

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 49, August 18, 2004



Raw cotton, harvest equipment could be restricted

Cotton harvest has begun in the southern parts of the state and will begin soon in other areas.

Cotton harvesters move from area to area as the season progresses, and growers have to move the harvested cotton to the state's gins for processing.

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation would like to remind cotton producers and custom harvesters the commissioner of agriculture declared several areas of the state to be suppressed or functionally eradicated of the cotton boll weevil, and movement of raw cotton products and harvesting equipment into or through these zones may be regulated.

The Rolling Plains Central Zone, surrounding Abilene, and the Southern Rolling Plains zone, surrounding San Angelo, are functionally eradicated. The El Paso/Trans Pecos, Permian Basin, Western High Plains, Southern High Plains Caprock, Northwest Plains, Northern High Plains and Northern Rolling Plains zones are suppressed. These zones make up a large portion of the western and northern portions of the state's cotton growing areas.

Harvesting equipment moving from areas outside of either a suppressed or functionally eradicated zone cannot be brought into one of these areas until the equipment has been

thoroughly cleaned. Raw cotton cannot be moved into or through suppressed or eradicated zone unless a protection plan has been filed with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

TDA has developed a protection plan template for growers who fall under these restrictions and wish to gin cotton in a suppressed or eradicated zone. TDA also has developed a guideline for ensuring harvesting equipment is properly cleaned before entering one of these zones. Many of these restrictions are placed on the movement of raw cotton and harvesting equipment from a suppressed area to a functionally eradicated area.

Brochures providing more specific information on the restrictions are available from TDA or from the boll weevil foundation. Contact your local TDA office, or write the foundation, Box 5089, Abilene TX 79608 to obtain a brochure. Information is also available on the web at <http://info.sos.state.tx>. The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a non-profit, grower initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from the state in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

Back To The Fields Of Battle

Plains vet, wife visit Pacific island 60 years after U.S. Marines, Army, Navy liberate Guam from Japanese



19 year old PFC Bud Forbus, prior to the invasions and battle for the Pacific Islands of Guam and Iwo Jima

shores. Forbus grinned when he said, "I only lasted about eight hours this time". Exploding shrapnel tore into his face, eye, shoulder and legs. He was first taken to an army hospital on the island of Saipan, and then once again sent to the same Navy hospital in Honolulu.

It's doubtful anyone truly relishes having a Purple Heart medal draped around their neck, but one of the two Forbus received just months apart has special memories. It was presented to Bud by Admiral Chester Nimitz, the Commander in Chief of all Naval Forces in the Pacific Theatre of the war.

This July 7, Bud and his wife ?? Mary Dell ?? flew from Lubbock to Los Angeles, then to Honolulu, where they boarded another airline for a flight back to Guam, this time to be on hand for the 60th anniversary commemorating the liberation of the Island from Japanese forces. Some hundred veterans of that battle, marines, sailors, soldiers, were honored by the government of the island, a U.S. Territory, home of a large U.S. Naval Base, and huge Anderson Air Force Base, the largest air force installation in the Pacific theatre. The Forbuses took tours, attended

Turn To Page 2, 'Fields Of Battle'

Miss Texas 2005



Tyler Willis, daughter of Ricky and Joetta Willis of Brownfield and the granddaughter of James and Jerry Warren of Plains, was crowned Miss Texas 2005 on June 28th in Laredo.

Her official duties will take her to many Texas cities throughout the year.

Court learns about state mandated electronic voting plan

Roger Tinnin, representing Intercivic Co. of Ft. Worth, attended a special session of Commissioners Court here Monday morning, to explain and demonstrate some of his firm's electronic voting equipment and programs. The federally mandated Americans With Disabilities Act has resulted in state governments passing down to county and city officials laws protecting the rights of citizens with physical handicaps, including electronic voting machines for voters unable to use a conventional paper ballot.

Recently Judge Brewer, Commissioners Lindsey, Coston and Cobb, County Clerk Debbie Rushing and Auditor

Turn To Page 2, 'ELECTRONICS'

A dozen new faces at Plains ISD



These twelve new teachers were on hand at a recent meeting of all Plains School District employees prior to the August 16 opening day of school. Front, L-R, Blake Eddleman, Gary Lindsey, Adam Jones. Middle- Kim Willis, Linda Olvera, Darla Graham, David Caffey. Back- Shannon Eddleman, Jennifer Everitt, Kacy Richards, Shannon Caffey, Katherine Marin.



In above photo, Bud Forbus, extreme left, receives piece of the ceremonial ribbon used in dedication ceremonies in Agana, Guam, to rename the main thoroughfare 'Marine Corps Drive'. All WW II veterans present for the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the island received pieces of the ribbon. In the combat photographer's photo below, marine riflemen are shown on the attack on the island.



liberation celebrations, and Bud was featured in several local TV spots during the celebration. He was very impressed by the local governments decision to re-name the main street in the capitol City of Agana, from Marine Drive to Marine Corps

Drive, and in the ribbon cutting ceremony opening the newly named street, Bud was presented a piece of the ribbon by the commanding officer of Anderson AFB. ** Editor's footnote; Liberation: *Marines In The Recapture Of Guam*, one of a number of

commemorative publications about U.S. Marines in WW II, by Cyril J. O'Brien, reported almost 11,000 bodies of Japanese defenders were identified, but when U.S. Forces declared the island recaptured there were some "10,000 Japanese forces still on the island. More than 8,500 of them were killed or captured by time the war ended August 14, 1945." In 1954 the author was in the Navy, stationed with a Military Air Transport Service squadron in Honolulu. I was detached for 6 weeks to a Navy air auxiliary detachment operating

From Page 1, 'ELECTRONICS'

Darinda McWhirter attended a pre-legislative conference in Austin. Portions of the program covered the state mandated installation of electronic voting machines and supporting electronic election judges equipment throughout the state.

The equipment discussed by Tinnin would be required at each of the current 6 polling places, plus both software and hardware, for a total approximate cost of \$68,000.

It was pointed out some \$21,000 in grant funds could be obtained from the state for the required set-up, reducing the county portion of the program to about \$47,000.

Judge Brewer told Mr. Tinnin, "There's nothing personal in this about you or your company, but I feel this is another example of another unfunded state mandate from Austin which counties and cities across the state will have to deal with, at our expense."

County Clerk Rushing reported she had been in contact with the Secretary of State office, and it appeared there was no legal way future electronic voting facilities could be avoided. She did point out it may be possible to determine a legal manner in which the county polling places could be consolidated, reducing the number of the required electronic election equipment. No action was taken on the issue.

near Anderson AFB on Guam, and during that period, local papers reported a Japanese soldier had come in from the hills and jungles to surrender, not knowing the war was over. He said to his knowledge all other Japanese survivors had died from starvation, old wounds or disease.

Probably the first commercial crop planted in Texas was cotton. Export of cotton products began in the 1820's in Stephen F. Austin's colony on the Brazos River, though earlier production occurred around the San Antonio Missions.

UNITED STATES SENATE
CAPITOL COMMENT
 U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



August is back to school time for children across Texas. Chairs are dusted off, books are opened and pencils, pads and backpacks are purchased for the big first day. And while students from 1st to 12th grade are required to check-in on day one, what happens after graduation is up to them. More and more students are making the decision to attend a technical school, college or university. Unfortunately, as the importance of a college degree continues to rise, so does the price of tuition. In fact, the average cost of attending a public college or university in Texas is roughly \$14,732 per year.

Whether you, your child, or grandchild is college-bound, these increasing costs may seem nearly impossible to fathom. I believe every child who wants to work hard to pursue a college education should have the opportunity to do so. Both federal and state governments have taken major steps over the years to open doors for students who want to take their education to the next level.

The entire college process, from applications to financial aid and scholarships, can be overwhelming. A great help in navigating the maze can be admissions advisors, counselors and teachers. And there is financial help, particularly loans, readily available. Last year, more than \$3 billion was awarded to students attending college in Texas. Seventy-five to 80 percent was from the federal government and 20-25 percent was from the state, institutions or private sources. Let's take a look at how to find some of these available resources.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), is used to decide student eligibility for federal Pell Grants, Stafford Loans, and most state aid. Colleges use the data to compare the eligibility requirements of their assistance programs. Aid comes in many forms, such as grants, scholarships, college work-study programs, or loans. For FAFSA application and deadline information, visit www.fafsa.com <<http://www.fafsa.com>>. To contact the Texas Financial Aid Information Center, call 1-888-311-8881.

The best place to start finding scholarships is at the chosen institution. Each school has unique courses of study, and groups of alumni or contribu-

tors who have set up scholarships for future students. Most financial aid offices can provide a list of available awards that will help students narrow down the process. Of course, another fantastic resource is the Internet. Over the past decade, Fastweb.com has explained its database from 180,000 awards to more than 600,000. The total worth of the awards listed: \$1 billion.

Texas offers many different ways to finance an education. There are numerous state grants, scholarships and programs available to help hard-working Texans achieve their educational goals. Here are a few of them:

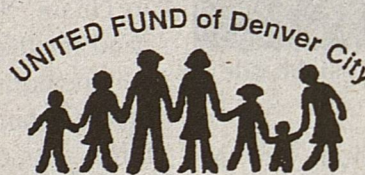
TEXAS GRANT: The Texas Grant provides money to enable well-prepared students to attend public and private non-profit institutions of higher education within the state. The award amount depends on tuition and fees paid by the student at each school.

MINNIE STEVENS PIPER FOUNDATION: Started in 1951, this non-profit foundation has approximately \$350,000 in student loans available yearly for full-time students attending Texas colleges or universities. Loan applications will be considered for undergraduate Juniors or Seniors and graduate students pursuing a higher degree. Each student is eligible for up to \$10,000 in loans. MSPF also provides a wide range of grants.

TEXAS TOMORROW FUNDS: No matter how old your child or grandchild is, it's never too early to start saving for college. Texas Tomorrow Funds provides two plans to meet the future needs of every Texas student. Visit www.texastomorrowfunds.org <<http://www.texastomorrowfunds.org>> to investigate these savings and investment plans.

The bottom line in financing an education is this: The more research you do and the more knowledge you acquire, the more opportunities appear. Obviously, not every Texan wants to attend an institution of higher learning. But as our economy goes global, many of us will want additional technical, business, computer or academic training. My goal is that learning should be within the grasp of every Texan who will devote energy and effort towards pursuing it.

UNITED FUND of Denver City



United Fund Of Denver City
Three person Scramble Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 28, 10 AM,
Yoakum County Golf Course

Sponsored by Mustang Station & OXY Permian

* \$150 per team if paid by August 25, \$175 tournament day. * 3 Mulligans, \$10. * Cart, range balls, lunch included in fee. * Awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each flight, approx. 10 teams per flight, plus awards for long drive, closest to pin.

Proceeds benefit the United Fund of Denver City

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Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor

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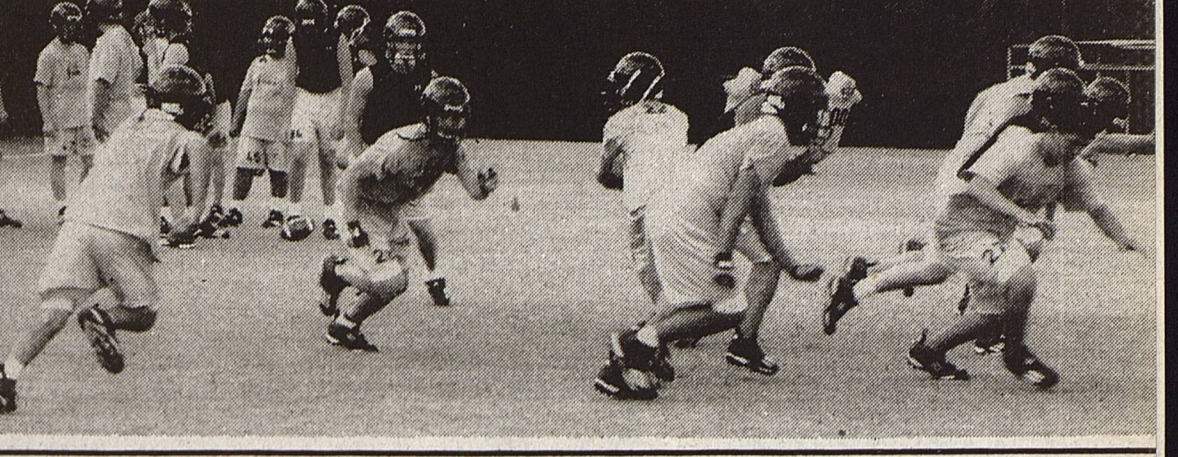
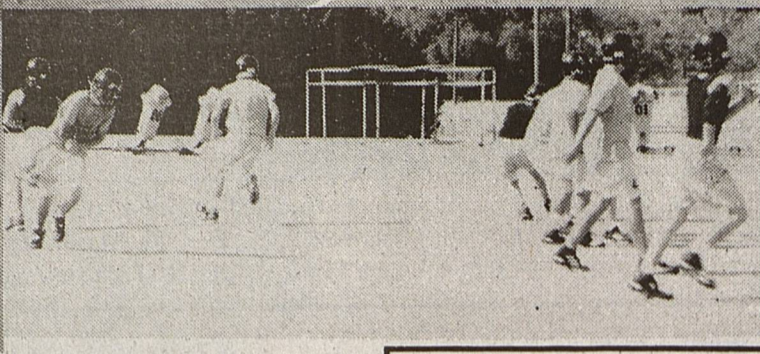
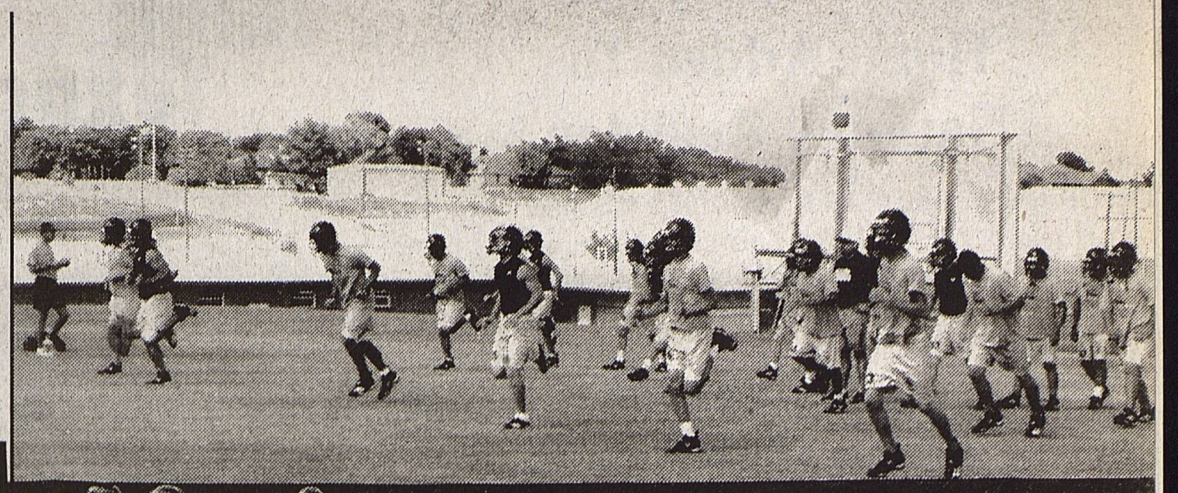
PLAINS, TEXAS

grass work, dirt work, fence repair, shredding, tree trimming

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CALL for estimates

2004 Cowboys Working Hard!



Thank You So Much!!

The Yoakum County Art Association would again like to express our sincere gratitude to each of the Patron Members, Purchase Award buyers, those who made monetary donations, and everyone who attended to make the show very successful!

Patron Members

Mary Jo St Romain
Wilma Powell
Sarah Jane Field
Sarah K. Burrus
Richardson Insurance
Bayer Lumber

Barbara Wright
Melba Crutcher
L J & Virginia Sanders
Yoakum County Abstract
Pat McNabb

Donations

Sarah K. Burrus
Wilma Powell

Lea County Electric
LeAnn Lewis
Plains Memorial Chapel
Paul & Johnette Mansur
Dottie Mayes

Purchase Awards Buyers

Judge Dallas Brewer
Ty Earl Powell
Jo Lena Wall
Lori & John Matus
Gary Walker
Sonnie Stephens
Sundown State Bank
Linda Wall
Debbie Rushing
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Hicks Furniture & Appliance
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T.J. Miller
James & Sherry Melendez
Kenley Powell
Sandra Ellison
Shirley Wright
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Bill Helwig Law Firm
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Door Prize Recipients
Mary Frankfather
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A special thanks to the City of Plains for the use of the Community Building.

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Home 592-3490

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Mobile 806-592-1319
Home 456-3195

50-211
(Rev. 6-01/6)

2004

Property Tax Rates in

Yoakum County

This notice concerns 2004 property tax rates for Yoakum County. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

	General Fund	Farm to Market/ Flood Control Fund
Last year's tax rate:		
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 7,366,216	\$ 1,294,676
Last year's debt taxes	\$ 332,605	\$ 0
Last year's total taxes	\$ 7,698,821	\$ 1,294,676
Last year's tax base	\$1,772,002,997	\$ 1,768,683,807
Last year's total tax rate	\$.434470 /\$100	\$.07320 /\$100

This year's effective tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 7,697,510	\$ 1,294,463
+ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	\$1,918,895,317	\$1,915,589,987
- This year's effective tax rate for each fund	\$.40114 /\$100	\$.06757 /\$100
Total effective tax rate	\$.46871 /\$100	

x 1.03 - maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearing
\$.48277 /\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:		
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property and adjusting for any transferred function, tax increment financing, state criminal justice mandate, and/or enhanced indigent health care expenditures)	7,364,966	1,294,463
+ This year's adjusted tax base	\$1,918,895,317	\$1,915,589,987
- This year's effective operating rate	.38381 /\$100	\$.06757 /\$100
x 1.08 - this year's maximum operating rate	.41451 /\$100	\$.07297 /\$100
+ This year's debt rate	.01781 /\$100	\$ 0 /\$100
- This year's rollback rate for each fund	.43232 /\$100	\$.07297 /\$100
This year's total rollback rate	.50529 /\$100	

50-179
(Rev. 6-04)

Statement of Increase/Decrease

If Yoakum County adopts a 2004 tax rate equal to the effective tax rate of \$.46871 per \$100 of value, taxes would decrease compared to 2003 taxes by \$ 153.00

Schedule A - Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Perm. Improvement	General Balance	R & B Precincts	Jury
	126,346	1,272,723	1,513,312	77,929

Schedule B - 2004 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Description of Debt	Principal or Contract Payment to be Paid from Property Taxes	Interest to be Paid from Property Taxes	Other Amounts to be Paid (agency fees)	Total Payment
	\$ 265,000	\$ 76,760	\$ 300	\$ 342,060
<i>(expand as needed)</i>				
Total required for 2004 debt service			\$ 342,060	
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A			\$ 0	
- Amount (if any) paid from other resources			\$ 0	
- Excess collections last year			\$ 0	
- Total to be paid from taxes in 2004			\$ 342,060	
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect only 100% of its taxes in 2004			\$ 0	
= Total Debt Levy			\$ 342,060	

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at Yoakum County Tax Office Ave G & Cowboy Way Plains, Texas

Name of person preparing this notice Betty N. Rivas

Title Tax Assessor Collector

Date prepared 08-06-04

George W. Bush Childhood Home Added To National Register

The George W. Bush Childhood Home in Midland was recently listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) assisted in the nomination of this property for inclusion in the National Register in recognition of its importance to the history of Midland, Texas and the nation.

The George W. Bush Childhood Home, located at 1412 W. Ohio Ave., is currently under restoration as the representative childhood home of President George W. Bush. The home is where George W. Bush lived the longest during his youth, and is the house most often recalled in family memoirs. His formative years there included playing baseball, supporting his parents through the tragic death of his sister and welcoming the first two of his three younger brothers.

late 1955, this otherwise unremarkable house was the home of two people who would one day become president of the United States. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance.

"Listing in the National Register follows a tremendous amount of preparation," said Larry Oaks, THC executive director. "Many individuals contribute to the nomination of these properties, including the owners, local preservation organizations, our staff and our professional review board. The citizens of Midland can be very proud of this accomplishment."

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

This summer, many parts of Texas have received near-record amounts of rain. Considering drought is usually the watchword in the Lone Star State, many farmers and ranchers have welcomed the rain, which has given a boost to the thirsty crops and rangelands that stretch across the state. Unfortunately, excessive moisture is also good news for mosquitoes, which become more and more active in damp weather.

Besides being annoying at outdoor picnics, mosquitoes aggravate horse owners who are trying to protect their animals from West Nile virus, which can cause encephalitis in horses, donkeys, mules, humans and several other species of animals. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes that acquire it from infected birds. Last year there were 717 confirmed West Nile cases among horses in Texas. With a population of more than 1 million horses in Texas, that number sounds like a drop in the bucket, but this virus can be devastating both physically and economically.

So far, West Nile has been found in at least five horses in Brazoria, Fort Bend, La Salle, Leon and Montgomery counties.

While a vaccination is considered the best line of defense to protect animals against West Nile virus, insect repellents are an excellent way to keep the mosquitoes away. It's also important to drain any standing water that could breed mosquitoes, and report any dead birds to local authorities. Thoroughly clean livestock watering troughs at least monthly, and, if possible, supply horses with screened housing to protect them from mosquitoes.

For more information on how to protect your animals from the West Nile virus, visit the Texas Department of Health Web site at www.tdh.state.tx.us, or call (888) 963-7111.



Birthday Girl Wilma Powell celebrated her 90th in grand fashion Saturday, August 14, at the ranch home of Ty Earl and Linda Powell, Ty shown on left. Her older son Dallas, on right, and his family came from Colorado for the celebration, which featured a catered barbecue and some boot scootin' western music.

It's not too early to invite out of town friends & family to the Watermelon Round Up!

Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up Watermelon Decorating Contest

September 4, 2004

RULES



- Entrants must live in Yoakum County or within 10 miles of county line.
- Awards of \$200 savings bonds go to age groups, Juniors 0 - 9; Youth 10 - 20; Adult 21 and up. Any age group is eligible for Best Of Show for a \$400 savings bond.
- Winners must verify savings bonds have correct name, address and social security number with donor banks.
- A whole or parts of real watermelon of any variety may be used.
- No restriction apply on decoration material except must be in good taste. Chair will determine if inappropriate in case of dispute.
- Painting or carving may be done on watermelons.
- Contestant is responsible for a prop if needed to hold watermelon in a certain position.
- Contestant must leave watermelon on display from 10 AM until 5 PM on contest day. Disposal of melon or materials will be handled by chair if not claimed by contestant.
- Only one entry per person; entry form must be filled out when entering contest. Forms will be available at information desk when entering contest.
- A nameplate may accompany entry if it adds to understanding of decorations

Decorating Contest Sponsoring Donors:

- * Junior Division - \$200 Savings Bond - Plains State Bank
- * Youth Division - \$200 Bond - West Texas National Bank
- * Adult Division - \$200 Bond - Wells Fargo Bank
- * Best Of Show - \$400 Bond - Sundown State Bank

Notice Of Public Hearing On Tax Increase

The Yoakum County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 8.0 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on August 20th at 5:00pm - 6:00pm

FOR the proposal: Dallas Brewer, Woody Lindsey, Ben Costen, Ty Powell, Jack Cobb
 AGAINST the proposal: None
 PRESENT and not voting: None
 ABSENT: None

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$ 38,366	\$ 38,446
General exemptions available (amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)	\$ 0	\$ 0
Average taxable value	\$ 38,366	\$ 38,446
Tax rate	.50767/100	.50529/100
Tax	\$ 194.77	\$ 194.26

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would decrease by \$.51 or .26 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would decrease by \$.00238 per \$100 of taxable value or .47 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

Criminal Justice Mandate (for counties):
 The Yoakum County Auditor certifies that Yoakum County has spent \$ 46,048 in the previous 12 months beginning August, 2003, for the maintenance and operations cost of keeping inmates sentenced to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Yoakum County Sheriff has provided information on these costs, minus the state revenues received for reimbursement of such costs.

Enhanced Indigent Health Care Expenditures (use if applicable):
 The spent \$ from to on enhanced indigent health care at the increased minimum eligibility standards, less the amount of state assistance. For the current tax year, the amount of increase above last year's enhanced indigent health care expenditures is

West Texas Medical Center announces Extended Clinic Hours

8 A.M. UNTIL 12 NOON

EVERY SATURDAY

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West Texas Medical Center
415 North Avenue F
Denver City

806-592-9501

Yoakum County Plains Clinic Amir Memon, MD and Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

See us for your Weight-Loss and Tobacco addiction problems

TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am.-5pm.

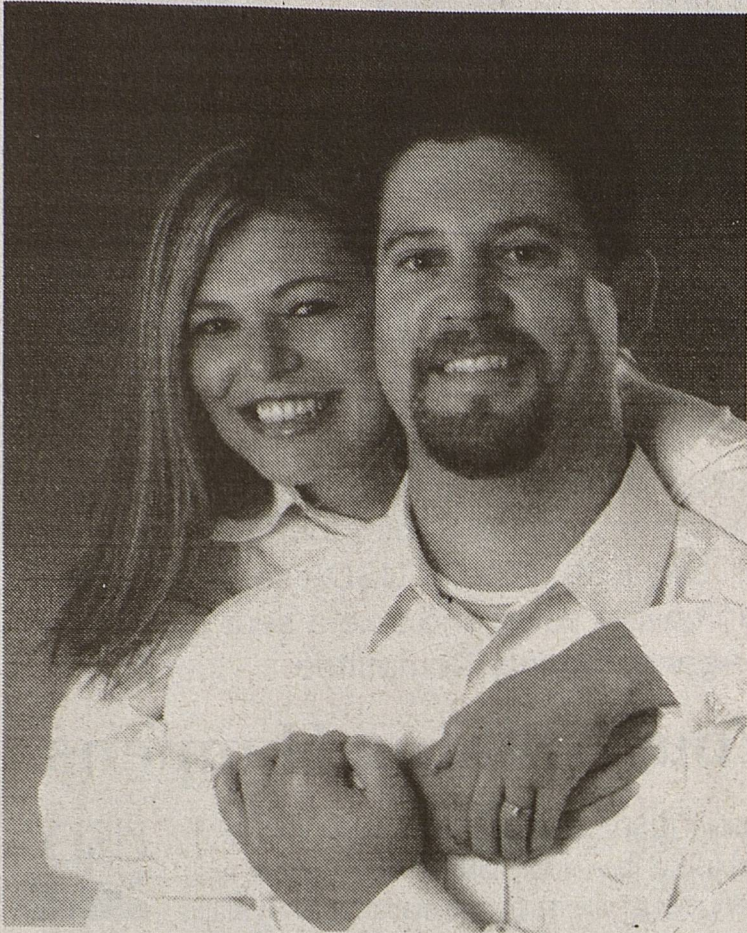
Will take walk-ins

Appointments preferred

Please call 806-456-6365

Lifelines & Styles

Engagement Announced



Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lowe are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kassie Gevon to Michael Don Bunton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Don Bunton of Lubbock. The couple will wed Friday, September 10, 2004 at the First Baptist Church in Lubbock, Texas.

New Items At The Yoakum County Library

NONFICTION

STORM ON THE HORIZON by David J. Morris
HOW TO WRITE & DELIVER EFFECTIVE SPEECHES
HOW TO WRITE SHORT STORIES
RESEARCH PAPERS FOR DUMMIES
JANE'S SUBMARINES: WAR BENEATH THE WAVES
AMERICAN TABOO by Philip Weiss
A GRIEF OBSERVED by C.S. Lewis
FATAL JUSTICE by Jerry Allen Potter
ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION: A GUIDE FOR PARENTS
POWER OF ATTORNEY HANDBOOK
CHARLIE'S WATERCOLOR SECRETS
HOW TO INTERPRET POETRY
HOW TO WRITE RESEARCH PAPERS

FICTION

THE TAKING by Dean Koontz
CALDER PROMISE by Janet Dailey
CIRCLE OF GRACE by Penelope Stokes
DEATH ROUNDS by Peter Clement
THE WORK OF WOLVES by Kent Meyers
FOUR SOULS by Louise Erdrich
SAM'S LETTERS TO JENNIFER by James Patterson
SECOND CHANCE by Danielle Steel
KILL THE MESSENGER by Tami Hoag
UNLUCKY IN LAW by Perri O'Shaughnessy
THE DARK TOWER V: WOLVES OF THE CALLA by Stephen King
KISS ME WHILE I SLEEP by Linda Howard

AUDIOBOOKS

SECOND CHANCE (CD) by Danielle Steel
CIRCLE OF GRACE (CD) by Penelope Stokes
THE TAKING (CD) by Dean Koontz
CITIZEN SOLDIERS (CD) by Stephen Ambrose
AN AMERICAN PLAGUE (CD) by Jim Murphy
TILL WE MEET AGAIN (CD) by Penelope Stokes
MY BIG OLD TEXAS HEARTACHE (CD) by GERALYN DAWSON
BRACK (CD) by Johnny Quarles
FIRST-TIME MOM (CD) by Dr. Kevin Leman
NOWHERE, TEXAS (CD) by Ralph Compton
SARA'S LETTERS TO JENNIFER (CD) by James Patterson
UNDAUNTED COURAGE (CD) by Stephen Ambrose
THE WILD BLUE (CD) by Stephen Ambrose

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Seniors Corner

Photographs are memories others can see! A New York psychiatrist states: "That old family snapshots is worth 1,000 hours on the psychiatrist's couch, pictures of the past are fantastically relaxing."

We started out with a little old box camera belonging to Elmer's mother. It recorded World War II for us. We got a camera of our own when the children came along as we wouldn't miss any of those special times. The polaroid era didn't last too long in our family, although I do still see some of those faded photos with curled corners nestled in the album that covers the 1950's. A brand new eight millimeter movie camera became a prize possession during the home-steading years. We recorded the exciting happenings on a regular basis although we were unable to afford to get the film developed until later. As the years passed, we moved to a super-eight millimeter movie camera. What was an exciting time it was when we purchased the first projector and screen so we could view our past! I still smile as I remember Elmer splicing those movie film together on large reels so we could watch several of them without any interference. Then came the decade of the seventies when we added the slide camera and projector. There are still fifty-one carousels (100 slides each) sitting on a shelf awaiting the proper equipment to successfully move them to DVD's. Each carousel has a cassette narrating the story accompanying the slides.

The Video camera was the next addition about midway in the 1980's. How exciting to be able to extend the time for shooting the world around us without concern about each fifty foot film. A few disposable cameras found their way into our bag of necessities on one or two different vacation trips that we took. Then came the day of digital photography, probably the most exciting way record our lives! My computer is loaded with folders of photos from different interests in our present life waiting to be printed out as desired or enjoyed on the computer screen. At the present time, my personal project is moving everything to DVD's and making a copy for each of our children. Yet, when one of those restless nights comes along, it is the shelf holding the old familiar photo albums to which I turn. They are entitled "Through the Years" and each is dated, so it is easy to find that special moment in time, from out of our sixty-two years, that I want to curl up in the recliner and re-

member.

Names on the visitor list this week include Charles Benge, Jane Hester, and Joe Baker. We are always pleased to see new faces and, also, to welcome those who come infrequently.

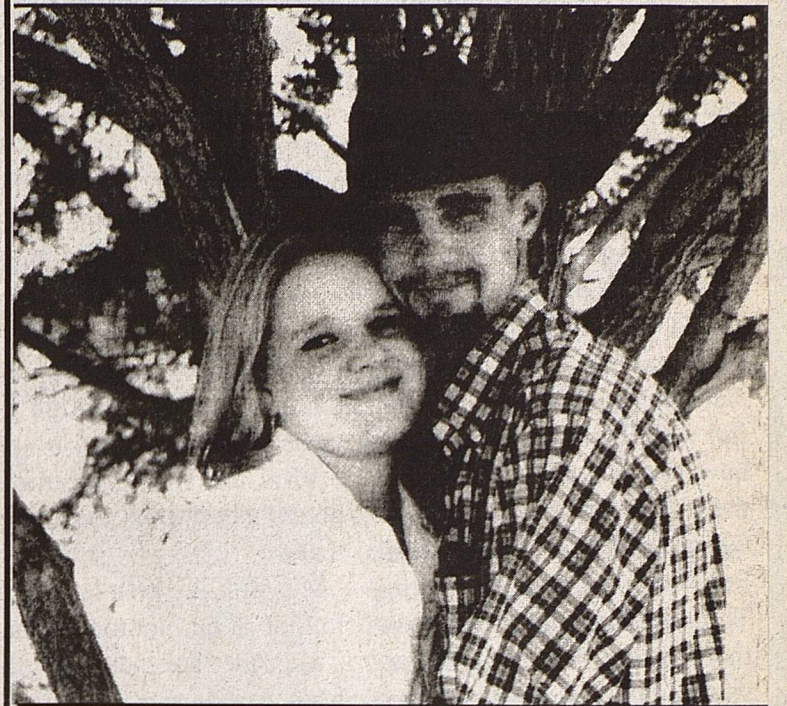
If you have failed to read the Senior News column lately, we want to remind you again that you are needed at the Senior Center! We are so fortunate to have this place and the on-going programs in place for ALL of the Yoakum County seniors. We serve healthy and delicious lunches daily from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There are pool and domino games everyday for your enjoyment. Tournaments are held on a regular basis in the Pool, Domino, and Bingo areas of entertainment. Drop by and pick up one of our Menu/Activity sheets so you are aware of what is going on. We have a re-conditioned recreation room available for your pleasure. It includes tables for all kinds of games and puzzles. There is a new 52" TV in there on which we show movies each Monday night at 6:30. A movie is also shown after lunch on Wednesday and Friday for your entertainment. Comfortable, new chairs are in place in which you may relax as you enjoy the movie. There are also exercise machines, geared to fit your needs, for you to use at any time. Several of our people use the air conditioned hallways to do those exercise laps. COME JOIN US!

We are sorry to hear that Ed Hicks suffered a heart attack a few days ago and is currently in a Lubbock hospital. Up-to-date news was not available at this writing, but we are all wishing him well.

I have shared with some of you about this new diet my doctor has suggested. Lest you have not been informed, let me assure you that diets are 'no fun'. I can empathize with my friend who said, "When I started my new diet, I altered my route down town to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by it today and there in the window were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed, 'Lord, it's up to you...If you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery.' Sure enough, He answered my prayer...on the eighth time around the block, there it was! The Lord does work in mysterious ways!"

Thought for Today: "Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do like and the eyesight to tell the difference". The Senility Prayer.

Wedding Plans Announced



Julie Kowacich of Grandbury and Nathan Kowacich of Lawrenceville, Georgia announce the engagement of their daughter, Cortni Paige to Jeffrey David Lollar, son of David and Jerri Lollar of Tokio. Paige is a student at South Plains College and is employed by O'Rielly's Auto Parts in Levelland. Jeffrey is employed by G & L Farms. The wedding is planned for September 18.

Four County Shared Services Arrangement Give Special Education Help

The Four County Shared Services Arrangement provides special education services for students from birth to age 22 who live in the Brownfield, Denver City, Loop, New Home, O'Donnell, Plains, Seagraves, Tahoka, and Wellman-Union school districts.

Services are provided for the speech, visually or hearing impaired, and also provide for the learning disabled, emotionally disturbed, mentally retarded and for students with health or physical disabilities who attend public schools, private schools, or home schools.

If you know a child who needs services, call (806) 637-8448 or your local school district for more information.

*Bridal Shower honoring
Miss Darla Graham
Bride Elect of Layne Morrow
Saturday, August 21, 2004
10:00 - 11:30 am
in the home of Mrs. Carolyn Cullwell
1002 First Street
Selections: Lubbock: Bed, Bath & Beyond, Linens
n Things, Target, Home Depot. Brownfield;
Nelson's. Plains; Image 'n That, Bayer Lumber,
Circle B Auto Parts (Iron Works)*

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9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

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TRANE

"It's hard to stop a TRANE"

From The Hack

At last I can stop pondering and worrying. I just read in a publication from the Texas Department of Agriculture May is National Egg Month and September is National Chicken Month. That proves I've been right all these many years, the egg DID come first!

Saturday evening was one of those "Feel Good" experiences, my joining a very large crowd helping Wilma Powell celebrate her 90th Birthday! I can truthfully state, knowing full well the future price I will have to pay for saying this, but the young lady looks much better than either of her two sons! For any of you doubting Thomases, take another look at the photo of the family threesome on page 4. I rest my case. About a ton of nostalgia hit me when the western swing band cranked up and I saw couples of all ages two-stepping across the only recently poured cement slab in front of the Powell carport. I quite vividly recall The Bride struggling to teach me to jitterbug, or whatever you call it, to western music so many times, so many years ago. Those sessions would usually wind up with her finally telling me, "It's OK, Hon, I love the slow stuff too!"

Caught any of the Olympics yet? I watched a session of the womens gymnastic events a few night ago. I am still at a loss trying to comprehend how those tiny young girls on the teams can bounce, twist, soar, spring, gyrate, rocket about the floor. When my daughters were that size, they had problems navigating about the kitchen

without a collision with the fridge while supposedly doing the dishes. They were truly sweet, tender girls, though. I recall getting up one morning, strolling through the kitchen to the coffee maker, and on the message board in bold letters I saw, "Hey, pig breath and tiny bra wearer, it's your turn to clean house Saturday, and don't you DARE try to get out of it by telling Daddy you have the CRAMPS!!" I never saw one of them do a double flip of any kind except the ones you do when you are offended by drivers in Lubbock traffic.

Women's views on men:
Men are like copy machines - handy in reproduction and that's it.

Men are like hand guns - keep one around long enough you want to shoot it.

Men are like government bonds - they take too long to mature.

Men are like lava lamps, fun to look at but not too bright.

Men are like mascara - they both run at the first sign of emotion.

Men and placemats only show up when food's on the table.

Think Texas

By Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

It's safe to say Texas horticulture is a growth commodity in the Lone Star State. It is the second-largest agricultural industry here, accounting for about \$1.5 billion in cash receipts annually. The green industry packs a \$9.7 billion punch to the Texas economy each year.

With more and more people digging in their gardens, planting landscapes and getting back to nature for exercise and relaxation, it's no surprise that horticulture is on the move, and the Texas Department of Agriculture is in constant motion as well, helping to market Texas' vast array of plants, trees, flowers and other products.

That's why TDA has produced a number of new materials over the past few years specifically with horticulture buyers and producers in mind. Funding for these brochures, directories and manuals was provided through a one-time grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to promote Texas specialty crops, and all are offered at no charge.

Our horticulture directory provides lists of producers and suppliers of everything from bedding plants, roses and trees to turfgrass, native plants and groundcovers. The Texas Superstar brochure pinpoints which plants are most specifically suited to Texas weather conditions. Our Texas Organic Guide offers information for producers interested in exploring the organic market, and the Rooted in Texas Pride guide provides information on the commercial production of desert and native plants. We also have guides geared specifically toward forestry, olive growing, turfgrass and herbs.

Whether you are a buyer interested in learning more about what Texas grows or a producer exploring potential new markets, you can request any of these helpful guides by calling our toll free GO, TEXAN line at (877) 99GO-TEX.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4 PM Friday, August 27, 2004, for the purchase of a nurse call system for the Yoakum County Hospital.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in

Commissioners Court on Monday, August 30, 2004.

For a more detailed list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or P.O. Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355.

Sealed bids should be marked "NURSE CALL STATION"

on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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

We Want You In The Picture



FSA County Committee Elections

The deadline to get your name on the Farm Service Agency County Committee election ballot is September 3, 2004. Please contact your local FSA office or USDA service center to learn how you can have a voice and take a seat on your area Farm Service Agency County Committee.

Without You, Nothing Happens

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation and marital or family status.



Plains Middle School Teacher's Aide Position



- * Opening: Special Education Teacher's Aide, Plains Middle School
- * Application Deadline: Until Filled
- * Qualifications: GED/High School Diploma. "Highly Qualified" designation under NCLB legislation through 2 years of college coursework, an Associates Degree, or acceptable documented knowledge and ability to assist in the instruction of reading, writing, and mathematics through State assessment. Previous middle school experience is preferred but not required.
- * Salary/Benefits: \$7.61 to \$13.35/ hour depending on experience. District match 4% annuity. District pays for \$374 month of health insurance costs.
- * Contract Length: At Will Employee, 184 day work year.
- * Notes: Plains Middle School is a campus that serves 140 5th- 8th grade students in a West Texas Town of 1,500 citizens approximately 70 miles Southwest of Lubbock. The campus is a TEA Exemplary campus, and has held that designation for five of the past six years. Plains Middle School has a long history of meeting the varied needs of our students in ways that allow them to excel. If you have the skills, knowledge, and desire to continue in that tradition, then we want you on our staff!

Requests for application should be directed to:
Mr. James Haynes
Superintendent, Plains ISD
PO Box 479
Plains, TX 79355

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Texas at a Glance

Counties with Bounties

The best place to live in Texas? Well, the quality of life is tops in Collin County, according to ratings by American City Business Journals Inc. The company used 20 statistics, including racial diversity, the availability of work nearby and commute length, to judge America's counties.

Los Alamos County, N.M. was judged the best place to live, while Collin County, in North Texas, came in at number 51, in the top 98 percentile nationwide. Nine Texas counties were in the top 10 percent. Population apparently didn't make or break a county's score—Travis County, with 812,000 residents, and Loving County, with 67, both made Texas' top 10.



Quality of life rankings in Texas

County	National rank
Collin	51
Rockwall	72
Williamson	96
Fort Bend	116
Denton	145
Travis	189
Loving	213
Kendall	245
Hartley	271
Comal	397

SOURCE: American City Business Journals Inc.
GRAPHIC: Gilbert Cawood

Open doors

One of the barriers many students face is university admission requirements. Many college students choose a community college because they are easier to get into.

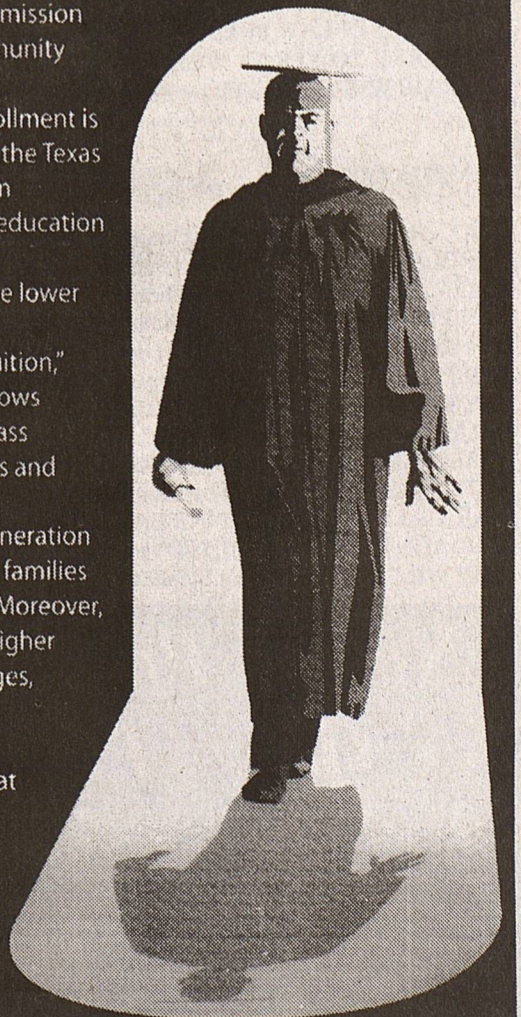
"Our open-door admission policy is one reason our enrollment is up," said Peggy Southall, director of public information at the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). "We don't turn students down. If they need help, we offer development education to get them ready."

The cost of attending a two-year college also tends to be lower than that of four-year universities.

"The most important financial aid for a student is low tuition," Southall said. Going to a local community college also allows students to save money by living at home, and flexible class schedules can be attractive to students with full-time jobs and families.

Community colleges are witnessing a growth in first-generation college students, those students who are the first in their families to have the opportunity to attend college, Southall said. Moreover, 63 percent of students enrolled in public institutions of higher education for the first time are at Texas community colleges, according to TACC.

Two-year colleges are also experiencing an increase in minority enrollment. From 2000 to 2002, TACC reports that Texas' 50 community college districts were responsible for 58 percent, or 21,077, of the increase in Hispanic enrollment, and 78 percent of minority freshman and sophomores attending public institutions of higher education attended Texas' public community colleges.





2004 Watermelon Roundup Activities

James Altman, Activities Chairman

MC's/Jackie of KQBR 99.5 The Bear

Saturday, September 4, 2004

8:00 a.m.
 Until 8:45 Register for Fun Run NW of Old Courthouse
 Brisket Cook-Offs start - Stanford Park
 9:00 a.m.

Flag Presentation, Veterans of Yoakum County/National Anthem, Ashley Vantine - Stage
 Fun Run starts - NW of Old Courthouse
 Toddler Run starts - NW of Old Courthouse
 Cyber Spin/Rock Climbing Wall/Train Ride-Front of New Courthouse
 Petting Zoo - Pioneer Park by City Hall open for the day
 Decorated Melon Contest Entries - Information Booth
 Classic Car Show starts - Front of school
 Books open for Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena

9:15 a.m.
 First Baptist Church Choir - Stage
 10:00 a.m.

Joe Townsend Gospel Quartet - Stage
 Team Roping - Plains Rodeo Arena
 11:00 a.m.

Cactus Cuties - Stage
 Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest (Jr High through Adult) - Front of New Courthouse
 12:00 p.m.

Star Dance Academy, Hobbs - Stage
 1:00 p.m.

Queen Presentation
 "Kiss a Pig"
 B.J. & Helen Country Fiddle - Stage
 Watermelon Awards & Recognition Ceremony - Stage
 2:00 p.m.

"Kiss a Pig"
 Ashley Vantine - Stage
 2:30 p.m.

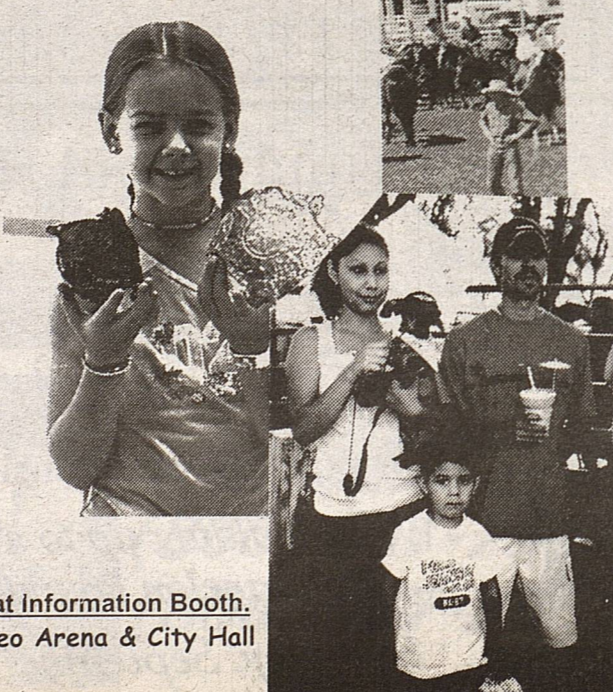
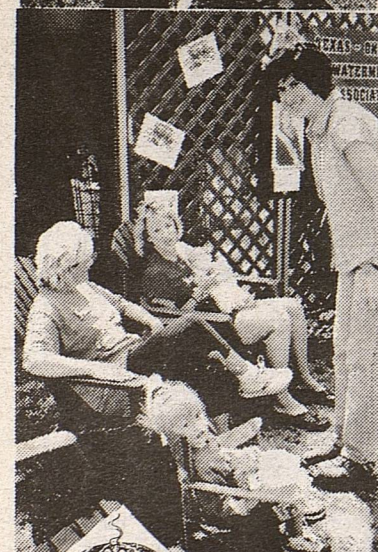
"Wild Bill" Cathey Trick Roper - Stage
 3:00 p.m.
 "Kiss a Pig"

Double Nickle Band - Stage
 Cowpatty Bingo - Front of Sandy Land UWCD
 4:00 p.m.

Cook-Off Winners Announced - Stage
 Car Show Awards - Stage
 4:30 p.m.
 Pound Singers - Stage
 5:30 p.m.

Final Announcements - Stage

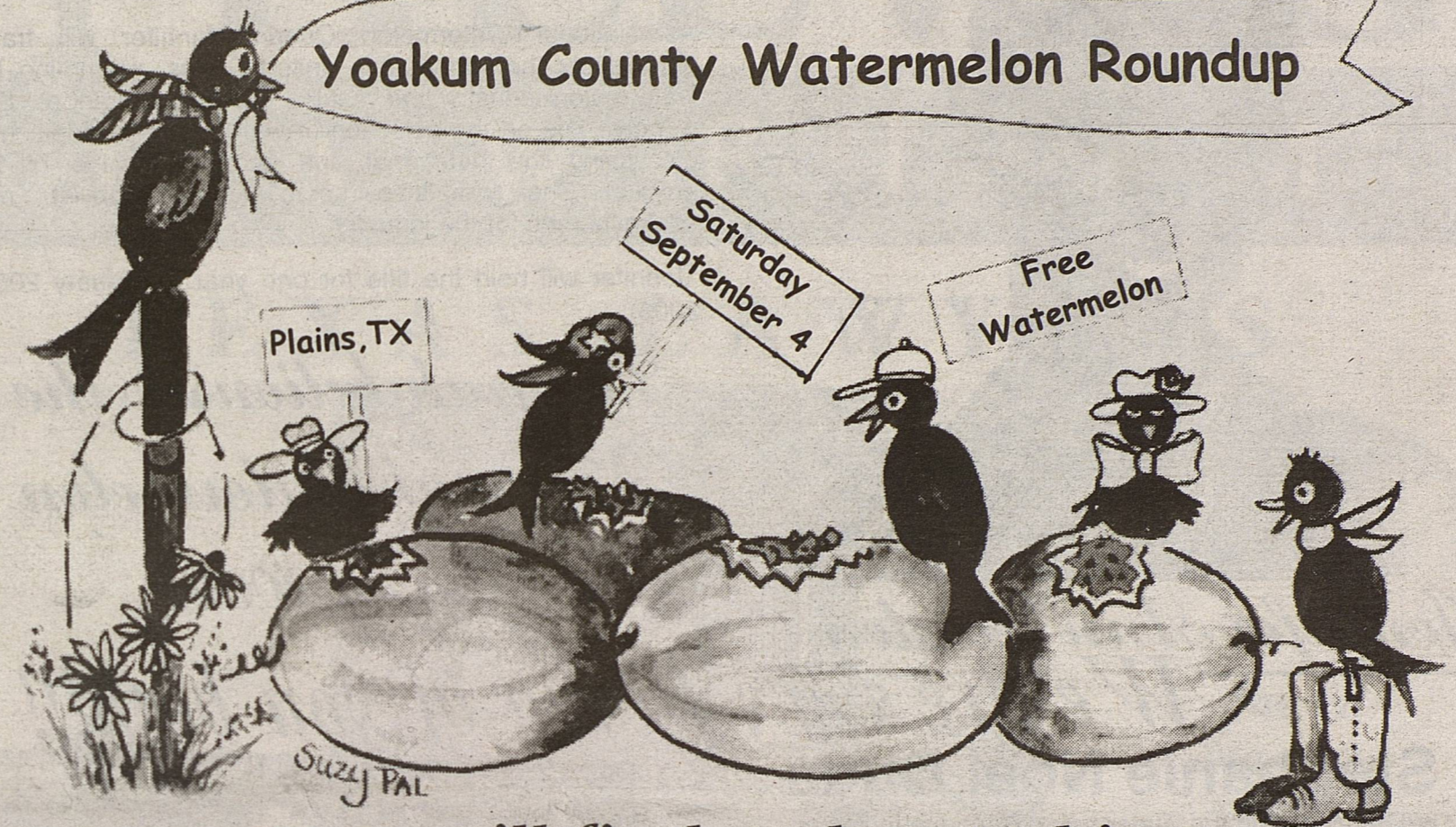
All Day Entertainment
 Harlin the Magician
 Greenie the Clown
 Sports on Air Carnival



All activities subject to change. Latest schedule changes available at Information Booth.
 Port-a-Potties between Library & Old Courthouse, Car Show, Rodeo Arena & City Hall

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Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup



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Yoakum County
 Highway 82/380

Saturday,
 September 4, 2004



Following her reign as Texas-Oklahoma Watermelon Queen 2003, Jennifer has become the National Watermelon Queen 2004. Twenty-one year old of Munday, Texas was crowned the 2004 National Watermelon Queen during the National Watermelon Association's Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. Jennifer is the daughter of Jeanie and David Turek and Jim Carden of Munday, Texas. She is a senior attending University of North Texas, majoring in Radio, Television and Film.

As National Watermelon Queen, Jennifer will travel extensively throughout the United States, promoting the watermelon industry and making guest appearances. She will give tips on the selection of watermelon in addition to discussing the nutritional and economic value of the product. She will also serve as a lobbyist, and spokesperson for the industry.

Jennifer will hold the title for one year. (February 2004-2005)

*Congratulations to the
National Watermelon
Queen 2004!*

Jennifer Ann Carden

We are very proud of you both!!!

Stephanie Noel Duda

will be attending the Watermelon Roundup in Plains, Texas, Memorial Day weekend. She was crowned the Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon queen in January, 2004. Stephanie is the 20 year old daughter of Darrell and Barbara Duda, from Mission Texas. She is a Junior student at the University of Texas in Austin. Stephanie has a strong feeling about agriculture because her family has been in the agriculture business for over 75 years. She will compete for the National Watermelon Queen title in March, 2005, in Orlando, Florida. As the Texas & Oklahoma Watermelon Queen, she travel throughout the States promoting the watermelon industry. She has attended four state conventions and has just recently returned from Washington, DC, visiting Commissioner Ann Veneman, the USDA SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. Connie McWhirter from Plains attended this visit with us to the USDA Building.



*Congratulations to the Texas-
Oklahoma Watermelon Queen
2004!*

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Saturday, September 4, 2004

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**Welcome to the 2004
Watermelon Round-up!**



Barbecue Cook-Off

Don't forget the Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup Cook-Off is now sanctioned by the "Lone Star Barbecue Society" of Arlington, Texas. This year's cook-off will be bigger and better than ever.

We will provide each cook a guarantee the cook-off will be run by a definite set of rules with which they are comfortable with. This year's categories are: chicken, pork spare ribs, and brisket. You DO NOT have to be member of Lone Star to participate, but if you are the placings will count toward Lone Star's year-end awards.

For more information, contact
The Watermelon Roundup
806-456-3566

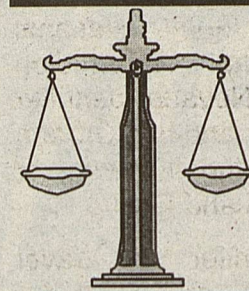
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Visit www.watermelon.org for easy recipes, nutritional information, fun ideas, facts and just about everything you should know about watermelon!



How to choose a great watermelon:

1. *Look the watermelon over*, choose a firm, symmetrical watermelon that is free of bruises, cuts and dents.
2. *Lift it up* – the watermelon should be heavy for its size. Watermelon is 92% water, that accounts for most of its weight.
3. *Turn it over* – on the underside of the watermelon there should be a creamy yellow spot from where it sat on the ground and ripened in the sun.

Following these tips will help you pick the watermelon available.

Just remember, picking a great watermelon is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

National Watermelon Promotion Board

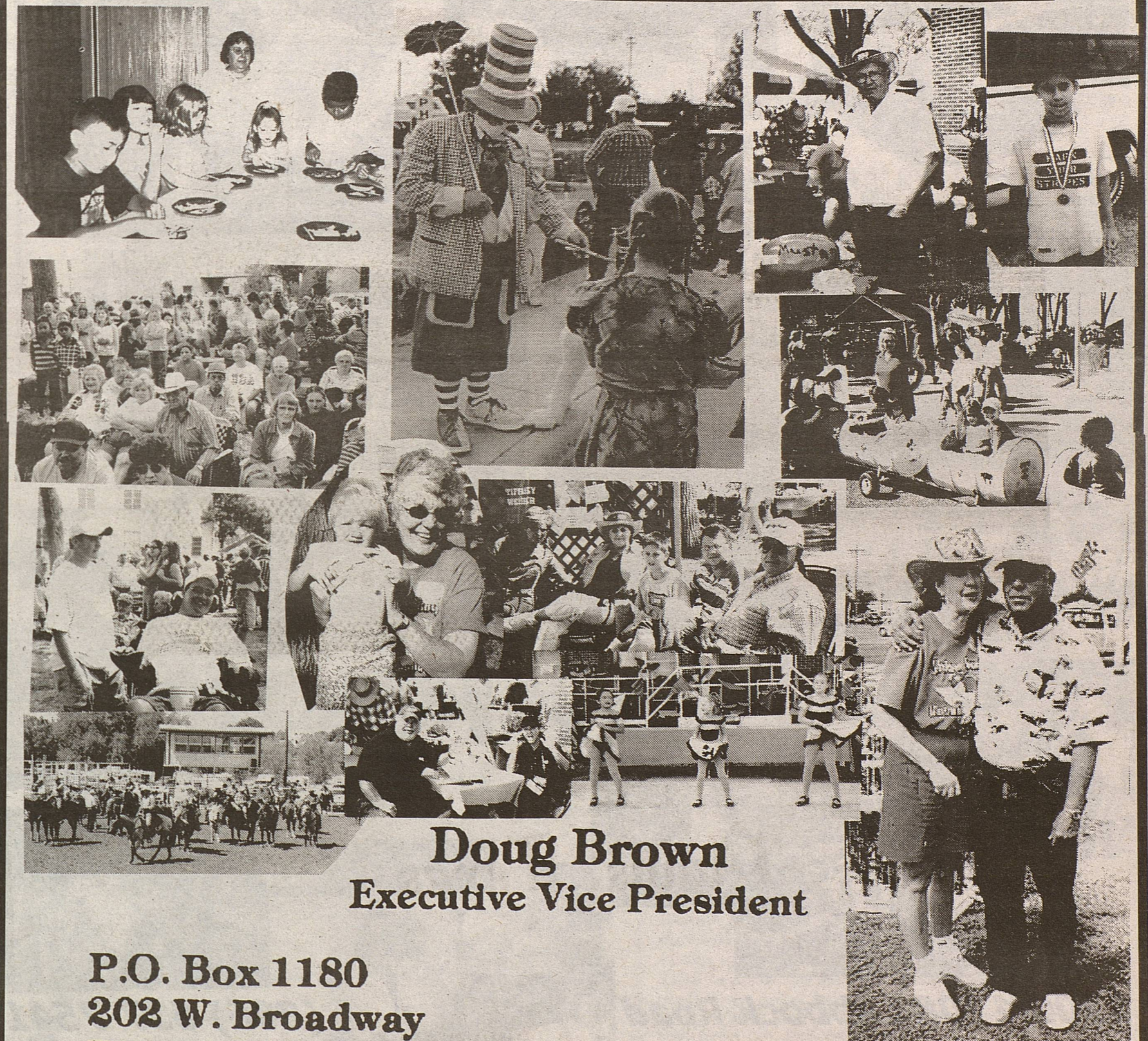
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Doug Brown
Executive Vice President

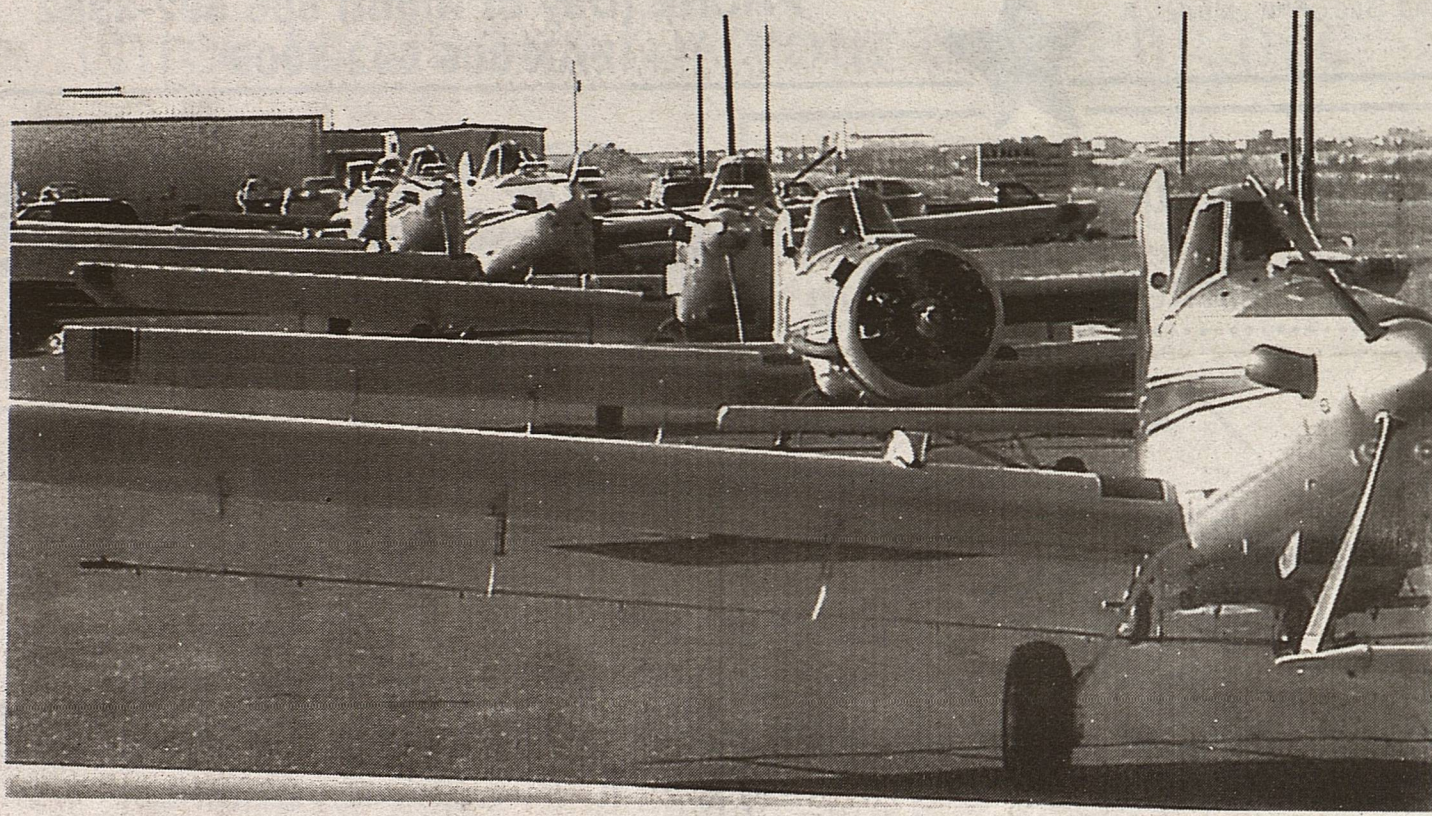
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Watermelon Round-Up



I hear the wind call my name,
It calls me back home again.
The sparks of a fire,
A flame that still burns,
It's to you...

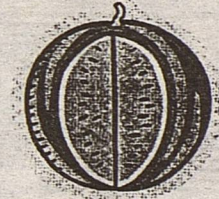
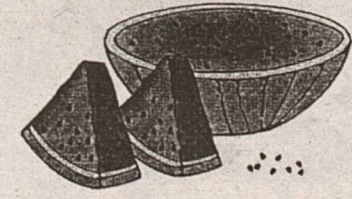
I will always, always return.
Under the starry skies,
Where eagles have flown,
Trees are slowly swaying
Making a gentle breeze.
I hear a child's laughter,
A truly heartfelt sound.
It's to you...

I will always, always return.
Good is felt through and through.
Happiness is a sweetness,
I cannot describe.
It's to you, Watermelon Round-Up,
I will always, always return!

-Katy Kidd, 5th grade

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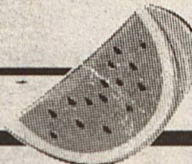
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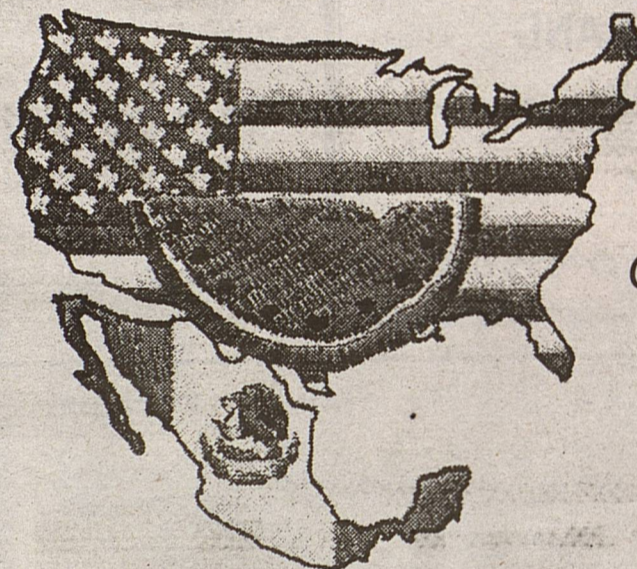
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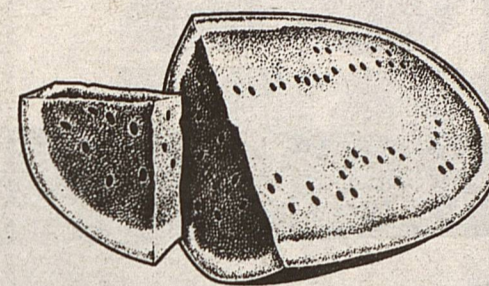
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

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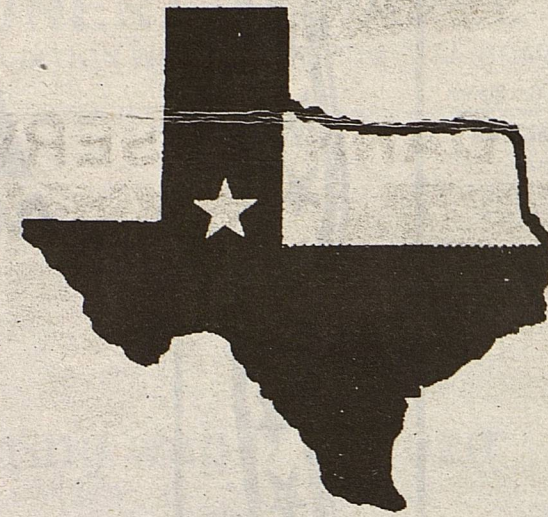
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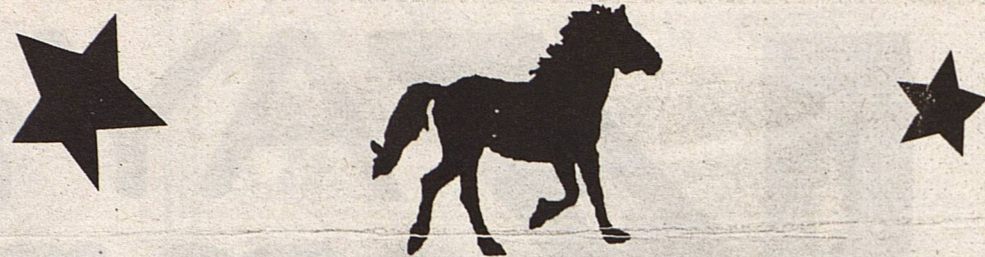
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Who sweat and labor to bring juicy melons to market.
Red, yellow, and green, pick our color
All are good and all are sweet.
People come from miles around, just to taste a little piece of heaven.
The first bite is so addicting,
Be careful, once you have had a taste of heaven,
You will be hooked forever.

-Blake O'Quinn, High School



Chris Roberts
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- Committee Chairmen 2004
9th Annual Watermelon Round-Up
Saturday, September 4, 2004**
- Overall Chairman... Jeanette Head
 - Arts and Crafts Booth... Debbie Palford
 - Food Booth... Carolyn Colwell
 - Seed Spitting... DC Volunteer Fire Dept.
 - Melon Decorating Contest... DC Chamber of Commerce
 - Hospitality Room... Deane Richardson
 - Cow Patty Bloop... Ty Powell
 - Classic Car Show... Terry and Wadonna Davis
 - Team Roping... Jerry Parrish
 - Barbecue Cook Off... Jim Brown
 - Stage Entertainment... James Altman
 - T-Shirts and Caps... Sue Randa/Mary Dale Forbes
 - Sliced Watermelon Booth... Tom Jones
 - Petting Zoo... Alf Dorrie Mager
 - Kiss the Pig Contest... A H Arkin Gentry
 - Horsey Pitching... Marilyn Sherrin
 - Fun Run/Toddler Run... Melvin Denting
 - Information Booth... Sheila Shephard
 - Tabloid... Linda Harris/Joni Hancock
 - Brochure... Brenda Canada
 - Poetry Contest... Yoakum Co. Wardmistress
 - Publicity... Lori Manos/Linda Powell/Gary Dyer
 - Logistics... Ed Hansen
 - Melon Slicing Booth... Barbara Wright
 - Kids Games... Elizabeth Mays
 - Webb Page... Russell Jones

"If you want to have truly effective change... you may actually have to change something."

Eight years ago a group of energetic, community-minded citizens of Yoakum County had a vision of expanding opportunities for art and cultural activities for the youth of our county. From that vision came an organization called the Yoakum County Connection.

Last year the "Connection" provided summer youth art programs that attracted nearly 150 participants in activities that ranged from balloon art to pizza making, from microwave munchies to watercolors, and from photography to cartoon art. Proceeds from the 8th Annual Watermelon Roundup provided most of the funds necessary for these programs.

I sincerely believe that the 9th Annual Watermelon Roundup will prove to be the biggest and best yet. I believe this because I have seen the commitment and dedication of the more than 75 volunteers who have put in hundreds of hours laying the groundwork in preparation for the Labor Day Weekend celebration.

A small group with a vision and the courage to "...actually change something" has caused "...truly effective change..." in Yoakum County.

I look forward to this year's Watermelon Roundup, and to the exciting programs being implemented by the "Connection" for the youth and future of Yoakum County, and I am truly honored to serve as Chairman of the Yoakum County Connection for the year 2004.

Edward Hansen
Chairman - Yoakum County Connection

Nine years is a long time to do something so successfully as you have done with the Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup.

I want to say thanks for all your help and encouragement. We have done another great job together. Without each of you it would not get done.

Sincerely,
Jeanette Head



Yoakum County Connection
P.O. Box 117
Plains, Texas 79355



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Ads in this tabloid are:
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If you would like to advertise in next year's tabloid contact: The Watermelon Roundup 806-456-3566

Watermelon Round-Up

It comes around just once a year,
And before you know it, it will be here!
Lots of people come from all around.
They enjoy the music and all its sound.
The day starts early with a 2k run.
Games are played and all have fun.
Some like the seed-spitting contest the best.
Others like to sit, visit and rest.
A lot of watermelon is consumed during the day.
And lots of juice dripped on the bales of hay.
There are booths set up for everyone to shop
And by the end of the day, you think you will drop.
The car show is really an awesome sight
The cars are all polished so shiny and bright.
There's a fly-in breakfast and a roping, too.
So we hope the sky will be clear and blue.
The Watermelon Round-Up is the place to be
On Labor Day weekend, Come and See!!!

-Landon Craft, High School

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Yoakum County Connection
Leaping into Summer Art 2004

A great end to another successful summer of art. We had a superior turnout and great results from the kids. We worked with a variety of medias and experimented on several canvases. Through trial and error we had some beautiful outcomes and lots of smiles.

Through art each child has the opportunity to express themselves as unique individuals and create their own masterpieces. It is a great reward to experience the children's excitement, enthusiasm and the pride they share with each new project.

Each year we discover new talent and this year was no exception. A special thanks to all the instructors that took time out of their daily schedule to teach classes. The instructors for classes were: Joyce Pierce, Janie Ramos, Debbie Pollard, Nikki Cueto and assistants Abel Ramos and Lisa Garza.

Thanks to the Texas Commission of the Arts for the funding of \$1200 grant and also the Plains Fine Arts Club for their \$200 cash donation that helped finance this program. A special thanks to the City of Plains Yoakum County Precinct, Texas Coop Extension Office, and Denver City and Plains for providing their community buildings for the art program. Also, thank you to the Yoakum County Libraries, Dolores Davis, DC Press, Cowboy Country news, Plains Chamber of Commerce for their support with advertising, registration and the donations of supplies.

Thank you, Yoakum County citizens for letting us share our knowledge in the arts with your children and for supporting our program. We look forward to the 200 Wild about Art - Summer Youth Program.

If you have questions, comments, or ideas, please contact Janie Ramos at Yoakum County Connection, PO Box 358, Plains, Texas 79355.



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Watch What You Eat

There was a little girl who lived down the street.
she only ate Watermelon meat.

As the years went by we noticed something weird.
something her parents always feared.

Her body started turning green.
her shape became quite round.

The doctor asked her parents to please take a seat.
the final diagnosis is "You Are What You Eat."

-Lindsay Saenz, 4th grade

9th ANNUAL WATERMELON ROUNDUP CLASSIC CAR SHOW

The beautiful vehicles, old and new, are coming from all parts of the area. We have had a lot of entries and inquiries about the show, so we are expecting a super gathering of the best cars around. We invite all you guys and gals to shine up those treasures on wheels, and come and enter them Saturday, September 4, 2004, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Spectators, you won't be disappointed in the show, so we hope that you can come. If you have any questions, please call:

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See you there.



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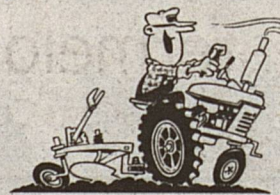
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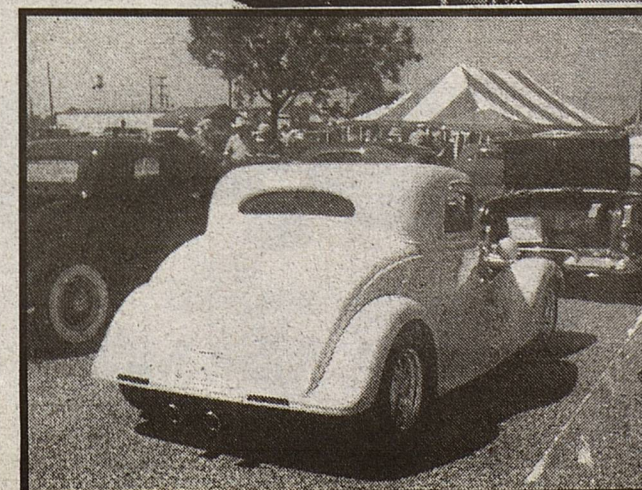


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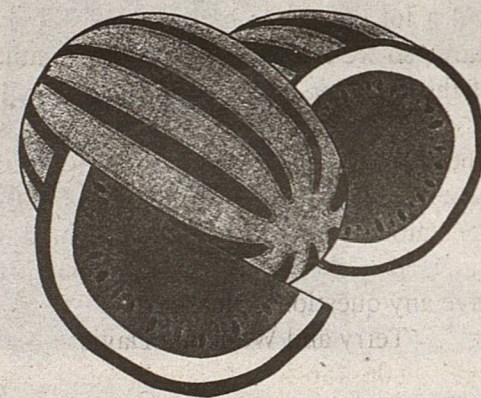
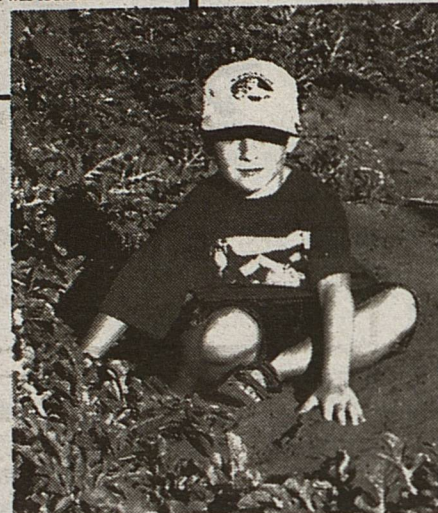


Patience Pays Off

A little boy was playing in the dirt one day when he found something in the ground. He was so excited when he picked it up, for a small, black seed was found. He promptly sped inside his house, to show his mom the prize. He knew that she'd know what it was, for he knew that she was wise. "Oh honey, you found a special seed, and what it is you'll soon know. For we will plant it right outside, and you can watch it grow. You'll soon discover that what you've found will turn into something sweet. You'll be so excited when you bite in and enjoy that special treat." So they went out and planted the seed and watched the soil every day. And one morning when he was checking it, he joyfully shouted, "Yea!" For a tiny sprout had busted out and he knew the magic was beginning. His mom knew the news when he came in for he was proudly grinning. For the next few weeks they watched it grow, and one day he found a flower. "Mom, you said it would be something sweet, this flower looks really sour." "Oh honey, you must have patience, for things are not always as they seem." And sure enough, in a few more days, he found something round and green. His anticipation rose within as he watched it grow and grow. And soon thereafter when he saw its stripes, it was then that he did know. "Mommy, is it a watermelon? Oh mommy, could it really be?" "Oh honey, it really is. That's a tiny watermelon you see." So the day did come, and the patience paid off, and at last he enjoyed his treat. And when he bit in, and the juice ran down, he said, "This just can't be beat!" The next year at the same spot, the little boy found something in the ground. He was so excited when he picked it up, for a small black seed was found.

WATERMELON

-Amber McWhirter, Plains, Adult



The City of
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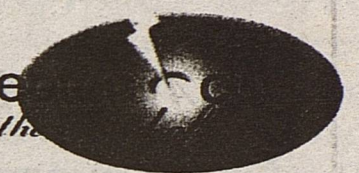
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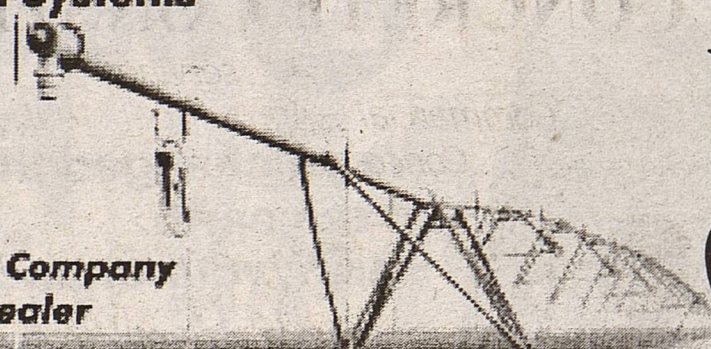


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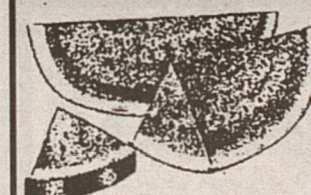
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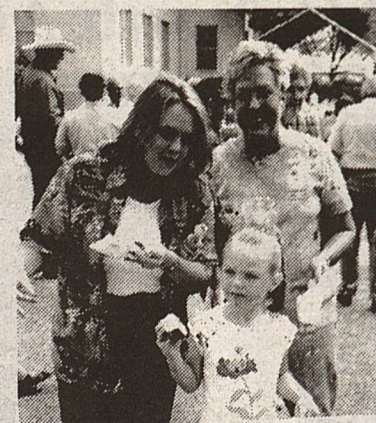
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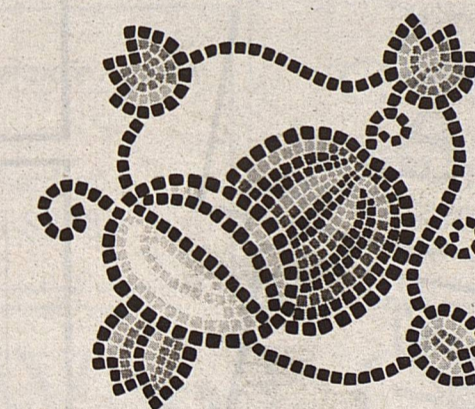
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at the
Watermelon Roundup
Saturday, September 4

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Celebrating the Ninth Annual
Watermelon Roundup

I would like to commend the
Yoakum County Connection
for all the years of hard work
and dedication to Yoakum
County. The Watermelon
Roundup has been a great
accomplishment and
continues to improve each
year.
Good Job and Best wishes for
continued success!

Rick Dickson
Candidate for Sheriff

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Supporting the 9th Annual Watermelon Round-up
Saturday, September 4, 2004

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Watermelon
Summer

Play play and hunt for the biggest watermelon ever and take it home, freeze it. Play go swimming and take a long nap. Wake up for the big watermelon. Run down stairs to see the watermelon is being cut. I'm 80 years old. The smell reminds me of the summer when it first rains. When you feel like a watermelon, it's like a sponge. I feel sad because you don't want to eat a seed or a watermelon will grow inside you.

All you hear is laughter and the sound of splashing water. The taste is the best after playing all day. It tastes like a sugar sponge. My be we can do this next summer. When I eat a watermelon I don't get hot. I love about the people I love family. We sat on our back porch till the stars came out. I love water melons!
Kammi Birasong, 4th grade

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Welcome to Yoakum County's
9th Annual Watermelon Roundup!!

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Tokio, Texas

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*Yoakum County
Connection
and the*

9th Watermelon Roundup

Have a good time

Saturday, September 4, 2004

Marc Craweek, Manager

Lesa Wood, CPA

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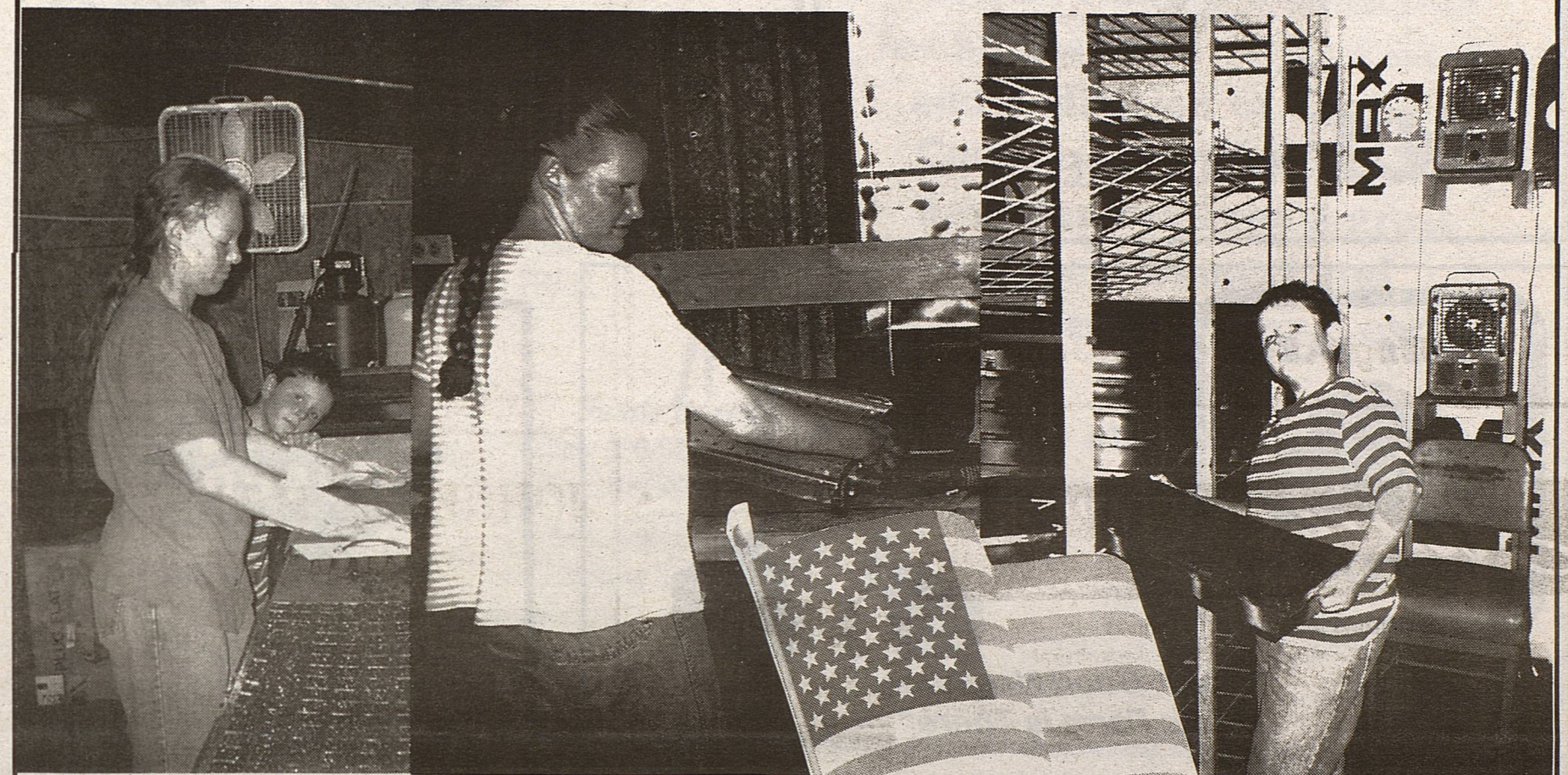
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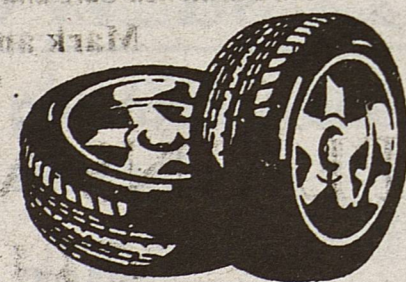
What-A-Melon beginnings...

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We are looking forward to a wonderful September 4, 2004
WATERMELON ROUNDUP # 9



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Looking Forward to a Successful Roundup!

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Fax Phone: (806) 456-2700

Looking forward to a bright and
successful Saturday!

Watermelon Roundup 2004



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MAKE THE DAY COUNT
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2004

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2004 Poetry Contest

Yoakum County Connection and Yoakum County Wordsmiths thank participating teachers Tammie Rogers of Denver City Elementary and Renetta O'Quinn of Plains HS for encouraging participation in the Watermelon Roundup Poetry Contest. Others helping include Christy Brink, Linda Powell, Liz Chandler and Connie Webb, in addition to Yoakum County Libraries. Winning first place entries will be in the 2004 tabloid that Linda Harris edits. In addition, the winners receive \$25 and may read their poems at the Watermelon Roundup to be held on the Plains Courthouse Square on September 4. The following individuals won this year's contest announces Jeannette Head, festival chair:

Adult:

Rhymed:
1st - Amber McWhirter, Plains
2nd - Tammie Rogers, Denver City

Free Verse:
1st - Renetta O'Quinn, Plains
2nd - Lidia Ramirez, Denver City

High School:

Rhymed:
1st - Landon Craft, Plains
2nd - David Alldredge, Plains

Free Verse:
1st Blake O'Quinn, Plains
2nd - Tie: Clarissa Zorrilla, Plains
Antonio Martinez, Plains

Intermediate:

Free Verse:
1st - Kody Kidd, Denver City

Elementary:

Rhymed:
1st - Lindsey Saenz, Denver City
2nd - Marcial Zubiate, Denver City

Free Verse:
1st - Kammi Birdsong, Denver City
2nd - Garrett English, Denver City



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510 11 St
Seagraves, Texas 79359
(806) 546-2121

Barefoot
Tanned
Running through the shaded grass
Under the canopied trees
In stringy-legged
Cut-off overalls

Zigging
Zagging
Through the meandering crowd
To the oversized
Galvanized tubs
Filled with ice water and floating melons

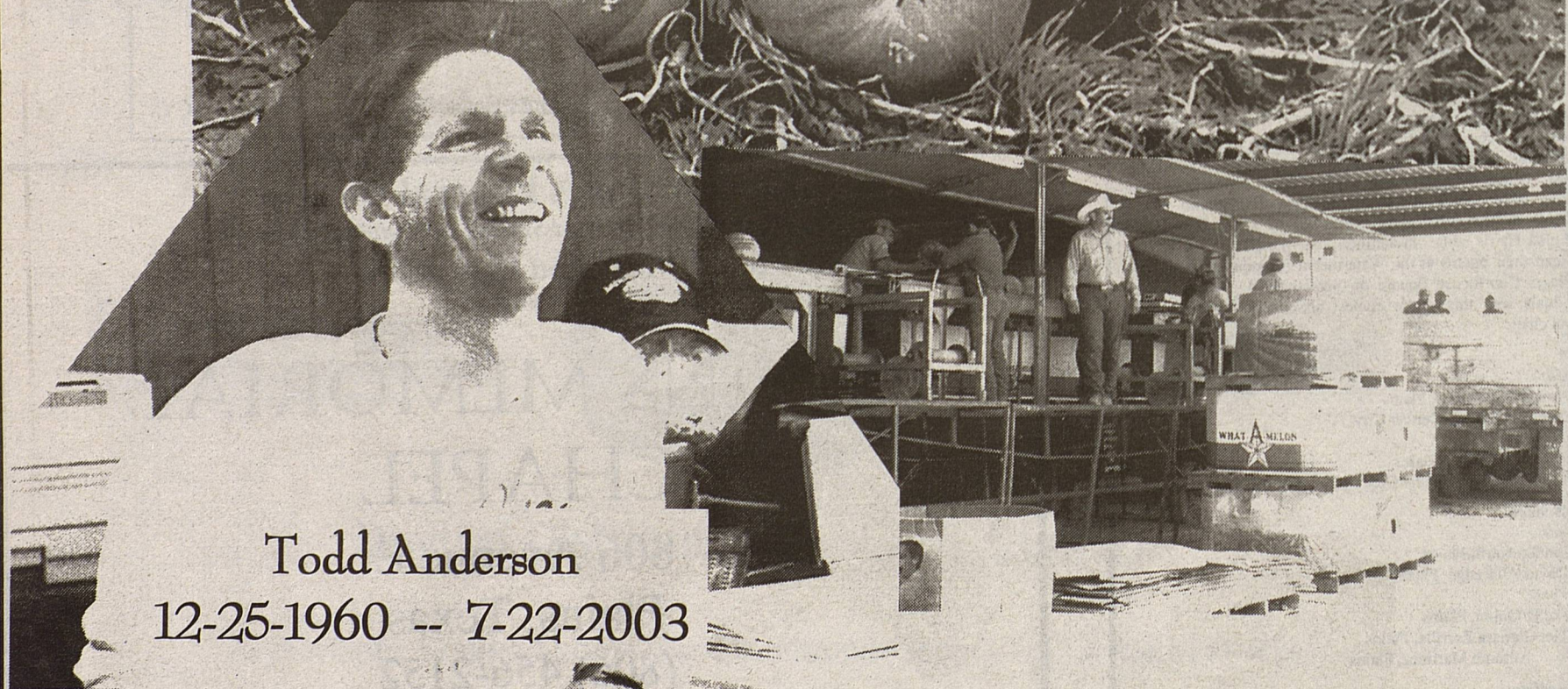
Patient
Attentive
To the blades slicing \Through red and yellow centers
As a volunteer hands out a freshly-cut wedge
He winds back the way he came

With watermelon juice cutting tracts
Down dusty little arms
That lift the sweet fruit to his lips
For one more bite.

--Renetta O'Quinn, Plains Adult

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Todd Anderson
12-25-1960 -- 7-22-2003

Everyone at Anderson Produce would like to thank all of you at the Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup.



Dain Guetersloh, Owner

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