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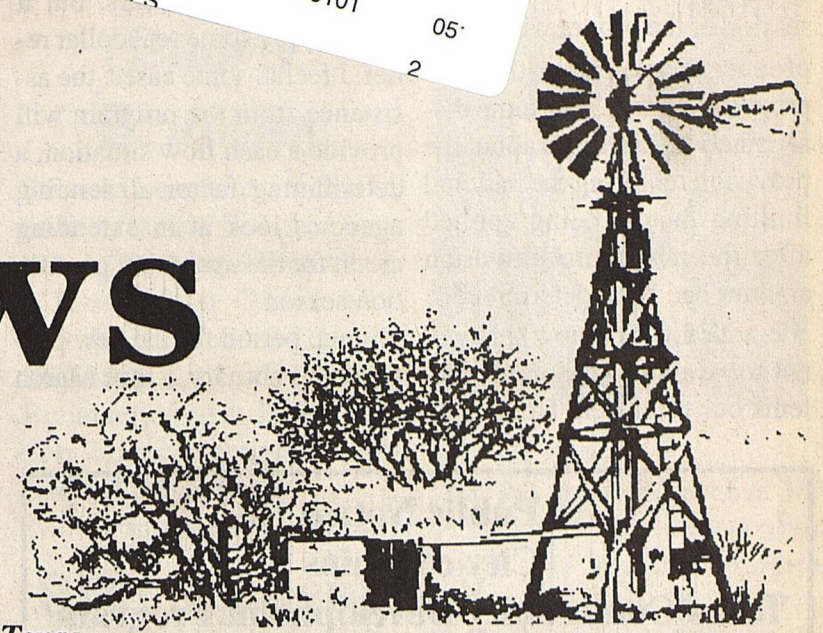
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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 23, Wednesday Feb. 17, 1999



Y₂K threat being met by local firms and agencies

Call it the Millennium Bug, The Year Two Thousand Crash, the Y2K Disaster, the much publicized prediction of a pending crash of all the world's computer systems is exactly 317 days away from the date of this issue of CCN.

Many sources say it will be the mother of all calamities, while others on the skeptic side predict it will be a non-event, with little significance for computer users and the general public. Regardless of opinions, the more prudent users of computer systems are taking steps to ensure their systems are "GO" for January 1, 2000 A.D. Last week CCN interviewed a number of locals dependent on computer systems for their everyday routines running a private business firm, or conducting the business of a governmental entity. One hundred percent of those interviewed viewed the pending event serious enough to warrant checking out their computer hardware and software for compliance with Y2K problems. The following are results of the informal survey.

County Judge Dallas Brewer said the PC in his office has a clean bill of health for the event. He related all county offices are currently being checked by the Software Group of Plano, Texas, for any possible bugs in software, hardware and the mainframe processor in the courthouse to ensure no future problems. "We will have a 'clean' operating system well before the date rolls around." The county offices in Denver City will also undergo close scrutiny for problems. An earlier CCN article dealt with the extensive checking of computers and operating systems now taking place in the Plains School District, including the hundreds of computers used by students, faculty and administrators.

City of Plains Administrator David Brunson told us all of the city computers had been checked, and three were found to be non-compliant with Y2K demands. "Those machines will be replaced well before the end of the year." He stated a number of citizens had expressed concerns about delivery of water and gas in the event of a major computer glitch on New Year Day 2000. "Our gas supplier, El Paso Natural Gas, has assured us their systems will be in compliance in plenty of time. Our water system is governed by computers, but even in the unlikely event of a failure, we have manual override systems to continue delivery of water to the city."

Much concern has been expressed in print and television about certain calamities occurring in our banking system. Debbie Smith, Assistant Vice-President, Plains State Bank reported, "All our computers and operating systems have been thoroughly checked and we are in compliance with federal banking regulations. The corresponding banks we deal with daily have notified us they too are in compliance, and we are required to document this compliance by sending test data to them which would indicate any possible problems. We feel very secure with our computer systems."

Yoakum County Credit Union Manager Vivian Rice related that financial institution was also "Clean" from Y2K bugs. "The National Credit Union Association required us to undergo a thorough, 12 hour test of our entire system in April of 1999. We have also received letters from our software and hardware vendors verifying their products are fully compliant."

Officials at Texas Equipment reported a thorough screening of their system had taken place. All eight

Turn to page 4, "Y2K threat"

FSA announces crop disaster assistance plan



Over seventy county ag producers attended the Farm Services Administration meeting here last Wednesday to hear details of the recently announced Department Of Agriculture Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program. The recent number of years of weather extremes, insect infestations and disastrously low commodity prices have caused havoc with incomes of individual farmers across the nation, prompting passage of the assistance measure, which can pump some \$2.5 billion into the ag industry.

Gary Six, FSA acting Executive Director, moderated the session, and explained the lengthy and complicated program. He explained the new measure is actually three separate assistance programs; Nationwide, \$1.5 billion has been appropriated for single year (1998) crop losses. Another program provides \$875 million in appropriations for multi-year crop losses, and the third program provides \$400 million in appropriations for 1999 and 2000 Crop Insurance Assistance.

Six explained producers do not have an option choosing one of the three assistance programs. Local FSA offices will calculate producers records to determine the program which will offer the largest dollar assistance for each individual producer.

The current payment limitation is set at \$80,000 per person, before a National Limiting Factor is applied. Six reported at the present time the factor is an unknown, and it is impossible to determine the exact amount of assistance to each producer.

One of the strict provisions of the disaster assistance program requires producers to agree to insure all crops of economic significance for the 1999 and 2000 years as a requirement of receiving

benefits. A change in insurance provisions requires producers to purchase acceptable crop insurance no later than April 28,

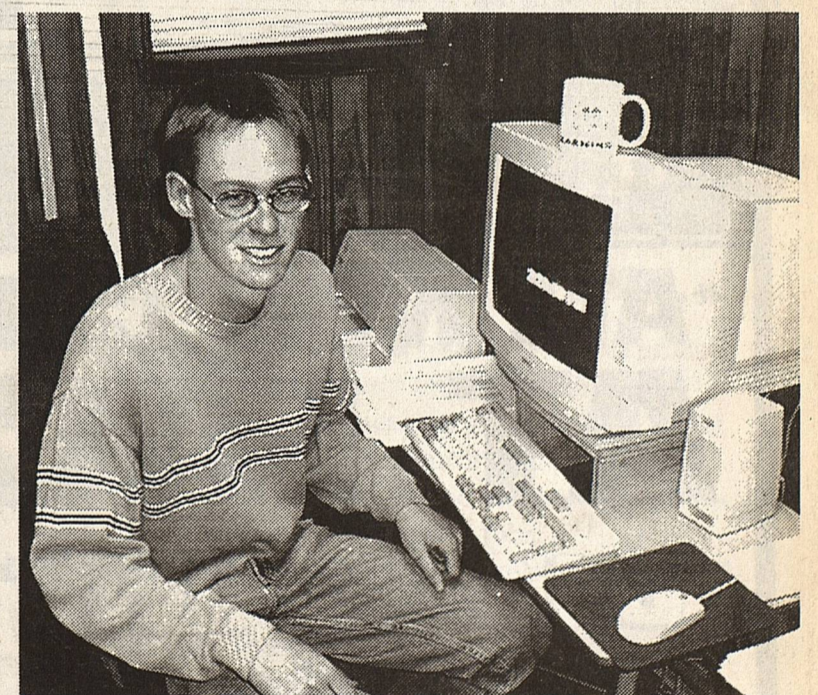
1999.

Six said the question-answer

Turn to Page 2

"Disaster Relief"

First time ever for PHS PHS Senior Clint Burrus named National Merit Scholarship Program Finalist



According to High School Principal Steven O'Quinn and Counselor Arlon Alexander, a Plains High Student has received an honor no past student has ever achieved. Senior Clint Burrus has been named a finalist in the highly prestigious National Merit Scholarship Program. This is a distinction placing Burrus in a group representing less than one percent of U. S. high school graduating seniors.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is privately financed, and most scholarship offers are underwritten by some 600 sponsor organizations and institutions. The process of selecting about 7,600 Merit Scholarships from the finalist group is now underway.

Three types of scholarships will be offered by the program, but exact dollar amounts of the scholarships are not known at this time. 2,400 scholarships of \$2000 will be offered on a state representational basis. Finalists meeting preferential criteria of a company or business will be considered for one of some 1,200 scholarships, and approximately 4,000 scholarships will be financed by U.S. Colleges and Universities through the Merit Scholarship Corporation.

Scholarships to finalist winners should be announced in March and April.

Clint is the son of Tommy and Sara Kay Burrus. Last Friday he told CCN he was reasonably sure he had chosen Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas as the site of his continuing education after graduation this spring.

Lea County Electric presents safety program to Cub Scouts



Eddie Little, Supervisor of Customer Services with Lea County Electric Cooperative, gave a graphic demonstration of electricity and its potential hazards to an enthusiastic group of Cub Scouts here last Monday evening. Using a mockup of a typical farming operation using electric power, Little showed the youngsters how to avoid serious consequences by observing safety steps around the power source. The Cubs were impressed when Little caused sparks and arcing in his demonstration. Cubs shown in the photo include, bottom row, L-R, Zachary Guerra, John Tyson, Ryan Crump, Zachary Ramon, Holden Welch, Cameron Loya. Middle row, A.J. Martinez, Matthew Jiminez, Colby Ortega, Skyler Sainz, Chandra Loya. Back row Chris Gonzales, Chris Loya, Elias Carrillo, Braden Loya.

From Page One

"DISASTER RELIEF"

session of the program revealed producers interest in the new program. "There was some dissatisfaction expressed about the provision requiring the national limiting factor being applied after the maximum limitation amount had been determined."

He added, "We know this will not solve all the economic problems our producers have expe-

rienced in recent years, but it does supply some real dollar relief. I feel in some cases, the assistance from the program will provide a cash flow situation, a determining factor all lending agencies look at in extending credit for the upcoming production season."

Signup period for the new program is February 1 thru March 12, 1999.

Services Held for Nellie Wauson

Services for Nellie Wauson, 70 of Muleshoe were held at 2:00 P.M. Sat. with Rev. Bill Wright pastor of the First Baptist Church in Plains, the Rev. Stacy Conner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Muleshoe, and the Rev. Glen Harlin, pastor of Northside Baptist Church in Odessa, officiating. Burial was in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Ellis Funeral Home of Muleshoe.

She died Wednesday, Feb. 10, 1999, in Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock.

She was born June 18, 1928, in Brownfield. She married Bear Paw Wauson on Dec. 3, 1951, in Terry County. He died Nov. 24, 1990. She moved to Muleshoe, and she was a former member of First Baptist Church of Plains. She was a member of the Joy Choir and UFOs of First Baptist Church in Muleshoe, and she was a licensed vocational nurse at Brownfield Hospital. She later worked with home bound patients in Plains and Muleshoe, and she was a volunteer worker at Brownfield and Muleshoe Nursing Homes.

Survivors include four sons, Wayne of Muleshoe, Gene of Brownfield, Robert of Oklahoma Lane and John Clary of Lubbock; four daughters, Pauline Deen of Lubbock, Priscilla Herington of Farwell,

Gloria Compton of Levelland and Theada Wauson of Woodrow; a sister, Marie Johnson of Atlanta, Ga.; two brothers, Ray Carter of Trivo and Bobby Carter of Tyler; 13 grandchildren; and numerous foster grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

Public Notice City of Plains

Texas Community Development Program

The City of Plains will hold a public hearing at 5:05 p.m. on February 22, 1999 at City Hall, 601 11th, Plains, Texas, in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities and the use of past TCDP funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TCDP application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For further information, contact David Brunson at the City Hall 806-456-2288.

City Election on Tap

Mayor T.J. Miller has called for a general election to be held in the City of Plains on Saturday, May 1, 1999. The election will be held at the Plains City Hall located at 601 11th street in Plains, Texas. The purpose of this election will be to elect three (3) Councilmembers.

Those with expiring terms are Councilmembers Bonnie Earnest, Shane McKinzie and Owen Schneider.

First day for filing and application for place on the ballot is Monday, February 15, 1999 and the filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 1999. Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up at the Plains City Hall during regular working hours.

"Y2K Meeting"

Got questions about Y2K?

Concerned about the effect the change to the Year 2000 will bring to the electric utility industry? If so, please make plans to join Lea County Electric's General Manager, Mike Dreyspring on **Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. at the Scout Hut in Plains, Texas** for the latest on the Cooperative's efforts in addressing the Year 2000 event.

This meeting is a program of the Plains Lions Club. Lunch will be served for \$3 per person. If you plan to attend, please notify, (IN ADVANCE) David Bunch, 456-3322, David Brunson, 456-2288, or Pete St. Romain, 456-8855
For more information on this important meeting call Lea County Electric at 456-3322 or toll-free at (800) 510-5232.

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Basketball Finale

Junior High:

7th Lady Wranglers - The 7th girls finished their season against a good Stanton team and fell 30-5. Only players able to score were Manuela Villegas with 3, and Sarah Martinez with 2. Coach congratulated the girls for their improvements and hard work throughout the long season.

8th Lady Wranglers - The older girls lost a squeaker to Stanton, 40-37. Chelsea Blount led the scoring with 11 points, McKenzie Winn had 9, Jessica Rodriguez 8, Joana Diaz 5, and Kayla Willis 4. Coach Diaz said the girls had an outstanding game, and they had improved all season.

7th Wranglers - The young Wranglers ended their season with a convincing 40-22 win over Stanton. Trent May accounted for 16 points, Richard Diaz had 10, Zachary Broome 7, Armando Ramirez and Ryan Martinez 3 each, Larry Escobar 1. Coach Davis the game was a great team effort, and he was proud of the boys hard work throughout the year.

8th Wranglers - The older Wranglers didn't fare as well against Stanton, going down 32-22. Miguel Coronado had 8 points, Johnathan DeLaRosa 5, and Angel Ruiz 4. Coach McAdams noted hustle and rebounding by Chase Howell and Angel Ruiz, and was proud of the teams work and improvements.

High School:

JV Cowgirls - The young Cowgirls bowed out to Stanton 41-20. Chelsi Wagnon managed 7 points, Annaliesa O'Quinn had 6, Lexi Warren 3, Kim Willis 2, Michaela Traweck and Kenia Molina 1 each. Coach Lusk said the girls had a great season, improved 100%, had some fun, and she was proud of their work and dedication.

JV Cowboys - The young Cowboys finished their year with a loss to tough Stanton, 63-45. Kelsey Blundell led the scoring with 13 points, Brett Squyres had 6, Aaron Cain 5, Tanner Hamm 3, Delgado. Rodriguez, Gonzales and Willis 2 each.

Cowboys - The Cowboys ended their season with a tough 69-64 loss to Stanton. Tanner Blount made 24 points, Adam Garcia had 19, Eddy Gallegos 13, Fermin Luna and Josh Bell 4 each. Tanner had 8 rebounds, Josh and Eddy 7 each. The Cowboys finished in third place in District action.

Busy day in County Court

Nine criminal cases were heard in Judge Dallas Brewer's County Court February 10. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Fernando Guterrez Gonzalez, 22, pled guilty to driving while license suspended. His \$250 fine will be met with jail time at \$50 per day, and he must pay \$184 in court costs.

Jose Luis Mendez, 27, pled true to the states motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI cause. He will spend 90 days in jail with credit for 82 days served.

Rafael Gonzales Jr., 18, pled guilty to a first DWI. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended 12 months. He was fined \$500 and must pay \$199 court costs, serve 72 hours in jail, lose his license one year, must attend the first offenders program and attend weekly AA meetings.

Eva Marie Oieda, 20, pled true to the motion to revoke supervision from an assault cause. She was sentenced to jail for 60 days. She was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

Inez Villa Silva, 26, agreed to the state's modified conditions of supervision from a prior DWI cause. Supervision was

extended six months, defendant must pay \$230 per month on delinquent fines and fees totaling \$1165, plus a \$40 monthly supervision fee.

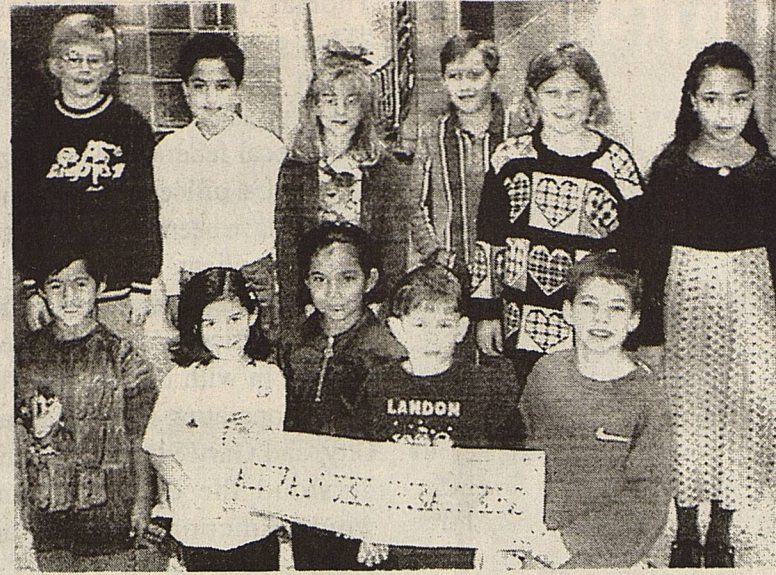
Roxana Holguin, 18, pled true to motion to revoke supervision from a prior assault cause. She will serve sixty days in jail, with credit for 27 days served. Her Attorney was Paul Mansur.

Ramon Vasquez Jr., 27, pled guilty to a first DWI, open container. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. A \$600 fine and \$184 court costs will be met with time payments, and he will serve 6 days in jail with credit for one served. He must complete the DWI first offenders program and attend weekly AA meetings.

Deryl Dwain Whitehead, 19, had community supervision from a prior cause of harassment modified. Supervision was extended six months, and he must attend anger management treatment and obtain a high school diploma or GED.

Cruz Armando Sigala, 27, had community supervision from an assault cause modified. Supervision was extended 18 months, defendant must pay \$57 per month on delinquent fines and fees, and \$40 per month supervision fee.

Accelerated Readers moving on



Advanced Readers (L-R) Front Row Jacob Garza, Taylor Banfield, Reyna Gallegos, Landon Earnest, Chris Addison. Back, Landon Craft, Jacob Rivera, M'Leah McKinnzie, Cody Mayes, Amber Friesen, Maria Andazola.



Far right, Independent Reader Kimber Williams. Super Readers, front, Brock Carter, Holden Welch, Jonathan Mindeta. Back, Skyler Sainz, Wyatt Dearing.

Math/Science Team sweeps!

The PHS Math/Science team competed in a 25 school meet at Lubbock last Saturday and again brought the Sweepstakes trophy home. The Number Sense (NS), Calculator (C), Math (M) teams took first place honors, and the Science (S) and Computer Science (CS) teams finished second. Individual results included; Freshmen- Annalies O'Quinn 4 NS, 3 C, 8 M, 6th S, Sophs- Nicole Haynes 9 C, Leslie Rowe 8 C, Amanda Garcia 1 NS, 5 C. Juniors - Jason Swann 10 S, Kristen Gray 1 NS, 1 C, 1 M, 3 S, 4 CS. Volver Canada 10 C, 9 M. Seniors - Tommie McNabb 6 NS, 1 C, 5 M, 6 S. Clint Burrus 1 NS, 2 C, 3 M.

The unusual format of the meet also contained a contest for Overall Literary Sweepstakes among all the schools, which also contained the category of computer applications (CA). Plains took second place honors in that prestigious meet. In CA, Kyle Sisson was 2nd, LaCresha Johnson 3rd. In NS Kristen Gray was 1st, Clint Burrus 2nd. In C, Kristen was 1st, Tommie 2nd, Clint 3rd, in M Kristen was 1st, 6th in S, and 4th in CS.

* NOTICE *

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals to provide the lights, metal poles, electrical fixtures, and mounting hardware for the illumination of a high school baseball field. The proposal is for the purchase of the equipment. The District will provide the installation. Proposals will be accepted until 2 p.m., February 26, 1999 at the Business Office. Proposals should be addressed to James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains ISD, 1000 10th St., Box 479, Plains, Texas 79355. For questions or other information please contact Keith Whitzel at 806-456-7401.

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Services held for Charles (Buddy) Brantley

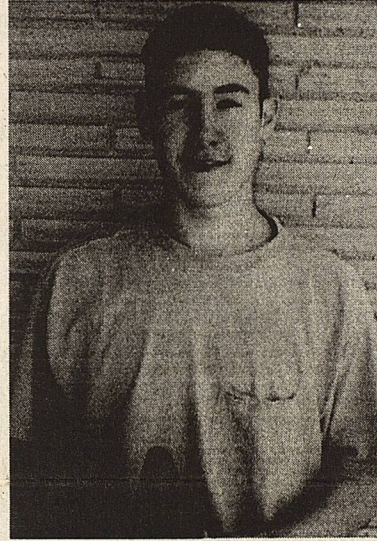
Services were held for Charles Ervin "Buddy" Brantley, 63, at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 16, at First Baptist Church here, with the Reverend Bill Wright officiating.

Burial followed in Plains Cemetery under direction of Head Family Funeral Home.

Mr. Brantley died Saturday,

PHS Student of the Week

Student of the Week is Josh Bayer, a senior and the son of Mrs. and Mrs. Keith Bayer. He was nominated by Coach McMinn, who said, "Do you want to go on a world tour? I have good news for you! I have a world geography student who can help. He can locate on the world map cities and countries or pronouncing. He can take you on a trip which would astound the normal person. So, if you want to take a world tour, see Josh Bayer!"

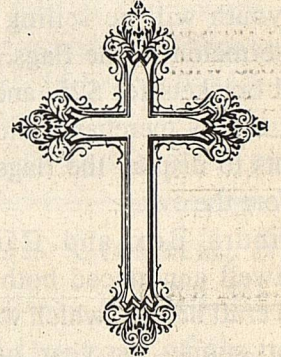


Feb. 13, 1999.

He was born November 18, 1935, in Yoakum County near Tokio. He married Janelle Patterson March 14, 1953 in Plains. He attended Plains High, and farmed in Yoakum and Terry Counties from 1952 to 1978. He worked for Yoakum County Pct. 3 from 1982 until his death. He was a member of First Baptist Church 39 years, and served as a deacon in Baptist churches in Wellman, Tokio and Plains.

Survivors include his wife; his mother, Hattie Brantley of Plains; a brother, G.W. 'Sonny' of Midlothian; three children, Richey Brantley, Midland, Rhonda Cox of Wolfforth, and Randy Brantley of Wolfforth; six grandchildren, one great grandchild.

The family suggests memorials to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, 8008 Slide Rd., Lubbock 79424 or First Baptist Church Building Fund.



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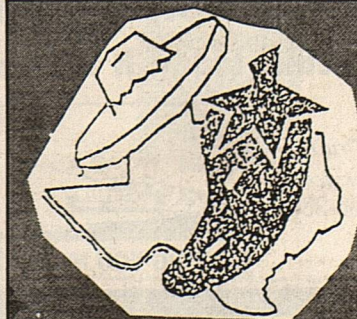
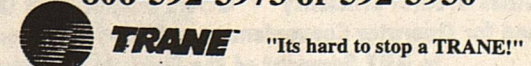
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Plans for 4th Watermelon Round Up are underway



Round Up volunteers include, from left clockwise, David Brunson, Cindra Box, Eileen Phillips, Debbie Rushing, Jerri Perecz, Karen Williams, Carolyn Culwell and L. J. Sanders standing, Jeannette Head, Dolores Davis, Melissa Crump, Linda Powell, Wilma Powell, Mary Jo St. Romain, Travis Jones and Ted Welch.

Realizing the merits of the old adage, "Time Flies", the Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up Committee is already hard at work planning the fourth annual Round Up, scheduled for September 4, 1999. General Chairman Jeannette Head conducted an organizational meeting last Thursday, laying groundwork plans for the big event which drew some 5,000 visitors last year.

To publicize the Round Up, 4-H youth will be selling large watermelon theme flags, poles and brackets for \$25, and urging county merchants and residents to display the flags well before the event.

Cindra Box and Carolyn Culwell announced both food and craft booths, which were in short supply last year, will be available for \$45 and \$35 on a first come, first served basis, and reservations will not be guaranteed until the fees are received. Checks should be payable to Yoakum County Connection.

Last years celebration saw the big melon weighed in at 183.3 pounds, a new state record and grown by local John Loewen.

This year, the four categories of winning melons will be property of Yoakum County Connection, and will be auctioned off, along with the briskets entered in the brisket and chili cookoff events.

Chair Melvin Dearing announced this year a new Toddler Run would be added to the Fun Run event.

A smaller and more comprehensive tabloid featuring the Round Up will be printed this year, and will be ready for distribution at this years Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo. Anyone with good pictures of last years Round Up is urged to get them to Bea Pippin, Jeannette Head or Linda Powell. Photos will be displayed in the Tabloid, with credit to the owners. Any articles of related interest will also be welcomed.

Elva Lozano and Alonzo Hernandez have arranged for another appearance by the popular multicultural dancers, and James Altman will again head up the stage entertainment.

A complete roster of Round Up Committee Chairmen will be featured in a future issue of CCN. General Chairman

Jeannette Head said, "Anyone wanting to promote Yoakum County and our home grown family fun day is welcome to volunteer", and Vice Chair Karen Williams added, "With teamwork we make it happen!"

From Page 1, "Y2K threat" of the stores in the John Deere dealership were in compliance. The eight store system is networked into the main Seminole location, and also tied into John Deere Information Services, whose entire system has also received a clean bill of health.

John Kitto, Manager of the local Lowe's Super Markets, one of fifty stores in the company, said all the stores had been checked and made compliant. "We had to install some new software here, and it definitely recognizes the 'Double Zero' of the year 2000. Our major wholesale supplier, Affiliated Foods, has also determined their computer systems are ready for the end of the year."

Saundra Stephens of the Yoakum County Appraisal District reported that agencies system had been thoroughly tested by their software vendor and

computer engineering firm, Thomas Y. Pickett of Dallas. "They gave us a thorough exam late in 1998, and we're ready," Stephens said.

Both local federal government agricultural offices, the FSA and NRCS, have been declared computer compliant, after a pair of new computers were installed in the FSA office. All state offices are tied in with the nationwide system operating out of Kansas City, and Gary Six said he understood the entire system would function through the event.

Jim Brown, owner of Ag Insurance Plus here and representing US Ag Insurance, said when he checked his system out it was necessary to upgrade a portion of his hardware. All the software used in the ag related insurance business is compliant.

The partial survey of computer users here is reassuring for residents utilizing the services of

Lea County Electric Cooperative, the supplier of electrical power to Plains and much of rural Yoakum County has recognized the relevance of the good question. Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric, has scheduled a public meeting here on Thursday, February 18 to address this important question. Dreyspring told CCN, "We want all our Plains and Yoakum County customers to come to this meeting, and we are hoping they will come with questions to ask about Y2K and what our cooperative is doing to get ready for it. We will be prepared to answer all of the valid questions people have about the coming event."

For more information about this important meeting, please see the advertisement of the event on page 2.

School Board election slated

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees has called a school board election for Saturday, May 1, 1999 for the expiring terms of Danny Ball (District # 3) and Wayne Sisson (District # 4). Persons wanting to file for a place on the ballot may do so at the school superintendent's office beginning February 15th and ending on March 12th. Early voting by personal appearance starts on Wednesday, April 14th, and ends on Tuesday, April 27th.

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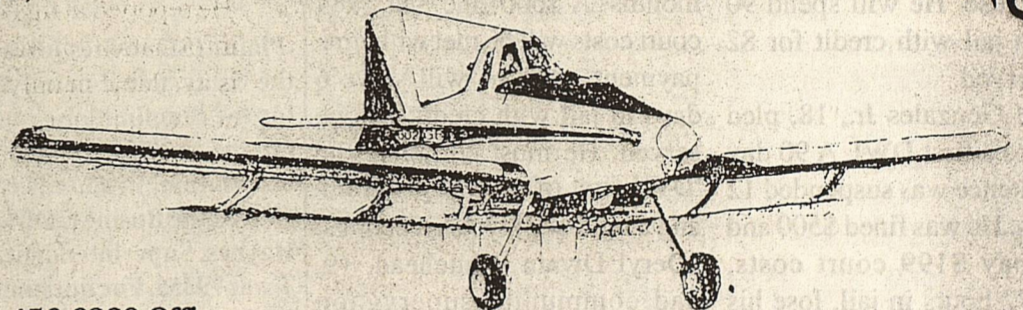
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Lifelines & Styles

Fine Arts Meets

The Plains Fine Arts Club met Thursday, February 4, in the home of member Debra Hise. Co-hosting the event were Donna Friesen and Peggy Welch. The club members were served soups and salads with fresh bread and red velvet cake for dessert.

Mrs. Suzy Powell presented an exciting overview on watercolor painting. She demonstrated how she actually works on a painting, and she also provided many samples of her work for the club members to view.

Members present included Beth Ann Cain, Carolyn Culwell, Dolores Davis, Sandra Ellison, Judy Fitzgerald, Donna Friesen, Debra Hise, Peggy Welch, Sonya Young and associate member Lois Miller.

During the business meeting, members were reminded to let Donna Friesen know by February 25th if they plan on attending the meeting on March 4, 1999.

Tandi Jones named winner

Tandi Jones, a Senior studying Computer Applications at Plains High, has been named a local winner in the Tools For Tomorrow All American Vocational Student Awards program. As a winner, Tandi, daughter of Mr and Mrs Steve Jones, will receive an award and \$100 gift certificate from Coast to Coast, ServiStar and True Value retailers.

She was selected from a group of more than 3,000 across the nation to be honored as one of nearly 2,000 local winners who will advance to the state judging round of the competition.

Following the local judging round, one All-American Vocational Student Award winner will be chosen in every state, territory and District of Columbia. Each of those winners will receive a \$1000 career advancement award and move on to the national judging round.

Author a big hit with school kids here



Children's book author Michael Daniel, AKA "Uncle Mike", is shown developing some real togetherness with a large group of Plains kindergarten students last week. He spent most of the day entertaining elementary and junior high students, reciting portions of his books, telling stories, and developing the participation of the youngsters. Daniel's performance was sponsored by Yoakum County Connection, with matching grant funds from the Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment For The Arts.

Senior Citizens Corner

The 'Flu Bug' has been absent from the Center lately. Nearly everyone is feeling better.

Now we need this cold wind to go away. The nice spring temps has us spoiled.

Shirley Watson remains in Lubbock Hospital. Mr. Hall is home following a Hospital stay. Darline Clevenger is home bound but getting better each day.

Maxine Pardue and Mildred Rawls are busy enjoying their new home.

The 'Pot Luck' Supper is nice. Bring a friend and enjoy an evening of good eats, lots of music, and fellowship.

Lots of folks missed the Garage Sale, but we still have things on the racks. So come Browse!

See You Next Week,
Smitty

When people say, "She's got everything," I answer, I haven't had tomorrow. Liz Taylor

Judge Brewer speaker at Tsa Mo Ga meeting

County Judge Dalla Brewer was guest speaker at the February 8 meeting of the Tsa Mo Ga Club, featuring a conservation theme.

Judge Brewer, a member of the Water District Planning Committee, Region 0, for Senate Bill 1, enacted in the last legislative session. Brewer is chair of the 21 county region, charged with furnishing information about water resources and conservation measures to each county judge in the region, required by SB 1.

He reported at this time detailed information on water resources is available in only 12 of the 21 counties. He told club members the county was fortunate to have an active water district, and outlined some of the beneficial work carried out here by Sandy Land Water District. He added it is vitally important for all of the regional counties to take every possible measure to protect and conserve the water sup-

plied by the Ogallala Aquifer, the life blood of of the High Plains for communities and irrigation.

Club member Mary Jo St. Romain reported on projects for beautification of the Tsa Mo Ga Memorial Gardens, Pioneer Plaza Park, to help ready the community for the Watermelon Round Up.

The club will honor the Plains High seniors with a dinner and program February 22 at the Community Building.

Letter to the Editor

Covenant Health System, in cooperation with Yoakum County Hospital, will be conducting a Community Health Needs Assessment in our area within the next two weeks. This endeavor is very important because it will provide the foundation from which a Community Health program will be developed.

As many of you are aware, Covenant Health System is the entity resulting from the merger last summer of St. Mary Hospital and Lubbock Methodist Hospital System. The mission of Covenant Health System is to "extend Christian ministry by caring for the whole person--body, mind, and spirit--and by working with others to improve the health and quality of life in the communities we serve." This mission provides the opportunity for us to partner with

Covenant Health System in determining the health needs of the people of our area.

Approximately 600 residents of Yoakum County will be randomly selected to participate in the program. I encourage all our area residents who receive a survey in the mail to complete the survey as honestly and accurately as possible. This will allow us to be an advocate for the health needs of our own community. Our county's survey results will be shared with you as soon as they become available later this spring.

On behalf of Yoakum County Hospital and Covenant Health System, we thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,
Ed Rogers

Ed Rogers, CEO
Yoakum County Hospital

PHS Powerlifters in first meet

Plains Cowboy Powerlifters competed in their first competition of the season at Seagraves last weekend. Coach Brink reported he was well pleased with the results of their first outing. David Granados, 148 pound class, was second with 320 pound squat, 220 bench, 360 dead lift, for a total of 890 pounds. Skyler Johnson, 198 pound class, was also second with 330 pound squat, 180 bench, 360 dead lift, for a total of 870 pounds Mike Guerra also competed in the 148 pound class, with a total of 750 pounds. Chris McGinty, 165 pound class, lifted a total of 600 pounds.

Yoakum County FCE Council, State Line and Turner Clubs, would like to thank John Kitto and the rest of the staff at Lowe's Pay-N-Save, along with their suppliers, for helping make this year's stock show concession stand a success.

JOHN DEERE

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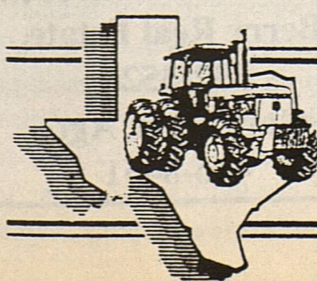
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From The Hack

Well, after only an eon or so, the Capitol Hill Soap Opera starring William Jefferson, Monica, Ken, and a supporting cast of thousands is over. Or, is it just semi-over?

True, the senatorial seers from Mount Olympus failed to find William Jefferson dastardly enough to remove from office. Monica will probably write a best selling, scorch your finger tips book, and maybe ditto for Ken. Clinton will continue perfecting his new humble, contrite role. For some reason I doubt he has a book in his immediate future plans, unless he can dream one up to go along with a title like, "How to win friends, dump on them, and still stay down from office?" Nah, no way a publisher would consider something with a title as long as that.

But what about the rumblings of Starr bringing criminal charges against Bubba after he steps down from office? Equally puzzling, what about the grist mill talk of the Justice Department (read that Janet Reno) possibly bringing criminal charges against Starr for not acting in true Kosher fashion? And, don't forget the rumors about Reno herself possibly being hauled before a court over the whole smear.

The whole odorous mess makes me thankful we have alternatives on the tube You know, powerful, educational, inspirational, thoughtful programs such as The Flintstones;

Or How To Cultivate Dingle Berries; Maybe Mister Rogers, or some really good stuff, Martha Stewart Does Quiche in an embroidered bowl? If not titilating enough, we could always watch Jimmy Swaggert reruns.

One thing I am certain of. We will not have to endure nearly so much of (pardon me, I must retch!) Clinton's Arkansas buddy, he of the bald head, the beady eyes, the red neck voice and horse's rear attitude, James Carvell. Some parts of life are still good.

More church bulletin Boo-Boos; "The ladies have cast off clothing of every kind, and they may be seen in the church basement each Friday"

"The service will close with "Little Drops Of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly, and the rest of the congregation will then join in."

"Don't let worry kill you - Let the church help!"

Valentine's Day, just passed, always prompts me to two duties; Remember the Bride, and I did, and remember the date marking the time I separated from the clutches of Uncle Sam's Navy in 1955.

I was quite wordy at 23 when I received my discharge papers, about 700 separation bucks in San Francisco, fresh from two plus years duty overseas. That was a ton of money for me then.

I hustled into the city by the bay, searching for a place featuring civilian clothes. I learned from a hustler haberdasher Pink and Black were the current rage.

I was astounded at civilian prices, but bought a Mafia black suit, light pink shirt, and dark pink tie. The sales guy said with a whish in his voice, "you look stunning."

I quickly found a stool at a friendly looking tavern next to a comely blonde lady, who after a few moments of chit chat asked, "Where in God's name did you get that pink stuff?"

Welcome back to the real world

Will Rogers on politics; Politicians do not have easy lives. Someone's always interrupting with an election

It's awful hard to get folks interested in corruption unless they can get some of it.



Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

GEARING UP

This week brought a lot of visitors to my office from my district. We were visited by folks from Kermit, Lamesa, Seminole, Brownfield, and Levelland. I appreciated every one of you. Thanks go to those who faxed us their concerns this week, also. It's great when you're so far from home, and then home comes to you!

Committee schedules have recently been issued, and the committee I chair, Land and Resource Management, will meet at 8 a.m. on Monday mornings. I think it's a great way to start the week. My other committee, Natural Resources, will meet on Wednesdays upon adjournment of the House.

District Sponsors Scholarship...

The Sandy Land UWCD is again sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Denver City and Plains High Schools.

All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. Contest winners from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st Place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd Place to the college(s) of their choice.

The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area and contain proposals for future conservation of that water.

The essays, due no later than April 5, 1999, should have a minimum of 1,000 words, and be typed and double spaced with parenthetical footnotes. References must accompany the paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land UWCD office in Plains. In submitting the papers, students must supply cover sheets containing their names, essay title, local high school and date.

For further information, please contact the district office at 456-2155.

Help Wanted

The City of Plains is accepting applications for a Utility Supervisor. This position will be responsible for operation and maintenance of water, sewer, and natural gas utility systems. Current Class "C" water and wastewater license preferred. Supervisory skills, effective oral and written communication ability, and public service skills required. Computer knowledge and bilingual beneficial. Must live within city limits of Plains. Application form and job description can be obtained by calling 806-456-2288. Salary range \$23,000 to \$27,000 DOQ, health insurance and retirement. Send application, resume and references to: City of Plains, P.O. Box 550, Plains, Texas 79355. Open until filled. The City of Plains is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Some of the legislators have gotten together to re-form the Rural Caucus, which is designed to address issues that many city folks don't think much about. Besides boll weevil funding and drought issues, we'll be looking at topics such as rural health care. As the rural representatives get fewer in number, it's a good way for us to band together for common interests. Most of the West Texas delegation are members of the caucus, of course, but there are rural interests all over the state, making our membership diverse. Floor action has consisted mostly of resolutions this week, but it has

been helpful to have some time to visit with my colleagues about issues of concern to us. I've visited with committee members on Public Education regarding the funding problems that West Texas schools are having due to the drop in oil and gas prices. I've visited with Appropriations members about rural health care. I've gotten to know some of the freshmen legislators, and am working with some of them on issues in common that we share.

SB 290, relating to a temporary exemption from the severance tax for oil and gas produced from wells under certain market conditions, passed the Senate on Tuesday. The bill has been on a fast track since Governor Bush made it a legislative priority. I hope to see SB 290 arrive on the floor of the House soon. I think it would set the tone well to have this bill, which is so meaningful

to West Texans, to be the first bill heard by the House this session. Please remember, if you need to contact me, that the address is P.O. Box 2910, Austin, Texas 78768-2910. Phone: 512-463-0678. Fax: 512-463-1966.

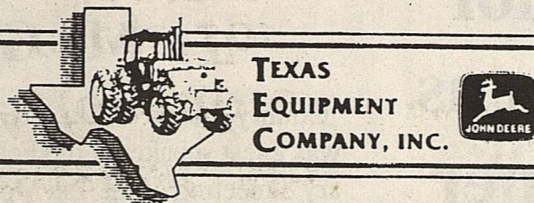
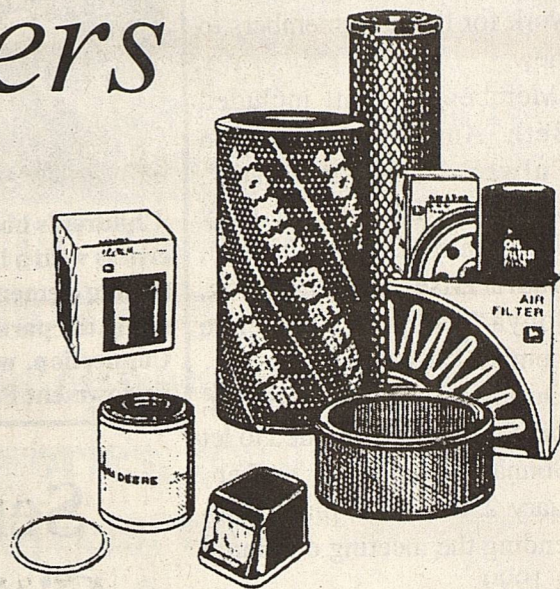
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