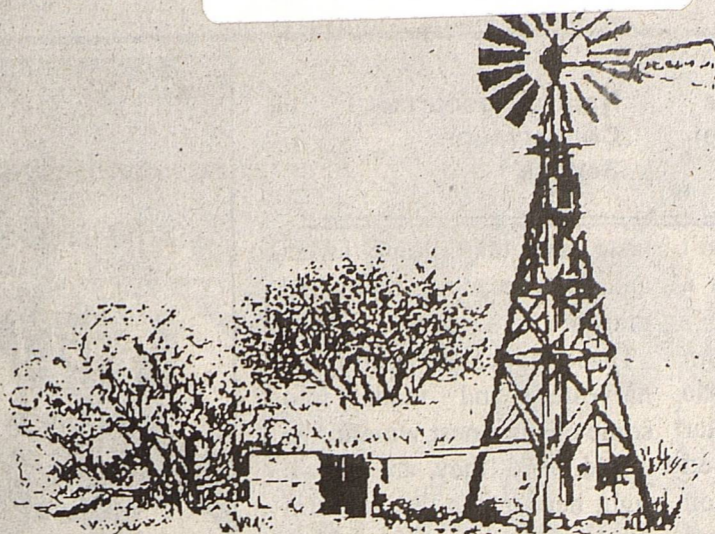


# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 3, September, 22, 2004



## PHS Homecoming Royalty 2004



One of these Plains High Senior young ladies will be crowned the 2004 Homecoming Queen just prior to Friday nights football game against Dimmit. Shown left to right are Kristian Morales, daughter of Angel and Maria Morales, Daniela Lazos, daughter of Tony and Gracie Lazos, and Jamie Covarrubias, daughter of Michael and Gloria Covarrubias. Nominated by their Senior classmates, the Queen will be crowned by the 2003 Queen, Manuela Villegas.

### Chamber explores funding for electronic sign in park

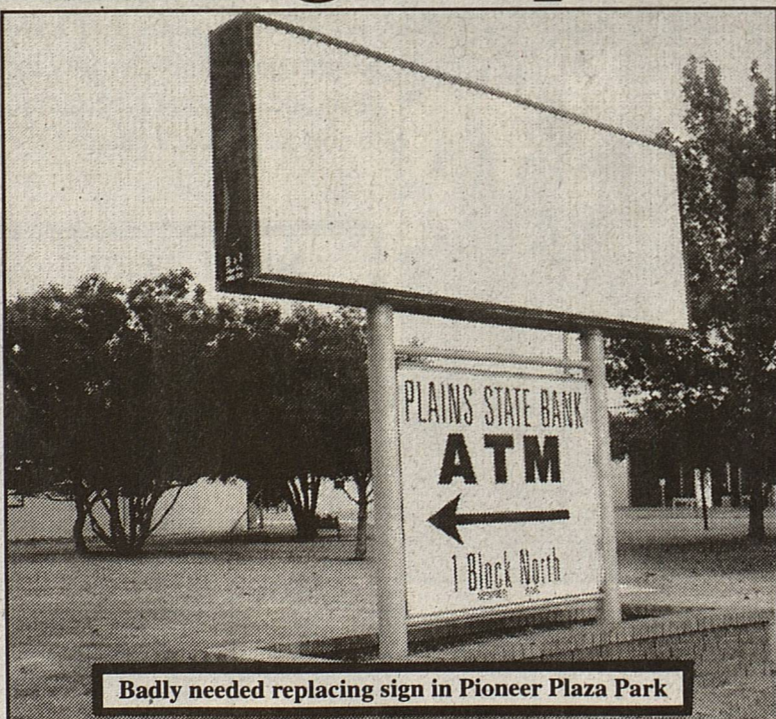
In recent Chamber of Commerce meetings, the chief topic of business conversation has centered on possible replacement of the present billboard, or marquee type sign in Pioneer Plaza Park. Chamber members aren't certain how old the sign is, but agree it was acquired from a doctor in Brownfield many years ago - as one Chamber official recalled, "It was pretty old then, and it's ancient now."

Because of longevity, the sign is becoming expensive to maintain in operating condition, and repairs are becoming more frequent.

The Chamber has acquired information and preliminary pricing of several new, state of the art LED (light emitting diode) signs which could be installed at the present site, and its computerized operation could be controlled from the City Hall building.

The Chamber is considering several LED units, and if funds can be raised for its purchase, the sign could be programmed to display messages on both sides of the screen, with the ability to store and display dozens of messages from local entities, or individuals, and would be highly visible to motor traffic in each direction along Cowboy Way.

"Messages on the old sign now must be spaced out using plastic letters and placed in the racks by hand. The racks, or rails for the letters need replacing, and the interior of the sign



Badly needed replacing sign in Pioneer Plaza Park

needs a complete and expensive re-wiring, and letters lost to high winds must frequently be replaced. It's just expensive to keep operational, and the plastic panels allowing light to come through at night are in bad shape", one Chamber member reported.

The Chamber has learned shopping for an electronic billboard is similar to shopping for an automobile - there are scores of models, and scores of price levels. Most Chamber members indicate they favor one model which would cost "around nineteen, twenty thousand dollars".

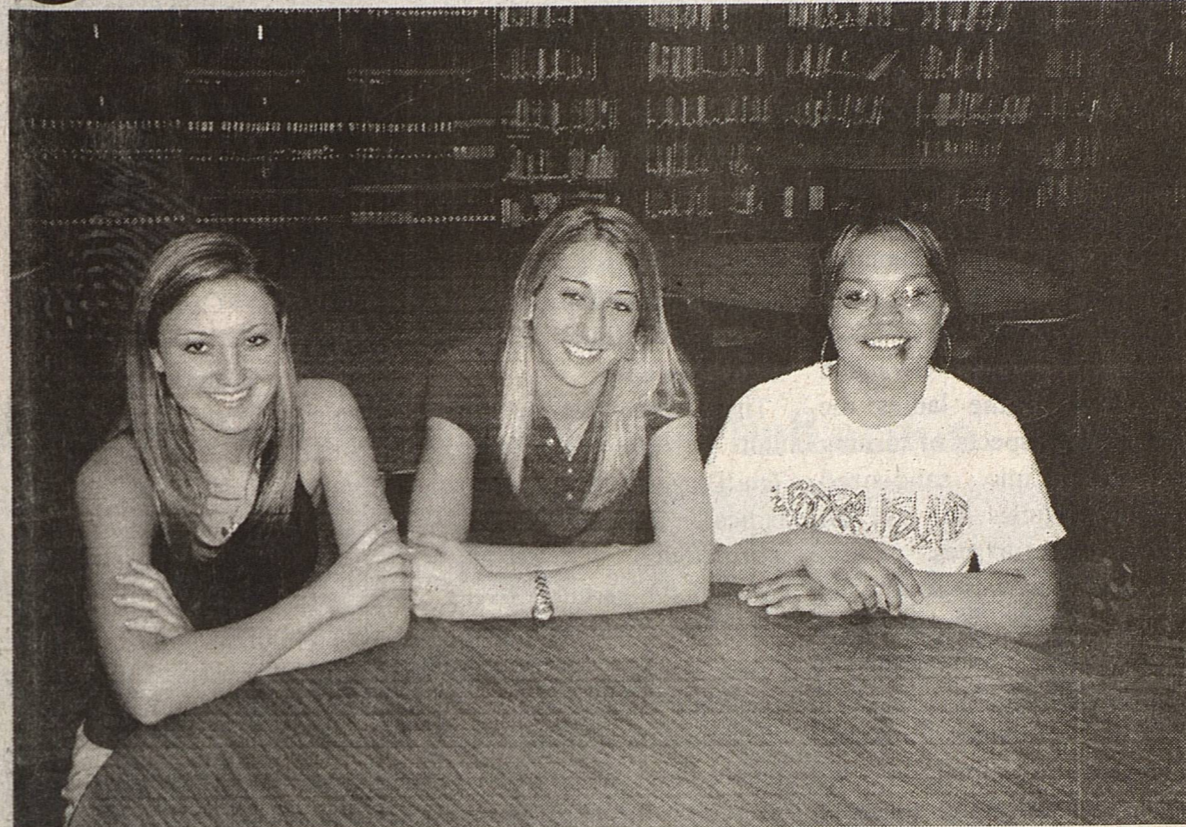
The Chamber, from several fundraising projects in recent years, has accumulated about half of that amount and are asking for financial assistance from the city, county, school district.

business firms and individuals. One appealing and novel suggestion is the selling of commemorative bricks, something like the sample brick shown in the photo on page four.

If enough interest is shown in the project, the Chamber would offer a commemorative brick to be ordered for \$50. It could contain 3 to 4 lines of characters, and the brick could be a testimonial to a relative, a veteran, one's own family or family member, a special event, a good friend, in honor of a club, organization, church, the subjects are limitless.

The bricks would be laid on the foundation in an artistic manner offering views of the commemorative honors from all sides of the structure, and the

Turn To Page 4,  
SIGN



The Queens Royal Court Attendants, Freshman Maretta Trent, daughter of Dare and Donetta Walker, Junior Skylar Keesee, daughter of Kreg and La Tonna Keesee, and Sophomore Clarissa Zorilla, daughter of Dianna Zorilla and Arthur Ruiz. Cowboy-Cowgirl fans are reminded the Homecoming Queen ceremonies start promptly at 7:30 PM under U.I.L. rules. We urge your presence at the ceremony and the following game!

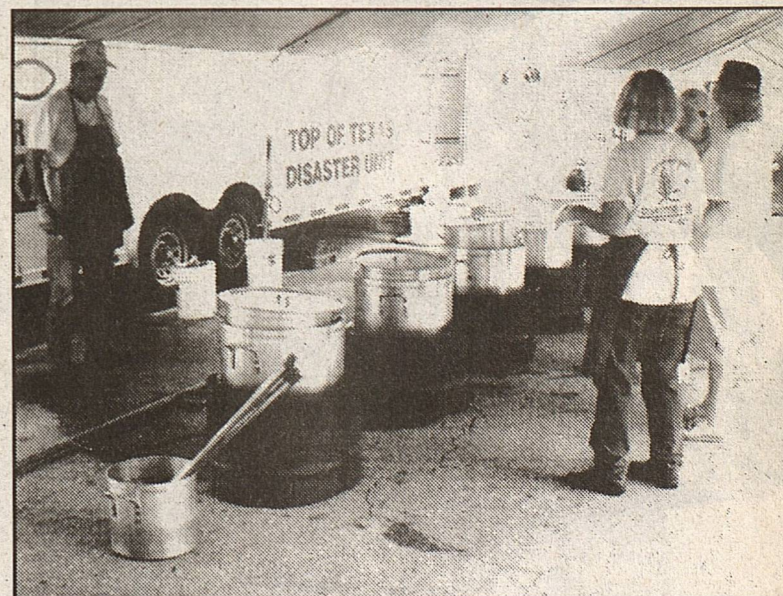
### Plains FBC Disaster Relief teams, equipment becoming quite familiar with Florida woes

A number of members of Plains First Baptist Church may not consider themselves experienced world travelers, but they are fast becoming experts on the topography - and the misery - they are finding in storm wracked Florida. Volunteers from the church have now helped ease the discomfort and misery of a few of the thousands of residents there who survived three vicious, killing hurricanes within just weeks on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of the battered state.

The church's two disaster relief trailer-kitchens, capable of producing thousands of hot meals at least twice daily, are in their second battleground feeding the hungry, setting up their operational camp in ravaged Pensacola.

In a phone conversation with team Blue Cap leader Tim Willis Monday morning, pastor Bill Wright learned the eight person team set up their mobile kitchens Sunday and immediately began preparing badly needed meals. Willis reported conditions are smoothing out and they will soon be preparing some 3,800 meals twice daily.

The Pensacola Team consists mainly of area locals; Willis, Jerry Howard, Linda Harris, Linda Wright of Plains, Ricky Henson, Kathy Clark, Denver City, and Sue Rutten from



Volunteers Bob, Lattrel McDonnell, and ( we think ) Linda Harris on the prep line in Bronson, Florida

Clovis, NM. One other teammate, the mother of Robert Canon of Plains, Dorothy Herman, a spry and energetic mid-sixties lady, recently fell off the back of a truck, fracturing her arm. Willis reported she

said, "You guys do the best you can without me, I'll be back to help soon as they get this thing set!" And she was.

Another local team was earlier

Turn To Page 4,  
DISASTER

### PHS Student Council sets Homecoming Parade

The Plains High School has added a new wrinkle for the annual Homecoming celebration for PHS Alumni - a parade Friday afternoon on September 24 at 2:20 P.M. The parade will start in front of the school complex at the elementary school, and move east to the main boys gym. Council members are urging the entire community to turn out to show their support of the 2004 Cowboys, who face Dimmit in the Homecoming game at 8 P.M.

The Council urges clubs, organizations, individuals to get busy NOW and enter a float in the parade, and show the Cowboys their support!





**On The Level**

with Donald Haley  
USDA/NRCS

**USDA** United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Well...if you weren't there...you missed out on a fun time!!!!...

The 1<sup>st</sup> annual Ladies Farm Tour, sponsored by the Yoakum Soil & Water Conservation District, rolled out of town at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, September 13...and concluded with a noon meal at the Plains Community Center.

Participating were 29 ladies from both Denver City and Plains...who wanted to see something that they probably would not otherwise have the opportunity to see...and all right here in our own 'back yard'!

First on the agenda was a fascinating tour of the State Rubber and Environmental Solutions re-cycling plant north of Denver City.

Manager Dan Swanson explained to the ladies the fascinating aspects of turning old tires into sand-sized rubber particles for use on asphalt road surfaces.

Second stop was Southwest Spice... just across the county line in northwest Gaines County.

Plant Manager Jarrod Chestnut explained to the ladies the intriguing state-of-the-art processes behind turning raw materials into different cooking spices.

And the fragrant smells...especially the scent of Rosemary...delightful....

Last stop was Newsom Vineyards north of Plains.

Owners Neal and Janice Newsom showed tour participants their giant grape harvester, explained how grapes were grown and encouraged the ladies to pick,

taste and take home sweet and tasty ready-to-be-picked grapes.

These grapes are soon to be harvested and made into some of the finest wine in the world...and they are grown right here in the fertile warm sands of Yoakum County!

Then it was on to the Plains Community Center...where the Ladies Farm Tour met up with the "Men's" Farm Tour, sponsored by the Texas Cooperative Extension.

A barbeque lunch was sponsored by the Yoakum SWCD, Sun-Cot Gin, New-Tex Gin, Tokio Gin Golden Peanuts and Yoakum County Co-Op Gin.

Transportation for the Ladies Farm Tour was provided by Bobby Trent and Mustang Country Chevrolet in Denver City.

Three Chevrolet Suburbans and one Chevrolet TrailBlazer escorted the ladies in air conditioned style on the tour.

Drivers were NRCS personnel Donald Gibbons, Donald Haley, Philip Carter and Rhett Kerby.

The tour was organized by Jackie Pate, Yoakum SWCD Secretary. Assisting was Julie King, Terry SWCD Secretary.

Many generous door prizes were drawn following the noon meal.

Door prize items were provided by the following Plains and Denver City merchants:

Yoakum County Credit Union (\$25 cash), Lalitos Restaurant (\$20 gift certificate), Kizer Insurance (\$25 cash), Bayer Lumber &



Neal Newsom of Newsom Vineyards north of Plains demonstrated his grape harvester on the Ladies Farm Tour

Hardware (\$25 (Avon cologne), Karen cash/merchandise), Image'n Bearden (Mary Kay cosmetic products), Turner Extension (Jerry Lollar - knife set/potato peeler, Western Peanut Growers (Texas-size peanut patty) and Totally Unique (Shirley Simpson - gift bag of store merchandise).  
Hope to see you...same time next year...when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ladies Farm Tour will depart for fun, interesting and educational destinations across Yoakum County.  
You'll have to go with us to find out where...see ya next year....



A stack of fragrant Rosemary spice awaiting processing at Southwest Spice west of Denver City

**CAPITOL COMMENT**  
U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

It was the year of the Challenger explosion, the Chernobyl disaster, and the return of Haley's Comet. President Ronald Reagan was in the White House and the Communist leadership was firmly entrenched in the Soviet Union. Movie screens were dominated by box office hits such Top Gun, and Crocodile Dundee and series like Dallas, The Cosby Show, and Cheers filled television sets. Here in Texas, the Houston Rockets won the NBA's Western Division and the Lady Longhorns were NCAA basketball national champions.

Seems like a long time ago, doesn't it? That was also the last time Texans could deduct their state and local sales taxes on federal income tax forms. This common sense deduction was eliminated in 1986. Unfortunately, for the past 18 years, taxpayers in Texas and six other states have been held to a separate standard by the Internal Revenue Service. Fifty-five million taxpayers, one in five Americans, are shouldering a higher tax burden simply because their states choose to fund local government through means other than an income tax.

State and local governments have various alternatives for raising revenue. Some levy income taxes, some use sales and property taxes, and others use a combination. My contention is that the federal government should not select only one type of state revenue for special, favorable treatment. There is no logical reason to discriminate against states that have the wisdom to avoid a state income tax. As your Senator, I have fought against this disparity for years and sponsored legislation to correct it since I came to the

U.S. Senate. This year, we have our best chance to end that inequity in the tax code. Earlier this month, Congressman Kevin Brady (R-Woodlands) and I organized a rally of 30 Members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans from all over the country, to support our efforts to reinstate the deduction as part of broader tax legislation in final negotiations between the House and the Senate. It's not often that a Dallas Republican and a Seattle Democrat see eye to eye but, in this case, the reason for agreement was obvious: People should not pay taxes on their taxes.

Fixing this discrepancy could have a significant economic impact across the Lone Star State. The Texas Comptroller estimates that more the \$740 million would stay in the hands of state taxpayers. The average Texas family would save \$310 annually and the average family of four would save \$928.

Some wonder how this plan could be administered. No, you wouldn't have to keep track of your receipts all year. When the time comes to file, taxpayers could use tables compiled by the Secretary of the Treasury to determine the amount of the deduction, taking into account the taxpayer's state of residence, filing status, number of dependents, adjusted gross income, and state and local sales tax rates.

Texans, along with every other U.S. citizen, should not be taxed on their taxes. Correcting this inequity is a matter of simple fairness and could provide an enormous boost to the Texas economy. The status quo is not acceptable and I am committed to achieving this tax fairness now.



Wynell Lewis and Ada Falkenbury show off their door prize "winnings" at the barbecue lunch following the ladies Farm Tour

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## News from the PHS Counselor

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

Voice of Democracy - VFW Post - Deadline November 1  
 Outstanding Students of America - October 15

### OTHER EVENTS:

September 24 - End of first Six Weeks  
 September 25 - ACT 7:45 PM PHS  
 September 27 - Seniors will attend College Day at South Plains College to speak with other colleges and universities.  
 September 27 - All parents of Juniors and Seniors - Learn Inc. will be here to discuss the college application process and financial aid at 6 PM in the auditorium, and to answer questions and explain how Learn can help, and the importance of applying for all scholarships.

## PISD Sports Review

### Jr. High Volleyball:

7th Grade - The 7th Lady Wranglers traveled to Seminole September 13 to take on the Seminole Maidens. Seminole claimed the match with a 25-20, 25-18 win.

8th Grade - The 8th girls improved their record to 4-2 with their out of town victory over Seminole. The Lady Wranglers won the first game 25-15, then slipped by 27-29 before rallying to take the match with a 26-24 decisive game.

### JV Cowgirl Volleyball:

The Cowgirl JV was defeated 25-18, 25-10 by Denver City September 14. Coach Eddleman was pleased with the effort but said the girls made too many mistakes against a sound team. He said Meghan Garcia led with the most service points, Lauren Davis most digs, Allison Friesen with most blocks and kills. On the 18th, the girls competed in the Denver City Tournament. They downed Lubbock Cooper in two games, 25-21, 25-22. "Overall, I thought this was our best performance of the year," Coach Eddleman said.

M'leah McKinzie led the team with 4 kills, Allison had 6 blocks, Angelica Mendoza the most service points, and Lauren Davis led in digs. They next fell to Denver City 25-22 and 25-23, and Eddleman was proud of how they bounced back from their earlier defeat by the team. In the tourney final, they fell to Midland Greenwood in three, 25-22, 16-25 and 19-25. Coach Eddleman felt the girls were tired after two earlier tough games, and said "I thought losing Angelica Mendoza to a knee injury hurt us, but the entire team did a good job. Callie Howell gave the team a spark with two really good hits, M'leah had most kills, Regina Morales most service points, and Lauren Davis led in blocks.

### Varsity Cowgirls:

The Cowgirls faced Levelland and Snyder last week. They downed Levelland in five games, 28-26, 25-27, 25-15, 18-25 and 15-13. They didn't fare as well against Snyder and were downed 22-25, 23-25, 28-26 and 18-25. Coach Harris reported "The girls played very well against both teams, and are working much better now as a team." A very good showing against two much larger schools.

## PHS Cowboy varsity cross-country rated #1 in state

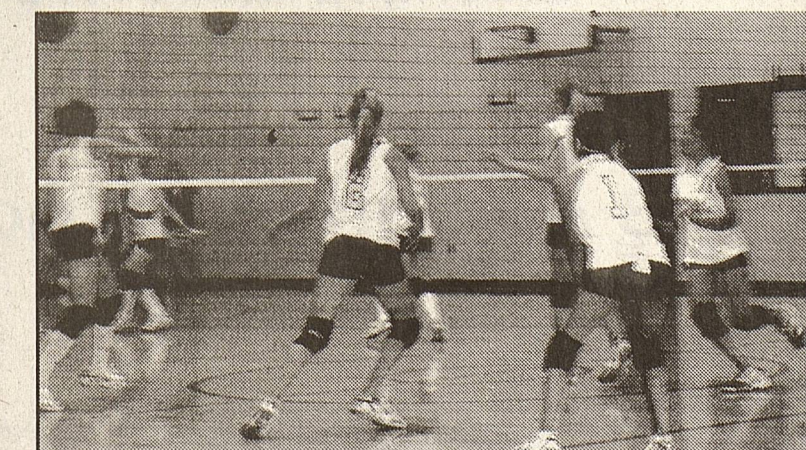
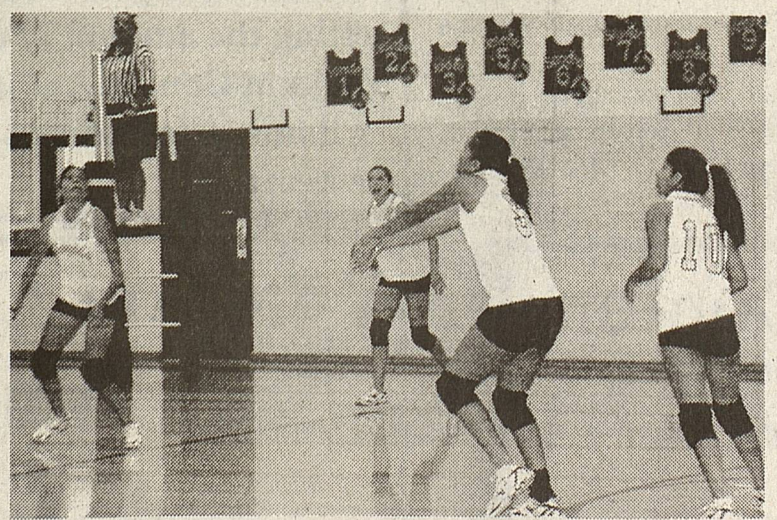
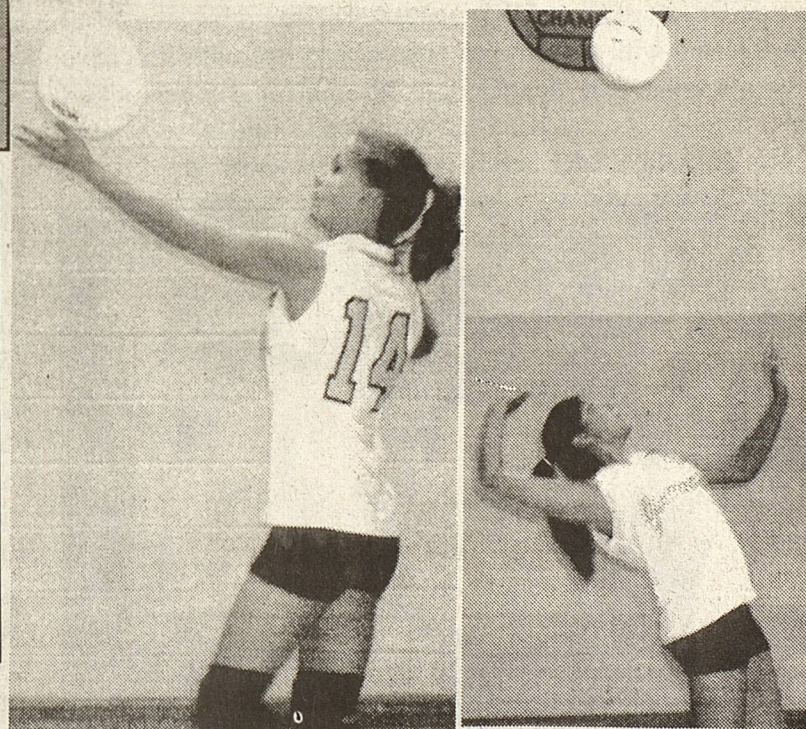
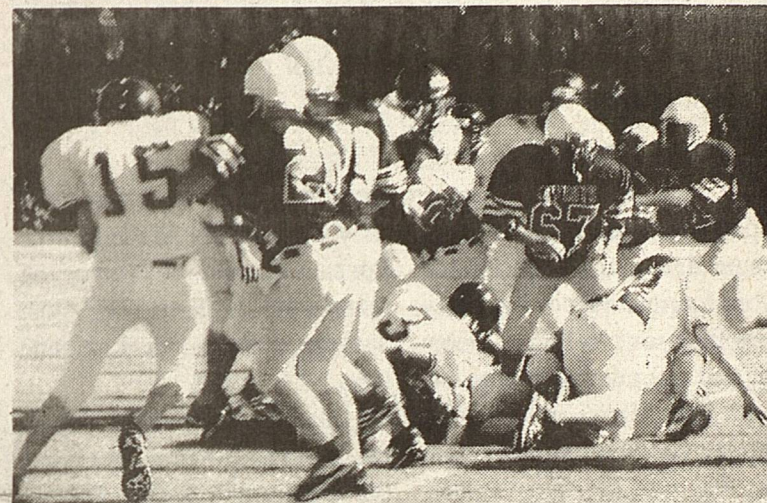
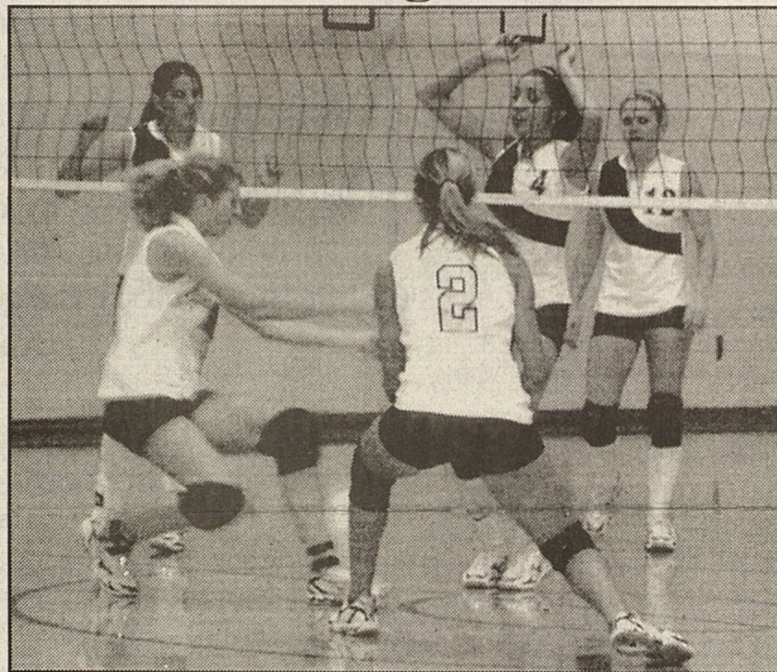


Varsity, JV and Jr. High cross country runners pictured at Olton Invitational meet include; Front, Sydney Caffey, Abel Ramos, Jose Villegas, Zachary Ramos. Back, Jennifer Eccles, Scott Addison, Coach Todd Davis, Chandon Loya, Payton Bean, Landon Craft, Joseph Loya.

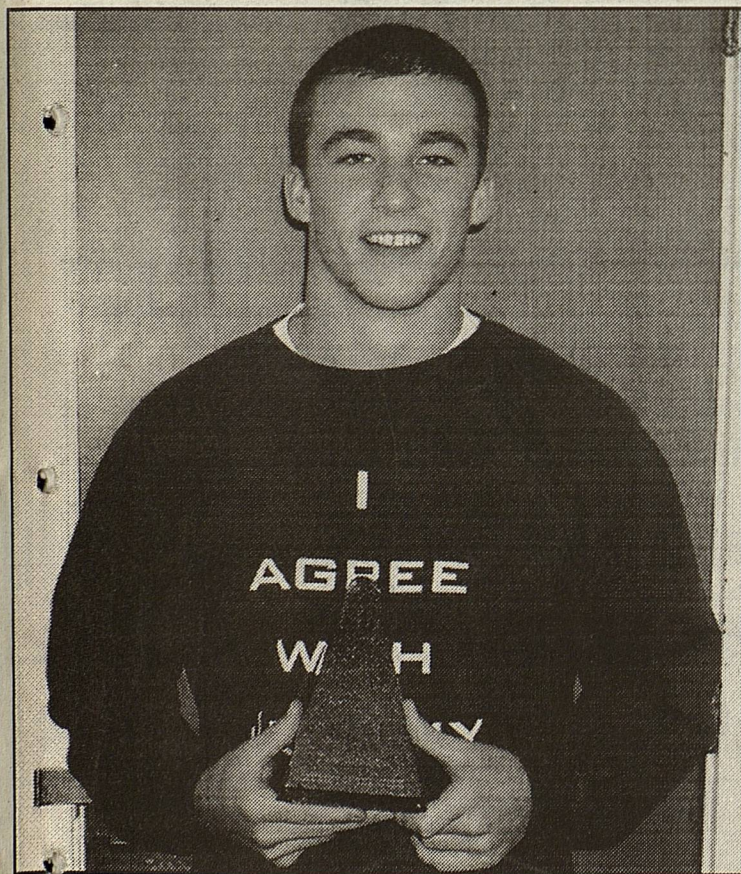
The Cowboy cross-country team lived up to its lofty #1 billing by claiming the team title at the Olton meet. They narrowly edged district rivals Sundown and Hart and 31 other schools. Abel Ramos led the team by finishing second overall, only two seconds behind a Sundown runner. Jose Villegas was 3rd overall, co-captain Payton Bean was 5th, Scott Addison 12th, Joseph Loya

21st and Chandon Loya 29th. In JV action, Zachary Ramos finished 4th, Landon Craft 7th, David Alldredge 9th. Representing the Cowgirls Jennifer Eccles was 33rd, and Sydnet Caffey took 13th. The teams run Saturday in the largest meet of the year at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock, beginning at 9 am.

## A mixed bag of Jr Hi football & Cowgirl volleyball action



## Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Tyler Caffey, a senior and the son of David and Shannon Caffey. He was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "Tyler was nominated because of the enthusiasm and attitude he displays each morning in radio. His enthusiasm is infectious and his sidekick bring humor and variety to their

broadcasts. But that's not all. Attitude is also the manner in which a person carries himself, and in this case Tyler carries himself and the football very well. He has given extreme effort in athletics this year, using sheer will and determination to gain almost 400 yards in two ball games. This effort and attitude is commendable."

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From Page One, New Electric Sign

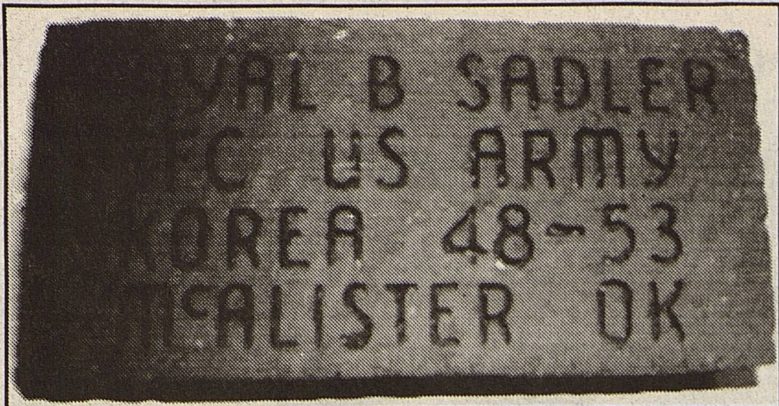


Photo of sample brick supplied by manufacturer-engraver to depict how standard size brick could contain three to four lines of characters. Names of honorees would not have to be veterans

final size would be determined by the public acceptance of the fund raising event.

One Chamber member reminded CCN, "If you remember, there was lots of skepticism several years ago when we backed the wrought iron welcome signs on the highways coming into Plains. We originally asked for donations for one sign to the east, and our people were so generously enthusiastic about the idea we finished with our three welcome to Plains signs! We're hoping we'll have the same response to our 'Buy A Brick - Help Remember Our Past To Assure Our Future' plans."

If you want to support the new and badly needed electronic sign, and play a role in remembering someone in the history of Plains, you may make your \$50 contribution to the Plains

From Page 1, DISASTER

dispatched to assist with easing hunger needs of victims of the prior Hurricane Frances. They were first sent to Perry, Georgia, and the next day were ordered into Bronson, Florida. Unfortunately, the storm in that area became so vicious they were pulled out of Harms Way, and retreated with their trailer units to a town near New Orleans.

It was only days later before

Chamber of Commerce through any Chamber member. The funds will be deposited until the funding goal is met, and the sign is ordered. If enough money is not raised for the project within a reasonable time limit, refunds will be made to all donors.

A Chamber member told CCN, "This is another project taken on by this small community which sends a strong message of how we feel about our town, its people, our ancestors, and the project is as worthy as our other traditions - the Plains Rodeo and Old Timer Reunion, the Watermelon Round Up, the Roping Club, our school activities, the community funded welcome signs coming into town. It will be tremendously informative for our community, and tell passers by about our town".

Red Cross officials determined they were sorely needed in the Pensacola area, the area of the razed state sustaining the most damage in the recent Hurricane Ivan.

At this time there is no way of estimating how long the feeding units and workers will be needed in the gutted area. In all probability, the units will have to be continually restocked with food staples, and new, fresh volunteer troops.



A team strategy meeting in Bronson. Volunteers we can identify include Tim Willis, Linda Wright, Lattrell McDonnell, Marc Barefield

## Criminal cases in county, district court

In the September 15 session of County Court with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, six cases were heard.

Lazaro G. Perez pled true to the state's motion to revoke Community Supervision from a prior DWI conviction. He was ordered to serve 63 days in jail with credit for 63 days served.

Ruben Esparza pled guilty to driving with suspended license and was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for 37 days served. Bail jumping and failure to appear causes were adjudicated. Trooper Robert Munsel was investigating officer.

Anthony Lopez pled guilty to possession of two ounces or less marijuana. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$211 court costs, \$280 restitution to DPS, and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 40 hours community service, pay \$50 supervision fees, complete the drug offender education program and surrender his license 180 days. Investigating officer was Trooper Munsell, and Bill Helwig was his attorney.

Timmy Dee Gibson pled guilty to DWI, b.t. .109/.103. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$326 court costs, \$123 restitution to DPS, \$250 court appointed attorney fees, and \$25 time payment fee. He was sentenced to 72 hours in jail with credit for 807 hours served, pay \$ 50 supervision fees and complete the TAIP program. Investigating officer was Trooper Robert Smith, and Bill Helwig served as his attorney.

Wendy Harlin pled true to a DWI cause and will spend 60 days in jail with credit for 32 days served. Bill Helwig was her attorney.

Eric Joseph Mendoza pled guilty to criminal mischief, more than \$50, less than \$500. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail with credit for 78 days served. Paul Mansur was his attorney.

Two cases were heard in District Court September 17 with Judge Kelly G. Moore presid-

ing. Jose Valverde pled guilty to tampering with a government record ( license). He was sentenced to five years in prison with credit for 60 days. He must pay \$213 court costs. Charges of burglary and theft in Terry County were adjudicated, and he was held for

the U.S. Border Patrol. Warren New was his attorney, and Sheriff Deputy David Bryant was investigating officer.

Johnny Garza Jr. pled true to the state's motion to proceed with adjudication of guilt in an aggravated sexual assault case and was sentenced to 8 years in prison with credit for 118 days in jail. He must register as a sex offender at his expense and pay \$60 court cost. Jimmy Hammons was his attorney



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE YOAKUM COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT BUDGET

The Yoakum County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on the budget for the 2005 fiscal year. The public hearing will be held on September 30, 2004 at 2:00 PM in the office of the Yoakum County Appraisal District. A summary of the appraisal district budget follows: Total amount of the appraisal budget is \$259,412.00. The total amount of increase from the current year's appraisal budget is \$35.00. The total number of employees compensated in the 2005 budget will be 2 full-time employees. The total number of employees under the current budget is 2 full-time employees. The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district. By final approval by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, the budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, water district, school districts and cities served by the appraisal district. A copy of the budget is available for inspection in the office of each of the governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

YOAKUM COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT  
500 COWBOY WAY  
PLAINS, TEXAS 79355  
806-456-7101

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable Judge Kelly G. Moore of the 121st Judicial District, will hold a public hearing at 9:00 AM on the 28th day of September, 2004, in the District Courtroom at the Courthouse in Plains, Texas for the purpose of setting the amount of compensation for the year 2005 for the Yoakum County Auditor, Assistant Auditor and Court Reporter. All interested parties and citizens will have the opportunity to be heard.

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# Lifelines & Styles

## Women's Protective Services Needs Volunteers

Women's Protective Services needs volunteers to help in several areas at their shelter for women. Free volunteer training will take place September 21st, 23rd and 25th at First Christian Church Family Life Center, 2306 13th Street, in Lubbock. Sessions on Tuesday and Thursday will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The Saturday session will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Plans on attending all three sections.

Volunteers are needed to provide crisis intervention, children's programs, development and fundraising, community education or just helping with the basic needs of the shelter.

If protective volunteers cannot make the scheduled training, other arrangements can be made. Please call Hattie or Lindsay at (806) 748-5292 for more information.

## Lowe - Bunton Wed



Kassie Gevon Lowe and Michael Don Bunton were united in marriage on September 10, 2004 at the First Baptist Church in Lubbock. Pastor Jerry Huggins officiated.

Kassie is the daughter of Joel and Debra Lowe of Plains, and Mike is the son of Don and Linda Bunton of Lubbock.

The bride's grandparent's are Alfred and Faye Bearden, Jack Lowe and the late Cora Lowe, all of Plains. The groom's grandparent's are the late M.A. and Juanita Davis, and Oscar and Geneva Bunton.

Matrons of Honor were the bride's sisters, Daphne McKaskle of Lubbock and Michelle Frerich of Brackettville. The best man was the groom's brother, Joseph Bunton of Wichita Falls.

The couple plans to reside in Lubbock where Kassie will graduate in December from Texas Tech with a Bachelor's in Interior Design and Mike, a graduate from Lubbock Christian University, is employed by Medical Center Pharmacy.

## Seniors Corner

Due to a lack of news from the Center this week, I find myself sitting at my computer waiting for some kind of brainstorm to hit but, alas, it isn't happening. As I look around the shelves of my office. I remember the remarks of some children when they visited us last week. One said, "Mom, please take time to put all of your poetry together in a book so we can have copies of it." I did that back in 1976. It was to be a summer project at our aerial spraying locations in northern Kansas. That was the year of the tornado which blew our home away along with all of the things inside it. I found soggy, wet poetry scattered over fifty acres of a Kansas grain field. After many people shared their copies of some they had received across the years, I finally made a book of sorts with what was left. This last quarter of a century has found a big drawer in my desk loaded with all kinds of poetic efforts for various people and events, so as I try to get into the mood for this project, I remember another child wanting a book of 'family history'. There is another drawer filled with family letters that date back half a century. At least once a year (against the Ann Landers rules of good etiquette), I have kept family and friends informed of our activities and whereabouts. These, too, need to be copied (or retyped) and into some semblance of order and bound into a book for the grandchildren. The children lived it with us so they don't really need a book. Our reunion times are always filled with 'remember whens.'

As I undertake this task and pull up some of the old files, I have to smile at how our methods of writing and preserving copies have changed over the years. Those early letters were copied by carbon paper of course, but when many copies were needed, one of the first methods was a flat pan of jelly-like stuff that you laid your typed page on and it made an imprint from which more copies could be made. I have forgotten what that was called. The next step up was the mimeograph. I learned to make copies on that in the government office where I worked while we lived in Idaho. What a thrill it was to get my own mimeograph machine. I typed endless stencils to be carefully put on the big roll and turned by hand to make copies. I dreamed of an electric one, but by the time I could afford that, it was time for the thermofax copiers. Again mine

was a second hand machine, but it was wonderful for writing letters as well as for office records and statements altho everyone has found that the paper it required does not preserve well. The next step was a brand new Canon copier from an office supply in Hobbs. The day they delivered that and taught me a way to make color copies as well as the regular black ink copies still stands out brightly after this quarter of a century. Several of those copiers found their way into my offices during the next decade, and then one bright day about fifteen years ago my first computer became a part of our lives. A daughter-in-law laughingly told the extended family that Elmer came in a close second right behind that computer! Other computers have followed as well as several 'step-ups' in office copying equipment, and so today when the children say they want books of family memories, I feel compelled to comply even though I almost feel like an intruder as I sort through the old receipts, lists, diaries, letters and notes scrawled on anything from table napkins to post-a-notes. I am sure all of you senior friends can identify with this situation. Well anyway, my goal by spring-time is to have at least two more 4" binders joining the others on the shelves of my office with copies made for family members who wish to have one.

The Monday night movie this week was Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of Christ'. It is to be continued next Monday night. If you have missed it and would like to see it on our large screen, contact the office and it can be made available for you to watch any afternoon.

It is good to have things back to normal at the Center. A holiday is nice, but most of us spend the rest of the week wondering which day it is.

Let me share with you five very interesting facts that crossed my desk this week. You may already know these, but I found them very educational. 1. The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for each gallon of diesel burns. 2. The state with the highest percentage of people who walk to work is Alaska. 3. The first couple to be shown in bed together on prime time television were Fred and Wilma Flintstone. 4. If you were spelling out numbers, you would have to go to 1,000 before you would use the letter 'A'. 5. An activity performed by 40% of the folks

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Wednesday,  
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Athletic Booster Club  
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What about? Our church bulletin recently had, the following true statement

listed: "We do three kinds of jobs: cheap, quick, and good: You can have any two: a good, quick job-won't be cheap: a good job cheap, won't be quick: a cheap job. Quick, won't be good."

Funeral homes are the same way. When you check prices of funeral homes, you will find services from around \$2,375 and up for a full church service. Most of those who are less usually have charges that are added when you arrive for the arrangements.

We also have found pricing and packaging that seems to contain everything you will need for a full church service, but many times they have out important and expensive items.

Or maybe what is included in one funeral home's pricing may be an additional price at another one.

As you check out the pricing, be sure to make a list of what you and your family need and want in a funeral home and/or funeral service.

Sometimes when you find the cheapest charges for a funeral, unfortunately you find out why it was so

cheap the hard way. Every funeral home has to make a profit so, when a funeral home is far below others in the area, think of what must be missing.

Most of all, don't sacrifice your loved one's final tribute to someone who will bargain with you and beat all the other prices you have found.

No one wants a 'bargain basement' funeral service.

No one want to take a chance that their loved one will not look their best because 'you' took the 'cheapest way out'.

Someone told me something a few weeks ago that I thought was so true. We are looking for a contractor and I was complaining about how slow some were to give bids.

The person reminded me when someone is not busy and others are in the area, there is a reason. They said someone might not be busy because of poor quality of work, lack of morals, or lack of concern about their customers.

Thank about it when you're looking for a 'cheaper way to go'. It might not really be the bargain you were looking for.

Don't trust your family's care to someone just because they were cheapest!

Until Next Time!  
Mark A. Jones  
www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com. email comments to: markajones@door.net.

## Library Happenings

The Yoakum County Library in Plains held its second fall film-time September 15, 2004. Children in attendance were: Yairah Garcia, Joshua Hoecker, Treinity Wall, Henry Wieler and Maggie Wieler. Parents attending were: Anna Wieler, Kimberly Gass and Jo Lena Wall. The children sang songs, talked about colors and read the books Chicka-Chicka Boom-Boom,

Mouse Paint and The Egg. Afterwards they watched a film entitled "Click, Clack, Moo Cows That Type" and "The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash".

The Yoakum County Library has film-time every Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. till 10:45 a.m. All pre-school children are welcome to come and join the fun!

## SOON THE MARK OF THE BEAST WILL BE ENFORCED

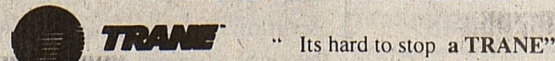
Those that receive it, will receive the wrath of God. Find out who the BEAST is, and how to avoid his MARK. No obligation. No one will call. Write or Call for free book:

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# From The Hack

Many moons ago I made a vow to not clutter this pristine clean column space with political sniping.

I LIED.

I cannot resist the following sent to me via FAX, and all of it attributed to Jay Leno:

"The Secret Service announced it is doubling its protection for John Kerry. You can understand why - with two positions on every issue he has twice as many people mad at him".

"We make jokes about it but the truth is this election offers us a choice of two well informed opposing positions on every issue. OK, they both belong to John Kerry, but we still have the choice".

"President Bush listed his income at \$822,000. You know what John Kerry calls some one who earns \$822,000? Not even worth dating".

"Well, the good news for democrats is now over half the country can now identify a picture of John Kerry. The bad news.... the majority still think he's the dad from The Munsters."

"John Kerry accused President Bush of catering to the rich. You know... as opposed to John Kerry, who just marries them".

"They say John Kerry is the first Democratic presidential

candidate in history to raise \$50 million in just three months. Actually, that's nothing. He one raised \$500 million with just two words... 'I Do'".

Sorry. But I do feel much, much better.

I received an interesting message from a local reader which featured a recent column penned by Ben Stein, author of a long running website column called "Monday Night At Morton's", a famous restaurant frequented by Hollywood stars. Stein, closing out his Morton's venue, wrote a long farewell piece, excerpts of which are featured here.

"I no longer think Hollywood stars are terrinly important. They are uniformly pleasant, friendly people, and treat me better than I deserve. But a man or woman who makes a huge wage memorizing lines and reciting before a camera is no longer my idea of a shining star.

A real star is the soldier of the 4th Infantry who poked his head into a hole on a farm near Tikrit, Iraq. He could have been met by a bomb or hail of AK-47 bullets. Instead, he faced an abject Saddam Hussein and the gratitude of all decent people of the world. A real star is the U.S. soldier who was sent to disarm a bomb near a road near Baghdad. He approached it, it went off, killing him. A real star, the kind who haunts my memory night and day, is the U.S. Soldier in Baghdad who saw a little girl playing with a piece of unexploded ordinance on a street near where he guarded a station. He pushed her aside and thrd himself on it just as it exploded. He left a family desolate in California and a little girl alive in Baghdad.

Real stars are the ones who patrol the streets of Mosul after two of their buddies were murdered and their bodies battered and stripped for the sin of trying to protect Iraqis from terrorists. We put couples with \$100 million on the covers of magazines. The noncoms and officers who scrape by on military pay stand guard in Afghanistan and Iraq and on ships near the Arctic Circle are

anonymous as they live and die. There are plenty of other stars in the American firmament... the policemen and women who go on patrol in South Central and have no idea if they will return alive. The orderlies and paramedics who bring in people from terrible accidents and prepare them for surgery. Think of each and every fireman who was running up the stairs at the World Trade Center as the towers began to collapse.

Now you have my idea of a real hero.

We are not responsible for the operation of the universe, and what happens to us is not terribly important. God is real, not a fiction, and when we turn over our lives to him he takes far better care of us than we can do for ourselves

I came to realize life lived to help others is the only one that matters, and it is my duty to help others he has placed in my path. This is my best and highest use as a human. Faith is not believing God can. It is knowing God will."

Ben Stein

.....

For the "D.C. Doc";

First woman - 'Have you ever met a man whose touch makes you tremble?'

Second woman - 'Yes.'

First woman - 'Wow, who was he?'

Second woman - 'A dentist.'

A man frantically dials 911, and screams into the phone, "Quick, send an ambulance, and HURRY! My wife's having a baby!"

The operator says, "Just remain calm sir. Is this her first baby?"

The man yells, "No, you idiot, it's her first husband Frank!"

.....

The following is NOT from Jay Leno; Sen. John Kerry steps off his campaign jet carrying a small dog. A Secret Service agent approaches and says, "That's a nice dog, sir."

Kerry replies, "Thanks. I got it for my wife."

The Secret Service guys says, "Not a bad trade, sir."

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**Gary Dyer** Date **9-17-04**

I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF YOAKUM  
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the Lease-Purchase of one (1) New Track Loader with or without trade-in of one used 1996 Caterpillar 963B Track Type Loader for the Yoakum County Landfill. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004. For more detailed list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas, 79355. Sealed bids should be marked "NEW TRACK LOADER" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF YOAKUM  
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the Sale of a used 1996 Caterpillar 963B Track Type Loader from the Yoakum County Landfill. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004. For more information please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355. Sealed bids should be marked "USED TRACK LOADER" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

**NOTICE FOR BIDS**  
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF YOAKUM  
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the purchase of Billing Services for Dialysis of West Texas at the Yoakum County Hospital. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004. For a more detailed list of the service requirements and more information regarding such service, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355. Sealed bids should be marked on the envelope "BILLING SERVICES" and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.