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The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

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THURSDAY
JUNE 24, 2004

PROUDLY SERVING HANSFORD COUNTY SINCE 1907

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WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

FRIDAY - Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.

FRIDAY NIGHT - Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.

SATURDAY - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

SATURDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows around 60.

SUNDAY - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

SUNDAY NIGHT - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 60s.

FUN NIGHT AT THE PARK

A fun evening is planned for everyone on Saturday, July 10th! Come join us at the Swimming Pool Park!! There will be fun and food, fellowship and competition, and lots of laughs. Booths will be set up by local clubs and organizations to provide eats and treats.

"Pokey, the Clown" will be here to conduct the WRCA Junior Ranch Rodeo for young people ages 4-16 years old. Information for teams (4 kids per team) and registration forms will be available by calling Judy Tindell @ 659-2662 or 659-3653, or by coming by B & B Sales Co.

"Pokey" introduced Junior Ranch Rodeo, mirrored after the adult ranch rodeo, in 1997. The goals of the rodeos are to teach young people about our western heritage and to keep the ways of the American cowboy alive. It also teaches young people to act as a team, which is a must for a working ranch. The teams compete in four events with wooden "livestock" (no real animals).

In 1998 "Pokey's" Junior Ranch Rodeo's became a part of the WRCA World Championship Ranch Rodeo held each year in November in Amarillo, Texas. Approximately twelve rodeos are held around the four state area to qualify teams for the championships.

The young people will register at 4:30 p.m. at the Swimming Pool Park. There is a \$5.00 entry fee per person (\$20.00 per team).

At 7:00 p.m. "Pokey's" Adult Ranch Shoot Out will be held. All these events are just for fun, specially handmade "stock" will be used. No live animals (or folks) will be injured.

All proceeds from the WRCA Junior Ranch Rodeo and the Adult Ranch Rodeo Shoot Out will be donated to Hansford Hospice.

Food Booths will be set up in the park for your dining pleasure. Local clubs, civic organizations and church groups will benefit from their booths. If your group would like a booth, please call Judy Tindell @ 659-2662 or 659-3653.

Mark your calendar now for this fun-filled evening in the Park. Let's all come out to enjoy ourselves and help Hansford Hospice and other organizations in our communities.

Come Hail & High Water

Storm Pounds Gruver Area

by Harletta Carthel

A brutal thunderstorm late Friday, June 18th, reigned havoc in Gruver and surrounding areas north of the city.

High winds, golf-ball sized hail and torrential rain accompanied the storm.

The City of Gruver recorded an official 4.64 inches of rain while areas north of Gruver measured nearly six inches. Buck Tidwell of Bernstein Elevator registered 5.34 inches while B. J Renner reported 5.94 inches.

The Renner family and the Rod Karlin family, both residing north of the city, suffered considerable damage from the storm.

"The wind, rain, and hail damaged every area of the city," Linda Weller, Gruver City Manager said. "I think we've had damage reported all over town."

City buildings also suffered in the storm's wake.

"At City Hall, we had six windows broken, while the Golden Age Center had two windows ruined. There has not been a report from the fire department," Mark Washburn, Gruver City Secretary said. "There were also three windshields broken on city vehicles. We know of at least three buildings with damaged roofs - the Golden Age Center, the City Pool, and the City Library."

Kim Swink of Bort Agency in Gruver reported a hectic day Monday as residents sought to notify insurance companies of their losses.

"I couldn't begin to count the number of phone calls we have received today," Swink said.

Swink stated that damage to most vehicles in the storm could be termed severe, but drivable.

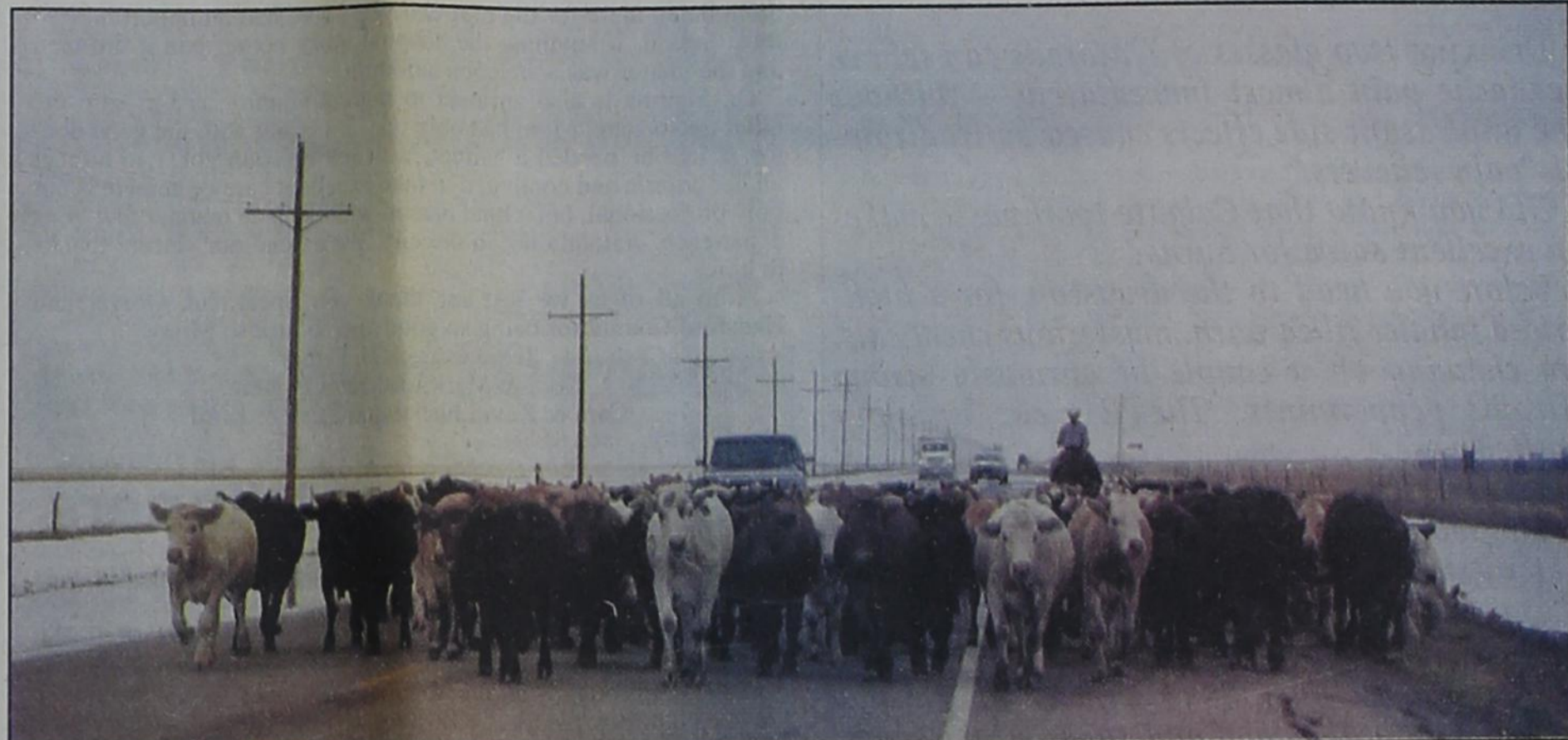
Damage was visible throughout Gruver. The top half of a large pine tree near the home of Teresa Weldon on Broadway Street was broken off in the storm as well as a large cottonwood tree at the home of Dave and Dixie Karlin on Richardson Street. Leaves from trees and vegetation littered streets and lawns throughout the city.

Just north of the city, heavy damage was reported to corn crops and cattle were scattered, in an attempt to escape the storm. The Hansford County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to control cattle wandering near Highway 136 following the storm.

Employees of the Texas Department of Transportation in Hansford County worked through the night Friday and until 7 p.m. on Saturday night, according to Janet Williams, Gruver TX DOT secretary.

"Highway 136 north of Gruver was also closed for a period of time due to water over guard rails," Williams said.

The city was a blur of activity Saturday morning as Gruver



Cattle scattered by the Gruver storm are herded down Highway 136 north of Gruver.

Photos by Harletta Carthel

residents assessed storm damage and made temporary repairs.

Barlett's Lumber and Hardware of Gruver was the hub of activity as residents sought supplies to make temporary repairs to damaged property.

"We had numerous calls for plywood and tarps to cover broken windows or skylights," Ronnie Williams, Barlett's manager said. "We stayed later than our normal closing time to accommodate everyone who needed supplies."

The heavy rain put an abrupt halt to the wheat harvest in the county.

"The wheat harvest in the area was probably 90% completed," Wayne Stinar of Sunray Coop in Gruver said. "If we would have been able to cut through the weekend, the harvest would be just about wrapped up."

Nearby Spearman reported only heavy rainfall in the storm. The weather station at Spearman Schools registered 3.5 inches of rain Friday Night and an additional .2 Saturday night.

Thunderstorms also formed over Gruver on Sunday night and a tornado alert was sounded when circular winds near the city airport were spotted by weather watchers. Tornado signals sounded simultaneously in Spearman.

"The Spearman alert was a mistake. Only the Gruver alert was to be sounded," a spokesperson for the Hansford County Sheriff's Office said.

No injuries were reported as a result of the storm.

Cooler temperatures and increased chances of thunderstorms are predicted for the rest of the week.



Mack Hoel nails plywood over the north windows of the First Baptist Church. Helpers Kermit McKee, Bill Heddins, and Scott Curry assist in the work.



A well-house shelter north of Gruver falls victim to the June 18th storm.



Twelve hours after receiving 4.64 inches of rain, water continues to rush across the road outside of Gruver.



Large hail made good-sized holes in the shutters on the home of Margaret Ralston on Cooper Avenue in Gruver.



Dan Carthel (left) and Dave Karlin seek to remove a "knotty" cottonwood tree which fell on a pickup parked in a neighbor's driveway on Richardson Street during the storm which hit Gruver Friday evening.



A field of three-foot high corn just north of the Etling Addition in Gruver is reduced to ragged stumps after the pounding hail on Friday night.



Like skeletons in the wind, vertical blinds, shredded by large hail, flutter behind broken windows of the Gruver High School Administrative office.

HOMER'S & B BACKYARD BALL **COWBOY MARDI GRAS** BENEFITTING MAKE-A-WISH
 JUNE 25 AND 26, 2004 - TRI-STATE FAIRGROUNDS - AMARILLO, TX



The team Smokin' Johnny, (L-R) Eric Cudd, Julie Jecihck, Craig Schuman and Mike Cudd will be defending the first place finish they received last year in the Open Corporate Division at the Homer's Backyard Ball Cookoff. They also placed second in the Pork Ribs and Brisket competitions.

Homer's Backyard Ball

Homer's Backyard Ball will be held this Friday and Saturday, June 25 & 26 at the Tri-State Fairgrounds in Amarillo.

Featured artists will include Cross Canadian Ragweed, Billy Joe Shaver, Gary P. Nunn, Tommy Alverson, Wade Bowen & West 84, Bo Salling & The Brakes Are All Gone Band, The Mike McClure Band and more. This year features longer sets from the artists and some extra time in between the bands to let everyone get up and venture around the event.

All ticket holders to this years party will be put into a drawing for a pair of Southwest Airline tickets and another drawing for a Backyard Adventures playset. (YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.)

The cook teams will be preparing food all day for the cook-off, whats better though is that you're able to eat as much as you want! Make sure you get a plate as you'll have full license to go judge for yourself what is top notch this year.

For those that don't know - Homer's has a new home this year so make sure you find your way

to the Amarillo Tri-State Fairgrounds.

Due to site restrictions - this year's party will NOT be a BYOB event.

Also - video cameras are not allowed at this years event.

Chair's, couches, blankets, small tents are all still allowed!

We're also bringing back a vendor area for you to shop at, children's playground for the kiddos, band merchandise, the Homer Wear booth and MUCH more. Come early, stay late and sample a little bit of everything.

Friday Lineup (gates open at 7 p.m.): 7:15-9 p.m. - Acoustic song swap with Phil Pritchett, Travis Linville and Buddy Huffman; 9:30-11 p.m. - Billy Joe Shaver

Saturday Lineup (gates open at 11 a.m.): 3-4 p.m. - Bo Salling & The Brakes Are All Gone Band; 4:20-5:20 p.m. - Wade Bowen & West 84; 5:40-6:40 p.m. - Tommy Alverson; 7-8:15 - Mike McClure Band; 8:35-9:55 - Gary P Nunn; 10:15 p.m.- 12 a.m. - Cross Canadian Ragweed

2004 HBB Cookoff Goes Crazy Cajun!

The Homer's Crew and Make-A-Wish are excited to announce a few changes for this years cookoff plus all the same ol' things that make our cookoff a notch above the rest.

What would a Cowboy Mardi Gras be without a little gumbo or etoufee? Just plain silly, so to commemorate the festivities we have temporarily altered the open food category...sound a little craw fishy? Oohwee, you betta believe it hun. Pull out your muddy bug and Creole recipes cause it is party time!

We have a few other surprises in store for you

this year. Feedback from last year's teams helped us make these changes and we look forward to having you and your friends join us for a great event for a great cause.

This years cookoff is now officially sanctioned by the Lone Star Barbeque Society.

The team Smokin' Johnny (Mike Cudd, Eric Cudd, Julie Jecihck and Craig Schuman) will be defending the first place finish they received last year in the Open Corporate Division. They also placed second in the Pork Ribs and Brisket competitions.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation®

The purpose of the Make-A-Wish Foundation® is to grant wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses to enrich the human experience with hope, strength, and joy.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation® began in the USA in 1980 with the fulfillment of the first wish. Make-A-Wish is now the world's largest wish granting organization.

The Amarillo chapter began on March 5, 1984, and granted its first wish June 22, 1984. There are 55 counties in our Chapter serviced by the Amarillo office and the division office in Lubbock with wonderful volunteers in Dumas, Hereford, and Perryton. Since that time over 600 children have received their special wish. We are known as the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of the Texas Plains.

A wish child is referred by one of three ways (1) the child (2) the child's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) (3) a medical professional treating that child, such as a doctor, any child under the age of 18 with a life-threatening illness may be eligible for a wish. Then the question is asked, If you could have one wish, what would it be? The majority of a wish request fall into four major categories, I wish to have, I wish to be, i wish to go, or I wish to meet. A wish is only limited by a child's imagination.

It has been said that doctors provide the medicine while Make-A-Wish provides the MAGIC, and that sometimes the best medicine might just be a wish come true. It's a family time, the entire

VISION - Every person in the world will share the power of a wish.™

MISSION - We uplift the human spirit by creating hope, strength, and joy through granting wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

family takes part whenever possible and all wish expenses are fully covered even salary lost when no vacation time is available. Each wish enriches the lives and uplifts the spirits of the dozens, sometimes hundreds, of generous people who help grant the wish.

There are many wonderful organizations in our area raising

ing money to benefit our children by treating their bodies with new equipment and medical research. The Make-A-Wish Foundation® is different in that funds are raised benefiting our "KIDS" by treating their souls, giving them something happy and positive to look forward to, by giving them a goal to strive for. A wish can last an hour or a week, but the memories of a wish last a lifetime.

A wish is free to the family, granting it costs money. The Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Texas Plains finances its endeavors through individual contributions, corporate donors and sponsors, foundation grants and fundraising events manned and worked entirely by Volunteers. The foundation also relies on in-kind contributions to lessen the cost of goods and services. Make-A-Wish needs your help. Whether it's your time, talents, ideas, or donations. Help us help our "kids."

CONTACT - For more information on what Make-A-Wish has to offer and to find out how you can help, please contact us at: Make-A-Wish Foundation® of the Texas Plains, Inc.; 411 S. Fillmore; Amarillo, Texas 79101; (806) 358-9943; amarillo@wish.org, or visit our website at www.wish.org.

Weller Named President to the Region 1 Texas City Management Association



Spearman City Manager Robert Patrick (left) congratulates Gruver City Manager Linda Weller on being named president of the Panhandle City Management Association. The Association includes all Texas municipalities from Tulla north.

Linda Weller has been voted as President to the Region 1 Texas City Management Association, also known as the Panhandle City Management Association (PCMA).

Weller has served the City of Gruver as City Manager for approximately four years, and has represented Gruver and Hansford County well in the entire Panhandle region. she served the PCMA as Secretary-Treasurer for one year, and Vice President for two years.

The Texas City Management Association is an organization of local government professionals dedicated to promoting the highest standards of governance, service, leadership, ethics, and education while embracing individual and regional diversity for the benefit of our membership and the cities of Texas.

Mrs. Weller has been appointed to her new position immediately following the Texas City Management's annual conference held at Padre Island earlier this month.

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 For more information, please call (806) 371-8844