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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 18, Wednesday Jan 13, 1999

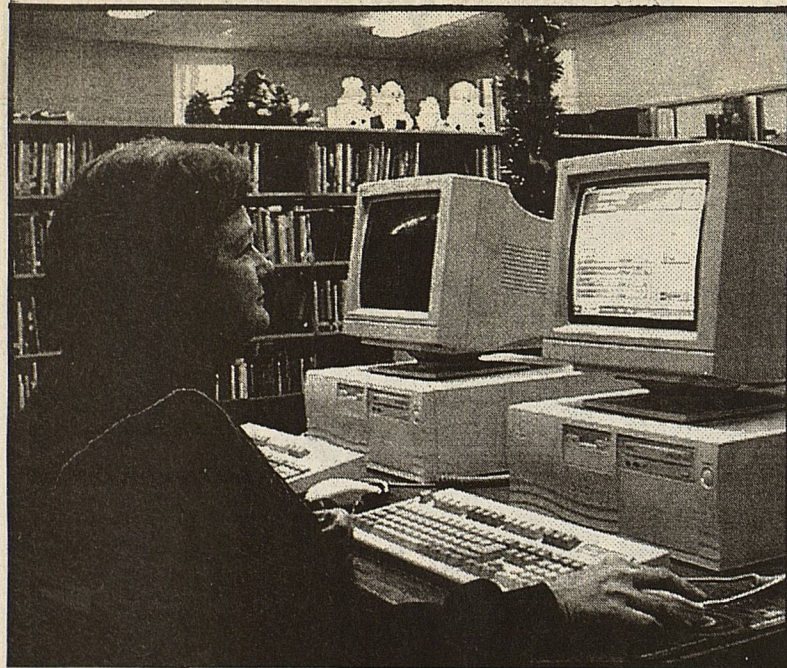


Automated catalog system aids library patrons, staff

When most people think of computers, their image is of a youngster using one for an animated game, an accountant working on a spreadsheet, someone searching the Internet, or a scientist studying DNA. Now you can add to your image a library patron sitting before a monitor and keyboard in the library, punching keys to determine the author of "War And Peace", and what shelf the novel can be found on. The library here now has two computers for patrons use which can pull up every single book in their inventory, all the videos, and audio books; everything the library has to offer can be accessed on it's new

'ATHENA' software program. In the event your knowledge of Greek mythology is a bit rusty, Athena was the Greek goddess of wisdom and knowledge, and the library system is aptly named. If a patron knows the name of an author, or the title of a work, just a few key strokes will pop up, detailing the shelf where the book can be found, the number of copies on hand, and if the work is on hand or is checked out. If author or title is unknown, the user can enter brief information about the general subject, and a list of all possible works on the subject will be displayed. The sophisticated system can even find items with

just hints of key words or phrases contained in the book. The microchip genius has replaced the old catalog filing cases, and can be programmed to become more sophisticated in the future; In the expanded search mode, it can be used to find items under the Dewey Decimal System, New Arrivals, Reading Programs, Top Picks, Holiday Specials, Hot Topics, Award Winning Books, and School Class Projects. Librarian Lattrell McDonnell said while many adults not familiar and comfortable with computers may initially have difficulties with the Athena program, the younger, school aged patrons "jump right in it. Their computer experience in school makes them unafraid of the system, and they love it."



Library visitor Dosisa Bryant, sister of La Verne Newsom, tried her hand at "Athena" last week.

The two computers available to patrons containing the Athena software are tied into the staff's two main frame computers. If a worker checks out a book, the patrons computers are instantly updated to indicate the work is unavailable. The Athena system was installed shortly before Thanksgiving. The librarian said she is applying for a grant to fund a large, specially designed work table for four computers, including the two with Athena. She said the Denver City Library has a similar electronic catalog

Waterwell survey shows good news, bad news

At the start of each year, Sandy Land Water District conducts a survey of irrigation water wells in the county. The wells are measured from ground surface to the static level of the ground water, or where the water stands in the well. Considering the severity of the drought which plagued the area in 1998, and another similar drought occurring in 1996, smart money would have been wagered on the measurements indicating serious drops in the water levels across the county. Not exactly so, according to Sandy Land Consultant Gary Walker, who recently completed tabulating results of the extensive measurement program. "I suppose the results could be labeled a Bad News-Good News scenario," Walker said last Thursday. "The bad news is yes, some of the irrigation wells did show a drop in their static water levels. The good news is, the bad news is not

nearly as bad as many producers and landowners had anticipated and predicted." Walker measured the water level in 64 irrigation wells around the county. The static water level in 40 of the wells showed declines, yet 24 wells actually showed a rise in their levels. Walker said reasons for the declining figures were obvious. Those wells actually gaining water were undoubtedly pumped less than the decliners. The 64 measurements were taken in all sectors of the county. The well showing the greatest decline in water level showed a drop of 11.83 feet, while the well showing the least decline only lost 0.36 inches of standing water. The well showing the greatest rise in level had a gain of 1.83 feet, the smallest gain 0.16 inches. The message from the survey is clear; We need good rains, we need to continue water conservation practices.

Busy day in court

An agenda listing 23 items led to a busy and long session of Commissioners Court last Monday morning. A report from Tax Assessor/Collector Wanda Smith indicated \$925,305 in taxes were collected in the month of December. Salaries for full time county employees were set at amounts contained in the 1999 budget, and part time hourly wage rates were set at \$6 for clerical, and 7 for hand hand employees. The court voted to leave jury service rates at the present level of \$7 for reporting for duty, and \$14 for serving on a jury. Three names were drawn from the pool of Grand Jurors to serve on the county salary grievance committee. Selected were Judy Sisson, Plains, Elva Lozano and Nancy Nixon of Denver City. The court awarded bids for two vehicles for the Sheriff Department. A new 'Police Package'

Turn To Page 2, "Commissioners"

Is Plains new missile launch site?



No, it's not a rocket launch site. The strange looking devices contain National Weather Service instruments which record temperatures and precipitation... when any is measurable. The site is on the west side of City Hall. Mayor T.J. Miller, left, watches NWS employees put finishing touches on recording station.

When National Weather Service veteran recorder Hershel Smith moved from the city limits recently, he told the service he would no longer be able to take daily weather readings here. The NWS contacted City of Plains about the problem, and after some "friendly persuasion", City Administrator David Brunson agreed to

having the rain measurement and temperature recording devices placed on the City Hall lot. City officials will read and record the gauges during regular working hours, and Mayor T.J. Miller volunteered for some weekend recording chores. All the instruments belong to the NWS, who also furnished the labor for their installation.

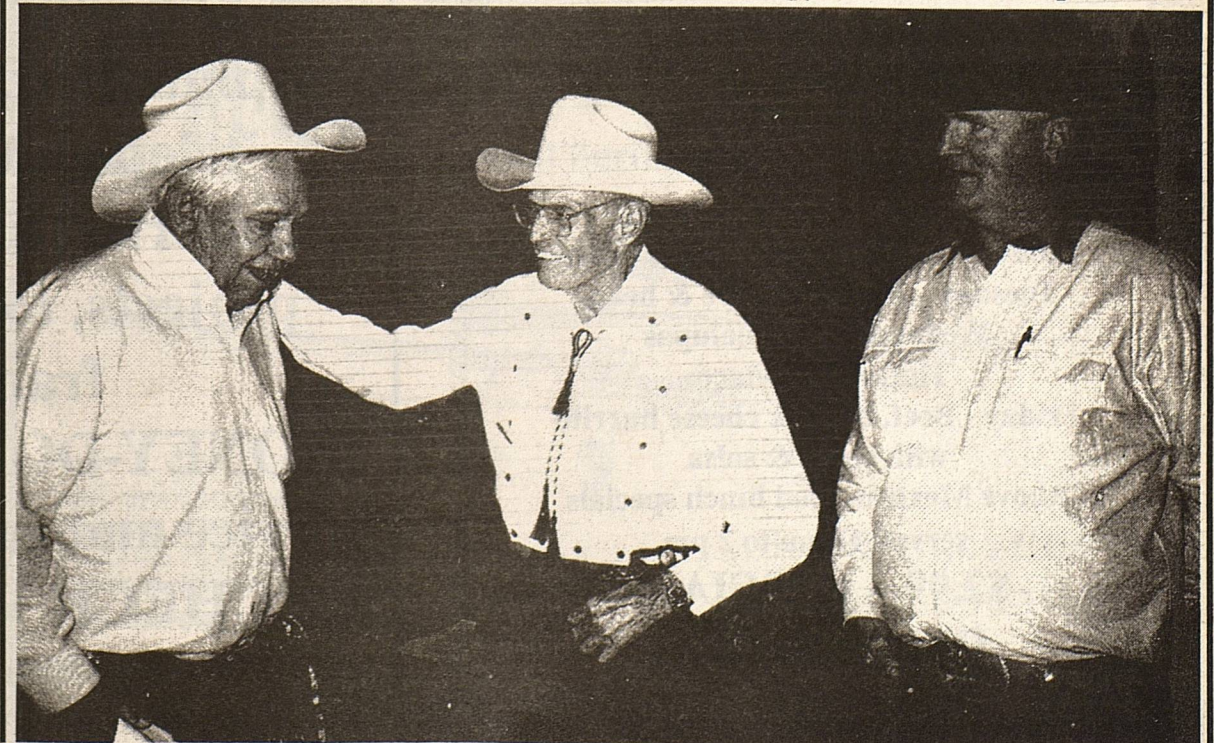
Plans being finalized for annual Chamber Banquet

'Tuffy Cooper' to be guest speaker

At a meeting last Tuesday, members of the Plains Chamber of Commerce discussed final plans for the Annual Chamber Banquet, and announcement of the Citizen of the Year. The event will be held at the school cafeteria at 7 P.M. January 21. The banquet will have

a new format this year, with Johnnie's Barbecue of Midland catering the dinner. Barbecue and all the trimmings will be served. Advance tickets are on sale at City Hall now for \$6.50, and tickets at the door will be \$7.50. A large number of door prizes will again be drawn for

throughout the evening. Local citizens can nominate their choice for the prestigious Citizen of the Year award. A sample nominating ballot may be found in this issue of CCN, and other ballots may be obtained at Lowe's. Turn To Page 2, "Chamber Banquet"



'Tuffy Cooper', center, entertains Bill Winn and Oscar Henard at recent meeting here.

Lions hear legislative report



Lion Gary Walker, third from right, presents service pins to Jim Barron, Jack Cobb, Johnnie Fitzgerald

State Representative Gary Walker was guest speaker at last week's Plains Lions Club meeting. He spoke on many of the sure to be tough issues facing the 76th Legislative session which started in Austin this week. Walker jokingly referred to the session as "that bi-annual 140 day long circus on the Colorado."

Some of the thorny issues State Senators and Representatives must grapple with were reported last week in CCN from an earlier interview with Walker. They include dealing with the projected fiscal surplus. The often quoted \$6.7 billion surplus is not yet in place, and Walker is doubtful about all of it ever being available.

Public school financing will be a tough issue, especially with decreasing valuations of minerals. He said Texas, one of

the faster growing states, currently has to come up with \$1.5 billion in education funding just for new students moving into the state.

He said deregulation of the electric utility business will be a very big issue. "Rural Texas, the smaller towns, enjoy some of the lowest electric rates in the nation. This is not true in the large metropolitan areas. The big cities, with more representation in Austin, will probably push hard for deregulation, and I'm not at all sure that will be good for Texas. Unfortunately, in the year 2000, the federal government will likely pass deregulation."

During the meeting, Walker also passed out pins to Lions members for their years service in the club. Jack Cobb received a 10 year pin, Jim Barron a 20 year pin, and Johnnie Fitzgerald received a 45 year

pin.

Before the close of the meeting, City Administrator David Brunson commented on local cable service being provided by Classic Cable. He said the City of Sundown is also a Classic Cable customer, and recently he and the Sundown Administrator met with the district manager of Classic. He said the meeting resulted in a number of auto-gain amplifiers being installed in both towns, with more promised. The Classic manager assured them the company would work to improve reception in both locations.

Brunson said a few more channels may be added here, hopefully including FOX Sports. He urged all Classic Cable customers to call the company's 800 number if they experience poor, or no reception.

From Page 1, "Chamber Banquet"

Residents are reminded it is NOT necessary to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to attend and enjoy the banquet.

All residents and guests are welcome and urged to attend. The Chamber has arranged for Dale "Tuffy" Cooper of Monument, New Mexico to be this year's guest speaker. Anyone vaguely familiar with rodeo sport, especially the roping events, almost automatically associates the Cooper name to the rodeo arena.

Tuffy is a grandson of Lea County homesteaders, and has probably spent as much time on horseback, twirling a rope in rodeo arena, as he has patrolling cowpastures. He has an extensive and richly varied background, highlighted by many great accomplishments.

Cooper competed in his first rodeo at the tender age of ten and won his first event.

In World War 11, he packed his cowboy gear, minus his horse, for a trip to the South Pacific, where he served as a gunner on an Air Force bomber.

He has rodeoed virtually everywhere in North America where a calf or steer roping chute can be found. He is a member of the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, and a lifetime member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. He helped found and served as Chairman of the Lea County Cowboy Hall of Fame.

In 1994, Cooper was recipient of "Working Cowboy of the Year" at the National Cowboy Symposium. He was the champion calf roper in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, an organization he helped found.

Tuffy has not neglected his social and civic responsibilities, either. He served on the Hobbs, New Mexico school board 24 years, was a Lea County Fair board member for

15 years, and served 15 years on the Lea Regional Hospital Board, and is a long time member of the Masonic Lodge.

He is noted for his interesting tales and humor. He authored the book, "If You Ride A Slow Horse, You Need A Long Rope."

Recently he entertained members of the local TSA MO GA Club, their spouses and guests, at a dinner meeting at the home of long time friend Crip Henard.

January 26, 1839: Homestead Act passed. At President Mirabeau B. Lamar's suggestion, Congress appropriated three leagues of land in each county from the public domain to be set aside for establishing a public school system.

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From Page 1, "Commissioners"

sedan, with trade-in of a 1996 Chevrolet Caprice went to Wilson Motors of Snyder. The new Ford Crown Victoria sedan was priced at \$14,631. The same company submitted another lowest bid for a new Ford Victoria, priced at \$13,880 after trade-in of a 1995 Chevrolet Caprice.

Two bids were received for supplying the county with unleaded and super unleaded gasoline and diesel. A bid from Eddins-Walcher came in lowest, with unleaded gas at .3919 per gallon, .4369 for super unleaded, and .4273 for diesel, all prices

plus tax. A two cent discount would apply on truck load deliveries.

The court approved appointment of Julia Lemley, Sheron Smith, Gerald Baker and Faye Nelms as Deputy Clerks in the County Clerk office, and Naoni Goodman as Deputy Clerk in the District Clerk office.

Low bids for gravel, hot and cold mix were awarded to Seminole Sales, R.E. Jaines Gravel, Koch, Inc. and Kerr Constr.

The court voted to leave out of county travel reimbursement at .25 cents per mile.

January 21, 1861: Legislature convened in Austin to debate secession.

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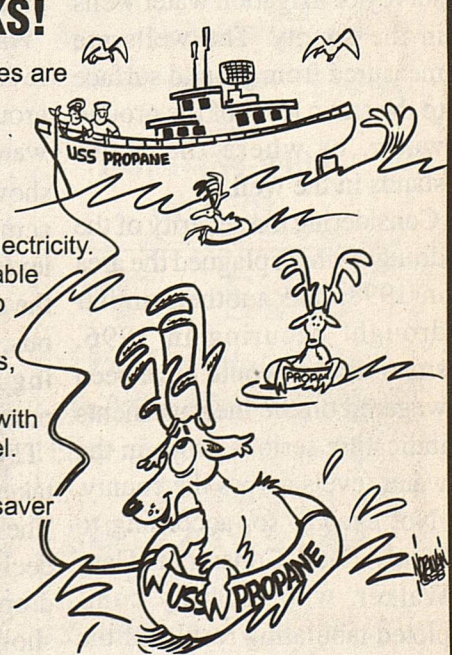
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'AR' program showing results

Plains Elementary's innovative Advanced Reader program is paying dividends now, and those rewards will be even more valuable in the young students' futures. An effort to improve reading skills in grades Pre-K through 4, the program utilizes elementary teachers skills, and encourages all parents participation and encouragement. The program will soon kick off a publicity campaign promoting AR, and will use a key acronym on signs around the

community, and on the local marquee; "TWT" stands for the phrase, read TO your child, read WITH your child, and your child will read INDEPENDENTLY.

There are six levels of reading achievements the youngsters can attain; Independent Reader, for students reading three books, passing a test, to earn 10 points; Super Reader, reading three one-point books and accumulating 15 points; Advanced Reader, reading three books of two points or better

for 20 points; Star Reader, reading books at grade 5 level with five or more points; Classic Reader, reading three books at grade 7 level or above; Honor Reader, for students accumulating 100 points from a specific list of advanced literature.

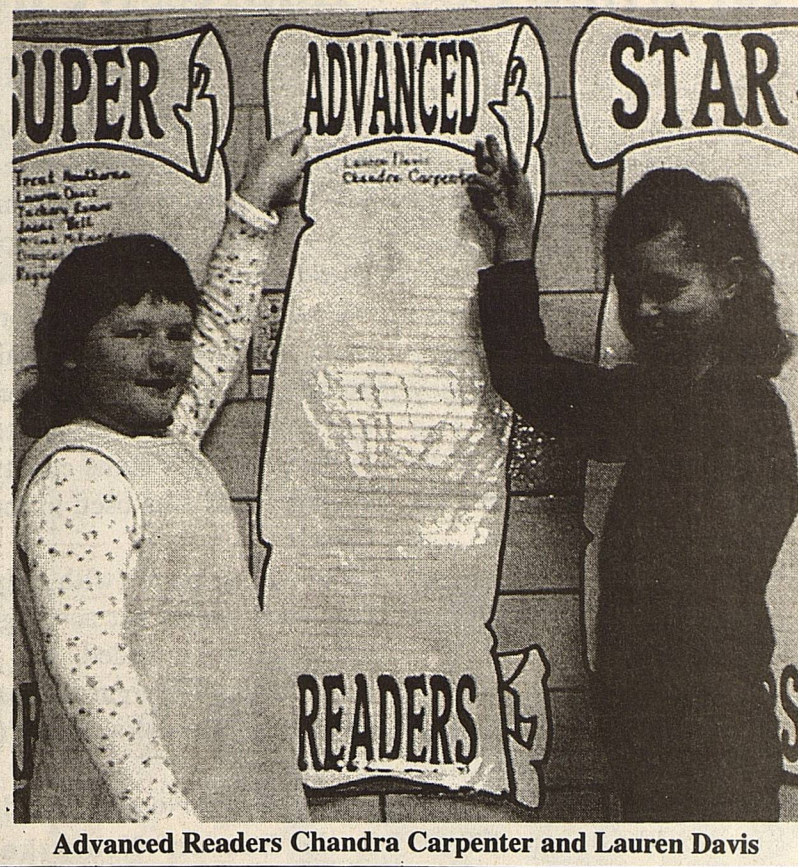
All parents of elementary students are urged to participate in Accelerated Reading to help their children become better students and better citizens.



Super Readers (Front L-R) Joani Bell, M'Leah McKinzie, Lauren Davis, Reyna Gallegos, (Rear) Trent Hawthorne, Zachary Ramos, Doug Conway, Alex Perez, Matthew Jiminez.



Independent Readers (Front, L-R), Taylor Banfield, Katelynn Young, Eva Unger; (Back) Chris Addison, Derek Garza, Holden Welch, Wyatt Dearing, Chris Gonzales, Zachary Guerra



Advanced Readers Chandra Carpenter and Lauren Davis

PISD Basketball Recap

JUNIOR HIGH

7th Girls - The youngest Lady Wranglers had a very rough outing against Stanton last Thursday, falling 37-6. The only two girls making the scoring column were Moriah Traweck and April Wilmeth, both with 3 points.

7th Boys- Coach Davis said the young Wranglers played their best game of the season last week against Stanton, winning big-time 45-19. Zachary Broome led the scoring with 14 points, Trent May had 11, Richard Diaz 10, Ryan Martinez 4, Mike Lopez, Arnold Cordova and Tony Gomez 2 each.

Whiteface Tourney;

8th Girls - The girls opened with a good win against Stanton, 33-27. Chelsea Blount and Kayla Willis had ten points each, McKenzie Winn 7, Jill Gray 3. They didn't fare as well against Shallowater, and fell 39-7. The only scoring reported was Jessica Rodriguez with 3 points, Jill Gray 2. The girls next lost a squeaker to Anton, 36-32. Leading scores included Jessica 8 points, Jill Gray 4, Chelsea Blount 5, McKenzie Winn 3 points each. The girls finished the tourney strong, downing Morton 30-8. Chelsea and McKenzie had 6 points each, Liz Wilmeth 4, Jessica 3.

8th Boys-The boys found Stanton a bit too tough last week and fell 37-31. Jonathan DeLa Rosa managed 11 points, Angel Ruiz had 8, Brad Palmer and Kelly Bowers 6 each.

Whiteface Tourney-The boys lost their opener to Shallowater 60-31. Jonathan had 19 points, Miguel Coronado 5 and Ryan Swann 4 to lead the scoring. They next lost to Sudan 33-26, with Jonathan and Miguel managing 7 points each, Brad and Angel 4 each. They next lost a real squeaker to Morton 33-31. Kelly and Jonathan each scored 8 points, Miguel managed 6, Angel 5.

JV COWGIRLS- The younger Cowgirls suffered from cold shooting against Tahoka and fell 37-17. Annaliesa O'Quinn managed 6 points, Kim Willis and Julie Gonzales had 4 each, and Lexi Warren had 3.

JV COWBOYS- The JV guys enjoyed a good game against Tahoka, winning 47-44. The two top scorers were Dustin Six, 15 points, and Brett Squyres, 10 points. Moises Gonzales, Joseph Rodriguez and Vincent Delgado were all recognized for their hustle and defense work.

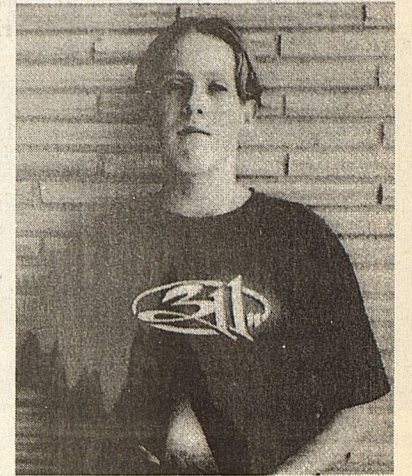
COWGIRLS- The Cowgirls suffered a tough loss against district foe Tahoka, falling 43-40. Candace Bowers led the scoring with 12 points, Kimberly Newland and Kayla Redman had 9 each, Krystle Blundell and Kristen Gray each had 4, and Jessica Flores 2. Kayla grabbed 7 rebounds, and Krystle and Kristen each had 2 steals.

COWBOYS- Victors over Tahoka twice this season, the Cowboys could only manage making 28% of their shots from the floor last Friday and fell 53-49 to the district foe. Tanner Blount led the scoring with 18 points, Adam Garcia and Fermin Luna had 10 each, Kyle Sisson 4, Josh Bell 3, Jared Bell and Eddy Gallegos each had 2 points. Tanner led rebounding with 14.

Student of the Week

PHS Student of the Week is Jeremy Diamond, a freshman and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Diamond.

Jeremy was nominated by Mrs. Canada, who said "He is a student who comes to the classroom ready to learn. What he learns, he's earned, and it is his to keep. He is always courteous and polite to teachers and fellow students. He is a joy to teach and have in the classroom."



PISD

Honor Roll

Elementary:

First Grade - All A's Taylor Banfield, Natalie Butler, Brandon Craft, Brett Hawthorne, Natalie Haynes, Nathan McCravy, Katelynn Young, Shayann Vantine.

A-B Honor Roll

Claudia Andazola, Ernesto Calderon, Jason Durham, Abigail Hernandez, Hector Luna, Kenyon Powell, Arturo Ruiz, Victoria Valverde.

Second Grade- All A's

Chris Addison, Brianna Conway, Wyatt Dearing, Landon Eranest, Reyna Gallegos, Christopher Garza, Derek Garza, Zachary Guerra, A.J. Martinez, Jonathan Mindieta, Zachary Ramon, Maria Ruiz, Eva Unger, Holden Welch, Lydia Whitzel, Kimber Williams

A-B Honor Roll

Skyler Sainz, Crystal Tarango.

Third Grade-All A's

Maria Andazola, Chandra Caqrnter, Rubi Castillo, Douglas Conway, Ryan Crump, Lauren Davis, Amber Friesen, Trent Hawthorne, Lauren Hise, Matthew Jiminez, Juan Lara, Cody Mayes, Marissa Melendez, Zachary Ramos, John Tyson, Katie Winn.

A-B Honor Roll

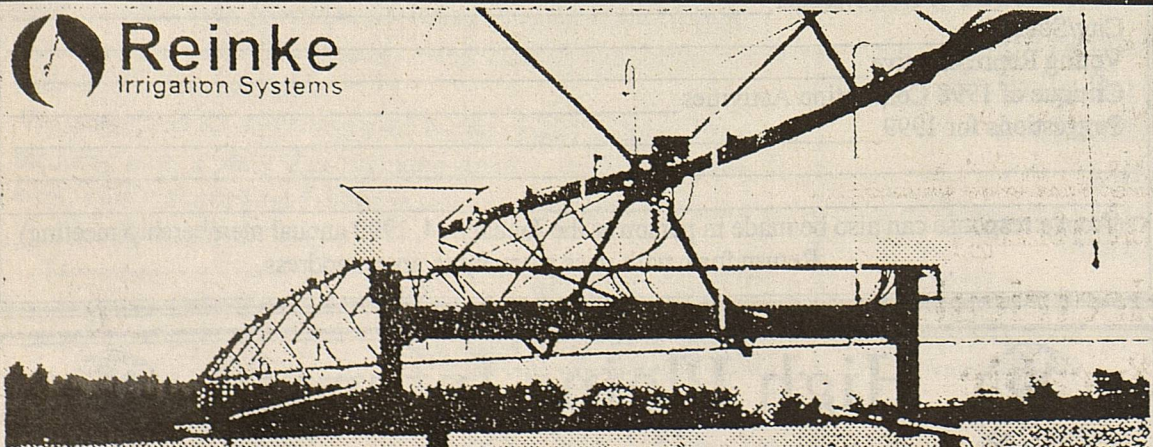
Curtis Arteaga, Joani Bell, Britanie Duran, M'Leah McKinzie, Sergio Olivas, Jacob Rivera.

Fourth Grade- All A's

Scott Addison, Caitlin Carter, Landon Craft, Nicole Culwell, Limberly Jackson, Erika Loewen, Magareta Martens, Angelica Mendoza, Araceli Mendoza, Adriana Ponce.

A-B Honor Roll

Jose Luis Gallegos, Challie Johnson.



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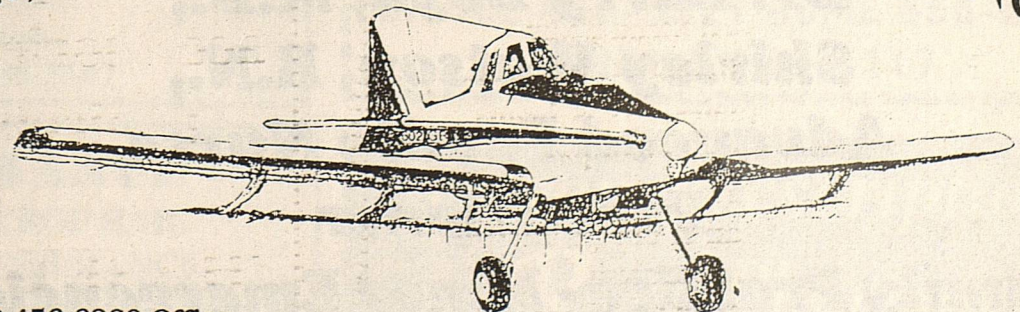
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Services held for Mike Loe

Services for Mike Loe, 46, of Canyon were held at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, December 19, 1998, at the University Church of Christ of Canyon with David Lough, Brad Thompson, Bob Shepard, and Bob Crass officiating. Burial was in Dreamland Cemetery directed by Brooks Funeral Directors. Mike was born on September 15, 1952 in Lubbock to Robert Irving and Winnell Fitzgerald Loe. He graduated from Denver City High School and was a graduate of West Texas A&M University. He married Suan Allen at Denver City on January 14, 1972. They moved to Canyon in 1972. He served as Vice President at West Texas State Bank for seventeen years. He then taught Art and Computer Science at Bowie Middle School in Amarillo. He was presently

employed at Region 16 as an Instructional Technology Specialist. He was a member of the University Church of Christ serving as a Deacon and he taught the Village Sunday School Class.

Survivors include his wife Susan and 2 daughters Emily Loe of the home and Courtney Bryan of El Dorado, Ar. One grandson Wade Bryan of El Dorado, Ar., one sister Lisa Moore of Boise City, Ok., one brother Travis Loe of Canyon, parents Bob and Winnell Loe of Canyon.

The family suggests memorials to Mike Loe Scholarship Fund for his children and grandchildren C/O Region 16, P.O. Box 30600, Amarillo, Tx. 79120 or University Church of Christ Building Fund 3400 Conner Dr., Canyon, Tx. 79015.

Impressive numbers emerge from grain sorghum contest

A recap of the 1998 Grain Sorghum yield contest, sponsored by the National Grain Sorghum Producers Association, produced some amazing results.

A complicated judging formula, considering the overall bushel per acre yield, and average bushel per acre compared to the producer's home county average yield was used in the contest.

National winners (with only the actual bushel per acre figure used here) included:

Conventional Irrigated-Ken Beaver, Nebraska, 181.70 bushels

Conventional Non-Irrigated-Leila Beaver, Nebraska, 186.36 bushels.

Mulch-Till, non-irrigated-James Wiedel, 160.86 bushels.

No-Till, non-irrigated-Van

Zee Ranch, South Dakota, 185.66 bushels.

Local producers use pounds to calculate their per acre yield of grain sorghum (milo). To determine pounds for these contest winners, multiply the bushels shown by 56, the weight of a bushel of milo.

Top production of grain sorghum in Texas went to David Krienke of Ochiltree County, 145.26 bushels on irrigated land.

The following by Lynn Brisendine, publisher of the Brownfield News:

A truck driver stopped at a roadside diner for lunch. He ordered a cheeseburger, coffee and a slice of apple pie. As he was about to eat, three motorcyclists pulled up outside. The bikers came in and one grabbed the trucker's cheeseburger and took a bite out of it. The second one drank the trucker's coffee and the third wolfed down his apple pie.

The truck driver didn't say a word. He quietly got up, paid the cashier and left.

When he was gone, one of the motorcyclists said, "He sure wasn't much of a fighter, was he?"

"He's not much of a driver, either," the cashier observed. "He just backed his truck over three motorcycles!"

47th Annual County Stockshow to be held

The Annual Yoakum County Junior Livestock will be held January 28th, 29th, and 30th at the Yoakum County Show Barns in Plains, Texas. The show will get underway on Thursday, January 28th with the official weighing in of animals. Judging the Market Steers and Swine will be Curtis Preston, County Extension Agent-Ag in Bailey County. Judging the Goats and Steep will be Steve Sturtz, County Extension Agent-Ag in Glasscock County. This year's rabbit judge will be Dr. Bob Berry of Lubbock. Judging the showmanship will be Cody Hill, County Extension Agent-Ag in Parmer County.

The board of directors have announced a new addition to Thursday, January 28;

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Swine Weigh-in
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lamb Weigh-in
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Goat Weigh-in
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Steer Weigh-in
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Rabbit Check-in

Friday, January 29;

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Steer Show

9:00 a.m. (Or immediately following steer show) Market Gilt Show (Followed by Market Barrow Show)

Following Swine Shows Pee Wee Pig Show
1:00 p.m. Lamb Show

3:00 p.m. (or immediately following Lamb Show) Goat Show
4:00 p.m. (or immediately following Goat Show) Rabbit Show

Saturday, January 30;

10:00 a.m. Concession Stand Branding Ceremony

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Buyer's Luncheon (Plains School Cafeteria)

1:00 p.m. Presentation of Queen Contestants and Awards
1:20 p.m. Premium Sale

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set in Justice of the Peace Court on January 4, 1998, Precinct 1 with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases filed: 33 traffic cases, 2 felony cases.

Bonds set: Forgery governmental record-held for border patrol. Kidnapping-\$2500 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500 bond. 3 Cases-Assault causing bodily injury-\$1500 bond each. Tampering with governmental record-held for border patrol. 2 cases-Abandoning or endangering a child-\$1500 bond each. Disorderly conduct-\$200 bond. Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. 2 cases-Theft by check-\$500 bond each. 2 cases-Fugitive from justice-held until transport. Theft over \$1500 and under \$20,000-\$3500 bond. Motion of surety-\$500 bond. 6 cases-Issuance of bad check-\$300 bond each.

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Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas football brings honors

College and professional football players from Texas have won a variety of honors since 1938, including:

Heisman Trophy Winners

Davey O'Brien, TCU, 1938
E. Doak Walker, Jr., SMU, 1948
John David Crow, Texas A&M, 1957
Earl Campbell, UT Austin, 1977
Andre Ware, Houston, 1989
Ricky Williams, UT Austin, 1998

Pro Football Hall of Fame

Dallas Cowboys
Tex Schramm, president, 1960-89
Tom Landry, head coach, 1960-88
Raymond Berry, coach, 1973-75
Mike Ditka, tight end, 1969-72 coach, 1973-81
Sid Gillman, coach, 1972
Ernie Stautner, coach, 1966-88
Herb Adderley, cornerback, 1970-72
Lance Alworth, wide receiver, 1971-72
Tony Dorsett, running back, 1977-87
Forrest Gregg, tackle/guard, 1971
Bob Lilly, defensive tackle, 1961-74
Jackie Smith, tight end, 1978
Roger Staubach, quarterback, 1969-79
Tom McDonald, wide receiver, 1964
Mel Renfro, cornerback/safety, 1964-77
Randy White, defensive tackle, 1975-88

Houston Oilers

Sammy Baugh, head coach, 1964 coach, 1965
Sid Gillman, head coach, 1973-74
Ken Houston, safety, 1967-69, 70-72 coach, 1982-85
George Blanda, quarterback, 1960-66
Earl Campbell, running back, 1978-84
John Henry Johnson, fullback, 1966
Charlie Joiner, wide receiver, 1969-72

Dallas Texans

Lamar Hunt, owner, 1960-62
Len Dawson, quarterback, 1962
Art Donovan, defensive tackle, 1952
Gino Marchetti, defensive end, 1952



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ANNUAL DUES \$50.00

Dear Yoakum County Connection supporter,

It is 1999 Yoakum County Connection membership time. The Board of Directors want all present seventy-four members to renew their membership and another seventy-four or more to join for the first time. The by-laws have been changed so that all memberships have voting rights. Only one vote is allowed for each business, family, or organization. Annual dues remain fifty dollars. Please complete the enclosed form and return it with your dues payment. Your membership is important to the Connection's success.

The annual meeting will be held on January 14, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. at the Yoakum County Park party house. The Denver City School Show Choir will be our entertainment. Five directors will be elected at the meeting. Nominations for directors may be made from the floor in addition to the nominating committee's choices. Input from the membership will be solicited as to the Connection's performance and possible 1999 programs. Many door prizes will be given away.

The Connection's primary activities for 1999 are listed below.

1. Finish remodeling Yoakum County Connection building located in Denver City.
2. Conduct Summer Youth Arts programs in Plains and Denver City.
3. Help with the 4th of July picnic in Denver City.
4. Sponsor the fourth annual Watermelon Roundup in Plains.
5. Bring visiting artist to our schools.

Enjoy the holidays! Please remember our membership dues and the January 14th annual meeting.

YOAKUM COUNTY CONNECTION MEMBERSHIP FORM

Organization or Group Name _____
Street Address or Box Number _____
City/State/Zip _____
Voting Representative _____
Critique of 1998 Connection Activities _____
Suggestions for 1999 _____

(Above response can also be made in person at the January 14, 1999 annual membership meeting)
Return form with dues payment to above address



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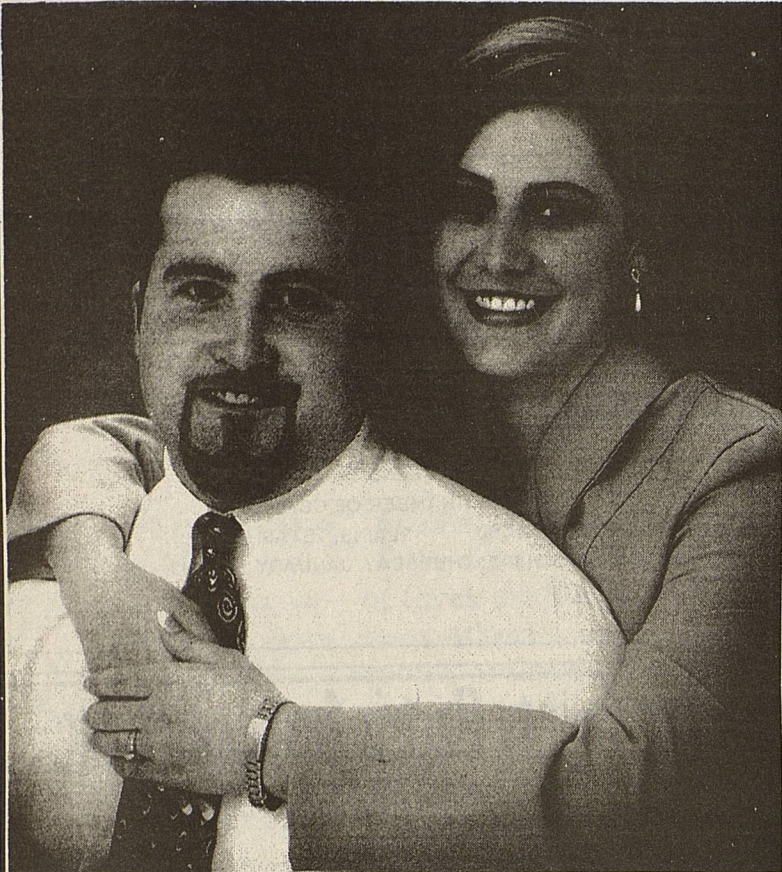
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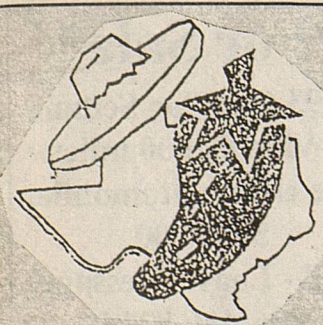
Joel and Debra Lowe of Plains announce the engagement of their daughter, Daphne Eevon, to Mike McKaskle son of Charles and Jan McKaskle of Stanton. The couple will marry April 17 at Lubbock. The bride elect, a graduate of Plains High and South Plains College of Nursing is employed as a RN at Hendricks Medical Center in Abilene. The future bridegroom is a graduate of Grady High, Texas Tech and currently working on his master degree in physical therapy at Hardin Simmons.

Filmtime



Birthday girls Karla Powell and Steeli Sellers

January 6th, 1998, there were 12 children in attendance, they were: Ashley Sellers, Karla Powell, Haley Welch, Whitney Davis, Clayton Gass, Sam Melendez, Steeli Sellers, Jaston Brink, Autumn Friesen, Johnathan Davis, Kristie Lopez, Grant Payne. The children played two games, sang three songs, heard a story and watched two movies. We celebrated Karla Powell's 4th birthday and Steeli Sellers 2nd birthday with a party that included drinks, candy and party favors. This was our first Filmtime since the holidays and we were glad to see all the children!



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Senior Citizens Corner

The birthday celebration was great with a nice meal and pink cake. Honorees were June Hannaman, Estell Ivy, Billie McDonnell, Betty Evans, Marcey Nelson, Marshall Watson, Venuela Blanca, and Freddie Neria. Anniversary Honorees were Jean and Sparky Sparks, and Maggie and Rex Powell. Our best wishes to all for many more celebrations.

A nice lady from the press (along with her four little helpers) took pictures of the honorees. A Big Thanks to her.

Some of our sick people are getting back to the center. Wanda and Zelma were there on Wednesday. Some more are still home bound.

Our condolences to Esteen Schnesder. Her father passed away recently.

We have new people using the hall for their walk each morning. Its sure better than the outdoors on these cold mornings.

Check out the Garage Sale. New items have been added.

Don't forget the domino tournament. We have fun beating each other, but a challenge is out for all seniors to come try their luck.

This is the beginning of a bright new year. A wish that all would make use of the center everyday, and make it the bright spot each day.

See you next week,
Smitty

Fine Arts Club Entertainers

The Plains Fine Arts Club members children and grand children presented a musical program at the Club's meeting Thursday, January 7.



Front, L-R, Maudie Olenik, Katelynn Young, Mallory Olenik, Lauren Davis, La Shay Arnett, Chris Addison: Back, Lavern Hise, Meagan Olenik, Amber and Allison Friesen, Evan Cain, Scott Addison

Services for people with Disabilities

The Life/Run Centers for independent living is a private, non-profit organization in Lubbock and Amarillo that provides independent living services to adults and children with disabilities. Counties served include Lubbock, Lynn, Terry, Garza, Hockley, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Dickens, Crosby, King, Bailey, Briscoe, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Carson, Hartley, Donley, Gray, Moore, Hutchinson and Castro. It is Life/Run's mission to help people with disabilities live as independently as possible. If

you would like to know more about Life/Run Services, please call us at (806) 795-5433 or (800) 429-4371, in Lubbock. In Amarillo, call (806) 372-7556.

The 23rd Cupcake

My Doctor is my shepherd, I shall Not weigh more. He maketh me to lie down in sweatpants, he ordereth me to do situps. Yea, though I stroll by the door of the bake shop, I will not enter; I shall buy my cupcakes elsewhere. I eateth my cupcakes in the presence of no one. My cup runneth over with ice cream. Surely huge hips and thunder thighs will haunt me all the days of my life, and I will live in a body of cellulite forever.

Poster Contest Reminder

A reminder to students that now is a good time to concentrate on the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District's poster and essay contest.

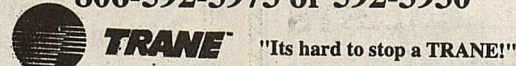
Children 12 and under can enter the poster contest. Themes are "Wonders of Wildlife" and "In the Children's Hands". The posters are due to the Yoakum SWCD office no later than 5:00 p.m. February 1, 1999.

Entry blanks for both events can be picked up at the office located at 1303 Cowboy Way. Any further information may be obtained by contacting Emma Tobar at 456-3703.

These events do not jeopardize Texas University Inter-scholastic League eligibility.

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February 06, 1999	February 7, 1999

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From The Hack

A supposedly true story from Montevideo, Uruguay: Paolo Esperanza, trombonist with the symphonic orchestra there, decided to make his contribution to the cannon shots fired as part of the orchestra's performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture at an outdoor concert. He placed a large, ignited firecracker, the equivalent in strength to a quarter stick of dynamite, into his straight mute, and stuck the mute into the bell of his bass trombone. Later, from his hospital bed he explained through bandages on his mouth, "I thought the bell of my trombone would shield me from the explosion and would focus the energy of the blast outwards and away from me, propelling the mute high above the orchestra, like a rocket." Paolo was not up on his propulsion physics; in his haste to get the horn up before the firecracker went off, he failed to raise the bell of the horn high enough to give the mute enough arc to clear the orchestra. What happened should serve as a lesson to us during those delirious moments of divine inspiration. The blast propelled the mute between rows

of players in the woodwind and viola sections of the orchestra, missing the players, but straight into the stomach of the conductor, driving him off the podium into the audience.

Fortunately, the audience was sitting in folding chairs and were protected from serious injury, for the chairs collapsed under them, passing the energy of the flying conductor backwards into rows of people sitting behind them, who in turn were driven back into the people in the row behind and so on, like a row of dominoes. The sound of collapsing wooden chairs and grunts of people falling on their behinds increased logarithmically, adding to the overall sound of brass cannons and brass playing the closing measures of the Overture.

Paulo said, "Just as I heard the sound of the blast, I felt searing pain to my mouth. I swear I heard a voice with a Austrian accent say, 'Fur every akshon zer is un eekvul un opposeet reakshon!' With the mouth-piece unplugged, a super heated blast shot backwards, searing his mouth and tongue.

The pyrotechnic ballet wasn't over yet. The force of the blast was so great it split the bell of the horn, and the trombones slide was torn away and launched like a missile into the head of the 3rd clarinetist, knocking him cold.

The moral of the story? Beware the next time you hear someone in the trombone section yell out "Hey, everyone, watch this!"

Hey, I can't swear it's true. I

CAN swear I stole it from Publisher John Graham's column in the Lovington Leader.

Watching just the prelims of the Senate Impeachment Trial is almost asking too much. It has some comedy aspects sitcom writers in Hollywood should carefully study.

The first day, here comes old Senator Strom Thurmond tottering on stage. That's not the comedy... I'm not too far from the tottering stage, so I can't poke fun at his age. It's Supreme Court Justice Rehnquist, semi-tottering behind to be sworn in. It's not his semi-tottering either... it's his designer black robe, and he's the designer. The TV talking head says, "And here's Justice Rehnquist with the four golden stripes on the shoulders of his robe. It was inspired by a Gilbert & Sullivan Opera."

I'm not red hot on opera, but wasn't the Mikado a comedic opera by that pair? If I'm right, all this fits right in with all the other comedy taking place on Capitol hill.

The TV announcer then intones, "The Supreme Justices may not overrule a senate verdict." Now, you know that really ticked them off... no one overrules the Supremos. Another minor point to annoy the supremes.. There will be no appeal if Billy Bob is convicted.

Now, that should bring a gasp from everyone...when is the last time you heard of a guilty triple murderer, a dope dealer peddling the stuff to toddlers, a pornographer stuffing his wares in the mailed church bulletin, a

pedophile visiting Sunday school, an arsonist burning down an orphanage, a retardo blowing up the Oklahoma City Federal building, without an appeal process which may stretch on to the NEXT millenium?

The media still tells us daily, both the House and Senate are working diligently to avoid a long, drawn out and expensive trial. Yeah.

Growing old is just a state of mind...brought on by grey hair, no hair, false teeth, wrinkles, excessive gas, a bigger belly, shortness of breath, nodding off in church, forgetting grandkids names, your anniversary, and wondering if you're in the kitchen or bathroom standing before an open fridge at 2:45 am.

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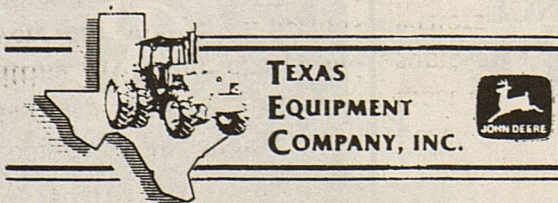


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