

The Castro County News

74th year—No. 37

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, December 17, 1998

50¢

14 pages plus supplements



THE MAGIC OF CHRISTMAS—Members of the Dimmitt High School Concert Choir line up for the processional of the joint choir and band concert held Monday in the DHS auditorium.

Leading one side of the procession are Valerie Everett (far right) and Monica Fernandez (second from right). They marched in singing Hark, the Herald Angels Sing. Photo by Linda Maxwell

Dimmitt rated 'acceptable' according to AEIS report

The Academic Excellence Indicator System report for the Dimmitt Independent School District shows that the district is academically acceptable.

Curriculum Director Doricell Davis presented the report in a public hearing as a part of the DISD school board meeting Monday night.

Davis showed figures that revealed a significant improvement district-wide in the percent of students passing the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills tests in comparing 1997 to 1998 scores. Those passing the reading portion of the test went from 72.1% in 1997 to 80.7% in 1998; while the writing portion was passed by 73.1% in 1997 and by 81.8% in 1998; and the math portion was passed by 75.4% in 1997 and by 84.9% in 1998. Students passing all portions of the test represented 60.7% of those taking the test in 1997, while in 1998 the percentage was 72.3.

Davis told the board that the state issued figures predicting that the district's TAAS scores would decline in 1999, when the scores of some special education and limited English proficiency (LEP) students would be included in the district averages. However, she said she does not think those figures will necessarily hold

true, because the district already includes some of the scores from those groups.

In another matter, the board voted to register the "Choice" program of the Alternative School as a "Separate Campus" rather than as a "Program" for purposes of accountability with the Texas Education Agency.

Since the board chose to let it remain a separate campus, then it must meet the requirements that go with being a separate high school. If it had been registered as a program, then all of the Choice students would be coded for accountability purposes to Dimmitt High School. Davis said that if that were done, it would affect the district's attendance and drop-out rate figures.

DISD Supt. Les Miller said that the campus must have a full-time administrator who has no other administrative duties in the district and

teachers certified in English language arts, mathematics, science and social studies.

Miller said some adjustments will have to be made to accommodate those requirements. He said the current over-seer of the program, Darlene Collins, also works with the Corrective Action Program (CAP) for disciplinary problem students and the Day Care Center for children of students. Also, only one teacher currently oversees the Choice students on a regular basis. Bob Horton, who is certified in social studies, history and physical education, administers tests to the students and advises them when they have difficulties in their studies. Terry Stovall, who is the teacher for the CAP program, is certified as a math teacher and occasionally helps out in the Choice program, according to Collins.

(Continued on Page 13)

Ballots being mailed now for extended local calling area

Ballots have been mailed out by the Public Utilities Commission for Dimmitt telephone customers to have the opportunity to vote for or against an extended local calling area.

If the measure passes, Dimmitt telephone exchange customers will be able to call Amarillo, Canyon, Hereford, Plainview and Tulia without a long distance charge.

Those are the five exchanges that are listed on the ballot that is being sent out to Dimmitt customers.

"You have to mark 'yes' beside each of those communities for them to be included," said Betty McClure of Dimmitt, who helped organize the petition drive that started the process for getting an extended calling area. "Also, those voting need to sign their ballot and write their phone number in the spaces provided."

Although there will not be long distance charges for calls to the selected communities, there will be an additional \$3.50 per month charge per line for residential customers and an additional \$7 per month per line charge for businesses.

"We're hoping that everyone will look for their ballot in the mail, get it marked and send it back in the postage-paid envelope provided," McClure said. "Of course, we hope everyone will vote yes."

McClure said that each city must receive at least 70% approval among all the ballots that are returned.

Weather

	High	Low	Pr.
Thursday	45	23	
Friday	42	24	
Saturday	45	22	
Sunday	54	22	
Monday	58	25	
Tuesday	62	27	
Wednesday	59	29	
December Moisture			0.37
1998 Moisture			17.96

Temperatures and moisture are recorded each day at 7 a.m. at KDHN Radio, official National Weather Service reporting station.

1:1

By Don Nelson

With everything else in today's world turning topsy-turvy, could it be that Santa Claus is a . . . woman?

One woman on the Internet thinks so. She doesn't think the jolly old elf could possibly be a guy, because she's married to one and knows lots of others.

Here's her argument:

I think Santa Claus is a woman . . . I hate to be the one to defy sacred myth, but I believe he's a she.

Think about it. Christmas is a big, organized, warm, fuzzy, nurturing social deal. And I have a tough time believing a guy could possibly pull it all off!

For starters, the vast majority of men don't even think about selecting gifts until Christmas Eve. It's as if they're frozen in some kind of Ebenezerian Time Warp until 3 p.m. on Dec. 24th, when they—with amazing calm—call other errant men and plan for a last-minute shopping spree.

Once at the mall, they always seem surprised to find only Ronco products, socket wrench sets and mood rings left on the shelves.

(You might think this would send them into a fit of panic and guilt, but my husband tells me it's an enormous relief because it lessens the 11th-hour decision-making burden.)

On this count alone, I'm convinced Santa is a woman. Surely, if he were a man, everyone in the universe would wake up Christmas morning to find a rotating musical Chia Pet under the tree, still in the bag.

Another problem for a he-Santa would be getting there. First of all, there would be no reindeer because they would all be dead, gutted and strapped onto the rear bumper of the sleigh amid wide-eyed, desperate claims that buck season had been extended. Blitzen's rack would already be on the way to the taxidermist.

Even if the male Santa DID have reindeer, he'd still have transportation problems because he would inevitably get lost up there in the snow and clouds and then refuse to stop and ask for directions.

Other reasons why Santa can't possibly be a man:

—Men can't pack a bag.

—Men would rather be dead than be caught wearing red velvet.

—Men would feel their masculinity is threatened, having to be seen with all those elves.

(Continued on Page 2)

County to purchase new motor graders

Castro County Precinct 1 will purchase two new motor graders this month, trading in a 1987 John Deere 772 and a 1993 Caterpillar 140G.

The county opened bids from West Texas Equipment and Yellowhouse Machinery at its Monday meeting.

Precinct 1 has been in dire need of new equipment for some time, according to Precinct 1 Commissioner Newlon Rowland.

After studying the two bids, Rowland told commissioners he likes Caterpillar machines.

"I like the resale value (of Caterpillar) and I like the toughness," Rowland said.

Commissioners unanimously voted to purchase two new Caterpillar graders from West Texas Equipment.

West Texas Equipment's bid

would trade the 1993 Caterpillar 140G for a new Caterpillar 140H for a trade difference of \$39,000. The company bid a trade difference of \$111,903 on the 1987 John Deere for a new Cat 140H.

The West Texas Equipment bid also offered a guaranteed five-year buy-back of \$109,000 on each new machine.

Yellowhouse Machinery bid a trade difference of \$70,726 on a new John Deere for the 1993 Caterpillar and a difference of \$99,985 for the 1987 John Deere. Yellowhouse bid \$98,500 under the five-year buy-back plan.

County Sheriff CD Fitzgearld asked commissioners to amend the county's policy which states that employees who work a holiday must

take that earned holiday off within 30 days.

"We're having hard time taking holidays off within 30 days because we have to have so many people working around the clock," Fitzgearld said.

"I can see where it would be a problem for you," Rowland told Fitzgearld.

Fitzgearld asked the county to extend the period for sheriff's department employees to six months.

"I don't have a problem with giving them six months, but if they don't use those days within that time, they will lose them," said County Judge Irene Miller.

Commissioners agreed to revise the county policy and extend it to six months for employees of the sheriff's department.

County needs room for its 'learning lab'

Castro County is searching for space.

Eloyce Smith, adult probation officer for Castro County, asked commissioners for a bigger office in which to house the county's "learning lab" for probationers.

According to Smith, probationers who do not have a high school education are required to take general educational development (GED) courses to complete their education as part of their probation agreement.

"We are required by the state to educate these probationers to a skill level up to the sixth grade," Smith said.

Smith said the county currently has two computers in a small office on the first floor of the courthouse

and that's where probationers take their GED classes.

But there are currently more than 50 probationers who are required to take the courses and the two-computer lab is not adequate. Also, the lab is not available to probationers except during certain times because of its location.

County Judge Irene Miller asked Smith if the county would get more computers if more space could be found and Smith said that the adult probation department would be able to provide more stations.

"We do realize there is a problem, but we've got a space problem in the courthouse," Miller said.

County Attorney Jerry Matthews told commissioners that if the county doesn't do something about moving and expanding the GED lab, it could face a lawsuit down the road.

"This space deal has been a problem ever since I've been here," said Pct. 1 Commissioner Newlon Rowland. "Sooner or later we're going to have to go outside the courthouse to find office space."

Commissioners agreed to check into costs of leasing office space in Dimmitt and Miller will check on available buildings and report back to commissioners at their next meeting in January.

Angel Tree gift deadline set Monday

Angel Tree gifts must be returned to the Panhandle Community Services office in Dimmitt by Monday so that they can be distributed to the recipients by Wednesday (Dec. 23).

The annual "Community Angel Tree" project, sponsored by the Castro County Ministerial Alliance and administered by Panhandle Community Services, will help supply Christmas gifts for 100 needy children under age 11.

The Angel Trees were set up at First Bank of Muleshoe, Dimmitt Branch, First United Bank of Dimmitt, and Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union last week. About 16 "Angels" had not been selected as of Wednesday morning. Local residents are asked to select an "Angel" with a child's first name, age and gift desired, and purchase the requested gift for a needy child.

The requested gift (\$20 range), should be wrapped and taken to PCS by Monday, along with the identifying "Angel."

Families who showed financial need were able to apply for participation in the project through the PCS office. Applications were accepted for 100 participants out of the 180 who applied.

Family members of selected children will be notified and will need to pick up the children's gifts on Wednesday (Dec. 23) at PCS or First Baptist Church of Hart for Hart residents.



'SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE'—Children in the Dimmitt Middle School Choir perform "Silent Night" in both English and sign language during the "Music of Christmas" program last Thursday night on the courthouse square. The children also sang the song in Spanish and in its original German, under the direc-

tion of Elaine Hazel (far left). Because of a bitter-cold wind, the Middle School choir and band children lined up against the west wall of the courthouse instead of performing at the Gazebo as planned. A good crowd braved the cold weather to hear them.

Photo by Don Nelson

On the Go with Martha Jo Hyman, 647-2255

Cleo Forson spent Thanksgiving with friends and relatives in Lubbock. Thursday she was with a friend and some relatives of Dallas and Lubbock. She went to the home of her step-daughter, and there were 14 relatives from Fort Worth and Hereford also visiting.

Joyce Davis hosted her annual Snowman Exchange recently. This was the third annual exchange, and 14 friends enjoyed pickup foods and played Chinese Christmas.

Ray and Christy Cameron and Jacob had his family for Thanksgiving in their new home in Panhandle. Those enjoying good food and visiting were Jerry Lu and Cliff Cook of Amarillo, Ray's mom and step-dad; Ja and Shane Bridwell of Amarillo, Ray's sister; Dude McLaurin of Dimmitt, Ray's grandmother; and Ruby and George McLaurin of Wheeler, Ray's uncle.

Beth, Dwight and Kyle Joiner enjoyed a quiet Thanksgiving Day this year. Dwight's mother, Mary Lou Joiner of Hereford, shared their day.

Martha Ott and Emily Cling-smith went to Clayton, N.M., to see Leon Winders. Leon suffered a fall and broke his hip and two ribs. He is doing well, Martha lived in Earth some time ago, but now resides in Amarillo.

Elizabeth and Jonathan Aguilar celebrated their birthdays on Dec. 6 in Amarillo at Mr. Gatti's, a pizza place. Jonathan was 2 and Elizabeth was 8. Grandparents attending were Connie and Alonzo Aguilar and Manuela Nino of Dimmitt. Attending from Roosevelt were Pete and Virginia and their sons, Eric and Pete Jr. There were more cousins and friends attending the party, which had a Rug Rats theme.

The Beta Zeta Upsilon Sorority held their Christmas Party recently at the Hereford Country Club. Those attending were Melody and John Link, Tami and Justin Nelson, Jody and Kyla Riley, Tammy and Mark Cluck, Lisa and Chaun Gunstream, Tisha and Marty Gerber, Sandy and Mel Machado, Ellie and Mark Rogers, Michelle and Brant Baca, Mandi and Matt Gfeller, Shelly and Duane

Smith, Susan and Joel Venhaus, and Leigh and Curtis Durbin. They played Chinese Christmas. (Readers, give us the rules for this game.)

The Town and Country Extension Club met at noon Friday at the Senior Citizens Center in Dimmitt. The roll was called, and each member answered with a remembrance of Christmas past or present or a family holiday custom. Those present were Ferne Jones, Betty Freeman, Mattie Seale, Irene Blanton, Nell Dicuffa, Oleta Schumacher, Mary Edna Hendrix, Fay Mohon, Claudene Langford, Edith Graef, Ann Henderson, Dolores Griffitt, Murle Arthur, Peggy Broadstreet, Patsy Entreklin of Hart, and Martha Jo Hyman. The meal that was served included salads, turkey and dressing, casseroles and desserts.

The Thursday Bridge Club met at the Senior Citizens Center and had their Christmas party. The food was catered by Mary Cluck. There were five tables of bridge. Those playing were Cleo Forson, Edith Graef, Dwight and Beth Joiner, Susie Reeves, Martha Jo Hyman, Avis Smith, Helen Braafladt, Loranel Hamilton, Bernice and Ben Hill, Opha Burks, Emily Clingsmith, Virginia Crider, Dude McLaurin, Mildred Bradford, Margaret Parsons, Retta Cluck, Betty Durham, and Peggy Broadstreet. High score was Broadstreet with Reeves second.

The Rix Funeral Home in Hereford entertained friends and customers Saturday night at the Hereford Country Club. Several from Dimmitt enjoyed the prime rib dinner. Ap-

proximately 200 attended. Larry and Jean Morris drove Martha Jo Hyman, and Craig Neal and his friend, Heather of Clovis, N.M., to the event. Larry Morris is the manager of the establishment in Hereford.

Several friends and relatives enjoyed stew and cornbread in the home of Dorothy and V.C. Hopson recently. After eating, they played a card game called "Hand and Foot." Those playing included Martha Jo Hyman, Van and Carole Hopson, Cody and Kelly Fry and Taylor, and Kasie and Cindy Lee of Hart.

On Sunday, Syd and Hank Lynn had a luncheon in their home to honor Dude McLaurin, Syd's mother. There were 7 of Mama Dude's grandchildren present. Also attending were George and Ruby of Wheeler, Dude's son and his wife, and, of course, Hank and Syd.

Lee Street Baptist Church of Dimmitt held their Christmas program Sunday night, with a youth play directed by Beth Roberts. The choir was directed by Linda Maxwell and accompaniment was provided by Lynette Rials on the church's new electronic clavivona. This piano-like instrument has a fantastic range of sounds and special effects that added much to the music. Raul Casas Jr., Stephanie Casas, and Mindy Maxwell had the speaking parts in the play, and younger youth of the congregation dressed as shepherds, angels, and wise men.



A WARMING TREND—These members of the Dimmitt High School National Honor Society delivered coats from the group's recent coat drive to the Castro County Hospice Cares Thrift Shop in Dimmitt, to be given to the needy. Anyone needing a coat may go by the Thrift Shop. Society members shown are (from left) Cody Brockman, Christina Fierro, Taryn Hays, Valerie Gonzalez, Rusty McDaniel, Miranda Turner, Lindsey Welch, Daphanie Rivera, and Tony Ramos. Photo by Linda Maxwell

Farm Service Agency Update

By TRISH ELLIOTT
FSA County Executive Director
 The Castro County Farm Service Agency (FSA) Committee has been authorized to implement the Livestock Assistance Program (LAP) in the county because of drought conditions this past summer.

We will be taking applications through Feb. 5, 1999. If you are interested in signing up, call (806) 647-2153, Extension 105, to schedule an appointment.

The deadline for signing up for the program was Jan. 8, 1999, but it has been extended to Feb. 5, 1999.

Benefits will be based on the lesser of the feed value of available grazing land or the feed value required for eligible livestock.

The following are some items you will need to bring to the office when signing up for the program:

- If you have not participated in other FSA programs, you must provide the name of your livestock operation, address, telephone number and social security or tax identification number.
- Acreage, location and type of grass or forage grazed in 1998. If pasture is leased, we will need the name of the person the pasture is leased from and proof of payment of the lease as well as whether the lease is by the month or the year.
- Estimated percentage of your loss of grazing in 1998.
- The number, weight and type of

livestock you owned in the 1998 calendar year. If you purchased livestock and turned the animals out on pasture or other leased pasture, you will be required to provide proof of purchases. If you sold cattle during the calendar year, we will also need the sales receipts. These receipts will help us determine ownership dates and chances in livestock numbers during the year.

To be eligible for the livestock assistance program you must meet the following requirements:

- You must have a beneficial interest in livestock used for production of food and fiber (this eliminates rodeo stock, exotics and certain horses from eligibility).
- You must have owned livestock for 90 days (some livestock could become eligible during the payment year if not owned 90 days prior).
- You must report eligible livestock numbers and acreage grazed in your normal operation (excludes any small grain pasture), and your 1998 grazing losses.
- You must complete person determinations for new persons or operations.
- You must certify HELC compliance on Form AD-1026.
- You must be a US citizen or legal resident alien.
- You must not have a gross annual income in excess of \$2.5 million.

has been allocated for this program. If total requests nationwide exceed this amount, a factored reduction will be applied to each application. This makes it necessary to complete all applications by the deadline. We will not accept any late-filed applications. Will will upload all requests to the national office. We'll receive the factor percentage from that office and then we will be allowed to start making payments.

Payments for the livestock assistance program will be made by Direct Deposit, so be prepared to complete the necessary forms concerning the financial institution/bank routing information if you haven't already done so.

Our livestock assistance program crop year is April 1, 1998, through Nov. 30, 1998. The livestock assistance program payment year is May 1, 1998, through Nov. 30, 1998.

Producers who have crops which have failed should file a crop damage report (FSA-574) with the FSA office. This includes native and improved grasses which have failed because of the drought.

Our county could be eligible for the non-insurable crops disaster assistance program if there are enough losses in 1998 reported by eligible producers.

These reports should be filed in the FSA office by Dec. 31.

Aaron Wilcox Memorial Lamb Classic set Jan. 2

The second annual Aaron Wilcox Memorial Lamb Classic will be held Saturday, Jan. 2, at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

This year there will be two lamb shows and both will be sanctioned by the Texas Club Lamb Association. The first show will start at 10 a.m. and will be judged by Ronny Dennis. The second show will start approximately one hour after the end of the first show and will be judged by Marvin Ensor.

Entry fee is \$20 per show or \$35 for both shows.

All weight cards will be due by 9 a.m.

A showmanship competition will be held for anyone interested, and the event will be judged by both judges. Entry fee for the showmanship is \$5 per person.

All Texas Club Lamb Association rules apply for both shows and the showmanship.

For more information contact the Extension Office in Dimmitt.

Heroism award nominees sought

Nominations are being sought for the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council's 1998 Rural Heroism Award, according to Ben Bullard, council president.

To qualify for the award, a candidate must have performed a heroic act of human lifesaving within Texas during 1998. The heroic deed should be related to farming or ranching. The 1998 recipient will be announced in March at the Texas Safety Association 60th annual Texas/Southwestern Conference and Exposition in Houston.

The nominations must be submitted and postmarked no later than Feb. 1. They should be sent to the Texas Farm and Ranch Safety Council, P.O. Box 5539, Waco 76708.

The letter of nomination should include a written account of the incident, along with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons involved. Newspaper clippings and photos should also accompany nominations when available.

Nazareth
 with Uirgie Gerber, 945-2669

A large crowd of Senior Citizens enjoyed dinner and a Christmas party at the Center Sunday evening. Jimmie Schulte, our president, has a way of making an evening very special! A big thanks to Lou Wethington, Tanya Schulte and Megan Schulte for catering and serving a delicious meal to 45 Senior Citizens.

After the dinner, Dorothy Kleman, chairman of the raffle committee, had different members draw a name for a raffle prize. Michelle Schmucker of Wichita Falls won the quilt, Patsy Entreklin of Hart won the train, Mary Brown of Tulia won the bird house, James Wilhelm won the Christmas table runner, Alvin Anderle won the pillows and Art Brockman won the pillow cases. Thanks for the great support we had for this very worthwhile fund raiser. Jimmie Schulte then read the Christmas story and Mary's Dream, and everyone joined in singing Christmas carols. All then joined in playing their favorite card or domino game.

New members joining were Jr. and Catherine Hochstein, Charley and Bev Hill, LeRoy and Dorothy Pohlmeier, Dean and Agatha Johnson and Vincent and Toby Gerber.

The family of Helen Backus gathered at the Arnold Huseman home Sunday to celebrate the 87th birthday of their mother. Helen is a resident at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Dimmitt. She really enjoyed being with her family.

Jennifer Heiman and her infant daughter, Carlie, were honored with a baby shower recently at the home of Mona Schulte. Hostesses were friends of Darrin and Jennifer. Many useful gifts were received from family members and friends.

The Nazareth Elementary Christmas Music Program was enjoyed by many on Sunday afternoon at the school cafeteria.

Robert, Mary and David Verkamp spent the weekend in Abilene with their daughter, Elaine Irion and family. They visited and helped with Elaine and Mackie's twin sons, William and Michael, who were born Nov. 30. William Tyler weighed 6 pounds and 11 ounces and Michael Robert weighed 7 pounds and 13 ounces. Great-grandparents are Evelyn Backus of Nazareth and Ella Verkamp of Idalou.

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The Perfect Gift for Christmas

NEWS

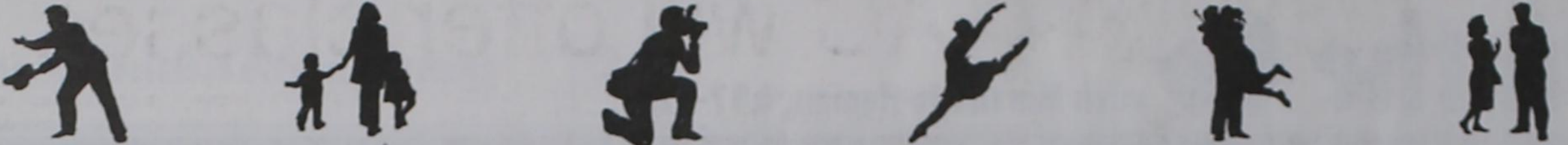
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The Castro County News

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People



Gifts needed for new baby shop

Castro County residents can experience some of the greatest rewards of the holiday season by contributing to a new project developed specifically to benefit babies.

Donations of cash and new or gently-used baby clothing and merchandise are being accepted by the Baby's Coming Shop that serves women throughout the 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle.

This unique store provides free gifts of baby merchandise to moms who enter prenatal care within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy and complete a schedule of prenatal care and education as part of the Coalition of Health Service's 2CARE for Moms program.

"There are few joys greater than selecting gifts for babies," said Holly Hancock, 2CARE for Moms program director. "We hope individuals, businesses, churches, civic clubs and youth groups will contribute to the Baby's Coming Shop during this season of giving. Donors will help the shop benefit more new moms and babies."

Hancock said there is a need for items such as strollers, high chairs and bassinets as well as smaller items ranging from baby bottles and bathtubs to care products and diapers.

Castro County's link to the 2CARE for moms program is through Plains Memorial Hospital and Medical Center of Dimmitt. Clinics enroll moms-to-be in the 2CARE for moms incentive program when they complete their initial prenatal visit to a doctor or nurse practitioner within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

The Baby's Coming Shop officially began serving moms in late October. Operated by the Coalition of Health Services and the High Plains Division of the March of Dimes, the Baby's Coming Shop is located in Amarillo. Merchandise, however, is provided to eligible women across 26 Texas counties.

Only 26% of pregnant women in the Texas Panhandle receive prenatal care within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The rate is among the lowest in Texas and is substantially lower than the national average of 85%.

For more information, contact 2CARE for Moms, toll-free at (888) 89-2CARE (888-892-2273).

The first air conditioned cars were introduced by Packard Motors in 1939.



DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH at Dimmitt Middle School include (front, from left) Micaela Salinas and Kashondra Sherman; (middle, from left) Clarissa Herrera, Ryan Hunter and Elias Zepeda; and (back, from left) Brenda Silva, Daniel Jackson, and Viktorya Navarro. Not shown are Jake Porsch, Sheena Ehly, Hector Velasquez, and Valerie Martinez.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Dimmitt Dollars winners named

Prize drawings will be held in Dimmitt throughout this month in connection with the annual "Santa's Open House" promotion sponsored by the Merchant's Committee of the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce.

The first drawing was held Nov. 19. Shoppers may continue to sign up at participating businesses for a chance to win additional prizes of Dimmitt Dollars in the next few weeks.

The 22 participating merchants have official registration boxes and entry forms available for their customers.

Winners from last week's drawing and where they registered were: Jennifer Beach of Earth for \$100, Dimmitt Printing & Office Supply; Dora Aguilar for \$10, Thriftway; and Carole Bishop for \$10, Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union.

Additional drawings for the Dimmitt Dollars will be held today (Thursday) at 7 p.m., and Dec. 24 at noon. Each week's prizes include one \$100 winner and two \$10 winners.

Participating businesses include ALCO, Bealls, Bobcat Barber Shop, The Borderline Restaurant, Castro County News, Dimmitt Market, Dimmitt Printing and Office Supply, First Bank of Muleshoe, First United Bank, The Headhunter, Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union, Higginbotham-Bartlett, Kittrell Electronics/Radio Shack, Lockhart Pharmacy, Merle Norman, the Pancake House, Seale Florist, Tots & Teens, Thriftway, Unique Gifts & More and The Village Shop.

Nominations due for citizen honors

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for its "Citizen of the Year," "Citizen Through the Years" and "Teacher of the Year" awards, which will be presented at the annual Chamber banquet in January.

Nomination forms may be picked up at the Chamber office in Dimmitt. "Every year when our selection committees convene, the names of several people who weren't nominated are brought up and, invariably, someone says, 'Well, it's a shame...,'" said Bill Sava, executive director of the chamber of commerce. "This is a great way for organizations, groups of friends, churches, individuals, students, and even family members to recognize someone who has made worthwhile contributions to our community."

County afghans offered for sale

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce is offering Castro County afghans for sale at \$35 each.

"One of these beautiful afghans would make an excellent Christmas gift," said Chamber Executive Director Bill Sava. "We will not re-order the afghans once the existing supply is exhausted."

For more information call the Chamber at 647-2524, or to see an afghan on display go by at 115 W. Bedford.

Omission

In an article in last week's News, Army Pvt. Graciela V. Smith of Dimmitt was listed as the daughter of Connie Martinez of Dimmitt. Her parents are Manuel and Connie Martinez.

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. 17-25.

DIMMITT Breakfast

THURSDAY: Corn Flakes cereal, grape juice and milk.
 FRIDAY: Breakfast burrito, fresh banana and milk.
 MONDAY: Scrambled eggs with biscuit, orange juice and milk.
 TUESDAY: Rice Krispie cereal, apple slices and milk.
 WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No School.

Preschool-First Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Turkey and dressing supreme, mashed potatoes and gravy, savory peas, tossed salad, hot rolls, fruit and milk.
 FRIDAY: Fish nuggets, baked potatoes, fruited gelatin, assorted muffins and milk.
 MONDAY: Teriyaki steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, Mexicali corn, orange wedges, hot rolls and milk.
 TUESDAY: Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, fruit fantasy, wheat rolls and milk.
 WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

Second-12th Grade Lunch

THURSDAY: Turkey and dressing supreme, mashed potatoes and gravy, savory peas, tossed salad, hot rolls, fruit and chocolate or white milk.
 FRIDAY: Choice of fish nuggets, Chinese chicken plate or enchiladas; baked potatoes, tomato and okra gumbo or refried beans;

tossed salad, taco condiment salad, fruited gelatin or broccoli and cauliflower salad, assorted muffins, hot wheat rolls, Fideo Mexicano or tortilla chips and chocolate or lowfat milk or punch.
 MONDAY: Choice of teriyaki steak, vegetable lasagna or grilled ham and cheese; mashed potatoes and gravy, Mexicali corn or broccoli and cheese sauce; tossed salad, fresh spinach salad, orange wedges, hot rolls, French bread, crackers, and chocolate or white milk or punch.
 TUESDAY: Choice of sliced turkey, beef stir fry or poor boy beef steak; mashed potatoes and gravy, Chinese-style vegetables or savory peas; tossed salad, fruit fantasy or gelatin; hot wheat rolls, assorted muffins or crackers; and chocolate or white milk and punch.
 WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

HART Breakfast

THURSDAY: Cinnamon rolls, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, graham crackers and milk.
 FRIDAY: Biscuits, ham, variety of cereal, graham crackers, raisins and milk.
 MONDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

Elementary Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, burrito or enchilada casserole; corn, gelatin dessert, salad, fresh fruit, pineapple, ice cream and milk.
 FRIDAY: Choice of chicken sandwich, barbecued ribs on a bun or chili; cornbread,

pinto beans, sliced pickles, lettuce, tomatoes, peaches, gelatin dessert, gingerbread and milk.
 MONDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

High School Lunch

THURSDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, burrito or enchilada casserole; corn, salad, fresh fruit, pineapple pudding, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.
 FRIDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, chicken sandwich or barbecued ribs on a bun; pinto beans, sliced pickles, lettuce, tomato, peaches, gelatin dessert, gingerbread, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.
 MONDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

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: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.
 WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

Lunch

THURSDAY: * Hot turkey sandwich or corn dogs, tossed salad, beans, fruit, pudding and milk or juice.
 FRIDAY: Choice of chicken nuggets or steak fingers, Mexican salad, corn, bread, fruit, dessert and milk or juice.
 MONDAY: *Nachos or corn dogs, tossed salad, beans, applesauce, peaches and milk.
 TUESDAY: *Ham sandwich, ham and turkey sub or corn dog, lettuce, peas, fruit, dessert and milk or juice.
 WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY: No school.

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

Chamber banquet scheduled Jan. 16

The 51st annual Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce banquet has been slated for Jan. 16 at the Expo Building.

The annual citizen awards will be presented, and the featured speaker will be Kenneth Chambers, "the Cellular Cowboy," according to Chamber Executive Director Bill Sava.

Tickets will be \$15 per person and may be purchased at the Chamber office at 115 W. Bedford. The meal will be a steak dinner prepared by Dimmitt's Methodist Men.

Cheryle Pybus will serve as emcee. The theme of the banquet is "Be a Sport—Support Dimmitt."

Sava said it is not too late to submit nominations for the honors of Citizen of the Year, Citizen Through the Years, and Teacher of the Year. Forms will be available at the Chamber office until Jan. 5.

"I expect a record turnout this year, since Mr. Chambers is well-known locally," Sava said, "and the Methodist Men's reputation as 'chefs extraordinaire' (translated 'real good cooks') is equally well-established."

Mr. and Mrs. John McCulley, Jr.

request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter

Rebecca Lynne

to

Jim Alan Nelson

son of

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nelson

on Saturday, the second of January

Nineteen hundred and ninety-nine

at seven o'clock in the evening

St. John's Episcopal Church

La Porte, Texas

Reception immediately following

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Val and Gail

The Village Shop

204 W. Bedford, Dimmitt

647-2450

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wall and Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Rodgers request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their children Haylei D'Nae Wall to John David Rodgers on Sunday, the twentieth of December Nineteen hundred and ninety-eight at four o'clock in the afternoon First United Methodist Church 110 Southwest Third Street Dimmitt, Texas

Reception immediately following

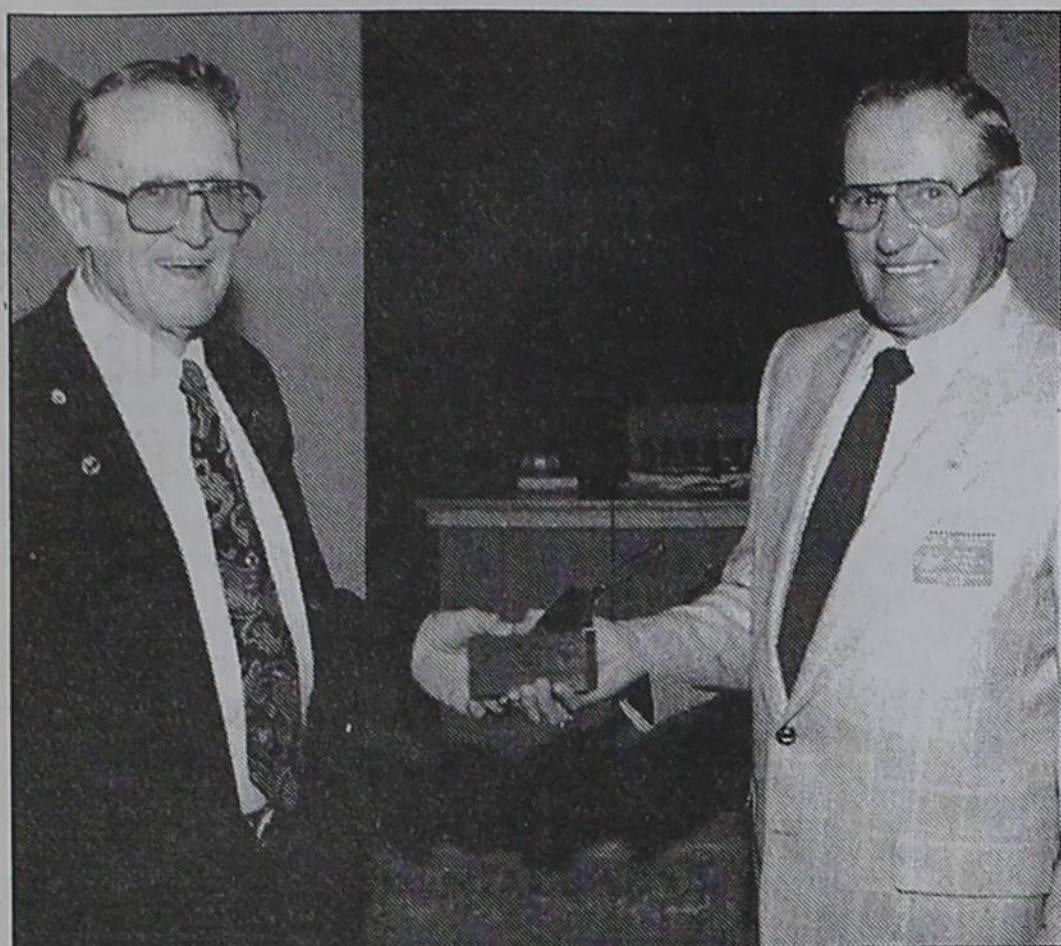
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MERLE NORMAN

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THE GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD is presented to Bill Henderson (left) of the Dimmitt Masonic Lodge by Cliff Jones of the Hereford Lodge. It is the highest honor a Lodge can bestow on an individual member. Henderson became a Mason in 1962, and served the local lodge as Worshipful Master for two terms, in addition to holding district offices for five years.
Photo by Linda Maxwell

Roy Gonzales finishes Marine basic training

Marine Pfc. Roy A. Gonzales, son of Roy and Martha Gonzales of Hart, recently completed basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif.

Gonzales successfully completed 12 weeks of training designed to challenge new Marine recruits both physically and mentally.

Breast cancer screening is set for Jan. 7

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on Jan. 7, 1999, and appointments are now being accepted.

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.

Total cost of the screening is \$75. A minimum of 15 women need to register in order for the mobile mammography clinic to come to area towns. Funding is available through the Texas Dept. of Health for Texas residents who qualify for assistance.

Gonzales and fellow recruits began their training at 5 a.m. by running three miles and performing calisthenics. In addition to the physical conditioning program, Gonzales spent numerous hours in classroom and field assignments which included learning first aid, uniform regulations, combat water survival, marksmanship, hand-to-hand combat and assorted weapons training. They performed close order drill and operated as a small infantry unit during field training.

Gonzales and other recruits also received instruction on the Marine Corps' core values—honor, courage and commitment, and what the words mean in guiding personal and professional conduct.

Gonzales and fellow recruits ended the training phase with The Crucible, a 54-hour team effort, problem-solving evolution which culminated with an emotional ceremony in which the recruits were presented the Marine Corps Emblem and were addressed as "Marines" for the first time since boot camp began.

Gonzales joins 41,000 men and women who will enter the Marine Corps this year from all over the country.

He is a 1998 graduate of Hart High School.

AC will offer classes in Hart

Amarillo College will be offering two college credit classes through the Hart schools for the spring semester. They will be open to high school seniors and adults.

The classes will start Jan. 18. Public speaking will be offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 to 9:15 a.m. General psychology will be

offered on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m.

The cost of the classes will be the regular tuition fee, and instruction will be provided by AC personnel.

Admission requirements include application to AC, and completing a certificate of residence. Also, an applicant may possess a bachelor's

degree from an accredited college or university, or be a non-degree or non-certificate-seeking student 55 or older by the first day of the semester.

Graduates of accredited high schools must submit an official high school transcript. Persons with a GED, who are at least 18, may be admitted on an individual approval

basis. Also, applicants must pass the appropriate areas of the TASP, unless exemptions apply.

All interested persons in the area are welcome to apply. For more information contact Hart counselor Cheryl Upshaw, Box 490, Hart 79043; or call 938-2141 or 938-2143.

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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
Pedro A. Gonzalez
- Immaculate Conception Catholic**
1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt
Guillermo Morales...647-4219, 647-0105
- Jesus and the Love of God Church**
(Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Felix Sanchez.....647-3668

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

—St. Francis of Assisi

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Hart
Guillermo Morales.....647-0105
- Church of Christ**
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647-4435
- Rose of Sharon Temple**
407 NE 4th, Dimmitt
- Primeria Iglesia Bautista**
9th and Etter, Dimmitt
Antonio Rocha

- Abundant Life Family Church**
113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Tom and Kay Mullins
- First Assembly of God**
300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Larry Gilliam.....647-5662
- First Baptist**
1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Howard Rhodes.....647-3115
- Lee Street Baptist**
401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt
Mike Summers
- First Christian**
600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
- La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito**
East Halsell Street, Dimmitt
- Presbyterian**
1600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Connie Nieto.....293-7361
- Holy Family Catholic**
Nazareth
Jerry Stein.....945-2616
- Hart Church of Christ**
416 Avenue H, Hart
Aaron Lee.....938-2267

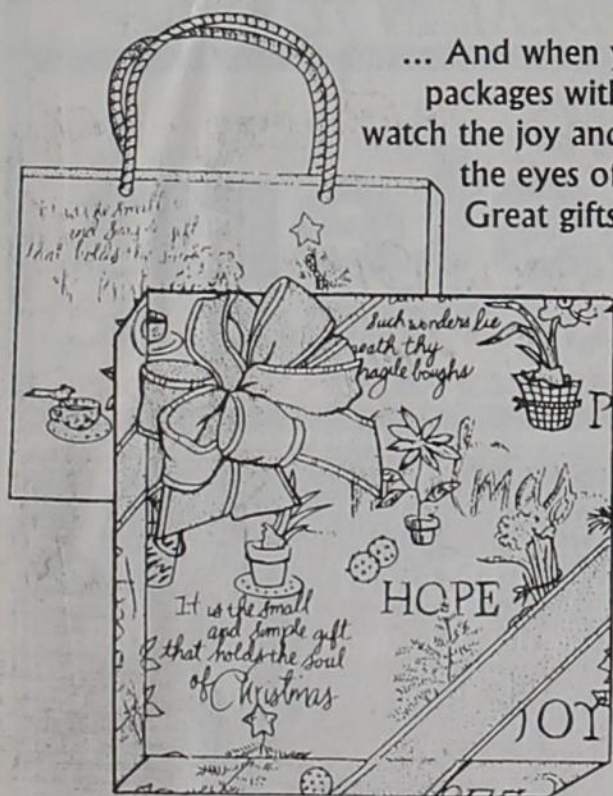
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ABI Agriculture, Business & Industry



CASTRO COUNTY BOUNTY—Kaye Stevens of the Castro County Farm Bureau office manned a booth at the Farm Bureau State Convention in Lubbock earlier this month. The booth featured points of interest in Castro County and included give-aways provided by local merchants, including GOMAX Foods, Cerestar, AgriFarm Industries, Castro Co-Op Gin, North Gin, DeBruce Grain, Terra International, First United Bank, and First Bank, Muleshoe, Dimmitt Branch. The Chamber of Commerce also donated some items. *Courtesy Photo*

Local Farm Bureau has booth at state convention

Photographs of points of interest in Castro County and products from county businesses and merchants were featured in a booth at the Texas Farm Bureau convention in Lubbock recently.

The booth was manned by Kaye Stevens, county secretary of the Castro County Farm Bureau.

Among the things featured in the booth are the county's schools, hospital, museums, fire departments, cotton gins, grain elevators, banks and other businesses including Cerestar USA and Gomax Foods.

"I asked the merchants in Dimmitt to provide items that could be given away at the booth and asked that the items help promote Castro County to show the people in the state just what we have to offer," Stevens said. "The merchants were very generous and the voting delegates were appreciative. They were especially surprised to be given Castro County hot sauce."

Gomax Foods donated 12 cases of hot sauce for the promotion. Other businesses which donated items were Cerestar USA, AgriFarm Industries LLC, Castro Co-op Gin, North Gin, DeBruce Gain, Terra International, First United Bank and First Bank—Dimmitt Branch.

The Chamber of Commerce also helped with the booth by donating

pins, pamphlets about Castro County, and cookbooks. Bill Sava allowed the use of a Castro County afghan.

"I really do appreciate how the merchants in Dimmitt helped me with the booth and there are quite a few people from South Texas who went back with memories of Castro County," Stevens said.

Directors are named to sheep and goat board

Eugene Vinson of Reagan County, Jim Davis of Menard County and Dan Crenwelge of Gillespie County have been elected to the Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board.

Ballots were canvassed Nov. 12 by Sandy Bradley, representing the Tom Green County judge's office; John Walker, representing the District 7 Texas Agricultural Extension Service; Katie Dickie Stavino, representing the Texas Dept. of Agriculture; and Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board President William Edmiston, DVM.

Vinson will represent District 1, Davis will represent District 2 and Crenwelge will represent District 3.

Wheat price potential is a 'mixed bag'

Wheat prices are lower than any grower would like and their upside potential is at best a mixed bag. Still, agricultural economists at three land-grant universities are optimistic about higher long-term prices.

"Wheat prices this summer were the lowest they've been since the summer of 1991," said Dr. Mark Waller, grain marketing and policy economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. "Tight world wheat supplies, expectations of smaller US acreage and weather problems in Oklahoma and Texas helped prices bounce back."

Although the current US supply-demand situation seems burdensome (USDA now projects 1998-99 ending stocks of 902 million bushels), more subsidized sales of US wheat could support prices, according to Waller.

"Overall, the world economy isn't as strong as last year's, but people still need to eat and our government knows we need to sell grain," Waller said. "As a result, I think we'll see more subsidized wheat sales this year and that will help both demand and prices through the winter and into spring."

The outlook for world wheat production dropped in November, said

Kansas State University grain marketing analyst William Tierney. This suggests global wheat stocks in the 1998-99 marketing year could end up the second lowest in almost 40 years, he said.

"Concern about low global stocks may partly account for surprisingly strong July 1999 futures prices in Kansas City this fall. The projection for lower world wheat production includes less US wheat production," Tierney said. "Industry analysts are now looking for three million to five million fewer US acres at harvest during the 1998-99 marketing year."

Despite predictions for a significantly smaller Soviet crop in USDA's recent World Board forecast, Tierney believes world wheat production may come in at about 588.3 million metric tons, 23 million metric tons less than the record 1997-98 world crop.

"Even though November's US wheat export commitments were the fourth lowest on record, expectations for smaller crops in the European Union and other major wheat-exporting nations could put a positive spin on wheat prices," he said. "Current odds favor higher 1999 futures prices, following a harvest low of \$3.25 to \$3.40 per bushel."

Even so, USDA now projects a 1998-99 average market price of only about \$2.65 per bushel, said Dr. Kim Anderson, Oklahoma State University Extension ag economist-marketing.

"Producers won't likely see \$3.65 wheat until US wheat ending stocks drop at least 310 million bushels. For that to occur, the 1999 wheat crop would have to total less than 2.1 billion bushels—a 20% drop from 1998's 2.56 billion bushel crop," Anderson said. "Unless poor growing conditions significantly reduce the US or world wheat crops, I wouldn't look for \$3.65 wheat again until at least the year 2000."

"So, producers who can afford storage should consider holding a portion of their crop in order to capitalize on any price rebounds that occur."

Waller said it's not too early for producers to develop a 1999 marketing plan and set price goals.

"Unless the supply-demand situation changes substantially, prices should remain relatively low for the rest of the marketing year. A winter price rally will hinge on better ex-

ports," Waller said. "Even with less US acreage forecast for 1999, producers may not see higher prices next year unless a supply problem develops somewhere in the world. Still, producers should keep a close eye on the market and be ready to move when profitable pricing opportunities come their way."

Tierney said producers who want to price part of their expected 1999 crop should consider a "scaled up" selling strategy, using July 1999 futures price triggers of \$3.85, \$4.15 and \$4.25 per bushel.

"Producers who use this strategy could prepare for even higher prices by purchasing out-of-the-money July and September call options to cover sales exceeding 25 to 35% of their expected crop," he said. "Growers who believe wheat's upside price potential is as much as \$1 to \$2 per bushel should consider buying calls that are three or four strike prices out of the money."

Producers can review more detailed market outlook summaries from these economists on the Data Transmission Network (DTN) or on the World Wide Web.

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ACGA convention slated for February

The seventh annual convention of the American Corn Growers Association (ACGA) will be held Feb. 4-7, 1999, at the Doubletree Hotel in Nashville, Tenn.

Theme for this year's convention is "Call for Survival—A Rally to Address the Crisis in Agriculture." Chairman of the convention is Steve Waters of South Dakota.

Farmers must take agricultural policy back and put it in the hands of those who care, according to Waters. Programs on credit availability, changes needed to the Freedom to Farm bill, value-added processing and how it can put money in farmers' pockets, and delivering farm programs to the countryside will be part of the program. A highlight panel will include six presidents of national agricultural and rural groups discussing what needs to be done in this new Congress to help bring price and profit back.

A barbecue dinner and line dancing at the home of The Nashville Network's "Wildhorse Saloon Dance Show" will highlight the opening reception.

ACGA attendees will receive dinner and a tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame the second night and will receive premier seating at the Grand Ole Opry the third night of the convention.

Because of the importance of this convention, ACGA has made registration fee voluntary.

For more information on the convention, call the ACGA Washington office at (202) 835-0330.

McCathern releases latest western novel

Hereford author Gerald McCathern has completed his second novel, *Quarantine*, and the 250-page library editions are now available at book stores.

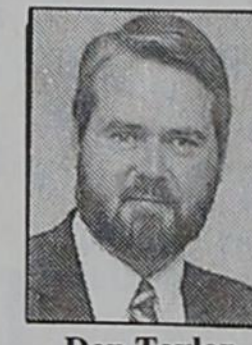
Quarantine is a western murder mystery and involves a conspiracy by terrorists to strike the heart of our food-producing industry. The setting is in the Texas Panhandle, where over six million head of cattle are fattened for market each year.

When two young boys find a dead man, murdered gangland style, lying in weeds on their father's farm, a chain of events take place that pulls a small-town deputy sheriff into an international conspiracy which threatens to drag the United States into another Mid-East confrontation.

When thousands of cattle being fattened for market in the huge feedlots in the Texas Panhandle begin to die from an unknown virus, the deputy's murder investigation becomes intertwined with the FBI's investigation of a terrorism strike against the nation's food supply.

The deputy, who is a champion roper, brings the tactics of the old-west lawman into play as he searches in Las Vegas and Chicago for clues, but he soon learns that his own life is in jeopardy when he gets too close to solving the murder and the mysterious cattle virus epidemic.

Minding Your Own Business A Christmas Story



By DON TAYLOR

The very best stories are those worth retelling. The story of Unlucky Jimmy is a Christmas classic worth sharing again.

Unlucky Jimmy is a story my mother read to me when I was a child. It's about a little boy named Jimmy whose family was very poor. His little sister was an invalid and spent most of her days in bed. Christmas held no special hope or joy for either of the children.

As he trudged home from school each day, Jimmy would stop to look at the toys in the bright store windows.

More than anything, he wanted a little red fire engine. Jimmy knew he would never be lucky enough to get one. In fact, his only marble had rolled down a storm drain the previous week. He felt that he was the unluckiest boy alive. He even called himself Unlucky Jimmy.

Then, one night just before Christmas, Jimmy received an invitation to a Christmas party for the poor children in the neighborhood. A nice lady from a nearby church mission promised Jimmy a special gift. Jimmy grew excited as he drew near the mission. He couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the Christmas tree. It was covered with lights and surrounded by toys. Jimmy saw a bright red fire engine just like the one in the store window.

When it came time for each child to pick out a gift, Jimmy's heart nearly stopped. He was afraid that someone else would pick the fire engine. Fortunately, when his turn came, the little red truck was still under the tree. As Jimmy reached for the engine, he thought of his frail little sister at home in bed. He stopped and turned to the mission lady. He asked softly if he might pick two gifts, one for himself and one for his sister at home. The lady shook her head sadly and told Jimmy there were only enough presents for one for each child.

Jimmy looked longingly at the little fire engine. Then he picked out the prettiest doll under the tree. It had blue eyes and curly blonde hair, just like his little sister. As he returned to his seat with the doll, the other children began to laugh and make fun of him. Unlucky Jimmy clutched the little doll and ran from the mission. He stopped crying by the time he reached home.

Jimmy began to feel better when he saw the look of surprise and delight on his sister's face. As she hugged the doll and cried with joy, Jimmy didn't feel so unlucky after all.

Later, as Jimmy sat by his little sister's bed watching her play with her doll, someone knocked on the door. When he opened it, the mission lady was there. She gave Jimmy a neatly-wrapped package and explained to him that the children were sorry they had laughed at him. They had not known about his sick little sister. After she told them why Jimmy had chosen the doll, the children asked her to bring him a present. To Jimmy's delight, the package contained the most beautiful red fire engine in the whole city.

The true meaning

I often think of Jimmy at Christmas time and usually feel a little selfish. Wouldn't this Christmas be a great time to start a "Jimmy" tradition? We can make the coming year a joyous occasion for all people by giving more of ourselves.

Share some of your blessings with someone less fortunate. Let's make this year a year of loving and giving.

Remember, the real reason we celebrate Christmas is Christ's birth. Whether or not you are a Christian by faith, Christ's life of giving, sharing and caring is a good example for all.

Don Taylor is the co-author of "Up Against the Wal-Marts." You may write to him in care of "Minding Your Own Business," P.O. Box 67, Amarillo, Texas 79105.

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Bradley, Nelson and Schulte exhibit top animals in 4-H show

Raynee Bradley, Shawn Nelson and Macee Schulte earned grand champion honors with their lamb, steer and barrow, respectively, at the Castro County 4-H Stock Show, which was held Dec. 5 in Dimmitt.

Runners-up at this year's show included Kendra Puente, reserve champion lamb; Chandra Jordan, reserve champion barrow; and Adam Hunter, reserve champion steer.

Senior Showmanship winners were Bryce Pohlmeier, lambs; Nelson, steers; and Ross Schulte, barrows. Winners in the Junior Showmanship were Bradley, lambs; Meggie Lemons, steers; and Holly Lane, barrows.

Judge Vance Christy, a Mitchell County Extension Agent, worked through 40 lambs, three steers and 40 pigs at this year's show.

"This show was a wonderful opportunity for our livestock exhibitors to gain valuable experience in the show ring," said County Extension Agent Rebel Royall. "The children are able to compete against others while training their animals to better compete in the show ring."

The event kicked off in the morning with a showmanship clinic for lamb and swine exhibitors. County agents and volunteers worked with exhibitors on a one-on-one basis to try and improve personal showmanship skills. The evidence of learning in those clinics showed up later that day.

"Castro County 4-H wishes to thank the many donors to this year's show. Without their help, such an excellent training event would not be possible," Royall said.

Here are complete results from the show:

LAMB SHOW

Grand Champion: Raynee Bradley.
Reserve Grand: Kendra Puente.

Finewool

Breed Champ: Raynee Bradley.
Reserve Breed Champ: Anna Brockman.

Finewool Cross

Breed Champ: Raynee Bradley.
Reserve Breed Champ: Anna Brockman.

Lightweight: 1. Raynee Bradley, 2. Jennifer Wilhelm, 3. Keli Schulte.

Heavyweight: 1. Carol Summers, 2. Brandon Burks, 3. Bryce Pohlmeier, 4. Chauncey Gilbreath, 5. Lacey Acker.

Southdown

1. Brandon Wilhelm.

Medium Wool

Breed Champ: Raynee Bradley.
Reserve Breed Champ: Kendra Puente.

Lightweight: 1. Meggie Lemons, 2. Kendra Puente, 3. Jennifer Wilhelm, 4. Brad Lane.

Light-mediumweight: 1. Kendra Puente, 2. Lacey Acker, 3. Brandon Burks, 4. Sage Annen, 5. Thomas Brockman, 6. Bryce Pohlmeier, 7. Thomas Brockman.

Mediumweight: 1. Raynee Bradley, 2. Sage Annen, 3. Meggie Lemons, 4. Brandon Burks, 5. Chauncey Gilbreath, 6. Jenna Acker, 7. Justin Lively.

Medium-heavyweight: 1. Raynee Bradley, 2. Keli Schulte, 3. Holly Lane, 4. Brandon Burks, 5. Sage Annen, 6. Jenna Acker.

Heavyweight: 1. Carol Summers, 2. Raynee Bradley, 3. Corey Lane, 4. Justin Lively, 5. Adam Acker.

BARROWS

Grand Champion: Macee Schulte.
Reserve Grand: Chandra Jordan.

Berkshire

Breed Champ: Brady Schulte
Reserve Breed Champ: Kendra Huseman.

1. Brady Schulte, 2. Kendra Huseman, 3. Matthew Kern.

Chester

Breed Champ: Raynee Bradley.

Duroc

Breed Champ: Macee Schulte.
Reserve Breed Champ: Corey Lane.

Lightweight: 1. Corey Lane, 2. Raynee Bradley, 3. Matthew Kern.

Heavyweight: 1. Macee Schulte, 2. Holly Lane, 3. Jody Stovall.

Hampshire

Breed Champ: Keli Schulte.
Reserve Breed Champ: Charlie Rundell.

Lightweight: 1. Keli Schulte, 2. Ross Schulte, 3. Aaron Kern, 4. Brad Lane.

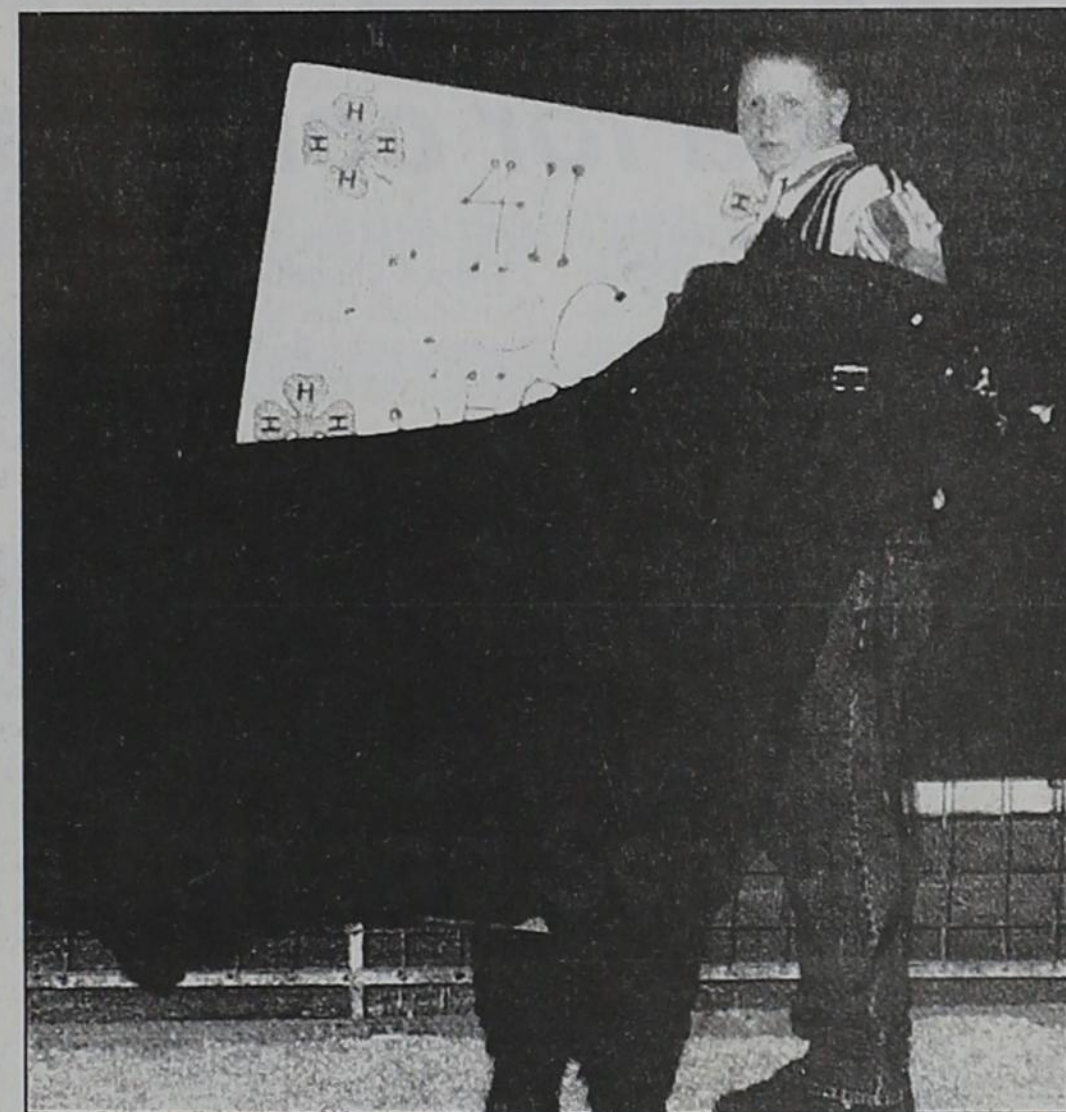
Heavyweight: 1. Charlie Rundell, 2. China Foster, 3. China Foster, 4. Garrett Kleman, 5. Brandi Kern, 6. Meggie Lemons.



GRAND CHAMPION LAMB
... Raynee Bradley with her Breed Champion Medium Wool.
Courtesy Photo



GRAND CHAMPION BARROW
... Macee Schulte with her Breed Champion Duroc.
Courtesy Photo



GRAND CHAMPION STEER
... Shawn Nelson shows his first place winner.
Courtesy Photo

Study shows growth of oxygenated fuel use

A new study released by the Ohio-based Freedomia Group Inc., a leading international industry and database company, shows optimistic growth in the future use of oxygenated fuels, including ethanol, MTBE and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE).

The report forecasts a 10.8% annual increase, accounting for over 55 billion pounds valued at approximately \$9.6 billion by the year 2002.

According to the report, MTBE demand by value is forecast at \$6.1 billion by 2002 and ethanol demand by value is projected at \$3.05 billion. This compares to 1997 figures of \$3.63 billion for MTBE and \$2 billion for ethanol.

The greatest increase of all oxygenated fuels is projected for ETBE. While there is no domestic consumption for ETBE at this time, the study forecasts ETBE to garner almost 5%

of total oxygen volume. The report states that ETBE's advantages include its high octane rating (110) and its ability to be transported through pipelines and its lower vapor pressure (Rvp) of four psi. The lower Rvp makes it especially attractive in Phase II reformulated gasoline because of the requirement for lower Rvp gasoline in reformulated gasoline markets beginning in the year 2000.

The Freedomia study clearly shows that oxygenated fuel demand is tied directly to the introduction and growth of the reformulated gasoline program. The continued expansion of reformulated gasoline will lead to the projected 10.8% growth in oxygenated fuels. This is why it is vital that agricultural associations begin to recognize the importance that reformulated gasoline has on total ethanol and ETBE demand.

Poland
Breed Champ: Chandra Jordan.
Reserve Breed Champ: Evan Huseman.

Spots
Breed Champ: Meggie Lemons.

Reserve Breed Champ: Karis Kleman.
1. Meggie Lemons, 2. Karis Kleman, 3. Jody Stovall.

Yorkshire
Breed Champ: Chandra Jordan
Lightweight: 1. Chandra Jordan, 2. Macee Schulte, 3. Matthew Kern.

Heavyweight: 1. Aaron Kern, 2. Raynee Bradley.

Cross
Breed Champ: Corey Lane.
Reserve Breed Champ: Evan Huseman.

Lightweight: 1. Evan Huseman, 2. Justin Lively, 3. Brad Lane, 4. China Foster.

Heavyweight: 1. Corey Lane, 2. Ross Schulte, 3. Raynee Bradley, 4. China Foster.

STEERS

Grand Champion: Shawn Nelson
Reserve Grand: Adam Hunter
1. Shawn Nelson, 2. Adam Hunter, 3. Meggie Lemons.

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 1997 Chevrolet Crew Cab 4x4 Stk#6840TA \$22,900	 1994 GMC Yukon 4x4 Stk#6816TA \$11,990	 1992 Buick LeSabre Stk#6704TA \$4,990
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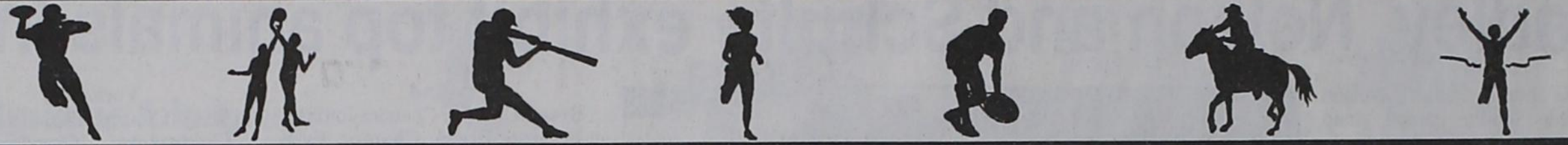
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Sports



Seminole edges Bobbies in tourney championship

The Dimmitt Bobbies came within a three-pointer of winning the Seminole Tournament, but they had to settle for second place after the Seminole Maidens handed them a 66-63 loss Saturday.

Dimmitt had reached the title game after beating Hobbs, N.M., 87-76; and Andrews, 66-38.

"It was a pretty good tournament for us," said Dimmitt Coach Chris Edwards. "I think the long road trips the three days of the tournament took a toll on us in the second half against Seminole, though."

Edwards said Shawna Kenworthy played "the best tournament I've seen her play."

He said other girls stepped up and played well, too, and that's what enabled the Bobbies to advance to the championship round.

Kenworthy was on fire in the first game, scoring 25 points to lead the Bobbies in the 87-76 win over Hobbs.

Kenworthy hit two three pointers, two field goals and made 15-of-18 shots from the free throw line.

Hobbs took a 17-15 lead in the first quarter behind the play of Melissa Forest, who gave the Bobbies problems the entire game.

Forest had 14 points in the first quarter and she finished with 31 for the game.

Dimmitt controlled the tempo of the game in the second quarter, though. Dimmitt took a 44-39 lead by halftime thanks to a balanced scoring effort and accurate shooting from the stripe. Eight Bobbies scored in the stanza and the Dimmitt girls made 16-of-22 free throws in the stanza.

The Bobbies watched their lead diminish in the third quarter until

Hobbs was on top, 64-57.

Kenworthy took over in the fourth quarter, pouring in 15 points to pace the Bobbies, who outscored Hobbs 30-12 in the stanza.

Joining Kenworthy in double-scoring ranks were Tonya Robertson, who finished with 16, and Heather Wise, who had 11.

Dimmitt had no problem with Andrews in the championship semifinals on Friday, turing a 21-8 first-quarter lead into a 37-20 halftime edge.

The Bobbies held Andrews to six points in the third quarter and that put the game on ice and Dimmitt posted the easy 66-38 win.

Kenworthy opened the game with three big three-pointers in the first quarter and added another field goal and pair of free throws to her total of 13 in the quarter. She finished with a game-high 23 points.

Carol Summers found her mark in the second quarter, hitting a trey and another bucket to keep the Bobbies on track. She finished with 11 points.

Dimmitt also got double-figure scoring from Robertson, who finished with 10.

The Bobbies hit 10 three-pointers in the game, with Kenworthy accounting for five. Summer, Stephanie Hinojosa and Larissa Fuentes each had one while Lori Schulte popped two.

In Saturday's final game, Edwards said he felt like the Bobbies were playing their mirror image.

"Seminole is a lot like us. They're not big, but they're very quick," Edwards said. "This was the type of game where the team with the fewest turnovers and the fewest mental

mistakes was going to win. Down the stretch we missed some easy shots and we made some errors and they didn't."

The loss was a hard one for the Bobbies, who had led by as many as eight in the first half.

"This was good experience for us. Most of these girls haven't been in this type of situation before and they really did well."

Dimmitt controlled the first quarter and was up 21-17 by stanza's end.

Robertson had the hot hand early in the game, pacing Dimmitt's 21-point show with nine of her team-high 18 points.

Kenworthy dominated in the second quarter, scoring six points to lead the Bobbies.

"We had an eight-point lead in the second quarter, but Seminole worked its way back into the game and it was close the rest of the way," Edwards said.

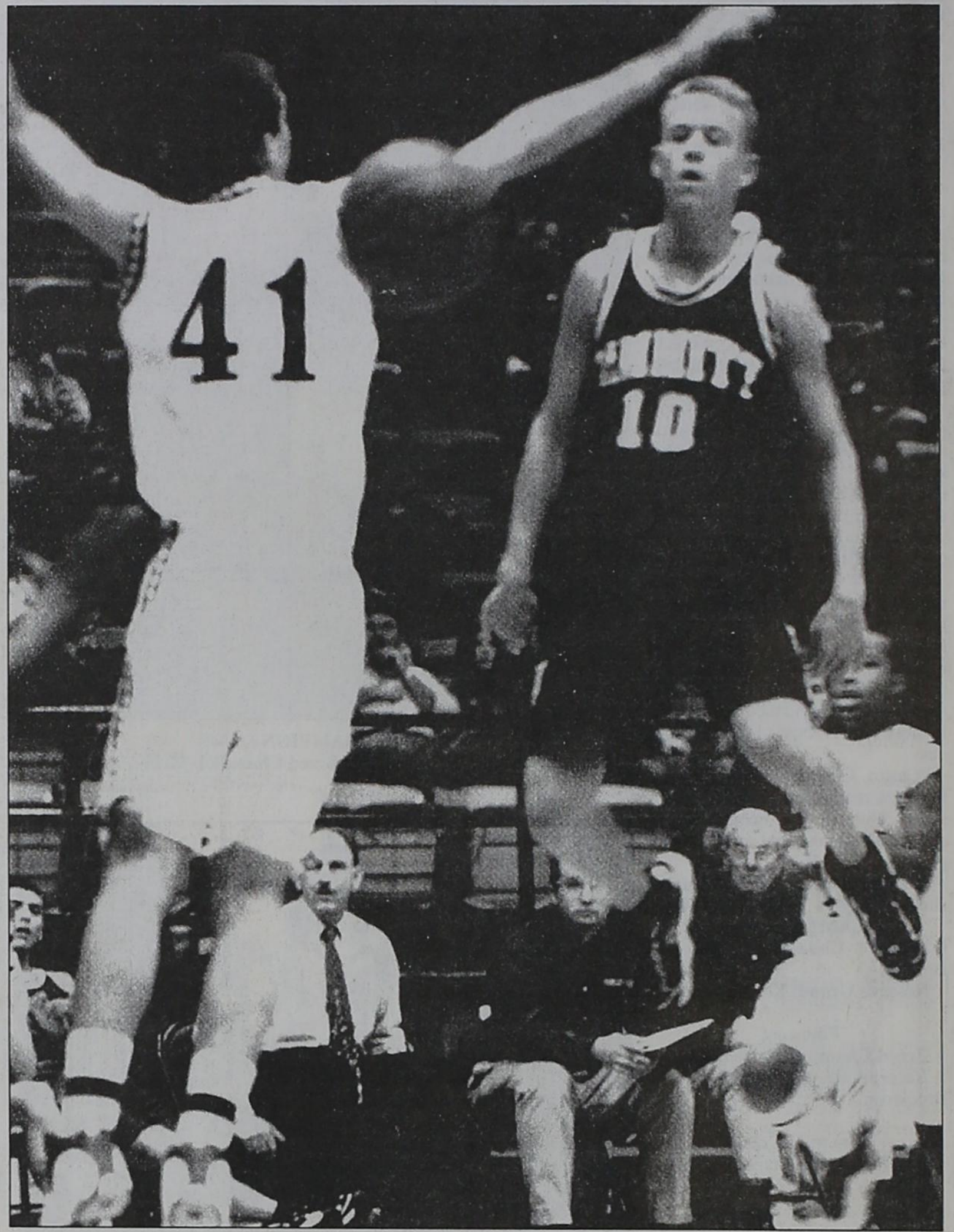
Dimmitt still held a lead after two quarters, but it was a slim one, 36-35.

The Maidens took over the lead in the third quarter, 47-45, behind a strong performance Becky Winters and a defense that held Dimmitt to nine points.

Seminole had a six-point lead over Dimmitt near the end of the game, but the Bobbies hit a three-pointer with 30 seconds left to make it a three-point game. Seminole worked the ball and ran out the clock after that.

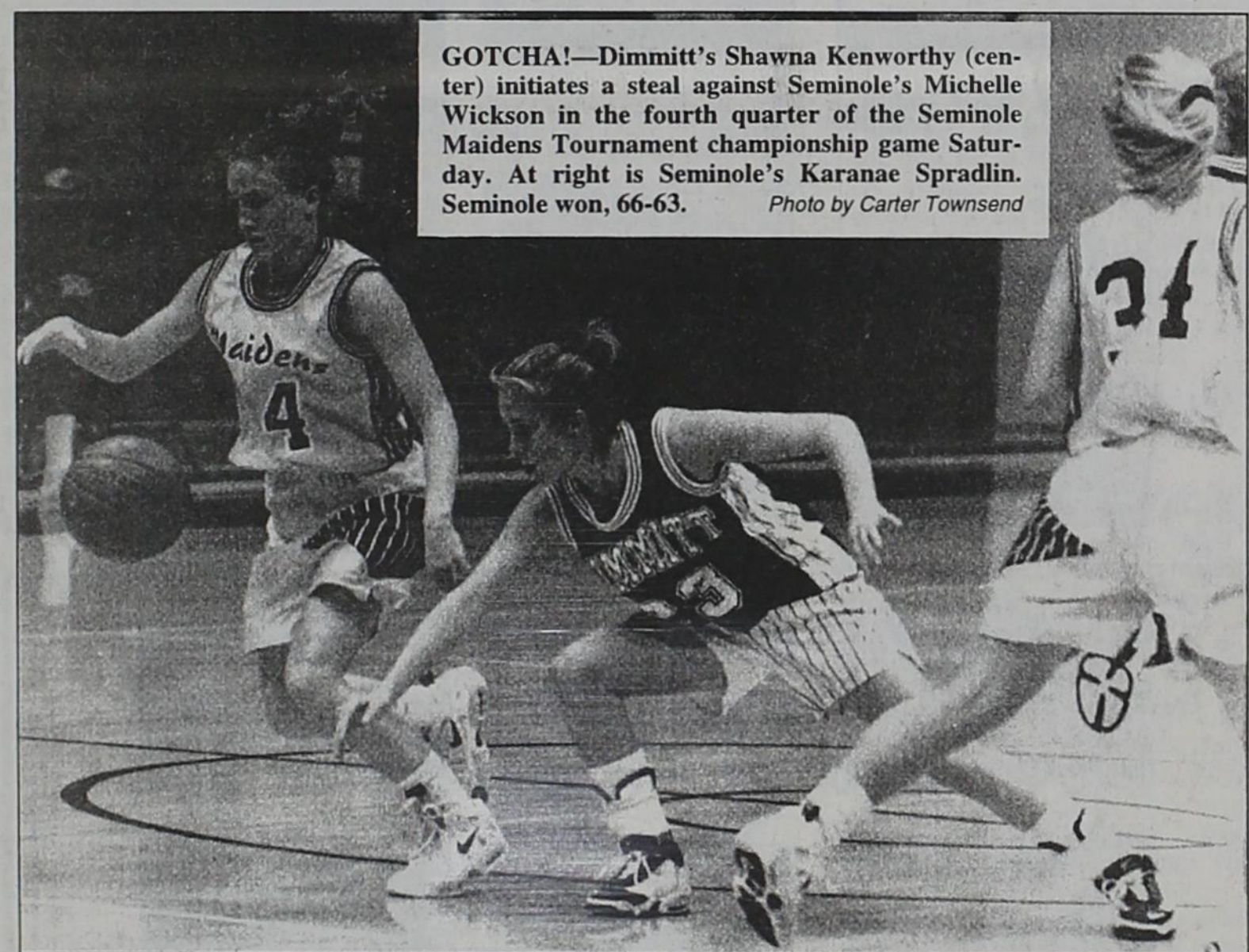
Robertson's 18 points was tops for Dimmitt while Kenworthy added 14 and Summers finished with 11.

Dimmitt struggled from the free throw line against Seminole, hitting just 10-of-19 attempts for the game. Seminole made 21-of-31 shots from the charity stripe.



INSIDE PASS—Pampa's Kevin Osborn (41) is a half-second late as he attempts to block an overhand jump pass from Dimmitt's Derek Buckley (10) to post Jerry Thomas during the consolation championship game

of the Seminole Indians Tournament Saturday. Buckley and Thomas scored 56 points between them as the Bobcats defeated the Harvesters, 71-57, to take the consolation trophy. Photo by Carter Townsend



GOTCHA!—Dimmitt's Shawna Kenworthy (center) initiates a steal against Seminole's Michelle Wickson in the fourth quarter of the Seminole Maidens Tournament championship game Saturday. At right is Seminole's Karanae Spradlin. Seminole won, 66-63. Photo by Carter Townsend

Bobcats beat Andrews and Pampa for consolation title

Dimmitt definitely didn't have one of its better games against Denver City in the first game of the Seminole Tournament, but the Bobcats overcame their disappointment after a 62-50 loss and were able to beat Andrews and Pampa to win the consolation title.

"It (loss to Denver City) was a disappointing way to start the tournament for us. We wanted to get on the winner's side," said Dimmitt Coach Alan Steinle. "We started out a little disappointingly in the tournament, but responded with two good wins. We were able to come out of the tournament making the most out of a situation in which we did not have the best start."

Poor shooting was the main problem Dimmitt faced against Denver City last Thursday.

The Bobcats shot a miserable 29% from the field, hitting just 4-of-28 attempts from three-point range and 12-of-27 from the two-point mark. Dimmitt also struggled from the charity stripe, making 14-of-21 shots (67%).

"We didn't shoot the ball that well or play as well as we would have liked," Steinle said. "Our field goal percentage was 29%—one of the lowest we've had this year. We started out slow and never could really get anything going."

Dimmitt was never out of the game, despite its poor shooting, but the Bobcats never controlled the game, either.

The Bobcats only put six points on the board in the opening quarter, with Jerry Thomas accounting for four and Taylor Matthews picking up the other hoop.

Dimmitt's offensive production improved in the second quarter, although only two Bobcats scored in the stanza—Thomas and Derek Buckley.

Buckley found his mark in the period, hitting two of his four treys in the game. He also added a free throw to his total. Thomas picked up a pair of baskets and a free throw to give Dimmitt 12 points in the stanza.

With Denver City leading 27-18, Dimmitt came back in the third quarter, but Denver City never relinquished its lead, eventually post-

ing the 62-50 win.

Thomas finished with 22 points, 15 rebounds and seven credits for Dimmitt while Buckley added 15 points, two rebounds and 14 credits.

"Denver City played a good game and took advantage of our poor shooting. They hit awfully well. Their coach said it was one of their best shooting games of the season. When we are not hitting our normal percentage, we need to find a way to win."

Dimmitt bounced back Friday to beat Andrews, 66-38, in the consolation semifinals.

The Bobcats led the game early, but finally put the game on ice in the second half.

Dimmitt jumped out to an 18-11 lead in the first quarter and continued to lead at half, 31-27.

The Bobcats would gain a lot of ground on Andrews in the third, outscoring the team 19-9, then iced the game in the fourth with a 27-point quarter.

Pacing the Bobcats were Thomas, Buckley and Jacob Larra, who had 22, 16 and 15 points, respectively.

Thomas also was the team's leading rebounder with seven and he had 10 credits. Buckley pulled down three boards and had 11 credits while Larra finished with 13 credits and five rebounds.

Dimmitt improved its shooting percentage for the game, hitting 47% of its shows, including 57% from two-point range.

Buckley and Larra sparked the second-half assault after being held to six and four points in the first half. Buckley hit two threes in the pivotal third quarter while Larra poured in nine points.

"We played a much better game," Steinle said. "We started taking the ball to the basket and got some easy points at the free throw line. We shot just under 50% on our field goal percentage, which was certainly an improvement for that game. We had some balanced scoring from the entire team—nine of the guys scored."

Steinle had to use his bench early in the game because Buckley, Larra and Thomas each had three fouls in

the second quarter.

"It was encouraging to see some of our players come off the bench and contribute. You never know how the team will respond when some are in foul trouble. I appreciate how they came in and were able to help us."

Dimmitt got 15 points from its bench, with Jeff Stovall and Daniel Flores each chipping in five, Sammy Prieto adding three and Sanders adding two.

Dimmitt's shooting improved another notch in Saturday's 71-57 win over Pampa for the consolation crown.

The Bobcats hit 50% of their shots from the field and 67% from the free throw line.

Buckley and Thomas were almost unstoppable, scoring 56 points between them. Buckley had 29 points, 12 credits and rebound in the game while Thomas finished with 27 points, 10 boards and 11 credits.

Dimmitt claimed a 12-10 first-quarter lead behind that duo, then turned the two-point lead into an 11-point advantage, 29-18, after 16 minutes.

Buckley and Thomas each had 11 points in the first half.

The two continued their assault in the second half, boosting the Cats to the win.

"We were a little concerned coming into the Pampa game," Steinle said. "They're a little deliberate in their playing. They want to spread you out and use their quickness. We wanted to get the lead so that we could control the tempo, and we did."

"We pretty well had the lead throughout the game. We had the lead at the half and came out in the third quarter and added 19 points.

"We don't always have our best quarter in the third. We had about a 20-point lead when they made a run at us at the end of the third and the first part of the fourth quarter. They cut our lead to less than 10," Steinle said.

"I was pleased with our kids, though. They responded well, even if it did get a little tense there for awhile. We opened the lead back up and hit some good free throws at the end of the game to seal the win."

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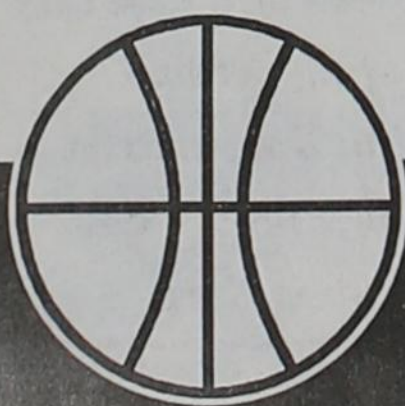
Friday:

DIMMITT BOBBIES & BOBCATS

vs.

FRIONA

Friday, 6:30 p.m., Here



1470 A.M.



LOOKING FOR HELP—Nazareth's Whitney Hoelting is sandwiched underneath the basket and looks for someone to dish off to during action in the I-27 Invitational last week. The Swiftettes posted wins over El Paso Franklin (40-31) and Idalou (46-28) before losing to Hale Center (53-37) in the championship semifinals. The Swiftettes went on to finish third with a win over Whiteface on Saturday, 41-33. Hoelting had 15 points against Whiteface to lead the Swiftettes to a third-place finish in the tournament.
Photo by Brenda Schulte

★ **POWER POINTS FOOTBALL CONTEST** ★

Cline sets new record

Can't anyone around here outguess Milas Cline Jr. in the Texas POWER POINTS Football Contest? Even when he had a bad week and scored only 102 of a possible 136 in the Week 15 contest, Cline won because no one else could do better. It's his third time to win the local contest this season. "That's embarrassing," Cline said. "It's ridiculous, isn't it, to win with 102?"

Well, maybe. But it would have been ridiculous, too, to pick the New York Giants over the unbeaten Denver Broncos. Then, there were the Cowboys. . . .

Cline not only won the *News's* local \$20 weekly cash prize. He also broke his own record with nine career wins dating back to October 1996. He won the local prize three times in '96 and three times last year.

On the other hand, a first-timer won the statewide contest this week. He is Jerome Towns, director of special services for the Kilgore Public Schools, who had never filled out a ballot before last week.

He tallied a state-high 124 points in his first attempt and takes home the weekly \$1,000 grand prize.

"I've been wanting to enter for a long time, but it just kept slipping my mind," the 46-year-old Towns said. "This time I decided I would really do it."

You can really do it, too, if you'll turn to this week's POWER POINTS Football Contest on Page 13. Weekly cash prizes are \$20 for the local winner and \$1,000 for the state's Grand Prize winner. To enter, just make your picks according to the rules, clip out the form and turn it in by 3 p.m. Friday at the *News* office, 108 W. Bedford St. Good luck!



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Bobbies and Bobcats!

★

FRIDAY: Bobbies and Bobcats vs. Friona, Here

★

SATURDAY: Bobbies and Bobcats vs. Lubbock Coronado, There

Schedule and Scores

- Dec. 18—Friona, Here
- Dec. 19—Lubbock Coronado, There
- Dec. 28-30—Caprock Tournament, Lubbock
- Jan. 2—Littlefield, Here
- Jan. 5—Slaton, There
- Jan. 8—Muleshoe (Boys), Here
- Jan. 8—Perryton (Girls), Here
- Jan. 12—Tulia, There
- Jan. 15—River Road, Here
- Jan. 19—Sanford-Fritch, There
- Jan. 22—Dalhart, Here
- Jan. 26—Tulia, Here
- Jan. 29—Perryton, There
- Feb. 2—Sanford-Fritch, Here
- Feb. 5—River Road, There
- Feb. 9—Dalhart, There
- Feb. 12—Perryton (Boys), Here

Bobbies

- 22, Randall 42
- 32, Levelland 52
- 56, Borger 49
- Queen's Classic**
- 58, Lockney 66
- 80, Ray 75
- 72, Vega 62

Consolation Champions

- 43, Hereford 32
- 54, Amarillo High 66
- 57, Muleshoe 42

Seminole Tournament

- 87, Hobbs 76
- 66, Andrews 38
- 63, Seminole 66

Second Place

Season Record: 7-5

Bobcats

- 61, Randall 69
- 81, Levelland 72
- 61, Borger 43
- 67, Farwell 48
- 49, Hereford 54

Pioneer Classic

- 59, Lubbock High 61
- 67, Lubbock Estacado 44
- 75, Plainview 48
- 47, El Paso 52

70, Muleshoe 62

Seminole Tournament

- 50, Denver City 62
- 77, Andrews 53
- 71, Pampa 57

Consolation Champions

Season Record: 8-5



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- Pro-Ag, Inc.
- Red X Travel Center
- Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer & Myatt
- Tam Anne Cattle Feeders
- Terra International
- Texas Equipment Co., Inc.
- Dimmitt Thriftway/Dimmitt Market
- Tidwell Spraying Service
- Dr. Morris Webb, Optometrist
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Swifts drop three games in tournament

The Nazareth Swifts struggled through the I-27 Invitational, losing three straight games to Idalou, Crane and Happy.

The Swifts fell to Idalou in the opening round, 52-31, last Thursday, then dropped two games on Friday. The first game on Friday was a close one, but Nazareth was still on the short end, losing to Crane, 74-68. In a guarantee game Friday evening, the Swifts lost to Happy, 73-54.

The Swifts were playing without starter Ky Wilcox, who injured his ankle.

The 16-team tournament was played in Abernathy, Hale Center and Idalou.

Idalou's defense limited the Swifts to single-digit scoring in three quarters last Thursday while the offense clicked for a 52-31 win in first-round action.

Idalou used a balanced attack to handle the Swifts, with four players scoring in double figures including Anthony DeLeon and Ryan Heirich, who had 12 each; and Eric Bramley and Matt Bozeman, who finished with 10 apiece.

The Swifts had just one player in double figures—Kade Wilcox who had 11.

Nazareth managed just two field goals in the opening stanza—one by Stanton Wethington and another by Mitchell Brockman. The Swifts only other points came from the line when Wilcox hit three free throws.

Trailing 18-7 after one, Nazareth saw hopes of cutting that margin fade in the second. Cameron McLain picked up a couple of shots and

Wethington made a free throw to account for all of the Swifts scoring.

Meanwhile, Idalou racked up 11 points, paced by Bozeman, who finished with nine for the first half.

Nazareth outscored Idalou in the second, 13-12, but the Wildcats came back to take the fourth quarter, 11-6, for the win.

Nazareth couldn't stop Crane's Jamin Phipps in the first half. He erupted for 11 points in the first quarter and finished with 21 to lead his team to a 74-68 win over the Swifts in the consolation quarterfinals.

Nazareth got 19 points from Wilcox, 11 from Wethington and 10 from Matty McLain, but it wasn't enough to counter Crane's offensive attack.

Crane took a 21-14 lead in the opening quarter, but Nazareth cut that lead to four, 42-38, by halftime. Nazareth picked up 15 points in each of the second-half quarters, but the Golden Cranes responded with 32 points to hold on for the win.

The Swifts hit six three pointers in the game, including one by Brockman, two by Matty McLain, three by Wilcox.

The Swifts third loss in the tournament was one of the most disappointing because they'd already beaten Happy earlier this year.

But this game belonged to the Cowboys and Patrick McCuaig, who led all scorers with 21 points. Sonny Calhoun finished with 21 and Hip Saenz had 15.

For Nazareth, Wilcox finished with 19 points after making five three pointers. Teammate Daryl Pohlmeier had 16 and Brockman chipped in 12.

The Cowboys were hot from the opening tip, outscoring the Swifts 24-12 in the first quarter. Leading the attack were Calhoun and John Mark Moudy, who had nine and seven points, respectively.

Wilcox accounted for half of the Swifts' points on two treys and Pohlmeier added another while Brockman converted a three-point play after he was fouled on a made shot.

Nazareth trailed the Cowboys 35-21 at halftime, but started a slow comeback in the second half. The Cowboys held on down the stretch, pulling out the win.



TOUGH ON THE BOARDS—Nazareth's Jayme Schmucker (42) gets excellent inside position and nabs an offensive rebound during action in the I-27 Invitational last week while teammate Whitney Hoelting (right) is ready to help out. The Swiftettes

went 3-1 in the 16-team tournament, posting wins over El Paso Franklin, Idalou and Whiteface. The Swiftettes' lone loss was to Hale Center in the championship semifinals. They finished third.
Photo by Brenda Schulte

Swiftettes finish third in big I-27 Invitational

Three big wins out of four games in three days gave the Nazareth Swiftettes a third-place trophy at the 16-team I-27 Invitational last week at Abernathy, Idalou and Hale Center.

Nazareth started off the tournament last Thursday morning with a hard-fought, 40-31 win over El Paso Franklin, then came back to bounce Idalou, 46-28, that evening.

The Swiftettes stumbled in the championship semifinals on Friday though, losing to Hale Center 53-37.

Nazareth had its hands full in Saturday's third-place game with Re-

gion 1-A rival Whiteface, but the Swiftettes prevailed, 41-33.

Shawna Gerber and Cassie Birkenfeld sparked Nazareth in the 40-31 win over El Paso, scoring 15 and 10 points, respectively.

After taking a 15-5 lead in the first quarter, the Swiftettes' offensive production faltered and almost died completely in the second and third stanzas. They managed just six points in the second, and El Paso came to life, pouring in 10 and cutting Nazareth's lead to 21-15 at

halftime.

The third quarter was a defensive battle with El Paso claiming a 5-4 edge to narrow Nazareth's lead to five.

The Swiftettes got their offense back on track in the fourth and that was enough to preserve their slim lead and the win.

Nazareth got off to a slow start last Thursday night against Idalou, but after trailing 10-12 in the first quarter, the Swiftettes turned it around over the next three stanzas, outscoring Idalou 36-16.

The 46-28 win moved Nazareth into the semifinals on Friday.

Nazareth outscored Idalou, 13-6, in the second for a 23-18 halftime lead, then gave up just 10 points in the entire second half.

Leading scorer for Nazareth was Cassie Birkenfeld with 14. Whitney Hoelting added 11.

Another cold spell from the field cost the Swiftettes the semifinal game with Hale Center.

The Owlettes led 10-9 after the first period, but were able to open up the game in the second, outscoring Nazareth 14-4 for a 24-13 lead at the break.

Nazareth managed to regain a little of the lost ground in the third, cutting Hale Center's lead to 34-26, but that was all the Owlettes allowed.

Hale Center exploded with 19 points in the fourth for the 53-37 win.

Birkenfeld scored 19 to lead the Swiftettes.

Nazareth overcame a two-point halftime deficit against Whiteface on Saturday to claim a 41-33 win for third place in the tourney.

The Swiftettes watched a 12-10 first-quarter lead evaporate at the hands of Whiteface and wound up trailing, 19-17, after the second period.

The Swiftettes regained the lead in the third by edging Whiteface, 7-4, then pounded on their foes over the final eight minutes.

Hoelting finished with 15 to lead Nazareth while Gerber added 10.

Latest TABC poll features county teams

The Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC) has updated its Top 20 rankings and the Dimmitt Bobcats and Bobbies and Nazareth Swiftettes are still ranked among the best around.

The Class A Swiftettes are second in the state behind district rival Sudan. The Dimmitt Bobcats are ranked 11th while the Bobbies are 12th.

Here are the Top 20 rankings for boys and girls in Class A and AAA.

Class A Girls: 1. Sudan, 2. Nazareth, 3. Valley View, 4. Borden County, 5. Celeste, 6. Moulton, 7. Karnack, 8. Zephyr, 9. Whiteface, 10. Lipan, 11. Booker, 12. Smyer, 13. Dime Box, 14. Menard, 15. Chireno, 16. Brookesmith, 17. Era, 18. Huckabay, 19. Slidell, 20. Cross Plains.

Class A Boys: 1. Moulton, 2. Goodrich, 3. Brookeland, 4. Lipan, 5. Laneville, 6. Kennard, 7. Itasca, 8. Karnack, 9. Roxton, 10. North Hopkins, 11. Milano, 12. Ponder, 13. Trenton, 14. Evadale, 15. Whiteface, 16. Avinger, 17. Huckabay, 18. Snook, 19. Smyer, 20. Munday.

Class AAA Girls: 1. Winnsboro, 2. Lufkin Hudson, 3. Sweeny, 4. Quinland Ford, 5. Slaton, 6. Barbers Hill, 7. Bowie, 8. Merkel, 9. Shallowater, 10. Smithville, 11. Friona, 12. Dimmitt, 13. Crandall, 14. Decatur, 15. Rusk, 16. Hidalgo, 17. Comanche, 18. Madisonville, 19. Perryton, 20. Gladewater.

Class AAA Boys: 1. Clarksville, 2. Tulia, 3. Kountz, 4. Glen Rose, 5. Seminole, 6. Mexia, 7. Stafford, 8. Clyde, 9. Cleveland, 10. Lufkin Hudson, 11. Dimmitt, 12. Mabank, 13. Ingleside, 14. Marlin, 15. Fairfield, 16. South San West, 17. Gainesville, 18. Taylor, 19. Decatur, 20. Gladewater.

Who's New! 

PLAINS MEMORIAL
It's a girl for John and Amber Sweet of Dimmitt. Their daughter, Krista Lynn Sweet, was born at 9:30 a.m. on Dec. 9 at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. She weighed 7 lbs., 3.6 ozs., and was 21 inches long. She has a big brother, Eric Alan Sweet, who is 3. Paternal grandparents are Mary and Mike Garrity of Hart. Maternal grandparents are Barbara Haynes of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Mary and Gus Haynes of Grand Rapids, Mich. Great-grandparents are Gwen and Alvey Sears of Dimmitt.

Harris Picks

Here's how the Harris Rating System picks this week's area playoff games.

5A Division II State Final
Midland Lee 7 over Katy

4A Division II State Final
Stephenville 3 over La Marque

3A Division II State Final
Newton 3 over Daingerfield

2A Division II State Final
Celina 10 over Elysian Fields

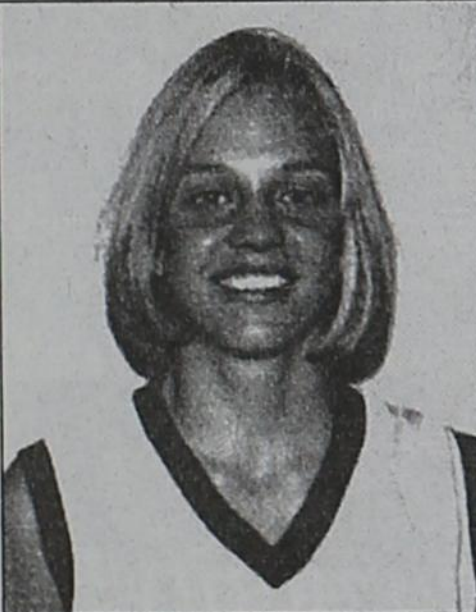
1A State Final
Tenaha 18 over Wheeler

5A Division I State Champion
Duncanville

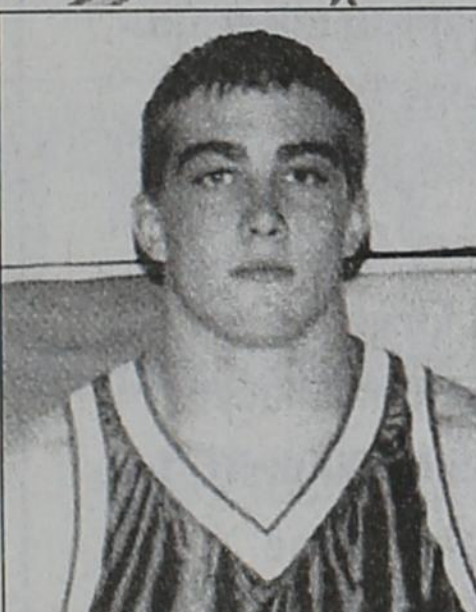
4A Division I State Champion
Grapevine

3A Division I State Champion
Aledo

2A Division I State Champion
Paul Pewitt



Sara Schulte
Junior Guard



Stanton Wethington
Junior Post

Good Luck, Swiftettes and Swifts!

★
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vs. Smyer, Here**

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First United Bank of Dimmitt
Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union

Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
Hi-Plains Irrigation, Olton
Nazareth Booster Club
Nazareth Oil & Gas/Naz Stop
George Nelson Trucking, Inc.
The 19th Hole
Pro-Ag, Inc.
Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer & Myatt
Terra International
Texas Equipment Co.

Tech welcoming older students

Texas Tech has chartered the Seniors' Academy Student Association to encourage citizens who are age 55 and older to enroll in the university.

The purpose of the association, according to its charter, is "to encourage and facilitate senior citizens in their educational experience, to support each other in their academic pursuits, and enjoy each other through social activities."

By enrolling in Texas Tech's Seniors' Academy, either to earn a degree or to take classes for personal enrichment, students can take advantage of:

- ◆ Flexible entrance procedures. No SAT/ACT scores or high school transcripts are required for admission.
- ◆ Transfer credit that allows classes completed at other colleges to fulfill Texas Tech degree requirements.
- ◆ Simplified individual registration specifically for Seniors' Academy members.
- ◆ Academic counseling with adult learning experts to determine an appropriate course of study.
- ◆ Academic tutoring at no extra expense to help brush up on study skills and fundamentals.
- ◆ Fellowship opportunities and peer support in an adult learner organization.

The association is planning programs of interest to older citizens. In addition, Texas Tech student tickets to many entertainment and cultural events on campus cost up to 50% less than general admission charges.

4-H sets entry time for county livestock show

Castro County 4-H'ers will have an opportunity to enter their barrows, steers and lambs in the Castro County Junior Livestock Show during a special sign-up Jan. 11-15, 1999.

During that week, 4-H'ers with livestock projects are asked to stop by the Extension office in Dimmitt to sign up for the stock show. Entry fees are \$15 per animal.

For more information about the show or entries, call Benny Martinez or Rebel Royall at the Extension Office, 647-4115.

Obituaries

Joe Casey

Graveside services for J.W. "Joe" Casey, 72, of Tecumseh, Okla., and formerly of Dimmitt, were held Saturday afternoon in Muleshoe Memorial Park Cemetery in Muleshoe with Rev. Gene Hawkins, interim pastor of First Baptist Church of Ralls, officiating.

Burial was under direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Muleshoe.

Mr. Casey died Dec. 9 at the Veterans Medical Center in Oklahoma City, Tex.

He was born March 28, 1926 in Abilene to W.Q. and Lena Casey. He graduated from Haskell High School and married Maxey Burson in Haskell in 1943. He was a 12-year veteran of the US Air Force, serving during World War II and the Korean Conflict, in which he completed 26 combat missions. He farmed in the Muleshoe area, and was a painter and carpenter in Dimmitt for many years. He married Rae Catoe in Dimmitt in 1979. After his retirement, they moved to Tecumseh.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a niece, Donna Heathington.

He is survived by his wife, Rae; four sons, Grady Casey of Bethel Acres, Okla., Richard Catoe of Dimmitt, Paul Catoe of Eastland, and Alex Catoe of Hamilton; three daughters, Rhea Lyn Newton of Ralls, Marty Catoe of Albuquerque, N.M., and Patti Lohn of The Woodlands; a sister, Beverly Page of Clovis, N.M.; 15 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and a nephew, Don Heathington of Muleshoe.

Emerald Epperson

Graveside services for Emerald Epperson, 84, of Hereford, and formerly of the Easter Community, were held Monday afternoon in Memory Gardens Cemetery of Amarillo under direction of Schooler Gordon Funeral Home of Amarillo.

Mrs. Epperson died Dec. 11 in Hereford.

She was born in Caddo, Okla., and married Wiley Aubrey Epperson in Arkansas in 1936. They lived in the Easter Community in Castro County until they moved to Amarillo in 1980. He preceded her in death in 1986. She was a homemaker and a member of San Jacinto Methodist Church. She was a co-founder of the Al-Anon Club of Hereford, and was a member of the Top-of-Texas Club of Amarillo.

She is survived by a sister, Annie Medley of Amarillo; a nephew, Joe Proyer of California; and two nieces, Janis Robinson of Hereford and Sandra Powell of Harlingen.

The family suggests memorials to the Women's Crisis Center, c/o Deaf Smith County Courthouse, Hereford, 79045.

Louise Hastings

Graveside services for Louise Hastings, 81, of Dimmitt, were held Monday morning in St. Anthony's Cemetery in Hereford with Rev. Domingo Castillo, pastor of San Jose Catholic Church of Hereford, officiating.

Burial was under direction of Gilliland-Watson Funeral Home of Hereford.

She died Dec. 11 in Canterbury

Villa Nursing Home of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Hastings was born Oct. 19, 1917, in Belgium. She moved to Illinois in 1950, and married Charles Hastings in 1950 in Las Vegas, Nev. He preceded her in death in June of 1980. Mrs. Hastings moved to Deaf Smith County in 1968 from Moriarty, N.M. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

She is survived by a son, Jim Hastings of Hereford; a brother, Jim Frye of Las Vegas, Nev.; a sister, Rachael; seven grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Carroll Hunter

Funeral services for Castro County native, Carroll Clinton (Catfish) Hunter, 73, of Slaton, were held Tuesday afternoon at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lubbock with Rev. Davis Price officiating.

His body was donated to the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center.

Mr. Hunter died Dec. 12 at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock.

He was born April 21, 1925, in Castro County. He graduated from Dimmitt High School. He married Wana Mobley in Clovis, N.M., on June 12, 1943. He served in the Air Force during World War II, and moved to Slaton in 1946, where he worked for the AT&SF Railroad as an engineer for 40 years, before retiring in April of 1985.

He was a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Masonic Lodge, and Lakeridge Country Club. He umpired Little League baseball and was an avid golfer and fisherman. He was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lubbock.

He is survived by his wife; two sons, Robert Carroll Hunter of Millsap and Mike Hunter of Lubbock; and four grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Covenant Presbyterian Church Youth Group, 4600 48th St. and Salem, Lubbock 79414.

Hazel Johnson

Funeral services for Hazel A. Johnson, 82, of Tulia, the mother of a Hart woman, were held Monday morning in Tulia Church of Christ with Dennis Conway, minister, officiating.

Burial was in Silverton Cemetery under direction of Wallace Funeral Home of Tulia.

Mrs. Johnson died Dec. 12 in Swisher Memorial Hospital in Tulia.

She was born April 24, 1916, in Greenville. She married Charlie Abraham Johnson on Oct. 28, 1933, in Tulia. He died Nov. 15, 1985. She also was preceded in death by a daughter, Charlie Daniel, on Dec. 27, 1996. Mrs. Johnson was a member of the Church of Christ. She attended Rock Creek schools, and moved to Tulia in 1949. She worked at Jefferson's Laundry and at C.R. Anthony's, and she sold Avon products. She was a member of the Tulia Senior Citizens.

Survivors include two daughters, Bettye McKone of Tulia and Patsy Franks of Hart; two sons, W.O. Johnson of Sudan and Danny Johnson of Tulia; a sister, Joyce Gaston of Nocona; 12 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.



YULETIDE TROOPERS—Braving a cold wind that blew their sheet music off their stands and made their mouthpieces oh-so-cold, members of Dimmitt Middle School's Sixth Grade Concert Band perform during the "Music of Christmas" program on the courthouse

square Thursday night, under the direction of Teresa Carlisle (in Santa cap). The outdoor performance was a preview of the band's Christmas concert, which the youngsters performed Tuesday night in the high school auditorium.

Photo by Don Nelson

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*Monday, December 21
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INTERMEDIATE SIXTH GRADE BAND members performed for the public Tuesday night at the Middle School Christmas Concert at the Dimmitt High School Auditorium. Here, bass clarinet players Niccole Heard (far right) and Ruby Espinosa (second from right) give their full attention to the music.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Play Power Points Football
every week in the News