

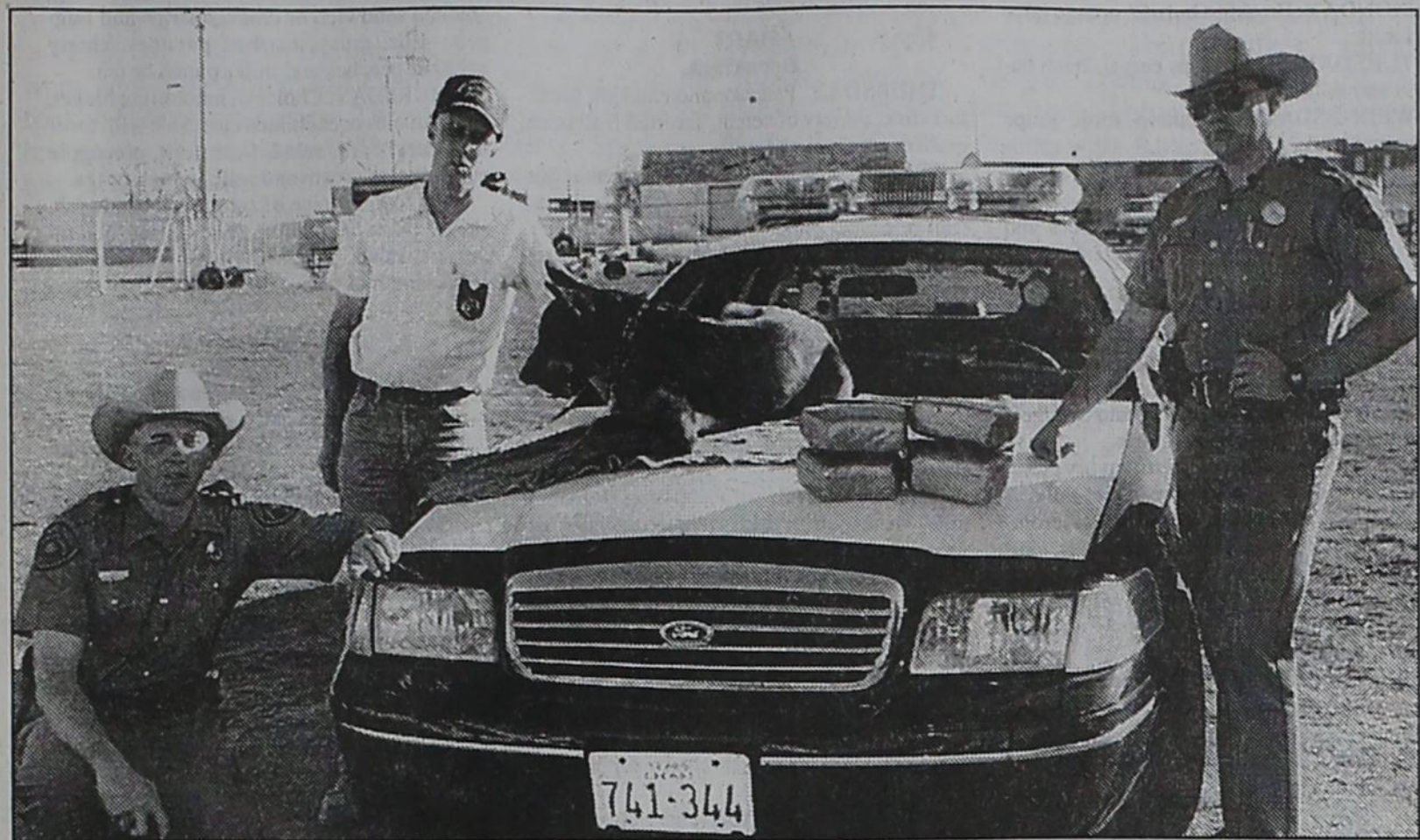
The Castro County News

74th year—No. 48

Dimmitt, Texas, Thursday, March 4, 1999

50¢

14 pages plus supplement



A BUNDLE OF BRICKS—Of marijuana bricks, that is. Weighing 10 lbs. and 13 oz., the illegal cargo was seized Feb. 24 after the vehicle in which it was hidden was stopped on a routine traffic violation. The driver, a 22-year-old from Comanche, Okla., wasn't wearing his seatbelt. The arresting officer was Dept. of Public

Safety Trooper Keith Smith (right). Assisting in the search of the vehicle were (from left) DPS Trooper Ron Mann, and Sheriff's Deputy Glen Snitker and his K-9 partner, Robbie. This was Robbie's first major drug bust, according to Snitker.

Marijuana is seized in routine traffic stop

Dept. of Public Safety Trooper Keith Smith stopped a vehicle Feb. 24 at about 1:25 p.m. because the driver wasn't wearing a seat belt. A subsequent search of the vehicle turned up 10 lbs. and 13 oz. of marijuana.

A 22-year-old Comanche, Okla., man was driving the rental car, a 1993 Nissan Altima, about 4 miles west of Dimmitt, heading east on SH 86. The driver and his passenger, an 18-year-old man also from Comanche, both were jailed for possession of marijuana.

Smith said he asked the driver for permission to search the vehicle, because the two were "acting nervous" and "didn't have the same story about where they came from and where they were going."

Autopsy pending

Jerker Schulsted, a young Swedish man who had lived at Nazareth since last fall, died in a Lubbock hospital Tuesday after being airlifted there in critical condition from his home.

Schulsted was in his mid- to late 20s, local acquaintances said.

Sheriff CD Fitzgearld said the cause of death won't be known until an autopsy is performed. He said he expects it to be "about 10 days before they get a report to us."

Emergency medical personnel rushed to Schulsted's Nazareth home Tuesday in response to a 9-1-1 call. The EMS team called for a helicopter, which set down near the home.

"On the first call we got, they thought he was already dead," Fitzgearld said, "but the EMTs got him revived, and he was still alive when they got him to Lubbock."

"Someone said he was a bad asthmatic, and that he had helped tear down an old house the day before, but we don't really know anything yet," Fitzgearld said.

Schulsted's parents reportedly were scheduled to arrive from Sweden sometime Wednesday.

Smith said he asked the driver for permission to search the vehicle, because the two were "acting nervous" and "didn't have the same story about where they came from and where they were going."

The driver gave permission and Smith called in the Sheriff's Dept. K-9 team of Glen Snitker and Robbie. Smith said Robbie "went berserk" when he smelled the mari-

Three are indicted

Three people were issued indictments by the Feb. 23 session of the 64th District Court Grand Jury, with Judge Jack Miller presiding.

Peter J. Reyna, 46, of Hart, was indicted for theft over \$1,500 and under \$20,000. Bond was set at \$5,000. The charge said that on June 6 he unlawfully appropriated money from Dimmitt Market.

Earnest Tina Jordan, 45, of Nazareth, was indicted for endangering a child, and bond was set at \$5,000. The charge stated that on Dec. 24 she drove at a high rate of speed while intoxicated and placed a child younger than age 15 in imminent danger.

Eric J. Shine, 27, of Tucumcari, N.M., was indicted for possession of a controlled substance less than 1 gram. Bond was set at \$5,000. The charge stated that on Feb. 9, he did possess less than 1 gram of a controlled substance, namely methamphetamine.

juana, which was packed in a cardboard box that was labeled "sunflower seeds."

Smith said the street value of the contraband is approximately \$600 per pound.

The vehicle could not be confiscated, since it was a rental.

Weather

	High	Low	Pr.
Thursday	73	36	
Friday	76	34	
Saturday	72	29	
Sunday	57	30	
Monday	74	29	
Tuesday	74	31	
Wednesday	58	21	

February Moisture	0.01
March Moisture	0.00
1999 Moisture	1.58

Temperatures and moisture are recorded each day at 7 a.m. at KDHN Radio, official National Weather Service reporting station.

Coleman pleads guilty

In 64th District Court action Friday, Edward Dwayne Coleman pled guilty to charges of burglary of a building on Dec. 12.

Terms of his sentence included that he should pay \$429.75 restitution, \$242 court costs, and a \$1,000 fine, in addition to serving two years of confinement in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, state jail facility.

TCGA speakers say Farms face depression

Almost every speaker at the Texas Corn Growers Association's 26th annual meeting in Dimmitt Friday agreed that agriculture is not in a recession.

"It is in a depression," said lead-off speaker Ray Joe Riley, Castro County farmer and agribusinessman.

TCGA President Carl King told the gathering of an estimated 200 people that the theme of the meeting was "Surviving the Crisis." He also hinted that he is hoping to retire from the helm of the organization that he helped found many years ago, saying with a smile that he wants to find someone "willing to work for nothing."

The group heard about farm program developments, the efforts of TCGA's sister organization (American Corn Growers), farming and banking, legislative concerns, electric deregulation, and an effort to call on the President to invoke special administrative powers to address the farm crisis.

In further remarks, Riley said, "It will get worse before it gets better. The problem with agriculture is that renters are having to pay such expensive rent because the landowners are paying such tremendously expensive taxes. Taxes are eating us alive."

"If we (farmers) tighten our belts then we can demand that the people spending our tax dollars tighten theirs," Riley said. "Schools are going to have to learn to live within a tight budget. We're going to have to go back to having school."

"The free market system is great sounding, but I believe in a fair market and supply and demand," Riley said. He said that means a willing buyer and seller without duress or pressure.

"2000 will be a bright spot for agriculture because it is another election year," Riley said. "We have to go from election year to election year to get much help. Where there is hope there is opportunity."

"In 1999, without a widespread drought in other grain producing areas, it will no doubt be a tough year here," Riley said. "I predict that there will be less and less feed corn produced here without a price increase."

Riley also gave farmers some tips on dealing with lenders.

"Bring your banker your very best data, facts and information," Riley said. "He needs to know you and your situation. Bankers don't like surprises. Shoot straight and level with your lender. Put character first."

In conclusion, Riley said, "We have to tighten our belts to weather the storm. Let your representatives know what you're thinking. I didn't bring good news because I didn't know any, but there is still hope and opportunity in the future."

Larry Mitchell, USDA deputy

administrator of farm programs for the Farm Service Agency, told the gathering that the sign up for the crop loss disaster assistance program of the FSA has been extended to April 9, after it had initially been scheduled to close March 12 at local FSA service centers.

"We just had a lot more interest in it than we even believed was coming down the pike, and it is a somewhat complicated program," Mitchell told the gathering of an estimated 200 people. He said the program has been set up to provide farmers with some relief for either multiple year losses or 1998 losses.

Mitchell talked about other efforts of the FSA.

He said that the FSA livestock assistance program has had a very large turn-out of producers and some payments are expected out on it sometime in March. He also noted the completion of the SHOP rule, the small hog operators program. Those payments should be going out fairly quickly, he said.

"In our lending programs we have exhausted most of the money that we have," Mitchell said. "We understand that's a major problem. We are moving forward in analyzing whether or not we should ask for a supplemental appropriation. Until the President decides that's what we're going to do, we can't tell you that we will have one."

"We have exhausted funds in almost every category, probably the one though that is most critical is EM loans, emergency loans. We ran out of money last week. This has some other implications in that producers that are eligible for EM loans and can't get funding, many times that funding is tied to another loan that they are getting from us or from their local bank. That may have implications on whether or not they get money to plant this year. So we are aware of that, we are trying to address it the best we can," Mitchell said.

"It is disturbing to hear that maybe we're not as farmer friendly as we should be. We haven't done everything we can, but we're working hard at it," Mitchell told the farmers. "We are looking at how we do the loan deficiency payments, how we set the posted county prices. We've got an open mind on that, and we're going to do what we can to make it simpler. If you've got some ideas, get 'em to us. We're looking at it very closely."

"We had an additional brainstorming session on it this week. We listed what we felt we had done right, what we had done wrong. We had three pages of wrong, one of right, so we've got a ways to go. We understand that we've got to make that program simpler to administer, simpler to understand," Mitchell said.

Dimmitt council approves resolution supporting SWCD

The Dimmitt City Council approved a resolution expressing support for efforts seeking increased funding of the soil and water conservation program in Texas by the Texas Legislature.

The resolution was presented at the Monday night meeting of the council. It states that in view of funding cuts and an increased workload for SWCDs and employees of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, the legislature should give consideration to the matter.

In another matter, the council presented a plaque of appreciation to retired city secretary Jo Hamilton, in recognition of 24 years of service.

Council members postponed action on setting up an ordinance against dumping garbage in the blue paper recycling dumpsters that have been set in selected locations around town.

City Manager Don Sheffy recommended that the council wait for a while to see how well the public cooperates in the recycling effort. He said the blue dumpsters are placed across from the city warehouse on East Jones, and one behind the Chamber of Commerce. If a business wants a paper recycling cart (large, wheeled garbage can with lid) to be placed at their business, they may

contact the city Works Dept. at 647-4492. City workers will come by and pick up the containers when they are full.

Newspapers, cardboard boxes, paper grocery sacks, computer paper and office paper are acceptable for placement in the dumpsters. However, magazines, telephone books or other "coated" papers are not permissible, because they require more processing.

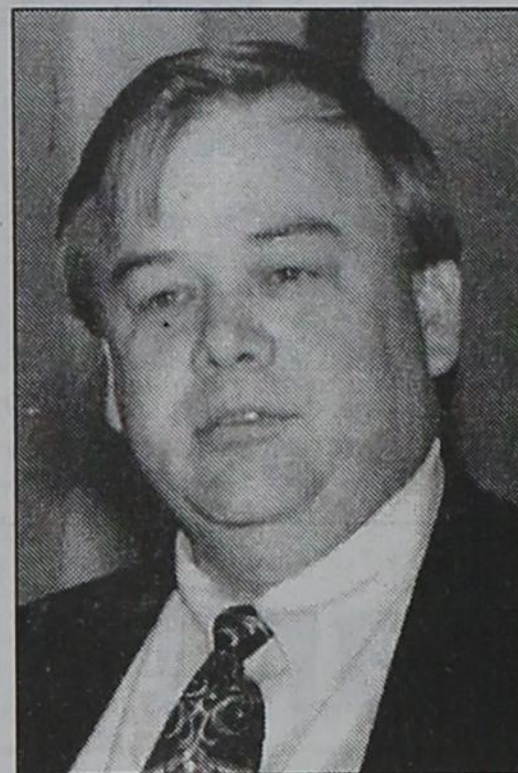
Mayor Wayne Collins said the city is under a mandate to reduce the tonnage being accepted at the city landfill, and also pays a fee to the state based on the tonnage.

Sheffy also told the council that the problem of people stealing traffic and street signs may be addressed under the city's vandalism ordinance, which is already in effect. He also noted that a recent case elsewhere resulted in murder charges against youths who removed a stop sign from an intersection, causing a fatal crash.

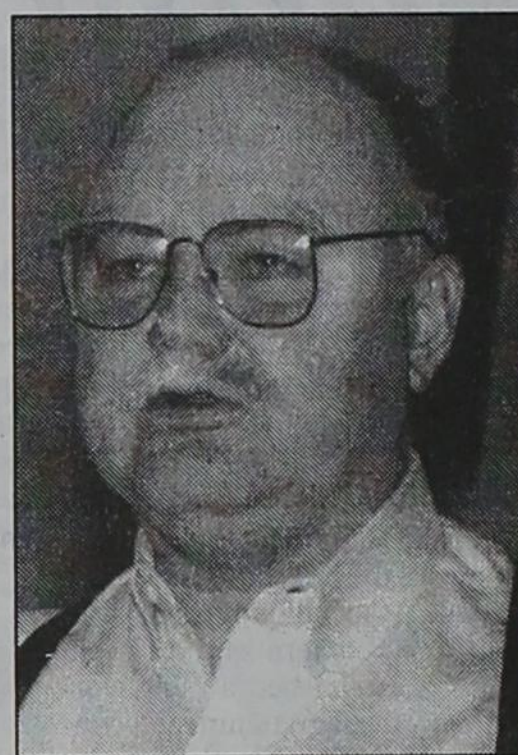
In his manager's report, Sheffy told the council that work on the city water tower should start this week.

Council member Roger Malone told the other council members that the cities of Bovina and Friona recently received rate reductions from

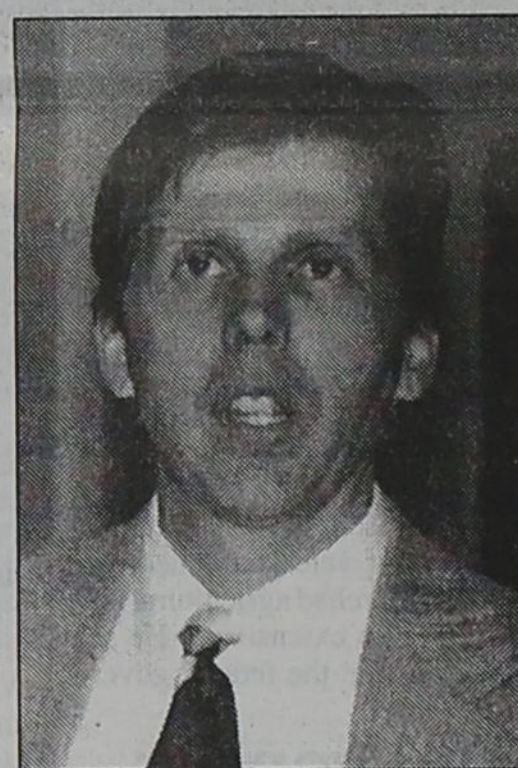
(Continued on Page 13)



Larry Mitchell



David Senter



Keith Dittich

Also addressing the meeting was David Senter, a Washington, D.C. consultant for the Texas Corn Growers Association and the American Corn Growers.

Senter told the group, "Some changes have to be made. You are not alone in what is happening."

He said the disaster provisions will not do it all. A good farm bill is needed.

Senter said he feels that the effort will be successful to get legislation for labeling of imported agricultural products. He said labeling is an important key.

He also spoke about the pending merger of Continental and Cargill.

"The Justice Department is considering approving the merger," Senter said. He said the merger would have one company controlling 50% of everything that moves in the world.

"Concentration in the market place needs to be looked at closely," Senter said. "We need to improve competition in the market place."

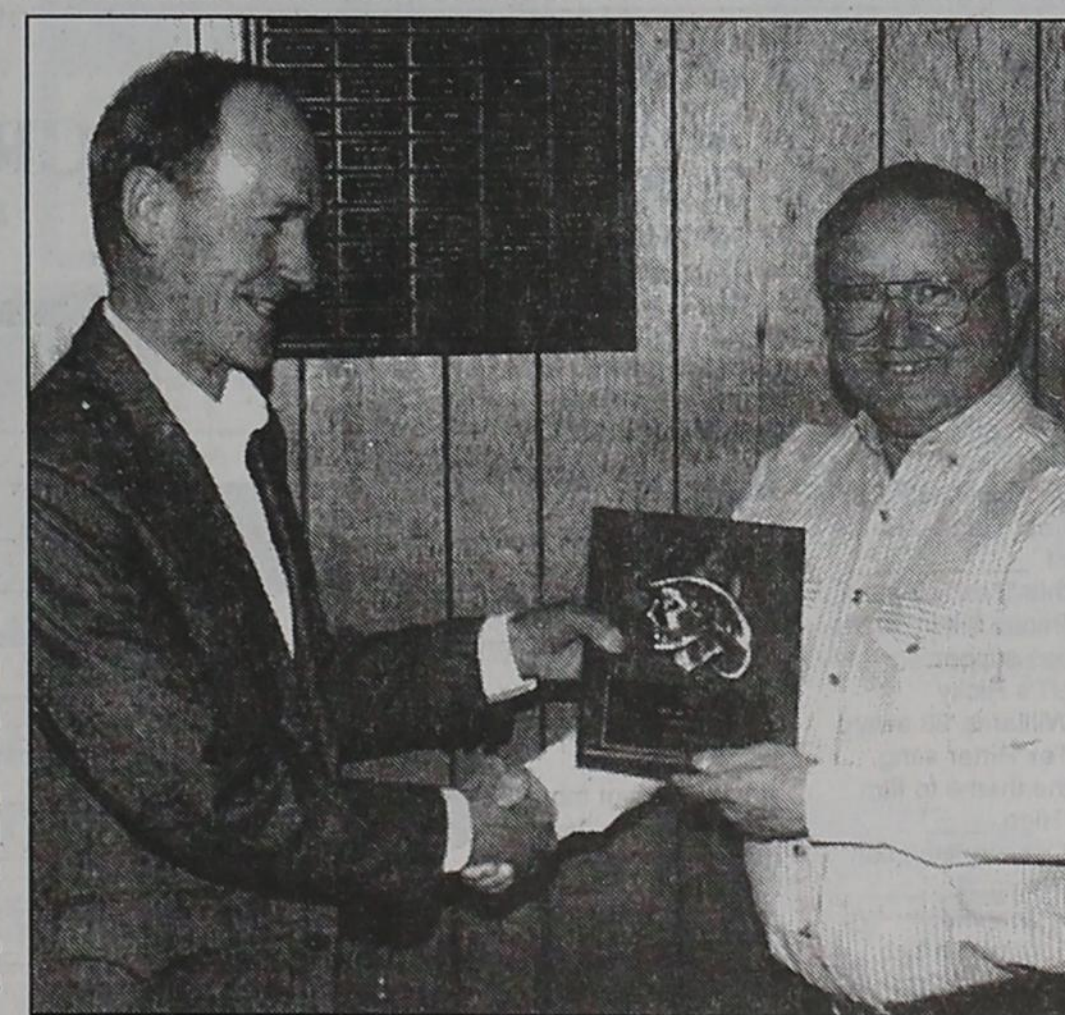
"Now is not the time to give up, but to get up and speak out," Senter told the group, as he encouraged them to get involved in agriculture organizations.

Keith Dittich, president of the American Corn Growers, agreed with Riley on the agricultural depression.

"At a time when we've got a robust economy in this country, agriculture is in a depression. I believe that, too. We're in a depression, not a recession, and it's gonna get worse if we don't do something and policy doesn't change," Dittich said.

"Although we are a small organization, we believe that we represent

(Continued on Page 13)



Fireman of the Year

City Manager Don Sheffy (left) presents the 1998 Fireman of the Year plaque to Bill Conyers during the Dimmitt Fire Dept.'s annual banquet Saturday night at the fire station. Conyers, who serves as the department's public information officer, made 52 of the 82 fire calls and 42 of the 50 training meetings during 1998. Conyers also was the Fireman of the Year in 1979. More than 50 present and retired firemen, spouses, reserves, city and county officials attended the banquet and enjoyed a barbecue dinner catered by Chubby Buns of Nazareth. Fire Chief Tommy Cleavinger was the master of ceremonies. Photo by Don Nelson

1:1

By Don Nelson

Jim Baker was explaining it to a few of us:

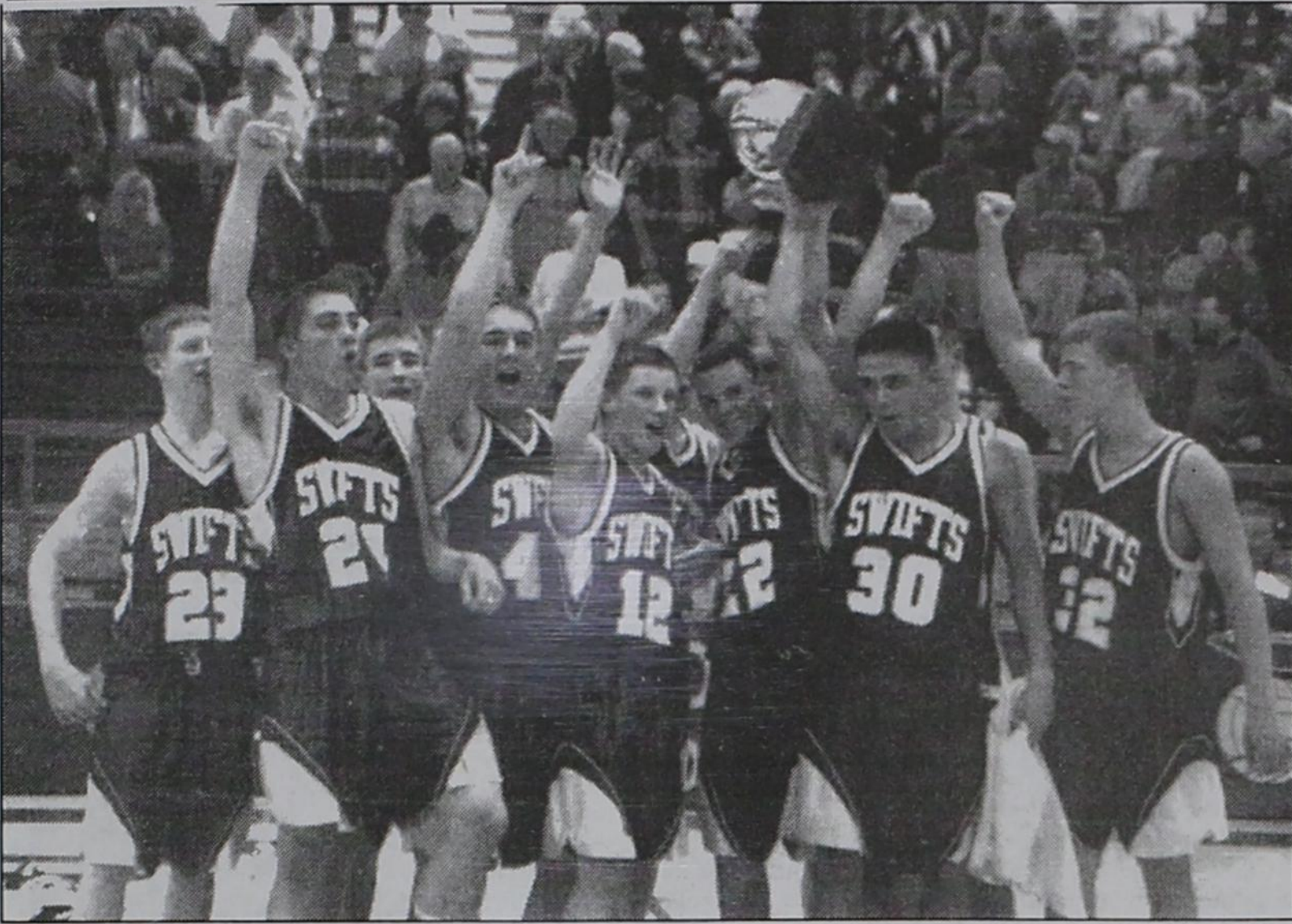
The purpose of lightning rods on a house is not to attract lightning and "bleed off" the electricity to the ground.

The lightning rods are there to neutralize any static electricity that is in the atmosphere around the building, because...

Lightning forms and strikes from the ground up, not from the sky down.

When the Vega Lady Longhorns' team bus went through Dimmitt Tuesday morning en route to the girls' state tournament in Austin, they saw *GOOD LUCK, VEGA!* and *GO*.

(Continued on Page 13)



1999 CLASS A AREA CHAMPIONS
... Nazareth Swifts hoist their area trophy after beating Gruver, 40-37, Friday in Amarillo
Photo by Dwayne Acker

Parity Group sets Hereford meeting

A meeting has been set for today (Thursday) at 7 p.m. at the Hereford Independent School District administration building at US 385 and 15th Street.

Dr. Eugene Schroder of Springfield, Colo., will present information on the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933 and its provisions that should still be in force today.

Gerald McCathern, a retired farmer from Hereford announced the meeting at the recent Texas Corn Growers Association meeting in Dimmitt. McCathern said the 1933 legislation established a parity formula to protect agriculture and consumers and the President was given authority to implement it.

"If the President agrees and takes positive action, we will see an immediate change (in the farm situation). If he doesn't agree, farmers will file a class action law suit for non-conformance of the law," McCathern said. He said it will be the largest class action law suit ever filed in the US.

McCathern said that more information about the legislation and the plan of action set out by the Parity Group that is leading the action will be explained at the Hereford meeting.

Schroder is a farmer, cattleman and doctor of veterinary medicine, who has researched agricultural laws and legislation extensively. He said he believes that the federal govern-

ment has failed to carry out the intent and mandates of the law, which has never been repealed.

"We are all aware of the tremendous hardships suffered by our agriculture producers due to depressed commodity prices during the past 12 months," Schroder said. "It is difficult to understand why such prices prevail when the rest of the nation's economy seems to be prospering at historic highs."

"While investors in the stock mar-

Letter

Writer proud to be member of Nazareth Fire Department

Dear Editor:

I'm proud to be with the Nazareth Volunteer Fire Department—or should that be changed to Nazareth Community Service Department?

I'll bet that after the ice storm a few weeks ago the volunteers are even more appreciated than ever before.

Along with the Deaf Smith Rural Electric Cooperative crews and a couple of extra crews from Lamb County who worked many late hours and pulled all-nighters in order to get power service back to the customers, the Nazareth Volunteer Fire Department members were also out doing whatever was needed to alleviate problems caused by the power outages.

Dennis Kern, Jim Kern and Kim Drerup were hauling several tanker loads of water a day to pasture cattle and dairies.

They also used the fire department's large and medium generators to keep the dairies operating—generators that some may have wondered why a fire

ket are making billions, our food producers are sinking deeper and deeper in debt, bankruptcies in rural America continue to increase, and our rural communities continue to decline.

"It is obvious that rural America has got to raise up and compel the government to obey the law," Schroder said.

"We will find out if we are truly a nation of laws or not," McCathern said.

Food vendor spots available for quilt festival

Food vendors are needed for the second annual Ogallala Quilters Festival, to be held in Dimmitt on April 8-10.

However, vendor booths will only be available on April 9 and 10.

Organizations, groups or individuals interested in providing a food booth at the festival should contact Bill Sava at the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce, 647-2524, or Ogallala members Joyce Davis at 647-5362 or Doris Lust at 647-5637 for forms or more information.

Clover Kids to enjoy food class March 31

The Castro County 4-H Clover Kids will participate in a food class on Wednesday, March 31, at 4 p.m. at the Extension office in Dimmitt.

Those planning to attend should call Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal at 647-4115.

4-H leaders plan meeting

The Castro County 4-H club managers and parent-leaders will hold a training session and meeting on March 29 at the courthouse.

The club managers training will start at 6:30 p.m., followed by the Parent/Leader Association meeting at 7 p.m.

All 4-H leaders are asked to attend.

Letter

Hart Beat employee is offended by letter

Dear Editor:

I read the letter concerning Neoma Williams of *The Hart Beat* and The Company Store in the Feb. 25 issue. It was written by Amy Diaz.

I was offended after reading the harsh letter. I have worked for Neoma for three years. She has treated me with nothing but respect and dignity. I have gotten to know Neoma quite well. I have discovered that she is a distinguished, business-like and big-hearted woman.

She would never do anything detrimental or harmful to another. She may be a little irritated sometimes, but any normal person is.

I know that if I had to run a store and put out a weekly newspaper by myself (except for the help she gets from her daughter, Rachel, and I), I would be more than a little irritated. I would be downright witchy.

Neoma works very hard at what she does. Rachel and I can only do so much. We are both 17 and don't

have the experience and knowledge Neoma has. Our services are limited.

Also, Neoma has become like a mother to me. My parents were divorced when I was small. I have not seen my mother since I was three years old. Growing up with only a father, you don't get much exposure to art and theater. Neoma, knowing I am fond of these things, has taken me to museums, Broadway productions and many other things.

Anytime I needed something, she was there and she would and has done the same for any other employee.

In conclusion, I would just like to say that I have found that Neoma is a pleasure to work for and to be around. I am sure that many others would agree.

Michel de Montaigne once said, "the clearest sign of wisdom is continued cheerfulness."

Well, Amy Diaz, I would say your letter wasn't very cheerful.

NIKKI BURRESS
Hart, Texas

What's Cooking

In the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth Schools

- Here are the breakfast and lunch menus for the Dimmitt, Hart and Nazareth schools for March 4-12.
- DIMMITT Breakfast**
- THURSDAY: Apple Jacks cereal, orange wedges and milk.
FRIDAY: Pancakes with syrup, apple juice and milk.
MONDAY: Breakfast burrito, orange juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Fruit Loops cereal, fresh banana and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Cinnamon rolls, grape juice and milk.
THURSDAY: Frosted Flakes cereal, peaches and milk.
FRIDAY: Cheese toast, apple slices and milk.
- Preschool-First Grade Lunch**
- THURSDAY: Baked Chicken Italiano, Italian vegetable salad, tossed salad, angel flake biscuits and milk.
FRIDAY: Fish nuggets, potato wedges, fruited gelatin, hot rolls and milk.
MONDAY: Italian spaghetti, savory green beans, tossed salad, garlic bread and milk.
TUESDAY: Chicken and rice casserole, baked potatoes, peas, hot cheese rolls, and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Meat loaf with creole sauce, potatoes au gratin, orange wedges, assorted muffins and milk.
THURSDAY: Chicken fillet strips, French fries, pineapple sunset salad, hot rolls and milk.
FRIDAY: Fish nuggets, peaches, refried beans, hamburger salad and milk.
- Second-12th Grade Lunch**
- THURSDAY: Choice of beef stir fry, baked chicken Italiano or vegetable pasta Alfredo; stir-fried rice, potato wedges or Italian vegetable salad; tossed salad, broccoli and cauliflower salad or rotini salad; angel flake biscuits, French bread or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: Choice of baked fish Scandia, Red Baron Pepperoni Pizza, chicken and dumplings or green enchilada casserole; potato wedges, pork and beans or southern collard greens; tossed salad, cucumber and tomato salad or fruited gelatin; hot rolls, cornmeal yeast rolls or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
MONDAY: Choice of Italian spaghetti, chicken taco or barbecued hot links on a bun; savory green beans, Chinese-style vegetables or Mexipinto beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad or haystack finger salad; garlic bread, hot rolls, Arroz Mexicano or tortilla chips; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
TUESDAY: Choice of chicken and rice casserole, beef taco or chicken taco; peas, baked potatoes or refried beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad, macaroni salad or fresh fruit; cornbread, cheese rolls, Spanish rice, crackers or corn tortilla; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of honey-lemon chicken, meat loaf with creole sauce or beef and bean burrito with chili; country rice dressing, potatoes au gratin or Mexipinto beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad, orange wedges or potato salad; assorted muffins, wheat rolls, Fideo Mexicano or flour tortilla; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
THURSDAY: Choice of chicken fillet strips, chicken pot pie or green enchilada casserole; French fries, baked sweet potato and
- apple or refried beans; tossed salad, taco condiment salad, pineapple sunset salad or cucumber and tomato salad; cornbread, hot rolls, Arroz Mexicano, tortilla chips or crackers; and chocolate milk, white milk or punch.
FRIDAY: Choice of baked fish Scandia, cheese enchilada with sauce, cheeseburger or chicken stir fry; French fries, peaches or refried beans
- HART Breakfast**
- THURSDAY: Pancake and chicken, breakfast stick, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers and milk.
FRIDAY: Pancakes with syrup, peanut butter, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.
MONDAY: Breakfast burrito with salsa, cinnamon rolls, assorted fruit juice, variety of cereal and milk.
TUESDAY: French toast sticks, sausage, frozen biscuits, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Breakfast sausage pizza, variety of cereal, assorted fruit juice, graham crackers and milk.
THURSDAY: Breakfast pizza, cinnamon rolls, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Pancakes with syrup, peanut butter, variety of cereal, graham crackers, assorted fruit juice and milk.
- Elementary Lunch**
- THURSDAY: Choice of burrito, pizza hot pocket or pizza; green beans, gelatin dessert, peaches, salad, cake with cherry topping and milk.
FRIDAY: Choice of fish sandwich, corn dog or fish nuggets; cornbread, potato wedges, salad, fruit cocktail, fresh fruit, peanut butter cookies and milk.
MONDAY: Choice of burrito, hamburger basket or pizza; salad, corn, peaches, peanut butter bars and milk.
TUESDAY: Choice of corn dog, barbecued rib on a bun or roast beef with brown gravy; mashed potatoes, broccoli and cheese, rolls, gelatin dessert, fruit cocktail, cherry crisp and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Choice of corn dog, burrito or chicken nuggets; rolls, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cherry cobbler, assorted fresh fruit and milk.
THURSDAY: Choice of hamburger basket, pork tamales or enchilada casserole; tortilla pieces, corn, gelatin dessert, salad, fresh fruit, pineapple, ice cream and milk.
FRIDAY: Choice of submarine sandwich, pizza or chalupas; Spanish rice, gelatin dessert, salad, peaches, ginger cookies and milk.
- High School Lunch**
- THURSDAY: Choice of burrito, pizza hot pocket or pizza; green beans, gelatin dessert, peaches, salad, cake with cherry topping and milk, punch or tea.
FRIDAY: Choice of fish sandwich, corn dog or fish nuggets; cornbread, potato wedges, salad, fruit cocktail, fresh fruit, peanut butter cookie and milk, punch or tea.
- NAZARETH Breakfast**
- THURSDAY: Canadian bacon on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
FRIDAY: Cinnamon roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
MONDAY: Cinnamon roll or blueberry muffin, cereal, orange juice and milk.
TUESDAY: Sausage on a roll, cereal, orange juice and milk.
WEDNESDAY: Waffles and sausage, cereal, orange juice and milk.
THURSDAY: Breakfast pockets, cereal, orange juice and milk.
FRIDAY: No School.
- Lunch**
- THURSDAY: * Tacos or hamburger, French fries, lettuce, peas, fruit, dessert and milk or juice.
FRIDAY: Fish or cheese pizza, coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, pineapple, pudding and milk or juice.
MONDAY: * Pizza or chef's salad, tossed salad, corn, grapes, peanut butter bars and milk or juice.
TUESDAY: * Chicken fried steak or corn dog, tossed salad, potatoes and gravy, peaches, pears and milk or juice.
WEDNESDAY: * Frito pie or baked potato, cornbread, Mexican salad, green beans, applesauce, apple cobbler and milk or juice.
THURSDAY: * Enchilada or pizza, tossed salad, pinto beans, pineapple, apples and milk or juice.
FRIDAY: No school.

* Items designated with an asterisk will be served to elementary school students.

Verkamp assigned to Germany

Air Force 1st Lt. Kirsten M. Verkamp has arrived for duty at Landstuhl Army Medical Center, Germany.

Verkamp is a clinical nurse assigned to the 86th Medical Squadron.

She is the daughter of Leslie Birkenfeld and the granddaughter of Rose Birkenfeld, both of Nazareth.

Her husband, Harold, is the son of Robert and Mary Verkamp of Nazareth.

The lieutenant is a 1990 graduate of Nazareth High School and a 1994 graduate of West Texas A&M University.



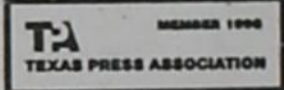
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DEADLINES	
Display and Classified Advertising.....	Tuesday Noon
Agriculture, Business & Industry News.....	10 a.m. Monday
Sports, Social and Church News.....	Monday Noon
Community Correspondence.....	Monday Noon
Personal Items.....	5 p.m. Monday
General News, City and County.....	Tuesday Noon

Editor and Publisher.....	Don Nelson
News Department.....	Anne Acker, Linda Maxwell
Advertising Composition.....	Paula Portwood
Ad Sales.....	Don Nelson
Page Composition and Photo Lab.....	Joyce Nelson
Bookkeeping.....	Anne Acker, Paula Portwood

ACROSS

- continent where TX mohair is exported
- Linden is the seat of this county
- TX Pecos Bill
- TXism: "___ could strut sitting down" (big ego)
- quitting or spelling across the border from El Paso
- done after drinking Dr. Pepper too fast
- Jacksonville's Tomato Fest stages "Battle of ___"
- this "Tex" created Pecos Bill in 1923
- has supper
- UT's Ricky Williams '98 award
- Tex Ritter sang the theme to film "High ___"
- TX Larry Hagman sitcom: "___ of Jeannie"
- Fort Worth has "world's oldest ___"
- TXism: "___ slate clean"
- TXism: "___ long" (good-bye)
- ex-QB Meredith "Enchanted Rock" sound
- TXism: "mad as a wet ___"
- most favorable "room ___"
- TXism: "ugly as homemade ___"

DOWN

- C&W music org. (abbr.)
- TXism: "got more on his plate than he can ___ grace over"
- Reba's "Life Out There?"
- TXism: "___ clothes" (fake)
- TXism: "___ some boot leather" (run)
- TX actress
- TX George Strait tune: "___ wound"
- TXism: "spread like gossip ___ a church meeting"
- TX "Trekkie" Gene
- big dog in Iran
- western writer Gray
- this De Carlo starred in TX-based "Calamity Jane and Sam Bass"
- makes a mistake
- for example (abbr.)
- she sheep
- TX-OK border River
- Rockport festivals
- coiled wire toy
- TX Tierney
- in the manner of
- gains by RB in 22-across (abbr.)
- TXism: "fat as a ___ house cat"
- TXism: "happy as a pig in ___"
- puzzling problems
- this Marie is "a little bit country"
- cut of beef
- short salutation
- Ranger's play-by-play guy (init.)
- TX Meatloaf's "___ Anything for Love..."
- daytime dramas
- operator of historic JA Ranch: M.H.W. "___" Ritchie
- TX Trini's "If ___ a Hammer"
- musical sound
- this Yvette starred with TX Tommy Lee in "Jackson County Jail" (init.)
- TXism: "another ___ another dollar"
- TXism: "___ as finding a horse thief in heaven"
- TX minerals
- has debts
- Mesquite's Pro Rodeo Hall of Famer
- Santa the general and the town in Coleman Co.
- nickname of TX-born president

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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P-371

On the Go with Martha Jo Hyman, 647-2255

Connie Aguilar and I went to Seminole to check on my parents again. I found them to be as well as expected. Connie and I (mostly Connie) straightened the house.

Leigh and Aubrie Durbin and I went with Kay Kellar to Levelland for the basketball games. The girls had another heart-stopper. The boys had a barn burner with Littlefield but came out on the bottom. What a disappointment. It was the bi-district game for the boys and the area game for the girls.

I saw J'Lyn Ryan at the ballgame. It is always good to see them. Their son, Robin, and his wife have a new baby. That is three for them.

Stephanie and Joey Waldo are expecting a new addition in April. Stephanie is the Ryans' daughter and the Waldos already have one child, Spencer. J'Lyn and Robert lived in Dimmitt and were associated with our school system for many years.

Carla Petty and Jason Wooten are

making plans for their future. Jason gave Carla a beautiful diamond ring. Both are students at Texas Tech University.

Eager for flying time in his newly acquired six-passenger plane, Ronnie Owens, son-in-law of the Hopsons, volunteered to fly Roger Sanders to Americus, Ga. At the Americus Airport, a caravan of black suburbans arrived and two or three secret service men emerged,

followed by a former president and first lady.

Ronnie and his friend were encouraged to speak to them. Ronnie extended his hand and said "Nice to meet you." The man replied, "Thank you. I'm Jimmy Carter and this is my wife, Rosalind."

My sympathy to the family of Alice Glenn. My girls went to school with Kelly and Carrie Goolsby. I also had Carrie in the Sixth Grade Sunday School Department. They were grandchildren of Mrs. Glenn.

At the Community Concert in Hereford recently, the combined group of Dimmitt goers saw the Joe James family, Cecil Oglesby and Marguerite Cole among some former Dimmitt residents present that night.

My sympathy to Jerry and Delores Heller and children, and to Gary Heller and children and Mr. Everett Heller in the death of their wife, mother and grandmother, Betty Heller of Plainview. She was a former Hart resident.

I spent the weekend in Lubbock and Leigh and Aubrie went along, too. We went to watch the regional tournament. The Bobbies did a great job and we had a lot of fun going.

After the game on Friday, Leigh Durbin, Aubrie and Leigh's sister-in-law, Lena Durbin, went to eat at an Italian place and ran into Amy Albus, a Whiteface coach. Amy is the sister of Lena's fiancée, Ben Deusterhaus. Her team had just been beaten by Vega in the regional semifinals. Vega is coached by former Dimmitt resident Justin Schultz.

The Whiteface girls were upset, but any team who makes it to regional is not a loser. We wish the Vega girls and Justin luck at Austin.

While we were at the game Saturday I saw Carolyn Thompson. She told me she had gone to see her kids, Jacalyn and Jeremy McCormick, who now live in Corpus Christi. Jacalyn was seriously ill with a ruptured appendix.

Carolyn stayed two weeks and kept the kids. When Carolyn came home, Jacalyn came and stayed another week. Jacalyn is recuperating nicely. She is in our prayers.

Also at the game on Saturday I ran into Pat Keith. She told me that both the boys are living in Austin. Kris lives in an apartment there and Michael lives in the dorm. She also

told me that she has been down visiting and they really like living there. On the way to Austin to see the boys, Pat stopped in Hico to visit her sister, Charlotte Pearcy.

After the game on Saturday, Leigh and Aubrie Durbin, Jo Hyman, Kay Kellar and I went looking for bargains. Not much was found. I guess we were too tired from all the excitement of the games.

Leigh took me to Levelland to visit by brother and sister-in-law, Eugene and Shirley Baccus. My two younger brothers and their families came to Levelland on Sunday and we all attended church together.

Shirley prepared taco soup for all 17 family members. My dad was able to join in, also.

Curtis, Leigh and Aubrie came to pick me up Sunday afternoon. We all had a good time.



CHANGE OF STAFF—Donna Montes (seated) of Dimmitt is the new youth crisis counselor for the Catholic Family Services office in Dimmitt, which serves Castro County. She succeeds Edna Tucker (standing) who has been promoted to area coordinator.

Photo by Linda Maxwell

Donna Montes is new at Catholic Family Services

Donna Montes is the new youth crisis counselor for the Catholic Family Services office serving Castro County.

She began her duties here Jan. 4, succeeding Edna Tucker, who has been promoted to area coordinator for the northern counties of the Panhandle.

"I am hopeful that the wonderful level of community support the office here has received will continue for Donna," Tucker said.

Montes has lived in Dimmitt for many years. She graduated from Dimmitt High School in 1984 and is

currently enrolled in studies to obtain her bachelor's degree in sociology. She has taken classes at Amarillo College and West Texas A&M University.

She is married to Danny Montes and they have three daughters, ages 2, 10 and 15.

Montes said she currently is working with 10 youth, five in Hart and five in Dimmitt.

She can be reached at 647-0323 or leave a message and she will return your call as soon as possible. She said she is not in the office a whole lot, because her time is spent at area schools counseling clients.

Montes said she is working on plans for special activities for students during Spring Break.

Fish fry is Friday

The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will hold a fish fry every Friday night through March 26.

The weekly fish fries will be each Friday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the church's cafeteria.

The menu will include fried fish, red beans, potato salad, rolls, cornbread, homemade dessert, tea and coffee. Cost will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Take-out plates will be available.

Proceeds from the meals will help fund ongoing projects at the church.

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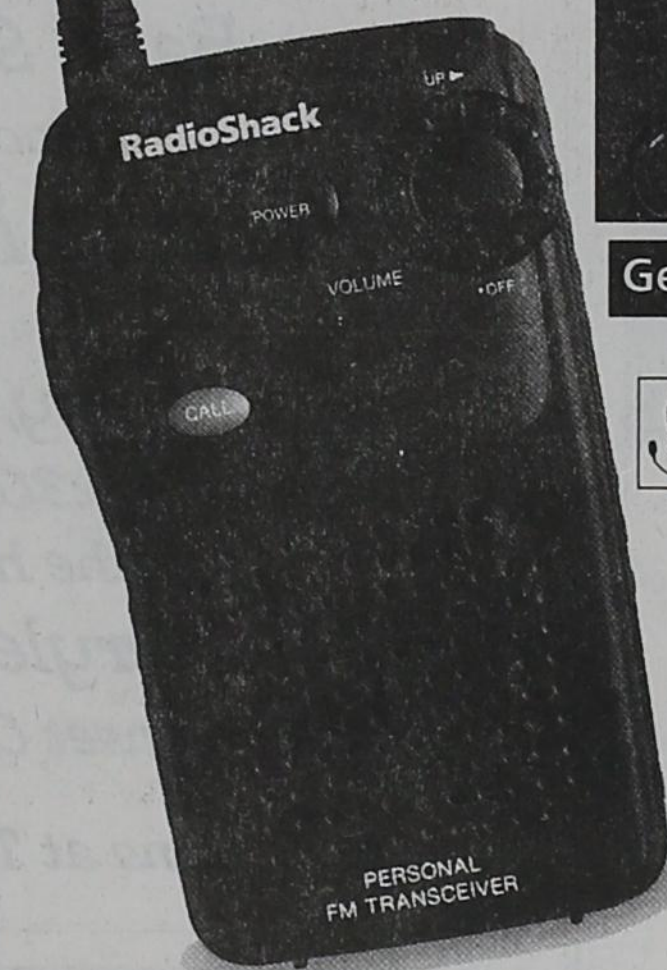
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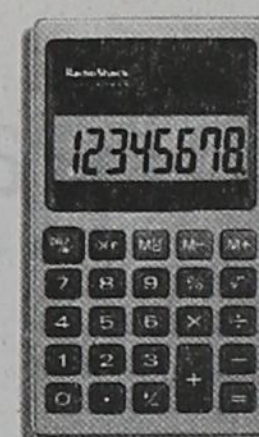
40-channel auto-scan for clear sound. Add a headset and talk hands-free. 10-number memory. reg. 99.99, Dove Gray #43-1088, Black #43-1090



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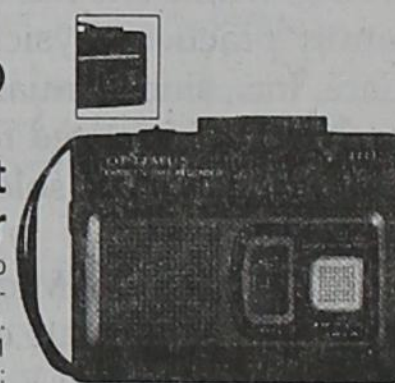
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Lightweight headphones

Stereo/mono switch and 16-ft. cord—ideal for home stereo or TV. In-line volume control. Gold-plated 1/8" plug. reg. 14.99, #33-1115

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3-in-1 remote with lighted keys

Volume and channel keys glow in the dark. Controls TV, VCR and cable box. Mute button. reg. 14.99, #15-1930 Requires 2 "AAA" batteries



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People



Boy Scouts seeking help

Adult leaders are reviving the Boy Scout troop in Dimmitt and they need help with funding supplies and uniforms for the 13 young men who have joined the organization this year.

Boy Scout Pack 267 is off to a slow start this year, but leaders hope to correct that. There was not a Boy Scout troop in Dimmitt last year because there were no adult leaders, but so far this year 13 boys have signed up for the program.

"The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force of good and creates a positive youth image in our community," said one of the leaders.

Donations can be made at the Hereford Federal Credit Union in Dimmitt. Leaders also say the Scouts can use any good, used scouting attire and equipment.

St. Pat's Dance slated March 13

The Nazareth organization of the Knights of Columbus is sponsoring a St. Patrick's Day Dance March 13 from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Nazareth Community Hall.

Admission will be \$10 per person, and proceeds from the event will benefit Catholic Family Services.

The Janet Denton Band of Friona will provide the music for the event.

4-H seeks team judges

Castro County 4-H is looking for 4-H'ers interested in participating on judging teams. Those interested should call the Extension office at 647-4115 as soon as possible.

Teams are forming now and District Roundup is fast approaching.



KACI SCHULTE (left) of Dimmitt accepts a scholarship award from Richard M. "Tres" Kleberg III, president of the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc. Schulte was one of 40 young people honored by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition, Inc., in conjunction with the San Antonio Kiwanis Club at the 44th annual rural youth banquet on Feb. 5. Schulte was awarded a \$1,000 youth leadership award. The 4-H'ers, FFA and FHA members were chosen by their organizations for their continuing contributions to agriculture and agriculture-related fields, and for their involvement in leadership and community service activities. Schulte, daughter of Gerald and Beth Harder and the late Lester Schulte, is currently serving as president of Texas 4-H.

Courtesy Photo

Book Fair set at RES

Richardson Elementary School in Dimmitt will host a Scholastic Book Fair Monday through Friday, March 8-12.

The sale will be held each day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The event encourages young readers by bringing them the newest titles from more than 150 publishers. Students, parents and teachers can find old favorites and the latest works by popular authors and illustrators, including Newbery and Caldecott award winners.

When you visit the Book Fair,

look for the classroom wish lists posted for each classroom. Teachers choose books they feel will be informative and stimulating and list them on a wish list for their classrooms. Classroom wish lists are then posted at the Book Fair. This gives family members an opportunity to purchase and donate a book to a classroom library. Their generosity is acknowledged by a bookplate with their name in each book they contribute.

For more information about the Book Fair, call 647-4131.

Student Council launches campaign to help victims of Hurricane Mitch

The Dimmitt High School Student Council is conducting a community service project to help victims of Hurricane Mitch, which has devastated Central American countries including Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua and neighboring countries Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize.

The Student Council started collecting donations Monday, and has placed donation jars at stores and offices all over Dimmitt. The jars will be collected on March 12.

Those who would like to make a donation may also send it to Dimmitt High School Student Council—Mitch Project, 1505 Western Circle, Dimmitt, Texas 79027, or drop it by the office at Dimmitt High School.

The idea originated with Sandra Torres, a Dimmitt High School senior who was concerned over news reports of the devastation. She felt that the student body and townspeople would be willing to help, if asked.

Torres asked the Student Council to consider a fund-raising effort to help the hurricane victims. The council adopted the project two weeks ago.

The council also will sponsor a fund raiser at Dimmitt High School, selling tickets for early dismissals for lunch and a "cap license" that enables a student to wear a cap to class if he or she pays a fee. All proceeds will go to the relief fund.

Money raised here will be donated to the Red Cross and will be designated for Hurricane Mitch victims.

An estimated 6,000 people were killed in Honduras and nearly two million lost their homes or were evacuated because of Hurricane Mitch. Overall estimated deaths in the region have reached 14,013, and over 26,000 are still missing, making Mitch among the five worst hurricanes ever in the Caribbean. Cholera, malaria and other diseases threaten to raise the death toll.

The Red Cross has been on the ground since before the storm hit and has been working to meet the needs of those who are stranded, hungry, sick and injured because of Hurricane Mitch. Approximately 5,000 volunteers and staff are working in 767 shelters and are caring for over 800,000 victims.

The American Red Cross has sent funds to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and launched a relief effort to purchase basic medications, rice, beans and vegetable oil for approximately 300,000 hurricane victims. A shipment of blankets, antibiotics,

comfort kits, portable water cans and hygiene kits is en route to Honduras and Nicaragua. Food supplies will likely be part of the American Red Cross effort over the coming months, or until the next harvest.

Assisting a beleaguered Honduran Red Cross, the American Red Cross shipped 20 tons of water purification chemicals and antibiotics to stem the spread of disease. Food has been trucked in, but Honduran aid stocks are running out.

The Pan American Health Organization said cash—not canned goods, clothing or even medicine—is the most urgent need of relief organizations dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch.

Dr. George Alleyne, the health organization's director, and Dr. Claude de Ville, chief of emergency preparedness and disaster relief, said that for governments and people who want to help the relief effort, money is the key.

"What is lacking is not medicine, what is missing is the money to buy the medicine."

4-H County Roundup is slated April 5

The annual Castro County 4-H Roundup will be held April 5 at the Extension office in Dimmitt, and a Mexican stack-up pot-luck meal is being planned.

The Parent/Leader Association will furnish the meat and 4-H'ers are asked to bring something else to add to the Mexican stack-up.

The first Method Demonstration will begin at 5:30 p.m. and presentations will follow until the dinner break at approximately 7 p.m. Method Demonstrations will continue after the meal.

"It is extremely important that you call in and reserve your time for your Method Demonstration," said Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal. "We will reserve 15 minutes per Method Demonstration. Please call the office and let us know what time you would like to do your Method Demonstration."

The District Roundup will be held May 1 in Levelland. All Senior 4-H'ers who qualify at District Roundup will attend State Roundup at College Station in June.

World Day of Prayer set Friday

The United Methodist Women will host this year's World Day of Prayer observance, and the public is invited to gather for a moment of prayer Friday at 4 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Dimmitt.

Theme for this year's program is God's Tender Touch and the worship service was written by Venezuelan Women.

Some of the specific prayer concerns will include racism, sexism, injustice, teenage pregnancy, violence, the unemployed, the homeless and the malnourished, wherever these might occur in the world.

World Day of Prayer observance is sponsored by the International Organization of Church Women United. All women from all denominations are invited to join in this time of worship and fellowship.

Introducing:

Dr. Margaret Bailey

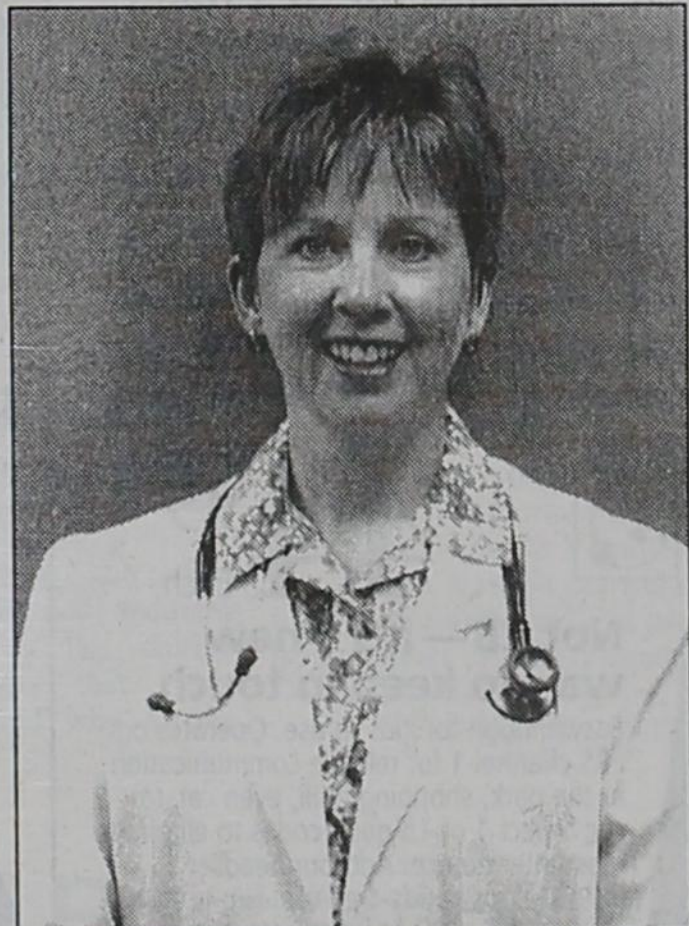
We are pleased to welcome Margaret Bailey, D.O., to the medical staff of the Castro County Hospital District.

Dr. Bailey comes here from Irving, where she has served as a family practice physician with Staff Care, Inc., since January 1998. Prior to that, she practiced for seven years in Conroe, both in solo and group practices.

A native of Michigan, she received an associate of science degree from Grand Rapids Junior College and a bachelor of science degree in nutritional science from Michigan State University, then earned a doctoral degree from the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. She served her internship at Doctors Hospital in Houston and her residency at the Conroe Regional Medical Center Hospital, a branch of the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston.

Dr. Bailey has three grown children and six grandchildren. She's a member of the Assembly of God, and lists as her hobbies gardening, camping, hiking, long-distance bicycling, traveling and photography.

Her professional affiliations include membership in the American Academy of Family Practice, Texas Academy of Family Practice, Texas



Dr. Margaret Bailey

Medical Association, American Osteopathic Association and American Academy of Osteopathy.

Dr. Bailey served temporary stints at Plains Memorial last winter; during that time she came to enjoy the Panhandle as she explored the region.

"I have found that I truly prefer the lifestyle that a smaller community affords, and Dimmitt seems to be populated with very nice and caring people," she said.

Dr. Bailey may be contacted by appointment at the Medical Center of Dimmitt, 647-2194.

Castro County Hospital District Plains Memorial Hospital • Medical Center of Dimmitt Welch Home Place • Home Health Agency • Hospice Care

Medical Center of Dimmitt is open 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9-11:30 a.m. Saturday.
Plains Memorial Hospital emergency room is open 24 hours a day.

You are invited to a
Baby Shower
honoring
Michelle McGrorey
(It's a boy!)
Thursday, March 11
from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
in the home of
Cheryle Pybus
1640 Sunset Circle, Dimmitt
Selections at Tots and Teens

Mr. and Mrs. Jack L. Edwards
and

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Rex Holder

request the honour of your presence

at the marriage of their children

Holly

and

Bryan Conaway

on Saturday, the thirteenth of March

nineteen hundred and ninety-nine

at two o'clock in the afternoon

First Baptist Church Chapel

Broadway and Avenue U

Lubbock, Texas

Reception following

Bridal shower honors Gleghorn

Kay Lynn Gleghorn, bride-elect of Wayne Flores, was honored with a bridal shower Saturday in the home of Glenda Sims.

The serving table was covered with a white Battenburg cloth lined with a maroon cloth.

A Texas A&M framed collage, a 12th Man jersey and a bronze A&M paper weight were featured table decor along with a silk floral arrangement of white hydrangeas adorned with grape ivy. Three brass candlesticks with maroon candles completed the table setting. Crystal appointments were used to serve guests fresh strawberries with fruit dip, miniature cinnamon rolls and gingersnap cream cheese squares along with almond tea.

Out-of-town guests were Kim Watson of Olathe, Kan., sister of the bride-elect; Clydie Flores of Henderson, mother of the prospective groom; Linda Gleghorn of Lubbock, the honoree's aunt; Pearl Cook of Lubbock, grandmother of the honoree; and Kristi Sims Cope of Midland, friend of the bride-elect.

Hostesses presented the bride with an upright vacuum cleaner and a silk floral swag.

Class of '59 sets reunion

The Dimmitt High School Class of 1959 will hold a reunion March 12-14 at the Senior Citizens Center in Dimmitt.

A class spokesperson said that old friends and family members of the class members are welcome to stop by and visit with those who are attending the reunion activities.

Organizers of the event estimate that about 40 to 50 class members and spouses will attend.

For more information, contact Glenn Odum at 647-4559 or Dee Brisco at 647-3515, 647-3266 or 647-7499.



PLAINS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL is honoring the social workers at Welch Home Place during the month of March. They are Simon Camarillo, MSW, (left) who works at Medical Center of Dimmitt and consults with Welch Home Place; and Kristi Batenhorst, LSW, who works full-time at Welch Home Place, providing group psychotherapy and family therapy.

Photo by Joyce Nelson

Hospital recognizes social worker month

A social worker in a health care facility plays a unique roll in the patient's life, according to Joe Sloan, administrator of Castro County Hospital District.

"At the Welch Home Place, for example, the social worker helps the family in making vital decisions for the patient's care," Sloan said. "During National Social Worker Month, I think it is important to recognize the vital service that these professionals give."

Simon Camarillo, MSW, who has worked full time at Castro County Medical Center since August 1998 and consults with Welch Home Place, explained that the social worker talks to patients and families who are thinking about using the mental health facility.

"After a medical diagnosis is made, we work with the family to understand exactly what services the patient needs, and what the family and patient can expect in the facility."

Kristi Batenhorst, LSW, who works full time with Welch Home Place, provides group psychotherapy and family therapy.

"People often believe it is normal for older individuals to be confused, depressed or withdrawn; however, these are very treatable symptoms in the elderly," she said.

The social worker also helps the family look at options for the patient's care after discharge.

"Our concern for the patient doesn't end when the patient walks out our doors," Batenhorst said. "Part of the patient's continuing good health is that the patient has the right level of care after leaving here."

Social workers are trained to look beneath the surface to determine

exactly what services the patient may require either while in the facility or after discharge.

"All kinds of organizations provide free or low-cost services," she said. "Our job is to help the patient's family find the services they need."

Bill Fernihough, LMSW/AP, noted that he oversees social work for the hospital, PMH Home Health Agency and PMH Hospice Care.

"Our profession is definitely one of the 'feel good' jobs," he said. "We always know that the primary focus of our job is to help people, and that's always a good feeling."

Weight Loss Puzzles Doctors

ATLANTA, GA -- Doctors were surprised when two separate studies found that a natural dietary supplement could help cause significant weight loss.

Although not conclusive, both studies found that patients receiving the formula called Bio-Rex 3000™ lost more than twice as much weight as those in a control group on the same fat reduced diet. Neither group was instructed to decrease the amount of food they ate or to increase their exercise levels. An article published in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* says that you don't have to decrease the amount of food you eat to lose weight, provided that you limit the fat.

According to a spokesperson for Phillips Gulf Corporation, the exclusive North American distributor of Bio-Rex 3000, the company is considering additional studies in order to get federal approval to make pharmaceutical claims. Currently, weight loss claims for the Bio-Rex 3000 supplement are limited. However, with the requisite approval, the company could say that Bio-Rex 3000 decreases sugar cravings, increases metabolism and interferes with the body's ability to produce excess fat.

Bio-Rex 3000 is currently available as a dietary supplement and plan in pharmacies and nutrition stores or by calling 1-800-729-8446 or visit our website at www.phillipsgulf.com.

Bio-Rex 3000 is available locally at:
LOCKHART PHARMACY
107 E. Bedford St. • 647-3392

Author's Note: This statement has not been evaluated by the FDA. Bio-Rex 3000 is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease. © 1999 PGC

Hear
The First United Methodist Church
Morning Worship Service
Sundays - 10:45 a.m.
On KDHN 1470 AM

Entomology practices to start Monday

County 4-H'ers are gearing up for a new judging season and the entomology judging team will begin practicing Monday at 6 p.m. at the Castro County Courthouse in Dimmitt.

Anyone interested in participating should attend this first meeting.

The initial meeting will be informative, outlining the contest and what is involved with identifying insects.

Insects are very interesting, colorful and important to life in general. Anyone interested in science can gain valuable learning experiences from learning about insects. Genetics, life processes and biochemistry all are important to a scientist, and all of these have important relationships with the study of entomology.

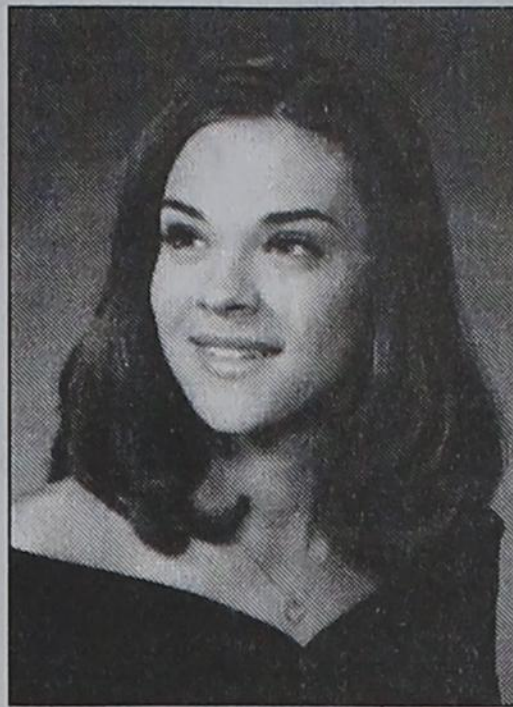
Practices will be held each Monday evening through May 1, when District Roundup is held. A first- and second-place Senior team at the District Roundup will continue on to the State Roundup at College Station this summer.

DYF to discuss stock show rule changes March 9

The Dimmitt Young Farmers will hold a special meeting to discuss possible rule changes for the 2000 stock show and the public is invited to attend.

The meeting will be held March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Dimmitt High School Ag Shop.

"We encourage anyone who's involved in the county stock show to attend and offer suggestions," said a spokesperson for the Dimmitt Young Farmers.



Miranda Turner

Miranda Turner qualifies for state piano competition

Miranda Turner, a senior at Dimmitt High School, received a Division I rating on a Class I piano solo Saturday at the UIL Solo and Ensemble Contest, held at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

Turner will advance to the UIL State Solo and Ensemble Contest in San Marcos at the end of May.

Turner performed *Sonata in D Major* by Franz Joseph Haydn. The adjudicator for piano solos was Ronald Shirey, a music professor at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth.

This is the fourth year Turner has qualified for state.

Addison is new pastor at Lee Street Baptist

Jeff Addison of Slaton has been named the new pastor of Lee Street Baptist Church in Dimmitt.

Addison, his wife and their three children, Jeffrey, Tori and Kaylee will be here on Sunday

Amarillo Little Theater show set here April 16

The Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce will sponsor the musical, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, in April at Dimmitt High School.

The show is a production of the Amarillo Little Theater and will be presented in Dimmitt on April 16.

The Amarillo Little Theater's *Always Patsy Cline* and *Smoke on the Mountain* played to packed houses throughout the Panhandle last year, said Bill Sava, executive director of the Chamber of Commerce.

Kindergarten will play in Amarillo Jan. 21-31, then will start touring the Panhandle.

"We're very fortunate to get this quality of a production in Dimmitt," Sava said.

The appearance of the show in Dimmitt is partly underwritten by the Texas Commission of the Arts.

Based on the award winning series of books by Robert Fulgham, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* has been called a "re-vue in the key of life."

Six storytellers take the audience through the entire life-cycle from kindergarten through adolescence to adulthood, old age and even death.

Sometimes whimsical, often poignant and generally hilarious, this play combines some of Fulgham's best stories with innovative staging and a fabulous rhythm and blues score.

The show offers inspiring lessons of love, loss and life.

RES plans open house

Richardson Elementary School will be having an open house for all grade levels next Thursday, March 11.

The public is invited to a Family Fun Night on March 11 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the school.

Parents and children are encouraged to visit the classrooms and enjoy science and math

activities together as a family at Richardson's cafeteria. Door prizes will be given away and refreshments will be provided.

Along with this event, the library will be having its annual Book Fair Monday through Friday, March 8-12, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Book Fair also will be open to the public during the Family Fun Night.

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647-4159

Church Directory

New Hope Memorial Baptist
300 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Melvin Walker III.....647-2889

Sunnyside Baptist
Sunnyside
Bennie Wright.....647-5712

First United Methodist
Hart
Kelly Inman.....938-2462

La Asamblea Cristiana
400 NW 5th, Dimmitt
Manuel Rodriguez

First United Methodist
110 SW 3rd, Dimmitt
Rusty Dickerson.....647-4106

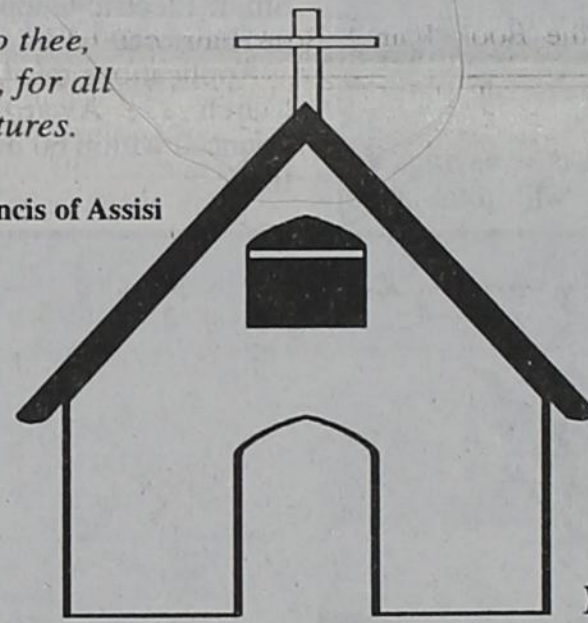
Iglesia De Cristo
E. Lee & SE 3rd, Dimmitt
Pedro A. Gonzalez

Immaculate Conception Catholic
1001 W. Halsell, Dimmitt
Guillermo Morales.....647-4219, 647-0105

Jesus and the Love of God Church
(Bilingual) 301 NE 7th, Dimmitt
Felix Sanchez.....647-3668

Praise to thee,
my Lord, for all
thy creatures.

—St. Francis of Assisi



Attend the
Church of
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First Baptist
302 Ave. G, Hart
Jeff Box.....938-2316

St. John's Catholic
Hart
Guillermo Morales.....647-0105

Church of Christ
SW 4th at Bedford, Dimmitt
647-4435

Rose of Sharon Temple
407 NE 4th, Dimmitt

Primeria Iglesia Bautista
9th and Etter, Dimmitt
Antonio Rocha

Abundant Life Family Church
113 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Tom and Kay Mullins

First Assembly of God
300 SE 2nd, Dimmitt
Larry Gilliam.....647-5662

First Baptist
1201 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
Howard Rhodes.....647-3115

Lee Street Baptist
401 SW 2nd, Dimmitt
Jeff Addison

First Christian
600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt

La Iglesia De Dios Del Promojenito
East Halsell Street, Dimmitt

Presbyterian
1600 Western Circle Drive, Dimmitt
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SPS asks Texas for permission to reduce prices and credit bills

Southwestern Public Service Co., has asked the Public Utility Commission of Texas to approve a \$44 million reduction in the fuel-cost portion of future SPS bills, and to approve a significant one-time credit to Texas customers' April electric bills.

Overall electricity prices in SPS's Texas service area will decrease an average of 8%. Similar reductions already are in place in the other states in which SPS serves.

Texas residential customers using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of service monthly would see a \$3.74 (6%) drop in their bills under the

proposal. If the one-time credit is approved, a home typically using 1,000 kilowatt-hours also would see a \$19.32 credit on the April bill. The credit would equal about one-third of the normal monthly bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours.

The credit and the proposed reduction in Texas customers' future bills reflect savings SPS has achieved in its costs for the fuels that fire the boilers at its power generating plants.

SPS's industrial class and commercial customers in Texas will see larger percentage decreases in future bills, and a larger one-time credit, than residential customers because fuel costs account for a greater portion of the larger-use customers' total electric bills.

SPS customers in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Kansas already are seeing the fuel-cost savings, part of a \$210 million, four-year reduction that SPS first announced in November for all customers. Regulations governing fuel-cost charges in those states are different from Texas' regulations.

In Texas, state-regulated utilities must charge a fixed price for electricity, and periodically must "true up" the revenues collected to equal the utility's actual costs of fuel. SPS's request is meant to reduce prices to customers earlier than SPS's next-scheduled "true-up" date, said David Hudson, SPS's director of regulatory and pricing administration.

SPS additionally proposed the one-time credit to more quickly reflect the recent reductions in fuel costs in Texas customers' bills.

The reductions reflect lowered costs of transporting coal by rail from mines in Wyoming to the coal-fueled SPS plants near Amarillo and Muleshoe. SPS noted in November that a dispute with the rail carrier—ongoing since 1990—had been settled, allowing significant savings. Also, costs of natural gas and coal generally are down, allowing additional reductions in customers' bills.

The future fuel-cost savings for Texas customers will total about

\$44 million annually. The proposed one-time credit in April will total \$16.5 million. SPS rates have decreased significantly since 1983.

"Southwestern's residential rates in 1999 will be 25% lower than they were 16 years ago," Hudson said. "Meanwhile, by contrast, overall consumer prices have increased 67% since 1983."

"Southwestern's ongoing efforts to control prices have been successful. The inflation-adjusted cost of electricity from SPS has declined 55% since 1983, which means the 'real' cost of electricity from SPS today is less than half of what it was in 1983."

Deaf Smith REC to award five scholarships

Deaf Smith Rural Electric Cooperative will award five \$2,000 scholarships in May to eligible applicants of immediate families of active members and active employees of the cooperative.

Applicants may be either traditional high school graduates or students who wish to continue their education after an extended absence. Applicants must be of good character as evidenced by at least three letters of recommendation from teachers, principals or counselors. Selection will be based on grade-point average, community activities, service work and recommendations. Secondary criteria will include written essays, SAT/ACT scores and academic honors.

Applications may be obtained from area high schools, Extension offices of Deaf Smith, Parmer, Castro and Oldham counties, or Deaf Smith Electric Cooperative's office in Hereford.

Applications must be received by March 12. Awards will be announced within 60 days of the deadline.



TANNER SELF OF DIMMITT (second from left) caught a calf at the Houston Livestock Show's calf scramble and that earned him a \$1,000 calf certificate from Corporate Delivery Systems. Self will purchase a calf and will spend the next year

raising it under the supervision of Jerry Mathis (left), his vocational agriculture teacher at Dimmitt High School. Also pictured with Self are (from third left) certificate donors Cathleen Cantrell, Tiffany Cantrell and Ray Cantrell.

Courtesy Photo

Self wrangles a winner in Houston calf scramble

In one of the most chaotic, heart-warming and exciting 10 minutes of the Feb. 20 matinee performance of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Tanner Self of Dimmitt took the Astrodome spotlight as one of 14 winners in the popular calf scramble.

Self, a Dimmitt FFA member, was one of 28 determined contestants who attempted to catch one of only 14 elusive calves, halter it and bring it into the winners' square in the middle of the 1.86-acre Astrodome arena.

In exchange for successfully capturing one of the calves, Self will receive a \$1,000 calf purchase certificate donated by Corporate Delivery Systems. The certificate is to be used for the purchase of a registered beef or dairy heifer, which he will raise under the supervision of Jerry

Mathis, his vocational agriculture teacher at Dimmitt High School.

"Each calf scramble participant has worked hard to earn his or her place on the Astrodome floor and each is a winner before the scramble even starts," said Jack Greenwade, chairman of the all-volunteer Calf Scramble Committee.

"Those like Self who are successful in the scramble have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. For him, this is just the beginning of a year full of challenges, hard work and excitement," added Greenwade. "Many times the scramblers and their donors become lifelong friends because of the bonds they have formed during the scramble year."

Although the scramble itself is entertaining, a serious side of the event begins once the show is over. Each of the students who receives a calf is awarded a calf purchase certificate, donated by an individual or a company, to buy a registered beef or dairy heifer. The heifer then becomes the basis of a year long project in which the scrambler must personally raise the animal, groom, fit, feed and care for it until it returns to the Houston Livestock Show the following year to participate in special competition.

Joining the scramblers in the competition are the top 20 high-point

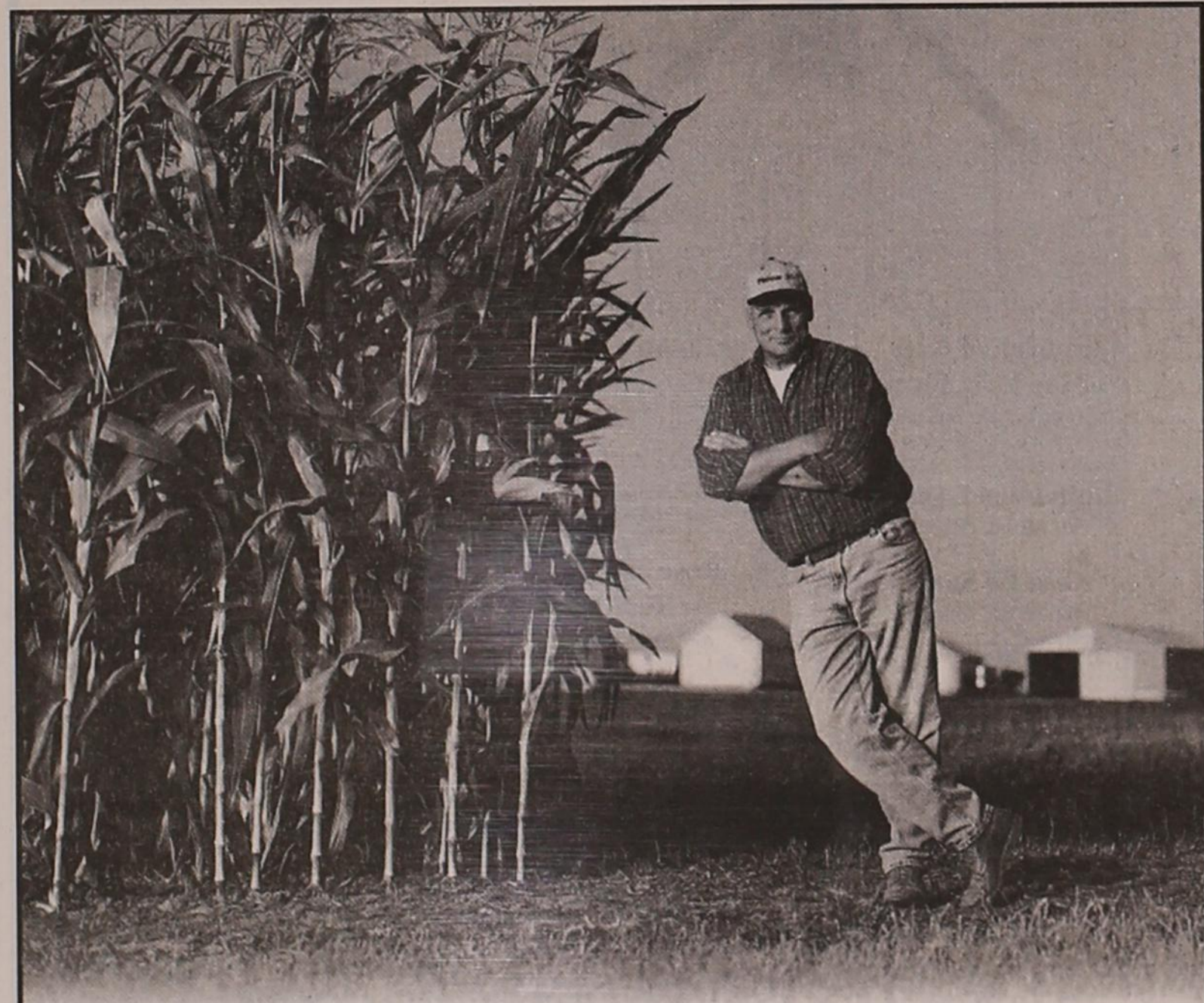
individuals in both the 4-H and FFA livestock judging contests and dairy judging contests. These winners also receive \$1,000 purchase certificates and take on the same year-long animal project.

Throughout the year, the students keep accurate and detailed records of their animal's progress, submitting records to both the show and the donor chronicling the heifer's development. The winner's agriculture science teacher or county Extension agent supervises the entire project.

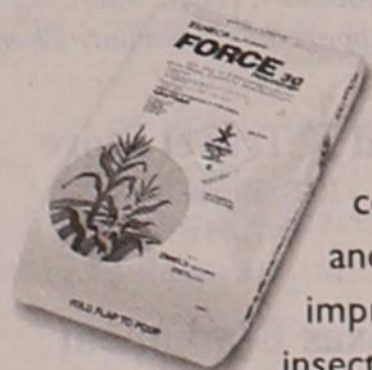
Each year, approximately 360 calf purchase certificates are donated. Since the calf scramble was added to the show's agenda in 1942, more than \$5.4 million has been awarded to scramble winners who have raised 14,605 animals.

Each year the show benefits Texas youth through individual scholarships and endowments to Texas colleges and universities. For the 1999-2000 school year, the show will contribute more than \$7.7 million in scholarships and other educational programs to Texas students.

According to Walt Disney's *Lady and the Tramp*, the only thing that they can't buy is the wag of a dog's tail.



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Consumer Club's weekly workouts begin March 16

The Consumer Decision Making Club of Castro County 4-H will begin weekly practices for the District Roundup on Tuesday, March 16.

Club members will meet each Tuesday night from 7 to 8:30 p.m. until District Roundup on May 1.

Those participating should be ready to work when they attend the practices, according to Castro County Extension Agent Marilyn Neal.

"The study guides are finally in the office," Neal said.

Those who cannot attend the meetings should contact Neal at the Extension office.

Bill payments accepted in Dimmitt again

Local customers of Southwestern Public Service Co. and of Energas Co. may pay their monthly bills at a location in Dimmitt again.

Payments can be dropped off at 107 NE Second, in the building with H&R Block. Those accepting the payments will be Reba Holt, Glenna Holt and Mary Lou Lumbra. They also will be able to make change and issue receipts.

It is being done as a public service. No reimbursement is offered to those providing the payment station.

Office hours at that location are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday during the tax season. After April 15, alternate hours will be announced.

4-H alumni group seeks new members

The new 4-H Friends and Alumni Association is looking for people who may be interested in becoming a part of the association.

The current membership stands at 533 individuals, including an honorary membership for Gov. George Bush, provided by the Caldwell County Volunteer Leader and 4-H members.

Those interested in joining should call the Extension office at 647-4115 for more information.

USDA rep to visit here several times

A representative from the US Dept. of Agriculture's Rural Development in Amarillo (formerly Farmers Home Administration) will be in Dimmitt the second Tuesday of March, May, July, September and November of 1999.

That means the rep will be here this Tuesday.

Office hours will begin at 10 a.m. but may vary as the field work mandates.

Appointments can be made by calling the Amarillo office at (806) 468-8600, Ext. 102. Appointments will ensure you prompt service.

The representative will be in the Castro County USDA Service Center, located at 114 W. Belsher, Suite A, in Dimmitt.



READY FOR REGIONAL—The Dimmitt High School Odyssey of the Mind "classics" team gave a public performance Sunday afternoon in preparation for the regional contest set for Saturday in Lubbock. The team will perform their long term solution of the problem, "O, My Faire Shakespeare," at 1:40 p.m. at

Estacado High School. The public is welcome to attend this portion of the competition free of charge. Team members are (front, from left) Jace Weaver, Thomas Brockman and Ryan Hays; and (back, from left) Morgan Hazel, Kelsey Welch and Rae Odom. They are coached by Kim Hays. Photo by Kim Hays

SEC accepting entries for youth tour contest

An all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. will be awarded to two area youth by Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

For 33 years, Swisher Electric has sponsored students on the "Government in Action" youth tour to Washington, D.C.

The winners will be selected on the basis of a speech contest to be held April 7 at Swisher Electric in Tulia.

Any 14- to 19-year-old attending school in Nazareth, Hart, Happy, Canyon, Kress, Tulia, Silverton or Olton, or those home-schooled in Swisher Electric's service area, is eligible to enter the contest.

Swisher Electric will have a representative visiting area high schools this week (March 8-12) to present a program about the trip, hand out entry forms and answer questions about the contest. Those interested who do not hear more about the contest through their school should contact Kacy Bivens at Swisher Electric Cooperative in Tulia at (806) 995-3567 or 1-800-530-4344.

The deadline for submitting entry forms is April 1.

The 1999 Youth Tour is scheduled for June 17-29. The winners of

Swisher Electric's speech contest will travel to Dallas where they will join other young people from all over Texas for the trip to Washington.

In Washington, students will visit their US Congressmen, watch the House and Senate in action, tour the Supreme Court building and visit the White House.

Housing sought for festival guests

Local residents are being invited to share their spare bedrooms with visitors to the second annual Ogallala Quilters Festival, set for April 8-10 in Dimmitt.

Over 1,000 people are expected to attend the festival, and places will be needed for some of them to stay.

"We would like for residents to allow a guest or guests to stay for one to three nights and to provide breakfast each morning," a festival organizer said. "Each resident who furnishes a room will be paid and the Chamber of Commerce will handle arrangements."

Entry deadline set Friday for Ogallala Quilt Festival

Friday is the deadline for quilt entries for the second annual Ogallala Quilters Festival, which will be held in Dimmitt April 8-10.

The entry fee is \$5 per quilt. Entry forms may be obtained from Bill Sava at the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce office at 115 W. Bedford, or from Joyce Davis at 647-5362, or from Doris Lust at 647-5637.

Completed forms should be mailed to Ann Powell, Quilt Show Chairman, Rt. 2, Box 222, Canyon 79015. The quilts must be delivered to Davis

at 1601 Sunset Circle in Dimmitt on or before April 6.

Members and non-members alike may enter up to three quilts. Ribbons, cash prizes, and "Silver Dollar" and "Fat Quarter" awards also will be given.

"At last year's show, there was some confusion as to whether local people could enter, and we want to emphasize that all are welcome to enter," said Davis, a member of the Ogallala Quilters.

Green Thumb promotes 'Hire Older Worker Week'

Each year the Green Thumb program promotes "Hire Older Worker Week" which spotlights our senior work force and the contributions they bring to the labor market.

This year "Hire Older Worker Week" has been designated for March 14-20, and during this week, employers of senior citizens are urged to profit from those employees' skills, abilities and experience.

There are two Green Thumb workers in Castro County: Mary Edna Hendrix at the Castro County Museum and Maria Reyna at the Hart School Library. Fay Varner of Dimmitt is field coordinator for the local program.

An area meeting for Texas Panhandle residents involved in the Green Thumb program will be held March 11 at the Hale County Senior Citizen Center in Plainview.

Since 1965, Green Thumb, Inc., has operated the Senior Community Service Employment Program which provides mature workers with part-time employment and training opportunities.

Funded through the US Dept. of Labor, the program serves primarily the rural areas in 132 Texas counties. Green Thumb gives older, economically-disadvantaged job seekers the opportunity of sharing their years of experience, hard work and dedication through work assignments in locally-based organizations. Through their participation,

the seniors maintain their independence as productive contributors to their communities and profit from job-skills training which allows for transition back into private sector employment.

"During this important week of March 14-20, let us focus upon the important contributions of our senior work force and strengthen our commitment to assure that this important resource continues in the mainstream of our state's economic and social development. Employers should invest in the skills and abilities of senior job seekers not only during Older Worker Week, but year round. Hiring experience, dependability, reliability and dedication is just good business."

For more information regarding senior employment and training opportunities, contact Green Thumb, Inc., P.O. Box 7898, Waco 76714; phone (817) 776-4081.

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Sports



Bobbies top No. 7 Bowie in semis

By DON NELSON

The Bobbies earned a place among the state's Elite 8 when they topped the No. 7-ranked Bowie Lady Rabbits, 68-60, in the Region I-AAA semifinals Friday night in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

It was a nip-and-tuck game until the final 2:30, when Shawna Kenworthy swished a 20-footer to give the 14th-ranked Bobbies a six-point pad and enable them to go into their keep-away offense.

Kenworthy drew the fouls and sank six of seven free throws in the final 1:57, and Stephanie Hinojosa added a basket after a steal to give Dimmitt a big 68-57 lead before Bowie's Jill Hamilton hit a three-pointer with eight ticks left to end the game.

Both teams featured fierce full-court defenses.

"Defensively, they were as tough as anybody we've played," Kenworthy said. "Nobody has ever pressed us much, and they did a good job of it. But I thought we handled it real well."

Bowie was playing without its starting point guard, Haley Gilmore, who blew out a knee in the Lady Rabbits' earlier victory over Comanche.

"I've never seen their first point guard, but I can tell you their second point guard is plenty good," said Kenworthy, who sometimes fought for breath as she battled an upper respiratory infection during the play-offs.

Although the fired-up Bobbies overshot the basket during much of the early going, they hit two of their first three and built an 8-1 lead in the initial 68 seconds.

Carol Summers opened with a three-pointer from the corner on the Bobbies' first possession, and Tonya Robertson scored underneath less than a minute later. Heather Wise was fouled on a three-point attempt and sank all three free throws at

6:52.

The Lady Rabbits didn't get their first field goal until the 5:50 mark, when junior post Crystal Lahman (50) sank an eight-foot turnaround jumper.

But then Bowie charged to a 10-12 lead before Dimmitt's Heather Black tied it at 12-12 with a six-footer from the lane to end the first-quarter scoring.

Dimmitt forged a six-point lead in the second period on treys by Hinojosa and Kenworthy, a smooth turnaround underhand by Robertson and a pair of Kenworthy free throws.

Senior post Molly Deweber sank a trey for Bowie, and Black answered with a basket and free throw. But then the Lady Rabbits reeled off seven straight points and took a 26-25 lead before Robertson sank a free throw at 0:33 to end the first half in another deadlock.

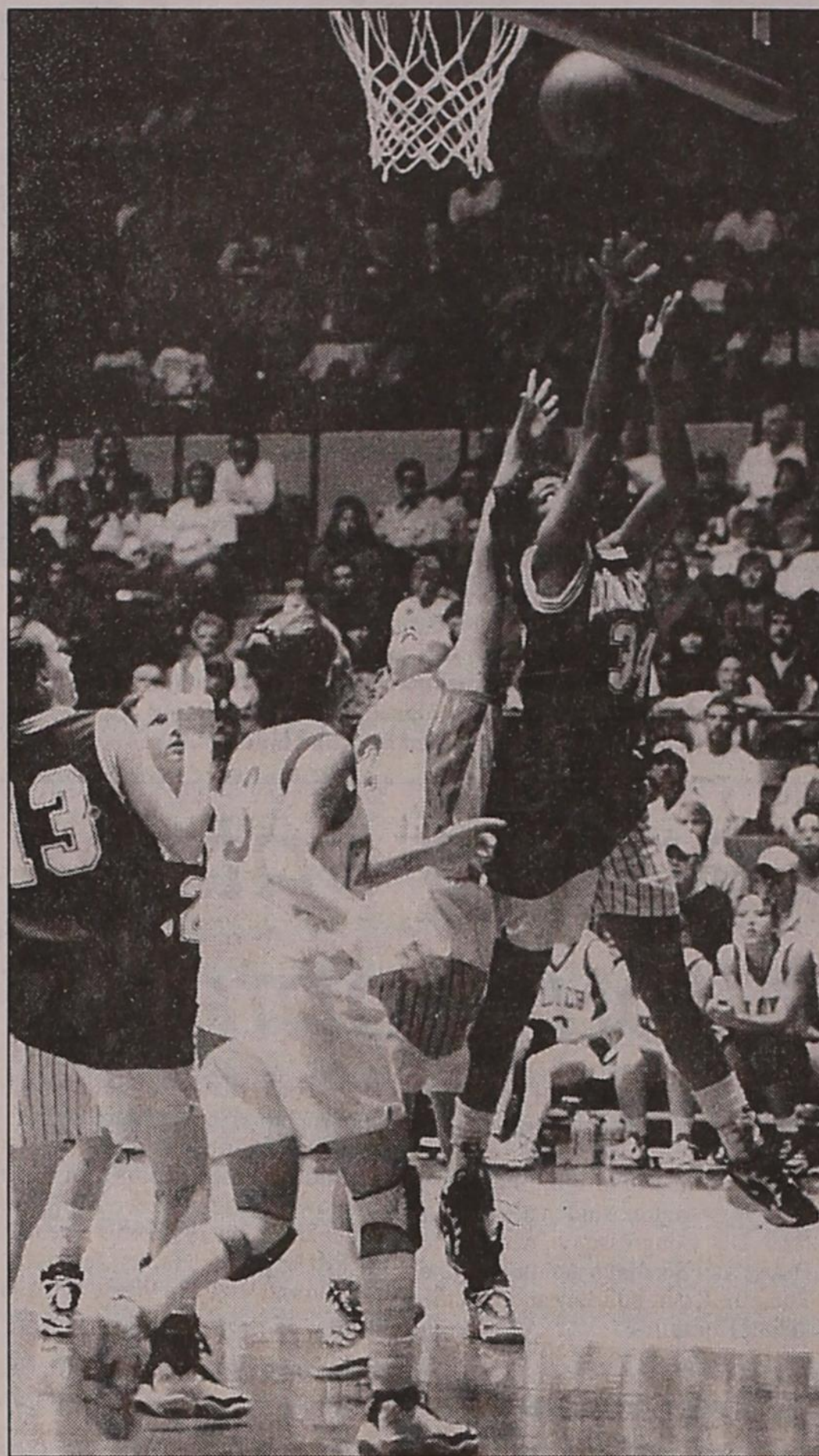
The defenses forced eight turnovers by Dimmitt and seven by Bowie in the second period.

In the third quarter, the Lady Rabbits took advantage of three Dimmitt turnovers in the first 1:10 and jumped ahead early on baskets by Deweber, Lahman and senior forward Lindsey Cantrell. Bowie owned a six-point lead before Dimmitt responded.

The Bobbies scored only three points in the first four minutes of the fourth—a 12-ft. jumper by Wise and a free throw by junior post Ironica Traylor—as the Lady Rabbits worked their full-court trapping press.

Summers and Robertson, who were on the bench nursing three fouls each, came back in at the 3:20 mark. Summers swished a trey at 3:05 and Hinojosa netted a pair of free throws at 2:36 to keep the Bobbies within striking distance.

After two more unanswered baskets by Bowie, Dimmitt still trailed by five, 34-39, with 1:20 remaining in the third. But Robertson sank a 15-footer and Summers netted a pair



of free throws, then Wise swished a trey at the 0:02 mark to close out the quarter at 41-39—the Bobbies' first lead of the second half.

That 7-0 run put the Bobbies back in command, and they never trailed again.

Coach Chris Edwards put all of his starters on the floor to begin the fourth, and they finished the job of running their opponent down with their 94-ft. game.

Although the Lady Rabbits tied it at 45 within the first two minutes of the fourth, they committed their seventh foul of the half and put the Bobbies into a free-throw bonus with 5:46 still left to play.

Kenworthy sank six of eight from the line in the final 5:46. Meanwhile, the Bobbies gave the Lady Rabbits only two free throws in the fourth quarter.

In all, Kenworthy knocked down 16 of 18 free throws (89%) for the game, and finished with a game-high 22 points.

Robertson scored 11, Wise and Summers 10 each, Hinojosa 9, Black 5 and Traylor 1 to round out the Bobbies' scoring.

Bowie's top scorers were Hamilton with 16, Deweber with 12 and

Lahman with 10.

Bowie scored 23 field goals to Dimmitt's 19, although the Bobbies netted six treys to the Lady Rabbits' three. From the floor, Bowie held a 49-44 edge on the scoreboard.

But at the free-throw line, Dimmitt sank 24 of 31 (77%) while Bowie collected only 11 of 16 (69%).

Despite his team's eight-point win over the state's No. 7-ranked squad, Coach Edwards said, "I thought we

were sluggish—I didn't think that we ever got it cranked up.

"We were a little tentative at first," he said. "We weren't moving real fluently. We weren't getting a lot of pressure on them."

But he acknowledged that the Lady Rabbits were a superb team.

"They did a great job of spreading out our press," Edwards said. "They're a real good up-tempo ball club."

"Their defense was pretty tough at

times, but I don't think we had a good game," said Hinojosa, who ended the game with a swollen eye. "It just wasn't one of our good games."

"They were pretty good," Summers conceded. "That was their first time at regional in a while, and I think they were pretty nervous. But they did pretty well; they kept fighting."

"We were pumped up a little too much at first," Summers added. "That's why we were overshooting the basket."

FRIDAY

Region 1-AAA Semifinal

at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum

Bobbies 68, Bowie 60

Dimmitt 12 14 15 27 —68

Bowie 12 14 13 21 —60

DIMMITT—Stephanie Hinojosa 3 2-3-9; Carol Summers 3 2-3-10; Heather Black 2 1-2-5; Shawna Kenworthy 3 14-16-22; Heather Wise 3 3-3-10; Tonya Robertson 5 1-2-11; Ironica Traylor 0 1-2-1. **TOTALS:** 19 24-31-68.

BOWIE—Lindsey Cantrell 4 1-2-9; Kayla Roland 1 1-2-4; Jill Hamilton 5 5-6-16; Crystal Hester 1 1-1-3; Elizabeth Metcalf 1 0-0-2; Molly Deweber 5 1-1-12; Jamie Henry 2 0-0-4; Crystal Lahman 4 2-4-10. **TOTALS:** 23 11-16-60.

Three-point goals: Dimmitt 6 (Summers and Kenworthy 2, Hinojosa and Wise); Bowie 3 (Roland, Hamilton and Deweber). **Total fouls:** Dimmitt 16, Bowie 22. **Fouled out:** Robertson of Dimmitt. **Record:** Dimmitt 23-10.

5K run, mile walk to benefit athletes

A five-kilometer run and one-mile walk and fun run will be held in Dimmitt April 10 and proceeds from the events will help send three local athletes to the North Carolina World Games this year.

The county athletes who will be competing at the world games include B.J. Klein and Joey and Dene Schacher.

The races will be held at the Dimmitt VFW Post Home, located east of Dimmitt, and entry fee is \$10 per person. Entry fee should be sent to Klein at PO Box 77, Nazareth 79063. Registration will be from 7 to 8:30 a.m. the day of

the race.

The one-mile walk and fun run will start at 9 a.m. and the 5K race is slated to start around 10 a.m.

There will be men's and women's division in each race. The mile walk and fun run will be split into five age categories: 20 and under, 21-30, 31-40, 41-50 and 51 and over.

The 5K run will include the following age divisions: 15 and under, 16-23, 24-30, 31-40, 41-50 and 51 and over.

Medals will be presented to first-, second- and third-place winners in each group.

For more information about the race, call Klein at 945-2237.

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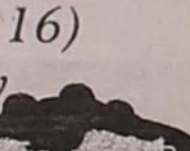
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KDHN 1470



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Subby's

Power lifters qualify for regional meet

Five power lifters from Dimmitt High School have qualified to participate in the Regional Championships March 13 in Colorado City.

Those who have qualified are Mitchell Gentry in the 114-lb. class, Gary Joett in the 148-lb. class, Michael Penney in the 181-lb. class, Beau Hill in the 198-lb. class, and Fred Traylor in the 242-lb. class.

Power lifting team members won places at the Floydada Power Lifting Meet Saturday.

Beau Hill was named Outstanding Lifter after he won first in the 198-lb. class with lifts of 565 in the squat, 320 bench, and 570 deadlift, for a total of 1,455.

Michael Penney took first in the 181-lb. class with lifts of 435 squat, 285 bench and 435 deadlift, for a total of 1,155.

Eric Gamez won sixth place in the 165-lb. class with a total of 1,030 from lifts of 370 squat, 235 bench and 425 deadlift.

Frustration

Bobbies fall to Shallowater in title game

By DON NELSON
For the third year in a row, the Bobbies made it to the Region 1-AAA Tournament, and for the second year in a row they ended their season among the state's Elite 8, battling for the regional championship.

But a trip to state eluded them again as they ran into an offensive buzz-saw in Saturday's title game. Last year it was the Comanche Maidens who defeated the Bobbies by 10 points in the regional finals en route to the state championship.

Saturday the scenario was replayed in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum, but this time it was the Shallowater Fillies dashing the Bobbies' hopes by 19 points, 72-53.

The Fillies, ranked No. 3 in the state by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, will face No. 1-ranked Winnsboro (38-2) today (Thursday) at 2 p.m. in the first round of the state tournament in Austin.

The Bobbies, who felt that they had not played up to par in their 68-60 win over No. 7-ranked Bowie in the late game of the regional semis Friday night, had one of their most

frustrating games of the season against the Fillies.

Senior guard Stephanie Hinojosa's two free throws were the only points the Bobbies scored until the game was almost five minutes old. After Shallowater's Shannon Corkery hiked the Fillies' lead to 10-2 with a layup off of a 3-on-2 fast break at the 3:29 mark, Bobbies Coach Chris Edwards called a 20-second timeout to settle his team down.

Then senior post Tonya Robertson finally scored Dimmitt's first field goal, a 12-ft. jumper, with 3:20 remaining in the opening frame, and the Bobbies got within 13-9 going into the second quarter.

The Fillies, whose flex offense showcased a potent combination of outside speed, inside height and overall accuracy, never trailed in the game.

By challenging the Fillies inside, the Bobbies closed to within two points twice in the second quarter, at 16-18 and 19-21, but Shallowater scored from all angles and distances to forge a 35-25 halftime lead, and in the third the Fillies extended their lead to an imposing 21 points, 54-33.

As the Bobbies mounted a 20-point charge in the fourth, the Fillies answered basket-for-basket and went

into an open control game with four minutes to go.

Robertson scored seven field goals including a trey and sank three of five free throws to pace Dimmitt's scoring with 18, while the rest of the starters scored below their norms. Carol Summers had 8, Stephanie Hinojosa 7, Shawna Kenworthy and Larissa Fuentes 5 each, Heather Black 4, Heather Wise 3 and Ironica Traylor 2.

Shallowater's sharpest shooters were 5-8 senior forward Kristin Warren (No. 13) with 17 points, 5-9 senior forward Meg Darden (No. 20) with 16, 5-8 senior post Keli Cox (No. 32) with 12, 5-3 junior guard Shannon Corkery (No. 12) with 9, and 5-3 junior point guard Lindzi Martin (No. 15) with 8.

"They're the best 3A team we've played all year, and they're the quickest team of any that we've played in any class," Coach Edwards said after the game.

"They run the flex offense so well, and we were really worried about their cuts," Edwards said. "We really thought we could match up with a zone and stop those cuts. They don't see much zone defense.

"But we let them get hot early," he said. "We weren't matching up real well. It was kinda like our feet were

in molasses. We never would pick up that girl going out to the short point, and that was the difference in the first half—we just weren't picking up that middle girl."

The loss didn't shake the coach's pride in his players, however.

"I can't say how big a heart our girls have," he said, "because when they were down by 20 in the second half they were still fighting, fighting, fighting."

"I'm proud of them. We were picked third in the district, and here we are."

SATURDAY
Region 1-AAA Championship
at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum
Bobbies 53, Shallowater 72

Dimmitt 9 16 8 20 —53
Shallowater 13 22 19 18 —72
DIMMITT—Stephanie Hinojosa 2 3-4-7; Carol Summers 3 1-2-8; Shawna Kenworthy 1 3-4-5; Heather Black 2 0-0-4; Larissa Fuentes 2 0-0-5; Heather Wise 1 0-1-3; Tonya Robertson 7 3-5-18; Ironica Traylor 0 2-2-2. **TOTALS:** 18 12-16-53.

SHALLOWATER—Kristal Mullins 2 0-2-4; Shannon Corkery 3 2-5-9; Kristin Warren 5 7-9-17; Linozi Martin 2 4-5-8; Meg Darden 7 0-0-16; Shelby Yarber 1 0-0-2; Stephanie Rackler 1 0-0-2; Ashleigh Roberts 1 0-0-2. **TOTALS:** 26 17-25-72.

Three-point goals: Dimmitt 4 (Summers, Fuentes, Wise and Robertson); Shallowater 3 (Darden 2 and Corkery). **Total fouls:** Dimmitt 21, Shallowater 16. **Fouled Out:** Kenworthy of Dimmitt. **Record:** Dimmitt 23-11.



Finesse

After drawing a crowd, Dimmitt's Heather Wise (33) dishes the ball off to an open teammate during the Bobbies' regional semifinals game against Bowie Friday night in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Wise scored 10 points as the Bobbies defeated the No. 7-ranked Lady Rabbits, 68-60.

Photo by Carter Townsend

Thanks for another exciting season, Bobbies!

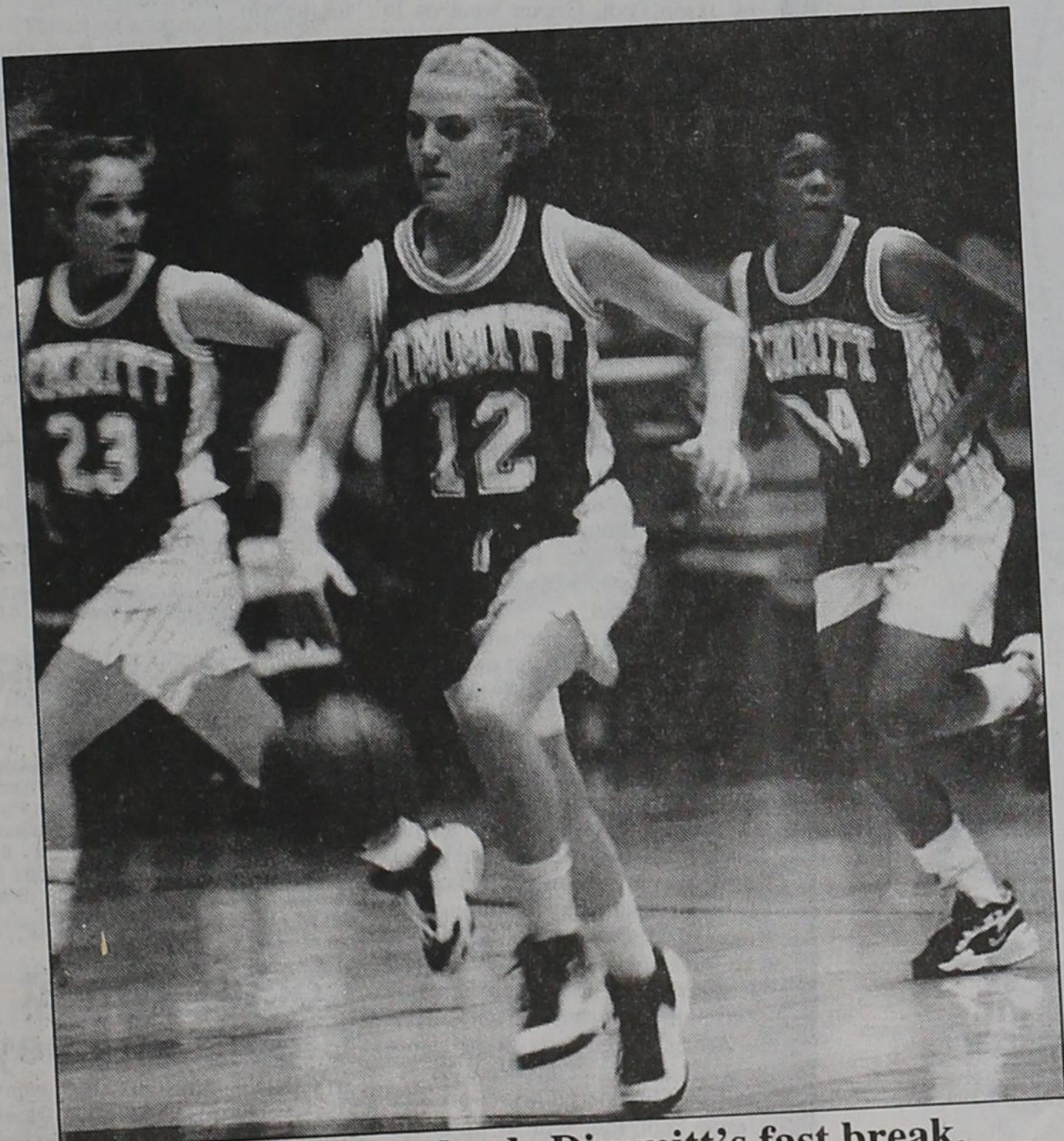
District Champions
Bi-District Champions
Area Champions
Regional Runner-up

Bobbies

22, Randall 42
32, Levelland 52
56, Borger 49
Queen's Classic
58, Lockney 66
80, Ray 75
72, Vega 62
43, Hereford 32
54, Amarillo High 66
57, Muleshoe 42
Seminole Tournament
87, Hobbs 76
66, Andrews 38
63, Seminole 66
Second Place
54, Friona 43
52, Coronado 90
Caprock Tournament
38, Whiteface 49
74, Lubbock Estacado 80
72, Trinity Christian 48
50, Littlefield 38
35, Slaton 52
58, Perryton 48
60, Tulia 45
60, River Road 43
58, Sanford-Fritch 46
75, Dalhart 56
57, Tulia 37
86, Perryton 80
53, Sanford-Fritch 34
65, River Road 57
63, Dalhart 57
61, Palo Duro 76
51, Slaton 50
72, Muleshoe 66
68, Bowie 60
53, Shallowater 72
District Record: 10-0
Season Record: 23-11

Bobcats

61, Randall 69
81, Levelland 72
61, Borger 43
67, Farwell 48
49, Hereford 54
Pioneer Classic
59, Lubbock High 61
67, Lubbock Estacado 44
75, Plainview 48
47, El Paso 52
70, Muleshoe 62
Seminole Tournament
50, Denver City 62
77, Andrews 53
71, Pampa 57
Consolation Champions
56, Friona 37
44, Coronado 54
Caprock Tournament
62, El Paso Bowie 51
66, Lubbock High 61
58, Frenship 60
65, Trinity Christian 70
60, Littlefield 56
76, Slaton 42
74, Muleshoe 70
54, Tulia 45
71, River Road 45
62, Sanford-Fritch 56
71, Dalhart 50
35, Tulia 54
64, Perryton 60
66, Sanford-Fritch 61
79, River Road 53
60, Dalhart 48
66, Perryton 54
43, Tulia 47
63, Littlefield 67
District Record: 9-1
Season Record: 23-11



Carol Summers leads Dimmitt's fast break, trailed by Shawna Kenworthy (23) and Tonya Robertson (34) in the championship game against Shallowater Saturday in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

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Swifts shut down Gruver inside to capture 40-37 win

Gruver wanted to keep the pace slow in its Class A area game with Nazareth.

The Greyhounds got their wish, but their dreams of returning to Austin were dashed in the face of a devastating Swift defense.

The game's pace was slow, but Nazareth controlled it when it counted. The Swifts adjusted their usual up-tempo game into more of a

half-court attack and prevailed over the taller defending Region 1-A champions, 40-37, Friday night at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo.

The game was a see-saw defensive battle from the beginning, with each team virtually eliminating the threat from their opponent's star player.

The difference was Nazareth had players pick up the slack left when Gruver shut down leading scorer

Kade Wilcox, allowing him just seven points, far below his season average of 18.

"We knew Gruver was going to play tough defense," said Nazareth Coach Mike Scarbrough. "We just wanted to be able to play with them. I had told Kade earlier that the further we went into the playoffs the more teams would be focused on stopping him."

"Gruver did a good job of shutting down our running game, but I felt like we did a good job in our half-court offense and we haven't been doing so well in that area most of the year."

With Wilcox virtually stymied most of the game, twin brother Ky Wilcox and senior guard Mitchell Brockman stepped up to take over the Swift offense, finishing with 16 and 8 points, respectively.

Gruver's top big man inside, 6-4 Jim Potts, was not a factor in the game, thanks to a great defensive effort by Nazareth's Cameron McLain, Matt Olvera, Stanton Wethington, Daryl Pohlmeier and others who sagged in on the center.

Potts' game was further hampered by foul trouble, which kept him on the bench most of the game. He finished with two points.

Gruver's other big gun, 6-2 post Bray Armes, was able to pick up 16 points while Potts' relief man, 6-4 Jason Shoulders, was good for 10 points.

"They got some rebounds and points inside, but I felt like we were able to stay with them and kept things from getting out of hand," Scarbrough said of his team, which doesn't have a player over 6-0 on the roster. "We were able to rotate our guys and keep fresh players on them and I think that helped us. They got tired near the end."

Several crucial plays by both teams near the end of the game could have swung the momentum in either direction. The difference was the Swifts were able to make their plays count while Gruver didn't.

Gruver had a chance to tie the game at 38 with 1:55 left when Garret Pool was fouled by Ky Wilcox and stepped to the line. The front end of his one-and-one found the bottom of the net and so did the second—but, the second shot was nullified because of a Greyhound lane violation and the Swifts were still in control by a point.

After the teams traded missed shots, Gruver got the ball back and

worked around until Jason Pool got off a shot from the baseline, but it bounced off the rim, and Nazareth's Mitchell Brockman nabbed the carom with time running out in the game.

The Swifts brought the ball downcourt and called a time out with 24 seconds left.

After the break, the Swifts ran 10 seconds off of the clock before Ky Wilcox was fouled by Garrett Pool.

The freshman calmly stepped to the line and dropped both free throws through the net for a 40-37 Swift lead with 14 seconds left.

Gruver had one last gasp to send the game into overtime, but Jason Pool missed back-to-back three-pointers, the last of which came at the buzzer.

Gruver pounded the ball inside early in the game, taking a 4-0 lead on an inside move and jumper and an offensive put-back by Armes in the first minute.

Nazareth countered with tough defense, turning a Kade Wilcox steal into an easy shot by Brockman.

After Gruver took the ball out and neared the half-court line, Brockman snuck up behind a Greyhound guard, knocked the ball out of his hands, right into the waiting hands of Ky Wilcox. Ky tossed the ball back to Brockman across the timeline and he drove inside for an uncontested layup to tie the game with 5:53 left.

Armes continued to dominate inside, nabbing his own missed shot and counting the second attempt for a 6-4 advantage.

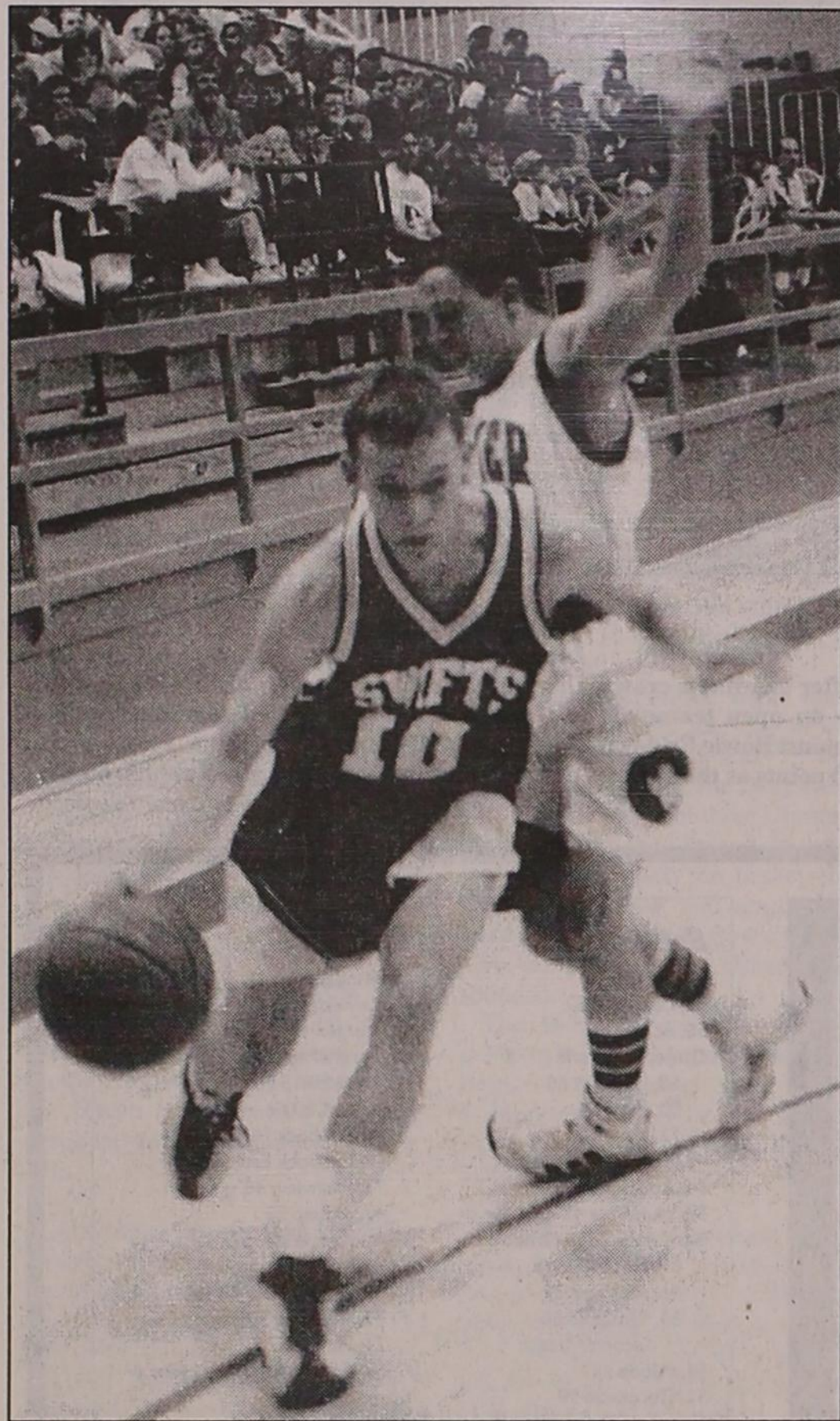
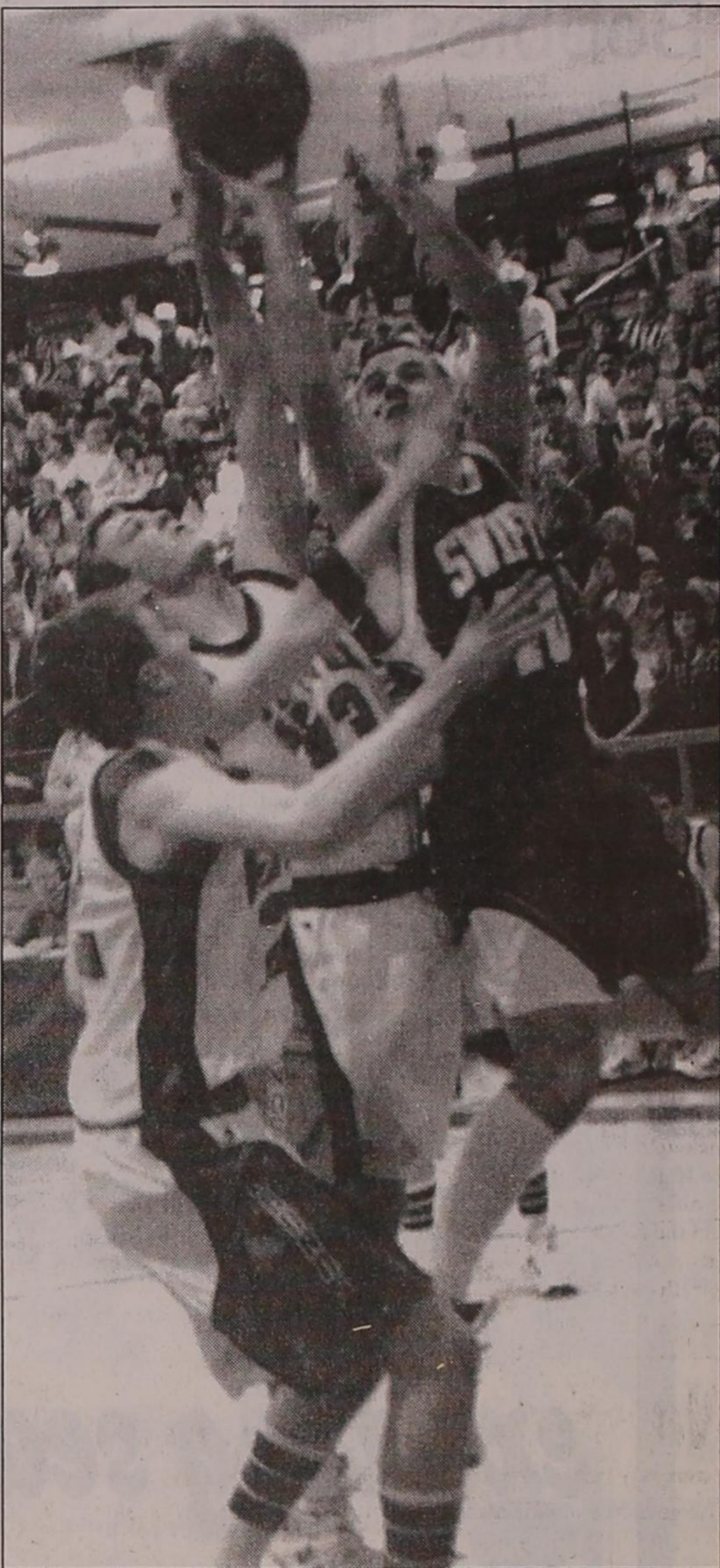
Ten seconds later McLain tied the game at six and Potts' troubles began as he fouled McLain on the play.

Another inside move by Brockman netted two more points for the Swifts and gave them their first lead of the game, 8-6.

Gruver tied it at eight on a shot by Shoulders, but Ky Wilcox answered that with a baseline drive and jumper off the dribble for another two-point Swift edge.

Armes picked up one of two free throws with 1:11 left to trim the lead to one, but Nazareth would take a 13-9 advantage by the end of the stanza. That lead came after a three-point play by Pohlmeier, who scored, then counted the free throw after Potts picked up his third foul.

Gruver went back to its earlier strategy in the second quarter, using an inside attack and penetrations to score seven field goals. The Greyhound defense limited Nazareth



MOVE IT!—Ky Wilcox (10) of Nazareth drives around a Gruver defender and nails a shot off the dribble Friday in Class A area playoff action at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo. Wilcox and the Swifts used a tough pressure defense to shut down Gruver's inside game and were able to pull out a 40-37 victory to advance to the regional quarterfinals. Wilcox led the Swifts in scoring with 16 points.

Photo by Dwayne Acker

CAMERON McLAIN (40) makes a strong move inside and scores despite being fouled by Gruver's Jim Potts (32) Friday in a Class A area playoff at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo. McLain's basket tied the game at 6 with 4:43 left in the first quarter. The Swifts went on to beat the defending regional champions, 40-37, in a defensive battle. Also trying to defend McLain on the play are Gruver's Bray Armes (33) and Kyler Barkley (22).

Photo by Dwayne Acker

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Bi-District Champions
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Regional Quarterfinalist**

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Nazareth Booster Club
Naz Stop
George Nelson Trucking, Inc.
The 19th Hole
Pro-Ag, Inc.
Schaeffer, Sutton, Schaeffer & Myatt
Terra International
Texas Equipment Co.**

to one field goal in the quarter—a shot by Pohlmeier after a Kade Wilcox steal.

But the Swifts kept it close with free throws. Nazareth attempted nine shots during the quarter and counted six of those, but Gruver was still able to overtake the lead, 24-21 at halftime.

After tying the game at 16 with 4:03 left on a baseline drive and shot by Jason Pool, Gruver went on to build a five-point lead. During that span, Gruver also got four points from Shoulders and two from Armes and Potts.

In the second half, Nazareth quickly erased Gruver's 24-21 halftime lead, taking a one-point advantage of their own on two quick baskets—Kade Wilcox's first of the game and a Brockman layup.

Armes regained a one-point lead for his team with 5:59 left after Nazareth allowed him three consecutive shots underneath. The third shot fell through.

Both teams were silent for the next two minutes, trading turnover after turnover and missing shot after shot before the drought was broken by Garrett Pool with a pair of free throws at the 3:49 mark for a 28-25 Greyhound lead.

Potts picked up his fourth foul on a rebound with 1:45 left in the third and went to the bench again.

Seconds later Ky Wilcox used a soft touch to get his shot to fall, narrowing the deficit to 28-27 by the end of the period.

During the third, Gruver hit just one of 15 shots from the field and made two free throws, but Nazareth couldn't take control, hitting just three of 13 shots themselves.

Gruver would hold a three-point lead early in the fourth quarter before Nazareth took over.

Armes scored early in the stanza but his shot was answered by Ky Wilcox. Shoulders followed a missed Jason Pool shot with a tip-in for another three-point Gruver lead.

Ky Wilcox cut it to a point, hitting one of two free throws with 7:04 left. He tied the game seconds later, getting a steal and driving coast-to-coast for a layup to knot it at 32.

Gruver took the lead, 34-32, on a fade-away baseline jumper by Dan Odom with 4:53 left.

Nazareth didn't waste any time in

recapturing that lead, using a special play to get Kade Wilcox his first and Nazareth's only three-pointer of the game—as he was falling to the ground amid several other players.

Nazareth never trailed again.

A Ky Wilcox basket made it a three-point Swift lead with 3:37 left.

Gruver would pull within a point twice, but Nazareth made 3-of-4 free throws down the stretch to hold on for the win.

Gruver hit more shots from the field than the Swifts (Nazareth was 14-of-39 while the Greyhounds were 15-of-51), but Nazareth had better luck from the free throw line, hitting 11-of-18 attempts while Gruver made just 7-of-11.

Gruver dominated the boards, out-rebounding the Swifts, 38-27.

CLASS A AREA PLAYOFF at Palo Duro High School

	Swifts 40, Gruver 37			
Nazareth	13	8	6	13 —40
Gruver	9	15	4	9 —37

NAZARETH—Ky Wilcox 5 6-10—16; Matty McLain 0 0-0—0; Blake Birkenfeld 0 0-0—0; Kade Wilcox 2 2-2—7; Stanton Wethington 0 0-0—0; Matt Olvera 0 0-0—0; Daryl Pohlmeier 2 3-5—7; Cameron McLain 1 0-0—2; Mitchell Brockman 4 0-0—8.

GRUVER—Garrett Pool 1 3-4—5; Bray Armes 6 4-6—16; Jason Shoulders 5 0-0—10; Jason Pool 1 0-0—2; Jim Potts 1 0-1—2; 1 0-0—2.

Three-point goals: Nazareth 1-6 (Kade Wilcox); Gruver 0-11. **Steals:** Nazareth 11 (Kade Wilcox 3, Ky Wilcox and Matt Olvera 2); Gruver 3 (Jason Pool 2). **Turnovers:** Nazareth 18 (Ky Wilcox 6), Gruver 10 (Garrett Pool 5). **Rebounds:** Nazareth 27 (Ky Wilcox 5, Mitchell Brockman 5), Gruver 38 (Bray Armes 11).

Locals win at Clovis tourney

Eight Dimmitt High School tennis players won placings at the Clovis Invitational Tennis Tournament held recently in Clovis, N.M.

Kristen Doss took the consolation championship in girls singles, and Rachel Harman won sixth.

In boys doubles, Gabriel Garcia and Jason Riggs took third; and Dale West and Jeremy Bishop took eighth.

In boys singles, Raymond Powers placed sixth and Josh Flores was seventh.



GOTCHA! Nazareth's Mitchell Brockman penetrates the Gruver defense to pick up two of his eight points Friday in an area playoff game at Palo Duro High School in Amarillo. Gruver concentrated on shutting down the Swifts' leading scorer, Kade Wilcox, but that left Brockman open and he did the damage, especially in the first quarter, when he picked up six points. Looking to rebound is Nazareth's Stanton Wethington (24). Nazareth edged Gruver, 40-37, to stay alive in the playoffs.

Photo by Dwayne Acker

Nazareth

with Uirgie Gerber, 945-2669

A large crowd of basketball fans traveled to Amarillo Friday night to support the Nazareth Swifts and their coaches, Mike Scarbrough and Rick Price, in the Class A area playoff game with Gruver at Palo Duro High School.

It was a very tense game, but the Swifts managed to defeat Gruver, 40-37. Earlier in the week, the Swifts beat Adrian, 77-62, for the bi-district title.

Good luck to the Swifts, who were scheduled to play Irion County

Method Demo practices to start March 15

4-H'ers interested in presenting a Method Demonstration at the county or district level will begin practicing on Monday nights, with the first practice session slated for March 15.

Those who would like help with their project should call the Extension Office at 647-4115.

Practices will be held from 4 to 5:30 on Mondays beginning March 15.

in Lamesa Tuesday night in a regional quarterfinal matchup.

Prayers are asked for Marvin Jones, Sister Jane Brockman, Regina Steffens, Florene Brockman, Patricia Kern Butler of San Antonio and Deanna Heiman Huseman of Amarillo, who had surgery Monday morning at Baptist/St. Anthony's Hospital in Amarillo.

We are happy to have Evelyn Backus back home. She spent the past week at Plains Memorial Hospital in Dimmitt.

Rose Birkenfeld and Lesley Birkenfeld visited with Rose's brother, Joe Decker, in Wichita Falls over the weekend. Rose also took in a quilt show at Munday with Bertha and Betty Wilde.

Who's New

OUT OF TOWN

It's a boy for Billy and D'Anna Scroggins of Dalhart. Their son was born Friday at 8:46 a.m. in Coon Memorial Hospital in Dalhart. He weighed 8 lbs., 3/4 oz., and was 21 inches long. He has been named Bryan Gregory. Grandparents are Randy and Barbara Scroggins of Dimmitt and Teresa and David See of Carlsbad, N.M.

Irion County edges Swifts, 53-49, in regional quarters

A little bit of height and a lot of rebounds paid off for the Irion County Hornets in the fourth quarter Tuesday as they came from behind to down the Nazareth Swifts, 53-49, in a Region 1-A quarterfinal at Lamesa.

The Hornets started a massive lineup including 6-5 center Dan Schkade, 6-2 guard Chad Robertson and 6-1 guard Ryan Moynihan. Sixth man Matt Foster at 6-4 also towered over the Swifts, whose tallest players are 6-0.

Irion County used its superior height to pound away on both ends of the floor in the fourth quarter, holding Nazareth to two field goals and eight total points in the stanza, and exploding with 16 points of their own for the win.

Nazareth had controlled the game most of the second quarter and in the third stanza, and the Swifts held a 41-37 lead after three.

The Swifts went right at Irion County inside and had success, despite the height deficit, but rebounds hurt down the stretch. For the game, the Hornets out-rebounded the Swifts, 47-29.

A couple of missed Swift layups early in the fourth quarter allowed Irion County to chip away at the Nazareth lead as the Swifts went through a scoring drought from the start of the fourth quarter until the 4:45 mark. By then Irion County had taken over momentum.

The score was tied at 41 and 43 and Nazareth even held a 46-43 advantage with 2:53 left, but an offensive put-back by Schkade and a three-pointer by Robertson with 2:06 left gave the Hornets the lead for good.

Nazareth pulled within a point with 1:03 left, then got the ball back with 18 seconds left, but a shot by Matty McLain with three seconds left wouldn't fall and Irion County got the rebound.

Nazareth immediately fouled Foster with two seconds left and he sealed his team's win by making the first of two free throws, then getting his own rebound on the second, following it with a layup for the 53-49 final.

Irion County jumped out to an early 12-6 lead, using four free throws by Robertson to get on the board. Then Schkade took over, scoring eight points. Nazareth got its first six points from Mitchell Brockman, Kade Wilcox and Stanton Wethington.

Back-to-back Schkade shots gave the Hornets the 12-6 lead with 2:56 left, but Nazareth's defense shut Irion County down after that.

The Swifts cut that lead to a bucket by the end of the quarter, scoring two straight baskets—the first on an offensive rebound by Wethington and the next on a layup by Brockman after a Kade Wilcox steal.

Irion County took a 13-10 lead early in the second, but Ky Wilcox found his shot, hitting a pair of free throws to pull Nazareth within one.

After a Schkade basket, Ky Wilcox drove down and scored against Schkade and the big man fouled. He made the ensuing free throw to tie it at 15.

Nazareth turned two Hornet turnovers into points to take a 19-15 lead with 4:40 left in the half.

Irion County came back to tie it at 19 and the teams traded baskets for the rest of the half as Irion County went on to tie the score at 21, 23 and 25 before the Swifts managed a 27-25 lead at the break.

The Swifts held a five-point lead with 4:10 left in the third quarter, using a patient offense to get the open shots inside.

Cameron McLain hit a shot from the baseline and Brockman added a pair of jumpers inside the paint to build the lead.

During that four-minute span, Irion County was held to a free throw by Foster and one jumper by Richardson.

Nazareth maintained control over the second half of the stanza, allowing the Hornets to draw no closer than two points.

Irion County's Moynihan scored to start the fourth and Nazareth turned cold, missing its first four shots, including two layups. During that drought, Kade Wilcox was forced to take a seat on the bench after he picked up his fourth foul early in the stanza.

The Swifts were whistled for four fouls during a one-minute span early in the quarter, and that helped the Hornets, as they tied the game at 41 on free throws with 5:25 left.

Ky Wilcox, who had both of Nazareth's fourth quarter field goals, picked up the first with 4:45 left, nabbing a defensive rebound and driving coast-to-coast for a layup.

Kade Wilcox was fouled on a three-pointer with 2:53 left and he made three free throws for a 46-43 Swift lead—their last of the game.

Ky Wilcox fouled out with 18 seconds left, sending Luke Kinney to the line for two shots. Kinney missed both, and Wethington got the rebound. The Swifts worked down the floor, looking for an open shot. Matty McLain got off the shot with three seconds left, but it bounced off the rim, right into Foster's hands.

Irion County claimed the win by outscoring Nazareth 10-3 over the final 2:53.

Leading scorers for Nazareth were Ky Wilcox, who finished with 14. Brockman added 12, Kade Wilcox chipped in 11, Wethington finished with 6, Cameron McLain added 4 and Matt Olvera had 2.

Irion County was paced by Schkade's 19 points, 13 of which came in the first half. Robertson finished with 18, Foster had 12 and Moynihan and Coby Baumann had 2 apiece.

Nazareth finished its season with a 19-11 mark while Irion County advances to the Region 1-A semifinals against Paducah Friday.

The Hornets improved to 24-6 with the win.

REGION 1-A QUARTERFINAL at Lamesa Middle School

Swifts 49, Irion County 53	
Nazareth 10 17 14 8 —49	
Irion County 12 13 12 16 —53	
NAZARETH —Mitchell Brockman 5 2-2-12; Matt Olvera 1 0-1-2; Stanton Wethington 3 0-0-6; Cameron McLain 1 2-2-4; Ky Wilcox 5 4-5-14; Kade Wilcox 3 5-7-11. TOTALS: 18 13-24-49.	
IRION COUNTY —Coby Baumann 1 0-0-2; Dan Schkade 8 3-4-19; Chad Robertson 5 6-6-18; Ryan Moynihan 1 0-2-2; Luke Kinney 0 0-2-0; Matt Foster 4 4-8-12. TOTALS: 19 13-24-53.	
Three-pointers: Nazareth 0, Irion County 2 (Robertson 2). Rebounds: Nazareth 29, Irion County 47. Turnovers: Nazareth 8, Irion County 19. Fouled Out: Ky Wilcox of Nazareth.	

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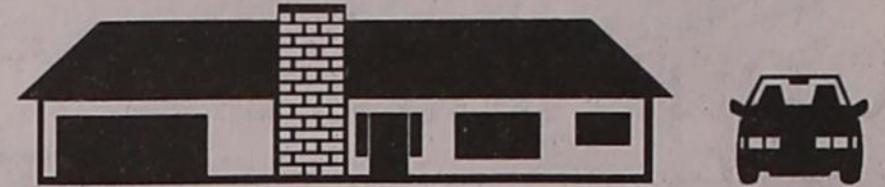
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Classified Advertising

Buy, Sell or Trade



1—Real Estate Homes & Land

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE

All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act of 1968 which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin, or any intention to make any such reference, limitation or discrimination."

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are informed that the dwellings advertised in the newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis.

HOUSE FOR SALE: Three bedroom, 1-3/4 bath, 2-car garage, 1,800-square foot brick home, 17 x 22 shop, 12 x 20 pump house/game room, 3/4 acre. \$225 per month avg. income from water sales. Huggins Addition. \$63,500. (806) 291-8695. 1-46-tfc

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THREE BEDROOMS, one bath, one-car garage, storage shed, nice patio. \$37,500.

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3—Real Estate For Rent

3—Real Estate For Rent

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5—For Rent, Misc.

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6—For Sale, Misc.

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10—Agricultural Services

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CUSTOM SWATHING AND BALING. Call David Schulte at 945-2342, home; or 647-7740, mobile. 10-48-52p

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18—Services

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20—Help Wanted

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21—Wanted, Misc.

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22—Notices

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21. Lost and found
22. Cards of thanks
23. Legal notices

23—Lost & Found

STRAY LIVESTOCK: Found in the southwest area of Castro County is an approximately 600 pound Black Angus. Owner should contact Sheriff CD Fitzgerald at the Castro County Sheriff's Department or call 806-647-3311. 23-48-7tc

25—Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

Castro County Commissioners Court is now accepting bids on sanding and painting metal works on the Gazebo and courthouse steps, weather seal benches on gazebo and caulk bricks on gazebo. Bids will be taken at Castro County Judge's Office, Courthouse Room 111, Dimmitt, Texas, until 5 p.m. March 5, 1999. Bids will be opened March 8, 1999, at 10 a.m. Castro County reserves the right to reject any or all bids and the right to waive formalities. IRENE MILLER, Castro County Judge 25-47-2tc

The following list of famous American lawyers who never went to law school might surprise you: Patrick Henry, Daniel Webster, Abraham Lincoln, Stephen Douglas and J. Strom Thurmond. Clarence Darrow attended one year, but dropped out, preferring to study on his own.

South Plains 4-H Council sets meeting

The South Plains 4-H Council and Adult Leaders Association Committee will meet March 23 at the Texas A&M University Research and Extension Center in Lubbock.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m. with a catered meal.

The 4-H Council will be making plans for the May 2 meeting, will plan for council officer elections, discuss upcoming committee responsibilities and discuss the officer training and retreat.

The leaders also will plan for a May 2 meeting and will decide the winners of the 4-H Distinguished Leader Award and the Meritorious Service Award. They will discuss the VLAT plans for 1999 and the South Plains 4-H Quarterly Newsletter. They also will name individuals to serve on the Projects Advisory Committee.

True heather is not common in the United States, but many plants belong to the heather family, including the blueberry, cranberry, azalea, and rhododendron.

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NATIONAL USED BUS sale. March 18-20. Motor homes, campers, seated coaches and more!! All priced to sell in 3 days. Register to win a free car. ABC Bus Companies, Dallas/Fort Worth. 1-800-222-2877.

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SOUTHERN COLORADO RANCH Sale! 80 acres - \$49,900. Enjoy panoramic mountain views & sensational sunsets over the Rockies from this gently rolling acreage. Year round access, telephone and electricity. Ideal for horses. Excellent financing. Call now 1-877-676-6367, Hatchet Ranch.

More about

Corn growers meeting . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

a majority of producers' interests in this country," he told the group. He said ACG and other groups recently did a poll on farm policy, asking producers whether they supported lifting the loan rate cap and increasing the loan rate. "They overwhelmingly supported it in this country by a 4-1 vote margin. By that same margin they believe that our safety net isn't adequate. 80% of our producers believe our safety net isn't adequate. 72% of farmers believe farm programs should control production in times of surplus. 60% of producers believe they wouldn't be in business for the next five years if things don't change."

Dittrich said his organization is working real hard to try to change things around.

"We know what the solutions are. We have been fighting for a decent farm bill for several years now. We haven't succeeded yet, but maybe our time's coming around, because we've got documentation now to show that the farm bills we've had haven't worked," Dittrich said. "The '85 farm bill drastically lowered the loan rate, saying that if we didn't do that we wouldn't have an export market, and we would basically export our way to prosperity. Just the opposite has happened. On corn we

went from exports of 2.1 billion bushels on average in the 80's to an average of 1.7 billion bushels in the 90's, and our loan rate dropped a dollar during that time."

"At the same time, the processing and exporting industry has profited greatly while consumers have gotten no break at all. The farmers have taken it and the consumers have taken it and the processing industry has reaped enormous profits."

Dittrich said there are four truths that need to be cleared up:

"1. The current trade and farm bill has nothing to do with the record low farm prices we have now. The truth is this farm bill virtually eliminated meaningful minimum price supports that farmers had in the past. The mere elimination of minimum prices meant that it was inevitable that farm prices would collapse when supplies became burdensome. Oversupplies were also inevitable with this farm bill since all mechanisms were eliminated that would allow production to be decreased when either demand fell or mother nature was kind to us. All mechanisms that allowed farmers to isolate excess inventories from the market during high supply periods were also eliminated, causing further price drops. And finally it was completely unnecessary to legislate these price depressing actions in order to achieve the planning flexibility that was so widely praised."

"2. Meaningful minimum price floors (higher CCC loan rates) result in lower export volume. In the first four years of the 80's corn price floors averaged \$2.55 a bushel or close to \$4.20 a bushel in 1999 dollars, adjusted for inflation. Corn export volume during those four years was actually higher than the average of the first three years of the Freedom to Farm Bill. Freedom to Farm price floors are less than \$1.80 per bushel for corn due to marketing loan provisions. A similar situation exists for wheat."

"3. If we eliminate trade sanctions our troubles will be greatly reduced. The truth: USDA predicts that if trade sanctions were eliminated to the six largest potential customers out of about 100 countries that we have trade sanctions on, if we eliminated those sanctions, exports would only increase about 1%. So that's a fallacy that if we lift these trade sanctions we are going to export our way out of it. That's not the case."

"4. Urban representatives wanted cheap food policy and they stand in the way of getting help for farmers. The truth is we don't have a cheap retail food price policy in this country. We only have a cheap farm price policy. This was illustrated in strongest terms recently when consumers paid a national average price of \$3 a pound for pork cuts while farmers were getting 15 cents a pound or less for their equivalent live weight of their hogs. The truth is the major pushers of poor farm

policy and the major supporters of large agribusiness come from farmer states—come from my home state and your home state."

"The list of deceptions is far too long to complete here. Thousands of farmers and ranchers will be forced out of business in 1999. It's time to stop lies, stop the damage and start telling the truth, and solving the real problems."

He said the farm problem is simply a pricing issue.

"Our pricing system is fundamentally flawed in this country," Dittrich said. "We're unique to business in this United States. We work completely different than a lot of other businesses. We have thousands of producers that sell to a few buyers and they're getting fewer every time."

"We need to address this system and there's only a couple of ways we can do it. I feel there are two solutions. One is government control through farm policy, higher loan rates and support market prices, and manage supply and provide a balance between buyer and seller. We've had it in the past in the 30's. The 1933 Agriculture Adjustment Act set it up. It worked good for 50 years, and it's been slowly taken away from us. Or two, some type of private marketing system, such as a private grain marketing system or some type of collective bargaining. Those are our only two solutions."

Gerald McCathern, a retired farmer from Hereford, told the group about a meeting set for March 4 at 7 p.m. at the Hereford Independent School District administration building at US 385 and 15th Street.

He said Dr. Eugene Schroder of Springfield, Colo., will present information on the Agriculture Adjustment Act of 1933 and its provisions that should still be in force today.

He said it established a parity formula to protect agriculture and consumers and the President was given authority to implement it.

"If the President agrees and takes positive action, we will see an immediate change (in the farm situation). If he doesn't agree, farmers will file a class action law suit for non-conformance of the law," McCathern said. He said it will be the largest class action law suit ever filed in the US. He said that more information about the legislation and the plan of action set out by the Parity Group that is leading the action will be explained at the Hereford meeting."

Lyle Robinson of Tulia, a former manager of a rural electrification cooperative there, talked to the group about deregulation of electric utilities.

He said there is now a new "golden rule"—"He who has the gold, rules."

He encouraged farmers to stand together on the issue.

"Too many give up too quickly," Robinson said.

More about

1:1

(Continued from Page 1)

VEGA' and WIN STATE' on the sign boards at the First United Bank, the Hays Company, Mr. Burger and the Pizza Hut.

The Vega girls are coached by Justin Schultz, a Dimmitt High School graduate.

Bowie's side of the stands was behind the press table in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum Friday night, and the Lady Rabbits' fans were about as outspoken as most in complaining about the officiating, etc.

But after the game ended in an eight-point Dimmitt victory, and as the Bowie girls wept openly while high-fiving the Dimmitt girls in the post-game promenade, I heard several Bowie fans—both men and women—yell, "Good luck, Dimmitt!"

I appreciated that.

I want to publicly congratulate Dimmitt's Bobbies and Bobcats on another successful basketball season and commend them for all their hard work and for their exciting styles of play.

It was really fun to follow the kids. I re-lived a bit of my youth with each of the boys, and fell in love with each of the girls.

With the Nazareth Swifts' loss to Irion County Tuesday night in the regional quarterfinals, the basketball season in Castro County is now over, a week or two earlier than we're accustomed to.

Best news I've read this week: "Southwestern Public Service Co. reported Tuesday that it has purged the Y2K bug from 83% of its computer code to ensure that the lights stay on for New Year's Day, 2000."

"SPS's parent company, New Century Energies of Denver, has a 350-member staff—including 100 hired guns from IBM and a number of retired programmers familiar with old code—working to repair remaining Y2K problems, according to Chris Clemens, Year 2000 communications manager. . . ."

Whatever else goes haywire when we hit the millennium, Lord, don't let it be the electricity!

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McLain's Corner, Hart
Naz Stop, Nazareth
The Pancake House
Pay & Save Food, Hart
Red X Travel Center
Richard's Town Pump
Town & Country Food Store

More about

City . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Classic Cable, which also is the cable provider for Dimmitt. Dimmitt did not receive a reduction.

Malone mentioned that the city of Tulia has put in a translator tower for the benefit of its citizens who only want basic local television stations. He suggested looking into a similar project for Dimmitt.

Malone also told the council about the concern of a local businessman who is worried about teens obtaining alcohol from his family's liquor store through the help of adult accomplices. City Attorney Jack Edwards suggested that local police might work with the area law enforcement alliance in setting up a stake out to help curb the problem.

Shot clinics set this week

The Texas Dept. of Health will conduct immunization clinics in Dimmitt and Nazareth this week.

One clinic will be held in Dimmitt today (Thursday) from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Dimmitt Middle School. Another clinic will be in Nazareth Monday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the school.

The immunization clinics will offer protection against several childhood diseases.

Vaccines offered will give protection against polio, diphtheria, lock jaw (tetanus), whooping cough (pertussis), measles, mumps, rubella and HIB (haemophilus influenza type B).



SWISH!—Dimmitt guard Stephanie Hinojosa (10) sinks a jumper in the Bobbies' regional semifinals game against Bowie Friday night in Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Positioning for a rebound is teammate Shawna Kenworthy (23). Hinojosa sank nine points in Dimmitt's 68-60 win over the state's No. 7-ranked team.

Photo by Carter Townsend

Tractor show set in Plainview

The Texas Plains Two-Cylinder Club will hold the seventh annual Ollie Liner Show March 12-14 in Plainview.

The show will be held at Business 87 South off of I-27.

All makes of tractors, gas engines and antique equipment is welcome at the show and all exhibits will be locked up at night.

Parades will be held at 2 p.m. each day of the show.

Admission to the show is free and door prizes will be awarded. A concession stand will be available and proceeds will benefit the Hale County Farm and Ranch Museum in Hale Center.

Exhibitors are invited to set up their exhibits on March 12 from 1 to 6 p.m. The show hours will be from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 13

and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 14.

Strickland earns dean's list honor

Jonathan Strickland of Dimmitt has been named to the dean's list for the fall 1998 semester at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Ark.

Students making at least a 3.5 grade-point average and up to a 4.0 average for the semester are placed on the dean's list.

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Police Calls

Feb. 24, two Comanche, Okla., men, ages 22, and 18, were jailed on third degree felony charges of

possession of marijuana.

Ollie Mae Baker of Dimmitt told police Friday that someone took

\$545 from her apartment without her consent.

Two juvenile females, both age 16, were caught shoplifting at the ALCO store in Dimmitt on Saturday. Items valued at a total of \$51.76 were taken by the two. Taken were two bottles of body mist, a box of bandages, lotion, hair twisters, a pain reliever product, toothbrushes, three sets of fake fingernails, mascara and eyeshadow. They were charged with theft over \$50 and under \$500.

Wanda Barnett at Allsup's in Dimmitt told police that someone drove off without paying for \$11-worth of gasoline early on Sunday.

Abraham Sanchez of Dimmitt told police early Feb. 24 that someone kicked the front passenger door of his 1999 Saturn while it was in the 300 block of Northwest Second.

Roger Myers of the Westway south plant in Dimmitt told police early Sunday that someone entered the plant premises and opened some valves.

Manuel Silva of Dimmitt told deputies early Sunday that two windshields were broken out of a 1986 Chevrolet pickup while it was parked just east of Dimmitt on CR 614. The damage was done by a brick. Cost of repairs was estimated at \$400.

James Buxkemper of HCR 1, Nazareth, told deputies Monday that there were unwanted persons trespassing on private property.

Jose Luis Flores Sr. told deputies Saturday afternoon that a 7-year-old

boy was bitten on his arm by a dog on a farm south of Dimmitt.

Tracy Chavers of Dimmitt told police Feb. 24 that a 6-year-old boy was bitten on his leg by a dog.

Alcohol-related offenses during the past week included:

—Early Friday, a Dimmitt man, 55, was jailed for DWI, second offense, breath test refused, and for driving with license suspended.

—Early Saturday an 18-year-old Nazareth woman for DWI, first offense.

—A 41-year-old Dimmitt man Saturday afternoon for public intoxication.

Arrests on warrants, for parole violations, or to serve time after court during the past week included:

—Feb. 24, a Dimmitt man, 48, jailed after court on charges of failure to render aid

—Sunday night a suspect was arrested on a warrant for driving while license suspended.

—Monday afternoon, a Dimmitt man, 24, on a warrant for violation of probation, stemming from possession of a controlled substance.

Last Thursday about 10 p.m., a 55-year-old Dimmitt man was charged with DWI, third offense (breath test refused), and driving with license suspended after his 1993 Ford pickup was involved in a one-vehicle accident 16.2 miles northwest of

Dimmitt near the intersection of FM 2397 and FM 1057.

DPS Trooper Ron Mann reported that the man had been heading east on FM 2397. As he approached the intersection with FM 1057, he disregarded a stop sign and struck a four-branched highway sign. He attempted to leave the scene, but the vehicle became high-centered in the bar ditch.

Monday at 5:55 p.m. about 5.2 miles east of Nazareth on SH 86 a 1997 Kawasaki four-wheeler driven by Jason Birkenfeld, 14, of Tulia, struck a 1996 Pontiac Grand Am driven by John David Lockridge, 32, of Plainview.

Mann said that Birkenfeld was heading east in the south bar ditch and made a left turn into the roadway. He didn't see the car, which was heading west on SH 86. The four wheeler hit the left side of the car, causing moderate damage. The four-wheeler had heavy damage to the front end.

Mann said Birkenfeld's life was saved by the fact he was wearing a helmet. The youth was taken to Swisher Memorial Hospital in Tulia and was reported in stable condition as of Tuesday morning.

Lockridge was given a ticket for no liability insurance. Birkenfeld was given a ticket for unsafe left turn and operating an unregistered motor vehicle.

Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. Marcia Rose Lee, 30, of Hart was involved in a one-vehicle accident on SH 194 about 1.1 miles southeast of Hart. She was taken to Plains Memorial Hospital by private vehicle, with possible injuries.

Mann said Lee had been driving a 1998 Chevrolet Cavalier southeast on SH 194. She reported she had been changing tapes in the tape player when the vehicle wandered onto the shoulder of the roadway. She over-corrected, causing the vehicle to roll over one time, coming to a rest on its wheels in the south bar ditch.

The vehicle had moderate damage. Lee was ticketed for unsafe speed and for driving without being secured by a safety belt.

Wednesday at 12:30 a.m. Erasmo Castillo, 44, of Hart, avoided injury in a one-vehicle crash 6.6 miles southeast of Dimmitt on CR 519, 2 miles south of CR 616. DPS Trooper Keith Smith said Castillo was heading south on CR 519, when his 1987 Chevrolet pickup plowed into a herd of cattle on the roadway. The vehicle hit four animals, then flipped one half time, landing on its top in the west bar ditch. Castillo was not injured due to the fact that he was wearing his safety belt, according to Smith. Damage to the pickup was rated heavy. Two animals were killed and one of those still living may have to be destroyed.

Obituaries

Anselmo Alcocer Jr.

Funeral Mass for Anselmo Alcocer Jr., 44, of Hart, was held Tuesday afternoon at St. John's Catholic Church in Hart with Rev. Guillermo Morales, pastor, officiating.

Burial was in Hart Cemetery under direction of Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home. Vigil services were held Monday at 8 p.m. at the church. Mr. Alcocer died Feb. 26 in Hart. He was born Oct. 1, 1954, in Tulia. He moved to Hart from Nazareth in 1967. He graduated from Hart High School in 1974. He was an agricultural laborer and a Catholic.

He is survived by his parents, Pete and Florinda Barretero of Hart; and two sisters, Concepcion Lara of Morehead, Minn., and Julia Perez of Amarillo.

Alice Glenn

Funeral services for Alice Glenn, 76, of Dimmitt, were held Monday afternoon at Foskey-Lilley-McGill Funeral Home's Ivey Chapel in Dimmitt, with Rev. Howard Rhodes, pastor of First Baptist Church of Dimmitt, officiating.

Burial was in Westlawn Memorial Park of Dimmitt.

Mrs. Glenn died Feb. 24 at 8:50 p.m. in Amarillo.

She was born Feb. 26, 1922, in St. Louis, Mo. She married Larue V. Glenn on June 6, 1942, in St. Louis. He preceded her in death on March 21, 1997.

They moved to Dimmitt in 1970 from Louisville, Ken. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include three daughters, Janis Glenn of Amarillo, Bonnie Downing of Oklahoma City, Okla., and Melissa Glenn of Dimmitt; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Michael Goolsby, Thomas Richburg, Wade Maynard, Abe Sanchez, Lewis Heck, and Kelly Goolsby.

Gertrude Mayfield

Services for Gertrude Mayfield, 73, of Amarillo, sister of Eddie Swain of Dimmitt, were held Monday afternoon in Emmanuel Baptist Church with the Rev. Jesse Cortez, pastor, officiating.

Burial followed in Amarillo's Llano Cemetery East under the direction of Warford-Walker Mortuary of Amarillo.

Mrs. Mayfield died last Thursday, Feb. 25.

She was born in Cameron and grew up in Morton. She moved to Amarillo in 1953. She was a housewife and a member of Emmanuel Church.

Survivors include three sons, Dwight Cook of Phoenix, Ariz., Eugene Cook of Farmington, N.M., and James G. Mayfield of Amarillo; four daughters, Linda J. Rainwater and Roma R. Rainwater, both of Lubbock, and Sabrena Anderson and Sharena R. Mayfield, both of Amarillo; two sisters, Charlie M. Grabert and Ruby Allen, both of Amarillo; five brothers, Gipson and Leonard, both of Houston, Eddie Swain of Dimmitt, Daniel (Danny) of Amarillo and George Swaine of Texarkana; and a number of grandchildren.

Betty Jean Heller

Funeral services for Betty Jean Heller, 73, of Plainview, and formerly of Hart, were held Monday afternoon in First Baptist Church of Plainview with Rev. Travis Hart of the church and J. Dean McNamara of Vista Care Family Hospice officiating.

Burial was in Plainview Memorial Park by Wood-Dunning Funeral Home of Plainview.

Mrs. Heller died Feb. 25.

She was born in Meadville, Mo., and moved to a farm near Edmonson after her marriage to Everette Heller in 1946 in Amarillo. They moved to Hart in 1951, then moved to Plainview in 1980, where they started Heller Insurance Agency. She was church pianist at Edmonson First Baptist Church and worked with primary- and junior-age boys for many years.

She is survived by her husband; two sons, Gary Heller of Plainview, Jerry Heller of Dimmitt; a sister, Mary Dewey of Meadville; a brother, Dick Stelplugh of Springfield, Mo.; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Vista Care Family Hospice, 4418 Olton Rd., Plainview 79072.

Maria Lopez

Maria Lopez, 80, of Littlefield, mother of two Dimmitt men, died Sunday.

Rosary was recited Tuesday evening in Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Littlefield. Mass was celebrated Wednesday morning at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with the Rev. Patrick Maher officiating. Burial followed in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Hammons Funeral Home of Littlefield.

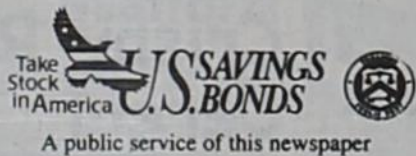
Mrs. Lopez was born in Karnes City and had lived in Littlefield since 1948. She married Crescencio Lopez in 1932 at Karnes City. She was a homemaker and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and of the church's prayer group.

Survivors include four sons, Carlos M. Lopez of Falfurrias, Florencio Lopez and George Lopez, both of Dimmitt, and Paul Lopez of Littlefield; two daughters, Eva Gonzales of Woodrow and Estela Lopez of Amarillo; a brother, Florencio Martinez of San Antonio; two sisters, Maggie Rodriguez of Bovina and Carolina Franco of Brownfield; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were George Lopez, Victor Gonzales Jr., Marcos Lopez, Floyd Lopez, Paul Lopez and Michael Lopez.

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COMING next month

Coyote Story Series
Part one of a two-part series on coyotes affecting the High Plains.

Tips for properly pruning weather-damaged trees

**Angie Grand Pre
Assistant Editor**

Trees on the High Plains recently suffered from ice, snow and high winds. The winter storm that hit the area just over a month ago dumped nearly a foot of snow on top of inches of ice and was accompanied by up to 40 mile an hour wind gusts.

Many tree limbs, as well as highline poles, snapped. Some damage was so much that trees split in half, according to Dan Vaughan of KLawn in Canyon.

"Freezing rain with snow on it is heavy," Vaughan said. "The ice collected more snow and made it even heavier."

The damage will have a long-term effect.

"This was a disaster for the urban tree population," said pathologist Dr. David Appel of Texas A&M University in College Station. "The results of this will be going on for the next 20 years."

The damage called for major tree pruning, a task not perfected by many.

But West Texans attending tree health conferences in Lubbock and Amarillo Feb. 25 and 26 were educated on pruning techniques by Appel.

"Wind breakage causes a hole in the cambium, which is what makes the tree rings," Appel said. "When that happens, the cambium responds in order to seal the area so that the wood does not decay. This is compartmentalization."

In order for compartmentalization to occur successfully, a proper cut must be completed.

"The first cut is an under cut. This is done to prevent stripping of the bark," Appel said. "The second cut is an over cut."

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the first cut is a shallow notch made on the underside of the branch, outside the branch collar. This cut will prevent a falling branch from tearing the stem tissue as it pulls away from the tree.

The second cut should be outside the first cut, all the way through the branch, leaving a short stub.

The stub is then cut just outside the branch bark ridge/branch collar, completing the operation, according to the USDA.



Dan Vaughan of KLawn in Canyon uses proper pruning techniques for trimming this Elm tree.

ANGIE GRAND PRE

cording to the USDA.

The goal is to cut the smallest area of the limb and leave the smallest wound possible, according to Appel.

Proper pruning cuts are made at a node, the point at which one branch or twig attaches to another.

To find the proper place to cut a branch, you first must locate the branch collar. The branch collar is the bulge formed at the base of a branch. Cutting into the branch collar allows decay to expand into the main trunk of the tree.

See pruning on page 10

"This was a disaster for the urban tree population."

Dr. David Appel



Step 1



Step 2



Step 3

Step 1: An under cut is being performed on a tree branch to prevent bark stripping when the branch falls.
Step 2: An over cut is used to remove the branch from the tree, leaving a stump.
Step 3: The stump is removed using a cut parallel to the branch collar, not flush with the trunk. Photo story by Ag Reporter Assistant Editor Angie Grand Pre.

CALENDAR

**January 22 - November 15
Museum Exhibit**

"Plowing the Plains," an exhibit about the agricultural history of the Southern Plains will be displayed in the Alexander Photo Gallery at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. Call 806-651-2244 for information.

**March 8 - April 10
Steer Validation**

Steers for the Texas Cattle Feeders Association's Junior Fed Beef Challenge must be validated by April 10. For information, call 806-358-3681.

March 11-12**Estate Planning Seminar**

A Farm and Ranch Estate Planning Seminar will be held in Amarillo. For information, call 409-845-2226.

March 22 - May 10**Continuing Education Class**

West Texas A&M University in Canyon will be have a continuing education class on Pharmaceutical and Biological Use in Beef Cattle that meets Monday and Wednesday evening. Attendees will gain a thorough knowledge about the use of medication and biologicals in cattle. Call 806-651-2037 for information.

March 27**Livestock Judging**

The Clarendon Livestock & Horse Judging will be sponsored by Clarendon Junior College. For information, call your local extension office.

March 28-30**TSCRA Trade Show**

The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association will be holding a trade show at the Fort Worth Convention Center. Come check out 250 ag-related products and services. For information, call 817-332-7064.

March 29 - April 12**Biennial Election**

The Texas Wheat Producers Board will hold its 14th biennial mail election. Deadline for getting one's name on the ballot is March 12. For information, call 806-352-2191.

April 15**Camp Deadline**

Applications are now being taken for the Bobwhite Brigade Wildlife Camps. The camps are four-day programs for high school students ages 13-17. Contact Dale Rollins at 915-653-4576 for information.

To put an event here,
fax it to 806-655-0823.

Farm Bureau names winner

Mark McCormick of Floydada was named winner of the Texas Farm Bureau's Outstanding Young Farmer and Rancher Contest during the organization's 65th annual convention in Lubbock.

The award is presented by the state's largest general farm organization to honor the young leaders of agriculture and to recognize the hard work and determination needed to succeed when starting out in the challenging business of farming and ranching.

McCormick and his wife, Kelly, who have two children, raise cotton, milo, wheat and cattle in Floyd County. The 34-year-old farmer at-

"I try to stay tried and true. What's worked in the past seems to keep working."

Mark McCormick

tributes his success to staying a steady course.

"We make slight changes in our game plan every year to go along with the curve ball Mother Nature throws us," McCormick said. "I try to stay tried and true. What's

worked in the past seems to keep working."

As winners, the McCormicks receive one year's use of a 3/4 ton, Quad-cab, 4X4 Dodge diesel pickup, compliments of Southern Farm Bureau Casualty Company; one year's use of a Case-IH Magnum Series tractor, compliments of Case-IH; one year's use of a DTN (Data Transmission Network) system; a \$500 cash award from Dodge; a custom-made Montana Silversmith trophy belt buckle; an expense paid trip to the TFB annual meeting; and an expense paid trip to Albuquerque, N.M. to compete in the national contest.

Plainview man receives ag award

S. M. True, Jr. of Plainview, a farmer and rancher affectionately known as "Mr. Texas Agriculture," is the recipient of a 1998 Distinguished Texan in Agriculture Award, The Texas A&M University System's agriculture program announced.

"S.M. True is a leader committed to service, as is evidenced by his lifelong contributions to Texas agriculture," said Dr. Edward A. Hiler, vice chancellor for agriculture and life sciences. "His leadership efforts have helped countless farmers and ranchers across this great state while promoting the vitality of the Texas agricultural industry."

"We are indeed proud to recognize the service of this great Texan through presentation of this award."

True received his award Dec. 2 at the annual Texas Farm Bureau meeting in Lubbock. The award was established in 1992 to honor leaders in Texas for outstanding leadership and significant contributions to Texas agriculture.

True's influence on Texas agriculture has come primarily through his involvement in an extraordinary range of issues and organizations — especially his work with local, state and national farm bureaus.

"S.M. True, Jr. is a stalwart among Texas agricultural leaders because he has given a lifetime of distinguished service to agriculture," said Bob Stallman, the current Texas Farm Bureau president. "His leadership in Texas agriculture continues to play important roles in the success of the Texas farmer

and rancher and agribusiness."

True has been a Texas Farm Bureau member since the 1950s and has held many elective office positions at various levels.

For his efforts, True received the Meritorious Service Award from the Texas Farm Bureau in 1994.

True produces cotton, grain sorghum, soybeans, wheat and beef cattle in the Plainview area.

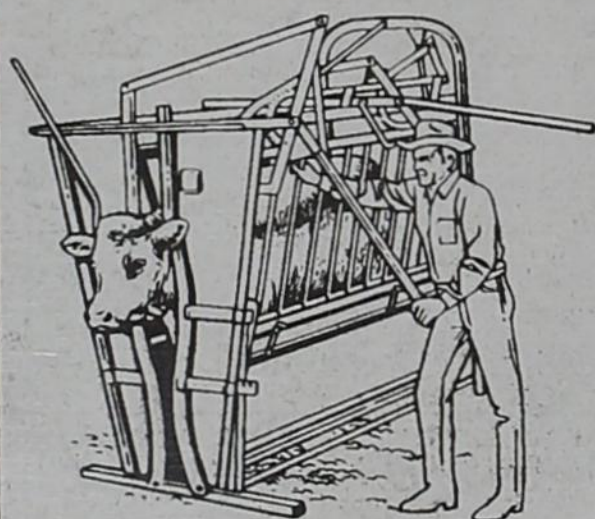
A native of Goree in Knox County and a World War II Navy fighter pilot, True attended Texas Tech University before his military service.

He is a board member of the High Plains Hospital in Hale Center and along with his wife, the former Anna Jean Roberts of Plainview, is a member of the Plainview First Methodist Church.



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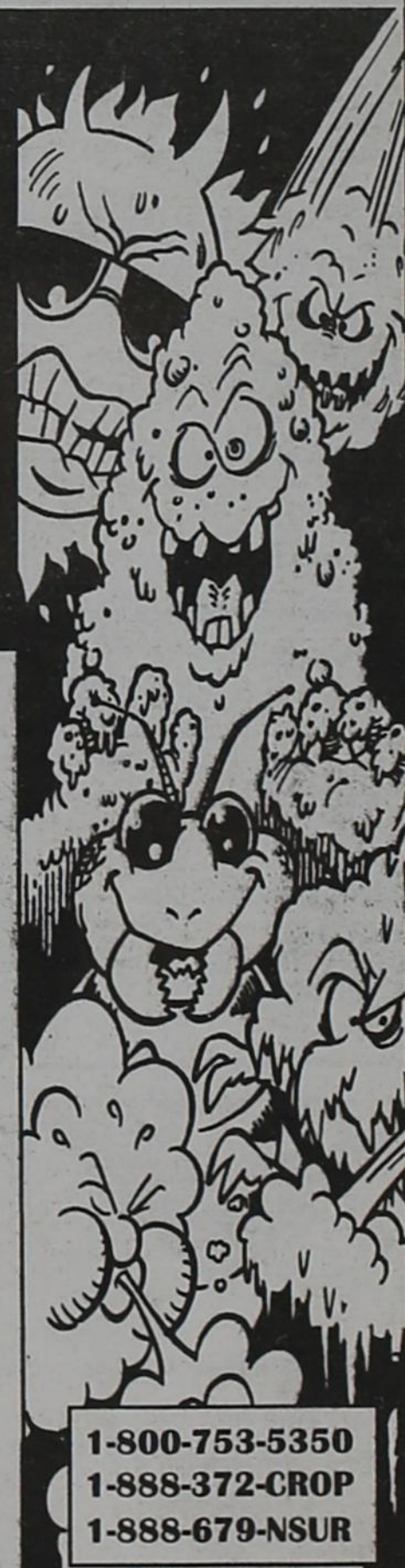
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Speakers highlight annual FSA event

Linda Maxwell
special to the *Ag Reporter*

The sign up for the crop loss disaster program of the Farm Service Agency has been extended to April 9, according to Larry Mitchell, USDA deputy administrator of farm programs for FSA.

Mitchell talked about the extension as he addressed the Texas Corn Growers Association's 26th annual meeting held Feb. 26 in Dimmitt.

Mitchell said the sign up at local FSA service centers was scheduled to close March 12, but will now close April 9.

"We just had a lot more interest in it than we even believed was coming down the pike, and it is a somewhat complicated program," Mitchell told the gathering of an estimated 200 people. He said the program has been set up to provide farmers with some relief for either multiple year losses or 1998 losses.

Mitchell talked about other efforts of the FSA.

Mitchell told the group in attendance that the FSA livestock assistance program has had a very large turn-out of producers and some payments are expected out on it sometime in March. He also noted the completion of the SHOP rule, the small hog operators program. Those payments should be going out fairly quickly, he said.

"In our lending programs we have exhausted most of the money that we have," Mitchell said. "We understand that's a major problem. We are moving forward in analyzing whether or not we should ask for a supplemental appropriation. Until the President decides that's what we're going to do, we can't tell you that we will have one."

"We have exhausted funds in almost every category, probably the one thought that is most critical is EM loans, emergency loans. We ran out of money last week. This has some other implications in that producers that are eligible for EM loans and can't get funding, many times that funding is tied to another loan that they are getting from us or from their local bank. That many have implications on whether or not they get money to plant this year. So we are aware of that, we are trying to address it the best we can," Mitchell said.

"It is disturbing to hear that maybe we're not as

farmer friendly as we should be. We haven't done everything we can, but we're working hard at it," Mitchell told the farmers.

"We are looking at how we do the loan deficiency payments, how we set the posted county prices. We've got an open mind on that, and we're going to do what we can to make it simpler. If you've got some ideas, get 'em to us. We're looking at it very closely."

"We had an additional brainstorming session on it this week. We listed what we felt we had done right, what we had done wrong. We had three pages of wrong, one of right, so we've got a ways to go. We understand that we've got to make that program simpler to administer, simpler to understand," Mitchell said.

Also addressing the meeting was David Senter, a Washington, D.C. consultant for the Texas Corn Growers Association and the American Corn Growers.

Senter told the group, "Some changes have to be made. You are not alone in what is happening."

He said the disaster provision will not do it all. A good farm bill is needed.

Senter said he feels that the effort will be successful to get legislation for labeling of imported agricultural products. He said labeling is an important key.

He also spoke about the pending merger of Continental and Cargill.

"The Justice Department is considering

approving the merger,"

Senter said. He said the merger would

have one company controlling

everything that move in the

world.

"Concentration in the market place needs to be looked at closely," Senter said. "We need to improve competition in the market place."

"Now is not the time to give up, but to get up and speak out," Senter told the group, as he encouraged them to get involved in agriculture organizations.

Another speaker was Keith Dittrich, president of the American Corn Growers.

"At a time when we've got a robust economy in this country, agriculture is in a depression. I believe that, too. We're in a depression, not a recession, and it's gonna get worse if we don't do something and policy doesn't change," Dittrich said.

"Although we are a small organization, we believe that we represent a majority of producers' interests in this country," he told the group. He said ACG and other groups recently did a poll on farm policy, asking producers whether they supported lifting the loan rate cap and increasing the loan rate.

"They overwhelmingly supported it in their country by a 4-1 vote margin. By that same margin they believe that our safety net isn't adequate. Eighty percent of our producers believe our safety net isn't adequate. Seventy-two percent of farmers believe farm programs should control production in time of surplus. Sixty percent of producers believe they wouldn't be in business for the next five years if things don't change."

Dittrich said his organization is working real hard to try to change things around.

"We know what the solutions are. We have been fighting for a decent farm bill for several years now. We haven't succeeded yet, but maybe our times coming around, because we've got documentation now to show that the farm bills we've had haven't worked," Dittrich said. "The '85 farm bill drastically lowered the loan rate, saying that if we didn't

do that we wouldn't have an export market, and we would basically export our way to prosperity. Just the opposite has happened. On corn we went from exports of 2.1 billion bushels on average in the 80's to an average of 1.7 billion bushels in the 90's, and our loan rate dropped a dollar during that time."

"At the same time, the processing and exporting industry has profited greatly while consumers have gotten no break at all. The farmers have taken it and the consumers have taken it and the processing industry has reaped enormous profits."

He said the farm problem is simply a pricing issue.

"Our pricing system is fundamentally flawed in this country," Dittrich said. "We're unique to business in this United States. We work completely different than a lot of other businesses. We have thousands

See FSA on page 10

"Now is not the time to give up, but to get up and speak out."

David Senter

"We know what the solutions are. We have been fighting for a decent farm bill for several years now."

Keith Dittrich



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OPINION-ISSUES



Robert Lee

LONGTIME RESIDENT FROM HAPPY

Happy Tales

"Better build schoolrooms for the boy, Than cells and gibbets for the man." — Eliza Cook, A Song for the Ragged Schools

In March, we celebrate Public School Week. Our school system is the best investment that our tax money can purchase. I do suspect that it is beginning to get a little top heavy with bureaucrats. Our teachers are possibly too busy filling out reports that are stealing time away from the classroom teaching. Bureaucrats create lots of paper work in an effort to justify their existence. In spite of these obstacles, our teachers are

doing an excellent job plus providing a good, hard-working role model for our young people. They have my utmost respect and admiration.

My favorite teacher began teaching in 1927 but let her tell in her own words about early day teaching from her memoirs:

"A friend of my father and my father took us to the Lone Mound community to apply for positions in this country school. There were two vacancies. They preferred my sisters, Opal and Georgia, but my father insisted they hire Georgia and me. I was 18 years old with-

out teaching experience. My father thought Opal would be able to find a school because she had two years experience. I shall never forget walking into that two-room school house. It had a teacher's desk and chair, old-fashioned double desks, a make-shift closet in the back and a pot-bellied stove. I stood in the door and looked at that bare room with its' primitive furnishings and was very glad that I had a job that paid \$90 a month. Georgia was the principal and received \$125 a month.

I taught the primer through the fourth grade. Georgia taught the fifth grade through the tenth. After looking the building over, we went to see a trustee that had a two room house located in a field about a block's distance from his home. We set up housekeeping in one room and the other room was used as storage for cotton seed. Our

house was very primitive and we had just enough furniture to light housekeep. We had to carry water from the trustee's well and because of the absence of an outdoor privy, we used a slop jar in the room that stored the cotton seed.

On August the eighth, we enrolled our pupils. We had over fifty pupils in that country school. The fathers came, cleaned out the cistern and mowed the weeds off of the school ground. After cleaning the cistern, the fathers hauled in fresh water. As well as I can remember, we would bring in a bucket of water and using a community tin dipper, we would drink. It seems all right then but not according to today's standards.

The inspectors from the state came and inspected the Lone Mound School. No one had informed us that the floors were to be oiled but he cited us for this in-

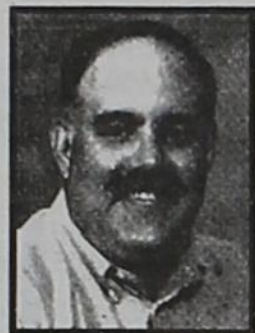
fraction and fined us anyway. My salary was cut from \$90 to \$80 and Georgia's from \$125 to \$110.

On Saturday, we would catch a ride into town with some of the neighbors and buy groceries. There were also parties in the neighborhood and oh, how I enjoyed those parties."

Our pioneer teacher failed to tell us but they were required to build the fire in the old pot-bellied stove, sweep the floors and doctor the children. Anything that had to do with the school was their job.

The quote at the beginning of this little essay uses the work gibbets. I was unfamiliar with the meaning of this word, but because some dedicated teacher, years ago, taught me how to use a dictionary, I was able to look it up and find that it means a gallows.

Thanks again to our teachers. We love you.



Monte Winders

FUTURES SPECIALIST

Market News

Cattle

The latest Cattle on Feed Report has the on feed and marketing numbers about as expected. The placement number was another story, it held the big surprise- about 10 percent more cattle placed than any analyst had estimated. The reaction to the report was pretty much as expected. The front two months were up while the back months were down. The June and August had the most pronounced losses but the prices closed back up off the session lows. The showlists for the last couple of weeks in February were not cleaned up so there has been some carryover left.

Some analysts have been talking about the increase of placements but many feel that if you look at the total picture it might not be so bad. One model suggests the big feedlots are set to offer a May showlist of about 2.02 million head, only 92 percent of 1998. In other words

cattle versus last year. This is disregarding any showlist carryover at all.

Technically the April live cattle have support at 6567 and 6497 with resistance at 6720 and 6760. The main trend is down with a cycle bottom on February 23 and trend reversal price of 6775.

Corn

The corn market at the end of the month has seen new contract lows or at least matching the old lows. Many analysts felt that at least the corn has been closing up off the lows that had been made. The market has found underlying support from buying interest in the \$2.10 to \$2.20 range basis March.

In export news South Korea has brought one cargo of corn for April shipment. Malaysia has brought a small amount of Argentine corn for March-April shipment. Another fact underpinning the corn was the Cattle on Feed Report with larger

placements means increased feed consumption. The export inspections have also been on the low end of the trade estimates.

The weather in this area has not created any real news on the corn. The milder and drier winter is no real issue now. The news from South America has no real moisture on the way but some areas need drier weather or risk quality loss. In the Southern South American crop areas that are approaching maturity so drier weather is welcomed.

Technically we see May corn with support at 219 1/2 then 217 and resistance at 221 and 225 1/2. The main trend is down with a cycle bottom on March 21 and a trend reversal price at 228.

Wheat

Wheat has not really been trading on its own merits but has followed the beans and any fund selling that enters the grain markets. Some traders have been saying that the wheat is down a lot harder than most people believe it should be. The market has broken some psychological support basis that March contract. Some traders have felt this market would be mildly supported by buying from the "Voice from the Tomb," an old

trading adage that had little impact.

In the weather we see some support by the 6-10 day forecast for warm and dry conditions in the Southwest winter wheat belt. Export news find Sri Lanka buying 50,000 metric tonnes here and 50,000 MT of Argentine wheat. Trader chatter suggests that Turkey may offer 150,000 MT of red and white milling wheat and 300,000 MT of durum for sale with a time frame of March-April. The weekly export inspections from the USDA were disappointing as were reports that the EU had sold eleven million bushels of wheat to Iran.

Technically May KC wheat shows support at 292 then 289 and resistance at 299 1/4 and 303. The main trend is down with a cycle bottom on March 21 and a trend reversal price of 304 1/4.

Cotton

As the end of a month comes to a close we see the delivery process moving forward and it has settled back into its bearish trend. Trading has been influenced by the monthly Census Bureau Cotton Consumption Report and trade will be looking to the weekly USDA export sales report. Most traders are looking

for a negative consumption report and there could be further cancellations reported for cotton export sales. Cotton merchants are not looking for a huge new import level because prices are attractive and it remains cheaper to import the finished goods than the raw product. Also cheap polyester prices remain an underlying bearish factor for the market. Another negative note if the continued inability of beans, corn or wheat to bounce higher.

The USDA has started working on forecasts and they say US growers will likely plant 13.5 to 14 million acres, up from 13.42 million acres. Some economists predicted a crop of about 17 million bales, up 3.5 million from last year's weather-reduced crop.

Recently announcements by two big cotton retailers have left many traders with the idea "We are having trouble selling cotton."

Technically May cotton has support at 5691 with resistance at 5760 then 5835. The main trend is down with a cycle bottom of February 23 and trend reversal price at 5861.

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Larry Combest

TEXAS REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMAN

"The Oil Patch in Action"

We're used to downturns in the oil patch, but this one is very different. Crude oil prices have plummeted 55% in the past two years resulting in 200,000 shut-in wells, and at least 41,000 layoffs. While the domestic oil and gas industry has been able to weather low price cycles in the past, this one is especially worrisome in its duration, severe rock-bottom prices, and the vital infrastructure that may be lost forever. We must help these suffering communities and while I may not have all the answers, I have been getting some valuable advice from the folks back home.

Their suggestions have helped me to set a course of action for the oil patch.

I have written to the Clinton Administration officials to seek help for the industry, cosponsored oil & gas relief bills, and talked with several oil patch experts on how we can assist businesses through this period. While we are still far from winning our fight, we are just beginning to set a course of action to provide some relief to our friends in the oil patch and will continue to work on ways to improve the conditions.

I have been working hard in

Congress to pass some important pieces of legislation that will ease the burdens faced by domestic producers. H.R. 490 authorizes the purchase of \$300 million worth of oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR). At today's low prices, this would help replace some of the 28 million barrels of oil that have been sold over the past three years. I support The Emergency Oil and Gas Recovery Act (H.R. 497), which provides oil and gas producers with a federal income tax exemption for reopening wells that have been inactive for at least 60 days. Our efforts are paying off. We finally convinced Energy Secretary Bill Richardson to refill the SPR by directing the Minerals Management Service to begin accepting at least 100,000 barrels of oil per

See Oil Patch page 10



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**Burt Rutherford**

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR OF TCFA

Solving the Demand Puzzle

Increasing the demand for beef. Outside of the weather, perhaps no other topic captures cattlemen's conversations like this one. And, barring a major weather catastrophe in 1999, a betting man might be hard pressed on which of those two to lay his odds on.

To cattlemen, it might seem that one is as impossible to influence as the other. However, halting and then turning around beef's 20-year slide in market share is doable, if cattlemen have the resolve to focus their efforts, energies and expenses around the rallying cry of helping consumers increase their beef demand.

To understand what demand is, it's important to first understand what demand isn't, according to Dr. Wayne Purcell, a professor at Virginia Tech and director of the Research Institute on Livestock Pricing. Purcell says that often, per-capita consumption is equated with demand. "Nothing could be further from the truth," he says. Per capita consumption is calculated by USDA using an accounting approach to measure beginning beef stocks, production and ending stocks. A "disappearance" measure is then generated and converted to a per-capita basis. "If per-capita consumption measures anything directly, it measures per-capita supply. It certainly does not measure demand," Purcell says.

That's because consumption and demand are not the same thing. While the old adage that everything that is produced

is consumed is certainly true, the swing factor in the equation is price. Which leads Purcell to relate his definition of demand, which is a schedule of the quantities of any product or service that consumers will take at various prices.

"Think about the last time you went shopping for a pair of shoes," he says. "You intend to buy one pair, but when you walk into the store, they have a big 50% price reduction sale going on. Do you ever walk out with two pairs when you intended to buy one pair? If you do, you buy two pairs for one simple reason—the price is lower." But when you buy two pairs of shoes at the same price you intended to pay for one, hasn't your demand for shoes increased? No, according to Purcell. "Your demand for shoes did not change when you bought two pairs. You took (you "consumed") a bigger quantity because the price was low." Quantity consumed was different at the lower price. "Your attitude toward those shoes and the amount of money in your pocket—the things that determine your willingness to pay and to consume—did not change."

The parallel in beef is obvious. When market channels are full, the marketplace will only absorb the increased quantity at some price. And that price will always be lower if demand hasn't increased. And since consumers have been willing to consume larger quantities of beef only at lower prices, beef demand hasn't kept pace with consumption.

But the beef industry is finally righting its course and getting the oversupply situation under control. Shouldn't that mean prices will get better?

To some extent, yes. Cattle and the beef they produce are still a commodity and still susceptible to cyclic forces. However, it's important for cattlemen to remember that every penny that flows through market channels in the beef business originates from a consumer's pocket. If the beef industry intends to increase demand for its product, as measured by consumers' willingness to pay more for it, this must always be kept in mind.

According to Purcell, there are three primary demand shifters—change in consumer income, change in price of substitute products and change in taste and preference. "If your preference for a product is increasing, you will buy more of it if your income allows and if good substitutes are not being priced lower. This is a long-term demand shifter and it appears to have been the dominant one acting on beef since about 1980," he says.

In short, consumers have been voting with their food dollars and have been telling cattlemen that they don't like what's being offered. Don't misunderstand—it's not that they don't like the taste. "Concerns about cholesterol and fat, inconsistent quality and lack of convenience in preparation have turned consumers' preference away from beef," Purcell says. Enter the beef checkoff and the beef industry's recent push to promote the new heat-and-serve beef products just out on the market. From a marketing perspective, these heat-and-serve products represent a shift in direction for the beef industry—a shift that will bring it more in line with the essential need to move the demand curve back in favor of beef.

"Beef is one of our country's national

treasures," says NCBA President George Swan. "And our industry knows that in order to safeguard that treasure in a changing world, we've got to evolve. We've got to behave less like a commodity and more like a branded product that brings value and the promise of convenience and consistent quality." Swan says that can be done by replacing cattlemen's question of "what can we produce?" with "what do our customers need?" According to Scott Gates, beef department manager for SYSCO, the nation's largest foodservice distributor, that's exactly what the new beef products accomplish. "Americans love beef, plain and simple," he says. "But the challenge for all of us—the beef industry, the distributor and the foodservice operator (and grocery store)—is to deliver a product that lives up to consumers' expectations every time at a price they're willing to pay." Gates says SYSCO is enthusiastic about the new beef products available and is investing significant resources into developing additional products.

"Here's the deal—beef is an industry; it's a product; it's a commodity. But in the end, it's food. It winds up in the mouths of real people. Our job is to create products that deliver a consistently satisfying beef eating experience—flavorful, juicy, tender and safe. That's the new reality. The demand is there. The technology is there. And every day, the product mix is growing."

That's good news for cattlemen. And that's why the beef industry has invested significant checkoff dollars in encouraging this trend. But it will take time—stopping a 20-year slide in demand won't happen overnight.

But it must happen. And with checkoff funds and cattlemen's resolute desire to stay the course, it will.

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- ⊙ SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1999 - SALE TIME: 9:30 A.M.
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- ⊙ TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1999 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 Located: Fort Stockton, Texas
 Selling: Land and Farm Equipment
- ⊙ THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 Located: South Plains, Texas, Bean Farms - Owners
 Selling: Farm and Ranch Equipment
- ⊙ SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1999 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 Located: Dalhart, Texas, Willis Farms - Owners
 Selling: Farm and Shop Equipment
- ⊙ TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1999 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 Located: Kress, Texas
 Selling: Farm Equipment
- ⊙ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1999 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 Located: Plainview, Texas, Jerry Dixon - Owner
 Selling: Farm Equipment
- ⊙ THURSDAY, MARCH 18 - SALE TIME: 10:00 A.M.
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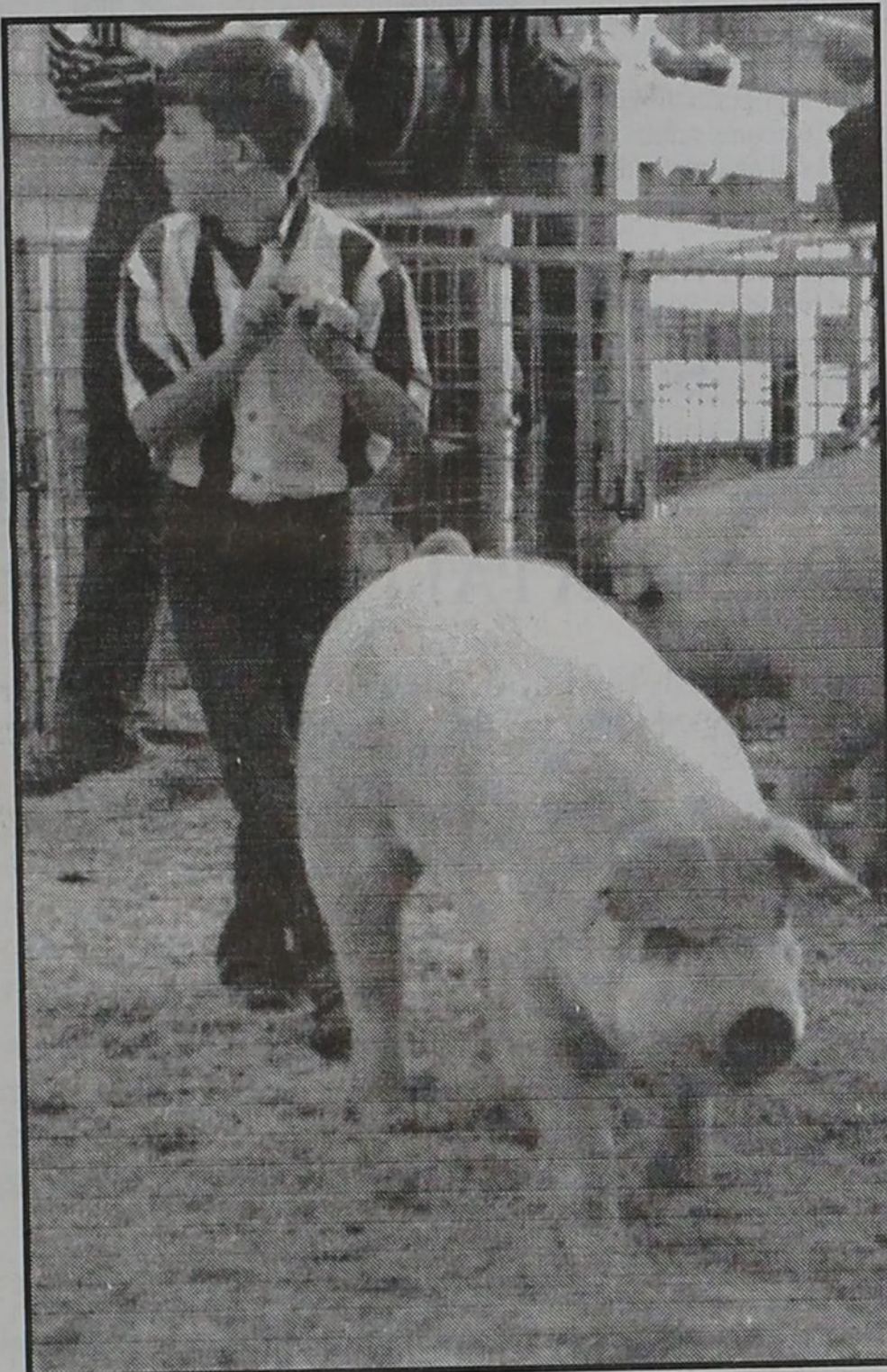
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Stock Show Time!



Top: Kenneth Hooper ties Kelli Hayes' goat, Ginger, to the rail while Kelli (left) and Jordan Hooper hold her on the wash rack in preparation for the 64th Annual Livestock Show in Hale County. This was the first year for goats in the show. Left: Hale County 4-Her, Paul Barton (left) helps his son, Brandon, get his American Breed steer ready for the Hale County Livestock Show in Plainview in January. (Photos by Richard Porter)



Top: Holly Lane of the Bethel 4-H Club in Castro County shows her lamb at the county's livestock show in Dimmitt. Left: A Castro County youth keeps his eye on barrow show judge, Rick Whitman. The show was sponsored by the Dimmitt Young Farmers Organization.

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Around the Counties

What's going through the mind of your county agent

Robert Devin

RANDALL COUNTY

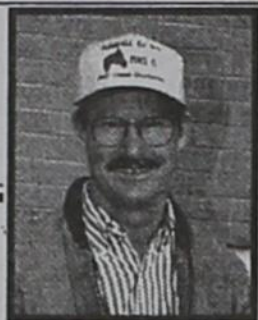
The Saga of a Shade Tree

This is a story of a shade tree and his buddies.

We begin in Tennessee where I grew up. I was one of the lucky ones, I grew up in a ten gallon container. Some of my friends were not so lucky. They lived in a five gallon bucket. It's not that there is anything wrong with a five gallon pot, but some of them were still living there when I left for Texas. I haven't heard from them in quite a while and if their new owners didn't notice that they were too big for the container they were growing in, and didn't check to see if they were root bound when they were finally planted they probably didn't survive.

Anyway, back to the story, we left Tennessee headed for Texas. I had heard a lot about the Lone Star State, but no one had ever mentioned the Crown of Texas. When we unloaded, it was a perfect spring morning, but about noon the wind was blowing so hard I could hardly stand up. Some of us were blown over and all of us lost some leaves. The folks at the garden store did all they could to make us comfortable including keeping us well watered. We loose lots of water on days when the wind blows and the humidity is low and it doesn't take long to use all the water stored in the container and if we dry out, we will drop our leaves. And I don't want to talk about what happens next.

I, along with several others, was bought on the following Saturday and taken to our new homes. My new owner hauled me home protected from the wind and placed me in the shade while he prepared the spot where I was to be planted. I guess that he and his family had given some thought to where I was to be planted, because they went right to work digging a hole. The hole was just the right size, the same depth as the container and slightly bigger in diameter. They carefully removed me from the pot and kept the soil in tact around my roots as I was placed in the hole. They spread my roots to insure they would grow out, filled in around my roots with soil and packed it well. It was a perfect job. When they finished, I was planted at the same depth that I was growing in the container. They watered me well, applied a layer of mulch, and finally staked me for protection from the wind. Some of my buddies were not planted for several days or even weeks. They were just left unprotected and occasionally



watered. Others were stuck in the ground and forgotten, some were planted too deep and some so close to the house, that if they did survive, they would

eventually damage the house or require such severe pruning that it would ruin their shape.

During the next few years, I thrived under the care of my owner who provided me timely water and fertilizer and kept me mulched and pruned as I grew. During that same time, others did not fair so well. Some were stunted, others died, while some just became so misshapen that they were eventually cut down. Then there were those that were lost to perhaps the most dreaded peril of all, man and his weed eater! Folks just don't understand how devastating a little piece of string can be. But in nothing flat, it can do the same damage as if you had completely sawed the poor guy off at the ground. Lucky for me, my owner never used a weed eater near my trunk.

Mother nature also provided a few challenges through the years, including the freeze of '94. I'll never forget it. It was October 31st, I believe. Day time temperatures were near seventy degrees as I recall. But about three o'clock the wind shifted to the north and the temperature dropped like a rock. By dark it was in the teens with a thin layer of ice covering everything. In a week there wasn't a tree left with a leaf on it. Come spring, damage was everywhere. Some lost branches while others were completely killed. A couple of my buddies that had received extra fertilizer and had been bragging about out growing me were dead. I'm thankful that my owner didn't over fertilize me in the fall so that I had hardened off before the freeze.

There have been some tough times but I'm not sure there have been any tougher than the last ice storm. It didn't seem to matter how good we had been taken care of, we all lost some major branches. But not to worry, I just saw some folks with ladders and saws drive up and they have started to work on my best friend next door.

OH NO!! THEY HAVE TOPPED HIM! HORRORS!

And I'm next. Just to think I've made it through all of this and look what's about to happen.

Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

J.D. Ragland

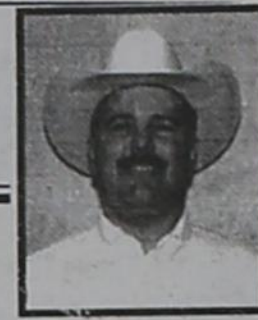
FLOYD COUNTY

Howdy folks straight from downtown pumpkin capital USA Floyd County America. Since last visit I'm pretty much like that Willie Nelson song "On The Road Again". That's right that good ol' stock show time of the year will keep ya on the road. We finished up our Floyd County Show Auction on February 1 which by the way went extremely well. This year's sale grossed about \$140,000 which was excellent considering our farming year. But you know it seems to me, no matter how bad things are folks always seem to pull through and support our county youth and that's one of the things I enjoy most about the folks in Floyd County. Well, if I'm going to continue my song, "I Just Can't Wait to Get On The Road Again."

We left for Ft. Worth the day following our county show, February 2 - 6. We always seem to have a big group go to Ft. Worth.

This year 19 county 4-H'ers exhibited livestock along with 36 county adults who attended. Our 4-H'ers did an outstanding job and received several high placing honors.

Steer exhibitors received a 1st, two 2nd placings, a 4th, 5th and two 9^{ths}. Swine



exhibitors had a 13th and 19th placing. "The life I love is making shows with my friends." O' well it's not exact, but it's pretty close and dang sure true. It was on to

San Antonio the following week February 13-20.

O' but I almost forgot, my boss was over on February 9 and conducted his Annual Performance Review on me. No, it's nothing weird, it's just a fancy way of saying an annual check up.

Any way guess everything was in working order cause he said I still had at least another year as a county agent.

Meanwhile back to San Antonio. We had a total of 26 youth exhibit livestock.

County Steer exhibitors received a 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th placings while swine exhibitors had a 3rd and 13th.

Well, leaving for Brenham this Wednesday and will be there the 24-28, then Houston March 1-6.

Ever wonder why ya can't get hold of a county agent during the month of February.

Well this article ought to clear that up. "And I just can't wait to get on the road again."

Ya'll come to see us. Til' next time Howdy! Cause I just hate to say goodbye.

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Rebel Royall

CASTRO COUNTY

I'm in the middle of our three day break between the San Antonio and Houston Livestock Shows. I always look forward to this time of year, but the older I get the harder it seems to be for me to bounce back and get ready to travel again. Don't get me wrong, I love the competition and the camaraderie between agents, teachers, parents, leaders and kids. It is worth everything that we go through to accom-

plish the mission.

Every year I have to step back and be thankful for the group of parents and leaders who make the trip with me. These types of folks are the life-blood of the junior livestock program in Texas. Agents and teachers are a huge part of the program also. But don't be mistaken; without the help of



other qualified adults, we would be out to lunch.

The bunch of leaders that I work with here in Castro County are, to say the least, very knowledgeable and outspoken when it comes to livestock projects. They never are afraid to give their opinions when the time comes. Most of them are with you through thick and thin. They are there when the animals are bought, throughout the feeding period, and when the animals are shown. They are teaching the youth who are there, just as much or more than

I do.

These leaders who I have been describing make our program work. Sure we have our disagreements, etc. just like all her programs. But, somehow they always come back to help.

Now some would think that I am only bragging on the leaders that haul with me to swine shows. But we have leaders in each major livestock species. They do a wonderful job with the kids. Some of them do not always necessarily see eye-to-eye with me or the way the 4-H program is going.

However, they are always in their respective barn-helping kids. I appreciate people like that. I'm sure that all agents and agricultural science teachers feel the same as I do. Without the help of dedicated parents and leaders, our programs could not be a success. Well, I am going to continue to get ready to leave for Brenham tomorrow. We've talked about that chaotic scene before.

Next month I'll let you know how we fared at the shows, and we will probably talk about planting corn or something.

Colleen Chadwick

HALE COUNTY

Nutritionists have been telling us for years breakfast is the "most important meal of the day." But it seems the message isn't getting through. Among the findings of a recent Rutgers University survey for the Florida Citrus Commission:

- 12 percent of adults skip breakfast, eating nothing during the first four hours of their days
- 17 percent only drink a beverage - coffee, tea, milk, juice or water - to start the day
- 11 percent - more than one American in 10 - indulge in what the study delicately describes as "a typical" breakfast foods. We're talking cold pizza, corn chips, salad and last night's leftover lasagna (you know who

you are.)

- The most common menus: cold cereal with a beverage; a muffin, a bagel or toast with a beverage

If your excuse for no breakfast has to do with limited time in the morning, try preparing your breakfast foods the night before or on the weekend.

I often make breakfast burritos and wrap them individually, put them in a freezer zip-lock bag, and presto! A quick and easy breakfast ready to pop into the microwave. If you are in a real hurry, you can even eat your burrito in the car on your way to work.

Other delicious, do-ahead



breakfast recipes include:

Breakfast Pizza
1 lb. bulk pork sausage
1 pkg (8 oz) refrigerated crescent rolls
1 C frozen loose-pack hash brown potatoes, thawed
1 C (4 oz) shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
5 eggs, beaten
1/4 C milk
1/2 tsp salt
2 T Grated Parmesan cheese
Whole pimentos, optional
Fresh oregano, optional
Cook sausage in a medium skillet until browned; drain. Set aside. Separate crescent dough into 8 triangles; place triangles with elongated point toward center in a greased 12-inch pizza pan. Press bottom and sides to form a crust; seal perforations. Spoon sausage over dough; sprinkle with hash brown

potatoes and cheddar cheese. Combine eggs, milk, and salt; pour over sausage mixture. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese, and bake an additional 5 minutes. Garnish with pimentos and fresh oregano, if desired. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Note: the sausage can be cooked in the microwave. To do so, crumble and cook 3 minutes on high. Stir and continue cooking until the pink color disappears. Also, use the food processor to grate the cheese, chop the green pepper and combine the egg mixture.

Breakfast Quiche
8 eggs
2 C milk
8 slices bread, cubed and crusts cut off
1 lb. cheese
1 lb. Pork sausage, cooked and crumbled

Mix all ingredients and let se 12 hours. Cook 35 minutes at 350 degrees. Let set 10 minutes before cutting and serving.

Sausage Balls
1 lb sausage
2 C biscuit mix
1 C grated Cheddar cheese
Mix all ingredients together with hands. Shape into 1-inch balls. Arrange in ungreased 15.5 x 10.5 x 1 inch jelly-roll pan. Bake at 375 degrees. For 20 minutes or until lightly browned. Serve warm. Yield: 3 dozen.

Orange Julius
1/2 of a 6 oz. can orange juice
1/2 C milk
1/2 C water
1/4 C sugar
1/2 tsp vanilla
5-6 ice cubes
Blend all ingredients at high speed in a blender until it is very smooth.

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Oil Patch from page 4

day of their Gulf of Mexico royalties in-kind, rather than in cash payments. Although these are small initial steps, they are positive ones that can help set the domestic oil industry back into motion.

I am a firm believer in a free market economy, but when external forces like the dumping of cheap foreign oil on the domestic market at below the cost of production occurs, our government must respond. There is no silver bullet to solve the crisis, but the industry itself will be better served if they are unified in their requests from Congress. As Vice Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, I am looking into

what relief can be made available to independent oil and gas firms that are small businesses. During my last district trip, the subject of oil import fees came up repeatedly. I know producers desperately need an increase in the price of oil. However, prospects for this proposal are extremely thin. The fact is, Americans are convinced that the whole economy is better off when energy prices are low.

I assure you that I have been working hard to assist the industry in this crisis and I am confident that the measures undertaken will provide some sort of relief and are only the beginning of my efforts to put the oil patch in action.

FSA from page 3

of producers that sell to a few buyers and they're getting fewer every time.

"We need to address this system and there's only a couple of ways we can do it. I feel there are two solutions. One is government control through farm policy, higher loan rates and support market prices, and manage supply and provide a balance between buyer and seller. We've had it in the past in the 30's. The 1933 Agriculture Adjustment Act set it up. It worked good for 50 years, and it's been slowly taken away from us. Or two, some type of private marketing system, such as a private grain marketing system or some type of collective bargaining."

As the lead-off speaker of the

session, Castro County farmer Ray Joe Riley said, "It will get worse before it gets better. The problem with agriculture is that renters are having to pay such expensive rent because the landowners are paying such tremendously expensive taxes. Taxes are eating us alive."

"If we (farmers) tighten our belts then we can demand that the people spending our tax dollars tighten theirs," Riley said. "Schools are going to have to learn to live within a tight budget. We're going to have to go back to having school."

Lyle Robinson of Tulia, a former manager of rural electrification cooperative there, talked to the group about deregulation of electric utilities.

Pruning from page 1

Proper tree pruning tips from the Biological Resources website (www.co.broward.fl.us) include:

- Always make pruning cuts on the outside of the branch collar.
- Do not leave branch stubs, living or dead.
- Use sharp hand tools designed for pruning and wear safety equipment.
- Do not paint wounds with pruning paint. It does not prevent decay and may interfere with wound closure.
- Never remove more than 1/3 of the live crown in a single pruning.

In reference to storm damage, Don Dollie a Canyon landscaper, said you must remove all storm damage.

"If a limb is broken, remove it to the point of origin," Dollie said. "It is not good to leave a stump. More than likely, the limb will die to its point of origin."

Appel said to look at the attachment area to see how to prune a tree.

"Every tree is an individual," Appel said. "More damage will be done by improper pruning. You have to make cuts in proper ways and understand tree anatomy."

He strongly suggested getting a certified professional to perform all pruning needs.

For businesses such as KLawn, pruning trees is just part of the job. Vaughan said pruning prices depend on the tree(s) and the job, but all estimates are free.

Dollie suggested using proper equipment, sharp tools and most importantly, a good sturdy ladder.

1997 ag census results

Dan Looker

special to Ag Reporter

The latest Census of Agriculture, taken in 1997, was released February 1, confirming what most farmers already suspect from looking up and down the road.

It shows that commercial farms continue to get bigger, that farmers are getting older and the number of very young farmers is still declining, and that fewer farmers now say farming is their main occupation.

"Most of these trends, I think, have been seen in past censuses as well," says Willis Goudy, chair of the sociology department at Iowa State University.

Overall, the number of U.S. farms fell less than one percent in the five years since the previous 1992 census—from 1,925,300 farms then to 1,911,859 in 1997. But the Census shows some dramatic change. The number of farms selling hogs and pigs was

almost cut in half,

dropping 46% to 102,106 farms in 1997. That suggests the shakeout in hog production is at least several years old.

"What these figures shows is that it was occurring before the recent crisis," Goudy says.

The age of farmers continues to rise, with the average now at 54.3 nationwide, exactly one year older than the average five years earlier. The number of farmers 70 years and older rose from 289,485 in 1992 to 317,171 by 1997. The number of young farmers continues to decline, with those under 25 dropping from 27,906 in 1992 to 20,850 at the time of the most recent Census.

The number of farmers who say farming is their main occupation fell below the million mark to 961,560 by 1997.

Much of the Census data is already posted on the Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census>

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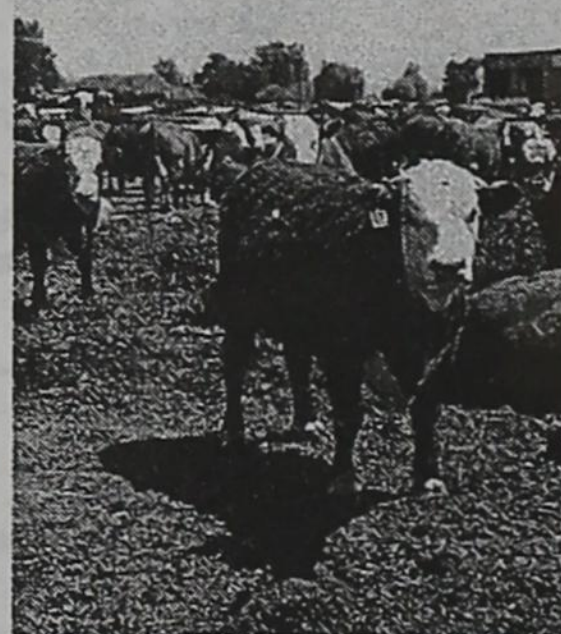
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Animals

Anatolian Shepard Dogs. Excellent livestock guard dogs for sheep, goats, cattle, horses, birds, property, etc. 100 percent guaranteed! Anatolian Farm & Ranch, PO Box 352, Happy, Texas 79042. 806-558-2213. Call anytime day or night.

2 female Siberian Huskies. Full blood, 6 months old. Priced to Sell! Call 806-847-2260.

6 week old unregistered white Lab. \$100. Please call 806-652-2509 or 806-774-7474.

Real Estate

611 N El Paso in Tulia. 2 bedroom 1 bath, no garage, large fenced in back yard, washer/dryer hookups. Call Simpson Realty Company at 806-995-4873.

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Hay

Fertilized blue-stem hay. Large round bales. Call 806-558-4411 or 806-764-3562.

Storm Hay. Round bales, milo stalks, \$25 each. 806-89-3313, 806-889-3388.

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I am looking for grass that has been taken out of CRP. I want a cash lease. Call Don Schutle at 806-945-2288 or 806-647-8098 (mobile).

Would like to buy good used canoe. 806-655-1373.

Odd jobs wanted: Painting, light carpentry, etc. Call 806-655-6154.

Want to buy 250-300 gallon propane tank. 806-293-0211 or 505-376-2723

Would like to buy 1/2 acre, 1 acre or 2 acres of land near Canyon. 806-655-7533.

Misc.

For Sale: Beige sectional. Call after 5 pm 806-655-2700.

Nice, clean electric range, \$75.00. 806-655-7533

For Sale: stove with oven, \$200. Full size bed w/sheet set, \$100. 806-655-6184

Magnavox TV, console style, color, good sound, \$100.00. Call 806-499-3419

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Childers Brothers House Levelling. Oldest name in the business. Free estimates. 806-352-9563.

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Area 4-H member's recipe

Spinach Dip
from Ryan Maney

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed and drained
- 1 (16 oz) container sour cream
- 1 C Hellmann's or Best Foods real or light mayonnaise or low fat mayonnaise dressing
- 1 pkg. Knorr Vegetable soup and recipe mix
- 1 (8 oz) can water chestnuts, drained and chopped (optional)
- 3 green onions, chopped

Directions:

- In medium bowl stir spinach, sour cream, mayonnaise, soup mix, water chestnuts and green onions until well mixed.
- Cover and chill 2 hours to blend flavors.
- Stir before serving.

Yield: 4 cups.

Ryan is a member of Swisher County 4-H.

Fried Cheese and Broccoli
from Elaine Sturgess

Ingredients

- 1 (8 oz) pkg. cream cheese
- 2 C shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 C broccoli florets
- 1 slightly beaten egg
- 1 C all-purpose flour
- 1 C milk
- 2 T cooking oil
- Cooking oil for deep frying

Directions:

- Bring cream cheese and cheddar cheese to room temperature. Beat cheeses in mixing bowl with an electric mixer till combined. Mold about 1 T of the cheese mixture around each floret. Cover and chill wrapped florets about 1 hour.
- For batter, combine egg, flour, milk and cooking oil in a medium bowl. Beat with a rotary beater or whisk just till combined. Carefully dip each floret into batter.
- Fry florets, a few at a time, in deep hot oil (365) in a deep-fat dryer or heavy saucepan for 2 to 3 minutes or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Serve warm.

Yield: 36 florets.

Elaine is a member of Swisher County 4-H.

Lite and Luscious Cheesecake
from Aven Straw

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. Lemon jello (3 oz)
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1 12 oz can evaporated milk, chilled
- 3 C Graham Cracker crumbs
- 1 C sugar
- 4 T lemon juice
- 6 T Oleo (3/4 cup)
- 1/2 C sugar

Directions:

- Dissolve jello in 2 cups hot water. Add cream cheese (cut into chunks).
- Beat in a blender until cheese is dissolved. Add sugar and lemon juice and mix. Put in refrigerator and cool completely.
- Make crust with graham cracker crumbs, sugar and oleo. Mix until fine and crumbs will stay together.
- Line bottom of a 13x9 inch dish with crumb crust reserving 1 cup of crumbs for top. Press crumbs in dish with wax paper until crumbs form a crust.
- Whip chilled evaporated milk with mixer on high speed until milk is very thick. Fold in jello mixture that has been cooled. Pour over crumb crust.
- Sprinkle remaining crumbs on top.
- Chill at least 3 hours before serving.

Yield: 12 servings.

Aven is a member of Hale County 4-H.

Harvest Bread
from Rance Schumacher

Ingredients

- 3 eggs
- 1 C canola oil
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 C sugar
- 2 C whole wheat flour
- 1 C flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp ground cinnamon
- 3/4 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 C finely grated zucchini
- 1/2 C finely grated carrots
- 1/2 C mashed banana
- 1/2 C chopped nuts
- Powdered sugar

Directions:

- Mix eggs, oil, vanilla and sugar. Sift flours, baking soda, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice. Add to egg mixture.
- Add zucchini, carrots, bananas and nuts. Mix well.
- Bake in two greased and floured loaf pans or two 13 oz coffee cans at 375 degrees for 1 hour or until tested done.
- Let bread cool. When cool, sprinkle with powdered sugar.
- For variation, serve with softened cream cheese, honey butter or glazed frosting.

Yield: 24 servings (2 loaves).

Rance is a member of Hale County 4-H.



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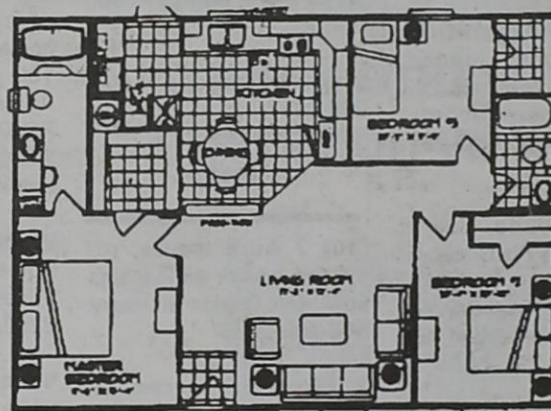
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