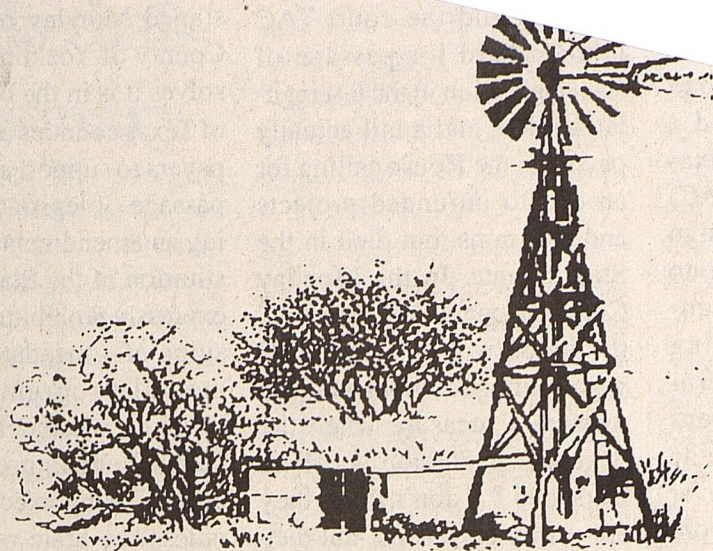


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 11, November 26, 2003

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Mexican-American Caucus hears superintendents testimony on school finance

Both "Rich and Poor" districts agree system does not provide adequate funds

Plains Independent School District Superintendent Jim Haynes and nine other area superintendents presented testimony to the Mexican-American Caucus November 20 at the Museum of Texas Tech University. The caucus is made up of members of the legislature who are Hispanic or who represent districts with a large Hispanic population. District 83 Representative Delwin Jones was also present. The hearing was one of many held around the state, organized by the Mexican-American Caucus to receive testimony concerning the current public school finance system and to hear suggestions about possible solutions to the current public school funding problems.

The ten superintendents covered a wide array of school finance topics, including taxing and revenue structures, technology, equity and adequacy of any new funding plan, transportation costs, concerns about declining values and declining students, school consolidation, accountability, and cuts in employment, salaries, and health care.

Haynes said, "There were people on both sides of the argument concerning recapture of local funds, but I tried to make the point being labeled a 'property rich school district' doesn't mean you have all the money you need to operate your

program. The funding taken from Plains ISD may help some districts but it also causes problems for the Plains school system. I informed the group Plains ISD has cut spending in every area except for teacher pay step increases and some capital outlay projects. Our teaching staff was reduced by five employees for this school year."

Haynes also pointed out the state is being recognized nationally for the progress the public education system has made in educating students. The Plains superintendent told the caucus, "It seems the reward the state's teachers get for being so successful in improving student performance is to have their salary and benefits cut to help balance the state budget." Haynes was referring to the legislative action this year which took away \$500 from a \$1000 incentive, started last year from full time employee and teachers. Regular employees working less than 30 hours weekly lost \$750 of the original \$1000 incentive, and school administrators lost the entire \$1000. This was coupled with additional withholding from the employees pay to cover the increased cost of the healthcare system for retired teachers. The Plains School Board took action after

Turn To Page 3,
Court Cases

We regret the brevity of this issue of CCN. Holly's illness and hospital stay made a set routine impossible.

We greatly appreciate your many thoughtful concerns and actions.

Gary & Holly

Click It or Ticket Campaign

Thousands of motorists will be hitting Texas streets and highways this month as the winter holiday and shopping season gets underway. So will thousands of law enforcement officers who will be part of the Thanksgiving Click It or Ticket safety belt enforcement and public education effort.

Texas is part of a national effort to reduce deaths and injuries from traffic crashes. From November 18 to December 1, state troopers, police officers and sheriffs' deputies throughout Texas will be cracking down on drivers and passengers who aren't using safety belts.

Texas law requires drivers and front seat passengers to use safety belts. Children and teens up to the age of 17 have to be buckled up in the front and back seat. Child safety seats are required for children four years old or less that three feet tall. Fines for violations range from \$25 to \$200.

A salute to the Cowboy-Cowgirl 'Spirit Building Team'



Cheer leaders shown above were dressed for a cold night at the Morton game. Left to right, Desiraye Broome, Kimberley Trent, Cecilia Bonilla, LaShonda Diamond, Daniela Lazos, Jamie Covarrubias.

At left, the bell ringers were also out in the cold - Ashley Vantine and Stacie Alldredge.

The young ladies did a great job throughout the long football season.

District, County Court Cases Heard

Four criminal cases were heard in recent sessions of District Court, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding.

Jeffrey Sanchez Lopez pled true and conditions of community supervision resulting from a prior cocaine delivery cause were modified. He must pay \$250 delinquent supervision fees by November 26, additional court cost of \$75 by April 17, 2004. He will remain in the Ray D. Anderson corrections facility not less than one month nor more than 24 months and pay the daily costs of the facility. He shall also pay additional court appointed \$200 attorney fees at \$20 per month after his release. Paul Mansur was his attorney.

Mike L. Sanders pled guilty to burglary of a habitation with intent to commit theft. He was sentenced to serve 10 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division, with credit for 1,435 days jail time served. He must pay \$337 court costs. Paul Mansur was his attorney, and Chris Ballard, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Natasha Guerra pled guilty to 5 counts of forgery. A two year sentence in state jail was suspended and probated 5 years. She was fined \$1000, must pay \$303 court costs and \$25

time payment fee, \$1210 restitution to Lowe's Pay n Save and \$250 court appointed attorney fees. Joe Nagy for Bill Helwig was her attorney, and Sheriff Deputy Jerry Howard was investigating officer.

Estanislado Barrios Caballero Jr. Pled guilty to assault on a

police officer. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated 10 years. He must pay a \$1500 fine, \$293 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will remain in county jail up to 180 days or until space is available.

Turn To Page 2,
COURT CASES

Lea County Electric members to receive capital credits

The trustees of Lea County Electric Cooperative recently approved the return of \$1,198,013.72 in patronage capital to members who received service from the Cooperative during 1979 and 1980. The amount returned for 1979 will be \$357,726.24; for 1980 the amount will be \$840,278.48. The 1979 figure represents the remaining one-half of that year's capital credits to be retired, while the amount for 1980 is the allocation for the entire year. (The amounts for both years are less previous payments to estates and qualifying members over the age of 66.) Checks should be in the mail by December 10, 2003.

Capital credits for a cooperative represent margins earned over and above expenses for a given year. These margins are not returned immediately, but are instead retained by the Cooperative to insure its financial stability, to reduce or eliminate the need to finance debt, and to keep rates as low as possible. "Our trustees are extremely pleased to be able to return these credits to our members," said Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of the cooperative. "Our board is committed to providing all of our members with real value through the supply of reliable, high quality power at competitive rates. The ability to return these capital credits to our members underscores the utility's strength as well as the benefit of membership!" said Dreyspring.

Members who have reached the age of 66 are reminded that they may be eligible to receive payment of their capital credits, subject to a limit of \$300 per year, for prior years. For more information, contact the Cooperative at (800) 510-5232 or 396-3631.

Sport of Kings coming to Neighboring Lea County

As detailed in last week's issue of CCN, the delegation of Hobbs, New Mexico Chamber of Commerce members visiting at the County Park with chamber members from Denver City and Plains knew what they were talking about when they predicted the New Mexico Racing Commission would soon announce their choice to build and operate a multi-million dollar horse race track and casino in Hobbs.

Last week Commission Chairman Jack Cole announced the state's fifth race track will be called Zia Park, and will be located in northwest Hobbs near the Lea County event center, which is on the Hobbs to Lovington highway. The commission license will be under the name Zia Park Partners, organized by R.d. Hubbard and

supported by three partners. Hubbard is the owner of Ruidoso Downs. The conditional racing license calls for Zia Partners to also obtain a state gaming license issued by the New Mexico Gaming Board. The groups plans call for building a casino at the track site featuring some 600 slot machines.

The track and casino have been the source of intense speculation by the public on both sides of the Texas - New Mexico border for many months. While many oil field towns in the Permian Basin have experienced depressed economies and declining populations, Hobbs has been the scene of some major growth activity the last couple of years. The opening of the Super Wal-Mart, huge Home Depot, new Applebee's and Chili's Restaurants and the

more coming of Red Lobster, the expansion of the multi-screen movie theatre, and construction of at least three new motels, all in the general area of the proposed race track and casino, led many area folks to express confidence the track and casino would be "Done Deals" in a matter of time.

The Zia group is reported planning to spend some \$40 to \$50 million on the track and casino complex. The casino will probably be completed before the track, and ponies will probably start running sometime in the fall of 2005.

The Hobbs Chamber officials are confident the track and casino will be a major economic boost, bringing new full-time and part-time job opportunities, and are counting on West Texans to be a major source of 'new money.

Yoakum County joins TAC against unfunded mandates

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, Judge Dallas Brewer reported to the court he had recently attended a meeting in which the Texas Association of Counties (TAC) is urging an all out campaign to pressure the legislature into passing laws stopping unfunded mandates being dumped on county government. These financial burdens on counties can originate in the legislature, a state agency or even by executive order from the Governor's office. This imposition originating in Austin often disrupts county financial planning and the actual county budget.

Brewer told the court TAC lobbied hard for passage of such legislation in the last regular session, and a bill actually passed in the House calling for an end to unfunded projects and programs, but died in the State Senate. In the Monday Commissioners Court meeting, the judge was asked if TAC was optimistic about passage of such a measure when the next special session is called. He stated "I don't think they are overly optimistic, but they are committed to continuing the fight these unfunded directives from Austin."

The last paragraph of the resolution which court members all

signed Monday reads, "The County of Yoakum hereby resolves it is in the best interests of Texas counties and their taxpayers to support and favor the passage of legislation, including an amendment to the Constitution of the State of Texas, expressly prohibiting the imposition of a mandatory governmental program on Texas counties, whether by act of the Texas Legislature or a state agency or by executive order, unless the State of Texas has fully funded and disbursed all necessary funds to enable Texas counties to operate said governmental program."

Clay Taylor, County Hospital

Administrator, reported the hospital Board agreed the optimum number of kidney dialysis machines for patients use in the new dialysis center was seven, and the court approved ordering that number, to be paid for with budgeted hospital funds. The Court also approved a lease agreement with the First Baptist Church in Denver City for a portion of their parking lot for hospital use.

A bid of \$5,000 was quickly approved for Lots 42-45, Block 20 in south Denver City for delinquent taxes. The property is valued at \$5,000, and some \$700 taxes are due on it.

From Page 1, CAUCUS became involved in the process. They said if a special session of the legislature is called to address the school finance issue all the representatives and senators would need input from all involved parties to reach a workable solution.

Testimony was also heard from individual citizens as well as representatives from the Equity Center and the Texas Rural School Coalition. Both the Equity Center and the Texas Rural School Coalition support the current distribution plan that recaptures local tax money from property rich school districts. Both the property rich (Chapter 41) and property poor (Chapter 42) district superintendents agreed the current system does not provide enough money to educate the state's school children to the level of performance now required by the state and federal government.

Members of the Mexican-American Caucus used the hearing opportunity to inform the group nothing would change until the citizens

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Neugebauer Supports Better Roads For District 19

Congressman Randy Neugebauer expressed support Wednesday for a new long-term highway funding bill.

Members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and national transportation officials introduced TEA-LU, the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, a \$375 billion, six-year highway and transit funding bill designed to address America's growing congestion and highway safety problems. "One of my highest priorities as we consider the Transportation Equity Act is to improve and expand Texas roads and ensure the integrity of the Highway Trust Fund to meet our nation's transportation infrastructure needs," said Neugebauer.

This bill will allow the continuation of the federal highway, public transportation, highway safety, and motor carrier safety programs for six years, from fiscal years 2004 through 2009. The \$375 billion price tag reflects a 72 percent increase over the total funding from the current highway funding bill, and a 52 percent increase over the total funding proposed in the administration's SAFETEA reauthorization bill. It also increases the minimum guaranteed percentage of return from each State will get back from Federal highway formal programs from 90.5 percent to 95 per-

cent by 2009. The Transportation Equity Act required that the user fees paid by American motorists be invested for their intended purposes, not diverted to other uses. By unlocking the Highway Trust Fund, this Act freed billions of dollars in dedicated user fees for critically needed highway, and transit improvements.

"The increased investment in transportation infrastructure will have far-reaching impacts on the quality of life in our communities, our nation's economy, and our competitiveness in the world marketplace. For every \$1 billion invested in federal highway and transit spending, 47,500 jobs are created or sustained. We are making the Texas highway infrastructure and the Texas economy better at the same time. Every American and every business will benefit from shortened travel times, increased productivity, and improved safety," said Neugebauer.

Neugebauer is no stranger to transportation issues as former chairman of the Ports to Plains Coalition. This bill will likely be voted on in the House in late February. The first piece of legislation Neugebauer introduced is H.R. 3240 which designates La Entrada al Pacifico as a high priority corridor on the national highway system.

New Items At The Library

Fiction Books:

The Collected Short Stories Of Louis L. Amour
Appomattox by James Reasoner
Holly by Jude Deveraux
The Tristan Betrayal by Robert Ludlum
A Christmas Journey by Anne Perry
The Hanged Man's Song by John Sandford
The Beekeeper's Apprentice by Laurie R. King
By Sorrow's River by Larry McMurtry
Plant Them Deep by Aimee and David Thurlo
Bleeding Heart by Martha Powers
Christmas Present by Jacquelyn Mitchard

Non Fiction:

Franklin Delano Roosevelt by Roy Jenkins
Lyons On Horses by John Lyons
Natural Horse-Man-Ship by Pat Parelli
I am What I Ate by Bill Cosby
Brinkley's Beat by David Brinkley
How To Prevent and Treat Diabetes with Natural Medicine by Dr. Michael

New Videos:

Gaither's Present Billy Graham Homecoming Volumes 1 & 2
The Book And The Rose
Joshua
Eloise At The Plaza
Ever After
Stars In My Crown

Received too late to be included in sports on Page 3:

Varsity Cowboys: The Cowboys started their season with a good win over Ralls, 60-50. Richard Diaz poured in 18 points, followed by Kerry Sisson 15, Zach Broome and Evan Cain 8 each, Brandon Hise 6, Payton Bean and Cody Flores 2, bRandon Davis 1. In the next outing Sudan proved tough, and the Cowboys fell 77-54. Zach Broome had 21 points, Cody Flores 10, Richard Diaz 9, Evan Cain 5, Payton Bean and Brandon Davis 3 each, Kerry Sisson 2, Brandon Davis 1. The 'boys could only manage 16 of 34 free throws

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November 19 thru December 12
at Plains City Hall. Only one
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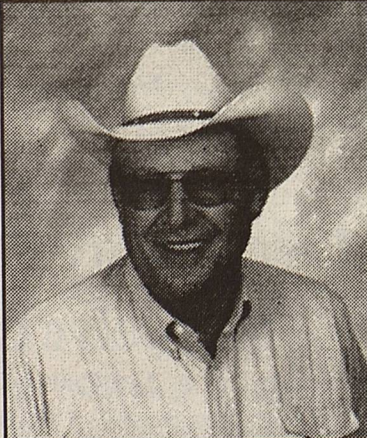
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tienen en mi es muy
agradecido. Y me gustaria
serviles a todos
otra vez.



TY Earl Powell

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2003**

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Winn - Winfield united in marriage

Shyloh Sheyenne Winn and Shane Ivy Winfield were united in marriage in a double ring ceremony at 7 PM August 23, at the Texas Tech University Merket Alumni Center in Lubbock. The Rev. Shelby Bruhn officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Tony and Lynn Winn of Plains. The groom is the son of Tom and Diane Winfield of Arlington.

The couple exchanged vows on the east lawn steps under an altar framed with draped silk chiffon and southern smilax. Metal baskets of roses, lavender and smilax flanked the altar. Guests were registered by Kaycie Rowland of Arlington.

Given away by her father, the bride wore an elegant strapless corset bodice gown of candlelight Italian satin from the Victoria's Bridal Collection. The skirt and cathedral train were scalloped and adorned with crystals. Her fingertip illusion veil was embellished with pearls and was attached to an ornate halo of crystals. The bride completed her attire with diamond and pearl earrings presented to her by her father before the ceremony. She carried a loose garden shower style bouquet of lavender, vanda orchids, blue bird roses and cascading English ivy bound with dupioni silk and a lavender and blue handkerchief given to her by her mother.

Jennifer Mendez of Smyer served as maid of honor and April Winn of Meadow, sister-in-law of the bride was matron of honor. The bridesmaids were Sunny Helms of Rotan, cousin of the bride, Tandi Moore of Bryan, and Ashley Davis of Lubbock. The bridesmaids wore lavender georgette garden length sundresses and carried clutch bouquets of sterling roses and lavender. Bailey Winn, cousin of the bride, served as flower girl. She wore a garden length candlelight satin dress tied in back with a large satin bow. In her hair she wore a halo of



lavender and ivy and carried a heart shaped basket filled with lavender rose petals.

Zach Winfield of Arlington served his brother as best man. The groomsmen were Ladd Winn of Meadow, brother of the bride, Michael Carver of Lubbock, Tony Higgins of Arlington, and Aaron Clark of Arlington. Serving as ushers were Jaime Salinas of Lubbock and Tom Swenson of San Antonio. The groom, groomsmen and fathers wore two-button notch After-Six tuxedos with Windsor ties. The vests were by Gemini on a paisley print. The grooms was in platinum, the groomsmen were in lavender and the fathers in black. The grooms boutonniere was of baby lavender roses and the attendants were fresh lavender.

As guests were seated music was provided by Musical Inspirations (harp and flute) and the Ellsworth String Quartet. "Endless Love" was played as the groomsmen escorted the bridesmaids down the aisle. Beau Garza of Lubbock sang " Butterfly Kisses " as a horse

drawn carriage carried the bride and her father to the entrance of the rose covered bridal aisle. Beau also sang " Amazed " during a unity ceremony. During the ceremonial kiss the wedding party released monarch butterflies in celebration.

The reception was held in the ballroom and courtyard at the Alumni Center. It included a dance featuring Beau Garza and Sunny Helms and a buffet of hours d'oeuvres and various entrees. The brides table featured a four tiered candlelight cake adorned with fondant bows. The cake sat on a metal basket interwoven with roses, lavender and southern smilax and under lit with miniature lights. Servers were Andrea Mayard and Julie Mahaffey, both of Lubbock.

The grooms table featured a two tiered chocolate cake accented with the Texas Tech symbol and topped with cascading chocolate covered strawberries. Kristen Carver and Tina Snuggs, both of Lubbock, served. Following a honeymoon trip to St. Lucia the couple will be at home in Lubbock.

PISD Basketball Summary

7th Wranglers: The youngest Wranglers started their season with a 26-14 loss to Morton. Chris Gonzales led scoring with 10 points, Holden Welch and A.J. Martinez each had 2. They next had a third place finish in the Whiteface tournament. They defeated Sudan 39-10, with

11 points from Chris Addison and 8 from Chris Gonzales to lead scoring. They also beat

Lazbuddie 31-28, with Gonzales and Addison again the top scorers. They fell to Seagraves 29-18. Addison and Derek Garza and Zack Ramon 3, AJ Martinez 2.

8th Wranglers: The older Wranglers won their opener against Morton 32-18. Cody Mayes topped scoring with 12 points, Rudy Gonzales had 10, Zack Ramos 7. They also took third

in the Whiteface tourney. They beat Morton 29-11. Ramos had 9 points, Mayes and Gonzales 6 each, Kurt Alldredge 3, Chase Guetersloh, Sergio Olivas 2 each, Juan Lara 1. They fell to Seagraves 20-15. Down 20-8 in the 4th period, they shut the Eagles out and managed 7 points.

For third place honors they defeated Anton 38-27. Mayes had 18 points, Lara 6, Gonzales 5, Ramos 4, Guetersloh 3, Alldredge 2.

JV Cowgirls: The younger Cowgirls played well to down Wellman 37-26, using speed and good defense. Cecilia Bonilla led scoring with 13 points, followed by Priscilla

Mares 12, Skylar Keesee 6, Ashli Hunter 3, Callie Howell 2.

JV Cowboys: The younger Cowboys dropped their opener to Ralls 49-39. Blake O'Quinn topped scoring with 12 points, Landon Craft had 6, Todd Williams and Brant Huerta 5 each, T.J. Cordova 3, John Wagnon, Scott Addison, Abel Ramos and Blake Parrish 2 each.

Varsity Cowgirls: The Cowgirls started their season with a big 50-46 win over Ralls. Desiraye Broome had the hot scoring hand with 18 points, followed by Sandra Gandara 10, Regina Morales and Micaela Villegas 7 each, Jesinia Suarez 6, Moriah Traweek and Prisma Ortiz 1 each. Broome and Suarez each had 6 rebounds, Sandra, Moriah, Jesenia, Desiraye, Regina, Meghan and Jamie Covarrubias had steals. The girls did not fare as well against Wellman, falling 56-37.

Desiraye again topped scoring with 11 points, followed by Regina 8, Meghan 7, Sandra 5, Moriah, Prisma and Jesenia 2 each. The girls could only make 42% of their free throws.

Library Happenings

Three new contests are underway at the County Library in November and December. For both Jr. and Sr. high school students we are sponsoring an essay contest called "My favorite Christmas memory". For more information see the English teachers or come by the library. Another candy counting contest for elementary age and younger children is now underway. Come by the library and see what's happening!!

From Page 1, Court Cases

able in a substance abuse facility where he will remain no less than 90 days nor more than one year

In a November 24 session of County Court with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Jeffrey Sanchez Lopez pled guilty to DWI, b.t. 150/149. He was sentenced to one day in jail with credit for one day served. He must complete the DWI first offender program.

Please join us in a bridal shower honoring
Lensey Cullins
bride elect of Brandon Polyniak, Sunday,
December 7, 2003 2:00 - 3:30 in the afternoon in the
home of Bela Warren,
904 1st Street, Plains, Texas
Selections: Dillard's, Pier 1, Target, Nelson's
Pharmacy, Image'n That

PHS Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

'A' Honor Roll

9th Grade

Landon Craft
Jose Gallegos
Erika Loewen
Angelica Mendoza
Araceli Mendoza
Adriana Ponce
Colby Wilmet

10th Grade

Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Skylar Keesee
B.J. Lester
Ramiro Martinez

11th Grade

Payton Bean
Evan Cain
Cody Flores
Mayra Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise

Kerry Sisson

12th Grade

Stacie Alldredge
Grady McNabb
Helena Neufeld
Nolan Newsom
Moriah Traweek
Manuela Villegas
April Wilmet

'A-B Honor Roll

9th Grade

David Alldredge
Skylar Keesee
Blake O'Quinn
Blake Parrish

11th Grade

Patrick Cotton
Brant Huerta

12th Grade

Brandon Davis
Cendy Lopez



What about?

I just want to say "THANK YOU" for the community's continued support of our funeral homes. As I have said before, we are so very thankful for all the blessings God has bestowed on us, the wonderful friendships we have in each of the communities we serve, as well as the honor and privilege of serving our families.

My wife Beth said, "Do you mind if I write something this week? Of course I said go ahead. So the rest of this week's article is her's."

Well, the holidays are here. It only seems like yesterday that we were cleaning up after Christmas. Times seem to get more and more rushed. They say time speeds up the older we get. My, but I really hope that isn't true. It seems the holidays are so rushed for us women. By the time we get the cooking all done all then we do shopping, wrapping and more cooking, we can be very stressed and tired. I found this poem in my Grandmother's old cookbook this past week. So, as we

speed through the holidays remember this...

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush; He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness, which restore my serenity. He leads me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, And His guidance is peace. Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for His presence is here. His timelessness, His all importance, will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity, by anointing my mind with His oils of tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord, and dwell in his house forever.

Happy Thanksgiving!
Until Next Time!
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First Annual Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball

December 31, 2003

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

K&L Ranch
(formerly the Sue Stevens Ranch)

Dinner, Dancing, Silent and Live Auctions
all proceeds will benefit The Yoakum County Hospital Foundation

\$100.00
(One ticket admits one couple or one single person into the ball)

If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball, please call one of the following Gala Committee Members:

Sharon Boyd - 592-2939 * Edith Kidd - 592-2269 * Beverly Mills - 592-2121
Linda Moore - 592-8829 * Wilma Powell - 456-2288
Louise Swanson - 592-2069 * Judy Thompson - 592-2580, or 592-6444

From The Hack

The only half funny event I am aware of concerning my Bride's illness and hospital stay occurred the morning after she was ambulated to UMC in Lubbock. She had to spend hours in the ER before finally getting a semi-private room, because of over crowding from the almost unbelievable flu epidemic in the city and surrounding area. I didn't get to the hospital until the next day and had no idea where they had stashed her. I inquired at the visitor assistance counter, being manned by two very lovely, very white haired volunteer ladies. I chose the one with the warmest smile, and inquired, "Can you tell me the room my wife is in, Holly Dyer?"

The little old darling poured over a lengthy list, glanced up at me and sternly asked, "What's her name again?"

I repeated it, and she looked sternly at me again and demanded, "And what's her age?" Aware of security measures, but getting a bit ticked, I forcefully stated, "She's 74, but does not look within ten years of it!"

The angel haired lady glared, really glared at me now, and then hissed, "YOU MEN! Her Real name is Audrey, and she is 75, even if she looks 64, and I think you barely know her, but even as inconsiderate and insensitive as you are, you will find her, I think, in room 403!"

Women allow men no mistakes when speaking of their fellow gender.

A couple of people have sent me the following love story:

I shall seek and find you...I shall take you to bed and control you...I will make you ache, shake and sweat until you grunt and groan...I will make you beg for mercy...I will exhaust you to the point that you will be relieved when I leave you...and you will be weak for days...

All my love,
The Flu
(Get your mind out of the gutter!)

Here are a few tidbits for some serious thought:

If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.

Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

It ain't the jeans that make a rear end look fat.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Some people's idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.

Not one shred of evidence supports the notion that life is serious.

It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.

For every action, there is an equal and opposite government program.

If you look like your passport picture, you probably need the trip.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

A conscience is what hurts when all of the other parts feel so good.

Eat well, stay fit, die anyway.

Men are from earth. Women are from earth. Deal with it.

No man has ever been shot while doing the dishes.

A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.

Middle age is when the broadness of the mind and the narrowness of the waist change places.

Opportunities always look bigger going than coming.

Junk is something you've kept for years and throw away three weeks before you need it.

Experience is a wonderful thing. It enables you to recognize a mistake when you make it again.

By the time you can make ends meet, they move the ends.

Thou shalt not weigh more than the refrigerator.

Someone who thinks logically provides a nice contrast to the world.

.....

I started all this mess by telling you I could think of only one amusing event occurring in the Bride's five night hospital sentence. I guess I am a bit more lucid now, and recall an episode or so which seemed at

least bizarre enough to fill way too many empty inches of space on this page. See how clever I am at filling space? My only problem is, there are far more empty column inches than my empty brain can serve, but you can tell I am valiantly trying!

Holly was forced to reside in a non-private room because of the over-flowing Lubbock hospitals. She pointed out to the UMC staff her insurance would pay for a private room, to no avail. Non-private room is one more way of saying confined misery and chaos, especially for the two patients confined, but also involves ALL visitors. In room number one, her elbow mate was a lady who watched TV - constantly - especially the stuff after 3 AM - and thought everything was hilarious enough to cackle like a banty rooster, and even vocally enjoyed the commercials. She also enjoyed using a credit card to make long distance calls to relatives in Toledo, Ohio, who shared a common interest in (a) Ohio weather, (b) Tibetan monasteries, and (c) the proper diet for captured blue-winged falcons.

When the Ohio nut improved enough to go some where, an elderly man desperately needed a room. At that point I vehemently protested, threatened to sue, maybe even torch the cafeteria, which I was definitely not in love with. Sure enough, we experienced a gender-room-exchange. Bride was now in the room with a 44 year old woman who was the mother of seven, yes seven kids, and this prolific machine had the misfortune to lose TWO children at birth,

honest to HIM! She had diabetes... and West Texas' largest appetite. We overheard her lunch menu request.....
"Double up on the chicken, the potatoes, veggie stuff, dessert, two teas, and I wanta baked

potato with butter and cheese on the side. See if they got a big tater, OK?"

I will take an oath to the above. The worst part of all this was, ALL 7 OF HER KIDS ATE LUNCH WITH HER IN THE

ROOM EACH DAY. I told Bride, "Don't you dare get sick again, I'm next, but I'm staying at home and you and the kids can take care of me."

The YCH Foundation

would like to send out a

BIG THANK YOU

to the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions and donations to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball to be held December 31, 2003

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PLAINS JH BASKETBALL SCHEDULE 2003-2004

| DATE | OPPONENT | SITE | TIME |
|------------|----------------------|--|--------------|
| NOV. 17 | MORTON | 7 TH /8 TH BOYS HERE 7 TH /8 TH GIRLS THERE | 5:00 5:00 |
| NOV. 20&22 | WHITEFACE TOURNAMENT | 7 TH /8 TH GIRLS/BOYS | TBA |
| NOV. 24 | SUNDOWN | 7 TH /8 TH BOYS THERE 7 TH /8 TH GIRLS HERE | 5:00 5:00 |
| DEC. 1 | ANTON | 7 TH /8 TH B/G HERE | 4:00 |
| DEC. 8 | WHITEFACE | 7 TH /8 TH B/G HERE | 5:00 |
| DEC. 15 | SMYER | 7 TH /8 TH B/G THERE | 5:00 |
| JAN. 12 | MORTON | 7 TH /8 TH BOYS THERE 7 TH /8 TH GIRLS HERE | 5:00 5:00 |
| JAN. 19 | SUNDOWN | 7 TH /8 TH BOYS HERE 7 TH /8 TH GIRLS THERE | 5:00 5:00 |
| JAN. 22&24 | PLAINS TOURNAMENT | 7 TH /8 TH BOYS/GIRLS | TBA |
| JAN. 26 | ANTON | 7 TH /8 TH B/G THERE | 4:00 |
| FEB. 2 | WHITEFACE | 7 TH /8 TH B/G THERE | 5:00 |
| FEB. 9 | SMYER | 7 TH /8 TH B/G HERE | 5:00 |

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