

Ewe Hall

By JED

Lottery-winning town cherishes dollars, blessings

ROBY, Texas (AP) — Don't expect to see exotic sports cars zipping into Terry Gin's gravel parking lot or contractors building a subdivision of mansions, even if 7 percent of the townspeople are on their way to becoming millionaires.

They're thinking about sudden solvency after winning a \$46.7 million jackpot.

"Some of these people didn't know if they'd be able to farm again next year," said Peggy Dickson, bookkeeper at the local cotton gin and organizer of the spur-of-the-moment lotto pool, which included 41 of Roby's 600 or so residents and two from nearby Sweetwater.

Many of the shareholders have debts to pay. Four straight below-average cotton crops and abysmal cattle prices have depressed Roby and scores of Texas towns like it this decade.

"I've seen two new pickups around town," said Rex Beauchamp, who plans to dedicate part of his bounty toward the Circle D convenience store he opened last summer. "And once we get all the paperwork done, I'll probably buy one myself."

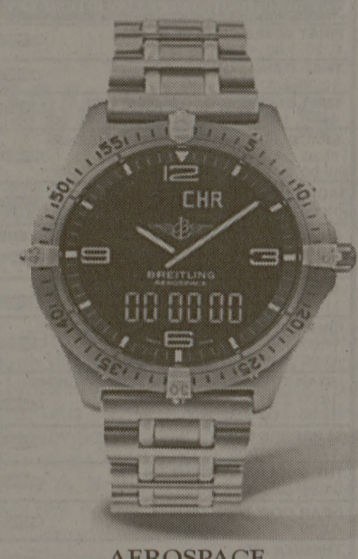
"It's really better the way it worked out," Beauchamp said as he rang up a traveler's root beer purchase. "Nobody really is rich here. Just well-off."

When Dickson decided Tuesday morning to create a lottery pool in anticipation of the state's second-largest jackpot, 41 others felt they had little to lose by chipping in \$10.

Jim Carson, owner of Sweetwater's Longhorn Liquor Store, tossed in a ten-spot of his own and 20 extra "good luck" tickets, giving 43 gamblers 450 chances to win.

No Texas town might have needed this more than Roby, bank vice president John Davis said.

"It's kind of like good Lord looked down and said, 'Here's 43 people that need help,'" he said. "It couldn't have happened to any better group of people."



AEROSPACE

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Peeps

By Michael



Sketch

By Quatro



Thousands protest actions of Serbian president

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Authorities muzzled two independent radio stations Tuesday and lashed out fiercely at the growing opposition to Slobodan Milosevic, even as more than 100,000 protesters rallied against the Serbian president and sharpened their demands.

Demonstrators hurled snowballs at the station media buildings in the 15th straight day of protests against Milosevic and his decision to annul Nov. 17 local elections that appeared to have been won by the opposition. Police still kept their distance, but one report said reserve police officers were being mobilized nationwide.

Milosevic's propaganda machine, which at first ignored the protests, went on the offensive, dismissing the demonstrators as terrorists, vandals and a "handful" of desperate people.

Minutes before the protesters were to begin their march through the capital Tuesday, independent radio station B-92 and the student-run Radio Index went off the air.

A government ministry statement said B-92 had been shut down for operating without permission. The station, always critical of Milosevic's autocratic rule, had applied several times — without success — for an official frequency.

Authorities began jamming B-92's signal more than a week ago. Radio Index, which could only be heard in central Belgrade, had its signal jammed on Tuesday.

The two stations had been the only ones to broadcast direct reports of the anti-government protests. Their silencing left many Serbians dependent on foreign short-wave services for in-

dependent reporting on the demonstrations.

"Now Serbs are under a total media blockade," said B-92's news director Veran Matic. "Milosevic is afraid of the truth, and he'll try to hide it as long as possible."

The station used its own Internet site to report the shutdown, and Matic said workers also would print leaflets and set up loudspeakers to get out the news.

The station is negotiating with the Voice of America and other international broadcasters to carry its programming, he said.

Opposition leaders chose to interpret the action against the radio stations as a victory — evidence that in their stand-off against Milosevic, the Serbian strongman had been the first to blink.

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