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Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V, Issue 12, Wednesday Dec. 2, 1998



Legislators Outline Issues For Legislative Session

Two state lawmakers predicted Tuesday that property tax relief and funding for public education will be among the issues that the Legislature tackles in 1999.

Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, and Rep. Gary Walker, R-Plains, made those observations following a reception at South Plains College in Levelland.

Duncan said that tax relief for Texas property owners and education would be on the top of the agenda when the Legislature convenes Jan. 12.

But he said the state surplus - which he pegged at \$2 billion, not the \$3.7 billion that some have predicted - would not go far.

"The two billion dollars is not enough to fund what everyone wants," he said.

Duncan said that he and Walker would push their fellow lawmakers to appropriate \$250 million for boll weevil eradication programs for Texas farmers.

Walker said that any funding cut for public education, including higher education, are unlikely.

"I don't think we're going to see a funding cut in any area," he said.

Asked about retirement benefits for teachers, Walker said he would support a bill that in-

creases the multiplier for retired teachers from Precinct 2 to 2.25 percent.

"I think we need to do something to try to keep teachers in for longer periods of time," he said. "The 2.25 indicator will be on the table for discussion."

He said he would not become involved in the issue of teacher pay raises, though.

Walker, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee, said he favors a change in the so-called Robin Hood funding for school districts.

The lawmaker said he would support a measure to increase the level of funding in the Robin Hood equation from \$280,000 to \$310,000 per student wealth.

Such a measure would allow property-rich school districts like Plains to keep "a little more" of their money, he said.

Under the current system, more than 90 property-rich school districts in Texas must share part of their money with poorer districts.

Walker noted that Robin Hood funding affects only about \$80 million in public school dollars.

The state currently funds about \$19 billion over a two-year period for public education, he said.

Duncan said it was unlikely that the Legislature would look at the idea of establishing a state

salary scale for other employees in the public school system.

"I think most members of the Legislature feel we're administrative-heavy anyway," he told a questioner. "I think if you tried to do that, you'd open up a real can of worms."

Duncan said that, if legislators could agree on a way to fund step salary increases for teachers, it would help stabilize the property tax issue in the state.

"That's what is driving a lot of school districts in having to raise their property tax rates," he said.

Duncan said that he and Walker both oppose the idea of school vouchers, that many Republicans have favored across the state.

"I don't know why the Republican Party has taken on the voucher issue," he said. "Public education has served us well."

The state senator said that more will be heard about a concept called the Agri-Tech Corridor. The new program focuses on rural economic development, especially value-added industries, Duncan said.

It affects a 100-mile wide area, including Levelland, that extends south from Plainview to San Antonio, he said.

"We're going to try and develop that," Duncan remarked.

Still doubt presence of big 'Muleys' in Yoakum County?

Special five day hunt again produces big deer trophies



Michael Cobb displays massive head and rack of nice mule deer taken by Clark Beard of Rockwall on the fourth day of hunt. The buck, a 13 pointer, weighed an estimated 270 pounds field dressed, and was killed on Section 65, in the shinnery covered sandhills in the northern part of Yoakum County.

The second annual five day mule deer hunt in a six county area of the South Plains drew to a close last week, and a number of excellent trophy bucks were harvested from all areas.

In a telephone interview Monday with Jay Oyler Game Warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, he said "Good mule deer bucks weighing between 300 to 350 pounds were taken in Yoakum, Bailey, Lamb, Hockley, Terry and the western portion of Andrews Counties."

Oyler said no official count of the total animals harvested was available at press time.

Oyler said he saw an impressive buck killed by Joe Kinman of Denver City which, when field dressed, weighed around 300 pounds. The buck's 5x5 rack of horns had an inside measurement of 28 inches.

Warden Oyler said the five day hunt was not without some unfortunate events. He said he apprehended one hunter who illegally killed an antelope. "All he

did when he shot it was cut it's backstrap out. If he'd been able to keep it, it would have made for some very, very expensive eating."

Oyler said word of the excellent mule deer specimens must be spreading. He encountered hunters from New Mexico, Texas, California and New York during the five day hunt. Some dozen Parks and Wildlife officers patrolled the hunt area this year.

'98 harvest nears end, producers already prepping land for '99



While a small amount of cotton, milo, chili peppers and possibly peanuts remain ungathered about the county, the 1998 crop is making it's last gasp. Despite a horrific drought, staggering commodity prices and insect pests throughout the year, area producers remain upbeat and optimistic enough to be thinking of NEXT YEAR. The above photo shows listed rows being laid out, followed by a large drill sowing wheat for the '99 crop.



Guilty plea to drug delivery

In 121st Judicial District Court November 24, Jamie Christin Leach, 19, pled guilty to delivery of marijuana, enhanced. Judge Kelly G. Moore presided in the case.

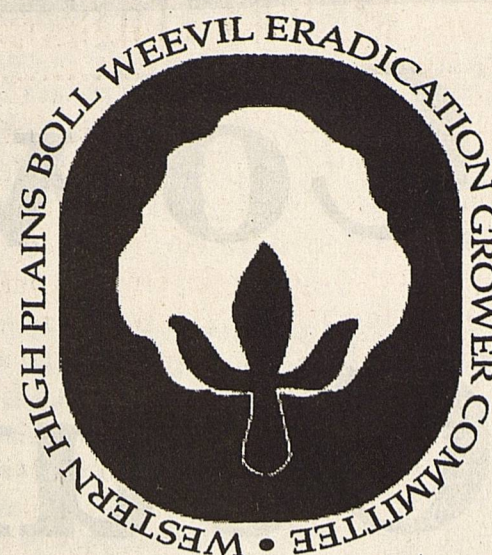
Her five year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. She was fined \$1000, must pay \$186 court costs, \$250 attorney fees, and \$280 restitution to DPS. She will undergo

substance abuse analysis and participate in any treatment deemed necessary. She will serve 160 hours community service, and complete the drug offenders program. She was represented by Attorney Bonnie Ericson, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Christmas Is Coming!
The Annual Community
Christmas Tree Lighting
will take place in Pioneer Plaza
Wednesday, Dec. 2, 5:45 p.m.
KIDS.... bring a can (or more!) of food, have your picture taken with Santa Claus!



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Ronnie Askew
Chris Winn
Ronnie Johnson
Jerry Hartman
Glen Martin
Dell Knight

Question:
Who Will Run The
WHP Program?

Answer:
The Texas Boll Weevil
Eradication Foundation
with oversight from the
WHP Boll Weevil
Grower Steering
Committee.

Question:
Have We Voted On
This Before?

Answer:
No, All previous votes
regarding the boll weevil
have been on suppression
programs. This is an
Eradication
Program.

Question:
How Much Will
Eradication Cost?

Answer:
\$6/ Land Acre-Dryland
&
\$12/Land Acre-Irrigated
Assessment collections
will last no more
than 10 years.

Question:
Where Will WHP
Assessment Money
Be Spent?

Answer:
All assessments collected
in the zone will STAY in
the WHP Program.
Grower funds cannot
be transferred
between zones.

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Denver City Bank
Lamesa National Bank
Brownfield Compress
Sam Stevens Inc.
Farmers Cooperative Compress

Ocho Gin
Fiber-Tex Gin
Brownfield Gin Co.
Johnson Gin
Meadow Farmers Coop Gin
Needmore Gin Inc.
Southwest Cotton Growers
Terry County Coop Gin
T & S Gin
West Gin
Windham Coop Gin
Brownfield Irrigation
Lov-Cot Compress
Mustang Chevrolet
Lamesa Cotton Oil

Question:
Can I Afford This
Assessment?

Answer:
YES, The WHP program
will not be funded only
by producers. State and
Federal funds must be
available before
eradication can
begin.

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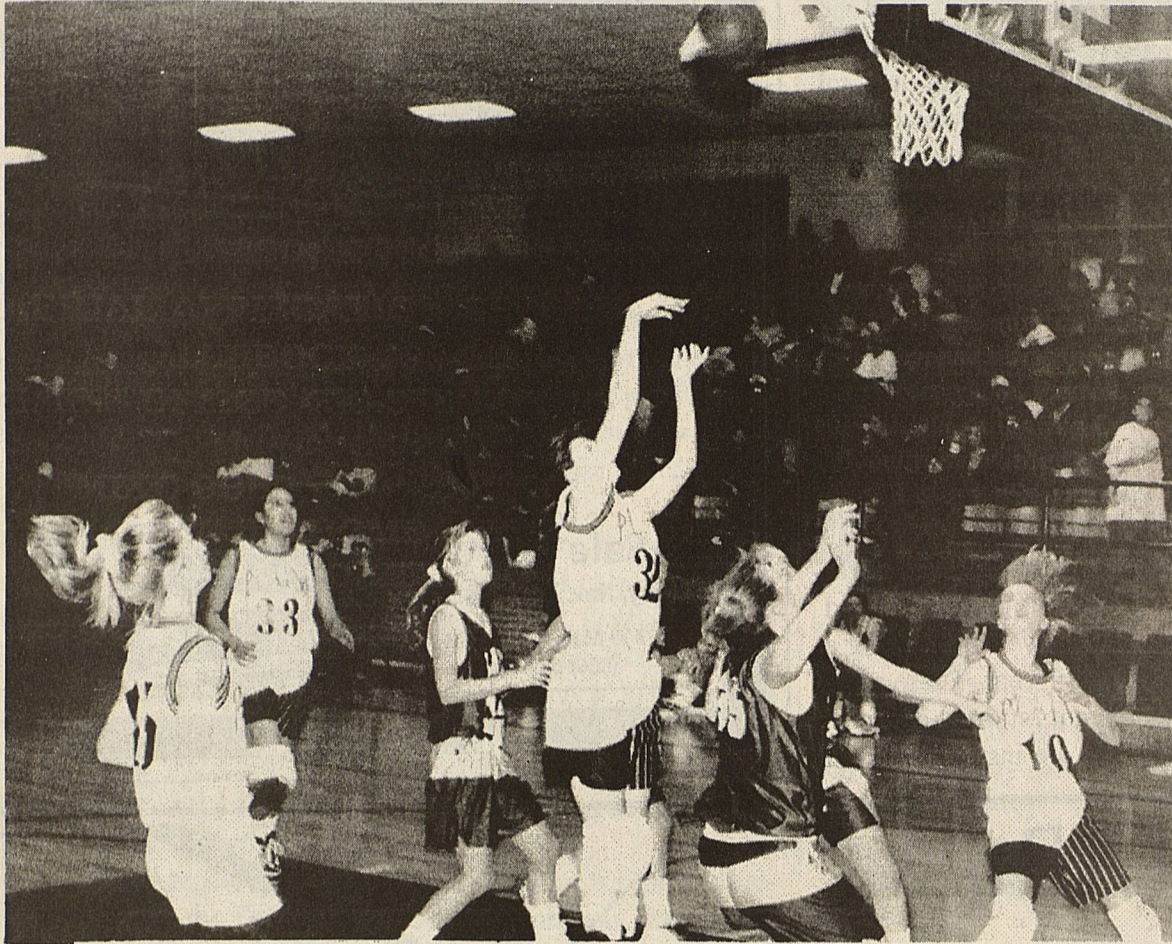
If You Have Questions about the Western High Plains
Boll Weevil Eradication Proposal, Please Contact:
The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation
1-800-687-1212

PISD Basketball Action

Junior High:
 7th Lady Wranglers - The youngest Junior High girls had a very rough opening of their season when they took on Tahoka last week, falling 7-47. Only players reaching the score book were Carmen Ponce 3, Helen Neufeld and Sarah Martinez 2 each. Coach Haragan recognized Ashley

Vantine for her consistency, and the girls would continue to work hard to improve.
 8th Lady Wranglers - Unavailable at press time.
 7th Wranglers - The younger boys utilized good defense to down Tahoka 48-32. Richard Diaz tallied 19 points, Trent May had 18, Mike Lopez and Armando Ramirez 4 each,

Ryan Martinez 2, Larry Escobar 1.
 8th Wranglers - In their opener, the 8th boys fell to Tahoka 38-26. They managed only 13 points the first three quarters, but came on strong for another 13 in the final period. High scorers included Jonathan Dela Rosa 8, Rene Luna 6, and Angel Ruiz 5.

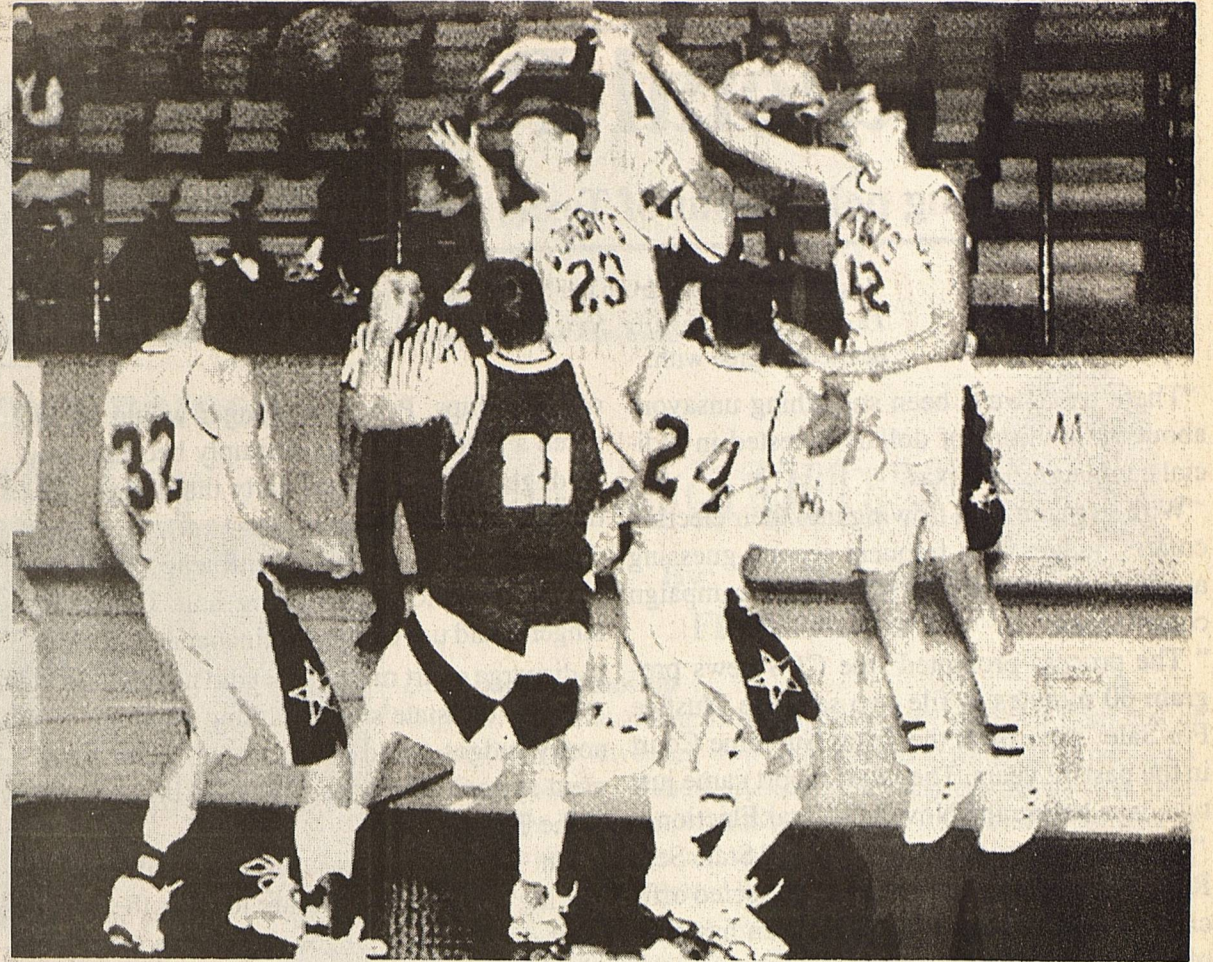


Kim Newland pops one up, Anne Palmer, Jessica Flores and Krystle Blundell come up to help

JV Cowgirls: The younger Cowgirls had tough going against Abernathy, falling 55-15. Annaliesa O'Quinn topped scoring with 6 points, Chelsi Wagnon had 4, Lexi Warren and Michaela Traweek 2 each.
 Lexi had 3 steals and 2 rebounds, Chelsi 3 rebounds, Annaliesa 4 rebounds.
 The JV girls had better luck against Morton, winning 28-7. An effective full court press

helped in the win. Tanya Vasquez had 10 points, Annaliesa 6, and Kim Willis 4
Varsity Cowgirls - The Cowgirls found Abernathy too strong to handle, falling 73-28. They could only manage 33% of their shots from the floor. Kimberly Newland was top scorer with 11 points, Candace Bowers had 6, Krystle Blundell 5, Maranda Box 4, Anne Palmer 2, and Jessica Flores 1. Kimberly and

Candace had 13 rebounds between them.
 The Cowgirls bounced back with a 46-30 win over Morton. Kimberly had 23 big points, followed by Candace 11, Krystle and Jessica 4 each, Kimbe Jones 2, Kristen Gray and Maranda Box 1 each. Kimberly pulled down 11 rebounds, and Krystle had 4 assists.



Fermin Luna 32, Tanner Blount 23, Joel Gallegos 24, Eddie Gallegos in battle royal for ball

Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys won a hard fought game against Abernathy last week 59-57. Adam Garcia led the scoring with 19 points, followed by Tanner Blount 17, Eddie Gallegos 10, Jared Bell 4, Josh Bell 3, Patrick McGinty, Joel Gallegos and Fermin Luna 2 each. Eddie led rebounding with 6 grabs, and Josh had 5 steals.
 The Cowboys next completely

dominated Morton, 73-30. Tan- 7, Fermon 6, Colt Winn 4, Josh ner scored his season high of and Eddie 2 each, and Joel 1. 28 points, followed by Adam Tanner had 13 rebounds, and he with 12, Justin Bennett 10, Jared and Adam each had 4 steals.

THANKS!

Just wanted to say thank you for allowing me to be one of your Commissioners. As your Precinct 2 Commissioner, along with all employees, we will strive to keep our county a wonderful place to live and work. As always we welcome your ideas and suggestions. Come by 700 W. Cedar or call 592-3287. We are here to serve you.

J. R. Slentz

Student of the Week



Student of the week is Amanda Garcia, a sophomore and the daughter of Tony and Sylvia Gomez. She was nominated by Mr. Portillo, who said, "She displays a great attitude and is an asset in the activities she is involved in including volleyball, basketball, academics and band. She displays a positive attitude, and is a role model to other students, and always strives for the highest. It's an honor having her in my class."



It's a very complicated process persuading the pretty PHS Cheerleaders to pose for a photograph.... you must show up with a camera! L-R, Allison Butler, Kari Guetersloh, Chelsi Wagnon, Lensey Cullins, and Autumn Deaton.

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Judicial Reform

Taking politics out of Texas Appellate courts

* A Guest Editorial from the November 26 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*, which we wholeheartedly agree with.

"There has always been something unsavory about the millions of dollars invested in judicial campaigns in Texas.

"With so much cash flowing into their election coffers, judges face frequent second-guessing about court rulings that affect large campaign contributors.

"The process prompted the CBS news program 60 minutes to file two separate "Justice For Sale" reports on the Texas Supreme Court in the past 12 years. The latest report came just two days before the Nov. 3 General Election.

"It is time to change the system. And State Sen. Robert Duncan, R-Lubbock, is the elected official leading the charge. Sen. Duncan has submitted a bill that would have the governor appoint all appellate judges in Texas.

"Under his plan, members of the state Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals and courts of appeals would be appointed for six-year terms. They would then face nonpartisan retention elections.

"If voters refused to return them to their benches, the governor would appoint their judicial replacements.

"The senator's proposal makes sense on several levels. First, it would take pure politics out

of judgeships. People no longer would be assured a seat on the bench simply because they belonged to the political party that swept elections that year.

"Second, implications of influence peddling would come to a screeching halt. Critics no longer could use campaign financial statements to disparage court rulings that did not go their way.

"Third, the state's embarrassing shortage of minority judges could be corrected by an appointment system. The governor could bring diversity to the Texas courts.

"Sen. Duncan was unsuccessful in 1997 in convincing the state Legislature to back the appointment of appellate judges, but the mounting evidence is in support of his plan.

"And even some opponents to the plan in the past are saying they might be able to back Duncan's efforts. Sen. Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, who heads the Senate Jurisprudence Committee, is ready to find a judicial reform plan that will work.

"We urge Texas lawmakers to set aside partisanship and accept the need for change. This is one of the few states that still elects its judges through purely partisan elections. It's time to find a better system."

Keeping an eye on TI

In many ways, the Texas' hightech industry mirrors the history of one of its founding members, Texas Instruments (TI). The company developed technology used in many of the sectors that have dominated the state's economy in this century. TI was founded in 1930 as Geophysical Service, an independent contractor specializing in oil and gas exploration technology, headquartered in Dallas. During the 1940's, the company geared its operations toward the national war effort, pioneering the development of radar and sonar systems. The company changed its name to Texas Instruments in 1951.

After TI's Jack Kilby invented the integrated circuit in 1958, the firm quickly entered the semiconductor manufacturing business, which accounted for half of all sales only one year later. Other innovations came in terrain following airborne radar (1958), forward looking infrared systems (1964) and handheld calculators (1967).

TI grew rapidly throughout the 1970's, focusing on the manufacture and sale of semiconductors, calculators, digital watches and other consumer

products. But Texas' economic bust of the 1980's took its toll on TI, forcing the firm to sell or exit most of its consumer electronics businesses.

The company has revived with the recent success of its digital signal processors (DSPs), which are used increasingly in cellular phones, pagers, modems and other communications devices. In the past few years, TI has invested more than \$1 billion to build a research center and a fabrication plant for the next generation of DSPs.

TI officials look to the communications industry for the future of their company and of Texas' high tech industry as a whole. The company has divested 12 businesses in the past 18 months to focus solely on manufacturing DSPs. While personal computer (PC) hardware and software, defense and oil and gas related technology remain an important part of the state's high tech mix, TI is betting on communications, a field in which the number of available products using DSPs now out numbers the number of PC's requiring them.

Notable Quotes....

Gov. George W. Bush, on his childhood aspirations; "I didn't grow up wanting to be President I wanted to be Willie Mays."

A California woman, convicted of stealing credit card numbers and using them to support her Beanie Babies habit; "It was like a drug. Once I started, I couldn't stop. I was addicted."

US Rep. Dick Armey, on surviving his tight reelection as House Majority Leader; "Every day, I pray for humility, and all of a sudden I had 222 people helping me with it."

Ethel Barrymore; "Wrinkles should only indicate where smiles have been."

NOTICE

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals for the construction of curbing for an existing all-weather track and runways until 2:00 P.M., December 11, 1998 at the Business Office. Proposals should be addressed to Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains ISD, 1000 10th Street, Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions or other information, please contact Eric Banfield at 806-456-7483.

Lea County Electric To Return Over \$1.6 Million Capital Credits

Lea County Electric Cooperative's trustees recently approved the return of over \$1.6 million in patronage capital to its members who received service from the Cooperative during 1975 and 1976. The credits are allocated to members based on their energy consumption for those years. The total amount returned for 1975 will be \$931,670; for 1976, the amount will be \$710,758. The 1976 amount represents one half of the total capital credits allocated for that year. According to Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of the Cooperative, "Lea County Electric has experienced a larger capital position with the dissolution of the Cooperative Utilities Finance Corporation (CUFC) which enabled our board to more aggressively retire capital credits."

Capital credits for a cooperative represents margins earned over and above expenses for a given fiscal year. These margins are not returned immediately, but are instead retained

by the Cooperative to insure its financial stability, to reduce or eliminate the need to finance debt, and to keep rates as low as possible. "Our trustees are extremely pleased to be able to return these credits to our members. Our board is committed

to providing all of our customers with real value through the supply of reliable, high quality power at competitive rates. The ability to return these capital credits to our members underscores the utility's strength as well as the benefit of membership!", Dreyspring said.

Checks are scheduled to be mailed on December 10.



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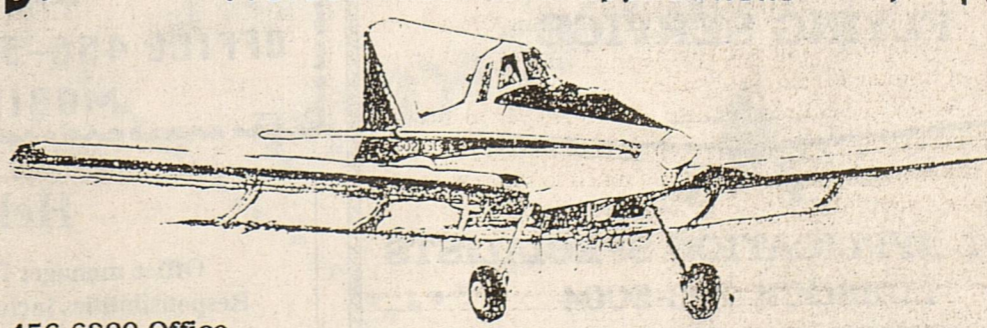
Our desire is to provide medical care to this area, providing convenience and appropriate care for each and everyone. We also want to thank Dr. Boyd for his concern and helpfulness at all times. He continues to see patients each Thursday afternoon. With his assistance, TOTAL FAMILY PRACTICE is available for the community.

Thanks again... Come see us!

Ph. 456-6365 The Plains Clinic Staff, Ph. 456-6365 Hope, Cynthia and Shirley

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Lifelines & Styles

Tickets Available For Musical "Hello, Dolly!"

Local Lyndi Rowe in Feature Role

Rehearsals are underway and tickets are available for the Fine Arts Department's fall production of "Hello, Dolly!" at South Plains College.

The production is an elaborate musical based on the play "The Matchmaker" by Thornton Wilder, and features a cast of more than 25 local and area performers. The musical will be presented December 4, 5 and 6 in the Theatre for Performing Arts on the SPC campus.

The opening night will be a select performance for those attending Holiday Scholarship Gala. Tickets are reserved and available contacting the South Plains College Foundation at 894-9611 ext. 2218.

Tickets are on sale in the SPC Theatre office for the December 5 performances at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and the December 6 performance at 2 p.m. Admission is \$4 for students and \$6 for adults. To reserve seats, call 894-9611, ext. 2266.

"Hello, Dolly!" is the story of a matchmaker and meddler

named Dolly Levi who takes a trip to Yonkers, New York, to see the "well-known unmarried half-a-millionaire," Horace Vandergelder. While there, she convinces him, his two stock clerks and his niece and her beau to go to New York City. In New York, she fixes Vandergelder's clerks up with the woman Vandergelder had been courting and her shop assistant. Dolly hilariously makes the set-up of her life during a deluxe finale.

Lyndi Rowe, a sophomore from Plains, is cast in the leading role as Mrs. Dolly Gallagher Levi. Rowe has been featured in several plays at SPC, including "Oliver," "Hamlet," "Summer and Smoke," and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

Music Director for the production is Jon Johnson, chairperson for the SPC Fine Arts Department and professor of music. Lynda Reid, associate professor of music, will conduct the orchestra.

Stateline Club Meets, Makes Plans

The Stateline Home Demonstration Club met October 19, in the clubroom. Officers for the 1999 year were elected. They are as follows; President-Dene Rafferty, Vice President-Sherri McGinty, Secretary/Treasurer-Gale McDonnell and Reporter-Darlene Wilson. Council delegates are Toni Jones and Sydney Murphey. All officers were elected by acclamation. We voted to give a R.G. Hartmen Memorial to the F.C.E. Scholarship Fund.

The Stateline Club met Monday, November 16 at the clubroom. Sydney Murphey gave a council report. The Christmas Party was scheduled for December 13 after church services. We discussed chang-

ing the date and tentatively decided on December 6.

Dene Rafferty suggested the Club provide hot chocolate and coffee for the annual Christmas celebration and Santa visit. The party will be on December 2.

Sydney Murphey presented a program on making Potpourri Jars. A stew and cornbread supper provided by Toni Jones, Dene Rafferty and Sydney Murphey was enjoyed by all.

The six members present were Sheri McGinty, Dene Rafferty, Delores Davis, Toni Jones, Darlene Wilson and Sydney Murphey. Our club meets the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the clubroom. We invite you to join us.

Tammy Lowrey named 'Sailor of the Day'



Tammy Lowrey, the daughter of Jerry Lowrey and a PHS graduate, is currently on a tour of duty on the U.S. Navy Aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Eisenhower in the Persian Gulf.

She wrote her father she has been able to finish three College courses while on the duty station, and hopes to be here by December 16. Jerry received the following letter recently;

"Dear Mr. Lowrey,

It is a sincere pleasure for me to write and inform you of your daughter, Tammy's outstanding behavior and superior performance.

I have selected her as IKE's Sailor of the Day for November 15, 1998. She has demonstrated personal excellence, superior professionalism and unique leadership qualities. As a result of her selection, she received a certificate and a 24 hour liberty pass.

It is a pleasure for me to have Tammy in my command. She is one of IKE's best shipmates. You have every reason to be proud. Warm regards,

H.D. Starling11 Commanding Officer U.S.S. Eisenhower



HOWDY!

By: Kathy Adair
FRIENDSHIP



Ideas about friendship

Children's understanding of friendship is very different from that of adults. Children have their own original ideas that change as they grow up. They know a lot about friendship. It's just not the same as what adults know. For example, adults may urge a small child to think of another child's feelings and while this concept is important, younger children may not understand this "adult reasoning".

"Friendship development" can be separated into five stages;

*Momentary playmates (ages 3-7); This is the stage when the child has difficulty distinguishing between a physical action, such as grabbing a toy, and the intention behind the action. Friends are valued for what they have. As one child told us, "He is my friend". Why? "He has a giant Superman doll and a real swing set."

*One way assistance (ages 4-9); At this stage, the child can tell the difference between his viewpoint and those of others. However, he does not understand give and take. Said one child, "She not my friend anymore." Why? "She would not go with me when I wanted her to."

*Mutual sharing (ages 9-15); Not only can the child see the other's point of view, but he can also see friendship from a third person's point of view. Friends share more than secrets, agreements and plans. Friends share feelings, and help each other solve problems. Close friendship is viewed as exclusive, intimate, and rather possessive. "He is my best friend. We can tell each other things we can't tell anyone else."

*Interdependent friendship (ages 12 and older); This is the stage where the person sees complex relationships. The child is aware that good friendship means strong emotional and psychological support while allowing the friend other independent relationships, as well. According to one child, "One thing about a good friendship is that it's a real commitment, a risk that you have to take. You have to be able to support and trust and give, but you have to let go, too."

Something to Sneeze At

There aren't many breaks from allergy season in Texas. Tree pollen, grass pollen and ragweed practically year round. October offers the only break from tree pollen, but it is among the worst months for grass pollen and ragweed.

Tree pollen is at its worst from December through April, while grass pollen is most active from April through October. Ragweed hits the Rio Grande Valley in summer and moves through the rest of the state in the fall.

One in six Americans suffers from allergies, also known as "hay fever". More than half of all allergy sufferers think they have a cold or flu, since allergies cause the same symptoms.

While a family physician can treat allergies, the number of doctors specializing in the treatment of allergies offers an indication of the effect allergies have regionally. Central Texas, the home of "cedar fever," has about 1.6 allergists per 100,000 residents, more than any other part of the state. The Upper Rio Grande ranks second in per capita allergy specialists.

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Dear Friend,

I just had to send a note to tell you how much I love you. I saw you yesterday as you were walking with your friends. I waited all day hoping you would want to talk with me also. As evening drew near, I gave you a sunset to close your day and a cool breeze to rest you. And I waited. But you never came. It hurt me, but I still love you because I am your friend.

I saw you fall asleep last night and I longed to touch your brow. So I spilled moonlight on your pillow and your face. Again I waited, wanting to rush down so that we could talk. I have so many gifts for you. But you awakened late the next day and rushed off to work. My tears were in the rain.

Today you looked so sad, so all alone. It makes my heart ache because I understand. My friends let me down and hurt me so many times, too. But I love you. Oh, if you would only listen to me. I really love you. I try to tell you in the blue sky and in the quite green grass. I whisper it in the leaves on the trees and breathe it in the colors of the flowers. I shout it to you in the mountain streams and give the birds love songs to sing. I clothe you with warm sunshine and perfume the air with nature's scents. My love for you is deeper than the oceans and bigger than the biggest want or need in your heart.

If you only knew how much I want to help you. I want you to meet my Father. He wants to help you, too. My Father is that way, you know. Just call me, ask me, talk with me. I have so much to share with you. But I won't hassle you. I'll wait because I love you.

Your Friend,
Jesus

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From The Hack

I am absolutely burning with desire to find out what in the world is going on in the always hard to understand world of womens fashions... more specifically, their foot ware.

Surely you have noticed for the last number of weeks countless ads in the Lubbock A-J, Dallas Morning News, and probably all other larger newspapers, half and full-page advertisements featuring photos of women's shoes and boots, and they always emphasize, "Footwear For Women", or some such terminology. I fully understand the reason for pointing out these creations are for WOMEN.

Most male readers would assume from the photographs the shoes, and especially the boots, were meant for a guy preparing for a trip to Colorado in quest of elk or bear. The only other male market I can think of is for the macho types preparing for a night of debauchery in spots where strong drink is found, and other macho types... they are rugged and ugly looking enough to make excellent offensive or defensive weapons of mass destruction, should the occasion arise.

These ads are running so regularly I can only assume these cowlot looking things are selling. They are so boxy, so large, clumsy looking, I am wondering, is there some sort of cover-up conspiracy taking place? Have women's feet suddenly mutated, changing from slender, delicate looking tools of mobility into some sort of ugly, cloven hoofed thing, needing

high top, lace up, flat heels, and soles tougher than Michelins to clomp about on?

It must be something like this, for the stores to get the prices they advertise. Most ads I see feature a number of the monstrosities, none less than ninety bucks.

And the manufacturers names; Stuff like 'Bandolino', which I suspect is an acronym for 'The Banditos', high as they are - 'Maine Woods', like where the Abominable Snowman was filmed wearing a pair of their high tops - 'Naturalizer', which, I assume, means the fem wearing them can in actuality 'neutralize' any unwanted male attention with a well aimed kick of their blunt, ugly toe.

My dear grandmother, bless her heart, is probably not just turning in her resting spot, she is no doubt spinning so fast to cause friction and sparks. She always said, "A lady should always look and act like a lady."

I hate to mention the word, after once more committing the sin of gluttony last Thursday, but I chanced upon an interesting bit about turkey, featured in a recent issue of the Los Angeles Times.

Seems our federal government has something called the "Poultry Hot Line", where consumers can call in all sorts of weird questions, and at this time of year, the favorite topic is do's and don'ts about the proper handling of turkey.

The article stated "Last Thanksgiving a woman called in a panic about a turkey she had defrosted overnight in her toilet. She had flushed about every half-hour to keep the water fresh, but was it OK to cook? she asked.

"She got the part about changing the cold water every thirty minutes; she just didn't understand about bacteria", a poultry hot line staffer said.

"Then there was the woman who left her turkey in the attic to defrost, where the cat got hold of it and batted it around the rafters. She was worried because it was covered in fiberglass. I suggested she throw it away", a spokesman said.

The article said November is the busiest month for the Hot Line, and the office receives some 130,000 calls each year.

I know I will eventually recover from stuffing on turkey and stuffing. The thing which really bothers me is what we are going to do with the other two still in the freezer. I've already informed the Bride, Potty Thawing is definitely out!

Also on the subject of turkeys; Saw a really amusing cartoon on the Internet. Shows this red headed tom turkey dressed in a man's double breasted suit. The tom turkey is saying, with a relieved look on it's ugly face, "YYYYESS... another year escaping the ax!". The turkey is holding a rubber mask of Bill Clinton.

The recent mule deer hunt here brought out a number of hanky-panky hunting stories. One local said he read in a national outdoors mag about game wardens in Montana trying to snare some elk poachers. They transported a lifesize mount of a big bull elk to this spot in the mountains, and were unloading it to serve as a decoy for wouldbe poachers. They'd barely gotten it out of the horse trailer when shots rang out, and two holes appeared in the stuffed elk. The wardens frantically dove for cover, and then, unbelievably, more shots were fired into the trailer they hid behind. The unseen gunman kept them down long enough to tie them off enough to mount a massive manhunt for the culprit, as yet unsuccessful. Now, how's that for stupidity?

Advertisement and invitation for bids

The City of Plains will receive bids for construction of 100,000 gallon Ground Storage Reservoir and Pump Station in Yoakum County, Texas until 4:00 p.m. on December 16, 1998, at City Hall, 601 11th Street, Plains, Texas, 79355. These bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows:

1. Construction of 100,000 gallon Ground Storage Reservoir.
2. Installation of water piping, fittings and valves.
3. Installation of two horizontal centrifugal pumps.
4. Metal building.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at West Texas Consultants, Inc. 3300 N. 'A' Street, Bldg. 1, Suite 200, Midland, Texas 79705, and at 305 N.W. Avenue 'C', Andrews, Texas 79715; or may be reviewed at the Dodge Plan Room.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents may be obtained by depositing \$25 with the Engineer for each set of documents obtained. The deposit will be refunded if the drawings and documents are returned in good condition within 10 days following the bid opening.

A bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Plains or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than , the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rates, as issued by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs and contained in the contract documents, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, age or national origin.

The City of Plains reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by the City of Plains for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidders qualifications prior to the contract award.

City of Plains

T.J. Miller, Mayor

All contractors/subcontractors which are debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project.

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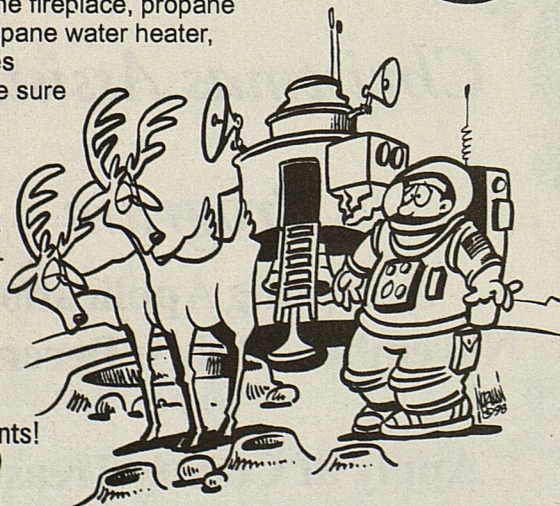
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