

MUENSTER ENTERPRISE

50¢

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JULY 12, 2002

Cooke County Sheriff's office succeeds with internet leads

By Janet Felderhoff
Taking advantage of a 30-day free trial for an online data service, officers from the Cooke County Sheriff's Department recovered goods stolen from the Jack Dyer residence in Precinct #3. Sheriff Mike Compton explained the service to Commissioners Court at the July 8 meeting and asked that they consider signed a contract with the service, LEADS.

"This is an Internet based, online service that is connected to pawn shops around the nation," said Sheriff Compton. "Right now there is only one pawn shop in Denton, but there are 123 pawn shops in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex." The service was discovered by Investigator Jerry Bacon of the Cooke County Sheriff Department

while he was working with Denton County.

While taking advantage of the 30-day free trial they located the stolen merchandise on the first day of use. Compton explained that thieves came from Nebraska in a stolen car going down I-35. They took FM 51 to Era and randomly selected a house, which was the Dyer's. They took firearms and other items. Some of the items were pawned in the Metroplex before being taken into custody by police in that area. Many of the items were recovered, but not those that had been pawned. These were found with the assistance of LEADS.

"What the crooks know is if they take it to a pawn shop up here there's a lot more risk of them getting

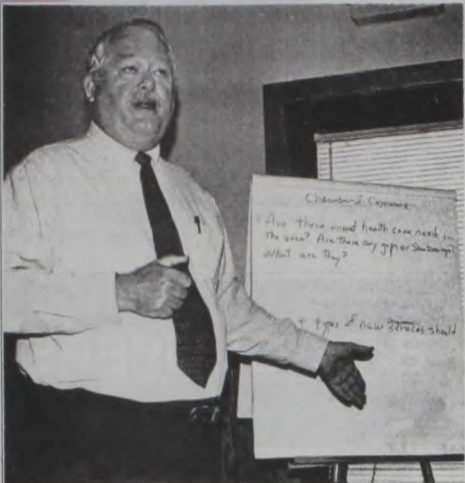
caught," noted Sheriff Compton. "They go to the Metroplex where we can't check the pawn shops. On this (LEADS) we can run it by name, by the object or whatever and get lists of it. It's already paid off for us."

Judge Bill Freeman wondered what the pawnshops got out of participating since any items recovered were lost money for the pawnshop. Compton noted, "I think it boils down to the pawn shops perhaps trying to legitimize their operations. It turns out that if we did not have pawnshops we would not have a chance in getting (back) this stolen property. This shows that the pawn shop industry, at least part of it, is attempting to co-operate with law enforcement to

stop the illegitimate pawning."

The cost to continue with LEADS would be \$100 per investigator. Compton hopes to put two of his five investigators on it. Also a fee of \$50 per month, which would be the cost of \$800 per year. Compton said the cost for the remainder of this fiscal budget year would be \$133.32. He said he would use money from the Sheriff's Drug Fund to pay that amount.

Compton said that he would like to have the Court's approval to submit a contract with LEADS to the District Attorney and if approved by that office to have Judge Freeman sign it so the Sheriff's Department could continue to use LEADS. Commissioners See SHERIFF, Pg. 2



Muenster Memorial Hospital Administrator Richard Arnold spoke to the Muenster Chamber of Commerce regular breakfast meeting Wednesday at Rohmer's Restaurant. He solicited ideas and impressions from the members and said two areas of recurring concern mentioned frequently by the community are insurance acceptability and information on available services. They are working to get the word out about health and medical services offered at MMH. Dave Fette photo

Fleitman hired as Lindsay police chief

By Janet Felderhoff
Keeping the community of Lindsay safe is now the duty of Lindsay resident Scott Fleitman. After eight years as a patrol officer for the Gainesville Police Department, Fleitman applied for and was hired as Police Chief of Lindsay. He began his duties there at the end of April. He's the first full time officer in a number of years.

"I wanted to expand my horizon other than just patrol officer so this became available and I applied for it," Fleitman explained. He works 40 hours a week, but has no set hours. Working times are scheduled around community activities and busy times. He said that the Spur has the most concentration of problems the most activity, but they have good bouncers and they usually handle the problems. He said he's currently working on some forgery cases.

"A lot of people don't realize that what goes on on the street is very short, very minute part of what we actually do," said the new Police Chief. "I've got a new respect for the investigators and the records clerk just for the fact that I'm having to do all of that now. Now I have to handle it from beginning to end. It's a challenge and that's what I like."

Fleitman's first goal is to attend Police Chief School in September. "After I go through that I hopefully will have a better understanding of the legal requirements (State and Federal) that I need to do," he remarked. He also plans to work with

the Lindsay school students with educational programs.

Working in Lindsay allows Fleitman to be closer to his family and home. "I'm familiar with the community," he remarked. "I know a lot of the people that live here. I went to school with most of them. I've got a good relation with the people here in town plus I've got family that lives here. That helps out a lot

Fleitman can be reached through Lindsay City Hall, 665-4455, or by calling the Sheriff's Department at 665-3471.

As a hobby Scott likes to design web pages. He developed a web page featuring Cooke County news and information. It is CookeCounty.net and features three articles from the Muenster Enterprise, upcoming events, historical



Lindsay Chief of Police Scott Fleitman works 40 per week for the town. His office is located in the new City Hall building. Photo by Janet Felderhoff

with the work."

Fleitman earned an associates degree in Criminal Justice from the Collin County Police Academy. He also has EMT training.

To reach the police in an emergency in Lindsay call 911 and either the Lindsay Police Department will answer or if Fleitman is off duty, the Sheriff's Department responds. In non-emergency situations

photos from the Morton Museum, a devotional, and more. He's also designed web pages for the Gainesville Police Department and for the Antique and Design Center of North Texas.

Scott and his wife, Karen, have two sons, Chris, 15, and Nicholas, 5. His parents are Leon and Betsy Fleitman. Anne Fleitman is his grandmother.



The concrete trestle on the old railroad right-of-way stands in lonely defiance to the huge bulldozer clearing the way for its removal from the Muenster Lake dam site. The 1929 date embedded in the concrete was cut away to save for display. Dave Fette photo

Lake site restricted

by Dave Fette
Phase I of construction of the Muenster Lake dam has begun and heavy equipment operators for Beavers Construction Company of Bowie, Texas are removing vegetation and old structures like the 1929 railroad trestle shown in the accompanying photo. The different types of soil to be used in the dam are all present on the lake site according to Lake Board President Bob Bauer. The dam content must be essentially homogeneous so even the sturdy concrete trestle must go since it would be under the dam.

With the beginnings of construction, entrance to the

lake site is restricted. Only Beavers Construction personnel and other persons authorized by Lake Board or the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are allowed on the property. Authorized entrance is only by the Highway 82 gate. All other entries, including the old Picnic Grounds Road, are closed. Cul-de-sacs have been built on both the east and west Picnic Grounds Road ends for observation and traffic flow. Everyone wishing to enter the property must do so at the Highway 82 entrance, said Bauer. "You must check in at the NRCS trailer just inside the fence. If the trailer is vacant, you

must wait for the NRCS representative to return before proceeding. Unauthorized persons on the site are considered trespassers and may be subject to a fine.

Under government regulations, everyone on the site must wear a hard hat all the time. These precautions are necessary for the safety of the workers and general public and for restrictions of liability insurance coverage, Bauer explained. The area is changing rapidly and is potentially dangerous so the Muenster Lake Board, Beavers Construction and the NRCS ask that everyone, please, follow the rules so no one gets hurt.



Picnic grounds road is closed to all traffic and cul-de-sacs are being built to facilitate observation and traffic flow. Photo by Dave Fette

KMB beautifies Muenster with plants

Keep Muenster Beautiful (KMB) purchased attractive pots and plants to beautify the new Post Office. Imelda Rohmer, an employee of the U. S. Postal Service in Muenster lovingly cares for the plants. KMB has agreed to plant trees and additional flowers at the Post Office in the future. The trees will be planted this fall.

The KMB Board voted to place more pots and plants in public areas, one of which will be the Chamber of Commerce office. The beautiful and good quality pots are quite expensive. Funds to purchase these will come from the KMB tree sale. The trees will be sold for only \$4.00 above wholesale cost and must be pre-ordered. The tree order form was published in last week's Muenster Enterprise. Additional forms are available at the Muenster



Chamber of Commerce. Prices vary from \$16.00 to \$22.00, depending on the variety of tree ordered. The varieties of trees available are Paper Shell Pecan, Cedar Elm, Live Oak, Bur Oak, Granny Smith Apple, Methley Plum, Sure Crop Peach and Keiffer Pear. These trees were selected

because they like our local soil and climate. The trees are in 5-6 gallon containers. Pick up of pre-ordered trees must be done on Saturday, Oct. 12 between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. October is the perfect time to plant to give young trees several months of cool moist growth to promote healthy root systems to help carry them through their first summer in the ground. Trees not picked up will be donated to Keep Muenster Beautiful for planting within the City's beautification areas. The postmark deadline for ordering trees is August 1.

Future placement of pots and plants by Keep Muenster Beautiful in public areas will depend on the success of the fundraiser and ability of employees to care for the plants. The Muenster Chamber of Commerce has agreed to

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SHERIFF

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agreed it was a good thing and approved the request.
 In other business addressed at the July 8 regular meeting Commissioners Court:
 • Approved the request by Southwestern Bell to install a telephone line at 6906 County Road 122.
 • Approved request by Gruy Petroleum to install a petroleum pipeline on County Road 115, approximately 1/2 mile north of County road 170, located in Precinct #1.
 • Tabled approval of "Irrevocable Letter of

Credit" for the road construction of County Road 258 in Johnson Park subdivision Phase II in Precinct #2 and approval of final plat for Johnson Branch Subdivision Phase II located in Precinct #2 for clarification and corrections.
 • Tabled approval of "Irrevocable Letter of Credit" for the road construction of County Road 375 in Long Branch Estates located off CR 388 and approval of final plat of Long Branch Estates located off CR 388 in Precinct #3 for needed corrections of plat.



Muenster's first week of Red Cross Learn to Swim Program lessons are in full swing at the swimming pool in Muenster City Park. Another week of lessons will begin Monday.

Weather conditions have been warmer this week making the water inviting for youngsters learning to swim.
 Janie Hartman photo

*Wedding & Anniversary Invitations
 and Thank You Notes are available
 at Muenster Enterprise Printing Co.*

Fair weather enjoyed in first half of 2002

Area residents have been blessed with pleasant temperatures and plentiful rainfall, even into the first months of summer this year. Temperatures have yet to break into the three digits as of July 8. Muenster's official moisture record keeper, Janette Hess, has been kept busy with rainfall being recorded five of the eight first days in July. Already 3.03 inches of rain are recorded for July.

Yr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
'50	2.25	2.45	.09	2.53	7.64	5.51	7.71	10.47	4.74	.02	.09	.03	43.53
'60	3.48	1.37	1.80	1.76	3.24	1.17	6.26	1.25	3.19	4.35	.29	3.54	31.70
'70	.36	3.83	2.57	4.83	4.05	1.09	1.09	.13	11.61	1.56	.52	.57	32.21
'80	1.58	1.71	.56	1.72	2.19	1.61	.26	.12	8.94	5.42	1.30	1.73	27.14
1246 to 1955													
10-YR. AVG.	1.87	1.93	1.78	2.78	6.43	4.03	2.62	2.16	2.85	2.86	2.00	1.88	33.21
1886 to 1895													
10-YR. AVG.	1.84	1.47	2.42	3.51	4.65	3.15	1.98	2.04	3.82	2.84	3.35	2.09	34.15
1866 to 1875													
10-YR. AVG.	1.65	2.25	2.71	4.21	4.44	2.55	2.54	3.10	5.30	3.92	1.66	1.83	36.18
1876 to 1885													
10-YR. AVG.	1.58	2.14	3.70	2.74	5.29	3.43	1.45	1.31	3.16	5.43	2.38	1.43	34.01
1886 to 1895													
10-YR. AVG.	1.71	2.22	2.46	2.91	5.24	3.38	1.51	1.88	3.95	2.69	2.09	2.69	32.73
1996	.78	trace	3.30	3.65	.18	4.50	2.47	5.32	7.75	2.94	5.18	.18	36.25
1997	.49	7.44	2.69	5.31	8.48	3.32	.52	1.47	.97	4.29	1.26	4.91	41.15
1998	4.15	1.89	5.44	1.92	1.00	5.20	0.00	.87	1.82	3.17	2.42	2.67	30.55
1999	2.40	.24	3.62	2.80	6.94	4.41	0.00	0.16	0.99	1.76	0.81	2.49	26.62
2000	1.75	0.70	2.93	2.80	1.00	4.66	2.69	0.00	2.07	7.92	7.12	3.50	37.14
2001	3.78	7.93	4.32	2.15	4.41	1.75	2.23	0.69	3.98	1.61	1.34	2.95	37.14
2002	1.11	3.63	6.43	4.94	2.50	4.42							23.03

KMB

Continued from Page 1

care for plants to be placed by KMB. Beautiful pots with plants are common in the festive areas that attract tourism. Communities that decorate their sidewalks and business door entries with beautiful plants are attractive to tourists. Local businesses and residents are encouraged to help decorate Muenster with trees and flowers.

Those interested in cleaning up and beautifying their communities may call KEEP TEXAS BEAUTIFUL at 1-800-CLEAN TX.

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On August 7, 2001, the Bayer Corporation withdrew BAYCOL from the market. This was a cholesterol lowering drug and has been linked to multiple deaths.

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2-WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR						
Sunday, July 14, 2002 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM	Monday, July 15, 2002 VFW Auxiliary meeting, 8 PM	Tuesday, July 16, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Grief Seminar, 6-8 PM, Home Hospice Office StoryTime, Muenster Public Library 10:30 AM	Wednesday, July 17, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center	Thursday, July 18, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center	Friday, July 19, 2002 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM	Saturday, July 20, 2002 Ruth Hess Memorial Golf Tournament, 2 PM, Turtle Hill Golf Course
SWIM LESSONS			WEEK 2			
Sunday, July 21, 2002 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM	Monday, July 22, 2002	Tuesday, July 23, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Grief Seminar, 6-8 PM, Home Hospice Office / StoryTime, Muenster Public Library 10:30 AM MMH Board meeting, 8 PM	Wednesday, July 24, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center	Thursday, July 25, 2002 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM Kiwanis Swim Night, 7-9 PM	Friday, July 26, 2002 Muenster Museum Open 1-4 PM	Saturday, July 27, 2002

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Obituaries

Gertrude M. (Schmitz) Horn 1917-2002



Gertrude Horn

by **Elfreda Fette**
 Mass of Christian Farewell was offered in Sacred Heart Church for Gertrude M. (Gertie) Horn on Friday, July 5, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. officiated by Father John Ohner OSA pastor.

"Gertie" Horn died on July 2, 2002 at 9:30 p.m. in Muenster Memorial Hospital at age 85. She had suffered a stroke several days earlier, and complications. She was born April 14, 1917 in Lindsay to John Schmitz and Mary Bezner Schmitz. On March 8, 1943 she married Alois Horn in St. Peter's Catholic Church of Lindsay. She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Parish of Muenster.

Survivors are her husband, Alois Horn of Muenster, three sisters, Marcy Wilde of Muenster, Rosalee Cox of Dallas and Sally Theimer of Oklahoma City, and four brothers, Lee Roy Schmitz of Valley View, John H. Schmitz of Gainesville, Fred Schmitz of Gainesville and Leonard Schmitz of Dallas. Also surviving are 23 nieces and nephews. She is fondly remembered by hundreds of friends. She was a true artist, she loved to repair and dress antique dolls. She was a seamstress and did lots of needlework. Loving to garden, she

worked with flowers and vegetables and loved to can and preserve. She took great pride in making wedding cakes. She shared and supported her husband in many of his artistic talents. Preceding her in death were her parents.

A Rosary service was held in McCoy Chapel on Thursday at 4:00 p.m. led by Barbara Rohmer; Vigil at 7:00 p.m. in McCoy Chapel was led by Father John Ohner OSA.

Participating in the liturgy of the funeral Mass with Father John Ohner were altar servers Alvin Hartman, Butch Fisher and Sylvan Walterscheid.

Music Ministers were Ruth Felderhoff, Pam and David Fette. Sacred music included "Amazing Grace" for the entrance hymn; "The Lord is my Light and My

Salvation" for the reponsorial psalm; "You Are the Christ Everlasting, Born For Us All of a Virgin, You Have Conquered Death, Opened Heaven to all Believers," for the Gospel Acclamation; "Give Me Jesus" for the Offertory hymn and incensing; "How Great Thou Art" for the Communion Hymn; "On Eagles Wings" for the recessional.

The First and Second Reading and Responsorial Psalm were given by nieces, Jan Cain, Renee Martin and Carmen Crowsey.

Offertory gifts of bread and wine were presented at the altar by nieces Tina Womack, Renee Martin, Joni Sturm and Ma Quita Gossett.

Eucharistic Ministers were family friends, Dolores Miller, Lorena Taylor, Kathy Berres, Linda Sepanski and Antonia Hess.

Burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery was directed by McCoy Funeral Home of Muenster. Pallbearers were Dan Wilde, Buster Bezner, Joe Schmitz, Tommy Schmitz, Mike Schmitz and Gregg Wilde.

Among relatives and friends attending the funeral were Leonard and Jennie Schmitz, Ann and Roy Young and Bob Schmitz all of Dallas; Betsy Lehman of Sunnyvale, TX; Sally Theimer of Oklahoma City; Rosalie Cox of Dallas;

Freddy and Oleta Schmitz and Buster and Marcy Bezner all of Gainesville; Raean and Jeff Gerkin and children Sarah, Hannah and Mary of Georgetown; Mike and Marcia Schmitz, and John and Frances Schmitz all of Gainesville; Lt. Cmdr. Retired Joe and Annette Schmitz, and Ma Quita Gossett and Daughter Brandi all of Lindsay; John Dave and Sandy Schmitz and children Suzanne and Shelby of Gainesville; Brad and Carmen Crowsey and daughter Victoria of Whitesboro; Steve and Misty Schmitz and children Nicholas and Kenadie of Gainesville; Lee Roy and Nancy Schmitz of Valley View; Tom Schmitz of Flower Mound; Oscar and Rosemary Martinez, Parker, Jarrod, and Marissa Schmitz of Carrollton; Kevin Schmitz of Dallas; Dan and Nancy Wilde of Lake Dallas; Melanie Mitchell of Denton; Scott Wilde of Lewisville; Jan nd Chris Cain and Chisam and Chase Cain of Muenster; Joni and Mike Sturm of Muenster; Donnie and Tina Womack of Nocona; Gregg and Shirley Wilde and children Matt and Kaitlin Wilde of Corinth; Renee Martin of San Diego CA. Also a number of relatives of Al Horn from the metroplex and a very large number of friends from Cooke and surrounding counties.

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Hall a lead sponsor of Tax Limitation Amendment

A majority in the House of Representatives voted recently in support of legislation cosponsored by Rep. Ralph Hall (D-TX) that would require a two-thirds vote rather than a simple majority vote on any bills that would increase taxes on American citizens. The vote, 227-178, fell short of the two-thirds necessary to pass a constitutional amendment. Hall was the lead

Democratic cosponsor of the bill, as he has been for the past six years, and spoke in support of the measure during debate on the Floor of the House.

"I've been a supporter of this constitutional amendment from the beginning - and I'll continue to support it as long as it takes to provide constitutional protection against tax increases for hard-working Americans,"

Hall said. "Most Americans believe it is far too easy for Congress to increase spending and raise taxes, and this amendment would address their concerns."

Hall is a long-time supporter of tax relief and reform, including permanent repeal of the estate tax, reduction of income taxes and the capital gains tax, and reform of the IRS code. He is co-chair of the Zero Capital Gains Tax

Caucus and co-author of the Date-Certain Tax Code Replacement Act.

The National Taxpayers Union recently announced its tally for Members of Congress on their sponsorship of bills to approve funding and cut funding for federal programs. Hall was deemed the best of any Democrat in Congress and was among the lowest spenders of all House Members.

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From My Side of the Fence by Ed Cler

Leading Texas business groups issues first-ever rating of Federal lawmakers

The Texas Association of Business (TAB) recently released its first-ever voting record for the Texas Congressional delegation, calling the average score disappointing.

"This voting record is a fair representation of how our delegation supports or opposes those issues important to employers and the overall business climate," TAB President Bill Hammond said. "The bad news is the average score of the delegation is a disappointing 64 percent, and that's poor by most standards."

Hammond said the ratings are based on how members of Congress from Texas voted on a wide spectrum of business issues, and were assessed by three national groups in which TAB is an active member and who have a presence in Washington, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Rep. Larry Combest, R-Lubbock, scored the highest in the delegation at 100 percent, while Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, received 20 percent as the lawmaker least likely to support employer issues.

Sens. Phil Gramm, R-College Station, and Kay

Bailey Hutchison, R-Dallas, scored 96 and 97 percent, respectively.

Some of the issues on which the delegation was rated include postponing OSHA ergonomics regulations; repeal of the death tax; collective bargaining rights for physicians who contract with health plans; fuel efficiency mandate amendment; small business tax incentives; pension reform; and Alaska oil exploration amendment.

"President Bush has shown his support for measures that encourage economic growth, job creation and tax incentives," Hammond said. "TAB applauds those in the Texas delegation who have stood with the President in promoting these principles."

He identified the development of a national energy plan as one of those issues.

"Texas has more at stake than almost any other state when it comes to the development of an energy policy that is balanced and makes use of our plentiful domestic resources, such as coal, to generate electricity. Ideology aside, the facts show coal supplies 47 percent of Texas electricity and we need to be able to use this inexpensive, increasingly clean power

source to keep our economy moving forward," Hammond said.

source to keep our economy moving forward," Hammond said.

Congressional Scorecard

Arney	97%
Barton	90%
Bentsen	29%
Bonilla	97%
Brady	94%
Combest	100%
Culberson	96%
DeLay	95%
Doggett	20%
Edwards	35%
Frost	27%
Gonzalez	23%
Granger	93%
Green	24%
Hall	87%
Hinojosa	27%
Jackson-Lee	25%
E. Johnson	27%
S. Johnson	95%
Lampson	32%
Ortiz	26%
Paul	63%
Reyes	22%
Rodriguez	23%
Sandlin	54%
Sessions	88%
Smith	92%
Stenholm	66%
Thornberry	88%
Turner	48%
Sen. Gramm	96%
Sen. Hutchison	97%

Founded in 1922, the Texas Association of Business is a broad-based bipartisan organization representing more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce.

Thursday, July 4th marked what is, in my mind, the most important civil holiday celebrated in this beautiful country.

Most working people spend the day at the lake, going to a parade, having family get-togethers, barbecues, or just lounging around as I did, and eating too much. The day passed quietly for us, we had house guests from Atlanta, GA., our daughter Christa, her husband Gerry Cash and their two children, Mindy and Jeremy, and a friend, Tim. On Saturday evening we all attended one

of Sandy and Leon Fuhrmann's 4th of July parties. It was held on Saturday to give more of the family time to attend and then make their way home again the following day.

Everyone had a great time visiting, eating, we did away with about ten gallons of delicious homemade ice cream, and then spent the later part of the day watching quite a display of fireworks.

Each group brought their own choice of fire works and, I must say some were spectacular.

I believe all enjoyed the evening, especially the ice cream.

When we returned home, we brought along a sack of sweet-corn, some for our guests and the balance for ourselves.

The Fuhrmann Brothers have, for years, been raising a special sweet corn. The seed was obtained in Kansas, and it was exceptionally good, so much so that they were over run with customers.

The college students in the two families earned a great part of their tuition gathering and handling the roasting ears, most of which was ordered in advance.

This year they had over 16 acres of a new strain of sweet corn, the seed handlers could not supply the type they had been using.

The new strain is genetically engineered. It has a gene that is beneficial to the eater, but is deadly to the tiny worms that come from eggs laid in the exposed silk. These tiny creatures use the silk as a roadway to their target, the kernel, where they grow into the nasty worms that we are all too familiar with.

This new strain of corn eliminates the worm and all the ears are clean from end to end, the silks are easier to remove, and the corn is even more delicious than the old.

Keeping an Eye on Texas

State Tax Refunds for Economic Development

The Texas Tax Code allows for state tax refunds for economic development. Some Texas business property owners may be eligible to receive refunds on their state sales and use taxes and franchise taxes for paying local school taxes.

If a business owner has questions about the refund program, they may call Patricia Bailey of the Comptroller's Property Tax Division at 1-800-252-9121, extension 3-4416. In Austin, call 512/463-4416.

Companies Must Apply for 2001 Refunds by July 31, 2002.

Sources: Carol Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller.

Mold, moisture, stigma and value

By Jack Schoppa, Certified Real Estate Appraiser and Broker.

fifth in a series
Recovery, what happens after mold is "cleaned up":

Inspections and Reports: If you have had mold in your house and there is even a remote possibility that you may sell that house at some point in the future you should have a qualified professional thoroughly inspect your home and prepare a detailed written report of the findings of that inspection as soon as your remediation is complete. Regardless if you are even considering selling at any point in the future. This will likely be expensive to obtain, but necessary as it provides you with written documentation that your home is free of mold as of a specific date. It is also likely that you will have to obtain another similar inspection and report at what ever point in time it is that you decide to sell your home to provide written documentation to a prospective Buyer that the home remains mold free.

Disclosure: As a Seller of a residence we are bound to disclose all known facts about any property we sell. New disclosure forms will have a section for mold. Owners should disclose if any mold has ever been found and if any reports have ever been made regarding mold in any property. If reports have been made, either identifying that mold does exist or that mold has been properly remedied as of a specific date, then those reports should be made available to any prospective purchaser.

Remaining questions: Several major questions remain: If a property has had mold and has been properly remedied and a

professional inspection is made and report written indicating that the property is free from mold as of a given date, how long and to what degree, if any, will the simple fact that a property has had mold in the past affect the public perception, or marketability of that property, and, thus, the price that a prospective purchaser will be willing to pay for a property that has had mold in the past? And, for how long of a period of time is disclosure of a known mold case required? Will insurance companies write policies to cover a home after a report is made indicating that it is mold free, or will there be a specific period of time that it must remain mold free? Will lenders finance a home with a known mold case?

The local lenders that I have discussed this matter with indicate that their decisions to loan money on a home with a known history for mold will be handled on a case-by-case basis. They will likely require a recent inspection and written report documenting that the home is free from mold and moisture. Another major factor will be if the home is insurable, which takes us back to the insurance companies and the requirements that they will impose.

Summary: Although there are no "test" that proves a link between Stachybotrys chartarum and particular health symptoms, it is likely that it poses serious risks for infants or those with existing illnesses or allergies. Large quantities or concentrations of molds are likely to pose a greater risk than small quantities. Insurance will likely never be available specifically for mold but likely will be for "sudden and accidental events" as determined by the insurance companies and will likely be

incremental and with a coverage cap. The key to prevention of mold is prevention of moisture in your home or other buildings. Remediation can be very costly, particularly if the infestation is significant. The long-term effects of mold infestation can be detrimental, not only to health, but also your property.

Available Articles and Websites for Mold and Other Topics
Health Concerns: The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) answers questions about mold and what should be done about it on its website at www.cdc.gov/nceh/asthma/factsheets/molds/default.htm, or its home page at www.cdc.gov

The Environmental Protection Agency may be found at www.epa.gov
Mold Remediation: A professional company who claims to have experience in identifying mold and to have the trained and qualified professionals and proper equipment to test for and remedy mold infestation is **Belfor Inrecon** in Fort Worth. Their toll free phone number is 800-856-3333. Their web address is www.belforusa.com

Another professional mold inspection company may be found on the web at www.enviromold.com
General Information, Mold and Other:
Toxic Mold and Tort News Online is a very informative site concerning mold at www.toxic-mold-tort-news-online.com

Article entitled "Black Mold and Mildew and Spores, Oh My!" by Judon Fambrough in the October 2001 issue of *Tierra Grande*, the journal of the Texas A & M Real Estate Center. Find a copy of this same article at <http://recenter.tamu.edu>

TGrande/vol8-4/1531.html

A discussion of mold and many other topics with knowledgeable professionals may be initiated at www.appraisersforum.com. You will have to create a "Log on name" and "Password" to enter the discussion, but not just to read current discussions. It is FREE and very informative.

Texas Department of Insurance www.tdi.state.tx.us for updated information on insurance topics.

Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (T.N.R.C.C.) www.tnrcc.state.tx.us for wide variety of environmental issues.

About the Author: Jack C. Schoppa, I.F.A.S., is an independent fee appraiser and owner of North Texas Properties, a full service real estate brokerage firm serving primarily Montague and Cooke Counties. Jack is a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser by the Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board; a Licensed Real Estate Broker by the Texas Real Estate Commission and; a Licensed Auctioneer by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation. Over the years, Jack has been recognized for professional commitment and achievement by several national professional appraisal and Realtor® organizations and has earned and currently maintains the I.F.A.S. designation indicating "Senior Member" of the National Association of Independent Fee Appraisers. Jack conducts his professional practice focused on setting high standards of integrity, ethical conduct, reliability and just plain honesty. He can be reached at 940-995-2987, or by e-mail at jack@northtexasproperties.com

"SAVVY SENIOR"

Grandparenting from Afar
YOU ASK THE SENIOR QUESTION ~ WE FIND THE SAVVY ANSWER

Dear Savvy Senior,
My son, his wife and three children recently moved from Oklahoma City to Seattle last October for his new job. I am happy about his new career opportunity but I really miss my grandchildren who I baby sat and became very attached to. Other than calling, can you recommend any ideas that can help with this long distance relationship? My grandchildren are ages 3, 5 & 7 and phone communication just isn't enough.
Thank you. Sleepless in OKC

Dear Sleepless,
There is no savvy substitute for actually being with your grandchildren, however despite the distance, you can still play an important and active role in your lives. Here are a few savvy tips to help you stay connected.

- Visual Connection**
- Send recent photos of yourself to your grandchildren and ask your children to place the photo at the height the small child can see it.
 - Tape yourself reading stories or singing songs so the children can continue to see you and hear your voice.

- Visits**
- Determine whether it is more practical for you to visit your children or for them to visit you. Consider your schedules.
 - Include a visit on your way to or from somewhere else.
 - Try phoning or e-mailing visits. Set up a time each month or week to call or exchange e-mail notes and online chats.

- Vacationing Together**
- Ask the things your grandchildren are studying in school. Plan a trip to see some of the places they may have heard about or studied.
 - Do they know where you were born? Show them the town where you grew up.
 - Spend time taking pictures while on vacation. Build a scrapbook together, including postcards and souvenirs from the places you visit.

- Keeping In Touch**
- Take every opportunity to connect with them on a regular basis.
 - Ask questions about their activities and follow up on their interest.
 - Keep a list of your grandchild's important dates such as birthdays, school programs, holidays, and other activities. For major events, send a few notes or even little gifts several times before the date.
 - Be consistent. Don't promise what you can't deliver.

- Activities**
- Playing games can be an enjoyable pastime when you are together. Ask them about their favorite games and if they can teach them to you. Or teach them a game you enjoy.
 - Learn about their favorite sports so you can talk with them about their games, their successes and difficulties.
 - Read together. By reading the same books or stories, you can engage them in further conversation. And they will be thrilled that you like the same things.

Information used to answer this savvy question was obtained from AARP. See their Web site at www.aarp.org

- Savvy Resources:**
For more information on grandparenting topics and support, see these Web sites:
- www.grandparenting.org
 - www.cyberparent.com/gran
 - www.mygrandchild.com
 - www.grandparentsuniversal.com
 - www.grandparents.org

Send your senior questions to: Savvy Senior, P.O. Box 5443, Norman, OK 73076, or see our Web site at www.savvysenior.org.

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Where to Write or Call:

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Email: Phil_Gramm@senate.gov
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284 Senate Russell Bldg
Washington, D.C. 20510
Email: senator@hutchison.senate.gov
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(512) 463-0474 fax (512) 475-3767
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Contributing Writers: Ed Cler, Don Rohmer



Don and Martha Hess are proud to announce the approaching wedding of their daughter Donetta Ann Hess to Mr. John Corbett, son of Michael and Barbara Corbett of Highlands Ranch, Colorado. Donetta is the granddaughter of Leona "Bonnie" Hess and the late Arnold Hess and Clovis Clay and the late Holly Clay of Mt. Vernon, Texas. John and Donetta became engaged on November 24, 2000, in Denver, Colorado. Donetta is a 1994 graduate of Sacred Heart High School. In 2000, Donetta left the University of Colorado at Boulder to move to Thousand Oaks, California and become the Central Administrative Manager for Hanger Orthopedic Group, Inc. In addition, she is currently taking courses in pursuit of a degree in Speech and Language Pathology at California State University, Northridge. John graduated in 1991 from Westlake High School in Westlake Village, California, and received a bachelor's degree in History from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1996. After living in Colorado for four years, he returned to California in 2000 to accept a fellowship in the master's Geography program at UCSB, where he is now focusing on Political Geography and Urban Studies. Donetta and John plan to be married in Santa Barbara, California, on July 27, 2002, at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church with the ceremony beginning at 2:00pm, and the reception to be held at the Veterans Memorial Building off the Santa Barbara Harbor.

Corbin James Bayer is one

Corbin James Bayer, son of Weldon and Loren Bayer, and baby brother of Emily Bayer, celebrated his first birthday on June 22, 2002 with a party at the park that featured Spiderman decorations and a Monster Truck cake. Everyone enjoyed the lovely evening outdoors and delighted in watching Corbin relish his first chocolate birthday cake. Guests included Grandpa Hermes, great-grandparent Edna Klement, great-aunt Kellye and her daughter Brooke Hess; great-uncle Henry Knabe and Babe and their son Jon; grandparents Clinton and Barbara Bayer; James and Karlyn Martin; uncles Heath Bayer, Lucas Bayer, Jared Bayer; and Leah and Michelle Montgomery.



Corbin Bayer

TCOG staff sharpens skills at national conference

Frances Pelley, Executive Director of TCOG, Judy Fullylove, RSVP Director and Kathy Scott, Foster Grandparent Director, returned from the 2002 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service, ready to implement ideas on how to be more effective in volunteer service. The Conference, which was held in Salt Lake City, June 9-11, is the premier training and networking event for leading volunteer and community service supporters.

More than 3,000 volunteer leaders from across the country attended the event, which was convened by the Corporation for National and Community Service and the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network. Under the theme, "Sharing the American Spirit," conference attendees learned new skills to boost

their effectiveness in solving serious social and community problems. They also heard from Laura Bush about how Americans can strengthen their communities and nation through volunteering.

"The conference was a wonderful learning opportunity. I got some great ideas from the experts and from other organizations facing similar challenges on issues ranging from volunteer recruitment to sustaining funding for our efforts," Frances Pelley said. "It was also the perfect forum to highlight ways to answer President Bush's call to service and reinforce the important role volunteers play in healing America following the tragedy of September 11."

Judy Fullylove, RSVP stated, as the new director she is excited and eager to implement the new programs to meet President Bush's call to service. You

will be hearing more about these in the near future. This year as RSVP celebrates its 15th year in Texoma and having contributed 125,000 hours, we will strive to include more volunteers and expand the program to meet even more community needs.

This conference was especially helpful as the Foster Grandparent Program is in its fifth year and transitioning from start-up to operational mode. Networking with other program directors was beneficial and provides a vast network of resources, said Kathy Scott.

Texoma Council of Governments is the local sponsor for both RSVP and FGP in the tri-county area. The programs are funded through the Corporation for National and Community Service.

For information about these programs call 903-813-3587 (RSVP) or 903-813-3589 (FGP) or 1-800-

677-6284. The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network engages and mobilizes millions of volunteers who are helping to solve serious social problems in thousands of communities. Through a variety of programs and services, the Foundation encourages people from all walks of life—corporations, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults—to volunteer.

The Corporation for National and Community Service was established in 1993 to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service to their communities. The Corporation oversees AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America and Senior Corps, engaging more than two million Americans in service to their communities and country each year.

Reading with school age kids

Enjoy yourself and have fun. The most important thing you can do to help your child become a successful reader is communicate that reading is valuable and enjoyable.

Tips from NEA Read Across America

Early registration for fall courses at NCTC extended through Aug. 7

Students wishing to enroll in Fall courses at North Central Texas College will get a little extra time to do so this year. The early registration period at NCTC has been extended a week. (July 15 - Aug. 7) Registration for Fall 2002 courses for all campuses is 9 a.m. to noon and 2:30-6 p.m. (6:30 p.m. in Corinth). Contact the numbers listed below for specific campuses.

Students may also register online at <http://www.nctc.edu>. Those

interested can pick up a Fall 2002 schedule of classes at any of NCTC's three campus—Gainesville, Corinth and Bowie. The

schedule of classes can also be accessed online by clicking on the Fall 2002 Schedule of Classes link on the front page.

Regular registrations dates are as follows: Bowie Campus: 9:30 a.m. to noon and 2:30-6 p.m. Aug. 19. Gainesville Campus: 8:30 a.m. to noon and 2:30-6:30 p.m. Aug. 20; Corinth Campus: 9 a.m. to noon and 2:30-6 p.m. Aug. 21-24.

Early online registration is currently available now until Aug. 7.

For more information, contact: Bowie Campus: (940) 872-4002; Corinth Campus: (940) 498-6200; Gainesville Campus: (940) 668-4222.

Educate the future leaders of our community with great books

Give your children wonderful, educational books to read at home, while earning FREE books and/or cash for your child's daycare.

On Friday, July 19, Tender Loving Care Day Care Center will be holding an Osborne Book fair from 4-6 p.m. Osborne Books are fascinating, wonderfully illustrated books designed to draw children in, to make them want to learn the material, and to help them retain the knowledge. The full-color graphics of Osborne Books stimulate a child's curiosity and maintain the child's interest. The unique features of Osborne Books foster logical sequencing of events, allow children to get the inside view, provide lots

of hands-on activities, and are geared toward all three modes of learning: visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), and kinesthetic (hands-on).

There are books for all ages and interests, and 80 percent of the 1000+ titles are under \$10.

Everyone is invited. Corporate donations will be accepted. If given during the book fair, donations will count toward the amount of FREE books and/or money given back to the daycare. Help educate the future business leaders of Cooke County!

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Walterscheid, Independent Educational Consultant, Osborne Books at (940) 759-2999.

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- Board Certified: American Board of Internal Medicine
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- Internship/Residency: Quillen College of Medicine, East Tennessee State University
- Former Chief of Medicine, North Central Medical Center, McKinney
- Member, American College of Physicians

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Words can never express how much the outpouring of love and support from family, friends, co-workers, and community has meant to our family during the long illness and death of Donnie.

Our thanks to all who donated food. To the ladies who prepared and served the delicious meal after the funeral, and the Knights of Columbus for the use of the hall.

Our thanks to McCoy Funeral Home for their professional and sympathetic support, and to the V.F.W. Post 6205 and the three representatives from Fort Hood for the inspiring military honors.

We are so thankful for your prayers, cards, flowers, Mass offerings, spiritual bouquets, gifts to Home Hospice of Cooke County, Sacred Heart Trust Fund, Muenster Library, American Cancer Society, and Cooke County Library.

We thank Father John, the altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Pam and David Fette, Emily Klement, Ruth Felderhoff, and Teresa Thompson for the beautiful music.

Our thanks also to Dr. Edd, the nurses who took excellent care of Donnie at Muenster Memorial Hospital, and St. Richards Villa. Our thanks also to the Home Hospice Nurses and aides for all their care and concern.

Your love, your kindness and concern for our family will always be remembered.

The Donnie Walterscheid Family:
Evelyn, Craig, Donna, Ashley and Chad

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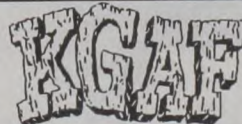
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Secular Franciscans host Bishop of Kerala

Members of the Secular Franciscan Fraternity of Lindsay were pleasantly surprised last week Friday to receive a phone call from Bishop Stephen Athipozhiyal and his companion Francis of Alleppey, Kerala, India who were in Oklahoma City for several days. It was their plan to spend a few hours in Lindsay with the Fraternity members. Therefore it was arranged for them to meet at the

home of Theresa M. Hermes on Saturday morning.

At noon they all met in the home of Elvira Flusche for dinner and visiting. Immediately after the meal, pictures were taken; then Bishop Stephen and his driver, Francis left to go back to Oklahoma City, where the Bishop was scheduled to have Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by Theresa M. Hermes.

Crime prevention seminar on July 23

A seminar for the National Rifle Association's Refuse To Be A Victim crime prevention program will be conducted at 6:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 23 at Gainesville Civic Center, 311 South Weaver, Gainesville.

Refuse To Be A Victim seminars promote awareness and prevention of criminal confrontations. Seminar topics include: home, automobile, phone, technological, travel, and personal security. Seminar participants are presented with a variety of common-sense crime prevention and personal safety strategies and devices they may integrate into their daily lives. The co-ed seminar is three to four hours long and open to the public.

Refuse To Be A Victim was developed in 1993 in response to requests from women nationwide for crime prevention seminars. In 1997 the program became co-ed. With over 2,100 instructors nationwide, seminars have been presented in 48 states, the District of Columbia,

Canada, Puerto Rico, and Venezuela. More than 42,000 women and men have benefited from the program's life-saving message.

This seminar is open to the public and costs \$10 to attend. Persons interested in attending the seminar should e-mail Gary Hollowell at g.hollowell@att.net by July 19.

To obtain additional information about Refuse To Be A Victim seminars scheduled in your area or nationwide, please call 800-861-1166, send an e-mail to refuse@nrhaq.org, or visit the program's web site at <http://www.nrhaq.org/rtbay>.

Gardening Tips

You can win the war against weeds in your garden by following a few simple tips. The first step is to provide adequate nutrition. Few soil conditions naturally offer the proper nutrients for successful plant growth. That's why fertilizing is so important.

Courtesy of ARA Content

New Arrival

Huchton

Travis and Elizabeth Huchton announce with pride and joy the birth of their first child, a daughter, Madison Rose, on June 25, 2002 at 2:08 p.m., weighing six pounds four ounces and measuring 19.5 inches in length, at Wilson N. Jones Hospital. Grandparents are Charles and Alyce Cler of Lindsay and Margie and David Huchton of Lindsay. Great-grandparents are Armella Cler of Muenster, William and Mary Evelyn Hermes of Muenster and Billy Huchton of Muenster. The great-great-grandmother is Cecilia Hermes of Lindsay.

Sanders

Bryan and Dana Sanders of Muenster joyfully announce the birth of their son, Zachary Bryson Sanders, on Thursday, June 27, 2002, at 6:44 p.m. in Wise Regional Hospital. He joins a sister, Payton, age 7. Zachary weighed 8 lb. 1 oz. and measured 21 inches in length. His grandparents are Larry and Pat Wimmer of Muenster and Les and Judy Sanders of Bowie. Great-grandparents are Joe Wimmer and Kate Wilson, both of Muenster, and Leota Hull of Bowie.

Becker named to Dean's List

Baylor University in Waco has announced its Dean's Academic Honor. Included on the list is a student from Muenster, Diane Marie Becker, daughter of Paul and Brenda Becker. She has completed her freshman year, amassing 31 semester hours, maintaining a grade point average of 3.76 in a possible 4.0 ratio. She is a graduate of Sacred Heart High School and a Business major.

Daugett counsels on stress and anxiety

Judy Daugett, Masters of Arts, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, and licensed minister, was the guest speaker for the quarterly Family Support meeting sponsored by Mental Health Mental Retardation Services of Texoma. The program title was All Stressed Up and No Place to Go! Daugett, has a private counseling practice, Break Through Christian Counseling in Gainesville.

Daugett discussed what is anxiety, affects of anxiety and types of anxiety. "Anxiety is a disease of stress. It robs our brains of the certain chemicals needed to function properly. Anxiety is focused more on the internal than on the external," states Daugett. "Anxiety affects us in three ways: physically,

behaviorally, and psychologically. The types of anxiety are panic disorder, agoraphobia, social phobia, specific phobia, generalized anxiety, obsessive compulsive disorder, post traumatic stress disorder, acute traumatic disorder, and separation distress disorder," continues Daugett.

"There are many things that can be done about anxiety: counseling, medication, reduce caffeine in-take; physical, relaxation, and breathing exercise; visualization; self-talk, reducing life's stress; dealing with past issues. Depression and anxiety are kissing cousins. The worst thing we can do is to run away. The best thing is to deal with it," says Daugett.

The next family Support

meeting will be held on October 10. For more information contact Paula Cawthon at 903-786-4804.



Judy Daugett

Students still accepted for religious ed. classes

Parents of public school students are invited to register their children for Religious Education classes held at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday evenings 7 - 8 p.m. Classes include grades K through 12 and will begin August 28 with an opening Mass at 6:30 p.m. followed by class. Forms are available in the front entrance to church. Registration forms for kindergarten and new students are pink; those for returning students are white.

Completed forms and fees may be taken to the business office at Sacred Heart Church, dropped in the collection, or mailed to Barbara Rohmer, Sacred Heart Church, 714 N. Main St., Muenster, TX 76252. Forms should be turned in as soon as possible so that class rolls can be finalized.

Teachers are needed for grades 5 and 10. If you are interested in helping as a teacher or aide, please call Barbara Rohmer at 759-2511, Ext. 16 to set up an interview.

Please add \$5 late fee to



Natalie Chism

Natalie celebrates 2nd birthday

Natalie Chism, daughter of Steve and DaLana Chism, celebrated her second birthday on June 9. Her actual birthday is June 10. The celebration was held at her home. Guests enjoyed hamburgers, hot dogs, cupcakes, and ice cream. Gifts were opened and pictures taken.

Celebrating with Natalie were her parents; brother Sean; grandparents Giles

and Marlene Walterscheid and Charlie and Judy Taylor; great-grandparents Augusta Walterscheid, Tony and Sis Klement, Jessie Taylor, and Sonny and Dee Cole; uncle, aunt and cousin Jeff, Joyce and Jaden

Walterscheid; and uncle Keith Walterscheid. Also special friends Chris, Paulette, and Ashley Reyley; Joe, Kim, Paige and Brandon Hennigan; Robert and Judy McDaniel; and Kristi, Chloe, and Claire Schneider.

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Card of Thanks

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the kindness that was shown toward our family in this time of sorrow at the loss of our wife and sister, Bertie Koin.

Special thanks to Father John for the beautiful service, Pam, David and Ruth for the lovely music and everyone who took part in the service. Also thanks to Barbara Rohmer for leading the rosary.

We appreciate so much the St. Anne's Society, the Catholic Daughters and the ladies of the community for cooking and serving the wonderful meal, and all who donated food.

Our gratitude also goes to all who cared for and visited Bertie in the hospital. We also want to thank everyone for the loving support shown by family, friends, and neighbors; for all the Mass offerings, food, flowers, memorial cards, sympathy cards and kind words of sympathy which we will always remember and treasure.

At Koin and the Schmitz Family 7.12.02

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Sports

Be aware of ticks while outdoors

Summer is here and the great outdoors beckons. However, this is the time of the year when people need to be especially careful about ticks, said Dr. Michael Merchant, Extension urban entomologist in Dallas.

Ticks are a major problem in summer. If bitten by a tick, don't panic, he said, but be aware that it's possible for them to carry diseases.

"If you find a tick feeding on you, be sure to make a note of that somewhere," Merchant said. "Diseases carried by ticks sometimes show up as a rash, or with flu-like symptoms."

"If you get any unusual symptoms after the bite, be sure to let your doctor know. It may be completely unrelated, but at least it will help him or her know what to look for."

Ticks can carry the pathogens that cause Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever, among others, he said.

"The difficult thing about tick-borne diseases is they are very difficult to

diagnose initially," Merchant said. "A dog or animal or person's health can be affected severely before they realize what it is and can get the proper treatment."

Ticks are not that difficult to recognize, according to Merchant. They are flattened on the bottom and top, brown in color and well-designed to feel at home slipping into the fur coat of a dog or cat.

"Areas with cattle and other livestock are more likely to have ticks," Merchant said. "But any kind of natural, wild area with lots of borders between woodland and the grassy areas is especially good tick country."

In order to keep ticks off wear repellent, he said. "Currently, the most effective tick repellent is

permethrin," Merchant said. "It's sold under several trade names, including one that's called Permethrin Tick Repellent. Treated clothing repels ticks for days to weeks."

Ticks normally hide on foliage, grass, leaves and shrubs, on the edge or end of a plant. Animals or humans walking by brush on the leaf and the tick grabs hold, and that's how ticks get on and in people's clothing.

"In heavy tick areas, you may want to tuck your pants legs into your socks or seal your cuffs with duct tape to make it harder for ticks to climb inside your pant legs," Merchant said. "Make sure you wear long pants and tuck in your shirts to further discourage ticks."

People should check themselves daily for ticks.

When working in tick-infested areas, check nightly for ticks.

To remove a tick, entomologists recommend grabbing the tick on the head as close to the skin as possible and pulling straight out with a gentle, steady pull. Old fashioned remedies, such as hot match heads and Vaseline, don't work well and may slightly increase your chance of getting infected, Merchant said.

"Ticks are more likely to carry disease because of their feeding habits," Merchant said. "Many ticks feed on three different hosts in their lifetime."

"Ticks are primarily outdoor critters, and the ones that would get indoors are not going to bite people, they're just there because of the animal being on the outside."



Katie Nix & Coach Rita Story-Schell

Katie Nix competes in Hawaii tourney

Katie Nix of Marietta, Oklahoma was invited to play basketball on the Oklahoma team in Hawaii. There were 12 teams in all, including three Hawaiian teams. The members of teams were small with fear of traveling still hampering people from letting their children participate.

They began with a three game pool play to seed the teams in their appropriate brackets, for competition, which ranged from 16 years of age to college players. The Oklahoma team was defeated in all three games, two by five points and one by two points. They were placed in the Bronze bracket with three other teams, two of which had already beaten them.

Team Oklahoma went into the tournament with confidence because of the level of playing they had achieved, after getting to know each other as team mates during the pool play section of the tournament. Katie's team surprised Missouri, which had beat them earlier, by downing them 44-29 to knock them out. Hawaii sent Ohio packing thus, leaving them to play the home team. They had to overcome the

intimidation of a team who plays school ball together year round. Hawaii had claimed the championship in the Gold and Silver brackets, Oklahoma was the only Main Land State who had a chance to stop on Hawaiian clean sweep. With 28 seconds left the score was tied at 39-39. Team Oklahoma got a rebound and went down to claim the bracket trophy. Katie was coached by Rita Story-Schell, the head basketball coach at Seminole State College. Out side of the gym, the girls enjoyed Pearl Harbor, Polynesian Culture Center, snorkeling at the North Shore, where they enjoyed brilliantly colored fish and were lucky enough to find a large sea turtle approximately three feet by three feet in size.

Closing ceremonies were at Planet Hollywood. Katie will be a senior at Marietta. She is the daughter of Brenda and Kim Nix, and the granddaughter of Cecilia Wimmer and the late Andrew Wimmer and Nancy Nix and the late Raymond Nix.

Brenda Nix and Cecilia Wimmer flew to Hawaii to watch Katie play and enjoy touring the sights.

Game Warden Notes

Boats Collide - On June 8, Lamb and Hale county game wardens worked a boating accident on Buffalo Springs Lake. Two boat operators were playing tag and the vessels collided. Two passengers were ejected from the boat but were not injured. One boat had extensive hull damage. Both operators were charged with negligent operation of a motorboat.

Alligator Heads Sold Illegally - While on patrol, a Van Zandt County game warden learned that a vendor from Louisiana was attempting to sell large alligator heads at a local event. Closer inspection revealed that the heads were not documented and the seller failed to have an alligator retail dealer's permit. The owner of the booth stated that it couldn't

be illegal to sell undocumented heads because he had done it before. Citations were issued and three heads were seized.

Boy Killed by Lightning - Recently, wardens from Bosque, Hood, and McLennan counties responded to rescue and recovery calls after a series of thunderstorms hit Lake Granbury. Numerous power lines and trees were blown down by the 80-90 mile-per-hour winds. Several people became trapped in their homes as a result of fallen trees. One 12-year-old boy was killed when hit by a bolt of lightning, which also injured his twin brother and an adult as they were trying to get their boat onto the ramp.

Oil Spill - On June 4-5, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department worked a case of a large oil spill. It appears to have been an act of vandalism. A three-inch valve was opened on a large storage tank holding 300 barrels of crude oil, releasing it into a tributary of Harris Creek that eventually feeds into the Sabine River. A minimal amount of fish and other aquatic life have been affected, but the cleanup is enormous. The investigation is ongoing.

Your Clothes Give You Away - Recently, Tarrant County game wardens talked to four people at the Grapevine Lake spillway

after noticing that one of the men was soaking wet. The wardens inquired what the men were doing and the drenched man said they were catching bait with a cast net. A mesh bag and cast net were discovered in their van. The mesh bag contained more than 170 undersized crappie, catfish and sand bass. The men said they had no idea the fish were undersized or that using a cast net was an illegal method for taking game fish. Charges are pending.

Horned Lizards Seized - A Dallas County game warden seized 15 horned toad lizards from a Red Oak man. The man collected the toads from the Big Springs area. Upon his return, he discovered he had violated the law and called The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to give them up.

Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run July 20

An Eighter from Decatur Motorcycle Rally and Poker Run will be Saturday, July 20 in Downtown Decatur.

Registration will be from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. for a cost of \$10 for single rider and \$15 for a double. A hamburger lunch is being offered for \$5. All proceeds will benefit the Wise Area Relief Mission (W.A.R.M.), helping families in Wise County.

For more information contact Frieda at 627-2741.

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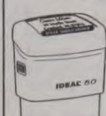
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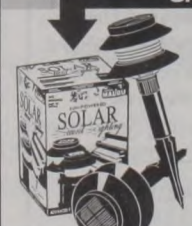
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Notice is hereby given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Joe Leslie Biffle were issued on July 9, 2002, in Cause No. 15,473 pending in the Probate Court of Cooke County, Texas, to Karen Jean Biffle Barclay, who resides in Cooke County, Texas, and whose mailing address is: Karen Jean Biffle Barclay, 108 E. Church, Gainesville, Texas 76240.

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.
DATED this 9th day of July, 2002.
Respectfully submitted,
/s/Karen Jean Biffle Barclay

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Texas crop weather report

The Texas wheat harvest is on schedule despite poor growing conditions in most of the state, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

"Much of the state had pretty decent moisture in early fall to get a stand, and we had an extremely dry winter and early spring," said Dr. Travis Miller, Extension agronomist in College Station. "This period of dry weather resulted in the loss of thousands of acres of wheat."

Areas north of Interstate 20, including North Central Texas, North Texas, the Blacklands and East Texas, had good moisture therefore they had a good crop, he said.

"I'd say the wheat harvest is a little over 90 percent complete now," Miller said. "There are a few fields in the northern High Plains that are still yet to harvest, but most of it is in."

He said no one has an exact number for the amount of bushels harvested.

As of June 1, the prediction from the Agricultural Statistics Service was 80 million bushels on 2.5 million acres had been harvested.

"I've heard some very good yields and some very poor yields, so it's a mixed bag out there, depending on where the rain fell," Miller said.

"I think we planted 6.4 million acres, and the best guess on June 1 was that 2.5 million acres would be harvested," he said.

That means approximately 39 percent of the wheat planted will be harvested, which is not as bad as it sounds, Miller said. Normally, much of the wheat is grazed-out. Long-time harvest averages are about 55 percent instead of 39 percent.

Wheat is planted from Sept. 1 to the first of December, with most of it planted in late-September to early November, he said.

"Early in that time frame we had pretty good moisture and got good stands," Miller said. "But if people delayed planting for some reason, then they had trouble getting moisture to get the seed up."

Some areas had poor stands because sufficient moisture didn't come until late January.

Insects and disease have also caused lower yields for the wheat harvest.

"We had quite a bit of greenbug pressure, particularly in West Texas," Miller said. "A greenbug is an aphid that feeds on the wheat."

Stripe rust and leaf rust hit the crop in the eastern part of the state. These diseases destroy the leaf area. In other words, a healthy green crop hit by one of those rust species ends up with yellow leaves, Miller said. The diseases are called "rusts" because the adult part of the fungal organism is red-colored.

In Young, Throckmorton and Baylor counties, Karnal bunt was found on a very limited basis, he said. Last year, four North Texas

counties were quarantined due to the detection of this disease.

More than 90 percent of the wheat crop is in, Miller said. Acreage in parts of the High Plains still remains to be harvested.

"The High Plains has more acres and typically produces more wheat than any other area of the state," Miller said. "This year it looks like the Blacklands will be right behind the High Plains. That's because we had a good crop in the northern part of the state."

He said the growing season was better overall there than in any other area of the state.

Joe Pena, Extension economist in Uvalde, said this past week has been the rainiest period on record, with 15 to more than 30 inches of very concentrated rain. The rain has caused most rivers and creeks to overflow, resulting in extensive flooding especially in Comal, Medina and Uvalde counties.

The rain will have a positive effect on agriculture, especially pastures, ranges and livestock agriculture, Pena said. While the rains came too late to help corn and sorghum, pecans, cotton and peanuts may be able to make full use of the rain.

He said it is too early to make a reliable estimate, but early guesses indicate that agricultural production losses may exceed \$20 million, not counting losses to capital assets such as fences, homes, barns, roads and culverts.

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Farm & Ranch

Texas Pecan crop update

Rainfall welcome relief for Texas agriculture

With Texas drought losses already at \$316 million for 2002, recent rainfall over the past week is providing welcomed relief to the state's agricultural producers.

According to Dr. Travis Miller, Texas Cooperative Extension program leader for soil and crop sciences, rainfall has been widespread throughout most of the state's drought-stricken regions, although significant areas of far West Texas and the northern High Plains remain dry.

"We've had a good supply of moisture coming in from the south for the past week or so. We haven't seen moisture like this in many months," Miller said. "We've gotten quite a bit of rain, anywhere from less than an inch, to 8 to 12 inches across South and Central Texas drifting on up into North Texas," Miller said.

South and Central Texas missed virtually all of the necessary rainfall needed during the spring to grow cotton and grain crops. The state's wheat crop also was devastated by drought this year with losses totaling \$110 million, according to Extension economists. There's good news for the state's cattle producers. Rangeland conditions across Texas were deteriorating at a rapid pace, and hay supplies were becoming a concern.

"Certainly the one area that is going to benefit the

most is our pasture and rangeland," Miller said. "We had many ranchers report that they didn't get any hay cuttings this year or some reported they got one cutting or a small one earlier in the year based on the moisture we had in March. Overall, we should get some excellent hay cuttings and rangeland growth over the next month. This should make up for some of the forage or feed

deficit we were looking at prior to the rains."

According to forecast models, Miller said the outlook for the summer is normal precipitation for most of the state "with an improved precipitation outlook from fall through next spring. Much of the state got a good shot of rain here late in June, early July to set us up through the summer months and on into fall."

Texas Dept. of Agriculture continues voluntary program to test wheat seed for Karnal bunt

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs announced the Texas Department of Agriculture will continue its voluntary program for producers and storage facility managers to have their 2002 wheat seed tested for Karnal bunt. The program, which was first offered last year, applies only to wheat seed produced and stored in non-regulated Texas counties.

Owners of the seed may collect a 4-pound representative "service sample" from a seed lot and send it in a secure container by overnight mail to Dr. Charles Rush, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, 2301 Experiment Station Road, Bushland, Texas 79012.

The service sample must be double-bagged in clean 1-

gallon plastic zipper bags. A tag giving seed lot number and description, physical address of the lot and name and telephone number of the sender must accompany the sample. The cost is \$50 per sample payable to the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. A phytosanitary certificate cannot be issued for service samples.

Seed owners needing a phytosanitary certificate should contact Kelly Book, TDA's Seed quality branch chief. TDA inspectors will collect official samples for analysis. If the sample is negative, TDA will issue the certificate.

Any seed testing positive for Karnal bunt spores cannot be planted and must be used for grain. The samples will be further

Even though the pecan crop is very far from harvest, experts forecast below-average yields for the entire state due to a severe drought, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

Also, mid-June hail took about 80 percent to 90 percent of the crop in West Texas, said Jim Word, Ector County Extension agent. "The hail was severe, but it didn't totally denude the trees. They probably lost 60 to 70% of the foliage and 80 to 90% of the pecan crop," he said.

Quality is predicted to be fair to good of the nuts that remain, while last year

there were large amounts of nuts, but the quality was very poor, he said.

Joe Peña, Extension economist in Uvalde, said the Central Texas crop is doing better than the western part of the state despite the drought.

"We set up a good crop. Our estimate is that we are going to harvest about 42.5 million pounds, which is down from last year's 61 million pounds, but our gut feeling says it's going to be lower unless we get some rain right now," he said.

The whole pecan belt is experiencing a severe drought and extensive nut drop, Peña said. Nut drop is when the tree sheds its load because of stress.

The pecan belt, in Central Texas along Interstate 35, is where the largest amounts of pecans are produced. Central Texas is responsible for 70 to 80 of the state's pecan production.

This is not just a Texas problem; the pecan crop for the entire United States is in an off year, Peña said. At best, the U.S. production is expected to be about 192 million pounds versus last year's 315 million pounds.

The decrease is partly due to the fact that pecans are

an alternate bearing-type crop - putting on a heavy crop one year and a very light crop the next.

There is less fluctuation in the crop from past years, though. In the years before this, Texas has been going from 90 million to 30 million pounds.

The pecan gains its size with the spring rain, and fills the inside of the nut with the fall rain, Peña said. Presently, the pecans are in their sizing stage. They are smaller than average, but they are still a fairly good size.

Pecans need hot weather, with temperatures around 90 degrees Fahrenheit, with much moisture. On the other hand, dry weather is better for disease control. Many commercial growers irrigate, so moisture is not much of a problem.

Texas is the second largest pecan producing state behind Georgia.

The market collapsed last October after Sept. 11 and never really regained momentum. Many pecan farmers were devastated, so they are looking forward to this reduced crop for a good market, which was possible this year, Peña said.

It's A Stat! Monthly Report by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

MILK PRODUCTION
Texas milk production totaled 485 million pounds during May, up 2 percent from last year's production of 477 million pounds. April 2002 production totaled 490 million pounds. The number

of milk cows during May averaged 310 head, down 19,000 head from last year.

EGG PRODUCTION
May egg production in Texas totaled 392 million eggs, down 4 percent from May 2001. The number of

layers during May averaged 18 million, with egg production per 100 layers averaging 2,166 eggs. Texas hatchery production of broiler-type chicks totaled 58 million, up 2 percent from last year.

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4410 4WD 35 hp	ePowerReverser	eHydro
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