

IN THE NEWS

Bush budget to aim for restraint in election year
 President George W. Bush will emphasize domestic-spending austerity when he unveils a \$2.7 trillion budget on Monday that aims to counter a spendthrift image and rally Republicans in an election year.

Gonzales defends spying
 U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales on Monday defended the Bush administration's domestic eavesdropping program as an indispensable "early warning system" against attacks, denying accusations the White House had broken the law.

Bush budget triples money from Alaska oil drilling
 The Bush administration on Monday again asked Congress to allow oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), but almost tripled its estimate for the amount of money that would be collected in leasing fees from energy companies.

Cuba, Mexico upset by US move to halt energy meeting
 Cuba and Mexico on Monday condemned the U.S.-ordered eviction of 16 Cuban officials from an American-owned hotel in Mexico City during a conference with U.S. energy companies.

Saddam may be forced to attend trial: prosecutor
 Saddam Hussein may be forced to appear in court when his trial resumes next week, the chief prosecutor said on Monday, expressing frustration at the former leader's persistent boycotting of proceedings.

Saudi envoy says Bush oil comments "topic of hour"
 President Bush's call for the United States to end its dependence on Middle East oil has become "the topic of the hour" for Saudi Arabia and left it wondering what the White House has in mind, the Saudi ambassador to the United States said on Tuesday.

Protesters join athletes warming up for Games
 Protesters and officials limbered up for the Winter Olympics alongside athletes on Tuesday, using the last three days before the Games begin to grab a little of the international limelight.

US says will cancel debt owed by Afghanistan
 The United States will cancel all debt owed to it by Afghanistan, which amounts to about \$108 million, the State Department announced on Tuesday as it urged other nations to do the same.

Four presidents and a rowdy funeral for a King
 Speakers seized on the presence of President Bush to attack his policies on Tuesday at the funeral of Coretta Scott King, the first lady of the U.S. civil rights movement.

US senators to probe general's Abu Ghraib testimony
 A Senate committee will look into discrepancies in accounts of how dogs came to be used to abuse detainees at a U.S. prison in Iraq, after a general who testified to the committee then declined to testify in military court, senators said on Tuesday.

CIA counter-terrorism chief steps down
 The head of the CIA's counter-terrorism center has been forced to step down as part of efforts by the spy agency to bolster its pursuit of al Qaeda, current and former intelligence officials said on Tuesday.

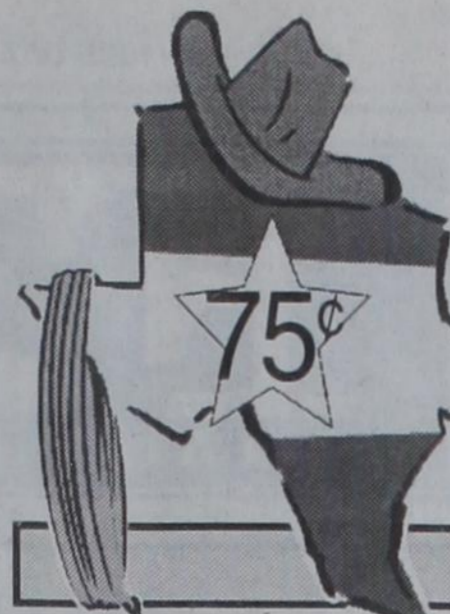
Senate toughens scrutiny of wiretapping
 Senators from both parties are asking hard questions about the president's wartime powers.

Pope meets Laura Bush, says worried about terror
 Pope Benedict received U.S. First Lady Laura Bush on Thursday and told her that he was worried about terrorism around the world and violence sparked by the publication of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad.

US secret court judges warned about NSA data: report
 A Justice Department lawyer warned the judge of a secret U.S. court twice in the past four years that information from President George W. Bush's domestic spying program may have been used to obtain wiretap warrants from the court, The Washington Post reported on Thursday.

U2 dominate Grammys
 Irish rockers U2 took time out from saving the world to bask in Grammy glory on Wednesday.

Security scare forces US Capitol evacuation
 A suspected nerve agent forced the evacuation of a U.S. Senate office building late on Wednesday until tests concluded the vapor that set off the alarm was harmless, police said.



The Hansford County
Reporter-Statesman

PROUDLY SERVING HANSFORD COUNTY SINCE 1907

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

Benton resigns

Steve Benton resigned as Mayor of Spearman on December 31, 2005. He resigned from Five Star Equipment, Inc., where serves as Parts Manager, effective February 15, 2006. He and his wife, Sheri, are moving to Montgomery, Texas, where he will go into business with his daughter and son-in-law, Kellie and Travis Francis, as custom home builders.

Steve moved to Spearman with his parents, Nell and Buddy Benton, brother Kent Benton, and sister Denise (now Denise Harbour) when he was in the sixth grade. Nell taught 1st and 3rd grade for 26 years, and Buddy taught freshman and junior English for 30 years.

Steve began his career in the agriculture business in 1971, working with John Deere equipment. He went to work for Dick Albert at North Plains International in 1977. In 1987, he and partners Jan Williamson, Stephen Poole, Buford Baker and Richey Thompson, as well as Buddy Benton, Mike Garnett, Roy Pipkin, Don Allen, Billy Boatwright, J.W. Ward, Ward Spivey, Burt Schubert and Wood Craig, opened Five Star Equipment, Inc. Steve's retirement leaves two employed partners, Richey Thompson and Buford Baker, and four non-employee partners, Steve Benton, Buddy Benton, J.W. Ward and Don Allen.

He was elected to the Spearman City Council in 1990, serving for nine years before being elected Mayor in 2000.

"Serving the citizens of Spearman has been an enjoyment," Benton said. "I have been fortunate to serve with an exceptional city staff."

"There are many people in this area that mean a lot to me," Benton continued. "I have always enjoyed working with our local farmers and citizens, and enjoyed the challenges of my job."

"We will miss Steve's expertise in parts and product knowledge," Thompson said. "We feel confident in his replacement, Les Williamson."

Williamson began working at Five Star Equipment in October. He has been in the parts business for 30 years, moving to Spearman from Dumas.

"I am glad to be here," Williamson said. "I look forward to working with the people of Hansford County and the surrounding area."

Since 1987, the company has grown from seven employees to thirteen.

"I believe we have been successful because of the loyalty of our customers," Richey Thompson said, "and because of the way we run our business. We have been fortunate to have good bankers, Clay and Mike Schnell, and Monte Blackman and Travis Wolfe at Brown, Graham & Co."



Former Mayor Steve Benton, right, passes the gavel to Mayor Brian Gillispie. Brian was selected by the Spearman City Council to finish Benton's term, which expires in May 2006.



Steve Benton (center) stands behind the counter at Five Star Equipment, Inc. with Les Williamson and Richard Wagner.

Barrera and Sparks Receive Highest Recognition at HCHD Awards Banquet

by Carol Sell

Hansford County Hospital District employees enjoyed their annual award banquet Saturday, January 28.

Rosetta Barrera was named Employee of the Year, 2005. Rosetta, who has worked at Hansford County Hospital District since October 10, 1973, was introduced by Diana Cantu, who was Employee of the Year for 2004. Ms. Barrera is Hansford Hospice LVN, but she also fills in at the hospital and clinics when she is needed. Rosetta cares for her patients with love and experience.

Merry Sparks was named Leader of the Year, 2005. Merry, who has worked at H.C.H.D. since September 17, 2001, was introduced by Sharon Sutton, the Leader of the Year for 2004. Sparks is the Director of the Manor Activity Department. Ms. Sparks has many talents and uses all of them for the Residents of Hansford Manor. (She is also well-known for entertaining co-workers!)

Suzie Lawrence was introduced as Manor C.N.A. of the Year by Anne Snow, Manor Administrator. Suzie has worked in the Manor since September 6, 2001. Ms. Lawrence is appreciated by Manor Residents and her co-workers, and she has energy which inspires everyone who sees her. Suzie loves her work at Hansford Manor, and it is evident by the way she treats "her Residents." This award is especially meaningful because it is the Manor Residents who determine the honoree.

The 2005 C.N.A. Class was introduced by Jancee Russell, Instructor: Melinda Jacquez, Cecelia Trejo, Leticia Ochoa, Carla Byrd, Krystal DeLaGarza, Sabrina Graham, Tara Gallagher, Audrey DeLuna

Other presentations made were:
 Twenty-five Years service pins: Charla Hargis, Judy Anders
 Fourteen Years service pin: Gilbert Salgado
 Ten Years service pins: Roberta Bridwell, Tammy Murray, Vicki Risner, Shirley Kimbrough

Five Years service pins: Glenn Ruga, Deatta Sparks, Kenda Boyd, Lisa Unruh, Regina Biggers, Andy DeLaRosa, Tanja Whitefield

Employee of the Month Pins: Todd Ware, Anna Navarrete, Sam Cogdill, Annette Hopkins, Reba Ooley, Linda Beeson, Monica McCutchen, Carmen Ortiz, Sam Morrow, Jim Younger, Margaret Reid, and Rosetta Barrera



Hansford County Hospital District held their annual awards banquet on Saturday, January 28th. The following employees were recognized.

Above left: Rosetta Barrera was named 2005 Employee of the Year

Above right: Merry Gale Sparks was named the 2005 Leader of the Year

Left: Suzie Lawrence was named the 2005 Manor C.N.A. of the Year

2006 Hansford County Stock Show



The Annual Hansford County Junior Livestock Show and Premium Sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, February 10th and 11th at the county barn in Gruver.

Friday's activities will begin at 7 a.m. with the weighing in of all steers and lambs. The grand opening of the show will begin at 9 a.m., with the lamb show, immediately followed by the steer show. The weighing of pigs will be held after the steer show, around 2:30 p.m.

Saturday's schedule is as follows: 9 a.m. - Swine show; 1 p.m. - judging contest; 6:30 p.m. - floor prices will be auctioned, with the presentation of Showmanship and Commercial Steer Awards. Immediately following the presentation of awards, the auction will begin. The sell order will be - lamb, swine and steer.

Everyone is encouraged to come out and support the 4-H and FFA members of Hansford County. A concession stand with lots of great food will be

open both days. Barbecue brisket plates (prepared by Richard and Wanda Wagner) will be available at 5 p.m. on Saturday, before the sale. Proceeds will go to the 4-H Fund.

Steer- Jerry Williams, Rickey Thompson, Kevin Holy, Danny Herrington, and Clay Reid; Sheep- Bret Burgin, Brent Stedje and Travis Patterson; Swine- Clint Irwin, Kyle Nollner, Scot Martin, Lonnie Shields, Keith Hight, Kenneth Slough, Damon Goodheart and Lenny Pecha and Commercial Steers- Ricky Thompson, Kevin Holy, Billy Brown, Dwayne Thompson and David Harbour.

The 2006 Board of Directors are: Brent Stedje, Lenny Pecha, Clay Reid, Kevin Holy, Clint Irwin, Kenneth Slough, Danny Herrington, Scot Martin, Bret Burgin, Dwayne Thompson, Kyle Nollner, Quentin Harper, Travis Patterson, Damon Goodheart, Ricky Thompson, Jerry Williams, Lonnie Shields, Burt Williams, Weston Born and Scott Stedje.



LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY NIGHT - Mostly clear. Lows around 20.
 clear. Lows around 20.
 SUNDAY - Mostly sunny. Warmer. Highs in the upper 50s.
 SUNDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s.
 MONDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs around 50.
 MONDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s.
 TUESDAY - Partly cloudy in the morning then clearing. Highs in the mid 50s.
 TUESDAY NIGHT - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 20s.
 WEDNESDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.

DEADLINE NOTICE

The deadline to submit news and advertising to the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman is Monday at 5 p.m. Items submitted after the deadline will be published at a later date, as time and space permit.

For more information, please contact Catherine Smith at 659-3434, or e-mail me at cathysmith@antden.com.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman Office will be closed February 16-20.

Happy Birthday!

Editor's Note: This Happy Birthday list is run as a public service by the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman. We apologize if any names are misspelled. If you know of a name that needs to be changed, added or deleted, please call 659-3434.

February 9

Birthday - Loren Dahl, Andy Hoel, Elena Salazar, Carole Hall, Sara Avila, Paula Garza, Doris Breedon, Jackie Pearson, Linda Rodriguez, Lori Williams, Rossetta Barrera, Michelle Laughlin, Armando Borunda, Drew Mireles, Betty Scribner

Anniversary - M/M Martin Ochoa, Bill & Alice Miller, M/M Cecil Reynolds, M/M Dwayne TeBeest

February 10

Birthday - Karen Cotter, Mark Irwin, Tammy White, Robbie Cator, Mary Ann Lasater, J. Travis Garnett, Evelina Martinez, Gregory Brand, Jimmy McLeod, Charles West, Fanetta Pierce, Josie Holt, Debbie Eslick, Karen Schnell

Anniversary - M/M Perry Dixon

February 11

Birthday - Angie Clawson, Craig Schuman, Kari Lou Russell, Joan McClellan, Denise Harbour, Lillian Cooksey, Roy Harbour, Leigh Anne Winger, Addie Williams, Sloan Dominguez, Leo Cummings

February 12

Birthday - Rod Been, Lynn Burk, Louise Evans, Brian McClenagan, Brandon Reagon, Kaci Renteria, Sister Criselda Vela, Mae Hargis, Kelly Goodman, Anselmo Vela, Mary Dixon, Glynn & Lynn Pattison, Jennie Lou Connely, Jana Hawkins, Roy Sutton, Mary Virden, Troy James, Derrick Burnett, Clayton Vanderberg, Stephen Jacobs, Walter Postoak

Anniversary - M/M Buck Tidwell, M/M Gary Evans, M/M Roy Lee Uptergrove, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Ross

February 13

Birthday - Rick Barkley, Rosi Chisum, Kristi Williams, Shery Lee, Richard Ooley, Bill Watson, Catalina Espinosa, Esther Vargas, Mari Ann Bartimos, Maura Gaspar

Anniversary - M/M Eddy Rojas

February 14

Birthday - Alice Goodman, Ti Harbour, Nick Nelson, Janice

Holt, C.W. Kirk, Tommy Thomas, Laura Umphress, Bubba Smith, Donna Ball, Lena Kathryn Harbour, Betsy Sutterfield, Kenneth Baker, Josiah Lee Vasquez, Courtney Wood

Anniversary - M/M Kip Francis, M/M Roney Clark, Ricky & Cindy Dowdy, Hal & Jeanie Bennett, Terry & Tammy Burch, M/M Omar Sutton, M/M Salomon Tarango, M/M Tony Swink, M/M Rod Holland, M/M Delfino Parra, Rev. & Rev. Joseph Weeks, Garrett & Mika Gumfory

February 15

Birthday - Lee Bradford, Heath Gammon, Donnie Thoreson, Claude Sheets Jr., Lynn Sheets, Brenda White, Marlane Nollner, Laura Dahl, Toby White, Kirk Adams, J. P. Prouty, Juanna Rosales, Colby Bedell, Rick Finley, Colleen Burkhammer, Steve Hartgraves

Anniversary - M/M Hoyt Biles, M/M Jim Norton

February 16

Birthday - Johnny Pat O'Connell, David Parker, Mike Larson, Lynda Owens, Ismael Vela, Timothy Peck, Maylynn Ayers, Cliff Lang, Brittany Claxton, Diana Pepper, Rex Reid

Anniversary - M/M Jesus Espinosa, M/M Charles Chritton, M/M Augustine Mejia, M/M Bobby Hohertz, M/M Gene Fletcher, Eschol & Eulalia Blankenship

February 17

Birthday - Katie Jones, Manuel Ruiz Jr., Mark Guthrie, Lee Ann Schrader, Charles Hall, T.H. Rodriguez, Ernest Wayne Jr., Ric Smith, Isela Huerta

Anniversary - Oscar & Janice Noble, M/M Ed Castillo

February 18

Birthday - Vickie Bullard, Carla Jo Riggins, Luke Stroud, Beau Roberts, Buck Sell, Edith Breland, Blan Rutherford, J.D. Poer

Anniversary - M/M Richie Fletcher

February 19

Birthday - Melissa Quillin, Delphine Etling, Bob Womble, Stephanie Hays, Bennie Brogdon, David Kellum, Sylvia Rosales, Niki Taylor, Robert Dean Meire, Chuck Ball, Sylvia Taranto

Anniversary - Charles & Carol Hall, M/M Dorsey Perez, M/M Lupe Moreno, M/M Larry Trosper

HANSFORD COUNTY EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2006

- Feb 10 Spearman ISD, Gruver ISD, Pringle-Morse CISD School Holiday
- Feb 10-11 Hansford County Stock Show, Gruver County Barn; FCCLA Regional Meeting, Odessa
- Feb 11 Choir Solo & Ensemble Contest, WTAMU
- Feb 12-18 San Antonio Stock Show
- Feb 13 Gruver Greyhounds vs Lorenzo, 6:30 p.m., Canyon HS; Deadline to order Greyhound Basketball Playoff T-Shirts
- Feb 13-19 Random Acts of Kindness Week
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 16 Hansford County Spelling Bee, 3:30 p.m., Spearman HS Auditorium
- Feb 18 Spearman ISD Valentine Dance, HS Cafeteria
- Feb 19-25 National FFA Week
- Feb 20 President's Day
- Feb 21 TAKS 9TH Reading, 10TH & 11TH ELA, 11TH ELA retest
- Feb 22 TAKS 9TH Reading SDAA, 11TH Math retest, 10TH ELA for SDAAIL
- Feb 23 TAKS 11TH Science retest, 10TH ELA makeup
- Feb 24 TAKS 11TH Social Studies retest
- Feb 27 Shattered Dreams Parent/Student meeting 7:00, Library
- Feb 28 Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)

MARCH 2006

- Mar 1 Ash Wednesday
- Mar 2 Shattered Dreams; Read Across America Day; Spearman HS; Area School Board Candidate Workshop, 7-9 p.m., Region 16 Education Service Center, Amarillo
- Mar 4 Spearman Chamber of Commerce Banquet, 6 p.m., O'Loughlin Center
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 19-25 National Agriculture Week

HANSFORD MANOR EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2006

- Feb 10 Olympic Practice, 10 a.m., living room; Popcorn & Movie, 2:30 p.m., living room
- Feb 11 Exercise, 10 a.m., living room; Crazy Bunk-O, 2:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 12 Church (Apostolic Faith), 3 p.m., living room
- Feb 13 Cooking, 10 a.m., activity room; Decorate Cookies, 2:30 p.m., activity room; Bingo (Laureate Gamma Gamma), 6:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day; Valentine's w/Kindergarten, 9:15 a.m., dining room; Valentine's Day Party, 2:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 15 Bible Study, 10 a.m., living room; Crafts, 2:30 p.m., activity room
- Feb 16 Musercise, 10 a.m., living room; Bingo, 1:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 17 Trip to Guymon, 10 a.m., meet in activity room; Newscurrents, 3:00 p.m., living room
- Feb 18 Exercise, 10 a.m., living room; Spelling Bee, 2:30 p.m., living room
- Feb 19 Church (First Christian, Gruver), 3 p.m., living room
- Feb 20 President's Day; Newscurrents, 10 a.m., living room; Trivia, 2:30 p.m., living room; Bingo (Laureate Gamma Gamma), 6:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 21 Exercise, 10 a.m., living room; Life Enrichment, 2:30 p.m., activity room
- Feb 22 Bible Study, 10 a.m., living room; Crafts, 2:30 p.m., activity room
- Feb 23 Musercise, 10 a.m., living room; Bingo, 1:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 24 Olympic Practice, 10 a.m., living room; Birthday Party, 2:30 p.m., living room
- Feb 25 Exercise, 10 a.m., living room; Games, 2:30 p.m., activity room
- Feb 26 Church (Union Church), 3 p.m., living room
- Feb 27 Newscurrents, 10 a.m., living room; Sewing, 2:30 p.m., activity room; Bingo (Laureate Gamma Gamma), 6:30 p.m., dining room
- Feb 28 Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday); Exercise, 10 a.m., living room; Happy Hour, 2:30 p.m., activity room





Valentine's Day

Need a last minute gift idea?

Give your valentine a gift certificate for a 30-minute or full hour MASSAGE!


For gift certificates, call Kyla Ortiz, RMT at 659-3469 or purchase at Dreamer's Salon, 659-9907.






It's A Boy!

Britt and Lindsey Savage are proud to announce the arrival of Garrett Clark Savage. Garrett was born January 10, 2006 at 2:49 p.m. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 inches long. His grandparents are Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Smith and Mr. & Mrs. Don Savage. Great-grandparents are Gwen Smith and the late Don Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Burt Shepherd and Mr. & Mrs. Fay Savage.



You are invited to attend a **Baby Girl Shower** honoring **Jess Anne & Michael Lusby** on Saturday, February 11th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the home of **Samantha Wilkerson** 706 Wilmeth Drive - Spearman, TX

You are invited to attend a **Wedding Shower** honoring **Lisa Harper & Justin Carthel** (children of Cheryl & Leonard Harper & Harletta & Dan Carthel) on Saturday, February 18th at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall Spearman Church of Christ 121 S. Haney - Spearman, TX



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Happy Valentine's Day

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Winners will be chosen February 14th at 6 p.m.

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Your place for

Bridal Registry

Couples Currently Registered

Lisa Harper & Justin Carthel - Feb. 18
Brienne Wilson & Schane Schneider - Feb. 18



Baby Registry

Michael & Jess Anne Lusby - Feb. 11
Pat & Tracy (Logsdon) Mulady - TBA
Dillon & Jocelyn (Edwards) Miller - TBA

Gordon's DRUG

659-2141
314 Main Spearman

Celebrate

Gifts for all your celebrations!

Bridal Registry

Lisa Harper & Justin Carthel - Feb. 18
Brienne Wilson & Schane Schneider - Feb. 18



Baby Registry

Jess Ann & Michael Lusby - Feb. 11
Maranda (Loomis) & Chris Lopez - Feb. 17
Jocelyn (Edwards) & Dillon Miller
Melinda & Crockett Tidwell

Celebrate

203 Main St. Spearman, TX
(806) 659-3350 1-800-663-8026

It's A Girl!

Crockett & Melinda Tidwell of Lubbock proudly announce the arrival of their first child, a girl. Skylar Lane Tidwell was born February 1, 2006 at Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock. At birth she weighed 8 pounds 3 ounces, and was 21 inches in length. Her very proud grandparents are Buck & Linda Tidwell of Gruver and Mike & Kay Young of Lubbock.

Recycling Rewards Reading (RRR) Kicks Off

Hansford County Library is beginning a community-wide computer printer, fax, and copier cartridge recycling program. The proceeds from this program will be used toward supporting the annual Summer Reading Program. Maria Carbajal, library director, and the library staff are ask for support in this program, which will run through June, 2006.

Promoted by the Texas Library Association, the reading club is conducted each summer as a part of Spearman's Kid's Camp, and is sponsored and financed solely by the local library. This year's Summer Reading Program will be held at the library each Tuesday morning in June for children ages 3 through third grade.

In the RRR campaign, the library will collect (and redeem for cash at an Amarillo business) both personal and business computer printer, fax and copier cartridges. Local drop off sites are located in the library as well as Gordon's Drug, Celebrate, Pizza Hut, Lowes, Brown, Graham and Company, Linda Cummings' office at the Hansford County courthouse, Spearman City Hall, Barb's Beauty Shop, Sandy's Beauty Shop, Dreamers, ALCO, Hansford Appraisal District, B&B Sales, Dairy Queen, First State Bank, Panhandle Diner, and the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman office. If it is more convenient, small cartridges can be inserted into a plastic bag and dropped in the library book drop.

What could be better than putting a normally wasted product to good use for the benefit of our children? Remember - Recycling Rewards Reading!

School Board candidate workshop

Area school board candidates and interested citizens can learn more about the demands and rewards of school board service at a candidate workshop, Thursday, March 2, 7-9 p.m. at the Region 16 Education Service Center (5800 Bell Street, Lecture Hall, Amarillo).

The workshop will provide interested community members and individuals thinking about running for the board with a better understanding of what is involved in being elected and serving as a local trustee. Experienced school board members will explain board members' key responsibilities and outline the qualities necessary for effective service.

Topics to be covered include what it's like to be a trustee, key responsibilities of the board, divisions of authority with staff, how to campaign constructively, and where to find more information. Participants will also view *A Call To Service*, a Texas Association of School Boards' video highlighting many aspects of board service and featuring several experienced school trustees.

The workshop is open to anyone. Admission is free. For more information about the workshop, call Tanya Barnett at TASB, 512-467-0222 or 800-580-8272, extension 6248, or check the TASB Web Site at 222.tls.tasb.org/candidates for other dates and locations.

Texas crop and weather report

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by Panhandle Extension directors: Temperatures were above average all week. A light, isolated rain fell over parts of the area. Some spring land preparation is in progress. Soil moisture is short to very short and continues to decline. Wheat condition is mostly poor to very poor. Isolated and light greenbug infestations have been reported. Cattle on wheat pasture are being moved to feedlots or sold because of lack of available grazing. Cattle condition is rated fair to good.

Out At The Lake

by Dorothy Hudson

Lake Level—February 6, 2006--23.41 feet (-0.15)

Jim reported that although there were no campers this weekend, a few fishermen tried their luck. February is usually the month the big blues begin being caught.

He is counting 3 eagles again and saw geese head north after spending a short while on the Lake. The ducks are not easily seen, but there are small flocks of them scattered around the Lake. He is seeing quite a few small coveys of bob white quail.

For the first time in some time, Jim has seen a healthy looking coyote. Ken Harris also tells me he is seeing some healthy coyotes, too, but he is still seeing some with the mange. The balance is still out, and the rabbits are thriving. Kenneth has a rancher friend who has had to start shooting rabbits at night to protect a patch of green wheat. He and his sons have killed up to 200 rabbits a night.

Dust Bowl Book

The Sunday Amarillo Globe-News had an intriguing review from the Baltimore Sun of a book by Timothy Egan entitled *The*

Worst Hard Times: The Untold Story of Those Who Survived the Great American Dust Bowl.

The drought we are in now frequently brings up conversations on memories of those times. Many of us here can remember those days or had families that spoke of the Dust Bowl Days, so we have our own ideas. The author of the book grew up in the Pacific Northwest, so I suspect his attitude on our country will be different from mine.

One of the chief survivors that helped with his stories was a man nearly 90, Ike Osteen in Baca County, Colorado. "As he told Egan, cattle suffocated, horses went insane, children contracted the sometimes fatal dust pneumonia, and a hug could knock someone down because the static electricity from from the storm carried such force."

Condition were worse in the southeast part of Colorado than here, but I can't help but wonder if Ike could have stretched the truth a little. At least static electricity strong enough to knock someone down is a new one to me.

Words from Faith & Grace

by Cecil R. Biggers, Lutheran Lay Minister

The sixth week of Epiphany, the season of discovery, we discover more about the love of God and our duties as believers in 2 Kings 5:1-17; Psalm 30.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and Mark 1: 40-45. At the time of the Kings of Israel, many in Israel believed that God was only interested in Israel; yet, Elisha, the prophet, by God's directive heals the Commanding General of the King of Aram, a gentile and a leper. Discovery! A gentile! One who is unclean! Healed by the power of God, General Naaman becomes a believer in God. God is revealed as the God of all who through grace accept Him. The Psalmist sings of his rescue by God from the Pit! "You have turned my mourning into dancing...you have clothed me with joy." Discovery! The love of the Lord is the beginning of life!

Paul writes in the language of the athlete. Discipline, training, effort lead to receiving the prize in a race. He advises the faith community to "run in such a way that you may win it." Discovery! Living the Christian life requires discipline, training and effort. We must exercise our Christianity.

Rabbi Jesus is approached by a leper. Under the law, the leper was forbidden to come within twelve feet of a clean person; the leper was denied all access to the community and could not enter the synagogue. The leper breaches the law by approaching Jesus kneeling and imploring Him to heal. Jesus tells the leper that he "will" heal him. The word used for "will" can also be translated "delight"; therefore, Jesus was "delighted" to heal this leper. Jesus reached out to the most excluded member of Jewish society. Jesus "touched" the leper crossing the boundaries of ritual and repulsion. Jesus healed the leper. Discovery! God is the God of the poor, the despised, the lowly as well as the elite of society.

May the Holy Spirit enable you to develop the discipline, to exert the effort, to train by study and prayer, so that you may live each day in the Love of the Lord.

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Hi-Plains Auto Supply
2006 ANNUAL CUSTOMER APPRECIATION SALE
Thursday, February 16th • 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Everything is on Sale!
Irene, Jimmy & Bobby Snider and the employees of
Hi-Plains Auto Supply, Inc. would like to thank you for your business

Orange County Choppers Combo Toolbox Set
Blue, Black, Green, Teal or Yellow
\$1,799⁰⁰

7-Piece SAE and Metric GearWrench Sets NHT-9317
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Donuts & Coffee
Popcorn & Cokes
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BASKETBALL HOOPLA

SPEARMAN VARSITY BOYS

Lynx vs. Boys Ranch
49 - 41
1-27-06
Lance Huddleston 20, Jordan Ashmore 15.
Records: Boys Ranch 7-14, 0-8. Spearman 14-6, 7-0.

Lynx vs. Highland Park
51 - 48
1-31-06
Lance Huddleston 18, Jordan Ashmore 15.
Records: Spearman 15-6, 8-0; Highland Park 16-6, 4-5.

Lynx vs. Fritch
60 - 53
2-3-06
Jordan Ashmore 23, Bryn'r Garnett 15.
Records-Spearman 16-6, 9-0. Fritch 8-13, 2-8.

Lynx vs. Panhandle
39 - 54
2-7-06
Aaron Maestas 16, Jordan Ashmore and Lance Huddleston 8.
Records: Panhandle 19-9, 8-2. Spearman 16-7, 9-1.

SPEARMAN JV BOYS
JV Lynx vs. Boys Ranch
48 - 36
1-27-06

JV Lynx vs. Fritch
39 - 23
2-3-06

JV Lynx vs. Panhandle
41 - 61
2-7-06

SPEARMAN VARSITY GIRLS
Lynxettes vs. Sanford-Fritch
74 - 40
2-3-06

Season Record 24-7, 9-2
L. Short 19, J. Short 13, Hart 12
Coach's Comments: We limited our turnovers and played good defense the whole night. This win combined with WT's win over Sanford-Fritch assured the Lynxettes of a play-off spot in 2006.

Lynxettes vs. Highland Park
41-27
1-31-06

Season Record 23-7 (8-2)
L. Short, 7; J. Short, 11; Rex, 5; Flowers, 4; Schneider, 3; Howard, 4; Hart, 5; Lozano, 2
Coach's Comments: We played good defense through-out; we need to start converting from the FT line. We had some really nice passes.

Lynxettes vs. Panhandle
61 - 62
2-7-06

SPEARMAN JV GIRLS
JV Lynxettes vs. Sanford Fritch
49 - 15
2-3-06

JV Lynxettes vs. Panhandle
42 - 58
2-7-06

GRUVER VARSITY GIRLS
Lady Hounds vs Vega
49 - 65
1-27-06

Lauren Urban 13, Linzie Clift 12.
Records: Vega 18-6, 6-1. Gruver not reported.

Lady Hounds vs Stratford
49 - 65
1-31-06
Linzie Clift 20, Holt 9.
Records: Gruver 19-8, 4-4. Stratford 23-5, 7-1.

Lady Hounds vs White Deer
41 - 83
2-3-06
Lauren Urban 14, Linzie Clift 13.
Records-White Deer 16-13, 3-6.

Lady Hounds vs Sunray
41 - 83
2-7-06
Lauren Urban 15, Linzie Clift 13
Records: Gruver 20-9, 5-5. Sunray 18-13, 4-6.

GRUVER JV GIRLS
JV Lady Hounds vs Vega
30 - 48
1-27-06

JV Lady Hounds vs Stratford
16 - 54
1-31-06

JV Lady Hounds vs Sunray

19 - 28
2-7-06

GRUVER VARSITY BOYS
Hounds vs Stratford
47 - 30
1-31-06
Messer 20, Williams 8.
Records: Gruver 20-6, 8-0. Stratford 2-10, 1-7.

Hounds vs White Deer
50 - 37
2-3-06

GRUVER (21-6, 9-1): Crispin Borunda 0 2-8 2, Tyler Lane 2 4-10 8, Stephen Salazar 3 0-0 6, Matt Messer 2 5-6 9, Reid Winger 4 6-8 14, Tucker Williams 2 2-2 8, Brian Johnson 1 0-0 3, Tanner Irwin 0 0-0 0. Totals: 14 19-34 50.

Hounds vs Sunray
19 - 28
2-7-06
Messer 15, Winger 12.
Records: Gruver 22-6, 10-0. Sunray 4-24, 1-9.

Pringle-Morse Boys Take Home Miami Trophy

by Paige Speck
The Pringle-Morse Cougars devoured the Canadian Wildcats 36 to 20 to claim the Miami Junior High Boys' Tournament trophy January 28th. The Cougars scored 8 points the first quarter and shut Canadian out. The Cougars scored 8 to Canadians 4 in the second. The Cougars added another 8 for 24 to Canadians 9 for 13 in the third.

Jesus Lopez scored 18 points against the Wildcats; Daniel Sanchez, 6; Haden Hart, 4; Sol Pittman, 4; and Wil McCloy, 4.

The Cougars defeated the Higgins Bisons 52 to 19 in the first round of the tournament on January 26th. Daniel Sanchez was high point with 22 for the Cougars. Jesus Lopez added 16; Sol Pittman, 4; Wil McCloy, 4; Haden Hart, 2; Danny Bonilla, 2; and Jacob Lieb, 2.

In the second game, matched against the Miami Warriors, Cougar Daniel Sanchez scored 18; Danny Bonilla, 6; Wil McCloy, 4; Sol Pittman, 2; and Jesus Lopez, 2. The 32 to 11 victory over the Miami Warriors moved the

Cougars to the championship game against the Canadian Wildcats.

Lady Cougars Compete in Miami Tournament

by Paige Speck
Lady Cougar Maci Forrest scored 7 points against the Higgins Bisons in the first round of tournament play January 26th at Miami. At half time Higgins led 20 to 11 and held the lead 34 to 13 at the third buzzer. During the final quarter the Lady Cougars scored 9 and held Higgins to a 2-point goal for a final score of 36 to the Lady Cougars' 22.

Elizabeth Hart added 6 points; Mary Beth Hargis, 4; Shiloh Sparks, 3; and Tori Sheets, 2.

The Lady Cougars were matched against the Miami Warriors in the second round of play January 28th. The Ladies were tied 6 to 6 at half, but were defeated 26 to 11 by the Warriors.

High point was Maci Forrest with 6; Mary Beth Hargis followed with 5.

Pringle-Morse Cougar Teams Fall to Greyhounds

by Paige Speck
Before a packed gymnasium, the Pringle-Morse Cougars fought the Gruver Greyhounds in exciting junior high play February 6th.

The Lady Cougars were defeated by the Lady Hounds 52 to 16 in the Morse gym. In the closest quarter of play, the Cougars scored 7 to the Lady Hounds' 11 in the third. Maci Forrest led the Cougars' score with 10 points; Tori Sheets added 4; and Elizabeth Hart, 2.

Mattie Yanke sank 26 for the Lady Hounds; Leigh Anne Winger, 9; Cambry Cooper, 7; Katie Gibson, 5; Megan Stedje, 3; and Shelby Williams, 2.

The Pringle-Morse boys' team met their match Monday night

against the Hounds. Both teams stood undefeated. Sanchez brothers, Daniel and David opposed one another. Daniel Sanchez scored 25 for the Cougars; David Sanchez scored 26 for the Hounds.

The Cougars scored 8 to Gruver's 11 in the first quarter. The Cougars added 7 to Gruver's 6 in the second. Morse gained 14 in the third to Gruver's 18. The battle was over with a 52 to 41 victory for the Hounds.

Sol Pittman sank 8 for the Cougars; Jesus Lopez, 4; Danny Bonilla, 2; and Alexis Ceballos, 2.

Riley Urban added 17 to the Hounds score; Drew Mireles, 6; and Tyler Wills, 3.
Pringle-Morse Coach Jeff Forrest commended the Cougars on an outstanding season. "We have young teams that have really gained experience on the court, and we are looking forward to next year."

Spearman School Calendar February, 2006

- Feb. 10 - NO SCHOOL; Hansford County Stock Show; JV & Lynx vs West Texas, (T) 5& 6:30; FCCLA Regional Meeting, Odessa
- Feb. 11 - Hansford County Stock Show; Choir Solo/Ensemble Contest, WTA&M; FCCLA Regional meeting, Odessa
- Feb. 12-18 - San Antonio Stock Show
- Feb. 14 - JV & V Lynx vs Canadian, (H) 5 & 6:30
- Feb. 18 - High School Valentine's Dance, 9-12
- Feb. 21 - TAKS Test - 9th Grade Reading, 10th & 11th ELA, 11th ELA Retest
- Feb. 22 - TAKS Test - 9th Grade Reading, 11th Math Retest, 10th ELA for SDAII
- Feb. 23 - TAKS - Test - 11th Science Retest, 10th ELA Make-up
- Feb. 24 - TAKS Test - 11th Social Studies Retest; Girls Golf Tournament @ Borger
- Feb. 25 - Sunray Track Meet; Girls Golf Tournament @ Borger
- Feb. 27 - Shattered Dreams Parent/Student Meeting, 7, HS Library
- Feb. 28 - Boys Golf Tournament @ Wellington

Gus Birdwell Elementary Lynx Star Award

Gus Birdwell Elementary has a program called the Lynx Star Award. This award is given each Friday. Each month has a different theme, and each week there is a different character trait that is discussed.

Teachers pick a student from their room each week who has worked hard on the trait for that week.

The Character Trait for February 3rd was friendship. The winners were Itzel Meza, Gladys Flores, Yesenia Davila, Mason McDaniel, Ruben Frayre, Kane McDaniel, Erika Vela, Jasmine Caro, Isaiah Barrera Navanetta, Taylor Vamon, Arturo Comacho, Hunter Kenney, Yesica Gonzales, Bernie Gonzales, Araceli Lujan, Tanner Baird, Jesus Gonzales, Alan Biggers, Daisy Lopez, Christian McLarty, Ariha Vaquera, and Mabry Sutterfield.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Spearman ISD will hold a **Public Hearing** on February 13, 2006 to solicit the public's input on the District's intent to apply for a *First Day of Instruction Waiver* to begin the first day of instruction for students on August 14, 2006 for the 2006-2007 school year.

DATE: Monday, February 13, 2006
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: Spearman High School Library

The public is invited to attend this meeting. If for some reason you are unable to attend this meeting, and you would like to have your opinion considered, please send your written response to the following address:
ATTN: President of the Board of Trustees, Spearman ISD, 403 East 11th Avenue, Spearman, TX 79081.

Feel free to contact the Superintendent's Office at 659-3233 if you have questions or want additional information about the 2006-2007 Instructional Calendar.

The Texas Department of Transportation will host an Informational Meeting on March 7, 2006 concerning the planning of future projects.

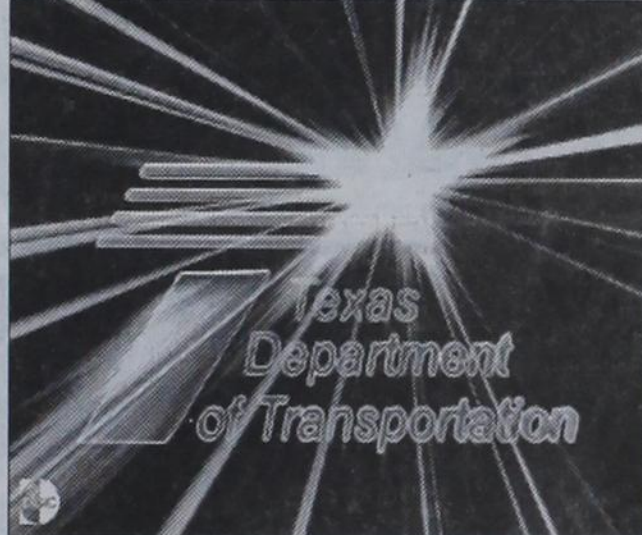
This informational meeting is held to explain how the department plans transportation projects. We would like to receive the public's input regarding the current Transportation Improvement Plan for the district.

The meeting will be Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. It will be located at the Pampa Chamber of Commerce, 200 N. Ballard, in the M.K. Brown Room, Pampa, Texas.

The meeting will cover transportation plans for all areas of the Panhandle and the city of Amarillo. An overall view of the planning process will be presented, as well as the criteria used for selecting individual projects. Draft versions of current transportation plans will be presented at the meeting for public comment.

The public is invited to speak regarding projects currently planned or any additional projects that might be proposed. Speakers will be limited to five minutes. Verbal and written comments from the public regarding any project may be submitted at the meeting. Written statements and other exhibits may be submitted to the District Office at 5715 Canyon Drive (PO Box 7368) Amarillo TX 79114-7368. Comments must be received no later than March 17, 2006.

All interested citizens are invited to attend this public meeting. Persons interested in attending the meeting whom have special communication or accommodation needs are encouraged to contact Cheryl Luther at 806.356.3249. Requests should be made no later than two days prior to the public meeting. TxDOT will make every reasonable effort to accommodate these needs.



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Friday & Saturday
10:30 a.m.-11 p.m.

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February 10, 11 & 14
5-9 p.m.



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SUN 11 A.M.-2 P.M.;
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FOR SALE: 700 Collier, Spearman - 3BR, 1 3/4 B, Lg. family room, 1911 sq. ft. CH/CA, double car garage, Call 878-2271 or 898-1126 TFN(12-22-05)B

FOR RENT/LEASE

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT. SPEARMAN: Pittman-Shieldknight building - all sizes available. Call 659-5588 or 659-3399 for more information. TFN(01-27-05)B

FOR RENT, SPEARMAN: 2BR apartment, water paid. Call 659-9971. TFN(04-21-05)B

FOR LEASE: 3BR, 1B, KIL/DR house w/ basement. NO PETS! \$450.00 per month; \$450.00 Deposit. Call 940-631-0894. TFN(12-15-05)B

FOR RENT: Storage space, 12X30, Call 659-3889. TFN(1-12-06)B

FOR RENT: 15 acres of fenced land for rent in Spearman City limits. Call 659-3844. TFN(2-9-06)B

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Now hiring full time mechanic. Apply in person or send resume to Hi-Plains Auto Supply, 118 Main St., Spearman TFN(12-22-05)B

NEED A CAREER? Become a Licensed Vocational Nurse! Make plans to enter the Frank Phillips College Vocational Nursing Program 12 month program. THEA waived. Financial Aid available to those who qualify. Clinical training in Borger, Dalhart, Dumas, Guymon, Perryton, and Pampa. Deadline-April 1. Frank Phillips College LVN program prepares you to become a vital member of the health care team. Call 806-457-4200, ext 746.

HELP WANTED: Secretary needed. For more information, call Willis Boyd Dirt Service at 659-3844. 2x/m(1-12-06)B

AUTOMOBILE

FOR SALE: 1998 Dark Brown Dodge Ram Quad Cab pickup, well-maintained, super clean, 82k miles, custom bumper, custom stereo, \$7250, Call 659-5383 or 330-0776 TFN(1-19-06)B

FOR SALE: 2003 Eddie Bauer 4WD Ford Expedition, burgundy & tan - good condition. Call 659-3587 and leave a message. 4(1-26-06)P

FOR SALE: 1999 Dodge Ram 2500 (24-valve turbo-charged diesel) SLT Laramie pkg., overload springs, premium sound system w/cassette & CD player, 81,835 miles, 100,000 mile engine warranty, \$17,500 (below NADA). Call Bill Turner at 659-2908 or 270-0085. 2(2-9-06)P

SERVICES

FOR RENT: Storage space - 12x30. Call 659-3889. TFN(01-12-06)B

PIANO LESSONS: Piano lessons by Wanda Smith, Registration begins Monday, January 23; beginners to advanced, 730 Cotter Drive or call 330-0391 1(1-19-06)B

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS First State Bank is accepting bids on a 1995 Isuzu Rodeo. Bids must be in written form and will be accepted until February 17, 2006. For further information, contact Bret Burgin at 659-5565. The vehicle may be inspected any time during business hours. First State Bank has the right to refuse any and all bids. 2(2-9-06)B

PUBLIC NOTICE The Hansford Appraisal District is currently accepting applications with resumes for the position of Chief Appraiser. Applicant must possess strong leadership skills and experience in administration and management. Prefer the applicant to possess a RPA and RTA designation, or be actively seeking such designations. Salary and benefits will be contingent upon qualifications and experience. Submit applications with resumes to Ginger Turner, Secretary; Hansford Appraisal District; PO Box 247; Spearman TX 79081-0247.

Blankenship Real Estate 659-3052 - 670-3774

SPEARMAN 1102 Dessen - 3BR, 1 1/2 B brick w/1CG, Needs paint and minor repairs. 703 E. 2nd - 3BR, 1 1/2 B, nice home! NEW LISTING: 28 S. Hazelwood - 3BR, 1B Eulalia Blankenship - Sales Eschol Blankenship - Broker NEW LISTINGS WANTED!

MARTIN & ASSOCIATES REALTY Serving Hansford County for 14 years Julie Martin: Broker - 659-2425 IN SPEARMAN 722 Wilbanks - 3/1 1/2 - nice home in nice neighborhood and ready to move into. Free-standing fireplace. 1109 Haney - 3/1 1/2 - investment property We'd Like Your Listing FOR QUALITY & SERVICE CALL US TODAY! Equal Housing Opportunity

Applications are available at the appraisal district office located at 709 W 7th Ave; Spearman, TX 79081-3407. Questions: 806-659-5575. Applications close March 31, 2006. EOE 7(01-12-05)B

PUBLIC NOTICE Gruver Independent School District will hold a public meeting April 5, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in the Gruver High School Library. The purpose of the meeting will be to allow for public comment on an early start date of the 2006-2007 school year. 2(2-2-06)B

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TXDOT) CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/ MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S) Dist/Div: Amarillo Contract 0904-00-102 for THERMOPLASTIC STRIPING in POTTER County, etc will be opened on March 8, 2006 at 1:00 pm at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TXDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 19068

State Office Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540

Dist/Div Office(s) Amarillo District District Engineer 5715 Canyon Dr Amarillo, Texas 79105-2708 Phone: 806-356-3283

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin. 2(2-9-06)B

NOTICE TO BIDDERS Notice is hereby given that the City of Spearman, Texas, will receive sealed proposals for the depository and custody of the City funds from any banking corporation, association, or individual banker doing business within the City of Spearman, on March 8, 2006, at 11 a.m. at City Hall. Any banking corporation, association, or individual banker doing business in the City of Spearman desiring to submit a proposal to be designated as the depository for the funds of the City of Spearman shall deliver to the City Manager, on or before the date and time specified, its proposal for depository and custody of

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such funds, which must be accompanied by a statement of assets and resources of the applicant. The proposals must comply with the applicable statutes and be subject to the laws governing depositories. The City of Spearman reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive informalities and to accept the bid deemed to be the most advantageous to the City. All bids received after the above closing hour will be returned unopened. All bids shall be sealed and marked on the outer envelope of the type of bid being submitted. Specifications and bidding documents may be secured from City Hall, PO Box 37, Spearman TX 79081. 2(2-9-06)B

NIGHT STORE CLERK Allsup's Convenience Stores is seeking a night clerk for its store in Spearman. Must enjoy working with the public, be able to stock, clean, assist customers and able to work holidays and weekends. We offer competitive wages plus medical, dental, life insurance, profit sharing and paid vacations. For immediate consideration please apply in person at: ALLSUP'S 305 West Kenneth • Spearman 2(02-02-06)B

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Gruver overtakes White Deer for district title

by Roger Clarkson, Amarillo Globe-News

After suffering through the disappointment at the end of football season, Gruver was not about to let the basketball district title come down to a coin flip.

The Greyhounds threw a blanket over White Deer in the fourth quarter, scored the final 15 points of the game and beat the Bucks, 50-37, on Friday at the Antler Gym in front of about 600 fans.

Gruver (21-6, 9-0) clinched the District 1-1A Division I title with the win. White Deer (21-7, 7-2) can clinch the final playoff spot with either a win or a loss by Vega.

"This feels so good to take care of business by ourselves," Gruver post Reid Winger said. "We knew after what happened to us in football, we were not about to let the same thing happen in basketball. That's what's been driving us, losing that coin flip. Any time we start to feel sorry for ourselves, we think back to that."

Gruver and White Deer played almost even throughout the first three quarters. But when the game entered the final period, Gruver made the game-winning plays.

"This is a big relief to get this done," Gruver coach Troy Seagler said. "Winning district outright is what has been this team's goal all season, especially after what happened in football."

White Deer knocked Gruver on its heels in the third quarter. The Bucks took a 38-35 lead with 5:56 left.

Post-Season Games

The Greyhounds will be playing Lorenzo in a warm up game on Monday, February 13th. The game will be at Canyon High School at 6:30. Tickets will be \$3 for adults and \$2 for students.

The Greyhounds will be playing the Canyon High Eagles in a warm up game on Friday, February 17th. The game will be at Canyon High School at 6:00.

Playoff Shirts

Gruver Booster Club is taking orders for playoff shirts. Deadline to order is Monday, Feb. 13th.

Call Leticia Salazar 733-2047, Paula Williams 733-2983 or Parry Miner 733-5242.

Cost-Share Signup Deadline Nears

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set the signup deadline for the 2006 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The application deadline for the 2006 program year is February 17, 2006. Applications from individual landowners interested in participating in the EQIP during the 2006 program year must be received by February 17 in order to be considered this year. This will be the last cost-share funds available until approximately early-spring of next year.

EQIP can provide financial assistance of up to 50 percent of the cost of the practice completed to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on their lands. EQIP is a voluntary program and is designed to assist farmers and ranchers with placing natural resource conservation practices on their property. Cost share is provided to program participants to achieve the goals of a conservation plan designed with the assistance of local NRCS staff. Cost share practices include irrigation management equipment, placement of appropriate structural or vegetative practices, such as animal waste management facilities, brush control, livestock pipelines and watering facilities, vegetative buffers, and wildlife habitat enhancement, to name a few. Eligible practices will depend on the location of the farm or ranch on which the practice is to be installed and the major resource concern to be addressed in that particular area. Information on eligible cost share practices and major resource concerns of an area can be secured from your local NRCS field office. Contracts for eligible producers are made for a period of five to ten years and include incentive payments to assist with implementation of land management practices, such as nutrient management and grazing land management. It should be noted that program funds target natural resource concerns of farmers, as well as, livestock producers.

To learn more about EQIP or to submit an EQIP contract application, contact the NRCS at 909 West 9th in Spearman, or call 659-2330 extension 3.

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"I believe that there is a plan and a purpose for each person's life and that there are forces working in the universe to bring about good and to create a community of love and brotherhood. Those who can attune themselves to these forces - to God's purpose - can become special instruments of his will."

- Coretta Scott King, in her 1969 autobiography My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr. She died in her sleep Monday night, January 30, 2006 at age 78.

Panhandle girls edge Spearman

by Travis Harsch, Amarillo Globe-News

On senior night in Panhandle, a junior came through for the Pantherettes.

Kara Looten scored 22 points as Panhandle overcame an early 20-8 deficit in a 62-61 defeat of Spearman.

The win clinched the second seed in District 7-2A for the Pantherettes (26-3, 10-2) before a crowd of 300.

"It's something really special for them," Looten said of the five Panhandle seniors who started the game. "Winning that last game at home was something we really wanted them to get to experience."

Spearman (24-8, 9-3) took the third playoff seed in the district. The Lynxettes jumped out to a 20-8 lead in the early going, capped by a jumper from Saylee Flowers early in the second quarter. With Spearman already in the double bonus and Panhandle in foul trouble, Lady Panther coach Terry Coffee said his team had to stay with its style.

"We had to keep doing what we do, we couldn't panic," he said. "We were still going to play aggressively. We knew it'd be tough to come back."

Looten then got hot, scoring 13 in the second quarter.

"I got some momentum there," she said. "They call me the big friendly giant, so everyone was telling me, Kara, you've got to get mean."

Panhandle forced nine Spearman turnovers in the second period to cut the lead to 30-27 at the end of the half.

"Panhandle just gives you so much pressure," Spearman coach Kyle Short said. "If you can handle it, you can get some good shots, but if you don't it's pretty tough."

Panhandle took its first lead of the contest with 1:57 to go in the third quarter, when Looten got a lay-up in the lane to make the score 46-45 for the Panthers.

Spearman came back, however, upping the lead to 58-54 when Kelcee Rex hit a 3-pointer with 4:05 left. But a technical on the Spearman bench gave Looten four free throws.

She hit two to give Panhandle the lead for good at 60-58, despite a late scare, as Spearman's Jordanna Lozano made a lay-up in the final seconds to cut the score to 62-61, but the Lynxettes did not have enough time to get the ball back.

"I told the girls that when you're looking for the 3, it's hard to get it," Short said of the final possession. "Give Panhandle a lot of credit, they wanted to take away the 3, and they did."

Records: Panhandle finishes 26-3 overall and 10-2 in District 7-2A play. Spearman enters the playoffs at 24-8, 9-3.

Key Stat: Kara Looten scores 13 second-quarter points for Panhandle to erase a 12 point deficit.

Impact: The Pantherettes clinch the second seed in District 7-2A.

Spearman (24-8, 9-3): Lindsey Short 4 2-5 10, Jordan Short 3 6-6 13, Tabatha Shields 0 0-0 0, Britta Vanderburg 1 0-0 2, Kelcee Rex 2 2-5 17, Saylee Flowers 4 2-3 10, Kendall Schneider 1 0-0 2, Tonya Hart 0 2-2 2, Jordanna Lozano 1 0-0 2. Totals: 22 14-26 62.

Realignment moves 1A Stratford to 2A

by Roger Clarkson, Amarillo Globe-News

A little more than a month ago, Stratford won the Class 1A state football championship. The Elks will not get a chance to defend that title.

In Thursday's UIL realignment, the Elks moved up a step and into potentially the toughest Class 2A district in the region, and one of the toughest in the state.

Stratford will follow its championship season by competing in District 1-2A which includes 2004 state semifinalist Canadian, 2003 state semifinalist Panhandle, 2005 state quarterfinalist Sanford-Fritch, 2005 playoff qualifier Spearman and 2002 playoff qualifier West Texas High.

"This is kind of what we were expecting," Stratford coach Eddie Metcalf said. "It was going to be a tough district no matter where they put us. But this is going to be really tough."

Stratford turned in a UIL enrollment of 202 last fall. The new Class 1A cutoff was 194. In 1991, Memphis won the 1A title, and was reclassified to 2A the following year.

Last season, Stratford went 3-0 against its future district opponents. The Elks beat West Texas High, 54-0, Panhandle, 29-13, and Spearman, 22-21, in the first three weeks.

"They've put what has been traditionally the strongest teams in the same district," Canadian coach Kyle Lynch said. "It's going to be one tough district. If you look and see how many playoff games these teams have won the last five or six years, I bet it would be one of the best in the state."

From 2003 to 2005, District 1-2A teams combined to win 26 playoff games, had three state semifinalists, one state finalist and a state champion.

In the last six seasons, the district has 45 playoff wins and two state championships. Both of those state titles were by Stratford in Class 1A.

"You look four years ago when they put us and Spearman and Canadian and Sanford-Fritch in the same district and I thought that was tough," Panhandle coach David Sparkman said. "This one might be even better. It's going to be a rough, tough district every single night. There's no off-nights in this district."

Despite moving up a classification, Stratford figures to be among the favorites not just in District 1-2A, but a factor in Region I as well.

The Elks should bring back all but two of their principal players for 2006. Last season figured to be a rebuilding year as the Elks fielded a team heavy with sophomores and juniors. The Elks surprised even their coaching staff by winning their second state championship.

"It's going to be a great district," Metcalf said. "We were in it before so we're kind of getting to go back to some of our old stomping grounds and that's exciting."

The last time Stratford was in Class 2A in 1999, it went 12-3 with a team of predominantly underclassmen. Stratford advanced to the Division II state semifinals before losing to eventual state champion Celina, 56-13.

Valentine's Planning Tips

- Those little candy hearts decorated with sayings like "Be Mine" make the perfect decorations for a Valentine's party. If you're going to be serving a sit-down meal, you can sprinkle the candy hearts down the center of your table.
- For a children's party, get the kids involved by having them cut red and pink hearts out of construction paper and using a marker to write candy-heart phrases on them.
- Vintage-style Valentine's Day cards can also add to your Valentine's Day party decor. You can stand them up across a fireplace mantle or on your dining table, or tape them to the walls and doors of your party room. And of course, no campy Valentine's Day party is complete without a statquette or cardboard cutout of a frolicking, arrow-toting Cupid.

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