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Official Postage Paid Plains, Texas

Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume VI, Issue 23, February 23, 2000



Council OK's New City Hall Project

Residents assured of no tax increase or decrease in city services

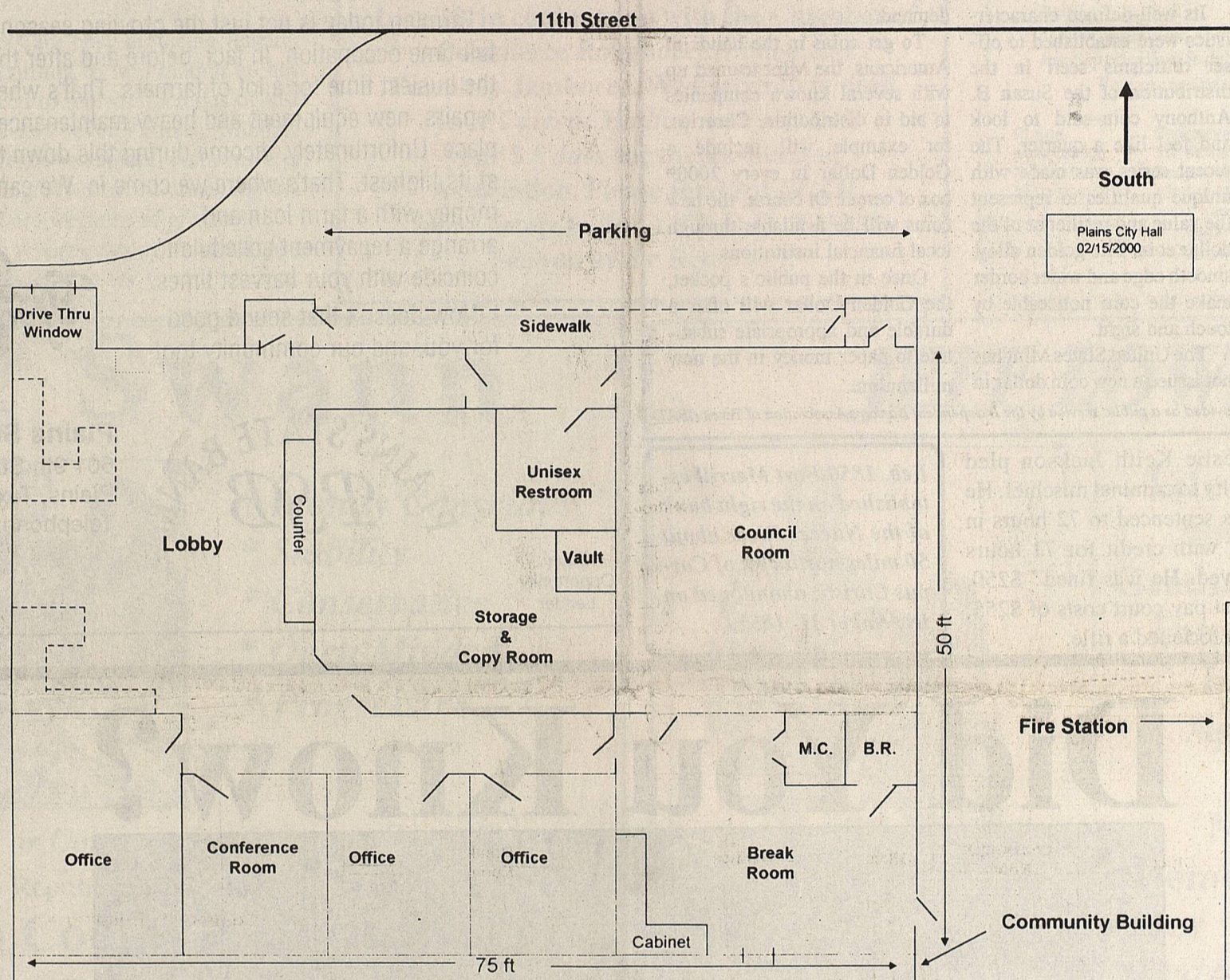
In the regular meeting of the Plains City Council February 14, it was unanimously voted to proceed with plans to build a new City Hall building. The structure will be erected adjoining the present County Community Building on Avenue G, with the entrance to the new building facing 11th Street.

Interviewed this week, City Administrator David Brunson explained, "This is a project the Council has been considering a number of years. We have out grown our present office building, and for a number of reasons it is not feasible to attempt to expand it."

Brunson said the Council had been concerned for years about the present buildings failure to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) required standards, it's difficulty to heat and cool efficiently, lack of sufficient and required record storage space, and a number of needed repairs to the building.

The preliminary design sketch shown here will be presented to West Texas Consultants, an engineering firm the city and county have both dealt with for a number of years.

The consulting firm will study the preliminary drawing, then



Computerized preliminary sketch of new 3,750 square foot City Hall Building

submit a detailed, official building proposal and estimate of cost for the building. The City Council will have the option of advertising for

bid proposals on the entire project, but will maintain the right to act as overall contractor, possibly farming out portions of the construction work.

Brunson told CCN plans for the present building housing City Hall have not been finalized. I feel sure our local EMS will continue to use the

present parking garage for the two ambulances, and some of the adjoining office space. The Volunteer Fire Department could utilize some of the

back space for meetings. It's possible the council may want to rent or lease a portion of the building to a business firm or organization."

Brunson said the Council members reached the decision to build the new facility only after determining funds were available for the project, and no city debt would be incurred for the building. "The council wants to assure all the residents of Plains this building will NOT result in a tax increase, and no present city services will be decreased to fund the new building."

The new City Hall will be a steel building, with some decorative brick facade on the front, or South side. A new convenience will be added for city customers, a drive-thru payment window. The 50 & 75 foot building will also be large enough to accommodate some community functions, and offer interested citizens greater access to council meetings and public hearings. City officials have no definite time schedule on the project, but hope to be in the new facility within a year.

An important consideration for the Council's decision was age of the present building, built in 1954.

Fire here could have been much more serious and damaging



Last week's pasture fire, starting near the east side of Texas Equipment, raced west almost to Avenue A, the first street in City Limits. Volunteer firefighters battling the blaze said if winds had been much higher, the blaze could easily have jumped the road, probably resulting in much higher property losses.

The fire damaged some property behind the old Tingle Automotive site, but didn't reach the buildings. Another property owner had stock trailers and a chemical tank damaged. He re-

ported he and an employee were trying to halt the blaze, but it spread so rapidly they had to drop their water hoses, which were melted in the blaze.

Several residents keep livestock in pens near Avenue A, but only one casualty was reported. A pig, destined for the San Antonio Livestock Show, was released from its pen when the fire neared, and the animal was trapped in the blaze long enough to suffer burns. It was later destroyed. See related story 'Fire Season', Page 3

Cost-Share for conservation work is available

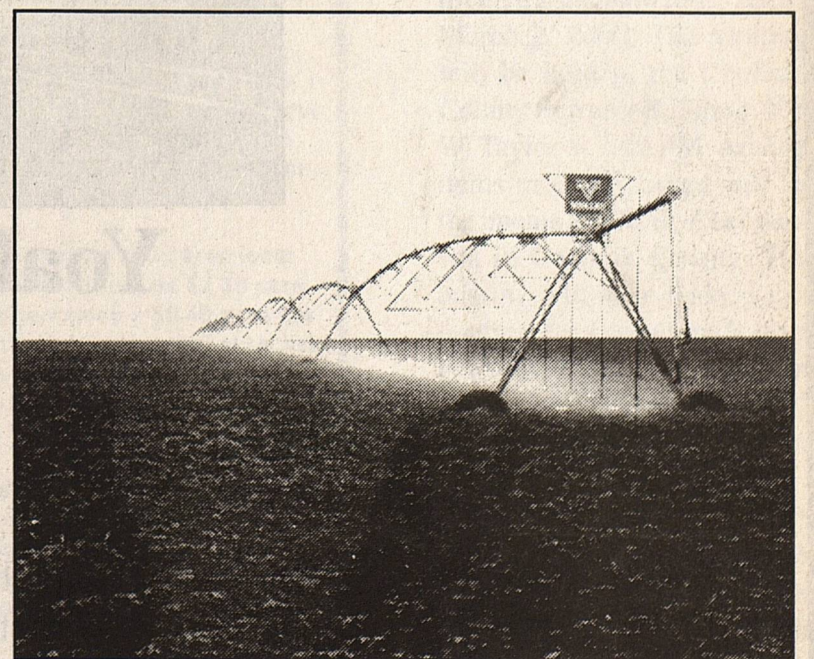
If increasing the efficiency of your water resources is in your plans for 2000, the Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) may be able to help.

The district has received \$11,400 from the State Soil and Water Conservation Board for Water Quality Planning within the county.

These funds are earmarked for conservation practices under direction of the Yoakum SWCD Board of Directors, with technical assistance provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the state Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Approved practices are eligible for a fifty percent cost share following certified completion of the conservation practice.

The amount of funds each producer may receive is based upon the total number of eligible producers who apply and



An efficient LEPA pivot irrigation system

LEPA conversion, drip irrigation, livestock watering facilities, brush control and other practices designed to approve water efficiency.

Selected producers will work under the guidance of a certified Water Quality Plan and be subject to the practice guidelines of that particular plan for

the type of conservation practice approved by the SWCD Board of Directors.

Approved practices include irrigation pipeline installation, the life of the conservation practice. For more information, contact the NRCS office, located in the FSA Center in Plains (806-456-3703).

Criminal Cases Heard In County Court

Seven cases were heard in County Court on February 14 and 16 with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state. Grady Wilson Hart pled guilty to a first DWI. A 90 day jail term was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$225 court costs and a \$500 fine, will serve 72 hours in jail, must perform 24 hours community service and complete the DWI first offender program.

Isaias Chayo Valles pled guilty to burglary of a vehicle. He must pay \$255 court costs. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 51 days served.

Oracio Casanova Castro pled guilty to purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor. He was fined \$400, must pay \$210 court costs, and will serve 14 days in jail with credit for 3 days served.

Pascual Nava Perez pled true to Assault causing bodily injury. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 36 days served. He must pay delinquent fine and court costs totaling \$530.

Mida Villareal had community supervision for a terroristic threat modified, and must attend an 8 hour class on anger management.

Jeremy Isidro Ponce pled guilty to criminal mischief. He was sentenced to serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 67 hours served. He was fined \$250 and must pay court costs of \$255.

A New Coin For A New Millennium

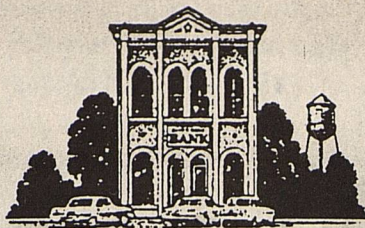
The first coin to be released in the new millennium shines money issued in past years.

The new Golden Dollar coin is as distinct as it is practical. Its most prominent feature is its easily recognizable gold color. The coin bears a delicate image of Sacagawea, the Shoshone woman who acted as an interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition, and her infant son shown bound to her back. On the other side is a soaring eagle surrounded by 17 stars, each star representing a state at the time of Lewis and Clark's journey.

Congress had an idea of the kind of features the dollar coin would include and passed a law to ensure its great appeal. The coin had to be gold in color, the obverse design had to encompass a non-living woman who made a mark in American history and the reverse side had to depict an eagle.

Its well-defined characteristics were established to offset criticisms seen in the distribution of the Susan B. Anthony coin—said to look and feel like a quarter. The recent series was made with unique qualities to represent the value and resilience of the dollar coin. The golden alloy, smooth edge and wider border make the coin noticeable by touch and sight.

The United States Mint has not issued a new coin dollar in



Tips from your Community Banker

the last 20 years. The introduction of the dollar, which will replace the Susan B. Anthony, models the construction and electromagnetic properties of the previous coin. In fact, the new coin should already be compatible with mechanical and electromagnetic coin machines currently in use.

The introduction of the new Golden Dollar is just in time, with the stock of Susan B. Anthony coins just enough to make a smooth transition to an updated currency. Because the new coin will be accepted without delay, the Mint is prepared to meet its popular demand.

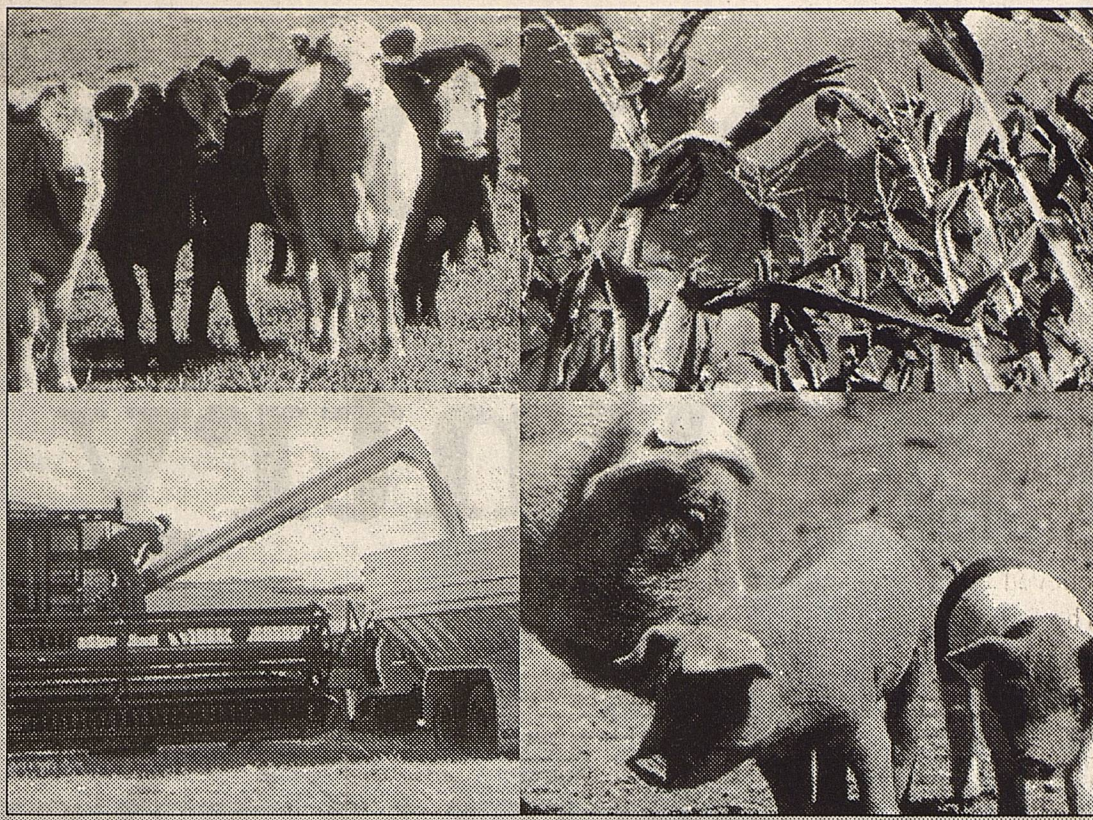
To get coins in the hands of Americans, the Mint teamed up with several known companies to aid in distribution. Cheerios, for example will include a Golden Dollar in every 2000th box of cereal. Of course, the new coins will be available through local financial institutions.

Once in the public's pocket, the Golden Dollar will offer a durable and appropriate substitute to paper money in the new millennium.

Provided as a public service by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)

Leslie Keith Jackson pled guilty to criminal mischief. He was sentenced to 72 hours in jail with credit for 71 hours served. He was fined \$250, must pay court costs of \$255, and forfeited a rifle.

Feb. 1850 Fort Merrill established on the right bank of the Nueces River about 50 miles northwest of Corpus Christi; abandoned on December 11, 1855.



Whatever The Reason...

Whatever The Season

Farming today is not just the growing season, it's a year-round, full-time occupation. In fact, before and after the season can be the busiest time for a lot of farmers. That's when decisions about repairs, new equipment and heavy maintenance usually takes place. Unfortunately, income during this down time is not always at its highest. That's where we come in. We can advance you the money with a farm loan and arrange a repayment schedule to coincide with your harvest times.

Now doesn't that sound good for you, and our community too!

Good for You
...And Our Community Too!

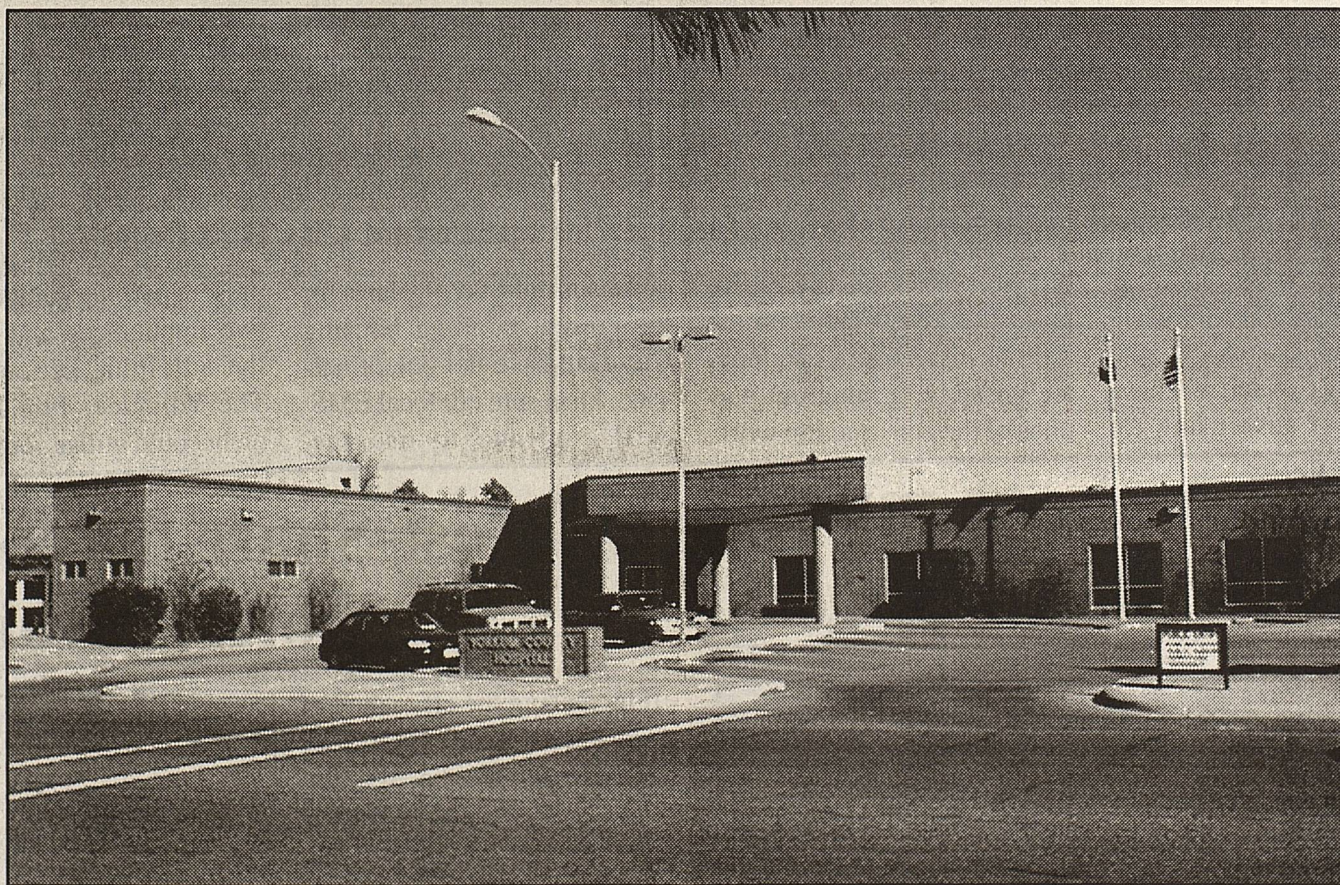
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Did You Know?



Yoakum County Hospital Is A Part of Your Community A Part of Your Life A Part of Your Security

Did you know...Yoakum County Hospital collected in excess of \$3.3 million in 1999? These dollars statistically turn over five times in Yoakum County. That is an infusion of almost \$17 million into our economy! Your support of your hospital is mutually beneficial.

Did you know...Yoakum County Hospital supports 60 employees with a payroll expense of \$2,136,185? Your hospital is important to the existence of three physicians' clinics and two pharmacies. Total employment for your

hospital and affiliated local "trickle down" is 91 employees. Your hospital is one of the major employers in the county. Every four jobs supports three more jobs in the community for a total of 159 positions in Yoakum County.

Did you know...there were 4,616 visits to our emergency room last year? Some encounters represent critical care, accidents, industrial accidents, heart attacks, strokes and other health problems. As a level IV trauma center, quality standards in training and equipment are always available.

412 Mustang Ave. - Denver City, Texas 79323 - (806) 591-2121

"It's not even our fire season yet!"

Editor's note - The following article, written by Jeanne Graham, appeared in a recent issue of the Lovington Leader. We appreciate their generosity.

"It's not even our fire season yet." Phil Jones, Tatum, NM fire chief said Friday, as he continued an assessment of acreage lost and other information on the mammoth range fire in the Tatum area last weekend. Jones said he will turn in his report as three separate fires on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. The cause of the initial blaze is still unknown.

He flew over the area with people from the State Forestry Division on Tuesday. They were in the air about an hour to look at the scope of the blaze. Out of 40,333.2 acres burned, 24,000 was state land, he notes. The estimate of length of the fire has been revised to 25 miles long, not quite as long as first believed.

The flames missed several houses in the fire path, including the Kay Nelson home a few miles north of Tatum, as well as the Cliff Keys and Pat Alston Ward houses in the McDonald area.

Fire units from all over Lea County and from Plains, Whiteface and Morton moved into the area to help contain the blazes. Saturday, about 100 people and 42 trucks, both ball park figures, were on the fire line. On Sunday the manpower was reduced somewhat without Morton and Whiteface. The estimated figures do not include private tanker trucks helping in the crisis. Jones said the Gandy and Stearns companies furnished tankers both days.

Jones says farmers and ranchers are busy replacing fencing and assessing the damage. According to information he has received, Brett Sterling will need to replace 23 miles of lost fence. He also lost eight cows and several calves. Michael Harton will have 11 miles of fence to replace, John Ingle is replacing eight miles, Homer Ingle two miles. Jones reports he has heard Cliff Keys lost several sections of grassland.

Jones is still compiling damage reports, calling the three days the largest range fire he has seen in 37 years.

Name Change Doesn't Negate Service In The South

Consolidation in the agriculture supply market is on the upswing as companies strive to capture market share and increase volume. Agro Distribution is part of that trend, and for producers in the south, that means a larger pool of resources and technical expertise.

When Cenex/Land O'Lakes Agronomy Company, a farm supply cooperative headquartered in St. Paul, Min., purchased Terra Industries' Distribution business in June 1999, it brought retail capabilities into the cooperative's mix in

the southern regions of the United States. Following that purchase, the Terra Distribution business was renamed Agro Distribution.

"All our southern retail locations will be retained as company owned facilities," said Jim Greengard, vice president, retail operations. "We purchased this business to grow our company and expand our geographic reach, since Cenex/Land O'Lakes Agronomy Company was not operating in southern states. Our strategy from day one was to reposition the northern locations where we already have member cooperatives, and we have decided to retain the southern locations as company owned retail businesses."

Under its former name, Terra

Industries supplied plant food and crop protection products to producers across southern regions of the United States.

Foremost among the company's goal is to maintain and enhance the working relationships Terra Industries employees worked hard to develop with their producer customers. The same top-notch employees local producers have learned to trust for technical expertise are still serving their southern locations in Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, the Bootheel of Missouri,

New Mexico, Tennessee and Texas.

"We have always emphasized quality service and that hasn't changed with the name of the company.

"Agro Distribution will continue to serve our customers' needs in its 137 locations today and in the future, just as we have in the past," Greengard said. "We're just doing it under a new name."

Visit your local Agro Distribution outlet to learn more about its products and services.

Attention ALL Denver City High ex-students !!

Our All - School Reunion will be held June 10, in conjunction with the Chamber of Commerce Roughneck Rodeo and Farmboy Jamboree. We desperately need your *Current Mailing Address*, and your *\$ 5 dues* for the Ex-Student Association. Please forward *BOTH* immediately to Box 1493, D.C., 79323. See you at the Reunion !!

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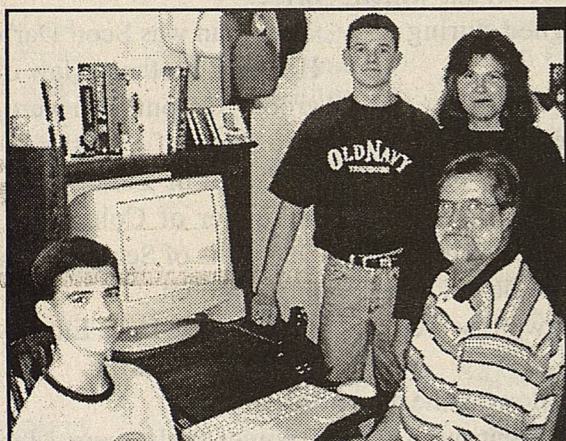
If you applied or worked during 1999 you must complete a new application for the 2000 season.

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Rex Swann



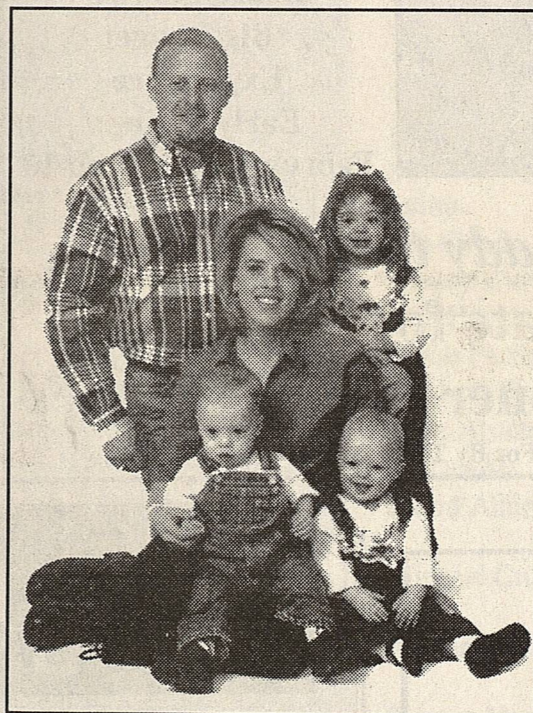
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NOTICE OF PETITION

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is in accordance with the Commission's Substantive Rule 23.49 (c)(12), a measure established as a result of Senate Bill 632 in the 73rd session of the Texas State Legislature.

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with this petition are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the company's basic local exchange customers will be assessed an additional monthly surcharge of \$2.30 for business, \$1.15 for residential and \$0.40 for Tel-Assist customers per access line. If approved by the Commission, the additional monthly surcharge will begin, on an interim basis, with the March 25, 2000 billing cycle, with an agreement to refund all or part of the charge if the Commission does not finally approve the rate.

The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the increased direct cost of service associated with all ELCS petitions placed in service since September 1, 1996. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$41,027 monthly.

If you have questions about this charge or would like further information, please call Texas ALLTEL at 1-800-452-5354.

The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 21891 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by March 10, 2000. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. For information on intervening, please call the Commission at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

ALLTEL
The power to simplify

AVISO DE PETICIÓN

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una petición oficial ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Tejas (Public Utility Commission) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar los ingresos perdidos y los costos incrementados asociados con las peticiones de Ampliación del Servicio de Llamadas Locales (ELCS) para varias de las áreas de Texas ALLTEL. Esta petición se presenta en base a la Regla Substantiva número 23.49 (c)(12) de la Comisión, una medida establecida en el Documento 632 del Senado en la 73ava sesión de la Legislatura del Estado de Tejas.

La ELCS permite que un área amplíe su alcance de llamadas locales para que incluyan una o más áreas, sólo si los clientes aprueban el pago de una tasa ELCS mediante una boleta en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos y los ingresos perdidos relacionados a esta petición son aquellos que no son recuperables mediante la tasa ELCS.

Si se aprueba la petición de Texas ALLTEL, los abonados en el área local básica de la compañía recibirán un cargo mensual adicional de \$2.30 para abonados comerciales, \$1.15 para abonados residenciales y \$0.40 para los clientes Tel-Assist por acceso de línea. Si la Comisión lo aprueba, el recargo mensual adicional comenzará provisoriamente con el ciclo de facturación del 25 de marzo del año 2000, con el acuerdo de reembolsar todo o parte del recargo si la Comisión finalmente no aprueba la tasa.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será igual a cero ya que el recargo solicitado reemplaza ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el incremento directo del costo de los servicios asociado con las peticiones ELCS implementadas a partir del 1 de septiembre de 1996. Se estima un total de ingresos perdidos y costos incrementados de a recuperar a través de este procedimiento de \$41,027 por mes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este cargo o si quisiera obtener información adicional, sírvase llamar a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

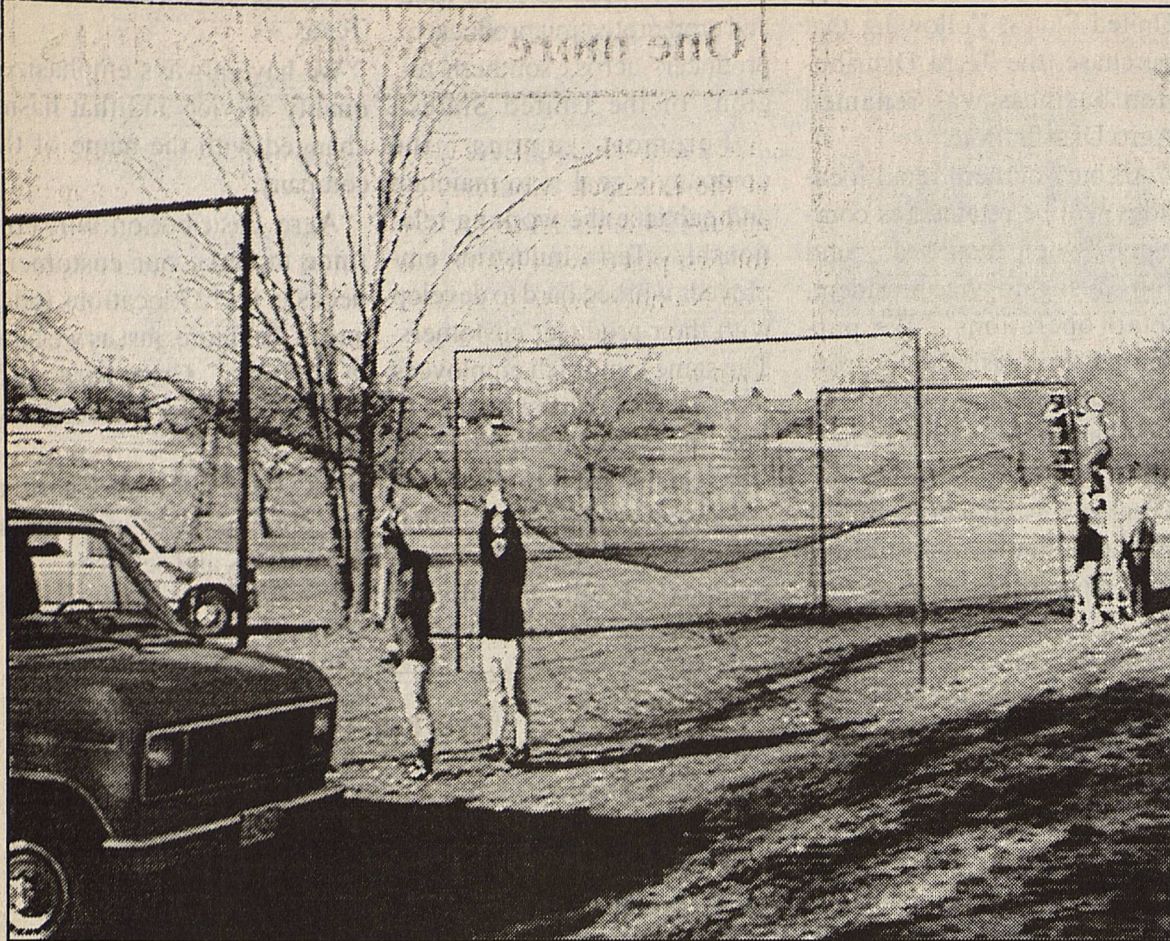
La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Número de Proyecto 21891 a este proceso. Las personas interesadas en participar o expresar algún comentario con respecto a este proceso deben notificar a la Comisión antes del 10 de marzo del año 2000. Cualquier solicitud de participación debe ser enviada por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información sobre cómo participar, llame a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Aquellos individuos con problemas de oído o de habla que tengan teléfonos teletipo pueden contactar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.

Parks and Wildlife public hearing is announced

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will hold a public meeting in Morton, Texas March 2, 2000. The meeting will be held in the Cochran County Activity Building, 201 W. Taylor at 7:00 PM. Among items to be discussed will be the opening of Mule Deer Season in Cochran County. The hearing will also address extending the current mule deer season from 5 days in Andrews, Bailey, Hockley, Lamb, Terry and Yoakum County.

Yoakum County deer hunter should be interested in the meeting after excellent results in the first two years of the mule deer season in this area. A number of excellent trophy bucks were taken near Plains, with one making Boone and Crockett honors in the non-typical rack category. It is also well known by area hunters many mule deer are regularly seen in the sandhills of northern Yoakum and Cochran County.

Time to toss out first ball is getting near



School maintenance people, assisted by a few PHS Cowboy baseballers, were busy last week rigging out a new batting cage. The teams automated pitching machine will be at one end, practice batters at the other, and the vital practice will be in a much safer environment. At the time of the photo, only a few players were taking part in unofficial workouts. They will be joined by many more teammates after the Cowboys basketball season is finished. The first baseball game here is scheduled for February 28, against Denver City JV at 5:00 PM.

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- *School Prayer Proposition
- Republican Ballot



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Political Advertisement Paid For By Terry Davis

Card of Thanks

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for your expression of sympathy during our time of sorrow. Thank you for the flowers, cards, calls, food, donations and most of all your prayers.

A special thanks to the EMS, Vista Hospice of Lubbock, the Sheriff's Department, and Dr. Bodine. We are very fortunate to live in a community of such caring people. Sincerely,

The Family of
 Barbara Massey

Wedding Vows Exchanged



Double ring wedding vows were exchanged between Charity Christine Ross and Harrol Justin Holley, both of Sealy, Saturday afternoon, Jan. 29, 2000, in Sealy Assembly Word and Worship Center in Sealy.

Rev. Russell Griffin of Sealy Assembly, and Cliff Hargrove of First Baptist Church, Sudan, officiated for the ceremony.

Parents of the bride are Harold and Jeannie Ross of Sealy.

Parents of the groom are Jerry and Gail Holley of Plains and John and Gloria Humphreys of Sudan.

The couple exchanged vows then knelt on a bench at the front of the church where they took communion as their first act as a married couple. While kneeling the parents came forward and issued the parental blessing for the couple.

On an easel was a framed copy of a marriage covenant which the couple signed during the ceremony.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the American Legion Hall. Hors d'oeuvres were served before the dinner of barbecue and the trimmings and then the bride and groom's cakes were served as dessert.

Immediately following the dinner, the dance began with the couple's traditional first dance and then approximately 350 guests were invited to join in. The couple left for their seven day honeymoon cruise to Cancun, Cozumel, and Hondu-

ras. Charity attended Southwestern Assemblies of God University.

Justin graduated from Sudan High School and South Plains College. He is currently employed in the drafting/engineering department of Stewart and Stevenson in Sealy.

The couple will reside in Kathy.

Parents of the groom hosted a rehearsal dinner at Tony's in Sealy on Friday night before the wedding.

Matron of honor was Jennifer Cross of Irving, friend of the bride. Bridesmaids were Jennifer Henson, friend of the bride, and Donice Holley, sister of the groom, both of Houston, and Michele DeLome of Kathy, friend of the bride. Junior bridesmaid was Amber Ross of Sealy, niece of the bride.

Best man was Scott Darby of Houston, brother in law of the groom. Groomsmen were Phil Vaughn of Kathy, Jim Gilbreath of Littlefield, Gary Schindler of Columbus, and Dale Ellis of Sealy, all friends of the groom.

Ushers were Dane Ellis, Heath Schmitt, and Teddy Villanueva.

Flower girls were Maegen Schindler of Columbus, and Cassie Vaughn of Kathy. The miniature bride was Madison Schindler, also of Columbus. Ring bearers were Luke and Chance McDonald of Sealy.

Petroleum Roller Coaster

Texas oil price peaks at \$37 per barrel

Index	Value
105.4	6,062.8
109.1	96.2
104.0	23,293.9

March 1981
 Texas oil price stabilizes at \$29 per barrel, rig count falls to 740.

Index	Value
106.7	6,136.3
106.5	94.0
99.9	24,862.9

March 1983
 Texas oil price falls to \$13 per barrel.

Index	Value
115.1	6,619.7
111.1	98.0
103.5	27,746.8

April 1986
 Persian Gulf Crisis pushes Texas oil price to \$31 per barrel.

Index	Value
124.3	7,154.1
121.3	104.7
106.8	34,400.0

October 1990
 Texas oil price falls to \$9 per barrel.

Index	Value
157.5	9,063.0
158.2	139.6
154.9	61,052.5

December 1998

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Cowboy Country News
 Published Weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355
 Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
 Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
 Other Zip Codes \$18 annually
 E-Mail us at ccn@hiplains.net
 ID # 017574 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

PISD Honor Roll

4th Six Weeks

Elementary

'A' Honor Roll

First Grade

Stephanie Addison
Patricia Avila
Jaxon Bean
Jaaron Bell
Forrest Booth
Chloe Carpenter
Jose Corrales
Hannah Crump
Emily Davis
Lee Dearing
Samantha Delarosa
Cody Friesen
Kevin John Gass
Guadalupe Lara
Brittanie Lira
Roberto Reyna
Hunter Welch
Joseph Williams

Second Grade

Claudia Andazola
Taylor Banfield
Jacob Brink
Natalie Butler
Brock Carter
Hannah Cotton
Brandon Craft
Jason Durham
Emila Gallegos
Brett Hawthorne
Natalie Haynes
Maria Martinez
Nathan McCravey
Jacob Neudorf
Sara Neudorf
Troy Parrish
Shyann Vantine
Katelynn Young

Third Grade

Chris Addison
Brianna Conway
Wyatt Dearing
Landon Earnest
Reyna Gallegos
Derek Garza
Yesenia Loya
Holden Welch
Chandra Carpenter
Douglas Conway
Ryan Crump
Lauren Davis
Amber Friesen
Trent Hawthorne
Lauren Hise
Zachary Ramos
John Tyson

Elementary

'A-1 B' Honor Roll

Rochelle Moya
Peter Neudorf
Chase Ortega

Second Grade

Sydney Cueto
Justin Gonzales
Abigail Hernandez
Hector Luna
Savanah Mindieta
Kenyon Powell
Victoria Valverde
Zachary Guerra
Kimber Williams
Kurt Alldredge
Joani Bell
Flor Lara

Junior High

'A' Honor Roll

Scott Addison
Caitlin Carter
Landon Craft
Jose Gallegos
Angelica Mendoza
Araceli Mendoza
Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Reagan Haynes
Skylar Keesece
B.J. Lester
Ramiro Martinez
Adam McCravey
Blake O'Quinn
Abel Ramos
Payton Bean
Evan Cain
Marlei Diaz
Cody Flores
Mayra Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Brant Huerta
Cole Krebsbach
Kerry Sisson

Seventh Grade

Stacie Alldredge
Grady McNabb
Helen Neufeld
Moriah Traweck
Nicole Culwell
Adriana Ponce
David Alldredge
Casson Curtis
Blake Parrish
Jessica Henry
Kelby Johnson
Kristian Morales
Nolan Newsom
April Wilmeth

Eighth Grade

April Wilmeth

High School

'A' Honor Roll

Sandra Gallegos
Jill Gray
Ismari Guzman
Liz Wilmeth

Ninth Grade

Jarod Newland
Annaliesa O'Quinn
Becky Wilmeth

Tenth Grade

Emily Blair
Lensey Cullins
Roxy Fuentes
Nicole Haynes
Kimbe Jones
Eric Nixon
Lesli Rowe
Elva Ruiz
Lexi Warren

Eleventh Grade

Joshua Bell
Krystle Blundell
Candace Bowers
Velvet Canada
Leticia Canon
Jessica Flores
Kristen Gray
Wendy Hernandez
Laura Morales
Nicole Newsom
Anne Palmer
Patty Ruiz
Kyle Sisson
Jason Swann
Staci Tuggle

'A-1B' Honor Roll

Staci Tuggle

Ninth Grade

Jordan Bean
Kim Martinez
Jared Bell
Allison Butler
Arasely Luna
Servando Luna
Ragan McGinty
Scott Tirrell

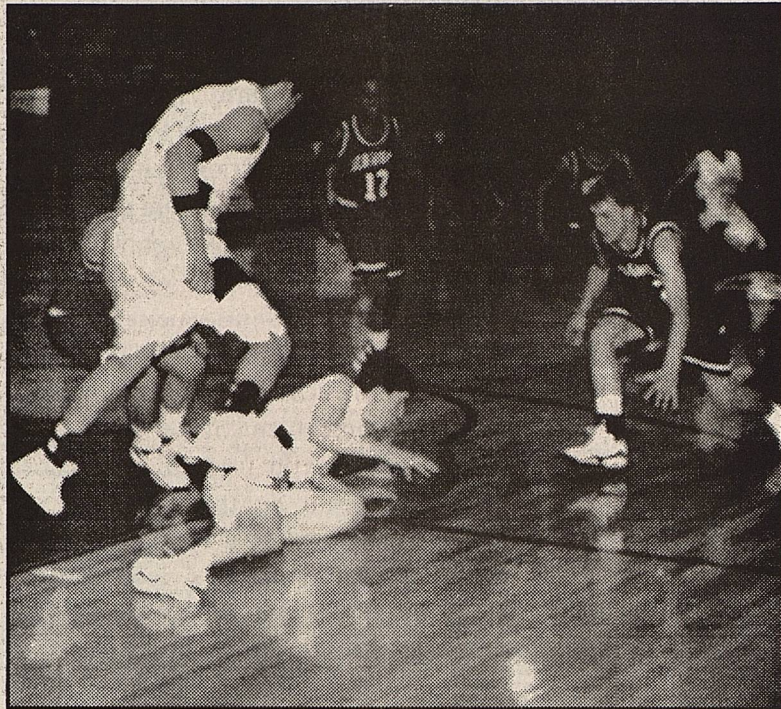
Tenth Grade

Joel Gallegos
Taylor Gray
Kari Guetersloh
Skylar Johnson
Elizabeth Casillas
Chris Cleveland
Autumn Deaton
Rustin Knight
Brenda Lozano
Fermin Luna

Roundball Scenes against Eagles



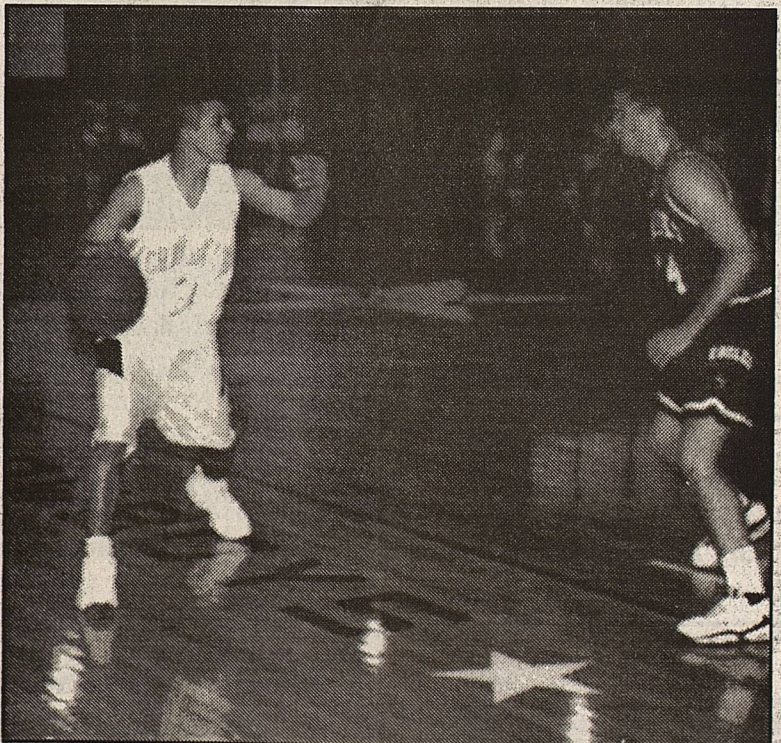
Eddy Gallegos goes high for shot



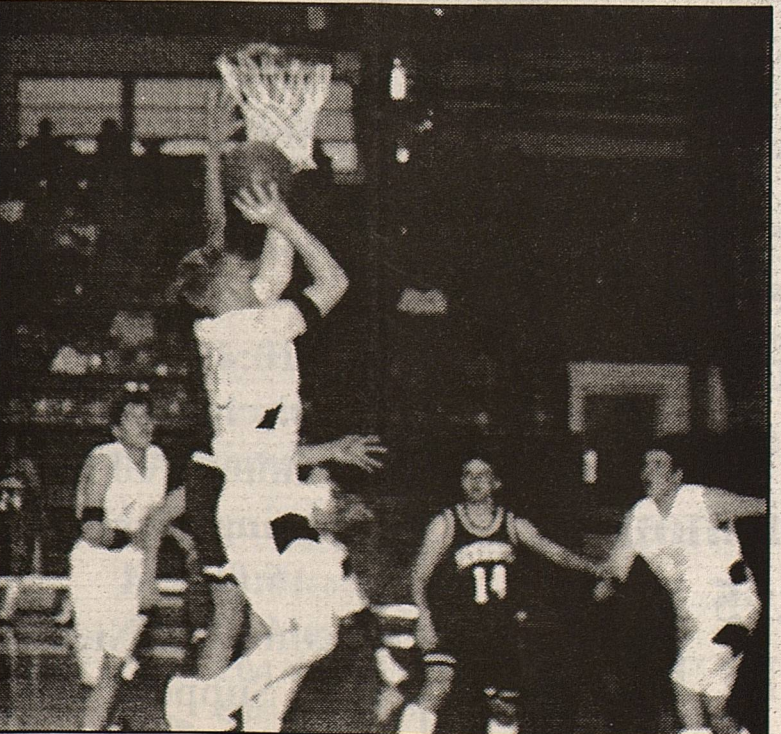
Dustin Six scrambles on floor for loose ball



Jared Bell defends against an Eagle



Adam Garcia tries to work ball inside



Brett Squyres goes high for layup

One more "Sweep" for PHS

The Plains High UIL Academic Team won Sweepstake honors at the Lubbock Monterey meeting February 12, competing against 24 other 1A to 3A schools. The team scored 200 points for first place, with Idalou having 139 points for second place. The Number Sense, Calculator, Math and Computer Science teams all took first place in the competition, and the Science team was seventh.

Individual overall performances included Kristen Gray taking first places in Number Sense, Calculator and Math, and Kyle Sisson was first in Computer Science and Computer Applications.

Individual standings by school grades included:
Freshmen - Jordan Bean, 1st Sci, 5th Cal. Liz Wilmeth, 3rd Cal, 5th Math, 7th Sci. Sophomores - Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 2nd Cal, 5th Math, 10th Sci. Chris Hansen 6th NS. Juniors - Amanda Garcia 2nd NS, 5th Cal, 3rd Math. Eric Nixon 6th NS, 7th Cal, 1st Math, 9th Sci. Seniors - Kristen Gray 1st NS, 1st Cal, 1st Math, 4th Sci, 2nd Comp Sci. Velvet Canada 7th NS, 7th Cal.

Cowboys finish regular basketball season with 59-54 win over Eagles

The Cowboys ended district basketball play last Friday by downing Seagraves 59-54. Fermin Luna and Justin Bennett shared scoring honors with 10 points each, Eddy Gallegos had 8, Patrick McGinty and Kelsey Blundell 7 each, Jared Bell and Dustin Six 6 each, Josh Bell 2, Alex Tarango 1. Justin puled down 8 rebounds, and Kelsey had 5 steals.

** Stats for the playoff game against Farwell were unavailable at press time.

Junior High District UIL Academic Contest Results

On February 10, 2000 in Stanton the Plains UIL Team received 1st place honors with 522.25 points over Post 2nd with 380.83 points, Stanton 3rd with 372.5 points, Tahoka 4th with 332.33 points, Seagraves 5th with 244.58, and Coahoma 6th with 172.5 points.

5th Grade

Casson Curtis
Ben Hayes
Blake Parrish
Michael Therwhanger
Cade Arnett

MUSIC MEMORY (11 POINTS)

6th Grade

David Alldredge
Michael Crump

4th Number Sense (8pts)
3rd Mathematics (10pts)
5th Mathematics (6pts)
2nd Number Sense (12pts)
1st Calculator (15pts)
2nd Oral Reading (12pts)
1st Oral Reading (15pts)
3rd Oral Reading (10pts)
2nd Calculator (12pts)
1st Number Sense (15pts)
1st Listening (11.25pts)
2nd Spelling (12pts)

Allison Friesen

Reagan Haynes
Skylar Keesece
B.J. Lester
Adam McCravey

3rd Oral Reading (10pts)
2nd Impromptu (12pts)
5th Science (6pts)
3rd Calculator (9pts)
4th Listening (7pts)
1st Oral Reading (15pts)
1st Ready Writing (15pts)
3rd Mathematics (10pts)
2nd Calculator (12pts)
5th Dictionary Skills (6pts)
4th Oral Reading (8pts)
1st Impromptu (15pts)

Abel Ramos

7th Grade
Payton Bean

1st Mathematics (15pts)
1st Number Sense (15pts)
1st Calculator (15pts)
6th Maps, Graphs, and Charts (4pts)
6th Modern Oratory (4pts)
3rd Impromptu (10pts)
6th Listening (2pts)
6th Spelling (4pts)
4th Mathematics (8pts)
2nd Number Sense (12pts)
1st Listening (15pts)

Evan Cain

Cody Flores

Breck Hamm

Brandon Hise

Brant Huerta

Kelby Johnson
Kristian Morales
Kerry Sisson

8th Grade

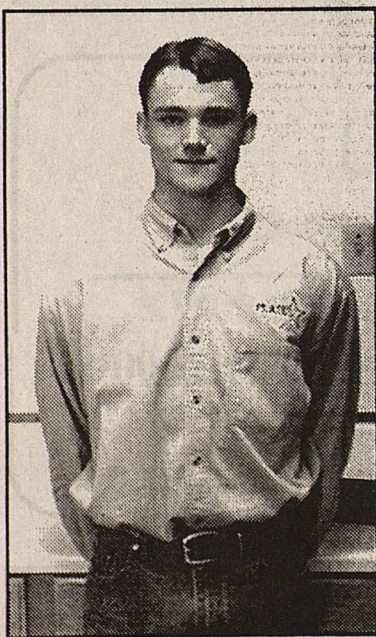
Stacie Alldredge
Sarah Martinez
Grady McNabb

Helen Neufeld
Nolan Newsom

Carmen Ponce
Manuela Villegas

5th Impromptu (6pts)
4th Calculator (8pts)
1st Number Sense (15pts)
2nd Science (11pts)
3rd Mathematics (9pts)
4th Number Sense (6pts)
1st Science (15pts)
2nd Oral Reading (12pts)
5th Oral Reading (6pts)
2nd Calculator (12pts)
5th Ready Writing (6pts)

Student of the Week



This weeks student of the week is Kyle Sisson a senior and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Sisson. Kyle was nominated by Mrs. Lusk and Mrs. Canada. Mrs. Lusk said, "Kyle is a young man who possesses many diverse talents. He is also a very intelligent, creative, and adaptable young man. He is a strong leader in and out of the classroom who sets very high standards and goals for himself and those around him. He also possesses a great amount of self discipline and desire to succeed in everything he tries. He is very trustworthy, honest, dependable, and willing to go against the grain of his peers to stand up for what he believes. Mrs. Canada said, "Going to Austin two years in a row

is no easy feat. Two years ago I told this student if he did not go to work on his typing skills the two young ladies competing in the same contest were going to beat him. I handed him a keyboarding program and said use this for 10 minutes everyday. I assume he did because his typing speed improved and he and one of the young ladies advanced to state in Computer Applications his sophomore year. He placed fourth last year at state in Computer Applications.

Kyle excels in the classroom, in sports, and in music. He has written a very special song, "Time To Fly," for the Class of 2000."

Cubs To Hold Car Races!

Cub Scout Pack #778 will hold their pine wood derby car races at 9:30 A.M. Saturday, February 26, at the Scout Hut. (Lion's Club meeting place) They will have a concession stand serving breakfast burritos, drinks and other items. Everyone is invited to come see the boys cars and watch the races. Special thanks to Lowe's for the generous donation to purchase Pack #778 a pinewood derby car track.

Lifelines & Styles

Engagement Announced



Mr. and Mrs. Larry Bartley of Brownwood would like to announce the engagement of their daughter, Brooke Ann to Phillip Jay Rushing, son of Morris and Debbie Rushing of Plains. The bride elect is the granddaughter of Bob and Dorothy Morre from Early, Texas and Wannell Tucker of Brownwood, Texas.

Miss Bartley will receive her degree in Early Child Development from Texas Tech University in December, 2000. The prospective groom is the grandson of John Holly, Gary and Holly Dyer, and Polly and Betty Rushing, all of Plains. Mr. Rushing is a 1998 graduate of Texas Tech University with degrees in both Mathematics and History and is currently the Regional Auditing Supervisor for U.S. AG Insurance in Lubbock. The couple will be united in marriage at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, 2000, in the First United Methodist Church at Brownwood. A reception will follow at the newly renovated and restored Train Depot in Brownwood. The couple would like to extend an invitation to their many friends and family.

Bridal Shower honoring Miss April Day Bride Elect of A.J. Deardorff

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2000 10-11:30 am.
in the home of Mrs. Jo Ann Barron

202 1st Street

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Sunday School - 9:45 A.M.
Morning Worship - 10:45 A.M.
You'll Be Glad You Did!

Garden Club Meets

The Plains Garden Club met Tuesday February 15, 2000 in the clubroom for their monthly meeting.

Debbie Morphis, president presided over the meeting. Treasure report was given by Dean Richardson, secretary.

The District Meeting will be March 12 in Amarillo.

Our annual garage and plant sale will be held April 15 at 9:00 am.

Velma Dearing gave an informative program on "New Plants Available" pamphlets on wildflowers of Texas were distributed to members.

Hint: It is time to plant cool season annual plants, including pansies, snapdragons, English daisies, larkspurs, poppies, alyssum and calendulas.

The next meeting will be March 21 in the clubroom.

Those attending were: Debbie Morphis, Ruby Sellers, Kay Cannon, Mary Lou Parks, Dean Richardson, Velma Dearing and Diane Brunson.

Lester On Dean's List

Jacob Lester, a PHS graduate and son of Jan and Bruce Lester, recently received the following letter:

Dear Jacob,

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the School of Allied Health, I congratulate you on your academic excellence that has placed you on the School of Allied Health Dean's Honor List. Your grade point average in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science for the Fall Semester 1999 is outstanding.

Students like you are a continuing source of pride to the School of Allied Health. I wish you the very best as you complete your studies in Clinical Laboratory Science and again congratulate you on your academic success.

Sincerely yours,
Paul P. Brooke, Jr.
Ph.D., FACHE, Professor and Dean

There is a fountain of youth; it is your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of the people you love.

TSA MO GA hears about Social Security

Lisa Johnston, a claims representative in the Lubbock Social Security office, was guest speaker at the TSA MO GA meeting February 14, 2000. She told members The Social Security Administration originated in 1935 during President Roosevelt's administration, with future recipients starting to make contributions to the fund in 1937.

145 million Americans now pay into the system, with some 44 million citizens drawing some form of benefits. Ms. Johnston told the audience Social Security was never planned as a retirement program, but was designed to supplement citizens savings and investments.

Federation Counselor Wilma Powell reminded members of the Federation Caprock Convention will be held March 25 at the Holiday Inn in Lubbock Plaza. The Club will honor the Plains High School Class of 2000 with a dinner and program February 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Community Building.

Dean's List Student



Ace Williams, an engineering student at Texas Tech University, was recently named to the Dean's Honor List. Ace is the son of Nita Williams, Lubbock, and Don Williams, Hart, NM. Grandparents are Alfred and Faye Bearden, of Plains and Claudine Williams, of Welch.

County Librarian Attends West Texas Library Systems' Meeting



L-R. Mary Jo St. Romain, Opal Roberts, Wilma Powell

Opal Roberts, Yoakum County Librarian, recently attended the West Texas Library Systems' meeting in Lubbock, Texas at the George Mahon Library. Also attending the meeting was the library's new Lay Representative, Mary Jo St. Romain, and the Alternate Lay Representative, Wilma Powell.

Yoakum County Library Filmtime

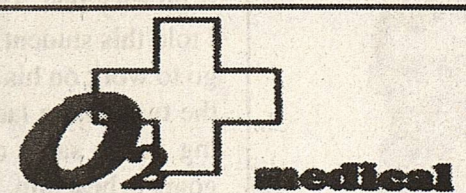
At Filmtime at the Yoakum County Library on Wednesday, February 16, 2000, we had a wonderful party for Valentine's Day. The mothers brought punch and decorated cupcakes and cookies as well as balloons for each child. We watched the movies 'Franklin's Valentines' and 'Little LuLu's Valentine's Day'.

Our librarian, Opal Roberts, read two books 'Winter Lullaby' and 'What baby Wants'. The children attending Filmtime were: Bailey Rios, Sieanna, Marisol and Percy Sosa, Marina Corrales, Lucas Hernandez, Clayton Gass, Whitney Davis, Jonathan Davis, Bethany Mares and Darian Gonzales.

Card of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for their acts of kindness when I had surgery. Thanks for cards, flowers, call's, visit's, food and prayers.

Bobbie Payne



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9:30 AM

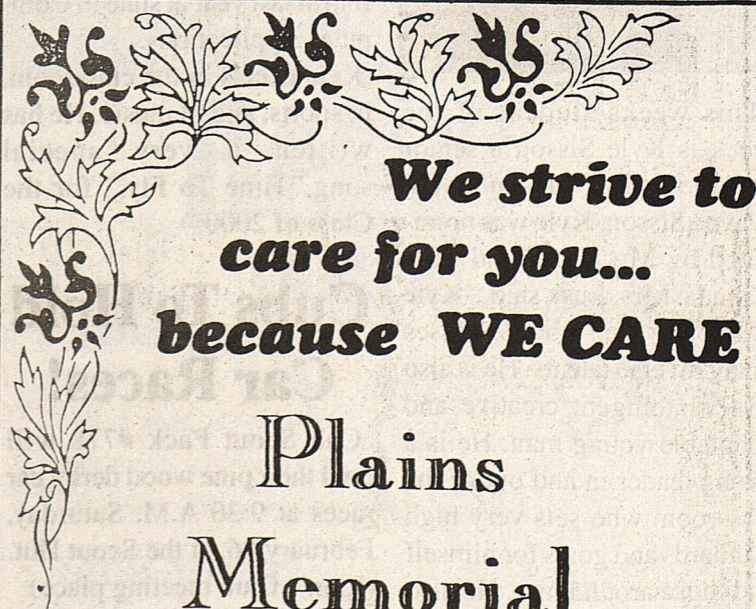
Morning Worship
10:45 AM

Discipleship
Training 5:00 PM

Evening Worship
6:00 PM

Wednesday Night
Supper

5:30 - 6:30 PM



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Turner and State Line Family Community Education Club Members Plan Annual Meeting

Velma Dearing a member of the Turner FCE Club, Sidney Murphey a member of the State Line FCE Club, and JoBeth Cromer County Extension Agent for Family and Consumer Sciences recently attended a planning session for the District 2 Family Community Education Clubs Annual Meeting. FCE Clubs are sponsored by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and their primary purpose is to provide means for members to acquire information and develop skills for making their homes, com-

munity, and country a better place to live.

The annual meeting will be held on March 30th at Lamesa, and it will bring together FCE members from across the South Plains District. Both Velma Dearing and Sidney Murphey will be assisting with the educational programs that will be conducted for FCE members. For more information on the Family and Community Education Clubs in Yoakum County, contact the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at 456-2263.

Plains Students At SPC Named To Who's Who Among Students

Jason Robertson and Lyndi Rowe from Plains are among 56 students from South Plains College who have been named to the 2000 edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges. Selection is based on academic achievement, service to the community, leadership in extracurricular activities and potential for continued success. They join students from more than 2,300 institutions of higher learning in all 50 states. Outstanding students have been

honored in the annual directory since 1966.

"It is important we recognize our students for their outstanding achievements and hard work," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "It is also helpful for our students to receive recognition for what they have accomplished. Honors like this help stimulate further accomplishments and commitment."

Students represent the SPC Levelland and Lubbock campuses.

Leticia Canon A Tools For Tomorrow Winner

Chicago-Leticia Canon, a senior studying architectural design at Plains High School, has been named a winner in the 1999-2000 Tools for Tomorrow All American Vocational Student Awards (AAVSA) program.

Leticia will receive a personalized award certificate and a \$100 gift certificate redeemable at any Coast to Coast, ServiStae or True Value store. Canon is one

of more than 1,500 vocational technical students from across the country who were chosen to receive this honor.

Since its inception in 1992, Tools for Tomorrow has honored nearly 16,000 students with more than \$1.85 million in scholarships and awards. This year, nearly \$200,000 will be awarded to outstanding vocational technical students in local communities.

Basic Jail School Offered

An 80 hour course in Basic Jail School is scheduled March 20-24 and March 27-31 at South Plains College in Levelland. Classes will meet 8 am. - 4 pm. in the SPC Petroleum Technology Law Enforcement Building, room 107. Cost is \$90, which does not include a state testing fee. Registration deadline is March 10. The course is designed to help

prepare Texas jailers and guards of county jails for the state certification jail test.

ics will include basic jail operations, human relations, booking procedures, inmate maintenance and control, investigations, documents, conditions and liabilities.

information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 894-9611, ext. 2291.

★ It's Your BUSINESS

GOOD MORNING UNCLE SAM
By: Robert Howden

It's 6:00 in the morning and you reach for the snooze button. As you wipe the sleep from your eyes, you begin to focus more clearly and think of the day ahead. But as you roll over, about to make the jump, you notice a tall lanky man with an oversized top hat, wearing an amazing red, white and blue outfit sitting at the desk of your home office.

Life could be stranger than fiction when thousands of Texans say good morning to Uncle Sam. That's if the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (that's OSHA to those of us in the business community... say it with a shudder, like you'd say IRS) has its way.

We live in an amazing time. Technology has changed our lives in ways that people one generation ago could not have imagined. And one of the many advantages of the Internet (as well as telephones and fax machines, of course) is that more and more people are able to work out of their homes. The benefits include more time with family and less time commuting (and thus less traffic!), just to name a few.

Considering all the benefits, I was disappointed this month to see that OSHA looks at American homes as being hazardous to workers' health. And OSHA bureaucrats - always eager to extend the ever-heavier hand of government - are licking their chops to put their imprint on our homes.

Early this month, OSHA decreed that employers who let their employees work at home are liable for making sure the home workplaces comply with all federal health and safety labor regulations. If you think about it, it's not only unfair, it's nearly impossible. What happens when a parent accidentally trips on a child's toy fire engine and sprains an ankle while walking to his bedroom computer to work on a business project? According to the OSHA decision, the employer is responsible for the injury.

It's a ridiculous idea. The increased liability for employers would surely serve as a disincentive to allow employees to work in their home. And who wants to live and work in a home that has been changed to meet industrial standards anyway? Imagine lighted exit signs at your doorways, fire extinguisher next to your desk!

The good news is that OSHA backpedaled on this decision just one day after they announced it. Public outcry, particularly from the small business community, came fast and loud. Labor Secretary Alexis Herman quickly rescinded the decision... but left OSHA's policy on home workplace safety unclear. It looks like the home office is safe from the hand of government for today, but we should still stay tuned for the next episode: OSHA will come up with some sort of policy at some point.

All of this is a symptom of a much larger problem - Washington, DC, still has plenty of people who think that they can and should use the power of government to erase all bad things from our world. But life isn't perfect, and more government tends to muck things up rather than make things easier - especially when it comes to running a business.

Uncle Sam doesn't need to come into your business or your home to make everything safe and fair and perfect. We know this instinctively, as citizens of a free country. But sometimes we do have to remind the folks in Washington, DC, of this simple truth. So keep an eye out, especially if you are a business owner or a telecommuter. And if you don't like the way things are going, if you feel like Uncle Sam is breathing down your neck, don't be afraid to voice your concerns. It does make a difference. It did make OSHA back off - if only one step - this time around.

Robert Howden is executive director of the National Federation of Independent Business/Texas, representing 32,000 small business owners across the state. For more information call 1-800-NFIB-NOW or click on www.nfibonline.com.

A Call To Arms: The Surgeon General's Report On Mental Illness

by Joe Lovelace

Recently the U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher, put out a report that is a "call to arms" for Americans to recognize the prevalence of serious mental illness and the devastation it causes to individuals and families.

Four of the 10 leading causes of disability for persons five years old and older are mental disorders. Among developed nations, including the U.S., major depression is the leading cause of disability.

Suicide, the last stage of many illnesses, results in a 50 percent higher number of deaths in the U.S. than does homicide.

Yet, many fail to recognize that a sick brain is a medical condition. Worse, many who have mental disorders do not realize that medical treatment exists and that it works.

The Surgeon General's report provides an opportunity to look at attitudes toward mental illness. And, it is not a pretty picture. Many still hold to the old myths and stigma about mental illness. For too long the fear of mental illness has resulted in lost opportunities for treatment and recovery.

Congress declared the 1990's the Decade of the Brain. In that 10 years much has been learned through research about basic neuroscience, behavioral science and genetics and about the complex workings of the brain.

This is significant because one in five Americans is affected with mental illness each year. These illnesses appear as depression, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, to name a few.

The Surgeon General's report declares that mental disorders are not "character flaws" but legitimate biological illnesses that respond to specific treatments-especially new generation medications.

Unfortunately the research and development to bring these medications to the market makes them expensive. In private sector health plans, medications for the treatment of mental illness have become the number one drug expense. Despite the added cost of the

new medications, a recent National Bureau of Economic Research study demonstrated that the total cost of treating depression, for example, decreased over 10 percent since new medications have been on the market. And this study did not take into account the benefit to the individual, family and society because of the increased functioning level of a patient.

There is overwhelming evidence that successful treatment decreases disability, improves work performance and prevents premature deaths from suicide.

In public health programs, increased costs of new generation medications have caused some serious budget problems. Last year, Texas lawmakers heard the pleas for increased funding for mental health services and appropriated more than \$70 million to help Texans access these new medications.

Lawmakers came to believe that patients and their families benefit from these new medications and their success is helping remove the stigma from those who seek treatment.

That's good news for Texans. The Surgeon General's report lays down a challenge to the nation, to Texas communities to health and social service agencies, to policy makers, legislators, employers and to individuals.

It is a "call to arms" to firmly establish mental health as a cornerstone of health and to place the treatment of mental illness in the mainstream of health care services.

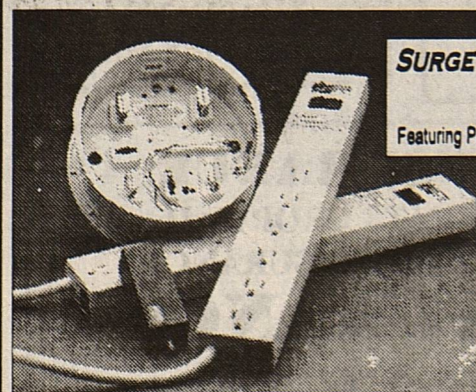
Mr. Joe Lovelace is a Dallas Attorney, Vice President of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill in Texas and the father of a 28 year old son who has schizophrenia.

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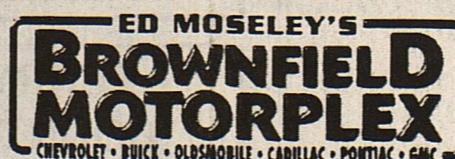


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From The Hack

What to expect in the remaining time before all the state Primary Elections cease: Utter chaos. Ceaseless rhetoric. Mud slinging requiring reinforcement supplies from the bottom of the Mississippi. Endless accusations. Endless denials. TV and movie stars will slug away for their candidates. 47,547 editorial columns will be written about the Democrat and Republican candidates credentials, accomplishments, Sunday school attendance records, eating habits, Boy Scout achievement medals, and before it's over, possibly their irregularity records. Fascinating, isn't it?

Republicans McCain and George W. duked it out in New Hampshire, Bush suffered a bloody nose. The South Carolina prelim Primary found Bush delivering enough solid body punches to send McCain reeling. Think any of them are battle scarred yet? No way.

Bush yells, "This is the start of my roll, it could be downhill all the way here on out. McCain rebuts, "No way, it's opportunity time for me, I'm going to show him for what he

really is."

Before all the preliminary bouts are over, I can assure you of only one thing, and that is definitely not the outcome of this Presidential campaign - it is too early to call, and before it is written in stone and passed down from the mountain, we will all BE SICK TO DEATH OF IT. I will gladly take odds of that happening.

So said, don't a single one of you 13 readers out there call and tell me I am biased in this business.

What about the Democrat side of the matter? Well, what about it? I'm sorry, to me it is about as exciting as watching mold form. Gore has official, Washington experience. So does Bradley. Both have written books not many buy. Both can speak to an audience and draw equal yawns. Both (Truly) are good men. Both exaggerate their governmental contributions and accomplishments (Oops, ALL politicians are guilty here). Both men are, by current standards, imminently qualified for the job of President. I may be absolutely wrong about this, but it seems to me, while Gore may be the present front runner, Bradley may have a hole card he will play - he wasn't old Bill's number two man.

Since 1953, I have voted in every presidential election, and if my faltering memory serves me correctly, I have voted Republican about as many times as Democrat.. on the other hand,

that means I have voted Democrat about as many times as Republican. This must prove something. I'm not sure what. I do know, all this should make you WANT TO VOTE!

True Story: Following last week's column on 'downing male' jokes, I was stopped in four local establishments and absolutely gushed over by femme types congratulating me for the bit poking fun at us dumb males. One well past her prime type gushed, "Oh, Lord, it was so good to see you guys get it in print... I would give anything if old Festus was still around so I could have read it to him while he was slurping his coffee out of the saucer!"

Speaking on that subject, your faithful servants at City Hall have been bombarding our E-Mail with stuff about the same subject. While I have always been a bit suspicious about Administrator Brunson, something tells me this doesn't originate from his computer; " Courses available for males to study for BECOMING A REAL MAN:

M 101 - You, too, can do house work.

M102 - Understanding the female response to getting home

at 4 AM smelling of strong drink.

M 103 -Understanding your incompetence.

M 104 - How to put the toilet seat down.

M 105 - How to stay awake after sex.

M 106 -You CAN fall asleep without it!

M 107 - If you're REALLY awake and ALIVE in the morning, take a cold shower.

M 108 - Learning burping , belching and other disgusting noises discreetly.

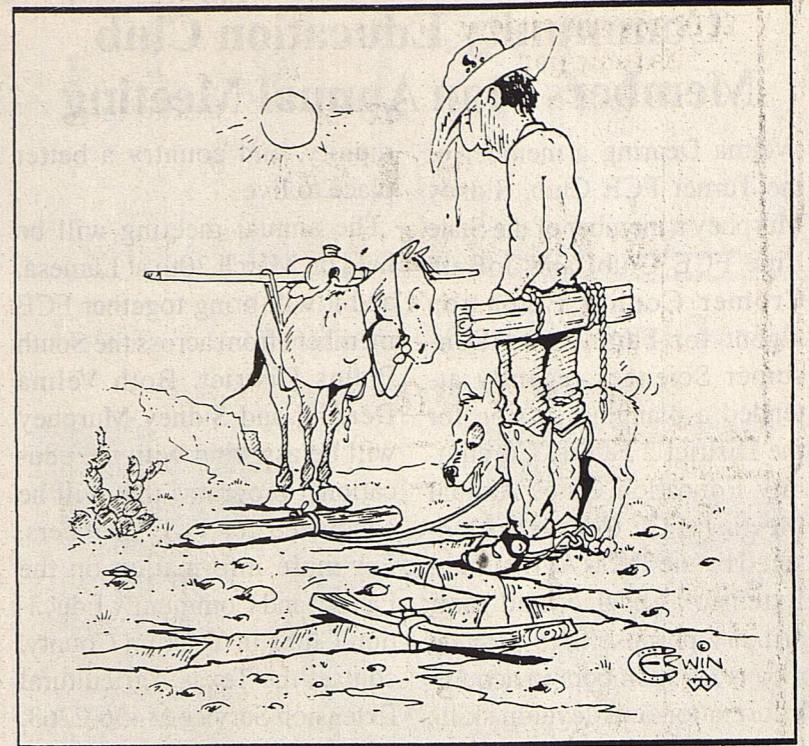
M 109 - Understanding your incompetence.

M 110 - A graduating cram course - Appear to be listening, just say ' Yes, Dear', hug your mother in law, and It's much cheaper to keep her.

Notice to Creditors of Estate of John Brit Clare, Jr., Deceased
Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of John Brit Clare, Jr., Deceased, were issued on the 11th day of February, 2000, in Cause No. 1364 pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to Gary Dane Clare, as Independent Executor. His address is: Route 5, Box 17 Brownfield, Texas 79316
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 17th day of February, 2000.
Gary Dane Clare, Independent Executor of the Estate of John Brit Clare, Jr.

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