



# The Hansford County Reporter Statesman

PROUDLY SERVING HANSFORD COUNTY SINCE 1907

reporter@spearmanreporter.com

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WWW.SPEARMANREPORTER.COM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

## Letters to Santa



The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman will print Letters to Santa from children in Hansford County in our annual Christmas edition, which will be published on December 25th.

Letters may be mailed to: Santa Letter, % Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman, TX 79081, or dropped by the Reporter-Statesman office. Office hours are Mon.-Thurs., 9 a.m.-12 noon and Mon.-Wed., 1-5 p.m. (There is a drop-slot located in the window to the right of the door.) Letters may also be dropped off at the new home of the Reporter-Statesman, 310 Barkley Street, Spearman.

In order for your letter to appear in the Christmas issue, it must be at the Reporter-Statesman office by 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 18th. All letters will be forwarded to Santa. (Letters received after the deadline may not have time to reach the North Pole by Christmas.)

## Weather Forecast

THURSDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Light and variable winds.  
FRIDAY - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Light and variable winds becoming south 10 to 15 mph in the afternoon.  
FRIDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.  
SATURDAY - Partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs around 60.  
SATURDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Breezy. Lows around 40.  
SUNDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s.  
SUNDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy. Slight chance of rain and snow in the evening - then a slight chance of snow after midnight. Lows around 20. Chance of precipitation 20 percent.  
MONDAY - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Colder. Highs in the mid 30s.  
MONDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy. Lows around 17.  
TUESDAY - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s.  
TUESDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy. Lows around 18.  
WEDNESDAY - Mostly cloudy. Highs in the upper 30s.

## Texas Crop & Weather

The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by Panhandle Extension directors: Soil moisture varied from very short to surplus with most areas reporting adequate. Wheat varied from poor to excellent with most areas reporting fair to good. Rangeland varied from very poor to fair with most areas reporting fair. Cattle were reported in good condition. High winds and dry conditions increased the danger of wildfires. The cotton harvest was ongoing.

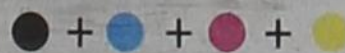
## COME TO THE GAME

### Spearman Lynx/Lynxettes

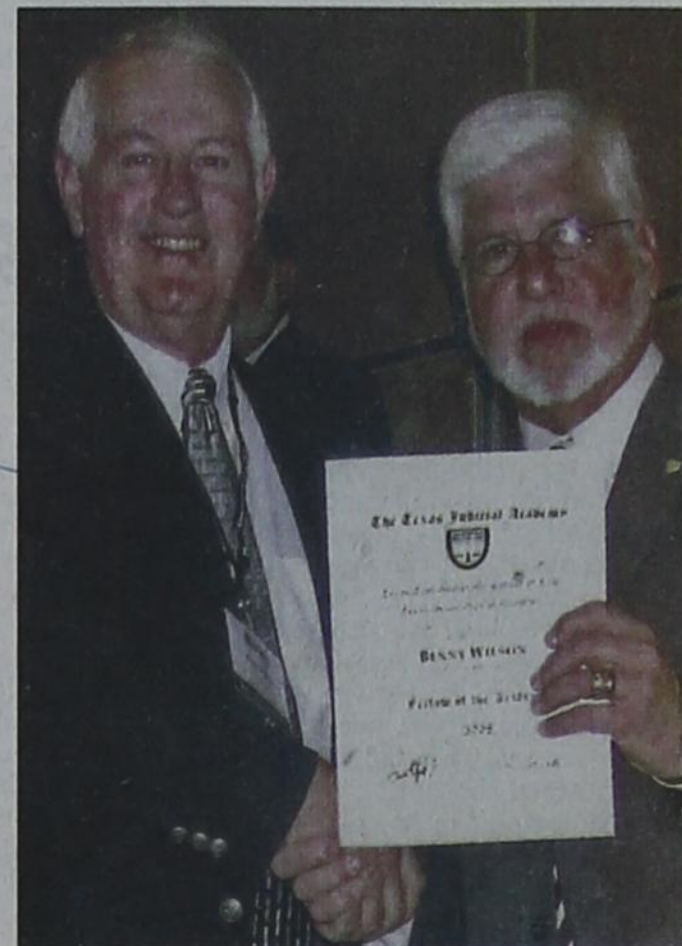
12/11-13 VG, VB at Vernon Varsity Tournament  
12/11-13 JVG at Spearman Tournament  
12/16 JVG (5), JVB (5), VG (6:30), VB (8) at Stinnett vs West Texas  
12/18-20 JVB at River Road Tournament  
12/19 JVG (5), VG (6:30), VB (8) vs Gruver  
12/29-31 VG, VG at Caprock Tournament - Lubbock

### Gruver Greyhounds/Lady Hounds

12/11-13 VG, VB at Hugoton KS Tournament  
12/11-13 JVG at Spearman Tournament  
12/15 7thG (5), 8thG (6), JVG Red (7) vs Boys Ranch  
12/15 7thB (5), 8thB (6), JVB Red (7) at Boys Ranch  
12/16 JVG (4), JVB (5-15), VG (6:30), VB (8) at Canadian  
12/19 JVG (5), VG (6:30), VB (8) at Spearman  
12/29-31 VB at Canadian Tournament  
12/29-31 VG at Caprock Tournament - Lubbock



The Spearman Lynx took first place in the Tomahawk Classic held December 4-6 in Miami, TX. The Lynx defeated the Pampa JV 76-23 in the championship game. (Photos by Tami Hargrove, <http://spearmansports.smugmug.com>)



Pictured above is Hansford County Judge, Benny D. Wilson (left) as he receives his certificate from Leon County Judge, Byron Ryder.

## County Judge Honored For Education Efforts

Hansford County Judge Benny D. Wilson has been honored by the Texas Judicial Academy for going the extra mile to be prepared to handle his duties as County Judge.

Judge Wilson was inducted as a Fellow in the Texas Judicial Academy November 20, 2008, at a reception in Galveston, Moody Gardens Hotel, during the 2008 Fall Judicial Education Session.

The Academy, a partnership between the Texas Tech University School of Law and the Texas Association of Counties, names as Fellows each year those judges who attain significant judicial education above that required by state law.

The educational program of the Texas Judicial Academy is overseen by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals and includes instruction by higher court judges, law school faculty as well as representatives of the Texas Probate College and the National Judicial College.



Sheriff Gary Evans and Hansford County Judge Secretary Donna Farris stand beside some of the food that Spearman High School students collected during Red Ribbon Week.

## SHS Holds Canned Food Drive

Spearman High School students recently participated in several Red Ribbon Week activities. One of our biggest projects was the 4th Annual Canned Food Drive. The students in grades 9-12 collected over 3,300 canned food items for the Hansford County Food Pantry, which is located at the courthouse. This year's total is our largest to date. The students proved that they "CAN" make a difference.

The class that collected the most food items was the Juniors - collecting over 1,700 food items, with the senior class coming in a close second - collecting over 1,300 food items.

Spearman High School seniors: Cullie Cooper, Jake Leicht, LJ Fishburn, Chase Farrar, and Jordan Ashmore all helped unload the food items at the courthouse.

We are very proud of all of the students who participated in the Red Ribbon Week activities that were held each day, as well as the canned food drive.

## Townsen Retires from FNB



On April 24, 1985, First National Bank opened its doors for the first time at 729 W 7th in Spearman, Texas. The President was Don Townsen who had just moved to town with his wife Barbara and five children - Tamri, Kimbre, Clint, Kara, and Jamie.

FNB had been looking for a President for some time. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the regulator of National Banks, must approve all national bank presidents. Once Don agreed to take on the challenge of opening a brand new bank, he was quickly approved by the OCC for the job of president. It was a good match from the beginning and Don has been president since that first day.

Continued on Page 2

## Operation Christmas Greeting

The Hansford Hospital Auxiliary has begun their yearly fundraiser - Operation Christmas Greeting. Instead of mailing greeting cards, individuals who wish to may donate money to the Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and have their greeting published in this paper. The money is used to purchase equipment and supplies that are not budgeted at the Hospital and Manor.

Your donations can be mailed to Operation Christmas Greeting Chairman Judy Nelson, 130 Nelson Road, Spearman, Texas 79081. Checks should be made to Hansford Hospital Auxiliary and marked Operation Christmas Greeting. Thank you so much for supporting this fundraiser.



Nordeen Cochran  
Wes and Beth Danjel  
Irvin and Betty Davis  
Mary Alice Gibner  
Doyle and June Jackson  
Verna Gail Keim  
Dorothy Keys  
Steve and Celia Krug  
JoAnn Lee

Thane and Sue McCloy  
Dennis and Judy Nelson  
Jim and Nan Nicholson  
Nell Patterson and Bailey Patterson  
Doc and Susan Pearson  
Babe Pendergraft  
Gary and Cathy Smith  
Patty Spoonemore  
John and Virginia Trindle

## 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.

The deadline for the December 18th and December 25th issues will be Monday, December 15th at 5 p.m. The deadline for the January 1st issue will be Wednesday, December 17th at 5 p.m.

Items may be submitted by phone (806-659-3434), fax (806-398-9080), mail (Reporter Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman TX 79081), or e-mail (reporter@spearmanreporter.com).

For more information contact Catherine Smith at 3434, or reporter@spearmanreporter.com



### Lullabies, Legends & Lies

by Parson Smith, the Prime Minister of Laughter

Police officers often have a very under appreciated job. It must be tough dealing with unpleasant people.

Here are a few quotes from officers who have a sense of humor.

"The handcuffs are tight because they're new. They'll stretch out after you wear them awhile."

"If you run, you'll only go to jail tired."

"So, you don't know how fast you were going. I guess that means I can write anything I want on the

ticket, huh?"  
"Yes sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I am the shift supervisor?"

"Warning! You want a warning? O.K., I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."

"The answer to this last question will determine whether you are drunk or not. Was Mickey Mouse a cat or dog?"

"Yeah, we have a quota. Two

more tickets and my wife gets a toaster oven."

"No sir, we don't have quotas anymore. We used to have quotas, but now we're allowed to write as many tickets as we want."

"Just how big were those two beers?"

"In God we trust, all others are suspects."

Until the next time,  
May God Bless.



### State Capital

#### HIGHLIGHTS

AUSTIN - The Texas Board of Criminal Justice met in Austin on Dec. 3 and decided to ask the state for \$66 million in immediate funding to purchase airport-style and mobile screening units and other surveillance equipment to stop cell phones and other contraband from being smuggled into Texas prisons.

Democrat John Whitmire of Houston, chairman of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, and Republican Jerry Madden of Richardson, chairman of the House Corrections Committee, said they support the idea.

In the summer and early fall, Whitmire was the target of illegal cell phone calls made by a death row inmate. Gov. Rick Perry responded in October, ordering a sweep of Texas prisons that netted 144 illegal cell phones, plus weapons and other contraband.

#### Hutchison eyes governor's office

Texas' senior U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison on Dec. 4 filed papers with the Texas Ethics Commission and formed an exploratory committee, signaling her interest in running for governor in 2010.

Hutchison also transferred funds from her federal campaign finance account to a state campaign finance account.

A Republican, Hutchison won her U.S. Senate seat by special election in 1993. She was re-elected to full terms in 1994, 2000 and 2006. She served as Texas state treasurer 1991-92 and in the Texas House as a Houston-area representative from 1972-76.

#### Combs steps up transparency

Because of a slackening economy, legislative committees and teams of state number crunchers must be at their best to find money and deliver the fiscal 2010-11 budget, which could be around \$185 billion.

Meanwhile, taxpayers can learn how much of their money government is spending and what it's being spent on.

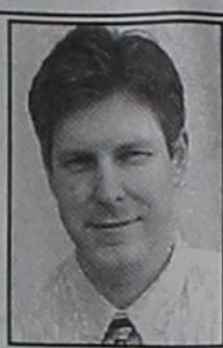
Nearly a year ago, Texas Comptroller Susan Combs launched "Where the Money Goes" a Web site that now shows all state agencies' spending in detail.

In continuing along those lines, on Dec. 3, Combs introduced openbooktexas.com, a Web site that includes "Texas Smart Buy," an online ordering system; "Texas Transparency Check-Up," an accountability study of local governments; and "Single Set of Books," initiative examining uniform financial accounting in state government.

"It is clear that we have entered an era of great economic uncertainty, and government must make the most of every dollar, just like millions of working families," Combs said.

"Texans deserve to know their tax dollars are being used wisely."

### PRISON BOARD SEEKS EMERGENCY FUNDING



by Ed Sterling

Families are cutting expenses and looking for ways to save. Government must do the same."

#### Ethics commission fines justice

The Texas Ethics Commission on Dec. 4 fined Texas Supreme Court Justice Nathan Hecht \$29,000 for violating state campaign finance rules.

The Ethics Commission said an unreported reduction in fees Hecht received from a law firm for personal legal assistance was tantamount to a political contribution and that violates the rules.

#### Debt collector settles with state

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott on Dec. 5 resolved the state's enforcement action against debt collection firm NCO Financial Systems Inc.

NCO settled after being charged with violating the Texas Debt Collection Act.

State investigators said NCO unlawfully made harassing and threatening phone calls to purported debtors.

Under the settlement, NCO must implement policies that ensure its debt collection efforts fully comply with this law.

The settlement requires NCO to create a three-year \$150,000 restitution fund to compensate Texans harmed by its unlawful acts. The company will remit \$100,000 to the state's general revenue fund for violating the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act, along with \$150,000 in attorneys' fees.

#### FEMA says mess disappearing

The Federal Emergency Management Agency rebuffed media assertions that it had been slow to remove debris from areas stricken by Hurricane Ike in September.

FEMA said as of Dec. 2 it had removed 18 million cubic yards, or 79 percent of debris, from public rights of way in Texas and called it the largest debris removal in Texas history.

FEMA estimates the Ike cleanup will cost \$800 million total. Cleanup for Hurricane Rita in 2005 totaled \$111 million, FEMA said.

### Wolf Creek Heritage Museum Notes

#### MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

The museum is looking like Christmas with our aluminum tree reflecting the color wheel and the traditional tree in the pioneer room. Our popcorn strings and paper ornaments still look pretty good, but the group voted that our artificial tree is ready for replacement. However it does look antique (very well worn). We have poinsettias throughout so we are festive. We even have carols, if you want, so come on out and visit us and do some Christmas shopping.

Lots of people are buying our history books for relatives this year for their family histories. Maybe it is time to start planning a new decade of family histories. Any volunteers?

As you read this, Mildred Becker is in Dallas for surgery and radiation treatments. Our thoughts and prayers are with her.

We are busy planning next years exhibits and programs. If you have any suggestions or requests, now is the time to submit them.

#### HISTORICAL MUSINGS Christmas Trees

Depending on what reference you use, the history of the Christmas Tree is either attributed to a pagan practice related to the Winter Solstice, or to a 7th century monk who used the triangular shape of the fir tree to describe the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Whichever version you wish to believe we do know

that our American practices are a blend of traditions from Germany and England.

In the mid 16th Century, Christmas markets in Germany sold gifts and bakers sold shaped gingerbreads and wax ornaments as souvenirs of the fair and for hanging on their Christmas Trees.

A record from Strasbourg in 1601 states "wafers and golden sugar-twists (barley sugar) and paper flowers of all colours" were used to decorate trees. It is felt that these trees were biblically symbolic of the Paradise Tree in the Garden of Eden. The food, a symbol for Plenty, the flowers originally were only red for knowledge and white for innocence.

American trees were introduced by the German Hessian Soldiers, the Cattle Barons from Britain and Canada, and the East Coast was influenced by the English Court. Decorations were not easy to find in frontier settlements so people began to make their own decorations. Tin was pierced to create lights and lanterns to hold candles, which could shine through the holes. Decorations were cut out, stitched and glued from old magazines, rolls of cotton batting, and tinsel.

The Paper "Putz" or Christmas Crib was a popular feature under the tree, especially in the Moravian Dutch communities in Pennsylvania.

In the 1880's in Germany, the first artificial tree "The Goose

Feather Tree" was invented to combat some of the damage being done to Fir trees in the name of Christmas. In America, the Addison Brush Company created the first brush trees, using the same machinery that made their toilet brushes!

Large trees were erected in public places during wartime to give morale to the people, since most could not have a tree in their homes. Postwar saw a revival of the traditional Christmas and the return of large real Christmas trees. "The Silver Pine trees, patented in the 1950's, were designed to have a revolving light source under it, with colored gelatine "windows" which allowed the light to shine in different shades as it revolved under the tree. No decorations were needed for this tree.

Our decorations continue to revolve around the European Victorian style trees with decorations becoming more elaborate each year. Themes such as Starry Starry Night Tree, Twilight Tree, the Snow Queen Tree, or themes on one color, one style ornament, etc. are as popular as ever.

Whatever your family does - a theme tree or a traditional tree - have a Merry Christmas.

Note of Condolence: Again, we have lost one of our citizens. Tom Hardison, Higgins, passed away over the weekend. Our condolences to his family and friends. He will be missed.

### Townsen Retires from FNB

Continued from Page 1

FNB has grown to over \$100,000,000 in assets and has a branch in Dumas that will be moving into a brand new building next spring. While many banks in America are having difficult times, FNB remains strong and profitable thanks to its loyal customers and its outstanding employees. Don has played a major role in the success of First National Bank.

He and Barbara have also been very involved in the community including the O'Loughlin Community Center, First United Methodist Church, Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, Tax Appraisal District, and the Spearman School Board.

Don and Barbara have eleven grandchildren and none of them are in the Texas Panhandle. Everyone who knows the Townsens know that athletics are an important part of their lives. Before long, Don and Barbara were going to be missing many ball games and tennis matches. Don has elected to take early retirement that will allow him and Barbara to head south to a warmer climate and be closer to those eleven grandchildren. Spearman and FNB will miss the Townsens.

FNB will have a reception for the Townsens December 12 at the O'Loughlin center. We invite everyone to come visit all of the Townsens, including their children and grandchildren. The time will be announced at a later date.

The First National Bank's Board of Directors has elected Bill Pittman President of the Bank. Bill has been Chairman of the Board since FNB opened in 1985. Bill states that FNB will continue to be the bank that "Always Puts You First". When you have time, come by for a cup of coffee and a visit.

CITY LIFE section containing word search puzzles and a list of 74 words to find.

CROSSWORD puzzle grid with 74 numbered squares for word placement.

VolunteerMatch.org logo and contact information for volunteering opportunities.

Weatherford Construction logo and contact information for septic systems.

SUDOKU puzzle grid with some numbers filled in and a list of numbers to place in the empty squares.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman contact information, subscription rates, and publication policy.





**Medical Fund for Krystal Puentes**

An emergency medical fund has been established for Krystal (Burkhammer) Puentes at First National Bank, Spearman. If you would like to make a contribution you may make a deposit with any teller or mail a donation to First National Bank, Krystal Puentes Medical Fund, PO Box 337, Spearman TX 79081.

**Medical Fund for Rene Griffin**

A medical fund has been established for Rene Griffin at First State Bank, Spearman. If you would like to make a contribution you may make a deposit with any teller or mail a donation to First State Bank, Rene Griffin Medical Fund, PO Box 247, Spearman TX 79081.

**Medical Fund for Bruce Duncan**

An emergency medical fund has been established for Bruce Duncan at First National Bank, Spearman. If you would like to make a donation you may make a deposit with any teller or mail a donation to First National Bank, Bruce Duncan Medical Fund, PO Box 337, Spearman TX 79081.

**Medical Fund for Nancy DeLuna Jernberg**

An emergency medical fund has been established for Nancy DeLuna Jernberg of Stinnett. Nancy was recently diagnosed with a rare malignant brain tumor and will be undergoing treatment. If you would like to make a contribution you may make a deposit with any teller or mail a donation to H&H Federal Credit Union, 104 Main Street, Stinnett TX 79083.

**P.T.O. Angel Tree Reminder**

We have 56 angels to bless this Christmas season. Please stop by the Amazing Vase for your angel. We need the community's help so no one is left out. Remember wrapped gifts are due back to City Hall by December 10th. Thanks for your support!

**Rushing Wind Emmaus Meets**

Rushing Wind Emmaus will meet on Saturday, December 13 at the Waka Christian Center. A potluck meal will be served at 6 p.m. followed by a training for sponsors and a praise and worship service. Bring your family and friends for a Christmas celebration. A nursery will be provided.

**Perryton Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group**

The Perryton Area Parkinson's Disease Support Group will meet Friday, December 12, at 4pm at the Perryton Mennonite Church located at 2821 S. Ash. Denise Hagemann, a certified Occupational Therapist from Southwest Medical Center in Liberal, KS will be the speaker. She will show how OT can help PD people function better in their everyday life. For more information, call Bev Burger at 435-3437 or 435-0579.

**Cowboy Poetry Breakfast**

Cowboy poet and harmonica artist Tibb Burnett of Benjamin, TX, will headline Saturday at the Cowboy Poetry Breakfast December 13 at the Big Texan Steak Ranch. His down home cowboy poetry and skill on the harmonica have thrilled audiences all over the southwest, and the last two Christmas programs for the Southwest Cowboy Poet Breakfasts. Members of the SWCPA will follow in round-robin style. Mark your calendar for Dec 13 to enjoy this outstanding family entertainment, and to see the Big Texan in its beautifully decorated Christmas glory.

**SHS Christmas Concert**

Choir & Band will have a combined Christmas Concert Dec. 14, at 2PM. This will be held in the HS auditorium. This is JH and HS combined.

**Beginning EMT Classes Scheduled**

Beginning EMT classes will begin January 21, 2009. Call the City of Spearman at 659-2524 for more information, or to sign up.

**Remember When**

Christmas memories... aren't they great? Hillside Christian Church, 6100 Soncy, Amarillo, invites you and your family to make a memory this year as you join us for a light-hearted look at Christmas traditions of the past. Spent an evening with us celebrating all the fun traditions that make the holidays special while enjoying your favorite holiday music, from traditional Christmas hymns to lighter holiday favorites. Performances will be held at 7 p.m. each evening, December 11-14. Doors open at 6:30. A Matinee performance will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 14, with doors opening at 2:30 p.m. Complimentary tickets are available Monday through Thursday from 12 noon-5:30 p.m., and any Sunday morning at church. For more information, please call (806) 457-4960 or visit the church Web site at www.hillsidewired.com.

**Region 16 ESC offers Free GED Preparation Software**

Region 16 ESC is offering free GED preparation software for students interested in obtaining a GED. You will also have access to a free online GED prep program through the public library. If you are interested in finding out more information about these services, please contact: Cindy Blackman at 659-3233, Maria Carbajal or Margaret Ruttman at 659-2231 or stop by the Hansford County Library.

**Spearman Lynx Basketball Fundraiser**

The Spearman Lynx Varsity basketball players are painting paws on driveways (\$15 each or 2 for \$25) to raise money for tournament expenses this year. If you are interested in purchasing paws, please contact Coach Jr. Ashmore or any member of the Lynx basketball team.

**SHS Band Selling Discount Cards**

Spearman HS Band is selling the discount band cards for \$10 ea. Good for 1 yr. The Band has a trip in the spring and needs your support. Contact Jerry at 659-2563 ext. 3005 or Sherrie at 659-2584 ext. 2202.

**GISD Offering Reward for Information**

Gruver Independent School District is offering a \$1,000 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who burglarized two Gruver teachers homes between October 17-19 2008. If you have any information, contact: Troy Seagler at 806-733-2477, Micah Davis at 806-733-2081, David Teal at 806-733-2001 or the Hansford County Sheriff's Office at 806-733-2901.

**Web Page Development - Level 1 Class**

There have been some inquiries expressing an interest in a "Web Page Development" class. If you are interested in taking this class, contact Cindy Blackman, at 659-3233 or cindy.blackman@region16.net.

**Child Find**

Your school district is looking for children ages 3-21 years who may be slow in developing communication skills, social interactions, walking skills and/or have major physical disabilities. We want to give your child the chance to receive the extra help he/she needs, if the disability interferes with his/her education. Please call your elementary campus to get more information or call Perryton SSA, 435-4412. Our staff will answer your questions about early intervention.

**Gruver Elementary Collects Register Tapes for Education**

Gruver Elementary is participating in the Lowe's Marketplace Register Tapes for Education. Gruver Elementary is also collecting the pink Box Tops for Education and the yellow UPC bar code Labels for Education from Campbell and Swanson products. You can deposit your register tapes, pink Box Tops and UPC Bar Codes in the Elementary School Lobby, City Library, City Hall, Night & Day Beauty Salon or Hitchin' Nails Salon. Jo Clawson will also collect them at 711 Womble. Please help us earn free education equipment by collecting these items.

**Don't Wait to Find Help for Someone Who is Addicted**

Trying to help someone who's having a problem with drugs or alcohol? Substance abuse all too often leads to accidents, arrest, illness, financial hardship and even homelessness and death. Don't wait to find help for someone you love. Call Narconon Arrowhead drug rehabilitation and education center for a free addiction consultation or referral to treatment in your area. Call 1-800-468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com.

**Thriftshop Policy**

Hansford County Library has a policy barring children under 12 from the Thriftshop and the surrounding area outside. No strollers or buggies of any type are allowed in the Thriftshop. This policy is due to overcrowding in a small area and continuing discipline problems. Shoppers are asked to be considerate of the volunteers as well as other shoppers, and leave children under 12 at home.

**Beware of FAFSA Web Scam**

Seniors, senior parents, and parents of college students should use the web site www.fafsa.ed.gov when filling out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) online. There is currently a website that has found an interesting way to get in the college-bound's pocket. Known as fafsa.com, the website charges a fee for submitting the application. There is no fee for submitting the fafsa form on the www.fafsa.ed.gov site.

**Don't Wait to Find Help for Someone Who is Addicted**

Trying to help someone who's having a problem with drugs or alcohol? Don't wait to find help for someone you love. Call Narconon Arrowhead drug rehabilitation and education center for a free addiction consultation or referral to treatment in your area. Call 1-800-468-6933 or visit www.stopaddiction.com



Mr. and Mrs. Wade Harkey

**Stavlo, Harkey Wed**

Sammie Stavlo and Wade Harkey were united in holy matrimony on October 4, 2008. The couple exchanged vows in a private ceremony at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Spearman with Father Jose Gomez officiating. Justice of the Peace Bob Davis, uncle of the bride, officiated in a ring exchanging ceremony at the Stavlo Seven Bar Ranch in Hansford County.

Sammie is the daughter of Barbara and Paul Stavlo of Gruver. She is the granddaughter of Gerry Davis and the late C.A. Davis and Leona Stavlo and the late Joel Stavlo. Wade is the son of Leigh and Wayne Harkey of Abernathy, TX. He is the grandson of Bill Harkey and the late Anna Harkey and Betty Riley and the late Bill Riley.

The Maid of Honor was Tiffany McAnally, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Lisa Johnson, Thea Ramey, Shea Lowe, Meghan Van Allen, and Dayna Lowke, friends of the bride.

Best man was Andy Harkey, brother of the groom. Groomsmen were Cliff Harkey, brother of the groom, Jace Harkey, brother of the groom, Clint Oswald, cousin of the groom, and Sam Creel and Dusty Creel, friends of the groom.

The flower girl was Jobi Davis, cousin of the bride. The ring bearers were Lucas Davis, cousin of the bride, and Cale Harkey, nephew of the groom.

The bride wore a formal ivory gown of Italian-made satin, featuring a deep scooped neckline with delicate narrow straps. The intricate silver embroidery detailed highlights of the shoulder straps and front of the fitted bodice. The Basque waist flowed into a box pleated ball gown skirt, completed with a chapel-length train.

The ring ceremony and reception were held at the Stavlo Seven Bar Ranch in Hansford County. Uncles of the bride, Bob Davis, Buster Davis and Wayne Davis, cooked hor'dourves before the dinner and dance, all of which were held at the ranch. Reception attendants were Tessa Grotegut, Holly McLane and Nicole Harkey.

Sammie is a 2006 graduate of Texas Tech University with a Corporate Communications degree. She is a 2001 graduate of Gruver High School.

Wade is a 2005 graduate of Texas Tech University with an Ag Education degree. He is a 2000 graduate of Abernathy High School. The couple will be farming and ranching in Hansford County.

Following a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia, the couple have made their home in Gruver.

You are invited to the  
**40th Anniversary Party**  
 honoring  
**Don & Lynanne Maize**  
 on Sunday, December 14, 2008  
 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
 at the  
**First United Methodist Church**  
 407 S. Haney Spearman, TX

**Gordon's**

Your place for  
**Bridal Registry**

**Couples Currently Registered**

Brittney Morris & Dustin Borden - 1/3  
 Kathy Hinds & Carlos Hernandez - 1/24  
 Lisa Espinosa & Dave Pope - T&A  
 Madeline Reed & Jeremy Schenk  
 Macy Harbour & Kevin Beedy  
 Lauren Payne & Steven Haney

**Baby Registry**

Kaisi (Foster) & Andy Cunningham - 12/13  
 Kelci & Jordan Brock - 12/28 (boy)  
 Courtney & John Brock - 12/28 (girl)

**Gordon's** 659-2141  
 314 Main Spearman



**Engagement Announcement**

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Morris of Gruver announce the engagement of their daughter, Brittany Morris, to Dustin Borden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Borden of Round Rock, TX.

Brittany and Dustin are both graduates of Texas A&M University. Brittany will graduate on December 12, 2009 from Texas A&M University with a Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics.

Dustin works full time for Texas A&M. He is also in the master's program at Texas A&M.

The couple plan to wed on March 14, 2009 in Bryan, Texas at the Kyle House.

**Cowboy Christmas Ball to Benefit Kwahadi Museum**

The Board of Trustees of the Kwahadi Museum has arranged for famous cowboy composer and singer, Michael Martin Murphy, to bring his Cowboy Christmas Ball performance to Amarillo in benefit to the museum. It is a classic Christmas event for our area communities, a fine evening of entertainment for the whole family, and a blessing to help the museum. Famous area artist, Kenneth Wyatt, is also participating with a benefit art show.

The event will be held on Wednesday, December 17, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. at the Kwahadi Museum of the American Indian in the adobe ambience of the Plaza Theater (9151 140 E. Amarillo). Tickets are \$30 each and may be purchased by calling 806-335-3175 or 654-4890.

Alan and Sandra Payne of Lubbock and Marty and Sandy Haney of Spearman invite you to the wedding of their children,  
**Lauren Kay Payne**  
 and  
**Steven John Haney**  
 on Friday,  
 January 9, 2009  
 at 7:00 p.m. at the  
 South Plains Church  
 of Christ in Lubbock

**Celebrate**  
 Gifts for all your celebrations!

**Bridal Registry**

Brittany Morris & Dustin Borden - 1/3  
 Kathy Hinds & Carlos Lopez - 1/24  
 Dusty Desmond & Clayton Thompson  
 Lisa Espinosa & Dave Pope  
 Lauren Payne & Steven Haney  
 Macy Harbour & Kevin Beedy  
 Madeline Reed & Jeremy Schank

**Baby Registry**

Kaisi (Foster) & Andy Cunningham - 12/13  
 Kelci & Jordan Brock - 12/28  
 Courtney & John Brock - 12/28  
 Christen (Ferguson) & Bradley Brown  
 Tara & Chad Gardiner  
 Janae (Watley) & Kyle Igo

**Celebrate**

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

# HANSFORD COUNTY



**Leroy Sheets**

Samuel Leroy Sheets was born in northeastern Hutchinson County at Jeffrey, Texas on July 20, 1917. Leroy, as he became known, was the fifth child and fourth son of Claud and Nannie Lou (Archer) Sheets. Later there would be four more brothers and three more sisters. After graduating from Spearman High School in 1934 during a Dust Bowl and Depression year, he was able to earn a degree in Agriculture in 1939 at Panhandle A&M College at Goodwell, Oklahoma.

Upon graduation, he worked for the Turkey Track Ranch and other neighbors. To be able to choose the desired branch of service, he volunteered for the draft in Amarillo on July 12, 1941. He was thus able to choose the field of airplane mechanics when he was called back and then inducted on August 12, 1941 at Fort Bliss, Texas. While there he received three weeks of basic training.

Next he was sent to Jefferson Barracks at St. Louis in early September of 1941. Here he started the school at the beginning, but the Army was starting a new unit and needed him to be ready to ship out, so he left without completing it, but he got the mechanic assignment. From there he was transferred to Savannah, Georgia in October. Next came Angel Island, California, and then a boat trip on the U.S.S. Coolidge in November 1.

He had been assigned to the 91st Bomb Squadron (L), 27th Bomb Group (L) and was being sent to the Philippines. They arrived at Manila on November 20 and were sent out to Fort Wm. McKinley about 8 miles from the city. Their planes and supplies had not arrived when the Japanese attacked Clark Air Field in Philippines around noon after they had attacked Pearl Harbor in the early morning. They bombed Manila on the 8th of December.

Leroy had been there 18 days and still had no equipment or supplies. There was chaos, and it seems that Leroy and the other soldiers tried to escape down the road to the Bataan peninsula. They were on short rations and many were ill. The men had eaten the pack horses and mules, and moved on to snakes and monkeys. Beriberi, dysentery, and malaria were rampant. By April 8, General King thought he could save lives by surrendering. On April 9, 1942 at 9 o'clock, the general surrendered to the Japanese.

**The Bataan Death March**  
General Homma had already made plans to remove the prisoners of war that he could foresee to be his to Camp O'Donnell about 100 miles away. He planned for 25,000

Filipino and American soldiers that would have their own rations. Instead around 75,000 hungry, sick, and exhausted men were his captives. The Japanese had not signed the 1929 Geneva Convention for humane treatment of prisoners. They felt to surrender was to dishonor the soldier and his family.

The infamous Bataan Death March is considered the worst atrocity committed to Prisoners of War in World War II. From the day of surrender the POWs would be harshly beaten, and killed for the slightest or no reason at all.

The Sheets family was to learn about what Leroy went through on the Death March from Charles Ruby Bolt. They were not in the same outfit, but they had discovered they were both from the same part of Texas as the March began, and they became buddies. Charles came to see Nannie and Claud Sheets after the war and told them what he knew about Leroy. He also named his son Leroy.

The prisoners were divided into groups of 100 men for the 6 day march. Along the way, they witnessed the atrocities of war—Japanese soldiers bayoneting soldiers that had fallen, the denial of food and water and the beheading of one man. The temperature got as high as 115 to 120 degrees. Bolt started out with a 105 degree temperature; Leroy appeared to be in good health, but he was suffering from blackouts.

The two were sharing what little

food they could find or were given. Bolt could remember only one meal, a small ball of contaminated rice, from his captors. However, they did get a little food from the Filipino natives along the way. Bolt said that at one place along the march, a Filipino broke into the column and pressed an egg into his hand. "I didn't know if it was a balut (a egg boiled about two days before it is due to hatch)—a delicacy in the Far East—or if it was raw. I didn't ask any questions; it was raw...but it was the one thing I didn't share with Leroy."

On the third day they came to an aid station the Japanese had set up. Bolt recalled they wanted to keep him because of his fever, but they wouldn't keep Leroy. He stayed with Leroy and that probably saved his life. Later he learned that they shot all the sick who were kept.

The exact toll of how many died on "the death march" will never be known, but the better estimates are between 7,000 and 10,000 with 2,330 of those Americans.

After they reached their destination of Camp O'Donnell, conditions improved very little. Approximately 1,600 Americans died there in the first forty days. Among the Filipinos, the loss in the first four months was almost 20,000. The healthier prisoners took turns burying their comrades into mass graves.

Due to the high death rate at the camp, the Japanese transferred all Americans, excluding five hundred

that were left to bury the dead, to Cabanatuan on June 6, 1942. Charles Bolt and Leroy Sheets were among those who moved.

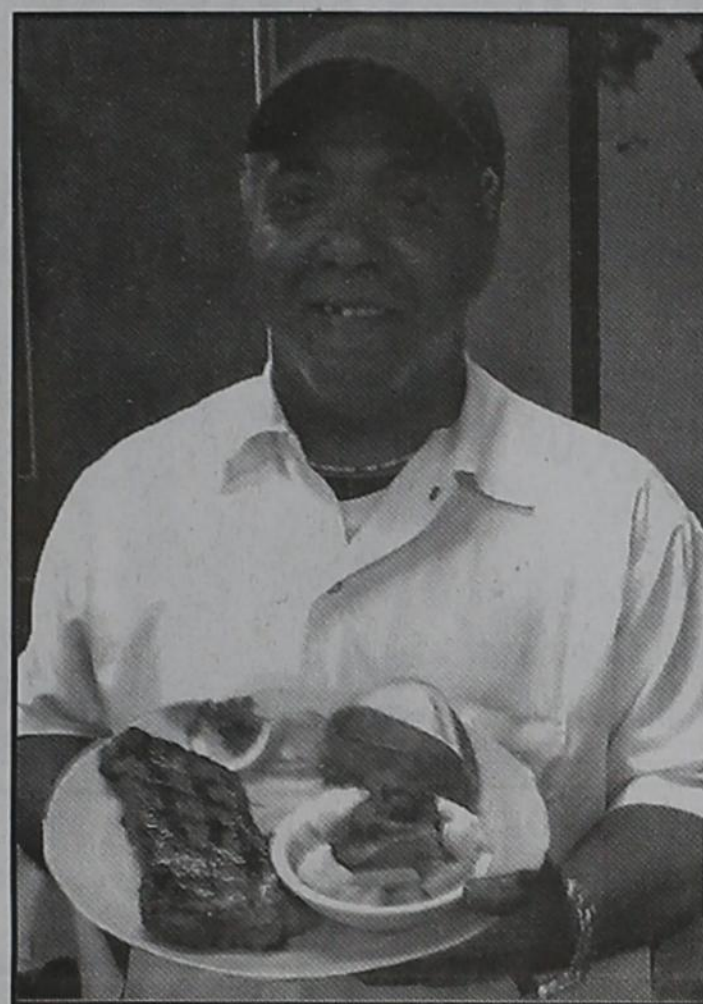
On August 4, 1945 a telegram was received by Nannie Lou Sheets telling her that Samuel L. Sheets, previously reported as missing in action died June 9, 1942 in the Philippine island as result of dysentery while a prisoner of war of the Japanese government. It was followed later by a letter written on October 6, 1945 by a Major Gambrill telling them that their son had died of dysentery at Cabanatuan Camp, Philippine Islands. He added that Leroy was buried on Luzon.

In 1949 the federal government at the request of the family sent his body home to be reburied at Holt Cemetery after a memorial service at the Church of Christ in Spearman.

**Editor's note**—This article has been prepared from material from "The Ultimate Sacrifice, The Price of Freedom" by Jerry and Steve Sheets. The book has so much more about Leroy that space prohibited being included. Although the book is not for sale, a copy may be found at the Hansford County Library in Spearman and at the Gruver Library. Nephews of Leroy, Jerry and Steve, have done a great job of gathering information about Leroy's life and service, as well as many other WWII matters.

Eric Cudd has set up a memorial display honoring Leroy at the Stationmaster's House Museum, 30 South Townsend, Spearman. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m., and other hours by appointment. For more information, call Reba Hunter at 806-659-3008.

Pictures and information for this feature may be submitted to the Reporter-Statesman (310 Barkley Street), mailed to WW II Memories, % Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman TX 79081, emailed to reporter@spearmanreporter.com, or they may be given to Dorothy Hudson, 733-2562, 806 Cluck Avenue, Gruver TX 79040, or emailed to dhudson862@gruver.net.



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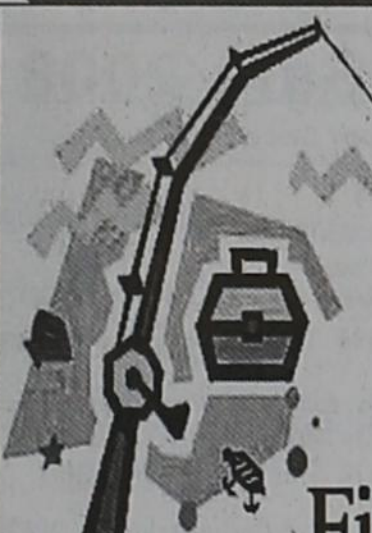


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# Spearman Chamber Accepting Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year Nominations

The Spearman Chamber of Commerce is now accepting nominations for Business of the Year and Citizen of the Year. Nominations must be submitted to the Chamber office by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2008. The awards will be awarded at the Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet, which will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2009.

## Business of the Year

This award recognizes a Spearman business for achievement and leadership in business. Eligibility requirements include membership in the Spearman Chamber of Commerce; a business that has been in business for at least two years; a record of involvement in the Chamber of Commerce and other civic endeavors; and a business that promotes Spearman and the residents it serves.

Name of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, discuss in detail those achievements which, in your judgment, make this business uniquely qualified for the award indicated above.

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If necessary, please attach additional pages.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## Citizen of the Year

This award recognizes an individual for exceptional service that has contributed to the development of Spearman. The award may recognize contributions that have enhanced Spearman's quality of life, or its economic development. It may encompass exceptional achievements related to government leadership, the arts, social welfare programs, civic services, or other appropriate avenues that have enhanced life for all Spearman citizens. While the award is intended to recognize an individual for specific achievements that have occurred during the year immediately preceding the presentation, it may, however recognize an individual for distinct lifetime achievement in the area of community service. Nominations may be made by any resident of Spearman or by any Spearman social service or organization.

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, discuss in detail those achievements which, in your judgment make this individual uniquely qualified for the award indicated above.

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If necessary, please attach additional pages.

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominations must be returned to the Chamber office by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 22, 2008.

by Dorothy Hudson

# Out at the Lake

Jim Derington  
Palo Duro River Authority  
P.O. Box 99  
Spearman, TX 79081  
806-882-4401  
pdra@dishmail.net

Lake Level--December 8, 2008--22.69 feet (-0.13)

Jim was very busy this weekend with the annual Spearman Rotary Club Pheasant Hunt. Of the 41 hunters who signed up, 38 came. There was a man from New Zealand who came with his brother-in-law from Florida and a man who came from Arizona. Most of the hunters are from the Dallas-Fort Worth-Houston area and are repeat hunters, but there are always a few new faces.

The birds were plentiful enough to make a good hunt, but most did not get their 3 bird limit each day.

The Rotary Club furnishes a guide and the fields where they can hunt plus 6 meals for the group. The first meal is Friday night, and the last one is Sunday noon. Feeding that many people that many meals is a big job. Jim was high on his praise for all that help

with the meals and all the farmers that donate the use of their fields.

## President Bush Pardons Eagle Killer

The latter part of November, President Bush gave a pardon to Leslie O. Collier, a grain farmer, from Charleston, Missouri who had been given a probated 2 year sentence, and a \$10,000 fine for inadvertently killing 2 bald eagles and committing a misdemeanor of using a pesticide mixed with hamburger to kill coyotes. He was sentenced Feb. 26, 1996.

The farmer was also a hunter, and he had noticed a flock of wild turkeys had gotten started near his farm. As he was afraid the numerous coyotes would wipe out the turkeys, he decided to give Nature a hand. He mixed the pesticide Furadan with some raw hamburger meat and placed it in four locations near a dirt road. It did the job. He

killed 7 coyotes, a red-tailed hawk, a great horned owl, an opossum, a raccoon, and 3 bald eagles. It took awhile, and about 2 months later, someone saw a dead eagle.

The investigation began, and Collier admitted killing the coyotes. For some reason, he was charged for killing 2 eagles instead of the 3, but that was enough to make a felon out of him. Felons can't own guns, and he could no longer hunt. He was told the only way he could ever own guns again would be to get a presidential pardon.

He applied under President Clinton first, and then applied under President Bush and was successful, much to his joy.

This story appealed to me, because we had a similar story happen in Hansford County. The big difference was that the eagle didn't die.

**Season's Greetings**

**Open House**

December 18, 2008  
1:00-5:00 p.m.

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