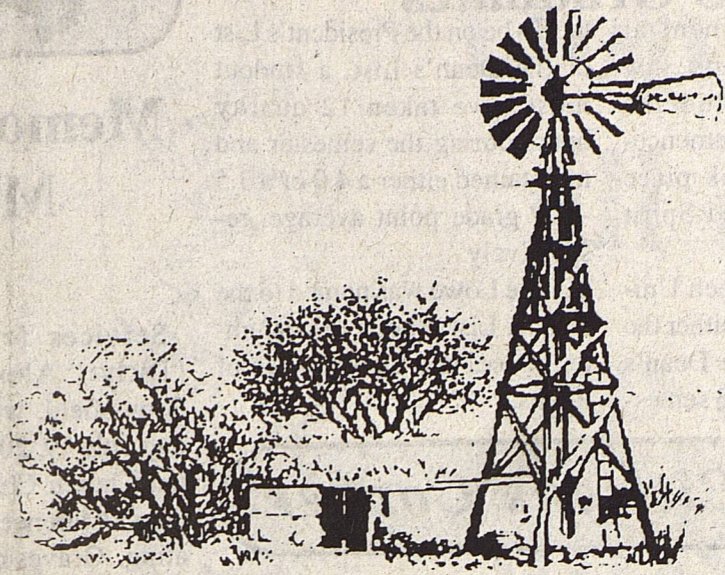


Cowboy Country News

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



Volume IX, Issue 44, July 23, 2003

Tiny victim of snake bite home, and doing very well

Nancy Hiebert, 3, is at home with her parents, Frank and Tina and siblings Johnny, 9, and baby sister Susie, 18 months, on the road to recovery from a harrowing and painful rattle snake bite in the calf of her left leg.

Around 3 PM on July 2, Nancy was in her yard, about one mile east of town on Highway 82. She wandered into an open storage building just east of her home, and as she stepped into the building, a three and half foot rattle snake struck her calf twice. Her screams brought family members on the run, and they immediately called 911. A Plains EMS unit answered the call, and rushed the little girl to the Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City. Physicians there immediately contacted Covenant Hospital in Lubbock, and she was airlifted there.

She would spend the next ten days there. She received anti-venom drugs, and an incision was made in her calf, but major surgery was not necessary.

She underwent a number of blood transfusions, and Doctors at Covenant stated her blood platelet count was low, but were confident it would respond to additional treatments. Her mother Tina told CCN she would probably be under the



doctors care four to six more months. The child's calf is a bit colored, and the flesh is tight, but she has no noticeable scars.

Sheriff Deputy Larry Murphree responded to the 911 call, learned the rattler struck Nancy from behind a box just inside the door of the storage

building, and went snake hunting. He told CCN, "I carried a hoe, and used it to hit the box. The snake didn't buzz, and I stepped inside on a sheet of plywood on the floor, and then I felt the board move, and about half the snake came from under the plywood and it was sure

buzzing then!" He killed the snake and removed its rattlers. He was present when CCN was photographing Nancy, and offered the rattlers to her for a souvenir, but she was not at all interested in the gift. Donations to the Hiebert's medical expenses can be made at Plains State Bank

FSA office releases prelim crop acreage failure numbers

The local county Farm Services Agency has just released data which gives a preliminary report on commodity crop planted acres, and loss figures for the year, according to figures submitted to the agency by the July 15 deadline. FSA Executive Director Gary Six told CCN, "These figures are the latest we have, but not all producers have submitted their losses. We estimate these numbers are about 98 percent accurate at this time."

Because of space demands, only the most predominant crops will be featured in this summary.

GUAR: 651 acres
PEAS: 453 acres
PEANUTS: 19,384

PUMPKINS: 443
RYE:
Total acres planted - 1480
Total acres failed - 75
SORGHUM:
Total acres planted - 7,684
Total acres failed - 456
UPLAND COTTON:
Irrigated-
Total acres planted- 54,141
Total acres failed- 6,617
Dryland-
Total acres planted - 58,654
Total acres failed - 7,907
WATERMELONS: 2,948 ac.
WHEAT:
Irrigated- total acres planted- 23,956
Total acres failed- 611
Dry land-
Total acres planted- 12,539
Total acres failed- 958

Help The Connection fund the Watermelon Round Up!

A bewildering array of merchandise, in a bewildering array of colors, is on sale in Plains and Denver City, promoting the 8th annual Watermelon Round Up. Caps for men and the ladies... straw hats with brightly colored Round Up theme bands... Tee Shirts in white, green and red.... Sun Visors, even women's Aprons! This merchandise is on display in Plains at the County Clerk office, Library, Image 'n That, and Agrilience, and in Denver City at the Library, Totally Unique, and the Craft Mall. **BUY SOMETHING! We need your help!**

Wanted! Former Rodeo Queens and More Volunteers!

The Plains Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club and Roping Club, which make up the Rodeo Association, need your help to make this special 50th Anniversary Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo a success.

All past Rodeo Queens are invited and urged to ride in the parade Saturday, August 2. If you know of past queens now living somewhere other than Plains, please contact them and invite them to be a part of the parade. All parade participants should be at the parking lot at the school's main gym by 9:45 AM. Parade Marshal this year is Shane McKinzie. Floats entering the parade will compete for prize money for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. All clubs, organizations and businesses are invited to enter floats in the parade.

The Rodeo Association represents three organizations, and many of their members belong to more than one organization, and because of the amount of work necessary to make this annual event a success, outside volunteer workers are always needed. You can help direct parking, work the ticket gate, help in the concession stand, and if you have livestock working experience, that experience is needed in the arena all three nights of the rodeo.

This year's three Rodeo Queen Contestants, Allison Friesen, representing the Lions Club, Ashli Hunter, Roping Club, and Ashley Vantine, Chamber of Commerce, are working hard selling \$1 drawing tickets for either a new saddle, or \$500 cash. Their success is the principal source of income making the Reunion and Rodeo possible each year, and you are urged to be generous with your ticket purchases.

All ladies are reminded to bring fruit cobbler to the noon barbecue meal Saturday, which starts in Stanford Park following the downtown parade. Please pick up cups and lids at the local Dairy Queen, and bring them to the park before the meal, dipped, covered and ready to serve.

This is another opportunity for our town to demonstrate the volunteer spirit and effort vital to the continued success of this and other community projects.

County and District Court cases heard

In District Court July 14, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, defendant Vidal Zarate Garcia pled true, and the court modified terms of community supervision from a prior cause of burglary of a habitation. He must pay supervision fees of \$160, court appointed attorney fees of \$105, additional court appointed attorney fees of \$210, and \$40 community supervision fees. He will also spend 39 days in the county jail. His attorney was Warren New.

In County Court July 16, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Guadalupe Delgado Ruiz pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury to a family member. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$250, must pay \$400 court appointed attorney fees, \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He must complete the batterer's treatment program at his cost, and serve 80 hours community service. His attorney was Warren New, and investigating officer was Sheriff Deputy Nancy Baize.

Conditions of community supervision for Brent Joe Sellers, **Turn To Page 2, COURT CASES**

Pierre St. Romain honored by Great Plains Eye Bank for years of support

Terry Jeffries, a long time member of the Seminole Lions Club and officer in the Great Plains Lions Eye Bank, was guest speaker at last week's meeting of the Plains Lions.

Jeffries described the work and success of the Eye Bank in Lubbock, and thanks to the work and benevolence of ardent supporter Dr. Weston Petty, the Eye Bank now has permanent quarters in the Texas Tech Health Science Building in Lubbock.

He described the work of the eye bank as one of the very best in the United States, with thanks to Dr. Petty, Lions Clubs around the South Plains, and individual club members such as Pierre St. Romain.

Jeffries presented Mr. St. Romain with an impressive plaque honoring his years of service to Lions International, and his individual work supporting the eye bank program.



Pierre St. Romain, front center, with wife Mary Jo and son Joe, with Linda, Ty Earl and Wilma Powell in back. Pierre, or "Pete" joined the Plains Lions Club in 1946, and is the oldest living charter member of the club.

Tech Announces Spring 2003 Graduates

Spring commencement at Texas Tech University saw more than 1,900 students awarded degrees. Commencement ceremonies took place May 17 in the United Spirit Arena on campus.

About 5,000 Texas Tech University students made either the President's List or the Dean's List for the Spring 2003 semes-

ter. To be on the President's List or the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained either a 4.0 or a 3.5 - 3.9 grade point average, respectively.

Kassie Lowe was named to the Dean's List. She is the daughter of Joel and Debra Lowe of Plains.

Senior Citizens Corner

AGE knocks on our door! We cannot turn it away. We answer the door in fear, aware of all the memories and unanswered tomorrows that haunt us, but if AGE could speak, it might say, "I'm not a taker. I'm a giver. I give you each year of life and the opportunity to grow. I give you wisdom and the chance to begin again. I give you accomplishment and knowledge. I give you the chance to make someone smile, and I give you the chance to forgive." AGE is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years; people grow old only by deserting their ideals. You are as young as your hope, as old as your despair.

The Senior Companion ladies had their monthly luncheon with us this week. We appreciate these folks.

Gladys Thomason and Chris Humphries were winners in the '42' tournament this time.

Eileen Fillipp and June Hanneman brought home trophies from the Lovington pool tournament this month.

The pool and games were well attended on Monday night. All four pool tables were in use as usual, and laughter was heard around the room. This is 'fun' evening each week. There are domino tables if you don't wish to compete in the pool games. We had players from Plains and Seminole as well as Denver City this week. Coffee and cold drinks are available for those

playing and you are free to bring snacks for yourself or for the group. Come join the fun!

Our sincere sympathy goes to the families of Lillie Brown and Mary Black this week.

The new smiling face you see in the kitchen this week belongs to Mary Lou Ramos. She is our new assistant cook. Be sure to greet her and let her know we are glad to have her on board.

A special 'thank you' to Paul Sweitzer for being so faithful to call numbers for us during the Bingo time. He keeps everyone busy marking their cards at a pace that allows for no lost time during the hour. Everyone has fun and many winning tickets are earned. Three tickets can be exchanged for a meal ticket, so everyone is anxious to be the first to BINGO!! Come join us. Everyone is welcome.

Stan Wright was accompanied by his grandson, Keith, at lunchtime on Tuesday. These young people are always a welcome sight in the dining room. It was good to see Mary Newman and her son at lunchtime this week. We miss their smiling faces since they've moved to Seminole.

Check with Gloria in the office if you are in need of dentures, glasses, or hearing aids. SPAG will be here on July 22nd from 10:30 am. throughout the day, to interview anyone who is interested. Sign up in the office and get the details from Gloria.



Obituaries

Memorial Services Held For Mary Faye "Dirlye" Alexander

Services for Mary Faye "Dirlye" Alexander, 76, of Brownfield, were held Saturday, July 19, 2003 at First Baptist Church Chapel with Reverend Clarence Branch officiating. Graveside service was held in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Mrs. Alexander died July 16, 2003 in Brownfield. She was born April 7, 1927 at Terry County, Texas, to Benjamin and Ora Lowrey. She attended school in Plains. She married Tom Gray April 1, 1950 in Lovington, NM, he preceded

her in death January 5, 1972. She married George Alexander, Jr., September 4, 1974 in Monahans, Texas. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Brownfield where she taught Sunday School for many years. She was a member of Plains Rebeka Lodge.

Survivors include her husband George Alexander, Jr., Vickie Gayle of Denver City, Sherryn Sherrin of Brownfield, Georgia Bruner of Seminole, Vlinda Link of Andrews, Carl Lowrey of Tokio, Ruth Pippin of Denver City and 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

Services Held For Carol Copeland

Carol June Copeland, 78, of Plains dies Friday at the Yoakum County Hospital.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 21, at 10:00 am in the First Baptist Church in Plains with the Reverend Glenn Harlen officiating. Burial followed in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City.

Mrs. Copeland was born December 24, 1924 in Perkins,

OK. She married Charles C. Copeland on November 24, 1949 in Arizona. She worked as a nurse in the Plains Clinic, she was a homemaker and member of the Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by a daughter: Carol Joe Ann Duren in April, 1994.

Survivors include her husband Charles C. of Plains, a daughter, Janice Sue Stelzer of Post, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

From Page 1, COURT CASES

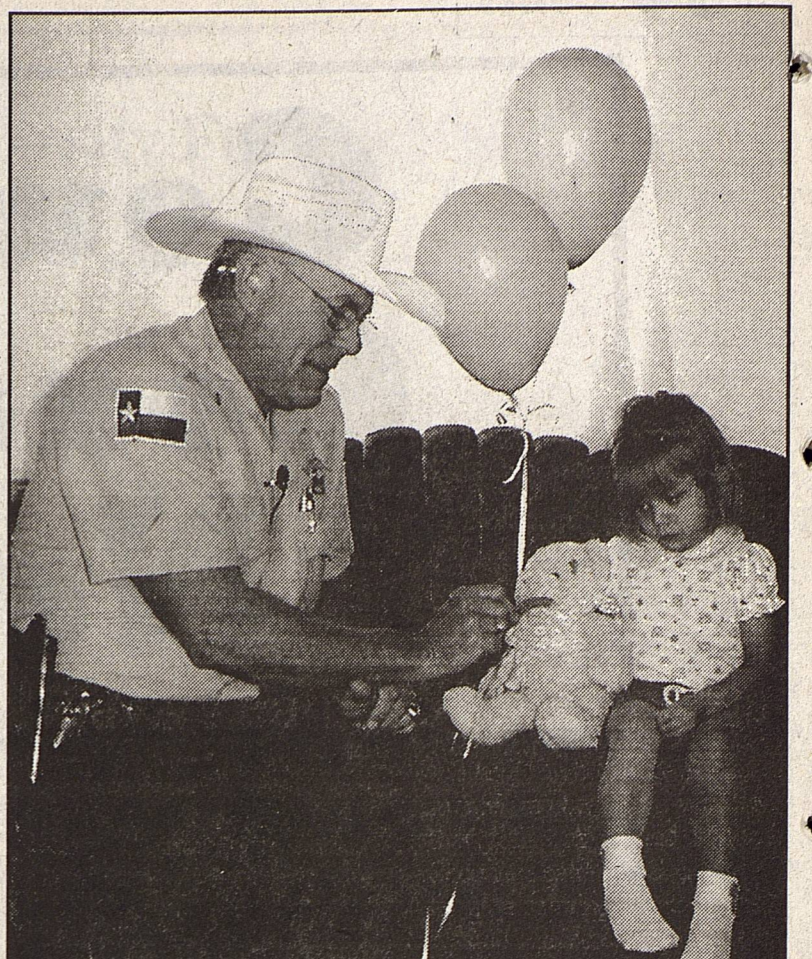
convicted of a prior first DWI, were modified, and he shall successfully complete the Trinity Baptist Home for Men pro-

gram, and a \$500 fine was waived.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in both court sessions.

Workers needed for Watermelon Round Up. Good opportunity for a group fund raiser. Interested parties should contact Ed Hansen at City Hall 456-2288.

Bridal Shower
honoring **Shyloh Winn**
Bride Elect of **Shane Winfield**
Sunday, July 27, 2003
2:00 - 3:30 pm.
in the home of Mrs. Karen Bearden
701 Second Street
Selections: Lubbock: Dillard's, Gourmet Pantry
Brownfield: Nelson's



Deputy Larry Murphree, who killed the rattle snake after it bit 3 year old Nancy Hiebert as reported on page 1, generously offered little Nancy the twelve rattles and button he removed from the snake. As this photo illustrates quite well, Nancy was not in the least interested in the gift.

Texas Unemployment Falls In June

Texas' seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 6.4 percent in June from 6.8 percent in May, according to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

After three consecutive months of growth, Total Nonagricultural Employment in Texas fell slightly by 4,200 positions in June. Education & Health Services posted the largest employment gain over the month 5,300 jobs, on the heels of an increase of 2,800 jobs in May. Despite the over the month decline in jobs, its highest level since August 2001.

"The decrease in the Texas unemployment rate in June is positive news," said TWC Chair Diane Rath. "Though it may be too soon to tell for sure,

I also am hopeful the higher annual growth in Total Nonagricultural Employment will mark the beginning of a trend."

The largest job decrease in June was in manufacturing, which lost 6,000 jobs. Employment in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (TTU), which includes airlines and other travel related industries, fell for the fourth consecutive month, with a loss of 5,100 jobs.

Construction employment increased in June with a gain of 1,100 jobs. Employment in this industry has increased in seven of the last nine months, resulting in an over the year gain of 7,000 jobs. Financial Activities also increased in June with 1,000 new jobs.

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Texas
456-3727



Sunday Schedule
Children's Choir - 9:45 am
followed by Sunday School
Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am

**For all you do,
His blood was for you!**

TPA MEMBER 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

Cowboy Country News

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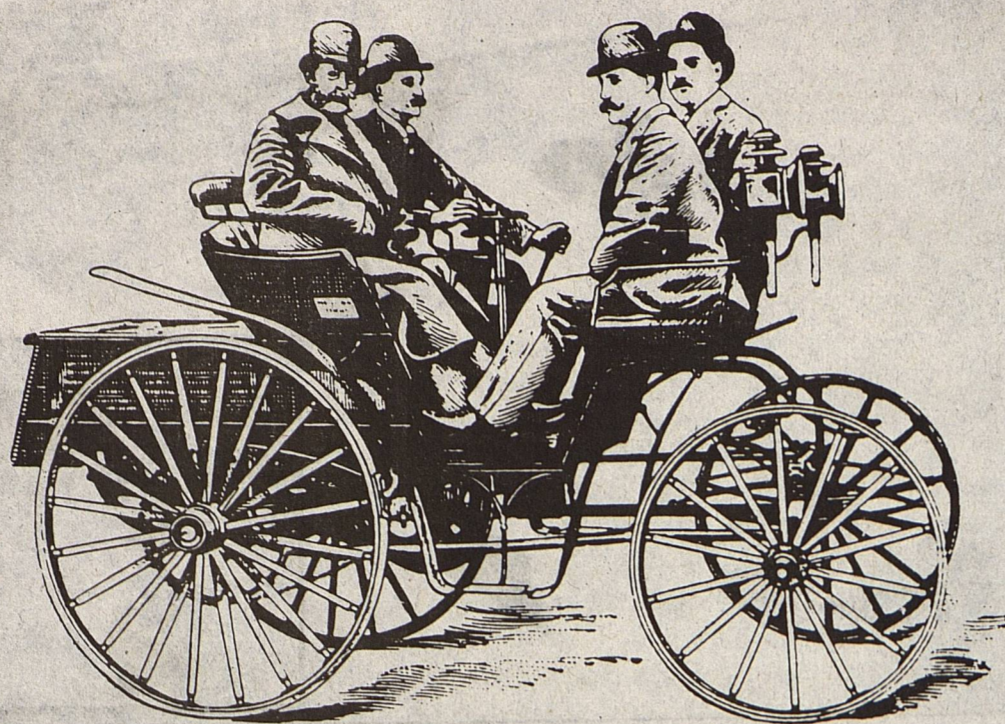
Sunday School
9:30 am.
Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Evening Program
6:00 pm.

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COPOLAND IS CERTIFIED AS ABOVE; OTHERS NOT CERTIFIED BY THE TEXAS BOARD OF LEGAL SPECIALIZATION.



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and
Old
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Reunion**



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**You see lots of
strange things at
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Join us in our
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great
event!**



Sharon Thomas, Mgr.
and all Employees



*Join Us For
A Real Fling
At The
Rodeo &
Reunion !!*
Plains Chamber
of Commerce

" Proud of the past, plans for the future "

**No Bull...
It's Gonna
Be Wild
And
Wooly !**

**The Mayor, Council
and Staff of
The City Of Plains**



Clinic Administrator honored with award

Yoakum County Hospital recently announced the West Texas Medical Center Clinic Administrator, Janet Andis, has been nominated for the Covenant Health Systems Regional Values in Action Award. The Values in Action Awards were established by the St. Joseph Health System Board of Trustees to recognize and honor persons throughout the the System for their outstanding contribution to the health care ministry and commitment to the four core values of Dignity, Excellence, Service and Justice. Each quarter the hospital recognizes the employees and volunteers who have been nominated for exhibiting the four core values. The core value, Dignity, states each person is respected who is an inherently valuable member of the human community and as a unique expression of life. The Dignity award is

given to a person who listens and seeks to understand and respect all people and their differing viewpoints, shares information and ideas in an open, honest and respectful way, creates and sustains positive working relationships, acknowledges individuals contributions, and celebrates success.

Janet was nominated for the Dignity award at the hospital in August, 2002. On July 23, 2003, at 9:30 AM, Janet will be honored at a Celebrity Brunch, on the patio of Yoakum County Hospital.

On September 10, St. Joseph Health System will hold a System wide celebration in Orange, California to honor the recipients of the Values in Action Award. Janet and her husband Jack will attend the celebration banquet, along with Clay Taylor, Administrator of Yoakum County Hospital.

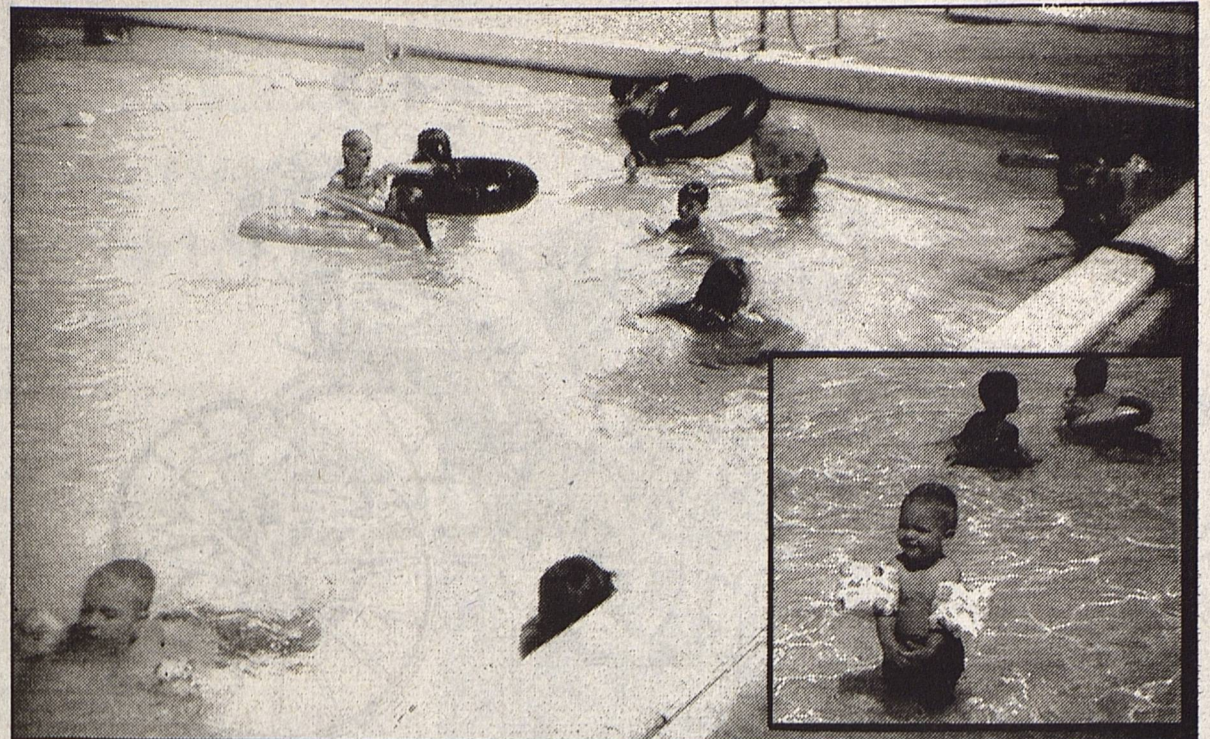
Public Awareness Notice

This public notice is presented so that you can identify and recognize a pipeline. Since pipelines are buried underground, line markers are used to show the approximate location at numerous points along their routes. These markers list the name of the supplier and a telephone number where representatives can be reached if digging will be started or if there is an emergency, such as a leak.

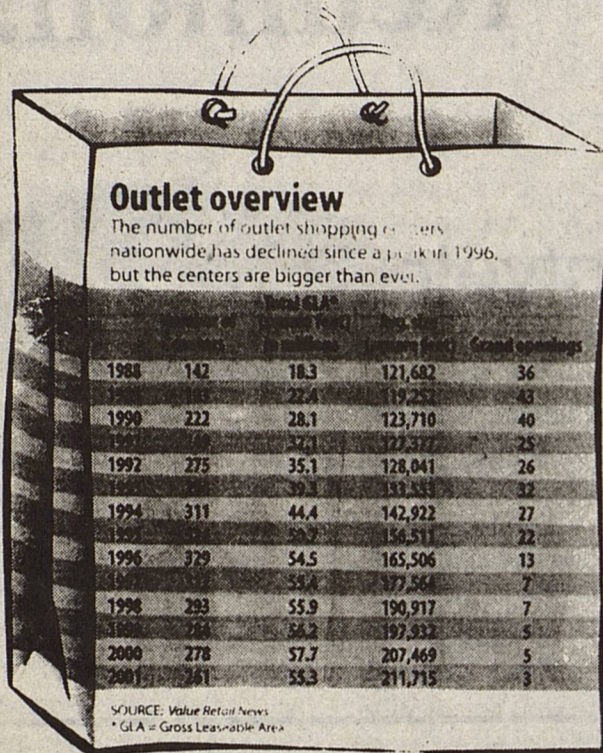
The markers do not provide information such as depth or number of pipelines, and they are placed NEAR the pipeline, but not necessarily on top of them. Therefore it is very important that you phone us before you start digging or if you recognize a gas leak.

IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO DIG NEAR OUR PIPELINES, PLEASE NOTIFY US AT LEAST 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE BY CALLING AMARILLO NATURAL GAS, INC.

(806) 352-5271 AND 1-800-DIG-TESS (1-800-344-9377) TO AVOID DAMAGE TO UNDERGROUND UTILITIES & FOR YOUR PERSONAL SAFETY!



The county pool in Stanford Park has been very busy this summer, a great place to combat day after day of one hundred plus degree weather. The shallow end of the pool last Thursday was awash with youngsters and floating devices, and the little guy in the inset photo looks like he could literally fly through the water with his 'wings'.



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Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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Wednesday 8-5

Thursday & Friday 8-5

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CAPITOL COMMENT
U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Fixing Medicare

The call for Medicare reform has echoed through the halls of Capitol Hill for years. This June the Senate passed significant legislation to bring Medicare up to health care standards of the 21st century.

While Medicare has provided important protections for millions of Americans in the past 37 years, it is an outdated federal program in need of a major overhaul. As the number of beneficiaries has grown, life expectancy has increased and the cost of medical care has skyrocketed, our nation's senior health care program has remained stagnant.

Largely financed by today's workers for today's retirees, Medicare is facing a structural crisis. Currently, Medicare covers 40 million American. By 2031, with the baby boomer generation fully into retirement, it will have to serve an estimated 77 million people and the already stressed system could be overloaded. Simply put, too many retirees and not enough workers to fund the system will result in a catastrophic failure to provide care to millions just when they need it most.

This year Congress acted to revitalize Medicare and keep it solvent by addressing two fundamental issues: incorporate a prescription drug benefit into the system and provide seniors with choices in their health care coverage.

Medicare has not kept pace with the rapid changes in our health care system. As our research community pushes the envelope to develop life saving medicines and procedures, our nation's health care system must take that innovation into account.

Pharmaceuticals have revolutionized medical care. Increasingly, ailments are treated with medication instead of invasive surgeries and it is imperative that those who rely on Medicare have access to affordable prescription drugs.

When Medicare won't pay for medicine to treat diabetes, but will pay an amputation of a limb caused by complications from the disease, we have an obvious problem. But this new legislation corrects that absurd prescription.

The bill establishes comprehensive prescription drug coverage for traditional Medicare participants as well as those who opt for privately sponsored health plans. Beneficiaries will pay an average \$35 monthly premium, a \$275 annual deductible and 50 percent of drug costs up to \$4,500, with a provision for catastrophic coverage when bills exceed \$5,800.

The legislation also addresses the problem inherent with Medicare, its intrinsic inflexibility. True reform must provide our nation's seniors the freedom to choose physicians and benefits based on their individual needs. This bill does just that.

It does not force participants out of traditional Medicare. If a beneficiary is satisfied with her existing coverage, she has the option to stay put. However, if she chooses to enroll in a private insurance preferred provider organization (PPO) or health maintenance organization (HMO), Medicare will allow that choice.

An important amendment to the Medicare legislation was approved by a 94-1 vote to

make generic drugs more readily available to patients, which could significantly reduce their bills. The amendment eliminates delaying tactics sometimes employed by drug companies to keep lower cost prescription drugs off the market and inaccessible to consumers. At the same time, it protects innovation and preserves incentives for companies to invest in research and development.

With the passage of Medicare reform, Congress has reaffirmed an important promise to American's seniors. This legislation will help bring this venerable program into the 21st century and give our seniors the medical coverage they need and deserve.

Texan named Klan Leader
Dallas, Nov. 28, 1922- Dr. W.H. Evans, a Dallas dentist, has been elected Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan by the Imperial KlonoKation. It was stated at the KlonoKation that in spite of the criticism being heaped upon the order, membership is steadily increasing

Court OK's contract for Homeland Security funds

In the July 21 session of Commissioners Court, Sheriff Don Corzine discussed more details of the State Homeland Security Grant program previously featured in CCN. A number of questions from the court were explained by Corzine and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark. To initiate the grant, a contract with Texas Engineering Extension Service had to be accepted and signed. Corzine said the county grant, funded by the State of Texas, would total \$61,876. The first \$30,000 would probably be spent primarily for Sheriff Department communication equipment, and the remainder would be used by the South Plains Association of Governments, also for communication gear to better enable first responder entities in S.P.A.G. to communicate with each other in times of emergencies. The court approved executing the contract.

District Clerk Vicki Blundell requested an emergency amendment to her office budget for extending part time salaries through the end of the year. She reported the current work load for her one part time employee would require some 425 hours work for the remainder of the year. Her request was approved.

County Clerk Debbie Rushing requested approval to use \$17,685 of her budgeted records management and preservation funds for the purchase of a Lason Digitech Document Management System. She explained the scanner she now uses in the mandatory recording of all documents passing through her office is a 1994 model and needs replacing. The Lason program would greatly speed up the recording of documents, and allow other employees to use the system simultaneously. Her request was approved. County Treasurer Barbara Wright reported a June ending balance of \$12,618,446 in the general fund.

Peanut Field Day

The Yoakum-Terry County Peanut Field Day will be held at Enoch Stewart Party House on July 23, 2002. Two (2) CEU's (1-IPM, 1-General) will be given to participants. The schedule is as follows:

- 8:45-9:00 Registration
- 9:00-9:10 Welcome & Introductions-Jerry Warren, CEA-AG, Terry County
- 9:10-10:15 Brief discussion Demonstration Projects
- Dr. Todd Baughman, Extension Agronomist, Vernon Extension & Research Center Peanut Varieties-Row Patterns, Seeding Rates
- Dr. Chip Lee, Plant Pathologist, Stephenville Extension & Research Center Peanut Diseases
- Dr. Michael Franke, J Leek Associates Inc., Variety Trails & Peanut Quality
- Dr. Terry Wheeler, Texas Agriculture Experiment Station, Lubbock, Variety Test & Seed Treatments
- 10:30-12:00 Field Visits: Andy Timmons Farm and J Leek Associates Farm

PUBLIC NOTICE
BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
SPECIAL ELECTION
SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

- PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 68, Section 1)**
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts."
HJR 68, Section 1 would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the Veterans' Land and Veterans' Housing Assistance funds for payment of revenue bonds, and use excess assets in those funds to provide veterans homes.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds."
- PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 51)**
HJR 51 would expand from six months to two years the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that was sold for unpaid property taxes may buy back the mineral interest.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale."
- PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 55)**
HJR 55 would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation land owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that will be used to expand or construct a place of religious worship that yields no revenue.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility."
- PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 30)**
SJR 30 would authorize the legislature to allow conservation and reclamation districts to use taxes to develop and finance certain parks and recreation facilities. Also, the amendment would authorize the legislature to allow local elections for the issuance of bonds to improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities in the Tarrant Regional Water District or a conservation and reclamation district located in whole or in part in Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller or Williamson County.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."
- PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 25)**
SJR 25 would authorize the legislature to exempt from all property taxes certain tangible personal property, which could include a travel trailer not substantially affixed to real estate and not used as a residential dwelling.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income."
- PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 23)**
HJR 23 would authorize a qualified homeowner to refinance a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage."
- PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 44)**
HJR 44 would reduce the number of persons who make up the jury in a district court criminal misdemeanor case from twelve to six.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial."
- PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 62)**
HJR 62 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies to state and local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 18 applies only to local political subdivisions.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."
- PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 68, Section 2)**
HJR 68, Section 2 would redefine the com-
- PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 61)**
HJR 61 would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would be authorized to distribute based on need the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."
- PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 85)**
HJR 85 would authorize the legislature to regulate the operation of wineries in Texas, regardless of whether a winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has been authorized by local option election.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state."
- PROPOSITION 12 (HJR 3)**
HJR 3 would immediately authorize the Legislature to limit non-economic damages assessed against a provider of medical or health care and, after January 1, 2005, to limit awards in all other types of cases.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to determine limitations on non-economic damages."
- PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 16)**
HJR 16 would authorize a county, city, town, and junior college district to freeze property taxes on a residential homestead of a person who is disabled or aged 65 or older.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses."
- PROPOSITION 14 (HJR 28)**
HJR 28 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to issue
- PROPOSITION 15 (HJR 54)**
HJR 54 would prohibit a local retirement system and the political subdivision that finances the retirement system from reducing or otherwise impairing certain accrued benefits under the local retirement system.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired."
- PROPOSITION 16 (SJR 42)**
SJR 42 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow home equity lines of credit and allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans."
- PROPOSITION 17 (HJR 21)**
HJR 21 would prohibit an increase in school property taxes on residence homesteads of disabled persons.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person."
- PROPOSITION 18 (HJR 59)**
HJR 59 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies only to local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 8 applies to state and local political subdivisions.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."
- PROPOSITION 19 (SJR 45)**
SJR 45 would repeal the legislature's
- PROPOSITION 20 (SJR 55)**
SJR 55 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in a total amount not to exceed \$250 million that will be used to provide loans for economic development projects that benefit defense-related communities in Texas.
The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations."
- PROPOSITION 21 (SJR 19)**
SJR 19 would authorize current and retired faculty members of a public institution of higher education to receive compensation for service as a member of the governing body of a water district.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district."
- PROPOSITION 22 (HJR 84)**
HJR 84 would authorize the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to serve on behalf of a state, district, or local public officer who is called into active military duty for longer than 30 days.
The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces."

authority to create rural fire prevention districts. Effective September 1, 2003, all existing rural fire prevention districts will convert to emergency services districts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitucion que apareceran en la boleta el 13 de septiembre de 2003. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis llamando al 1/800/252/8683 o escribiendo al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

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From The Hack

The subject of print typos came up recently in a session of Seers at the local DQ. A particularly prominent one of mine was mentioned. I claimed full responsibility, being the Southern Gentleman I am, but mainly because it was in one of these columns. But I semi-silenced the crowd by claiming, "I will wager substantial funds you, I, even the village idiot, of which there seem to be in substantial numbers here, can find typos in each and every newspaper in print throughout the entire universe!"

Well, that may be somewhat of a stretch, if newspapers are printed in Heaven, but I'm convinced it's factual in all other areas.

I seem to frequently commit the almost unpardonable typographical error, mis-spelling some featured persons name, which often leads to fire and brimstone descending on our doorstep.

Watching the British Open Golf Tourney the last few days, and portions of the lady golfers Big Apple Classic, and after reading the posted results in newsprint and on the screen, Thank You God, for not having me type all those names; In the Brit Open, I would probably have player S.K. Ho as, Its OK, Hoe.

Mathias Gronberg would have come out Mighty Gruntbird.

Reitef Goosen would have resulted in Gooses Relieve. Ian Poulter could appear as I'm Poultry.

Duffy Waldorf would probably have been dubbed Daffy Wal Mart. Shingo Katayama would probably have been so obscene I can't repeat it here.

In the women's LPGA Tournament it would have been equally disastrous, had I been the player list compiler;

Tournament winner Hee-Won- Han would have appeared He Won Here.

Cindy Figg-Currier would have emerged Candy Fig Couter.

Mi-Hyuan Kim would have popped up, My Hyu're Kind.

Naturally, Stephanie Louder would become Stephanie Louder.

Young Kim would result in Young Sin, and to cap it all off, player Wendy Ward would have emerged as Wards Windy.

In another, more minor golf tournament in Endicott, NY, I undoubtedly would have reduced Brett Quigley to Bruce Quivery, Hank Kuehne would become Yank Cleane, and Guy Boros would be renamed Guys Bore Us.

So there, all you typo seekers and gloaters.... stick that in your PIP and smoke it!!!

*** HELP WANTED ***
Due to retirement, the Yoakum County Sheriff Department has an opening for the position of DISPATCHER. Please contact the Sheriff's Office, for application.

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Moving Sale

July 25 & 26
8:00 am - 2:00 pm
Plains Community Center
Glassware, Dolls, Beanie Baby's, Christmas Decorations, Clothes, Miss. Baby Items

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The Plains Independent School District will receive bids until 12:00 (noon) Thursday, July 31, 2003 to sell a house located at 1003 2nd Street (E44.8' Lot6/ W44.5' Lot 7, Blk 6, Stanford) in Plains, Texas.

Bids will be reviewed and contract awarded at a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees that will be held on Monday, August 11, 2003.

Bid forms may be picked up at the Plains Independent School District Business Office from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Thursday. The house will be shown by appointment only by contacting the superintendents office at 456-7401.

Sealed bids should be marked "House Bid" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to the superintendent, James Haynes, PO Box 479/1000 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas 79355. **NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

A one-more-time friendly reminder... Want it in next week's CCN? Get it to us by noon Friday, or all bets are off!

YARD WORK
*Mowing w/bagger
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*Tree trimming
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Fax: 806-592-8489

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Denver City, TX
BOOT & SHOE REPAIR
806-592-8198

2003 Junior Varsity Football Schedule

| Date | Opponent | Place | Time | |
|----------|-------------|-------|------|-----------|
| Aug. 16 | Lorenzo | Here | TBA | Scrimmage |
| Aug. 22 | Hale Center | Here | TBA | Scrimmage |
| Aug. 28 | Farwell | There | 6:00 | |
| Sept. 4 | Seagraves | Here | 6:00 | |
| Sept. 11 | Sudan | There | 7:30 | |
| Sept. 18 | Wink | Here | 7:30 | |
| Sept. 25 | Ralls | There | 7:30 | |
| Oct. 2 | Open | | | |
| Oct. 9 | O'Donnell | Here | 7:30 | |
| Oct. 16 | Whiteface | There | 7:30 | |
| Oct. 23 | Sundown | Here | 7:30 | |
| Oct. 30 | Smyer | There | 7:30 | |
| Nov. 6 | Morton | Here | 7:30 | |

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Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) Ranked by June Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

| | | |
|----------|--------------------------|------|
| 1 | Bryan-College Station | 2.9 |
| 2 | San Angelo | 4.5 |
| 3 (tie) | Amarillo | 4.6 |
| | Lubbock | 4.6 |
| 5 | Abilene | 4.8 |
| 6 | Tyler | 5.3 |
| 7 (tie) | Texarkana | 5.6 |
| | Wichita Falls | 5.6 |
| 9 (tie) | Victoria | 5.7 |
| | Waco | 5.7 |
| 11 | Killeen-Temple | 6.1 |
| 12 (tie) | Austin-San Marcos | 6.2 |
| | San Antonio | 6.2 |
| 14 | Odessa-Midland | 6.6 |
| 15 | Fort Worth-Arlington | 7.1 |
| 16 | Longview-Marshall | 7.5 |
| 17 | Houston | 7.6 |
| 18 | Corpus Christi | 7.7 |
| 19 | Sherman-Denison | 7.8 |
| 20 | Dallas | 7.9 |
| 21 | Laredo | 8.5 |
| 22 | Galveston-Texas City | 9.2 |
| 23 | Brazoria | 10.3 |
| 24 | El Paso | 10.5 |
| 25 | Beaumont-Port Arthur | 10.7 |
| 26 | Brownsville-Harlingen | 11.9 |
| 27 | McAllen-Edinburg-Mission | 14.2 |

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Pro Plus Chrome Brass Lavatory Faucet \$16.95