

THE PLAINS PRIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1994 30¢



SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE TENNIS TEAMS - Back row, left to right, Kassie Lowe, Gideon Traweek, Wilman St. Romain, Abraham Garcia, Chris Willett, Shawn Cullins and Isaac Trevino; third row, Christy Carter, Dolly Gonzalez, Wendy Beckham, Neomi Luna, Amber Richardson, Marcey House and Jennifer Lollar; second row, Cassie Dearing, Lindsey Six, Kayla Redman, Jolyne Burgess, Shawna Box, Shyloh Winn and LaCresha Johnson; front row, Dustin Brunson, Tommie McNabb and Clint Burrus.



PHS TEEN COURT MEMBERS - left to right, are Candy Mancha, Amber Bryan, Jennifer Cowart, Jennifer Day, Bellen Coronado, Tracy Bearden, Tammy Lowrey, Jennifer Earnest, Veronica Mancha, Heather McDonnell, Misty Willett and Johnny Davis.

FmHA to elect committee members

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) began accepting nominations April 5 for elections of county committee members under new rules that make it easier for farmers to qualify as candidates and to vote, Trueman Murdoch said today.

FmHA county committees perform a variety of duties for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's credit agency, including deciding whether an applicant is eligible for a farm loan.

"One important change broadens the definition of a farmer to anyone who has an interest in a farm in the county as owner, tenant or sharecropper," Murdoch said. "The new definition also includes the spouse of an eligible farmer. An old requirement that more than half of the candidate's income must come from the farm operation has been dropped."

"The nominating period has been extended to 45 days from the previous 25 days, thus allowing more opportunity for people to run for the committee," Murdoch said. "At least three eli-

...Continued to Page 2

DC Art Association to hold show & sale

The Denver City Art Association is having its Annual Art Show and Sale on April 19 through April 23, 1994.

The event will be held at 117 N. Main Street in Denver City, and will include paintings, graphics and photography.

Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, April 19 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The show will be open to the public Thursday, April 21, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; on Friday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will be a reception at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, at 4 p.m.

Cash prizes will be awarded to ribbon winners in original categories.

Anyone needing any further information can call Vivian Rice at (806) 592-3740 (after 5 p.m.) or Sue Holder at (806) 592-2960 (after 5 p.m.).

PHS Cowgirls compete in Seagraves Track Classic

Plains High School's Cowgirls competed April 1 in the Seagraves Track Classic. They tied for fourth place with 68 points.

Individual scoring included:

Rhonda Cowart - 1st, 300 meter dash, 28.20; 3rd, 100 meter hurdles, 17.24.

Amy Crutcher - 1st, 300 meter hurdles, 49.11.

Selena Humphrey - end, 3200 meter run, 14:59.17; 5th, 1600 meter

run, 6:47.58.

Bridget Bernal - 5th, 800 meter run, 2:49.62.

Misty Willett, Stacey Jones, Amber Bryan, Crutcher, - 4th, 400 meter relay, 54.52.

Willett, Yolanda Ward, Kristi Guetersloh, Bryan - 6th, 800 meter relay.

Denver City won the meet with 106 points; Sundown, 98 points; and Seagraves, 74.

Golf Card offered at County Course

The Lubbock Branch, Texas Society to Prevent Blindness, announces its 1994-95 Golf For Sight program. Twenty-five dollars buys a golf card good for one round of golf at each of the 24 courses listed on the card, subject to restrictions as listed. Courses include Yoakum County Golf Course between Plains and Denver City.

The card is available immediately and is valid through March 31, 1995. Proceeds benefit the work of the Texas Society to Prevent Blindness in the South Plains area. For more information call 806-797-6701.

FmHA

...Continued from Page 1

gible farmer voters, including the nominee, must sign the petition."

"Another important change this year is that one member of the committee can be an active FmHA farm borrower, or be eligible for an FmHA farm loan," Murdoch said. "Previously, this was not allowed."

Anyone interested in running for the committee can obtain a petition and other information from the FmHA county office at 110 North Main in Morton, Texas, Murdoch said.

Two J-S Flying Service

Aerial Applicators



(806) 456-3580

JACK COBB
456-7452

YOAKUM COUNTY AIRPORT
PLAINS, TX

MIKE COBB
456-7185

NOTICE OF RIGHT TO NOMINATE BY PETITION

The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) is accepting nominations for County Committee elections for Yoakum County. This notice is issued to inform eligible voters of the right to nominate candidates by petition. Copies of the petition and instructions on its completion can be obtained from your local FmHA office.

Persons nominated should have an interest in a farm as an owner, tenant, or sharecropper within the county or area in which activities of the county or area committee are carried out. They must be citizens of the United States or aliens lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence, and be well qualified for committee work. Spouses of those persons who meet the eligibility criteria are also eligible for nomination for election to the county committee. Nominations must be received in the Yoakum County office in Morton no later than May 27th. FmHA committee elections are open to all eligible voters without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, political affiliation, marital status, sex, and/or handicap.

WHEREAS Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, as amended, prohibits discrimination in housing and declares it a national policy to provide, within constitutional limits, for fair housing in the United States; and

WHEREAS The principle of Fair Housing is not only national law and national policy, but a fundamental human concept and entitlement for all Americans, and

WHEREAS The twenty-sixth anniversary of this National Fair Housing Law, during the month of April, provides an opportunity of all Americans to recognize that complete success in the goal of equal housing opportunity can only be accomplished with the help and cooperation of all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE CITY COUNCIL OF PLAINS, do proclaim April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Plains and do hereby urge all the citizens of this locality to become aware of and support the Fair Housing law.

IN WITNESS, WHEREOF, we have affixed our signatures and seal on this 4th day of April, 1994.

J. J. Miller
Title: Mayor

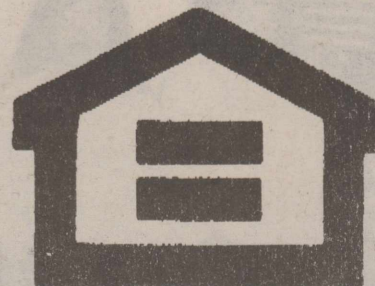
Witness:
Susan Paul
Title: City Secretary

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Fair Housing

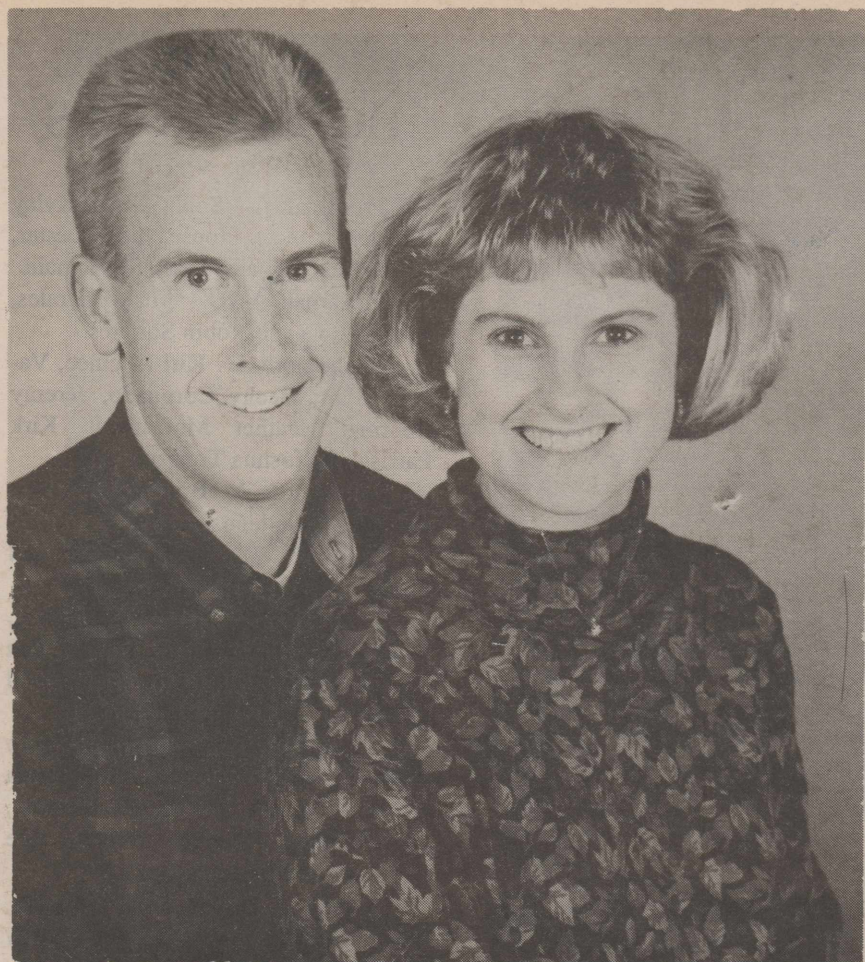
It's Right It's Fair

It's for Everyone! April is Fair Housing Month



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

Discrimination Complaint Hotline:
1-800-669-9777 (Toll Free)
1-800-927-9275 (TDD)



ROBERT ROY 'BOBBY' MONTGOMERY & SHELE PAIGE JONES

Marriage plans revealed

Shelle Paige Jones and Robert Roy "Bobby" Montgomery of College Station will be married May 21 in Bethany Lutheran Church in Tulsa, Okla.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Jerry and Paulette Jones of Tulsa, Okla. The prospective groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery of Sherman and Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick of Fannin. Grandparents of the bride are Ray and Dorothy Jones of Brownfield and Frances Fischer of Haskell. Great-grandmother is Mildred Jones of Plains.

Miss Jones has a 1993 BS Degree in Psychology from Texas A&M University and is an admissions counselor at Texas A&M. Montgomery has a 1992 BS Degree in Zoology from Texas A&M.

South Plains College to present 'Gospel Hour'

South Plains College will present the Second Annual Gospel Hour Sunday, April 17.

The concert of contemporary and southern gospel bluegrass and a capello music begins at 8 p.m. in the Tom T. Hall Production Studio, located in SPC's Creative Arts Building. Admission is free.

SPC featured ensembles will be Angel Band, under direction of Bonnie Dickinson; Voices by the Banks, directed by Cary Banks; The Better Land

Band, directed by Rusty Hudelson, and SPC Bluegrass, directed by Alan Munde.

They will perform a variety of gospel tunes, including "A Place Called Hope", "Just a Closer Walk with Thee", "Jesus Loves Me", "Swing Down Sweet Chariot", and "Shower the People with Love".

The first annual Gospel Hour drew more than 400 people to last year's concert, according to Dickinson, a commercial music instructor who is coordinating the event.



MR. & MRS. DAVID STOWE

Surprise party compliments David & Sarah Stowe

David and Sarah Stowe were honored recently with a surprise retirement party in the office of Yoakum County Coop Gin. More than 60 guests attended during the come-and-go hours of 9 to 5.

A special guest was their son, Gary Stowe.

The honorees also received numerous phone call greetings and faxes congratulating them on 27 years of hard work and dedication.

Refreshments were served from a table graced with an arrangement of Sonia roses and yellow daisies in a clay pot. Party colors were shades of green and peach.

The Stowes say their retirement plans call for a move to Lubbock, going fishing and being near their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hostesses were Rebecca Forbus, Faye Bearden, Pat McNabb, Donna Bowers and Ty Earl and Linda Powell.

★ ★ ★ ELECT ★ ★ ★

Brad Palmer

May 7, 1994

Place 6 (At Large)
Plains Independent School District
Board of Trustees

Early voting begins April 18, 1994

Pol. Adv. Paid For By Brad Palmer, Box 28, Plains, TX 79355

FREE **BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
PLAINS LIBRARY

11:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon

For more information call: 592-7066



SPC JOURNALISM WINNERS - Five staffers of South Plains College's Plainsman Press newspaper earned honors at the recent Rocky Mountain College Media Association convention in Denver. Seated from left are reporter Dwayne Isbell of Lubbock 18-year-old computer science freshman who won third in persuasive writing; ads manager, April Day of Plains, 19-year-old mass communications major who won third in newswriting; and business manager, Ben Gonzalez of Levelland, 19-year-old freshman mass communications major who won second in newswriting. Standing from left are entertainment editor Kyle Karpe of Lubbock, 21-year-old sophomore political science major who won first and third for movie reviews; photo editor Wendy McCrory of Reese Air Force Base, sophomore mass communications major who won first in feature photography and second in mug shot category; and cartoonist Kris Hulse of Lubbock, 22-year-old math and physical education major who won third for an editorial cartoon. (SPC Photo)

Pre-Registration set April 18-19 for Pre-K & Kindergarten students

Plains Independent School District will hold Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten pre-registration from 9:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., on Monday and Tuesday, April 18 and 19, 1994. Parents should report to Plains Elementary School for registration and bring appropriate documents as listed. It is not necessary for children to be present at registration.

Pre-Kindergarten: There are certain guidelines which must be met for a student to be enrolled in our pre-kindergarten program. Any child who

will be four years old on or before Sept. 1, 1994, may qualify for pre-kindergarten providing all guidelines are met. When registering, please bring child's birth certificate, social security number, immunization record, and proof of family income. Proof of income may be a recent pay check stub, or food stamp eligibility statement.

We must have 15 qualifying students to be able to offer this program. If you know of a child in our community who may qualify, please pass this information on to the parents.

Kindergarten: To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 1994. Please bring a birth certificate, immunization record, and social security number for each child enrolling. Students currently enrolled in Pre-K do not need to pre-register.

If you know of a child who may qualify for kindergarten, please pass this information on to the parents. It is very important that we know how many children will be in our kindergarten classes for the 1994-95 so that we may properly plan for the 1994-95 school year.

Smith selected 'All American'

Jason Smith, son of Hershel and Debbie Smith, has been named All American in National Junior College indoor and field track competition at Manhattan, Ks.

A sophomore at South Plains Junior College in Levelland, he qualified in distance medley relay to win the All American honor. He placed fourth in the two mile relay and also ran the one mile relay and qualified for the 800 meter run.

He is a physical therapy major at SPC and plans to enter Lubbock Christian University this fall on a track scholarship.

Hershel Smith traveled to Kansas to attend the event and filmed the meet for South Plains College.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLLS

Freshman A - Sonia Avila, Kyley Bearden, Yancey House, Jacob Lester, Kristy McClure and Tessa St. Romain.

Freshman A-1B - Mary Morales, Lyndi Rowe and Robin Squyres.

Sophomore A - Kiri Ancinec, Valerie Blair, Becky Coronado, Jeremy Dearing, Heather McDonnell, Kirk Parrish and Joshua Traweek.

Sophomore A-1B - Johnny Davis and Hector Gallegos.

Junior A - Jennifer Earnest and Shannon Ward.

Junior A-1B - Dusty Beckham, Victor Bernal, Stacey Jones, Ken McAdams, Brad McMinn and Ladd Winn.

Senior A - Heather Bowlin, Roseo Canales, Jennifer Cowart, Rhonda Cowart, Jennifer Day, Lenny Morrow, Jay Rushing, Shandy Willett, Ace Williams and Brian Wilson.

Senior A-1B - Shea Baucom, Tracy Bearden, Tony Bonnette, Amy Crutcher, Gabe Flores, Emma Gonzales, Tammy Lowrey, Candy Mancha and Scotty Rains.

JUNIOR HIGH HONOR ROLLS

Seventh Grade A - Maranda Box, Dustin Brunson, Clint Burrus, Marcey House, Tandy Jones, Tony Lazos, Tommie McNabb and Lisa Parrish.

Seventh Grade A-1B - Joshua Bayer, Cassie Dearing, LaCresha Johnson and Matt Morgan.

Eighth Grade A - Vicki Bayer, Heath Bowlin, Shawna Box, Yvonne Gonzales, Gideon Traweek and Sandi Warren.

Eighth Grade A-1B - Shawn Cullins, Kassie Lowe and Conchetta San Filippo.

Senior girls, moms invited to learn about 'rush'

The Lubbock Alumnae Panhellenic Association invites all graduating senior girls to attend Greek Peek, Sunday, May 1, at the Sigma Nu Fraternity Lodge, #2 Greek Circle (14th and Quaker Ave.) beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Greek Peek is an opportunity for graduating seniors and their mothers to learn more about sorority life in the 90s. Alumnae and collegiate sorority representatives will be present to answer any questions and to give specific information about rush.

This will be an excellent opportunity for high school seniors to learn about the preparations and procedures for sorority rush at any university.

All area senior girls and their mothers are encouraged to attend this informative and fun event. Contact your senior girl sponsor at your high school for a rush information form.

For more information about Greek Peek, contact Liane Locke, 794-1403 or Jan Broome, 799-1129.

**YOAKUM COUNTY
FLORIST & GIFTS**

592-8067
DENVER CITY



MARTHA PALMER

Kitchen Korner

"I grew up under my mother's feet in the kitchen," claims Martha Palmer. "I've always loved to cook and helped cook large meals for brandings and smaller ones for the family."

Martha adds, "My mother, Dillie Fitzgerald, taught me most everything I know about cooking. Cooking is one of my hobbies."

A lifetime resident of Plains, Martha and her husband, Jack, are parents of two sons. Brad and his wife, Charlotte, live in Plains. Brent makes his home in Hobbs, N.M. The Palmers are proud grandparents of two grandchildren, Anne and Bradley.

"My life revolves around church, home and family," says Martha. "We enjoy watching our grandchildren play basketball and sons coaching."

Martha also enjoys flower arranging. The Palmers attend Hillside Church of Christ.

Martha shares recipes for a yummy cake (forget the calories!) and a tasty main dish.

ALMOND JOY CAKE

1 box chocolate cake mix with pudding
Mix and bake as directed

For filling:

1 c evaporated milk
1 c sugar
24 lg marshmallows
14 oz can coconut

Combine milk and sugar; add marshmallows and heat until melted. Add coconut. Pour over cake while filling and cake are hot.

For topping:

1 1/2 c sugar
1 c canned milk
1/2 c margarine
1 1/2 c chocolate chips

Combine sugar, milk and margarine; bring to boil. Add chips and stir until melted. Add 1 c chopped nuts. Pour over warm cake. Keeps well in refrigerator.

CHICKEN 'N' BROCCOLI PIE

1 pkg frozen broccoli (or 1 bunch fresh)

3 c shredded cheddar cheese
1 1/2 c boned chicken
2/3 c chopped onion
1 1/2 c milk
3 eggs
3/4 c Bisquick
3/4 t salt
1/4 t pepper

Layer broccoli, chicken and 2 c cheese and onion in large pie shell. Mix and beat remaining ingredients and pour over rest. Sprinkler remaining cheese on top. Bake at 350 degrees until firm.

Tsa Mo Ga Club studys 'Safety on the Highway'

Tsa Mo Ga Study Club met in regular session March 28 with eleven members attending.

The program was given by Mrs. Toni Jones on Safety of the Highway. She gave rules and regulations from the handbook on Drivers Safety Manual and encourage the club members to review highway rules, be alert while driving and to drive defensively. The audience was reminded that defensive driving courses are offered to the public to increase public awareness of highway safety issues, to reduce highway injury and death and to increase vehicle occupant safety.

Mrs. Bonnie Earnest presented "Bicycle Safety" with a skit using her bicycle to point out the parts of the bicycle and the care needed. A "Quick Quiz" was given on bike driving knowledge, followed by distribution of "Bicycle Driver Rules" brochures prepared by the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Mrs. Sarah Shelton, elected delegate to the 34th Caprock District of General and Texas Federations of Women's Clubs, attended the convention March 26 at the Sheraton Inn in Lubbock, reporting that there were 94 ladies attending from 33 clubs in 23

Water conservation program given for State Line Club

Gary Walker of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District presented a program on water conservation March 26 for members of State Line Family and Community Education Club. He distributed maps indicating the decline of the underground water table and offered suggestions on how to conserve water. He stated water can be tested at his office free of charge.

Announcements were made that

Sidney Murphy will attend the District 2 FCE meeting in Crosbyton April 7 with Margaret Box as alternate. Next club meeting will be at 10 a.m. April 23 when delegates will report on the district meeting. Joan Chandler will present a program, "Sewing Shortcuts", April 26 in the clubroom.

Attending were Toni Jones, Carol Beth Box, Gale McDonnell, Dolores Davis, Pam Redman, Sheri McGinty and Dene Rafferty.

Art Association plans 'Potluck Potpourri'

Yoakum County Art Association members met April 5 in the clubroom. Plans were made for a May 3 "Potluck Potpourri" in the community building.

Mae Barnett will compile tasting recipes to be distributed at the affair. Each member of the Art Association will bring a dish to be tasted and invite a friend who might like to join the art club.

Jimmie Bayer asked for members to register for the upcoming workshop by Jean Green of Olton, to be held in the clubroom Saturday, April 23 from 9 to 4:30; and the June 4 workshop by Kay Houston of Morton.

A nominating committee of Betty Estep, Eileen Fillipp and Linda Powell was appointed.

Ruth Taylor directed a program on making greeting cards. She states that she prefers lightweight paper. She demonstrated how to make the batik effect and cut out designs using a craft knife.

"I've always made my own cards," she stated. "Cards can be used as a gift in itself."

She also displayed water color pencils.

Sandwiches, chips, carrot sticks and cookies were served by Ms. Taylor and Barnett.

SCHOOL EVENTS

TUESDAY - Senior Supper - First Baptist Church - 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY - High School Cheerleader Tryouts

THURSDAY - Regional U.I.L. - Levelland

FRIDAY - Regional U.I.L. Continues - Levelland; Tennis - District Tournament - Jr. High - Levelland

SATURDAY - Tennis - District Tournament continues; Track - Regional Qualifier Meet - Levelland; Tennis - Regional Qualifiers - TBA

SCHOOL MENU

BREAKFAST

MONDAY - Oatmeal, cinnamon toast, grape juice and milk.

TUESDAY - Donuts, toast, apple juice and milk.

WEDNESDAY - Sausage, toast, orange juice and milk.

THURSDAY - Pancakes w/syrup, fruit punch and milk.

FRIDAY - Toast, cold cereal, orange/pineapple juice and milk.

LUNCH

MONDAY - Burritos, Spanish rice, combination salad, crackers, pears and milk.

TUESDAY - Taco salad w/cheese, pinto beans, lettuce and tomatoes, cornbread, peach cobbler and milk.

WEDNESDAY - Hamburger, lettuce, pickles, onions, potato chips, chilled fruit, coconut cookies and milk.

THURSDAY - Pizza w/extra cheese, corn, garden salad, hot rolls, applesauce and milk.

FRIDAY - Fried chicken w/gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, hot rolls, orange Jell-O and milk.

towns in the area. LaDonna Bushman of the Avalanche-Journal advertising department welcomed the participants to Lubbock.

Mrs. Dorothy Kemp, of Corpus Christi, state president-elect, installed the new officers.

In the Arts and Crafts Show, Mrs. Wilma Powell won a blue ribbon for her needlepoint and her china painting. A beautiful crochet baby shawl was exhibited in the craft show from the Valerie Winn Collection.

The following awards were announced to the convention members of Tsa Mo Ga Study Club - MD Anderson, 2nd; Yearbook Cover, first; Content, 97th; GFWC Fundraising, 3rd; GFWC-TFWS Clubwoman Subscriptions, 4th; TFWS President's Special Project/S.O.A.R., 3rd; Homelife-Health, 1st; Homelife-Economics, 4th; Trade and Aid, 2nd; Mrs. Shelton noted there were 5 first places, 4 seconds, 3 thirds, and 2 fourths.

The Easter theme was carried out in the decorations. Refreshments were served from a table covered with a linen cutwork cloth by hostesses Wilma Powell and Connie McWhirter.

Homestead exemptions can reduce tax bills

Homeowners can reduce their property tax bills in 1994 by taking advantage of exemptions. Application forms are available at the Yoakum County Appraisal District Office.

Chief Appraiser Sandra Stephens informs homeowners that Texas law allows them to file a one-time application for home exemptions. These exemptions reduce the appraised value of the home.

Property owners who have never received exemptions on their homes in which they were living on January 1, 1994, and those who became 65 or disabled during 1993, must apply this year to receive exemptions for 1994. Homeowners must file signed, completed applications at the appraisal office by April 30.

A homeowner's principal residence and yard are considered the residence homestead. It can include up to 20 acres of land and improvements (buildings), such as a swimming pool, greenhouse or other structure, as long as the owner uses them for residential purposes.

Stephens said that a property must meet four tests set by law to qualify for the residence homestead exemption. The person or persons claiming the exemption must own the property on January 1; the property must be designed or adapted for human residence; the owner must use the property as a residence; and the property must be the principal residence of an owner who qualifies for the exemption.

A mobile home, even on leased land, can qualify for the exemption if it meets the four tests.

"A property owner can still qualify for the homestead exemption if part of the residence is rented out or used for other purposes, such as a home business," Stephens said. "And the home will not lose its exemption if the owner moves away temporarily, so long as he or she intends to return and doesn't claim another homestead exemption elsewhere."

Texas law provides several types of exemptions for homeowners. For school tax purposes, there is a \$5,000 general homestead exemption for all homeowners and an additional \$10,000 exemption for those 65 or older or disabled.

The school tax exemption for those 65 or older provides a special property tax "ceiling" for school taxes. While the market value of an elderly person's home may fluctuate with the market, the school taxes cannot increase about the tax amount in the first year that person qualified for the exemption.

The ceiling can increase, however, if the owner adds an improvement, other than normal maintenance and repair. When that happens, the new improvement is taxed at its current market value and the current tax rates. The new taxes are added to the previous tax ceiling to create a new ceiling.

If an elderly homeowner dies, the surviving spouse may apply to keep

the tax ceiling if the spouse was at least 55 years of age when the older spouse died.

The ceiling does not apply to taxes levied by the county, city or other taxing units. An elderly homeowner who has not previously received the over-65 exemption must apply for it before April 30, Stephens said. To qualify, the homeowner must be 65 or older on Jan. 1, 1994.

Counties must offer a \$3,000 general homestead exemption on the portion of the county tax levied for farm-to-market roads or flood control.

Any taxing unit's governing body may grant an additional optional exemption on the homesteads of disabled or elderly residents, or both.

Local farmer featured in March magazine

Larry Morrow, who farms near Plains, was featured in an article written by Kim Allen in the March 1994 issue of Progressive Farmer.

In the article, Morrow is commended for converting his old water-driven sprinkler system to an electrically-driven low-energy precision application (LEPA) system, which he says dramatically reduced irrigation expenses.

Water usage was down by about 15%; horsepower requirements and fuel bills, 50%. Morrow stated that LEPA gave him better control of his water and he did a better job of getting it to the crop when it needed it and that helped his yields.

He also applies fertilizer through his sprinkler system. Drop tubes set about 12 inches off the ground give precise placement of water and liquid fertilizer. He uses quad nozzles that allow him to adjust spray patterns to suit plant needs.

Morrow has also lowered equipment operating costs by gradually converting to a conservation tillage program and he is meeting conservation compliance guidelines.

Overall, Morrow estimates that he spend an average of \$50 per acre less on his cotton now, compared with his costs several years ago.

Also featured in the March 1994 issue is SCS district conservationist Mario Avila. He is pictured with a Denver City farmer, David Turnbough.

Taxing units may also offer a local-option exemption based on a percentage of a home's appraised value. In 1994, any taxing unit can exempt up to 20 percent of the value of each qualified homestead. No matter what percentage the taxing unit adopts, the dollar amount for any homestead exemption must be at least \$5,000.

The taxing unit in Yoakum County that grants the percentage homestead exemption is Plains ISD with 20% exemption.

For more information, homeowners may contact the Yoakum County Appraisal District at 500 10th Street, Box 748, Plains, Texas 79355 or call 806-456-7101.

FILMTIME

Filmtime youngsters Wednesday helped celebrate Colby Wilmeth's fifth birthday. His father brought doughnuts and Sprite softdrink for refreshments.

Film of the day was "Let's Give Kitty a Bath". "The Very Quiet Cricket" was read.

Others attending were Cody Mayes, Joani Bell, Hunter and Holden Welch, Amber Friesen, Lauren Hise, Katie Winn, Lauren Davis, Nichole and Chris Loya, Jacob Brink, Dakota and Landon Earnest, Mandi Ramirez, Dennis and Jonathan Penner and Ryan Crump.

A gigantic Easter Egg Hunt was held during Filmtime March 30. Six hundred forty eight eggs were hidden on the courthouse square where the grass is lush and green.

A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$5,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$45,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owned a home on January 1st (and used it as their primary residence on that date) is entitled to a **\$5,000 homestead exemption** to lower their school taxes this year... and it doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. (Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.)

Are other exemptions available?

If you're **disabled**—or if you're **65 years old or older**—you are entitled to an **additional \$10,000 school tax exemption** on your home. And if you qualify for the over-65 exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. (The ceiling does not apply to county or city property taxes, and those entities may offer other exemptions.)

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 1993, you won't need to reapply for 1994 unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file for an exemption for 1994. And if you **turned 65 or became disabled** during 1993, you need to file for the additional exemptions.

When and where should I file?

File applications by **April 30** at your appraisal district office.

If you need more time, contact us at:

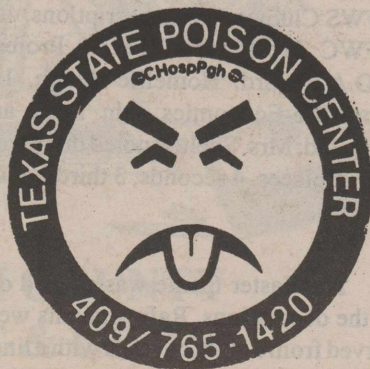
YOAKUM COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
500 10th STREET
BOX 748
PLAINS, TEXAS 79355
(806) 456-7101

For more information, stop in or call for a free copy of
"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies, Responsibilities"

Or contact:

Comptroller's Property Tax Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin TX 78711-3528

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.



Behind the Headlines

by Philip C. Clarke

Congress once again has rejected a balanced budget amendment. Critics argued it would mean higher taxes and fewer government programs. But as we are getting ready for April 15th - IRS deadline day - many taxpayers are complaining that the government already is costing far too much.

By Philip C. Clarke

Not since the Great Depression of the 1930's has our democratic form of government seemed so "stressed out," to use a popular phrase. Ever higher taxes, reckless federal spending, burgeoning budget and trade deficits, rising crime and social ills and proliferating political and financial scandals all combine to undermine public trust. Some cynics see the American dream itself disappearing under an avalanche of greed and corruption.

Scenarios of doomsday are nothing new. Throughout history, our Republic has often been beset by crises, large and small. Yet, for all its faults, our democratic system has managed to overcome adversity and to survive, even prosper. Nonetheless, hyperbole aside, today's problems require a renewal of sacrifice and common endeavor, qualities that have served us well in past times of trouble. As John F. Kennedy reminded Americans more than three decades ago, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Over two centuries ago, John Adams, one of our Founding Fathers, offered this cautionary advice: "We must consider the possibility that too many Americans want other things more than they want freedom..." Perhaps we still take our freedoms too much for granted. And wouldn't it be well to ask whether selfishness too frequently blinds us to the common good and to the vision of an America that is heedful to the need of all its citizens?

In his insightful America's Future pamphlet, American Freedom: The Next 200 Years, journalist and scholar Allan Brownfeld notes that "voters say they are against big government and oppose inflation and deficit spending. But when it comes to their own particular share, they act in a different manner entirely." Brownfeld quotes former Minnesota Congressman Walter Judd on an exchange he once had with a Republican businessman from his district. Judd, a conservative Republican, said the businessman normally denounced deficit spending, but he berated the Congressman for voting against a bill which would have brought several million federal dollars into his city. Said Judd: "My years in public life have taught me that politicians and citizens alike invariably claim that government spending should be restrained - except where the restraints cut off federal dollars flowing into their cities, their businesses, or their pocketbooks..."

Walter Judd died the other day at the age of 95. But his words of wisdom remain as timely as ever. And it was the British historian Alexander Tytler, who once said: "A democracy...can only exist until the voters discover they can vote themselves largess out of the public treasury. From that moment on, the majority always votes for the candidates promising the most benefits from the public treasury - with the result that democracy collapses over a loose fiscal policy, always to be followed by a dictatorship."

To which our contemporary, Allan Brownfeld, adds, "If freedom is to be preserved, Americans must rediscover the values upon which it rests - self-reliance, individualism, and a jealous preservation of the natural rights which government does not bestow but which (in a free system) it should respect and with which it should not interfere. If we insist upon asking government to do things for us, we will soon learn that it is, instead, doing things to us."

"Can freedom survive into the future?" asks Brownfeld. "Our answer must be, yes, it can, but only if we work very hard at seeing to it that the conditions and prerequisites for freedom continue to exist."

The biggest step you can take is the one you take when you meet the other person halfway.



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Congress fumbles chance to tighten its own belt

Over the past ten years, the U.S. Congress has increased its budget at double the rate of inflation. In 1983, \$1.3 billion was spent to operate this nation's legislative branch. That total grew drastically to \$2.3 billion last year. I do not think the Senate or House of Representatives accomplished much more in 1993 than they did ten years earlier, so I do not see why \$1 billion more is justified.

It now takes 38,000 people to run our Capitol and fund Congress. As I travel throughout Texas, I hear taxpayers say government should live within its means, just like we do. I agree. That's the kind of perspective we all deal with everyday in operating our personal and business budgets.

An Amendment I offered to the recently passed 1995 Budget Resolution would have given Congress an opportunity to finally tighten its own belt. The legislation would have cut overall legislative branch appropriations by 7.5 percent, reducing fiscal year 1995's budget by \$200 million. Over the next five years, it would have cut \$2.4 billion in Congressional overhead.

A 7.5 percent cut in Congress will not harm our government's ability to defend our shores, or care for the sick and needy.

I have cut the funds my own Senate office is allocated by 20 percent, and our office serves one of the largest and most populous states in the nation. The reduction has not and will not prevent us from doing our job in Washington or back in Texas.

Let me give you a comparison. My hometown of LaMarque, in Galveston County, is a community of 14,258 honest, hard working people who attend church, raise their children and pay their taxes. They have solid common sense. Not a single one of them could be convinced that it is necessary to have more than double the population of their city to operate the U.S. Capitol complex. Their whole city budget is \$7.2 million and yet it takes \$2.3 billion to fund Congress and the Capitol.

I doubt that our founding fathers could have envisioned Congress' staff growing to 38,000 people. That's larger than the combined legislative staffs of Canada, Great Britain, Germany and France.

Although my amendment failed passage by a vote of 50-48, it attracted some strong support. The issue of cutting unnecessary government spending will not go away. The Congress must demonstrate leadership in reducing expenditures, and I'm confident my amendment will eventually pass — if not before this fall's elections, then sometime after the voters speak.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

WE NOW HAVE:

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BAYER LUMBER

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LEGAL NOTICE

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees hereby gives notice of an election to be held on May 7, 1994, for the purpose of electing three trustees (District 1, District 5, and At-Large 6) for full three-year terms; and Option 4 to educate students of other school districts with local tax revenues. Absentee voting by personal appearance will begin on April 18, 1994, and continue through May 3, 1994, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on each day which is not a Saturday, Sunday or an official state holiday. Absentee voting in person will be conducted at Plains I.S.D. Administration Office, 1000 10th Street, Plains, Texas. Applications for absentee ballots by mail should be mailed to Wadonna Davis, Plains I.S.D., P.O. Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. The polling place for all precincts will be the lobby of the Plains School Auditorium from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

2/2tc

FOR SALE

FOR SALE: DP Aerodyne exercise bicycle, like new. Excellent condition. \$100, or best offer. Call Joe or Debbie Alcorta 806-285-3133.

Librarians attend workshop

Latrell McDonnell and Ann Greer attended a two-day workshop for WTLS librarians last week in Big Spring. Speakers included Dr. Julie Todaro of Austin Community College and Traphene Hickman of Cedar Hill City - County Library.

Dr. Todaro spoke on Management Workshop with Ms. Hickman addressing the subject of budgeting.

Belinda Boon, Continuing Education Consultant of Texas State Library, showed a video presentation, Arch Lustberg on Effective Communications Techniques. Lustberg lists ideas for communication tools, voice, body and face and controlling the confrontation. He gave "do's and don't's"

of a skilled speaker, citing the need for humor along with serious instructions.



**Spring
Into Summer
With
A Safety
Check.**

Spring cleaning.
Outdoor repair work.
Summer fun.

No matter how you start the spring-summer season, the first thing to complete is a safety check.

If you're using power tools and cleaning equipment outdoors, make sure cords are the three-wire kind and are connected to a ground fault interrupter-protected circuit.

Be careful working with your antennas for TV and CB radios. Look skyward to make sure there is plenty of clearance to avoid contact with power wires.

And if the kids go kite-flying or plan to build a tree house, check carefully to make sure there are no power lines nearby.

Contact us if you have any questions on how to help you spring into summer as safely as possible.

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NOTICE

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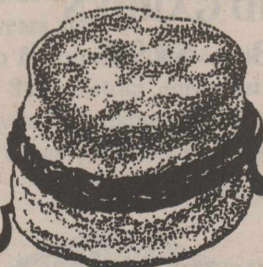
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