



The Castro County News

81st year—No. 41

Dimmitt, Texas

Thursday, January 5, 2006

www.castrocountynews.com

75¢

Two announce for county judge in Democratic primary

Merritt calls it 'critical time' for county

Life long Castro County resident, Lint Merritt, has announced his candidacy for County Judge. Merritt seeks this position running as a Democrat.

"This is a critical time for Castro County, and I would like the opportunity to serve in our county government," Merritt said. "I have lived here all my life. My family and I have farmed and ranched around Dimmitt and various other locations in the county including Hart and Arney. This is my home. I know the area, its people, and their needs.

"Castro County has been hard hit by the recent loss of industry and other local business closures. Our



Lint Merritt

citizens need public servants that are here for the long haul."

Merritt says he is willing to perform all duties required of County Judge. He said that he wants the best for

Castro County and its residents.

"I am a fair minded individual ready to help our county government work at its optimal level. It would be an honor to serve as Castro County Judge," Merritt said.

A graduate of West Texas State University with a degree in business, Merritt has a farming and cattle operation in the county. He is also employed by Stevens Five Star in Hereford. His wife, Connie, has taught at Richardson Elementary since 1976.

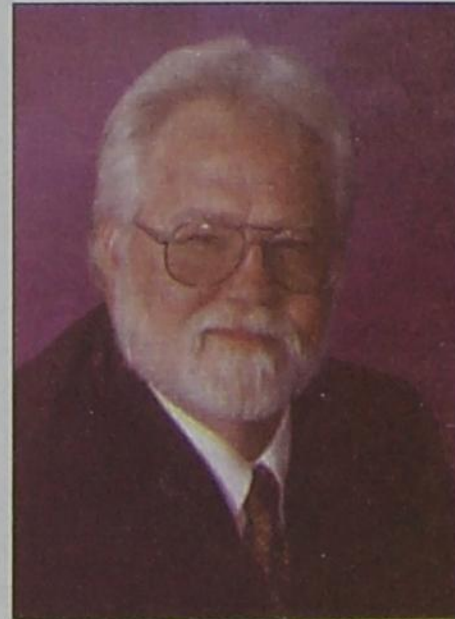
The couple's daughters live in Lubbock. Julie is a recent Texas Tech graduate and Jill is a senior at the university.

Cartwright touts business experience

Jerry Cartwright has become the second candidate to toss his hat into the ring for the position of Castro County Judge, subject to the Democratic Primary.

He said his decision to run for county office has not been an easy one.

"This decision process actually began more than eight years ago," he said. "I had spoken with several people about running for the county judge position, but at the time I had more than 25 years invested in my job at what is not the Cargill Corn Wet Milling Plant. Income, benefits and time invested in the retirement program just did not make changing jobs a good



Jerry Cartwright

decision at that time. Recently I was asked if I would be interested in running for this position. After discussing this with my wife and several business owners, I

have decided to run.

Cartwright listed his qualifications for the position.

"I have lived and worked in Castro County all 53 years of my life. I watched my father serve the public as Castro County Sheriff for 2 years and know first hand that public service is not an eight-to-first job," he said. "I earned a bachelor's degree in business management from Wayland Baptist University in Plainview with a minor in real estate.

"I invested 33 years in the 'Cargill Plant.' The plant was actually owned

See CARTWRIGHT, Page 2

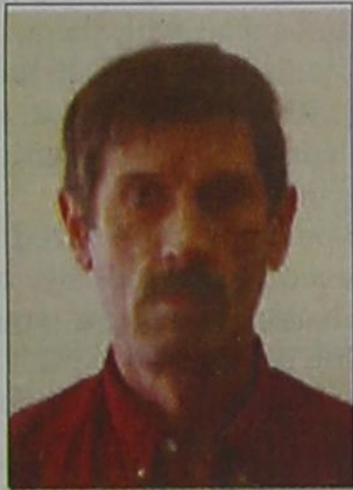
Colley makes it three-way race for GOP county judge nomination

Michael E. Colley has announced his candidacy for the position of Castro County Judge, subject to the March 7 Republican Primary.

This makes it a three-way race between incumbent county judge Bill Sava and Melinda Timms, who recently announced for the position.

Colley has been a Texas peace officer for more than 14 years. For

See COLLEY, Page 2



Michael E. Colley

County initiates burn ban, will meet Friday to continue it

Castro County Judge Bill Sava on Saturday signed off on a seven-day burn ban for the county, citing high winds and extreme drought conditions prevalent in the area.

The ban is in effect until 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 7. However, a special session of the Commissioners Court has been called for 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 6, to discuss extending the ban.

"It seemed the logical thing to do," Sava said about the ban. "We'll talk about it Friday

See BAN, Page 2

Top story of 2005 Cargill's closing still resounding for area

By DAVIE BROWDER
Managing Editor

The story of the year in 2005 was the closing of the Cargill Plant. Unfortunately for Dimmitt and Castro County, it may well be the story of the decade, since the closing put 127 employees out of work. The tax base took a big hit and when the dust settled, people were moving out of the area and local entities were tightening their collective belts.

The first hint came in August, 2004, when Cargill laid off its 36 contract employees and announced they were "idling" the plant until the need for sweetener increased. In fact, in 2004, when Cargill had its Christmas party, employees were sure that the plant would re-open.

"Demand for sweetener did pick up somewhat," said Dimmitt Mayor Wayne Collins, who has been working to find a company that could come in and use part of the infrastructure. "Cargill had fully planned to re-open. They pushed their staff to get ready to re-open until just days before they announced the closing on Jan. 12.

"So the closing was a real shock."

The city lost not only tax money but monthly income, he said.

"Cargill was by far the biggest customer we had for water sales," he said. "Their payment to the city for water

See CARGILL, Page 9

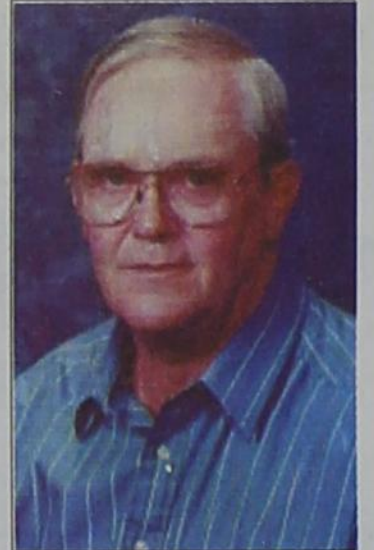


FOR DECADES, TRUCKLOADS of grain poured through these gates to be turned into fructose, a sweetener used in a variety of foods and drinks.

Schmucker will seek re-election

Dan Schmucker has filed for re-election for Castro County Commissioner, Precinct 4, in the March 2006 Republican Primary election.

A lifetime resident of Nazareth and Castro County, Schmucker and his wife Ethel have five children and nine grandchildren.



Dan Schmucker

"I shall always be proud to live here, work here and worship here," Schmucker said. "I have been honored to represent the people of Precinct 4 and Castro County and hope that I can continue to work for them in the future."

Schmucker has served as commissioner since November 1996.

Are you dissatisfied with the poor reception/service relative to your television cable?

The Dimmitt City Council will hold a public meeting for those residents of Dimmitt who are frustrated with the service Cebridge Connections is providing (or not providing) relative to cable service. A representative from Cebridge will be in attendance.

Mark your calendar for Monday, January 16, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. This will be your opportunity to have your complaints heard. **Please make plans to attend.**

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NOMINATIONS DUE

Nominations for Citizen of the Year and Citizen Through the Year may be submitted to the Dimmitt Chamber of Commerce. Forms may be obtained at the office. The deadline for entries is 5 p.m., Jan. 18. Awards will be announced at the Chamber Banquet, set for Feb. 4. For more information, contact the Chamber office at 647-2524.



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Forum

Beating the New Year's blues

By ANNETTE BRIDGES

Are you beginning the New Year with confidence and expectation or with dread and trepidation?

Certainly last year humanity struggled with wrenching challenges — tsunamis, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, bombings, shocking terrorist acts. It surely does not make for a Happy New Year to start it with worries about what catastrophe will happen next in the world or in your own life. I've become preoccupied lately with uncertainties in my life and anticipation of unwelcome changes in the future.

Recently, I came across a statement of promise written by Mary Baker Eddy in her book, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures:

"The divine Love, which made harmless the poisonous viper, which delivered men from the boiling oil, from the fiery furnace, from the jaws of the lion, can heal the sick in every age and triumph over sin and death."

These words prompted me to read again one of my favorite Biblical stories about Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego when King Nebuchadnezzar ordered them

cast into a fiery furnace for disobeying his orders. (Daniel - Chapter 3)

"I've always been in such awe of this account. How even though they were bound and thrown into this fiery furnace, their lives were not destroyed. In fact, not only did they survive, the Bible says, "nor the smell of fire had passed on them."

And they were not alone "walking in the midst of the fire." When the King peered into the furnace, he saw four men and said the fourth was "like the son of God."

In discussing this with a friend, she pointed out that they didn't have to be pulled out of the fire to be saved. They were saved while in the midst of the fire. And the Christ remained in the fiery furnace with them walking by their side.

Pondering this Biblical story has brought me reassurance. It's very comforting to know that no matter what situation I may face in the New Year, the Christ will be with me caring for me, protecting me, nurturing me, strengthening me. And I know this is true for everyone, too.

And this reassurance is increasing my confidence in a loving and all-powerful God that can conquer evil in whatever form it may appear. And encourages me to view the New Year through His eyes

Seeing through His eyes is giving me a different view than that of doom and gloom, illness and death. His vision is only that of the perfection and goodness He made.

Whether His children are walking in a fiery furnace or peacefully by the sea side, His beholds only His beloved children whom He will always care for. His sight never wearies or dims. His perception never changes. His outlook is hope-filled and joyous.

Such a view is helping me replace the New Year blues with an expectancy for a New Year of progress, restoration and healing.

BAN

Continued from Page 1
because to do it for more than seven days requires the action of the commissioners."

Sava said the state government has declared an emergency across the state due to the dry, windy weather and ordered counties to do everything they could do to curtail fire threats.

Already several small Texas towns have been burned off the map and larger towns have been threatened.

The declaration issued by Sava said in part that Castro County is "under imminent threat of severe damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from the threat of wildfires due to drought and other weather-related conditions."

Under the ban, the sale of "restricted fireworks" is prohibited. It also prohibits the use of combustible materials in an outdoor environment. "Combustible materials" includes all fireworks, materials used in activities such as welding and any other activity that could result in a fire."

Violation of the ban is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

CARTWRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

by Dimmitt Agri, Amstar Corp., American Fructose Corp., American Maize Corp., Cerestar Corp. and finally Cargill Corp. Many corporations are structured very similar to that of county government. You have stockholders/voters, department heads, committees, etc. So understanding the political process was critical for those of us that went through so many corporate buyouts. These companies also provided many of us with structured courses and hours of management training, budget training. We were trained as incident commanders in the event of a major incident. This could be anything from a tornado strike to a large chemical spill."

Cartwright and his wife Dianne own and operate J-

Cross Investments, a real estate brokerage and mortgage business. He has been a real estate broker for about 25 years and the couple recently added the mortgage business when Dianne became licensed by the state as a loan officer. In addition, they have a family farm, along with his two sisters.

"We have greatly increased the value of this farm the last 10 years using one simple rule," he said. "We found an excellent farmer and did not tell him how to do his job."

Cartwright said there are numerous issues at stake in the election, listing courthouse turmoil, drug sales and drug dealers in Castro County, economic stability and income for the county, decent and safe senior housing.

"These are just some of the issues that need to be discussed and dealt with," Cartwright said. "If someone has a question or comment, I urge them to contact me."

I look forward to visiting with the people of Castro County in the next few weeks."

Last Puzzle Solution

Losing weight is closer than you think.

Weight Watchers is opening a new Meeting in Dimmitt.
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Weigh-in and registration begin 30 minutes prior to meeting times.

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Discount code 35

COLLEY

Continued from Page 1

employed in Castro County - the first seven and a half months with the City of Nazareth as the city marshal, and the remainder with the Castro County Sheriff's Department, where he is employed.

His first job as a local government employee started in April 1982, with the City of Friona as a parks and recreation employee. Additionally, he added to his responsibilities the job of animal control officer. Later, he joined the Friona Volunteer Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department.

In November, 1988, after obtaining his Texas Peace Officer certification, he left the City of Friona as a Parks and Recreation employee, moving to McLean to become Chief of Police. He also served on the McLean Volunteer Fire and EMS services.

He has also served the citizens of Childress and Kress as a law enforcement officer before becoming the Nazareth City Marshall in July 1995.

"I have been involved with some aspect of local government, either municipal or county, learning the ins and outs of what can not be done," Colley said. "Government is a business for the people, by the people. We work for the citizens of the locality in which we serve and should never lost contact with them!"

"With the loss of major and associated businesses in our county, I will work on tax issues relating to this loss and the additional loss of revenue associated with them. I will also work on issues associated with the jail and the Sheriff's Department. In addition, I will work to correct any county personnel and related problems that have been around the last several years.

"I will have an open door policy, and if elected, all county residents will be encouraged to come by and voice complains, concerns and whatever else you would like to visit with me about. And if you can't come to me, I will come to your location at an appropriate time, if an appointment is made."

The Original TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- 1 preowned car
- 5 TX B.J. Thomas' "___ Lonesome I Could Cry"
- 6 musical instrument at the TX Renaissance Festival
- 7 TXism: "ugly ___ sin"
- 8 former TCU BB coach Moe
- 9 minor TX misdemeanor (2 wds.)
- 15 TXism: "take a ___ at it" (try)
- 16 hairless on the noggin' (2 wds.)
- 18 bowling game
- 20 TXism: "first rattle ___ the box"
- 22 TXism: "I need that like an armadillo ___ interstate"
- 27 actor Baldwin
- 28 chase an outlaw
- 29 in Ellis Co. on 342
- 30 subscribing again to the Denton Record-Chronicle
- 32 TX "Singing Cowboy" Autry (init.)
- 33 TXism: "___ judge in court"
- 36 "Cowpokes" Ace
- 37 TXns Neiman and Carrell
- 38 early name: El Paso del ___ Norte
- 39 TXism: "the brand is still smoking"
- 41 historic Tarpon ___ in Port Aransas
- 42 envelope licker
- 45 how Valley citrus spoils

DOWN

- 1 TX high school sports organ. (abbr.)
- 2 Mustang university
- 3 first known black man in TX
- 4 TXism: "___ in the woods?" (yes)
- 8 TXism: "can write ___ ink" (sure)
- 9 M.D. Anderson Hospital is known for this (2 wds.)
- 10 C&W Loretta (init.)
- 11 it's placed in The Azle News
- 12 TX Charley Pride's "A ___ Cry On"
- 13 ___ de La Salle led 1st French expedition to TX
- 14 TXism: "high as a ___ back" (costly)
- 15 TXism: "agile as a ___ hot road"
- 16 TXism: "esta ___" (good)
- 17 Rangers DH in '91: Harold ___ Baines
- 19 criminal trial short-cut: ___ bargain
- 21 chicken fried steak, fried okra, potatoes
- 22 Astros & Rangers pitching legend (init.)
- 23 boot size
- 24 TX Ross Perot's old company
- 25 TXism: "your barn ___ open" (unzipped fly)
- 26 Hemphill is seat of this county
- 28 a cow and a calf
- 31 TXism: "rough as burlap under ___"
- 34 actor Duvall (init.)
- 35 this Stilwell founded Port Arthur (init.)
- 37 insurance company
- 40 cow sounds
- 43 TXism: "___ live and breathe"
- 44 TX Roddenberry "Trek" line: "Live ___ prosper"
- 50 false name used by TX outlaws
- 51 TX Dr. Duke or TX firefighter Adair

WEATHER

	High	Low	Prec.	Snow
Tuesday	65	26		
Wednesday	60	29		
Thursday	72	22		
Friday	54	22		
Saturday	69	43		
Sunday	62	25		
Monday	70	26		

Jan. Rainfall	0.00
2005 Rainfall	18.83
2005 Snow	3.92 inches

Readings taken every day at 7 a.m. at KDHN, official National Weather Service recording station for Dimmitt.

The Castro County News

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DEADLINES

Display and Classified Advertising.....	Tuesday Noon
Agriculture, Business and Industry News.....	Tuesday Noon
Social and Church News.....	Tuesday Noon
Community Correspondence.....	Tuesday Noon
Personal Items.....	Tuesday Noon
General News, City and County.....	Tuesday Noon
Editor and Publisher.....	Chris and Joye Bradford
Advertising Department.....	Marlene Taylor
Managing Editor.....	Davie Ann Browder
Production Department.....	Chris Bradford
Bookkeeping.....	Marlene Taylor
Community Correspondents.....	Dorothy Hopson, Dimmitt Virgie Gerber, Nazareth Angie Arguijo, Hispanic Voice

Naz News

with Vergie Gerber, 945-2669

The Senior Citizens enjoyed their annual New Year's party at the Center. According to our president, Ed Ramaekers, there was lots of good food brought in, several tables of cards playing and at midnight, a champagne toast to welcome the New Year.

New Year's Day was a special one for Madison Samford, daughter of Chris and Becky Samford, as she was baptized at Holy Family Church during mass. Ronnie and Regina Hoelting were her sponsors.

The Rev. Ken Keller officiated at the Baptism. Others in attendance were her CCD Class and her grandparents, Dickie and Bernice Hoelting.

S.Sgt. Shane Kimball and wife Laura (Birkenfeld) spend the holidays here with Laura's parents, Julius and Kathy Birkenfeld. During this time, Deacon Jerome Brockman baptized their son, Brody Thomas, at Holy Family Church on Dec. 28. He was born June 18 in Fort Knox, Ky. In April, the family will be moving to Fort Bragg, N.C. Shane will begin airborne jump training. Grandparents of the baby are Tony and Angela Acker of Nazareth and Sandy and Annette Kimball of Ransom Canyon.

Please remember to pray for all of our sick people and those serving in our Armed Forces, especially in Iraq and Afghanistan. New ones added this week are Betty Wilhelm, Elmer Kleman and Brian Schmucker.

Hispanic Voice

with Angie Arguijo, 647-0106

Hola, ya es el año 2006! Hello, it's 2006! I can't believe that it is actually the beginning of a new year. The possibilities are endless. We must not forget that the most important thing is to remember to try to make it the best year ever, not only for ourselves, but for others.

I'll start off with saying that I hope everyone's New Year's Eve was great. Josh and I just spent a quiet night at home watching bits and pieces of all the different celebrations going on around the world. There are so many different traditions it's unbelievable. If your family has a New Year's Eve tradition I'd love to hear about it.

Late birthday wishes go out to Brayden Urias, son of Johnny and Sonia Urias of Hereford. Brayden celebrated his birthday on Dec. 30. Brayden is the grandson of Alex and Susan

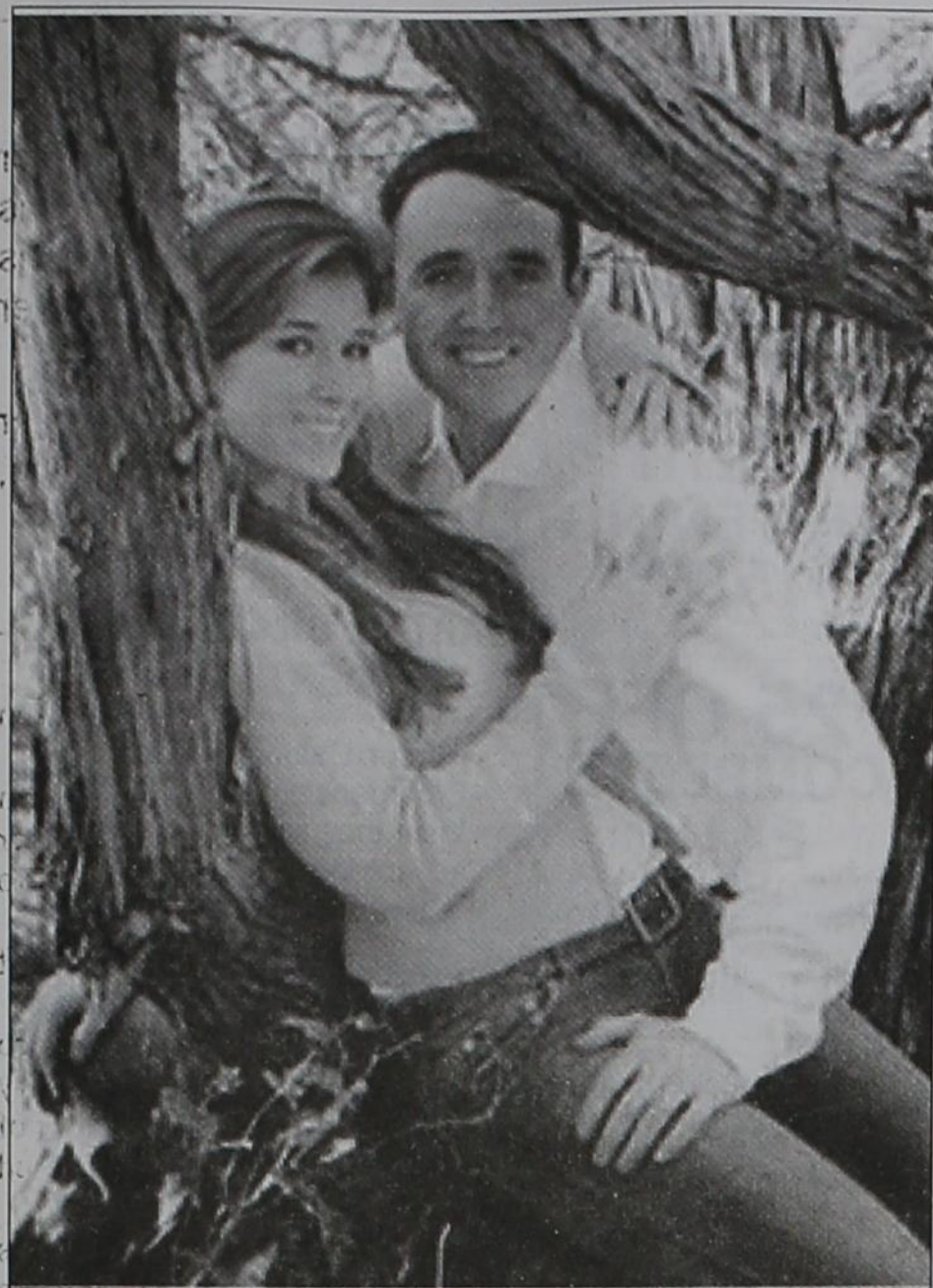
Fuentes formerly of Dimmitt and the great-grandson of Robert Arguijo and the late Elena Arguijo of Dimmitt. Brayden's got LOTS of family in Dimmitt, who all wish him a very Happy Birthday and love him very much.

The Arguijo family will also be remembering and honoring the birthday of the late Guadalupe T. Romero on Jan. 3. The family will forever remember her and cherish her memories.

Solia Reyes and Frank Mendoza Sr. attended the Plainview ISD Administration Christmas Party during Christmas week. The two say they enjoyed a delicious meal of turkey and dressing and all the fixings. After the meal, everyone played a great game of Bunko and exchanged gifts. Soila is the Parent-Student Involvement Facilitator for the 12 schools in the district.

Deepest condolences to the family of Rey Garcia. May God comfort them during their time of need.

Que paso, nadie me mando noticias? What happened, no one sent me any news. I know for a fact that there has been a lot going on these past few weeks, so let me help you share it with the rest of the community. As always, keep the info coming to angie79027@hotmail.com 647-0106 or 346-3882.



Krystal Marie Elbert & Aaron Mitchell Loyd
Elbert-Loyd

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Elbert of Hewitt, are pleased to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Krystal Marie Elbert, to Aaron Mitchell Loyd, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Loyd, of Van Vleck.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harley Johnson and the late Mr. and Mrs. Cleo Elbert, both of Pierce City, Mo.

The prospective groom is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. George Book of Bluffton and Mr. and Mrs. Wortham Loyd of Granbury, formerly of Snyder.

She is a 2000 graduate of Midway High School and a 2004 graduate of Texas State University, with a bachelor of science in recreation administration.

She is employed with the City of Kyle as the Program Coordinator for the Parks and Recreation Department.

He is a 1999 graduate of Bay City High School and a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, with a bachelor of science in kinesiology.

He is employed with Hays Consolidated I.S.D. as a science teacher and coach at Lehman High School.

The couple will exchange vows March 4, 2006 in Kyle.

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Community Calendar

Annual Chamber meeting set

Dimmitt's annual Chamber of Commerce business board meeting will be at noon, Jan. 11, at City Hall. This will be an open meeting.

There will be an annual business report given and new board members will be elected.

Please RSVP the Chamber at 645-2524, if you plan to eat the lunch which will be provided.

Plains Auxiliary weekly workshops

The Plains Memorial Hospital Auxiliary will begin their weekly workshops beginning Wednesday January 18, 2006.

The workshops will be held every Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the workshop at the Medical Center of Dimmitt, 112 W. Jones.

Art exhibit in Nazareth

An art exhibit by Darryl Ball, a Nazareth native, is on display at the Home Mercantile Building. The Mercantile is located at the corner of Second and Leo Streets in Nazareth.

His exhibit consists of 22 of his favorite pieces, and will continue until Jan. 20. To see the exhibit Monday-Friday, contact Tom Hoelting at 945-2211.

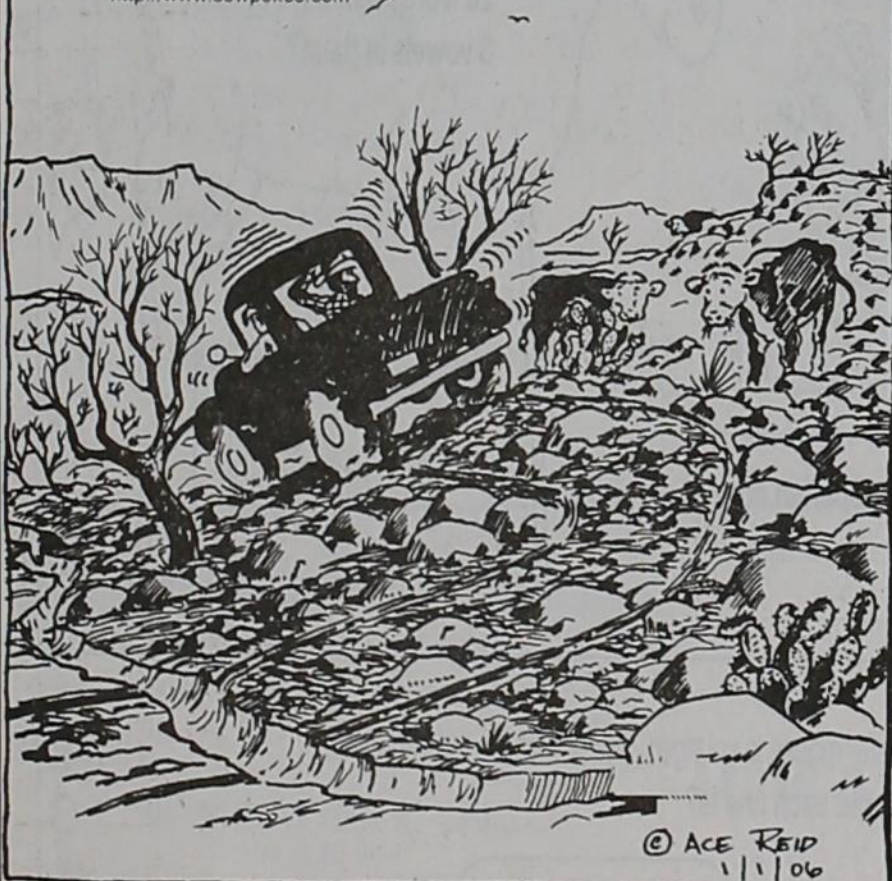
Bobcat flags for sale

The Dimmitt Athletic Boosters are taking orders to sell additional Bobcat flags.

They are \$25 for the flag only; \$35 for a flag and pole. If interested, please call Donna Reinart at 647-2243.

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Menus

DISD Menus

Friday: Breakfast - Pancake on a stick, cereal, apple cinnamon loaf. Lunch - Pepperoni pizza, nachos with cheese, chicken pattie with gravy, fried okra, frijoles refrieto, baked potatoes, fideo Mexicano, tossed salad, taco condiment salad, cantaloupe, fresh fruit, fresh melon, berry blue gelatin, crackers, biscuits.

Monday: Breakfast - Sausage and biscuit, Honey Nut Cheerios cereal bar, fresh apples. Lunch - Fish nuggets, beef enchiladas, barbecue hot links on bun, potato rounds, Mexipinto beans, vegetable medley, tossed salad, taco condiment salad, fruited gelatin, fresh fruit, fresh melon, muffins, arroz Mexicano, tortilla chips.

Tuesday: Breakfast - Peanut butter and strawberry sandwich, cereal, blueberry muffins. Lunch - Cheeseburgers, Kung Fu sweet/sour, beef stew, turkey fajita with onions and peppers, potato chips, broccoli with cheese sauce, fideo Mexicano, Mexipinto beans, hamburger salad, tossed salad, fresh fruit, fresh melon, garlic bread, flour tortilla.

Wednesday: Breakfast - Fresh donuts, peaches, cereal, Honey Bun. Lunch - Burrito with chili, chicken fried steak, pigs in a blanket, blackeyed peas, mashed potatoes, frijoles refrieto, taco condiment salad, orange wedges, tossed salad, fresh fruit, fresh melon, muffins, golden nugget rolls, crackers.

Thursday: Breakfast - Grilled cheese sandwich, cereal, apple muffin. Lunch - Shrimp poppers, tuna salad sandwich, cheese enchilada with sauce, potato chips, butter beans, pork and beans, tossed salad, guacamole salad, taco condiment salad, fresh fruit, fresh melon, Kaiser rolls, tortilla chips, Spanish rice.

NISD Menus

Friday: Breakfast - Sausage patty on roll, cereal. Lunch - Frito pie, sausage pizza, cornbread, apple crisp, peaches, broccoli with cheese sauce, tossed salad.

Monday: Breakfast - Honey Bun, cereal. Lunch - Sausage pizza, chicken stir fry, gingerbread, pears, broccoli with cheese sauce, tossed salad.

Tuesday: Breakfast - Cinnamon french toast, sausage patties, cereal. Lunch - Fish strips, chef salad, hush puppies, s'mores, green beans, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw.

Wednesday: Breakfast - Breakfast pockets, cereal. Lunch - Burritos, baked potatoes, chili, chewy peanut butter bars, Spanish rice, blackeyed peas, peach cups, tossed salad.

Thursday: Breakfast - Cinnamon Pastries, cereal. Lunch - Chicken sandwich, hamburger, french fries, chocolate chip cookies, vegetarian beans, fresh grapes, lettuce.

HISD Menus

Friday: Breakfast - Biscuits and sausage. Lunch - Hamburger on a bun, bean burrito, corn, tossed salad, french fries, fresh fruit, chocolate pudding.

Monday: Breakfast - French toast strips, cereal. Lunch - Hamburger on a bun, corn dogs, potato puffs, tossed salad, dill pickles, carrot sticks, pears.

Tuesday: Breakfast - Sausage breakfast, cereal. Lunch - Popcorn chicken, ham sandwich, potato puffs, dill pickles, carrot sticks, tossed salad, fruit cocktail

Wednesday: Breakfast - Breakfast sticks, cereal. Lunch - Steak fingers, chicken nuggets, mashed potatoes, cream gravy, green beans, tossed salad, peaches, white bread, fresh fruit.

Thursday: Breakfast - Waffles with syrup, cereal. Lunch - Salisbury steak, baked potato, bean burrito, tossed salad, carrot sticks, green beans, brown gravy, fresh fruit, yellow cake.

CHURCH

Continued from Page 5

would rather you not know about.

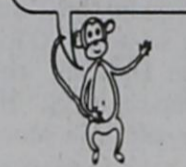
And finally, the altar of education takes its toll. No, I'm not opposed to secular education. A good education is required for children to function in this world. However, I am also concerned about the world to come.

My heart breaks every time I hear some parent tell me their child could not make it to Wednesday evening Bible class because "they had homework" or there was some "school function." The homework has to be done, but why at the expense of Bible study? Why don't they just skip a few hours of television or talking on the phone instead?

What excuse can a parent possibly have for their children not having their Bible class lessons prepared? Out of 168 hours in a week they couldn't find one hour to study their Bible? Did they have time for television? Did they find time to talk with their friends on the phone? Did they have time to play outside? I don't blame the children near as much as I do the parents!

Brett Page is the preacher at Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ, Dimmitt.

Where's Chatter?



Newspaper Fun!

Created by Annimills © 2006 V3-N1

Can you find her?



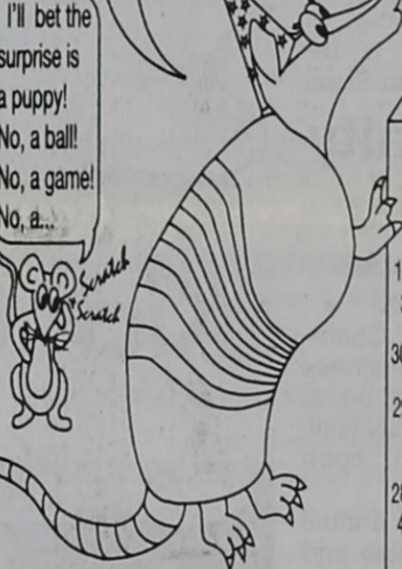
Happy Birthday to You!

What is the date of your birthday? In our country everyone has a special day to celebrate what is special about him or her. It is our birth day. Yes, the party fun starts when we are turning one and continues as long as we live. We also get to celebrate birthdays for everyone in our family and our friends too! We celebrate birthdays all year round.

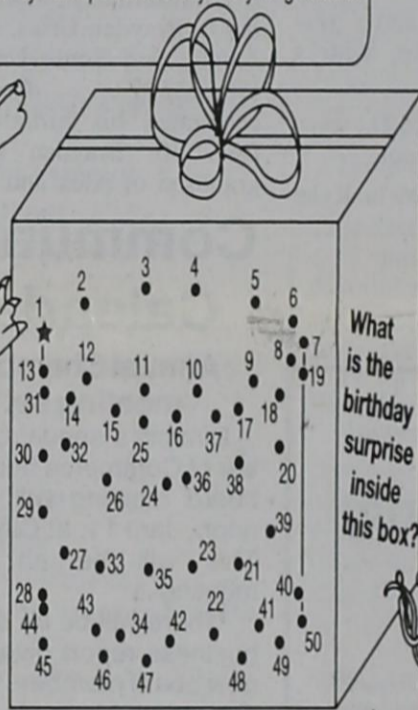
In some countries, like Saudi Arabia, people do not celebrate birthdays due to their religious beliefs. In other countries, like China, everyone celebrates his or her birthday together on their New Year's Day. Everyone turns a year older at the same time! The children may receive gifts of money. On special birthdays very long noodles are served at meals to bring long life.

The Most Delicious Part

What is the most delicious part of a birthday? The cake, of course! Everyone loves to have a cake to celebrate.



I'll bet the surprise is a puppy!
No, a ball!
No, a game!
No, a...



What is the birthday surprise inside this box?

Party Games

What do you like to do at a birthday party? Here are some fun games to play. Just fill in the blanks with the missing vowels - a, e, i, o and u!



1. P _ ñ _ t _
2. Tr _ s _ r _ H _ nt
3. M _ s _ c _ l _ Ch _ _ rs
4. B _ ll _ _ n St _ mp

and don't forget my favorite:

5. P _ n th _ T _ _ l _ n th _ D _ nk _ y!

What is Arid getting a "bang" out of? To find out, go to our website: www.newspaperfun.com ...or write to tell me your favorite party idea at Arid@newspaperfun.com.

Can you guess who baked the cake?

Uh-oh... I don't think I like this game very much!

Find and circle the items below that are also used to have birthday fun:
cake balloons hats favors games song candles cards parties gifts

Psssst...is it a cool model car?

I don't know!

Can you find and circle 20 words that have at least 3 vowels in them?

How Old am I?

Brother mouse is the oldest child in the family. Sister mouse is younger. Little mouse is the youngest. Can you read the clues below to figure out how old each one is?



I am twice as old as my sister!

Brother mouse is years old.



And I am twice as old as you, Little mouse!

Sister mouse is years old.



I'm two!



CHURCH NEWS



Sacrificing our children

Among the many sins of the Gentiles is the charge that they were "without natural affection" (Rom. 1:31, KJV). Albert Barnes correctly observed that Paul "doubtless refers here to the practice so common among the heathens of exposing their children, or putting them to death."

The pages of history are

bloody with the record of heathen nations sacrificing their children. This is one of the reasons God destroyed the Canaanites. "They even sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons, and shed innocent blood, even the blood of their sons and daughters, whom they sacrificed to the idols of Canaan; and the land was

polluted with blood" (Psalms, 106:37-38). How could any parent deliberately sacrifice their son or daughter to demons? The practice is so vile that we can not comprehend what would cause one to commit such despicable acts. Yet, I contend that many parents today are willing to sacrifice their children to demons. While

their children are not burned or buried alive, they are placed on the altar of Satan by foolish parents.



Brett Page

First there is the altar of pleasure. Some parents are so concerned about their children having "a good time" that they will sacrifice the soul of their own child

on the altar of pleasure. Solomon told the young man to rejoice in his youth "and let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; walk in the ways of your heart, and in the sight of your eyes; but know that for all these God will bring you into judgment" (Eccl. 11:9). Enjoy life, but don't forget about the judgment!

Second, there is the altar of popularity. Some Christians have been known to sacrifice their children in an

attempt to make them "popular." Since the moral code revealed in the New Testament is not in harmony with the "standards" of the world, many will yield to pressure and allow their children to engage in activities they

See CHURCH, Page 4

Hear
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Facts About The BIBLE BY JOHN LEHTI

700 LEFTIES!

ALTHOUGH MODERN BASEBALL HAS PRODUCED SOME AMAZING LEFT HANDED PITCHERS WHO THREW WITH EXTREME ACCURACY, SUCH AS LEFTY GROVE, WHITEY FORD, CARL HUBBEL, JOHNNY VANDER MEER, SANDY KOUFAX, IT CAN'T MATCH THE BIBLE'S SEVEN HUNDRED "LEFTY" SLING SHOOTERS!

THE SLING SHOOTER WAS THE COUNTERPART OF A MODERN ARMY'S RIFLE MAN AND THE TRIBE OF BENJAMIN HAD SEVEN HUNDRED CHOSEN MEN LEFT HANDED (JUDGES 20:16) ALL OF THEM COULD "SLING STONES AT A HAIR'S BREADTH AND NOT MISS." ALL THE SHEPHERD BOYS USED SLINGS TO PROTECT THEIR HERDS FROM BEASTS OF PREY AND THIS CONSTANT PRACTICE AS THE YOUTHS GREW UP TO MANHOOD ASSURED ISRAEL OF A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF SHARP-SHOOTERS IN TIME OF WAR.

NEXT WEEK: MONEY IN THE MOUTH OF A FISH?!

SAVE THIS FOR YOUR SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRAPBOOK

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Wednesday Evening Bible Study-7:00 p.m.

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"Proud to Support the Community Churches"

Obituaries

June Brock

Services for June Brock, 78, of Dimmitt, was Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005, at Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ, Dimmitt, with Brett Page officiating, assisted by Dean Wiseman.

Burial was at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Dimmitt.

Mrs. Brock died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005, in Amarillo. She was born July 11, 1927, in Baird.

She married James Orin Brock on July 11, 1970, in Lubbock. He preceded her in death on Feb. 17, 1997.

Mrs. Brock was a homemaker and a member of Fourth and Bedford Church of Christ. She graduated from Dimmitt High School and worked for many years as a presser at Alvin's Cleaners in Dimmitt.

Survivors include two sisters, Doris Nesbitt of Amarillo and Thelma Hutcheson of Dimmitt; a brother, Jerry Belknap of Centreville, Va.; two sisters-in-law, Sadie Lane and Alma Nelson, both of Dimmitt; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Brock was also preceded in death by a brother, Wray Belknap.

Alvie Roy Nelson

PADUCAH - Alvie Roy Nelson went to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Dec. 30, 2005, at the age of 73. Services were Monday, Jan. 2, 2006, at First Christian Church of Paducah with Pastor Roy Keith officiating and under the direction of Seigler Funeral Home.

Mr. Nelson was born Oct. 3, 1932, on a farm in Lamar County to Harley Q. and Estel Allen Nelson. He and his 12 siblings were raised and educated in farming communities.

He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army and was very dedicated to living his life for Christ. He was a farmer by trade and a loving husband and father.

He was an active member of First Christian Church, serving as a deacon, trustee, elder and song and worship leader.

In his quiet time he enjoyed being with his family and studying Indian history.

He was also an amateur archaeologist and a collector of antique bottles.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Joy Nelson; a son, Joel Nelson of Fort Worth; two daughters, Susan Coleman of Dimmitt and Sally Wright of Holliday; five brothers, Troy Nelson and Jack Nelson, both of Paducah, Charles Ray Nelson of Windom, Donald Nelson of Arlington and Eddie Nelson of Honey Grove; two sisters, Mildred Lassiter of Sumner and Wanda Covington of Honey Grove; and seven grandchildren.

Lydia Marie Davis

Services for Lydia Marie Davis, 38, of Hereford, were Saturday, Dec. 31, 2005, at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Father Guadalupe Mayorga officiating. Burial was at West Lawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Dimmitt.

Mrs. Davis died Thursday, Dec. 29, 2005, in Amarillo. She was born Sept. 18, 1967, in Lamar, Colo.

She grew up through most of her childhood in Dimmitt and attended Dimmitt schools, where she sang in the Dimmitt Middle School choir. She was a homemaker.

Survivors include a son, Rickey Dion Davis of Fort Worth; a daughter, Racquel D'Shann Davis of Japan; her parents, Louis and Martina Moreno of Dalhart; a brother, Lee Richard Moreno of Canyon; a sister, Libby Melissa Avila of Hereford; and her paternal grandmother, Filomena Moreno of Dalhart. She was preceded in death by a brother, Louis Peter Moreno in 1984; her paternal grandfather, Louis Moreno; and maternal grandparents, Jose and Isabel Rodriguez.

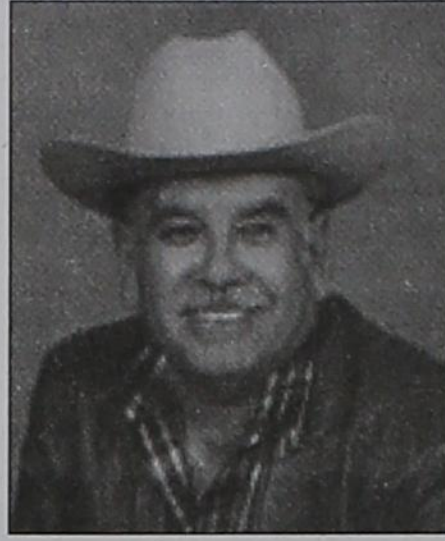
Reynaldo S. Garcia

Services for Reynaldo S. Garcia, 79, of Dimmitt, were Monday, Jan. 2, 2005, at Immaculate Conception of Mary Catholic Church in Dimmitt with Fathers Ken Keller and Lupe Mayorga officiating. Burial was at Castro Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Garcia died Friday, Dec. 30, 2005, in Lubbock. He was born Oct. 23, 1926, in San Benito. He was a truck driver most of his life. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and a contributor of Basilica San Juan. After his retirement, he was a security guard for Cargill and in 1995 he retired completely.

Mr. Garcia is survived by two sons, Paul Garcia and wife Ortencia and Ray Garcia Jr. and wife Jose, all of Dimmitt; two daughters, Esther Martinez and husband Manuel and Janie Esquivel and husband Juan, all of San Marcos; two brothers, Ismael (Red) Garcia and Guadalupe Garcia, both of San Benito; two sisters, Librada (Nena) Lucio of Harlingen and Margarita Escamilla of Lozano; 15 grand children; and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Domitila Garcia; two brothers, Roberto Garcia and Rudolfo Garcia Jr.; and a daughter, Rachael Garcia.



Reynaldo S. Garcia



BOBCATS

Continued from Page 7

but Dimmitt led, 25-21 at the half. Although the Warriors had a 19-point third-quarter, Dimmitt stayed in the game and outscored Lubbock 15-10 in the final period for the win.

Leading scorers for the Bobcats were Nick Ortiz and Omar Cataño, both with 12 points.

In the second game, Dimmitt fell to Floydada, 56-50, a team they will see two more times in district play. Leading scorers were Junior Limas and Alex Chivira with 12 points each.

Against Floydada, head coach Alan Steinle said the Bobcats had "too many missed opportunities and had crucial turnovers that turned in to easy points for Floydada."

"We had them down by 10 and ended up losing by six," he said. "We had our chances and didn't do some things well enough to finish the game. We'll have a couple of opportunities to play them again this year, but we sure missed a good opportunity to do well against them at Caprock."

DSHS treats for coyotes and gray foxes help rabies medicine go down

It's a once-a-year treat - a highly favored food, bundled in bite-size portions, delivered by air right to the doorstep. No waiting.

For several weeks in January, coyotes and gray foxes in South and West-Central Texas get just the sweetened dog food and fish meal delicacies they want. Tucked inside each food sack is a bonus: a dose of oral rabies vaccine.

Over the last 10 years almost 25.4 million individual doses of oral rabies vaccine have been distributed across 352,100 square miles of Texas. That work, health officials with the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (ORVP) at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) say, has led to dramatic drops in incidences of canine and gray fox rabies.

"No human cases of rabies in either area have occurred since the vaccine

airdrop began," said DSHS veterinarian Ernest Oertli, ORVP director. "And no animal cases of canine or gray fox rabies have been recorded outside the original containment zones since the program's beginning. These are truly measurable success points."

Beginning in early January, about 2.8 million baits will drop from five

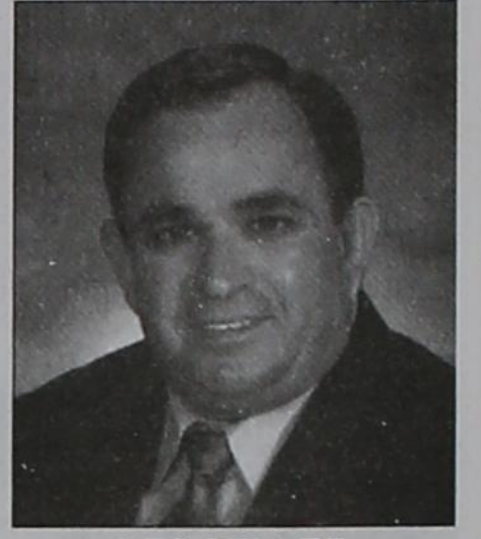
specially equipped airplanes flying across 39 Texas counties. The first flight takes off Jan. 6, weather permitting, from the Zapata County Airport in South Texas. The second portion of the drop begins about Jan. 14 from the Pecos County Airport in Fort Stockton, and the last leg gets under way about Jan. 21 from Junction's Kimble County Airport.

School News

This month is school-board recognition month

Governor Rick Perry has proclaimed January as School Board Recognition month, and as such, I'd like for you to join me in recognizing the Dimmitt Independent School District Board of Trustees as one of the best school boards of the 1,042 school boards across the state of Texas. Our local Board Members are:

- David Schaeffer - President - Place 5
 - Rick Wright - Vice-President - Place 2
 - Barbara Bain - Secretary - Place 7
 - Chevo Lumbreira - Member - Place 3
 - Greg Odom - Member - Place 6
 - Mary Helen Flores - Member - Place 4
 - Robert Woolbright - Member - Place 1
- School Board Members contribute unselfishly of their time and talents toward making public edu-



LES MILLER

cation in Texas a model for the entire nation. Governor Perry stated, "Even though we are making a special effort during January to show appreciation to our school board members, we recognize their contributions reflect a year-round commitment on their part."

These elected officials spend hundreds of hours each year leading and governing their districts. Their civic volunteerism is to be greatly commended as they are not compensated for their efforts. Besides the countless hours spent in monthly board meetings, board members also work hard attending seminars and training sessions on the latest trends in educational leadership.

Locally our Board Members are involved in all facets of education, as they are kept abreast of the programs offered, and sit as a policy making body. Dimmitt ISD is comprised of seven single member districts in which board members are elected each May, by majority vote, to serve three year staggered terms.

For those of you interested in possibly running for the Board of Trustees, a School Board Candidate Workshop will be held in Amarillo on Thursday, March 2 from 7:00 - 9:00pm at the Region 16 Education Service Center (5800) Bell St.

Obituary Policy

Obituaries are printed in the Castro County News free of charge and will contain the following types of information: date and details of funeral and place of burial; date and place of birth and parents names; date of marriage; limited biographical information, including the highest level of schooling achieved, service in the Armed Forces, profession (and retirement information if applicable); names of relatives who have preceded the person in death; names of survivors (including husband and wife, parents, in-laws, brothers, sisters, grandparents (only the number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren will be included); and where memorials may be directed.

We will be pleased to run a one column black and white photo at no charge. A larger photo or a color photo will cause the obit to be paid. Please keep in mind that everything must be submitted by your funeral home.



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DISD CALENDAR

- Thursday, Jan. 5
 - 3rd Grade TAKS Practice
 - Basketball: 9th Boys & Girls @ Lazbuddie Tournament
- Friday, Jan. 6
 - Basketball: 9th Boys & Girls @ Lazbuddie Tournament
 - JV & Varsity Girls @ Friona - 5:00 & 6:30
 - JV & Varsity Boys vs Colorado City @ Lubbock - 6:00 & 7:30
- Saturday, Jan. 7
 - Basketball: 9th Boys & Girls @ Lazbuddie Tournament
 - 8th Boys & Girls @ Tulia Tournament
- Monday, Jan. 9
 - Students Gain / Lose UIL Eligibility
 - FCCLA Meeting - 5:00
 - DISD Board of Trustees Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
 - Basketball: 7th, 8th, & 9th vs Friona - Girls - There / Boys - Here - 5:00
- Tuesday, Jan. 10
 - FCCLA Meeting - 4:00
 - Basketball: JV & Varsity Girls vs Olton - Here - 5:00 & 6:30
 - JV & Varsity Boys - Open
- Wednesday, Jan. 11
 - RES - Parent Conferences - 3:00 - 4:00

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No. 1 Junior Limas shoots against the Lubbock Warriors.



Dimmitt's Brittany Williams lays the ball up for two.

Steinle pleased with play at Caprock

The Dimmitt Bobcats won three out of five games at the Caprock Tournament over the holidays, including defeating one of the two 5A schools they played.

The Bobcats opened up with a 52-50 win over the Lubbock Warriors. The two teams were tied at 14-all at the end of the first period.

See **BOBCATS**, Page 4

Valor Telecom supports the Dimmitt Bobcats and Bobbies, The Nazareth Swifts and Swiftettes and the Hart Longhorns and Lady Horns!

Good Luck!

Thanks again for your support in Dimmitt and Nazareth
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VALOR TELECOM



Chris Saenz
No. 11



Chelsea Buckley
No. 10

Bobbies compete at Caprock Tourney over holidays

The Dimmitt Bobbies participated in the Caprock Tournament over the weekend, going in on a positive note after defeating Morton 63-44 prior to the Christmas break.

However, in the first round, the Bobbies fell to Stratford, 63-25.

Stratford grabbed a 15-5 first-quarter lead and never looking back, leading 31-13 at the half.

Leading scorers for the Bobbies were Darcy Fisher with eight points and Brittany Williams with five.

In their second game of the tournament, Dimmitt fell to Pampa, 62-44.

At the end of the first period, Dimmitt trailed, 16-14, but by the half, Pampa had established a 31-22 lead. At the end of the third

period, it was Pampa 45, Dimmitt 33.

Leading scorer for the Bobbies was Kendra Smith with 10 points.

In the final game of the tournament Dimmitt defeated El Paso Franklin, 65-60.

Dimmitt jumped out to the lead at the end of the first period, 19-13. By the end of the half, it was Dimmitt 33, El Paso Franklin. Despite making a 17-point third-quarter run, El Paso couldn't keep up with the Bobbies, who still led, 48-43 at the end of the third period.

Leading scorers for the Bobbies were Kendra Smith with 21 points, followed by Brittany Williams with 19 points, including four treys; and Darcy Fisher with 12 points.

DHS Basketball Schedule

Jan. 6	*Friona T	5 p.m.	JVG-VG
Jan. 6	Colorado City @ Lub.	6 p.m.	JVB-VB
Jan. 10	*Olton H	5 p.m.	JVG-VG
Jan. 13	*Tulia T	4 p.m.	4 teams
Jan. 17	*Lockney H	4 p.m.	4 teams
Jan. 20	*Floydada T	4 p.m.	4 teams
Jan. 24	*Friona H	4 p.m.	4 teams
Jan. 27	*Olton T	4 p.m.	4 teams
Jan. 31	*Tulia H	4 p.m.	4 teams
Feb. 24-25	Regional Midland		VG
Mar. 2-4	State	Austin	VG
Mar. 3-4	Regional Midland		VB

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NAZARETH'S ZANE FARRIS brings the ball upcourt in the Swifts district game with Cotton Center.



NAZARETH'S NO. 13, CANDACE BIRKENFELD, shoots against Denver City in the Littlefield Tournament.

Swifts go 2-2 at Fort Worth tourney

The Swifts fell to the Peaster Greyhounds, 54-30 in the first round of the Whataburger Tournament held over the holiday weekend. Peaster jumped out to a 16-11 first quarter lead that they expanded to 26-14 at the half. Leading scorers for Nazareth were Charlie Rundell with 10 points, followed by Dustin Schulte with nine.

In the second game of the tourney, the Swifts easily defeated the Trinity Valley Trojans, 54-28. Nazareth grabbed a 15-8

first-quarter lead that was 28-10 at the half. Leading scorers for the Swifts were Rundell with 19, followed by Alan Gerber with 12 and Dustin Schulte with 11.

In the third game of the tournament, Nazareth downed the Clarksville Tigers, 58-56.

Nazareth started off strong with a 16-6 first-quarter lead. Both teams scored 24 points in the second quarter, giving Nazareth its 10-point lead from the first period, 40-30. In the third quarter, Clarksville drew closer, as

they did in the second quarter, outscoring the Swifts in both periods.

But it was too little, too late. Leading scorers for the Swifts were Schulte with 24, followed by Jake Hoelting with 19 points.

In the final game of the tournament, Nazareth fell to the Nolan Catholic Vikings, 50-38.

The Vikings led 10-7 after the first period, and 28-18 at the half. Leading scorers for Nazareth with Zane Farris and Rundell with 12 points each.

Swiftettes compete at Littlefield tourney

The Swiftettes competed at the Littlefield Tourney over the holiday weekend, easily winning their first game against Denver City, 63-42.

Nazareth grabbed a 15-9 first-quarter lead and built on it to 38-19 at the half and 51-33 at the end of three periods.

Leading scorers for the Swiftettes were Holly Kleman with 19 points, followed by Lacey Acker with 18,

Kembra Albracht with 10 and Kendra Huseman with nine.

In the second game, the Swiftettes had another easy game, defeating Lorenzo, 40-29. Nazareth led 17-6 at the end of the first quarter, and 26-12 by the half. After three quarters, Nazareth had a nine-point cushion, leading 31-22.

In the third game, the Swiftettes fell to Snyder, 44-23. Although Nazareth got the lead early, leading 10-8 at the end of the first period, they fell behind by the half, 18-14. At the end of three periods, it was Snyder 28, Nazareth 16. Leading scorers were Candace Birkenfeld and Kendra Huseman with six each.

In their final game, the Swiftettes downed Goldthwaite, 32-29. After leading 8-2 at the end of the first quarter, the Swiftettes led 19-9 at the half and 26-16 at the end of the third quarter. Leading scorer for Nazareth was Kleman with nine points.

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The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Jimmy Bell, Assistant Manager.

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Weather forecast, local news, birthdays, anniversaries, American Folk Song, school lunch menus, Good Neighbor

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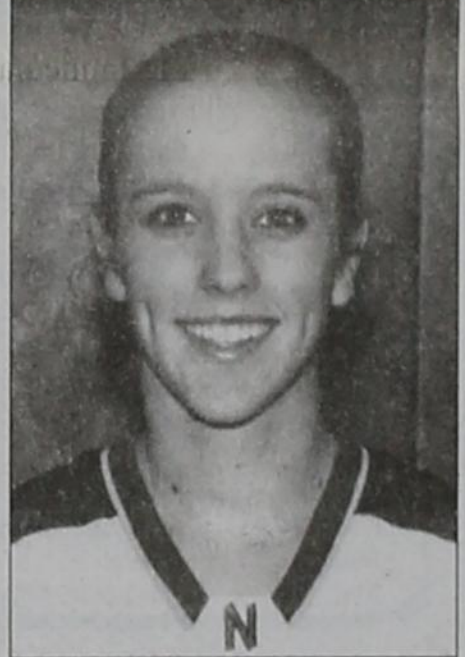
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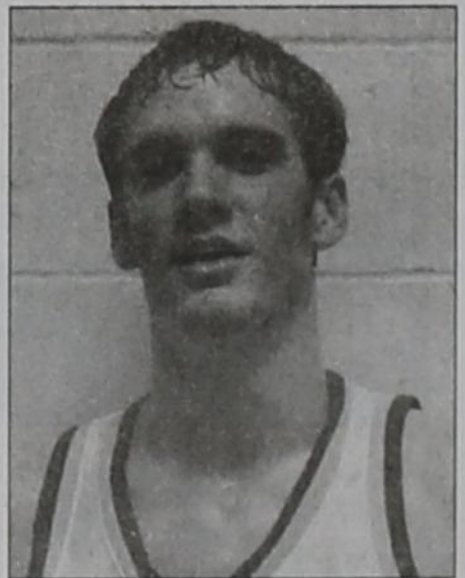
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Holly Kleman No. 10




Berry Clinton No. 41

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
Jan. 5-7	Lazbuddie JV Tournament		
8	*Kress Home	8:30	VGB
10	*Happy Away	4 p.m.	JVBG-VBG
13	*S-Earth Home	4 p.m.	JVBG-VBG
14	Nazareth JV Boys Tournament		
17	*Amherst Home	5 p.m.	JVB-VBG
20	*Cotton Cen. Away	6:30	VBG
20	Happy Away	5 p.m.	JVB
24	*Lazbuddie Home	6:30	VBG
27	*Spade Home	6:30	VG
27	Dalhart Away	5 p.m.	JVB-VB
31	*Kress Away	4 p.m.	JVBG-VBG
Feb. 3	*Happy Home	4 p.m.	JVBG-VBG
7	*S-Earth Away	4 p.m.	JVBG-VBG
10	*Amherst Away	5 p.m.	JVB-VB




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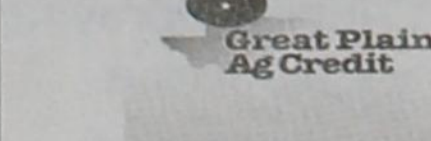
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Corporal punishment can have its place in school

By **DIGGER ELAM**
HISD Superintendent

Corporal punishment remains a disciplinary option for Texas principals the state's attorney general ruled in November. This makes some principals happy and other principals have already chosen other options.

Harold Dutton, D-Houston, authored this bill to discontinue paddling in public schools but later said the legislation was not aimed at schools but was attempting to clarify parental rights. If you believe this, I will buy you a Coke!

Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott in his Nov. 7 opinion said, "House Bill 383 recognizes rights in certain persons to use corporal punishment in the reasonable discipline of a child. It does not prohibit school principals the use of corporal punishment."

Local school boards in Texas are given the authority to decide whether or not to use corporal punishment in schools. The Texas Education Agency does not track whether districts per-



Digger Elam

mit the use of corporal punishment.

During my early years of my educational career, I used corporal punishment outside my classroom and in the locker room. I can vouch that the discipline was much better where corporal punishment was used.

The discipline in the classroom has deteriorated in the last 20 years. Some students are too disrespectful to the classroom teacher. These students don't understand that the classroom teacher is their key to the future. This teacher is the key to future poverty or future success.

What's the Law? Landlord could be responsible for dog bites

Q. I rent a small house. Neighbors have told me that the tenants have a pit bull, and it is often outside unsupervised. Can I be liable if the dog bites someone?

A. As a general rule, a landlord is not responsible for injuries caused by his tenants. But in some cases, a landlord may have a duty to protect neighbors and the failure to do so could be considered negligence. In my opinion, this is such a case. If you do not take reasonable steps to insure that the neighbors are protected from the dog you may be liable in the event someone is bitten.

As far as I am concerned, you should take immediate steps to remedy this situation. For example, it seems reasonable that you talk with the tenant and make it clear that the dog must be supervised at all times. If that does not work, you may have an obligation to contact animal control. Finally, read your lease agreement; it may give you the right to evict the tenant under these circumstances.

Q. Am I liable if my six-year old injures another child while playing?

A. Any parent or guardian who comes to parental liability. As a general rule, parents have no liability for injuries caused by their child. For the parent to be responsible, it is necessary to show the parent did not properly supervise the child, and that is why the injury occurred.

Q. I have two daughters. I want them to receive my home after my death. Can I give one of them a durable power of attorney so she can simply transfer title into their names after I die? Isn't this simpler than having a will?

A. A durable power of attorney assigns only the power to do what you are capable of doing yourself. Once you die you are no longer able to transfer property, and the authority granted by a power of attorney ends.

If you do not want to transfer title until after you die, you must do so through a provision in a will or a trust. I

should point out that in Texas, probating a will is not necessarily a complicated procedure and, can be very simple and inexpensive. I suggest you speak with a probate attorney about what would be best for you.

Q. I went to a liquor store that had two prices posted, one for cash and one for credit. I thought you said it was illegal to charge more for a credit card.

A. It is. The law says that a store cannot charge more to someone who uses a credit card. It may, however, give a discount to people who pay cash.

The two prices posted are the regular price and the discounted price, for people who pay cash. This is not just legal, it makes sense. A credit card company charges the store a fee whenever someone uses a credit card. When someone pays cash, the store saves the credit card fee. By giving a discount for cash, the store is simply passing this savings on to the cash customers.

Q. My mortgage company has threatened to foreclose on my home if I don't make my payments. I thought my homestead was exempt and I could not lose it?

A. Your homestead is "exempt." This means that most creditors cannot force its sale to pay your debts.

Your homestead, however, is not protected from the debt owed to the person who loaned you the money to purchase it. If you do not pay your mortgage, you can lose your house.

Q. How much should it cost to have a living will prepared?

I know that many people charge a fee for a living will, but if you want the best price, go to the "Death and Dying" section on my website and download one for free. The living will, or Advanced Directive as it is formally known, is a state designated form and it is easy to fill out.

For a free living will and other information about your legal rights, visit www.peopleslawyer.net

Cotton Report

Cotton futures on the New York Board of Trade were mostly range-bound during the holiday-shortened week but settled sharply lower on Thursday, the last full trading day of the year.

Fundamental concerns drove the market, but many traders were interested in talking about the weather conditions in Texas.

According to meteorologists, temperatures are well above normal for this time of year in Texas' and the conditions are causing some concern for the upcoming cotton planting season.

Soil moisture levels are deteriorating, and a cold, wet winter would be welcome to augment underground water supplies.

No rain is in the immediate forecast for the Texas High and Rolling Plains, and the clear weather probably will allow producers to finish harvesting activities by the end of the year.

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CARGILL

Continued from Page 1

averaged about \$32,000 per month and that was a lot. They were also the biggest taxpayers in the county and that was a blow, not only to the city but to other taxing entities in Castro County."

The 91 payroll employees were given a 60-day notice on Jan. 12.

Collins said he was told the reason for the closure was because Cargill could buy sweetener on the open market cheaper than they could make it in Dimmitt."

"Plus the demand for sweetener has been low for the last few years, primarily due to the increased demand for diet drinks and bottled water," he said. "It's a change in society's eating and drinking habits."

The school district took as big a hit as any entity - about \$1.2 million per year, which included in-kind money from the state. But it wasn't just the money, said Superintendent Les Miller.

"We lost students, we've lost personnel and . It's just a loss that will hard to every recuperate from," Miller said. "We're still feeling the total effects, and we aren't through yet. The loss of the state aid in conjunction with the local tax dollars. That's a continuing effect. It's a two-year impact, as far as state aid goes - then they'll adjust our state aid, but we'll never recoup it all."

And the county took an 18 percent hit off its tax base with the shutdown, said County Judge Bill Sava.

"The only thing we could do was cut expenses to save what we've got," he said, noting that since fiscal year 2002-03, the county has cut spending by almost \$300,000, excluding the cost of the new voting machines, which will be re-funded to the county by the state.

The Longhorns and Ladyhorns have been idle since Dec. 18. The Ladyhorns next game is Friday at 5 p.m. at home with the girls only facing Morton. The JV will play first, followed by the varsity girls.



Hart Basketball Schedule

Jan. 5-7	Lazbuddie JV Tournament	TBA
Jan. 6	Morton	Here 5 p.m. Girls only
Jan. 10	Plain, Chris.	Here 4 p.m.
Jan. 13	Bovina	There 4 p.m.
Jan. 17	Farwell	Here 4 p.m.
Jan. 20	Sudan	There 5 p.m.
Jan. 24	Morton	There 4 p.m.
Jan. 27	Bushland	Here 5 p.m.
Jan. 31	Bovina	Here 4 p.m.
Feb. 3	Farwell	There 5 p.m.
Feb. 7	Sudan	Here 4 p.m.
Feb. 10	Morton	Here 5 p.m. Boys only

Go Longhorns, Ladyhorns!!

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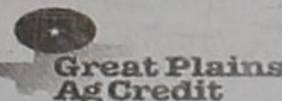
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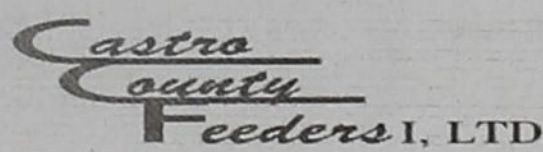
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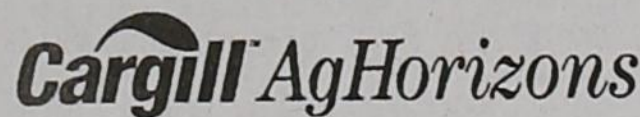
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