



CITIZEN OF THE YEAR — Broken Bow resident Jewel Callahan was named the city's Citizen of the Year at chamber of commerce festivities Thursday night. Ron Bond was installed as the chamber's new president; and as directors with three-year terms, installed were: Linda Arcey, Ken DeLucia, Walter Groce, Bill Mayhall and Charles Nation. (Staff Photo)

Guilty plea accepted in Medicaid case

Paris dentist Don Haslam pleaded guilty in 26th District Court in Austin Friday to four counts of "tampering with government records with intent to defraud," an official with the Medicaid Fraud Control Division of the Texas Attorney General's office said late Friday.

The Paris man, according to Jack Elrod, chief investigator for the Medicaid Fraud Control Division, was charged after an investigation by Elrod's office was triggered by a routine "utilization review" in connection with the dentist's claims filed through the state's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. The review was conducted in September of 1982, Elrod said.

"He was providing (under that program) dental care for children under 21," Elrod said. "It looked like

maybe the man had been billing (the state) for services not rendered, so we opened the case and made the case. We filed it here in Travis County because the payments had come out of Travis County. He appeared in court this morning and pleaded guilty to four counts of tampering with governmental records with intent to defraud. That's a third degree felony."

"What this amounted to was a series of small cases. As far as dollars and cents, it was a small (amount) on several cases of welfare dental work where we did not bill out the forms properly and we could not get the children back in to finish the work," Haslam said Saturday.

"That's all it amounted to, without going into something that would take two or three hours to explain. They audited me

before...at that particular time and I was not able to get those bills completed and wouldn't let me finish the work."

Following his guilty plea, Haslam was assessed \$30,000 in fines and ordered to pay more than \$5,500 restitution to the state, according to court officials. Haslam was also placed on five year's probation.

Elrod noted, however, that the Judge John Wisser, who heard Haslam's plea, deferred adjudication. "It's one of these suspended situations," the state investigator said. "The judge takes the plea and he admits the guy is guilty. He goes ahead and fines him, and goes ahead and assesses his probation time but, if that probation is served successfully, then he (the judge) will abstain from entering that final adjudication. In other words, he may never say, 'you are found guilty of this...'"

Controlled substance filed against Parisian

DALLAS — Three men, including one from Paris, were arrested here Jan. 8 by state narcotics agents and charged with delivery of more than 400 grams of a controlled substance.

Charged were Luis Alberto Cabal, 20, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Russell Keith Flannery, 32, of Dallas, and John H. Flannery, 29, of Paris.

The three were arrested in

a parking lot near the intersection of North Central Expressway and Meadow Road in North Dallas. About 40,000 tablets believed to be quaaludes were seized, police reported. Police said the tablets were contained in a suitcase and a shopping bag and were reported to have a street value of \$150,000.

Bond was set at \$100,000 for Cabal. Bond was set at \$50,000 on the other two.

The arrest took place as the men were attempting to sell the pills to an undercover narcotics agent on a restaurant parking lot. Ten Department of Public Safety narcotics officers took part in the operation.

DPS Capt. Wesley Crates said Cabal was captured and disarmed as he tried to escape on foot and a pistol and a van were seized along with the tablets.



LAST EPISODE — Burt Metcalfe, left, executive producer of the television series "M-A-S-H," talks with actor Alan Alda during taping of the series' last episode Friday in Los Angeles. The show ran for eleven years. (AP Laserphoto)

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