* HANSFORD COUNTY *

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 201

"He Stole My Courthouse:" S.B. Hale and the Hansford County Seat Fight of the 1920s

by David J. Murrah, Ph.D.

Gruver sports for both the Spearman Re- store in the county seat of Hansford. From Farwell exactly in the center of the county, establish the county seat by a follow-up porter and Hansford Plainsman. Dr. Mur- 1912 to 1916, Hale served as county but five miles away from the main trail petition. Both Farwell and Hansford subwrote this article for the 2011 Year Book from Hansford to Spearman. ment of Dorothy Hudson of Gruver, and and said, "Are you Judge Hale's boy?"

Historical Association.] Not a lot of people know where Gruver, no, but Judge Hale was my grandfather." named. But, most of us who grew up there sponse. He said that the old, genteel, soft- ties.4 in the 1950s knew the town's namesake-- spoken 93-year old Uncle Joe Gruver rose Gruver was 93 in 1956 and, he lived qui- house!" etly and somewhat modestly in a two-story

in early September 1956, another Gruver Gruver end up with the courthouse. old Uncle Joe Gruver.

great-great Uncle Joe Gruver,

his head quizzically when he heard hunting range. Over a three-year period, Selden's name. It was natural: the Hales the Cators harvested sixteen thousand also had deep roots in Hansford County. bison. In 1878, they began stocking their

graduated from GHS in 1960. He retired ing moved first to Hutchinson County in City Trail.2 from Texas Tech University in 1996 and 1877, and Hansford County in 1887.1 lives in Rockport, Texas, near Corpus Their daughter Grace married S. B. Hale, Farwell and Hansford, were both estab-Christi. While in high school, he covered a pharmacist who in 1909 opened a drug lished in 1887. Kansas speculators located proved the organization and determined to rah, at the suggestion of Selden B. Hale of judge, and in the late 1920s, he led Spear- along the Palo Duro.3 But water was mitted petitions, but Mel Wright (Selden's Amarillo, grandson of Judge S.B. Hale, man's fight to get the county seat removed scarce, and its residents had to hand-dig a grandfather) rode the 70 miles overnight

courtesy of the author and the West Texas Proud that the old man had recognized Huff Wright (Selden's great uncle), estab- In 1890, the new county government the family name, Selden replied, "Well, lished the townsite of Hansford in 1887, awarded construction of its courthouse to

brick home on Broadway Avenue, just year county seat fight that lasted from Wheeler County Commissioners Court at neared completion, an April tornado across the street from the Methodist and 1922 to 1929, but not Uncle Joe. The three Mobeetie a petition for organization, ripped through Hansford and demolished Baptist churches. He also owned more published histories of Hansford County which bore the names of 164 qualified vot- much of the building. Workers then rebuilt than six thousand acres of land as well as make little mention of it. Did Judge Hale ers. But, who were some of these "quali- the courthouse, this time as a story and a the largest grain elevator in town, and he steal the courthouse from Gruver? This fied" voters? The 1890 census recorded half, but as it neared completion, another had been farming in Hansford County paper attempts to answer that question, only 133 residents in the entire county. storm ripped off the roof and upper walls.7 and to explain this riddle of how did Some obviously were recruited or in-And, he had a long memory. One day, Spearman end up with the county seat, and vented as the practice of voter creation was

boy like myself, Selden Hale, only 18 at Hansford County, Texas, like most of the time, was asked by his girlfriend, Mar- the panhandle counties, was created in lene Gruver, to come to her rural home be- 1876 and sketched out on a map in the cause her father Guy had suddenly passed General Land Office as a 30-mile square. away. Guy Gruver was foreman of the Historically speaking, the area was an al-Gruver farms, and he was a great-nephew most perfect bison range, with large level of Uncle Joe. When Selden arrived, he pastures interspersed with two live creek found the whole Gruver family there, in- systems, the Coldwater, and the Palo Duro. bison hunters, the two young English-born Treon of the Amarillo Globe-News After Marlene introduced Selden to her Cator brothers, who in either 1872 or 1873, established a camp on the Palo Duro Selden recalled that the old man cocked in the heart of the Comanche and Kiowa Selden's great grandparents Mel and range with cattle, and in 1880 established

Hansford County's first communities, enlisted to be "qualified voters." 200-foot well. Most people settled along to Mobeetie on horseback to present Hansof the West Texas Historical Association. And, so, when Uncle Joe heard Selden's the creek and the trail; by the late 1880s, at ford's petition first.6 As a result, Hansford It is reprinted here through the encourage- name, he turned to the young 18-year old least fourteen families were ranching in was named the county seat, and Farwell the Palo Duro valley, and one of these, J. gradually disappeared from the map. and thus set the stage for the first county a Kansas City firm that was to build a Texas, is, much less for whom it was Selden was not prepared for the re- seat fight between the two new communi- three-story structure quarried from local

Uncle Joe Gruver. A thin, distinguished- half way out of his seat, pumped his fist, ganizing a county government. In order to stone, forcing the county to spend an adlooking man with a white mustache, J. H. and shouted, "Well, he stole my court- organize a county, the law required the res- ditional \$5,700 on brick freighted from Most residents had forgotten the seven- February 1889, Wright presented to the reduced it to a two-story structure, but as it

Atarah Wright were among the first Anglo a trading post named Zulu which became not uncommon. As in several other West [David J. Murrah, a native of Gruver, settlers in the entire Texas Panhandle, hav- an important point on the Tascosa-Dodge Texas organizational petitions, a few drifters, horses, and dogs probably were

In March 1889, the Commissioners ap-

stone, at a very modest cost of \$13,000. J. Huff Wright also took the lead in or- However, the contractor could find little idency of at least 150 qualified voters.5. In Dodge City. To save money, the architect

Happy State Bank Girls Athletes of the Year

By Terrence Hunley, Lance Lahnert, cluding the genteel, soft-spoken, 93-year As a result, its first Anglo settlers were Lee Passmore, Dave Henry and Ricky



Basketball Morgan Ashmore, Spearman

Why honored: Spearman senior Morgan Ashmore overcame an injury to her non-shooting hand to be named a co-District 1-2A MVP with teammate Shelby Hanna after leading the Lynxettes to the Region I-2A tournament for the second consecutive year. Ashmore, the Amarillo Globe-News Super Team girls player of the year, also played varsity her freshman and sophomore years and helped Spearman to the Region I-2A quarterfinals both

 Quotable: "She's had a great high school career," said Junior Ashmore, Spearman girls basketball coach and Morgan's father. "The main thing I think you look at with kids is the team success. I think that means a lot when you're talking about player of the year in a team sport."



Track Shelley Gibson, Gruver

Why honored: The Gruver senior won the Class 1A girls 1600-meter state title Saturday at Mike A. Myers Stadium in Austin. It was her fifth career event in Austin, having run three times in the 3200 including a fifth-place finish Friday and twice in the 1600. She won bronze medals in the 1600 and 3200 last year.

Gibson, the Gruver valedictorian, also made four straight trips to the state cross country meet as part of a Lady Hounds team that won the last three years. Gibson finished 10th overall last fall.

 Quotable: "There isn't a kid with more heart than her," Gruver track coach Mica Been said. "There isn't a kid who has worked harder than her. And I don't just mean this year. I mean over her career. I don't mean in just track, but in cross country and basketball. She is a phenomenal student athlete. This couldn't happen to a more special or deserving kid."

Happy State Bank Scholar Athlete of the Year

nomenal.'

By Terrence Hunley, Lance Lahnert, dent. She never gets in trouble. She takes Lee Passmore, Dave Henry and Ricky care of her business. She just does a great Treon of the Amarillo Globe-News

Shelley Gibson, Gruver

• Why honored: The Gruver senior is the class valedictorian with a 100.52 grade-point average and has several college credit hours. She is involved in Big Brothers Big Sisters as well. She's made state in cross country four consecutive years and three straight years in track. Gibson won a state championship in the 1600 event this past weekend. She was also the defensive MVP in the district in basketball two straight years.

 Quotable: "She's graduating with an average over 100," Gruver track coach Mica Been said. "She's an outstanding stu-

2 Hansford County

Students Play in TABC

All-Star Games

By Ricky Treon, Amarillo Globe-News

Spearman's Morgan Ashmore and Gru-

ver's Madison McLain competed Friday

in the Texas Association of Basketball

Coaches annual all-star games at Trinity

University in San Antonio.

GHS Receives Award

she does, and does well. She's just phe-



U.S. News & World Report has awarded Gruver High School a Bronze Medal for Best High Schools 2012. U.S. News calculates test score values based on student performance on state exit exams and internationally available exams on college-level coursework. GHS scored in the 95% in Reading Proficiency and 97% in Math Proficiency.

Texas high school students are tested Schools 2012 rankings, including 46 with gold medals, 123 with silver



McLain had five points and Ashmore had four assists to help the girls Class 1Ain English language arts, reading, math, 2A-3A Blue team beat the White, 90-88. science, and social studies. To graduate In addition to the games, two coaches from a Texas high school, students must and one player with ties to the Amarillo earn at least 22 credits, including one area will be inducted into the Texas High credit of fine arts and a half credit in School Basketball Hall of Fame on Satspeech, according to the Texas Education urday during a TABC ceremony Agency. There are more than 400 Texas schools in the U.S. News Best High

Jim Wilcoxson began his coaching career at age 40 at Booker. He moved to Tascosa for three years before taking over at Randall in 1989. In 15 years at Randall, medals, and 233 with bronze medals. his teams made the playoffs every year

and won Class 4A state titles in 1992 and 1998. Duane Hunt began his 26-year coaching career in 1963 at Guymon, OK, then moved on to coach at Borger for 23 years, where his teams were 507-206. He was

Lynn Davis Pool led the Canyon Lady Eagles to a 32-2 season and a state title her senior year in 1974. She was an assistant coach under Jody Conradt at the University of Texas, head coach at Austin Bowie High School and athletic director at Austin ISD.

TABC president in 1982-83.

Summer Reading Program Hansford County Library has scheduled their 2012 Summer Reading Program. This year's theme is "Get A Clue." The Summer Reading Program is open to children kendergarten through second grade, and will be held from 10:30-11:30 a.m. each Tuesday in June. The schedule of events is as follows: . June 5th - Get a Clue about Crime Investigation, program presented by Sheriff Gary Evans · June 12th - Get a Clue about Area History, program presented by John Hutchison · June 19th - Get a Clue about Laboratory Experiements, program presented by Chad Wilkerson · June 26th - Get a Clue about Solving Mysteries, mystery movie presented by library staff For more information, please call the Hansford County Library at 659-2231

Wolf Creek Heritage Museum Notes

by Virginia Scott

the National Society of the Revolution (DAR).

tered in Perryton but occaas part of their educational Haines and Walkers, and I there. gave them the history of the bers.

17, and John 3: 1-17.

eous by God.

Words from
Faith & Grace

by Cecil R. Biggers, Lutheran Lay Minister

As we consider the Doctrine of the Trin-

ity, we study Isaiah 6: 1-13, Psalm 29, Romans 8: 12-

of God, The Father, Almighty. God is so great that the

hem of his robe fills the temple. Strange creatures, Ser-

laphs, guard the throne of God. This vision is so powerful that Isaiah is struck by his own unworthiness. A

Seraph flies to Isaiah bearing a burning coal from the

altar before the throne and touches Isaiah's lips. We can learn from this that 'righteousness', the ability to stand

unafraid before the living God, comes from God, not our

own merit. We can see a parallel between the purifica-

tion of Isaiah by a burning coal applied to his lips to our

receiving the elements of the Eucharist (Communion)

Through each the believer is forgiven and declared right-

In Psalm 29, perhaps one of the oldest Psalms in the

Bible, the Lord is portrayed as the God of the lesser

gods, the God of all creation, the God as King! God

Paul tells us that if we are led by the Spirit of God, we

are the children of God. And if we are children of God.

we are joint heirs of God and of Christ! In these verses,

we see that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that

God can transform our lives. We cannot believe in Jesus

The Christ without the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Paul references God, the Father, Jesus the Son, and the

Holy Spirit without explaining how God who is three is

John sets forth that our faith does not rest upon our

knowledge of and love of Jesus The Christ, but upon the fact that God knows and loves us! Jesus tells Nicodemus during his night-time visit that we must be 'born

from above' if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. We are born of the water and the Spirit in order to enter the

Kingdom of God. We see here the outline of the sacra-

ment of Baptism. A 'sacrament' because it is the Word

of God operating with the element of the water that al-

My Muslim friends think that my faith is misplaced

because God must be One, a divine simplicity, and my

belief in Jesus The Christ misplaced because I have mis-

taken the reflection of the Divine in the prophet Jesus

for the Divine. My Jewish friends think that my faith is

misplaced because God is One (echod) and if we attempt

to describe the attributes of God, the use of three is in-

sufficient. These criticisms are logical, but I am content

with the Doctrine of the Trinity, without totally under-

standing it, because as a human, I cannot understand

God. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, I have faith

May the Holy Spirit empower you to believe.

lows us to be born of the Spirit.

in God through Jesus The Christ.

gives strength and blessings to his people.

In the call of the prophet Isaiah, we see the grandeur

home in four to five differ- support us. MUSEUM HAPPENINGS ent routes and identify all Sunday, I watched the Tuesday evening, May the historical and current National Celebration Pro-22nd, the museum hosted places of interest. We have gram on PBS and was

programs. We had approxi- Day has taken on different place flowers. I also visit mately 20 in attendance, meanings to me. As a child our local cemetery and visit Dorothy and I presented the and young adult, I joined the military graves and ers, police officers and history of five generations visiting my ancestors and sacrifice. of Dorothy's family, the graves and placing flowers

ner catered the meeting, Corp, I took time to observe and the story of those who ment of Transportation continues to add jobs, with Hispanic, Black, Asian, Nawhich was enjoyed by all. our military veterans as gave their lives for us. This was the first visit to well as my loved ones. Durthe museum and to Lip- ing the Vietnam era, I had some time this week honor- riod from May 21 through year," said Texas Work- count of people who selfscomb by most of the mem- honored our servicemen as ing your ancestors and our June 3 (which includes Me- force Commission Chair- identify as single-race This is so true of many nurse and tried to answer work and sacrifices of these "Click It or Ticket" cam- continued growth across inresidents in our four county their questions about the people, we would not enjoy area, so I invite everyone public riots and protests our great life today. I thank this summer to explore our "Why do they hate us? We every veteran and their subject to fines up to \$250, job seekers to take advan- Texas is one of four majorarea. We have day trip maps are only doing what they family for serving our not including court costs. available that take you in a have asked us to do?" I had country, and hope you took

Pampa to Perryton and there were people who did

the Wolf Creek Chapter of a lot of history in our area. moved by the Patriotic trib-We look forward to sum- ute that was evident and the Daughters of the American mer visitors, local and from promise that the military would always be treated The chapter is headquar- HISTORICAL MUSINGS with honor. Today, I still I am writing the column visit our family graves, but sionally met in other places on Monday, Memorial Day. now my parents graves are Over the years, Memorial among the ones on which I

I hope each of you spent

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Extra attention focused on unbuckled seat belts

AUSTIN — State troop- sion reported last week. As an older adult, after gives you the history of children are not properly re-percent in April. museum. Gailan Winegar- serving in the Navy Nurses Lipscomb County Veterans strained, the Texas Departwarned last week.

circle from Borger to no good answer except that time to honor yourself on both drivers and passengers force boards across the California and New Mex-Monday. Memorial Day IS wear seat belts. Children state." a special day for remember- younger than 8 years old seat or booster seat unless consecutive months. they are taller than 4 feet 9 inches, according TxDOT.

"It only takes a minute to have to remind people to July 1. wear seat belts. But just in not gotten the message."

leading cause of death in gers were not buckled up, Also, two Republican canaccording to TxDOT. Visit www.texasclickitorticket.co m for more information.

Sales tax holiday on calendar

Shoppers don't have to pay sales tax on certain appliances under the state's annual "Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday," May 26 through May 28, which is also Memorial Day week-

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs on May 14 published a statement saying the sales tax break "applies to ENERGY STAR® qualified air conditioners priced at \$6,000 or less; refrigerators priced at \$2,000 or less; ceiling fans; fluorescent light bulbs; clothes washers; dishwashers; dehumidifiers; and programmable thermostats.'

Unemployment rate drops lower

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate

27. Foot-forward squat

29. Large book

31. Information 32. It often snoozes

33. Capital of

Bangladesh

34. *"Take my hand,

we'll make it I



by Ed Sterling

percent a year ago, the Texas Workforce Commis-

According to statistics program, which included a my mother and father in thank them for their service sheriff's deputies across gathered and analyzed by the office of the state de-Texas will be looking for the U.S. Department of mographer described Texas The museum has a spe- drivers and passengers who Labor, the national unem- as a "majority-minority" cial military exhibit that are not buckled up or whose ployment rate of was 8.1 state, meaning in effect that

During a two-week pe- growing over the past lander was greater than the I cared for them as their military. Without the hard morial Day weekend) the man Andres Alcantar. "The white. Texas law requires that through our 28 local work- ers

must ride in a child safety rate has decreased for eight of minority residents, with

strap on your seat belt and State Rep. Veronica Gonza- counties were majority-mito make sure that everyone les, D-McAllen, is resign- nority as of July 1, 2011, else in your vehicle is prop- ing from the Texas House with nine of these counties erly restrained," said Carol of Representatives and will achieving this status since Rawson, TxDOT's Traffic start as vice president for April 1, 2010. Of those 348 Operations division direc- university advancement at counties, Maverick County, tor. "That one minute can The University of Texas- Texas, had the largest share save a life. We shouldn't Pan American, effective - 96.8 percent - of its popu-

case, police officers around trade and a steadfast advo- Texas with 96.4 percent. the state will be pulling cate for transparency in Also noted was that of all over folks who still have state and local government, counties in the U.S., Starr announced in 2011 that she County, Texas, had the

Democrat Texas. In 2011, nearly "Bobby" Guerra of Mission of all states, Texas showed 3,000 people died in fatal is running to succeed Gon- the greatest numerical gain collisions on Texas streets zales for the District 41 in Black or African-Ameriand highways. Almost half seat, the boundaries of can population, with an inof those drivers and passen- which in Hidalgo County. crease of 84,000 individua

decreased in April to 6.9 didates have filed: Miriam percent, down from 7.0 per- Martinez of Edinburg and cent in March and from 8.0 Armando Vera of McAllen.

Estimates include Texas

A couple of years ago, the aggregate count of peo-"The Texas economy ple who self-identify as 10 of 11 major industries tive American, Pacific Is-

On May 17, the U.S. paign will be enforced. dustries is positive and we Census Bureau released a Drivers pulled over will be encourage employers and set of estimates that show tage of the services offered ity-minority states, the othico, and of the four, Texas Texas' unemployment has the lowest percentage 55.2 percent.

Also from set of census Rep to leave for UT-Pan estimates is this information: More than 11 percent Four-term District 41 (348) of the nation's 3,143 lation in minority groups, Gonzales, a lawyer by followed by Webb County,

Traffic crashes remain a would not seek re-election. highest percentage of His-Robert panics: 95.6 percent. And,



Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman Mailing Address - 213 Main Street · Spearman TX 79081 Physical Address - 310 Barkley Street · Spearman TX 79081 Phone - (806) 659-3434 • Fax - (806) 398-9080 www.spearmanreporter.com • reporter@spearmanreporter.com Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Mon.-Wed. & 1-5 p.m. Closed Thurs. afternoon and all day Fri., Sat. & Sun.

Gary Smith - Publisher Catherine Smith - Editor Contributing Writers: Dorothy Hudson, Jim Detrition, Merry Sparks, Cecil Biggers, Virginia Scott, Ed Sterling, Rod Sumner Contributing Photographers: Lisa Johnson, Tami Hargrove, Tammy Batton, Bonnie Bergan, Rod Sumner

Subscription Rates In Hansford County - \$30.00 • Out of County - \$40.00 E-Mail Subscription - \$35.00

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman (USPS 529660) is pubished weekly in Spearman, TX. Periodical postage paid in Spearman, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman, TX 79081.

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

Advertising Open Display rates are \$4.00 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$7 for the first 20 words and 15¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week

Member of Gruver Chamber of Commerce Spearman Chamber of Commerce Texas Press Association and Panhandle Press Association



FINISH THE LYRICS

ACROSS 1. Short attention

pl. 6. Semi

9. Like Usain Bolt, e.g. 13. Shakespearean

15. Specialty

16. *"I see friends shak- 64. Street in Paris

ing hands.... sayin' how do ____?"

17. Activity at Heavenly in California

18. Perfection

carry that 21. *"Well, we're all in

the mood for a

23. He sang "Hit the road Jack"

24. Dirty air

25. Holbrook 28. Left after deductions 4. Rock bottom

30. Water nymphs

35. Flightless birds 37. Famous flood sur-

vivor

39. On spouse's side

40. "A" in A.D.

41. ___ alert 43. "No he can't read

my poker " 44. Excessive sternness

46. Famous scat singer 47. Killer whale

48. Tapeworm 50. Cocoyam 52. Spanish sea 53. *"Video killed the radio "

55. Octopus' defense 57. *"Girl, we couldn't get much

60. *"Stand up for your

14. To do this is human? 63. One born to Japanese immigrants

66. Leaves out

68. Runs in neutral 69. Egyptian cobra

70. Make another map

71. Potato and ____soup 19. *"Boy, you're gonna 72. "Owner Of A Lonely Heart" band

73. Athlete's domain

DOWN

1. *"Say Say " 2. Front part of vessel

3. Chills and fever

5. "Just do it," e.g.

6. Catch your breath

7. Irritate 8. Tale-spinning brother

9. Popular dog name 10. Breezed through, as

in test 11. One-horse carriage

12. Aviv 15. Large Indian antelope

20. Laughing predator

22. Long time 24. Quarterback great Kenny

These games are brought to you by the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

25. *"Total eclipse of the 36. In the near future

38. ___ in captivity 60. Twelve of one set in

26. Embryo sacs 42. Halves of diameters exercise

> 45. Hindu sages 61. "Time after 49. "__ it up" 62. Baseball great Mu-51. Fluffy sweater mate-

Rouge 57. Cow skin, e.g.

58. Small island

54. Orderly arrangement 65. Function

67. R&R spot

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June 7 Giddens, Hutchison, Jim Kunsleman, Lonnie Clemmons, Pete Mauk, Joe Salgado, Shane

Clint Townsen & Mona Slater

June 8

Birthday - Lauren Bergin, field, Caleb Odegaard Scott Hindergardt, Rex Anniversary - M/M Neal Freeman, Melanie Kenny, Williams, M/M Cap Ben-Brian Williams, Cheryl son, M/M Paul Reimer, Whitefield, Efren Her- M/M Joe Garcia Baker, mosillo, Lance Mendy Mackie

Anniversary - Rod & Jan- Everette M/M Archie Nelson, M/M Wells Hugo Vella

June 9 Birthday - T.J. Been, Marsh. George, Manuel Morales, Kincaid Bravo Chambrey Cox

Anniversary - M/M Ralph Dixie Smith M/M Mireles, Jerry Williams, M/M

June 10 Holton, Norlan Winegarner, Huerta Marty Miesner

Anniversary - Jesse & Birthday - Ada Joyce Kerry Foster, M/M Todd Cristopher Williams, M/M James Knoll, Dean Coates

June 11

son, Bob Burke, Charolette Sheets, Maureen Garner, Effie Sutton, Mrs. Jessie Alan Beeson, Christina Bratton, Toby Walker, Linda West, Jan Hunter, Phyllis

Anniversary - Thane & Gruver, Marlene Miller Sue McCloy, M/M Charles Eaton, M/M Larry Murphy June 12

Birthday - Curt Fitzgerald, Cara Hathaway, Bob Meek, Juan Avila, Marva Hohertz, Greene, Bruce, David Lewis Juanita Mar- Ermal Pond tinez, Heath Meler, Ruth Crawford, Alek Meyer, Steve Myatt, Amber Weller, Rod Karlin, April Hall, Sunshine (Smith) Davis, Skip Lesly

Anniversary - Robert & Rhonda Duke, Gary & Dara Faries June 13

Tindell, Mika Gumfory, Kuykendall

Brenda Wall, Ross Walker, Birthday - Bobbie Evans, Sherri Correll, Christina Vangie Johnson, Janet Marie Ochoa, Austin Cook Miller, Charlie Stavlo, *Anniversary* - M/M Ver-Monty Blackman, Donna don Edens, M/M Keith Georganne Goodman, Robert & Jamie Renteria

June 14 Birthday - Shelly Dunni-Harnish, Kimbre Townsen, hoo, Jovita Ochoa, Keith Hutton, John Trindle, Ron Anniversary - Gene & Dunnaway, Eva McCam-Joy Byrd, M/M Ted Evans, mond, John Delarosa, M/M David Grotegut, Cecil Jerry Hart, Teresa Weldon, Salee Flowers, Sally Thomas, Jeremy Sutter-

June 15

Hetzler, Leah Birthday - Glen Harris, E.A. Williams, Beth Yanke, Tracy, Tony ice Fulce, M/M Matt Lair, Berrera, Gina Gillispie, M/M Ed Dear, M/M Tim Frank Salgado, Candice Barkley, M/M Tim McCloy, Pipkin, Jeff Fox, Devin

> Anniversary - M/M Bob Rylant

> > June 16

Edith Kaufmann, Corky Birthday - Timber Lewis, Kizzar, Danny Rodriquez, Laci Osborne, Tisha Ral-Christi Garcia, James ston, Davin Winger, Jo Scroggs, Larry Scroggs, Lynn Griffin, Jodie Överton, Mike Schnell, Joel Ray Michael Wayne Owens, Warren, Susan Steart, Chris Roach, Randy Brog-John Hinson, Omie Moyer, don, Odell Genn, Suzanne James Gillispie, Ida Mendoza, Ivy

Anniversary - Bobby &

June 17

Trevor Birthday - Sara Jones, Jill Williams, M/M Robert Dahl Odom, Iris Wood, Valerie McLain, Manuel Nunez, Birthday - Ed Castillo, Roy Lee McClellan, Janna Roy Deeds, Nick Holt, Jerry Harris, Ann Rook, Lee Reed, Dawn Jackson, Schubert, Rex Burgess, Kevin Williams, Steve Dallas Burgess, Elvia

June 18

Rebecca Browning, Rod- Stedje, Doug Lackey, Phil ney & Sharon Farber, Lolo Windom, Jimmy Jackson, & Estella Rodriquez, Chris Doug Cummings, Susan Malissa Taylor, M/M Pearson, George Martin, Cummings, Eddie LaFarr, Amy Boyd, M/M Frank Pouty, M/M Roy Lenis Simpson, Roberta Cole, Emily Bates

Anniversary - Hershel & Birthday - Mickey Delano, Wanda Jones, M/M Leon Aimee Tunnel, Chad John- Red, Don & Faye Schmehr June 19

Birthday - John Williams, Heffley, Sam Pierson, Smith, Nathan Steger, Rhonda Bynum Randy Coombs. Stanley Randy Coombs, Stanley

Anniversary - M/M Barry Barkley

June 20

Birthday - Mica Been, Pat Irwin, Neal Williams, Terry Patterson, Pete Vera Dana Brady Chase Brown, Skyler Lorene Halgin, Jordan, Christen Grimsley,

June 21

Birthday - Lynn Boyd Patrick Meek, Harry Stumpf, Rosa Baker, Valdez, Steve Belinda Rogers, M/M Bob Slater, Josh Kunsleman, Burgoon, M/M Bert Shep- Robert Breedon, Christi pard, Darrell & Delphia Black, Linda Town, Anita Sumner, Clint Lilly, Cody Mike Ivey, Amanda Thomp-Birthday - Julie Dahl, son, Britani Vasquez, Clay-Marie Finley, Anselmo ton Acker, Jennifer Nollner Trejo, Wynell Hager, James Anniversary - M/M Jim





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Ten Simple Steps to **Protect your Home** from Wildland Fire

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

1. LPG tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

2. Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings. 3. All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic

tables, boats and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures. 4. Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and

other debris. 5. Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet

6. In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.

7. Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake and a bucket or two for 8. Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your

home for emergency use. 9. Assure that you and your family know all emer-

gency exits from your home.

10. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood.

Ready, Set Go!

READY. Prepare for the possibility of a wildland fire before the threat occurs. Take preventive actions to make your home safer from the threat of wildfire by using Firewise and similar principles (firewise.org).

- Remove combustible materials from around your home. Keep grass mowed short.

SET. Elevate your family's awareness when fire weather occurs or when wildland fire activity increases.

Form a family disaster plan. - Agree on an evacuation plan that includes what to do if you get separated and where you'll go in case of evac-

- Pack critical medicines, important documents, family heirlooms to be ready to leave at a moment's notice. **GO**. This is the simplest step: Execute your disaster

plan by leaving early, well before the fire arrives. - If instructed to evacuate, do so! Your "stuff" isn't

more important than your LIFE. information http://www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/fires.html

www.spearmanreporter.com

HCHD Heritage Days Celebration Events

submitted by Christina Dettmer

May 12, 2012 marked the first Children's Fishing Tournament and Rib Cook Off, to be held annually, sponsored by Hansford County Hospital District at Palo Duro Lake. The day began with 27 children registered for the fishing tournament. Each child carefully chose their fishing spot and at 9am the competition began! Numerous fish and turtles of all sizes were caught and the results were as follows:

Craziest catch - Logan Targete; Youngest girl - Mc-Cormie Cudd; Youngest boy - Wylan Tindell; 1st Turtle - Landon Burch

1st catch in age groups: 3-5 - Q Harper; 6-9 - Jeb Garnett; 10-12 - Levi Garnett

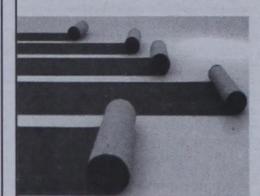
Biggest fish - Miguel Perez; Random Drawing for

Prizes - Kamryn Bailey and Tate Tyler There were three entries for the Rib cookoff: Johnny

and Brenda Vera, Mike and Pat Cudd, and Jonathan Bailey and Eric Werner. 1st place was awarded to Mike and Pat Cudd. 2nd place was awarded to Johnny and Brenda Vera, and 3rd place was awarded to Jonathan Bailey and Eric Werner. Thank you to all the participants of the first annual Children's Fishing Tournament and Rib Cookoff and we hope to see everyone again next year.

See related photos on Page 8.

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<u>Spearman</u>

Apostolic Faith Church 822 S. Dressen • 659-2870 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m. Sun. Eve.: 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer Mtg: 7 p.m. Pastor - Jack Cornell

> First Assembly of God 401 N. Bernice • 659-2295 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:40 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wed. Worship: 7 p.m. Wed. Youth: 7 Pastor - Brad Smith

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 29 S. Bernice • 659-2036 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:50 a.m. Minister -

First Baptist Church 123 N. Bernice • 659-5557 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Evening Worship: 7 p.m. Men's Bible Study - Wed., 7 a.m. Children's Choir - Wed, 6 p.m. Adult Choir - Wed. 7 p.m. Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Pastor - Jim Medley

Church of Christ 121 S. Haney • 659-3244 Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Bible Study Wed.: 7:30 p.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church 901 Roland • 659-2166 Sat. Night Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. - English Sun. Mass: 11:30 a.m. - Spanish Rev. Gregory Bunyan

First United Methodist 407 S. Haney • 659-5503 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 8:30 & 11 a.m. Jr. High Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday High School: 6 p.m., Sunday Kids Club: 3 p.m. Wed. Pastor - Toni Bailey

Grace Presbyterian Church (Worships with Faith Lutheran Church) 1101 Bernice • 659-2033 Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1101 Bernice • 659-2252 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. (Worships with Grace Presbyterian Church) Pastor - Cecil Biggers, PLM

Union Church 31 S. Endicott • 659-2644 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Worship & Kid's Church: 11:00 a.m. Wednesday Evening Worship and Bible Study Service: 7 p.m. Wed. Pastor - Steve Hinshaw www.unionchurchonline.org

Fellowship Baptist 1102 S. Archer • 659-2783 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Sun. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Sun. Evening Spanish Worship: 7 p.m. SU VVEO Pastor - Philip Hudson

Primera Mision Bautista 502 E. 7th • 659-3991 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m.; Evening: 6 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7 p.m.

Thurs. Visitation: 7 p.m. Pastor Joe Garcia Jr. El Aposento Alto U.P.C.I. 1105 S. Roland Culto Evangelistico - 7 p.m. Jueves: Oracion - 8 p.m.

Domingos: Escuela-Dominical - 10 a.m. Mier: Estudio Biblico - 7 p.m. Pastor - A.G. Martell (806) 659-2153

Gruver

First Baptist Church 402 E.Broadway • 733-2411 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:50 a.m. Disciple Training: 6 p.m.. Sunday Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Pastor - Scott Curry

> Church of Christ 209 King • 733-2760 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:20 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wed. Worship: 7:00 p.m. Minister - Gaylord Cook

First Christian Church 510 King • 733-2960 Sunday School: 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. Youth: 7:30, Sunday Wed. Bible Study: 8:00 p.m. Pastor - Gary Gumfory

Gruver United Methodist Broadway & Garrett. 733-2651 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 8:30 & 10:50 a.m.

Eve. Worship & UMY: 6 p.m. Pastor - George Price Spanish Cristo Redentor Church Hwy 15 806-659-2166

Gruver, TX

Sun. Mass: 1:30 p.m. - Spanish

Rev. Gregory Bunyan

<u>Oslo</u> Oslo Lutheran Church (ELCA) 6 Miles West & 12 Mile North of Gruver 339-7646 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m.

Morse

Morse Baptist Church 733-2757 Pastor - Gary Stevens

Waka

300 Rogers Ave. 202-7126 Sunday School - 9:30 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m. Preacher - Ed Jenkins

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

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Medical Fund for Francis Scroggs Pond A Medical Fund that has been set up at FNB for Francis (Scroggs) Pond, she has been Diagnosed with cancer and will begin chemotherapy in Amarillo (and possibly surgery in Dallas in the near future).

Spearman Food Bank 1st Thursday If you would like to help the Spearman Food Bank, they need help unloading the truck at 11:30 each 1st Thursday of each month. Contact Cecil Biggers for more information.

Second (Indianhead) Division Association, Inc. The Second (Indianhead) Division Association is searching fo anyonoe who ever served in the 2nd Infantry Division at any time. For information about the national association and out annual reunion in Reno, Nevada from August 23-26, 2012 visit our website at www.2ida.org or contact the association's secretary-treasurer. Bob Haynes, at 2idahg@comcast.net or (224) 225-1202

9th Annual XIT Trail of Sales

75 miles of yard sales, garage sales, clearance sales and more - Saturday, June 2, 2012. Start times vary. Channing, Hartley, Dalhart, Texline. For more information go to www.dalhart.org for a list of sales in all four communities and area will be posted on May 30th.

Kurk Adams Memorial Poker Run

Saturday, June 9 will be a fun-filled day of riding and poker, as a group of motorcyclists gather for the 6th Annual Kurk Adams Memorial Poker Run, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting Hansford Hospice. There will be cash prizes for high hand /low hand and raffle, door prizes and 50/50 pot. Registration will be at 10:00 at Spearman City Hall. First bike out at 10:30, last bike out at 11:30. Last bike in at 2:30 at Palo Duro Lake. Cost is \$10.00 per hand or three for \$25.00. For more information call Kurt at 806-270-0024. For tee-shirts call Brianne at 806call Kurt at 806-270-0024. For tee-shirts call Brianne at 806 231-7449.

Spearman Street Sealcoatting

G. W. James, contractor for the sealcoat project is beginning slightly early this year. They are beginning to sweep the streets. The following streets are included: From 11th to 12th on Townsend, Dressen, Bernice, and Glover; From 7th to 12th on Barkley and Haney; On 8th and 10th from Barkley to Bernice; and On 9th from Highway 207 to Roland and Barkley to Bernice. If citizens would begin to have their vehicles off the streets so the street sweepers can clean the project area it streets so the street sweepers can clean the project area it would be appreciated.

Rushing Wind Emmaus Community Meeting
Rushing Wind Emmaus will meet Saturday, June 9, at the
Waka Christian Center starting at 6 p.m. Friends and families
are welcome to come to the potluck dinner followed with a

praise and worship service. A nursery will be provided and raining will be available for new sponsors.

Greyhound Football Camp June 18-20 The Greyhound Football Camp will be held on June 18th, 19th, & 20th. Registration forms will be passed out at school, but a registration form is also attached. If you have any questions please call 806-736-0203

2012 Houndball Summer Basketball Camp Houndball Summer Basketball Camp will be held Monday Wednesday, June 4-6. Session I will be from 9 .m.-noon for next year's 2nd-6th grade boys; Session II will be held from 1-4 p.m. for next year's 7th-9th grade boys. It will be held in the Gruver Gym. The cost is \$40 and includes a T-shirt and ball. (If cost is keeping you from coming, please contact Coach Callaway at 806-733-5424.) Also, we will give \$5 discount for every sibling that attends (e.g. 2 brothers = \$70 instead of \$80; 3 brothers = \$105 instead of \$120). Walk-ups welcome! Registration and release forms may be turned in to GISD or mailed.

istration and release forms may be turned in to GISD or mailed to Box 336; Gruver 79040; attn: Coach Callaway. Hansford Co. Library Thrift Shop Accepting Donations Alley Katz (Library Thrift Shop) is accepting donations of quality items. You may ask for the key to the Thrift Shop at the library desk during regular hours (9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday). Alley Katz is open from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. each

Firefighters Wanted

Wednesday.

The Spearman Volunteer Fire Department is actively recruiting new members. Both men and women age 18 and over are welcome. The number of volunteers has dropped to dangerously low levels and the roster needs to be increased. If you have an interest in helping to keep your community safe, the SVFD would like to talk to you. All new candidates will have access to the best training available. All interested parties should either come to the fire station located at 513 S Hazelwood or call Kimmi Rivera at 806-202-6374. The SVFD meets every Thursday night at 7 PM. Bring a friend and come join

Hansford Hospice

Volunteering for Hospice is very flexible and easy to work into your schedule. Our volunteers provide important services to the people we serve, whether it is: providing companionship to patients and their families; helping with clerical duties in the office; helping with special projects such as cooking food, baking, running or helping with community outreach. If you are interested in being a Hansford Hospice Volunteer, please contact us at 806-659-5811.

Texas SNAP Benefits Assistance

Need help applying for SNAP benefits? We can help! High Plains Food Bank is providing application assistance for Texas SNAP benefits (Food Stamps) in your area. Telephone application assistance is available. If you need to apply for benefits, please call us today at 806374-8562 or 1-800-774-8564.

Don't Text and Drive Decals

If you would like to purchase a lime green 'AMT 1994-2009 Don't Text and Drive' window decal in memory of Ali Tyler, please contact Stephannie Tyler at 806-736-0019. All proceeds go to the Ali Tyler Memorial Scholarship Fund. Decals are also available at Hansford County Floral Company on Main Street in Spearman.

Help Available for Breast Cancer Survivors Any woman who has had breast cancer surgery and cannot

afford undergarments and prosthetics can get help from the American Cancer Society through a grant from Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. The Amarillo Area Breast Prosthesis and Lymphedema Accessory Program will provide financial help to women in need of breast forms or prostheses, mastectomy bras and accessories to help with lymphedema, which is swelling of the arm caused by a build-up of lymph fluid. For more information, call the American Cancer Society office in Amarillo at (806) 353-4307 or 1-877-227-2345.

Friendship Quilter Quilt Guild

The Friendship Quilter Quilt Guild of Perryton, Texas would like to invite you to their meetings. The Day Guild meets the and Wednesdays of each month at 9 a.m. in the Community Worship Center, 2210 SW 15th, Perryton. The Night Guild meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the Community Worship Center, 2210 SW 15th, Perryton. Annual dues are \$15. (To receive only the newsletter \$7.50/yr.) Visitors are welcome. For more information, contact Cynthia Shattles at 806-435-2765 or Marilyn Robins at 806-624-2691.

Fire Department Donations
Persons wishing to make donations to the Fire Departments in Hansford County may do so at the following addresses: Spearman Fire Dept., Box 37, Spearman TX 79081; Gruver Fire Dept., Box 947, Gruver TX 79040 or Morse Fire Dept., Box 28, Morse TX 79062.

Take Off Pounds Sensibly

Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. at the First Christian Church in Gruver. For more information, contact Marilyn Been at 806-733-2087.

SPWA Seeks Volunteers
The Southwest Pioneer Windmill Association is seeking the next generation of volunteers to continue the work of restoring and maintaining the windmills of the SPWA. If you have an interest in windmills and their upkeep, and/or maintenance of the park, you are needed. For information, call Dwayne Mitchell, 270-0291 or Don Reed 330-0745.

Courthouse

Continued from Page 1

and became the civic, social, and worship center of the northeast from Amarillo.16 county.

drought, a national depression, and the lack of a railroad.8 Canadian River in Hutchinson County on Stinnett's own After 1901, growth spurted somewhat when the Rock Island. Aided by the nearby Borger oil boom of 1926, the land built a rail line southwest from Liberal, Kansas, to-promoters quickly sold \$400,000 worth of lots in the new an agricultural trade center and shipping point at Tex- winning an election to snatch the county seat from Plehoma on the state line about 40 miles northwest of Hans- mons.17 ford. In February 1903, a three-foot snowfall turned the through Texhoma.9

railroad was to be built from Dalhart to the east to pass ver.18 through Hansford. In September 1909, construction began at Dalhart, but only 13 miles of track were laid be- multuous year ever for Hansford County—the making of fore the line went broke amidst charges of fraud and the perfect storm. Promoters of Spearman, who had been graft.10 Its failure would ultimately lead to the death of waiting the necessary five years for another election for Hansford.

to 935, partially slowed by the land rush to the adjacent majority vote, while Spearman would need two-thirds. If Oklahoma panhandle where there was free land and a Spearman waited too long to act, Gruver's approaching railroad that attracted 14,000 people to take up residence railroad line would increase its population and Spearman in four short years.11 But, with the utilization of mecha- would have no chance. Thus, its promoters became quite nized combines, along with skyrocketing wheat prices proactive. As the Gruver town site was being surveyed, caused by the outbreak of World War I, the county's Spearman promoters in January, 1927 called for a new wheat farms acreage increased by 800 percent to more county seat election. Hansford County commissioners set than 32,000 by 1920. The booming economy prompted the election for Saturday March 5, with Spearman, Hansserious attention from a railroad. 12

began building a line west from Shattuck, Oklahoma to- agitation between citizens of the three towns involved, ward Hansford County, but opted not to run the line down the question had been worked up to fever heat Hot into the Palo Duro valley to Hansford. Instead, it delib- arguments were not uncommon, [with] many citizens of erately avoided the county seat, and, in typical railroad Hansford having become very 'touchy' on the subject."19 fashion, laid out its own town on the level plains, six On election day, people turned out early and crowded the miles short of Hansford. The new town was named streets. In Spearman, one individual, Tom Lathum, was Spearman, in honor of the Santa Fe's town developer arrested because, according to the paper, "he is alleged Thomas E. Spearman. World War I delayed the line's to have pulled a gun following an argument with Walter completion until late 1919.13

land slide. Many of Hansford's buildings were put on knocked it from Lathum's hand. The men finished the enskids and dragged to the new railhead, including the counter with their fists. The referee's decision has not bank, the Methodist Church, the schoolhouse, and the been announced." 20 Palo Duro Hotel, originally owned by S.B.Hale, J.H. drug store there in 1919.14.

move the county seat from Hansford to Spearman, but getting its necessary two-thirds.21 there was one problem: Texas law required that, if a approval of voters would be required. When the election was held in January 1922, more than 400 votes were cast: Spearman received 277 to Hansford's 157, but Hansford clear; it may have been Judge S. B. Hale. Regardless, won the contest, due to the two-thirds rule that left Spear- shortly after the March 5 election, someone succeeded in man 12 votes short.15

the appetite of other speculators, such as Albert Sidney after."23 Its wording would soon be called into question. Stinnett of Amarillo. In 1923, he began a campaign to

persuade the Rock Island to build a line into the heart of Rebuilt once again, this time as a single-story struc- the north plains north of the Canadian River. His work ture, it was still the largest building in a sixty-mile region paid off. In 1926, the Rock Island started construction

Stinnett and his partners, including the flamboyant A. Hansford County grew slowly in the 1890s, due to P. "Ace" Borger, then laid out a townsite north of the ward Tucumcari, New Mexico, and in the process created town of Stinnett that summer, and in the fall succeeded in

In early 1927, flushed with their success in Hutchinplains into a garden. Soon, wheat farming began with son County, Stinnett and Borger (the men, not the towns!) some success. J. H. "Uncle Joe" Gruver, and his son then targeted Hansford County and purchased approxi-Lawrence, imported plows and harvesting equipment mately 600 acres of the Cooper Ranch near the center of the county. The promoters chose to name their new town Land sales soon increased, fueled by speculation that a for the largest land owner in the area, Uncle Joe Gru-

The birth of Gruver in 1927 precipitated the most tucounty seat, knew very well that Gruver, because it was By 1910, Hansford County's population had increased located near the center of the county, could win with a ford, and Gruver on the ballot. As election day ap-That attention came from the Santa Fe. In 1917, it proached, according to the Amarillo Globe, "... through Benge, local hotel operator. According to witnesses, The railroad's arrival at Spearman prompted a literal Lathum drew a gun during the course when Benge

With its population advantage, Spearman seemed a Wright and Bert Cator. Judge Hale also built the first cinch to get the county seat, but the election results brick building on Spearman's main street and moved his caught everyone by surprise. Spearman tallied 665 votes, and Hansford got 33, but the brand new town of Gruver In 1921, Spearman promoters called for an election to polled 307 votes, which left Spearman five votes short of

Foiled for the second time in five years, Spearman's county seat was to be removed to any place that was not leaders cried foul, charging that fraud was involved in within five miles of the county's center, then a two-thirds canvassing the ballot boxes.22 They immediately turned

to the Texas legislature for help.

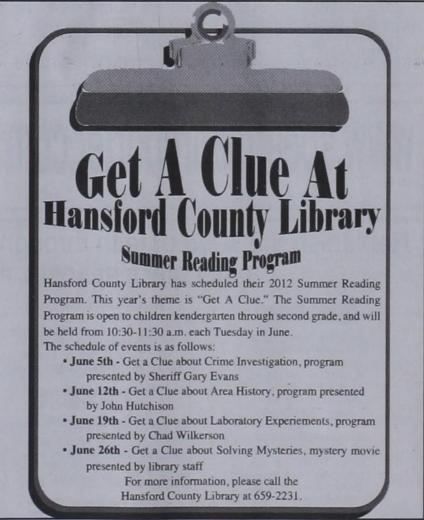
Just who led the charge to Austin in March, 1927 is not an 12 votes short.15 getting the legislature to pass two hastily-drawn bills: on The disappointed Spearman promoters would have to March 29, House Bill 275 was signed by the governor, wait five years for a new election. In the meantime, they which provided that, if the county seat election were began running large ads in the Amarillo paper promoting being held to move the seat to "a location on a railroad," their town and the county, but the ads also served to whet the election could be held "within two years there-

The legislature also passed a second, and very strange bill that provided that a county seat located more than five miles from the center of a county could be removed to any point by a majority vote. What made this bill strange was that it applied to only those counties "having a population of not less than 1300 nor more than 1400 according to the last United States census."24 Hansford County, with a 1920 population of 1,354, was the only county in Texas to qualify.

The quick approval of the two bills led immediately to another fight, and this one proved to be more serious than before. Spearman supporters interpreted the first bill's wording, "within two years thereafter," to mean that, when the existing county seat was not on a railroad, a new election could be held any time during the following two years. Thus, on July 2, 1927, they petitioned the County to hold a new election to remove the seat from Hansford to the railroad at Spearman. And, since the Rock Island had not yet reached Gruver, that community was excluded from the ballot. The election was set for August 6.

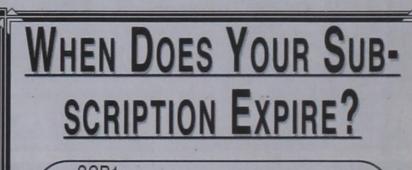
Gruver promoters retaliated, contending that the legislature meant only that a new election could not be held until after two years had passed. Led by J. P. Winder, Gruver supporters immediately sued to stop the election, based on wrongful interpretation of the law.

Continued on Page 5





FDA Reports Increased Risk of Bladder Cancer with Extended Usage



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HISTORY

Courthouse

Continued from Page 4

However, Winder lost at the district court and Court of Civil Appeals level and plans for the election continued.25 Three days prior to the election, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that a writ of error had occurred but it did not stop the election.26 The county went ahead with its plan and held the election, but under a legal

Once again, nearly every voter in Hansford County turned out for the issue. On election eve, the Amarillo paper wryly noted that ". . . Gruver folks are said to feel that if they can keep the county seat from being moved to Spearman, they will some day have a chance to get it moved to Gruver. They are reported to be working for Hansford in today's election, and Hansford is accepting their aid; it might be considered one instance of not fearing the Greeks when they come bearing gifts." 27

Once again, Spearman got a big majority, 657 to 363, but failed by 23 to get a two-thirds vote.28 Of course, Spearman promoters pointed out that the law had been changed to a majority vote, and thus the county seat could be moved. But, wisely, the county commissioners declined to take action and refused to order the move, pending the outcome of the Winder suit.

Meanwhile, Gruver supporters appealed to the region through letters to the Amarillo paper. One of these clearly

reflected clearly Gruver's intent:

We must admit that the courthouse should be located near the center of the county. . . . With this road, we can ship our wheat, dairy and other products to the gateway city of the Panhandle (Amarillo). . . . We are Texas people and want Texas towns in which to market our prod-

The last sentence was clearly a slap at Spearman, whose railroad carried their goods to and from Oklahoma

Finally, in November, 1927, the Texas Supreme Court ruled in favor of Gruver, declaring that the word "within" meant "not less than." 30 Therefore, the August election was null and void and Spearman would have to wait two more years.

Three failed elections in a five-year period finally prompted Judge Hale to action. After the Supreme Court ruling, he began to collect funds for "the legal end of the fight" by asking for donations based on amount of property one held. He went to Chicago and met with Nelson W. Willard, a Chicago land speculator and Hansford County landowner with ties to the Santa Fe, and asked him to talk to railroad officials about support. Willard contributed \$1,000, more than twice than for what Judge Hale had asked.31 Hale also raised more than \$1,200 from Spearman residents.32

Meanwhile, the drama only intensified as the Rock Island announced in March 1928 that it was ready to extend its line from Stinnett to Gruver, with plans to reach there by late summer or early fall of 1928.33 Spearman correctly feared that, with the arrival of the railroad in Gruver, it would experience a Stinnett-like boom, and perhaps win the county seat in an August 1929 election.

But, the rail line construction proceeded slower than expected, and by late 1928 was stalled a few miles south of Gruver. Not willing to take a chance, Judge Hale made the 564-mile trek from Spearman to Austin in February 1929 to lobby the Texas Legislature, which had convened in January. With the recently-raised funds in hand, Hale campaigned to get the Legislature allow an immediate vote for the county seat rather than a five-year wait. In February, he appeared before the Senate State Affairs Committee, as did two Gruver supporters.34

Judge Hale's lobbying, and generous war chest appar-

Spearman as a county seat were preparing to call a spe-stole his courthouse. 43 cial election before the bill could be passed in order to take advantage of the old law [that provided a move to a railhead away from the center could be done with a ma-

So, who carried the day in Austin? Gruver folk probably thought they did, because the law allowed that Gruver could win by a majority. Spearman folk thought that they did, because the action implied that, since it had been two years since the legitimate March 1927 election, then Spearman could call for a new election. And that they did. On March 14, 1029, less than a month after the legislature approved the county seat bill, the Hansford County Commissioners set April 25 as the date for the fourth county seat vote in seven years.36

The railroad finally had arrived in Gruver in February 1929, but it was too late to salvage the town's dream to be the county seat. Once again, the election turned out nearly every eligible voter in the county (and perhaps a few more), as nearly 1,300 cast ballots. Even though Gruver carried six of the eight polling places, some of them unanimously, it could not match Spearman's 876 votes—25 more than necessary for the two-thirds requirement.37

And, as before, some of Gruver's citizens challenged the vote in court, but this time, Spearman did not wait for the results. On the Monday after the election, the county commissioners authorized the move of the county seat and the the contents of the courthouse in Hansford were immediately hauled to City Hall in Spearman, amidst fire whistles blowing in celebration. According to an observer, the records were moved "without a single objection being made by residents of [Hansford]."38

There may have been some cursing in Gruver, especially after its appeal through the courts failed.39 But with its late-arriving railroad, coupled with a looming drought and economic depression, Gruver would have never achieved a population sufficient enough to gain a majority vote. Uncle Joe Gruver was partially right; maybe Judge Hale stole his courthouse, but he did it the hard way.40

Prologue Judge Hale died in 1939 at age 59; his wife and sons Selden, Jr. (Butch), and Wright Hale continued to maintain family businesses in both Spearman and Gruver, owning the movie theaters in both towns, two in Spearman and one in Gruver.41 Selden Hale III, after 1956 his encounter with Uncle Joe, attended Texas Tech, served a hitch in the Marine Corps, then returned to West Texas to become first, a reporter for the Amarillo Globe-News, and then a prominent criminal attorney in Amarillo where he lives today. His family still owns the town site of

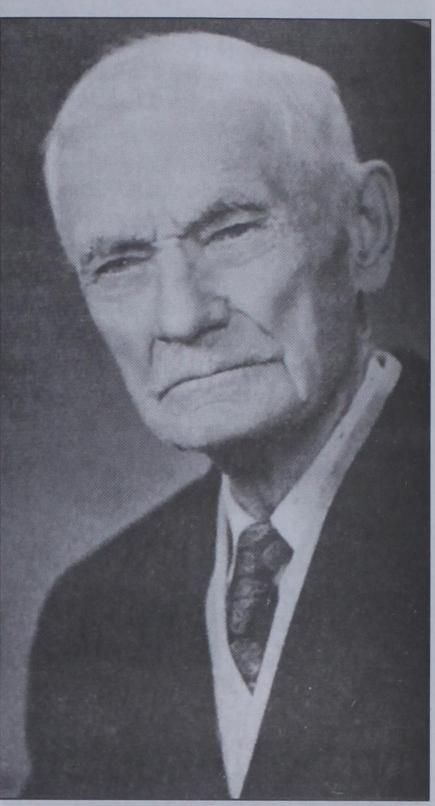
When Judge Hale died, a Spearman paper editorialized his accomplishments:

Mr. Hale was a man of decided convictions. . ., yet he was congenial and was willing at all times to sit down and discuss matters across the table with his opponents. During the bitter county seat fight . . ., he took a very prominent part . . . Yet when the fight was over, he was still on friendly terms with the most prominent leaders of the opposition, and some [my underline] of them continued to trade with him.42

Note that only "some" continued to trade with him. One who probably did not was Uncle Joe Gruver.

What happened to the old courthouse, with its brick hauled by wagon from Dodge City? In 1930, Uncle Joe

ently paid off. The legislature quickly passed a bill al- Gruver, J. P. Winder, and other prominent Gruver citizens lowing for a vote after two years from the previous elec-bought it, had it demolished, and moved the brick to Grution, but it restored the two-thirds vote requirement to ver for construction of the Gruver Community Church, move a county seat farther than five miles from the located next door to Uncle Joe Gruver's new home on county center. According to the press, "The bill was Broadway. The edifice must have served as a reminder passed with an emergency clause so it may go into im- to Uncle Joe about the lost cause for a long time—he was mediate effect. Statements were made that advocates of 99 when he died in 1962, still convinced that Judge Hale

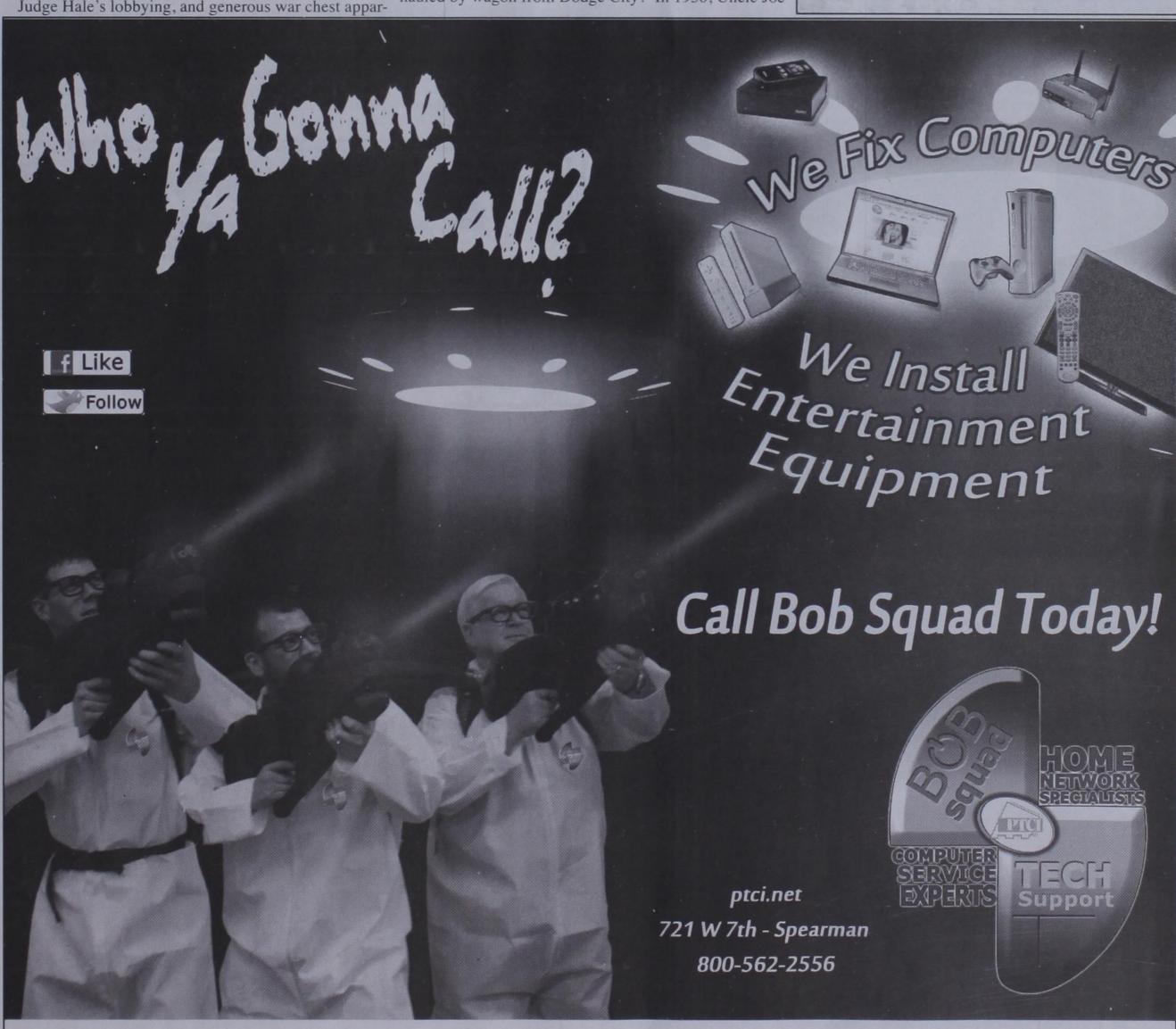


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Courthouse



Judge S.B. Hale



Gruver House

Bibliographpy

manager for the Farwell Town (Margaret Locke Kirk Co., Hansford county, Texas, "Memorable Extracts from accompanied by James and Mrs. M.B. Wright's Experi- John McKeever, passed west dle," WPA Writer's Project, on town. He says the Farwell file at Panhandle Plains Mu- Town Co. is composed of seum, p. 4, from copy in pos- three different companies, one session of Dorothy Hudson, from Harper, one from Ster-Gruver, Texas).2 C. Robert ling and one from Garden Haywood, Trails South: The City, Kansas. They have con-Wagon-Road Economy in the solidated and laid out their Dodge City-Panhandle Region town exactly in the center of Meade, Kansas: Prairie Books, the county, The company 2006), pp. 97-98.3 Panhandlle plans to build all the houses Interstate, Lipscomb, Lip- that are needed for the present, scomb County, Texas Friday, and sink three wells. There is August 19.1887, copy in pos- owned by individuals in the session of Dorothy Hudson, company seventeen sections

county town and help settle up the country. The county as yet has only about seventy-five settlers, and they will not attempt an organization this year." 4 Kirk, p. 4. In June 1887, the Panhandle Interstate recorded Huff Wright's visit in Lipscomb to secure a surveyor with this note: "J. H. Wright of Hansford County was in Lipscomb Monday to secure the services of Surveyor-Spiller to plat him a town on the Paladora valley, near the center of Hansford County. The town will be finely located in the valley, where water can be had sion of Dorothy Hudson, Gru-History very sparse, and lands will fall owners." As a result, the Santa Fe avoided the northern Panhandle until it knew when "the ences in the North Panhan- through Lipscomb for their country will sustain the line with its local business, and not Mr. Batman," Santa Fe Historical & Modeling Society web-

> http://www.atsfrr.com/resources/burton/LittleOffice.ht m, accessed March 22, 2011. 9 Hansford County Texas, Vol. Publishing Company, [1979]), Stinnett's ranch north of the Pocketbook, Papers, S.B. Hansford County, Vol. 1, p.



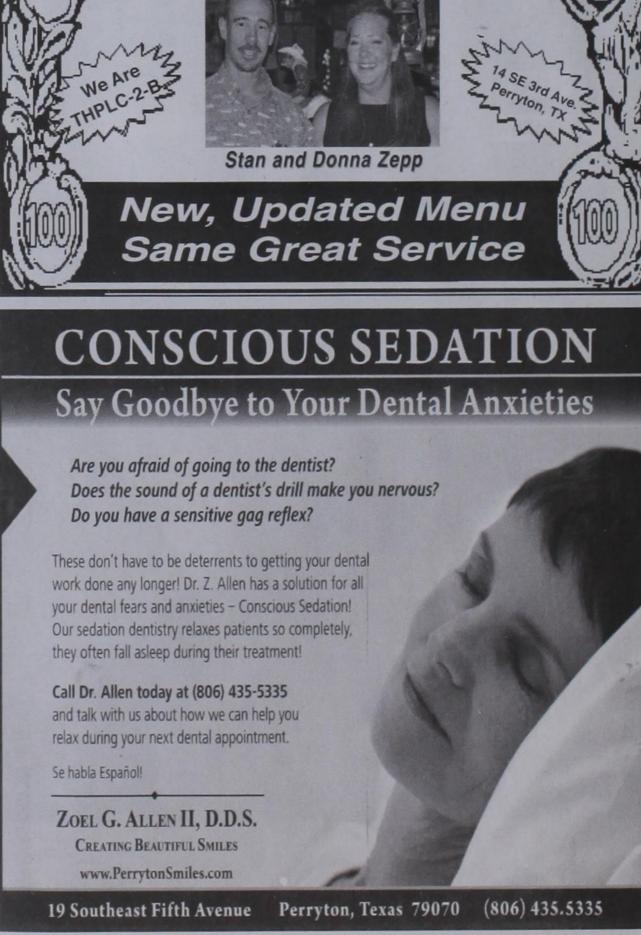
Courthouse

by digging a few feet. There is and Western Railroad," Hand- issued its permit for the line. Richardson, and former sherbut one creek in the county, all book of Texas Online Amarillo Globe, April 8, 1926, iff R. M. Thompson both after the name of the post of- Historical Association. See 1 Cater [sic] boys, who have Oklahoma, which lies just to accessed March 14, 2011; clipping, February 22, and

the land being a high, rolling (http://www.tshaonline.org/ha p. 1. See also Burton, "Little spoke in opposition to the bill. prairie, of rich alluvial soil. ndbook/online/articles/eqe11), Office on the Prairie." 17 H. Richardson later served as one The town is not yet named, but accessed March 10, 2011, Allen Anderson, "STINNETT, of S.B. Hale's pall bearers at will probably be called Zulu published by the Texas State TX," Handbook of Texas On- his funeral in 1939. Amarillo e Daily News, February 2, 1929, fice 12 miles up the valley, at also, Burton, "Little Office on (http://www.tshaonline.org/ha p. 1; Newspaper clipping, Pa-Cator's, or Cator after the the Prairie."11 Texas County, ndbook/online/articles/hjs26), pers, S.B. Hale. 35 Newspaper been in the valley for years-- the north of Hansford County, Jones, A Search for Opportu- Papers, S.B. Hale. The clipfirst as buffalo hunters, and grew from 1,000 in 1900 to nity, pp. 20-21.18 Hansford ping clearly refers to the 1929 then as cow men.I" Panhandle 14,000 in 1910. Dianna County, Vol. 1, p. 23. 19 legislative session and is prob-Interstate, June 10, 1887, Everett, "Texas County," Amarillo Globe, March 6, ably from the Dallas Morning newspaper clipping in posses- Oklahoma Encyclopedia of 1927.20 Ibid.21 Ibid.22 Amar- News.36 Hansford County, Culture, illo Daily News, March 18, Vol. 1, p. 58.37 The citizens of ver, Texas.5 L. L. Graves, ed., http://digital.library.okstate.ed 1927, p. 1.23 General and Gruver finally celebrated the A History of Lubbock (Lub- u/encyclopedia/entries/T/TEO Special Laws of the State of arrival of the railroad on bock: West Texas Museum As- 21.html, accessed March 10, Texas of the Fortieth Legisla- March 1, 1929, with a big celsociation, 1962), p. 80. 6 2011. 12 H. Allen Anderson, ture of the Regular Session, ebration and the formal open-"Highlights from the Past and "HANSFORD COUNTY," 1927 (Austin: State of Texas, ing of four new businesses, Present," Gruver Independent, Handbook of Texas Online 1927), p. 264.24 40th 1st including a bank, car dealer-April 24, 1963, Vertical File, (http://www.tshaonline.org/ha Called Session, May 9, 1927 - ship, and two agricultural Gruver Library, Gruver, Texas. ndbook/online/articles/hch04), June 7, 1927, Legislative Ref- equipment dealers. (Spearman 7 Kirk, p. 5.8 The latter was by accessed March 19, 2011.13 erence Library Online, Reporter, February 21, Februdesign: The Santa Fe, the log- Hansford County Texas, Vol. (http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/ses- ary 28, and April 25, 1929; ical line to build into the upper 1, p. 19. Mike Burton's article, sions/sessionSnapshot.cfm?le Hansford County, Vol. 1, p. Panhandle because of its "Little Office on the Prairie," gSession=40-1, accessed 24. One of the new businesses strong Kansas presence, had indicates that the line was March 1, 2011; Amarillo to open was the Gruver Harddeliberately avoided the area, completed in July 1920. 14 Globe, July 25,1927, p. 1; ware. The author's father, Roy even though one of its survey- Dotty Jones, A Search for Op- Amarillo Daily News, July 26, Murrah, reported to work ors, Phillip Smith, reported in portunity: A History of Hans- 1927, and August 8, 1927, p. there at age 19 in January, 1886 that "Sherman, Hansford ford County (Gruver, TX: 10. Judge Hale made refer- 1930. 38 Amarillo Daily and Moore Counties to be Jones Publishing Company, ence to these two bills in his News, April 28, 1929. 39 among the best in the Pan 1965), p. 193. The old Hans- 1928 pocketbook; the entries Ibid., August 22, 1929. 40 Handle" But Smith also ford Hotel, constructed in imply that he was taking notes After the election, the Spearcorrectly prophesied that "it is 1909 by S.B. Hale, J.H. about a past situation, and man newspaper noted that probable, that owing to the Wright and Bert Cator, was therefore may have not have "The election is a thing of the land laws recently made in moved to Spearman where it been aware of the legislative past. It should be forgotten as Texas...that settlement will be remained until being deliber- action in 1927. See Vest Pock- rapidly as possible." Spearately destroyed by fire June etbook, Papers, S. B. Hale, in man Reporter, April 25, 1929, into the hands of large cattle 2009 by Spearman Fire De- possession of S.B. Hale III, p. 1. For the most part, it was. partment, even though it was a Amarillo, Texas. Author has a When Hansford County histo-Recorded Texas Landmark. copy.25 Amarillo Daily News, rians wrote their histories in See High Plains Observer On- July 28, 1927, p. 1.26 Ibid., the 1960s and '70s, none bothline accessed June 23, 2009. 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Hale collected at least Gruver and Spearman as a Interstate Commerce Com- \$1225 from 37 Hansford projectionist.42 Newspaper mission to build from Amar- County individuals who gave clipping, Spearman Press, un-1, 1876-1979 (Dallas: Taylor illo to Liberal, Kansas, via \$25 to \$100 for the cause. Vest dated, Papers, S.B. Hale. 43







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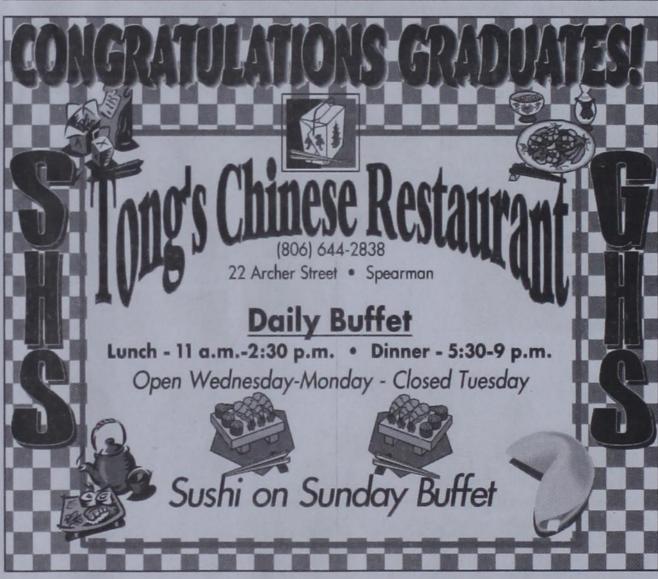
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- June 21, Balloon Blast, 10am—Noon, N/C Build Balloon Animals, enjoy balloon games and have a popping good time!
- · June 25, Krazy Krafts, 10am—Noon, \$5 We will design, decorate and have fun creating our very own masterpiece.
- June 26, Senior Supper, 10am—Noon & 5pm-7pm, N/C Join Jackie Pearson in the Kitchen as you prepare and serve a Senior Supper for the weekly GSC Senior Citizens get together. Must be 8 or older - Limited Enrollment
- June 28, Sew Much Fun, 9am—Noon, \$15 Peggy Winegarner will take you from start to finish on a sewing project. Must be 8 or older imited Enrollment

