



The Castro County News

82nd year—No. 5

Dimmitt, Texas

Thursday, April 27, 2006

www.castrocountynews.com

75¢

It's tornado time in Texas

People in the Panhandle don't have to be warned what time of the year it is, but maybe they need to be reminded what kind of measures to take before they hear that weather siren howling or see a tornado warning on their television or hear it on a radio.

The Emergency Preparedness Committee for Castro County has monthly meetings to discuss how to deal with upcoming bad weather, including tornadoes and severe thunderstorms, all of which bring the danger of damage, injury and wildfires from the lightning.

The May meeting will be at 7

For tips on what to do in stormy weather, see Page 11

p.m., May 15, at the Dimmitt Fire Station with the public invited to take part.

Specifically members of the committee at the last meeting talked about recognizing the cloud formations that precede tornadoes and how to let the community know if bad weather is heading this way.

When the sirens cycle on and off, that means it's an alert - citizens know that there's a possibility of storms occurring.

Once the cycling stops and you hear a constant blast from the system, it means that we ARE going to experience tornado activity in the area.

County Judge Bill Sava, who's a member of the committee, warns that a car is the worst place to be.

"The schools all have safe areas designated," he said. "We need to have a place designated in our homes - especially if there are latchkey children who are at home before their parents. They need to

know where to go. Everyone in the family needs to know where that is and agree on that safe place."

Generally, experts say that the safest place, usually a bathroom, should be small, with no exterior windows and there should be something to cover up with. Many deaths and injuries occur from the winds and blowing debris accompanying these storms.

"If you're caught out in a car," Sava said, "it's generally recommended that you leave the car and find a ditch to get in - or in the lowest piece of ground around."

"People need to realize that

tornadoes strike any time of the day or night, so be sure your baby sitter knows where the safest place in the home is, as well as you and your children."

One of the myths of tornadoes is that opening the windows will help equalize the air pressure.

"It just helps the winds get in your house faster," he said. "Of course, it's always safest underground - or under a heavy table."

Another thing people should do, he said, is to make sure medicines that are needed can be accessed easily. Also it's a good time to

See TORNADO, Page 1

Oops!!!



THE CENTER OF gravity apparently changed just as this cement truck made a right-hand turn off south Broadway onto East Bedford last week. The accident occurred about 3:30 p.m., causing traffic to be re-routed around the scene for about four hours until 7:30 p.m. when two big wreckers from T-Miller Wrecker Service in Amarillo made it to town, according to the Dimmitt Police Department. The company also brought in another truck with a low-boy trailer for the barrel of the cement truck. By the way, the truck was full of cement, which hardened of course during those four hours.

Early voting starts May 1

Early voting starts Monday, May 1 throughout Castro County.

In Dimmitt, there is one school board position up, incumbent David Schaeffer is up against Kelby Bradley. Voting in that election, if you live in Place 5, will be between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., May 1 through 9, weekdays only, at the administration building on Halsell.

The election, set for May 13, will be from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. also at the administration building.

For the Dimmitt City

Council only two districts have contested elections.

In District 1, there is no incumbent, as Roy Garza did not file again this year. Running for his place are Josh Arguijo, Amos Quintero and Janie Bugarin.

In District 4, Carla Miller and Salvadore Ortiz are vying for the spot. Although Chris Bradford filed for the seat, he is moving and does not want to be considered as a candidate.

Early voting for the two council seats, if you live in those districts, starts May 1

See VOTING, Page 5

Hart ISD trustees hire two new coaches

The Hart Board of Trustees hired Jason Botos as head football coach Monday night a special called meeting by a vote of 6-0. Also, his wife Casey Botos was hired as girls basketball coach, also with a 6-0 vote.

He is presently coaching football and baseball at San Antonio Burbank. She is head girl's coach at Bandera near San Antonio. The couple have one baby and are expecting another. Both graduated from Wayland Baptist.

Arguijo is candidate for Place 1 on Dimmitt Council

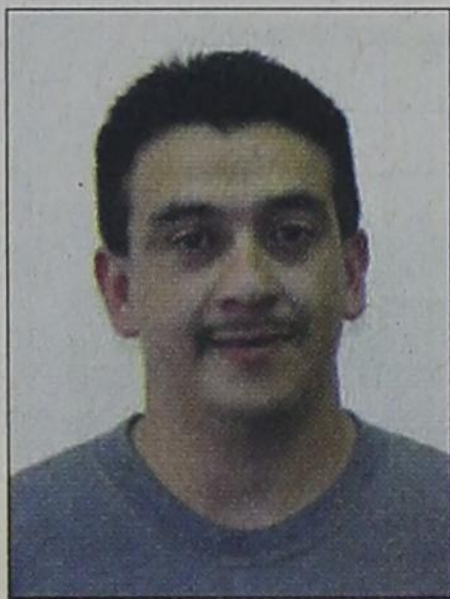
Josh Arguijo of Dimmitt said he announced for the Dimmitt City Council, Place 1, "after careful consideration and talked with some of my fellow citizens of Dimmitt."

Arguijo was born and raised in Dimmitt and attended school here, as well as working in several areas include being a member of the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Department for two years. He currently serves as a board member for the Central Plains Center (MHMR)

in Plainview and is married to the former Angelita Mendoza, who has also lived in Dimmitt for many years.

"My wife and I plan to stay in Dimmitt and one day raise our family here," he said. "Living in this community has been a wonderful experience and great honor. The people are kind and always willing to help one another."

As a member of the community, he said, he strives to give back in any



Josh Arguijo

way possible.

"Through my job at the Sheriff's Office, I have a first-hand view of problems that exist in the community," Arguijo said. "It has allowed me to understand how certain issued and decisions can affect the community as a whole. My

See COUNCIL, Page 2



Learning about government

These seventh graders from Dimmitt Middle School toured the Castro County Courthouse on Friday as part of County Government Week. The tour was conducted by County Judge Bill Sava, who explained his job. Also, pictured in the center, is Justice of the Peace Tana Young who explained to the students how a trial is conducted and County/District Clerk Joyce Thomas who talked about her varied roles in county government.

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Looking at ways to keep new teachers

By **DIGGER ELAM**
HISD Superintendent

With about 40 per cent of Texas teachers having 20 or more years experience, it

seems that the teacher retirement merry-go-round will continue for the next few years. This means principals throughout Texas

will continue to have a problem with hiring and retaining good teachers. In a survey completed five years ago of new

teachers that left the profession after one year showed the number one reason that new teachers left the profession was lack of support from their principal. Principals need to be involved with their first year teachers in all areas of education.

Here are some tips for principals to assist new teachers. This should keep new teachers from being overwhelmed.

* Meet with all new teachers in an orientation meeting prior to school starting by going over rules and handbooks

* Have a meeting with experienced teachers and new teachers to discuss how to start and maintain class

* Give all new teachers a copy of Julia G. Thompson's *First-Year Teacher's Survival Kit*

* Assign all new teachers a mentor teacher

* Hold a meeting with principal and all new teachers after first month to discuss problems

* Continue meeting with new teachers every month for their first year

* Assign new teachers to vertical alignment teams

* Carry out walk-through looking for positive things in the class and refraining from looking for any bad happenings

Principals should make these new teachers feel important and what they do in the classroom is important

It is totally vital that new teachers who enter the teaching profession in the next few years be retained in the teaching profession.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1
position as a board member for the Central Plains Center has also given me a first-hand look at how one decision can affect a community."

As a board member his duties include decision making regarding monthly budgeting, approval of major expenditures and the approval of the yearly budget for the center. He also serves on the insurance committee for the Central Plains Center.

LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF DIMMITT ELECTION TO THE REGISTERED VOTERS OF DIMMITT TEXAS:

Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 13, 2006, for voting in a City Election, to elect a council member from district (1) and district 4 (4) to fill an expired term.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE:
Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 East Jones, Dimmitt, Texas.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday beginning May 1st and ending May 9th between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Exception on Wednesday, May 3rd, and Thursday, May 4th, the hours will be from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Application for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Karen McGuire or Gloria Ortiz, P.O. Box 146, Dimmitt, Texas 79027

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than

The close of business on April 28, 2006.

Myrna Langford
Presiding Officer

Noticia Legal Eleccion de la ciudad de Dimmitt Para los votantes registrados De Dimmitt, Texas

Damos notificacion que el lugar De votos aqui escrito estara abierto De las 7:00 a.m. a 7:00 p.m. el martes 13 de mayo 2006. para votar en Una eleccion de la ciudad y Eligir un miembro deconsul del Distrito (1) y distrito (4) para elegir Uno que se le expiro su puesto.

Lugar de Votar
200 East Jones
Dimmitt, Tx.

Votar antes de las elecciones En persona sera conducido cada dia Entre semana, empesando el primero De mayo y termina el 9 de mayo Entre las horas de 8:00 a.m. a 5:00 p.m. El miercoles 3 de mayo y jueves 4 De mayo las horas seran 7:00 a.m. A las 7:00 p.m.

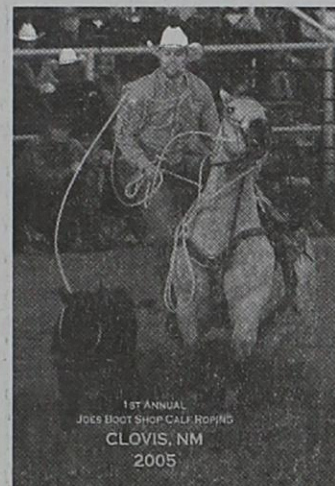
Aplicacion para votar por Correo mandelo a Karen Mcguire Y Gloria Ortiz, P.O. Box 146 Dimmitt, Texas 79027

Aplicaciones para votar por Correo deben ser recibidas Para 28 de abril 2006 Dimmitt, Texas 79027

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FRIDAY, APRIL 28 • #00, #3, BreakAway A & B:

- 10 a.m. • #00 Tie-Down
- BreakAway-B
- 1 p.m. • BreakAway-A
- #3 Tie-Down

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 • #4, Open Tie-Down:

- 8 a.m. • #4 Tie-Down
- 1:30 p.m. • Open Tie-Down
- Ladies Tie-Down Match Roping
- **YOUNG GUNS SHOOTOUT**
Monty Lewis vs Ryan Jarrett

SUNDAY, APRIL 30 • #1 & #2:

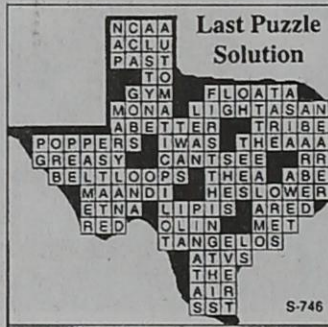
- 8 a.m. • #1 Tie-Down
Cowboy Church Service with
Dennis McKinley
- 1 p.m. • #2 Tie-Down

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ACROSS

- 1 TX Roy Orbison tune: "_____ A Mystery To Me"
- 5 TXism: "busy as _____-armed paper hanger"
- 6 TX Willie's bus: "Honeysuckle _____"
- 7 _____-gallon hat
- 8 _____ Green Co.
- 9 TX country (abbr.)
- 12 TXism: "nothing to write home _____"
- 17 with 58-across, TX singer
- 19 TXism: "takes one _____ one"
- 21 old Spanish war ship
- 22 European tobacco pipe (2 wds.)
- 23 TXism: "strong enough to _____ horseshoe" (strong coffee)
- 28 TXism: "he has to _____ his spurs"
- 29 "_____ in the belfry?"
- 30 Jo-_____ Dennison was 1st Miss America from TX ('42)
- 31 one of the TX "Dixie Chicks"
- 35 _____ Arabia
- 36 TXism: "_____ to death"
- 42 TXism: "it's _____ see you"
- 44 kitchen garment
- 46 laugh words
- 47 dried & withered
- 49 TX mineral used in plaster

DOWN

- 1 Hardin Co. newspaper
- 2 TXism: "don't give a _____ holler"
- 3 coordinated outfit
- 4 TXism: "kids should be _____ and not heard"
- 9 "_____ friendly"
- 10 inevitably (3 wds.)
- 11 Gov. Richards
- 12 TXism: "hard as dodging rice _____ wedding"
- 13 UT All American QB in 1947
- 14 fried _____

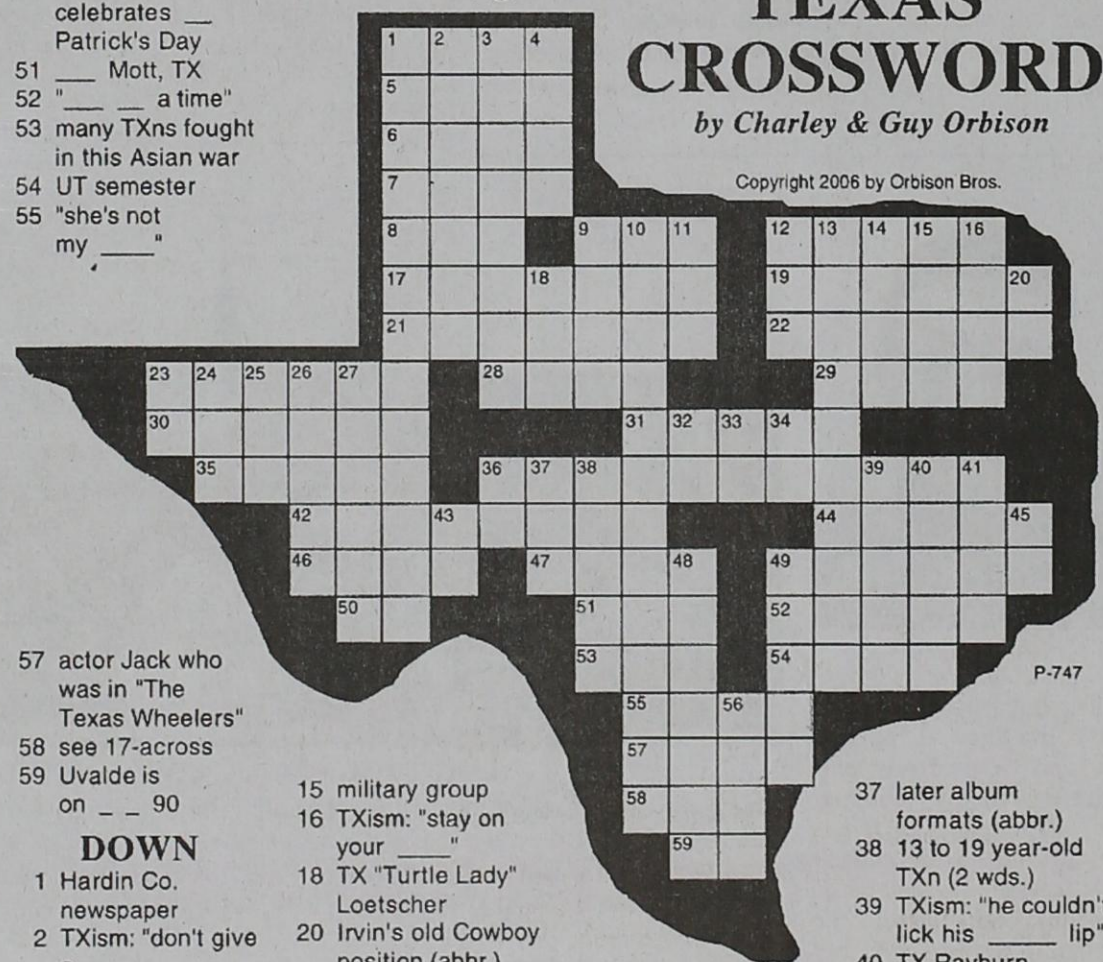
- 15 military group
- 16 TXism: "stay on your _____"
- 18 TX "Turtle Lady" Loetscher
- 20 Irvin's old Cowboy position (abbr.)
- 23 this Couples won '87 TX Byron Nelson Golf Classic (init.)
- 24 TX Perrine was a _____ Vegas showgirl
- 25 TX Mickey Gilley hit: "A Headache Tomorrow _____ Heartache Tonight"
- 26 "don't get in _____"
- 27 TXism: "got as much _____ a hibernating bear"
- 32 TX Kristofferson's "Why _____ Lord?"
- 33 driver's license, e.g.
- 34 early album format (abbr.)
- 36 TX Ellerbee book: "And _____ It Goes"
- 37 later album formats (abbr.)
- 38 13 to 19 year-old TXn (2 wds.)
- 39 TXism: "he couldn't lick his _____ lip"
- 40 TX Rayburn (2 wds.)
- 41 TXism: "it's near _____"
- 43 TX coach _____ "Bum" Phillips
- 45 neighboring state (abbr)
- 48 17-across sang a duet with this Harris
- 49 TXism: "_____ in my cross hairs"
- 56 "she _____ her own way"

The Original

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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	High	Low	Prec.	Snow
Tuesday	83	32		
Wednesday	71	32		
Thursday	67	37	.26	
Friday	76	37		
Saturday	87	55	.01	
Sunday	93	53		
Monday	86	34		
April Rainfall				.30
2006 Rainfall				1.76
2006 Snow				1.00

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

The Castro County News

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Published each Thursday in Dimmitt, Texas, 108 W. Bedford.
Periodicals postage paid at Dimmitt, Texas.
Publication Number 092980.

One Year Subscription Rates:
\$21.00 (in Castro County) \$30.00 (out of Castro County but in Texas)
\$35.00 (out of Texas) \$21.00 (electronic delivery)
Foreign subscriptions-please call for rates

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	DEADLINES
Display and Classified Advertising.....	Tuesday Noon
Agriculture, Business and Industry News.....	Tuesday Noon
Social and Church News.....	Tuesday Noon
Community Correspondence.....	Tuesday Noon
Personal Items.....	Tuesday Noon
General News, City and County.....	Tuesday Noon
Editor and Publisher.....	Chris and Joye Bradford
Advertising Department.....	Chris Bradford
Managing Editor.....	Davie Ann Browder
Production Department.....	Chris Bradford
Bookkeeping.....	Chris Bradford
Community Correspondents.....	Virgie Gerber, Nazareth Angie Arguijo, Hispanic Voice

Naz News

with Vergie Gerber, 945-2669

Our sympathy to the family of Philip Pohlmeier, 88, who passed away Wednesday, April 19, in Hospice of Amarillo. Funeral services were held Saturday morning in Holy Family Church with Msgr. Joseph Tash of Amarillo and Ken Keller of Nazareth officiating.

Also assisting was Deacon Jerome Brockman of Nazareth.

Burial was at Holy Family Cemetery.

Phillip is survived by his wife, Dora, and five sons: Greg, Ralph, Walt, Frank and Robert; and four daughters; one brother, LeRoy; as well as many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

The Annual Gardening

Program, held at the Home Merc on Sunday afternoon was well attended by 77 interested gardeners.

Speakers were Neal Hinder of Edge Plants of Canyon, sharing on native plants and bedding varieties and also Greg Birkenfeld speaking on soil improvement.

He also gave a 40-pound bag of compost to everyone attending.

The K of C's are sponsoring a benefit Steak Supper to help with funds to send our Youth Group on Retreat to Steubenville West again this summer.

The benefit will be from 5:30 to 9 p.m., Saturday, May 6.

There will also be a silent auction and a slave auction.

Need some odd jobs done at your home?

Come and buy a slave for the day!

Congratulations to Julia Birkenfeld who celebrated her 80th birthday on Friday evening.

Mary Lou Birkenfeld, Evelyn Backus and Mildred Birkenfeld took her to Chubby Buns to eat and instead of a birthday cake, they enjoyed Julia's favorite - cherry cream pie!

Twenty-three Red Hat Ladies gathered at Antiques Plus on Friday noon for lunch and a tour.

Ormalene Brockman showed pictures and talked about her recent trip to Rome.

Ladies from Tulia, Plainview, Nazareth, Hart and Sunnyside attended.

The Crown of Texas horse show was held April 23, Saturday morning, in Amarillo with Brenna Braddock of Nazareth competing.

Brenna took her 4-year-old mare Goldie which she has been using in horse shows for a while now.

She placed first in haltermares; first in showmanship; first in barrel-racing and pole bending.

She also had another horse that she used, a seven-year-old paint gelding, that they hope will be her next show horse.

Please, remember to pray for all of our sick people and those who are serving in our Armed Forces and for RAIN!



Spanish Club car wash

THE SPANISH CLUB had a great turnout at their car wash on Saturday. The Club is raising money to be able to take a field trip to Wonderland Park in Amarillo.

Hispanic Voice

with Angie Arguijo, 647-0106

Hola, como estan todos? Hello, how is everyone? I hope everyone is getting out and enjoying the beautiful hot weather we have been having. I usually miss the entire day because I sleep all day since I work midnights. By the time I roll out of bed, half the day has gone by. However, I try to make the most of my days off. Well, I didn't get much info for the Hispanic Voice again this week. I know there is lots going on out there, why not share it with the community? No quiero tener que rogarles que me manden noticias. I don't want to have to bet you to send me news. So help me out a bit.

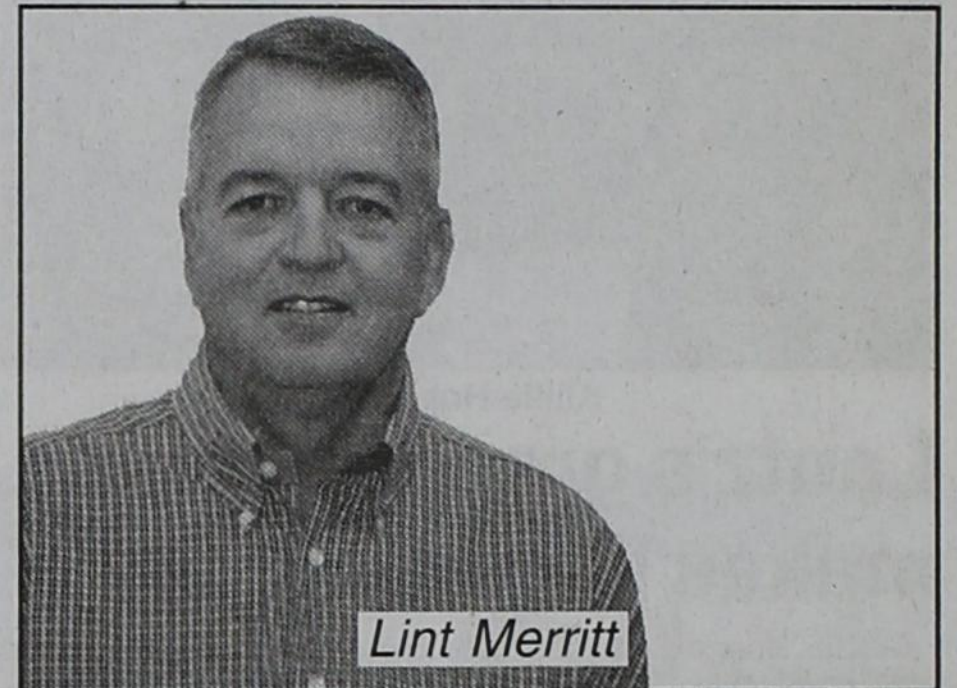
Let me tell you, there are going to be a whole lot of babies born in October. I've run into several friends and family members and they are all due in October. I'd like to say thanks to everyone for being so kind and caring towards me and my hubby during my pregnancy. We get lots of visitors and people have offered their help in so many ways it's unbelievable. Another thing I won't have to worry about is cravings. I have an army of sister-in-laws and friends who are anxious to feed me. My dad's friend Soila already got me started on pickles and ice cream. I don't enjoy them together, but I love them both. Thanks again to everyone.

Prayers are still being asked for a very special lady. Santos G. Perez is currently in Amarillo undergoing a series of surgeries and medical exams. I am sure anyone who has the pleasure of knowing her has fallen in love with her and will be praying for her quick recovery. Santos says she is more than ready to feel better, all this illness is just slowing her down and she has things to do and a great-grandbaby to spoil.

I'm still waiting to hear something about the DHS Class of '96 reunion. If anyone knows anything, please let me know.

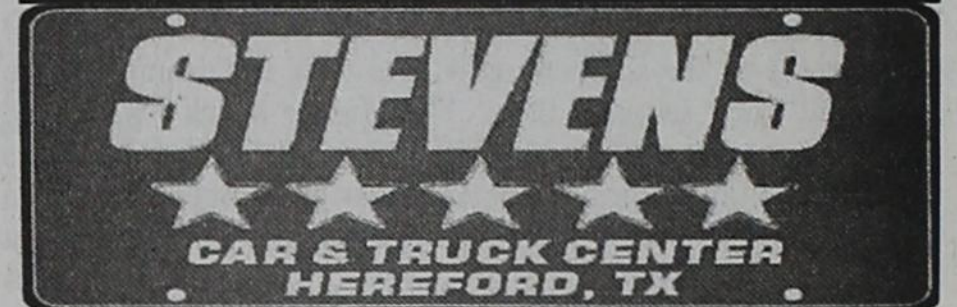
Bueno, esto es todo para

esta semana. That's all for this week. Don't forget to send me your good luck wishes for the Senior Class of '06 and Mother's Day wishes. As always, keep the info coming to angie79027@hotmail.com, 647-0106 or 346-3882. Hasta luego. Until later.



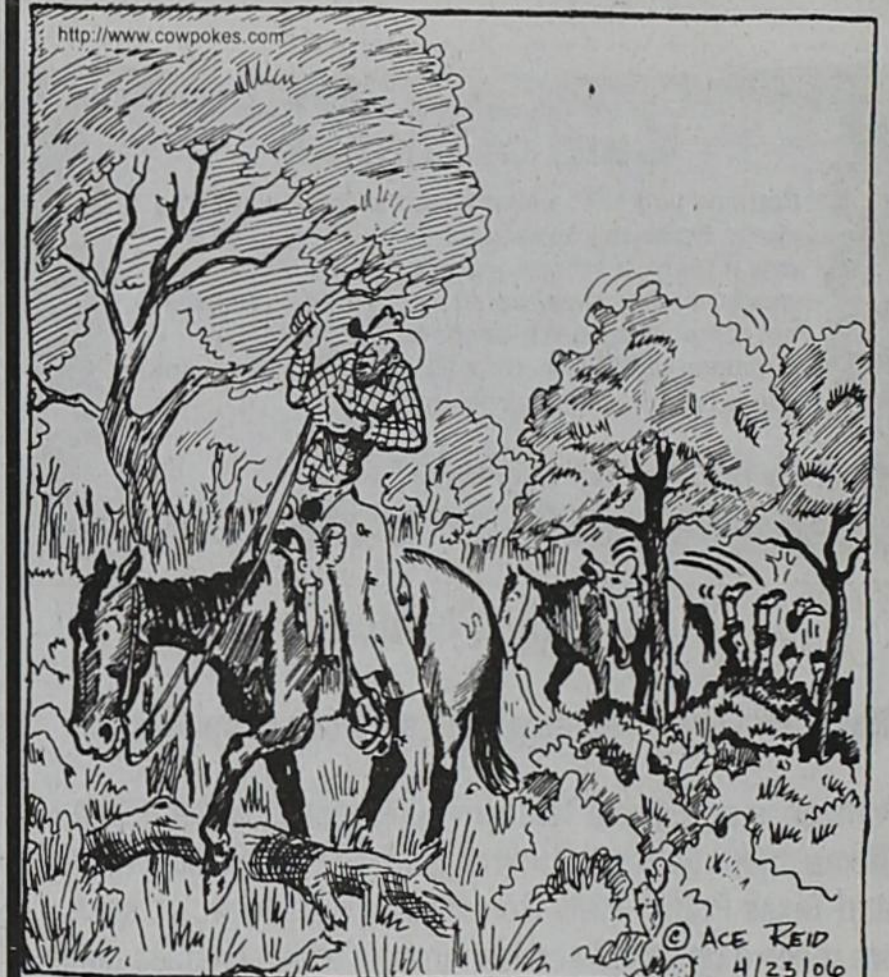
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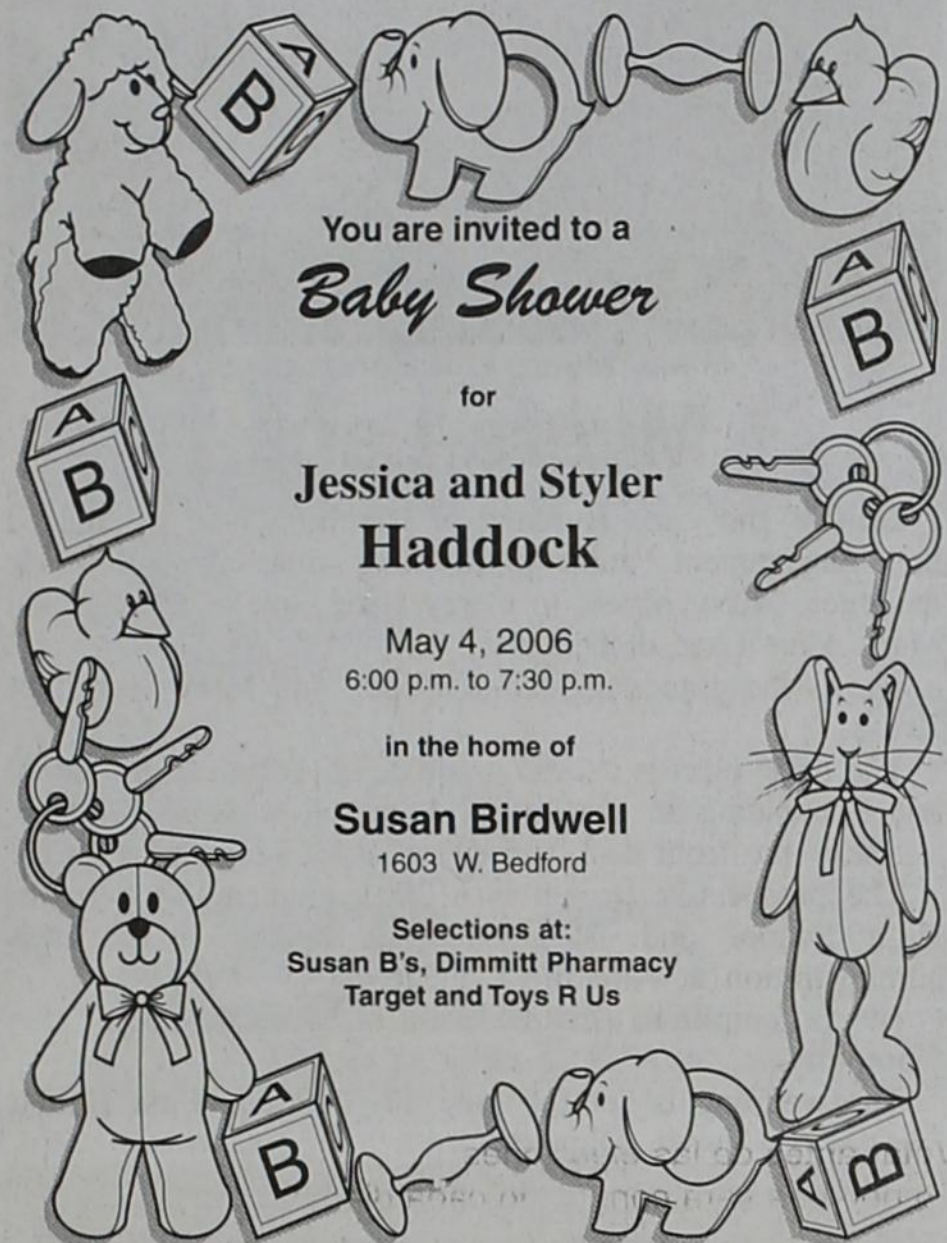
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Interested applicants can fax their resume to 806-351-0875 or e-mail to Barry_Lubbers@Cargill.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RETURNED BY MAY 5TH IN ORDER TO BE CONSIDERED.

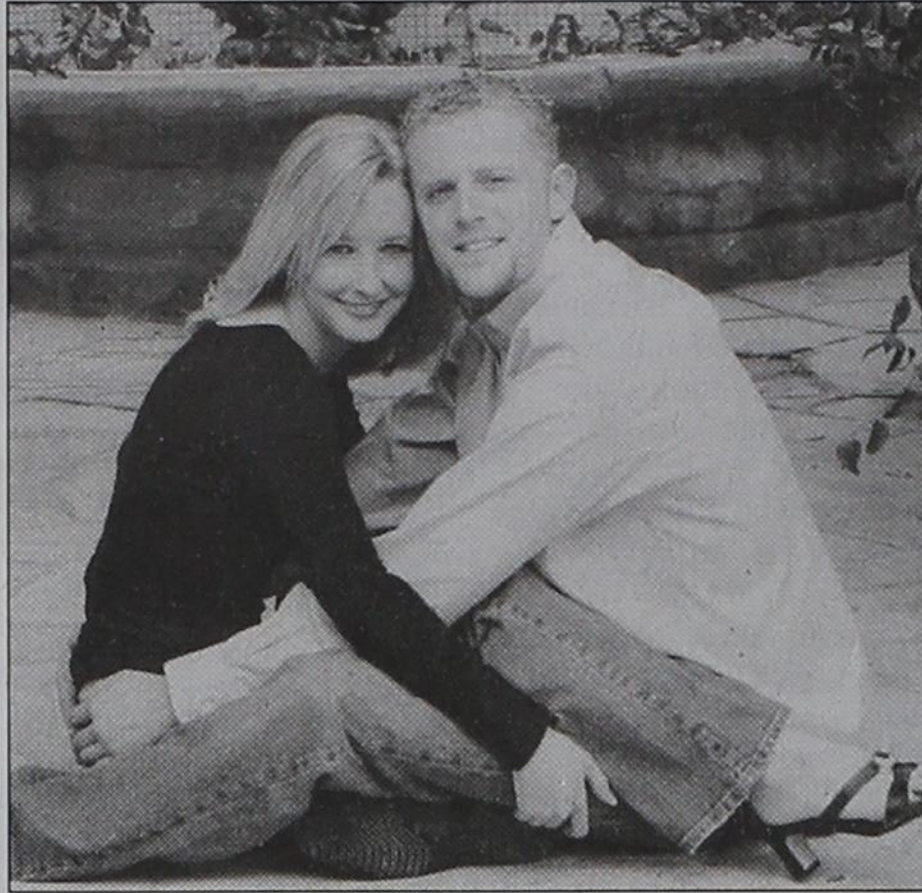
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Kallie Hopping

Lantz's granddaughter makes it to regionals

Kallie Hopping, granddaughter of John and Carol Lantz, was a member on the Granbury Lady Pirate golf team playing at the regional tournament April 24-25 in Lubbock, at the Rawls Golf Club. She is a junior at Granbury High School. The team teed up for the District 4-5A Tournament at Woodhaven Country Club in Fort Worth. Granbury shot 746 over two days, opening with a 376 and improving to 370 on the second day. Mansfield Black won the tournament with a 654 (325-329). "I am thrilled to take this group of young ladies to the regional tournament," said an excited Coach Becky Addison. "Regionals will be a great experience for them to see the level of competition that is required to advance to the state tournament. Our region is an extremely tough region. Qualifying for this event was our goal, and now we hope to make a sound showing in our first 5A regional tournament appearance as a team." The Lady Pirates are returning to regionals after a year's absence. Last season they were close in their first year in 5A, but finished third.



Kendra King and Daymond Paxton

King-Paxton

Mr. and Mrs. Steve King of Hereford are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kendra King of Midland, to Daymond Paxton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Terry Paxton and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Worthington, all of Lubbock. The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Carl King of Dimmitt and Frances King of Hereford. She is a graduate of Trinity Fellowship Christian Church High School and McMurry University and is employed by the Midland ISD.

The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Coronado High School and is the owner of Merry Maids in Midland/Odessa.

The couple plan to marry June 24 at Spirit Ranch in Lubbock.



Missy Myers and Corey Lane

Myers-Lane

Donnie and Gina Burdette of Hereford have announced the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Missy Myers to Corey Lane, son of Charlie and Mary Alice Lane of Dimmitt.

She is the granddaughter of Buddy and Mary Stovall of Kress.

The bride-elect is a 2003 graduate of Adrian High School and is pursuing an accounting degree at Amarillo College.

She is the front desk supervisor at Holiday Inn Express.

The prospective groom is a 2001 graduate of Dimmitt High School and is pursuing a degree in business administration at Amarillo College.

He is employed in the family business, Lane Dirt Company.

The wedding is set for June 17, 2006, at First United Methodist Church, Dimmitt.



Left to right: Sandra Bagwell, Carolyn Jones and Caludine Langford, who work in the Auxiliary's Workshop at PMC.

Helping hands benefit PMHD

It's National Volunteer Week, yet many in the community don't know about Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and the work the members do.

The Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary provides many services to our hospital district.

The auxiliary is comprised of volunteers who are always eager to help in any way possible.

Fundraisers are held throughout the year and funds are used to provide equipment to different departments in the District. Their major fundraiser is the annual Thanksgiving Bazaar which includes selling craft items and baked goods made by the Ladies of the Auxiliary.

Last year they sold raffle tickets for a hand made quilt. Bake sales are also a part of the fundraising events and always include delicious treats made by our volunteers.

Throughout the years, the Ladies Auxiliary has provided items such as computers for our clinic, a new sign for the hospital and exercise equipment for our physical therapy department. Last year they purchased a vital sign monitor for Nursing and new equipment for the Kitchen staff.

New volunteers are always welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact Trudy Jackson, Vice President of the Ladies Auxiliary, at 647-2191.

Subscribe Today
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Card of Thanks

Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us on that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever the part.

By the family of Clay Davis

Public Notice

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For more information please call our customer sales and solution center at 1-800-483-4000 (Residence). For information on Lifeline/Link-Up Service call Lite-Up Texas at 1-866-454-8387.



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CHURCH NEWS



Community Calendar

Relay for Life activities planned

The local Relay for Life committee is planning a "Celebrity Car Hop" Nat from 5 to 9 p.m., May 5, to be hosted by Sonic. Local Dimmitt celebrities will be serving you to raise donations for the 2006 Relay for Life.

In additions teams are needed for the Relay for Life, which is set for June 10 at Bobcat Stadium.

Please call this week. You can have committees composed of fellow workers, families, schools, clubs, churches or classes.

Contact Camille Williams at 647-2974 or Marcus Brockman at 945-9504.

English classes offered

The First Assembly of God Church, 300 S.E. 2nd Street in Dimmitt is offering free adult English classes, free, starting May 2. The classes will run from 7 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 647-5662.

Breast cancer exams offered

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Comprehensive Breast Center will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening

Clinic at Plains Memorial Hospital, 310 W Halsell, in Dimmitt on May 4, 2006.

Breast cancer affects one in eight women.

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

Funding is available through the Texas Department of Health for Texas residents age 50 to 64 who qualify for assistance. All exams are done by appointment only.

Call (806) 356-1905 or 1-800-377-4673 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Community Prayer Gathering

There will be a community prayer gathering the first Wednesday of every month at 6 a.m. at Dimmitt Methodist Church, 110 SW 3rd St. There will be fellowship, a free meal, prayer and a devotional guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome. Come and bring a friend.

Help lift the whole community in prayer. The dates are May 3 and June 7.

There's a New Sunday Service Schedule

at

Abundant Life Family Church

In order to accommodate more people, we will be holding two services on Sunday mornings beginning May 7

New Schedule

Sunday-9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday night prayer and youth service-7:00 p.m.

Children's ministry and nursery will be provided at all services.

If you need a ride to any of the services, please call 647-5288 (If no answer, please leave a message)

Castro County Devotional Page

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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI
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ALTHOUGH SOLOMON'S FAME AS A WISE KING IS NOTED IN THE BIBLE, LITTLE HAS BEEN SAID OF HIS NEIGHBOR TO THE SOUTH—THE QUEEN OF SHEBA. THIS YOUNG WOMAN, RULER OF WHAT TODAY IS THE MOST SOUTHERN POINT OF SAUDI ARABIA, HAD TO BE AS EQUALLY SMART AS HER MORE FAMOUS NORTHERN COUNTERPART. THOUGH MISTRESS OF A RICH COUNTRY HERSELF (CALLED YEMEN TODAY, THE LAND WAS A CROSSROADS OF MANY IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTES TO THE EAST, THUS SHEBA DID PROFIT IMMENSELY) SHE COULDN'T HELP BUT BE IMPRESSED BY THE TALES OF SOLOMON'S TREMENDOUS WEALTH AND THE ABSOLUTE LUXURY OF HIS PALACE...SO SHE ADORNED HER STRANGE DARK BEAUTY WITH HER FINEST GARMENTS AND SET OFF TO VISIT SOLOMON IN THE NORTH.

NOW, IT SHOULD BE QUITE OBVIOUS THAT SHEBA'S VISIT WASN'T JUST TO VIEW SOLOMON'S MAGNIFICENCE—FOR THE TRIP ITSELF HAD TO TAKE THE BETTER PART OF THREE YEARS—AND SHE WENT WITH A GREAT TRAIN OF CAMELS LOADED WITH GIFTS, SPICES, PRECIOUS STONES, PEARLS, ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD (ABOUT \$185,000). THIS YOUNG QUEEN WAS LOADED FOR BEAR AS THE GAYING GOES—AND SHE GOT IT!

ONCE AT SOLOMON'S COURT, THE QUEEN OF SHEBA "OOHEED AND AHHEED" AT EVERYTHING SHE SAW AND HEARD! SOLOMON'S HEAD HAD TO BE SWIMMING FROM ALL THE VERBOSE FLATTERY WITH WHICH SHE DELUGED HIM, AND SOLOMON, CERTAINLY A LADIES MAN BY REPUTATION, SEEMS TO HAVE SUCCEUMBED TO HER SUBTLE CAMPAIGN—AT LEAST THE RECENT LATE EMPEROR OF ETHIOPIA, HAILE SELASSIE, THOUGHT SO—FOR HE TRACED HIS OWN LINEAGE BACK TO MENELIK, SUPPOSED OFFSPRING OF THE ROYAL COUPLE'S "CONFERENCE". HOWBEIT, WHEN SHEBA LEFT, SHE TOOK BACK TO HER OWN COUNTRY IMPORTANT TRADE AGREEMENTS, PROFITABLE TO HER FOR YEARS TO COME, FOR, IN THE WORDS OF THE BIBLE...AND KING SOLOMON GAVE INTO THE QUEEN OF SHEBA ALL HER DESIRE, WHATSOEVER SHE ASKED... SMART LITTLE LADY!

NEXT WEEK: WASTED STRENGTH!

New Hope Memorial Baptist 300 NE 7th, Dimmitt Sunnyside Baptist Sunnyside Willis Blair (Interim).....647-5712 First United Methodist 504 4th St PO Box 409 Hart 79043 Quita Junes.....938-2462 La Asamblea Cristiana 400 NW 5th, Dimmitt Noe G. Marquez.....647-4755 First United Methodist 110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt Virgil Ichtertz.....647-4106 Iglesia De Cristo E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt Pedro A. Gonzalez Church of the Immaculate Conception of Mary 1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt Father Ken Keller.....647-4219 Father Lupe Mayorga It's Jesus and the Love of God Church (Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt Felix Sanchez.....647-3668 Hart Church of Christ 416 Avenue H, Hart Aaron Lee.....938-2267	Church of God of the First Born 611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt Immanuel Baptist 501 SE 3rd, Dimmitt Rosa De Saron 411 NE 6th, Dimmitt Abel Vargas.....647-4088 First Baptist Matthew Baird 302 Ave. G, Hart 938-2316 Primeria Iglesia Bautista 9th and Etter, Dimmitt Antonio Rocha St. John's Catholic Hart Father Lupe Mayorga.....938-2936 Church of Christ SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt Brett Page.....647-4435 Rose of Sharon Temple 407 NE 4th, Dimmitt First Christian 600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt 647-5478 Bruce Murphey	La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito East Halsell Street, Dimmitt Holy Family Catholic Nazareth Fr. Ken Keller.....945-2616 Abundant Life Family Church 500 S. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt 647-5288 Tom and Kay Mullins First Assembly of God 300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt Doris Barnard....647-5662 First Baptist 1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt Howard Rhodes.....647-3115 Lee Street Baptist 401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt David Denman
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Sunday Morning Bible Study-9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship Service-10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship Service-6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evening Bible Study-7:00 p.m.
Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ
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Obituaries

DORIS DAVIS

Services for Doris Davis, 71, of Dimmitt, were Monday, April 24, 2006, at First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt with the Rev. Virgil Ichtertz officiating. Burial was at West Lawn Cemetery in Dimmitt.

Mrs. Davis died Thursday, April 20, 2006, in Dimmitt. She was born Dec. 15, 1934 in Sweetwater, Okla., to William and Bessie Blair. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Ralls. She graduated from Floydada High



Doris Davis

School and lived in Cone until 1979 when she and her husband moved to Dimmitt. She married Clay Davis in 1951 in Cone.

She is survived by her husband, Clay (Cakey)

Davis of Dimmitt; two sons, Glenn Davis of Rosharon and Bryan Davis of Dimmitt; three daughters, Kayla Moore and Tresa Haimerl, both of Grand Junction, Colo., and Melony Barnett of Amarillo; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Davis was preceded in death by three brothers, William Blair, Carl Blair and Cecil Blair.



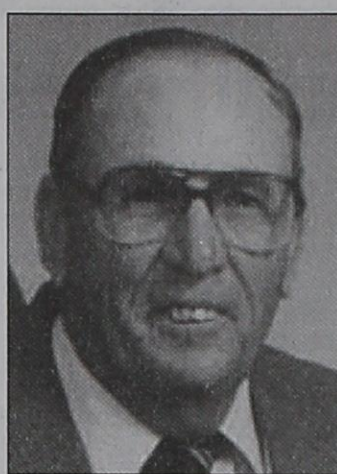
Our family serving your family

Services for Philip Pohlmeier, 88, formerly of Nazareth, were Saturday, April 22, 2006, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth with Msgr. Joseph Tash of Amarillo and Fath Ken Keller of Nazareth officiating. Burial was at Holy Family Cemetery in Nazareth.

Mr. Pohlmeier died Wednesday, April 19, 2006, in Amarillo. He was born Feb. 11, 1918, at Nazareth to John and Theresa Pohlmeier. He was a retired farmer and rancher and lived in Nazareth until 2001 when he moved to Amarillo. He married Dora Birkenfeld on Feb. 19, 1946.

Survivors include his wife, Dora; five sons, Greg and Frank of Amarillo, Walt of Tulia, Ralph of Yukon, Okla., and Robert of Smyrna, Del.;

PHILIP POHLMEIER



Philip Pohlmeier

four daughters, Beth Schulte-Harder of Dimmitt, Theresa Rider of Amarillo, Rita Pohlmeier of Denver, Colo., and Germaine Witt of Henderson, Nev.; 26 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one brother, Leroy Pohlmeier of Nazareth; and numerous

nieces and nephews.

Mr. Pohlmeier was preceded in death by his parents, John and Theresa Pohlmeier; eight brothers; and three sisters.

The family suggests memorials go to: Panhandle Disaster Relief Fund (the fund set up to offer assistance to area farmers and ranchers hurt by recent fires). Panhandle Relief Fund, 801 S. Fillmore, Suite 700; Amarillo, TX, 79109 or to BSA Hospice; P.O. Box 950, Amarillo, TX, 79105.



Our family serving your family

WILLIE LEE COX

Graveside services for Willie Lee Cox, 92, of Hart were Tuesday, April 25, 2006, at Hart Cemetery with Jerry Kittrell officiating.

Mrs. Cox died April 22, 2006, in San Angelo. She was born Jan. 19, 1914, in Hart. She married Lawrence David Cox on Sept. 5, 1931, in Dimmitt.

Mrs. Cox moved to Kermit from Hart in 1936, then to Sundown in 1941. In 1944, she moved to Brownfield, where she lived until moving to San Angelo in 1993. She was an active member of First Baptist Church in Brownfield.

Survivors include a daughter, Beatrice St. Clair

of San Angelo; one son, Ellis Cox of San Angelo; four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; one sister, Jo Laverne Butler of Atwater, Calif.; and one brother, Tom McLain of Hart.

Mrs. Cox was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Mamie McLain; four brothers, Jack, R.D., Hubert and Alpha; and one sister, Anna Williamson.

The family suggest memorials be made to the Hart Cemetery.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries are printed in the Castro County News free of charge and will contain the following types of information: date and details of funeral and place of burial; date and place of birth and parents' names; date of marriage; limited biographical information, including the highest level of school achieved, service in the Armed Forces, profession (and retirement information, if applicable); names of relatives who have preceded the person in death; names of survivors (including husband or wife, parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, grandparents (only the number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc.), will be included) and where memorials may be directed).

We will be pleased to run a one-column black and white photo at no charge. A larger photo or color photo will cause the obit to be paid. Please keep in mind that everything must be submitted by your funeral home. Also we will charge if the obituary is to be run as sent without any changes in wording. Otherwise, the Castro County News reserves the right to change the wording to fit out style.

DISD Calendar

Thursday, April 27

DHS – Talent Show Auditions

Softball: Bi-District Playoff Game - TBA

Friday, April 28

TSA – Regional Project Contest – Lubbock

Track: Regional Meet @ Abilene

Saturday, April 29

TSA – Regional Project Contest – Lubbock

Track: Regional Meet @ Abilene

DHS – Jr. / Sr. Prom

Monday, May 1

FFA District Meeting & Test – Abernathy

Church of Christ Senior Banquet – 6:00

Tuesday, May 2

DHS – Fine Arts Club Meeting – 12:20

DHS - National Honor Society Induction Ceremony – 7:00

Wednesday, May 3

DHS – Sophomores to WTAMU

DHS – Upward Bound Summer Camp in Library

Visit Dimmitt ISD on the web at

www.dimmittisd.net updated daily!

Community Calendar

Delta Kappa Gamma scholarship offered

Delta Kappa Gamma will be offering a \$500 scholarship to a college student who has graduated from Castro County High School. The college student must be an education major and have been accepted into the Education Department. Verification of this must be submitted with the application.

Students may pick up an application from Sue Howell at Dimmitt Middle School. The scholarship will be paid to the college or university or the student in the amount of \$250 per semester. Applications are due May 1.

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Dimmitt ISD, Dimmitt, Castro County, Texas:

Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2006, for voting in a General Election to elect a Trustee for Place 5.

Location of Polling Place:
Dimmitt ISD Administration Building
608 West Halsell, Dimmitt, Texas.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., May 1, 2006, through May 9, 2006 at the above polling place.

Application for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
Darla Fisher
Early Voting Clerk
608 W. Halsell
Dimmitt, TX, 79027

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 5, 2006.

Thank You

Thanks for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, visits and other acts of kindness shown to me during my stay in the hospital. I would like to extend a special thanks to all the physicians, nurses and other hospital staff for their care and considerations.

Clyde Damron

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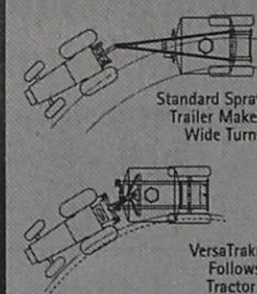
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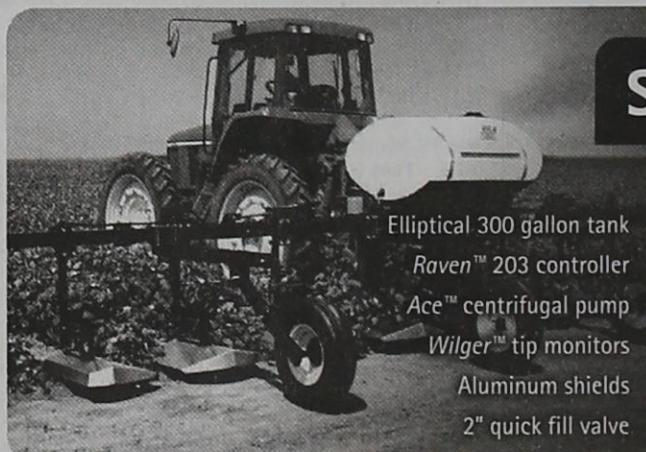
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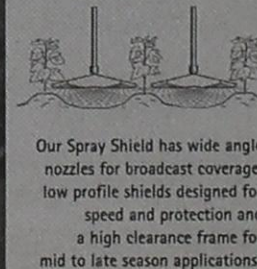
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Regional Qualifiers



FIRST BASEMAN CHAUNCEY Gilbreath tags a Sanford-Fritch player out on first. The Bobbies lost, 13-1.



CHELSEA BUCKLEY WAS second in district in Computer Applications and Marshall Wills was third in district in Current Issues.



DIMMITT PITCHER JUNIOR Limas got the save for the Bobcats against Lockney.

Bobcats down Lockney

The Dimmitt Bobcats beat Lockney, 6-4, on Friday at Lockney, moving one step closer to a playoff berth. On Tuesday, they met Floydada to determine district positions.

Dimmitt baseball Jesus Quiroz said the Bobcats played well against Lockney.

"We kept our heads in the game, put the ball in play and pressured their defense," he said. "We got out of some jams - the kids kept their heads up."

Winning pitcher was Kyle Whatley with Junior Limas getting the save.

"The worst that can happen is we tie for second or third place, then we'd have to have a playoff," Quiroz said. "I think all the kids are playing outstanding ball right now. They all did their job and deserve a lot of credit. Kyle had the defense working good behind him."

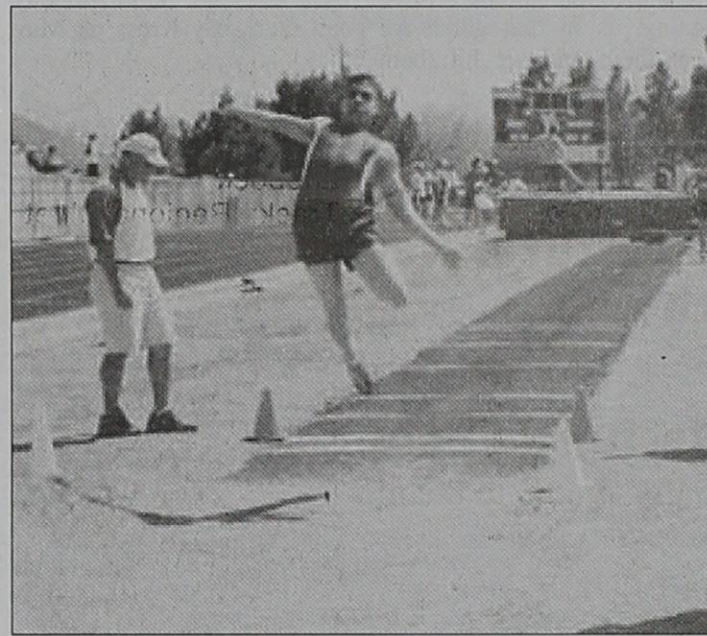
Lockney was the team to beat, as they stood at the top of the district.

That means, Quiroz said, "we can play with anybody - we can compete any time, any day."

ROSS MYATT TOOK third in the long jump at district to qualify for the regional meet.



GERARDO REYES WAS third in the long jump at district to qualify for the regional meet.



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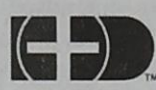
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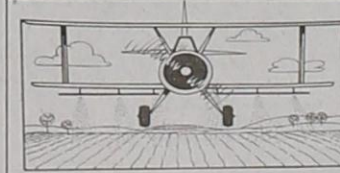
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Castro County News

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ZANE FARRIS, NO. 14, for Naz steals second against Bovina.

Nazareth Swifts down Hale Center

The Nazareth Swifts run-ruled Hale Center, 11-1, in six innings on Friday.

Winning pitcher Nate Huseman allowed only one hit and had five strikeouts.

Both he and Dustin Schulte have been good on the mound this season, according to coach Ralph Albracht. "They've been pretty tough, throwing the ball good, throwing strikes, not walking people. That's a big thing in 1A - make them hit to get on."

In the game, Schulte was

two for three, Huseman was two for four; Zane Farris was three for three and Clifford Gerber was one for two, which was a triple.

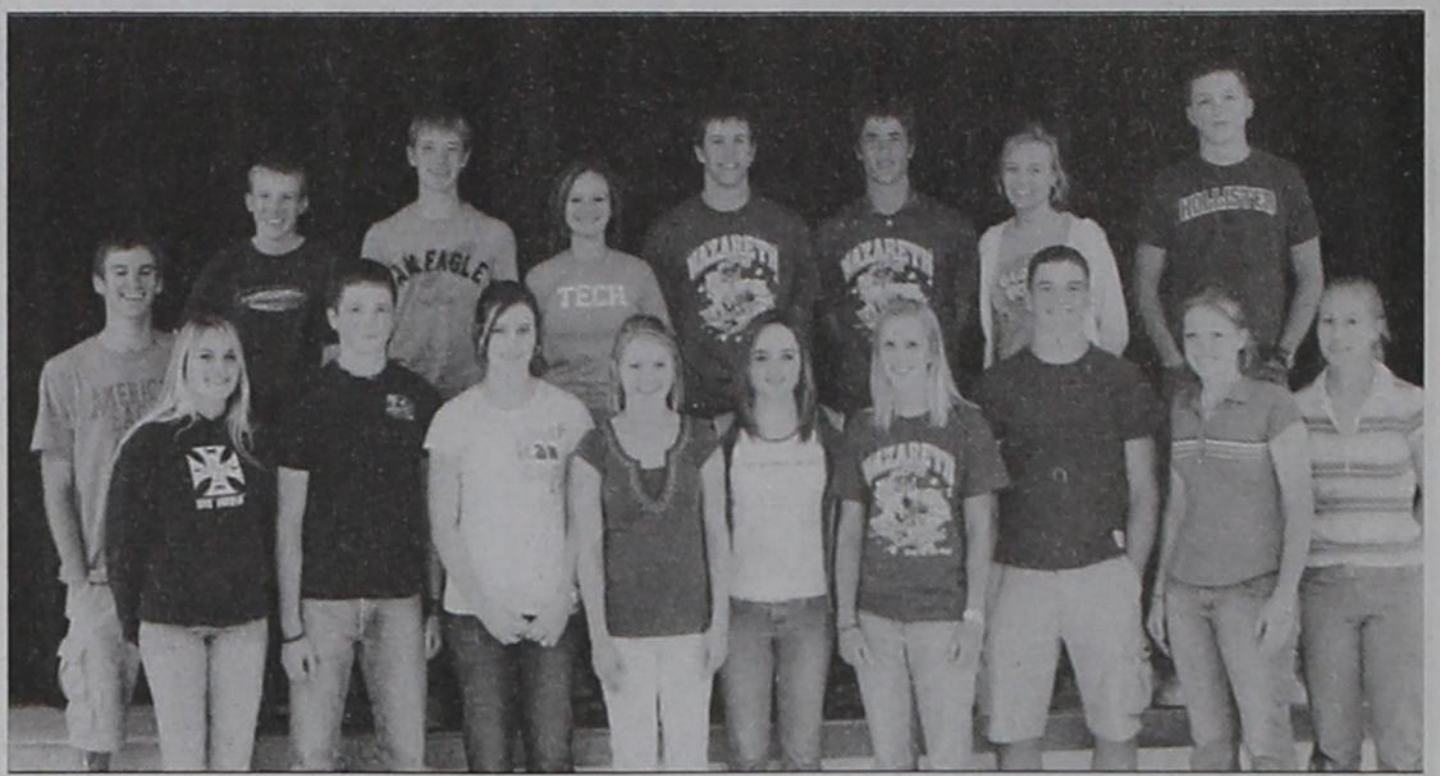
"We did really good on our field," Albracht said. "New Deal is the biggie. They've beaten everybody else, but we beat them at home when we played then. Of course, you can never tell. They're pretty good, got a lot of good-sized kids. They had three different pitchers pitch against us in that game we beat them and we hit them

all." To win district outright, Albracht said his team needs to pitch well and play good defense and the hitting will take care of itself.

"We've bene doing that and that's a good sign," he said.

"But our park is a lot smaller than theirs was so if the wind is a factor, home runs could figure in."

The Swifts take on New Deal at 4:30 p.m. Monday and then play Kress on May 5.



These Nazareth students competed at the UIL district meet recently.

Naz students advance to state

Whitney Peacock won regional first place in news, while Jake Hoelting won second place in the same event.

Kendra Huseman placed third in editorial at regional. They all advanced to state and will write May 4 in Austin.

Nazareth won the journal-

ism team title for the regional title.

Matt Birkenfeld placed third at regional in informative speaking and will advance to state.

American Cancer Society offers services to cancer patients

In the fight against cancer, the American Cancer Society places great importance on cancer patient services—hoping to ease cancer's impact on people's lives. The fact that people are surviving cancer today more than ever before—over 60 percent live at least five years—reinforces the need to help people get back into life's mainstream.

The American Cancer Society helps people with cancer and their families in every Texas community through a toll free number that is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. By calling 1-800-ACS-2345, a cancer information specialist can offer assistance.

Resources can also be found on the American Cancer Society's web site at www.cancer.org. With a click of the mouse, patients and caregivers can log onto the Cancer Survivors Network and seek support. The site offers discussion groups, personal stories, communication with others via email, and resources such as suggested books, articles, and web sites.

The Society offers limited tangible services such as medical equipment, comfort pillows, wigs and other gift items. Temporary housing is available through the Guestroom program for cancer patients who must travel for treatment. Volunteer drivers transport patients through the Road to Recovery program. Volunteers who have experienced cancer visit patients and their families to support them in adjusting to their diagnosis. The Reach to Recovery program is for breast cancer patients, and support groups are held in hospitals, churches.

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Monday through Friday: 6 a.m. to 7 a.m.

Morning Show

Daily: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Weather forecast, local news, birthdays, anniversaries, American Folk Song, school lunch menus, Good Neighbor

Spotlight On Local Talent

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Market Reports

:40 past the hour

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Help for travelers

New companies helping families traveling across West Texas are faced with traveling long distances from their homes for medical treatment. The high costs and inconvenience of temporary lodging, meals and transportation can add a great deal of stress to an already difficult situation.

Improving America, a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation founded by Stacy McNabb, a respiratory therapist at the Lubbock Heart Hospital, is providing assistance to families facing these circumstances. According to McNabb, the organization can help provide families with free and/or discounted food, lodging and transportation costs while they have a family member hospitalized 50 miles or more from home. For information, please visit Improving America online at: www.improvingamerica.info or call (806) 252-8732.

TORNADO

Continued from Page 1

rethink where important papers are kept.

"The best place is a locked, safety deposit box," Sava said. "But if you don't have that, keep them somewhere secure. You need to have a supply of bottled water near your shelter and have a flashlight with extra batteries. Also, NOAA or weather radios that are battery operated as well as scanners that can run off batteries are helpful in keeping everyone aware of what's going on.

"The flashlight is a much better idea than candles, especially if you have children around."

Another problem that can

arise, Sava warned, is that many of these systems spawn a number of tornadoes and other troublesome weather.

"Just because one system has passed the area, people need to continue to listen to the radio and scanner and make sure what the weather behind that system is like," he said.

VOTING

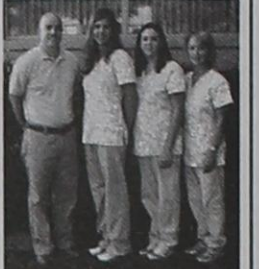
Continued from Page 1

at City Hall, from 8 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. and runs through May 9. However, on May 3 and May 4, City Hall will be open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

On May 13, voting will be done at the Council Chambers from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m.

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Where's Chatter? Can you find her?

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Do You Believe?

One day, when I was visiting my cousin deep in the woods, I swear we saw a creature this high.

Shh...Forest can't see me!

Or me!

Check your library for fairy tales. Beware! Some are VERY SCARY!

If you are wandering in a field some day and dreaming about something that:

- is helpful, but likes to make _____
- likes music and _____
- can make itself _____
- has magical _____
- may be real or _____

then watch out! This may suddenly appear:
 (Read the clues to fill in the puzzle. Look below the arrow to see what might appear)

imaginary mischief invisible dance powers

Wow! Have you ever read about magical creatures called fairies? Some people seem to believe in fairies; many do not. Elves, leprechauns, trolls, mermaids, sprites and goblins are only a few kinds of fairies in stories and legends. There must be hundreds of different fairies all over the world!

Fairies are said to be:

- helpful or hurtful
- good or evil
- able to make themselves disappear
- able to fly
- able to use magical powers.

It is said that fairies can live all alone or in groups. They may live in a fairyland or in a hollow hill or underground. Fairies can marry and raise families! Many like to dance and play the day away. Time passes very, very slowly or not at all for fairies. They are never sick, never grow old and never die.

Stories with fairies in them have been used to explain away things that people do not understand. Some stories are to scare children and some are for fun. Have you ever teased your little brother about the boogeyman who comes out of the closet in the dark to scare naughty children? Have you ever felt the tooth fairy slip a coin under your pillow? Do you think fairies are real or imaginary?

Real-no doubt about it

Some are real, some are not

All are imaginary

Rumpelstiltskin

The fairy, in this German folktale, helps a young girl by spinning straw into gold for her. But then he demands that she give him her first child unless she can answer a question he asks her.

Some fairies found in stories are listed in the spinning wheel. Can you spin a circle around them below?

DIAMREMIRL
 KOESLLKIOL
 FDWARFADWO
 UEVGKR
 LJYTT

TOOTHFAIRYPRTGHUNUAHCERPEL
 DNNKODRSAETIRPSRUHGBKOIMLO
 KHAGVYUOKJNHXFNILBOGBOHGF
 LKEINWORBLKUYIOUYFGSANDMAN
 LJGDGOBLINNAMYEGOOBFGUTASD

Visit our website www.newspaperfun.com for more cartoon fun and to see the answers to the puzzles...or write to tell me if you believe that trolls, leprechauns, mermaids, giants, goblins or dwarves exist: Forest@newspaperfun.com.

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY)-Interest cannot remain on deposit; periodic payout of interest is required. Early withdrawal is not permitted. Effective 4/24/2006. Subject to availability and price change. The amount received from a sale of a CD at current market value may be less than the amount initially invested.

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In the Deep, Dark Woods!

Forest's cousin told him a tale about a magical honey tree that was said to be deep in the woods. Can you help Forest choose the right path through the woods to find the magical honey tree?

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Castro County Classifieds

**Real Estate
Homes & Land**

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:
All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

BRICK HOME-approx. 2,800 sq ft, 3 bedroom, 2 bath, living with fireplace, kitchen, sunroom, utility, garage, two car garage, three car garage, storage building. 24 X 40 building. Located in country with 1.8 acres.

1850 sq. ft.-3 bedroom, 2 bath, office, den with fireplace, kitchen, dining, utility, storage buildings, storm cellar, 30' X 40' shop. 1.8 acres.

LARGE Country Home 3/2 1/2, den, dining, kitchen, office and basement. Fenced yard with sprinkler system, 30 X 60 barn. 5 acres land.

BRICK HOME-3/2 living with wood burning fireplace, kitchen, sun room, fence, storage building and storm shelter, two car carport.

REDUCED! NICE-3/1 living, kitchen, utility, single garage. Two lots.

3/2 living, kitchen, utility, storage building, cellar, fenced yard. 20' X 30' shop. Nice.

BEAUTIFUL HOME-3/2, 75/2, den, living room, remodeled kitchen with new appliances, utility, storage building, basement, circle drive.

2 acres-3/2 den, living, kitchen, sun room, basement, single garage, two storage bldgs.. Building two rooms with bath.

INVESTMENT PROPERTY-Mobile home-trailer park-27 lots. Own 8 mobile homes and leases 9 spaces. Owner financing available.

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\$86,000-REDUCED-3/2-2-Owner has moved, fireplace, great location, hot tub, nice shop. Seller helps with closing.

\$80,000-Great home-3/2/2-lots of new paint and carpet, fireplace, corner lot, nice shop, close to schools.

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\$53,000-3/2/1- Nice well-kept home with extra lot to park your truck or build a shop.

\$45,000-3/1/0 Two homes for the price of one. Corner lot. Rented unit rent for \$400.

\$40,000-2/2/0-Great home that has been well-kept. Soft water. Corner lots, trees, storage building, etc.

\$40,000-3/2/1-Clear lots with large lot in contract.

\$37,000-3/2/carport-excellent starter home, cellar, fenced yd., trees.

DUPLEX-\$50,000-close to school.

Commercial:
\$80,000-Price reduced! Mobile Home Park with large shop includes five permanent mobile home lots and two mobile homes, all rented. 18 overnight spaces. Lots of depreciation and income.

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Real Estate-Homes
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719 MAPLE-3/2/2-approx 2,280 square feet. Large well shaded back yard. Large den, formal living room, large kitchen, utility room, central heat and air only two years old.

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Employment

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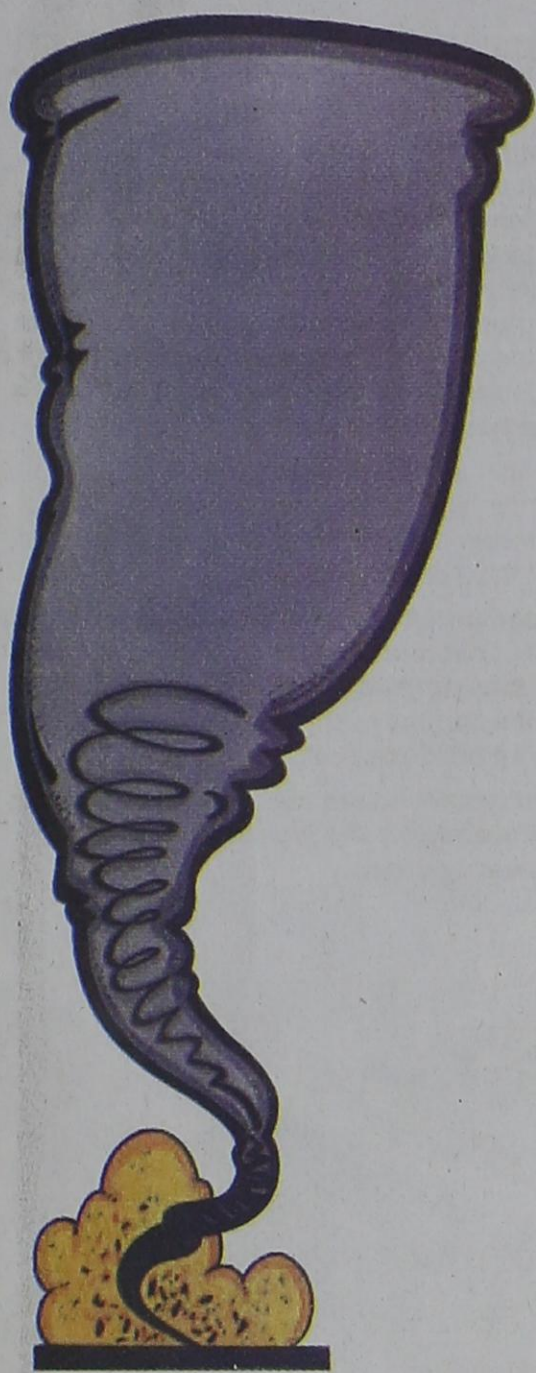
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Knowledge And Preparation Are The Keys To Severe Weather Safety



Weather Advisory

Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are more likely to occur. Watches are intended to heighten public awareness and should not be confused with warnings.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning

Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate immediate danger to life and property to those in the path of a storm.

Tornado Watch

Tells you tornadoes are possible in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watches are intended to heighten public awareness and should not be confused with warnings.

Tornado Warning

Issued when a tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Warnings indicate immediate danger to life and property to those in the path of a storm

What Should You Do ...

For an Advisory

- * Watch the sky and listen to the media for further info.
- * Remain alert for rapidly changing conditions.
- * Know the area in which you live. Use a road map of your area to track the path of a storm.
- * If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning.
- * Take shelter inside sturdy structure.

For a thunderstorm warning

- * Go to safe shelter in a sturdy building.
- * Continue to listen to radio and television for further information.
- Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are imminent.
- * Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information.
- Unplug air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can overload compressors.
- * Avoid using telephone or appliances. Do not take a bath or shower. Use the phone ONLY in an emergency.

For a tornado watch

- * Watch the sky and listen to radio and television for further information. Remain alert for rapidly changing conditions.
- * Know the area in which you live. Use a road map of your area to track storm path from weather bulletins. REMEMBER: Tornadoes occasionally develop in areas in which a severe thunderstorm watch or warning is in effect.

For a tornado warning

- * In a home or building, move to a pre-designated shelter, such as a basement.
- * If an underground shelter is not available, move to an interior room or hallway on the lowest floor and get under a sturdy piece of furniture. Stay away from windows.
- * Get out of automobiles. Do not try to outrun a tornado in your car. Instead, leave it immediately.
- * Continue to listen to radio and television for further information.

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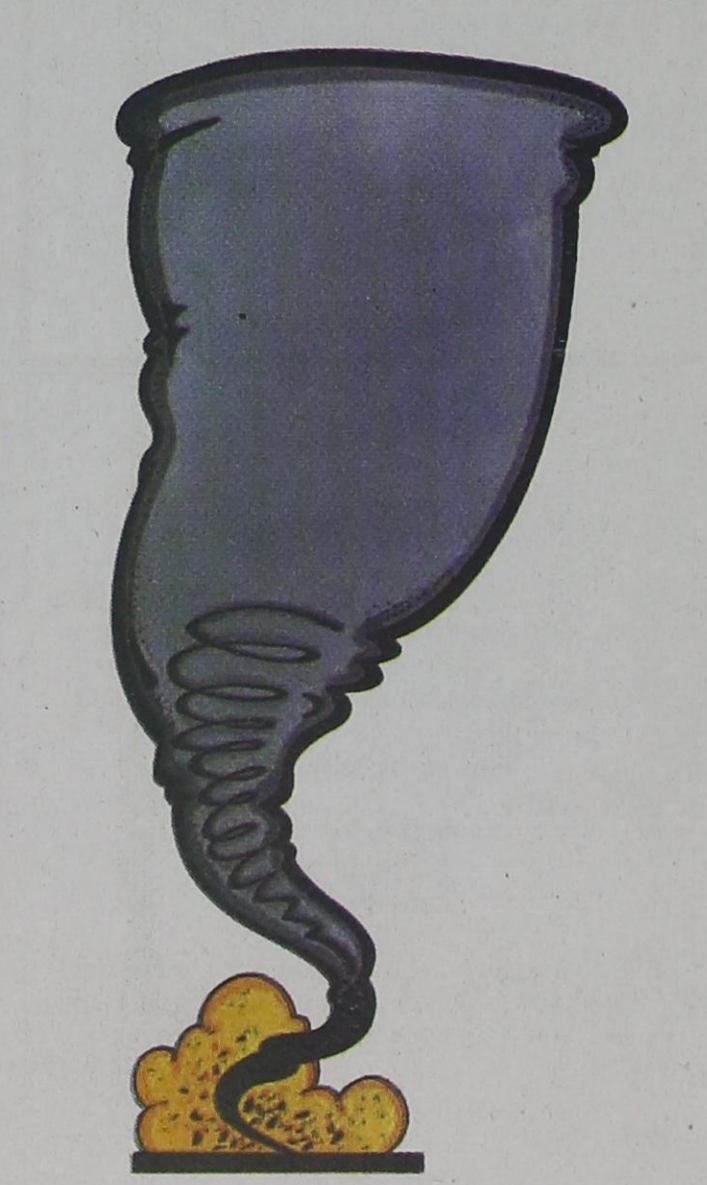
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What's the Law?

Sometimes you may be required to take a lie detector test

Q. Can I be required to take a lie detector test? My employer thinks I stole some tools. Does everyone have to be tested?

A. As a general rule, federal law prohibits an employer from requiring a lie detector test. There is an exception, however, when it is a part of an ongoing investigation and the employer has a reasonable suspicion that an employee was involved in a theft. I do not know of any obligation that requires everyone be tested.

Q. I opened an IRA in my name when I got married. If I get divorced, does my spouse have any interest in it?

A. Even though the IRA is in your name, it is community property. That means that it would be divided at the time of a divorce.

Q. We recently moved out of an apartment. The landlord says that the carpeting was damaged and had to be replaced. He kept our \$300 security deposit and has sent us a bill for an additional \$150. If they kept our security deposit, how do we owe any additional money? What can happen if we don't pay?

A. A security deposit is an amount of money a landlord asks for at the time the lease is signed to cover any possible damage to the apartment. In most cases, the landlord will ask for a deposit equal to one month's rent, but it may be more or less. For example, a tenant with a good record may be required to pay a lower deposit, while a tenant who has had problems in the past may have to pay more.

If a tenant moves out of the apartment and the premises are damaged, the costs of the damages will be deducted from the security deposit. The amount of the deposit, however, is not a cap on liability. If the amount of the damages owed the landlord is greater than the amount of the

deposit, the landlord may apply the deposit to the amount owed, and then request the additional amount from the tenant. If the additional amount is not paid, the landlord has the same rights as any other creditor and may even file suit to collect.

I should point out, however, that the law requires the landlord to provide a tenant with a refund of the balance of the deposit and a written itemization of damages deducted from the deposit to the apartment within 30 days of the tenant moving out and leaving a forwarding address. Not refunding the balance to the tenant or sending proper notice is presumed to be bad faith, and could result in the forfeit of the deposit amount, plus damages against the landlord. Be aware that a landlord is not required to provide an itemization to a tenant who leaves owing an undisputed amount of rent.

Q. I was convicted of a minor offense five years ago. A landlord recently refused to rent to me based on this fact. Is this legal? I paid my debt to society by serving a short sentence. This seems like double jeopardy and illegal discrimination.

A. It may not seem fair, but it is not illegal. Discrimination is not in and of itself unlawful. Discrimination is only unlawful when there is a state or federal statute that prohibits it. For example, the law prohibits discrimination based on sex, age, race, or religion. There is no statute that prohibits discrimination based on a criminal record. It is also not double jeopardy because that refers to having criminal charges brought a second time.

Q. I am getting married. I currently pay child support from a prior marriage. Will my new wife's income be taken into consideration in determining the amount of child support that I pay?

A. No. The amount of child support you pay is based on your net resources. Texas law provides that a court may not add any portion of the net resources of a spouse to the net resources of the person paying child support.

Do you want to know more about your legal rights or ask me a question? Check out my website, www.peopleslawyer.net

Legal Notice

We, the undersigned County Judge and Commissioners in and for Castro County, Texas hereby certify that we have this date made an examination of and compared the County Treasurer's Quarterly report, filed with us on this 24th day of April, 2006 and have found the same to be correct and in order and that the total of all funds held by the County Treasurer, as well as other assets in her hands in the sum of \$2,743,842.49.

FIRST UNITED BANK-DIMMITT, TEXAS

	Working fund balance	Certificates of deposit
General Fund	\$1,692,643.20	\$ 587,147.32
Precinct #1	\$ 254,089.89	\$ 7,569.56
Precinct #2	\$ 169,819.78	\$ 7,019.06
Precinct #3	\$ 221,962.28	\$ 6,743.80
Precinct #4	\$ 365,270.09	\$ 6,193.27

WITNESS OUR HANDS, officially, this 24th day of April, 2006.

William F. Sava
County Judge

Horace (Tom) McLain
Commissioner, Precinct #1

Larry Gonzales
Commissioner, Precinct #2

Bay Baldrige
Commissioner, Precinct #3

Daniel Schmucker
Commissioner, Precinct #4

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Nazareth I.S.D.,
Nazareth, Castro County, Texas

Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 13, 2006, for voting in a general election to elect 2 trustees for the Nazareth School Board.

Location of Polling Place:

Nazareth School - North End
101 S. First St.
Nazareth, Texas

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., May 1, 2006 through May 9, 2006.

Location of Early Voting:

Nazareth I.S.D.
Outer Principal Office
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Nazareth, Texas
Mona Brockman, Early Voting Clerk



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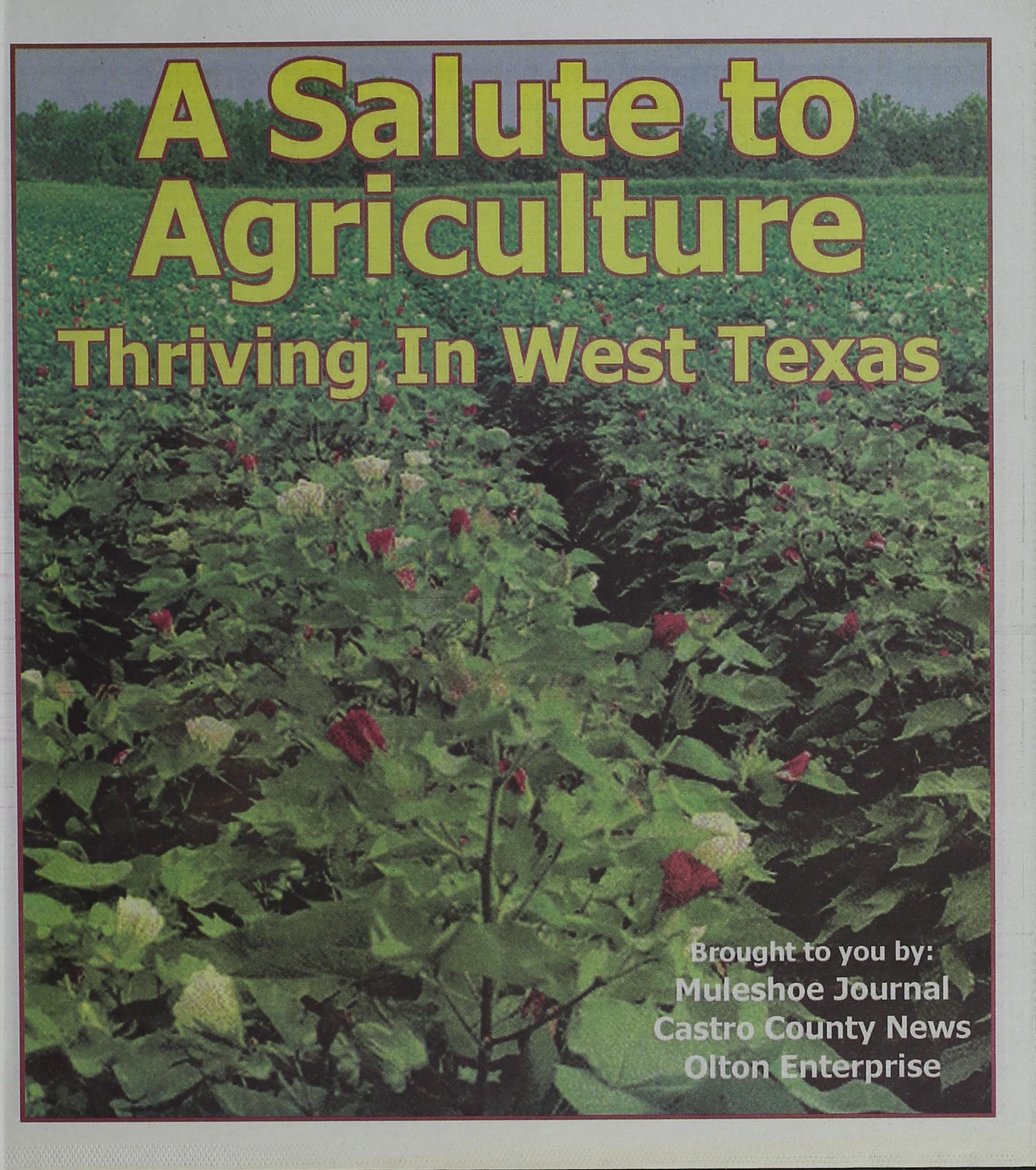
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Keep it simple, smart when selecting cotton varieties

By **Tim W. McAlavy, AGNMORE**

LUBBOCK - A dizzying array of genetics and varieties are available for today's cotton producers. But picking a productive and potentially profitable variety doesn't have to be difficult, said a Texas Cooperative Extension cotton agronomist.

"Keep it simple and be a smart shopper," advised Dr. Randy Boman, Extension cotton agronomist based at Lubbock.

"Compare several characteristics among many varieties and then key the most valuable of those characteristics to typical growing conditions on your farm."

Growers can't control the growing environment or climate from year to year, but they can select and plant varieties that fit their farms. Two of the most important characteristics are genetic potential for yield and lint quality, he said.

Advanced genetic traits such as herbicide tolerance and insect and disease resistance are also valuable,

but they, too, should be evaluated based on performance in local field trials.

"The Plains Cotton Improvement Program's replicated, large-plot variety trials are a good start for comparing baseline performance," Boman said. "Another good source of information is the annual variety trials conducted by John Gannaway, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station cotton breeder at Lubbock."

These evaluation tools and crop production guides pertinent to High Plains growing conditions are available online at: <http://lubbock.tamu.edu>. Publications to look for include Gannaway's "2005 Cotton Performance Tests in the High Plains and Trans-Pecos Areas of Texas"; Dr. Terry Wheeler's "2005 Texas High Plains Cotton Variety Ratings for Verticillium Wilt"; and Extension's "2005 Systems Agronomic and Economic Evaluation of Cotton Varieties in the Texas High Plains."

"It's best to compare varieties and genetics based on multi-year and multi-site averages, when they are available," Boman said. "Yield potential is always foremost in growers' minds, but lint quality can be just as important."

2004 and 2005 were record-setting yield and quality years on the High Plains. Yield totaled 4.8 million bales in 2004 and went to 5.6 million bales in 2005, he said.

"We produced the greatest percentage of the highest color quality grades ever in 2005," Boman said. "Fiber length may also set a record, and only 8 percent of our yield was contaminated with bark."

"But 2005 was also a low-micronaire year. Our micronaire averaged about 3.7, the second lowest since 1992 and only marginally higher than 2004. Variety selection and considerable moisture stress for late-set bolls in September could account for this."

Minimal precipitation and higher

irrigation energy costs could make 2006 a challenging year, he said. Even so, there are several new varieties that may fit growers' plans. Monsanto's new Roundup Ready Flex system will allow season-long, over-the-top application of glyphosate-based herbicides at higher rates than previously recommended.

Monsanto's Bollgard and Dow AgroSciences' Widestrike technologies will offer caterpillar resistance in new varieties, including some that also incorporate the Roundup Ready Flex system.

"We sell pounds of lint, but its value is a function of fiber quality," Boman said. "These are profitability factors, but we also need to consider adaptability."

Longer-season picker varieties are adapted to areas with longer growing seasons than the High Plains usually has. They can sometimes be a good choice for growers willing to invest in management, but can be risky in the

Continued on page 12



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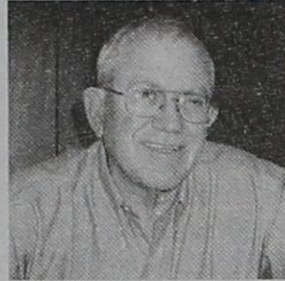
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MEDC Board Members



Wanda Hooten
President

Married to Lary Hooten; currently working to obtain her license to become an insurance adjuster; believes economic development is "vital to the growth of our community."



Max King
Vice President

Married to Pat King; retired from King Grain and now substitute teaching (which he loves); four children and five grandchildren.



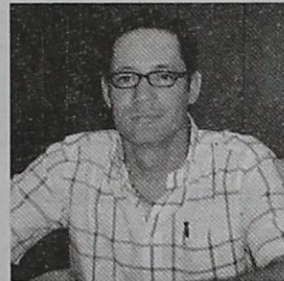
Pat Angeley
Secretary/Treasurer

Married to R.D. "Tub" Angeley; owner of the Pat Angeley, CPA office for over 16 years; five children and 10 grandchildren.



Mark Morton
Immediate Past President

Married to Eileen Morton; owner of Mark Morton Insurance, a State Farm Insurance agency; sixteen years in Muleshoe; DVM degree; one son who is also a State Farm agent.



Jose Sanchez
MEDC Board Member

Married to Laura Sanchez; owner of Sanchez and Sons Construction (22 years established, Jose took over eight years ago); two children, Allegra, 8, and Adriana, 4.

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About MEDC...

The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) is committed to the promotion of high quality development in the Muleshoe Area and to improvement in the quality of life for its citizens.

Formed in 1993, the MEDC has assisted several businesses in creations and expansions. The Muleshoe Economic Development Corporation offers incentives to businesses based upon job creation and retention and increase in tax base. Coupled with the local government's pro-business attitude, Muleshoe is an attractive location for new and expanding businesses.

MEDC is funded from a one-half cent local sales tax (4A) dedicated to economic development.

Cotton ginning lab could lose funding if Federal budget is approved

From KCBD News Channel 11 Lubbock

Local cotton ginners and producers are worried the industry could be in trouble if Congress passes the Bush Administration's proposed budget for next year.

Many gins in the area are capable of processing 800 bales of cotton each day, which is a huge improvement from a few decades ago when gins were processing about 50 bales of cotton each day.

The research that made this improvement in speed possible was done at the Ginning Research Laboratory in Lubbock. Under the new budget plan, that research lab is in danger of shutting down.

Ron Craft, President of the Texas Cotton Ginners Association, and others in the industry held a press conference to discuss the future of the lab, a research

facility they say has done a lot for the industry.

"It's important modern gins stay on top of newest technology," said Craft.

"It does a lot of research for here in Lubbock," said Ricky Bearden, President of Plains Cotton Growers. "It allows our cotton to be ginned more gently and with less energy. These are all things that contribute to better economics of cotton."

"The impact of the technology produced by this gin is massive," said Dr. Dan Upchurch, the Director of the USDA Ginning Lab. I would estimate it in the billion-dollar range. It increased the speed of ginning."

Under the Bush administration's proposed fiscal year budget for 2007, funding for the Ginning Research Labs in Lubbock and Mesilla Park, New Mexico is eliminated, so the labs would have to shut down.

Continued on page 13

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Depth-to-water level measurements in district reveal average annual decline of 0.54 of a foot during 2005

From High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

Annual depth to water level measurements made in early 2006 by the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 show an average decrease of 0.54 of a foot in the groundwater levels of the Ogallala aquifer during 2005 within the district's 6.8 million acre service area. As a comparison, the 2005 depth-to-water level measurements had indicated an average increase of 0.74 feet during 2004.

The district 10-year average annual change decreased from -0.99 of a foot for the 2005 report to -0.84 of a foot for the current report. The district five-year average annual change decreased from -0.70 of a foot for the 2005 report to -0.58 of a foot for the current report.

The district portions of Armstrong and Randall Counties as well as Lynn County reported an average increase in water levels of less than a foot for 2005. The district portion of Potter County reported no average change in water levels. The remaining eleven district counties reported average water level declines. Of these, eight counties had declines of less than one foot.

District officials say the previous average increase of 0.74 of a foot during 2004 was a relatively rare phenomenon which may have continued to affect water levels in observation wells into 2005. Extraordinary filling of cones of depression during 2004 resulting from greater than normal precipitation and the resulting reduced pumpage could have allowed for greater migration of water into deficit areas, which would have filled most residual cones of depression. This may have temporarily delayed drawdown of water levels. Decreased pumpage of groundwater generally results in a decrease in water-level declines; however, additional groundwater pumpage may be needed if

normal or drier than normal climatic conditions prevail during the 2006 growing season.

Depth-to-water level measurements are normally made during January to March each year to allow stabilization of water levels in the aquifer following pumpage during the previous year of groundwater production.

The current issue of the High Plains Water District's newsletter, The Cross Section, features the results of the annual 2006 depth-to-water level measurements. It contains individual county maps, which provide the approximate location of each well in the district's observation well network. Each map is accompanied by available 1996, 2001, and 2006 depth-to-water level measurements for individual wells in that county. Also listed are available total changes in water levels for each observation well for the periods 1996 to 2006, 2001 to 2006, and 2005 to 2006.

Additional information about the annual depth-to-water level measurement program is available by contacting the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1 at (806) 762-0181 or by visiting the water district's web site at www.hpwd.com.

	Number of observation wells maintained	Avg. Annual Change 1996-2006	Avg. Annual Change 2001-2006	Avg. Annual Change 2005-2006
Bailey	110	-0.72	-0.39	-0.06
Castro	91	-1.72	1.52	-1.34
Lamb	97	-1.43	-1.28	-0.95
Parmer	94	-1.73	-1.38	-1.28
Deaf Smith	87	-0.48	-0.35	-0.29
Hale	109	-1.65	-1.21	-1.23



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Simple measures can reduce wildfire risk to rural homes

By Robert Burns

With the recent wildfire outbreaks in Panhandle and West Texas counties, many rural homeowners saw wildfire racing across acres of knee-high dry grass - right toward their homes.

Keeping grassy areas mown - along with some other simple measures - can go a long way in reducing the wildfire risk to rural homes, say experts with Texas Cooperative Extension.

A common Panhandle scenario these days is for people to relocate from urban areas to a few acres outside of town. These relocations may be part of an abbreviated subdivision - three or four houses - or simply a small plot. But many of these properties adjoin prairie or rangeland.

When people relocate, they often bring their suburban-style lawn mower with them. But such machines, either push mowers or small riding mowers, are just not up to keeping several acres of grass under control. With Panhandle winds, a fire 10 or 15 miles away can arrive in no time.

There's no way to guarantee a rural home will not fall victim to a wildfire, said Janie Harris, Extension housing and environment specialist in College Station. But a few simple measures can help homeowners and rural residents reduce the risk.

Foremost on the list of wildfire preventions is to clear brush, tall grass, dead landscape plants and other combustible materials from around the house. Called a "defensible space," Harris said, the cleared area should be equal to one-and-a-half times the height of the home plus 30 feet.

Even mowing can be dangerous, as a spark from the exhaust can ignite a dry lawn. It's a good idea to water the lawn a little, if possible, before mowing.

It's also a good idea to move any wooden structures, such as picnic trestle tables or storage sheds as far from the house as possible.

Harris said other preventive steps include:

- Remove leaves, dead limbs and any other flammable plant material from the house's roof and rain gutters.
- Replace evergreen landscaping plants with less flammable hardwood species.
- Store firewood at least 30 feet from the home.
- Thin any nearby stands of trees.

If the house is on a slope, increase the defensible zone to at least 75 feet. Fire travels 16 times faster up a slope than on level ground, Harris noted.

Another safety tip is to install outdoor faucets on all sides of the house whenever possible, she said. But don't rely solely on household water supply to extinguish fires. When wildfires take out electric lines, local wells stop pumping.

To make it easier for firefighters, keep the driveway accessible and the house address clearly marked.

Helping dairies manage grain costs

1. Consider using alternative feeds such as bakery waste, beet pulp, wet brewers grain, maltage, corn gluten feed, hominy feed, whole cottonseed, cottonseed hulls, wheat midds, rice bran and rice hulls.
2. Group cows according to nutrient needs and feed accordingly.
3. Determine whether switching to a total mixed ration would allow you to stretch your feed budget by incorporating lower quality feeds or less palatable feeds.
4. Consider contracting feeds during harvest or when reduced prices are available.
5. Calibrate your weighing devices to ensure accurate ration formulation.

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Conserving water while cooling cows

By Ellen R. Jordan, Ph.D. Extension Dairy Specialist
Department of Animal Science Texas Cooperative Extension
The Texas A&M University System

Start preparing now for summer heat stress. When the temperature-humidity index exceeds 72, cows experience heat stress. This can happen as early as April in Texas. Evaluate the cooling system you had in place last summer. Did it cool cows enough or did you see signs of heat stress - panting, reduced production, and decreased conception?

One common method of cooling cows is to install sprinkler systems over feed lanes and in the holding areas. Ideally these systems wet the cow's back, without creating runoff down the cow's sides and onto her udder. But, don't dampen resting areas such as free stalls or under shades.

Many times sprinklers are allowed to run continuously. However, for evaporative cooling to work, there must be a time when the water isn't running, and air is moving past the cows. This ventilation can be natural or mechanical. Most dairies have fans to provide enough air movement to dry and cool cows.

Running continuous sprinklers creates excess moisture which leads to hoof problems. And they waste water. Sprinklers should be set to turn on and off in a 15-minute cycle. The water is on for three minutes and then off for twelve minutes. Cooling will be more effective if cows are soaked to the skin during the on time and then evaporative cooling occurs during the off time.

Whether in a drought or not, it is critical that we conserve as much water as possible. To calculate how much water can be saved on your farm by adding cycling

timers, determine how many gallons of water are used per minute. A commonly used design criteria is 0.03 gallons of water per square foot of wetter surface per cycle. If the sprinklers are set up to spray six feet behind the feeding lane, then 0.18 gallons of water will be used per foot of linear bunk space per three minute cycle.

Next, determine the length of your feed lane. Generally, provide two feet of bunk space per cow. Therefore, every 100 cows in the herd requires 200 linear feet of bunk space. For 100 cows, the water requirement would be 36 gallons/cycle (0.03 gal/sq ft X 200 feet long X 6 feet deep).

If a 15-minute on-off cycle is used, the daily water

required to cool 100 cows would be: (36 gallons/cycle X 4 cycles/hour X 24 hours/day) = 3456 gallons of water per day.

Compare this the same system, operating continuously. Each 100 cows would need 17,280 gallons of water per day compared to 3456. If water costs \$1 per 1000 gallons, the cost per day for 100 cows would be \$3.46 if the sprinkler system was set up to cycle on and off, compared to \$17.28 if the system were operated continuously at the same flow rate.

With night time cooling, the system may not need to operate 24 hours a day. If cooling is used 120 days each summer, for an average of 18 hours per day, the cost savings for cycling the sprinkler would be \$1,244 per 100 cows.

You might think a finer mist could be used to reduce water use if the system operates continuously. However, fine sprays create a fog around cows trapping moisture and heat instead of cooling the cows. Just the opposite of what you want. Soak cows with large droplets, which require greater flow rates, for best cooling.

Evaluate your cooling system now to get the best results this summer. By cycling the sprinklers on and off, reduced water use can be enough to pay of the investment. Furthermore, this conserves water for other uses. Few hoof problems should result from cows standing in wet feed lanes. And finally, the excess water will not have to be captures, transported to a lagoon or other nutrient collection system and eventually disposed of in an environmentally-friendly manner.



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For insects too, it's 'location, location, location'

By Edith A. Chenault

For insects — like humans — a happy home depends on three things: location, location, location.

That location, said Dr. Maria Tchakerian, assistant research scientist for the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, determines whether that insect can reproduce and spread out. Unfortunately, this often causes problems for agricultural and nursery crops.

When an exotic pest is found, Web-based mapping applications can help researchers and regulators determine whether it's there for a 'one-night stand' or plans to make plans to live there permanently.

Web-based mapping applications constructed at the Experiment Station's Knowledge Engineering Lab give scientists and regulators information on the location of the insect in Texas and clues about that area's environment.

"The maps tell us whether it (the insect or disease) can spread," Tchakerian said. "Does it have a host or just homes and concrete?"

The lab builds maps for the Texas Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey.

Agriculture is the second-largest industry in Texas, according to the department of agriculture.



Mapping pest populations

Through the national pest information system, the Animal and Plant Health and Inspection Service contracts with individuals, universities and Texas Cooperative Extension to conduct surveys on pests that threaten the nation's food supply, said Dr. Robert Coulson, Experiment Station entomologist and lab director.

The lab was established in the mid-1980s. Computers are used mimic pest management problems and offer solutions, Coulson said

Entomologists use global positioning system technology to log the precise location of the insect. The lab takes that information then maps the exact insect location within various counties. These maps keep a historical record of when and where that insect was found, Coulson said.

This allows the Texas Department of Agriculture - which the maps are constructed for - to track insects that may recur in an area and determine patterns of population or migration, he said. It's essentially a "clearinghouse of information."

The maps contain aerial photographs with the location of traps and insects marked. They also give the scientists a list of landowners to contact if pesticide treatment is necessary.

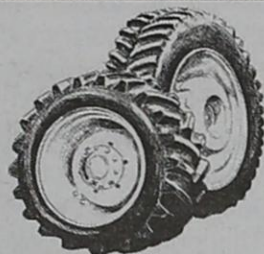
Tchakerian calls them "intelligent maps" because they are so easy to use by anyone with a Web browser.

Also, the maps allow regulators and scientists throughout the state to look at the same information at the same time.

"I think that's the strength (of the maps) for the people using it," she said. When an exotic pest is found, Coulson said, the maps are studied to see if the insect will cause a problem. If so, steps will be taken to eradicate or control the pest.

All of the information in the Web site is confidential, and only limited access is given.

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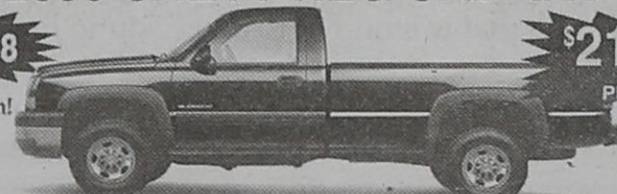
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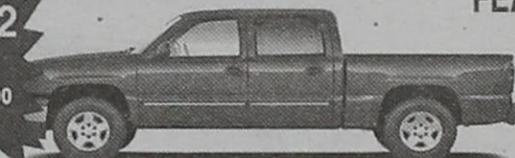
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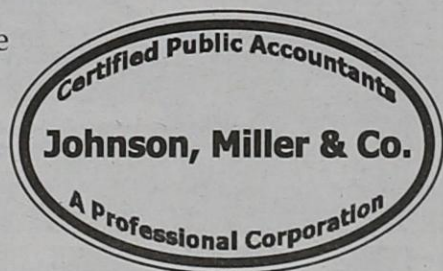
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Steven Albracht of Hart, with his son, Keenan, is presented his first-place award in the Irrigated Class of the 2005 National Corn Yield Contest. Albracht of Hart won by producing 3351.6881 bushels of corn per acre.

Albracht places first in corn contest

By Davie Ann Browder

Castro County News

Steven Albracht of Hart, placed first in the nation in the Irrigated Class at the 2005 National Corn Yield Contest (NCYC), sponsored annually by the National Corn Growers Association (NCGA).

Albracht had a yield of 351.6881 bushels per acre. The hybrid used in the winning field was Pioneer 33B51. This was the second time that Albracht won national. HeOs won the state contest four times.

One of his secrets, he said, "Lots of water."

"This particular block where I grow the corn has lots of manure on it," he said. "Winning is always interesting. We get to travel to wherever the convention is and see the sites.

"Plus I like hearing what other corn growers are doing to raise corn productions."

Albracht was accompanied this year by his wife Sheryl; daughters, Kembra and Kelcy; and son, Kennan.

The 2005 contest had a total of 2,997 entries from 47 states and showcased 561 different hybrids from 71 seed companies.

Eleven contestants, including all three national winners in the AA Non-irrigated and Irrigated classes, recorded yields exceeding 300 bushels per acre. The average yield among all winners in the contest was 288 bushels per acre.

"We were excited to see our growers, who are becoming increasingly efficient and adaptable, try innovative methods," said NCGA president Gerald Tumbleson, a corn grower from Sherburn, Minn. "This contest allows growers to show off their production skills and measure themselves against growers in their area or other growers using the same farming techniques."

The winners were recognized in March at the 2006 Commodity Classic, the combined convention and trade show of NCGA and the American Soybean Association, held in Anaheim, Calif.

The National Corn Growers Association represents more than 33,000 members, 45 affiliated state corn grower and checkoff organizations, and hundreds of thousands of growers who contribute to state checkoff programs.

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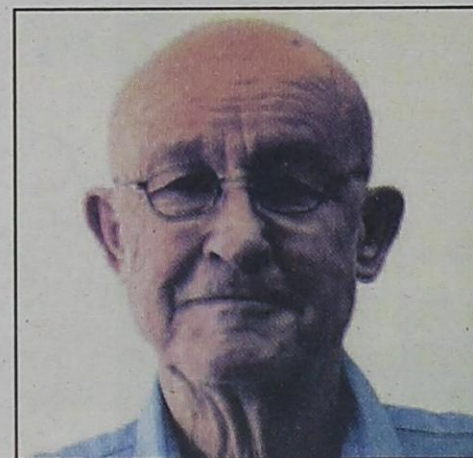
Dimmitt native lends name to corn award

By Davie Ann Browder
Castro County News

The American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) awarded Farm Aid President Willie Nelson with its prestigious Carl King Award at its convention recently.

The award is named for Dimmitt native and corn grower Carl King who founded the organization 19 years ago and served as chairman of the board for many years.

King, now Chairman Emeritus of ACGA, was also president of the Texas Corn Growers Association, an organization predating ACGA, for 27 years. He led corn growers in opposition to GATT, WTO and other poorly negotiated free trade agreements because they were inadequate for U.S. producers. King worked for domestic farm programs to help producers, not global grain traders. His policy approach focused on low-cost farm programs providing grower income from the marketplace, not taxpayers.



Carl King

Though semi-retired, King still attends ACGA meetings and helped present the award.

Keith Bolin, President of ACGA said that Nelson was received the award "for his leadership, courage and stature, for his willingness to face the challenge and take a stand, for his commitment to families on the land and for his unwavering strength to tell the truth."

Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network assists producers with irrigation scheduling decisions

From High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1

Irrigators on the Texas High Plains now have an improved information source to assist them with irrigation scheduling decisions. Debuting in late 2005, the Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network (TXHPET) distributes meteorological data, including evapotranspiration-based crop water use information, to agricultural producers and consultants on a daily basis.

"For the past several years, two separate evapotranspiration networks operated on the North Plains and South Plains of Texas. These networks have been combined to form the Texas High Plains ET Network," says Dr.

Dana Porter, agricultural engineer with the Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Center at Lubbock.

Porter says TXHPET operates 17 meteorological stations in 14 counties and regional coverage is estimated at four million irrigated acres. The stations in the network include Bushland (2), Chillicothe, Dalhart, Dimmitt, Earth, Etter, Farwell, Halfway, Lamesa, Lockney, Lubbock, Morse, Munday, Perryton, Wellington, and White Deer. Currently, meteorological data from these stations are distributed through on-line web access and/or fax to more than 825 data users per day. This equals 300,000 downloads and faxes per year. A listserv function allows interested persons to subscribe or unsubscribe to the network as desired.

A new web site (<http://txhighplainset.tamu.edu>) provides access to a new database with meteorological data from all stations in the combined network for the entire period of record. "With a database query, users can access any data item from any station for their period of interest. In addition, they can select daily or hourly data and have these data retrieved and displayed in several formats. These include a spreadsheet friendly table format, a graphical format, or a text file format for convenient viewing and downloading," says Porter.

How do agricultural producers and consultants use these data? Porter says evapotranspiration is an estimate of crop water use based upon local climate data and other factors, such as crop-specific water use characteristics. The term, reference crop evapotranspiration (ET), is a calculated estimate of

Continued on page 14

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Death Tax vote pending

From Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns

(The Cattlemen's Capitol Concerns (CCC) is a weekly report from Washington, D.C., giving an up-to-date summary of top policy initiatives concerning the cattle industry; direct from the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA)).

A vote on repeal of the devastating Death Tax is scheduled in the Senate before Memorial Day recess. Cattlemen can assist with this effort by contacting Senators and reminding them that the Death Tax forces real farming and ranching out of business when a family member dies.

- Senators will be at home on recess until April 24. This is the perfect time to contact them at their local offices. Are they holding town hall meetings or attending other events in your community? Talk to them about this issue in person.

- Mark your calendar for the "National Cattle Call to Kill the Death Tax" on Tuesday, May 9. NCBA is coordinating a national call-in day for cattle producers to call their Senators to voice support for full and permanent repeal of the Death Tax. Any Senator can be reached via the Capitol Hill switchboard at (202) 224-3121, or individual office numbers can be found at <http://hill.beef.org/pdfs/109thSenateContacts.pdf>. For more information, contact Jenni Beck at jbeck@beef.org or (202) 347-0228. Stay tuned for more information.

- Send letters to Senators by clicking on <http://capwiz.com/beefusa>. Detailed information and analysis on the issue is available as well.

- Producers are asked to submit their story to NCBA and take our 2006 Death Tax Survey at <http://hill.beef.org/tax>. Nothing is more effective or memorable than hearing cattlemen's personal stories about how the Death Tax has affected their family and their businesses.

Vegetable industry overview

All vegetables and melons: In 2005, per capita use of all vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulse crops, and mushrooms fell 1 percent to 444 pounds. Most of this reduction was due to reduced potato production and consumption. In 2006, potatoes (because of the small 2005/06 crop) are expected to once again be the primary force pulling vegetable use down slightly from year-earlier levels.

Fresh vegetables: On a per person basis, consumption of fresh-market vegetables (excluding melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes, pulses, and mushrooms) fell about 1 percent to 148 pounds. Per capita use increased for such crops as spinach, asparagus, squash, pumpkins, and romaine and leaf lettuce and dropped for garlic, bell peppers, snap beans, and onions. In 2006, fresh vegetable disappearance is expected to rise slightly from that of a year earlier.

Melons: Estimated disappearance of all melons totaled 7.7 billion pounds in 2005 - the first year-over-year increase since 2001. On a per capita basis, consumption of melons increased 3 percent from a year earlier to 25.9 pounds, driven largely by a 7-percent gain in watermelon use.

Processing vegetables: Per capita use of processing vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes, and mushrooms) increased 2 percent to 125 pounds in 2005 as a 3-percent increase in use of canning vegetables outweighed a small decline in use of vegetables for freezing and dehydrating. The outlook for 2006 indicates a slight reduction in the use of processing vegetables, with lower use of canning tomatoes and sweet corn outweighing rising use of pickling cucumbers and green beans for canning.

Potatoes: According to preliminary data, per capita disappearance of potatoes declined 4 percent in calendar 2005 to 129 pounds, with both fresh-market and processing potatoes registering declines. A further (albeit smaller) decline in disappearance is expected in 2006 due to the influence of the small 2005 crop on 2006 potato shipments.

Dry edible beans: Per capita disappearance of dry beans increased 5 percent in 2005 to 6.3 pounds - reversing a string of five consecutive annual declines in dry bean consumption. Further improvement in domestic dry bean use is expected in 2006 as both prices and supplies remain relatively steady.

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Continued from page 2
uncertain Plains climate.

"Even with good weather, growers run a risk by leaving open-boll cottons in the field hoping for a killing freeze to condition the plants for harvest," Boman said.

"Terminating irrigation, and applying defoliant/desiccants at the right time and getting your crop out of the field early is a much better option."

Storm-proof varieties are more suitable for uncertain harvest conditions that occur on the High Plains and are more likely to survive damaging weather without considerable lint loss. As a result, Boman advises growers

to check for storm resistance when evaluating varieties for 2006. Most of this year's new varieties were developed specifically for spindle picker harvesters and may lack storm resistance.

"For the past two years, we have had good to excellent moisture conditions across the region," Boman said. "One issue we often encounter is nearly all varieties tend to have less storm resistance when they are under

significant moisture stress. The bottom line is picker varieties may

have higher risk for pre-harvest storm losses when they are moisture stressed. These later maturing varieties may also be prone to low micronaire."

Transgenic varieties are another option, if the cost is competitive with traditional weed or insect control practices. Resistance to verticillium and fusarium wilt, bacterial blight and root-knot nematodes is another valuable trait for growers to consider, he said.

Dr. Terry Wheeler, Experiment Station plant pathologist, conducted several regional verticillium wilt tolerance trials with Roundup Ready varieties in 2005. Lack of seed prevented Roundup Ready Flex varieties from being included in these trials.

"There was substantial variation in verticillium wilt tolerance in Dr. Wheeler's trials," Boman said. "If you have a field with a verticillium wilt problem, planting a resistant current generation Roundup Ready variety may be a good hedge – rather than

trying a Roundup Ready Flex variety with unknown resistance."

No matter how growers evaluate varieties, they shouldn't put all their eggs in one basket.

"Put some diversity in your final variety list," Boman said. "Don't plant the farm to only one variety. Matching varieties and genetics to specific fields helps you spread your production risk. It's simply good management."

Japan confirms 25th BSE case

Japan confirmed its 25th case of BSE this past week. Japanese health ministry officials confirmed April 19 that a five-year, 11-month-old female Holstein born in northern Japan tested positive for BSE. The animal did not enter the food chain. The cow was born in April 2000, before the 2001 implementation of Japan's feed ban.

The United States put its feed ban in place in 1997. To date, the United States has tested 690,118 targeted animals at highest risk for BSE as part of its Enhanced BSE Surveillance

Program. The United States has only seen three cases of BSE, all in animals born prior to the U.S. feed ban.

Canada confirms fifth case of BSE


The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) announced April 16 that confirmatory testing on a cow they tested for BSE indicates the animal was positive for BSE. CFIA acknowledged the animal, a six-year-old registered dairy cow from British Columbia, developed BSE after the implementation of Canada's feed ban, and CFIA says they are "conducting a thorough examination of potential sources of infection, collecting records of feed purchased by and used on the animal's birth farm." U.S. Ag Secretary Mike Johanns said Canadian officials have invited the United States to participate in the epidemiologic investigation.

The underside of horse's hoof is called the frog. The frog peels off several times a year with new growth.

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Continued from page 3

Industry experts say the labs are doing important research that needs to continue.

"They're currently working on developing new contact moisture that will allow gins to measure seed cotton," said Russell Kuhnenn, President of the National Cotton Ginners Association. "It will help us do a better job of processing the cotton brought to us."

Craft says the labs need to stay open, because without research, the future of cotton farming could be destroyed.

"We don't want to see agriculture die on the vine, so if we can keep the research wheels turning, the longevity of agriculture and cotton, as a whole, will survive," he said.

The research facility in Lubbock has been conducting ginning research on the South Plains since 1968. Dr. Upchurch says if it shuts down, not only will ginning research stop, but more than 50 people will lose their jobs.

If you want to help convince Congress and President Bush that the South Plains needs these research facilities, you can contact U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer through his website at randy.house.gov.

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- Pigs, walrus, and light colored horses can be sunburned.
- Chickens that lay brown eggs have red ear lobes. There is a genetic link between the two.
- Twelve or more cows are known as a "flink."
- Other than fruit, honey is the only natural food that is made without destroying any kind of life! What about milk? A cow has to eat grass to produce milk and grass is a living organism.
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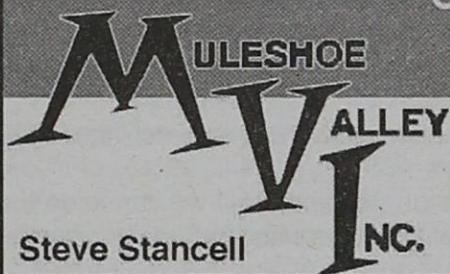
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Continued from page 10

water use by an idealized reference crop, such as a cool season grass. This reference crop ET and crop-specific coefficients can be used to estimate water use for other crops.

"Crop water use estimates used in combination with soil moisture monitoring are especially useful in refining irrigation management. In limited irrigation situations, opportunities for refining irrigation management are often found in the early and late periods of the crop season (when crop water demand is lower) and following rainfall events," says Porter.

Also, the crop ET data are important for optimal irrigation scheduling which complement advanced irrigation technologies such as Low Pressure In Canopy (LPIC) center pivots, Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA) pivots, Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) pivots, and subsurface drip irrigation.

Support for the Texas High Plains Evapotranspiration Network has been provided by the Texas Corn Producers Board, Texas Wheat Producers, National Peanut Board, High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1, North Plains Groundwater Conservation District No. 2, Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District, Texas A&M University Agricultural Research and Extension Centers at Amarillo and Lubbock, the USDA Agricultural Research Service Conservation and Production Research Laboratory, the West Texas A&M University Cooperative Research, Education, and Extension Team Water Group, the Texas Water Development Board, and the Texas Water Resources Institute.

Additional information about the TXHPET Network is available by contacting Dr. Dana Porter at (806) 746-6101 or by e-mail at "<mailto:d-porter@tamu.edu>" d-porter@tamu.edu.

The lost art of canning

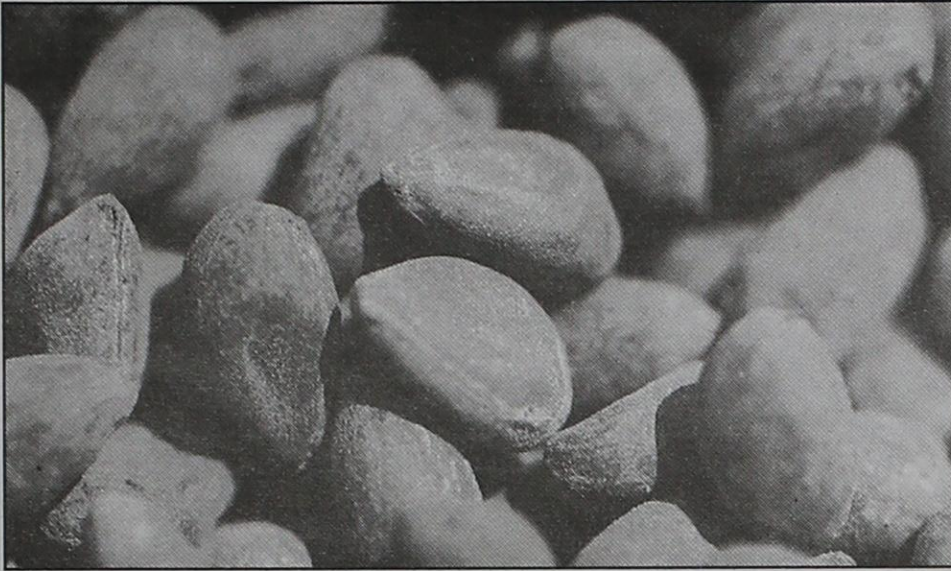
Over the years, our understanding of food safety has grown along with new technologies in home food preservation and the development of new agricultural crop varieties. For these reasons, it is important to follow current guidelines for home canning rather than old recipes. While they might be family favorites, older recipes may not have been properly tested for appropriate heat processing times and temperatures, which can affect the quality and safety of your final product.



Today, we classify foods for canning into two types for proper preservation: high-acid and low-acid foods. Each type requires a different method of heat processing to reach the temperatures necessary to prevent the growth of harmful bacteria and other microorganisms.

Low-acid foods, with pH values higher than 4.6, must be processed at temperatures of 240°F for a specified length of time to destroy harmful bacteria. Because boiling water canners cannot reach this temperature, low-acid foods must be processed using a steam pressure canner. Low-acid foods include vegetables, soups, stews, ragouts, meats, poultry and seafood.

High-acid foods, on the other hand, require heat processing to 212°F reached by using a boiling-water canner for a specified period. Since the pH of these foods is 4.6 or lower, meaning the acidity is high, bacteria and other spoilage organisms do not readily grow. High-acid foods include fruits, fruit juices, jams, jellies and other fruit spreads, tomatoes with added acid, pickles, relishes and chutneys, sauces, vinegars and condiments.



The cotton market: O.A. Cleveland's Newsletter

The cotton market, albeit somewhat early, jumped into the dog days of summer with actually very little new activity on the forefront. The midweek rally was in tandem with quarter-century high gold and silver prices, in combination with a declining dollar that was beneficial to export sales. The late week sell off resulted from a slippage in precious metals prices as cotton fundamentals took a back seat. Large speculative funds established new short positions as the market's technical indicators pointed to the July contract slipping down to the current level of May, about 52 cents. The market will continue to fight the excessive old crop carryover as it attempts to hold old crop prices above the 53/54 cent level. The best news for cotton growers was the unveiling of the 2006 CCC cotton loan schedule.

While weekly export numbers were better than the pace needed to meet USDA projections for the year, export business for the past two days of this week seemed to have all but dried up in the face of the 150 point market rally. The Thursday sell off did not appear to bring buyers back to the market, instead they seemed to prefer to wait and see if funds could push prices another 100 points lower. For the week ending April 13, net sales of upland cotton for export climbed to 181,800 bales. Weekly shipments

registered 374,400 bales. China was the primary buyer as well as the primary destination for shipments.

Grower insistence of receiving premiums for quality is beginning to show modest signs of success. The new CCC loan schedule was a mild surprise. The most notable changes were in premiums for 31-3-35 and higher grades as they were increased 35 to 60 points. The premium of the 31-3-35 description to the base quality of SLM 1-1/16" was increased 35 points, standing now at 465 points. A 21-3-35 will now command a 505-point premium, an increase of 40 points. In the 1-1/8" category, the 31-3-36 premium increased 40 points, climbing to 535 points, while a 21-3-36 premium to the base loan increased 60 points and will be 615 points for the 2006 crop.

The market has regressed to the 52 cent support level that was established back in September. The market is currently discounting the drought problems both in the U.S. and other countries. Until these drought conditions, in the US and around the world cotton belt, are recognized by the market, prices will move between 52 and 54 cents. Additionally, the market will continue see one or two very volatile days each week.

Be sure to look for other valuable information at <http://www.cottonexperts.com>.

CRP sign-up extended

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns has announced an extension of the sign-up deadlines for both the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the special CRP re-enrollment and extension opportunities until April 28

The deadline for both opportunities was originally April 14.

"I encourage all eligible farmers and ranchers to take advantage of the Conservation Reserve Program enrollment options available now through April 28," said Johanns. "Farmers can improve our soil, water, air and wildlife habitat resources by re-enrolling and extending their CRP contracts."

After the CRP general sign-up ends on April 28, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will evaluate offers based on cost and the Environmental Benefits Index (EBI) factors of wildlife, water, soil, air and enduring benefits. Accepted offers will become effective Oct. 1.

In addition, subject to a compliance review, CRP participants with contracts expiring on Sept. 30, 2007, now have until April 28 to apply for special re-enrollment or extension opportunities offered by FSA.

Participants ranking in the EBI's top one-fifth can reenroll their land in a new 10-year contract. For lands with restored wetlands, FSA offered the opportunity for a new 15-year contract.

FSA offered the second one-fifth group the opportunity for a five-year extension; the third one-fifth a four-year extension; the fourth one-fifth a three-year extension; and the remaining participants a two-year extension.

FSA county offices are now beginning to notify 2008-2010 of their re-enrollment and extension participants to respond is June 30.

CRP participants with contracts expiring in opportunities. The deadline for CRP participants voluntarily enroll highly erodible and other fragile cropland in CRP through long-term contracts of 10 to 15 years.

On the enrolled land, participants plant grasses, trees and other vegetation. In exchange, participants receive annual rental payments and a payment of up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing conservation covers.

For more information on CRP, contact your local FSA office or visit the website www.fsa.usda.gov/da/p/cepd/crp.htm.

Boll weevil assessment rate set

The Texas Department of Agriculture has established the 2006 assessment rate, due date and discount date for the Northwest Plains zone of the boll weevil eradication program.

The assessment for 2006 in the NWP — which includes Castro, Deaf Smith, Bailey, Lamb and Parmer counties — is \$3.50 per dayland acre and \$7 per irrigated land acre.

The commissioner approved the reduction in the assessment based on the recommendation of the zone's grower steering committee and the foundation board of directors.

Growers with failed acres are eligible to receive a credit on those acres destroyed and not harvested.

Qualifying failed acres must remain free of all hostable cotton until a killing freeze to receive the credit.

Producers must certify failed acres with FSA and provide documentation to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

Assessment notices will be mailed by Aug. 18 and payment is due Sept. 29. Growers who pay by Sept. 14 are eligible to receive a two percent discount on their assessment.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a nonprofit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from the state in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

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