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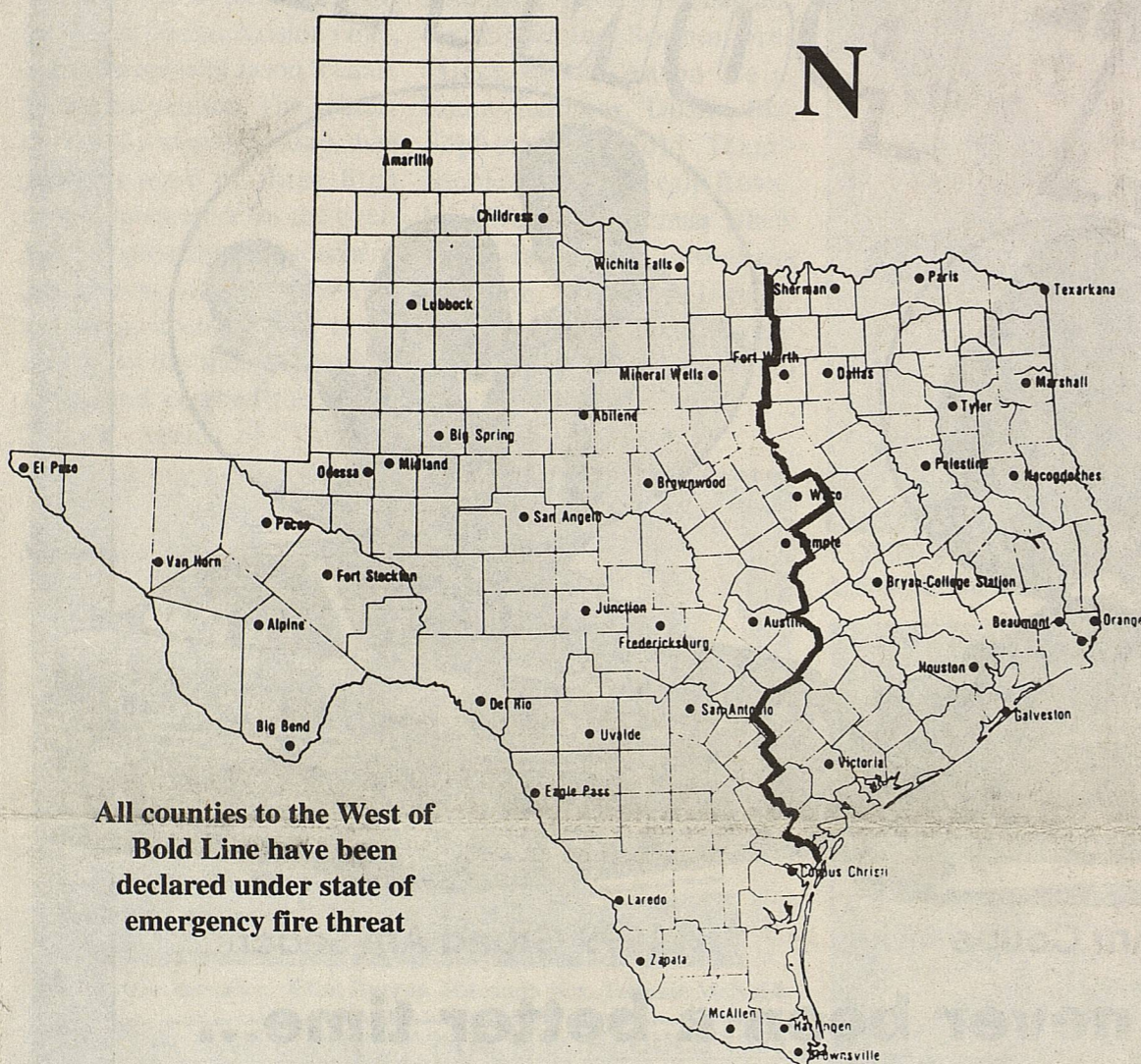
# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 27, Wednesday Mar. 17, 1999



## Governor Bush warns us of what most already know



All counties to the West of Bold Line have been declared under state of emergency fire threat

A widely reported news release detailing Governor George W. Bush's recent proclamation declaring 167 of our state's 254 counties in a state of emergency due to fire danger verified the conclusion most West Texans have reluctantly arrived at; The State of Texas, for the most part, is still gripped in a serious drought.

Yoakum County agricultural producers, despite recent damp, drizzly weather, even a few scattered showers, are well aware Mother Nature is continuing to prove stubborn in blessing the area with desperately needed moisture.

Plans are underway to strengthen fire fighting resources around the state to prevent loss of lives and property. The Governor has asked county officials in the 167 county danger zone to evaluate the need for declaring outdoor burning bans.

A drought task force is currently working to determine communities whose water supplies could be at risk in the drought, and making plans to possibly interconnect municipal water systems, particularly in the Lower Rio Grande Valley area, now experiencing its sixth year of extreme drought.

County Judge Dallas reported Monday morning he would bring the fire emergency matter before Commissioner's Court that date. "The issue has not been formally placed on the Court's agenda, and the court will have to discuss possible 'burn ban' regulations and restrictions before any official action is taken."

City and rural residents would be well advised to exercise extreme caution with any type of open flame, particularly during spring's gusty wind conditions.

## Waterline a step closer to home

The 12 inch line which will bring water to the city's distribution system is nearing the final stage. Workers Monday were busy tying the new line into the old line which brings water to the main storage tank southwest of town.

A little ditching remains to be completed on land where the city's three new wells were drilled. A pump station building and 100,000 gallon storage tank are to be constructed at that site.

City Administrator David Brunson told CCN, "I'm estimating the ditching and laying of pipe is approximately two weeks ahead of schedule. The tank and building should take about three weeks to complete, and I'm still very optimistic we will have water flowing in the new system by May 1."



City employees prepare to make last connection just west of town

## '99 Little Dribbler Photos Inside!

### County Criminal Court

the following criminal cases were heard recently in County Court presided over by Judge Dallas Brewer. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

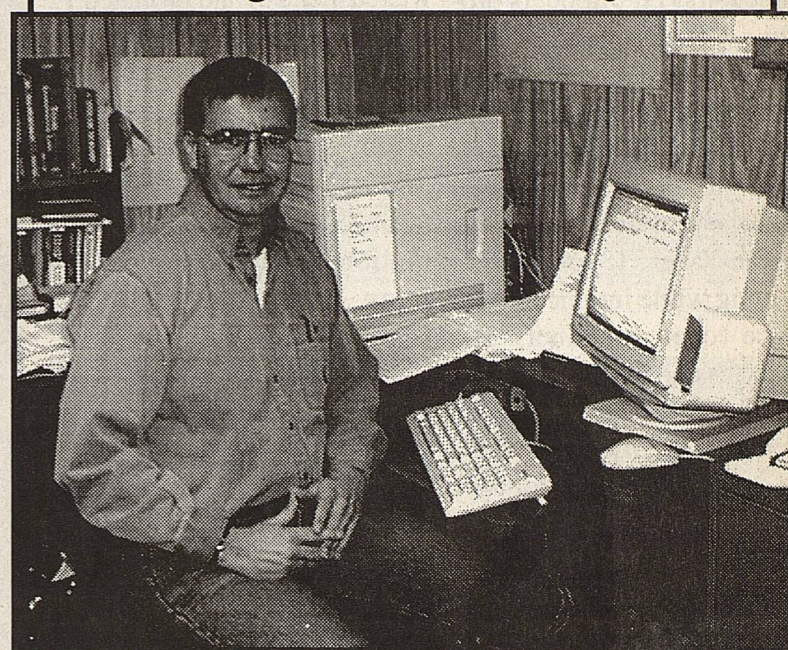
Steven Wayne Williams, 40, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 180 days. The \$200.00 fine and court cost of \$214.25 will be made in time payments. He is to pay 1/3 of \$185.20 restitution to Joshua Lynn Bullock and CINGA Health Insurance. He must also attend family counseling.

Jose Lionel Cerda, 29, pled guilty to driving while intoxicated 1st offence. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. His \$600.00 fine and \$199.25 court

### "Criminal Court"

Turn to Page 2,

## New utility supervisor on job with city



Ed Hansen

There's a new face among the employees of the City of Plains. Ed Hansen assumed the duties of Utilities Supervisor on Monday, March 8. City Administrator David Brunson said, "We're very glad to have Ed with us, and I know he will be an asset in all of our day to day operations."

Hansen, 43, comes here from Sundown. He was formerly employed by Warren Petroleum, a division of Chevron, as a field operator. Hansen and his family will be moving to Plains when housing arrangements are complete. His wife, Terri, is currently employed as a pre-school instructor with the First Baptist Church of Sundown. The couple have three children, Chris, 15, Keri, 14, and Brent, 5.

Hansen served six years in the

Marine Corps. He is currently going to night school at Lubbock Christian University, and needs 14 hours to attain a Bachelor Degree in Business Management. He hopes to graduate in December of this year.

Hansen said the City Manager at Sundown referred him to Brunson. He had been assisting in securing a financial grant for Sundown at the time of his initial interview with Brunson last October.

He told CCN, My family and I are excited about the move to Plains. We've already met many nice people, and we constantly hear reports of how good the Plains school system is. I'm looking forward to contributing to continued good service for all our residents here."

## County churches, schools, organizations cooperate to promote youth, family speaker

Ron Johnson to present program March 22, 23

In a display of county unity, a host of people have worked hard to make the presentation of noted youth and family motivational speaker Ron Johnson a success in both Denver City and Plains.

Johnson, acclaimed by all who have heard his message first hand, and countless others who have seen his inspirational videos, agree his words are those our society sorely needs, to solidify ties between individual family members, their communities, schools and social organizations.

His program, previewed by both community's school administrators, clergy men of churches in Plains and Denver City, and local civic and fraternal organizations, has received rave reviews for the program's theme, "The Rites Of Passage".



Cafeteria at Denver City, followed by Mr. Johnson's program at 7 to 8 p.m in Jones Auditorium.

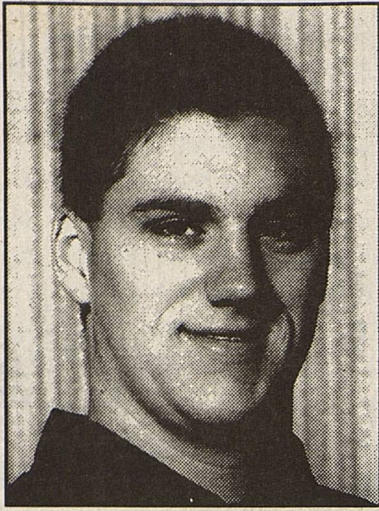
The For Women Only event will follow on Tuesday, March 23, with another hamburger supper at 5:30 to 6:45 in the Plains School Cafeteria. The following meeting for female family members will follow at 7 p.m. in the Plains school auditorium.

Additional sponsorship for Mr. Johnson's program is supported by the Mental Health Association of Texas, Yoakum County Even Start, the Yoakum County Criminal District Attorney Office, the two school districts, and most local churches. Several local ministers have urged parents, and those in pa-

Turn to Page 2, "Ron Johnson"

### PHS Grad receives scholarship

Derek Brunson, son of David and Diane Brunson of Plains, and a student at South Plains College, was among students recognized recently during a luncheon honoring the South Plains Chapter of the American Petroleum Institute. He is a recipient of a scholarship from the API, which has awarded \$7,500 in scholarships and assisted 21 SPC students during the current school year.



The API scholarship program was started in 1970, and since has helped 1,000 college students get a college education.

#### "Criminal Court"

**From Page 1,**  
cost will be made in time payments. He must serve six days in jail with credit for two, time served and attend weekly AA Meetings. He must successfully complete the 1st offenders program.

Darvin Homer Leverett, Jr., 21, pled true to assault causing bodily injury. He must serve 60 days in jail with credit for 14 days, time served.

Damian Yanez, 18, pled guilty to driving while intoxicated 1st offence (open container). His court costs of \$229.25 and a fine of \$600.00 will be met in time payments. He must serve 10 days in jail with credit for two, attend weekly AA

The South Plains Chapter of API has donated \$246,000 to South Plains College students.

Meetings and install an interlock device on any vehicle he drives.

Ernesto Lopez Franco, 33, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months.

Randy Lavel Chapman, 45, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. He must pay a fine of \$200.00, court cost of \$214.25 and pay 1/3 of total restitution of \$185.20 to Joshua Lynn Bullock and CINGA Health Insurance.

Rex Alan McGavisk, 40, pled guilty to driving while license were suspended. He must pay a fine of \$150.00 and court cost of \$184.25. He was represented

by Attorney Bill Fitzgerald.

Frank Rene Morales, 28, agreed to the state's order to modify conditions of community supervision. Supervision was extended 180 days, he must attend the Guidance Center of Lea County, in Hobbs, NM. He must also pay \$40.00 per month during the extended period of supervision.

#### From Page 1, "Ron Johnson"

rental authority, to bring their families to these meetings. "If we could fill the meeting places for Ron Johnson's presentation, our county would be a better place for all of us to live, learn, work, prosper and grow spiritually", one Pastor told CCN.

### Krystle Blundell going to Girls State

Krystle Blundell, a Junior at PHS, has been selected as a candidate to the annual Girls State Convention, sponsored by TSA MO GA Women's Club and the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

Krystle, daughter of Chris and Vicki Blundell, is a member of the Plains High Student Council and is a member of the Cowgirl Baseball and Track Teams. In the event she is unable to attend Girls State, Candace Bowers, daughter of Tim and Donna Bowers will serve as alternate candidate.

The Girls State Convention will be held June 15-24 on the campus of Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Tx. During the Convention the candidates will undergo intense programs to make them aware of the importance of under-

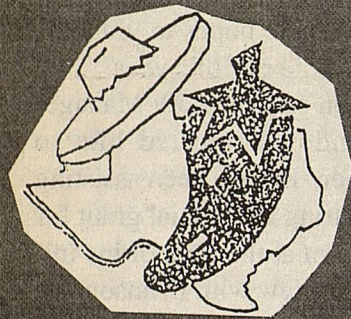
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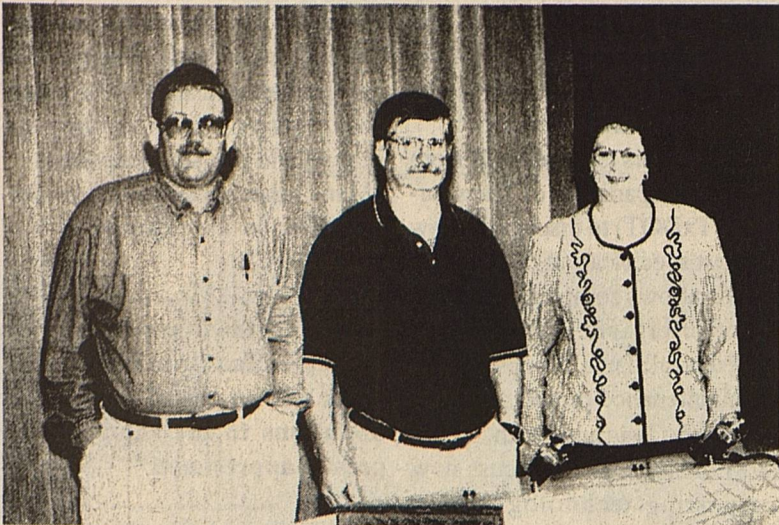
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## PHS faculty stuns entire world in upset win over seniors



Faculty Team members Edwin Brink, Richie Collins, Renatta O'Quinn

The final round of the annual brain stressing Quiz Bowl at Plains High School was held last Monday. The contest pits freshman, sophomores, juniors and senior teams against each other in attempting to answer some very tough questions to advance to the final round. Monday's final found the junior 'Black Team', Kristen Gray, Anne Palmer and Jason Swann, facing the seniors. The seniors eventually won the round, then faced a team of three high school instructors for the overall championship. The teachers, Mr. Cullins, Mr. Brink and Mrs. O'Quinn, avenged last year's defeat by the then sophomore team, and downed the senior 'Black' team of Tommie

McNabb, Maranda Box and Clint Burrus for the championship.

Other class teams in the spirited and difficult contest included;

Seniors 'Gold Team'-Dustin Brunson, Cosme Casillas, Lisa Parrish. Juniors 'Gold Team'-Josh Bell, Wendy Hernandez, Kyle Sisson. Sophomores 'Black Team'-Aaron Cain, Eddie Gallegos, Dustin Six. Sophomores 'Gold Team'-Nicole Haynes, Lesli Rowe, Lexi Warren. Freshmen 'Black Team'-Jared Bell, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Becky Wilmeth. Freshmen 'Gold Team'-Tanner Hamm, Jarod Newland, Scott Tirrell.



Senior Team members Clint Burrus, Maranda Box, Tommie McNabb

### COWGIRL AND COWBOY TRACK SCHEDULE 1999

MARCH	19-20	ODESSA	Boys
MARCH	27	SEMINOLE	
APRIL	1	SEAGRAVES	
APRIL	9	STANTON	
APRIL	16	STANTON	District
APRIL	23 or 24	REGIONAL QUALIFIERS	
APRIL	30	REGIONAL MEET	Abilene
MAY	1	REGIONAL MEET	
MAY	7	STATE QUALIFIERS	Abilene
MAY	14-15	STATE MEET	

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## District 3-AA Basketball All District Selections

Most Valuable Player-Blake Nichols (Sr.) Coahoma  
Defensive Player of the Year-Justin Cobb (Sr.) Stanton and Jeff Davis (Sr.) Seagraves  
Newcomer of the Year-Adam Garcia (Soph.) Plains  
1st Team All-District  
Tanner Blount (Sr.) Plains  
Brad Pedsworth (Jr.) Tahoka  
Ryan Peckham (Sr.) Coahoma  
Jeremy Bandy (Sr.) Seagraves  
Braden Conner (Jr.) Post  
Clell Knight (Sr.) Post  
Kyle Herm (Sr.) Stanton  
Chad Smith (Sr.) Stanton  
Sedrick Williams (Jr.) Tahoka  
Eddy Gallegos (Soph.) Plains  
2nd Team All-District  
Brady Raindl-Tahoka  
Terry Bryant-Seagraves  
Blu Tidwell-Seagraves  
David White- Coahoma  
Billy Crawford -Post  
Daniel Fluit- Post  
Josh Bell -Plains  
Fermin Luna- Plains  
Jordan Sarchet -Tahoka  
Jeremy Hull -Stanton  
Austin Kelly- Stanton

## '99 Little Dribblers



COMETS- Alice Curtis, Britnie Duran, Katie Winn, Lauren Hise, L'Shae Arnett



ROCKETS- Brant Huerta, Blake O'Quinn, Cade Arnett, Daniel Parker



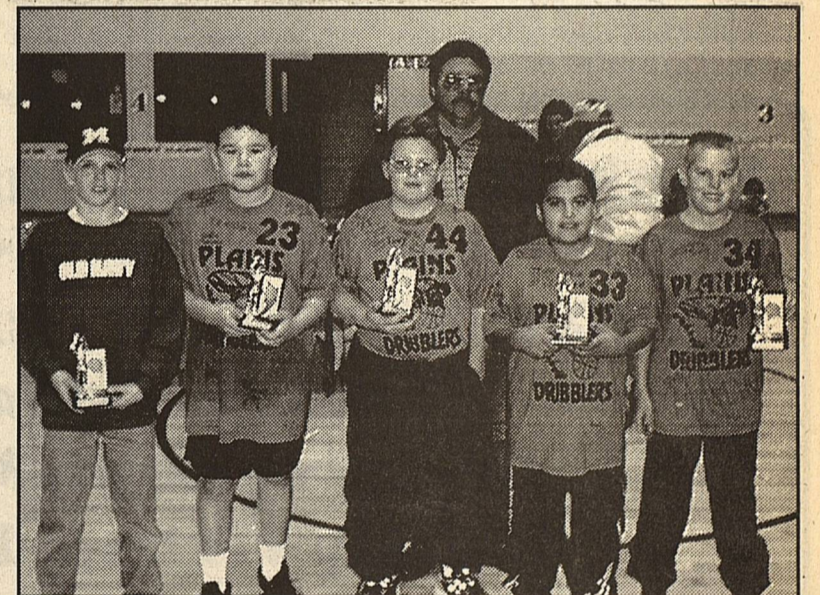
SPARKS- Meghan Garcia, Desiraye Broome, Delight Asebedo, Marett Trent, Adriana Ponce



COWBOYS- B.J. Lester, Brandon Hise, Kelby Johnson, Michael Therwanger, Abel Ramos, Coach Bruce Lester



LIBERTY- Priscilla Mares, Sandra Gandara, Prisma Ortiz, Jesenia Suarez, Coach Alma Mares, Josie Cordova, water girl Jasmine Mares



EVAN CAIN- Evan Cain, Cody Flores, Trey Cleveland, T.J. Cordova, Blake Parrish, Asst. Coach Cody Flores



The ritual of autographing other team members shirts at season end

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LADY PISTONS - Connie Loya, Mayra Flores, Daniela Lazos, Jamie Covarrubias, Amy Brintle, Coaches Gloria Covarrubias, Debbie Brintle



COWBOYS-Jacob Rivera, Jacob Garza, John Tyson, Elias Carrillo, Alex Perez, Jordan Rivera, Coach Joe Rivera



SPURS-Water boys Brandon Craft, Chris Addison- Mario Sigala, C.J. Tarango, Chase Guetersloh, Landon Craft, Scott Addison, Coach Tim Addison

**All Little Dribbler team photos not available. Following are rosters for teams not pictured**

- Junior Girls**  
 Billie Howell  
 Callie Howell  
 Lauren Davis  
 Caitlin Carter  
 Regina Morales  
 Chandra Carpenter
- Cowgirls**  
 Danny Bell  
 Joani Bell  
 Kimberly Jackson  
 Nicloe Culwell  
 Marissa Melendez  
 M'Leah McKinzie  
 Kimberly Gonzales

- Bulls**  
 Michelle Hawthorne  
 Trent Hawthorne  
 Steven Dominguez  
 Zachary Ramos  
 Matthew Jimenez  
 Justen Henry
- Sonics**  
 Wayne Sisson  
 Kerry Sisson  
 Payton Bean  
 Todd Williams  
 Casson Curtis  
 Isaac Ramon  
 John Wagon

- Junior Boys**  
 Gloria Vasquez  
 Justin Vasquez  
 Rudy Gonzales  
 Challie Johnson  
 Larry Caballero  
 Jose Flores

- 1999 Officers**  
 David Huerta-President  
 Richard Garcia-Girls-V.Pres.  
 Gloria Vasquez-Boys-V.Pres.  
 Carolyn Culwell-Treasurer  
 Alma Mares-Secretary

**EQIP Ranking Deadlines Set**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has set the ranking deadlines for the 1999 Environment Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The first ranking deadline for the 1999 program year is March 31, 1999 and a second ranking deadline is set for July 1, 1999. Applications from individual landowners interested in participating in the EQIP during the 1999 program year received before March 31 will be ranked for program eligibility during April and those received after March 31 will be ranked after the July 1, 1999 deadline. Producers who did not qualify for the EQIP program during the March 31 ranking period may request a deferment from their local Farm Services Administration (FSA) office and be eligible to be re-ranked during the July 1 ranking period. It should be noted that applications received after the July 1 deadline, as part of the EQIP continuous program sign-up provisions, will be held until the 2000 program year ranking period.

**Composting Workshop Slated**

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission in partnership with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. and South Plains Association of Governments are pleased to announce the upcoming workshop, "Alternative Waste Management and Marketing Through Agricultural Composting." The workshop will take place on March 25, 1999 at the KoKo Palace, 5201 Avenue Q, Lubbock, Tx., with registration beginning at

8:00 am. Since there is limited space available please save yourself a spot by calling Ms. Tammy Brown at 806-762-8721. Lunch will be provided by the Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. Office. The workshop will focus on the development of composting as an

alternative management practice for feedlot manure and diverting urban organics into compost. Speakers will include Mr. Malcolm Beck with Gardenville Inc. Mr. Beck is a nationally known speaker, composter and author. He has presented at workshops and seminars throughout the United States and overseas. Other speakers include: Staff from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to discuss the new compost specification. This specification allows composted manure and other organic material to be utilized on all TxDOT construction and maintenance projects. Dr. Don Cawthon with Texas A&M Commerce to discuss new composting technologies. Dr.

Cawthon was the winner of the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards in the category of agriculture for his work on composting. Mr. David Moore president of Grow More, Premium Organic Products, Mr. Moore is a successful composter in the Stephenville and Dalhart area and will be speaking on partnerships with dairy operators and private composters. Many other speakers will be participating in the program as well

The special account for the Alexander family at Plains State Bank will be closed April 1. All donations to the fund will be greatly appreciated

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# Ron Johnson

Inspiration speaker who works with parents and youth through his non-profit organization, the National Family Life and Education Center

**FOR MEN ONLY**  
 Monday, March 22, 1999

**Hamburger Supper**  
 5:30-6:45 P.M.  
 Intermediate Cafeteria  
 1001 N. Ave. F  
 Denver City

**Ron Speaks to Men**  
 7:00-8:00 P.M.  
 J. W. Jones Auditorium  
 Denver City

**FOR WOMEN ONLY**  
 Tuesday, March 23, 1999

**Hamburger Supper**  
 5:30-6:45 P.M.  
 Plains School Cafeteria  
 North side of Plains Elementary  
 Plains

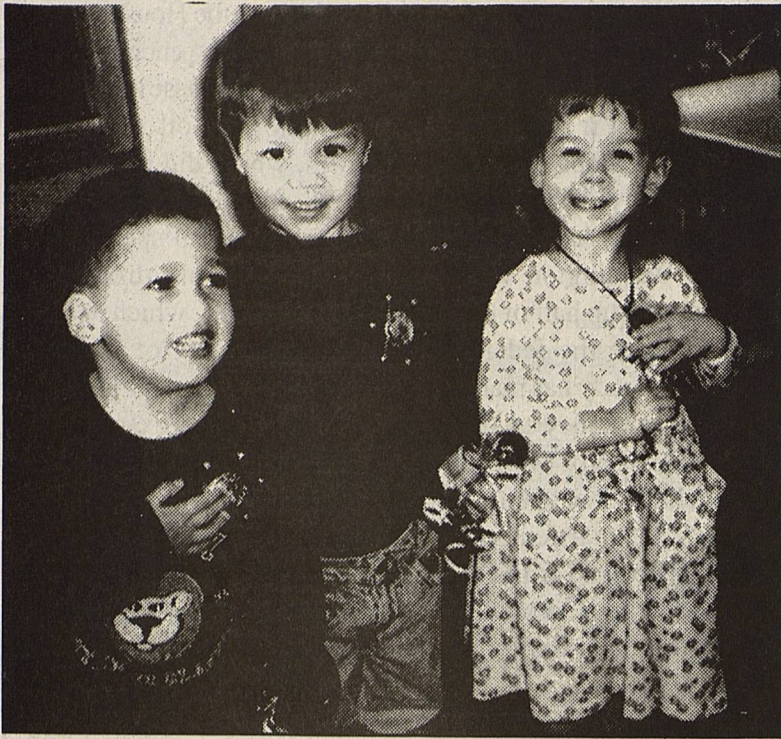
**Ron Speaks to Women**  
 7:00-8:00 P.M.  
 Plains HS Auditorium  
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Filmtime

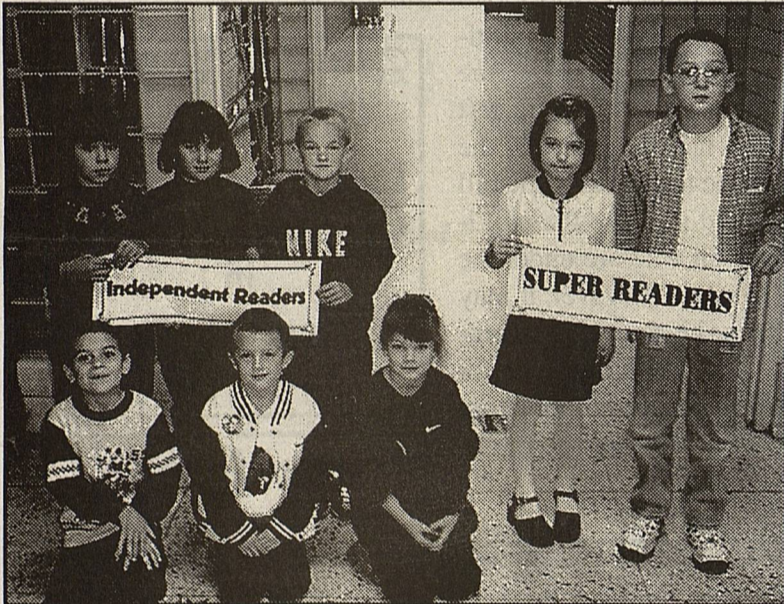


L-R Matthew Ramos - 4, Merrit Crump - 4, Bailey Winn - 3

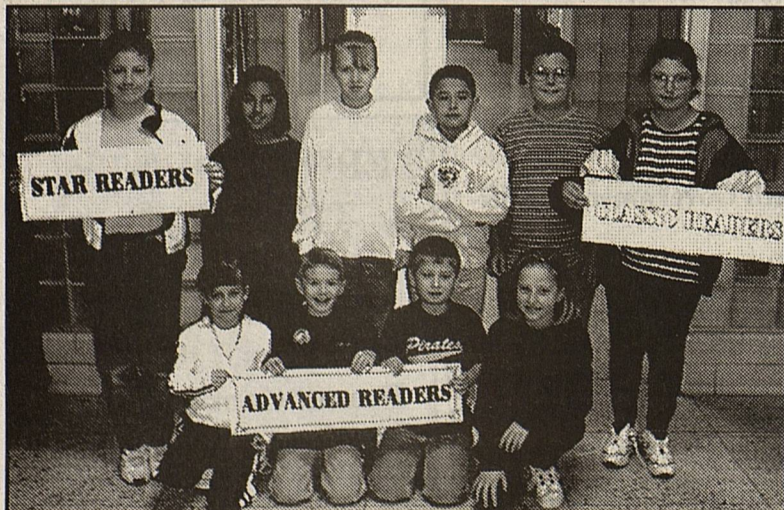
There were twenty children in attendance at Filmtime March 3, 1999. Those in attendance were; Karla Powell, Clayton Gass, Matthew Ramos, Bailey Winn, Autumn Friesen, Justin Barnhart, Jacob Neufeld, Herman Sawatzky, Johnathan Davis, Halee Lowery, Dakota Earnest, Haley Welch, Colby Bearden, Merrit Crump, Jasmine Riveria, Jaron Barnhart, Jacob Sawatzky, Sam Melendez, Whitney Davis, Laz Escobar.

The children played three games, sang two songs, heard a story, and watched two movies. They celebrated 3 birthdays; The mothers brought punch, cupcakes, napkins decorated with footballs, and football suckers for all the children. We will not have Filmtime next week due to Spring Break at school.

## Elementary Reading Progress



Independent Readers-Patrica Avila, Gladys Gallegos, Jaaron Bell Chase Ortega, Kevin John Gass, Atephanie Addison Super Readers-Natalie Haynes and Chris Loy



Star Reader-Nicole Culwell Advanced Readers-Front Row-Katie Winn, Brandon Craft, Colby Ortega, Lauren Hise Back Row-Meghan Garcia, Margaret Martens, Sergio Olivas, Chatlie Johnson Classic Reader-Angelica Mendoza

## Connection Makes Summer Youth Program Plans

The Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Program committee will meet Monday, March 22 at 8:00 p.m. in the Denver City Youth Center. The 8:00 p.m. meeting will allow interested men to attend the Ron Johnson program to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the J.W. Jones auditorium that same date. All interested persons are invited to attend and offer suggestions for the summer workshops or instructors. Last year 18 classes were offered to 193 students at free or reduced cost, with a matching grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts. Most Denver City classes were held in the Denver City Youth Center and in Plains at the Yoakum County Art Association Building. County Libraries allowed class sign-up at their facilities.

County Precincts 2 and 4 do-

minated materials for murals painted in youth centers. Elve Lozano, Marina Natividad and Linda Powell supervised the classes. This year the Connection board voted to pay a director for the county workshops. Instructors lined up already include Susie Powell and David Mitchell, drawing; Jimmie Bayer and Betty Estep, oils; Pat McNabb, photography; Margaret Williams of Hobbs, clay; and Gloria Dominguez, murals. "It takes cooperation and concern for youth to make a successful program take place each year," stated Linda Powell. Ages 7 and up can look forward to enrichment and safe supervision in the workshops offered. Art awareness and training benefits the communities by adding color and beauty to our lives.

By Linda Powell

## "Leadership" program held at TSA MO GA Club

TSA MO GA Club March 8th, 7:00 p.m. for a Leadership Program. Business meeting was conducted by Judy Head, President. Invitation read, for the Caprock District Convention to be held March 27, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Lubbock Plaza, theme 'Youth-What Can We Do To Help?' Club members attending this meeting will be Judy Head, Billie Blundell, Delegate, Mattie Field, Wilma Powell, Elouise St. Romain, Sarah Shelton, Mary Jo St. Romain, Zareta and Valeria Winn.

Billie Blundell program coordinator, quoted Mark A. Clement "Leaders who win the respect of others are those who deliver more than they promise, not the ones who promise more than they deliver." Judy Head then presented the "Practicing Leadership Skills" Program. She stated the purpose of a Leadership Program is to strengthen the existing leadership skills of the members by providing them with the necessary tools for further development. For personal development, to achieve awareness in

any area, one must seek knowledge and understanding. Practicing Leadership Skills is the step from awareness to action, and plays an important role in the development of a leader. Making use of the General Federation of Women's Clubs information can help develop leadership; helpful tips include using a written, timed, scripted agenda for meetings, being flexible but ready to assert authority, having a basic knowledge of Robert's Rule of Order, and being aware of and follow protocol.

Club members were reminded to attend an Inspiration talk given by Ron Johnson Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at 7:00-8:00 in the Plains High School Auditorium.

Hostesses were Helen Hunter and Latrell McDonnell.

What you want in life and what you get depends on just how badly you want it. To evaluate your desires and determine what's really important to you, reflect on how and where you spend your time. When you really want something, you'll find the time and effort to achieve it.

## Artist to demonstrate portrait painting abilities here

Noted painter Paul Milosevich will be the special guest artist of the Yoakum County Art Association at their club meeting Tuesday, April 6. Mr. Milosevich will demonstrate his considerable talent in a portrait painting demonstration. A graduate of California State University, he has taught art at Odessa College and Texas Tech. He has been featured in Southwest Art Magazine, Golf Illustrated, Texas Country Reporter TV Show, and is an inductee in the Lubbock "Walk of Fame".

His work is found in many museums, including the Songwriters' Hall of Fame in



Paul Milosevich

Nashville, the U.S. Golf Museum, Texas Tech Museum, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and the Texas Sports Hall of Fame. The meeting and demonstration will be open to the public. The Tuesday, April 6 meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. in the Club Room of the old Courthouse.

## Openings in Upcoming Certified Nurse Aide Course

Openings are available in an 80-hour course in Certified Nurse Aid, scheduled March 29-May 10 at South Plains College.

The course skills necessary to work in long-term care, home health or hospital environments.

Classroom instruction will be given 5:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays in the SPC Technical Arts Building, room 112. Clinical instruction will be given 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on three Saturdays, to be arranged.

Tuition is \$250, and state exam fee is \$64.75. Instructors are Karen Cox Daniel, L.V.N., and Phillip Bray, L.V.N.

On Successful completion of the course, students will take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Examination.

Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus and have a current TB test prior to enrolling in the nurse aide class.

Registration materials may be obtained by contacting the SPC Office of Continuing and Distance Education through Friday, March 12, and beginning March 22 at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

## Senior Citizens Corner

Darlene Clevenger is back at table #3 and in the ceramic's room after a hospital stay and surgery. Betty Evans in local hospital. Shirley Watson and Ireta Davis both in Lubbock hospital. We wish these ladies a fast recovery.

Our sympathy to Buster Boulter and family in their time of grief.

The dominoe tournament this week was "Big News". First place winners for the ladies were June Hannaman and Bertie Smith. Placing first for the men were Billie Hunt and Chris Humphrey.

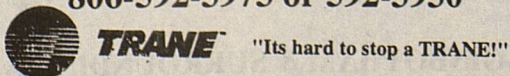
Then the big play-off. First place ladies against first place men-best two out of three games. Of course the men won the first two games. But the ladies are not giving up. One day our luck will hold and we will make the men feel like they have entered the Rattle Snake Round-up at Sweetwater. MAYBE!

Free meal tickets went to each first place winner and a \$2.00 off "anything of your choice" for the overall champions, at the Dairy Queen. Happy eating guys-enjoy!

See you next week,  
Smitty

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## From The Hack

After reading the following E-Mail last week, I thought it prudent on my part to reproduce it here; As much as I have taken advantage of the law profession by printing some pretty wild stories about attorneys and their boo-boos, it's probably wise to do something positive about their calling. I may have to sit before one in court someday. Here's a story (supposedly true) of one who did something right. This "good lawyer" story is for Paul New, Linda Lowrey, Warren New, Bill Helwig, Richard Clark, and Paul Mansur. May the Good Lord have mercy on me if I have omitted any other lawyer practicing in the county. You better enjoy, because it's probably the last decent thing I will ever say about your livelihood.

"A New Orleans lawyer sought an FHA loan for a client. He was told the loan would be granted if he could prove satisfactory title to a property being offered for collateral. The title dated back to 1803, which took the lawyer months to track down. After sending the information to the FHA, he received the following actual reply;

Upon review of your letter and client's loan application, we note the request is supported by an Abstract of Title. We compliment you on the able manner in which you have prepared and presented the application. We must point out you have only cleared title to the property back to 1803. Before final approval can be accorded, it will be necessary to clear the title back to its origin.

Annoyed, the lawyer responded with the following actual letter; Your letter regarding title in case # 189156 is received. I note you wish to have title extended further than the 194 years cov-

ered by the present application. I was unaware that any educated person in this country, particularly those working in property areas, would not know that Louisiana was purchased by the U.S. from France in 1803, the year identified in our application. For the edification of uninformed FHA bureaucrats, the title to the land prior to U.S. ownership was obtained from France, which acquired it by right of conquest from Spain. The land came into possession of Spain by right of discovery made in the year 1492 by a sea captain named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by the then reigning Spanish Monarch, Isabelle. The good Queen, being a pious woman and careful about titles, almost as much as the FHA, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope before she sold her jewels to fund Columbus' expedition. Now the Pope, as I'm sure you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, the Son Of God. And God, it is commonly accepted, created this world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to presume He also made that part of the world called Louisiana. He, therefore, would be the owner of origin. I hope you find his original claim to be satisfactory. Now, may we have our loan?"

The loan was granted.

In last Monday's final match of the interesting and challenging PHS "Quiz Bowl", the Junior Class team, defending champs, were faced off against the Senior team. One of the questions asked was, "What famous historical event occurred on September 2, 1945". The two team's faces looked blank, as did my brain. I hadn't a clue. When the moderator gave the answer, "That date was V-J Day, the day Japan surrendered to allied forces in World War II."

WHOA! I almost fell out of my seat, and my mind was silently screaming, "Wait a minute! That's not right! V-J Day occurred on August 14, 1945! I know that for sure and certain!"

On that momentous day, I was spending the summer with grandparents in Eden. About mid-afternoon, the little town came alive with people scurrying about screaming, "The war's over! Japan has surrendered! Turn your radio on!" (Remember, no TV back then in the dark ages). It was true, and the town just went crazy with joy. Many of them had special reasons to rejoice; Far too many of them had received somber telegrams reading, "We regret to inform you your son (or husband) has been wounded (or killed, or missing) in action."

The next day, all the papers sported huge headlines, "V-J Day At Last!" After that Quiz Bowl session, I had a disturbing thought. When you reach that chronological level commonly referred to as the Old Geezer Period, it occasionally dawns on one, memory is not always infallible. Self doubt crept in, and I sped down to the local library to see if dementia had struck.

NO! I checked out V-J Day in four reference books and a few histories of that long and terrible war. They all summed the event up something like this; After much debate and wrangling, Emperor Hirohito and most of his Japanese military leaders agreed to throw in the towel, and on August 15, 1945, communicated to Washington they would accept unconditional surrender terms already proposed by the Allies. Yes, August 15, but because of the International Date-line, it was August 14 here in the United States.

I did find one reference where British historians and media credit September 2 as V-J Day, but that was the day the big official signing of the surrender papers was staged aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. The REAL V-J Day was truly August 14.

Does this make me a potential Quiz Bowl genius? Hardly; I could not come close to an answer for the question, "The cartilaginous laryngeal is present in all humans, more pronounced in males. What is its common name?" My brain was equally

dead trying to determine "How many unfilled electron shells are there in the Noble Gas elements?"

The questions really aren't all that difficult. Especially if you have the answer sheet - (a) The Adam's Apple, and (b) None.

## When To Prune Trees

Many folks have been inquiring as to when is the proper time to prune their trees. Since trees are still dormant, you can begin pruning your deciduous trees. You can prune deciduous trees until the buds begin swelling in the spring. However, I would wait until spring, just before growth begins to prune evergreens such as junipers and pines. Pines, spruce, and most evergreens require a different type of pruning than deciduous trees.

At this time of the year, you can do more extensive pruning than when the trees are not dormant. It is important to avoid excessive pruning. Young trees which are vigorously growing may be pruned much less. Old trees which are not growing much should only be pruned to remove dead and diseased wood. Please remember that "topping" trees weakens them and is poor pruning practice. When pruning, it is important to make the pruning cuts at the appropriate location, not too close and not too far from the branch or trunk from which the branch being removed originates. Check with me at the County Extension Office or in our local library for recent pruning information which explains, "branch collars" and explains how to properly prune the trees.

Tadd Knight, CEA-Ag  
Yoakum County



## Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

### Emergency Spending

We started off this week by voting to send a message to Congress to not take a portion of the settlement money won by Texas in their lawsuit against tobacco companies. As you may or may not know, there are those in leadership positions in Washington who would like to take up half of the money to balance the federal budget. Texas already has made plans to use the money to the benefit of citizens within Texas. Legislators feel strongly about this issue, particularly since the federal government did not help us in any way with the winning of the lawsuit.

We heard testimony in Land and Resource Management regarding the Oklahoma-Texas boundary. It is necessary to set a boundary that is easily identifiable by everyone, particularly law enforcement officials. It was interesting to hear how Oklahoma and Texas officials cooperate with each other when arresting someone in territory that is not easily identifiable as one state or the other.

The House Committee on Pensions and Investments heard my bill raising the teacher retirement multiplier from 2.0 to 2.25 on Wednesday. All multiplier bills were heard at the same time, and all were left pending. It is the intent of the committee to put forth one bill that would increase the multiplier for all who are under the TRS system. However, it may not be as high as 2.25. Committee members are waiting for the latest actuarial report from TRS to decide what the multiplier will be.

Also on Wednesday, we dealt with two bills on the House floor detailing emergency spending. One was the bill on the severance tax exemption for oil and gas producers, which did pass the House on second reading. The other details several spending measures, including drought relief for farmers, which was another top priority of mine. Wednesday was a good legislative day for West Texas.

Friday the 11th is the bill filing deadline for this session. It's been very busy this week as everyone tries to get their pet projects properly filed and ready for consideration.

Galveston Island had earlier names. Cabeza de Vaca, first European to see the island, called it "Malhado", isle of misfortune. After his escape from Indians and return to Spain, he referred to it as "Isla de las Culebras", isle of snakes. Explorers in 1785 named it after Count Bernardo de Galvez, Viceroy of Mexico. Jean Lafitte, who set up his pirate headquarters there in 1817, called it "Campeachy".

The Texas News,  
July, 1854

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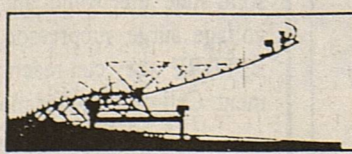
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