



**It's Spring in Texas!**  
Learn where Texas  
wildflowers are located.  
**Page 5**

**Jr. High & High School Track  
Knox City**

Jr. High - Thursday 4:10 p.m.  
High School - Saturday 8:00 a.m. appx.



**Senior Games**  
are a family affair.  
Hoseas compete  
in Edinburg.  
**Page 3**

# THE MUNDAY COURIER

SERVING THE BEST INFORMED READERS IN KNOX COUNTY SINCE 1971

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2001

MUNDAY, TEXAS 76371

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**WHITE'S**

**Wagging  
Tongue**

by Cynthia  
White

Elderly Mr. Jones, who was a widower, had struck up a firm friendship with the widowed Mrs. Brown, whom he visited every evening without fail. This habit finally became a joke among his acquaintances, who suggested that he'd save a lot of footsteps if he married the lady.

"Certainly," he agreed, "but then where would I spend my evenings?"

wag

Hubby went out with the boys one evening and, before he realized it, the morning of the next day had dawned. He hesitated to call home and talk to his wife. Finally, he hit upon an idea. He telephoned and when his wife answered he shouted, "Don't pay the ransom, Honey. I escaped."

wag

A little girl was sitting in her grandfather's lap as he read her a goodnight story.

From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek.

By and by, she was alternately stroking her own cheek and then his again. Finally, she spoke: "Granddaddy, did God make you?"

"Yes, Sweetheart," he answered: "God made me, a long time ago."

"Oh," she said. Then "Granddaddy, did God make me, too?"

"Yes, indeed, Honey," he assured her. "God made you just a little while ago."

"Oh," she said. Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it now, isn't He?"

wag

Two British sailors attended a church service in Stockholm. Not speaking a word of Swedish and not wishing to appear out of place they sat behind an important looking man and when he stood up or knelt down, they did the same.

At the end of the service, the pastor made what was evidently an announcement, whereupon the man in front of the sailors rose to his feet, and they did likewise - to a roar of laughter from the congregation.

As the sailors left the church, the pastor spoke to them in English, so they asked him the reason for the laughter.

"Oh!" he said, "I mentioned that next Sunday morning there was to be a baptism and would the father of the child please stand up."

wag

## Area ranchers and stockmen on look out for foot and mouth disease

"It's been out there all along, every since there's been cattle," says Munday rancher Todd Thompson. Yet all stockmen are on the watch for the highly contagious disease known as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) that is ravaging the herds of Europe.

Foot-and-mouth disease has been diagnosed in 34 countries during the past 18 months. The latest outbreaks have occurred in Great Britain, Northern Ireland, Argentina and France. The only continents currently free of the disease are North America, Australia and Antarctica.

Most of the affected countries are still battling FMD. Outbreaks disrupt animal industry, including the export of animals and animal products. Once infection is introduced, it is very difficult to prevent the spread to susceptible species, which include all cloven-hoofed animals.

In Texas, these animal would include: cattle, bison, llamas, domestic and wild (feral) swine, sheep, goats, captive and wild deer, and elk.

The disease is caused by a fast-spreading virus. Nearly 100% of the animals in an exposed herd will become ill, and young animals may die from the disease. Exposed animals must be destroyed to prevent the spread of the disease. Such is

the case in the slaughter of thousands of animals in Europe.

"The economics of the disease would be awful," says Munday rancher and father to Todd Thompson, Larry Thompson. "If you destroy a man's herd then you destroy the man."

A single case of FMD could be devastating to the livestock industry. Prohibitions would be placed on the sale and international shipment of animals and animal products. Eradication costs are very high and all exposed animals would have to be destroyed. Vaccines, which provide only temporary protection, must be administered at six-month intervals.

"We're with our cattle everyday - we recognize quickly if they're sick," says the elder Thompson. Signs of the infection are blisters around the animal's mouth or muzzle, salivation, fever, and loss of appetite. Early signs include dullness, reduced lactation, mastitis, and abortion. "When you see you cattle everyday you learn to watch for signs of sickness," says the younger Thompson.

FMD is transmitted in a variety of ways, the most common being direct contact with an infected animal.

Once infected, animals become "virus factories," capable of spreading high numbers of viral

Todd Thompson and Jason Bowman are silhouetted in the bright Texas morning sun (right) while cattle in Knox County roam contentedly in the fields.

Digital Photo



Please See  
**"Foot-and  
Mouth"...**

Continued on P. 6

## Carden claims gold at state powerlifting meet

Jennifer Carden, a Munday High School senior, captured the Class A State Championship in Powerlifting in the 123 pound division last Friday in Killeen, Texas.

According to coach Terry Taylor, "Carden had an outstanding day and just missed setting a new state record in the bench press." Carden hit 240 in the squat (RP), 140 in the bench (Ties PR), and 300 dead lift (PR). The 680 total was 105 pounds better than the

second place girls from Collinsville.

Also lifting for MHS and bringing home the 4th place medal was senior Marta Martinez. Martinez competed in the 148 pound class and was only 15 pounds off the gold medal. Martinez' total of 630 was achieved by squatting 220 (Ties PR), bench press of 130 (PR), and dead lift of 280 (PR). She was 50 pounds off her previous best.

\*\*\*

### Texas Fun Facts



**National Ag Week  
in Texas  
March 18 - 24**

- Texas farmers harvest enough corn for more than 4 billion pounds of corn flakes.
- Texas is home to more than 1 million horses, which is 15 percent of all of the horses in the United States.
- Texas farmers grow enough peanuts to make 9 billion peanut butter sandwiches.
- Texas farmers grow more spinach for processing than any other state.
- More than 100,000 bee colonies in Texas produced 9 million pounds of honey last year, worth 5.5 million dollars.
- Texas is home to almost 14 million head of cattle.
- An average bale of cotton contains enough cotton lint to produce 215 pairs of men's jeans, or 1,217 T-shirts, or even 3,085 diapers. Texas produced almost 4 million bales of cotton last year.



Digital Photo

**DIMINISHING POPULATION.** The population in Knox County is diminishing according to the newly released 2000 Census. Just one of the signs of less population is the growing number of abandoned homes.

## Knox County - through the eyes of the census

The numbers for the 2000 U.S. Census for Texas and the state's cities and counties have been released. The numbers verify what many already knew. The rural areas of Texas, including Knox County, are losing population.

The 1999 estimate of population for the county of Knox was 4,104. This includes many residents who do not reside in the communities that make up the county.

As for the cities in the county, Benjamin is the only community who recorded growth in the period between 1990 and 2000. The county seat gained 39 folks, bolstering their numbers from 225 in 1990 to 264 in 2000, a 17.33% gain. Goree saw the most significant decrease in numbers. They were down from 412 in 1990 to

321 in 2000, 22.09 per cent down. Knox City's population in 1990 was 1440 and declined 15.35 percent to 1,219 in 2000. Munday's population decreased by only 23 people, down from 1,600 in 1990 to 1577 in 2000.

Of the people in Knox county males are outnumbered by females. There are 2003 males in the county and 2101 females. 28.4% of the counties population are 18 or younger while 20.8% are 65 or older. The racial make-up of Knox County records 64.7% are White non-Hispanic, 27.9% are Hispanic, and 7.7% are Black.

There are 141 non-farm establishments in the county with 879 non-farm employees.

854 square miles make up the county of Knox.



Courtesy Photo

**CHAMP.** MHS Senior Jennifer Carden, shares a smile of pride and shows off her new gold medal with coach Terry Taylor. Carden won the Class A State title in her division at the Powerlifting meet last Friday. Carden has been powerlifting for three years.

# OPINION

## The Munday Courier

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**NOTICES, ETC.**

Notice of entertainments where a charge of admission is made, resolutions of respect, in memoriam poetry, proclamations, letters expressing political opinions, and all other matters not of general news will be charged for regular advertising rates.

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Letters to the Editor are encouraged. They must be signed by the author and include the telephone number for verification purposes. Only the writer's name will appear in print. Letters should be kept to a minimal length and are subject to be edited for clarity, liability and for the purpose of only conveying a single point. Every attempt will be made not to change the meaning of letters. All letters are run space available. Each letter is accepted on that basis.

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

Unsolicited photographs will be considered at a charge that will be determined after the picture is viewed.

**ERRORS**

This newspaper is not responsible for errors in more than one edition. Claims will not be considered unless made within 72 hours of publication. No allowance will be made when the error does not materially affect the value of the advertisement.

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Texas Press Association

### Calendar of Events



Mar. 26 - Munday VFD.  
Mar. 27 - Lion's Club.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Mar. 21 - Cindy Dutton.  
Mar. 22 - Cody Kuehler, Margaret Hill.  
Mar. 23 - Pete Brockett, Steve Maberry, Marilyn Maberry, Kelly Fisher.  
Mar. 24 - Davis Maulding, Kari Kuehler.  
Mar. 26 - Margie Pickering, Philda Dudgeon.  
Mar. 27 - Michael Moore.

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### Knox County Aging Center

**Munday & Goree Menu**  
March 26 thru March 30  
Mon. Mar. 26th - Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, peas & carrots, salad, cobbler.  
Wed. Mar 28th - Tacos, Spanish rice, lettuce & tomato salad, mixed fruit with topping.  
Fri. Mar. 30th - Pigs in a blanket, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, green salad, cobbler.  
If you plan to join the group at Munday, call Louise Fruewirth 422-4191. At Foree, call Juanita Davis at 422-4208 the day before.



## Minding Your Own Business

with Don Taylor, co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts

### Whose money is it? A taxing discussion

(Last of two parts)

Last week we defined some tax-related terms and explained that excess taxes collected belong to the taxpayer not the tax collector. We also described how tax rate cuts increase revenue. This week we'll continue the discussion of how tax issues affect both taxpayers and the economy.

• High tax rates kill incentive. Recent history (the economy after World War II) teaches us that in the long-term, high tax rates tend to both drain and slow the economy. The only thing more harmful than high tax rates is high progressive tax rates.

Follow me with this example. Take two professional baseball players. Both earn \$1 million per year. One is paid a bonus for each homerun he hits over 30. He gets \$10,000 extra per homerun up to 40, \$20,000 per homerun up to 50, and \$50,000 for each homerun above 50. Which player has the most incentive to excel?

A progressive tax rate works in exactly the opposite way. The more you earn the more you're forced to give back. The harder you work the less you get to keep. This is "disincentive."

In a fair tax system, people who earn more should pay more. If you earn twice as much as I do, you should pay twice as much in income tax. If you earn 10 times as much as I, you should pay 10 times as much tax.

However, with our current progressive system it doesn't work that way. If I earn \$100,000, I will pay approximately \$22,000 in income taxes if we ignore deductions and exemptions. If you earn \$1 million, you'll pay nearly \$368,000 or almost 17 times as much tax because of progressive tax rates both unfair and demotivating.

• This is better than a tax cut. Is there anything that could be better for a healthy economy than a tax rate cut? Yes, and it would be good in slow economic times, too. What is this magic elixir? Good

stewardship.

I've had the opportunity to observe the business practices of a good number of Federal, State and local government agencies. The inefficiencies and waste are discouraging. While there are some exceptions, for the most part incompetence is rewarded and mediocrity is encouraged.

Instead of seeking efficiencies, the push is to make sure you use all your funds this year so you will get at least as much next year. Most ask for more.

While I'm proud to be an American, and willing to pay my fair share of the taxes, I'd be just as proud to pay a lot less. And, in my opinion, we could easily cut government spending if the system were designed to reward superior performance and reduce waste.

I believe we can apply good business practice to government operations. It could work like this.

An office has a \$1 million annual budget. There are 10 employees and their wages and benefits make up one half of the budget.

They are given this incentive: "For every dollar you can cut out of your budget, we'll give you 50 cents back in your paycheck." They get real creative and budget conscious. They watch their travel, eliminate some frills and focus on results. Without reducing the level of service they manage to cut 10 percent out of their budget. Half of the 10 percent (\$50,000) goes back to the taxpayer and half (\$50,000) goes to the agency employees. Each employee receives a \$5,000 per year raise.

I'm sure there are some doubting Thomas's even among you readers. But I'd bet my taxes this year it would work if our Congress had the guts to try it.

*Don Taylor is the co-author of Up Against the Wal-Marts. You may write to him in care of Minding Your Own Business, PO Box 67, Amarillo, TX 79105*

## Capitol Highlights

### State pays to shed light on electric deregulation

By Mike Cox  
Texas Press Association

AUSTIN - The political season is over for a while, but another campaign is under way in Texas. Like traditional politics, it has to do with power. But in this case, it's electric power. At stake is the cash that service providers will be able to generate when electric deregulation starts in Texas next January.

*It is a complicated issue.*

The Texas Public Utility Commission, through Burson-Marsteller, one of the world's largest public relations firms, has begun an extensive public education campaign on electric utility deregulation.

All this traces to the last session of the Legislature and its passage of Senate Bill 7.

The law provides that beginning Jan. 1, 2002, Texans served by investor-owned utilities (as opposed to cooperatives or city-owned) would be able to choose the retail company that will provide their electrical service. These companies are generically referred to by the PUC as Retail Electric Providers (REPs.) So far, 20 have received permits from the PUC to operate in Texas, but only four are up and running.

The REPs will buy power from power producers and sell it to the consumer at retail prices. The theory is that the competitive market will mean lower utility rates for Texans. Some 86 percent of the state currently is served by private utilities, so most Texans will have the option of picking their provider.

While big money is being spent to help Texas consumers understand this complicated new law, surveys have shown that most Texans know about deregulation is what they have heard about the debacle in California. Last summer, that state experienced rolling blackouts and consumers were hit with elec-

tric bills two or three times larger than they had been. The state is continuing to struggle with the problem.

PUC Chairman Pat Wood III has said repeatedly that for several reasons, the most important two being a better power supply and a better deregulation law, the blackouts and exorbitant bills won't happen in Texas.

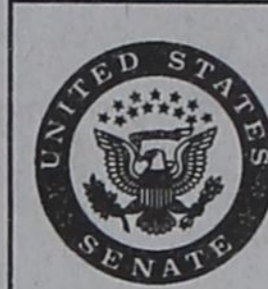
Because of the California mess, and other factors, legislation has been introduced to keep most of the Panhandle out of the program for a while.

Two other pieces of legislation deal with providing a fall back for Texas in the event problems develop. With 5 percent of eligible Texas customers being able to start switching providers as of June 1, the marketing already has begun. The most intense selling will be in the big markets, Houston, Dallas, and the Rio Grande Valley. Folks in rural areas won't see much offered early on, though programs will expand depending on the market.

*Here's the bottom line:*

Texans who want to go to the trouble of shopping around will pay less for their electricity. In Houston, for example, the average customer uses about 1000 kilowatts a month. That currently costs a little less than \$100. New providers will be offering prices that will cut that bill 10 percent. That is \$120 in savings annually for an average customer who wants to look for the best deal. Industrial and commercial customers, with higher rates to start with, will enjoy bigger savings.

Even though users can get lower rates, for a time, higher natural gas costs may make deregulation a wash. To learn more about electric deregulation, call toll free 1-866-PWR-4-TEX or visit www.powertochoose.org.



## CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR  
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



### TRACKING SUCCESSFUL SCHOOLS

Texas parents, Texas teachers, Texas school boards and the state government have put a lot of thought and energy into improving our schools. Their efforts have paid off. The Lone Star State is leading the way in setting academic standards and holding schools accountable for achieving positive results.

Students' scores are improving across the board in reading, language skills and math. We have made amazing strides in showing it is possible to boost the performance of all students, regardless of income, background or ethnicity.

The centerpiece of Texas' educational renaissance has been the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) exams; more than 78 percent of all students passed their TAAS exams in 1999, compared to 55 percent in 1994. We know we're doing better. The next part of the challenge is to effectively convey to parents the strengths and weaknesses of their children's specific schools and to identify the strategies used in successful schools so they can be shared with those that are not as strong.

The availability of fair and accurate information is essential to empowering parents with the information they need to make the best choices for their children. Here's why, in the words of Joe Humphry, Director of Academic Programs for the Abilene Independent School District:

"For many years, the testing data we received compared our schools to high-profile schools in Plano or Highland Park. We knew our teachers and students were doing well in some areas, poorly in others, but a fair comparison was not always possible."

So Mr. Humphry hooked up with an organization called Just For Kids, which, since 1997, has been analyzing and publishing data on the performance of each school in the state. They provided the Abilene district with information on schools in similar communities.

"Once we could show our staff how we were performing in a fair comparison to similar schools, we were able to convince everyone involved that we had room for improvement," Mr. Humphry said.

"This information let us identify the districts with which we could share information... A number of our teachers visited schools in districts with high test scores that were identified as our peers."

"The final step... (is) for our staff to incorporate the 'best practices' we have seen into our instruction."

It's a simple but profound concept: determine what approaches are working in the most successful schools, and help them to share their methods.

I am introducing legislation, entitled "The Parents' Right-to-Know Act," which would allow states to meet the existing, burdensome, federal data-collection requirements by issuing a clear and comprehensive "report card" on every public school. This would include accurate records of school performance, teacher certification and other information relating to educational achievement. States would then make that information available to parents and the public on the Internet and through other means that ensure its broad distribution.

The bill also provides \$50 million for FY 2002 to help states which choose to make this information available to parents.

One of the most important lessons we've learned in Texas is that accomplishment is possible in all schools. We've put a lie to the idea that only some kids can meet high standards, and that only some schools can be improved.

The Just for Kids organization took raw data and put it into a user-friendly format that allowed the Abilene Independent School District and others throughout Texas to strengthen their programs. We want to replicate that success nationally, so all children will have the advantage of the teaching methods and educational experiences that work best.

(To find out how your child's Texas school is doing, go to the Just For Kids website at www.just4kids.org and enter the name of the school. The site contains information on all of Texas' elementary, middle and most high schools.)

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## Where to write...

### WASHINGTON

President George W. Bush, The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20501, (202) 224-2934

U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas  
Room 370 Russell Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20501, (202) 224-2934

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas  
282 Senate Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-5922

U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry, 13th District, R-Texas  
131 Cannon Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-3706  
www.house.gov/thornberry/

### TEXAS

Gov. Rick Perry, Room 200, State Capitol  
Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 463-2000  
capitol extension EI304

State Senator Tom Haywood, District 20  
Box 12066, Austin, Texas 78711  
(512) 463-1030 in Austin  
(817) 767-3073 in Wichita Falls

State Rep. David Counts  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

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Courtesy Photo

### Terpening and Duke Announce Engagement

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Terpening and Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Duke announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their children Amanda Terpening and Zeke Duke. The wedding will take place at the First United Methodist Church in Artesia, New Mexico on Saturday, June 2, at 6:00 in the evening. The bride-elect is a graduate of Artesia High School and McMurry University with a BS in Nursing. She is employed as a RN in Surgical ICU for Covenant Health Systems in Lubbock. The prospective bridegroom is a graduate of Benjamin High School and Texas Tech University with a BS in Biology. He is currently attending Texas Tech Medical School.

### Kuehler Irrigation & Supply Company Honored for Top-Notch Customer Service and Performance

Lindsay Manufacturing Company recently honored Kuehler Irrigation & Supply Company of Munday, TX, with its Distinguished Performance Award at the company's annual convention in San Antonio, Texas. This honor is given to Zimmatic irrigation dealerships that provide growers with top-notch customer service and have implemented high-performance marketing programs.

"During 2000, Kuehler Irrigation & Supply Company was very successful at helping growers save time, labor and money through Zimmatic's industry-leading line of automated irrigation equipment and products," said Bob Snoozy, Vice President of Sales. "Their partnership approach to customer service was a big reason for their success."

Zimmatic dealers are a critical

link in the chain between customers and Lindsay Manufacturing. Lindsay provides several product education and training seminars to the dealers who in turn pass the information on to their customers. Many dealers also provide customers with a hands-on training opportunity by hosting the Zimmatic Technical Training Center as part of a one-day irrigation equipment seminar.

Lindsay Manufacturing Company is a world leading manufacturer of irrigation equipment, including center pivots, towable pivots, lateral move and corner systems. Irrigation equipment produced by Lindsay Manufacturing is sold under the Zimmatic brand name. Form more information, visit Lindsay's web site at [www.zimmatic.com](http://www.zimmatic.com).

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Courtesy Photo

**FAMILY EVENT.** Anita and Robert Hosea were joined by their daughter Jan, and her husband Steve Wilson, during the Rio Grande Valley Border Senior Games in March. The Hosea's reside in Munday while the Wilson's are residents of Falfurrias.

### Two Generations of Senior Gamers Compete at Pan American University

Robert and Anita Hosea, their daughter Jan, and her husband, Steve Wilson took home the medals from a weekend of competition in Edinburg, Texas. These two generations of family competed in the Rio Grand Valley Border Sr. Games at Pan American University, March 9th thru 11th.

Anita Hosea was the recipient of the gold medal in Basketball Free-Throw, Around The World, Horseshoes, and Washer's.

Jan Wilson won the Gold in

Basketball Free-Throw, Around the World, Horseshoes, and Washers.

Steve Wilson was the gold medalist in Long Jump, Horseshoes, and Washers. He won the silver medal in the Javelin and the bronze medal in Discus. Wilson also compete in the 50 meter dash.

Robert Hosea also won gold medals in Long Jump, High Jump, Shot-Put, Discus, Javelin, Basketball Free-Throw, and Around the World. He won a bronze medal in Table Tennis.

## Local Obituaries

### Smith, Edithe Faye

A funeral for Edithe Faye Smith, 79, of Paradise, California was held February 25 at the Magalia Community Church.

She died Thursday, February 22, 2001 at her home.

She was born February, 18, 1922 to Dixie and Jonah Keith in Alabama. As a child, she moved with her family to Haskell Co., Texas.

During World War II, she worked at the Kaiser Shipyard as a welder.

After the war, she settled in Florida, where she owned a florist shop. She then moved to Guam and later settled in San Jose, California.

On December 21, 1973, she married Ben H. Smith.

She was an artist, specializing in oil painting. She was also a seamstress.

Survivors include her husband, Ben of Paradise; two daughters, Geri Williamson of Fallbrook and Jolene Smothermon of Wildomar; a son, Richard of San Jose; a brother, Ralph Keith of New Mexico; two sisters, Dorothy Williamson and Aree Tidwell, both of Texas; and nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Burial took place at Skyway Memorial Park in Magalia



Edithe Smith

### It's A Girl!



Tod and Myca are thrilled to tell everyone about the new little "flower" that has bloomed in the "Flowers Garden". After months of anticipation, the little bud opened its petals and shown brightly. Proud parents, Tim and Mindy Flowers named the new addition Temi Myers. She blossomed out at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and 18 1/2 inches long. This new Flower was delivered at Odessa Regional Health Center in Odessa, Texas. Big brother and sister are willing to share tending this precious new bloom with grandparents, Ronny and Pam Flowers of Midland Greenwood and Billie Jake and Dot Myers of Rhineland.

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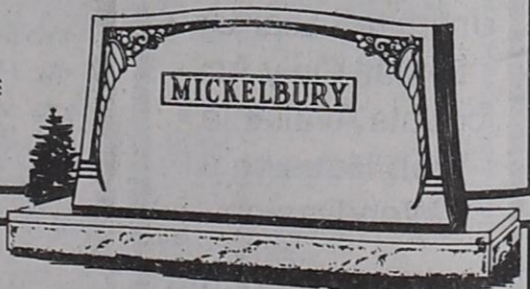
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Courtesy Photo

**THIRD TIME'S CHARM.** Keil Rowan, of Rule, Texas, entered the Houston Livestock Show for only the third time this year and walked away with Reserve Champion with his 256 pound Hampshire.

**Rowan Receives Reserve Champion with 'Little Dan' at Houston Livestock Show**

Jason Neal's 254-pound barrow won Champion Hampshire in the Junior Market Barrow Show on Feb. 26 at the 2001 Houston Livestock Show™.

"That's the best birthday present," Jason said. "Today is my birthday I've been showing sheep at Houston for eight years, but this is the first time I've shown pigs."

Jason, a Whitharral High School junior and FFA member, is the son of Ricky and Judy Neal of Smyer, Texas. He plans to study animal science at Texas A&M University in two years.

Judge Dan Hoge, Cambridge, Ill., animal science professor at Black Hawk East Community College, said: "This pig is a good

representation of the breed for the future. He's lean and has a powerful design with tremendous flexibility. A real sound hog."

Kiel Rowan, 11, from Rule, Texas, won Reserve Champion with Little Dan, a 256-pounder.

"I call him Little Dan," the fifth-grader said, "because he was little when I got him from a man named Dan."

This was Kiel's third Houston Show and his first win. Three years ago, he placed eighth. Kiel is the son of Keith and Jane Rowan.

Complete Houston Livestock Show results can be found on the Show's Web site at [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com).

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**Environmental Crime Prevention Week Designated by State Environmental Agency**

The state's environmental agency dedicates a week to educating Texas about the harm caused by dumping and other illegal pollution. The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) has designated April 9 through 13 as Environmental Crime Prevention Week.

The most common environmental crimes involve the illegal dumping of various pollutants like septic waste, household garbage, used motor oil, auto batteries and barrels of hazardous waste.

Activities planned for the week include educational forums with community groups and law enforcement, a traveling exhibit on preventing environmental crime, police officer training, and a ceremony recognizing environmental crime fighters.

"Environmental crime not only impacts our air and water quality, it impacts our pocketbook," said Barbara Foreman, Manager of Special Investigations for the TNRCC. "As taxpayers we all pay to clean it up."

Texas is a national leader in the investigating and prosecuting of environmental crime. This distinction is a direct result of the formation of the Texas Environmental Crime Task Force. The task force's sole responsibility is to combat environmental crime, both directly and by informing and training Texas peace officers.

Created in 1991, the task force exists to increase federal and state cooperation in prosecuting criminal violations of state and federal environmental laws. The task force is comprised of designated staff from various local, state, and

federal agencies that become involved in prosecuting environmental crime cases. The participating agencies collaborate in conducting searches, taking and analyzing samples, and performing other functions necessary to support criminal investigations and prosecutions.

The task force has helped secure convictions of 92 individuals and 19 corporations for 171 felonies and 73 misdemeanors. People convicted of environmental crimes have been sentenced to a total of 109 years in correctional facilities and assessed more than \$30 million in criminal and civil penalties.

"We are sending a message that environmental crimes are serious and that the laws which protect our environment are being vigorously enforced," said Foreman.

For more information about Environmental Crime Prevention Week, call the TNRCC at (512) 239-3405. Information for peace officers is available on the Internet at [www.tnrc.state.tx.us/legal/si/crime.html](http://www.tnrc.state.tx.us/legal/si/crime.html).

\*\*\*

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**Texas Businesses Have April 16 Deadline for Filing Property Tax Renditions**

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander reminded Texas businesses to render their property with county appraisal districts by April 16. To render is to list the taxable property that businesses owned or managed as of January 1, 2001.

Business owners and operators are required by law to render, but any property owner - including homeowners, farmers, and ranchers - may render their property with county appraisal districts. Rendering allows property owners to record their opinion of their property's value and ensures that the appraisal district sends them a notice before placing a higher value on their property.

Since the regular rendition deadline of April 15 is on a Sunday this year, property owners have until Monday, April 16, to render.

"Property owners who render are in a better position to exercise their rights as taxpayers," Comptroller Rylander said. "They ensure that the appraisal district has their correct address so they will receive notices of any actions that affect their property or tax bills."

Even if the tax collector cannot deliver a tax bill because of an incorrect address, the property owner is responsible for paying the taxes, plus late payment penalties.

Businesses annually report their inventories, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment and other tangible personal property. Appraisal districts use the reports to set business property values. When a business owner doesn't render, the chief appraiser estimates the value of the business property.

If more than one appraisal district appraises a property, the property owner should render in each appraisal district office. One appraisal district may appraise a property for county tax purposes,

while a neighboring appraisal district may appraise the same property for school taxes, if the school district is in both counties.

Comptroller Rylander also announced that owners whose property was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year may file a special decreased value report that could lower their final tax bills. Property owners have until April 16 to file the decrease value report, which indicates their property's condition on January 1, 2001.

Property owners who can show good cause may ask the chief appraiser to extend the rendition deadline to April 30, and may extend the deadline another 15 days if the owners request it in writing and show good cause.

Taxpayers may contact their county appraisal district office for rendition forms, or they may e-mail the Comptroller's property tax hotline at 1-800-252-9121 for general property tax information. In Austin, call (512) 305-9999.

\*\*\*

**Sagerton Holding 31st Hee-Haw at End of March**

Tickets for the 31st Sagerton Hee-Haw went on sale at 3 p.m. Friday, March 16, at Sagerton Community Center. Tickets are \$4.

There will be a fourth performance for this year's event. In addition to nightly shows March 29-31, there also will be a Saturday afternoon matinee.

Thursday night will be Senior Citizens' Night and the Saturday matinee will serve primarily to handle Thursday overflow. However, some tickets will be available for individuals on Saturday.

Sandwiches will be served Thursday night and Saturday afternoon. A plate lunch is planned for Friday and Saturday nights.

The cafeteria opens at 5:30 p.m. nightly; auditorium doors open at 7 p.m.; and the show begins at 8 p.m. On Saturday afternoon, the cafeteria opens at noon and the performance begins at 1:30 p.m.

\*\*\*

REMEMBER OUR DEADLINE IS MONDAY AT 5:00 P.M.

**It's A Girl!**



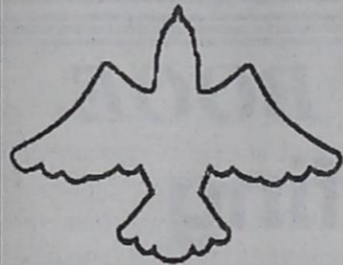
Amanda Sosa and Jason Arrieta are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Micaela Je'Nae Arrieta. She was born at 3:27 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, 2001, at Abilene Regional Medical Center, weighing 6 pounds 6.6 ounces and was 18 inches long.

Rick and Gloria Sosa of Munday and Johnny and Rebecca Arrieta of Rule are the proud grandparents. David and Vera Castillo of Goree, Salvador and Erminia Sosa of Munday, Pascuala and Silverio Baiza of Rule and Santos Villegas of Breckenridge are the proud great-grandparents.

She also has great great grandparents, Santa Espinosa of Leming and Celia Espinosa of Knox City.

\*\*\*

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Digital Photo

**CAUGHT DOING GOOD!** Penny and Glenn Kyzer were caught planting pansies in the downtown planter boxes after Dillon's Greenhouse donated several flats of the cool weather flowers. The Kyzer's had filled nineteen planters and expected to beautify twenty-five in the downtown area.

**Williams Supports Alternative Fuel School Bus Rebate Program**

Railroad Commission and Texas Alternative Fuels Council Chairman Michael L. Williams along with his fellow Commissioners approved an initiative that will reduce the cost of propane school buses. Propane buses produce significantly lower levels of environmentally damaging emissions than commonly used diesel bus engines.

"School buses are exempt from State of Texas air-quality requirements," said Chairman Michael L. Williams. "This program will show school-bus operators the cost and emissions advantages of operating their fleets on propane."

The Alternative Fuels Research

and Education Division of the Railroad Commission will supplement Department of Energy grants with additional funding from the Texas Alternative Fuels Council to provide rebates for 30 propane school buses. Currently, there are over 1,500 propane buses in operation across the state.

Benefits of this program include cost savings to school districts, emissions reductions, and the training of school district technicians. In addition, the Railroad Commission will provide manufacturers and partners with periodic evaluations of their alternative fuel technology.

\*\*\*

**Subscriptions Now Due for March**

Subscriptions to *The Munday Courier* are now due for the month of March. If your label atop your *Courier* is dated on or before 03/30/01 your renewal is now due.

Yearly subscription rates are: \$17.00 in Knox County; \$20.50 in Texas and \$23.00 for out of state subscribers. Mail renewals to P.O. Box 130, Munday, TX 76371. As always, thank you for reading *The Munday Courier*.

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## Wildflower hotline helps Texas motorists locate scenic routes

Motorists searching for the best wildflower locations along Texas highways have help at their fingertips.

The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) wildflower hotline (800-452-9292) gives callers information on the best spots to find wildflowers along the 79,000 mile Texas highway system.

To make it easier to find where the wildflowers are in bloom, callers may request information by seven different regions of the state. Those regions include Big Bend, Gulf Coast, Hill Country, Panhandle, Piney-Woods (East Texas), Prairies and Lakes (North Central Texas), and Southwest Texas.

Information on the hotline comes from TxDOT's maintenance offices as well as from chambers of commerce and park

officials.

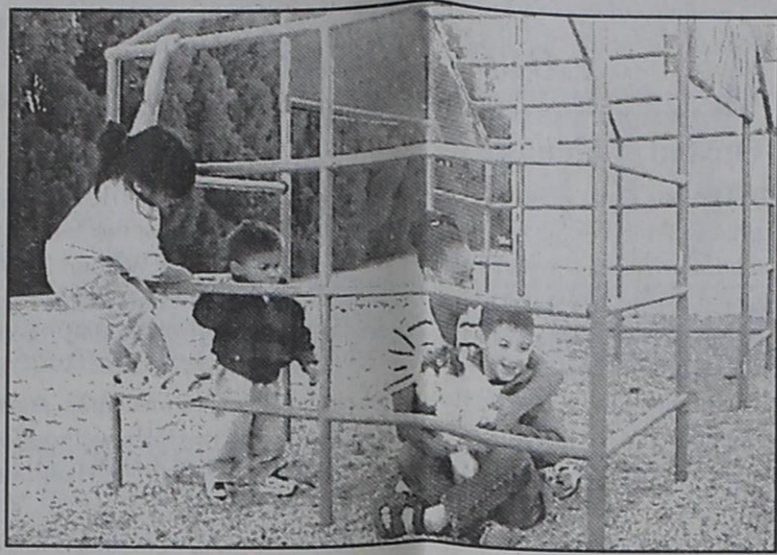
"The stage is set for an excellent crop of bluebonnets," said Herb Neimann, TxDOT Landscape Designer. "The dry summer and unseasonably cool and wet winter have made excellent conditions for a colorful spring show of wildflowers."

April is considered to be the prime blooming month for wildflowers, according to Neimann.

The department's wildflower program is part of a comprehensive vegetation management program, which encourages the growth of native species that require less mowing and care.

Each year, TxDOT sows more than 47,000 pounds of wildflower seeds along Texas highways and each pound contains at least 30 varieties of wildflowers.

The hotline will be active through early May.



Courier Photo

**FUN DURING SPRING BREAK.** Many area children found fun and friendship at the City Park during last week's Spring Break.

## Junior high tracksters compete at Rotan meet

Munday's Junior High Boys traveled to Rotan this past Saturday to compete at the Rotan JH meet on March 10th.

"Because of the rain," said Coach Taylor, "the meet was rescheduled from Thursday to Saturday with only running events." Results are as follows:

400 Relay - Joseph Gulley, Charles Sample, JJ Collier, Trey Taylor 4th Place.

110 Hurdles - Ty Bufkin 2nd place.

800 run - Shaun Gray 5th place.

100 dash - Trey Taylor 1st place.

400 dash - Charles Sample 2nd place.

300 hurdles - Ty Bufkin 3rd place.

1600 run - Shaun Gray 4th place.

1600 Relay - JJ Collier, Charles Sample, Joseph Gulley, Trey Taylor 4th place.

The next meet for the Junior High track team is this Thursday in Knox City.

\*\*\*

## Keeping an Eye on Texas

### Texas Treasures

Texas is home to more than 5,000 species of wildflowers, and, due to plentiful fall and winter rains, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department predicts this spring will be one of the best for wildflower sightseeing. Texans can visit the following state parks between mid-March and mid-May for a peek at the flowers in full bloom:

STATE PARKS	WILDFLOWERS
Caprock Canyons (near Quitaque)	winecup, Tahoka daisy, gayfeather, Mexican hat
Lake Colorado City (near Colorado City)	yellow evening primrose, white spectacle pod, yellow woollywhite
Tyler (Tyler)	azalea, magnolia, fleabane, spider lily
Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley (near Mission)	sand verbena, sleepy daisy, wild phlox, huilache daisy
Big Bend Ranch (near Lajitas/Presidio)	bluebonnet
Franklin Mountains (El Paso)	California poppy

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller; (www.window.state.tx.us) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.



www.window.state.tx.us

## Spaghetti lunch served up to benefit youth

First Baptist Church of Munday is holding a Spaghetti Lunch on Sunday, March 25, 2001. Serving time begins at noon in the Fellowship Hall of the Church. There is no set cost for the meal but donations are sought. The public is cor-

dially invited to attend.

Monies collected will be used to help off-set expenses for "Disciple Now" week-end and summer activities that are planned for all area youth. Your support is greatly appreciated.

\*\*\*

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## Hip Implant?

Sulzer Orthopedics has recalled its Inter-Op acetabular shell for hip implants manufactured in the United States.

Some of these implants had an unacceptable level of mineral oil-based lubricant on the product. Sulzer has reported that based on the expertise of some independent scientists, this residue may cause adverse reactions in the body that can lead to loosening of the shell.

If you or a family member had a Sulzer hip replacement surgery in the last several years, you may have a claim against the manufacturer.

For further information, call the Law Firms listed below:

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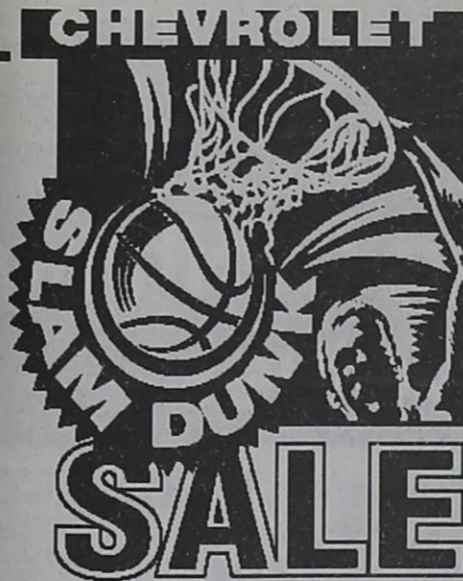
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36 mo. @ .9% = \$306.82  
48 mo. @ 4.9% = \$2,000 down  
60 mo. @ .9% = \$272.72

\$33,556  
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- 1,000 owner loyalty rebate  
**\$28,825 Sale Price**



### 2001 Ext. Cab S10 Pickup

Stock #3664, White w/ Graphite Cloth, 4 cyl., Auto Trans, 3rd Dr., Tilt & Cruise, Power Windows & Locks, CD

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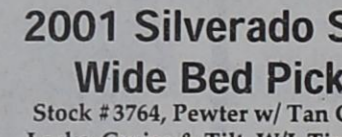
\$19,587  
- 1,592 disc.  
**\$17,995 Sale Price**

**2001 Silverado LS Ext. Cab 4x4**  
Stock #3545, 4 Dr., Wheel Opening Flares, 5300 V/8, Push Button 4x4, Tow Pkg. Skid Plates, White w/ Tan Cloth \$30,751  
- 4,326 disc.  
- 500 rebate or 2.9%  
**\$25,925 Sale Price**

**2001 Silverado Ext. Cab**  
Stock #3592, 4 Dr., LS, White w/ Graphite Cloth, V/6, Auto, Deep Tint Glass, Power Windows & Locks, Tilt & Cruise \$32,543  
- 3,598 disc.  
- 500 rebate  
**\$20,555 Sale Price**

**2001 Silverado 2500 HD Ext. Cab 4x4**  
Stock #3733, 4 Dr., White w/ Tan Cloth, 6000, Auto, Push Button 4x4, Tow Pkg. \$32,543  
- 3,543 disc.  
**\$29,000 Sale Price**

**2001 Silverado 2500 HD Duromax Diesel 4x4 LS**  
Stock #3691, Long Bed, Carmine Red w/ Tan Cloth, Power Bucket Seats, Positrac, Skid Plates, Tow Pkg. Allison Auto Trans \$39,094  
- 3,019 disc.  
**\$36,075 Sale Price**



### 2001 Silverado Short-Wide Bed Pickup

Stock #3764, Pewter w/ Tan Cloth, Power Door Locks, Cruise & Tilt, W/L Tires, Carpet, Am/FM Cassette, V/6-Auto Trans, Tx/Ok Pkg.

\$500 Rebate Available or  
36 mo. @ 2.9% = \$18,892  
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60 mo. @ 5.9% = \$500 rebate  
**\$15,900 Sale Price**

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'00 15 Passenger Express Van (2 in stock).....\$19,500  
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'00 Pontiac Grand Am, 4 dr., 27k.....\$12,500  
'00 Lumina, 4 dr. (2 in stock) 27k or 25k.....\$12,900

**Used Vehicles**  
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'89 Suburban 4x4.....\$3,500  
'90 Cadillac.....\$6,250  
'92 Mazda 626.....\$2,750  
'00 271 Ext. Cab.....\$25,900  
'86 Nissan King Cab 4x4.....\$2,250  
'97 Suburban.....\$14,800  
'95 3/4 Ton 4x4 Pickup.....\$11,500  
'93 Chevy Ext. Cab.....\$8,000  
'98 Dodge Dooley Pickup.....\$15,950  
'94 Suburban 4x4.....\$11,500  
'97 3/4 Ext. Cab.....\$9,750  
'90 Cadillac.....\$6,250  
'92 Mazda 626.....\$2,750  
'00 271 Ext. Cab.....\$25,900  
'98 Olds 88, 27k.....\$13,500  
'93 Chevy Ext. Cab.....\$8,000  
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## Local Obituaries

### Oustad, Thomas Bailey

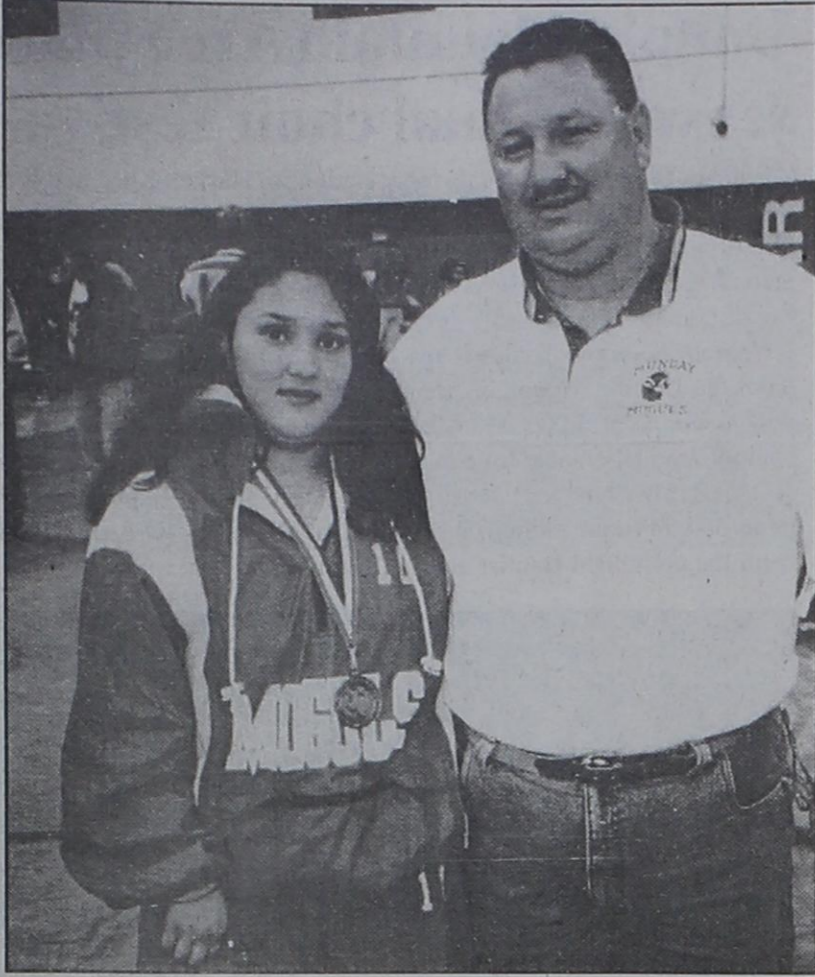
Thomas Bailey Oustad, 80, died Saturday, March 17, 2001, at a hospital in Abilene. Services were held Monday at 2 p.m. at the Munday Church of Christ with Marshall Coffey officiating and Weldon Newton assisting and a special poem was read by Ray Hunter. Burial was at Johnson Memorial Cemetery, under the direction of McCauley-Smith Funeral Home.

Mr. Oustad was born in Hamilton County. He was a mechanic, and a member and a deacon of the Munday Church of Christ. He worked for John Deere dealership in Munday and married Ida Newton in Hamilton County.

Survivors include his wife, Ida Oustad of Munday; two sons, George Oustad and Greg Oustad both of Munday; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; three sisters, Mildred Sheard, Margaret McCarty and Martha Rice; and two brothers, M.E. Oustad and Larry Oustad.

Pallbearers were Byron Gass, Joe Shahan, Joe Valencia, Doug Parker, Dale Carroll, and M.M. Booe.

\*\*\*



Courtesy Photo

**MEDALIST.** MHS Powerlifter Marta Martinez lifted her way to 4th place in her division at the State Powerlifting Meet last Friday in Killeen, Texas. Pictured with her is a proud Coach - Terry Taylor.

### "Foot and Mouth Disease"

Continued From Pg. 1

particles to other animals and into the environment. Infected swine, in particular, can release millions of viral particles when they exhale. The virus can become airborne and can be breathed in by nearby susceptible animals.

Persons who have been around infected animals also are capable of carrying the virus in their nasal passages for as long as 28 hours. While the disease is not considered to be a threat to humans, it's possible for a person to spread the virus to susceptible animals.

The disease also can be spread when susceptible animals come into contact with feed, feeding utensils, vehicles, clothing, or holding facilities that have been contaminated with the virus.

The FMD virus also can be carried in the raw meat, animal products or milk from FMD-exposed or infected animals. The FMD outbreaks in South Africa were started after waste food containing raw meat scraps were collected from international ships and fed to swine.

There have been 10 recorded outbreaks of FMD in the United States. The last one was in 1929. An outbreak in Mexico in 1946 caused the U.S. Department of Agriculture to close the border to all living and slaughtered frozen animals and animal products for six years. An outbreak in Canada in 1952 closed the border for one year.

"I've never seen any foot-and-mouth disease - it's not been a problem in the United States in my lifetime," says the elder Thompson, "but I'm certain the proper authorities would act and act quickly if there was an occurrence."

"Our agencies that watch these things are good at getting those situations under control," echoed the younger Thompson.

The U.S. has regulations in place to prevent the introduction of FMD-infected animals and animal products. But local stockmen know to watch and report problems to help reduce the threat of the disease.

Most area ranchers are optimistic that the chances of keeping the disease out of the U.S. are good. "I'm pretty shocked that they allowed it to happen in England but I'd be extremely surprised if we had an outbreak here," says Thompson. But ranchers and stockmen know their cattle and they know that early detection of any disease is crucial.

What are the steps to take if you suspect FMD? Report it immediately to your local veterinarian or regulatory animal health official.

In the UK, the recent outbreak may have been present for three weeks prior to detection!

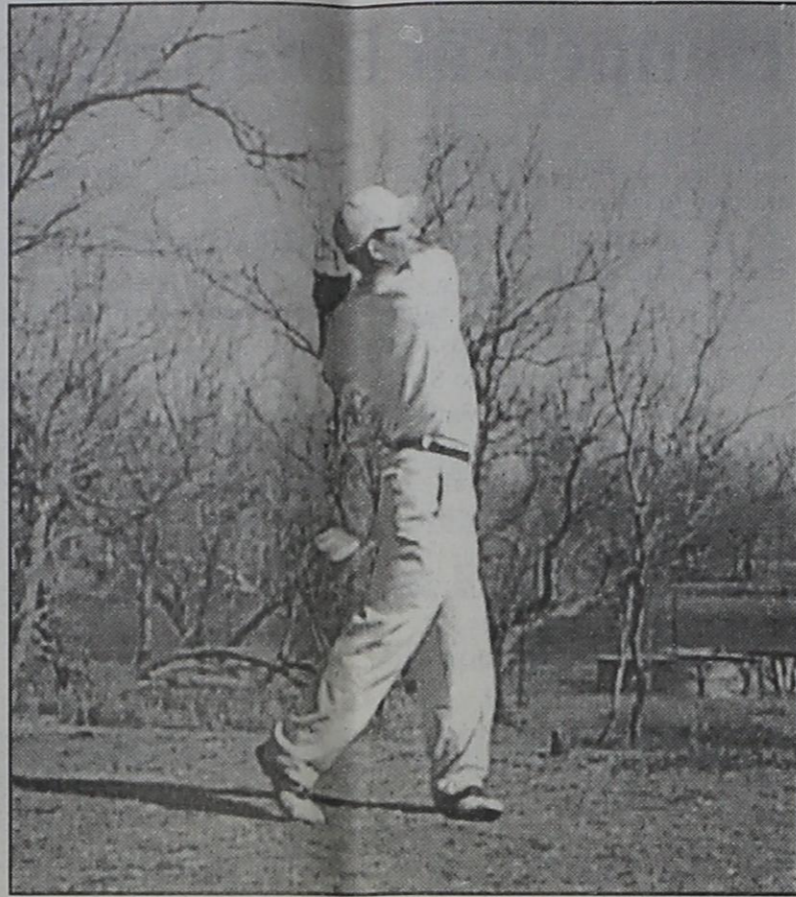
FMD spreads fast! Early detection and reporting are critical. Don't move animals that may be affected. Stop all visitors from entering your premise, if you suspect a problem.

\*\*\*



Courtesy Photo

**BALL BOY** for the UIL Boys' State Basketball Championship Tournament was Rob Dillard. Rob is pictured with UIL Athletic Director, Dr. Charles Breithaupt.



Digital Photo

**IN THE SWING.** MHS Golfer Matt Arismendez sends the ball flying at the high school golf meet at Lake Creek in Munday. The meet was held on Tuesday of this week with five from MHS competing.

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 ACTIVITIES OF MUNDAY YOUTH  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

### "In Appreciation"

To our special friends and neighbors of Munday. We thank you for your many acts of kindness and concern during our great loss, your cards of love and encouragement, your attendance at the beautiful service at the church and cemetery, the very lovely floral tributes, and the many memorials in honor of John Alex.

For each prayer and thought we are grateful.  
 May God Bless Each of You!

Lavern Mayfield & family,  
 Arch & Edy Lou Mayfield, Evelyn Mayfield,  
 Alexia & Duane Rimmer, Adrienne, Elyse, & Meridith

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**FOR SALE:** 195 acre farm, located about 5 miles North of Knox City on the West side of Benjamin Highway near the Road-side park. Call 800-658-6618. 17-tfc

**FOR SALE:** Nice family home. 3 BR's, 2 baths, C A/H. Nice carpet, new paint outside, fenced backyard. 610 W. Irving. Call (940) 422-4843. 17-8tp

**FOR SALE:** 3 BR, 2 bath, Central H/A. Lots of storage, 1-car garage. Privacy fence, corner lot. Nice home. 141 North 5th. (940) 422-5408. 18-tfc

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**FOR RENT:** 2 BD trailer house and 3 BD house. For more information call Diana Casillas at (940) 658 - 3353, leave message. 21-2tc

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Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or District Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State office listed below. Plans for the above contract (s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies in Austin, Texas at the expense of the contractor.  
NPO: 3140

### State Office

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

### District Office(s)

Childress District  
District Engineer  
1700 Ave F NW  
Childress, Texas 79201  
Phone: 940-937-7100

Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bid-

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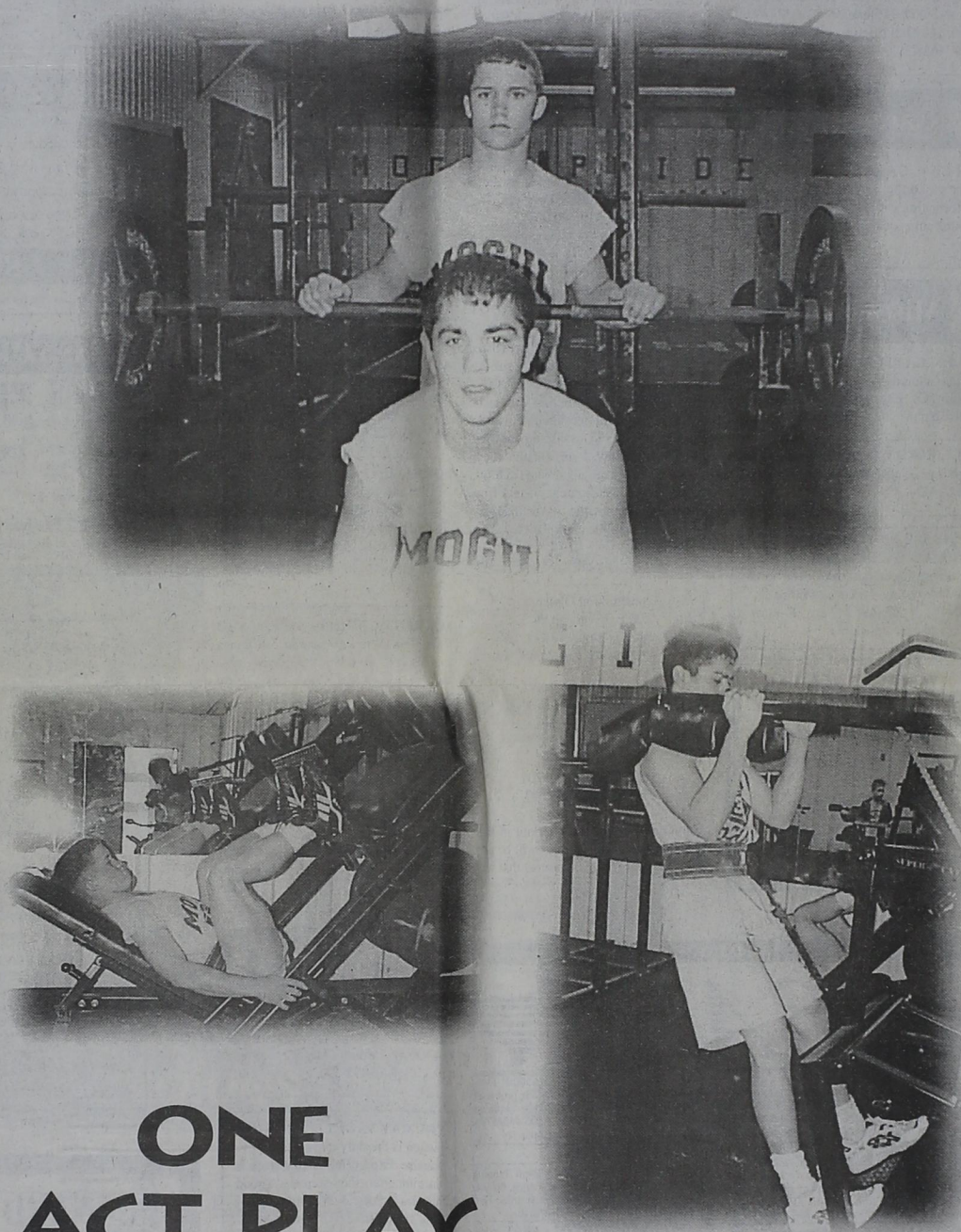
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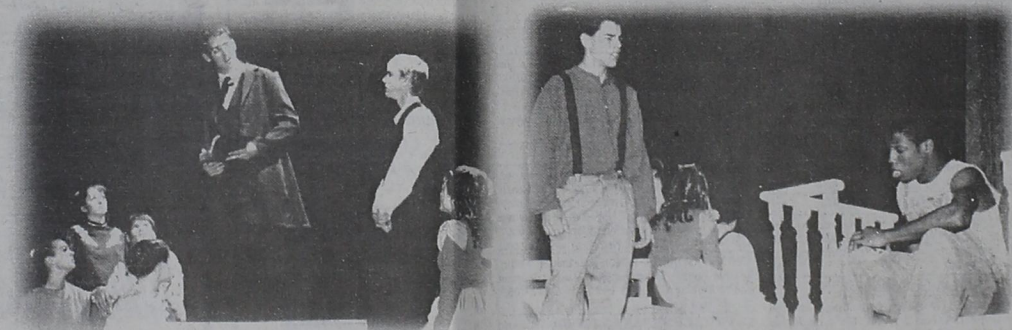
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