

Cowboy Country News

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



Volume IX, Issue 48, August 20, 2003

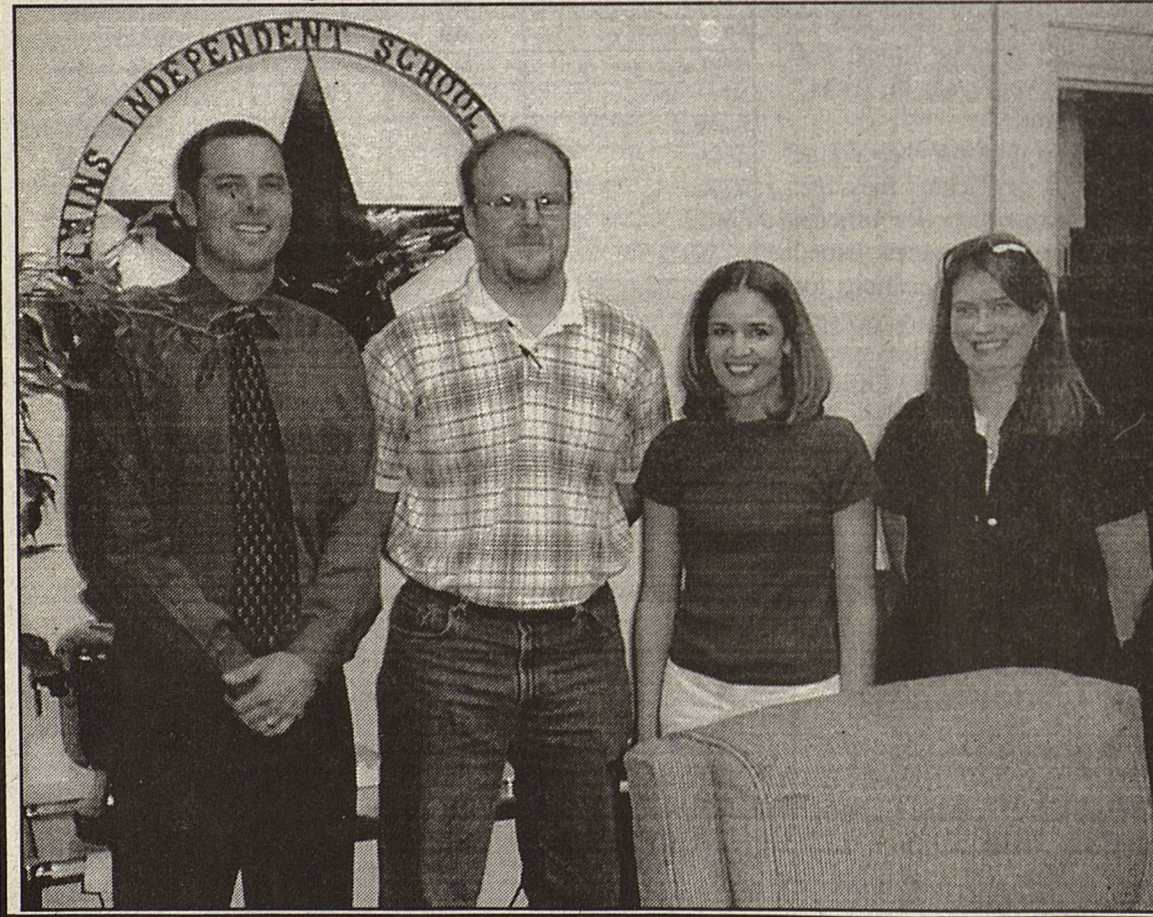
New hires introduced to PISD Board



Prior to the August 11 meeting of the Plains ISD Board of Trustees, Superintendent James Haynes called on Principals of the three campuses to introduce recently hired personnel to the Board. In the above photo, Plains Elementary Principal Vernon Hise introduced Sandy Greathouse, Speech Pathologist, Heather Harris, third grade teacher, and Laura Williams, first grade teacher.

In the photo below, new Middle School Principal Michael Michaelson introduced John Harris, Head Volleyball Coach and Middle School Science Instructor, Angela Jones, Girls Coach and History Instructor, and Michelle Steward, Assistant Band Director.

High School Principal Steven O'Quinn announced he would introduce his campus' new personnel at a later date when all were present.



Commissioners Court, County Hospital Board face shortfall in hospital expansion plans

Yoakum County Hospital board members and staff administrators met with Commissioners Court Monday, August 18 to review a serious miscalculation of costs to build a new dialysis center, wellness center and aquatic center, expansion of the hospital emergency room, and remodeling of birthing rooms. Earlier, county voters had approved a bond issue in the amount of \$2,500,000 to cover all costs of the project.

Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, told the court in May of this year, the estimated cost of the entire project had increased to \$3,304,250. On August 1, 2003, when all sub-contractor bids were in, the projected cost had risen to \$3,638,822.

Taylor then introduced Joe McKay, a spokesman for Denton-Renfro Inc, General Contractors on the project, who detailed a number of engineering and construction changes which could greatly lower the budget shortfall. The dialysis center, originally estimated to cost \$375,000 plus equipment, now is estimated at more than \$604,000. He said underestimating the cost

Turn To Page 3, "Hospital"

City Council explores economic development

Mike Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative, visited the Plains City Council meeting August 11, and made an informal pitch to promote efforts to encourage economic development. He cited an example of how entities can work together to boost the economy of small, rural towns. When the only grocery store in neighboring Tatum, New Mexico was destroyed in a fire, town fathers, business firms and city and county agencies developed a plan of action which will eventually result in grant money being used to construct a new \$200,000 grocery.

Turn To Page 2, "COUNCIL"



Mike Dreyspring, standing, addresses Plains City Council

Walker named one of seven

'Men of the Year in Texas Agriculture'

Corpus Christi - The Texas County Agricultural Agents Association (TCAAA) bestowed "Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture" awards to seven of its strongest supporters during a special banquet recently held here, a key highlight of the TCAAA's annual meeting.

The Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture award recognizes outstanding leadership in agriculture and agribusiness, and continued support of educational programs conducted by county Extension agents. This year's recipients were Gary Walker of Plains, Jack Brainard, Tioga, Congressman Henry Bonilla; Gene Jernigan, Godley; Charles Graham, Elgin; Jimmy Dodson, Robstown, and Stanley Schilling, George West.

Gary Walker is no stranger to Extension and agriculture on the South Plains of Texas. He is a former State representative, serving four consecutive sessions since 1995. While in office he served on the House Ag and Livestock Committee, House Appropriations Committee, House Calendar Committee, Natural resources

Committee, and chaired the House Committee on Land Resource Management in the 76th and 77th sessions.

Gary's career since 1970 has included ranching in the Texas High Plains, and Water District Management since 1986. He has served the entire South Plains on water issues prior to and during his tenure in the House. He has managed the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District since 1986, and was actively involved with Extension and local agents in the formation and creation of single county water districts in Terry and Gaines Counties.

At home, Walker continues to lend a helping hand when needed. He serves as a member of the Plains Chamber of Commerce, the local Lion's Club and the Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show.

He graduated from Texas A&M University and served in the U.S. Navy as a pilot before returning to agriculture in 1970. He and his wife Frankie have two children, Lorrie Leigh and Dare Byron, and they are proud of their four grandchildren.

Connection Makes Final Plans For Watermelon Round Up

Yoakum County Connection met August 12 at the Connection Building in Denver City. LeAnn Romines presided over the Watermelon Round Up report given by Jeannette Head. Plains 4-H is helping pay for 30 watermelon flags to be placed on light poles in Plains. Joe Pierce made the brackets for installation of flags. Caps and T-shirts are still available at the library. We Made It Craft Mall, and Totally Unique in Denver City, and Plains library, county clerk's office, Image n That, and Agri Alliance. OXY, anonymous donor, and Mustang Station have all donated money towards the ice that will be used at the festival in the food booths used to cool the melons.

Barbara Wright will be chairing the Melon Sales with Sun-down State Bank, West Texas

National Bank, and Denver City Rotary Club helping sell the donated melons to traffic/car customers. Melissa Howell reports the Melon Decorating Contest is on track with Sun-down State Bank, West Texas National Bank, Wells Fargo Bank and Plains State Bank donating \$200 savings bonds to winners.

Denver City Fire Department is in charge of adult seed spitting and Elsa Moya will handle the youth seed spitting and other games. Helwig Law Firm is helping sponsor kids' games. Plains Templo Bautista Men will handle trash pickup and Brownfield CRTC will help before, during and after the festival, particularly with slicing watermelons given to all visitors. Mustang Country and Bobby Trent are helping defray

expenses of the tent for the classic car show organized by Terry and Wadonna Davis.

Ty Powell and Ashli Vantine will do the cow patty bingo. Dottie Mayes and Mary Lou Sherrin are organizing the horseshoe pitching and washer toss. Altel is sponsoring the Fun Run organized by Melvin Dearing. The clown is sponsored by First National Bank of Brownfield, Wilma Powell, Image n That, and Debbie Pollard. Jim Brown reports 20 teams this year may participate in the brisket, chicken & rib cookoff. Music director James Altman is featuring the Buddy and Tina Wright Band of Lubbock between 4 and 5 o'clock. Sheila Stephens and the information booth need volunteers. Dean Richardson will chair the hospitality room for exhibitors.



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



Unlike the rest of the year, August is a quite month in our nation's capital. Members of Congress leave Washington to head home and spend time listening to their constituents, hearing their views and concerns firsthand. For your 'light' summer reading, I will give you a mid-year report on what Congress has accomplished.

In Mat, Congress passed the 2003 Job and Growth package to provide the American people with \$350 billion more in tax cuts, building on the 2001 tax relief. The legislation accelerates many of the reductions from 2001 that were being phased in over several years. Taxpayers will immediately benefit from the lower marginal rates, marriage penalty relief, expansion of the 10% tax bracket and an increase in the child tax credit. In July, the IRS began issuing \$400 per child advance refund checks to approximately 25 million families. Taxpayers also experienced an increase in their paychecks because of the lowered marginal rates. The bill also provides important relief for small businesses and \$20 billion to states where many are facing difficult budgetary shortfalls. I increased Texas' share of this state aid from what had been originally proposed, knowing the severe budget crunch Texas is in. Texas received \$1.3 billion.

After many years of unfulfilled promises, each house of Congress passed Medicare reform including a prescription drug benefit. It is now in a conference committee to work out the differences. Medicare has not kept pace with the times. The 38 year old program does not take into account the modern miracles afforded by new medical technologies and pharmaceuticals. By bringing this venerable program into the 21st century, we will better meet the needs of our nation's seniors and help ensure that Medicare will be solvent for generations to come.

For three years the Senate has been working to pass a comprehensive policy to make our nation energy independent and create jobs for American workers. The clock ran out in 2002 and we were unable to pass a bill that balanced production, delivery and conservation. I'm pleased that this year Congress finally passed an energy bill, which is now in conference committee. The legislation will help protect diverse options from ethanol to crude oil production to meet our nation's growing energy needs. It will also go a long way in releasing us from the grip of dependence on the Middle East.

September 11th crystallized how vulnerable our nation is to terror and showed what the enemies of freedom and democracy are willing and able to do. The president promised he would not stand idly by while the American people were menaced. In March that promise brought us to Baghdad to eliminate the threat of Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction. Saddam possessed and used weapons of mass destruction, repeatedly defied the will of the international community and sponsored and harbored known terrorists and terrorist groups. Thanks to the might of the U.S. military and the support of allies like Great Britain and Australia, his regime is dead. Our

troops are still in danger and we pray daily for their safety and the stability of the region, as Iraqis begin to take control of their own destiny.

When Congress returns to Washington, in September, it again assumes a heavy load. Among the many agenda items, finding more ways to bolster our economy and put Americans back to work tops the list. This August, as you enjoy the last weeks of summer, know that Congress is gearing up for a busy fall and making our voices heard on behalf of the people we represent.



John Gray, on left, shown here accepting a plaque from PISD Board of Trustees President Wayne Sisson at a recent board meeting to greet new teachers. Gray served on the board three years

Texas safety belt compliance hits all time high

'Click It or Ticket' results send safety belt rates soaring in key markets

"AUSTIN - Texans are getting the 'Click It or Ticket' message.

For the first time since Texas' safety belt law went on the books in 1985, safety belt use in the state's urban areas is nearing 90 percent, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) announced Aug. 8.

On TxDOT's behalf, the Texas Transportation Institute has conducted multiple traffic surveys in 10 urban areas of Texas, tracking safety belt use prior to and after the 'Click It or Ticket' education and enforcement campaign, beginning in April 2002. Successive survey results show that more Texans are buckling up after TxDOT, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration launched the state's largest ever public education campaign and safety belt enforcement crackdown.

For a two-week period, from May 19 to June 1, an unprecedented barrage of TV and radio commercials, billboards and movie theater slides warned Texans to buckle up or face hefty fines.

Thousands of extra law enforcement officers patrolled Texas streets and highways to

locate and ticket safety belt violators.

"Our efforts paid off, and we're delighted that so many more Texans got the message to buckle up," said Sue Bryant, TxDOT traffic safety director. "In cities with heavy 'Click It or Ticket' advertising and stepped up law enforcement, we saw significant increases in the number of drivers and passengers using their safety belts."

In 10 Texas cities, observational studies conducted by the Texas Transportation Institute indicated a safety belt compliance rate of nearly 90 percent, up from 81 percent just a year ago.

"For every percentage point that safety belt use increases, we can save an additional 25 lives and prevent almost 600 injuries every year in Texas," Bryant said.

Not all motorists heeded the 'Click It or Ticket' message. State troopers, police officers and sheriff's deputies issued more than 50,000 citations for safety belt and child safety seat violations during the special enforcement period. Officers also arrested 2,200 safety belt violators who also had outstanding warrants for felonies or misdemeanors.

From Page 1, "COUNCIL"

Dreyspring expressed his hopes the City of Plains will actively pursue economic development here. Naming an economic development assessment committee is a first and vital step, and if the committee is effective, many questions will be raised, including an adequate labor force, adequate water and other utilities, housing for incoming residents, and trying to recruit projects with assets compatible with assets of the community.

The local council has discussed the issue of economic development at a number of recent meetings, but no definite plans are in the works.

Gary Walker, Consultant for Sandy Land Water District, was another guest at the meeting. He gave council members and guests copies of preliminary plans drawn by an engineering firm for a project at the county airport here which will result in a new 5,000 foot runway, 75

feet wide, and other improvements. He explained how, several years back, the federal government had conducted a survey of rural area airports to determine if air traffic in and out of the airfields was sufficient to qualify for federal funding of improvements to those airports. "That was one of the years the local Texas BollWeevil Eradication program was in full swing, with hundreds of sorties daily of planes carrying chemicals used to destroy the weevils," Walker said.

He reported the airport qualified for \$3 million for the lengthened runway and other improvements, a project expected to take some six months to complete. The grant requires the county to contribute ten percent, or \$300,000 of the grant, and Walker said the county has already made two of three installment payments for their share of the project, and the final payment will be made from the 2004 budget.



"CLICK IT OR TICKET" SURVEY RESULTS
April 2002 - May 2003 Comparison

City	April 2002 % Belted	May 2003 % Belted
Arlington	76.6	84.5
Austin	83.8	90.2
Corpus Christi	78.6	90.0
Dallas	82.2	90.5
El Paso	85.2	91.8
Fort Worth	84	88.2
Garland	84.6	93.0
Houston	79.6	88.7
Lubbock	76.5	88.3
San Antonio	73.6	85.5
Average Across Cities	80.4	89.1

(Above) Law enforcement officers from across Texas participated in the Texas Department of Transportation's recent "Click It or Ticket" public education and enforcement campaign, which pushed safety belt compliance to record levels. (Left) Click It or Ticket results in 10 Texas cities.

Source: Texas Transportation Institute

"Click It or Ticket" campaign supporters included the Texas Department of Health, the Texas Municipal Police Association, the Texas Police

Chiefs Association, the Sheriff's Association of Texas, hundreds of local law enforcement agencies and scores of community organizations.

Distributors Wanted!

We require qualified trades people to sell & erect Galaxy water tanks for residential, rural & commercial use.

Pioneer Water Tanks
www.pioneertank.com

Free Info-Line: 1 866 984 4040

HICKS

*Carpet *Heating *Air Conditioning
*Maytag Appliances

204 N. Main, Denver City
806-592-3973 or 592-3930

TRANE "It's hard to stop a TRANE"

Going STRONG

CFI is now Hiring
COMPANY + OWNER OPERATORS
SINGLES AND TEAMS

Loads with miles available immediately!
Ask about our spouse-training program

Call 800-CFI-DRIVE
www.cfidrive.com

TPA **MEMBER 2003**

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

OWN A PIECE OF HISTORY!

Order the same cards issued to the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait.

COLLECTORS SET!
3 DECKS OF LIMITED EDITION PLAYING CARDS WITH IRAQI MONEY!

LIMITED EDITION!
GREAT GIFT!

3 DECK PLAYING CARD COLLECTORS SET:
• Original Centcom Cards:
Featuring Iraqi "55" Most Wanted
• Second Edition "Bad Guy" Cards
• Hero Cards:
Featuring America's Heroes: President Bush, POW's, with Osama bin Laden as the Joker!
• Iraqi Money:
Authentic Iraqi Dinar Note (Iraqi Money) with Saddam's picture!

order online:
www.CENTCOMCARDS.com 1-800-343-6443 \$29.95 plus s/h

or call:
Quark Security - 537 Third Ave - NY, NY 10016 17 yrs in business!

HUGE

Building Material Auction
at Freeman Coliseum
E. Houston Street • San Antonio

Aug. 30-31 • 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Rain or Shine

Viewing till 6 PM Aug. 29 • Pre-register to bid & preview
210-877-2400 • www.gavelsales.com

Cash/Visa/MC/Checks with LOC
10% BP • Bill Gray • License # TX 14083

Cowboy Country News

Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355

Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor

Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodical postage paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, TX 79355.

E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net
ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

MULTI - PERIL CROP & CROP HAIL

STATE INSURANCE LINE

DANNY BELL

Office 456-3521 Home 456-6325
Mobile 456-7517

Nelson's Prescription Pharmacy

"Your Business is always appreciated"

Use our Toll-Free Number
1-800-658-9604

For All Your Pharmacy Needs!!
805 Tahoka Rd. Brownfield, TX

Local Officials Attend NACO Meeting

Honorable Judge Dallas Brewer and Commissioner Jack Cobb of Yoakum County, Texas participated in the National Association of Counties (NACO) 68th Annual Conference in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin on July 11-15. County officials heard national speakers, including Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson, Senator Herb Kohl (D-Wis), Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Jim Moseley, presidential historian Michael Beschloss and noted forgery expert and subject of

the hit movie "Catch Me If You Can," Frank Abagnale. They also attended committee meetings, discussed common issues with fellow county officials, voted on bylaw and resolution changes and participated in workshops.

Secretary Thompson, the former governor of Wisconsin, welcomed conference attendees with a speech on Saturday, July 12, calling for the creation of a national committee to help facilitate the process by which local governments receive aid for bioterrorism and public health.

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

1	Bryan-College Station	2.7
2	San Angelo	4.2
3	Anarillo	4.3
4 (tie)	Abilene	4.4
	Lubbock	4.4
6	Victoria	5.3
7	Wichita Falls	5.6
8 (tie)	Tyler	5.7
	Waco	5.7
10 (tie)	Austin-San Marcos	5.9
	Killeen-Temple	5.9
	San Antonio	5.4
13	Odessa-Midland	6.0
14	Fort Worth-Arlington	6.7
15	Longview-Marshall	7.0
16	Corpus Christi	7.1
17	Houston	7.2
18	Dallas	7.4
19	Laredo	7.7
20	Sherman-Denison	7.8
21	Galveston-Texas City	9.0
22	Brazoria	9.7
23	El Paso	9.9
24	Beaumont-Port Arthur	10.2
25	Brownsville-Harlingen	11.1
26	McAllen-Edinburg-Mission	14.0
	Texarkana data not available	

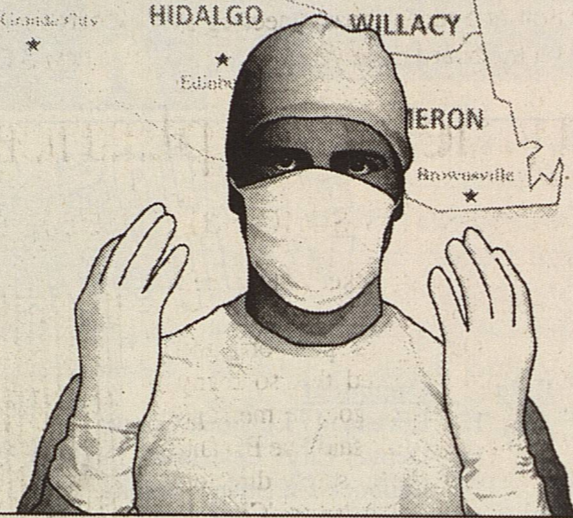
Is there a doctor in the Valley?

Compared with other areas of Texas, the people of the Lower Rio Grande Valley are served by relatively few physicians. The chart includes actively practicing doctors performing some type of direct patient care.

Physicians by county (September 2002)

County	County residents per physician
Cameron	836
Hidalgo	931
Starr	3,716
Willacy	1,872
Texas average	636

SOURCE: Texas Department of Health.



John Cornyn
UNITED STATES SENATOR ☆ TEXAS

Replacing Hussein, Rebuilding Iraq

The largest obstacle to a free and prosperous Iraq is the significant number of people who still live in fear of Saddam Hussein and what remains of his regime. My recent visit to the Middle East confirmed just how strong this fear is. Iraqis suffered for decades under his iron fist, and many are now enjoying freedom for the first time.

However, with the news that Uday and Qusay Hussein have been killed, we are two steps closer to removing that fear, two steps closer to rebuilding a once-great nation, and two steps closer to ensuring lasting security and freedom for the Iraqi people and the region. I thank all the dedicated men and women in our armed forces who helped make these two steps possible.

Throughout the past few weeks, though, many critics of President Bush and his administration and of Operation Iraqi Freedom have dismissed the victories and successes in the region. I find this to be simply indefensible, as it flies in the face of everything that we have seen about Saddam Hussein's regime. It offends the intelligent mind. It maligns all those who weighed the intelligence about Iraq in the balance and decided that the liberation of Iraq was just and right.

I am astonished at how soon critics forget the truth about the vile regime of Saddam Hussein.

First, if one is willing to believe that Saddam Hussein did not possess weapons of mass destruction, he or she wouldn't be the only one fooled: Every significant intelligence service in the world, including the vast majority of those in nations who opposed this war, were convinced that Iraq had possessed such weapons. The U.N. Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1441 for this express reason. They declared Iraq in material breach of its obligations under numerous previous resolutions, including failing to account for weapons of mass destruction that Iraq had previously admitted to building and stockpiling.

Perhaps those who still believe the Hussein regime had no weapons of mass destruction think they can explain what form of gas Saddam used to kill more than 100,000 Kurds, including 5,000 in one day alone. Perhaps they think they can explain why, prior to kicking out the UN inspection team in 1998, Iraqi officials admitted that they had produced

biological weapons agents - including 4 tons of VX, 8,500 liters of anthrax and 19,000 liters of botulinum toxin - and biological weapons delivery munitions, including aerial bombs, aerial dispensers, and Scud missile warheads.

Perhaps they think they can explain why, for more than a decade, Saddam Hussein stymied inspectors, buried research facilities, built mobile biological weapons labs, intimidated scientists, and even removed the tongues of those who questioned his regime.

War is a serious endeavor, one that is not undertaken without risk. The fact that Baghdad fell in three weeks, with so few casualties among coalition forces, fulfilled our highest hopes for this conflict. I am thankful for that fact, and I know the President is as well. I also know that the case for this war remains solid.

The case for war in Iraq was built not on one piece of evidence provided by British intelligence, but on a much deeper long-term purpose. It was built on the noble goal of ending the decades of brutal and violent works by Saddam Hussein, and on our clear duty to ensure America's security in the post-9/11 world by removing state-sponsors of terrorism and opposing regimes that threaten other nations with weapons of mass destruction.

Three hundred thousand people, and perhaps as many as a million, are buried in mass graves spread throughout Iraq, in nearly 100 reported sites. They stretch from Basrah to Baghdad, from Najaf to Kirkuk. Having seen these graves myself, I know that they are silent monuments to Saddam's legacy of ruthlessness and evil.

In the face of these silent witnesses, the suggestion that Iraq, the Middle East and America are not better off today than before this war is simply ludicrous.

We have finished the fighting. Now we must finish the job. We seek to make Iraq secure, to make it a place where the rule of law can be established, so that civilian leaders and the Iraqi Governing Council can establish a new government for a new nation.

This is not an easy task - and it is not without cost. But it must be done, so that Iraq can flourish as a free nation, and so that the victories won, the lives risked and lost, will not be in vain.

British Prime Minister Blair spoke to a joint session of Congress recently, and reminded us that we have a duty as a powerful nation to take great care regarding what kind of world we leave for our children. I believe that the task that falls to us is spreading the blessings of liberty and bringing the light of freedom to a nation imprisoned in the darkness.

Let those who are more comfortable playing political games - play on. Those of us who wish to accomplish something greater will labor on, undeterred, always confident in our ultimate goal: We seek a just, free, and peaceful world - for ourselves, and for future generations.

U.S. Senator John Cornyn is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and traveled to Iraq in early July to visit Texas troops and assess reconstruction efforts.

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 2004 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on September 11, 2003 at 1:00 pm. in the office of the Yoakum County Appraisal District.

Summary of the appraisal district budget follows:
Total amount of the appraisal budget is \$259,377.00

The total amount of decrease from the current year's appraisal budget is \$20, 654. The total number of employees compensated in the 2004 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 inspection at the appraisal district office.

Yoakum County Appraisal District

500 Cowboy Way
Plains, Texas 79355
806-456-7101

From Page 1, "HOSPITAL"

War of the center was a major cause of the budget shortfall. Major changes in the dialysis project included a pre-engineered structural system with standing roof, omitting the fire sprinkler system since the facility is not a hospital, and reducing the size

of the building by 372 square feet, which would eliminate three patient stations. If all changes were approved, almost \$93,000 would be saved.

McKay told the court and hospital representatives dramatic savings could be made in construction of the wellness center and aquatic center. Items to be considered included a glass wall in the handball court, changing plaster to epoxy painted gypsum board in the handball and pool areas, change the roof structure to a lay-in ceiling at the aquatic center, major changes in the electrical system, changing the pool to a fiberglass construction, and working with the county on building pad materials. If all changes were approved, almost \$189,000 would be saved. By utilizing these value engineering plans, \$282,759 could be removed from the budget short-

age. Following considerable discussion, Judge Brewer asked Taylor the exact amount of money the hospital was short for the project. Taylor replied the budget is currently short \$334,752. If all suggested changes suggested by Denton-Renfro were adopted, the shortgae would be reduced to \$51,813.

At that point hospital board member Neal Newsom suggested calling another meeting of his board to come up with a final decision about any and all changes to the current plans. Judge Brewer indicated he agreed, and when he learned the hospital board would meet Thursday of this week, suggested, if a firm decision was made at that meeting, they call to appear on the Commissioners Court agenda for the August 25 session.



Showing the colors. City employees were busy this week hoisting colorful flags along Cowboy Way, heralding the rapidly approaching Watermelon Round Up August 30.

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD
and
Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

We have Meningococcal Vaccines for Meningitis. It is recommended for students entering college, and may be required for some schools. Vaccinations at the Clinic are offered only until July 2. Please come to see us by this date!

TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8-5

Wednesday 8-5

Thursday & Friday 8-5

Will take walk-ins

Appointments preferred

Please call 806-456-6365

G. B. Aerial Application, Inc.



Professional, Licensed Ag Applications At Affordable Rates!

806-456-6300 Office

806-456-6790 Fax

806-456-7536 David Mobile

806-456-7974 Sarah Mobile

806-632-5375 Dain Mobile

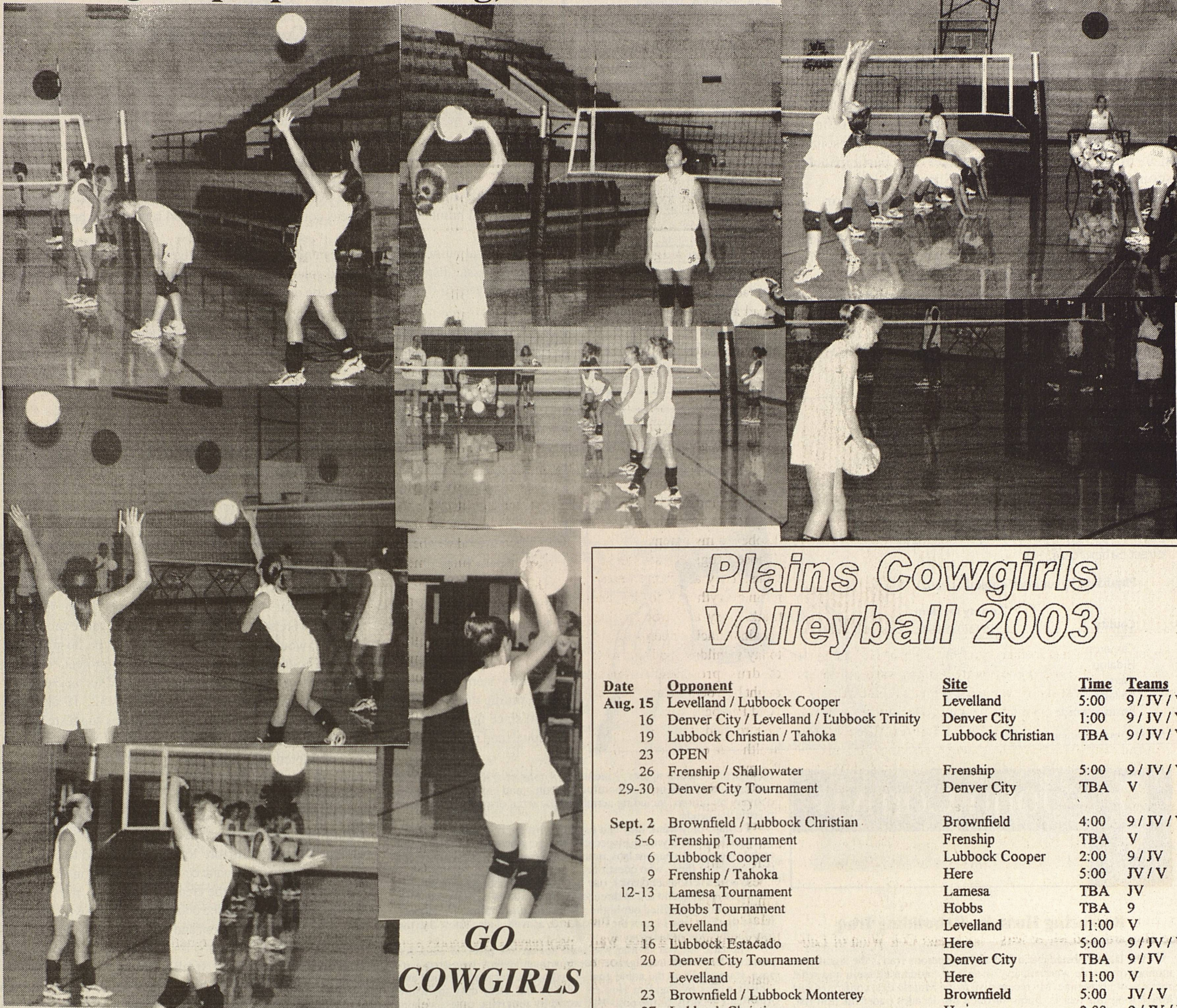
GB

www.gbaerial.com

GB

www.gbaerial.com

Cowgirls prepare for long, hard season



**GO
COWGIRLS**

Plains Cowgirls Volleyball 2003

Date	Opponent	Site	Time	Teams
Aug. 15	Levelland / Lubbock Cooper	Levelland	5:00	9 / JV / V
16	Denver City / Levelland / Lubbock Trinity	Denver City	1:00	9 / JV / V
19	Lubbock Christian / Tahoka	Lubbock Christian	TBA	9 / JV / V
23	OPEN			
26	Frenship / Shallowater	Frenship	5:00	9 / JV / V
29-30	Denver City Tournament	Denver City	TBA	V
Sept. 2	Brownfield / Lubbock Christian	Brownfield	4:00	9 / JV / V
5-6	Frenship Tournament	Frenship	TBA	V
6	Lubbock Cooper	Lubbock Cooper	2:00	9 / JV
9	Frenship / Tahoka	Here	5:00	JV / V
12-13	Lamesa Tournament	Lamesa	TBA	JV
	Hobbs Tournament	Hobbs	TBA	9
13	Levelland	Levelland	11:00	V
16	Lubbock Estacado	Here	5:00	9 / JV / V
20	Denver City Tournament	Denver City	TBA	9 / JV
	Levelland	Here	11:00	V
23	Brownfield / Lubbock Monterey	Brownfield	5:00	JV / V
27	Lubbock Christian	Here	2:00	9 / JV / V
30	Colorado City	Here	5:00	9 / JV / V
Oct. 4	Tahoka	Tahoka	2:00	JV / V
7	OPEN			
11	Lamesa	Here	2:00	9 / JV / V
14	* Whiteface	Whiteface	5:00	JV / V
18	OPEN			
21	* Whiteface	Here	5:00	JV / V
25	Colorado City / Sweetwater	Colorado City	1:00	9 / JV / V
28	Denver City	Denver City	5:30	V
Nov. 1	Shallowater	Shallowater	11:00	V
4	District Certification			
6-8	Bi-District			
10-11	Area			
14-15	Regional Tournament	Lubbock		
20-22	State Tournament	San Marcos		

* District Games

Head Coach John Harris
Athletic Director Blake McWhirter

Yoakum County Art Association

It's not what you see that is Art.....

Art is the gap - Marcel Duchamp

Thanks to President Jeannette Head, Show Chair Uvonne Morgan, Denver City Press, Cowboy Country News, City of Plains personnel, and all who came to honor our work and creativity. The Yoakum County Art Association salutes our Patrons and Buyers!

PATRON MEMBERS:

Richardson Insurance
Wilma Powell
Bayer Lumber
Sarah Jane Field
Plains State Bank
Sarah K Burrus
PURCHASE AWARDS:
City of Plains
Lea County Electric Cooperative
Wilma Powell
Leann Lewis
Sonnie Stephens
Dolores Davis
Yoakum County Co-Op Gin
Mackie & Connie McWhirter
Jo Lena & Chad Wall
John & Lori Matus
Sid & Marilyn Reinert
Sarah Jane Field
Christy Brink
Gary & Frankie Walker
Dan & Linda Wall

Ty Earl & Linda Powell
John & Dottie Mayes
West Texas National Bank
Sundown State Bank
Jack & Martha Palmer
Cnty. Treas. Barbara Wright
Yoakum County Abstract
L.J. & Virginia Sanders
Joan Postel
Cindy Snell
Jerome Head
Cnty. Clerk Debbie Rushing
Sandra Ellison
Richard Clark
Diane Bennett
Deborah Brown
Gene & Gwen Huff
JP Melba Crutcher
Shawn Williams
Dennis & Sue Ann Harrison
Jimmie Bayer
Trucene Clare

"Art does not reproduce the visible; rather, it makes it visible" - Paul Klee

Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up Watermelon Decorating Contest August 30, 2003 Plains, Texas



Rules

- Entrants must live in Yoakum County or within 10 miles of county line.
- Awards of \$200.00 savings bonds go to age groups juniors, 0-9; Youth, 10-20; Adult, 21 and up. Any age group is eligible for Best of Show for a \$400.00 savings bond; age group does not matter.
- Winners must verify that savings bonds have correct name, address, and social security number with donor banks.
- A whole or parts of real watermelon of any variety maybe used.
- No restrictions apply on decoration materials except must be in good taste. Chair will determine if inappropriate in case of dispute.
- Painting or carving may be done on the watermelon (s).
- Contestant is responsible for a prop if needed to hold the watermelon in a certain position.
- Contestant must leave watermelon on display from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the contest. Disposal of melon or materials will be handled by chair if contestant doesn't claim it.
- Only one entry per person; entry form must be filled out when entering contest. Forms will be available at the information desk when entering the contest.
- A nameplate may accompany entry if adds to understanding of decorations.

Lifelines & Styles

Warren, Bell Unite In Marriage



Alexis Jene' Warren and Joshua Aldan Bell of Plains were united in marriage at the First Baptist Church in the evening of August 8.

Reverend Jon Warren of Bossier City, LA, uncle of the bride, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Jerry and Teresa Howard of Plains and the late Jody Warren. She is the granddaughter of Mr & Mrs Charles Warren, Mr & Mrs Eugene Anderson, Ms Alice Howard, and Mr & Mrs T.L. Howard, Jr, all of Lamesa.

The groom is the son of Danny & Kathy Bell of Plains. He is the grandson of Mr & Mrs Alfred Bearden of Plains, Mr & Mrs Charles Pope of Rakin, and Mr & Mrs Dan Bell of Idalou.

Sandi Warren of Lubbock, sister of the bride, served as the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Julie Howard of Lubbock, sister of the bride, Tonya Murry of Odessa, Morgan Matlock of Lamesa, cousin of the bride, and Joani Bell of Plains, sister of the

groom. Each bridal attendant wore a navy satin strapless dress with an A-line skirt.

The groom wore a black Ralph Lauren three button single breasted styling tuxedo with a white vest and Windsor tie. His boutonniere was a Virginian rose with stephanotis.

Jared Bell of Plains, brother of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Ace Williams of Lubbock, cousin of the groom, Steven Bunch of Canyon, Dustin Brunson of Lubbock, and Colt Winn of Lubbock.

The bride's cake was a three tiered round white cake adorned with miracle roses, yellow and pink roses, fuchsia and white baby carnations, purple statice, stephanotis, and fern.

A dance followed at the Plains Community Building with the music provided by Music to the Max.

Following a honeymoon trip to Jamaica, the couple will reside in Canyon.

Senior Citizens Corner

Someone has suggested that our society might benefit from this "addiction."

I had a drug problem when I was young. I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions no matter the weather. I was drug to the bus stop to go to school every week day. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults and teachers. I was drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents.

Those drugs are still in my veins. They affect my behavior in everything I do, say, and think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack, or heroin and if today's children had this kind of drug problem, America might be a better place...signed "Old Person"

We remind you again of the health fair on August 20th in the gymnasium. This is sponsored by Right Way Medical and Covenant Home Health. There will be foot screenings and blood pressure checks as well as fittings for diabetic shoes. The hours are from 10: a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Maidelle Mitchell was the lucky winner of a nice wall clock from Memorial Home Health when they were doing blood pressure checks this week.

Gail Ballou tells of a fantastic fishing trip with grandson last week. He says he had a lot of bites, mostly mosquito and chigger bites, so had to do some recuperating before he could

make his bi-weekly trip to Denver City.

Thanks go to Billie O'Neal who has been bringing watermelons for everyone to enjoy. They are furnished by the Anderson packing company in Plains. Billie stops to get them and bring them in the Plains van when the seniors come for lunch. What a delicious treat they are!

Reports from Therman Meyer indicate that he will come home from Big Springs next week to stay for awhile and will be back at the Center for lunchtime. We have missed him these past months while he has been gone. Frank and Susan Gurrero were accompanied by their grandson, Jeremy, at lunchtime on day and Wanda Richardson was a guest of Lois Aulds. Katherine Reed was a familiar face on day. Welcome to each of these folks.

Faye Black and Billie O'Neal were the winners in the '42' tournament on Tuesday. If you enjoy '42', come join this group. There are lots of fun and laughter and an occasional win of a meal ticket.

Moray Clark was a welcome addition to the Monday night pool players. She shoots a good game. Chris Humphries also dropped by to play some dominoes during that time. Welcome to each one.

Thought for today: "To be eighty years young is sometimes far more cheerful and hopeful than to be forty years old."

In spite of the cost of living, it's still popular.

...Kathleen Norris

The price is never too high and the work is never too hard when preparing for a good life. And a good life is the only kind of life you really deserve.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In the Matter of the Proposed Adoption of Amendments to the Rules of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District

A public hearing will be held on Friday, August 20, 2003 at 10:30 a.m. in the district office located at 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas. The sole purpose of this hearing is to consider proposed changes to the Rules of the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District.

Comments on the proposed rule changes are invited and may be in person at the hearing. Copies of the proposed rule changes are available upon request at the district office in Plains.



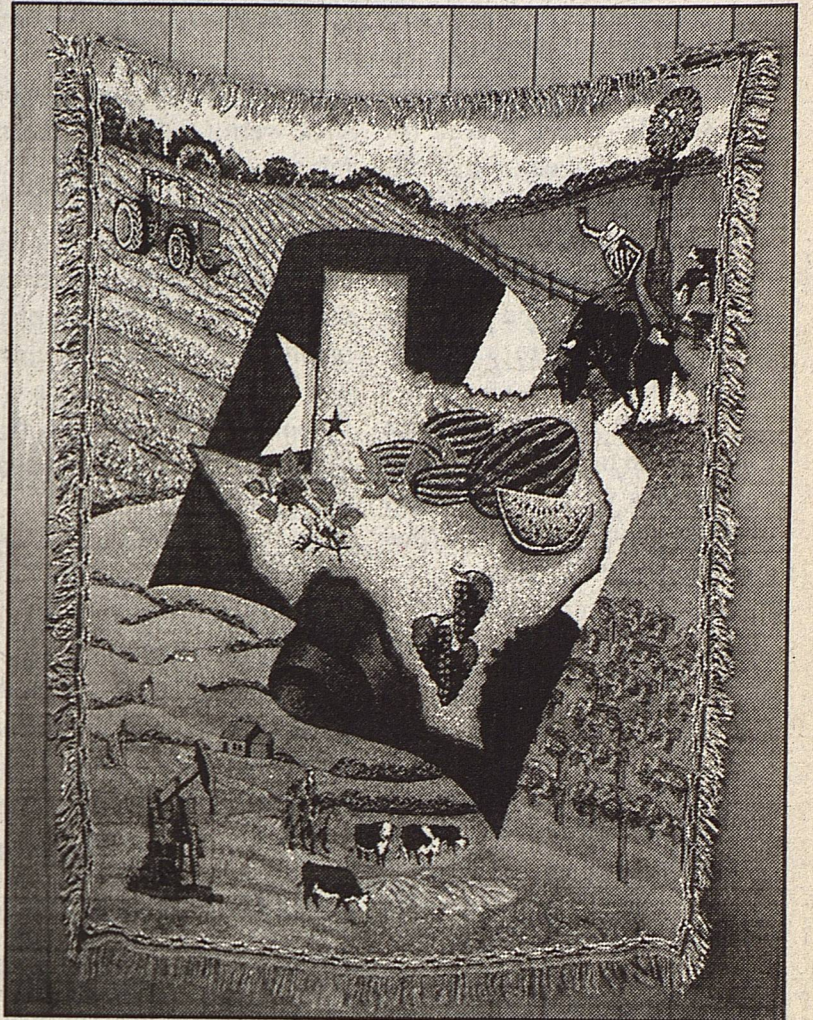
AG INSURANCE PLUS

CROP INSURANCE MPC1-CRC-CAT-CROP HAIL
456-2788

Jim Brown, Agent
Mobile 806-891-0449
or 891-0450
Home 592-3490

Jeff Lowery, Sales Assoc.
Mobile 806-592-1319
Home 456-3195

Tapestry Throws Apparently A Hot Item



The August 13 issue of CCN featured a photo of Chamber of Commerce members Toni Jones and Tina Davis displaying a sample of a custom designed tapestry throw, milled in North Carolina. By Friday, following the news article, some thirty of the colorful throws had been pre-ordered by area residents.

The throws depict what Yoakum County is all about; the oil and gas industry, ranching, a varied agricultural economy based on cotton, peanuts, grain sorghum, and our famed county watermelons.

Over this past weekend, the initial order of 100 throws arrived. As of Monday noon, about 60 of the throws had been sold. The tapestry art work is being displayed at the County Libraries here and at Denver City, in Plains City Hall, and the County Clerk's office.

The throws, made from 100% cotton, sell for \$45. The project is a fund raiser for the Chamber.

School's back in session.....



Watch for our kids!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School
9:30 am.

Morning Worship

10:45 am.

Evening Program

6:00 pm.

BLOOD DRIVE in Plains

Thursday, August 21st

1:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Plains Courthouse

all donors will receive a
T-shirt

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

If God is your co-pilot,
You need to switch seats!

From The Hack

Hanging around in front of our elementary school last Monday AM, I was hoping to get a good photo of one of our crosswalk ladies, helping our younger kids across US 82/380. I didn't get a very good shot, as page 5 proves, but in my 25-35 minute wait for drama to unfold at the crosswalk, more drama (or prime time comedy) was taking place on the walk going into the elementary building. I was amazed at the number of teeny little guys and gals tugging behind them a rolling mini-closet of school stuff. I can't prove this, but I figure 75% of the first through fourth grade kids were tugging totes like the shots you see of airline travelers and attendants.

It began to bug me. WHAT'S IN THOSE SUITCASES ON WHEELS?? When I was at that age, I carried my lunch to school in a brown grocery bag, what ever size was available, which made it embarrassing when I'd dump it out on the table, egg salad sandwich, in a bag designed for at least forty pounds of stuff, maybe a peanut butter and grape jelly now and then, even

on better days a SPAM BURGER!

But I digress! Back to today's kids. Young mom after mom would carry, hold hands with, try to soothe their sometime crying, sometime screeching child, before handing the child over to a trained, battle scarred veteran Elementary staffer, who would hug the scared kids, get them semi-lined up, saying, "Now, boys and girls, follow me, you little darlings.. and the first one of you stepping out of line will not be eligible for treats or to feed the goldfish in our room!"

This was incredible to me... such warm, individual, heart-felt efforts. I don't recall lots about kindergarten - I always thought it was kinder GARDEN, and always wondered when I'd get to plant or water stuff. I do remember I was not a stellar student - K school was where I got my first busting, as well as my second thru eighth.

Last Monday I witnessed one memorable kid scene. This momma drags the reluctant first grader to the door, who is actually screaming and bubbling...." I been swimming and doing youth center stuff all

summer, how come now I gotta go to school to learn anything else?"

My heart went out to him - at least momentarily.

Last week I received a letter, address from (which scared the stuff out of me) one Paul New, Counsellor of Law Emeritus in Yoakum County. ANYTIME you get a letter from an attorney, one should be on RED ALERT.

The letter read
Dear Gary;
I hope this letter isn't opened in a smoke filled room in your office.

Your old golf buddies, Bob Blundell, Macky McWhirter, Gary Six and I have made up a pot of money. The one who comes closest to the date you light up and start smoking again wins the pot. All of it.

Your Friend,
Paul New
P.S. - You are not eligible to get in the pot.



Next Big Event...
8th Watermelon Round Up.
Have you invited your out of town friends and family yet?

What About?...The other day I was privileged to go to the Rudd Unit outside of Brownfield to minister to the inmates. I know they have all broken the law, got the judgement here on earth that they have earned, but some of the faces will always stick with me. One young man, looks every bit of 17 years old. He sits on the front row, looks around at the others to see what they are doing before he participates in singing, clapping or laughing at something said. I look at him and wonder what it would take to change his future. What would it take to make him realize that he is on the wrong pathway in life and turn around? I know that prison is punishment for those of our society that cannot be law-abiding citizens, but I can't help but wonder if we are really educating them in the wrong things of life? Beth and I have known many young men who have ended up just like this guy. Of course as we see on TV, they are 'always' innocent. Some of those boys are probably in prison today because they can't function in society, as we know it. It's funny, when you talk to prisoners, the 'old timers' will tell you it is very dangerous in prison because of the new younger violent offenders. They say you can't trust them. "They don't know the rules of prison and they'll kill ya for nothin'. The they tell you that people are crazy on the outside and it's too dangerous out here! So, it makes me wonder, who's really the dangerous ones? Until next time...Mark A. Jones, Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors



Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors and Plains Memorial Chapel
'Providing old fashion care and service in contemporary style'

Plains- 456-2152 Seagraves- 546-2121 Brownfield 637-8993

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
*Weed eating
*Edging
*Hedging
*Tree trimming
call 456-2797

Country Home For Sale
1450 US Hwy 82 West
3 Bdr, 2 3/4 bath, 2 car, approx. 12.42 acres
Very nice, call for appointment
3 Br. 1 bath 100 second St.
Hunt Realty, 112 N. Main
Denver City, TX 79323
Ph 806-592-3556
Fax: 806-592-8489

Donita Tyson, M. T.
is now open, offering
Massage Therapy in
Denver City at
Totally Unique.
(806) 592-1041
After hours:
(806) 592-1646

ROJO ELECTRIC
Authorized
Square D
Dealer
456-7540

TERRY COUNTY TRACTOR
Massey Ferguson
Kubota
Bush Hog Shredders,
Lilliston Rolling
Cultivators, Lorenz
& Buffalo Cultivators,
Baker Disc & Switch
Plows, Spray Coupe,
Wilmar Sprayer
Brownfield, Tx.
806-637-4569

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, August 29, 2003 at the District office located at 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas, to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2003. The proposed tax rate is .01 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District by 3.19%.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION ESPECIAL)

To the registered voters of the County of Yoakum, Texas:

(a los votantes registrados del Condado de Yoakum, Texas.)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., September 13, 2003, for voting in a special election to adopt or reject the proposed Constitutional Amendments as submitted by the 78th Legislature, Regular Session, of the State of Texas.

(Notifíquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 13 de Septiembre de 2003 para votar en la Elección Especial para adoptar o rechazar la enmiendas propuestas constitucional así como fueron sometidas por la 78a Legislatura Sesión Regular, de la Estado de Texas.

(CONSOLIDATED) FOR THIS ELECTION ONLY

LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES
(DIRECCIONES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Precincts #101, #202, #305 and #406

will vote on Election Day at the Tax Office (Branch) at 122 W. 4th Street, Denver City, TX.

Precincts #303 and #404

will vote on Election Day at the Yoakum County Library at 901 Avenue G, Plains, TX.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at: **County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Plains, TX** & **Yoakum County Tax Office, Denver City, TX**

(location) (sitio)

EARLY VOTING INFORMATION

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on August 28, 2003

(entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 5:00 de la tarde empezando el 28 de Agosto de 2003)

and ending on September 9, 2003

(y terminando el 9 de Septiembre de 2003)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan enviarse a:)

Deborah J. Rushing

(Name of Early Voting Clerk)

(Nombre del Secretario de la Votacion Adelantada)

P.O. Box 309

(Address) (Direccion)

Plains 79355

(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Zona Postal)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on:

(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el:)

September 5, 2003 / 5 de Septiembre de 2003

(date) (fecha)

Issued this the 18 day of August, 2003.

(Emitida este dia 18 de Augusto de 2003)

Dallas Brewer
Signature of County Judge (Firma del Juez del Condado)

FILED 8-18 2003 AT 11:22 O'CLOCK A.M.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The City of Plains will hold a public meeting at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, August 25, 2003 at City of Plains City Hall located at 1015 Ave. F, Plains, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for the tax year 2003. The proposed tax rate is \$.50 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the City of Plains by 6.61 %.

Need extra CASH? Put your for sale items here for \$6

Grand Entry

Western Wear
110 N. Main
Denver City, TX
BOOT & SHOE
REPAIR
806-592-8198

Yoakum County Hospital Home Health is seeking RN. Please contact Linda French, 806-592-3676

Still in business!! JACK SPEARS DRILLING
Call
806-456-4925
Or
806-456-5005

*** House For Sale ***
4 BR, 2 Bath
2 Car Garage
407 3rd St.
Call For Appointment
Home 456-2131
Cell 806-632-9062

HELP WANTED
Apply Richardson Insurance
301 Cowboy Way
Applicants must be bi-lingual and have computer skills.



BAYER LUMBER & HARDWARE

1018 Ave. E Plains, Tx 79355
806-456-4800 Voice & Fax



SPECIALS !!!

Pro-Hoe Rogue Hoe \$24.50
2 PC. Crescent Dura-Players \$9.95
2 Pack Heavy Duty "C" Battery .99
6 Foot "T" Post \$2.50
2003 Seed 10 Packs For \$1.00
Dutch Boy Interior Flat Latex Paint -White- \$9.95 Gallon
Pro Plus Chrome Brass Lavatory Faucet \$16.95