

The Castro County News

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, December 7, 2000

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18 pages plus supplements



76th year—No. 36



THE REASON FOR THE SEASON—A nativity scene is the central focus of holiday decorations at Nazareth Family Park. The scene, flanked by hay bales, features baby Jesus along with Mary and Joseph. Rabbits and squirrels complete the setting.

The nativity scene, along with holiday lights and decorations, was unveiled recently as residents gathered to welcome the holiday season. Santa also stopped by to visit with children.

Photo by Joyce Nelson

Pheasant expected to be plentiful as hunters take aim on Saturday

Hunters who flock to the Texas Panhandle in December each year are usually after the colorful but wily ring-necked pheasant, and this weekend, those marksmen hope to bag their limit as pheasant season officially opens in the area.

Three organized hunts are being planned by the Lions Clubs in Nazareth, Hart and Easter; and several organizations are planning benefit meals to coincide with opening weekend.

Pheasant season officially begins Saturday morning and will continue through Dec. 24. Daily bag limit is three rooster pheasants and the possession limit is six roosters. One foot or all the feathers must remain attached to the bird until it reaches either the possessor's permanent residence or a cold storage/processing facility.

Danny Swepston with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Service said the pheasant population should be "fair" this season, and he expects hunters will have success.

According to Swepston, counts taken by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept., turned up good bird numbers in the northern counties of the Texas Panhandle. A good number of birds also were spotted east of Hereford and southeast of Canyon in farmland.

"I think the South Plains will be fair and the North Plains are going to be pretty decent," Swepston said in an interview with Lee Leschner of the *Amarillo Globe-News*.

"I don't think it's going to be like some of the glory days of the 1970s and 1980s, but certainly where they have cover it's going to be worth hunting."

A wet spring produced a good hatch of young pheasants, and thousands of acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land and other cover protected the young birds through the summer and fall.

"The prospects look really good this year," said David Boudens of the Nazareth Lions Club. "I've talked to a lot of people in the area who say

there are a lot more birds out there than there were last year."

Tony Leibel with the Hart Lions Club also said bird populations look promising.

"I think it's probably like last year—maybe a little better. Hunting should be pretty fair," said Leibel.

While the bird populations may be a little better than a year ago, the weather probably won't be.

Forecasts for the weekend call for cold temperatures with a chance of snow. Last year, hunters battled frigid weather and muddy fields as they searched out their prey.

Organized Hunts

The Hart, Nazareth and Easter Lions Clubs in Castro County each sponsor organized hunts on opening weekend and this year's hunts are full.

"We're expecting about 135 hunters on opening weekend," said Leibel.

The majority of hunters registered

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1:1

By Don Nelson

I guess you know that Katherine Harris is a lame-duck secretary of state.

Under Florida's sunset laws, her job was in the process of being phased out at the time of the presidential election.

Reportedly, that didn't matter to Harris, a multi-million-heiress who showed up for work in \$1,000 suits. It's not as if she needed the job.

She had been telling friends that she wanted to be part of a Republican administration, and that she would really, really like to be the ambassador to a European country for a change of pace.

Not only did Florida's comely election supervisor make a big-big donation to Bush's campaign; she served as his Florida co-chairman.

So now she may get her wish. In the wake of the Florida election, if Bush becomes president, Harris

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New 9-1-1 addresses will be assigned to rural areas

Rural residents in the area will soon be assigned new "physical" addresses under the 9-1-1 system.

The Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network will be notifying rural residents in Castro, Swisher, Briscoe and Hall County of their new 9-1-1 or physical addresses, this week.

The project involves assigning city-type addresses consisting of street names and numbers to homes and businesses in rural areas.

Citizens living within an incorporated area are not affected by this project. Castro County residents can expect to receive 9-1-1 addresses before the first of the year.

The project is a combined effort of the County Commissioners court, Sheriff's Department and the Regional 9-1-1 network of the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission.

These agencies share the common goal of providing the best 9-1-1 services for the rural citizens in counties.

Community Greeting deadlines set Monday

Three Castro County communities are sponsoring Christmas greeting lists as fund raisers to benefit various projects.

Those participating are asked to donate what it would cost to send season's greetings to local friends, and their names will be listed in the community greeting ads that will be published in the Christmas issue of the *Castro County News*.

Names must be turned in by Monday.

The Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary in Dimmitt is accepting donations for Operation Christmas Greeting, which helps the group buy special items for the hospital each

year. Any auxiliary member can accept donations, or you may call Mary Edna Hendrix at 647-2611 or Lequetta West at 647-3623. Also, donations may be made at First United Bank in Dimmitt.

The Hart greetings will benefit the Hart Cemetery Fund. Donations may be made by calling Sara Hart at 938-2470 or they may be given at Hale County State Bank in Hart.

In Nazareth, people may sign up by calling Vera Ramaekers at 945-2598 or donations may be brought by Holy Family Catholic Church. The funds will be used to benefit charities and activities of the church.

(Continued on Page 8)

Letter from US Dept. of Education:

HISD response to racial comments was 'reasonable, timely, effective'

The US Dept. of Education, in its Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has determined that there are no current allegations appropriate for further complaint resolution against the Hart Independent School District for the district's treatment of Hart ag teacher Jim Tucker, who was reprimanded in June for racial comments.

In an Oct. 30 letter to Hart Superintendent Dr. Martin Earley, John F. Stephens, compliance team leader for the OCR, wrote that, "OCR's interviews with school officials and documentation reviewed revealed that the HISD took responsive action which was reasonable, timely and effective. ... OCR is closing this case as of the date of this letter."

At a July 17 school board meeting, Rick Dovalina, president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), said he would request an investigation by the US Dept. of Justice and the US Dept. of Education into the district's handling of the matter.

Dovalina had pressed the school board for termination of Tucker's contract, saying it would be "the right thing to do."

"We have taken the action that we felt like we could," school board president Harold Bob Bennett told Dovalina at that meeting. "We checked with our lawyers. We checked with Austin."

At the conclusion of the meeting during a budget workshop, Earley told the board he was comfortable with the district's position in the matter and said he did not feel the board would need to budget money to cover any cost to the district due to the investigation.

The letter from OCR Team Leader Stephens said that "information reviewed by OCR revealed that the district has not received any subsequent complaints against the alleged perpetrator."

In making a determination regarding this complaint, OCR reviewed pertinent information provided by the complainant, the HISD and other witnesses, according to the letter.

The letter stated that OCR found no other information indicating that school officials knew of the racial remark incident prior to a May 17 meeting, when a teacher told school officials that Tucker had made the remark to her.

The letter stated that information submitted by the HISD shows that

school officials met with Tucker on June 13 to address incidents involving his "lack of professionalism," and he was given a formal letter of reprimand the following day, along with a plan for evaluations every three months for continued employment. On June 15, the HISD placed him under a professional growth plan for the 2000-2001 school year, addressing evaluation of behaviors with respect to treating students in a fair manner and refraining from racial jokes and profanity.

The letter also took note that in

(Continued on Page 8)

Airport fees raised for on-premises users

The Dimmitt City Council voted Monday night to raise the fees paid by businesses that have on-premises use of the city airport.

City Manager Don Sheffy said that on-premise users have been paying a yearly fee of \$200 to \$750, depending on the size of facility they have, in addition to any hangar rental fees. He suggested that the city add a \$50 per month usage fee.

Sheffy also suggested that the city charge a \$50 per month fee to businesses who come in for only two to three months a year to use the airport.

"The city has been paying for the mowing and the lights and the beacon and the expenses are pretty good out there," Sheffy said. He added that with the capital improvements that are underway, he feels "those using it should pay a little more."

In another matter, the council voted to allow Sheffy and other city

staff to make the final selection of a wood chipper to be purchased with grant money received by the city. Sheffy said the staff is looking at safety and durability factors, in addition to price.

The council voted to purchase a pickup from Western Chevrolet of Friona for \$14,481.52, which was the low bid received. Other bids were received from Gene Messer Ford, Western Ford and Stevens Five Star Chevrolet. The vehicle will be used by Sheffy.

In another matter, the council voted to accept the annual audit report as presented by Henry Ramaekers of Brown, Graham & Co.

Ramaekers said the audit report is "unqualified," meaning there were no problems cited.

"Things look good financially and bookkeeping wise," Ramaekers told the council.

Record-setting Eysesa Special prevails in Texas Classic Futurity

The nation's No. 1-ranked 2-year-old quarterhorse, *Eysesa Special*, co-owned by Bud Hill of Dimmitt, has given his owners another reason to celebrate.

Eysesa Special, which captured the All-American Futurity championship at Ruidoso Downs on Labor Day, just won the Texas Classic Futurity in Grand Prairie. He overcame a problem early in the race, then blazed past the field to edge *Pivotal Decision* at the wire and claim the \$364,524 purse.

Hill co-owns *Eysesa Special* with Jim Pitts of Burkburnett and Terry Bell of Lawton, Okla. The group purchased the horse for \$15,000 last year. With the Texas Classic win, the gray colt has earned \$1,373,519 to date—tops among all American quarter horses this year.

Eysesa Special beat *Pivotal Decision* by a neck in a renewal of the \$911,311 Texas Classic Futurity on Nov. 25 at Lone Star Park in Grand Prairie.

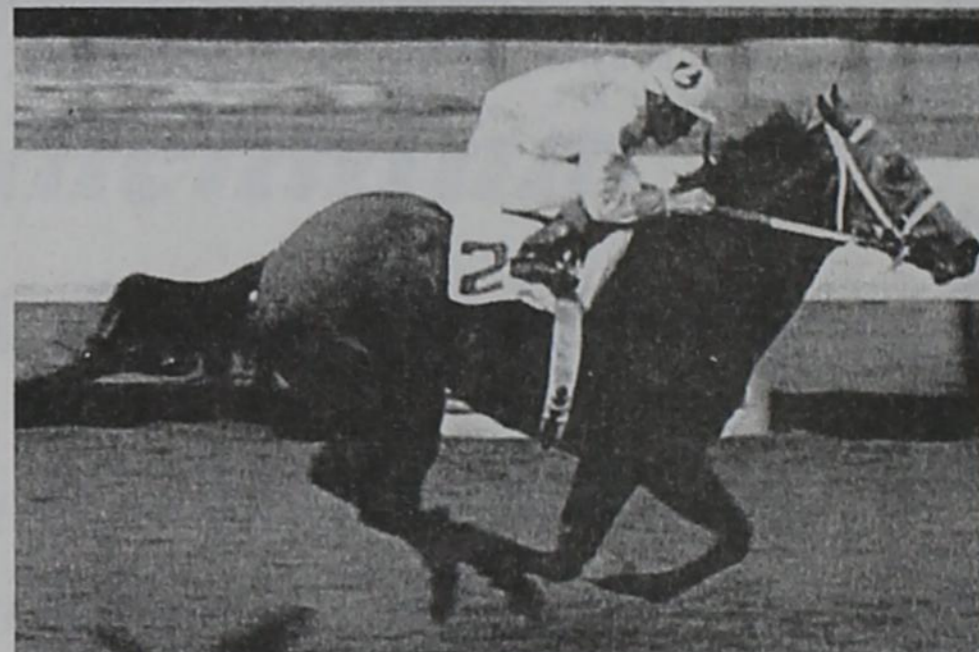
The colt, trained by Jack Brooks and ridden by Jacky Martin, set another race record in Grand Prairie, running the 400 yards in 19.48 seconds, which shattered the previous mark (set by *My Love Wont Wait* on Oct. 25, 1997 and *Pack of Memories* on Oct. 16, 1999) by 15-hundredths of a second.

"He was lucky to win this one," Hill said. "He's quite a horse."

The victory at Lone Star Park was the fifth win out of six starts for *Eysesa Special*, a gray colt by *Mr. Eye Opener* out of the *Special Effort* mare *Miss O Toole*.

Eysesa Special "rallied courageously" for the win in 19.48 seconds. *Pivotal Decision*, who had the fastest qualifying time, finished second in 19:51, a nose in front of *Dashin Bye* (19:52). The rest of the field finished as follows: *Eyesafash*, fourth; *Baby Runaway*, fifth; *Leading Diva*, sixth; *Hemps Classic Dash*, seventh; *Feature Mr Jess*, eighth; *Streakin Down Chic*, ninth; and *Dust Em Dusty*, 10th.

"He broke good the first jump (from the starting gate) and then his back foot slipped a little bit," said Martin. "When he slipped, *Pivotal Decision* probably got a length in



EYESA SPECIAL WINS TEXAS CLASSIC FUTURITY
... Nation's top-ranked 2-year-old sets new race record

front of me or maybe even more. *Dashin Bye* probably had me a good half (length) to three-quarters. He really had to bear down the last 50 yards before he got by them. I mean, he really ran big and ran hard. I thought he was going to win easier than he did, but it took a long time for him to get by them because they weren't coming back to him.

"This win is really special to me," Martin said. "This is one of the better 2-year-olds I've ever ridden. Ninety-nine percent of them would've got beat tonight, but for him to bear down and run like he did, he's a great horse."

Eysesa Special won the prestigious \$2.2 million All-American Futurity on Sept. 4 at Ruidoso Downs, speeding 440 yards in a record time of 21.097 seconds. His time—the best in the 42-year history of the All-American Futurity—topped times posted by past winners like *Easy Jet*, *Timeto Thinkrich*, *Moon Lark*, *Pie in the Sky*, *Special Effort*, *Eastex* and *Winalota Cash*.

But after that race, *Eysesa Special* required a little special care. The colt was suffering from a problem with his left front foot.

Brooks patiently trained the colt in glue-on shoes, and didn't use regular shoes until the Texas Clas-

sic Futurity Trials in November.

"This might have been his best race—better than the All-American," Brooks said. "You know, I always point 'em to the All-American, but considering what we went through with him and his foot, this was something."

"In all my years, I've never seen a field this tough—and the field lived up to all the hype. He ran his heart out. He was a little dull in the trial, but he came back sharp for this one. He didn't break all that good, so for him to do what he did was something special against those kind."

The combined field entered the race with 38 victories and more than \$2 million in earnings. *Eysesa Special* solidified his No. 1 ranking among 2-year-olds with the win. *Pivotal Decision* was ranked No. 3 and *Feature Mr Jess*, the Rainbow Futurity winner, was ranked fourth.

What's up next for *Eysesa Special*?

A well-deserved rest, Hill said. Brooks says he will rest *Eysesa Special* for the rest of the year, then will begin a comeback next spring.

"He'll come back as a 3-year-old," Brooks said. "I'll probably start him back at Remington Park (in Oklahoma City), take him to Ruidoso and then back here again to Lone Star Park next fall."

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday ...	51	20	
Friday	70	24	
Saturday	47	19	
Sunday	35	19	
Monday	41	28	
Tuesday	54	16	
Wednesday ..	53	19	

November Moisture 0.84
December Moisture 0.00
2000 Moisture 14.17

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

Hospital Q&As—3

How is the staff's morale?

This is the third in a three-part series of questions and answers from the recent "town hall" meetings conducted by the hospital board in Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth.

Those responding to questions included:

JOE SLOAN, chief executive officer of the Castro County Hospital District.

HENRY RAMAEKERS, hospital board chairman.

JERRY ANNEN, hospital board member.

TRUDY JACKSON, R.N., director of nurses.

Q. Are any direct-care employees (doctors, nurses, technicians) working overtime because of personnel shortage?

SLOAN: Doctors, no. Nurses, I can't say that.

RAMAEKERS: "That is one of the areas where department heads are trying to cut expenses—overtime. The other side of it is that we have folks there to deliver the service, so if we have to pay it, we have to pay it."

Q. Are our doctors happy here?

RAMAEKERS: "Well, Dr. Hardee has signed a four-year contract; Dr. Joplin has got a four-year contract; Dr. McGrorey is on a one-year contract, but we feel like he's here permanently; and Dr. Bailey is leaving. She's moving north to be closer to her family."

SLOAN: "Dr. Bailey will be replaced."

Q. Are our nurses happy?

TRUDY JACKSON: Basically, I think they're happy. We've lost several who have moved out of the community. I think a lot of nurses have been wearing a lot of hats in the facility, and we're trying to solve that problem. Overtime is sometimes a problem."

SLOAN: "In the hospital business, you make your money normally in a three- or four-month period—December, January, February and March. The rest of the time you live real close. We had a real slow summer, but then, all of a sudden in October, it just went crazy."

RAMAEKERS: "One of the problems we have on the pay side is that we have a couple of nurses, I guess, who have decided that they can fly to Dallas some weekends and make as much money, or drive to Lubbock and make as much money or more. Some of the problem there has to do with the inequity of Medicare, where Medicare reimburses rural hospitals on a pay index that's 74% of what they reimburse metropolitan hospitals."

SLOAN: "One of the things we've been working on—I was in Austin about this last week—is to try to figure out a way to get an R.N. school here and let the federal gov-

ernment subsidize it so that people who have kids who would like to go to school too can do it here at home.

"We had a meeting with all the R.N.s recently and I asked them, 'What do we need to do?' 'How can we change things?' Some of them had some good ideas, and we're doing some of them. I think that as long as they're heard, and have some insight and know that we're trying to make some changes that will improve their situation, they'll be happier."

JERRY ANNEN: "Another thing that we're trying to do is to get local nurses who are going to live here anyway, and help them with their school tuition, and in return for that they agree to work for our hospital district for a certain amount of time under contract."

Q. Has any Castro County Hospital District money been used for gifts, acknowledgements, cards, flowers, or donations to district employees, their relations, or friends?

SLOAN: Yes. You have a baby, you have a death, you have a birthday; on Nurses' Day, Doctors' Day—those are things where we honor different people at different times, and it costs maybe \$300 or \$500 a year.

RAMAEKERS: We've talked here about morale—are the nurses happy, are the doctors happy. I think that it's important to say "thanks" to our employees. I know that we as a board don't say it often enough. The fact is that whatever this costs over the years, as long as it's not anything other than an acknowledgement or a thank-you, it probably pays us to do it.

Q. What procedures or services have been added in order to justify the need for facilities, employees and billing, but do not contribute to the quality of health care?

RAMAEKERS: I will say, in my opinion, not one—period. Now, someone else might have a different opinion. Again, we could sit around and hash this stuff over very

thoroughly. That's not to say that everything that we do works, but it isn't added just to create a need for facilities or employees or billing.

SLOAN: Another thing: Before I can add a service, I have to cost-justify it to these five people (the board members).

Q. Would the hospital district be better served, and nursing staff turnover be lessened, by letting nurses work a few hours overtime (if needed) instead of hiring additional full-time nurses?

SLOAN: That's one of the things we've talked about at a staff meeting and I think two nurses out of the whole bunch decided to go hourly and work overtime. But to a person, they are tired, they wanted help, and we're trying to hire some nurses. We've lost six R.N.s in the last year, but you'll have that kind of turnover anywhere. But the R.N.s to a person said they wanted additional help, so we're trying to get it.

Neal to give program at Muleshoe

Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal will present a program on stress-free holidays when the Moonlight Extension Education Club sponsors a holiday program in Muleshoe on Saturday.

The Moonlight Extension Club also is planning a holiday arts and crafts bazaar Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Bailey County Civic Center.

Neal's program will begin at 11 p.m. at the Bailey County Civic Center, 2200 West American Blvd., in Muleshoe. Admission is free.

Gail Gladden with the Bailey County Extension Service will present a program on "Master Mixes" at 2 p.m., following Neal's presentation.

Exemption issued for Tilt on sorghum

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced recently that the Texas Dept. of Agriculture has been granted approval by the US Environmental Protection Agency to issue a Section 18 specific exemption to use Tilt fungicide (propiconazole) to control sorghum ergot on grain sorghum. The specific exemption allows

the use of Tilt until Dec. 31, 2001.

The specific exemption for Tilt, manufactured by Novartis, applies to all grain sorghum-producing counties in Texas. All applicable directions, restrictions and precautions on the EPA registered product label for Tilt fungicide, as well as restrictions within the EPA approval notice, must be followed.

Other restrictions include:

- Applications should be made only by certified applicators, by licensed applicators or by persons under the direct supervision of licensed applicators. Applicators must have a copy of the Section 18 exemption before making any applications.

- Tilt may be applied at the rate of 4 fluid ounces (0.113 lb.a.i.) per acre in a minimum of 15 gallons of water per acre when ground application equipment is used or in a minimum of 5 gallons of water (10 gallons recommended) per acre when aerial application equipment is used.

- Tilt applications must not exceed 12 fluid ounces (0.3375 lb.a.i.) per acre per season to control both northern leaf blight and sorghum ergot.

- Tilt should not be applied within 21 days prior to harvest.

- Crops intended for food, grazing or any component of animal feed or bedding should not be planted within 105 days of Tilt application, unless the crop appears on the product label.

- Tilt may be used on a maximum of 270,000 acres of grain sorghum in Texas.

For more information, contact your county Texas Agricultural Extension Office or TDA at 512-463-7407. A copy of the EPA Approval Notice is available on TDA's web page at: www.agr.state.tx.us/pesticide/exemptions/tilt01.htm.

Letter

Lions offer 'thanks' for glasses donations

Dear Editor:

At this time of Thanksgiving, as a Lions Club member of the Texas Panhandle, I want to thank everyone who has donated their used eyeglasses to the Lions Eyeglass Program.

This is a continuous project and has provided improved vision for thousands of needy people in the United States and all over the world.

Another important program that the Lions have in the Panhandle is the Lions Eye Bank of District 2-TI. We have provided corneas for our local doctors for the past 30 years.

Eye donations to the Lions are the

greatest gift. If you are interested in donating your eyes, please tell a family member or loved one. They will see that your gift of sight is fulfilled. Your gift will be honored by our Lions Eye Bank and we will see that everything possible will be done to provide better vision for a needy person. This is our way to serve.

Thank you once again. Without the help of the gracious people of the Texas Panhandle and your city, we would not be where we are today.

FROSTY HICKERSON
Lions Eye Bank District 2-TI President

The Castro County News

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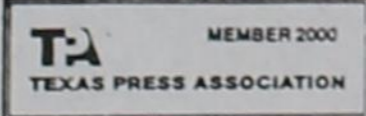


Table with 2 columns: Category and Date/Time. Includes Deadlines, Advertising, and Community Correspondence.

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

Last Puzzle Solution: A grid with letters and numbers for a crossword puzzle solution.



All-Tournament

Three Dimmitt Bobcats were named to the Division I All-Tournament Team at the Plainview Lions Pioneer Classic Saturday. From left are junior wing Dee Norman, junior guard Austin Sherman and senior wing Daniel Proffitt. Sherman was named the Most

Valuable Player in the small-school division. In the Bobcats' tournament victories over Plainview, Paducah and Hale Center, Norman had 41 points and 22 rebounds, Sherman had 60 points and 11 rebounds and Proffitt had 39 points and 13 rebounds.

Photo by Wayne Proffitt

Scoreboard

Scoreboard table with columns for PIONEER CLASSIC, RANDALL TOURNAMENT, PLAINVIEW TOURNAMENT, and FRIONA INVITATIONAL. Includes scores for various teams like Bobcats 63, Plainview 53, etc.

TEXAS CROSSWORD puzzle by Charley & Guy Orbison. Includes clues for Across and Down words.

On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

Bobbie Hill of Hart and Charlie Wohlgemuth took an extended cruise and they report that they had a wonderful time.

First they flew to Barcelona, Spain. They spent a few days there and saw beautiful cathedrals and found the Barcelona Olympic Village very interesting.

They boarded the *Grand Princess*, which is the largest ship in the Princess Line's fleet, in Barcelona. Sailing at night, the ship docked at Monaco and they saw the sights there. Then it was on to Nice and Cannes in France, making tours of these beautiful old cities before sailing on to Florence and Pisa, Italy.

Bobbie related that Florence was just beautiful and Pisa is very small—about the only thing to see there is the Leaning Tower.

In Rome, it was raining. The tourists who braved the rain were literally soaked. The last stop was Lisbon, Portugal.

Then it was a trip of several days over the Atlantic to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Being aboard the beautiful ocean liner was one of the highlights of the trip. Aboard the ship there were musicals and comedy shows, a beautiful lounge, casino, and buffets of foods in many dining rooms. The ship boasted three swimming pools, spas, exercise rooms and constant entertainment.

The Richard Polanskys and Jessica of Austin were guests of Robert and Norma Smith during the Thanksgiving holidays. They were in Amarillo with John and Kelli Smith and their children, Kynzee, Courtney and Grayson, on Thanksgiving Day.

In case you've forgotten or didn't know, John Robert is the boys' head basketball coach at Amarillo High School.

Shot clinic will be held

The Texas Dept. of Health (TDH) will conduct a children's immunization clinic today (Thursday) from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Dimmitt City Hall.

The immunization clinic will offer protection against several childhood diseases.

Vaccines offered will give protection against polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, mumps, rubella, HIB (haemophilus influenza type B) and varicella (chicken pox).

The Texas Dept. of Health is charging money to help with the cost of keeping the clinic open. The amount of money charged will be based on family income and size and the ability to pay. Also, the varicella vaccine is covered by Medicaid. Those who are should bring their card to the clinic.

Cheerleaders set food drive

The Nazareth Cheerleaders are sponsoring a Christmas Food Drive for the month of December.

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

Cans may be brought to the school, where barrels will be set up by the door to the offices of the principal and the superintendent. Also, those wanting to contribute may call the school at 945-2231 and someone will come by and pick up donations.

Quilt, craft exhibitions set in Lubbock

The Buddy Holly Center at 1801 Ave G. in Lubbock is hosting two special exhibits for the month of December.

Y2Klay is an exhibition of contemporary ceramic work created in celebration of the new millennium.

Also featured is Full Deck Quilts, a traveling exhibition of 54 fine-art quilts representing a full deck of cards. It combines the rich tradition of quilting and the universal appeal of playing cards to create a unique art collection.

The quilt exhibit is full of puns and portraits, for example the jack of diamonds is Jackie Robinson on a baseball diamond.

Both exhibits are scheduled to remain in Lubbock through Jan. 6.

Speaking of basketball, V.C. and I had a very exciting afternoon and evening at the Plainview Lions Pioneer boys tournament on Saturday. First, we were rooting for the Dimmitt Bobcats. The Bobcats, good ball-handlers and team that they are, beat Hale Center quite soundly. I'm sure you can read the details in the *Castro County News* sport pages, but I want to share my version of a fun time.

The final score was Hale Center, 48, and Dimmitt, 70. Daniel Proffitt had five three-pointers that made him high-point player for the Bobcats and placed him along with Bobcat Micheal Norman on the All-tournament Team.

Bobcat Austin Sherman, son of Eddie and Ola Fay Sherman, startled his opponents with finesse, brains and hard work to help his team become the round robin winners of the AAA Class Championship. Austin was selected as the Division II Most Valuable Player as a reward for his hard work.

It was good to see and visit some of the loyal fans there and the parents of the Bobcats. Some of them included the Wayne Proffitts, the Eddie Shermans, Bob Murdock, Wesley Harkins, David Schaeffer, and many of Matthew Wright's family members.

After the Bobcat game, we saw the Wayland Pioneers vs. Highland of Las Vegas, N.M. Once again, we were cheering for the winners as the Pioneers, not quite as gracefully as our Bobcats played, won a hard-fought game.

Between the Wayland University game and the Hereford Whiteface vs. Plainview game, we took a break. As we were having our hands stamped so we could come back into the gym for the last game of the tournament, this lovely young woman at the Lions' Club ticket table said, "I'm glad you're coming back. Have you enjoyed the games?"

It was Leslie Keaton Boyd, niece of Cheryl Pybus and daughter of Gaye Keaton, formerly of Dimmitt. Leslie had been in our sixth grade Sunday School class here in Dimmitt. She had moved to Canyon with her family, graduated from Canyon High School, and will receive her master's degree from West Texas A&M University in May.

Leslie is the mother of Brent, 4, who attends pre-school at the Calico Caboose with his cousin, Quinten, 3, the grandson of Doug and Cheryl Pybus of Dimmitt.

Local school seeks box tops

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

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

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

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

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

Leslie is the director of student services at Wayland Baptist University. This means that she is directly involved with the college students in their activities of fun, Bible study, and ministry. She also is a member of the Plainview Lions Club. She was selling tickets at the tournament, and that is how we managed this delightful encounter with a former Dimmitt resident.

The last game at the Pioneer tournament was Hereford vs. Plainview. We were still on the visitors' side, this time cheering for the Herd. The Hodges—Cody and Slade of football fame—were chosen all-tournament, as the Whitefaces won the AAAA championship.

Chase and Beth Beecher McLendon of Dallas were having dinner during the holidays at a local restaurant with Beth's mother and Chase's grandmother, Kate Beecher. Chase, a high school senior, was in these parts looking at the campuses of Texas Tech and West Texas A&M University. He had been very favorably impressed. We, along with Kate, hope he chooses a school nearby to further his education.

Beth's oldest son, Trent, attends Old Miss in Oxford, Miss.

Martha Jo Hyman called to give

Nazareth with Uirgie Gerber, 945-2669

Our sympathy to the family of Florene Brockman who died Saturday at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt after an extended illness. Funeral services were set Tuesday morning in Holy Family Church with Rev. Peter Otto officiating.

Hospice Care of Dimmitt hosted "Surviving the Holidays After the Loss of a Loved One" Sunday afternoon at the First Baptist Church Fellowship room. The speaker was Roy Puentes, licensed Social Worker and hospice volunteer. He was a very gifted speaker and a very caring person, as are Vicky Buckley, hospice director, and those who work with her. Dr. Leon Joplin and some of his group sang several very appropriate hymns.

The Christian Mothers held their annual Christmas party at the Community Hall. After dinner, Crystal Backus was initiated as a new member by Rev. Peter Otto and President Evelyn Albracht. Entertainment was provided by Dr. Joplin and several of his group, and it was enjoyed by everyone.

We were happy to have several members join us for the evening from Amarillo—Artie Huseman, Bert Huseman, Anne Kern and Irene Robel.

Funds from the "Mite Box" were given to the Kevin Acker family.

The Catholic Daughters held their annual Christmas party Wednesday evening. Members brought their favorite home-made Christmas cookies and candy to exchange with members.

Congratulations to Trevor and Tracie Peterson of Hart on the birth of a girl, Tobie Jean, on Dec. 1 in a Lubbock hospital. She has one sister, Tylar. Grandparents are Dixie and Jerry Peterson of Hart, and Mackie and Barbara Ross and great-grandmother Jean Ross of Canadian.

Carson Gerber and Craig Birkenfeld won third place as they competed in novice debate Saturday in Amarillo at the Tascosa High School tournament. Their debate

me an update on things she was a part of over the weekend. Martha Jo went by the Larry Morris home to see Jean Morris's sister, Kay Hilburn Neal of Lorenzo, and Kay's daughter-in-law, Katy, and two grandchildren, Clay and Hannah of Morton. Katy's husband, Jeff Neal, is a basketball coach at Morton.

Martha Jo and daughters, Jo Settles and Leigh Durbin, their husbands Bill and Curtis, children Aubrey, Riley and Sydney, along with Kay Kellar, had Sunday lunch at the Hereford Country Club. They saw the Jim Bakers there with their daughter Tori Baker and her friend, Matt Clayton of Amarillo. Their very special guest was Jim's mother, Alberta Baker of Birmingham, Ala.

About the middle of November, Jay Stone called to ask how long he should expect to feed the hungry, lingering hummingbird that was still coming to his feeders to eat. My answer was that we hadn't seen one at our feeder since Oct. 17.

While writing this column, I called him to see when his hummingbird left. His answer was, "He is still here. I take the feeders in the house every night so they won't freeze, and hang them back out every morning. The little "pea-brained" bird is on the feeder having breakfast before I can

get back in the house!"

Cindy Adams reports that they are still having those pretty yellow finch and are seeing lots of blue jays. The prettiest bird Cindy said she has ever seen is a painted bunting.

Because we've been busy doing other things we're late getting our feeders out this winter, but here is a

list of some of the birds we've seen in the past year: red-breasted robins, a red cardinal, Oregon junco, towhees, cedar wax, California thrasher, bridled titmouse, and a pyrrhuloxia. We've had other critters, too—a snake, the neighbor's cats, and a skunk (We called 911 on that one!).

Christmas music programs slated

The Richardson Elementary School second grade classes will perform Christmas programs for residents at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home and at the school.

The students were slated to sing at the nursing home on Wednesday afternoon.

The second performance is slated for next Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. at Richardson Elementary School. The show will last about 20 minutes according to director Ruby Teaschner.

The public is invited to attend.

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8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
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Tickets: \$4 in advance or \$5 at the door
Tickets will go on sale Dec. 4

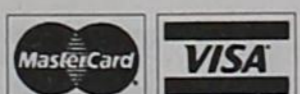
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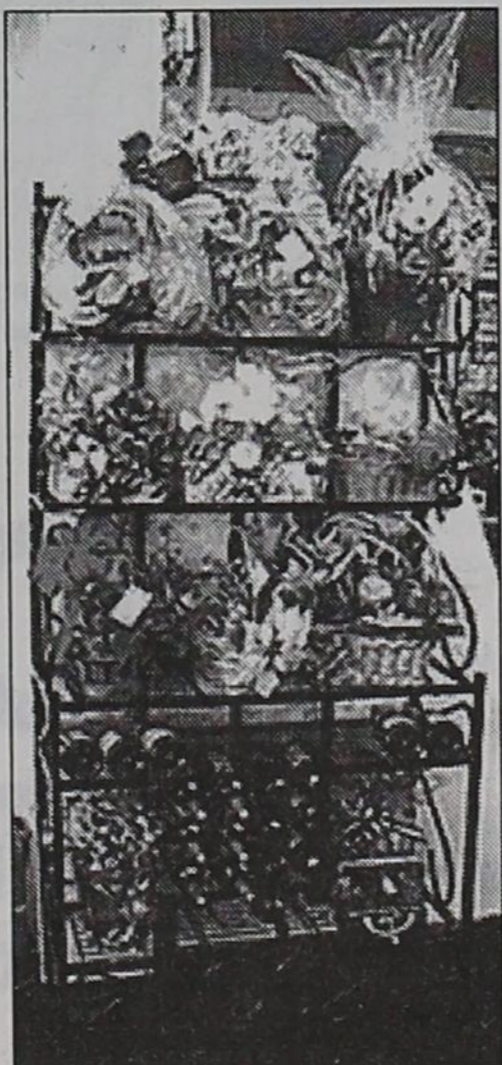
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People



Father Jerry Stein joins delegation in peacemaking journey to Mexico

Father Jerry Stein of Nazareth was part of a five-member Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation which recently traveled to San Cristobal, Mexico, to investigate the conditions stemming from a near seven year struggle.

Christian Peacemaker Teams has offices in Chicago, Ill., and Toronto, Canada, and it is a program of churches committed to peace in the US and Canada. The group seeks to transform violent and militarized situations around the world through the use of spiritually-based and disciplined teams of people.

Through interviews with local and international organizations, the delegation sought insight into the global economic and political forces that

impact this struggle in Mexico.

Father Stein was joined on the tour by Yuan Chia-Chun of Taipei, Taiwan, Matt Gynn of Richmond, Ind., Duane Schmidt of Paoli, IN, and Sherry Schmidt of Paoli.

On a tour of an indigenous medical museum, delegation members discovered that the use of plants by traditional Mayan healers is jeopardized by international pharmaceutical companies hoping to profit from local plants. Such bio-piracy consists of patenting plant substances. The patent then restricts the local use of foodstuffs and widely used medicinal herbs.

In a meeting with members of a local coffee growers' cooperative, the delegation learned the disparity

between world market coffee prices and the prices growers need to make a living wage.

World markets pay growers only 40¢ to 50¢ per pound, while fair trade markets provide about \$1.20 per pound directly to the grower.

"What I pay for a pound of coffee matters," Sherry Schmidt said. "What I do with my pocketbook makes a big difference to these farmers living so close to the bottom. When I buy products from fair trade companies, which pay the farmer a living wage, I fight poverty in that part of the world."

Although they may seem unrelated, genetic patenting and coffee prices both contribute to the atmosphere of low-intensity warfare waged by the Mexican government against the people here, in which traditional economic, political and social systems are undermined.

The use of low-intensity warfare in Mexico has been directly linked to training received by Mexican military officers at the US Army School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Ga.

Low-intensity warfare includes the use of paramilitary groups to do the government's dirty work, dividing social and religious organizations to tear the social fabric, and placing military bases in and around ingenious communities in order to intimidate and wear away at local morale.

One inspiring and viable response to this militarized atmosphere comes from the Abejas, a group of about 4,000 Christian pacifists in north central Chiapas who actively seek both justice and reconciliation with paramilitaries and the government through prayer and fasting, pilgrimages, vigils and prayer processions.

Delegation members also traveled to Abejas refugee communities to learn more about the conflict from the bottom up.



THE STRING TECHNICIANS

... To be featured in "A Tumbleweed Christmas" at Nazareth Sunday

Courtesy Photo

'Tumbleweed Christmas' on tap Sunday in Nazareth

An evening of Christian music and songs by The String Technicians will highlight "A Tumbleweed Christmas" celebration in Nazareth on Sunday.

Held at the historic Home Mercantile Building in Nazareth, the program will feature holiday music in a comfortable, homelike atmosphere. The show is slated to start at 7:30 p.m. and the public is invited to attend. Admission is \$5 per person at the door.

"You will experience Christmas music from long ago and some contemporary songs of today. If you enjoy old-time fiddle music, western swing, ballads, old favorites and a surprise or two, you won't want to

miss this gathering," said Lydia Villanueva, Home Mercantile publicist.

The String Technicians are no strangers to the Home Mercantile building, having performed there several times.

Refreshments will be available throughout the evening.

This program is the fourth in a series of eight community events slated to be held at Home Mercantile between now and April.

The Home Mercantile is a historic building in Nazareth which is being renovated to serve as a community resource for creative arts and the preservation of local cultures.

Extension open house slated today

The Castro County Extension Service will host an open house at its new office, located at 205 N. Broadway in Dimmitt, today (Thursday) from 9 to 11 a.m.

The open house will include a get-acquainted reception with the county's new Extension agriculture agent, Rick Auckerman.

For more information about the open house and reception, contact Extension Agent Marilyn Neal, Auckerman or other members of the Extension staff at 647-4115.

NJH band students honored

Nazareth Junior High Band students earned honors at the recent All-Region Band try-outs, with one student earning first chair honors.

Twelve students were selected for 14 placings.

Lacey Acker was chosen first chair trombone and third chair baritone.

Second chair honors went to Matthew Birkenfeld on the mallets and Garrett Kleman on baritone saxophone.

Third chair winners were Jamie Lynn Birkenfeld, flute; Dustin Schulte, French horn; and Orin Schulte, snare drum.

Fourth chair honors went to Candace Birkenfeld on trumpet and Keli Schulte on bass clarinet; while Nathan Huseman was named fifth chair tuba and Jamie Black was selected sixth chair French horn.

Ninth chair trumpet went to Jeremy Acker, and Jake Hoelting was named 10th chair trumpet, along with first alternate tympani.

You are invited to a
Bridal Shower
honoring
Jan Nelson
bride-elect of
Jon Cannon
Saturday, December 9
from 10 to 11:30 a.m.
in the home of
Pat Bagley
South on US 385, 7 miles to Flagg Highway 1524,
Turn west 1 mile, then 1/4 mile south
Selections at Coleman Pharmacy, Seale Florist, The Village Shop,
Hays Company and Running M Bath Shop.

Here's another reason why we think these people are great!

The Board of Trustees and administration of the Castro County Hospital District want to publicly thank these department heads and employees for cutting their departmental expenses by 10% this year to help us overcome the effects of the Balanced Budget Act, which is costing our hospital district \$1,200,000 per year in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements.



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APEX WINS THIRD—The Aggies Providing EXcellence (APEX) team of Texas A&M University won third place in a national design competition recently. The APEX team included Joel Townsend of Dimmitt, a senior at TAMU. Shown with their missile carrier are (standing, from left) Townsend, John Cox, Blue Bradley, and Jerrad Jensen; and (kneeling, from left) Dallas Hopper and Theerayut Kausakul.

Photo taken from TAMU Web Site

A&M aerospace team wins national award

Joel Townsend of Dimmitt is a member of the Texas A&M University team that won third place in the 1999-2000 American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Undergraduate Team Aircraft Design Competition.

The nationwide competition required teams to design an aircraft cruise missile carrier that would carry 10 AGM-86C cruise missiles to a combat area, launch them at a target, and then allow the aircraft to return to the base without becoming a target itself, according to a report by Rosalynn Vasquez in the Oct. 31 issue of *The Battalion*, the student newspaper of TAMU.

said aerospace companies are looking into conducting preliminary design studies on the requests for proposal submitted this past year.

"This is a vehicle which very conceivably can be built and used by the US military," Valasek told Vasquez. "It is a very realistic project to work on because it is a real-life, real-world situation."

The team also has been awarded the Stan H. Lowy Award from TAMU's aerospace engineering department. The award is presented annually to a student design team for "innovation, technical expertise, and teamwork," according to the award plaque that bears the names of the team members.

"These are the qualities most exemplified by Professor Lowy himself, who generously endows this award," according to information from the TAMU Web site.

The award's perpetual plaque hangs in the aerospace engineering department office, adjacent to a photo of the current team and their airplane. A monetary award is shared among the winning team members.

Diane Townsend said the APEX team gave the money back to the Lowy Award endowment.

Townsend, the son of Carter and Diane Townsend of Dimmitt, is a senior at TAMU, and one of the six members of the Aggies Providing EXcellence (APEX) team. This is the first time in 15 years that an aerospace engineering team from A&M has won an award in the competition, according to Vasquez's report. The team competed against other teams from 30 universities.

Other team members are Dallas Hopper, Blue Bradley, John Cox, Jarrad Jensen, and Theerayut Kausakul.

The project took an academic year to complete, with a semester devoted to design and a semester taken for building a wind tunnel model and testing its performance with a flying model. The ideas used by the team were generated from scratch, according to Dr. John Valasek, faculty adviser for the team and an aerospace engineering professor at TAMU.

The design team received feedback from NASA's Johnson Space Center, Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, and Lockheed Martin Tactical Aircraft Systems. Judging is done by professional engineers in the industry, with criteria including technical content, organization and presentation, originality, and practical application.

Vasquez reported that Valasek

Crime Line sets reward at \$500

The Castro County Crime Line is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the gunman who was sighted near Dimmitt Middle School the morning of Nov. 10.

The man was seen in the 900 block of West Jones Street across the street from the middle school, just before 8:30 a.m.

Anyone with information about the incident may call 647-4711. Also, information may be given by calling 647-3311.

'Angel Tree' applications due Friday

The Castro County Ministerial Alliance and Panhandle Community Services will sponsor the "Community Angel Tree" project again this year and applications are currently being accepted from families who wish to be included in the project.

The annual Christmas project is designed to help less fortunate families by giving Christmas gifts for their children.

For families to qualify, there must be a financial need and the child must be under 11 years old.

Applications may be picked up at Panhandle Community Services in Dimmitt and must be returned to the office before Friday.

Book Club will meet Wednesday

Peggy Broadstreet will review the book, *Two From Galilee* by Marjorie Holmes of McLean, Va., on Wednesday when the Dimmitt Book Club gathers for its regular meeting and review.

The meeting will begin at 4 p.m. at Rhoads Memorial Library in Dimmitt and the review will follow.

Critics have acclaimed Holmes's novel as "tender, amazingly human and a story that never grows old."

The club invites all interested to attend the meeting.



PLATONIC SOLIDS is the unit of study for these geometry students taught by Mrs. Smith at Dimmitt High School. They won classroom awards for their team creations. They are (front, from left) Caleb

Dickerson, Joe Birdwell, and Tracy Garcia; and (back, from left) Sheena Ehly, Stacy Casas, Tyler Myatt, Amelia Esqueda, and Veronica Gonzalez. Not shown is Todd Jansa.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right, he usually has a son who thinks he is wrong.

Lord, I've been cross and impatient. Help me to remember that in order to be loved, I must be loveable. Amen

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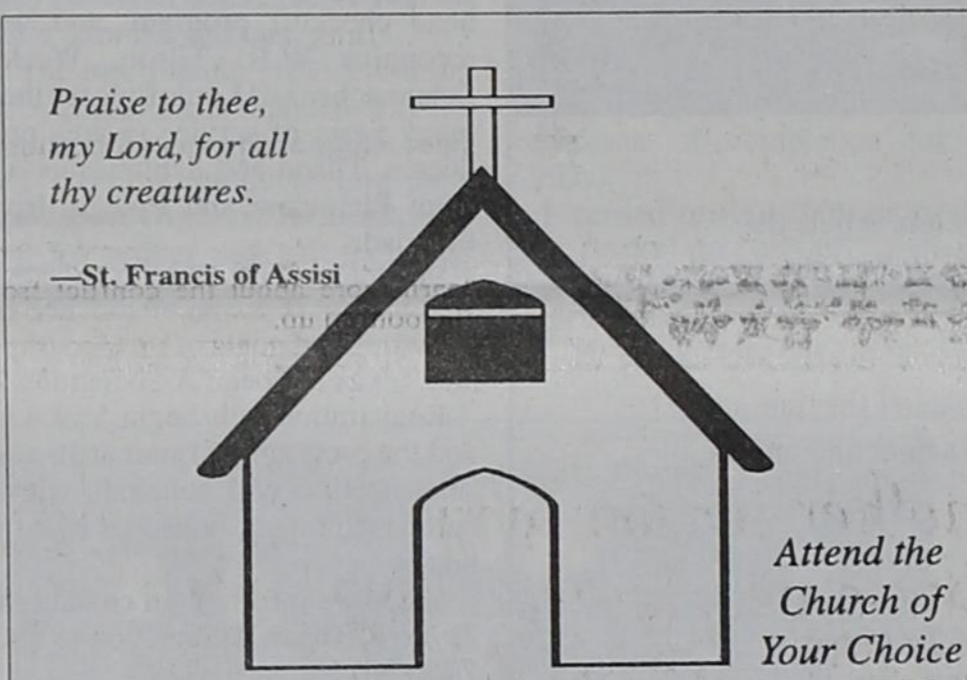
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- Sunnyside Baptist**
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Bennie Wright.....647-5712
- First United Methodist**
Hart
Kelly Inman.....938-2462
- La Asamblea Cristiana**
400 NW 5th, Dimmitt
Manuel Rodriguez
- First United Methodist**
110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt
Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106
- Iglesia De Cristo**
E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt
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- Immaculate Conception Catholic**
1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt
Fern Couture.....647-4219, 647-0105
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- Church of God of the First Born**
611 E. Halsell, Dimmitt
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647-2450
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North Hwy. 385, Dimmitt
647-3138

To My Patients:

After two years of practicing medicine here, I will be leaving the Medical Center of Dimmitt effective Saturday, Dec. 30.

I will be relocating in Wautoma, Wis., to be closer to my family.

I am grateful for the many special friendships that have developed for me here, and I wish to thank the good people of Dimmitt and Castro County for their overwhelming hospitality and support during my time here.

Of course, you will still be able to receive all your primary medical care at the Medical Center of Dimmitt, as usual. All of your medical records will remain at the clinic.

Again, I thank you for a rewarding and productive two years.



Sincerely,
Dr. Margaret Bailey



ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



Participation in area pipeline project to be focus of meeting

Area mayors, city managers, public utility managers and other interested citizens will discuss participation in a proposed regional water supply distribution pipeline project during a meeting today (Thursday) at 10 a.m. at the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District office at 2930 Ave. Q in Lubbock.

This is an open meeting and the public is invited to attend.

"A few months ago, area city leaders were contacted to see if they wanted to include a water supply distribution pipeline project as one of the management strategies outlined in the initially-prepared Llano Estacado Regional Water Management Plan," said Planning Group Chairman A. Wayne Wyatt. "Of the 46 towns and cities contacted, 42 expressed interest in our proposal."

Under the proposed project, ground water rights would be purchased in either Hartley County or Roberts County. A pipeline would

be constructed to transport the ground water to Vega, and then south to Hereford, Friona, and Muleshoe. The pipeline would turn east and run parallel to the existing City of Lubbock pipeline from the Bailey County well fields. This existing pipeline is at capacity during peak periods.

Water transported in the new pipeline could be used to meet the City of Lubbock's future water needs, as well as supply water to the towns and cities along the route. In addition, lateral pipelines could be extended from the main feeder line to serve other towns and cities in the region. Water from the new distribution line could also be made available to feedlots, dairies and other industries along the route.

"Several things have occurred since the proposal was first included in the draft plan," Wyatt said. "The City of Amarillo has offered its 113,900 acres of water rights for sale in Dallam and Hartley Counties. Roberts County landowners have

also offered to sell water rights in their county. Either source would meet the needs of our pipeline project."

Also, comments from this meeting will help the Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Group determine how best to proceed with the project.

"This will be very helpful in case any legislation pertaining to the project needs to be written prior to the start of the 77th Legislative Session in January 2001."

The Llano Estacado Regional Water Planning Area consists of Bailey, Briscoe, Castro, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Floyd, Gaines, Garza, Hale, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Parmer, Swisher, Terry and Yoakum counties.

Soybean Expo set in Dumas

The Texas Soybean Association will hold its 34th annual meeting and Soybean Expo at the Moore County Community Center in Dumas on Friday, Dec. 15.

Agribusiness sponsors will showcase the latest in crop protection, equipment and seed.

Speakers will include Dr. Travis Miller, Extension specialist from College Station; and Dr. Brent Bean, Extension specialist from Amarillo.

Weldon Melton, chairman of the Texas Soybean Board, will also present the annual report to producers regarding expenditure of the soybean checkoff program, and will recognize W.B. Tilson, Wesley Schumacher and Louis Pyle for their many years of service to area producers. Tilson and Schumacher are from Plainview and Pyle is from Floydada.

President Carl Weet of Cooper will update those in attendance on activities and goals of the American and Texas Soybean Associations.

Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and the program will start at 10 a.m. The meeting will conclude with a barbecued lunch sponsored by agribusinesses.

For more information contact the Texas Soybean Association at 800-247-8691.



Clara Vick

'Abstract Lady' retires; reception slated Sunday

By DON NELSON

One of the best-documented careers in Castro County will officially come to an end Sunday with a retirement reception for Clara Vick, longtime owner of Cowsert Abstract & Title Co.

The local abstract firm, which has been in business in Dimmitt since 1907, has been purchased by a group of Amarillo attorneys—Oth Miller, Dee Miller and Norman Gutzmer—who also own other abstract companies in the Panhandle.

Mrs. Vick's son, Johnny, will continue with the firm as its manager, the new owners said.

The reception for Mrs. Vick will be held at the Country Club of Dimmitt from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, and is open to all interested persons.

A 45-year veteran of abstracting, Mrs. Vick, "the Abstract Lady," has owned and operated Cowsert Abstract & Title Co. longer than any other person, having bought it from the family of the late Mark Cowsert in 1972.

"This system was begun in 1907 by Mr. Edgar Ireland," she said, "and then Mr. Mark Cowsert moved here in 1909 and they started doing the abstracting together. Then Mr. Cowsert bought out Mr. Ireland a

few years later."

Because of its early start, the Cowsert firm is one of the few remaining that can trace property and titles "back to sovereignty, to when the county was organized in 1891."

"Abstract records become too bulky for some counties, and too much trouble for them to search," she explained. "They'll just go back and do a 25-year search and start from there."

It was on Oct. 1, 1955 that she first went to work for the firm, which was then being run by Mark Cowsert's son, Jack.

"When I started working here, we worked on Saturdays; we used manual typewriters and lots of carbon paper; there were no copy machines or electric typewriters; and we typed all day at the courthouse."

"We did most of our work at the courthouse, because that's where the records were, and you couldn't remove them. Every once in a while someone would come by and say, 'I didn't know you had a job in the courthouse now.'"

An "abstract," she explained, is "just what the word means—it's a form that gives the abstract information about a piece of property—who originally owned it, who it has been deeded from and to, the deed dates, and the important information about a piece of property."

As a result of the 93 years of continuous abstracting of property here, she said, "We have a card system with a record of just about every square foot" of the county.

"Most of the time an abstract company comes into play when property changes hands, but once in a while someone will just buy a piece of property and have the owner draw up a deed, and they don't think about such things as tax liens, judgments, rights of way, and so many other things that can affect a piece of property."

"Mr. Mark Cowsert used to always tell his customers, 'If you think enough of that land to buy it, then you should get an abstract and get a title opinion from an attorney.' That's still good advice."

Mrs. Vick plans to devote more time to her favorite hobby, local history.

She has been the secretary-treasurer of the Castro County Historical Museum Association ever since it was organized, and she still oversees the sale of the county's two official history books, for which she helped do the research and production work.

She also tends to a friend in the nursing home.

She was one of the main workers in the restoration of the prayer chapel at the historic Hereford POW Camp, where thousands of Italian servicemen were interned during World War II.

The chapel was built by the prisoners themselves, and for years since its restoration it has been the

focal point for pilgrimages by the Italian veterans.

In turn, Mrs. Vick has become the "little sister" of the former POWs. She has worked to help locate, identify and return the bodies of Italian soldiers who died while interned here and elsewhere in the US, and who were buried in a military cemetery at Fort Reno, Okla.

Each year the former POWs hold a reunion somewhere in Italy. Mrs. Vick has attended all but one of the reunions since 1988, and usually works in a visit to the US Embassy in Rome.

Through her person-to-person diplomacy, she has become the fondest symbol of America to many of these elderly soldiers, many of whom were little more than boys when they were shipped to the Hereford POW Camp in northwestern Castro County and assigned to perform manual labor at the farms and towns hereabouts.

"The abstract business is a wonderful business," she said. "You either like it or you don't want to have anything to do with it. You have to work at it four or five years just to learn the ropes."

"We've had the nicest people to work with—the lawyers here and in all the surrounding counties, the loan companies, the banks, and lots of people here in Castro County."

Breast cancer screening is set Jan. 5

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

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

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

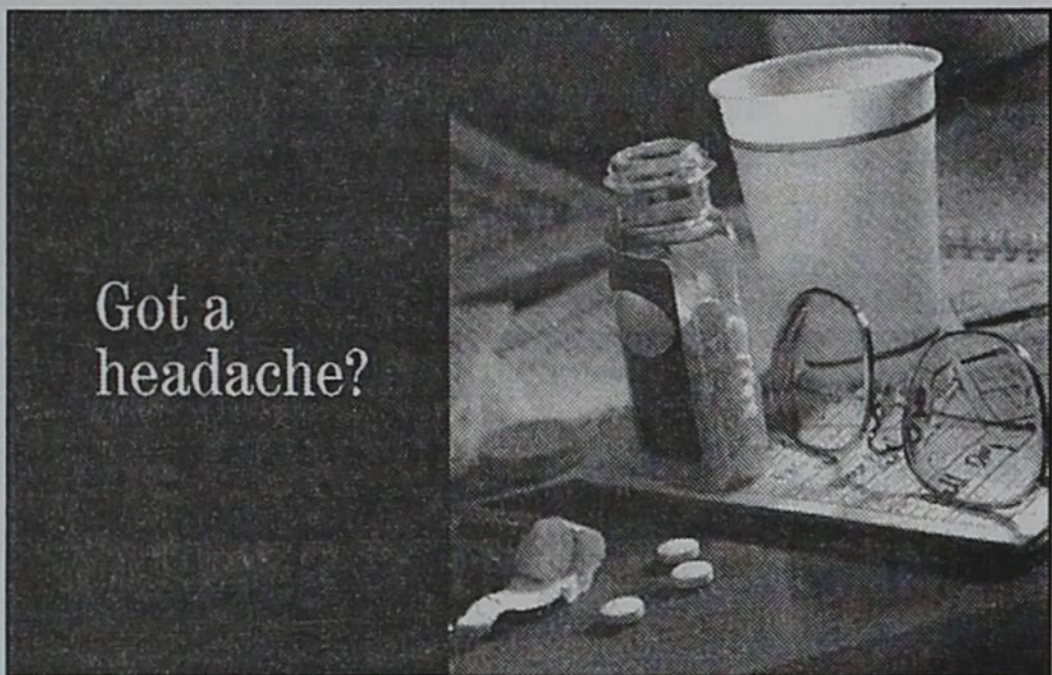
Participants will receive a low-cost screening that includes a mammogram and instruction in self-examination by a registered nurse.

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

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.

Money may not me everything, but it is a great consolation until you have everything.

When most people are caught between two evils, most will take the one they've never tried.



Got a headache?

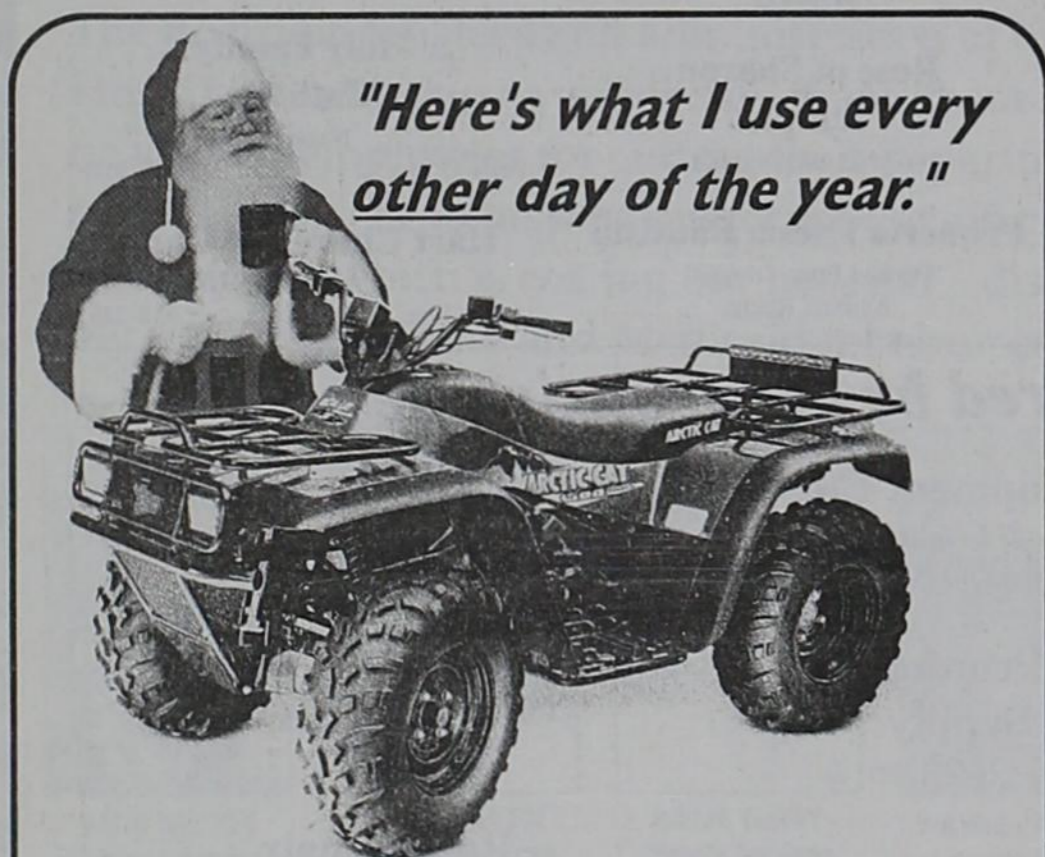
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ALL-REGION BAND—These Dimmitt High School Band members were selected for the All-Region Band during try-outs held Monday in Panhandle. They are (front, from left) Rachal Harman, third chair clarinet, symphonic; Melanie Walls, second chair alto saxophone, concert; and L.J. Soler, first chair trum-

pet, symphonic; and (back, from left) Todd Jansa, second chair euphonium, symphonic; and Stephanie Hazel, second chair alto clarinet, symphonic. Those chosen for the symphonic band may advance to the area competition, set for January.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Dimmitt students selected for high school, junior high all-region bands

The Dimmitt High School Band and Junior High Band both had students who qualified for the All-Region Band clinic and concerts set for Jan. 12-13 on the campus of West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

The high school band also had four students who qualified to advance to the area band competition set for Jan. 6 in Sundown. Those who qualify at area may participate in the all-state band, which is set for Feb. 7-10 in San Antonio.

DHS band members who were selected for the high school all-region band are Melanie Walls, second chair alto saxophone for the concert

band; and in the symphonic band, qualifying to advance to area, are L.J. Soler, first chair trumpet, Stephanie Hazel, second chair alto clarinet, Todd Jansa, second chair euphonium, and Rachal Harman, third chair clarinet.

The high school students traveled to Panhandle High School in Panhandle Monday and competed against Class A, Class AA and Class AAA bands in the all-region contest.

Junior high band members who won a chair in the all-region band competed against other Class AAA junior high band members. They are:

Maribel Montiel, second chair clarinet, Daniel Jackson, third chair trumpet, Robin Beames, ninth chair clarinet, Kayla Acker, 13th chair clarinet, Kathy Amador, 14th chair flute, Kelly Reyes, 22nd chair clarinet, Vanessa Caballero, first alternate clarinet, and Fabian Diaz, first alternate tuba.

The junior high competition was held Nov. 28 at West Texas High School in Stinnett.

A Dimmitt Band Booster spokesperson said that the Band Boosters will not meet in December due to the holidays, so watch for an announcement of the January meeting.

Southern High Plains Zone okays boll weevil eradication program

Cotton producers in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Boll Weevil Eradication Zone have voted more than 4-to-1 to establish a boll weevil eradication program in the eight-county zone.

Final results were 2,996 in favor and 732 against establishing an eradication program. In addition, producers in the zone voted to set a

maximum annual assessment for the program not to exceed \$12 per land acre for irrigated cotton and \$6 per land acre for dryland cotton.

To officially establish a boll weevil eradication program in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Zone and set an assessment, the proposition had to be approved by a two-thirds vote, or those voting in favor

needed to farm more than 50% of the zone's acreage.

"Boll weevil eradication has always been a producer-driven program," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "By establishing an eradication program, producers in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Zone are determined to eliminate one of the most devastating pests in Texas and American Agriculture."

The Texas Dept. of Agriculture mailed 6,047 ballots to cotton producers in the zone who were eligible to vote in the referendum. Some 3,762 valid ballots were postmarked by the Nov. 15 deadline and counted.

Cotton producers also elected Vicki Davis Patschke of Lubbock County to represent the Southern High Plains/Caprock Zone on the statewide board of directors for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Inc. Patschke is a cotton producer who has farmed in Lubbock County since 1987.

The Southern High Plains/Caprock Boll Weevil Eradication Zone consists of approximately 1.29 million acres in eight counties: Cochran, Hockley, Lubbock and portions of Lynn, Terry, Crosby, Dickens and Garza.

You can always tell a well-informed man—his views are the same as yours.

Whenever I seek God in all that I do, I am amazed at the wondrous ways in which God works. Amen

Cowsert Abstract changing owners

Hale County Abstract Company recently announced the purchase of Cowsert Abstract and Title Company of Dimmitt, effective Nov. 1. The name of the business will be changed to Hale County Abstract Co. to reflect the new ownership.

Started in Castro County in 1909, Cowsert Abstract had been owned and operated by Clara Vick since 1972. She had worked for Cowsert since 1955. Vick is retiring and her son, Johnny Vick, will continue employment with the office as the plant manager and escrow officer, according to Hale County Abstract Co. President Deliece Harrison.

Hale County Abstract Co. was founded in Plainview around the turn of the century and was incorporated in 1906. It has been in continuous operation since opening.

In January 1998, the company purchased Swisher County Abstract of Tulia and was able to offer the same services in Hale and Swisher counties. Now, those same services include Castro County.

The company can issue abstracts or furnish title insurance, using six underwriters. They have six escrow officers available in the three counties and offer services for Form 1031 transactions.

"We have access to legal counsel from all underwriters as well as local attorneys in each county and in-house attorneys. We can usually obtain an answer to any question within minutes," said Harrison. "We look forward to serving the people of Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth and welcome them as an addition to our growing company."

CEUs to be offered at county right-of-way training Tuesday

The Castro and Lamb County Integrated Pest Management committee is planning a multi-county right-of-way training for state, county and city employees, and those attending will qualify for five continuing education units (CEUs) required for re-certification of pesticide application permits.

The workshop will be held Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. at the Expo Building in Dimmitt and Castro County Extension Agent Rick Auckerman is coordinating the event.

The purpose of the IPM committee is to promote the use of pest management concepts to area growers

through scouting programs and educational activities. The program also provides pest management educational activities to all residents and those who work to better the lives of all Texans.

All Texas Dept. of Agriculture licensed and non-commercial applicators employed by the state, county or city are invited to attend the meeting.

Registration will be from 8:30 to 9 a.m. on Dec. 12 and coffee and donuts will be served.

The first session, conducted by Levon Harman of Amarillo, will cover laws and regulations, and the one-hour session will start at 9 a.m.

From 10 to 11 a.m., Gary Rich, manager of Pro Chem in Amarillo, will discuss pesticide safety.

A clothing safety class will be conducted by Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

After a lunch break, attendees will reconvene at 1:30 for a one-hour lecture on "Pesticides—Modes of Action," presented by Dr. Peter Dotroy of Lubbock.

Wilfred Crenwelge, a soil scientist from Lubbock, will discuss soil and conservation from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Closing remarks and the presentation of certificates will be handled by Auckerman from 3:30 to 3:45 p.m.

Pesticide applicators need CEUs to renew licenses

The deadline for pesticide applicators to obtain necessary continuing education units (CEUs) is quickly approaching.

Many private applicators, as well as all commercial and noncommercial applicators, face a Feb. 28, 2001, renewal date. Private certificate holders face a Dec. 31 deadline.

Applicators should be sure the Texas Dept. of Agriculture (TDA) has their correct address. This will help prevent a delay in receiving their renewal on time and keeping their license current. Call 1-800-TELL-TDA or e-mail changes to rivera@agr.state.tx.us.

"There are many options for obtaining the required CEUs," said Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "Applicators can attend CEU courses, complete a self-study course at home, or even obtain CEUs over the Internet."

"The information provided in the CEU classes helps applicators stay informed of changing regulations as well as new products and new application methods. Education is vital for proper and safe pesticide use," she said.

Applicators will receive a certificate of completion at the end of each

course. They should hold on to these for a year after they have renewed their license. The certificate contains the course number and CEU hours completed. The applicator transfers this information to the renewal form he or she receives in the mail in December or January.

The renewal cycle will be especially large, Combs said.

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

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

All private applicators may earn the required credits by passing a comprehensive re-certification exam. There is a \$50 fee charged for each attempt at the test. After passing the test, an applicator will receive a certificate of completion for 15 CEUs.

Licensed private applicators cannot retake the private applicator training course and test to renew their license in place of getting the CEUs. A license must have been

expired for a year before an applicator can retake the private applicator training test.

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

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

Applicators can obtain a list of approved courses or other information on CEU courses by calling 1-800-TELL-TDA or (512) 463-7622, or by logging on to TDA's web site, www.agr.state.tx.us/pesticide/ceuhome.htm.



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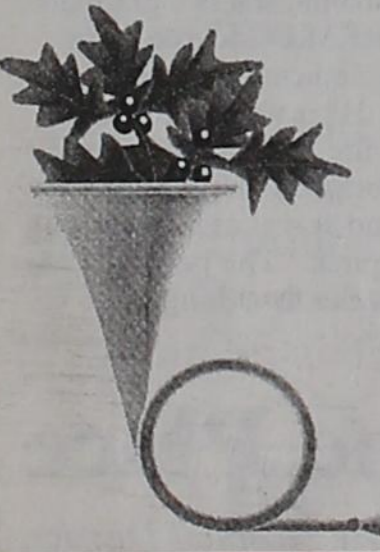
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 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">Kosy Korner</p> <p style="text-align: center;">938-2300</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIALS throughout the store, 2 p.m. until ?</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">REFRESHMENTS</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">THE COMPANY STORE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">938-2640</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIALS 2-9 p.m. throughout the store</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Capitol • Christmas Ornaments • Coca-Cola T-Shirts • Ranch Candles 	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">JJ's Art, Gifts & Floral</p> <p style="text-align: center;">938-2561</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SPECIALS throughout the store, 2-9 p.m.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poinsettias • Betta Gardens are here! <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 0.8em;">REFRESHMENTS</p>
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Retirement Reception

honoring

Clara Vick

for her 45 years of service
to the people of Castro County

Tonight (Thursday) from 6 to 8 p.m.

at the
Country Club of Dimmitt

Police Calls

A 25-year-old Dimmitt man was jailed Nov. 29 on charges of burglary of a habitation with intent to commit assault.

Saturday, a Dimmitt man, 35, was jailed for DWI, second offense, breath test refused. Police said he had failed to yield right of way at a stop sign and nearly caused a collision in the 200 block of Northwest Sixth in Dimmitt.

Sunday evening, a suspect was stopped on South US 385 for driving with license suspended.

Monday afternoon a 27-year-old Dimmitt man was jailed for driving with license suspended.

Jailed on warrants during the past week:

—Last Thursday, a Dimmitt man, 37, on a warrant for motion to revoke probation, stemming from charges of manufacture, delivery and possession of a miscellaneous substance.

—Friday, a 17-year-old Dimmitt woman on a warrant for burglary of a habitation.

—Saturday, a Tulia woman, 37, on a warrant for motion to revoke probation, which stemmed from charges of possession of marijuana; and a 48-year-old Hart man on a warrant for theft by check.

—Monday, a 19-year-old Lazbudie man on a warrant for burglary of a habitation.

Jail Count

There were 14 inmates in the county jail as of Tuesday morning.

Nov. 25 at 11:57 a.m., a 1993 Mercury Topaz driven by Erica Guzman, 22, of Friona, was struck by a 1989 Buick Regal driven by Eulalia Balderas, 73, of Dimmitt, at the intersection of Broadway and Bedford at the signal light.

Police said Guzman had been heading east in the 100 block of West Bedford and attempted to turn left onto North Broadway, turning into the path of Balderas, who was driving west in the 100 block of East Bedford.

The Regal struck the Topaz. All the occupants of both vehicles were listed with possible injury, but no transport by ambulance was noted on the report. Damage to the Regal was rated light, while the Topaz had moderate damage.

Guzman was given a ticket for failure to yield right of way—turning left.

Last Thursday at 8:59 a.m., Blanca Estrella Salinas, 41, of Dimmitt, was driving a 1991 Ford Taurus on County Road 514, and stopped at a stop sign facing north at the intersection with East Bedford.

Police reported that she did not see a 1994 Chevrolet pickup driven by Alma Neelie Lopez, 33, of Dimmitt, which was heading west on East Bedford. Police said Salinas turned left onto Bedford, turning into the path of the pickup.

Lopez was listed with possible injury. Both vehicles were listed with light damage.

Salinas was given a ticket for failure to yield right of way at a stop sign.

More about HISD . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

August all school district employees attended a training session on cultural diversity and sensitivity.

The letter was presented to the Hart School Board at their Nov. 14 meeting, according to Bennett.

The letter should put an end to the issue, Bennett told Jessica Raynor, a staff writer of the *Amarillo Globe-News* in an article in the Dec. 1 issue.

"We acted before anybody came in," Bennett said. "We did the right thing there. We addressed the issue, didn't cover it up. We acknowledged the statement was made. We'll never condone what (Tucker) said."

According to Raynor's article, Richard Sambrano, a representative of the Dallas office of the Dept. of Justice, visited the school district between August and October and mediated a few community roundtable discussions. Raynor quoted Bennett as saying that Sambrano will not come back unless asked by the school district.

"I wouldn't be surprised" if people complain about the DOE closing the case, Bennett told Raynor. "I don't think it will be within the community. Our kids are doing fine. Programs are doing fine, and our kids were always doing fine."

"Hopefully, we all will grow from this."



FLU VACCINE IS HERE—Randall Keeney, R.N., gives Norma Conard of Dimmitt her "flu shot" during Plains Memorial Hospital's inoculation clinic Monday. Mrs. Conard was one of approximately 700 to receive flu shots Monday. Receipt of the flu vaccine here was delayed by more than a month, but now there's plenty to go around, hospital district officials say. If you haven't had your flu shot yet, you can get it at the hospital or at the Medical Center of Dimmitt during daytime business hours. The cost is \$15, and for those on Medicare there is no out-of-pocket charge.

News Digipic/Don Nelson

'Tax Holiday' saves taxpayers \$37 million

The second annual Sales Tax Holiday, held Aug. 4-6 in Texas, saved Texas families an estimated \$37 million, according to Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander.

Rylander said the savings included \$29.2 million in state sales tax and \$7.8 million in local sales taxes.

"My prediction that the second Sales Tax Holiday would be bigger and better than the first was right on the money," Rylander said. "This year, shoppers saved \$4.4 million more than they saved during the 1999 Tax Holiday."

"This year, shoppers were familiar with the Sales Tax Holiday. They knew what items were tax-exempt, and they planned ahead to take full advantage of this much-deserved tax

break," Rylander said.

The comptroller estimates shoppers purchased about \$467 million in tax-free clothes and shoes during the three-day shopping spree.

During the tax holiday, no state or local sales taxes are charged on most clothing and footwear priced at less than \$100. The August event is timed to give families a financial break during the back-to-school shopping period.

"The Sales Tax Holiday is a tremendous hit with hard-working moms and dads, but I want to make it even better," Rylander said.

The comptroller has instructed her staff to study the impact of extending the holiday for more than three days and adding more items to the tax-exempt list.

"I want to make the Sales Tax Holiday as beneficial to Texas families as possible," she said. "The tax burden on working families is too high and the Sales Tax Holiday provides Texans with some much-needed relief."

Though the Sales tax Holiday is held during the first weekend of August, the results are not available until November, because retailers who report sales tax collections to the comptroller on a quarterly basis don't report their August figures until late October.

There is more to life than increasing its speed.
—Mahatma Gandhi

Dear Lord, if I am too busy today to listen to you, please do not be too busy to watch over me. Amen

There is no cure for birth and death, so why not enjoy the interval.

More about

9-1-1 addresses . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

ambulance driver than "two miles west of the old Smith place."

The address being mailed should not be confused with a mailing address. At some date in the future, the US Postal Service will be converting the physical addresses into mailing addresses that will replace HC and RT type addresses.

This, according to the USPS, will help with the automated processing and sorting of mail.

The mailing address for those rural customers who receive mail by post office box will not change; however, their homes and businesses will be assigned a "physical" address for 9-

1-1 purposes.

A physical address has other benefits beyond 9-1-1. Utilities, such as electric, telephone and gas; and package delivery companies are beginning to require a physical address to start a new account or service an existing one. Similarly, insurance companies often require such information about the property for which they are providing coverage.

Rural residents who do not receive letter by Monday are encouraged to call the Panhandle Regional 9-1-1 Network in Amarillo at (806) 372-3381 or (800) 687-7922.

Three sentenced in district court

Three men were sentenced in recent sessions of District Court in Dimmitt.

In Nov. 14 sessions of the 242nd District Court with Judge Ed Self presiding, Juan Salome Tovar entered a plea of guilty to charges of indecency with a child in connection with a July 19 incident.

In a sentencing hearing, he was sentenced to two years of confinement in the Institutional Division Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice. He also was assessed a \$1,000 fine, \$237.25 in court costs, and \$250 in attorney fees.

In Nov. 9 sessions, two cases were heard in 64th District Court with Judge Jack Miller presiding.

Gerardo Gonzalez Jr. entered a plea of guilty to charges of aggravated assault with serious bodily injury in connection with an April 15 incident. The terms of his plea bargain are five years of community supervision under the terms of de-

ferred adjudication. He also must pay a \$1,000 fine, \$292.25 in court costs, and a \$50 donation to the Castro County Crime Line. He also must perform 400 hours of community service, with at least eight hours each month.

Rigoberto Cuevaz entered a plea of guilty/nolo contendere to charges of driving while intoxicated, third offense. The terms of his plea bargain are four years in the IDTDCJ, probated for four years, along with a fine of \$1,000, court costs of \$270.25, and a \$50 donation to Crime Line. He also must perform 400 hours of community service, in addition to meeting the terms of DWI probation, including participating in and completing a repeat-offenders program, attending AA meetings once a week, and having an ignition interlock device on any vehicle he drives after his one year suspension of his driver's license.

DHS Choir's decorated door wins school prize

The Dimmitt High School Choir decorated one of the doors at school as part of a Character Counts project, and their creation was judged as best among all entries last week.

Members of the group will receive breakfast burritos and a drink for their efforts.

This was the first of several contests in which students will be able to participate as the FCCLA chapter continues to promote the Character Counts program at DHS.

The contest was held at DHS on Nov. 29.

The purpose of the Character Counts program is to reinforce the lives of America's young people who present ethical values such as trustworthiness, which is the pillar

that was used for the month of November.

During November, the students were invited to enter a door-decorating contest promoting trustworthiness. Almost 100% of the students were involved in this worthwhile activity. Students showed a lot of creativity as they planned and decorated classroom doors.

Upon completion of the project, four members of the community served as judges. They were Garner Ball, Don Nelson, Bill Sava and Tana Young.

The FCCLA appreciates these community business people for taking time out of their busy schedules to judge the contest.

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A welcome addition



We're pleased to introduce Dr. Josefina Diaz-Vogt, our new staff psychiatrist

Dr. Diaz-Vogt comes to us from El Paso, where she served her four-year specialist's residency in the Dept. of Neuropsychiatry at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. She was named the Resident of the Year in 1998. A native of the Republic of Panama, she is a graduate of Canal Zone College and earned her M.D. degree from the University of Panama School of Medicine in 1983. She was a general practitioner in Panama 10 years before deciding to specialize in psychiatry. She is the staff psychiatrist for the Welch Home Place; is available for private appointments at the Medical Center of Dimmitt; and serves as a consulting psychiatrist for Plains Memorial Hospital. "The people here are very, very nice," she said. "That's the first thing I noticed when I came here to interview."

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GEOMETRY 'OLYMPICS' WINNERS in the geometry class of Mrs. Clark at Dimmitt High School are (front, from left) Ruben Espinosa, Lisa Fernandez,

Monica Oltivero, Johnny Peña, and Josh Lopez; and (back, from left) Crystal Lopez, Nora Arriaga, Maria Arriaga, and Lupita Saucedo.

Photo by Linda Maxwell



What's Cooking

In the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Schools

Here are the breakfast and lunch menus for the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth schools for Dec. 7-15.

DIMMITT Breakfast to go

THURSDAY: Fresh donuts, fresh banana and milk.
FRIDAY: Assorted muffins, orange wedges and milk.
MONDAY: Blueberry cereal bar, apple juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, applesauce and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Mini cake donuts, orange juice and milk.
THURSDAY: Pancake on a stick with sausage, fresh banana and milk.
FRIDAY: Cinnamon rolls, fruit cocktail and milk.

Preschool-First Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Nachos with cheese, mixed vegetables, honeydew melon, jalapeno peppers and milk.
FRIDAY: Red Baron Pepperoni pizza, potato wedges, apple slices and milk.
MONDAY: Hoagie submarine sandwich, savory green beans, honeydew melon and milk.
TUESDAY: Italian spaghetti, tossed salad, garlic bread and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Steak fingers, French fries, pineapple sunset salad, hot rolls and milk.
THURSDAY: Nachos with cheese, Mexipinto beans, plums, jalapeno peppers and milk.
FRIDAY: Chicken enchiladas, refried beans, Fideo Mexicano and milk.

Second-12th Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of nacho with cheese, salmon patties or fruit and cheese plate; vegetable medley, potato salad or mixed vegetables; tossed salad, haystack finger salad or honeydew melon; hot wheat rolls, Fideo Mexicano or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: Choice of Red Baron pepperoni pizza, red beans and rice or enchiladas; potato wedges, corn on the cob or refried beans; tossed salad, fresh spinach salad or apple slices; cornbread, tortilla chips or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
MONDAY: Choice of hoagie submarine sandwich, beef and bean burrito with chili or beef taco; mashed potatoes, baked potato or savory green beans; hamburger salad, taco condiment salad or honeydew melon; hot cheese rolls, Spanish rice or corn tortilla; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
TUESDAY: Choice of Italian spaghetti, fajitas with sauteed onions or poor boy steak; country rice dressing, potatoes au gratin or butter beans; tossed salad, orange wedges or potato salad; and garlic bread, hot wheat rolls or flour tortilla; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of steak fingers, chicken pot pie or green enchilada casserole; French fries, mixed vegetables or refried beans; tossed salad, pineapple sunset salad or cucumber and tomato salad; hot rolls, Arroz Mexicano or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
THURSDAY: Choice of nachos with

cheese, barbecued rib patty or pork tamales; Chinese-style vegetables, lyonnaise carrots or Mexipinto beans; tossed salad, cantaloupe or plums; assorted muffins, hot cheese rolls or Spanish rice; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: Choice of chicken enchilada, Chinese plate or fish nuggets; baked potato, tomato and okra gumbo or refried beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad or fruited gelatin; hot wheat rolls, fideo Mexicano or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

HART Breakfast

THURSDAY: Cowboy bread, blueberry muffin, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Scrambled eggs, Canadian bacon, biscuits, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, graham crackers and milk.
MONDAY: Sausage, biscuits, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Cinnamon roll, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Breakfast pizza, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice, graham cracker and milk.
THURSDAY: Waffles, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, graham cracker and milk.
FRIDAY: Scrambled eggs, biscuits, hash brown potatoes, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice and milk.

Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of toasted cheese sandwich with chips, enchilada casserole with chips or enchilada with tortilla chips; gelatin dessert, salad, corn, peaches and milk, punch or tea.
FRIDAY: Choice of sub sandwich, tuna salad sandwich or hot dog on a bun; potato chips, Fritos, salad, shredded cheese, gelatin dessert and milk, punch or tea.
MONDAY: Corn dog, burrito or pizza; lettuce, tomato and pickles, assorted fresh fruit, peaches, gelatin dessert and milk, punch or tea.
TUESDAY: Turkey, bread stuffing, turkey gravy, wheat bread, cranberry sauce, green beans, carrot cake, fruit salad and milk, punch or tea.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of beef stew, toasted cheese sandwich or deluxe burrito; gelatin dessert, peaches, salad, banana pudding

and milk, punch or tea.
THURSDAY: Choice of burrito, pizza or sloppy Joe on a bun; wheat rolls, salad, peaches, potato puffs, gelatin dessert and milk, punch or tea.
FRIDAY: Choice of sub sandwich, tuna salad sandwich or hot dog on a bun with chili and shredded cheese; salad, potato chips, gelatin dessert, assorted fresh fruit, peaches and milk, punch or tea.

NAZARETH Breakfast

THURSDAY: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Sausage on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
MONDAY: Cinnamon rolls, cereal, orange juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Canadian bacon on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Sausage and biscuit, cereal, orange juice and milk.
THURSDAY: French toast and sausage, cereal, orange juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.

Lunch

THURSDAY: * Tater tot casserole and sopapilla or chef's salad, tossed salad, green peas, applesauce, fruit cocktail and milk or juice.
FRIDAY: * Barbecued sandwich or hamburger, tater tots, lettuce, peanut butter, orange, sugar cookie and milk or juice.
MONDAY: * Chicken nugget or steak fingers, sliced bread, tossed salad, scalloped potatoes, pineapple, Rice Krispie treats and milk, punch or tea.
TUESDAY: * Beef stew or chef's salad, cornbread, tossed salad, green beans, peaches, spiced cake and milk.
WEDNESDAY: * Hamburger or chicken sandwich, French fries, lettuce, corn, fruit salad, cookies and milk or juice.
THURSDAY: * Chicken fried steak or pizza; tossed salad, potatoes and gravy, pears, pudding and milk or juice.
FRIDAY: * Beef taco or hamburger and French fries; lettuce, beans, applesauce, brownies and milk or juice.

Items designated with an asterisk () will be served to elementary school students.

More about

1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

may be our next ambassador to, say, Switzerland.

And if Gore is the ultimate winner, Harris may become the US ambas-

sador to Chad. . .

Either candidate would be okay with me as our next president. I can see advantages and disadvantages to both.

But it bothers me that our national referendum for the presidency would be decided by that Florida election, which smells to high heaven.

The Florida Supreme Court, which basically halted a theft in progress during the original tallying of the election, will be under intense scrutiny as it hears final arguments today on Gore's requests for more recounts.

Whatever the courts ultimately decide, those 14,000 disputed ballots will be recounted by historians, political scientists and journalists working under the Freedom of Information Act, and history will judge whether or not the election was fair.

In fact, that work already has

started.

The *Miami Herald* commissioned an analysis of voting patterns in each of Florida's 5,885 precincts in an effort to determine what the result would have been if all the voting machines and methods had worked, if all the ballots had been uniform, and if all 185,000 rejected ballots had survived to be tallied.

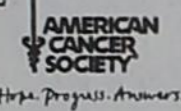
The study was headed by Stephen Doig, a professor at Arizona State University's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism. Doig's specialty is computer-assisted reporting.

The *Herald* study indicated that Gore would have won Florida by 23,000 votes.

That's the first pop out of the historical-perspective bucket. There will be much more later.

I don't think history is going to judge our 2000 presidential election kindly.

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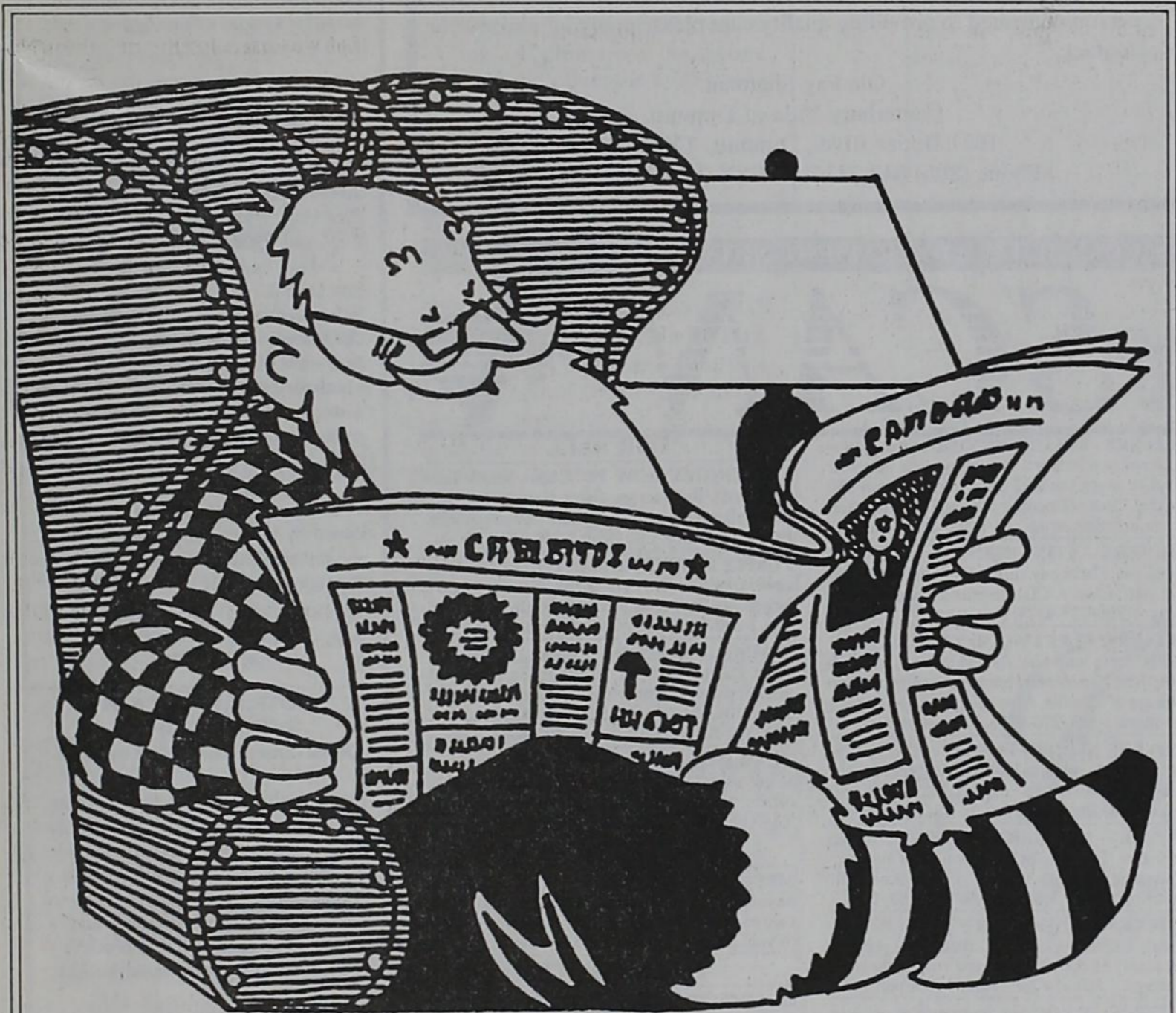
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DIMMITT JUNIOR HIGH BAND members who were selected for the Class AAA All-Region Band in try-outs Nov. 28 are (front, from left) Maribel Montiel, second chair clarinet, Robin Beames, ninth chair clarinet, Vanessa Caballero, first alternate clar-

inet, and Kelly Reyes, 22nd chair clarinet; and (back, from left) Fabian Diaz, first alternate tuba, Daniel Jackson, third chair trumpet, Kayla Acker, 13th chair clarinet, and Kathy Amador, 14th chair flute.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Serious crime rate falls in 1999 in Texas

According to a study released by the National Center for Policy Analysis in Dallas, Texas's serious crime rate fell in the 1990's much faster than that of the nation as a whole—42% in Texas compared with only 34% nationally.

The success of Texas in the 1990's can be attributed to controversial policies to increase the prison population by building more prisons and keeping prisoners locked up longer, according to a new study by the NCPA.

"While some lament the size of Texas's prison population, this get-tough approach has made Texas a much safer place," said Morgan Reynolds, director of the NCPA's Criminal Justice Center and the study's author. "Texas deserved cheers, not jeers, for taking the profit out of crime."

According to the study, in 1999 Texas recorded its lowest crime rate since 1974, due in part to the steady rise in a criminal's "expected punishment." Reynolds uses "expected punishment" to measure the potential cost to a criminal of committing a crime. Expected punishment is defined as "the length of time in prison a typical criminal can expect to serve per crime, given the probabilities of being apprehended, prosecuted, convicted and sent to prison." According to the study, in Texas:

◆ For every murder committed, a criminal can expect to spend 9.1 years behind bars—up from 2.9 years in 1990.

◆ For every act of rape, a criminal can expect to spend 742 days behind bars—up from 216 days in 1990.

◆ For every robbery, 217 days—up from 75 days in 1990.

◆ For every aggravated assault, 52 days—up from 13 days in 1990.

The study also notes that federal court orders to end prison overcrowding and a tight-fisted legislature in the 1980's resulted in no

growth in imprisonment and a severe shortage of prison capacity. By 1990, inmates were serving less than 20% of their sentences. Through bipartisan efforts, the 1990's saw Texas reverse course to build more prisons and crack down on parole. One result of this expansion is that Texas now has more criminals under state supervision each day than any other state.

◆ One out of 98 adult Texans is in a state lockup, not in a county jail or on probation or parole, but in a Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice unit.

◆ Texas also has the largest number of adults on probation and parole—more than 556,410.

"Texas is safer because the revolving door has slowed to a crawl," said Reynolds. "It's simple. When criminals are behind bars, they're not on the streets practicing their trade."

Game night set Friday at Senior Center

The Dimmitt Senior Citizens Center will host a game night on Friday, starting at 6 p.m.

All members of the center are encouraged to attend, and those interested in joining the Senior Citizens also are invited.

Membership is open to all who are age 55 or older, and the membership fee is only \$15 per year.

For more information, call the center at 647-2654, or Rayphard Smithson at 647-4519 or Joyce Davis at 647-5362.



M.V.P. AT WORK — Dimmitt's Austin Sherman (12) goes high for a baseline layup over Hale Center's Willie Joe Johnson (14) in the Bobcats' final game of the Plainview Lions Pioneer Classic Saturday. Sherman finished the game with 19 points and was named the Most Valuable Player in Division I as the Bobcats captured the small-school championship.

Photo by Carter Townsend

Wildlife packets, trees offered through soil district local office

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

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

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

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

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

following trees and shrubs:

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

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

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

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

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

For example, on a dry corner five wildlife packets can be used to produce a four-row, right-angle wildlife planting. The outside angle, the one furthest from the circular crop land, would contain 1,250 feet (625 feet on each "leg") of plum trees; the second angle, Russian olive; the third inside

angle, aromatic sumac; and the fourth angle, closest to the cropland, Nanking cherry.

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

More about

Pheasant hunt . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

with the Hart group are from Texas, but some are from New Mexico, Oklahoma, Mississippi and even Connecticut.

The Hart Lions are sponsoring their 20th annual hunt this year, and the 135 hunters are all the club will accept for its organized hunt on opening weekend.

For a \$150 fee, hunters will be allowed to hunt on approximately 30,000 acres of reserved land around the Hart area on Saturday and Sunday. They also will be served a breakfast Saturday morning at the Hart High School Cafeteria.

The meal will be served at 5 a.m. and will feature scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits, gravy, coffee and orange juice.

The public also may enjoy the breakfast, but will be charged \$4 per plate, according to Leibel.

During the breakfast, the Hart Fire Dept. will be selling raffle tickets on an 1187 Remington shot gun which will be awarded Saturday morning. Tickets are \$3 each and you don't have to be present to win. Tickets can be purchased at the breakfast or from any member of the fire department.

◆ The Nazareth Lions Club will welcome 112 hunters on Saturday and they each paid \$150 to hunt on selected land. Members of the Nazareth Lions Club and Nazareth Fire Department will serve as guides on Saturday, then hunters will be on their own on Sunday and can hunt on posted land.

Hunters are expected from across the state.

Hunters signed up with the Lions Club will also receive a full breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

The Nazareth American Legion Auxiliary will cater the breakfast, which will feature German sausage, bacon, eggs, biscuits, gravy, coffee and juice will be served at 6 a.m. to hunters at the Nazareth Community Hall. The breakfast will be open to the public from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. at a cost of \$6 per plate.

The barbecued brisket lunch will also be held at the Community Hall, beginning at 11:30 a.m. Saturday. Those not signed up for the hunt can enjoy the meal for \$7 per person beginning at 12:30 p.m. Saturday. The lunch will be catered by the Nazareth Band Parents.

◆ The Easter Lions Club is expecting 50 hunters for opening weekend and each paid \$100 for the privilege of tracking their prey.

Hunters will be entitled to hunt on lands reserved by the Lions Club and each will be treated to coffee and donuts Saturday morning and to a barbecued lunch at the Easter Community Building on Saturday.

Those not signed up for the hunt can still enjoy the barbecue lunch, but they will have to pay \$6 per plate.

Other meals

A breakfast feast in Dimmitt and a steak supper in Nazareth also are planned on Saturday as part of the opening day pheasant festivities.

The Dimmitt Kiwanis will serve their breakfast from 5:30 to 7 a.m. at the Expo Building in Dimmitt and cost is \$5 per plate.

The menu will include sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, juice and coffee.

The Kiwanis also will be selling chances on a 12 gauge, 870 Pump Remington Magnum Field Grade Shotgun, which will be given away at the breakfast.

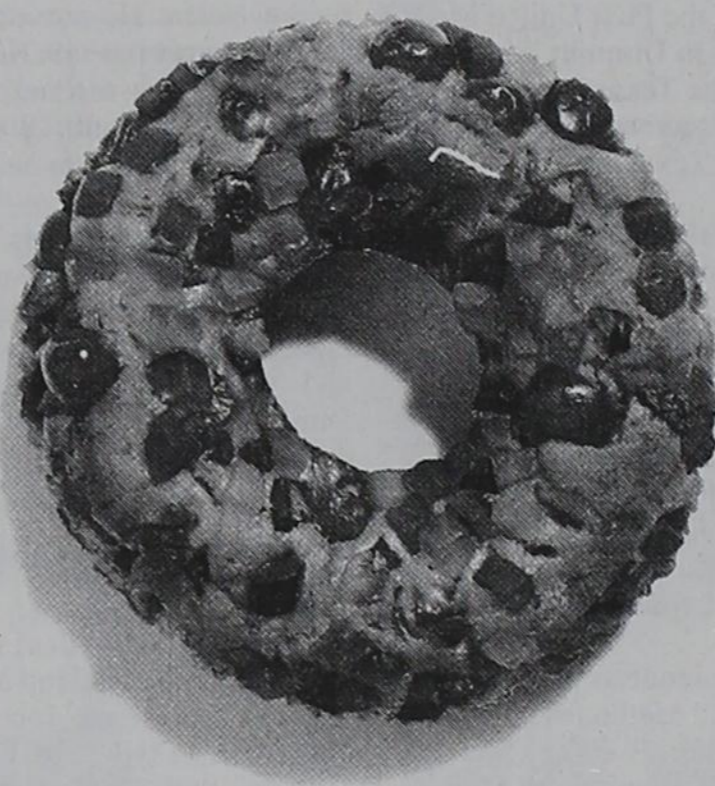
Tickets may be purchased at the door and will be \$2 each or three for \$5.

◆ A steak supper and raffle will be held in Nazareth Saturday night, sponsored by the Nazareth Museum Committee.

The menu of steak, salad, baked potato and all the trimmings will be served from 5:30 to 9 p.m. at the Nazareth Community Hall and the public is invited to attend.

Cost for the meal is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under. Carry-out plates will be available.

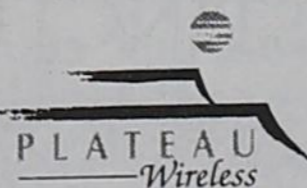
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Obituaries

Bessie Bridges

Funeral services for Bessie C. Bridges, 90, of Hereford, were held last Thursday afternoon at Llano Mausoleum in Amarillo with Jack Bryant officiating.

Burial followed in Llano Cemetery under the direction of Gililand-Watson Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Bridges died Nov. 28 at August Health Care Center in Hereford.

She was born Feb. 12, 1910, in Floydada, and moved from Floyd County to Deaf Smith County in 1923. She married Jack Bridges on Oct. 11, 1925, in Dimmitt. He preceded her in death. She was a homemaker and was a member of the United Methodist Church.

She is survived by a son, Forrest L. Bridges of Hereford; two sisters, Rubye Walker of Hereford and Bertie Britt of Amarillo; a grandchild; two great-grandchildren; and a great-great-grandchild.

Florine Brockman

Florine Marie Brockman, 77, of Nazareth, died at 1:59 p.m. on Saturday at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt.

A vigil service was held Monday evening at the CCD Building in Nazareth.

Mass of Christian burial was read Tuesday morning at Holy Family Catholic Church in Nazareth with Father Peter Otto, pastor, officiating. Burial followed in Holy Family Cemetery under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Brockman was born Nov. 28, 1923, in Nazareth. She married Ernest Brockman on April 4, 1945, in Nazareth.

She was born and raised in Nazareth and graduated from Nazareth High School. She attended St. Anthony's School of Nursing where she received her certificate as a licensed vocational nurse (LVN). She was a member of Holy Family Catholic Church, Christian Mothers, American Legion Auxiliary and Senior Citizens of Nazareth. She was a volunteer at Veteran's Hospital in Amarillo.

Survivors include her husband; two daughters, Shirley Melcher of Austin and LaDonna Miller of Houston; four sons, Richard Brockman, Kirkland, Wash., Hal Brockman of Washington, D.C., Kerry Brockman of Austin, and Mark Brockman of Houston; four brothers, Jerry Wilhelm, James Wilhelm, Francis Wilhelm and Leonard Wilhelm, all of Nazareth; and nine grandchildren.

Hazel G. Dunn

Funeral services for Hazel Gwendolyn Dunn, 79, of Dallas, and formerly of Dimmitt, are set for Saturday at 2 p.m. at Laurel Funeral Home of Dallas, with family visitation set at noon at the funeral home prior to the services.

Mrs. Dunn died Dec. 3 in Dallas.

She was born April 3, 1921, in Throckmorton County to Sidney and Estelle Reynolds and grew up in Lamesa. She married Fred J. Dunn on Feb. 24, 1938. The couple farmed in the Dimmitt community and raised their family there before moving to Amarillo in 1970, and then finally to Dallas in 1972. Mrs. Dunn had received her LVN license, and in 1982 she retired from nursing.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, who died March 4, 1999. They had celebrated 61 years of marriage prior to his death.

Mrs. Dunn is survived by three children, Gwen Hopper of Mesa, Ariz., Dr. Jacky Dunn of Russellville, Ark., and Carolyn Coin of Phoenix, Ariz.; four sisters, Bobby McCurry and Fern Eudy of Odessa, Margie Stotler of Franklin, Tenn., and Sidney Rasure of Goodland, Kan.; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

Alex Glass

A memorial service for William Alexander "Alex" Glass, 67, of Greenfield, Okla., and formerly of Dimmitt, will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at College Heights Baptist Church of Plainview, 802 Quincy, with Rev. Don Robertson, pastor, officiating.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at the First Baptist Church of Greenfield with Rev. Mike Hazelwood officiating. Burial was in Geary Cemetery of Geary, Okla., under the direction of Turner Funeral Home of Geary.

Mr. Glass died Nov. 30 at his home, just east of Greenfield.

He was born Feb. 14, 1933, in Watonga, Okla., to Elmer and Ethel Finney Glass. He was raised in the Greenfield community and graduated

from Greenfield High School in 1951. He attended Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Okla., and played football while obtaining a bachelor's degree in education. Mr. Glass began his 42 years of educational service in 1956 in Hereford as both a teacher and coach. In 1962 he returned to Oklahoma and coached in Mountain View, Okla. He married Jaquetta Howell on June 19, 1965, and returned to Hereford, where he became an assistant principal in 1966. He became the principal at La Plata Junior High School in Hereford before his return to Greenfield in 1973, where he served as superintendent from 1973 to 1978. Then he returned to Hereford for two years, and in 1980 he became the principal at Dimmitt High School. In 1988, he became the assistant principal of Plainview High School, serving there until his retirement in 1998. After retiring, he returned to the family farm in Greenfield. Mr. Glass was a member of Masonic Lodge #849 in Hereford, Greenfield Baptist Church, the Hale County Teachers Credit Union Board of Directors, and various other civic clubs.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and an infant daughter, Shawn Alexandera Glass.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Woody Glass of Norman, Okla.; a brother, Elmer "Buddy" Glass Jr. of Watonga, Okla.; a granddaughter; and three nieces.

The family suggests memorials to the Russell-Murray Hospice, P.O. Box 1423 El Reno, Okla. 73036.

Othella Jones

Othella Rousser Jones, 81, of Dimmitt, died at 9:10 p.m. on Saturday.

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Monday at Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home's Ivey Chapel with the Rev. Rusty Dickerson, pastor of First United Methodist Church under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home. Burial followed in Plainview Memorial Park in Plainview.

Mrs. Jones was born March 24, 1919, in Kress. She married Worth Jones on July 13, 1935, in Plainview. She moved to Hart in 1944 and lived there until 1976 when she moved to Happy. She moved to Dimmitt in 1995. She was a homemaker and a rancher. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt. She was a member of the Texas Angus Auxiliary and was secretary for two terms for the West Texas Angus Association.

She was preceded in death by a sister and a brother.

Survivors include her husband; a son, Weldon Jones of Hart; two daughters, San Rhodes of Amarillo and Jeton Edge of Colorado Springs, Colo.; a brother, Winfred Rousser of Sunray; a sister, Ramona Mallow of Plainview; a half-sister, Margarite Bowman of California; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to First United Methodist Church of Dimmitt or Hart; Hospice Care, 213 West Etter, Dimmitt; or Medical Center of Dimmitt, 112 West Jones St., Dimmitt.

Flores wins \$100 prize

Seferina Flores of Hereford was the winner of \$100 in Dimmitt Dollars last Thursday in round two of the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce's holiday promotion.

Vicki Aljoe of Dimmitt and Allison House of Happy were the \$10 winners for the week.

Winning entries for the Nov. 30 drawing were submitted at Lockhart

Pamela Littlefield

Graveside services for Pamela Sue Littlefield, 49, of Denton, and formerly of Dimmitt, were held Saturday afternoon at Resthaven Memorial Park in Lubbock with arrangements under the direction of Resthaven Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Mrs. Littlefield died Nov. 29 at Denton Regional Medical Center.

She was born in Plainview and moved to Denton in 1998 from Clovis, N.M. She married Mike Littlefield on March 24, 1972, and had lived in Lubbock, Dimmitt and Farmington, N.M. A graduate of Monterey High School in Lubbock, she attended Texas Tech University and was a volunteer for the Barnes Therapy Associates in Ponder. During the years she lived in Dimmitt, her husband, Mike, worked at First United Bank and she was employed with Braafladt Transport.

She is survived by her husband; two daughters, Amy Tingberg of Lewisville and Alisa Mitchell of Clovis, N.M.; her parents, Frank and Iris Standerfer of Robert Lee; a brother, Pat Standerfer of Lubbock; three sisters, Kay Hurst of Robert Lee, Janie Miller of San Antonio and Debbie Payne of Lubbock; her maternal grandmother, Louise Andrews of Robert Lee; and two grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Barnes Therapy Associates, 9204-TN. Skiles Rd., Ponder 76259.

James McLaughlin

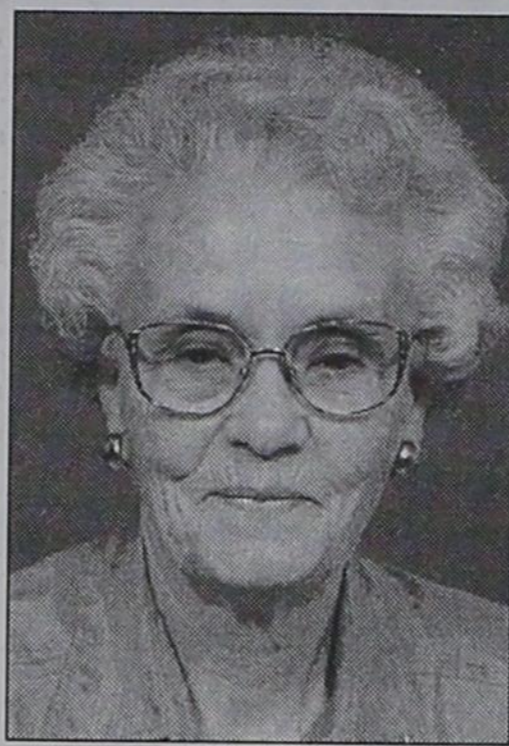
James McLaughlin, 68, of Sudan, father of two Dimmitt women, died Saturday in Sudan.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. today (Thursday) at Mount Olive Baptist Church with the Rev. H.K. Thomas officiating.

Burial will be in Sudan Cemetery under the direction of McCarty Funeral Home.

Mr. McLaughlin was born Dec. 24, 1931, in Marlin, where he was raised and attended school. He married J. Letha Cook on Oct. 27, 1972, in Littlefield. He owned and operated a lawn and garden service for several years. He moved to Sudan approximately in 1949. He also lived in Midland for a time. He was a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church in Sudan.

Survivors include his wife; two sons, Henry Miles of Amherst and Odell Johnson Jr. of San Antonio; eight daughters, Ola Fay Sherman and Debra Robertson, both of Dimmitt; Janice Whitley and Dorothy Sanders, both of Hereford; Patsy Witherspoon of Lubbock, Ida Jones of Houston, Clara Johnson of Levelland and Cletha Wilson of Ingleside; three sisters, Lula Mae Moss of California, Doris McLaughlin of Midland and Louise Hays of Louisiana; four brothers, Rayfus Jr., Clyde and Earl, all of Midland; and Albert of California; and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Margie Hyden Tolleson

Services for Margie Hyden Tolleson, 77, of Dimmitt, were held Tuesday at the Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ in Dimmitt with her grandsons officiating. Burial followed at Castro Memorial Gardens under the direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Tolleson died at 5:05 p.m. Saturday.

She was born Nov. 3, 1923, at Grady County, Okla. She married Charles Brooks Tolleson on May 23, 1942, in Goodlet. He died on Aug. 1, 1985.

Mrs. Tolleson graduated from Goodlet schools. She moved to Dimmitt where her and her husband farmed. She was a member of Fourth and Bedford Street Church of Christ.

Survivors include three daughters, Ann Blackburn of Horseshoe Bay, Wanda Trent of Midland and Edith Harmon of San Angelo; a brother, Calvin Hyden of Sacramento, Calif.; a sister, Helen Cokendolpher of Brownwood; six grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Boys Ranch, Children's Home of Lubbock or a favorite charity.

Nominations sought for Chamber honors

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

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

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

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

recognition," said Chamber Executive Director Bill Sava.

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

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

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

Natural gas may not be stopped in cold weather

The Texas Railroad Commission recently adopted an emergency rule to stop discontinuance of natural gas service during winter months.

In 1999, at least 21 people died in Texas from hypothermia. Of those 21, at least 17 (81%) were age 60 or older and many of them died unexpectedly in their own homes. Without adequate heat, many people, especially the elderly, are in danger long before the temperature drops to freezing.

"Our action today protects disadvantaged Texans, especially children and the elderly, when winter temperatures drop toward freezing," Williams said. "We do not want Texans forced to choose between home heat and other needs."

Under the new rule: Natural gas utility companies may not disconnect a customer on a day when the previous day's temperature in the county where the customer takes service fell below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the National Weather Service predicts that the temperature in the county will fall

below that level during the next 24 hours.

Providers may not disconnect service to a delinquent residential customer for a billing period in which the provider receives a pledge, letter of intent, purchase order, or other notification from an energy assistance provider that is forwarding sufficient payment to continue service.

Providers may not disconnect service to a delinquent residential customer on a day, or on a day immediately preceding a day when personnel of the provider are not available for the purpose of receiving payment or making collections or reconnecting service.

Providers are also encouraged to offer customers a deferred payment plan as set forth in the commission's quality of service rule, 16 TAC §7.45(2), or a level or average payment plan.

Text of the emergency rule will be provided on the Railroad Commission web site at www.rrc.state.tx.us.

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Sports



Dimmitt boys

Danger: long-barreled bushwhackers

Most of this year's Bobcats are still honing their shooting skills after coming in from the football field.

But, based on their performance in the Wayland Pioneer Classic over the weekend, they're coming along fast.

By winning the Pioneer Classic's small-school championship, the Bobcats served notice that they're going to be another exciting Dimmitt team with definite playoff potential.

Making the playoffs would be par for Coach Alan Steinle. He has guided the Bobcats into extra games every year since he took over the DHS program in 1993, and his teams have posted at least 20 wins each of the last six years.

Since the Bobcats will be out-talied in almost every game this season, they'll have to play like a gang of long-barreled bandits. So look for a lot of running, pressing and long-range gunning.

This year's varsity squad is made up of 10 seniors and five juniors.

The only starter back from last year is 5-11 senior wing/guard Daniel Proffitt, but five others on the varsity roster earned letters.

Here's the 2000-01 Bobcat roster, with Coach Steinle's assessment of each player:

DANIEL PROFFITT, 5-11 senior wing/guard (2L), a long-shot artist who averaged 8.7 points, 3.2 rebounds and 2.7 assists last year: "Daniel is a good jump shooter and playmaker. He's our team leader, plays extremely smart, and has the ability to score on the drive or pull-up."

MARCUS LARRA, 5-9 senior point guard (1L), who averaged 3.5 points and 3.1 assists last season: "Marcus sees the floor well, and has good instincts for the game. He can

penetrate on the dribble and find the open man. He's a reliable ball handler."

MATTHEW SANDOVAL, 6-3 senior post (1L), who contributed an average of 4.3 points and 3.8 rebounds last season: "Matthew is becoming a better defender around the basket. He will be one of our leading rebounders."

MICHAEL (DEE) NORMAN, 6-0 junior wing up from last year's junior varsity: "He's very athletic. He has a great shooting touch and can score from many places on the floor. He can play inside or outside. He's a good jumper and sound rebounder."

AUSTIN SHERMAN, 5-9 junior guard, up from the JV: "Austin has outstanding quickness and is a dependable ball handler. He's an exceptional shooter, and can play the point or shooting guard position."

Those five have been the starters in the early games this season, but these varsity squadsmen are also contributing a lot to the Dimmitt arsenal:

Seniors

B. J. HILL, 5-11 wing (1L), who averaged 3.2 points and 3.7 rebounds last season: "B. J. is a battler on the boards—he plays hard and aggressive and has an emotional style. He does a fine job inside despite his lack of size. He's improving his shooting range."

COREY LANE, 6-1 post (1L), who hasn't seen action yet because of a broken foot: "Corey has excellent range, and is a very good shooter in the 10-12 ft. range—he can score on the baseline or at high post. He has good hands and a soft shot."

JULIAN VELO, 6-1 post (1L): "Julian will provide us with depth at the post position. He is an excellent defender around the basket, and



THE DIMMITT BOBCATS of 2000-01 are Wesley Harkins (22), Josh Hardwick (10), Lee Cejna (30), Brent Josselet (13), Daniel Proffitt (11), Matthew Wright (14), Dee Norman, Matthew Sandoval (23), Julian Velo (32), Corey Lane (31), B. J. Hill (21),

Austin Sherman (12), Marcus Larra (20) and Israel Martinez (15). Not pictured is Anthony Oltivero. Kneeling are Assistant Coach Anthony Howerton (left) and Head Coach Alan Steinle. The squad includes 10 seniors and five juniors. Photo by Gamer Ball

knows how to position himself both offensively and defensively. He has good hands."

JOSH HARDWICK, 5-9 guard: "Josh is an excellent spot-up shooter. He has improved his range, and can play the point guard or shooting guard position. He provides us with depth at both of those positions."

ISRAEL MARTINEZ, 5-9 guard: "Israel's strength is his jump shot, and he can also score on a drive to the bucket. He's a good defender as well."

WESLEY HARKINS, 5-9 guard: "Wesley is an excellent perimeter shooter. His quickness is an asset. He can play both guard positions."

LEE CEJNA, 5-10 wing (foreign exchange student): "Lee has a lot of love for the game of basketball. He has really improved his ability to play since the beginning of the school year. He's an aggressive player and enjoys working to improve."

Juniors

BRENT JOSSELET, 5-9 junior guard, (up from JV): "Brent should be able to provide us with a perimeter threat with his shot. He has the athletic ability to be a great player, both defensively and offensively. He has improved, and will continue to

improve as the season progresses."

ANTHONY OLTIVERO, 5-10 guard (up from JV): "Anthony has good quickness, is a good jumper, and has the ability to go to the basket or pull up. He can play inside or move to the perimeter. He will provide us with depth at several positions."

MATTHEW WRIGHT, 5-11 wing (up from JV): "Matthew is an intelligent player and an exceptional rebounder. He has the ability to play several positions—he can play on the perimeter or move inside. He makes good decisions."

The Bobcats have taken on some pretty good teams from bigger classes so far—Randall, Levelland, Borger, Hereford, Plainview. They struggled at first, but now seem to be hitting their stride.

"Our concerns are rebounding the basketball and playing consistently," Steinle said. "You can overcome the rebounding problem with a little hard work and by getting position."

"We'll give up some height, yes, but a lot of rebounding is in getting around the court and getting in position."

The other teams in District 2-AAA probably weren't happy about Dimmitt moving back into the district this year from 1-AAA.

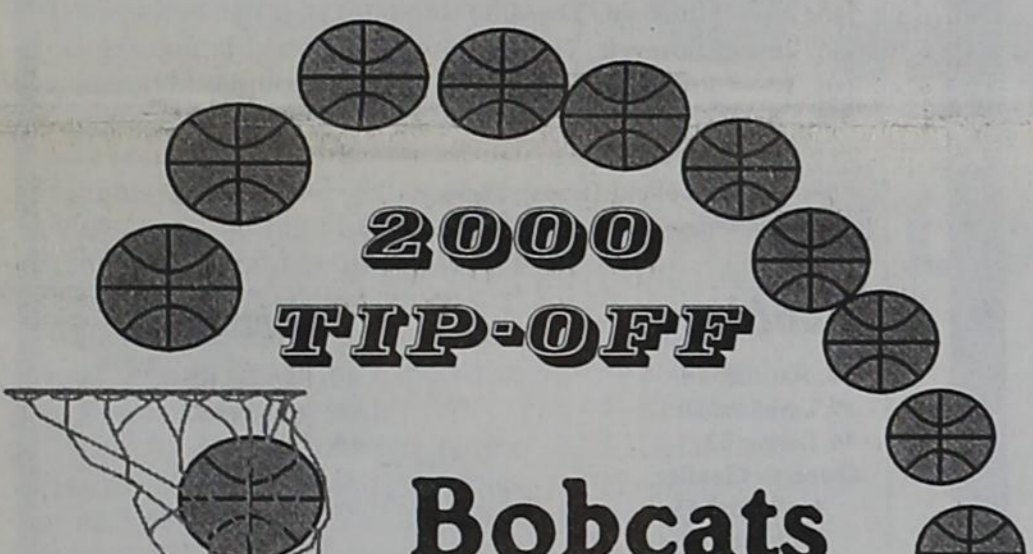
Last year, Dimmitt and

Shallowater met in the regional quarterfinals, with Shallowater winning by 77-70 in overtime. This year, though, those two playoff teams are in the same district.

"Right now they've got us and Shallowater picked at the top, depending on which poll you read," Steinle said. "But there are three other good programs in the district,

too—Muleshoe, Cooper and Littlefield. Muleshoe and Littlefield have been in the playoffs, and Cooper is getting more kids. Their programs are all getting better.

"Roosevelt is going to be a very athletic team. It's too early to tell how they'll stack up in district, but we'll just have to play them and find out."



Player	Height	Grade	Position
10--Josh Hardwick	5-9	Senior	Guard
11--Daniel Proffitt	5-11	Senior	Wing
12--Austin Sherman	5-9	Junior	Guard
13--Brent Josselet	5-9	Junior	Guard
14--Matthew Wright	5-11	Junior	Wing
15--Israel Martinez	5-9	Senior	Guard
20--Marcus Larra	5-9	Senior	Guard
21--B.J. Hill	5-11	Senior	Wing
22--Wesley Harkins	5-9	Senior	Guard
23--Matthew Sandoval	6-3	Senior	Post
24--Anthony Oltivero	5-10	Junior	Guard
25--Dee Norman	6-0	Junior	Wing
30--Lee Cejna	5-10	Senior	Wing
31--Corey Lane	6-1	Senior	Post
32--Julian Velo	6-1	Senior	Post

Steak supper and raffle set Saturday

The Nazareth Museum Committee will sponsor their annual Steak Supper and Raffle on Saturday from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Nazareth Community Hall.

All hunters and the public are invited to attend. Funds will go for projects of the museum.

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Bobbies bounce Godley for seventh in Canyon Classic

The Dimmitt Bobbies rebounded from a pair of losses early in the Canyon Classic to claim the seventh-place prize with a big 65-35 win over Godley on Saturday.

Dimmitt couldn't find a defense to control Amarillo Tascosa in the first-round game last Thursday and dropped to the consolation bracket with a 36-71 loss to the Lady Rebels.

The Bobbies challenged Panhandle basket-for-basket in Friday's consolation semifinal, but the Lady Panthers were able to pull away in the second half and held on for a 63-51 win.

Dimmitt was in control of the game with Godley from the opening minutes on Saturday, building a 27-10 lead in the first period before coasting through the next three quarters for the win.

Heather Black averaged 18 points over the three games in the tournament, leading the Bobbies in scoring in each outing.

She finished with 16 against Tascosa, had 23 against Panhandle and tallied 15 against Godley.

Bobbies 36, Tascosa 71

Tascosa exploded with a 21-8 advantage over Dimmitt in the first quarter last Thursday and the Bobbies never regained the lost ground, despite a strong performance in the second quarter.

The Bobbies couldn't shut down the powerful Lady Rebel offense, which got balanced scoring from several individuals.

Dimmitt came back with 16 points in the second stanza, but still trailed Tascosa at intermission, 24-43.

The second-quarter effort was sparked by Black, who had seven points.

The Lady Rebels defense stymied Dimmitt's offense in the third period, limiting the Bobbies to a single basket by Black.

That put the game on ice for Tascosa as the Lady Rebs took a 50-26 lead into fourth-quarter action.

Tascosa reeled off 21 points in the fourth quarter while limiting Dimmitt to 10 to claim the 71-36 win.

Black was the lone Bobbie to finish in double figures with 16. Tamara Robertson was the team's next high scorer with seven points and Audrey Saenz had four. Two-point scores were achieved by Stacy Saenz, Rachel Fabela, Kylie Webb, and Kelsey Welch. Sharla Kenworthy added a free throw.

Tascosa's top scorers were Lexie Johnston and Catherine Bankhead, who had 13 each.

Bobbies 51, Panhandle 63

The Bobbies started off on fire against Panhandle Friday, but the stingy Lady Panther defense extinguished the Bobbies' flame in the second half and was able to claim the win.

Dimmitt jumped out to a 13-11 lead in the first quarter as Black pumped in seven points on a pair of field goals and three charity tosses, but Panhandle reeled off 20 points in the second period and limited Dimmitt to 12 as the Lady Panthers took control of the lead, 31-25.

Panhandle couldn't stop Black, who had almost half of her team's

points with 21. After her seven-point performance in the first quarter, she added six in the second quarter and eight in the third period.

Robertson also enjoyed a double-digit scoring performance with 13. Eleven of those came during the fourth quarter when Black was shut down, and seven of her fourth-quarter points came from the free throw line.

The rest of the Bobbies were cold from the floor, though, and that allowed Panhandle to pull away in the second half.

After three quarters, Panhandle had extended its lead to 10 points, 49-39, then held on in the fourth for the 63-51 win.

Welch finished with six points in the game while Audrey Saenz added four and Merritt and Fabela had two apiece.

The Lady Panthers would fall in the consolation championship to San Antonio Taft, 81-39; while the Bobbies won their last game, beating Godley, 65-35.

Bobbies 65, Godley 35

Godley was no match for the fired-up Bobbies on Saturday.

Paced by Black's 15-point performance and a 12-point effort by Rachel Fabela, the Bobbies stunned Godley's defense with shots from inside and outside in a 65-35 victory.

A big 27-point first-quarter allowed Dimmitt to take a big lead, 27-10, then the Dimmitt defense did the job the rest of the way, holding Godley to 21 points over the next three quarters.

In that first quarter, Dimmitt saw



DEFENSE—Dimmitt's Sally Stahl (20) harasses Amarillo Tascosa's Stevie Ledoux (31) while Audrey Saenz (30) protects the lane in their first-round game at the Canyon Classic last Thursday. Tascosa won the game, 71-36. The Lady Rebels finished fourth and the

Bobbies seventh in the super-tough tourney, which featured three defending state championship teams which placed first, second and third. The Canyon Lady Eagles defeated Mansfield for the tourney championship. Photo by Carter Townsend

seven players find the scoring column, with Fabela leading the attack with eight points.

Dimmitt's 17-point first-quarter lead grew to a 19-point advantage at halftime, then soared to a 21-point

lead after three quarters.

The Bobbies outscored Godley, 17-8, over the final eight minutes to secure the win and seventh-place prize.

Nine Bobbies scored in the game,

paced by Black's 15-point outing. Fabela finished with 12; Robertson had nine; Audrey Saenz had eight; Merritt, Welch and Schulte each had five; Webb had four; and Kenworthy finished with two.

Good Luck, Bobcats,
in the Spring City Crossroads Classic
Thursday-Saturday, Big Spring

FIRST GAME: Bobcats vs. Sweetwater, Thursday, 5:45 p.m.

★

MONDAY: Bobbies & Bobcats vs. Abernathy, Here

Schedule and Scores

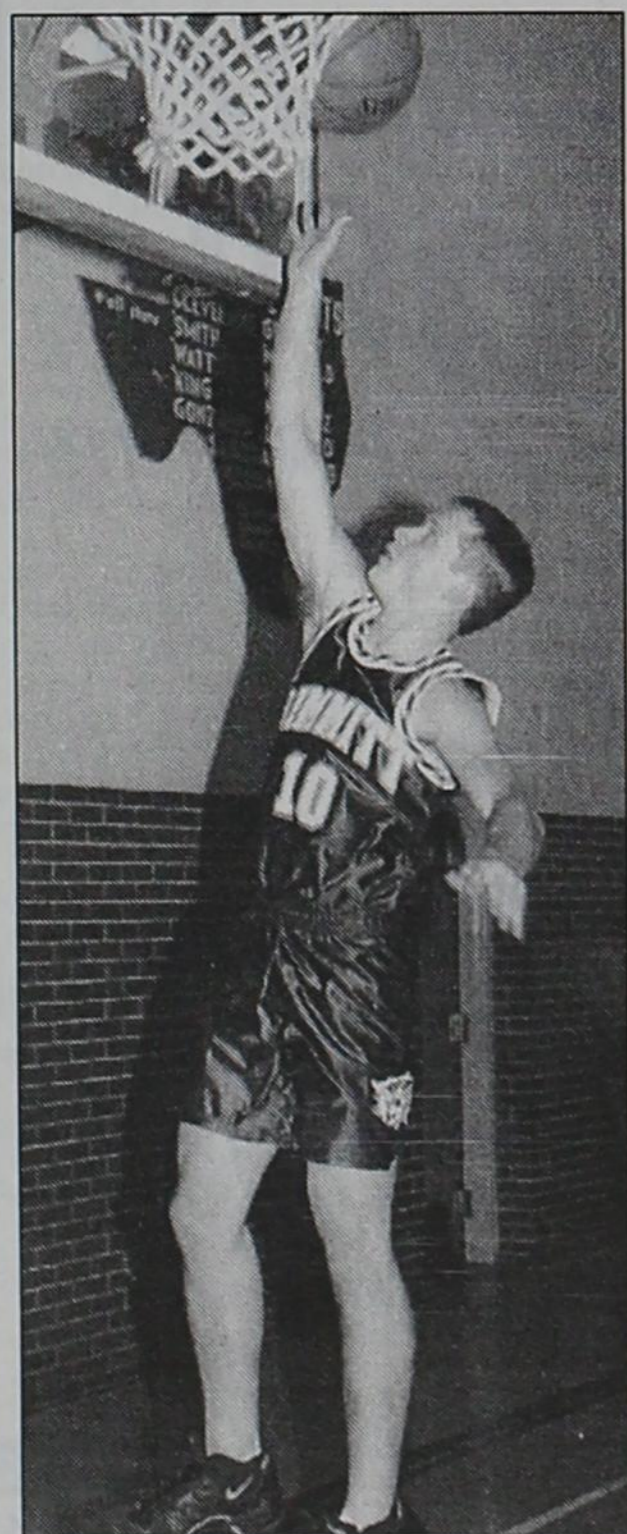
- Dec. 7-9—Big Spring Tournament (Boys), Big Spring
- Dec. 11—Abernathy, Here
- Dec. 15—River Road, Here
- Dec. 21—Amarillo High, There
- Dec. 28-30—Caprock Tournament, Lubbock
- Jan. 5—*Littlefield (Girls), Here
- Jan. 5—Tulia (Boys), Here
- Jan. 9—*Roosevelt (Girls), Here
- Jan. 9—Amarillo (Boys), Here
- Jan. 12—*Shallowater, There
- Jan. 16—*Muleshoe, Here
- Jan. 19—*Cooper, There
- Jan. 23—*Littlefield, There
- Jan. 26—*Roosevelt, There
- Jan. 30—*Shallowater, Here
- Feb. 2—*Muleshoe, There
- Feb. 6—*Cooper, Here
- Feb. 9—*Littlefield (Boys), Here
- Feb. 12—*Roosevelt (Boys), Here

Bobbies

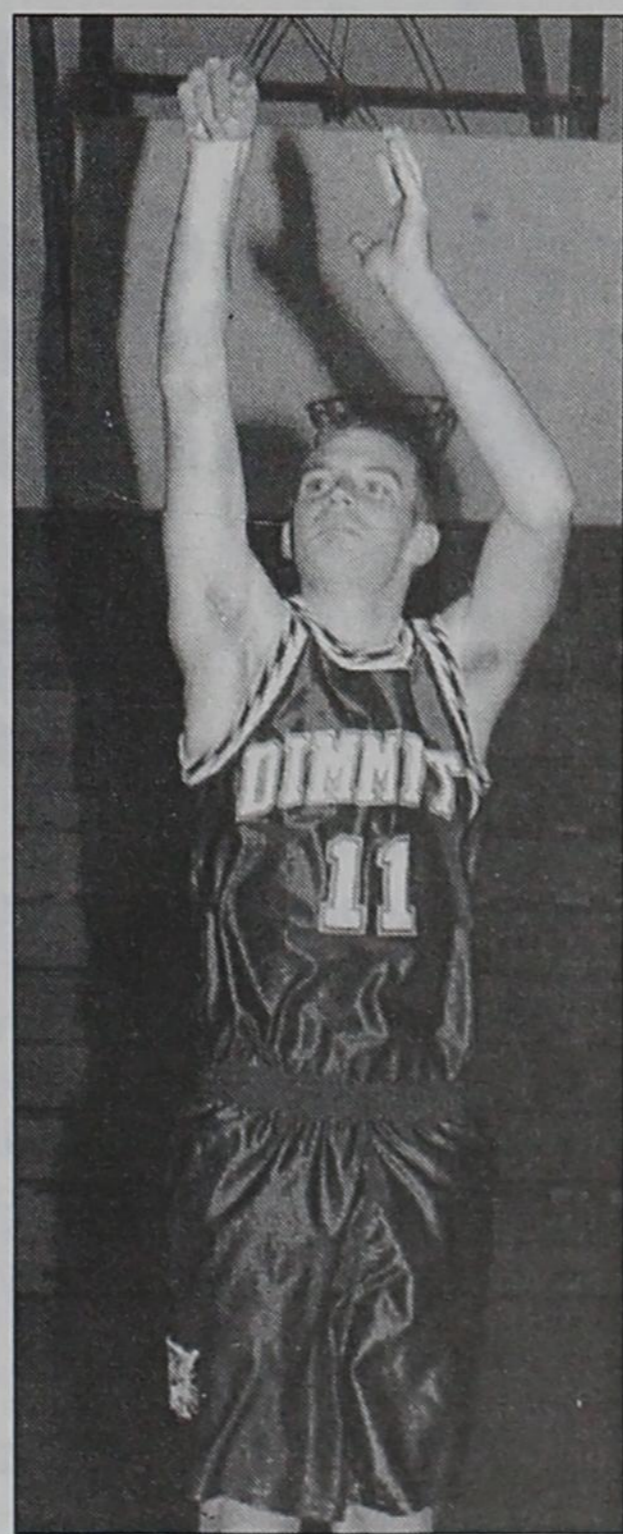
- 42, Randall 54
- 39, Levelland 58
- 44, Borger 62
- Queen's Classic
- 41, Randall 55
- 57, Muleshoe 44
- 68, Vega 70 (OT)
- 59 Hereford 55
- Canyon Classic
- 36, Tascosa 71
- 51, Panhandle 63
- 65, Godley 35
- ??, Tulia ??
- Season Record: 3-7

Bobcats

- 49, Randall 68
- 60, Levelland 67
- 69, Borger 62
- 43, Hereford 52
- Plainview Tourney
- 63, Plainview 53
- 256 Paducah 40
- 70, Hale Center 40
- ??, Tulia ??
- Season Record: 4-3



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Hart Longhorns

Experienced squad looking for post-season nod

The Hart Longhorns knocked on the door of the playoffs a year ago. This year they want to open that door.

Hart just missed out on post-season play last year, finishing third in a tough district.

Four starters and four other lettermen from that team return for Coach Todd Bryant, and they have high hopes for the 2000-01 season.

But graduation claimed a 20-point per game performer and floor leader, Jeremiah Velasquez. If Hart can find someone to step up and fill Velasquez's shoes, the Longhorns could be one of the teams to beat in their Division I district.

"I think we're a lot stronger and a lot more physical now than we've ever been. Most of these guys can touch or grab the rim," said Bryant. "We just have to find the 20 points per game we lost with Jeremiah. It's going to be up to the veterans to pick up those points. These kids can easily break loose and have a terrific year. We just need to develop a leader."

The four starters Bryant welcomes back are 6-0 senior wing Jeff Bennett, 6-0 junior post/point guard Keith Finch, 5-9 junior wing Jacob Reyna and 6-0 junior post Albert Velasquez.

Letterman Salvador Velasquez, a 5-9 sophomore point guard/wing, will join the veteran quad in the starting rotation.

"We may wind up with either Keith or Salvador at point guard. We're just not sure yet," Bryant said. "If we can get Salvador to run the team like he did as quarterback in football, we'll be okay. Then we can move Keith to post."

Other returning lettermen include Marcial Mendoza, a 6-1 junior post; Joel DeLaFuente, a 5-10 junior wing; and Joey Pantoja, a 6-2 junior post. Rounding out the roster are newcomers Isaias Garcia, a 5-9 junior wing; and Corey Moore, a 6-3 sophomore post.

Bennett is the only senior on the Hart roster and he's a three-year starter. In his first game of the season, he pulled down 21 rebounds and Bryant is counting on him to provide leadership to the younger players.

"Jeff's floor leadership is great. He works hard. I'd like to see him score 10 points a game and get eight rebounds each outing. Last year he averaged 5.1 points and 4.2 rebounds. There's no doubt he can step up. He plays excellent defense and I expect him to show his experience and flourish," Bryant said.

Finch is a multi-talented player who can fulfill a wide range of roles for the Longhorns. So far he's seen action at the post and at point guard.

"Keith can play inside or outside. He's a returning all-district selection who averaged 13.3 points and 9.1 rebounds last year. He needs to step up and average 16 to 17 points this year. I think Keith should develop into one of our biggest scoring threats. He's a very physical player inside," Bryant said.

The Longhorns' "shooting guard" is Reyna, but he's not afraid to battle inside, either.

Bryant said he would like for Reyna to "become more consistent offensively and have 10 to 12 points per game."

"Jacob's the quickest and fastest kid we can put on the court," Bryant said.

Albert Velasquez was "one of our biggest surprises last year," Bryant said. "He's a good kid. You can always count on him. I'd like to see him average 8-10 points and 6-7

rebounds each game."

In early games, Albert Velasquez has provided the Longhorns with some big games, and was named to the all-tournament team in Morton a couple of weeks ago.

Salvador Velasquez might just be a sophomore, but he's not a rookie. He enjoyed some quality playing time a year ago and Bryant hopes that experience will pay off this season.

"Salvador is going to have to run our offense and show patience in directing the team on the court," he said. "He's one of our better passers and he plays excellent defense."

Hart's bench should be solid, especially with the height of several of the players.

Pantoja gives Hart a "big post off the bench." He has lacked consistency on offense early this season, but when he's hot, it's tough to stop him.

"He needs to become more aggressive and more consistent down on the post," Bryant said. "If he can come through for us, we'll be more flexible."

DeLaFuente is a two-year varsity player who continues to improve each game, according to Bryant.

"Joel can play good defense and he's one of those guys off the bench that we're going to count on for quality minutes. We need him to score for us when he's in the game. He may even be able to work his way into the starting lineup," Bryant said.

Mendoza plays great defense and he's got the most heart of any player on the team, Bryant said.

"Marcial's going to give it everything he's got when he's on the floor," Bryant said.

Garcia is young, but Bryant feels that when he gets a little varsity ex-



FOUR STARTERS RETURN for the Hart Longhorns this season and they hope their experience will help them cross the final hurdle of reaching the playoffs this year. Team members, pictured from left, are Salvador Velasquez, Isaias Garcia, Keith Finch, Albert Velasquez, Corey

Moore, Joey Pantoja, Marcial Mendoza, Jeff Bennett, Jacob Reyna and Joel DeLaFuente. Coaching the Longhorns this season is Todd Bryant (kneeling).
Photo by Neoma Williams

perience, he'll be a good backup for Bennett at the post.

Another good post backup will be Moore, who is solid defensively and is a strong rebounder. He's also developing good post moves and Bryant expects to see him improve each game.

"Overall, we've got a good ballclub. I expect a lot from this team. Since we're so small, we're going to use a lot of motion in our

offense, especially against a man-to-man defense. The kids are getting better at setting screens and they're beginning to look for passes and make plays."

Bryant said a lot of teams have started out in a man-to-man defense against the Longhorns, but quickly change to a zone because of Hart's quickness.

"The strength of our offense is our inside game right now, but I think that's just because we're still developing our shooting touch. We really haven't been in the gym that long.

Hart is playing man-to-man defense now, but don't be surprised to see the Longhorns opt for a 2-3 zone or 1-3-1 zone on occasion, especially against teams with a strong inside attack.

Since the team is extremely quick, full-court press will be a big part of the game plan, too, and Bryant plans on using the 2-2-1 or 1-2-1-1 diamond presses.

The Longhorns are improving fundamentally, and that includes in the rebounding department. With

continued improvement, Hart could be a big challenger for the playoffs as it competes with Springlake-Earth, Farwell, Kress, Bovina and Sudan for the two available playoff berths.

"The guys know where they're going this year and that's an indication of how well they've accepted

the system," Bryant said. "We want to place well in our next two tournaments. We also want to grab a playoff spot instead of having to depend on someone else winning or losing to get us in the door. We want to make the playoffs outright. We control our own destiny."

Some people don't hesitate to speak their mind, because they don't have nothing to lose.

Father, deep within me is my determination, my strength, my will to survive. It comes from You and I thank You. Amen

Player	Height	Grade	Position
3--Salvador Velasquez	5-9	Sophomore	Point/Wing
4--Keith Finch	6-0	Junior	Post/Guard
5--Isaias Garcia	5-9	Junior	Wing
12--Marcial Mendoza	6-1	Junior	Post
20--Jeff Bennett	6-0	Senior	Wing
21--Jacob Reyna	5-9	Junior	Wing
22--Joel DeLaFuente	5-10	Junior	Wing
30--Joey Pantoja	6-2	Junior	Post
32--Albert Velasquez	6-0	Junior	Post
33--Corey Moore	6-3	Sophomore	Post

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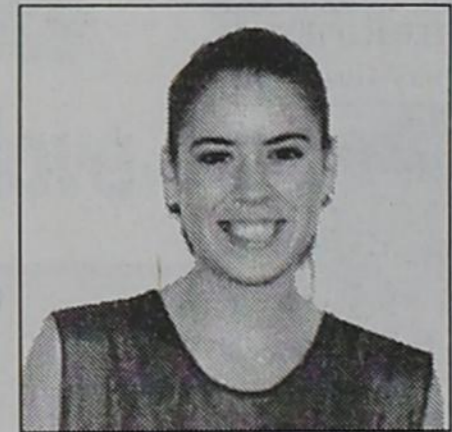
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DHS spirit signs ready

Dimmitt residents can show their support for their favorite Bobcat or Bobbie by having a sign featuring their player's number posted in their yard.

"If you would like a Bobcat or Bobbie in your yard, please call 647-4356," said Connie Dickerson, sponsor for the Dimmitt High School Student Council, which is sponsoring the fundraising project.

"To have the Bobcat or Bobbie in your yard for one week is \$5, or for the whole season, the cost is \$50."

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

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

There is a limit on the number of signs available, so they will be sold on a first-come basis.

Nazareth Swifts

Starting lineup returns intact and is aiming for playoffs

The road to Austin for Division II Class A boys' teams could pass through Nazareth this season.

The Swifts are one of the favored teams in Region 1 and that's because the entire starting lineup returns from last year's playoff team. But before the Swifts can look down the road toward the playoffs, they must focus on their district opponents—especially the defending Region 1-A champs, the Happy Cowboys.

"Our district is one of the toughest ones in Division II," said Nazareth Coach Mike Scarbrough. "Happy's the defending regional champion and even though they lost a couple of good kids, they have some new guys that look good. Silverton won its district last year and they've got a couple of good guys back, too."

The Swifts, though, have the most experience returning, highlighted by junior starters Daryl Pohlmeier at post, Ky Wilcox and Kade Wilcox at the wings and Blake Birkenfeld at point guard; and by sophomore post Eric Schilling. Each started a year ago.

"Returning lettermen are Tyler Ehly, a 6-1 sophomore forward; and Justin Kleman, a 6-1 sophomore post.

Completing the roster are senior Wade Price, a 6-2 post; Chase

Schulte, a 5-5 sophomore guard; and Trey Robb, a 5-9 freshman guard.

"Since I've been here, this is the team that's returned the most experience," Scarbrough said. "This team is going to have good depth, too. The guys are hungry. They're looking to do big things this year."

Kade Wilcox was the Swifts' leading scorer last year, averaging 19 points per game as he was named first-team all-region by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC).

A 5-9 junior guard, Wilcox is deadly from beyond the arc and his quickness and ability to anticipate help the Swifts on defense.

"Kade's one of our best defenders and he is our best shooter," Scarbrough said. "He's a great three-point shooter. He's a three-year starter, so he's got a lot of experience."

Wilcox's twin brother, Ky, a 5-10 junior guard, also is a three-year veteran who averaged 14 points and seven rebounds a year ago as he was named to TABC's all-region second team.

He missed the first couple of games this season because of a dislocated elbow he suffered in football, but he returned to action last week and made an immediate impact.

"Ky's a good jumper and he has

great skills all over the court," Scarbrough said. "He's not that big, but he's aggressive and goes to the basket strong. He's one of our top rebounders and he plays great defense."

Schilling was the Swifts' second-leading scorer as a freshman last year, and he gives the Swifts some much-needed size in the paint. He also is nursing a football injury—a broken finger on his left hand.

"We're looking for Eric to be our main scoring threat inside," Scarbrough said. "He's a good shooter and he can hit from anywhere. He's just as good from the outside as he is the inside. He's also a good shot blocker. We expect big things from him."

Birkenfeld is the floor leader, running the offense from the point position. A 5-10 junior guard, he averaged seven points and a pair of rebounds last season. He's got solid numbers in the assist department, too.

"Blake's a good floor leader and he's smart. He makes good decisions and he's one of our better perimeter defenders. I think he can have a breakout year this season and really help us a lot," Scarbrough said.

Pohlmeier rounds out the starting lineup and he brings a five-point and six-carom average to the floor this year.

Scarbrough said Pohlmeier is the Swifts' "blue collar worker."

"Daryl's one of our better post defenders and he's strong on the boards. He can take charges and he's constantly hustling after loose balls. He's already got two years' experience under his belt, and we think that will be big for us this season."

Ehly is the only letterman on the roster with significant varsity experience, and he's a versatile player that can play either post or guard, according to Scarbrough.

"Tyler's a good defender and he's good on the boards. He also can score for us," he said.

Kleman was on junior varsity for most of last year, but moved up to varsity late in the season.

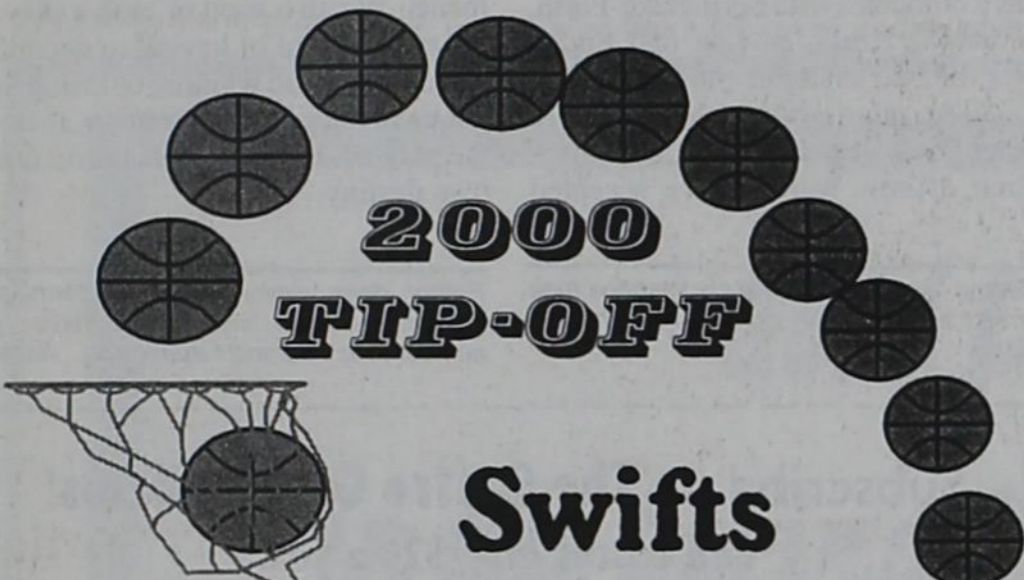
"Justin's not quite as physical as some of the other guys yet, but he does a good job of rebounding and playing defense. I think he'll be good for us off the bench," Scarbrough said.

At 6-2, Price has "good size," and



THE NAZARETH SWIFTS are experienced and looking for a return to the playoffs this season. Team members include (back row, from left) Justin Kleman, Wade Price, Eric Schilling, Daryl Pohlmeier

and Tyler Ehly; and (front row, from left) Trey Robb, Ky Wilcox, Kade Wilcox, Chase Schulte and Blake Birkenfeld. Photo by Brenda Schulte



Player	Height	Grade	Position
Wade Price	6-2	Senior	Post
Blake Birkenfeld	5-10	Junior	Guard
Daryl Pohlmeier	6-0	Junior	Post
Kade Wilcox	5-9	Junior	Guard
Ky Wilcox	5-10	Junior	Guard
Eric Schilling	6-3	Sophomore	Post
Tyler Ehly	6-1	Sophomore	Forward
Justin Kleman	6-1	Sophomore	Post
Chase Schulte	5-5	Sophomore	Guard
Trey Robb	5-9	Freshman	Guard

Scarbrough says he works hard.

"I'm hoping Wade will be able to give our posts a break. He's got such long arms and he can jump so well that when he's inside the lane it's going to be hard for other teams to pass around him."

Scarbrough said Schulte is very quick and has good ball handling skills and a good shot. He'll back up Birkenfeld at the point.

Robb is a good athlete who Scarbrough hopes will be a "sparkplug" off the bench for the Swifts. "He's quick, aggressive and he's a good rebounder," Scarbrough said.

Scarbrough said he's changed his game plan up this year to take advantage of Schilling's size inside.

"We're changing our scheme a little bit. Over the past couple of years we've been more of a guard-

oriented team because of our size, but this year we're going to try and work the ball inside more. We'll still try and push the ball down the floor and try to wear down our opponents, then try and work the ball inside. Eric, Daryl and Ky are all strong inside."

The main focus of the Swifts this season will be on the defensive end of the court.

"We feel like our defense is the area in which we need to improve," Scarbrough said. "We're going to run a lot more presses and we'll go with a half-court trap. We want to create steals and get some transition bas-

kets. We feel like we've got the depth to do that this year."

The Swifts' goal for the 2000-01 season is to reach their potential as a team. They hope that will lead them to the state tournament in March.

"Getting to Austin is what these guys have dreamed about," Scarbrough said. "They're a lot more focused this year and they're a lot hungrier. This is one of the best shooting teams I've had since I've been here, and they're quick and they can handle the ball. But our defense needs to improve if we want to get anywhere in the playoffs."

Swifts fall to eventual champs in first-round at Friona Tourney

The Nazareth Swifts were edged by San Jacinto Christian Academy in the first round of the Friona Invitational last Thursday, and the Patriots went on to win the tournament championship while the Swifts settled for third-place honors.

After falling to the Patriots, 56-50, the Swifts rebounded with big wins over Farwell, 66-43; and Friona, 61-35; to claim the third-place trophy.

Nazareth finished with a 2-1 mark in the round-robin tournament, and the loss to San Jacinto was the team's first and only of the season at that point. After Saturday's win over Friona, the Swifts' record improved to 4-1.

The first quarter of the Nazareth-San Jacinto game was a defensive battle, with the Patriots holding a 9-5 edge when time expired.

The Swifts came back to outscore San Jacinto 17-13 in the second quarter to force the game into a 22-point stalemate at halftime.

The score remained tied after three quarters, with each team counting 11 points in the period.

San Jacinto won it on the free throw line in the fourth quarter as the Swifts were plagued with foul after foul.

Nazareth did cut the Patriot lead to two and three points several times in the fourth quarter, but never pulled any closer down the stretch as San Jacinto counted free throw after free throw to pull away for the 56-50 win.

Kade Wilcox paced the Swifts with 13 points in the game while Eric Schilling added 10. San Jacinto's leading scorer was Curtis Reneau, who finished with 19. Josh

McCreary added 12 for the Patriots.

In Friday afternoon's second-round game, the Swifts jumped out to a big lead in the first quarter and never looked back, coasting to the 66-43 win.

Wilcox poured in 25 points while Schilling finished with 21 to lead the Swifts.

Nazareth was hot from the field in the opening eight minutes, and the defense gave up very little as the Swifts exploded to a 20-6 lead in the period.

Farwell couldn't extinguish Wilcox, Schilling and the Nazareth offense in the second period, either, and the Steers found themselves down 40-22 at intermission.

Farwell fared better in the second half, holding the Swifts to 26 points, but the Steers couldn't put a successful offense together against the Swifts defense.

Defense was the difference in Nazareth's big 61-35 win over Friona on Saturday, too.

After allowing 10 points in the first quarter, the Swifts denied their hosts time after time in the second through fourth periods, and Friona never scored in double digits for a quarter again.


The Swifts enjoyed a slim 12-10 advantage in the first quarter, then blew open the game in the second by outscoring Friona 18-8 for a 30-18 halftime lead.

Over the second 16 minutes, the Swifts reeled off 31 points while limiting Friona to 17 for the win.


Wilcox and Schilling again finished as the top Swift scorers, with Wilcox contributing 18 points to the win and Schilling adding 16.



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In Canyon Classic

Swiftettes slay AAAAA schools for third place

The Nazareth Swiftettes played a couple of their best games of the season against tough Class AAAAA teams in the Canyon Classic, but had to settle for third-place honors after losing their second-round game to the state's top-ranked AAAAA team, Mansfield.

The Swiftettes opened tournament play by dismantling big San Antonio Taft, 69-63, last Thursday night. Nazareth's undefeated season came to an end Friday evening, though, as Mansfield used a balanced offensive attack and swarming zone to control the Swiftettes and earn a spot in the championship against Canyon.

After falling to Mansfield, which is also the fifth-ranked team in the nation, the Swiftettes bounced back with a 54-45 win over Amarillo Tascosa.

Mansfield, which many felt was the favorite to win the tournament, was shocked in the championship game by Canyon, and suffered its first loss at the hands of the Lady Eagles, 54-49.

Swiftettes 69, Taft 63

Nazareth rained three after three on San Antonio Taft's defense, then when the Lady Raiders figured out how to dodge the deluge, the Swiftettes poured it on with an inside attack featuring Whitney Hoelting.

Hoelting finished with a game-high 25 points to lead the Swiftettes while Stephanie Thiel added 20 and Wendy Black finished with 10.

Nazareth hit 10 three-pointers in

the game, with Thiel counting four and Hoelting and Black adding two each. Other Swiftettes joining in the long-range barrage were Mandy Hoelting and Lesley Brockman.

Nazareth jumped out to a 21-15 first-quarter lead, but Taft stayed strong and narrowed the deficit to four by the end of the second period.

The Swiftettes turned their 35-31 halftime lead into a big 55-42 advantage in the third quarter, then held off a late Taft rally for the win.

Taft pulled within two late in the game, but the Swiftettes put the game on ice from the charity stripe.

Swiftettes 31, Mansfield 53

Nazareth never got on track against Mansfield in Friday's championship semifinal, but they kept it close until Mansfield's Brie Southall went on a scoring spree in the second quarter.

Mansfield struck first on a pair of shots by 6-0 post Tori Wilson—an offensive put-back and turn-around jumper inside the paint.

Nazareth was cold from the field for the first five minutes of the game, finally breaking the ice with a Black shot off the dribble at the 3:12 mark to cut Mansfield's lead to 4-2.

Nazareth would pick up one inside hoop from Whitney Hoelting, but Mansfield's Wilson, Erin Grant and Southall combined to give their team an 11-4 edge at the end of the period.

Nazareth pulled with five early in the second on a basket by Thiel, but Mansfield countered seconds later.

Then Southall went to work. The 5-

7 senior guard popped one three with 6:11 left in the half. Her second came a minute later. Then she got an offensive rebound and scored. Another jumper followed at the 3:16 mark and Southall had given her team a 23-6 lead.

Thiel scored all of Nazareth's five points in the quarter, getting her other three on a long-range shot with 1:14 left, six minutes after she made the first shot of the period.

By halftime, Mansfield had built a 28-9 lead.

Nazareth continued to struggle from the field in the third quarter and the Lady Tigers increased their advantage to 44-14 after three.

Black gave the Swiftettes a spark in the fourth, opening with a baseline move and bucket, then picking up a three-pointer, all in a 20-second span. She hit another pair of three-pointers in the quarter, but Nazareth never got closer than 22.

Black was the Swiftettes' leading scorer with 14 points.

Swiftettes 54, Tascosa 45

Whitney Hoelting and Thiel got back on track Saturday and paced their team to the third-place finish with a 54-45 decision over Tascosa.

Hoelting had 22 points in the game while Thiel chipped in 19.

The Swiftettes trailed Tascosa 6-9 after the first eight minutes of action, but Nazareth's defense took control in the second quarter, limiting the Lady Rebels to 6 points in the period. Meanwhile, the Swiftettes' shots started falling and before Tascosa realized it, the Swiftettes were in command, 23-15.

Nazareth outscored Tascosa 31-24 over the second half to hold on for the win.



PENETRATION—Nazareth's Stephanie Thiel drives the baseline, then puts up a short jumper against Mansfield, the No. 1-ranked Class AAAAA team in the state, last Thursday in the championship semifinals of the Canyon Classic. The Mansfield girls, defending state champs, jumped out to an early lead, then used a solid defense to claim a 53-31 win. Nazareth finished third in the tourney. *Photo by Dwayne Acker*

Bobcats plan tournament trip to Big Spring

Dimmitt will spend the next several days in Big Spring, competing in the Spring City Crossroads Classic basketball tournament.

The Bobcats will meet Sweetwater today (Thursday) at 5:45 p.m. in a first-round matchup. That game, and all other tournament games, will be played in the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum on the Howard College campus in Big Spring.

If they win, the Bobcats will meet the Clyde-Big Spring winner on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Losers in the two first-round games will face off Friday at 4 p.m. in a consolation semifinal.

The top half of the bracket features first-round games between Seminole and Fort Stockton, and Merkel and Tahoka.

On Saturday, tournament action begins with the seventh-place game at 2:15 p.m. The consolation championship is slated for 4 p.m.

The championship side of the bracket features the third-place game at 5:45 p.m. and the championship finals at 7:30 p.m.

JV Bobcats will play in tourney

The Dimmitt Bobcat junior varsity will face Levelland today (Today) in a first-round game at the Canyon Junior Varsity Classic.

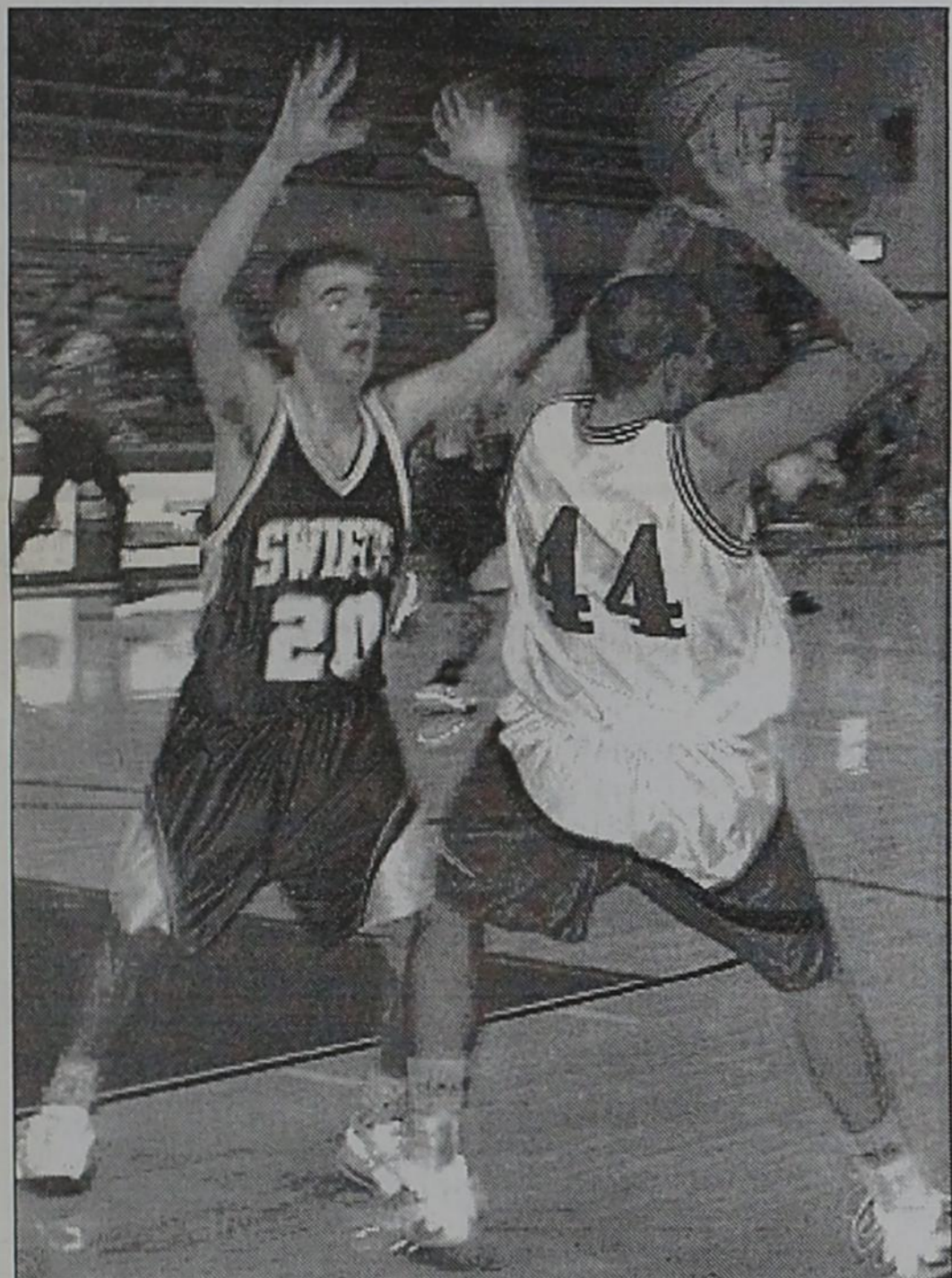
The JV Cats and Levelland will tip off at 2 p.m.

The tournament field features nine teams. Others include Muleshoe, Hereford, Plainview, Randall, Canyon, Littlefield and Clovis, N.M.

Dimmitt is in the bottom half of the bracket, and the JV Cats will face either Canyon, Littlefield or Clovis in their second game. Winners in the two games will play at 4 p.m. Friday while the losers will meet at 9 a.m. Friday.

Saturday's schedule features games at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 3 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Classifieds get results!



DEFENSE! Nazareth's Blake Birkenfeld (20) forces San Jacinto's ball handler to pick up his dribble and seek help in bringing the ball down the floor last Thursday in a first-round game of the Friona Invitational. The Swifts and Patriots battled neck-and-neck for most of the way before San Jacinto finally pulled away on free throws in the final quarter for the 56-50 win. Nazareth won its next two games over Farwell and Friona to capture the third-place trophy while San Jacinto won the tournament championship. *Photo by Anne Acker*

Nazareth teams will play in I-27 Invitational this week

Shallowater and El Paso Burgess will be the first opponents for the Nazareth Swifts and Swiftettes, respectively, in the I-27 Invitational, slated today (Thursday) through Saturday at Abernathy, Hale Center and New Deal.

The I-27 Tournament games are scheduled at the three schools because the event has grown so large. Each tournament features 14 teams.

The Swiftettes will meet El Paso Burgess today (Thursday) at 12 noon at Abernathy. The Swifts will play Shallowater at 1:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at Hale Center.

Other first-round matchups in the boys' tournament include Cooper and Idalou, Crane and Abernathy, Trinity and Plains, Littlefield and Hale Center and Amarillo JV and Slaton. Muleshoe drew a first-round bye.

The Swifts will face Trinity or

Plains in second-round action, with the championship bracket matchup slated for 7:30 tonight (Thursday) at New Deal. If they lose to Shallowater, the Swifts will drop to the consolation bracket for a 10:30 a.m. game Friday at Abernathy.

For the girls' division, team matchups today (Thursday) feature Abernathy and Lubbock Christian High School, Trinity and Andrews, Idalou and Littlefield, Hale Center and Tulia, Slaton and El Paso Andress and Wall and Lubbock Cooper.

If the Swiftettes win, they'll meet either Wall or Lubbock Cooper in second-round action on Friday at 12 noon at Abernathy. Losers of the first-round games will play at 9 a.m. on Friday in Abernathy.

The tournament continues through Saturday, with several games slated on the championship and consolation sides of each bracket.

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Bobcats rip foes to win Pioneer Classic

The Dimmitt Bobcats were on track and couldn't be stopped in the Plainview Lions Pioneer Classic last Thursday through Saturday. First they shocked their host Bull-

dogs in the opener, 63-53; then they cruised to wins over Paducah (56-40) and Hale Center (70-48) to capture the Division I tournament championship.

Two Bobcats were named to the all-tournament team—Dee Norman, and Daniel Proffitt; and another, Austin Sherman, was named the Most Valuable Player in the tournament.

Dimmitt shooters finally found their mark in the tournament, and the team's confidence grew as the tournament progressed.

Bobcats 63, Plainview 53

The opening-round win over Plainview as a big one for the Bobcats. They watched an early lead expire, regained that lead, then held off a late Bulldog rally to claim the win, and they did it with a solid defense and some key shooting in the fourth quarter.

Dimmitt had a 15-10 lead after the first period, and still controlled the game, 28-21, at halftime. But Plainview erased that lead in the third stanza, outscoring the Bobcats, 15-7, to control the game with a 36-35 edge.

The fourth quarter was all Dimmitt, though.

Paced by Sherman and Norman, the Bobcats opened the fourth quarter with a 13-2 run and continued to dominate their foes down the stretch for the win.

During the pivotal fourth quarter, Proffitt finally got his shots to fall, and he hit a couple of big treys to help the Bobcats pull away.

Dimmitt enjoyed a 46% shooting percentage for the game, and they connected on an impressive 12-of-23 three-point attempts. In fact the Bobcats' three-point percentage (52%) was better than its accuracy from two-point range (39%).

Sherman had five of those long range shots as he paced the Bobcats with 22 points.

Norman, who counted three treys, finished with 18 points and seven rebounds.

Proffitt also managed double-figure scoring with 10 points.

Bobcats 56, Paducah 40

A slow start by the Bobcats in Friday's second-round game with Paducah was corrected in the second period and Dimmitt coasted to a 56-40 win.

The Bobcats allowed Paducah the early lead, spotting the Dragons a



PIONEER CLASSIC CHAMPIONS—Nine members of Dimmitt's varsity boys' squad display the Division I championship trophy that they won in the Plainview Lions' Pioneer Classic. They posted victory margins of 10 to 22 points over Plainview, Paducah and Hale

Center in the round-robin tourney. From left are Josh Hardwick, Brent Josselet, Julian Velo, Corey Lane, Austin Sherman (Most Valuable Player), Dee Norman (all-tournament), Matthew Sandoval, Daniel Proffitt (all-tournament) and Matthew Wright.

Photo by Wayne Proffitt

seven-point edge in the first quarter, 18-11.

Dimmitt retaliated in a big way in the second period, though, reeling off 21 points while limiting the Dragons to seven. It was Dimmitt's game after that.

With a 33-25 halftime lead under its belt, Dimmitt played more relaxed in the second half and iced the game in the fourth quarter by outscoring Paducah 15-7.

Only six of Dimmitt's shots from beyond the arc dropped through the net on Friday, but the Bobcats more than made up the difference inside the paint and from the baseline and wing.

With 19 points, Sherman was Dimmitt's leading scorer for the second straight game. He popped a pair of three pointers and hit 9-of-12 free throws in the game while pulling down six rebounds.

Proffitt and Norman also tallied double-figure scoring, finishing with 10 points each. Norman was the big winner on the boards, pulling down 11 caroms.

As a team, the Bobcats hit 19-of-64 shots from the field, 12-of-20 free throws and recorded 11 steals and 10

assists. The Bobcat defense forced 20 Paducah turnovers, too.

Bobcats 70, Hale Center 48

Another hot shooting game propelled the Bobcats past Hale Center in Saturday's final-round game, 70-48.

The game belonged to the Bobcats, especially Sherman and Proffitt, from the opening tip.

The two took charge early and never missed a beat.

Proffitt had a near-perfect game, hitting 6-of-7 shots from the field, including a perfect 5-for-5 from three-point range. He hit 2 out of 3 free throws, too, bringing his total to 19 points. Add six rebounds, an assist, a blocked shot and a steal to his credits and you have a great game.

Sherman's stats were almost as impressive, although he didn't have as much luck getting shots to fall. He also finished with 19 points, hitting 7-of-17 from outside and making four free throws. He had three rebounds, a pair of assists and a steal.

Dimmitt forced 25 turnovers in the game and blocked four Owl shots.

After jumping out to an 18-10 first-quarter lead, the Bobcats were

able to set the pace and led 37-22 at the break. It was Dimmitt's game, 53-27, after three quarters.

Proffitt and Sherman weren't the only Cats in double figures, though. Norman also managed 13 points.



JULIAN VELO (32) sinks a fourth-quarter basket over Hale Center's Tyson Johnson (24) and Jamall Clark (22) to give Dimmitt a 55-27 lead over the Owls in the Bobcats' third round-robin game of the Plainview Lions Pioneer Classic Saturday. The Bobcats went on to win, 70-48, to complete an undefeated championship run in the tournament.

Photo by Carter Townsend

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505" & 550" Red Tab™ stonewash jeans. Reg. 35.00. 560" & 569" stonewash jeans. Reg. 38.00, **SALE 31.99.**

25% OFF

MEN'S NIKE, ADIDAS® ACTIVEWEAR

Save on windwear, warm-ups, fleece tops & tees. Reg. 18.00-32.00, **SALE 12.99-23.99.**

24.99-69.99

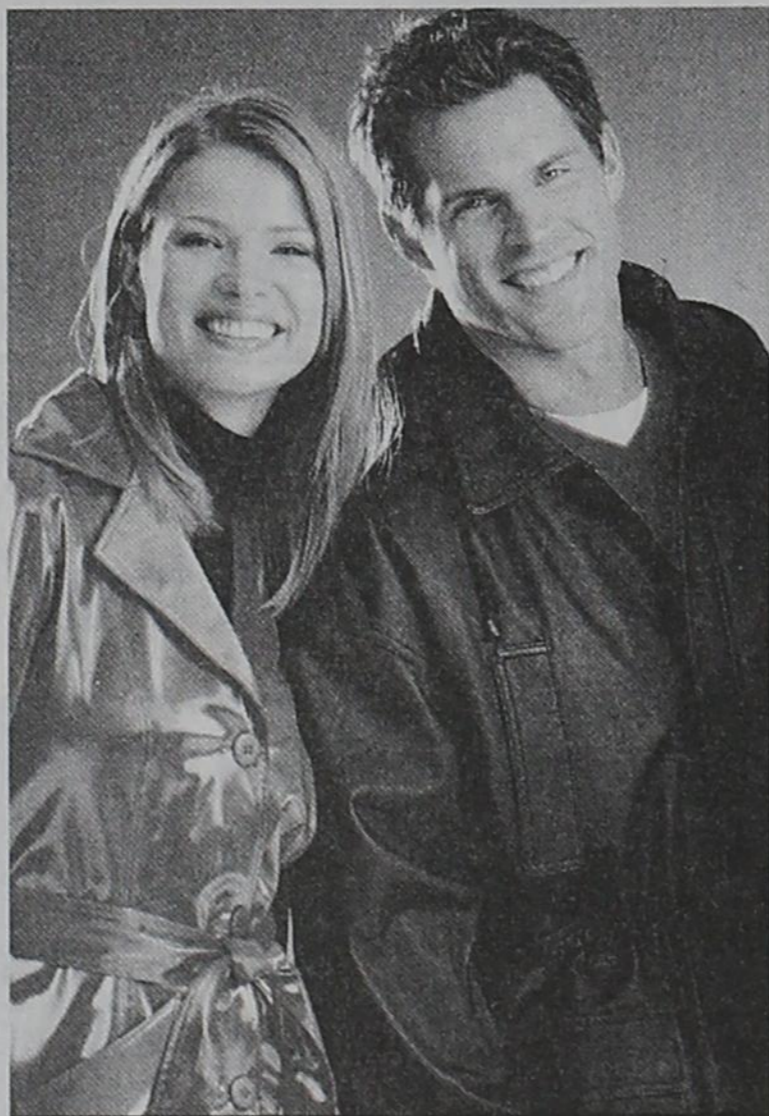
ATHLETIC SHOES FOR THE FAMILY

Selected styles from favorites like NIKE, Reebok®, Adidas® & more. Reg. 35.00-75.00.

30% OFF

ALL KIDS' HEALTHTEX® PLAYWEAR

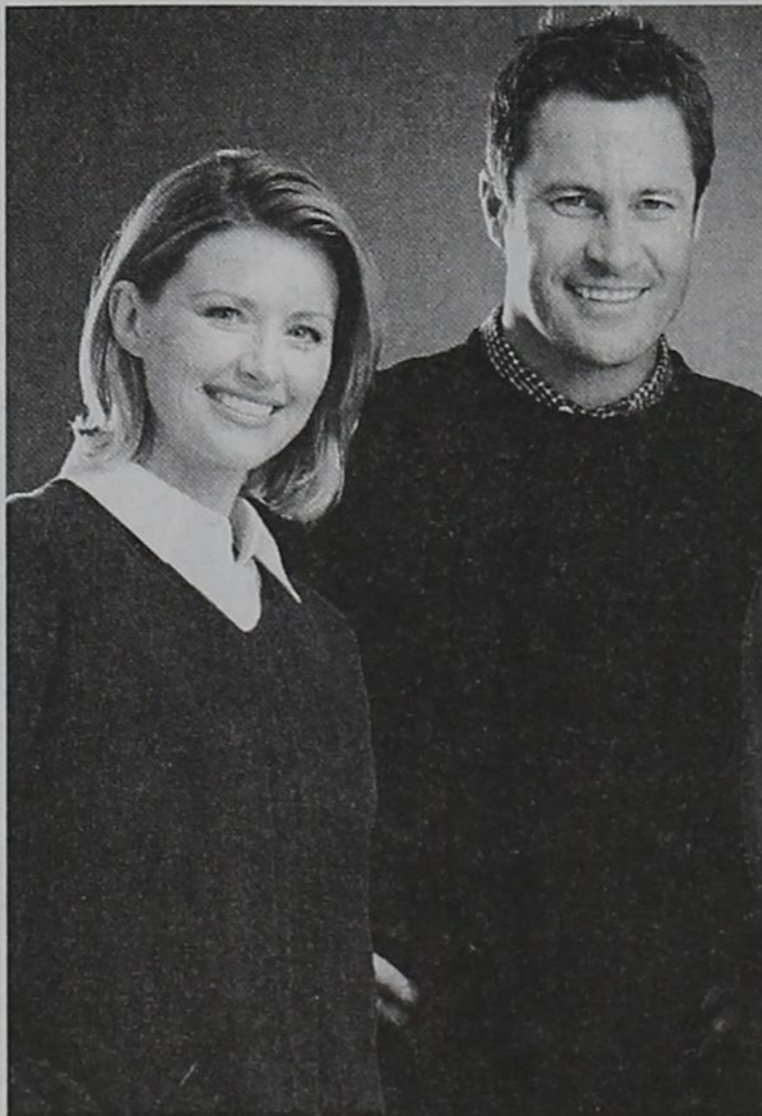
For infants, toddlers, girls' 4-6X & boys' 4-7. Collection includes tops, pants & dresses. Reg. 14.00-24.00, **SALE 8.99-15.99.**



25%-50% OFF

ALL LADIES' & MEN'S OUTERWEAR

Leather, all-weather, wool & more. Orig. 40.00-320.00, **SALE/NOW 19.99-239.97.**



40% OFF

MISSES' & MEN'S SWEATERS*

By Jantzen®, Sun River®, Dockers® & more. Reg. 28.00-55.00, **SALE 15.99-32.99.**

Men's selected sweaters; 50% OFF. *Excludes designer collections.

30% OFF

ALL MISSES' REG.-PRICED TOPS

Entire stock knit and woven tops; reg.-priced blouses too. Styles & colors vary. Reg. 24.00-38.00, **SALE 16.80-26.60.**

SALE 19.99 ea. pc.

MISSES' RELATED SEPARATES

Casual tops & pants by Moving Bleu®, S-XL. Reg. 28.00-34.00 ea. pc.

SALE 19.99

ENTIRE STOCK JRS' SWEATERS

By Gas® & It's Our Time®. Choose from a great selection of styles & colors. Reg. 28.00-32.00.

30% OFF

ENTIRE STOCK LADIES' HANDBAGS

Selection includes an array of styles, fabrics and colors. Reg. 15.00-69.00, **SALE 10.50-48.30.**

