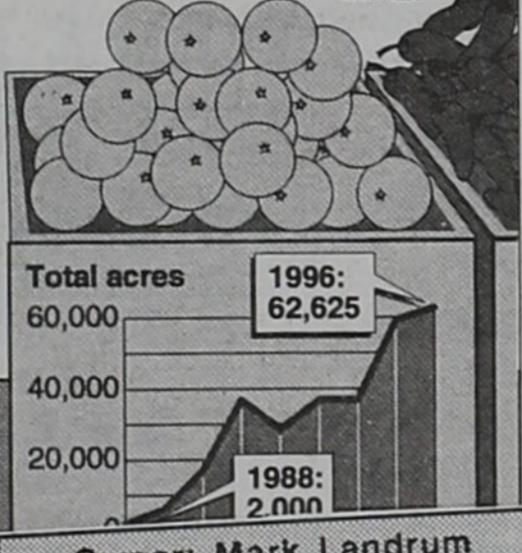
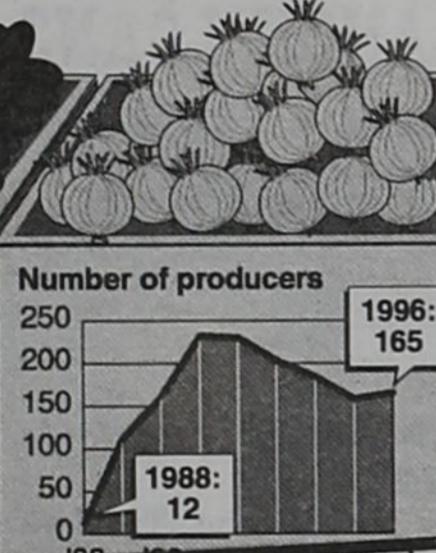


Keeping an eye on Texas

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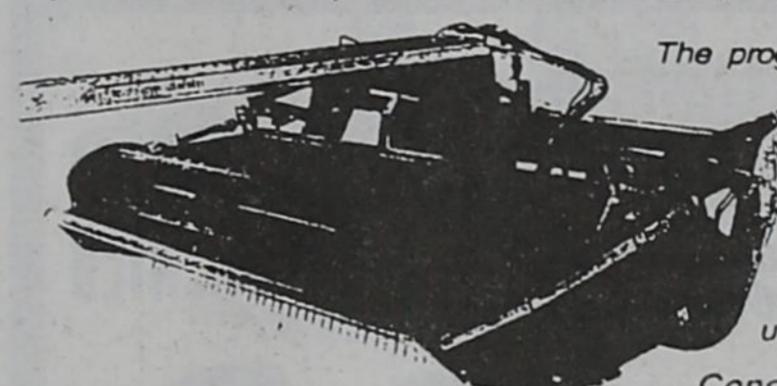
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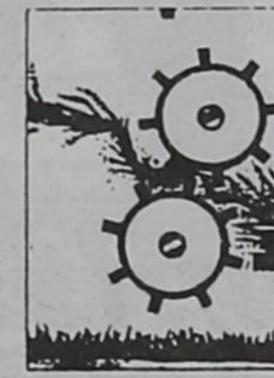
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Youth, Laneys honored at 4-H banquet

LUBBOCK — Forty outstanding youth from across the South Plains were honored last Monday night at the 40 annual South Plains District Gold Star Banquet.

The Gold Star Award is the highest honor which can be earned by 4-H Club members at the county level. Four-H is the youth development program of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, an arm of the Texas A&M University System.

The district banquet has been sponsored each year by 11 area electric cooperatives: Bailey County, Caprock, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Lamb County, Lea County, Lighthouse, Lyntegar, Midwest, South Plains and Swisher.

In those 40 annual banquets, 1,560 winners have been honored with the Gold Star Award in the presence of more than 14,300 guests.

Joining the youths at the event at the Koko Palace were parents, government officials, Extension Service faculty, fellow 4-Hers, educators and other community leaders.

In a special presentation, the Texas 4-H Foundation presented its Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H to

Speaker of the House James E. "Pete" Laney and his wife Nelda, of Hale Center, for their many years as 4-H volunteer leaders and supporters. Presenting the award was Dr. Chester Fehlis, executive associate director of the Extension Service, and David Hicks, executive director of the foundation.

Dr. Marvin Cepica, executive associate dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources at Texas Tech University, urged the youths to consider things which filled their lives to make them complete. Using a clear cylinder, he inserted rocks to symbolize various elements in a "full life."

When the cylinder appeared full with such components as leadership, support of family and 4-H leaders, teamwork and community involvement, Cepica poured in sand to fill the gaps around the rocks. That, he said, represented hobbies, sleeping, eating and social time.

"What would have happened if we'd put the sand in first?" he asked. "Always make room for the rocks in your life first," he cautioned.

This year's audience was

welcomed by Jim Roberts of South Plains Electric Cooperative. Carolyn Muller of Lamb County, South Plains District 4-H Council member, gave the response. Sarah Martin of Floyd County, district council president, was mistress of ceremonies. Susan Book, Castro County 4-H'er, gave the invocation. Jill Gladden, Bailey County delegate, introduced special guests. Music was provided by Carey and Casey Major of Hockley County.

The awards were presented by Dr. Kathy Volanty and Jett Major, Extension Service District Directors.

Area youngsters receiving the Gold Star award were:

- Castro County — Rusty McDaniel and Susan Book, Dimmitt.

- Floyd County — Erika Miller, Floydada, and Sarah Martin, Lockney.

- Hale County — Wes Horsford, Hale Center; Alisa Woods and Crystal McDonald, Plainview; and Audra Michelle Morris, Petersburg.

- Lamb County — Christy Oden, Rachel Dolle, and Brian Chandler, Littlefield.

- Swisher County — Christopher Gibson and David Hulsey, Jr., Tulia.



Courtesy photo

Service to youth

Texas House Speaker Pete Laney (left) and his wife Nelda, received the Citation for Outstanding Service to 4-H during the recent South Plains District 4-H Gold Star banquet in Lubbock. Making the presentation is Dr. Chester Fehlis of College Station, executive associate director of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The Laneys were honored for their many years as 4-H volunteer leaders and supporters of the youth program.

Farm prices basically are unchanged from October to November

WASHINGTON — The index of prices farmers receive for their products was unchanged in November compared with a month earlier, the government said last week.

In a monthly report, the U.S. Agriculture Department said

farmers received higher prices for soybeans, eggs, tomatoes and grapes during November, but that was offset by lower prices for lettuce, corn, peanuts and hogs.

Compared with a year ago, the farm price index was down

3 points, or 2.7 percent, reflecting lower prices for hogs, broilers, corn and milk.

During mid-November, corn in the cash markets sold for \$2.50 a bushel, down 4 cents from October and down 16 cents from a year earlier.

Farmers have completed the third largest corn harvest ever, while bookings for export are down 29 percent from a year ago, causing weaker prices.

Wheat was down 1 cent from October to \$3.54 a bushel, and down 56 cents

from a year ago, reflecting last summer's bumper harvest.

Average mid-November soybean prices were up 45 cents from October to \$6.95 a bushel, and five cents higher than November 1996.

New Texas Cattle Feeder Association board members were elected at the annual business meeting during the convention in November in Austin.
Board members elected for three-year terms were: Ellison Carter, Steve Denny, Paul Hitch, Barry Josserand, Bo Kizziar, Ernie Morales, Terry Scott, Charlie Sellers, Bob Sims and E.W. Williams, Jr.
Board members elected for two-year terms were: Steve Adams, Dick Chumley, Mike Heard, Feller Hughs, Chip Newell, David Owen, Jim Schwertner, Mike Smith, Johnny Trotter and Harold Wooderson.
Board members elected to one-year terms were: W.A. Attebury, Richard Bretz, Randy Brown, John Gillcrist, Jay Gray, Scott Keeling, Neal Odom, John Van Pelt, Mark Pohlemus and Jim Waterfield. Past presidents, James Hering and Randall Graham will also serve on the board.

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New Excel distribution center in Plainview gears up for production

The 66,000-square foot distribution center opened Nov. 20 and is the most advanced in the country

Danny Andrews
special to the Ag Reporter

The Plainview Box Distribution Center which opened Nov. 20 at Excel beefpackers is a further move in the industry to better serve the customer while addressing safety and ergonomics concerns.

While construction of the \$20 million facility at the plant located north of Plainview is finished, the center is testing software and ramping up for production, according to Steve Mellinger who has been general manager of the Plainview plant for four years.

"We hope to be up and running at full capacity by the first of the year," Mellinger said.

Construction of the 60,000-square foot distribution center - not the first in the country but the new est and most advanced - began in August of 1996 and was handled by Superior Construction of Salina, Kan.

Eskay Corp. of Salt Lake City is providing the software "the brains to tell the equipment what to do," says Mellinger.

Through a totally automated, state-of-the-art system, 16 cranes will handle some 11.3 million pounds of fresh boxed beef and hamburger a week, shipped in 160,000 boxes.

Excel, which processes a capacity 4,100 head of cattle a day, turns out 250,000 pounds of hamburger every day and a total of about 2 million pounds of beef a day.

Once filled by employees before being sealed and transported on skyway conveyors from the main building to the distribution center, the boxes will not be touched again by human hands as the cranes will put the boxes on pallets and cover them with a plastic wrap to keep the load from shifting during transport.

Racks for boxed storage and pallet storage plus two pelletizers also are housed in the distribution center.

All activity is coordinated from a central control room.

Product within the center is placed on trucks via forklifts.

Some 250 trucks will transport product all over the country and to Mexico and, via refrigerated containers ships leaving Los Angeles, to Japan and Korea.

Excel brand beef is sold to such major companies as Oscar Mayer, Outback Steakhouse, United, Winn-Dixie, H.E.B., Albertson's, Affiliated, La Tienda and to grinders for McDonald's and Wendy's.

The distribution center is designed to have a two-day supply of inventory and could keep product longer, if necessary, stored in 28-degree refrigeration.

Jessy Hernandez, a 20-year employee of Excel, will serve as shipping superintendent of the center which will have 13 employees on each of two 8-hour shifts.

All 26 workers are veteran employees of the Excel.

"This new center is part of our plan to expand the main plant. We'll take in the old boxed storage area and expand the production areas in the next two to three years."

Steve Mellinger

buying our beef," Mellinger explained.

Mellinger emphasizes that the new center is a major ergonomics improvement in that it reduces the need for humans to load and unload boxes, which can lead to injury.

"We sure believe this type of operation is the coming thing in our industry and Excel is looking at adding these distribution centers to other plants in the future," said Mellinger.

"This new center is part of our plan to expand the main plant. We'll take in the old boxed storage area and expand the production areas in the next two to three years," he added.

"We plan to add another 150-200 jobs in the next four to five years," said Mellinger.

Excel currently has about 1,800 hourly employees.

According to Mellinger, Excel buys about 24,000 head of cattle a week, "99 percent from within a 100-mile radius of Plainview."

Cattle delivered to the plant is processed the same day. Excel, whose parent company is Cargill, Inc. of Minneapolis, Minn., also has plants in Friona; Dodge City, Kan.; Fort Morgan, Colo.; Schuyler, Neb.; High River, Alberta, Canada, and Wagga Wagga, Australia.

The box distribution plant is one of several Excel projects completed in recent years by the plant which opened here in 1971 as Missouri Beef Packers, later changing its name to Excel.

Seven years ago, the plant spent about \$10 million on a cooler able to store 4,100 processed head for up to 48 hours.

Last year, a steam pasteurization process was added throughout the plant to increase food safety.

The process is used on the entire carcass and kills 99.9 percent of all pathogens, according to General Manager Steve Mellinger.

Excel also has upgraded its anaerobic lagoon to break down protein in wastewater.

That effluent is used to irrigate - via center pivot sprinklers - about 550 acres of land located two miles east of the plant.

The company has won the American Meat Institute safety award several times and is considered an industry leader in ergonomics - work techniques to reduce injuries.

Excel is also the major contributor to the Plainview Area United Way, donating \$90,000 or more than one-fifth of this year's total of around \$400,000 to benefit 12 member agencies.

Many of its employees are involved in community organizations as volunteers.

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Rod Alt, a native of Eaton, Colo., is vice president and primary agriculture lender at Canyon's Norwest.

He has a BS in animal science and has worked in agriculture and lending ever since. He managed the Norwest Ag office in Amarillo until joining our team in February, 1997.

When you want to talk Ag, talk to Rod and the other friendly folks at Canyon's Norwest.



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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Around the Counties

What's going through the mind of your county agent

Rebel Royall

CASTRO COUNTY

Our fall harvest for all crops grown in the county is just about over. Producers overall seem pleased with most of the crops they grew this year. Cotton harvest was delayed a week or so because of the adverse weather conditions in mid-November, but should be finishing up about now.

Currently wheat is the only young crop in the field. The wheat crop looks fairly good so far, and most fields have stocker cattle running on them. With our county having approximately 100,000 acres of wheat harvested for grain and another 90,000 acres of the crop simply for grazing, you can bet wheat is a large portion of the Castro county economy.

With that let's talk about wheat fertility. The information to follow comes from Extension publication B-1626 Producing Quality Wheat in Texas.

Protein content is known to be inversely related to yield. Conditions which favor high yields will often result in lower grain protein levels. This relationship may be altered somewhat by manipulating nitrogen fertility applications. Grain yield response to applied



nitrogen is greatest when applied between planting and jointing, or spike initiation.

Nitrogen applications made after jointing have a lesser influence on grain yield and a greater influence on grain protein content. Nitrogen applications made as late as head emergence increase grain protein content by 2 to 3 percent but have little effect on yield. As nitrogen is the key building block for proteins, an adequate nitrogen fertility program is essential for producing high-quality, high-protein grain. Topdress applications near jointing usually increase both yield and grain quality.

Producers need to evaluate the cost and benefit of producing high-protein grain. Some varieties with exceptionally high protein consistently sacrifice yield. Excess nitrogen applications with the goal of a high protein content can only be justified if protein premiums are available. Some specialty markets are willing to pay premiums adequate to compensate growers for extra expense involved in producing exceptional quality wheat. In this

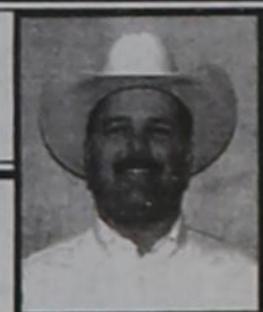
case, a wheat as a specialty crop in which several extra management steps are necessary to produce an exceptional product. These growers should seek contracts ensuring a fair payment for their extra production costs.

Heat and drought stress during grain fill are an annual occurrence in Texas. Wheat makes excellent use of stored soil moisture, and many crops are largely produced on stored moisture. Prolonged stress during grain fill causes small seed size. Extreme stress can cause a shriveled seed coat, which is a factor in grade. Shriveled grain is frequently low in test weight and produces low flour yields. Land preparation activities which produce a hardpan reduce the ability of wheat roots to use stored moisture. Using chisels or other primary tillage tools to shatter hardpans between growing seasons improves water use efficiency and reduces stress on developing wheat. Avoid the use of disk harrows after primary tillage, particularly in wet soil conditions, as disks are a major source of soil compaction and resulting water stress. Excessive seeding rates reduce water use efficiency. Seeding rate in excess of 1.2 to 1.3 pounds of plated

See Royall on page 18

J.D. Ragland

FLOYD COUNTY



Howdy folks!

Here's what's been happening throughout Floyd County since we last visited.

Agricultural wise its been cotton stripping time fast and furious.

We're about 65% complete with harvest right now.

If the weather holds another 2 really good weeks we'll wind it up!

Mother nature has been most cooperative through the most part of harvest.

During the cold spell we had about 1 1/2" of snow which shut down harvest for about 5 days, but since then the dust has been a-boiling.

Yields have varied, some irrigated fields have been good, averaging 1 1/4 - 3/4 bales per acre. Dryland fields ranging from 1/4 - 1/2 bale per acre. Most producers throughout the county are pleased with this years yields especially considering the growing season we had.

I had an interesting experience the other day when Floyd County Producer Max Yeary came into my office.

"Max, how's the cotton harvest going?" I asked.

He responded, "What cotton?" "Come go with me and look at mine," he said.

Max farms in the north east portion of Floyd County in the Cedar Hill area, some 20 miles

from the courthouse.

As we were driving out to the field we were visiting about pigs, upcoming county and major shows and when we got to the field I have never seen anything like it before.

This 80 acre field looked completely defoliated with no bolls what so ever.

Max didn't have Roundup Ready cotton, but neighbors did, our assumption is that drift killed the cotton.

Compensation has been worked out.

My point being, I think Roundup Ready cotton is extremely beneficial and is just what the doctor ordered for weed control in many South Plains weedy cotton fields.

But we've all got to become more cautious applicators and develop more drift proof application equipment.

Well, got a run, got swine projects to validate, stock show entries to complete along with Annual Ag Increment Report.

If one more thing is due December 1st I'm going to scream.

Ya'll come to see us!

Til next time, Howdy, cause I just hate to say goodbye!

Check It Out

NC+ is proud to list these farmers names and yields of their 1997 Corn and Sorghum Crops. New technologies are becoming available that will produce even greater yields. Research and testing are progressing quickly and we will get the information to the farmers as soon as possible.



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-Very good ear flex in length and girth

Tim Wilhelm - Tulia
14,188 lbs./Acre

James Alan Patton - Silverton
12,708 lbs./Acre

Mark Gunter - Olton
11,748 lbs./Acre

CORN - 4880

-Excellent yields in a 110 day hybrid
-Good heat and drought tolerance
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Robert Martin - Texico
14,560 lbs./Acre

Lust Brothers - Dimmitt
13,463 lbs./Acre

Lanny Bennett - Plainview
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James Allan Patton - Silverton
11,093 lbs./Acre

Robert Martin - Texico
11,957 lbs./Acre



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Robert Devin

RANDALL COUNTY



Hope your Thanksgiving was good. As I write this column, I'm still in anticipation seeing as how the column is due to Angie before Thanksgiving, and I sure don't want to be the cause of indigestion.

At any rate, all this has caused me to think ahead about the upcoming holiday and the origin of the celebration which was to give thanks for a bountiful harvest that insured something to eat through the winter.

It is little wonder that the meaning has changed.

After all, it is a little hard to be thankful for enough to eat if you've never been hungry.

For most of us, not only have we always had plenty to eat, our problem has been too much to eat and most of all our lack of self discipline, as we feast on an endless supply of every kind of food imaginable prepared and packaged just the way we want.

And with all this variety, we still spend less on food plans than anywhere else in the world.

For that I am thankful.

Despite what others would have you believe, we have the safest food supply in the world.

For that I am thankful.

Our life expectancy is increasing each year.

For that I am thankful.

Every form of cancer in the U.S. except lung cancer is declining.

For that I am thankful.

The Aggies are favored over the Longhorns, and

Greta Schuster

CASTRO/LAMB COUNTY



Insect and mite pests that attack small grains may reach damaging levels throughout Texas. Producers should be aware of the probable seasonal occurrence of various pests, be able to correctly identify pests and understand the various methods which are effective in preventing economic damage.

Cold weather normally suppresses beneficial insects, which may allow pests to reach damaging levels. For instance, greenbugs develop in large numbers under favorable conditions and may cause economic losses. Greenbugs reproduce rapidly at temperatures between 55 and 95°F. Natural enemies, however, reproduce slowly when temperatures are below 65°. Thus, in cool weather the greenbug may increase to enormous numbers while its natural enemies multiply slowly. The average temperature must be below 20° for at least a week to kill 99% of the greenbugs. The population also must be without protection from snow cover.

During the winter, infested fields may have yellowed spots preceding the appearance of small, deadened areas. Greenbugs cause more damage when small grain crops suffer from deficient moisture during a mild winter and a cool spring. Greenbug damage may be confused with moisture stress, nitrogen deficiency or foot rot.

The need to apply insecticide depends on the number of greenbugs present, parasitic wasps, spiders, damsel bugs, lacewing larvae and syrphid fly larvae. Occasionally, populations of 25 to 50 greenbugs per foot of drill row in very young, small grain plants may warrant treatment.

The following information may serve as a general guide in determining the need for treatment.

Plant height (inches)	Number of greenbugs per linear foot
3-6	100-300
4-8	200-400
6-16	300-800

For that I am thankful.

Our Master Swine Volunteers really made a hand during the County Swine Validation. Volunteers, Bobby Ellis, Gene Ferris, Rick Bostick, Jimmy Bryant, Leon Batenhorst and Keith Meador, made validating 350 plus hogs, look easy.

The Panhandle Area TAM (Texas AgriFood Masters) produced a number of short facts on Agriculture and the Food & Fiber System.

Thanks to Bob Givens of KGNC, for his help in getting the "AgMazing Facts" ready to air on local stations.

Our December calendar looks pretty full with the Farm and Ranch Show, training on Risk Management and Computer Training.

Remember a Private Applicator License Training will be held on December 11th. Call the County Extension Office for more information.

The 50th Randall County Stock Show will be coming up in January.

Plans are underway for something special for the event. Stay tuned!

And finally, I had an interesting call the other day. It seems some older gentleman, I failed to get his name, needed some nutritional information on reindeer.

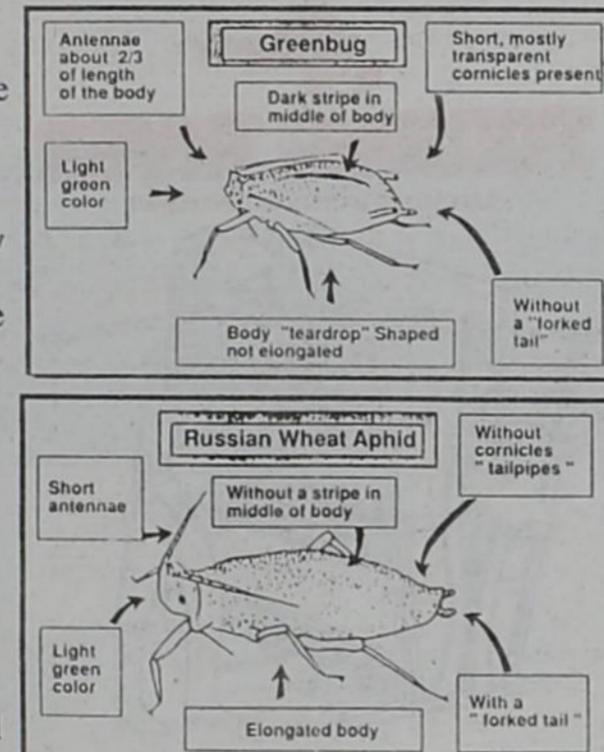
He said he had a whole herd that had been idle all spring and summer and he need to get them back in shape to use in about thirty days - ya don't suppose?

Sure hope your holidays are filled with joy and peace and a little anticipation and excitement of those young as well as those young at heart.

See you next year.

The Russian wheat aphid may be another pest to watch for. There are several distinguishing features which can help you determine which pest you have in your field. The greenbug is pale green, approximately 1/16-inch long, with a characteristic dark green stripe on the back.

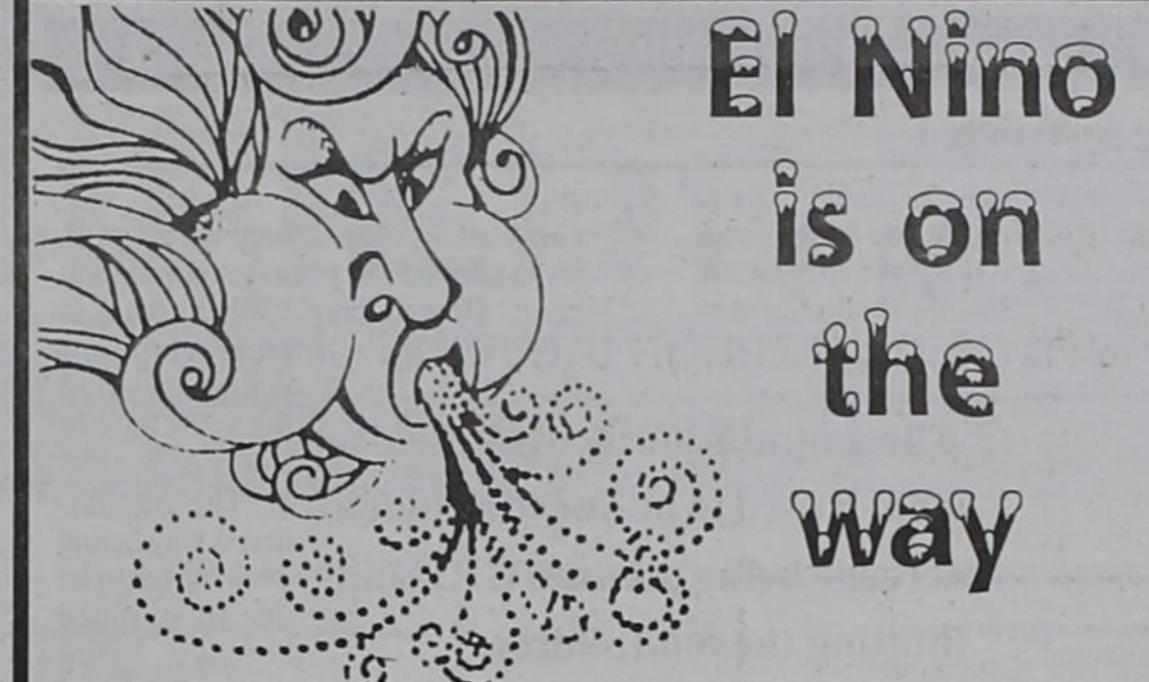
The Russian wheat aphid is approximately 1/16-inch long, lime green in color and spindle shaped. It has short antennae and no prominent cornicles, but a projection above the tail gives it a "double tail" appearance.



The Russian wheat aphid inject a toxin while feeding, causing white and purple longitudinal streaks on leaves. Heavily infest plants will appear flattened and leaf edges will roll inward, giving the entire leaf a tube-like appearance. Economic thresholds were developed for Russian wheat aphids infesting wheat in late winter and spring.

The thresholds are based upon the cost of control and market value of the wheat. For every 1% of the tillers infested, there is a 0.5% yield loss.

Consider any tiller with one or more Russian wheat aphids as infested. Determine the percent infested tillers. Then refer to a table at your local extension office to decide if treatment is needed.



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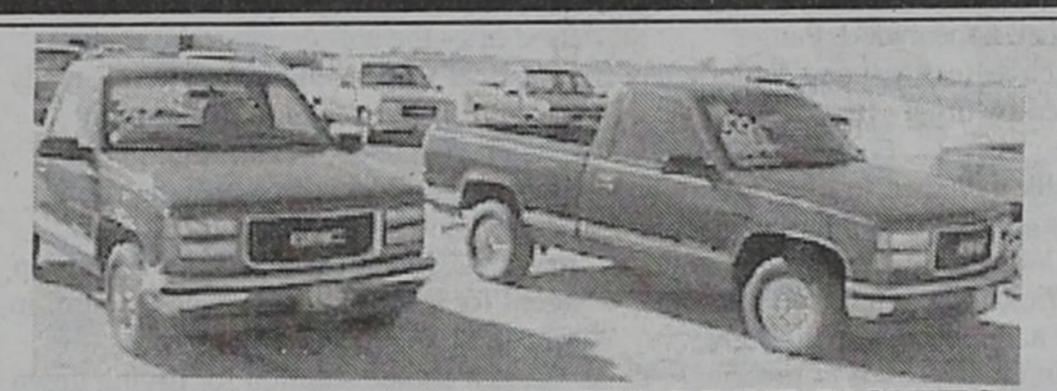
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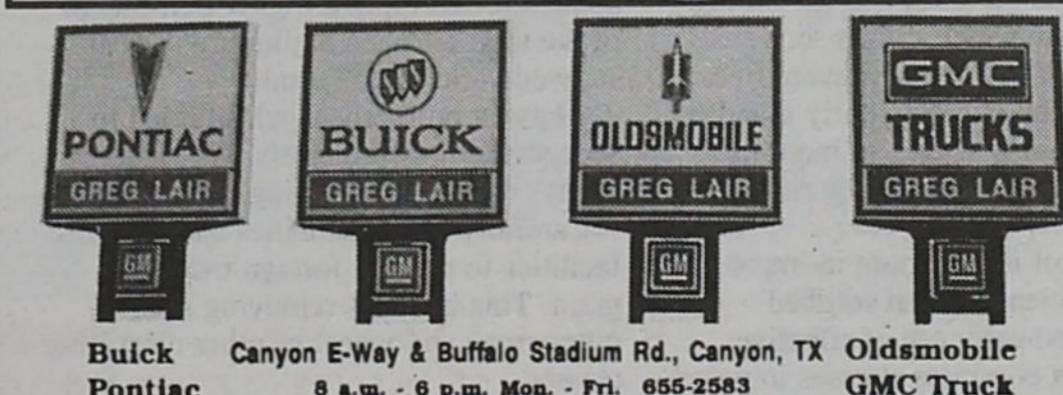
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Hunting from page 1

available to waterfowl and sandhill cranes that migrate to the region, and hunters seek out opportunities to take these species. On the other hand, if moisture is short, waterfowl and sandhill crane hunting success suffers accordingly, and hunter activity in this region is greatly diminished."

The projected economic impact of pheasant hunting in Deaf Smith County is as follows:

* Based upon 5,000 hunters at a spending rate of \$1,000 each, the impact is \$5 million.

* Based upon 5,000 hunters at a spending rate of \$500 each, the impact of \$2.5 million.

* Based upon 5,000 hunters with each hunter spending \$200, the impact is \$1 million.

(These projections are for opening weekend only. The season runs 16 days and there is some impact later in the season, especially the second weekend.)

Swisher County, which connects Randall County at the south, has a few pheasant and a limited number of quail and deer.

"The quail is so limited at this time that hunting is discouraged," said Tulia Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Lana

Barnett.

"In areas of Swisher County where grain or corn is planted the pheasant population is higher," Barnett says. "Where there is grass, cotton or wheat planted there is hardly any."

"The population is way below what it used to be due to so much acreage being put into CRP and limiting the food source."

Lana Barnett

Barnett recalls that in years past the Tulia Kiwanis Club had a highly successful hunt by obtaining leases from area farmers for individual hunters coming into Swisher County from hundreds of miles away.

"Since the drought a couple of years ago, the Kiwanis have not had the hunt," she says. "But they may resume it in future years."

A few deer can be located in Swisher County's canyon areas, but hunting is discouraged because of small numbers, Barnett says.

Dennis Thomas, the Texas Parks and Wildlife game warden stationed in Randall County, reports the greatest problem with hunters is trespassing on posted property, whether or not they are local residents.

"A lot of times, they have just made a mistake," Thomas says.

Royall from page 16

seed (15,000 to 17,000 seed per acre) per bushel of yield may result in production of large numbers of sterile tillers which consume water, but do not contribute yield. In environments where drought stress is a major yield-limiting factor, conservative seeding rates will improve grain quality.

Plant diseases, particularly the rusts and septoria, are perennial problems which cause shriveled grain. These organisms have no direct effect on the developing seed, but reduce the photosynthate transferred to the grain. The damage is a function of destroyed leaf area attributable to the disease. If the leaf area is destroyed during grain fill this stage is not completed, causing the shriveled seed appearance. Fungal diseases such as leaf rust and septoria can be controlled by timely fungicide applications.

A carefully managed fertility program is another means of improving water use efficiency. Well-fertilized wheat is up to twice as efficient in water use as unfertilized wheat and has correspondingly higher grain quality, both in protein content and seed fill. Heavy nitrogen fertilization at plant or preplant on ungrazed wheat will result in excessive vegetative growth, which increases susceptibility to freeze injury, enhances lodging potential and reduces water use efficiency. Levels of preplant nitrogen which can be applied without excessive lodging vary with planting date, straw strength of a particular variety and winter weather conditions. Wheat which emerges shortly before the onset of prolonged cool weather conditions can tolerate high levels of fall-applied nitrogen. Wheat with a genetically weak straw which is planted very early will lodge at relatively low fall-applied nitrogen rates. A split or preplant application plus a topdress nitrogen application before jointing reduces fall and winter growth, improves yield and enhances grain quality.

Freezing weather during grain fill is a serious problem which causes shriveled seed. Little can be done to prevent freeze injury other than avoiding early planting dates and planting wheats of more than on maturity, which spreads the risk over a longer period.

Weed control is important in improving water use efficiency. Good seedbed preparation and early use of effective herbicides can eliminate stresses imposed

on the crop by weed population.

Contaminated wheat occurs when foreign matter is gathered during harvest or from careless handling, unclean storage facilities or pests such as insects, birds and rodents. The primary source of foreign matter at harvest consists of weeds and weed seed. Harvesting wheat with green weeds in the field increases moisture content and introduces weed seed and weed fragments into the harvested grain. The best solution to this problem lies in early scouting and careful attention to weed control either at planting or shortly after weed emergence. When weeds grow through the wheat canopy, control alternatives are limited. Phenoxy herbicides such as 2,4-D can be used after the soft dough stage to dry broadleaf weeds before the grain is ready to harvest. No desiccant is currently labeled for Texas wheat. Rapidly dry wheat harvested from weedy fields, if needed, and clean to remove foreign material. Consult your county Extension agent for information on weed control in wheat.

A last choice solution for drying down weeds in wheat without the application of desiccant involves cutting wheat in swaths and harvesting after the swaths dry down to acceptable moisture contents. In any case, preventative weed control is superior to and less expensive than salvage operations after weeds become large and competitive.

Lodging in wheat can cause the introduction of dirt, stones, and other foreign matter into the wheat during the harvest operation since headers are lowered to reduce grain loss. Lodged wheat also is more prone to sprout in the head, as many of the heads come into contact with moist soils. Steps to reduce lodging include:

- Select varieties with strong straw.
- Shorten wheat height by grazing.
- Use careful nitrogen management. A single nitrogen application will result in more lodging than will split nitrogen applications. Apply a higher percentage of the total nitrogen at jointing if weak-straw varieties are used.

-Harvest promptly as wheat dried to acceptable moisture levels. Wheat straw decays rapidly after drying down.

Carefully clean combines and storage facilities to prevent foreign matter in grain. This includes removing seed of other crops and wheat of other marketing classes.

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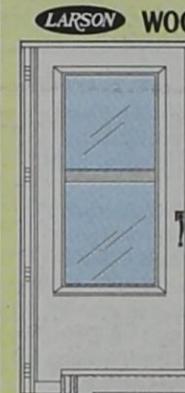
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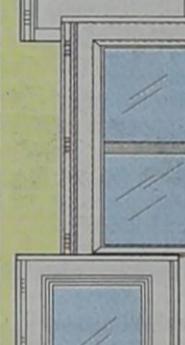
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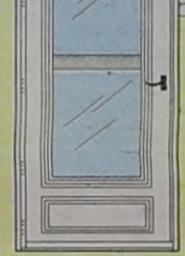
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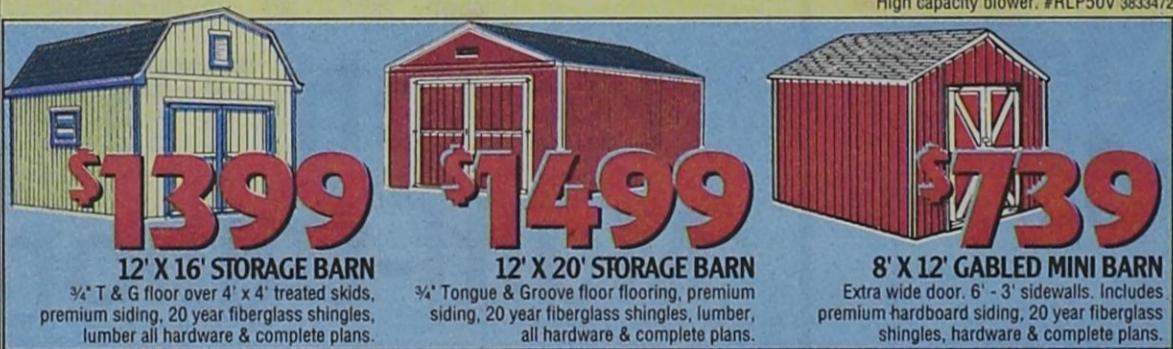


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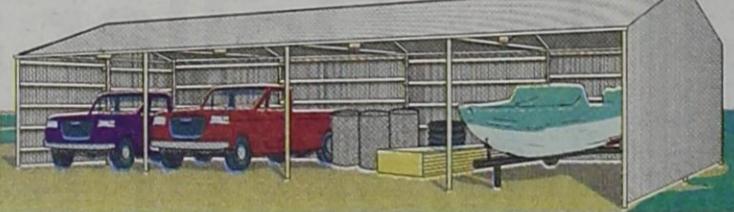
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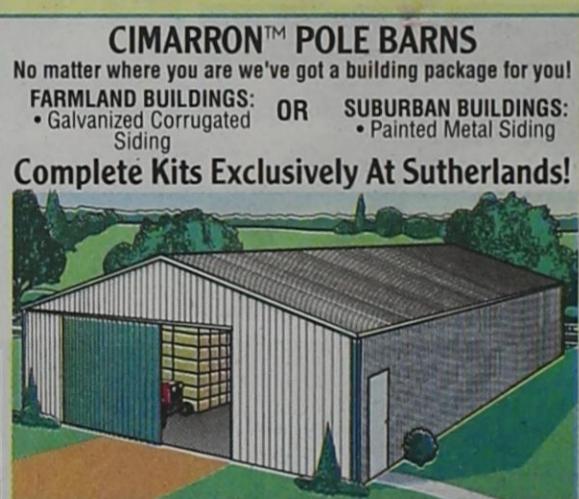


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