

Cowboy Country

God Bless America! News



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

Volume V111, Issue 32, April 24, 2002

'Weevil War' to commence soon

Progress in eliminating cotton pest is plainly evident



Field personnel assembling some of the thousands of boll weevil traps to be deployed in 2002 eradication program

The Plains District of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Program is nearing the "locked and loaded" stage. According to Darrel Dusek, Zone Manager, and Earnest Taylor, Plains District Supervisor, the eradication effort to destroy the boll weevil only lacks more field training for seasonal employees, and emergence of cotton pin size boll squares to start the spraying eradication program.

District Manager Taylor told CCN, "We are in the process of hiring four more seasonal field people, and our training sessions are in full swing." Asked for his prediction of Yoakum County's planted cotton acreage, Taylor said, "The problems in Washington with passage of the new farm bill is causing serious problems for our producers, as well as their lenders. If legislature is passed which will assist cotton producers, I feel our district producers will plant about the same number of acres as last year." Zone Manager Dusek agreed with Taylor's assessment, but added, "At this stage, it's a guessing game. We have to prepare for about the same number of acres, regardless."

The two officials reported well over 500 wee-

vil traps have been regularly monitored since the end of the 2001 program, in Yoakum, Gaines and Terry Counties. As of April 18, exactly one weevil had been trapped. They were quick to add, however, "When host cotton plants are available for the weevils, the numbers will increase."

In the 2000 eradication effort, 237,698 acres of Yoakum County were planted to cotton. The eradication spraying effort ended up covering 1,835,160 acres, roughly 7.7 spraying flights or trips per acre. The next year data is impressive.

In 2001, the county had 243,783 acres of planted cotton, and throughout the eradication program, 521,825 acres were sprayed during the season, an average of 2.1 times per acre.

Dusek says, "Other successfully eradicated zone and district records indicate in the third year of full eradication, it's only necessary to spray about 40 percent of the acreage of the previous year, which indicates we could reduce coverage to less than one time eradication per acre of the treated fields."

Good news for area producers.



These ladies, supervised by J.O. Rasberry, were busy unloading watermelon transplants last week for McWhirter Farms. One storage hothouse is full, and the other house should be filled this week.

Farm Employee Training

The Yoakum County Extension Service is hosting a Worker Protection Standard

(WPS) and pesticide Handler Employee training on Tuesday, April 23, 2002 at the Extension Office in Plains at 1:30 pm. This training will be conducted by a TDA representative, and will be held in Spanish. If anybody is needing this training in English, please call the Extension

Office at 456-2263 and let us know so we can be prepared. Participants will receive their certification (green card) so they can work with pesticides, which is good for five years. For more information, contact Arlan Gentry.

Criminal cases heard in County, District Courts

In 121st District Court April 15, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Laris Joann Hargrove pled guilty to possession of methamphetamine, one gram or less. A two year State Jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. She was fined \$1000. Time payments will be made on \$227 court costs, and she must pay \$259 attorney fees, and \$149 restitution. She must complete the TAIP outpatient treatment program, attend weekly AA (narcotics) meetings, and serve 200 hours community service. Paul Mansur was her attorney, and Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer.

In County Court April 17, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, James Reyes pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior DWI conviction. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 55 days served. He must pay a delinquent fine of \$419, delinquent restitution of \$756, and \$40 supervision fees.

Antonio Aldaco Lozano pled guilty to a first DWI, BT 155/154. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$226 court costs. A tampering with government records cause was dismissed. He must attend weekly AA meetings, and serve 72 hours in jail, with credit for 32 days served. He must complete the DWI first offender program. Mike Garrett was his attorney, and investigating officer was Roger Holguin, Denver City Police.

Inez Villa Silva pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a

Turn to Page 4,
'Court'

Armed robber hits local Uncle's Store

Shortly after 10 P.M. Thursday, the cash register at Uncle's Convenience store here was emptied by a handgun wielding robber. Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine reported the black male suspect, in his early twenties, with a thin build and approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall, entered the store, and began to browse around. The female clerk and two of her relatives were the only other people in the store.

After a few minutes, the suspect approached the cash register counter to pay for a purchase. As soon as the clerk opened the register, he displayed a handgun and demanded the money from the drawer. When the clerk handed over an undisclosed amount of cash, the suspect exited the building.

Sheriff Corzine said the suspect was wearing grey wind pants and a darker sweater jacket, and tennis shoes. He also wore a white, tight fitting headpiece which appeared to be made from panty hose type material. Before fleeing the store, the suspect looked directly at the surveillance camera behind the counter, but Corzine said the quality of the captured photo will have to be improved before it is of much use in identifying the suspect.

The sheriff reported the suspect left the scene in a small, make unknown automobile. Local passers by at the time observed an auto being driven in a very erratic manner just west of the store, on US Highway 82, but were unable to determine if it contained one or more persons, or furnish an accurate description of the vehicle because of darkness.

The robbery continues to be under investigation.

Peanut Marketing Meetings Set For South Plains

The Texas Peanut Producers Board, Stephenville, Texas, has scheduled two peanut marketing seminars for the Texas South Plains both on Thursday, April 25th. The first will be in Brownfield at 2:00 PM at the American Legion Hall. The second will be in Seminole at 7:00 PM at the Gains Co. Civic Building.

The purpose of the meetings is to educate growers on production and marketing of peanuts under the new federal peanut program. TPPB encourages growers to take advantage of either of these meetings as a first step in learning how to transition from a quota support type program to a marketing loan type.

Guest speakers will include Dr. Marshall Lamb, a USDA agricultural economist from the National Peanut Lab, Dawson, GA, who specializes in peanut production and marketing and is himself a peanut farmer. Also on hand will be Dr. Ken Stokes, a Texas Cooperative Extension agricultural economist and director, Southern Region Risk Management Education Center, Stephenville, TX.

The Texas Peanut Producers Board is funded by a grower checkoff from all Texas peanut farmers. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Mary Webb, Executive Director, TPPB, at 800-734-0086.



County employees re-striping parking spaces at the Courthouse. Judge Dallas Brewer quipped, "We're doing it so the Commissioners don't get confused about where to park."

County Livestock annual meeting held

Officers and directors for the Yoakum County Livestock Association were elected at the April 16 annual meeting.

Randy Lewis was elected as a new director, and Casey Clark, Chris Chambliss, Tracy Moore, Bill Rowe and Danny Williams were re-elected to the board. Officers of the board are President Danny Williams, Vice President Casey Clark, and Secretary Dottie Mayes.

A late discovered accounting error delayed distributing sale

checks to the young exhibitors in the 2002 show.

Yoakum County Extension Agent - Ag Arlan Gentry reported the 2002 show sale dollars were down slightly, but add-on contributions were higher than the 2001 show. Lea County Electric Cooperative was again the top corporate contributor in the sale.

The 51st annual show and sale is scheduled for January 23, 24 and 25, 2003.

Governor Proclaims Soil and Water Stewardship Week

Governor Rick Perry proclaimed Soil and Water Stewardship Week in Texas for April 29-May 5, 2002 to promote wise and responsible stewardship of our soil and water. Perry met with the Soil and Water Stewardship Committee of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts (ATSWCD) on April 3, 2002 to sign the proclamation declaring the Soil and Water Stewardship Week dates.

In the proclamation, Perry urged all Texans to recognize the importance of ensuring that we are wise stewards of this great land for generations to come. The proclamation stated that the future of the Lone Star State begins today and the responsibility lies with us to build a solid foundation for our children and grandchildren as they assume the reins of leadership.

The Soil and Water Stewardship Committee of the ATSWCD sponsors the awareness campaign to educate the public about the importance of responsible soil and water stewardship.

Participation in Soil and Water Stewardship Week activities offers an opportunity to reflect on the nation's renewable resource problems and consider

actions to resolve them or reduce their impact. The theme of this year's observance is "The Gift of Trees". This focus is especially appropriate as our need for stewardship is vital if we are to maintain the productive capabilities of our basic natural resources. It stresses the need for all people to work for the good of all to utilize, conserve and properly manage those resources in our care.

The National Association of Conservation Districts has sponsored Soil and Water Stewardship Week in the United States since 1955, in cooperation with the nation's nearly 3,000 soil and water conservation districts. Informative material on the Soil and Water Stewardship Week theme is distributed each year through local conservation districts to clergymen, lay leaders, civic and educational organizations and to individuals interested in participating in the celebration.

Information and materials for the 2002 observance of Soil and Water Stewardship Week can be obtained from your local soil and water conservation district of the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board at 254-773-2250.

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Lea County Electric Cooperative

53RD ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS Friday, April 26th ~ 7:30 pm

at

Pannell Auditorium

Registration:

8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., MDT

Friday, April 26th,

at Lea County Electric Coop in Lovington

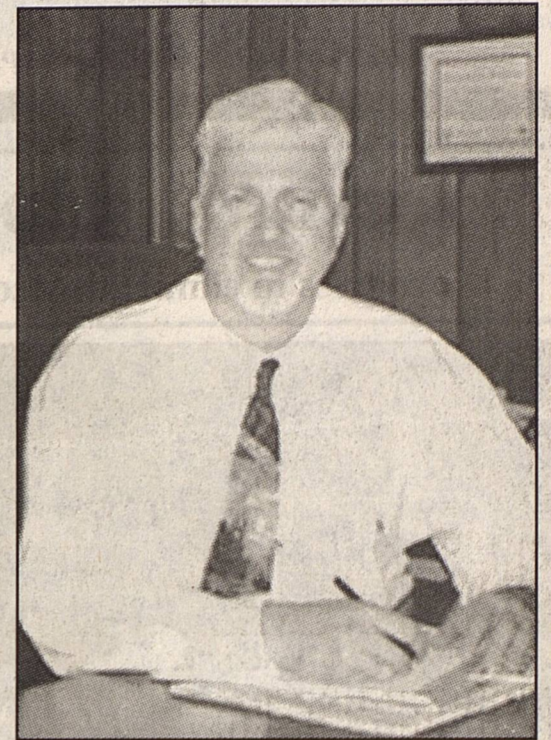
OR

6:30 p.m.~7:30 p.m. MDT

AT

Pannell Auditorium, Lovington High School

The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 P.M. Two Trustees will be elected from District 1



Michael A. Dreyspring
General Manager

The Knights of the West

Performing throughout NM, OK, and TX, the Knights of the West have entertained thousands with classic country and their own brand of swing-a-billy music, which includes cowboy and yodeling music.

Rusty Hudelson directs the band, plays keyboards and accordion, sings and composes the group's original music.

Rusty's daughter, Tania Moody, fronts the band as lead vocalist, and performs 'Dueling Yodels' with her father.

Schahara Hudelson is featured on bass and vocals, while John Hartin, with his Johnny Cash impersonation, is featured on his big red guitar as the 'Fastest Guitar in the West'.

Rounding out the group and keeping a steady beat is drummer Stuart Moody.

The Knights of the West have been performing together for over 10 years and have all been instructors at South Plains College.



2002 ANNUAL MEETING DOOR PRIZES

Computer-(Dell Dimension 2200 Series, Intel Celeron Processor @ 1.2 GHz, 128MB Ram, 20GB Hard Drive, 56K Modem, Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition, Microsoft Office XP Small Business, and more!)

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Sunbeam Stand Mixer

Fry Daddy

Ice Cream Maker

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Jumbo Electric Skillet

Skil Electric Belt Sander

Skil Circular Saw

Floor Stand Halogen Work Light

100 Foot Extension Cord

Black & Decker Electric Drill

Black & Decker Electric Jig Saw

Weed Eater Electric String Trimmer

Insect Light

Poulan Electric Leaf Blower

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Proctor Silex Blender

Cool Daddy Fryer

George Foreman Electric Grille

Sunbeam Bread Maker

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Kokopelli Metal Work Table Lamp

Rival 3 1/2 quart Crock Pot

Black & Decker SpotLighter

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Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Evening Worship - 5:00 pm

Wednesday Connections

Food, Fellowship & Study

5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities

Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm

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Evening Program 6:00 pm.

Wednesday

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Supper

6:00 pm. Zombies

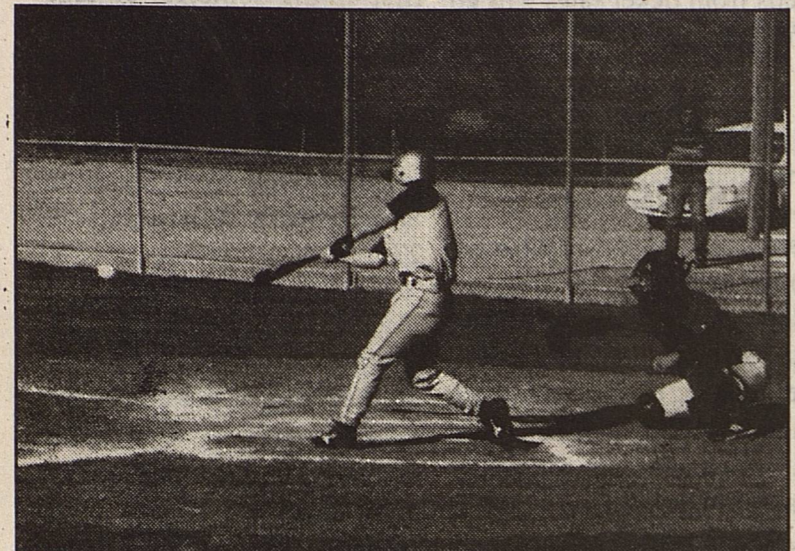
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,

Sanctuary Choir Practice

Cowboy baseball shots vs Colorado & Andrews



Richard Diaz on the mound against Colorado City



The ball's in flight - Nick Hays gets a hit



Miguel Coronado is about to score against Colorado



Chris Hansen about to catch a towering flyer



Armando Ramirez blocks path of Colorado player for an easy out

Booster Club Meeting

The Athletic Booster Club will meet Monday, April 29 at 5:30 pm. in the school cafeteria. The meeting is called to discuss and

finalize plans for the Annual Athletic Banquet. Please plan to attend and help organize the banquet.

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UIL Students Advance to State Meet

Two teams and two individual competitors qualified to compete at the state UIL meet in Austin May 3 and 4 after last weekend's regional meet in Abilene.

The calculator team of junior Jill Gray, senior Annaliesha O'Quinn and junior Jordan Bean placed first to qualify for the state meet. Individually, Gray was second on a tie breaker and O'Quinn was third.

The number sense team of O'Quinn, Gray and freshman Brandon Hise also placed first. O'Quinn was regional champion in number sense and Gray was fourth.

In journalism events, O'Quinn was second in feature writing and fourth in headline writing, and junior Liz Wilmeth was second in news writing. Both second place finishes qualify the girls to compete in Austin.

PHS Industrial Arts Department to be well represented in Austin

The Plains Industrial Technology Department competed in Regional contest April 20 at Odessa High School.

The following students entered projects and will be competing in State competition in Waco, May 3-5. Servando Luna 1st and 2nd, Auturo Molina 1st and 2nd, Alfonso Martinez (2) 1st, Jonathan Delarosa (2) 2nds, Ryon Martinez & Arnold Cordova 1st, Tiffany Canon (7)

1st and (1) 2nd, other students from Plains that competed were Chisum Justus and Chase Howell.

Chelsea Blount was recently named to the Honorable Mention team on the Lubbock Avalanche Journal division 2A All-South Plains Basketball.

Student of the Week

Student of the week is Carmen Mendoza a senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Mendoza. She was nominated by Mrs. Rotunno, who said "Carmen is a consistent, dependable person. No matter what is occurring in her personal life, she does her best at school. With her sweet attitude and her willingness to help and encourage others, she is a delight to those around her. Even when assignments are difficult, she will do what it takes and preserve until she is successful. If every student had the attitude demonstrated by this week's student of the week, school would always be a very pleasant place."



Student Representatives for the 2002-2003 School Year

Student Council Officers:

President:	Jill Gray
Vice President:	Mario Bonilla
Secretary:	Chelsea Blount
Historian:	Kelly Bowers
Treasurer:	Kimberly Martinez
Reporter:	Marlie Diaz

Senior Class Officers:

President:	Krystal Gonzalez
Vice President:	Mario Bonilla
Secretary:	Isamari Guzman
Girl Representative:	Kayla Willis
Boy Representative:	Kevin Bartley

Junior Class Officers:

President:	Grady McNabb
Vice President:	Moriah Traweck
Secretary:	Carmen Ponce
Girl Representative:	Helen Neufeld
Boy Representative:	Joseph Martinez

Sophomore Class Officers:

President:	Jamie Covarrubias
Vice President:	Breck Hamm
Secretary:	Lela Coronado
Girl Representative:	Prisma Ortiz
Boy Representative:	Evan Cain

Freshman Class Officers:

President:	Todd Williams
Vice President:	B. J. Lester
Secretary:	Skyler Keesee
Girl Representative:	Ashli Hunter
Boy Representative:	Abel Ramos



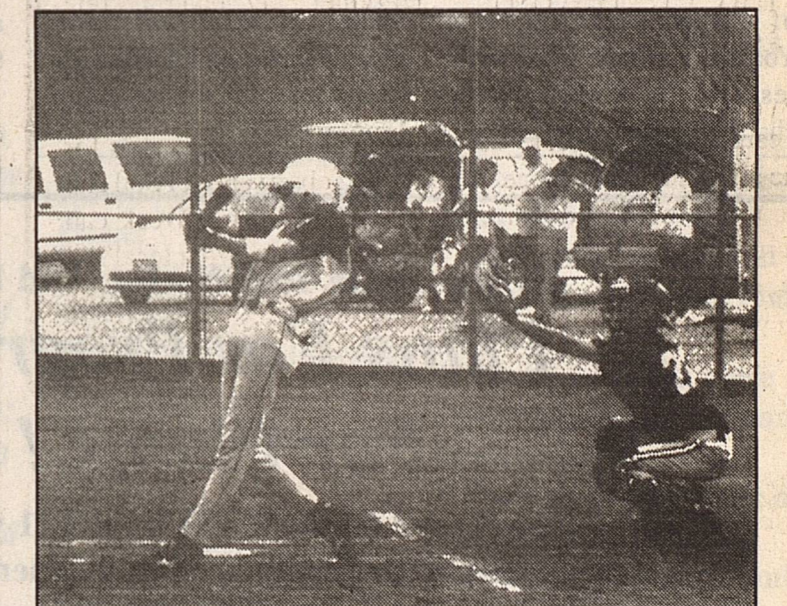
Johnnie Martinez steps on bag to foil an Andrews runner



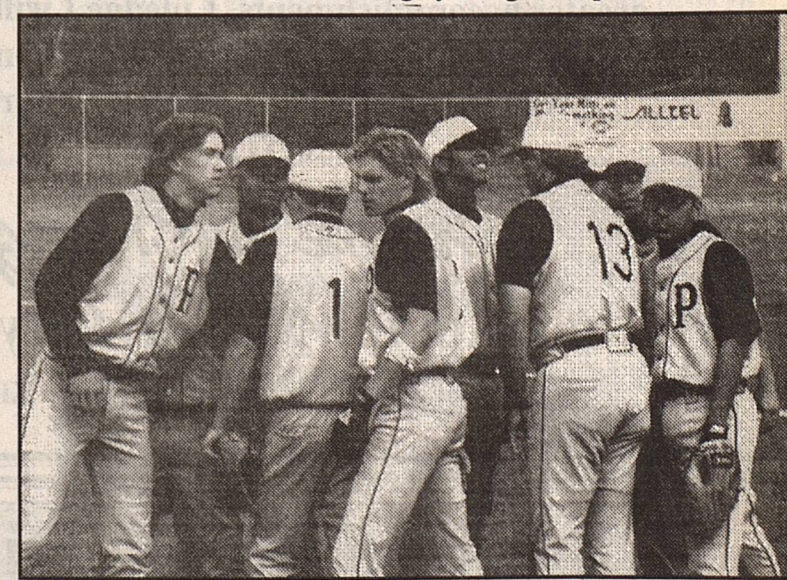
Armando takes throw to down Andrews runner at third



Jared Bell on the mound against Andrews in game one



Kevin Bartley takes a mighty swing at the plate.



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Earth Day Musical Slated For April 30

Fourth graders at Plains Elementary School are busy preparing the theme musical, EARTH DAY, by Carmino Racosa. The performance will be in the high school auditorium at 10:00 A.M. April 30. The public is invited. Plains Elementary music teacher, Mrs. Cynthia Blair, is directing the program.

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Its hard to stop a TRANE

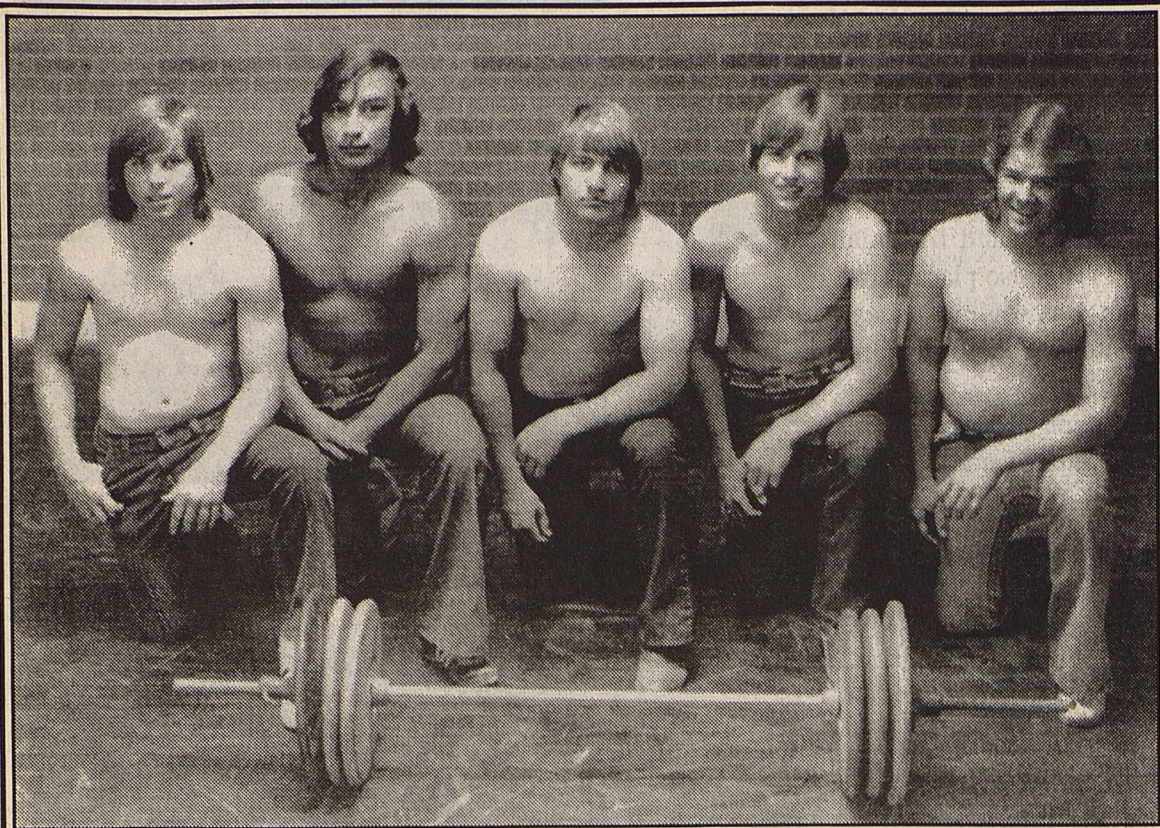


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The PHS "300 Club", circa 1976. These macho hunks of the 1976 Sr. Class all managed to bench press 300 pounds, prepping for football. One witness to this photo had doubts they could collectively lift 300 pounds today. Left to right, Brad Ancinec, Salvador Fernandez, Steve Jones, Steve Lackey, Brad Palmer.

From Page 1, 'Court'

She will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 31 days served. She must also pay a \$156 delinquent fine, delinquent CSCD \$40 fee, and delinquent restitution of \$232. Jose Luis Rodriguez pled guilty to a first DWI, BT 185/182. A 180 day jail sentence

was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$600 and will make time payments on \$226 court costs. He will attend weekly AA meetings, spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 11 hours served, complete the first offender program and serve 24 hours community service. David Martinez was

his attorney, and Joe Ramos, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

Luis Alberto Guerra pled guilty to possession of alcohol by a minor, 3rd offense enhanced. He will serve an additional 40 hours community service, 16 hours per month minimum, under direction of the CSCD where he resides. Kenley Powell, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

David Lee Flores pled guilty to a first DWI, BT 127/121. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 14 months. He will make time payments on \$226 court costs, and was fined \$600. He will attend weekly AA meetings and complete the first offender program. Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer, and David Martinez was his attorney.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in both courts.

T-Shirt Design Contest

The Denver City Art Association is accepting entries for the Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up T-Shirt Contest, with the deadline for entries on April 29th. Design must be an original design on larger than 8 1/2 " x 11" and must have Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up and the date of August 31, 2002 on it. Yoakum County Connection reserves the right to make changes to the winning design

as it deems necessary. Yoakum County Connection is awarding \$100.00 cash for the top design selected by the judges. For more information call Sue Holder at 806-592-2960 after 5:00 p.m. Mail unfolded entries to Denver City Art Association at P.O. Box 854, Denver City, Texas 79323, or hand deliver to Bayer Lumber in Plains or the Chamber of Commerce in Denver City.

Final Performance Scheduled Next Week at Dessert Theatre

Plains High School made its fifth appearance in six years at the Region 1-AA UIL One Act Play contest on Friday, April 19th at Cullen Auditorium on the campus of Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas.

Their production of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet competed with five other schools for the right to advance to the state level. Advancing schools were West Texas High School with Arsenic and Old Lace and Sonora High School with Marvin's Room.

Senior Annaliesa O'Quinn was selected to the All Star cast for her portrayal of the Nurse, while seniors Tanner Hamm and Allison Butler named to the honorable mention all star cast.

The final performance of this year's one act play will take place on Tuesday, April 30th at 7:00 pm. in the high school auditorium. Deserts will be served following the performance. Tickets are \$5 and are available from any company member. They will also be available at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales will go back to the theatre department for future productions.

Squyres Doing Well In Rodeo Season

Brett Squyres, 2001 PHS graduate placed 3 times at the High Plains Jr. Rodeo in Happy, TX. April 14th. Brett won a 2nd place in Bull Dogging with a 5.53 second run and a 2nd place in Team Roping with a 7.44 second run with his header Jeff Seaton. Brett also placed 4th in Tie Down Calf Roping.

Brett is in his second semester at Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, NM, where he is on the Rodeo Team. In the first spring semester college rodeo at Odessa College, he placed 4th in team roping with a 5.7 second run as a healer.

The last college rodeo of the semester will be at Tarleton State in Stephenville, April 25-27.

Public Willing To Pay For Smaller Classes

The state mandated 22 to 1 student teacher ratio for grades K through 4 should be maintained and taxpayers are willing to help foot the bill, according to a recent Scripps Howard Texas Poll.

The survey of 1,000 Texans found that 71 percent would be willing to pay more in taxes to maintain smaller classes in elementary schools. An 77 percent of those surveyed say that the Legislature should not repeal the law, which mandates smaller classes, as a means of addressing the state's budget shortfall. The survey had a margin of error of +/-3 percent.

"This should send a clear message to Legislators and policymakers," said Doug Rogers, executive director of the Association of Texas Professional Educators (ATPE).

"There is sufficient evidence showing that students do better in school when they are in smaller

classes, and it's clear the public has gotten the message."

Rogers said that despite the projected \$5 billion budget shortfall for the upcoming biennium, his group will continue to make class size one of its core issues. In addition to maintaining smaller classes for K-4, ATPE would like the 22 to 1 ratio extended to grade six. The group also has lobbied to make it more difficult for school districts to receive waivers from the state for not complying with the law (which was passed in 1984).

With 100,000 members statewide, ATPE is the largest educator group in Texas. Its members consist primarily of classroom teachers, but also includes paraprofessionals, administrators, college students and retired educators.

For a detailed summary of the survey, visit www.atpe.org and click on "newsroom".

Austin- A story which has obtained wide acceptance during the last few months concerns a recent visit of Gen. Phil Sheridan to Texas. The story, apparently first published in the Houston Evening Star, quotes the General as saying that if he owned Texas and Hell, he would rent out Texas and live in Hell.

While no one names the newspaper, the story goes around that one Texas editor replied to the slur by saying that his opinion of the General had greatly improved because of the statement. For, said the editor, he always "admired a man who would stand up for his own country."

The Texas News, August 15, 1867

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Rural Routers

Texas a leader in providing rural Web access

To many folks, surfing the Web is as normal as talking on the telephone. However, Texans living in sparsely populated areas are less likely to be connected. Like the interstate highways, the information superhighway has bypassed many rural Texans.

While technology gurus are busy developing new products that require advanced, high speed Internet connections to live up to their potential, some isolated areas in Texas still don't have access to even a dial up telephone connection. Beyond Internet toys and communicators are the very real applications of distance learning and telemedicine, which are potentially more valuable in sparsely populated places.

Despite the sinking of many of the start up companies that intended to install broadband communications across the state and the country, the availability of high speed connections in sparsely populated areas of Texas is growing faster now than in the big cities.

The U. S. Department of Commerce says that in August 2000, 51.0 percent of all households nationwide had a computer and 41.5 percent had an Internet connection. The picture in Texas was better.

A June 2000 survey by the Telecommunications and Information Policy Institute at the University of Texas showed that 67.3 percent of Texans regularly used computers, and most of them, 60.1 percent, used the Internet.

All areas not classified by the Census Bureau as metropolitan are essentially rural, and generally include sparsely populated places of fewer than 2,500 people immediately adjacent to a metropolitan area. Seventy seven percent of Texas' counties are considered rural, and 15.4 percent of all households in Texas were in rural areas as of July 2001.

Rural households, which had trailed those in central cities and urban areas, are showing significant gains in Internet access. The gap between households in rural areas and households nationwide that have access to the Internet has closed. There was a 4 percent difference in 1998, but it narrowed to 2.6 percent in 2000.

Texas is a runaway leader in attempts to bring the Internet to its citizens statewide, according to Gene Krick, executive director of the nonprofit TeleCommunity Resource

Center.

Krick says the reason Texas is a leader and should continue to lead the way is the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF). TIF is a state agency that funds technology in schools, libraries, institutions of higher education and public, nonprofit health care facilities. TIF also provides the necessary training to help Texans use technology to improve how they learn, work and play.

Since its first grant was issued on November 15, 1996, TIF has awarded nearly \$1 billion to foster computer use through Internet connections and training. In 2001, the TIF Board granted more than \$326 million. TIF also awards Community Networking grants, which were first used to fund technology purchases in Texas in 2000. Some recipients of the grants bought laptops that can be checked out through a library.

In addition, because citizens must be trained to use technology before they can realize its benefits, grant recipients offer training to the general public. The first grantees reported that 6,958 people had received training by January 2002. Services are offered in nearly every part of Texas.

In some areas, telephone lines and cable connections are simply not available or not feasible in the short term despite the best efforts of both public and private entities. The public Utility Commission (PUC) reported to the 2001 Texas Legislature that seven exchanges in Texas were without access to a local, dial up Internet service provider. Six of these exchanges, located in Brewster, Crockett, Pecos, Terrell and Val Verde counties, now have the service, according to the Texas Telephone Association.

There is also a debate over whether the amount of bandwidth available is enough to handle current and future Internet users. In the 1990's, private investors spent an estimated \$90 billion to install a fiber optic network throughout the U. S. that remains largely unused, according to a 2001 report by Merrill Lynch. The report says less than 7 percent of existing capacity is in use.

"There is a core assumption that there is so much unlit fiber in the ground that it could take forever to use it up," says Russ McGuire, chief strategy officer at TeleChoice. "But some forms of traffic can eat into that fiber supply very fast."



Obituary

Services held for Wilma McDonnell

Funeral services for Wilma Josephine McDonnell, 88, were held at 2 PM Saturday, April 20 at Brownfield Shady Oaks Church of God, with Rev. Chris Jones officiating, assisted by Rev. Bill Wright. Interment followed in the Terry County Memorial Cemetery under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. Mrs. McDonnell died April 18, 2002 in Lubbock.

She was born March 9, 1914 in Sidney, Texas. She moved to Terry County with her parents in 1929. She married J.T. Anderson December 28, 1931 in Brownfield. He preceded her in death March 9, 1969.

She married Bob McDonnell July 22, 1972 in Brownfield. He preceded her in death October 15, 1997. She owned and operated Anderson grocery and Tokio Cafe for many years. She was a member of Shady Oaks Church of God.

She was also preceded in death by a son, Duane, and a daughter, Nell.

She is survived by a daughter, Neda Whitman and husband Henry, Lovington, NM; a son, Dero and wife Gerry of McAllen; a brother, Earl Holland of Brownfield, and numerous grand and great grandchildren.

Combined Class Reunion Being Planned

Anyone graduating from PHS from 1940 through 1950 is invited to the home of Crip Henard to help plan for a combined class reunion for those years, to be held during this year's Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo. The meeting will start at 11:30 am. on Saturday, April 27, and lunch will be served.

Statewide Unemployment Unchanged in March

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged in March from a revised February rate of 5.8 percent, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

"Texans' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate appears to be leveling off after significant gains over the past year," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "This, combined with continued job growth, is an encouraging sign for the Texas labor market." March saw a slight gain of

1,900 Nonfarm jobs in Texas, though the state sustained a loss of 3,300 jobs in the Manufacturing industry.

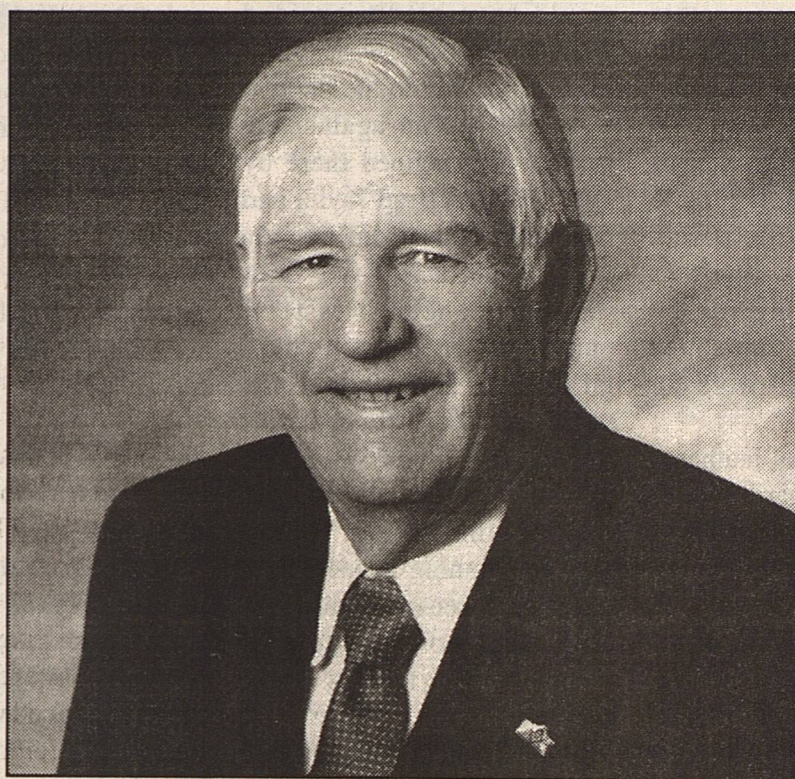
"This is the third month of Nonagricultural job growth, positive news for Texas' economy," said Commissioner Representing Labor T.P. O'Mahoney. "Nevertheless, I'm concerned that hiring in Manufacturing appears to be lagging behind some national indicators."

Retail Trade and Government led industry growth in March,

the second consecutive month for growth in each of these industries, with 2,200 and 4,900 jobs added, respectively.

"I'm certainly pleased with the growth in Retail Trade and Government," said Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "However, the loss of 1,000 jobs in Mining and 900 jobs in Services is an indication that some sluggishness remains in the current Texas economy."

Re-elect T.J. Miller as Mayor of Plains May 4th, 2002



Commitment:
Continuously served as Mayor of Plains since 1980
Active member of Plains Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce
Some accomplishments of Plains during my leadership as Mayor:
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Endeavored continuously to keep Plains clean and neat
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waste water improvements
Goals for the City of Plains:
Additional water reserves for the City of Plains
Completion of the new City Hall
Develop 380/82 into four lane highway
Expand economic base of Plains
Work with the state to develop entry tourism station in Plains
Continue Representation on boards which directly influence policies affect-

ing the City of Plains
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Years of accumulation of knowledge of municipal law
A calm and even voice presiding over city council meetings
Years of development of influence on area and state boards and committees
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From The Hack

There is a very huge amount of heated, carnal lust going on in our backyard. Now, before the clergy descends upon us to shut the activity down, and to thwart any voyeurs peeping over the fence to catch Bride and I in an unusual behaviour, let me assure you, you would have been disappointed several years ago, and bored to tears now. I am, of course, referring to the annual bird mating orgy. When I occasionally get up in the middle of the night to pray, but usually to relieve another problem, I can hear the familiar dove noise, 'Cooh, cooh, cooh-cooh-cooh.'

I mean these grey stud birds are awake at 4 AM, hoping to lure a female to his perch. They're about as smart as single males, trying for the same goals at that time in the morning. Never did work for me.

Another example of feathered lust. We have a hard headed Mockingbird momma bird who has worked feverishly the last four years building her crib, er, nest in a honeysuckle in the back. Each year, she frantically flies to pick up twigs, sticks, maybe Elmer's Glue, what ever they build their nest with, and every year, an over heated male mocker tries to leap upon her, with a twig in his beak, as if to say, "Here, honeyrumps, I brought you another brick for

our love nest. Can we seriously talk and maybe nuzzle a bit?"

Female mockers always respond with a vicious rebuttal by chasing his over inflamed body off, and you can actually translate her chirps to, "You cheap, lazy SOB, you may or not be the one who got me in this way, but until you admit responsibility and help with this building process, I can guarantee your feathered rump aint about to sit on it, nor ME!"

Mother Nature provides intriguing soap operas.

At the recent PHS district track meet here, I dutifully took 35mm photos, and was hurrying off to Hobbs to have them processed. On the way out of the track, I spotted First Baptist big wigs Bill Wright and Patrick Hamilton. Normally, I would have gladly avoided them, but the scene was intriguing. It appeared to me the two were pressed up against the track fence, penned there by DPS Troopers Brad Taylor and new man Chris Malloy. My first thought was, "My God, they have them at last!" I quickly whipped out my digital camera, and captured the scene for what I thought was immortality. I had visions of blowing it up on the front page, four columns wide, with a Pulitzer winning header, "Local law enforcement finally capture locals posing as clergy members trying to work crowd for tithes."

Someone must have snatched on me, for the next day, well before print time, I had an anonymous, deep, gruffly voice on the phone say, "You write about that picture in your rag, I'll have you excommunicated

out of town, I will tell ALL I know about you!!

I've never known a Baptist preacher to become so violent. But, you don't see the photo anywhere here, do you??

Passing through Andrews recently, I spotted an intriguing advertisement in front of a Town and Country convenience store - "Steak Thumbs" Not steak fingers - steak thumbs. I asked the Bride what part of a cow produced steak THUMBS. "Same place they get the fingers, you dolt."

This just didn't seem reasonable to call portions of cows thumbs, and I related this opinion to her, adding, "One thing for sure, they don't come from monkeys or apes." She gave me that sort of rather scornful look she's sometimes fond of and asked, "And just why not?" When I told her those animals do not possess thumbs, she snorted, "Bullfeathers. They have hands, don't they? You got hands, you got thumbs!" After driving some 60 miles, I gave up trying to persuade her differently. We made another 70 miles in cold silence.

'Women's bumper stickers' So many men, so few who can afford me.

God made us sisters, Prozac made us friends.

If they don't have chocolate in Heaven, I ain't going! My mother is a travel agent for guilt trips.

Princess, having had sufficient experience with Prince, seeks frog.

Coffee, chocolate, men, some things are just better rich.

Don't treat me any differently than you would the Queen.

If you want breakfast in bed, sleep in the kitchen.

Dinner is ready when the smoke alarm goes off.

I'm out of estrogen and I have a gun.

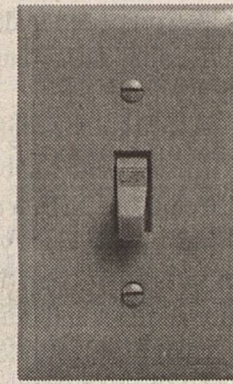
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EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE FOR THE MAY 4, 2002 CITY OF PLAINS GENERAL ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED EACH WEEKDAY AT THE TEMPORARY PLAINS CITY HALL IN THE EMS/FIRE DEPT. BUILDING, LOCATED AT 1104 AVE. G, PLAINS, TEXAS. EARLY VOTING HOURS ARE BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. AND 5:00 P.M. BEGINNING ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2002 AND ENDING TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2002.

THE PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION IS TO ELECT (1) MAYOR AND TWO (2) COUNCILMEMBERS.

Yoakum County Hospital is accepting applications for the position of Emergency Room Admission clerk; hours will be on the evening shift. Applications should have high school diploma and needs computer experience, must have the ability to work well with the public. Yoakum County Hospital has excellent benefits. Application can be picked up at the Yoakum County Hospital Business Office, 412 Mustang Avenue. E.O.E.

RN/LVN WANTED

Yoakum County Hospital has an immediate opening for a RN/LVN on the 3 - 11 and 11 - 7 shift. We offer competitive wages with experience increases, vacation and sick leave, free health insurance, and a retirement plan. Interested individuals should contact Nancy Chamberlain or Joyce Tedford, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas, 79323, 806-592-2121. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

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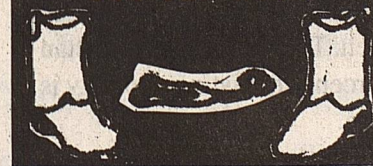
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Vacancy Announcement

Position Title: Temporary Program Technician. Vacancy Announcement: 02-01, Grade: CO-3 to CO-5, Date of Announcement: 04-23-02, Applications must be received by: 05-08-02.

Location: Yoakum County FSA Office, 1305 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas 79355. To Apply: Send FSA-675 to, Yoakum County FSA, P.O. Box 70, Plains, Texas. FSA-675 is "Application for Employment". Blank forms may be obtained from any FSA County Office or from the address shown above.

Duties: To assist in the administration of federal farm programs, greeting public, measuring acres, operating numonics, filing. Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel, and a farming background is a plus. Applicant will be responsible for accurately completing assigned jobs.

Employer Equal Opportunity. Candidates will be considered without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, political affiliation, personal sponsorship, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, or other nonmerit factors.

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