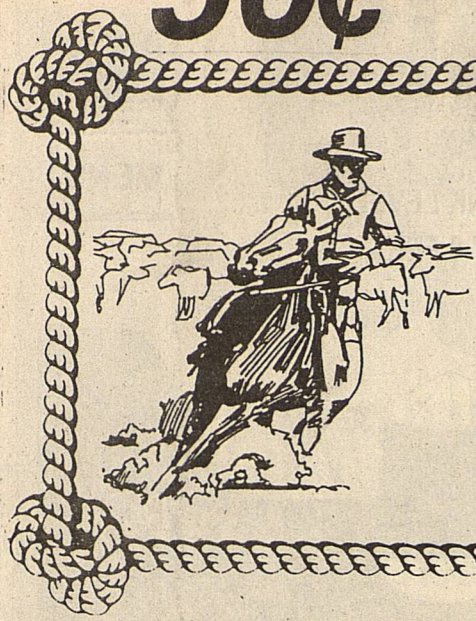


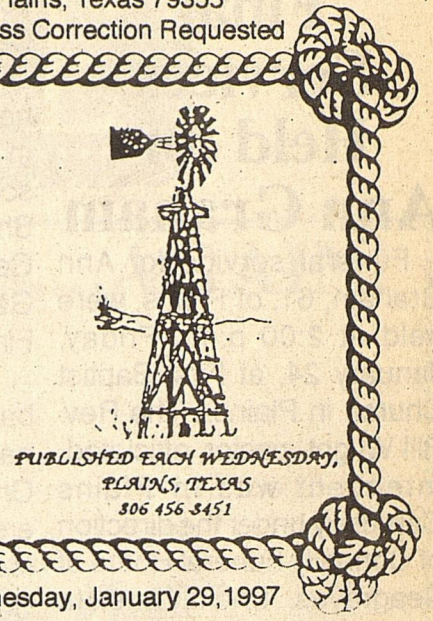
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PUBLISHED EACH WEDNESDAY,
PLAINS, TEXAS
506 456 3451

Volume III, Issue 22, Wednesday, January 29, 1997

Walker receives new committee assignments

Austin - State Representative Gary Walker of District 80 was appointed to serve on the powerful State Appropriations Committee, as well as Vice-Chairman of the House Natural Resource Committee by Speaker Pete Laney.

"I am honored and surprised by this appointment", Walker said. "I appreciate the Speaker having enough confidence to place me on these key committees, especially with the pressing issues both committees will face this session". Walker was one of only three sophomore House members to be placed on the Appropriations Committee.

"I look at these appointments as an exciting opportunity to impact change and voice the concerns of West Texans", Walker said. "I would like to encourage each and every constituent in the District to continue to

keep me abreast of their issues, concerns and ideas".

The Appropriations Committee is the steering committee with jurisdiction on all state matters relating to budget and allocations. The committee is served by 27 members who are appointed by seniority and the Speaker of the House.

The House Natural Resource Committee will have the task of working on the state's water plan initiated by Lt. Governor Bullock. The nine member board also has oversight of land and water conservation, water usage, irrigation, reclamation and water supply districts, in addition to several state agencies with concerns in these areas.

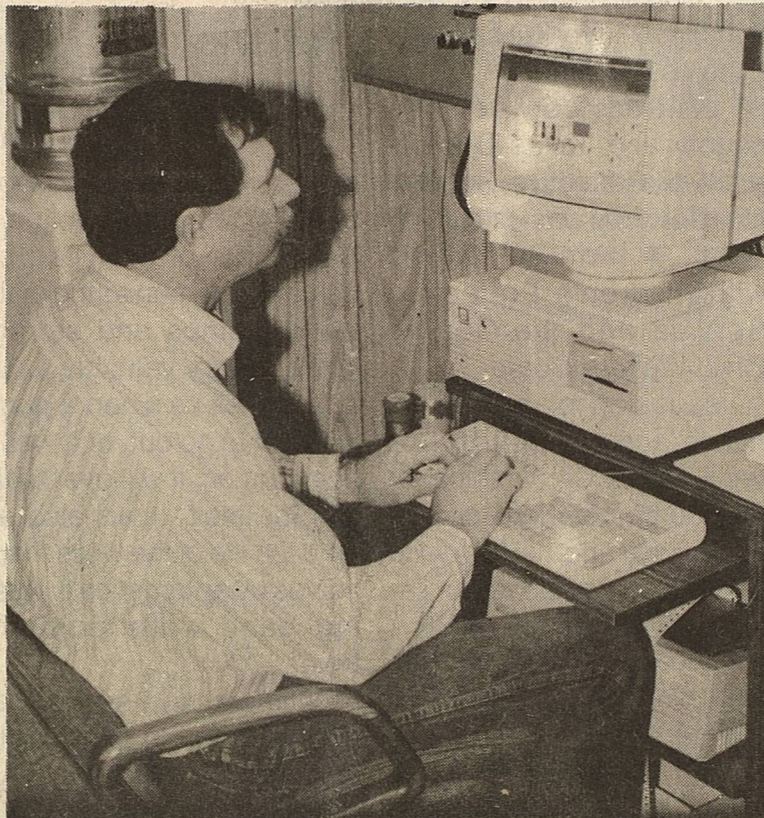
Walker is an eight year resident of Plains. During his first term he served on the Natural Resource and Agriculture and Livestock Committees.

dered to pay a \$120 fine. Alfredo Lopez Morales, 31, pled guilty to the charge of assault. He received a 90 jail sentence, suspended and probated 18 months, was fined \$250, must pay \$157 Court costs. He must attend AA meetings, and successfully complete the Patterer's Intervention Prevention Program at his expense.

Ken Alan Burris, aka Bird Dog Burris, pled guilty to a first offense DWI charge. He received a 60 day jail sen-

Turn to Page 4,
"Criminal Court"

Electronic high tech system guides City water system



David Brunson at computer running SCADA

In the summer of 1995, the City of Plains faced a severe water shortage, the result of water wells pumping off and pump failures. At one time, the total amount of stored water was less than 15,000 gallons, a potentially very dangerous situation.

New wells were dug, new equipment was installed, and a new ground storage tank was built, upping the total stored capacity to 450,000 gallons.

It became obvious the existing control system was inadequate to properly monitor and control well pumping and storage levels.

The City Council, faced with spending many dollars on

updating the old system, and still not having an adequate control system, instead contracted to install a high tech SCADA computerized system. The acronym stands for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition. That is what the radio controlled system does - automatically controls the water system from the well sites to the two storage facilities, and stores data for city personnel to evaluate in running the system as efficiently and economically as possible.

In the hall just outside City Administrator David Brunson's office sits a computer, monitor and printer. The monitor screen displays a graphic displaying the four city wells, the pumps and boosters, the transmission lines to the storage facilities and the two storage tanks. The computer is constantly monitoring each well, pump and tank, providing data on amperage draw, number of gallons of water each well is producing, the total combined flow, and the changing storage levels.

In the event of a problem with any part of the system, say a pump motor drawing too many amps, the system automatically calls the City Hall office, and delivers a recorded message about the problem. If no one is in the office, a call will be made to the employee on standby by duty. If still no answer, the Utility Supervisor is called, and then Brunson, so personnel can take care of the malfunction.

Brunson said, "SCADA is not

New Investigator to continue battle on drugs in county

Dickson says trafficking and use up

Following last week's approval by the Commissioner's Court for the hiring of Rick Dickson as an Investigator for Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark's office, both Clark and Dickson were interviewed by CCN on January 23.

Clark said Dickson's 18 years experience in law enforcement will make him a valuable asset to his staff. "He will work all types of criminal cases for us. His expertise, of course, is in illegal drug use and trafficking. He had extensive drug experience during the time he was employed by the Permian Basin Drug Task Force, he is a certified K-9 Peace Officer, has his own drug dog and trains the dogs. He will work closely with our Sheriff Department, the Denver City Police, and the DPS Officers".

Dickson said he was an officer on the Odessa Police Force five years, the Crane Police Force six years, and spent seven years with the Task Force as an Investigator, and later as Supervisor of their undercover and highway interdiction departments.

"One of the positive aspects of this job is the cooperation I know I will receive from the three law enforcement organizations here in Yoakum County. Their help and cooperation is outstanding, and this is not true in all other counties. I know of one area town where the Chief of Police and the Sheriff do not care for each other, and that type situation makes effective police work very difficult and not very efficient", Dickson said.

Asked which town, Denver City or Plains, if considered on a per capita basis, would have the higher ratio of illegal drug trafficking and use, Dickson stated, "I don't think there would be any appreciable difference in the two. Person per person, there are as many drugs in Plains as Denver City, and vice-versa. Asked what the predominant drugs being sold and used are, he said "Marijuana first, cocaine a close second, methamphetamine, or 'Speed' third. For a time, speed was the drug of choice, but the component chemical sales are much more closely regulated, and it is harder to come by, and more expensive". Specifically asked if he was saying there are true drug dealers in each town, he said, "Most definitely. Absolutely".

He continued, "One of the big difficulties we face in small Please turn to page 2, "Drug Battle"

County Criminal Court

Four criminal cases were heard in County Court on January 22. County Judge Dallas Brewer was the presiding officer, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Daniel Valverde, 35, pled true to the state's motion and order to modify his community supervision. He was or-

PHS Scholars - All A's



Plains High School Honor Roll achievers are shown above. They include; 9th grade - Velvet Canada, Leticia Canon, Audra Ellis, Jessica Flores, Kristen Gray, Wendy Hernandez, Chris Leggett, Kelton Mason, Laura Morales, Anne Palmer, Patty Ruiz, Kyle Sisson, Jason Swann, Staci Tuggle. 10th grade - Maranda Box, Clint Burrus, Marcey House, Tommie McNabb, Lisa Parrish. 11th grade - Vicki Bayer, Heath Bowlin, Shawna Box, Shawn Cullins, Laura Flores, Dolly Gonzales, Yvonne Gonzales, Summer Howard, Gideon Traweek, Sandi Warren. 12th grade - Sonia Avila, Kiley Bearden, Yancey House, Jacob Lester, Mary Morales, Lyndi Rowe, Robin Squyres, Tessa St. Romain.

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Final Services Held for Ann Graham

Funeral service for Ann Graham, 61, of Plains, were held at 2:00 p.m., Friday, January 24, at First Baptist Church in Plains. The Rev. Bill Wright, pastor, officiated. Interment was in Plains Cemetery under the direction of Connally Funeral Home of Seagraves. She lay in state in the Plains Memorial Chapel of Plains.

Mrs. Graham passed away Wednesday, January 22, in Methodist Hospital in Lubbock. She was born July 6, 1935, in Texico, New Mexico, to Rupert Paul and the former Edna Gooch. She married Robert L. Graham, September 30, 1958, in Lubbock. She attended public

school in Texico and Carthage, Missouri, where she graduated. She earned her degree from Texas Tech in 1959, and then taught school in Plains for 25 years. She was a member of Tsa Mo Ga Study Club, Delta Kappa Gamma Sorority, and the First Baptist Church of Plains.

Survivors include her husband, Robert L. "Buster" Graham; their daughter, Anita Graham of Plains; two brothers, Jerry Paul of Clovis, New Mexico, and George Paul of Joplin, Missouri; and two sisters, Dorothy Harding of San Antonio, Texas and Nita Wilson of Texico, New Mexico. Numerous nieces and nephews also survive.

Pallbearers for the services were Jim Barron, Dwayne Canada, Macky McWhirter, Jered Sellers, Vaughn Culwell, and Ty Earl Powell.

Court to advertise for bids

In the Monday meeting of County Commissioner's Court, it was voted to advertise for bids for the purchase of a new automobile for the Sheriff's Department. The Department will offer a 1992 Chevrolet car as trade-in. Bids must be received by February 14, and Court action will be taken on the bids February 17.

Advertising for bids for the selection of the Yoakum County depository was also approved. The bank depository must be selected by March 1. The three county banks, Plains State here, and Norwest and First National in Denver City are eligible as depositories.

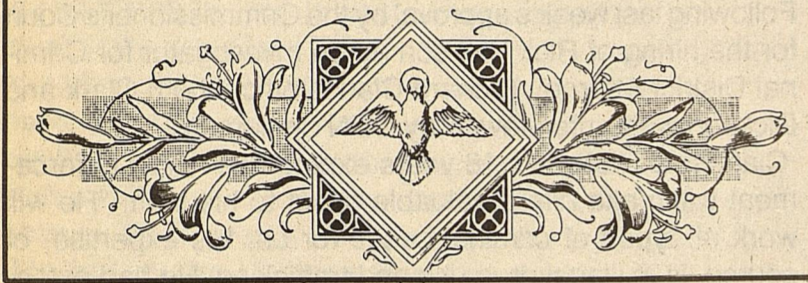
A contract between the county and Texas Department of Protective Regulatory Services was extended. That firm works with Children's Protective Service and the County Child Welfare Board.

Discussion of a maintenance agreement with Dover Elevator Co., installer of the courthouse elevator, was tabled until attorney's advice could be obtained about liability insurance questions.

All county bills and part-time salaries were approved for payment.

Water & Texas

Water use in the state will increase by 18% by 2030. The gap between water supply and demand is narrowing. Groundwater, which furnishes over a third of the supply, is projected to decrease 15% by 2040. In the Rio Grande Valley, over 305,000 residents do not have usable water.



Continued from Page One, 'Drug Battle'.

towns is so many people live in rural settings, on farms or ranches, and good police surveillance of these settings is a real problem. If the officer can see the suspect, they can see him".

When asked if juvenile use of drugs is more prevalent in this area now, he said it definitely is. "Law enforcement people never know everything going on in an area, and are usually the last to know, but the fact we are hearing more stories of teen use indicates the situation has gotten worse. One of the strange things I've experienced over the years is parents being unaware their kids are using drugs. Time after time in our investigations parents have told us they would miss money from dad's wallet or mom's purse, often for long periods of time, and never suspect their kids were using the money for drugs".

Knowing only a limited amount of County and City money is budgeted for law enforcement, Dickson said the only effective way to step up the anti-drug campaign is to work even closer with deputies, police and DPS officers, obtaining more information off the streets, following up on leads, hopefully leading to more arrests. He said the major source of area illegal drugs continues to be Mexico.

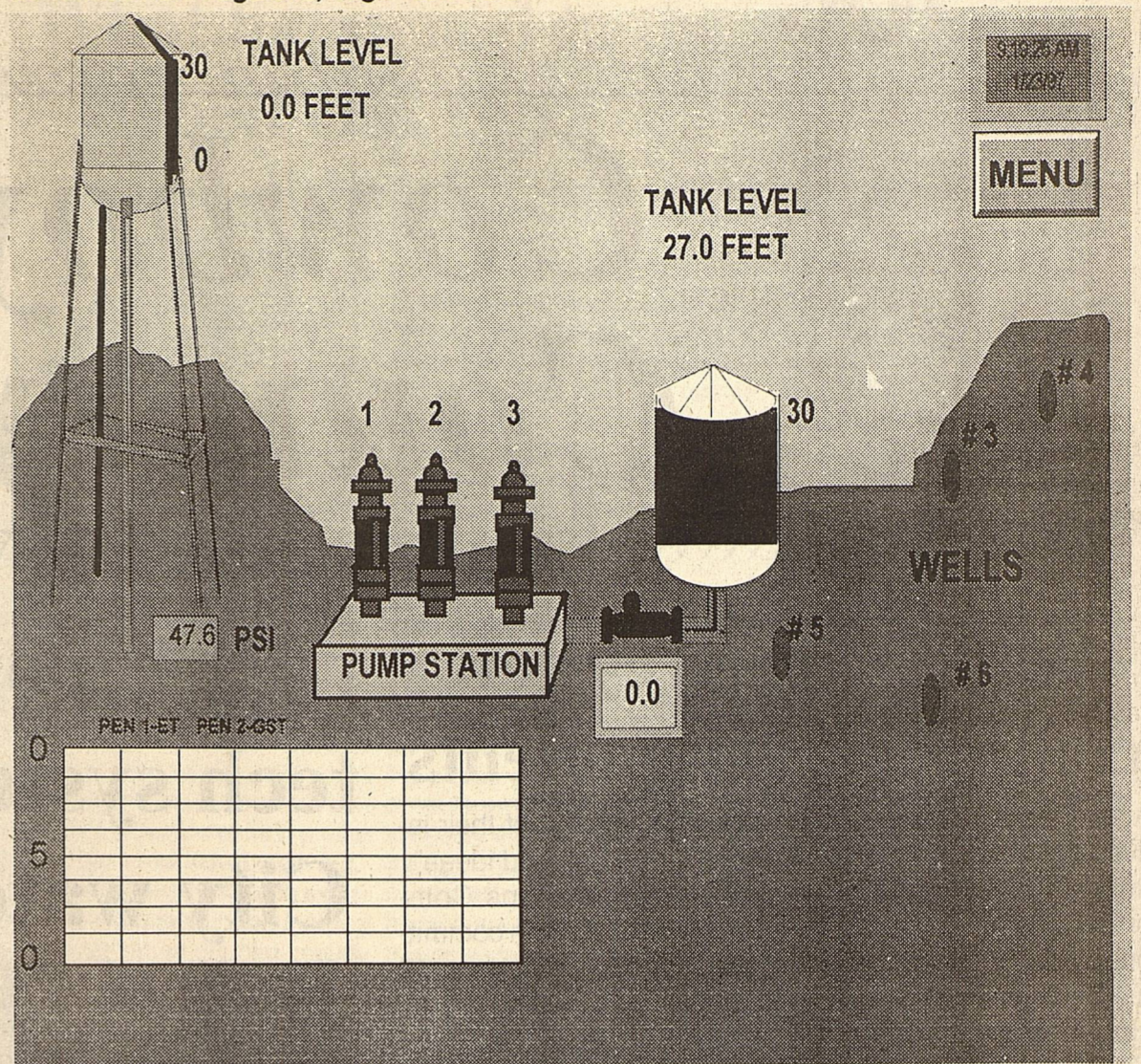
Asked what the street value of a pound of marijuana is today, Dickson said "It's a geographical market. You could buy a pound in El Paso for \$300. The same pound would bring \$900 to \$1000 here. In Chicago it would be worth \$2000, and in Canada, \$2500 to \$3000. He said the largest drug bust he had been involved in was the seizure of 2000 pounds of marijuana in 1994 in Gaines County.

Because he is relatively well known in the County, Dickson said undercover activities would have to be done by outsiders from the general area. He said there is much more cooperation between County and City law enforcement agencies. "A few years back it was unheard of for officers from one County crossing another County line in police work. Today it is common practice, and makes everyone's job a little easier".

In an effort to ensure we were getting the interview correct about drug use here and in Denver City, we asked Dickson to restate his views about both drugs and dealers here. He responded by saying, "Let me put it this way. If I had X-Ray vision, and went to one of the two towns churches on any given Sunday morning, I would be surprised... no, amazed, to not see some one in the congregation with cocaine in a pocket. Drugs, users and traffickers are definitely here".

The chance of a disastrous asteroid striking earth is remote, but a search to locate asteroids whose orbits threaten earth is warranted. 150 are already known, but there could be as many as 2,000

Continued from Page One, 'High Tech Water'



One of the images 'SCADA' displays on computer monitor

cheap. It cost the City about \$20,000 to get it on line in September of this year, but it's constant monitoring of the wells, pumps and storage tanks is very valuable to us. If it can tell us when a pump is about to go out, or a well is pumping off, it will eventually pay for itself. It will also extend the life of the wells themselves by automatically rotating each wells pumping time".

The impressive system can be expanded to perform the same functions for the City's gas and sewer system. Brunson said the Council is

considering tying those services into the system possibly two years from now. Adding the two utility services to SCADA would cost approximately \$10,000.

The system is based on the same technology used in the petroleum industry, where producing wells are monitored and controlled by computerized automation. Each time the computer records new data, or orders a function to start in the system, data is stored on hard records for staff evaluation and reports.

The system should ensure

the City will not face the critical water shortage of 1995.

Cattle drives enrich Texas

Ft. Worthy, Jan 1. The cattle drives which began just after the recent war have taken almost 2-million Texas cattle to northern markets and have brought millions of dollars in northern money to Texas. Between 300,000 and 500,000 cattle are driven north each year. Each herd is trailed by 12 to 20 men, who need at least 6 horses, each. A herd travels 450 to 500 miles each month.

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Jan., 1874



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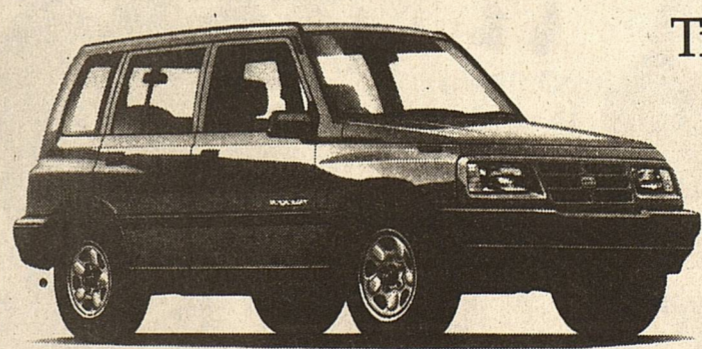


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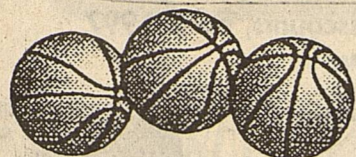
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Calories: 70 • Fat Calories: 5
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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'



PISD Basketball Recap

7th Lady Wranglers; The 7th girls were downed by Seagraves Jan. 20 47-10. Chelsi Wagnon managed 6 points, and Arasley Luna and Annaliesa O'Quinn had 2 each. They next competed in the Muleshoe Tournamnet and finished third. They lost to Muleshoe 42-18. Annalies had 5 points, and Chelsi had 3. Becky Coronel, Julie Gonzales, Nancy Koncaba, Arasley and Elizabeth Clanahan each had 2. They next beat Friona 32-30. Julie led the scoring with 11 points, Annaliesahad 8, Chelsi 7, and Arasley 6. They were dropped by Olton 47-27 Annaliesahad 10 points, Arasley 7, Julie & Chelsi 4, and Elizabeth 2.

8th Lady Wraglers; The 8th girls were downed by Seagraves 34-25. Kimbe Jones led the scoring with 7, Lexi Warren had 6, Lensey Cullins 5, Kari Guetersloh and Tanya Vasquez each had 2, and Kim Willis 1. In the Muleshoe Tournament, they were downed by Muleshoe 50-22. Kimbe and Kari both scored 9 points, Michaela Traweek had 2, Tanya and Lesli Rowe each had 1. Friona dropped the girls 44-22. Kimbe again was top scorer with 6 points, Kim had 5, Kari and Lexi 4 each, Lesli 2, and Tanya 1. They lost their final game to Olton 39-10. Kari managed 3 points, Michaela and Lexi each had 2, Tanya and Lesli scored 1 each.

7th Wranglers; The 7th boys won a squeaker against Seagraves, 29-27. Jared Bell had 14 points, Joseph Rodriguez 10, Patrick Brintle 3, and Ky May 2. They took 3rd place in the Muleshoe Tourney. Muleshoe stopped them 53-30. Jared had 12 points, Joseph 10, Moises Gonzales 4, Patrick 2, and Tanner Hamm 2. They next beat Friona 25-18. Moises led the scoring with 12, Jared scored 7, Joesph, Tanner and Jeffrey Lollar 2 each. They were barely edged by Olton, 36-34. Jared had 16 points, Joseph 8, Moises 5, Tanner 3, and Patrick 2.

8th Wranglers; The 8th boys tied for first place in the Muleshoe Tournament, but because of a scoring rule, had to settle for second place. In the opener, they fell to Muleshoe 50-38. Adam Garcia led the scoring with 15 points, and Joel Gallegos had 14. They then defeated Friona 41-29. Adam again was top scorer with 14. They defeated Olton 48-39 in the finale. Coach McAdamas cited Chris Estrada, Armando Luna, Joel Gallegos, Brett Squyres, Kelsey Blundell, Dustin Six for their play in the good tournament.

JV Cowgirls; The younger Cowgirls were victorious over Morton last week, 24-17. Krystle Blundell got half of the points, 12, followed by Lisa Parrish with 7, Patty Ruiz and Jessica Flores 2, and Rebecca Robertson, 1. They lost a very close contest to Tahoka next, 21-19. Kristen scored 6 points, followed by Tandi Jones 5, Lisa 4, Anne and Rebecca 2 each.

JV Cowboys; The younger Cowboys had a good game against Morton, winning 47-36. Mike Bell led the scoring with 18 points, Matt Morgan had 9, Cosme Casillas 7, Clint Burrus 6, Alex Tarango 4, Patrick McGinty and Fermin Luna 2 each, and Kyle Sisson 1. They lost their next outing against Tahoka 72-56. Clint managed 12 points, Fermin 10, Cosme 9, and Mike 8.

PHS Cowgirls; The Cowgirls found the going a bit tough last week. On Jan. 21, they were downed by Morton 64-47. Kayla Redman managed 11 points, followed by Tessa St Romain, 10, Kelli Osborn 9, Sandi Warren 5, Kyley Bearden 4, Candace Bowers 3, Jolyne Burgess and Shawna Box 2 each, Lindsey Six 1. They were next downed by Tahoka 44-36. Kelli had 12 points, Kayla 8, Tessa 6, Kyley 5, Jolyne 5, and Shyloh Winn 1. Kayla had 10 rebounds in each of the games.

PHS Cowboys; The varsity boys swamped Morton last week 72-31. Tanner Blount and Jamie shared scoring honors with 13 each, followed by Adam Dominguez 11, Jason Redman 9, Joe Luna and Travis Bennett 6 each, Chris Willett and Shawn Cullins 5, and Eric Estrada 2. They next went into overtime against Tahoka tied 63 all, but finally lost 74-68. Jamie again led the scoring with 16, Jason had 15, Joe 14, Shawn 9, Tanner 8, Adam 6. Travis was top rebounder VS Morton with 14, and Jason had 10 against Tahoka.

7th Grade Wranglers



7th grade Wranglers shown here recently won the Jr. High Tournament held here. Front; Kyle May, Tanner Hamm, Jeremy Diamond. Back, Joseph Rodriguez, Moises Gonzales, Jared Bell, Patrick Brintle, Chris McGinty, Coach Michael Davis.

Math/Science Sweepstakes Winners...AGAIN!

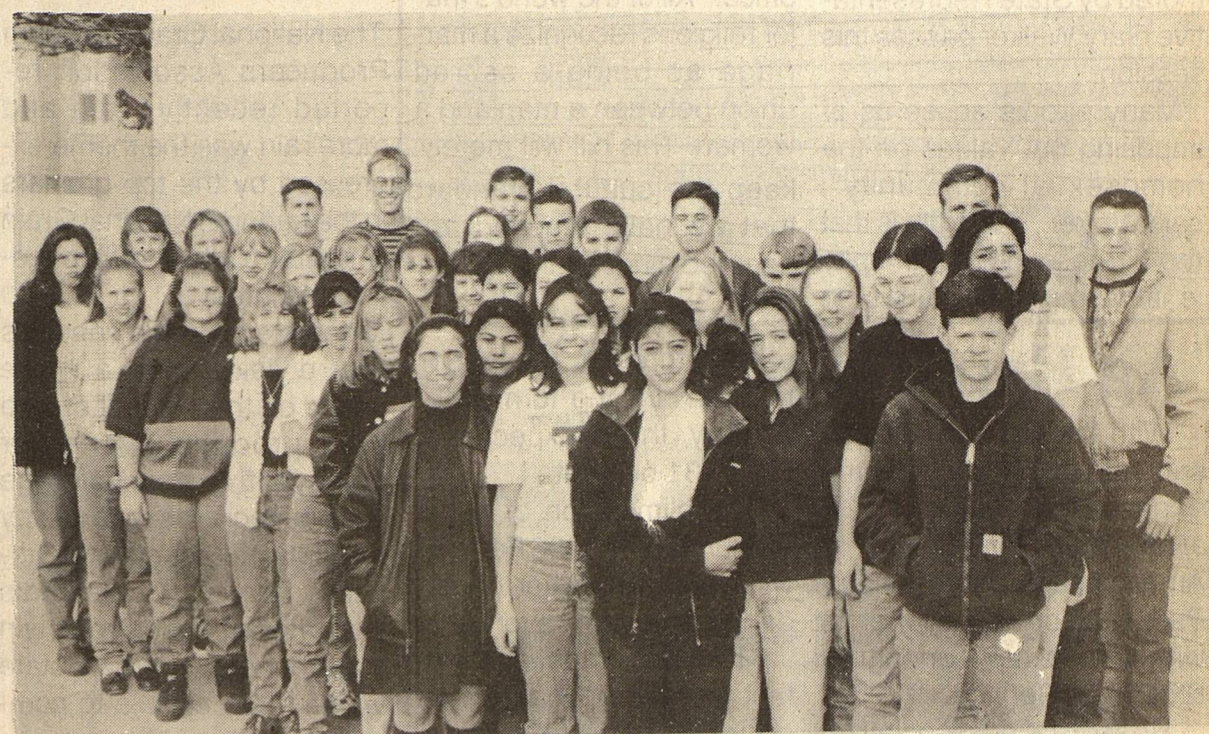
The PHS U.I.L. Math/Science team competed against 14 other Class 1,2 and 3A schools in a meet at Andrews Saturday. This is the seventh meet the team has entered this year, and six of those times, they have brought home the Team Sweepstakes trophy. Brad Friesen Richie Cullins and Eddie Carter, the team's Coaches, said the one time they failed to win the top honor, four of the team members could not compete because of a conflicting basketball tournament.

There are a number of other meets scheduled before two State meets this Spring. The first State meet is open to all schools, and the other is limited to district and regional winning teams.

Following are the team and individual performance standings at Andrews;

Number Sense; Kristen Gray, 1st-Clint Burrus,2nd-Marcey House, 8th-Tommie McNabb, 16th-Maranda Box, 14th- Shawn Cullins, 1st-Heath Bowlin, 9th-Derek Brunson, 15th-Gideon Traweek, 20th- Yancey House, 4th- Jacob Lester, 15th.

Calculator; Kristen Gray,



Front Row, L-R; Tommie McNabb, Kristen Gray, Marcey House, Maranda Box, Shawna Box. Back, L-R; Heath Bowlin, Clint Burrus, Derek Brunson, Coley Burgess, Jacob Lester, Shawn Cullins, Yancey House.

1st-Clint Burrus,3rd-Marcey House, 14th; Tommie McNabb, 1st- Maranda Box, 10th- Shawn Cullins, 8th- Shawna Box, 1st-Heath

Math; Kristen Gray, 1st-Clint Burrus, 3rd- Marcey House, 9th- Tommie McNabb, 4th- Maranda Box, 16th- Shawn Cullins, 2nd- Shawna Box,

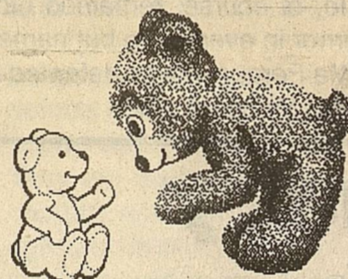
5th- Heath Bowlin, 4th- Derek Brunson, 12th- Gideon Traweek, 18th- Yancey House, 13th- Jacob Lester, 14th.

Science; Kristen Gray, 8th- Clint Burrus, 12th- Marcey House, 16th- Tommie McNabb, 11th- Maranda Box, 9th- Shawn Cullins, 24th- Shawna Box, 5th- Heath Bowlin, 19th- Derek Brunson, 29th- Gideon Traweek, 15th- Yancey House, 16th- Jacob

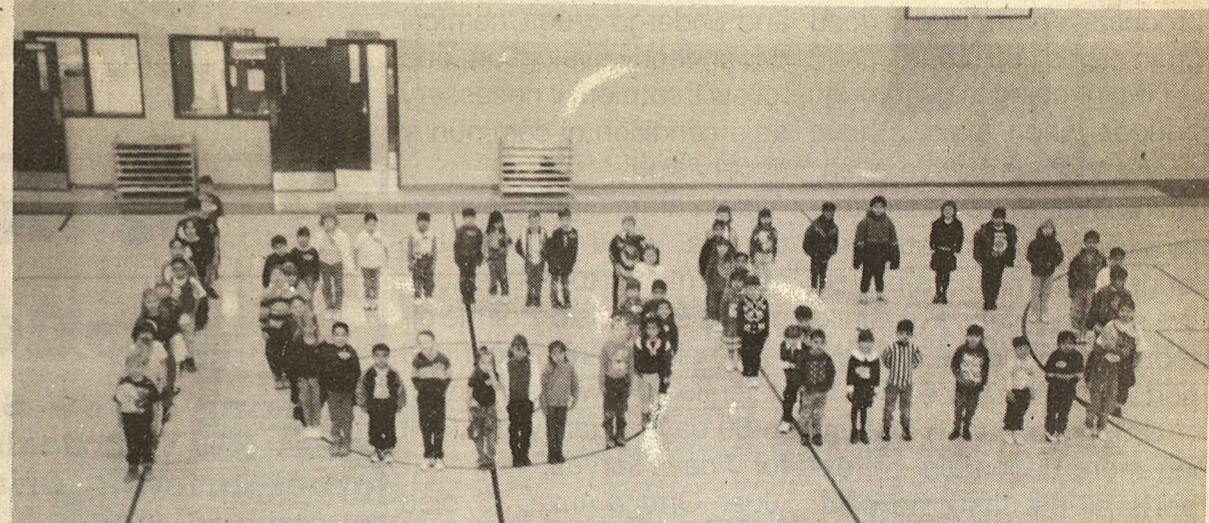
Lester, 13th. Computer Science;(overall)- Clint Burrus, 5th- Tommie McNabb, 8th- Yancey House, 7th- Jacob Lester, 9th.

In winning the sweepstakes honor, the team placed 1st in Number sense, 1st in calculator, 3rd in Mathematics, 8th in Science, and 3rd in Computer Science.

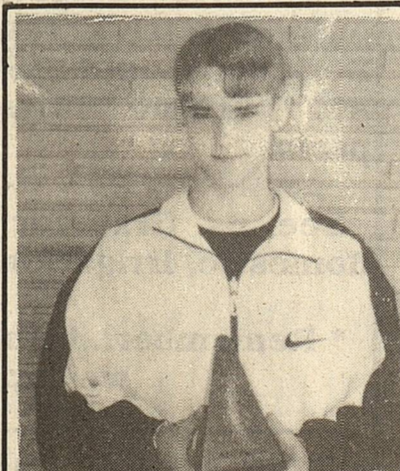
WAY TO GO !!



The Plains FHA students are conducting their annual Valentine sucker and cookie sale to raise funds for the members to attend the April FHA meeting in Dallas. Price of the cookies and suckers is one dollar and includes a small greeting card. Lips suckers, heart shaped and Teddy bear suckers, chocolate candy bars and gummy lips are available. They won't last long, so order today from any FHA student, or Judy Deaton, FHA Advisor.



Kindergarten and First grade students celebrated the 100th day of school on January 20. They brought 100 items to eat, counted to 100, took 100 steps to the cafeteria, and jumped 100 times. They ended the day by forming 100 on the gym floor, and enjoyed a cake with 100 candles.



PHS STUDENT OF THE WEEK

Kyle Sisson, a Freshman and the son of Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Sisson, is a member of the Cowboy Band and plays basketball. He was nominated by Mr. Morgan, who said "Kyle is a very polite and hard working young man. He has a strong will to succeed in everything he is part of, including his academic classes. Just making the team is not good enough... Kyle wants to be the best."

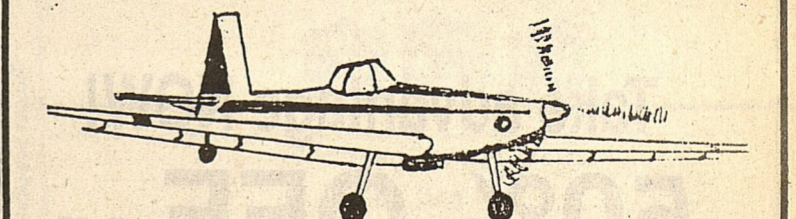
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Walker to introduce new bill in house

Austin, Tx. Texas will refuse to recognize same sex marriages regardless of in which state or country they are performed, if legislation coauthored by State Representative Gary Walker passes this session.

"Many people accuse us of imposing our values on the homosexual community", said Walker. "The truth is that the homosexual community is imposing their values on

us by forcing the rest of society to redefine marriage to their standards. We are merely defending a culture sustaining institution. The same sex legislation simply reinforces laws the state already has".

"This is not a 'Christians bashing gays' bill," according to a staff person in Walker's office. "All of the world's major religions recognize a marriage as being a sacred union between a man and a woman. This bill will merely keep the cultural standard that we have enjoyed and honored since man was created".

Ag Exports

With the absence of price supports and farm programs, exports are becoming increasingly important to American agriculture, said Dr. Parr Rosson, an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Rosson, who specializes in international marketing, said agricultural exports are expected to be \$58 billion in fiscal year 1997—down \$2 billion from the year before—but it will still be the second highest export value ever. Agricultural exports from the United States reached a record in fiscal year 1996, up \$4 billion to \$60 billion.

The export of bulk goods—wheat, corn and soybeans—is expected to be down while gains are expected for horticultural and livestock products, fish, seafood and poultry.

The lower export of bulk products is partly due to good grain crops in Europe.

"We're going to go through periods when exports have risen and when they've fallen. I think what we're seeing this year is not a precipitous, prolonged decline, but a blip on the screen in terms of a mild reduction in the value of exports," Rosson added.

U.S. agriculture is becoming more dependent on exports all the time, he said. Since 1990, U.S. exports of consumer foods have increased 44 percent compared to 10 percent growth in domestic food sales, Rosson said.

Additionally, about 20 percent of the cash income in American agriculture is gen-

erated through the export market. By the turn of the century, that's expected to rise to 31 percent.

The elimination of subsidies under the 1996 Farm Bill will cause a greater dependency on export revenue.

"This just emphasizes the fact that export markets are critically important to enhance the demand for U.S. agricultural products," he said.

"In the absence of farm programs—and that's clearly the way we're headed—the export markets just take on more and more importance," Rosson said.

From Page 1, "Criminal Court"

tence, suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, and must pay \$227 Court costs. He must serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 11 hours served. He must attend AA meetings, and undergo drug/Chemical dependency evaluation, and follow treatment if necessary as a condition of community supervision.

Vidal Zarate Garcia, aka Bill Garcia, pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision for the offense of evading arrest and detention. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, with credit for 7 days served.

Juan Ortega Ariza, 33, pled guilty to failure to maintain proof of financial responsibility. He received deferred adjudication of guilt. His 180 day jail term was probated for 180 days. He must pay \$157 Court costs, and serve 60 hours of community service.

Texas milo producers fare well in national contest

The National Grain Sorghum Producers Association reported recently rain and more rain was the theme expressed by the top growers in their annual National Grain Sorghum Yield and Management Contest.

Contestants in the contest's four division earn a score based on the amount of milo they produce over their county's five year average yield per acre, as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Contestants with the highest score win state honors, and only state winners are eligible to compete for national honors.

Three of the four division winners were from Texas. Kyle Swanson, Lubbock, produced 10,074 pounds of milo per acre on his conventional tillage irrigated farm in Hockley County. In the no-till irrigated division, Hershell Hill, Hockley County, produced a yield of 8,901 pounds per acre, and H.B. Vaughn, Moore County, had a yield of 8,180 pounds per acre on his no-till dryland acreage.



Mr. & Mrs. Governor - The Fergusons

In 1914, possibly the most colorful politician the State has ever produced made his appearance - James E. Ferguson. Running for Governor against a Prohibitionist, he took his campaign to the country, making 145 speeches in the cotton belt, and only ten in cities or towns. He promised sympathy and legislative help for "the little man", and swamped the prohibitionist, taking office in January, 1915.

He was flamboyant and colorful, but got into trouble because he attacked the developing University of Texas at Austin. He erred when he tried to have the University President fired. The Regents refused, and Ferguson responded by vetoing the next University appropriations bill. This infuriated virtually every lawyer, professional and Texas alumnus around the state.

Eventually, it came to light several things were amiss—state funds had been deposited in a bank in which he owned stock. It was also discovered he had an unrepaid loan of \$156,000 from the Texas Brewer's Assn. In 1917 the University educated lawyers in the Legislature tore him up. He was impeached by the House on 21 counts, and the Senate upheld ten of these. He was dismissed from office and forbidden to ever hold office in the state again.

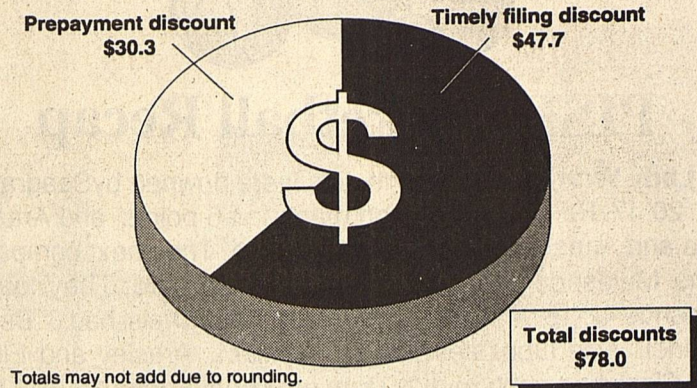
Still smarting, still politically ambitious, Ferguson entered his wife's name in the Democrat primary as an anti-Klux-Klan candidate. Miriam Ferguson became the first female governor of Texas. Ma Ferguson provided the same color her husband had, and craved. She was news, merely by being in office. He, of course, remained Governor in everything but name.

Ma Ferguson was defeated by Dan Moody in 1926.

Mr. Businessman; Do you know about Sales Tax Discounts?

Sales tax discounts, fiscal 1997

Millions of dollars



Totals may not add due to rounding.

SOURCE: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Texas' sales tax law allows two kinds of discounts. Taxpayers who report and remit on time may keep 0.5 percent of the tax they collect. In 1997, this timely filing discount will cost the state an estimated \$47.7 million. Taxpayers who prepay their taxes based on a reasonable estimate of their tax liability may keep an additional 1.25 percent as reward for early payment. The cost of this prepayment will be about \$30.3 billion in fiscal 1997.

She ran for the office again in hand picking up chips and bringing in water for momma". She Ferguson again offered up Ma was again elected by a few hundred vote margin.

Prisoners Should Help Pay Costs of Health Care

Convicted felons sitting in our state prisons enjoyed more than \$425 million worth of free health care last year—even as 4.5 million law-abiding Texans had no health insurance at all.

Maybe it's about time for prisoners to begin paying some of the costs of their medical bills and give taxpayers a break.

My *Disturbing the Peace* report proposes just that—a \$3 co-pay for each non-emergency visit an inmate makes to the prison doctor.

How will inmates who have no income afford the payments? Well, many of them aren't indigent at all. In fact, the average state prisoner's bank balance is \$112. Last year, they spent \$49 million in prison commissaries for snacks and other sundries, including more than \$900,000 on Dr. Pepper alone.

Consider this: Texas inmates now make an average of 28 visits a year to the prison clinic. According to the Texas Medical Association, ordinary Texans see their primary physician only three times a year.

Why such high health care use by prisoners? Some of it is due to the fact that they are often less healthy than other Texans. Many come from impoverished backgrounds with limited access to medical care. Years of poor nutrition, alcohol or drug abuse, and general medical neglect have taken their toll.

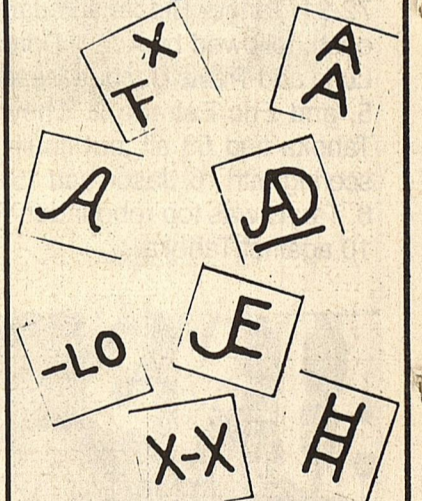
But there's another reason for such a high number of visits to the prison doctor. A recent study showed that many inmate requests for medical attention are simply a way for them to get out of their cells, while others are the result of mischief or an effort to take advantage of the free service for minor aches and pains.

The co-payment system I propose would cut down on waste and abuse in Texas' prison health care operations

and save taxpayers money. In Kansas, where they've already experimented with a version of this idea, the average number of inmate medical visits a year has dropped from 23 to nine. In Arizona, prisoner requests for needed medical visits have dropped 30 percent. New Hampshire's decline was 32 percent in just the first three months of that state's co-payment program.

At a time when prison sentences are longer and paroles fewer—and now that the largest prison buildup in Texas history is nearing completion—it's time to stop driving up the health insurance costs for law-abiding citizens by letting convicted criminals abuse their sick-call privileges.

Grab your branding iron, podnuh!



All ranchers in Yoakum County are urged to take part in the new concession stand dedication ceremony at County Livestock Show Barn which will be held during the Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show on Saturday. As a part of the dedication, county brands will be burned on the new concession stand at 10:00 am. February 8, 1997 Please bring your branding iron to the ceremony or bring it by the County Extension office before the 8th.

Ed's. Note - The brands reproduced here belonged to the early ranch settlers of the county.

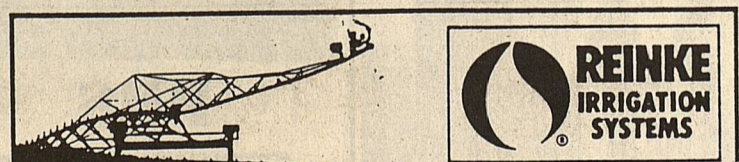
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Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



Parents are constantly on the lookout for potential dangers to their children. However, many parents may not realize the danger associated with common household items such as cleaners and medicines.

These tips from Scott & White Clinic can help prevent accidental poisonings:

- Request "safety-lock" tops on all prescription drugs.
- Keep household cleaners, bug sprays, medicines and garage products out of reach and out of sight of children. Lock up these products whenever possible.
- Never store food and household cleaners together.
- When throwing away a household product, rinse the container and dispose of it in a covered trash can.
- Always store medicines in their original containers and throw out medicines no longer in use. Rinse empty containers.
- Do not take medicines in front of your child because children love to copy their parents.
- Never call medicine "candy."
- Read the label before taking medicine. Never take medicine which is not labeled for you or is not labeled at all. Never take medicine in the dark.
- If you are interrupted while using medicine or a household product, take it or the child with you. It only takes a few seconds for your child to get into it.
- Anticipate you child's curiosity and abilities according to his or her age and developmental skills. If you have a crawling infant, keep household products stored above the floor level—not under the kitchen sink.
- Be alert for repeat poisonings. A child who has swallowed a poison is more likely to be poisoned again within a year.
- Never transfer products like kerosene, gasoline, insecticides or household cleaning agents to another container such as a soft drink bottle, cup or bowl that would attract a child or pet.
- Buy potentially poisonous products only when needed and in the amount required for the job.
- Always prepare and use products according to label directions.
- Many labels and antidote charts give incorrect information. Call (800) POISON-1 for the latest information.

March of Dimes birth defects prevention month

Duane Kemp, Chair of the Northwest Texas Chapter of the March of Dimes, says "It is important that women realize there are healthy habits they need to practice well before they become pregnant. Unfortunately, this does not always happen because the pregnancy is not planned or comes much sooner than expected."

According to the Institute of Medicine, nearly 60% of pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned or mistimed. In addition, the Statistical Handbook of the American Family reports more than half of all couples have a baby during the first two and one-half years of marriage. "Educating women on healthy habits is one important goal of the March of Dimes", said Kemp. Throughout January, we are targeting women who may not be focused on the habits they need to begin now to improve their chances of having a healthy baby, even if having a family may be a long way off."

As part of Birth Defects Prevention Month, the March of Dimes and Lederle Consumer Health, maker of Centrum Multivitamins, are launching a long term alliance to expand educational programs with an emphasis on preventing serious birth defects of the brain and spine, known as neural tube defects. They will work together to encourage women of childbearing age to consume at least 400 micrograms of the B vitamin folic acid, by taking a multivitamin supplement, such as Centrum, which contains 100% of the recommended daily amount of folic acid, and eating a balanced diet. If all women complied, the estimated occurrence of babies born with neural defects would decrease by 5% to 70%. Currently, only 15% of American women of childbearing age are aware of the need to consume folic acid.



New Baby In Town!

Jered and Jana Sellers are the proud parents of Steeli Morgan Sellers. She was born January 7 at 10:54 a.m., weighed 7lbs. 14 oz, and was 21 inches long. She was welcomed home by big sister Ashley.

Library Filmtime

Twenty-two pre-school youngsters attended Library Filmtime this past week on Jan. 22, 1997. They watched two movies, sang four songs, played two games and read one book.

They also celebrated Autumn Friesen's 2nd Birthday! Her mom brought cookies and punch for all the children.

Those attending included: Kevin John Gass, Rhaela Stall, Kelsey Curry, Carolina Hernandez, Cody Friesen, Lexus Jimenez, Dakota Earnest, Jaaron Bell, Raegan Young, Jacob Brink, Hunter Welch, Isaac Doyle, Rhaemi Stall, Sean Curry, Stephanie Addison, Autumn Friesen, Kristie Lopez, Lariah Johnson, Brett Hawthorne, Katelynn Young, Jaston Brink and Haley Welch.



Autumn Friesen

Keeping an eye on Texas

Sweethearts send cards from Valentine

The post office in the tiny West Texas town of Valentine does a booming business in February, adding a unique postmark to an average of 20,000 Valentine cards sent all over the world. Here's how your sweetheart can receive a Valentine from Valentine:

- 1 Place your Valentine card inside a larger envelope (cards must be a standard size, addressed and stamped for first class mail) Send the envelope to: Postmaster Valentine Station Valentine, Texas 79854-9998
- 2 Your cards must be received by the Postmaster in Valentine by February 7 to be mailed by Valentine's Day, February 14.
- 3 Each Valentine card will be hand-canceled with a postmark selected from designs submitted by 7th-12th grade students from the Valentine school, then mailed.

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Valentine Post Office.

Senior Citizen Corner

The Center is beginning to look alot like "Garage Sale." On Jan. 30, we are having our once a year sale. Anyone who wishes to donate items for the sale should bring them in before sale day. Anything that will sell is acceptable. We are located at 412 W. 5th Street—West Door. Sale starts at 9:00 a.m. and the Center closes at 3:00. So come on down and shop around.

Visiting this past week were Johnny Fulbright, Serina Miers and Beretta Hart. Also the Home Health ladies met during the lunch hour on Monday.

Billie O'Neal is in the local hospital, but much better and hoping to go home soon.

Next Weeks Activities:
Line Dancing on Mon., Wed., and Fri. at 10:00 a.m.
Pool/Game Monday at 6:30 p.m.
Lunch everyday, Mon.-thru Fri.- at 11:30 a.m.
News is in short supply this week. So we hope to see everyone at the Garage Sale. See you next week, Smitty

ASIAN SALAD DRESSING

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup rice wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons dark sesame oil
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 4 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons grated fresh ginger

• Combine all ingredients in a jar; cover tightly, and shake vigorously. Chill. Yield: about 1 1/2 cups.

PISD School Menu

Wednesday-breakfast; Hash browns, toast, orange juice, milk.

Lunch; All American cheese-burger, chips, mixed fruit, peanut butter cookies, milk.

Thursday-Breakfast; Pancakes or cereal, raisins, fruit punch, milk.

Lunch-Pizza, salad, carrot sticks, red jello, fruit, milk.

Friday-breakfast; cereal, toast, orange-pineapple juice, milk.

Lunch- Fried chicken w/ gravy, seasoned green beans, creamed potatoes, hot rolls, strawberry cake, milk.

Monday-February 3rd thru Thursday Feb. 6 th.

Monday Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Grape juice, Milk.

Lunch: Grilled chicken breast fillet on warm bun, Lettuce leaf, Sliced tomatoes, French fries, Graham cracker, Milk.

Tuesday Breakfast: Cinn. rolls, Toast, Apple juice, Milk.

Lunch: Breaded beef steak w/cream gravy, Creamed potatoes, Seasoned green beans, Hot rolls, Cupcakes, Milk.

Wednesday. Breakfast: Toast, Jelly, Orange juice, Milk.

Thursday Breakfast: Waffles or cereal, Raisins, Fruit punch, Milk.

Lunch Chicken fajitas, Pinto beans, Shredded letuce, Chopped tomatoes, Crackers, White cake, Milk.

LET ALL HEAVEN REJOICE

FROM HEAVEN'S THRONE... THE ANGELIC CELEBRATION OF EASTER

Let All Heaven Rejoice!

Rehearsals are being held for the Easter Pageant each Wednesday evening, 8p.m., Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to tell our community about the risen savior!

If you have a question, contact Patrick Hamilton, 456-3661

Mark Your Calendar
Now! Plains Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held the evening of Feb. 20.
Watch CCN for future plans & details



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You are invited to a "Baby Shower" Honoring **Mrs. Stacie Earnest**
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in the home of Mrs. Macky McWhirter
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From The Hack



The Game Warden's article in this issue for some reason reminded me of a story told to me years ago by one of the Bride's nephews at one of her family's notorious annual reunions in deep East Texas. Following the affair, we received a large package in the mail from one of her nephews we shall name 'John'.

We ripped it open and found a hand written note in crayola's on Big Chief tablet paper from John, on top of a bunch of packages stored on dry ice. The note read, Dear Aunt Audrey (her real name, you know); "These here squirrels were shot by me and sent by me to you all after me and Gary talked at the reunion 'bout him never eatin squirrel before. Hard for me to believe nobody ever 'et squirrel before, easy as they come by.

Me and my dog Upchuck, I call him that cause that's what he always does after eatin' a bate of squirrel gravy, we went to the woods to get these squirrels, and first thing happened was I tore my overalls and part of my privates gettin over Amos Poultry's dumb fence gettin to the huntin grounds. I pulled the dumb sign saying "No Hunting" off cause I knew he didn't mean me.

Me and Upchuck found this big old walnut tree where I seen lots of squirrels jumpin about, and I whispered to Upchuck to start circling the tree while I got in range for my 12 gauge. The dumb dog went crazy, and circled the tree leaving his mark ever

three inches on the tree trunk. Never even looked up for a squirrel. I got plumb mad, and know I heard them squirrels giggling at us. I run around the tree and blasted away but all I got was about eight pounds of branches and walnut hulls hittin me in the face. The dumb dog, he was still marking the tree, never even looked up at the shot, and I figured he'd had all the scraps offer my table he was gonna get, so I shot him graveyard dead.

These here squirrels come from ol man Poultry. He caught me dead to rights huntin his place, and after considerable negotiatin, he gimme the squirrels, and he got my last pint of old Stump Humper Bourbon. Tell Gary he owes me at least a quart of good stuff next time y'all come down heah. Love, John.

P.S. - Be sure and cook these squirrel heads. I know they look kinda weird, empty eye sockets and skinned nostrills and ear holes and all, but they sure make good dump-lings".

I was glad to see the appointment of Madeline Albright to the post of Secretary of State, I suppose the pinnacle of appointments for one of her gender. Witnessing her performance on news clips when she served as Ambassador to the UN it is obvious this is one tough and sharp gal.

If this sounds like a plug for Women's Lib, WRONG. I really think the main reasons I am pleased with the decision are, (1) she's tough, as mentioned above, and (2), women are more diplomatic than men, and after all, diplomacy is what the State

Department is all about. What? You don't believe that about female versus male tact and diplomacy? If a female sees another femme whose slip is showing, does she point and guffaw like most of us Bubba types and proclaim loudly, "Hey, honey, it's snowin' down south!" Of course not. She whispers discretely, "Honey, you need to cinch up a little tighter, your lovely slip is showing".

Or, Bubba buys a jug of milk and discovers at home it is soured. He will usually wait until the store is at it's busiest, scores of people at the checkout, and bellow out, "Hey, manager, I just bought this here milk and I took a sip and puked 40 minutes. I want my money back and another jug!" Not a lady. She will return the milk, in a sack, seek out the manager in private, make sure no one is listening, and calmly say, "There seems to be a problem with this milk, I'm afraid it's spoiled. I'd like to return it, please". Then she will whisper even more discretely, "And if I don't get my money back and a fresh carton of milk, I intend to sue your fanny off!"

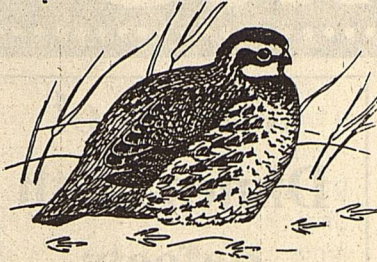
That's the type of diplomacy I feel Madeline will practice. Speak softly, but carry a great big ol stick.

A guy goes to a barber shop for a shave. After he's been cut several times, he asks the barber if he has another razor.

The barber says, "Sure. You want to shave yourself?"

The guy says, "No, but I would like to at least be able to defend myself".

What happened to the 'Good Old Days' ?



What happened to the "good ol' days" when quail coveys flushed every 15 minutes? As a Wildlife Biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, I've had the opportunity to hear a number of explanations for the demise of our feathered friends. One of the most common is, "The season is too long." Heard just as often is, "A mysterious disease spread throughout the region, wiping out the bird populations." And still others insist that an increase in predator numbers has wiped them out.

Often accompanying each explanation is a suggested management strategy to return our bird populations to their former abundance. By far, the most popular suggestion is, "Ya'll need to release some birds," with some mention about the importance of "seed stock." This article is my attempt to provide a few facts that may help some to understand the importance of habitat to quail, pheasants, and all wildlife populations (realizing, of course, that there are always those who will forever retain their current viewpoint.)

So, what did happen to the good ol' days?

First of all, I guarantee that during any on of the "good ol' days" that you can remember, we weren't anywhere close to a 16" precipitation deficit like we have accumulated over the past 4 years in Lubbock and surrounding areas. When conditions are that dry for that long, bird populations simply do not fair well. Rainfall does no magically cause birds to appear--there are specific biological reasons why bird populations do well when precipitation is more consistent. Soil moisture produces an abundance of tender green plants in the spring which are used by nesting hens as a source of water

and Vitamin A (critical in the egg-laying process). Dense vegetation is more abundant, providing cover for escape and nesting. Seed production among key food plants increases, but more importantly, insects are much more abundant during average or good rainfall years. Insects are used by nesting hens for protein and calcium (important in eggshell development), and are relied on almost exclusively by newly hatched chicks during their first 8-10 weeks of life.

"Decrease the bag limit and shorten the season."

Upland bird populations have always shown severe fluctuations among years (regardless of hunting pressure) and will continue to show large fluctuations as determined by the weather's impact on habitat. Numerous field studies conducted over the past 50 years have repeatedly demonstrated that a large population of birds die from natural causes each year (75-90% of quail and 70-80% of pheasants) regardless of weather we hunt or not. Quail and pheasant populations completely protected from hunter have followed the same "roller coaster" pattern as bird populations that were hunted the entire season. The combined effects of disease, accidents, nutritional problems, predation, and exposure to weather extremes have always played the greatest role in determining population trends and will continue to do so because they are directly related to habitat quality. Although weather is the primary driving force of bird population trends in West Texas, land managers still have the ability to maximize the effects of good weather when it finally comes. For quail, this includes light to moderate, rotational grazing, prescribed burning, spring discing, and the proper height and density of brush.

"Texas Parks and Wildlife should release some birds to boost the population."

I just explained how tough it is on birds to survive and reproduce when drought conditions persist and result in scarce escape cover, food, and nesting cover. What kind of chance does a pen-reared bird have with only a fair ability to escape and search for food? Landowners that are releasing birds during an extended drought may feel good about their efforts, but the

hawks and coyotes are even happier! (Most quail starve within 5 days of being released). Even in the best of conditions when native birds are thriving, pen-reared upland birds have demonstrated only a 5-10% survival rate over a 6-month period.

Upland birds have a tremendous reproduction potential under proper weather and habitat conditions. With some good moisture during the winter and spring, quail populations can bounce back from fair to even poor numbers. Because quail tend to use bunchgrasses for nesting (previous year's growth), the "boom" years for quail usually occur when we get a second consecutive year of adequate and timely rainfall.

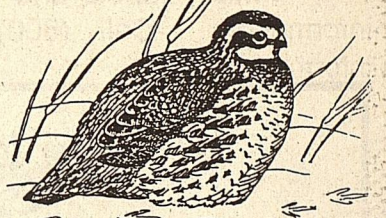
"But how can the birds "bounce back" if we don't have any "seed stock"?"

First of all, there are few farms and ranches that are devoid of any birds. You may not see them when hunting in the fall or winter, but I challenge you to spend some early mornings in April and May listening for quail whistling. They are a lot easier to hear than they are to see...well, at least for those of us who have been wearing ear protection when shooting our magnums. These birds didn't sprout from seed--they were always there or at least in the area.

Secondly, upland birds have behavioral mechanisms that continually allow them to repopulate and take advantage of available habitat. Studies in Oklahoma and Texas have documented quail moving as much as 35 to 50 miles, respectively. These long distance movements normally occur in September and October. This behavior in bobwhite quail has sometimes been referred to as the "fall shuffle". So even if you don't have "seed stock" on your farm or ranch today, it's just a matter of time. Borrowing from "Field of Dreams", **"Provide the habitat and they will come."**

For those interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land, free technical assistance is available from Texas Parks and Wildlife Biologists through the Private Land Enhancement Program.

By Calvin Richardson
Wildlife Biologist, TPWD
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