

## All Around The Town

By Mary Ann Sarchet



The decline of population in the rural areas is shown more graphically by looking at the county population decreases than it is by looking at the small city populations. While many of the people have remained in the little towns, even though quite a large number are commuting to jobs in other towns, the rural population has fallen off with the migration of seasonal workers to other places in search of work.

While the City of Silverton lost only eight between 1990 and 2000, Briscoe County has gone down from 1971 to 1790, a loss of 181 and a percentage loss of 9.2.

Floyd County's population decreased from 8497 to 7771, a loss of 726 people and a percentage loss of 8.5.

Motley County lost 106 people, from 1532 to 1426, which was 6.9%.

Swisher County gained from 8133 to 8378, this being 245 people and a percentage increase of 3.0.

I should have known I started wishing for warm sunny spring days too early since Easter is late this year, but these cold damp gray days are getting too numerous. I promised Molly that we would come to see her when the bluebonnets start to bloom in the Dallas area, but now I'm wondering if they are going to have a chance to bloom this year.

The good thing is the rains that have been falling over parts of Texas are bringing back the lakes that had gotten so low people could walk across places that one time required a boat to cross.

Rain is never bad. We are much better off too wet than too dry. I'm just ready for the sunshine!

## Junior High District Track To Be Here

The District Junior High boys and girls track meet will be held in Silverton on Saturday, April 7.

Teams that will be competing are Silverton, Adrian, Amherst, Channing, Happy, Hartley, Lazbuddie, Nazareth, Texline and Valley.

**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME  
BEGINS APRIL 1ST**



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# Briscoe County News

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2001

VOLUME 93 NUMBER 13



TEXAS IN THE SWING band members are (left to right) Ricky Cross, Cecil White, Jimmy Burson and Lucy Dean Record. Not pictured is O. B. Barnes.

## Texas in the Swing to Perform For Floyd County 'Friends' Gala March 31

Theme of this year's Floyd County Friends Gala will be "Blazing a Trail for the Future." The Gala will be held March 31, at the Unity Center in Muncy.

In keeping with the theme, the featured entertainment at the Gala will be Jimmy Burson's "Texas in the Swing" band. Friends' board member, John Quebe of Lockney, also will recite cowboy poetry.

"Texas in the Swing" band members are musicians, Lucy Dean Record of Lockney; Dr. Ricky Cross of Plainview; Cecil White of Lubbock; O. B. Barnes of Tulia, and Jimmy Burson of Silverton.

Burson is the group leader and lead singer. He plays the banjo, fiddle and guitar.

The group plays western swing music from the Bob Wills era., as well as blues and jazz.

For the past three years, "Texas in the Swing" has played at the Great American Music Festival at Silver Dollar City in Branson, Missouri. They are scheduled to play again in Branson May 26-June 3.

They also will perform, for the third time, at the Legends of Western Swing in Wichita Falls June 22.

The group also has played at the Fair Theatre in Plainview and vari-

ous other places across the Panhandle.

Also a part of the entertainment will be the traditional \$1,000 giveaway by First National Bank in Floydada.

Floyd County Friends President Nick Long and auctioneer Tim Assiter will lead the audience through the hilarious process of the popular giveaway.

"As always entertainment is an important part of the success of the Gala," said Long. "This year will be no different. We feel we have another good line-up that will fit all ages.

Tickets for the event are \$30 per person or \$280 for a reserved table of eight.

Mac Sherman "and friends" will prepare a three-course meal of filet mignon. Floyd County 4-H'ers will serve you at your table.

Tickets are available at Nich Long Star Farm in Floydada; D & J Gin and Kaleidoscope in Lockney; or any Floyd County Friends board member.

Proceeds from the Gala go toward the Unity Center's operational budget and the permanent endowment that has a goal of \$150,000.

Since the Unity Center officially opened January 16, 2000,

## Irrigation Conference To Be Held At the Showbarn in Silverton

The Briscoe County Extension office is sponsoring an Irrigation Conference Tuesday, April 3, 2001, at the Briscoe County Showbarn in Silverton, according to Extension Agent-Ag Brandon McGinty.

Booths will be set up by industry representatives who will be there to help answer questions.

The conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. with registration, and the first presentation will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m. A steak lunch will be provided at noon.

This conference is to help producers better utilize the water and to lower or stabilize inputs. The meeting is not to promote any one type of irrigation but is to help pro-

ducers find what would best suit their individual needs.

Speakers for the program include Carl Patrick, Extension Entomologist; Greta Schuster, Professor IPM, West Texas A&M University; Leon New, Extension Agriculture Engineer; Jerry Funk and Bruce Lesikar on Private Property Rights related to Water Rights and Senate Bill #1; and possibly an Extension Economist depending on time restrictions.

"We will offer three CEU credits and are waiting approval for four CEU credits from TDA," McGinty said.

Anyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP by March 30 for the meal.



Silverton's new water tower is being constructed and will be going up in a few days, weather permitting. The tower cost \$340,000.00, and of this amount, the City of Silverton received a grant for \$250,000.00 to reduce the cost of the project. The new water storage facility will be in the shape of a "golf ball on a tee." Briscoe County News Photo

there have been over 150 events and it has had more than 20,000 visitors. The Unity Center is one of the most versatile facilities of rural communities in the area as it has hosted dinner theatres, musical events, county fair, junior livestock shows, ag meetings, youth events, banquets, skating, auctions and many more. The Unity Center is now beginning to attract activities from outside Floyd County, including a state gymnastic meet in May and a regional high school powerlifting (state qualifying) meet.

Jon LaBaume is the Unity Center's manager and he can be reached at 652-3129 or 983-3441.

## No Local Elections

No local elections will be held here this year due to the lack of interest in them.

Mayor John Bowman and Councilmen Lane Garvin and W. D. Rowell's terms are expiring. Lane Garvin signed up to run for mayor, and W. D. Rowell and Wayne Reed signed up for the two councilmen positions.

School trustees Zane Mayfield, Bill Strange and Rance Young have terms that are expiring. The three have signed up as candidates for re-election.

When only one candidate signs up for each office, no election is necessary.

# Classifieds

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Thank-you notes at the Briscoe County News office. 37-tfnc

Solar-powered Well Water Pump for Cattle. Rex Tiffin, 296-7217 or 292-1756. 11-8tp

For Sale: 1988 Half Ton Chevrolet Pickup. Good condition. See at Hutsell Insurance Agency. Dorthy Hale. 6-tfc

Get your Watkins products at Briscoe County News in Silverton. We have pepper, vanilla, cinnamon, and others. 823-2333.

1995 Cougar XR7, green; good condition, \$5695. 633-4326 or 847-2570. John Wyatt. 12-1tc

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AA-Al-Anon Meetings Mondays at 8:00 p.m. at Quitaque. Call 806-823-2020 or 806-455-1258. 26-tfnc

SILVERTON AA and Al-Anon Meetings. Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. Call 806-823-2020 or 806-455-1258. 23-tfnc

ALCOHOLICS Anonymous and Al-Anon Meetings, Tuesdays, 8:00 p.m., 111 N. Wall St. (1 block north of courthouse), Floydada, 1-806-983-3635. 16-tfnc

## WANTED

R. N. Needed! Our agency is looking for a caring, compassionate R. N. for a PRN/on call position. Experience with Medicare helpful. Please call Betsy at 806-983-3001 or 800-851-6977. 13-1tc

Looking for 530 LP John Deere Tractor. 800-411-4547 52-4tnc

New shipment of sympathy cards has arrived at the Briscoe County News. 9-tfnc

## LOST & FOUND

Lost: Red Daschund (weinie dog). Name is Jake. \$100 reward. Please contact Jeff or Vicky Tiffin, 823-2062. 13-1tc

## REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: Jane Pigg's Residence, 100 N. Braidfoot: 3 BR, 1 1/2 B, LR, Den, Dining, Kit., Utility, Cnt. H, Patio, Cellar, Carport. Price Reduced to \$45,000.00. Also: 307 E. 11th Street; 3 BR, 1 Bath Stucco Res. on 300'x150' lot. \$9,900. Hodges Real Estate, 806-995-3503. Weekends & Nights, 806-995-3128. 17-tfc

Two Bedroom Home on Large Corner Lot For Sale. 293-1384, Walter Hill. 6-tfc

For Sale: Two Bedroom, One Bath with Garage and Finished Basement. 704 Main Street. Call Kyle, 847-7325. 12-2tc

House for Sale or Rent: Three bedroom, one Bath. 602 Broadway. Call 823-2401 or 823-2046. 13-tfc

## NOTICE

### NOTICE OF AVAILABLE STUDENT LOANS

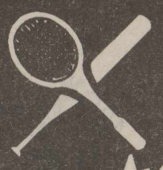
The Burch-Settoon Student Loan Fund Trust has loans available to graduates of any high school located in Hale, Floyd, Lamb, Castro, Swisher, or Briscoe counties of Texas, to be used for the purpose of attending an accredited college or university. Applications will be considered without regard to religious preference, race, creed, or color. Loan applications may be requested by writing to, or coming by Wells Fargo Bank Texas, N.A. 205 W. 5th St., Plainview, TX 79072 or writing to: Wells Fargo Bank Texas N. A. Investment Management & Trust, P. O. Box 10517, Lubbock, TX 79408. Deadline for accepting applications is June 1, 2001. 12-5tc

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**Sports FACT:**

WHAT CITY HOSTED THE FIRST MODERN OLYMPIC GAMES IN APRIL 1896?

ANSWER: ATHENS, GREECE

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Spanish: ALTO  
Italian: ALTO  
French: HAUT  
German: HOCH  
Latin: ALTUS

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## Tax Time Countdown: File Online To Save Time

(TF) — Tax preparation is not a welcome event for most people. Many find the forms complicated and put off preparing their returns in an attempt to delay the stress and confusion. This year, April 16, 2001 is "D-day" to file your taxes, but there's no need to fret at the prospect of poring over incomprehensible forms and charts. However, Internet users can find some much-needed relief as the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and certain Web sites make it easier to prepare, file and pay taxes — online. Filing online can greatly reduce tax-time anxiety and aggravation — even for those who wait until the last minute to file. Taxpayers are warming up to the idea of turning to the Internet for all of their tax-related needs. The IRS has recently reported that 35 million taxpayers filed their 1999 returns electronically, and the agency is expecting that number will jump to 42 million this year. Why file online? Larry Wright, spokesperson for the IRS explains, "It's easier, faster and less confusing. The IRS won't reject your return or make an error because it can't read your handwriting. Plus you get your refund faster. Filing electronically pretty much sells itself; once people file online, they never want to go back." E-filing can be as simple as visiting one of your favorite Web sites. Yahoo!, for example offers user-friendly,

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**LIGHTHOUSE  
ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
Jimmy Green Pastor

SUNDAY  
Fellowship.....10:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

**SILVERTON  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Hal Rogers, Minister

SUNDAY:  
Sunday School.....9:00 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Randy G. Mullin, Pastor

SUNDAY:  
Library Opens.....9:15 a.m.  
Bible Study/S.S.....9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship.....10:30 a.m.  
Ladies Group.....4:00 p.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

MONDAY:  
RAs, GAs, Mission  
Friends.....3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY  
Mens Group.....6:30 a.m.

SECOND & FOURTH  
TUESDAYS:  
Baptist Women.....9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Library Opens.....6:30 p.m.  
Bible Study/Prayer.....7:00 p.m.  
TeamKID.....7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY  
Ladies Prayer Group.....9:00 a.m.,  
Weigh Down Workshop.....7:00 p.m.

**SILVERTON UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
Jay Stinson, Pastor

SUNDAY:  
Sunday School.....10:00 a.m.  
Worship Service.....10:55 a.m.  
Choir Practice.....5:00 p.m.  
Evening Bible Study.....6:00 p.m.

TUESDAY:  
Unit. Meth. Women.....9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
In-home Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY:  
Unit. Meth. Men.....6:30 a.m.

**NEW FELLOWSHIP  
BAPTIST MISSION**

SUNDAY:  
Sunday School.....9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service.....11:00 a.m.  
Training Union.....5:00 p.m.  
Evening Service.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Choir Rehearsal.....7:00 p.m.  
Prayer Service.....8:00 p.m.

**OUR LADY OF LORETO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Father Ed Graff, Pastor

SUNDAY:  
Mass.....9:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Doctrina Class.....4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Junior & Senior  
High.....4:30-5:30 p.m.

**ROCK CREEK  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

SUNDAY:  
Worship Service.....10:30 a.m.  
Evening Worship.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Worship Service.....7:30 p.m.

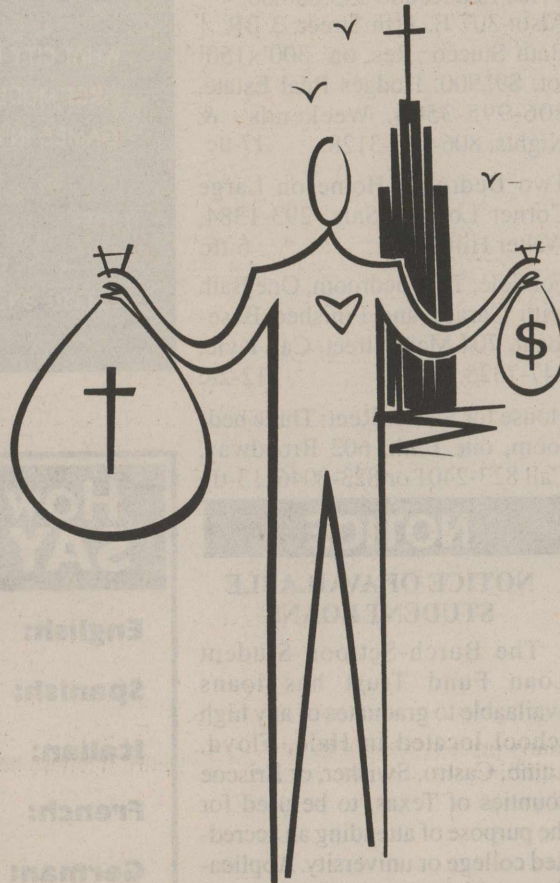
**La Iglesia de Dios De Jesus**  
604 Grady  
Armando Davalia, Pastor

SUNDAY:  
Worship.....10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Evening.....6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:  
Worship Service.....7:30 p.m.

MONDAY-SATURDAY:  
Prayer Meeting.....9:00 a.m.

# Spiritual and Material Possessions



Various financial publications periodically list the wealthiest men and women in the world. These people are usually considered to be quite successful. It seems that material possessions and wealth are one way that we measure a person's success and accomplishments. Having material possessions is fine and necessary for our existence. However, spiritual values are necessary for our relationship with God. Our Lord loves us and cares about all of our needs, especially our spiritual ones. We are told in the Bible, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul" (Mark 8:36). Throughout history, there have been numerous people in the world that may have been materially poor, yet were wealthy with God's love. A wise person takes care of both their spiritual and material needs, and they recognize that God's blessings are more important than the riches of the world.

*Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*

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Mary Ann Sarchet.....	Editor & Publisher

## Cotton Marketing Workshop Slated in Tulia Monday, April 2

Cotton producers can learn how pricing strategies affect profitability and get help in developing pricing strategies tailored to fit their own operation at an April 2 cotton marketing workshop slated in Tulia, said a Texas A&M agricultural economist.

The workshop is to be held in the Swisher County Extension meeting room in Tulia, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Registration costs \$30 per person, payable at the door. The fee includes a noon meal and an extensive set of materials.

"If possible, spouses should also attend. Couples can register for \$30.00, too, if they share a set of course materials," said Dr. Jackie Smith, Texas Agricultural Extension Service ag economist-marketing specialist based in Lubbock.

"Farmers can't control prices, but they can control how the crop is priced and when to take a price," said Dr. Smith. "Producers who know how to evaluate pricing alternatives can formulate pricing strategies that will help them maximize profit.

"This workshop will focus on evaluating price alternatives and developing pricing strategies. All pricing alternatives are directly or indirectly linked to the futures market. So, we will be closely studying the basics of futures and options."

Producers can register and reserve a seat, or get more information on this workshop by calling Smith at 806-746-6101; Michael

Clawson, Swisher County Extension Agent, at 806-995-3726, or Dirk Aaron, Hale County Extension Agent, at 806-291-5267.

### Did You Know?

While it might be expected that many children will squeal with excitement over an M&M's candy dish that doubles as a real, working telephone, don't assume that the adults on your list won't enjoy toys inspired by colorful M&M's, such as shower radios and karaoke machines.

Advanced Photo System (APS) cameras provide busy families with the versatility and ease of use they need. Easy-to-use APS cameras come with such features as point-and-shot zoom lenses, a choice of three print sizes and drop-in fool-proof loading. For tips or information on the latest in photography, contact the Advanced Photo System Education Committee at [info@apsnews.com](mailto:info@apsnews.com).

Experts at JCPenney stress the importance of keeping receipts when doing a lot of shopping. Whether paying with cash, check or credit card, keep receipts together and track your expenditures. Paying with a credit card that offers discounts or special financing is an easy way to save money, consolidate your spending into one account and simplify payment.

Nearly three out of four Americans believe that having enough personal space is important, according to Embassy Suites Hotels Space Survey of more than 300 frequent travelers.

## Lady Owls Won Second in Lefors Track Meet Saturday

Silverton's varsity Lady Owls won second place overall in the track meet at Lefors Saturday.

The varsity Owls were the fifth-place overall team.

In the Junior High Division, Silverton's Owls won first-place overall while the Lady Owls placed fourth in their events.

The varsity Lady Owls amassed their points by placing second in both the 800 and 1600 meter relays and running third in the 400 meter relay.

Legs of the 800 meter relay are run by Bryn Mayfield, Amanda Estes, Kassie Strange and Lori Griffin. Girls who carry the baton in the 1600 meter relay are Kassie Strange, Daryl-Ann Reynolds, Bryn Mayfield and Kelcy Simpson. Runners in the 800 meter relay are Tarran Forbes, Amanda Estes, Bryn Mayfield and Lori Griffin.

Individual placings included:

Daryl-Ann Reynolds--First in the 3200 meter run and second in the 800 meter run

Amanda Estes--Third in the 100 meter dash, third in the triple jump, and third in the long jump

Tarran Forbes--Fifth in the 100 meter dash

Jenny Young--Fifth in the 100 meter hurdles and Fifth in the 300 meter hurdles

Kassie Strange--Fifth in the 400 meter dash and fifth in the discus  
Chelsey Cherry--Sixth in the 400 meter dash

Lori Griffin--Fourth in the triple jump

Bryn Mayfield--Fourth in the discus and sixth in the shot put

Brooke Garvin--Sixth in the shot put

In the varsity boys division, the Owls earned second place in the 1600 meter relay and fifth in the 400 meter relay.

Legs on the boys relays are run by Isaiah Ivory, Andrew Francis, Dustin Hale and Nic Vargas.

Individual placings included:  
Ignacio Gamez--Fourth in the 3200 meter run

Isaiah Ivory--Second in the 400 meter dash

Andrew Francis--Third in the 400 meter dash

Dustin Hale--Sixth in the 400 meter dash

Ty Reed--Fifth in the 110 meter hurdles

In winning first place in their division, the Junior High Owls won first in the 1600 meter relay and second in the 400 meter relay. Legs on the relays were run by Bert Vasquez, Chance Rhoderick, Beau Brock and Logan Fisher.

Individual placings included:  
Thor Patton--First in the 2400 meter run and fifth in the triple jump

Chance Rhoderick--First in the 400 meter run

Beau Brock--Fourth in the 400 meter dash

Bert Vasquez--Second in the 200 meter dash and first in the triple jump

Logan Fisher--Fifth in the 200 meter dash and sixth in the long jump

Jesse Reynolds--Sixth in the 200 meter hurdles

Max Comer--Third in the discus  
Gid Mayfield--Sixth in the discus

In the Junior High Boys B Team division, the 1600 relay team ran fifth, with the runners being Tanner Young, Jacob Francis, Albert DeLeon and Yance Forbes.

Ethan Long won fourth in the 2400 meter run and Yance Forbes placed fifth in the high jump.

Earning fourth place overall for the Junior High Lady Owls were the 1600 meter relay team which placed first and the 400 meter relay team which won second. Both relays were run by Krista Hale, Kelsie Estes, Brittany Perkins and Danielle Ramirez.

Individual placings included:  
Brittany Perkins--First in the 2400 meter run

Danielle Ramirez--First in the 800 meter run and sixth in the triple jump

Krista Hale--First in the 400 meter dash, fourth in the shot put and fourth in the discus

Angie Lewis--Sixth in the 1200 meter run

### Use the Internet To Make Most Of a Trip

A growing number of Americans are using the Internet to book travel because it's easy and accessible. But they're doing more

### Letter to the Editor

If you are not satisfied with Swishere Electric's new billing, call your director or Swisher Electric. I personally can't see paying this large amount and not even starting a well:

\$9.62 per meter each month plus \$15.00 per horsepower times horsepower of each well a year with no usage.

Example: a 20 HP motor times \$15.00 equals \$300.00 you pay even if you don't ever run your well.

Call your director.  
Richard Tye, Kress  
Eddie Bryan, Wayside  
Dee Inglis, Tulia  
Gene Latham, Vigo Park  
Ross O'Daniel, Tulia  
Jimmy Reed, Kress  
Guinn Fitzgerald, Silverton  
Thank you.

Dwain Henderson

online than just buying tickets--they're researching and planning their trips as well.

A recent travel and lifestyle survey found that 26 percent of adult Americans consult the Internet first when choosing or planning a vacation. More do so than consult other travel authorities, including travel agents, guidebooks and magazines.

Though many destinations and companies have Web sites, people often find it useful to start planning a trip by visiting a comprehensive travel site that offers everything from travel packages to bargains to discussion forums to photo essays.

Concierge.com features articles, photo essays, daily deals, advice, discussion forums and links to other useful sites. Travelers who are just starting to research their next trip or leaving soon for vacation and need more information about destinations, can log on to [www.concierge.com](http://www.concierge.com).

Shower is Saturday, March 31

Sharyl McMurtrey Ramirez  
bride of Adrian Ramirez  
has Shower Selections in our store.

### Magic Memories

### Romans 1:16

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

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## LOOKING BACK

through the files of the  
Briscoe County News

**March 21, 1991--**Melissa Woods of Silverton and Frank Rodriguez of Kress won all-expenses-paid trips to Washington, D. C. by competing in a speech contest sponsored annually by Swisher Electric Cooperative . . . Services conducted for Merl O'Neal, 89 . . . Ted Kingery is planning to return to Russia this year for another three weeks or more of Christian service . . . Carrie Ann Grabbe is a member of the All-Star Cast and John Cavitt and Bradley Brunson received honorable mention for the All-Star Cast when Silverton's UIL One-Act Play was presented in competition . . . Owls, Owlettes place third in Groom Relays . . . Dorothy Johnson was recognized during an awards program at the 1991 National Cotton Council annual meeting for her individual efforts to promote the "Grown and Made in the U. S. A. -- It Matters" campaign . . .

**March 12, 1981--**Third annual Silverton Relays set to go Saturday . . . Lynn Frizzell completes paramedic training . . . Betty Olive to be honored at birthday party next week . . . Mr. and Mrs. Mike McGinn are parents of a son, Matthew Ryan . . . Sixty-three Briscoe County 4-H'ers, their families, leaders and Extension Agent returned last week from a three-day 4-H Ski Retreat near Durango, Colorado . . . Mrs. Manuel Leal, the former Marilyn Asebedo, was honored at a miscellaneous bridal shower Saturday morning in the Pioneer Room at First State Bank . . .

**March 18, 1971--**Evelyn Wood, a four-year letterman as a forward for the Owlettes, has been selected to play for the East Team in the First Annual Panhandle High School All-Star Basketball Game at the Amarillo Civic Center Coliseum . . . Three qualify for the National AAU Judo Championships to be held in St. Louis, Missouri. They are Gene Whitfill, Gene Davis and James Alexander . . . Mrs. Lynn Welch has been a patient at Northwest Texas Hospital in Amarillo this week . . . Mr. and Mrs. Don Thomas are parents of an adopted son, Jeffrey Michael . . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mercer are parents of a son, Douglas Scott . . .

**March 30, 1961--**Six were injured when the automobile in which they were riding was involved in an accident with another automobile near Idalou. Most seriously injured was Lester Grabbe, who was retained at Methodist Hospital until Monday of this week. Also kept overnight at Methodist Hospital was Jim Smith. Others treated and released were Jimmy Myers, Dick Reid and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mayfield. The group

was enroute to Abilene for an FFA Livestock Judging contest . . . John Howard Burson has brought honors to the local 4-H Club by scoring the highest number of points in the Livestock Judging Contest held in Sweetwater Saturday. The other members of his team contributed to a seventh place finish. They are Bob Saul, Dewey Estes and Joe Kitchens . . . Stanley Fogerson's Angus calf was judged third best animal in the lightweight division of the Lubbock Fat Stock Show last week . . .

**March 15, 1951--**Doris June Brown weds Burton Edward Lambert . . . .44 rain received in Silverton during past weekend . . . Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reid returned Saturday from Pearson, Oklahoma where Paul has been undergoing treatment . . . Mmes. D. N. and Johnnie McGavock were hostesses to a "42" party for friends at the McGavock home honoring Mr. and Mrs. Tillery . . . Mrs. J. C. Hill is visiting in Oklahoma City with her daughter, Mrs. Odell Walls and family . . . Mrs. W. A. Rowell was a business visitor in Tulia Monday . . .

**May 9, 1946--**During the tidal wave in the Hawaiian Island area, Lyndon E. Stephens, aviation machinist mate second class, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Stephens, aided in rescue work. More than 12 lives were saved by the unit to which he is attached. Rubber life rafts were dropped from planes and extensive rescue work was done in devastated areas along the shore . . . Those attending the Plainview District Conference of the Methodist Church were Rev. Barnett, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Turner, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Gardner, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Turner, Mrs. P. T. Allday, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Turner and Mrs. Billie Dickerson . . . O. C. Rampley has been elected one of the three senior class representatives to the Student Senate, campus governing body of West Texas State College, Canyon . . . In the presence of members of the immediate families and close friends, Miss Merlene Yates became the bride of Doyle Stephens Wednesday night at the Baptist parsonage. Rev. G. A. Elrod read the wedding vows . . .

**April 10, 1941--**The Texaco Service Station, which has been operated here for some time by Silas Ellis, changed hands the first of the week and the new owners and operators are Guy Young and Horace Ellis . . . Norland Havran was the only first-place winner at the District Meet in Childress. Subject of his extemporaneous speech was "Our First Peacetime Conscription" . . . A new irrigation well was brought in on the Luther McJimsey place three miles south and two

miles east of Silverton. This well is now the closest one to Silverton and the only one in that area . . . Members of the Senior FFA Chapter Conducting team are Garland Francis, Jack Reeves, Kenneth Autry, Travis McMinn, Roland Bell, Carl Davis, Curtis Wimberly and Bobby McDaniel . . . Johnny Lanham and Red Gilkeyson were in Plainview on business Friday . . . The YWA Girls of the Calvary Baptist Church met with Charlene and Cleo Garrison Monday night . . .

**January 23, 1930--**Installation of the new telephone system is at

last underway . . . Over one hundred young visitors are expected for a big invitational basketball tournament set to begin here Friday . . . Silverton and Briscoe County have emerged from one of the severest and most prolonged grips of frigid temperature in the memory of the present generation. The peak was reached last Friday when thermometers showed 11 degrees below zero . . . To live to celebrate one's ninetieth birthday in fairly good health and sprightliness is a notable achievement. But so to live for ninety years that all one's friends and neighbors yield

respect and affection is to have attained that pinnacle where the laurel-haki of divine approval is conferred. Mrs. Robert Sedgwick is remarkably still alert mentally and physically. She is active in church work; she reads a great deal; sews a little; and often walks ten or twelve blocks in an afternoon shopping or calling on her neighbors. Especially does she visit among the sick. She is one of Silverton's very successful and noted floriculturists, makes the most of her gardening and cares for a small flock of chickens, while doing her own housework . . .

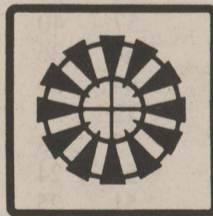
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**Cotton**  **News**  
from Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.

Demonstrating a much-needed and appreciated recognition of the serious nature of the current economic crisis in agriculture this week the House Budget Committee put Agricultural budget needs at the head of the line.

Agriculture has been identified as one of two beneficiaries to receive additional spending authority from 2002-2011 out of the substantial Contingency Reserve projected to be left-over after funding for tax cuts, debt reduction, Social Security and Medicare have been allotted.

Overall the fact that Agriculture was identified with Defense as the ONLY beneficiaries is seen as extremely good news.

Another important item included in the Budget resolution was authority to develop and deliver assistance later this year to producers suffering expected economic hardships in 2001.

House Ag Committee Chairman Larry Combest has said the designation demonstrates recognition of the important role agriculture plans and the severity of the problem it faces.

The House Budget Committee not only identified agriculture as a primary beneficiary of the ten-year Contingency Reserve, it also left the size of the allocation unfixed and will take its cue from the House Agriculture Committee on how much funding is needed to fund a comprehensive farm policy remake.

The House of Representatives will take up the Budget resolution next week followed by the Senate the week after.

At this time the House Agriculture Committee has a timetable stretching from now until July 11 to complete hearings on future farm policy and to present a mark-

up of the Commodity Title that will be the foundation of the next Farm Bill.

This is a much more ambitious schedule than many had previously envisioned, but seems to fit well with Chairman Combest's desire to get a new Farm Bill finalized by the House this year.

Unlike years past where the overall size of the budget allocation drove what type of policy was finally developed the House Agriculture Committee has before it what may be even more challenging--the development of a long-term policy for Farm programs unencumbered by the need to fit it into a set amount of money.

It beehoves all of agriculture to set realistic goals and to help develop a Farm Program that is as lean as it can be while still fully addressing the needs of producers and necessary industry infrastructure.

With such an accelerated timetable it is possible, although not likely, that parts of the new program are able to take effect during the 2001 crop year.

A more likely scenario is to have some type of assistance package developed to cover the 2001 crop year and get the new Farm Bill implemented in 2001.

Partial implementation or separate assistance, either way it looks like Chairman Combest and the rest of the House Agriculture Committee have a chance to truly make a difference in the near future and further down the line.

No matter how the process eventually plays itself out, it looks as if Agriculture and its needs will not only get attention, but also will get a chance to provide input into developing a solid Farm policy.

# Cotton Market weekly



A Service Provided by Plains Cotton Cooperative Association

On March 22, the combined impact of the U. S. dollar strengthening against foreign currencies and the Cotlook A Index of world cotton values falling 100 points overnight to 52.25, drove May cotton futures to the lowest level since 1986.

Likewise, spot cotton prices were at the lowest levels since November 1986, a year when values briefly traded below 30 cents per pound. A glance back at long-term charts has been sobering to would-be cotton bulls hoping for an end to the steady decline in prices which began in late November 2000.

Cotton buyers and Texas/Oklahoma/Kansas cotton producers could not find common ground this week as spot cotton prices tumbled even lower. Only 1,614 bales were sold online in the week ended March 22. The figure is a considerable drop from the 5,502 bales traded the previous week. Average daily prices received by producers utilizing the Internet trading system also plunged as cotton prices ranged from 36.39 to 38.65 cents per pound compared to 38.96 to 40.06 cents one week earlier.

The market shrugged off USDA's weekly export sales report as net sales of U. S. cotton were a solid 197,100 bales in the week ended March 15, but the figure was well within trade expectations. The export sales number was 36 percent lower than the previous week, but net registrations still were the second highest of the marketing year. Mexico returned as the primary buyer of both current season and new-crop cotton. Other major buyers included Indonesia, India and Turkey.

Combined sales of U. S. pima and upland cotton during the past two weeks have swelled to 697,800 running bales, including 506,400 for delivery this season and 145,700 bales for shipment next season. Shipments for the two-week period have totaled 332,000 running bales.

If sales hold the same pace during the next week weeks, commitments near the end of March would top 7.1 million statistical bales, 200,000 higher than the latest USDA shipment projections. Historically, commitments on April 1 have been fairly close to final shipments.

New supply and demand estimates by the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC), though to a large degree already

factored into the market, also weighed on market sentiment this week.

The ICAC said world production in 2001-02 now is expected to exceed consumption by 300,000 bales. Just two months ago, the committee expected mill use to top production by 1.8 million bales. Ending stocks were pegged at 37.1 million bales, up 2.1 million from the February estimate and 200,000 higher than the expected 2000-01 carryout.

The committee's crop estimate of 93.4 million bales, though up 6.3 million from the 2000-01 output, is 1.01 million bales below a forecast released earlier this month by Cotton Outlook. Additionally, ICAC expects consumption to reach a record-breaking 93.1 million bales, up 2.1 million from this season's use.

Meanwhile, market attention now has shifted to the upcoming USDA prospective plantings report. Traders and analysts are expecting prospective U. S. cotton acreage to expand beyond 2000 plantings and soar to the highest level in years.

According to one trader, "A substantial increase in cotton planting intentions already has been factored into the market, but will only add to the bearish mood leading up to the March 30 release."

## Silverton School Lunch Menu

Monday, April 2--Steak, Gravy, Au Gratin Potatoes, Okra, Hot Rolls, Milk, Fruit

Tuesday, April 3--Chili Con Carne, Cheese, Vegetable Sticks,, Cornbread, Milk, Sweet Roll

Wednesday, April 4--Submarine Sandwich, Salad, Chips, Milk, Fruit

Thursday, April 5--Chicken Strips, Gravy, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Hot Roll, Milk, Honey & Butter

Friday, April 6--Chili Dogs, Tater Tots, Milk, Fruit and Jello

## Happy Birthday-

March 29--Lou Jessica Braddock

March 30--Jacob Francis, Molly Bomar, Wilma Gill, Cynthia Glenn, Lisa Farley, Roberta Griffin

March 31--Terry Davis, Martin Younger, Fluffy Walls, Angela Henderson

April 1--Kylee Taitano, Nanette Kennedy

April 2--Becky Drew, Donny Perkins, Kathy Speck, Paul Brannon

April 3--Will Rowell, Steve Green

April 4--Christine LaRee Bean, Tara Smith

## Happy Anniversary-

March 31--Mr. and Mrs. Bob Myers

April 3--Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Peery

April 4--Mr. and Mrs. Ty Copeland

*Cyrano de Bergerac, the well-known hero of a play by Edmond Rostand, was a real person. He was a soldier and author in the early 17th century.*

You are invited to stop by, look around and have a burger on us at the

## Clarendon Vet Supply GRAND OPENING

at noon Friday, April 6, 2001

in the new addition of

Clarendon Veterinary Hospital

We offer a wide variety and substantial quantity of pet and livestock supplies at a competitive price.

## We Also Invite You to Our PRODUCER MEETING

at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2001

Bairfield Building, Clarendon College Campus

We will be discussing some new vaccines in the cattle business today.

A meal will be served at no charge. For the meeting, please RSVP by April 10 at 806-874-3544.



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## New Arrivals

Carl and Kathy Speck of Lubbock announce the arrival of little Kaleigh Dawn on March 13 at 10:51 a.m. at University Medical Center. She weighed six pounds and was 20 inches long.

Her proud grandparents are Don and Mary Brown of Silverton and Cissy and Guy V. Speck of Midland. Her great-great-grandmother is Elsie Brown of Silverton.

\*

Al and Amy Johnson proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Kortney Shea Johnson. Kortney was born at 8:30 a.m. on March 6 at Mangold Memorial Hospital in Lockney. She weighed five pounds and twelve ounces, and was 19 1/2 inches long.

Grandparents are Joe and Faye Lynn Maciel of Silverton and Mike and Shirley Johnson of Canyon.

Great-grandparents include Donald and Fay Perkins and Mary Maciel, all of Silverton, and Martha Johnson of Amarillo.

Maggie Sweek of Silverton is the proud great-great-grandmother.

## Briscoe County Residents Go to Extremes To Rid Roadways of Litter

Everything is bigger in Texas, and community cleanups are no exception as more than 100,000 volunteers take to the streets on Saturday, April 7, 2001, to declare war on trash. As participants in the 16th annual Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off, these proud Texans will be going to extremem measures to pick up after those who have dared to trash the Lone Star State.

"We are extremely grateful for the way our Trash-Off volunteers demonstrate their Texas pride, but it's hard work for 100,000 volunteers to pick up after 17 million people," said Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Travel Division Director Doris Howdeshell. "Other Texans talk about their state pride, and I challenge them to put that pride into action year-round by keeping our highways litter-free."

In Briscoe County, there are three Adopt-a-Highway groups who keep twelve miles or road clean during the year. The groups participating in the Trash-Off April 7 are: Briscoe County Activities Association and Caprock Bicycle Club.

"Currently Adopt-a-Highway volunteers clean only 10 percent of the state's roadways, and state tax dollars must be used to keep the remaining stretches clean," said Barbara Seal, Childress TxDOT Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator. "Adopting a highway not only helps keep our state beautiful, it also allows tax dollars to be

## Turkey Jamboree Is June 7 at the Bob Wills Center

The next Turkey Jamboree is April 7 at the Bob Wills Community Center Gymnasium.

Entertainers are Brittany Bennett, a ten-year-old singing sensation from Lubbock who performs at the Cactus Theatre; Dorothea Couch, a wonderful gospel singer from Kerens, Texas; Jimmy Barnes, an impersonator from Lubbock; Pat Seigler and Friends from the Matador area.

The Talent Show case and the Turkey Gems also are planned.

There will be a concession stand. They will start serving at 6:00 and the entertainment will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The Turkey Heritage Foundation will be selling Joe Bob Barnhill and Route 66 tapes and CDs.

*Dr. Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary of the English Language--the first comprehensive lexicographical work on English ever undertaken--in 1755.*

## Quilters' Festival Coming April 6-7 To Dimmitt

The Ogallala Quilters' Society will hold its Fourth Annual Quilt Festival Friday and Saturday, April 6-7, at the Expo Building in Dimmitt.

The Festival features a quilt show with over 375 quilts, 10 unique crazy quilts, free demonstrations, quilt and food vendors, and trunk shows. Ribbons and cash prizes will be presented to winners in the judged portion of the quilt show. Admission is \$3.00 and everyone is invited.

A free lecture by Yvonna Hays, Dimmitt, the "2000 Ogallala Teacher Scholarship" recipient, will be given at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Expo Building.

Eighteen different quilting classes are being taught by teachers from Midland, Amarillo, Pampa, Lubbock, Odessa, Dimmitt, Plainview, Dumas and Roswell, New Mexico.

Noted quilt teacher and author, Sharyn Craig of El Cajon, California, will be teaching one-half day and all-day classes Friday and Saturday.

Entertainment, ribbons and awards will spotlight Thursday's opening "Fajita Fun Night." At the Friday evening "Steak Night," the feature teacher, Sharyn Craig, will be lecturing and showing her quilts, and a miniature quilt auction will be held. Both events will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Richardson Elementary Cafeteria.

Everyone is welcome. For class fees and meal tickets, please contact Bill Sava, Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce, 806-647-2524; Darlene Collins, 806-647-5585, or Joyce Davis, 806-647-5362.

## High School Parents To Meet Friday

Monday, April 2, the Senior Parents are asked to meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Silverton School Library.

At 6:30 p.m., there will be a meeting of all interested parents to help plan the Project Graduation party.

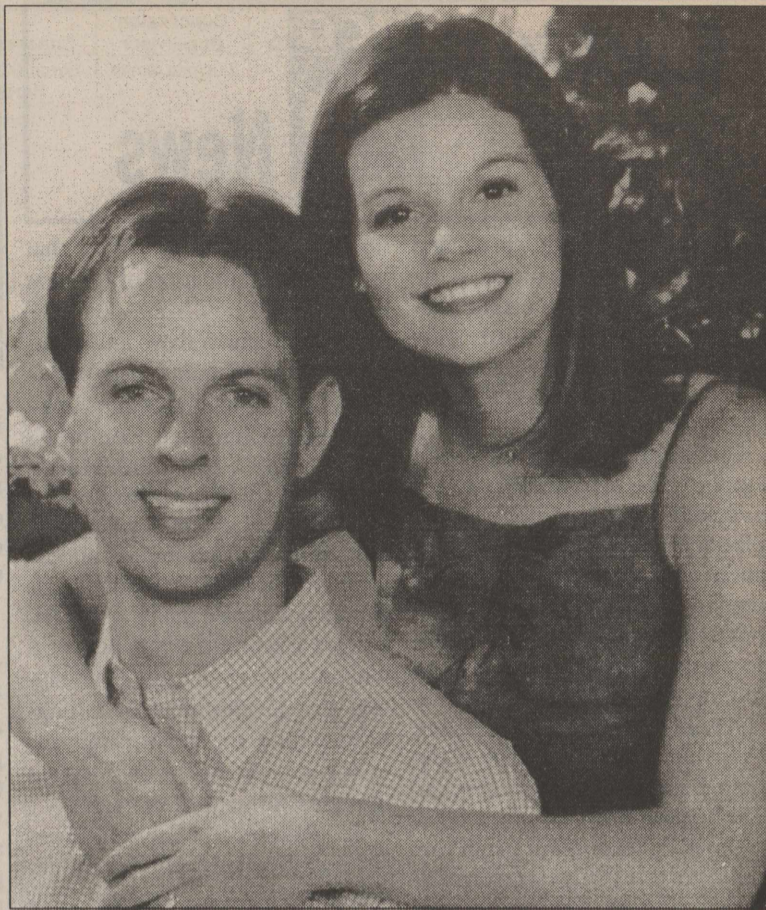
It is hoped to have a large representation of parents at these meetings.

*Ring bearers are usually three to seven years old.*

*There is only one good, knowledge, and one evil, ignorance.*

--Socrates

*The word vinegar comes from a French word meaning "sour wine."*



Lynn Frizzell of Silverton and Micky and Kathy Woodard of Lorenzo are pleased to announce the engagement of their son, Casey Martin Frizzell, to Lori Lynn Garrett, daughter of Gerald Garrett and Mark and Toy Pendleton of Luling, Texas. The prospective bridegroom is the grandson of Milton and Margaret Frizzell and J. L. and Faye Self, all of Silverton. Miss Garrett is a graduate of Luling High School and Texas Tech University with a major in marketing. Her fiancé is a graduate of Silverton High School and Texas Tech University where he received his degree in chemistry. He is employed by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and she works for Sunset Direct. The couple will make their home in Austin following their May 12, 2001 wedding in New Orleans, Louisiana.

## "Souper" Tips For Calorie Control

If you're counting calories, you're not alone. About one third of women and a quarter of men in this country are on diets and soup may be the "secret weapon" they need for calorie control. Barbara Rolls, Ph.D., Professor of Nutrition at The Pennsylvania State University, and a 20-year veteran in nutrition research and weight maintenance strategies, has suggestions for people who want to cut calories in a safe and effective way. In her popular book, "The Volumetrics Weight-Control Plan: Feel Full on Fewer Calories," Dr. Rolls shows that soup helps people satisfy hunger, while eating fewer calories. In fact, she's found that people who eat soup on a given day consume on average 100 fewer calories during the day.

•Try soup as an afternoon snack--When hunger hits at the end of the day, soup's a great way to hold you over until dinner., Keep a few microwave soup cups in your office to curb your late day cravings.

•Soup to the rescue--When you're feeling hungry, go for a broth-based soup in classic varieties like Vegetarian Vegetable, Chicken Noodle or Tomato. Each serving has fewer than 100 calories and three grams of fat or less per serving.

•Start with soup--When eating

out, choose soup as a starter. You may find yourself asking the waiter to wrap up part of your entree, to enjoy the following day.

•Soup up your meal--Consider hearty soup varieties with lots of vegetables, rice, lean meats or pasta as an entree. You might also add vegetables, leftover cooked rice, lean meat or beans to prepared soups to enjoy even heartier servings.

•Look "souper" for the formal--Try a satisfying bowl of soup as you get ready for an evening out so you aren't tempted to sample everything on the buffet table once you get there.

Look for more information on soup and calorie control as well as an excerpt from Dr. Rolls' book on [www.campbellsoup.com/eatsmart](http://www.campbellsoup.com/eatsmart).

*The blob of glass at the end of a glass blower's pipe is called a gather.*

*The first stop sign was put up in Detroit in 1814.*

*Louis XIV owned 413 beds.*

*Combining a prescription pain medication and an over-the-counter pain remedy could result in liver damage.*

Friday March 23	Time	Gate	Clock/Books	Concession Supervisor	Concession	Concession	Concession
Jay Stinson Kyle Fuston	5:00	Renee Martinez	Rick/Jana Beesinger	Lucinda Smith Kim Minyard	Byron/Shelley Brock	Arturo/Tonia Fabela	
Kippi/Jana Bronc/Amy	5:45	Charolette Rhoderick	Mike/Laura Long		Ronnie/Karla Hale	Jay/Michelle Stinson	
Mari Patino Connie Simpson	6:30	Hope Patino	Dick/Kippi Cogdell		Ted/Jennifer Daughtery	Fred/Mary Ramirez	
Kippi/Jennifer Scott Perkins	7:15	Mari Patino	Santos/Mary J. Garcia		Jeff/Vickie Tiffin	Stephen/Brenda Jasper	Bertha Perez
Tuesday March 27	Time	Gate	Clock/Books	Concession Supervisor	Concession	Concession	Concession
Randy/Deborah Bronc/Amy	5:00	Obelia Bullock	David/Debbie Holt	Letisia Stidham Kim Minyard	Lance/Letisia Stidham	Norbie/Tonia Garcia	
Letisia/Tonia Kippi/Jana	5:45	Liz Griffin	Arturo/Tonia Fabela		Randy/Valorie Mullin	Sloan/Deborah Grabbe	
Diana Ivory Mari Patino	6:30	Shana Strange	Ross/Meliss Estes		Bryan/Lana Burson	Fred/Mary Ramirez	Paula Montague
Ross Estes Kippi/Jennifer	7:15	Brenda Jasper	Cam/Missy Forbes		Mari Patino	Kim Minyard	Carol Braddock
Friday March 30	Time	Gate	Clock/Books	Concession Supervisor	Concession	Concession	Concession
Kyle Fuston Jay Stinson	5:00	Carlos Garcia	Randy/Valorie Mullin	Letisia Stidham Lucinda Smith	Lance/Letisia Stidham	Tammy Smith	
Letisia/Tonia Randy/Deborah	5:45	Cammie Frizzell	Bryan/Lisa Schott		Brad/Jonetta Ziegler	Eddie/Charolette Rhoderick	
Diana Ivory Connie Simpson	6:30	Ana Baeza	Wayne/Colleen Reed		Lucinda Smith	Hope Patino	Rosa Vargas
Ross Estes Scott Perkins	7:15	Becky Dunn	Mitchell/Connie Simpson		Marcos/Jamie Scarborough	Mark/Deirdra Patton	



Briscoe County Maintenance Section--(standing, left to right) Lynn Smith, Jeff Smith, David Cowdry; (seated) Wade Proctor, Rick Minyard, Gary Clinton, Darrell Reynolds. Not pictured are Joe Ramirez and Johnny Tiffin.

### Safety Awards Presented By Childress TxDOT

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently held its annual Safety Awards Banquet at the Fair Park Auditorium in Childress. This banquet is held annually to recognize employees' outstanding efforts in the operation of TxDOT vehicles and equipment and for having no work-related injuries.

The Briscoe County Maintenance employees were recognized for the combined totals of 83 years as safe operators and 46 years of no injury.

Members of the Briscoe County Maintenance Section who received these awards are David Cowdry, Joe Ramirez, Jeff Smith, Darrell Reynolds, Wade Proctor, Lynn Smith, Gary Clinton, Rick Minyard and Johnny Tiffin.

### WEATHER

6:00 a.m. Daily March Weather Observations

	High	Low	Precip.
1	33	20	.04
2	59	31	
3	55	40	
4	62	36	.14
5	62	33	
6	69	33	
7	65	37	
8	58	37	.43
9	42	38	1.74
10	54	39	
11	57	40	
12	64	36	
13	64	36	
14	72	36	
15	73	38	
16	50	24	
17	51	25	
18	46	33	.09
19	40	35	
20	58	32	
21	72	32	
22	81	41	
23	73	48	
24	71	37	.39
25	44	35	

### Stock Show Group To Meet April 3

There will be a meeting of the Briscoe County Stock Show Tuesday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Silverton School Cafeteria. Anyone interested in the County Stock Show is welcome to attend.

There will be a short meeting of the Silverton Buyers Club at 6:00 p.m., prior to the Stock Show meeting, to go over the donor list and make any corrections needed.

Club members are urged to come for this meeting and help get the list ready for next year.

### Livestock Owners Vigilance Encouraged

Provided by Brandon McGinty County Extension Agent-Ag

Government and industry precautions against foot-and-mouth disease are at an all-time high. Customs officials began disinfecting some European travelers' shoes, luggage, and clothing last week to protect against the disease. It has been diagnosed in 34 countries during the past 18 months.

The latest outbreaks have occurred in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Argentina and France. The disease affects cloven-footed animals like cattle, swine and sheep.

Infected animals develop blisters in the mouth, tongue, muzzle, teats and skin between the hooves.

Extension Veterinarian Bruce Lawhorn says people who visit farms in foreign countries are encouraged to be frank and indicate this on the U. S. Customs form when returning to the United States. This will generate an interview by a USDA official, but it is time well spent since any decontamination steps will help keep this disease out of this country.

Net incomes for farmers are expected to continue declining this year with low commodity prices and high fuel and fertilizer costs.

According to a report from the Agricultural and Food Policy Center at Texas A&M, cotton farmers

### 2001 Precipitation Summary

	Normal Precip.	Precip. Received
January	.65	1.94
February	.60	.87
March	.93	2.88
Totals	2.18	5.69
26	45	30
27	32	30
Total Precip in March		2.88
Normal Precip. for March	.93	
Total Precip. in 2001	5.69	
Normal Precip. for 2001		
To Date		2.18
Soil Temperature		47°

### Silverton School Activities

Thursday, March 29--District One-Act Play

Friday, March 30--WTA&M Judging Contests

Friday and Saturday, March 30-31--Miami JH and HS Track Meet

Saturday, March 31--Clarendon Judging Contests

Monday, April 2--Boys and girls District Golf, Hereford

Tuesday, April 3--Senior Class going to WTA&M

Wednesday, April 4--Six Weeks Tests (odd periods); DeVry Inst. to meet with Senior Class

Thursday, April 5--Six Weeks Tests (even periods)

Friday, April 6--HS District Track at Randall; early out, 1:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 7--JH District Track Meet, here; Texas Tech University Judging Contests

who rely heavily on irrigation will see those costs continue to rise even through 2005.

Economist James Richardson says producers are finding innovative ways to make their operations more efficient. Many producers are reducing chemical use, labor hours, and machine hours while improving their marketing skills. The study indicates that most operations need to increase net income 10 to 20 percent to prevent the loss of real net worth.

Hundreds laid off. Dot coms declining. Businesses going under. Financial news these days isn't always good, but now might be the perfect time to start a home-based business. However, Extension consumer sciences specialist Pam Brown says don't try to fulfill that self-employment dream without doing your homework. Keep several ideas in mind before launching your new career. Find something you are passionate about and make sure your work style will translate to a home-based business. Expect to lose any time off. It usually isn't practical while the business is being established. Also consider providing your own benefits like medical insurance and retirement plans. And remember, be patient. Brown says it takes most businesses about five years before they become profitable.

Texas citrus producers are expecting a worse season than last year due to less demand and weather. Hidalgo County Extension Agent Juan Anciso says producers are about a million boxes behind last year's schedule. Much of the fruit was lost to dry weather and heavy winds. Anciso says the groves needed to be watered in February, and now it is just too dry. Slow market movement may be linked to smaller fruit size, competition from different produce, or a cold winter.

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