

The Castro County News

77th year—No. 13

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, June 28, 2001

50¢

12 pages plus supplements



Beating the heat

It doesn't matter how old you are, nothing beats a dip in the pool on a hot summer's day. Gabryela Barrios, 1-1/2, may be young, but she isn't afraid to splash her fellow swimmers in the baby pool at the

City of Dimmitt's swimming pool Tuesday afternoon. Children and adults flocked to the pool during the past week as temperatures reached the 90s.

Photo by Joyce Nelson

County hires firm to manage district courtroom renovation

Castro County has retained A&S Steel Construction of Amarillo to oversee the renovation of the district courtroom and jury room in the county courthouse.

Commissioners recently approved a plan to remodel the district courtroom, making it accessible for the handicapped, according to standards established by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The blue prints for the renovation were designed by the architectural firm of Burns, Fletcher, Gill. The main renovation would involve the second floor jury room, with minor alterations made in the courtroom area.

Faron Walker of A&S Steel Construction met with commissioners Monday and explained what his company would do if hired as the construction management firm for the project.

A&S agreed to work with the Burns, Fletcher, Gill to establish the bid specifications. Once bid specs are established, A&S will advertise for bids from contractors. A&S also will oversee construction.

Before any construction can begin, Walker told commissioners a survey by a qualified individual would have to be conducted if there is asbestos or lead-based paint present in the areas where renovations will be performed.

Renovation plans include taking out the men's restroom in the jury room, and making it a corridor which will connect to the hallway that leads to the judge's chambers behind the courtroom. The remaining restroom in the jury room will be remodeled to be handicapped-accessible. The work in the courtroom will include moving seats to make room for wheelchair spaces.

"The demolition will require going through three different walls, and each of those areas will need to be tested before construction can begin," Walker said. "It's hard to tell what's behind these walls until you get in there."

(Continued on Page 9)

Tuesday celebration will include Masked Rider, games, hot dogs

Texas Tech University's Raider Fun Zone and the Masked Rider will be at the courthouse square in Dimmitt on Tuesday to entertain crowds attending the July Jubilee celebration.

Castro County's July Jubilee celebration will begin at 11 a.m. on Tuesday with a flag raising ceremony and performance of *The National Anthem* on the square. The Raider Fun Zone will be in place at that time.

The flag will be raised by Dimmitt Mayor Wayne Collins and Don Nelson will perform *The National Anthem*.

Hot dogs and soft drinks, along with homemade ice cream, will be served for a nominal fee throughout the celebration.

The day's event also will feature a hockey clinic conducted by the Amarillo Rattlers, traditional Fourth of July foods like hot dogs and homemade ice cream, music and a variety of safety and health demonstrations.

The Raider Fun Zone consists of inflated games where youngsters may run obstacle courses, climb and slide, and exhibit their prowess (or potential) with basketballs and footballs as the hoopsters and gridiron stars of tomorrow. Older brothers, sisters and parents (even grandparents) will also find the games exciting.

The street hockey clinic is scheduled to kick off at 11:30 a.m. and

(Continued on Page 8)



Texas Tech's Masked Rider

Texas Tech University's Masked Rider, Kathryn "Katie" Carruth of Lubbock, along with *Black Phantom Raider*, will be in Dimmitt Tuesday at 1:15 p.m. as part of the July Jubilee celebration. The Masked Rider will be on the courthouse square. The July Jubilee celebration will also feature a street hockey clinic by the Amarillo Rattlers, hot dogs, homemade ice cream, safety demonstrations and a lot of fun and games in the Texas Tech Raider Fun Zone. Activities are slated to begin at 11 a.m. and will continue through the early afternoon hours.

Courtesy photo

Courts deal with violators

A man was sentenced on an aggravated assault charge and five persons had their probations either set, revoked, extended or modified in recent sessions of Judge Jack Miller's 64th District Court and Judge Ed Self's 242nd District Court here.

In 64th District Court, Jose Angel Gonzales, originally sentenced for third-degree retaliation, entered pleas of "true" to a list of six charges that he had failed to live up to the terms of his sentence — two years' probated jail time and a \$1,000 fine plus court costs and a \$50 contribution to Crime Line.

Among the terms of his probation were that he would perform 200

hours of community service and pursue his high school diploma or GED certificate; he admitted violating these terms also.

Judge Miller ordered his probation reinstated and extended three years and worked out a payment schedule whereby Gonzales must pay \$120 per month in restitution, supervision and probation fees, plus additional attorney's fees, after completing a

45-day jail sentence.

Juan Manuel Martinez Jr., who was under a four-year probated sentence for third-degree DWI, admitted in 64th District Court that he had failed to report to his probation officer, was \$300 delinquent in his fine payments, had failed to complete 400 hours of community service and had not received his GED certificate or

(Continued on Page 2)

Forgery, DWI charges top list of grand jury indictments

A Castro County grand jury indicted three individuals on counts of forgery, three more for driving while intoxicated, one for possession of cocaine and another for securing execution of a document by deception when it convened Tuesday morning in Dimmitt.

Indicted on forgery by passing charges were Leon Jose Rodriguez, 27, of Amarillo; and 30-year-old Stacy Hill of Hereford.

Rodger Wayne Mitchell, 31, of Dimmitt, was indicted on charges of forgery by making.

The three individuals indicted for driving while intoxicated (DWI) are Narciso Lopez Gauna Jr., 47, of Dimmitt; Augustine Martinez Jr., 20, of Hereford; and David Castillo, 25, of Dimmitt. Each of the men indicted had at least two prior DWI convictions before Tuesday's grand jury met.

David Garcia, 44, of Corpus Christi for possession of cocaine over one gram and under four grams.

Peggy Lee Scott, 45, of Hart, was indicted for securing execution of a document by deception.



COUNTY'S CENTENNIAL PLAZA AND GAZEBO
... Will be the site for the July Jubilee celebration Tuesday

Photo by Don Nelson

DISD board hires five, takes four resignations

Following an executive session Monday night, the Dimmitt School Board accepted the resignations of four teachers and hired five new ones.

According to Supt. Les Miller, these four teachers have submitted their resignations:

- > Kathy Lust, eighth grade science teacher, who is entering the private sector.
 - > Teresa Carlisle, middle school band director and assistant director of the high school band, who has accepted the head band director's job at Highland Park High School in Amarillo.
 - > Becky Book, high school business teacher, who has accepted a position with the Happy ISD.
 - > Trista Hickman, sixth grade English teacher, who has accepted a post in the Friona ISD.
- Miller announced these hirings:
- > James Kelly Hester as eighth grade boys' coach.
 - > Thel Shelby as seventh grade girls' coach.
 - > Ryan Holmes as high school assistant coach and physical ed instructor.
 - > Jame Dunnam as a second grade teacher.
 - > Holly Davis as a speech therapist.

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday ...	94	60	.12
Friday	80	54	
Saturday ...	89	56	.22
Sunday	91	57	
Monday	96	62	
Tuesday	95	63	
Wednesday ..	93	63	

June Moisture ... 0.49
2001 Moisture ... 13.21

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

Letter Dimmitt ex gives tributes

Dear Editor:
"Hats off" to one of Dimmitt's finest, Greg Fuller, for finishing as the top individual bull rider in the Johnson County Sheriff Posse 46th Annual PRC A Rodeo in Cleburne June 13-17.

Also, three cheers to the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Dept. for rolling out the big red fire truck to lead J. B. Moore's crowd of admirers to the cemetery June 16 in his honor.

It was my privilege to have had J.B. as a friend and employer in my youth in Dimmitt. He was one of those kind of people whom Tom Brokaw wrote about in his book, *The Greatest Generation*.

Lest anyone should think that Dimmitt shirks its duty in honoring its heroes, let it be known that the Ivy Chapel was bulging with more than 500 people celebrating his exemplary life: a great American — citizen, soldier, patriot, husband, father, grandfather, friend and servant of God.

I, for one, am better for having known and walked with J. B.

DON JOHNSTON
Cleburne
(DHS Class of '54)

Strickland earns Dean's List honor

Jonathan B. Strickland has been named to the Dean's List at Ouachita Baptist University, located in Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must make at least a 3.5 grade point average and be classified as a full-time student taking a minimum of 12 academic hours.

Strickland graduated in May with a bachelor of arts in English and Spanish.

He is the son of Pam and Butch Strickland of Brenham, formerly of Dimmitt, and the grandson of Bessie and the late Durward Strickland.



BIBLICAL MARKET—Members of the Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ turned the west lawn of their church into a colorful Biblical marketplace Saturday for Vacation Bible School. Colorfully clad merchants included a potter, a weaver, a carpenter, a leather worker, story tellers and food vendors, with church members of all ages taking part. (See "On the Go," Page 3, for story.) Photo by Don Nelson

Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

Dry weather conditions continue to strengthen the probability that a significant percentage of High Plains dryland cotton acreage will not establish a stand.

The end result could be a further reduction in the number of acres that will enter July with a chance to make it to harvest.

Preliminary estimates, and informal discussions, have indicated that as many as 750,000 acres of dryland cotton south of Lubbock were turned in to federal crop insurance Monday with expiration of the planting period mandated by the insurance policy.

Federal crop insurance mandates that two weeks pass after the final planting date before insured acreage can be turned in and a determination of the crop status can be made.

For most of the counties south of Lubbock, the end of the two-week waiting period arrived Monday. Adjusters can now begin the process of evaluating and releasing acreage that has failed to achieve a stand. The area in question accounts for

1.2 million of the area's estimated 1.8 million dryland acres. Some 750,000 to 800,000 acres in this area were considered prime candidates for failure after Monday.

The estimated dryland loss, plus the 350,000 to 400,000 acres of irrigated crops already listed as lost to a variety of weather events puts the total lost acreage somewhere in the neighborhood of 1.2 million acres.

That would leave only about 2.5 million acres for harvest with the months of July, August and September left in the growing season.

A potential costly trap awaits growers considering of forfeiting their 2000 cotton crop to the Commodity Credit Corp., instead of redeeming the crop and selling it outright before the end of the period. Growers should be aware that when cotton is forfeited to the gov-

ernment, the grower becomes liable for reimbursing the government for several charges tied to the crop.

Those charges, which must be paid by the grower, included compression charges, first month's storage fees and any applicable in and out charges. That could add up to \$12 to \$15 per bale.

With prudent planting, growers could be able to skirt to 2 to 3¢ per pound net cost associated with forfeiting the crop. One option is to redeem the cotton at the current adjusted world price and then sell it outright.

This strategy could be beneficial to producers, allowing them to protect the full amount of the loan price through the combination of the cash sale price and the marketing loan gain they realized by redeeming at a lower price per pound, assuming the cash sale price is the same or slightly higher than the price at which they redeemed the cotton from the loan.

More about

Courts deal . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

attended any meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous as ordered.

Judge Miller reinstated Martinez's probation and ordered him to pay \$90 per month in restitution, supervision and probation fees and attend intervention classes after serving 30 days in jail.

In 242nd District Court, Francisco Peralta waived a jury trial and pleaded guilty to second-degree aggravated assault with serious bodily injury on a charge dating back to last July 4.

Under the terms of a plea bargain, Judge Self sentenced Peralta to five years' probated jail time, a \$1,000 fine, 400 hours of community service and a \$1,000 fine plus \$597 in court costs and attorney's fees and a \$50 donation to Crime Line.

Judge Self revoked the probation of John Hernandez on a charge of felony DWI dating back to October 1994. Hernandez, who originally was sentenced to a five-year probated term, was adjudged guilty of a list of parole violations, and was ordered jailed.

Judge Self ordered Joyce Thomas Ewing's probation reinstated, extended and modified after she admitted failure to report and being delinquent by \$3,240 in court-ordered restitution.

On a charge of third-degree tam-

pering with government records, Ewing was under a sentence of five years' probation, \$2,316 restitution to the Dept. of Human Resources, five years' disqualification from receiving benefits, and a \$500 fine plus court costs and a \$50 Crime Line donation.

Judge Self also revoked and reinstated the probation of Joe Tapia, who was serving a five-year probated sentence for third-degree possession of a controlled substance (1-4 grams).

Tapia pleaded "true" to charges of failing to report, being delinquent in payments on a \$1,000 fine and court costs, failure to stay off of alcohol or drugs, failure to attend AA meetings as ordered, failure to attend the education lab to work toward a diploma or GED certificate, and failure to complete 301 of his 400 required hours of community service.

In addition to having his probation reinstated, Tapia was ordered to pay an additional \$250 in attorney fees and to make restitution payments of \$75 per month until his fines are paid in full.

More about 1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

George Rasor and Lyman Schroeder started it in 1988. Three years later they went back and took Chuck Braafladt and CD Fitzgerald with them.

That foursome went again in '94, and in '97 they increased their number to six, including Coach Danny Chism and his son, Cody.

After the '97 trip they decided that every third year was too long to wait. They did a little creative budgeting and switched to an every-other-year schedule.

Also after that '97 trip, Chuck was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

The '99 trip was to be Chuck's last, and his buddies made sure it was a good one for him.

"He was beginning to struggle with his speech by then," George recalls, "and he had lost some strength in his hands. And he'd get tired and would have to take naps while everybody else kept fishing."

But he had a blast. After being diagnosed, getting to make one more trip to Canada with the guys became one of his great desires in the now-serious business of living out his life. Chuck died last July.

This year George, Lyman, CD and Danny were joined by Lyman's brother, Rodney, of Lamar, Colo., and his 16-year-old son, Jerry.

They were the only humans on Lake Kakanagimak (referred to simply as "Kak" by the natives). The deep, pristine lake stretched five miles to the north and eight miles to the south of their sleeping cabin and cook-shack.

The lake is full of lunker trout, walleyes and northern pike.

Traveling together, the guys fished from three 16-ft. boats, each equipped with a 10-hp outboard motor.

"The average walleye up there is 19 or 20 inches," George said. "The biggest walleyes we caught were four or five pounds, which up there is a big walleye, because of the short growing season."

"The lake trout we caught probably averaged 23 or 24 inches," he said. "You could only bring back one per man over 26 inches. There were some longer than 26 inches that we threw back."

From Saturday through Wednesday they threw back nearly every fish that they caught.

"You don't start keeping fish until maybe Wednesday evening, and that would be lake trout because they're a little more difficult to catch. The limit that we could bring home this year was five walleye and four lake trout apiece."

That came to 30 walleye and 24 lake trout, total.

On Thursday they caught 40 walleye, threw 10 back, and packed their limits in ice that evening.

There was one other thing to be done on this trip, and they did that on Thursday, too.

They put up their plaque memorializing Chuck.

During five days of fishing, they had kept their eyes peeled for just the right place.

They picked out a young pine tree at the top of a steep granite clearing that the pilots use as a guidance point for their touchdowns on the lake.



Onto that tree they nailed a plaque that Lyman had made from three cedar boards. Lyman's stepdaughter, Ashley Davis, had stenciled the letters in black on the natural wood, and the plaque was given a weatherproof finish. The plaque reads:

In Memory of
Chuck Braafladt
Who Fished These
Canadian Waters 1991-1999

He Died July 2000
of Lou Gehrig's Disease

"All four of us who had been there before with Chuck had a part in putting up the plaque," CD said. "I was dreading putting it up because I was going to have to accept that fact again that he's gone. He was my fishing partner all those years."

Below the plaque, they tacked up an apple fried pie in its package.

"Bill Sanders always sends treats with us," George explained. "The second time Chuck and CD went, we took fried pies. We probably had six dozen."

"Chuck would eat one or two of those fried pies every meal. I mean, he was eating them all the time."

"Well, when we got ready to come back home, we'd had those things for like 10 days and they were down to about a quarter of an inch thick," George said. "Chuck would eat one or two of those fried pies every meal. I mean, he was eating them all the time."

"He was crazy about those fried pies."

The guys enjoyed splendiferous northern scenery, wild skies, beavers, bald eagles, great-if-primitive meals, and some memorable fishing.

They have pictures of each other holding up fish that stretch from the shoulder to below the hip . . . of breathtaking 10 o'clock sunsets . . . of life on the water and around the camp . . . of a crow chasing an eagle . . . of a minnow that bit into a jig-and-worm and wouldn't let go . . .

"This was probably the best trip we've ever had," George said. "We caught more fish, and bigger fish, than we ever had before."


"We missed Chuck. It wasn't the same. But he wouldn't have had it any other way."

And who knows? Chuck may have been the reason they caught more fish than ever this time.

Maybe he put in a good word for them.

Just a Little Boy

*He stands at the plate with his heart pounding fast;
The bases are loaded; the die has been cast;
Mom and Dad cannot help him;
he stands all alone.
A hit at this moment would send the team home.*



*The ball nears the plate; he swings and he misses.
There's a groan from the crowd, with some boos and hisses.
A thoughtless voice cries, "Strike out the bum!"
Tears fill his eyes; the game's no longer fun.*

*Remember - he's just a little boy who stands all alone,
So open your heart and give him a break,
For it's moments like this a man you can make.
Keep this in mind when you hear someone forget.
He's just a little boy and not a man yet.*

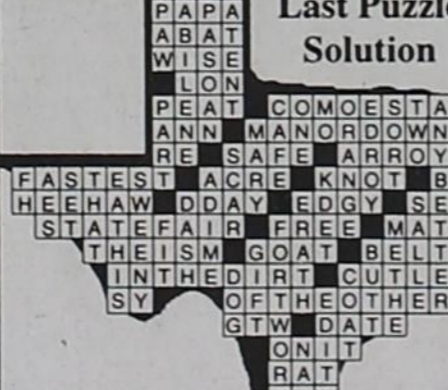
Birkenfeld named to Dean's List

Cassie Birkenfeld of Nazareth was recently named to the Dean's List at Wayland Baptist University for the spring semester.

Students included on the list maintained at least a 3.5 grade point average for the semester, and carried at least 12 academic hours.

Birkenfeld is the daughter of Sidney and Peggy Birkenfeld.

Last Puzzle Solution



FASTEST ACRES KNOT SET
HEERHAW DDA EDGY MSET
STATHEPARR FREFEMATE
THEESH GOAT BELTS
INTHEHRT CUTLE
SY OFTHEOTHER
ONIT
RAT
TIE
HAD

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

Copyright 2001 by Orbison Bros.

ACROSS

- TX "Dandy Don" show: "_____ Monday Night Football"
- TXism: "never sign anything in the _____ of a neon light"
- TXism for "smelly" sports cable net.
- TXism: "_____ some gravel" (fell)
- Denton university primarily for women
- TX Tech color, with red
- Roosevelt recruited "Teddy's _____" from TX ("Rough Riders")
- TX-filmed "Terms of Endearment" actor _____ son
- Grand _____, TX
- TX Vikki Carr tune: "With Pen _____"
- lichens violet dye ejected tobacco juice
- this Lottie was a famous TX gambler
- "week" south of the border
- a Texan flew scout plane for _____ Gay bomber
- Waco Tech. college
- TXism: "gentle _____ merry-go-round"
- "Remember _____"
- Van _____, TX
- TXism: "boring as a fishing trip _____ warden"

DOWN

- Texas: _____ live!
- TXism: "_____ end" (tool handle)
- _____ Cove, TX
- historic TX ranch: "_____ R. Swenson Cattle Co."
- when repeated, WWII Jap. cry
- TXism: "it's nothing to _____" (unimportant)
- TXism: "_____ less _____ as a milk bucket under a bull"
- NYSE symbol for TX-based Burlington Northern
- actress in TX Kenny Rogers film "Gambler Part II"
- back pain
- in Jones Co. on 83
- "bear" south of border
- wallet stuffers
- TXism: "mean as _____ range cow"
- beer spigot
- donkey
- woodwind instruments in the Dallas Symphony
- TXism: "you're dippin' snuff _____ of my can"
- G.I. entertainment
- _____gallon hat
- Charlie or Jackie
- San Antonio AM
- TX actor Torn
- TX actress Darnell (init.)
- TXism: "brave _____ a rodeo clown"
- TX TV Tarzan Ely (init.)
- once a C&W music cable net.
- TXism: "_____ left feet" (bad dancer)
- TXism: "_____ neck of the woods"
- TXism: "close but _____ cigar"
- TXism: "he's _____ walk the river with"
- _____ Park, TX
- Rangerettes creator Gussie _____ Davis
- amino or battery
- TX media giant: _____ Belo Co.
- ex-Cowboy LB Ken (init.)
- marry up
- this Lukas was with TX Steve Martin in "Leap of Faith"
- Eng. boys school


The Castro County News

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DEADLINES

Display and Classified Advertising.....Tuesday Noon
Agriculture, Business & Industry News.....10 a.m. Monday
Sports, Social and Church News.....Monday Noon
Community Correspondence.....Monday Noon
Personal Items.....5 p.m. Monday
General News, City and County.....Tuesday Noon

Editor and Publisher.....Don Nelson
News Department.....Anne Acker, Don Nelson
Advertising Composition.....Paula Portwood
Ad Sales.....Don Nelson
Page Composition and Photo Lab.....Joyce Nelson
Bookkeeping.....Anne Acker, Paula Portwood
Community Correspondents.....Dorothy Hopson, Dimmitt; Virgie Gerber, Nazareth

On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

Katie Ivey has been on a trip to Iowa to visit her mother, Marie Barclay.

On her way to Iowa, she stopped in Wakefield, Kan. to see her uncle and aunt, De and Janice Barclay. They visited the grave site of her great-great-grandfather in Eskiridge, Kan. near the flint hills. Her grandfather was thrown from a horse and killed leaving a wife, a four-year-old son and two-month-old twins.

They drove to Loft Springs and visited the grave site of her great-great-grandparents on her mother's side. Katie's great-aunt, for whom she was named, was also buried there.

On to Brooklyn, Iowa, Katie and her mother had a good time visiting and Katie was a guest at her mother's bridge club.

Paul and Katie's daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter; Karen, Chuck and Ashlyn Ford, came by Sunday afternoon on their way home to Ropesville. They had been to the Amarillo Zoo for an outing.

Ed and Betty Freeman had a wonderful reunion with Rev. Jerry Elliott and his wife, Mary of San Juan Capistrano, Calif. on Thursday, June 21.

Back in June of 1948, Jerry was one of a dozen college students who came to Alaska to conduct Vacation Bible Schools in native villages. Their first stop was Ketchikan where Ed was the Presbyterian pastor.

Jerry grew up in Amarillo and graduated from Amarillo College, and finished his degree at Dubuque University in Iowa, then went on to San Francisco Seminary, where he met and married Mary, who also attended.

The Freemans and Elliots had a wonderful afternoon sharing their

ministries and many mutual acquaintances.

Judith Smith-Polansky and Jessica of Austin were visiting Robert and Norma Smith last week to be with Judith's dad while he was in the Baptist St Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo.

Several young people from Dimmitt joined 1,200 other youth for a Super Summer camp in Abilene on the Hardin Simmons University campus. Super Summer meetings are held throughout the summer on five or six different Baptist college campuses. 11 young people and two sponsors made up the Dimmitt group. They were Darcy Fisher, Laura Rator, Hayley Heard, Jenna Steinle, Stephanie Hazel, Jake Wright, Shenea Wright, Casey Jones, Mandy Ebling and Haylee Wise.

The adult sponsors were Elaine Steinle and Sam Griffin. Drew Hazzard, G.T. and Laquetta West's grandson from Kirkland, NM, spoke briefly about his experience at Glorieta, NM during the summer, too.

Haylee Wise's parents, Gary and Ronda Wise, were in the process of moving to Frisco (a suburb of Dallas), while Haylee was at Super Summer. Haylee's sister and brother-in-law, Holly and Chad Davis, drove to Abilene on Friday, got Haylee and joined all of the Gary Wise family in their new home in Frisco. Heather Wise, a senior-to-be at Texas Tech this fall, also drove down with Holly, Chad and Haylee. This completed the family gathering.

We are already missing this family. They have been our next door neighbors for about 12 years. We've watched their girls grow up. Their youngest daughter, Hanna, who is now 10, has been a part of the "Fun in the Sun" group who have played

on our circle almost since their birth. Last summer we dubbed them the "Shooter Brigade." They travel from lawn to lawn playing in sprinklers, kiddie pools, shooting goals, roller blading and many more fun activities.

On Monday before moving day, V.C. and I invited them to our backyard for hot dogs and swimming in our inflated neighborhood size pool. Those present were the honoree, Hanna; Molly and Wendy Bradford; Devanee Birdwell; Adam and Lana Reinart and Shea Myatt.

Other dropping by were Chad and Holly Davis, Sally Bradford, Donna Reinart, Sue Rita Myatt and Ronda Wise.

Ida Gibson attended the high school graduation of her granddaughter, Marcy Hoelting of Lone Oak. Marcy is the daughter of Vera (Birkenfeld) and Mark Hoelting, formerly of Nazareth.

Marcy has already started to Dallas University to pursue a career as an ophthalmologist.

From Lone Oak, Ida drove over to Temple to visit another daughter, Erlene Fritz, and completed her trip by spending time with her daughter, Roxanne Richardson, in Livingston.

Edith Graef was hostess Thursday for the Senior Citizen's Bridge Club. Lauranell Hamilton was high scorer and Louise Mears was second high.

As I drove eastward, down Bedford Street early Saturday morning and I thought I was looking back into time. The folks at the Church of Christ had created a scene right out of Biblical times. Their theme for the one day Vacation Bible School was Jewish tradition and home life. The realistic scene was *The Market Place*. Each child and adult was dressed in authentic looking Bible days attire.

The children were divided into the 12 tribes of Israel and visited a different booth every 30 minutes. They walked among live sheep, dipped water from a well and pretended that they were truly living like the people in the Bible. The sheep herders were Oscar Wylie and Carl King.

The *Market Place* booths included a pottery making place. Janet Mitchell of Hart demonstrated pottery making. She is an art teacher in the Hart schools and has a potters wheel. Each child got to attempt to create something from the clay.

Donny Carpenter demonstrated carpentry like it was done in Biblical time. He had made a two sided saw that had to be pushed and pulled to

work and a wooden hammer that each child hammered a wooden peg.

Chuck and Kristi Ball taught the children how letters were sealed. Each one had his or her own seal and got to enclose a copy of the 10 commandments inside a scroll and seal it.

Bill and Paula Harman demonstrated leather working. They taught the children the art of decorating leather.

Ty Gresham told each tribe of children a Bible story. He was dressed in a huge box that was designed to look like a Bible at the beginning of the day. He created a lot of interest before the story telling began.

There was a food booth with beef jerky, dried fruit, olives and fresh fruits for everyone to sample.

Doricell Davis and Diane Townsend were in charge of the food booth.

Michelle Johnson demonstrated fabric weaving and helped each one to weave a fish.

The tribe leaders were Gary and Rhenea Webb, J.H. and Earlene Myatt, Melissa Carpenter, Tianna Ramsey, Julia and Pedro Gonzales, Connie and Shannon Nutt, Krystal Nelson and Sharon Kinsler. Lisa Mixson took video and Carter Townsend took still pictures. Each tribe had a beautiful banner with a Jacob's family crest made by Jane Vaughan.

At the end of the day, Mollie Scott, Krystal Nelson and Don and Betty Carpenter treated everyone to a hamburger cookout.

What a day!

Computer Solutions
Of Dimmitt

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(Western Digital WD200 Drive)

Nazareth with Uirgie Gerber, 945-2669

The annual Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament was held Sunday at the Hereford Golf Course with 78 entries. The winning team consisted of Donnie Carpenter, Terry Mixson, Gary Johnston and Mike Wilkerson.

The Knights of Columbus then treated all the players to a barbecue meal at the Nazareth Community Hall. Scott Huseman was the winner of the golf club throwing contest on the football field.

Congratulations to Leroy and Jenny Schulte on the birth of a baby girl, Chandler JoAnne, June 19, at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. Grandparents are Floyd and Dorothy Schulte, Laren Jones and Suzy Jones. Great grandparents are Lee Haschke of Umbarger and Louise Braddock of Nazareth.

The 29th annual German Festival, Arts and Crafts show, and Suds and Sounds will be held Saturday, July 14. Bring your family, neighbors and friends for a fun day!

Volunteers are needed for a work day at Holy Family Catholic Church and grounds on Saturday, June 30, at 7:00 a.m.

Congratulations to Pascual and Liz (Albracht) Hernandez of Monihans on the birth of twin girls, born June 1. Cara Frances weighed 5 pounds and 10 ounces and Catarina Louise weighed 3 pounds and 14 ounces. All are at home and doing fine.

Grandparents are Sam and Margie Albracht of Nazareth. Great-grandparents are W.J. and Irene Albracht of Hereford.

Scott and Cindy Huseman drove to Monihans over the weekend to see their twin neices and to bring the twins' grandmother, Margie, back to Nazareth after caring for the twins for a couple of weeks.

Prayers are asked for Francis Wilhelm, Anne Huseman Lee, Edith Huseman, Lori Huseman, Tammy Drerup, Art Albracht, Virgil Brockman, Ray Schmucker and Ann Heck.

Church sets bible school

Lee Street Baptist Church will be holding Vacation Bible School (VBS) with the theme of "Freedom Week" from July 2-6.

The theme is centered around teaching children about the importance of freedom in the U.S. as well as freedom experienced with God.

Children from pre-kindergarten to

6th grade are invited to attend from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. each day.

Wednesday evening will be Family Freedom Fun Night. Hot dogs and refreshments will be served without charge to registered VBS participants and their parents. Games and other activities will also be held.

Registration will begin at 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 2 at the church.

18th Annual

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JOE'S BOOT SHOP





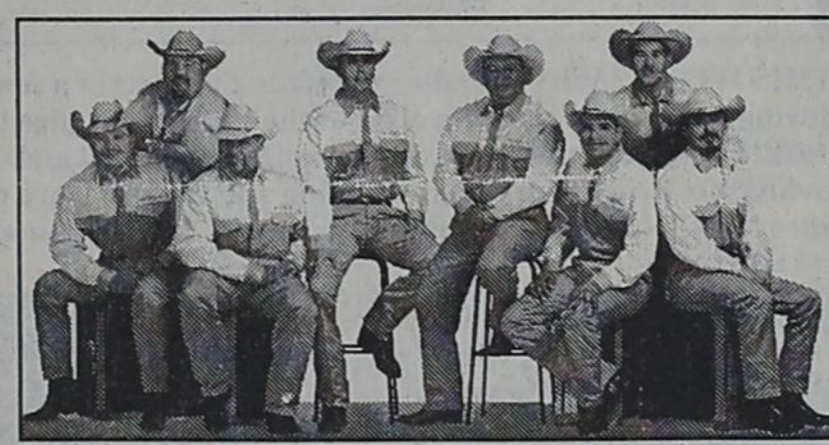

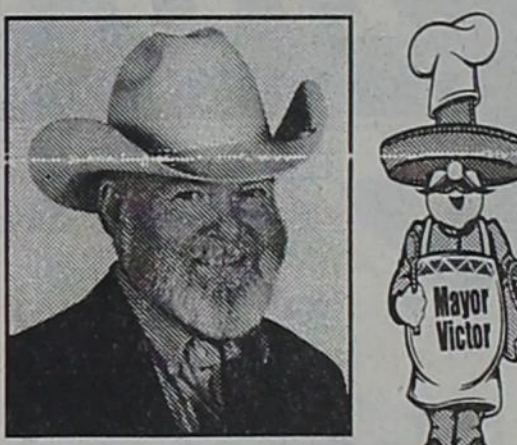

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 July 7 - David Lee Garza & Los Musicales	 July 14 - Delk Band	 July 21 - Red Steagall		

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People



Cooder Graw will headline concert at German Festival

Cooder Graw will be the headline band when Nazareth hosts its annual German Festival and Suds and Sounds outdoor benefit concert on July 14.

The annual event is highlighted by a German sausage meal, arts and crafts show, and the outdoor concert.

The day's celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with an arts and crafts show in the Nazareth School Cafeteria. A wide variety of craft items and gift ideas will be featured at the show, which is sponsored by the Nazareth Art Club.

Other activities are slated to start at 11 a.m. and around the Nazareth Community Hall. These include children's barrel rides, a tractor pull, variety of kids' games and a basketball shoot-out with prizes.

The German sausage dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nazareth Community Hall.

The menu includes German sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, beans, salad, fruit, bread, apple crisp and German chocolate cake.

Tickets for the meal are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

Frozen, uncooked sausage will be available at two pounds for \$5 and may be purchased at the hall throughout the day.

At 5 p.m., the celebration will move to the Nazareth Community Center Ballpark, where the annual Suds and Sounds Concert is planned.

Several local bands will perform beginning at 6:30 p.m. and they include "The Sizzlers," "South 40" and "Bo Salling Brakes are All Gone."

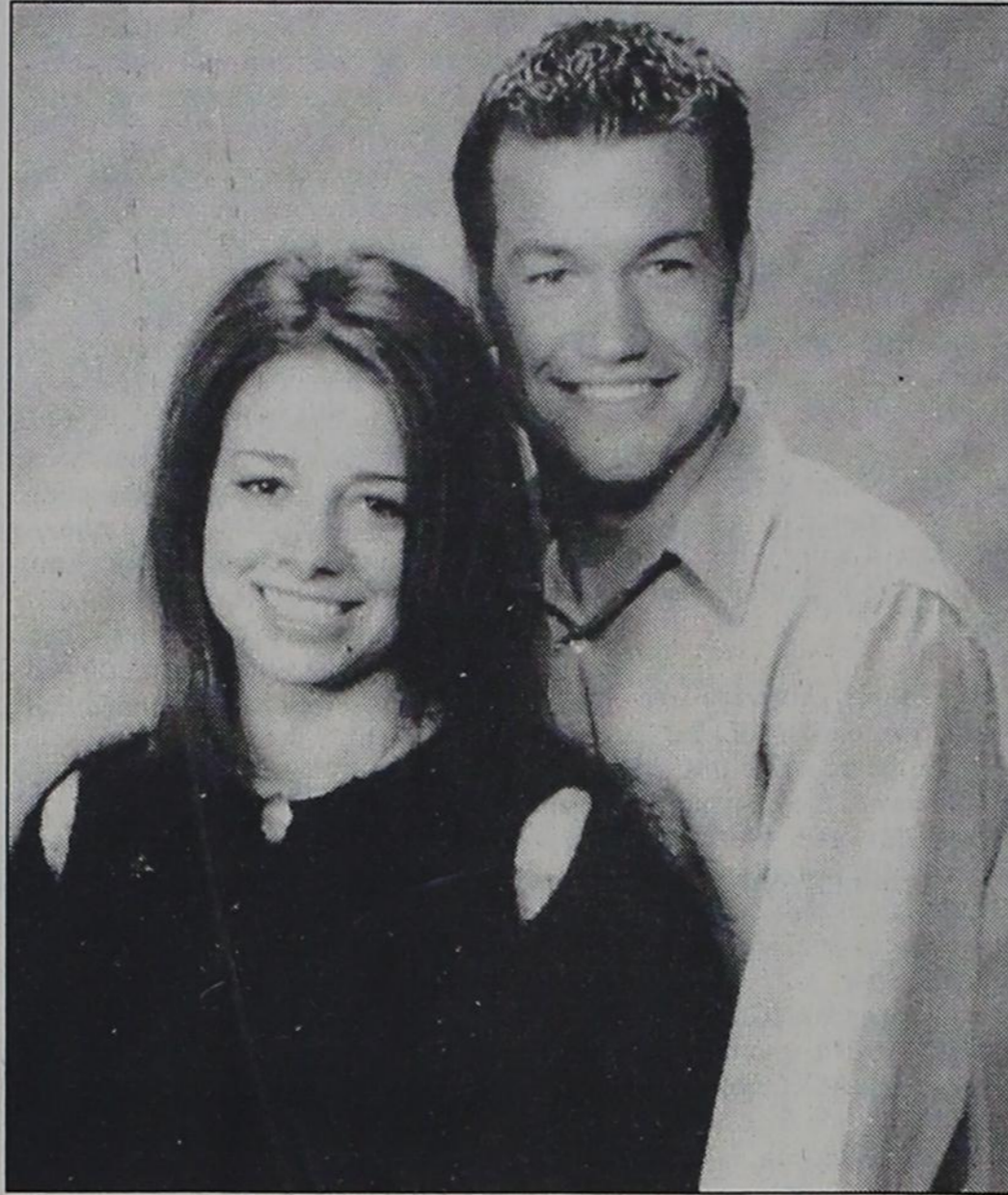
Admission to the concert is \$15 per person. Those attending are invited to bring lawn chairs and shades. Coolers will be allowed, but no glass containers will be permitted onto the field.

Cooder Graw will be the final band to perform in the show.

A 3,000-square-foot dance floor will be erected at the site.

During the concert, a concession stand will be open featuring German sausage sandwiches, soft drinks, snacks and more.

Proceeds from the day's events will benefit the Knights of Columbus charities and the Nazareth Community Hall.



Stephanie Lynn Pratt and Adrian Farris

August wedding planned

Mr. and Mrs. Cary Pratt of Claude announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Stephanie Lynn Pratt, to Adrian Farris, son of Suzanne Farris of Amarillo and Ricky Farris of Dimmitt.

The couple are planning to marry on Friday, Aug. 31, at Trinity Fellowship Church in Amarillo.

The bride-elect is a 1995 graduate of Claude High School. She earned a degree in dental hygiene from Amarillo College in May.

The prospective groom graduated from Nazareth High School in 1993. He attended Tyler Junior College and West Texas A&M University. He is a realtor employed by Real Estate Concepts in Amarillo.

The couple plans to make their home in Amarillo.

Deadline nears for scholarships

The application deadline for the 2001 leadership scholarship program sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance is July 11.

The program will award 10 \$500 scholarships to Catholic Life Insurance members who are full-time students at private or public colleges or universities.

To be eligible for a leadership scholarship, students must be a Catholic Life Insurance member for at least one year prior to the applica-

tion deadline and be attending a public or private college or university full time. Scholarship selections will be based on scholastic achievement, leadership qualities and community service. The recipients will be named in August.

Interested individuals should call the Catholic Life Communications Department at (210) 828-9921 for an application form. Application materials must be postmarked by July 11.

Hospice Thrift Shop is seeking donations

Clothing, shoes, linens, small pieces of furniture, baby items and household goods are needed by the Castro County Hospital District's Hospice Thrift Shop, which has been renamed as "The Rose Garden."

The shop is seeking the above mentioned items, including good, clean usable clothing for boys and girls as well as adults.

All donations should be delivered to the shop at 112 W. Jones St. in Dimmitt, Monday through Saturday. The shop is part of the Hospice

Care program that serves Dimmitt and surrounding areas. All proceeds are used for patients involved in the program.

"We are also responsible for maintaining a certain number of volunteer hours for this program and we are in great need of the good people out there who would like to participate in helping serve mankind—please volunteer," said a spokesperson for Hopsice Care.

For more information about the shop or to volunteer, call the hospice volunteer coordinator at 647-3020.

Student loan interest rates hit record low

The Dept. of Education recently announced that interest rates on federal student loans will drop to 5.99% from the current 8.19%.

The new rate, which goes into effect on July 1, is the lowest in the 35-year history of the federal student loan program.

Federal student loans are awarded on a variable interest rate set each July. The new rates, based on a Treasury-bill auction held May 29, will remain in effect until June 30, 2002.

Students who are already paying back their student loans could benefit the most from the new rates by consolidating loans taken out over the course of their education. Through consolidation, the borrower agrees to combine outstanding balances at a new, fixed interest rate. Students who have recently

graduated and are in the six-month grace period for Stafford loan repayment could lock in an interest rate as low as 5.39% if they are willing to consolidate their loans.

"While there are advantages and disadvantages, loan consolidation can be a very powerful repayment tool for parents and students," said Shelia Dunlap, assistant vice president for default prevention at Texas Guaranteed.

Dunlap encourages borrowers to call Texas Guaranteed, their lender or school financial aid office to determine if consolidation would be a beneficial option.

If a borrower is willing to consolidate his or her federal student loans, the federal government estimates savings of \$136 for every \$1,000 owed by students in a standard 10-year repayment plan.

Parents who have borrowed through the federal Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) program will also benefit from lower interest rates. Rates for PLUS loans will drop to 6.79% from 8.99%. Because PLUS loans are owed immediately, parents will see the effects of the new rates whether they are borrowing for the first time this fall or are already paying loans previously granted by the government. PLUS loans also are eligible for consolidation, allowing parents to lock in a lower rate for the remaining life of the loan.

Baby shower honors Lusts

Cory and Wendy Lust were honored with a baby shower Saturday in the home of Jan Baca of Dimmitt.

An angel surrounded by fresh flowers and candles served as the centerpiece for the serving table. Guests enjoyed ham rolls, finger sandwiches, chocolate-dipped strawberries and lemonade.

Special guests were Becky Meil of Dumas and Shanee Thompson of Decatur, Ala., mothers of the couple; and Betty Burrous and Doris Lust, the couples grandmothers.

For students who take out a federal loan for the coming school year, the effects of lower interest may be less direct.

Since the federal government pays the interest on subsidized Stafford loans while a student is in school, borrowers who've qualified for these loans probably won't notice the lower rates; however, students with unsubsidized federal Stafford loans have the option to pay the interest or capitalize it while they are in school. The interest rates on both subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans will vary annually throughout the life of the loan, unless the borrower elects to consolidate.

"Whether you're in school or already paying back your student loans, the new rates only increase the value of a college education, an investment that already carries a high return," said Dunlap.

More information about consolidating student loans or about financing a college education is available at www.tgsic.org or by calling Texas Guaranteed at 800-338-4752.

Rusty Wooten earns degree

Rusty Wooten of Dimmitt graduated with honors from North Eastern Oklahoma A&M College in Miami, Okla., on June 3.

Wooten was on the President's Honor Roll during the spring 2001 semester.

He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the NEO Horse Judging Team and was a member of the Aggie Society as a student body government representative for the agriculture department.

He received an associate degree in ag economics and plans to continue his education at Texas A&M University in College Station.



HOW DOES THIS WORK? Will Whitaker examines the parts of a sewing machine during a beginner's sewing class at the Extension office in Dimmitt last week. Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal and 4-H adult leader Sharon Brockman are conducting the class as part of summer activities for 4-H'ers. Photo by Castro County Extension Service

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June 21, 2000

I like to travel by motorcycle to Wyoming and Montana and, on my way, I like to spend the night in a motel in rural Texas (avoiding large cities). I don't have a good experience generally, but tonight at Dimmitt I stayed in the Sands Motel and was very surprised. The room was very clean, the outside very well kept, the owners extremely nice and friendly.

Don't get me wrong — I live in Texas and love the state and its people, but the Sands Motel, as a small and affordable facility, deserves to be set apart, and I would recommend it to all of my friends traveling in that region of Texas.

Texans are the most friendly people in this great nation. The owners of the Sands Motel are true representatives of that spirit.

Again, I congratulate these owners for the care they give to their business. It was a very pleasant experience for a traveler.

Congratulations! I hope the Sands Motel will receive great consideration from fellow travelers.

Pierre F. Cagniard, PhD
 Associate Professor, History Department
 Southwest Texas State University
 San Marcos

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AWARD-WINNING WORK—Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary members (from left) Edna Reinart and Betty Freeman show off the tray favors and scrapbook they recently entered in contests at

the Texas Association of Hospital Auxiliaries state convention June 3-6. The scrapbook earned a third-place ribbon. *Photo by Anne Acker*



Who's New

PLAINS MEMORIAL

It's a girl, Brittany Alyce Castillo, for Erica Saucedo and David Castillo of Dimmitt. She was born June 18 at 6:27 p.m., weighing 6 pounds and 5.4 ounces and measuring 19½ inches long. She has two older siblings, 3-year-old Leonardo Jay and 1-year-old David, Jr. Grandparents are Juanita Castillo and Domingo and Victoria Saucedo, all of Dimmitt. Great-grandparents are Juan and Elida Campos and Simona Flores.

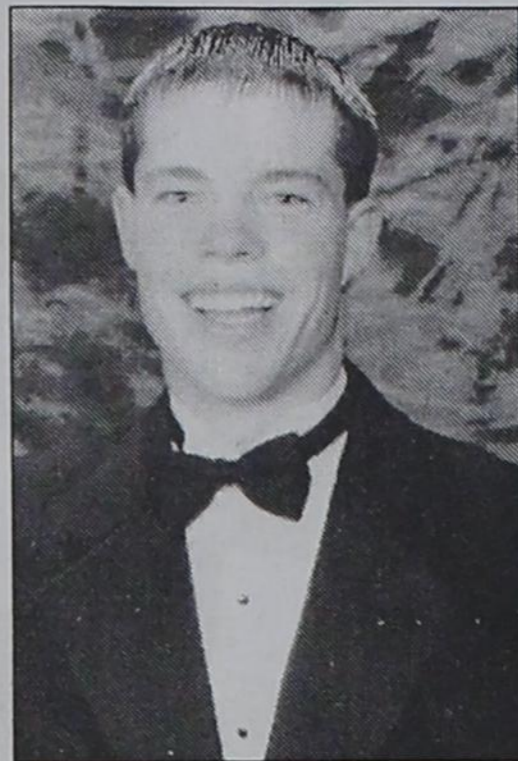
It's a boy for Gloria and Abelardo Gonzalez Jr. of Dimmitt. Their son was born at 12:38 p.m. on June 21 at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. He has been named Jose Angel Isael Gonzales. He weighed 7 lbs., 12 oz. and was 19 inches long. He has two big sisters, 7-year-old Crystal Pearl Escamilla and 4-year-old Gloria Angeles Gonzalez. Paternal grandparents are Celia and Abelardo Gonzalez Sr. of Dimmitt. Maternal grandparents are Maria and Enrique Marrufo of Dimmitt.

OUT OF TOWN

Aaron and Temple Odom of Lansing, Mich., are the parents of a baby girl, Kersten Temple Odom, who was born on her mother's birthday, June 19, in Lansing. She weighed 6 lbs., 12 ozs., and was 20 inches long. Her grandparents are Jesse and Pam Odom of Dimmitt and Dean and Betty Sue Mathis of Hobbs, N.M. Great-grandparents are Mozelle Odom of Dimmitt and Ronald Kersten of Wellington.

Leroy and Jenny Schulte of Nazareth are the parents of a baby girl, Chandler JoAnn Schulte, who was born June 19 at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo. Chandler JoAnn weighed in at 7 lbs., 7-3/4 ozs, and measured 20-3/4 inches long. Her grandparents are Floyd and Dorothy Schulte and Buck Jones and Suzy Jones, all of Nazareth. Great-grandparents are Lee Haschke of Umbarger and Louise Braddock of Nazareth.

Never eat any product on which the listed ingredients cover more than one-third of the package.



Mark Birkenfeld



Josh Hardwick

Birkenfeld, Hardwick win Harrington Scholarships

The Amarillo College Foundation has announced that Mark Joseph Birkenfeld of Nazareth and Joshua Lee Hardwick of Dimmitt have been awarded Sybil B. Harrington Scholarships.

Birkenfeld, son of Clyde and Jeanie Birkenfeld of Nazareth, plans to major in biology at Texas A&M University.

Hardwick is the son of James and Tresa Lynn Hardwick and he plans to major in psychology or music at Abilene Christian University.

During high school, Birkenfeld was president of Student Council, National Honor Society and the Hereford High School Band. He played varsity football and baseball and ran track. He was elected as secretary of his class and was co-editor of the yearbook. He qualified in five UIL events at the regional level and in three events at the state level. He was a state champion in calculator applications this year. He graduated as valedictorian this year.

Hardwick served as president of the National Honor Society and was a member of the Student Council,

Interact and Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He played basketball and baseball for Dimmitt High School. Hardwick was named to Who's Who Among American High School Students and was tapped as an All-American Scholar. He received the Xerox Award for Leadership and Humanities. He graduated as salutatorian of his senior class this year.

Mrs. Harrington endowed the Sybil B. Harrington Scholarship through the Amarillo College Foundation in 1989. The fund encourages and assists outstanding students to pursue higher education. Students receive up to \$3,500 for tuition and fees a year and may reapply for up to three additional years. Since 1999, more than \$2 million has awarded.

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

Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills

New Texas student testing will be implemented in 2003

Texas' new generation of student tests is to be called Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) and it will go into effect in 2003.

"Each time this state has launched a new testing program, the test has gotten a new name so it is fitting that the TAAS name be retired," Texas Education Commissioner Jim Nelson said.

"The Texas Assessment of Basic Skills (TABS) gave way to the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills (TEAMS), which faded away when the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) emerged," said Nelson, referring to the first three generations of the Texas testing program.

"After SAT and ACT, the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills

(TAAS) is probably the best-known test in the country but as someone once said, it is time for it to go. TAKS takes over in 2003, the date the new test is launched," Nelson said.

The new test reflects its close alignment with the state's curriculum standards, which are called the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

This new testing program, which was mandated by the Texas Legislature in 1999, will cover more subjects and be more rigorous than the 11-year-old TAAS.

Annual testing will occur in grades 3-11 under the TAKS program. Under the TAAS program, students are tested in grades 3-8 and 10. The exit-level TAKS exam, which students must pass in order to receive a

high school diploma, will move from the 10th grade to the 11th grade.

The exit exam will cover the subjects of English language arts, math, science and social studies.

Additional information about the new testing program, which is in the developmental stage, can be found at www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment.

Texas A&M names spring honor students

Three Castro County students have been recognized by Texas A&M University for top academic achievement during the spring 2001 semester.

Amy Pohlmeier and Susan Book, both of Nazareth, qualified for the Dean's Honor Roll; while Colby McDaniel of Dimmitt was named to the "Distinguished Students" list.

Pohlmeier is a senior majoring in nutritional science.

Book is a junior agricultural journalism major.

McDaniel is majoring in mechanical engineering and is classified as a senior.

The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes students taking at least 15 semester hours who have maintained at least a 3.75 grade-point average over a possible 4.0 during the most recent grading period.

A second designation, "Distinguished Student," recognizes students who earned a 3.25 to 3.75 GPA while taking at least 15 hours.

Family picnic, cookoff slated Saturday in Olton

The city of Olton will hold a pit barbecue, chili cookoff and family picnic on Saturday at Granbury Park, located at 10th and Avenue M in Olton.

Activities will include a volleyball tournament, horseshoe tournament, trap shoot, rides and games brought by Texas Tech Tour.

A barbecue lunch will begin at 12 noon. Plates will be \$6.50 per person and the menu will include barbecued

brisket, beans, potato salad and trimmings.

A music concert and country western dance will be held Friday at 8 p.m. The dance will be at the Olton Chamber of Commerce Pavilion on 9th and Main.

Merchants are planning to stay open late—until 8 p.m.—on Friday for those who would like to shop.

Proceeds from the day's events will benefit Special Olympics.

Church Directory

- New Hope Memorial Baptist**
300 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Bobby Starlings.....647-289
- Sunnyside Baptist**
Sunnyside
Bennie Wright.....6475712
- First United Methodist**
Hart
Tom Long.....38-2462
- La Asamblea Cristiana**
400 NW 5th, Dimmitt
Manuel Rodriguez
- First United Methodist**
110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt
Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106
- Iglesia De Cristo**
E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt
Pedro A. Gonzalez
- Immaculate Conception Catholic**
1001 W. Halell, Dimmitt
Fern Couture.....647-4219, 647-0105
- Jesus and the Love of God Church**
(Bilingual) 30 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Felix Sanchez.....647-3668

Praise to thee, my Lord, for all thy creatures.

—St. Francis of Assisi

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- Church of God of the First Born**
611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt
- St. John's Catholic**
Hart
Fern Couture.....647-0105
- Church of Christ**
SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4435
- Rose of Sharon Temple**
407 NE 4th, Dimmitt
- Primera Iglesia Bautista**
9th and Etter, Dimmitt
Antonio Rocha
- Holy Family Catholic**
Nazareth
Peter Otto.....945-2616
- Hart Church of Christ**
416 Avenue H, Hart
Aaron Lee.....938-2267

Abundant Life Family Church
113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Tom and Kay Mullins

First Assembly of God
300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Leonard A. Broseker.....647-5662

First Baptist
1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Howard Rhodes.....647-3115

Lee Street Baptist
401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt
Jeff Addison

First Christian
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La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito
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Presbyterian
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Connie Nieto.....293-7361

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Keeping an Eye on Texas

Fireworks Safety

During National Fireworks Safety Week beginning July 1, the Texas Pyrotechnic Association (TPA), representing fireworks manufacturers, distributors and more than 95 percent of retailers in Texas, reminds Texans to follow these fireworks safety guidelines:

- Use close adult supervision.
- Follow fireworks label instructions carefully.
- Aim fireworks away from people and animals.
- Light one firework at a time, then move away quickly.
- Shoot fireworks outdoors, away from dry grass and buildings.

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the Texas Pyrotechnic Association.

ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



CASTRO COUNTY EXTENSION AGENT Marilyn Neal (right) discusses child passenger safety information with (from left) Dianna Valdez and her mother Leticia Valdez. Also pictured is Dianna Valdez's baby daughter. Proper use of child safety seats was

just one of the topics mothers and prospective mothers learned from during Castro County's first baby fair, held last Thursday in Dimmitt. The event was sponsored by the Castro County Extension Service and the Coalition for Moms and Babies.

TBWEF opens new department designed to better serve growers

The recent addition of three new areas to the boll weevil eradication effort in the state has prompted the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to create a new department designed to increase communication and service to cotton producers.

The foundation will conduct operations on more than six million acres of cotton this growing season. With such a large operation, foundation officials wanted to make sure the organization maintained a personal touch with Texas cotton producers and established a producer relations department.

Members of the department will be available for presentations to growers, grower organizations, service clubs and other groups. They will also be actively involved in educating the public about the foundation's mission.

In addition, the department will work with state and federal agencies and legislators to communicate the program's goals and objectives.

Rachael Neagle, formerly assistant communications director, has been tapped to head the department. Melissa Pierce, producer relations specialist, will work with Neagle and concentrate primarily on the Southern High Plains and Northern High Plains Zones, anchored by Lubbock and Plainview, where more than a third of the state's cotton is grown.

Pierce, a Plainview native, is new to the foundation and brings a strong background in agriculture to her position. As a member of a family who farms cotton near Petersburg, she has been involved in agriculture her whole life. She attended Texas Tech University, graduating with a degree in agricultural communication.

Before joining the foundation, Pierce worked for Quixote Group, a marketing-based public relations firm located in Greensboro, N.C. At Quixote, she worked on a variety of accounts, including Merz Pharmaceuticals and Biogen.

She has worked for Trone Advertising in Greensboro. One of the companies whose account she worked on was Novartis' crop protection division, now called Syngenta, which produces a variety of ag-related pesticides, seeds and seed treatments.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation seeks to maintain Texas' position as the nation's leading cotton producer by eliminating the damage caused by the crop's most consistent threat. The foundation operates 11 eradication zones that cover most of the state.

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3 - Year	5.00% APY*	5.00% interest rate	Minimum Deposit \$5,000
5 - Year	5.50% APY*	5.50% interest rate	Minimum Deposit \$5,000

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) Interest cannot remain on deposit, periodic payout of interest is required. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Names of current insurers are available on request. As of 6/25/01.

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Running Water SCS will monitor irrigation wells

The Running Water Soil and Water Conservation District in Castro County has a flowmeter which it can use to monitor irrigation wells for producers in the county.

"By using a flowmeter, we can let producers know precisely how much water a well is pumping," said a spokesperson for the Running Water SCS.

Those interested in having a representative from the district check out wells should call 647-2153, Ext. 101, or stop by the district's office at 114 West Belsher Street, Suite B, to set up an appointment.

Springlake VFD dance is Saturday

The Springlake Volunteer Fire Dept. will have a fund raiser dance Saturday.

The dance will be held 1 mile west of Springlake, starting at 9:30 p.m. There will be live music. Admission will cost \$5 per person or \$8 per couple.

Proceeds will benefit the Springlake Fire Dept.

Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

Final figures for the 2000 cotton crop indicate the Texas High Plains produced only 2,302,800 bales from some 2,837,100 harvested acres in the 25-county region served by Lubbock's Plains Cotton Growers.

In Castro County, 91,600 acres were planted with only 85,500 of those harvested. Cotton harvested in the county produced 126,500 bales during 2000.

The news comes at a time when a significant portion of the High Plains 2001 cotton crop struggles to survive. Hail, high winds and drought have visited the area and could take as much as one million acres out of production for the second straight year.

The May 30 hail storm that crossed the area could account for up to 350,000 acres of loss. Another 700,000 to 800,000 acres of dryland cotton planted into dry dirt is still waiting for rainfall to germinate the seed.

Forecasts don't indicate we can expect rain for at least another week. That puts the calendar very near the date after which the acreage can be turned over to crop insurance companies for drought-related losses.

For the 2000 growing season, abandonment totaled 1,038,500 acres. Harvested acreage was 235,100 acres lower than 1999. Dryland acres accounted for the bulk of the abandonment in 2000 with 916,800 lost.

Overall, the High Plains averaged 390 pounds of lint per acre. Irrigated cotton produced just under a bale to the acre, coming in at 476 pounds, 119 pounds less than the 1999 weighted average yield. Dryland yields dropped dramatically to 182 pounds per harvested acre, 125 pounds less than in 1999.

Calculating the average yield per

planted acre, the High Plains averaged 285 pounds of lint per acre of production.

The wait is almost over for growers wondering how the second phase of the 2000 crop disaster program would be administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency.

With publication of the notice detailing rules for the quality loss program earlier this month, USDA has put the wheels in motion to deliver what could be a significant amount of assistance to growers who did not qualify for the initial, yield-based part of the crop disaster program.

Growers who may have already received some assistance under the crop disaster program for yield losses could also be eligible for additional assistance under the quality loss program.

Sign-up dates for the quality loss program have not been announced. County offices in the Texas High Plains region are not scheduled to receive their training until next week.

With the FSA training schedule as it now stands, sign-up for the quality loss program probably won't begin until July.

Sign-up dates, application forms and additional program procedures will be released by FSA at a later date. Producers will be required to sign up for the quality loss program separately from the crop disaster program.

The quality loss program will provide assistance to growers of minimum 20% decline in the quality/price of their 2000 crop commodity compared with a long-term average quality/price produced in the county. Growers will be able to apply for the program based on the smallest unit of the commodity for eligible crops that can demonstrate a

which they can produce records.

Cotton growers will be able to apply for assistance on a bale-by-bale basis by providing production evidence showing the average loan value for each bale.

Each bale's loan value would then be compared with the county average loan value used to compute quality adjustments for the crop disaster program.

This comparison will then determine whether or not a qualifying 20% threshold is met, then the bale would be assigned to one of five quality loss levels based on the actual loss in value relative to the county average.

Payment rates for each level of loss will then be calculated as the difference between 100% of the crop disaster program payment rate (59 cents per pound for cotton) and a percent of the affected crop disaster payment rate based on the assigned quality loss level for each level.

The final quality loss program, payment rate equals 65% of the difference between the full crop disaster program price and the applicable percentage of the crop disaster program payment rate.

A combined \$80,000 "per person" payment limitation is applicable for all benefits provided through the crop disaster program and the quality loss program.

ALCO turns 100

Duckwall-ALCO Stores, Inc. is celebrating its 100th Anniversary during 2001.

The corporate offices, distribution center and truck line are located in Abilene, Kansas. The company began operation in 1901 when Alva Lease Duckwall, Sr. borrowed \$413 and started a Duckwall variety store in Abilene.

It marked the beginning of a company that survived fires, floods, the stock market crash of 1929, the great depression and a number of wars.

The Duckwall company opened its first ALCO Discount Store in 1968. The name "ALCO" was taken from the original corporate name - A.L. Duckwall Company.

Today the company operates 93 Duckwall Variety Stores and 175 ALCO Discount Stores located in 20 states. New stores continue to be opened each year.

"We thank all the people who contributed to our success over the years!" commented Glen Shank, president.

"Very few companies can claim a 100-year history. This company was built on the old-fashioned values of quality, service and price, and we will continue to provide these for our customers into the future. The support of our fine customers and our excellent team of over 5000 friendly associates has made this great occasion possible. We're now looking forward to the next 100 years!" said Shank.

Dimmitt's ALCO Discount Store is managed by Jacque Hamilton. The store employs 16 other associates. Employed there are Ray Aleman, Adam Cisneros, Doris Ewing, Oliver Glover, Maria Guajardo, James Hall, Angela Hamilton, Ortensia Montiel, Connie Navarro, Veronica Pacheco, Robert Strite, Kevin Reed, Anna Casas, Maria Rodriguez, Edward Coleman and Jennifer Perez.

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TUNE IN!

AGRICULTURAL NEWS 6 to 7 a.m.
and 12:15 to 12:50 p.m., M-F

MORNING SHOW 7 to 8 a.m. daily
Weather forecast, local news, birthdays, anniversaries, American Folk Song, school lunch menus, Good Neighbor

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL TALENT 8:00 a.m. daily

MARKET REPORTS 40 past the hour, starting at 9:40 a.m., M-F

KDHN 1470

New program enacted to promote wind power

Anticipating the economic and environmental benefits of wind power generation for family farm agriculture, the American Corn Growers Association will enact a new national program for small- and mid-sized farms to benefit from this growing industry.

The new program, "Wealth From the Wind," is expected to open up avenues for production agriculture and rural communities, allowing them to reap rewards of promulgating this clean, renewable form of energy.

Wealth from the Wind, developed by the American Corn Growers Foundation with an initial grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, will educate rural Americans about wind power and look towards the feasibility of using wind to diversify the agricultural economy and making farm land more productive.

Through the process of farmers leasing their land to power generators for the placement of wind turbines, formation of farmer-owned wind generating cooperatives and net metering for individual farmers,

wind energy could offer increased income potential from wind energy generation.

Working in cooperation with Windustry, a Minnesota organization that works to create an understanding of wind energy opportunities, Wealth from the Wind will gauge farmer interest and acceptance through national surveys, workshops and distributed educational materials.

Wind power has the ability to generate much of the electrical power needs of the lower 48 states, if fully utilized, according to ACGA. Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas stand to benefit the most from the plan.

Through the program, ACGA hopes to obtain a greater working knowledge of wind power, encourage a greater utilization of wind energy, stress that diversifying agricultural and rural economies is vital to the survival of each, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase farm income.

EPA okays exemption for 'Denim' pesticide

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) has been granted approval by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a Section 18 specific exemption allowing the use of Denim 0.16EC (emamectin benzoate) to control beet armyworms on cotton.

The specific exemption expires Oct. 1, 2001.

Denim 0.16EC, manufactured by Novartis, may be applied following all directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA registered product label, as well as restrictions within this notice.

Applications should be made only by certified applicators, by licensed applicators or by persons under the direct supervision of licensed applicators. All applicators must have a copy of the EPA approval notice in their possession prior to any applications.

Denim 0.16EC may be applied using ground or aerial equipment at a rate of 0.0075 - 0.011b. a.i. (6-8 fl.

oz of product) per acre. No more than three applications may be made. Applications must be made in a minimum of five gallons of finished spray per acre for aerial application and 10 gallons for ground. Application is limited to a maximum of 24 oz. product per acre per season.

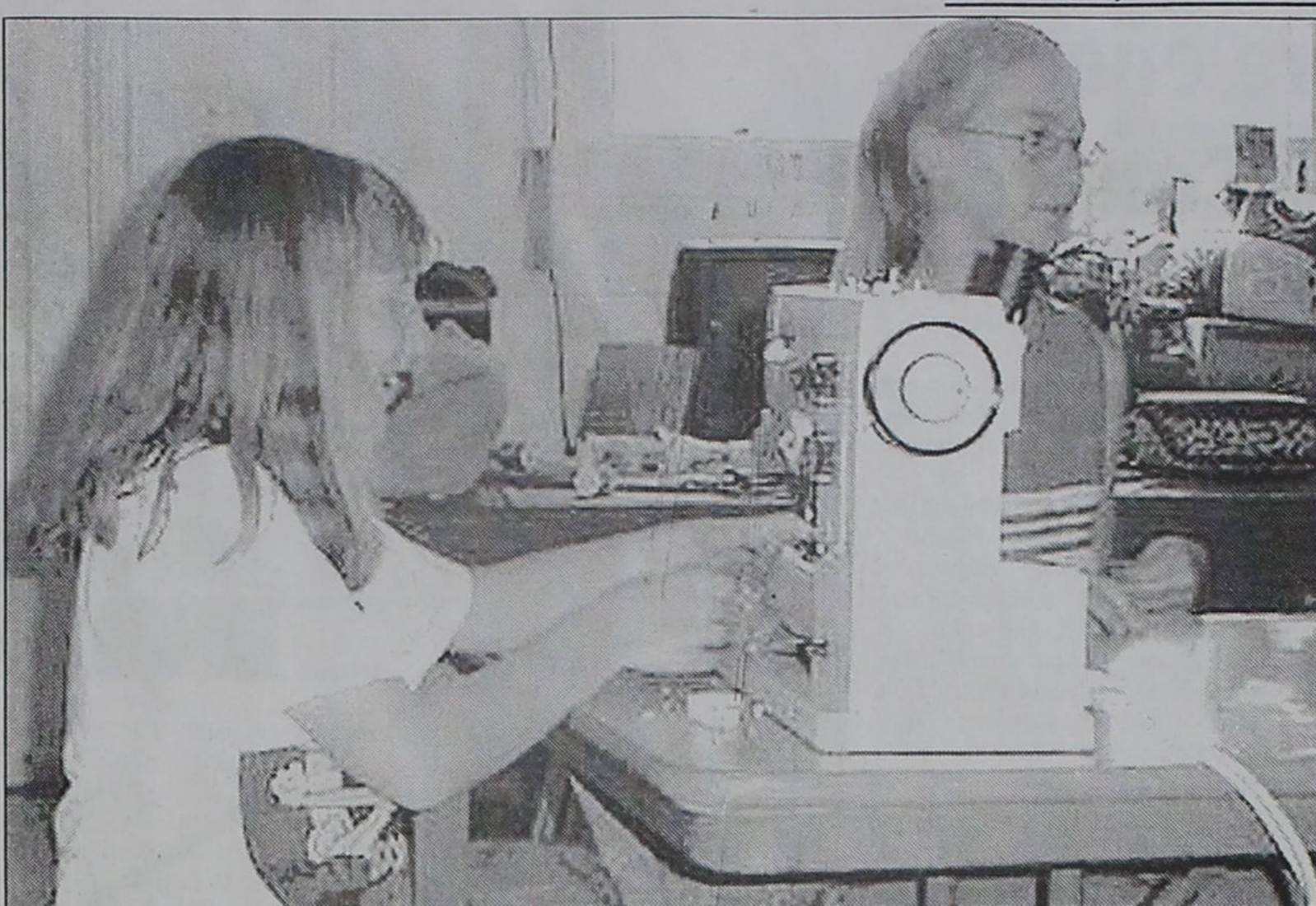
A five-day application interval and a 21-day pre-harvest interval must be observed.

A restricted entry interval (REI) of 48 hours must be observed.

Application may not be made to areas less than 100 feet from permanent natural bodies of surface water or reservoirs.

A maximum of 1.8 million acres of cotton may be treated under this exemption.

For more information, contact the Castro County Extension Office or TDA at (512) 463-7407. A copy of the EPA Approval Notice is available on TDA's web page, [www.agr.state.tx.us/pesticide/denim2001.htm].



SEWING A STRAIGHT SEAM—Castro County 4-H'ers Alisha Womack (left) and Allyson Hochstein practice their sewing skills during a 4-H sewing workshop at the Extension office in Dimmitt last

week. The workshop features three sessions over a three-week period and is conducted by Extension agent Marilyn Neal and Sharon Brockman, one of the county's 4-H parent leaders.

Ranchers may be compensated in case of foot-and-mouth disease

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs has applauded Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), for implementing a policy to pay U.S. livestock producers for any animals that must be slaughtered to control an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Farmers and ranchers would be paid 100% of the fair market value of their animals.

"Indemnification is an important step in our aggressive efforts to keep foot-and-mouth disease out of the United States," Combs said. "The thought of losing everything that sometimes has taken generations to build had many of our farmers and ranchers worried."

"If an outbreak does occur in Texas or the United States, producers can rest assured that they will be compensated for any livestock they lose to this devastating disease," Combs said. "This is an additional incentive to report signs of the disease they might find in their herds."

The White House is also looking

into compensation for additional expenses, such as the cost of disinfecting or the cost of feed for livestock awaiting slaughter or vaccinations.

Indemnification funds will come from the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. USDA has the broad authority to spend whatever is needed to control any outbreak of plant or animal disease in the country with the cooperation of OMB.

Currently USDA has banned the import of livestock and certain livestock by-products from the European Union and countries with foot-and-mouth disease. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and USDA are warning travelers to the United States to take the necessary precautions to make sure they do not bring the virus back with them on their clothes or personal items.

TDA is a member of Gov. Rick Perry's newly formed Foreign Animal Disease Working Group charged to develop measures to respond to any outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease or any other foreign animal disease.

Happy sets city-wide garage sale

Happy is having their second annual city-wide garage sale to benefit the Happy Community Center Building Fund.

It will be held July 6-7 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on July 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Happy Community Center.

There will also be a silent auction on Saturday morning for a 1978 Ford custom van.

Booth rentals are available and donations are being accepted.

For more information, please contact Lynn Adams at 558-4303.

What's Cooking

In the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Schools

Here are the breakfast and lunch menus for the Dimmitt schools for June 28-29:

DIMMITT SUMMER FEEDING

Breakfast

THURSDAY: Apple Jacks cereal, orange wedges, milk.

FRIDAY: Pancakes with syrup, apple juice, milk.

Lunch

THURSDAY: Hamburger on a bun, tater tots, hamburger salad, milk.

FRIDAY: Chicken fillet strips, baked beans, mashed potatoes with gravy, milk.

We Love SENIORS!

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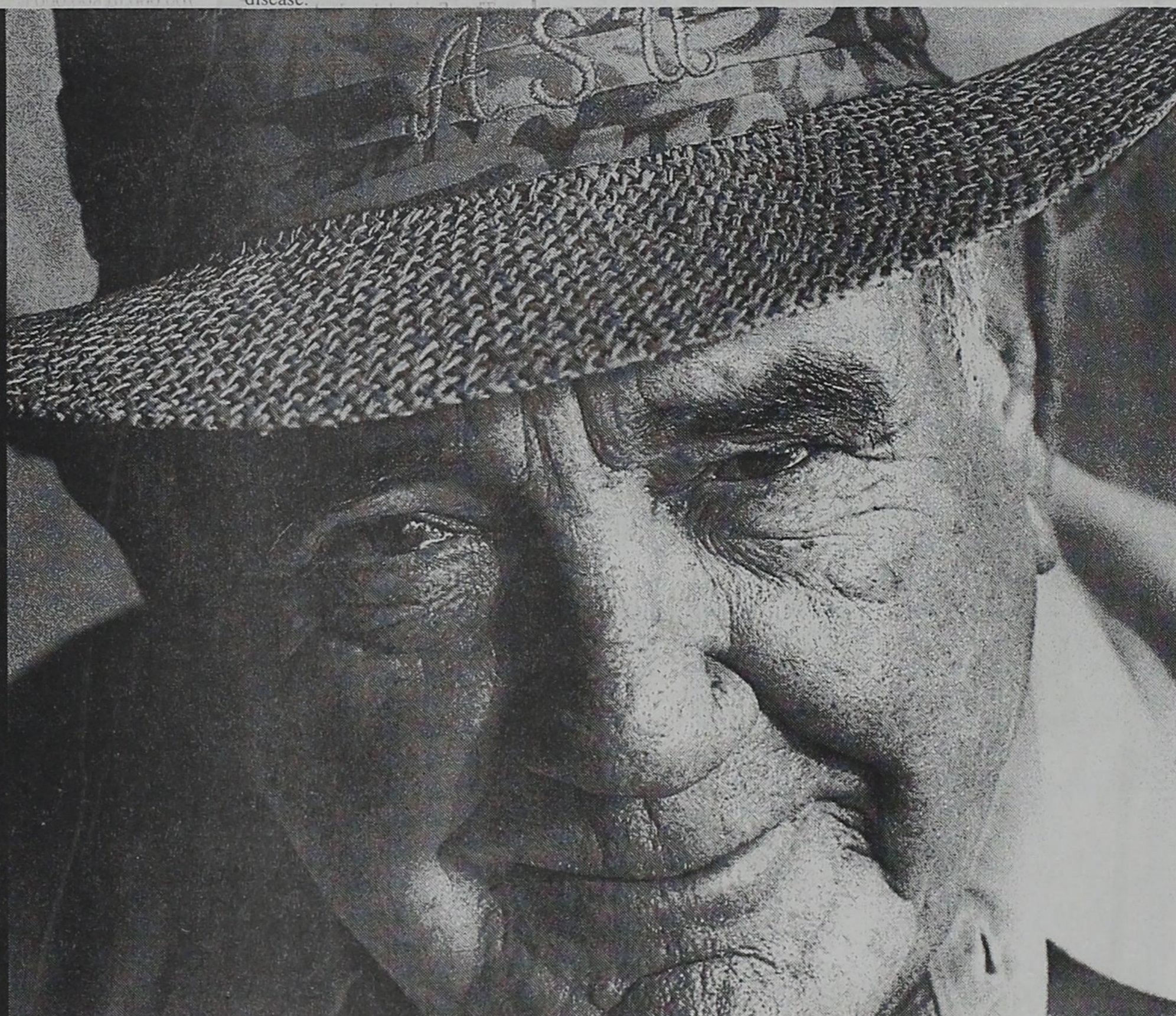
"Going faster when you're lost won't help one bit."

Clovis Olsak grows blue ribbon pecans. It's not an occupation for the impatient. It takes a pecan tree seven years to bear fruit, ten before it yields enough to bring a return on your investment. And, by the way, pecan orchards are work. You don't just kick a hole in the ground with your boot, stick in a nut and let nature do the rest.

Clovis counts on co-op power for his ranch and orchard. He belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of Texas co-ops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

With deregulation, Texas is entering a period of unpredictable energy prices. While no one anticipates rates here will skyrocket as they have in California, the fact is our new energy environment will inevitably reflect the volatility of a free market. The same law that deregulated the state's electric industry also allows its electric co-ops the option to remain unregulated. Unlike most other power distributors, co-ops can choose to deregulate or to "wait and see."

Smart Choice co-ops intend to wait. Before we opt for deregulation, we want to be sure deregulation will benefit our members. In times of uncertainty, the wisest course is prudence. To learn more about deregulation, visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice cooperative.



the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

- Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com

ACGA offers energy solutions to Congress

Representatives from the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) recently outlined a list of problems experienced by farmers due to recent energy problems and offering innovative ideas on how rural Americans can be part of the solution.

The group met with the US House Subcommittee on Conservation, Credit, Rural Development and Research on May 2.

Over the last two years, farmers have experienced skyrocketing prices on input costs such as fertilizers, chemicals, natural gas and fuel oil, according to ACGA. The high natural gas prices also led to large price increases for fertilizer.

ACGA mentioned how farmers in California have been hurt by rolling blackouts, some of which severely impact dairy operations.

"Farmers all over the west have suffered consequences of numerous price spikes in electricity markets," ACGA reps said. "Corn producers in the Midwest are reporting that increased prices for fertilizer and energy-related irrigation expenses will add an additional 30¢ per bushel to their production costs."

Producers in Texas and Oklahoma report anhydrous ammonia costs

have risen from \$65 per ton just a few years ago to over \$400 per ton for this crop season, an increase of over 600%.

These energy related costs are in addition to many other production-related costs such as transportation, tillage, harvest, et cetera.

In its testimony, ACGA suggested an expansion of the use of bio-fuels, including ethanol and fuel commercialization of ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE), and called for establishment of a new Farmer Owned Reserve, recommending a portion of that reserve be dedicated to a strategic energy reserve for the renewable fuels industry.

ACGA also called for a statutory modification to be made to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to reduce or eliminate the bureaucracy for producers who would like to erect wind-powered generators on their CRP acreage.

According to ACGA, any minor reduction in environmental benefits due to erection of towers on these small plots of land would be more than offset by the environmental benefits gained in the production of electricity from clean, renewable wind power.

ACGA also recommended a study to determine the advantages of providing Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) points during the CRP bidding process to producers who agree to plant cover crops proven to be higher in their carbon sequestration.

An additional suggestion was to provide financial incentives such as governmental cost-sharing or tax incentives to enable farmers to use voluntary measures to reduce nitrogen runoff. Such an initiative would help solve a serious environmental concern and reduce the energy required to produce improperly utilized nitrogen fertilizers, said ACGA reps.



STREET HOCKEY—Neil Gondek with the Amarillo Rattlers hockey team teaches a group of children the fundamentals of playing his favorite sport during a recent clinic. Gondek and other members of the Rattlers will be in Dimmitt Tuesday to conduct a street

hockey clinic during the July Jubilee celebration. Several games, safety demonstrations, music, hot dogs and homemade ice cream are planned for the day's celebration on the courthouse square in Dimmitt. *Courtesy photo*

Head Start applications being taken

The Texas Migrant Council is recruiting children up to the age of 5 for its Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program in Hereford, Muleshoe, Plainview, Lubbock, Floyada, Pecos and Fort Stockton.

The Head Start program features free, quality, comprehensive services including early childhood development, family and community partnerships, free transportation for all children and services for children with disabilities.

Under the early childhood development portion of the program, children will benefit from lessons in school readiness, individualization, and age-appropriate educational activities; health services and nutrition programs, disabilities and mental health services.

The program also includes referrals to social services agencies and offers opportunities for parent involvement and development.

Special programs for children with disabilities include speech and language therapy, physical therapy, Braille services, audiological and other services as needed. Referrals and follow-up services and treatment also are included.

For more information contact the Texas Migrant Council—Panhandle Region, at 1210 Ave. R, Lubbock 79401; or call 1-888-837-5151, toll-free.

Dimmitt Darlins tourney is slated

The annual Dimmitt Darlins golf tournament will be held at the Country Club of Dimmitt Saturday and Sunday.

The \$70 entry fee per person includes a cart fee, mulligans, and a Saturday night meal.

Prizes will be awarded on every hole Saturday.

For more information or to sign up for the tournament call 647-4502.

Police Calls

Those arrested for drug- or alcohol-related offenses during the past week included:

- 21-year-old Olton man, arrested June 19 on a warrant for possession of marijuana.
- 20-year-old Nazareth man, arrested June 21 for driving while intoxicated, first offense.
- 28-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Thursday for possession of marijuana and purchasing alcohol with the intent to furnish it to a minor.
- 20-year-old Nazareth man, arrested June 22 for speeding, driving under the influence, no seatbelt, failure to appear and display of expired license plates.
- 21-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Friday for the possession of drug paraphernalia.
- 31-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Friday for driving while intoxicated, first offense.
- 21-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 25 for driving while intoxicated, first offense.
- 43-year-old Dimmitt woman, arrested for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

Those jailed during the past week for other charges were:

- 30-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 19 for simple assault.
- 31-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 19 on a warrant for forgery.

- 27-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 20 on two warrants of theft greater than \$20 but less than \$500 by check.

- 20-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 21 for no driver's license and a warrant for the display of expired license plates.

- 22-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Thursday for driving without a seat belt and failure to appear.

- 29-year-old Littlefield man, arrested June 22 on two warrants of theft greater than \$20 but less than \$500 by check.

- 38-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Friday on a warrant of theft greater than \$20 but less than \$500 by check.

- 29-year-old Earth man, arrested Friday for failure to maintain financial responsibility.

- 80-year-old Dimmitt woman, arrested June 23 for first time assault with bodily injury against a family member.

- 42-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Saturday on a warrant for assault with bodily injury, driving while license is suspended and no driver's license.

- 17-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Saturday on a warrant for contest of speed.

Law enforcement officers investigated two occurrences of theft this week.

Ramiro Gutierrez reported to police that someone had entered his residence on June 20 and had taken a push lawn mower, a stereo with CD player and AM/FM cassette, and a 40-foot-long water hose. He valued the items at \$491.

On Sunday, Monica Ramirez told police that someone walked out of Town and Country where she was working as a clerk with a 30-pack of beer. The beer was valued at \$15.99.

Dimmitt Police arrested a suspect on Thursday on the charge of disorderly conduct at the Azteca Complex because he yelled profanities at a 20-year-old Dimmitt woman.

Two accounts of assault in the 300 block of Northwest Third Street were reported to police last Tuesday, June 19. A 43-year-old Plainview woman and a 39-year-old Lubbock woman were victims of family violence causing bodily injury.

Five share prize from scramble

Five golfers split the prize money after they shot a 29 over nine holes in last Thursday's scramble at Country Club of Dimmitt.

Members of the winning team were Jerry Watts, Charles McLean, Doug Schilling, Carla Luna and Steve Smith.

There were 55 golfers competing for this week's scramble prize, which featured money carried over from previous weeks' scrambles, which ended in ties.

Ortiz wins PPW writing award

Monica T. Ortiz, daughter of Sal and Chole Ortiz of Dimmitt, garnered a second place award in the Long Poem category of the 2001 Frontiers in Writing contest, sponsored by the Panhandle Professional Writers (PPW).

The PPW held a two-day writer's conference June 14 and 15 in Amarillo for the award recipients. Ortiz's poem, "A Generational Monologue," was one of 63 entered.

Ortiz is an English major with a minor in Mexican-American studies. She is a junior at the University of Texas at Austin.

At UT, she is an active member of the Liberal Arts Council, the literary journal *Analecta* and a sports and entertainment copy editor for the *Daily Texan* newspaper.

Springlake sets July 4 celebration

Springlake has scheduled a Fourth of July celebration for Wednesday, July 4, at the city park on West Highway 70.

Activities will begin that morning with a "Jack and Jill" volleyball tournament sponsored by the senior class of 2002.

Deadline to sign up for the tournament is July 1. The entry fee is \$10 per player. T-shirts will be given as prizes for 1st and 2nd place teams. For more information on the tournament contact Cathi Freeman at 257-2121 or Kim Neinst at 257 2014.

The parade will begin at 6 p.m. at the community building on South Highway 385 and conclude at the park on West Highway 70. All floats, tractors, antique cars, bicycles and horseback riders are welcome.

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place floats, antique tractors or antique cars. For more parade information call city hall at 986-4211.

A hamburger and hot dog supper, homemade ice cream and other desserts will be served on a donation basis.

The "Pioneer Award" will be presented to a citizen of the community.

Lazbuddie Services will provide entertainment for the children who attend. A fireworks display will conclude the celebration.

When you need a new or used vehicle, call

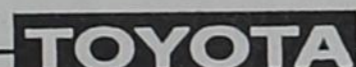
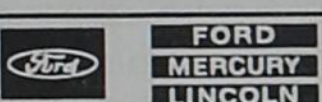


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More about

Celebration . . .

(Continued from Page 1)
will feature two hours of fun and exercise.

The Castro County Extension Service will sponsor safety booths and exhibits during July Jubilee, and child safety seat inspections will be available.

4-H'ers from across the county will present a safety program, "Safety on Wheels," and information will include bicycle and roller blade safety among other things.

Texas Tech's Masked Rider will make an appearance at 1:15 p.m., and members of the Castro County 4-H Horse Club will serve as special

hosts for the horse and rider.

Kathryn "Katie" Carruth of Lubbock is the Masked Rider for 2001-2002 and her mount will be *Black Phantom Raider*. Carruth is the 40th individual to serve as Texas Tech's Masked Rider.

"We think it's great to be able to welcome Texas Tech's mascot and the Raider Fun Zone to Dimmitt this year," said Bill Sava, executive director of the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce. "They're going to create a lot of excitement on the square and we hope to have a tremendous turnout."

Men—sign up now for the
Doc Render 18
Open

Two-Man Partnership
July 7 and 8
Shotgun Start at 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

First Day: Scramble
Second Day: Lowball

Entry Fee \$65 Per Person

To enter, or for more information,
call Kirk at
647-4502

**Country Club
of Dimmitt**

More about

County hires firm . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

If asbestos or lead-based paint is present, the substances will have to be removed by qualified contractors before renovation can begin, and that could substantially increase costs of the project.

Walker told commissioners bid packages should be compiled soon, then the bid notices will be advertised for two weeks. He said he hoped to have a project cost estimate within the month.

Once renovations begin, it shouldn't take long to complete the project, and Walker said they will try and perform the work with as few contractors as possible.

He also told commissioners construction could be scheduled around the district court agenda, saying the courtroom would be available for use, if needed.

Commissioners heard from Harold Smith of Hart on four different topics and Monday's meeting, and took no action on any of the items.

Smith's first topic concerned the county's road and bridge fund.

"The law says we should divide money judiciously and equitably between the precincts," Smith said.

Smith contends that Precinct 2 should have more money because "the roads are more hilly and take more upkeep than other roads."

Smith also reiterated his ideas on how county roads should be constructed using a combination of fly ash and caliche.

He then asked commissioners if they had started working on redistricting.

County Judge Irene Miller in-

formed Smith that the county had already been in contact with a firm about the redistricting process and the first public hearing has been slated for July 9.

Smith's fourth topic concerned a ditch south of Castro County Feed Yard.

He said water from the ditch tends to overflow on his property and he would like it to be cleaned out.

Pct. 1 Commissioner Newlon Rowland told Smith that his road crew had started working on the area Friday and the job should have been finished on Monday.

New election judges were approved to serve in primary elections from Aug. 1 through July 31, 2002; and in the general election for the same period.

Democratic election judges will be Glenn Reed, Precinct 101; A.R. Gibbs, Precinct 105; John Nino, Precinct 201; Daren Collins, Precinct 206; Oscar Wylie, Precinct 301; Carleta Harkins, Precinct 307; Richard Hunter, Precinct 401; and Dorothy Kleman, Precinct 408.

Wanda Murdock will serve as the early voting clerk and Greg Odom is the Castro County Democratic chairman.

Republicans agreeing to serve as election judges include Shelly Hanes, Precinct 101; Sharon Sadler, Precinct 105; Bill Dannevik, Precinct 201; Robert Duke, Precinct 206; V.C. Hopson, Precinct 301; Marguerite Cole, Precinct 307; Dr. B.D. Murphy, Precinct 401; and Irene Wilhelm, Precinct 408.

Emma Jean King is the Castro County Republican chairman. Patsy

Franks is the early voting clerk.

Judges who will serve during any general election in the coming year are as follows:

Precinct 101—Glenn Reed; alternate Shelly Hanes.

Precinct 105—Sharon Salder; alternate A.R. Gibbs.

Precinct 201—Bill Dannevik; alternate John Nino.

Precinct 206—Robert Duke; alternate Daren Collins.

Precinct 301—V.C. Hopson; alternate Oscar Wylie.

Precinct 307—Marguerite Cole; alternate Carleta Harkins.

Precinct 401—B.D. Murphy; alternate Richard Hunter.

Precinct 408—Irene Wilhelm; alternate Dorothy Kleman.

Early voting—Patsy Franks; alternate Wanda Murdock.

Commissioners approved payment of a \$435 bill from Graphic Zone, the company hired to design, create and install a sign on the Castro County Courthouse Annex, located north of the courthouse.

Breast cancer screenings set

Breast cancer screening clinics will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on July 5 and 6 and appointments are still available.

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

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

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

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

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



Tommie Bills

Funeral services for Tommie Bills, 59, of Earth, were held Sunday afternoon at the Earth United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jimmy Nunn and the Rev. Gary Hubbard officiating.

Burial followed in Earth Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Parsons-Ellis Funeral Home of Earth.

Mrs. Bills died Friday. She was born Aug. 12, 1941, in Dimmitt. She attended school in Dimmitt.

She moved to Earth in 1967. She worked as Earth city secretary. She had been employed by Wood-Jordan Implement in Earth and C&H Equipment in Muleshoe. She was a member of the Earth United Methodist Church and taught Sunday School in the children's department. She was co-chairman of the parlor committee and of numerous other church committees.

Survivors include a son, Randy Bills of Earth; a daughter, Elaine Brown of Earth; two sisters, Ruth Jackson of Dimmitt and Dorothy Bond of Kerrville; two brothers, Rex Sheffy and Don Sheffy, both of Dimmitt; and six grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Earth United Methodist Church, PO Box 181, Earth 79031, or Earth Memorial Cemetery, PO Box 523, Earth 79031.

J.W. Bussey

J.W. Bussey, 74, of Plainview, former Dimmitt resident, died at 3:06 a.m. Friday at Covenant Hospital in Plainview.

Services were held Monday afternoon in the Northside Baptist Church of Plainview with the Rev. Roger Foote, pastor, officiating. Burial followed in Castro Memorial Gardens of Dimmitt under the direction of Lemons Funeral Home of Plainview.

Mr. Bussey was born Feb. 16, 1927, in Burkburnett. He married Lozetta Cathey on July 3, 1958, in Dimmitt.

He moved to Dimmitt in 1930 and attended school there. He served in the US Army and Air Force during the Korean Conflict. He moved to Plainview in 1964 and worked for the Jimmy Dean meat processing plant for 10 years. He also worked at the Exxon station in Plainview for several years.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Penny Mills of Marble Falls; a stepdaughter, Laura Goodrum of Vernon; a son, Wally Bussey of Christianburg, W.V.; a brother, Roy Bussey of Littlefield; two sisters, Lola Collins and Emma Chapman, both of Fairfield, Calif.; and six grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Habitat for Humanity, the American Cancer Society or Northside Baptist Church in Plainview.

Ruby Elder Hastings

Services for Ruby Elder Hastings, 92, of Lubbock were held on May 15 at Castro Memorial Gardens with the Reverend Gene Sorley of Lubbock officiating.

Services were under the direction of Rix Funeral Directors of Lubbock.

Mrs. Hastings died May 13 in Lubbock after a long illness with Alzheimer's.

She was born Jan. 29, 1909 in Falls County, Texas, moving to Dimmitt with her family in 1926. She married Charles Hastings of Dimmitt on Sept. 21, 1931. Mr. Hastings was a native of Castro County. Moving from Dimmitt in 1941, they lived in Borger/Phillips, Dumas and Lubbock. She was a member of the Methodist Church.

The Castro County Museum was the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Hastings. It was also the home of her father, Vinson Elder and family. Mr. and Mrs. Hastings sold the home to the Castro County Museum Association.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1990; three brothers, Andrew, Frank and Jim Elder, all of Dimmitt; and one sister, Effie Murphy of Irving.

Survivors include one son, Charles, of Lubbock; one daughter, Cherinell Abbot, of Hurst; one sister, Nancy Tisdale, of Odessa; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

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18—Services

I DO HOME, office and apartment cleaning. Reasonable, honest, dependable, with references. Satisfaction guaranteed. Free estimates. Connie, 363-6384, 364-0268. 18-11-4tp

19—Students Wanting Work

15-YEAR-OLD BOY will do odd jobs for you this summer. Call 647-3503. 19-9-tfc

EIGHTH GRADE GIRL will do babysitting for you this summer. Call 647-3503. 19-9-tfc

20—Help Wanted

RESPONSIBLE, RELIABLE, retired person for part-time (mornings) wooden fence repair and painting. 647-4700, leave message; or 647-8462. 20-11-4tp

ATTENTION: Can you qualify for a bonus? Knight's Nursing and Rehab Center is looking for LVNs and nurse's aides who can qualify for a bonus. If you are interested, call 385-6600 or come by 1241 W. Marshall Howard Blvd., in Littlefield, Texas. Ask for Fayedell Arend or James Jones. 20-10-tfc

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Where to find ads:

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

20—Help Wanted

20—Help Wanted

Nursing Professionals

Canterbury Villa of Dimmitt has current openings for: Director of Nursing - Registered Nurse RN/DON sign-on bonus of \$1,500 to be paid over three-month period Licensed Vocational Nurses - \$15 per hour LVN sign-on bonus of \$600 to be paid over three-month period Certified Medication Aides - \$10.50 per hour CMA sign-on bonus \$300 to be paid over three-month period Benefits are available. If you are a person dedicated to providing quality care please apply in person or contact: Canterbury Villa of Dimmitt 1621 Butler Blvd., Dimmitt, TX 79027 Phone: (806) 647-3117 Fax: (806) 647-5212

EXPERIENCED WELDERS needed. Benefits include health insurance, uniforms. Call 647-3128 or apply in person at Dimmitt Welding & Electric, E. Hwy. 86. 20-8-tfc

SECRETARIAL POSITION available at Nutt Feedyard. Must have computer experience. Flexible hours. Call 647-3001 for more information. 20-13-2tc

SECRETARIAL POSITION AVAILABLE. Competent computer skills a MUST. Previous office experience needed. Applications are available in the office of the Castro County Treasurer, Courthouse, Dimmitt, Texas. Applications will be taken through June 29, 2001. For more information, contact the Extension Office at 647-4115. Castro County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. 20-13-1tc

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK TexSCAN

TexSCAN Week of June 24, 2001

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3—Real Estate For Rent

3—Real Estate For Rent

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20—Help Wanted

41-BED RURAL HOSPITAL has full-time positions open with competitive wages and good benefits. X-ray tech, full-time and weekend. Rns—Home Health/Hospice, RN-Geni Psych, RN-Med Surg Charge Nurse, Business Office Manager. Contact Castro County Hospital District, PO Box 278, 310 W. Halsell St., Dimmitt, TX 79027; phone (806) 647-2191, Ext. 423; fax (806) 647-2407.

20-5-tfc

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS—The Castro County Sheriff's Dept. is currently accepting applications for positions as correction officers. Applicants must have a high school diploma/GED. They must be at least 19 years of age, possess a valid Texas Driver's License, no criminal records. Will be required to pass a physical exam and drug screening. They will be full-time positions involving rotating shift work. Starting salary is \$1,404 per month, plus \$100 uniform allowance per month. After 6 months probation period is completed, salary increases to \$1,454 per month. Applications are available at the Castro County Sheriff's Office. No experience necessary. Castro County is an equal opportunity employer. 20-13-4tc

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22—Notices

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23—Lost & Found

LOST BICYCLE—Open Road women's three-speed, tan. Has my Texas DL# inscribed on bottom of frame. Reward. 647-4519. 23-11-tfc

24—Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to everyone in the community that helped with the wedding for Shawna and Travis. Thank you to each of you that helped with everything from helping decorate, cooking the food, working in the kitchens, and cleaning up and moving tables. We are fortunate to live in such a great community. Thank you, again for helping make this a special night for Shawna and Travis.

TOMMY & SHERRI KENWORTHY
GREG & KAREN SCHULTE
24-13-1tc

24—Card of Thanks

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to all the wonderful people of our community who showed so much love and support in the loss of our sister, Tommie Bills. Also, thanks for the many prayers on her behalf. We deeply appreciate you.

THE SHEFFY FAMILY
24-13-1tc

Homeowners urged to control mosquitoes

Mosquitoes are more than just a pest; they can be dangerous.

According to Bob Badger, chief sanitarian for the Texas Department of Health (TDH), mosquitoes belong to the same order of insects as flies. The mouthparts of female mosquitoes have a long proboscis which is used to pierce skin and suck blood. Male mosquitoes do not take blood meals.

While nectar is the mosquito's principal food source, the females need to take a blood meal in order to lay their eggs. Besides leaving an irritating welt on the skin, some mosquitoes can transmit diseases like malaria, yellow fever, dengue and certain forms of encephalitis.

Mosquitoes can breed in just a small amount of water, and though many cities and towns have mosquito control programs which spray for mosquitoes, Badger said there are still many things that private homeowners can do to reduce the number of mosquitoes in their neighborhood.

"There are lots of mosquito repel-

lents on the market," said Badger.

"But not all of them are as effective as others. Check on the label for an active ingredient like DEET or pyrethroids. They are the most effective against mosquitoes. If you're using citronella candles or coils, you should remember that they're only useful outdoors under windless conditions."

Badger said the most effective way to eliminate mosquitoes near your home is to eliminate nearby breeding areas; since mosquitoes lay their eggs in water, that means reducing the amount of standing water near your home.

"Mosquitoes are much more effectively controlled if they're never allowed to hatch, mature and leave the water environment," Badger said.

"If you have items in your yards such as plastic swimming pools, buckets, wheelbarrow or old tires with water in them, you've got a perfect place for mosquitoes to breed. If you're not using an item and it's collecting water, get rid of it. If you have such things as pet dishes or flower pots, make sure you pour the water off at least every two days," Badger said.

Rain gutters should also be cleaned of debris, and all standing water should be removed, if possible. Leaky faucets and air conditioner units should be repaired as soon as possible.

Water in wading pools and bird baths should be changed at least once a week, and lawns and gardens should be irrigated carefully to prevent water for standing for several days.

Badger said some sources of standing water cannot be easily eliminated, such as stock tanks or playa lakes, but they can still be treated to control mosquito larvae.

"If you can't treat the water with insecticide because animals are drinking from it, you can still control the aquatic life stages of mosquitoes by placing a thin coat of vegetable or cooking oil over the surface of the water," Badger said.

Since adult mosquitoes prefer to rest on weeds or other vegetation during the hottest parts of the day, Badger recommends mowing the lawn regularly and cutting down weeds adjacent to the house's foundation.



BABY INFO—Expectant mothers Jennifer Howell and Cindy Seward, both of Dimmitt, collect useful information on caring for newborns during the first Castro County baby fair last Thursday at the Extension office in Dimmitt. Sponsored by the Extension Service and Coalition for Moms and Babies, the event drew a large crowd.

Sponsored by the Extension Service and Coalition for Moms and Babies, the event drew a large crowd.

Photo by Marilyn Neal

Classified ads get results!

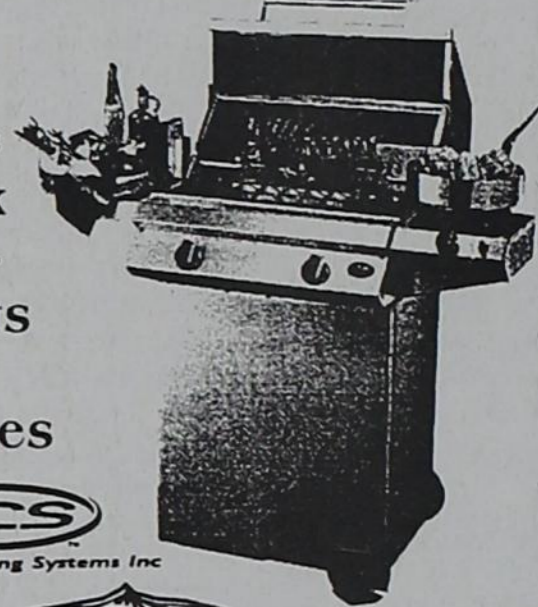
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24-13-1tp

CARD OF THANKS

For every smile, tear and prayer; For each time you were there; For every memory you took the time to share; We thank you.

To each of our friends and family members who stood with us through the life, illness and passing of J.B., we thank you.

We send special thanks to Dr. Joplin, the nurses, kitchen, housekeeping and staff at Plains Memorial Hospital.

We also thank Brother Howard "Preacher", Wayland, Sam, the staff, the ladies at the First Baptist Church, the Castro County Hospice staff, Mark and Gerrye at the funeral home, Dimmitt Police Dept., and to the Dimmitt Fire Dept., for honoring J.B. with an escort.

Your love and care continues to strengthen us. May God bless each of you in a special way for all the love you've shown us.

Don't let depression get you down

Welch Home Place wants you to know that even though senior citizens have a higher incidence of depression, there is help available. If you are a senior citizen or the caregiver for an older person, you should know the signs:

1. Depressed mood, feeling sad, tearful, or empty
2. Little interest or pleasure in activities (including sex) you used to enjoy
3. Sleeping much more or much less than usual
4. Restlessness or decreased activity
5. Feelings of worthlessness or excessive guilt
6. Difficulty concentrating or making decisions
7. Fatigue or loss of energy
8. Change in appetite or weight
9. Thoughts of death or suicide

Depression can be treated. Please call your doctor for additional information or contact Welch Home Place.

806-647-3321



Welch Home Place is a service of Castro County Hospital District

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Welcome Home!

30 years after Vietnam, veteran heals an old wound

By TOMMY L. STUBBLEFIELD

Welcome home!

Those two words healed a 30-year-old wound. Walter Anderson, the person who welcomed me home, was just an ordinary guy from Omaha, Neb. He is a husband and a father to three teenage boys. He is a quiet, unassuming man.

Walter was raised in a small town in Illinois. That is where he was taught right from wrong, to care about his fellow man and to love this great country of ours.

Walter and I have some things in common, but the one thing that brought us together was the friendship of a man from Cordell, Okla. Walter and I met for the first time on Nov. 10, 2000—the day before Veterans Day—at the Holiday Inn in Elk City, Okla. We had been planning this meeting for a couple of months. I feel our meeting was directed by the young man we both carry in our hearts:

Alfred Dean Hildebrand
Born April 28, 1949

KIA (Killed in Action) January 4, 1969

Freddie was killed while on patrol in the Kien Hoa province by a sniper. Walter told of the details that have haunted me for more than three decades.

Freddie was just 19, like most of us who went to Vietnam. We had been taught by our mothers and fathers, teachers and preachers that our great country was built by brave men who went off to war.

We started our days in school by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. We were mouthing the words without knowing what they really meant. We knew to honor and respect the flag.

Our fathers, uncles and grandfathers were veterans of other wars. Little did we know that we would be a part of this nation's history.

The last time I saw Freddie was before I joined the Navy on December 21, 1967.

A land-based sailor in Vietnam

I believed that if I joined the Navy the closest I'd get to Vietnam would be on a ship off the coast. I was surprised when I got my orders for the Naval Air Facility at Cam Rahn Bay, South Vietnam.

I didn't know the Navy had ground forces there. Little did I know that Freddie was in Vietnam before I got there in September, 1968. Like Freddie, I turned 19 the month before I got to Vietnam.

The base I was assigned to was not too bad. We had it better than the guys out in the bush. We had bunks to sleep in every night, hot showers and hot chow to eat.

But while I had it made, Freddie was in the bushes, sleeping in his cold, wet uniform, eating cold C-rations, or when they ran out, whatever they could find in the field.

The VC (Viet Cong) would send mortars and rockets in our direction, mostly at night when we were fast asleep. Nothing wakes you up faster than the thumping of mortar landing near you. We never saw the VC that launched those mortars and rockets. They just wanted to wake us up in the middle of the night. They never hit anything important, although a couple of rockets just missed my barracks one night.

I survived my tour of duty without a physical scratch. I returned to the States in September 1969 and stopped in at Cordell on my way to an assignment in Maryland.

Returning home

I drove into town and around the square to see if I could see anyone I remembered from my junior high school days. I was hoping to see Freddie.

I stopped in at Erv's Quick Serve and saw Ray Ratzlaff. I asked him if he'd seen or heard from Freddie. His face went blank and he told me that Freddie was killed in Vietnam.

I felt like I had been hit in the stomach by a 250-pound linebacker. I couldn't believe that Freddie—that tall lanky kid who always had a smile on his face—was gone.

Something I have always regretted was that I didn't go by and pay my respects to Freddie's folks. I left town the next day with a hole in my heart. That hole has remained in my heart for over 30 years.

Over the years I don't think a week went by that I didn't think of Freddie. For the longest time I felt guilty that I wasn't with Freddie when he was killed. I've often wondered how he was killed and if he suffered, who was with him and if he died alone.

Visiting the 'Wall'

I went to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., for the first time in the summer of 1987. I don't think I could have made it without the support of my wife.

I started looking in the locator book for Freddie's name. I found his name, tears welled up in my eyes, and Wanda had to finish writing down the location on the wall because I couldn't see anymore.

She found his name on Panel 35W—Row 34. We started walking to the long vee-shaped granite wall to located Panel 35W.

I had a flashback of the day Ray told me about Freddie. That pain in my stomach came over me again, and I got weak in the knees.

We saw others at the wall looking and searching for lost loved ones. They were young and old, some in old, beat-up uniforms with medals hanging loosely, looking for the names of men who had died in a country on the other side of the world.

Some were the younger brothers and sisters of great young men whom they never really got to know.

As we got closer to Panel 35W, I was amazed at how many names were etched in that dark, cold granite V.

We found the panel and I started to count down from the top to row 34. Deep down in my soul I was praying that Freddie's name would not be there.

There it was. Then I was touching the letters that spelled out his name. As I was running my finger over his name, my eyes filled with tears. I was glad my wife was there to console me. We used a pre-printed form to etch his name with the carbon of a pencil. Once again, Wanda had to help me. I've returned to the Wall several times since then but have left there with mixed feelings. Why did so many have to give their all?

The Internet search

This past spring, a friend told me about a web page with the names of people listed on the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C. That reminder of the Wall made me think of Freddie. I did the search for the web page on my computer.

The memories of my past filled my thoughts. I typed in Freddie's name and there it was on my computer screen. At the bottom of the screen was a note attached from someone who was in Freddie's unit in Vietnam—Walter Anderson from Omaha, Neb.

I couldn't believe my eyes. I had finally found the connection, the person whom I've been searching for over 30 years. I typed in Walter's e-mail address and wrote him a note.

I was so excited. I didn't really think this guy I've never met wanted to hear from me. How do I approach him, how do I introduce myself?

It took me a while to compose a note to Walter. I went ahead and introduced myself and told him that I'd been looking for someone who was with Freddie when he was killed. With a shaky hand, I clicked the mouse button to send my note to Walter.

The next day I went to my computer to check my e-mail and there was a reply from Walter. With a shaky hand, I clicked the mouse button to open his note.

Walter told me that he had been in the same unit with Freddie but was not with him when he was killed in action. He did tell me that Freddie was one of the bravest men he had ever known. He told me of the times he and Freddie were on-point, leading the way through the jungle for the rest of the platoon.

Over the summer, Walter and I e-mailed and spoke on the phone. He said he had regretted not writing to Freddie's folks. I told him that I'd lost touch with them and wasn't sure if they were still alive. I said that I would try and figure out a way to contact them.

That's when I wrote a note to the *Cordell Beacon*. I didn't know if anyone would respond.

Freddie's mother responds

A week went by and out of the blue Freddie's mother called me at work. I almost fell out of my chair.

I told her that I would call her that night. Later that night, I phoned Mrs. Hildebrand and we talked for about an hour. I told of my past since I left Cordell after graduating from junior high.

She told me of the confusing and conflicting story the Army told her about Freddie's death and that they were looking for someone who knew the truth. That's when I told her that I'd found someone who knew Freddie.

I told her about Walter and how I had found him, and that he had wanted to contact her but didn't have the courage.

Courage—that was funny coming from a guy who had made it through two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Walter wanted me to ask her if he could have her phone number. Mrs. Hildebrand was pleased to hear that Walter wanted to talk to her.

I called Walter to see how the conversation went. He told me he had been nervous about calling Mrs. Hildebrand, and that they too had talked for about an hour. I told him that I would like to go to Cordell sometime to see Mrs. Hildebrand and go by Freddie's resting place and pay my respects.

Meeting a comrade for the first time

Walter and I set the date—Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2000. We were to meet each other on Nov. 10 in Elk City, Okla.

On that morning I packed my bags on my Harley Davidson and headed north out of San Antonio on Highway 281. The morning air was cold and sharp against my skin even though I had dressed warmly.

During the ride my mind would go back to the days I spent growing up in Cordell and the great friends I had made while there.

Then I tried to imagine what my meeting with Walter was going to be like. I tried to picture what he looked like. Was he a long-haired, spacey-eyed guy, like Hollywood leads you to believe a Vietnam veteran is supposed to look like?

As I crossed the Red River into Oklahoma, the sun was setting in the west and the air was turning cold. I brushed off the cold and cranked the throttle a little more, trying to get to Elk City sooner.

I turned into my aunt's driveway about 30 minutes later than expected. Aunt Jo told me she was worried about me but was glad I made it safely. I parked my motorcycle in her garage and unpacked my bags.

She told me that Walter had called and that he was already in town. I was as nervous about meeting Walters as I was about my first date with Debbie Day back in the seventh grade. I called Walter at the motel and asked him if he had gone to eat yet. He told me that he was waiting for me; I told him I'd be right over.

Aunt Jo let me use her car. I thought about what this guy was going to look like. As I pulled into the covered driveway of the Holiday Inn, I saw Walter waiting for me.

Over our meal, we talked about our families and our pasts. We called

Mrs. Hildebrand and told her we had both made it into town okay and arranged our meeting the next morning. We were to meet at the VFW Post in Elk City.

Walter and I arrived at the VFW early. He brought some pictures of Freddie. We talked a while and met some of the older veterans. I think Walter and I were the only ones from the Vietnam era.

Walter asked if I remembered what Mrs. Hildebrand looked like. I thought she would look the same as I remembered her. I had forgotten we were 30 years older.

About that time we noticed a woman walk through the door and approach us. She walked right up to us and said, "You guys must be Tom and Walter. Finally after 30 years we meet again."

We spent the rest of the day visiting and talking about our pasts and about Freddie. Walter assured Mrs. Hildebrand that Freddie didn't feel a thing. Mrs. Hildebrand shared some photographs of Freddie while they were in Hawaii during his R&R.

The healing

After our visit, we drove out to Freddie's grave site. I placed a small American flag at the foot of Freddie's marker. I snapped to attention and rendered a hand salute to one of the more than 58,000 men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Later that afternoon we drove to Cordell to see the town that Freddie and I knew as home. We drove around the courthouse—that building seemed larger when I was a kid.

We used to borrow a football and play touch football on the courthouse lawn. I noticed that the Western Auto was no longer there. We went by the high school. It was sad to see the empty ground where the old school was.

Then we drove by the house that Freddie's folks rented. The house I spent four years in was gone; the only thing remaining was the storm cellar. The sun was setting as we made our way back to Elk City. We had caught up on 30 years in just one afternoon.

Walter and I dropped Mrs. Hildebrand off at the motel where she had parked her car. We both received a big hug and thank you from her for being Freddie's friends. Later, Walter and I went out to eat and talk about how the day went.

We were both glad that Mrs. Hildebrand was in good health and that she was able to find closure learn the truth about Freddie's death.

Mrs. Hildebrand said she was sorry that her husband had died before knowing the truth.

Walter told me that he doesn't make friends easily.

"Since I met Fred, he is the standard that I hold people to if I am to let them in and consider them to be true friends," Walter said. "He is the yardstick to which I try to hold myself. Fred had courage. He was true and honest, had integrity and could be counted on in any situation. I had no reservations about entrusting my life to him. I knew that I could count on him. Friendships in war tend to be very intense and perhaps it isn't fair to hold civilians to the same standards by which we had to live. That is one thing I have never gotten past."

The ride back to the Holiday Inn was a quiet one. I guess we were both trying to figure out a way to say goodbye to each other. We got out of the car, shook hands and hugged each other.

That's when Walter said, "Welcome home." Those words healed the holes in my heart.

Freddie will forever be that young happy-go-lucky guy I remember growing up in Cordell. He will not grow old with the rest of us.

Walter said to add his e-mail address if anyone wishes to contact him. It is (wcsmda@tconl.com). My e-mail address is (tstubby@msn.com).

I presently reside in San Antonio, Texas with Wanda, my wife of 25 years. We have three children and two grandchildren. I retired from the Army as a CW3 in 1999. Currently, I'm the property management officer for Northside ISD in San Antonio.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Tommy L. Stubblefield is the son of Ted and Sylvia Stubblefield of Dimmitt.)



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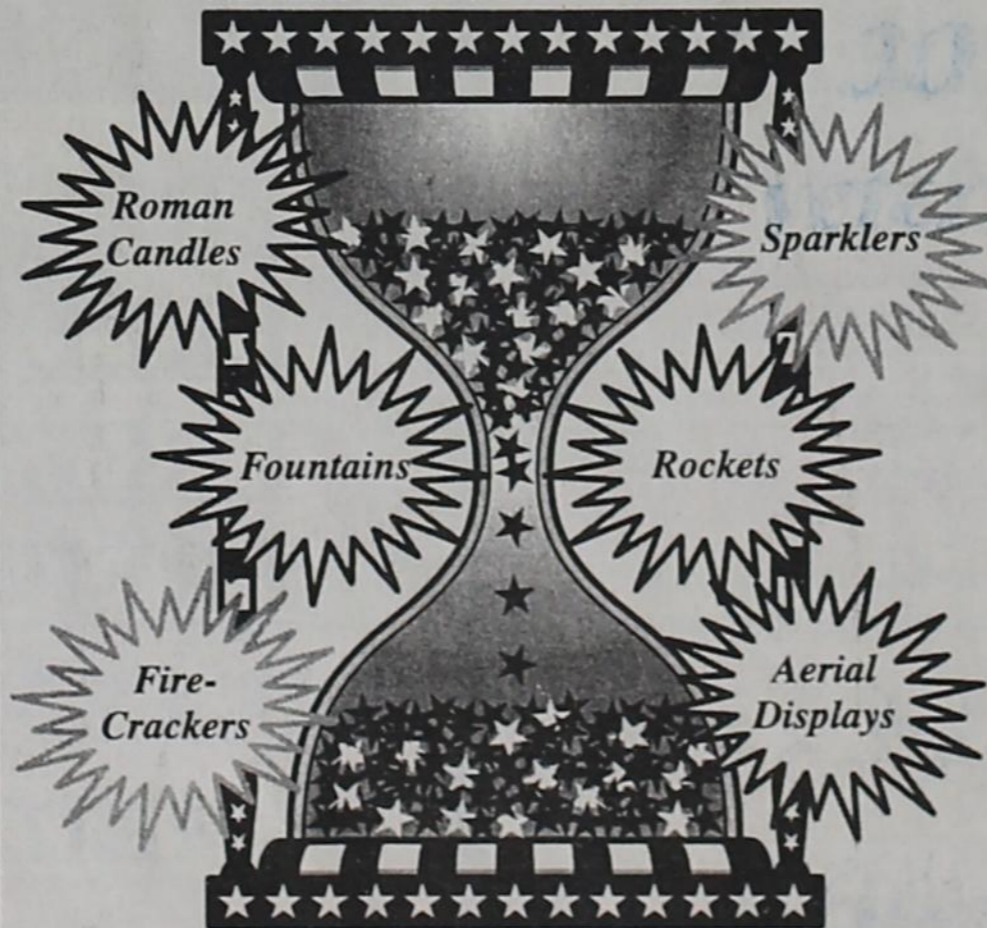
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