

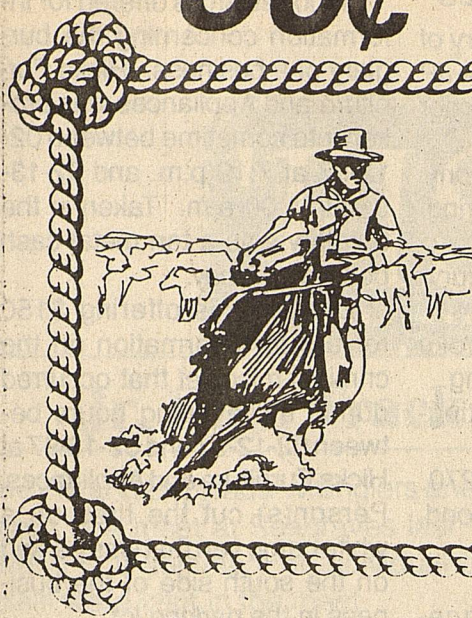
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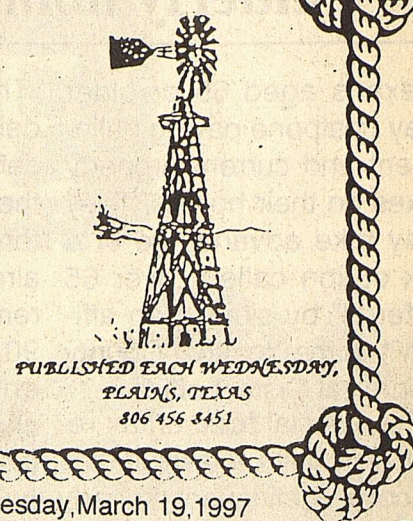
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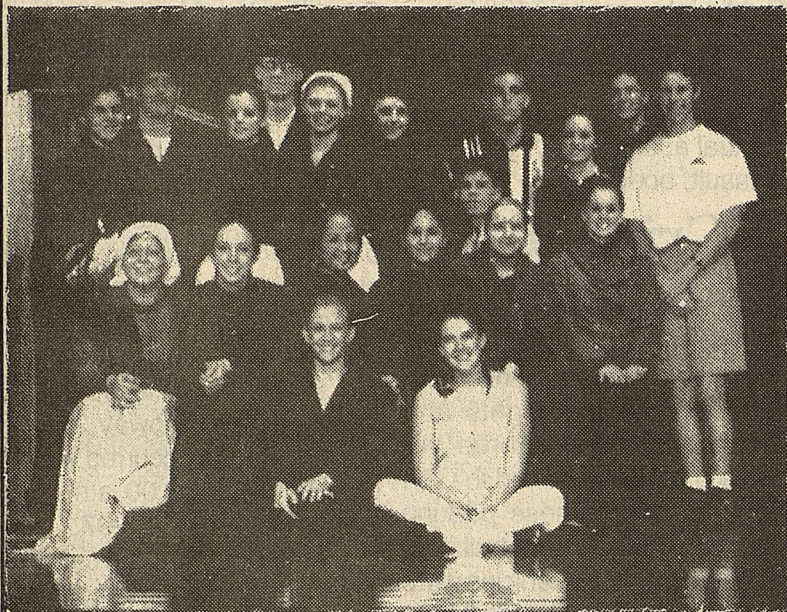
Cowboy Country News



Volume III, Issue 29, Wednesday, March 19, 1997

"Riders To The Sea"

PHS One-Act Play is strong, classical drama artfully presented



Cast and crew members, front, L-R; Jennifer Lollar, Kelli Osborn, Middle; Lindi Rowe, Lisa Parrish, Juanita Rodriguez, Patti Ruiz, Gideon Traweek, Conchetta San Filippo, Beth Perry, Rear; Audra Ellis, Steven Bunch, Shawna Box, Clint Burrus, Kassie Lowe, Shawn Cullins, Coley Burgess, Leticia Canon, Doug Rushing, Lee Tyson.

Judging by audience reaction to the presentation of "Riders To The Sea" here last Thursday evening, the cast, crew and Director of the PHS District 5AA UIL One-Act Play may have a strong entry for high honors in the statewide contest.

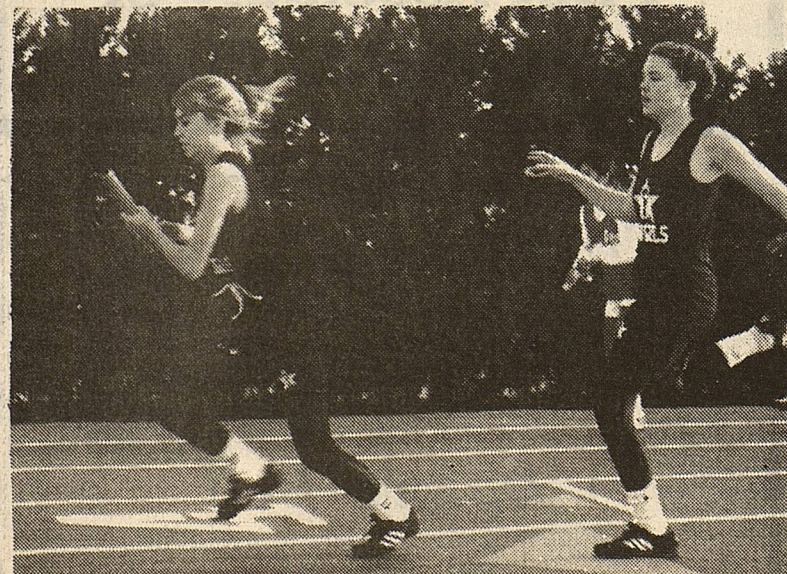
The classic drama, written by Irish dramatist John Millington Synge (1871-1909), tells the touching story of an old Irish mother and her two daughters who await the return of the family's last son and brother from the sea. The mother, Maurya, has already lost her husband and five sons to the angry Irish Sea, and prophesies the death at sea of the last son, Bartley, a prophesy which becomes tragic reality.

The mother in the drama is played by Lindi Rowe, and her two daughters are portrayed by Kassie Lowe and Shawna Box. The last son is played by Gideon Traweek, and the drowned husband and son's spirits are played by Clint Burrus, Steven Bunch, and Shawn Cullins. Portraying village women and sea maidens are Juanita Rodriguez, Conchetta San Filippo, Jennifer Lollar, Audra Ellis, Beth Perry, Patti Ruiz, Lisa Parrish and Leticia Canon.

Behind the scene crew members are Coley Burgess, lighting, Kelli Osborn, stage manager, Lee Tyson, special effects, and Doug Rushing, sound. The drama is directed by Mr. Gary L. Davis.

Plains High School will host the District One-Act play contest on March 28. Dr. George Sorensen, former professor of theater at Texas Tech, will serve as adjudicator of the six plays presented, and will select two to advance to the area contest to be held in Post April 5. Both Director Davis and cast and crew are hoping to take "Riders To The Sea" all the way to the state finals in Austin.

Cowboy-Cowgirl Relays action



Krystle Blundell takes baton from Kelli Osborn in 800 Relay. Results, more photos inside.

Oil, Gas producers smiling again.

By Charles R. Matthews
Chairman
Texas Railroad Commission

Why is it, that once again there seems to be smiling faces at oil and gas industry conferences all around the state of Texas? Could it be that the industry, the nation's leader in oil and gas production, is lifting itself out of the doldrums?

For the year just ended, the wellhead value of all oil and gas production in the Lone Star State exceeded \$20 billion. That means, as this money buys goods and services, it will generate nearly \$60 billion for the state's economy. The good news in all this is simple. The rate of decline that we have seen in the oil industry since the early 90's is dwindling. As recently as 1993, the annual rate of decline was over 6%. Now it is just about half of 3.2%.

The number of drilling permits operators are applying for is on the rise. Drilling permits are up 22% from 2736 to 3348 for the first quarter of fiscal 1997. Even better, new well drilling permits are up 31%. This all shows, at least while prices are attractive, people are taking risks to bring old wells back into production and drilling other wells for the first time; operators are also plugging profits back into their businesses. Last year the industry cut

costs and took advantage of steadily improving commodity prices. It continued using state of the art technology such as 3-D seismic to improve capture.

By running smart operations, people continued working. Last year, total production multiplied by the increase in price of oil and gas could mean 23,000 new jobs in Texas. It also could account for 52,850 jobs indirectly related to oil and gas. And the bottom line shows that sound business practices paid off. Based on the Comptroller's oil price of \$19.47 per barrel, Texas produced 495.4 million barrels of oil worth nearly \$650 million to the state's economy. And natural gas did very well too. At the Comptroller's price of \$1.89 per Mcf, Texas produced nearly 5.8 trillion cubic feet raising \$538 million for the economy. All told, oil and gas continues to significantly contribute to state coffers. Last year's unexpected gain in oil and gas tax revenue totaled \$450 million. That figure is equal to 45% of Texas's \$1 billion state surplus.

Can the good fortune continue? We at the Railroad Commission think so. If commodity prices are not so volatile and if operators continue acting smart and using the technology that exists, there is no reason why we might not notice.

A new look for the registration notice

Texas motorists whose vehicle registration expire in May will be among the first to see the state's new and improved registration renewal notice. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has dramatically changed the form to make it more customer-friendly and will begin distribution during the first week in April.

Gone is the multi-part card. Texans have been getting since 1970. The new notice is standardized 8 1/2" x 11" document, similar to a tax, utility, or credit card statement.

"The state has developed a renewal notice that's convenient to use," said Wanda Smith, Yoakum County Tax Assessor-Collector. "The form has many features that weren't available before."

The new renewal notice simplifies registration. Key pieces of information are highlighted in red, including

special instructions, fees, and proof of insurance requirements. The name, address, and phone number of the recipient's tax assessor-collector is printed on the form, providing a local contact for registration questions. Each mailing address on the renewal notice is printed with barcode technology to assure accuracy and to speed delivery through the postal system. And, for the first time, a return envelope is enclosed for customers who wish to renew by mail.

"We believe the public will appreciate the new form," Smith said. "There are many features on the new form that make it more customer-friendly."

Some Texans have already seen a prototype of the new renewal notice. TxDOT showed the form to several

School Trustees still considering finalists for Superintendents job

In two recent meetings of the PISD Board of Trustees, the search for finalists for the School Superintendent position continued in Executive Sessions on March 10 and March 13. The original field of 89 applicants was earlier narrowed to 12, and the Board is now attempting to choose the top finalists. No official word has been issued about the time schedule for the further trimming of the list or the final selection of the top applicant.

In the regular Board meeting March 10, Diana Flores was appointed election judge for the May 3 school trustee election. A decision on the job description for the Athletic and Interim Superintendent Director position was postponed until the April board

meeting. The following extra duty pay scales for athletic coaches was adopted for the 1997-98 school year; Athletic Director \$2000; Head football and head boys and girls basketball, volley ball and track/crosscountry coaches \$5000; Tennis \$4000; Assistant coaches \$3500.

Action on a proposed employee housing supplement proposal was postponed until the April meeting.

A financial report was given by Business Manager Eric Banfield, administrative reports were given by Principals Steven O'Quinn, Ronnie Watkins, Donnie Weems, description for the Athletic and Interim Superintendent Director position was postponed until the April board

Davis awarded scholarship



Carmela Davis accepts award from Ed Rogers

Carmela Davis of Plains, Ed Rogers, Hospital Administrator, presented Mrs. Davis with a plaque on behalf of the Hospital Board of Directors. In presenting the plaque, Rogers said, "It is a pleasure to present a truly deserved award to someone who has achieved a goal in life through work and dedication. We all face situations which are distracting, but Mrs. Davis has never lost her focus, and this award is indicative of her determination and accomplishments."

The Center for Rural Health Initiatives allow students to further their educational careers in the health care profession while also providing rural Texas communities with quality health care professionals.

Yoakum County Hospital, in association with The Center, will fund Mrs. Davis' education and she, in return, will work for the hospital in Denver City upon graduation. Davis, who taught in the Plains ISD during the first semester, resigned her position after being accepted to the Hardin-Simmons Physical Therapy program, which is one of only nine such programs in the state of Texas.

Turn to page 2,
'Registration'

Tax deferral available for elderly homeowners

Texans aged 65 or older may postpone paying delinquent and current property taxes on their homes. They may take advantage of a tax option called "over 65 deferral" by signing an affidavit at the Yoakum County Appraisal District office.

This special form of tax relief also halts a lawsuit filed to collect delinquent property taxes on an older Texan's home. Chief Appraiser Sandra Stephens said, "To stop a delinquent tax suit, the over 65 homeowner files the deferral affidavit with the court in which the suit is pending. If the affidavit is on file, an older homeowner cannot lose a homestead because of delinquent taxes."

Stephens stressed that tax deferral for elderly only postpones paying delinquent taxes on the home, it does not cancel them. During the deferral time, taxes and interest of 8 percent per year continue to add up, she said. "When the elderly taxpayer no longer owns and lives in the home, the taxes become due. If the taxes are not paid, taxing units can then sue to collect all deferred taxes and interest"

There is no penalty on the delinquent taxes during the deferral time. However, filing the deferral affidavit will not forgive penalties that were already due. Also, if the taxes remain delinquent more than 90 days after the deferral ends, a taxing unit may charge an added penalty if the account goes to a delinquent tax attorney.

Tax deferral forms are available at the appraisal district office. "The homeowner should fill out the form and have the signature witnessed by a notary public", Stephens said. For more information, contact the Yoakum County Appraisal District, Box 748, Plains, or call 806-456-7101.

persons include Marketing and publicity, Linda Powell; Beautification and watermelon contest, Pat Altman; Logistics, David Brunson; Arts/crafts booths, Susie Powell; Signs, Ron Hatfield; Food booths, Carolyn Culwell; Costume/style show, Olivia Robertson; 5K Fun Run, Rick Doyle; Floats, Jeanette Head; Finance, L.J. Sanders; Day entertainment, James Altman; Chili/brisket cookoff, Dave Tedford; Multi-cultural, Elva Lozano; Games, Karen Williams; Classic car show, Terry Davis; Old tractor show, Eddie Earnest; Watermelon giveaway, Toni Jones; T-shirt sales, Dolores Davis; Watermelon ambassador, Kathy Adair, and Musical celebration, Alonzo Hernandez.

Planning underway for second Watermelon Round-Up

Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up committees have begun organizing for the August 30 festival to take place on the courthouse square in Plains. Citizens from both county towns have been meeting to recap the first event's success in 1996. Ann Hartman of Denver City is again chairing the event. The next Round Up committee meeting will be on April 3, 7:30 p.m. at the old courthouse. Persons not on a committee who would like to help are urged to attend. Round Up committee chair-

Court ok's new vehicle for Sheriff's Department

Commissioner's Court approved a bid from Mustang Country Chevrolet Monday for the purchase of a 1997 Ford with police package for the Yoakum County Sheriff Department. The vehicle was priced at \$20,100, with trade-in of a 1994 Chevrolet, for a net price of \$14,600.

The Court also approved releasing two securities pledged to Norwest Bank totaling \$18 million.

Crimeline pays off

On March 13, 1997, Yoakum County Sheriff's Department Deputies traveled to Gaines County to recover four saddles which had been stolen February 16, 1997 from a barn east of Denver City owned by Jerry Parrish. The Sheriff's Department was able to identify two suspects within 24 hours of the crime.

The recovery of the saddles came after the Yoakum County Crimeline offered a \$1000 reward for their return. In most cases, saddles are almost never recovered due to their size, they are easily transported, sold and concealed. However in this case the team effort of Crimeline, the Yoakum County Sheriff's De-

partment, the Gaines County Sheriff's Department, the Andrews County Sheriff's Department, the Hockley County Sheriff's Department and the Yoakum County Criminal District Attorney's Office were able to put enough pressure on the thieves that they were unable to move the saddles; and made them too risky for others to purchase them. Again, a team effort between area law enforcement and the community paid off.

Sheriff Rice commended area investigators and the Crimeline Board for their hard work and assistance. And speaking of paying off, the citizen that actually located the saddles is \$1000 richer today.

Summer youth arts program being planned

The Yoakum County Connection Summer Youth Arts Program committee will meet Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. at the Denver City Youth Center. Anyone with art workshop experience is encouraged to attend. Denver City elementary teacher Elva Lozano is taking suggestions for classes and names of instructors.

Classes already on tap include June Hanneman, line dancing; Margaret Williams, clay sculpting; Norman Frankfather, woodcarving; Debbie Hernandez, theatre; Ann Hartman, oil painting; Jimmie Bayer, oil painting; Kathy Adair, sewing/cooking; Nadine Madden, crafts.

Bob McClellan of Morton will supervise a student mural project at the Denver City Youth building in June.

"County churches are invited to submit dates for Bible schools on activity calendars" said Anna Gonzales, Summer Youth Arts schedule coordinator. Her number is 456-2263.

The Summer Youth Arts program will be a plus for county youngsters. All age groups will have opportunities at classes offered at the Denver City Youth Center, and in Plains at the Yoakum County

Art Association building. Hopefully, classes will be free, or at reduced cost, depending on funding donations. A final schedule will be released in May. Linda Powell, a 'Connection' and Art Association member, said "Art touches kids hearts and souls, and helps develop self-discipline, self-esteem and creativity. We hope to have different ages, clubs and ethnic groups working together through the fun summer."

High Fliers

NASA's space shuttle has made appearances in Houston, Dallas, Austin and Longview over the last decade or so. But San Antonio's Kelly Air Force Base is the preferred stopover, followed by El Paso's Biggs Army Air Field.

Shuttle missions end in California when bad weather rules out a Florida homecoming. The shuttle catches a ride on the back of a Boeing 747. Texas is a common refueling stop.

NASA tries to avoid the coast-to-coast return trip because of the expense, about \$1 million.

From page 1, 'Registration'

focus groups last summer in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The state also invited all county tax assessor-collectors to give their input.

An insert with a graphical explanation of the new form will be included with each renewal notice. Anyone with questions about the new renewal notice should contact the Yoakum County Tax Office at Denver City, 592-2311 or Plains 456-2825.

JP Court Cases

The following is a summary of cases heard in Precinct One JP Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding:
Cases filed- 14 traffic, 1 felony, 1 juvenile, 1 detention hearing. Bonds and Fines:
Assault causing bodily injury- \$2500 Bond.
9 cases of motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. Unapproved window tinting-DPS- \$180.
Failure to appear-DPS- \$270.
DWI, 3rd offenses-\$2500 bond, interlock device ordered.
Speeding-DPS-\$230.
Assault, family violence-\$1500.
Burglary of building- \$10,000. Issuance bad check- \$300.
Possession of marijuana-\$2000.
Forgery- \$5000.
Bond Forfeiture- \$2500 cash bond.
Failure to appear, DWI- \$2500.
Criminal Trespass-\$3000.
Assault, bodily injury-\$3000.
Fictitious social security card- \$100 fine.
Public Intoxication-\$132 fine.
DWI-first- \$1000.
Failure to appear-DPS- \$300.
Speeding, DPS- \$300.
Sexual assault-\$50,000.
Assault, bodily injury- \$1500.

Crimeline

\$500 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest of persons responsible for breaking the headlights and windshields out of three vehicles that were parked in CJR Contractors business parking area behind the main building. It appears that the vehicles were shot with a B-B or pellet gun. This offense occurred the weekend of February 15-16th.

\$500 reward is offered for information concerning the burglary of a business. Hicks Furniture and Appliances was broken into sometime between 02-12-97 at 7:19 p.m. and 02-13-97 at 11:00 a.m. Taken in the burglary was a tan metal cash box with money.

Crimeline is offering \$150 reward for information on the criminal mischief that occurred during the evening hours between 02-12-97 and 02-13-97 at Hicks Furniture and Appliances. Person(s) cut the tires on a white cargo van that was parked on the south side of the business in the parking lot.

\$500 reward leading to the arrest/conviction of person(s) responsible for the criminal mischief that occurred at 609 North Avenue E in Denver City. During the nighttime hours on 01-17-97, someone keyed the driver's side of a 1991 2 door Chevrolet Cavalier blue in color. The damage was from the front fender all the way to the rear fender.

Crimes in Yoakum County: Crimeline is offering a \$500 reward for information concerning the theft of a Miller welder, blue in color and a 2 wheel shopmade trailer, a bronze cutting torch, white 35 gallon propane tank, a white 45 gallon propane tank, a small black plastic tool box containing assorted tools, and an orange wrench (come-along type) from the Shofner Farm located 6 miles east of Highway 214 on P-14. Offense occurred sometime between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon on 02-23-97.

Remember, you can call 592-TIPS and remain anonymous.

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

Jr. High Track Results

The 7th and 8th grade Wranglers and Lady Wranglers competed in a meet at Seagraves last Thursday, and the following is a summary of individual results. No team point totals were kept in the meet.

7th Lady Wranglers:

Discus- Arasley Luna 1st, Esmeralda Moreno 6th.
 Shot Put-Elizabeth Clanahan 6th.
 300 Hurdles- Chelsi Wagnon 1st, Julie Gonzales 4th.
 100 Hurdles-Julie Gonzales 4th, Chelsi Wagnon 5th.
 200 Dash-Josie Ramos 5th, Ashley Gonzalez, Arasley Luna 6th.
 100 Dash- Becky Coronel 4th, Ashley Gonzales 5th, Josie Ramos 6th.

8th Lady Wranglers:

Long Jump- Kari Guetersloh 1st, Lexi Warren 6th.
 Triple Jump-Kari Guetersloh 2nd, Lexi Warren 6th.
 300 Hurdles- Frances Cordova 5th.
 100 Hurdles- Frances Cordova 5th.
 400 Dash- Lexi Warren 1st.
 200 dash- Lexi Warren 2nd.
 100 Dash- Kari Guetersloh 1st, Michaela Traweek 4th, Kimbe Jones 6th.

7th Wranglers:

800 Run- Jeffrey Lollar 2nd. 400 Dash-Jeffrey Lollar 2nd.
 100 Hurdles- Nathan Hays 1st.
 300 Hurdles- Nathan Hays, 2nd.

8th Wranglers:

400 Relay- Joseph Rodriguez, Adam Garcia, Jared Bell, Moises Gonzales 2nd.
 2400 Run- Kelsey Blundell 1st, Louis Hernandez 6th.
 800 Run- Israel Moreno 1st, Joel Gallegos 2nd.
 100 Dash (heats)-Joseph Rodriguez 1st, Eric Nixon 5th.
 200 Dash- (heats)-Adam Garcia 2nd, Eric Nixon 5th.
 400 Dash-(heats)- Moises Gonzales 1st, Jared Bell 2nd.
 1600 Run- Israel Moreno 1st, Kelsey Blundell 2nd, Louis Hernandez 6th.
 1600 Relay- Joseph Rodriguez, Joel Gallegos, Moises Gonzales, Adam Garcia 1st.
 1000 Jump- Joseph Rodriguez 3rd.
 Shot Put- Armando Luna 3rd.
 Discus- Armando Luna 2nd.

Cowgirl Basketball All-District

It was announced late last week the following PHS Cowgirl basketball players were named to the 5AA All District Team;
 First Team- Kayla Redman, Sophomore.
 Honorable Mention- Kyley Bearden, Senior, and Tessa St. Romain, Senior.
 Congratulations, ladies!

Cowgirl-Cowboy Relays

Because of spring break and conflicting track meet dates, the annual Cowboy-Cowgirl Relays drew only five visiting schools. Following are the individual results:

PHS Cowgirls:

400 Relay- Missy Asebedo, Krystle Blundell, Lisa Parrish, Anne Palmer 3rd.
 800 Run- Wendy Hernandez 4th.
 Shot Put- Kayla Redman 1st, Marcey House 3rd.
 High Jump- Kelli Osborn 6th.
 Discus- Marcey House 3rd.
 100 Dash- Anne Palmer 5th.
 800 Relay- Missy Asebedo, Anne Palmer, Kelly Osborn, Krystle Blundell 2nd.
 400 Dash- Lisa Parrish 3rd.
 1600 Relay- Kristi Guetersloh, Lisa Parrish, Kelli Osborn, Krystle Blundell 3rd.

PHS Cowboys:

1600 Run- Will St. Romain 2nd.
 400 Dash- Jesus Hernandez 1st.
 100 Dash- Gideon Traweek 6th.
 800 Relay- Gideon Traweek, Coley Burgess, Chris Willett, Wayne Willett 2nd.
 400 relay- Joe Luna, Fermin Luna, Wayne Willett, Jesus Hernandez 2nd.
 800 Run- Chris Willett 4th, Joe Luna 5th, Fermin Luna 6th.
 Shot Put- Coley Burgess 1st.
 3200 Run- Will St. Romain 2nd.
 Discus- Coley Burgess 1st.
 1600 Relay- Joe Luna, Fermin Luna, Wayne Willett, Jesus Hernandez 1st.

The Cowboys finished third in the meet behind Sundown and O'Donnell.

JV Boys:

1600 Run- Felipe Reyna 1st, Josh Bayer 2nd.
 Discus- Josh Bell 4th.
 3200 Run- Felipe Reyna 1st, Josh Bayer 3rd.
 Shot Put- Josh Bell 4th.



Good baton pass from Missy Asebedo & Anne Palmer



Coley Burgess gets winning shot off.



Wayne Willett has run 1600 relay so much he does it eyes closed



Jesus Hernandez (left) finishes strong in 400 Relay.



Joe Luna starts 400 Relay



JV Cowboy Felipe Reyna blistered field in 1600 and 3200 runs.



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Cholesterol 70mg	22%	Sugar 1g	2%
Sodium 580g	24%	Protein 13g	26%

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Letter to the Editor

To the PISD Board of Trustees;

As members of the Plains School Board, I would hope that you remember the responsibility that is held with this office is fiduciary, that is a position of extreme trust. The trust of the community, friends, and neighbors AND most important the STUDENTS of this school.

You hear many complaints of deficiencies in department, but there are also deficiencies in the academic curriculum. The academics are more important to the future of the students. My son, Coley, recently prepared a paper as part of an application for a scholarship. The theme was that of a lifelong learner. We truly must be lifelong learners, but the attitudes and abilities to be lifelong learners are fostered in students years in formal school.

Unconcerned or inept teachers can do much to circumvent

the will to be a learner, and thus have a negative affect on the students lives and futures.

This school should be totally dedicated to a positive learning environment and quality education whether in athletics or academics. This requires the members of this faculty to be motivated to this agenda. We need no one here just to give them a job and a pay check; the federal government can accomplish this with much less detriment to the students and their future. Any overriding concerns of retirement from an inadequate member of this staff should be considered null and void when compared to the futures of the many young lives they will adversely affect.

Remember in your deliberations and setting of the goals for this school the only future of concern; The Children!! The Children!! The Children!!

Don Burgess

Mar. 2, 1885 - Cornerstone laid for the present Capitol building.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I wanted you to know how much I appreciated you for the changes that were made in our obituary for Juanelle on such short notice. I realize you were about to go to press but took the time to make our day a little better

When you live in a small community where everyone knows everyone else, and cares about their neighbor, it's a much better place to live.

I would also like to say thanks to our community at this time.

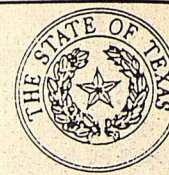
You don't know how much I appreciate what you did.

Thanks again,
Joyce Bearden

Mar. 22, 1864-Battle at Corpus Christi between Union and Confederate forces.



Walker... Texas Rep



Howdy, friends,

I hope everything is going well. I can tell you it is extremely busy here in Austin. By the filing deadline, more than 3500 bills were filed, beating last years record 3162.

One bill filed is House Bill(HB) 1, commonly known as the Appropriations Bill. I am happy to have the honor of serving on the 27 member appropriations committee. Many long hours and hard work went into formulating this 600 plus page bill.

Chairman Rob Junell (D) of San Angelo has appointed several subcommittees to look at crucial appropriation measures, and I serve on one to study emoluments. The purpose of the subcommittee is to look at benefits certain agencies receive from the state, and make rational, factual decisions on the merit of the items.

Members of the Speakers Se-

lect committee on property taxes also think tax dollars should be reviewed, which led to their decision to table the Governor's tax proposal and draft their own property tax relief program. I am anxious to see the results of their meetings.

I am interested in any plan which reduces property taxes, funds our children's education, and ensures Texas stays in the forefront of economic development. Speaking of education, I filed HB 481, which reduces the number of grades tested for TAAS. I filed the legislation in response to results to my legislative survey. The majority of respondents urged some relief from this test. I am a firm believer in standardized measures to assess progress of our students, but disagree with the idea of testing children every year by this measure without allowing time to eliminate deficiencies.

Another important realization, if HB 481 passes, is a savings of \$8 to 10 million that can be re-directed into programs such as the Governor's reading initiative and other enrichment activities. We are spending too much time on assessing the problem and not enough time eliminating the problem. We must also free our teachers from the restraints of TAAS and allow them to do what they have been trained to do - Teach.

I realize this is a very passionate subject for most parents, educators and administrators. I encourage every member of District 80 to share with me ideas and opinions, as well as solutions to this matter. I encourage and challenge you to keep those letters, faxes and calls coming. Together we will make a difference for District 80 and our great State of Texas. Sincerely, Gary Walker

Another important realization, if HB 481 passes, is a savings of \$8 to 10 million that can be re-directed into programs such as the Governor's reading initiative and other enrichment activities. We are spending too much time on assessing the problem and not enough time eliminating the problem. We must also free our teachers from the restraints of TAAS and allow them to do what they have been trained to do - Teach.

I realize this is a very passionate subject for most parents, educators and administrators. I encourage every member of District 80 to share with me ideas and opinions, as well as solutions to this matter.

I encourage and challenge you to keep those letters, faxes and calls coming. Together we will make a difference for District 80 and our great State of Texas. Sincerely, Gary Walker



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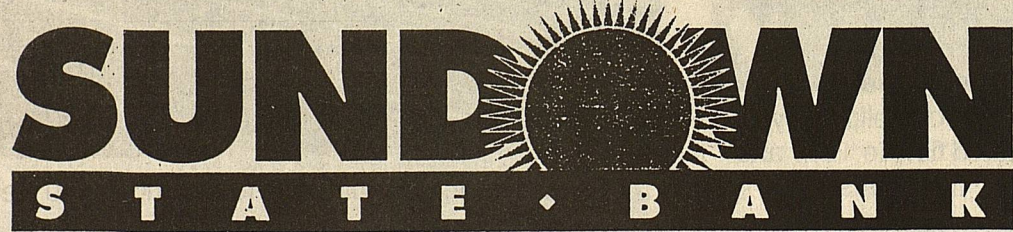
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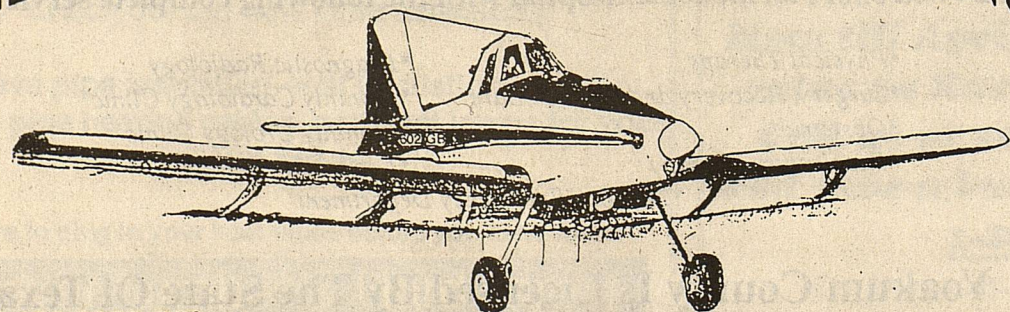
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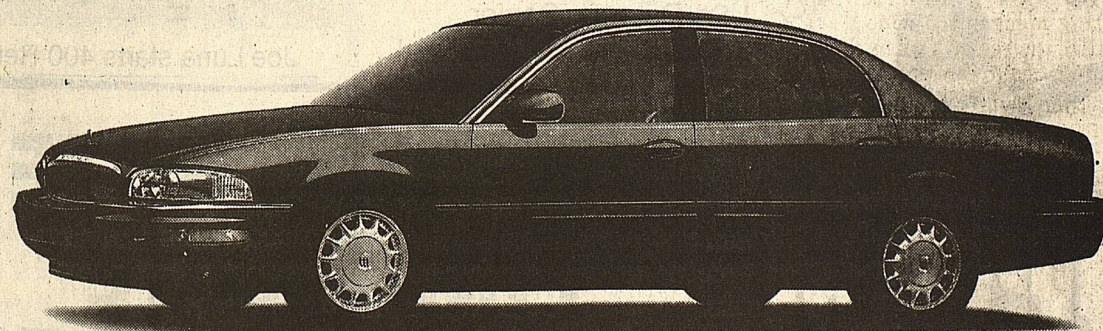
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Anne Palmer soars in girls long jump event

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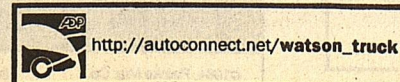
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Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



Air Bag System Guidelines

The safety of all vehicle occupants is a primary concern for all Texans. Everyone needs to understand how to properly position and restrain all vehicle occupants, especially children. Remember, air bags are safe and beneficial and are intended to be used with safety belts. Air bags have been credited with saving over 1,600 lives and preventing injuries in thousands of other instances. It needs to be stressed that improperly positioned or belted occupants can be seriously injured or killed during air bag deployment.

Guidelines:

- Always wear and require passengers to wear safety belts (front and back seats).
- Always read and follow child seat manufacturer's Owner Guide and vehicle Owner Guide.
- Always move driver and front passenger seats as far rearward as practical.
- Never place a rear-facing child seat in front of an air bag.
- Never allow children or other occupants to slide the shoulder belt behind them.
- Always buckle children 12 and under in the rear seat, if possible. Older children should be properly buckled up and are safer in the rear seat.

Never forget, with or without air bags, children are always safer in the rear seat.

"Buckle Up, Children in the Back."

"Collections"

From Holly Dyer

Something to ponder

To be your best, do your best every step of the way without worrying about the outcome. Excellence is the sum of many outstanding actions.

Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Isaiah 48:17

Senior Citizen Corner

Monday of this week was the time to recognize March Birthdays and Senior of the Month. Table #9 was the big scene. Sparky and Jean both had Birthdays and Jean was "The Senior of the Month." Their special guest for the day were Stephanie and grandsons Casey, Rusty and Colby, along with a good friend Margaret McPhearson. Congratulations to this nice couple.

Also visiting this week, James Williams, and representing Norwest Bank was Melissa Tadlock, Jerry Callingsworth, and Don Scrouder, also the Community Service ladies.

Our condolences to Mildred Rawls on the loss of her sister at Brady, Texas, and to Georgie Hubbard on the loss of her nephew whose funeral will be Friday.

Activities of March 17 through March 21:
 Line Dancing on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 a.m.
 Mon. Pot Luck Supper at 6:00 p.m.
 Wed. Pool Tournament at 10:00 a.m. and Medical Art B/P at 11:00-11:30 a.m.
 Thurs. Gail Bailey Insurance at 11:00 a.m.

Everyone remember the Pot Luck Supper on Monday. All Seniors are invited. Bring a dish and a friend and enjoy an evening on food, fun and friendly visiting.

See you next week, Smitty

Search for G/T Students Grades K-6

Plains ISD provides many educational programs to meet student needs. One offering is the Gifted and Talented Program. The Plains Gifted and Talented Program is a diversified program. It requires that a student be creative and original in expression, be task committed, a motivated and independent worker, and be willing and able to use higher-level thinking skills to develop products within the gifted and talented instruction.

Listed below are a few of the well-known characteristics of gifted/talented students. Please think of these behaviors in comparison to other children of the same age.

- likes to read
- advanced vocabulary
- inquisitive—asks unusual questions
- playful/dramatic
- understands complex math concepts
- independent
- learns easily
- collect things; organizes
- mentally advanced for age
- original/inventive in ideas
- interested in adult issues

Library Filmtime

Twenty children attended Library Filmtime this week on March 5, 1997. They enjoyed two songs, two games, two movies, and one book. They also had a live bunny come

to visit and remind the kids about our Easter Egg Hunt on March 26th. They also talked about not having Filmtime next week because it will be Spring Break.

Those attending included: Kevin John Gass, Autumn Friesen, Hunter Welch, Jacob Brink, Adam Nixon, Carolina Hernandez, Sammy Melendez, Kristie Lopez, Hannah Crump, Katelynn Young, Isaac Doyle, Cody Friesen, Haley Welch, Jaston Brink, Dakota Earnest, Shelby Covarrubias, Chase Ortega, Lexus Jimenez, Merrit Crump, and Raegan Young.

Thank You

Words are inadequate at a time like this to express our gratitude to our many friends. Thank you for the beautiful flowers, phone calls, cards, food, prayers and your visits in our time of sorrow in the loss of Juanelle, our beloved wife, mother, sister and aunt. Your kindness and concern was deeply appreciated. Our thanks to Bro. Jim Mosely, and Bro. Bill Wright for conducting the service. A special thanks to Patrick Hamilton and the choir. The music was beautiful. We appreciated the ladies that brought food and served the meals. Juanelle loved each of you.

May God Bless You
 The Juanelle Clanahan Green Family
 Ben Green
 Sherrie Ireland and family
 Tommy Green and family
 Kenneth Green and family
 Joyce and Ray Bearden
 N.C. and Beth Clanahan and family
 Ricky Bearden and family
 Rhonda Dion and family

Airmail via Brownsville

South Texas played an important role in early commercial aviation. At one time, Brownsville had the largest international airport in the U.S.

For the March 9, 1929, dedication of the airport and inauguration of the Mexico City-New York airmail route, famed aviator Charles Lindbergh flew the first airmail from Mexico City to Brownsville, escorted by Mexican government officials and military planes. The day-long celebration featured wing walking and other aerial feats.

In Brownsville, Pan American Airways launched the first "blind-flying school," now called instrument flying, as part of its massive airport operation on the border.

In the early 1930s, Braniff Airlines established a Chicago-to-Brownsville commercial route under the colorful slogan: "From the Great Lakes to the Gulf."

Mar. 14, 1964 - Jack Ruby found guilty of murdering Lee Harvey Oswald.

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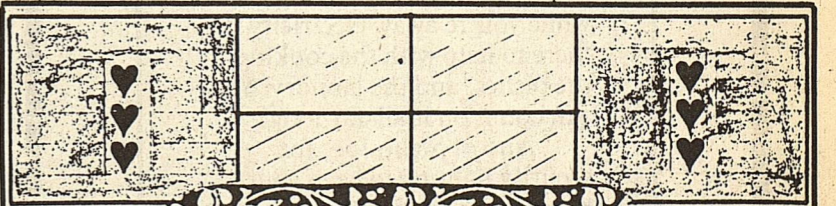
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Each Thursday

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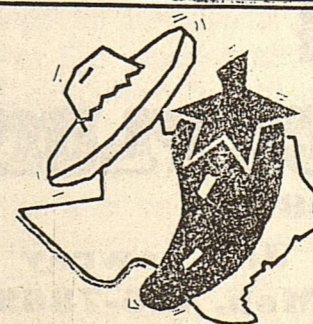
Welcome To The Lavender Patch

WHEW!

We are finally through with all our cleaning, painting, decorating, re-arranging and stocking chores, and we think the place looks pretty good! Why don't you stop by and pay us a visit, and see what you think?

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From The Hack



Mistakes in a newspaper are seldom forgotten and never forgiven by those offended. Recently we wrote a headline over the photo of a lovely baby girl, and called it a boy. This does not earn many points with mommas and grandmommas. The daddies and granddaddies are a bit more forgiving... they usually say, "Well, he was probably taking a bit of his Bride's Blackberry wine when he wrote the dumb thing." And then there's the almost minuscule error I made reporting PHS Senior Coley Burgess recent record breaking Shot Put effort. He tossed the thing 50 feet, 7 inches. My stupid computer made it read 5 feet 7 inches.

At last week's Cowboy-Cowgirl Relays, a bunch of the volunteer timers gave me a hard time about the boo-boo, asking after I came back from photoing the same shot put event, "Did Coley break six feet this week?" I of course said, "Sure, he managed 7 feet 3 inches this time." Believe it or not, these are not the only mistakes I have ever made. In my tender seventh year, attending a Baptist Church Revival Sunday School session one summer morn, our teacher asked who

the first four Books in the New Testament were written by, and I recalled some older guys wisdom, and called out " Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, saddled a horse and away they ron." That absolutely earned me no gold stars on my attendance chart. As hard as it may be to swallow, I once made a minor mistake on my score card at the infamous Yoakum County Golf Club, known to be infested with liars, cheats, thieves and non child support payers, some of them wearing masks and carrying guns. Informed of the minor infraction on my part, I was threatened with everything from physical mayhem to body dismemberment.

Why is everyone so tough on me? I mean, you know, Newt the newt Gingrich is still in office following his transgressions. Wiley Bill Clinton is limping about on crutches, still alive after Whitewater Gate, and a ravenous appetite for political donations slipped under a Chinese rug. In church this last Sunday, I could have sworn Rick Doyle was looking at me when he delivered the parable about King David's sins, errors, and mistakes. Could the good Pastor have

To the Editor

Since county elections are approximately one year away, I would like to formally announce I will not be a candidate for Yoakum County Commissioner, Precinct 4. This should give those persons interested in seeking the office ample time to decide their intentions. Thank you, Macky McWhirter, Commissioner, Pct. 4.

possibly seen the score card with the teeny - weeny error I turned in prior to his message?

Covering last week's Cowboy-Cowgirl Relays, I was impressed by a number of things, including the insensitivity of a few of the volunteer timers. One guy said, "Well, it's lots better than doing a Cross Country event.. all you catch there is the kids throwing up when they finish." I admit, it's more truth than fiction.

I am always impressed at a high school meet, like the relays, with the determination and desire of the young competitors, even if they realize they stand no chance of winning their event. They give it their all from start to finish. Reminds me of a few meets I competed in centuries ago. I ran the 400. In record slow time. But, I was so semi-swift, I had to anchor the thing. I recall one memorable meet at Alpine, altitude almost in the stratosphere, where we managed to win the event with a time Jr. High girls now achieve.

Four of us were leaning over the chainlink fence calling " Baaarrrrrr" loud as we could, and our insensitive Coach strolled up and said, "Well, Girls, nice race. I seen mice creep around a track swifter than y'all." Admiration is always appreciated.

Public Notice City of Plains Texas Community Development Program

The City of Plains will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. on March 25, 1997 at the City Hall, 602 11th Street, Plains, Texas, in regard to the submission of an application to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizens participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities and the use of past TCDP funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TCDP application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to David Brunson, City Administrator, at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend should contact City Hall for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. For further information, contact David Brunson at the City Hall 806-456-2288.

Mar.26, 1918; Gov. William P. Hobby signed the primary suffrage bill, giving women the right to vote in Texas Primary elections

* Notice * For Bids

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 9:00 a.m., Monday, March 24, 1997, for the construction of a pool building at Stuff Moorehead Park in Denver City. Yoakum County requests separate bids for each component of the building (Example: foundation, plumbing, roof, etc.) and/or bids for construction of entire building.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, March 24, 1997.

Bid price will be paid from 1997 budgeted funds.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact Mr. J. R. Slentz, Commissioner Precinct 2, 700 W. Cedar, Denver City, Texas 79323 (806-592-3287) or Mr. James Thompkins, West Texas Consultants, Inc., 501 W. Industrial, Midland, Texas 79701 (915-685-3800).

Sealed bids should be marked "BID - POOL BUILDING" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/ Cowboy Way @ Ave. G, Plains, Texas 79355. No FAX copies will be accepted.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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* Public Notice *

Notice is hereby given that Collins & Ware Inc., 508 W Wall, Suite 1200, Midland Texas 79701 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for and Entiry of Density for the Plains Unit, 3731 Acres, located in all and or portions of sections 335, 336, 368, 369, 370, 371, 390, 391, 392, 393, 426, Block D. J.H. Gibson Survey, District 8A. Brahaney Field(s), Yoakum County, Texas, being approximately 2 miles in a northwest direction from Plains, Texas. Field rules for the Brahaney field are 660/1320, 40 acres.

Pursuant to the terms of the Entiry for Density, this application may be granted by the Commissioners if no protest to this application is received. An affected person is entitled to protest this application. Affected persons include owners of record and the operator of leases of record of adjacent tracts. If a hearing is called, the applicant has the burden to prove the need for this application. 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 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 Chuck Sledge - Production Engineer for Collins & Ware, Inc, at (915) 687-3435. If you have any questions regarding the hearing procedure, please contact the Commission at (512) 463-6748.

If you wish to request a hearing on this application, you must notify the Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division, Permitting Services Section, PO Drawer 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-2967, in writing of your intent to appear in protest. This intent to appear in protest must be received in the Railroad Commission's Austin Office by April 1, 1997. If no protest is received within such time, the requested application may be granted by the Commissioners.

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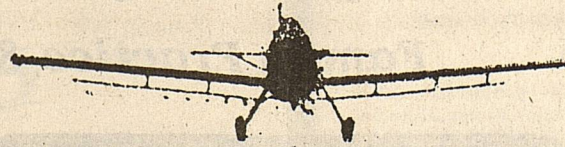
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