



THURSDAY
APRIL 15, 2004

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THE HANSFORD COUNTY

REPORTER

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• NEWS • PICTURES • SPORTS •

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Two Spearman Men Charged In Separate Drug Arrests

by Harletta Carthel

Unrelated arrests on the same day resulted in two Spearman men being charged with drug-related offenses and the possibility of an additional arrest, pending lab results.

Danny Close, 37, was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of chemicals with intent to manufacture a controlled substance following the execution of a search warrant at a rural residence.

Aaron Elias Hernandez, 22, was charged following a traffic stop with possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) with intent to sell and possession of marijuana.

According to Hansford County Chief Deputy Pete Ochoa, the rural residence rented by Close had been under observation for a unspecified period of time. The April 7th search warrant issued by District Attorney Clay Ballman's office, cited plastic tubing, ether cans with holes punched in the bottom, and a butane bottle which emitted an anhydrous ammonia and showed bluish discoloration of brass fittings had been seen.

When enacting the search warrant at approximately 10:30 p.m., officers of the task force noted a strong odor of ammonia and ether at the time at the rural residence near Texas Highway 15 and County Road 28, four miles east of Spearman.

"None of the task force members wore masks during the arrest, but the Lubbock-based clean-up contractor crew who arrived later did wear masks," Ochoa said.

Much of the evidence at the residence was found in an outbuilding and a detached garage. Powdered meth, several syringes thought to contain liquid meth, and the chemical to manufacture more of the meth drug were confiscated.

Close, who pled guilty over ten years ago in a murder-for-hire case in 1989, remains in Hansford county jail with his bail set a \$110,000 on the two charges.

The charges are both second degree felonies which would carry 2-20 year punishment upon conviction, according to Ballman.

In the earlier case, Close had received ten years of deferred adjudication in his guilty plea to criminal solicitation in connection with the Susan McPherson murder. Close would have been forced to serve 10 years in prison following his new arrest had his deferred adjudication not run out last year.

Hernandez, who was stopped by Spearman Police Officer Allan Beeson at 9:23 p.m., April 7, was charged with possession

of approximately 3.4 grams of methamphetamine and 15.5 grams of marijuana. His bail was set at \$45,000 for the meth charge and \$5,000 on the marijuana charge.

He posted bond and was released April 8.

Hansford County Sheriff hopes the recent drug arrests will be a warning to others.

"Our drug enforcement is ongoing," McFarland said. "If you deal in drugs, you will get caught."

The Hansford County Drug Task Force, composed of the Gruver Police Department, the Spearman Police Department, and the Hansford County Sheriff's Department has been in operation for about two years.

"The drug task force will continue to work against the use, manufacture, and sale of illegal drugs. It's a job that requires long hours, and a lot of hard work," Ochoa said.

Great Plains Future of Agriculture Symposium Set

BORGER - Whether you eat steak or raise cattle, you are sure to find discussions slated during the "Great Plains Future of Agriculture Symposium" on April 22 to be of interest.

Sponsors include Texas Cooperative Extension offices in Hutchinson, Hansford, Hemphill, Lipscomb and Ochiltree counties, as well as Frank Phillips College, Borger Chamber of Commerce and Borger Economic Development Corporation.

The symposium will be held in the Service Drilling Center for Innovation and Technology on the college campus at 1301 West Roosevelt. Registration will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. with time for refreshments and viewing the exhibits.

Tickets at the door cost \$10. Seating will be limited to the first 200 participants.

Dr. Herbert Swender, FPC president, will open the program. Lewis T. Britt, district office representative for U.S. Rep. Mac Thornberry of Amarillo will give opening remarks on behalf of the congressman.

Tom Benton, Extension agricultural and natural resources agent in Hutchinson County, will provide an overview of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or BSE, issues.

Dr. Ted McCollum, Extension beef cattle specialist for the Panhandle and South Plains, will address animal identification and country-of-origin labeling concerns. He is headquartered at the Texas A&M University System Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Amarillo.

After lunch, keynote addresses will be presented by speakers from Washington, D.C. Each presentation will be delivered using videoconferencing technology.

From the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Dr. James G.

The annual Hansford County Heart Association Banquet will be held on Friday, April 23, 2004, at the O'Loughlin Center in Spearman. The "Hearts of Gold Gala" will begin at 6:15 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. A tenderloin meal catered by the Williams family of Gruver will follow with the dedication to Dorothy and Lloyd Buzzard set for 8 p.m. and a live auction at 8:15.

Tickets for the event may be purchased for \$25 at the door or by contacting Kay Hobbs, Patricia Bratton, Sharron Swan, Amy Babbs, Missie Bates, Carolyn Cummings, Peggy Frick, Darlene Pierce, Margaret Ralston, Penny Ralston, Anita Sumner, or Anna Beth Wood.



Hansford County Heart Association Secretary/Treasurer Sharron Swan, left, and Vice President Patricia Bratton, review plans for the 2004 "Hearts of Gold Gala" slated for Friday, April 23, with board members (Back, L-R) Anita Sumner, Missie Bates, Darlene Pierce, and Penny Ralston.

Dorothy and Lloyd Buzzard To Be Honored At Heart Association Gala



Lloyd and Dorothy Buzzard

submitted

The American Heart Association Board of Directors and Staff have dedicated this year's "Hearts of Gold Gala" to Dorothy Buzzard and to the memory of Lloyd Buzzard for their efforts in supporting the work of the American Heart

Association. Dorothy and Lloyd worked side by side 14 years, until his death, in supporting the work of the Heart Association.

They were instrumental in the organization of the Hansford Division in 1978. They both served on the local offices and committees of the Hansford Heart Association Board throughout the many years of service.

Dorothy and Lloyd served as President of the Hansford Division from 1983-1985 and as Dear Neighbor Chairman from 1978-12992. Both Lloyd and Dorothy received many local and regional awards for their active service and dedication throughout the years. Lloyd received the Distinguished Service Award which honored Lloyd with a research grant named in his honor.

At the State convention in 1988, Dorothy received the #1 Award for Excellence in Programming for her work in educating the public to the symptoms and prevention of cardiovascular disease and stroke.

After a short leave of absence, Dorothy returned to the board and receive the Newcomer Award for the 1998-99 year for her enthusiastic work that year. The Hansford Heart Association salutes Dorothy and Lloyd Buzzard for their loyalty and dedication to the American Heart Association.



And the walls came tumbling down on a deserted building on Highway 15 in Spearman as Daniel Boyd and his front-end loader take a bite of brick.

Flea Market Plans Announced

by Harletta Carthel

A giant flea market is slated for Saturday, May 22, in Gruver City Park, according to Lisa Salmans, Gruver Chamber of Commerce Director.

"We would like to encourage everyone in the county to take part in Gruver's first annual flea market," Salmans said. "We are hoping to have a variety of offerings with something for everyone."

Food booths, garage sale items, antiques, crafts, and fun booths such as face painting are some of the ideas Gruver Chamber members hope to incorporate in the event.

"We have many excellent craftsmen in the area we hope will be a part of the project. In addition to individuals, the flea market will also be a great fund-raiser for church and school groups," Salmans said.

Booths at the flea market will be \$10 for an 8' by 10' space. Interested individuals or groups may reserve a space by contacting Salmans, 733-2861, after 5 p.m. or director Holly McLain, 733-5040 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. on weekdays or 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

Volunteer Information Needed

Volunteers' Names Needed Hansford County Reporter Statesman is seeking to honor volunteers in Hansford County during National Volunteer Week April 19-24.

The Reporter Statesman requests all county entities to submit a list to the newspaper office by 5 p.m., Monday, April 19, of their volunteers and a short paragraph describing the work they perform.

Should more information be needed, please contact the Reporter Statesman, 659-3434.

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Live, Laugh & Love

by Catherine R. Smith cathysmith@antden.com



My dear friend Sally Desimone sent me the following article and I thought you might enjoy it.

Happy Birthday 50th- WD-40!

The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and de-greaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company.

The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their Atlas missile parts. The workers were so pleased with the product, they began smuggling (also known as "shrinkage" or "stealing") it out to use at home.

- Here are some of the uses: Protects silver from tarnishing, Cleans and lubricates guitar strings, Gets oil spots off concrete driveways, Gives floors that 'just-waxed' sheen without making it slippery...

May God bless and keep you; May He make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26

Catherine :)

Spring Hours

MurMur's has gone back to their spring hours.

We will be open Monday-Friday, from 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

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Service When You Need It. Gasoline, Oil Changes, Battery Service, Flat Tire Service, Car Washing & Cleaning, Tire Rotation & Balancing. CORNER SERVICE STATION, 101 Main Street • Spearman, Texas. (806) 659-2722 Joe & Nita Bynum

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor, There's been much made of the fact that KRDF has changed their format and much of that has been negative. It has always seemed that "change is hard in these here parts." It also seems like I remember something similar when the "elevator music" replaced oldies station when we read one of the Letters in the paper.

Thank You

The Ross family would like to express its deep gratitude for all of the wonderful acts of kindness by so many people of Gruver, Morse, and Spearman. The cards, food, flowers, and visits were all so nice. We would especially thank the Hansford County Manor Doctors and Nurses and the entire staff for all they did while Melvin was there.

EMT-BASIC CLASS BY H&S EMS

H&S EMS will be putting on an EMT-Basic Class starting in mid-May 2004. Classes will be Mon. & Wed. from 6-10 p.m. Spearman Fire & EMS Station, 513 S. Hazelwood, Spearman.

If you have ever considered being an "EMS Volunteer" for your community, call for information about our EMT-Basic Class, 659-5511. Jay Lamb or any service member will be available to answer your questions.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

scooter Safety Class



May 8, 2004 1:00 PM ~ 4:00 PM

Safety Starts Before You Get on The Scooter~

Program for Parents and Kids By Spearman Police Dept., H&S EMS & Guest Speaker; Dr. Mark Garnett Helmets provided by Panhandle Regional Advisory Council

SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT

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659-5350 664-0895 Daniel Hopkins

The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman

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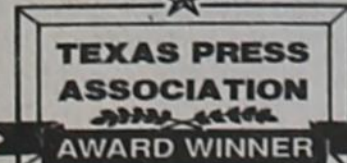
Publication Policy

The deadline to submit news and advertising to The Hansford County Reporter-Statesman is Monday at 5 p.m. Items submitted after the deadline will be published at a later date, as time and space permit. Publication of all items is at the discretion of the editor.

Advertising

Open Display rates are \$4.00 per column inch. Classified Ads are \$5 for the first 25 words and 10¢ per word for each additional word. (Additional charge for boxed classifieds.) There is a \$1 charge per week if billed.

Member of Texas Press Association and Panhandle Press Association



HANSFORD HAPPENINGS

AARP Offers Free Tax Help

AARP Tax-Aide is in Spearman at the Hansford County Library, 122 Main Street, every Tuesday from 1-5 p.m. AARP Tax-Aide is a free, quality and confidential service that prepares tax returns and answers tax questions through April 9th.

Breast Cancer Screening Clinic

The Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center Comprehensive Breast Center will conduct a Breast Cancer Screening Clinic at Hansford County Hospital, 707 S Roland, in Spearman on April 29, 2004. Breast cancer affects one in eight women.

Reyna Ruiz Scholarship Fund

A scholarship fund has been established for Reyna Ruiz through the Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Donations may be mailed to: Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ruiz Scholarship Fund, PO Box 127, Spearman, TX 79081.

Medical Fund Established for Melissa (Robinson) Vasquez

A medical fund has been established at First State Bank for Melissa (Robinson) Vasquez. Melissa has been fighting cancer for several years and is continuing treatment.

Hearts of Gold Gala

The Hansford Division Board of Directors for the American Heart Association will host the Hearts of Gold Gala on Friday, April 23, 2004 at the O'Loughlin Center in Spearman. This year's benefit will be in honor of Lloyd and Dorothy Buzzard.

Project Graduation

The parents of the Senior Class of 2004 will sponsor and host a "Project Graduation Party" following commencement exercises on Friday, May 28th. To encourage the graduates to stay the entire night, door prizes are awarded throughout the evening.

Volleyball Tournament Slated

A volleyball tournament has been scheduled to raise funds for Gruver athlete Blythe Finely to attend the Down Under Games in Australia this summer. The tournament will be held April 9 and 10 at the sand volleyball court in Gruver City Park.

2nd Annual Maria Avila Cinco de Mayo Celebration

The 2nd Annual Maria Avila Cinco de Mayo Celebration is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, 2004. Activities will be held on main street from 10 a.m. to midnight, with the street dance ending festivities for the day.

Cinco de Mayo Queen/King Contest

The 2nd Annual Cinco de Mayo Queen and King Contest will be held in conjunction with the 2nd Annual Maria Avila Cinco de Mayo Celebration on Saturday, May 1, 2004. Contestants must be 15-20 years of age by May 1, 2004, and be unmarried with no children.

Spearman Swim Team Meeting

Spearman Swim Team 2004 will begin soon. A meeting has been set for Thursday, April 22nd at 6:30 p.m. in the First State Bank Hospitality Room to try on suits for sizing before ordering.

Benefit Volleyball Tournament

A volleyball tournament to raise funds for Gruver athlete Blythe Finely to attend the Down Under Games in Australia this summer is slated for April 9 and 10 at the sand volleyball court in Gruver City Park.

Miss Hansford Scholarship Pageant

The Women's Division of the Spearman Chamber of Commerce will host "An Enchanted Evening" Miss Hansford Scholarship Pageant on June 8, 2004 at 7 p.m. Age divisions are: Little Miss (4-6), Jr. Miss (7-9), Preteen (10-12), Teen (13-16) and Miss Hansford (17-21).

Gruver Flea Market

A flea market is slated for Saturday, May 22, in Gruver City Park, according to Lisa Salmans, Gruver Chamber of Commerce Director. Food booths, garage sale items, antiques, crafts, and fun booths such as face painting are some of the ideas.

Memorial Day Wreaths

Orders are now being taken for Memorial Day Wreaths to be made by the Golden Spread Senior Citizens. Please place your orders as soon as possible as supplies are limited and time is of the essence.

2nd Annual Maria Avila Cinco de Mayo Presentation Dance

The 2nd Annual Maria Avila Cinco de Mayo Presentation Dance will be held on Saturday, April 17th at 8 p.m. The cost will be \$10 per person, ages 12 and under are free.

"Ambassadors of Excellence"

The public is invited to a reception honoring all administrative professionals on Tuesday, April 20, 2004 from 5:30-7 p.m. at The Gathering Place, 7717 Canyon Drive, in Amarillo. The program, "Top Five Ways to Enhance Your Career," will be presented by Anne McHenry CPS/CAP IAAP Texas/Louisiana Division Secretary.

by Dorothy Hudson
Out At The Lake



Lilac Bush at the north boat ramp.

Lake level--April 12, 2004--26.08 feet (-.01)

Jim reported 1.5 inches of rain during the past week. It fell in 4 different showers with the largest being .70 inch.

Due to the damp weather there was not the usual Easter activity. There were 6 campers behind the dam and three on the office side. A few tents were up.

The other white pelicans have moved on, but they were replaced this weekend by a flock of fifty or so.

This week the Twentieth Century Club met at the office for one of Jim's programs with slides. This one contained a mixture of slides showing casing the flora and fauna at the Park. As part of the refreshments a Lake Cake had been baked. It seems a Lake Cake has a water scene with edible sand.

This may be a good spring for wildflowers. Jim said numer-

ous varieties are beginning to bloom.

Jim's picture is of a lilac bush found near the north side boat ramp at a covered shelter. It had puzzled him as to how it originated in that spot. Luckily, Don and Wanda Reed solved the question. It had been transplanted from the Steele house yard by Johnnie Lee, former manager of the Palo Duro Water Authority. The rock signs at the entrance and at the office plus the pedestal for the plaque on the dam are all made from the rock that formed the base of the Steele barn.

Irv Steele bought the land where the Lake is from Bert Cator, executor of George Aitken's estate, in 1911. With the Aitken estate and his previous holdings Steele blocked up 13 sections or around 8,320 acres along the Palo Duro, Horse Creek, and the flats.

Among The Neighbors
by Helen Fisher

Jerry and Merry Sparks enjoyed kid and grandkid visits from their rodeo crew in Wyoming. Brice and Amy Lewis along with Timber and Tori Lewis spent their spring vacation visiting with the Sparks. They enjoyed many different things during the visit such as visits to the Manor, visits with their friends from Gruver and Texhoma, the food, fun and fellowship of a happy birthday/Easter celebration with their "Pop," Jerry.

Your neighbor will be back on line next week. After having a stent placed in an artery in her leg, she seems to be back up and going.

If you have information you would like to include in this column, you may call Helen Fisher at 659-3468, Merry Sparks at 659-5849, or submit it at the Hansford County Reporter-Statesman, 213 Main Street, Spearman, TX 79081; or you may call (806) 659-3434; fax (806) 659-3368; or e-mail to cathysmith@antden.com.

Aggies Unite for Solemn Tradition of Muster

"Former Students and friends of Texas A&M University will assemble in Morse, Texas on April 21st for the annual Texas Aggie Muster in honor of all Texas Aggies who have passed away within the past year," announced Mike Pack, Muster Chairman for the High Plains A&M Club. Muster activities including a fish fry and silent auction, will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Morse Community Building in Morse. All former students and current students, their families, and friends of Texas A&M University are welcome.

The Texas Aggie Muster Tradition spans over a century and will be observed in more than 300 locations around the world this April 21st. These Muster gatherings are held in many unique places ranging from battleships and foxholes during World War II to ballrooms, steakhouses and two locations in Iraq this April.

Over the years, Aggie Muster has grown to be one of Texas A&M's greatest traditions. The Muster Program honors the memory of A&M men and women whose death prevents them from answering Roll Call at this year's Muster.

The Roll Call is a roster compiled of all former and current students who have died over the past year. As each name is called, a friend or family member will answer "Here!" symbolizing that their memory lives on in the hearts of Aggies everywhere. Muster is more than just a ceremony; it is also a way for Aggies to renew the loyalty and unity which constitute the foundation of their friendship for each other and love and devotion for their school.

For more information regarding the Texas Aggie Muster sponsored by the High Plains A&M Club, please contact Mike Pack at (806) 659-5190, or The Association of Former Students at (979) 845-7514.

Government Procurement Workshop Slated

The Panhandle Regional Planning Commission's Contract Procurement Center is hosting an all day Government Procurement Workshop on Thursday, April 22, 2004 at the Amarillo Civic Center.

Program sponsors include The Honorable Mac Thornberry, U.S. House of Representatives, 13th District; BWXT Pantex, Bell Helicopter-Textron; West Texas A&M University; VA Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization - Washington, DC/VA Medical Center; West Texas A&M University Small Business Development Center; and the Northwest Texas Procurement Assistance Center in Lubbock.

The purpose of the workshop is to allow businesses to meet with federal, state and local government agencies. They will learn how to do business with the government and learn what types of opportunities are available.

There will be informational presentations throughout designed to assist businesses that want to learn "how to sell to the government." A variety of topics covering information relating to business firms engaged in construction, the service industry and wholesale/retail sector will be discussed.

In addition to the program sponsors listed above, other participating agencies include: General Services Administration, Ft. Worth; Boeing - Supplier Diversity, Dallas/Ft. Worth area; Sandia National Laboratory, Albuquerque; Small Business Administration, Lubbock District Office; Sheppard AFB; Texas Department of Transportation; Texas Department of Criminal Justice; City of Amarillo.

Registration starts at 7:45 a.m. and workshop programs will begin at 8:30 a.m. The workshop ends at 4 p.m. The registration fee is \$25 per person or \$75 for a booth space that includes admission for two. Both admissions include lunch. Booth space is limited so reservations will be on a first-come basis. The deadline for registration is Monday, April 19th.

Interested businesses and individuals may call Edmond Esparza at the Panhandle Regional Planning Commission, (806) 372-3381 or Otilo Castellano, Procurement Director of the Northwest Texas Procurement Assistance Center in Lubbock, (806) 745-3973 for a registration form.

We will be a smoke-free establishment as of Monday, April 19, 2004.

**Pizza Hut of Spearman
Hwy. 207 S. • 659-2547**



His boyish looks will never show That Brett is turning the big 4-0!

Happy Birthday!

Love,
Paige, Jaci & Carter



You and your family are cordially invited to attend the

60th Annual Membership Meeting

of

North Plains Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Monday, April 19, 2004, 6:00 p.m.
Ochiltree County Expo Center
Ochiltree County Fairgrounds
Perryton, Texas

Members attending will receive a Texas Co-op Power Cookbook and a 60-minute commemorative phone card.

COTTONWOOD SPRINGS GUEST RANCH

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Mr. and Mrs. James Walter Ward request the honour of your presence at the marriage of their daughter
Monica Lee

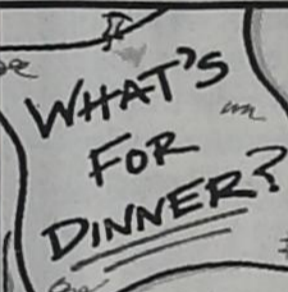
to

Michael Ray Hallam

son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hallam

Saturday, the seventeenth of April two thousand and four at six o'clock in the evening
Gruver United Methodist Church
Gruver, Texas

Reception following at the O'Loughlin Center



CASSEROLES TO GO

A convenience or the busy family! Orders must be placed at least two hours ahead, or by 10 a.m. for lunch.

Menu for April 19-24

Tortilla Lasagna; Chicken, Mushroom & Spinach Lasagna; Beef & Cheese Lasagna; Chicken Spaghetti; Texas Chicken; Cheese Manicotti; Chicken Enchiladas; Beef Enchiladas; King Ranch Chicken; Ham & Cheese Potato Bake; Bjerx - \$3.50 each (allow more time)
9x9 - \$14.95 • 9x11 - \$24.95

Ask about the Casserole Club!

Now selling Arbonne products

Stop by & see the new alternative to synthetic hormones! Graduation is coming! Don't forget our unique gift selection!

GRAMMY'S GIFTS & GOODIES

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224 Hancock • Spearman

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!



Don't Forget



April 21, 2004

All Occasion Flowers

202 N. Bernice • Spearman, TX
659-5180

Senior at Night
Gordon's DRUG

314 Main St. • Spearman

**Monday, April 19th
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.**

Activities Include:

- Make your own **Banana Split**
- Receive a coupon for 25% off any one item in our store
- Fill out your **Wish List** (so friends & family will know what you would like to receive for graduation)
- Pick up your gift from Gordon's

For all graduating seniors from Spearman High School

Bridal Registry

Couples Currently Registered

- Sara Bass & Trevor Chisum - April 17 (Gruver)
- Monica Blackman & Bryon Pfaff - May 1
- Kristi Pearson & Ross Renner - May 1 (Gruver) May 2 (Spearman)
- Kasey Dunnihoo & Mike Butts - May 15
- Leslie Biesheuvel & Eric Varnon - May 22
- Kristin Holbrook & Quentin Shieldknight - May 22
- Cynthia Moseley & Alfonso Martinez
- Jennifer Laxson & Aaron Langston
- Meg Woolley & Ben Walton
- Jess Anne Fernandes & Michael Lusby
- Courtney (Walker) & Tye Womble

Gordon's DRUG

314 Main
659-2141

Spearman,
Texas

Manor Matters

by Merry Sparks

Thank you to the Church of Christ of Gruver. We appreciate your time and resources in the service of the Lord by bringing church services to the Manor.

Monday morning was met with the usual hustle and bustle of catching up after a week end and with Newscurrents. Sounds like the baseball commissioner is wanting stricter rules about players using steroids. Also talked about was Sedna, the farthest planetoid in space that has been seen. It takes Sedna 10,000 years to orbit the sun. Wow- I don't think I will live long enough to see it complete an orbit!

Monday afternoon was spent in Chatter Club. The topic of the day was Easters past. Many memories were talked about, especially the Easter bonnets, gloves, dresses and shoes. Most of us remember at least one specific Easter from our past whether it was outstanding because of an outfit, family gathering, or a special touch from the Lord. Also, thanks are in order to the Preceptor Sorority for hosting bingo on Monday night. The residents enjoy it so much!

Tuesday was ushered in with Musercise. Exercise to the music of the Oak Ridge Boys, Ray Stevens, and Sixteen Tons by Tennessee Ernie Ford.

That afternoon the activity room was filled with volunteers. Claudine Laxton, Judy Yarbrough, Ann Whitaker, Scooter Russell, and Teresa Kirk and with residents. We did manicures on men and women alike in preparation for Easter week end.

As we were finishing up I looked up to see Skeeter Huffaker of Panhandle Deli and Diner carting in Biti Pies for the residents! She has begun to bring pies to the residents periodically. Thank you Skeeter!!

Wednesday morning Ann Whitaker was on hand to bring an interesting Bible study. Thank you, Ann!

That afternoon was a very busy one. The residents decorated over a hundred cupcakes to look like little bird nests with jelly beans for eggs. Two of my grandchildren were here from Wyoming so they pitched in to help. We had quite a lot of fun

since we were using squirt on whipped topping, green coconut, and jelly beans. One problem arose though-should we squirt each other? Should we eat the jelly beans? Oh decisions, decisions, decisions.

When we finished the cupcakes, we dyed Easter eggs and decorated them. After all of our messing was done, I had my granddaughter, Tori Lewis to sing the National Anthem for the residents. (She has sang the National Anthem at several rodeos. The intriguing thing is that she is only 7 years old.)

Her sister, Timber showed the residents one of her belt buckles that she won at the last rodeo. She actually won 2 of them and they were for a series of rodeos in the barrels and pole bending. She gave them a short story of how she won them. The residents seemed to enjoy them. Timber and Tori belong to Brice and Amy Lewis, Jerry's youngest daughter. They live in Meteetse, WY just south of Cody.

Thursday morning was filled with fun! The teachers from Spearman's elementary brought all of the kindergarten children to the Manor for Easter egg hunts, cupcakes, and punch. We put our resident rabbit in the fenced portion off the side of the cafeteria and hid eggs all around the north end of that section of the building. When the children went into the fenced yard to gather eggs, of course the rabbit started running around. I will say that he did furnish quite a bit of entertainment!

Thursday afternoon the Auxiliary hosted bingo for the residents. Thank you to the members of the Auxiliary. They are so very faithful. The auxiliary does many worthwhile duties to bless the people of this community. If you see any of them on the street, please tell them thanks for all that they do.

Friday morning was filled with music. Many Easter songs were sung, led by Janie Kunselman on the piano. She is very talented and a blessing to all.

That afternoon, we gathered in the great room to watch the movie "Jesus" which we thought was very appropriate for a Good Friday afternoon.

The Gruver Grapevine

by Harletta Carthel

Spring Cleaning Set For April 24th

Whether your specialty is heavy-lifting, raking, or picking up trash, there is a place for you in Gruver First Annual Spring Clean set for Saturday, April 24.

Residents of Gruver are urged to make our city beautiful by picking up trash, cleaning yards, and disposing of junk vehicles, fallen tree limbs, and other items that are eye sores. The Spearman Landfill will be open April 24 to receive loads from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The clean-up is not limited to personal property but residents are urged to help pick up trash and litter lining the fences or roadways into Gruver.

The elderly who may need assistance in their outdoor cleanup project may contact Leon Bagwell, 733-2177, or Lisa Salmans, 733-2861 to be matched with a volunteer or volunteer group.

Class Travels To Wind Turbine

The fifth grade science class of Roy Mayhew tour the grounds of the giant wind turbine north of Gruver last week and shared a picnic lunch on the grounds.

FCCLA Attends Convention

Seven members of the FCCLA and their sponsor Sherri Sherrill left Wednesday for the state FCCLA convention in Houston.

Members attending were Bonnie Frick, Jessica Vela, Mattie Wheelock, Maria Ruiz, Lucy Trejo, Diana Lopez, and Cynthia Briones.

District Golf Delayed

The GHS district golf tournament was postponed after the playing of four holes Monday,

April 12, due to the inclement weather.

Remember (To See) The Alamo

I may have been one of the first Texans to see the movie "The Alamo" when it opened Friday by catching a 1:40 matinee.

While the movie has received mixed reviews, I found it very good. Going into the movie with the preconceived idea that no one could replace John Wayne as Davy Crockett, Billy Bob Thornton more closely resembled pictures of Crockett and the wit and speech of Thornton was most "Crockett."

Portrayals of Jim Bowie and William Barrett Travis were also excellent, but I was somewhat disappointed in the characterization of Sam Houston.

Although the famous line in the dust crossing was left out (which I believe is a historical fact), I would give the movie a high mark.

After seeing the movie, any Texas has to ask "Why in the worked does Texas have a town named after Santa Anna?"

Loneliest Place In Gruver

The poling place in the GHS library might have been one of the loneliest places in town Tuesday as very few were aware or took advantage of the run-off vote on Texas Railroad Commissioner.

Rains Make Soggy Easter

Pre-easter rains in the Gruver area made for a sooty, but no complaints Easter, for local residents.

Much needed moisture totally 1.70 inches in rains last week.

A very chilly 23 degrees was recorded in the overnight Monday, April 12.

Thank You

Chuck Eaton, and the rest of his family, would like to thank everyone for the cards, food and prayers received throughout the past year. He continues to battle colon cancer, but knowing about the prayers he is receiving has kept him going.

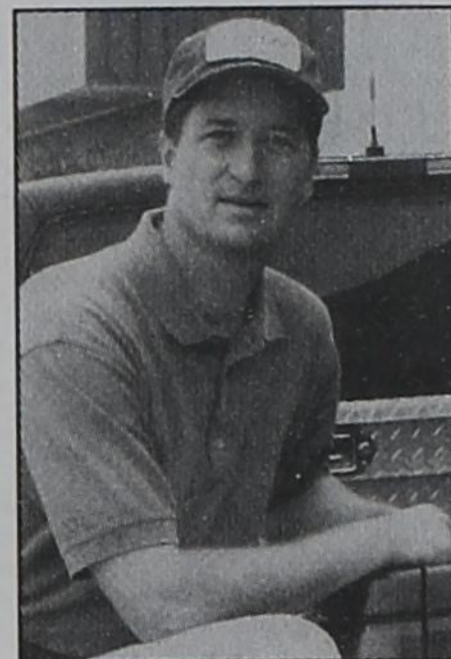
Chuck is the son of Charles and Joann Eaton and the grand-

son of Marguerite and the late Roscoe Nelson, all of Spearman. He is a 1979 graduate of Spearman High School. He received a degree in Agronomy with a minor in Chemistry from Texas Tech University.

He is married to Laura, and they have four daughters, Karissa, Kassie, Abbe and Mikah, and three grandchildren, Kyla, Kara and Cyson. He has two sisters, Cayla and her husband Don of Spearman, and Johnnie and her husband Kelly Fuller of Dumas.

Chuck enjoys spending time with his family, especially his eight-year-old daughter, Mikah.

He and his family live in Dallas where he owns a landscaping business and interest in Ranger Arbitrage. He has been very successful in business ventures, and has enjoyed using his assets to benefit others. (He and his wife flew to the Dumas Stock Show to buy his nephew's pig, even after he was diagnosed.)



Chuck Eaton

Borger Downtown Merchant's Association, Antique Shops & Hutchinson County Museum

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NOTICE OF GRUVER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION S.I.S.D.)

To the Registered Voters of Gruver Independent School District, Gruver, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados de Gruver Independent School District, Gruver, Texas:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 15, 2004, at Gruver Jr. High library, for voting in a school trustee election, to elect three (3) trustees.

(Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 15 de mayo de 2004, en la libreria de Jr. High, Gruver, para votar en la Elección para elegir tres (3) sindicatos.)

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Gruver Business Office, 601 Garrett, Gruver, TX between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 28 and ending on May 11.

(La Votación en adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en Gruver Business Office, 601 Garrett, Gruver, TX entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 28 de abril y terminando el 11 de mayo.)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Leticia Salazar, PO Box 650, Gruver, TX 79040.

(Las solicitudes para balotas por correo deberán ser enviadas a: Leticia Salazar, PO Box 650, Gruver, TX 79040)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 7, 2004.

(Las solicitudes para boletas ue se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las h oras de negocio el 7 de Mayo de 2004.)

NOTICE OF SPEARMAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION S.I.S.D.)

To the Registered Voters of Spearman, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados de Spearman, Texas:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on May 15, 2004, for voting in a school trustee election, to elect three (3) trustees.

(Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 15 de mayo de 2004 para votar en la Elección para elegir tres (3) sindicatos.)

Spearman High School

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Spearman I.S.D. Superintendent's Office, 403 East 11th, Spearman, TX between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 28 and ending on May 11.

(La Votación en adelantada en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en Spearman I.S.D. en la oficina del Superintendente, 403 East 11th, Spearman, TX entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 28 de abril y terminando el 11 de mayo.)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Lynell Williams, 403 East 11th, Spearman, TX 79081.

(Las solicitudes para balotas por correo deberán ser enviadas a: Lynell Williams, 403 East 11th, Spearman, TX 79081)

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Ruth Arreola	Manuel Lopez
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Raul Garcia	Wesley Reed
Rufino Gonzalez	Jose Rodriguez
Jenny Hart	Cecilia Rosales
Roberto Hernandez	T Jay Sherrill
Christo Hillenbrand	Nicholas Slough
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High School Sports

Gruver Track

DISTRICT TRACK MEET Varsity Girls

Two Lady Hounds and two relays placed in the top four in the 2-A district track meet April 5th and 6th to advance to area competition in Panhandle.

Lady Hounds Blythe Finley and Lindsey Clift will each compete in two individual events and a relay at the area at Panhandle April 16th.

The Lady Hounds placed eighth in a field of 13 teams.

District results are as follows: Discus: 6th - Bonnie Frick; High Jump: *2nd - Lindsey Clift (4'10 1/2"); Pole Vault: *1st - Blythe Finley (9'6"); Triple Jump: *4th - Lindsey Clift (32' 5 1/4"); 400 M Relay: *4th - team of Liz Lopez, Blythe Finley, Laci Fitzgerald, and Lindsey Clift (54.34); 800 M Relay: 5th - team of Liz Lopez, Lauren Urban, Laci Fitzgerald, and Blythe Finley; 200 M Dash: *4th - Blythe Finley (26.52)

Varsity Boys

In the boys division, the Hounds placed third in a field of 12 at the district 2-A track meet held April 5th and 6th in Stratford.

The Hounds took first and second place in the pole vault with T Jay Sherrill and Matt Messer both vaulting 11'6", and Tyler Lane and Hutch Reid crossing the line first and second in the 400 m dash.

Individuals and teams placing in the top four will advance to area competition.

Results are as follows: High Jump: *3rd - Hutch Reid (5'8"); Pole Vault: *1st - T Jay Sherrill (11' 6"), *2nd - Matt Messer (11'6"); Shot Put: *3rd - Oscar Medina (41' 3 1/2"); 3200 M Run: *4th - Brad Clawson (11:28.09); 800 M Run: *3rd - Manny Lopez (2:06.79); *4th - Sammy Pena (2:07.96); 800 M Relay: *4th - Gruver (1:37.91); 400 M Run: *1st - Tyler Lane (53.25); *2nd - Hutch Reid (53.45); 1600 M Run: *2nd - Manny Lopez (5:02.60); 1600 M Relay: *3rd - Gruver (3:35.04)

Jr. Varsity Boys

The JV Hounds took second out of 13 at the district 2-A track meet held April 5th and 6th in Stratford.

Results are as follows: 3200 M Run: 1st - Hugo Chivira (11:55.36); 2nd - Estaban Villegas; 6th - Drew Grotegut; 400 M Relay: 2nd - Gruver; *4th - Sammy Pena (2:07.96); 800 M Run: 1st - Bryant Halley (2:16.18); 5th - Drew Grotegut; 6th - Diego Luciano; 400 M Dash: 1st - Sheldon Atwood; 5th - Bryant Halley; 300 M Hurdles: 3rd - Gruver; 200 M Dash: 2nd - Stephen Salazar; 1600 M Run: 1st - Hugo Chivira; 2nd - Estaban Villegas; 1600 M Relay: 1st - Gruver

7th Grade Boys

Pole Vault: 2nd - Miles messer; 3rd - Taylor Williams; 4th - Rey Gaspar; Shot Put: 5th - Matt Salazar; Discus: 6th - Roberto Mendoza; High Jump: 3rd - Rey Gaspar; Long Jump: 6th - Taylor Williams; 400 M Relay: 3rd - team of Taylor Williams, Saul Hernandez, Jorge Soto, Miles Messer; 1600 M Relay: 4th - team of Roberto Mendoza, Taylor Williams, Jorge Soto, Saul Hernandez; 800 M Run: 3rd - Rey Gaspar; 100 M Dash: 3rd - Saul

Hernandez; 400 M Dash: 6th - Jorge Soto; 200 M Hurdles: 4th - Rey Gaspar; 1200 M Run: 3rd - Rey Gaspar

8th Grade Girls

Pole Vault: 5th - Tanner Sherrill; High Jump: 4th - Lorenzo Torres; Triple Jump: 3rd - Caleb Shults; 400 M Relay: 3rd - Chandler Miner, Caleb Shults, Seth Thompson, Tony Lora; 800 M Run: 3rd - Lorenzo Torres; 400 M Dash: 2nd - Tony Lora; 4th - Chandler Miner; 200 M Hurdles: 6th - Caleb Shults; 800 M Relay: Seth Thompson, Tanner Sherrill, Cason Finley, Chase King; 1200 M Run: 2nd - Lorenzo Torres; 6th - Seth Thompson; 1600 M Relay: 4th - Chandler Miner, Lorenzo Torres, Caleb Shults, Tony Lora

7th Grade Girls

The seventh grade girls team took fourth place in the district track meet with 101 points.

Events and placings were: 400 M Relay: 3rd - team of Lindsey Mireles, Devlin Reynolds, Sydney Clawson, and Mallory Reid; 100 M Hurdles: 3rd - Lindsey Mireles; 100 M Dash: 4th - Esbeydi Ramirez; 400 M Dash: 1st - Devlin Reynolds; 200 M Dash: 2nd - Mallory Reid; 800 M Relay: 4th - team of Lindsey Mireles, Lynn Vela, Miranda Baird, Sydney Clawson; 1600 M Relay: 1st - team of Mallory Reid, Sydney Clawson, Miranda Baird, and Devlin Reynolds; Shot Put: 3rd - Lynn Vela; Discus: 2nd - Lynn Vela; Triple Jump: 1st - Devlin Reynolds; Long Jump: 6th - Mallory Reid; High Jump: 2nd - Devlin Reynolds

8th Grade Girls

The eighth grade girls team scored 60 points and tied for fifth place with Sunray.

Events and placings were: 400 M Relay: 3rd - team of Kailee Reed, Sorrele Blevins, Diana Solis, Emily Williams; 100 M Hurdles: 4th - Sorrele Blevins; 800 M Run: 2nd - Abbi Yanke; 6th - Dahila Santillan; 100 M Dash: 3rd - Kailee Reed; 200 M Hurdles: 3rd - Sorrele Blevins; 200 M

Dash: 5th - Kailee Reed; 1200 M Run: 3rd - Abbi Yanke; 800 M Relay: 3rd - team of Whitney Moffett, Dahila Santillan, Diana Solis, Emily Williams; Triple Jump: 6th - Abbi Yanke; High Jump: 5th - Sorrele Blevins

Spearman Tennis DISTRICT TENNIS TOURNEY

Lindsey Short and the duo of Jordan Short and Keilee Goodheart will advance to the regional tennis meet by virtue of their placings at the district tennis match.

Jordan Short and Keilee Goodheart paced the Spearman tennis team with the doubles championship at the District 6AA Tennis Meet April 6 and April 8 in Pampa.

The duo of Short/Goodheart defeated Jennings/Lindquist of Boys Ranch 6-0, 6-1, then defeated Nall/Schaffer of Canadian 6-1, 6-1st - In the championship game, they downed teammates Tonya Hart and Saylee Flowers 6-0, 6-0 to claim the district title.

Third-place winners Tonya Hart and Saylee Flowers defeated Looten/Meaker of Panhandle, 6-1, 6-2, went on to trounce Brewer/Crane of Boys Ranch 6-0, 6-2 before losing to Short Goodheart 0-6, 0-6, and then falling to Nall/Schaffer of Canadian for the runner-up spot 6-7, 5-7.

Girls Singles

Lindsey Short took second place honors in girls singles and the right to advance to regional competition at the district tennis match by defeating teammate Ashley Hernandez who claimed third place

Lindsey Short defeated Glover of WT High 6-0, 6-0, then defeated Lopez of Canadian 6-0, 6-0 before falling to Ashley of Canadian 6-1,1-6, 1-6. She rebounded to beat teammate Ashley Hernandez 6-0, 6-0.

Ashley Hernandez defeated Rascon of Highland Park 7-5, 6-1 before losing to Ashley of

Canadian 4-6,3-6. She came back to defeat Lopez of Canadian 6-0, 6-1 before losing to teammate Lindsey Short 0-6, 0-6.

Boys Singles

Brynr Garnett lost to Sherwood of Panhandle in split sets of 2-6, 6-2, 6-7.

Keith Sumner defeated Butler of Panhandle 6-1, 6-4 and then lost to Wilson of WT High 6-0, 6-0.

Junior Varsity Girls

In singles action, Abby Winegarner defeated Hawes of Highland park 8-1 and then downed Wiggington of Boys Ranch 8-1 to claim the junior varsity girls district title.

Jessica Jarvis fell to Hawes of Highland Park 5-8.

In girls doubles, Miranda Paul and Trudy Hart defeated Wagner/McGraw of Boys Ranch 8-1 before besting Kidd/Schrader of Canadian 8-2 to take the junior varsity girls doubles title.

(58.29), 3rd - Macy Harbour; 3200 M Hurdles: 6th - Mallory Paul; 200 M Dash: 1st - Melissa Lesly, (26.03), 5th - Kelcee Rex; 1600 M Run: 5th - Tabatha Shields; 1600 M Relay: 1st - team of Macy Harbour, Carla Smith, Sonny Parker, Melissa Lesly (4:13.40); High Jump: 1st - Sonny Parker (5'2"); Long Jump: 2nd - Sonny Parker, 4th - Claudia Vaquera; Triple Jump: 4th - Claudia Vaquera, 5th - Sami Cazares; Pole Vault: 4th - Jentry Edwards, 6th - Macy Harbour; Discus: 6th - Jordanna Lozano

WEST TEXAS TRACK MEET Varsity Girls

The Spearman girls scored 149 point to outdistance nearest competitor Panhandle at 114 points to take the title at the West Texas High Track Meet April 2th.

Events and placings were:

Spearman Track SPEARMAN RELAYS Varsity Girls

The Lynxettes claimed second-place honors at home at the Spearman Relays April 8th and 9th.

Events and placings were: 3200 M Run: 4th - Tabatha Shields; 400 M Relay: 2nd - team of Claudia Vaquera, Carla Smith, Sami Cazares, and Macy Harbour; 100 M Hurdles: 4th - Mallory Paul, 6th - Carla Smith; 100 M Dash: 4th - Kelcee Rex, 5th - Claudia Vaquera; 800 M Relay: 6th - team of Kelcee Rex, Sonny Parker, Claudia Vaquera, Mallory Paul; 400 M Dash: 1st - Melissa Lesly

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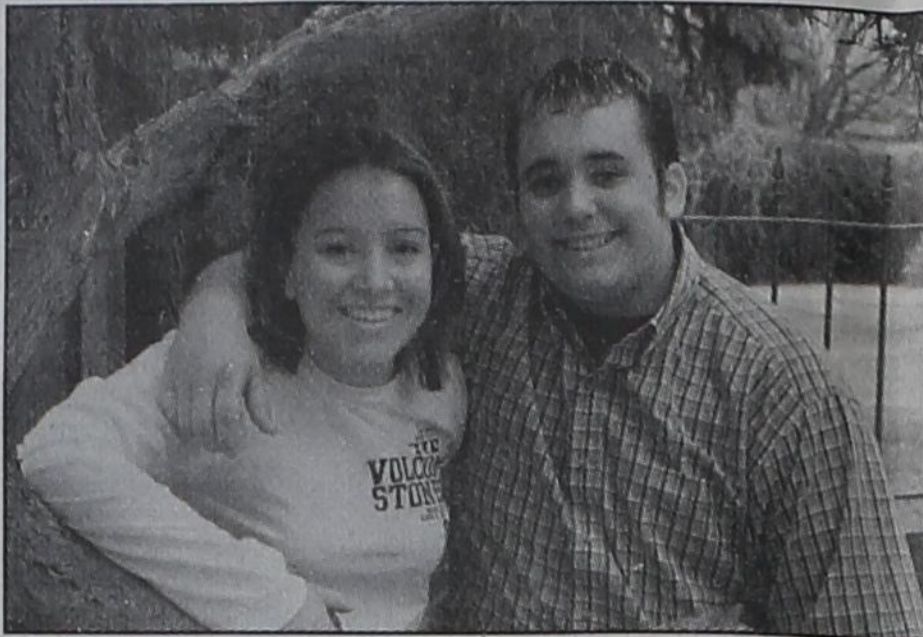
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SHS Student of the Month



Emily Longoria and Zack Murray

Emily Longoria is the Spearman High School January Student of the Month.

The SHS senior is a member of the Bigs in Schools program, the yearbook and pep squad and the golf team. She was named Who's Who Among American High School Students and Who's Who at SHS. She is a member of the First Baptist Church where she is active in youth group.

Emily enjoys photography, computers and art.

She plans to attend Dallas Baptist University in the fall and major either in Elementary Education or Occupational Therapy and work in Dallas.

Emily is the daughter of Ed and DeDe Longoria, and has one brother, Daniel.

She stated that she really likes the teachers at Spearman High School because they are awesome and find ways to make what they are teaching interesting. She named Mrs. Lisa Short as the teacher who was most influential.

Zack Murray is the Spearman

high School January Student of the Month. A senior, he is the son of Mark Murray and Tamara Mauldor.

Zack is a member of FFA, 4-H, FCCLA, AWANA and UIL. He has received the FFA Lone Star Degree, as well as many other FFA awards.

He enjoys working on cars in any way, shape or form, as well as youth related activities and hanging out with friends.

Following graduation he plans to attend Texas State University where he plans to major in Business Management. He then plans to attend a technical college, and eventually open his own shop. He also plans to work with youth groups.

Zack enjoys the closeness you have to everyone in Spearman, stating it is not all cynical like big cities. He enjoys the college classes because it will be great when he gets to college.

He named Scott Stedje as his most influential teacher.

GHS Student of the Month



Cecilia Rosales

Cecilia Rosales, a senior at Gruver High School, has been named January Student of the Month.

She has been a member of the GHS band since eighth grade, is a four-year member of FCCLA, and has been a member of the National Honor Society for three years.

Her honors included being named the outstanding photo-journalism student and the outstanding chemistry student last year.

She enjoys cooking, watching

movies, listening to music, and playing laser tag.

The daughter of Misael and Rosa Rosales, Cecilia plans to attend college, major in education, and become an outstanding teacher.

She believes the people of the community are the best attribute of Gruver. She states the friends and teachers she has made Gruver the one of a kind school it is.

The teachers who have most influenced her are Mrs. Watson and Mrs. Curry.

A Time to Celebrate
SHS Class of '04

Amanda Apodaca	Homero Martinez
Mathew Bain	Jonathan Mendoza
Juan Carmona	Carlos Moreno
Samantha Cazares	Zachary Murray
Christopher Cudd	Miguel Ortega
Emily DeLaGarza	Bertha Ortiz
Jentry Edwards	Deida Ortiz
Wade Evans	Fernando Ortiz
Diana Flores	David Pope
Ashlee Flowers	K'Lee Ratzlaff
Ricardo Garcia	Cristina Salgado
Keilee Goodheart	Dana Sharp
Tanner Hand	Russell Sheets
Marshall Hearon	Laurel Smith
Selina Hernandez	Holly Tercero
Michel Huffaker	Claudia Vaquera
Mandie Hunter	Marcus Vasquez
Emily Longoria	Brittany Vera
Phillip Lozano	Jocelyn Whitefield
Garrett Martin	

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FOR SALE BY OWNER: 721 Wilbanks, Spearman - 3BR, 2B, 1940 sq. ft., fireplace, new carpet and tile, completely remodeled inside. Large backyard with new wood fence. Call 659-3426 daytime, or 659-3830 after 6.

FOR SALE: 1007 S. Bernice, Spearman - 3BR, 1B, 1CG, brick home 2(4-8-04)P

FOR RENT, SPEARMAN: 1BR apartment. Call 659-5519. TFN(8-8-02)B

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IN SPEARMAN 208 Lonita - 3/1/1 - New paint inside. 1001 Townsend - 2/1/1, new paint, blinds, corner lot

Century 21 Golden Spread Realty 200 S. Main • Perryton, TX (806) 435-5444

SPEARMAN Residential 105 Wanda Drive - u/c 107 Wanda Drive - see at 360honda.com

WAKA #1 Greener & Rodgers - 4BR, 1 3/4B, wall heater, 2 car carport - \$27,000

Real Estate & Rental Spearman Property 611 S. Evans - 3BR, 1 1/2B, 1CG

Rural Property 9520 Hwy. 15 - 30+ acres, 2 houses, close to Gruver

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OATS FOR SALE: Troy oats cleaned dual-purpose. Call Watley Seed Co. in Spearman, 659-3838 or 1-800-338-2885.

FOR SALE: 2002 Chevrolet 1500 ext cab, 2WD, gray & pewter 2-tone, low miles, LS pkg., 5300 V8 & more. Stock #24120A Call 659-2541 or 1-800-692-4757 for details.

FOR SALE: 1999 Oldsmobile 88, loaded, low mileage, \$8,000. Call (806) 662-0924.

Subscribe to the Reporter-Statesman. Call 659-3434 for details.



Hansford Manor has openings for CNA's, full-time and part-time. Also a Clerical Assistant to the Director of Nursing.

Please apply at 707 S. Roland, Spearman, TX 79081 or contact Lisa Unruh, HR Mgr. at (806) 659-5841.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

Dist/Div. Amarillo Contract 6114-51-001 for OVERLAY in HUTCHINSON COUNTY, etc will be opened on May 19, 2004 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$246,154.85.

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 Dist/Div 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 at the expense of the contractor.

State Office Constr./Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540 Dist/Div Office(s)

Amarillo District District Engineer 5715 Canyon Dr. Amarillo, Texas 79105-2708 Phone: 806-356-3283

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

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ASBESTOS NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT Diseases may occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial workers and spouses (washing clothes) are among those at risk for mesothelioma, throat cancer, or lung cancer.

DIABETICS with Medicare or Private Insurance (Key: ex HMO) you may qualify to receive your diabetic testing supplies at LITTLE OR NO COST TO YOU!

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TexSCAN Week of April 11, 2004 ADOPTION Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption. DRIVERS - \$800 MONEY, MO MONEYSS Top pay 42 cents per mile \$551,500SSS Sign-on Bonus for experienced drivers. 1-800-569-9232

Xcel Drops Surcharge

It's not an April Fool's joke. Rates actually have gone down for electricity in several northeast Texas Panhandle counties.

A surcharge appearing on Xcel Energy bills since 1995 expired in March, so ongoing electric rates have decreased by between 8 percent and 20 percent in Perryton, Spearman, Booker, Follett, Darrouzett, Higgins and surrounding areas, said Bill Crenshaw, Xcel Energy spokesman.

Customers in these towns have been paying the surcharge but now will be billed at the same rates as Xcel Energy's other retail customers in Texas, Crenshaw said.

The communities' residential customers using 500 kilowatt hours of service monthly will see a price reduction of \$3.11, or 8.1 percent, compared with the surcharged prices.

Customers using 1,000 kilowatt hours monthly will save \$11.10, slightly more than 14 percent.

Business and industrial customers will see rate reductions ranging from about 14 percent to 20 percent.

The surcharge began September 15, 1995, when Xcel Energy acquired the electric utility properties in the six communities from Texas-New Mexico Power Co. for \$29.2 million, a market price over book value.

Mike Lee, Booker Independent School District superintendent, said the school's February bill was \$3,428.28, and it included a \$608 acquisition surcharge.

If that amount is reduced, he

said, the school will save 18 percent on its electric bill, worth about \$6,000 in savings to the \$54,000 electricity budget, Lee said.

Spearman City Manager Robert Patrick said the city as well as residents will see a direct impact - one that has really good timing going into the summertime.

"After we've seen a year's worth of high gas bills, the relief on the electric bills will be welcome this summer," Patrick said.

Customers in the communities had requested the purchase, and agreed to the \$15.3 million "acquisition adjustment surcharge," because TNP rates were significantly higher than Xcel Energy rates. Even with the acquisition surcharge in place, the communities saw an immediate rate reduction averaging 10 percent, and other rate decreases were implemented since.

The acquisition surcharge was expected to last through 2005, but electric load growth and increased kilowatt-hour sales in the communities accelerated recovery of the adjustment.

The PUCT typically posts bill comparisons each month at www.puc.stat.tx.us at Electric, reports, recurring reports for non-competitive utilities. Xcel Energy rates typically have been among the lowest shown on the reports, compared to similar price-regulated Texas utilities.

At-a-Glance

- Examples of rate reductions:
- Customers whose electrical demand is 35 kilowatts and consumption is 7,500 kWh will see a monthly price reduction of \$112.45, or 17.7 percent.
- Customers whose demand is 35 kilowatts and consumption is 15,000 kWh, will see a price reduction of \$224.90, or 20.66 percent.
- Large customers or industrial customers whose demand is 300 kilowatts and who use 87,000 kilowatt-hours, will see a price reduction of \$843.81, or 13.65 percent.



Easter Bunny Refuge: The Easter Bunny and his friends take refuge from the rain beneath a willow tree.

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FPC representatives will be at Spearman High School Wednesday, April 21 to pre-register!

For more information on registration or Video-on-Demand, call FPC at (806) 274-5311, extensions 774, 775, or 777

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