

Cowboy Country News



God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 19 January 16, 2002

A family tradition of entrepreneurship



The new Rodriguez Bakery on Cowboy Way across from the Courthouse has done a brisk business since opening January 7. Owners Guillermo and Eryka Rodriguez are currently preparing a full line of bakery goods, including donuts, sweet rolls and Mexican bread, at their family owned bakery in Lovington, and bringing their goods here each morning to open at 7 A.M. They said they are following a family tradition - their grandparents, parents, even an aunt and uncle all are in the bakery business. The Plains Chamber of Commerce welcomes the new business.

Yoakum County Connection Holds Sixth Annual Meeting

Six years of successful operation were celebrated by Yoakum County Connection members January 10 at the Connection building in Denver City. Entertainment for the evening was provided by members of the Plains Cowboys Marching Band, under direction of Ray Portillo and Georgann Weisgerber. A financial report was delivered by Treasurer L.J. Sanders

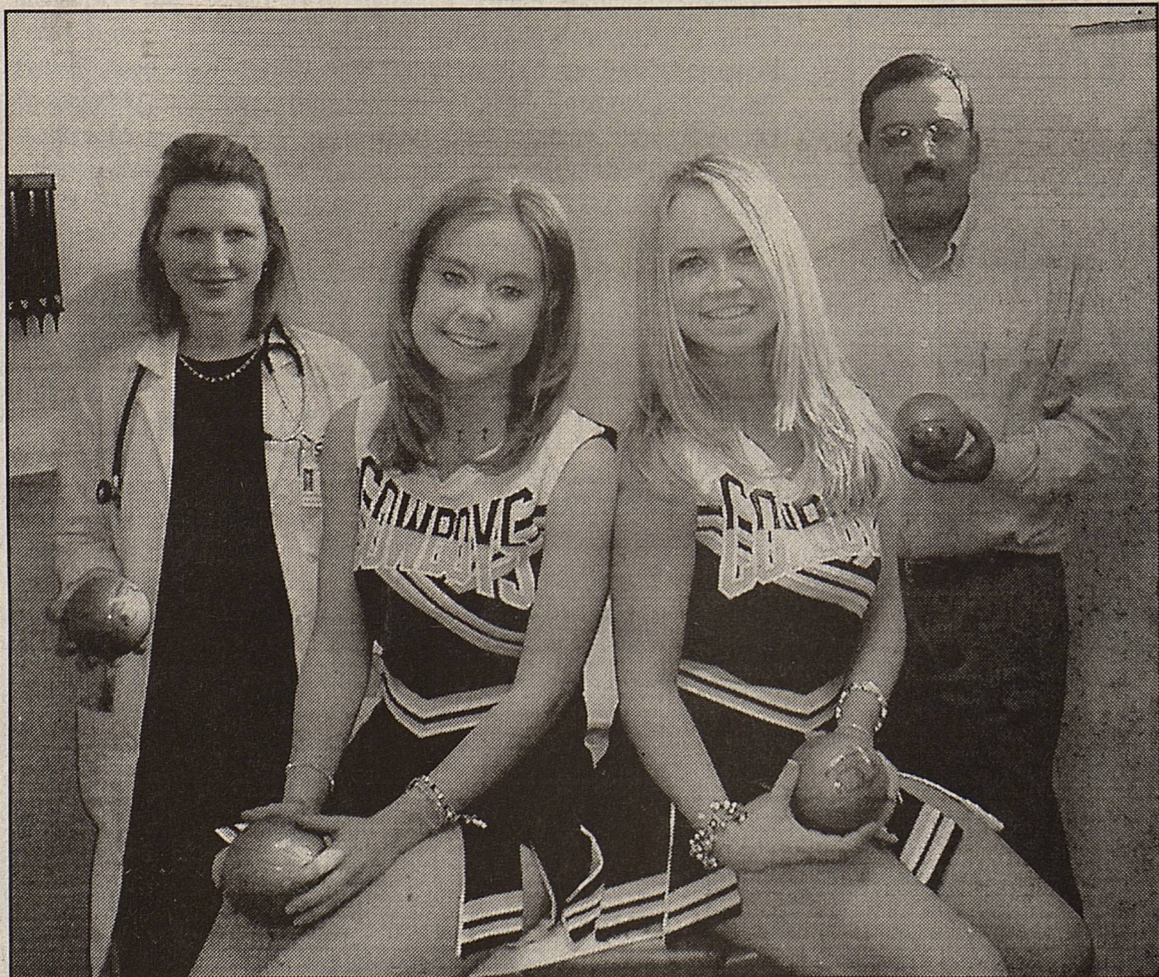
indicating the Connection was in good financial condition, with some \$17,000 in the bank. The funds will be used throughout the year for a number of youth oriented programs. Last summer 33 such class programs were attended by 405 county youngsters. Mr. Sanders announced he was retiring as the Connections Financial

Officer, after six years hard work and dedication. Pam Burgess of Plains has agreed to accept the position.

Earlier the Connection had voted to make the Chairperson of the annual Watermelon Round Up a paid position, because of the growth of the festival and the amount of time

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Basketballs for Cowboy-Cowgirl Fans



PHS Cheerleaders Keri Hansen and Allison Butler, flanked by Plains Family Health Clinic's Physician Assistant Jo Lena Wall and Doctor Amir Memon, display mini-basketballs the cheerleaders will toss to fans at Cowboy and Cowgirl games. Yoakum County Hospital has for a number of years generously donated both mini-basketballs and footballs to the Cheerleaders for whipping up fan support at the athletic games.

Jr. Livestock Show Scheduled In January This Year

The 50th Annual Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show comes around a bit earlier this year, and will run January 24 through January 26. The County Extension office here is putting finishing touches on this years program, and will contain the following information;

- Thursday, Jan. 24-
Swine weigh-in 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Lamb weigh-in- 1 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Goat weigh-in- 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Steer weigh-in- 2:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 25-
Steer Show- 8 a.m.
Market Gilt Show- 9 a.m.
Market Barrow Show- after Gilt Show
Lamb Show- 1 p.m.
Goat Show- 2 p.m.
Rabbit check-in- 2 p.m.
Rabbit Show 4 p.m.
- Saturday, January 26 events include a Buyer's Lunch, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Presentation of the Queen Contestants and

Presentation of Awards at 1 p.m. The Premium Sale and Cowpatty Bingo are scheduled at 1:30 p.m.

2002 Yoakum County Livestock Association officials this year are Jimmy Bearden, President, Casey Clark, Vice President, and Dottie Mayes, Secretary. Directors include Tim Addison, Chris Chambliss, Kevin Gibson, Tracy Moore, Mike Roberts, Bill Rowe, Danny Williams and Lanny Wood. Show Secretary/Treasurer is Lesa Wood, and the Advisory Committee members are Joe Pierce, Plains Ag Sciences Instructor, Eric Harel, Denver City Ag Sciences Instructor, and Arlan Gentry, Yoakum County Extension Agent-Agriculture.

This year's Queen Contestants are T.J. Kitchens, Denver City FFA, Megan Allsup, Plains FFA, and Elizabeth Clanahan, Plains 4-H. The animal division superintendents are officers or directors of the Association. This year's auctioneer is Mike Smyers of Denver City.

Chamber Of Commerce Annual Banquet Thursday, January 17, 7PM. Meal by Danny's Fins And Hens Catering. Lots of Door Prizes!! Help Support Our Community! Be With Us!



Dr. Ernie Anderson, PHS Class of 1963, shown with wife Karen, will be Guest Speaker this year.

Eradication brings BIG returns to Texas cotton producers

Boll weevil eradication producers significant returns to cotton growers. This impact has been well documented in cotton growing states that have eradicated the weevil, but the effects in Texas is just becoming clear.

Two recent studies draw a stark contrast between areas in eradication and those still struggling with the damage caused by cotton's most consistent enemy. A report prepared by John Robinson, an agricultural economist for Texas A&M, compared cotton production in the South Texas/Winter Garden Eradication Zone with production in nearby counties that are not conducting eradication activities.

His report, taken from data provided by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, shows the South Texas zone greatly outperformed the counties not in eradication.

The STWG showed an average

increase in production of 119 pounds per acre, a 24 percent gain, from 1997-2000 compared with the four previous years. Fort Bend, Jackson, Matagorda and Wharton counties, which are not in eradication, posted an average of 38 pounds of cotton per acre, or a 7 percent decrease, over the same time span.

"We can't explain the difference other than the boll weevil eradication program," Robinson said at a recent meeting with growers in the Upper Coastal Bend Eradication Zone.

The zone is composed of the four counties in Robinson's study, along with Austin, Colorado and Brazoria counties and part of Waller County. Growers in the zone will vote this month on beginning eradication activities.

The economist said the yield increase translates to a benefit to South Texas cotton growers

of \$75 per acre, or a return of almost \$8 for every dollar spent on eradication.

"Any region that does not eradicate the boll weevil will find itself at a comparative disadvantage," Robinson said in a recent Southwest Farm Press article. "It's a good investment."

The South Texas/Winter Garden zone began eradication in 1996 and recently reaffirmed its commitment to eradication when almost 88 percent of growers in the region approved a measure to continue eradication.

Another study confirms the benefits of eradication. The 2000 'Cotton Insect Losses' report prepared for the 2001 Beltwide Cotton Conference, sponsored by the National Cotton Council, showed dramatic differences between the Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) and

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Annual Increment Report					
TAX DISTRICT:	2	COUNTY:	Yoakum		
	Estimated 1998	Estimated 1999	Estimated 2000	Estimated 2001	Projected 2002
Commodity	(\$1,000's)				
Grains					
Rye	40	5,562	0	283	0
Wheat	627	1,341	305	1,551	1,500
Hay	510	474	144	432	600
Sorghum	343	1,837	33	296	658
Cotton	26,123	39,998	17,615	12,794	16,250
Cottonseed	5,023	8,421	4,324	2,369	5,200
Peanuts	2,119	3,160	15,430	16,839	14,400
Soybeans	21	0	0	0	0
Sunflowers	37	675	58	22	44
Vegetables	1,900	900	0	1,305	1,140
Watermelon	4,155	3,499	11,340	16,292	11,250
Pecans	0	0	0	0	0
Grapes	34	37	71	216	162
Other Crop	2,091	1,363	619	835	360
Livestock Total					
Milk Total	0	0	0	0	0
Other Beef	1,536	1,213	1,250	1,500	1,540
Goats	3	5	6	7	9
Hogs	48	30	35	50	25
Other Ag					
Horses	0	0	0	0	0
Hunting	5	5	5	6	6
Other Ag. Related	0	0	0	0	0
pumpkin				786	450
Corn				158	0
Subtotal	44,615	68,520	51,235	55,741	53,594
Gov't Payment (CRP)	3,000	4859	2,536	2,556	2,556
Other Gov't Payment	5,000	10782	16,500	12,321	8,100
Total w/Government	52,615	84,161	70,271	70,618	64,250

This report prepared by Arlan Gentry, Texas Extension Agent - Ag.

Lengthy session of Commissioner's Court

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, Tax Assessor/Collector Betty Rivas reported \$1,092,439 county taxes were collected during the month of December.

The Court approved the request of County Extension Agent Debbie Pollard to advertise for bids on a new 2002 vehicle with front, center and rear seating. The agent's 1997 Suburban will either be traded in on the new vehicle, or it will be sold to the highest bidder.

Judge Brewer read material outlining the practice of a number of counties appointing nine public members to the County Salary Grievance Committee.

Yoakum County now has a grievance committee consisting of all the elected officials. He said more counties are going to the full public member board, which greatly relieves pressure on the elected officials should they have to act on a salary dispute involving another elected official.

The Court unanimously approved the nine member committee, and the following names were drawn from the 2001 Grand Jury Pool; Resa Hanneman, Patricia Curtis, Rudy Joe Silva, Frank Hernandez, Linda Kennedy, Eric Banfield, Helen Williamson Fred, Eric Paul Lambert, and Russel Dial.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark requested the court's approval to install a

new, four line phone system in his office. He explained he currently has three lines plus a Fax line, but one of the lines has deteriorated and un-repairable. He reported he had two offers for installing the four lines, one for \$2708, the other \$2903. He preferred the higher bid, for it would include future maintenance and trouble shooting. The bid was from Rojo Electric. The court approved the request, and the county will pay for installation of the lines, considered a permanent part of the courthouse, and Clark's office budget would cover the balance for equipment and phones from budgeted funds.

A new rate of 34.5 cents per mile for employee out of county travel expense was approved, the current rate paid to State employees for official travel.

A number of salary rates were also set; part time clerical workers will receive \$6 per hour, road hands \$7. The Senior Citizens Bus Driver will continue to receive \$5.40 per hour. Swimming pool personnel wages will be \$5.50 for new life guards, \$6 for guards with two years experience, and \$6.50 for head life guard. The Pool Manager will continue to receive \$800 per month.

2002 jury service compensation will remain at \$7 per day for reporting, \$14 for serving.

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Upper Coastal Bend (UCB) areas of Texas compared with the South Texas/Winter Garden.

During the 200 growing season, ST/WG showed no losses because of boll weevil damage, but more than 37,000 bales of cotton were lost to boll weevils in the UCB. The LRGV, which encompasses the southern most counties at the tip of Texas, lost more than 15,000 bales.

From a dollars and cents perspective, boll weevils cost the UCB more than \$10.8 million, or \$42 an acre, and almost \$4.5 million, or \$18.22 an acre, in the LRGV. Add the expense of

insecticides growers applied to control boll weevils, and the cost to the UCB increases to \$78.36 per acre and \$69.29 per acre in the LRGV. South Texas growers pay an assessment of \$23.14 per acre for eradication.

"From the experience in other states, we've always known that eradication benefited cotton growers," said Lindy Patton, executive director for the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation. "Now data from Texas cotton fields show that Texas producers can reap the same results."

Door prize donors for Connection meeting

Johnnie's Restaurant, Plains* Coast To Coast* Grand Entry* Mustang Country* Ramona's Hair Affair* Dairy Queen, D.C.* Representative Gary Walker, Plains* Renaissance Productions, Plains* Tsa Mo Ga Women's Club, Plains* Yoakum County Art Association* Debbie Rushing, County Clerk* Denver City Art Association* Lanelle's, Denver City* Vicki Blundell, District Clerk* Yoakum County Connection* West Texas Gas, Plains* Golden Girls, Denver City* Betty & Elbert Estep, Plains* Kay & Company, Denver City* Sandy Land Water District* Toni Jones, County Treasurer* The Magnolia, Denver City* Xiota Delta Sorority, Denver City* The Connection extends a big, hearty THANK YOU to one and all!!!

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Former resident buys funeral home

Gene Allen, a former Plains resident and 1978 graduate of PHS, recently purchased the Kerrville Funeral Home, Inc from Service Corporation International.

Allen spent almost 20 years in the oil and gas industry, and is a graduate of South Plains College. He made a career change and earned a degree in Mortuary Science, and became a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer. After spending his internship at Anderson-Clayton Bros. Funeral Home in Mesquite, he became interested in ownership.

Gene is married to Katherine, and the couple have four children; Esther, a senior at Angelo State University, Jordan, a high school freshman, Reese, also a freshman, and Bryce, a 4th grader. The family will move to Kerrville at the end of the school year.

Gene is the son of Frankie Allen and the late Elbert Allen Sr. of Brownfield.

Sometime in the near future it will be necessary for us to miss an issue of CCN, because of Holly's pending surgery. A date has not yet been set, and when it is, we may be unable to place an advance notice in the paper. Please bear with us if you miss an issue. Thanks!

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Continued From Page One, "CONNECTION ANNUAL MEETING"



Jim Bob McMillan, right, addresses Connection members

and travel required of the Chair. Sanders said with generous financial assistance from Commissioners Court, The Denver City Economic Development Commission and City of Plains, the Connection will be able to pay the Chair \$7,000 each year. Jeannette Head, who has engineered the Round Up the last four years, has agreed to return as Chairperson for the 2002 Round Up. Head told the audience one of her priorities this year would be finding new volunteer help for the festival. She is hopeful some of the younger participants in a leadership conference held in Ruidoso would step forward in helping organize the still growing Round Up. "We have lots of jobs, and we need some new faces, new workers. We are

hoping some of the young couples who attended our leadership conference in Ruidoso this summer will demonstrate some leadership by volunteering to help make the Round Up a continuing success. Most of the volunteers working in this summer's sixth Round Up have been involved in all six, some of them holding the same job. I repeat, we need some help." New Directors elected at the meeting include Linda Harris, Connie Webb, Ed Hansen, Jesse Flores and Barbara Wright. Returning to office are Directors Doug Brown, James Altman and Sue Holder. Guest Speaker for the meeting was Jim Bob McMillan, Coordinator of Community Development and Rural Services for the Texas Commission on the

Arts. He has over 20 years experience working with community based organizations. He is a former Director of the Writer's League of Texas, and Vice President of the Texas Alliance for Education and the Arts. He delivered a presentation at the meeting detailing how can improve their activities and have greater outreach. McMillan, from Alpine, told Connection members, "for worthy projects, reaching desirable numbers of the public, producing positive results, there are numbers of grant funds available both from the state and private sources, and TCA can help you apply for and get these grants."



Ray Portillo directed Cowboy Band members for the meeting's entertainment

J. P. Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases heard, fines and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.
52 traffic cases filed.
Bonds set at jail:
Three DWI, first, \$1000 bond each.
Two motions to revoke probation, McClennan County warrant, no bond.
Five charges marijuana posses-

sion, \$500 bond each
Consumption alcohol by minor, \$500
Unsafe speed, \$200 bond.
Theft by check- \$1000.
Bond forfeiture, McClennan County, \$2000 cash bond.
Two assault casases bodily injury to family member- \$1500 bond.
Two DWI, third or more, \$2500 bond, interlock ordered.
Driving under influence, sec-

ond, \$1000.
Bond forfeiture, DWI, second- \$5000.
Bail jumping, failure to appear- \$2500.
Parole violation, held until transported.
Theft of more than \$50, less than \$500- \$500.
False report to police officer- \$500.
Motion of surety- \$500.



Library Birthday Girl Jentry Wall, front center, had friends celebrating her second birthday January 9. She is surrounded by, clockwise, Amanda Dusek, Peyton McWhirter, Mesa Davis, Madison Davis, Bailey Rios, Evan Rios.

Emergency Farm Loans Being Accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Seminole, Wayne Cornelius said today.

Gaines County is one of ten (10) in Texas recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses resulting from the drought. Also named in this disaster designation, Yoakum County was one of forty other counties that was named as contiguous counties. This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low interest emergency loans from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), provided eligibility require-

ments are met. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of losses, security available, and repayment ability.

Wayne Cornelius said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest is 3.75 percent.

As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan, Wayne Cornelius said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to figure in proceeds from those programs, in determining their loss.

"Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until May 14, 2002, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing and possibly over into the new farming season," Wayne Cornelius said.

FSA is a credit agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is authorized to provide disaster emergency loans to recognized farmers who work at and rely on farming for a substantial part of their living. Eligibility is extended to individual farmers who are U. S. citizens and to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U. S. citizens hold a majority interest.

The FSA office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.



Commissioner Court's Monday session was a lengthy one. Court members shown here approving county bill for payment

Shawna Box receives honor for academic achievements

The Texas Society of CPAs (TSCPA) recently announced the recipients of the organization's academic scholarships. Each year, TSCPA's accounting education foundation honors Texas accounting students with scholarships for their academic achievements. Plains native and PHS graduate Shawna Box, the daughter of Tommy and Cindra Box, was awarded a TSCPA scholarship. She is a student at Abilene Christian University. Since 1957, the TSCPA Ac-

counting Education Foundation has distributed almost \$5 million to promote, develop and advance accounting education in Texas. Through donations from Texas CPAs and interest on endowed funds, the Foundation awards approximately \$115,000 annually in scholarships to top students in accounting programs in the state. The society has 20 chapters statewide and 27,000 members, the largest in-state membership of any CPA society in the nation.

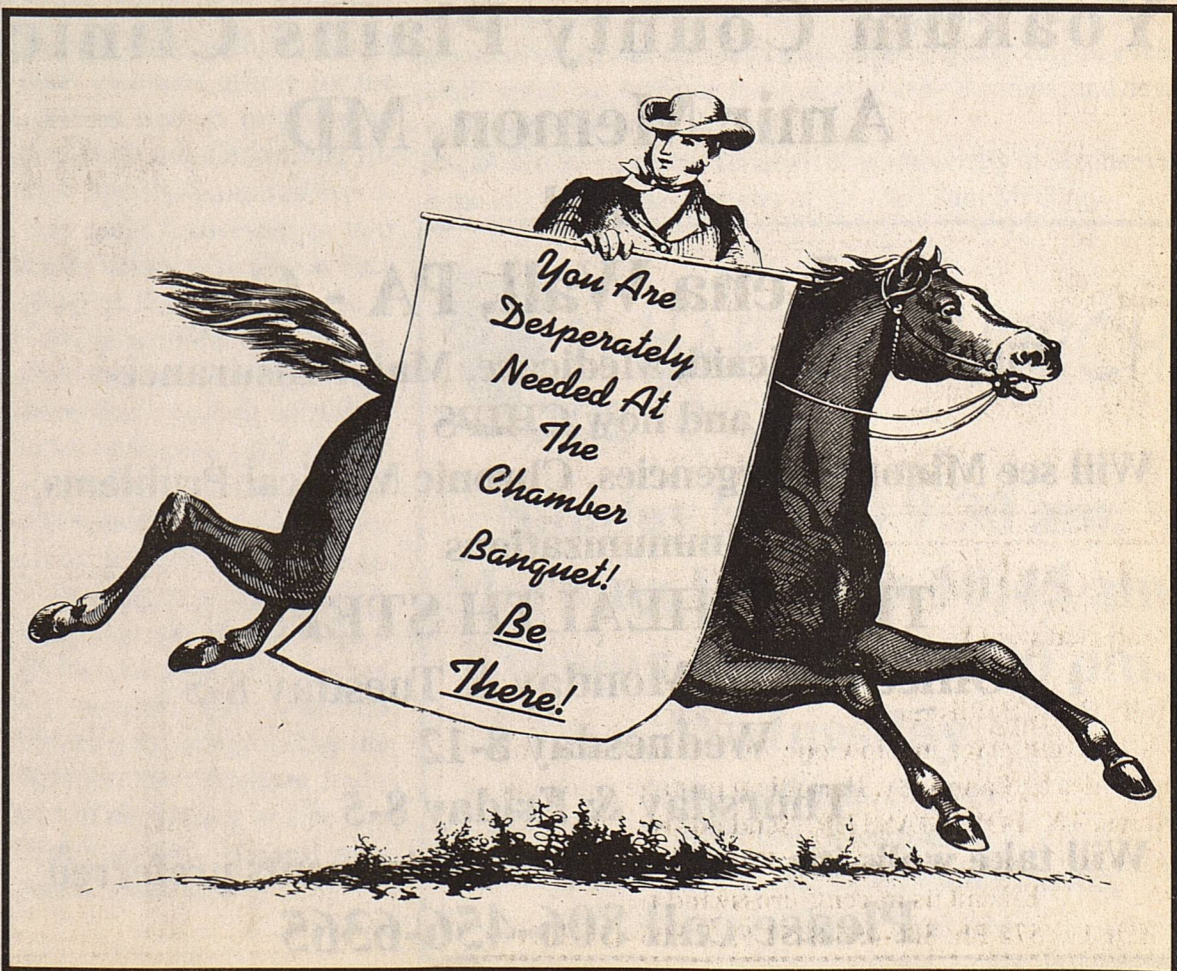
In the Jan. 9 issue of CCN, we listed District Clerk Vicki Blundell as a Democrat seeking re-election to office. Instead, she will run unopposed in the REPUBLICAN March Primary Election. We apologize to Mrs. Blundell for our error.

Midland Math/Science Contest Results

Twelve PHS students competed in a math/science meet January 12, and finished Second in the Sweepstakes competition. Individual results in Number Sense (NS), Calculator (CAL), Math, Science (SCI) and Computer

Science (CSci) included;
Freshmen- Brandon Hise 6th NS, 9th Cal, 6th math, 7th Sci.
Sophomores- Nolan Newsom 8th NS, 4th Sci.
Juniors- Jordan Bean 10th NS, 6th Cal, 8th Math, 8th Sci.

Jill Gray 2nd NS, 1st Cal, 2nd Math
Seniors- Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 10th Cal, 5th Math.
Becky Wilmeth 9th C Sci.
Elizabeth Clanahan 11th C Sci
Colt Richardson 11th C Sci.



PISD 3rd Six Weeks Honor Roll

Elementary

'A' Honor Roll

First Grade

Marina Corrales
Merrit Crump
Vanessa Cueto
Johnathan Davis
Whitney Davis
Katie Dearing
Autumn Friesen
Darian Gonzales
Andrew Lara
Stacy Loewen
Abe Neudorf
Abraham Peters
Matthew Ramos
Kailey Vasquez
Haley Welch

Second Grade

Troy Alldredge
Greg Andazola
Andrew Conway
Adriana Corrales
Shelby Covarrubias
Mayra Cueto
Christopher Davis
Dakota Earnest
Taylor Fitzgerald
Carolina Hernandez
Zachary Lamar
Mariela Martinez
Samuel Melendez
Hunter Parrott
Cynthia Rodriguez
Camishay Rubio
Denise Tarango
Demarcus Trowbridge

Third Grade

Stephanie Addison
Kelbi Bartley
Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Samantha Delarosa
Cody Friesen
Gladys Gallegos
Kevin John Gass
Kristen Knight
Lupe Lara
Sara Martens
Adam Nixon
Chase Ortega
Roberto Reynz
Hunter Welch

Fourth Grade

Claudia Anazola
Taylor Banfield
Jacob Brink
Brock Carter
Brandon Craft
Emilia Gallegos
Brett Hawthorne
Natalie Haynes
Nathan McCravey
Troy Parrish
Katelynn Young

'A-B' Honor Roll

First Grade

Nicholas Alvarado
Salvador Corrales
Roxana Cueto
Jacob Neufeld
P. J. Pando
Karla Powell
Joseph Sainz

Yesenia Loya

Maria Ruiz

Holden Welch

Sixth Grade

Kurt Alldredge
Ryan Crump
Lauren Davis
Amber Friesen
Lauren Hise
Zachary Ramos
John Tyson

Seventh Grade

Caitlin Carter
Landon Craft
Angelica Mendoza
Araceli Mendoza

Eighth Grade

Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Skylar Keesee
Ramiro Martinez
Abel Ramos

All 'A' 1B Honor Roll

Sixth Grade
Maria Andazola
Douglas Conway

Seventh Grade

Adrianna Ponce

Eighth Grade

BJ Lester
Blake O'Quinn
Blake Parrish

High School

'A' Honor Roll
9th Grade
Evan Cain
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Kerry Sisson

10th Grade

Grady McNabb
Helena Neufeld
Nolan Newsom

11th Grade

Jordan Bean
Chelsea Blount
Kelly Bowers
Sandra Gallegos
Krystal Gonzalez
Jill Gray

12th Grade

Kim Martinez
Liz Wilmeth

All 'A' 1B Honor Roll

9th Grade
Cody Flores
Mayra Flores
Kayla Walker

10th Grade

Moriah Traweck
Manuela Villegas

Blake Thompson

Third Grade

Patty Avila

Jose Corrales

Brittanie Lira

Fourth Grade

Natalie Butler
Hannah Cotton
Ignacio Lozano

Middle School

'A' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Chris Addison
Landon Earnest
Reyna Gallegos

April Wilmeth

11th Grade

Ismari Guzman

Nick Hays

Mandi Rogers

Ryan Swann

Kayla Willis

12th Grade

Elizabeth Clanahan

Nancy Koncaba

Chris McGinty

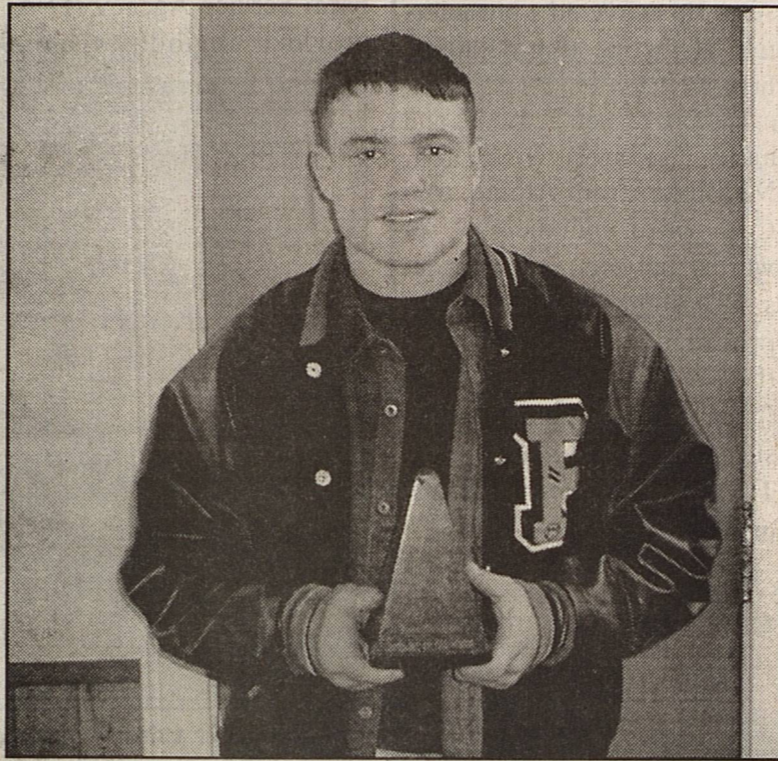
Carmen Mendoza

Joseph Rodriguez

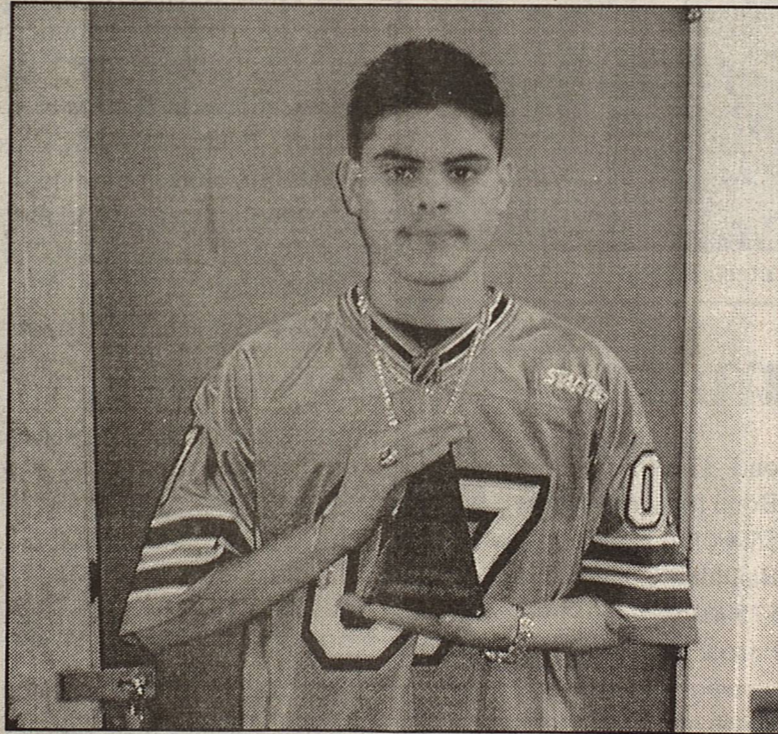
Chelsi Wagnon

PHS Student of the Week

First Student of the Week is Nick Hays, a Junior and the son of Glenn and Amy Hays. He was nominated by Mr. Friesen, who said, "Nick always has his work finished when it is due. He helps other students during class. He works on his lesson during class time. In addition to taking care of his class work he is trustworthy and honest."



Second Student of the Week is Noel Castillo, a Senior and the son of Jesus and Maggie Mendoza. He was nominated by Mrs. Pettigrew, who said, "Without exception this student is admired by all of his teachers. He has done a great job this year working in the Resource Center. He is the type of student teachers want to have in their class. He is a prompt and efficient student."



Go Cowboys, Cowgirls

PISD Basketball Review

Middle School:

7th Girls- The younger Lady Wranglers were victorious over Stanton, winning impressively 33-25. Desiraye Broome had a big night, scoring 22 points, followed by Caitlin Carter, Meghan Garcia, Regina Morales, Angelica Mendoza and Hallie Cotton, 2 each, Nicole Culwell 1.

8th Boys- The older Wrangler boys also topped stanton with a 32-25 score. Coach Brink said it was a great effort following the Holidays and no practice. T.J. Cordova led the scoring with 8 points, Todd Williams had 6, Casson Curtis 5, Michael Therwhanger, Blake O'Quinn had 4 each. David Alldredge 3, Abel Ramos 2.

JV Cowgirls- On January 4, the young Cowgirls played hard, but were downed by Stanton 35-25. Marlie Diaz and Sandra Gandara each managed 8 points, Jamie Covarrubias and Prisma Ortiz 3 each, Manuela Villegas 2, and Lela Coronado 1.

On January 8 the girls lost a heart breaker to Coahoma in overtime, 34-33. Coach Lusk praised their hustle, defense and ball moving. In the overtime period, Coahoma only scored 2 points, but unfortunately the Cowgirls could only manage one. Sandra gallegos led scoring with 11, Kristian Morales 6, Jamie Covarrubias 5, Manuela Villegas 4, Micaela Villegas, Daniela Lazos and Jessinia Suarez 2 each, Prisma Ortiz 1. On January 14 the girls again showed great hustle, but were downed by Seagraves 39-19. Jamie had 5 points, Kristian 4, Manuela 3, Prisma, Marlie and Sandra 2 each, Jessinia 1.

JV Cowboys- The younger Cowboys took on Idalou January 8 and fell 32-23. Kevin Bartley topped scoring with 11 points, Armando Ramirez had 5, Evan Cain 4, and Cody Flores 3.

On January 11 they played their first district game and whacked Seagraves 51-35. Cody Flores and Kevin Bartley led the scoring with 12 points each, Evan Cain 9, Armando 6, Angel Ruiz 5, Brandon Hise 4 and Benny Loewen 3.

Varsity Cowgirls- The Cowgirls were felled by Seagraves 57-29. Chelsea Blount topped scoring with 12 points, including 2 three pointers. Jessica Rodriguez managed 6 points, Kayla Willis 5, Makenzie Winn 3, Moriah Trweek 2, Annaliesa O'Quinn 1. Chelsea had 2 assists, Jessica managed 6 steals.

The Cowgirls next faced Coahoma and were downed 56-39. Only five Cowgirls made the scoring column; Annaliesa was tops with 12,

Chelsea Wagnon had 9, and Chelsea Blount, Mackenzie and Jessica had 6 each. O'Quinn and Blount led rebounding, and Mackenzie had 4 steals. The Cowgirls met Seagraves again January 11 in district play and fared no better, falling 81-40. Chelsea Blount managed 14 points, Chelsi Wagnon 9, Mackenzie 7, Annaliesa 6, Moriah and Jessica 2 each. Blount pulled down 8 rebounds and had 3 steals.

Varsity Cowboys- Only two game reports available On January 8 the 'Boys were dropped by Idalou 48-39. Top scorers were Jared Bell 15, Jarod Newland 13, Tanner Hamm 7. On January 11 they whacked Seagraves 56-34. Bell was again top scorer with 26 points, Moises Gonzales had 17.



Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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Help Is Just A Phone Call Away

Donated cell phones will give a measure of security for victims of domestic violence.

When in trouble, our first instinct is to reach for a telephone, especially since the proliferation of cellular phones and 911.

"Cell phones are a wonderful tool for our clients," says Angie Messerer, community education advocate for Women's Protective Service in Lubbock, which serves 12 area counties. "They can have them close by and, when threatened, call 911 immediately.

"Isolation in rural communities is the main factor in continued domestic violence. Victims are safe in our safe house, but once they leave it, they are vulnerable," Ms. Messerer says. "I know of one client whose husband removed the phones from their farmhouse when he left as well as the car keys in order to isolate his wife from help. Particularly in instances like this, a cell phone gives them an avenue of keeping in touch."

With that light of hope, the sad fact is that many victims of domestic abuse don't have the means to buy and maintain cell phone service.

That's where Nelda Laney, first lady of the Texas House of Representatives, comes in.

After a successful drive in Austin led by Legislative Wives and other entities that netted more than 10,000 cell phones for crisis centers in the Austin area, she has joined with the Covenant School of Nursing in Lubbock to provide cell phones for victims of domestic violence.

The Donate a Phone drive is part of the nationwide Call to Protect, a national educational and philanthropic initiative that began in 1996 to provide the security and mobility of wireless phones to victims of domestic violence.

Businesses and organizations involved in the project include Motorola, the Wireless Foundation, Cingular and Cell Tone, as well as Covenant School of Nursing, the Women's Protective Service of Lubbock and Hale County Crisis Center. "All types and brands of cell

phones, working and nonworking, can be donated," explains Mrs. Laney. "All will be sent to a Motorola factory in Minnesota where they are stripped and refurbished."

When the phones are stripped of information and repaired, they will be returned to the South Plains where, locally, they will be activated with two numbers, the universal 911 emergency number, and a non-emergency local number. Cingular and Cell Tone have donated activation and air time. Mrs. Laney also explains that all types and brands of cell phones can be donated, reiterating that all information is stripped from the donated phones before they are reassembled.

"Many people ask if their numbers or accounts can be stolen," she says. "We can assure them they can not be. I describe it as gutting the phones and starting all over. They use broken phones and those without batteries or parts to repair the working phones, then when they are shipped back to us, two numbers are activated. The goal of the program is to provide safety, not a cell phone for normal use. The person receiving the phone will have access only to the two numbers, 911, and one assigned locally, probably a crisis line."

Local collection point is the city hall.

Mrs. Laney also encourages civic clubs and organizations, churches, 4-H and other youth groups and businesses to collect phones for the drive. Deadline for the South Plains drive is January 31.

According to a Lubbock Avalanche Journal editorial, the Women's Protective Services in Lubbock serves 130 women and children who stay at their shelter, plus 60 to 70 more who reside elsewhere. In addition WPS takes in 50 to 70 new clients each month.

For information, contact Nelda Laney, 806-889-3570 or 512-463-3000 or Nickie Bruce Logan, 806-296-1362.



Zane Daniel would like to introduce you to...

Addison Lynn Wall

October 29, 2001, 11:02 p.m.

6 lbs. 15 ozs., 18 3/4 inches

Ronny and Jalyn Wall

Nurse Aide Course at SPC

A Certified Nurse Aide class begins January 22 at South Plains College, Levelland. The class will meet 5:30 - 9:30 PM Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through March 8 in the SPC Technical Arts Building, Room 112. Clinical instructions will be held 8 am - 5 pm Saturdays for three weeks at a location to be announced.

Tuition is \$330, plus textbook. State exam fee is \$69.75, and Instructor is Barbara Brattain, LVN.

The course is designed to prepare students for work in long-term care, home health or hospital environments. Students will complete 56 hours of classroom work and 24 hours clinical studies at a clinical site. Students will take the State Certified Nurse Aide Competency Exam.

Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and have a current TB test.

An additional class begins March 18. For more information contact SPC Continuing Education, 894-9611, ext. 2341.

Basic Phlebotomy Classes At SPC

A short course in Basic Phlebotomy begins Jan. 23 at South Plains College in Levelland. The class will meet 6:30 - 9:30 pm. Mondays and Wednesdays through March 8 in the Technical Arts Building, room 101, with an additional 18 hours of clinical instructions to be announced. Tuition is \$300, and instructor is Georgia Mulloy. The course covers theoretical and practical aspects of specimen collections for clinical labs, terminology, ethics, quality control and other topics.

The course is designed to prepare students to take the American Society of Phlebotomy Technicians (ASPT) certificate exam. Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus, Hepatitis B and have a current TB test. An additional section begins March 18. For more information, contact SPC Continuing Education at 894-9611, ext. 2341.

Gwyn Shea New Secretary Of State Of Texas

Austin, TX-Gwyn Shea, Dallas County Constable and former state representative from Irving, has become the 103rd Secretary of State of Texas.

Shea was sworn in recently at a ceremony that included Governor Rick Perry, U. S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, and other leaders from around Texas. Governor Perry named Shea to the post in December.

Shea expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of Texas and to help shape the state in the 21st century. "This is a tremendous opportunity for me to serve the people of the great state of Texas," Shea said. "This is a special chance to help shape the kind of Texas that we all want and that we all believe in."

Governor Perry said that Shea's appointment would be an asset for all Texans. "As Gwyn Shea takes the oath of office today, Texans can know their newest Secretary of State is experienced in making public policy, a good steward of the public trust, and fully devoted to a brighter future for Texans from the border to the Panhandle."

Hutchison, who acted as mistress of ceremonies, called Shea

a pioneer who has excelled at public service. "Gwyn Shea has blazed trails throughout her life, and the milestone of becoming Secretary of State is simply one more in her long and distinguished career. I am confident that she will be excellent in all of the responsibilities of the position."

Shea pledged to uphold the traditional duties of American Secretaries of State: serving as chief elections officer for the state as well as maintaining corporate and commercial filings. She also promised to provide solid leadership in two duties unique to the Texas Secretary of State: acting as the

During her swearing in speech, Shea touched on several of the areas that would be important to her as Secretary of State. She will bring a strong personal commitment to her role of chief elections officer for Texas. "The electoral process is something that has always been a special passion for me. Both of my parents were election judges and safeguarding the domestic the American tradition of democracy will be one of my office's highest purposes," Shea said.

Comptroller Rylander Blasts USAA Insurance For Lawsuit That Could Cost Texans Billions

Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander vowed today to "use every weapon in our arsenal" to fight a court battle brought by a large insurance company that could eventually cost Texans \$2 billion and jeopardize the state budget. "This is corporate irresponsibility at its worst," Rylander said. The lawsuit filed by Mark Eidman, and attorney with the firm Scott, Douglass and McConnico, seeks a refund of taxes already paid by USAA Insurance Co.

The company argues it should not have had to pay any state taxes that all other businesses pay, sales and use tax, motor fuels tax, motor vehicle sales and rental tax, telecommunications infrastructure fund assessments or any other tax, other than gross premium taxes under Chapter 4 of the Texas Insurance Code.

The gross premium tax is intended to be an occupation tax for insurance companies for the right to do business in Texas, which is similar to corporations paying franchise tax for the privilege of doing business. It is not meant to be a substitute for all other taxes insurance companies must pay.

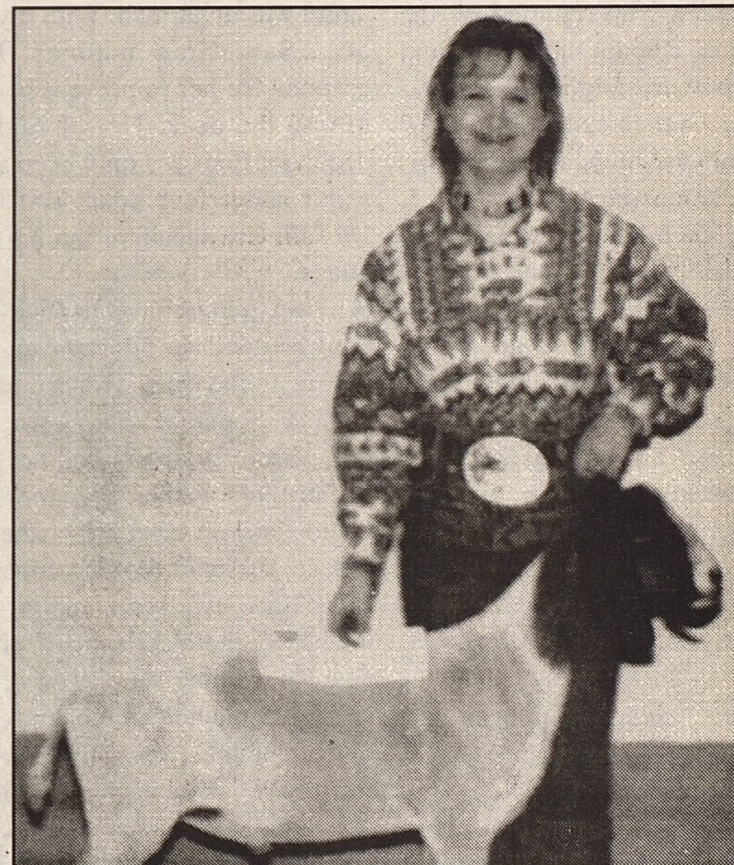
"Mom and Pop businesses all across this state pay their taxes," Rylander said. "MI

Tierra Restaurant in San Antonio pays its fair share of all taxes. USAA's position is wrong on the law and shows a callous disregard for Texas taxpayers to boot."

USAA is seeking approximately \$200 million in taxes, plus interest, since February 1, 1991. If the company were to win the legal case, setting a precedent for other companies, the Comptroller's office estimates the state could be liable for up to \$2 billion.

Last session, legislators clarified state law to make sure insurance companies knew they, indeed, owed taxes other than the gross premium tax. "Clearly, it was never the intent of the Legislature to exempt insurance companies from paying the same taxes every other business pays," Rylander said. While Rylander said her budget projections for the current biennium is "right on target," she said the USAA case could threaten the budget.

"We have rejected every attempt by any company, who is wrong on the law, to drain state coffers. Texans should not be held hostage by this case of corporate greed," she said. "These tax dollars belong in the classroom, not in the pockets of insurance companies and lawyers."



Scholarship Recipient

Ragan McGinty proudly displays her \$1,000 scholarship and her wether goat which placed 8th at the Sand Hills Stock Show and Rodeo on January 5th in Odessa. She was one of four youngsters called to interview from the 15 applicants for the Sand Hills Goat Scholarship.

Ragan has been active in 4-H since she was 9 years old. Her involvement has rewarded her in many ways by providing opportunities in building life skills such as interviews, meeting people of many backgrounds and cultures, competing in events, public speaking, learning recreational skills at camps, and developing good consumer skills.

Ragan will be attending Tarleton State University in Stephenville in the fall. She is the daughter of Ken and Ann McGinty.

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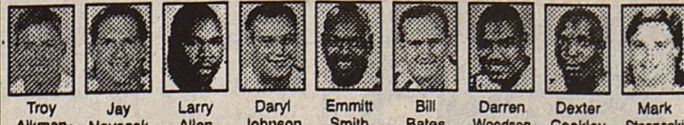
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6:00 pm. Zombies

7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,

Sanctuary Choir Practice

From The Hack

A brief THANK YOU for the calls, cards and other expressions of concerns for Holly. Your response has been phenomenal, and we both are very appreciative. We will keep you posted.

The Afghan war seems to be wearing down, but is it really? The major culprits, the planners, schemers, the financiers, the bosses ordering 9-11-01 are still on the loose. We are already hearing pleas from the liberals, if they are caught, "Let's bring them back here, try them in a civil court of justice." WHY? They are WAR criminals, liberal viewpoints be damned. THEY declared a Jihad on US, a so called Holy War to destroy all us Infidels. I am an Infidel, and so are you.

If your heart bleeds for the abused, neglected, misunderstood Islamic forces we are currently at war with, I would stongly, no, STRONGLY, urge you to purchase, borrow, rent, go to the local Library, and read "You Are There" in the January issue of Texas Monthly, a well written article by an accomplished Austin based journalist who reported on the radical Islamic movement and support in neighboring Pakistan. - our so called PARTNER in the war on Muslim extremist factions in Afghanistan. It may be a very weak partnership. It's very sobering, very serious, and very frightening. Even liberal biased Texas Monthly has this subject absolutely right. Read it, and think. It's a shaky partnership. Pakistan's leadership wants our financial assistance. Can they prevail over the radical, blood thirsting Islamic element? Pretty shaky ground.

In last Sunday's, Lubbock AJ, humor columnist Dave Barry had another winner, describing

his recent trip to New York to appear on the Today show. He described how he almost met Penelope Cruz, the slick and shiny celeb who has been torrid lately with Tom Cruise, earlier Matt Damon, Nicolas Cage, and for all I know, old Johnny Carson.

Big deal. I once had a much more exciting encounter with a famous Hollywood star, and she was at the time, MUCH more famous than Penelope Cruz. Well, I suppose it was not a real ENCOUNTER encounter, it was more of a bumping into, or running into situation. Literally.

I was aboard a passenger train just leaving Albuquerque, where a few hours before some four dozen idiots including myself had been sworn into the U.S. Navy for four year, now enroute to San Diego and nine weeks of Hellish boot camp.

I was restless and decided to look the train over. You remember old time trains (well, some of you do, some of you don't want to admit you're old enough, and some of you don't have a clue what riding trains was like). The doors at each end of the cars were always hard to swing open, and being an experienced train rider (true) I knew to jerk the thing HARD. I did, and to my surprise, this blondish female, her hand clutching the other handle, came shooting inside my car and crashed into me with considerable force. Fortunately for me, girls and women are much, much softer than men and boys, and I was unharmed. With my best Samaritan manner, I grabbed for her to prevent her hitting the deck. Note I said deck, not floor. I'd only been a sailor about four hours and I was already speaking the language.

Anyway, I must have inadvertently arrested her fall in a manner she found offensive, and in an area I found extremely soft and warm, for she pulled herself up and together, gave me a frigid glare, and sped off on the tallest, sharpest looking high heels I had ever seen, and undoubtedly the classiest pair of legs I have ever seen, then or since. I stood there dumbstruck several minutes, repeating over and over, " You just grabbed

Ginger Rogers!!!"

True, full truth story. Anyway, when the train finally arrived in San Diego, and we soon to be naval heroes were being hustled off toward a waiting bus, encouraged by loud profanity from a very large, very ugly Chief Boatswain Mate, when so help me, there in front of me was that vision of loveliness, Ginger Rogers again. This time she saw me coming, and in a very classy manner, a move her old partner Fred Astaire would have been proud of, she dodged away from me, and I heard her hiss, " Don't come near me, you Filthy Swine... I hope your boat has a hole in the bottom!"

Well, naturally I was very disappointed in her for this. Everyone knows a BOAT is a craft which can be lifted onto and carried aboard SHIPS! And I HAVE clutched a movie star!

Notice For Bids The State of Texas County Of Yoakum

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 AM Friday, February 1, 2002, for the purchase of (1) new 2002 Vehicle with front, center and back seats for the Yoakum County Extension Agent, HE, with or without trade-in of (1) used 1997 Chevrolet Suburban. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, February 4, 2002. Bid price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds. To inspect the trade-in please contact Jack Cobb, Commissioner, Pct. 4, 806-456-6525 or Debra Pollard, Extension Agent HE, 806-456-2263. For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, PO Box 516 Plains, Tx 79355 (806-456-2422), or Jack Cobb, Commissioner, Pct. 4, PO Box 207, Plains, Tx 79355 (806-456-6525). Sealed bids should be marked "VEHICLE-HE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Ave. G, Plains, TX 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in The Cowboy Country News January 16, 2002

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Larry Combest Reports

As we begin 2002, Congress faces unique and difficult challenges. First and foremost, Congress must focus on continuing to support our troops in Afghanistan. The President's top priority is the war on terrorism, and it is essential Congress gives him the tools to win this war. Congress must ensure that the President can take every measure necessary to capture and punish the cowards who attacked America. Protecting our nation from security threats both domestically and abroad must remain a top priority, however, I believe Congress is capable of working on the war on terrorism and still make progress on the many other important issues facing America.

I know farmers face terrible commodity prices, that the oil and gas industry needs greater stability and our economy desperately needs a boost. There are many people in desperate need of affordable health insurance and our seniors need to know the money for their Medicare and Social Security checks is safe and secure. America cannot afford for Congress to overlook these important issues.

Unfortunately, time and time again, the U.S. House has passed needed legislation addressing these issues only to have it stall in the U.S. Senate. As you know, the Farm Bill

has been, and will continue to be, my number one priority. I was very disappointed when the Senate failed to pass a farm bill before the end of last year, but I remain strong in my resolve to enact a comprehensive and balanced bill reforming our current agricultural policy. The current policy simply DOES NOT WORK, and Congress must do something now to change it. I am fully committed to doing everything I can to ensure a farm bill is passed and signed into law by the President. I will continue to fight hard for our West Texas farmers.

I am also steadfast in my commitment to passing a comprehensive national energy policy. The House passed common sense legislation last year, and it is imperative the Senate do the same. This well balanced plan will diversify our nation's energy portfolio and encourage increased production at home. It will also provide improved access to federal lands while at the same time implementing important conservation policies. This long term balanced energy policy is good for consumers, good for the industry and good for America. As long as we continue to rely on foreign nations for energy needs, our national security remains at risk.

Enacting an economic stimulus package is also crucial for

America. Our economy and our country need an assistance program providing real help to citizens. Last year, the House passed an \$87 billion tax relief and spending package stimulating different areas of the economy and promote economic growth and jobs. Once again, though, as with so many other important issues, the Senate refused to take action. I hope the Senate recognizes the urgent need for this legislation and will act quickly in the second session of this Congress. Unfortunately, there are some Democrats who are calling for raising taxes in this recession, instead of reducing them.

NOTICE FOR BIDS
THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF YOAKUM
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM, Friday, February 1, 2002, for the sale of (1) 1997 Chevrolet Suburban from the Yoakum County Extension Agent, HE. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, February 4, 2002. To inspect the vehicle, please contact Jack Cobb, Commissioner, Pct. 4 at 806/456-6525 or Debra Pollard, Extension Agent HE, 806/456-2263. Sealed bids should be marked " EXTENSION AGENT HE, VEHICLE SALE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way & Ave. G, Plains, TX, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in Cowboy County News Jan. 16, 2002

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