

The Castro County News

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, December 14, 2000

50¢

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76th year—No. 37

1:1

By Don Nelson

If it were a perfect world, every town would have a Beral Hance.

She was a jewel. I'm sure she must have made a conscious effort every day to be as pleasant, kind and helpful as she could possibly be to people of all walks of life.

She was a rock at the First Baptist Church and a fixture at the courthouse, where she was the Extension Office secretary many years and the district attorney's secretary many more.

She was our neighbor across the street on Oak Street when we first moved here. She was, of course, a wonderful neighbor.

Before she went to work in the courthouse, she was the teacher to the first group of black kids in the Dimmitt schools. Their "separate but equal" facility was a little converted granary on the west side of town. Her husband, Raymond, told me that she would spend most of her salary on food for her students, many of whom came to school hungry.

She was one of this newspaper's biggest fans, too. She read the *News* from cover to cover every week. She also filled in as a correspondent, writing "Sheffy's Chatter" for Myrtle Sheffy or "On the Go" for Mary Edna Hendrix when they needed to be spelled.

She was an inspiring mother to three exceptional children, all of whom made her proud.

In his tribute to his mother at her funeral Sunday, Kent told of the time when she accompanied him to the principal's office to talk about his college choices.

The choice between West Texas State and Texas Tech, the principal said, was a matter of whether Kent wanted "to be a big fish in a little pond or a little fish in a big pond."

"After we left and were back in the car," Kent said, "mother told me, 'Mr. Newman doesn't seem to realize that it's possible to be a big fish in a big pond, but it is—and don't you forget it.'"

Each of my two sons, when they were getting their first business experience in turn as paperboys downtown, would make her office their last stop, just so they could sit and visit with her a bit. That was the range of her appeal to different generations.

In Beral's case, death came as a release. She had lived in the nursing home for years, a victim of Alzheimer's Disease, unable to recognize even her children.

In her quiet but strong way, she was a pillar for her family, a role model for many and a rudder for our town.

It's being reported that a newly discovered chapter of the Book of Genesis has provided the answer to "Where do pets come from?"

Adam and Eve said, "Lord, when we were in the garden, You walked with us every day. Now we do not see You anymore. We are lonesome here, and it is difficult for us to remember how much You love us."

And God said, "No problem! I will create a companion for you that will be with you forever and that will be a reflection of my love for you, so that you will love me even when you cannot see me. Regardless of how selfish or childish or unlovable you may be, this new companion will accept you as you are and will love you as I do, in spite of yourselves."

And God created a new animal to be a companion for Adam and Eve.

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PROJECT ANGEL TREE—Local residents are asked to pick a paper "angel" off one of the Angel Trees in Dimmitt and purchase a gift for a child who might not otherwise have a happy Christmas. The gifts need to be taken to the Panhandle Community Services office in Dimmitt by Dec. 20 so that they

may be distributed to the children in time for Christmas. Shown are Aaron Reed, Ed Freeman and Aaron Lee, members of the Castro County Ministerial Alliance, which sponsors the Angel Tree project, and Jerry Peña of PCS, which administers the project.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Angel Tree gifts due Wednesday at PCS

Children from Castro County who might not have gotten any presents for Christmas will benefit from the annual Project Angel Tree, sponsored by the Castro County Ministerial Alliance.

Local citizens are asked to select one or more paper "angels" from the Angel Trees set up in financial institutions in Dimmitt. The angels list the age and sex of a child, along with a gift request. The donor is asked to

purchase the gift requested on the angel, then return the gift, with the angel, to the Panhandle Community Services office in Dimmitt at 110 SW Second.

The gifts must be returned by Dec. 20, so that they may be delivered to the children in time for Christmas.

The Angel Trees have been placed in First Bank, Muleshoe, Dimmitt Branch; First United Bank; and Here-

ford Texas Federal Credit Union. The project is administered each year through PCS, which screens the applicants. Stella Devers of the Dimmitt PCS office said that applications were accepted for 117 children this year.

"We hope to see our community continue to reach out in the same way they have in the past for the Angel Tree Project," Devers said.

County to buy road grader, reassign courthouse offices

At their regular meeting Monday morning, the Castro County Commissioners accepted a bid on the purchase of a road grader for Precinct 2; and they also voted on assignment of office spaces in the courthouse.

Only one bid was received for a motor grader, with West Texas Cat offering to sell the county a 2001 model Caterpillar for \$148,978, with \$45,000 trade-in allowance, for a purchase price of \$103,978. The company also offered a guaranteed buy-back after five years at \$109,000.

The commissioners voted to authorize a payment at the time of delivery, and the rest to be paid in four annual installments, with an interest rate of 6.25%.

In another matter, the commissioners voted to assign office spaces vacated by the adult probation department for use by other county officials.

County veteran's officer Jay Lee Touchstone will be assigned the space vacated by Delbert Morris, special investigator for the DA's office, who had been using the office that is in the back half of the witness room.

County Constable James Dobbs, who had been sharing office space with Justice of the Peace Tana Young, will be allowed to use the office that is just north of the DA's receptionist's office, and the office just north of that one will be used by Morris.

The office that is just south of

Young's office will become the law library.

Commissioners said that Dobbs will be allowed to continue to share a phone extension with Young, with Jo Campbell continuing to serve as secretary for both Young and Dobbs.

The space vacated by Touchstone will be used for a conference room for prosecutors and the state's witnesses during district court trials. Morris told the commissioners that the new location of the law library also would be useful for that purpose.

Jerry Horton, who handles theft by

check cases, will continue to use the space that was formerly the law library as her office space.

In another matter, the commissioners agreed to dispense with their meeting that would have been scheduled for Dec. 25. They also agreed to move the Jan. 8 meeting to Jan. 5, since County Judge Irene Miller will be gone on Jan. 8.

Miller announced that the commissioners' court will hold a special called meeting Monday at 10 a.m. to take action on the county's flood plan that must be completed before Jan. 1.

Welch Home Place plaque to be unveiled

The Welch Home Place will be formally dedicated Monday with the unveiling of a plaque in the east wing of Plains Memorial Hospital.

The ceremony will begin at 5 p.m. Although the Welch Home Place was built and opened in 1997, its formal dedication has awaited completion of the commemorative plaque, CEO Joe Sloan explained.

The plaque features the engraved likenesses of James and Reta Welch, longtime hospital patrons who were killed in a car-train accident in Sudan in 1997. Welch served more than 20 years on the hospital board, and Mrs. Welch served with the Hospital Auxiliary as a member and president for

many years.

Members of Mr. and Mrs. Welch's family, including their son, Mark, a hospital district board member, will be special guests at the ceremony.

Board Chairman Henry Ramaekers will make the formal dedication at the front entrance of the Welch Home Place, Sloan said.

The ceremony will last about 30 minutes, and refreshments will be served afterward, Sloan said.

The Welch Home Place is the only specialized geriatric/psychiatric unit within 150 miles, and draws patients from a large area of the Texas Panhandle.

DISD keeps 'status quo' on drug policy

According to Federal District Court Judge Mary Lou Robinson, random, suspicionless drug testing of all students who engage in extracurricular activities violates the fourth amendment of the constitution, which prohibits unreasonable search and seizure.

That is how Robinson ruled on Nov. 30 in a civil suit against the Tulia Independent School District.

Dimmitt Independent School District has a policy very similar to Tulia's, which two school board members believe could leave the district vulnerable to a lawsuit similar to the one Tulia is still contesting. Hollister Gardner, joined by Molly and Colby Gardner, filed suit to protest the Tulia schools' policy.

The Tulia school board has voted to pursue an appeal of Robinson's ruling, taking the case to the Fifth Circuit Court, which covers parts of five states, including this area.

According to a story by Chris Russett in the Dec. 7 issue of *The Tulia Herald*, the Tulia district plans to ask for a stay of Robinson's order to stop the random testing, which would allow the drug testing policy to continue while the appeal is in process.

The appeal could take as long as a year, DISD Supt. Les Miller told the Dimmitt school board at their meeting Monday afternoon.

He said that the Texas Association of School Boards is standing behind the Tulia schools and other schools that have adopted similar policies, and is waiting to see how the Tulia case comes out.

"They are hoping to 'hit a home run' with Tulia and get it settled once and for all," Miller said.

Dimmitt school board member Greg Odom said that while he feels Dimmitt's drug and alcohol deterrent policy is "positive and a good policy, it is logical to have a suspension of our policy" until a final ruling is issued.

"We don't want to put the taxpayers in jeopardy (of a lawsuit) just because we don't like Robinson's ruling," Odom said.

"I would like to keep local control," said board member Paul Garcia. "It took a lot of work on that policy. We didn't have much negative comment (when we were drawing it up), and I haven't heard any since it was implemented."

"I think we should go with what our community is willing to accept. I suggest we wait and see (what happens with the Tulia case)," Garcia said.

"It is still a defensible policy," Miller said.

"I don't agree with (Robinson's) ruling," said board member John Nino. "The public wants us to keep it (the drug policy), and I hate to drop it."

"We're not the only district facing this. There are a lot facing it," said school board president David Schaeffer. "It is a question of the constitutionality problem."

"I think it (the policy) is right for the kids, but it is wrong to expose the district (to legal liability)," Odom said.

"I think it is appropriate for us to postpone action until we receive further information (from TASB)," Schaeffer said.

The Dimmitt school board took no action on the matter.

In other business, the board voted to accept the only bid received on construction of a 50-foot by 50-foot addition on the west end of the Dimmitt High School field house.

Noel Industries of Plainview submitted a bid of \$32,000 to cover all of the construction, except for the preparatory dirt work. The addition will be used as a weight room.

Miller said the bid also will not include installation of rubberized flooring over the concrete flooring included in the construction. The special covering is expected to add another \$6,300.

Another \$8,700 is estimated for the purchase of additional weights, bringing the final project cost closer to \$50,000.

The current weight room will be converted to the varsity dressing room, and the present varsity dressing room will become the junior varsity dressing room. The current JV dressing area will become the visitors' dressing area.

Miller reported that Noel set the completion time at 10 to 12 weeks from the start of construction, after the dirt work is completed. Miller said the changing around in the other part of the field house will be done by maintenance personnel.

In another matter, the school board voted to accept the audit report as presented by Randy Day of Cornell & Co., P.C., of Amarillo.

Day told the school board that the audit report was "unqualified," meaning there were no problems cited.

Day also pointed out that the district's cost of administration ratio for last year was 0.1097. The administrative cost standard for school districts with an enrollment of 1,000 to 4,999 is 0.1401, and Dimmitt's ratio is well below the ratio set for schools with 10,000 enrollment and above. The

(Continued on Page 6)



HAVE YOU TOLD SANTA WHAT YOU WANT YET? Here, Yesenia Herrera, 4, the daughter of Oralia Herrera, is visiting with Santa at the Christmas Celebration held in downtown Dimmitt Nov. 16. Children are encouraged to get those last-minute Santa letters turned in at the *News* office by noon today (Thursday) for inclusion in the special Christmas edition of the *News*.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	48	23	
Friday	62	28	
Saturday	51	25	
Sunday	65	29	
Monday	55	21	
Tuesday	27	4	
Wednesday	24	13	.03

December Moisture 0.03
December Moisture 0.00
2000 Moisture 14.20

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

On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

Troy and Billie Kirby enjoyed a fall fishing trip to Lake Texhoma recently. They were a part of a group of seven couples with seven mobile homes that gathered there.

They not only fished, but they visited, and shopped at the outlet malls and antique shops. They were all impressed with the very large Bass Pro Shop in Grapevine.

Winter weather had moved in early to that usually warm climate, but they braved the elements. The fishermen did catch some fish and they had a good time cooking and eating them.

Others going were Galen and Keri Jack of Friona, the Kirby's daughter and son-in-law; John and Cheree Taylor, Jim and Amelia Taylor, Lee and Elwanda Campbell, Johnny and Beulah Miller, all of Friona; and Ray and Paula O'Brian of Grady, N.M.

Percy and Margaret Parsons started the Christmas season with a trip to Branson, Mo., with friends to see several good Christmas shows.

The shows they saw included the Andy Williams Show and The Presleys.

The Presleys started as a family group, but others have joined the cast throughout the years. One of the Presleys' sons married Mel Tillis' daughter.

While the Parsons were seeing the Mel Tillis show, some of the Presley family sat on the row behind the Parsons' party as spectators. Mel's other two daughters also were a part of the show.

The Parsons' group enjoyed "Country Tonight," which is a variety show featuring some of the local talent, not usual big-name entertainment.

The icing on the cake was when they received the all-time Branson favorite, Shopi Tabuchi.

Joining the Parsons family for this holiday excursion were Jimmy and Bobbie Banks, Lola and Sandy Sanderson of Springlake and Frank and Sally Ellis of Muleshoe.

Martha Jo Hyman reports that she won second at the Senior Citizens' bridge party on Tuesday. Ben Hill was the high-score winner. That is twice lately for Ben—in case you are keeping score.

Cleo Seely and her daughters, Brenda of Dimmitt and Karen of Levelland, spent the weekend in the Dallas area visiting the son and brother, Noble; his wife, Debbie; and the couple's children.

Noble, Dimmitt born and bred, is an executive with the Home Interior Decor company. He and his family have recently moved into a new home. We understand that the greatest thing in his life now is a new grandson. I like to hear "hometown boy makes good" stories. Don't you?

Mark and Peggy Wohlgenuth and children, Laura, Lindsey and Kyle, were the guests of Charlie Wohlgenuth over the Thanksgiving holidays. They live in Austin.

Oleda Schumacher and Christie Wilcox's children, Bob and Yvonne Schumacher Wilcox of Mineral Wells have been visiting here recently.

Yvonne recently had knee surgery and has chosen to spend some of her recuperation time in Dimmitt.

Carole Hopson hosted her bonko group for a special Christmas party along with her co-hosted, Edna Sanders.

Pick-up foods and several games of bonko made for a fun time. Others present were Mozelle Lilley, Kathy Webb, Linda Grand, Tara Grand, Sandy Ward, Carolyn Moke, Val Davis, Sue Phillips, Genell Craig and Kay Conyers.

Curtis and Leigh Durbin hosted a 3-year-old December birthday party for their daughter, Aubrey.

They served Mexican salad to 27 people. If you haven't already driven by their home on Grant Street, you should see their Christmas decor. It is a small boy with a stocking full of coal and switches. The little boy is demanding a recount.

Since this presidential election seems doomed to last forever, several people have exercised their sense of humor to make some parts of it fun.

V.C. and I received a card from our niece and nephew, the Mark Johnstons of Dallas. The front of the card was a picture of their two children, Tony and Melissa. The caption under the picture says, "Canvassing Board." Inside the card it reads, "As we count and recount our many blessings this Christmas Season we pause to give thanks for friends and family like you!"

On the opposite page is an "Official Christmas Ballot" with the instruction to vote carefully.

The candidates listed are:
 ○ Frosty the Snowman
 ○ The Grinch
 ○ Santa Claus
 ○ Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

The circle by Santa Claus's name is very clearly punched all the way through—no dimples or chads.

The closing comments are "Wishing you holiday cheer and a President-elect."

The Johnstons

Do you suppose this just might be the week we get a president-elect?

Mildred Bradford tells us that her granddaughter, Airman First Class Laura Bradford Quiroz, and her husband, Luciano, are now in Japan and they are loving it. The young couple purchased a car and are touring Japan. Mildred's comment was, "I can't believe they are having so much fun, and at the government's expense."

Gary and Linda Langford are looking forward to their daughter, Amber's, graduation from Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches this semester. All of the family, grandparents, Kenneth and Mary Malone, Corky and Daisy Langford and Uncle Max and Aunt Doris Swinburn are planning to join Amber's immediate family including her brother, Jeremy, for the graduation exercises.

Amber will be receiving her bachelor of science degree and she plans to teach. Jeremy lives in Fort Worth and is an accountant for the New Bridge Capitol Group. They are planning to be in Dimmitt for Christmas with their families.

If you are rushed for time, the cooking and shopping are not done and you need something to give you the Christmas spirit, let me share this little poem with you. It helped me.

*Life holds no sweeter thing than this!
 To teach a little child the tale most loved
 on earth,
 And watch the wonder deepen in his eyes
 While you tell of shepherds and a song,
 Of gentle drowsy beasts and fragrant hay,
 On which that starlit night in Bethlehem,
 God's tiny Son and his young mother lay.*

—Adelaide Love
 This is from a daily prayer devotional calendar that is many years old, "Bless Your Heart."

Nazareth with Virgie Gerber, 945-2669

The Nazareth Senior Citizens enjoyed a full house gathering Sunday evening at the center.

Everyone enjoyed some fellowship time, a delicious dinner catered by the Nazareth Band Parents, and a great selection of Christmas carols performed by the Nazareth Swift Bass Ensemble featuring Jason Birkenfeld, Mark Birkenfeld and Craig Birkenfeld, Andrew Brockman, Brett Hoelting, Koty Huseman, Nathan Huseman, Quentin Jones, Becca Olvera and Kristi Ramaekers.

Each member was recognized by their director, Fidelis Fetsch.

Norita Hoelting recognized those celebrating December birthdays including Mary Klemman, Dean Johnson and Dorothy Pohlmeier.

Everyone then played their choice of cards and dominoes.

Guests for the dinner were Father Darryl Birkenfeld and "The String Technicians," who were performing at Home Mercantile Sunday evening.

Everyone enjoyed the extra activ-

ity this weekend, brought to our little city by the pheasant hunters who came from near and far.

Besides getting their quota of birds, they were very complimentary of the food served to them—breakfast by the Legion Auxiliary, lunch by the Nazareth Band Parents and supper by the Nazareth Museum Committee.

The Nazareth Knights of Columbus are to be commended and thanked for the beautiful nativity set placed on the southwest corner at the intersection of FM 168 and SH 86.

Prayers are asked for Edith Huseman, Lori Huseman, Leonard Gerber, Deanna Huseman, Brad Klein, Eric Wilhelm, Alice Palazzini, Tammy Drerup and Ray Schmucker.

Breast cancer screening is set Jan. 5

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on Jan. 5, 2001, and appointments are still available.

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

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

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

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

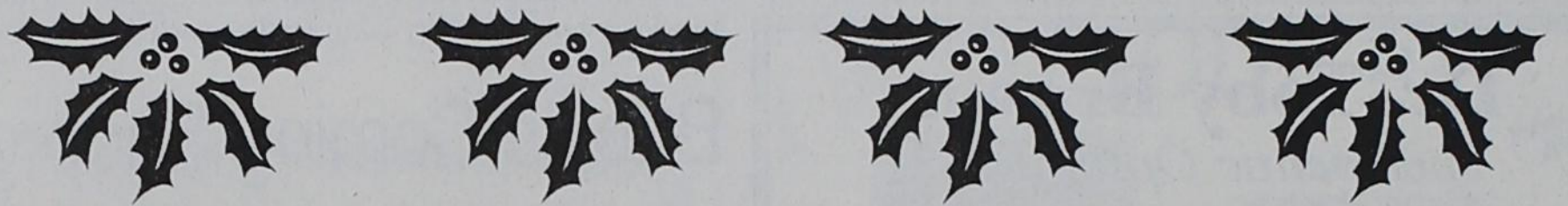
Jackson wins weekly prize

Lauro Jackson was the winner of the Dec. 7 drawing for \$100 Dimmitt Dollars last Thursday in the Chamber of Commerce's weekly holiday contest.

Other winners were Edna Kittrell and Karen Hutson, who received \$10 each.

Winning entries were submitted at Dimmitt Printing and Office Supply, Unique Gifts and More and Dimmitt Thriftway.

Drawings will be held again today (Thursday), and on Dec. 21. \$120 in Dimmitt Dollars will be awarded in each of the drawings.



Merry Christmas to All
 from our Santas and their Reindeer



You are invited to celebrate
 Christmas 2000 with us
 during our annual
Open House
Monday, Dec. 18,
 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 in our lobby



Enjoy our video, "Dimmitt 2000,"
 during Open House



Santa will be here to hear your
 holiday wishes from 11:30 to 2.



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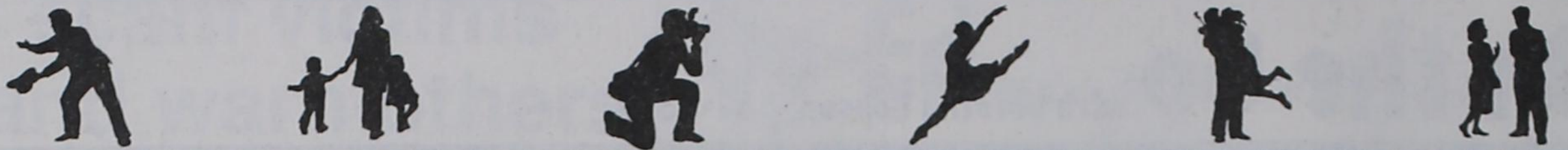
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People



Bridal shower honors Nelson

Jan Nelson, bride-elect of Jon Cannon, was honored with a bridal shower Saturday morning in the home of Pat Bagley.

A Christmas arrangement served as the centerpiece for the serving table.

Guests were treated to spiced apple cider, miniature muffins, spinach balls, cinnamon sticks and ham puffs.

The hostesses presented the honoree with a set of Fiesta dishes.

Special guests included grandmothers Bertha Thompson and Gail Nelson.

Out-of-town guests were Jill and Emily Rushing of Amarillo, the bride-elect's sister and niece; Katy, Hannah, Sara and Lea of Friona, the honoree's niece and girls; Sara Cannon, mother of the prospective groom; Amber Garrett of Amarillo, the prospective groom's niece; and Nancy Haning of Amarillo, friend of the honoree.



A GIFT FOR BABIES AND THEIR MOMS—Joe Sloan (left) Dimmitt Boss Lion, presents a \$100 check to Jamie Mendoza for the Baby's Coming Shop incentive program. The funds will be used to help purchase diapers, clothes and other gifts for Castro County mothers and babies. Mendoza, a new mother, is currently a participant in the program.

Photo by Don Nelson

Buckley inducted into Golden Key

Jacy Noel Buckley of Dimmitt, daughter of Darrell and Beth Buckley, has accepted membership in Golden Key National Honor Society and was individually honored during a campus ceremony this fall at Texas Tech University, where she is a senior majoring in exercise sport science with a minor in business. She graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1998.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Jacy be recognized by Golden Key," said Jim Lewis, Golden Key founder and executive director. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments, but also to make a positive impact on our world through the society's commitment to service."

Golden Key National Honor Society is a non-profit academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships.

The society has more than 300



Jacy Buckley

chapters in the US, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and New Zealand. Membership into the society is by invitation only to the top 15% of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

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Baby's Coming Shop gets donation from Dimmitt Lions

Castro County mothers and babies will benefit from a \$100 donation courtesy of the Dimmitt Lions Club.

The donation will be used to purchase more diapers, clothes and other gifts for Castro County mothers and babies eligible for the Baby's Coming Shop incentive program.

A partnership project of the Coalition of Health Services and the March of Dimes, the Baby's Coming Shop was established to distribute gifts to participants in the Coalition of Health Services 2CARE for MOMS and 2CARE for Babies programs.

These programs encourage mothers to obtain early and continuing prenatal care and breast-feed their babies. They also provide extra incentive to parents to obtain parenting-related education and complete their child's well-child check-ups and immunizations.

Accepting the donation on behalf of the Baby's Coming shop was Jamie Mendoza, a new mother who recently participated in the 2CARE for MOMS program. Mendoza is now an active member of the Castro County Area Partnership for Moms

and Babies, a committee that supports the missions of 2CARE for MOMS and a related program called 2CARE for Babies.

"This donation from the Dimmitt Lions Club represents a great step for the Baby's Coming Shop," said Holly Hancock, director of 2CARE for MOMS.

"The success of this program depends on support from each of the 26 counties served. With this donation, the Dimmitt Lions Club has demonstrated leadership in caring for the children in their community."

Only 76% of pregnant women in the Texas Panhandle receive prenatal care within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. That rate is among the lowest in Texas and lower than the national average of 85%.

The Baby's Coming Shop is stocked with donations of new and gently used baby items from retailers, individuals, churches and civic organizations. Grants and donations are used to purchase needed items ranging from diapers and blankets to strollers and car seats. Participants may personally select gifts during a visit to the Baby's Coming Shop or request delivery.

The Baby's Coming Shop is located in the March of Dimes office at 104 West Sixth, Suite 301, at the northwest corner of Sixth and Polk in downtown Amarillo. The shop is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday.

The Coalition of Health Services is a nonprofit alliance of 20 area hospitals and providers working to enhance community health. For more information about the Baby's Coming Shop call toll-free at 888-89-2CARE (888-892-2273).

Post Office sets appreciation day

The Dimmitt Post Office will hold a customer appreciation day on Tuesday, and the public is invited to attend.

At 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the oath of office will be administered to Dimmitt's new postmaster, Karen S. Martin.

Refreshments will be served.



The family of Florine Brockman wishes to thank all of the great people who helped us through her illness and remembered her in death.



Cindy Marnell



Ryan Buchanan

Hereford 7th grade students take ACT

Ryan Buchanan and Cindy Marnell of Hereford Junior High were among those taking the Duke University seventh-grade ACT test Saturday.

The two are the grandchildren of Anthony and Angela Acker of Nazareth. Buchanan is also the grandson of Nora Buchanan of Dimmitt.

Nominations sought for Chamber honors

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for the honors that are bestowed each year at the annual Chamber Banquet, set for Jan. 20.

A selection committee will choose the Citizen of the Year, Citizen Through the Years, Teacher of the Year, and Chamber Member of the Year.

Nomination forms are available at the Chamber office at 115 W. Bedford and must be returned to the office by Jan. 4.

"We'd like to see a lot of nomination forms turned in, because we know a lot of people are deserving of

recognition," said Chamber Executive Director Bill Sava.

If someone cannot stop by to pick up a nomination form, they may call the chamber at 647-2524 and request that a form be mailed. Forms also have been mailed with Chamber dues notices and with newsletters.

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

The theme for the Chamber Banquet this year is "Castro County: Cattle, Cotton, Corn and Cowboys."

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You are invited to a
Farewell Reception
honoring
Mike Huseman
Thursday, Dec. 21
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
at
Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union
212 W. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-5169

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nelson request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter
Jan D'Aun
to
Gary Jon Cannon
son of
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Cannon
on Saturday, the sixteenth of December
Two thousand
at six o'clock in the evening
First Baptist Church
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Amarillo, Texas

Reception Following

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Thanks to all our customers for shopping with us, and for shopping Dimmitt first!

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RIF Day to include skits and free books

Richardson Elementary School in Dimmitt will celebrate Reading is FUNdamental Day on Friday.

Dimmitt High School students will present skits, portraying characters out of popular children's books. Students of Jackie Odom and Katie Ivey will present the skits starting at 9:30 a.m., with Pre-K through first grade students being entertained in the morning, and students in second and third grade seeing the program at 1 p.m. and following.

The skits will be performed in the RES library.

Also during the day, every student at the elementary school will have the opportunity to select free books that they may take home to keep.

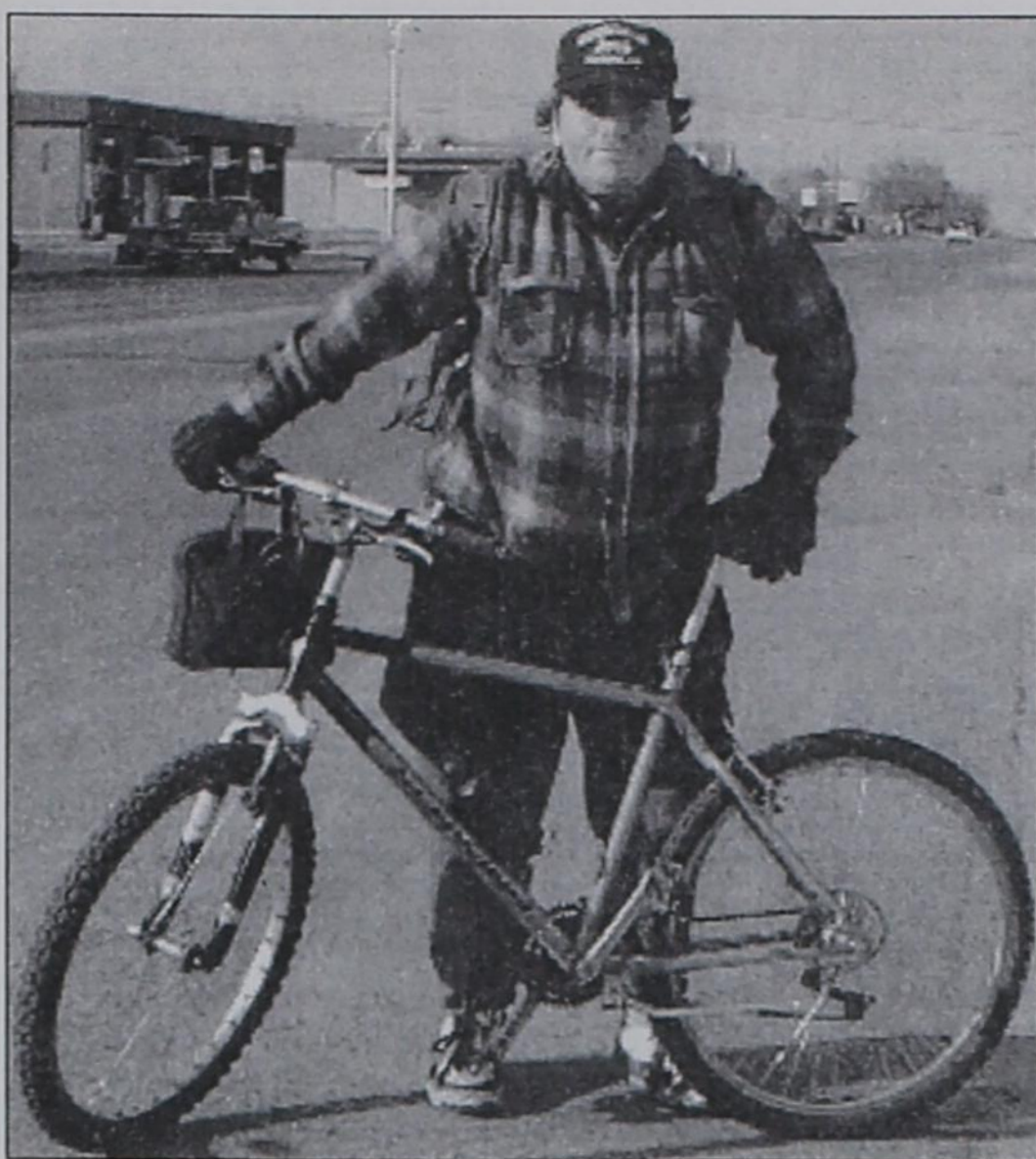
This is the seventh year that RES has received RIF money, with \$3,412 received for the purchase of more than 1,700 books and giving away at least three books per child.

"Throughout the days and weeks to come, students at RES will be receiving books," said RES Librarian Diane Leatherwood. "They are to keep the books and enjoy them.

"Please encourage your child to read their RIF books to you and to friends or relatives," she said.

RIF is the nation's oldest and largest non-profit children's literacy organization. In 1966, Mrs. Robert S. McNamara and a group of citizens in Washington, D.C., organized the first RIF project, with the goal of encouraging children to read by showing them that reading is fun.

Their methods included giving the children a chance to choose and to keep books that interested them, to involve their parents, and to provide other activities that emphasize the fun of books. The program worked so well that there are thousands of RIF projects in all 50 states, including the one at RES.



CROSS-COUNTRY BIKE RIDE—Ronald Vachio of Bristol, Conn., pedaled his way across Castro County last Thursday, heading east along SH 86. Vachio, who says he "has no home and no family," was looking for a place to settle. He's been on the road for a couple of years now. He said he can travel about 60 miles on a good day. As he rides his bike across the country, Vachio said he does odd jobs to support himself, and he avoids traveling through bigger cities.

Photo by Anne Acker

Churches plan holiday services

Local churches are planning special services for the holiday season, and those reported to the News are listed below.

First Baptist Church at Dimmitt will have their all-church musical, "A Christmas Celebration," on Sunday at 6 p.m.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, the Lord's Supper and a candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m.

Lee Street Baptist Church will have their Christmas program on Sunday at 6 p.m., with the children of the church portraying characters

from the birth of Jesus, accompanied by congregational singing and special numbers.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, the congregation will cancel Sunday School classes. The morning worship service will be held at the regular time of 10:55 a.m., but the evening worship service will be canceled.

First United Methodist Church of Dimmitt will present their Christmas cantata Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be no Sunday School classes, and the morning worship will be held at 10 a.m. A candlelight service will be held at 6 p.m.

There are about 550 hairs in the average eyebrow.

Eighty percent of the world's rose species come from Asia.

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

'Light up' Friday to honor victims of drunk driving

Safety advocates want drivers to "light up" the roadways Friday in memory of the 16,000 people killed in alcohol-related crashes last year. That translates to one person dying every 33 minutes.

"Lights on for Life Day is really to honor those who have been killed in drunk driving crashes," said Leland Harris, director of Emergency Medical Services for the Castro County Hospital District.

Organizers of the Lights on for Life campaign want drivers to think about those killed and take steps to avoid joining their ranks, Harris said. People are asked to drive with their headlights on throughout the day and leave their porch lights on Friday night to honor those killed.

People become more likely to drink and drive during the holiday season because of the numerous parties and social events, Harris said.

"They're just willing to take a chance on their lives and others'," Harris said. "They know they are getting into a car impaired, but it's always the 'It won't happen to me; I can drive' attitude."

Even those who think about their alcohol consumption can be fooled by its effects on their judgment, he said.

"When you get to drinking, you become a lot more aggressive," Harris said. "It makes a difference in people's behavior and what they are willing to risk.

"If you are going to drink alcohol this holiday season, please make sure you don't get behind the wheel. The choice is yours: you drink and drive—you lose," Harris said.

Local school seeks box tops

Dimmitt's Richardson Elementary School is participating in the "Box Tops for Education" program sponsored by General Mills.

Schools may send in the specially marked box tops and labels to the food company and receive money for purchase of equipment or other school needs.

There is a school bus-shaped box in the elementary library where the specially marked box tops and labels may be deposited by community members who want to help the school. Also, the tops may be sent to school with the students.

The school will receive 10 cents for each box top or label that is sent in.

"We have a goal of \$500 this year, but of course we would love to get more," said RES Librarian Diane Leatherwood.



Who's New

OUT OF TOWN
Miranda and Robert Hottel of Davis, Okla., are the parents of a baby boy, Joshua Shammah, who was born Oct. 11 at Midwifery Health Practitioners in Oklahoma City, Okla. Joshua weighed 8 lbs., 4 ozs., when he was born. He has two big sisters, Theresa and Samuella. His maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Yo-I Hsu of Hualian, Taiwan. Paternal grandparents are Charles and Estella Hottel of Davis, formerly of Dimmitt.

Kyle and Kelley Yates of Arlington are the parents of a baby girl, Alyssa Danielle, who was born at 7:54 a.m. on Dec. 6 at Arlington Memorial Hospital. She weighed 6 lbs., 13 ozs., and was 19 inches long. She has a big sister, Alanna Renee, 16; and an older brother, Joshua Lee, 4. Grandparents are Bill and Dee Brisco of Dimmitt, Chris Perry of Arlington and Jim and Mary Perry of Wautauga.

Cheerleaders to conclude drive Friday

The Nazareth Cheerleaders are sponsoring a Christmas Food Drive, and they will conclude their collections on Friday.

Everyone in Nazareth is invited to participate by donating canned food that will be taken to the High Plains Food Bank in Amarillo to be distributed for Christmas meals.

Two barrels set up in the school were filled in one day, according to a spokesperson for the cheerleaders.

A competition between the elementary classes was won by Mrs. Schulte's kindergarten class (110 cans of food), with Mrs. Gerber's third grade coming in second (105 cans).

Cans may be brought to the school through Friday. Also, those wanting to contribute may call the school at 945-2231 and someone will come by and pick up donations.

"We want to thank everyone for all the donations of food," the spokesperson said. "We received more than we ever thought we would!"

Need a ride to church?
We at **Abundant Life Family Church**, a spirit-filled Christian community, will gladly pick you up and bring you to our 10:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. Sunday services and 7 p.m. Wednesday services.
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Church Directory

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—St. Francis of Assisi
Attend the Church of Your Choice

New Hope Memorial Baptist 300 NE 7th, Dimmitt Bobby Starlings.....647-2889	Church of God of the First Born 611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt	St. John's Catholic Hart Fern Couture.....647-0105	Abundant Life Family Church 113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt Tom and Kay Mullins
Sunnyside Baptist Sunnyside Bennie Wright.....647-5712	Immanuel Baptist 501 SE 3rd, Dimmitt	Church of Christ SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt 647-4435	First Assembly of God 300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt Leonard A. Broseker.....647-5662
First United Methodist Hart Kelly Inman.....938-2462	Rosa De Saron 411 NE 6th, Dimmitt Maria Castaneda.....647-5598	Rose of Sharon Temple 407 NE 4th, Dimmitt	First Baptist 1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt Howard Rhodes.....647-3115
La Asamblea Cristiana 400 NW 5th, Dimmitt Manuel Rodriguez	Jesus and the Love of God Church (Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt Felix Sanchez.....647-3668	Primeria Iglesia Bautista 9th and Etter, Dimmitt Antonio Rocha	Lee Street Baptist 401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt Jeff Addison
First United Methodist 110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106	Immaculate Conception Catholic 1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt Fern Couture.....647-4219, 647-0105	Holy Family Catholic Nazareth Peter Otto.....945-2616	First Christian 600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Iglesia De Cristo E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt Pedro A. Gonzalez	First Baptist 302 Ave. G, Hart Aaron Reed.....938-2316	Hart Church of Christ 416 Avenue H, Hart Aaron Lee.....938-2267	La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito East Halsell Street, Dimmitt
Presbyterian 1600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt Connie Nieto.....293-7361	This directory is sponsored by these businesses:		
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Dale's Auto & Salvage 200 N. Hwy. 168, Nazareth 945-2223	Higginbotham-Bartlett Co. Lumber, Hardware, Housewares, Flooring, Garden Supplies 109 N. Broadway, Dimmitt • 647-3161	Westway Trading Corporation North Hwy. 385, Dimmitt 647-3138	
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ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



A FREEZING SITUATION—In the background is the new, large freezer purchased by community donations for the Castro County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, which is administered by Panhandle Community Services in Dimmitt. Shown are (from left) Johnny Raymond, executive director of PCS, Castro County Extension Agents Rick Auckerman and Marilyn Neal, Aaron Lee of the ministerial alliance, County Judge Irene

Miller, PCS employees Lorena Corrales, Esther Espinosa and Jerry Peña, Karen Sheffy who was instrumental in getting the freezer project started, Dimmitt Mayor and PCS board member Wayne Collins, PCS employee Estella Salinas, David Bone, general manager of Cerestar, a regular supporter of the food pantry, and Stella Devers, PCS center coordinator.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Water use, management is focus of Dec. 14 meeting

Farmers and stockmen can update their knowledge of water use and management next Thursday, Dec. 14, at a seminar in Friona.

Sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas Dept. of Agriculture, the seminar will be held at the Friona Community Building. Registration will start at 8:30 a.m.

Those who attend can also earn several continuing education units (CEUs) applicable to private and non-commercial applicators and certified crop advisors.

The day-long session will start at 9 a.m. featuring the following topics and speakers:

- Parmer County soil characteristics, discussed by Willie Crenwelge with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

- Milo and corn weed control alternatives, discussed by Jack Lyons with DuPont.

- Total maximum daily loading, explained by Donna Long with the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- Texas Dept. of Agriculture (TDA) laws and regulations, outlined by Randy Rivera and Levon Harman with TDA.

- Point- and non-point source pollution, discussed by Jim Williams with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

- The Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), explained by Mike Hare of TDA.

The seminar will include a morning break at 11 a.m., a one hour on-your-own lunch break, and should conclude around 3:30 p.m.

"This is a good chance to learn about water management options, ways to protect groundwater and earn CEUs at the same time," said Parmer County Extension Agent Cody Hill. "The Community Building is on the northwest side of Friona. Feel free to call the Parmer County Extension Office at 806-481-3619 for directors or more information."

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USDA says most of Texas is free of cattle tuberculosis

The US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) has published an interim rule granting Texas split-state status for tuberculosis eradication in cattle and bison, effective immediately.

Of the state's 254 counties, 252 are declared tuberculosis-free. The tuberculosis-free zone contains all but around 100 of the state's 153,000 cattle herds.

Due to recurring bouts of infection, nearly all of El Paso County and a small portion of Hudspeth County are not tuberculosis-free, and have been recognized as a "tuberculosis-modified accredited advanced zone."

Some testing, identification and documentation will be required when moving livestock susceptible to tuberculosis out of this movement restriction zone.

The USDA's final rule will be published after January 2001.

The US has worked to eradicate cattle tuberculosis infection since the early 1900s, when nearly 5% of the nation's herds were affected by the *Mycobacterium bovis* bacteria, which can cause internal lesions on the infected animal's lungs and other organs. Swine, goats, elk, deer and bison also are susceptible.

Prior to pasteurization, or heat-treatment of milk to kill bacteria, humans also were at risk of contracting the disease from infected cows. Today, tuberculosis infection

in humans typically is traced to the *Mycobacterium avium* or *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* bacteria, rather than *Mycobacterium bovis*, the cattle form of the bacteria.

The US currently has only two infected cattle herds, both of which are dairies in the Texas portion of the El Paso Milkshed.

"It may take several months for cattle and bison producers in the 252 "free" counties to realize benefits of the new status," commented Dr. Dan Baca, tuberculosis epidemiologist for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

"USDA rules allow cattle from tuberculosis-free states or zones to move without a TB test. Individual states have been notified about our new status, but since they may adopt entry requirements that are more stringent than the USDA's, producers or their veterinary practitioner should check with the state or destination prior to moving livestock.

More about DISD...

(Continued from Page 1)

ratio is found by comparing the administrative costs (\$587,175) to the instructional costs (\$5,352,375).

In addition, Day complimented the district for the smooth transition in changing business administrators.

In other business, the board: —Appointed Charles Wales as the district's representative to the Castro County Appraisal District Board of Directors. Wales had agreed to serve another two-year term.

—Heard a report from Curriculum Director Doricell Davis on the District and Campus Report Cards, in relation to the Academic Excellence Indicator System Report.

—Recognized band students who tried out for the All-Region Band at the junior high and high school levels.

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Area could experience more winter-like weather this year

This will be the first winter in several years that is not dominated by an El Niño or La Niña, and that could mean more winter-like weather for the Texas Panhandle.

These events typically have a dampening effect on the long-term weather across West Texas during the winter season, which usually results in a fairly persistent weather pattern throughout the winter months, according to the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

With the long-term effects of an El Niño or La Niña, it appears likely that West Texas will experience a weather pattern that is marked by extreme variability with prolonged cold snaps and periods of warm weather. Therefore, the winter season will likely be more winter-like than the past three winters, which

have been very mild.

There are signs that the highly variable weather pattern that should dominate our upcoming winter is already in place.

The extreme drought conditions that persisted across West Texas this summer and early fall, which included the driest September and the second-driest August on record, were immediately followed by considerable rainfall during October.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, this period of rainfall was both widespread enough and heavy enough to bring much of the area's soil moisture conditions back to near normal.

Temperature extremes have been just as evident already this fall. In late September, portions of the

extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle experienced their first freeze of the season. The average date for the first freeze in the fall for this area is in the last week of October.

On Oct. 3, temperatures soared to 100 degrees, as recorded at the Lubbock International Airport. This was the latest recorded date for a temperature to reach 100 degrees.

Only a few days later, on Oct. 8, the earliest recorded snowfall occurred at the airport.

The odds are pretty good that the Southern High Plains will continue to experience this highly variable weather pattern through the upcoming winter months, according to the National Weather Service.

This man deserves a tribute



JOE SLOAN

Drastic cuts in Medicare reimbursements have pushed many rural hospitals to the brink of closure. But not ours.

Despite a \$1.2 million cut in Medicare reimbursements caused by the Balanced Budget Act, the Castro County Hospital District made it through the last fiscal year with a loss of only \$71,000. And all district employees are working to erase that deficit.

The reason our hospital district has fared so much better financially than others is the additional services that we provide, such as specialized geriatric/psychiatric services, psychiatric outpatient service, ultrasound, expanded lab services, helical CT scanning, Hospice Care, therapy center, social work, occupational health services, community outreach, and more.

As our chief executive officer, Joe Sloan has been instrumental in establishing these new services, which make the hospital district more viable to the community, provide more employment, keep more money at home—and keep the doors open to serve you.

The hospital board commends Joe Sloan for the exceptional job he is doing for all of us.

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Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

With 2000 crop prospects continuing a steep downward spiral, producers are doing their best to look ahead to 2001.

Unfortunately, 2001 is shaping up to be just as challenging. Producers trying to develop operating plans that will project enough income to cover production expenses and allow financing to be approved are facing an uphill battle unless significant relief can be initiated quickly.

Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) has been working for several months to develop both short- and long-term policy goals to try and get producers through this difficult period.

Chief among the policy changes PCG will be pushing for, and one that could make the most immediate impact on producer cash flow, is the immediate increase of the base cotton loan rate by 20%.

Such a change would increase the loan rate to about 60 cents per pound.

The second part of PCG's short-term relief initiative would entail changing the 2001 Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) payment rate and authorization of a second

AMTA payment for the 2001 crop year. PCG would like 2001 AMTA payments to be calculated using the 1998 payment rate of 8.17 cents per pound.

Texas Cotton Producers is supporting a parallel agenda for short-term producer relief and will be working closely with PCG and the National Cotton Council (NCC) to achieve the changes outlined above.

The short-term changes that will hopefully get producers back in the game in 2001 are only the start of the policy work that will be taking place in 2001.

Efforts are underway already to develop a comprehensive set of policy reform suggestions to set the stage for development of the next farm bill.

PCG is currently looking to initiate changes aimed at several areas key to shoring up the safety net provisions of current farm policy. The balance that must be struck; however, is to also maintain the flexibility that growers currently have under Freedom to Farm.

Long-term reform ideas that PCG is now looking into include:

1. Permanent increases in marketing loan rates for all program commodities.
2. Initiation of a voluntary set-aside program that producers can use to further increase loan rates along the lines of the "flexible fallow" program being studied at this time.
3. Initiation of a counter-cyclical price protection mechanism to kick in automatically when prices are down.
4. Continuation of some form of de-coupled payment mechanism similar to current AMTA payments utilizing updated acreage and yield figures.

The PCG Board of Directors will be seeking additional input throughout this process.

As cotton producers in PCG's 25-county area try to wind up the 2000 harvest, most are concerned, worried and even depressed as they struggle with low prices, deteriorating grades and the prospect of unbearable fuel costs increasing next season.

Although world prices have risen, resulting in lowered and disappearing loan deficiency payments, the cash price for High Plains cotton remains in the doldrums. Prices have rallied a little from 1999, but the loan deficiency payment has dropped to less than one-hundredth of last year's 21 cents or more per pound to just 0.18 cents last week.

The net result is that growers selling their cotton and collecting the loan deficiency payment are ending up with as much as a full 10-cent per pound drop from 1999 levels.

To make things worse, yields are lower this year for a variety of reasons, including drought and insects.

Many producers who have made a crop are reporting yields lowered by 25 to 35%. They will make just enough to be rendered ineligible for the recently announced disaster package.

For those that fit into this "notch" category, PCG was working for a "severe economic distress" element in the disaster assistance, but none was forthcoming. A major contributor to this severe economic distress has been skyrocketing fuel costs.

Diesel fuel costs have gone sky-high this season, making the cost of all fuel-related field and harvest operations increase by as much as 100% of that budgeted at the beginning of the season. With steeply rising natural gas prices, the cost of irrigation, whether powered by gas or electricity, is becoming prohibitive.

PCG, NCC and other organizations continue to press the US Dept of Agriculture (USDA) to review the crop disaster program and allow some form of economic assistance. If that proves impossible, congress must be urged to help find a way for producers to give assurance to their financial officers that 2001 operations have the potential to improve cash flow.

Pesticide applicators have more options for obtaining continuing education credits

Pesticide applicators have more options than ever to earn the continuing education units (CEUs) necessary to renew their license, according to Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. Many private applicators, as well as all commercial and noncommercial applicators, face a Feb. 28 renewal date. Private certificate holders face a Dec. 31 deadline.

"We believe education is important for safe pesticide use," Combs said. "Applicators need to stay informed of changing regulations as well as new products and new application methods."

The Texas Integrated Pest Management Foundation has become the second company to offer credits over the Internet. Applicators can check out the site [www.tipmf.org] or call 512-836-5221. Pestnetwork.com (512-288-8288) has been offering courses over the Internet for about a year.

TDA and other government and private groups offer traditional classroom courses. Applicators can also obtain some credits at home through self-study options. Applicators can obtain a list of approved courses or other information on CEU courses by calling 1-800-TELL-TDA or 512-463-7622 or by logging on to TDA's web site: [www.agr.state.tx.us/oesticide/ceuhome.htm]

All private applicators may earn the required credits by passing a comprehensive recertification exam. This test costs \$50 for each attempt. After passing, an applicator will receive a certificate of completion for 15 CEUs.

Applicators will receive a certificate of completion at the end of each course. They should hold onto these for a year after they have renewed their license. The certificate contains the course number and CEU hours completed. The applicator transfers this information to the renewal form he or she receives in the mail.

TDA mailed renewals to private certificate holders the week of Nov. 20. Renewals for all other licensees will be mailed in mid-January. Private certificate holders who also hold a private applicator license will receive their renewal in January.

This renewal cycle will be especially large, Combs said. "More than 26,000 private applicator licenses or certificates will be due for renewal, which is more than twice the normal number."

Private applicators must renew their license every five years and obtain 15 CEUs during that period. Two credits must be in integrated pest management and two in laws and regulations.

Licensed private applicators cannot retake the private applicator training course and test to renew their license in place of getting the

CEUs. A license must have been expired for a year before an applicator can retake the private applicator training test.

Private certificate holders must also obtain 15 CEUs to keep their certificate current. While the certificate never expires, an applicator cannot purchase or apply restricted-use or state-limited-use pesticides or regulated herbicides unless the CEUs are kept up-to-date. A certificate holder who has never obtained a private applicator license may take the private applicator training and obtain a private applicator license instead of earning the CEUs. However, they will be required to earn

15CEUs over the next five-year cycle.

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

Applicators should be sure TDA has their correct address to avoid a delay in receiving their renewal on time and keeping their license current. Call 1-800-TELL-TDA or e-mail changes to: rrivera@agr.state.tx.us.

WIFE shows support for a national energy policy

Women from across the country gathered and showed their support of the family farm and their hopes for adoption of a national energy policy when they gathered for the national convention of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE) on Nov. 15-18 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

WIFE's strong grassroots heritage, a belief in the importance of the family farm, and the right of farm families to receive a fair return for their efforts and dedication was emphasized by WIFE President Cindy Cruca of Pierre, S.D., during her opening address.

The officers who will lead the organization in 2001 include Cruca as president; Mary Ann Sheppard of Shorter, Ala., first vice president; Pat Jones of Lubbock, second vice president; Colleen Rottman of Yoder, Wyo., secretary; and Ardyth Triplett of Venango, Neb., treasurer. National area directors include Kathy Herdt of Veteran, Wyo., Norma Hall of Elmwood, Neb., and Ella Caraway of Louisville, Ala.

WIFE is entering its 25th year as one of the nation's leading farm organizations. This group of dedicated farm women has continually addressed concerns which so gravely affect the economic well-being of the country.

"WIFE was a pioneer in promoting the use of ethanol, thus reducing the nation's dependency on foreign oil,"

said Cruca. "Promoting a cleaner environment and expanding the use of our domestic farm products for use in production of renewable fuels continues to be a major priority."

When WIFE was organized in 1976 in Sidney, Neb., ethanol promotion was a driving force. Twenty-five years later, the promotion of renewable fuels continues to be a leading issue for the organization.

"WIFE urges congress and the administration to develop a comprehensive National Energy Plan that includes renewable fuels," said Cruca.

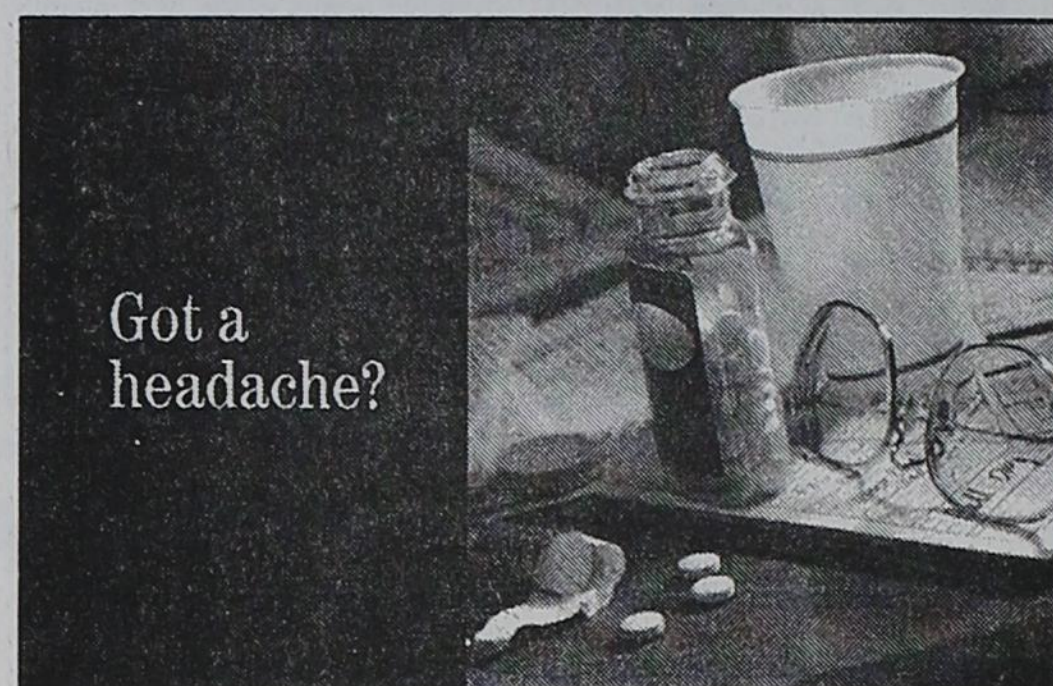
Drought, high fuel prices and low commodity prices are among the major factors in the economic dilemma facing this nation's farmers and ranchers.

"I am thankful that the Washington administration is aware of the mental, physical and spiritual stress that farm families are facing," Cruca said. "However, I believe our proud farmers and ranchers would much rather improve their financial situation through their own investments, management decisions, determination and dedication."

Cruca called on the nation's producers to encourage the use of renewable fuels.

"Join us as we fight for family farmers and ranchers and become a 'Redcoat for American Agriculture.'"

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Sports



Bobcats shock sixth-ranked Merkel to win tourney

Dimmitt shot the lights out enroute to wins in their first two games at the Spring City Crossroads Classic last week, then applied an intense pressure defense to stop No. 6-ranked Merkel in the title game at Big Spring.

Dimmitt opened the Big Spring tournament with a big 81-55 win over Class AAAA Sweetwater last Thursday. The Bobcats didn't miss a beat on Friday, either, ousting Clyde, 66-48 behind an impressive team shooting performance.

Dimmitt's shooting was a little off in Saturday's championship game with Merkel, but the Bobcats found other ways to control the tempo of the game and upset the ranked team, 54-41.

The Bobcats had the tournament's most valuable player—Dee Norman—and another all-tournament selection, Austin Sherman.

Those two combined for 123 points in the three games.

No one on Sweetwater's team could figure out how to extinguish the hot hand of Norman in last Thursday's first-round game.

The Dimmitt guard finished with 38 points and 15 rebounds in a super offensive performance that ignited the rest of his team.

"Dee hit baskets from everywhere. He scored from inside and picked up some on fast-break opportunities. He also hit 8-of-14 shots from three-point range. He also ended up with 15 rebounds and 14 credits for a great game," said Dimmitt Coach Alan Steinle.

Dimmitt jumped out to a 27-6 first-quarter lead on the strength of Norman's performance. He had 16

points in that quarter, including three from outside the three-point line.

Sherman contributed eight of his 18 points in the first period, too.

Norman's hot hand continued in the second quarter as Dimmitt extended its lead to 50-23 by intermission.

"We probably played our best game of the tournament against Sweetwater," Steinle said. "I was a little concerned about the guys being ready to play after the 3-1/2 hour trip to Big Spring, but they were ready to go and responded well. We had a good team effort. Everybody shot the ball well."

Dimmitt hit 46% of its shots for the game, including 45% from three-point range. The Bobcats hit 71% of their free throws, too.

The big first-half lead was too much for Sweetwater to overcome. It did manage to trim Dimmitt's lead by three points in the third quarter, but Dimmitt used a balanced scoring in the fourth quarter to hold Sweetwater at bay for the 81-48 win.

Dimmitt hit 13 three-pointers, eight of which were by Norman. Also connecting from outside the arc were Marcus Larra, Sherman and Anthony Oltivero (2).

Sherman, Larra and Daniel Proffitt sparked the flame that ignited the Bobcats in Friday's 66-55 win over Clyde.

While Clyde's defense held Norman to three points in the first half, Sherman exploded with nine and Larra and Proffitt added eight each over the first 16 minutes to keep Dimmitt within striking distance.

Dimmitt got balanced scoring from five players in the first quarter to

take a 14-7 lead.

The Bobcats picked up 17 points in the second quarter and limited Clyde to eight—six free throws and a single jumper by Jamie Robinson.

Dimmitt's defense gave up nothing in the first half, frustrating Clyde.

Robinson, who paced Clyde with 19 points, got his first points of the game in the second quarter and only managed the one field goal until the third quarter.

Sherman kept Dimmitt in control with seven points in the second and the Bobcats built up a 31-15 advantage by the break.

As Clyde adjusted its defense in an attempt to contain Sherman in the second half, Norman found his shot and the Bobcat duo ripped apart Clyde's defense.

The Bobcats were still in control 47-33 after three quarters, then outscored Clyde in the fourth for the 66-48 win.

Norman and Sherman each finished with 18 points while Proffitt added 14.

"We shot the ball extremely well against Clyde," Steinle said. "We got some easy opportunities and had some good looks inside. Our fast break was working and we scored a lot of points off of penetrations. That game was our most steady game. We had four good quarters. That's what we like to see—consistency."

Dimmitt faced its toughest challenge on Saturday in the championship against Merkel, and the Bobcats had to overcome an early deficit to beat Merkel, 54-41.

They did that with defense and rebounding, catching Merkel off guard in the second quarter.

Merkel hit a pair of threes and had several players pick up buckets in the first quarter as it raced to an 18-10 lead.

All-tournament selection Michael Qualls had six points for Merkel in the first and he finished with 12 to join teammate W. Jordan for high-point honors.

Dimmitt started off cold from the field, connecting on just three shots in the first quarter. Proffitt drained a three, Norman had a trio of free throws and Sherman and Julian Velo each counted one shot for Dimmitt's 10.

Norman took control in the second quarter, jump starting the struggling Bobcat offense with three treys and two other baskets as Dimmitt outscored Merkel 21-5 for a 31-23 halftime lead.

A shocked Merkel never recovered from the Norman onslaught before Brent Josselet, Sherman and Matthew Wright provided the fuel for a third-quarter run and the Bobcats owned a nine-point lead headed into the fourth quarter.

Down the stretch, Dimmitt got five points from Norman, six from Sherman and four from Wright as the Bobcats held off Merkel for the 54-41 win.

Norman finished with 21 points while Sherman had 10.

The Bobcats struggled from the field, hitting only 34% of their shots for the game (19-of-56). Only 64% (9-of-15) of their free throws swished the net, but Steinle was still pleased with the overall performance.

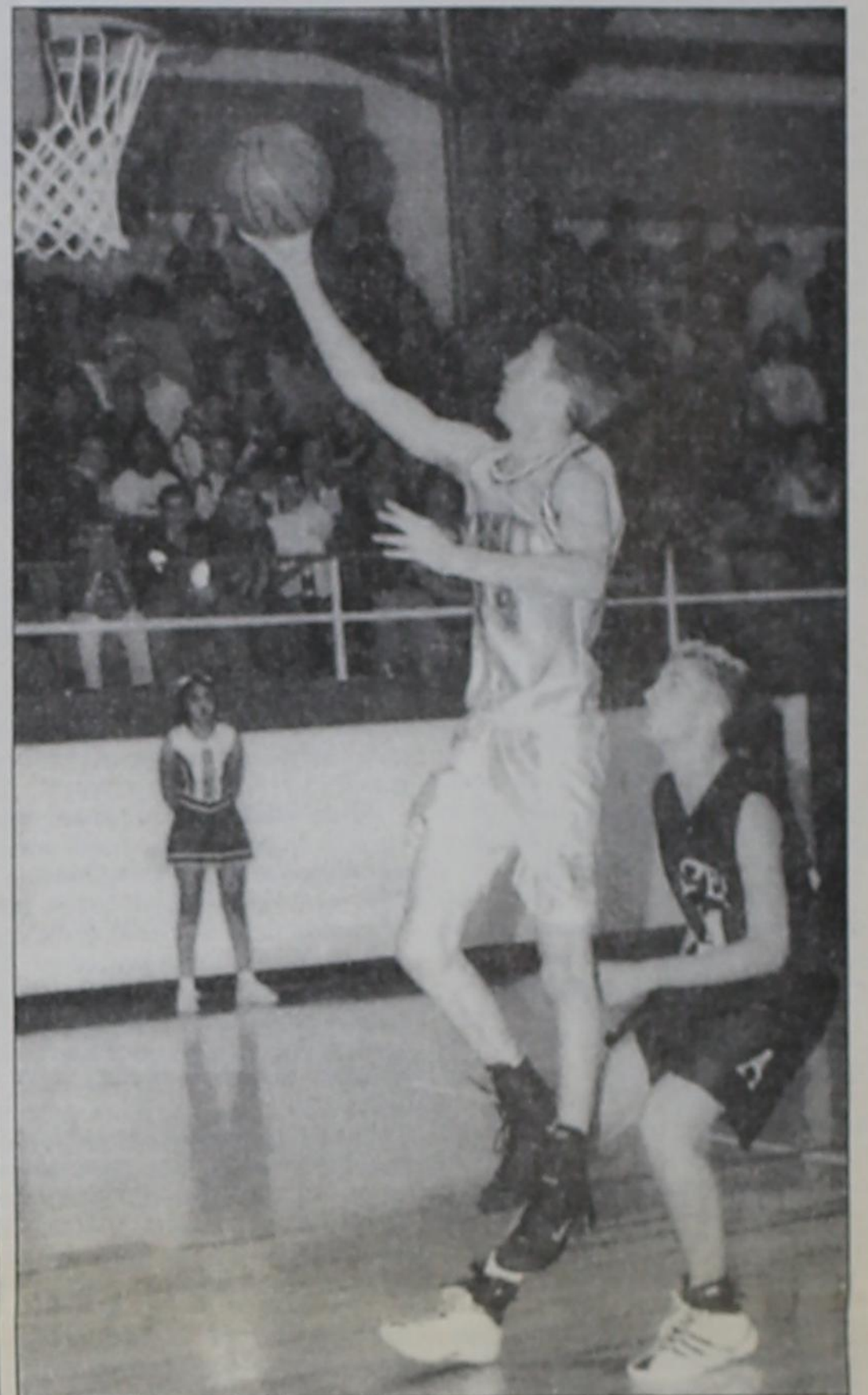
"We didn't shoot the ball nearly as well as we did earlier in the tournament," Steinle said. "Part of that was

due to Merkel's defense, but I think we were a little out of sync.

"Even though this was our worst shooting game, it was probably the game in which I was most proud of the guys. When you don't shoot well and you can still find a way to win, that shows a lot of character. We played hard for four quarters and we played great defense.

"We did a lot of things defensively that really helped us against Merkel," Steinle said. "We had a lot of rebounds (43) and kept them from getting second and third shots. It was a great win for us," Steinle said.

With the three tournament victories, Dimmitt improved its record to 8-3 on the season and captured its second tournament championship in as many weeks.



DIMMITT'S MATTHEW WRIGHT (14) gets a fast-break opportunity early in the game Tuesday, but is unable to cash in as the Bobcats host the Abernathy Antelopes in a non-district tilt at Kenneth Cleveland Gymnasium. Dimmitt picked up its ninth win of the season with a 70-61 victory over the Lopes. Photo by Carter Townsend



BIG BUCKET—Heather Black of Dimmitt drives through Abernathy's defense and picks up an easy layup to pull the Bobbies to within two points of the Lady Lopes, 23-25, Monday night at Kenneth Cleveland Gymnasium in Dimmitt. Black finished with 20 points and sparked Dimmitt in a fourth-quarter comeback as the Bobbies downed Abernathy, 57-52. Photo by Carter Townsend



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Bobbies rally to defeat Lady Lopes, 57-52

The Bobbies came from behind with a 24-point rally in the fourth quarter to earn an exciting 57-52 win over the Abernathy Lady Lopes here Monday night.

The Bobbies trailed by nine, 33-42, going into the fourth frame, but chipped away at the Lady Lopes' lead with baskets by Tamara Robertson, Rachel Fabela, Heather Black and Lori Schulte.

Black tied the score at 48-48 with a three-point play with 3:16 remaining. She tied it again at 50-50 with a pair of free throws at the 2:30 mark, then Schulte gave Dimmitt its first lead of the game with a pair of free throws that put the Bobbies out front, 52-50, and Dimmitt held the lead the rest of the way.

The Lady Lopes were in big trouble when their hotshot, Jennifer Brock, left the game via the five-foul route late in the third period. Brock had scored 20 of Abernathy's 42 points in the first three periods.

The other key factor in the Bobbies' rally was turnovers forced by the Dimmitt defense during the fourth. The full-court press stymied the Lady Lopes and resulted in one steal after another, which the Bobbies converted to points.

Black finished as Dimmitt's top scorer with 20. Robertson scored 10, Fabela 10, Sharla Kenworthy 7, Schulte and Stacy Saenz 4 each, and Audrey Saenz 2.

For Abernathy, Brock had 20, Meredith Tullis 15 and Kinsey Riley 10.

Abernathy built a 14-11 first-quarter lead and held a narrow 25-23 edge at halftime. The Lady Lopes closed down Dimmitt's inside game in the third and scored 17 points while the Bobbies could manage only 10, giving Abernathy its seemingly safe 42-33 lead going into the fourth.

Dimmitt's 10 points in the third came on only four shots—treys by Robertson, Kenworthy and Fabela and a free throw by Black.

Bobcats 70, Abernathy 61

In the varsity boys' game Monday night, the Bobcats rushed to a 44-25 halftime lead, then held on for a 70-61 win over Abernathy.

The two teams battled on even terms at first. Dimmitt managed to go ahead 9-3 on a reverse layup by Marcus Larra and a pair of freebies by Dee Norman, but Abernathy rallied with back-to-back field goals by Daniel Nelson and Nick Bowe to narrow it to 9-7.

But Larra and Brent Josselet lit up the scoreboard in the final moments to give Dimmitt a commanding lead. Josselet sank a pair of three-pointers, Larra sank one, and each of them scored a fast-break layup off of steals, giving Dimmitt a 22-9 lead at the end of the first.

The Bobcats rang up four more treys in the third—two by Daniel Proffitt and one each by Norman and Larra—as they matched their first-quarter output to take a commanding

44-25 lead to the locker room. They continued their long-range assault in the third with two treys by Norman and one by Sherman to go with a two-point field goal by Sherman and a free throw by Matthew Wright.

However, Abernathy had a big 19-point third quarter, with Bowe scoring 11 of them, to pull the Lopes to

within 12 at 56-44.

The Lopes also outscored the Bobcats 17-14 in the fourth, but it wasn't enough. Highlighting Dimmitt's fourth-quarter scoring were treys by Proffitt, Larra and Sherman, two-pointers by Sherman and Matthew Sandoval and a free throw by Wright.

Trees may be ordered from soil district office

Wildlife packets, evergreens, deciduous trees and shrubs for windbreaks may be ordered through the Castro County office of the Running Water Draw Soil and Water Conservation District in Dimmitt.

Call 647-2153, ext. 101, to place an order or for more information.

The wildlife seedling packets are produced by the Texas Forest Service West Texas Nursery in Lubbock and are available to assist landowners in creating wildlife habitat.

"Now is the time to order wildlife packets before preferred species are sold out," said Brian Scott, Texas Forest Service forester in Amarillo.

Four wildlife seedling packets are available: quail/pheasant, deer, turkey and squirrel. Each packet contains 100 bare-root deciduous trees and shrubs that cater specifically to the habitat needs of their labeled species. Each packet contains the

following trees and shrubs:

Quail/pheasant: Russian olive, aromatic sumac, Nanking cherry, and plum.

Deer: hackberry, flameleaf sumac, bur oak, and fourwing saltbush.

Turkey: hackberry, bur oak, aromatic sumac, and honeysuckle.

Squirrel: little walnut, shumard oak, osage orange, and bur oak.

The Texas Forest Service recommends planting wildlife packets in blocks on grasslands, at right angles on dry corners, in "motts" along playas, or parallel to irrigated cropland.

For best results, Scott recommends 10-foot to 25-foot spacing between each deciduous tree within a tree row; 6-foot spacing between each shrub within a shrub row; and 20-foot spacing between each row of trees.

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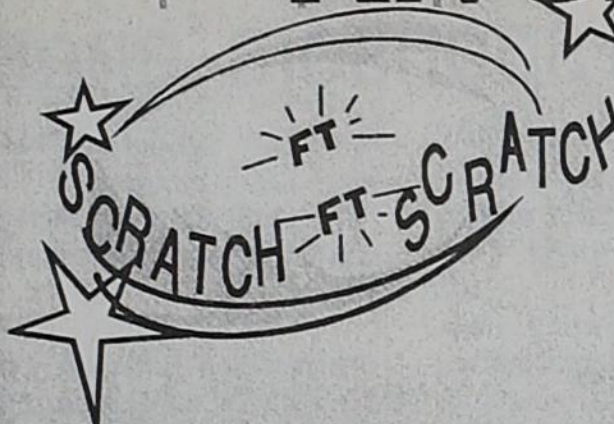
Bobbies and Bobcats

against the

River Road Ladycats

& Wildcats

Friday, Here



Schedule and Scores

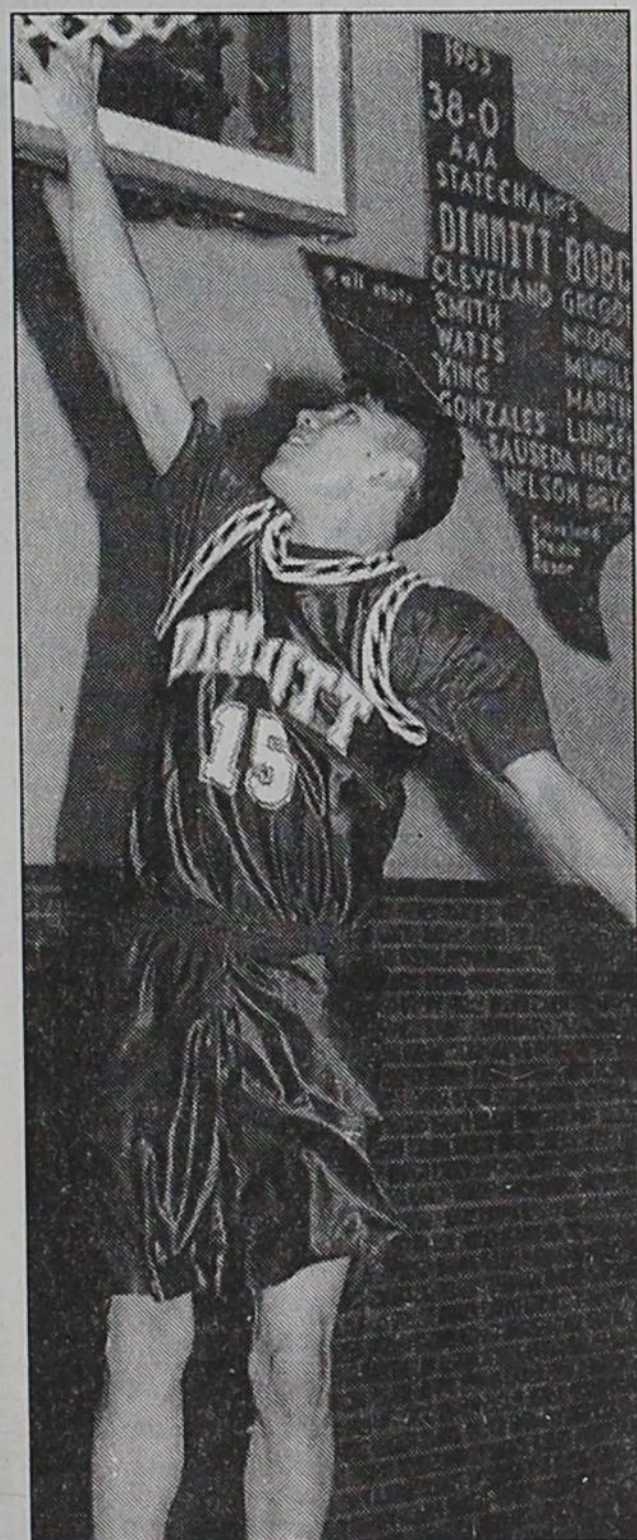
Dec. 15—River Road, Here
Dec. 21—Amarillo High, There
Dec. 28-30—Caprock Tournament, Lubbock
Jan. 5—*Littlefield (Girls), Here
Jan. 5—Tulia (Boys), Here
Jan. 9—*Roosevelt (Girls), Here
Jan. 9—Amarillo (Boys), Here
Jan. 12—*Shallowater, There
Jan. 16—*Muleshoe, Here
Jan. 19—*Cooper, There
Jan. 23—*Littlefield, There
Jan. 26—*Roosevelt, There
Jan. 30—*Shallowater, Here
Feb. 2—*Muleshoe, There
Feb. 6—*Cooper, Here
Feb. 9—*Littlefield (Boys), Here
Feb. 12—*Roosevelt (Boys), Here

Bobbies

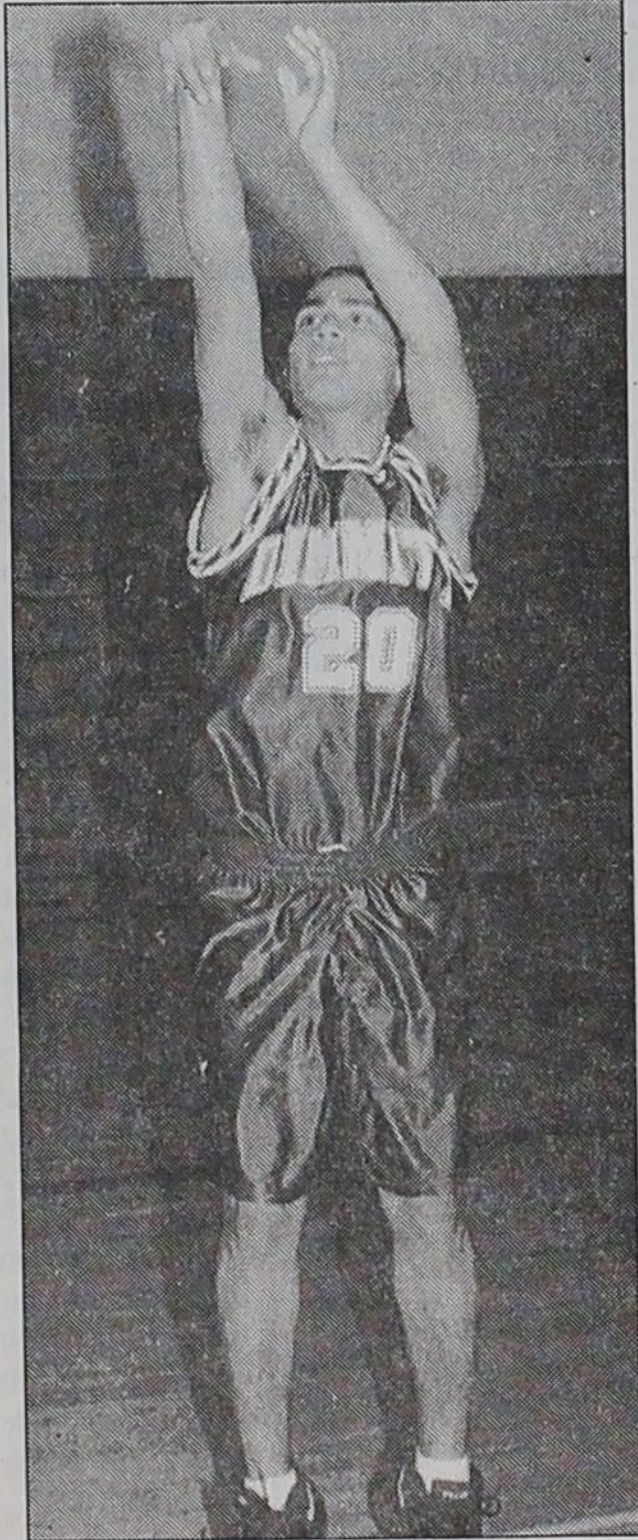
42, Randall 54
39, Levelland 58
44, Borger 62
Queen's Classic
41, Randall 55
57, Muleshoe 44
68, Vega 70 (OT)
59 Hereford 55
Canyon Classic
36, Tascosa 71
51, Panhandle 63
65, Godley 35
41, Tulia 44
57, Abernathy 52
Season Record: 4-8

Bobcats

49, Randall 68
60, Levelland 67
69, Borger 62
43, Hereford 52
Plainview Tourney
63, Plainview 53
56 Paducah 40
70, Hale Center 40
75, Tulia 55
Big Spring Tournament
81, Sweetwater 55
66, Clyde 48
54, Merkel 41
70, Abernathy 61
Season Record: 9-3



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Swifts finish third in big I-27 Tourney

Nazareth avenged a double overtime loss to Trinity, knocked off a good Class AAA team and blew away Idalou in the I-27 Tournament, but the Swifts had to settle for third place after falling to Hale Center in the semifinals Friday.

The Swifts edged Shallowater, 60-58, last Thursday in the first round, and that set up a rematch with Trinity Christian in the quarterfinals that evening.

Trinity had beaten the Swifts two days earlier in a double overtime thriller, but this time the victory belonged to Nazareth in regulation, 65-61.

After the big win over Trinity, Nazareth advanced to the semifinals where they watched a late fourth-quarter lead evaporate at the hands of Hale Center. The Owls took advantage of Swift mistakes and missed free throws in the final minutes of the semifinal game and claimed the victory, 68-63. Hale Center went on to win the tourna-

ment while the Swifts dropped into the third-place game against Idalou.

Idalou never threatened the Swifts, who bounced back from the disappointing semifinal loss to claim the third-place trophy with an 81-53 win.

"This is the best we've finished in this tournament since I've been here," said Nazareth Coach Mike Scarbrough. "I was pleased with the way we played. We played well against some good teams. We also found a couple of things we need to work on."

"Our defense played well at times and I thought we shot well in all of the games except against Shallowater. We were just disappointed we couldn't hold on against Hale Center and get to the championship."

A big third-quarter effort allowed Nazareth to build a lead over Shallowater in the first game, and the Swifts were able to hold off a late

Mustang rally to claim the 60-58 win.

The score was knotted at 12 after the first quarter and Shallowater owned a two-point advantage at halftime.

Nazareth came out on fire in the third quarter and outscored the Mustangs, 22-12, for a 45-37 lead.

Shallowater made a run at the Swifts in the fourth quarter and chipped away at the deficit, but Nazareth was able to hold on to the two-point edge as time expired.

Nazareth's Kade Wilcox, Eric Schilling and Ky Wilcox all finished in double figure scoring, tallying 20, 15 and 11 points, respectively.

The Swifts were fired up and ready for Trinity Christian and caught the Patriots off-guard in the first quarter, jumping out to a quick 23-15 lead.

Trinity bounced back in the second quarter to trim the Swifts' lead to three points, and it looked like a repeat of the previous meeting be-

tween the two teams.

The Swifts still held a two-point lead after three quarters, and they were able to outscore Trinity 18-16 in the fourth quarter to preserve the win.

Kade Wilcox finished with 19 points to pace the Swifts while Schil-

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Dickerson said you may select what number you wish to have painted on the jersey of the Bobcat or Bobbie.

"These signs belong to the Student Council, so they will be picked up at the end of the season," Dickerson said.

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- Red X Travel Center
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- Town & Country Food Store

ling added 18 and Ky Wilcox finished with 17.

"The Trinity game was our best in the tournament," said Scarbrough. "We played as well in that game as I've ever seen us play. Trinity is a really good team. I know they've beaten several Class AAAA and AAAAA schools. It was a big win for us."

Nazareth led the Hale Center Owls in every quarter except for the final one.

"In the fourth quarter we made some mistakes down the stretch," Scarbrough said. "We didn't take care of the ball and we didn't hit free throws."

"We were ahead by three with a minute and a half left and we had some opportunities to extend the lead at the free throw line, but we didn't make those shots. Hale Center made a couple of big plays down the stretch when it counted," he said.

"I think the guys ran out of gas at

the end. We had played the tough game with Trinity on Tuesday, then had two close games on Thursday before we played Hale Center Friday."

Nazareth led 20-18 after one quarter and owned a 39-34 lead at intermission. The Swifts took a 55-48 lead into the fourth quarter, but couldn't hold on in the waning seconds and the Owls overtook the lead for the 68-63 win.

Schilling had 20 points to lead the Swifts while Kade Wilcox added 19 and Ky Wilcox finished with 11.

In Saturday's third-place game, Kade Wilcox couldn't miss, scoring 35 points as the Swifts prevailed over Idalou, 81-53.

Nazareth's defense limited Idalou to 14 first-half points enroute to a 46-14 lead at the break.

Idalou had a little more success in the second half, but the early lead posted by Nazareth was too big to scale.

Swiftettes topple Tulia, El Paso in tourney action

The Nazareth Swiftettes ran into a stumbling block in the second round of the I-27 Invitational, falling to Wall, 49-51 on a last-second shot.

Wall went on to win the tournament while the Swiftettes rebounded to pick up their second win of the tournament with a 57-51 decision over Tulia.

Nazareth opened the tournament by blowing away El Paso Burgess, 76-38.

In that game, four Swiftettes scored in double figures as Nazareth dominated every aspect of the game.

Stephanie Thiel and Whitney Hoelting couldn't be stopped, and each finished with 23 points to lead Nazareth. Wendy Black chipped in 17 and Tara Kleman added 10 in the big win.

Nazareth held an 18-9 lead in the first quarter and El Paso never recovered. It was a 40-20 Nazareth advantage after two periods and the Swiftettes continued to add to their lead in the second half, outscoring El Paso 36-18 over the final 16 minutes for the 76-38 win.

Nazareth started off slow against Wall, and the Swiftettes trailed 12-15 after the first quarter.

The Swiftettes' defense turned up the heat in the second quarter, though, shutting down the Wall offense to erase the deficit and claim a 28-19 lead by halftime.

Never giving up, Wall fought its way back in the second half and pulled within four after three quarters of action.

Wall got its revenge for the second quarter when it stifled Nazareth over the final eight minutes, limiting the Swiftettes to four points.

With the score tied at 49, Wall worked the clock over the final minute, scoring near the end of regulation to claim the 51-49 win.

Hoelting was Nazareth's lone double-figure scorer, and she finished with 12 points.

Nazareth edged Tulia, 57-51, in the guarantee game for its second win in the tournament.

Thiel finished with 26 points while Black added 13 for Nazareth.

Dimmitt-Bethel 4-H collects toys and sponsors 'angels'

The Dimmitt-Bethel 4-H Club gathered toys for the 4-H toy drive and agreed to sponsor three angels from the community Angel Tree project.

At the club's last meeting, club members discussed Christmas activities, including the toy drive and gift giving. Members decided that senior club members will take the junior club members shopping for the angel gifts. The toys collected from the toy drive were delivered to Panhandle

Community Services to be distributed to needy children.

The club will have their holiday party on Dec. 27 when they will go bowling.

The senior 4-H members will help serve tables at the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce banquet set in January, and the junior members will help decorate a table for the club.

The next meeting of the club will be Jan. 18 at the Extension office.

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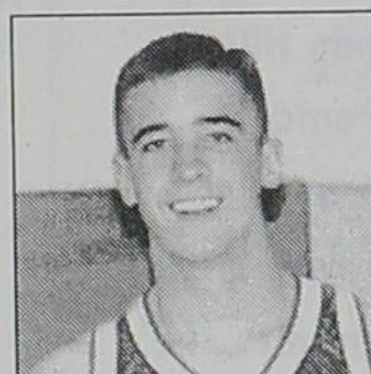


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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc. has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service that it will comply fully with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended; and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Mike Ferguson, Member Services Advisor.

Any person who believes himself, or any specific call of individuals, to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and the Rules and Regulations issued thereunder may, by himself or a representative, file with the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250; or with this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed not later than 180 days after the alleged discrimination, or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Administrator of the Rural Utilities Service extends the time for filing. Identity of complainants will be kept confidential to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 67, Tulia, Texas 79088
Eddie Bryan, President

Obituaries

Cleo Susan Campbell

Funeral services for Cleo Susan Campbell, 89, of Dimmitt, were held Monday afternoon at the Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ in Dimmitt with Stuart Jones officiating.

Burial was in Castro Memorial Gardens of Dimmitt under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home.

Mrs. Campbell died Dec. 8 in Gracious Care Home in Carrollton.

She was born Nov. 25, 1911, in King, N.M., and graduated from Lubbock High School in 1930. She married Truvis Campbell on Nov. 8, 1932, in Clovis, N.M. He preceded her in death on Dec. 10, 1986. They moved to Castro County in 1947 from Crosbyton. Mrs. Campbell was a homemaker and a member of the Home Demonstration Club. She was a member of the Church of Christ and taught Bible school for many years.

She is survived by two daughters, Carolyn Wiseman of Dimmitt and Marilyn Ginn of Flower Mound; a sister, Vera Lewis of Glendale, Ariz.; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Gracious Care Home, 2012 Wedgewood Lane, Carrollton 75006; or to a favorite charity.

H.M. "Shorty" Cowell

H.M. "Shorty" Cowell, 89, of Amarillo, former Dimmitt resident, died Monday at Amarillo.

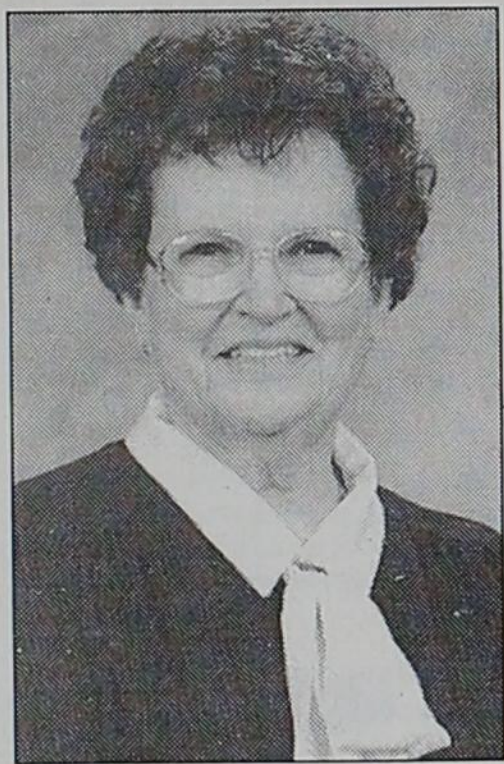
Graveside services were held Wednesday morning at Silverton Cemetery with the Rev. Edwin Norris officiating, assisted by R.D. Reynolds. Arrangements were by Myers-Long Funeral Directors of Silverton.

Mr. Cowell was born March 15, 1911, in East Prairie, Missouri. He married Martha Sons on Feb. 19, 1938, in Madill, Okla. She died on Aug. 12, 1988.

He had lived in Dimmitt, Silverton and Tulia. He was a welder.

He was preceded in death by a son, Tracy Cowell; and a grandson, Terry Cowell.

Survivors include four daughters, Pat Foster and Janie Snider, both of Amarillo, Jeanetta Farmer of Garland and Shirley Henderson of Silverton; two sons, Bo Cowell of Amarillo and Tuffy Cowell of Decatur; 11 grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.



Bernice Franklin

Funeral services for Bernice English Franklin, 82, of Lubbock, former Dimmitt resident, were held Saturday afternoon at the Earth First Baptist Church with the Rev. Cliff Hargrove officiating. Burial followed in Earth Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Adams Funeral Home of Ralls.

Mrs. Franklin died last Thursday, Dec. 7, at Covenant Medical Center Lakeside in Lubbock.

She was born Sept. 28, 1918, in Grapevine. She married Otis Leon English on Feb. 12, 1938. He died in March 1957. She then married Woodrow Franklin on Sept. 28, 1971. He died in November 1995.

She was a member of the Godley First Methodist Church. She was an avid quilter. She moved to Lubbock from Godley in 1998. She was a former resident of Earth.

She was preceded in death by a grandson, Chad English.

Survivors include two sons, Arvel English and Lonnie English, both of Lubbock; three grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Tal English, Lane English, David Bruswitz, Sawnie Branscum, Burl Branscum and Lexie Branscum.

The longer glass stays under water, the stronger it gets.

People believe if you hold the hair of a gorse in your hand, nothing can harm you.

Beral N. Hance

Beral N. Hance, 87, longtime resident of Dimmitt, died Friday.

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

She was born Sept. 25, 1913, in Blevins, Ark. She married Raymond L. Hance on April 5, 1933, in Ector. He died in May 1980.

She attended East Texas Teachers College in Commerce. She moved to Castro County in 1933. She had been a member of the First Baptist Church since 1936, and held all offices in WMU. She was a member of the Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and American Heart Association. She worked as a mail carrier and teacher. She also worked in the Castro County Extension Office and for the Castro County Attorney until her retirement.

Survivors include a son, Kent Hance of Dallas; two daughters, Linda Karagas of Boulder, Colo., and Beth Hodges of Amarillo; a sister, Junia Green of Sherman; seven grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a son, Pat Lyndon Hance, in 1939.

The family suggests memorials to the Beral Hance Scholarship Fund, in care of First United Bank, PO Box 929, Dimmitt 79027.

Pallbearers were Charles Sammann, Gene Bradley, Bud Hill, Wade Maynard, Bill Murphy, Carl King, Jimmy Davis and Rex Wooten.

Christmas concert set tonight at DHS

The Dimmitt High School choir and band will present a Christmas concert tonight (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the Dimmitt High School Auditorium.

The public is invited to attend the concert.

Michael L. Perkins

Funeral services for Michael L. Perkins, 51, of Lubbock, the son-in-law of Betty Huckabay of Dimmitt, were held Friday afternoon in First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt with Rev. Van Perryman and Rev. Ray Perryman officiating.

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

Mr. Perkins died Dec. 4 in Carlsbad, N.M.

He was born Sept. 12, 1949, in Wichita Falls, and attended schools in Monahans. He graduated from the University of Texas Pharmacy School in 1972, and was employed by Wal-Mart Pharmacies. He married Alissa Huckabay on Oct. 12, 1975, in Dimmitt. She preceded him in death on Oct. 7, 1995.

He is survived by a son, Adrian M. Perkins of Lubbock; a daughter, Hannah Kate Perkins of Lubbock; his mother, Mae Perkins of Lubbock; two sisters, Judy Perkins of Lubbock and Joan Looney of Bloomfield, N.M.; and a granddaughter.

The family suggests memorials to The Living Vine Worship Center, P.O. Box 1062, Wolfforth 79382; or Short Round Ministries, P.O. Box 388, Crockett 75385.

Cruz Tapia

Funeral services for Cruz Tapia, 89, of Dimmitt, were held Monday morning at the Church of God of the First Born with Fernando Fernandez officiating. Burial followed in Castro Memorial Gardens under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Tapia died Friday in Dimmitt.

She was born Sept. 15, 1911. She married Louis Tapia. He died in 1982.

She was a homemaker and a member of the Church of God of the First Born.

Survivors include a son, Joe of Dimmitt; a brother, Steve Ruiz of Springfield, Mo.; and one grandchild.

Every mother knows when children say they are doing nothing, they are into mischief.

Have you ever known a child to be happy without making noise.

More about 1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

And it was a good animal. And God was pleased.

And the new animal was pleased to be with Adam and Eve, and he wagged his tail.

And Adam said, "Lord, I have already named all the animals of the kingdom and I cannot think of a name for this new animal."

And God said, "No problem! Because I have created this new animal to be a reflection of my love for you, his name will be a reflection of my own name, and you will call him DOG."

And Dog lived with Adam and Eve and was a companion to them and loved them.

And they were comforted. And God was pleased. And Dog was content and wagged his tail.

After a while, it came to pass that an angel came to the Lord and said, "Lord, Adam and Eve have become filled with pride. They strut and preen like peacocks and they believe they are worthy of adoration. Dog has indeed taught them that they are loved, but perhaps too well."

And God said, "No problem! I will create for them a companion that will be with them forever and that will see them as they are. This companion will remind them of their limitations, so they will know that they are not always worthy of adoration."

And God created CAT to be a companion to Adam and Eve.

And Cat would not obey them. And when Adam and Eve gazed into Cat's eyes, they were reminded that they were not the supreme beings.

And Adam and Eve learned humility. And they were greatly improved. And God was pleased.

And Dog was happy.

And Cat didn't give a rip one way or the other.

To add flavor to cooked rice, substitute chicken or beef bouillon for the water or add spices, fruit juice or orange peel.

Herbert Hoover was the first U.S. President to have a phone on his desk.

Alligators can close their ears just as camels can close their noses.

The job of being a mother is akin to that of an air traffic controller. Even the most perfect children make a mother glad when they sleep.

Chuck,

*I know your life on earth was troubled,
Only you could know the pain.
You weren't afraid to face the devil,
You're no stranger to the rain.*

*Oh how we cried the day you left us,
Gathered 'round your grave to grieve.
Wish I could see the Angel's faces
When they hear your sweet voice sing!*

*Go rest high on that mountain,
Son, your work on earth is done.
Go to Heaven a shoutin',
Your unfailing love for the Father and the Son.*

The Braafladt Family
Christmas, 2000

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Wednesday, Dec. 20th
Senior Citizens Center
in Dimmit
Toll free 1-800-828-0722
www.livingstonaudiology.com

Come and join us for a

Miss-ter Millennium Pageant/Dance

Come see your friends and community members DRESS UP AS GIRLS and compete in a BEAUTY PAGEANT!

December 16
8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
at Richardson Elementary School Cafeteria

Tickets: \$4 in advance or \$5 at the door
Tickets will go on sale Dec. 4

Come dance and have a great time!
Proceeds will be used to help fund the DHS prom