

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 10, November 19, 2003



Plains ISD reviews academic results, use of school funds, and special programs offered students

In a special mandated public meeting the evening of November 17, Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes brought the community up to date on a number of important issues affecting students in the three campuses, their parents, and the entire staff of the district. In the Annual Title I meeting, the superintendent focused his remarks and power-point demonstration on three major agenda areas; How the students and staff are performing grade-wise according to state standards, how effectively the district is utilizing tax funds in its various programs, and a review of what additional education programs are offered students with special needs.

Haynes reported the district continues to perform well in academic achievements. "The district received an Exemplary Rating this year, the highest rating achievable. Since before I came to this district seven years ago we have been rated Exemplary or Recognized each

year. In addition, this is the first year for our students to take the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills) test, a much more difficult test than the old TAAS test. Yes, we do have some areas needing improvement, and I know we can achieve that."

Haynes next outlined how the district actually spent taxpayer money operating the system. This year the state mandated Financial Accountability Rating System was utilized the first time to evaluate how the district uses its money. Haynes reported, " This year we had a perfect score. It's not realistic to think we will always score perfectly. Some things which could lower our score include losing students, which could change our ratio of students to teachers and staff. If we strive to maintain exceptional programs, we know certain subjects require more teaching staff. When we lose students,

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In the huge state cross country meet at Round Rock last Saturday, the Cowboys made their first appearance in five years, and showed their true colors as they raced to a seventh place finish.

" They ran very well," said Athletic Director Blake McWhirter. " Our region, which claimed the state champion and sixth place team as well, was well represented. I'm very proud of our guys."

The Cowboys were led by Sophomore Abel Ramos who claimed All-State honors by placing 14th overall, covering the 3.2 mile course in the time of 17:38.5. Team Captain Armando Ramirez finished in the 33rd team spot. Junior Payton Bean finished 38th in the team category, followed by Adam Guerrero in 39th, and Chandon Loya rounded out the team scoring by placing 42nd. Teammates Brandon Davis and Scott Addison finished 48th and 49th.

Cowboys strong in big state cross country meet



Nervous before start of race, Cowboys ham it up a bit. Chandon Loya, Brandon Davis, Adam Guerrero, Armando Ramirez, Coach Davis, Abel Ramos, Payton Bean, Scott Addison. More photos inside.

" The UIL lists 384 Class A schools with cross country programs" noted Coach Todd Davis. " Saturday, we were 7th

best in the state. These guys set the goal three years ago of making it to the state meet. Thanks to hard work, dedication and

team work, they met their goal. I could not be more proud." The Cowboys return 7 of their 11 runners next year.

Hobbs chamber makes whirlwind visit to other area chambers



Members of the three chambers enjoyed lunch prepared by Denver City staff and volunteers

On the morning of November 14, some two dozen Ambassadors of the Hobbs, New Mexico Chamber of Commerce boarded a bus in that city, and departed on a goodwill journey to surrounding area towns, getting to know their members of Chambers of Commerce. Their first stop was in Seminole, and then a stop in near-by Seagraves. They had earlier contacted officials of the chambers in Denver City and Plains who agreed to have a joint, three chamber luncheon meeting at the Yoakum County Park party house.

There was no formal agenda for the meeting, but over forty chamber members from two states and three communities had an opportunity to visit and share information, and ideas. The Hobbs Ambassadors presented Denver City's Red Coat Ambassador Barbara Wright a plaque of appreciation and a proclamation, and Plains Chamber President Gary Dyer also received the

honorariums.

Members of the Hobbs delegation's main subject of discussion centered on the much publicized efforts to get approval for a race track in their city. An Ambassador told CCN four individuals or firms were bidding on the track, and an official announcement of the winning bidder should be made in the very near future. Apparently the race track will be built, on site gambling would open later, probably followed by a full facility gambling casino at a later date.

Those attending the joint meeting from Plains included former Mayor T.J. Miller, present Mayor Shane McKinzie, PISD Superintendent Jim Haynes, Toni Jones, Mary Jo St. Romain, Anne McGinty, Carolyn Culwell and Gary Dyer. Following lunch, the Hobbs visitors departed for stops in Tatum and Lovington, New Mexico.

Criminal cases in District, County Court

In District Court November 3, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Jorge Valentin Salinas pled guilty to theft, more than \$20,000, less than \$100,000. He was sentenced to nine years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, with credit for 124 days served in jail. He must pay \$293 court costs. A cause of unauthorized use of vehicle was adjudicated, and bail jumping/failure to appear was dis-

missed. Deputy John Matus was investigating officer, and Bill Helwig served as his attorney.

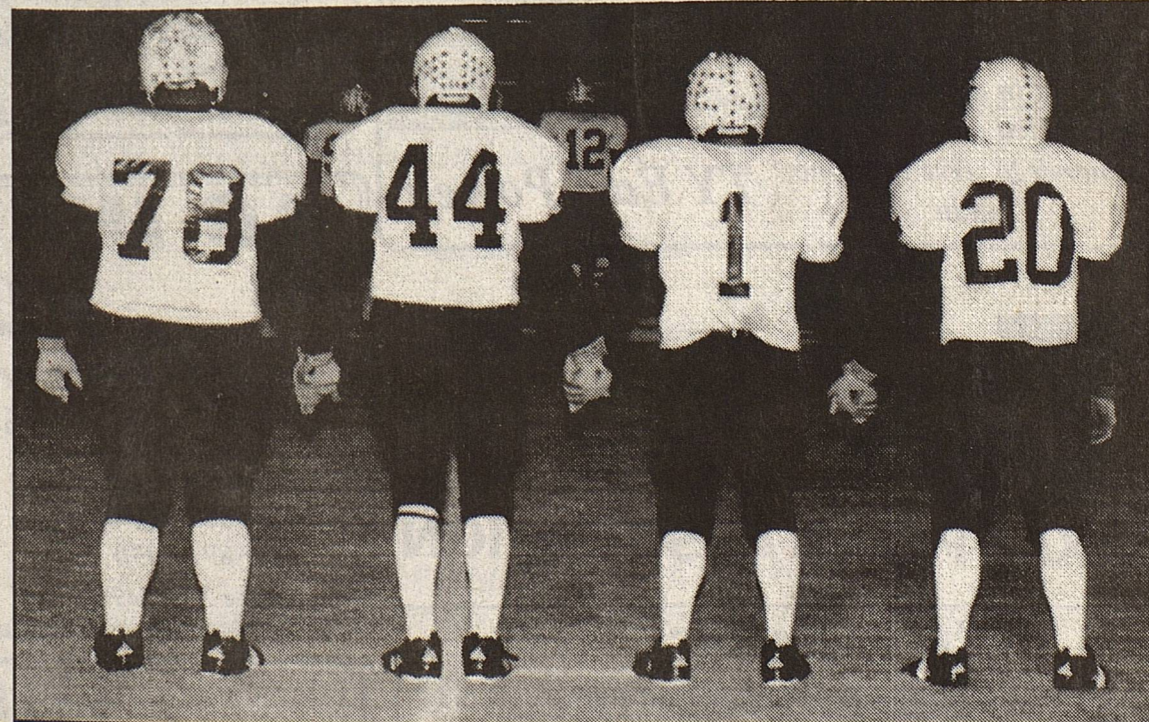
In County Court November 5, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Juan Ramon Ramos pled guilty to a first DWI, breath test refused. A 60 day jail sentence had been met with 138 days served. Joe Nagy was his attorney, and Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police, was investigat-

ing officer.

Oscar Hernandez Soto pled guilty to obstructing highway or other passageway. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He must pay \$200 court appointed attorney fees, \$256 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He must pay \$3,765 restitution to

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"Court Cases"

'The Last Picture Show' for Cowboy seniors



With backs to camera at coin toss prior to the Morton Game, Seniors Ryan Martinez, 78, Armando Ramirez, 44, Richard Diaz, 1, and Arnold Cordova, 20, watch fellow senior Cowboys Grady McNabb, Nolan Newsom and Zach Broome in center of field.

The Cowboys ended a long, and at times, frustrating football season when they journeyed to Morton November 7, and were downed by the district winning Indians. They finished the season with three wins, seven losses, but they should be encouraged by the fact that is a 300 percent improvement over the 2002 season, when they went winless. CCN salutes every young man putting on a football uniform this year, the coaches, cheer leaders, bell ringers, the Cowboy Band, and of course, the fans who faithfully showed up each game to support the team, win, lose or draw.

Congressman Randy Neugebauer's Semimonthly Column

Have you ever hung a picture before? You just stare at it with your head tilted and a look of confusion on your face. It's crooked. Then you tweak it a little to the left and to the right and suddenly it looks perfect. Now, I'm a particularly cheery individual. I like to look at the bright side of things. My attitude is 'if it's not great we're going to make it better.'

Well, this week we're going to talk about the status of the economy, how it's hanging on the wall, and whether or not we're looking at it with the right perspective. Many people would like to think that it continues in a downward spiral, when in fact things are slowly moving in the right direction. Proof once again that it's all about the attitude you have.

The fact is the economy is in an upswing. These are just a few of the recent newspaper headlines: "Payroll Numbers Grow Again," "Greenspan Sees Job Market Poised For Growth," "Productivity Rises, Jobless Claims Fall," and "Unemployment Claims At Lowest Level in 2 1/2 Years."

In the month of September, the U.S. economy netted 57,000 new jobs, the first gain in non-farm employment since January. Since the 2003 tax relief plan became law, initial claims for unemployment insurance have declined by more than 10 percent. The four-week moving average has stayed below 400,000 claims four straight weeks, indicating a stabilized labor market.

Unemployment claims for the week ending November 1, 2003, fell to over 348,000 from the previous week's 391,000, the lowest claim since January 2001.

Numbers released by the Bureau of Economic Analysis show an increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the nation's output of goods and services grew from 3.3 percent last quarter to 7.2 percent this quarter, the largest jump since 1984.

Consumer spending increased 6.6 percent in the third quarter of 2003. This is largely attributable to lower tax withholding on paychecks and child tax-credit checks that put more cash into shoppers' hands. This is the biggest increase in consumer outlays since early 1998.

Home sales continue to grow as well. More than 1 million single family homes had been sold by September. That's the highest rate on record.

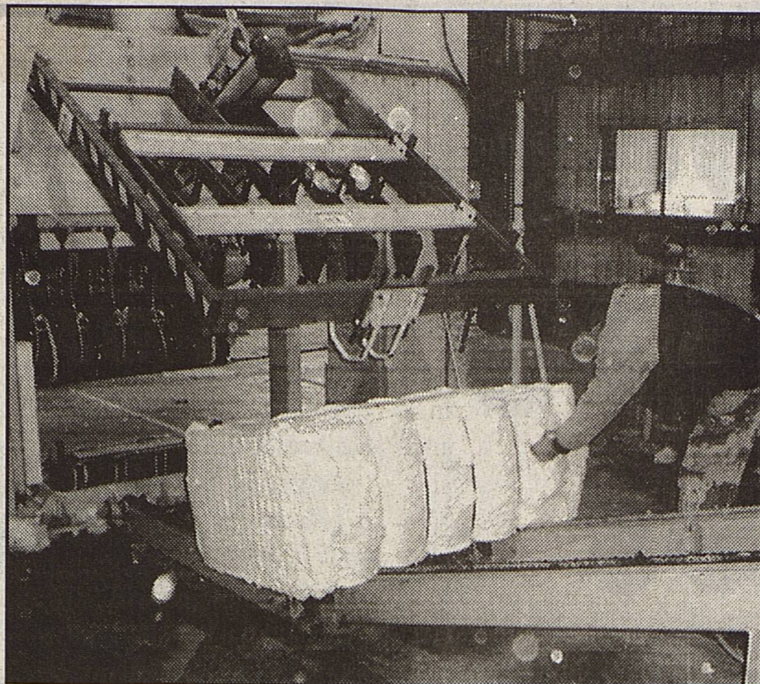
In a district heavy with colleges and universities, I know that labor market woes are a common reality for students who say even their well educated family members are struggling to find work. A number of students who barely consider a post graduate degree are finding ways to extend their education after college, saying it is their only option.

Some folks suggest that staying in school is their only option as there are no jobs out in the 'real world' for them. Well, as of this week the nation's unemployment rate stands at an even 6 percent and 126,000 new jobs were added in the month of October alone. So the fear of leaving school is dissipating.

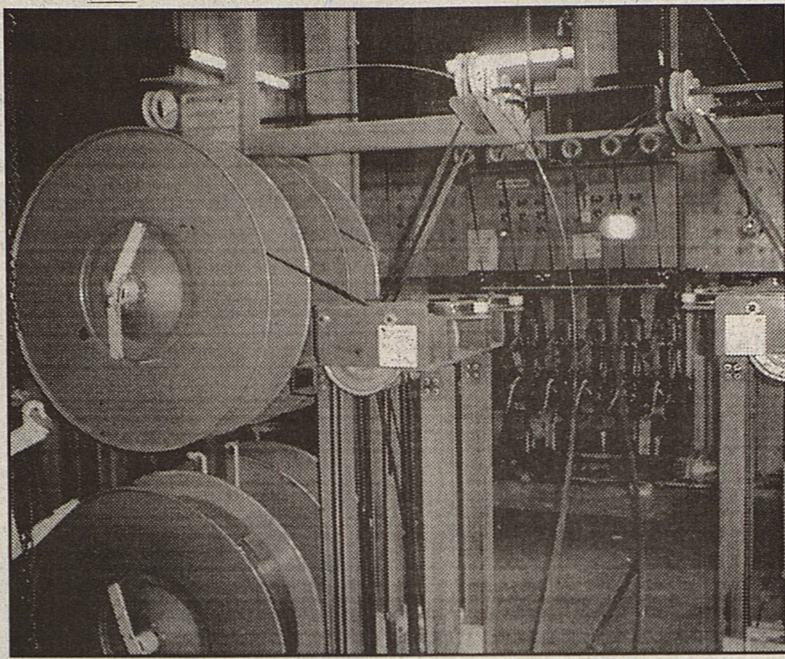
The U. S. economy is resilient. The economy is now in a position to recover from the many shocks it has endured the past few years. The stock market surge in the late 1990's, the slowdown and recession of 2000-01, and the unbelievable economic shock of the War on Terror have all been upsets to the economy. Despite all of this the U.S. economy is rebounding with improving markets and jobs growth.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Congressman for the 19th District of Texas. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 1026 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-4319 or on your website at www.house.gov/neugebauer.

New wrinkle at New Tex Gin



A worker samples bale just emerged from new press with 'open doors'



Each bale is tied by this mechanical monster - and very swiftly

Women Farmers Subject to Discrimination by USDA

The lawyers representing a group of women farmers in a discrimination case against the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) have opened a toll free hot line to encourage other victims to come forward. Women farmers who applied or attempted to apply to the USDA for a farm operating loan, farm ownership loan, or emergency farm loan anytime between 1981 to 1996 or October 19, 1998 to the present are urged to call the hot line at 1-877-208-4342 to get information about the case. Other information is available on the web at www.womenfarmers.com.

The discrimination at issue in the case (*Love v. Veneman*, Secretary of the United States

Department of Agriculture) arose out of the administration of USDA's farm loan programs by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and its predecessor Farmer's Home Administration (FmHa). The plaintiffs, women farmers from across the country, allege that USDA denied women farm loans, loan servicing, and even applications to apply for farm loans, because of their gender.

The women plaintiffs in *Love v. Veneman* are being represented pro bono by lawyers at the Washington Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and Urban Affairs, the Washington, DC office of Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC, and others.



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



A Stolen Identity

Imagine that after years of careful planning and saving, you have found the ideal home for your family. As a first time buyer, you are anxious to achieve the American dream of home ownership. But just when it seems your dream will become a reality, your hopes come crashing down. You are denied the necessary credit to buy the house. It takes weeks to uncover the truth, but what you find out shocks you, a stranger has been piling up thousands of dollars of debt in your name. Your identity has been stolen.

Unfortunately, this scenario is played out thousands of times each year as the identities of innocent Americans are snatched away, often without their knowledge or only finding out when the creditors start calling.

In November, the Senate passed legislation to strengthen our national credit system, taking steps to combat credit fraud and identity theft, and provide important new consumer protections. The legislation passed by a vote of 95-2 in the Senate and 392-30 in the House, demonstrating the importance Congress has placed on ensuring a fair credit system for all Americans.

Modern technology, which has revolutionized every area of our lives from kitchen appliances to the cars we drive, has dramatically altered the financial industry as well. It's hard to even remember the days when the only place you could withdraw money was from the teller at your local bank. But now, with the swipe of a card, you can access your accounts from a cafe in Italy or the Internet or get a loan for a new car while on vacation in Colorado. While this has made banking and credit transactions effortless for consumers, it has also opened up a Pandora's Box of fraud opportunities for willing criminals. The Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), which became law in 1971, did not anticipate the technological wave of the 21st century. Congress needed to act to protect the public without hampering their ability to get credit cards, loans and mortgages. By updating the FCRA and implementing a number of important new provisions, we did precisely that.

The legislation we passed enhances the ability of consumers to combat identity theft; increases accuracy by providing them greater notice about, and access to, their credit information; allows consumers to exercise greater control over the use of their personal informa-

tion for marketing solicitations they receive; and restricts the use and transfer of sensitive medical information. It also establishes a Financial Literacy and Education Commission to help inform consumers about the rights, responsibilities and resources associated with their financial information.

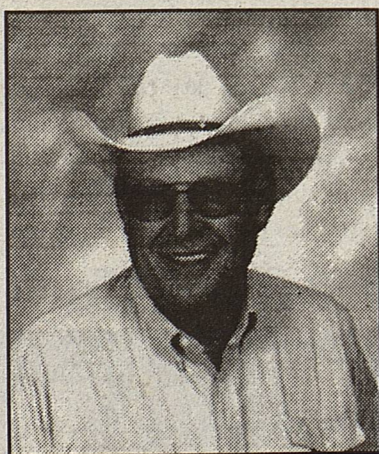
Another important provision requires credit agencies to notify each other of cases of identity theft in order to limit the impact on victims. Instead of making three, four or ten calls to report fraud, you soon will be able to make just one.

While the legislation will go a long way toward empowering you with more information about your credit record, vigilance in protecting your information is vital. In the case of identity theft the best defense is a good offense. According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), "you can't guarantee that you will never be a victim, but you can minimize your risk." The FTC offers the following practical advice on how to prevent identity theft:

1. Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail or over the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are sure you know with whom you are dealing.
2. Don't carry your Social Security card; leave it in a secure place.
3. Guard your mail and trash from theft.
4. Give your Social Security only when absolutely necessary.
5. Pay attention to your billing cycles. Follow up with creditors if your bills don't arrive on time. A missing bill could mean an identity thief has taken over your account and charges your billing address to cover his tracks.
6. Be wary of promotional scams. Identity thieves may use phony offers to get you to give them your personal information.
7. Keep your purse or wallet in a safe place at work as well as any copies you may keep of administrative forms that contain your sensitive personal information.
8. Cancel all unused credit accounts.
9. When ordering new checks, pick them up at the bank, rather than having them sent to your home mailbox.
10. By managing your personal information wisely, cautiously and with an awareness of the issue, you can help guard against identity theft. Visit the FTC's Identity Theft website at: <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft/> for more information.

To the voters of Precinct 3 and Yoakum County;

I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for re-election as Commissioner of Pct. 3. The responsibilities of this job are important, and I take them seriously. The confidence you have placed in me is deeply appreciated and I welcome a chance to serve everyone again



TY Earl Powell

TPA MEMBER 2003
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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**From Page 1,
"Court Cases"**

Farmers Insurance in \$164 monthly installments, \$14,402 restitution to Progressive County Mutual Insurance in \$627 installments, and \$499 restitution to Vicente Torres in \$22 monthly installments. Jeffrey Massie, D.C. Police was investigating officer, and Paul Mansur was his attorney.

Guadalupe Mendoza pled guilty to reckless driving. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated six months. He must pay \$200 attorney fees and serve 50 hours community service. His attorney was Paul Mansur, and Investigating officer was Patricia Valdez, D.C. Police.

Maria Lourdes Marquez pled guilty to assault, causes bodily injury to family member. A 74 day jail sentence had been met by 74 days served. Defendant was released to El Paso County Sheriff Department on parole warrant. Investigating officer was Patricia Valdez, D.C. Police, and Paul Mansur was her attorney.

John Anthony Ybarra pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior criminal mischief cause. He will spend 60 days in jail with credit for 13 days. Gilbert Corral pled true to possession of less than two ounces marijuana. He will spend 30 days in jail with credit for 24 days served.

**Michael John Snowden pled
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"Plains ISD"**

our physical plant, the buildings and grounds, do not become smaller, and the same personnel must keep it running."

Haynes discussed the recently passed bond issuance, required to help pay for necessary maintenance costs and to allow retaining some tax money from recapture, or "Robin Hood". The superintendent then directed attention to specialized services provided to certain students in the district. "The district provides the English as a Second Language for kindergarten through grade 12 students. Some students come to us speaking very little or no English at all. We identify these students, and trained teachers in all three campuses help these students learn English to use in school and the community as quickly as possible."

Haynes explained the Migrant Program, which identifies students whose parents profession

guilty to marijuana possession, less than two ounces. He will spend 25 days in jail with credit for 4 days served. Leslie Cook was his attorney, and Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer.

Teresa Martin Krauter pled guilty to giving false report to police officer. A 23 day jail sentence had been met with 23 days served. Deputy Nancy Baize was investigating officer, and Paul Mansur was her attorney.

Manuel Garcia Hernandez pled true to the state's motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI. He will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 10 days served.

Efrain A. Anchondo pled guilty to a first DWI. He will spend 60 days in jail, must pay \$226 court cost, and complete the DWI first offender program. Robert Smith, DPS, was investigating officer.

In County Court November 12, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Jerald Lee Lindt pled true and his community supervision from a prior marijuana possession cause was modified. He will spend up to 90 days in jail or until space is available in the Ray D. Anderson Center in Brownfield for at least one month but no longer than 24 months, and pay for all costs incurred at the facility.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in all the court cases.

requires frequent moves from place to place, making learning more difficult for the students. Trained staff members provide guidance and many services to these students helping provide more continuity to their education.

Haynes detailed other specialized services offered in the district. State law requires the Gifted and Talented Program to serve at least five percent of the students in the district. Students are nominated to be placed in the program based on testing and information provided by parents and teachers. The district also offers a Pre-kindergarten program, offering pre-reading and pre-math. An accelerated reading program is concentrated in the elementary level, with the goal to have all students reading on grade level by the third grade.

Speaking of students needing extra help, Haynes said, "All students do not learn at the same speed, at the same level of achievement. We have pro-

**Justice of
Peace Court
Summary**

November 14, 2003- The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Precinct 1, Justice of the Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding. Cases filed: 83 traffic cases, 1 class A misdemeanor, 4 open container of alcohol in vehicle, 1 minor in possession of alcohol.

Bonds set:
Deadly conduct-\$2500. Motion to revoke probation-Gaines Co.-\$2500. 6 cases-motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. 4 cases-driving while license suspended-\$500. Duty on striking fixture-\$500. Fugitive from justice-held until transported. 4 cases-driving while intoxicated-1st-\$1000. No liability insurance-\$500. Aggravated sexual assault with a child-\$25,000. Possession of alcohol by a minor-\$500. 4 cases-bail jumping and failure to appear-\$500. 2 cases-bond forfeiture-\$500 cash bond. Assault causes bodily injury-\$1500. Gambling promotion-\$1000. Driving while license invalid-\$500. Driving while intoxicated-2nd-\$1500 + interlock device ordered. Motion of surety-held until hearing.

grams to provide these students with extra help. Special Education is available for students identified by their parents or teachers, and then tested to determine if, under strict government guidelines, they should be in the program and how they would benefit. The district also offers a specialized program to identify students with dyslexia, and special teachers to assist them in learning to read effectively."

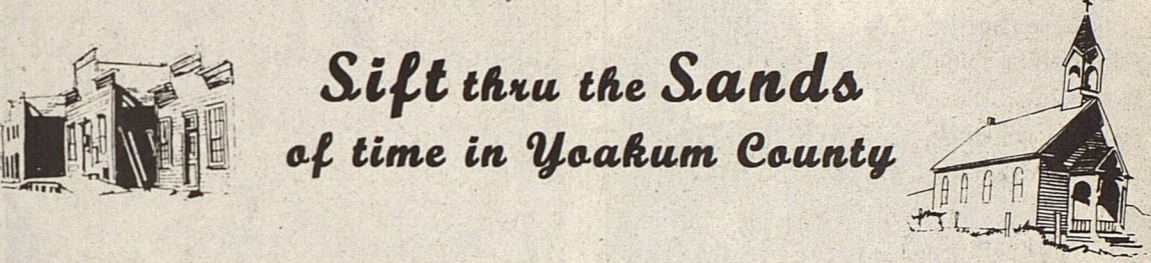
Haynes then reviewed the process of qualifying for receiving federal funds designed for government 'Title' programs. He said as long as the district continues with excellent performance on the mandated TAKS assessment testing, the federal money can be used by the district as it sees fit. "Ninety percent of the money we now receive is allocated for teacher salaries. This allows us to work toward what we think is the best way to improve student performance, by keeping our classes small."

The volleyball Cowgirls were pumped.....



when they boarded the bus to Lubbock last Friday to take on top rated Windthorst in regional action. Unfortunately, they fell to the tough team in three games. Coach Harris said he was proud of the girls hard work and desire during the long season. And winning district and bi-district is not too shabby.

Front, Manuela Villegas, Sarah Martinez, Moriah Traweek, LaShonda Diamond. Back, Skylar Keese, Prisma Ortiz, Jesenia Suarez, Kristian Morales, Micaela Villegas, Jamie Covarrubias, Daniela Lazos.



**Sift thru the Sands
of time in Yoakum County**

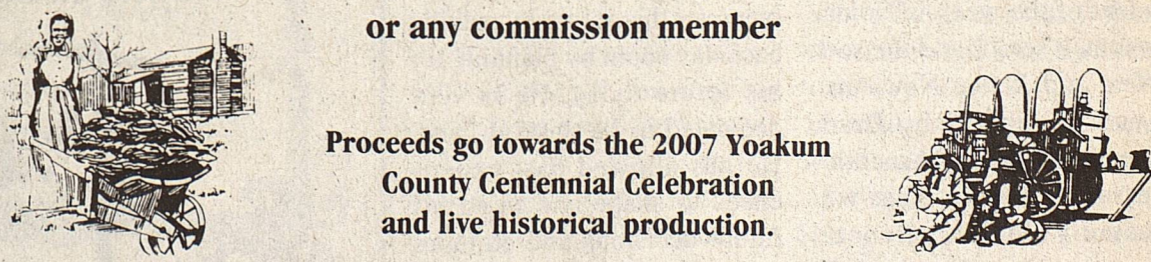
Yoakum County SAND has produced top quality watermelon, cotton, peanuts, cattle and oil, to name a few commodities. But our greatest product has been, and continues to be, our people, with hopes and dreams for spiritual, educational and financial success. Hard work, dedication and innovation are valued attributes now and back when we started!

Buy a 2004 Yoakum County calendar from the Historical Commission, with anecdotes, poems and pictures to entertain and inform -
Only \$10 if you pick up, \$15 if we mail it to you -
What a great Christmas gift idea for relatives and friends!

In Denver City - Contact Grace New, 806-592-3076, or go by the Chamber of Commerce office on North Main, the Denver City Museum or see Connie Webb at the Sheriff's office, or any commission member

In Plains - Contact Mary Jo St. Romain, 806-456-8855, Linda Powell at 456-3171, Wilma Powell at 456-8822, or see Liz Chandler or any commission member

Proceeds go towards the 2007 Yoakum County Centennial Celebration and live historical production.



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 and
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*See us for your Weight-Loss and
 Tobacco addiction problems*
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First Annual Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball
 December 31, 2003
 7:00 PM—1:00 AM
 K&L Ranch
 (formerly the Sue Stevens Ranch)
 Dinner, Dancing, Silent and Live Auctions
 all proceeds will benefit The Yoakum County Hospital Foundation
 \$100.00
 (One ticket admits one couple or one single person into the ball)

 If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball, please call one of the following Gala Committee Members:
 Sharon Boyd - 592-2939 * Edith Kidd - 592-2269 * Beverly Mills - 592-2121
 Linda Moore - 592-8829 * Wilma Powell - 456-2288
 Louise Swanson - 592-2069 * Judy Thompson - 592-2580, or 592-6444

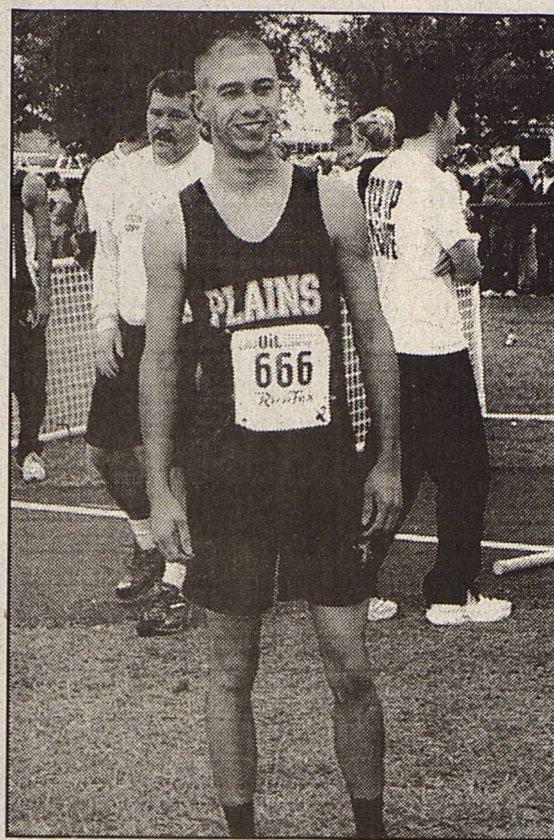
State Cross Country Scenes



Soph Abel Ramos, All-State



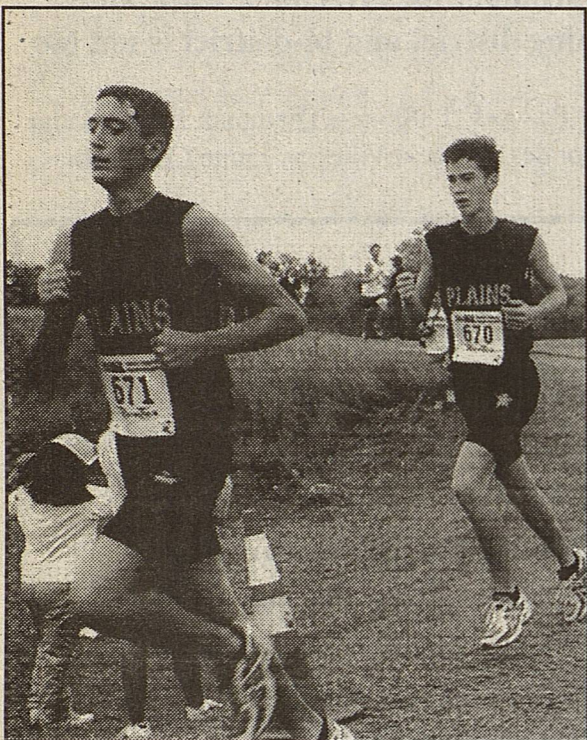
Team Captain Armando Ramirez



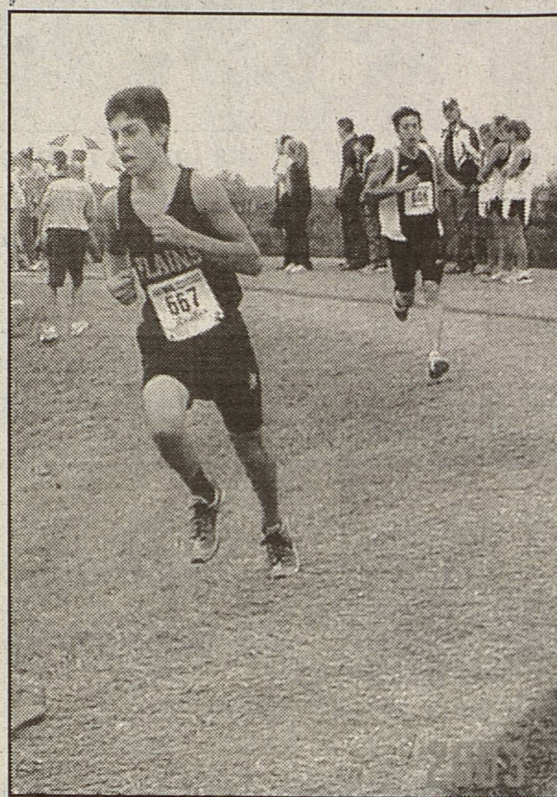
Brandon Davis before tough race



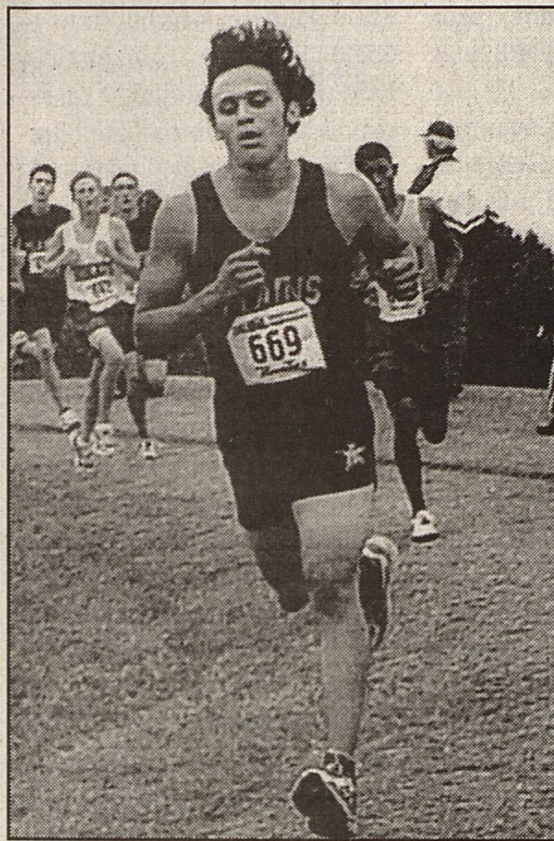
Chandon Loya shows pain of event



Payton Bean and Scott Addison



Abel Ramos turns corner



Adam Guerrero was 39th in big field

Plains Elementary Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

'A' Honor Roll

1st Grade

Marisa Alvarado
William Boyles
Kristian Cueto
Arista Davis
Riley Earnest
Deidrick Fehr
Clayton Gass
Taya Hamilton
Brock McWhirter
Iris Mejia
Micah St. Romain
Kasidee Taylor

2nd Grade

Colby Bearden
Jaston Brink
Chasity Chavez
Daniel Cueto
Lucas Hernandez
Cameron Knight
Taylor Michaleson
Brittney Roper
Herman Sawatzky
Jacob Sawatzky
Kelli Sellers
Percy Sosa
Zackery Wilkins
Bailey Winn

3rd Grade

Salavador Oorralles
Merrit Crump
Vanessa Cueto
Elizabeth Davila
Whitney Davis
Katie Dearing
Stacy Loewen
Gerardo Martinez
Abe Neudorf
Matthew Ramos
Joseph Sainz
Haley Welch

4th Grade

Shelby Covarrubias
Mayra Cueto
Dakota Earnest
Taylor Fitzgerald
Brooke Wilson

'A-B' Honor Roll

1st Grade

Daitlyne Broome
Perla Corrales
Kay'd Lamar
Trever Locklin
Halee Lowrey
Brennan Whitzel

2nd Grade

Eiliza Corrale
Brianna Coffman

3rd Grade

Marina Corrales
Jacob Neufeld
Isaack Fehr
Autumn Friesen

4th Grade

Adriana Corrales
Hunter Parrott
Fabiola Rubalcaba
Denise Tarango

'A' Honor Roll

5th Grade

Stephanie Addison
Kelbi Bartley
Jaxon Bean
Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Samantha DeLaRosa
Cody Friesen
Kevin Gass

6th Grade

Kristen Knight
Brittanie Lira
Chase Ortega
Hunter Welch

7th Grade

Chris Addison
Reyna Gallegos

8th Grade

'A-B' Honor Roll

5th Grade

6th Grade

7th Grade

8th Grade

9th Grade

10th Grade

11th Grade

12th Grade

13th Grade

14th Grade

15th Grade

16th Grade

17th Grade

18th Grade

19th Grade

20th Grade

21st Grade

22nd Grade

23rd Grade

24th Grade

25th Grade

26th Grade

27th Grade

28th Grade

29th Grade

30th Grade

31st Grade

32nd Grade

33rd Grade

34th Grade

35th Grade

36th Grade

37th Grade

38th Grade

39th Grade

40th Grade

41st Grade

42nd Grade

43rd Grade

44th Grade

45th Grade

46th Grade

47th Grade

48th Grade

49th Grade

50th Grade

51st Grade

52nd Grade

53rd Grade

54th Grade

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56th Grade

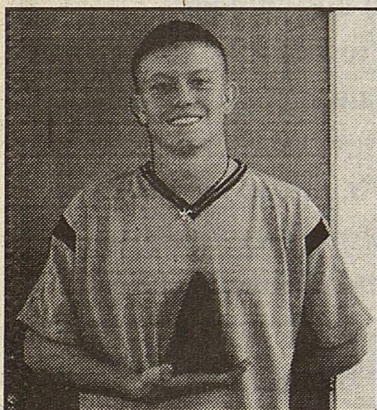
57th Grade

58th Grade

59th Grade

60th Grade

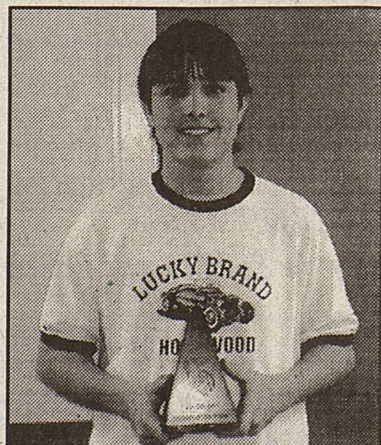
Student's of the Week



Student of the week is Nolan Newsom, a senior and the son of Neal and Janice Newsom. He was nominated by Brad Friesen, who said, "Aristotle once said, 'We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.'"

In choosing a student of the week, some teachers look for attributes in students that exemplify some characteristic or quality they themselves think is important. This week is no different. This student chose the hard road in academics, he is not just the student to take the second year of AP computer science, but he is also the only student to take the second year of AP physics. He plays football and is competing with the math science team. He is developing habits that will lead him towards excellence."

2nd student of the week is B.J. Lester, a sophomore and the son of Bruce and Jan Lester. He was nominated by Michele Jones, who said, "Barbara De Angelis quoted, 'the journey in between what you once were and who you are know becoming is where the dance of life really takes place.'" "B.J. demonstrates this ability by making each day count by planning for his future today. He is very dedicated to the task at hand. He has allowed past experiences to shape and mold his future decisions and attitudes towards his school, community and church. He knows the steps he takes today will determine the dance he leads throughout life."



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Math/Science team "Sweeps" at San Angelo meet

The PHS Math-Science Team, competing in the Class A thru AAA division, finished first in overall sweepstakes at the San Angelo Central meet last weekend. The number sense, calculator and math teams all took first place, and the science team finished third.

Individual results included;
Nolan Newsom, 6th NS, 6th Math, 3rd Sci
Evan Cain, 8th NS, 4th Calc, 8th Math, 3rd Sci.
Breck Hamm 8th NS, 3rd Math, 8th Sci.
Kerry Sisson 3rd NS, 4th Math, 4th Sci
David Alldredge 3rd NS, 3rd Math, 9th Sci.
Allison Friesen 6th NS, 1st Calc, 1st Math, 4th Sci
B.J. Lester 7th NS, 2nd Calc, 8th Math, 10th Sci
Joe Luis Gallegos 1st Sci.
Angelica Mendoza 4th NS, 3rd Calc, 1st Math, 4th Sci.
Lisa Neufeld 6th Calc, 3rd Math, 5th Sci.
Nolan Newsom had the highest biology score in the division

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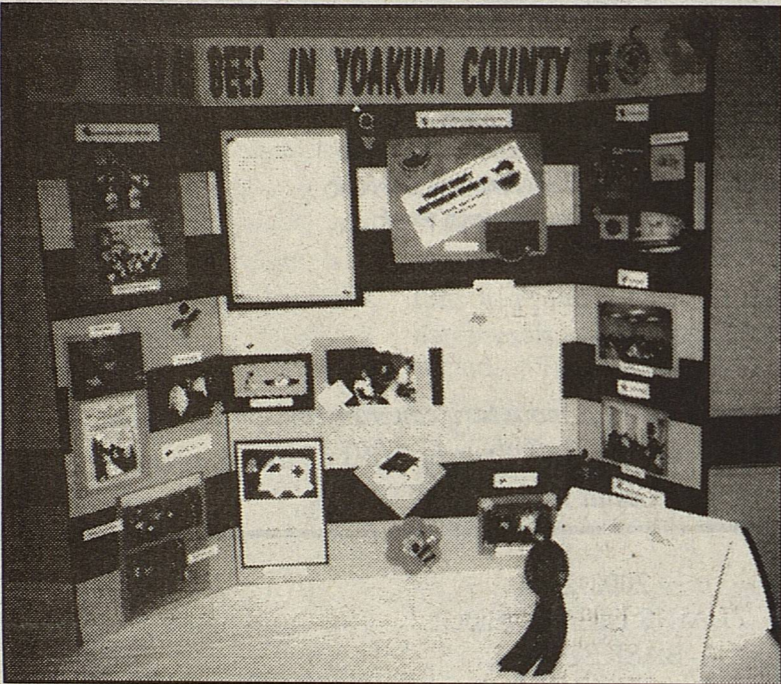


Lifelines & Styles

Locals Score High At TEEA State Convention



Pictured are L-R Cecilia Knight, Jerri Lollar, Sidney Murphey, Velma Dearing and Debbie Pollard display the check and certificate awarded for the State winning Brag Board.



Yoakum County Brag Board-2003 State Winner.

Yoakum County Extension Education Clubs (TEEA) were represented at the annual TEEA State Convention in Plano by Velma Daring, Debbie Pollard, Sidney Murphey, Jerri Lollar, and Cecilia Knight. The theme for this year was "Come Fly Away With TEEA". Members attended workshops on "Tis the Season, More Love Than Money, Fun With Fabric, Heritage-You Got It, Preparing For The Unexpected, Are You Really A Collector, Thanks, I Mean It, Orchids Made Easy, and Finding Your Accessory Zone". Much of the information obtained in these workshops will be used in programs in Yoakum County this coming year.

Yoakum County received the award for the Honor Roll of Counties for District 2. This award recognizes the county in each district for programs presented throughout the year. Yoakum County's Brag Board advanced from the district level to state where it won first place in the State Brag Board Contest. The Brag Board which carries the theme "Busy as Bees in Yoakum County EE" is currently on display at the Yoakum County Library and will later be moved to the courthouse before returning to the Extension Office. We encourage everyone to stop by and see some of the many projects that Yoakum County TEEA members have been involved with.

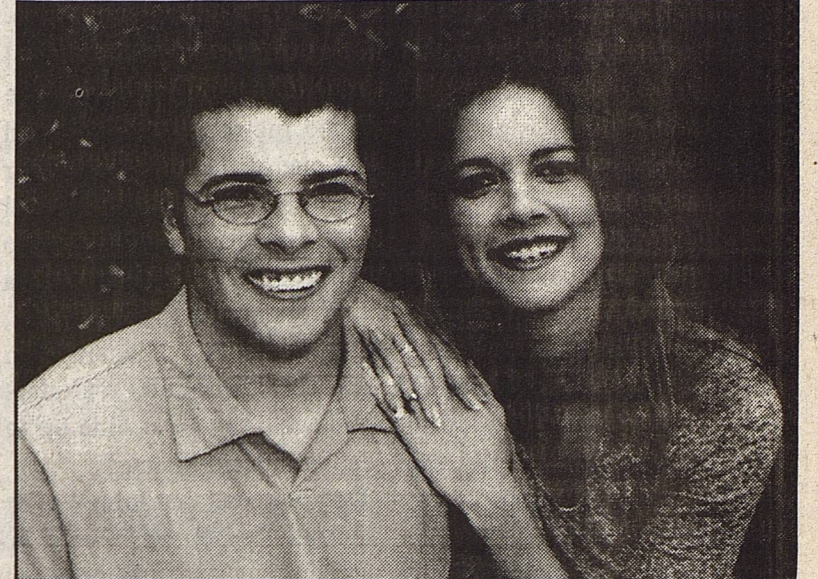
Art Association Meets

The Yoakum County Art Association met in the clubroom on December 4 with 12 members and 3 guests attending. Visitors present were Lynn Bayer, Vicki Bayer and Sidney Murphy. The Christmas party is to be held on December 5 at the home of Wilma Powell. Theme will be Mexican with each member bringing a covered dish. The group voted to donate toys for children. The door prize furnished by Pat Altman was won by Everett McAdams.

Following the business meeting, the group was privileged to have Juan Rodriguez of Lubbock demonstrate the art of spray painting. Mr. Rodriguez was accompanied by his wife, Amy. A raffle was held for two of the paintings; lucky recipients were Betty Estep and Sidney Murphy.

Refreshments were served by hostesses Susie Powell, Eileen Fillipp and Marguerite Barron.

Engagement, Wedding Plans Announced



Richie and Paula Cullins of Plains announce the engagement of their daughter, Lensey, to Brandon Polyniak, son of Claudia Polyniak of Big Spring and the late Daniel Polyniak. Grandparents of the couple are Bruce and Nadine Parr of Childress, Omer and Vidy Cullins of Santa Anna and Daniel and Connie Polyniak of Clifton, New Jersey.

The couple will marry December 20, 2003, in the Brownfield First Baptist Church Chapel.

(In correction of prior announcement.)

TDH Issues Flu Advisory, Urges Shots

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) has issued a statewide health advisory reporting heavier than usual influenza activity in the state and urging people to get a flu shot. "It's not unusual to have flu occur this early in the season. What's unusual is to have this much of it this early," said Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez. Influenza, or flu, has been reported in several Texas counties. "Get a flu shot, Sanchez advised. "That's the first line of defense."

Flu season's vaccine protects against the A/Panama, A/New Caledonia and B/Hong Kong strains of the influenza virus

and against other similar strains.

Most people six months or older can receive the flu vaccine, but it is especially encouraged for children 6 months to 23 months, people 50 and older, residents of nursing homes and other long term care facilities, diabetics, women who will be in their second or third trimester of pregnancy during flu season, people with weakened immune systems and people who have asthma or other chronic respiratory, heart or kidney conditions. It takes about 2 weeks for the vaccine to be effective.

TSA MO GA Club Meets

Four Plains High School students were featured speakers at TSA MO GA's Americanism program November 10.

Nicole Culwell, Meghan Garcia and Colby Wilmeth gave the club a pictorial tour of their June trip to Washington, DC. The three gave an enthusiastic commentary with pictures from their trip. The freshmen provided the group with details of museums, monuments and famous landmarks in the nation's capital. Each student gave their 'favorite' stop on the trip: Colby's was the Korean War Memorial, Meghan's was the Vietnam Memorial wall and Nicole's was the 9/11 exhibit and Presidential wives' exhibit in the Smithsonian Institute.

TSA MO GA helped support the group, which consisted of 10 Plains students, by contributing to their fund-raising efforts for the summer trip to the capitol.

Senior Nolan Newsom made a presentation on his trip to American Legion Boys State in Austin at the University of Texas campus. Nolan was one of approximately 840 juniors who converged on the campus for the study of government in action. Highlights of his trip included being elected to the House of Representatives in his party and having a bill focusing on finding more water pass

through legislation. He said the group was honored to have Governor Perry as a speaker, the first governor to address Boys State in many years. Nolan also was impressed by the speaking ability of Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who spoke to the group for over an hour.

Nolan also reported on his five day stay at the Johnson Space Center in Houston as a Texas Aerospace Scholar. Nominated by former state representative Gary Walker for the program, Nolan was part of a team who helped plan a trip to live on Mars. During the week the group of 46 students toured NASA facilities, including the astronaut training center, rocket laboratories, mission control, and had former Apollo and shuttle astronauts as speakers. To participate in the program, Nolan, who plans on majoring in engineering, spent six months doing internet projects which required four six hours each.

In other club business, members brought Christmas gifts for the Veteran's Hospital in Big Spring. The club will also contribute to the community canned food drive during Christmas tree lighting and Santa's arrival in town December 3.

Hostesses for the meeting were Toni Jones and Debbie Spears.

Holiday Open House

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<p>Saturday, November 22 9am to 7pm</p> <p><i>Gifts for all Ages</i> <i>Body Care Products</i> <i>Customized Gift Baskets</i> <i>Home Decor</i></p>	<p>Sunday, November 23 1pm to 5pm</p> <p><i>Bridal Registry</i> <i>Free Delivery</i> <i>Gift Certificates</i> <i>Layaway</i></p>
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Door Prizes
Refreshments Served
Chair Massages & Reflexology will be Available
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What about? The other day I was in Bayless Jewelry in Brownfield, talking with them about their son who has been overseas. They were pretty excited telling me he is about to be home...maybe for Christmas!

We have recently got a card from Charlie Masingill of Waco, Texas. He had nice things to say about his packages he has gotten from our "Support Our Troops!" program. He's still somewhere in Iraq. Can't remember his local Connection though.

We also heard from Jeremy Smith of Loop. He was in Iraq and got several of our packages. He wrote a nice note of thanks for all we have done.

You know, 'we' could not have sent all those packages over to the Middle East if it was not for communities' supporting our efforts. It was the support of Terry, Gaines, and Yoakum counties that kept the packages going as long as they did.

Our son Keith is still in Baghdad. He tells us he is somewhere in the North Western suburb close to Baghdad International Airport.

When the chopper went down this last

week, we received many calls from folks asking about Keith. He is well and fine...I guess. Haven't heard from him in about 2 weeks.

He is scheduled to be home sometime in January or February 2004. He reports to Ft. Hood the last of March 2004 for re-assignment. We understand his new unit is scheduled for Iraq within 60 days after he gets there.

Please remember all of our troops overseas. It will be a very, very lonely Thanksgiving and Christmas for them. They will still have to put their lives on the line during that time of celebration in our nation.

Thanks again for all your support. We are now getting together cards, letters and small notes from kids, adults and concerned people who want to send a special Thanksgiving or Christmas note to the troops in the Middle East!

These can be e-mailed with Support Our Troops in the "subject line" or mailed to us.

Until Next Time!
Mark A. Jones
www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com.
email comments to:
markajones@door.net.

The children and grandchildren of Frances Womack invite you to a reception in honor of her 90th birthday, Sunday, November 23, 2003 at the Church of Christ fellowship hall from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Denver City. If you are unable to attend, cards would be appreciated. No gifts please.

2003 Christmas Assistance Program will accept applications November 19 thru December 12 at Plains City Hall. Only one adult per household may register. Applicants must have driver license or other identification and have a receipt of payment from gas or electric bill with correct address.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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40 Days of PURPOSE CONTINUES,

through Sunday, November 23rd. Come join us in this spiritual growth campaign. Meet in the Sanctuary, Sunday mornings at 9:40 am sharp for video teaching sessions

Worship at 10:45 am, Discipleship Training 6:00 pm

Come learn to live a lifestyle of Worship to the glory of GOD

From The Hack

It was very nice to have a week off, even if I did have to travel half across Texas to attend the Bride's annual family "let's all suffer together" bash. This year I was dumbfounded but pleased when only a half dozen or so of her family tree members remarked on how old I was getting. My usual greeting from a well meaning aunt or uncle has been, "My God, you look terrible! What does your doctor say about your problem?" It was different this year, and it took me a bit of time, but I finally figured it out. They are all now so old they (a) can't see well enough to detect age wrinkles and other ravages of time, or (b) dementia is setting in and they think I'm an FBI agent there to spy on Uncle Cleophus who is suspicioned to have counterfeited \$50's at one time.

She does have one aunt I desperately try to dodge at these reunions. One year I had to hide in the broom closet of the building where they hold the big bash for 353 minutes, count 'em. It's been this way since the first year I met her, a couple of years following our wedding. This aunt from East Hell approached me and hissed, "look at her, my favorite niece... she used to look so lovely... now just look at her and see what you've done!" I was dumfounded even more than usual. What the Hell, she still looked pretty good to me! Well, this year, I saw her and sped towards the broom closet again, but for a 93 year old crone, she

was still swift enough to beat me to the door. "Aha!", she hissed, "Back here for some more free meals, I see. Just look at her!! Look at my niece! She's aged at least thirty years since she met you!" I was desperately trying to open the broom closet door, which she held firmly with her size 12DD foot, nodding at her in agreement, as we've been wed a bit longer than that. "My God, the poor darling looks every bit of seventy!" Aunt Crone shrieked. I frantically nodded in agreement again, as she IS, and I honestly think she would have killed me then and there had not one of the kin yelled over the crowd noise, "Hey, y'all it's time for cousin Glen to Bless us, even though it's kinda hard for him with some of us, then we EAT!" Cousin Glen solemnly intoned, "God is good, God is great, line up to eat, and don't be late!"

Do you recall that John Wayne movie, Red River, where he and his hands are driving about a million longhorns to Kansas or Rhode Island or somewhere, they haven't watered for days, and then, they smell water in a nearby river and all Hell breaks loose as they stampede? That's what the reunion hall called to my mind, and I watched in anticipation, having wagered \$20 my 83 year old still constipated brother in law would be first at the food tables again for the 29th consecutive year. I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw old Aunt Crone ahead of him, already dumping stuff on her very large plate. Forty seven minutes later not a single stuffed marrow gut, nary a boiled squirrel head, not one single crawdad clutching a jalapeno pepper remained on the tables.

Thank you, kind Lord... I survived another reunion and visit by aunt Crone.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FLUID INJECTION WELL PERMIT

Bridwell Oil Management of Alabama, LLC, Post Office Box 1830, Wichita Falls, Texas, 76307 is applying to the Railroad Commission of Texas for a permit to inject fluid into a formation which is productive of oil and gas. The applicant proposes to inject into the Clearfork Formation, Willard -741-Lease, Well Number 3. The proposed injection well is located 6 miles northeast of Denver City in the Wasson, Northeast (Clearfork) Field, in Yoakum County, Texas. Fluid will be injected into strata in the subsurface depth intervals from 6494 to 6722 feet in the Willard -741- Number 3 well.

LEGAL AUTHORITY: Chapter 27 of the Texas Water Code, as amended, Title 3 of the Texas Natural Resources Code, as amended, and the Statewide Rules of the Oil and Gas Division of the Railroad Commission of Texas.

Requests for a public hearing from persons who can show they are adversely affected, or requests for further information concerning any aspect of the application should be submitted in writing, within 15 days of publication, to the Environmental Services Section, Oil and Gas Division, Railroad Commission of Texas, Post Office Box 12967, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711 (Telephone 512/463-6792).

The YCH Foundation

would like to send out a

BIG THANK YOU

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

Individuals

- Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ashcraft
- Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Brewer
- Mr. and Mrs. Teart Covington
- Mrs. Mutzie Field
- Mrs. Sarah Jane Field
- Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hilburn
- Mr. Ron Hendrix
- Mr. and Mrs. Delwin Jones
- Mrs. Michale Jones
- Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kay
- Mrs. Gene Kidd
- Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kidd
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- Mrs. Wilma Powell
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- Mr. and Mrs. Gary Walker
- Mr. and Mrs. Chad Wall
- Mrs. Linda Wall

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- Thriftway Grocery Store - Dale Carter
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- Wasson Investment Stock Club
- Wentz Orthodontics - Lubbock
- West Texas National Bank

There is still plenty of time to make a monetary contribution or donate an auction item. For more information, call Beverly Mills at the Yoakum County Hospital, 592-2121 or Linda Moore at 592-8829.

2003-2004 PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TEAM	TIME
11/18	RALLS	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
11/21	SUDAN	PLAINS	JV/V B	5:00
11/21	WELLMAN	WELLMAN	JV/V G	5:00
11/24	BROWNFIELD	BROWNFIELD	JV/V B	6:00
11/24	COAHOMA	PLAINS	JV/V G	5:00
12/2	DAWSON	DAWSON	JV/V B-G	4:00
12/4-6	W.F. TOURN.	WHITEFACE	V B-G	TBA
12/4-6	D.C. TOURN.	DENVER CITY	JV B-G	TBA
12/9	DAWSON	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
12/11-13	MEADOW TOURN.	MEADOW	V B-G	TBA
12/15	POST	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
12/19	MEADOW	MEADOW	JV/V B-G	4:00
1/2				
1/6	WELLMAN	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
1/9	*MORTON	MORTON	JV/V G	5:00
1/9	FRIONA	PLAINS	JV/V B	5:00/6:30
1/13	*SUNDOWN	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
1/15&17	JV DIST. TOURN.	SUNDOWN	JV B-G	TBA
1/16	*ANTON	ANTON	V B-G	6:00
1/20	*WHITEFACE	WHITEFACE	JV/V B-G	5:00
1/23	*SMYER	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
1/27	*MORTON	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
1/30	*SUNDOWN	SUNDOWN	JV/V B-G	5:00
2/3	*ANTON	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
2/6	*WHITEFACE	PLAINS	JV/V B-G	5:00
2/10	*SMYER	SMYER	JV/V B-G	4:00
2/13	*MORTON	MORTON	JV/V B	6:00/7:30

*DENOTES DISTRICT GAMES

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