

Border Banter

By Mike Pomper

Please shop locally

With the Christmas season under way, it's important for me to stress this message:

Please shop locally.

Yes, I know we all like to run out of town for the day and hit the big stores. But have you forgotten?

They don't pay local taxes.

They don't support our school programs.

They don't employ your neighbors.

They really couldn't give a hoot about Texico-Farwell.

But who does?

Your LOCAL stores.

Folks, our local stores are only able to stay open for one reason -- because you use their services.

Christmas is a time when it's vital for some of our stores to have good sales. I don't remember what the statistics are, but I know for many businesses Christmas is a make or break proposition.

Don't you take pride in our Texico-Farwell community being strong? I do.

But that strength doesn't just happen. It's there because we work together.

I don't want to pick out a particular business, but if you drive up and down the highway in our community, you can see many of our major businesses.

The supermarket, the hardware stores, the car supply firms, the flower shop, the clothing and jewelry shop, and more...

They are waiting to serve you. They have good specials and good deals, just like you find in Clovis and Lubbock.

And often you find better deals. Much better deals. And add in the cost of running a car out of town, and you will be dollars ahead by shopping locally.

And that includes some food products -- which are NOT taxed in Texas, but are in New Mexico. You are not money ahead by shopping out of state for these items because of that.

Folks, please, I implore you, take a second and think about our local businesses that support our schools and community.

Life is a two-way street. Don't you think it only fair for you to support those who support your children and your school?

I do.

Rumors circulating that City Cleaners in Farwell is closing are completely false.

Run out of Christmas ideas?

Here's one that a lot of folks use: buy a gift subscription to the State Line Tribune for a friend or relative.

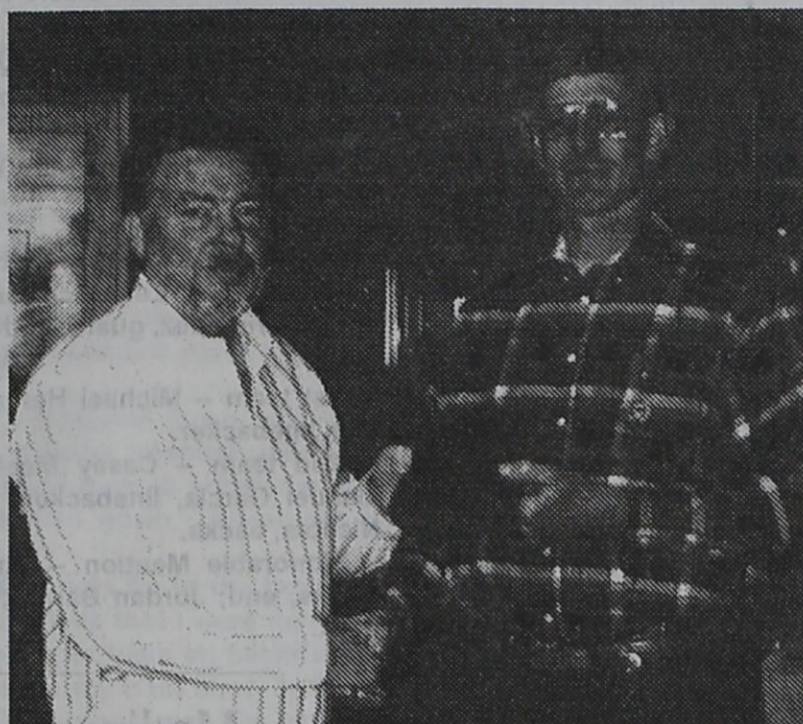
A lot of folks here do just that each December. They have the paper sent to someone, who may live around here or who may have moved away.

Here's out costs:

A year's subscription for folks living in Parmer, Curry and Bailey counties is \$15.

A year's subscription for

(Continued on Page 2)



Meeks honored

Steve Meeks, of Texico, and owner of Farwell Hardware, was named last month the 2000 Builder of the Year by the Building Contractors Association of Curry County. He is shown receiving the award from association president Denny Rogers, left.

Teresa goes for 'a little ride' to the hospital

by Teresa Mesman

Ow!

Ow! Oh! Uh-Oh! Ow!

It woke me from a deep sleep like a very bad dream.

How I wish I had only been dreaming. The pain I was experiencing was all too real and with each throbbing, searing jab, it reminded me that this was an actual, living nightmare.

I went through my mental medical checklist of things that this pain could be indicating: Pulled muscle? Hernia? Indigestion? Underwear too tight? Gas? Heart attack? Gall bladder? Food poisoning?

I headed to the kitchen and popped a few antacid tablets and began pacing the house, hoping for the pain to ease up.

It was 4 a.m.

By 5:30 a.m. I had done everything but stand on my head for the pain to ease in my mid-section. I was fighting back the tears and knew that I needed help.

But exactly what's a dairy princess supposed to do when her dairy prince is needed by 6 a.m. by a herd of milk cows?

Call M-O-M-M-Y!

My husband placed an urgent call to the one woman that could handle this emergency...I tend to be quite stubborn under painful duress.

My mother arrived with warm hands and a stern voice.

"Let's get our housecoat on and go for a little ride to the hospital," she softly guided.

"I'm 36 Mom, I don't need to go for 'little rides' to the hospital," I retorted.

"Get your clothes on. Teresa Jan, you're going to the emergency room!" she stated.

I cowered at her authority, but tried once more to establish my adulthood.

"They'll only tell me I'm full of gas!" I cried.

"Oh yeah, you're full of it all right! Young lady, get your clothes on!" she directed.

I huffed. I puffed. I put my clothes on.

I solemnly made the trip to the emergency room at Muleshoe Area Medical Center. One look at me and an explanation of my symptoms garnered a very quick diagnosis of "acute gallbladder." One pressing examination that required the nurse to peel me off the ceiling, confirmed the diagnosis.

I was headed for the big laproscopic surgery.

I checked into the hospital on Tuesday morning, expecting to have the surgery that afternoon. Little did I know that toast with coffee would be such a major meal to overcome. This postponed my surgery until Wednesday morning. Clear liquids were ordered for my dining pleasure and a continuous supply of Dextrose with Potassium was hooked up and pumped into my body.

(Continued on Page 3)

Farwell's drug-testing policy put in limbo

It looks like a judge's decision has put the Farwell Schools' drug testing policy in limbo.

It was announced last week that a three-year battle over whether the Tulia school district can randomly drug test its students resulted in its overturning.

Last Friday, U.S. District Judge Mary Lou Robinson ruled in favor of a former student who claimed the random testing violated the 4th Amendment against unreasonable searches and seizure.

Farwell's drug testing policy is based on Tulia's.

Supt. Larry Gregory said he has placed the topic on the Dec. 14 agenda for the Farwell School Board.

Gregory put together Farwell's policy when he served as Farwell High School principal.

"I used Tulia's criteria in doing our," he said.

The Tulia School Board on Tuesday voted unanimously to appeal the judge's decision.

Also, as of Monday, Judge Robinson had not ordered Tulia to suspend its program, although such a ruling can be expected.

FARWELL, TEXAS

DECEMBER 7, 2000

TEXICO, NEW MEXICO

THE STATE LINE

TRIBUNE

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Bobby's home!

by Teresa Mesman

Bobby Winegeart, of Texico, returned home from Ecuador on Monday.

He had his stay prolonged by two unexpected set-backs and surgeries, but he is now back at home and preparing himself for the long road ahead.

Along this road he will face daily, arduous long hours of physical therapy.

However, this young man is a fighter and is ready for the experience.

He has already had quite an experience during and after his surgeries over Ecuador.

"Just getting him home was a major experience," said his mother, Linda Thompson.

Bobby underwent the first major surgery to repair his spinal cord. This was supposed to be the toughest of the surgeries he was to face, but it turned out to be the easiest one of all.

"They videotaped his surgery and the very moment the repair was done to his spinal cord, you can actually see the nerve and cord pulsation and the fluids moving through it," said Linda. "It was a very emotional moment to say the least."

Following the spinal surgery, Bobby underwent a hip replacement. This was to be the final surgery, but as it turned out, he dislocated the hip not once, but twice and had to undergo two additional surgeries.

To keep the hip from dislocating again, Dr. Kao placed Bobby's feet and ankles in casts and put a bar between them to keep his hips stabilized.

"So far, this has helped him keep everything in place and he made the tough journey home," Linda commented.

The tough journey home began Sunday night at about 11 p.m. in Ecuador. Bobby, his mother Linda and her husband Gary Thompson, boarded the plane. They had a short layover before arriving in Houston for a three hour layover.

"This is where the problem began!" his mother stated. "The plane from Houston to Lubbock was just a small puddle jumper type plane and we had to literally hoist him overhead to get him inside the small plane. It was very uncomfortable him and it was very scary at what it could have done to his hips!"

Bobby will have his feet in the casts until the first part of February. He won't try standing until after the casts and the bar are removed.

For now, Bobby must have at least two people help him

from a lying position to a sitting position, in order to not pull the suturing loose in his back.

After he has been placed in his wheelchair, he will be able to move about in the chair. He will also begin extensive arm, shoulder and back physical therapy to strengthen his back muscles.

"We have to devise a pulley-type device that will enable him to pull 10 pounds straight down for one hour every day," said Linda. "All other physical therapy will begin in February."

Bobby now has feeling all the way to about an inch above his belly button. His sensation was only to his nipple line before the surgery.

He had some pretty unique therapy done to his legs and feet while he was in Ecuador. The therapist had Bobby hang his legs and feet off the side of the bed and through a type of touch and movement therapy, Bobby was able to turn his feet in the appropriate directions.

"The movements were ever so slight, but they were progress from where he's been," Linda exclaimed.

Bobby has a much stronger cough now as well. It is one that you definitely tell is a deeper and stronger cough. He is also expected to regain his bowel and bladder sensation and function in about three months time. He has been placed on a series of medications to help build these sensations and other nerves/sensory skills.

The medications also help to restore and rebuild his muscle functions and strength.

Bobby did have another setback about four days prior to coming home with an antibiotic medication.

He had an allergic reaction to an antibiotic that almost killed him. His blood pressure plummeted and he had to be put on intense oxygen and other medications to get him back to normal vital sign ranges.

"It was all a very stressful time, but we knew that it wasn't going to be easy," said Linda.

Will Anderson and his family were of great help to Linda and Gary throughout the ordeal.

The Anderson family would come and visit and they took Linda out to eat one evening and let her spend the night with them in their home.

"It was a nice night to just take a long bath, relax and get a good night's sleep," she commented.

She and Gary never left Bobby alone, so they were on constant vigil at the hospital.

Linda will also stay by

Bobby's side for the next two months at least.

"He's going to need all the help he can get right now," she said. "Plus, I need to stay with him as much for me too."

Bobby's spirits are high, although he was extremely tired from the journey home. He knows he's got a lot of work in front of him, but he's ready.

"Dr. Kao is an excellent doctor and he prepared us all for what's in store for Bobby. He worked so well with him and we've seen the results from others he has treated over the last ten years," Linda stated. "We also found out that he's a plastic surgeon and because of this, he knows so much more of what it takes to regain the 'whole self' of a person."

Bobby was glad to get back to Texico to see his fiancée, Julie Franse as well. She was at the airport to pick he and his family up.

Linda was glad to have her husband Gary along with her to make the stress of the time more tolerable. But she learned that for anyone else needing to go through the same situation.

"The family needs to have a nurse or a physical therapist to accompany them on the journey home at least," she stated. "We, fortunately, didn't have to treat Bobby with anything or to get his hip back in place thank goodness, but if we would of had to, we'd have been in trouble because it was just Gary and I. Having a nurse or someone along that is prepared for things like that would make it much better and a lot less stressful."

Texico officials fighting dairy

Texico City Attorney Marion Ty Rutter told the Tribune on Monday that it's probable that a meeting with the New Mexico air quality division over the proposed Wayne Martin Dairy won't be held until January.

Texico city officials are opposed to the dairy, which would be built just west of the city.

It was announced last week that the state's environment department had okayed the ground water discharge plan for the dairy.

Rutter contacted the air quality control division personnel last week and was told that December was a bad time for trying to set up an educational meeting because of the holiday season.



In back from left are Lydia Campos, Brock Steinbock, Paola Estrada, Mari Beliz; in front, Chandler Barnes, Jordan Hernandez, Marissa Cortez.

Lazbuddie pupils cited

Students of the Month for November have been selected at Lazbuddie Elementary School:
 Pre-k: Marissa Cortez, daughter of Joe and Vivian Cortez.
 Kindergarten: Chandler Barnes, daughter of Doug and Amy Barnes.
 1st grade: Paola Estrada, daughter of Maria Estrada.
 2nd grade: Jordan Hernandez, daughter of Pat and Joni Merigan.
 3rd grade: Lydia Campos, daughter of Johnny and Sylvia Campos.
 4th grade: Brock Steinbock, son of Charleson and Belinda Steinbock.
 5th grade: Mari Beliz, daughter of Joe and Irene Beliz.

Obituaries

Gary Cochran

Services for Gary Cochran, 30, of Clovis, were held Dec. 1 at Calvary Tabernacle with the Rev. Mick Mounce officiating. Burial was in Mission Garden of Memories. He died Nov. 28 at Clovis hospital. He was born Feb. 11, 1970, in Portales, to William and Dorothy Cochran. He lived all his life in the Clovis, Portales and Texico areas. He was a member of the United Pentecostal Church of Texico. Surviving are a son, Chase, of Cleburne, Texas; 2 daughters, Kayla and Jennifer, both of Clovis; his parents, Allen and Dorothy, of Clovis; 5 brothers, James, of Clovis; Larry, of Williams, Ariz.; David, of Farwell; Jerry, of Flagstaff, Ariz., and Troy, of Kerman, Calif.; and 4 sisters, Reva Brachwitz, Rita Guss and Kathy Cochran, all of Clovis, and Brenda Johnson, of Amarillo. Pallbearers were Ricky Guss, Harold Coburn, Wayne Newcomb, Daniel Kelley, Aaron Johnson, Jerry Junior Cochran and Chad Cochran.

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 Mike Pomper, president
 Member, Texas Press Association

Banter

folks living anywhere else costs \$26. Why the difference? The post office charges us different rates -- and the rates out of our immediate area are much higher. If you would like to send the Tribune to someone as a gift, all you have to do is call us at 481-3681. *** Well, did you see the news last week where the New York Yankees inked the best pitcher on the free market -- Mike Mussina. It only cost the Bronx

(Continued from Page 1)

Bombers \$88 million. But it literally guarantees them another World Series win. This is exactly what I have been talking about. Baseball is in serious trouble because of its allowing the big market teams, such as New York and Atlanta, to control the league. Why root for a team now when you already know the Yankees will win it all? Without a salary cap (and you can bet your bottom dollar that the baseball players oppose that vehemently), you can already forget about next year's baseball race. Disgusting.

Courthouse Notes

The following warranty deeds were recorded in the Parmer County clerk's office last week:
 West End Group Inc. - David Grimsley, E 10', L28, B3, Western, Friona.
 Gerardo Delacruz - Elpidio Bonuelos, 20 ac N/pt S1S,T7S,R2E.
 Church of God of the First Born - Tony Lara, E 5', L10, L8, L9, B2, Bovina.
 Beverly Elam - Sam Sinclair, S/2, L3-4, N/2, L5, Blk 1, McMillen Fergus.
 Kay Ray et al - John Tannahill, 1/4, 99 ac NE 1/4, S31;T1N,R4E, Capital.
 AZtx Cattle Co. - Aztx Cattle Co. Ltd. - 14.94 ac of Garden L8, S7, T16,SR1E.

Water to be topic

Area officials will meet on Dec. 7 in Lubbock to discuss participation in a proposed regional water supply distribution pipeline project at the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District office. Under the proposal, ground water rights would be purchased in either Hartley County or Roberts County. A pipeline would be constructed to transport ground water to Vega, then south to Hereford, Friona and Muleshoe.

The pipeline would turn east and run parallel to the existing City of Lubbock pipeline from the Bailey County well fields. This existing pipeline is at capacity during peak periods. Also, lateral pipelines could be extended to serve other towns in the region, such as Farwell and Bovina. Since the proposal was first included in the draft plan, Planning Group Chairman Wayne Wyatt said several things have occurred. "The City of Amarillo has offered its 113,900 acres of water rights for sale in Dallam and Hartley counties. Roberts County landowners have also offered to sell water rights in their county. Either source would meet the needs of our pipeline project," said Wyatt. Parmer County is included in this planning group.

Steer gridders named All-District

A host of Farwell Steers were named to the District 3-A All-District Football Team.

Offense

1st team -- Landon Meeks, wide receiver, and Eulogio Ruiz, running back.
 2nd team -- Gage Gregory, wide receiver; Lane McFarland, tight end; Casey Meeks, guard; and Derek Goetsch, quarterback.

Honorable Mention -- Kolby Kimbrough and Taylor Nichols, running backs; Luke Schwertner and Brice Hunt, tackles; Michael Hernandez, guard, and Ben Oppliger, center.

Defense

1st team -- Michael Hernandez, lineman; and Cade Christian, linebacker.
 2nd team -- Casey Meeks, end; Eulogio Ruiz, lineman; Manuel Garcia, linebacker; and Derek Goetsch and Taylor Nichols, backs.

Honorable Mention -- Thomas Ortiz, linebacker; Landon Meeks, end; Jordan Barrett, lineman, and Kolby Kimbrough, back.

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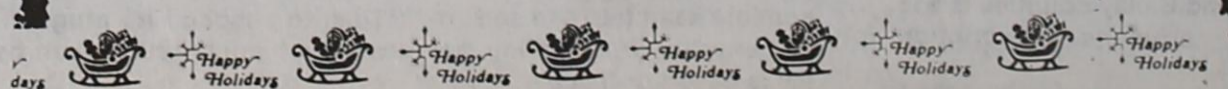
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**The Parmer County
 Tax Assessor-Collector's
 office in the
 county courthouse
 will be closed the week of
 Dec. 25 -- Jan. 1
 for end-of-the-year
 closeout and inventory.**

**It will reopen on
 Jan. 2, 2001,
 at 8:30 a.m.**

**Happy
 Holidays!**



Steers defeat Friona

Varsity Boys

The Farwell Steers are 5-3 after beating Friona on Tuesday, 68-59.

Scoring were Fidel Ruiz, 2;

Taylor Nichols, 13; Tucker Crawford, 22; Derek Goettsch, 5; Thomas Ortiz, 5, and Gage Gregory, 21.

The Farwell Steers won 1 and lost 2 at the Friona Tournament last weekend.

The Steers lost to Nazareth, 66-45.

Scoring were Taylor Nichols and Thomas Ortiz, 4 each; Cade Christian, 2; Manuel Garcia, 3; Gage Gregory, 10; Derek Goettsch, 8, and Tucker Crawford, 12.

Farwell fell to Amarillo San Jacinto, 61-57.

Scoring were Nichols and Ortiz, 2 each; Garcia, 1; Gregory, 13; Goettsch, 14, and Crawford, 25.

Farwell put away Amarillo River Road, 62-40.

Scoring were Jeff Delgado and Garcia, 5 each; Fidel Ruiz and Nichols, 4 each; Crawford, 11; Goettsch, 8; Ortiz, 3; Gregory, 21 and Christian, 1.

Varsity Girls

The Lady Blue are 4-4 after falling to Friona, 50-36, on Tuesday.

Scoring were Kacey Gast, 5; Cassie Street and Mindi Roberts, 3 each; Jessica Chandler, 19; and Kinzi Woods, 6.

The Farwell Lady Blue won 2 of 3 games in last weekend's Friona Tournament to win the consolation title.

Farwell was stopped by Plainview, 49-38.

Scoring were Kacey Gast, 7; Kinzi Woods, 9; Lacey Actkinson, 2; Brandi Lacey, 1; Cassie Street, 3; Mindi Roberts, 4; and Jessica Chandler, 12.

Farwell defeated River Road of Amarillo, 42-40.

Scoring were Woods, 10; Chandler, 11; Tara Cargile, 2; Street, 3; Gast, 15, and Actkinson, 1.

Gast keyed the win by scoring 7 of her team's 9 points in the final quarter.

And Farwell beat Hale Center, 51-45. The Lady Blue held Hale Center's All-State center to 13 points.

Scoring were Actkinson, 2; Gast, 15; Bailey, 5; Chandler, 19, and Woods, 10.

JV Girls

Farwell's JV Girls beat Friona, 52-41.

Scoring were Chelsea Meyer, 8; Hailey Grimes, 14; Jaimie Diaz, 3; Nikki Gober, 2; Chrystal Wolven, 4; Kyra Christian, 16, and Khallie Foster, 5.

The Farwell JV Girls beat Friona on Saturday, 43-15.

Scoring were Jaimie Diaz and Khallie Foster, 2 each; Hailey Grimes, 17; Nikki Gober and Chrystal Wolven, 4 each; Kyra Christian, 8, and Chelsea Meyer, 6.

Last Friday, the Farwell JV girls stopped Tulla, 42-34.

Scoring were Grimes, 21; Diaz, 1; Wolven, 4; Christian, 6; Foster, 7, and Meyer, 3.

JV Boys

The Farwell JV Boys are 6-1 after smashing Friona, 62-29.

Scoring were Jason Johnson, 7; Carlos Garcia and Cale Stevenson, 4 each; Lonnie McFarland, 5; Zac Schilling, 17; Grant Gregory, 16; Josh Curtis, 3, and Tyler Myers, 6.

The Farwell JV defeated Friona, 61-20, on Saturday.

Scoring were Jason Johnson and Daniel Kaltwasser, 7 each; Carlos Garcia, 3; Lonnie McFarland, Tyler Myers and Juan Sanchez, 2 each; Josh Curtis, 4; Grant Gregory, 12; Jose Cabello, 10; and Zac

All-Tourney

Farwell's Jessica Chandler and Tucker Crawford were named to the All-Tournament Team at the Friona Tourney.

Schilling, 12.

Last Friday, Farwell was tipped by Tulla, 38-37.

Scoring were Johnson, Kaltwasser and Sanchez, 2 each; Myers, 6; Gregory, 4; Schilling, 11; McFarland, 5; and Garcia, 3.

9th Boys

Farwell's freshman boys lost to Whiteface on Monday, 39-36.

Scoring were Jeremie Chandler, 8; Jason Sudderth, 6; Randy Armstrong, 5; Bobby Garcia, 1; Jose Cabello, 13, and Daniel Kaltwasser, 3.

9th Girls

Farwell's 9th grade girls fell to Whiteface, 53-19.

Scoring were Kim Taylor and Candace Richardson, 2 each; Tara Sanchez, 11, and

Erma Williams, 4.

8th Girls

Farwell's 8th grade girls beat Springlake-Earth, 29-19.

Scoring were Danielle Cargile, 6; Lindsay Vandiver, 19; and Holly McIntosh and Jordan Carpenter, 2 each.

8th Boys

Farwell's 8th grade boys beat Springlake-Earth, 35-15, to improve their record to 6-0.

Scoring were Robbie Tabb, 13; Tate Nichols, 6; and Chris Culver, Michael Johnson, Rowdy Mitchell and Jarod Scott, 4 each.

Flu vaccine in short supply here

As everyone knows, flu vaccine is in short supply in this area.

Dr. Kyle Sheets, who operates the Farwell Medical Clinic, reports that he has gotten some vaccine in, but it already has been given out.

So folks need to periodically check with him, at 481-1000, to see if any is available.

Meet Farwell's Class of 2013



Katie Slack, a Farwell kindergartener, has a birthday of Feb. 7.

Parents are Tom & Kindra Aarstad. Also in the family is Tannah Slack. Grandparents are Donna & Earl Aarstad, and Melvin & Kathy Turnbow.

She likes to ride horses, go to the park and play with her dog. She likes pizza and chicken strips. Her favorite colors are blue and red.

She doesn't like chicken pot pie.

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Water use seminar slated

Farmers and stockman can update their knowledge of water use and management at a Dec. 14 seminar sponsored by the extension service and Texas Department of Agriculture at the Friona Community

Building.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. CEU's can also be earned.

Extension Agent Cody Hill

Program Event on tap

"We don't know what the future holds, but we know who holds the future" will be the theme of the annual Program Event sponsored by the Parmer County Extension Service on Dec. 13 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Farwell Community Center.

The event is open to everyone. A meal, sponsored by the Parmer County Program Council, will be served.

The speakers will be Clovis Police officers Dean Marney, community relations division, and L. Lewis, school resource officer. They will discuss how alcohol use affects youths and the signs that adults should look for. Also, gang violence prevention will be addressed by the two officers.

The program will also include highlights of the year's activities by the extension agents and others involved in their programs.

RSVPs are asked by Dec. 11. For more information, call the extension office at 481-3619.

Town & Country Veterinary
announces a telephone
number change. Our new number is
251-1666

Announcement

With the closing of Dr. Chasteen's medical practice, former patients of hers who have an account with an existing balance need to have those accounts settled.

To discuss payment arrangements on these accounts, please call 481-3200 during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

These accounts must be settled by Dec. 31, 2000, to avoid further action.

Thank you.

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— Total maximum daily loading (TMDL), Donna Long, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

— Texas Department of Agriculture laws and regulations, Randy Rivera and Levon Harman, Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

— Point- and non-point source pollution, Jim Williams, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

— The Food Quality Protection Act, Mike Hare, Texas Dept. of Agriculture.

For more information, call Hill at 481-3619.

Financial Focus

by Glen O'Rear

Anyone who takes a long-term perspective of the stock market can see that the blue chips are still worthy of attention.

This face became even more apparent when, in little more than a week in March, the Dow gained more than 1,000 points. Why?

Part of the answer may be that the blue chips were suddenly seen as more affordable than the high-flying technology stocks.

Despite the 34 percent correction in the Nasdaq earlier this year, many of these stocks, especially the "dot.com" companies, are trading at extremely high price to earnings (P/E) ratios.

That simply means that investors are paying a high premium for the potential earning power of these companies, some of which have yet to show a profit.

Some market experts have suggested that the P/E, along with other traditional valuation measures, should be overlooked when it comes to evaluating the new, high-tech stocks. But other market watchers believe that companies with absolutely no history of earnings are, at the least, pretty risky.

Who is right? It's probably too early to say. In all likelihood, there will be some shakeouts in the high-tech world, particularly in the dot.com sector. But no matter what happens in this area, blue chip stocks will stick have an important place in a well-diversified portfolio. That's because blue chips have at least three major advantages:

- They make money — a company that knows how to earn money in various economic climates should be of some interest to investors.

- They pay dividends — stocks that pay dividends demonstrate that company's commitment to its shareholders. If you don't need the dividends as income, you can reinvest them back into the stock.

- They have a track record — because blue chip companies generally have long track records, you can evaluate how they've performed in a variety of market cycles. This can be useful when you're considering different investment options.

In the final analysis, there is no one "right" category of stocks to own. In making your choices, you will want to consider your needs, your objectives and your tolerance for risk.

Ultimately, you may find that you have room for the exciting technologies of tomorrow and the solid blue chips of today.



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Edward Jones

Wolverines, Lady Wolverines stay undefeated

Varsity Girls

The Texico Lady Wolverines, defending state champions, are off to a 3-0 start.

Last Friday, they put away Melrose, 63-43.

Scoring wre Jennifer Roberts, 20; Elizabeth Richards, 18; Carrie Phipps and Callie Rucker, 4 each; Shea Smith and Megan Brown, 1 each;

Krysta Morris, 5; Kara Jenkins, 8, and Dru Mayfield, 2.

Richards had 11 rebounds and Roberts 8. Morris led in steals with 6 and Richards had 5. Richards also had 10 assists.

Roberts knocked down a trio of 3-pointers.

On Saturday, Texico wiped out Hart, 81-61.

Scoring were Roberts, 7; Richards, 25; Callie Rucker, Carrie Rucker and Nicole Richards, 1 each; Mayfield, 2; Phipps, 5; Brown, 2; Jenkins, 21; Morris, 13, and Smith, 3.

Rebound leaders were Richards, 11; and Jenkins, 7. Richards had 9 steals, Morris 6 and Jenkins 4. Roberts had 9 assists.

Morris hit on 3 of 7 3-point attempts.

Varsity Boys

The Wolverines are also 3-0 on the young season, after beating up a tough Melrose team that has had some outstanding players move to it from the Grady Schools.

Last Friday, they whipped Melrose, 86-74. This could be a preview of the state championship game.

Scoring were Ross Burford, 20; Ryan Autrey and Jake Williams, 4 each; Jake Boazman, 9; Chris Hall, 13; Justin Foust and Johnny Sena, 12 each; Kyle Duncan and Marcos Loera, 6 each.

Rebound leaders were Sena and Burford, 8 each; and

Boazman, 7. Hall had 5 assists and 6 steals to lead in both categories.

On Saturday, Texico crashed by Hart, 61-45.

Scoring were Autrey, 2; Burford, 4; Hall, 9; Loera, 5; Michael Marlowe, 2; Tanner Williams, 6; Foust, 5; Sena, 9; Boazman, 12; Jacob Alderse-Baes, 2; Duncan, 3.

Rebound leaders were AlderseBaes and Burford, 7 each, with Duncan chipping in with 6. Sena had 3 steals.

JV Boys

The Texico JV Boys lost to Gattis on Monday, 57-52. Texico is now 4-2 on the year.

Scoring wre Corey Bell, 1; Andre Span, Anthony Askew and Chase Bradley, 2 each; Johnny Rivera, 12; Mark Peabody, 11; Ben Black and Kody Vaughan, 4 each; Bryce Bailey, 6, and Shane Mayfield, 8.

Rebound leaders were Peabody, 11; Black, 8, and Askew, 7. Rivera had 7 steals.

The Texico JV Boys doubled Melrose, 84-41.

Scoring were Corey Bell, 6; Chase Bradley 4; Johnny Rivera, Kody Vaughan and Bryce Bailey, 8 each; Mark Peabody, 4; Adrian Loera, 13; Tanner Williams, 17; Shane Mayfield, 7; Anthony Askew, 1, and Toby Thornton, 3.

Williams had 10 rebounds, and Askew 6. Loera led in assists with 5.

The next night, Texico sped by Hart, 70-56.

Scoring were Bell, 5; Bradley and Peabody, 3 each;

Rivera, 10; Loera, 20; Williams, 16; Ben Black, 2; Vaughan, 6; Mayfield, 4, and Askew, 3.

Williams had 7 rebounds. Loera led in assists with 5.

JV Girls

The Texico JV Girls fell to Gattis, 47-38.

Scoring were Tori Bradley, 9; Jazzie Walls, 15; Nicole

Richards, 1; Kelsi Cain, 3; Mollie Furrow, 4, and Tara Lockmiller, 6.

The Texico JV Girls blasted Melrose, 46-23.

Scoring were Nicole Richards, 3; Mollie Furrow and Carrie Rucker, 2 each; Jazzie Walls, Megan Brown and Dru Mayfield, 6 each; Kelsi Cain and Christina Clark, 4 each; Tara Lockmiller, 5.



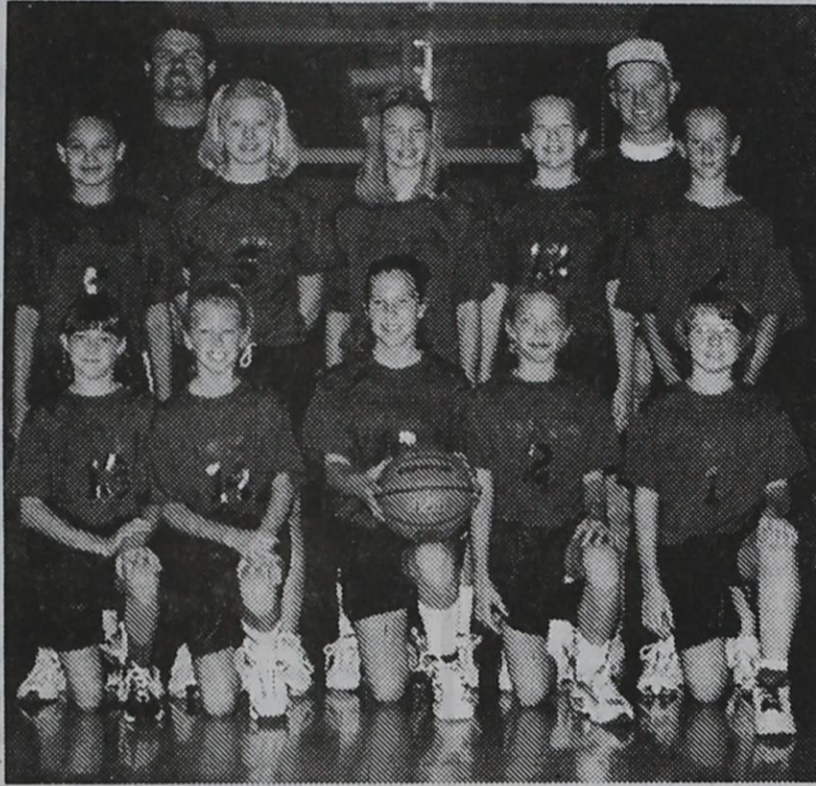
Krysta Morris



Kara Jenkins



Carrie Phipps



The Mercury

The Mercury took 3rd place in CGAA basketball in Clovis with a 12-4 record. Pictured are back row, coaches Tim Grissom and Jon Riddle; middle row, Salida Edwards, Britton Barrett, Leianna Grissom, Kyla Riddle, Sarah Herington; front row, Amy Terry, Shelby Christian, Dellani Jones, Karli Schilling, Amanda Martin.

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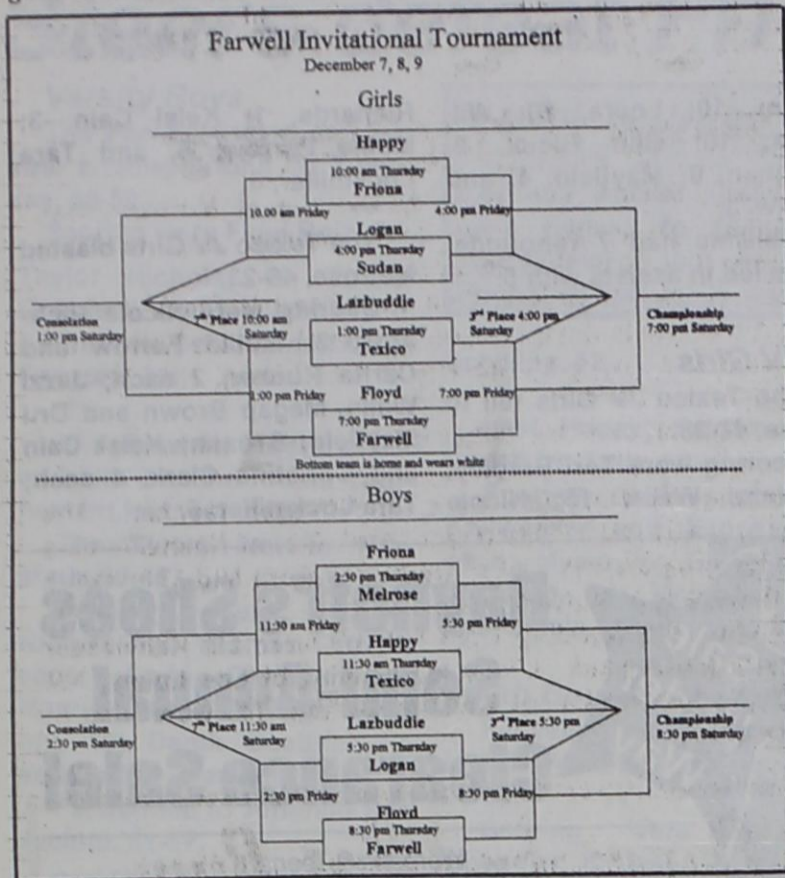
Level Loop Stripe - 2 colors	\$3.99 Sq Yd
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Floral Level Loop	\$7.95 Sq Yd REG. \$10.95 Sq Yd
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It's time for the Farwell Tournament

Basketball continues at a fever pitch this week, highlighted by the Farwell Invitational Basketball Tournament.

Texico, Farwell and Lazbuddie teams will battle as part of what appears to be an outstanding collection of top-flight squads this year.

In the girls' bracket, Sudan is the team to beat.

In the boys' bracket, Texico may be the best of the group.

But those are merely predictions. Fans will find out for sure when the tourney commences today.

Here's a look at other local teams:

Also today, the Texico Junior High 8A, 8B and 7A boys will play at Gattis at 4 p.m. mt, while the same group of Texico girls will host Gattis at 5 p.m. mt.

Saturday, the Texico 8th grade teams will host Grady at 9 a.m.

On Monday, it's the 8th graders' turn. The boys will host Marshall at 5 p.m. mt, while the girls will play at Marshall at 4 p.m. mt.

After the Texico varsity teams play in the Farwell tournament, they will host Ft. Sumner on Dec. 12, then host Bovina on Dec. 15, and Tucumcari on Dec. 16.

The Texico JV teams also will be hosting Ft. Sumner, Bovina and Tucumcari on

those days.

The Farwell Junior High 7th and 8th grade teams will take on Sudan on Monday -- with the girls at Sudan and the boys playing here.

After the Farwell tourney, the Farwell varsity and JV teams will host Nazareth on Tuesday, then play at Happy on Dec. 15.

The Lazbuddie Junior High teams will play at Whitharral on Monday, then host Cotton Center on Dec. 18.

After the Farwell tourney, the Lazbuddie varsity and JV teams will play at Silverton on Tuesday, then at Hart on Dec. 15.

Lazbuddie junior high, high school students recognized

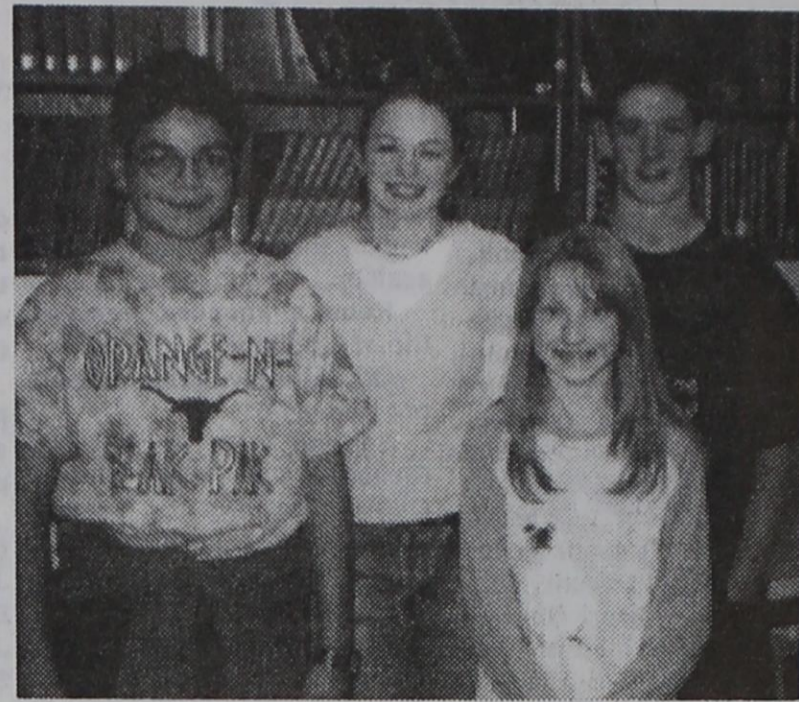
Students of the Month for November have been selected at Lazbuddie junior high and high school.

Andy Martin, 16, is the son of Tommy and Linda Martin. His birthday is Sept. 26. His personal motto is "Try not to live by a motto." His survival tip for school is (tongue in cheek) "don't be original, do and say what the teachers want you to do." His favorites are "Bent" by Matchbox 20, Texas Tech University, Victoria's Secret, Chris Farley, Cosmic Brownies and the color blue. His pet peeve is people asking what your pet peeve is.

Shonnah Black, 14, is the daughter of Ricky and Sarah Black. Her birthday is May 21. Her motto is "Everything is a matter of the mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." Her survival tip for school is "taking it day by day and eventually there won't be any more days left and you can get on with your life." She likes "Swallowing Stones", anything chocolate, the colors orange and blue, and Angelo State, A&M and Texas Tech universities. Her pet peeve is small minded people with attitudes who think they know everything.

Chris DeLeon, 13, is the son of Tommy and Elva DeLeon. His birthday is May 26. His motto is "be your own leader." His survival tip for school is to be nice to people. He likes the thong song, Colorado University, "Where the Red Fern Goes", Julia Roberts, popcorn and the color purple. His pet peeve is people who are stuck up.

Montana Steinbock, 12, is the daughter of Charleson and Belinda Steinbock. Her motto is "perfect practice makes perfect, and treat others like you want to be treated." Her survival tip for school is to study hard and don't say anything in class. Her favorites are "Arms Wide Open" by Creed, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," Jim Carey, honeybuns and the color pink. Her pet peeve is having a messy room.



From left are Chris DeLeon, Shonnah Black, Montana Steinbock and Andy Martin.

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Texico
 Monday - chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese sandwich, fresh veggies & dip, crackers, fruit, milk.
 Tuesday - nachos with meat and cheese, jalapenos, corn, fruit crisp, milk.
 Wednesday - Christmas Dinner -- ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, garden salad, strawberry shortcake, milk.
 Thursday - cheeseburgers, french fries, lettuce, pickles, fruit, milk.
 Friday - hot dogs - plain or chili, tater tots, pickle spears, cookie, milk.

Farwell
 Monday - tamales with cheese sauce, pinto beans, Spanish rice, cornbread, sugar cookie, apple, milk.
 Tuesday - chicken fried steak with gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, peach half, milk.
 Wednesday - taco boats (meat, beans, cheese sauce), LT salad, corn, lemon cake, milk.
 Thursday - cheeseburgers, LTOP, french fries, jello with fruit, milk.
 Friday - corn dogs, tater tots, dill spears, peanut butter cookie, applesauce, milk.

School Lunch Menus
Citizens Bank
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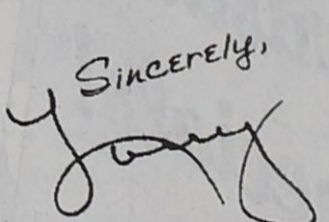
LARRY COMBEST

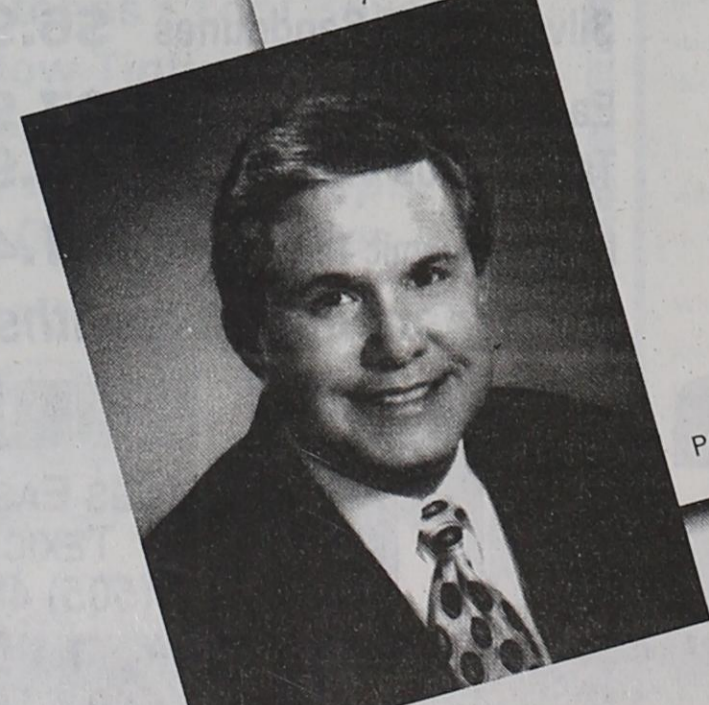
Dear Friends,

I am very humbled by the confidence you have shown in my service by re-electing me for another term to Congress. I consider a campaign to be a job interview with my employers, the people of the 19th District.

As your representative in Congress I will continue to work to pay off the nation's debt, develop a national energy strategy, strengthen and preserve Social Security and Medicare. We must also reduce taxes, eliminate burdensome environmental regulations and provide access to affordable prescription drugs. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee I will help rewrite federal farm policy to provide a better safety net for area producers and ranchers. We must all work together on behalf of this great country where we are blessed to live.

You have my heartfelt thanks for the confidence you have placed in me.

Sincerely,




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Sheriff's Report

Here is the weekly report from Parmer County Sheriff Gary Blair:

On Dec. 1, Debra Merrell, 44, of Bovina, was arrested by Friona police on charges of DWI 2nd and possession of marijuana, pending in county court, and endangering a child, pending before the grand jury.

On Dec. 2, Jose Rodriguez, 30, of Friona, was arrested by the sheriff's office on charges of driving with a suspended license, pending in county court, and DWI subsequent, pending before the grand jury.

On Dec. 3, John Saylor, 18, of Muleshoe, was arrested by Texas Highway Patrol on a charge of DWI. The case is pending in county court.

On Dec. 3, Robert Cordova, 49, of Clovis, was arrested by Friona police on a charge of possession of marijuana. The case is pending in county court.

On Dec. 2, Alberto Rodriguez, 24, of Friona, was arrested by the sheriff's office on a charge of public intoxication. He was released to the Border Patrol.

On Dec. 2, Amado Rocha, 35, of Friona, was arrested by the sheriff's office on a charge of public intoxication. He was released to the Border Patrol.

On Nov. 30, Richard McIntire Jr., 21, of Abilene, was arrested by the sheriff's office on a charge of driving with a suspended license. The case is pending in county court.

On Nov. 29, Edwin Standlee, 32, of Bovina, was arrested by Bovina police on a charge of indecency with a child. The case is pending before the grand jury.

In 287th District Court, with Judge Gordonn Green, presiding:

-- On Nov. 27, Candido Garcia, no age given, of Earth, charged with subsequent DWI, was sentenced to 4 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, probated for 4 years, 10 days in county jail, \$267 court costs, \$750 fine, \$200 restitution, 200 hours of community service, loss of driver's license for 18 months, and obtain alcohol counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 27, Alfredo Alonzo, 39, of Bovina, charged with Class A misdemeanor assault (reduced from aggravated assault), was sentenced to 5 months in Parmer County Jail, \$267 court costs, \$1,500 fine, \$350 attorney fees and \$1,244 restitution.

-- On Nov. 27, Fermin Tarin Watts, 43, of Amarillo, charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), was sentenced to 2 years in state jail, deferred for 2 years; \$267 court costs, \$1,000 fine, 80 hours of community service, and obtain substance counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 27, Adolfo Celaya Perez, 48, of Amarillo, charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), was sentenced to 2 years in state jail, deferred for 2 years, \$267 court

costs, \$1,000 fine, 80 hours of community service, and obtain substance counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 27, Abraham Vicente Soto, 19, of Friona, charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), was sentenced to 2 years in state jail, deferred for 2 years, \$267 court costs, \$750 fine, \$140 restitution, 80 hours of community service and obtain substance counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 27, Leon Whitson, 45, of Hereford, charged with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), was sentenced to 3 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, deferred for 3 years, \$267 court costs, \$1,000 fine, 80 hours of community service, and obtain substance counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 28, Jose Adan Rutiaga, 30, of Hereford, charged with subsequent DWI, was sentenced to 4 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, probated for 4 years, \$292 court costs, \$750 fine, 200 hours of community service, loss of driver's license for 18 months, and obtain alcohol counseling at own expense.

-- On Nov. 28, Eric Hernandez, 28, of Friona, charged with possession of a controlled substance (cocaine), was sentenced to 6 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, \$267 court costs, \$750 fine, and \$140 restitution.

-- On Dec. 4, Donny Lang, 36, of Friona, charged with subsequent DWI, was sentenced to 4 years in the Texas Department of Corrections, probated for 4 years, 10 days in county jail, \$292 court costs, \$750 fine, 200 hours of community service, loss of driver's license for 18 months, and obtain alcohol counseling at own expense.

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Jo Ellen Ellison weds Jason McCleskey

Jo Ellen Ellison and Jason McCleskey of Murfreesboro, Tennessee exchanged vows in a double ring wedding ceremony Nov. 18 in Murfreesboro.

Jason is the son of Rev. Dale and Cheryl McCleskey of Mt. Juliet, Tenn. He is the grandson of Gilbert and Liz Kaltwasser of Farwell and Loyce McCleskey of Los Lunas, New Mexico and formerly of Farwell.

Rev. Dale McCleskey, father of the groom, performed the ceremony.

The bride is employed as a kindergarten teacher. The groom is employed at Broadcast Music Inc. of Nashville as a computer programmer. Both graduated from Mid Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro.

Attending the wedding from Farwell were Liz Kaltwasser and Carla Kaltwasser. Loyce McCleskey, of Los Lunas, NM and Chelsi Kaltwasser, of College Station, TX, were also in attendance.

December Hot Buys

Mag Light Flashlights: \$12⁹⁷

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If you haven't received
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763-3931 Or 763-4742

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Linda Hall, Curry County Treasurer

Rachel Toney, Chief Deputy Treasurer

LEGAL PUBLICATIONS

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S)

District: Lubbock

Contract: 0905-00-024 for MISCELLANEOUS CONSTRUCTION in Lubbock County, etc. will be opened on January 04, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. at the State Office.

Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas, at the expense of the contractor.

NPO:2321

State Office

Construction Division
200 E. Riverside Dr.
Austin, Texas 78704
Phone: 512-416-2540

District Office(s)

Lubbock District
District Engineer
Lubbock, Texas 79404
Phone: 806-745-4411

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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NEW LISTING -- Nice 4 bedroom, 2 3/4 bath, brick home with central heat/refrigerated air, built-ins, fireplace, sprinkler system, built-in patio. All in great location. Call for more details.

NEW LISTING -- Nice 4 bedroom, 1 bath, brick home, with central heat, single car unattached garage, nice location. All on corner lot. Priced to Sell!

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Nice 3 bedroom, 1 3/4 bath, brick home with large den, utility, single car garage and nice fenced back yard with covered patio all in nice location. Call for more details.

Nice large 2 bedroom, 2 bath brick home, built-ins, ref. air, central heat, 2-car garage, storage building, nice fenced back yard. All in good location.

Nice 3 bedroom, 1 bath, steel siding home, eve. air, built-ins, 2 living areas, single car garage, storage building, nice fenced backyard, all on corner lot close to school. Priced to Sell!!

Large 2 bedroom (could be 3), brick home with central heat & refrig. air, 1 3/4 bath, 2 living areas, office, 2-car garage, single car carport, fenced back yard, close to school.

If you are considering selling your farm, please give us a call. Now is the time.

New Listing -- *80 acre tract joining the Texico city limits. One 8" well, barn and corrals. Call for details.

296 acres SW of Clay's Corner. 2 electric sprinklers, 3 irrigation wells, lays well, good water. 4-corners in CRP.

Castro/Lamb Co. Line - 320 acres, 3 wells, underground tile, 243.6 acres CRP, 8 years remaining at \$35.00 per acre.

469 acres, West Camp area, 6 irrigation wells, 85 acres CRP - 9 years left, highway frontage, lays well! Set up for 2 sprinkler systems. Call for details.

*In cooperation with N.M. Broker.

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Bailey County. 320 acres with very nice brick home, large barn, 2 sprinklers, 6 wells.

Parmer County. 960 acres, on pavement, 2 half milers, 5 wells, large barn, modest house.

280 acres near Hub. Excellent soil and water, lays good, 2 wells, 1 sprinkler. Priced for immediate sale.

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Commercial building in Bovina. Good location. *****

Bovina -- 2 bedroom, 1 bath, 1 car garage, north of school. *****

3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick home with garage, central heat, refrigerated air, stove & fridge, fenced yard. Good location in Farwell. Owner says sell!!

Need Farm Listings Have Buyers!

JUST LISTED -- 160 acres irrigated, lays good, southeast of Lazbuddie. *****

NEEDS FAMILY with kids and animals. 2 plus acres, with nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath, brick home, FP, garage, steel horse and storage building with corrals, large storage building, all on Highway 1731 south of Bovina. *****

PRICE REDUCED -- 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath home in Farwell with large yard. Across street from school with great day-care opportunities. *****

Residential lots for sale in Loop in Farwell. 175' x 150'. *****

17.3 acres southeast of Farwell on Lubbock highway. *****

246 acres irrigated with nice brick home, 2 irrigation wells, 2 sprinklers, good water area southeast of Lazbuddie. *****

640 acres, southeast of Bovina, 3 irrigation wells, 60 acres native pasture, 92 acres CRP. Good farm, owner says sell!! *****

160 acres, irrigated, Oklahoma Lane area, circle sprinkler and 8" irrigation well. *****

PRICE REDUCED -- 1,280 acres, irrigated, northeast of Arch, N.M. 6 circle sprinklers, 12 irrigation wells, good water, good farm. *****

THE CLASSIFIEDS

Auction Calendar

Farm Auction

Tuesday, Dec. 12
9:30 a.m. mst
Arch, NM: From Arch (16 miles east/southeast of Portales on Hwy. 88), go 3 miles east on Hwy. 88, then 3/4 mile north on CR RRD to sale site. Will be selling 2 tractors, combine, corn header, grain cart, semi truck, grain truck, grain trailer, carryall, welders, grain augers, livestock panels, and misc. farm eqpt.

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Consignment Auction

Saturday, Dec. 16
9 a.m. mst
Located: 3 miles northeast of Portales at the Bill Johnston Auctioneers Lot on Hwy. 70. Farm implements, dairy eqpt., hay eqpt., livestock eqpt., farm eqpt., grain dryer, grain cart, harvest eqpt., etc. Also, tractors, dozers, fork lifts, motor graders, trailers, vehicles, trenchers, backhoes, semi-truck, etc.

To consign eqpt., call
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City Cleaners, of Farwell, is now offering free delivery service to homes, schools, the nursing home, etc., in the Texico-Farwell area. Call 481-3384.

Hay for sale. Seed milo stocks, \$25 per bale. Call Dale Gober at (806) 225-4178 or (806) 251-1592, Bovina.

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Garage Sale on Saturday, Dec. 9, at Jarman Seed in Muleshoe. Everything \$5 or less. Men's, women's and children's clothing. Starts at 9 a.m.

Will hang Christmas lights, decorations, put up Christmas trees, take down lights, decorations, remove and dispose of trees, clean after tree removal. Call Wade Cargile. 481-4444.

FOR RENT: 3 bedroom, 2 bath home in Farwell. Call 481-3321.

Via, Garcia earn All-Tourney honors

Varsity Girls

The Lazbuddie varsity girls won 1 and lost 2 at the Wilson Tournament last weekend. In the first game, they lost to Jayton, 57-28.

Scoring were Savannah Black, 8; Shonnah Black, Mayra Hernandez and Kelsey Jones, 3 each; Shawndee Nichols, 1; and Laura Jo Via, 10.

Then the Lady Longhorns beat Wilson, 43-24.

Scoring were Jodie Coker, 3; Savannah Black and Shonnah Black, 2 each; Nichols, 9; Jones, 6; Via, 17, and Hernandez, 4.

In the final game, Lazbuddie was tipped by Spur, 53-49.

Scoring were Savannah Black, 14; Shonnah Black, 7; Via, 22; and Hernandez, Jones and Nichols, 2 each.

Varsity Boys

The Lazbuddie Longhorns won 2 and lost 1 at the Wilson

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Meet Texico's Class of 2013



Max Galvan Jr. is a Texico kindergartener. His birthday is Aug. 3. Parents are Monica Galvan and Max Gavalden. He has 2 brothers and 4 sisters. His grandmother is Dolores Ramirez.

He likes to watch TV, and to ride horses. His favorite food is french fries. His favorite color is blue.

Sponsored by the Texico Branch
Citizens Bank

The Latest

Texico High's Genea Hopingardner earned All-State Band honors last week at ENMU in Portales.

She plays the flute.

The Tribune welcomes a new advertiser to its classified page:

Jesse Baxter, of Farwell, offers plumbing services.

The Texico High School Drama Club will present "Murder's in the Heir" by Billy St. John on Monday at 7 p.m. at the school educational complex.

The play, which features 14 high school students, is an audience interactive murder mystery/comedy, in which everyone is a suspect and the audience is responsible for choosing the real killer. That means there are alternate endings.

The production is directed by teachers Amy Kelley, Glynna Martin and Dennis

Roch.

The performance is free, and open to the public.

Aaron Preathor will be the judge for the Farwell Junior Livestock Show on Jan. 6.

Preathor is the county agent in Cochran County, Texas.

The new area bishop, Dr. D. Max Whitfield, stopped by Hamlin Memorial United Methodist Church on Monday for a quick visit.

Youths at Hamlin Memorial United Methodist Church will present a musical program at 6 p.m. on Dec. 17.

While Carla and Chelsi Kaltwasser were in Murfreesboro for a family wedding on Nov. 18, they had a chance to visit with Joni Autry.

Joni is Carla's niece and is living in Nashville where she is a Senior at Vanderbilt University.

Joni is the granddaughter of Roy and Lola Richardson of Texico.

Mary Mesman returned from Holland last Saturday night from a trip to attend the funeral of her sister Tonia Zwart.

Donations received at the First Baptist Church of Farwell made it possible to give Thanksgiving boxes to more than 50 families.

Chasma Terrell Askew, of the Farwell area, is among 226 graduation candidates at Eastern New Mexico University this fall.

She is a candidate for a

Recipe of Week

Pecan Morning Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 loaf (16 ounces) raisin bread
- 1 package (8 ounces) Jones Golden Brown sausage
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 1/2 cups half and half
- 6 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Topping:

- 1 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Prepare 13x9-inch glass baking pan with non-stick spray. Cube raisin bread and put in baking dish. Brown sausage, drain and cut into bite-size pieces. Mix with bread. In a large bowl, mix milk, half and half, eggs, vanilla, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour over bread and sausage. Tightly cover with plastic wrap. Refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Heat oven to 350 degrees. To prepare topping, soften butter in microwave. Do not melt. Mix in brown sugar, syrup and pecans. Uncover casserole and dollop topping evenly over casserole. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cut into eight squares and serve with fresh fruit.

Happy Birthday!

- Carey Stancell: Dec. 7
- Ava Nell Sewell: Dec. 10
- Holly McIntosh: Dec. 10
- Susan Franse: Dec. 10
- Rod Carpenter: Dec. 11
- J.R. Ivins: Dec. 13
- Jackie Smallwood: Dec. 13
- Lacy Meeks: Dec. 13

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bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Cotton producers in Roosevelt and Curry County have approved a referendum to establish a cotton boll weevil control district.

One hundred and thirty-nine ballots were mailed out, with about 83 percent favoring the district.

The new flick, "Proof of

Life" is about to hit the big screens.

Filmed partially in Ecuador, it stars the Will Anderson family from Farwell.

Supporting actors are Meg Ryan and Russell Crowe.

Actually, you may see Mrs. Anderson and the kids in the film. About all you will see of Will is part of his arm holding a briefcase.

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Mike,
I received the following information from the Texas Association of Home and Services for the Aging (TAHSA) and wanted to share it with Texico-Farwell folks to explain a serious problem that nursing homes are facing in Texas.

TAHSA says that over half of its mostly faith-based nursing home members believe that they may have to close their doors within the next five years if the Texas legislature does not adequately address several pressing issues in its January session. Another 38 percent of TAHSA members believe their continued operation is at least somewhat threatened by the crisis they are facing.

Several inter-related issues lie at the heart of the crisis, including inadequate Medicaid reimbursement, escalating insurance liability costs, and difficulty in funding competitive wage rates for staff.

Many TAHSA not-for-profit homes have been serving their communities for more than 50 years. We have been hearing from our members that the current operating environment is the toughest they have ever seen, and this survey certainly confirms this, said TAHSA President David Latimer.

He continued: For many faith-based not-for-profits, the up-

coming legislative session is their last hope. Unless we can find a legislative solution to adequate reimbursement to cover the actual costs of care, staffing, and escalating insurance costs, many of our members may not be able to continue to provide their much-needed community services. One of our members closed their doors in September, and our survey indicates that many others may face the same fate if they do not get some relief.

The current level of Medicaid reimbursement is inadequate to provide care for low-income seniors. Medicaid reimbursement rates are set by individual states and Texas is near the bottom in level of funding.

Latimer said that Medicaid pays for the care of 70 percent of nursing home residents in Texas at a rate set by the legislature. Texas is 45th in the country in the amount it reimburses nursing homes to care for elderly low-income Texans.

He continued: The average rate of reimbursement in Texas is \$82.50 per resident per day, and that is just not adequate to pay for the proper level of staffing needed to give good care. It also gives no consideration to the exploding costs of liability insurance. By contrast, the state pays nursing home inspectors \$95 per day when traveling to cover the costs of a room and meals, and the inspectors are not receiving 24 hour nursing care, laundry, personal assistance with meals and bathing, social services, and other activities that a nursing home must try to provide for \$82.50.

Other advocacy groups have recognized the need for adequate reimbursement for improving staffing and quality of care. The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urged the legislature to add \$161 million each year of the biennium for staffing.

Another equally threatening situation in Texas is skyrocketing liability insurance premiums. Latimer said this problem for nursing homes has really been flying below the radar and has not been brought to the public's attention in a meaningful way. If you recall, several years ago, obstetricians quit delivering babies because they could not pay for liability insurance. That kind of crisis is occurring within the nursing home com-

munity now.

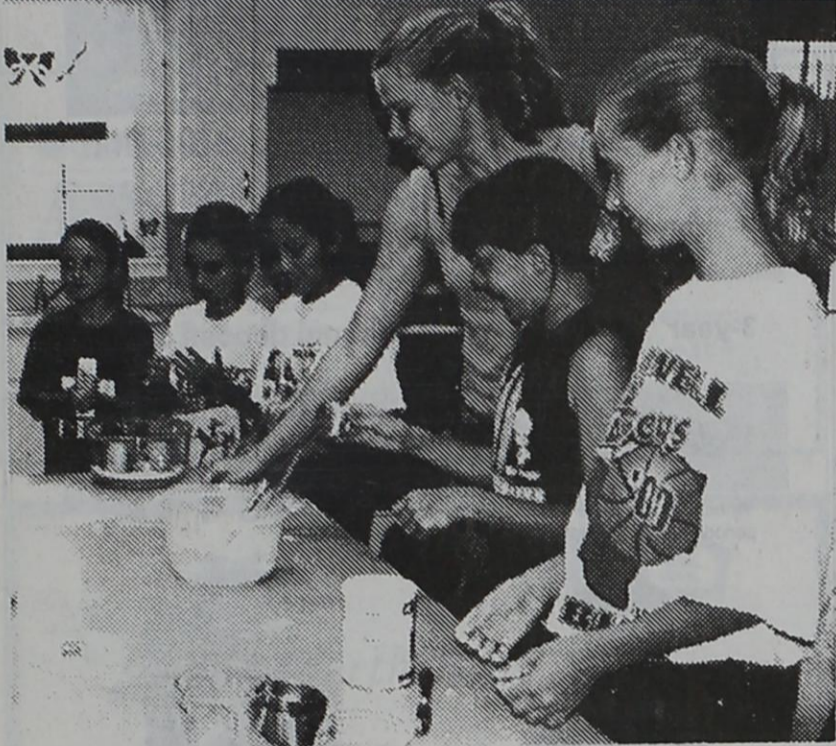
As an example, when the Farwell Convalescent Center recently asked for liability insurance bids, one company presented a bid for \$500,000.

Latimer said that nursing homes who have renewed their liability insurance since last June are finding premiums have risen over 600 percent for less coverage than they had last year even though they had no history of claims whatsoever.

Latimer said nursing homes have become easy targets and insurance companies have been quick to settle because the current rules of evidence are stacked against even a legitimate defense in an unwarranted lawsuit. This has caused many insurance carriers to withdraw from Texas and an explosion of rates charged by those who remain, even for facilities with good claims histories.

For example, Latimer said one member, a not-for-profit group with a 58-bed facility providing a critical service to a rural community, has seen their insurance rates rise from \$17,000 in 1998 to \$111,000 for this year's premium. The only way they can afford to pay it is to cut staff and quality of care for their residents, and they refuse to do that. They have decided to continue to provide care for their residents, but will have to do it without insurance. This is a terrible situation for that facility.

Jerry Adams, administrator
Farwell Convalescent Center



Food workshop

Leesa Patterson recently presented a workshop on making biscuits to members of the Farwell/Oklahoma Lane 4-H Food and Nutrition Club.

Robbery witness taken to Amarillo for hypnosis

There is very little to update on the armed robbery last week of the Bovina branch of First Bank of Muleshoe.

Parmer County Sheriff Gary Blair said the dark-colored van used in the heist has not been found. Two men were involved in the robbery, one armed with a shotgun.

Blair said one witness to the robbery went to FBI headquarters in Amarillo to be hypnotized to see if anything else could be recalled about the robbery.

The bank and Parmer County Crime Stoppers are offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of the bandits.

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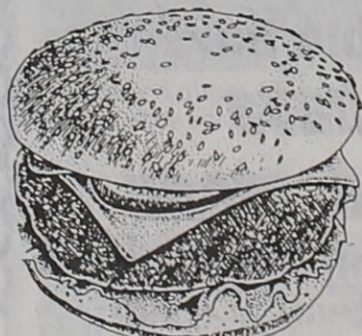
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