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IN THE NEWS

Nepal rebels pledge truce
Nepal's Maoist rebels declared a three-month ceasefire from Thursday and political parties forming a new government promised to work with them, dramatically raising hopes of an end to the decade-old conflict.

Russia, China stress diplomacy with Iran
Russia and China said on Thursday diplomacy was the best way to tackle the dispute over Iran's nuclear ambitions, a day before a U.N. watchdog delivers its verdict on whether Tehran has met Security Council demands.

Sister of Iraqi vice president killed
Gunmen killed the sister of one of Iraq's vice presidents on Thursday, the latest high level assassination, as Washington's top diplomatic and defense officials visited to underscore support for a new government.

Moussaoui deliberations off for day
The U.S. jury considering whether September 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui should be executed was sent home without deliberating on Thursday after a juror called in sick.

World Trade Center rebuild set to begin
The rebuilding of New York's World Trade Center was set to begin on Thursday, just one day after officials approved plans to erect the Freedom Tower and other buildings where the Twin Towers stood until September 11.

New Orleans mayor mends fences with FEMA
New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said on Wednesday he had settled a fight with U.S. disaster officials over trailer parks in the city, giving hope to people still seeking temporary housing months after Hurricane Katrina.

America's parks feel strain of a budget crunch
Longer lines, fewer services await visitors this year, critics say.

XM Satellite says federal regulators launch probes
XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. on Thursday said federal regulators have launched a probe into its marketing activities, including areas such as billing and rebates.

Oil below \$72 as worries over US gasoline ease
Oil fell below \$72 on Thursday, deepening losses from the previous session, as worries over U.S. gasoline supplies eased slightly ahead of the summer driving season.

Nasdaq official says regulations too tough
A top official at the Nasdaq stock market said on Wednesday that financial regulations on companies listed in the United States were too tough and risked making the market less competitive.

Aetna says computer with member information stolen
Health insurer Aetna Inc. on Wednesday said a laptop computer containing personal information on about 38,000 of its members was stolen from an employee's car.

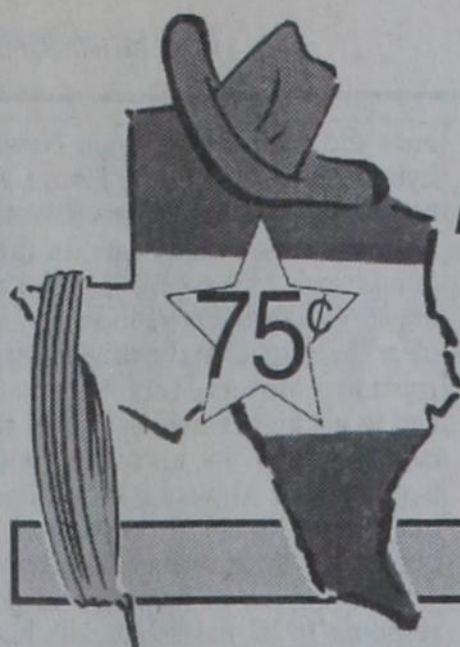
Beijing police launch Games security program
Beijing police showed what visitors, friendly or otherwise, can expect at the 2008 Summer Games when they launched their Olympic security training program on Thursday.

Pistons power to second comfortable win over Bucks
Led by 22 points from Tayshaun Prince and double-figure efforts from six players the Detroit Pistons motored past the Milwaukee Bucks 109-98 on Wednesday to take control of their Eastern Conference quarter-final.

LOCAL WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the mid 50s. South winds 10 to 20 mph.
FRIDAY - Mostly cloudy with showers and thunderstorms likely. Breezy - cooler. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast 15 to 25 mph in the afternoon. Chance of rain 70 percent.
FRIDAY NIGHT - Decreasing clouds. A 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Windy. Lows in the lower 40s. North winds 20 to 30 mph decreasing to 10 to 20 mph after midnight.
SATURDAY - Partly cloudy in

the morning then clearing. Windy. Highs in the upper 60s.
SATURDAY NIGHT - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Windy. Lows in the mid 40s.
SUNDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.
SUNDAY NIGHT - Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 40s.
MONDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 70s.
MONDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 40s.
TUESDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 80s.
TUESDAY NIGHT - Increasing clouds. Lows around 50.
WEDNESDAY - Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 70s.



The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

PROUDLY SERVING HANSFORD COUNTY SINCE 1907

VOLUME 99 • ISSUE 17

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2006



The Hansford County Sheriff's Office presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Gruver Volunteer Fire Department and the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department on Monday, April 17, 2006. Gary Evans, Hansford County Sheriff, (far left), presented certificates to (L-R) Ron Antalek and Roger Close, representing the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department, and Billy Kelly, Sam Gruver and Lynn Boyd, representing the Gruver Volunteer Fire Department.

A SALUTE TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS

During the months of March and April, the Gruver Volunteer Fire Department and the Spearman Volunteer Fire Department were called to several range fires in Hansford County, as well as several other surrounding counties of the Texas Panhandle. These fires were caused by severe drought conditions and attributed to over a million acres of range and pasture ground being burnt. The fire department members gave countless hours of time and labor to battle the fires. Gary Evans, Hansford County Sheriff, commended them for this outstanding effort.

Spearman Volunteer Fire Department: John Kunselman, Chief; Ron Antalek, 1st Asst. Chief;

Bret Burgin, 2nd Asst. Chief; Ryan Wells, Captain Co. A; Mike Bates, Captain, Co. B; Roger Close, Captain, Co. C; Elbert Dorton, Lt. Co. A; Buck Hughes, Lt. Co. B; Bruce Stinson, Lt. Co. C; Dwayne Comp, Firefighter; Sergio Dominguez, Firefighter; Slade Floyd, Firefighter; Jerry Funk, Firefighter; Jared George, Firefighter; Randy Kirk, Firefighter; Cesar Moreno, Firefighter; Daniel Renfro, Firefighter; Johnny Ring, Firefighter; Ray Tate, Firefighter; Kevin Travis, Firefighter; Jim Younger, Firefighter

Gruver Volunteer Fire Department: Sam Gruver, Chief; Wayne Kruse, 1st Asst. Chief; Jake

McCullough, 2nd Asst. Chief; Lynn Boyd, Training Officer; Matt Johnson, Treasurer; Penny Kruse, Secretary; Robert Blevins; Benny McCullough; Joe Morris; Chris Johnson; Marvin Sparks; Jason Hefner; Shane Goodson; Tyrel King; Meaghan King; Diane Boyd; Aaron Boyd; Autumn Gruver; Heath Meier; Travis McDowell, Cadet

Morse Volunteer Fire Department: Gary Urban, Joe Sanchez, Gene Gardener, Tom Dortch, Lonnie Clemmons, Seth Clemmons, Vernon Gardener, Roney Clark, Emmitt Schmidt, Chuck Newcomb

And many others who just respond as needed.

USDA extends authorization to graze CRP acres

In continuing response to this year's widespread drought, USDA's Farm Service Agency today announced the extension of emergency grazing of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Texas to July 1, 2006.

"Certain areas of Texas continue to experience severe drought conditions and a severe shortage of forage for grazing," said Rick Hargrove, County Executive Director for the Hansford County FSA. "Pasture recovery and new grass seedlings are delayed due to a lack of moisture and cool weather. This extension of emergency grazing to July 1, 2006 in Texas will provide forage for livestock and help producers in areas most severely impacted by these drought conditions."

Today's announcement makes all counties in Texas previously approved for emergency grazing eligible for the extension. Grazing of CRP acres is authorized until July 1, 2006, or until disaster conditions no longer exist, whichever comes first. CRP participants who do not own or lease livestock may rent or lease the grazing privilege to an eligible livestock producer.

Today's action by USDA is in response to a request received from the Texas FSA State Committee. Producers should note that an extension for emergency haying of CRP acres past the original May 1 cutoff was NOT authorized in order to protect and preserve wildlife habitat and the environmental benefit of the permanent cover.

CRP annual rental payments will

be reduced by 25 percent for the acres grazed. Other restrictions and limitations apply therefore producers must visit the local USDA Service Center to request grazing privileges and modify existing CRP conservation plans to incorporate grazing provisions prior to relocating livestock.

CRP offers annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving cover on eligible land. USDA will monitor producers to ensure the land is grazed in a manner that does not damage existing conservation covers.

"Although many areas of the state have received the benefit of

recent rains, there are areas where the precipitation was simply too little, too late," said Hargrove. "Extending CRP grazing privileges provides immediate, short-term relief to producers in need of forage."

USDA also offers other programs to assist drought stricken producers, including emergency farm loans, the emergency conservation program and the noninsured crop disaster assistance program. For more information and eligibility requirements on USDA disaster assistance, producers should contact their local FSA office at 806-659-3036 ext. 2 or visit FSA's website at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

Cattle Raisers, WRCA plan benefit for fire victims

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and the Working Ranch Cowboys Association will host a benefit on Sunday, May 7 for victims of the Panhandle wildfires.

The event will be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the M.K. Brown Center in Pampa, Texas. All monies raised will go to the Cattlemen's Disaster Relief Fund.

Activities will begin with entertainment by the Western music trio Palo Duro, followed by cowboy humorist Curt Brummett.

A brisket supper will be served at 5 p.m.; there's no specific charge, but donations are requested and will be contributed to the disaster fund.

From 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. there will be a concert and church service led by Paul and Susie Luchsinger.

Bidding on silent and live auction items will be interspersed throughout the event.

There's no charge to attend any of the activities, but the hosts request that those planning to attend RSVP so they can plan accordingly. To RSVP, call toll-free 1 (800) 242-7820, ext. 192.

For more information on the benefit, call WRCA at (806) 374-9722 or TSCRA Field Inspector Scott Williamson at (940) 889-2269.

The Working Ranch Cowboys Association is based in Amarillo, Texas. It was founded in 2001 to "provide financial and other assistance to working ranch cowboys and their families who are suffering significant hardships and who are not otherwise able to provide for their needs."

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is a 129-year-old trade organization whose 13,600 members manage approximately 5.4 million cattle on 70.3 million acres of range and pasture land, primarily in Texas and Oklahoma.

DEADLINE

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.

For more information, please contact Catherine Smith at 659-3434, or e-mail to cathysmith@antden.com.

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Enrollment Deadline Coming Soon

by Rep. Mac Thornberry

I am sure most of you have heard something about Medicare Part D, the new prescription drug coverage for seniors. All Medicare beneficiaries are eligible for it. It is a voluntary benefit. No one is required to take it. However, an important deadline is coming up for those who would like this coverage.

The first enrollment period for Medicare Part D ends May 15, 2006. If you are currently on Medicare- and you want to add this benefit- you must enroll by that deadline to avoid a possible penalty. Those currently eligible for the benefit could be charged higher premiums if they sign up after May 15.

almost 28 million people across the country are already enrolled and receiving the new prescription drug benefit. In our congressional district, approximately 60 percent of those eligible have signed up for the benefit.

The Department of Health and Human Services estimates this coverage will save seniors an average of \$1,100 a year on the cost of their medicines. Some retirees will save significantly more than that average. But, Medicare Part D does not give enrollees all of their medicine for free. And, it is not a typical "one size fits all" government program. It is insurance provided by private companies with par of the cost paid by government. Like other insurance, there are premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and other costs.

Medicare Part D could be a big help for those with very high drug expenses. Under the standard plan, once a beneficiary's out-of-pocket expenses for one calendar year reaches \$3,600, they will be required to pay just 5 percent (or a small co-payment) for the rest of their drug purchases that year. All of their other drug purchase costs will be covered by that plan.

There is also extra assistance available for those with a low income. For Medicare beneficiaries who meet the eligibility guidelines, the savings on drugs purchases will be substantial. Millions of low income Medicare beneficiaries could pay no more than \$5 per prescription.

The prescription drug benefit will help many people, but it is still important to remember that is not mandatory. You may decide you do not want it. you may already be receiving good coverage through another source such as an employer or a union.

If you decide to accept this benefit, you will need to find coverage plan that is right for you. About 20 organizations have been approved by Medicare to sell plans in Texas. Companies offering this insurance must meet certain requirements such as covering all medically necessary drugs. But, these companies are also competing with each other on things like prices and how benefits are packaged. People looking for the plan that is right for them will need to carefully examine what is offered. In most cases, beneficiaries will be able to change plans once a year.

if you need more information about this new coverage, there is a good website at www.medicare.gov.

You may also call Medicare's toll-free number, 1-800-MEDICARE.

The May 15 deadline is important, but there is still plenty of time to do the research necessary to make the best decisions. Family and friends can help you.

I also encourage you to call my office if I can help provide you with information.

Correction

The article about Ivan Thompson stated that he was hitchhiking, and was picked up by Harry Stumpf. It should have read that he was picked up by J.V. Stump.

Correction

The article about the Spearman Police Department stated that they had seized over 95 grams of methamphetamine in an arrest on March 13th. The correct amount is 8.4 grams - the 95 grams was the total weight with the containers.

Update

District Attorney Clay Ballman called Spearman Police Chief Lance Swan on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, telling him that he had forgotten to file the paperwork for the seizures made in the March 13th arrest by the Spearman Police Department within the allotted time frame (within thirty days after receipt). The paperwork was delivered to the District Attorney's office on March 15, 2006 by Police Chief Lance Swan.

Because of this failure, the Spearman Police Department has been forced to return the semi, trailer and \$1272.52 that were seized in the arrest.

Cinco de Mayo

Sponsored by: Spearman Union Church
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Spearman Chamber of Commerce

Saturday, May 13, 2006
12:00 noon - 7 p.m.
Spearman Union Church
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Come listen to live bands and local talent
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Live,
Laugh &
Love



by Catherine R. Smith
cathysmith@antden.com

My dear friend Bill Pittman sent me the following story, entitled "The Seven Wonders of the World." I don't know who wrote it, but I found it very inspiring.

The Seven Wonders of the World

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

1. Egypt's Great Pyramids
2. Taj Mahal
3. Grand Canyon
4. Panama Canal
5. Empire State Building
6. St. Peter's Basilica
7. China's Great Wall

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied,

"Yes, a little. I couldn't quite make up my mind because there were so many."

The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help."

"The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

1. To See
2. To Hear
3. To Touch
4. To Taste
5. To Feel
6. To Laugh
7. And to Love."

The room was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

The things we overlook as simple and ordinary and that we take for granted are truly wondrous!

May God bless and keep you; May He make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26

Catherine :)

Remembering William Sloane Coffin

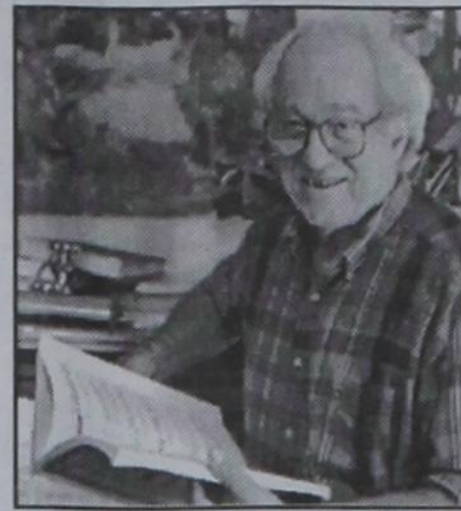
by Jim Wallis

Bill Coffin has died. Rev. William Sloane Coffin was likely the most influential liberal Protestant clergyman and leader of his generation. One of the first white men to go South and be arrested in the civil rights movement, one of the first church leaders to dissent from the Vietnam War, one of the first moral voices against the nuclear arms race, Bill was a prophetic voice of Christian conscience to both church and state for many decades.

Bill died at his final home in Vermont of congestive heart failure but, as many have testified, his heart never failed a generation committed to putting their faith into action. While apparently unafraid of death, Bill Coffin (unsurprisingly) defied it to the very end. Seemingly on the edge of death for month after month, Bill kept publishing new books, giving new speeches, founding new organizations, hosting a legion of pilgrims saying their last goodbyes and being ministered to once again by the prophet-pastor, and somehow finding the time to keep encouraging countless friends in the struggle for social justice and peace - including regular phone calls to our home to cheer me on during the God's Politics book tour. He would see a television interview and call just to offer his encouraging and wise words. Sometimes he would speak to Joy while I was on the road, and send me his good advice, "Tell Jim to let his success go to his heart but not to his head."

I remember a special dinner for Bill, hosted by his friends, Marian Wright Edelman, founder of the Children's Defense Fund, and Rev. John Chane, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington. It was billed as Bill Coffin's likely last visit to Washington, D.C., (it was) and a host of interesting people turned up. Dan Rather, then-CBS anchor, testified to the consistent moral voice that Bill Coffin offered to journalists such as him. Joe Hough, the president of Union Seminary, named him a genuine prophet for our time. Marian spoke of how impressed a young generation of civil rights activists was with the active support of a northern white clergyman.

And in an extraordinary story, Bill Moyers described an interview he



Rev. William Sloane Coffin, Jr. 1924-2006

once did with the Religion News Service while still press secretary in Lyndon Johnson's White House. After stepping into the makeshift phone booth used for phone interviews, the religion reporter kept challenging the administration's arguments for the Vietnam War, and kept citing anti-war points made by a young chaplain at Yale - Rev. William Sloane Coffin. No matter what Moyers' rebuttals, the reporter kept coming back with Coffin's clear theological and political objections to the war. After the interview, a frustrated Moyers instructed an aide to "find out who this guy Coffin is" and to get his arguments against the war. He got them; Moyers read them carefully, and the encounter with Coffin's prophetic critique was the beginning of Moyers own change of heart on Vietnam and, eventually, many other things. I don't know if Bill had ever heard that story quite before, but the influence on Moyers was stunning to all of us in the room.

I had the job of helping Bill get up to the podium for his remarks in response to all the tributes he had received (strokes had diminished his mobility and slurred his words but had not dulled the sharpness of his mind or cooled the warmth of his heart.) In introducing Bill to speak to all of us, I described how this young evangelist with a growing social conscience had failed to find many in his own contemporary faith tradition to learn from, but had discovered this liberal chaplain at Yale and senior minister at The Riverside Church who was more faithful to the gospel at the point of its social and political implications. I gave Bill a big smile and tearfully testified that, "On the biblical matters of justice and peace, Bill Coffin was one of the most evangelical Christians of our time."

Today (April 20, 2006) is Bill Coffin's memorial service at The Riverside Church in New York City. Many will testify to his prophetic courage, his indomitable spirit, his great humor, and his pastoral care. And many, such as me, will just be grateful to have been one of his many friends. Now Bill goes to God.

"The one true freedom in life is to come to terms with death, and as early as possible, for death is an event that embraces all our lives. And the only way to have a good death is to lead a good life... The more we do God's will, the less unfinished business we leave behind when we die." - William Sloane Coffin, June 1, 1924 to April 12, 2006

Xcel Energy to request base rate changes in Texas

The Public Utility Commission of Texas has ordered Xcel Energy to file a request by May 31 for changes in the base electricity rates charged its Texas retail customers.

The regional electric utility anticipates that at least some of its Texas customers will see increases in rates; some customers may see decreases. Sizes of any changes have not yet been determined, but the changes are not expected to be large.

"Any increases we request are expected to be moderate," said James M. Bagley, Xcel Energy's manager of Regulatory Administration, explaining the company is performing rate studies now to determine what changes will be necessary and appropriate for its 23 industrial, commercial

and residential customer classes.

Base rates are electric utility prices set by regulators to allow a utility to recover its operating expenses and to provide a fair rate of return on the investments necessary to provide electric service, he explained. "Base rates reflect the costs of constructing and operating power generation plants and electric transmission and distribution systems, as well as the costs of operating and maintaining the systems."

Scholarship applications deadlines

May 1, 2006 - Lloyd Lynn Buzzard Memorial Trust; Sharon Saltzman Memorial FFA; C. A. Gibner Memorial (turn into counselor's office before due date)

May 9, 2006 - TILF (Texas Interscholastic League Foundation) (Some eligible requirements: Must have completed in STATE contest; rank high scholastically, graduate in the 25% of class; preferably from high school during current year and begin college or university following fall semester. Boxes are provided at State Meet Registration Center to hand-deliver completed applications after state contest. See counselor for more information if needed)

May 10, 2006 - Colt Cluck Memorial Scholarship (turn in to counselor's office before due date)

June 1, 2006 - Blue Bell Creameries Regional FCCLA (For more information, call your high school counselor.)

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Advertising

Open Display rates are \$4.00 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$5 for the first 25 words and 10¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week if billed.

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



Hansford County Students of the Month

Katie Baehler and Bryan Thomas were chosen the January Students of the Month for Spearman High School. Katie is a senior and Bryan is a junior.

Katie's family members are her grandparents, Clark and Laura Bridges.

Katie's extra activities include art contests and UIL literary criticism.

She has kept busy during her years at SHS with winning awards and recognitions all along the way. Freshman

year she was a regional qualifier for Literary Criticism, won the Art 1 award and the Career Connections award. She didn't hold back during her sophomore year either. She was regional qualifier in Literary Criticism, took home the Chemistry 1 award, took 1st in Art History, 2nd in the sidewalk art at OPSU Art Jubilee and 2nd place High Plains Art Festival. In her junior year Katie was district champ and regional qualifier in UIL Literary Criticism, received the English III AP award, the US History award, the Art III award, took 1st in Art History, placed 3rd in sidewalk art at OPSU and earned 3 college hours with a 4.0. So far during her senior year Katie has earned 6 college hours with a 4.0, National Who's Who and was voted Most Talented.

Katie's hobbies and special interests include reading, doing any art project, traveling with her great-aunt Bert and great-uncle Ken to Alaska, the Caribbean, Britain and France plus decorating anything that doesn't run away from her.

We asked Katie what teacher had most influenced her life. Her answer was, "All of them have influenced my life in some way so I can't pick one."

Everyone knows everyone... that's what she likes best about Spearman High School. We asked how she felt about Spearman, her response was, "It's friendly, quiet and a nice place to live." As Katie's plans for the future work out she will be going from a quiet place to live to a very lovely, busy, large town... the city of Savannah, Georgia. She hopes to attend the Savannah College of Art to study studio art or fashion design. She will truly enjoy that beautiful, picturesque old Southern town.

Bryan Thomas' parents are David and Suzanne Thomas. He has three brothers: John, Mark and Jeffrey.

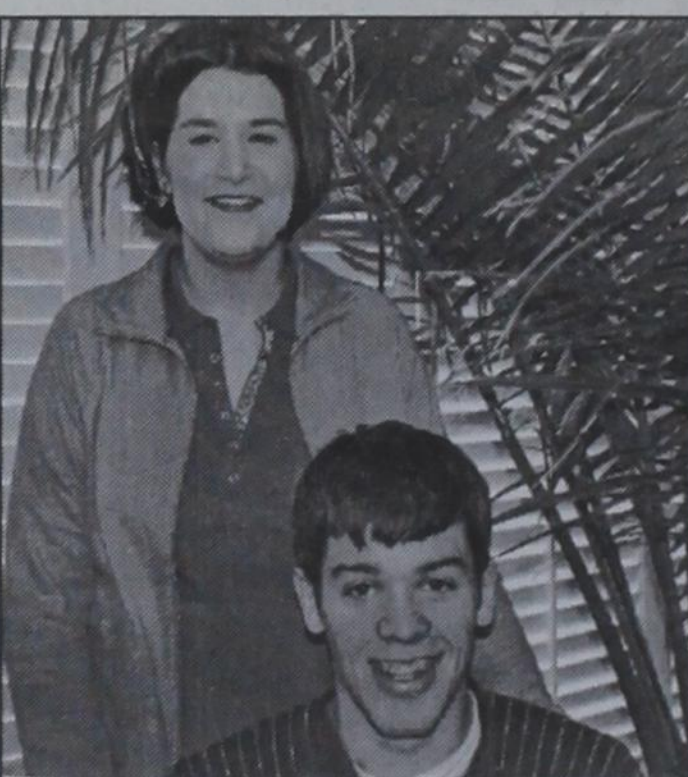
His extracurricular activities include; gold-district winners and regional qualifiers in 2005; football- years and play-offs junior year; basketball- JV sophomore year, varsity- junior year; FFA member- 2 years; member of speech team-junior year, Worship Leader at Nitro Youth Ministry and member of First Baptist Church.

Bryan has been on the honor roll, a member of the varsity golf team that placed 1st in the district and were regional qualifiers in the Spring of 2005, and he won the Ag Award during his sophomore year.

During his spare time Bryan enjoys playing his guitar, playing basketball, golfing and being with his family.

There have been three teachers that have most influenced Bryan over the years. They are Ellen Graham, Brian Holt and Coach Ashmore. What he likes best about Spearman High School is the dedicated teachers. With Spearman he likes the support and encouragement he receives from the people of the community.

We asked Bryan about his future plans and he shared this with us, "I plan to go to Wayland Baptist University majoring in Christian Ministry.. I hope to be a Youth Minister."



Katie Baehler & Bryan Thomas



Sarah Mireles

Gruver January Student of the month is Sarah Mireles. Sarah's parents are Ralph Mireles and Beverley Mireles. She has a fifteen year old sister, Lindsey, and a thirteen year old brother, Drew. Sarah is a senior.

Sarah enjoys singing and playing the guitar. And she must enjoy it a lot as she won the talent portion of the Texas Farm Bureau Pageant.

Sarah was asked what she liked best about Gruver and Gruver High School. She responded, "The thing I like best about Gruver is knowing that it will never change. As far as the school... I like how much everyone cares for each other. How teachers care for the students and vice versa." Mrs. Curry is the person that has most influenced Sarah.

Sarah's extracurricular activities include basketball, cheerleading, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Farmers of America, National Honor Society and First Baptist Church of Gruver.

Sarah's future will include attending Howard Payne University with a major in sports medicine. "I would like to be an Athletic Trainer helping high school and college athletes," Sarah stated.

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Happy Birthday!

Editor's Note: This Happy Birthday list is run as a public service by the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman. We apologize if any names are misspelled. If you know of a name that needs to be changed, added or deleted, please call 659-3434.

Thank you, Catherine

April 27

Birthday - Hart Derington, Tek Ferguson, Archie Nelson, Beatrice "Sis" Stayton, Mitzi Myers, Jerry Ross Jr., Marie Snider, Simona Rayes, April Tenneson, Elva Sullivan, Jean Burgess, Veronica Favela, Wilma Reese, Alan Hutchinson, John Michael Duncan, Kathy Floyd, Christy Harris
Anniversary - M/M Victor White

April 28

Birthday - Kade Carthel, Wade Dahl, Jerry Duncan, Pat Harris, Jody Irwin, Krysanne Johnson, Shirley Lowe, Elvin Martin, Scott Swan, Kerry McMullan, Tammy Savage, Vernon Tindell, John Henry Hughes, Sambo Connelly, Clark Bridges, Victoria Vela, Jessica Mayo, Janet Morales, Brad Renick, Jimmy Morley, Kyle Sumner
Anniversary - M/M Roy Riley, James & Linda Owens, M/M Bill Gaither, Robbie & Valerie Shield

April 29

Birthday - Jill Garrett, Clay Hobbs, Betty Roberts, Estelle Jackson, Britton Benge, Burton Williams, Robbie Shields, Christine Harnish, Dora Alvarez, Greg Odegaard, Ila Willis, Randi Atwood, John Haynes, Madison McLain, Bailey Stedje
Anniversary - M/M Kyle Irwin

May 1

Birthday - Josie Kiser, Cori Cox, Marti Garnett, Jarrett Swan, April Jarvis, Gina Hamilton, Earl Spencer, James Sterling, Floyd Dean Shook, Ryon Atwood, Christine States, Angela Coombs, Devin Delozier, Victoria Renteria,

Allan Thompson, Jason Ward, Aaron Weller, Dani Wheelock
Anniversary - M/M Bobby Don Smith, Ronnie & Coleen Schaefer

May 2

Birthday - Michael Booth, Hack Johnson, Whitney Lilley, Chad Logsdon, Marsha Shaver, Carolyn Gressett, Melodie Kelp, Bryan Jenkins, Dalene Baker, Nick Renteria, Rex Shook, Lynn Davis, Keith Gibson, Connie Pape, Annie Torres
Anniversary - M/M Jose Vaquera

May 3

Birthday - Gilbert Perez, Jon Tolleson, Patty Sheppard, Cruz Garcia, Rita Reed, Kendra Ivy, Linda Deluna, Derek George, Jason Harnish, April LaFarr, Michael Sparkman, Jewel Thomas, Haley Young
Anniversary - Ric & Sandee Smith

May 4

Birthday - David Slater, Dwayne Mitchell, Pat Sutterfield, Buford Babitzke, Tina Rex, Victor Rios Sr., Terri Dewberry, Patrick Sparkman, Stan Fletcher, Pat Bratton, Colby McKinley, Keith Winegarner
Anniversary - Angie & Willie Salgado, Stephen & Jerri Lane

May 5

Birthday - Olivia Cazares, Kevin Spivey, Joan Lee, Buena Lyons, Mrs. W.W. Weaver, Becky Hutchison, Debbie Fletcher, Debbie Evans, Jim Shields, Wallace Price, Melva Nichols, Venita Womack, Sawyer Sutterfield, DeeDee Longoria, Marva Roselius, Gary Gumfory

May 6

Birthday - Mike O'Connell, Robin Hargis, Cecil Fryer Jr., Andrea Archer, Raymond Jenkins, Audrey Regen, Joan Dahl, Sybil Vera, Dr. Darrell Duke, Angie McCarney, Tim Smith, Tyler Schnell

May 7

Birthday - Allan Beasley, Bette Burk, Chris Deakin, Ashley Gammon, Helen Holt, Adelaida Vela, Stephanie Bayless, Scott McCloy, Carley Coomer, Becky Reagan
Anniversary - Ramon & Trish Rosales

Words from Faith & Grace

by Cecil R. Biggers, Lutheran Lay Minister

In this third week of the season of Easter, we study the meaning of the resurrection in Acts 3:12-26, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7 and Luke 24:13-49. In Acts, Peter has healed a lame man in the outer temple and he explains how this happened. Peter explains that it was not by the disciples' power or piety that the man walked; it was by the power of belief in the risen Christ! Peter explains that Christ is the fulfillment of scripture, is the prophet like Moses whom all the people were to follow if they were to be a part of the people of Israel. Peter tells that Christ was first sent to Israel and that those who believe in Him are the "remnant", that is, the People of God.

The Psalmist contrasts the assuredness of the believer with the hopeless desires of those without faith. Those whom the Holy Spirit has enabled to find faith can truly say, "You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound. I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety." What a beautiful testament to the grace of God and the reward of faith in Him.

The writer of 1 John reminds us that we, through our faith, are the Children of God. And although we only speculate as to what our eternal nature is or will be, we do know that when the triumphant Christ returns, we will be like Him! To know Christ, we cannot remain in sin. Luther in explaining the third section of the Apostle's Creed said, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Spirit has called me." Dear ones, hear the call of the Holy Spirit, for the gift of faith through grace is yours to receive.

Cleopas and his friend, returning to Emmaus, trudged along the road and met a stranger. They were despondent, their Teacher was dead. They, like Thomas, knew the scriptures and believed in God; yet, even to the faithful, death is dead. The stranger explained the scriptures to them, and when he stayed for dinner, they recognized Jesus as he took the bread, blessed it and broke it. So too do we recognize our Lord in the breaking of the bread of Eucharist, the Lord's Supper. We recognize our Lord and His covenant when we drink the wine; in this way, we have connection with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and are a part of the ever-lasting community of Faith. Cleopas and friend returned joyously to Jerusalem to tell the others.

We as rational Westerners try to scientifically explain the mystery of the resurrection and the presence of Christ among us. There are more things in this universe than our minds can comprehend; it is enough that the resurrection "is" and the presence "is". May the Holy Spirit enable you to receive the assurance of your faith, so that you may say at the end of the day and at the end of this life, "I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety".

Thank You

The American Heart Association board of Hansford County would like to say "Thank You" to all who donated through sponsorships, purchased tickets, donated and purchased items at the auctions.

Because of your generosity, the gala raised \$11,606.00 to help in the battle against heart disease.

All Saints' Episcopal Church



2201 S. Jefferson Perryton

For more information, call 435-4516, 435-2697 or 659-2083

April 30 - 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Nix
 May 7 - 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Spannagel
 May 14 - 12:30 p.m. - Fr. Spannagel
 May 21 - 11:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
 May 28 - 11:00 a.m. - Fr. Nix

HYI

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Project Graduation

The parents of the Spearman High School graduating class of 2006 are asking for your help to make this year's Project Graduation event a success. The celebration begins shortly after commencement exercises and continues through till the next morning. The night consists of games, food, gifts and prizes and ensures that the participants will celebrate this momentous occasion in a safe, alcohol-free and drug-free environment. Contributions may be in the form of door prizes, monetary donations, book scholarships, gifts that will benefit them upon entering college, or anything of this sort. You send contributions to: Project Graduation, %Audra Thomas, 207 S. James, Spearman TX 79081. If you would like to donate items that need to be picked up, please contact Audra at (806) 659-3354 or (806) 270-0266, or Diane Close at (806) 659-3615.

Fire Department Donations

Persons wishing to make donations to the various Fire Departments in Hansford county may do so at the following addresses: Spearman Fire Department, Box 37, Spearman, Texas 79081; Gruver Fire Department, Box 947, Gruver, Texas 79040 or Morse Fire Department, Attn: Gary Urban, Box 28, Morse, Texas 79062

Colt Cluck Memorial Tri-State Rodeo Scholarship

The Tri-State Rodeo is accepting donations for the Colt Cluck Memorial Scholarship. Donations may be mailed to: Colt Cluck Memorial Scholarship, Tri-State Rodeo, PO Box 1414, Canyon, Texas 79015. For more information, contact Craig Cooper at (806) 733-5200.

Morse Day Celebration Set

Morse Day is set for May 5. Bring a lawn chair and come join the fun! 2:30-4:00- Small Animal Vaccines at Community Center- Provided by the Hansford County Veterinarian Hospital (Remember rabies cases have been reported in Hansford County); 4:00- Pie Judging at the Community Center; 4:30- Parade participants meet at the Equity Elevator; 5:00- Morse Day Parade; 6:00- Hamburger Feed at Morse Park provided by the Morse Lions Club; 6:30- games at Morse Park-- for all ages; 7:00- Ice Cream Social and Pie Auction; 8:00- Tri-State Band- (Good Ole' Country & Western Music); 10:00- Fireworks (If "burn ban" is lifted). This event is sponsored by the Morse 4-H Club and proceeds benefit Morse 4-H and the Community of Morse. contact Margaret Reid at 733-2348 or Donna Millican at 733-2625 for more information.

3rd Annual Auction Benefits Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas
 Have lunch with UT legend Darrell Royal or Dallas Mavs Coach Avery Johnson. Be the guest of former CIA head and PResident of Texas A&M Robert Gates for an Aggie football game. Win prime tickets to a Dixie Chicks concert and meet the Chicks backstage. Get a tour of Lee Ann Womack's tour bus. Get VIP tickets to Dr. Phil's show and meet him on stage, or share an informative lunch with dr. Ray Perryman, 2005 Nobel nominee for economics. Contact Carol Green 512-258-9920

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 Sincerely,
 Bob Boxwell

Tong's Chinese Restaurant

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All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Specials

Tuesday - Steak	\$7 ⁹⁹
Friday - Shrimp	\$6 ⁵⁰
Saturday - Catfish	\$6 ⁵⁰
Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Sat.	\$5 ⁵⁰

Buffet Hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
and 5:30-Close

Spearman Prom
May 6th
 Order your corsage & boutonniere today!

Mother's Day is
May 14th

All Occasion Flowers
 202 N. Bernice (across from the Post Office)
 659-5180 • Spearman

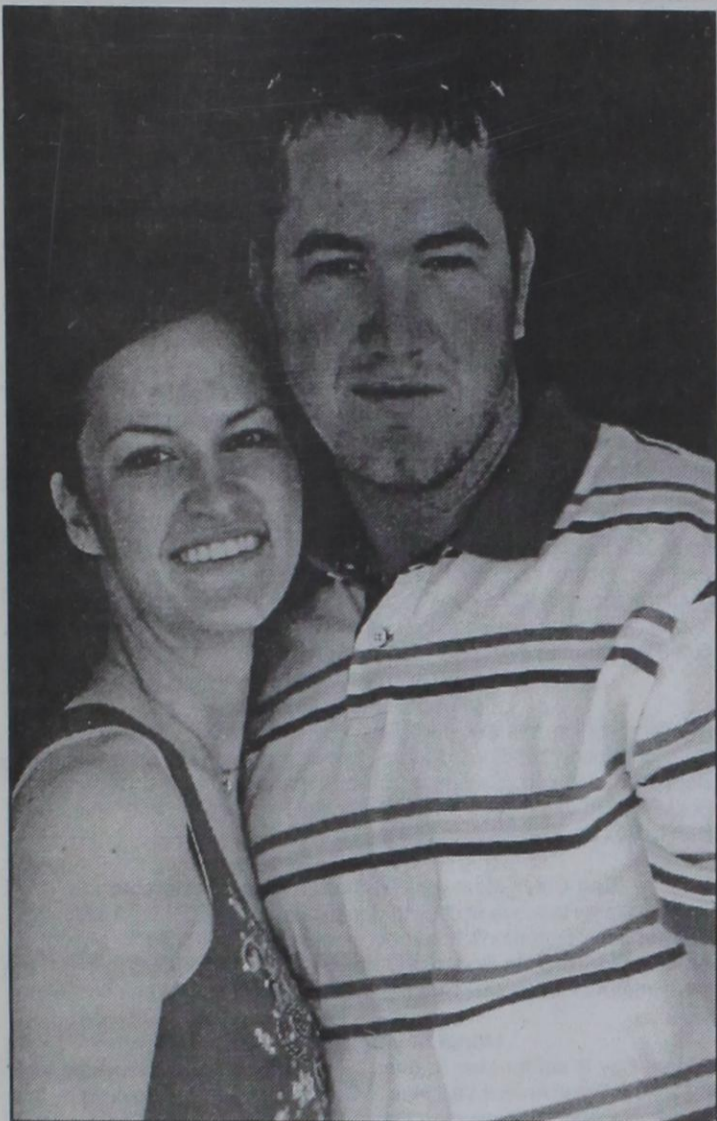
Replenish the seed of faith through . . .

DAILY BIBLE READING, PRAYER & REGULAR CHURCH ATTENDANCE

<p>Spearman</p> <p>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 - Roland Haney</p> <p>First Assembly of God 401 N. Bernice • 659-2295 Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Worship: 10:35 a.m. Kid's Church: 10:35 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wed. Worship: 7 p.m. Wed. Youth: 7 Pastor - Bob Elder</p> <p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) 29 S. Bernice • 659-2036 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:50 a.m. Minister - Gary Smith</p> <p>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</p> <p>Church of Christ 121 S. Haney • 659-3244 Sunday Bible Class: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Bible Study Wed.: 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Sacred Heart Catholic Church 901 Roland • 659-2792 Sat. Night Mass: 5:30 p.m. Sun. Mass: 9 a.m. - English Sun. Mass: 11:30 - Spanish 1:30 p.m. - Gruver - Cristo Renditor Mass - Spanish Rev. Guillermo Morales</p> <p>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 - Derrel Evins</p> <p>Grace Presbyterian Church (Worships with Faith Lutheran Church) 1101 Bernice • 659-2033 Pastor - Beverly Cook</p> <p>Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1101 Bernice • 659-2252 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. (Worships with Grace Presbyterian Church) Pastor - Beverly Cook</p> <p>Union Church 31 S. Endcott • 659-2644 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Wed Pastor - Dr. Timothy Minor</p> <p>Fellowship Baptist 1102 S. Archer • 659-2783 Sunday School: 10 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Sun. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Youth/Adult Service: 7:30 Wed. Pastor - James Washburn</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>El Aposento Alto U.P.C.I. 1105 S. Roland Domingos: Escuela-Dominical - 10 a.m. Culto Evangelistico - 7 p.m. Jueves: Gracion - 8 p.m. Mier: Estudio Biblico - 7 p.m. Pastor - A.G. Martell (806) 659-2153</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Spanish Cristo Redentor Church Sunday Mass: 1:30 p.m. Friday Evening Mass Summer - 8:00 p.m. Fall/Winter - 7:30 p.m.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oslo</p> <p>Oslo Lutheran Church (ELCA) 6 Miles West & 12 Miles North of Gruver 339-7709 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 11 a.m. Pastor - Paul Fiske</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Waka</p> <p>Waka Church of the Brethren 435-4598</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Morse</p> <p>Morse Baptist Church 733-2757 Pastor - Mike Martin</p>
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This feature is made possible through the sponsorship of these civic minded businesses.

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<p>PRAIRIE MOTORS INC. Hwy. 207 South • P.O. Box 430 Spearman, TX 79081 • (806) 659-2541 www.prairiemotors.com</p>	<p>Gruver Cablevision 308 Main Gruver, TX 79040 733-5295</p>	<p>Hansford County Reporter-Statesman "Proudly Serving Hansford County Since 1907" (806) 659-3434 213 Main Street • Spearman, TX</p>	<p>Interstate Bank, sss 322 Main • P.O. Box 146 Spearman, TX • 659-2559</p>



Engagement Announcement

David and Annette Long of Utopia, Texas are proud to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Laura Long, to Kolby Sumner of Jacksboro, Texas. Kolby is the son of Rodney and Penny Sumner of Spearman.

Laura is a 2005 graduate of Utopia High School and is currently attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville.

Kolby is a 2001 graduate of Spearman High School and works for Pumpco Services in Jacksboro.

The couple plan to wed on August 26 at the Vanderpool Tabernacle in Vanderpool, Texas.



Wedding Announcement

Bobbie (Novak) and Mel Underwood wish to announce their marriage, on February 13, 2006.

The couple will be at home in Spearman, Texas and in Seminole, OK.



Engagement Announcement

Coleen Burkhammer of Spearman and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Burkhammer of Cibola, TX wish to announce the engagement and upcoming marriage of their daughter, Brianne Nicole Burkhammer to Eric Wayne Eslick. Eric is the son of Dale and Debbie Eslick also of Spearman.

Brianne is a 2003 graduate of Spearman High School and will graduate from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in May of 2007 with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Information Systems.

Eric is a 2001 graduate of Spearman high School and is currently working for Noble Energy in Canadian as an Assistance Production Foreman.

The couple will wed on July 29, 2006 at the First United Methodist Church of Spearman.

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14

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Spearman Prom - May 6

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You are invited to attend a
Bridal Shower
honoring
Monica Cantu
(bride-elect of Jeramy Mackie)
on Saturday, April 29th
from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
123 S. Bernice - Spearman, TX

You are invited to attend a
Baby Girl Shower
honoring
Lexy
daughter of Whitney & Billy Horton
on Saturday, April 29th
from 2:30-4:00 p.m. at the
Potts Family Home
504 Garrett - Gruver, TX

You are invited to attend a
Bridal Shower
honoring
Jessica Flory
(bride-elect of Lucas Biggs)
on Saturday, May 6th
from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the
First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
123 S. Bernice - Spearman, TX

You are invited to attend a
Bridal Shower
honoring
Debbie Townsend
(bride-elect of Brooks Beck)
on Saturday, April 29th
from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the home of
Linda Wilkerson
604 S. Barkley - Spearman, TX

Celebrate
Gifts for all your celebrations!
Bridal Registry

Monica Cantu & Jeramy Mackie - April 29
Debbie Townsend & Brooks Beck - April 29
Bryn Lowe & Aaron Weller - May 6
Jessica Flory & Lucas Biggs - May 6
Camille Campbell & Kylee Barkley - May 6
Shannon Glockner & Chad Scarborough - May 7
Stephnie Bowling & Adam Wilson - May 13
Angela Bivins & Coley Griffin - May 20
Terry McCann & Michael Witten - June 3
Brianna Burkhammer & Erick Eslick - June 24
Hillary Holmes & Matt Archer - June 24
Jessica Crossland & Matt Dunnihoo - July 8
Kendra Morgan & Jim Potts
Bray Armes & Neelley Riley
Priscilla Hodges & Jarod Huddleston

Baby Registry

Whitney & Billy Horton - April 29
Sarah & Aaron Witten
Crissy (Leicht) & Kris Elston
Steffany & Jason Ward
Tessa & Derik Grotegut
Kyna (Shields) & Joe Hudson

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

Gordon's DRUG

Your place for
Bridal Registry

Couples Currently Registered

Debbie Townsend & Brooks Beck - April 29
Monica Cantu & Jeramy Mackie - April 29
Jessica Flory & Lucas Biggs - May 6
Bryn Lowe & Aaron Weller - May 6
Camille Campbell & Kylee Barkley - May 6
Shannon Glockner & Chad Scarborough - May 7
Stephnie Bowling & Adam Wilson - May 13
Angela Bivins & Coley Griffin - May 20
Terry McCann & Michael Witten - June 3
Tisha Ralston & Eric Cudd - June 17
Hillary Holmes & Matt Archer - June 24
Brianna Burkhammer & Erick Eslick - June 24
Jessica Crossland & Matt Dunnihoo - July 8
Kendra Morgan & Jim Potts
Priscilla Hodges & Jarod Huddleston

Baby Registry

Pat & Tracy (Logsdon) Mulady - April 29
Christin Bland & Chad Clift - April 30
Aaron & Sarah Witten
Joe & Kenna (Shields) Hudson
Kris & Crissy (Leicht) Elston

Gordon's DRUG 659-2141
314 Main Spearman

by Dorothy Hudson
Out At The Lake



Lake Level—April 24, 2006—1.58feet (-0.33)

This past weekend had 10 RVs camping behind the dam.

The showers and restrooms are now open to the public again. There were two groups of boys camping out on Friday night. Both sets were from area churches. Robert Adams of the Gruver Baptist Church has brought his boys' group other years. Jim Snider of Spearman had a group, too, but Jim was not sure of the Church.

Fishing was spotted. Jim may not have been in the right place at the right time. At least we don't have a picture of someone holding a big fish.

Turkeys are everywhere, but the hens have not gone to nest yet. Most visitors enjoy seeing the toms strutting and fanning those big tails.

First Sheriff of Hansford County

About 8 years ago Nita Bynum posted some queries on message boards asking if anyone had any information on our first sheriff, James Harry McGee. This weekend she had one answered from a query on a Palo Pinto County board.

Allan Kenworthy of Anaheim, California answered the question

with the most detailed family group sheets I have seen on the Bayne Family, James Harry McGee and his wife Alfie Pheredy Bayne, and then one on McGee and his second wife, Margaret Alice East, sister of Jim East.

My chief interest in James Henry McGee was to find his picture to add to our collection of the pictures of the Hansford County Sheriffs. I will email him and try to find out if he has been able to find one.

Some years back he sent me a picture that a relative had sent him. However, the picture was one that had been in print as Tom McGee, first Sheriff of Hemphill County.

When you go into the Hansford Cemetery, a historical marker informs you that Alfie McGee was the first woman to be buried there. She died January 7, 1890 at the McGee home where the Palo Duro Lake is now. Allan Kenworthy lists the cause of death as Tuberculosis. He also gives names to the two small children that were left motherless. The 2 year old boy was named for his father and called Hank. The baby girl was called Pearl. On the 1900 Census they were living in Canadian with their Grandmother Bayne, a widow.

Property tax information available from appraisal office

Alice Peddy, chief appraiser for the Hansford Appraisal District, offers property owners a 2006 pamphlet called *Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities* to help them understand their property taxes.

Published by the Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn's office, the *Remedies* pamphlet explains how the property tax system in Texas works and tells property owners about possible tax savings.

Peddy noted that the pamphlet addresses property taxes collected by all types of taxing units—counties, cities, school districts (such as municipal utility, junior college and hospital districts).

"homeowners may file for various property exemptions offered by taxing units on residence homesteads," Peddy said. In Texas, a homestead is generally the house and land used as the owners principal residence. The pamphlet explains each exemption and how to apply for it.

For example, all homeowners who owned and lived in their homes on January 1 may file for a \$15,000 general exemption from their home's value for school taxes. In addition, certain disabled homeowners and those aged 65 or older qualify for an additional \$10,000 school exemption from the value of their homes.

"A tax freeze, or ceiling, for school taxes is a benefit for homeowners once they become 65 years old or disabled," Peddy said. "State law provides that these homeowners may apply during the year, rather than waiting until next January 1."

"An elderly or disabled homeowner's taxes that pay for public schools cannot increase above the total school tax amount on that home in the first year that the homeowner receives the age 65 and older homeowner exemption," Peddy continued.

Peddy reminded these homeowners that the taxes may increase if the homeowner improves or adds to the house, such as adding a room or patio.

The law provides that this school tax benefit extends to the surviving spouse of an age 65 and older homeowner if the spouse is a least 55 years old at the time of qualified spouse's death and lives in the home as the principle residence.

The chief appraiser pointed out that homeowners age 65 and older or disabled do not have to reapply for the exemption this year if they received the exemption last year. Homeowners turning 65 during the year or becoming disabled may file for the school exemption up to one year from the date they turn 65 or become disabled, owned the home and lived in it as their principal residence. Only those who did not have the exemption and tax ceiling in 2005 must apply in 2006.

Homeowners are also eligible for a \$3,000 general exemption for their county taxes because the county levies a tax for farm-to-market roads or flood control.

Peddy added that any taxing unit may offer a local option exemption that allows a percentage reduction in each residence homestead's appraised value. Taxing units offering the percentage exemption and the percentage they are:

State Mandated Exemptions:

Taxing Unit	General	Over-65	Disabled
	Homestead	Homestead	Citizen
Gruver ISD	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Pringle-Morse CISD	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Spearman ISD	\$ 15,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Special Road	\$ 3,000		

Local Option Percentage And Flat Exemptions:

Taxing Unit	General	Over-65	Disabled
	Homestead	Homestead	Citizen
City of Gruver		\$ 3,000	
City of Spearman	20%	\$ 6,000	
Pringle-Morse CISD	20%	\$ 3,000	
Hansford County	20%	\$ 13,300	
Special Road	20%	\$ 13,300	
Hospital	20%	\$ 13,300	
NPWD	5%	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
PDRA	5%	\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000

Comptroller Strayhorn's *Remedies* pamphlet also describes other exemptions available, such as those for disabled veterans and other disabled persons.

Productivity appraisal is another type of tax relief available to agricultural land or timberland owners. It is available in two forms, referred to by its Texas Constitution subsection of Article 8: "1-d" or agricultural-use appraisal and "1-d-1" or open-space land appraisal.

Landowners who wish their land to receive 1-d appraisal must apply each year. The landowner must have file a signed, sworn application with the chief appraiser by May 1. However, owners of land receiving 1-d-1 appraisal do not need to reapply, unless the chief appraiser requests in writing that they do so.

Because the qualifications are less strict, many landowners choose to apply 1-d-1. However, if the land's use changes to a non-agricultural one, the period for recapturing lost taxes is five year for 1-d-1. For 1-d, the recapture time is three years for change of ownership or use.

"Appraisal district staff can offer more information about special land appraisal and exemptions," Peddy said.

She said the *Remedies* pamphlet also contains information about protesting to the appraisal review board (ARB). The ARB is a local citizen board that hears taxpayers protests to ensure that property values are fair and uniform. There is no fee to protest to the ARB.

Another section deals with how voters can petition for an election to reduce the amount of a tax increase adopted by any taxing unit.

"I urge all property owners in the Hansford Appraisal District to read Comptroller Strayhorn's pamphlet and learn more about the property tax system and all possible property tax relief," Peddy said. "Remember, taxpayers must file exemption applications with the appraisal office by May 1 and any type of protest by May 31 this year."

Elderly or disabled homeowners may defer property taxes

Texans aged 65 or older or who are disabled may postpone paying delinquent and current property taxes on their homes. They may take advantage of a tax option called "tax deferral" by signing an affidavit at the Hansford Appraisal District office.

"If the affidavit is on file, an older homeowner or one who is disabled cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent property taxes," Peddy said.

This special form of tax relief also halts a lawsuit filed to collect delinquent property taxes on an older or disabled Texan's home, according to Alice Peddy, chief appraiser of the Hansford Appraisal District. "To stop a delinquent tax suit," Peddy said, "the age 65 and older or disabled homeowner files the deferral affidavit with the court in which the suit is pending."

Once a homeowner files a tax deferral affidavit with the appraisal district, no taxing unit can start or continue a lawsuit for delinquent taxes as long as that person owns and lives in that home.

The law also allows an age 65 and older or disabled homeowner to halt a pending sale or foreclosure on the homestead's tax lien. And, the law extends the tax deferral to the surviving spouse of an individual who deferred the taxes on the

homestead if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age when the deceased spouse died.

Peddy stressed that the tax deferral only postpones paying taxes on the home; it does not cancel them. During the deferral time, taxes and interest of 8 percent per year continue to add she said, "When the qualified homeowner or qualified surviving spouse no longer owns and lives in the home, the taxes become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect all the deferred taxes and interest."

There is no penalty on the taxes during the deferral time. However, filing the deferral affidavit will not forgive penalties that were already due. Also, if the taxes remain delinquent after the deferral ends, a taxing unit may charge an added penalty if the account goes to a delinquent tax attorney beginning on the 81st day after the deferral ends.

Tax deferral forms are available at the appraisal district office. "The homeowner should fill out the form and have the signature witnessed by a notary public," Peddy said. For more information, taxpayers may contact the Hansford Appraisal District, 709 W 7th Avenue, Spearman, TX 79081-3407 or call 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411.

HANSFORD COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT
proudly presents the
Employee of the Month



February 2006 - Ernestina Salgado

Ernestina has worked in various departments at HCHD for 18 years. She is an assistant in the Manor's Activity Department and must really enjoy her work because she miles all the time! She helps with everything she can and is sweet not only to Manor Residents, but to staff and visitors as well.

Hansford County Hospital District
707 S. Roland • Spearman, TX



A Time to Celebrate
S&S Class of '06

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Carlos Baca | Kaylee Miesner |
| Holly Baker | Cesar Moreno |
| Jessica Bates | Maribel Moreno |
| Justin Bowman | Krystal Ortega |
| Angelica Briseneno-Canales | Santos Ortiz |
| Jessica Brown | Mallory Paul |
| Roy John Bulls | Hernando Perez |
| Karina Castaneda | Silvia Pinon |
| Richard Chairez | Alejandro Rios |
| Brain Close | Endi Robledo |
| Tyson Dettmann | Hervey Rodriguez |
| Edgar Elwood | Esequiel Rosales |
| Javier Frayre | Travis Sander |
| Julian Gallegos | Tabatha Shields |
| Jared George | Jordan Short |
| Rebekah Goodson | Lindsey Short |
| Tonya Hart | Aleisha Sweat |
| Beatriz Hernandez | Si Li Tang |
| Cathy Ana Hernandez | Timberly Thomas |
| Jarick Howard | Brock Town |
| Jeffrey Jackson | Britta Vanderburg |
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| Joel Lopez | Jose Vargos |
| Jenna McElroy | Jessica Villarreal |
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| | Courtney Worley |

The Seniors have made their gift selections - now it's your turn to help make their wishes come true.

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Are you eligible for tax relief?

Pick up a free copy of our pamphlet

"Texas Property Taxes:

Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Learn about property tax relief available to you through:

- Homestead exemptions
- Disabled veteran exemptions
- Productivity appraisal for farm, ranch and timber land
- Tax deferrals for homeowners aged 65 and older or disabled

• You'll learn how your property is appraised, so you can decide if the appraisal district's value is reasonable. And if you decide it isn't, *Remedies* will tell you how to prepare an appeal to the appraisal review board.

• You'll learn the kinds of protests the appraisal review board can hear—and what kind of evidence you need to bring to your hearing.

• Key dates are listed, so you'll know what you must do and when you're required to act.

Remedies is free. Spanish and large-type versions are also available. Ask for yours today at

Hansford Appraisal District
709 W 7th Avenue
Spearman TX 79081-3407
806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411
or e-mail: ptd.cpa@cpa.state.tx.us

or write to: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Property Tax Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121

or on the Web at:
www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.

¿Quiere pagar menos impuestos de propiedad?

Obtenga una copia de nuestro boletín

Impuestos de Propiedad en Texas

Derechos, Recursos y Responsabilidades del Contribuyente de Impuestos

Aprenda como puede pagar menos impuestos de propiedad por medio de:

- Una exención de residencia
- Una exención para veteranos incapacitados
- Una valoración especial para terrenos agrícolas, ganaderos o madereros
- Una exención para los que tengan 65 años o más o estén incapacitados

• Aprenderá como se valúa su propiedad para que pueda decidir si la valoración del distrito es razonable. Y si no lo es, *Recursos* le demostrará como presentar su protesta ante la junta de revisión de valoración.

• Aprenderá cuales son las formas de protesta que se permiten—y cuales documentos o pruebas debe traer consigo al presentar su protesta ante la junta.

• Fechas importantes estan listadas para que usted pueda saber qué es lo que debe de hacer—y cuándo.

Recursos es gratis. Versiones en español estan disponibles. Pida su copia hoy en:

Hansford Appraisal District
709 W 7th Avenue
Spearman TX 79081-3407
806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411

o e-mail: ptd.cpa@cpa.state.tx.us

o escriba a: Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
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Spearman ISD Board of Trustee Candidates

Editor's Note: The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman presented each contested candidate in the May 13th Election for Spearman ISD Board of Trustees with a questionnaire. Incumbents Mark Sheets and Mark Allen did not re-file for their terms. Four candidates filed for the two openings: Stephen Batton, Francis Biles, Glen Ray Mackie and Maria Sibley. Following are the responses for each of the candidates.

STEPHEN BATTON



Family Members: Wife - T a m m y B a t t o n , Children - Tate, an 8th grader at Spearman Junior High, and Lexi, a 6th grader at Spearman Junior High

Employment: Baker Energy
Position/Occupation: Lease Operator

Background/Education: Graduated from Wheeler High School, attended Texas Tech and Panhandle State University.

What organizations do you presently belong to and what positions do you hold with them, if any? Booster Club

Church Affiliation: Methodist
Hobbies/Interest: hunting, roping, raising show pigs, coaching youth sports

Excluding the Bible, name at least three books you have read within the last year. What newspaper, magazines, television or radio programs or internet sources you regularly access for news? Who moved my cheese?, Amarillo Globe-News and Men's Health

What do you view as the role of a School Board Trustee? To be knowledgeable about current educational standards, maintaining and balancing the budget, making sure students receive a quality education

What special qualities or qualifications do you possess which would make you an efficient School Board Trustee? Determined to see a quality school academically, athletically, agriculturally and artistically; loyalty to the community

If elected, what criteria would you use to determine if you are successful in your position? Explain your answer: Success can be measured by growth; therefore I would determine my success as I see our school's advancement in facilities in other buildings and integration of technology in all classrooms

Name the most important problem you will face if elected and describe how you will seek to solve it. One of the most important problems I will face if elected will be the completion of the building project and the transition into the new facility without altering the educational progress of the students. In order to be successful in this process, it will take communication and coordination between teachers, administrators, and contractors to collaborate the most productive move for the students and faculty.

(1) Do you believe school should give primary emphasis to teaching basic skills (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) rather than social or psychological matters? Yes

(2) Do you support the goal that children should be able to read by the end of the first grade? Yes

(3) Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the norm for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases? Yes

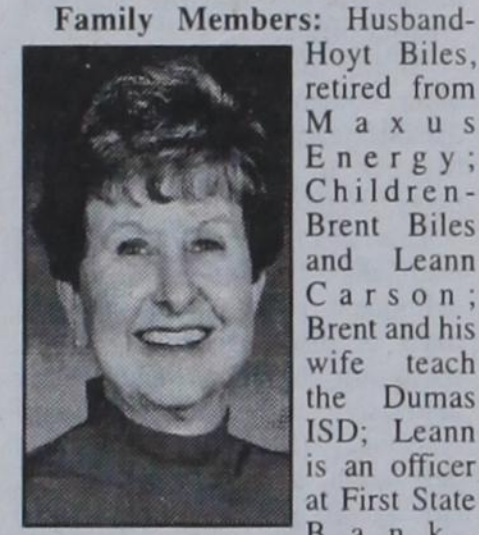
(4) Do you support teaching that the use of illegal drugs and the unlawful use of alcohol are "wrong"? Yes

(5) Do you reject classroom instruction that downgrades American sovereignty, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise? Yes

(6) Do you support local control of education, with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships? Yes

Additional Comments: I have chosen to run as a local school board member because I believe the only way you can make a difference is to be involved and be willing to dedicate the time to our children's future. I believe in the primary emphasis of teaching the basic skills of reading, math, etc.; however, I feel that you have to instill the social and moral standards as well. If elected, I will strive to do what is best for the students of Spearman ISD and our community.

FRANCIS BILES



Family Members: Husband - Hoyt Biles, retired from M a x u s E n e r g y ; Children - Brent Biles and Leann Carson ; Brent and his wife teach the Dumas ISD; Leann is an officer at First State B a n k . Spearman; her husband, Bill, works for North Plains Electric Co-Op as a member service representative. Both of our children attended school in Spearman for 12 years, and both graduated from Texas A&M (West Texas) at Canyon. We have three grandchildren: Emily Hood, a junior at Spearman High School, Seth Carson, a 4th grader at Gus Birdwell Elementary, and Kate Brewer, a 4th grader at Morningside Elementary in Dumas.

Place of Employment: John L. Hutchison, Attorney at Law
Position/Occupation: Legal Assistant, Board certified by the State Bar of Texas

Background/Education: I was born in Clayton, New Mexico. I grew up in Southeast Colorado. I attended school through the 12th grade in Colorado and attended business college in Amarillo. I have taken college classes in English and psychology. I have also taken course pertaining to my work as a legal assistant. Our family has lived in Spearman since 1961.

What organizations do you presently belong to and what positions do you hold with them, if any?

Church Affiliation: Church of Christ, Spearman

Continued on page 7

Homestead Exemptions Reduce Property Tax Bills

Homeowners can reduce their property tax bills in 2006 by taking advantage of homestead exemptions. Application forms are available at the Hansford Appraisal District.

Chief Appraiser Alice Peddy informs homeowners that Texas law allows them to file a one-time application for homestead exemptions. These exemptions reduce the appraised value of the home. "You do not have to pay a fee to file for a homestead exemption," said Peddy.

Property owners who have not received the general homestead exemption on these home in which they were living on January 1, 2006, and those who became totally disabled or turn 65, must apply this year to receive their exemptions for 2006.

For the general homestead exemptions, homeowners must own and live in their homes on January 1, 2006. Homeowners 65 years of age or older and those who become disabled don't need to own their homes on January 1 to qualify for the age 65 and older or disabled homestead exemptions. State law provides that they may apply as soon as they turn 65 or become disabled, own the home and live in the home as their principal residence.

State law also allows that if the age 65 and older spouse dies before applying for the age 65 and older exemption, the surviving spouse 55 or older may apply for the age 65 and older exemption for the deceased spouse. The same filing deadlines apply.

If a homestead is located in a taxing unit that overlaps into two or more counties, the homeowner must apply at each county appraisal district.

A homeowner's principal residence and land are considered the homestead. It can include up to 20 acres of land and improvements. Improvements include the house, a swimming pool, greenhouse or any other structures, as long as the owner uses them for residential purposes.

Peddy said that a property must meet four tests set by law to qualify for the residence homestead exemption. The person or persons claiming the exemption must own the property on January 1 (homeowners 65 and older or disabled need not own the property on January 1 for the age 65 and older or disabled exemptions only); the property must be designed or adapted for human residence; the owner must use the property as a residence; and the property must be the principal residence of an owner who qualifies for the exemption.

A mobile home, even on leased land, can qualify for the exemption if it meets the four tests.

"A property owner can still qualify for the homestead exemption if part of the residence is rented out or used for other purposes, such as a home business," Peddy said. "The home will not lose its exemption if the owner moves away temporarily for a period of less than two years, so long as he or she intends to return and doesn't claim another homestead exemption elsewhere." A property owner may continue to maintain the residence homestead exemption if the owner is absent from the property for more than two years due to military service outside the country or residency in a facility proving health, infirmity, or aging service.

Texas law provides several types of exemptions for homeowners. For school tax purposes, all homeowners may receive a \$15,000 general homestead exemption and homeowners 65 and older or disabled receive an additional \$10,000 exemption.

The school tax exemption for those homeowners 65 and older or disabled provides a special property tax "ceiling" for school taxes. While the market value of an elderly or disabled person's home may fluctuate with the market, the school taxes cannot increase above the tax amount in the first year that person qualified for that homestead for the age 65 and older or disabled exemption.

The tax ceiling can increase, however, if the owner adds an improvement, other than normal maintenance or repair. When the owners add a new improvement, such as a room or garage, the new improvement is taxed at its current market value and the current tax rates. The new taxes are added to the previous tax ceiling to create a new ceiling.

Homeowners 65 and older or disabled may transfer the same percentage of tax savings to a new home. The homeowner transfers the percentage of school tax paid on the former home, based on the last year the homeowner qualified for the tax ceiling, to the new home.

The new tax ceiling is calculated to give the homeowner the same percentage of tax paid as on the former home. The homeowner may not claim two different homes in the same year.

For example, if the homeowner had a school tax ceiling of \$100, but would pay \$400 in 2006 school taxes without the tax ceiling, the percentage of tax paid is 25 percent. If the 2006 school taxes on the new home are \$1,000, the new tax ceiling would be \$250, or 25 percent of \$1,000. The homeowner may request a certificate from the appraisal district where the former home was located that gives information about the tax ceiling.

A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$35,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on January 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$15,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes this year...and it doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the over-65 or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. (The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling to lock in 2006 taxes as the highest amount for 65 and older or disabled homeowners.) The over-65 homeowner's school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses 55 years of age or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling, to a new home.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 2005, you won't need to reapply for 2006 unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file for an exemption for 2006. If you are 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you turned 65. And if you became disabled, you need to file for the disabled person's exemption.

When and where should I file?

File applications by May 1 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at: Hansford Appraisal District 709 W 7th Avenue Spearman TX 79081-3407 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411

For more information, stop in or call for a free copy of

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Property Tax Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121

or on the Web at:

www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

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The homeowner gives this information to the appraisal district where the new home is located.

If the elderly homeowner dies, the surviving spouse may apply to keep the school tax ceiling if the surviving spouse was at least 55 years of age when the qualified spouse dies. The surviving spouse also may transfer the tax savings with the school tax ceiling to another homestead, as discussed above.

The county, city or junior college district may decide to set a tax ceiling provision for homeowners 65 and older or disabled. Each taxing unit's governing body may decide to grant the tax ceiling provision or the local citizens in a taxing unit may petition for an election to vote on granting the tax ceiling provision in that taxing unit.

Homeowners should notify the chief appraiser when they no longer qualify for the general, age 65 and older or disabled homestead exemptions. A 50-percent penalty is added to delinquent home taxes if homeowners fail to notify the appraisal district and receive homestead exemptions to which they are not entitled.

Different types of taxing units—counties, cities and special districts—may offer different homestead exemptions. Counties must offer a \$3,000 general homestead exemption on the portion of the county tax levied for farm-to-market roads or flood control.

Any taxing unit's governing body may grant an additional optional exemption on the homesteads of disabled or elderly residents, or both. This optional exemption may be no less than \$3,000 from the home's appraised value and has no limit on the maximum amount.

Taxing units may also offer a local option exemption based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. In 2006, any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage of value the taxing unit adopts, the dollar amount of exemption for any home must equal at least \$5,000.

For more information, homeowners may contact the Hansford Appraisal District at 709 W 7th Avenue, Spearman, Texas 79081 or call 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411.

Property Tax Exemptions Reduce Disabled Veterans' Taxes

"Veterans with a service-connected disability may reduce their property taxes in 2006 by filling out a simple exemption form at the Hansford Appraisal District office," Chief Appraiser Peddy said.

A veteran's percentage of service-connected disability determines the size of the exemption. The exemption ranges from a 4,500 to a 412,00 deduction from the veteran's property value. Peddy explained who is eligible for the application:

- * a disabled veteran;
- * a surviving spouse of a deceased disabled veteran, as long as the spouse remains unmarried;
- * a surviving minor child of a deceased disabled veteran, if the veteran's spouse does not survive the veteran and if the child is both under 18 and unmarried;
- * a surviving spouse of a person killed while on active duty, whether the spouse has remarried or not at the application time; and
- * a surviving minor child of a person killed while on active

duty, if the child is both under 18 and unmarried.

"Any eligible person who has not received this exemption should apply by May 1," Peddy said. "But, if you received the exemption in 2005, you do not have to reapply in 2006." Late applications are allowed if filed within one year of the date the taxes went delinquent.

An applicant may claim the exemption only one piece of property, such as a home or any other property the applicant owned on January 1. The applicant must be a Texas resident to qualify.

The appraisal district may require proof of the disability, such as documentation from the Veterans Administration or branch of the armed service in which the veteran served. Applicants may need proof of marriage, age or spouse's or parent's death.

Obtain an application form and more information about specific qualifications from Peddy at the Hansford Appraisal District office at 709 W. 7th Avenue, Spearman, Texas 79081-3407 or call 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411.

¡Varias exenciones de residencia pueden rebajar sus impuestos de propiedad!

Una exención de residencia reduce sus impuestos de propiedad. Por ejemplo, si su residencia tiene un valor de \$50,000 y Ud. recibe una exención de \$15,000, sus impuestos se calcularán como si el valor de su residencia fuera de \$35,000.

¿Quién califica para una exención?

Cualquier dueño de una residencia principal el día 1° de enero tiene derecho a una exención de residencia de \$15,000 este año para rebajar sus impuestos escolares... y no importa si la residencia es casa, condominio o casa móvil. (Los condados, municipios y distritos especiales de impuestos también pueden ofrecer exenciones de residencia.)

¿Hay otras exenciones?

Si Ud. es incapacitado—o si tiene 65 años o más—tiene derecho a una exención adicional de \$10,000 en sus impuestos escolares de propiedad. Y si Ud. califica para la exención de 65 años de edad o más o está incapacitado, también tiene derecho a un "tope" permanente en sus impuestos escolares de residencia. El condado, la ciudad o una universidad de dos años también puede adoptar un tope de impuestos en los impuestos del 2006 como la cantidad más grande para los dueños de hogar de 65 años o más o incapacitados. La exención para los que ya cumplieron 65 años o más y el tope máximo se pueden transferir al esposo/esposa sobreviviente si el o ella tiene 55 ó más años de edad y es dueño/dueña de la casa en donde vive. Los dueños de 65 o más años de edad (o su esposa(a) sobreviviente de 55 años de edad más) también pueden transferir el porcentaje del impuesto escolar pagado, en base al tope de su casa pasada, a su nueva casa.

¿Debo solicitarla cada año?

No. Si Ud. recibió una exención de residencia en el 2005, no hay necesidad de solicitarla de nuevo en el 2006—al menos que se lo pida su jefe de valoraciones. Sin embargo, si no ha recibido una exención en su residencia actual—o si ha cambiado de domicilio tendrá que solicitar una exención para el 2006. Si cumple 65 años durante este año, tiene hasta un año de esa fecha para solicitar una nueva exención. Si resultó incapacitado, tendrá que solicitar la exención de personas incapacitadas.

¿Dónde y cuando debo solicitar mis exenciones?

Debe presentar su solicitud en la oficina local del distrito de valoraciones antes del día 1 de mayo. Si necesita más tiempo, puede ponerse en contacto con nosotros antes: Hansford Appraisal District 709 W 7th Avenue Spearman TX 79081-3407 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411

Si desea más información, visítenos y obtenga una copia gratis de

"Impuestos Sobre la Propiedad en Texas: Derechos, Recursos y Responsabilidades del Contribuyente de Impuestos"

o escriba a:

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Property Tax Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, TX 78711-3528

o llame: 1-800-252-9121

o en la Web: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

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A Time to Celebrate

Remember the GHS Class of '06

Sheldon Atwood	Miguel Lora
Timber Barkley	Samuel Mendoza
Felicia Bettis	Matt Messer
Crispin Borunda	Sarah Mireles
Ivan Briones	Cesar Ortiz
Lindsey Clift	Samuel Pena
Lact Fitzgerald	Ryan Perez
Luis Garcia	Madeline Reed
Joel Gonzales	Ofelia Rodriguez
Lanie Graves	Maria Ruiz
Bryant Halley	Stephen Salazar
Callie Hargis	Jessica Schmidt
Joel Hernandez	Blane Tolleson
Rachelle Holt	Josefa Trejo
Tanner Irwin	Jessica Vela
Kelly Jones	Esteban Villegas
Kellyn King	Matti Wheelock
Tyler Lane	Reid Winger
Liz Lopez	

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Spearman ISD Board of Trustee Candidates

Continued from page 6

Hobbies/Interest: I enjoy traveling with my family and friends. My husband and I are very active in our church. I teach Sunday School and help my husband with benevolent work. I enjoy working in my yard, quilting, cooking, reading, shopping for antiques and junk and doing anything and everything with my grandchildren and their friends.

Excluding the Bible, name at least three books you have read within the last year. What newspaper, magazines, television or radio programs or internet sources you use regularly access for news? *The Broker* (John Grisham), *The Pact and Vanishing Acts* (Jodi Picoult), *The 5th Horseman* (Patterson), *Ghost Soldiers* (Hampton Sides), *Let Me Tell You What I Learned* (P. J. Pierce). My grandson and I like to read together. The last year we have read several Harry Potter books, books from the Boxcar Children series, Series of Incredible Events books, and Hank the Cowdog books. I read the U.S. News and World Reports and The Amarillo Daily paper on a regular basis. I also read the stock report and daily news on the internet.

What do you view as the role of a School Board Trustee? A school board trustee should work with the business manager and the school administration to establish a budget for the school district that uses the tax dollars of SISD to educate our kids. Trustees should establish school policies and work with the superintendent to see that policies are enforced. Trustees should hire good teachers, listen to teacher's board presentations and attempt fair solutions. As a Trustee I will work for a school system that serves the needs of ALL our students and our community.

What special qualities or qualifications do you process which would make you an efficient School Board Trustee? My experience raising my own children to successful adulthood and helping out with our grandchildren so they will also become successful adults qualifies me to be a trustee. In addition, working in the legal profession with clients regarding confidential financial matters and constructing contractual agreements relating to a variety of legal and financial matters will help my understanding of board related issues. Finally, and most importantly, my love of children and my desire that all our children receive a quality education will make me an effective board member.

If elected, what criteria would you use to determine if you are successful in your position? Explain your answer: If I am elected, my goal will be to work with the other board members, the

school administration, and faculty so that our school will continue to provide a positive learning and social environment for our children. If I am able to achieve these goals, I will have been successful.

Name the most important problem you will face if elected and describe how you will seek to solve it. We should fine tune the drug testing program; and work to complete the current building project at the Elementary/Jr. High.

(1) Do you believe school should give primary emphasis to teaching basic skills (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) rather than social or psychological matters? Yes (See additional comments)

(2) Do you support the goal that children should be able to read by the end of the first grade? Yes

(3) Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the norm for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases? Yes

(4) Do you support teaching that the use of illegal drugs and the unlawful use of alcohol are "wrong"? Yes

(5) Do you reject classroom instruction that downgrades American sovereignty, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise? Yes (see additional comments)

(6) Do you support local control of education, with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships? Yes

Additional Comments: (1) My answer was "Yes," although I do believe that social and psychological matters are important.

(5) "Yes" because I would never support classroom instruction that downgrades our sovereignty, or limits constitutional government, but I believe strongly in our country's tradition of private enterprise.

Framer/rancher
Background/Education: 1973 graduate of SHS
What organizations do you presently belong to and what positions do you hold with them, if any?
Church affiliation: Methodist
Hobbies/Interests: spending time with my children; watching Spearman children participate in sports, ag related and other school activities
Excluding the Bible, name at least three books you have read within the last year. What newspapers, magazines, television or radio programs or internet

sources do you regularly access for news? What does this have to do with being a good school board member?
What do you view as the role of a School Board Trustee? The role of a trustee is to set policies, approve budgets and use the taxpayers dollars wisely.
What special qualities or qualifications do you possess which would make you an efficient School Board Trustee? I Possess a good common sense and a sense of what is right and wrong. I am a fair person and I treat all people equally.
If elected, what criteria would

you use to determine if you are successful in your position? Explain your answer.
Name the most important problem you will face if elected and describe how you will seek to solve it. The public will determine my success. If I don't succeed the people of the community should and will tell me.
(1) Do you believe schools should give primary emphasis to teaching basic skills (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) rather than social or psychological matters? Both (See additional comments)
(2). Do you support the goal

that children should be able to read by the end of the first grade? Yes
(3) Do support the teaching of abstinence as the norm for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted disease? Yes
(4) Do you support teaching that the use of illegal drugs and the unlawful use of alcohol are "wrong"? Yes

Continued on page 8

Productivity Appraisal Reduces Property Taxes on Farms, Ranches

Farmers and ranchers may be eligible for property tax relief on their land. They may apply for a special, lower appraisal, of their land, based on what the land will produce rather than what it would sell for in the open market, said Alice Peddy, chief appraiser of the Hansford Appraisal District.

"The Texas constitution provides for two types of agricultural productivity appraisal, Peddy said. Article 8, sec. 1-d-1, addresses what is known as agricultural appraisal. Article 8, Sec. 1-d-1, also addresses agricultural appraisal but has different qualification requirements. Because the qualifications of the owner are more stringent, property owners rarely apply for agricultural appraisal under Section 1-d.

Landowners must file for special appraisal at the appraisal district office by May 1. Those who must file this year include owners of land qualified for 1-d appraisal, landowners whose property did not previously receive 1-d-1 appraisal and new owners of qualified land. The appraisal district must accept late-files 1-d-1 appraisal applications until the day before the appraisal review board approves the 2006 appraisal records, but late applications will draw a penalty.

"The requirements for Applying and qualifying both the land and the owner are different for the two types of appraisal," Peddy said.

Most property owners apply for 1-d-1 appraisal. To qualify, the owner must use the land for agriculture or growing timber. This form of appraisal does not restrict ownership to individual and does not require agriculture to be owner's primary business.

This special appraisal requires that the land's use in a qualifying agricultural or timber purpose meets the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. Owners must show that they devoted the land's use principally to a qualifying use for at least five of the preceding seven years.

The law provides that a property owner may use the land for wildlife management to receive the special appraisal, if the land had been qualified for agriculture in the preceding year. Land under wildlife management must meet acreage size requirements and special use qualifications.

Under 1-d, the owner must file an application each year. The owner must be an individual-not a corporation, partnership, agency or organization. The land must have had an agricultural use for at least three years. The owner's primary job and source of income must be agriculture.

"Landowners should know," Peddy said, "that the law provides specific penalties for taking qualified land out of agricultural or timber production."

The rollback tax is the difference between the taxed paid under productivity appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been put on the tax roll at market value, Peddy explained. And, rollback taxes include interest charges.

Under 1-d-1, an owner triggers a rollback by changing the land's use to non-agricultural use. The rollback taxes are based on the five years preceding the year of the change.

Under the 1-d appraisal, if the owner sells the land or changes its use, the rollback extends back for three years before the year in which the change occurs.

Owners must apply for productivity appraisal with each appraisal district in which they have land. Failure to do so could result in paying taxes on the land's full market value.

Additional information and application forms are available from the

county appraisal district office. The staff will help landowners determine if their property qualifies for special appraisal.

For more information, landowners may contact the Hansford Appraisal District at 709 W. 7th Avenue, Spearman, TX 79081-3407 or call 806-650-5575 or 800-372-5411.

Non-Profits, Some Businesses File For Tax Exemptions by May 1

"Non-profit organizations may qualify for a total exemption from property taxes by applying for the exemption no later than May 1, 2006," said Alice Peddy, chief appraiser of the Hansford Appraisal District.

The May 1 deadline also applies to businesses that are receiving tax abatements with taxing units; to firms that ship inventory out of Texas and may be eligible for the "freepoint" exemption on certain goods in transit; and to businesses that acquired pollution control property.

Property tax exemptions are available to non-profit charitable, youth development, religious organizations, non-profit private schools, cemeteries, veterans' organizations, historical and archeological sites and other organizations. Requirements vary for different types of organizations as set out in the Texas constitution and the Property Tax Code. Cemeteries, charitable organizations, youth development associations, religious organizations and other non-profit organizations may receive a tax exemption immediately upon buying or acquiring a property during the year and meeting the exemption qualifications.

Peddy noted that cemeteries, charitable organizations, youth development organizations, religious organizations and non-profit private schools, once granted tax exemptions, do not have to reapply

for the exemption each year unless the chief appraiser asks them to file again. However, they also must reapply if their exempt property changes ownership, if their qualifications for exemption change or if they acquire new property. The law requires annual application for all types of exempt organizations.

Property owners who own mineral property of business property worth less than \$500 are exempt from property taxes on those properties. No application is required for exempting these small accounts valued at less than \$500. A property owner's mineral property accounts are added together to determine if the total value in each taxing unit is less than \$500 and exempt. If the total value in any taxing unit exceeds \$500, then the property is taxable. The same process is used for adding together a property owner's business personal property accounts by taxing unit to determine if the properties are worth less than \$500 and exempt from property taxes.

"If a non-profit organization or a business with tax abatements, freepoint goods or pollution control property has any questions about tax exemptions, it should contact the appraisal district office before May 1," Peddy added. Additional information is available from Hansford Appraisal District office at 709 W. 7th Avenue, Spearman, TX 79081-3407 or call 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411.

GLEN RAY MACKIE



Family Members: wife of 30 years, Laura; daughter, Leah (1998 SHS graduate), son, Jeremiah (2000 SHS grad) and son, Dustin (2003 SHS grad)

Place of

Employment: Travis Patterson
Position/Occupation:

SISD Kindergarten Roundup & Prekindergarten Screening

Kindergarten Roundup for 2006-2007

Kindergarten Roundup for there 2006-2007 school year is scheduled for May 9 & 11 at Spearman Elementary School, 511 S. Townsend. We will provide free vision, hearing and speech screenings for your child. If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 5 years of age on or before September 1, 2006, he or she will be eligible for kindergarten.

You will need to bring the following items for registration:

1. Your child's social security card
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your child's updated immunization record

The schedule is: May 9th, last names A-M, 8-11 a.m.; last names N-Z, 1-3:30 p.m.; May 11th, last names N-Z, 8-11 a.m.; last names A-M, 1-3:30 p.m.

If your child is currently enrolled in Pre-K for this school year, it is not necessary to come to Kindergarten Roundup. Pre-K students are automatically enrolled in kindergarten. If you cannot come to the school on one of these two days, please call the elementary office at 659-2565 to pre-register.

Inscripciones para Kinder para el año 2006-2007 sera el 9 de Mayo y el 11 de Mayo en la escuela elemental de Spearman (511 S. Townsend). Estaremos ofreciendo un examen de vista gratis junto con un examen de poder escuchar y del hablar correctamente para su niño/a. Si usted tiene un niño/a, o conoce un niño/a que cumplira los 5 años de vida antes o el mero DIA 1 de Septiembre, el o ella calificara para Kinder.

Necesitara traer las siguientes cosas para la inscripcion:

1. La tarjeta del seguro social de su niño
2. Acta de Nacimiento de su niño
3. La tarjeta a de vacunas que esten al tanto

9 de Mayo 8-11 a.m., Apellidos de las letras A-M; 1-3:30 p.m., Apellidos de las letras N-Z; and 11 de Mayo 8-11 a.m., Apellidos de las letras N-Z; 1-3:30 p.m., Apellidos de las letras A-M.

Si usted no puede venir a la escuela en uno de esos dos dias por favor de hablar a la oficina de la elemental a 659-2565 para poder inscribirse.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration for 2006-2007

Spearman Elementary School is now accepting applications for the 2006-2007 school year. We would like to invite all parents with children who will be 4 years of age on or before September 1, to come by the elementary school office at 511 S. Townsend, May 2 & 3 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to complete registration information. Office staff will be available to answer any questions. You will need to bring the following items for registration:

1. Your child's social security card
2. Your child's birth certificate
3. Your child's updated immunization record
4. Some form of proof of income such as a pay check stub or income tax record

For more information please contact the elementary school office at 659-2565.

La escuela de Spearman Elementary esta aceptando aplicaciones para el año escolar del 2006-2007. Nos gustaria invitar a todos los padres con niños de 4 años de edad antes del 1 de Septiembre, para que vengan a la oficina de la elemental a 511 S. Townsend el 2 de Mayo y el 3 de Mayo de entre las horas de las 8:30 a.m. y las 3:30 p.m. para completar la informacion de la registracion. El personal de la oficina estara disponible para preguntar cualquier preguntas. Usted necesitara traer las siguientes cosas para registrar:

1. La Tarjeta de Seguro (si tiene)
2. La Acta de Nacimiento
3. La Tarjeta de Vacunas que esten al tanto.
4. Algun comprobante de ingresos como un talon de cheque o el reporte del fin de año.
5. Comprobante de Domicilio.

Para mas informacion por favor de comunicarse a la oficina de la escuela elemental a 659-2565.

"Productivity appraisal" may lower the property taxes on your farm, ranch or timber land!

Texas law allows farmers, ranchers and timber growers to pay property taxes based upon the "production value" of their land rather than on market value. This "productivity appraisal" means qualified land is taxed based on its ability to produce crops, livestock or timber—not on its value on the real estate market. And it can mean substantial property tax savings.

When is the application deadline?

If your land has never had a productivity appraisal or you are a new owner, you must apply to your local appraisal district by May 1 to take advantage of this benefit on your 2006 property taxes. You may get up to 60 extra days if you have a good reason and ask for it by May 1. If you miss this deadline, you may still be able to apply, but you will pay a penalty. Check with your appraisal district office.

Do you need to reapply annually?

If your land already receives agricultural or timber productivity appraisal, you normally don't need to reapply unless the chief appraiser requires you to do so. If a new application is required, the appraisal district will notify you by mail.

For more information, call or come by:

Hansford Appraisal District
 709 W 7th Avenue
 Spearman TX 79081-3407
 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411

We'll be happy to answer your questions and provide you a free copy of

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
 Property Tax Division
 P.O. Box 13528
 Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121

or on the Web at:

www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.

¡"La valoración productiva" puede reducir los impuestos de su terreno agrícola, ganadero o maderero!

La ley de Texas permite a los granjeros, rancheros y madereros pagar sus impuestos de propiedad basándose en "la valoración productiva" del terreno calificado—o sea en su habilidad de producir cosecha, ganado o madera—y no de su valor en el mercado actual. Y esto le puede ahorrar en sus impuestos de propiedad.

¿Cual es la fecha límite?

Si su terreno nunca ha tenido una valoración productiva, o si Ud. es nuevo dueño, debe solicitarla a su distrito de valoraciones antes del día 1 de mayo, para recibir el beneficio en sus impuestos de propiedad del 2006. Puede recibir hasta 60 días más si tiene una buena razón y si solicita el tiempo adicional antes del 1 de mayo del 2006. Si se pasa de esta fecha, es posible que todavía la pueda obtener, pero pagará una multa. Pregunte en la oficina de su distrito de valoraciones.

¿Debo solicitarla cada año?

Por lo general, si su propiedad ya recibe una valoración productiva agrícola o maderera, no hay necesidad de pedir una nueva cada año—al menos que se lo pida su jefe de valoraciones. Si se requiere una solicitud nueva, el distrito de valoraciones le mandará un aviso por correo.

Para más información, llame o visite:

Hansford Appraisal District
 709 W 7th Avenue
 Spearman TX 79081-3407
 806-659-5575 or 800-372-5411

Con mucho gusto contestaremos a sus preguntas y le proporcionaremos una copia gratis de

"Impuestos Sobre la Propiedad en Texas: Derechos, Recursos y Responsabilidades del Contribuyente de Impuestos"

o escriba a:

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn
 Property Tax Division
 P.O. Box 13528
 Austin, TX 78711-3528

o llame: 1-800-252-9121

o en la Web: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

Un servicio público cortesía de este periódico

Spearman ISD Board of Trustee Candidates

Continued from page 7

(5) do you reject classroom instruction that downgrades American sovereignty, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise? Yes

(6) do you support control of education, with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships? Yes

Additional Comments: To operate in this world today you need both.

Assistant Vice President/Loan Officer

Background/Education: Associates in Liberal Arts, graduate of Spearman High School

What organizations do you presently belong to and what positions do you hold with them, if any? I am currently an active member of the Spearman Rotary Club. I have served as president and currently hold the secretary/treasurer position. I serve as secretary to the Spearman Little League and am a volunteer with Partner's in Education.

Church affiliation: Catholic
Hobbies/Interests: gardening, reading, jogging, and spending time with family

Excluding the Bible, name at least three books you have read within the last year. What newspapers, magazines, television or radio programs or internet sources do you regularly access for news? *There's No Such Thing as "Business" Ethics* by John C. Maxwell, *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult, *This is Graceanne's Book* by P.L. Whitney, *Amarillo Globe News*, *Bankers Digest*, *Southwest Economy*,

FoxNews.com, KVII.com

What do you view as the role of a School Board Trustee? The role of the school board trustee is to govern and oversee the management of the school and is the policy making body within the district. A school board trustee also provides a link between the community and the school district. Taxpayers fund public schools and it is important to have those taxpayers represented in the board.

What special qualities or qualifications do you possess which would make you an efficient School Board Trustee? I have been involved in the financial industry for twelve years and have mastered skills in relation to banking, budgets, and financial statements. Through my involvement in other civic organizations, I have learned to collaborate well with others and become an efficient, competent, and productive member. My occupation has given me the opportunity to develop strong communication skills and my fluency in Spanish will provide a beneficial link between the board and the Hispanics in our community.

If elected, what criteria would

you use to determine if you are successful in your position? I would consider myself a success when I gain the acceptance, respect, and trust of my fellow board members. I believe this because trust or respect is given only when an individual has truly earned it.

Name the most important problem you will face if elected and describe how you will seek to solve it. I believe the most important problem will be the current construction project. Any changes or adjustments in the construction process will definitely pose a challenge to the board. All alterations and adjustments must be analyzed and all resulting decisions must closely coincide with the adopted

budget. An immense burden is also tackling the tough issues and having the backbone to make decisions that are not always popular...especially in regards to students and parents. In order to solve the problem, it is vital that choices be made that are equitable to all involved.

Additional Comments: I believe it is our most vital responsibility to ensure that all students, regardless of ethnic and economic background, receive a quality education. I believe in the value of public education and have a sincere interest in our public school system. I owe much of my success to Spearman ISD and its faculty.

(1) Do you believe schools should give primary emphasis to teaching basic skills (e.g. reading, grammar, spelling, arithmetic) rather than social or psychological matters? Yes

(2) Do you support the goal that children should be able to read by the end of the first grade? Yes

(3) Do you support the teaching of abstinence as the norm for unmarried teenagers and as the only truly effective way to prevent sexually-transmitted diseases? Yes

(4) Do you support teaching that the use of illegal drugs and the unlawful use of alcohol are "wrong"? Yes

(5) Do you reject classroom instruction that downgrades American sovereignty, limited constitutional government, or private enterprise? Yes

(6) Do you support local control of education, with accountability through the local school board, rather than federal control exercised through federal and state bureaucracies and business partnerships? Yes

MARIA SIBLEY



Family Members: spouse Damon; children - Dylan, Kelsi, Devin, and Delise
Place of Employment: First National Bank
Position/Occupation:

UPCOMING AUCTION

for the
Estate of Howard and Bernice Goodrich will be held on
Saturday, May 13 at 314 Womble Street in Gruver, TX.
Real estate and personal property.

The home is a three bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, living room with fireplace, kitchen, utility and partial basement. Also, includes covered patio and a detached garage. This property is located one block from Gruver Elementary School. It would make a nice first time home owner or a good rental investment.

Personal property includes a 1993 Chevy Caprice, 55K ml., very clean. Also the collection of mantel clocks, wall clocks and collectable furniture.

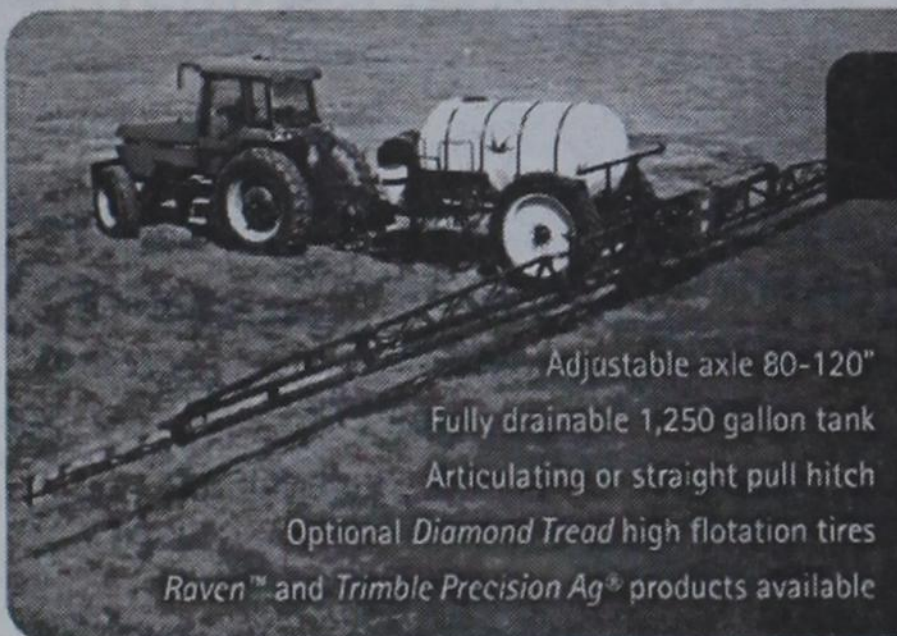
Watch next weeks paper for a more complete listing and details.

For more information call:
Dale Naylor
DK 107486 - TX 7285
(580) 646-3548 - Balco, OK
(806) 435-1994



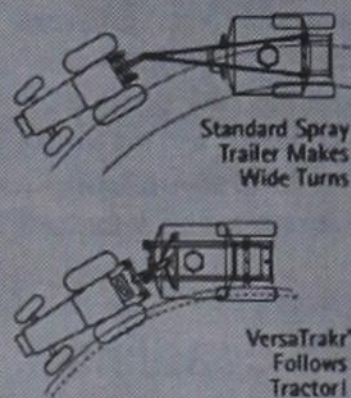
For more information call:
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Texhoma, OK

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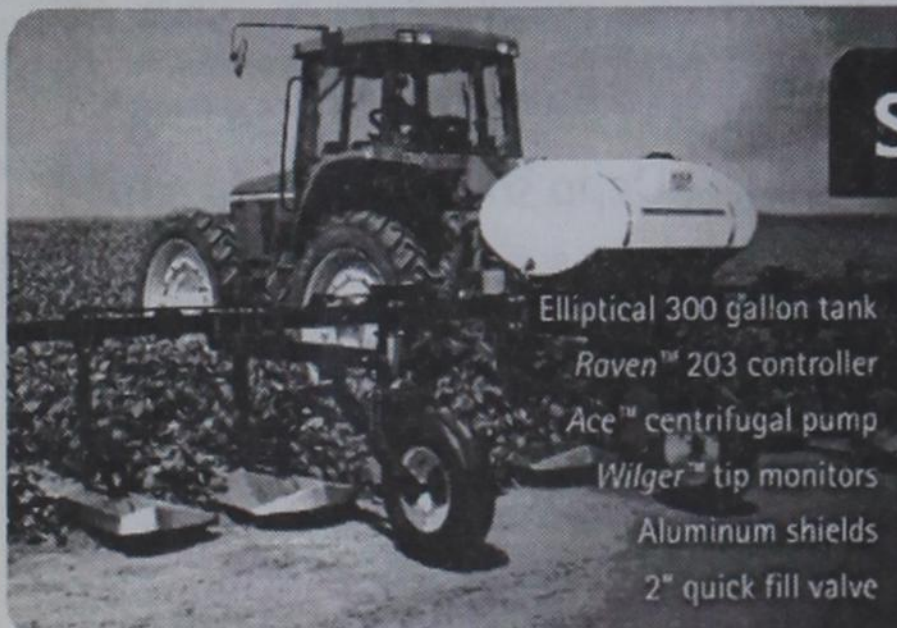


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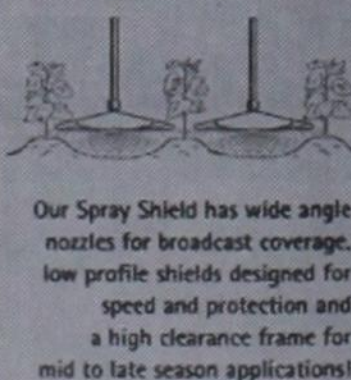


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Thursday - Home-Cooking; Friday - Fried Chicken

Sunday Lunch Buffet 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.	Sat. Lunch Special 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
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Hours: Tues.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-8 p.m.;
Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sun 11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Mon. Closed

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(offer good through May 31, 2006)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FOR SALE: Dwight E. Hutchison Rural Home (2165 sq. ft.) - Has basement (300 sq. ft.), attached 2-car garage, enclosed patio and improvements (barn, carport, steel underground tornado shelter) on paved Hwy 520. Metal roofs, insulated attic, security alarm, all new kitchen appliances, cedar wind-break, submersible water pump, double panel tinted Anderson & Pella windows, 6.1 acres. Call (806) 467-7328.
TFN(2-16-05)B
FOR SALE: 405 acres of farm ground, south of Spearman on 760; call 620-241-1735
TFN (3-23-06)B

FOR RENT/LEASE

FOR RENT: 3BR, 1B, House w/basement; \$400.00 per month/\$400.00 deposit; Call 1-940-631-0894
TFN(04-13-06)B
OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT, SPEARMAN: Pittman-Shieldknight building - all sizes available. Call 659-5588 or 659-3399 for more information.
TFN(01-27-05)B
FOR RENT: Storage space, 12X30, Call 659-3889.
TFN(1-12-06)B
FOR RENT: 15 acres of fenced land for rent in Spearman City limits. Call 659-3844.
TFN(2-9-06)B

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED: Hansford County is accepting applications for part-time janitor. apply in person at the Hansford County Judge's office in the Court house in Spearman, TX. Hansford County is an equal opportunity employer.
2(04-20-06)B
HELP WANTED: General help needed at Five Star Equipment. Duties too numerous to mention, CDL a Plus; Excellent pay and benefits. Call 806-659-3743 or apply in person Highway 15 west, Spearman
TFN (4-13-06)B

Herb Shields Shields Remodeling

New Phone Numbers!
(806) 664-5827
or
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4(4-6-06)B

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Julie Martin - Broker - 659-2425

IN SPEARMAN
722 Wilbanks - 3/1x1 - nice home in nice neighborhood and ready to move into. Free-standing fireplace.
1109 Haney - 3/1/1 - investment property

We'd Like Your Listing FOR QUALITY & SERVICE CALL US TODAY!
Equal Housing Opportunity

Real Estate & Rental HOME OF THE WEEK

EX- 504 Roland - 3BR, 2B, storm shelter, stg bldg.

Rural Property
13 M. East on 759 in Ochiltree Co. - House, Barns on 10 acres

Spearman Property
708 Gibner - 3BR, 1 3/4 B, 2CG, CHS SOLD
EX- 504 Roland - 3BR, 2B, storm shelter, stg bldg.

Gruber Property
EX-505 King - 3BR, 1 3/4 B, carport, newly remodeled
903 Richardson - 2BR, 1B
813 Richardson - 2BR, 1B
122 N Cooper - 3BR, 1 3/4 B, 2CG, CHS SOLD
201 9th - 2BR, 1B, Garage apartment
806 Richardson - 2BR, 1B, 5 lots
802 Womble - 2-3BR, carport, corner lot

Real Estate & Rental for all your real estate needs!

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(806) 733-5678

John Graves, Broker
Toll Free: 1-877-664-5050

HELP WANTED: Office Help-Knowledge of Turnkey Operating Systems preferred but not required. Benefits: 401K, health insurance. Call Hansford County Feeders 806-733-5025
2(4-13-06)B

HELP WANTED: Groendyke Transport, Borger, Texas has opening for experienced Drivers. Residing in Borger is not required. Must be 23 years of age with CDL Hazmat/Tanker; excellent; paid vacation; paid holidays; paid uniforms; group health insurance; 401(k) plan with Company match; Quarterly Safety Bonus; good equipment, Out and Back, regional and long haul; frequent home time, Call 1-800-657-8784, M-F, 8AM to 5 PM E.O.E.
4(4-06-06)B

NEED A CAREER? Become a Licensed Vocational Nurse! Make plans to enter the Frank Phillips College Vocational Nursing Program 12 month program. THEA waived. Financial Aid available to those who qualify. Clinical training in Borger, Dalhart, Dumas, Guyton, Perryton, and Pampa. Deadline-April 1. Frank Phillips College LVN program prepares you to become a vital member of the health care team. Call 806-457-4200, ext 746.

HELP WANTED: H&H Water Well Service, Inc. is seeking Rig Hands. Apply at 10475 Hwy. 15 in Spearman.
TFN(2-16-06)B

HELP WANTED: Frontier Feedyard is accepting applications for Yard Maintenance Crew (run loader & tractor). contact Ben @ 806-882-4251 or come by for an application. E.O.E.
TFN(04-27-06)B

AUTOMOBILE

FOR SALE: '96 Chevy Suburban 4x4; excellent condition. Call 659-3620 or 270-0111
2(4-13-06)B

FOR SALE: 1999 Ford Ranger XLT King Cab, manual 5 speed, 4 cylinder, A/C and Cruise control, 77,000 miles, \$7,500, call 733-2320
2(4-20-06)P

FOR SALE: 1997 Chrysler LHS test driven 251,000 miles, runs good, \$2,500, call 733-2320
2(4-20-06)P

FOR SALE: 2003 Ford Expedition 4x4 (Eddie Bauer), excellent condition, LOW MILES 30,000, leather interior, electric fold third seat, curtain airbags, tow package, asking \$24,000. Please call 659-1012 (leave message)
3(4-10-06)B

SERVICES

WANTED: Looking for yards to mow and do upkeep on this spring and summer. Very reasonable rates, will do weed eating work also. Call 806-659-3113 ask for Jerry.
TFN(04-20-06) B

FOR RENT: Storage space - 12x30. Call 659-3889.
TFN(01-12-06)B

PIANO LESSONS: Piano lessons by Wanda Smith, Registration begins Monday, January 23, beginners to advanced, 730 Cotter Drive or call 330-0391
TFN(2-16-06)B

WANTED: Responsible party to take on small monthly payments on High Definition Big Screen TV-1-800-398-3970.
2(04-20-06)P

GARAGE SALES

MOVING SALE: Large FINAL moving sale, everything MUST go, 309 W. 12th, Saturday, April 29th 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 pm
1(4-27-06)NC

FEED, SEED OR HAY

SEED MILO CONTRACT
Growers Needed
1-800-299-9273
4(04-13-06)B

PUBLIC NOTICE

Hansford county Hospital District is accepting sealed bid proposals until 1:00 p.m. on May 11 for the following: one Remanufactured X-ray room Radiographic 1 Fluro; and one Computed Radiography System. Any proposals received after that time and date will be returned unopened and not considered. The Hospital District reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid proposals, to make awards as they may appear advantageous to the District and to waive all formalities in the bid proposal process. Please mail or deliver all proposals to Hansford County Hospital District, Glenn Ruga, director of Radiology, 707 Roland St, spearman, TX 79081. Mr. Ruga can be reached at 806-659-5846 for more information or specifications.
2(04-20-06)B

PUBLIC NOTICE

The City of Spearman will hold a public hearing Tuesday, May 2, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. at the offices of the City of Spearman, Texas. The City is making applications for the Texas Capital Fund Downtown Revitalization Program. This program is administered through the Texas Department of Agriculture to assist communities by improving the Texas economy by encouraging business development, retention, or expansion. These goals are accomplished by providing infrastructure grants, real estate development funds, and Downtown Revitalization improvement funds to qualified applicants.
The purpose of this meeting will be to solicit public input concerning the downtown revitalization needs of the residents of Spearman. This is a FINAL public hearing before the application is submitted to the Texas Department of Agriculture. The City invites all interested citizens to attend the public hearing. Written comments and suggestions may be sent to Ed Hansen, City Manager, at P.O. Box 187, Spearman, Texas 79081. Handicapped individuals wishing to attend this meeting should contact the City at least 72 hours prior to the meeting to arrange for assistance.
1(4-27-06)B

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Spearman ISD Building Project Update

by Rodney Sumner, Spearman ISD Superintendent

It has been almost two months since my last update on the building project. If you are like me, watching every day and walking through the project, it appears that progress is slow and things are not happening as quickly as maybe they should be. However, this reminds me of a Biblical principle and a story on my part (could you expect anything less from me?).

As I have watched our building being constructed, what I've had to develop is "patience" and in doing so, I have learned a very important lesson. What is the most important part of a building? Think about ALL the different things that go into a building. You probably could not do without any of the components, but there is one component more important than any of the others. That is the "foundation."

We are told in scripture that the wise man does not build his house upon the sand. This parable demonstrates the importance of the foundation of the building and the foundation that we build our personal life upon. More often than not, the foundation takes the most time to construct, as has been the

case with the new cafeteria. However, a lot of work has been done: 1) piers were drilled and concrete poured to establish a firm foundation, 2) dirt was brought in, packed and the foundation framed in, 3) electrical and plumbing work was done, and 4) the concrete was poured for the slab. Without all of these parts, the building could not support the roof, walls and the structure of the entire complex. All of this requires special care and cannot be rushed! I think that you can agree that without a good foundation, it really doesn't matter about the rest of the building because it will not and cannot stand the test of time and will surely crumble!

This is just like what we do each and every day with our students: we are establishing their foundation for success in life. We cannot take shortcuts. Everything we do builds upon the previous step. There cannot be any weak links or the foundation will not be strong and secure. I am so thankful for our wonderful elementary teachers. They are the ones who are building the foundation by teaching the basics (reading, writing and arithmetic). They take their job serious-

ly because they know the importance of a proper foundation!

Now with the foundation done, work is underway in erecting the joints and steel beams, and you can start seeing the building take shape. Once the beams are in place, decking will be placed on the roof. Next week, work will begin on constructing the exterior walls (using steel studs). Then one thing leads to another and various craftsmen begin work on duct, electrical, and fire protection (sprinkler system). Hopefully, before the end of school the exterior brick wall will be laid. Daily we should see a lot of activity and progress. Our goal is still to have the cafeteria completed by the start of the next school year.

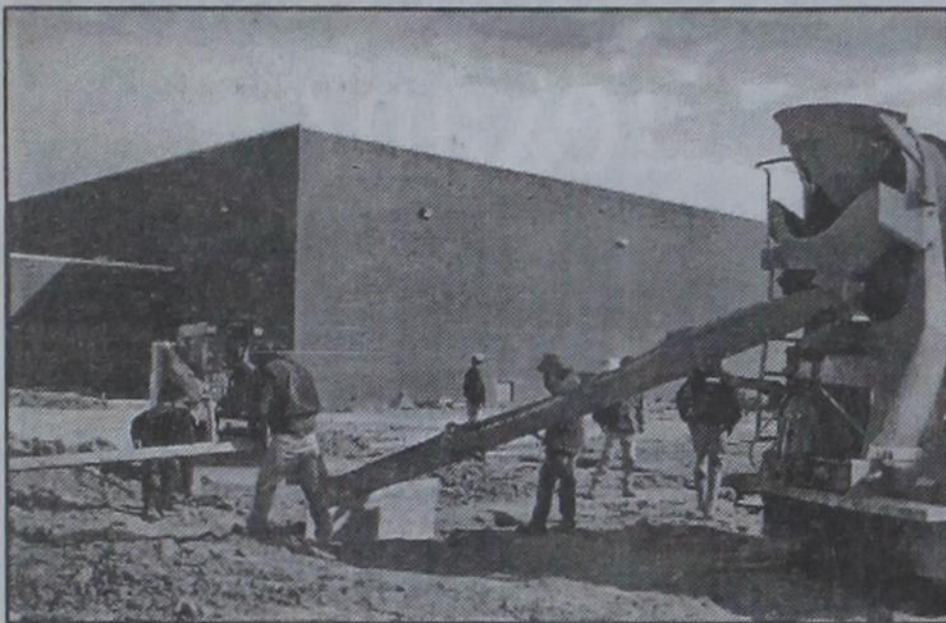
I am so excited to see our new building take shape. When our new building is completed, we will have something to be very proud of for many, many years. As we approach graduation, I, too, am so excited to

see another group of students leave our school with a great foundation. It has taken a lot of hard work over the past twelve to thirteen years, with many great craftsmen (teach-

ers, coaches and administrators) doing their jobs. Work has been slow at times, but the finished product is something to behold. As I look at each one of these students,

a smile beams across my face, and I know with all certainty that they will make us proud and will do great things with their lives!

Below are photos of the construction of the new cafeteria.



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