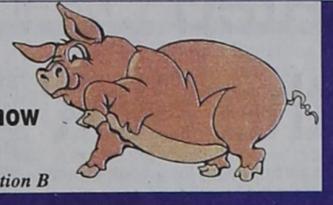




Grandparents' "Bragging" Time!

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Make plans to attend the Junior Livestock Show



See Section B



Hoop it up!

Dimmitt, Nazareth roundball squads eye post-season play

See Pages 6-10

The Castro County News

76th year—No. 45

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FIREMAN OF THE YEAR—The Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Dept. held its annual awards banquet Saturday night, and Dickie West (right) was named Fireman of the Year for 2000. Presenting the plaque is Don Sheffy, Dimmitt City Manager.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

West is named Fireman of Year

Dickie West was named Fireman of the Year for 2001 on Saturday night at the annual banquet of the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Dept.

Also, service award pins were given and the new officers for 2001 were announced.

Francis Acker is the fire chief, with Randy Griffith as assistant chief, Dickie West as first assistant chief, Charlie Lane as captain, Niel Christian as first captain, Mat Bradley as secretary-treasurer, Bill Conyers as public relations officer, and Lee Schilling as training officer.

Conyers was presented with his 25-year service award, which had arrived too late to be presented at last year's banquet. Other year pin presentations included West, 20 years; David Allison, 15 years; Jackie Thomas and Stanley Maurer, 10 years; and Chris Fuentes and Bradley, five years.

Dimmitt City Manager Don Sheffy presented a plaque to West as

Fireman of the Year. He said that of the 83 fire calls answered by the department last year, West responded to 51 of them, and with 51 drills called, West attended 39.

Sheffy said that West joined the department in June of 1981, has been to numerous training schools, is a member of the emergency response team, and is a team leader for the reserves.

"This is an honor to receive this award," West said afterward. "But the real honor is serving with the other members of the department, and being able to serve with my son, Dale, who is one of the newest members of the department."

Griffith served as speaker for the banquet, acting as "Roast Master" for members of the department. He told of humorous incidents that have happened through the years.

The meal of barbecued beef and sausage, with all the trimmings, was catered by Desperado's.

H.O.P.E. talking about day care

The Health Outlook Planning and Education group of Castro County has been investigating the possibility of establishing a day care center in Dimmitt.

Members of the H.O.P.E. group spoke to the Dimmitt City Council Monday night, asking the council to start thinking about supporting such a project.

Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Bill Sava, who also is a member of the H.O.P.E.

group, told the council that a survey had been distributed to local residents to try to gauge the need for day care.

"There is a need here for child care," Sava said. "What we want to do today is inform the council what we have been talking about and leave it with you to think about and see if it is something our community needs."

Sava said he had spoken with Cheryl Pybus of Pybus Christian School, asking if she thought a day care center would hurt her business. He said she replied that it would hurt some, but unquestionably there is a need for it.

Council member Gloria Hernandez, who works with the Head Start program for the Dimmitt Independent School District, said it is definitely needed. She said she hears a lot of comments that a day care facility is needed here.

"There are a lot of children who go home after school with no one there," Hernandez said. "As we see more and more single parents, there are a lot of kids in danger."

She said having a day care would free up some people to be at work and others have said they would be better able to attend adult education and English as a second language classes if they had child care available.

"We have students who miss school so that they can take care of younger siblings," said Richardson Elementary School Principal Clint

Castro County Junior Livestock Show

269 animals to be shown Friday

County 4-H'ers and FFA members are putting the final grooming touches on their lambs, barrows and steers in preparation for this year's Castro County Junior Livestock Show, which will be held Friday and Saturday at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

The annual event will start at 9 a.m. Friday with the lamb show. The steer show will begin immediately following completion of the lamb show. Pigs will be shown after that.

The Dimmitt Young Farmers are coordinating the show again this year, and judges include Billy Copeland for steers and lambs, and Gaylon McCune for barrows.

There will be 179 barrows (up from 178 last year), 82 lambs (down from 84 a year ago) and eight steers (up from seven last year) in this year's show.

Curt Summers, president of the Dimmitt Young Farmers, will serve as the general superintendent of the show. He will be assisted by DYF vice president, Andy Williams.

Directing the steer show will be Justin Nelson and his assistants will be Chad Davis, Rodney Hunter, Robert Boozer, Rick Bagwell, Tod Bradley, Greg Odum and Roy Schilling.

The lamb show will be organized by Tim Wales. Serving as his assistants will be Jason Wooten, Lonnie Robb, Malcom Sager, Kurt Wales and Chaun Gunstream.

Swine superintendent will be Matt G'feller. Aiding him will be Andy

(Continued on Page 2)



EXERCISE IS A NECESSARY PART of any livestock project, as rookie lamb exhibitor Anthony Hochstein, a third grader in Nazareth, is learning this year. 4-H and FFA exhibitors from across the

county will see if their months of hard work will pay off when they compete in the Castro County Junior Livestock Show Friday in Dimmitt.

Photo by Anne Acker

PCS clients facing hard times

The Texas Railroad Commission adopted a proposal Feb. 6 to authorize a study of skyrocketing natural gas prices and its impact on Texas consumers.

"With consumers facing some of the highest natural gas bills in recent memory, there's an urgent need to offer answers and solutions that deal with the problem over both the short and long term," said Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza. "The commission needs to propose real solutions that lead to real results."

That is precisely what the staff at Panhandle Community Services would love to see, according to Stella Devers, PCS Center Coordinator for Dimmitt. She said representatives of PCS are planning to meet with the Railroad Commission and the Public Utility Commission to see what can be done.

Devers said that the local PCS office has had approximately \$23,000 available for the energy crisis for people who are having trouble paying their heating bills.

"We have at least 60 to 70 calls a day and 40 to 50 people coming in," Devers said. "We're trying to see 30 appointments a day at 15-minute intervals. People have been very patient."

"They (PCS) are only allowing us to pay half the bill for people," she said, "and they must pay off the other

half before we can help them the next month."

"I had a 93-year-old man in here whose bill was half of what he gets on Social Security," Devers said. "I had a veteran in here who had never needed assistance before. He was crying."

"It is hard if you are rich or at whatever level. It is hard for everybody."

—Maria S. Diaz, 77

"This help is temporary," Devers said. "Is the increase permanent? I don't know what the solution is."

"There is a lot of fear. We have heard that SPS will be going up, too, with a substantial increase next year. Many people are facing gas bills that are higher than their house or car payments."

"We have \$1,700 available through Energas for people who do not qualify for other help. We can pay up to \$100 on a person's bill, but they must bring in hand a money order made out for the remaining amount of their bill. And contrary to rumors, none of the PCS staff is receiving any of the monies available."

"I don't know who it's not affecting," Devers said. "I'm angry. It's breaking my heart. People are scared, really scared. We are only postponing the inevitable."

Devers arranged for the News to speak with several people who were waiting at PCS last week for help with their heating bills. All of them were willing to divulge personal



Anita Sabeda

information just so that other people can understand the scope of the problem.

(Continued on Page 11)

1:1

By Don Nelson

When the Bobbies play Muleshoe in a District 2-3A playoff game tonight (Thursday) at Shallowater, I hope they'll be supported by a big, enthusiastic crowd of polite Dimmitt fans who will go out of their way to thank the Shallowater folks for their hospitality and compliment the Muleshoe players after the game.

We have a reputation to mend, and this will give us a good opportunity.

I've been debating with myself all week over two different column topics. But when it came down to it, a hectic schedule and a recurrence of the upper respiratory blabs forced me to reach for my backup file.

At least, I have a really good

(Continued on Page 2)

Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	39	20	
Friday	37	17	
Saturday	48	23	
Sunday	51	27	
Monday	51	26	
Tuesday	69	29	
Wednesday	50	31	

February Moisture.....0.00
2001 Moisture.....1.49

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

Child has miraculous recovery after mysterious bedside visit

By ANNE ACKER

A late-night hospital bedside visit from a mystery lady has been the best medicine 1-year-old Traytan McLain and his family have found since the child has fought virus after virus for the past several months.

McLain, son of Castro County residents Benny and Patty McLain, has been in and out of the hospital for several months now, fighting a recurring battle with pneumonia and bronchitis.

Last Tuesday, Jan. 30, Traytan was stricken with another illness and his mother rushed him to the doctor in Dimmitt.

Dr. Leon Joplin ordered tests and after reviewing the results, he determined that Traytan was suffering from Respiratory Syncytial Virus

(RSV), an extremely serious respiratory infection. He was on the verge of contracting pneumonia again, too.

It was back to Plains Memorial Hospital for the McLain family. Dr. Joplin had warned the family that they could be in for a long haul before Traytan recovered and could go home.

"When we went to the hospital at noon Traytan's face was so red, he was feverish, mucus was coming from his ears and nose—he was so sick," said Patty.

Traytan was placed in a crib covered by an oxygen tent and was assigned to an end room near a back door of the hospital.

As the hours passed by and Traytan failed to improve, Patty became more distraught. She said

Dr. Joplin had considered calling for a helicopter to transport Traytan to a bigger hospital. His white blood count was dangerously low.

"I was so depressed I was just standing by the door crying," Patty said.

At 11 p.m. Tuesday night, everything changed with a special visit by an unknown lady.

"A Spanish lady came around the corner by the back door and she asked me if she could say a prayer for my baby," Patty said.

After Patty consented, the lady walked over to the crib, placed her hands on Traytan and said a few words in Spanish.

Traytan, who had been restless and fussy all day, immediately calmed

(Continued on Page 2)

Letter

Sunday is designated as 'World Day of the Sick'

Dear Editor:

I write this letter to the health care personnel who serve our sick, elderly and disabled in the community, in the hospital, nursing home and in our Hospice community—to all the persons who are in special care of our sick.

On Sunday in the Catholic Church, we will be celebrating the ninth World Day of the Sick. Pope John Paul established the day dedicated to all our beloved sick on their journey of suffering. In terms of the church, we say "the Suffering Church, the Militant Church, the Triumphant Church."

The Suffering Church members are those who in some way are suffering, the sick on the journey to the triumphant.

The Triumphant Church are the members who enjoy total possession of Almighty God in Heaven, all the angels and saints.

The Militant Church are the members that make up and defend the values that Christ has established in the church.

The Suffering Church—members who are united in Christ and through the mystery of suffering—are a most vital part of economy of salvation; they are the most precious to all of us.

The mystery of Calvary is going on. We have this special World Day of the Sick, the suffering, in their honor.

In the name of our Church of the Immaculate Conception, in the name of our Christian community, and personally, in my name, as a Catholic, Christian, a registered citizen of Dimmitt and as pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church, I want to say a very special thanks and continued prayers from all of us, for all those who serve the community of our sick—the different facilities, the

Dimmitt hospital, the nursing home, the hospice community, and those who assist the homebound.

This special day dedicated in our Catholic Church for all the sick all over the world is also a day dedicated to prayer and support for the countless people and institutions dedicated to the care of the suffering.

The Holy Father says: "This day of dedicated prayer will encourage the many priests, religious and lay believers who seek to respond in the church's name to the expectations of sick people, while paying special attention to the weakest and those struggling the most, in order to assure the victory of the culture of life over the culture of death everywhere."

Our church community has become a prayer community. That is, there is someone praying in our church around the clock. We include all in our community of the City of Dimmitt and all who are suffering and on the journey of sickness. We answer the invitation of Christ who said: "Come to me, all you who find life difficult, and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart. Come to me, your souls will find rest."

Praying for our community of Dimmitt, we also experience some of the beautiful consequences of prayer. While we were going to honor Rev. Deacon John Nino and his wife for the assignment he was given by our bishop, on Sunday, Jan. 28, the Chamber of Commerce was celebrating its annual meeting on Saturday of that weekend. A member of the Chamber had the thoughtfulness to send the floral centerpiece which they had for their banquet over to the Catholic church for the reception and celebration for John Nino and his wife on Sunday. M a n y thanks.

And returning to the Spirit of Prayer, we say many thanks to all who serve our beloved sick.

FATHER FERN COUTURE

More about

1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

backup file. With your indulgence, I'm going to call on Andy Rooney, the resident curmudgeon of CBS News.

Enjoy.

I've learned...

That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

That when you're in love, it shows.

That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

That being kind is more important than being right.

That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer is gets to the end, the faster it goes.

That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

That money doesn't buy class.

That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

That the Lord didn't do it all in one day. What makes me think I can?

That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

That love, not time, heals all wounds.

That the easiest way for me to grow

as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

That there's nothing sweeter than sleeping with your babies and feeling their breath on your cheeks.

More about

Stock show

(Continued from Page 1)

Williams, Jason Nelson, Danny Underwood and Jay Davis.

Youngsters whose animals place within pre-determined limits in the show will qualify for the premium auction sale, which is planned for Saturday at 1 p.m.

Auctioneers will sell 125 barrows, 125 lambs and up to 15 steers, or 75% of the total number of animals entered in each class, whichever is greater.

Those retained as auctioneers this year are Jack Howell, John Davis, Greg Odom, Jason Wooten, Kenneth Gregg and Casey Summers.

Auctioneers will sell the grand champion, steer, barrow and lamb, in that order. Then the reserve champion steer, barrow and lamb will be auctioned off. Next into the sale ring will be the breed champions, then the reserve breed champions. After that, auctioneers will sell 1/3 of the lambs, 1/3 of the steer and 1/3 of the barrows, repeating that order until all qualifying animals are sold.

All exhibitors are required to help clean up the pens in the quonset barns on Sunday, according to Summers.

The Dimmitt Young Farmers will be raffling off a brand new 16-foot half-top Easley-type stock trailer, with proceeds going to raise money for the club's Dana Wall Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$100 each and are available from any Dimmitt Young Farmer.

Several other prizes will be awarded in addition to the grand prize stock trailer.

They include \$100 beef certificates from First Bank—Dimmitt Branch, Dimmitt Feedyard and Rafters 3 Feedyard; \$100 merchandise certificates from L&W Feed, Texas Equipment, Ag Supply LTD, Agro Distribution and Lextron Animal Health Products; \$100 grocery certificates from Dimmitt Thriftway and Dimmitt Market; and \$100 of fuel from Dimmitt Consumers.

Last Puzzle Solution

Police Calls

Sunday evening Charles Chad Black of Nazareth reported to deputies that two tractor quick hitches had been taken from a location south of Hart. He valued the hitches at \$400 and \$600. Investigation is continuing.

Billy Don Martin of Dimmitt told police Sunday afternoon that someone broke out a window at the Scout Hut in the 400 block of Southwest Third. He estimated the damage at \$25.

Jesusa Sandoval of Dimmitt reported to police Friday that someone used a B.B. gun to shoot out two fog lights on the front of a vehicle. She estimated the damage at \$150.00.

Saturday, a Dimmitt man, 20, was jailed for no driver's license, third or more offense.

Alcohol-related arrests during the past week:

—Friday at 10:28 p.m., a 17-year old Dimmitt man was jailed for driving under the influence and for having an expired driver's license; at 11:32 p.m., a Plainview man, 19, was jailed for public intoxication and for being a minor in consumption of an alcoholic beverage.

—Saturday at 12:25 a.m., a Dimmitt man, 35, was jailed for driving while intoxicated, second offense, no valid driver's license, third or more offense, and failure to maintain financial responsibility; at 1:09 a.m., two 17-year-old Dimmitt men were arrested for driving under the influence and for being minors in possession of an alcoholic beverage.

—Sunday at 12:16 a.m., a Dimmitt man, 50, was jailed for DWI, first offense; at 1:49 a.m., a Dimmitt man,

20, was arrested for DWI, first offense, breath test refused; at about 2 a.m., a 19-year-old Plainview woman and a 20-year-old Olton man were jailed for public intoxication; and at 2:53 a.m., an Olton man, 23, was jailed for DWI, first offense.

Jailed on warrants during the past week were:

—Jan. 30, a Dimmitt man, 20, on two warrants for forgery by passing; a 27-year-old Dimmitt man on a warrant for motion to revoke probation, which stemmed from charges of criminal trespass of a habitation; and a Dimmitt woman, 27, on a motion to revoke probation, stemming from evading arrest or detention.

—Jan. 31, a Dimmitt man, 20, on a warrant for possession of marijuana under 2 ounces; a Plainview man, 24, on a Lubbock County warrant for theft over \$20,000 and under \$100,000; and a Dimmitt man, 27, on a warrant for possession of a controlled substance.

—Last Thursday, a Hereford woman, 25, on a pre-indictment for forgery of a financial instrument.

—Friday, a Dimmitt woman, 30, on a warrant for fictitious/counterfeit inspection document for display, and also for failure to appear and use of equipment not approved; a 27-year-old Dimmitt woman on a warrant for aggravated assault/serious bodily injury and a warrant for driving while license suspended; and a Dimmitt man, 19, on warrants for speeding, failure to appear, and no driver's license.

—Saturday, a 22-year-old Amarillo woman on traffic warrants for failure to maintain proof of financial

responsibility and failure to appear, in addition to Class B misdemeanor charges of display of fictitious inspection certificate, no safety belt, display of fictitious registration, and failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility.

—Sunday, a Jacksonville man, 45, was jailed on warrants for speeding from Parker and Tarrant counties, failure to appear from Parker and Pecos counties, improper use of farm plates in Pecos County, and also was charged with no valid inspection certificate in Castro County.

—Monday, a San Antonio man, 43, on a warrant from Bexar County for violation of probation, stemming from DWI charges.

Jan. 28 at 2:15 p.m. a 1987 Ford pickup driven by Johnny Alvin Lucas, 56, of Dimmitt, was south-bound in the 100 block of North Broadway. As the driver attempted to turn east onto Bedford Street, he lost control of the vehicle on the icy street and the pickup struck a road sign, causing light damage to the vehicle and \$275 in damage to the sign. Lucas was not injured.

Jan. 30, a 1993 Cadillac DeVille driven by Rosa Porras Contreras, 40, of Hereford, was heading south in the 600 block of North Broadway. She told police she hit a patch of ice and lost control of the vehicle, which jumped the curb and struck one of the poles supporting a business sign at 615 N. Broadway. No injuries were reported and damage to the vehicle was rated light. Damage to the sign was estimated at \$2,066.60.

More about

Bedside visit . . .

(Continued from Page 1) down after the lady spoke, according to Patty.

As the lady was leaving the room, she placed her hand on Patty's arm and said, "God bless you."

While there was nothing unusual about the lady's appearance, Patty said her brief presence was comforting.

"There was just something about her—her voice was very calming and had a soothing effect," Patty said.

After the lady left, Traytan dozed off and slept through the night.

"Traytan hasn't slept through the night in months," Patty said. "He didn't wake up for a bottle or a breathing treatment or anything. I wish I understood Spanish because I would love to know what she said."

Patty said she spoke with several nurses and members of the medical staff who were on duty Tuesday night, and no one saw the woman who visited her and Traytan that night.

Patty added that she'd never seen the woman at the hospital before, either. Her identity remains a mystery.

"I know all the staff in the hospital because we've been there with Traytan for several days every month since September. She's never been there before. And the nurses said there is no way anyone could have

come through that back door at that hour because it is locked at 9 p.m. each night."

The door was locked as usual on Tuesday evening.

When Traytan woke up Wednesday morning at 7, his condition had undergone a 180-degree turn-around. His congestion was gone, the drainage from his ears and nose had cleared and his temperature was normal.

Dr. Joplin ordered another series of tests early Wednesday morning and the results came back normal, except for a little lung damage caused by the repeated bouts with pneumonia and bronchitis.

"The bronchitis, pneumonia and RSV all were gone," said Patty. "When I told Dr. Joplin about the lady's visit, he said he didn't know if we believed in miracles or not, but he said if he was in our shoes he'd get down on his knees and thank God."

Dr. Joplin kept Traytan in the hospital until last Thursday, just to make sure the recovery wasn't a fluke.

By Thursday afternoon, the McLains were able to bring Traytan home.

"Maybe Traytan's got a guardian angel. I don't know how to explain

it. Something happened here, though, and I'm very thankful," said Patty.

Breast cancer screening is slated March 1

A breast cancer screening clinic will be held at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt on March 1 and appointments are still available.

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

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

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

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

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

ACROSS

- diamond rattler
- TX Collin Raye's first album: "___ Can Be"
- Dr. Pepper (low cal)
- Winters h.s. class
- captive TX woman: Cynthia ___ Parker
- Lost ___ State Natural Area
- Rangers announcer Sham
- ruler who detained TX Ross Perot employees in Iran
- TX "Spanky" McFarland comedy: "Little ___"
- TX poet: Shihab Nye
- TXism: "___ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
- in NW Tarrant Co.
- TX Tommy Tune's character Ambrose in "Hello Dolly"
- TX Larry Hagman film: "Getting Away ___ All" (71)
- Skip who wrote Cowboys "Untold Story"
- TX Joan Crawford: Lucille ___ Sauer
- TXism: "it's ___ die"
- TXism: "no brag, just ___"
- prior spelling of TX Cyd Charisse's nickname
- TXism: "cowboy ___" (jukebox)
- Kris Kringle, St. Nick, ___ Claus
- Astro pitcher's stat 42 a creek will do this in a drought (2 wds.)
- Aransas Pass October festival: Shrimpo ___
- "Roger the Dodger" (init.)
- spools of war
- TX George W.'s party
- early TX immigrants
- TXism: "___ a squirrel up a tree"

DOWN

- TX Jimmy Dean's "Big ___ John"
- TX Foreman lost title to him in '74
- TXism: "___ a hound's tooth"
- TXism: "the whole ___" (all)
- TXism: "fast as ___ up a rafter"
- "Turning the Thing Around: Pulling America's Team Out of the Dumps - and ___ Doghouse"
- Post h.s. class
- JFK's "___ 109"
- was a TX fuel co.
- actor Jack of "The Texas Wheelers"
- TXism: "happy as a pig in ___"
- Texas Crossword creators
- meaning of "tejas"
- aviator Earhart
- TX Clay Allison was a ___ gun
- 1st female mayor of El Paso Suzy Foreman (init.)
- hockey's Bobby
- TXism: "don't give a hoot ___ holler"
- Rice won ___ College Bowl in '66
- TXism: "he two-___ to his own beat"
- TXism: "a ___ light idea" (good idea)
- wake up
- TX longhorn breeder (2 wds.)
- skins of TX Ruby Red grapefruits
- TXism: "can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ___"

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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The Castro County News

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DEADLINES

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

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Cotton talks

By SHAWN WADE

Cotton producers from Dawson, Gaines, Howard and Lynn counties are traveling to Memphis, Tenn., Carey, N.C. and Washington, D.C., this week as part of an educational tour put together by Lamesa Cotton Growers, Plains Cotton Growers and the Western Peanut Growers organizations.

PCG Executive Vice President Steve Verett and Secretary-Treasurer Rickey Bearden will be active participants and part of the 40-member cotton and peanut grower contingent taking part in the trip.

Participants will visit the headquarters of the National Cotton Council in Memphis, where they will hear the latest on National Cotton Council activities and see the broad range of effective work performed by NCC staff on behalf of the cotton industry.

From there the group will travel to Carey to tour the recently completed Cotton Incorporated research facility and to hear reports on Cotton Incorporated efforts in the areas of research and promotion. Following the stop in Carey, the group will move on to its main destination, Washington.

While in Washington, the group is set to meet with House Ag Committee staff members and Chairman Larry Combest to learn what the Ag Committee is doing and hopefully gain a better understanding of how the process will be proceeding in the coming weeks and months.

Of key interest will be the status of plans for hearings and the methodology that will be utilized to develop new, or modify existing, farm programs to benefit and protect growers.

In addition to the meetings with the House Ag Committee, the group will meet with House Ag Committee Ranking Minority Member Rep. Charles Stenholm, Sens. Phil Gramm and Kay Bailey Hutchison, members of the Senate Ag Committee staff and with USDA personnel.

The schedule provides an outstanding opportunity for growers to meet and develop relationships with key congressional and USDA staff people as well as the chance to relate their ideas and areas of concern directly to those individuals.

High Plains cotton producers and ginners wondering about the status of the 2000 Cottonseed Assistance Program can look forward to the start of the process in the very near future, according to Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

PCG inquiries have found that the first phase of the process will actually start in the next week to 10 days when ginners are scheduled to be sent a letter and signature verification form to be kept on file at USDA.

The signature verification form is going to play a key role in expediting cotton seed payments since gins that return the forms will be able to simply fax their applications to USDA when the second phase of the program kicks off in either March or April.

Gins should begin receiving applications soon after USDA determines that ginning activity in the US has been completed and necessary information from USDA Cotton Cladding Offices has been received.

Another bit of good news, in addition to the fact that this assistance will be on its way several months earlier than the 1999 program, is the fact that there is a full \$100 million available to pay for the 2000 program.

Based on current production estimates, it appears that the 2000 Cottonseed Assistance program payment rate will be approximately \$15 per ton, and could be slightly higher once February production estimates are released. The \$15 per ton projection was made based on the December production estimate.

Ginners who have questions about the 2000 program can contact Gene Rosera at USDA at (202) 720-8481.

Growers, landlords and agriculture industry people interested in hearing the latest news and views on issues ranging from moisture management to marketing and economics should plan to attend the 2001 Southwest Crops Production Conference and Expo.

The conference will be held Tuesday at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. Registration is free to all and begins at 8 a.m. Lunch tickets will be available for \$7 each.

Everyone that pre-registers for the conference will be entered into a drawing for a Remington 1100 12-gauge shotgun.

Additional topics to be covered include long-range weather and pest outlooks, and production tips.

Conference highlights will include a legislative update from John Maguire with the National Cotton Council in Washington, D.C., and a panel discussion focusing on strategies for profitability in 2001 featuring growers Danny Davis of Elk City, Okla., James Hinton of Floydada and Dale Swinburn of Tulsa.

Also scheduled to speak is Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Executive Vice President Lindy Patton, who will report on the status of eradication activities in Texas.

Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for licensed pesticide applicators and crop consultants will be offered. Pesticide applicators can receive four CEUs from TDA (2 general and 1 IPM, and 1 laws and regulations). Certified Crop Advisors can receive 4.5 CCA credits (1.25 pest management and 3.25 crop management).

Game night set Friday at Senior Center

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

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

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

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



SERVICE AWARD—Bill Conyers (left) receives his 25-year service pin for his years with the Dimmitt Volunteer Fire Dept. The award was presented Saturday night at the annual Firemen's Banquet. Making the presentation is Stanley Maurer.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

County's gross sales were up in second quarter

Gross sales for all industries and businesses in Castro County were up 22.5% during the second quarter of 2000, while the number of reporting outlets remained the same.

tax accrued) amounted to \$64,344. Another \$4,985,541 was subject to the state sales and use tax (calculated by taking taxable sales and adding use tax purchases).

The 158 outlets reporting gross sales during the second quarter turned in total sales of \$26,592,300, a 22.5% increase from the \$21,713,845 reported for the second quarter in 1999.

A 15.3% hike also was reported in the retail sales for the quarter, with the 89 outlets turning in total sales of \$12,886,789, up from \$11,174,301 for the same period in 1999. The 89 reporting outlets also was up from 85 in 1999.

Of that total, use tax purchases (cost of all taxable items removed from inventory for personal or business use and all purchases on which no Texas sales tax was paid or use

Use tax purchases among retail businesses was reported at \$9,206, while \$3,998,614 was subject to the state's sales and use tax.

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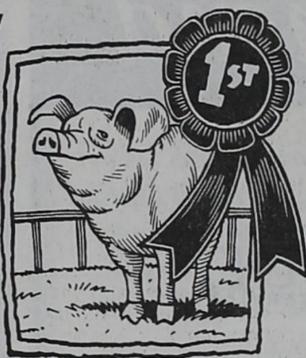
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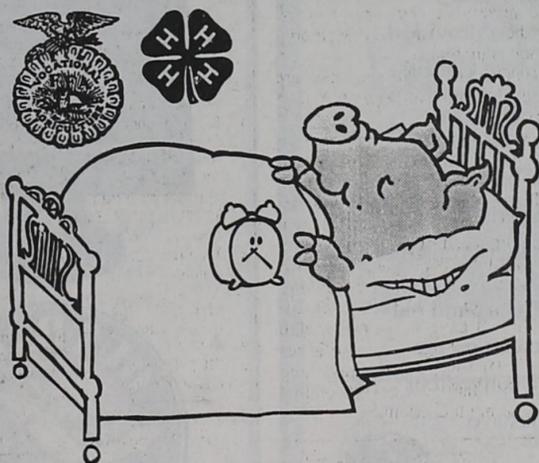
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USDA begins sign-up for crop disaster program

The Farm Service Agency is now accepting applications for the new Crop Disaster Program (CDP), according to Patricia Elliott, County

Executive Director of the Castro County Farm Service Agency.

The Crop Disaster Program provides financial assistance to farmers who are eligible for compensation for crop production losses directly attributed to adverse weather and related conditions.

"Natural disasters are a constant threat to our farmers," said Elliott. "This program will help those who suffered production losses last year. The sign-up period began Jan. 18, 2001, and the end of the sign-up period will be announced at a later date, once the program regulations are published in the Federal Register."

Eligible producers should call 647-2153 to schedule an appointment to sign up, Elliott said. Also, producers should be aware that issu-

ance of program payments is pending Federal Register publication as well.

According to Elliott, producers must have suffered at least a 35% loss of production, with payments calculated at 65% of the county rate for insured and non-insurable crops. For crops that are insurable in the county, but for which the producer did not purchase insurance, the payment will be calculated at 60% of the county rate.

"Funding is not limited for the 2000 CDP, unlike last year," said

Elliott. "Because it was fully funded, farmers will receive 100% of the final calculated payments as soon as program regulations are published—providing their County Office Committee has approved their CCC-447 (application), and the producer has provided all the necessary program documentation."

Elliott said payments are limited to \$80,000 per "person." A person is not eligible if his or her gross revenue exceeded \$2.5 million during the 1999 tax year.

The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to provide disaster assistance through the CDP by the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001, Pub. L. 106-387.

For more information regarding Crop Disaster Program eligibility, and to schedule an appointment to file an application, contact the Castro County office at 647-2153, or visit FSA on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>

Farmers may see slight rebound in cotton prices by planting time

Cotton producers could see their market price rebound slightly by planting time this year.

"I wish I could tell you we will see 80- or 90-cent cotton ahead, but a combination of factors will likely keep the 2001 market rather lackluster," said Carl Anderson, Texas Agricultural Extension Service economist based in College Station. "That doesn't mean there won't be any profit in this year's market. Based on the latest US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) crop report, there will probably be enough cotton in 2001 to hold December futures between 62 and 72 cents per pound until the end of the year."

"Even so, I am bearish on short-run prices and rather bullish on long-term prices. You could see prices recover to near 69 cents per pound by May—when you normally begin planting," said Anderson.

Anderson made these projections while addressing more than 120 South Plains cotton producers at the recent Llano Estacado West Cotton Conference in Muleshoe. The conference is one of several January and February regional production meetings held by South Plains county Extension agents each year.

Imports and exports, consumption, uncertainty about China's cotton marketing position, and higher US planting intentions will play a role in setting 2001 cotton prices, according to Anderson.

"China, for example, just recently and rather unexpectedly 'found' another two million bales of cotton. That effectively boosts their 2001 expected production to 20 million bales," Anderson said. "At the same

time, USDA expects 2001 world cotton consumption to rise by 340,000 bales, while world stocks decline by about 3.77 million bales. If this higher consumption, lower stocks scenario pans out, we could see prices move upward."

If the US economy slows and European and Asian economies remain stable, world cotton demand should remain stable this year, Anderson said. But even though USDA's latest numbers imply that world production is not keeping up with global cotton consumption, global carryover stocks need to decline even further to sustain a rally in cotton prices.

"USDA also expects US producers will increase their cotton acreage this year, due to low prices for other crops, favorable crop insurance and higher export sales potential," he said. "If we plant a 15.8 million acre crop, we could produce about 19 million bales of cotton in 2001—about a million more bales than the market really needs."

"Even so, I think we will see an A index between 65 and 75 cents per pound for the next 12 months. That gives you some pricing and profit opportunities."

The A index is the lowest average world price in five of the world's 12 major cotton producing nations.

Anderson said producers should strongly consider pricing the bulk of their crop between April and June of this year. He also recommended they watch the market closely, and employ pool pricing to increase their market leverage.

"Try to have your crop priced by July, at the latest. Buying puts as

price insurance, and selling out-of-the-money calls is a good way to lock in a floor price while leaving the ceiling open if a shifting market pushes prices even higher," Anderson said. "Joining a marketing club or gin pool can add price leverage to your marketing strategy. There is strength in numbers."

"Forward contracts are another option, but remember that discounts can erode the security of locking in a price with forward contracts."

He also said producers must reduce cotton production costs, diversify through crop rotation, use prescription ginning to meet end-user demands and develop flexible, integrated marketing plans in order to ride out price slides in the market.

"For a lot of you, that means changing the way you do business," Anderson said. "At the same time, you should be thinking about policy—because Washington may soon initiate some changes in our farm bill."

"You can influence that process as a group. You can help bolster our economy and long-term ag profitability by supporting changes that enhance international market competition, strengthen our income safety net, control federal budget costs, reduce world commodity stocks and help protect our natural resources."

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GROUND BEEF DONATION—The Castro County Farm Bureau, with the help of Walt Hansen, owner of Dimmitt Thriftway and Dimmitt Market, has donated 100 pounds of meat to the Castro County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, which is administered by Panhandle Community Services. The donation is

made each year in observance of National Food Check-Out Day. Shown at Thriftway for the presentation last Thursday are (from left) Farm Bureau Agency Manager Malcolm Sager, PCS Center Coordinator Stella Devers, Farm Bureau President Bruce Fuller, and Hansen. Photo by Linda Maxwell

Wheat producers set board election

The Texas Wheat Producers Board (TWPB) will hold its 15th biennial mail election between March 30 and April 12, according to David Cleavinger, farmer-elected chairman of the organization.

Of the 15 current board members, five of them are at the end of their six-year terms and all are eligible for re-election. Those whose terms are expiring are: Dist. I, Cagle Kendrick of Stratford; Dist. II, Tommy Womack of Tulia; Dist. III, Fred Dwyer of Wichita Falls; and Dist. IV, Jack Norman of Howe and Ken Davis of Grandview.

Any farmer producing wheat in Texas is eligible to vote for a board member for the district in which he resides.

Castro County is included in Dist. II, along with Carson, Potter, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Randall, Armstrong, Briscoe, Swisher, Parmer, Hale and Floyd counties.

Cleavinger points out that any person qualifying to vote in the elec-

tion may place his name in nomination for a six-year membership on the Texas Wheat Producers Board. The producer must make application to the organization and it must be signed by the producer and at least 10 other persons eligible to vote in his district in the election.

Applications for names to be placed on the ballot should be sent to the TWPB headquarters at 2201 Civic Circle, Suite #705, Amarillo 79109. It must be received at least 30 days prior to the election final date, in order to have the producer's name placed on the ballot. The candidate sign-up period started today (Thursday) and will continue through March 12.

The election will be held by mail ballot, which will be provided to all eligible voters 14 days prior to the election, Cleavinger said. He also indicated that any person qualified to vote who does not receive a ballot 14 days before the election date may

obtain one at the County Extension office, as provided by the Texas Commodity Referendum Law.

In addition to the five members with expiring terms, other TWPB members are Cleavinger of Wildorado, Gary Murphy of Dawson, Scott McGarraugh of Perryton, C.L. Edwards of Panhandle, Bob Beakley of Ennis, Foy Gibson of Bend, David Moore of Dumas, W.R. Moore Jr. of Munday, Ben Scholz of Wylie and Ralph Sides of Childress.

The TWPB is engaged in wheat research, market development and services designed to add to the value of the crop. The board was formed by producers in 1971 as a self-help program to enhance the value of wheat in Texas.

Few of us do great works for the world, but the work a mother does for the family makes all the differences in the world.

Food Check-Out Day is observed Wednesday

Wednesday was National Food Check-Out Day, as observed by the Castro County Farm Bureau, and local residents were encouraged to donate food items at Dimmitt Market and Dimmitt Thriftway to benefit the Castro County Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry.

Food Check-Out Day represents the day by which the average American has earned enough income to buy his or her food for the entire year. This year it was estimated to be Feb. 7, only 38 days after New Year's Day.

In observance of the special day, the Castro County Farm Bureau purchased 100 pounds of ground beef, with the help of local grocery store owner Walt Hansen, and donated it to the food pantry, which is administered through Panhandle Community Services.

"Our abundant food is one of the great success stories in America," said Bruce Fuller, president of the Castro County Farm Bureau. "Food Check-Out Day shows the great affordability of food and it also gives us a chance to share some of that blessing with folks who are in need."

"The people who grow America's food are very proud of our role, but many others, from research to distribution, also are involved," Fuller

said. "It takes only 38 days to earn enough money to buy a year's supply of food, of which the American farmer receives 21%. So, it would

take the average consumer only eight days to pay the farmer for his products, whereas it takes 102 days to earn enough to pay your taxes."

FSA is taking applications for emergency farm loans

Applications for emergency farm loans to help offset losses caused by various disasters are now being accepted at the Castro County Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Dimmitt.

Castro County is one of 243 counties in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman as being eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from various disasters.

Ed Luebken with Castro County FSA said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75%.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30% loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan," Luebken said. "Farmers participating in the Federal Crops Insurance Program will have

to figure in proceeds from those programs in determining their loss."

Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until Aug. 20, but farmers should apply as soon as possible.

"Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Luebken said.

FSA is a credit agency of the US Dept. of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are US citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which US citizens hold a majority interest.

The FSA office in Dimmitt is open from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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Sports



Cats only winners in ugly night at Muleshoe

For Dimmitt basketball, Friday night at Muleshoe was just about the ugliest night of the year.

The JV Bobbies finished with four subs on the floor and lost, 43-47.

The JV Bobcats lost, 53-55, when Muleshoe sank the winning basket with three seconds left.

The Bobbies lost a 38-41 decision to the Lady Mules—a team they had beaten by 10 points the first time around—and jeopardized their chance for a playoff berth.

The Bobcats, playing without guard Austin Sherman, scored almost 20 points below their average but still struggled to Dimmitt's only win of the night, 46-37.

Bobbies 38, Muleshoe 41

The Bobbies showed the emotional drain of their heartbreaking loss to Shallowater earlier in the week as they fell behind the Lady Mules early and were unable to climb back out.

"We were still playing Shallowater, and we didn't come to play Muleshoe," Coach Tim Gilliland said. "We needed to win this game, and we put ourselves in a bind."

"I didn't feel like we ever got into this game," he added. "We kept waiting for something to happen. I just

don't think we were mentally ready. You could tell that Muleshoe was; they came out and played hard and got every rebound.

"We just didn't have the intensity we needed until it was too late."

The Bobbies cranked their game up a notch and outscored the Lady Mules 13-5 in the fourth quarter, but it was too little, too late. The Lady Mules carried a 36-25 lead into that final frame after having outscored the Bobbies 11-5 in the first quarter and 16-9 in the third.

Tamara Robertson, after going scoreless in the first quarter, finished with 13 points while Heather Black was second-high with 12.

For the Lady Mules, junior guard Britni GartIn scored 20—including 11 of her team's 16 points in the third—and sophomore post Mindy Locker added 11.

The game's tone was set when the Bobbies hit only one of their first 10 or so field-goal attempts while the Lady Mules were pulling almost every rebound off of the boards and denying Dimmitt any second shots.

After post Audrey Saenz ante'd up with the game's first basket, the opening quarter was half gone before Black rattled in a 15-footer for Dimmitt's second field goal.

The Bobbies closed to within a point at 10-11 when Robertson nailed a three-pointer early in the second and 15-16 when Rachel Fabela hit an 18-footer with 42 seconds left in the half. But GartIn countered with a trey and a fast-break layup off of a steal to give Muleshoe a 20-16 halftime lead.

The Lady Mules stretched their lead to 11 points, 36-25, in the third while jamming the inside and trapping in the corners and along the baseline.

Things looked up for the Bobbies when Black, Robertson and Lori Schulte mounted a 9-0 run to start the fourth quarter, pulling Dimmitt within a point at 35-36.

But the Lady Mules managed five more points in the stretch, including two-of-five free throws, while the Bobbies could add only three points on a free throw and a 15-footer by Fabela.

Trailing by three, the Bobbies got a final chance on an inbounds play with a second remaining, but the hurried shot, taken by Robertson, fell short.

Bobcats 46, Muleshoe 37

Although the Bobcats didn't light up the scoreboard at their usual rate, their steel-trap defense held the Mules to just 9 points in the first quarter and 3 in the second, and a 26-12 halftime lead was enough to stake them to a nine-point win.

The Mules outscored the Bobcats 8-6 in the ragged third and 17-14 in the fourth.

"It wasn't pretty, but I was really proud of our defense," Coach Alan

Steinle said. "I told our kids (at halftime) that we didn't play a very good first half offensively, but we played a great defensive first half."

He added, "It seemed like every time we tried to get on track offensively, something would happen—we'd miss a shot or turn it over or have a call go against us or something. We just never could get it in gear."

The Bobcats were playing without starting guard Austin Sherman, who is on a 15-day suspension for what Steinle described as "conduct detrimental to the team."

"If you don't play well, and still win, that's a good sign," Steinle said. "I reminded our kids that there was only one team in this district that was 6-and-1 after this game, and that's us."

Guard Marcus Larra was Dimmitt's high scorer with 11, followed by Dee Norman with 10 and Daniel Proffitt with 9.



SHARLA KENWORTHY (23) whips the ball down-court as the Bobbies start a fast break in the second quarter of Friday night's District 2-3A game at Muleshoe. At far left is Dimmitt's Stacy Saenz (44) and in right background is Tamara Robertson (10). The Lady Mules won, 41-38. Photo by Carter Townsend

Power lifters open season with top places

Dimmitt High School power lifters finished second overall in the girls' division and fourth among the boys' teams in their first meet of the year Saturday at White Deer.

There were 13 schools competing in each division.

The girls just missed capturing the first-place team trophy, but two of the individual competitors, Cassandra Casas and Rachel Fabela, each claimed gold medals in her respective weight class. Also competing in the girls' meet was Lauren Wagner. Only the top three individuals in each weight class medaled.

The two first-place finishes helped boost the Bobbies to the runner-up team finish.

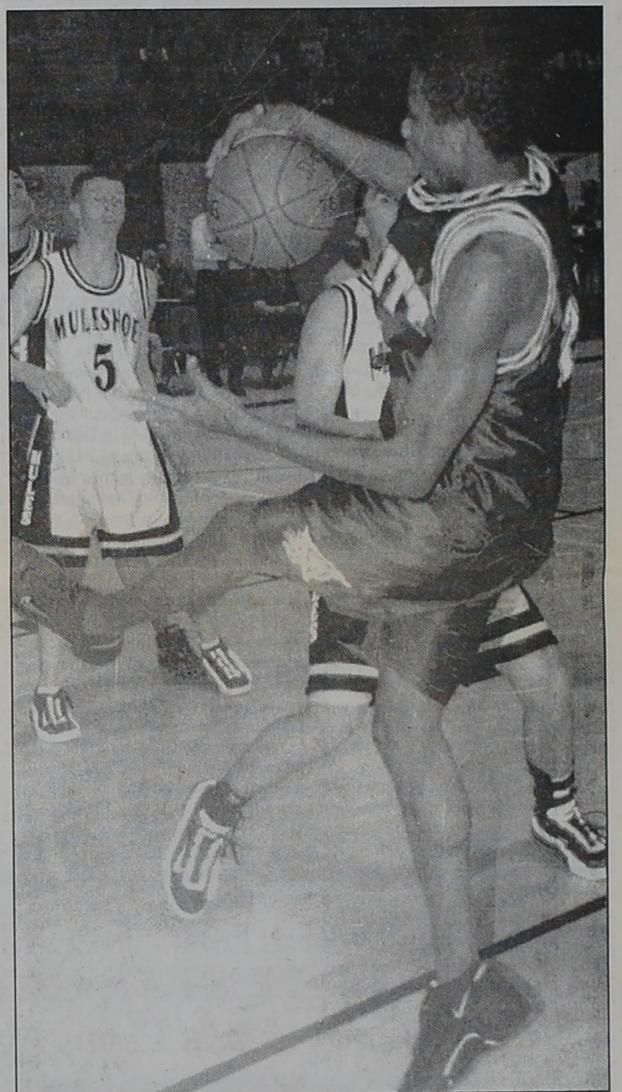
The boys' top finisher was Casey Villaneuva, who was first in the super heavyweight class. Alex Wilkerson finished second in his weight class while T.J. Reyna and Tanner Self each finished third in their respective classes. Daniel Medrano placed fourth in his class.

The Bobcats finished fourth overall.

Dimmitt's next power lifting meet will be Saturday at Dalhart.

Some books are not to be tossed aside lightly. They should be thrown with emphatic force.

O God, help me to understand that it is only by serving others in Your name that we find love, peace and joy in our faith.



DEE NORMAN comes down with a rebound for Dimmitt late in the second quarter of the Bobcats' district game against Muleshoe there Friday night. Norman was Dimmitt's leading rebounder and also scored 10 points as the Bobcats won, 46-37. Photo by Carter Townsend

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1470 A.M.

Bobbies win thriller to force district tie

Dimmitt's Rachel Fabela swished a crucial three-pointer with four seconds left to break a 62-62 tie, then Cooper sharpshooter Bethany Jones countered with a rainbow of her own at the buzzer, only to step over the three-point line.

The result: an all-important 65-64 win for the Bobbies in their final regular-season game here Tuesday night—a win that kept the Bobbies in the playoff hunt.

In the varsity boys' game, Dimmitt's two Matthews—Sandoval and Wright—sank six of eight free throws in the final 1:13 to seal an important 58-52 win over the upset-minded Pirates.

Bobbies 65, Cooper 64

Try as they might, the Bobbies couldn't shake the Lady Pirates, whom they had put away by 15 points in their first meeting.

Just when it appeared that the Bobbies had established control at 16-9 late in the first quarter, Cooper ended the quarter with back-to-back baskets to close within three, then opened the second period with a 5-0 run.

Sparked by three snowbird layups by Heather Black after steals, the Bobbies soared back to a 10-point lead in the second before Cooper's Lacey Frazee sank a 17-footer at the buzzer to make it 36-28.

Senior guard Sarah Mason scored eight straight points for the Lady Pirates in the third quarter—her total for the night—to tie the score at 39-39. With just one tick left in the

third, Fabela got her third clean-up basket of the quarter to allow the Bobbies to take a 48-45 lead into the final frame.

The Lady Pirates worked their way to a four-point lead in the fourth and held it until Black converted a three-point play on a driving layup to cut Cooper's lead to 59-58 with two minutes left.

Cooper's Nicole Nettles buried a three-pointer, but Fabela answered immediately with one of her own, then Lori Schulte sank the first of two free throws at the 1:08 mark to tie it at 62.

Schulte's second freebie rimmed out but she got the all-important rebound herself and the Bobbies called a time-out with 40 seconds left, then went for the final shot.

"Our plan was to stall to about 13 to 15 seconds," Coach Tim Gilliland said.

"We were lucky to draw Cooper out of their zone defense and into a man-to-man. That made it possible for us to run our favorite play.

"When they switched into the man defense, Lori came over beside me on the court and I told her to run 'A,' our favorite play. We set it up and it worked perfectly.

Fabela took the shot from three-point range with six seconds left—and swished it.

"I didn't know for sure that it would go, but I hoped it would go," Fabela said. "I just tried to do the best I could."

"The shot could have been either

Heather's or Rachel's," Gilliland said. "Heather didn't have a good shot so she reversed the ball to Rachel, who was wide open.

"I think Cooper was ready for Heather to take that shot, and that's why Rachel was so open."

Fabela's basket gave the Bobbies a 65-62 lead with only 0:04 left on the clock.

But wait.

After a time-out, the Lady Pirates ran a nifty play of their own and zipped the ball to Frazee in the corner. She put her shot up just before the buzzer and it went through, apparently forcing an overtime.

But the refs ruled that Frazee's shot was only a two-pointer, allowing the Bobbies to escape with a white-knuckle 65-64 win.

Black finished with 21 points, Fabela with 16 and Robertson with 15 for Dimmitt. For Cooper, Shannon Henderson scored 17, Nicole Nettles 16 and Bethany Jones 12.

"Nettles only scored two points against us in our first game, and wasn't a factor," Gilliland said. "But she and Mason (with 8 in the third) kept them in the game this time."

The win kept the Bobbies in a three-way tie with Roosevelt and Muleshoe for second place in the district.

They'll meet Muleshoe tonight (Thursday) at Shallowater to start the elimination process.

"Obviously, we're very pleased to still be playing basketball," Gilliland said. "If we could have a big turnout

of fans Thursday night, it would be awesome."

Bobcats 58, Cooper 52

When Matthew Sandoval missed a pair of free throws in the third quarter and again early in the fourth, he became a marked man.

He's the one the Cooper Pirates targeted in the final minute to turn a one-point game into a free-throw contest.

But their strategy backfired as Sandoval sank both ends of a 1-and-1 with 42 seconds remaining, then swished two more with just three ticks left to seal a 58-52 Dimmitt win.

"I tried to just stay calm," the 6-3 senior post said. "It was pretty tough trying to not foul and play good defense, and to concentrate on those free throws."

Meanwhile, Matthew Wright paced the Bobcats in the fourth quarter with seven points, including two of four free throws in the final 1:13.

"It was about time I did something," Wright said. "I didn't do my part in the first half."

Wright finished with 11 points, and was one of four Bobcats in double figures. Dee Norman had 18 and Daniel Proffitt and Sandoval contributed 10 apiece.

After a 12-12 deadlock in the first quarter and a 30-27 margin at halftime, the Bobcats took a big 45-33 lead into the fourth period.

Dimmitt's full-court press and trapping zone defense allowed Cooper

only a putback, a free throw and a three-point bomb in the 15-6 third. Meanwhile, Norman scored 6, Proffitt and Brent Josselet buried a trey apiece, Sandoval sank a putback and Marcus Larra swished a free throw.

But Cooper's Darby Brown, a 6-3 sophomore post, swished eight points in the first 3½ minutes of the fourth to lead a charge that brought the Pirates within five points, 47-42. Senior guard Adrian Alfaro buried a three-pointer and junior wing Nathan Sehon sank a five-foot side-arm layup at 1:37, then followed with a three-pointer to cut Dimmitt's lead to 53-52 with 50 seconds left.

But the Bobcat defense shut the Pirates down the rest of the way while Sandoval and Wright sank their free throws to give Dimmitt the win, a 7-1 district mark, a two-game lead in the standings, and at least a tie for first place.

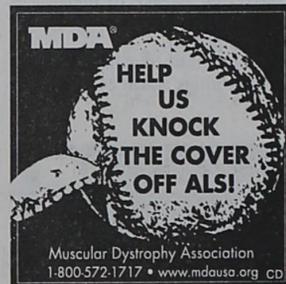
"We knew Cooper was a good basketball team," Coach Alan Steinle said. "They're playing a lot better. We were concerned about the two kids inside, especially the Brown kid. He had a good game.

"We tried to concentrate on Brown in the second half, but when we did, we'd leave somebody open outside, and Alfaro was hurting us.

"We just hung on long enough. We certainly could have made it a little easier by making more of our free throws."

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Good Luck, Bobbies and Bobcats!

THURSDAY: Bobbies vs. Muleshoe, 6:30 p.m. at Shallowater
(For the No. 2 and No. 3 seed in the playoffs, winners of
this game will play Roosevelt at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Sudan.)

★

FRIDAY: Bobcats vs. Littlefield, 8 p.m., Here

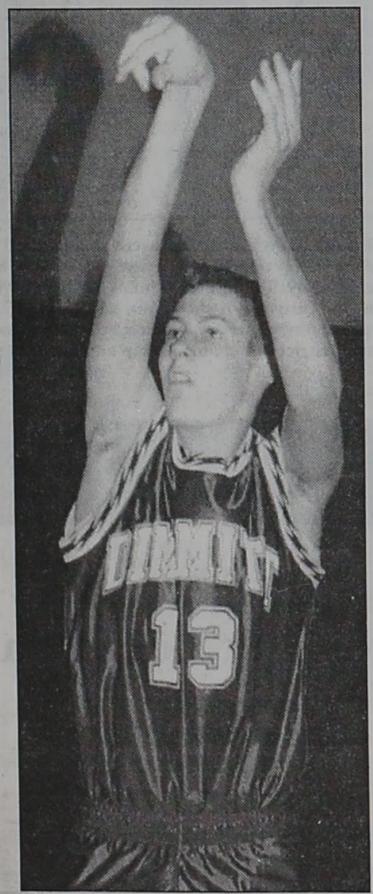
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TUESDAY: Bobcats vs. Roosevelt, 8 p.m., Here

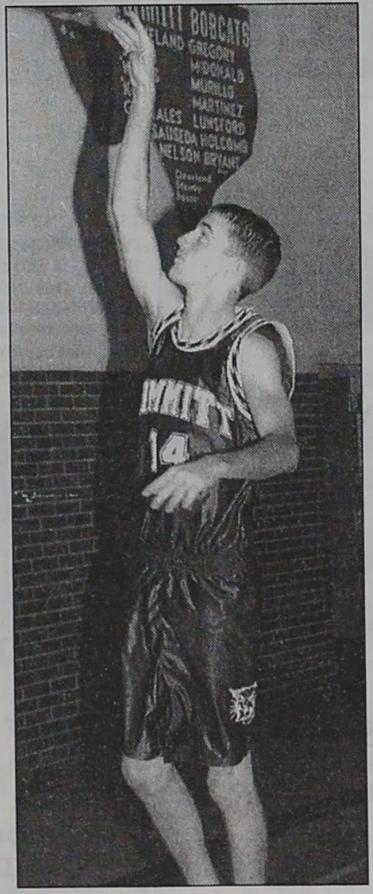
Schedule and Scores

Feb. 9—*Littlefield (Boys), Here
Feb. 12—*Roosevelt (Boys), Here

<p>Bobbies</p> <p>42, Randall 54 39, Levelland 58 44, Borger 62</p> <p>Queen's Classic</p> <p>41, Randall 55 57, Muleshoe 44 68, Vega 70 (OT) 59 Hereford 55</p> <p>Canyon Classic</p> <p>36, Tascosa 71 51, Panhandle 63 65, Godley 35 41, Tulla 44</p> <p>57, Abernathy 52 49, River Road 65 43, Amarillo High 81</p> <p>Caprock Tournament</p> <p>68, Amarillo Caprock 43 51, Lubbock Coronado 61 51, Andrews 46 49, El Paso Franklin 33 47, Stephenville 39</p> <p>49, Littlefield 46 42, Roosevelt 45 49, Shallowater 70 59, Muleshoe 49 55, Lubbock Cooper, 40 58, Littlefield 33 61, Roosevelt 47 48, Shallowater 49 38, Muleshoe 41 65, Lubbock Cooper 64</p> <p>Season Record: 14-15 District Record: 6-4</p>	<p>Bobcats</p> <p>49, Randall 68 60, Levelland 67 69, Borger 62 43, Hereford 52</p> <p>Plainview Tournament</p> <p>63, Plainview 53 56 Paducah 40 70, Hale Center 40 75, Tulla 55</p> <p>Big Spring Tournament</p> <p>81, Sweetwater 55 66, Clyde 48 54, Merkel 41</p> <p>70, Abernathy 61 71, River Road 39 73, Amarillo High 79</p> <p>Caprock Tournament</p> <p>62, Lubbock Estacado 40 45, El Paso Montwood 46 63, Lubbock Coronado 66 73, Tulla 48 55, Amarillo 52 50, Shallowater 54 62, Muleshoe 53 53, Lubbock Cooper 43 61, Littlefield 48 86, Roosevelt 73 71, Shallowater 53 46, Muleshoe 37 59, Lubbock Cooper 52</p> <p>Season Record: 20-7 District Record: 7-1</p>
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Swiftettes and Swifts wrap up district championships

Nazareth added another pair of district championships to its repertoire Friday night when the Swiftettes and Swifts demolished Silverton for the 4-A titles.

The Swiftettes raced to a 72-26 win while the Swifts claimed a 72-42 victory at Nazareth.

Both teams advance to the Class A Division II playoffs, where the Swiftettes will face Groom Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in a bi-district game at Canyon High School. The boys' first playoff game hasn't been decided yet.

Swiftettes 72, Silverton 26

Nazareth opened Friday night's game with a 13-0 run before allowing the Lady Owls to score on a free throw late in the first period.

The only other points Nazareth allowed in the first half came on a Lady Owl jumper in the second period.

After claiming a 16-1 first-quarter lead, the Swiftettes exploded for a 30-3 first-half lead.

Silverton's offense never got on track in the first half, in fact, the Lady Owls seldom crossed the half-court line before turning the ball over

against Nazareth's trapping press.

Silverton did manage to pick up the pace in the second half, but so did the Swiftettes.

By the end of the third quarter Nazareth owned a 56-14 lead and was able to coast through the fourth period for the 72-26 win.

Stephanie Thiel and Whitney Hoelting scored 21 points apiece to lead Nazareth while Wendy Black chipped in 13.

Swifts 72, Silverton 42

The Swifts' win over the Owls was almost a repeat of the girls' game.

Nazareth owned an 18-0 advantage before Silverton was able to drop the ball through the net.

Behind the hot shooting of Kade Wilcox and Eric Schilling, Nazareth took the early lead, and ended with a 24-9 first-quarter lead. By the break, the Swifts had taken a commanding 40-18 lead.

Over the second 16 minutes of action, Nazareth outscored Silverton 32-24 to prevail.

Wilcox finished with 28 points while Schilling added 24.



FOULED!—Nazareth Stephanie Thiel (14) is hacked by a Silverton defender as she attempts a layup Friday night in a District 4-A showdown at Nazareth. The Swiftettes Silverton just three points in the first half and coasted to a 72-26 victory. Thiel and Whitney Hoelting had 21 points each to lead the Swiftettes, who won the district crown. Photo by Dwayne Acker

Nazareth football coach accepts post in O'Donnell

Nazareth head football coach Rick Price has resigned his post to accept a similar position in O'Donnell.

For the past 11 seasons, Price has served as the Swifts' head football coach, guiding his teams into the playoffs six times, including one regional appearance.

Price compiled an 87-29-1 record during his time at Nazareth.

Nazareth has been negotiating with current assistant football coach, Buster Brown, about his accepting the head coach's position, but an agreement had not been reached as of press time, according to Nazareth Supt. N. Dean Johnson.

Price will remain in Nazareth until mid-March, when he will assume duties as head football coach and athletic director for O'Donnell ISD.

Johnson said Price will be missed. "Rick has done a great job for us the past 11 years," Johnson said. "He coached my son (Nick Johnson) and I'm very glad he did. He's the kind of guy you want your kids around. He's a good man and we'll miss him. We wish him and his family the very best in O'Donnell."

O'Donnell, located south of Lubbock, is a Class A school with a high-school enrollment of around 125, Price said.

"Traditionally, they've had a good football program with a lot of success, but last year they were rebuilding and finished the season with a 3-7 mark. I'm hoping to be able to turn that around."

Price said he will be teaching two classes in addition to his duties as football coach and athletic director.

In Nazareth, Price is currently serving as head football coach, assistant basketball coach, has a sixth-grade physical education class and teaches four classes: government/economics, sixth-grade world

history, seventh-grade Texas history and world geography.

Price and his wife, Tammy, have three children—Wade, who is a senior; Luke, who is a sophomore; and Cassie, a freshman. Price's family will remain in Nazareth until the end of the school term and Wade will graduate from Nazareth High School in May.

"I'm going to miss a lot of things when I leave Nazareth," Price said. "I don't think you can beat the work ethic here—it's unbelievable. It's not just in athletics, either. The hard work is evident in the classroom, too. One of the big reasons we've been here as long as we have is because of the quality of education our kids have gotten from the school."

"I'll also miss the tight-knit community. Everybody knows each other so well. Another one of the things I will really miss is the camaraderie in the football program. When I run into some of the former players, it's like having a family reunion."

"I would like to take this opportunity to express the fondness I have for this school and this community," Price said. "My family and I will always harbor many great memories of Nazareth, as it is the place my children were raised. We will miss our many friends in Nazareth and Dimmitt."

"The students and athletes in Nazareth have always been a pleasure to work with, and the administrative and community support have been outstanding," he said.

"We consider ourselves privileged to have spent the last 11 years in Nazareth, as it has been a positive experience for my family and me. I wish all future Swifts and Swiftettes the best of luck as I thank you all for 11 wonderful years."



IT'S TOUGH INSIDE THE PAINT as Nazareth point guard Blake Birkenfeld (20) discovers Friday night when he attempts to score against a taller Owl defender. Nazareth didn't have many problems with the Owls, though, winning the District 4-A showdown handily, 72-42. Kade Wilcox poured in 28 points for Nazareth while Eric Schilling tallied 24 as the Swifts captured the District 4-A championship and earned a spot in post-season play. Photo by Dwayne Acker

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IT'S BASKETBALL TIME

Good Luck, Swiftettes and Swifts!

★
MONDAY: Swifts Practice Game
Swifts vs. Paducah, 6 p.m. at Idalou

★
TUESDAY: Swiftettes Bi-District Game
Swiftettes vs. Groom, 6:30 p.m. at Canyon

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Lady Horns sink Kress in free throw marathon

The referees gave the girls from Hart and Kress a workout at the free throw line Friday night, and although Kress made one more free throw than the Lady Horns, Hart was able to pull out the narrow 73-66 win.

There were 85 free throws attempted in Friday's game—42 by Hart and 43 by Kress. The Lady Horns counted 25 of their attempts while Kress's girls made 26 of theirs.

"It got a little ridiculous," said Hart Coach Jon Curry. "There were 60 total fouls in the game. We had 29 and Kress had 31. For a while there I thought we were going to have to finish the game with only four girls on the floor."

Four Lady Horns fouled out of the game while Kress lost two players to fouls. Several other players had four fouls.

Hart didn't win the game at the free throw line, but the bonus shots helped.

The Lady Horns had a great night from outside the three-point arc, hitting 8-of-15 three-pointers. Those long shots were counted by Brenda Diego, Lacie Curry and Yadira Anzaldua, who had two each; and Crystal Diego and Cynthia Gonzales, who sank one apiece.

"We finally hit from outside," Coach Curry said. "We were only 35% from the field overall, but we hit 60% of our three-point attempts.

"Kress shot well Friday, also. Shea has done a great job with those girls," Curry said, referring to Kress Coach Shea Bennett Brattain, a former Hart Lady Horn.

Hart took an early 16-13 lead in the first quarter, then popped a couple of threes in the second period to open up a 36-28 lead by halftime.

"We did have a 17-point lead at one point in the second quarter, but then they started calling the fouls and Kress got back in the game at the free throw line," Curry said.

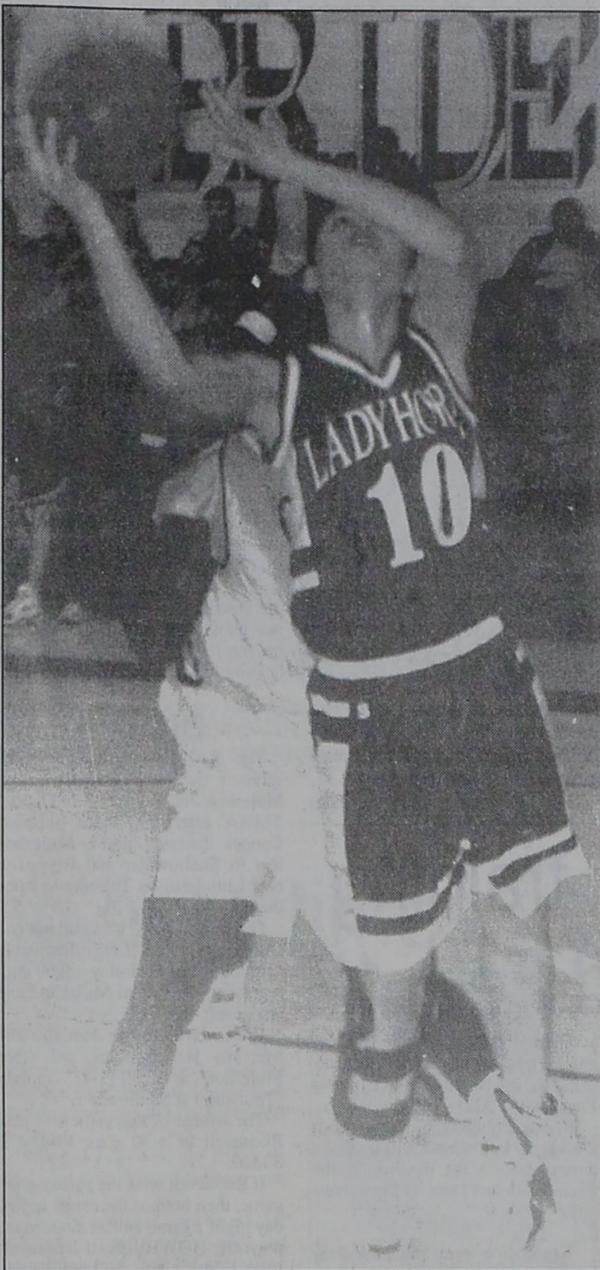
Hart continued its success from three-point range in the third quarter, but Kress countered the long balls with nine free throws and cut the Hart lead to 48-42 by the end of the quarter.

Hart got some breaks early in the fourth quarter and was able to vault its lead into the double digits, and Kress never got closer than seven points after that.

Down the stretch, Hart hit 13-of-19 free throws and matched Kress basket-for-basket.

Three Lady Horns finished in double figures, paced by the Diego sisters. Crystal finished with 21 while Brenda added 20. Curry tallied 13 for Hart.

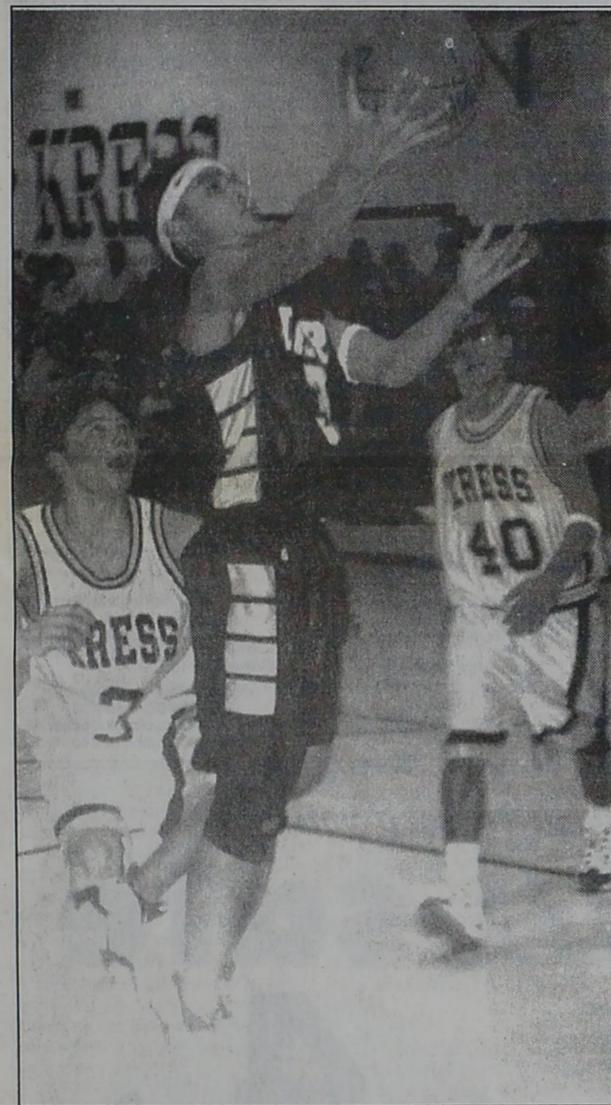
In the rebound column, Curry and Crystal Diego pulled down 9 and 8, respectively. Curry led the team in assists with four.



HART'S CRYSTAL DIEGO (10) was an offensive sparkplug for her team Friday, and here she picks up two of her team-high 21 points against the Kress Lady Roos. Diego was one of three Lady Horns to finish in double figures as Hart won, 73-66, in a game marred by 60 total fouls.

Photo by Neoma Williams

Things turn out best for those who make the best out of the way things turn out. We never understand the love of a parent until we become a parent ourselves.



GET OUT OF THE WAY—Nothing can stop Hart's Salvador Velasquez (3) from driving for a layup, especially not Kress's defense, which struggles to catch up with the driving Velasquez Friday. Hart was able to pull away from Kress in the third quarter for a 69-56 victory.

Photo by Neoma Williams

Longhorns hold off Roos at charity stripe

Hart sank nine-of-12 free throws in the fourth quarter to hold Kress at bay Friday, posting a 69-56 district win.

The Longhorns pulled away from Kress in the third quarter, despite playing without leading scorer Keith Finch for most of the stanza.

Hart was clinging to a four-point lead at halftime, and had to start the second half with Finch on the bench because he was in foul trouble.

But Jordy Roland and Albert Velasquez picked up the slack during the quarter and sparked the Longhorns as they pulled away from Kress with a 16-8 run in the stanza.

"We played well Friday. The pressure was off and we were relaxed and had fun," said Hart Coach Todd Bryant. "There's a good rivalry between us and Kress and the guys were up for the game. We also finally shot over 50% in a game."

Hart held a 13-11 edge after the first period, and controlled the game 30-26 at the break.

The turning point came in the third quarter.

Roland poured in 10 of Hart's 16

points in the quarter and Velasquez picked up the other 6 as Hart took a 46-35 lead into the final quarter.

Kress attempted a run at the Longhorns over the final period, but Hart was able to make free throws down the stretch to keep in control of the scoreboard.

Finch finished with 21 points to lead Hart while Roland chipped in 20 and Velasquez added 10.

"We were inconsistent this season," said Bryant. "We couldn't seem to put five people together at once and have everybody play well. I think it had a lot to do with our lack of experience. We had some guys who had to step in and fill some big shoes. I think by the end of the season we really started to come together as a team.

"It's been a good year despite our record," Bryant added. "We're excited about the kids we'll have returning and those coming up. We're only losing one senior off of varsity (Jeff Bennett) and our JV won district this season. We're looking forward to the future."

Congratulations Stock Show Participants!

You have accomplished many wonderful things in the past year. We hope you have great success at the show and sale.



The Donut Shack

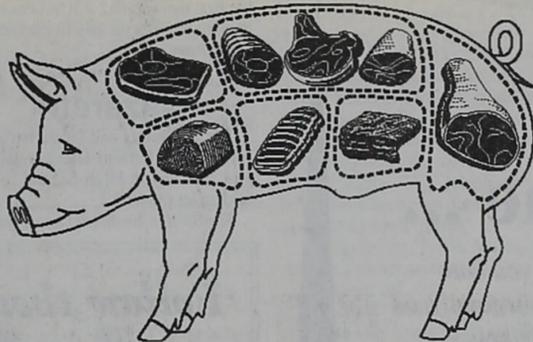


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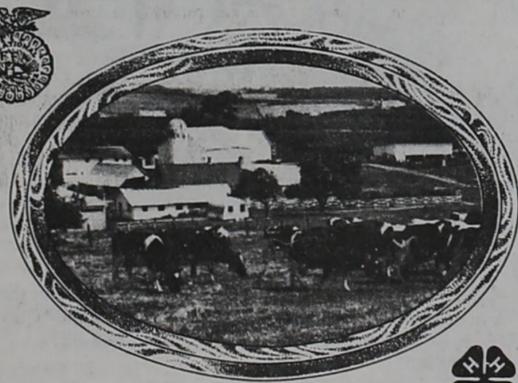
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... salutes the "stars of the show," our 4-H and FFA youth. Good luck in this year's Junior Livestock Show and Sale!



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to our FFA and 4-H youth and to the Young Farmers in the annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale.

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District Standings

Here are the District 2-AAA, District 4-A and District 3-A standings through Tuesday night's games.

DISTRICT 2-AAA		
Girls		
District	Overall	
x—Shallowater	10-0	26-4
Muleshoe	6-4	16-13
Dimmitt	6-4	14-15
Lubbock Roosevelt	6-4	21-9
Lubbock Cooper	2-8	6-22
Littlefield	0-10	5-21

Boys		
District	Overall	
w—Dimmitt	7-1	20-7
Lubbock Cooper	5-3	13-15
Shallowater	5-3	14-13
Littlefield	3-5	14-10
Muleshoe	2-6	7-9
Lubbock Roosevelt	2-6	14-14

DISTRICT 3-A, DIVISION I		
Girls		
District	Overall	
x—Sudan	10-0	22-5
y—Farwell	8-2	18-10
Springlake-Earth	6-4	14-15
Bovina	3-7	9-16
Hart	3-7	12-15
Kress	0-10	4-23

Boys		
District	Overall	
x—Farwell	9-1	22-6
y—Sudan	7-3	19-9
Springlake-Earth	4-6	9-13
Bovina	4-6	13-12
Hart	4-6	11-15
Kress	2-8	5-22

DISTRICT 4-A, DIVISION II		
Girls		
District	Overall	
x—Nazareth	6-0	27-4
y—Happy	4-2	15-12
Valley	1-5	14-9
Silverton	1-5	13-17

Boys		
District	Overall	
x—Nazareth	6-0	20-7
y—Happy	4-2	15-10
Silverton	1-5	13-13
Valley	0-6	9-11

w—Clinched playoff berth
 x—Clinched district championship
 y—Clinched No. 2 seed
 z—Clinched No. 3 seed

Always remember that you are absolutely unique—just like everyone else.

You can multiply all the relations of life, have more than one sister or brother, in the course of events, have more than one wife, but you can have only one Mother.



MARCUS LARRA drives inside during the first quarter of the Bobcats' district game at Muleshoe Friday night. In addition to being the leader in assists, Larra finished with 11 points to become Dimmitt's high-point man in the game as the Bobcats won, 46-37.

Photo by Carter Townsend

Caregiver training scheduled Feb. 17

The Welch Home Place of Dimmitt and the Alzheimer's Support Group of the Fellowship of Believers Church in Hereford are sponsoring an all-day training opportunity for caregivers who wish to receive additional training in caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia.

The training will begin at 8:30 a.m. on Feb. 17, continuing through 4:30 p.m. at the Fellowship of Believers Church at 231 Kingwood in Hereford, next to Hereford Care Center.

There is no charge for the course, and all who are interested in attending may contact the Welch Home Place at 647-3321.

Kenna Dubberly of Texas Tech University in Lubbock will teach the course. She is the director of the Brain Disorders Dept. of the university.

The course is recommended for family members, friends of Alzheimer's patients, paid caregivers, and others interested in learning more about this disease.

When a mother wants her children to keep their feet on the ground, she puts some responsibility on their shoulders.

A mother is someone with whom you may not see eye to eye, but is someone who will always walk with you arm in arm.

Playoff picture is coming into focus for Dimmitt and Nazareth

February's hoop playoff chase is just about to begin and once again Castro County will be well-represented with teams.

The Dimmitt Bobbies finished with a 6-4 district mark, in a three-way tie for second place with Muleshoe and Lubbock Roosevelt.

That will force a playoff to decide who will be the No. 2 and No. 3 seed in the playoffs and who will begin spring sports. Shallowater claimed the girls' district title with an unblemished mark.

The Nazareth Swiftettes and Nazareth Swifts each captured their respective district championships with perfect 6-0 marks and are preparing for bi-district action.

The Bobcats are currently leading the District 2-AAA boys' race with two games left, and they clinched a tie for first with a 7-1 mark after beating Lubbock Cooper Tuesday.

been scheduled, yet.

Groom sports a 19-7 record and finished District 3-A play as the runner-up behind Hedley.

The Lady Tigers don't have a lot of height, but their fundamentals are sound.

Groom features a couple of good outside players in Krisanne Davis, a 5-5 junior guard; and Candace Bohr, a 5-9 junior wing. Both are returning starters from a year ago and were all-district selections.

Nichole Barnett, a 5-6 junior guard; and Amanda Conrad, a 5-6 sophomore guard, also contribute big to the Lady Tiger offensive attack.

The Class A playoff picture resembles a tangled spider web this year since UIL reorganized the entire playoff format, dividing the class into two divisions—Division I for big schools and Division II for small schools.

Nazareth will compete in Division II.

The first round of the playoffs is simple—bi-district at a site to be determined by the participating

teams.

The playoff scenario gets complicated after that.

Winners in the bi-district round will advance to a "Sectional Tournament," with the girls playing Feb. 16-17 and the boys playing Feb. 23-24. Two sectional tournaments will be held in this area—one at Canyon High School and the other at Lubbock Coronado High School.

If they win their bi-district matchups, the Nazareth teams will play at Lubbock Coronado.

Winners in the Division II Sectional Tournaments from Region 1-A and Region 2-A will qualify for a "Semi-State Tournament," which will be held at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls on Feb. 23-24 for the girls and on March 2-3 for the boys.

Those Semi-State Tournament winners will advance to Austin for the state tournament. The first round at Austin will result in a state champion in Division I and Division II, then those two teams will square off in a game to decide the overall Class A champion.

Dimmitt

The Bobbies guaranteed themselves a tie for second place with Muleshoe and Roosevelt in District 2-AAA after they beat Lubbock Cooper Tuesday night. Muleshoe lost to Shallowater and Roosevelt beat Littlefield on Tuesday to force the tie.

Dimmitt Coach Tim Gilliland and Dimmitt ISD Supt. Les Miller met in Littlefield late Tuesday night with representatives from Muleshoe and Roosevelt.

Roosevelt won the coin flip and bye, so the Bobbies will face Muleshoe at 6:30 p.m. tonight (Thursday) at Shallowater.

The winner of that game will play Roosevelt at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Sudan.

If Roosevelt wins the Friday night game, then both of the teams in Friday night's game will advance to the playoffs; HOWEVER, if Roosevelt loses Friday night, the Lady Eagles will have to play the loser of the Dimmitt-Muleshoe game to determine the No. 3 seed. (You must win at least one game to advance to the playoffs).

The Bobbies and Lady Mules split their two district games, with Dimmitt claiming a 59-49 win in the first and Muleshoe eeking out a 41-38 advantage in the second.

Against Roosevelt, Dimmitt lost the first meeting, 42-45; but bounced back to claim a victory in the second showdown, 61-47.

Nazareth

The Swiftettes will face District 3-A runner-up Groom Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Canyon High School in the bi-district playoff.

The Swifts' bi-district game hasn't

Scoreboard

FRIDAY

Bobbies 38, Muleshoe 41
 Dimmitt 5 11 9 13 —38
 Muleshoe 11 9 16 5 —41
SCORING: Dimmitt—Tamara Robertson 13, Heather Black 12.

Bobcats 46, Muleshoe 37
 Dimmitt 12 14 6 14 —46
 Muleshoe 9 3 8 17 —37
SCORING: Dimmitt—Marcus Larra 10, Dee Norman 10.

Swiftettes 72, Silverton 26
 Silverton 1 2 11 12 —26
 Nazareth 16 14 26 16 —72
SCORING: Nazareth—Stephanie Thiel and Whitney Hoelting 21, Wendy Black 13.

Swifts 72, Silverton 42
 Silverton 9 9 6 18 —42
 Nazareth 24 16 12 20 —72
SCORING: Nazareth—Kade Wilcox 28, Eric Schilling 24.

Lady Horns 73, Kress 66
 Hart 16 20 12 25 —73
 Kress 13 15 14 24 —66
SCORING: Hart—Crystal Diego 21, Brenda Diego 20, Lacie Curry 13.

Longhorns 69, Kress 56
 Hart 13 17 16 23 —69
 Kress 11 15 8 22 —56
SCORING: Hart—Keith Finch 21, Jordy Rowland 20, Albert Velasquez 10.

JV Bobbies 43, Muleshoe 47
 JV Swiftettes 51, Silverton 22
 JV Swifts 44, Silverton 24

JV Bobcats 53, Muleshoe 55
 Dimmitt JV 10 18 8 17 —53
 Muleshoe 15 18 9 13 —55
SCORING: Dimmitt JV—Nicky Gauna 17, Matthew Sanders 10.

MONDAY

Freshman Bobcats 68, Cooper 53
 Dimmitt 9th 16 18 17 17 —68
 Cooper 7 8 23 15 —53
SCORING: Dimmitt 9th—Nicky Gauna 27, Tyler Myatt 15. *Season Record:* 13-6.

TUESDAY

Bobbies 65, Lubbock Cooper 64
 Cooper 13 15 17 19 —64
 Dimmitt 16 20 12 17 —65
SCORING: Dimmitt—Heather Black 21, Rachel Fabela 16, Tamara Robertson 15.

Bobcats 59, Lubbock Cooper 52
 Cooper 12 15 6 19 —52
 Dimmitt 12 18 15 14 —59
SCORING: Dimmitt—Dee Norman 18, Matthew Wright 12.

Swiftettes 96, Valley 19
 Valley 4 7 2 6 —19
 Nazareth 26 29 18 23 —96
SCORING: Nazareth—Stephanie Thiel 36, Wendy Black 20, Whitney Hoelting 16, Mandy Hoelting 12.

Swifts 84, Valley 43
 Valley 3 16 11 13 —43
 Nazareth 20 26 20 18 —84
SCORING: Nazareth—Kade Wilcox 24, Tyler Ehlly 13, Eric Schilling 10.

Lady Horns 39, Springlake-Earth 52
 S-E 15 13 9 15 —52
 Hart 15 3 8 13 —39
SCORING: Hart—Crystal Diego 12, Lacie Curry 11.

Longhorns 54, Springlake-Earth 46
 S-E 7 14 15 10 —46
 Hart 13 10 14 17 —54
SCORING: Hart—Keith Finch 20, Albert Velasquez 15.

JV Swiftettes 40, Valley 25
 JV Swifts 67, Valley 33
 JV Bobcats 43, Lubbock Cooper 45
 JV Bobbies 36, Lubbock Cooper 19

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The Castro County News

Follow these steps to keep your child safe

Most parents are not aware that there are four important steps to keep kids safe in motor vehicles. Skipping even one step can put kids at serious risk of injury or death in a crash.

Many parents use rear-facing and forward-facing convertible seats. But when children outgrow their convertible seats around age 4 and 40 pounds, most parents stop using child safety seats and move kids directly into seat belts.

This can seriously harm small children in a crash since seat belts are designed for adults, not children. That's why parents need to know these Four Steps for Kids.

Four Steps for Kids:

1. Use rear-facing child seats for children from birth to at least 20 pounds and at least one year of age.
2. Use forward-facing child seats for children over 20 pounds and at least one year old to about 40 pounds and about age 4.
3. Use belt-positioning booster seats for children from about 40 pounds to about 80 pounds and 4 ft., 9 ins. in height.
4. Use seat belts for older children large enough for the belt to fit correctly: at least 4 ft., 9 ins. tall and about 80 pounds.

The Castro County Hospital District promotes CHILD-PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK Feb. 11-17, 2001.



Most parents don't realize the importance of changing child safety seats as their children grow.

To learn more about this important issue, visit the Web site www.nhtsa.dot.gov and click on the "Child Safety Seat Inspections" link, or call 1-888-327-4236.

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WAITING FOR HELP—A long line of clients sits patiently last week in the Dimmitt office of Panhandle Community Services, seeking help with utility bills that have risen dramatically from previous years, due to a colder winter and higher fuel costs. Those who qualify under income

guidelines may have up to half of their current bill paid, while additional funds have been available for those above the guidelines. Those seeking help may call 647-3244 to make an appointment. Photo by Linda Maxwell

District courts hand down five judgments

Five judgments were rendered in recent District Court sessions in Castro County, in both the 242nd District Court with Judge Ed Self and the 64th District Court with Judge Jack Miller.

Jan. 25, Self entered an order deferring further proceedings against Richard Gonzales, who entered a plea of guilty to charges of burglary of a building on May 24, 1999. Terms of the plea bargain included five years of community supervision under the terms of deferred adjudication, a \$1,000 fine, \$272.25 in court costs, \$12,049.45 in restitution to Hart Independent School District (to be paid jointly and severally with Juan Guerrero, Sergio Guerrero, and Frankie Cortez), a \$50 donation to the Castro County Crime Line, and 200 hours of community service.

On the same day, Self also rendered judgment concerning a plea of guilty or nolo contendere by Francisco Cortez in connection with the same burglary of a building on May 24, 1999. The terms of the plea bargain included two years in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice-State Jail, probated for five years, a \$1,000 fine, \$272.25 in court costs, \$12,049.45 restitution to HISD (to be paid jointly and severally with Gonzales and Juan and Sergio Guerrero), 200 hours of community service, and a \$50 donation to Crime Line.

In 64th District Court on Jan. 22, Miller entered two orders deferring further proceedings against Rachel Gonzales on separate charges of theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000, in connection with incidents on Feb. 16, 2000, and Feb. 23, 2000. In exchange for a plea of guilty, Gonzales was sentenced to five years of community supervision under the terms of deferred adjudication, with court costs of \$272.25 in each case and attorney fees of \$250 for each. Both cases require restitution to First

United Bank, one for \$3,627.59 and one for \$5,553.71. A fine of \$1,000, a \$50 donation to Crime Line, and assessment of 200 hours of community service were included in one case and waived in the other.

Also on Jan. 22, Miller rendered a judgment against Anthony Joseph Garza, who entered a plea of guilty/nolo contendere to charges of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in connection with an incident on March 26, 2000. Terms of the plea bargain include two years confinement in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, probated for two years, a \$1,000 fine, \$272.25 in court costs, 200 hours of community service, and a \$50 donation to Crime Line.

Local school seeks box tops

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

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

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

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

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

More about

PCS clients facing hard times...

(Continued from Page 1)

lems they are facing.

A NITA SABEDRA, 66, of Dimmitt, came in with her daughter, Lucy Sabedra Rivera, 34.

Anita and her husband live in a two-bedroom stucco house out in the country. It uses propane for heat and cooking. Propane costs also have gone up.

The couple are both on Social Security. Between them they get over \$900 a month, and they receive food from the food pantry each month, but do not qualify for food stamps.

Both of them are diabetic and have arthritis. Her husband also has high blood pressure. Between the two of them they take a lot of medications and have incidental costs for diabetic testing.

She said they both are supposed to test their blood sugar level every day, but many times they only test a few times a week, until they can get the next batch of testing supplies.

She said she was sick with the flu recently and just one medicine she needed cost \$54.

"It is hard on old people," she said. "It's just plain rough. I am just glad these people (PCS) are helping. I didn't know there were so many nice people in the world until I got to this state."

ALFREDO TENORIO, 50, a long-time resident of Hart, is living with his 72-year-old mom in a two-bedroom trailer house with central heat.

"It's hurt me. It is too high," he said about their gas bill.

He said he brought his previous month's bill to PCS to pay half, but it appeared on the next billing, too, bringing the total to over \$300.

He is unemployed. He was injured on his last job, losing the tips of his fingers on one hand and still has not been released by his doctor to go back to work.

"We're just barely making it. We are barely keeping warm in our trailer."

ALTAGRACIA ORTIZ, 67, of Bovina, has been living there alone for two years in a two-bedroom house, heated with two space heaters.

She came to PCS to see if she could get help with her gas bill.

When asked what kind of a house she lives in, she replied, "Cold."

She suffers from high blood pressure and allergies, and must take medication for them. She also needs new glasses. Medicare does not pay for medicine.

She lives on about \$690 a month and said, "It is getting harder and harder to make it."

The older woman's gas bill the previous month was \$104 and the most recent month it hit \$185. In the previous year, it probably never even reached \$70 at its highest.

She said she feels she will have to choose heat or food and medicine.

"It's getting harder and harder for people like her to live and to get help," said Christine Ortiz, her daughter-in-law, who is visiting from Kansas.

ELSA MARQUEZ, 30, of Dimmitt, lives in a three-bedroom house with her three daughters, ages 4, 5 and 10.

She receives a HUD subsidy on her rent, food stamps, and survivors' benefits for herself and her oldest daughter. Elsa was widowed in 1990.

She has been looking for a job for a couple of months. She holds a cer-



Jometa McLain

tificate in office technology from Wayland Baptist University.

She has been living on about \$800 a month, which she supplements when she can by taking in ironing and doing some babysitting. She receives food stamps and rental assistance.

Her most recent gas bill was for \$528, with part of that coming from a past due amount from the previous month.

"It has been so cold; with my children, I need the heater on. I don't know what else to do. I need assistance."

She said her recently retired father also sought help from PCS with his gas bill.

Other family members have advised her to move away, but she said she does not want to leave her folks.

"Each month when I get my social security check I pay all the bills right then. Sometimes I only have \$10 left."

YOLANDA MENDEZ, 42, of Hart, has a 13-year-old daughter and a 12-year-old son living with her in a three-bedroom house. She works as a health care worker for an elderly woman on Friday and Saturday nights and makes \$96 a week.

Previously her gas bills had been running about \$40 a month. Now

they are about double that amount.

She said she keeps the heat turned down during the day and at night her son runs around wrapped up in a blanket. When they go to bed she turns the heat off, then turns it back on just before time for the kids to get up.

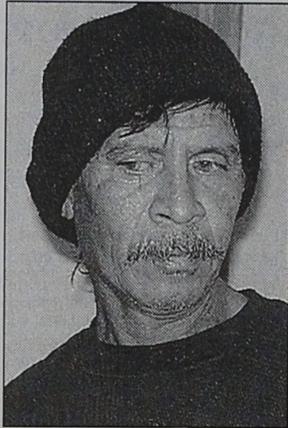
She gets help with her rent from HUD, and receives Medicaid and food stamps.

"This is my first time to ask for help with my bills," she said. "I had been managing, but I can't afford this."

She is a diabetic and has high blood pressure. Her daughter is on asthma medication and inhalers.

PCS will pay half of the \$180 she owes for her most recent gas bill.

"I hope it will be a relief, but I am anxious about the next bill," she said. "I am grateful it is not as much as some are facing."



Alfredo Tenorio

MARIA S. DIAZ, 77, of Hart, lives in a two-bedroom brick home. Her usual gas bill of no more than \$40 went up to \$44 for November and then doubled to \$88 for December.

She receives \$530 a month from Social Security and \$12 a month in food stamps. She gets some help from the food pantry each month.

She squeezes her water, gas, electricity, cable TV, telephone and house insurance bills out of her meager income each month.

Her daughter, Juana Marin, said that her mother worries that her gas may be shut off.

"It's hard," Marin said. "It wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't so cold. I hope the winter goes by fast."

"It is hard if you are rich or at whatever level. It is hard for everybody," Diaz said.

"Cold."

—Altagracia Ortiz, 67, replied, when asked what kind of house she lived in.

JOMETA MCLAIN, 84, of Hart said she has to wait for her Social Security check each month to be able to pay her bills.

Last month, it didn't come in time for her to pay the gas bill by the due date, so it carried over onto her current bill, adding a \$10.50 service charge.

"I thought I was doing real good until this slapped me in the face," McLain said. Her previous gas bills had never gone as high as \$75, but the previous month it was \$234.49 and her current bill was for \$296.95.

She said she tries to keep the thermostat turned to 68-70 degrees and cuts it off at night.

"I don't know how people make it who have house payments," she said. Her three-bedroom brick home is paid for.



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Obituaries

Berle Kent Hyatt

Memorial services for Berle Kent Hyatt, 60, former Dimmitt resident, were held at Northeast Bible Church in Garden Ridge on Saturday afternoon. Arrangements were handled by American Mortuary.

Mr. Hyatt died at 4:26 p.m. Jan. 30 after a lengthy battle with cancer.

He was born Feb. 13, 1940, in Dimmitt and he graduated from Dimmitt High School. He served in the US Army during the 1960s and served two tours in Vietnam.

He earned his degree in microbiology from the University of Texas in Austin. He worked for Miles Laboratory in Armes County where he was voted "Best Salesman in the Nation" for three years during his 15-year tenure with the company. He went on to a second career in law enforcement and retired from the Comal County Sheriff's Dept. after 15 years of service as supervisor in the Detention Facility in August 2000.

He lived in San Antonio until he moved to Canyon Lake in 1976. While at Canyon Lake, he belonged to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, where he served as president of the Lutheran Brotherhood for several years. He lived in Canyon Lake until 1992 when he returned to San Antonio.

He was a member of Northeast Evangelical Free Church in Garden Ridge. He loved taking photos of Vacation Bible School and the children's summer musical and enjoyed participating in the adult summer musical of 2000.

Survivors include his wife, Jo Anne Hyatt; three daughters, Lisa M. Robinson of Canyon, Darleen M. Griffin of San Antonio and Michelle Pierce of Bastrop; a stepdaughter, Jennifer Amaya; a sister, Jimmie Carol Glenn of Canyon; a brother, Jerry Francis Hyatt of Hayward, Calif.; three grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

The family requests memorials be to Northeast E. Free Bible Church, 19185 FM 2252, Garden Ridge 78266; or Hospice Homecare, 10221 Desert Sands, Ste. 301, San Antonio 78216.

Rosa Mae Lance

Funeral services for Rosa Mae Lance, 98, of Dimmitt, were held Friday afternoon at Rose Chapel of Gililand-Watson Funeral Home of Hereford. Rev. Ellis Parson, pastor of Summerfield Baptist Church, and Rev. Howard Rhodes, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dimmitt, officiated.

Burial was in West Park Cemetery of Hereford.

Mrs. Lance died Jan. 31 at 3 a.m. at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home of Dimmitt.

She was born Sept. 15, 1902, in Wise County. She moved to Deaf Smith County in 1917, and married Earl Lance on June 20, 1920, in Hereford. She was a homemaker and a member of Summerfield Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1984; a son, Paul Lance, in 1948; and a daughter, Billie Louise Lance, in 1974.

She is survived by three sons, Jerry Don Lance and R.E. Lance Jr., both of Hereford, and C.J. Lance of Howardwick; two daughters, Ann Hayes of Dimmitt and Rosene Dawson of Hereford; nine grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to Canterbury Villa Nursing Home of Dimmitt.

Margaret Lopez

Funeral Mass for Margaret Lopez, 57, of Hart, was said Friday afternoon at St. John's Catholic Church in Hart, with Deacon Jesse Guerra of San Jose Catholic Church in Hereford officiating.

Rosary was said last Thursday at 7 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church.

Mrs. Lopez died Jan. 29 at 11:50 a.m. at her residence.

She was born May 31, 1943, in Raton, N.M., and grew up in Clovis, N.M., attending schools there. She married Pete Reyna in 1975. She had lived in Denver, Colo., and Goodland, Kan., then moved to Hart in 1980. She worked for the Dairy Bee, Smith Potato and the US Post Office in Hart, and for J&H Restaurant in Olton.

She is survived by her husband; four daughters, Theresa Padilla and Pearl Lopez of Hart, and Marcella and Margaret Lopez of Raton, N.M.; three sons, Vincent Padilla of Hart, Walter Lopez of Bucklin, Kan., and Vincent Lopez of Hart; a brother, Necho Padilla of Michigan; five sisters, Rosa Soliz of Clovis, Beva Padilla of Michigan, Juana Padilla of Gallup, N.M., Libby Padilla of

Raton, and Molly Padilla of El Paso; 16 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Martin Martinez

Funeral Mass for Martin Martinez, 77, of Dimmitt was to have been held Wednesday at 2 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Dimmitt, with Fr. Fern Couture, pastor, officiating.

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

Vigil services were held Tuesday night at Ivey Chapel of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home.

Mr. Martinez died Feb. 4 at 2:20 a.m. at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Dimmitt.

He was born Oct. 20, 1923, in Monterey, Mexico, and moved to Dimmitt in the late 1960s. He married Amelia Cruz in 1970 in Dimmitt and farmed in the Dimmitt area until he retired in 1990. He was a Catholic.

He was preceded in death by three children.

He is survived by his wife; nine children and 14 step-children; four sisters; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Alfred Moody

Services for Alfred "Al" Moody, 64, of Garland, the brother of Sue Phillips of Dimmitt, were held last Thursday at First Baptist Church in Garland, with Rev. Steve Davis officiating.

Burial was in Marysville Cemetery under the direction of Williams Funeral Directors of Garland.

Mr. Moody died Jan. 29.

He was born Nov. 9, 1936, in Marysville. He was a manufacturing coordinator and a member of First Baptist Church of Garland, where he served as a deacon.

He is survived by his wife, Lana; two sons, Todd and Craig Moody, both of Richardson; a brother, Weldon Moody of Plainview; and three sisters, Louise Hawkins of Lubbock, Yvonne Stevenson of Bovina, and Sue Phillips of Dimmitt.

The family suggests memorials to the American Cancer Society or the First Baptist Church of Garland Sanctuary Choir.

Lois Ada Mason

Lois Ada Mason, 76, of Dimmitt died Jan. 31 at 4:45 p.m. at Canterbury Villa Nursing Home in Dimmitt.

In accordance with her wishes, her body has been donated to Texas Tech Health Science Center in Lubbock.

Mrs. Mason was born March 4, 1924, in Blair, Okla., to Lige Franklin and Mary (Drew) Fennel. She was raised at Hollis, Okla., and graduated from Ron High School. She married Cecil K. Mason in 1942 in Childress, and they moved to Kansas City, Kan., in 1943. She had worked for a film developing company and a pharmacy until her retirement. Mrs. Mason moved to Dimmitt from Bonner Springs, Kan., in 1993.

She was preceded in death by her husband in 1980; a son, Robert Allen (Robbie) Mason in 1986; a daughter, Linda Kay Anders in 1995; and by seven brothers and one sister.

She is survived by a sister, Lillian Portwood of Dimmitt; two brothers, Ernest Fennel of Mangum, Okla., and Loyd Fennel of Detroit, Tex.; and several nieces and nephews.

The family suggests memorials to Hospice Care, 112 W. Jones, Dimmitt 79027.

Grief support group to meet

A Grief Support Group will meet today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the Partial Hospitalization Building at 103 Front Street in Dimmitt. The Welch Home Place and Hospice Care invite all interested persons to attend the scheduled monthly meeting.

Facilitator for the group is Roy Puente, a Licensed Social Worker, who is community relations coordinator for the Welch Home Place. The group concentrates on helping the grieving to understand and deal with loss.

"Loss comes in many forms and can create difficulties for everyone," Puente said.

Everyone is invited to attend the support group. For more information, contact the office of Hospice Care at 647-2848.

Welch Home Place and Hospice Care are both programs of the Castro County Hospital District.

More about

H.O.P.E. talks . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Seward, another council member. He suggested that H.O.P.E. also look into combining some type of after school program with the day care.

H.O.P.E. member Joe Sloan, administrator of Plains Memorial Hospital, said that Belle Braddock of the Texas Dept. of Human Services has said that day care is needed.

"The impetus to get people off of welfare is difficult because there is no child care. It would help to get productive workers and to help people be able to get to work," Sloan said.

Sava said when people who are considering locating in Dimmitt visit his office, one of the first things they ask about is child care.

"This is a major thing we feel needs to be done, but where do we go from here?" Sava asked. "We would have to have support, so we have come to you [the council] and we will go to the county."

"Support is important for this to work," Sloan said. "We will need help with grants, and help with seed money. We are not asking you to do anything right now, just start thinking about it."

Sava said the group is not looking at any definite sites yet, but added that it will require a building, either to purchase or build one. He proposed a metal structure, because it would be less costly.

Sava said they have found out that Texas Tech offers help through its architectural department, with students drawing up plans at a reduced rate. Sloan said Tech also has students who will help draw up a business plan at no charge.

Sloan said H.O.P.E. wants to enlist the support of every government entity in the county and eventually establish a separate non-profit entity with its own advisory board.

Sava said that they will seek grant funding and they are looking for a qualified grant writer. He added that most grants being offered now are matching grants, so "seed" money would be needed.

The woman who has an abundance of drive gets along very well without being driven.



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On the Go with Dorothy Hopson, 647-4579

A couple of families who had children visiting when the ice and snow storms came in over the weekend were treating them to lunch on Monday at K-Bob's. Shawn and Amanda (Odom) Potter and their 5-month-old daughter, Macie, had been snow-bound at the home of Amanda's parents, Jesse and Pam Odom. They live in Lubbock and were waiting for the roads to clear so they could go home.

Doug and Carol (Petty) Lathem of Dalhart and Brad and Kristi (Petty) Sadler of Mansfield with children Payton and McKenzie had been given an extra day or so with their parents, Max and Doris Swinburn, because of the ice and snow. They enjoyed the extended visit with their parents and Jason and Carla (Petty) Wooten, who live here. Carla is the sister of Kristi and Carol.

Senior Citizens Bridge Bulletin: Susie Reeves was hostess and also had the second high score. Loranel Hamilton won high score.

Karen Sealy of Levelland was dining out with her mother, Cleo Sealy, recently. Karen is a Dimmitt High School graduate and is now director of the lab at Covenant Hospital in Levelland.

After postponing it a week because of snow, members of the First United Methodist Church enjoyed their annual Russel Moran stew dinner this past Sunday. Russel started this tradition when he was a member of the Wesleyans/Fellowship and since his death the members have continued this in honor of him. The Wesleyans cook the stew and each one brings a dessert. It is a wonderful meal and a way for the Bible Class to show its appreciation to the rest of the church members.

Jo Eddie Riley hosted a Thursday bridge club at the Wild Plum in Olton. Those attending were Carolyn Jones, Shirley Wise, Mildred Bradford, Doris Lust, Dorothy Gilbreath, Ina Cleavinger, and the hostess.

Forty-eight Scandinavian men and women will be taking the Walk to Emmaus at the Llano Estacado Emmaus Center in Slaton and the Living Water Center in Amherst.

The Walk to Emmaus is a Christian, non-denominational 72-hour spiritual retreat consisting of talks, singing, prayer and other activities to help participants focus on their relationship with God. It is followed by the formation of small accountability groups who meet weekly and a monthly community gathering.

Several Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth residents, along with people from Hereford, Friona, Muleshoe, Levelland, Littlefield, and other towns, will be hosting the Scandinavians. Several people from these Texas towns are planning to visit the Scandinavians in their countries this summer or fall.

The visiting group will spend Monday in Lubbock for the Emmaus training, tour the Ranch and Heritage Center, dine as guests of the First United Methodist Church of Lubbock, and meet at the Indiana Avenue Baptist Church.

Sharon Leinen says, "Everyone should visit New York City at least once. It is really a wonderful place."

Sharon traveled with her niece, Paulette Barber of Houston, to "the Big Apple." They had tickets to the New York Giants vs. Dallas Cowboys football game, saw "Miss Saigon" on Broadway, rode the subway,

and toured the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building.

They were strolling down Fifth Avenue after midnight, but declared they were not afraid—there were people everywhere.

Mary Lynn Lankford, daughter of Mary Edna Hendrix, celebrated her 60th birthday on Feb. 1. She is employed at Amarillo College and there are 16 in her office. Since she is the oldest one in the office (the others are in their 20s and 30s), the younger ones had a good time decorating for an older woman.

They decorated with black balloons, black streamers, and black roses. They found a picture of Mary

Lynn and had several made into 8x10s and put them on doors all over the college—even in the girls' restroom.

Jane O'Kelly, a former Dimmitt resident, is employed at the college, and she sang "Happy Birthday." One of the guys sang one verse of "Happy Birthday" to Mary Lynn and left. Every time he came back, he sang another verse. Later in the day, he sang the last verse.

The employees served a salad luncheon at noon and a big birthday cake in the afternoon. Mary Lynn's family sent flowers to the college for her. The next day, former Dimmitt resident Pat Cowell took Mary Lynn to the Amarillo Club for dinner.

School districts sought for technology training program

School districts from the West Texas area are being asked to apply to become Local Education Agencies (LEA) in the Intel Teach to the Future Program.

The program is a worldwide initiative to train teachers to effectively use computer technology in their classroom to improve student learning. Using the "train the trainer" model, "Master Teachers" from selected districts will receive specialized training on integrating technology into their curriculum and then in turn train their colleagues ("Participant Teachers").

The Texas Center for Education Technology at the University of North Texas is the regional training agency for the program and it is organizing the search for LEAs.

LEAs may include school districts, private schools or school consortiums. LEAs are responsible for the recruitment of Master Teachers and Participant Teachers in the program.

The application is a two-part process with Part 2 due by Feb. 16.

To receive an application and learn more about the specific benefits and responsibilities for LEAs, Master Teachers and Participant Teachers, visit the following web site: www.intel.com/education/teachfuture and click on "How to Apply." For other questions regarding the program, e-mail Dunn at dunn@coefs.coe.unt.edu.

"This is an unbelievable opportunity for teachers to be trained on technology integration that can then be incorporated directly in the classroom," said Lemoyné Dunn, program coordinator for the Intel Teach to the Future Program. "We are seeking education groups to apply for the program so they can give their teachers access to this wonderful resource."

Some of the benefits LEAs receive include:

- ◆ Free curriculum materials.
- ◆ A PC lab kit including 25 licenses of Microsoft Office 2000.
- ◆ A \$5,000 equipment grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for each Master Teacher's classroom.
- ◆ A laptop computer for each Master Teacher.
- ◆ Microsoft Office 2000 and Microsoft Encarta for each Participant Teacher.

Besides teacher recruitment and other possibilities, LEAs also are responsible for providing at least one personal computer with Internet access for each Participant Teacher's classroom by the inception of the training and ensuring a diverse population of schools register for this training opportunity.

Why is it when children are particularly helpful, a mother thinks they want something?



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Peter Odima, Manager

Nazareth with Virgie Gerber, 945-2669

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be held in Holy Family Church on Wednesday, Feb. 14, with Bishop John Yanta of Amarillo officiating.

The Nazareth Booster Club will sponsor a "Bingo Sunday" on Sunday, Feb. 18, from 3 to 6 p.m. in the Nazareth School Cafeteria. Come and join us for a fun afternoon.

The Nazareth Stock Show will be held at 6 p.m. on Wednesday at the Castro County Expo Building in Dimmitt. The Castro County Junior Livestock Show will be held Friday beginning at 9 a.m.

Charley and Bev Hill enjoyed the weekend in Henrietta with the fam-

ily of Kevin and Traci Scholl, Anni and Ethan.

Matt Birkenfeld, Jake and Sandee Hoelting, Virgie Gerber, and Karen and Shawna Gerber watched Andi Rose play basketball Saturday afternoon in Amarillo at the Downtown Baptist Church Center. It's amazing the variety of things that they have for their young children to do in Amarillo.

Prayers are asked for Brad Klein, Leonard Gerber, Edith Huseman, Lori Huseman, Tammy Drerup, Robert Fisher Sr., Ray Schmucker, Ann Heck and Mary Gerber.

Mary Gerber is doing well and started therapy Monday after breaking her leg in a fall last Wednesday.

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Dimmitt
Consumers**

will be held at the
**DIMMITT CITY HALL
MEETING ROOM**
Monday, Feb. 12
at 7:00 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to hear the
audit report, elect two board directors, and
transact any business that may come before
the board. Door prizes will be awarded.

PLEASE TRY TO COME

**Dimmitt
Consumers, Inc.**

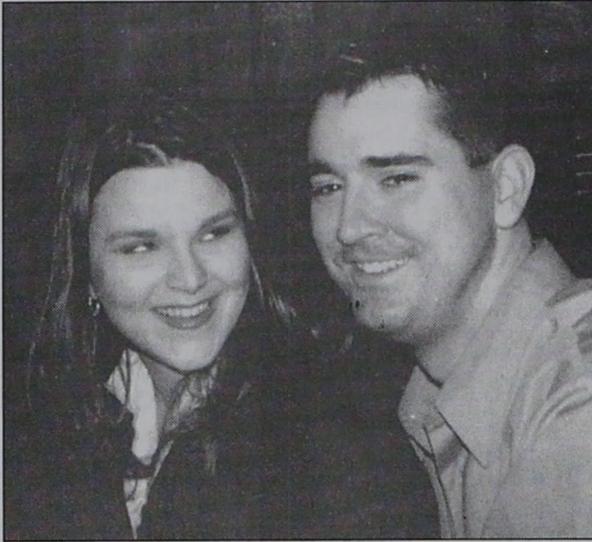
217 E. Bedford
647-4134

People



Pohlmeier, Jones are recognized

Karmen Pohlmeier and Susan Book, both graduates of Nazareth High School, have been named to the dean's honor roll for the fall semester at Texas A&M University in College Station. The dean's honor roll recognizes students taking at least 15 semester hours who have maintained at least a 3.75 grade-point average out of a possible 4.0 during the most recent grading period. Book is a sophomore majoring in agricultural journalism. Pohlmeier is a senior studying agricultural business.



Cynthia Brandish and David West

West and Brandish to wed

David West and Cynthia Brandish are planning to exchange wedding vows on April 29 at the Victorian House in Kaufman. The bride-elect is the daughter of Mrs. Mollie Reese and the late John Reese of Wylie. Parents of the prospective groom are Mr. and Mrs. Richard West of Dimmitt. The bride-to-be is currently working for a certified public accountant. The prospective groom is working as a manager for Enterprise Rental. Both are living in Dallas.

Apply now for AC scholarships

Amarillo College scholarship applications for the Fall 2001 semester must be completed and returned by March 1. Applications will be considered for 232 endowed and 30 non-endowed scholarships administered by the Amarillo College Foundation. "I would encourage any one who is considering Amarillo College to apply for one of these scholarships," said Joyce Eldridge, director of financial aid. "Students often dismiss themselves from this opportunity for the wrong reasons. Generally, awards are based on combinations of merit, achievement, financial need and academic potential." Application forms may be picked up at the assistance center, president's office and the library on the Washington Street Campus; the registrar's office in the lecture hall on the West Campus; the Bird Administration Building at Amarillo Technical Center; and at the reception area at the Business & Industry Center on the Polk Street Campus. Applicants may call the Financial Aid Office at 371-5310 or The AC Foundation at 371-5107 to have one mailed. The student's most recent transcript (high school or college) must be attached to the application and returned to the Office of the President, PO Box 447, Amarillo 79178.

Scholarship will honor memory of Beral Hance

The Amarillo Area Foundation has announced seven new scholarships which will be presented to area residents, and one of those, the Beral Hance Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to Castro County students. The scholarship will be restricted to graduating high school seniors from Castro County who are planning to attend West Texas A&M University in Canyon or Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Family and friends of the late Beral Hance of Dimmitt established the scholarship to honor her memory. The first Beral Hance Memorial Scholarship will be awarded for the 2001-02 academic year. Mrs. Hance, a longtime Dimmitt resident, died Dec. 8, 2000. She had moved to Castro County in 1933. She had worked as a teacher and mail carrier. She also worked in the Castro County Extension Office and for the Castro County Attorney until her retirement. She belonged to the Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and American Heart Association. She was a member of the First Baptist Church and WMU. Student application forms are available now from area high school counselors and/or principals. Parents and graduating high school students should inquire with a high school counselor or principal to receive a general scholarship application form distributed by the Amarillo Area Foundation. Each student should complete only one application and may apply for up to three foundation scholarships for which they are most eligible. The deadline to receive all scholarship applications is 5 p.m. Monday, April 2, at the Amarillo Area Foundation office. Applications received after the date will not be submitted for review. For more information, contact Amarillo Area Foundation Scholarship Coordinator Sylvia Artho at 376-4521 or e-mail her at sylvia@aaf-hf.org.

The Amarillo Area Foundation, a community foundation, is a public charity which accepts funds from individuals, families, businesses and other groups interested in helping Panhandle communities. The Foundation provides funds through grants to charitable organizations for the enrichment of the quality of life of the people residing in the 26 northern-most counties of the Texas Panhandle. The Foundation currently manages more than 60 scholarship funds, benefitting a total of 296 students through more than \$321,000 in awarded higher education scholarships, established by individual donors, their families and friends.

CASA needs volunteers

The Spring 2001 training of CASA volunteers will begin Feb. 19 and continue through March 5. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) is an organization of caring adult volunteers who dedicate their time to ensure that abused and neglected children in the custody of the State of Texas are able to find safe, stable homes. CASA volunteers are trained and court appointed to investigate, monitor, report and serve as advocates in court for abused and neglected children. "While the time commitment is not huge, only five to 15 hours a month, the impact CASA volunteers have on these children's lives is im-

measurable," a CASA spokesperson said. CASA of Lubbock has expanded its area of service and now is able to work with children in Castro, Hale, Swisher, Terry and Yoakum counties. Volunteers are desperately needed in all these areas. All CASA volunteers must complete a screening process that includes a personal interview, a criminal background check, and three references. For more information, call (806) 763-2272.



Who's New

PLAINS MEMORIAL
It's a boy for Joyce and Lynn Nelson of Dimmitt. Their son, Brant Damon, was born at 3:04 p.m. on Jan. 16 at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt. He weighed 7 lbs., 8.4 ozs., and was 21.5 inches long. He has a big brother, 2-1/2-year-old Dyllyn Gage Nelson. Grandparents are Joe Lynn and Mary Lou Birkenfeld of Nazareth, Sue Bates of Jacksboro and George and Vicky Nelson of Dimmitt. Great-grandparents are Rose Birkenfeld of Nazareth, Allena Nelson of Lelia Lake, Edmund and Joyce Hunter of Roaring Springs and Louise Bates of Bryson.

It's a girl, Jasmine Cerissa Hill, for Bobby and Myra Hill of Hereford. The infant was born Jan. 29 at 8:57 a.m. She weighed 7 pounds and 15.4 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Older brothers are Devon Bryce Martinez, 3, and Braden Scott Hill, 9 months. Paternal grandmother is Rhonda Hill of Dimmitt. Maternal grandparents are Jerry and Sandy Peña of Dimmitt. Great-grandparents are Don and Ginger Laurent of Dimmitt, Luis Peña Sr. and Elvira Peña of Nazareth, Alfredo Barrera Sr. and Vicky Barrera of Hereford. Great-great-grandmother is Hazel Keeling.

Hector and Liliana Guadiana of Dimmitt are the parents of a baby girl, Kenia Karely Guadiana, born Jan. 29 at 5:35 a.m., weighing 8 pounds and 5.8 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. Big sister is Karen Denisse Guadiana. Paternal grandparents are Cosme and Martha Guadiana. Maternal grandparents are Samuel and Ninfa Prieto.

It's a boy, Jace Ethen Sanchez, for Jessica Martinez and David Sanchez of Dimmitt. The infant was born Jan. 28 at 10:33 p.m. He weighed 6 pounds and 7.6 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. Paternal grandparents are Ray and Helen Sanchez. Maternal grandparents are Nora and Max Martinez.

It's a boy for Luis Hector and Maria Isela Gomez of Dimmitt. Luis Hector Gomez Jr. was born Jan. 26 at 12:39 p.m., weighing 9 pounds and 6 ounces. Big sisters are Cynthia, Melissa and Kassandra. Paternal grandparents are Antonio and Consuelo Gomez of Mexico. Maternal Grandparents are Mario and Carmen Baray of Liberal, Kan. Great-grandparents are Agueda Baray of El Paso and Alberto Garcia of Mexico.

A wise mother listens to a child's voice and eyes.

VFW Ladies Auxiliary
VALENTINE DANCE
Saturday, Feb. 10
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
—Music by—
G.O.S. of Plainview
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Members and guests welcome

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WTAMU confers degrees and honors

West Texas A&M University recently announced December graduates and students who were named to honors lists for the fall 2000 semester.

Degrees were officially conferred on 380 WTAMU graduates at ceremonies on Dec. 15. Graduates with an overall grade point average of 3.5 or higher were recognized as honor graduates and were eligible to wear gold honor cords. Those receiving Cum Laude honors had a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.74.

Graduates included Gardenia J. Durbin of Nazareth, who graduated Cum Laude with a bachelor of science degree in interdisciplinary studies; and Coby Summers of Dimmitt, who received a bachelor of science degree in agriculture/ag business and economics.

of Hart, a junior, sports/exercise sciences; Jill M. Pohlmeier of Nazareth, senior, undeclared/no major; and Sara C. Schulte of Nazareth, freshman, reading.

To make the Dean's List, a student must carry a minimum of 12 undergraduate hours and achieve a GPA between 3.25 and 3.85. Local students listed include Travis R. Crow of Dimmitt, junior, agri/animal sciences; Kristin M. Doss of Dimmitt, junior, generic special education; Jill S. Millican of Dimmitt, graduate student in interdisciplinary studies; Michael G. Penney of Dimmitt, freshman, accounting; Stacey E. Bennett of Hart, junior, speech communication; Bill M. Hochstein of Nazareth, senior, sports/exercise sciences; and Robert J. Schmucker, senior, sports/exercise sciences.

More than 1,200 WTAMU students were named to honor lists, with 317 included on the President's List and 910 on the Dean's List.

Those on the President's list must achieve a grade point average of 3.85 or better with a minimum class load of 12 undergraduate hours. Local students who made the list are Mary G. Correa of Dimmitt, a senior majoring in business composit; Randy Porter of Dimmitt, a freshman majoring in biology; Eric R. Montemayor

Townsend, Pohlmeier earn degrees

Joel Townsend of Dimmitt and Karmen Pohlmeier of Nazareth were presented with bachelor's degrees during Texas A&M University's fall commencement exercises.

Townsend, son of Carter and Diane Townsend of Dimmitt, earned a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering.

Pohlmeier, daughter of Walt and Lucy Pohlmeier of Tulia, graduated with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural business and a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. She earned *magna cum laude* honors under both majors.

To qualify for *magna cum laude* status, Pohlmeier had to graduate with a grade-point average between 3.7 and 3.899 on a 4.0 scale.

Book Club to meet Feb. 14

At the Feb. 14 meeting of the Dimmitt Book Club, Barbara Bain will review *I Love You, Ronnie—The Letters of Ronald Reagan* to Nancy Reagan.

The book was written because Mrs. Reagan wanted people to share in discovering the private side of her husband. Proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Alzheimer's Foundation and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation. President Reagan suffers from Alzheimer's Disease.

The club will meet at Rhoads Memorial Library at 4 p.m. Members are encouraged to attend and the public also is welcome.

LGFB program slates meeting

The Look Good... Feel Better program has slated a meeting for Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the American Cancer Society office at 3915 Bell in Amarillo.

The program is dedicated to teaching women cancer patients beauty techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during cancer treatment.

Facilitator/coordinator for the meeting will be Brenda Archer. She will help women learn how to cope with the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatment.

For more information or to RSVP call 353-4306 or 1-800-ACS-2345.

'Valentine Tea' is planned in Olton Feb. 15

The Olton Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture is sponsoring a Valentine Tea for area residents next Thursday, Feb. 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Wild Plum Bed and Breakfast in Olton.

The event kicks off an evening of fun for the entire family. An informal style show will be held during the tea with fashions modeled from local dress shops.

A musical is planned at the renovated Roxy Theater beginning at 7 p.m.

"Jelvis," (Jeff Neinast as Elvis) will make his appearance and be the main attraction. Other musical talent from the area also will perform.

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




IT'S A SECURITY THING—Elva Garcia, a secretary at Dimmitt High School, shows her ID badge that is a part of the Dimmitt Independent School District's safety plan that was worked out after the scare in November when a man with a gun was seen near the middle school. DISD Supt. Les Miller said the badges were suggested by police so that school personnel could be readily identifiable by police if they are ever called to the campus again in an emergency situation. All school personnel now wear the badges, and Miller said, "Eventually, we would like to have them for students as well, with bar codes that could be scanned and used for lunch purchases, checking out library books, and so on." *Staff Photo*

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Readers' Theater planned Feb. 18 at Home Mercantile

After a string of recent concert events, a "Readers' Theater" will be performed at the Home Mercantile Building in Nazareth on Sunday evening, Feb. 18.

The public is invited to attend the event, which also will serve as a faith formation night for many participants.

There will be a potluck dinner at 5 p.m., followed by the program at 6.

The performance will depict the lives of Saints Isidore and Maria, a 12th Century Spanish couple who are the patrons of agriculture, as well as a modern day rural couple named Doug and Juanita.

The Readers' Theater performance, "A Sunday in Texas," was written by Father Jim Schmitmeyer, a writer, farmer and pastor of two rural parishes in western Ohio. It will be performed by four readers.

Readers' Theater is, in essence,

reading literature in a public setting.

Father Schmitmeyer is a former homiletics professor, a farmer and writer as well as a pastor. In addition to his theology degrees, Father Schmitmeyer holds a graduate degree in performance studies from Northwestern University. His book, *A Calendar of Care: Reflections of a Country Pastor*, is available through Liturgy Training Publications, Inc., and can be found on the web at www.amazon.com.

Before the Feb. 18 Readers' Theater, Father Schmitmeyer will give some reflections.

After the performance, those attending will be invited to participate in small group discussions about current rural situations and the role of spirituality. Father Schmitmeyer will then preside over a wrap-up session to process comments and feedback, and then close the evening with a prayer.



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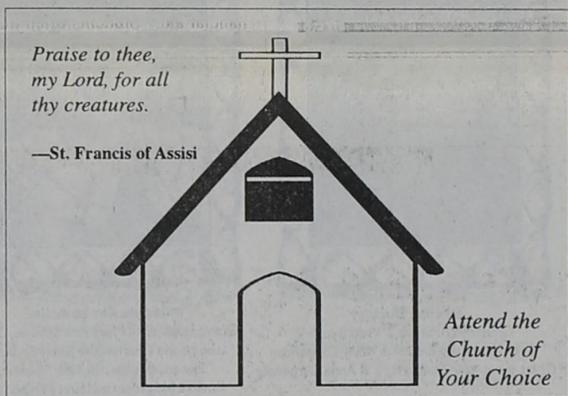
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 Fern Couture.....647-0105
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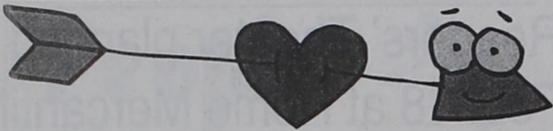
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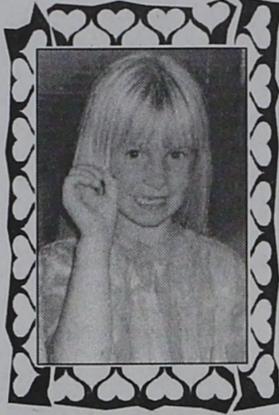
Our Favorite Valentines...



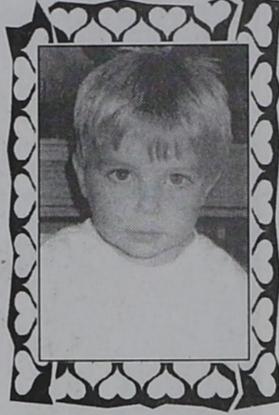
Hunter Gollihare
Grandson of Larry & Debbie Bills
Great-grandson of Bess Bills
and the late R.V. Bills



Madeline Gruhkey
Granddaughter of
Phyllis & Perry Gruhkey



Kassidy Jo Riley
Granddaughter of Ray Joe & Jo Eddy Riley
and Jackie Denham
Great-granddaughter of Tillie Scott



Zack Riley
Grandson of Ray Joe & Jo Eddy Riley
and Jackie Denham
Great-grandson of Tillie Scott



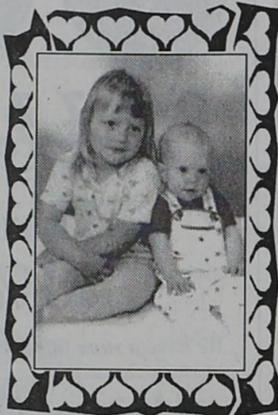
Evan Riley
Grandson of Ray Joe & Jo Eddy Riley
and Sue & Monty Boozer
Great-grandson of Tillie Scott
and Merle Boozer



Josh Riley
Grandson of Ray Joe & Jo Eddy Riley
and Sue & Monty Boozer
Great-grandson of Tillie Scott
and Merle Boozer



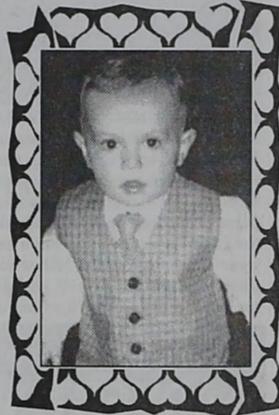
Blakely Danielle Gerber
Granddaughter of Danny & Shelly Rice
and Vincent & Toby Gerber
Great-granddaughter of Jimmie & Hoyce George, Joyce Rice and
Mary Gerber; Great-great-granddaughter of Irene Carpenter



Kayla & Riana Schacher
Grandchildren of
Dick & Shirley Schacher



Shelby Nicole Black
Granddaughter of Tommy & Paula Portwood
and Libby Black
Great-granddaughter of Pauline Hoyler
and Lillian Portwood



Logan Garrett Black
Grandson of Tommy & Paula Portwood
and Libby Black
Great-grandson of Pauline Hoyler
and Lillian Portwood



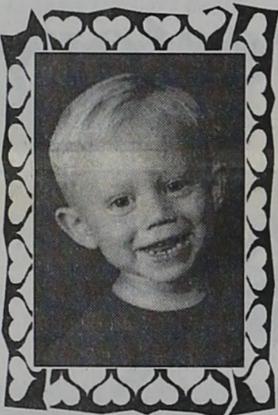
Amy Ann Adams
Granddaughter of Pauline Adams
and Roy & Sandie Blevins



Paula Sue Adams
Granddaughter of Pauline Adams
and Roy & Sandie Blevins



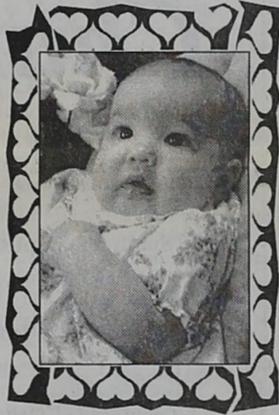
Jewel Roberts
Granddaughter of Jackie & Beth Roberts
Great-granddaughter of Bessie Strickland
and Ray & Fay Ethridge



Braden Buckley
Grandson of Steve & Vicki Buckley
Great-grandson of Don & Betty Carpenter
Great-great-grandson of R.N. & Anna Carpenter



Michayla Aimee Acker
Granddaughter of Mary Ann Schulte, David
Schulte and Charlotte & Bob Middleton
Great-granddaughter of Joe & Amy Schmucker
Clarence & Odella Schulte and Charles & Virginia Steele



Camille Audrey Acker
Granddaughter of Mary Ann Schulte, David
Schulte and Charlotte & Bob Middleton
Great-granddaughter of Joe & Amy Schmucker
Clarence & Odella Schulte and Charles & Virginia Steele



Jocelyn Singleterry
Granddaughter of Suzanne & Bobby Phillips
Great-granddaughter of Aural Davis
Great-great-granddaughter Edith Graef



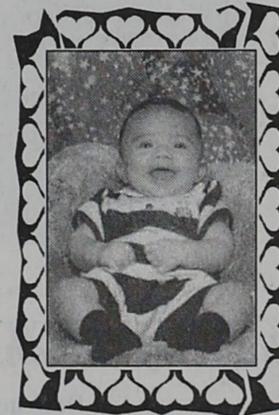
Marcie Rachelle Potter
Granddaughter of Jesse & Pam Odom
and Walt & Suzette Driscoll
Great-granddaughter of Mozelle Odom



Eleazar Antonio Gonzalez III
Grandson of Eleazar Alex Gonzalez Sr.
& Felipa Gonzalez
and Antonio & Consuelo Jimenez



Kyerstynn Alexys Gonzalez
Granddaughter of Eleazar Alex Gonzalez Sr.
& Felipa Gonzalez
and Antonio & Consuelo Jimenez



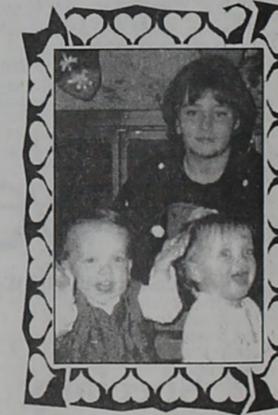
Jacob Reed Soler
Great-grandson of
Felix & Eusebia Balderas



Jacklyn Escamilla
Granddaughter of Ben & Linda Reyes
Great-granddaughter of George Lopez,
Lucia & Pete Fuentes,
and Margarito & Frances Sanchez



Jared & Justin Yokum
Grandsons of
Vicki & Garry Baldrige



Devonee, Masoni & Macy Birdwell
Grandchildren of Kent & Mary Jo Birdwell
and Billy & Charlotte Phillips



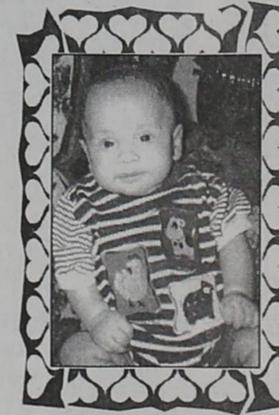
Dustin Burnam
Grandson of Jimmie & Sue Howell
and Carroll & Eileen Burnam



Kaymee Sue Howell
Granddaughter of Jimmie & Sue Howell
and Ace & Carolyn Overton



Paige McKenna Howell
Granddaughter of Karen Carter
and Jimmie & Sue Howell



Bradon Scott Hill
Grandson of Ruben & Yolonda Olvera
and Rhonda Hill



Alexandria Kathleen Morgan
Granddaughter of Phillie Garza
and Andrew Garza
Great-granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Cesario
Garza and Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Anderle



Tristan Michael Garza
Grandson of Phillie Garza
and Andrew Garza
Great-grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Cesario
Garza and Mr. & Mrs. Alvin Anderle



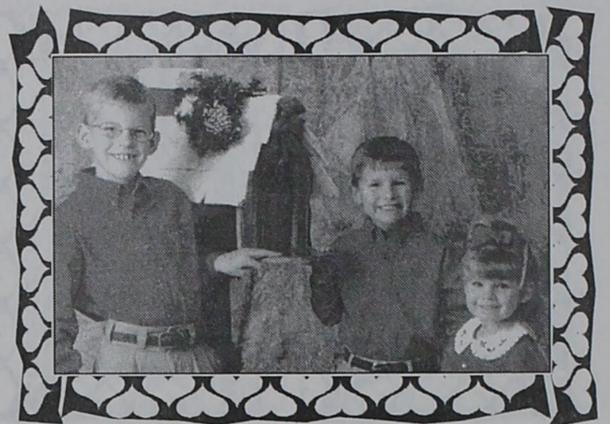
... Our Grandchildren!



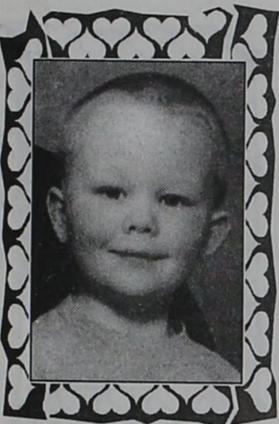
Megan & Brady Ellis
Grandchildren of Jerry & Sandra Jeffries



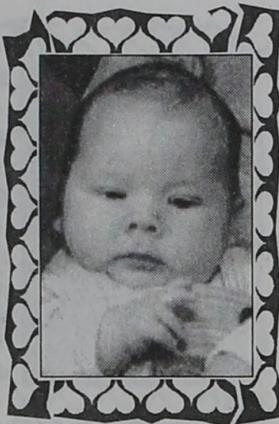
(Back, from left) Stormy Nutt, Charley Nutt, Shauna Nutt, Bailey Nutt
(Middle, from left) Jarison Kelsey, Madison Petty, Jensen Kelsey, Jake Kelsey
(Front, from left) Grant Petty, Cassidy Nutt
Grandchildren of Dorothy Nutt



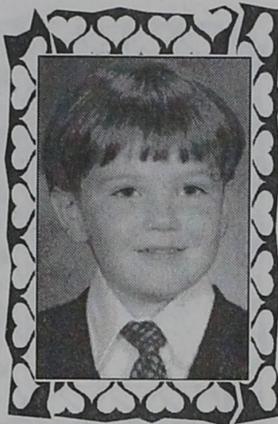
Brady, Jason & Abby Durham
Grandchildren of Jerry Durham and Charlie Russ



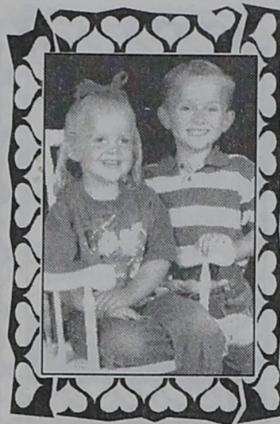
Ethan Chandler Maxwell
Grandson of Robert & Kathy Lowrey and Leroy & Linda Maxwell
Great-grandson of Bob & Jane Lowrey, Bertha Runkel, Royce Davis and Jeanne Thackeray



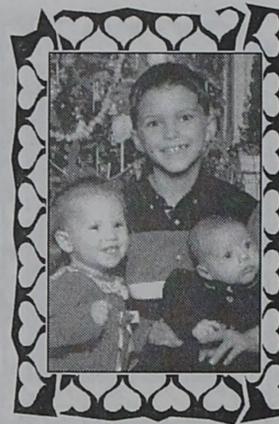
Logan Garrett Maxwell
Grandson of Robert & Kathy Lowrey and Leroy & Linda Maxwell
Great-grandson of Bob & Jane Lowrey, Bertha Runkel, Royce Davis and Jeanne Thackeray



Wade McCall Brown
Grandson of Leroy & Linda Maxwell, Fred & Shirley Williams and Troy & Helen Brown
Great-grandson of Jeanne Thackeray and Linda Smith



Tanner & Aimee George
Grandchildren of Dub & Pauline George



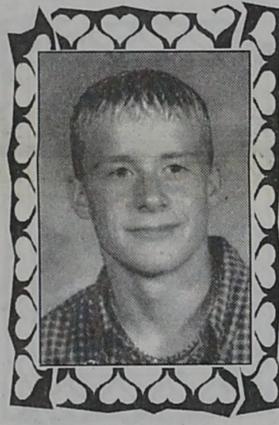
Ashton Ellison, Sara Wall and Kaden Ellison
Grandchildren of Zane & Carole Ellison



Robert Hermesmeier
Grandson of Billy & Carolyn Harman
Great-grandson of Bill & Paula Harman and Bea Cole



Michael Penney
Grandson of Janet & Paul Weaver



Layne Penney
Grandson of Janet & Paul Weaver



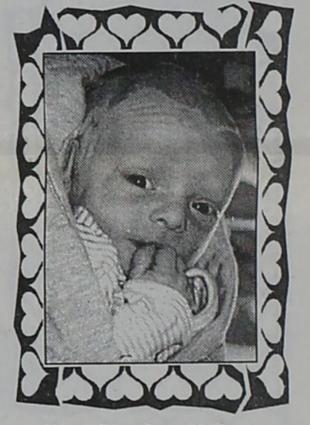
Caleb Penney
Grandson of Janet & Paul Weaver



Meleah Renae Penney
Grandaughter of Janet & Paul Weaver



Maegan Davis
Grandaughter of Leroy & Betty Burnett and Valeria Davis
Great-grandaughter of Delphia Davis



Aiden William Pierce McGinnis
Grandson of Keitha Scott & Bill Thiederman
Great-grandson of Aural Davis



Ben Kelley
Grandson of Nell & Ewell Kelley



Sam Kelley
Grandson of Nell & Ewell Kelley



Bethany Broussard and Kathryn Elizabeth Cox
Grandaughters of Nell & Ewell Kelley



Leyna Kennedy
Grandaughter of John & Carolyn Roberts



Brandon Colby Black
Grandson of Gene & Ann Stroud



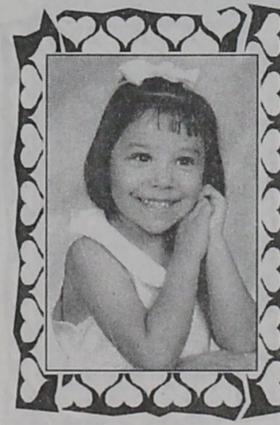
Cierra & Brennan Armes
Grandchildren of Francis & Bea Acker
Great-grandchildren of Clarence & Odella Schulte



Virginia Ann (Anni) Scholl, BrynLee Shea Hill and Ethan Guy Scholl
Grandchildren of Charley & Beverly Hill
Great-grandchildren of Virgie Gerber



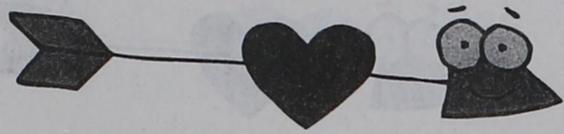
Juan Etán Posadas
Grandson of Manuel & Anita Velasquez



Lisa Marie Deleon
Grandaughter of Pete Gallegos Jr. and Ricky & Carmella Salinas



Brant Damon and Dyllyn Gage Nelson
Grandsons of Joe Lynn & Mary Lou Birkenfeld, George & Vickie Nelson and Sue Bates
Great-grandsons of Edmund & Joyce Hunter, Allena Nelson, Rose Birkenfeld and Louise Bates



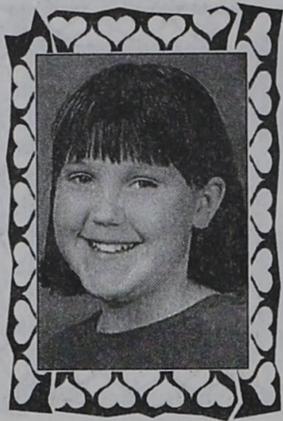
Our Favorite Valentines...



Allie & Jake Nelson
Grandchildren of
Don & Verbie Nelson



Amanda & Danielle Nelson
Granddaughters of
Don & Verbie Nelson



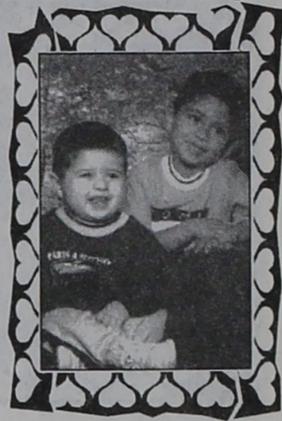
Anna Nelson-Daniel
Granddaughter of
Don & Verbie Nelson



Katherine Nelson-Daniel
Granddaughter of
Don & Verbie Nelson



Aaron & Gabrielle Reyes
Grandchildren of Rey & Sulema Oltivero,
Joe & Juana Reyes
Great-grandchildren of Eulalia Balderas
& Juana Hernandez



Santana & Kasey Garza
Grandsons of Rey & Sulema Oltivero
and Lucy Garza
Great-grandsons of Eulalia Balderas



Kasey Buchanan
Great-granddaughter of Nora Buchanan
and Jessie & Thelma Hutcheson



Hannah Thomas
Granddaughter of Anne Thomas
and Jessie & Thelma Hutcheson



Sarah Catherine McDaniel
Granddaughter of Stanley & Rita McDaniel
Great-granddaughter of Catherine Abraham
and John L. & Margaret Womack



Jason Eric Sparks
Grandson of
Ramon & Stella Rodriguez



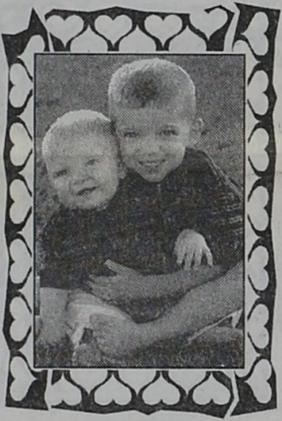
O'ivia Nomey Ontiveros
Granddaughter of
Ramon & Stella Rodriguez



Alicia Kay Straley
Granddaughter of Clyde & Lisa Schulte
Great-granddaughter of Martha Schulte
and Darrell & Joanne Lacy



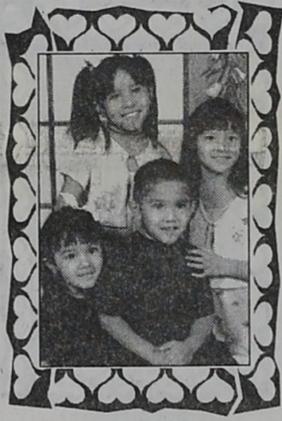
Kyle Nelson
Grandson of Donny & Wanda Nelson
and Ken & Vicki McMillan



Jake & Tyler Nelson
Grandsons of Donny & Wanda Nelson,
Jan Fleet and the late Mike Fleet



Cody Green & Kaylee Mays
Grandchildren of Bill & Sharla Mays
and David & Yvonne Ehly
Great-grandchildren of Rhoda Mays
and Bert Huseman



**Georgia, Vivian, Javier Jr.
& Amy Sanchez**
Grandchildren of Maria & Cristino Torres
Lydia Sanchez and the late Jose Sanchez



Bailey Brooke Bryant
Granddaughter of Marvin & Gwen Bryant,
Susie Moore and Roger & Marjeanne Moore
Great-granddaughter of Merle Arthur, Pauline Bryant,
Larnee & Pat Hartman and Ed & Marge Moore



Quentin Tyler Furr
Grandson of
John & Nacola Furr



Ashton Drew Smothermon
Grandson of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon,
Roxanne & Horace Burnett,
and Robert McLean



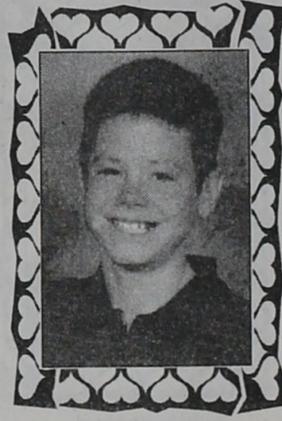
Adison Drake Smothermon
Grandson of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon,
Roxanne & Horace Burnett,
and Robert McLean



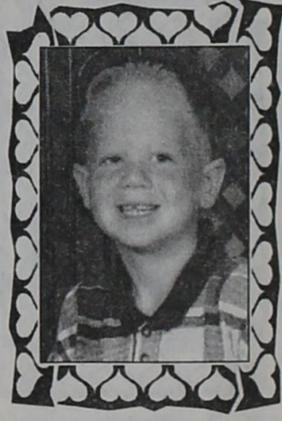
Berkli Celine
Granddaughter of Buck Jones
and Suzy Jones
Great-granddaughter of
Lee Haschke



Brennan Cluck
Grandson of Mary Cluck
and John & Becky Bliss
Great-grandson of Millicent Davis
and Retta Cluck



Cameron Cluck
Grandson of Mary Cluck
and John & Becky Bliss
Great-grandson of Millicent Davis
and Retta Cluck



Austin Cluck
Grandson of Mary Cluck
and John & Becky Bliss
Great-grandson of Millicent Davis
and Retta Cluck



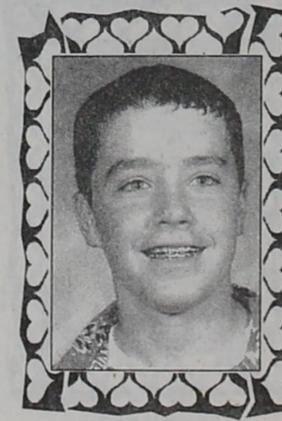
Baylei Diane Smothermon
Granddaughter of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon
and J.R. & Rickie Mixson



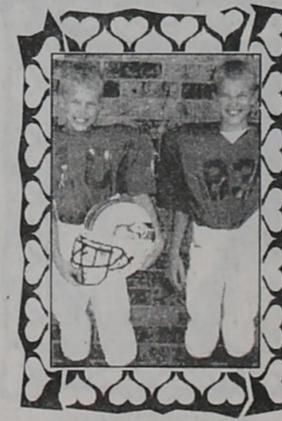
Andrea Nichole Smothermon
Granddaughter of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon
and J.R. & Rickie Mixson



Christopher James Smothermon
Grandson of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon
and J.R. & Rickie Mixson



Zjhon Smothermon
Grandson of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon



Skyler & Joshua Smothermon
Grandsons of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon



**Thomas Samuel Smothermon
and John William Smothermon**
Grandsons of
Delbert & Jackie Smothermon

... Our Grandchildren!



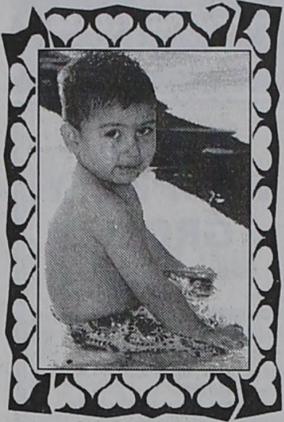
Samantha Herrera
Granddaughter of
Cande & Cris Melendez and JoAnn Herrera
Great-granddaughter of John & Teresa Garcia
and Susie Herrera



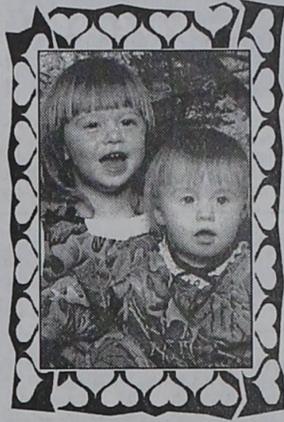
Amrah Laurent
Granddaughter of Rhonda Hill
Great-granddaughter of
Don & Ginger Laurent



Jasmine Cerissa Hill
Granddaughter of Jerry & Sandy Peña
Great-granddaughter of
Don & Ginger Laurent



Devon Bryce Martinez
Grandson of Richard & Bonnie Martinez
and Jerry & Sandy Peña
Great-grandson of Santos Martinez, Margarita Peralta,
Mr. & Mrs. Alfredo Barrera and Mr. & Mrs. Louis Peña



Sage & Alexandra Reed
Granddaughters of Jackie & Ronda Powers
and Kenny & Penny Reed
Great-granddaughters of Faye Powers
and Ruth Barringer



Brantley Powers
Grandson of Jackie & Ronda Powers
and Kenny & Judy Flippo
Great-grandson of Faye Powers
and Emily Ramey



Taylor Faith Fry
Granddaughter of Van & Carole Hopson
Great-granddaughter of V.C. & Dorothy
Hopson and Jerry & Rex Wooten



Reagan Mendoza
Granddaughter of James & Sandy Baker
and Frank Mendoza, Sr.



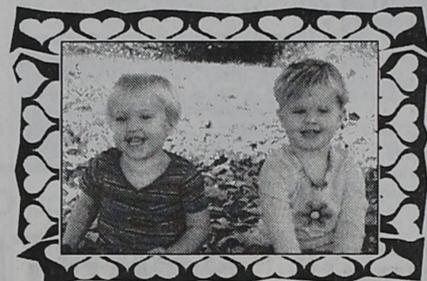
Brenna Mendoza
Granddaughter of James & Sandy Baker
and Frank Mendoza, Sr.



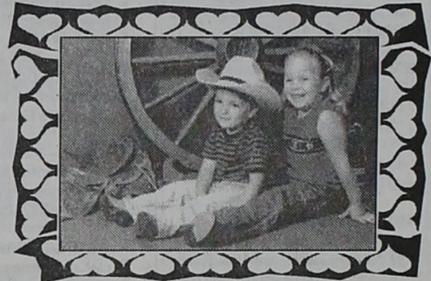
Joshua, Chloe & Jonathan Trevino
Grandchildren of Terry & Ann Widick
and Robert & Yolanda Trevino



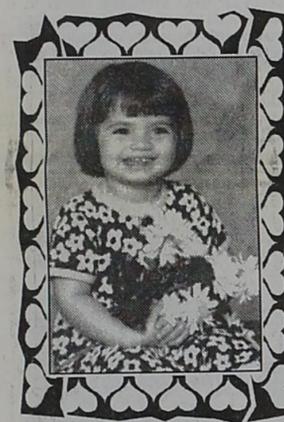
(Front) Dallas, Houston, Shelby, (Back) Leslee
Grandchildren of Lynn & Sharon Cox
Great-grandchildren of Lucille Odom and the late M. B. Odom



Carlie Heiman and Allie Schulte
Granddaughters of Denny & Dolores Heiman,
Gilbert & Dolores Schulte and Pat & Jan Betzen



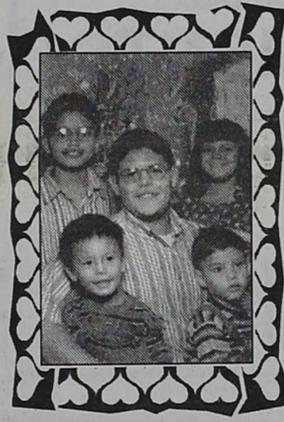
Cassie & Clay Gabel
Grandchildren of Tony & Fran Gabel and John & Doricell Davis
Great-grandchildren of Millicent Davis and Mrs. George Gabel



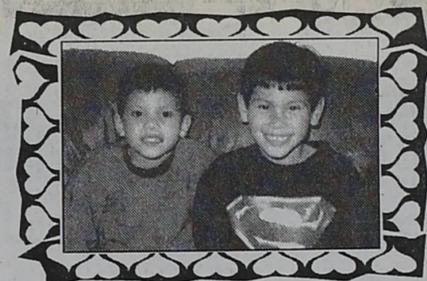
Annie Nelson
Granddaughter of
Charles & Lois Wales



Jody Murdock
Granddaughter of
Bobby & Wanda Murdock



**Daniel, Anthony, Marissa, Rudy
& Santos Jackson**
Grandchildren of
Tommy & Mary Guzman



Nicholas & Jacob Riley
Grandsons of Tommy & Mary Guzman



Matthew J. Ortiz, Mario D. Ortiz and Manny R. Ortiz
Grandsons of Natividad & Olivia Ortiz
and Elida Lopez



Molly, Andy & Hannah Carthel
Grandchildren of Charles & Lois Wales
and Bill & Ann Carthel



Katie Murdock & Alyson Smith
Granddaughters of Bobby & Wanda Murdock



Aubrie & Riley Durbin and Sydney Settle
Granddaughters of Martha Jo Hyman, Harold Hyman,
Joan & Paul Durbin and Mike & Billy Settle



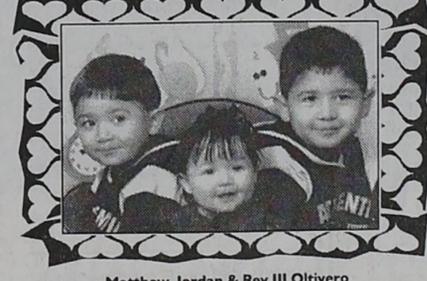
**Anna & Stevie Glaze, Stacie Bermea, Ashley Glaze,
Laura & Michael Espinosa, Justine Bermea,
Eli Bermea and Jesseka Bermea**
Grandchildren of Elias & Carolina Bermea



Ethan, Erin & Sam Wales
Grandchildren of Charles & Lois Wales



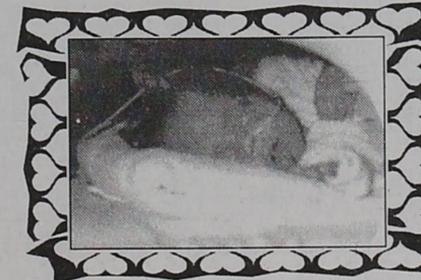
Brantlee Sells & Quinten Humphrey
Grandsons of Cheryle & Doug Pybus



Matthew, Jordan & Rey III Oliviero
Grandchildren of Rey & Sulema Oliviero and Luis & Flora Arguijo
Great-grandchildren of Eulalia Balderas



Chase & Kaden Hatla
Grandsons of Glenn & Diane Hatla and Carl & Jo Parks
Great-grandsons of Cleo Parks, Ella & Chester Miller,
Joy Dibert and Frances Hatla



Brianna Marie Martinez
Granddaughter of Richard & Bonnie Martinez
and Juan & Estella Oliveros
Great-granddaughter of Santos Martinez



(Back) Nick Gerber, (Middle) Jay Gerber, Jordan Hampton, Jackie Gerber, Bradley Gerber, Paige Gerber, Brittany Hampton, Brett Wilhelm, Nicole Hampton, Mackenzie Gerber, Matt Gerber, Kori Wilhelm, Haydon Gerber, Troy Gerber, Brett Wilhelm, (Front) Blakely Gerber and Jake Gerber
Grandchildren of Toby & Vincent Gerber, Great-grandchildren of Mary Gerber

Classified Advertising

Buy, Sell or Trade



PUBLISHER'S NOTICE
All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin; or any intention to make any such reference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that the dwellings advertised in the newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

HOUSE FOR SALE. Nice 1998 double-wide trailer for sale. 28 x 44, 3 bedroom, 2 full baths, new carpet throughout. Very nice and clean. \$31,800. Call 647-3747 for details. 1-42-4tp

2001 16-WIDE, 3+2, just \$1,000 down, \$171.74 month. 1-800-830-3515. (Se Habla Espanol). \$18,900 to finance, 10%, 360 months with approved credit. 1-42-4tc

NEW MOBILE HOMES repored from dealers. Save thousands. Honestly. Call 1-800-830-3515. 1-42-4tc

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

MORRIS PROPERTY GROUP
Scott Morris, Broker

SUNSET CIRCLE—Extra nice, three bedrooms, two baths, den, kitchen, dining, fireplace, double garage, patio with fenced yard. Ready to move in. Near school. \$80,000.

WEST OF DIMMITT. Five bedrooms, three full baths, basement, extra large two-car garage, large kitchen with lots of storage, brick. \$120,000.

NEWLY REMODELED, three bedrooms, one bath, one-car garage. \$39,950.

THREE BEDROOMS, two baths, double garage, patio, fenced yard, corner lot. \$58,000.

260 ACRES IRRIGATED LAND with Center Pivot, south of Dimmitt.

COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE—1200+ sq. ft., three offices, receptionist area, two bathrooms, coffee bar, easy access to bank, lots of parking. \$45,000.

218 E. Bedford, Dimmitt
647-3734, Office

Don and Shirley Cornett, Agents
647-5642, Home
647-6517 or 647-8155, Mobiles

14—Automobiles

1999 4X4 SUBURBAN. Loaded, 50,194 miles. (806) 647-4375, day or night. 14-43-tfc

FOR SALE: 1995 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, 4-wheel drive, good condition, \$9,000 or best offer. Call 647-1309, evenings; or 647-6647, days. 14-45-2tc

18—Services

ALTERATIONS done. Reasonable prices. 809 SW 6th St., Dimmitt. 647-3236. 18-44-4tc

TAX REFUND? Don't wait! We will do your tax returns free for your new home business. 1-888-539-7780. 18-42-4tc

GOOD CREDIT, BAD CREDIT, no credit. We finance mobile homes in house. 1-888-539-7780. 18-42-4tc

NEED A NEW HOME? We trade for almost anything. Call Bell Mobile Homes. 1-888-539-7780. Se Habla Espanol. 18-42-4tc

Call before noon Tuesday to place your classified ad:
647-3123

What your ad will cost:

- ✓ The first time your ad runs it will cost at least \$5 (25 cents per word with a \$5 minimum).
- ✓ Each consecutive time you run your ad with no changes, it will cost 25 cents per word with no minimum.
- ✓ A Card of Thanks will cost \$7.50.

Where to find ads:

1. Homes and land for sale	14. Automobiles for sale
2. Farms for sale	15. Recreational vehicles
3. Homes and apartments for rent	16. Auto parts and supplies
4. Things people want to rent	17. Business opportunities
5. Miscellaneous items for sale	18. Services
6. Garage sales	18A. Insurance
7. Household goods for sale	19. Students seeking work
8. Farm equipment and supplies	20. Help wanted
9. Agricultural services	21. Notices
10. Feed, seed and grain for sale	23. Lost and found
11. Farm produce for sale	24. Cards of thanks
12. Livestock and pets	25. Legal notices

1—Real Estate Homes & Land

WE BUY HOUSES for cash. 363-1254. 1-41-26tp

J-Cross INVESTMENTS
647-1700
304B W. Bedford, Dimmitt

NW 7TH STREET—Three bedrooms, one bath, new heater, carport, and fenced backyard. \$36,000.

HELP WITH CLOSING COST—Large three bedroom house on large corner lot, 2½ baths, fireplace, large basement, double garage, lots of storage, and sprinkler system. \$135,000.

NEW LISTING—Two bedroom, one bath, single car garage with fenced backyard. \$33,000.

TWO HOUSES—On a large corner lot. A three bedroom house and a two bedroom house. Both for \$46,000.

PINE STREET—Over 1,700 sq. ft., three bedrooms, two baths, fireplace, large den, new carpet, new Heat Pump, large backyard, single garage. \$65,000.

RUSKIN CIRCLE DRIVE—Three bedrooms, two baths, double garage, isolated master bedroom, covered patio and storage building. \$54,000.

NEW LISTING—Three bedroom, two bath, fireplace, central heat/air. Built-in microwave with new dishwasher, new tile, and a large shop in the back. \$65,000.

REMODELED HOME—Nice two bedroom, one bath house with a carport. \$35,000.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY—Large building for sale with new air conditioners and new roof. There are three established businesses with leases already in place.

Call Kenny Doss, Agent, 647-3248 or Jerry Cartwright, Broker, 647-1701

3—Real Estate For Rent

THREE BEDROOMS, two baths, with extra large basement. 400'x227' lot with rental possibilities. \$85,000. Will lease.

REDUCED! Three bedrooms, 1½ baths, with adjoining efficiency apartment. Good rental. \$27,900.

ELEGANT COUNTRY FEELING at edge of city. 2,660 sq. ft., three bedrooms, two baths, great sunroom, storm cellar, and lots of built-ins. \$130,000.

THREE BEDROOMS, two baths, den, carport, built-ins, nice neighborhood. \$38,000.

THREE BEDROOM with isolated master, 1½ baths, two-car garage. Reduced to \$66,000.

DRASTICALLY REDUCED! Owner says sell this prime home with three bedrooms, 2½ baths, basement and more.

HOME OF DISTINCTION—This four bedroom, 2½ bath is one of Dimmitt's finest.

HART—Three bedrooms, 1½ baths, central heat. Large insulated metal shop with plumbing and electricity. \$57,500.

WE HAVE THREE CHOICE commercial properties. One can be sold with adjoining CRP land.

VERY NICE two unit rental in Nazareth. Units can be bought separately.

½ SECTION LAND SE OF DIMMITT. Good water, two wells, two sprinklers. Price negotiable.

GEORGE REAL ESTATE
S. Hwy 385 647-4174
Jimmie R. George, Broker
Mobile, 647-7942

Mary Lou Schmucker.... 945-2679

3—Real Estate For Rent

3—Real Estate For Rent

Azteca Complex APARTMENTS
910 E. Jones, Dimmitt
★ NOW LEASING ★
1, 2 or 3 Bedrooms
We have Rent Assistance for qualified tenants (agricultural workers)

Equal Opportunity Housing

For more information, call (806) 647-3406
TDD 1-800-735-2989
Joe Franco, Manager

FOR RENT: 504 SW 6th, Dimmitt. 2 bedroom, 1 bath, washer/dryer hookups. \$275/mo. References required. 655-1273. 3-37-tfc

HOUSE FOR RENT: 602 NW 7th St. Two bedroom, 1 bath, 1-car garage. (806) 335-3447. 3-44-2tp

20—Help Wanted

THE DIMMITT POLICE DEPARTMENT is accepting applications for peace officer position. Must be licensed as a Texas peace officer. Experience is preferred. Applications will be taken through Feb. 9. For more information, contact the Dimmitt Police Department at 806-647-4545 or 200 East Jones. 20-44-2tc

25—Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
NO PR 2416

THE ESTATE OF FRANCIS G. ORTEGA, DECEASED IN THE COUNTY COURT OF CASTRO COUNTY, TEXAS

NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF FRANCIS G. ORTEGA, DECEASED
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of FRANCIS G. ORTEGA, Deceased, were issued to JOSEPH J. ORTEGA on the 30th day of January, 2001, in the proceedings indicated above, which proceedings are still pending. All persons having claims against said estate, which is being administered in the County Court above named, are required to present the same, given before suit upon same are barred by the general statute of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time prescribed by law, as follows:
MR. JOSEPH J. ORTEGA
804 SW 5th Street
Dimmitt, Texas 79027
25-45-1tc

20—Help Wanted

RN FULL-TIME POSITION in home health and hospice. Experience preferred. Five days a week with benefits. Castro County Hospital District, 310 W. Halsell St., PO Box 278, Dimmitt 79027. Phone 647-2191; Fax 647-2407. 20-45-1tc

22—Notices

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, 647-4594. 22-44-4tc

25—Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
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MR. JOSEPH J. ORTEGA
804 SW 5th Street
Dimmitt, Texas 79027
25-45-1tc

25—Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
Castro County Commissioners Court is requesting proposals for the following insurance coverage scheduled to expire April 14, 2001: Property, Inland Marine, General Liability, Auto Liability and Property Damage, Public Officials' Liability, Law Enforcement Liability.

Underwriting data can be reviewed from existing files in the County Auditor's Office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Sealed proposals must be received in the County Judge's Office by 5 p.m. on March 9, 2001. The proposals will be opened and considered at the regularly scheduled Commissioners Court meeting at 10 a.m. on March 12, 2001.

Proposers must use unit pricing for each type of coverage. Castro County will pay annual premiums. No bid bonds are required.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to accept or reject proposals and/or to negotiate items in proposals to best serve Castro County's insurance exposures.
IRENE MILLER, Castro County Judge
25-44-2tc

A mother is not wise because she knows more, but because she understands more.

Children are remarkable. They remember everything—whether it happened or not.

A mother understands what our hearts are saying.

A mother is hope when you're doubtful.

A good mother is worth a hundred schoolmasters.

2—Farms For Sale

CASTRO COUNTY
Buy 400 acres with 280 acre circle, 3 irr. wells, municipal effluent and return system, Quonset barn with concrete floor, lease 75 acres with one irr. well, lake pump, cattle barn & steel pens. Section south of Hart with pivot for 1/2 mile sprinkler & irr. wells, wheat, corn, cotton allotments, excellent yields, pavement.
1/2 section east of Dimmitt with pivot for 1/4 mile sprinkler, 2 irr. wells with access to 5 more wells, part C.R.P., part native grass.
SCOTT LAND COMPANY
Ben G. Scott (806)647-4375 day or night

3—Real Estate For Rent

DIMMITT SENIOR CITIZENS APARTMENTS
622 N.W. 5th
ONE AND TWO BEDROOM APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Call 647-2638
S&S Properties

2—Farms For Sale

Stafford Apartments
Call for availability, 647-2631.

5—For Rent, Misc.

RENT TO OWN
NEW T.V.'S, VCR'S & APPLIANCES
No credit checks.
KITRELL ELECTRONICS
647-2197 Dimmitt

10—Agricultural Services

CRP SOWING and/or shredding. Seed available. Call Gerald Acker, 945-2274 or 647-6005, mobile. 10-41-16tp

CUSTOM FARMING: No-till, drill, mini-till, tillage equipment. Kenneth or Ashley Heard. (806) 945-2270 or (806) 627-4623. Mobile, 657-7980 or 647-7981. 10-8-tfc

CUSTOM SWATHING AND BALING. Call Roy Schilling, 647-2401, hon 9; 647-7066, mobile. 1u-27-tfc

CUSTOM SWATHING AND BALING. Matt Gfeller, 647-4551, home; 647-6754, mobile. 10-49-tfc

TEXAS STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

TexSCAN Week of February 4, 2001

ADOPTION
NOTE: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoptions.
ADOPT: YOUNG, LOVING couple will give your baby every opportunity life can offer. Medical/legal expenses paid. Melissa & Robert, 1-800-613-2394.
ADOPT: YOUR BABY will be raised with love, laughter and all the opportunities life can offer. Medical/legal expenses paid. Barbara & Christopher, 1-800-595-6976.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
ABSOLUTE GOLD MINE! Nothing down. Established York Mint routes with 22 locations. EZ 6-8 hour/week. No selling. Net \$52k yearly (approximately). Minimum investment \$4,000. Toll free 1-866-250-2610.

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ACCELERATE YOUR FUTURE, run western or 48 states. Glass/heavy haul 3 years OTR/ 1 year flatbed experience. Combined Transport 1-800-290-2327. www.combinedtransport.com.
COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced. 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

DRIVER: COVENANT TRANSPORT * Coast to coast runs * Teams start up to 46 cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

DRIVER - IT PAYS to start with us. Call SRT today 1-877-244-7293 or 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY *Great pay *Paid weekly *Excellent benefits *New equipment *\$1,250 sign-on bonus *Student graduates welcome. Southern Refrigerated Transport.

DRIVERS 2-DAY ORIENTATION Great pay, miles, support staff. Home at your request. Class A CDL required. We'll be there for you. Continental Express, 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS: ALLIED VAN Lines has openings in electronics and trade shows. Class A CDL with 1 year OTR experience. Tractor purchase available. Call 1-800-634-2200, Dept. ATXS.

CDL/OTR DRIVERS choice *Solos to 35 cpm *Teams to 46 cpm *Owner/operators to 90 cpm *Excellent lease/purchase *Full benefits *Home weekly some areas. Call Big Lou, 1-888-747-3447.

DRIVERS-OWNER/OPERATORS: Run regional. Home weekly! Paid: Base plate, permits, fuel taxes 81 cpm. Loaded and empty plus fuel surcharge. 1-800-454-2887, Arnold Transportation.

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- EASTER**—320 acres, two wells, owner says "SELL."
- PARMER COUNTY, WEST OF DIMMITT**—960 acres, two half milers, good water, picture perfect place, on pavement.
- DODD AREA**—603 acres, three sprinklers, excellent water.
- HEREFORD AREA**—3500 head growing yard, on pavement, well maintained.

310 Main Street, Suite 103
Mulshoe, Texas
Office: (806) 272-3100 Home (806) 965-2468

Eye exam initiative announced

Thousands of American seniors now have access to the eye care they need, thanks to an innovative diabetes eye exam initiative.

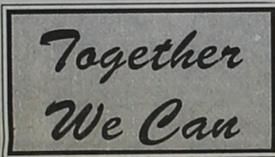
This historic partnership between the public and private sector focuses on Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes and addresses the two major barriers to receiving eye care—cost and transportation. It also raises awareness of the connection between diabetes and blindness and the importance of an annual dilated eye exam.

Medicare beneficiaries with diabetes may be matched with a volunteer ophthalmologist by calling EyeCare America—National Eye Care Project (NECP) at 1-800-222-3937. The project matches seniors who have not had a medical eye exam in the past three years with a volunteer ophthalmologist in Texas. The volunteer ophthalmologist will perform a dilated eye examination and provide one year of treatment for any condition diagnosed during the first exam, at no out-of-pocket cost to the patient. The NECP volunteers have agreed to accept Medicare or private insurance as payment in full.

"Approximately 10% of Medicare beneficiaries have diabetes and 600,000 of them have not had an eye exam in the past two years or more," explains Dr. George C. Thorne, president of the Texas Ophthalmological Association (TOA). "I can't stress enough the importance of getting a dilated eye exam immediately after being diagnosed with diabetes. If caught early, changes in the retina caused by diabetes may be treated before they become severe."

The Texas Medical Foundation is sending information directly to Medicare beneficiaries who qualify for the program, as well as addressing transportation issues through state and local groups.

A mother tries to teach her children right from wrong. She should also try to teach them a sense of direction.



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 Feb. 8-16.

DIMMITT Breakfast to go
THURSDAY: Fresh donut, banana and milk.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: Blueberry cereal bar, apple juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Peanut butter and jelly sandwich, applesauce and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Mini cake donuts, orange juice and milk.
THURSDAY: Pancake on a stick with sausage, fresh banana and milk.
FRIDAY: Cinnamon rolls, fruit cocktail and milk.

Preschool-First Grade Lunch
THURSDAY: Shrimp poppers, hash brown potatoes, tossed salad, banana bread squares and milk.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: Nachos with cheese, Mexipinto beans, jellied applesauce, jalapeno peppers and milk.
TUESDAY: Steak fingers, onion rings, tossed salad, wheat rolls and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Hot dog on a bun with chili, corn on the cob, tater tots and milk.
THURSDAY: Bologna and cheese sandwich, peas, hamburger salad and milk.
FRIDAY: Red Baron Pepperoni Pizza, potato wedges, fruited gelatin and milk.

Second-12th Grade Lunch
THURSDAY: Choice of shrimp poppers, ham and cheese sandwich or cheese enchilada with sauce; hash brown potatoes, potato chips or refried beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad or guacamole salad; banana bread squares, Spanish rice or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: Choice of nachos with cheese, grilled cheese sandwich with a bowl of chili or new Mexican enchiladas; mashed potatoes and gravy, Mexipinto beans or jellied applesauce; tossed salad, taco condiment salad or fresh spinach salad; hot rolls, Fideo Mexicano or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
TUESDAY: Choice of steak fingers, macaroni and cheese or turkey fajita with onions and peppers; onion rings, refried beans or spinach; tossed salad, pasta salad or rainbow salad; cornbread, wheat rolls or flour tortilla; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of hot dog on a bun with chili, southern fried chicken or meat loaf with creole sauce; corn on the cob, tater tots or baked sweet potato with apple; tossed salad, coleslaw or cucumber and tomato salad; hot wheat rolls, cornmeal twist bread sticks or potato chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
THURSDAY: Choice of bologna and cheese sandwich, barbecued chicken or fish nuggets; stir fried rice, peas or Italian vegetable salad; tossed salad, broccoli and cauliflower salad or hamburger salad; angel flake

biscuits, French bread or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: Choice of Red Baron Pepperoni Pizza, chicken and dumplings or green enchilada casserole; potato wedges, pork and beans or southern collard greens; tossed salad, cucumber and tomato salad or fruited gelatin; hot rolls, cornmeal yeast rolls or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.

HART Breakfast
THURSDAY: Pancakes with syrup, sausage, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: No school.
TUESDAY: Breakfast pizza, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers, variety of cereal and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Biscuits, Canadian bacon, scrambled eggs, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, graham crackers, raisins and milk.
THURSDAY: Pancakes with syrup, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Pancake and chicken breakfast stick, pancake syrup, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal, graham crackers, raisins and milk.

Lunch
THURSDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, burrito or enchilada casserole with chips; tortilla pieces, corn, salad, fresh fruit, pineapple pudding, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: No school.
TUESDAY: Choice of burrito, pork chop or macaroni and cheese; wheat rolls, carrot sticks, salad, gelatin dessert, pears, peaches and milk, punch or tea.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of pizza, burrito or enchilada; tortilla pieces, salad, corn, peaches, pineapple pudding, and milk, punch or tea.
THURSDAY: Choice of burrito, chicken sandwich with chips or barbecued beef on a roll; potato puffs, peaches, pinto beans, salad, ice cream and milk, punch or tea.
FRIDAY: Choice of burrito, chicken sandwich with chips or chicken fajitas; salad, refried beans, gelatin dessert, ice cream, royal brownies, pineapple and milk, punch or tea.

NAZARETH Breakfast
THURSDAY: No school.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: Blueberry muffins, cereal, orange juice and milk.
TUESDAY: French toast and sausage, cereal, orange juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Sausage and roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
THURSDAY: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Canadian bacon on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.

Lunch
THURSDAY: No school.
FRIDAY: No school.
MONDAY: * Tater tot casserole or chef's

salad, sopapilla, tossed salad, corn, fruit salad, pudding and milk or juice.
TUESDAY: * Spaghetti and roll or pizza, tossed salad, green beans, applesauce, peach cobbler and milk or juice.
WEDNESDAY: * Hamburger or chicken sandwich, curly fries, lettuce, beans, peaches, Valentine cupcakes and milk or juice.
THURSDAY: * Chicken fried steak and roll or pizza, tossed salad, potatoes and gravy, applesauce, Jell-O and milk or juice.
FRIDAY: * Soft taco or taco salad, lettuce, pinto beans, pineapple, cookies and milk or juice.

Flu shots will be available at shot clinic

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

Flu shots also will be available at the clinic and will be administered to the general public.

The immunization clinics will offer protection against several childhood diseases.

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

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

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1 - Year	5.30% ^{APY*}	5.30% interest rate	Minimum Deposit \$5,000
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5 - Year	6.00% ^{APY*}	6.00% interest rate	Minimum Deposit \$5,000

*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) Interest cannot remain on deposit, periodic payout of interest is required. Early withdrawal may not be permitted. Names of current insurers are available on request. As of 2/5/01.

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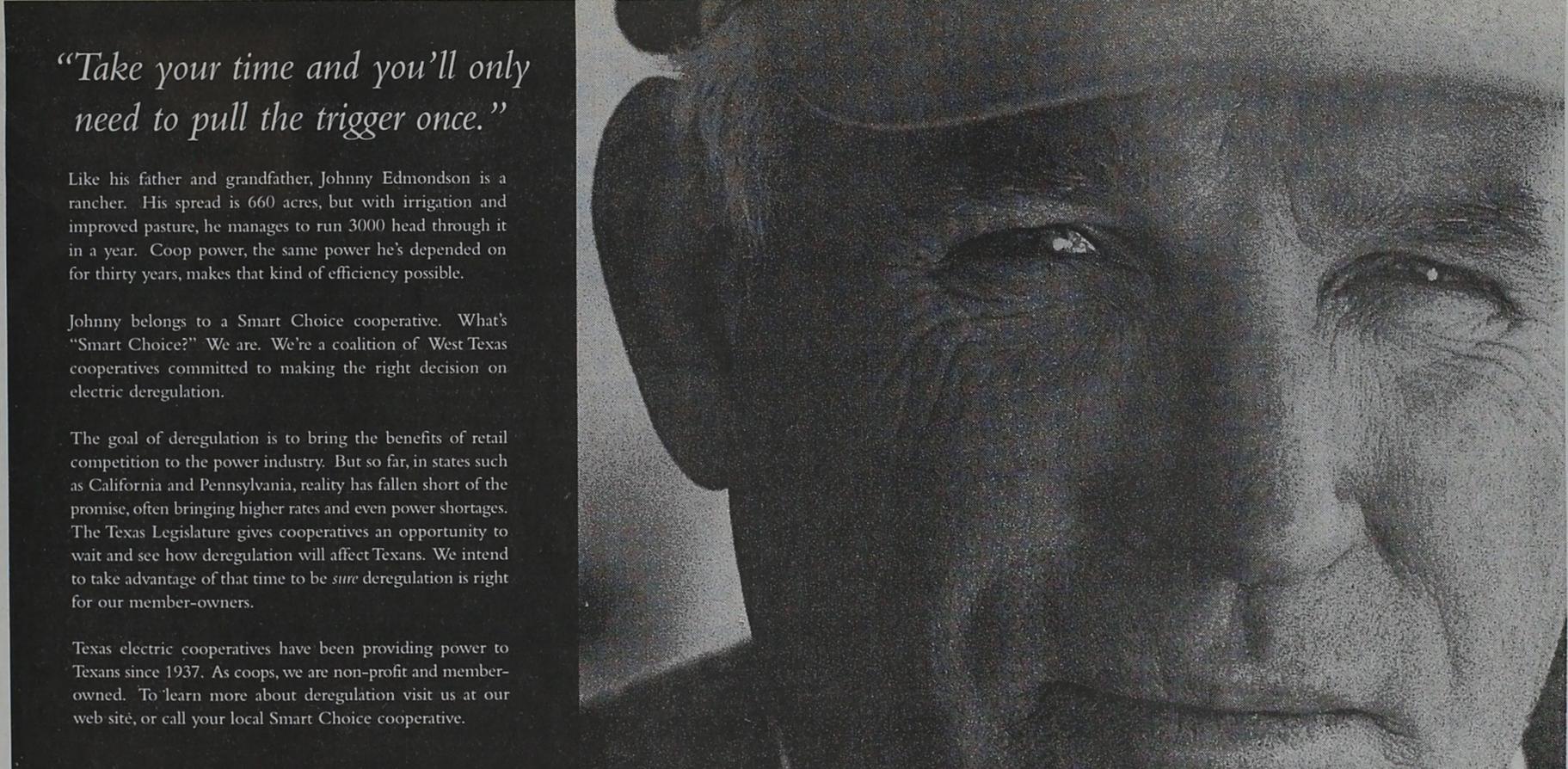
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Offer available on 3" Alco Advantage Processing or 4" or 5" Kodak Premium Processing prints. 3" prints from 110, 126, disc and 35mm film. 4" or 5" prints from 35mm film only. C-41 Process only. Not available on (Advanced Photo System - Advantix), Panoramic or 1/2 frame 135 film. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



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Johnny belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We are. We're a coalition of West Texas cooperatives committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even power shortages. The Texas Legislature gives cooperatives an opportunity to wait and see how deregulation will affect Texans. We intend to take advantage of that time to be sure deregulation is right for our member-owners.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. To learn more about deregulation visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice cooperative.

the smart choice.

Your Smart Choice Electric Cooperatives.

- Big Country Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Coleman County Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

www.smartchoicecoops.com

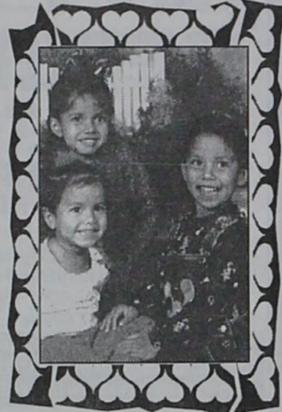
Our Favorite Valentines



Jorge Enrique Martinez
Grandson of Jose & Ninfa Velo



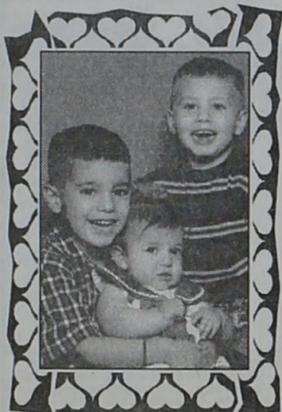
Isreal Montoya
Grandson of Petra Barrera



Diamond, Brittany & Gavino Luna
Grandchildren of Domingo & Maria Martinez and Barney & Francis Luna



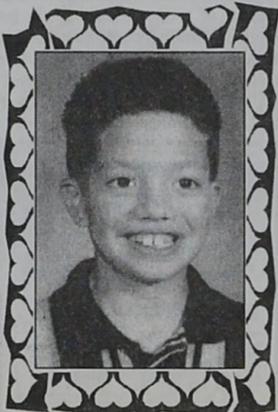
Brandon Eli Navarro
Grandson of Roy & Rosa Tijerina



Anthony Torres, Michael Torres and Hannah Torres
Grandchildren of Paul & Michele Torres



Maddi, Malky & Kalen Reynolds
Grandchildren of Arnold & Dalia Peralez



Allen Douglas Peralez
Grandson of Arnold & Dalia Peralez

RES students planning penny collection effort

Students at Richardson Elementary School in Dimmitt will be collecting Pennies for Patients next week, Feb. 12-16, with the proceeds to benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Students will bring their spare pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters to school and contribute them to their classroom's collection container. The class which raises the most money will receive a catered luncheon courtesy of the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Parents are encouraged to send their spare change with their children to help in the fund-raising effort. Those interesting in making a donation may call Jennifer Howell at RES at 647-4131, or send the money with a student.

Over 350 schools in the North Texas area are participating in the campaign. The top three fund-raising schools and the top three schools for the highest amount raised per student will be presented with trophies by the Society.

Last year the project raised over \$359,000. This year the goal has been set at \$500,000, and RES is helping the North Texas Chapter

reach that goal. Funds raised will support the Society's mission to cure leukemia, lym-

phoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma, and improve the quality of life for patients and their families.



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U.S. Bankruptcy Court Case Case 0035078-H2-11

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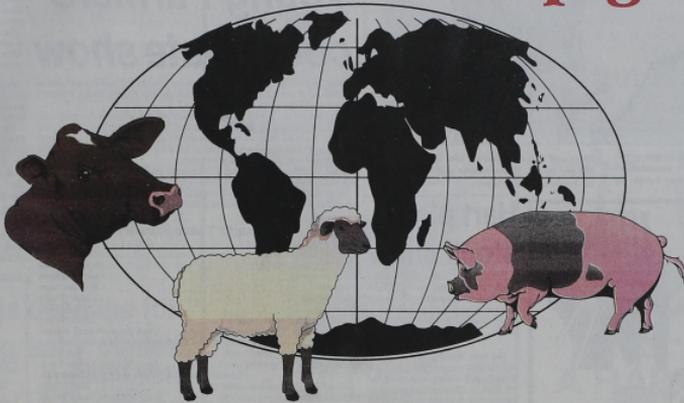
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Have flocked to Castro County to parade before judges in the

Castro County Junior Livestock Show

conducted by the Dimmitt Young Farmers

**Friday and Saturday
at the Castro County Expo Building**

*Lamb Show, 9 a.m. Friday
Steer & Heifer Show, Friday after Lamb Show
Barrow Show, Friday, after Steer & Heifer Show
Premium Auction Sale, 1 p.m. Saturday*





THE GRAND CHAMPION LAMB in last year's Castro County Junior Livestock Show was exhibited by Trinity Robb (left). The sheep was bought by

Coby and Connie Gilbreath and Gene Bradley for \$20 per pound. Macee Schulte and Kenley Kleman are holding Robb's plaques. Photo by Anne Acker

Robb, Schulte, Nelson claim grand honors in 2000 county stock show

Trinity Robb, Ross Schulte and Shawn Nelson walked into the winner's circle with the grand champion lamb, barrow and steer at the 2000 stock show, and each animal sold for premium prices in the auction sale. Robb's grand champion lamb, a 119-pound medium weight medium wool, was purchased for \$20 a pound, with \$11 coming from Coby and Connie Gilbreath and \$9 provided by Gene Bradley.

Nelson won the steer show with a 1,160-pound cross, and it earned a bid of \$3 per pound. Of that amount, \$2 was provided by his grandparents, Edmund and Joyce Hunter and Allena Nelson, and his uncle, Ricky Hunter. The other \$1 per pound was provided by the Nazareth Buyers' Club. The top barrow in the show was a 260-pound cross driven by Schulte. The grand champion was purchased

by Rafter 3 Feedyard, Andy Rogers Feedyard, Marvin Schulte and Tulia Livestock Auction for \$10 a pound. The reserve champions in the show were entered by Nelson (steer), Mary Bradley (lamb) and Garrett Kleman (barrow). Nelson's reserve champion steer, a 1,265-pound cross, brought \$2 per pound from the Nazareth Buyers' Club. The runner-up lamb, a 129-finewool cross shown by Bradley, earned a bid of \$19 per pound from her grandfather, G.L. Willis. The reserve-champion barrow, a 260-pound Hampshire owned by Kleman, was purchased for \$8.50 per pound by Valley Sprinkler of Olton. The senior showmanship winners at the 2000 show were Nelson for steers, Cliff Wright for lambs and Jeremy Simpson for barrows.

Young Farmers coordinate show

The Castro County Junior Livestock Show wouldn't be possible without the hard work of several local men who, through the Dimmitt Young Farmers, organize and direct the event each year. Members of the Young Farmers establish the rules, organize the entries and keep things running smoothly from the first day of the show through the sale. They ready the show barns and the show ring for the big event, then direct the show on Friday and run the sale on Saturday. After the sale they tally the totals then issue checks to the youngsters. Each member deserves a big thank you for his hard work, especially from the exhibitors who benefit from the event each year. Here's a list of the Dimmitt Young Farmers officers and those who will be in charge of various divisions and activities at this year's show.

Dimmitt Young Farmers

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| Young Farmers President | ..... | Curt Summers |
| General Superintendent | ..... | Curt Summers |
| Assistant Superintendent | ..... | Andy Williams |
| Vice President | ..... | Andy Williams |
| Reporter | ..... | Malcom Sager |
| Secretary | ..... | Matt Gfeller |
| Treasurer | ..... | Chad Davis |
| Steer Division Superintendent | ..... | Justin Nelson |
| Assistant Steer Superintendents | ..... | Chad Davis, Rodney Hunter, |
| Robert Boozer, Rick Bagwell, Tod Bradley, Greg Odom, Roy Schilling | | |
| Lamb Division Superintendent | ..... | Tim Wales |
| Assistant Lamb Superintendents | ..... | Jason Wooten, Lonnie Robb, |
| Malcom Sager, Kurt Wales and Chaun Gunstream | | |
| Swine Division Superintendent | ..... | Matt Gfeller |
| Assistant Swine Superintendents | ..... | Andy Williams, Jason Nelson |
| Matt Gfeller, Danny Underwood and Jay Davis | | |
| Auctioneers | ..... | Jack Howell, John Davis, Greg Odom, |
| Jason Wooten, Kenneth Gregg | | |
| Building Superintendent | ..... | Danny Underwood |
| Assistant Building Superintendent | ..... | Kurt Wales |
| Clerks | ..... | Dimmitt Young Farmers |
| Public Relations Liaison | ..... | Greg Odom |
| Floor Buyers Committee | ..... | Dimmitt Young Farmers |

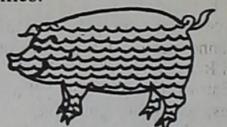
Before the prize animals were sold at last year's auction, Jack Howell auctioned off the floor on barrows, lambs and steers. The lamb floor was purchased by Dan Cure of Olton for \$66 per hundredweight. The barrow floor sold for \$35 per hundred to Randy Hathorne. The lone steer sold on the floor was bought by Rafter 3 Feedyard for \$69 per hundred.

In the junior showmanship competition, prize winners were Dennis Underwood for steers, Raynee Bradley for lambs and Keli Schulte for barrows.



Water

Water is considered a nutrient because it is essential for life. A 50-pound pig will drink about one gallon of water per day. A 150-pound pig will drink about two gallons of water per day. Therefore, clean water should be available in adequate amounts at all times.



Minerals are necessary for hog's chemical reactions

Minerals are necessary for many of a pig's body's chemical reaction. Unlike carbohydrates and proteins, which are needed in large quantities, minerals are needed only in small amounts, but they are just as important for growth and reproduction.

Mineral requirements for hogs still are being studied, but at present it is believed that hogs require at least 14 different ones—calcium, phosphorous, sodium, chlorine, iodine, iron, copper, potassium, manganese, sulfur, cobalt, zinc and selenium.

Show your support for today's youth by attending the Junior Livestock Show and Sale Friday and Saturday

Bryant's Sales & Service

Who has better youngsters raising better project animals than we have in Castro County?

NOBODY!

... and they'll prove it again at the **Livestock Show & Sale** Friday and Saturday

Come out and see for yourself!

AgriFarm Industries L.L.C.

Hart plans stock show

The Castro County Junior Livestock Show is this weekend, and Hart students are gearing up for that show as well as their own, which is being planned for tonight (Thursday).

The Hart Junior Livestock Show will be held tonight (Thursday) at 6 at the Expo Building in Dimmitt and 24 Hart students are expected to exhibit their livestock projects in the show.

The Hart Buyers Club is among those organizing the club show and they are also seeking donations to help with their purchases in this year's county sale.

From the weigh-in to the final clean-up, a lot of adult volunteers give a lot of time and labor to insure the success of our Junior Livestock Show and Sale. To the Dimmitt Young Farmers, judges, 4-H and FFA adult leaders, buyers, and others who help with the show: **THANK YOU!**



Brooke Insurance and Financial Services
315 South Broadway, Dimmitt
647-5244 • Toll Free, 1-888-647-5244 • Fax 647-3334

FARM LIFE

is the best way of life in the world, and the best way to live it to its fullest is through participation in farm youth organizations.

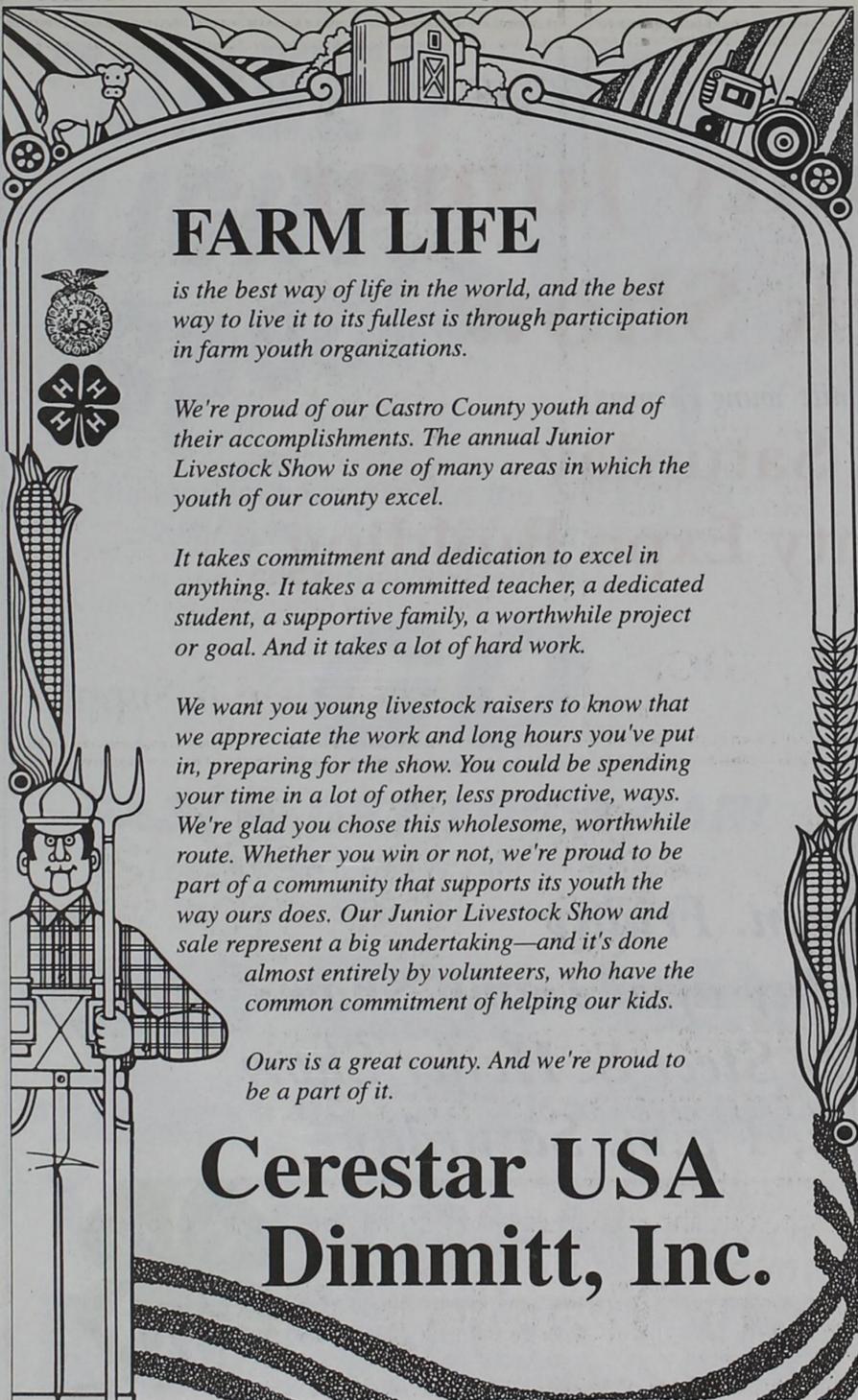
We're proud of our Castro County youth and of their accomplishments. The annual Junior Livestock Show is one of many areas in which the youth of our county excel.

It takes commitment and dedication to excel in anything. It takes a committed teacher, a dedicated student, a supportive family, a worthwhile project or goal. And it takes a lot of hard work.

We want you young livestock raisers to know that we appreciate the work and long hours you've put in, preparing for the show. You could be spending your time in a lot of other, less productive, ways. We're glad you chose this wholesome, worthwhile route. Whether you win or not, we're proud to be part of a community that supports its youth the way ours does. Our Junior Livestock Show and sale represent a big undertaking—and it's done almost entirely by volunteers, who have the common commitment of helping our kids.

Ours is a great county. And we're proud to be a part of it.

Cerestar USA Dimmitt, Inc.



4-H'ers will operate concession stand at county livestock show

Castro County 4-H'ers will operate a full concession stand during the Castro County Junior Livestock Show on Friday and Saturday at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

4-H adult leaders Nicola Furr and Carole Bishop are chairmen for this year's fundraising project and they will be assisted by County Parent/Leader Association officers Mary Alice Lane and David Horn; and club managers Debbie Horn, Nazareth; Patrice Hill, Dimmitt/Bethel; LaNell Whitaker, Hart; and Jackie Odom, Horse Club.

This year, the 4-H elected not to operate a concession stand during the Nazareth and Hart club shows, which were scheduled for Wednesday and today (Thursday).

The concession stand will open Friday at 7 a.m. and members of the Hart 4-H Club will man the stand until 1 p.m.

Members of the 4-H County Council will work in the concession stand from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. while the Nazareth 4-H Club will work from 1 p.m. until finish, and will be in charge of clean-up on Friday.

On Saturday, the Dimmitt/Bethel 4-H Club will work from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members of the 4-H Horse Club will work from 12 noon until finished, and will be responsible for clean-up duties.

All workers must be 4-H members or leaders and workers must sign in when beginning their shift.

Work assignments are as follows:

- ◆ **Junior I:** Clean tables and front areas.
- ◆ **Junior II:** Pour drinks, wait on

windows and wash dishes.

◆ **Senior:** Collect money and help prepare food.

◆ **Adults:** Prepare food and keep aware of food shortages.

Several 4-H groups are asked to bag ice and take the filled bags to Thriftway for storage until the stock show:

Sunday: Horse Club.

Monday: Hart Club.

Tuesday: Dimmitt/Bethel Club.

Wednesday: Nazareth Club.

Club managers are asked to set up a work schedule for their individual clubs. A minimum of five to seven adults and six 4-H'ers are needed for each shift.

Youngsters must be in the third grade to be allowed in the kitchen because of health and safety standards.

Leaders should designate club members to help with cleanup on Friday, Feb. 9, after the show and on Saturday, Feb. 10, after the sale.

Each club is responsible for furnishing five dozen cookies and for making Rice Krispie treats. Each should be cut in a 2"x2" bar and be individually wrapped in clear plastic wrap. Each club also is required to bring five fruit pies.

Club chairmen will be responsible for picking up supplies at the store.

Members of the clean-up crew should clean tables, pick up trash, sweep bleachers and clean restrooms at the end of each day. Each club must have at least four members present for clean-up details.

For more information, contact County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal at 647-4115.

March 16 is deadline for 4-H photography contest

Castro County 4-H'ers interested in photography have until March 16 to select their best work for entry in the county photography contest.

All photographs entered in the contest must have been taken by 4-H members. Entries must be in the form of prints or enlargements and can be color or black-and-white. Photos should be mounted on white or black mat or frame board to be displayed uniformly.

County winners in each category will be entered in the Texas State 4-H Photography Contest and Exhibit.

All entries must be in the county office before March 16. Winners will be announced at the Castro County 4-H Roundup on March 20.

Entries that do not follow the rules, category guidelines, class description or general guidelines won't advance to state competition.

Photos should be true to the negative and should not be enhanced or altered in any way.

Categories for the contest are as follows:

◆ **Single color print**—For uniformity, the exhibit will consist only of 8"x10".

◆ **Single black-and-white print**—For uniformity, the exhibit will consist only of 8"x11" black-and-white prints mounted on white or black mat or foam board. The prints must be glued to mat or foam board the same size as the prints. Photos should not be cropped smaller than 8"x10".

The classes are:

1. People (portraits, candid, etc., not necessarily 4-H related).
2. Animals (domestic, zoo, wild-life, etc., not necessarily 4-H related).

3. Landscape and scenic.

4. Flora and plants (still life style photos, for example, focusing on a specific subject such as a single rose or close up of a tree).

5. Humor (candid or funny photos of people, animals or objects).

6. Promote 4-H (pictures that cap-

ture 4-H members or leaders in action, demonstrate 4-H programs or activities and communicate the meaning of 4-H to exhibit viewers). All 4-H photos must include the 4-H Clover or the word "4-H" as well as one or more 4-H-age youth.

7. Career photos (2001 contest limited to pictures of careers in food and fashion photography. Photos should include pictures of persons modeling, table and/or food arrangements, etc.).

8. Digital photography (print out of the picture along with a 3.5-inch disk with photograph saved in JPG format must be attached to back of mounted photo. Photo must have accompanying disk. Only one picture file per disk. Additional files will result in disqualification of photo).

For a copy of the judging sheet and standards of excellence sheet, contact the Extension Office at 647-4115. State rules and guidelines also are available from the Extension Office.

County 4-H'ers plan fashion show March 20

The Castro County 4-H Fashion Show will be held Tuesday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at the Extension Office in Dimmitt.

Categories for this year's contest will be the following:

- ◆ Dressy
- ◆ Formal
- ◆ Casual
- ◆ Specialty

4-H'ers may enter either the "Buying" or "Construction" contest in any of the previously-mentioned categories.

A complete set of rules for the contest is available at the Extension Office.

Senior 4-H'ers who win at the county level will advance to the District 4-H Fashion Show, which will be held on Tuesday, April 3.



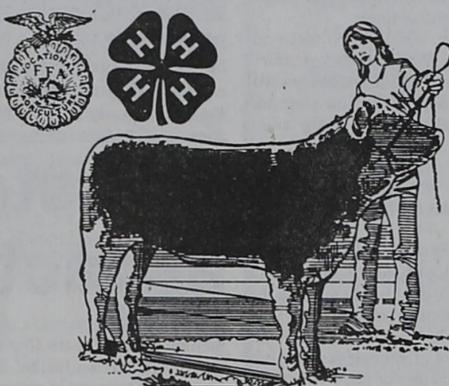
That Personal Touch

That's what our youngsters have given their show animals as they've prepared them for the ring. And that's what makes our show, and our youngsters, so special.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU!



647-3169 • 112 E. Jones, Dimmitt



Best Wishes

for another successful

Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale

from

Tulia Livestock Auction



Learning by Doing

The best way to learn many skills is to put your lessons to practice, under good supervision. That's a hallmark of both the FFA and the 4-H programs. You'll see how well it works during the annual Castro County Junior Livestock Show.

Triple A Pump Co., Inc.

938-2114

Hart

Day in and day out, our FFA and 4-H youngsters have been working hard, feeding and grooming and working with their show animals, getting ready for the Junior Livestock Show & Sale. And now the time has come for them to bring their cattle, sheep and pigs in and



on all the awards and a great feeling of accomplishment! Let's all come out and support their efforts!

Don Hargrove

Contractor



We hope the Castro County Junior Livestock Show & Sale will be

A HAPPY TIME

for our 4-H and FFA youngsters, the Dimmitt Young Farmers, the buyers and everyone associated with this great show. Let's all get out and support our kids!

Hart of the Plains Pump, Inc.

Hart

939-2570



Don't you dare miss seeing the Castro County Junior Livestock Show this weekend. It's one of the best of its kind anywhere, and we can all be proud of it.

Thank you, Young Farmers, for producing the show. And good luck, kids!

Nazareth Feed & Supply



Nobody dresses 'em up or shows 'em off better than our kids do!

Congratulations, 4-H and FFA members on work well done. We wish you well with your show animals—and on all your future projects!

Westway Trading Corp.

Fred Bruegel Jr., Manager • 647-3138 • N. Hwy. 385, Dimmitt



The Price Is Right

We commend the floor buyers and premium bidders who make our annual Junior Livestock Sale one of the best in Texas. You're underwriting a great program for our youngsters!

Dimmitt Equipment Co.

Junior livestock program offers way for families to spend time together

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article includes information from an interview with John Kearney conducted by David Wied for the October 1999 issue of "Purple Circle" magazine. Kearney evaluated junior meat goats at the 2000 Southwestern Junior Livestock Exposition in Fort Worth.)

Kearney, a former ag-science teacher in Texas, believes that is one of the best reasons for having the program. "There is very little correlation between the junior livestock show industry and the commercial industry—there never has been and there never will be," Kearney told David Wied of *Purple Circle* magazine in a recent interview.

The junior livestock program is a family-oriented program, and John

"The junior livestock show program is simply a game that provides

an opportunity for a parent/parents to spend more quality time with their child/children than any other activity available," Kearney said. "Once we lose sight of this objective, we may just as well close the program down."

Kearney grew up and attended school in Sweetwater and he holds a bachelor's degree in range animal science from Sul Ross State University. He also holds a master's degree from Sam Houston State University. He was an ag-science teacher in Marfa and Sterling City before moving on to teach at Howard College. He has assisted with many junior livestock shows and summer jackpots across Texas. He has judged cattle, sheep and goats.

Most recently, Kearney judged the junior meat goats at the Southwestern Junior Livestock Exposition in Fort Worth.

He says there are several life skills youngsters can learn from a junior livestock show program.

Management, morals and people skills are among these. Help others, but don't be taken advantage of. Watch your backside," Kearney said. "If someone crowds you in, simply reposition your animal and take control of the situation."

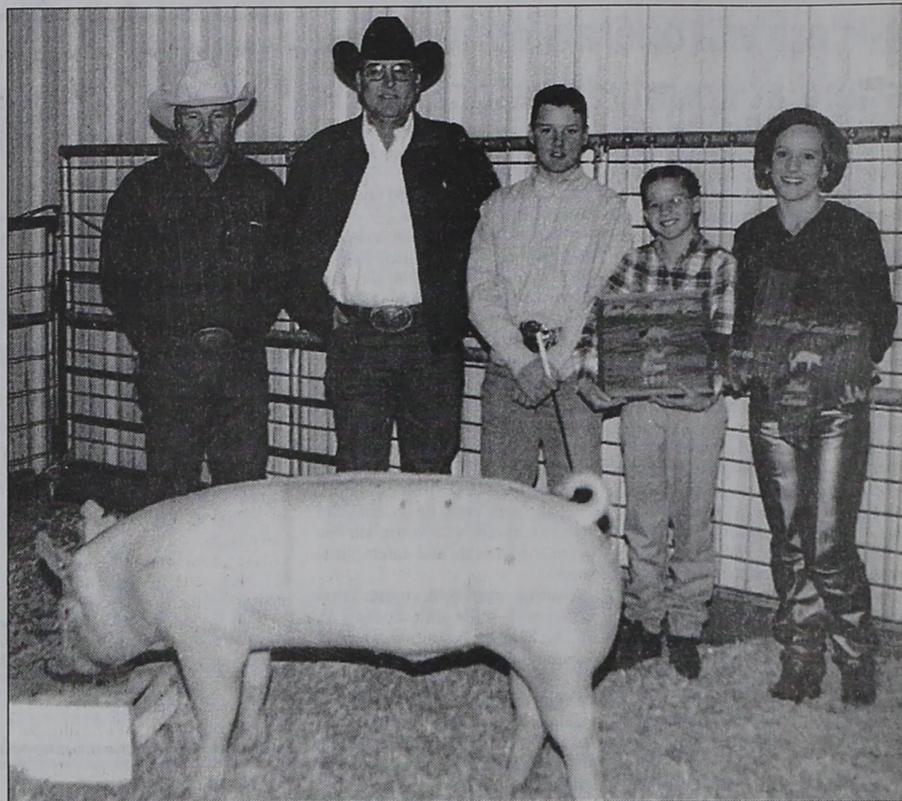
Kearney says when he judges animals, they should meet two main criteria: meet the hand and meet the eye.

In meeting the hand, there must be an abundance of quality muscle with minimum fat deposits. In meeting the eye, an individual animal must look the part by being structurally sound.

Grooming of animals is also a big factor in whether or not a youngster has success in the show ring. According to Kearney, the shearing rules of a show must be closely followed.

The final tip Kearney offers to youngsters is to be a good showman. "More good animals have been ruined by poor showmanship than by any other factor," he said.

All my needs rest in Your care, dear Lord, for which I offer You Thanksgiving, and praise, now and forever.



ROSS SCHULTE (third from left) drove his cross barrow to the grand championship a year ago and he earned \$10 per pound for the pig from Rafter 3 Feedyard, Andy Rogers, Marvin Schulte and Tulia

Livestock Auction. Pictured with Schulte are (from left) Tommy Kenworthy, Rogers, Karis Kleman and his sister, Jill Schulte.

Photo by Anne Acker

Houston Livestock Show attracts 96 local entries

Twenty 4-H members and 69 FFA members from Castro County have sent in 96 entries for the Houston Livestock Show, set to start competition on Feb. 23.

They are listed below by community and club.

Dimmitt 4-H

Steers: Corey Lane.
Lambs: Beau Bradley, Mary Bradley, Raynee Bradley, Anna Brockman, Thomas Brockman, Cailee Gilbreath, Chauncey Gilbreath, Eric Odom.

Barrows: Bradley Lane, Corey Lane, Holly Lane.

FFA

Steers: Cutter Johnson, Meggie Lemons, Dennis Underwood.
Breeding Beef Heifers: Dennis Underwood.
Lambs: Molly Bradford, Shae Odom, Houston Sutton, Cliff Wright, Jinna Wright.

Barrows: Beau Bradley, Mary Bradley, Raynee Bradley, Brandon Burks, Klay Clearman, Tyler Cornett, Cailee Gilbreath, Chauncey Gilbreath, Haley Heard, Lyndsey Heard, Cutter Johnson, Regina Montiel, Ross Myatt, Tyler Myatt, Braden Nelson, Brittany Nelson, Bailey Nutt, Charley Nutt, Eric Odom, Brooke Parker, Bryce Parker, Johnny Peña, Jake Porsch, Landon Porsch, Jeremy Simpson, Brandy

Smith, Keshia Smith, Dennis Underwood, Adam Wright, Matthew Wright.

Hart FFA

Barrows: Trent Barnes, Trevor Barnes, Jeff Bennett, Michelle Davis, Maegan Farris, Zachary Farris, Zane Farris, Chance Hanes, Shane Hanes, Aaron Hart, Freddy Hernandez, Drew Higgins, Logan McLain, Orrin McLain, Whitney Mitchell, Kelby Myrick, Anna Neudorf, Margie Neudorf, Jordy Rowland, Nicky Rowland.

Nazareth 4-H

Lambs: Trinity Robb.
Barrows: Kelsey Hochstein, Caitlin Huseman, Evan Huseman, Kendra Huseman, Aaron Kern, Brandi Kern, Keli Schulte, Macee Schulte.

FFA

Steers: Ross Schulte.
Commercial Steer Feeding: Reece Hales, three steers.

Lambs: Bryce Pohlmeier.

Barrows: Chase Black, Clifford Gerber, Gus Gesling, Garrett Kleman, Karis Kleman, Kenley Kleman, Elizabeth Olvera, Rebecca Olvera, Kelly Price, Brady Schulte, Ross Schulte.

The junior show at Houston showcases the animal projects of

these FFA and 4-H exhibitors and those of other youngsters from across the state.

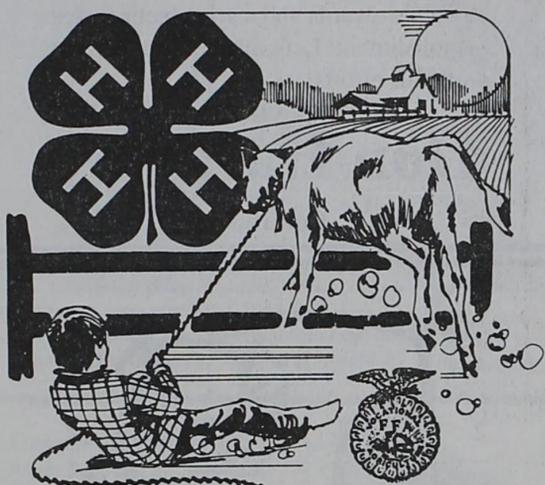
More than 16,000 entries, representing 1,100 Texas 4-H Clubs and FFA chapters, will compete in this year's show. A wide variety of animals will be shown in both the junior and open divisions of the livestock competition, including market steers, market barrows, market lambs, market poultry, beef and dairy heifers, breeding gilts, breeding sheep, goats, llamas, commercial steers and breeding rabbits.

The four market animal categories (steer, lamb, barrow and poultry) represent animals raised by exhibitors for food sources. The finest animals in each of these categories are eligible for their individual market auctions.

In 2001, the Houston Livestock Show's junior market auction sales totaled \$6,147,398, including a record \$560,000 paid for the grand champion market steer.

The annual event also includes a premier horse show, cutting horse events, and the Houston Livestock Rodeo and championship barbecue contest.

Ticket prices for the 2001 rodeo are \$13 and include admission to the horse show (excluding National Cutting Horse Association events), livestock show, carnival, all exhibits, special attractions and the rodeo.

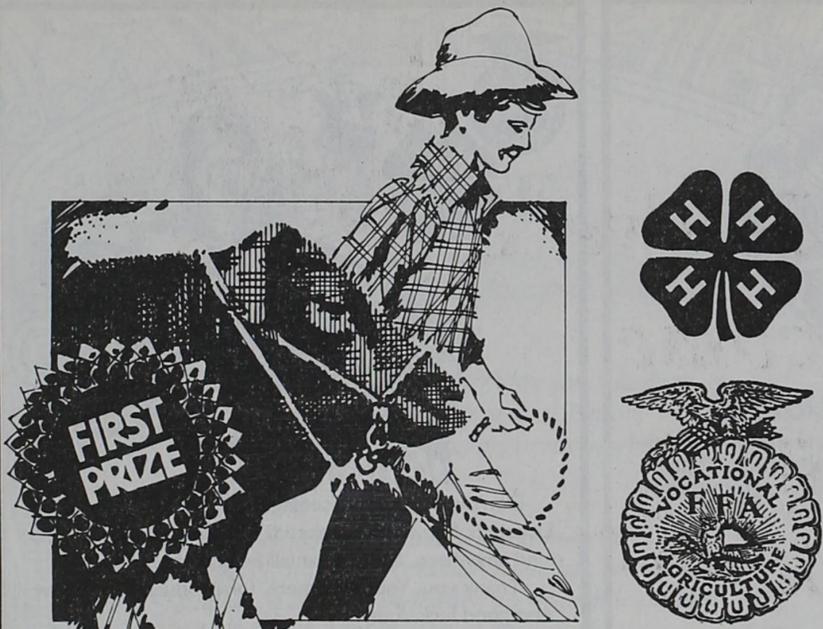


Drag yourself on down to the Junior Livestock Show & Sale

Friday and Saturday

6 month C.D. — 5.38%
12 month C.D. — 6.70%
IRA C.D. — 6.70%

Hereford Texas Federal Credit Union
647-5169 • 212 W. Bedford, Dimmitt



Our future depends on our youth!

Give them your support by attending the **47th Annual Junior Livestock Show & Sale**

Friday and Saturday

Best wishes from **Dimmitt Feed Yards, Inc.**



Best Wishes

Because of what our 4-H and FFA youngsters are learning today, our nation will continue to be the best-fed on earth tomorrow. Best wishes to all participants in the Castro County Junior Livestock Show!

KDHN RADIO
1470



Link sought between production, high-value beef

Beef is big business in Texas, producing only slightly less state-wide income than the oil industry, but Texas beef producers are traveling a rocky road.

They face challenges such as market share, lower consumer confidence in beef products and increasing production costs.

If producers know the impact production practices, animal genetics and environment have on beef products' tenderness, juiciness, flavor and marbling, they could adapt their production systems, animals and environment to raise beef with a higher market value.

Linking beef production systems and animal genetics to higher market value is the goal of a carcass quality research project recently undertaken by scientists at Texas A&M University and Texas Tech University. It is one of six beef industry improvement projects operating under the banner of Texas Beef Initiative—a brainchild of Texas A&M's Agriculture Program.

The Texas Beef Initiative was conceived in 1998 by the Agriculture Program's Beef Industry Team, a group of university researchers formed in 1997 by Dr. Edward A. Hiler, Texas A&M University's vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences, to study present and future needs in the beef industry.

"We presented the Texas Beef Initiative to the legislature in 1999 and received \$250,000 per year in funding," said Charles Long, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station resident director of research at Texas A&M's Agricultural Research and

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

A mother is strength when you are looking to new horizons.

No one has to deserve her mother's love.

Are you bored, lonely or looking for excitement?

Join 4-H

Call the Castro County Extension Office at 647-4115 to join today!

Extension Center at Overton. He's also chairman of the beef industry team.

"The six projects funded are individually and collectively designed to help Texas beef producers reduce production costs, increase product consistency and consumer confidence and develop efficient waste and odor management systems in their operations."

Texas A&M researchers at four sites began work with Texas Tech researchers on the carcass quality project in 1999. They placed 362 steer and heifer stocker calves, which were bred at Overton, McGregor and Uvalde and weaned in mid-October, on pasture at these three locations. The calves were fed different diets or grazed at different stocking rates to produce at least two rates of growth, and were kept on ryegrass, pasture or native rangeland until May 2000.

"We then shipped the calves to feedlots at McGregor and Texas Tech. The calves' monthly average daily gains were recorded while they were on pasture. We will take similar performance readings while they are on feed," said Monte Roquette, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station forage physiologist at Overton. "We are interested in studying the effects of backgrounding, environment and pasture growth rate on feedlot performance."

At the Texas Tech Beef Center the calves are penned in groups of five to seven head and are weighed at 28-day intervals. This allows researchers to evaluate feed intake, feed efficiency and production costs according to the calves' genetic and management backgrounds, said Andy Herring, Texas Tech beef geneticist and associate professor of animal science and food technology.

The calves are then sold on the rail to a large commercial beef packer. Their carcass weight and quality yield grades determine their end market value.

"After the calves are fed according to industry standards and are slaughtered, we will evaluate their carcasses for hot weight, marbling, rib-eye area, leanness and subcutaneous fat," Roquette said. "These traits determine the consumer value of retail beef products. We will also quantify the relationship between physical sensory characteristics and qualities such as tenderness and consumer acceptability."

"By tying ranch and feedlot performance together with carcass traits, this collaborative project will help cattlemen produce beef that better fits consumer preferences and increases their bottom line profitability," Herring added.

Researchers will repeat their pasture, feedlot and carcass performance

trials through 2001. They plan to analyze and compile performance data from all trials into a publication that describes how genetics, environment, pasture growth rates and feedlot conditions affect the quality and desirability of beef products.

"We're fortunate to have scientists at several locations across Texas collaborating on this project. Their

expertise and experience span many disciplines—from animal genetics, breeding and nutrition to forage physiology, veterinary medicine and food science," Long said. "In addition to growth, meat and carcass characteristics typically addressed in production research, we will measure physiological parameters assessing behavioral impacts—to seek relation-

ships between stress and cattle performance."

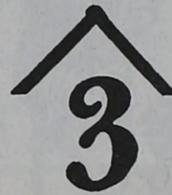
"Our research teams will provide data that can be combined with previous research findings to identify beef production systems cattlemen can use to generate desirable, uniform beef products that will fit a variety of consumer-driven market niches."



We're behind our youth all the way!

Technology is an amazing thing! Our 4-H and FFA youth are learning the latest skills and newest techniques, developing a sense of responsibility and growth, learning by doing, on the farm and in the classroom.

Congratulations as you hold your Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday.



RAFTER 3 FEEDYARD, LTD

See you at the Livestock Show this Friday and Saturday!

Don's Wrecker Service & Body Shop

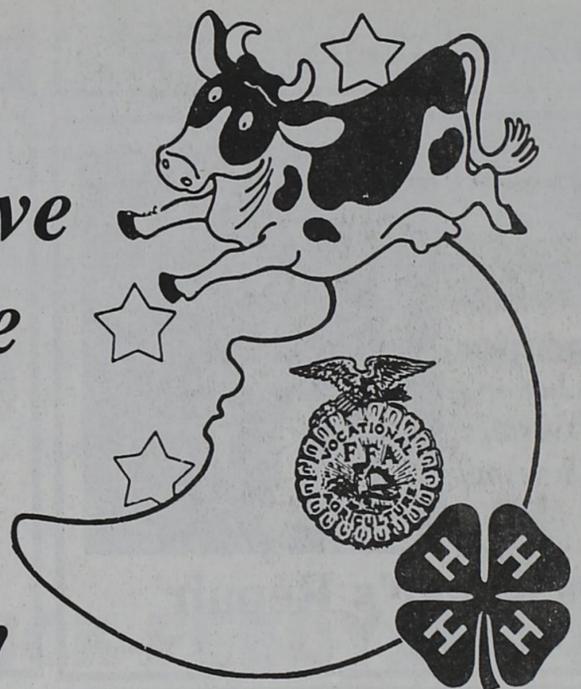
You're All Winners!

The competition, the challenge, the dedication you've shown in raising and grooming your show animals—these all have their own rewards. If you win at the Junior Livestock Show or do well in the sale—these make your 4-H or FFA experience even better.

Congratulations for trying. And good luck this weekend!

West Texas Rural Telephone Cooperative

You've come a long way!



The competition is so tough in our Junior Livestock Show that winning may seem as impossible as this nursery-rhyme scene. But just remember, nothing is impossible. When you step into the ring, you're already a winner in our eyes!

FIRST UNITED BANK

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DIMMITT • LUBBOCK • EARTH • SEAGRAVES

Member FDIC

Junior Master Gardener program planned at 4-H Center in March

A statewide volunteer training for the Junior Master Gardener program will be held March 8-9 at the Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood.

Any county 4-H'er interested in attending the program must register before Feb. 20. A \$55 registration fee, per person, will be required with the registration form. The registration fee includes one night's lodging, limited accident insurance, meals, snacks and programming fees.

The goal of the program is to expand the number of Junior Master Gardener programs in county pro-

grams. The training will provide practical experience that will assist leaders as they implement Junior Master Gardener programs in their county.

Participants will partake in an interactive overview of the program, implementation procedures, curriculum training, developing youth gardens, service learning projects, working with youth and more.

For more information or to register for the program, call the County Extension Office at 647-4115.



GARRETT KLEMAN'S (kneeling) Hampshire was reserve grand champion at 2000's stock show. The animal sold to Valley Sprinkler for \$8.50 per pound. Others shown are Kenny Schulte, Karis and Kenley Kleman, and a representative of Valley Sprinkler. Photo by Anne Acker

Bloat is top problem when feeding steers

Bloat is the number one problem you will face while feeding steers. Many remedies have been tried. Sometimes they work, and sometimes they will not.

One cup of mineral oil mixed in the steer's ration daily will help. One cup of dry detergent (Tide) mixed with the feed daily will help.

Bloat blocks and bloat liquids are helpful.

Every steer feeder should keep one gallon of mineral oil on hand at all times so that he may drench the steer with a gun or with a long-necked soft drink bottle in case he bloats. After giving the calf mineral oil, the feeder should walk his animal or let him out to exercise until the bloat goes down.

Buyers' Clubs seek donations

The Buyers' Clubs in Castro County are seeking donations from individuals who would like to help the groups buy the animals of youngsters who will participate in this year's Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, set for Feb. 9-10.

County youth have been working many months with their show animals, and the buyers' clubs want to help give as many as possible a good price in the sale ring.

Those interested in donating to the Dimmitt Buyers' Club may contact Greg Odom at 647-3504, or Chaun Gunstream or Chad Davis at First Bank, Muleshoe, Dimmitt Branch, at

647-2265, or Bob Anthony at the Farm Bureau at 647-5106, or mail to Dimmitt Buyers' Club in care of First Bank, PO Box 1099, Dimmitt 79027-1099.

For the Hart Buyers' Club, call Sandy Farris at 938-2135 or Laura Hart at 938-2178 or 938-2634, or mail donations to Hart Buyers' Club in care of PO Box 461, Hart 79043.

For the Nazareth Buyers' Club, contact Dwayne Acker at Higginbotham-Bartlett Co. in Dimmitt, Virgil Huseman, Dale Brockman, Dennis Kern, Olen Schulte or Dwayne Kleman; or donations may be mailed to Nazareth Buyers' Club, PO Box 192, Nazareth 79063.

County 4-H'ers will form Nutrition Quiz Bowl team

A Nutrition Quiz Bowl team featuring Castro County 4-H'ers will be organized on Thursday, Feb. 15, and those interested should attend a planning meeting at 4 p.m. that day at the Extension Office in Dimmitt.

The Quiz Bowl is an activity that resembles a game show and it is designed to help participants learn about basic nutrition, fitness, healthy lifestyles, food preparation, consumer information, and food and kitchen safety.

"We will be trying to form a Ju-

nior I, Junior II and Senior team. If enough people show interest in this project, we will be doing it as a competitive team at the district contest on Saturday, April 7," said Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal.

"This is a fun project that will not interfere with any other district competitions," Neal added.

For more information about the program, contact Neal at 647-4115 before Feb. 15.

Good Luck
4-H and FFA Members
 in the
47th Annual
Junior Livestock Show
and Sale!

Computer Solutions

Doggone it,
 don't miss the
Junior Livestock
Show & Sale
 Friday and Saturday

Our youth need our support!

Video Magic
Tanner's Magic

Come out and see
Castro County's future
 at the Junior Livestock Show and Sale!

Kern Plumbing & Electric
 Nazareth

Classifieds get results!

All dressed up

Our youngsters and their project animals all look their best during the annual Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Best of wishes to all of you!

The Company Store
 and
The Hart Beat

Best wishes for another successful Junior Livestock Show and Sale!

Roger's Repair

Roger Gerber Nazareth

WE PROUDLY SALUTE

OUR FFA & 4-H MEMBERS & LEADERS

We hope you have a great show and sale!

B.O.W. Cattle Co.
 Sunnyside and Earth • 647-4554

Good luck to all of our 4-H and FFA youngsters. And thanks to all the adults who work to make our show so special.

Stanford Body Works

322 SE 2nd, Dimmitt 647-4426

Let's all support our 4-H and FFA youngsters in the **Junior Livestock Show** and make this year's show and sale **Another Record Breaker!**

C & T Fertilizer, Inc.
 647-4374 • Tam Anne

Tuffy Dement, Mobile 265-7107
 Billy Lytal, Mobile 346-2922

Whatever their shape or color, you won't find better ones anywhere!

Good luck to our 4-H and FFA youngsters in the show and sale!

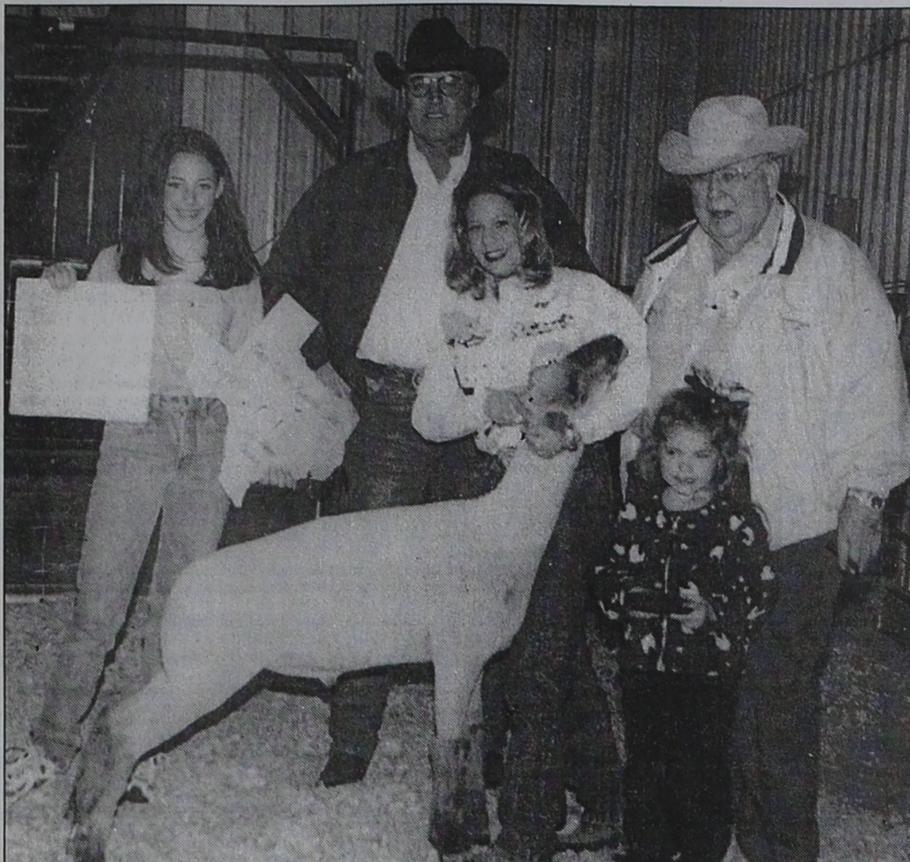
Benny's Auto Sales
 220 W. Bedford, Dimmitt 647-3620

Aw, C'mon!

No matter how busy you think you are, take time to attend and support the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Our kids deserve our support!

Ma's

Convenience Store



THE RESERVE CHAMPION LAMB in 2000 was exhibited by Mary Bradley (third from left). Bradley's lamb was purchased for \$19 per pound by her grandfather, G.L. Willis (right). Bradley's plaques are being held by Raynee Bradley (left). Also pictured is her uncle, Andy Rogers.

Photo by Anne Acker

County 4-H sets Roundup for March 20

The annual Castro County 4-H Roundup will be held Tuesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. at the Extension Office in Dimmitt, and 4-H'ers who are planning on entering a Method Demonstration in this year's contest should begin working on their project now.

"If you cannot think of a topic or have questions about Method Demonstrations, please feel free to come by and we can help you with some suggestions," said Castro County Extension Agents Rick Auckerman and Marilyn Neal.

A special Method Demonstration workshop will be held at the Extension Office in Dimmitt on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m.

YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED if you attend the **LIVE ANIMAL SHOW AND AUCTION**

Friday & Saturday, County Expo Building

FUN & FOOD!

James Baker 647-7063

Federal funds available for rural facilities needs

US Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development offices across Texas are gearing up for the fiscal year 2001 "Community Facility" loan season.

The effort is part of USDA's ambitious national program to help rural areas build and enhance essential community facilities.

"The Community Facilities program will help rural communities keep pace with the needs of their citizens," said Steven A. Carriker, state director of USDA Rural Development. "With lower populations and tax bases than urban areas, rural communities can use our programs to help provide essential public services and to enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

During fiscal year 2000, USDA

Rural Development distributed \$3,560,000 for Community Facilities projects throughout rural Texas. Funding levels for fiscal year 2001 are approximately the same as last year.

Community Facility loan funds may be used to construct, enlarge or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and public services. These loans are usually made to public entities and non-profit organizations.

Examples of eligible projects include rural health care clinics, town halls, fire trucks, county safety equipment, community centers, libraries, day care centers and schools. If an applicant is eligible, a limited portion of the funds may be provided in the form of grant funds.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Amarillo local office at (806) 468-8600, extension 122.

USDA Rural Development is an equal opportunity lender, provider and employer. Complaints of discrimination should be sent to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Washington, DC 20250-9410.

The combined efforts of Castro County 4-H Clubs and FFA Chapters have brought many honors to Castro County.

We congratulate you on the event of your Junior Livestock Show this Friday and Saturday!

DIMMITT CONSUMERS

Applications due for 4-H Beef Leadership Tour

The Castro County Extension office is accepting application for the inaugural Texas 4-H Beef Leadership Tour, which will be held July 29 through Aug. 4.

The deadline to submit an application is March 1, and completed paperwork must be turned in to the Extension office by that date.

The tour is for 4-H'ers who have demonstrated a desire to pursue a career related to beef. Applicants must be members of Texas 4-H and must have completed at least their freshman year of high school at the time of the tour, with at least one more year of high school remaining.

A total of 30 to 35 participants will be selected for the tour.

This tour is designed to reflect beef-related career opportunities by focusing on beef's role in the food industry, nutrition, beef cattle production, agribusiness, public speaking, leadership, citizenship and/or

communications. A participant does not have to exhibit beef in order to be considered.

Selected participants must document that he or she will be able to participate the entire time of the tour, without exception. Tour members also must demonstrate the ability to actively participate in educational seminars, work in teams to reach outlined objectives, display self-motivation to implement and carry out county educational programs and complete written assignments.

Participants will be required to give back 20 hours of time to their communities as they educate local residents on the importance of beef and the role it plays in our everyday lives.

Applicants will be reviewed for the following qualities: leadership integrity, potential for growth, communication skills, commitment to participate, 4-H activities and ability to self-motivate.

Castro County youth are #1!

Best wishes for another successful Junior Livestock Show!

Ed Harris Lumber Co.
Hart

Healthy Livestock is Good Business

... and that's what you will see at the Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday! Castro County youth have a record of excelling in the raising of livestock, and we are sure that their skill in that endeavor will again be proven this year.

In our book, you're all winners!

CLUCK FEEDYARD

We don't want to HOG the spotlight, but we want to speak out and say that you should come on out to the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Don't be shy! Join the fun!

Lowe's Pay & Save
Hart

Best Wishes

to the FFA Chapters, 4-H Clubs and their sponsors as you hold your 47th Annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday!

Gary's Engine & Machine

Here are the junior livestock show rules

Here are the rules for the 2001 Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale, scheduled Feb. 8-10, sponsored by the Dimmitt Young Farmers.

OFFICIALS

Young Farmers President	Curt Summers
General Superintendent	Curt Summers
Assistant Superintendent	Andy Williams
Vice President	Andy Williams
Reporter	Malcom Sager
Secretary	Matt Gfeller
Treasurer	Chad Davis
Steer Division Superintendent	Justin Nelson
Assistant Steer Superintendents	Chad Davis, Rodney Hunter, Robert Boozer, Rick Bagwell, Tod Bradley, Greg Odom, Roy Schilling
Lamb Division Superintendent	Tim Wales
Assistant Lamb Superintendents	Jason Wooten, Lonnie Robb, Malcom Sager, Kurt Wales and Chaun Gunstream
Swine Division Superintendent	Matt Gfeller
Assistant Swine Superintendents	Andy Williams, Jason Nelson, Matt Gfeller, Danny Underwood and Jay Davis
Auctioneers	Jack Howell, John Davis, Greg Odom, Jason Wooten, Kenneth Gregg
Building Superintendent	Danny Underwood
Assistant Building Superintendent	Kurt Wales
Clerks	Dimmitt Young Farmers
Public Relations Liaison	Greg Odom
Floor Buyers Committee	Dimmitt Young Farmers
Judges:	
Steers	Billy Copeland
Barrows	Gaylon McCune
Lambs	Billy Copeland

RULES AND REGULATIONS

I. GENERAL

- All entries should have been sent to the Young Farmers, Vo. Ag Dept., Dimmitt High School, 1505 Western Circle Drive, by 5 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 2. Any incomplete, unsigned or late entry will be fined \$25.
- Entry fee—To be used for bedding, show expenses, etc.: \$15.
- All livestock must be in place by 4 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, and no earlier than noon Wednesday, Feb. 7. Weighing will begin at 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 8. Entries must be ready by 4:30 p.m. Feb. 8.
- All animals must be weighed at the time of entry by the officials. Only one weigh-back will be allowed if the animal does not make the limit set. This weigh-back must be within one hour of the first weighing, or at the discretion of the superintendent.
- All animals must receive state validation from the county agent or ag teacher.
- Each exhibitor will not be allowed to enter or show more than three steers, three barrows and three lambs. An exhibitor will be allowed to sell no more than three animals and only two in any division. If an individual shows more than three animals, he must notify the superintendent immediately after judging as to which three animals he will place in the sale.
- The number of animals that will be sold through the auction will be as follows: 125 barrows, 125 lambs or 75% of the total animals that are weighed in, whichever is the smaller number. Due to the decline in the number of steers and heifers, up to 15 head will sell; or 75% of the total, whichever is greatest.
- The percent of the animals to be sold will be figured on each class. If an animal eligible to sell is pulled, the next animal in line from that class will sell. This will be at the discretion of the superintendent.
- Animals that make the show but do not make the sale will be sold with the floor animals, unless the exhibitor pulls the animals by one hour after showing.
- All livestock will be sifted by weight.

11. Two showmanship trophies will be awarded for steer, swine and sheep. The senior showmanship trophy will be for the exhibitors aged 14 and older, and the junior showmanship will be for the exhibitors aged 13 and younger. The animals must have been owned, fitted and groomed by the exhibitor for the exhibitor to be eligible for a showmanship award.

12. No steer will be allowed in the show that has not been owned as of July 1, 2000. Barrows and lambs must have been owned as of Nov. 1, 2000.

13. Only active 4-H and FFA members are eligible to show. All livestock entered in the show must have been fed under the supervision of the Castro County Agent or Vocational Agriculture Teacher of Dimmitt, Hart or Nazareth High Schools and must be so certified by one of the above on the entry card.

14. To be eligible to show, all 4-H Club members must be enrolled in a Castro County 4-H Club under the supervision of the Castro County Agent. All FFA members must be enrolled in a Castro County School. All exhibitors must reside in Castro County, be at least nine (9) years of age, or in the third grade, and be enrolled in a public or private elementary or secondary school located within Castro County. Any exceptions must be approved by the Dimmitt Young Farmers.

15. All animals must be reasonably dry and clean before weighing. Any animal not so may be declared ineligible to show by the committee in charge of the division.

16. Animals are the responsibility of the exhibitor until they are loaded on the truck. Any animal left in the barn after trucks are loaded are the responsibility of the seller.

17. The Dimmitt Young Farmers shall reserve the right to disqualify any exhibitor or animal for any reason that is deemed necessary. Also, the Young Farmers will not be responsible for any injury, loss or damage to persons or property arising from the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale.

18. Exhibitors and show officials will be the only persons allowed in the showing ring.

19. Any animal sold on the floor must have entered in the show.

20. Any exhibitor found violating the rules may be subject to a fine of up to \$200 and suspension from the county show for a period of one year. The person signing the entry card may also be fined up to \$200. Entry cards will not be accepted from the offending organization until the fine is paid.

21. All protests must be in writing and be accompanied by a deposit of \$50, which will be forfeited if the protest is not sustained. Such protest must state plainly the cause of complaint or appeal, and must be delivered to the livestock show management immediately after occasion for such protest. The protest committee will consist of the Young Farmer officers and the various division superintendents. All committee decisions are final. The Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale and the Dimmitt Young Farmers are indemnified from any and all liability for all legal and other proceedings which may ensue from the committee's decision.

22. No animal may leave the stock show premises from the time of weigh-in until after the show without the approval of the superintendent. All take-home animals must be checked out of the barns by noon on Saturday, 10.

23. Each club will be responsible for cleaning their pen. If pens are not cleaned, a fine of \$200 will be levied. Checks will be held until the fine is paid. All pens must be cleaned by 6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.

24. No change in the pattern or highlighting of any animal by painting or dying in all three barns will be allowed (water only).

25. No adults in show ring during show or classification.

26. Exhibitors ineligible to participate at the Castro County Junior Livestock Show due to the "no pass, no play" rule cannot have another or others exhibit the animal or animals in question.

II. CLASSIFICATION

Lambs will be weighed and classified at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 8, in the show ring. Steers will be weighed upon arrival at the show and classed by weight. Steer classes will be determined by the superintendent. Hogs will be classified by owner. Any animal not classified at the proper time must wait until last to be classified. Hog weights must be turned in by 4 p.m.

JUDGING SCHEDULE

Lambs—9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 9.
Steers and heifers—Immediately following lambs on Friday, Feb. 9.

Barrows—Following steers on Friday, Feb. 9.

III. STEER DEPARTMENT

- Steers and heifers are eligible to show.
- All calves in the show must weigh at least 900 pounds; however, 1,350 pounds is the top pay weight.
- Awards:
Placings—Ribbons.
Grand Champion—Banner.
Reserve Grand Champion—Banner.
- If there is not enough of any one class to be placed in a separate class, they will be classified with another class.

IV. LAMB DEPARTMENT

- Both wether and ewe lambs are eligible to show.
- There will be a possibility of four breeds only. Definitions of breeds are as follows: A. Fine Wool—This breed shall include only purebred Grade Rambouillet or Delaine or a cross between these two breeds; B. Fine Wool Cross—This will include lambs sired by Suffolk, Hampshire, Corriedale or Columbia Rams and out of Fine Wool ewes. Lambs that carry more than 50% Medium Wool breeding will go into the Medium Wool. The decision will be left to classifiers; C. Medium Wool Class—This shall include only purebred or Grade Hampshire, Suffolk, Corriedale and Columbia or other Medium Wool Cross; D. Southdowns—This is only for purebred Southdowns or lambs that exhibit predominant Southdown characteristics.
- Weight Classes: Breeds of lambs will be divided at supervisor's discretion. The minimum weight will be 80 pounds. There will not be a top weight, but the maximum pay weight will be 130 pounds.
- Lambs will be classified into classes according to breed numbers at the superintendent's discretion. A classifying judge will assist the superintendent in placing the animals in the proper class. Classifier's decision will be final.
- Champion and Reserve Champion of each breed will compete for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the show.
- Lambs wool should be uniform in length and no more than 1/4 of an inch in length. Top knots are permitted.
- Where four animals are not available to make weight classes, then lightweights and heavyweights will be grouped into a single breed class.
- Awards:
Placing—Ribbons.
Grand Champion—Banner.
Reserve Grand Champion—Banner.

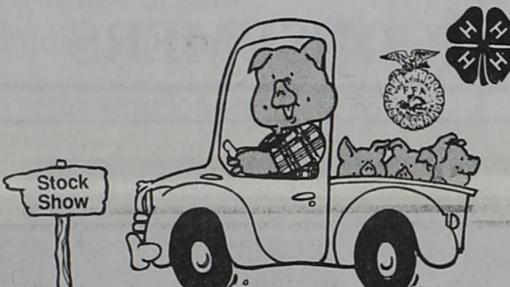
V. SWINE DEPARTMENT

- Only barrows are eligible to show.
- Barrows weighing less than 175 pounds or more than 260 pounds will be sifted from the show. A weigh-back may be done on any barrow at the discretion of the Dimmitt Young Farmers. A 10-pound variance up or down will be allowed from write-in weight. Any barrow not meeting the weight will be disqualified.
- No feeding in aisles. All feed will be dumped outside south of the barn.
- It takes five head to make a breed. Those not making a breed will be shown in the Cross class. There will be eight breeds of barrows as follows: A. Berkshire; B. Chester White/Other Pure Breed; C. Duroc; D. Hampshire; E. Spot; F. Poland China; G. Yorkshire; H. Cross.
- Weight classes: Breeds of barrows will be divided by weight at the discretion of the superintendent.
- At the judge's discretion, any obvious violation of classification will result in disqualification of the animal in question.
- First- and second-place barrows from each class will compete for Champion and Reserve Champion of the breed.
- Champion and Reserve Champion of each breed will compete for Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion of the show.
- Where five animals are not available to make weight classes, then lightweights and heavyweights will be grouped into a single breed class.
- Barrows will be sold at weigh-in weights.
- Minimum floor weight will be 220 pounds (no exceptions).

VI. SALE

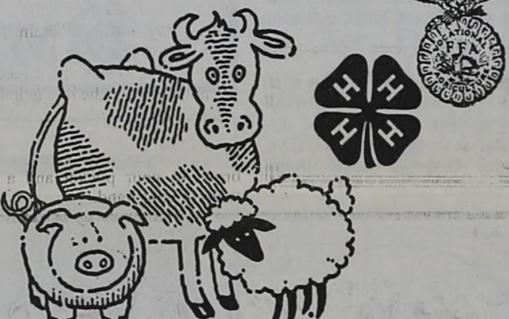
- Exhibitors selling livestock must have their animals ready to be brought into the auction ring when their number is called.
- Sale order:
A. Grand Champion steer, barrow, lamb.
B. Reserve Champion steer, barrow, lamb.
C. All Breed Champions.
D. All Reserve Breed Champions.
E. 1/3 of the lambs.
F. 1/3 of the steers.
G. 1/3 of the barrows.
- All animals that are to be sold as take homes must be listed on the sale sheet prior to the sale.

We'll see you at the stock show Friday and Saturday



Gather up the Litter
... and join us at the
Junior Livestock Show & Sale
Friday and Saturday.
*Our youngsters deserve our support.
Let's keep it the best show in Texas!*

Goodpasture, Inc.



As the bright members of today's FFA and 4-H Clubs prepare for their careers in agri-business, the citizens of this community are assured of continued advancement for tomorrow! We salute you all and wish you the best as you begin your Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday.

Higginbotham-Bartlett Co.
109 N. Broadway, Dimmitt 647-3161



The Best Anywhere!

That's what we think of our Castro County FFA and 4-H youngsters and their show animals. We urge you to attend the annual Junior Livestock Show and Sale, and give them your support.

HOELTING SUPPLY
Nazareth



JOIN US
at the
Junior Livestock Show & Sale
Friday and Saturday

Everyone of you deserve an award!

Agro Distribution, L.L.C.



Congratulations
... to our FFA and 4-H youth, their sponsors and parents, and the Dimmitt Young Farmers for making the Castro County Junior Livestock Show the best in Texas!

**Hart Producers
Co-op Gin**



We're proud of our youngsters who are involved in the Junior Livestock Show. Through the work of the Dimmitt Young Farmers and great support from throughout the county, it just keeps getting bigger and better every year.

Pro-Ag, Inc.

Social Security recipient numbers reported for 1998

By T.P. CRUMP

Since its inception in 1935, the Social Security program has come to directly affect more Americans than any other government program.

The Social Security program also affects more residents of Castro County and Texas than any other single government program. Major changes are now being proposed for the Social Security program by both the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. These could have far reaching implications for residents of Castro County.

Until recently, the basic problem facing the Social Security program had been a simple one. As late as 1996, it had been projected that the Social Security program would run out of money as the "Baby Boomer" generation retired. Recent federal budget surpluses have made those projections much less likely. At the same time, there is considerable political controversy about what must be done to keep the system functioning.

The elderly (age 65 or more) are expected to be the fastest growing group among the population after 2011. The social and political consequences of the Social Security program continuing to function are enormous. Many economists and politicians fear that maintaining the current system without changes will not be possible. How to go about "saving Social Security" has been one of the most debated political questions of the year.

Except for certain exempted federal, state and local government employees, almost everyone who is part of the labor force pays Social Security taxes. According to the Social Security Administration, 44,245,743 residents of the US (16.4% of the nation's population) received Social Security benefits by the end of 1998. The Social Security Administration (SSA) estimates that this number has increased.

This same report indicated that 1,288 residents of Castro County (15.4% of the population) received Social Security benefits at that time, while 12.9% of the population of Texas (2,547,716 residents) received Social Security benefits during the same period of time.

The majority of Social Security recipients are retired workers and their dependents. According to the SSA's most recent report, there were 855 retired workers and dependents in Castro County receiving Social Security benefits at the end of 1998. These accounted for 66.3% of local Social Security recipients at that time. Of those receiving retirement benefits, 665 were retired workers, 165 were spouses of retired workers and 25 were children of retired workers.

In December of 1997, there were 655 retired workers, 165 spouses and 20 children, so that the 1998 numbers represent a 1.7% increase.

National figures showed that there were 30,813,711 retired workers and dependents who accounted for 69.7% of all Social Security recipients at the end of 1998. Of these, 27,510,756 were retired workers, 2,864,230 were spouses of retired workers, and 438,725 were children of retired workers.

Figures for Texas showed 1,720,290 retired workers and dependents who accounted for 67.5% of all Social Security recipients in the state. Of these, 1,488,952 were retired workers, 200,927 were spouses of retired workers, and 30,411 were children of retired workers.

Survivors of deceased retired and disabled workers accounted for another 320 of local Social Security recipients (24.8% of all persons receiving benefits in the county) in December of 1998. In December of 1997, the number was 310.

Survivors are the widows, widowers, and children of retired or disabled workers. Survivors made up the second largest group of Social Security recipients nationally in December of 1998.

In Texas, there were 488,677 survivors of deceased workers in December of 1998 who made up 19.1% of all Social Security recipients in the state. There were 348,446 widows and widowers and 138,231 children of deceased workers in Texas at that time.

Disabled workers and their dependents accounted for the remaining 115 (8.9%) Social Security recipients in Castro County in December of 1998. The SSA showed that 70

disabled workers along with 10 of their spouses and 35 of their children received benefits at that time. In 1997, 65 disabled workers, five of their spouses and 40 of their children received benefits, for a total of 110 persons.

Nationally, 6,334,570 disabled workers and dependents received benefits in December of 1998. These were 14.3% of all Social Security recipients nation-wide. Of these, 4,698,314 were disabled workers, 189,843 were spouses and 1,446,408 were children.

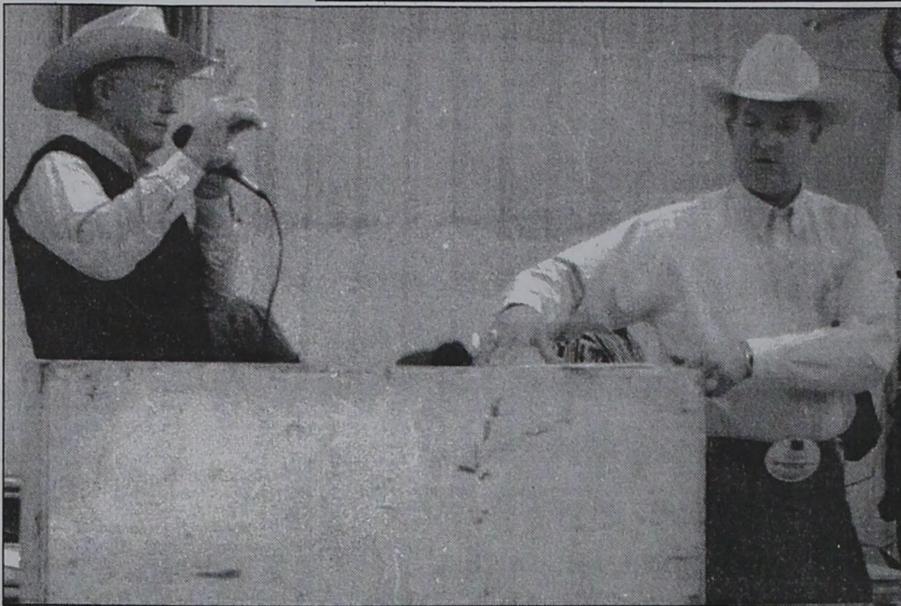
In Texas, there were 342,749 disabled workers and dependents receiving benefits in December of 1998. These were 13.4% of Social Security recipients in the state. Disabled workers made up 244,911 of them, with 13,625 spouses and 84,213 children.

The overwhelming majority of Social Security recipients in Castro County in December 1998 (940 people or 73%) were age 65 or older. This would indicate that 99.4% of all residents of Castro County age 65 or older received Social Security benefits in December of 1998. Of these, 560 (59.6%) were female and 380 (40.4%) were male. In 1997, the 930 recipients age 65 or older were divided into 380 males and 550 females.

Nationally, 31,987,752 people or 72.3% of all Social Security recipients were age 65 or more. According to the SSA's report, 93% of all Americans aged 65 or over received benefits in December of 1998. Of these, 59.4% were female and 40.6% were male.

In Texas, 71.5% of all Social Security recipients were age 65 or more. The report showed that 91.1% of all elderly Texans received benefits in December of 1998, with 59.3% of them being female and 40.7% male.

Classifieds get results!



AUCTIONEER JACK HOWELL (left) opens bidding on the floor for lambs and barrows at the 2000 Castro County Junior Livestock Show while Greg Odom looks for active bidders. The two are

among several who donate their time in auctioning off youngsters' animals each year at the livestock show. Photo by Anne Acker

Show day preparation necessary

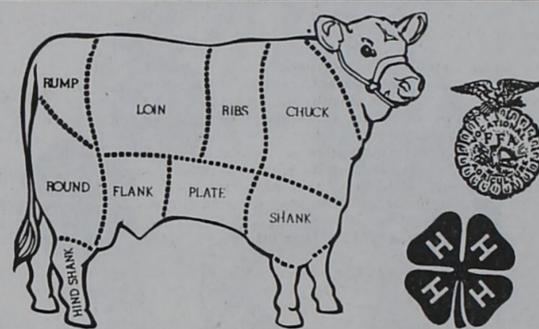
When showing a pig, check the catalog and judging schedule to find out when your animal is to be exhibited. Keep a close check on how fast the show is moving, so that you will have everything ready at the correct time.

Most shows have specific rules against using anything but water as hair dressing. No oil or powder is allowed.

About 15 to 20 minutes before your class is to be called, brush the sand or shavings from the pig. Remove the dust using a rag saturated with water.

Brush the pig with a fine-bristled brush and use a fine mist from a water spray bottle to obtain the desired "sheen" to the hair.

When the class is called, be prompt and drive the hog quietly and carefully into the show ring. Try not to get your hog unnecessarily disturbed or confused. Carry a small brush in your pocket and a short whip in your hand.



Any way you cut it ...

... The Castro County Junior Livestock Show is a "prime" event. We salute the Dimmitt Young Farmers, our FFA advisors and members, our county Extension agents, 4-H leaders and members, auctioneers, buyers, parents and volunteers for building it into such a great show.



You're ALL Champions!

Good luck in the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. We're rooting for you!

Dale's Auto & Salvage

Nazareth



A special pat on the back to the hard working sponsors of the 4-H and FFA who help to make these youngsters into the citizens of tomorrow.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding Junior Livestock Show and Sale.

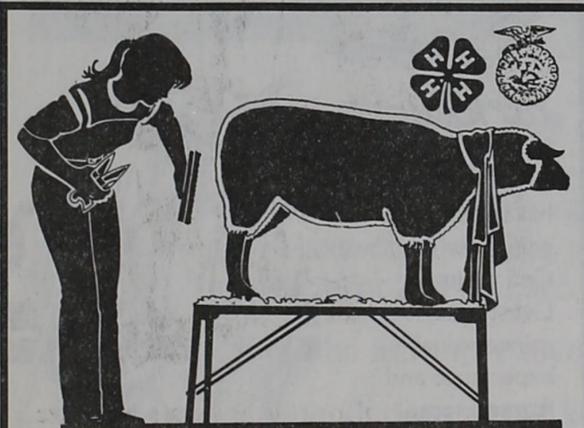
Town & Country Insurance



Still Going Strong

For 47 years now, our 4-H and FFA programs have been producing responsible youngsters and top show animals, and Castro Countians have been supporting them in every way. That's a long record of success and a good source of pride for our county. Let's keep it going strong!

Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer, Myatt & Bradley



WELL DONE!

We congratulate the Dimmitt Young Farmers, our FFA and 4-H youth, their adult leaders, the County Extension Office staff, our vo-ag instructors, and all who have a hand in making the Castro County Junior Livestock Show one of the finest of its size in Texas

We also commend the buyers, auctioneers, Young Farmers and their wives, who make the sale such a success every year.

Tidwell Spraying Service



Tomorrow's farmers and ranchers at work today!

Our FFA and 4-H clubs are constantly learning and experiencing new ideas to help better our farming community. They'll be shaping the future of our agricultural world!

We salute these fine groups and its members! Show your support by attending the Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday.

El Sombrero Restaurant

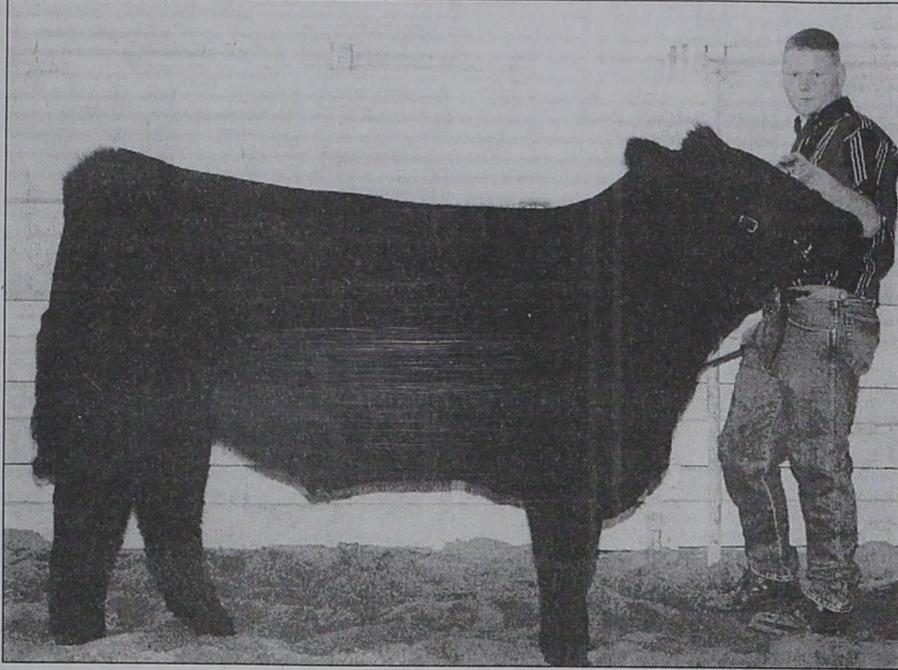


Great Reception!

That's what we need to give our youngsters as they parade their show animals in the ring Friday and Saturday. Let's let them know we're proud of them and their work.

Kittrell Electronics

Radio Shack DEALER



SHAWN NELSON earned a bid of \$2 per pound from the Nazareth Buyers' Club for his reserve grand champion steer at last year's stock show. Photo by Anne Acker

New farm bill should include risk management, export help

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs recently issued a statement saying that the upcoming Farm Bill should emphasize improved risk management and export assistance for a coalition of large agricultural states known as NFACT, encompassing New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, California and Texas.

Combs spoke during an NFACT listening session that she hosted in Austin on the upcoming Farm Bill, which is scheduled to be reauthorized in 2002, but could be taken up by Congress as early as 2001. More than 40 agricultural organizations and individual farmers and ranchers spoke at the session, which was one of several meetings on the Farm Bill that will be held in the five NFACT states.

"I appreciate the time and effort our producers are taking to come to this meeting," Combs said. "I and the other NFACT states very much admire all that they do for agriculture, and I know that their comments will be very helpful in the coming months."

After recognizing common interests like trade and the need for additional federal assistance for preventing the introduction of plant diseases

and pests from across the border, the five states formed the NFACT coalition in 1999 by signing a Memorandum of Understanding, Combs said.

"Our five NFACT states are a fairly powerful agricultural force in our own right," Combs said. "We account for 25% of all the nation's agricultural cash receipts. In total, our congressional delegations make up 27% of Congress. With this clout, we have come together to give our producers a strong, powerful and unified voice to address agricultural issues in Washington, D.C."

Each of the five states has experienced agricultural losses from weather disasters, but Texas's drought has been reducing farmers' and ranchers' incomes since the last Farm Bill was reauthorized in 1996, Combs said.

"In Texas, no one could have predicted that our farmers and ranchers would enter into a drought in 1996, when the last farm bill was enacted, and four years later in 2000 still be suffering tremendous losses," the commissioner said. "Since 1996, drought has taken a \$5 billion bite out of our farmers' and ranchers' pocketbooks."

"Arizona has experienced \$1 million-worth of agricultural losses due to drought this past year. New Mexico has had \$190 million in drought losses, and in Florida, ag losses due to drought are more than \$314 million," Combs said. "In California, the threat most recently has not been from weather, but from a

bacterial plant disease, Pierce's Disease, and an insect—the glassy-winged sharpshooter—that carries it. This year, Pierce's Disease has threatened \$14 billion worth of California's agricultural crops including wine grapes and produce.

"Whether the threat is from plant diseases or weather, the practice of ad-hoc disaster assistance from Congress for our NFACT states has not been very efficient or effective," Combs said. "Clearly, we must come up with a better safety net for our producers."

The NFACT states also need continued assistance for developing export markets and for controlling the introduction of plant diseases and pests from other countries, Combs said.

"We all are high volume trade states," she said. "And we essentially serve as a buffer zone protecting the rest of this nation's agriculture from the introduction of foreign pests and plant diseases."

The Farm Bill is a multi-year, multi-commodity federal support law that encompasses commodity programs, trade, rural development, farm credit, conservation, agricultural research, food and nutrition programs, and marketing. Every few years, Congress reauthorizes, repeals or amends sections of the Farm Bill that are not part of permanent law.

The last adjustment to the Farm Bill occurred with the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, also known as the Freedom to Farm bill, which authorized reducing crop price supports through 2002 through gradually declining transition crop payments.

Bishop selected to 4-H state board

Jaci Bishop, a member of the Dimmitt/Bethel 4-H Club, has been selected as a member of the Texas 4-H Clothing and Textiles Advisory Board.

The purpose of this board is to provide guidance and direction for the state 4-H clothing project.

"This is a high honor that will give Jaci a chance to further develop her leadership skills," said Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal.

Trim hooves early to allow for healing

When lambs stay in small pens with no rocks, their hooves grow long and need to be trimmed. Hooves should be trimmed about every six weeks. Always trim hooves one or two weeks before a show in case you mistakenly cut into the quick and temporarily cripple the lamb. This will give the lamb time to heal before the show.

SALUTE TO THE CHAMPS

We're talking about **ALL** of you who participate in the Castro County Junior Livestock Show!

Castro County Farm Bureau
647-5106 304 N. Broadway, Dimmitt

Howdy Pardner!

Join us at the **47th Annual Junior Livestock Show & Sale** Friday and Saturday

See ya there Pardner!

George Real Estate

Here's to a banner year

... for our 4-H and FFA youth, Young Farmers and others in the annual Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Congratulations on an excellent program.

Brown, Graham & Co., P.C.

Our future is well in hand, thanks to the dedication and commitment to agriculture that encompasses the work and ideals of today's FFA and 4-H clubs. We're proud to congratulate these organizations for the progress and promise that they offer to us all. Show your support by attending the Annual Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday!

Panhandle Ag Service

Best Wishes

to the young people who will be exhibiting animals this weekend in the Junior Livestock Show!

C&S Battery, Inc.

And Away We Go-o-o!

Our youth and their animals don't mind stepping out into the show ring at the annual Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale. Our sale brings some of the top prices of any show around, and no one deserves it anymore than the hard-working members of our FFA and 4-H clubs.

DeBruce Grain
P.O. BOX 758 • DIMMITT, TEXAS 79027

Best Wishes

to the young people of Castro County as you hold your Junior Livestock Show and Sale this Friday and Saturday.

In your work in the FFA Chapters and 4-H Clubs, you are preparing for the future. When you are in business on your own, remember we specialize in furnishing concrete for feed yards.

Dimmitt Ready Mix

There are no losers!

Every youngster who has raised a project animal for the Castro County Junior Livestock Show has gained valuable experience and learned some worthwhile lessons. They're all winners in our book!

Dimmitt Printing & Office Supply



SHAWN NELSON exhibited the grand champion steer in the 2000 Castro County Junior Livestock Show and his animal was purchased by Rick Hunter (right), Edmund and Joyce Hunter, Allena Nelson and the Nazareth Buyers' Club. Houston Sutton shows off Nelson's plaques and Nelson's nephew, Dyllyn Nelson (held by Rick Hunter), holds the championship belt buckle. Photo by Anne Acker

Here are some tips for halter breaking steer

When halter breaking young steers for shows, here are five tips young showmen can follow.

Select a good quality nylon-type halter that will not swell on the calf's head when it gets wet.

Tie the calf with its head up. Be sure to tie him short enough so he will not hurt himself.

Be gentle, but make sure the calf knows who is boss.

Rub and brush the calf. Let him know you are not there to hurt him.

Lead the steer to feed or water. He will be leading before he realizes it because it will become a habit.



Yesterday . . . Today

Many of today's Young Farmers who make our Junior Livestock Show so great, and many of today's bidders who make our sale such a success, were once young 4-H and FFA exhibitors themselves. We're proud of that tradition!

George Nelson Trucking, Inc.

500 S. Hwy. 385

647-5384

Is irrigation of field corners profitable?

In the past, as the water table dropped, another well was drilled to make up for reduced well yields. Due to heavy pumpage caused by recent droughts, well yields are declining again. However, with a lower profit margin and higher drilling costs than in the past, adding another well is rapidly becoming an unacceptable alternative to offset reduced well yields.

Many farmers are re-evaluating their operation to see if they can get more yield out of the water being pumped. Evidence of this is all the new center-pivot sprinkler systems that dot the landscape. The increased water use efficiency of these center pivots makes it possible to maintain yields with less water pumpage.

However, after pivots are installed, many farmers still feel compelled to irrigate the field corners. They apply more water per acre to a corner than to the rest of the field under a pivot. Irrigating corners is very labor-intensive: every row is a different length, requiring a different amount of water to wet the soil evenly without running irrigation tailwater. It is also very hard to maintain proper timing to water the corners. Consequently, the yield is usually not as great on the corners as on the rest of the field. In a nutshell, corners are difficult to irrigate and produce less return per acre per acre-inch of water applied and per unit of labor expended.

A Low Energy Precision Application (LEPA) center pivot sprinkler system is 95% efficient. A furrow-irrigated field is 60% efficient. Because of all the problems, irrigating corners is probably less than 60% efficient. It would certainly be less

than 60% if the corner were watered from an open, unlined earthen ditch or if irrigation tailwater were running off the corner of the field.

Would the total farm yield be increased if the corners were not watered, but placed in a permanent grass cover and if the water saved was applied through the center pivot?

The following example sheds some light on this question.

If 8.8 inches of water per acre is applied through a LEPA pivot covering 125 acres, a total of 1,100 acre-inches of water or 91.67 acre-feet of water would be pumped. Furrow irrigation of the corners at 60% efficiency would require 14 acre-inches of water per acre to produce the same yield.

If it were possible to produce a uniform application of water which would wet the soil to the same level that can be accomplished with a LEPA pivot, then it would require

pumping at least 490 acre-inches of water on the corners. If that 490 acre-inches of water were applied to the 125 acres under the pivot instead, an additional 3.9 inches of water per acre could be applied through the LEPA pivot.

Research at Texas Tech University has shown that in cotton production, one additional inch of water produces between 50 and 70 pounds of extra cotton lint. At 50 pounds of lint per acre X 4 inches of water X 125 acres irrigated by the pivot, 25,000 pounds of additional lint would be produced. The 35 acres in the corners would have to yield 714 pounds of lint per acre to equal this production.

Especially in limited-water areas, not watering corners and applying the water saved through the pivot should be given serious consideration. It could improve your bottom-line profit.



For a picture to remember, call



Garner Ball Photography

647-3140



When Pigs Can Fly ...

When our 4-H and FFA youngsters raise project animals, they learn a lot about commitment, showmanship, time management and cost accounting.

We hope they also learn that anything is possible.

Good luck to all our kids.

We hope you place, make the sale and get a great bid!



**TEXAS
EQUIPMENT
COMPANY**



Bill Condit, Manager

S. Hwy. 385
Dimmitt, TX 79027
647-3324

We have confidence in our youth and community!

Our confidence is strengthened by the interest and top quality projects of our FFA and 4-H Club members!

Congratulations on a sound program and a well planned Junior Livestock Show and Sale!

**B&W
Aerial
Spray**



The Tradition Continues

It was 47 years ago that the first Castro County Junior Livestock Show was held.

Today, many of those who exhibited their project animals in that first show are helping to make this year's the best ever ... and are helping their own children get ready for it.

It's a good tradition, and it adds a lot to the quality of life in our area, and to the character of our next generation.

We salute all the youngsters, their parents, the adult supervisors, teachers and volunteer workers who make the Castro County Junior Livestock Show one of the best anywhere!

**Bar G
Feedyard**



Livestock projects can benefit youngsters in numerous ways

Responsibility, financial planning, caring for others and many other life skills can be learned by youngsters who are involved in raising livestock projects.

The highlight of any youngster's year-long livestock project is always when he or she can lead that animal into the sale ring to be auctioned off for a premium bid.

The premium sale after the livestock show is when a youngster really reaps the rewards of months of hard work, sweat and tears as they prepare their lamb, steer or barrow for competition.

When show time arrives, youngsters wash and groom their animals, then work hard as they exhibit those animals before judges, just hoping to earn a spot in the premium sale. Those that do qualify for the sale will be guaranteed a good price above market value.

In the 2000 Castro County Junior Livestock Sale, buyers paid more than \$176,000 for barrows, steers and lambs which earned a spot in the sale.

Auctioneers sold the floor first, with Randy Hathorne buying the barrows for \$35 per hundredweight. The lamb floor was sold to Dan Cure of Olton for \$66 per hundred. Rafter 3 Feedyard Ltd., purchased the lone steer which was sold on the floor for \$69 per hundred.

After the initial floor bidding was

settled, auctioneers went to work on selling the top three animals in the sale—the grand champion lamb, barrow and steer.

Trinity Robb's grand champion lamb earned a bid of \$20.50 per pound from Coby and Connie Gilbreath (\$11.50) and Gene Bradley (\$9), and he earned \$2,439.50 for his work.

The grand champion barrow, owned by Ross Schulte, was purchased for \$10 a pound by Rafter 3 Feedyard, Andy Rogers Feedyard, Marvin Schulte and Tulia Livestock Auction. That barrow brought a grand total of \$2,600 for Schulte.

Shawn Nelson exhibited the grand champion steer and the animal was sold for \$3 per pound to his grandparents, Edmund and Joyce Hunter and Allena Nelson; his uncle, Ricky Hunter; and the Nazareth Buyers' Club. The animal earned Nelson \$3,480.

Sale highlights

Here's how the premium sale is conducted.

The floor sells first, then auctioneers will sell the grand champions, then the reserve champions. All breed champions will be sold next, followed by reserve breed champions. Then auctioneers will proceed to auction off one-third of the steers,

lambs and barrows qualifying for the sale. The order will be repeated until all qualifying animals are sold.

Castro County businesses and others with local interest (like grandparents, other relatives, friends, etc.) usually provide bids on the animals that make the sale each year, but they can't purchase all of the animals and that's where the Buyers' Clubs come in.

Stock show supporters in Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth form Buyers' Clubs each year and those volunteers visit local businesses and solicit donations. From the money collected, the buyers' clubs are able to purchase animals owned by youngsters in their community.

Commercial bidders set the floor prices, which are usually based on the day's market prices.

If a youngster makes the sale with his animal, he will be going for a premium bid above floor prices. These premiums help pay expenses of raising show animals, including medicines, feed and other supplies.

If a youngster's animal doesn't seem to be drawing a top bid, the Buyers' Clubs step in and try to insure that each youngster gets a good price and can make enough to pay expenses and make a little profit.

The Buyers' Clubs rely heavily on donations and the more money they receive the more they can bid on

youngsters' animals. Members of each Buyers' Club will be collecting donations this week and they will have tables set up at the Expo Building on Saturday.

Premium bids can run all the way up and down the scale; however, the auctioneers and Buyers' Clubs try to set minimum standards to insure that every youngster gets a decent price for his or her animal.

If the floor price on lambs is 70¢ a pound, the auctioneer may call for an opening bid of \$2 a pound. If you want to buy a particular animal, that

weighs 100 pounds and you want to bid \$4 for it, get a friend or a Buyers' Club bidder to help you bid it up to that price.

The Dimmitt Young Farmers operate the county's auction sale on a guaranteed premium basis, which means that a youngster who is planning to show his animal at another show, like the Houston Livestock Show, will receive the money bid on his animal here, whether or not he makes the sale at another show.

If a youngster is going to place his animal in the sale but only wants it to be sold as a "take-home" (if he or she wishes to keep it or take it on to

another show), it must be listed on the sale sheet prior to the sale.

When things get going, if you want to bid on an animal, raise your hand so the auctioneer or spotter can see you. From then on they'll keep their eyes on you and you can bid with a nod of your head.

The Young Farmers provide floor-level chairs in front of the sale ring for bidders. If you plan on bidding on one or more animals, it's best to move into the buyers' area to do your bidding. That makes it quicker and easier for the auctioneers and spotters, and helps make the sale go faster.

Grooming of animals takes time

Fitting of a show pig should be started during the feeding period.

The thing to seek in any fitted animal is a natural, attractive appearance. It is secured through cleanliness and proper trimming and grooming of the hair coat.

Brushing and washing

The correct path to a good hair coat is clean, dry, well-bedded sleeping quarters, good nutrition and good grooming. Brush the hair daily the last 30 days. This will train the hair to lie down properly and adds bloom to the hair coat.

The pig should be washed at least twice before the show. The first washing should take place about one or two weeks before the show. This is done so you can carefully check for lice, mange or other skin disorders and get them corrected prior to show time. The other washing should take place the day before the show (either at home or at the show).

Follow these four steps, being careful not to get water inside the ear:

—Wet the pig over the entire body.

—Lather the pig with ample soap (liquid detergent is fine) and use a stiff brush with plenty of "elbow grease" and thoroughly scrub the entire body.

—Rinse completely to remove all soap.

—Brush hair until thoroughly dry. This is tremendously important because it trains the hair to lay properly.

Here's to the Best.

Through their show-animal projects, our 4-H and FFA youth are learning a valuable lesson in Americanism: Do the best you can, and try to be the best that you can be at what you do.

The ethic has made ours the greatest agricultural nation in the world.

Whatever the future holds for rural America, we know it will be in good hands.

Attend the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale this weekend, and you'll see for yourself.

Castro Co-op Gin, Inc.



Texas does NOT have BSE

In a statement issued Jan. 30, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs said, "We do not have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Texas. Cattle have not been quarantined in Texas because of BSE."

Earlier in January, a Purina feed mill in Texas accidentally mixed meat and bone meal made from domestic cattle in a feed supplement that was fed to 1,222 head of cattle at a southeast Texas feedlot, Combs said.

"During normal quality control measures at Purina, the accident was discovered and the feedlot and appropriate authorities were notified," she said.

Combs said the owner of the feedlot voluntarily isolated the cattle. She emphasized that no cattle have been quarantined.

Results of the FDA report show that a low level of the prohibited meal was found in the feed, according to Combs, but at such a small quantity that each animal at most consumed only a quarter ounce.

"Despite the negligible risk, Purina Mills Inc. is voluntarily buying all 1,222 head of cattle, and meat from these animals will not enter the food supply," Combs said.

The FDA regulation concerning meat and bone supplements fed to cattle is an added firewall to the stringent measures already in place to prevent BSE from entering the US. Other measures include:

♦ The US has not imported beef from the United Kingdom since at least 1985.

♦ In 1989, the US banned the importation of ruminant animals and

ruminant products from countries with confirmed cases of BSE.

♦ More than 60 veterinary diagnostic laboratories throughout the US participate in a BSE surveillance program along with the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa.

♦ On Dec. 13, 1997, the USDA banned imports of all live ruminants and ruminant products from Europe until risk factors associated with BSE are more fully examined.

♦ The USDA Food Safety Inspection Service inspects cattle for signs of potential central nervous system disorders and submits them to the surveillance program. To date, almost 6,000 brain samples from cattle have been analyzed. No BSE has been found.

♦ An antemortem inspection program is in place at slaughter facilities which prevents animals with possible central nervous system disorders from entering the human food chain.

Combs noted that the nation's cattle industry supports full compliance with FDA regulations. She added that Texas cattle are safe, and the industry is taking aggressive steps to keep BSE out of the US.

FDA statement

The Food and Drug Administration announced the results of tests taken on feed used at a Texas feedlot that was suspected of containing meat and bone meal from other domestic cattle—a violation of FDA's 1997 prohibition of using ruminant material in feed for other ruminants. Results indicate that a very low level of prohibited material was found in the feed that was fed to cattle.

FDA has determined that each

animal could have consumed, at most and in total, five and one-half grams (approximately one-fourth ounce) of prohibited material. These animals weigh approximately 600 pounds.

It is important to note that the prohibited material was domestic in origin (therefore not likely to contain infected material because there is no evidence of BSE in US cattle), [it was] fed at a very low level, and fed only once. The potential risk of BSE to such cattle is therefore exceedingly low, even if the feed were contaminated.

Despite this negligible risk, Purina Mills, Inc., is nonetheless announcing that it is voluntarily purchasing all 1,222 of the animals held in Texas and mistakenly fed the animal feed containing the prohibited material. Therefore, meat from those animals will not enter the human food supply.

FDA believes that Purina Mills has behaved responsibly by first reporting the human error that resulted in the mis-formulation of the animal feed supplement and then by working closely with state and federal authorities.

This episode indicates that the multi-layered safeguard system put into place is essential for protecting the food supply and that continued vigilance needs to be taken, by all concerned, to ensure these rules are followed routinely.

FDA will continue working with USDA, as well as state and local officials, to ensure that companies and individuals comply with all laws and regulations designed to protect the US food supply.

This statement was supplied in a press release from the Texas Animal Health Commission.

Turn'em loose!

Into the show ring they go ... with high hopes riding on every project animal and every youngster. Our best wishes to all our youngsters, our thanks to the Dimmitt Young Farmers for making the Castro County Junior Livestock Show and Sale a great event.

"We're Here On Account of You"

DIMMITT BRANCH
215 W. Bedford • 647-BANK
Member F.D.I.C.

Good Luck!

To our 4-H and FFA youngsters:

From the birthing pen to the show ring, your project animals have come a long way. And so have you. We know what it takes to raise a show animal and get it ready for the ring. The long nights, the cold mornings, the extra trips, the pen cleaning, the hundreds of other chores ... these are all a part of the task. And now, as you prepare to enter the ring, we wish you good luck. You've earned it!

Dimmitt Market

THROFTWAY