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A QUICK READ OF THE NEWS

Thieves go for lots of dough

A bandit in North Charleston, N.C., with a penchant for pizza has gotten away with the dough — about \$7,500 worth.

The thief — or thieves — made off with a 16-foot truck filled with about 2,400 frozen DiGiorno pizzas bound for supermarkets in Mount Pleasant.

The truck was recovered Monday about a mile away, but the pizzas were gone, said a sales representative for Kraft Pizza, the truck's owner.

He said he wonders what the hijackers had in mind when they took so many pizzas. "Maybe they plan to stand on the corner of Rivers Avenue and sell them all; I don't know," he said.

And from the same town ...

Police say Kenneth Richardson's attempt at a bank robbery in North Charleston looked more like a withdrawal.

Richardson, 40, is facing charges of intending to steal from a First Citizens Bank after allegedly handing a teller a note demanding cash.

The note appeared to be written on a check stub, which police say carried Richardson's name and Social Security number on top.

Police say Richardson made off with \$85. His bail was set at \$300,000.

Football contest entries dip

Once the Mules were out of the playoffs, interest in the *Journal's* weekly football contest seemed to wane, with only 30 contestants entering last week.

Bill Nix of Sudan won for the week, missing on three of his calls.

Two people missed four games. J.C. Orozco edged out Carl Jacobs for second place by virtue of being closer on the tiebreaker score — 20 points as opposed to 41.

Only five players picked Cincinnati against Pittsburgh, and surprisingly only seven picked Texas A&M over the University of Texas.



Drawing date: Saturday, Nov. 27
Winning numbers: 13-24-26-31-39-49
Estimated jackpot: \$10 million
Winners: 0
Next drawing: Wednesday, Dec. 1
Estimated jackpot: \$13 million

On this date in history

Dec. 2 — The Atomic Age is born when a self-sustaining nuclear reaction is demonstrated for the first time (1942).

Dec. 3 — A heavy fog envelops London, England, and causes 106 deaths because of an unusually high sulfur dioxide content in the air (1962).

Dec. 4/5 — On Dec. 4 (beginning of Hanukkah), Woodrow Wilson becomes the first American president to visit a foreign country (1918).

LOCAL WEATHER

The weatherman says showers are possible Thursday and Saturday, with partly cloudy conditions otherwise. Low temperatures should gradually decline, from 34 Thursday to 32 Friday, 28 Saturday and 24 Sunday. Daytime highs, however, should reach about the mid-50s Thursday and Friday and about 50 otherwise.

Editor Ronn Smith can be reached at 272-4536 or ctyankee@fivearea.com

Missed your paper? Call carrier Melissa Flores at 272-6719 or the Journal during business hours, 8:30 am-5 pm.

Parade and open house to welcome Christmas

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Anyone who's still not in the Christmas mood won't have any excuse after Saturday evening's lighted parade downtown and "old-fashioned Christmas" event at the Heritage Center.

The parade — with a theme of "Christmases Past, Present and Future" — is scheduled to begin at dark, about 6:15 p.m.

Entries should be to the Muleshoe Chamber of Commerce office before 2 p.m. Friday. There is a \$10 entry fee, and parade entrants will be instructed where to line up.

Awards of \$300 cash for first place, \$150 cash for second and

\$50 for third will be given out, and the winners will be on display on the Mule Lot until Christmas.

But parade winners won't be the only ones announced Saturday.

After the parade, an open house begins at the Muleshoe Heritage Center. And at 8 p.m. at the depot, winners of an art competition sponsored by McDonald's Restaurant and the Heritage Foundation, will be honored.

The competition has been open to Dillman Elementary School second-graders.

Guests arriving at the open house will be treated to Christmas music by the Muleshoe High School

Band, directed by Phil Phyllaier.

All the buildings at the center will be sparkling with Christmas lights, and each structure will feature Christmas trees and holiday decorations.

Among those decorations will be vintage items donated by the public to depict "an old-fashioned Christmas on the Plains."

Besides the art competition, the depot will feature refreshments and seasonal entertainment.

The parlor of the center's historic Janes house will feature a traditional-style Christmas tree decorated by members of the Student-Community Action Club, who

will be soliciting canned goods to be placed under the tree for the Muleshoe Food Pantry.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be at the Janes house for pictures with guests, and the Rev. Jack Stone and his group will be singing Christmas carols and other music.

The log cabin, also decorated, will feature recently acquired furnishings and period artifacts.

And finally, at the Muleshoe Ranch cook house, cowboy Jack Hicks will serve up coffee brewed on a wood-burning stove. Decorations there will include a tumbleweed Christmas tree and a new table made by Hicks.

Grant funds set aside for farmers' aid

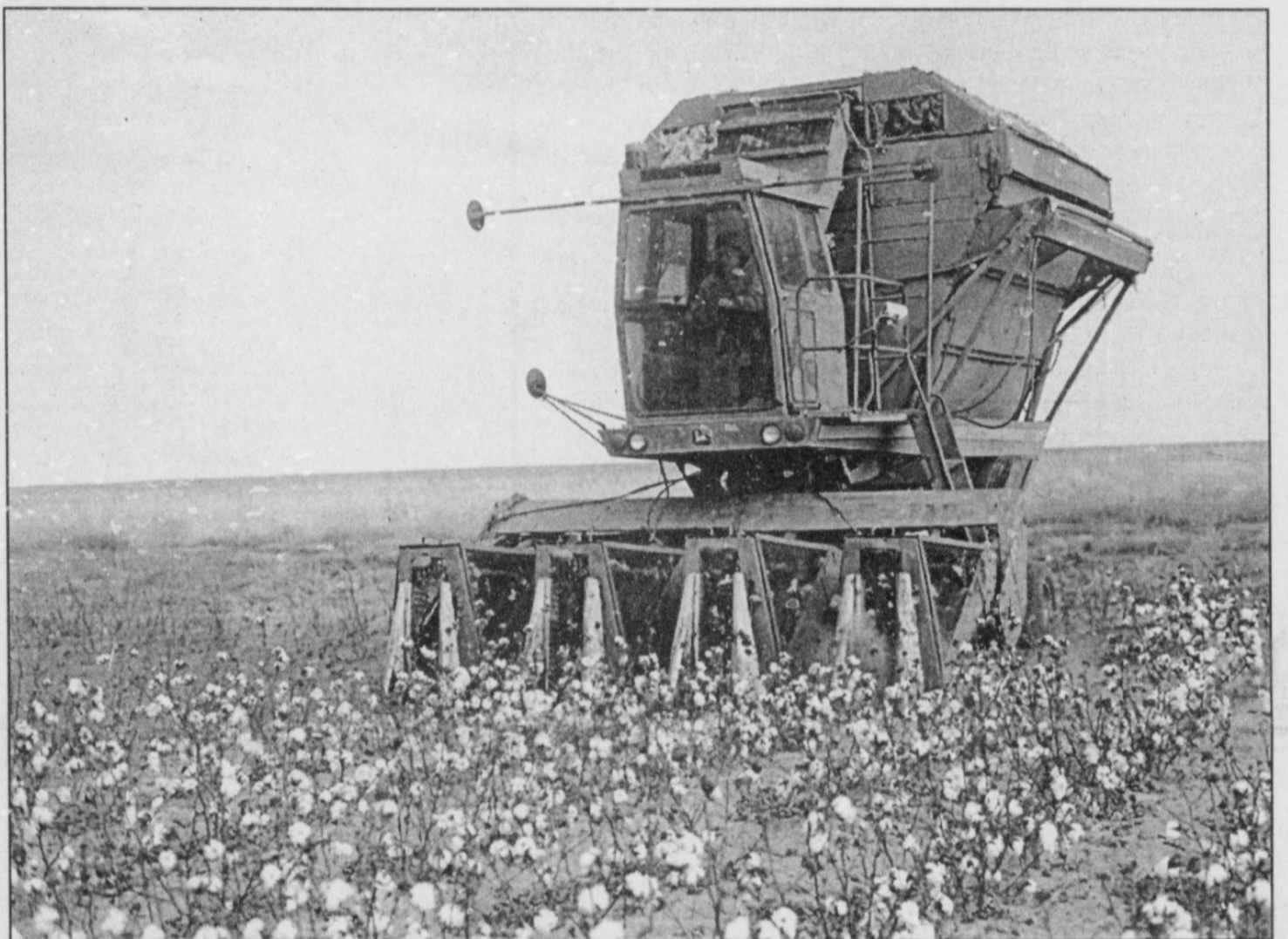
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced Monday that farmers who have suffered severe crop losses due to natural disasters can begin to sign-up for cash grants starting Dec. 13.

"American farmers are still feeling the pressure of low prices and, in many cases, the effects of natural disasters," he said.

To be eligible, farmers must have lost at least 35 percent of their 1999 crops because of natural disasters. The deadline to file applications is Feb. 25.

The fiscal year 2000 agriculture appropriations act provided \$1.2 billion for the Crop Disaster Program. Eligible farmers will receive an advance payment equal to 35 percent of their projected total payment as soon as their application is approved.

Participants will receive their final payment after all applications have been approved.



Journal photo: Beatrice Morin

It isn't the old-fashioned way

Oscar Nuñez starts down four more rows as strips cotton on the Jerry Nichols farm. Dry weather — which has begun to have a negative effect on wheat in some areas — has helped farmers get most of the cotton crop out of fields around Muleshoe. Reports indicate that the harvest is not so far along either to the north or to the southeast.

Groundbreaking on nursing home just awaiting final details

By RONN SMITH
Editor

Citizens eager for the new nursing home project to break ground will have to wait a little longer, but probably not that much.

After construction bids had been opened last week, hospital district

administrator Jim Bone did advise the district board to hold off on awarding the contract until financing is more certain.

He said the bids will be good for 60 days and the district should know more about the financing within about 45 days.

He did say he will recommend the bid of Greenstreet Inc. of Lubbock, and discussion indicated that the bid amounts were similar.

Bone said that a \$2.6 million bond issue at 6 percent interest will require about \$18,000 in payments.

He also said the district could

incur about \$250,000 to \$300,000 more in costs that would not be covered by the financing.

Coda Stephenson of BGR Architects-Engineers said the bid includes paving and the water line for sprinklers, but not the sprinklers or landscaping.

Road rage threatens drivers more during holiday period

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Incidents of road rage — such as the one that led to a 40-mile backup on the interstate between Austin and San Antonio over the Thanksgiving holiday — are likely to rise this time of year.

Roads are more congested this time of year, with travelers and locals buzzing all over town.

Day-to-day stresses combined with holiday preparations can often cause anxiety and loss of composure on overcrowded highways, a frustration that can make some people crazy with rage — road rage.

Because more instances of aggressive driving are being seen on a regular basis, Texas highways are marked with reminders to "Drive Friendly." With aggressive drivers on the road, the potential for automobile accidents is high, especially during

this busy time of year.

Insurance companies offer these pro-active tips:

- A good rule of thumb is to follow all the laws of the road.
- Slower traffic should keep right so the left lane can be used for passing.
- Do not offend drivers with hand gestures, verbal abuse or intimidatory driving. This type of behavior can only antagonize an already aggressive driver.
- Avoid eye contact to keep the situation from becoming personal.
- Do not provoke drivers by flashing your lights or honking your horn.
- Do not tailgate. Try to keep a two second following distance.
- Use signals to alert other drivers to lane changes, etc., and
- Pull off the road to make cellular calls.

Y2K rumors: Concerns about the 9-1-1 system

A coalition of Texas agencies known as Readiness 2000 has provided the city of Muleshoe with pertinent information about many issues that concern citizens as the new year approaches.

The *Journal* will be printing some of this material until Jan. 1. More information on any of the issues is available by calling city hall at 272-4528.

No. 1 — Emergency services are reliable.

The 9-1-1 call centers are always prepared for a busy night on any holiday. This coming New Year's Eve will be no different.

The only request the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications has is a familiar one: Only call 9-1-1 in an emergency, the same as during the rest of the year. Never call it as a "test."

Texas is well ahead of other

states when it comes to 911 technology, so being prepared for Y2K is no different.

Emergency communications systems throughout the state are overseen by the Commission on State Emergency Communications, along with other local 911 governing entities.

The commission began assessing the potential Y2K impact on 911 systems in 1997 as part of a statewide long-term planning strategy for Y2K.

The commission required and got documentation from the technology providers verifying that successful 911 system tests have been conducted.

The commission states that it is prepared for any glitch in the computers, as are the providers of the systems who have their own backups in place.

Texas leads nation in traffic-death statistics for '98

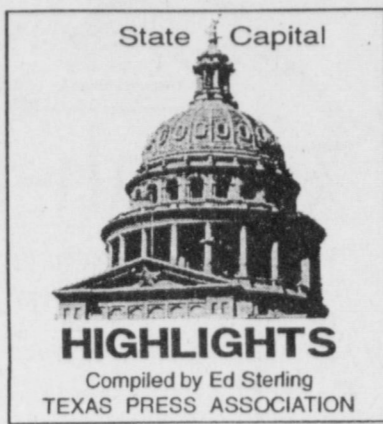
AUSTIN — The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that Texas led the nation with 3,577 people killed in traffic accidents last year.

California, with 3,112 deaths, and Florida with 2,548, ranked second and third.

A study by the federal agency shows that the consumption of alcohol was involved in nearly 30 percent of the traffic deaths in Texas and driving faster than road conditions permit was the second-most frequent cause of traffic deaths.

Speeding is third in the violations that contribute to fatal accidents in Texas, said Tom Vinger, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety.

"Driving under the influence is No. 1. Driving at a speed unsafe for conditions is No. 2," he said.



Lower injury rates and fatality rates could translate to lower insurance rates, said Sandra Ray of Southwestern Insurance Information Service. She called for a statewide crackdown on speeders.

Other highlights

- Whooping cranes are returning to Texas, riding earlier-than-usual cold fronts. Sightings of the protected species should be reported to Parks

and Wildlife at (800) 792-1112.

Last winter, 183 whooping cranes lived along the mid-Texas coast near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

• The Texas Department of Public Safety has announced that DPS Director Dudley Thomas will retire Feb. 29 after almost 40 years with the agency. He was appointed director in 1996.

Texas Railroad Commissioner Tony Garza cautioned Texans against panicking over Year 2000 computer problems but stressed that all Texans should be ready for people problems, such as overreacting, worrying, hoarding food or falling victim to scams.

• The Nov. 5-7 Texas Book Festival attracted more than 140 luminaries from the literary world — including Elmer

Kelton, Sandra Brown, Dan Rather and Scott Turow — and thousands of book enthusiasts to the halls of the state Capitol. The annual event is a

fund-raiser for public libraries.

• Willy Graves, president of Progressive County Mutual Insurance of Texas, says this time of year "the simplest thing driv-

ers can do to reduce chances of an accident with a deer is to drive the speed limit" and "reduce your speeds in areas where visibility is low."

Hanukkah, which begins on Sunday, often mistaken for religious holiday

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

Every year around this time, Jewish people around the world celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

Also referred to as the Feast of Dedication or the Feast of the Maccabees, Hanukkah commemorates the Jewish victory over the Syrians in 165 B.C.E. and the rededication of the ancient Hebrew Temple.

Though not a religious holiday, Hanukkah is rich with symbolism and cultural traditions. The lighting of the menorah, for example, symbolizes the miracle in which a day's supply of pure oil burned for eight straight days — accounting for the historical eight day holiday and the eight candles on the menorah.

The menorah is lit properly by lighting a single candle or

oil wick on the menorah's far right at nightfall on the first night of Hanukkah.

The candles are lit by a "shamash" or service candle that has its own place on the menorah, slightly apart from the rest of the candles.

Add an additional candle on each successive night, lighting from left to right, with the newest candle lit first, until the eighth night, when all eight candles are lit. Allow the candles to burn themselves out.

In addition to the songs that are sung throughout the holiday and the lighting of the menorah, there's the dreidel, another well-known symbol of Hanukkah. A very popular game for children, the dreidel is a four-sided top with a Hebrew letter on each side, acknowledging the occurrence

of the great miracle. Players use items like raisins, nuts or chocolate coins (gelt) as tokens or playing chips.

In America, Jewish families celebrate Hanukkah at home. They gather with family, friends and loved ones, take joy in exchanging gifts, sing festive songs, say blessings and light the menorah.

Meanwhile, the delicious scent of traditional deep-fried foods so inherent to the holiday emerges from the kitchen. Latkes and deep-fried pastries dipped in honey are examples of the special foods that are eaten and enjoyed at Hanukkah time.

With every bite, the mood grows even more festive as everyone takes delight in these rich, flavorful foods that recall the miracle of the oil.

Persistent cough can be sign of asthma

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

HOUSTON — Many parents don't suspect asthma when their child has a nagging cough, but if the cough lingers or is accompanied by wheezing, there is cause for concern.

The Children's Asthma Center at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston treats children with asthma that is either difficult to diagnose or to manage.

Dr. Dan Seilheimer, medical director of the asthma center and Texas Children's Pulmonary Medicine Clinic, said persistent or recurring coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing are the primary symptoms of asthma.

"Asthma can start in infancy or onset later," Seilheimer said. "It occurs in people who have a genetic predisposition and then something such as a virus or exposure to air pollution or toxic inhalation unmasks that tendency, which leads to sensi-

tive airways."

Coughing may be most noticeable during the night as it keeps the child from resting. Wheezing is a high-pitched sound that asthmatic children sometimes make when breathing. The wheezing might only occur periodically. A child who is short of breath may complain that his or her chest feels tight, which can lead to breathing difficulties.

Identifying symptoms early can prevent more serious breathing problems or frequent asthmatic episodes. Early warning signs of an asthmatic episode include a runny, stuffy or itchy nose; paleness; dark circles under the eyes; a stomachache or headache; crankiness or restlessness; poor appetite; sneezing; a sore throat; or an itchy chin, throat or back.

At the Children's Asthma Center at Texas Children's, parents learn to avoid the triggers that can make

asthma worse.

Triggers, which are different for each child, include irritants such as smoke, strong odors and sprays, weather and pollution, exercise, dust mites, animal dander, pollen, molds and viruses.

Asthma usually is treated with anti-inflammatory medication. These medicines keep the child's airways from becoming inflamed. Inflammation causes bronchospasm and more mucus in the airways.

Asthmatic children who have viral triggers are very susceptible this time of year because they are more likely to be around other children and adults with seasonal viruses like colds and flu.

"An important thing is to try to minimize the respiratory viral infections by avoiding exposure to people who have colds or flu," Seilheimer said.

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Tomato varieties multiply quickly

By RONN SMITH
EDITOR

The varieties of tomatoes and peppers that are easily available number in the hundreds.

With peppers, aside from the obvious division between sweet ones and hot ones, the variation tends to be mainly in size and the color of the pods at maturity (red, orange, yellow, lavender, purple, white and "chocolate," that I know of — there certainly may be others).

Of course, some peppers are "sweeter" than others or have pod walls that are more substantial (or thinner).

With tomatoes, the predominance of red is a fairly recent development, and many of the old varieties are still around and making a comeback. There are yellow ones, orange ones, white ones, green ones, striped ones and the "pink" and "purple" varieties that are pretty much red.

There are perfectly round ones, flattened globe-shaped ones, heart-shaped ones, elongated ones and the old-fashioned pear-shaped ones.

There are the little cherry tomatoes, popular for salads and for popping into your mouth while you're picking them, and the great big Oxheart and Brandywine types where one slice covers a hamburger bun.

There are also the more recently introduced currant tomatoes, which are tiny little things that grow in clusters and definitely are sweeter than other tomatoes — they are reportedly not from the same species as other tomatoes.

Another variation is acid content, and on that point tomatoes vary from extremely mild to extremely strong. Generally, the lighter-colored ones are less acid, but that isn't necessarily true, so if acidity is a crucial point with you, you need to check



before you plant. I'm mainly concerned about the flavor, but many people want their tomatoes to "bite back."

There are also two main vine types: Determinate means the plant grows to a certain size and produces a crop. Indeterminate means the plant keeps on growing and produces tomatoes over a longer period.

For canning, determinate types can be good because they produce a lot of tomatoes all at once. Strictly for eating, you might prefer indeterminate kinds.

For starting seeds indoors, I think a temperature of 70 degrees is good for both tomatoes and peppers. Many authorities recommend cooler temperatures for tomato germination (in fact, the new American Horticultural Society book on plant propagation recommends 59 degrees), and some recommend warmer.

I start early seedlings on the little rubber heating pads at about 70 degrees, and the tomatoes and peppers both sprout like weeds.

The advice generally is to transplant both species into 2 1/2- to 3 1/2-inch pots when their first set of true leaves is well-grown. I don't think you need to stress out about getting them replanted that soon, but certainly if you use very tiny containers to start them in (as I do — Park-Starts) you can't dilly-dally for long without risking stunting your plants.

Whenever I talk about tomato varieties, I have to mention the old Yellow Pear, which is my favorite. These are mild but tasty, small enough to eat as you pick without getting all drippy. Also, if you like to save seed from year to year, they come true from seed — as long as you don't have other varieties blooming nearby at the same time.

Another trait you might want to look for is heat tolerance. Many tomatoes are not prone to produce fruit when the temperature is above 90 degrees.

Local nurseries can tell you about the new varieties developed for high temperatures; there are new ones appearing every year.

Celebrity (70 days) is a semi-determinate typical red of medium size that is supposed to be tolerant of both heat and cold. It bears very well here through our hot summers, and is often available as plants at our area garden centers.

Other reds (aside from cherry types) include:

- Ace 55 (85 days) and its "improved" relative Royal Ace (also 85 days) — A thick-skinned commercial determinate type. Densé foliage helps protect the fruit from sun scald. In the case of Ace 55, it has very low acid;

- Amish Paste (74 days) — A very old variety that rates highly for sauces and canning, making a comeback despite the popularity of Roma (74 days) and other Italian-named paste tomatoes. Indeterminate, and also very good for slicing despite being a "paste type";

- Beefsteak, Burpee Supersteak, Burpee Super Beefsteak, Beefmaster and other variations (each 80 days) — Some of the biggest, with fruits up to 2 pounds; all are indeter-

minate;

- Early Girl (52 days) — Possibly the best extra-early, and certainly one of the most popular varieties for home growers. Indeterminate and a heavy yielder of small to medium-sized fruit. Available as plants in the spring at almost any garden center;

- Marglobe (75 days) and Rutgers (73 days) — Favorites in our parents' and grandparents' day that tend to be overlooked in favor of more modern types, but still excellent all-around tomatoes. Marglobe indeterminate, Rutgers determinate;

- Super Sioux (70 days) — One I have not tried yet, but it's supposed to be excellent for hot, dry areas. Semi-determinate and acidic;

- Siberia (48 days) — Possibly the earliest of all. The plants aren't frost-resistant, so they'll still need protection if set out early, but it reportedly can set fruit at 38 degrees — far lower than most varieties. Determinate; smallish fruits in clusters;

- Brandywine (90 to 100 days) — Very large and often called the tastiest of all, it's an old type often associated with the Amish. Indeterminate plants resemble potato vines.

This brief survey only scratches the surface of red tomatoes. If you're interested in more, many are listed in the catalog from Totally Tomatoes, P.O. Box 1626, Augusta, Ga. 30903.

More on other types of tomatoes will be coming in future columns.

Happy planting!
Questions and suggestions may be addressed to Garden Writer, Route 2, Box 880, Muleshoe, Texas 79347.

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Next Holiday Madness is Dec. 4!

BIRTHS

REYES

Joe and Laura Reyes of Muleshoe are the parents of a son, Joe Zackery Reyes, born Nov. 18 in Clovis.

He weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches

long.

He has two siblings, John Michael Salinas and Denise Reyes.

His grandparents are Victor and Mary Ann Arzola and José and Rosa Reyes.

Great-grandparents include Consuelo Vásquez of Muleshoe, Isidro Vásquez of San Rafael, Nuevo León, and Pancha Reyes, also of San Rafael.

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Dairy Queen	Do All Family Enterprises
Leaf's	Lowe's Marketplace
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Corine Mallouf of Lazbuddie — \$50 Gift Certificate from Lowe's Marketplace
Harold Burge of Muleshoe — \$50 Gift Certificate from Dairy Queen
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AROUND THE AREA

Living Christmas Tree planned

Three Muleshoe singers — Joan Lewis, Jim Allison and Jo Jinks — will be among the 84 expected to participate Dec. 3-5 when the Living Christmas Tree returns to Friona.

The singers involved also represent Friona, Hereford, Amarillo, Bovina and Dimmitt, plus Broadview, N.M.

Performances are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The performances are free, but donations will be accepted to help defray the costs of lighting and decorations.

Child care will be available at the 10th Street Church of Christ during the performances.

Bluegrass event is Dec. 11

South Plains College's semi-annual Bluegrass Fest is scheduled for Dec. 11 and will feature classic and contemporary bluegrass standards plus a fiddle extravaganza.

Admission is free for the 7 p.m. concert in the Levelland campus's Tom T. Hall Studio in the Creative Arts Building.

Aside from the SPC Faculty All-Stars, the festival will feature Pickin' on the Plains, Pickin' on the Plains Too, Bucket o' Notes and the fiddle students of Joe Carr and Ed Marsh.

Sweet Adelines group to sing

The Prairie Winds Chorus of Sweet Adelines International is scheduled to present "Dear Santa," a Christmas dessert show, starting at 7 p.m. Dec. 4 in the McInturff Conference Center at University Medical Center in Lubbock.

In addition to the 75-voice chorus, featured performers will include the Singing Plainsmen, a local men's barbershop chorus, and women's quartets such as Crystal Collection, Rendition and Astound Sound.

Tickets are \$15. More information is available by calling (806) 799-7464.

Texans tallying up bumper '99 corn crop

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL COLLEGE STATION — The state's corn growers are getting an earful about the success of this year's crop, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service reports.

Statewide corn production is estimated at 240 million bushels, a 29 percent increase from 1998 and nearly 3 percent of the 9.47 billion bushels grown nationally, according to the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service.

Extension agronomist Dr. Cloyce Coffman in College Station said he attributes the above-average yields to favorable weather conditions during the early growing stage.

"Cool nights during the early vegetative stage gave the crop a good start," he said. "The overall cool spring is a very important factor."

Ronald Leps, Extension agent in Williamson County, said there also was abundant rainfall in the spring.

"Good soil moisture played an important part," he said.

Leps said the above-average yields in Central Texas led to a slow harvest.

"The grain elevators just don't have the capacity for such high yields," he said. "This really lengthened our harvest time."

Leps said the dry weather allowed for the prolonged harvest without any damage to the corn.

"The weather really cooper-

ated," he said. "It allowed us to still reach such high yields despite the slow harvest."

Leps said corn replaced nearly 20,000 acres of cotton and grain sorghum in Williamson County, also contributing to the increased yields.

"The decision was one of dollars and cents," he said. "There is just more profit potential with corn."

Coffman said growers were fortunate to not encounter any significant problems with in-

Trial cost reaches \$87,000

The anticipated cost of the capital murder trial of Eddie Rowton, accused in the slaying of 5-year-old Shawnlee Perry of Earth, reached about \$87,000 by the time the trial actually began this week, according to figures released by Lamb County.

The trial is being held in Odessa after being moved from Littlefield on a change of venue.

Testimony began Monday.

Ultimate Christmas Bazaar scheduled

The 11th annual Ultimate Christmas Bazaar is scheduled for Dec. 4-5 at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis.

Hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mountain time) on Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

The event will once again be held in Hangar 208 on base, with more than 100 vendors participating.

The offerings will include both traditional and non-traditional arts and crafts, collectibles, antiques, furniture, toys, household and electrical items, Beanie Babies, jewelry, clothing, perfumes and cosmetics, cuisine gift sets and candy.

The base is six miles west of Clovis, just off U.S. 60-84. More information is available by calling Pat Grah at (505) 784-6381.

Christmas in the Canyon set

The visitor center at Palo Duro Canyon State Park near Canyon will be decorated to the hilt for Christmas in the Canyon, a holiday event scheduled for Dec. 11.

From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the center will be featuring refreshments, arts and crafts and plenty of holiday cheer.

More information is available by calling (806) 488-2227.

The deadline for items to appear in *Around the Area* is 5 p.m. Monday for Thursday's edition and 5 p.m. Thursday for Sunday's edition. Items may be brought to the office at 304 W. Second, mailed to P.O. Box 449 or faxed to 272-3567.

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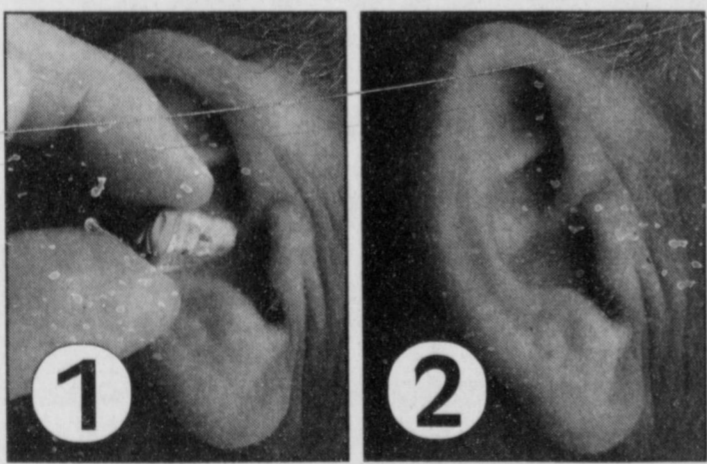
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30X	\$550	\$300
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100X Black	\$1,100	\$550
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Digital hearing aid prescriptions are precisely matched to your hearing loss. Once inside your ear, it is hardly noticeable.

"The new Direct Digital Hearing Aid has been released. It samples sound one million times per second with more processing power than many desktop computers," said Patrick McCarty, hearing aid specialist with Livingston Hearing Aid Center.

"Sound is pre-processed and fed 32,000 times per second through the digital sound processor for statistical analysis and over 100 parameters are adjusted automatically."

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Aid Center offers a 60-day money back satisfaction guarantee.

Call for a free demonstration: 1-800-828-0722. Livingston Hearing Aid Center is located at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe.

ONE DAY ONLY
Mon. Dec. 6th



Come meet Hearing Aid Specialist, Patrick McCarty of Livingston

Hearing Aid Center. He will be demonstrating the new Direct Digital Hearing Aid one day only, Monday, Dec. 6th at the Bailey County Coliseum in Muleshoe.



2231



The Fair Store
 120 Main 272-3500



Eagle Scout named

Christopher B. Seymore of Dodge City, Kan., recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in a Scouting career that began with service as a Tiger Cub under Betty Griswold in Muleshoe. He then moved through Scouting with Arnold Price, Bruce Purdy and the late Terry Hutto while still in Muleshoe. After moving to Dodge City in the fifth grade, he continued in Scouting under Harvey Blattner, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout on May 17. As his project, he built two planter boxes for wheelchair residents of Trinity Manor in Dodge City. He is the son of David and Pat Seymore of Dodge City and the grandson of Melvin and Norma Seymore of Muleshoe and Joe and Jean Lambert of Poetry, Texas.

Infusion therapy allows for care in patient's familiar surroundings

SPECIAL TO THE JOURNAL

HOUSTON — For certain children with illnesses or conditions that once required hospital stays, infusion therapy is becoming a popular treatment option.

The therapy is a technique for administering fluids through a needle or tube. Depending on the illness, an infusion may contain an antibiotic, nutritional supplement, steroid, growth hormone, blood transfusion or pain medication.

"IV therapy can be used in the treatment of cancer, bone infection, immune disorders, blood disorders, cystic fibrosis, congenital abnormalities, organ and bone-marrow transplants, rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, Crohn's disease, pneumonia and infections caused by cuts or insect bites," explained registered nurse Sherly Malone, an educator with Texas Children's Home Health Services. "It can also be used in pain management."

Malone said home IV therapy offers the patient the advantage of familiar surroundings, which decreases anxiety.

"Home health is ideal for many children," she added. "Home health is helpful for a single parent, but it's also a big convenience for the parent who has other children with schedules of their own."

Malone affirmed home IV therapy is usually more cost-effective than a hospital stay, especially when the parent opts to administer the infusion.

"Sometimes, parents are reluctant to use home-health

services because they don't understand what goes on before they leave the hospital," Malone said.

"Once we teach them how to administer therapy, their tension level decreases and they learn to do the procedure as perfectly as possible. For some patients, it is critical for parents to learn the procedure because in case of an emergency — such as hemophiliac bleeding — the child may not have time to wait for a nurse to arrive at the residence or get to the hospital. Our goal is for the parent to reach independence and competently perform the procedure in a safe and sterile manner."

An important part of IV therapy involves injections, a procedure Texas Children's Home Health Services also teaches parents.

"We even show parents how to make those injections pain-free with the use of a special cream, so the child is more comfortable," Malone said.

To accommodate a range of patients, Texas Children's Home Health Services staff members contribute experience from a variety of health-care settings.

"We have many nurses and therapists with hematology/oncology backgrounds because they worked in the Texas Children's Cancer Center," Malone said.

"Some of our staff have experience in intensive care, premature nursery units and other home-health environments. Several have worked in foreign countries, which facilitates flexibility with language and cultural differences."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Officers' pay

Dear Editor,
 During October 1999, Texas lost four law enforcement officers to senseless, violent deaths. Why? Because they did their jobs; they answered the call.

According to an FBI report in a front-page story in the *San Antonio Express-News* on Oct. 17, the most dangerous job in law enforcement is that of a rural deputy sheriff.

They are required to enforce all laws — federal, state, county and city — not just local ordinances.

Do you know that many of these rural deputies (and police officers in small communities) earn less than \$22,000 per year? Because they earn so little, most of them must moonlight on their days off just to provide basic needs for their families.

It's time we Texans step up and answer our call. Because Texas is one of the fastest-

growing states, and we want our state to be safe, it's up to us to see that all law enforcement officers are paid a respectable salary.

It's up to you and me to write our state representatives and state senators to demand that Texas either provide a base salary for full-time law enforcement officers or a stipend to bring up those wages that are below the poverty line.

As parents of a law enforcement officer in rural Texas, my husband and I realize that there will always be danger on the job, but we would like to improve the quality of our lives.

We need your help. We need people from all 254 counties in Texas to pass around petitions and get signatures from their fellow citizens to present to the Legislature when it meets again in January 2001.

If you would like to join a real Texas "posse," send a legal-sized self-addressed stamped envelope, and I will

send you the appropriate petition, information about how to obtain signatures, and directions for delivery of your petition.

Send your request to Betty Harper Murphy, P.O. Box 102, Fort Stockton, Texas 79735, or e-mail your request to bharpermurphy@hotmail.com.

Together our "posse" can round up the signatures needed to get our Legislature's attention.

BETTY MURPHY
 Fort Stockton

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 All Around Town
Saturday
Dec. 4th

Heritage Center OPEN HOUSE
 After the Lighted Christmas Parade
SATURDAY, DEC. 4th

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- ✔ Dillman Elementary 2nd Grade Art Display
- ✔ COME ENJOY THE DECORATIONS ON EACH HERITAGE CENTER BUILDING!
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- ✔ **SPECIAL TOURS**
- ✔ SCAC "Old Fashioned" Christmas Tree
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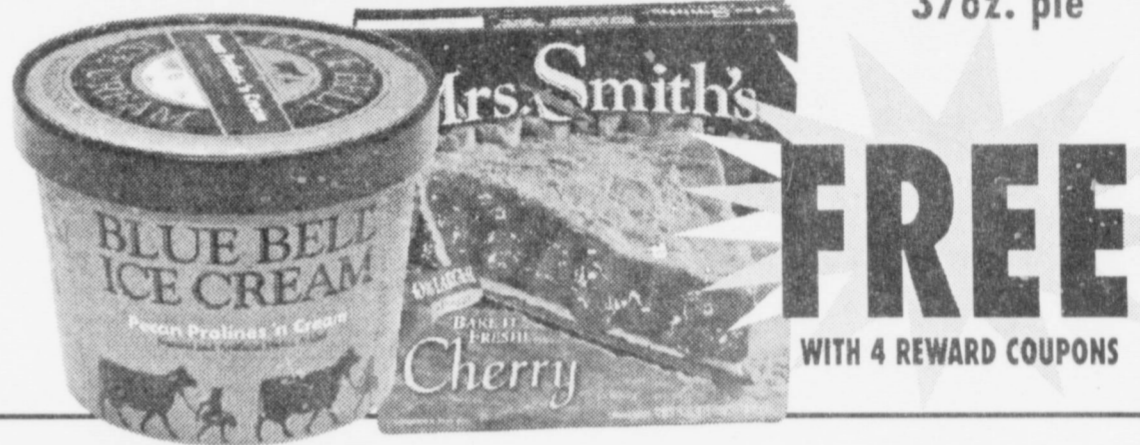
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