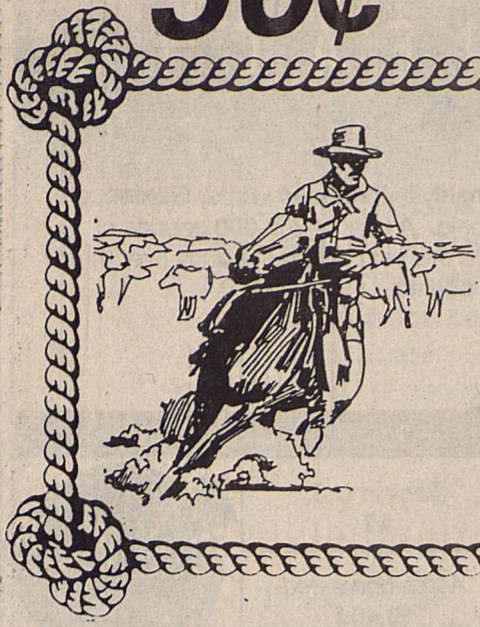


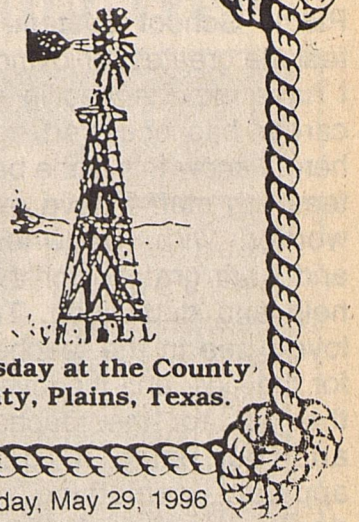
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# Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume 2, Issue 38, Wednesday, May 29, 1996

## Spinach Harvest Complete Severe heat, dry winds hurt yield



Harvesting of the fresh spinach crop on the Brad Palmer farm just north of New Tex was completed this weekend. The sixty irrigated acre crop was originally planted on March 5, and the extremely hot, windy conditions reduced it's size to 45 acres.

A contract harvest crew from Arkansas started cutting the spinach May 19. Because of the moisture content of the vegetable, cutting doesn't start until

about 7 PM. The crew is able to cut only three semi-truck loads of spinach, which must be 'tromped down' in the trucks. The trucks must all reach Muskogee by 8 AM the following morning for processing and canning that same day. The harvest produced an average 75-80 loaded tons of spinach each evening.

At the cannery, one ton of fresh spinach will yield approximately 100 cases,

or 2400 number 303 cans of product.

Palmer and foreman Steve Jones estimated prior to the final cutting the field would average about 9 to 10 tons of spinach per acre. Under better weather conditions, two cuttings are normally possible, but the severe drouth and hot, dry winds were on the verge of burning the leaves to an unacceptable level.

## Elementary Principal Haragan To Leave

Accepts Top School Spot In Grady, NM.

Plains Independent School District's loss is the Grady system's gain. Joel Haragan, Principal of Plains Elementary since June, 1994, was recently named Superintendent of Schools in Grady, New Mexico.

Interviewed on the next to last day of school last week, also marking his 40th birthday, Haragan said the Grady School System was considerably smaller than Plains', but his acceptance of the post was a positive upward step in his educational career.

He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University, and did his post graduate work there and at Midwestern University, Wichita Falls, and earned his Master's Degree and Mid Management Certification from Sul Ross University in 1992.

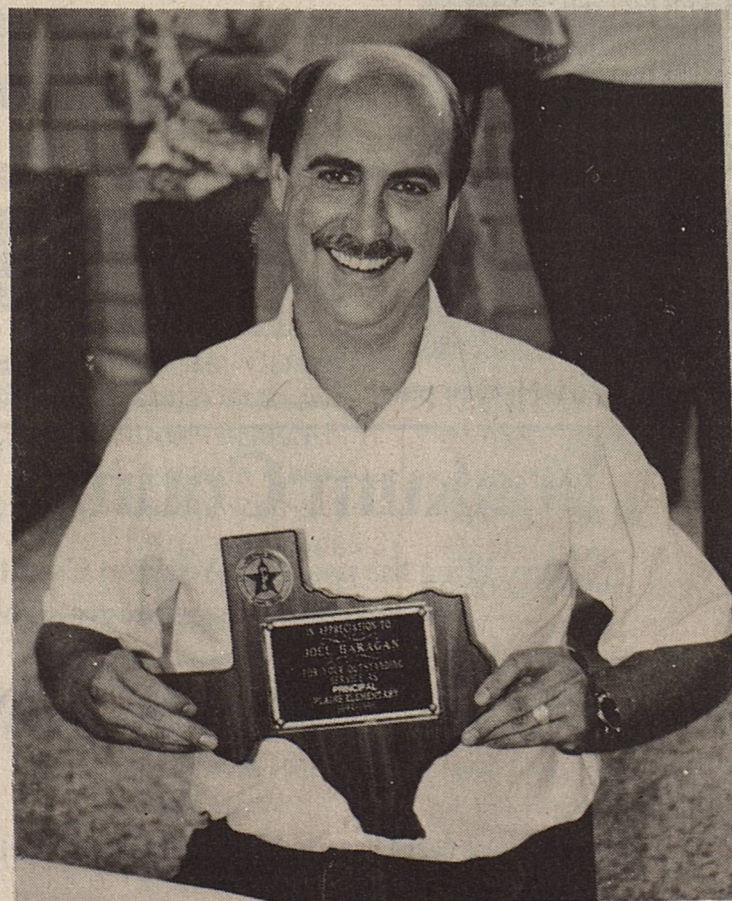
Haragan has 14 years experience as an educator and coach. Prior to coming here, he was in Knox City, Texas, five years as elementary Principal, and two years as a teacher and

girls basketball coach. Other teaching and coaching experience included two years at Ropesville as Girls basketball coach, one year at Portales, NM as assistant football coach, and two years at Stanton as an

assistant football coach. His teaching fields include science, biology, algebra, and social studies.

Haragan admitted his regrets about leaving the

Turn to page 2,  
**'Haragan'**



## GALA FINAL NIGHT FOR PHS SENIORS

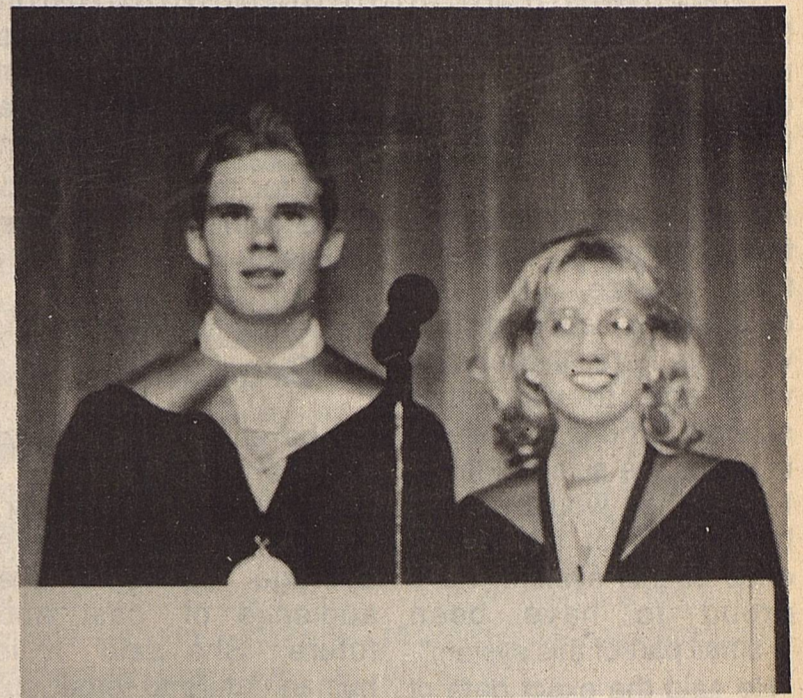
Community, Out Of Towners, Crowd Auditorium

Friday night, May 24, 1996, 'THE NIGHT' graduating Seniors of PHS had been waiting for, twelve long years. Prior to the Cap & Gown ceremonies, the speeches by the Valedictorian and Salutatorian, the awarding of diplomas, the class began to assemble in the ante-hall of the auditorium, some arriving already donned in Cap & Gown, others clutching their attire to them in the increasingly stronger wind.

The scene in the small assembly room was one of barely controlled chaos; Administrators were trying to get the group in alphabetical order, parents were frantically trying to take snapshots of offsprings, and all were trying to listen to prompters telling them when to listen for the lineup order, prompted by Cynthia Blair's processional introduction.

The 1996 graduation ceremonies marked a major milestone in the lives, careers and futures of 29 Seniors receiving their final diploma.

The Invocation to the ceremonies was delivered by Kelly McGinty, followed by Superintendent Pete Simmons delivering a welcoming address.



Valedictorian Jeremy Dearing, Salutatorian Valerie Blair prior to graduation ceremony.

The Baccalaureate address was delivered by Pastor Rick Doyle, Plains First United Methodist Church.

The 1996 Class Valedictorian, Jeremy Dearing, son of Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Dearing, with a final grade average of 97.89, and grade average of 9.05, addressed the audience. In speaking of his and his classmates school experience, he said, "Even though we may not have always succeeded, we did learn from our mistakes. We had

to face them, accept them, and try to never make that mistake a second time. 'Learn From Your Mistakes', yes we did"

He also said, "A good education is not just a tool to help you get a good job, but a tool to help have a fulfilling life. It is said 'Education makes people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; Easy to govern but impossible to enslave'. With the education we have acquired none of us

Turn to page 2,

**'Graduation'**

## Memorial Day Observed For Deceased Veterans

The local American Legion Auxiliary Club decorated the final resting place of deceased area veterans by placing memorial poppies on their headstones at the Cemetery here. Mary Jo St. Romain, Aux. President, reports the poppy placement is an annual project.

Another gesture of appreciation to the deceased vets came from a local family requesting anonymity. They placed miniature American Flags on the headstones of the known veterans. A drive through the Cemetery on Memorial Day indicates over 60 service veterans are buried at the local facility.

## Building an Ark not necessary, but we did get a rain!

Is the very real, very serious drouth broken? Probably not, but it did sustain a small dent last Saturday afternoon and evening, when a series of thunder storms advanced over most of the county from New Mexico.

Most city residents reported one to one and a half inches of moisture in their gauges. Apparently the rain (and hail) were heaviest in the southern part of the county. The County Golf Course received a desperately needed good rain, and pea to marble sized hail which fell for at least 20 minutes.

Darryl Mc Nabb reported 1.7 inches at his farm west of town, Morris Rushing had 1.5 inches a few miles further west, while to the north, amounts dropped off to .6 and one inch amounts. John Dale Curtis had two inches observed in three gauges, and Darryl Lowrey reported 2.5 inches on one farm north and east of town.

Most cotton producers reported the hail in the area certainly didn't help the crop, but apparently no great damage was done to the young plants in most locations. In the Denver City area, particularly west and south of there, the rain and hail was much heavier, and reports indicate large scale damage to crops in the area.

A few more timely rains in the near future would certainly go a long way in suppressing our farmers long faces and doom and gloom talk. In many areas, the longed for moisture will enable many dry land

Please turn to page 4, "Rain Comes!"

Cont'd from page 1,  
**'Haragan'**

Plains School System. "I feel the greatest enjoyment I have experienced in my career has occurred right here. I know this is the best teaching staff I have ever worked with, anywhere, and I am grateful for their help and dedication. The love I see in the teachers for the kids, and the love in the kids for the teachers and our staff is quite apparent, something you don't always find in elementary schools".

He added "I've enjoyed a great relationship with all the Administrators. I've learned that stressful and trying times create a strong bonding if people want to work together."

Haragan was proud of Plains Elementary School receiving an Exemplary Campus award recently for its students academic improvements and achievements. "I sometimes think the community may not fully realize what an outstanding school district we have here. If everyone were able to visit other schools around the state, in towns the size of Plains, I think they would have a better feel for the excellence of this system. I am proud to have been a small part of this system".

He said the exact date of his move to Grady depended on when the home furnished by the system there is available. He also reported on his wedding plans. He and Pride Weeks, a former teacher here, are to marry June 1.

Early Friday morning, the Board of Trustees, in a special called meeting, reluctantly voted to formally accept Haragan's letter of resignation.

Board President Brad Palmer, in an interview, expressed his and the entire Board's regrets at losing Haragan. "We hate to see him leave, for we know what a fine job he has done in our Elementary school, and we are aware

of the excellent relationship he's had with the faculty, staff and students".

Superintendent Pete Simmons echoed those sentiments, and said there was a special relationship between the Principal and his young students, and added, "I suppose the highest form of compliment I can pay Joel is to say I hope we can find a replacement with the same dedication, demeanor and personality he exhibited".

Palmer and Simmons said the search for a replacement Elementary Principal would begin immediately, and Palmer cautioned, "We are not going to rush our search process. We want to assure ourselves we make the right choice, and we are going to look at applicants diligently as possible". Both men agreed they hoped a replacement could be on board for the initial startup of the coming school year on July 8.

Cont'd from page 1,  
**'Graduation'**

will be enslaved, but lead others to this ideal".

Salutarian Valerie Blair, with a 95.01 grade average, spoke to the audience of 'past and future'. She said "It is human nature to forget our past and focus on the future, but we should reflect on our past experiences to direct our future".

She continued, "Dream of the future, and follow your dreams. The best advice I can give you is to be happy. You can do this by learning to love life and love people. I read a quote recently that said, 'The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything. They just MAKE THE BEST of everything'".



## School Employees, Teachers Awarded For Service

One hundred twenty PISD teachers, administrators, staff and their spouses gathered last Saturday for the final event of the 1995-96 school year, a luncheon honoring 15 individuals with longevity awards.

Those receiving watches with the PHS Cowboy logo for five years service included Gloria Covarrubia, Eva Flores, Billie Howell, Loretta O'Neill, Malisa Rogers and Linda Simmons.

Ten years service pins were presented to Michael Barrientes and Elouise St. Romain. Receiving 15 year pins were Robert Canon, Paula Cullins and Lela Warren. Larry McMinn received the only 20 year pin, and veteran Kenneth Engle was awarded a 30 year service pin.

Special honors were paid to retired Jack Baucom, 36 years service as a teacher and coach, and his also retired wife Karen, 32 years a teacher.

Superintendent Pete Simmons performed a humorous "Roast" of departing Principal Joel Haragan. He characterized Haragan as the perfect subject for a Roast, "Six feet, seven inches tall, skinny, mostly bald, and

ugly as sin!" Among many gag gifts presented to Haragan were a roll of toilet tissue, loaned to him until the Grady, NM school system could afford one. Haragan replied he would be happy to return it when he was thru using it. He also received a huge ring of keys, "for all the school buses the Grady schools don't have", a 'Gentlemen' sign, since New Mexico has no gentlemen, and a sign reading 'Bored', for the Board of Trustees the soon to be Grady Superintendent will work with. In a serious moment, he was also presented with a plaque honoring his work as Elementary Principal here, and a standing ovation by the crowd.

It was noted by Simmons the long line of hungry school staffers lined up for catfish and chicken, catered by Riversmith's, was led by teachers B.J. Doyle and Kenneth Engle. He said, "It doesn't surprise me Doyle led the crowd, she's still young and fleet of foot, but I was amazed a guy old as Engle could beat everyone else to the head of the line!"

A fitting finale to another very successful PISD school year.

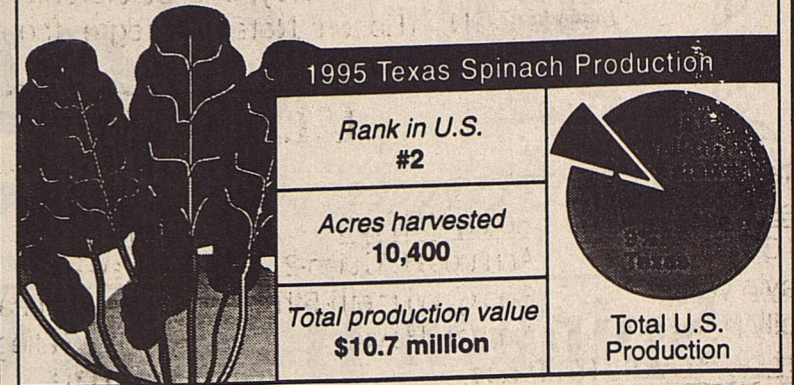


Lela Warren and Paula Cullins were pleased with their pins!

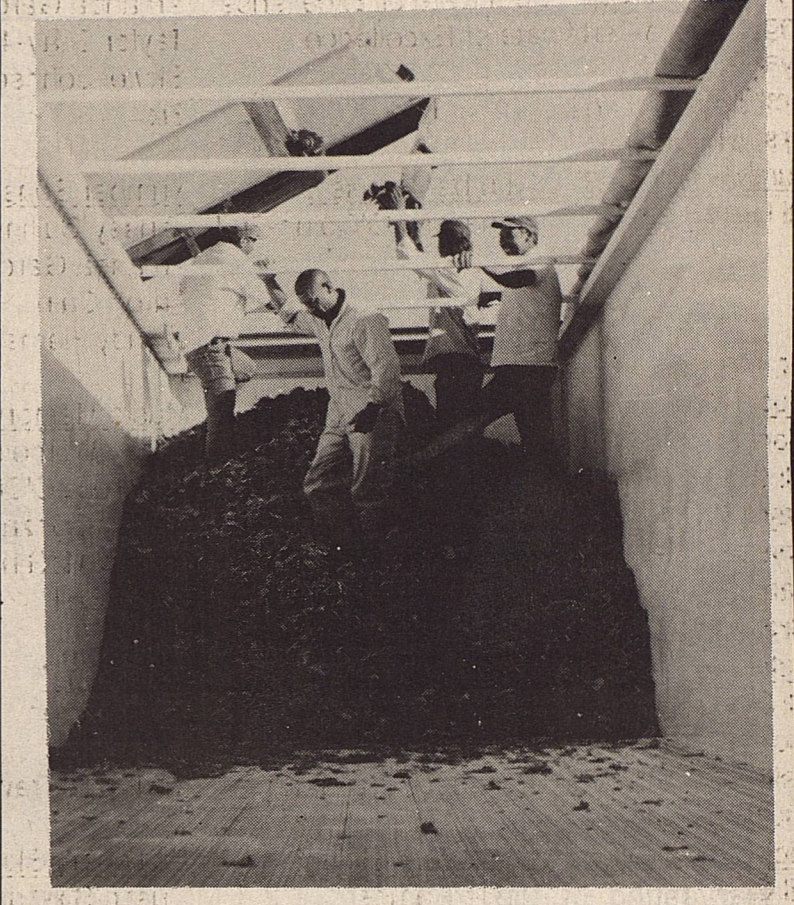
## AGRIFACTS

### SPINACH

Spinach is grown primarily in the Texas Winter Garden, an area west of San Antonio. A total of 200,000 pounds of spinach was harvested this year, up significantly over the 1994 total of 115,000 pounds.



Source: Texas Agricultural Statistics Service and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service  
Graphic: Agricultural Communications, The Texas A&M University System



## County Court Meets

Yoakum County Commissioners Court met Tuesday, May 28th, to discuss an abbreviated list of agenda items.

The Court approved permits from the Texas Department of Transportation authorizing the County to construct an access driveway (on 8th Street) on the highway right of way abutting State Highway 214 in Denver City.

The Court approved acknowledgment and as-

signment of interest in American Information Systems, the new, automated election tabulation system lease purchased by the County.

County bills were reviewed and approved for payment by the Court.



Aug. 31

## Piano Lessons

By Dana Davis

Summer Sessions begins June 4

**Dana's Piano Studio**

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Bobby Trent Motorplex, Inc.  
400 W. Broadway  
Trent Motor Company, Inc.  
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- \*Diagnostic Radiology
- \*Monthly Cardiology Clinic
- \*Monthly Urology Clinic
- \*Laboratory Service
- \*24-Hour Emergency Department

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## Junior High Students Recognized

Awards Assembly Held May 23

Students of Plains Middle School assembled in the auditorium Thursday, May 23, to receive recognition and awards for both academic and athletic achievements earned in the 1995-96 school year. The 8th grade students moving into High School as Freshmen received graduation certificates from Principal Ronnie Watkins, who also introduced the Valedictorian Kristen Gray, and Salutatorian Anne Palmer. Both were featured in last week's CCN. (Editors Note: We regret the list of athletic awards were unavailable at press time.)

### U.I.L. Awards

#### Miss Foster

Ready Writing 5  
Jill Gray-1st  
Kayla Willis  
Kelly Bowers

Ready Writing 6  
Annaliesa O'Quinn-2nd  
Becky Wilmeth-5th  
Nathan Hays

#### Spelling 5

Jill Gray-2nd  
Krystal Gonzalez-4th  
Sandra Gallegos-6th

#### Spelling 6

Josie Ramos  
Ashley Gonzalez  
Wendy Fierro

#### Art Contest 5 - 1st Place

Jill Gray - Certificate of Excellence  
Krystal Gonzalez - Certificate of Excellence  
Angel Ruiz - Certificate of Excellence  
Ryan Swann  
Kimberly Martinez

#### Mrs. Alexander

Number Sense 5  
Jill Gray-1st

Number Sense 6  
Annaliesa O'Quinn-2nd

Number Sense 7  
Lensey Cullins-1st  
Amanda Garcia-2nd  
Aaron Cain  
Wendy Hernandez

Number Sense 8  
Kristen Gray-1st  
Anne Palmer-2nd  
Velvet Canada-5th

#### Mr. Morgan

Music Memory 5 - 1st Place  
Mandi Rogers-Certificate of Excellence  
Jill Gray-Certificate of Excellence  
Kayla Willis-Certificate of Excellence  
Krystal Gonzalez-Certificate of Excellence  
Sandra Gallegos

#### Mrs. Haragan

Listening 5  
Jill Gray-1st  
Nick Hays-4th  
Kelly Bowers

Listening 6  
Becky Wilmeth-3rd  
Jared Bell  
Elizabeth Clanahan

#### Listening 7

Lexi Warren  
Emily Blair  
Michaela Traweek

#### Listening 8

Anne Palmer-1st  
Josh Bell-2nd  
Candace Bowers-5th

#### Mr. Hise

Dictionary Skills 5  
Jill Gray-1st  
Kayla Willis-3rd  
Mackenzie Winn

Dictionary Skills 6  
Josie Ramos  
Elizabeth Clanahan  
Chelsi Wagnon

#### Dictionary Skills 7

Dustin Six-1st  
Joel Gallegos  
Kelsey Blundell

#### Dictionary Skills 8

Justin Bennett  
Colt Winn  
Kelli Osborn

#### Mrs. Cullins

Oral Reading 5  
Chisum Deaton-1st  
Mandi Rogers-3rd  
Joanna Diaz-6th

Oral Reading 6  
Tanner Hamm-1st  
Ashley Gonzalez-3rd  
Annaliesa O'Quinn-4th

#### Oral Reading 7

Emily Blair-2nd  
Lensey Cullins-4th  
Michaela Traweek-5th

#### Oral Reading 8

Velvet Canada-1st  
Krystle Blundell-2nd  
Lexi Warren-3rd

#### Mr. Engle

Maps, Graphs, & Charts 5  
Kelly Bowers  
Johnathon DelaRosa  
Elda Fierro

Maps, Graphs, & Charts 6  
Becky Wilmeth-6th  
Elizabeth Clanahan  
Ashley Gonzalez

Maps, Graphs, & Charts 7  
Aaron Cain-4th  
Taylor Gray  
Adrienne Ramoz

Maps, Graphs, & Charts 8  
Linda Castillo-6th  
Candace Bowers  
Elizabeth Casillas

#### Mrs. Pettigrew

Impromptu Speaking 7  
Lexi Warren-1st  
Lisa San Filippo-3rd  
Emily Blair

Impromptu Speaking 8  
Krystle Blundell-1st  
Velvet Canada-2nd  
Autumn Deaton

#### Mrs. Warren

Modern Oratory 7  
Lisa San Filippo-1st

#### Modern Oratory 8

Anne Palmer-1st  
Laura Morales-4th  
Kelli Osborn-5th

#### Mrs. Warren

Spelling 7  
Lesli Rowe-1st  
Aaron Cain-3rd

Spelling 8  
Kristen Gray-1st  
Laura Morales-3rd  
Kyle Sisson-4th

#### Ready Writing 7

Lexi Warren-1st  
Emily Blair  
Lesli Rowe

#### Ready Writing 8

Patty Ruiz-6th  
Laura Morales  
Kristen Gray

#### Mr. May

Life Science  
Aaron Cain-3rd  
Dustin Six-4th  
Skyler Johnson-1st

Earth Science  
Kristen Gray-1st  
Anne Palmer-2nd  
Josh Bell-3rd

### Honor Roll

(90 or above average, excluding electives)

#### 5th Grade

Chisum Deaton  
Sandra Gallegos  
Krystal Gonzalez  
Jill Gray  
Ryan Swann  
Kayla Willis  
Elizabeth Wilmeth  
Mackenzie Winn

#### 6th Grade

Jared Bell  
Tanner Hamm  
Nathan Hays  
Ky May  
Ragan McGinty  
Annaliesa O'Quinn  
Scott Tirrell  
Becky Wilmeth

#### 7th Grade

Emily Blair  
Kelsey Blundell  
Aaron Cain  
Lensey Cullins  
Chris Estrada  
Joel Gallegos  
Amanda Garcia  
Jason Garcia  
Greg Gonzales  
Kari Guetersloh  
Skyler Johnson  
Kimberlee Jones  
Ashlei Mason  
Eric Nixon  
Adrienne Ramoz  
Lesli Rowe  
Elva Ruiz  
Dustin Six  
Lexi Warren

#### 8th Grade

Joshua Bell  
Krystle Blundell  
Candace Bowers  
Velvet Canada  
Leticia Canon  
Christopher Cleveland  
Autumn Deaton  
Audra Ellis  
Jessica Flores  
Kristen Gray  
Wendy Hernandez  
Fermin Luna  
Kelton Mason  
Laura Morales  
Nichole Newsom  
Kelli Osborn  
Anne Palmer  
Patty Ruiz  
Kyle Sisson  
Jason Swann  
Staci Tuggle



### EIGHTH GRADE CERTIFICATES

Shay Allsup  
Adrian Alvarado  
Joshua Bell  
Justin Bennett  
Fabian Bernal  
Raymond Bernal  
Krystle Blundell  
Candace Bowers  
Velvet Canada  
Leticia Canon  
Elizabeth Casillas  
Linda Castillo  
Christopher Cleveland  
Brandon Cox  
Autumn Deaton  
Erica Dominguez  
Audra Ellis  
Jessica Flores  
Eddie Freeby  
Jesus Garcia  
Jeremy Gonzales  
Marie Gonzales  
Isaac Gonzalez  
David Granados  
Kristen Gray  
America Hernandez  
Wendy Hernandez  
Jeremy Humphrey  
Keith Jackson  
Rustin Knight  
Angie Longoria  
Alex Luna  
David Luna  
Fermin Luna  
Laura Martinez  
Kelton Mason  
Patrick McGinty  
Laura Morales  
Jeremy Morphis  
Nichole Newsom  
Kelli Osborn  
Anne Palmer  
Raquel Perez  
Elizabeth Perry  
Jeremy Ponce  
Rebecca Robertson  
Patty Ruiz  
Patsy Salas  
Kyle Sisson  
Jason Swann  
Alex Tarango  
Staci Tuggle  
Alfred Villegas  
Chris Willis  
Colt Winn

### Perfect Attendance

Received \$50.00 Each  
Albert Lopez - 7th grade  
Staci Tuggle - 8th grade

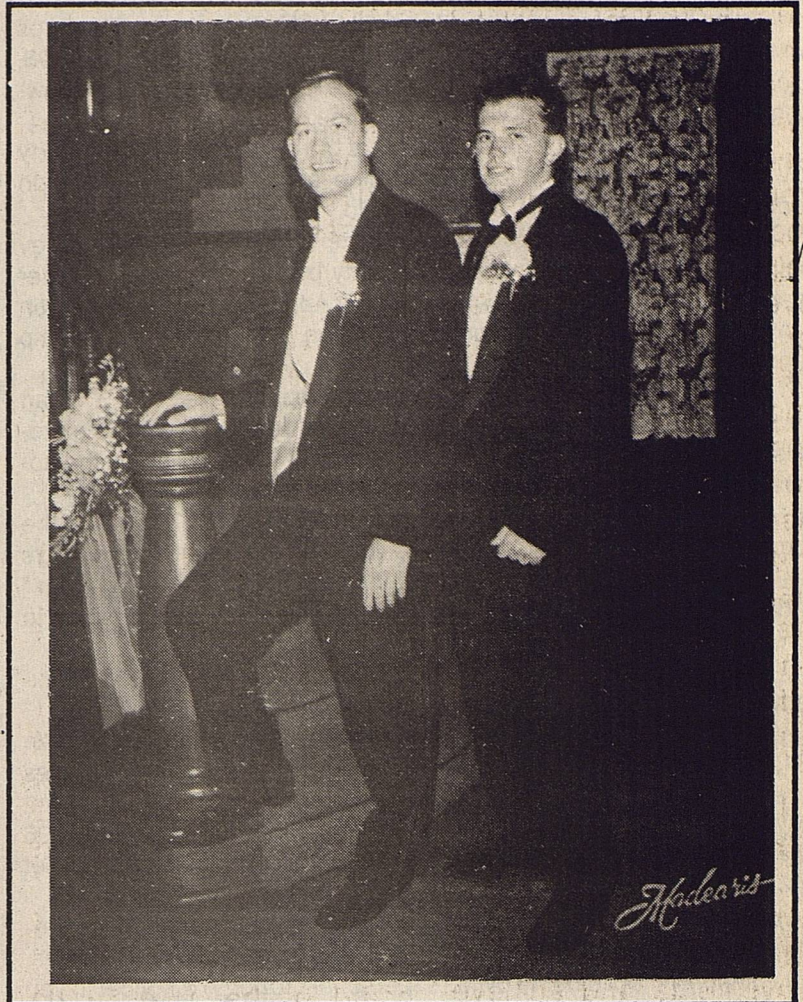
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### Summer FCA Schedule

Steve Osborn, PISD sponsor of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes advises all members and prospective members FCA will meet through the summer months each Thursday evening at 8 PM in Stanford Park. All members are urged to attend, and bring a prospective member.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## Brothers Doing Well



Brothers Chad and Dain Guetersloh, both PHS graduates, recently completed another phase of their educational experience.

Dr. Chad Guetersloh, 1989 graduate of PHS, was the class Valedictorian, with the highest grade average of any PHS student at that time. He will finish medical school on June 1, and then starts his residency training at Children's Hospital in Dallas.

Dain Guetersloh is a 1991 graduate of PHS. He graduated from Texas Tech May 11, with a BA degree and major in Spanish. His home is Lubbock, but he will assist his parents in the G&B Aerial Application business here for the summer.

Both men are the sons of David & Sarah Guetersloh of Plains.

## Hot Summer Savings!!!

### CARS

95 Lincoln Town Car  
Executives & Signatures  
93 Crown Victoria LX  
84 Mazda RX7  
92 Tempo GL  
90 Olds Ciera  
90 Mustang 3-Dr. LX  
90 Town Car by Lincoln  
95 Mercury Mystique GS  
95 Mercury Sable  
95 Grand Marquis LS  
95 Thunderbird LX  
95 Mustang LX  
95 Crown Victoria

### TRUCKS

96 Dodge Club Cab  
82 F-150 Regular Cab  
95 F-150 XLT SuperCab  
91 F-150 XLT  
95 F-150 Regular Cab  
94 F-150 XLT SuperCab  
93 F-150 XLT, 4x4 SWB  
93 F-150 XLT SuperCab  
94 F-150 XLT 4x4, Reg. Cab  
95 F-150 SuperCab XLT  
95 F-150 XLT SuperCab

### UTILITY

94 Chevrolet CL Astro Van  
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92 Suburban Silverado 4 x 4

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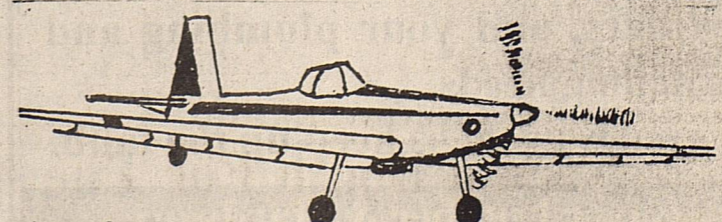
601 9th Street

(806) 456-2022

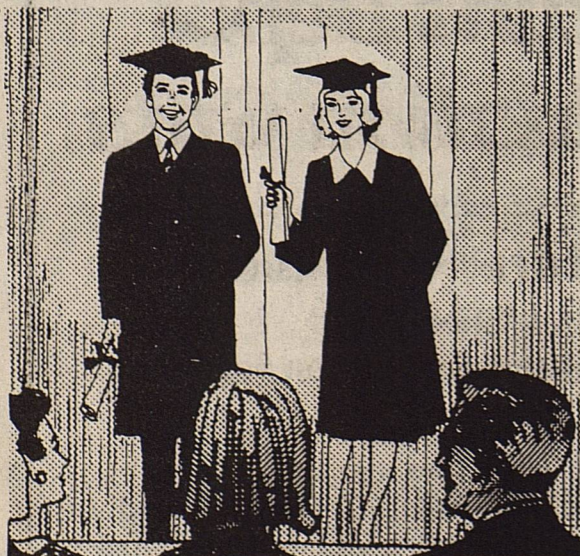
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David & Sarah Guetersloh  
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Mobile Phones:  
David - 456-7536 Sarah - 456-7974



Congratulations

# Wranglers

## Property Owners Receive 1996 Value Notices

Texas Property owners have the right to information about changes in their property's value by local appraisal districts. On May 8, 1996, Yoakum County Appraisal District mailed 6,129 appraisal notices showing the owners their 1996 proposed values.

Sandra Stephens, chief appraiser of the district, reminds property owners that the notice of appraised value is not a tax bill. "Please do not pay from this notice," Stephens said.

Stephens emphasized the importance of the notice and the key information that it contains for a property owner. "A property owner has the right to appeal to Yoakum County Appraisal Review Board on any disagreement with the property's value, exemptions, ownership and other areas," she said.

The appraisal review board, more commonly called "ARB" is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling protests from property owners who disagree with some action by the appraisal district.

What should a property owner look for on the notice? "Look at the proposed value for 1996," Stephens said. "The notice shows the land's value and any improvement value for the property for the current year." An improvement is a building, structure or any other type of fixture to the land.

The appraisal notice also includes current year information on exemptions granted to the property. It provides last year's value, too.

Notices to property owners whose values increased more than \$1,000 will also include "estimated" taxes. These "estimated" taxes are based on the new value & estimated tax rate for the same amount of operating dollars as last year. Generally, taxing units set final 1996 tax rates in August and September. The appraisal district does not set the tax rates.

Stephens ask that a property owner look carefully at the legal description and mailing address to be sure that there is no mistakes. "We send all mobile home owners (personal property) a notice. If you no longer own the mobile home, or any type property that you received a notice for, now is the time to let us know. If the notice contains an old address, please provide the appraisal district with the current address. The post office forwards mail to a new address for a short time only, and tax bills do not go out until October," Stephens added.

A property owner is responsible for informing the appraisal district of the correct mailing address. A property owner is liable for additional penalties and interest on a tax bill not paid timely.

Not everyone will receive a notice. Notices will be sent only if there is a name change, a value change or the property has been rendered. Stephens added, "If you did not get a notice and want 1996 information about your property, please call the appraisal district at 806-456-7101. The general deadline for protesting to the ARB is June 8 for this year.

Sandra Stephens, Chief Appraiser, Yoakum County Appraisal District

### \* Legal Notice \*

Plains ISD invites interested parties to make proposals for providing insurance for its group health insurance program beginning September 1, 1996. Proposals will be received until 1:00 p.m. on July 16, 1996 at the Business Of-

ice. Proposals will be opened and read at that time. Proposals should be addressed to Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains ISD, 1000 - 10th Street, Box 479, Plains, TX 79355. For questions or other information, please contact Eric Banfield at 806-456-7483.

## High Plains Jr. Rodeo Update

Several local youngsters competed in to recent High plains Junior Rodeo Assn. contests. At the May 10-12 rodeo in Canyon, Robin Squyres took 10th place in girls 16-19 ribbon roping and brother Brett Squyres finished 3rd in boys 9-12 calf touching, and 5th

in breakaway roping.

At Lubbock May 18 and 19, Kimberlee Jones placed 10th in girls 9-12 pole bending, Keith Jackson took 5th in boys 13-15 breakaway roping, Brett won 1st in calf touching and 2nd in breakaway, and 2nd in ribbon roping.

The rodeo association now has 440 competing youngsters in its rolls, from Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma.

### Continued From Page One, "Rain Comes"

producers to plant, and at least get a crop started on already planted dry acres.

(Editor's note - For a down side to this report, please see related article on wind damage to cotton crop sustained the very next day)

## Beneficial rains have down side

Following the general euphoria accompanying last Saturday's rain, most county cotton producers, in particular the more time experienced, knew the disparately needed moisture could be followed by a common South Plains malady... high winds the following day, high enough to rapidly dry out surface moisture, high enough to start surface soils moving, high enough to start sand storms, high enough to totally destroy thousands of acres of fledgling cotton plants. It all happened, resulting in many thousands acres of cotton being completely destroyed in mere hours. One producer said, "We had all our tractors going with sand-fighting equipment on the ground as soon as it was light Sunday morning. Mid morning, we realized it was impossible to keep pace with the wind. About 10 AM, I told the crews to go home, the wind had completely destroyed over six circles of crop (roughly 750 acres of irrigated cotton).

According to all the unconfirmed reports CCN could develop prior to Tuesday's print schedule, despite the severe damage done to the cotton crop, there is still ample time to replant, and still develop a crop.

There were dozens more of the horror stories. Because of the Memorial Day Holiday, and our printing schedule at 1:30 PM Tuesday, we could not learn how many acres of this year's crop were destroyed Sunday, but in the entire South Plains area, there is no question many hundreds of thousands of acres of this year's cotton crop must be replanted, or abandoned for insurance purposes.

In a telephone interview Tuesday morning, Tommy Thrash, owner of Associated Farmers Delinting, Inc., discussed the available supplies of cotton seed needed for the massive replanting across the South Plains. Thrash said, "At the present time, it looks like there will be enough seed available, but there may be a shortage of some of the more popular varieties. If we don't lose any more acreage between now and the June 5 final planting date, there should be ample seed for replanting. In case the area sustains more crop losses, we will probably face a serious shortage of planting seed."

### Plains Grads From SPC

Levelland: Four residents from Plains were among 757 students who received associate degrees or certificates of proficiency May 10 during South Plains College's 38th commencement exercises.

"We are very proud of our graduates," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "This ceremony signifies the completion of two years study and many hours of work and preparation. The graduates and their families should be equally as proud."

Graduates represented the SPC Levelland and Lubbock campuses and Reese Air Force Base Extension Center.

Plains recipient of the Associate of Arts Degree is Monica Guzman Flores, Academic Non-major.

Plains recipient of the Associate of Applied Science Degree is David Cueto Corrales.

Plains recipient of the Associate of Science Degree is Phillip Jay Rushing, Academic Non-major.

Plains recipient of the Certificate of Proficiency is Carmaleta Marie Pope, Cosmetology.

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## Funeral Services For Kray Michael Ellison

Services for Kray Michael Ellison, 2-year-old son of Michael and Rachel Ellison of Hobbs, NM were held in the Taylor Memorial Baptist Church on Saturday, May 25, at 9:00 AM with Rev. Dean Mathis officiating. Kray died after an accident on Thursday, May 16, 1996, at Columbia Lea Regional Hospital.

He was born August 28, 1993 in Andrews. He attended Taylor Memorial Baptist Church.

Burial was in Aspermont Cemetery, under the direction of Chapel of Hope of Hobbs. He was laid to rest beside his grandfather Earl Ellison, who died on Dec. 25, 1994.

Survivors include his parents; two brothers of the home, Kade, 5 and Ky, 4; his maternal grandparents, Lonnie & Monica Berry of Laredo and Arthur and Patsy



Gillis of Odessa; his paternal grandmother, Kay Ellison of Lovington, NM; Maternal great grandparents Louise and Charlie Gillis of Denver City and Paternal great grandparent Doris Smith of South Plains Nursing Center in Brownfield.

Michael Ellison is employed by AVI Irrigation Company in Seminole and Rachel Ellison is a full time mother.

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# Femme Friends



## Year Ending Library Filmtime

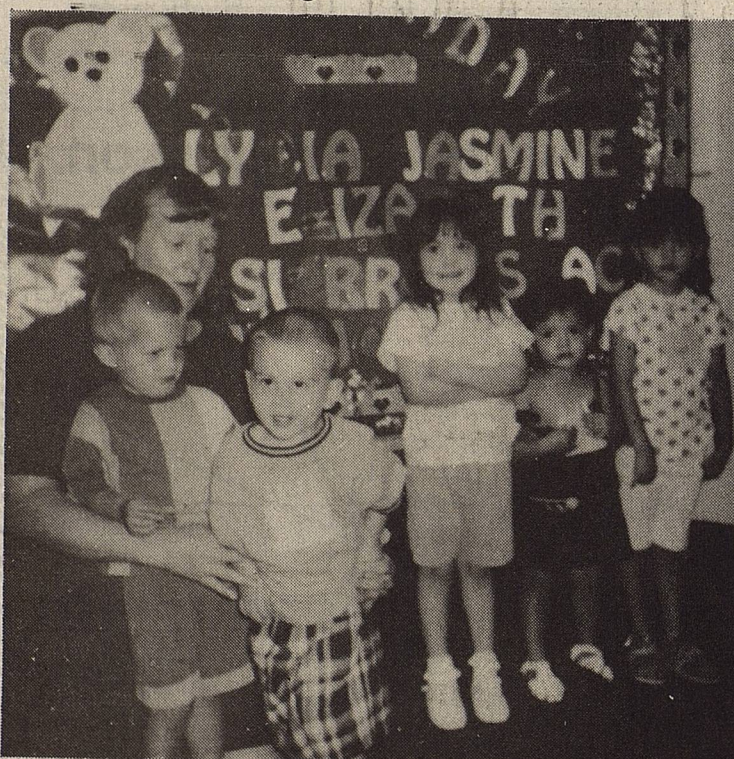


Thirty-five preschool youngsters attended the last season filmtime session on May 22. Filmtime will resume in September. The children were treated to a picnic at the final meeting.

The Library staff thanks all the parents and baby sitters bringing their youngsters to filmtime and helping with the activities. Those attending the picnic included: Jacob Brink, Jaston Brink, Kelsey Curry, Troy Parrish, Gretta Poole, Lesux Jimenez, Kristie

Lopez, Brianna Conway, Andrew Conway, Alex Penner, Heather Penner, Kevin Gass, Isaac Doyle, A.J. Martinez, Marina Martinez, Ashley Hainer, Charity Hainer, Katelynn Young, Raegan Young, Christopher Addison, Stephanie Addison, Elizabeth Cox, Rhaemi Stall, Rhaela Stall, Brandon Craft, Landon Earnest, Dakota Earnest, Lydia Whitzel, Jasmine Whitzel, Brett Hawthorne, Hannah Crump, Merrit Crump, Jonathan Penner, and Holden Welch.

## Birthday Filmtimers



Celebrating birthdays at Filmtime May 15 were L-R: Kevin Gass, Isaac Doyle, Elizabeth Cox, Jasmine Whitzel and Lydia Whitzel.

## Ruby Bruton To Be Honored

Retiring County Clerk Ruby Bruton will be feted with a retirement party in the County Courthouse Friday, May 31, from 3 PM to 5 PM.

Bruton's last day of service will be on the same date. She has been an employee of the County 22 years, and has served as County Clerk 17 1/2 years.

The public is invited to the event.

## Plains Basketball Camp

**When:** June 3-6, 1996 (Monday - Thursday)

**Time:** 8:30 - 12:00 Girls  
1:00 - 4:30 Boys

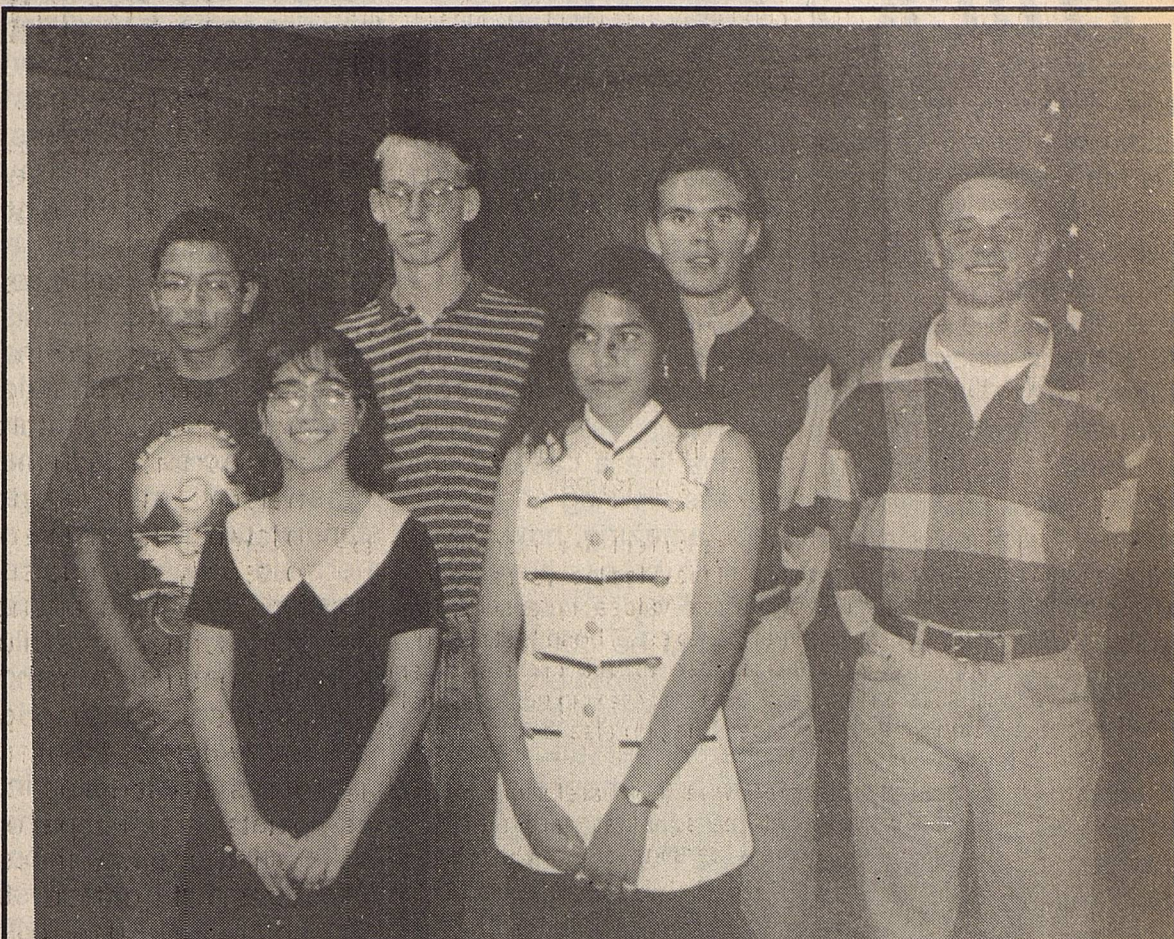
**Who:** Girls & Boys who will be in the 3rd - 9th grade - next year

**Where:** Plains High School Gym

**Cost:** \$10.00 for Plains residents; \$40.00 for Nonresidents

Directed by the Plains Coaching Staff: Steve Osborn, Cheryl Horne, Linda Haragan, Michael Davis, Michell Arnold

Applications are available at the JH & Elementary offices.



Cosme Casillas, Sonia Avila, Clint Burrus, Monica Ramoz, Jeremy Dearing, and Matt Morgan were recently awarded cash prizes and recognized by Tsa Mo Ga members for original short stories and poems as part of the club's study of literacy. Also winning awards were Yancey and Marcey House. The high school students and their parents were guests at the club's April 8 meeting. Their creative pieces originated as class projects in Advanced Placement English class.

## Fine Arts Club

The Plains Fine Arts Club wishes to express its appreciation for the wonderful response of the churches and individuals who participated in the Sacred Music Program. We would also thank each who came to listen and support this community involvement.

Thanks to all who helped make this a success. Thank you Rick for the extra work you had to do, too.

Judy Fitzgerald, Pres.  
Sandra Ellison, Rec. Sec.

## Memorial Service

The Texas Branch of Hospice Services, Inc. will conduct a memorial service at the Community Chapel in Seminole at 7:00 PM on Thursday, May 30, 1996. Anyone wishing to honor the memory of loved ones who have died, whether under hospice care or not, is encouraged to attend. For additional information please call (915) 75803850 or (800) 530-4591.



## Bridal Shower Honoring Traci Barron,

(Bride-elect of Jeff Ashburn)

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Michell Arnold & Stephen Lusk  
Jeff Ashburn & Traci Barron  
Melisa Rogers & Mark Dorsett

# From The Hack



Last Saturday morning I visited the famed Table of Wisdom, where the night before PHS graduation was being discussed, by the philosophers. I must have missed the event, but the topic of discussion included one Senior's unfortunate entanglement in his long and unfamiliar robe. It was reported he somehow got it wrapped around his legs and almost fell off his chair. This reminded me of the character Ox in my ancient graduation I wrote of last week.

It reminded Table regular Buster Graham of his graduation. He reported some genius had the idea darkening the auditorium at the end of his graduation service, and letting the Seniors descend the steps at each end of the stage and march out, carrying and cartwheel down the stairs, the candle looking like a Roman candle. Said the clumsy oaf broke three ribs.

The subject of broken ribs appealed to the other Table geniuses, all agreeing broken ribs are horribly painful. This brought on lots of reminiscing. Darrell Barron reported he knew about broken ribs. Seems he got his while engaged

in a 'Donkey Baseball' game years ago. He made the mistake of walking too close behind one of the donkeys, which flailed him with a flying hoof.

He probably showed poor judgment in reporting the incident. Another Table attendee said, "That sounds like a case of one jackass disliking another".

It's amazing how many local rib breaks have been caused by animals. One guy said he got his when he was bucked off a horse. Another reported he suffered that fate when his German Shepherd dog, frenziedly chasing a cat, ran between his legs, causing a nasty spill.

Oddest of all, perhaps, was Jim Brown, ag insurance impresario, said he had suffered the painful fate while "fooling with a sheep". This announcement produced puzzled silence around the Table. Brown had to leave before he explained this strange phenomenon, and many of the Table bunch are still scratching their heads about the event.

Tommie Brown, mother of the above mentioned Brown, is currently recovering with broken ribs received in a car wreck. Her sister Helen Beal was also injured, and it is reported Helen and other sister Marguerite are giving Tommie fits, telling jokes, pulling pranks, anything to make her laugh, an excruciating ordeal.

Tommie is vowing revenge when good health returns. I bet she is staying awake nights, planning retaliation.

Our Sahara desert like conditions changed dramatically Saturday when the rains came. It produced some startling effects on several of our almost desperate cotton farmers, too. In the D.Q. Sunday morning, producer Darryl McNabb came in, a beaming smile on his face, and gobs of red mud on his bib overalls. Asked how he got so muddy, Darryl said he had been out looking at his cotton acres, and as he passed by one large standing puddle of water, a mermaid leaped out and wrestled him around on the ground, but he was finally able to beat her off and back into the water. He said it, I swear!

Joe Crump next came in. As most folks know him, he is the first half of the "Doom and Gloom Pair", and Hoss Newsom is the latter half. Joe was almost beside himself with joy at the rain, and couldn't quit grinning and telling joke after joke, none of which, unfortunately, are fit to print in the pristine pages of this paper.

Veracity of the following has not been fully established, so we shall not use true names. It was seriously reported one large dry land cotton farmer was so ecstatic he drove out to his place, stripped off down to the buff, shoes, socks and all, and ran laughing and screaming up his turnrows until exhaustion and grass burrs in his feet made him stop. Come on, man, that's carrying your joy a bit far.

I heard an unknown D.C. farmer report his four year old dog had never seen rain before. When it began to pour Saturday, the mutt barked, howled and went so berserk the guy shot it, figuring it had rabies and was mad.

## Local's Grandson Earns Scholarship

Douglas J. Snitker of Sterling City, TX was recently named a recipient of a 1996 Texaco Foundation Scholarship. The Foundation provides scholarships of \$2,500 per year for 4 years to recognize and honor academic excellence among the sons and daughters of Texaco's employees and retirees. Since the program's founding in 1984, the Foundation has rewarded over 1,000 scholarships on the basis of nationwide competitive examinations.

Doug, a senior at Sterling City High School plans to attend Angelo State University in San Angelo in the Fall. He has numerous awards and recognitions to his credit including: Class

Salutatorian, Who's Who Among American High School Students, DARE Role Model, National English Merit Award, National Science Merit Award, National Honor Roll and All American Scholar.

In addition, Doug was Yearbook Editor, Senior Class Secretary and a member of UIL teams that won district honors in News Writing, Mathematics and Computer Science.

Doug's parents are James and Beverly Snitker of Sterling City. He has one sister, Casey, of the home. Grandparents are: Lindel Bates of Plains; Janice Hodge of Marble Falls; Carolyn Osborne of Littlefield and J.C. Snitker of Enochs. Great grandparents are Dicie Snitker of Midland and Vannie Slaton of Morton.

## Wrong Date In A-J

An article in last week's Lubbock Avalanche-Journal featured the area drought and visit to the High Plains cotton area by Senator Phil Gramm and State Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry.

The article spoke of final cotton planting dates in several area counties, and said the final date in Yoakum County is June 20.

According to both Danny Bell and Jim Brown, local providers of Multi Peril Federal Crop Insurance, the actual date is June 5.

According to both agents, there are provisions for late planting, but only with severe financial penalties on the production guarantee offered by the insurance.

In actuality, the Yoakum County planting deadline is still June 5.

## \*Notice of Application\*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Applicant, E.B. Brooks, 210 Meadows Bldg 5646 Milton St., Dallas TX 75206, has made application for a spacing exception permit under the provisions of Railroad Commission State-wide Rule 37 (16 Tex. Admin. Code Section 3.37). Applicant seeks exception to the lease line requirement to Re-Enter Well No. 1, Fouts, 400 Acres, Sec. 575, Blk. D. J.H Gibson/S. Peak Survey, A-571, West Field(s), Yoakum County, being 5 miles in a southwest direction from Plains, Texas. The location of this well is as follows: 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of lease. 1207' from the north line and 155' from the west line of survey.

Field rules for the West field are 250/500, 40/20 acres

PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF Rule 37 (h) (2) (A), this application may be granted administratively if no protest to the application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator or lessees of record of adjacent tracts and tracts nearer to the proposed well than the minimum lease line spacing distance. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for an exception. A protestant should be prepared to establish standing as an affected person, and to appear at the hearing either in person or by qualified representative and protest the application with cross-examination or presentation of a direct case. The rules of evidence are applicable in the hearing. If you have questions regarding this application, please contact the Applicant's representative, E.B. Brooks, Jr Operator, at (214) 363-3432. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512)463-6718.

IF YOU WISH TO REQUEST A HEARING ON THIS APPLICATION, YOU MUST FILL OUT, SIGN AND MAIL OR DELIVER TO THE AUSTIN OFFICE OF THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF TEXAS THE ENCLOSED NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST. A COPY OF THE INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST ALSO BE MAILED OR DELIVERED ON THE DATE TO APPLICANT AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE. THIS INTENT TO APPEAR IN PROTEST MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE RAILROAD COMMISSION'S AUSTIN OFFICE BY July 1, 1996. IF NO PROTEST IS RECEIVED WITHIN SUCH TIME, THE REQUESTED PERMIT WILL BE GRANTED ADMINISTRATIVELY, TO BE EFFECTIVE THE DAY FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF SUCH THREE-WEEK PERIOD



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## Bid Notice

Plains Independent School District will accept bids for the purchase and installation of thirty-one rooftop heating/cooling (HVAC) units. Bids will be accepted until 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 5, 1996, in the Administration Office. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains I.S.D., Box 479, Plains, TX 79355 or calling 806-456-7483. Plains I.S.D. Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities.



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