

Happy New Year!

1998

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1998

213 MAIN • SPEARMAN, TEXAS, 79081

VOLUME 91, ISSUE 1

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Thank you! Catherine Smith

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman
213 Main St. • Spearman, TX 79081

Annual Subscription Rates
In Hansford County, \$20.00 • Out of County, \$25.00

Hansford Happenings

FPC Courses Offered In Spearman

The following courses will be offered in Spearman by Frank Phillips College in January. Psychology - Drug & Alcohol Dependent (3 hr. credit) - \$110; Business Management - Management Training (3 hr. credit) - \$110; Infant Massage Workshop (2 hr. workshop - soothes infants and parents) - \$25; Painted Floor Cloths (rugs) - Thursday evening classes - \$33; Volunteer Management - Thursday evening - \$23; First Things First - Time Management Class (Tuesday evenings - 6 weeks) - \$40. To register, or for general information, please call Cindy Blackman at 659-3233.

Weatherization Assistance Program

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs provides services to make homes warmer in the winter and cooler in the summer through the Weatherization Assistance Program of Panhandle Community Services. Other grants are leveraged with these funds and could assist in repairs such as: Caulking, Weather-stripping, Insulation, Repairing/replacing door/windows, Plumbing, roofing, etc. These weatherization services are for low-income families. Each eligible applicants house is assessed on a prioritized basis for allowable repairs. Call Panhandle Community Services' office at 435-2478 to see if you qualify.

Immunization Notice

The Texas Department of Health is no longer providing immunization clinics in Hansford County. Instead, all children living in Hansford County may be immunized by Dr. Raul Tamayo by calling 659-5234 or 733-2954 to make an appointment. Bring the child's immunization card, insurance or Medicaid information, and information about the child such as allergies, previous medical conditions, and Social Security number, if available. A parent or guardian must accompany the child to give permission.

Vacunas

El Departamento de Salud ya no esta dando las vacunas en este condado. Todo niño que vive en el condado de Hansford puede tomar sus vacunas con el Dr. Raul Tamayo. Favor de llamar al 659-5234 o al 733-2954 para una cita. Traiga la tarjeta de las vacunas. Información de aseguransa o Medicaid, y información del niño, como alergias, condiciones medicas, y el numero de seguro social si lo tiene. Los padres o un guardían deben acompañar al niño para dar permiso.

Ag Group To Meet

Pro-Ag, the Plains Residents' Organization for Agricultural Growth, will be meeting Tuesday, January 6, 1998, at the Beaver County Fair Building. There is no charge for dinner which begins at 6:00 p.m. The business meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Pro-Ag, comprised of citizens from Oklahoma, Kansas and Texas, promotes all aspects of the agriculture industry. For more information about the upcoming meeting, or to inquire about becoming a member, please contact Sam Fouquet at 1-800-520-0084.

EMT Basic Class Offered

The Spearman Ambulance Service is holding an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Basic Class from January 12th through April 15th. Pre-enrollment will be on Monday, January 5, 1998. For more information, or to sign up, call Paul Moore at 659-5298 or Michele Davis at 659-3411.

Tobacco Products Not Allowed On School Grounds

Both federal and state laws govern the use of tobacco products on school grounds. Students may neither use nor possess tobacco products on school property or at school sponsored events. Parents and other adults are also prohibited from using tobacco products on school grounds or at school sponsored events. Please cooperate with school officials as they endeavor to enforce these regulations.

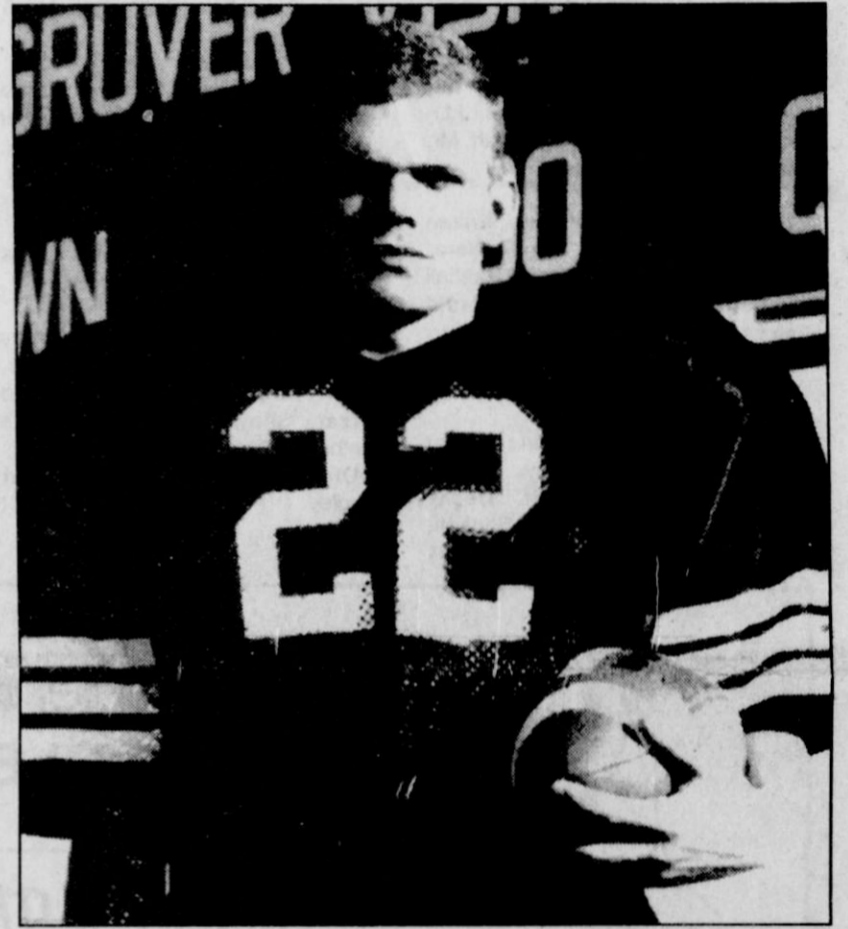
Spearman ISD Offers Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome Diagnosis

If you or a family member of any age experience difficulty in reading, it may be because of Scotopic Sensitivity Syndrome. There is a simple, painless test that can be given to diagnose this problem. Students of Spearman ISD will be tested free of charge; all others will be charged \$10. For more information, call Beckee Baker at Spearman Jr. High (659-2563) and leave a message, or call 659-3402 after 4:30.

HC Football Players Honored



Michael Lusby



Brant Armes

by Harletta Carthel

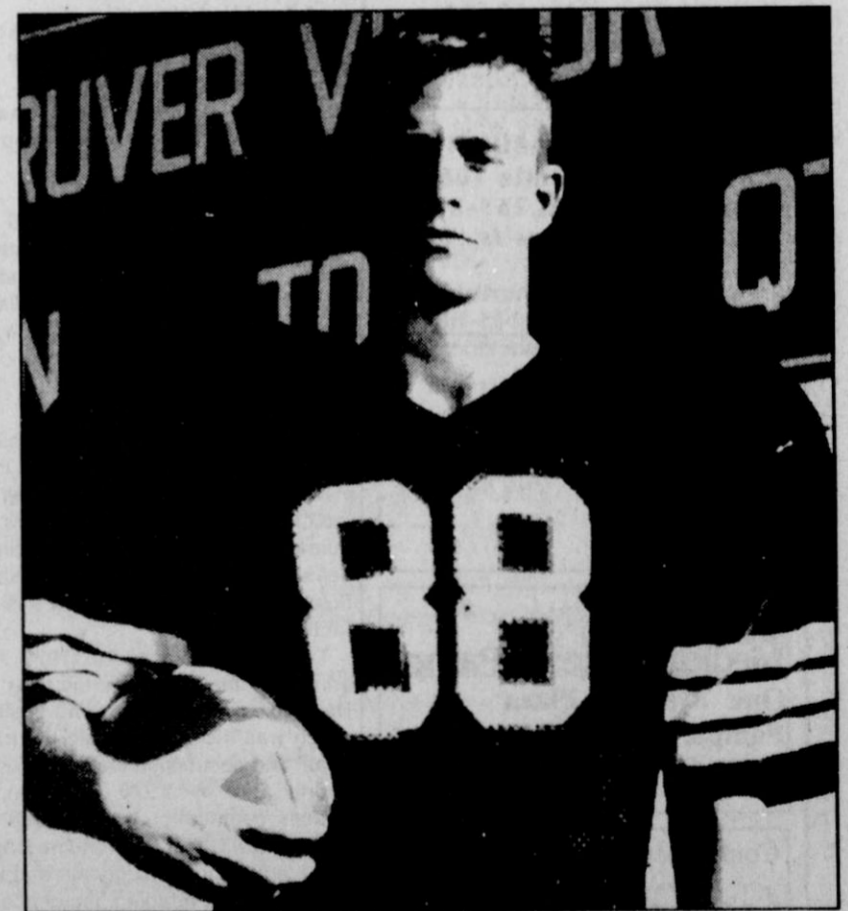
Spearman High School's Michael Lusby and Gruver High School's Brant Armes and Buster McLain received honorable-mention recognition on the 1997 Texas All-State Football Team. Lusby was named for honorable recognitions as a running back on the 2-A roster while Armes and McLain, were cited for the award as defensive backs on the 2-A team.

During the 1997 season, Lusby carried the ball 289 yards for a total of 2,004 yards, or 6.9 yards per carry. He is credited with 27 touchdowns. The running back also had 15 punt returns for 215 yards and 13 kick-off returns for 602 yards.

Armes had 25 unassisted tackles and 53 assisted tackles. He also had six interceptions, two of which he ran back for touchdowns.

McLain had 30 unassisted tackles and 58 assisted tackles with one interception.

Lusby is a junior at Spearman High School and was a first team all-district selection on defense and offense as well as an academic all-district pick. In addition, Lusby was named to the 1997 Globe News Super Team as return specialist. Both Armes and McLain, who are seniors at Gruver High School, were named to the all-district first team in offense and defense.



Buster McLain

"Lights Of Love"

The Hansford Hospice Staff and volunteers would like to express appreciation to everyone who has contributed to the "Lights Of Love."

Donations from the community helped to provide a special kind of care to the 24 patients and families that received hospice care in 1997. Donations helped to provide care baskets, meals, literature and special equipment not covered by traditional hospice care.

Memorials: Rebeca Westerfield - Bill Cator; John & LoRee Booth - C.P. Weeks and Ernest Newcomb; O.K. Pendergraft - Ernest Newcomb; Oscar & Frankie Donnell - Pat Donnell and Eugene Duryee; Irwin

& Betty Davis - Margie Kelly, Ernest Newcomb and Sharon Dosssett; Don & Lorene Kunselman - Sharon Dosssett and Ernest Newcomb; Mabel Jameson - Ernest Newcomb; Sammy, Don & Edrie Jones - Allene Close and Wynne Fayne; Orville & Colene Brummett - Ed Haner; B. Jack Glover - Don Cooke, Pat Becker, and Leland McJunkin; Chris & Kristen Snedeker, Mary Beth McClellan, and Dr. Mary M. Burnett - Julie Adams Viola George - Julie Adams; Marguerite & Charlie Millican - Julie Adams

Donations: Irwin & Susan Delk; Hansford Co. Veterinary Hospital, Inc.; Tom & Linda Latta; Mr. & Mrs. Carl Archer

NEW YEAR Greetings
from the staff of
The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman
Gary & Cathy • Karen • Harletta

We will be closed Wednesday, December 31st through Friday, January 2nd. We will resume regular business hours on Monday, January 5, 1998.

Hutchison/Upchurch Wed



Melisa Hutchison

Alan Hutchison and Melisa Upchurch were united in marriage in a double ring ceremony on December 20, 1997, at Indiana Avenue Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas, with the Rev. Jim Gerlt officiating.

Parents of the bride are Dan and Susan Upchurch of Lubbock. Parents of the bridegroom are John and Jo Linda Hutchison of Spearman.

The bride, who was given marriage by her father, wore a white satin A-line dress with an empire waist. The bodice was covered with lace brocade and seed pearls. The front was a scooped neck with a V back leading into a bow that repeated the detail work of the bodice. The crown of the veil again repeated the detail of the bodice. Attached was a blusher with scalloped edges. Melisa carried a cascade bouquet of Stargazer Lilies and roses and wore an antique watch belonging to her Great-Grandmother. The groom wore a tuxedo with a gray coat and a boutonniere of white roses.

Amanda Upchurch of Lubbock Texas, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Brides maids were Andrea Rushing and Christen Holwerda, both friends of the bride. They wore Navy floor length dresses and carried

floral bouquets accented with baby's breath. Best man was Jeff Hutchison, brother of the groom, of Fort Worth. Groomsmen were Cory Butler of Stephenville and Chester Hutchison of Miami, Texas. Ushers were Kyle Gilbert and Michael Dalby, both of Lubbock, Texas.

The Lighting of the Unity Candle was by the grandmother of the bride, Mrs. Paul Sullivan, the grandmother of the groom, Mrs. Robert Danner, the mothers of the Bride and the Groom, and the Bride and Groom. The mother of the bride wore a navy suit, while the groom's mother wore a cranberry suit. Both wore corsages of Stargazer Lilies.

Aimee Sanchez and Julie Moran greeted guests at the guest book. Organ music was provided by Ann Apple. Trumpet music was provided by Andy Johnson. A Christmas Medley was played as guests were seated. A duet composed of Angela Due and Cory Butler sang *The Other Side of Me*.

A reception was held in the church fellowship hall. The bride's cake was a six tier white cake topped with red roses. The groom's cake was decorated with a red Texas Tech Double T design. Members of the house party were Julie Moran, Michelle Upchurch, Carena Bishop, Suzy Caddell, Jennifer Hutchison, and Kristen Shamburger. The couple left the church in a white horse drawn carriage.

After a honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Lubbock, Texas. Alan and Melisa are both Juniors at Texas Tech University. The bride is employed in the Mortgage Loan Department of Plains National Bank and the groom is employed by Cotey Chemical Corp. in Lubbock. The rehearsal dinner was hosted by the parents of the groom at the Lubbock Plaza.



by Harletta Carthel

It was a dream come true for those who were dreaming of a white Christmas. Snow began to fall in the Gruver area on Monday night, December 22 and continued throughout the day on Tuesday, December 23. By Tuesday evening, the City of Gruver reported a total of 18 inches of fluffy whiteness. Although it was a Christmas card picture of loveliness, the snow also brought extra work for area stockmen in providing feed and water for their livestock and road crews in their efforts to keep the highways passable. Treacherous road conditions for travelers, and cancellations of several holiday events also resulted from the storm.

In a report from Sue Hartranft at the Gruver Highway Department, crews worked their last eight-hour day on December 21. From that time crews have worked up to 18 hours (their longest day) since that time. On Christmas Day, workers were given two hours for Christmas Dinner before reporting back to duty. Even though the snow ended on Christmas Eve, the crews' work was greatly increased when strong winds began late Saturday night and continued through the day on Sunday caused massive drifting and blizzard conditions. Both a motorgrader and a snowplow equipped truck were stuck in snowdrifts on Sunday.

My family can testify to the hazardous driving conditions when one of the two vehicles we were taking on our Christmas Eve travels skidded into a snowbank near Pringle. Stopping to help us were Frank and James Sursa who were enroute to Amarillo where James was to fly to New York for Christmas and former state representative Chip Staniswallis who was making a Christmas trek to Gruver.

When was the last white Christmas in Hansford County? In inquiries Monday, most area residents could not remember the last time we were blanketed with snow on Christmas Day. The Christmas of 1972 was one of inclement weather, but I cannot recall any snow. If you can remember the last white Christmas, let us know about it.

Former Residents Attend Wedding

A sizable gathering of Gruver residents were present at the wedding of Wendy Blake and Max Frick Saturday morning in

Canyon. The wedding was also attended by several former Gruver residents. Among those present were Julie and Tommy Cathey, Dala (Shapley) Cathey and daughter Alexandria, Jared Hoel, and Bob and Karen Setliff.

Christmas Decorating Winners

Three homes in Gruver were selected as winners in the Christmas Lighting Contest. Chosen were the homes of Leon Bagwell, Fred Davidson, and David Miser. Thanks to all of you who helped to make the season bright for others with festive decorations.

The home of Joe Marr Wilson, grandson of Skeet Ellison, was one of the winners of the Amarillo area Christmas decorating contest.

Neither rain, nor snow...

The Christmas issue of the Hansford Reporter/Statesman nearly fell victim to wintry weather last Tuesday, December 23. As the Reporter/Statesman was being taken to press at Perryton by the Gary Smith family, their sport utility vehicle skidded on the icy road, crossed the median, made a 90 degree turn, and came to rest with the passenger side up. Thankfully, Gary, Cathy, and nine-year-old Clayton were all wearing their seat belts and were uninjured. True to her mission, Cathy caught a ride to Perryton to have the paper printed with Kelly Thompson who was returning to her hometown. Needless to say a great deal of dedication went into the printing of the Christmas issue of the Reporter/Statesman.

Top Gruver Stories of 1997

(in no particular order)

Lady Hounds and Hounds both win Bi-District basketball titles.

Diane Brown is chosen to succeed retiring Bob Burgoon as Gruver Elementary Principal.

Tim Garland is selected to succeed retiring high school principal Lloyd Looper.

Gruver FFA's Scott Stedje becomes the second Gruver student in the past two years to serve as a state officer.

The proposal to add baseball as a sport at Gruver High School is defeated by the vote of 5-2.

Gruver High School student Cody Cazares works as a aide in the office of United States Representative Bill Redmond of New Mexico and is chosen to

receive a national scholarship.

GHS Hounds win regional football title.

GHS Hound Sound Band wins sixth in state competition.

World War II veteran Delbert Williams receives bronze star.

Glenn Hallum succeeds Tim Garland as head boys' basketball coach.

The doubles team of Josh Mayhew and Matt Watlington competes in state tennis tournament.

Ryan Abernathy wins first place in his weight division in state competition.

Two Gruver youths, Jared Johnson and Kathy Slough, are part of Hansford County Livestock Judging Team which places first in state and seventh at nationals.

Slough and Johnson place ninth and eleventh, respectively, in International Judging Contest in

Canada.

USA Feedyards II/C purchases Caprock I Feedyard.

Spearman landfill closing forces City of Gruver to use facilities in Borger.

Gruver receives new ambulance. Mary Dawn Henson named Miss Hansford County.

Gruver receives in excess of \$60,000 in grants, mainly for EMS use.

Homemaker Gyene Spivey honored by Lion's Club for her work in securing grants for the city.

Gruver youth, Jack Karlin, is injured in accident at his home. Mark Irwin is appointed to fill term of Mayor Archie Nelson.

Brant Armes and Buster McLain earn honorable-mention on 1-A all state team.

Gruver is blanketed in 18 inches of snow in pre-Christmas storm.

TAEX Offers Computer Course

submitted by Burt Williams

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service is offering a one day training on enterprise budgeting with the computer software package BUDPRO in Spearman Friday, January 9th. This windows based program is very user friendly and includes programs utilized in projecting budgets for corn, wheat, sorghum, cotton and stocker cattle enterprises.

In addition, to generating enterprise budgets, the package calculates break even prices. BUDPRO provides a simple way for analyzing the impact of various prices and quantities produced.

No prior computer experience is necessary to attend the course. Extensions mobile computer lab allows all participants to receive

hands on experience in using the program.

The registration fee is \$50 per participant. Each registered participant will receive the BUDPRO software package (a \$100 value). Couples are encouraged to attend and will be charged only one registration fee if they share a computer. The course will start at 9:00 a.m. and conclude by 3:30 p.m.

Space in the course is limited and preregistration is required by January 7th. For more information or to register contact the Hansford County Extension office at 806-659-4132 or Steve Amosson at 806-359-5401. This program is sponsored by the Hansford County Extension Pro-gram Development Committees and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.



Pictured above are the Junior Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. They are (Back Row, L-R) Daniel Longoria, Rodney Howell, Sarah George - Treasurer, Charles Davis, Edward Vasquez - President, Claire Shieldknight - Secretary; (Front Row, L-R) Wesly Patterson, Samantha Cazares, Chambray Cox, and Wade Evans. Not pictured are Colton Miller - Vice-President and Jocelyn Whitefield - Parliamentarian.

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ADVANCED NOTICE

Reagan & Brown Auctioneers, Inc. will be holding their 14th Annual Spring Farm Equipment Auction on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, February 24th, 25th & 26th at Miller Airport, Dalhart, Texas.

Anyone wanting to consign items, farm and ranch equipment, tractors, trucks, trailers, vehicles, irrigation equipment, tools & shop items, must contact Reagan & Brown no later than January 22nd.

Call (806) 249-6776 or come by the office with your consignments or mail to: Reagan & Brown Auctioneers, P.O. Box 648, Dalhart, TX 79022.

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Irrigation Conference Slated

by Pam Dillerd, Texas Agricultural Extension Service

New state regulations require all water users to develop plans for both application and conservation. On January 7 at the High Plains Irrigation Conference, C.E. Williams, manager of the Panhandle Groundwater District from White Deer will address many of the key issues that affect area growers regarding rules compliance, conservation strategies, and future need versus supply in accordance with Senate Bill 1.

"We're offering new ideas and tested technologies to help growers make informed decisions about water use and irrigation scheduling," said Leon New, agricultural engineer with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and conference organizer.

The event will be held at the Amarillo Civic Center and also features an industry trade show. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the program's first hour to include show tours, and free coffee and donuts. The \$7.00 registration fee includes a catered lunch.

The opening session will begin by 9:30 a.m. Two and one-half continuing education units (CEUs) will be offered to private, commercial and non-commercial chemical applicators completing the day's program. The event has been conducted annually for more than two decades by the Extension Service.

Timely topics featuring well and pump performance will be addressed. A presentation using micro-videography will offer growers a bird's eye view of what's good or bad inside a well.

"This demonstration will show how this technology is helping to pin-point problems never before seen, making solutions easier to define," said New.

Other topics will include precision production and using yield monitors and site mapping. Growers already using the new site specific farming technology

will be part of a mid-morning discussion where "real world" issues will be addressed. Panelists include Clay Cogburn, Cogburn Brothers of Happy, Tom and Ellis Moore of Sunray, and Karl Johnson of Morse.

Two extension agronomists, Travis Miller from College Station, and Brent Bean of Amarillo, will discuss irrigated soybean production in the region, and the suitability of Roundup Ready crops for weed control, respectively.

Carl Patrick, extension entomologist of Amarillo will provide an update on the latest insect control techniques. Patrick will present comparisons derived from three years of field tests for 23 corn hybrids, showing that all Bt corn doesn't perform the same. He'll also update growers on issues related to Gaucho seed treated sorghums.

Moderators for the day-long program segments include county extension agents, Jim Allison of Amarillo, Robert Harris from Dumas, Dennis Newton of Hereford, and Seth Ralston from Hartley.

For more information, contact Leon New, Extension agricultural engineer and irrigation specialist, or Regina Linder at (806) 359-5401, or any county agricultural agent.

Continuing Education Courses Offered

submitted by Cindy Blackman

The following continuing education courses will be offered in Spearman by Frank Phillips College in January.

Psychology - Drug & Alcohol Dependent (an overview: substances, diagnosis, treatment, history, AA/ALANON) - 3 hr. credit - Thursday evening - \$110;

Business Management - Management Training (the purpose of the course is to provide students in their work environment practical application of what was learned in the classroom. The course will consist of at least weekly discussions between the student and the instructor in regard to the job held by the student) - 3 hr. credit - Thursday evening - \$110;

Infant Massage Workshop (2-3 hr. workshop that gives massage techniques that soothe infants and parents) - Saturday morning - \$25;

Painted Floor Cloths (rugs) - (The painted floor cloth is an art form from Victorian days. Crafty Europeans made these floor cloths instead of paying the high price for an Oriental rug. This class will offer students an opportunity to design and paint a unique rug or work from one of the instructor's designs. The class is for people of all artistic ability.) - Thursday evening - \$33;

Volunteer Management - (This course would be of benefit for volunteer supervisors, directors and committee chairpersons working in non-profit organizations, government entities, churches, and civic

groups. They will learn how to effectively recruit, train and supervise volunteers and to structure their services and gain the maximum benefit from volunteer services) - Thursday evening - \$23;

First Things First - Time

Schoenhals Elected To Offices



Amy Schoenhals

Amy Schoenhals, Spearman, Texas, was recently elected as secretary of the Music Therapy Student Association chapter at Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, OK, for the 1997-1998 school year. The MTSA promotes the profession of music therapy.

Amy was also elected as treasurer of the Mu Phi Epsilon professional international music sorority for the 1997-1998 school year.

Management Class (Traditional time management suggests that working harder, smarter and faster will help you gain control over your life and that increased control will bring peace and fulfillment. This course is based on best-selling author Stephen Covey's book on how to deal with the daily problems of the ever-increasing demands of work and home. Instead of efficiency, this new approach emphasizes effectiveness.) - Tuesday evening - \$40.

To register, or for general information, please call Cindy Blackman at 659-3233. All classes will begin in January.



We will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 1998 in observance of New Year's Day.



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Pat Hunter
1989 Graduate of Spearman High School

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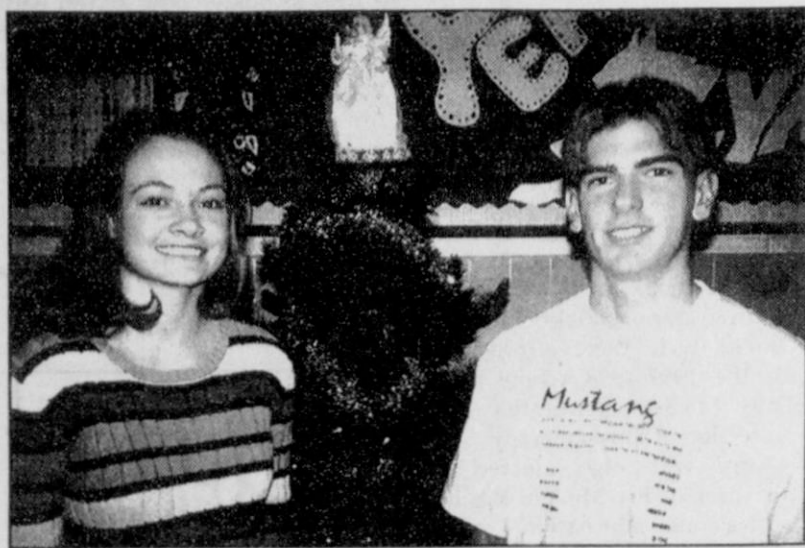
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Spearman Lynx Lines



A publication of the Spearman High School Journalism Department



December Students of the Month Announced

By LESLIE HOLTON

For the month of December, the students of the month are Jason Banks and Lindsey Smith. Both of these students have accomplished many things throughout their high school career.

Jason Banks is the son of Joanie Campbell and Larry Banks. His junior year, he participated in cross country and track. In cross country he was awarded the guy's cross country award. During track season, Jason was a regional qualifier in the 800m and 3200m runs. So far during his senior year, Jason has accomplished many things. He was a regional qualifier and all-district academic cross country. He also has been selected varsity boys basketball captain. Just recently, he was named Most Talented of the class of 1998. In the future, Jason plans to attend Tarleton State or Texas Tech University and major in English. Throughout his school years, the most influential teacher has been Mrs. Whitefield.

Lindsey Smith is the daughter of Bobby and Dixie Smith.

During her freshman through junior years, Lindsey has accomplished many things. Her sophomore year she received all-district honorable mention for basketball. She also was a sophomore server for the Jr. Sr. Prom. As a junior she received the outstanding lynxette award in basketball and track. Lindsey has been a regional qualifier in the high jump two years and the 100m dash one year. Also as a junior, she was named all-district in basketball. She has been a member of NHS since she was a sophomore and has been on the honor roll all throughout her high school years.

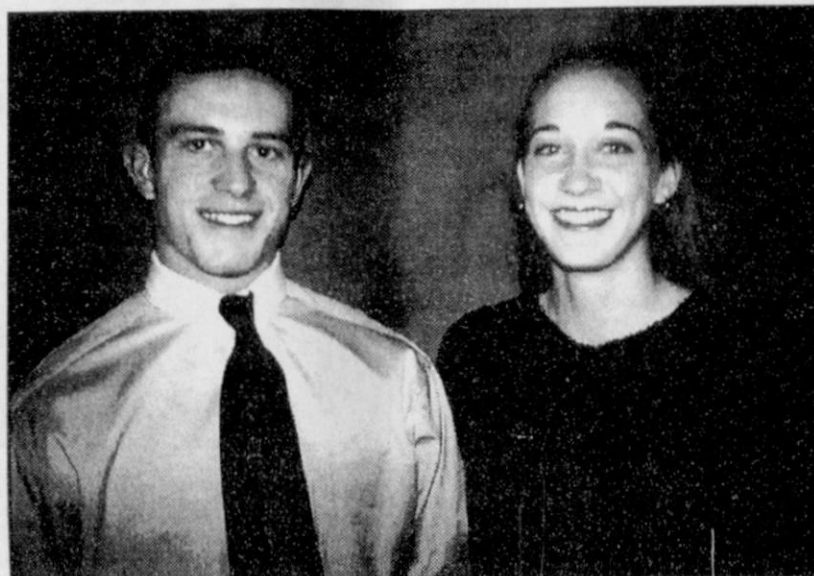
As a senior, Lindsey has been selected senior class officer, a member of student council, homecoming attendant, and NHS secretary. She also was elected Miss SHS and Most Talented. In the future, she plans to attend Texas Tech University and is undecided about her major. Her most influential teacher has been Mr. Mitchell.

NHS Provides a Gift of Love

By BRANDI WILLIS

Christmas takes on a special meaning for everyone, but thanks to Spearman High School's own National Honor Society, it will have an especially important significance to one Spearman family. It is an annual tradition for the NHS to pick a specific family in need and buy gifts of clothing,

toys, and food for the different members. Then on an afternoon before the Christmas holiday, "Santa" comes and delivers his early gifts to the members of the family. All of the gifts provided are purchased with the NHS's own funds. 'Tis the season to be giving, and there is no greater gift of love to a grateful family.



Most Spirited

By BRITTON BEEDY

Spearman High School is a very spirited place. In fact, two students chosen by the senior class with the most spirit at this school are Josh Bynum and Jennifer Neff.

Josh is the son of Kevin and Rhonda Bynum. After high school, Josh plans to attend OPSU for one year and transfer to Texas Tech University and major in agronomy or animal science. He enjoys snow and water skiing, hunting, spending time with his friends, listening to country music, and watching football. While in high school, Josh participated in freshmen basketball, tennis, football, student council, FFA, and Spanish club. He has also

received many rewards including academic all-district recognition, Gridiron Greats National All-star, Texas Lone Star Degree in FFA, vice-president of FFA for three years, and was elected sophomore server.

Jennifer, daughter of Wendell and Jenny Neff, plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in business. She enjoys spending time with her friends and having fun. During high school, Jennifer has participated in basketball, track, golf, cheerleading, FFA, and Spanish club. Her honors and rewards include head cheerleader, junior usher, and was elected sophomore server.



Most Likely to Succeed

By BETSY HOLT
KRISTI CARBAJAL

Mac Butts and Maribel Martinez have been chosen by the Senior Class of 1998 as Most Likely to Succeed. Mac is the son of Larry and Robbie Butts. After he graduates from high school, he plans to attend Texas Tech and major in engineering or Pre-med. He enjoys hunting and

fishing in his spare time. Maribel is the daughter of Homero and Maria Martinez. She plans to attend Texas Tech and major in atmospheric science after graduating from high school. In her read, and attend church. We congratulate these students for their title well earned.

SHS Stacks 'Em High

The Spearman High School Student Council held its annual can food drive in December. All food items that were donated during this campaign go to help the Hansford County Food Bank. This is a very worthy cause to our community, and all donations are greatly appreciated. Spearman High School collected over 350 food items to donate to the Food Bank. The top ten contributors from Spearman High School were treated to a buffet lunch at the Pizza Hut.



Israel

By ASHLEY BROWN

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, meaning "deliverance," around the time of the winter solstice. This is an eight-day-long period, marking the climax of three years of Jewish resistance against the Greeks. A small band of freedom fighters, the Maccabees, retaliated against their Gentile overlords and recaptured Jerusalem and reclaimed the Holy Temple. On the twenty-fifth day of the month of Kislev, the Jews began their rituals of rededication. The priests also set out to rekindle the Great Menorah, or candelabrum, in which burned the Eternal Flame. They could only find enough oil for one night's burning. They continued with the candle burning ceremony and it burned for eight days. The Jews saw this as a sign from God that their faith was enduring, and for 2,000 years have celebrated the miracle of deliverance.

Today, Jews celebrate the Miracle at the Temple, the transformation of spiritual darkness

into light, and the ritual lighting of candles. They use a Hanukkah menorah, which has nine candle branches; the ninth light is in the center above the others and is designated the server light. Every night until Hanukkah, the family lights a new candle and then joins in song; this symbolizes the new day. When the religious observance is over, families with young children present them with small gifts. Giving to children is known as a Hanukkah gelt. This is given to the children who had been diligent in studying Torah. Gifts usually are small amounts of money, coin shaped candy in gold foil, or dreidls (four-sided spinning tops).

The traditional foods served on the first night of Hanukkah recall the legends surrounding the celebration. But no night of the Hanukkah season is marked for feasting in a way comparable to the Christian Christmas, but the first night is more special than the others. A special roast bird is the climax of this celebration.

Poland

Christmas customs and traditions vary around the world due to different cultures celebrating the holiday season in different ways. In Poland, the Star of Bethlehem is a very important symbol during the Christmas season. The bright start on Christmas Eve means that Advent is over. When the evening meal is served, wafers called *oplatki* are eaten by the family. This is a tradition that follows the breaking of the bread, which symbolizes peace, love, and friendship. After supper, the Star Man, sometimes a village priest in disguise or a neighbor, comes

to the homes and examines the children on their catechism. Those who know the right answers receive token presents, but those who do not answer correctly are reprimanded by the Star Man. The children believe that the gifts come from the stars and are carried to them by the Wise Men. The family attends *Pasterka*, the Mass of Shepherds, at midnight on Christmas Eve. On St. Sylvester's Eve, December 31, the old Polish belief says that every person is his own master and free to pursue his own desires, and it is at this time that the old Polish tradition of fortune-telling is enjoyed.

United States

By DANNY MAUK

The United States leads the world in holiday spirit by illumination and decoration. No other nation anticipates Christmas for so long and with so much sharply focused advertising as does the United States. Most people think of Christmas as a time for getting presents, but it is a time to celebrate the birth of our lord Jesus Christ. People all over the United

States have traditions like singing carols, giving Christmas cards, being with family, and waiting for Santa Claus. The tradition of putting a Christmas tree up was introduced by the Germans in the eighteenth century. Santa Clause is also an important part of the holiday season. He gives toys to children who have been good all year long gives coal to children who have been bad.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By: MARIBEL MARTINEZ

FIND THE FOLLOWING WORDS. THEN PUT THE REMAINING LETTERS IN THE FOLLOWING BLANKS TO FIND THE MESSAGE.

BABY * JESUS	B	K	I	N	G	J	E	F	S	U
MARY	E	S	J	I	S	H	R	R	Y	M
JOSEPH	T	G	O	L	D	T	A	A	A	H
MANGER	H	E	S	I	W	T	E	N	R	E
BETHLEHEM	L	S	E	Y	S	A	G	K	E	I
THREE * KINGS	E	H	P	S	B	E	O	I	N	M
DONKEY	H	E	H	Y	R	A	M	N	N	F
SHEPHERD	E	P	E	E	O	R	B	C	T	H
STAR	M	H	R	K	T	H	R	E	E	E
ANGELS	S	E	O	N	E	K	I	N	G	S
INN	A	R	D	O	S	S	U	S	E	J
GOLD	O	D	N	D	A	N	G	E	L	S
FRANKINCENSE										
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WISE * MEN										


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Spearman Lynx Lines



Christmas Around the World

Finland

The following article describes the holiday season and the customs of the people of Finland. It was written by Karen Paschel, who was a foreign exchange student in Finland last year.

It is eight degrees below zero and there is three feet of snow on the ground. A Finnish family is getting ready to go outside. What could these people possibly be planning to do? The answer is that they are getting ready to go cut a Christmas tree. This tradition usually takes only about two hours to complete. Once the perfect tree is found, the family then brings it home and begins to decorate it. Lights and meaningful ornaments are added to the tree.

A trip to the Lapland is next on the list. Why write a letter to Joulu Puki (pronounced yo lu pu kee) or as we know him, Santa Claus, when you can see him in person. Santa lives a few miles down the road from Rovinieni, a city located in the Arctic Circle. He has his own post office and his own postmark. Santa's place is high tech with more than

twenty computers, and elves can be seen running around all over the place. The reindeer can also be seen in their stalls. After talking to Santa and having a family picture taken, it is time to return home.

On December 24, the nuclear family gathers to eat the traditional Christmas meal. It consists of the same food we would eat at Thanksgiving. After this meal, the family goes to church, usually a Lutheran church, since the official religion of Finland is Lutheran. Upon returning home the family awaits the arrival of Joulu Puki, who brings the presents. Songs are sung, a candle is lit, and the story of the birth of Jesus is read. Joulu Puki leaves and the gifts are opened.

January 6 comes too fast for some people. This is the day on which the evil elf comes and steals Christmas. All of the decorations are taken down, and the Christmas tree is chopped for firewood. The Christmas season is then over, and all wait for Joulu Puki to come again next year.

Netherlands

By LESLIE HOLTON

Christmas in the Netherlands is celebrated a little bit different than the United States. The United States did take one thing from the Dutch, stockings.

Saint Nicholas give presents to the Dutch children on the children on the eve of December 6. While Saint Nicholas is wearing

a red robe, he arrives on a boat from Spain and rides down the streets on a white horse. His servant, Swarte Piet, accompanies him. Saint Nicholas then goes down the chimney of each house and leaves gifts. He puts the gifts in the childrens' wooden shoes by the fire place.

Italy

By KASEY DUNNIHOO

Even though Italy is miles away the customs and traditions are similar to those of the United States. They use a three dimensional type pyramid with shelves in the place of a Christmas tree. The pyramid has candy, fruit, and small presents on the shelves. A figure of baby Jesus is placed on the bottom shelf.

In Italy most homes and churches have nativity scenes. On Christmas Eve, the family prays as the mother puts the Christ child in the manger. Many families serve eels for dinner on Christ-

mas Eve. They also make a bread called panettone, which contains raisins and candied fruit.

The best known Christmas legend in Italy is the story of La Befana. It has been said that La Befana was too busy doing household duties when the wise men needed her help to find the way to Bethlehem. Now she supposedly wanders the streets leaving gifts and candy in the stockings hoping that it is one of the Christ child. She is said to come down the chimney like Santa Claus does in the United States.

Germany

By LACEY MIESNER

In Germany, the Christmas traditions are somewhat different from those in the United States. Children receive candy and other goodies on December 6 from a Christian bishop who died in the A.D. 300's named Saint Nicholas. He gathers the children's Christmas lists telling what presents they wish to receive from the *Christkindl* (Christ child). Instead of ap-

pearing in person, *Christkindl* sends *Weihnachtsmann* (C H R I S T M A S M A N). *Weihnachtsmann* is the German version of Father Christmas, and he also delivers the presents on Christmas Eve. Most German families have a Christmas tree decorated with lights, tinsel, and ornaments. *Lebkuchen*, better known as spicy cakes, are made as various shapes and are used as decorations as well.

Russia

By SYD WOODINGTON

While Americans are celebrating Christmas festivities and Jews are recognizing the Hanukkah tradition, Russians are honoring Grandfather Frost. During this time, the huge hall within the walls of Moscow's Kremlin is transformed into a fairyland with a 75 foot tree towering in the center. Some 50,000 attendance tickets are sold weeks before the event, and parents will go to great lengths to acquire one. Children are handed a gift as they pass through the door and eagerly jostle for a place to stand to watch Grandfather Frost appear. The

Kremlin festivities are directed mainly toward younger Muscovites, but older children and adults have dances to go to at schools, clubs, theaters, etc. Wonderful food and a variety of entertainment are featured, and everyone stays up late. Caviar, smoked fish, and other treats are served in honor of the holiday. Since fresh fresh fruits are rare in Russia during the winter, they make welcome gifts. As you can see, whether halfway around the world or right here in the U.S., Christmas time everywhere is a time of celebration and good cheer.

Sweden

By BRITNI BEEDY

The holiday of holidays in Sweden is Christmas. On December 13th the feast of St. Lucia begins and ends on January 13th. "Lucia" is usually the eldest daughter of the family. She dresses in a white robe and wears a crown of seven lighted candles surrounded by greenery and presents the family coffee and buns in bed. For Christmas dinner, one thing they have is rice pudding, which contains a single almond in it. Whoever gets the almond, according to tradition, will have good luck through the new year. Santa Claus is a familiar character in Sweden. The children believe that a lively elf brings them gifts from Santa on Christmas Eve. The Swedes refer to him as *Jultomten*. The Christmas tree has a place of prime importance in Sweden. The tree is brought indoors and put near the entrance to the house, fresh, live, and green, as a symbol of man's eternal hope for an-

the father or mother with the children giving a helping hand, and then put in its traditional place. Some Swedes use the old-fashioned manner of lighting the tree with real candles. On the tree is tinsel, shiny red apples, a variety of ornaments, and a shining star or a miniature Swedish flag on top. Christmas Day has been dedicated to religious observance and rest. The people find great pleasure in riding to church in sleighs, but darkness is pricked by glowing dots because on Christmas morn the houses in Sweden have lighted candles in each window. On the Twelfth Night the Star Boys and youngsters, who dress in costumes often of bible characters, go from house to house singling hymns and folk songs of ancient origin, some which relate to the visit of the wise Men from the East. On January 13th, St. Knut's Day, the Yule-tide

India

By BRANDI WILLIS

Although Christian inhabitants of India celebrate Christmas, native Indians celebrate a different joyous occasion altogether. The holiday of "Diwali," which means "row of lights," is celebrated by Indians for the departed souls of loved ones believed to return in the month of Kartika (October through November). During the 2-10 day holiday, Indians rejoice the end of autumn and the beginning of winter by illuminating their homes with tiny oil lamps

called "diwa." Household inhabitants take a ceremonial bath, don their best clothes, and participate in traditional activities such as parades, visiting family, exchange gifts, watching fireworks, praying, and of course, observing dancing bears and snake charmers. Diwali is important in the Indian culture because it marks a time when people can make a new start. Homes are vigorously cleaned, old debts are cleared up, and the new farming season is begun.

Australia

By BETSY HOLT

Christmas in Australia is very similar to the way we celebrate it here. The preparations for Christmas include special foods, sending Christmas cards, decorating the house and church, and getting all the gifts ready. In the Land Down Under the twelve days of Christmas are celebrated in the first month of summer. The temperature in Australia can reach up to ninety degrees Fahrenheit.

Some people even go as far as to put fake snow on their window panes. On Christmas Eve the children hang their stockings on the bedpost or by the chimney expecting their gifts to be there in the morning. Santa Claus arrives on water skis or on an airplane to deliver the gifts. On Christmas morning the presents are opened, and the big feast is served. They later spend the afternoon visiting their neighbors or family.

France

By MEG WOOLLEY

The French Christmas Holidays are full of excitement, family and friends. Many families attend midnight mass and return home for a festival supper called "le reveillon". This is also an ideal time for family reunions.

Everyone in the community gets in the Christmas spirit. Churches and cathedrals light up for midnight mass, and many shops decorate their windows. Families purchase small nativity scenes from special holiday fairs.

The children at Christmas time have special traditions similar to the American children. Pere

Noel, aka Santa Clause, fills shoes placed in front of fire place with goodies.

The meal served for their special dinner vary in different parts of the country. Some families serve goose, turkey, or oysters as a main course. Many families include fruit, buckwheat, and chestnuts as an appetizer or part of the meal.

Christmas in France is similar to our American Christmas, because it is the celebration of Jesus' birth. The one major difference is families do not decorate a tree.

Greece

By BECKY PORTER

Christmas begins in this Mediterranean country on Christmas Eve when young boys go caroling from house to house, singing the good news of Christ's birth and collecting coins for themselves. Church services and Christmas Eve dinner follow. Considering that the Greeks are coming out of a forty-day fast when they sit

down to this meal, it's not surprising that each dish is accorded enthusiastic reception. Some traditional dishes served are *Christopsomo* (Christmas Bread), *Melmacaroma* (Christmas Biscuits), and *Kourabiedes* (Crescent-shaped Cookies). While we exchange gifts on Christmas morning, they wait until January 1.

Mexico

By MARIBEL MARTINEZ

In Mexico, Christmas means posadas, pinatas, and puestas. Beginning nine days before Christmas, groups of all ages form posada (processions) and go from house to house asking for entrance. Las Posadas are performed by nine families who meet at a different house each night. After the rosary is done, they march around the house carrying lighted candles, and moving from room to room, they chant the Litany of Loretto and

knock at the various doors asking for shelter. In each instance they are refused admittance. After this, they are served refreshments and pinatas are broken. These pinatas are filled with toys and things to eat. Christmas time in Mexico also means puestas. A puesto is a market stall in which Indians set up wherever in order to sell the Christmas toys, rag dolls, figurines, and trinkets which they have been making for weeks.

Spain

By KRISTI CARBAJAL

Christmas in Spain is a time of devout and beautiful religious ceremonies. The observances begin on December 8, which is the feast of the Immaculate Conception. After Vespers on that day, the stately Dance of Sixes is performed in the cathedral in Seville. In cathedrals, in country churches, and in most homes, manger scenes known as *Nacimientos* are centers of devotion. Many families gather around the household

Nacimientos every evening during Christmas week to sing carols, and children shake tinkling tambourines as they dance for the Christ Child. During the evening of January 5, children put their shoes on the balcony or near a window. The next day is Epiphany, the last day of the Christmas Season. It celebrates the visit of the Magi to the infant Jesus. According to legend, the Wise Men arrive during the night before Epiphany and fill the children's shoes with small gifts.


Costa Rica

By JULIE SCROGGS

Bringing in the orchids is one of the many pleasant customs that mark the beginning of the Christmas season in Costa Rica. Flowers, fruits, and foliage are gathered to glorify del Nino (the Christ Child) on his birthday. According to Costa Rican tradition, it is del Nino who brings the children their gifts, but in recent years Santa Claus has appeared

on the scene from the United States and parents imitate the sound of reindeer hoofs on Christmas Eve to inform their children that Santa is arriving. Also of recent origin in Costa Rica is the Christmas tree. The supper served following midnight Mass includes tamales stuffed with chicken, olives, and rice covered in red chili.

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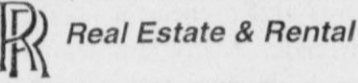


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2(01-01-98)B

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DEADLINE

The deadline to submit all news and advertising for the Hansford County Reporter Statesman is Monday afternoon at 5:00 p.m.

Items submitted after the deadline may be published at a later date.

Catherine Smith, Editor

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FOR SALE: 1985 Chevy Blazer S10 Tahoe package, excellent condition - \$2,000. 1978 Coachman Deluxe Travel Trailer - 30 ft. long, excellent condition - \$3,500. Call after 6:00 p.m., 659-3256, ask for Darla.
2(01-01-98)B

Public Notice

JOB OPENING

The City of Spearman is accepting applications for a part-time Court Clerk for the Municipal Court. A work week will be twenty-hours. Office, public relations, communication and computer skills helpful. Training will be provided. Employment date to be on or about January 19, 1998.

The City has an excellent fringe benefit program which includes hospitalization insurance, retirement, and half vacation, holidays, and sick leave.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on January 6, 1998. Applications may be obtained at Spearman City Hall, 30 S.W. Court, Spearman, TX. Equal Opportunity Employer.

3(12-18-97)B

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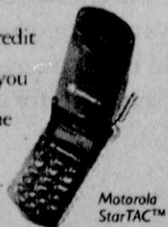

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