

# The Castro County News

77th year—No. 14

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, July 5, 2001

50¢

10 pages plus supplements



**READY, SET, JUMP**—Amber Jones, Sherry Bryan and Holly Bryan joined many other youngsters to splash around in the water at the Dimmitt City Pool Friday. The pool has been heavily populated the past week as residents searched for a way to get relief from temperatures which have been topping out in the mid to upper 90s. Photo by Joyce Nelson

## County gets first look at redistricting options

Thirteen members of a citizens' advisory committee got their first look Monday night at three different plans for redistricting the county's four precincts.

It didn't take them long to agree on the plan they liked best: Plan 2, the only one that would include part of Dimmitt in Precinct 1.

The commissioners called Monday night's informal huddle to allow the multiracial committee to take an advance look at the options as they prepare for the first public hearing on the redistricting issue, which will be

at 9 a.m. Monday.

The three redistricting options—each of which included color maps and detailed tables of population and demographic statistics—were drawn up by the Amarillo law firm of Allison, Bass & Associates under contract with the county.

As she distributed copies of the three plans to committee members, County Judge Irene Miller explained that the county's population declined by 8.55% during the past decade, dropping from 9,070 to 8,285.

As a result of the decline and shifts in population, she said, "We've got to redistrict Precincts 1 and 4. We need to move some population from 4 into 1. Allison & Bass say that Precincts 2 and 3 already meet the requirements for compliance."

The citizens' committee, made up equally of appointees from each precinct, is to study the options available and make a recommendation to the Commissioners' Court. The commissioners will make the final decision.

The boundaries set by this redistricting effort—based on the 2000 Census—will remain in effect until the next Census in 2010, unless challenged in court.

And Castro County officials don't want to leave any room for such a court challenge. The county spent \$800,000 defending its 1990 boundaries in federal courts before being ordered to redraw them.

"We're hoping to avert a disaster like we had the last time," Judge Miller told committee members. "In fact, we're going to."

The two commissioners who will be most affected by the redistricting—Newlon Roland of Precinct 1 (southeast quadrant of the county) and Dan Schmucker of Precinct 4

(Continued on Page 10)

## Rehearsals begin July 11

### Follies organizers seeking cast, crew for August shows

If you can sing, dance, act or just like to perform in front of a crowd, then the Chamber of Commerce is looking for you.

Chamber Executive Director Bill Sava is organizing the annual production of the Follies, and he's looking for a few good men, women and children to perform or help with the production.

The show is slated for Aug. 25 and 26 at the Dimmitt High School Auditorium and rehearsals will begin Wednesday, July 11. Sava urges anyone interested in being a part of the production to call him as soon as possible.

"We're looking for all you talented people out there who would like to take that voice out of the shower and onto the stage and join us for Follies 2001," Sava said. "We're working on scripts now and we're trying to decide which of the musical numbers will be the most fun—that could be determined largely by the cast we assemble."

"The Follies are a good time for everyone involved, cast and audience alike. A few days back, Doro-

thy Sheffy shared some of her 'refrigerator magnet wisdom' with me—*Laughter is like a resurrection—it lets us rise again and again.* That's what we do at the Follies.

"I guarantee we'll have a part—and some laughs—for you, unless you wait until after Aug. 1 to call," Sava said. "We can't guarantee much of anything after that, but we'll try."

## Cerestar keeping close eye on corporate battle in Europe

A hostile takeover battle between European corporate giants is leaving officials of Cerestar wondering who their company's new owners will be and how it might affect them.

A group of companies led by Fiat, Europe's sixth-leading automaker, has launched a hostile takeover bid to gain control of Montedison, an industrial holding company that coordinates a portfolio of established businesses, including Eridania Béghin-Say, the former parent company of Cerestar.

On Monday, CNNfn reported that Fiat and a French state-owned power company, Electricite de France, offered 2.82 euros per share. Montedison was attempting to block the takeover by selling off a portion of its stakes in other companies.

Eridania Béghin-Say ceased to exist last week as Montedison to

simplified its ownership structure and focused its equity portfolio on high-profitability businesses.

That streamlining broke up Eridania Béghin-Say into four companies listed on the Paris Bourse, each focusing on a specific sector—sugar, starch, food oil and animal feed.

The company's starch and derivative production is carried out by 18 Cerestar plants across the world—three in the United States (including one in Dimmitt), three in Italy, three in Germany, two in Denmark, two in Spain, and one each in the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Turkey and Thailand.

As a result of the recent corporate shuffling, Montedison currently owns 51% of Cerestar, according to David Bone, plant manager at Cerestar in Dimmitt.

"We knew other people were buying Montedison stock recently, but this is the first we have known of a hostile takeover."

"If the takeover is successful, then Fiat would be the controlling owner of Montedison and of Cerestar," Bone said.

During the past year, Montedison reported that Cerestar had net revenues of \$1.5 billion (1.7 billion euros) through its markets which include the food industry, paper/corrugating industry, chemical and pharmaceutical industries and animal feed industry.

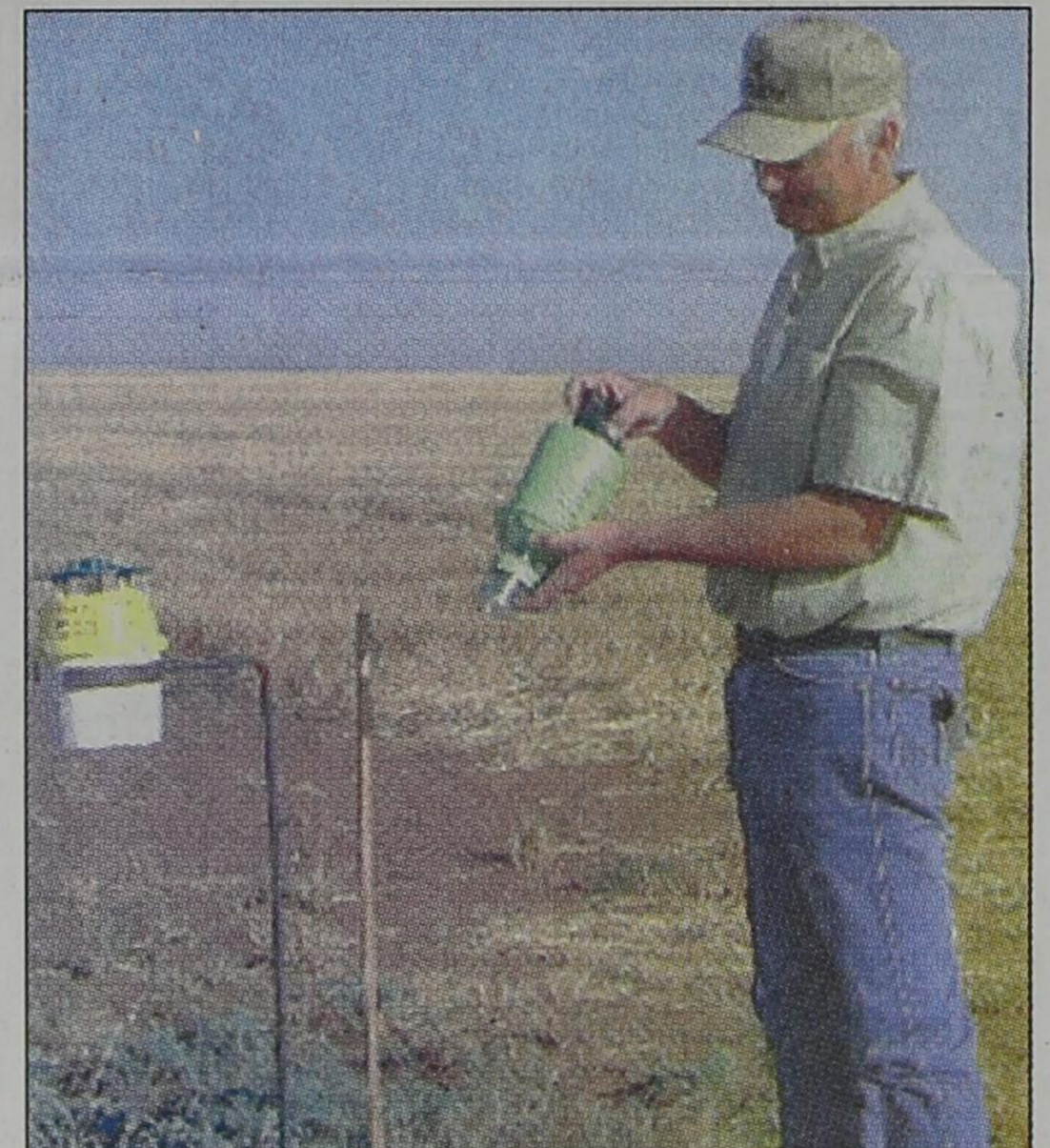
Products manufactured at Cerestar's plants are starch and derivatives from maize and wheat; glucose and fructose syrup; dextrose, native and modified starches; cationic starches, cyclodextrins polyols and citric acid.

## Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	93	64	
Friday	96	61	0.48
Saturday	94	63	
Sunday	95	60	
Monday	93	57	
Tuesday	87	58	

June Moisture ..... 0.97  
2001 Moisture ..... 13.69

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



**NO WEEVIL THIS TIME** - Mark Welch, field unit supervisor, checks a boll weevil trap in a field north of Dimmitt. These traps are placed every 1/10 of a mile around a cotton field. Upwards of 10,000 traps have been placed by the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation this year. Photo by Susan Book

## Progress being made in boll weevil eradication

The boll weevil eradication program is working.

The Dimmitt District, which covers Castro County, has only had to treat one field near Hart this cotton-growing season and they did not even have to use a spray plane.

"We're making great progress in the eradication program," said Misty Davis, district supervisor. "The numbers are way down from what they were last year."

The Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Office in Dimmitt has put out upwards of 10,000 traps in Castro County, and that's a conservative estimate. The traps are placed every 1/10 of a mile surrounding each cotton field.

The traps are checked every week. The size, shape, color of the trap and the pheromone lure inside the capture chamber of the trap attract the boll weevils. Once weevils enter the trap, an insecticide "kill strip" insures that they stay there.

When the trap is checked, the trapper uses a small handheld scanner to scan a bar code located on the trap. This scanner then knows which trap it is and where it is located.

Next, the trapper enters information on how many weevils were found and what stage the cotton is

currently in determined by the number of leaves and whether they have pin head squares.

He then changes the "kill strip" or lure if needed and writes this information on the side of the trap.

The total cost of a trap amounts to about \$1.30 with the trap, lure, insecticide strip, and the wooden stake it's mounted on.

Many times these traps are knocked over or destroyed, and that means lost data.

The progress of eradication is hampered, extending the amount of time and money to complete the process. If the trappers are unable to detect weevils because of a damaged trap, the weevils may still be there causing destruction.

These traps should be left alone so they can gather the data needed to eradicate the boll weevil.

The Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Office in Dimmitt currently employs 24 seasonal employees, four field unit supervisors, a field clerk, a mechanic, and the district supervisor.

They will continue gathering information until the first killing freeze in hopes that the rest of the cotton season continues to be weevil-free.

## 1:1

By Don Nelson

I got to sing the National Anthem, solo, at the July Jubilee Tuesday.

I didn't say I had to. I got to.

It's always a privilege to get to sing it. There's just one proviso when I sing it: It has to be without any accompaniment, because I'm a bass-baritone and if I sang it in the usual key, I'd never hit those high notes on "the rocket's red glare" and "land of the free." If you can't either, welcome to the majority.

(Let me tell ya: Anytime you see someone get up to sing the National Anthem solo, no matter how good or how professional they are, take my word for it—they're worrying about those high notes. *The Star Spangled Banner* definitely was not written for the average person's vocal range. Then, too, the words on those highest notes, "red glare"—well, try yelling those words as loudly as you can, with your mouth wide open, then yell 'em again at the highest pitch you can manage. That's why even the pros get a little clammy-handed about it.)

(Continued on Page 10)



**THIS 1981 OLDSMOBILE REGENCY** driven by Anadelia Jackson Saucedo sustained moderate damage when it was struck at the 200 block of West Belsher and Southwest Third street by a 2000 Pontiac driven by Zackery Ray McClure. The accident

occurred at 3:55 p.m. June 28. Saucedo and her passenger were taken by ambulance to Plains Memorial Hospital with possible injuries. McClure was cited for failure to yield right of way at a yield sign. Photo by Joyce Nelson

# Lubbock will host ag policy summit

Texas farmers and ranchers can get short- and long-term projections on how their operations will fare during the next few years at the Aug. 13-14 Texas Agricultural Policy Summit scheduled for the Holiday Inn Park Plaza in Lubbock.

The summit will attract producers, lenders, agribusiness representatives, environmental/natural resource stakeholders and rural community leaders. Registration costs \$70 per person. A block of rooms has been reserved and will be held until July 13.

"The goal of the summit is to focus on policy changes under consideration by state and national agriculture leaders and to better understand the likely consequences for Texas agriculture and the rural community," said Dr. Abner Womack, summit committee co-chair and director of the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M University.

The summit will begin Aug. 13 at 7:30 p.m. with a discussion of issues underlying the farm bill debate, led by Dr. Ronald D. Knutson, Texas Agricultural Extension Service economist. He will be joined by Dr. Luther G. Tweeten, a professor in the department of agricultural, environ-

mental and development economics at Ohio State University.

On Aug. 14, Womack and Dr. Ed Smith, Extension economist, will discuss the outlook and alternatives for the current farm program.

"We plan to provide a baseline economic analysis for several crops and for livestock," Womack said. "We will look at projected returns, commodity by commodity."

"Our analyses indicate a fairly negative scenario for most commodities under current farm policy. Even so, we could see mild abatement of economic pressures such as currency exchange rates and fuel prices by 2003 or 2004. We will also discuss farm policy option under consideration on Capitol Hill," said Womack.

These options include counter cyclical supplemental farm payments, higher commodity loan rates, and market loss assistance payments that have come into play during the past three years.

Womack and Smith will be followed by Mike Dwyer, chief economist with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service. He will discuss "Agricultural Trade Implications - Who Wins and Loses in a Global Market?" U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann

Veneman has been invited to speak at noon on Aug. 14. As the keynote lunch speaker, Veneman will discuss the role of the USDA in understanding and defining priority issues.

A panel of federal officials, including U.S. Representatives Larry Combest and Charles Stenholm, both of Texas, have been invited to host an afternoon discussion focusing on national policy issues and expected farm bill modifications. Combest chairs the House Agricultural Committee.

A panel of state officials such as Representatives David Swinford and Gary Walker, and Senator Robert Duncan, have been invited to discuss Texas' ag policy. Swinford chairs the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock, and Walker sits on the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. Duncan is vice chair of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources.

These officials will exchange information and ideas on farm policy options with summit participants during the afternoon panel discussions.

## Speak Out!

Here is where to contact your US Senators and Representative in Washington, D.C., and your State Senator and Representative in Austin.

### US Senate

**Phil Gramm:**  
Rm. 370 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2934

**Kay Bailey Hutchison:**  
Rm. 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-5922

### US House of Representatives

**13th District  
Mac Thornberry:**  
131 Cannon Building, Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3706  
Fax: (202) 225-3486

### Texas Senate

The mailing address for all State Senators is: Texas Senate, P.O. Box 12068, Capitol Station, Austin 78711 Fax: (512) 463-0326

### 30th District

**Tom Haywood**  
Austin phone: (512) 463-0130  
Wichita Falls: 2108 Kemp, Wichita Falls 76308; Phone: (940) 767-3073 or 1-800-866-7330

### Texas House of Representatives

The mailing address for all State Representatives is: Texas House, P.O. Box 2910, Austin 78768-2910 Fax: (512) 463-0695

### 85th District

**Pete Laney**  
Speaker of the House  
Austin phone: (512) 463-0604  
Local office: P.O. Drawer 900, Hale Center 79041  
Phone: (806) 839-2478

Here is where to contact your US Senators and Representative in Washington, D.C.:

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**Phil Gramm:**  
Rm. 370 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510  
phone: (202) 224-2934

**Kay Bailey Hutchison:**  
Rm. 284 Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510  
phone: (202) 224-5922

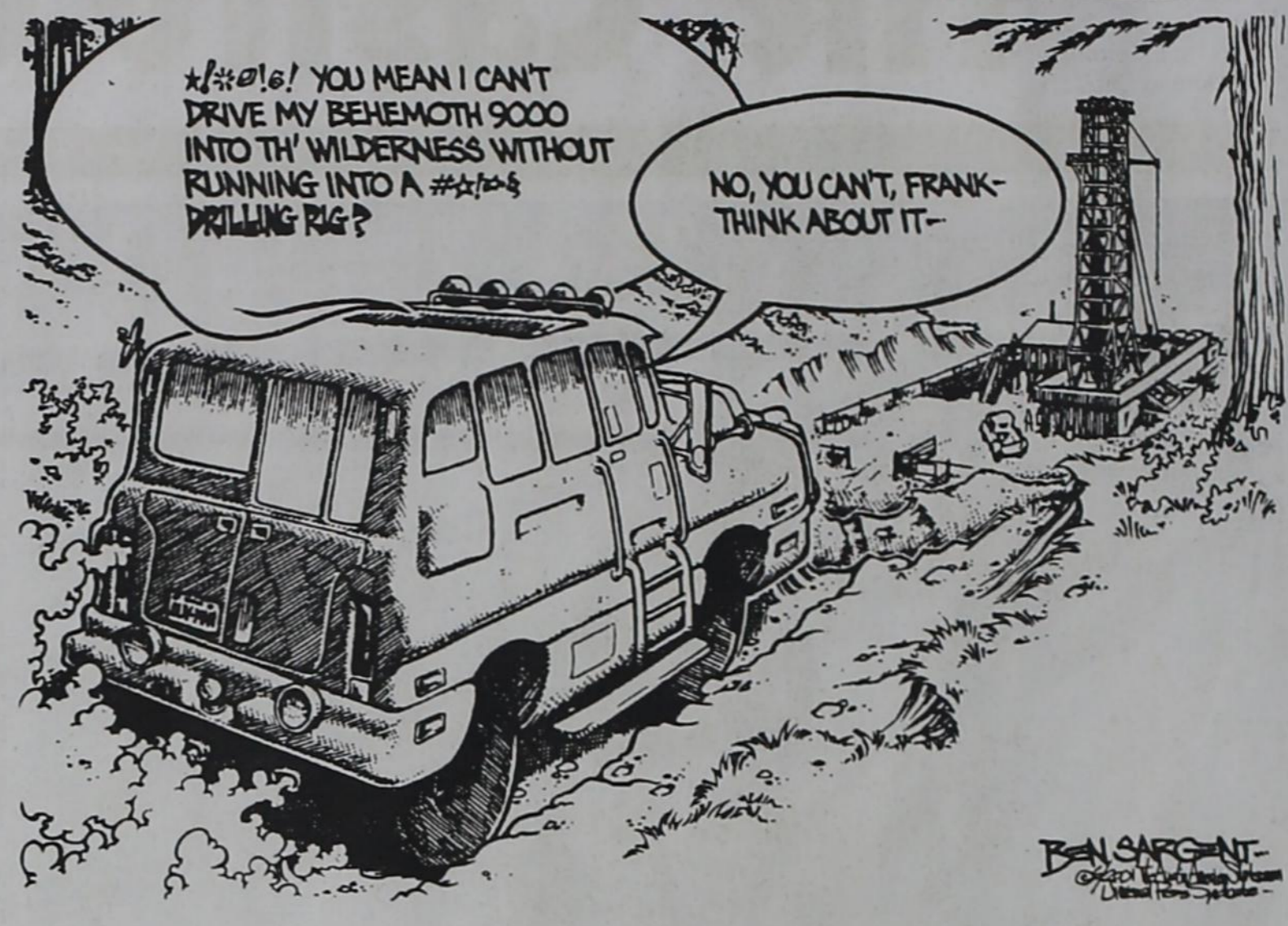
### US House of Representatives

**13th District  
Mac Thornberry:**  
Rm. 1535 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515  
phone: (202) 225-3706  
fax: (202) 225-3486

**Last Puzzle Solution**  
A crossword puzzle solution grid with letters filled in. The grid is 10x10. The letters are: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z. The solution is: ARCHILL, SEMANEA, TISTIC, THEALAMO, OISO, GLOW, TERRORS, PRAIRIE, WITHHAGAME, OSOLE, RIPE, ENOLA, ASIAHORSEONA, TAP, TAP, TAP, GAIT, OUSO, ESPIN, BLACK, NICHOL, TEND, ANOLD, VLECK, HAMLIN, ANOLD, OUSO, TAP, TAP, TAP, GAIT, OUSO, TAP, TAP, TAP, GAIT, OUSO, TAP, TAP, TAP, GAIT, OUSO.

# Op-Ed

Opinions, Editorials, Letters, Features



## Emergency exemption okayed for use of Tracer on alfalfa

A Section 18 emergency specific exemption has been granted for the use of spinosad (Tracer Insecticide) on alfalfa to control beet armyworms, and Castro County is one of several across the state which will benefit.

Tracer Insecticide may be applied following all directions, restrictions and precautions on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered product label, as well as restrictions within the exemption notice.

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

A maximum of 70,000 acres of alfalfa may be treated in the following counties: Andrews, Armstrong, Bailey, Borden, Brewster, Briscoe, Carson, Castro, Cochran, Collingsworth, Crane, Crockett,

Crosby, Culberson, Dallam, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Donley, Ector, El Paso, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Glasscock, Gray, Hale, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hockley, Howard, Hudspeth, Hutchinson, Jeff Davis, Lamb, Lipscomb, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Mitchell, Moore, Ochiltree, Oldham, Parmer, Pecos, Potter, Presidio, Randall, Reagan, Reeves, Roberts, Scurry, Sherman, Swisher, Terrell, Terry, Upton, Val Verde, Ward, Wheeler, Winkler and Yoakum.

Tracer Insecticide may be applied by ground or aerial equipment at the rate of 1.5 to 2 fluid ounces (0.047 to 0.062 pounds a.i.) per acre. No more than six fluid ounces of product may be applied per acre, per season (0.248 lbs. a.i.).

For more information contact the Extension office or TDA at (512) 463-7407. A copy of the approval notice is located on the TDA web site at the following address: agr.state.tx.us/pesticide/alfalfa.htm

## TBWEF hires Kharbouteli as new environmental operations director

Marwan S. Kharboutli is the new environmental operations director of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

Kharboutli will provide oversight of all environmental monitoring, testing and quality control. He will work closely with the Texas Dept. of Agriculture, US Dept. of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency and state and federal fish and wildlife officials. He also will be responsible for collecting and managing the EMS database.

Kharboutli earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences from Aleppo University in Syria. He holds a master's degree in entomology from West Virginia University and a doctorate in entomology from Auburn University.

For the last four years, Kharboutli, an entomologist, has been in a research and Extension position at the Southeast Research and Extension Center at the University of Arkansas-Monticello, a division of the Arkan-

sas Cooperative Extension Service. He has done extensive research on insecticides and has several publications to his credit.

Kharboutli said he is looking forward to joining the foundation. The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation also has named Barry Smith as its new statewide environmental monitoring specialist, and Smith will report directly to Dr. Kharboutli.

Smith has been with the foundation for three seasons, beginning work in 1999 as a district EMS.

Smith is originally from Abilene and has always worked in agriculture.

In addition to a lifelong involvement in his family's farming and ranching operation, he managed a feed store in San Angelo for eight years after graduating from Angelo State University.

Smith will work with all EMS and other field personnel on environmental issues.

State Capital  
  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
By Mike Cox  
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

**AUSTIN** — It's summer, but in Austin it's only crazy and hazy, not lazy.

In fact, it has literally been hazy as a mass of dusty air that blew across the Atlantic all the way from Africa hovers over the Capital City. Actually, the dust from the Sahara Desert, carried to North America by the westward trade winds, was expected to spread over most of the state. Only the Trans-Pecos was going to escape the dusting. And more is expected.

But below the particle filled air, a possible health threat to those who suffer from allergies and asthma, those concerned with political issues aren't having time to live up to all aspects of the old song of summer with its familiar refrain.

Thanks to redistricting, it's summertime and the living isn't

easy, at least in Austin.

When the Legislature during its 140-day regular session failed to come up with a state legislative redistricting plan based on 2000 U.S. Census data, the matter was taken up by the statutorily created state Redistricting Board.

The board is doing what the Legislature did before it: Poring over maps and census numbers in an effort to redraw the political boundaries of the state.

But work has continued in legislative committees on a congressional redistricting plan for the state, which in gaining population picked up two new congressional seats that other states lost because of population decreases.

When Senate Redistricting Committee chairman Sen. Jeff Wentworth of San Antonio released his committee's plan on June 26, it raised its own Texas dust storm.

The reaction in Travis County is reflective of the concerns being felt by politicians statewide, depending on their party affiliation. Here's the bumper sticker: Republicans like the plan, Democrats don't.

Austin, of course, is in the 10th Congressional District. It is a district made famous by President Lyndon B. Johnson, who began his political career in 1937 as its newly elected Democratic U.S. House of Representatives member.

Back then, and for years after,

the 10th District was as Democratic as a yellow dog is not black and white. These days, however, Texas is a Republican majority state. The district has continued to be held by Democrats all these years.

According to the plan revealed last Tuesday, all of Williamson County — a heavy Republican county — would be added to the 10th District. That, say Democrats, would imperil the incumbency of Democratic Congressman Lloyd Doggett of Austin.

The alignment trotted out by the Senate Redistricting Committee remains only a proposal, and it's still a long way from reality. If the Legislature's Senate and House Redistricting Committees can agree on a map, Gov. Rick Perry has indicated he would call a special session.

If not, and given that the House remains in Democratic hands it is a very big if, a congressional redistricting plan probably will be determined in the courts. That's also the expected fate of legislative and State Board of Education boundaries.

As it stands now, Texas has 30 congressional districts: 17 are occupied by Democrats and 13 are controlled by Republicans. Under Wentworth's plan, Republicans would have a population majority in 17 districts while Democrats could be expected to have 15 House seats.

# Together We Can

**ACROSS**

- actor Alan of TX film "The Big Land"
- ex-Cowboy Tommie Chan was star of TX-filmed fu film "The Big Brawl"
- TXism: "como" (How are you?)
- TXism: "hip" (be frank)
- TXism: "wouldn't touch that with a foot pole"
- Leakey is its seat
- "Cowboys" artist Reid (init.)
- force out
- TXism: "a banker's heart"
- TXism: "feel like I've been ridden hard" up wet"
- TXism: "tight as the cinch on horse"
- So. American lasso
- ocean's surface level (abbr.)
- star of TX-based film "Hud"
- output of Arlington GM plant
- TX-based communications co.
- they're served at TX Scottish Festival
- rookie of TX Nolan Ryan is valuable
- TX appoints laureate every 2 yrs
- TX Barney is this type of dinosaur

**41** TXism: "let's go \_\_\_ hole in a rug" (dance hard)  
**42** TXism: "nuff"  
**43** ex-Cowboy Garrison  
**44** steaks or chops  
**45** TX Keyes of "Gone With the Wind" (init.)  
**46** \_\_\_ steel  
**48** seat of Kendall Co.  
**49** Orbison: "\_\_\_ Boy Roy"  
**50** "bear" so. of border  
**51** "Alamo City" letters

**DOWN**

- Inks \_\_\_
- \_\_\_ near Buchanan Dam
- TXism: "fast as oil from \_\_\_"
- UNT & TWU town
- TX Dr. Pepper's Chinese bottler: \_\_\_ Beverage
- Corpus Christi state senator Carlos in '91
- Muenster event: German \_\_\_
- TXism: "smart as a bunkhouse"
- TXism: "good \_\_\_ boy"
- Col. James \_\_\_ commanded TX Frontier Regiment
- \_\_\_ of the trade
- Hawaiian two-step
- TXism: "got the short \_\_\_ of the stick"
- those who sample TX wines
- oldest mission in TX (built for Tiguas)
- TXism: "can't make a silk purse out of \_\_\_ ear"
- news wrangler (abbr.)
- ex-Cowboy Staubach fought here
- LBJ sang \_\_\_ with dog, Yuki
- TXism: "\_\_\_ his cards close to his vest" (careful)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ a small dog with a big bone"
- Hill Country critters
- TXism for "jail"
- reconstruction governor Elisha
- TXism: "I \_\_\_ myself down"
- TX Roy Orbison band: "\_\_\_ Kings"
- gymnast Retton coached by Houston's Karoly (init.)
- infamous Roman emperor

**The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**DEADLINES**

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

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# On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

Jackie and Leroy Edwards were in Lubbock for a fourth of July talent contest at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza Ballroom in Lubbock.

Their granddaughter, Elizabeth Turner, was part of the program. Elizabeth is the daughter of Sherri Turner.

She auditioned on a live Christian radio broadcast that will be heard in 32 counties.

The Edwardses came back to Sunnyside to enjoy a hamburger

cookout and fireworks as guests of James and Joan Norrell.

Mearle Morgan has been in Crawford visiting her sister, Hazel Hawkins. The president, George W. bush and his family were at their ranch near Crawford while Mearle was there. She didn't get to see any of the first family though.

We were excited to see the moving van unloading furniture on our street

this week. Paula Birdwell Bradford (a native of Dimmitt) and her son, Scott, have chosen to live here among friends and several family members. They've lived in Denton for several years.

Scott will enroll at Texas Tech University this fall as a freshman. Paula is looking forward to being close to family and friends. Welcome back, Bradfords!

Freddie Upshaw's mother, Mrs. Georgie Upshaw of Snyder, has been

visiting with Freddie and Cheryl for a few days.

At the Thursday Senior Citizens' bridge party Loranell Hamilton was the hostess. Carol Lantz finished with the high score and Louise Mears was second high.

The First United Methodist Church just concluded its Vacation Bible School for 2001. Theme this year was "Sincreek Junction," and it featured lots of western regalia.

About 56 children attended each day during the three-day event.

Richard Martinez and Marcella Flores of Dimmitt were married recently at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Hereford. Marcella is the daughter of Mary Helen Flores and the late Marcello Flores of Dimmitt. Richard is the son of Richard and Bonnie Martinez, also of Dimmitt.

Marcella's grandparents are Em and Lucila Flores of Dimmitt and the late Julian and Edith Acevedo. Richard's grandparents are Santos Martinez of Dimmitt and the late Ester Martinez, and Margarita Peralta of Dimmitt.

Marcella's dress was designed and made especially for her by Teresa Acevedo, her cousin.

The wedding reception was held at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

Some of the many out-of-town guests attending the wedding and reception were Ace Acevedo and children, Aaron and Brianna of Pampa; Jose Garza of Edinburg; Tiva Bailey and her daughter of Rowlett; and Robert and Cela Hernandez of Morton.

Local people have chosen to cruise to Alaska this summer. After reading Don Taylor's column in the *Amarillo Globe-News* on Sunday, I understand why.

Don says, "Alaska is a new post-card everywhere you look. It is beautiful. You can see rustic fishing villages that date back to the 1700s, crystal clear lakes, flowing glaciers and ancient totem poles. There is abundant wildlife in millions of acres of wilderness, tundra and forests. There are more than 100,000 glaciers and numerous mountain ranges with thousands of snow-capped peaks.

In the summers, days last all night and the winter, the nights last all day.

Alaska isn't the only destination of local cruise lovers this summer, though.

Mattie Seale of Dimmitt and

Betty Wallace, former Dimmitt residents, elected to cruise the Mediterranean.

They flew from Lubbock to Dallas, then hopped a plane to Atlanta, Ga. From there they flew to Barcelona, Spain, where they spent a day touring the city before boarding the Golden Princess to cruise the Mediterranean Sea.

The first port they visited was Monte Carlo. After sailing through the night, they arrived in Levorno early in the morning. The next port where the ship moored for the day was Naples, where they visited sited in the city and the museum.

After another night of sailing they found themselves around the toe and heel of Italy, through the Adriatic Sea to the unusual area of Venice.

Venice was a very interesting place. They sailed through the Grand Canal and visited St. Mark's Cathedral, which is really called St. Mark's Basilica of Venice.

The next night of sailing took them through the Ionian Sea through the Greek Islands area and into the Aegean Sea past Corinth. They then arrived at Athens.

The next place they stopped was Kusadasi, which is part of Ephesus. They spent the day visiting ancient Ephesus.

After leaving there they sailed through the Sea of Marmana and arrived at Istanbul, Turkey for an overnight stay.

They left Istanbul and flew to New York's JFK Airport, then began the trek home to Lubbock.

"You can't imagine how great it is

to getting to go on such a great vacation," they said. "This trip was such a wonderful gift."

Their cruise ship was only on its second voyage. The beauty and size of the vessel was very impressive for Mattie and Betty, who had never experienced a trip like this before.

The measurements are difficult to imagine—it was four times the size of Grand Central Station and Mattie says she has other measurements if anyone is interested.

They said they "really did eat our way through the Mediterranean Seal. Sailing at night gave us the day time for off-ship tours."

They said the Mediterranean Sea was so calm they hardly realized they were moving.

"It was such a pleasure, it's impossible to believe and to know that we went a third of the way around the world," Mattie said.

She says if anyone has a chance to take a cruise, this is one you would never forget.

The beautiful rain in Venice was the only type of inclement weather they encountered, and that was just fine with them and others on board the ship. Some people were returning from tours and were caught in the downpour.

"To know we've been to these various places built so very long ago is a blessing which we thank God for. This is part of the world we seldom think of. Reading about it is good, but seeing it is even greater. Experiencing all of the history and culture is an opportunity that is not within our reach very often," Mattie said.



**FUN IN THE SUN**—These youngsters spent the day at the Dimmitt City Pool Friday as way to beat the heat. Temperatures have been topping out in the mid to upper 90s. Pictured (from left) are Valerie Martinez, Juan Martinez and Veronica Martinez.

Photo by Joyce Nelson

# Nazareth with Virgie Gerber, 945-2669

Gerber families from Nazareth, Hereford, Amarillo and Pampa attended the wedding celebration of Chad Moore and Kim Gerber, daughter of Norbert and Helen Gerber of Woodward, Okla. A reception and dance followed the ceremony.

Charley and Bev Hill flew to Carson City, Nev. recently to spend a week with his brother Leonard Hill and his wife Ruth before Leonard begins chemo-therapy treatments. They enjoyed all the sights and lots of visiting while was still feeling fairly well.

Anni and Ethan Scholl of Henrietta spent last week here with grandparents, Charley and Bev Hill, while their parents, Kevin and Traci Scholl and their friends, Chris and Angie of Henrietta spent a few days at Angel Fire, N.M.

A big thanks to Kim Birkenfeld, Mary Lynn Olvera and Darlene Fetsch who coordinated a Vacation Bible School, Monday through Friday each morning at the CCD building for 65 children.

The children had great interest in many neat crafts and each child made his own "Important Book," which turned out well.

A big thanks also to the high school volunteers and some younger ones who helped out. They are really appreciated!

A couples' shower, honoring Ryan Gerber and Shay Cayton of Amarillo, was held Saturday evening at the home of Joe and Dana Kleman of Nazareth.

Special guests were Denis and Dolores Gerber of Hereford, Ryan's grandmother Mary Gerber of Nazareth, Shay's mother Kathy Cayton, her sister Sarah and her grandmother Frances Goodin, all of Amarillo. It was a fun evening of sharing and visiting!

The Church of the Holy Spirit in

Tulia held their "Jamaica 2001" celebration Sunday with fun games, music, different types of food and visiting in a shaded courtyard next to their church.

A bridal shower honoring Christy Bertolino, bride-elect of Michael Schmucker, was held Sunday afternoon at the home of Karleen Hoelting.

Special guests were Christy's mother Peggy Collier of Canyon, her grandmother Verona Collier of Canyon, her aunt Judy Tatum of Amarillo, Michael's mother Bobbie Schmucker and his two grandmothers, Mary Kleman and Amy Schmucker, all of Nazareth.

A stag party was held for Michael Schmucker at the Legion Hall on Saturday night.

Fifteen adult members of the Ed Ramaekers family spent the past weekend together in Ruidoso, N.M.

On Friday, they enjoyed cards, visiting and of course being scalped by the Indians! Saturday was filled with golf, shopping, horse races, go-carts, more cards, conversation and more scalping!

The highlight of the trip was the 1<sup>st</sup> place finish by "Nuclear Assembly" which ran at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie. The group watched this special run on simulcast television.

Saturday evening was topped off with a "Cajun Boil," compliments of Kenny and Doretta Gerber. The Family was joined by Russell and Wade Backus of Lubbock and their friend, Jason Bullard on this evening.

After attending church together Sunday morning a few die-hards returned to the races while the rest headed for home with very little money and not much sleep, but a lot of great memories.

Christmas gifts in June were great and all are looking forward to another great time together next year.

Attending this Christmas in June celebration were Ed and Leola Ramaekers, Rex and Vera

Ramaekers, Joel and Mary Beth Gerber, Brian and Peggy Ramaekers and Vera Huseman, all of Nazareth, Glenn and Jan Ramaekers and Larry and Tammy Ramaekers of Canyon and Kenny and Doretta Gerber of Pampa.

Prayers are asked for Francis Wilhelm, Virgil Brockman, Anna Huseman Lee, Edith Huseman, Lori Huseman, Ray Schmucker, Art Albracht, Ann Heck and Charley Hill who is having knee surgery Monday at Northwest Hospital in Amarillo.

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**Deadline nears for scholarships**

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

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

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

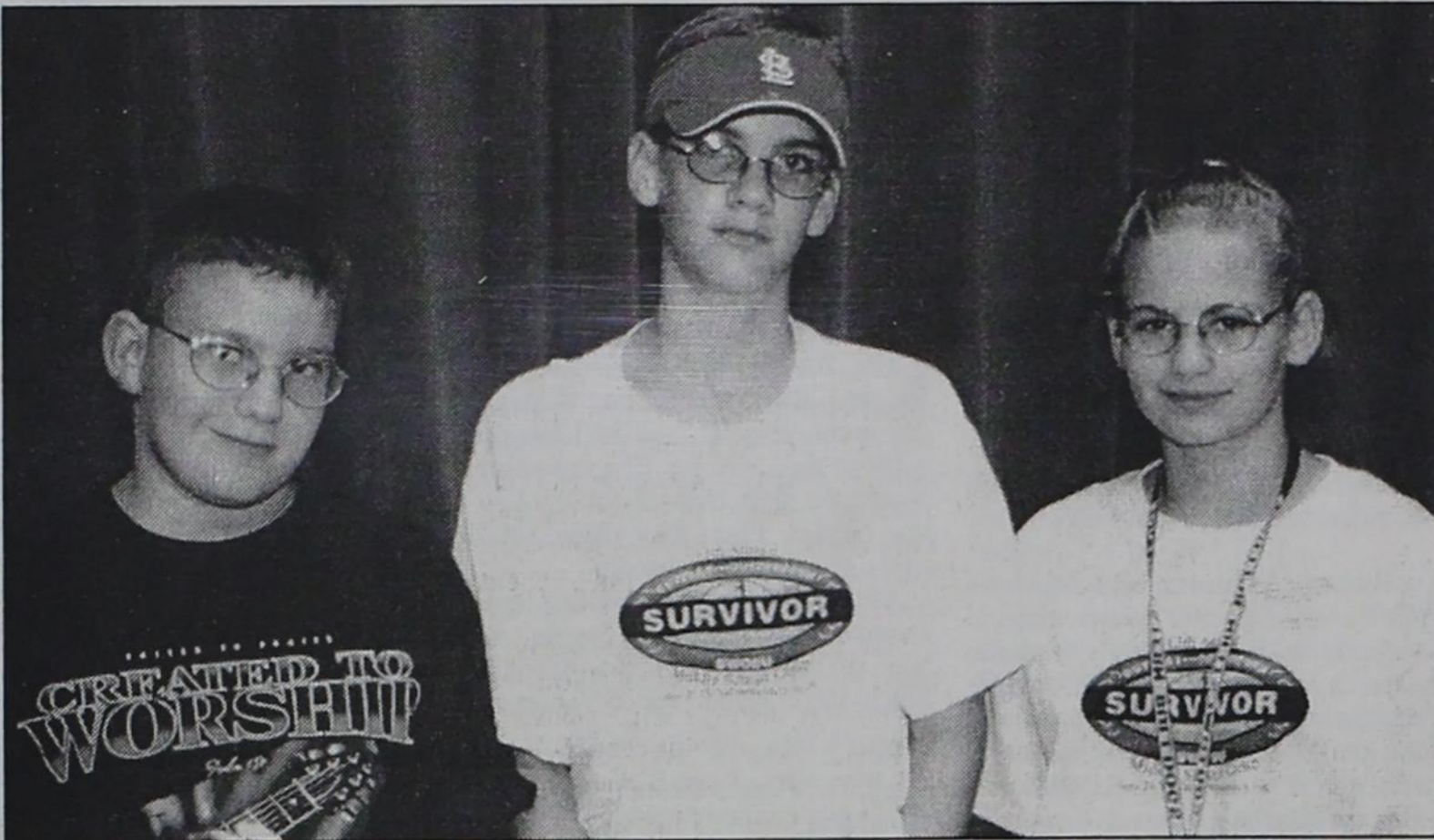
tion deadline and be attending a public or private college or university full time. Scholarship selections will be based on scholastic achievement, leadership qualities and community service. The recipients will be named in August.

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

Dear Lord, I pray that You will let me live a full and productive life on earth, and I thank you for the assurance of a life with Thee. Amen

Father, I often say that I forgive but still keep resentment within me. Starting with me, let me begin a chain reaction of forgiving love. Amen

# People



**BAND CAMPERS**—Three Nazareth students including (from left) Ryan Mixson, Berry Clinton and Lacey Acker, were among the 300 middle school students who participated in Southwestern Oklahoma State University's 13<sup>th</sup> annual band camp,

which was held June 24-27 at Weatherford, Okla. The camp is designed for students who have completed grades five through seven and is hosted each year by the SWOSU Music Department.

SWOSU Photo

## Hart, Nazareth schools will update computer labs with TIF grant funds

Students in Hart and Nazareth schools will be working on state-of-the-art computer systems this year thanks to the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF) Board, which awarded each school a substantial grant last spring.

Each school is the recipient of a grant from the TIF Non-Competitive Grant for Texas Public Schools.

The TIF Board is a state agency that provides technology funding for Texas public schools.

In March, the TIF Board announced that Hart ISD would receive \$49,569 in grant money for its two campuses.

Nazareth ISD will receive \$50,000 under the same grant, according to Supt. N. Dean Johnson.

Hart will use the funds to develop new and to expand the school's cur-

rent technology infrastructure to provide students with the technology they will need as the prepare for the digital era.

Nazareth plans to upgrade its high school computer lab with the grant money.

"We've purchased 26 new state-of-the-art computers which have already been delivered," Johnson said. He added that other peripherals will be purchased to expand the school's technology program.

The technology upgrades will be in place and ready for students by the time the fall semester begins.

The TIF Non-Competitive Grant for Texas Public Schools was designed to fund up-to-date hardware and connectivity equipment, high-speed workstations, Internet access, and/or distance learning

equipment so that students may take classes from another school district or institution of higher learning.

Grant funds also may be used for technology staff development, including hardware and software training, and base level technology training.

Since its creation by the 74<sup>th</sup> Legislature in 1995, TIF has awarded approximately \$592 million in grants to its four constituent groups—public schools, libraries, institutions of higher education and public, non-profit healthcare facilities. The agency receives approximately \$150 million per year in revenues from telecommunications assessments to disburse over a 10-year period.

## Bride surprised with proposal and wedding in Las Vegas

Carmyn Edwards DeBerry thought she was just planning a vacation in Las Vegas, Nev., with her boyfriend, Jimmy Dwayne Harrison; her parents and a couple of friends.

She was the only one surprised when Harrison proposed. Her response was yes, and before the couple and their family and friends left Las Vegas, DeBerry was Mrs. Jimmy Dwayne Harrison.

DeBerry and Harrison exchanged wedding vows at 8 p.m. on June 23 in an informal, double-ring ceremony at Little Chapel of the Flowers in Las Vegas with the Rev. Jerry Stephens of Trinity Life Center in Las Vegas officiating.

The couple chose the Heritage Chapel setting on the grounds of Little Chapel of the Flowers as the place where they recited their vows. A gazebo, waterfall and bridge enhanced the setting.

The bride is the daughter of Russell and Elizabeth Rucker of Tulia. Harrison is the son of Daniel and Kathleen Harrison of Hobbs, N.M.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and she elected to wear casual attire for her wedding. She carried a colonial bouquet featuring six roses, miniature carnations and alstromeria.

The couple's attendants were Jim and Sue Fisher of Lubbock and the bride's parents.

The ceremony also included a special ceremony during which the couple lit a unity candle.

"When we planned this vacation, I had no idea I was going to be married, although everyone else did," said the bride. "They all kept it a secret."

After arriving in Las Vegas on June 21, the groom made reservations for the group at an elegant res-



**MR. and MRS. JIMMY DWAYNE HARRISON**  
... She's the former Carmyn Edwards DeBerry

taurant called Elements inside the Aladdin Hotel.

After enjoying a candlelight dinner, wine and dessert, waiters served a firelight chocolate ice cream dessert.

That's when Harrison got down on one knee and proposed. The couple were married the next day.

The couple and their wedding party traveled from the Aladdin Ho-

tel to the wedding chapel in a chauffeured limousine. After the wedding, they enjoyed a tour of the Las Vegas "Strip," then returned to the Aladdin in the limousine.

The bride is studying to become a registered nurse at Amarillo College. She will graduate in May 2002.

The groom is employed by Sunrise Farms of Nazareth.

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*The only thing wrong with doing nothing is that you never know when you're finished.*

# A welcome addition

## Jay Foerster EMS Director

Please join us in welcoming Jay Foerster, the new director of the Emergency Medical Service here.

Jay, 25, has been with the Lubbock County EMS for the last three years and also has run the ambulance service for his hometown of Shallowater for seven years.

"I've enjoyed working in Lubbock, but I prefer a small town," Jay said.

With an office near the nurses' station at Plains Memorial Hospital, Jay heads a department that includes eight paramedics and nine emergency medical technicians (EMTs), including director of Nurses Trudy Jackson, R.N., and Chief Operating Officer Linda Rasor, R.N., both of whom help when needed.

Some of the EMS staffers are full-time employees of the hospital district and others serve on an as-needed basis.

Jay holds an associate degree in fire science from South Plains College, so he's a trained firefighter and arson investigator as well as being an emergency medical technician and licensed paramedic.

He received his medial training at Texas Tech University and Howard County College.

"I'm working to get my instructor's certification so I can start teaching a class here," he said. "I'd like to have some more EMTs."

Jay and his wife, Kelly, have located a house in Dimmitt and would already have moved here except for one little complication: They're expecting their firstborn child "any day now." It's a girl, and they've already named her Keely Jaye.

In addition to the hospital-based EMS staff, Jay works closely with the Hart and Nazareth Emergency Medical Service teams.



"All the people in the Nazareth and Hart EMS are volunteers, and I hold them in high esteem," he said. "They do their continuing education here at Plains Memorial, and I've invited them to ride out with us on the ambulance anytime they want to."

"Those guys, I'm telling you, are a godsend. They're usually there and have everything under control by the time we show up."

(By the way, if you see an EMT patch on a volunteer's shirt, it means that person has had the same training as a full-time, paid EMT.)

The EMS here averages 50 to 69 calls per month and operates three ambulances, two of which are equipped for advanced (critical) care.

The EMS's job is to go to the patient, assess the patient's medical situation and needs, perform whatever basic or advanced medical procedures are necessary, get the patient stabilized and get him or her to the hospital for further assessment and care.

"We usually bring all our patients to the hospital here to stabilize them," Jay said, and then, if necessary, we transfer them to a Lubbock or Amarillo hospital."

*"Local people caring for local people"*



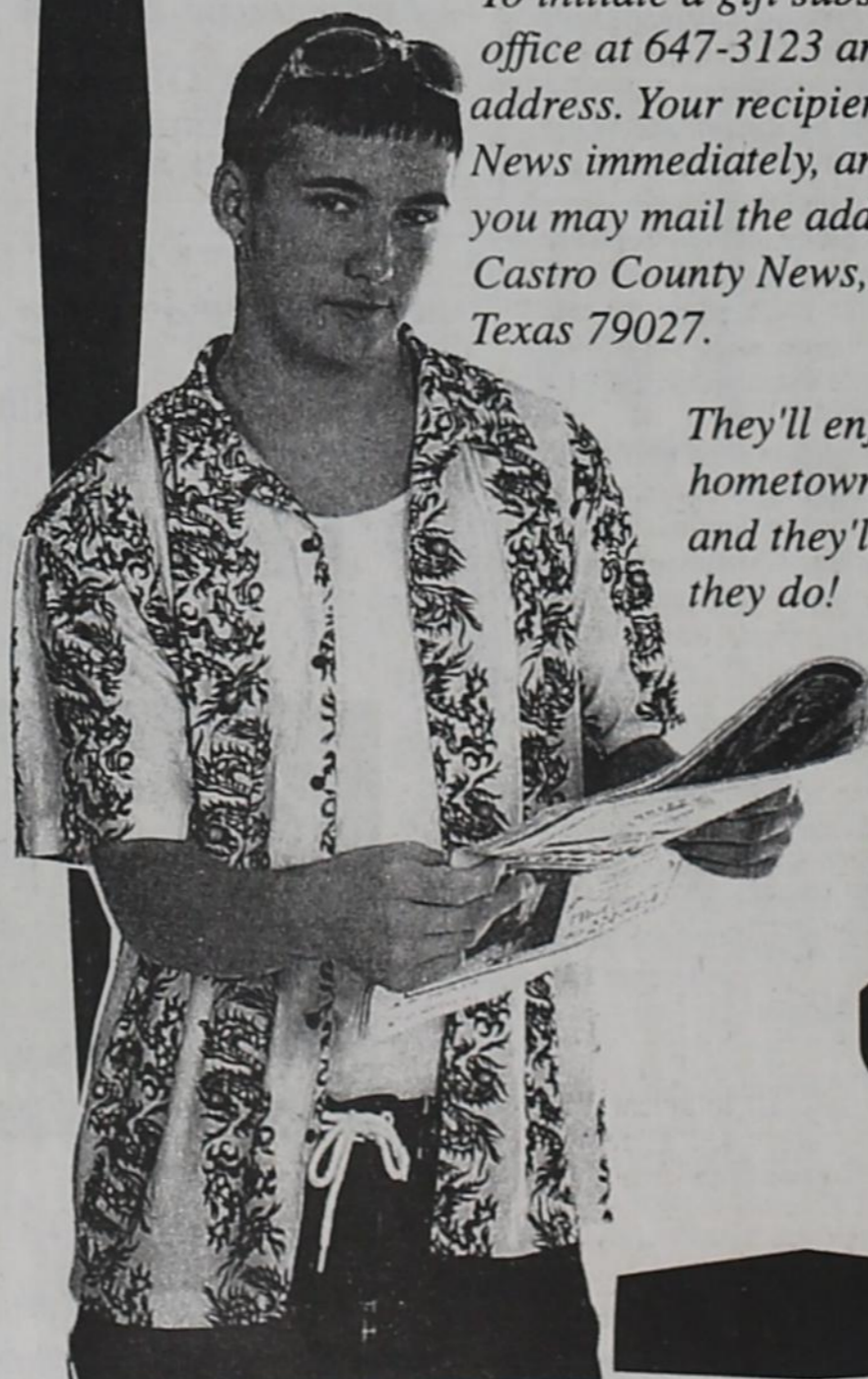
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They'll enjoy reading about their hometown happenings in the News ... and they'll think of you every time they do!

# The Castro County News

## Nazareth ISD hires four new teachers

Four new teachers will be greeting Nazareth students this fall, and three of those will be familiar to the students. The Nazareth School Board accepted resignations from Rick Price, Buster Brown, Scott Carothers and Tony Crone after the 2001 school year. Those four vacancies have already been filled, according to Nazareth Supt. N. Dean Johnson. Three of the new teachers are familiar with the Nazareth school and students—Colby Pohlmeier, Darlene Fetsch and Cynthia Gerber. The fourth is newcomer Ricky Peacock. Pohlmeier, a Nazareth graduate, will teach history and will be the

assistant football, basketball and baseball coach. Fetsch, who has been a familiar face around the school for several years, will replace Carothers as the high school business teacher. Gerber, who taught in Nazareth several years ago, returns to teach Spanish and drama, jobs vacated by Crone. Peacock has been hired as a history teacher and head football coach. He also will be an assistant basketball coach. Also, Johnson said he had received a letter of recommendation Friday from the school's part-time speech therapist, Kristi Morgan of Vega. Morgan had split time between the Nazareth and Hart campuses

## DHS Class of '62 discussing reunion

Several members of Dimmitt High School's Class of 1962 would like to plan a class reunion, and they need help in locating other class members. "We have several class members who are communicating by e-mail now, but we need to reach as many more as possible," said Ron McAfee. "Once we have a sufficient list of members, we will begin the planning process and hopefully will have a reunion at a place and time in 2002

to be determined." Anyone who would like to help with reunion plans or those who have contact information for any class member should contact McAfee at 423 Pebble Beach Way, Eagle ID 83616; e-mail [rmxmc44@yahoo.com](mailto:rmxmc44@yahoo.com) or [rmcafee@aspen-marketing.com](mailto:rmcafee@aspen-marketing.com); phone (208) 939-3209, home, evening hours; or (208) 342-6403, work, daytime hours.

## Cooder Graw will headline concert at German Festival

Cooder Graw will be the headline band when Nazareth hosts its annual German Festival and Suds and Sounds outdoor benefit concert on July 14. The annual event is highlighted by a German sausage meal, arts and crafts show, and the outdoor concert. The day's celebration will begin at 10 a.m. with an arts and crafts show in the Nazareth School Cafeteria. A wide variety of craft items and gift ideas will be featured at the show, which is sponsored by the Nazareth Art Club. Other activities are slated to start at 11 a.m. in and around the Nazareth Community Hall. These include children's barrel rides, a tractor pull, variety of kids' games and a basketball shoot-out with prizes. The German sausage dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Nazareth Community Hall. The menu includes German sausage, sauerkraut, potatoes, beans, salad, fruit, bread, apple crisp and German chocolate cake. Tickets for the meal are \$6 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Frozen, uncooked sausage will be available at two pounds for \$5 and may be purchased at the hall throughout the day. At 5 p.m., the celebration will move to the Nazareth Community Center Ballpark, where the annual Suds and Sounds Concert is planned. Several local bands will perform beginning at 6:30 p.m. and they include "The Sizzlers," "South 40" and "Bo Salling Brakes are All Gone." Admission to the concert is \$15 per person. Those attending are invited to bring lawn chairs and shades. Coolers will be allowed, but

no glass containers will be permitted onto the field. Cooder Graw will be the final band to perform in the show. A 3,000-square-foot dance floor will be erected at the site. During the concert, a concession stand will be open featuring German sausage sandwiches, soft drinks, snacks and more. Proceeds from the day's events will benefit the Knights of Columbus charities and the Nazareth Community Hall. Olton residents are gearing up for the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Sandhills Celebration, which is slated for July 31-Aug. 4, and applications are being accepted for booths at the show. The event usually attracts between 2,000 and 3,000 to downtown Olton. Anyone wishing to set up food or craft booths can get further information by contacting the Olton Chamber of Commerce office at (806) 285-2292.

## Hart will administer TAAS test

The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test will be administered July 10-12 in the Hart High School Library. All juniors and seniors who have failed to pass one or more portions of the exit-level TAAS exam may take the test in Hart. The writing portion of the test will be given on July 10. The math test will be administered on July 11 and the reading test will be given on July 12. For more information, contact Cheryl Upshaw at 938-2141.

## Vendors sought for Sandhills event

The Texas Migrant Council is recruiting children up to the age of 5 for its Migrant Seasonal Head Start Program in Hereford, Muleshoe, Plainview, Lubbock, Floyada, Pecos and Fort Stockton. The Head Start program features free, quality, comprehensive services including early childhood development, family and community partnerships, free transportation for all children and services for children with disabilities. Under the early childhood development portion of the program, children will benefit from lessons in school readiness, individualization, and age-appropriate educational activities; health services and nutrition programs, disabilities and mental health services. The program also includes referrals to social services agencies and offers opportunities for parent involvement and development. Special programs for children with disabilities include speech and language therapy, physical therapy, Braille services, audiological and other services as needed. Referrals and follow-up services and treatment also are included. For more information contact the Texas Migrant Council—Panhandle Region, at 1210 Ave. R, Lubbock 79401; or call 1-888-837-5151, toll-free.



MICHAEL GUZMAN performs a back flip into the water at the Dimmitt City Pool on Friday for a cool down from the hot temperatures which have been reaching the 90s during the past week. Many adults and children flock to the pool each afternoon for swimming and tanning.

## Class of 1991 plans reunion

Members of the Dimmitt High School Class of 1991 are making plans for their 10-year reunion, which has been set for Saturday, July 28. All members of the class are asked to get in touch with Jamie Baker Mendoza at 647-0443 or log on to the reunion web site at [www.angelcities.com/members/dhsc1991/](http://www.angelcities.com/members/dhsc1991/) index.html and leave their information. "We are working hard to try to make this a memorable occasion, but we need your help," Mendoza said. "Please call or log on."

## Hart Days committee begins to make plans for celebration

The annual Hart Days celebration is just around the corner, and a group of Hart residents are beginning to organize events to coincide with the celebration, which is July 27-28. The Hart Days committee is asking organizations to sponsor a booth, either a fun activity or a food booth, during the celebration, and those interested should contact Aaron Lee at 938-2267 or Aaron Reed at 938-2332. Some carnival rides will be available for youngsters to enjoy, but a full-fledged carnival won't be part of this year's celebration. A group from Lazbuddie will furnish the small carnival rides and volunteers are needed to help with this activity. Those interested should call Lee or Reed. Hart High School's sophomore class will host a Mexican Fiesta on Friday and also plans to sponsor a couple of fun activities for children and teenagers. Trent Barnes, one of the class members, is helping organize the activities. The Miss Hart pageant is on tap again this year, and Leslieanne Emery is coordinating the event with the help of other Hart women. The pageant will be held on Friday, July 27, at 7:30 p.m. at the Hart Centennial Pavilion. Jerry Kittrell has agreed to emcee this year's pageant. It was such a hit last year that the Miss Hart coordinators have elected to bring back "Simply Irresistible," a mini-parade of youngsters that will be held during the Miss Hart pageant. Gayla Myrick will be in charge of this event. A full-day slate of events is planned for Saturday, July 28, beginning with the Hart Days parade at 10:30 a.m., and concluding with a dance that night at 9 p.m. The parade is being organized by the Hart Lions Club and Neoma Williams, and those interested in entering a float, vehicle or other

entry in the parade should contact Williams at 938-2640. A homemade ice cream contest, pet show, face painting booth, arts and crafts show and more are planned throughout the afternoon on July 28. Also during the Hart Days celebration, the Hart Volunteer Fire Dept., will be selling tickets for a three-day, two-night trip to Las Vegas, Nev. Tickets will be \$10 apiece.

## 4-H plans family fun night July 26

Castro County 4-H'ers and their families can enjoy an evening of pizza and bowling on July 26 in Hereford as part of a special "Family Fun Night" planned by the County Council. Every 4-H'er and their families are invited to join in the evening, and if a 4-H'er needs to attend without their parents, transportation can be arranged. Those who plan to attend should call the Castro County Extension Office at 647-4115 by 5 p.m. on July 20. Those who wish to bowl should bring \$5. Pizza can be purchased at a discounted rate from Buck's Pizza during the evening. The parent leaders and club managers also will hold a short meeting that night. *I pray that today I will make a difference in just one person's life; that I will have lessened their burdens and made their day happier. Amen*

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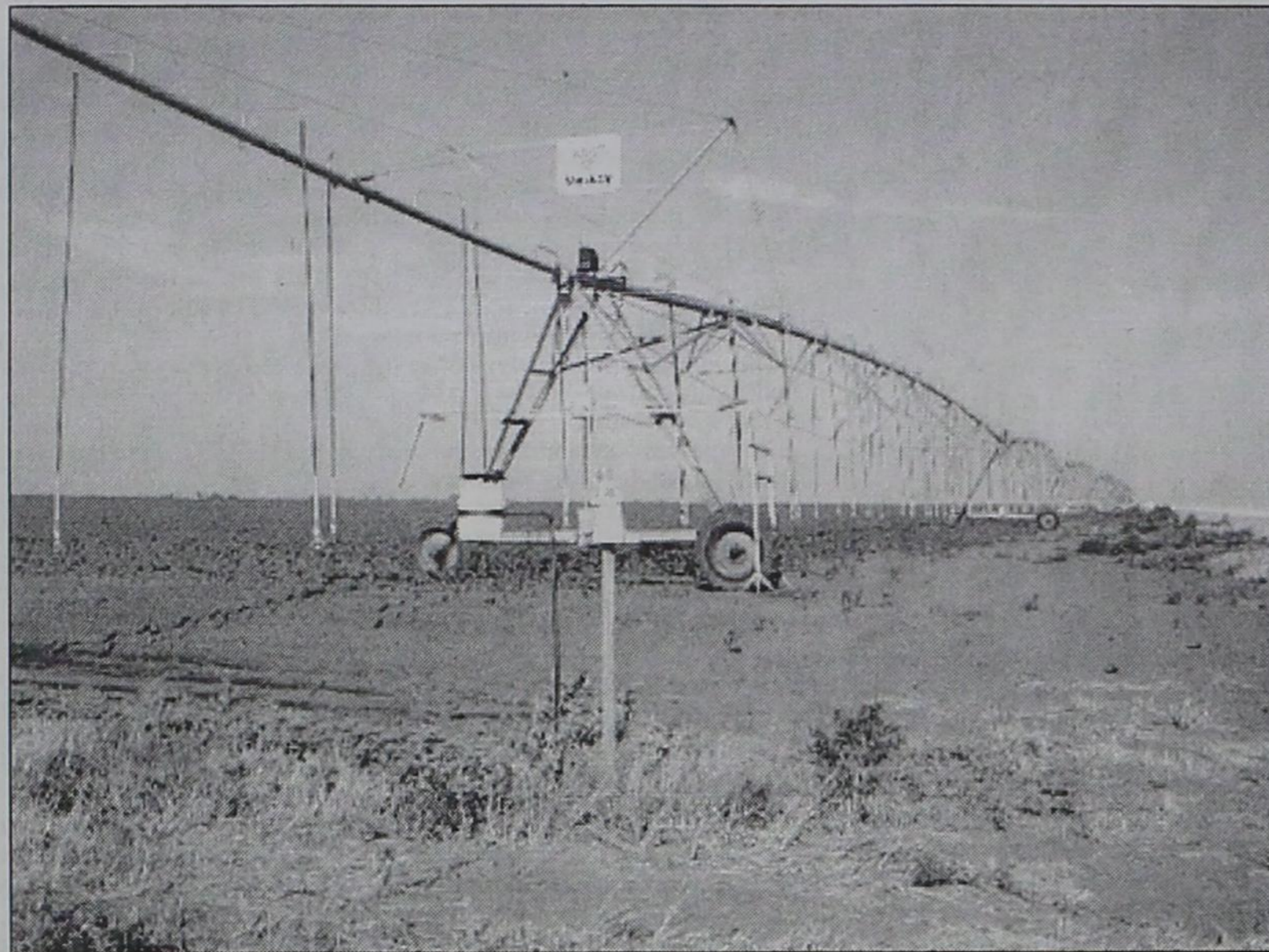
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Let us be thankful for fools; but for them the rest of us could not succeed.

# ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



**THE TRAPS ARE WORKING** - A boll weevil trap, pictured on the top right of the wooden stake, captures the pests by attracting them with its color, size and a pheromone lure in a field north of Dimmitt. These traps are placed around Castro County by the Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. The foundation is making great progress this year. Photo by Susan Book

## Withholding deduction drops 1% this week, kicking off tax relief bill

The federal government will be taking a little less out of taxpayers' paychecks beginning this week because of the recently approved tax relief bill. Those refund checks will be issued, based on the last two digits of the primary taxpayers' social security number, beginning on July 23. (See attached chart).

One of the first stages of the tax break plan kicked in Sunday when employers started withholding 1% less from monthly paychecks.

"Alone, that might not seem like a lot, but combined with other measures in the recently passed tax relief package it means that less money will be going to Washington and instead will stay where it belongs—in taxpayers' pocketbooks," said US Rep. Mac Thornberry.

The tax relief package was passed by Congress and signed by President George W. Bush earlier this year as the largest American taxpayers have seen in 20 years. Among other things, the tax cut reduces income tax rates, reduces the marriage penalty, doubles the child tax credit and phases out the death tax.

Beginning this month, the federal government will begin mailing \$38 billion in rebate checks to taxpayers around the country. The amount of

rebate will vary; for example, single taxpayers could get as much as \$300, single parents could receive up to \$500 and married couples could get up to \$600.

### When will you get your refund?

Taxpayers who filed returns in 2000 are entitled to receive rebates under the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Act of 2001. (Details of the newly-approved tax cut package will be in next weeks News.)

The refunds will be up to 5% of income up to \$6,000 for single taxpayers and up to 5% of income up to \$12,000 for married taxpayers. Single parents qualify for up to a \$500 refund.

To determine when you can expect to receive your refund, match the last two numbers of your Social Security number in the chart below to determine when your check will be "in the mail."

Social Security Number	Date refund will be mailed
00-09	July 23
10-19	July 30
20-29	Aug. 6
30-39	Aug. 13
40-49	Aug. 20
50-59	Aug. 27
60-69	Sept. 3
70-79	Sept. 10
80-89	Sept. 17
90-99	Sept. 24



## Beef quality assurance program gains wide support in Texas

Beef cattle producers all over the state of Texas are taking advantage of a brand new program created to reinforce ranchers' abilities to provide consumers with safe, wholesome, high-quality beef.

Since March, 1,150 cattle producers have voluntarily taken time away from their businesses to take an intensive, six-hour training session on the latest ranch-level management techniques that can prevent safety and quality defects in beef. These producers collectively own or manage more than a quarter of a million heads of cattle.

"Because Texas leads the United States in cattle numbers in every category, our association felt it was vital to encourage Texas cow-calf and stocker producers to participate in the beef quality assurance movement," says John Dudley, president of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA).

TSCRA is collaborating with the Texas Beef Council and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service to offer this new initiative called the Texas Beef Quality Producer program.

"While Texas feedyards have had a voluntary beef safety and quality assurance program in place since 1986, there has not been a standard statewide program in place for the cow-calf and stocker segment of the industry," said Dudley.

Nationally, there are about 47 state programs that use a range of different approaches to involve producers in beef quality assurance, all of which are voluntary initiatives.

Later this fall, producers who have attended a Texas Beef Quality Producer "Level 1" training session will be invited back to attend a "Level 2" training session where they can get more continuing education and the opportunity to become certified in beef quality assurance.

"Beef quality assurance (BQA) certification will involve some basic record-keeping to document proper use of animal health products, feed records, pesticide use and other essential management tools," says Dr. Ron Gill, an Extension livestock specialist in North Texas who was one of three main instructors at the first 13 training sessions.

"Good, thorough records help producers monitor the performance

of their herd health program, nutrition and genetics. Plus, documenting the way cattle have been managed gives the consumer confidence in our product," said Gill.

The response from producers has been somewhat surprising to me," Gill continued. "I have always known producers were interested in producing safe, wholesome beef. But what surprised me is their apparent willingness to document their management and share that information with the rest of the production chain."

"I realize that the producers attending these meetings are progressive and open to change and new ideas. But before they attended one of these meetings, many of them did not know what BQA involved or why it's so important to the beef industry," he said.

Producers interested in attending a Texas Beef Quality Producer Level 1 training session will have one more opportunity this year during the annual Texas A&M Beef Cattle Short Course in College Station on Aug. 7.

All registrations for this session will be handled through Texas A&M University. Early course registration will continue until July 27 at \$100 per person. Late registration and on-site registration is \$120.

For further information or a registration form, go to the Beef Cattle Short Course web site at (<http://animalsciencextension.tamu.edu/beef/shortcourse.html>), or contact Carrie Adams, Hollie Gambino or Loretta Morse at (979) 845-6931.

More information about the Texas Beef quality Producer program is available at this web site: ([www.texasbeefquality.com](http://www.texasbeefquality.com)).

## Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

Plains Cotton Growers (PCG) has filed an objection with Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman about the US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) determination that 1998 supplemental Agricultural Market Transition Act (AMTA) payments are trade distorting and fall under the World Trade Organization's "Amber Box" classification.

Amber Box programs are defined as trade distorting payments and are limited by the World Trade Organization agreement to which the US is a signatory.

By unilaterally designating and reporting the 1998 supplemental AMTA payments as Amber Box, the USDA risks exceeding Amber Box limits and would have to reduce those payments in future years. This also sets a precedent for designation of the 1999-2001 supplemental AMTA payments as Amber Box and further ties the hands of US Congress to support the domestic agriculture industry in the US, according to PCG.

In its letter to Veneman, PCG says, "It is our belief; however, that USDA should take a position that supports US agriculture. We feel that identifying the 1998 supplemental AMTA as Amber Box is contrary to the manner in which the USDA and the US government should be defending its method for supporting the US agriculture industry."

"In this instance, we think a Green Box determination should be made because: 1. Hindsight shows that the payments were not, in fact, trade

distorting; and 2. The designation is in the best interest of US agriculture.

"If other World Trade Organization members want to dispute the designation then the burden of proof should fall to them to prove distortion of trade as a direct result of the aid."

PCG urged Veneman to reconsider the decision and to instead report the payments as Green Box, non-trade distorting program payments.

Many cotton growers around the area are wondering what could happen next.

For some, the drought will claim their crop and divert them to other alternatives. For others, the tough decisions could just be starting, depending on the final determination by their crop insurance company.

Growers across the southern portion of the High Plains are trying to get their crop situations sorted out after 11<sup>th</sup>-hour rains clouded what many thought was a foregone conclusion—that a significant number of dryland acres would be zeroed out due to drought.

Growers were almost through the 15-day late planting period that governs the earliest date that crops could be released because seeds failed to emerge or germinate.

Plains Cotton Growers' efforts several years ago resulted in the current late-planting period which was shorted from the original 25-day late planting period first implemented by the USDA Risk Management Agency.

Now insurance companies are

struggling to make their own determinations about what to do to meet the needs of their customers. Apparently, there is no hard and fast rule in this situation and the companies are left with a think line to walk.

Customers want a quick decision. But insurance companies must make sure the crop is evaluated in the most accurate and fair manner possible.

The spotty rainfall which fell primarily in Lynn and Dawson counties in late June doesn't change much for growers who received little or no rain. These growers can still ask for and receive appraisals and even have their acreage released for other purposes without delay.

Other growers can request that the insurance company look at their crop with the understanding that the company will decide whether or not enough rainfall was received at that location to merit waiting to see if the crop makes a stand.

If a stand is achieved, the company would then evaluate the potential based on the quality of the stand and other factors.

The potential to meet or exceed the level of acreage loss previously estimated (350,000 to 400,000 acres irrigated and 750,000 to 800,000 acres dryland) still exists despite the rains that fell just before the end of the 15-day waiting period.

Last week, PCG passed along some advice to producers who are considering forfeiting their cotton to the Commodity Credit Corporation in lieu of selling or redeeming their crop on their own.

Due to some confusion about what changes are due under what circumstances, the following is offered to clarify exactly what a grower could face when forfeiting to the government in lieu of repaying the original loan amount.

One of the most important things to remember is that when cotton is forfeited to the government, the grower becomes liable for reimbursing the government for several charges tied to the cotton.

The only charges to be paid by the grower when cotton is forfeited are the storage that accrued before the loan was initiated and the unpaid receiving charges, including any charges for new ties. Compression charges will not be paid by the Commodity Credit Corp., and will not be billed to producers.

When the Adjusted World Price is below the base loan rate, the grower can redeem the cotton at the lower rate (up to the \$150,000 payment limitation allowed for loan deficiency payments and marketing loan gains), take the marketing loan gain and then find a buyer for the crop at the lower price.

This can save the grower the hassle of incurring significant expenses from forfeiting his crop and also keeps the cotton from going to the government and later competing against new crop cotton when the government moves to sell the crop in the future.

*When my world is at its darkest, Father, I need Thy loving hand on my shoulder and Thy blessed assurance that "this too shall pass." Amen*

## Private applicator's training slated in Dimmitt on Friday

A training session for first-time private applicators will be held Friday at the Castro County Extension office, 205 N. Broadway St., in Dimmitt.

The training session will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue until 11:45 a.m. After the training, participants must undergo a testing procedure at 12 noon. There will not be a break

for lunch.

The training is for individuals who wish to obtain a private applicator's license. It is not intended for those who need additional continuing education units, according to Rick Auckerman, Castro County Extension Agent-Agriculture.

For more information call Auckerman at 647-4115.

## Farm Service Agency notes

By TRISH ELLIOTT  
FSA County Executive Director

The final certification date for spring and summer seeded crops will be July 16. Producers have 15 days after the crops are planted for any crops planted after July 16.

Any crops after these deadlines will be considered late-filed and producers will be required to pay late filing fees. Measurement services are available for a nominal fee.

The Castro County Farm Service Agency (FSA) office has sent out appointment cards to producers, asking them to certify their crops. If the time assigned does not work, producers are asked to call the FSA office at 647-2153 to reschedule the appointment.

Under the current farm program,

crop certification is required for CRP acreage, fruits and/or vegetables planted on contract acres, for loan and loan deficiency payment eligibility, and possible future benefits such as disaster programs, etc.

### Disaster program

Sign-up continues for the crop disaster program. Currently, there isn't a deadline for sign-up.

Producers who feel they had a production loss of at least 35%, should contact the FSA office to schedule an appointment to sign up for the program. For more information, call the FSA office.

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# TUNE IN!

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

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

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

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

# KDHN 1470

# Sports



**MAJOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**—The Tigers finished first among all Major League teams in Kids Inc. baseball this year. Team members pictured are (kneeling, from left) Jordan Fuentes, Chase Hatla, Alex Lopez and Javier Ibarra; and (standing, from left) Frank Castro, Jake Ebeling, Kyle Whatley,

Houston Sutton and Rye Patton. The team is coached by (back row, from left) Kenny Ebeling, Billy Patton and Casey Whatley. Team members not pictured are Isaac Sifuentez, Marcus Herrera and Armando Prieto. *Photo by Don Nelson*



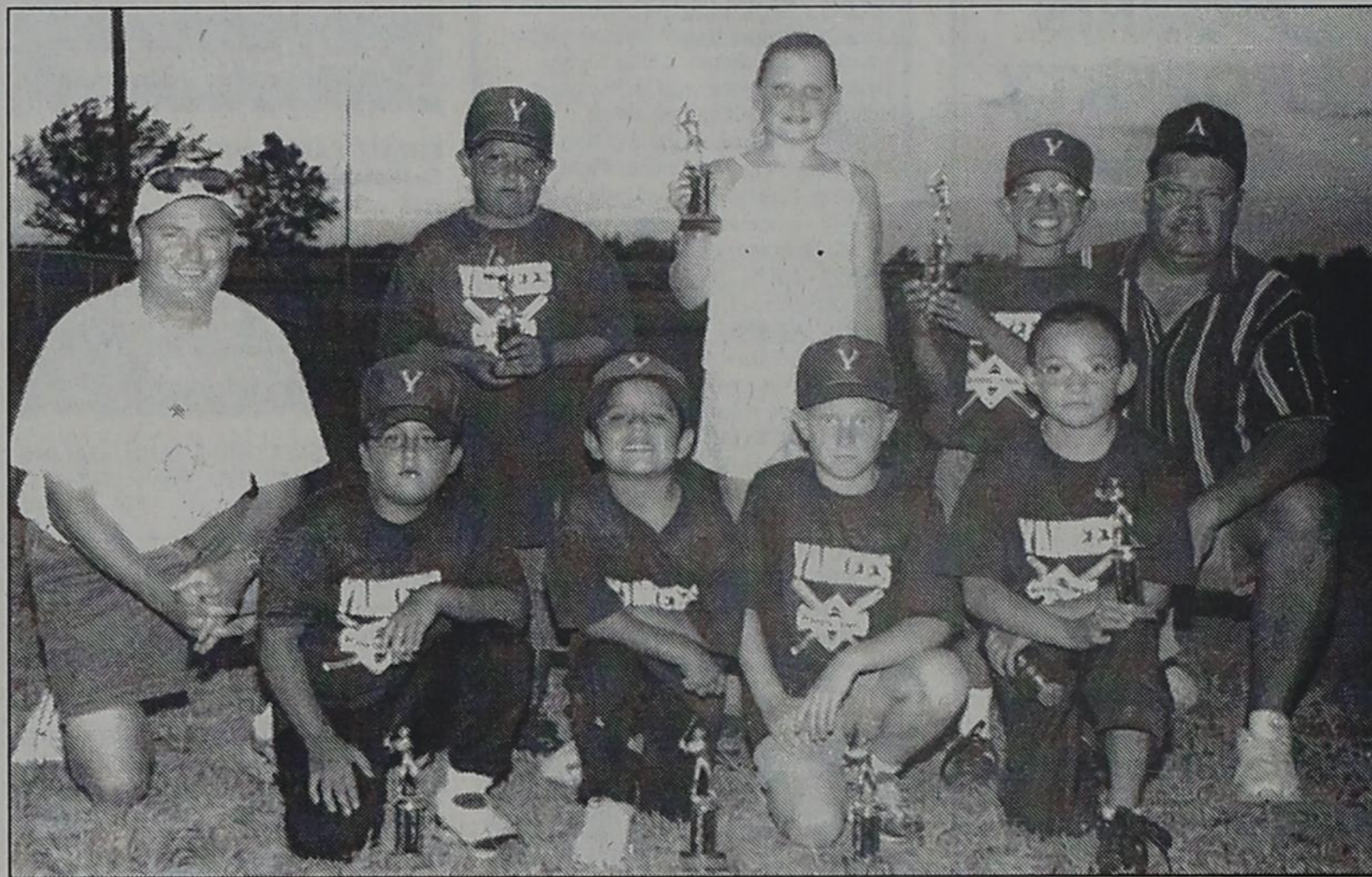
**RUNNERS-UP** in the Major League division of Kids, Inc. baseball this summer are the Astros, who finished the season with a 6-3 record. Pictured are (front row, kneeling) Matthew Almanza, Paul Acker, Diego Salinas, Isidro Rodriguez and Klay Clearman;

and (back row, from left) Coach Harold Hinsley, Rocky Navarro, Chris Hinsley, Bryce Parker, Coach Robert Nelson and Coach Mike Cornett. Not pictured are Jason Doñes, Chance Schilling, John David Gonzales, Kalan Steinle and Robert Lopez. *Photo by Don Nelson*



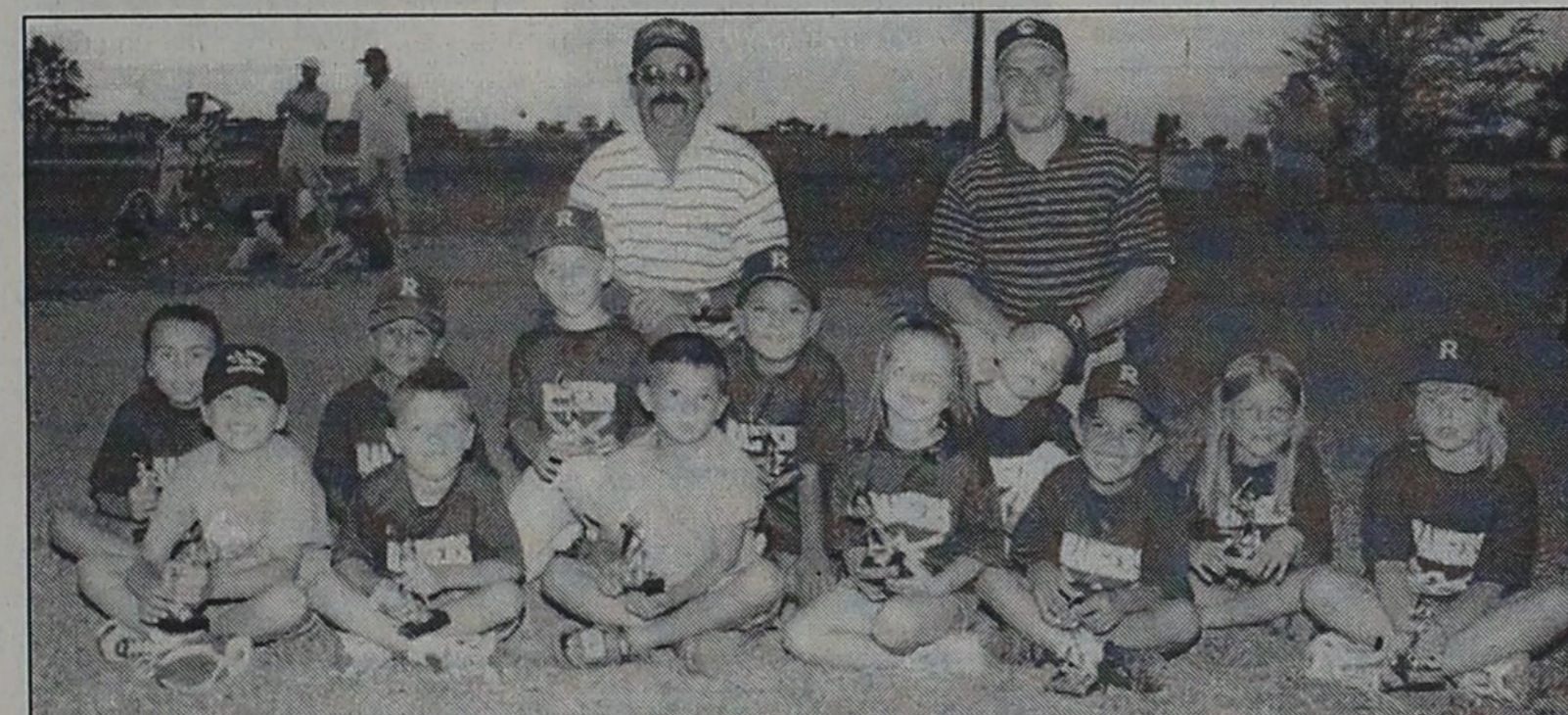
**THE ROYALS** finished the recent Kids, Inc. baseball season as with an 8-0 mark as champions in the Minor League division. Members of the team are (kneeling, from left) Quincy Duran, Jeremy Davis, Eric Davis, Joshua Alvarez, David Oltivero and

Edgar Perez; and (standing, from left) Stephanie Castro, Andre Aleman, Matthew Anes, Nicholas Aguilar and Devonee Ortiz. Coaches, standing from left, are Sal Rivera, Ray Aleman and Joe Alvarez. *Photo by Marie Rivera*



**THE MINOR LEAGUE** runners-up in Kids, Inc. baseball this year are the Yankees, coached by Tim Gilliland (back row, left) and Mike Cornett (back row, right). The team includes (front row, from left) Jonathan Garcia, Joshua Garcia, Tyler Gilliland and

John Lopez; and (back row, from second left) Eric Fuentes, Brooke Parker and Chris Fuentes. Not pictured are Cody Essary, John Hazel and Sid Sheffy. They finished the season with a 5-3 record. *Photo by Don Nelson*



**LEAGUE CHAMPS**—The Rangers finished first in the Kids, Inc., T-Ball League this year. Members of the winning team are (middle row, from left) Nikki Larra, Jaime Sifuentes, Josiah Burzynski, Geno Saucedo, Chase Summers and Katy Aljoe; and (front

row, from left) Ivan Rivera, Colton O'Brien, Ian Rivera, Meagan Davis, Ben Rodriguez and Brittany Lindley. Coaches of the team are (back row) Matt Davis and Kurt Summers. *Photo by Don Nelson*



**T-BALL RUNNERS-UP** in this year's Kids, Inc., baseball league are the Angels, coached by (back row, from left) Connie Gilbreath, Chauncey Gilbreath and Connie Nutt. Members of the team are (front row, from left) Eric Sweet, Michael

Oltivero, Miguel Rodriguez, Cassidy Nutt, Carly Gilbreath, Jacob Rodriguez, Andreas Rodriguez and Coby Venhaus. Those not pictured are Megan Wilkerson, Marissa Jackson and Shayli Swink. *Photo by Don Nelson*



**SAFE!**—Jake Ebeling of the Tigers slides safely past Astros second baseman Chance Schilling in the third inning of their final regular-season game Friday night

at George Howell Park. Although the Astros won this game, 17-4, the Tigers captured the Major League championship with a 6-3 record. *Photo by Don Nelson*

## American Cancer Society sponsoring 'Texas Golf Pass'

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring the 2001 Texas Golf Pass, and 100% of the proceeds from the program will benefit ACS programs and services.

The sport of golf has raised millions of dollars for charitable causes over the years and more than 289 Texas golf courses and their pros have teamed up with the American Cancer Society to offer the Texas Golf Pass in an effort to raise money and fight cancer in Texas.

For a \$35 contribution, golfers receive free green fees for over 680 rounds of golf at more than 289 Texas courses.

Courses participating in the Amarillo and Panhandle areas include La Paloma Golf Club, Tascosa Country Club, Palo Duro Creek Country Club, Southwest Golf Center, Childress Country Club, Clarendon Country Club, Country Club of Dimmitt, Friona Country Club, Tule Lake Golf Course in Tulia, Borger Country Club, Phillips Municipal in Borger, Dalhart Country Club, Hid-

den Hills in Pampa, Panhandle Country Club and Oldham Country Club in Vega.

Last year's American Cancer Society's golf pass was so popular that it almost sold out. Proceeds to support the ACS's cancer research program, programs like the Great American Smokeout and Reach to Recovery, and many other local patient services, early detection and prevention programs.

The Texas Golf Pass can be ordered by calling the local American Cancer Society office at 353-4306, by calling the toll-free number, 1-800-ACS-2345, or online at [www.acs-tx.org](http://www.acs-tx.org). The web site has a special search feature to help you find participating courses near you.

The golf pass can also be picked up at the Amarillo office at 3915 Bell St.

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806-647-3123

*Together We Can*





**25—Legal Notices**

**LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Castro County, Texas

The Commissioners Court of Castro County cordially invites the Public to attend a hearing on the topic of county redistricting on the 9th day of July 2001, at 9 a.m. This meeting will be held in the County Courtroom, Castro County Courthouse.

The Commissioners court is considering one or more alternate plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precincts. Changes in the existing boundaries of each Commissioners Court precinct will also have an impact on election precincts, polling places, and Justice of the Peace/Constable precincts. Public comment is sincerely solicited.

Pursuant to Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code, Notice is hereby given that the Commissioner Court of Castro County, Texas will convene in regular session on the 9th day of July 2001, at 9 a.m. to receive public comments on redistricting of county election, justice of the peace and commissioners court precincts. Following the public hearing, the Commissioners Court will take up for consideration and possible action one or more alternative plans for the redistricting of County Commissioners Court precincts. The Court reserves the right to take any and all appropriate action regarding the redistricting of County Commissioners court precincts. The Court reserves the right to take any and all appropriate action regarding the redistricting of Castro County political boundaries, including the acceptance on new boundaries for the Commissioners Court precincts, modification of any boundaries, and/or tabling the pending proposals for later consideration and/or action.

The Public is invited to attend and participate in this meeting. Those wishing to address the Court should sign a speakers request form provided for this purpose. Each speaker will be asked to come before the Court, to identify themselves, their address, and the Commissioners court precinct and Election Precinct they reside within. Comments should be reasonably concise and to the point. Questions will be answered, but the Court will not permit argument or excessive discussion of any particular topic. The hearing will be conducted under rules of judicial decorum. A tape recording of the hearing will be made of this hearing. Your comments will be transcribed and included with the submission of the proposed changes to existing Commissioners Court precincts to the United States Department of Justice.

IRENE MILLER  
Castro County Judge  
25-14-11c

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The City of Dimmitt is accepting sealed bids on approximately 320 acres, dryland farm, four miles south of Dimmitt on the EAST side of US 385. Payment will be required when contract is signed. Lease will be July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Bids will be opened July 10 at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 201 East Jones. (806) 647-2155. Lease may be renewed yearly for five years if both parties agree to terms.

25-14-11c

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The City of Dimmitt is accepting sealed bids on approximately 320 acres dryland farm, four miles south of Dimmitt on the WEST side of US 385. Payment will be required when contract is signed. Lease will be July 1 to June 30 of the following year. Bids will be opened July 10 at 4 p.m. at City Hall, 201 East Jones. (806) 647-2155. Lease may be renewed yearly for five years if both parties agree to terms.

25-14-11c

**LEGAL NOTICE  
NO. PR 2442**

**THE ESTATE OF  
LEONARD T. GERBER, DECEASED  
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF  
CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS**

**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING  
CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF  
LEONARD T. GERBER, DECEASED**

Notice is hereby given that original letters testamentary upon the estate of LEONARD T. GERBER, Deceased, were issued to ALVINA D. GERBER on the 26<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2001, in the proceedings indicated above, which proceedings are still pending. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered in the County Court above named, are required to present the same, given before suit upon same are barred by the general statute of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law, as follows:

ALVINA D. GERBER  
PO Box 174  
Nazareth, Texas 79063

25-14-11c



**NEW WAY TO TRAVEL—Trenidad Salazar, regional transportation coordinator for Panhandle Transit, is showing how the wheelchair accessible**

**feature works on a new van that will be used for transportation in Castro County. Panhandle Transit is a division of Panhandle Community Services.**

Photo by Joyce Nelson

# Police Calls

Law enforcement officials investigated two occurrences of theft on June 29.

Marvin Bryant reported to police on Friday that someone had stolen a leather bag and several tools in the 400 block of Northwest Third Street.

A juvenile reported that someone

## Panhandle Transit lists new travel days

Panhandle Transit has announced it will offer transportation in Castro County on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays due a reduction in state public transportation funding.

To request service (in Dimmitt or out of town), call 364-5631 by 12 noon the day before transportation service is needed. The Panhandle Transit vans are wheelchair accessible.

Panhandle Transit is a division of Panhandle Community Services. The regional transportation coordinator is Trenidad Salazar.

## Welch named to Dean's List

Lindsey Erin Welch, of Dimmitt, was among students at Graceland University named to the Dean's List for the spring semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, a student must have achieved a grade point average between 3.25 and 3.64.

Lindsey is the daughter of Mark and Brenda Welch.

Graceland University is a four-year liberal arts school located in Lamoni, Iowa.

stole a boy's bicycle valued at around \$400 on the 600 block of East Etter.

On June 23, an account of assault was reported on the 200 block of Northwest Eighth Street. An 18-year-old Dimmitt woman was a victim of family violence causing bodily injury.

On June 29, at 3:55 p.m., a 2000 Pontiac car driven by Zackery McClure, 17, of Dimmitt failed to yield and hit a 1981 Oldsmobile Regency driven by Anadelia Jackson Saucedo, 38, of Dimmitt.

Police reported that McClure was west bound on the 200 block of West Belsler and failed to yield at the yield sign and struck Saucedo who was south bound on the 200 block of Southwest Third Street.

Saucedo and a 15-year old passenger were taken to Plains Memorial Hospital by ambulance for possible injuries and both cars had moderate damage.

Friday at 5:22 p.m. a 1999 Chevrolet pickup driven by Jon Randall Keeny of Canyon ran into a telephone pole. Keeny was south bound in the alley in the 600 block of Northwest Seventh Street and collided into a telephone pole due to inattention.

Damage to the vehicle was rated as moderate and was driven away by the driver who was not injured.

Those jailed during the past week were:

- 32-year-old Hereford woman, arrested June 26 on two warrants for theft over \$20 and less than \$500 by check.

- 45-year-old Hart woman, arrested June 27 on a warrant for securing execution of document by deception.

- 38-year-old Friona man, arrested Wednesday for driving with a suspended license.

- 37-year-old Hereford man, arrested Wednesday on a warrant for driving while intoxicated.

- 42-year-old Dimmitt woman, arrested June 28 on a warrant for theft over \$20 and less than \$500 by check.

- 26-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested June 29 on warrants for theft over \$500 and less than \$1500, expired driver's license, no insurance and display of expired license plates.

- 30-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested Friday on a warrant for no seatbelt.

- 31-year-old Hereford man, arrested Friday for driving while license suspended, false identification and three warrants for theft.

- 32-year-old Dimmitt man, arrested July 1 for driving while license suspended.

- 32-year-old Lubbock man, arrested Sunday on warrants for theft more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000 and burglary of habitation.

- 24-year-old Dimmitt woman, arrested Sunday for driving while intoxicated, first offense.

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# Booths available during Harvest Days celebration

Castro County's annual Harvest Days celebration is being planned for Sept. 4-8, and the event will include a parade, barbecue dinner, fiddlers' contest, early settlers reunion, games, a county fair, an arts and crafts bazaar and more.

The Castro County Fair Association, through the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce, is currently offering booths for rent at the show, and those interested should contact Bill Sava at the Chamber office, 647-2524.

Booths inside the Expo Building will rent for \$25 to \$35, depending on the amount of space a vendor requires. Those requiring electricity will be charged an additional \$5 fee. "Right now there are plenty of

spaces available, but don't wait too long if you'd like a good, inside space," Sava said. "We do restrict the number of food items which may be offered at any booth, and we do not permit the duplication of food items already being offered by another vendor, so those planning on having a food booth should check with us early."

Activities are planned for Sept. 4-7, including the kids' pedal tractor pull. The Chamber and Fair Association are still organizing activities, and a complete listing will be available sometime in August.

The main event will be on Saturday, with the parade, early settlers' reunion, fair, bazaar and more.

For more information or to reserve a booth, contact Sava at 647-2524.

# Dimmitt Reunion planned

There will be a Dimmitt High School Reunion for all classes through 1955 (and others who would like to attend) from Friday, Sept. 21 to Sunday, Sept. 23.

It will be held at the Fifth Season Inn, 6801 I-40 West, Amarillo, Texas. It is located on the east-bound access road between Coulter and Bell Streets. The Amarillo Room in the hotel is reserved as the meeting place.

To make reservations, call (806) 358-7881 and talk with Amy Leal or another clerk. Be sure to inform them that you are with the Dimmitt Reunion, because rooms for all guests who identify themselves with it are tax-exempt.

Rates for the rooms are \$45 for double beds, \$45 for one king-sized bed, or \$50 for a suite with a king-sized bed. All rooms include a hot breakfast. You must cancel 24 hours in advance, or the credit card on hold will be charged.

The hotel has an indoor pool, a sauna, a spa, exercise facilities, smoking and non-smoking rooms, and in-room coffee makers. Coffee will also be available in the Amarillo Room where the meetings will take

place. Arrival time is Friday afternoon and check-out time is at 12:00 noon on Sunday.

In addition to snacks and drinks, which people attending are encouraged to provide, there are a variety of restaurants within the area, some within walking distance. On Saturday night, a barbecue meal will be served at 7:00 p.m. The price is \$10 per person. Please pay Phyllis Mooney for the barbecue at registration.

A general business meeting is planned Saturday evening after the barbecue, when future plans will be discussed. A general reunion chairman will be elected along with two chairpersons for all classes.

A financial report will be given and donations to meet expenses for the next reunion will be asked for. Joyce Autry will be the recognition chairwoman. Les Miller, Dimmitt Superintendent of Schools, will give a brief update on Dimmitt schools.

Sign-up sheets will be placed at the entrance of the meeting room. It is important to sign in, giving your address, phone number, and e-mail address so you can be easily reached.

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# The Castro County News

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**More about**

**1:1**

(Continued from Page 1)

If you sing it enough times and get comfortable with your range and limitations, it gets easier. But you never really quit worrying.

There are a couple of traps in the enunciation, too. You have to be careful not to sing "what so proudly we held" or "through the *perrul*-is fight."

Another reason why I don't want any accompaniment is that, as a word merchant, I really love that great poem. I like to sing the phrases as if I were speaking them, and you can't do that with the usual tempo. The natural tendency is to slow it down, and we've all heard it get dragged to pieces. I like to speed it up a little here and there to emphasize the key words and phrases.

Although I've developed my own way of phrasing it over the years, I don't mess around with the melody. The tune should be sung the way the man wrote it. It pains me when someone tries to get cute with the tune, as though it were a rock song or a rhythm-and-blues number.

Then again, some people probably don't appreciate my tampering with the tempo.

Anyway, I'm glad that I got to sing the National Anthem Tuesday at the Centennial Plaza. I hope the people who heard me enjoyed it half as much as I did.

Thanks, Bill Sava, for asking.

Our oldest son, Dave, called us on his cell phone just before 9 o'clock Saturday night. He was in his boat on Lake Mendota in Madison, Wis., with his youngest daughter, Danielle (who was asleep at the time), waiting for the start of an annual event there called "Rhythm and Booms."

Every year, on the Saturday evening before July 4, a local radio station broadcasts a concert of patriotic music, while on the lakeshore local organizations stage a big fireworks display that's coordinated with the music. People throughout the city can tune in and listen to the music while watching the skybombs and rockets.

The best place to be, of course, is out on the lake.

"There are so many boats that you could almost walk across the lake and not get your feet wet," Dave said. "The bow and stern lights all over the lake make a real pretty sight, and everybody has their radios on."

**Obituary**

**J.D. Phipps**

J.D. Phipps, 82, of Earth, father of Bob Phipps of Dimmitt, died Sunday in Lubbock.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at the First Baptist Church of Earth with the Rev. Bobby Broyles of Earth and the Rev. George Johnson of Lubbock officiating. Burial followed in Earth Memorial Cemetery under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Muleshoe.

Mr. Phipps was born April 7, 1919, in Wellington. He married Noble Brooks on Jan. 15, 1939, in Kirkland. She died Dec. 31, 2000.

He had lived in Earth since 1944, moving there from Wellington. He was a farmer and was a member of the Littlefield Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Augusta Aron; and a brother, Jerry Clark Phipps.

Survivors include a son, Bob Phipps of Dimmitt; two daughters, Fran McCarty of Earth and Kaye Crawford of Lubbock; a brother, Dudley Phipps of Dallas; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

They opened the program with *The Star Spangled Banner*, and when it reached the part about "the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air," you should have heard the sky bombs punctuating the night. Dave held his cell phone up so we could hear them (we were listening on our phone's external speaker), and it sounded like the start of WW III.

"Here comes a flyover of jet fighters," Dave said. "There are five of them. They're in a V formation."

He held his phone up again. They sounded so close that they must have singled his hair.

"They were really low," he said.

Then it was time for him to hang up and tend to Danielle, who was finally stirring awake.

That's one of the reasons why *Fortune* magazine consistently ranks Madison as one of the best cities in the nation in which to live.

We've spent a Fourth of July evening on the lake with Dave and his family before, and it was quite a sight, with fireworks displays at several different suburbs around the lake.

I think we'll try to be there a little earlier next year and catch "Rhythm and Booms."

Rev. Rusty Dickerson, acknowledging our nation's 225th anniversary Sunday morning from his pulpit in the First United Methodist Church, commented, "The Great Experiment continues."

That's what our republic is — a great experiment.

When the Declaration of Independence and Constitution were written, our founders didn't know for sure whether it could last.

"You have a democracy, if you can keep it," Ben Franklin told a member of the crowd outside of Independence Hall in Philadelphia after the adoption of the Constitution.

They gave us a Constitution and Bill of Rights with strict commandments but also with statutory flexibility. Within those parameters, for more than two centuries we have continued to experiment and find ways to improve our republic.

As a result—and notwithstanding our constant complaints about "the government"—we have improved it through the years, the decades, the centuries.

People are free who were not free before. Many individual rights that were not acknowledged before are now—for all races and both sexes—both acknowledged and protected.

And today we have the oldest constitutional republic in the world.

We have kept it.

There will be more experimentation. There will always be work to be done.

But there's also reason to pause, take a look at what we have here, and be proud.

**More about**

**Redistricting...**

(Continued from Page 1)

(the northeast quadrant)—expressed different preferences.

"I don't see any drawbacks to any of the plans," Roland said, "but I'd just like to keep Precinct 1 in a recognizable block. If I had my preference, I'd rather have Plan 3."

"Plan 2 is the only one that makes any sense to me," Schmucker said. "I'd lose some road funds and some voters with either of the other two plans."

During the informal discussion, committee members noted that Plans 1 and 3 would not include any part of

the county seat in Precinct 1, whereas Plan 2 would. That turned out to be a major concern for them.

Asked by Judge Miller for a show of hands before the one-hour meeting ended, all but one or two of the committee members voted in favor of Plan 2.

The county's redistricting plan must be submitted to the US Justice Dept. by September and approved by December, when filing opens for the next county election.

(The News will publish color maps of the redistricting proposal in a future issue.)

**4-H plans family fun night July 26**

Castro County 4-H'ers and their families can enjoy an evening of pizza and bowling on July 26 in Hereford as part of a special "Family Fun Night" planned by the County Council.

Every 4-H'er and their families are invited to join in the evening, and if a 4-H'er needs to attend without their parents, transportation can be arranged. Those who plan to attend should call the Castro County Extension Office at 647-4115 by 5 p.m. on July 20.

Those who wish to bowl should bring \$5. Pizza can be purchased at a discounted rate from Buck's Pizza during the evening.


The parent leaders and club managers also will hold a short meeting that night.

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