

Christmas ice damages area trees, power lines



There will be a lot less shade when the summer sun beats down. The tremendous weight of the ice devastated trees and littered streets, yards, and countrysides with huge broken limbs. Dave Fette photo



The home of Cathy and Francis Fuhrmann on Oak Street in Muenster received minor damage when a neighboring tree fell during the holiday ice storm. Janie Hartman photo

Henscheid retires from postmaster position

by Janet Felderhoff

After 38 plus years of service, Virgil Henscheid is retiring from his job with the US Postal Service. He began working part-time as a postal clerk in October of 1962. In April of 1975 Henscheid was promoted to the position of postmaster. Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001 was his last official day on the job.

"I'm going to miss the people," Henscheid remarked. "I enjoyed the people. I enjoyed my co-workers. I enjoyed the hard time all the people came in and gave me. The harder time they gave me the more I enjoyed it. I'll miss that, no doubt."

Henscheid said that he's ready to retire and excited about it. He said that he now plans to "hunt, fish, and enjoy life, and practice lying."

Amy Beall, a Valley View resident, will replace Henscheid as Muenster's postmaster. Beall grew up in Krum and that is where her family still lives. Her parents are Joe and Jackie Beall. She has one sister, Angie Wallace, and a nephew, Justin, and niece, Rachel. She earned an Associates Degree in Science from Texas Woman's University.

June of 1992 was when Beall began her career with the U.S. Postal Service. She started at the Coppel Distribution



Virgil Henscheid welcomes new postmaster Amy Beall. Photo by Dave Fette

Center and then went to Keller as a distribution clerk. She worked at the Denton Post Office as a supervisor and then at the Arlington Post Office as a supervisor and acting manager. For the past year she has worked at the Saint Jo Post Office as officer in charge.

The new postmaster said she is very excited about her new position. "I don't foresee to change anything or interrupt what's going on at the post

of Grayson, Fannin, and Lamar where there was more accumulation of ice. He said some of those customers went without electrical service for three and four days.

CCEC crews found their task in Cooke County more difficult. Local crews were joined by five other electric company crews from other areas. According to Randall Reed, CCEC member relations/safety coordinator, dozers were brought in to pull the Co-op's trucks through the mud and ice at times so that lines and poles could be repaired.

Reed couldn't say how many customers were without service. "We were so lucky that it only hit this area and not the eastern part of Cooke County," remarked Reed. He said that some customers north of Callisburg were also impacted by the ice storm.

According to Reed homes reporting loss of electricity

were CCEC's first focus. As of Tuesday, Jan. 2 all residential customers were back on the service. He said that they were still working on an oil lease.

Some customers didn't report problems until the ice began to melt on Thursday morning, Dec. 28. "Melting is a good thing, but there are consequences," reported Reed. "When ice falls off the power lines, 'galloping' occurs. This galloping is the frantic movement of the lines. This movement can cause lines, cross arms, and poles to break or any number of various problems resulting in outages."

Crews from Cooke County Precinct #4 and #3 were called on numerous times to clear fallen tree limbs from the county roads. Precinct #4 Commissioner Virgil Hess said that they were busy from Tuesday through Friday clearing limbs from blocked roads. Hess noted that there

were numerous problems around the Marysville and Blucher areas, especially at Black Holler. It seems like we'd get the road cleared and it would be blocked again, he said.

The freeze and thaw situation is causing a lot of damage to gravel roads, according to Hess. It is causing a lot of pot holes that will need repairs. Hess anticipates a tough winter with more bad weather to come. "We have most of our winter weather from the end of January, in February and early March," Hess recalled.

Telephone wires are mostly underground so that service was uninterrupted for most. Bernice Spaeth of Nortex Communications said that the reports they received of disconnected service came when service drops to homes were pulled down from felling

See FREEZING RAIN, p.2



The Friends of the Muenster Public Library Board officially signed over the new library building and property to the City of Muenster. Mayor Henry Weinzapfel and city council woman Jewel Otto, at right, accept the gift from the Friends, from left, Pat Stelzer, Ramona Felderhoff, Nancy Walter, Laura Pagel and Tom Valliere. Not pictured are Friends board members Jerry Eckart and Janie Hartman. Photo by Dave Fette

New library presented to City of Muenster

by Dave Fette

"As of tonight and by resolution, the Friends of the Muenster Public Library Board, with heartfelt gratitude to all who have helped, convey, free of charge to the City of Muenster, the newly completed library building and all land improvements, three months ahead of schedule."

With these words, Board Chairman Tom Valliere presented the deed for the new Bettie M. Luke Muenster Public Library to the City. The City Council voted unanimously to accept the gift and Mayor Henry Weinzapfel expressed his sincere appreciation on behalf of the community.

Valliere made note of the remarkable fact that the new library, valued at about \$500,000.00, has been provided without a single taxpayer dollar. "Which is a clear statement of the incredible philanthropic spirit of the Muenster Community and those associated with similar values and interests," he said.

Serious talk about building a new library began in 1991 and by 1993 the initial committee was formed. In 1996 a commitment was received from Norman J. Luke, son of the late Muenster librarian, Bettie M. Luke. Fundraising and planning continued and ground-breaking ceremonies were held in June, 2000.

The next phase for the 5,139 square foot facility involves shelving, furniture, computer systems, the donor wall and bricks, and actual moving. The final phase is to raise funds to provide an operating endowment that will provide for many years of library services and officially open the new library in April.

After the presentation, the City Council addressed regular agenda items.

Amendments to the sign ordinance regarding notification of neighbors, time frame for consideration by the Council and permit fees were adopted regulating billboards in the city limits.

A bid of \$22,500.00 was opened for the cost of removing the old Muenster water tower. The Council will seek a lower bid and a new location for the fire siren currently located on the tower.

Under new business, the Council discussed or acted on the following:

- The new sign for Turtle Hill Golf Course at Hwy. 82 and North Ash was approved.

- Relocation of Second Street in the Fleitman subdivision was approved.

- The Council discussed a municipal tax abatement plan for Universal Machining Services, Inc. which is moving into the previous Valenite location on East Highway 82 and Mesquite Street. Steve Trubenbach and Darren Voth stated that their business is valued at \$1.2 million with 12 employees. They plan to buy more machines and hire more in the near future. They asked the city to consider some level of tax abatement. The Council said they viewed the request favorably, but tabled the request until an equitable and enforceable plan can be drawn up. Mayor Weinzapfel and Councilmen John Pagel and

Troy Sicking thanked Voth and Trubenbach for bringing the business and employment to Muenster.

- Chris Yosten reported routine problems and solutions at the water treatment plant.

- Mary Endres was approved as election judge for the Jan. 20 Sales Tax Election.

- The Progressive Pumps bid of \$40,823.00 was accepted to install water fluoridation equipment on the Muenster water system. The City has secured a Texas Department of Health grant to completely offset the cost.

- The City of Muenster and Nortex Communications will cooperate in picking up and chipping of tree limbs downed by last week's freezing rain. Nortex is donating labor and the use of their machinery to help the city. The project starts today, Friday, Jan. 5. Limbs must be cut small enough for a man to handle and dragged to the curb.

- Purchase of a new radar gun for the police department was approved for \$991.00.

- Monthly bills totaling \$97,366.70 were approved for payment.

Sales tax vote approaches Jan. 20

by Dave Fette

Residents of the City of Muenster are encouraged to vote in a special election on Saturday, Jan. 20 to accept or reject an ordinance which will, in effect, continue the one-half of one percent sales tax dedicated to economic development. The current tax is being used to pay for the new water tower and water system improvements. But that project will be paid for some time in 2001. The City will hold an election on Jan. 20 to let City residents decide

whether to continue the tax which then can be devoted to sewer system improvements, sidewalks, city promotion or just about anything which helps develop Muenster's economy. Currently of the eight and one-quarter percent sales tax, the state gets six and one-half; Muenster gets one and one-half; and the county gets one-quarter percent.

The polling place at Muenster City Hall will open at 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Panel discussion on tax rate rollback for Gainesville Hospital District scheduled

The League of Women Voters will host a panel discussion on the Tax Rate Rollback Jan. 20 Election for the Gainesville Hospital District on Jan. 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the First Christian Church in Gainesville. Two members of the roll back petition group and two members of the hospital board will serve on

the discussion panel. This panel will answer questions from the League of Women voters and the audience.

Tom Carson of KGAF will moderate. The discussion will be video taped for later viewing on Cox Cable Channel 3.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

FREEZING RAIN continued from pg. 1

tree limbs or accumulated ice. Before a warming trend came on Thursday, Dec. 28, the ice storm became one of the worst this area has seen in a number of years. Some area residents reported as much as 3 and 1/2 inches of rain.

Those traveling Hwy. 82 on the 28th noticed a tremendous change as they passed near the Lindsay roadside park. Ice covered trees and fences west of the park and to the east there was not an ice covered tree or fence to be found.

A reprieve from the ice was short-lived. On New Year's

Even the predicted "light" snowfall arrived. It produced from an inch to over two inches of snow. Temperatures remained below freezing for until Jan. 3. Roads again became slick from the refrozen snow. Some area schools began classes two hours late on Tuesday and Wednesday due to icy road conditions.

It's hard to believe that this is the area's third ice or snow visit for this winter. The first came on Dec. 13. It's been an unusual year. There were reports of iris blooming as late as the first week of December.



Last Thursday morning when the ice was heavy, the clouds dark and the sun started breaking through, the damage was momentarily forgotten as everything sparkled like crystal and the contrast between bright and dark suggested a fantasy. Dave Fette photo

Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor,

I want to express my gratitude for the dedication and hard work of the good folks at the Cooke County Electric Co-op. During the week following Christmas a massive ice storm brought down power poles and trees. We were out of power for four days, which was pretty uncomfortable. The Co-op crews were out in subfreezing temperature, freezing rain, ice, and high winds working in remote areas with dangerous power lines 24 hours a day until power was restored. I have the highest regard for

those brave souls who worked so long and hard to get power restored to those of us who live in rural areas. In many areas hit by the ice storm, power was out for much longer periods of time. Only because of the dedication and hard work in the face of tremendous hardships by the Cooke County Electric Co-op crews were we in Cooke County able to have power restored with only a short "down" period. To me, those folks who got our power restored are truly heroes.

Jack Murdock
Muenster, TX 76252

TXU Electric & Gas crews completing ice storm restoration

TXU Electric & Gas crews on Sunday made it a Happy New Year by completing the power restoration for North Texas customers affected by a monster ice storm.

"This was one of the worst ice storms to hit the region in years and we are proud to have our customers back on within a week," said Wade Freeman, TXU Electric & Gas vice president of operations. "More than 1,500 miles of circuitry were affected by the ice and falling trees. Our customers are our highest priority and our crews really came through to get their lights on again."

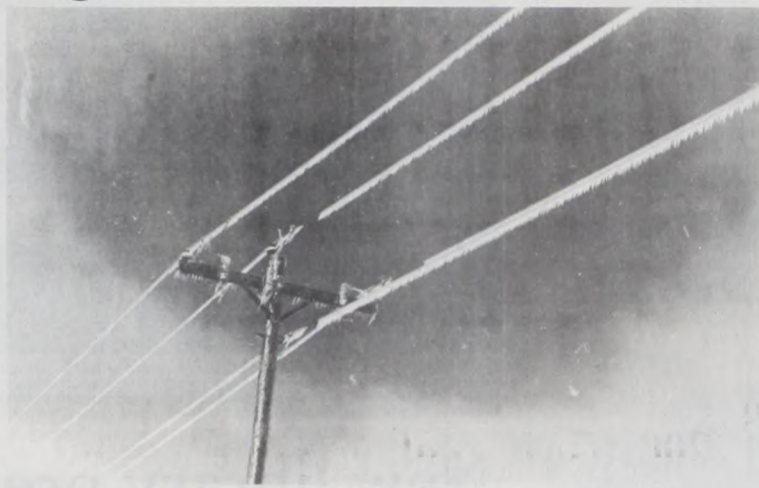
"We have received many heartwarming calls and e-mails from customers praising our crews," said Rob Trimble, TXU Electric & Gas senior vice president of distribution. "We appreciate their understanding and their sentiments recognizing the tremendous effort carried out on their behalf."

TXU Electric & Gas ice storm statistics:

- Approximately 40,000

Freezing precipitation took its toll on power lines last week. Employees of local electric companies worked around the clock to reinstate power to all who were without from downed lines.

Janie Hartman photo



customers were affected, most in Grayson, Fannin and Lamar counties.

• Within 24 hours, power was restored to more than one-quarter of those affected by ice.

• More than 800 personnel worked to restore service, some from as far away as Kansas City. Many employees gave up holiday and vacation time to restore power to customers.

• TXU Electric & Gas operators made more than 17,000 calls to customers to make sure their power was restored.

"Our employees and contractors did a fantastic job under terrible conditions," added Trimble. "They overcame sleet, bitter cold, ice-covered trees and flooding."

"We have restored power to all of our customers whose services could be safely connected. There are still some customers which require repairs to their home before they can be safely connected. Once repairs have been finished on these homes, customers should call (toll free) 800-233-2133 to get service restored."



Ice laden trees created tunnels along many county roads as icy tree branches bowed to the earth. While beautiful to view, those who had to travel the roads found broken limbs, fallen trees and sometimes an impassable path. Pictured here is County Road 351 northwest of Muenster. Janet Felderhoff photo

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2-WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, January 7, 2001 Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM	Monday, January 8, 2001 VFW meeting, 8PM	Tuesday, January 9, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Home Hospice Grief Support seminar, 6-8PM Sacred Heart Preschool Parents meeting, 7PM	Wednesday, January 10, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Adult Co-ed Volleyball, 7PM Religious Ed Class, 7PM C of C Breakfast, 7:30AM, Center MISD Board meeting, 7:30PM	Thursday, January 11, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM DIALOGUE Support Group meeting, 7 PM, Lindsay Health Clinic	Friday, January 12, 2001 Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM	Saturday, January 13, 2001 Muenster First Baptist Church movie 7-9 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, January 14, 2001 Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM	Monday, January 15, 2001 VFW Auxiliary meeting, 8PM Sacred Heart - NO SCHOOL	Tuesday, January 16, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Home Hospice Grief Support seminar, 6-8PM	Wednesday, January 17, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Religious Ed Class, 7PM	Thursday, January 18, 2001 Exercise Class, 10:30-11:30, S.N.A.P. Center Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM	Friday, January 19, 2001 Muenster Museum Open, 1 to 4PM	Saturday, January 20, 2001

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Obituaries

Eugene Frank Klement 1922 - 2000

by Elfreda Fette

Eugene Frank Klement died suddenly at age 78 on Dec. 27, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. in Muenster Memorial Hospital. Mass of Christian Farewell was offered in Sacred Heart Church on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 2:00 p.m. officiated by Father John Ohner OSA.

Eugene Frank "Gene" Klement was born June 12, 1922 in Muenster to community pioneers Frank Xavier Klement and Elizabeth Margaret Hartman Klement. On Jan. 8, 1947 he married Clara Helen Raleigh in Oakdale, Minnesota. A lifetime member of Sacred Heart Parish, he lived his entire life in Muenster except for the time he served in the U.S. Coast Guard in W.W.II for 3 1/2 years, on the USS Arthur Middleton and the USS Pocotello. He was stationed in Saint Augustine, Florida and served in the South Pacific. A veteran, he served as a Petty Officer Third Class.

He attended Sacred Heart School, was a member of the Parish Council, and was a church usher for more than 25 years. A lifetime member of St. Joseph Society and of Muenster VFW Post #6205, he was a dairyman for more than 38 years, and prior to that he carpentered and farmed. He retired from the dairy business in February 1993. After retiring, he spent the past years as a cow/calf operator. Carpentry and woodwork were some of his special interests. He presented many of his hand-crafted treasures to his family and many friends and members of the community. His handiwork frequently drew the highest bids at auctions.

Survivors are his wife, Clara Klement of Muenster; daughter and son-in-law Kaye and Ray Wimmer of Lindsay, daughter and son-in-law Lynda and Doug Yosten of Muenster, daughter Judy Klement of Hurst, son and daughter-in-law Charles and Terry Klement of Spokane, Washington, son and daughter-in-law Andrew and Emily Klement of Muenster.

There are eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Also a sister and brother-in-law Anna Marie and Alfred Bayer and a brother and sister-in-law Tony and Sis Klement, all of Muenster; and many, many friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents.

Participating in the special liturgy of the Mass on the day of funeral with Father John Ohner OSA were altar servers Alvin Hartman, Joe Felderhoff, and Chuck Bartush, Jr.

Readings from the Old and New Testaments were given by Kristen Klement Ware, granddaughter; Offertory Petitions and Prayers of the Faithful by Laura Klement, granddaughter; the Eulogy and Remarks of Remembrance by Allison Rix, granddaughter; Gina Yosten read an original



Eugene Frank Klement

poem "Greener Fields," which she wrote after being told of her grandfather's death.

Offertory gifts of bread and wine were presented at the altar by Tara Yosten, Kelly Wimmer, Jenny Corcoran, granddaughters, and Andrew Ware and Caitlin Corcoran, great-grandchildren.

Eucharistic Ministers were Roger and Jamie Taylor, Roy and Irene Hartman, Janet Voth, and Dorothy Hartman. Bill Miller, Theo Voth, and L.B. Bruns assisted as ushers.

Sacred music was presented by Ruth Felderhoff, Doug Yosten, son-in-law, Emily Klement, daughter-in-law, Linda Flusche, and Pam and Dave Fette. Selections included "On Eagles Wings," "The Lord Is Kind And Merciful," "Stille Nacht" one verse in German, one in English, "Edelweiss Blessing," "Amazing Grace," "Press On," and "In The Day Of The Lord."

In Remarks of Remembrance, Allison Rix stated, in part: "My grandpa was the second child of early German settlers in this town... He and his brother and sister spoke no English until they went to school... then they taught their parents to speak English..."

"My grandpa was born in Minnesota... As a young lady, she was on her first trip to Texas, and my grandpa proposed to her... They would have celebrated 54 years of marriage on Jan. 8, 2001."

"My grandpa and grandma were truly partners in every sense of the word... Faith, family and a strong work ethic were their priorities..."

"Being a good husband and good father was grandpa's goal... as a father and grandfather, he was a 'quiet giant'... he was always there to give of his time and talents to family and neighbors... It was his strong standing to ideals that made all of us respect him so much..."

"My grandpa was an absolutely gifted craftsman and woodworker... No visit to his farm was complete without a trip to his shop, to see his Victorian birdhouses... baby carriages... rockers, bookshelves... He loved carpentering... he and his brother Tony built many

houses in Muenster... He was extremely proud of his farmland and of the agriculture nurtured there.

"He loved to play cards or dominoes. He and Clara and Anna Marie and Alfred usually played several times a week... he was extremely competitive and loved to win... The only time any of us heard him raise his voice was when a partner threw away the wrong domino in '42'..."

"On the last morning of his life, he awoke early as usual to do chores, feed cattle, clean up after the ice storm... he enjoyed his rest after work was all done... he often told a grandchild who hurt himself 'Just think how good it will feel when it quits hurting!' Well, grandpa, we can't wait till we feel that way again... We thank you for the great legacy of service, hard work, humility, and Faith."

The afternoon of Friday, before the funeral, a Rosary service was held in McCoy Chapel at 4:00 p.m. and Vigil at 7:00 p.m.

Burial in Sacred Heart Cemetery was directed by McCoy Funeral Home of Muenster. Pallbearers were Adam Klement, Tug Rix, Steve Corcoran, Larry Bayer, Ronnie Bayer, and Dr. Bill Khaira. Honorary pallbearers were Jenny Corcoran, Kristen Klement Ware, Kelly Wimmer, Allison Rix, Tara Yosten, Laura Klement, and Gina Yosten.

For those who have asked, the family has suggested memorials sent to Sacred Heart Trust Fund, P.O. Box 588, Muenster, TX 76252.

Herbert Dolle 1912 - 2000



Herbert Othman Dolle

Mass of Christian Burial was held for Herbert Othman Dolle, 88, on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2000 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Littlefield, Texas, officiated by Father Patrick Maher.

Herbert Dolle died on Dec. 19, 2000 at 3:50 a.m. at the White Dove Nursing Home in Littlefield. He was born on Nov. 10, 1912 in Bell County to Bennard and Clothia Dolle. At twelve years of age Herbert's parents moved the family to Littlefield in 1924. He married Edna Giestman on Nov. 5, 1935. He farmed in the Lamb County area for over 30 years when he retired in 1977. Herbert was a board member of the Lamb County Farmers Co-op for thirty years. He was named Outstanding Farmer of the Year in 1962. The Littlefield Chamber of Commerce presented him with the Award of Achievement for Diversified Farmer and Participant in Community Affairs. On Apr. 14, 1966 Herbert received the Conservation Award presented by Woodmen of the World. He was a lifelong member of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Littlefield, as well as the Knights of Columbus in Littlefield. Herbert and Edna enjoyed traveling the United States after retirement.

Survivors are his wife, Edna Dolle of Shallowater, sons and daughters-in-law, Don and Susie Dolle of Canyon, Bill and Darlene Dolle of Maple, J. T. and Diana Dolle of Littlefield, and daughters and son-in-law, Kay and Dick Pagel of Muenster and Sharon Dolle of Shallowater. He is also

survived by 16 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his parents, two brothers, Erwin Dolle and Roy Dolle, and three sisters, Gertrude Green, Leona Green, and Irene Miller.

A Rosary service was held on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2000 at the Hammons Funeral Home Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

For the Mass of Christian Burial, Kristi Schneider, granddaughter, gave the liturgical reading from the New Testament. Jennifer (Dolle) Moczygamba, granddaughter, gave the liturgical reading from the Old Testament. The Offertory intercessions were given by Traci Dolle, also a granddaughter.

Eucharistic Ministers were Julie (Dolle) Jones, Stephanie

Dolle, Nicholas Dolle, Rachel Dolle, and Dolle (Pagel) Porter, all grandchildren of Mr. Dolle.

Remarks of Remembrance were written by Susie Dolle and read by Michael Dolle, a grandson, who said in part: "All of his life has been tied to the earth. He knew what it was to be in tune with the seasons, the time to nurture the crop, the time to harvest, and the time to rest until the next season."

"With his dear wife, Edna, to whom he was married 65 years, Herbert always had an open door at their home. Relatives and friends knew there would be a good time at Uncle Herbert and Aunt Edna's, whether it was homemade ice cream and cake on Sunday night, or sausage, ham, and pickled pigs feet at Christmas. This couple was the epitome of hospitality, making their guests feel welcome. When a guest came into the house, everyone stood up and shook the hand of all those who entered, or gave them a kiss."

"Herbert held the position of family keeper until the end. He is the last of his brothers and sisters, all of whom enjoyed life every day. The Dolle family held a spirit of optimism and joy.

"Sometimes Herbert would talk about his Mother. A few months ago, he mentioned that he tried to do what Ma taught them to be right. The prayers that he knew by heart and that he said up until the end of his life were prayers that his mother had taught him.

"Herbert suffered the last years of his life. Throughout all of those long months, he had a spirit of acceptance and kindness. He was always a gentleman, friendly and polite."

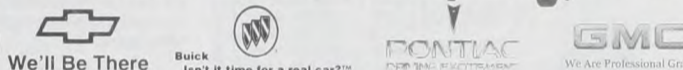
"So when Herbert enters his Father's house in Heaven, I believe God has come forward to shake his hand, give him a warm embrace, and welcome him to the safe place of everlasting happiness."

Burial in Littlefield Memorial Park was directed by Hammons Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Hal Jilek, Eugene Miller, Dick Bruce, Harold Green, Wes Plumlee, and Randolph Green, all nephews of Mr. Dolle.

Attending the funeral from out of town were nieces and nephews from Temple, Fort Worth, Morton, Plainview, Lubbock, and Portales, New Mexico. Also attending were Jerome Pagel, Fay Hamric, and Carol Growing all of Muenster.

The family suggests memorials to the American Heart Association or a favorite charity. Please feel free to sign the guest book at www.legacy.com.

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James "Joe" Fette 1960 - 2000

James "Joe" Fette, age 40, of Gainesville, died Friday, Dec. 29, 2000 in Gainesville Memorial Hospital. He was born in Dallas on Nov. 29, 1960 to James and Patricia Green Fette. He was the grandson of the late Edgar and Isabel Otto Fette and the great-grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Fette and the late Mr. and Mrs. Joe Otto.

On Mar. 4, 1994 he married Sheila Bullard in Gainesville. He was a member of the Catholic Faith and was an E.M.T. (Emergency Medical Technician) employed in Gainesville for more than eight years.

Survivors are his wife, Sheila Fette of Gainesville; his parents James and Patricia Fette of Wylie, Texas; one son James C. Sasser of Gainesville; three daughters, Brandy Fette of Wylie, Texas, Brandi Sasser of Gainesville, and Christian Sasser of Gainesville. Also two sisters, Deanna Elston of Waco and Brenda Martin of Wylie.

A Rosary Service was held on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in Clement-Keel Funeral Chapel. Mass of Christian Burial was offered in St. Mary's Catholic Church of Gainesville on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2001 at 10:00 a.m., with Father Ed Andrews OSA officiating.

Burial in Fairview Cemetery of Gainesville was directed by Clement-Keel Funeral Home. Pallbearers were Darrell Bullard, Harlan Murphy, Darrell Green, Danny Green, Brad Mitchell, and Herby Lamar.

Relatives and friends attending the funeral included Janie Weinzapfel, Carol Aytes, Della Campbell, Sug Bindel, Fran Voth, Joe Voth, Jerry and Delette Fette, Tim Hartman, Emily Hartman, Roy Reiter, Johann Bezner, and Bill Otto. All of James "Joe" Fette's co-workers in the Emergency Medical Technicians Department attended the funeral in full uniform.

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Letters to the Editor

Mr. Editor:

With the Hospital Board so eager to merge with Gainesville and close down the Muenster Hospital why are they continuing to spend all that money on new equipment and property? They started merger talks with Gainesville in October 1995, and during the time since then they have spent approximately \$1.3-million for more equipment and St. Richard's Villa. Why? It doesn't make sense. But then the story about needing to close this hospital in Muenster because of all the money lost in operating it doesn't make sense either. Just think, we have been told that we have used all the \$1.6-million collected in taxes during those years just to make up the losses at the hospital.

I think it is high time the Board Members wake up to the facts. They should go over the auditor's reports for 1996, '97, '98, '99 & 2000, and see where the tax money actually went. It certainly wasn't all going to pay off losses generated by the hospital, because not even half of the taxes collected were used for that. And they should wake up to the fact that when they bought St. Richard's it was making about \$165,000 annual profit. After just two years the labor expenses have about doubled, and St. Richard's lost \$138,000 last year. Now that has absolutely nothing to

do with hospital losses, but it is costing the tax payers of this hospital district. That's where a lot of our tax money has been lost.

The Hospital Board of nine members includes a Certified Public Accountant. Why hasn't he spoken out about the deception regarding the hospital losses? I prefer to think that he is just has not taken the time and effort to really study the reports, and instead accepts what he is being told. I challenge the Board to actually study and investigate their auditor's reports. I know their eyes will be opened. The rest of the story is opening quite a few eyes. Once the facts are known no one will continue to think we need to close the Muenster Hospital.

But all this talk from the Board and Administrator about closing the hospital must be making our Muenster doctors very nervous, and if we wind up losing one, or all, then it will be their fault. The truth is, some people are beginning to suspect that this may be part of their master plan. No doctors, no hospital.

Joe & Carolyn Hoyt 918 N. Elm St. Muenster, TX. 76252

Letter to the Editor,

Up to this point I have accepted at face value what has been reported. The supposition that Gainesville would go ahead with their plans of constructing a new hospital even without Muenster participation. I guess that it was assumed by the GMH Board that the Gainesville Hospital District voters would be willing to absorb the extra taxes they would have to pay as a result of our not joining them. Now it seems that the entire question regarding a final say about a new hospital is going to be decided by vote. There is in progress at this very moment an effort to roll back the tax rate already placed on those tax payers by the GMH Board.

So it seem that the tax payers in that district were slow to react and are just now getting organized to resist their Board's efforts. There have been presented almost twice the number of signatures on the rollback petition, as compared to the total number of voters casting ballots in their last election for Board Members. This places in doubt the supposed mandate given by the voters to build a new hospital. It has been pointed out by a Gainesville voter "That one can figure all of the votes cast for the pro-new hospital Board Members, back last May, are approximately equivalent to the number of votes cast by the doctors and medical staff, plus spouses. So now the rest of the voters in the district will have their say".

I can only guess at the response of those tax payers, now they realize that we over in this district are opting out of any merger. The effect will be to raise their taxes even more than they originally thought in order to build the new facility. It is regrettable to think the new facility plans may be squelched, but we here in the Muenster District cannot afford to sacrifice our own hospital to the building of one in Gainesville.

I would guess from what little contact I have made on this subject in Lindsay, voters there are much more concerned with the school needs, and the increasing school taxes, and do not seem particularly enthusiastic about more taxes for the hospital district as well. One resident remarked that at the current rate of tax growth Lindsay will soon overtake Muenster, which has the highest total taxes in the county. So it will be very interesting to see what the Lindsay voters say about the hospital tax rollback via the ballot.

Now with the proposed new Gainesville Hospital very much in doubt, and the Board's drive to close MMH, we had better be praying that the doctors we have here in Muenster have not felt forced to seek positions elsewhere. We need to generate some stability for our doctors, and fast. It is time to hold the referendum here in this district, and vote to turn away from MERGER talk, once and for all. Even if Gainesville rollback referendum is successful, and stops construction of the new facility, our MMH Board will continue to push for MERGER. You can count on it! The Administrator here is committed to MERGER. That is why we in this district must hold the referendum.

John G. Ayles, Muenster

Senate Committee issues report on nursing homes

The Senate Committee on Human Services recently submitted the Interim Report relating to the study of long-term care in Texas. The report is a result of the charge by Lt. Governor Perry to study long-term care (nursing homes) as the number of older Texans age 60 or older is projected to swell to 7.5 million by 2030, which is an increase of 176% from the year 2000. This statistic highlights the critical importance of planning for the state's system of long-term services and supports. The recommendations of the report were based on testimony and suggestions from state agencies, organizations and other interested persons.

The Committee made several recommendations for legislation to be considered by the Legislature in 2001 regarding long-term care, including:

- * Recommend that the Legislature increase funding for the full range of home and community-based services, including adult day care, home health services, respite services, attendant care and other services.

- * Revamp the criminal history background check process for long-term care employees by expanding the number of employees covered under such requirements and expediting access to background information.

- * Add direct care staff employed by home health agencies, MHMR, and other providers, as appropriate, to the list of employees covered by the Department of Human Services Employee Misconduct Registry.

- * Allow for-profit nursing facilities to purchase liability insurance from the Joint Underwriting Association.

- * Provide tuition assistance for licensed vocational nursing students who agree to practice in long-term care settings.

- * Recommend that the Legislature increase funding for nursing home reimbursements.

- * Provide a franchise tax credit for employers that contribute to long-term care insurance for their employees, employees' spouses or parents, equal to 20% of the costs incurred by the employer, with a maximum credit of \$5,000 or \$100 per each employee covered by the plan, whichever is lower.

The Legislature will consider many bills that relate to the issue of long-term care. I would be interested in knowing what you feel is the biggest problem nursing homes experience. I will reference your comments as nursing home legislation comes before the House for debate and vote.

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Dear Editor,

Although I no longer live in Muenster, I have never lost my love for the community I will always call home. In fact, through my work at The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, I have come to care even more about the plight of Muenster regarding its hospital. I am a writer/public information officer for a department of the Health Science Center known as the Area Health Education Center of South Texas. Our office is one of many similar government-funded agencies throughout the country that work in conjunction with institutions of higher education to increase access to health care and health education in rural and medically underserved areas. We deal constantly with communities who are trying to build up their health care facilities and increase the number of health care professionals living and working in those communities. Hence, Muenster and its health care problems are frequently brought to mind.

It saddens me when I see other small towns willing to jump through hoops to improve access to health care in their communities, while Muenster seems so willing to let its hospital, its doctors, and for that matter many of its other businesses walk down the road to Gainesville or Denton. That is why I feel compelled to share with you some of my own personal thoughts about the situation with the hospital, as well as some information that could help you keep it.

First, when the community votes to keep or close its hospital and dissolve the hospital district, I believe it will be making a decision as to whether it wants to be a healthy, thriving community or one that eventually fades off the map. Traveling in South Texas, I see many communities that remind me of Muenster. There are small rural towns in which people have worked together creatively to develop and enhance the assets of their communities and have since blossomed socially and economically. Others have decided simply to accept change as it comes, watching their businesses and their residents slowly move away until there isn't much of a town left. I can't help but wonder which fate lies in store for Muenster.

In the September 2000 issue of the *Texas Rural Health Reporter*, a newspaper produced by the Center for Rural Health Initiatives (CRHI), the Texas State Office of Rural Health, I saw a study demonstrating the impact of the health care industry on an individual county. Presumably, it also could be applied to a town or community. It showed that every \$2 of revenue generated by the health care industry generated an additional dollar of revenue in other industries; every two jobs created (or lost) in the health care industry caused the number of jobs in other industries to increase (or decrease) by one job; and every \$1 of personal income created in the health care industry created 30 cents worth of personal income in other industries.

So losing the hospital would have a negative ripple effect on the economic opportunity of the entire community. Do you really want your taxes, your revenue, your jobs, and eventually your residents all to move to Gainesville? A lack of job opportunity in Muenster after I graduated from college is the main reason I - and many people like me - have ended up living in other cities.

Even worse than the economic impact is what losing the hospital means to the health of the people of Muenster. For example, suppose you, your spouse, or one of your parents is having a heart attack, just one instance where minutes make the difference between life and death. Do you want to have a hospital a few blocks away or 15 miles away?

I realize that the main issue affecting the hospital is financial solvency. However, the hospital's audit report covering its last four years of operation showed that the hospital made money during each of those years without any tax increase. Forecasts of financial loss are down the road. There are things that can be done in the meantime to prevent expected losses from occurring.

One of the most important things is for Muenster residents to use their own hospital. How do people expect it to stay in operation if they don't use it? Why, for example, would you drive 15 or 45 miles away to deliver your baby when there is a hospital with a wonderful birthing center just down the street? On top of that, you have a doctor who is willing to stay with you through the entire delivery, unlike any doctor at a big city hospital. Appreciate what you have and take advantage of it before it goes away.

Another important activity would require the intervention of hospital board members or other concerned citizens. I urge

people to contact the Center for Rural Health Initiatives (CRHI), part of the Texas State Office of Rural Health, and find out about all the wonderful state-funded programs designed to help rural hospitals. Your hospital administrator should already have made you aware of these programs, but if he hasn't, make the effort to investigate them yourselves.

I understand that one of the biggest concerns of Muenster Hospital is the decrease or expected decrease in Medicare reimbursements. It just so happens that the State of Texas has a program whereby rural hospitals can obtain a "Critical Access Hospital" (CAH) designation. Under the sponsorship of CRHI and the Office of Rural Health, the program allows certain rural hospitals to do some financially smart things such as having an ER doctor on call instead of paying him or her to stay on site 24 hours a day; the hospital is then able to obtain this particular CAH designation and, consequently, receive larger Medicare reimbursements. The program helps hospitals save money in expenses while it increases revenue from Medicare. Doesn't that sound perfect for Muenster? It did to the director of the Center for Rural Health. I gave information on this program to my brother-in-law, Bob Sepanski, who called and spoke with the CRHI director. He told Bob that Muenster sounds exactly like the type of community the government is trying to help with this program.

Another way to increase hospital revenue is to bring more physicians into the community. I'm not talking about making visits to Harris Hospital in Fort Worth and trying to lure its doctors away, as members of the hospital board have done. I can tell you from my experience in dealings with medical students and health professionals that efforts to go to a big city and try to talk its doctors into moving to a small town are futile. The vast majority of those doctors are the type who are drawn to the attractions of a big city and a high-paying job at a large hospital. They serve as doctors there because the environment fits their personalities and life ambitions. There are other doctors who are more attracted to the slower pace and friendliness of a small town, who hate big-city traffic and like to hunt and fish, but you're not going to find them in Harris Hospital.

My advice is to look in other places, and once again, the Center for Rural Health is a great place to start. It has numerous state-supported programs to hook up small towns looking for doctors with doctors who want to work in small towns. One of its best - and most popular - is Texas Prairie Doc. It assists communities and health care professionals in obtaining information about job opportunities, educational debt repayment programs, and other resources. The greatest aspect of the program is its free Monthly Registries sent to communities looking for health professionals and to health professionals looking for rural practice opportunities. This helps the communities find interested doctors and the interested doctors find rural communities who want them. How perfect! CRHI even puts on a conference once a year to bring community members and doctors together face to face.

And when you've found a doctor who wants to come to Muenster, CRHI has other programs to help make it easier and more appealing for him or her to do so. It has loan repayment programs for health professionals who want to practice in a rural area. Similarly, its Medically Underserved Community - State Matching Incentive Program provides matching funds to help primary care physicians cover the costs of setting up a new practice in a rural or medically underserved community. In addition, the Texas Health Service Corps Program pays medical residents a stipend while completing their residency in a rural community, then requires them to stay in the community for at least a year after their residency. These are all programs designed to help small towns attract physicians, and some of them require no matching funds from the community.

To contact the Center for Rural Health Initiatives, call the office at (512) 479-8891, or toll free at (877) TEX-CRHI (877-839-2744). You can also e-mail them at crhi@crhi.state.tx.us, or visit them on the Internet at www.crhi.state.tx.us.

Another resource for Muenster is the Area Health Education Center in Denton, called the Prairie AHEC. It serves 12 North Texas counties, including Cooke. The executive director is Matt Richardson, and the telephone number is (940) 369-7808. It is a branch of the East Texas AHEC, which can be reached in Galveston at (409) 772-7884. Its executive director is Steve Shelton.

Like the AHEC where I work, the Prairie AHEC partners with

educational institutions and rural or underserved communities to help these communities improve their access to quality health care. Its solutions are long term in nature and threefold.

First, it can help Muenster "grow its own" health professionals through health career opportunity programs that encourage and/or prepare local young people to pursue health professional careers, then stay in their home town to practice. Oftentimes, young people are intimidated by the thought of becoming a doctor or other health professional because they think it is too challenging or beyond their grasp. Many students change that mindset after hearing an encouraging talk from a current medical student or resident, or after they participate in a summer camp that exposes them to the excitement of medical careers. These are the types of opportunities AHEC can help provide.

Another important AHEC activity is the sponsorship of rural clinical rotations for medical, dental, nursing, allied health, and other health professions students. For instance, a medical student with The University of North Texas Health Science Center could do a six-week clinical rotation in Muenster under the direction of a local doctor and nurse practitioner. During his time there, the student might learn to like Muenster and develop a desire to return to the community following the completion of his training. Not only do statistics show that students tend to practice where they train, but I personally have spoken with students who had never spent time in a small town, loved their experience in one during an AHEC rotation, and decided to practice there or somewhere similar after they completed their training.

One final major task of AHEC is the sponsorship of continuing education (CE) programs for health professionals in rural areas, helping rural communities keep the doctors they already have. Such sponsorship is effective, because by bringing the CE programs to the practitioners, AHEC makes it easier for them to remain in remote areas and still meet their professional CE requirements.

Something the South Texas AHEC (where I work) has done is to help rural communities apply for Texas Infrastructure Fund (TIF) grants from the State of Texas. These grants help hospitals upgrade their telecommunications technology. I was happy to read in a recent issue of the *Enterprise* that Muenster applied for and received a TIF grant for Internet connectivity, as well as a separate grant for other hospital improvements. This is a wonderful effort on the part of the hospital, and it could be expanded. With numerous grant opportunities available, it may be a wise investment for the hospital to hire an experienced person to research and write additional grant applications, helping the hospital bring in more outside revenue.

Finally, I urge anyone who is concerned about legislation affecting rural hospitals to write your state legislators now. The federal Balanced Budget Act was not intended to choke out health care, but to have states pick up some of the funding for health care programs. The Texas Legislature is aware of health professional shortages and other health-related problems in the state, and over the past several years it has been pouring millions of dollars into health care and health education. Senator Judith Zaffrin, a very powerful member of the Texas Senate, recently asked our office to sponsor a health-related community needs assessment in several South Texas counties. She wanted to hear what community members had to say about their own needs before the beginning of the next legislative session. So your input can make a difference. The only thing is that you have to provide it now. The legislature meets every two years to set its agenda and approve spending initiatives for the coming biennium. The legislative session for the next biennium begins January 1, 2001. This is the time to share the plight of Muenster and other rural hospitals with your legislators and to ask them to help make it easier for the state's rural hospitals to stay in operation. If you don't speak up now, you have to wait for two more years, and by then it could be too late for your hospital.

My point in all of this is to implore the people of Muenster not to give up on your hospital. Don't let a great thing slip away without exploring the many options available. Use that wonderful German pride and work ethic to build and maintain a community that you, your children and grandchildren will like to call home."

Julie Rohmer Collins
San Antonio, Texas

Opinion/Editorial

Medical privacy bill filed

Privacy of medical records has become a major concern of patients. Senate Bill 11 which was filed to address confidentiality would:

- * prohibit using medical information for marketing purposes
- * require that patients be informed as to how an entity is using their medical records, as well as having the means to correct incomplete medical records
- * permit employers to have access to only non-individually identifiable, encrypted forms of medical information regarding their employees' health care
- * designate the Texas Attorney General's office to be responsible for identifying and setting forth consistent and appropriate penalties for the unlawful release of information
- * prohibit patient information other than data necessary for treatment or the payment of claims to be released by insurers unless patients "opt-in" with their consent
- * allow non-identifiable personal medical information to be made available for public health and research efforts
- * require the Legislature to establish a blue-ribbon privacy council to provide ongoing input on privacy matters.

Supporters of the bill feel that having access to private medical information can be very profitable for some industries. Many have argued that there is the possibility of pharmaceutical companies creating relationships with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, or hospitals to use prescription records for marketing purposes. Another concern regards employers, especially those who provide their own health care plans, who currently have access to sensitive medical records.

Technology will soon give doctors the opportunity to completely computerize medical records. Many opponents of the privacy bill feel quick access to patient information by physicians can prove to be an invaluable time and life saving tool, especially in hospitals. If a patient is in a life threatening situation, a physician's ability to have access to medical information from any computer terminal could actually save lives.

This bill will most likely come before the House of Representatives for debate and vote when the Session convenes in 2001. I am interested in your opinion. Please write my Capitol office at P.O. Box 2910, Austin, TX 78768 with your comments on medical privacy as outlined in this bill.

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Dear Mr. Editor,

I'm proud of our little town of Muenster and I want to ask other Muensterites "Aren't you proud of Muenster too?" In our little corner of the world we have not one, but two award winning schools, some of the most talented and brilliant kids in America, a hard work ethic that speaks for itself, and an ingenious ability to survive against unspeakable odds. Just look at our founding forefathers for example. Every bit of our 111 years of Muenster history reveals a special inherent trait of determination of character and strength of spirit. Maybe it's spirituality that gives us our strengths, maybe it's just good genes, I don't know, but what I do know is that over time Muenster has always managed to pick itself back up from adversity, dust itself off, and jump back wholeheartedly into the fight to make itself the special place that it is - a great place to live and raise a family. What more could a man ask for in a town?

But now Muenster's faced with a new problem. We all know that the economy across America is showing signs of a slow down. Lay-offs are already taking place and Muenster is beginning to feel the effects. Yet our citizenry is increasingly becoming complacent in allowing our businesses and our town to fade away into oblivion! In the last 10 years Muenster has lost 2 auto dealerships, 2 grocery stores, 4 clothing stores, 3 gas stations and the AMPI, to mention a few. Next is our wonderful Muenster Memorial Hospital. Although my hat is off to Mr. Jack Endres, his staff, and the MMH Board of Directors for managing to keep the doors open this long, my German bull-headedness is going to enable me to stand firm against its closure as long as I can. My father and all of your fathers, by the way, worked long and hard to afford this community with this wonderful working hospital. Not only does it represent our mortal survival here in Muenster it represents to me Muenster's economic life-blood.

Here's the trickle-down effect I foresee: Let's say hypothetically that our hospital district merges and we do close our hospital. The doctors leave Muenster taking their practices with them. Why should they stay? They have no reason to do so. Now, the Hospital's 75 employees leave Muenster to find employment elsewhere. Let's say, in Gainesville, taking their retail business from Muenster with them. They'll be buying their groceries in Gainesville (because it's more convenient), their gasoline, their hard goods items, their meals, their daycare, possibly even housing, etc. The hospital and doctor will no longer be bringing in new out-of-town patients to Muenster, who used to buy groceries, hard goods, gas, meals, etc. in Muenster. We've just taken two hits to our economy. Now the Muenster taxpayers are going to have to somehow make up this difference in tax loss - the 3rd hit to our economy, and so on and so on, not to mention the fact that we'll no longer have any healthcare here in Muenster!

Has our Hospital Board of Directors failed to do an economic impact study on how the closing of our hospital will affect all of our city of Muenster? I'm not trying to incite anyone. I'm merely trying to foresee the true impact of such a closure. As a friend and a merchant, I am already dreading the loss of one of our valued physicians here in Muenster. Dr. Margie York's eye clinic will be re-opening in Gainesville very shortly. Although happy for her success, I will miss our regularly shared visits, her smile, and inspiration. But from a retailer's perspective, five of her employees go with her to Gainesville, along with their business, plus her patients' business also. Now multiply that times Doctors' Advincula, Morrill, and Currier's offices, plus our satellite doctors and their offices, which would also be leaving should the hospital close. Next add all the hospital's employees, not to mention patients and visitors, and I'm losing a lot of business, and so is every other retailer in Muenster. And you, reader, as a taxpayer in Muenster, are going to have to somehow make up the loss to Muenster in sales taxes. I don't relish this picture.

The question here is "What do we need to do?" Let's call for a vote on the merger issue. Let's keep our Hospital District!

It looks like the federal government has now recognized that they overshot and took too much money away from rural hospitals, and they are beginning to replace amounts needed to prevent more closures. Right now our hospital seems close to breaking even, before any tax money is needed. But we can't afford to lose any doctors. If we lose our hospital district, our town of Muenster takes a giant leap backwards for our future. Too much red tape will in actuality keep us from ever having a viable hospital here again and what will that say for Muenster's future? What business would ever want to locate here then? Why are we so oblivious to what is taking place here? Where are the fighters, the movers and shakers of this community? Did they ALL move away to find greener pastures? Well, I'm of the mind that things don't get any greener than right here in Muenster, TX. Let's keep it that way. We want a say in our future and the future of Muenster Memorial Hospital. I propose a merger issue Vote! And my vote is AGAINST the merger.

So let's take that "strength of character" that built Muenster and its people, pick ourselves up by the bootstraps, and jump back into the fight to save our hospital. At least keep our district so we have a fighting chance. I want to stay proud of Muenster so let's fight AS HARD to keep our hospital Open as they are fighting to Close it!

Peggy Growing
Crafty Olde German
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CAPITOL COMMENT



U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

WATER TREATY SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED

Much of Texas history, and much of our literature as well, can be summed up by the statement "Water is scarce." Countless stories outline the successes and frustrations of Texas' efforts to stake claim to an adequate supply of water to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future.

In few regions is this struggle more evident than in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where a severe lack of water continues to threaten agriculture and the jobs it provides to valley residents. In addition to suffering from a protracted drought that has affected other areas of Texas as well, South Texas agricultural producers are not receiving their fair share of water from six Mexican tributaries of the Rio Grande, water to which they are entitled under the terms of a 1944 treaty with Mexico.

For nearly a half-century, the water treaty served Texas and Mexico well because both sides understood its importance. The treaty was intended to ensure water users on both sides of the river minimum amounts of water so they could manage their withdrawals and plan how it is to be used. The United States has scrupulously observed its treaty obligations for the Colorado River basin and provided Mexico with the amount of water to which it is entitled every year - an amount roughly equal to what Mexico owes us for the Lower Rio Grande.

As of the beginning of this year, Mexico owed Texas roughly 1.5 million acre-feet of water, a debt going back to

1992 (an acre-foot of water is the volume of water that covers one acre to a depth of one foot). For this reason South Texas' Falcon and Amistad reservoirs are at dangerously low levels. During the summer of 1998, water levels fell to 18 percent of capacity - the lowest in more than 40 years. The effects of the drought could be eased considerably if Mexico would make good on its treaty obligations.

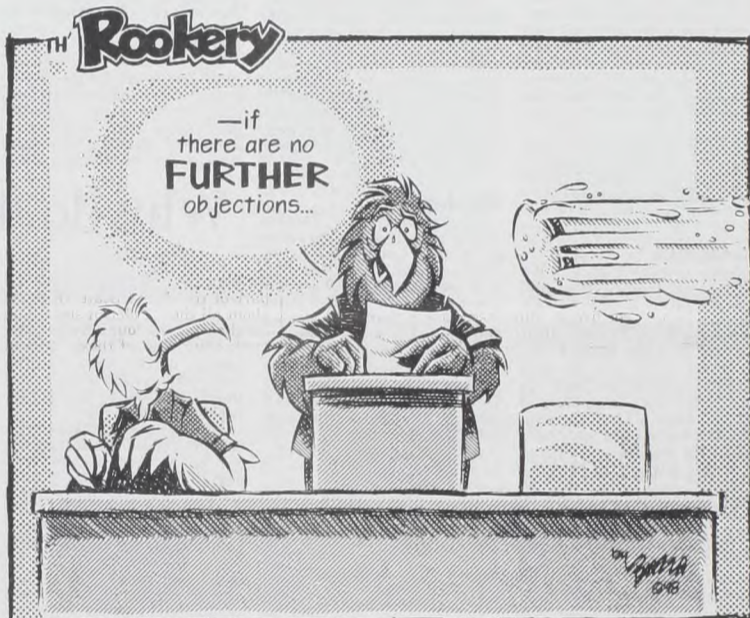
Recent studies by Texas A&M University and the Texas Water Development Board suggest the economic impact of Mexico's withholding of this water to be more than \$400 million annually. A continuing shortage could eventually jeopardize the health of local residents on top of crippling the valley's agriculture-based economy.

Last month I introduced a resolution in the Senate calling on the President to utilize the full powers of his office to require Mexico to comply with the terms of this treaty, and begin repaying the water it has impounded. It also calls on the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, which oversees the treaty's performance, not to accept anything less than full repayment of water in its attempt to negotiate a settlement of the dispute. A similar measure has been introduced in the U.S. House. I have met with the Mexican Ambassador to the United States to discuss this situation as well.

The U.S. government needs to make this a top priority. Not only has Mexico failed to present a plan to repay the water we're due for previous years, but so far, it has failed as well to present its plan to deliver us the water we are due in 2001 and 2002.

It is my hope that congressional passage of my resolution will impress officials on both sides that Mexico must structure a water repayment plan and do it quickly - before more farmers and ranchers in the valley lose their livelihoods. Consumers of our great South Texas citrus fruits will also be affected by a reduced supply.

Making certain we have an adequate water supply is critical to Texas and in particular to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. It is vital that Mexico work with us to develop better water management strategies that will make possible continued economic development and prosperity on both sides of our shared river.



Clean the air, but don't clean out our wallets

Throughout America's history, the primary driving engine of ingenuity and resourcefulness in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds has been, not our government, but our small businesses. Yet, from time to time problems arise so profound and complex in their make-up that we turn to our elected officials, and the bureaus and agencies they have established, for a common solution.

When this happens, the proper role of government is to ensure that all affected parties are consulted, and to be certain that a one-size-fits-all proposal that imposes unnecessary cost or hardship is not enacted. As the old saw goes, "first, do no harm."

As Texas tries to find ways to correct the problem of deteriorating air quality in this state, we are facing just such a decision point. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is evaluating a proposal to require a special new coating to be applied to the coils of air conditioning units. It is not known whether the technology would actually help clean the air, and there would be no way for consumers to recoup the cost of the more expensive air conditioner.

Goodman Manufacturing - a Houston based manufacturer of air conditioning units - has suggested



DAVID PINKUS
Small Business
United of Texas

Texans be allowed to choose between the proposed coating technology and installing a higher efficiency air conditioning unit. This Consumer Choice proposal makes a great deal of sense because it addresses a known root cause of the air quality problem: energy consumption.

Fossil fuel burning power plants are one of the major causes of air quality degradation in Texas. The more we can cut down on power consumption the less we pollute our air. Higher efficiency units use less electricity, so our air is cleaner. Moreover, this proposal allows consumers to recover the money they have invested in a solution. Because higher efficiency units mean lower electric bills for businesses and consumers, this idea will eventually pay for itself. People who opt to use the coating technology will pay an unrecouped and in some cases enormous expense.

It is estimated the catalytic coil

coating technology will increase the cost of the average air conditioning unit by as much as \$1,000. While residential electricity consumers usually have only one unit, many businesses have multiple units - not to mention larger units that will require more of the catalytic coil coating. So it makes sense to give people an alternative.

Doesn't it make more sense to give Texas citizens and businesses the choice of doing something that will actually reduce the energy their air conditioning units consume? Doesn't it make more sense to give people an option that allows them to eventually get the money back they put into it?

Small Businesses United of Texas endorses the Goodman Consumer Choice Proposal. It is clearly superior to the idea of a one-size-fits-all mandate. We urge the TNRCC to adopt the Choice Proposal. There is no reason not to allow us to pursue a reasonable and reliable solution to the problem air quality.

David Pinkus is president of Small Business United of Texas, representing more than 8,000 Texas small businesses. The non-profit business association is dedicated to involving small business owners in public policy decisions that affect small business.

Lifestyle

GMH offers January weight loss/exercise program

Gainesville Memorial Hospital (GMH) will be providing an opportunity to start the New Year off right with a January 2001 offering of its popular weight loss and exercise series.

"Be Slender for Spring" is a four-week program, which features four workout sessions in GMH's first-class cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation center, four healthy meals, four nutrition classes, four weeks of menus, 40 recipes and lots of great weight loss information and motivation.

Classes begin Wed., Jan. 10, and continue each Wednesday through Jan. 31. Participants arrive at the William F. Powell, M.D., Rehabilitation Center at Gainesville Memorial Hospital - dressed to work out - at 5:30 p.m. The 30 minute exercise session includes work on treadmills, stationary bicycles, and a variety of other exercise equipment.

Workouts are not supervised by medical staff and participation requires a physician waiver. All

participants must abide by Center rules.

Following the exercise sessions, "Be Slender" participants enjoy healthy, low-fat meals while GMH dietitian Kathleen Davis discusses weight loss basics, calorie accountability, behavior modification, and working through food challenges.

Each participant is provided with an easy-to-use manual full of selections from the American Heart Association, sugar-free recipes, tips to increase your fruit and vegetable intake, plus low calorie menus you can live with.

Cost of the four-session course, meals and manual included, is \$50 per person; with discounts applicable to couples and multi-family member households. Reservations and a physician waiver are required. Payment is due by Jan. 5 and is non-refundable. Space is limited and will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. Call 940-612-8341.



Toni Lynne Trubenbach of Muenster and Adam Levi Deweber of Jacksboro have chosen March 10, 2001 for their wedding day. They will be married in Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Muenster at two o'clock in the afternoon. The bride-elect is the daughter of Gwen and Loyd Trubenbach of Muenster. She is a graduate of Muenster High School and is attending the University of North Texas in Denton. The future-groom is the son of Denise and Stanley Deweber of Jacksboro. He attended the University of North Texas and is employed by the Denton City Police Department. The couple plans to reside in Muenster.

Tommy Joe Dankesreiter is Texas Tech graduate

Tommy Joe Dankesreiter, son of Tom and Rosemary Dankesreiter, graduated from Texas Tech University on Dec. 16, 2000 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering and double minor of Mathematics and Chemistry.

He was inducted by invitation into the "Order of the Engineer" which included commitment to the "Obligation" and receipt of an Engineer's Ring. The "Obligation" indicates acceptance of the Code of Ethics striving to contribute positively to humanity with one's whole being. It is voluntarily received for life.

Commencement activities were held at 9:00 a.m. on Dec. 16, 2000 presided over by Dr. David J. Schmidly, President of Texas Tech. Commencement speaker was The Honorable Lyndon L. Olson Jr., U.S. Ambassador to Sweden.

Tommy Joe Dankesreiter received his diploma from the Dean of the College of Engineering Dr. William M. Marcy.

During the summers of 1999 and 2000, Dankesreiter served internships at Petroflex N.T. in Gainesville. His duties included performing a wide range of laboratory tests on high density polyethylene. Since October, he has been employed by X-Fab Texas, Inc. in Lubbock where he has accepted a full time position as a Chemical Process Engineer. X-Fab Texas is a rapidly growing manufacturer in the Semiconductor Industry. It produces highly integrated circuits on silicon wafers which are divided into computer chips.

Dankesreiter is also a member of the MICHE National chapter and a member of Gurus and Protégés in the Chemical Dept. at Texas Tech.

Attending commencement ceremonies were Rosemary and Tom Dankesreiter; Theresa M. Hermet of Lindsay; Dana and John Walterscheid and Anne, Sara, Abby, and Lora of Muenster; Eric and Cheramie Dankesreiter and Benjamin and Kathryn of Lewisville. Unable to attend were Amy and Zak Struxness and Erin of Aurora, Colorado and other local relatives.



Tommy Joe Dankesreiter

NEW ARRIVALS

Koesler

Max and Cindy Koesler of Muenster announce with pride and joy the birth of a daughter, Stephanie Marie Koesler in Muenster Memorial Hospital on Dec. 30, 2000 at 8:08 a.m. weighing 6 lb. 7.9 oz. and measuring 20 inches in length. She joins a sister, Samantha Rose, age 17 months. Grandparents are Duwayne and Sharlene Schilling and Alfons and Mary Ann Koesler. Great-grandparents are Charlie Wimmer, Caroline Schilling, and Ben and Gertie Voth. All are of Muenster.

Gonzales and Nicholas Robledo and Debra Robledo all of Gainesville.

Sainz

Victor Sainz and Maria Menchaca of Gainesville announce the birth of a son, Juan Jose Sainz in Muenster Memorial Hospital on Dec. 28, 2000 at 2:33 a.m. weighing 7 lb. 14 1/2 oz. and measuring 20 1/2 inches long. Grandparents are Jose I. Menchaca and Dora O. Menchaca and Juan Sainz and Maria F. Verdin.

Dooley

Christopher and Teresa Dooley of Gainesville announce the birth of a son, Logan Lane Dooley on Dec. 29, 2000 at 6:11 p.m. weighing 5 lb. 10 oz. and measuring 19 1/2 inches long, in Muenster Memorial Hospital. He joins a sister, Savannah Dooley, age 17 months. Grandparents are Steve and Vee Dyke of Gainesville and Noel and Sherry Melton of Natchez, Mississippi.

Gonzales

Jesse Gonzales and Anita Telles of Gainesville are parents of a son, Brenden Josef Gonzales born in Muenster Memorial Hospital on Dec. 19, 2000 at 2:10 a.m. weighing 7 lb. 11.9 oz. and measuring 21 inches long. He joins a brother, Jesse Manuel Gonzales age 3. Grandparents are Jesse Gonzales and Jerri

Cooke County Republican Women hold meeting Jan. 4

The Cooke County Republican Women held a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce Building in Gainesville at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 4.

There were two guest speakers. Brett Ringle of the Hunt Corporation is an attorney who was recently involved in Palm Beach and Broward County, Florida during the vote recount for

President. He was also deposed for testifying before the Florida Supreme Court.

Also speaking was Jonathan Snare, Legal Counsel for the Republican Party of Texas. He took part in the ballot security problems in Michigan, as well as Broward County, Florida. He spoke on these areas of interest.

Refreshments were served.

Why do they stay?

Slapping, hair-pulling, kicking, biting...battered women relate a litany of abuse experienced at the hands of their intimate partners. The results are bruises, broken bones, black eyes, internal injuries, sometimes even death. Always there are broken hearts.

So why do women stay in an abusive relationship? Imagine, for a moment, your own family. Would you really want to walk out the door? Could you leave your family and friends? Where would you go? Could you, your children, stay at a friend's house for an indefinite time? What would the friends family have to say about that? Is there anywhere else that you could go?

When women are beaten by the person who promised to love and cherish them, what makes them stay for the second and third beating? Often the reasons are that they are afraid that no one will believe them, they will not have any where to go, no way to support themselves if they did leave, their partner keep all the money, the abuser

threatens to take the children so they will never see them again, and even that they will be killed trying to leave. All these fears are legitimate.

Abuse is not about reason. It is about power. It is about control of one's partner, and it works. Abusers isolate their victims and keep them from having friends or family around. They control what you do, who you see, what you can read and where you can go. Abusers abuse the psyche and emotions by calling us unprintable names, humiliating you in public, and constantly criticizing you. Abusers are intimidating.

Abuse works because many of us pretend it does not happen to "good" women. Only to "bad" women. That is a false statement. Violence will occur at least once in two-thirds of all marriages, regardless of race, religion, sex, and financial stability. Abuse is an epidemic and it needs to be stopped. For more information on how you can help stop the violence contact Cooke County Friends of the Family at 940-665-2873.

GMH, Rotary to sponsor blood drive, Wed., Jan 10

The Texoma Regional Blood Center will be conducting a blood drive at Gainesville Memorial Hospital (GMH) on Wed., Jan. 10, from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The drive was rescheduled from its original date of Dec. 13 due to an ice storm that produced unsafe driving conditions.

The drive is sponsored by GMH and the Gainesville Rotary Club. The mobile unit team will be set up for blood donations in the Gerald Culwell Conference Center at GMH. The public is invited to participate.

For more information on the

blood drive, contact Gayla Blanton, Director of Community Relations at GMH, 940-612-4641, or any Gainesville Rotary Club member.

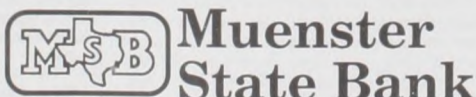
NOTICE

DIALOGUE, an ongoing support group for cancer patients and their families and friends will meet Thursday, Jan. 11 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lindsay Health Clinic. For more information call Kelly Lamkin, L.S.W. at 665-9891.

Thank You John Meurer

Muenster State Bank thanks you for over 36 years of service to the bank, it's customers and the community.

Stop by Muenster State Bank on Friday, January 12th to wish John well and congratulate him on a well deserved retirement.



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Cub Scouts of Pack 664 welcomed Santa!

Dec. 11, the Cub Scouts joined together at the VFW for their Christmas party. They began with the flag salute, which was headed by Charla Taylor's den. Then Ben Bindel discussed the popcorn sales which was at its all time highest sales. The leaders congratulated the scouts on their hard work.

Next, they all sang a variety of Christmas songs. Santa arrived during the "Here Comes Santa Claus" song. Santa visited with each scout. The scouts received their Derby cars from Santa. The scouts also made a Christmas wreath ornament to take home for the tree.

Last, they finished off with awards passed out to each scout for their accomplishments and the Turkey Shoot. Then they all enjoyed cookies and cokes together as the party came to an end.

submitted by Candi Voth



At the Cub Scout Christmas party, Dustin Pumphrey, left, and John Nystrom were among the scouts visiting with Santa. Courtesy photo



Münster Kiwanis recently presented \$1000 donations to Nancy Walter (above), representing the Münster Public Library, and Melanie Hesse, representing ABBA. The money was raised during the annual Kiwanis pancake supper. Courtesy photo



ACS launches smokers toll-free quitline

American Cancer Society (ACS), the leading authority on the dangers of smoking and the wisdom of quitting, has launched the Texas pilot of its Quitline service - a toll-free telephone support program offering state-of-the-art smoking cessation counseling and self-help materials. The service, 1-877-YES-QUIT or 1-877-937-7848, is the latest in a statewide effort to eliminate tobacco-related illness, the single most preventable cause of disease and death.

Tobacco use is responsible for one-third of all new cancer cases and nearly 25,000 Texans will die from tobacco-related disease," said Larry Frankel, M.D., president of the ACS's Texas Division. "That is why it is critical that the ACS provide smokers a place to turn that has been scientifically proven to help them quit successfully."

With the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 16 and New Year's just around the corner, many smokers intend to quit smoking in the next few months, but very few have taken advantage of or are unwilling to undergo individual or group counseling. Recent research reveals that self-help messages do not have

much effect unless supplemented by professional support. In fact, studies show that smokers using telephone support and self-help advice are twice as likely to attain success.

To counter smokers' reluctance to engage in face-to-face individual or group counseling, the ACS's Quitline is easily accessible, offers confidentiality, and is free. If successful in Texas, the Quitline will be launched nationwide in 2001.

As part of the Texas pilot, the Quitline's clinically trained counselors will first assess each smoker's addiction level and determination to quit and

then provide self-help materials and/or techniques to best help the individual.

All callers ready to make a serious quit attempt will be mailed a three-book packet that lends direct, real-life examples skill building exercises to help smokers progress through the three main steps in quitting: (1) Contemplation, (2) Preparation/Action and (3) Maintenance. Callers also may receive advice on a combination of cessation aids and self-help techniques, including medications, stress reduction techniques, and self-control skills.

Booklet offers list of most popular government giveaway programs

The Free Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC has just published a new booklet, "100 Most Popular Government Giveaway Programs". It includes information on how to take advantage of the most popular government giveaways. They have to know where to go and they have to ask for it. That is what this booklet is all about. It lists names and addresses and phone numbers of where consumers can take advantage of the top 100 government giveaway programs.

Popular listings in the booklet include: loans for entrepreneurs with no money; \$2,500 for college students for summer travel; free help on getting the best deal on a new

car; find a federal job with a phone call; \$20,000 to write a novel; get paid to travel and talk; free medications direct from drug companies; money for seniors to fix up their homes; seniors turn homes into cash machines; and students let your congressman show you millions.

Consumers can receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Free Enterprise Institute, 100 Most Popular Government Giveaways, Dept. 100GG1015, P. O. Box 96071, Washington, DC 20090-6071. Consumers can also get information by calling 202-595-1031 or the Free Enterprise Institute's web site: www.FreeEnterpriseInstitute.org.

Foster Grandparent training scheduled for Jan. 9-11

Jan. 9 - 11 is the scheduled date for orientation and pre-service training for new Foster Grandparents. The training will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Texoma Council of Government's office at 3201 Texoma Parkway, Sherman, Texas.

Foster Grandparents serve as mentors/tutors to "at-risk" children/youth in schools, day care centers and community

centers. They serve 20 hours per week and income qualified persons who are at least 60 years of age may receive a non-taxable stipend of \$2.55 per hour. This stipend does not affect any other benefits a person receives.

Anyone wishing to attend or need more information may call 903-813-3501 or 1-800-677-8264.

Spring Theatre classes offered

After an exciting trip to Hollywood and an opportunity to audit an incredible improvisational class with Bob Koherr (a director with the *Drew Carey Show*), Butterfield Stage's Youth Theatre Director, Pat Adams, has new ideas and a new class for the 2001 Spring Semester Class Schedule. The classes designed for children and young adults will commence Jan. 8 and conclude with *An Evening of Improv* on Mar. 2. Slated for eight weeks, the classes seek to prepare today's youth for tomorrow's challenges by helping develop confidence, self-esteem, and communication skills through hands-on theatre experience.

Mrs. Adams, who joined Butterfield Stage as Youth Theatre Director in January of 1999 has a strong professional background in theatre and television and currently serves as the area auditioner for the

American Academy of Dramatic Arts in California and New York. Throughout the years, her students have been selected for principal roles in such television productions as *The Day After*, *Dallas*, *As the World Turns*, *All My Children*, CBS and ABC Afternoon Specials and Films *Mack and Me* and *Love Hurts*; and theatrical productions of *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie*, *Peter Pan*, and *Oliver!*.

Classes scheduled for the spring semester include: *Creative Dramatics*, for youth 6 - 8 years, to be held on Tuesdays from 4 - 5 p.m.; *Young Performers*, for youth 9 - 11 years, scheduled for Tuesdays from 5 - 6 p.m.; *Teen Acting Class*, for youth 12 years - young adult, to be conducted on Mondays from 4 - 5:30 p.m.; and *Advanced Acting*, based on instructor placement, to be conducted on

Mondays from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Classes incorporate improvisation, scene work, and production skill enhancement.

Class size is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Tuition is \$50 for BSP members and \$60 for non-members. A limited number of scholarships are available for those who might be restricted from participating due to monetary constraints.

Registration for the spring semester began Jan. 2, and parents and guardians may register their child by mail (P.O. Box 251, Gainesville, TX 76241) or in person at the theatre (201 S. Denton) Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 2 - 4 p.m.

For more information concerning the spring theatre classes or to obtain a registration form, contact the theatre at 940/665-8152 or bsp@nortextinfo.net.

Promises, Promises: Resolve to be realistic

After the holiday leftovers are gone, family members have returned to their homes and the beginning of a new year looms large, the rush to make resolutions begins. But making those New Year's resolutions should include realistic expectations and a plan that helps people reach their goals.

Most people make resolutions because they want to change something about themselves that they don't like, believes Dr. Don Rosen, director of the Counseling Center at Texas Woman's University.

"Any time is a good time for a person to make changes in his or her life. The new year often is convenient and makes a good starting point," says Rosen. "But making those resolutions and keeping them is one of the most difficult tasks for anyone to manage at the beginning of the new year. People also don't tend to think out their resolutions very well; instead, they tend to make impulsive decisions and rash goals. More than 60 percent of all resolutions are abandoned in the first quarter of the new year."

Resolutions also are difficult to keep if they are unrealistic. "People often expect instantaneous results. Change does not happen in a week, but in small increments over a period of time. Many folks don't realize this," explains Rosen. And keeping resolutions also is difficult because people fail to plan steps to help themselves

achieve their goals successfully.

"Planning a process to achieve the resolution is critical," adds the TWU psychologist.

Rosen suggests that resolution-makers follow these steps:

- Assess yourself. Look at your skills and use them to establish steps toward setting goals.
- Select resolutions based on small increments of achievement - have subgoals within goals.
- Keep a daily or weekly ledger or diary of your progress to help monitor behavior.
- Make a written contract with yourself, specifying the details of your steps.
- Reward yourself, but not excessively, with material items. Graciously accept and enjoy compliments and positive feedback from peers.
- Be patient with yourself. Often, people are their own worst critics.

If you revert to your old habits and don't reach your goal:

- Admit and analyze your mistakes, and continue with the steps. Don't be overwhelmed by small setbacks.
 - Seek help from others or those who are trying to accomplish the same thing.
 - Join a support group or enlist the help of friends.
- For more information, call Rosen at 940-898-3801.

Health & Safety Tips

Calcium supplements compared

Calcium is essential to help women prevent weak bones as they age, but most women don't get all the calcium they need from their diet. If you don't get the recommended daily intake of 1,000 to 1,500 milligrams of calcium daily from your diet, you should consider taking supplements to keep your bones strong.

There are many kinds of calcium supplements available. Doctors say you should consider your needs when choosing a supplement. The most common kind of calcium supplement is calcium carbonate. This kind of calcium can be highly concentrated, so you can get all you need in one dose. However, this kind of supplement may not be absorbed completely by some older people if they take it on an empty stomach. It's best to take this kind of supplement with a meal.

Another is calcium citrate. This kind of calcium is absorbed more easily, and you don't have to take it with meals. It isn't very concentrated, so you have to take twice as many tablets every day to reach the recommended daily allowance of calcium. This can cause the supplement to be expensive.

Other supplements include calcium phosphate, lactate and gluconate, but these aren't very popular. They either aren't easily absorbed or they require multiple doses. Even if you're taking supplements, don't forget about calcium from your diet. Look for low-fat dairy products, like skim milk, fat-free cheeses and fat-free yogurt.

Information supplied by UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

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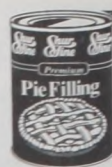
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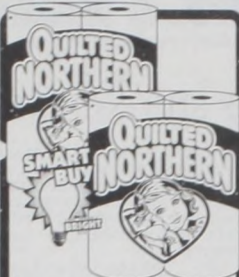
21 OZ. - SHURFINE
Cherry or Apple Pie Filling 99¢



Coca-Cola
12 OZ. 12 PACK
\$2.50



TOWNTALK
Wheat Bread 79¢
1.5 LB.



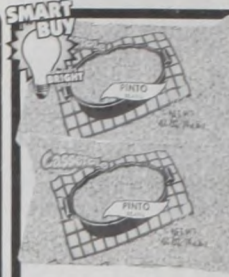
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Bath Tissue 99¢
NORTHERN WHITE
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CHUNK OR GRAVY STYLE
20 LB.



SMART BUY
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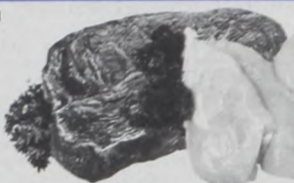
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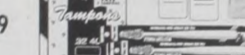
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REG OR SOFT TAPER ANGLE FULL
Western Family Toothbrush 79¢



WESTERN FAMILY ASSORTED 33.8 OZ.
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Sports

Lady Eagles and Wildcats win Holiday Classic

The 13th Annual KGAF-North Central Texas College Holiday Classic basketball tournament began Wednesday, Dec. 27. The start of the tournament was delayed due to icy conditions, but by Friday, the games were back on schedule.

Nineteen teams participated, including Muenster, Sacred Heart, Lindsay, Era, Valley View, Callisburg, Gainesville (girls only), Nocona, Pilot Point, and Slidell.

On day four, Saturday, when all 31 games were complete, the Valley View Lady Eagles and the Callisburg Wildcats took home the 2000 Holiday Classic championship trophies.

The following is the game by game coverage of the tournament compiled with information made available.

DAY ONE

Callisburg 36 Lindsay 49
The Lady Knights of Lindsay opened the tournament around mid-day Wednesday, challenged by the Callisburg Lady Wildcats.

Led by Karah O'Dell's 25 points, the Lady Knights advanced to the championship bracket. DeAnn Fuhrmann added 10, Amber Selby 5, Elaine Hess 4, Hannah Trammell 2, and a free throw each by Emily Trammell, Alex Haayen, and Jacque Bezner.

Baily Brown was Callisburg's high scorer with 18 points.

C	2	12	14	8	36
L	13	16	7	13	49

Callisburg 34 Lindsay 31
The Wildcats squeezed a victory from the Knights in the tournament's second game.

Mitch Creed dropped in 8 points for Lindsay. Nicholas Fuhrmann added 6, with Brad Minnix and Chris Horner each scoring 4. Jonathan Bengfort put in 3, with Rhett Rimmer, Josh Goldsmith and another Knight each getting 2.

Brandon Smith led the Cats on the scoreboard with 14 points.

C	6	15	7	6	34
L	10	12	6	3	31

Muenster 36 Gainesville 47

A slow start for the Lady Hornets allowed Gainesville to get a good lead, which they held on to for a Muenster defeat.

Freshman Melinda Walterscheid was high scorer with 12 points. Ashley Klement added 9, Ashley Hess 5, with Kristie Lutkenhaus and Brittany Haverkamp each scoring 3 and Megan Lippe and Alisha Walterscheid adding 2 apiece.

Tasha Riffle led the Lady Leopards with 12 points.

M	8	7	7	14	36
G	15	11	10	11	47

Era 42 Pilot Point 62

The Lady Cats dominated the Lady Hornets of Era. Mandy Darwin was high scorer for Pilot Point with 13 points. Diana Howard led Era with 12.

E	11	9	2	20	42
PP	15	11	14	22	62

Era 47 Pilot Point 73

The power shooting of the Bearcats was too strong for Era. Ricky Jackson scored 18 for Pilot Point and Josue Arizpe 14 for the Hornets to lead their teams in points.

E	9	10	12	16	47
PP	8	14	33	18	73

DAY TWO

Due to icy conditions, the Valley View vs. Slidell contests scheduled for Wednesday night, were played early Thursday morning, changing the times of day two's games.

Valley View 60 Slidell 49

The Lady Eagles, led by McKenzie Meyer's 27 points, advanced into the championship round. Ashley Griffin scored 29 points to lead the Lady Greyhounds.

VV	15	16	14	15	60
S	15	15	10	9	49

Valley View 82 Slidell 105

The Greyhounds scored over the century mark after a high scoring first quarter. Josh Stubblefield put 42 points on the board for Slidell. Robert Dillin was high scorer for the Eagles with 16.

VV	20	24	16	22	82
S	33	23	21	28	105

Muenster 31 Callisburg 39

After scoring only 4 free throws the first half of the game, the Lady Hornets fought back and came within 5 points to tie the game, but couldn't pull out a victory.

Melinda Walterscheid led Muenster in scoring with 12 points. Ashley Hess added 7 free throws, with Kristie Lutkenhaus and Lisa

Felderhoff each getting 4. Robyn Hermes and Brittany Haverkamp each added 2.

Stephanie Shasteen led Callisburg's scoring with 11 points.

M	4	0	12	15	31
C	9	10	10	10	39

Lindsay 60 Gainesville 40

Eight Lady Knights put points on the score board to assist in defeating the Lady

Leopards.

Karah O'Dell scored 16 points and was 11 of 11 from the free throw line for Lindsay. Elaine Hess added 15 points, with Jacque Bezner, Hannah Trammell, and Amber Selby each getting 6. Emmy Trammell scored 5, Maggie Luttmir 4, and DeAnn Fuhrmann 2.

Freshman Malori Stewart,

and Destiny Chaffin were Gainesville's high scorers.

M	23	13	11	13	60
G	16	11	2	11	40

Muenster 25 Callisburg 84

The Hornets had a hard time getting the ball into the basket in round two action. Only five Muenster boys put scores on the board. Mitch Endres scored 8 points, all in the first quarter. Elliot Klement added 7, with Kevin Hermes and Greg Johnson getting 5 apiece.

Brandon Smith led the Wildcats with 21 points.

Sacred Heart 61 Nocona 58

The Tigerettes played their first game of the tournament at Sacred Heart Thursday afternoon. Weather conditions delayed the games with Nocona. To keep the tournament running, these teams met and battled away from NCTC.

Raney Bauer led Sacred Heart on the score board with 25 points. Andrea Bauer added 19. Other Tigerettes getting baskets were Jana Truebenbach 6, Karen Gehrig 4, Courtney Hartman 3, and 2 apiece from Audrey Barnhill and Mary Jane Callahan.

Kathryn Rhyne led the Lady Indians with 19 points.

SH	14	19	11	17	61
N	8	17	13	20	58

Sacred Heart ?? Nocona ??

The Tigers got a big win over the Indians in their first tournament game. No other information was available.

Era 58 Slidell 44

The Era girls took a victory in round two action. Dianna Howard scored 18 points for the Lady Hornets while Ashley Griffin put in 28 for Slidell.

E	20	6	14	18	58
S	9	10	9	16	44

Era 67 Valley View 59

Hornet H.T. Crenshaw dropped in 23 points to lead Era in scoring. Chad Hardin put in 12 for the Eagles.

E	12	21	15	19	67
VV	17	16	14	12	59

Valley View 53 Pilot Point 47

Mandy Darwin scored 20

See CLASSIC, p.10



Raney Bauer steals the ball from an unknown Lindsay player in the Classic's semi-final game, as Lady Knight DeeAnn Fuhrmann makes an attempt to get the ball back from the hustling Sacred Heart Sophomore. Photo by Janie Hartman

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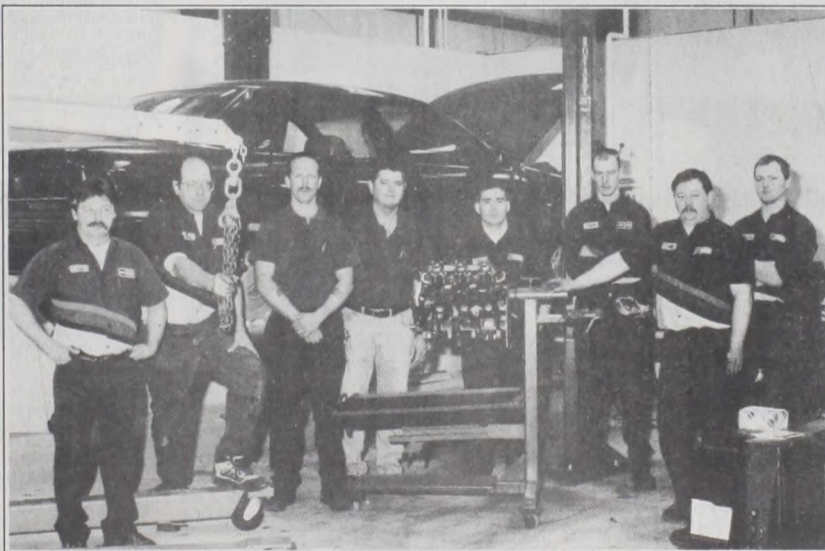
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CLASSIC

continued from pg. 9

points for the Lady Cats, but the Lady Eagles worked as a team to pull out a victory. McKenzi Meyer led Valley View's scoring with 15 points.

VV	12	13	10	18	53
PP	5	13	19	10	47

Slidell 76 Pilot Point 69

The Greyhounds continued their advancement towards the championship game in the final Thursday contest. Chance Wilson burned the boards with 31 points. The Bearcats high scorer was Brant Hale with 18.

S	17	15	25	19	76
PP	18	19	22	10	69

DAY THREE

Nocona 59 Callisburg 41

The Lady Indians advanced to the Consolation round with a Friday opening victory. Kristen Willoughby put in 15 points for Nocona.

N	19	17	15	8	59
C	5	6	13	17	41

Muenster 34 Slidell 42

The Lady Hornets had a close battle with the Lady Hounds, but could not put in enough baskets to pull out a victory in their third game of the tournament.

Melinda Walterscheid led all scorers with 16 points. Ashley Klement added 6, with Ashley Hess and Lisa Felderhoff each scoring 4. Brittany Haverkamp put in 3 and Kristie Lutkenhaus 1.

Ashley Griffin scored 13 for Slidell.

M	11	6	5	12	34
S	9	11	12	10	42

Lindsay 42 Nocona 41

Audrey Barnhill 5, and Jayna Biffle 4. Jennifer Hoedebeck and Mary Jane Callahan each scored 2, while Courtney Hartman and Kristen Zimmerer put in a free throw apiece.

Karah O'Dell led Lindsay's scorers with 12 points. Elaine Hess scored 7, Jacque Bezner 5, and 4 each from DeAnn Fuhrmann and Maggie Luttmer. Emmy Trammell hit in 3 and Hannah Trammell 2.

"This was a good win for us," said Coach Jon LeBrasseur. "The girls did a great job in the execution of the game plan."

SH	15	9	16	10	50
L	9	8	14	6	37

Sacred Heart ??
Callisburg ??

In semi-final boys action, information was not available.

DAY FOUR

Saturday morning action began with the Lady Cats of Callisburg and the Lady Hounds of Slidell. No other information was available.

Valley View 57 Nocona 48

Jed Trice scored 13 points in the Eagles final game of the tournament.

VV	11	16	13	17	57
N	14	8	10	16	48

Era 55 Nocona 50

The Lady Hornets led by Diana Howard and Kinsey Boyd baskets finished the Classic with a win.

E	19	16	8	12	55
N	18	4	16	12	50

Era 55 Lindsay 39



Greg Johnson pulls down a rebound during the Hornets' first tournament game. Also pictured are Muenster players Eliot Klement and Chisam Cain. Photo by Janie Hartman



Lady Hornet Melinda Walterscheid, Muenster's high scorer at the Classic, puts in two points against Callisburg. Photo by Janie Hartman

A missed 3 pointer at the buzzer by Nocona gave the Knights a 1 point victory and advanced Lindsay to the consolation game Saturday afternoon.

Rhett Rimmer was high scorer in the game with 12 points. Tommy Arendt and Brad Minnix each added 6. Jonathan Bengfort, Mitch Creed, Nicholas Fuhrmann, and Josh Goldsmith scored 4 apiece, and Chris Horner put in 2.

Chico Cabrera led Nocona with 11 points.

L	8	8	15	11	42
N	3	14	13	11	41

Pilot Point 54 Gainesville 39

Mimi Bruce put in 20 points to help the Lady Cats defeat the Lady Leopards.

PP	9	17	8	20	54
G	17	6	10	6	39

Muenster 35 Pilot Point 80

The Hornets fell to the Bearcats Friday evening in their final tournament game.

Elliot Klement and Brett Howell each scored 8 points for Muenster. Chisam Cain added 5 with Colby Newton, Cody Cory, and Mitch Endres each getting 4 points. Greg Johnson put in 2.

Brant Hale was the Bearcats' leading scorer with 13 points.

M	8	8	11	8	35
PP	20	21	22	17	80

Sacred Heart 50 Lindsay 37

In the Tigerettes second game of the tournament, the semi-finals, Sacred Heart was able to out-score the Lady Knights and advance to the final championship game.

Nine Tigerettes contributed points to the win, led by Andrea Bauer with 18 and Raney Bauer with 11 points. Jana Truobenbach added 6,



Brad Minnix knocks the ball away from a Nocona player in the Knights battle with the Indians. Photo by Janie Hartman



Sacred Heart Coach Keith Barrick discusses pre-game plans with the Tigers, including, from left, Jack Biffle, Marty Farrell, Jared Zimmerer, Clint Fuhrmann, Jeff Hartman and Luke Endres, during the Holiday Classic tournament. Photo by Janie Hartman

The Hornets took the consolation prize led by Josue Arizpe's 13 points.

SH	17	12	18	11	58
PP	25	17	19	30	91

Tommy Arendt was high scorer for the Knights with 11 points. Josh Goldsmith added 8, Rhett Rimmer 6, with Mitch Creed and Jon Bengfort each scoring 4. Chuck Hinds, Chris Horner, and Nicholas Fuhrmann added 2 points apiece.

L	8	10	10	11	39
E	10	14	16	15	55

Lindsay 44 Pilot Point 59

The Lady 'Cats took third place in afternoon action.

Karah O'Dell led all scorers with 23 points. DeeAnn Fuhrmann added 13 and Elaine Hess, Maggie Luttmer, Jacque Bezner, and Emmy Trammell scored 2 apiece.

L	10	8	18	8	44
PP	17	20	11	11	59

Pilot Point 91
Sacred Heart 58

The Tigers fell to the Bearcats in the third place contest.

Johnny Yosten put in 17 points for Sacred Heart, with Marty Farrell adding 13, Jeff Hartman 7, Jack Biffle 5, and 4 apiece from Daniel Bartush, Luke Endres, and Clint Fuhrmann. Jared Zimmerer and Keith Felderhoff scored 2 each.

Sacred Heart 54
Valley View 57

In the girls championship game, the Tigerettes fell to the Lady Eagles in a hard fought, overtime contest.

"I am very pleased with the girls, as we never gave up," commented Coach LeBrasseur. Down by 10, the Tigerettes came back to tie the game, then had a 4 point lead in overtime, only to have Valley View hit two 3s and take the win.

Raney and Andrea Bauer were high scorers in the game with 15 points each. Audrey Barnhill added 6, Courtney Hartman and Jana Truobenbach 5 each. Jennifer Hoedebeck put in 4, Jayna Biffle 2, and 1 apiece from Karen Gehrig and Mary Jane Callahan.

Nichole Mahan was high scorer for Valley View with 14 points.

SH	8	15	10	13	8	54
VV	13	15	13	5	11	57

Callisburg 64 Slidell 45

The Wildcats had a big win over the Greyhounds to take the Classic championship trophy. No other information was available.

Sacred Heart defeated in two games, 62-61 and 55-44

Five free throws and three 3s by Slidell's Ashley Griffin in the final quarter sealed the Tigerette defeat at Slidell on Dec. 20. Griffin's 32 game points led the Lady Greyhounds to the 61-62 final. Sacred Heart led by 8 points with three minutes to play, but could not hold on to the lead.

"We had too many mental errors down the stretch," noted Tigerette Coach Jon LeBrasseur. "We're still looking for a defensive stopper."

Raney Bauer was high scorer for Sacred Heart with 16 points. Andrea Bauer followed with 15 and a season high 17 rebounds. Jayna Biffle dropped in 10 points, Jana Truobenbach 6, Jennifer Hoedebeck 4, and 3 each by Audrey Barnhill and

Courtney Hartman. Karen Gehrig and Mary Jane Callahan scored 2 points apiece.

SH	18	13	20	10	61
S	15	12	16	19	62

The Tigerettes hosted TAPPS 3A Trinity Christian of Cedar Hill Tuesday night and were handed a 55-44 loss for a 13-6 record on the season. Coach LeBrasseur noted that Sacred Heart hit 14 of 16 at the free throw.

Andrea Bauer led the Tigerettes with 17 points, with Courtney Hartman adding 11. Jennifer Hoedebeck scored 6, Jana Truobenbach 4, and 2 apiece from Mary Jane Callahan, Jayna Biffle, and Audrey Barnhill.

SH	10	20	5	9	44
TC	9	16	13	17	55

Hornets sting Cowboys

The Muenster Hornets traveled to Bryson Tuesday night and brought home a 54-30 victory.

After a tied, low-scoring first period, Muenster took a 10 point lead into the locker at half-time. A commanding 22-5 fourth quarter clinched the win.

Chisam Cain was the game's high scorer with 18 points, 12 coming in the final period. Mitch Endres added 15, Greg Johnson 10, Elliot Klement 6, Brett Howell 3, and Chris Grewing 2.

M	6	18	8	22	54
B	6	8	11	5	30

Texas Game Warden Field Notes

If nothing else, poachers are persistent. But they aren't always the brightest bulbs on the tree, as the following excerpts from recent Texas game warden field reports confirm.

But I'm on Your Side

When two men were caught recently netting shrimp in a closed nursery area at night, one thought he had concocted the perfect story to get them out of trouble. He told the game warden that he was working undercover for Operation Game Thief to report the names of other violators. The warden explained to him that he was not authorized to violate the law in order to get information for Operation Game Thief. As the warden radioed to check for warrants, the man grabbed handfuls of the seized shrimp and scattered them into the high grass. Two men parked next to the warden's patrol truck witnessed the entire exchange. Cases against the poachers are pending.

Eating the Evidence

A West Texas resident called the local game warden to report that his neighbor was trapping quail. The warden located the trap, and after a brief investigation the homeowner admitted to trapping 10 quail the previous day. The man also produced quail that were still frying in a skillet in his kitchen and one live quail that was being kept as a pet.

The late night special came in the form of a 2 a.m. call to a Fort Bend County game warden reporting possible deer hunting. A sheriff's deputy had responded twice earlier in the evening to calls about teenagers hunting in a subdivision but was unable to locate a gun in the suspects' vehicle. The game warden received the names of the teenagers and investigated further. Two days later he spoke with one of the teenagers and received a full confession about the poaching and where to find the evidence.

Upon arriving at the second teenager's house, the warden found processed deer meat wrapped in the freezer. He also noticed steaming hot ribs just out of the oven. The meat and the boys were loaded into the warden's truck and driven to the third teenager's house. The head of the buck was found there, along with the remaining pieces of deer meat marinating in preparation for cooking. Pending charges include hunting deer in closed

season and possession of deer in closed season.

The Eyes of Texas (Game Wardens) Are Upon You

Not realizing that hunters in their blinds were watching his every move, a man was caught shooting two turkeys from a county road in Wheeler County. Upon further investigation, the game warden found that the poacher had also exceeded the bag limit on white-tailed doe deer and was attempting to use someone else's deer tags.

A South Texas warden arrested two groups of hunters in one week during mid-October. The first group involved two hunting-lease holders and their camp manager hunting mourning doves over a baited tank. The second group consisted of a landowner and four of his friends hunting mourning doves without licenses. The landowner had advised his friends that they did not have to have a license to hunt on his land because the game warden never came on his property. In both cases, the violators thought they were far enough away from a public road that their shots would not be heard and they would not be checked.

A new deer decoy nearly paid for itself on its second trip out. Brazoria County game wardens saw four men shoot at the decoy close to midnight near the Fort Bend County line. Two were apprehended at the scene and two fled through the brush. The next day the wardens arrested the other two at their homes, sure that they had the right men because of the many tell-tale scratches they received running through the brush.

Some Just Never Learn

A Dallas County warden cited two men early one morning for hunting non-game animals. One of the men did not have a hunting license or a hunter safety certificate. Less than two hours later, the warden stopped the same two men for hunting from a vehicle on a public road.

The Old Wait Until the Game Warden's Out of Town Trick

In late October, the Dickens County game warden received information that a deer had been taken illegally while he was out of town. After an investigation and interviews the warden filed on three people for taking white-tailed deer in closed season. All three pleaded guilty and were assessed fines of \$500 each.

JV Action

Sacred Heart 58 Slidell 34

Seven junior varsity Tigerettes put the ball into the basket in a pre-holiday contest at Slidell. Lilly Nasche was high scorer with 15 points, closely followed by Sara Sepanski with 14 and Kate Sepanski with 12. Elizabeth Fette added 8, Cindy Hartman 5, Kristen Yosten 3, and Lynn Sicking 1.

SH	19	11	17	11	58
S	4	8	7	15	34

Sacred Heart 34 Trinity 25

Elizabeth Fette was high scorer with 10 points in Tuesday's Tigerette victory. Lilly Nasche added 9, Kristen Yosten 8, Lynn Sicking 4, and Sara Sepanski 3.

"This was a nice win for the J.V. They are starting to jel," noted coach Jon LeBrasseur on the team's 4-3 record.

SH	9	8	4	13	34
TC	2	7	3	13	25

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School News

Muenster ISD Band Director attends convention in Chicago

Band Director Jerry Everett of Muenster ISD, recently went to Chicago for the Midwest Band Director Convention. During his stay, he went to classes and attended performances of several of the nation's top bands. The Eastman School of Music Wind Ensemble, The United States Navy Band, and The West Point Academy Band gave performances. The Academy Band is the oldest continuing Military Band in the United States; the band's history can be traced back to 1778 during the Revolutionary War.

Mr. Everett also attended seminars during the day, these seminars, which included teaching techniques and strategies for small schools, were conducted by some of the best music educators alive today.

Texas was well represented at the convention, with a performance of the L.V. Berkner Symphonic Band from Richardson and guest clinician Rodney Bennett from Munday. Mr. Everett thought the worst part of the trip was the weather, since the wind chill temperature dipped to 27 below zero. However, one thing he recommends to put on your "to do" list if you ever get to Chicago is to eat some pizza. He stated, "The crust was five inches thick and tasted better than any I had ever had."

Health & Safety Tips

Kids love sweets

How can you limit the sweets your children eat without going to the extreme?

Pediatricians say it's natural for children to like sweets. Different taste buds develop at different times, and the taste buds that sense sweetness provide a very positive feeling for small children. Children need some sugar in their diets for energy, but that doesn't mean they should indulge in candy all the time. Kids who develop a taste for sweets instead of more nutritious food may develop weight problems if they don't burn up the extra calories through activity. Sugar can also lead to tooth decay and gum problems.

Candy isn't the only source of sugar in kids' diets. You'll find added sugar in snacks, soft drinks, juice drinks, and cereal. The new nutrition labels found on packaged foods make it easy to find the sugar content of foods, but the labels don't distinguish between sugar naturally found in foods and added sugar. As a result, wholesome foods like milk appear to be high in sugar, even though no sugar is added to milk.

You don't have to eliminate sugar from children's diets, unless a child has a specific health condition that requires sugar restriction. Just limit sugary treats to one or two a week. Offer naturally sweet foods like fruits as an alternative dessert. Make sure kids brush their teeth soon after eating sweet snacks.

Information supplied by UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas

Muenster FCCLA shares holiday spirit with community

The month of December was a very busy time for the Muenster High School FCCLA Chapter. Holiday activities began with a gathering at Saint Richard's Villa after Thanksgiving. Members visited with patients and decorated the door of each patient in a Christmas theme.

On Dec. 6 a meal was served to the Muenster High School faculty, staff, school board members, and all FCCLA members. The meal consisted of smoked beef and ham, cheesy potatoes, green beans, homemade bread, and four layer dessert. All of the food was prepared by Food Science students except for the beef and ham which was smoked by Mike Sturm, husband of FCCLA sponsor, Joni Sturm. Each member brought a canned food item as admission to the meal. The donated foods were then delivered to Muenster Baptist Church for their holiday food basket mission.

The organization also participated in the Cooke County Little Angel project by sponsoring a boy and girl for Christmas gifts of clothing and a toy. These items and the food for the meal were purchased with profit from their annual Christmas gifts fund-raiser.

The final holiday activity occurred Dec. 17, when some of the members met for the annual Christmas caroling party. Members went to Muenster Memorial Hospital to sing Christmas carols to the patients. They also brought Christmas treats to the patients and family members. After their visit, the members enjoyed refreshments and participated in a gift exchange in the home of Mrs. Sturm.

Muenster FCCLA appreciates all supporters of the annual fund-raiser, and also Terri Luke of Ace Hardware for the donation of items used to decorate at Saint Richard's Villa.

School Lunch Menus

WEEK OF JAN. 8 - 12

SACRED HEART S.N.A.P. MENUS
 Mon. - Toasted cheese sandwiches, tomato soup, celery, apples.
 Tues. - Crisпитts, lettuce, green beans, fruit.
 Wed. - Chicken noodle casserole, peas and carrots, lettuce, fruit, garlic toast.
 Thurs. - Salisbury steaks, potatoes, corn, cinnamon apples, bread.
 Fri. - Pizza, black-eyed peas, lettuce, fruit.

MUENSTER ISD
 Mon. - Hot dogs w/chili and cheese, pinto beans, potato wedges, pineapple tidbits, brownies.
 Tues. - Chicken nuggets, creamed potatoes w/gravy, black-eyed peas, pears, hot rolls.
 Wed. - Ham and cheese sandwiches, lettuce and tomatoes, carrot sticks, chips, oranges, cookies.
 Thurs. - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, lettuce salad w/dressing, green beans, peaches, hot rolls.
 Fri. - Barbecue sandwiches, French fries, pork and beans, pickles and onions, applesauce,

ice cream.
LINDSAY ISD
 Mon. - Burritos, refried beans, bread, applesauce, pineapple.
 Tues. - Lemon pepper chicken, potato salad, peaches, corn, bread.
 Wed. - Turkey and noodles, salad, broccoli and cheese, bread, pears.
 Thurs. - Meat loaf, new potatoes, green beans, bread, mixed fruit.
 Fri. - Chicken sandwich, French fries, pickles, oranges.

ERA ISD
 Mon. - Fish sticks or mini corn dogs, sliced pears, tossed salad, macaroni and cheese.
 Tues. - Soft tacos, trimmings, pinto beans, cornbread.
 Wed. - Country fried pork steak or beef steak fingers, tossed salad, mashed potatoes, gravy, strawberry applesauce, hot roll.
 Thurs. - Baked potato w/ground beef, shredded cheese, mixed fruit, tossed salad, breadstick.
 Fri. - Hamburgers, sliced cheese, trimmings, French fries, ice cream.

Grants available for Catholic Elementary Schools

Catholic Life Insurance is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the 2001 Grade School Grant Program.

Catholic Life Insurance will award seven needy Catholic elementary schools each a \$2,000 grant as part of its annual Grade School Grant Program. School principals or development officers of needy Catholic elementary schools in Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Mississippi may apply for the grant. Programs eligible for funding include tuition assistance, building repairs and furniture, and new curriculum materials.

"Catholic Life Insurance understands the importance of Catholic education," said Barbara A. Cheaney, vice president of communications. "In the past six years we have awarded 41 schools a total of \$82,000, and we look forward to helping seven more schools in 2001."

Interested individuals may call the Catholic Life Communications Dept. at 210-828-9921 for an application. The application deadline is Feb. 15, 2001. The grant and a certificate will be presented to the winning schools at end-of-year ceremonies.



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Cox asks county for legal help on zoning commission

by Janet Felderhoff
 "We have got to have some legal help," pled Commissioner Bill Cox on behalf of the Lake Ray Roberts' Zoning Commission. "What's happening now, it seems like any subdivision or any changes that are going on it seems that the subdivider hires an attorney. They have an attorney on that side and we have no legal help what so ever." Cox noted that Denton County has an assistant district attorney at all meetings of subdivisions and their Lake Ray Roberts Zoning Board, plus they have two employees there at all times.

"We've got to do something in Cooke County or we're going to get ourselves in a big bind with a lawsuit," said Cox. He added that he'd gone to the county attorney's office seeking help and didn't get much assistance. "If we can't get the county attorney or the assistant DA, we're going to have to try to hire an attorney on an hourly basis type thing," Cox said.

Denton County had approached Grayson County to

see if there was a possibility of Denton, Grayson, and Cooke counties joining in the effort. Grayson County declined because there is no great growth activity in that area at this time.

Cooke County Judge Bill Harris said he would like to see the zoning boards of Cooke and Denton counties joined. He agreed to talk to Denton County's judge about the possibility.

Members of Commissioners Court were unanimous in their decision to authorize participation in County Choice Silver Insurance for retired county employees. It is a Medicare supplement from Blue Choice. There will be no expense to the county as the insured retiree will pay the premium directly to the insurance company. Only retired employees over 65 years of age are affected.

County Treasurer Judy Hunter was presented with a certificate of achievement for 40 hours of Investment Education. Judge Harris made the presentation at the Tuesday, Dec. 26 meeting of

Commissioners Court. "You're one of 17 in the State of Texas and I'm proud on behalf of Commissioners Court to present you with this," he told Hunter.

Hunter had earned the designation of Certified County Investment Officer (CIO) by attending formal instructions, successfully completing a comprehensive examination, and continuing to advance her professional competency through ongoing education. About 40 percent of Texas counties have certified investment officers.

Hunter said that the certification helps to enlighten her on new things in investment that the Commissioners Court might want to consider investing in.

In other business conducted at the Dec. 26 meeting Commissioners Court:

- Approved requested line item budget amendments.
- Approved public official bonds for Anthony Ward, Terry Gilbert, and Taylor Vestal.
- Approved and filed minutes of the Dec. 14, 2000 Lake Ray Roberts' Planning and Zoning minutes.



Above - Road crews from Cooke County Precinct #3 cut ice-weighted tree limbs that obstructed roadways last Thursday. Glen Cler is operating the county backhoe. At right - this cow, along with all cattle in western Cooke and Montague Counties found that the pasture grass came ice coated for several days during last week's wet, freezing weather conditions.
 Photos by Janet Felderhoff

Soil and Water Conservation Districts support water rights granted under Texas Water Code

Directors representing Texas 216 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) recently passed a resolution supporting protection of certain water rights within the Texas Water Code.

Referred to as the "junior water rights" provision, Texas Water Code Section 11.085 (s) and (t) provides safeguards to protect permitted water users against inter-basin water transfers during times of water shortage.

"What this means is that inter-basin transfers of water cannot supersede the rights of water rights holders in the basin of origin," said James Moore, director of conservation programs, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board.

"As the demand for surface water is growing dramatically, there are more proposed sales of water rights permits to municipalities and industries that would transfer water outside the water basin," said W.S. Edwards, chairman of the Trinity Bay SWCD.

Current Texas law mandates that all water subject to inter-basin transfers would be junior in priority to all existing water rights within that originating basin. When water rights are sold to a new entity for inter-basin transfer, the new entity becomes junior to all older permit holders on that watercourse. During times of water shortage, all obligations to permit holders within the basin would be fulfilled before any water could be transferred out of the basin.

"This resolution is intended to ensure that agricultural interests are given fair consideration by future changes to the junior water rights provision," Edwards said.

Efforts in the Texas legislature to repeal the "junior water rights" provision passed in the Senate in 1999, but died in the Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives.

The right to withdraw surface water is a permitted

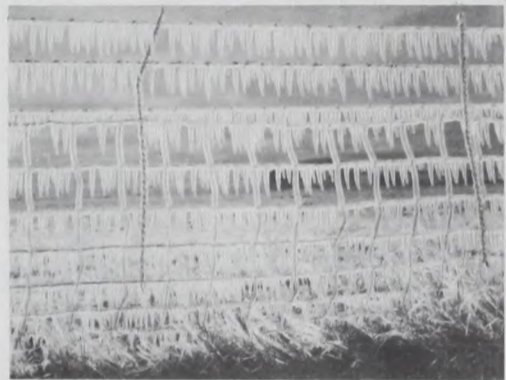
activity in the state. Currently, thousands of acre-feet of surface water are pumped each year from rivers, streams, and bayous for cropland irrigation and livestock purposes.

SWCDs are responsible for promoting and carrying out a conservation program by assisting landowners and operators plan, apply, and maintain appropriate conservation and resource

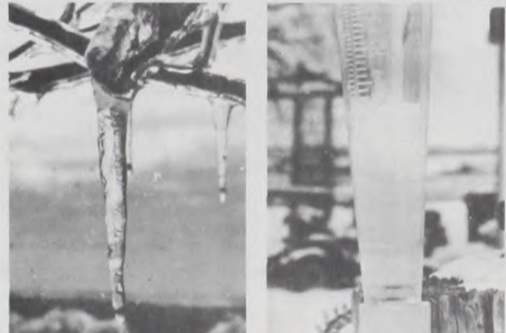
management plans.

Since their creation after the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, Texas SWCDs have effectively administered conservation programs based on the voluntary application of conservation practices.

Approximately 1,000 SWCD directors and other conservation leaders attended the 60th Annual State Meeting of District Directors, held Oct. 2-4, in Fort Worth.



Ice coated fences took on some exquisite decor last week. The artistic and the treacherous side of winter made appearances. While the ice created some dazzling scenes, it also created dangerous driving, inconvenience from lack of electrical power, damage to trees, and problems for all who had to work outdoors.
 Janet Felderhoff photo



A lone icicle hangs from a tree branch, covered with ice. At right, close to two inches of snow measured in the rain gauge after the New Year's Eve snow fall.
 Janie Hartman photos

Combs: "Don't get burned when buying firewood."

A roaring fire in the fireplace may be just what's needed during this bitterly cold Texas weather. But in the rush to keep the home fires burning, Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs says some consumers may be getting short-changed because they don't know how much firewood they are buying.

"By law, firewood can only be sold by the cord or by fractions of a cord," Combs said. "Anything else and consumers may be getting burned."

A standard cord of firewood is 128 cubic feet of wood, generally a pile measuring 8 feet long by 4 feet tall by 4 feet deep. The wood should be placed in a line or row with individual pieces of wood touching and parallel to each other. The cord of wood should be compact.

Other units, such as "rick," "truckload," "face cord," "rack," or "pile," are not legitimate measurements, and people have no way of determining how much firewood they are actually receiving.

If you think you have been short-changed, contact your Texas Department of Agriculture regional office or TDA's Weights and Measures Program at 512-463-7483 or 1-800-TELL-TDA (835-5832).



COW POKES By Ace Reid

<http://www.cowpokes.com>

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
To the Registered Voters of Muenster, Texas:
Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on January 20, 2001, for voting in a special election, for adoption of a Section 4B sales and use tax at the rate of 1/2 (1/2) of one (1) percent to undertake projects as described in Section 4B of Article 5190.6.
LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES
Muenster City Hall, 400 North Main Street, Muenster, TX
Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Muenster City Hall, 400 North Main Street between the hours of 8-12 a.m. and 1-5 p.m. beginning on January 3, 2001 and ending on January 16, 2001.
Applications for ballots should be mailed to: Micallee Mason, PO Box 208, Muenster, TX 76252
Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on January 12, 2001.
Issued this the 4th day of December, 2000
/s/Henry Weinzapfel

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Farm & Ranch

Texas poised to become hub for ag exports

Texas is poised to become the hub of agricultural export trade because of its geographic location, but will only be successful if farmers and ranchers become 'export ready.' State Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs told participants at the International Agricultural Trade Summit, held Nov. 14-15 in Houston.

From improvements to Texas highways to adding more value to agricultural goods produced in the state, producers and agri-business leaders came away from the summit armed with new strategies to strengthen Texas' role in world export markets.

"We are next to Mexico, on an East Coast access and we are dead-smack in the middle of the country," Combs emphasized. "We are poised to be the center for transportation, transshipping and the first points of entry, but it's going to take a certain amount of intellectual maturing for us to realize how widely situated we are."

Texas has a powerful selling mystique, Combs said. Texas producers need to brand their products, so consumers will recognize them.

She noted that Texas is the sixth-leading state in total agricultural exports behind California, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Illinois. Texas ranks No. 2 in total agricultural revenue and No. 3 in live animal and red meat exports behind Nebraska and Kansas.

"We can do better," Combs said. "We need to do better not just in all commodities, but the whole process."

The keynote address of the summit was given by Dr. Norman Borlaug, the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize winner. He was recognized for developing broadly-adapted, high-yielding, rust-resistant wheat varieties and integrated improved crop management practices that helped feed the hungry in Third World countries.

Though biotechnology hasn't come without controversy, Borlaug said individuals "shouldn't be afraid of change. There is an anti-science movement, but this is mostly because of ignorance." Borlaug said these views have been drawn mainly because of a lack of education, and he made a plea for increased educational efforts by both universities and the news media so a better understanding of biotechnology can take place.

New technology will help increase food production for the future, Borlaug said, expressing certainty that enough food will be available to feed the population in the next 25 years. But, he warned, that will come only "if we can continue to build technology and add to it."

Gus Schumacher, United States Department of Agriculture Under Secretary for Foreign Agriculture Service, highlighted several landmark events that have helped the United States

export more agricultural goods, particularly the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement.

"I think it's the unsung story," Schumacher said. "There was a lot of grouching at first, but in fact, it's been one of the better success stories. We had \$14 billion in exports and it's created a lot of jobs. Here shortly, we will be an exporting force to Mexico, more so than we are to the European Union."

Summit participants spent part of the two-day process in a workshop setting, developing new ideas and strategies that could help Texas farmers and ranchers better market their products produced in the state. Of the several key issues identified at the summit, they included:

- Identify value-added, processing and marketing

opportunities.

- Enhance e-commerce and improve the connection to rural areas.

- Take advantage of Texas' image to better market products.

- Increase the emphasis placed on the science and education of GMOs.

- Form a better understanding of agricultural markets for each country.

- Increase funding for marketing programs.

- Develop joint global marketing programs.

Agriculture in the United States and Texas has become increasingly dependent on trade during the last decade. Total U.S. agricultural exports in 1999 reached \$49 billion, generating \$90 billion in economic activity and accounting for 750,000 jobs.

Emergency farm loans available to Texas farmers

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced the availability of U.S.D.A. emergency farm loans to farmers and producers all over Texas, due to losses caused by drought, excessive heat, and other disasters occurring over the past year. Glickman formally declared the entire state of Texas an agriculture disaster area.

Since 1995, Texas farmers and ranchers have lost more than \$5.5 billion.

Between now and August 2001, qualified Texas farmers and ranchers may apply for low-interest emergency loans to help cover part of their actual losses through their local Farm Service Agency (F.S.A.) County Service Center. Each loan application will be considered on its own

merits, taking into consideration the extent of each loss, security availability, repayment ability, and other eligibility requirements.

This disaster designation also enables farmers and ranchers to apply for the federal livestock assistance program and the "linked-deposit" loans program offered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (T.D.A.). The federal livestock assistance program offers cost-sharing to cover feed expenses whereas the T.D.A. "linked-deposit" loan program allows commercial lenders to make low-interest loans.

Interested producers need to contact their local F.S.A. offices for further information on eligibility requirements and application procedures.

County Agent's Report

by Craig Rosenbaum

4-H FITTING AND SHOWING WORKSHOP

4-H members planning to exhibit beef, goat, sheep, swine, or rabbit projects at the upcoming livestock shows will want to attend a workshop on fitting and showing on Thursday, January 18, 2001 from 6:00-8:00 P.M. at the Cooke County Fairgrounds located on Hwy. 82 near Gainesville.

4-H leaders will work with the youth on fine tuning their showmanship techniques. Time will be allotted for questions and answers. A session on Character Building with Livestock Projects will also be held. If you plan to attend, call and pre-register at the Cooke County Extension Office, (940)668-5412.

AG MARKETING CLUB

The 2001 Agricultural Marketing Club meetings will begin on Tuesday, January 9, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. at the Farm Bureau building located on Hwy. 82 in Gainesville. This meeting will feature Cindy Tilton, commodities specialist with Martindale Feed Mill. Cindy will cover current and future price trends in wheat, feed grains, and feeder cattle. The Ag Marketing Club meets on the second and fourth Tuesday nights from January through April. Topics covered are the marketing options available to cover price risks in agricultural commodities. Producers are invited to attend.

USING SILAGE IN BEEF RATIONS

Many beef producers in the county have incorporated silage into their beef cattle feeding program over the last several years. Silage can be a good feed alternative. Dr. Ron Gill,

Extension beef cattle specialist will present a workshop on Wednesday, January 17, at 7:00 P.M. at the Cooke County Fairgrounds. Ron will cover nutritional requirements of heifers, stockers, and cows, and meeting those requirements with warm season silages.

IS BRUCELLOSIS REALLY ABOUT WHIPPED?

According to information from Dr. Buddy Faries, Texas A&M Extension Veterinarian, there are only two herds in the United States, one in Texas and one in Florida, currently under quarantine for brucellosis. Forty six states are officially certified free, and Oklahoma and Missouri are close to achieving that status. Those of you who have been around for awhile know that control programs for brucellosis have been going on for well over 30 years. Can it really be that this disease is about to be a thing of the past? Not likely. No doubt there still are infected animals out there which have not been identified. But at least we're not experiencing the widespread incidence of the disease and the economic losses that once prevailed.

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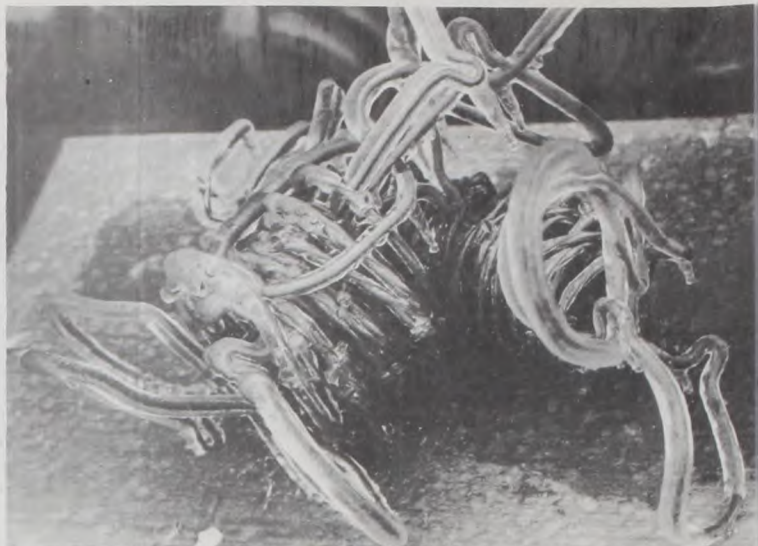
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The after Christmas ice storm that struck the area left much beauty, along with some destruction. Every item left outside during the freezing mist was structured with layers of ice, which took on all types of shapes. The above item can usually be found on any farm or ranch. Can't figure out it is? The answer can be found in the box at the bottom of this page. Photo by Janie Hartman

Chapter 12 extension left unfinished

Farmers facing hard times are left without the option of filing Chapter 12 bankruptcy, due to unfinished business by Congress. "Chapter 12 provisions guide bankruptcy procedures for farm and ranch estates," said Wes Sims, Texas Farmers Union President.

Chapter 12 authorization expired on July 1, 2000. The provision has had bipartisan support in the past, and was included in a larger bankruptcy bill passed by Congress last month. However, President Clinton has warned that he will veto the comprehensive bill, since sections of the bill, unrelated to Chapter 12, weaken consumer protection.

A number of farm and ranch groups wrote a letter Congress on Nov. 13 urging members to pass legislation to reauthorize Chapter 12 before adjourning. However, while the House passed a separate extension before adjourning, the Senate was unable to agree to the extension.

"Reauthorization of Chapter 12 must be a top priority for

members of Congress when they return." "We have heard from many producers who are in dire financial straits and who were counting on Congress to restore Chapter 12 this year," stated Sims.

Chapter 12, the Family Farmer Bankruptcy Act of 1986, was originally enacted as a response to the farm crisis of the 1980s that caused a large number of farm failures. It allows farmers and ranchers to

reorganize their debt and provides a repayment plan that is based on the earnings of the debtor rather than the value of assets that would otherwise be liquidated. It allows farmers to submit a repayment plan that can reduce the amount owed if this amount is at least what creditors would receive if the farmer were to liquidate under the individual bankruptcy provisions of Chapter 7.

Farmer responsible for contract

A Kansas farmer contracted to sell his corn to a local elevator. A freeze damaged the crop, so he couldn't fulfill the contract with his own production. The elevator deducted the amount he still owed from the payment for the grain he did sell them.

The farmer then sued the elevator, claiming the freeze was an excuse for not having to fill the contract amount.

The Kansas Supreme Court disagreed, stating the freeze

was a fore-seeable event and the contract did not specify which tracts of land should provide the corn and the farmer should have made up the short fall.

The ice covered items pictured above are two almost empty "spools" of barb wire.

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