

Bush-Saudi Talks Focus on Long-Range Oil Plan
President Bush pressed Saudi Arabia on Monday to take steps to relieve record-high oil prices, but the world's largest exporter insisted global supplies were adequate and offered a long-term plan to increase production.

In Portland, Living The Green American Dream
More young urban professionals are forgoing square footage for eco-friendly homes.

House Ethics Panel Lapses At An Awkward Time
As turmoil surrounding DeLay rises, Republicans face pressure to revisit rule changes that Democrats oppose.

If Senate Shuts Down, Who's to Blame?
Facing Bush judicial nominees, eager interest groups, and the 'nuclear option,' a divided Senate keeps raising the stakes.

Rice Prods U.S. Senate on Bolton Nomination
Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on Monday the White House has been responsive to senators' concerns about John Bolton, the embattled nominee for U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and prodded the Senate to move forward on his nomination.

U.S. Clears Soldiers in Italian Agent's Iraq Death
U.S. investigators have found that American troops who shot dead an Italian agent at a Baghdad checkpoint on March 4 committed no wrongdoing and will not be disciplined, an Army official said on Monday.

In Show of Support, Bush to Give DeLay AFI Flight
In a show of support, President Bush will give embattled House of Representatives Republican leader Tom DeLay an Air Force One ride to Washington from Texas on Tuesday, a White House spokesman said.

Bush Presses Saudi's Abdullah on Oil Prices
President Bush on Monday pressed Saudi Arabia to take steps to relieve record-high oil prices, but the world's largest exporter insisted global supplies were adequate.

Several Still Trapped in Japan Train Wreck, 71 Dead
Rescuers pulled three people alive from the mangled wreckage of a Japanese commuter train early on Tuesday while others remained trapped as the death toll rose to 71 in Japan's worst rail accident in more than 40 years.

Iraq Govt Delayed Again, Could Come Tuesday
Iraqi politicians again delayed naming a government on Monday, prolonging a three-month political vacuum seen aiding an insurgency, but a senior politician said a cabinet could come as soon as Tuesday.

Clinton: Tsunami Aid to Be Model for Future Crises
Former U.S. President Bill Clinton told business leaders on Monday that the response to Asia's tsunami could serve as a model for future disasters if donors made sure the stricken region recovered.

Accused Qaeda Chief Denies Knowing 9/11 Hijacker
The suspected leader of al Qaeda in Spain denied on Monday that he knew Sept. 11 hijacker Mohamed Atta or helped set up a planning meeting between Atta and another suspect in the 2001 attacks on U.S. cities.

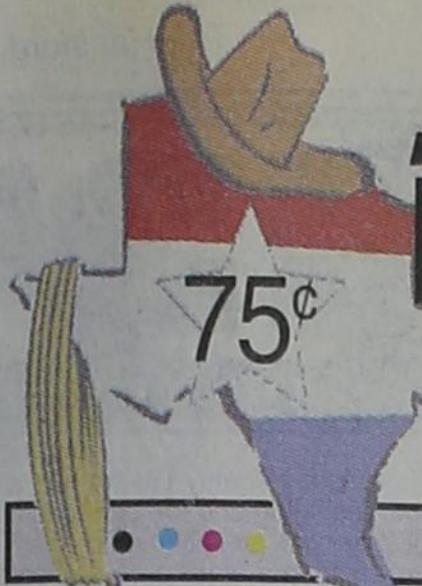
Official: Saudi Arabia Close to Deal on WTO Entry
Saudi Arabia is "very close" to reaching an agreement with the United States on the kingdom's entry into the World Trade Organization, a senior Saudi official said on Monday.

Yen Rallies, Bet Is on China Revaluation
The yen surged to a two-month high against the euro and a one-month high against the dollar on Monday as speculation intensified that China might soon revalue its currency.

EU Welcomes Bulgaria and Romania as Members
Bulgaria and Romania cleared the final hurdle to join the European Union as early as 2007 when they signed an accession treaty on Monday, more than 15 years after overthrowing communist rule.

Syria Intelligence Quits Lebanon HQ After 29 Years
Syrian intelligence quit its Lebanese headquarters in the border town of Anjar on Monday, virtually completing a pullout of Syrian forces from Lebanon and ending Damascus's 29-year domination.

U.S. Urges Iraqi Politicians to End Deadlock
U.S. officials have urged top Kurdish and Shiite politicians to end Iraq's political deadlock, U.S. officials said on Monday amid concerns that the three-month political vacuum could fuel the insurgency.



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VOLUME 98 • ISSUE 17

THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2005

SCHOOL BOND PASSES

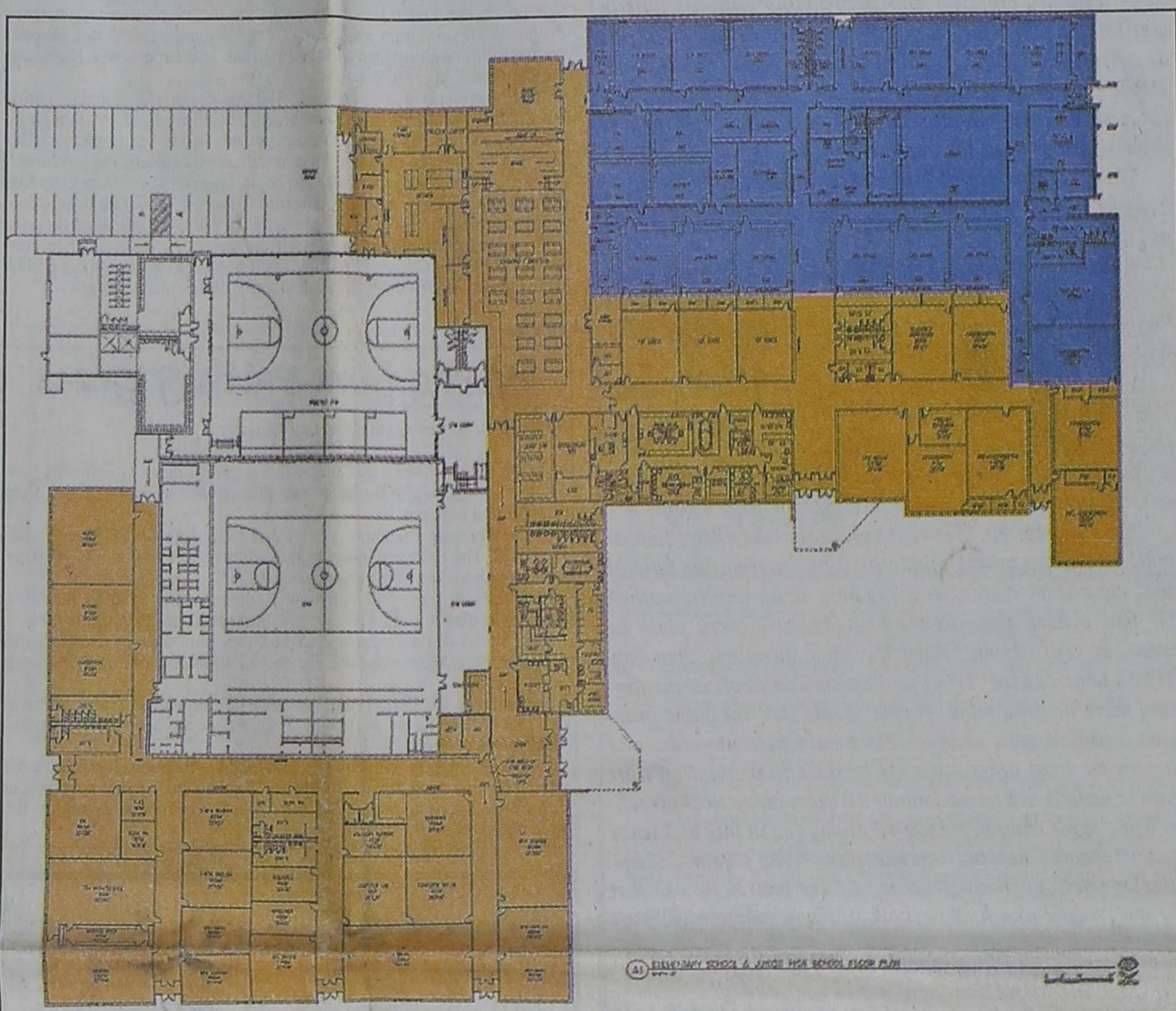
441 for, 377 against

The taxpayers of the Spearman Independent School District passed a \$12 million bond by 64 votes. The Board of Trustees of the Spearman ISD called for the bond election on February 14, 2005. This action followed a two-year study of the district's facility needs by the Board of Trustees.

As a result of the board's study and with input from the Citizens' Facility Committee, the Board of Trustees unanimously called for a bond election in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000. The proceeds from the bond will be used to construct a new junior high school to replace the existing junior high building (which was built in 1930), to renovate and enlarge the existing elementary school, to build a new elementary/junior high cafeteria, and to provide better parking and safer traffic flow around the elementary/junior high campuses. This proposed plan was determined by the Board of Trustees to be the most cost effective plan that best meets the needs of the junior high and the elementary school.

After reviewing the work that had been done over the past two years, the Spearman ISD Board of Trustees, at their regular school board meeting on February 14, 2005 decided to call for a bond election to give the community an opportunity to vote on proposed improvements to the district facilities.

The bond issue is projected to increase taxes an estimated 35¢ per year per \$100 of taxable property. The proposed length of the bond is for 30 years. For taxpayers 65 years of age or older who have applied for and received the Age 65 Freeze, the school taxes on their homestead will not increase from this bond.



Proposed site plan for Spearman ISD Elementary & Junior High

North Plains loses power from Xcel Energy delivery point

An equipment failure at the Spearman interchange where North Plains Electric Cooperative receives power results in outage to 3900 meters on Monday afternoon. NPEC crews were able to reroute service and power was restored to all meters by 3:10 p.m. Service was interrupted to 3900 members of North Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC) on Monday afternoon at 1:39 when an insulator failed and exploded at the Xcel Energy's Spearman interchange between Spearman and Gruver.

Members in Hansford, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, and Ochiltree counties were affected. Nine of NPEC's 13 delivery substations lost power. The interchange is the delivery point for 75 percent of the meters that NPEC serves. NPEC crews were able to reroute service and power was restored to all meters by 3:10 p.m. Power came from another delivery point in Roberts county south of Miami. NPEC moved it across Hemphill county to restore Lipscomb, Ochiltree and finally Hansford and

Hutchinson counties. Ordinarily the southern delivery point is not able to supply the electrical needs of the entire NPEC system. "We were fortunate that it happened on a cool day, early in the growing season. Consequently air conditioning and irrigation load was low," said General Manager Randy Mahannah. "Overall system load was low enough that we were able to reroute power from the Miami delivery point," reported Manager of Engineering and Operations Lewis Crain. Xcel repairs were completed and NPEC load was switched back to normal by 6 p.m. NPEC is a cooperative distributing electricity in Hansford, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Ochiltree, Roberts and Wheeler counties. Formed in 1944, it serves 5228 meters and maintains 3468 miles of electrical line. It is owned and controlled by the members it serves.

USDA Rural Development announces energy grants

Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced the availability of \$22.8 million to support investments in renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements by agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

The funds announced today will be available to support a wide range of technologies encompassing biomass (including anaerobic digesters), geothermal, hydrogen, solar, and wind energy, as well as energy efficiency improvements.

"Enhancing our energy efficiency is a key goal of the Bush Administration," said Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns. "Renewable energy is an exciting growth frontier for American agriculture. Implementing an innovative energy policy, which the President has proposed, provides an opportunity to strengthen both our national security and the rural economy."

"The capital investments made through USDA Rural Development to the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program will support our natural resources and help develop new sources of energy," said Daniel.

Section 9006 of the 2002 Farm Bill established the Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Loan and Grant Program to encourage agricultural producers and small rural businesses to create renewable and energy efficient systems.

continued on page 10

Open Letter

It has come to the attention of the officials of Hansford County, Texas and the Texas Department of Transportation, (TxDOT) that rendering companies have now begun to charge for the removal of the carcasses of dead cattle. It had been the practice to drag the "deads" to the ditches, and in many cases the roadside, so that the carcass would be handy for the "used cow" truck to pick up and remove.

This practice is not acceptable unless the cattle producer intends to have the carcass picked up. Dragging the carcass to any highway, farm-to-market road or county road and leaving it is a violation of common littering laws as well as a violation of the solid waste disposal provisions of Texas Law. In addition to being against the law, the carcasses pose a traffic hazard, a health hazard, and makes for unsightly roadsides.

The purpose of this letter is to inform cattle producers that Hansford County officials will investigate complaints of cattle dumping and take action to discourage the activity. Cattle producers should be aware that cattle dumping on state and county rights of way is illegal and there are misdemeanor and even felony sanctions to punish those responsible. Neither Hansford County nor TxDOT will remove these carcasses.

The officials of Hansford County and TxDOT are counting on your cooperation so that the roadsides of our county remain clear. Remember, dumping dead cattle near highways and roadways is illegal.

Gruver FFA to compete at state



The Gruver FFA livestock judging team will compete at the state competition for the second year in a row. Team members (L-R) Jimmilee McCloy, Tucker Williams, Bailey Reid and Charles Slough qualified for the state competition with their third place win in district, followed by an eighth place win in area. The state competition will be held this weekend in College Station.

The Gruver FFA competed in Lubbock at the Top O Texas District and Area 1 FFA career development events. Teams competing were Dairy Cattle and Livestock.

The Dairy cattle team consisting of Cason Finley, Chandler Miner, Tanner Sherrill and Victoria Vela won 1st in District and eighth in Area competition. The dairy cattle contest includes six placing classes, linear evaluation, pedigree classes, and a written exam.

The livestock judging team competed and won 3rd in District and eighth in area and qualified for State competition in College Station this coming weekend. They will compete with over ninety other teams and are a repeat team to state where they were 16th last year. The team consists of Jimmilee McCloy, Bailey Reid, Charles Slough, Tucker Williams and alternate for the state trip is Victoria Vela. The contest includes six placing classes, questions, female selection, USDA Grading, and a written exam.

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

- THURSDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.
- THURSDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
- FRIDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.
- FRIDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 40s.
- SATURDAY - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 60s.
- SATURDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms in the evening - then mostly cloudy with a slight chance of rain showers after midnight. Lows around 40. Chance of rain 20 percent.
- SUNDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s.
- SUNDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 40s.
- MONDAY - Mostly cloudy. Highs around 70.



Masonic Lodge service awards were presented to (L-R) Richard Hintergardt, "Corky" Chapman, Elvin Wright, C. Ralph Blodgett by District Officer Randy Hardin.

Masonic Lodge presents service awards

By Cecil R. Biggers, Secretary

On the 18th of April in 2005, Hansford County Masons belonging to Hansford Lodge #1040 and Gruver Lodge #1326 and their families met at the El Vaquero Restaurant to honor 60 year and 50 year Masons. We also celebrated the 230th anniversary of the midnight ride of Bro. Paul Revere, a revolutionary war Mason.

Hansford Lodge Members receiving awards for long service included: Ralph Blodgett 60 years, Bobby J. Grayson 50 years, Buster W. Kirk 50 years, also honored were Hansford brethren who passed away before the arrival of their awards, Phil Jenkins 60 years, Kenneth Evans 50 years. Gruver Lodge Members receiving awards included: Leon O. "Corky" Chapman 50 years, Richard L. Hintergardt 50 years, Fred M. Miller 50 Years, and Elvin Wright 50 years.

Project Graduation Spearman High School Class of 2005

The parents of the Spearman High School graduating class of 2005 are asking for your help to make this years Project Graduation event a success. This event is a long standing tradition our community is proud to be a part of and has always been a success due in part by your generosity. Project Graduation is an event that is hosted by the parents of the graduating class. The celebration begins shortly after commencement exercise and continues through till the next morning. The night consists of games, food, gifts and prizes and ensures that the participants will celebrate this momentous occasion in a safe, alcohol free and drug free environment. To be able to continue with the Project Graduation tradition, we are asking you for contributions. Your contributions may be in the form of door prizes, monetary donations, book scholarships, or gifts that will benefit them upon entering college. If you are interested and willing to donate to this worthy cause, we ask that you send your contributions no later than April 29, 2005 to: Project Graduation c/o Hansford Abstract Company P. O. Box 97 Spearman, Texas 79081 If you would like to donate items that need to be picked up, please contact Julie or Donna at 806-659-2516 during the day or 806-659-5467 or 806-659-2308 after 5 p.m. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

ET CETERA

Dr. Bubliss' son injured in Iraq

Dr. Paul Bubliss' 24-year-old son, Andy, was injured in the bombing this past Saturday in Mosul, Iraq. He is in the Army, and has been in Iraq for about six months.

Andy is currently in a hospital in Germany with severe injuries, including second- and third-degree burns over most of his body, shrapnel injuries as well as a head injury. Dr. Bubliss and his family are encouraged that the doctors believe he is stable enough to have him moved to San Antonio.

Dr. Bubliss and his wife, Ruth, are asking prayers for their son, Andy. They will be traveling from Hobbs, NM to San Antonio later this week to see him.

Attention SHS ex-students

The Ex-Students' Association needs your help. In order for us to make plans for the 2005 All School Reunion, we need anyone who hasn't already RSVP'd to do so as soon as possible.

If you know you'll be attending the luncheon on July 2, please send your ticket money in advance so we can get a rough head count.

Your dues are also very important to the Association. The money from dues pays for a multitude of expenses: postage and supplies for a total of 6000 mailings; janitorial services, flowers, refreshments, entertainment and supplies for the school assembly; rental of the O'Loughlin Center and various other expenses. The Ex-Students' Association also gives a \$1,600 scholarship each year to a senior graduate, of which the dues pays for.

At this point, we are very short

of funds and getting nervous that we won't be able to meet all of our expenses. So, please send in your dues and/or meal money ASAP, even if you are unable to attend the reunion. The address is PO Box 132, Spearman, TX 79081. Please include your name and class year in any correspondence.

City of Gruver asks for help in keeping town clean & safe

The City of Gruver would like to remind everyone how important it is to keep all property mowed. Yards, vacant lots and alleys that are not kept mowed and picked up of old debris harbor insects, snakes and of course hinder our progress in eliminating the cat and skunk population. With the rabies outbreak in Hansford County the City of Gruver needs the help of all citizens to keep our city a safe place to live. Again, please remember that alleys are the responsibility of the owner/renter to keep mowed. Thank you all for your help in making Gruver a beautiful and safe place to live.

Gus Birdwell Elementary schedules 2005 annual track meet

The annual Gus Birdwell Elementary track meet has been scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2005.

Grades K-3 will begin their events at 10 am. Grades 4-6 will begin their events at 1:00 pm. All events will take place at the high school football field. In case of inclement weather, the back-up date for the elementary track meet will be Thursday, May 12, 2005.

The schedule events will be as follows: The boys will complete the field events while the girls complete the running events.

Then, the girls will complete the field events and the boys will complete the running events. The Kindergarten students will race at 12:45.

If you have any questions concerning the track meet, please feel free to contact me, Coach Baird, at 659-2565. I will look forward to seeing everyone at the track meet!

Hansford Manor Schedule

Thursday, April 28: 10 a.m. - Exercise, living room; 1:30 p.m. - Bingo, dining room
Friday, April 29: 10 a.m. - Cooking Club, activities room; 2:30 p.m. - Life Enrichment, living room
Saturday, April 30: open for visitation from friends, family and community; play Skip-bo or Dominoes
Sunday, May 1: 3 p.m. - Church service, living room
Monday, May 2: 10 a.m. - News/currents, living room; 2:30 p.m. - Sewing Club, activity room; 6:30 p.m. - Bingo, dining room

Hansford County Calendar

April 28 - IPC Trip to Palo Duro Canyon
April 29 - Spearman ISD, Pringle-Morse CISD School Snow Day, No School
April 29-30 - HS Regional Track Meet, Abilene
May 3 - Gruver ISD Academic Awards Banquet, 7 p.m.; National Teacher Appreciation Day
May 4 - Gus Birdwell Elementary Track Meet, Spearman High School track
May 5 - Gus Birdwell Elementary Cinco de Mayo Day; State UIL Academic Meet
May 6 - Gus Birdwell Elementary Kindergarten Mother's Day Tea, 2 p.m.; National Nurse Appreciation Day
May 7 - Gruver ISD prom
May 8 - Mother's Day
May 9 - Gruver ISD All-School picnic; State Tennis & Golf Tournaments
May 11 - Gruver ISD FCCLA end-of-school meeting and officer elections
May 13 - FFA at Tascosa; State Track Meet; Gruver ISD bad weather day - no school
May 16 - Gruver ISD Athletic Banquet
May 17 - Gruver ISD Band Concert, 7 p.m.
May 20 - Gruver ISD bad weather day - no school; Spearman ISD bad weather day - no school
May 22 - Gruver ISD Baccalaureate, 7 p.m., Gruver United Methodist Church; Spearman ISD Baccalaureate, 7 p.m., Spearman ISD auditorium
May 26 - Spearman 8th Grade Graduation, 6 p.m.; Gruver 8th Grade Graduation, 8 p.m.
May 27 - Spearman High School Graduation; Gruver High School Graduation, 8 p.m.
May 30 - Memorial Day

You're invited to attend a Bridal Shower

honoring
Cami Winegarner
bride-elect of Jody Meason
on Saturday, April 30th
from 10:30 a.m.-12 noon
in the home of Judy Nelson
130 Nelson Road • Spearman, Texas

You're invited to attend a Bridal Shower

honoring
Tony Clement & Amy Marsh
on Saturday, May 7th
from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
in the home of Pat and Mike Cudd
22 Golden Circle • Spearman, Texas

You're invited to attend a Bridal Shower

honoring
Heather Reimer
bride-elect of Jeffrey Stowers
on Saturday, May 7th
from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
in the First Christian Church
29 South Bernice • Spearman, Texas

Mother's Day Sale

Women's Clarks
Adidas Tennis Shoe 25% Off
20% Off

Attention Moms!
All moms sign up for a drawing
and win a free pair of shoes!
Happy Mother's Day!

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9 years of service on the board



May 7th
Early Voting
April 20th-
May 3rd

Political ad paid for by Carol Dunnihoo

Cinco De Mayo CELEBRACION

Sat., May 7th • 12 noon - 5 p.m.
Hansford County Courthouse Square

Salsa Contest at City Hall
Booth Space Available - \$10
Music • Activities • Food

Dance to Ritmo Loco

O'Loughlin Center • 8-Midnight
\$10 per person; Children 10 & under are free

For more information, call the
Spearman Chamber of Commerce

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Mother's Day is May 8th

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Don't Forget!

- Gruver Prom - May 7th
- Spearman Prom - May 14th
- Memorial Day - May 31st



Bridal Registry

Couples Currently Registered

- Heather Reimer & Jeff Stowers - 5/7
- Dineke Travis & Brett Holmes - 5/21
- Leah Mackie & Marc Strickland - 5/28
- Holly Hart & Marcus McLean - 5/28
- Cassandra Harrison & Landon Swan
- Delma Hernandez & Hector Diaz
- Amy Marsh & Tony Clement
- Kyna (Shields) & Joseph Hudson
- Nicole Lozano & Wesley Clymer
- Cami Winegarner & Jody Meason
- Anna Leigh Mareno & Tom Kirk
- Mika McLain & Matt Devaney
- Kortney Henton & Eric Klein
- Jill Clement & Steve Crum
- Amanda Anderson & John Gunning
- Lindsey Dalluge & Clay Neff
- Heather Murrell & David Houston
- Laura Conrad & Josh Harris

Gordon's
DRUG

659-2141
314 Main Spearman

Bridal Registry

- Cami Winegarner & Jody Meason - 4/30
- Amy Marsh & Tony Clement - 5/7
- Delma Hernandez & Hector Diaz - 5/7
- Heather Reimer & Jeff Stowers - 5/7
- Dineke Travis & Brett Holmes - 5/21
- Holly Hart & Marcus McLean - 5/28 (Gruver)
- Leah Mackie & Marc Strickland - 5/28
- Nicole Lozano & Wesley Clymer - 7/10
- Cassie Harrison & Landon Swan
- Kyna (Shields) & Joseph Hudson
- Mika McLain & Matt Devaney
- Kortney Henton & Eric Klein
- Lindsey Dalluge & Clay Neff
- Heather Murrell & David Houston
- Laura Conrad & Josh Harris

Celebrate

Gifts for all your celebrations!
203 Main St. • Spearman, TX
(806) 659-3350 1-800-663-8026

ET CETERA

Hansford Manor Schedule April - 2005
Friday, April 15: 9:30 a.m. - Kindergarten Singers, living room; 2:30 p.m. - Birthday Party, dining room, featuring Barbershop Quartet of Amarillo
Saturday, April 16: open for visitation from friends, family and community; play Skip-bo or Dominoes
Sunday, April 17: 3 p.m. - Church service, living room, Apostolic Faith Church
Monday, April 18: 10 a.m. - Newscurrents, living room; 2:30 p.m. - Sewing, activity room; 6:30 p.m. - Bingo, dining room, Hospice Volunteers
Tuesday, April 19: 10 a.m. - Exercise, living room; 2:30 - Manicures, activity room
Wednesday, April 20: 10 a.m. - Bible study & donuts, living room; 2:30 p.m. - Crafts, activity room
Thursday, April 21: 10 a.m. - Exercise, living room; 1:30 p.m. - Bingo, dining room
Friday, April 22: Play dominoes or Skip-Bo or watch a movie. (Activities Personnel will be gone to Amarillo to attend seminar.)
Saturday, April 23: open for visitation from friends, family and community; play Skip-bo or Dominoes
Sunday, April 24: 3 p.m. - Church service, living room, First Christian Church of Spearman; Passover begins
Monday, April 25: 10 a.m. - Newscurrents, living room; 2:30 Resident Council, activity room; 6:30 p.m. - Bingo, dining room, Hospice Volunteers
Tuesday, April 26: 10 a.m. - Exercise, living room; 2:30 - Happy Hour, activity room; 5:30 p.m. - Christian Buffet, dining room, Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Wednesday, April 27: 10 a.m. - Bible study & donuts, living room; 2:30 p.m. - Crafts, activity room
Thursday, April 28: 10 a.m. - Exercise, living room; 1:30 p.m. -

Bingo, dining room
Friday, April 29: 10 a.m. - Cooking Club, activities room; 2:30 p.m. - Life Enrichment, living room
Saturday, April 30: open for visitation from friends, family and community; play Skip-bo or Dominoes
Hansford County Calendar March 13-20, 2005
 April 14-17 - SHS Band Trip to Corpus Christi
 April 14-15 - HS District Track Meet, Panhandle
 April 15 - Donuts with Dads, Gruver Elementary, 7-8 a.m.; Show & Tell, Gruver Elementary, 7:50-8:30 a.m.
 April 18 - 10th & 11th Grade Science TAKS Test; Exit Level Math Science Retest; 8th Grade Science Field TAKS Test
 April 19 - 10th Grade Math TAKS Test; Exit Level ELA Retest; SDAA Math TAKS Test; 3rd, 4th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Math TAKS Test; Building Bridges Meeting, Elementary Library, 7 p.m.
 April 20 - 11th Grade Math TAKS Test; Exit Level Math Retest; SDAA TAKS Test; 4th, 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Reading TAKS Test
 April 21 - 9th Grade Math TAKS Test; 10th & 11th Grade Social Studies TAKS Test; Exit Level Social Studies Retest; 5th Grade Science TAKS Test; 8th Grade Social Studies TAKS Test
 April 22 - Junior High Dance, Cracker Box Gym, 6-9 p.m.
 April 22-23 - Regional UIL Academic Meet, Abilene
 April 23 - HS Regional Qualifiers Track Meet; Spearman ISD Bond Election, Administration Office, 7 a.m.-7 p.m.
 April 25-26 - Regional Golf Tourney Tournament, Boys & Girls, Baird
 April 26 - Job Shadowing, Amarillo, 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

April 26-27 - TPRI Testing, Kindergarten only
 April 27-28 - AA-Region One Tennis Tournament, Abilene; Junior High UIL Choir Contest, Amarillo
 April 27 - Physics/Anatomy trip to Lubbock
 April 28 - IPC Trip to Palo Duro Canyon
 April 29 - Spearman ISD, Pringle-Morse CISD School Snow Day, No School
 April 29-30 - HS Regional Track Meet, Abilene

Manor Matters

by Merry Sparks

There are weeks that it is so easy and fun to write this column and there are weeks that it is very difficult. I hate sounding so redundant. The truth is that even when it sounds like we do the same things over and over it is never the same. There is always something special that happens to make the same thing different. That is the way it is with bingo, exercise, and all of the other activities that we do over and over. This is one of those difficult weeks so I choose to skip over some things this week and expand on the different things.

Many thanks go out to the Church of Christ of Gruver for bringing services last Sunday. The roster showed that 16 Residents participated in the services. I know that all that attended were blessed and we appreciate all of the churches of Hansford County participating in this ministry.

The Preceptor Sorority hosted bingo on Monday night after a day full of different things going on. Thank you to the Preceptor Sorority! You made it fun.

The week started off unusually busy. We have had four new Residents come to neighbor with us in the last week or so and have been enjoying getting to know them.

The morning Newscurrents program was well attended and very informational. Our elders (the Residents at Hansford Manor) are very interested in world events and there is always good interaction with them during this program.

During exercise on Tuesday I was going down the hall and saw staff and Residents alike shaking weights with the rhythm of the music. Some of the music we use just demands that we get up and dance. I love seeing Residents and staff dancing with glee to the music.

The morning seemed so taxing that we watched a movie during happy hour about cowboys. It was a light hearted movie and an enjoyable time to just relax and enjoy each other's company.

Wednesday afternoon the Residents worked diligently on different projects that they are painting for our huge bazaar in May to help pay for some of the special

furniture that we have coming for the Residents and the public to enjoy. If you have articles that you would be willing to donate to this bazaar, please drop them off at the activity department.

We also are taking donations at the activity department for the Empty Stocking Fund to help defray the cost. In the future the employees of the Manor will be having bake sales, raffles, and cook offs. Isn't it nice that the employees care enough about the Manor and the Residents to take on such a project! I say kudos to you!

Thursday was back to exercise in the morning and bingo after lunch. Thank you to the auxiliary for hosting bingo on Thursdays! I have to snicker just overhearing some brag about how many quarters they won and others reply in disbelief that they only got one.

Friday was a special event. We had a total of 28 people go to the Big Texan in Amarillo with us for lunch, fun, and a program.

When we arrived at the Big Texan they had special tables set up for us and met us at the front door to help. We had a delicious lunch of barbecued ribs, brisket, and sausage along with some of the best peach cobbler that I have ever had. As they served us the staff continued to stop to visit with first one and then another. The staff at the Big Texan really rolled out the red carpet for us and treated our Residents like Kings and Queens.

After lunch we took a tour through the gift shop. Some came

out with mementos, one with a new cowboy hat, some with candy.

Next they furnished us with tokens to play the one armed bandits with and turned on the guns at the shooting gallery. That was really funny! When you shot a red dot with the laser from the guns, something would happen. One was a girl dummy dressed up that would stand halfway up and make silly sounds. At another location frogs or ducks would squawk, pop up and down, and another area a lid would come up and a really ugly man would raise up and groan. It was hilarious! We elected Doyle Jackson to do the shooting for us since we were not getting along too good. My favorite was a dummy man sitting at the piano and when we hit his target he would shake and play the piano.

After we had played ourselves out one of Hansford County's own, Hody Porterfield put on an interesting program about Indian history in the United States. He had bows, tomahawks, hatchets, and many other articles to show how they were made and what for. He lived with the Cree Indians in Canada for a period of time and learned much about their history. I noticed that the room was very quiet and everyone appeared to be very interested in what he had to share.

Thank you to the Big Texan and to Hody for such a great day!

Thank you also to Judy Nelson, Claudine Laxton, Doyle & June Jackson, Alice Peddy, Brandy, Gerry, Greg & daughter, and the staff for making the day go by smoothly and with great pleasure!



Cecilia Randall was the singles and all-events winner of the Borger Women's City Bowling Tournament held in March. She was also a member of the first-place bowling team and the winning doubles team.

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Spearman ISD DEIC reviews data for district and campuses

The District Education Improvement Committee met on January 12, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the High School Library.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Present at the meeting were: Krista Baird, Sheila Deal, Sandra Blankenship, Bill Belger, Bill Wiggins, Hope Kemp, Betty Womble, Garry Dodd, Mansel Phillips, Bob Boxwell, Dwayne Mitchell, Joe Garcia, Sally Swan, Hector Diaz, and Rodney Sumner.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Sumner updated the committee on a Leadership Retreat that was held this past weekend. He said that a team of administrators, counselors and two teachers from each campus were identified and spent time disaggregating AYP and AEIS data for the district and campuses. Their findings are summarized below:

STRENGTHS: White scores generally 90%+ and are increasing annually; Writing scores (huge gains); White "commended" scores exceeded State (except Science); Number of HS students taking advanced courses increasing & graduating RHSP; Small class sizes (in many cases below State average); RPTE Intermediate scores to Advanced improved

AREAS OF CONCERN: LEP scores; Some gaps in Male / Female subgroup; Gaps in Math and Science scores for economically disadvantaged students; Vocabulary a concern for LEP students; Lack of Hispanic teachers; RPTE Beginning scores to Intermediate did not show as great of an improvement as needed

In addition, the team noted that student demographic data indicated at the district level that Hispanic numbers were greater than the State average, but slightly lower than the State in economically disadvantaged. The district's LEP numbers were higher than the State average. The following ACTION PLAN was developed in response to the areas of concern.

REGION 16: Staff development - specific toward strategies for LEP students; Promising practices; Identify school districts in the area with strong LEP programs; Help the district with aligning the curriculum

DISTRICT: Identify system (poli-

cies and procedures for working with LEP students); Work to attract or home grow minority teachers; Encourage / support / fund ESL certification; Commitment to TEK TEAM training (hands on math manipulatives that are successful with LEP students)

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL: FAME reading program; After school tutorial program; Mentoring program (pair teacher and community members with identified students)

ELEMENTARY: Create early identification process (K-2 grade); Provide specific targeted interventions; Adopt-a-Student

HIGH SCHOOL: Vocabulary Word of the Day (quiz that can enhance grade); 9,10,11 Math software; Visit a high performing school (2A - similar to Spearman in demographics); Discussion on alternatives to Block Scheduling in order to gain more instructional time in schedule

Mr. Sumner distributed to the committee copies of the District's AEIS data and Gold Performance Acknowledgments.

Mr. Sumner discussed with the committee issues revolving around the 2005-2006 school calendar. He said that State law permits schools to start during the week in which the 21st falls. This year the 21st is on a Sunday, so the first day of school would be the 22nd. Going with this starting date it would be impossible to finish the first semester before Christmas, and school would not be let out until sometime around June 1st. Mr. Sumner explained to the committee that they could apply for a waiver to start school earlier; however, there are specific requirements that have to be met. Specifically, he said that a notification must be published in the local paper and a public hearing must be held to solicit input from the public. After reviewing several calendar options, the consensus of the committee was to look at applying for a waiver (the final approval for the waiver rests with the school board). Mr. Sumner stated that he would distribute a calendar survey to the staff to collect some of their preferences in order to report back to the committee at the February meeting.

Mr. Sumner updated the committee on the progress of the Citizens' Facility Committee. He said that they are scheduled to meet again on January 17th. He said that it is their goal to present a recommendation

back to the Board of Trustees by the end of the month.

The next meeting of the DEIC has been scheduled for February 16, 2005 at 4:00 p.m. in the high school library.

ACTION ITEM

Minutes were approved of the last DEIC meeting on December 1, 2004 without any corrections.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The DEIC Notes are intended to communicate activities to staff, parents and the community. Persons who have questions or comments should direct them to any DEIC member or contact Rodney Sumner, Superintendent of Schools at 659-3233.

Gruver ISD holds public hearing to change school start date

The Board of Trustees of Spearman ISD held a public hearing on January 17, 2005 at 6:45 p.m. on the School Start Date for the 2005-2006 school year. The Board received the following visitors: Lori Haight, Terry Felderhoff, Mica Been, and Debby Odom.

The regular board meeting of the Board of Trustees, Gruver Independent School District was held Monday, January 17, 2005, at 7:02 p.m. Members present: Paul

Stavlo, Curt Fitzgerald, Terry Sherrill, Jody Irwin, Brent Stedje, Dwayne Thompson, Jeff Graves, and Superintendent David Teal.

The Board received the following visitors: Lori Haight, Debby Odom, Mica Been, Darlene Gibson, Amber Holland, and Terry Felderhoff.

Paul Stavlo opened the meeting with prayer.

Darlene Gibson (first grade teacher) gave a report on Reading Recovery Conference on November 17-19, 2004, in Dallas. Lori Haight (reading recovery teacher) also reported on how Gruver compared to other districts in the area on TAKS 3rd Grade 2003-2004. Amber Holland (first grade teacher) reported on her experiences at the conference and how it affects her classroom.

Motion by Curt Fitzgerald, second by Terry Sherrill to approve minutes of December 14, 2004 meeting. Voting Aye: Fitzgerald, Graves, Sherrill, Stavlo, Stedje, Thompson. Abstain: Irwin.

Motion carried 6-0-1

Motion by Terry Sherrill, second by Jody Irwin to approve budget amendments for revenue.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeff Graves, second by Brent Stedje to approve student transfer.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jody Irwin, second by Curt Fitzgerald to approve start of school waiver for on or after August 15, 2005.

Motion carried 7-0.

The Board reviewed the following discussion items: Attendance and Enrollment 402, Date of next board meeting (February 21, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.), School Finance update, Renovation projects from Tim White Associates, First reading of Update 74, and Finance Report-Debby Odom (Business Manager).

Executive Session-Gov. Code

551.074: The board entered into executive session at 8:23 p.m.

Open Session- Gov. Code 551.001: The board entered into open session at 11:10 p.m.

Motion by Curt Fitzgerald, second by Jeff Graves to offer an extension of a two year contract to David Teal.

Motion carried 7-0.

Motion by Jeff Graves, second by Jody Irwin to adjourn at 11:13 p.m.

Motion carried 7-0.

A Time to Celebrate SHS Class of '05. Includes a list of graduates' names and contact information for Celebrate Gifts.

A Time to Celebrate Remember the GHS Class of '05. Includes a list of graduates' names and contact information for Celebrate Gifts.

Texas crop and weather report. The following specific livestock, crop and weather conditions were reported by Panhandle Extension directors: Soil moisture is short to adequate.

3rd Six Weeks Honor Rolls

Spearman ISD All A's 1st Grade through 6th Grade. Lists names of students such as Christina Cano, Colton Cator, Michael Fox, Griffin George, Brennan Greene, Payton Harrell, Ziana Hernandez, Jessica Holguin, Enrique Ortiz, Tre Rice, Moises Rosendo, Haley Pledger, Logan Sowder, Suzanna Vargas, Taylor Varnon, Jarek Wood, Trent White, Halee Miesner, daisy Lopez, Kevin Hopkins, Abigail Holguin, Sheridan Hagerman, Janak Bhakta, Eliana Arzate, Julio Morales, Lupita Flores, Lupe Briceño, Jaci Burgin, Leilani Carrasco, Kevin Castillo, Alexis Alvarez, Daniela Garcia, Serena Harbour, Dustyn Kelley, Hunter Kenney, Angela Mendoza, Trace Patterson, Cristal Pena, Shelby Passer, Pedro Vera.

Kendall Schneider, Elliott Sheets 10th Grade. Saylee Flowers, Cara Gwin, Trudy Hart, Emily Hood, Brian Johnson, Jordanna Lozano, Stuart Martin, Anthony Renteria, Kelcee Rex. Katie Baehler, Jessica Brown, Tonya Hart, Maribel Moreno, Adriana Pinon, Alejandro Rios, Tabatha Shields, Jordan Short, Lindsey Short, Alisha Sweat, Si Li Tang, Timberly Thomas, Abby Winegarner. Jeff Brock, Christen Ferguson, Eric Flores, Jessica Freeman, Wayne Gibson, Macy Harbour, Daniel Kern, Felicia Martinez, Dana McLaughlin, Gerardo Ruiz, Brodie Savage, Cayla Smith, Mark Thomas.

Gruver ISD Honor Roll. Pre-K (9 Weeks Honor Roll): Kaycee Anderson, Johana Borunda, Eimi De La Cerda, Ruby Gavro, Pablo Ortiz, Sammi Sparks, Carlos Tarango. Kindergarten (9 Weeks Honor Roll): Braxton Crane, Blaises Davis, Leslie Germany, Brittney Grimes, Macy Haight, Amber Johnson, Tania Ortiz, Jasmine Pueblo, Jessica Ramirez, Kylie Thomas, Tate Tyler, Paola Gonzalez, Ramiro Hernandez, Randi Jines, Sarah Olmos, Edwin Pena, Wyatt Pocer, Jazmin Ramirez, Lizi Tarango, Meny Terrazas, Abigail Trejo, Kennedy Vennemman. 1st Grade: Adam Casdorph, Ady Garcia, Karsten Irwin, Nicholas Key, Kennedy King, Hadlee Spivey, Aaron Felderhoff, Trenton Finley, Nick Riveria. 2nd Grade: Kisha Borunda, Serena Diaz, Vanessa Garcia, Dax Haight, Reagan Haynes, Bailey Rae Pocer, Oziel Rey, Bailey Stedje, Blake Verdell, Carson Williams, Rayel Anderson, Tania Bernal, Michael Davis, Israel Flores, Patty Garcia, Thailly Martinez, Mason McLain, Victoria Moreno, Jenny Smith, Megan Sparks. 3rd Grade: Beau Blankenship, Israel Mendoza, Dillon Payne, Rachel Teal, Zoe Cantrell, Cesar Mendoza, Coley Ruebush, Travis Stedje, Madi Teal. 4th Grade: Nikki Beasley Adlene Duran, Maggie Key, Korbin Irwin, Alex Logsdon, Damian Pierce, Dallas Reynolds, Flor Soto, Callie Stedje, Paula Terrazas, Ashley Williams.

Justin Thompson 11th Grade. Sheldon Atwood, Lindsey Clift, Laci Fitzgeard, Rachelle Holt, Tyler Lane, Matt Messer, Stephen Salazar, Reid Winger. Laina Grotegut, Brock Irwin, Brittanie Osbourne, Gabriela Rosies, Mark TeBeest, Ben Williams, Ryan Winger. All A's, 1B 5th Grade: Clarissa Anaya, Kaysha Bass, Betty Hernandez, Daniela Luciano, Mariana Mendoza. 6th Grade: Gabriela Barrera, Mariela Barrera, Justin Bass, Cambry Cooper, Zach Logsdon, Colton Moffett, Brenna Reid, Daniel Swink. 7th Grade: Caleb Miller. 8th Grade: Miles Messer, Matt Salazar. 10th Grade: Bonnie Frick, Victoria Vela. 11th Grade: Timber Barkley, Lanie Graves, Maria Ruiz. 12th Grade: Cody Mac Been, Sergio Cruz, Jessica Montgomery, Bailey Reid, Lucia Trejo, Lance Williams. Pringle-Morse CISD Principal's Honor Roll 1st Grade: Fabian Canales, Hunter Hopkins, RYANNE HOWELL, Lupita Melendez, Ella Speck. 3rd Grade: Gena Gillispie, Molly Lieb. 4th Grade: Reese Clark, Hannah Speck. 5th Grade: Katelyn Wilson. 6th Grade: Haden Hart, Jesus Lopez. 8th Grade: Mary Beth Hartis, Molly Zimmer.

Congratulations to these students on their academic achievements! Includes logos for The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman and JONES.

Hansford County Hospital District board welcomes Hartgraves back as director

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Hansford County Hospital District was held in the Hansford Hospital Board Room on Wednesday, December 15, 2004. Board members, administration and staff present: Ginger Pittman, President; S. Randall Sauer, Vice-President; Pat Irwin, Secretary-Treasurer; Val Winger, Board Director; Steve L. Hartgraves, CEO; B. Scott Beedy, CPA, CFO; Anne Snow, LNFA, Hansford Manor; Joann Schneider, R.N., Hospital DON; Lelia Bynum, R.N., Manor DON; Connie Gibson, R.N.; Cheryl Miller, R.N., Clinic Manager; Charla Hargis, R.N., Hospice; Carol Sell, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Vicki Urban, Board Director and Jason Duvall, Board Director. Guests present: Sharron Swan.

CALL TO ORDER

Ginger Pittman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. Val Winger offered the invocation.

The minutes of the special meetings of November 3 and November 11 and of the Regular Meeting of November 17 were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Temporary Clinic Coverage: Clinic Manager Cheryl Freeman, R.N., reported that the locum tenens physician the District had expected to arrive in January will not be here after all due to personal reasons. Ms. Freeman has been in contact with the contracted locum tenens company and reported they have two other physicians in mind. She indicated she would keep the Board informed. Ms. Freeman also informed the Board that fifty patients had been turned away during the month due to office hours being fully booked.

NEW BUSINESS

Joann Schneider, R.N., Hospital Director of Nursing Services, presented an application for approval and execution to obtain reimbursement for the uncompensated trauma care for the year. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

The appointment of Hansford Hospice Administrator, Alternate Administrator, Director of Nursing, Manager, and Alternate of Director of Nursing must be renewed annually, approved and executed by the Board of Directors. A copy of the document is attached to and made a part of the minutes. The Board of Directors has appointed Steve Hartgraves as the Administrator of Hansford Hospice, with Joann Schneider, R.N., as his alternate. Joann Schneider, R.N. has been appointed the Director of Nursing. Charla Hargis, R.N. has been named Manager and alternate to the Director of Nursing of Hansford Hospice. Steve Hartgraves, District CEO/Administrator and Joann Schneider, R.N., DON will act as Liaison between the governing board, the medical staff, and other hospice staff. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

Approval of Policies and Procedures: 1-808.20 Access to Open Records Information Requests, 1-883.01 Statement of Management Responsibility, 2-808.19 Access to and Release of Protected Health Information /Medical Records, 1-883.02 Orientation, Training and Education, 2-808.20 Valid Authorizations, 1-883.14 Billing and Insurance Claims, 1-880.09 Client Clinical Record Retention, 1-883.20 Rights of the Elderly, 1-880.10 Back Up Services, 1-883.28 Back Up Services, 1-880.11 Display of License, 1-883.37 Client Clinical Record Retention, 1-880.12 Rights of the Elderly, 2-883.01 Agency Organizational

Changes, 2-883.02 Staffing Qualifications and Conditions and 2-883.03 Display of License.

These policies, copies of which are attached to and made a part of these minutes, were made available to the Board prior to the meeting for review. After brief discussion of the policies, the motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

The Medical Staff Executive Committee reviewed the appointment application of Rahul Mehta, M.D., for initial appointment to Radiology Consulting Staff and recommended that the Board approve the appointment. After reviewing the document, the motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Rahul Mehta was passed with all voting in the affirmative.

CEO Report: Steve Hartgraves reported that there are ORCA grants outstanding and provided a summary of the grant currently being written for funds to be applied to the security audit and for a sound system which will provide music in the clinics to help reduce overbearing of medical conversations.

Mr. Hartgraves informed the Board he is in the process of revising the District's scholarship loan application policy. That policy will be coming to the Board in January.

He indicated that CT scans and some other ancillary department numbers are trending downward as the result of having fewer providers, but assured the Board that everyone is working hard to "pick up the slack." There is an unidentified "rumble" in the CT, and the department's manager is reviewing the warranty.

Hartgraves expressed his happiness at being back at HCHD.

Next, Anne Snow, Manor Administrator, provided an update on Hansford Manor. She reported the census at 62 Residents, with three inquires for possible admission. The Manor Administrator and Director of Nursing Services are working toward addressing complaints. A member of Manor Medical Records Staff will be on duty at the desk on Station I until 9:00 p.m. during the week, and from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on weekends. A new mentoring program of LVNs by RNs has just been started, whereby the RN mentors assess the needs, etc., of the LVNs. Management personnel, including RNs, are scheduled to spot check residents' rooms. The Manor Administrator and DON recognized how easy it is to get "stuck in the office" and plan to get out on the floor and walk around the facility. A customer service satisfaction survey is being developed, and an item on the QAAC meeting's agenda will be customer service. In closing, Anne Snow stated that she and Lelia Bynum must have an on-going commit-

ment for these plans to succeed.

The Board reviewed the financial reports, copies of which are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The report shows the gain/(loss) for all entities of (\$42,747.90) for the month and (\$62,469.11) year to date. The Cash and Investment Report for the period ending November 30, 2004, totaled \$3,787,230.57.

The Board of Directors went into Executive Session at 7:36 p.m. by a motion made by S. Randall Sauer. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:36 p.m. on a motion made by S. Randall Sauer. There was no action taken in Executive Session.

There were no actions or decisions to be made on matters deliberated during the Executive Session.

There was no other business discussed.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Hansford County Hospital District board approves privileges for Dr. Perez

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Hansford County Hospital District was held in the Hansford Hospital Board Room on Wednesday, January 26, 2005.

Board members, administration and staff present: Ginger Pittman, President; S. Randall Sauer, Vice-President; Val Winger, Board Director; Vicki Urban, Board Director; Jason Duvall, Board Director; Steve L. Hartgraves, CEO; B. Scott Beedy, CPA, CFO; Anne Snow, LNFA, Hansford Manor; Joann Schneider, R.N., Hospital DON; Jeanne Swan, LVN., Manor ADON; Cheryl Miller, R.N., Clinic Manager; and Carol Sell, Administrative Assistant. Pat Irwin, Secretary-Treasurer was absent.

CALL TO ORDER

Ginger Pittman, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. Val Winger offered the invocation.

A motion made by Vicki Urban and seconded by Val Winger approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 15. All voted in the affirmative, passing the motion.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Temporary Clinic Coverage: Cheryl Miller reported that Dr. Perez is working Monday through Wednesday and covering the Emergency Room. Ms. Miller indicated that the patients really like Dr. Perez and he likes the Hansford County area.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Audit for Hansford Appraisal District: Alice Peddy reported results of the

Appraisal District's audit and presented a refund check in the amount of \$1,780 to the Hospital District. Copies of the Hansford Appraisal District Budget History and the Notes to Financial Statements of Hansford Appraisal District are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The Board thanked Ms. Peddy for her report.

Approval of Revisions to Employee Handbook: The Board was provided a copy of the edited version of the Employee Handbook prior to the meeting. A copy of the handbook with the marked changes are attached to and made a part of these minutes. S. Randall Sauer made a motion to approve the revisions as presented. Jason Duvall seconded the motion, and it was passed with all voting in the affirmative.

Approval of Policies and Procedures: 1-719.05 Suspected Malfunction of Equipment; 1-719.08 Equipment Loans, Borrowed Equipment, and the Use of Personal Equipment; 1-808.01 Policy on Policies; 1-808.01a Policy Template; 4-808.02 Medical Staff Quality Peer Review Process; 1-809.21 Education and Travel Reimbursement; 1-809.23 Scholarship Program; 1-828.10 Prevention of Resident Abuse, Neglect, and Mistreatment; 1-828.19 Designation of Hansford Manor Resident's Responsible Party; 1-828.57 Hansford Manor Dietary Services; 1-880.19 Written Contingency Plan (Home Health); 1-883.29 Written Contingency Plan (Hospice); 1-883.45 Client Records (Hospice)

The above-listed policies, copies of which are attached to and made a part of these minutes, were made available to the Board prior to the meeting for review. After discussion of the policies, S. Randall Sauer made a motion to approve the policies as presented. Jason Duval seconded the motion, and it was passed with all voting in the affirmative.

Approval of Privileges for Michael Perez, D.O., as Recommended by Medical Staff at their January Meeting: The Medical Staff Executive Committee reviewed the appointment application of Michael Perez, D.O., for initial appointment as Emergency Physician and recommended that the Board approve the appointment effective January 3,

2005. After reviewing the document, Val Winger made a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Michael Perez as recommended by Medical Staff. Vicki Urban seconded the motion, and it was passed with all voting in the affirmative.

Consideration of 2002-2005 Strategic Plan: The Board was furnished a copy of the Strategic Plan, 2002-2005, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mr. Hartgraves indicated that most of the plans set out have been completed, and because we are nearing the end of this plan, it is time for Board Members and Administration to consider how the District will approach the next Strategic Plan. He reminded the Board that \$750 per board member is available each year for such events and training.

CEO Report: Steve Hartgraves provided the Board with a purpose for each policy presented for approval.

Mr. Hartgraves reported he has applied for a grant from ORCA to purchase this equipment for the District's Laboratory.

Dr. and Mrs. Hierholzer are expected to arrive during the first two months of summer 2005. He will practice from Clinic II, which is being renovated. Dr. Michael Perez, interim physician serving between Dr. Sharma's departure and Dr. Hierholzer's arrival, has expressed an interest in "staying on board" even after his contract is up in June.

Most of the points covered in the 2002-2005 Strategic Plan plan have been completed, and it's time to prepare for the next three-year plan.

The 2005 Employee Handbook as been revised to include updates of Human Resources policies and other pertinent information.

ORCA SHIP Grant - HIPAA Privacy: Feasibility is currently underway to determine the affordability of installing intercom-capable sound systems into each of the District's three clinics. These sound systems will provide for reduced likelihood of overhearing conversations in adjacent patient treatment rooms by filling the spaces with soft music.

The District's CT Scanner is currently experiencing a minor problem with its tube. The company used to purchase the scanner has been contacted about a replacement tube, but nothing has been decided to date. The machine has been in use approximately six months.

The Board reviewed the financial reports, copies of which are attached to and made a part of these minutes. The report shows the gain/(loss) for all entities of \$118.52 for the month and (\$64,027.47) year to date. The Cash and Investment Report for the period ending December 31, 2004, totaled \$3,734,167.41.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Wolf Creek Heritage Museum Notes

by Virginia Scott

Museum Happenings

Well, as promised the Darrouzett Elementary students invaded the museum. They came in two groups, the morning was the pre-K through 2 and the afternoon was grades 3-6. It is always amazing how the kids view the art and the museum exhibits. Their observations are entertaining, insightful, and surprising. Thanks for coming and entertaining us. Start planning the art for next year.

A special note to the High School students in English IV at Higgins. Your castle project was such a hit with the students. We had a great time talking about old England and how life then and now is different and at the same time the same. Of course, you can't talk about castles without King Arthur and the Lord of the Rings coming into the conversation. The kids had a great time with the draw bridge.

The students also enjoyed the masks created by the Follett 6th grade. Trying on the mask and talking about how they were used was always different with each group and all were correct in their perspectives. The art exhibit was a great success. The exhibit will start coming down this week so if you didn't get to see it, you'll have to wait till next year.

Lipscomb County History

In the July 16, 1964 column of the Prairie Dog, Mr. Geal describes the main street of Higgins, in respect of the main method of transportation when he was a child. Horses. He writes "Another thing or two that may have been forgotten by many people and has never been seen by the younger generations is the public watering troughs for the cowboys and farmers to water their horses."

"There were several of these water troughs in Higgins fifty years ago (1914). One was across the

street, south of the city hall, and one, south of the railroad tracks near Bybee's Welding shop.

"There were hitching racks and posts and several trees on main street for people to tie their saddle horses and teams to while trading in Higgins. Some of the rings that

were used to tie horses to still remain in the sidewalk in front of Week's Laundry."

Higgins, is this sidewalk still on main and are the rings there? Go on a history hunt and let us know.

Museum Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 2 to 4 p.m. Special hours upon request.
Museum Information: Hwy 305, Lipscomb; telephone: 806-852-2123; fax: 806-852-217; email: wolferk@amaonline.com; website: www.wolfcreekheritagemuseum.com

This Week in History

In the April 29, 1887 issue of the Panhandle Interstate the following news was reported for the week:

Wednesday afternoon Mr. Patton, living on the head of Long creek, had his hand blown to pieces while trying to remove a primer from a Winchester cartridge. Dr. Hoover, of Lipscomb, performed the surgical operation.

Charley Snook, from the head of Kiowa, is assisting Mr. Fennell in building his store house. Charley is one of the first boys that came into the country last spring, and he has been hanging and rattling. We like men who have got the pluck to go into a country and stay with it.

W.G. Bailey, of Mammoth creek, accompanied by his wife and Mrs. Thomas Hayne, came over to Lipscomb one day last week to get their mail and do some trading. Mr. Bailey reports the farmers very busy plowing and planting, and this week will find lots of seed in the ground.

We would like to caution our people against sinking vaults under the ground. Any impure matter that goes into the ground is sure to affect the water on account of its nearness to the surface. Boxes can be used as receptacles for waste matter, and drawn off where they can do no harm.

A shooting affray at Canadian City Sunday resulted in John Preston killing Red Holly, while a bullet from Holly's revolver wounded Preston in the head, but not fatally. Holly was shot through the head. Preston is under arrest at Mobeetie. Both men were saloon keepers, and it is said the difficulty grew out of a game of cards.

The first wedding in the county occurred April 21st between W.J. Walden and Lydie Seese. They were married by Squire Brown. I will share the news story in next week's column.

1800- The Library of Congress is established, and its collection begins when Thomas Jefferson donates his private library.

1507- The New World is given the name America by the Dutch geographer Martin Waldseemuller, who is under the impression that Amerigo Vespucci had discovered the continent.

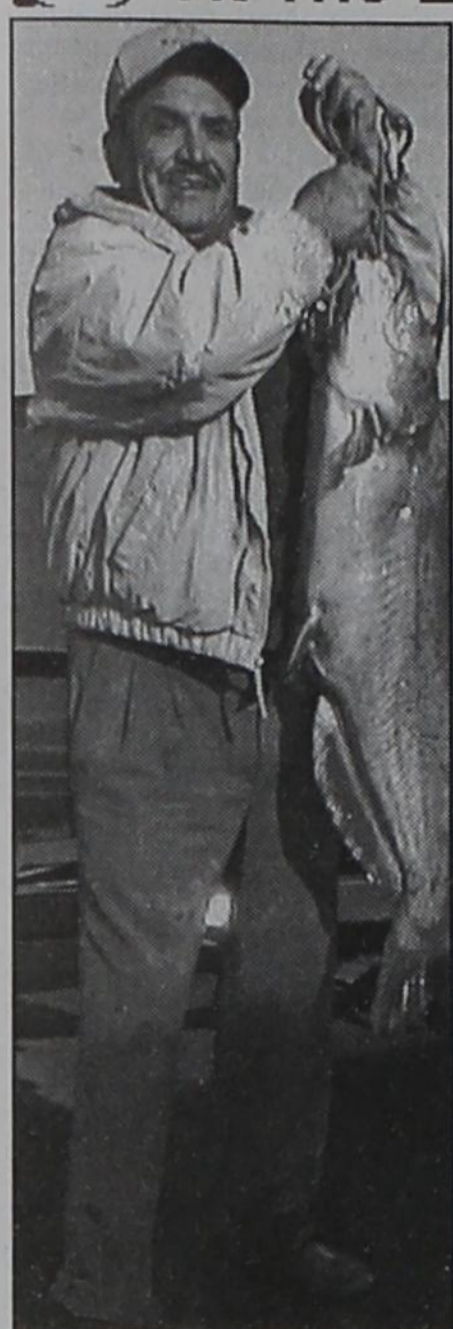
1942- A nightly "dim-out" begins along the East Coast now that the United States is officially at war.

1939 - The National Broadcasting Company begins regular television programming. The new medium seems unlikely to overtake radio, however, according to Harvard engineer Chester L. Dawes: "Television viewing is limited to a few persons, it must take place in a semi-darkened room, and it demands continuous attention."

provided by Virginia Scott

Out At The Lake

by Dorothy Hudson



This is a new Lake Record! Manuel Jimenez, of Turpin, OK, caught this 28.78-pound Blue Catfish at Lake Palo Duro, on April 23.

Lake Level--April 21, 2005--31.20 feet

Various people have been commenting on the arrival of non-native white-winged doves in the area. Rhonda Ward of Gruver sent me pictures of one taken in the Ward backyard. Given the dove's lovely soft coloring I couldn't show it off to good effect in the

paper but do appreciate Rhonda and J.W.'s sharing their pictures.

Just after the pictures came, I was reading the "At Issue" column in the April, 2005 Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine on the good and bad points of the introduced "exotics" compared to native species in Texas. The author -- Executive Director Robert L. Cook -- made the point that we do not want walking catfish, green tree snakes or zebra mussels in Texas, but that we love our Florida bass, blackbuck antelope (from India) and ring-necked pheasant (from Asia).

He also noted that some of the exotics introduced themselves to Texas: "the armadillo, which arrived in Texas about 150 years ago, the cattle egret, which probably blew in from Africa in the 1920s, and over the last couple of decades, the white-winged dove, which has spread into Central and North Texas from Mexico and Central America." And now with Rhonda's picture we know that the white-winged dove is also in the Texas Panhandle!

Occasionally Jim tells me a second-hand story of some odd thing that a bank fisherman observed while fishing at the Lake. But last week I had a first-hand report by Rex Reid of Gruver of an incident he saw while waiting for a fish to bite. He had noticed a doe with a small fawn at a distance, and he noted that she seemed uneasy and kept glancing at a patch of weeds. Suddenly she charged the weeds and flushed a surprised bobcat. It was effective as the feline didn't try to slip back.

Several have commented on the vivid yellow carpets of bladder-pod, also known as popweed, that cover so much of the range land this spring. This low growing weed of the mustard family has a sweet scent at this stage. When the seed pods mature and dry, walking in them brings forth many little pops as they explode.

Hansford County Treasurer attends meeting in Austin

Hansford County Treasurer, Wanda Wagner, joined over 250 treasurers for the 33rd Annual County Treasurers' Continuing Education Seminar at the Renaissance Austin Hotel and the J.J. Pickle Research Campus on April 4-8, 2005.

The annual continuing education seminar in Austin is sponsored by the V. G. Young Institute of County Government, which is part of Texas Cooperative Extension. The Institute provides elected county officials with information and technical assistance and helps officials complete their state-mandated continuing education requirements.

Included in the program were workshops on assisting in county budget preparation, jury cash pay options and handling employee disciplinary issues.

"There is much concern about getting the most out of the taxpayer's dollar," said Wagner. "As a county official, it is important to be

aware of new issues and what they can and will mean to our constituents."

"Texas is one of a small number of states that requires all elected county officials to earn continuing education credits," explained Richard O. Avery, Director of the Institute. "The Institute provides education to county commissioners, judges, treasurers, tax assessors-collectors and county and district clerks through programs across the State."

Those attending the April conference received continuing education credit from the Office of Continuing Distance Education at Texas A&M University.

Editors Note...

Freedom of speech is one of the guarantees of the First Amendment of our Constitution, so we encourage readers to express themselves, even if we don't agree with what is said. However, freedom involves responsibility. Therefore, the only letters we will consider publishing are from individuals who are willing for their names to appear with the letter. Letters must contain the telephone number, address and a personal signature of the writer. We will not knowingly publish any letter containing libelous statements.

In the event that numerous letters are received concerning the same subject, letters can be limited to one pro and one con letter per publication. Eligible letters will be published in the order in which they were received.

"Letters To The Editor," like all materials submitted to this newspaper, are subject to editing for space and clarity. The publication of any letter or article is the decision of the Editor and Publisher. Deadline for all news, as well as "Letters To The Editor," is 5 p.m. on Monday.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

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Flowers nominated for 'Student Employee of the Year' at WTAMU



Ashlee Flowers

Ashlee Flowers was among eighteen hard-working students at West Texas A&M University that were nominated for Student Employee of the Year. Rebecca White, a senior general business major from Dalhart, was named Student Employee of the Year.

WTAMU's Student Employee of the Year will move on to regional and, possibly, national Student of the Year competition. Nominees were considered according to the following criteria: reliability, quality of work, initiative and professionalism.

"Another thing we look at is the uniqueness of their contributions to the departments they work in," Yvonne Wieck, coordinator for the Office of Student Employment Services, said. "They also have to be employed in the same department for at least three months full time or six months part time."

Each WTAMU nominee received a certificate of appreciation for their hard work along with a Student Employee of the Year nominee pin. The winner also receives a plaque and a \$50 gift certificate from the University Bookstore.

All the nominees were recognized, and the winning student will be announced at a reception at 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 15 in the Jack B. Kelley Student Center Quiet Lounge. WTAMU President Russell C. Long made the presentation.

Ashlee is a sophomore pre-pharmacy major, who works at Life Services and Student Disability Services. She is the daughter of Gary and Karla Flowers of Spearman.

SIFE Team to Represent WTAMU at National Competition

For the 11th consecutive year, West Texas A&M University's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has advanced to national competition by winning a regional title.

The WTAMU team from the College of Business topped the field April 15 at the SIFE Regional Championship in Memphis, Tenn., advancing to the SIFE USA National Exposition May 22-24 in Kansas City, Mo.

The national champion will join SIFE teams from 40 countries to compete at SIFE's World Cup 2005 in Toronto, Canada.

SIFE provides the opportunity for students to develop leadership, teamwork and communication skills through learning, practicing and teaching entrepreneurship, the free market economy, business ethics, business skills and personal financial management.

While at the event in Memphis, Tenn., the team from WTAMU captured a National Personal Financial Success Skills Award in league competition. The event encourages teams to develop educational outreach projects to educate others about personal financial management.

Jean Walker, instructor of finance and director of the West Texas Center for Economic Education, has served as WTAMU's coach and faculty adviser for SIFE since 1994.

Misael Rosales, a junior computer science major from Gruver, was among the members of the SIFE team to compete in Memphis.

WTAMU Presents Top Student Awards at University Honors Banquet

West Texas A&M University's top student accolades were presented during the University Honors Banquet Friday, April 22 at the Alumni Banquet Facility on campus.

Two prominent campus organizations and one individual were honored by inclusion in the prestigious Presidential Order of the Silver Buffalo, and Jermaine Cantu and Annessa Stagner were named Man and Woman of the Year.

Five men and seven women were nominated for Man and Women of the Year. Among the nominees for Man of the Year was David N. Holt of Spearman, a senior education major.



Ten seventh and eighth grade students from Spearman Junior High traveled to Washington, DC during spring break. Enjoying their trip were Travis Boyd, Zack Hughes, Tyler Harper, Skyler Sumner, Chance Pack, Dylan Sumner, Josue Hernandez, Vicki Renteria, Lance Fishburn.

Spearman junior high students enjoy trip to Washington, DC

Ten seventh and eighth grade students from Spearman Junior High traveled to Washington DC on March 5-8, during their spring break. This trip is offered to all 7th and 8th grade students every other year to ensure that all students have the opportunity to go.

While visiting the Washington DC area, students were able to tour most of the memorials - Lincoln, Vietnam, Korean, World War II, FDR, Washington, Iwo Jima, and World War I. The students were also able to take an extensive tour of the Capital thanks to Josh Winegarner, who works for Senator John Cornyn. These students were also able to visit Yorktown and Colonial Williamsburg.

In addition to having a wonderful time and seeing many sites the students had just read about, they did an excellent job of representing their school and community.

"Everywhere we went I had people telling me how wonderful our students were," said Bill Wiggins, Spearman Junior High Principal. "I truly enjoyed my time with these students from Spearman Junior High."

USDA Rural Development announces energy grants

The \$22.8 million announced today will be made available in two stages. One-half, \$11.4 million, is available immediately for competitive grants. Renewable energy grant applications must be for a minimum of \$2,500 and a maximum of \$500,000. Energy efficiency grant applications may range from \$2,500 to \$250,000. The grant request may not exceed 25% of the eligible project cost. Applications must be completed and submitted no later than June 27, 2005. More information about the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Improvements Program can be found in the Federal Register, Part II, March 28, 2005, Notice.

The remaining \$11.4 million will be set aside through August 31, 2005, for renewable energy and energy efficiency guaranteed loans. Final details on how to apply for these funds will be published in the Federal Register later this year. Any funds not obligated under the guaranteed loan program by August 31, 2005, will be reallocated to the competitive grant program as of that date. For more information on the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Grant Program, please contact J. Pat Liles, Business and Cooperative Programs Director, (254) 742-9780, or visit the website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, USDA Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.

Decision allows farmers, ranchers to apply for assistance

The U.S. Department of Agriculture designated counties in Texas primary agricultural disaster areas.

Hutchinson and Moore Counties were designated as primary disaster areas due to losses caused by excessive rain and excessive snow that occurred from Oct. 1, 2004, and continuing.

Also eligible are the following counties: Carson, Hartley, Potter, Dallam, Ochiltree, Roberts, Hansford, Oldham and Sherman.

Seniors have registered with us

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Cristalina Alvarado | Loreno Lopez |
| Joclin Baca | Maria Martin |
| Kaley Barnes | Felicia Martinez |
| Jessica Blan | Lizni McCubbin |
| Jeffrey Brock | Kylie McGaha |
| Tracy Brown | Dana McLaughlin |
| Rossilyn Bulls | Adriana Mendoza-Pinon |
| Orie Cooksey | Jessica Moreno |
| Maira Davila | Brandon Nava Sauz |
| Salvador Davila | Marcos Nayarrete |
| Erik Diaz | Justin Parker |
| Crocket Elwood | Miranda Pual |
| Christen Ferguson | Kathleen Reed |
| Deremy Fleetwood | Gerardo Ruiz |
| Eric Flores | Christopher Russell |
| Homar Flores | Nicole Sander |
| Jessica Freeman | Brodie Savage |
| Wayne Gibson | Chase Schubert |
| Caleb Gillaspie | Cayla Smith |
| Martin Grajeda | Ashley Swan |
| Macy Harbour | Mark Thomas |
| Ashley Hernandez | Michael Torres |
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