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Callahan County Star

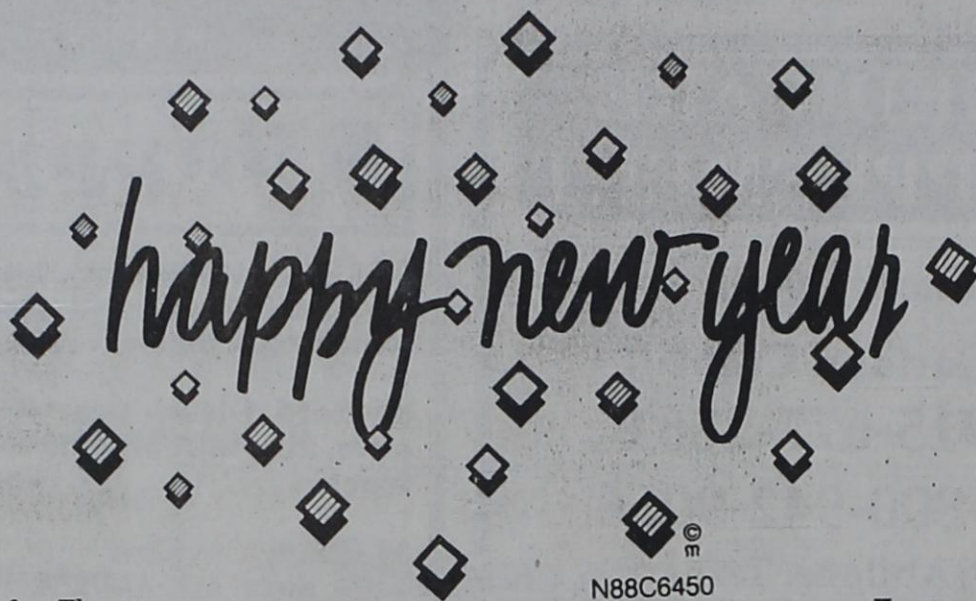
50¢

The Baird Weekly Star,
 Established December 8, 1887

Callahan County Clarendon,
 Established November 15, 1879

Volume 109 Number 1

Thursday, January 2, 1997



N88C6450

Cleanup Ordinance Possibility For City, Tax Use Explained

Baird City Council met in regular session Tuesday, Dec. 17, in Baird City Hall. Mayor Jon Hardwick called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with these officers present: Councilmen, Dale Brewer, Pat O'Brien, and Terry Hunter and City Secretary Nancy Turnbow.

During the time for Citizens to be heard, Bradina Benson spoke to the Council concerning City Cleanup Ordinances. Benson said she had copies of ordinances from other community's relating to cleaning up vacant or unkept properties. A Fine System and Time Period for violations was discussed along with a repayment period if the City has to clean the property. Benson also spoke of a Volunteer Student Work Project to assist Senior Citizens with improvements on their property's.

First item on the agenda was meeting with Jana Dover concerning letters of inquiry she had sent to the Mayor and Council. Dover objected to paying the \$2 Fire Truck fee on her City utilities bill until she had an explanation of where the money goes. Mayor Hardwick explained that originally the \$2 fee was somewhat of an emergency action in

1987 to purchase a Pumper Truck for the Fire Department. Billy Harris, Baird Fire Department Training Officer, explained that the State Board of Insurance had served the City notice, in that year, that the Board would consider the City without fire protection, unless the Fire Department was brought up to standards which included a higher capacity pumper truck. Hardwick said that after the 1988 pumper truck was paid off the City split the \$2 fee between the Fire Department equipment and City Works equipment with half going to each. At this time \$1 a month from each bill goes to pay on the Fire Department's Rescue Truck, purchased in 1993, and \$1 goes to pay on City Works equipment such, a backhoe, dump truck and maintainer.

Dover asked about Firemen being compensated for duties. At the Mayor's request Billy Harris explained that firemen actively responding to fire's and rescue's inside the City Limits receive \$15 for these calls and also receive \$2.50 for each regular meeting attended. Harris said as of November 30 there had been a total of 26 "City Calls" that attending firemen were

compensated for. There were also 94 EMS (First Responder) Calls and 70 County Calls that firemen received no compensation for during 1996 and Baird Firemen accumulated 839 hours of training in addition to the many hours spent responding to calls for services.

Dover asked about fund raisers to help with financing the Fire Departments activities. Dale Brewer, Fireman and Councilman, explained that most of the money donated to the department was used to rig up and maintain the department's rural (grass fire) trucks. He explained that the City owns and pays upkeep on the "City Trucks" but the Department has to acquire, build, maintain and house the "grass trucks" through donated money.

(Continued Inside)

Putnam musical set for Saturday

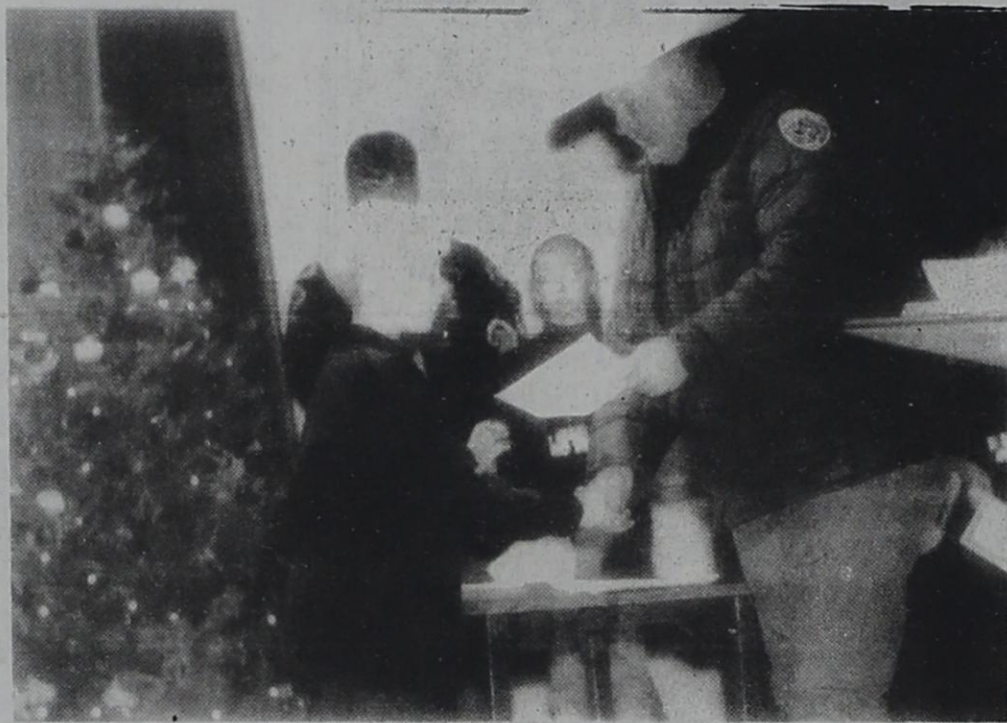
The Putnam Musical will be this Friday, January 3, at the former Putnam School Building.

The kitchen opens at 5:30 p.m., and the music begins at 6:00 p.m. with Carl Whitely as the M.C.

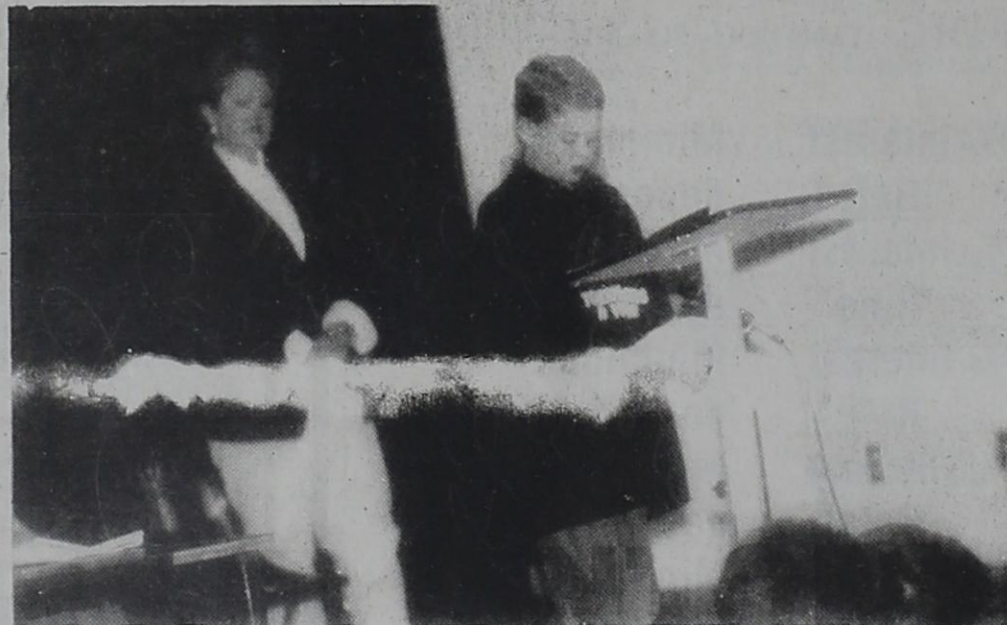
Immunization Clinic Jan. 16 Baird Depot

January 16, 1997 at 9:30 - 11:30 at the Baird Depot there will be a Immunization clinic held.

For more information call Texas Dept. of Health at 915-754-4945.



Sheriff Curtis presents Jarrett Knowles with his D.A.R.E. certificate. (Photo compliments of Billy Harris)



Josh Rudder reads his essay to the audience. (Photo compliments of Billy Harris)

Baird Fifth Graders Presented DARE Graduation Certificates

Baird fifth graders were presented with D.A.R.E. Graduation Certificates during an evening ceremony at Baird Elementary's Cafetorium Wednesday, Dec. 18, by Sheriff Eddie Curtis and D.A.R.E. Instructor Deputy Anita Buchanan.

The whole fifth grade completed the course given by Deputy Buchanan and sponsored by the Callahan County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Curtis started the coun-

ty wide D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program shortly after taking office nearly four years ago. This is part of a nation wide program to educate young people on the dangers of drugs and violence. The 35 students participating in the graduation learned how to be drug free and how to reduce violence during the multi-week instructional period.

Five graduates, April Bynum, Belinda Harris, Tracy

Windham, L.J. Mendez, and Josh Rudder, read essays to the audience about what they had learned in D.A.R.E. Chad Barron, a Baird High School senior, spoke to the group as role model and praised the fifth graders for completing the program. Barron said he wished such a program had been available when he was in grade school as it may have saved some of his classmates from getting involved with drugs.

Firemen Respond To Grass Fires And Fatal I-20 Accident

A series of calls kept the local Fire Department hopping Saturday.

Baird firemen assisted Cisco and Citizens EMS with an early morning accident that took a New Mexico woman's life and sent her two brothers to Hendrick Hospital via "First Flight". Corina Martinez, 18, of Rio Rancho, New Mexico, was pronounced dead at the scene by Monty Jones, Justice of the Peace from Rising Star. The accident occurred near the 325 mile marker on IH-20, about six miles east of Putnam.

John Allen Martinez, 16, and Glenn Patrick Martinez, 11, were being driven back to their home in Louisiana after a visit with their mother in Albuquerque when Corina apparently went to sleep at the wheel, according to DPS Trooper Curtis Price. The Martinez's small car struck a tire on an 18 wheeler as she attempted to pass it and spun

sideways overturning numerous times ejecting Corina.

According to a Hendrick spokesman, John Allen Martinez was treated and released from the Emergency room Saturday and Glenn Patrick was discharged Sunday.

Baird Firemen also responded to two grass fires Saturday afternoon, the first one near the 314 mile marker on IH-20 east of here, that was reported at 2:50 p.m.

According to Baird Fireman David Franke a blow out on a horse trailer started the one acre blaze on the interstate.

A second fire alarm was received at 2:57 p.m. and was located about 3 miles north of Baird on the James Snyder Ranch near a deer camp. Assistant Chief Russell Robbins reported the origin of the fire was unknown and it burned about 5 acres of grassland.

By Billy Harris, Baird Correspondent

Chamber Of Commerce Elects Board Members

Baird Chamber of Commerce elects five board members to new terms during its regular meeting Wednesday, Dec. 18.

Karen Riddle was reelected to a three term along with four new board members, Tommy Jones, Buddy Shipp, Bradina Benson and Bill Wood.

They will join the 10 board members presently serving unexpired terms. This is a list of board members and their occupations: Cindy Curtis, Clyde Police Department Secretary, Cindy Whidden, employed by

Office, K.D. Griffin, self employed carpenter, Ron Abernathy, Antique Shop Owner, Dennis Stegemoeller, local W.T.U. manager, Bun Barry, County Tax Assessor-Collector, Roger Corn, Real Estate Agent, and Butch Barron, employed by an Abilene Oil Co., Karen Riddle, employed by District Tax Appraisal Office, Tommy Jones, owner of local Bed and Breakfast, Buddy Shipp, Bar-B-Que restaurant owner, Bradina Benson, Home Renovation and Bill Wood, Antique Shop.

was the adoption of a rule that a 2/3 vote of the board can remove a board member from the board.

By Billy Harris, Baird Correspondent

Broken Power Pole Causes Fire And Electrical Outage

W.T.U.'s electric service was intermittent Friday morning in the Baird area as line trouble caused problems for the Electric company's employees and local firemen starting at about 7:50 a.m. December 27.

A grass fire just north of the Baird City limits on the Tommy Donnell land was started by a broken power pole cross arm and threatened a residence, barn and a pen of cattle on adjoining land owned. Quick work by the Baird Fire Department kept the blaze away from the structures and cattle. The power pole was also on fire and was extinguished by firemen.

About three acres of grassland were burned in the blaze that started at about 11:45 a.m.

Clyde and Baird did without power for part of Friday morning and some customers in Baird had the juice turned off for a total of almost three hours before power was restored at about 1:45 p.m.

Callahan County Dispatch had to improvise with communications to notify law enforcement and other emergency personnel of calls as their broadcast tower west of Baird was without power for three hours. The new County Wide Paging System was operational and no calls were missed or delayed, according to Dispatcher Arlinda Williams. The Jail, where dispatch is located, has a generator that supplies electricity for just such emergencies.

An Abilene W.T.U. spokesman said all customers in the Baird and Clyde area experienced interruptions service when two 69,000 volt transmission lines, one between Putnam and Clyde and the other between Putnam and Albany, had problems causing the loss of power. Their records showed Clyde out of power for four minutes and Baird without electricity for 36 minutes.

By Billy Harris, Baird Correspondent

Youth Rally January 11 At B.H.S.

A Youth Rally will be held in the Baird High School Gymnasium on Saturday, January 11, at 8:00 p.m. Speaker will be Bay Forrest. The praise and worship leader is Billy Bob White. Everyone is invited to attend.

CALLAHAN COUNTY STAR

Publication No. (USPS 085-520)
 ©1997 Eastland County Newspapers, Inc.
 (915) 854-1008 211 Market St. Baird, Tx 79504
 Periodical Postage paid at Baird, Texas,
 under Act of Congress in March, 1870.
 Published every Thursday.
 Publisher.....H. V. & Gaynell O'Brien
 Editor.....Lupe Garcia, Jr.
 POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Callahan County Star, 211 Market St., Baird, Texas 79504.
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Moran News

By Mrs. Luke Husky

Mrs. Elaine Shelton and Mrs. Dale Pippen spent Christmas Day with Mr. and Mrs. James Shelton in Breckenridge.

William Hudman spent Christmas in Stephenville with his brother, Donald Hudman and family.

Gertrude Wrote spent Christmas Day with

her nice Mrs. Kirk McClymond and family in Breckenridge.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Sanders, Jennifer and Brandi of Stinnett, Lisa Stark and Mary Atwell of Dallas and Mr. and Mrs. Dub Midkiff of Moran were Christmas Day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Midkiff.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harper spent the Christmas holidays in Austin with their daughter, Mrs. Wayne Brown and family.

Twenty relatives and friends were guests of Mrs. Gladys Matthews for dinner on Christmas day.

Graveside rites for I. G. Redden, 78, were held at 2:30 p.m. Saturday, at the Johnson Cemetery in Moran with John Heffner officiating, directed by Godfrey

Neese Funeral Home. Mr. Redden passed away at his home Thursday, he was born in Cross, Texas and married Laura Dennington in 1936. He was a retired farmer and in later years operated an Exxon Station in Moran. He was a member of Jehovah

Witness. He is survived by his wife of Moran, three sons, Jim Redden of Moran, Tim Redden of Lubbock and Manuel Redden of Oklahoma City, seven daughters,

Sheila Hallmark, Joyce Bacon and Sherry Blue of Moran, Laura Hachtel and Betty George both of Lubbock, Lena Redden of Oklahoma City, and Deborah O'Shield of Millsap, 22 grandchildren, 37 great grandchildren, and 3 great great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were grandsons, Alton Hallmark, Larry

Hallmark, Willie O'Shields, James Johnson, Charles O'Shields, and Tim

Answers to Super Crossword

JAVA FACT TWIG MOTET
OLIN ALLIAS BODE ABOVE
TICKERTAPE SEER LEMON
STEAM HOSES ABOUT TKO
RITIC DEADLINE EER
TRIAL RUN YALE LASER
EON AGES LEA EGRET
TWILIGHT TIME LEV GILA
ESTES SAGAN EXEC FIX
SHES ROT IRENE TZE
GOTT TEMPERTANTRUM CAD
RUR ARTES HST TIEN
ATA RITA SATAN NEEDA
SEVE EEK TURKISH TOWEL
PRIMP SHY ELLA ERE
STTING ELIS SAUTERNE
APT OUAQMI RE PLUM
HUR USSR SALAD TURNER
ERICA KANT TINATURNER
ASTIN EZRA SENSE GIST
DETAT TEAM DAHL EPEE

Redden Jr. Honorary pallbearers were grandsons, Miley Blue, Billy O'Shields and Chris Blue.

Mr. and Mrs. Tim Brewster of Eden spent the weekend with his father, Hubert Brewster.

Tom Hayden of Kentucky was greeting friends in Moran, Sunday.

Moran and community continues to have beautiful fall weather, with cold nights and warm days. No rain has fallen the last several days. Due to the extremely dry weather conditions, people are urged not to do outside burning, as the wind is strong and a little fire would do much damage.

Cartoon Characters To Show At Majestic Through Monday

Yes, Beavis and Butt-Head, the daft teenagers, now star in a Paramount movie, and it will show at the Majestic Theatre in Eastland this weekend. In Mike Judge's feature length version of his MTV cartoon, the boys discover that their most priceless possession—their TV set—has been stolen.

Wandering about, they land in the motel room of a drunken lout, and are hired to kill the man's ex-wife.

They misunderstand the assignment, and gleefully take it on. So, in "Beavis and Butt-Head Do America", the pair leap on a plane to Las Vegas and end up getting chased around the country.

Scene for scene, the duo are in their usual form—incredibly daffy. There are numerous scenes from the deserts of the west to Washington, D.C.

In one they disco dance to the Red Hot Chili Peppers' "Love Roller Coaster", in another there's a hilarious running episode featuring a square-jawed government agent who's obsessed with giving everyone a full search.

In another, Beavis wanders around the White House for about 20 minutes, muttering—and then there's another segment when he slips into a Priest's clothing and sits on one side of a confessional. You get the idea.

"Beavis and Butt-Head Do America" will open at the Majestic Theatre in Eastland on Friday, Jan. 3, and will show nightly at 7:30 through Monday, Jan. 6. The movie is rated PG-13.

Admission will be \$3.50 at the box office, with balcony seats available at \$5 to persons over 21.

Don't worry about the weather—even if a norther rolls in it will be warm inside the Majestic.

Read The Classifieds

Eastland Telegram
Cisco Press
Ranger Times
Rising Star
Callahan Co. Star
Thursday,
January 2, 1997

Missing Vowels

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O G L H B O T S T Y N T N P O
G O W C R R C N Z O O R N R T
O Z P R O Z C O M N N O O T
R O C O C B R O T V D G T O S
R O T H L O O N Q O O O M R O
O R R T O O C P N O Y V S O
B B R O L O V O C T T Q R F G
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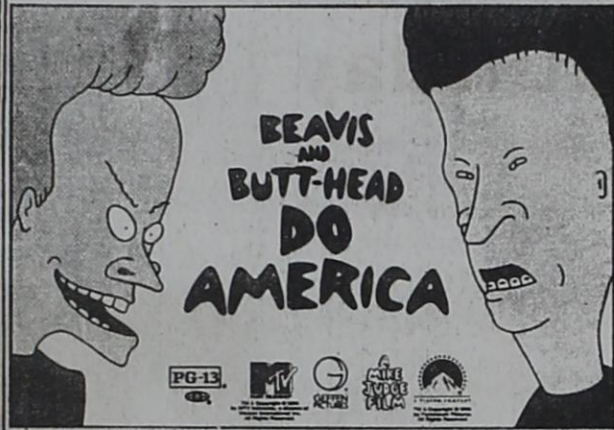
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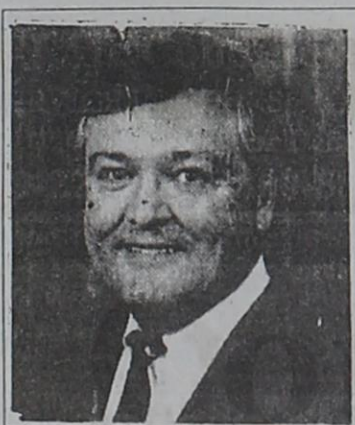
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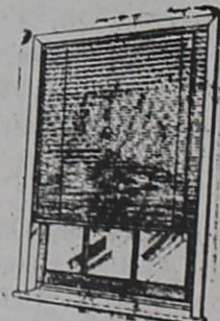
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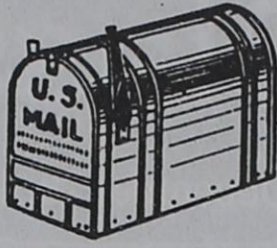
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- ✓ Check gas valve and pressures
- ✓ Check fan and limit controls
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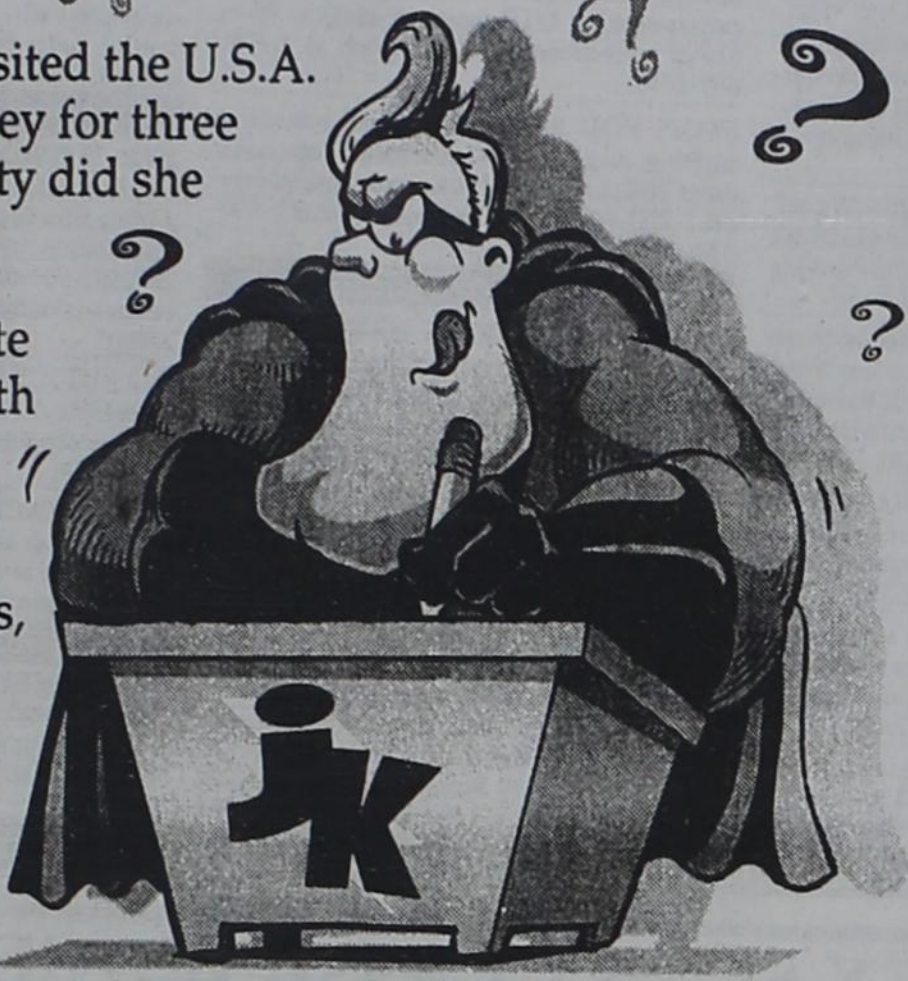
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1996 Trivia SEALS

1. What famous shortstop retired in 1996? What two teams did he play for in his career?
2. Who was the first man to win both the 200- and 400-meter dashes in the Olympics?
3. What famous NBA player came out of retirement to help his team win the championship?
4. What Big Ten team played in the Rose Bowl for the first time since 1949?
5. What animal saved a boy when he fell over the railing at the Brookfield Zoo (near Chicago, IL)?
6. A piece of another planet fell on Earth. What planet did the rock come from?
7. Princess Diana visited the U.S.A. to help raise money for three charities. What city did she visit?
8. What western state celebrated its 100th birthday on January 4?
9. At the 1996 Oscars, what 1995 movie won awards for both Best Picture and Best Director?



Answers: 1. Ozzie Smith played for the San Diego Padres and the St. Louis Cardinals; 2. Michael Jordan of the U.S.A.; 3. Michael Jordan of the Chicago Bulls; 4. Northwestern University; 5. A gorilla; 6. Mars; 7. Chicago, IL; 8. Utah; 9. Mel Gibson directed *Braveheart*.

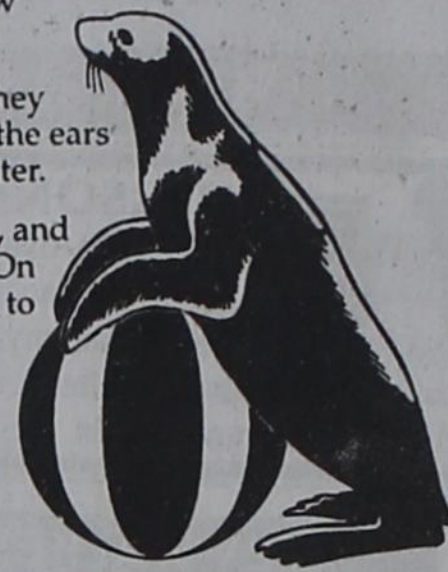
What happens when you put your head under water? You have to hold your breath, and sometimes you get water inside your nose and ears. Feels kind of yucky, right? Seals live in the water most of the time. They spend a lot of time underwater. So how do they keep water out of their noses and ears?

Seals keep water out of their noses by closing their nostrils when they dive underwater. While underwater, the seal holds its breath. Some seals can dive as deep as a third of a mile and stay below water for more than an hour! That's a long time to hold your breath!

Ears are another matter. True seals don't get water in their ears at all. How? Simple—they don't have ears! They have a tiny opening on each side of their head, but nothing like the ears that people have. Even though they don't have ears, seals can hear very well in the water.

Seals swim by wiggling their hind limbs in the water. Their body shape is streamlined, and their hind limbs are turned backwards and flattened, so they make excellent flippers. On land, however, these limbs are no help at all. Seals must use an ugly, hunching motion to move forward when they aren't in the water. Still, some seals can move very fast.

Most seals live in the far northern and southern oceans of the world. They eat small shellfish called krill, fish and squid. The largest seals in the world are called elephant seals because of their large, funny-shaped noses.



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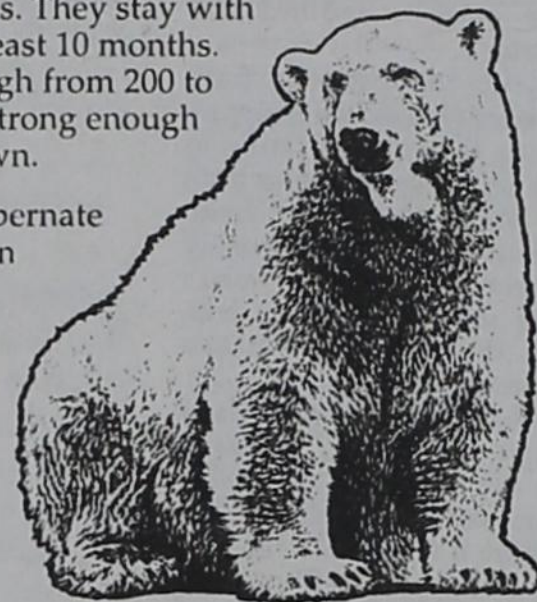
POLAR BEARS

One of the largest bears in the world is the polar bear. In fact, it can weigh from 700 to 900 pounds and be up to nine feet long! This unique bear has white fur, a long head and neck, strong legs and a stubby little tail.

Polar bears live in the Arctic and spend most of their time on the ice and in the water. They are expert swimmers and use their strong front legs to move them through the cold water. They have a layer of fat underneath their fur that keeps them warm in the cold temperatures. Polar bears can also walk on the ice. They have hair on the bottom of their feet to keep them from slipping.

A baby polar bear is only a foot long and weighs about one and a half pounds. They stay with their mothers for at least 10 months. By this time they weigh from 200 to 400 pounds and are strong enough to survive on their own.

Polar bears do not hibernate like other bears. When the female becomes pregnant, she digs a hole in the snow and stays there until her cubs are born. The male may sleep in a similar bank of snow, but for very short periods of time.



Veterans Post

by Freddy Groves

Harold P. of Texas wants to know if, as a disabled veteran, he can still obtain outpatient care in VA facilities. "I heard talk that they were going to close these places down and force us to go into the hospitals for care. This would disrupt my life too much (since) I have a small business to take care of... A friend, who must use a wheelchair to get around, is also worried..."

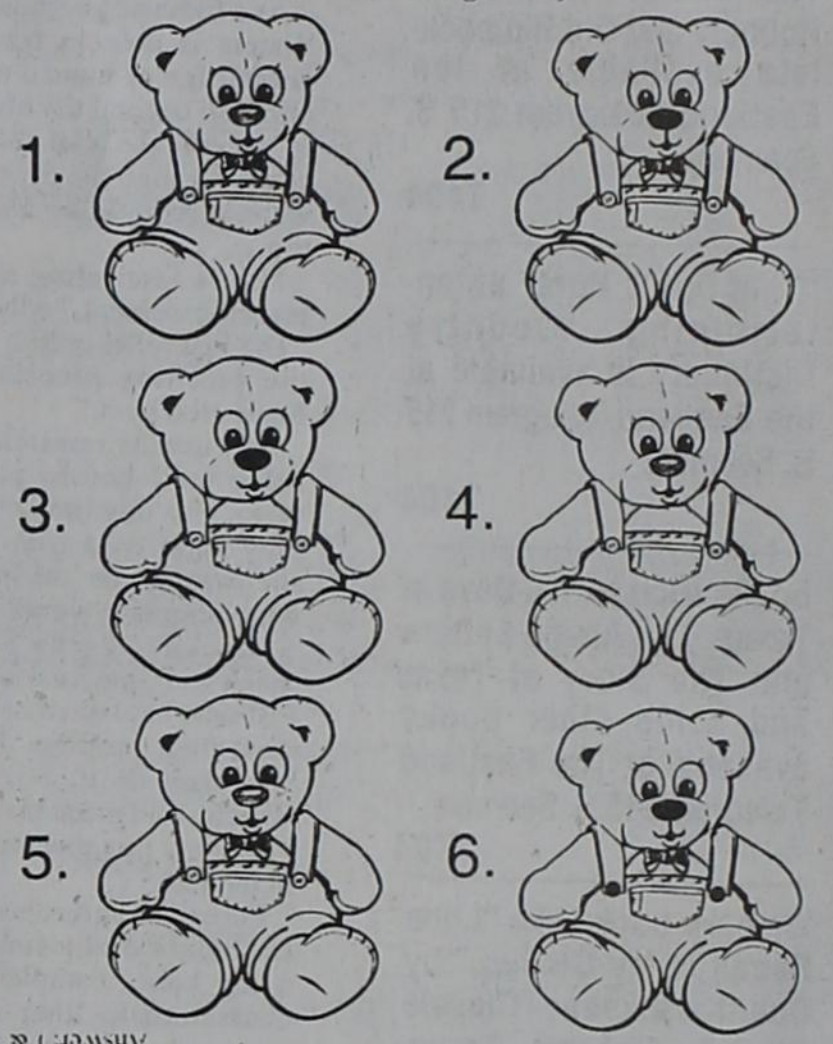
Stop worrying guys. The Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996, which was signed into law October 9, reforms but does not remove programs important to vets. The law will continue to keep its outpatient facilities open for veterans who qualify for this type of care. The law also mandates that the VA provide spinal cord medicine in distinct programs and facilities dedicated to the specialized needs of paralyzed veterans.

Read The Classifieds

Trivia Test Answers
1. Paris; 2. John Mills; 3. Frank Sinatra; 4. Lilliput; 5. Coward and White; 6. Moon

FIND THE TWINS

Find the two matching teddy bears.



Trivia Test

by Linda Luckhurst

1. Around the World: What city is famous for its Rive Gauche?
2. Academy Awards: Who won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role as the village idiot in "Ryan's Daughter"?
3. Actors' Oddities: Who gave Marilyn Monroe a white poodle named Mafia?
4. Kiddie Lit: Where did Gulliver find a race of tiny people?
5. Abbreviations: What abbreviation comes from libra, the Latin word for pound?
6. History: What daughter of Czar Nicholas II is said to have escaped death in the Russian Revolution?
7. Novels: What two cities were destroyed in the novel, "Fail Safe"?
8. Astronomy: What's the largest satellite orbiting Earth?



New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1. It's one of the most widely celebrated holidays in the world. It's a very merry holiday—people celebrate by having parties, wearing party hats, shaking noisemakers and generally having a good time.

But New Year's Day also has a serious side. Many people make resolutions—promises to do certain things—at New Year's. They may promise to do things that will make them healthy, such as stopping smoking, eating more vegetables and exercising more. Or they may try other, more serious things, like being kinder to their friends or family, spending more time with a loved one, or learning something new.

Try this: Make a list of five New Year's resolutions for yourself. Try to think of things that you would like to do, like learning to skate or play the tuba. Also, think of things that would be nice for other people, like not fighting with a younger sister or brother.

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TAX CHANGES AND LONG-TERM CARE
If you buy long-term care insurance, you should be aware of some important tax changes. Beginning in 1997, you can include some or all of the premiums you pay for long-term care insurance as unreimbursed medical expenses when you itemize deductions. And, as with a regular health insurance policy, most amounts you are reimbursed for long-term care expenses will be free of tax.
However, before you run out to buy long-term care insurance, there are some things to keep in mind. First, for a policy to qualify for tax deductions, it must meet strict federal rules on when you are eligible for benefits. These federal rules are tougher than the rules that some states have set. The states may change their rules to match the federal guidelines, but until they do, you should make sure that the policy you are buying qualifies for favorable federal tax treatment. Second, remember that the premiums will only be deductible to the extent that the total of all your unreimbursed medical expenses, including the premiums, exceeds 7.5% of your adjusted gross income. Third, depending on your age, only a portion of the premiums may be deductible.
The new tax rules also affect chronically ill people who receive advance death benefits from their life insurance policies to finance their care. In recent years, many terminally or chronically ill patients have either sold their life insurance policies to third parties or have received advance benefits under a special rider on their policy. Proceeds of many such "viable" settlements will be free of tax starting in 1997. To qualify, a patient must meet strict federal definitions of "chronic" or "terminal" illness, and there's a cap on the annual amount that can be received tax-free.
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ISE Seeks Host Families

International Student Exchange (ISE) is seeking host families for foreign exchange students

soon to be arriving for the second semester (January) programs. ISE is a designated United States Information Agency (USIA) program and is listed by the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET), certifying that ISE complies with the standards set forth for International Educational Travel Programs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE, INC., (ISE), is presently seeking host families for students from a number of different countries. Students between the ages of 15 and 18 are carefully screened by ISE for suitability. They bring their own spending money and are covered by health insurance. These students speak English and are anxious to share their

native culture with an American family. ISE's Area Representatives assist prospective host families in the selection of a student who best matches each host family's interests and lifestyle. Students are selected from student applications which include family photos and biographical essays. As there are no "typical" host families, ISE places students with large and small families, single parents,

single persons and retired couples. While living with you, a student attends the local high school and is expected to bear his or her share of household responsibilities. The length of stay can range from six months to a full year, depending on your wishes. If you are interested in learning more about ISE's student programs, or becoming an Area Representative please call ISE, toll-free, at 1-800-233-4678.

CJC Making Preparations For '97 Spring Semester

Cisco Junior College is making preparations to begin its 1997 Spring Semester. Registration for night students and sophomores will be held on Monday night, January 13, from 6-8 p.m. in the Harrell Fine Arts Building. Registration for all freshmen will be held Tuesday, January 14, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

All students who have not conferred with their advisor about their spring schedule of courses should do so prior to registration. First time entering freshmen and transfer students should see the counselor, located in the Vocational-Technical I Building, for assignment of an advisor.

First Class Day - Wednesday, January 15, 1997. Dormitories will open at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 12. The cafeteria will open at 5 p.m. on Sunday, January 12.

Classes will begin January 15, at all locations, but late registration will continue through January 22, during regular office hours (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) at the Admissions office on the Cisco campus.

Registration for the

Abilene Center is scheduled for January 8, 9, and 10, 1997. On Wednesday, January 8 and Thursday, January 9, registration will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. On Friday, January 10, registration will be from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Abilene Educational Center is located at 841 North Judge Ely Blvd. in Abilene.

For more information, call Cisco at (817) 442-2567 or Abilene at (157) 673-4567. Offices will close December 20 and reopen on January 6.

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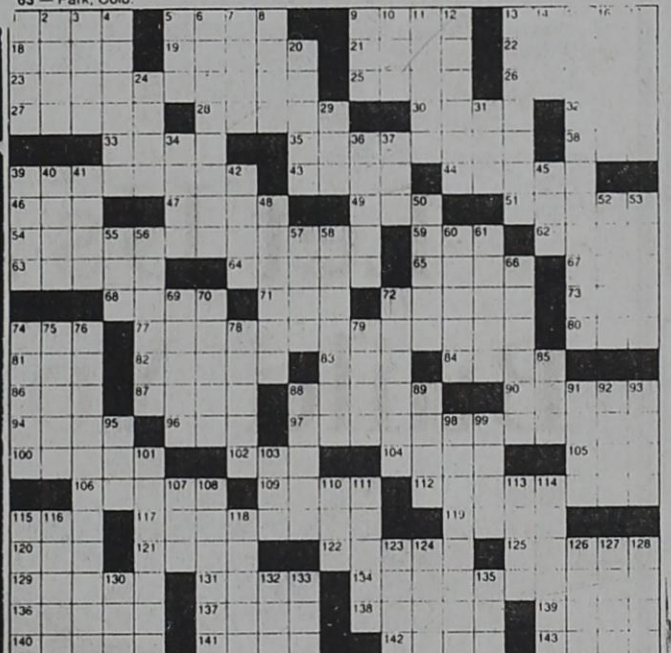
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Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 Part of Indonesia
5 Certainty
9 Slender branch
13 Sacred music
16 Ken or Lena
19 Hood's handle
21 Patent
22 Superior to
23 Parade confetti, at times
25 Cassandra or Merlin
26 Dad
27 Iron setting
28 Car-wash supplies
30 Border on
32 Ring stat
33 Puerto—
35 Writer's nemesis
38 Ending for "auction"
39 Test
44 Surgeons' new tool
46 Time to evolve?
47 Makes Cheddar better
49 Actress
51 Wading bird
54 Hit song for the Platters, 1958
59 "My Name Is" Asher—
62 Mexican "monster"
63 —Park, Colo.

DOWN
2 Artist Noelle Cousteau's millieu
31 Merkel or O'Connor
34 Bluff
36 Green Mountains
37 Singer Joey
39 French bean?
40 Gels
41 "What's— for me?"
42 Produces as profit
45 Souffle ingredient
48 Rubbernecks
50 On one's toes
52 Mrs. Andrew Johnson
53 Started a Tea Party?
55 Bandleader Brown
56 Beatty/Hollman film
57 Lab assistant of note
58 "The Odd Couple" actor
60 Put into action
61 Setting
66 Building base
69 Causing "gypse bumps"
70 Smack-in-Scriptures
72 Entry point
74 Get the picture
75 Penitencia
76 Country star
78 "Twin"
79 64 Acres field abbr.
85 Classic

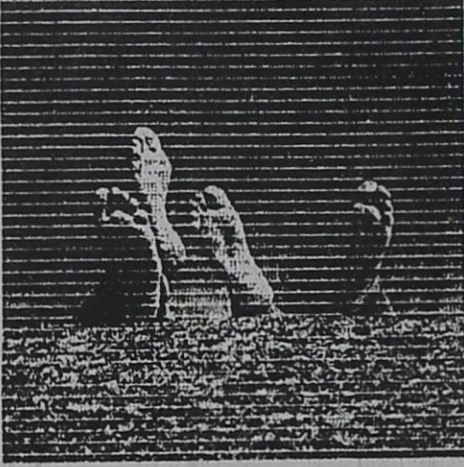


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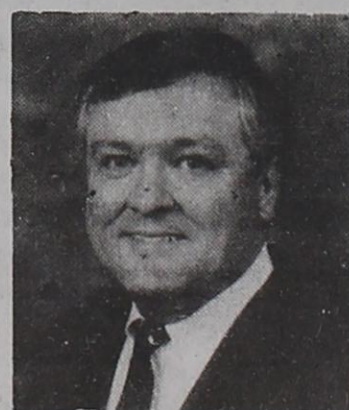
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E-104

Richard's Report

By Richard Kurklin

As each Christmas comes and goes, my attitude about Christmas shopping seems to become a little more like that of a certain well known E. Scrooge. And I believe that these feelings reflect a change in our shopping environment as much as changes in me.

I still love to see smiles on children's faces as they open a gift that they really want. But there is so much abundance now that gifts rarely mean that much anymore. It seems that people getting together, when they love each other, is much more important than gifts. But we should remember those who actually have needs. And that is better to give than receive.

After all Christmas is all about God's gift to us. Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth from Heaven to give his life by being killed on a cross that He might be able to forgive the sins of men. This gift of forgiveness allows all who will accept it to ultimately be able to enter a wonderful sinless Heaven.

But sometimes I get my thoughts off of the real meaning of Christmas. One way that it happens is when I take leave of my senses and decide to do some shopping in a large city. I made that mistake once again this year. The stores had some items

that I thought I wanted which I just couldn't seem to locate locally, and sometimes their advertised prices look like bargains. So while traveling through such a city, I lingered to purchase some items. It seemed like such a simple task.

Shoppers raced about the big city in a panic that made the Indy 500 seem more like a drive in the country. Could it be that the city had come under military attack, or that there was an invasion of aliens? No, there was no rational effort to flee, even though that might have been a good idea. They were racing, it seemed, between mall parking lots. And most were so full of vehicles that newcomers might be advised to

carry a supply of food water if attempting to walk the long distance into the stores from any available parking spaces. After finally making it into a well known store, I came to realize why people were racing across the city. The item stocked in that store just wouldn't work unless additional parts or accessories were added. Not only had what seemed to be a bargain price evaporated, but the required additional items were only stocked at a store across the city. Or maybe I would have to locate a store which stocked a needed item. Without it, Christmas would be ruined, so I joined the mad race.

After doing all of that driving, the other stores are never near, and hiking from parking lots, some of the clerks in the

malls acted as if they wished that I had stayed home. I started to share such feelings and to wonder why I had entered such a rat race. I finally collected the needed items, but only after desperate searches. I was greatly overcharged for an item that was plainly advertised for less, but the cashier ignored both my complaint and the advertised price. My money disappeared more quickly than I had expected, and there was an extra stop for more gas.

After finally returning home with a flat billfold and an upset disposition, my feelings turned to anger as I found that nearly all of the laboriously purchased items either wouldn't fit or wouldn't work. Another trip to the big city and another day of risking my vehicle, my

life, and my sanity in the rate race was required before usable items could be brought home.

As I thought about the friendly hometown clerks at home, where the store owners appreciate your business, I realized that we have much at home than we take for granted. And I looked at the "dings" in the side of my shiny vehicle which were caused by careless panic-stricken shoppers rushing about in a mall parking lot.

If there is ever to be

peace on Earth, surely it will only come with shopping at home.

Scranton Musical

The Scranton Musical will be held Saturday, January 4, 1997.

The kitchen will open at 5:30 p.m. with Anita Webb and Ruth Wiley serving chili and crackers, soup, cornbread, cake, pie, sandwiches and drinks. Anyone wishing to

Help Prevent Fires

The Cisco Fire Department and other area departments have had to respond to a number of grass, structure, and auto fires lately. With cooler weather and lots of Christmas decorations, the holidays are naturally a more

hazardous time. But with dry weather there is an even greater danger of house and grass fires.

Our firemen have been busy and you don't need to lose your property so be careful and prevent fires.

donate cake, pie or sandwiches please feel free to do so as they will be greatly appreciated. Music will begin at 6:30

p.m. with Mark Ray as emcee. Everyone is invited to attend and help us keep this musical going.

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The ITIN is for tax purposes only. For further information and assistance in applying for the (ITIN), please call Community Action Program (CAP), at 915-673-5785 or the local IRS office at 1-800-829-1040.

Drive safely. Don't wreck your life.



Instructor Buchanan and the 35 D.A.R.E. graduates. (Photo compliments of Billy Harris)

Wedding Belles

Stroebel-Watson

Susan Kristen Stroebel and Wyatt Allen Watson will be united in marriage Saturday, January 4, 1997, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cisco at 6:30 p.m. in the evening. All friends and family are invited to attend.

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1997 Spring Registration

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(Check with office in Abilene to reserve a time for registration)

January 10 9 a.m. to 12 noon

CISCO CAMPUS
Harrell Fine Arts Building

January 13 (Sophomores & Night Students Only)
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

January 14 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Class Day
January 15, 1997

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