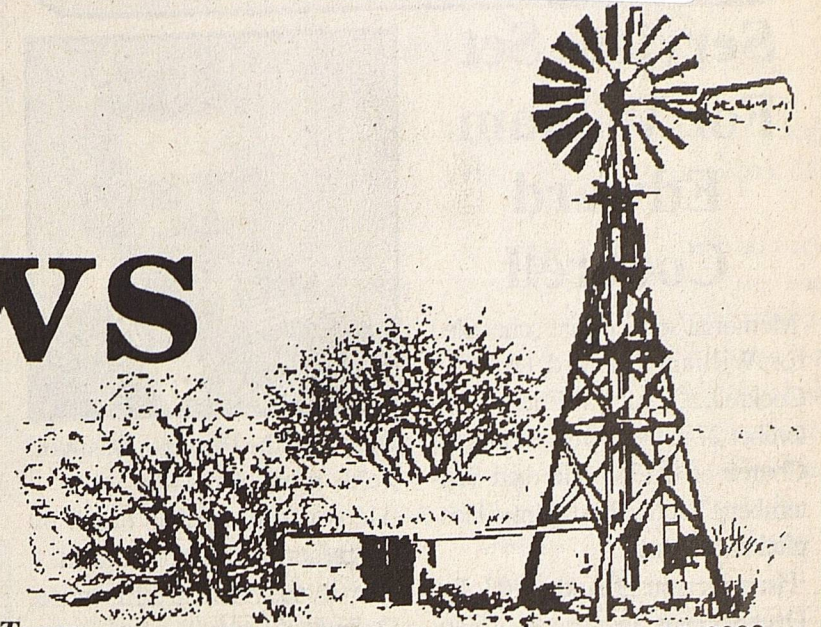


Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V1111, Issue 4, September 25, 2002

2002 Homecoming Royalty



Sr. Queen Candidate Chelsea Blount, escorted by Bradley Palmer

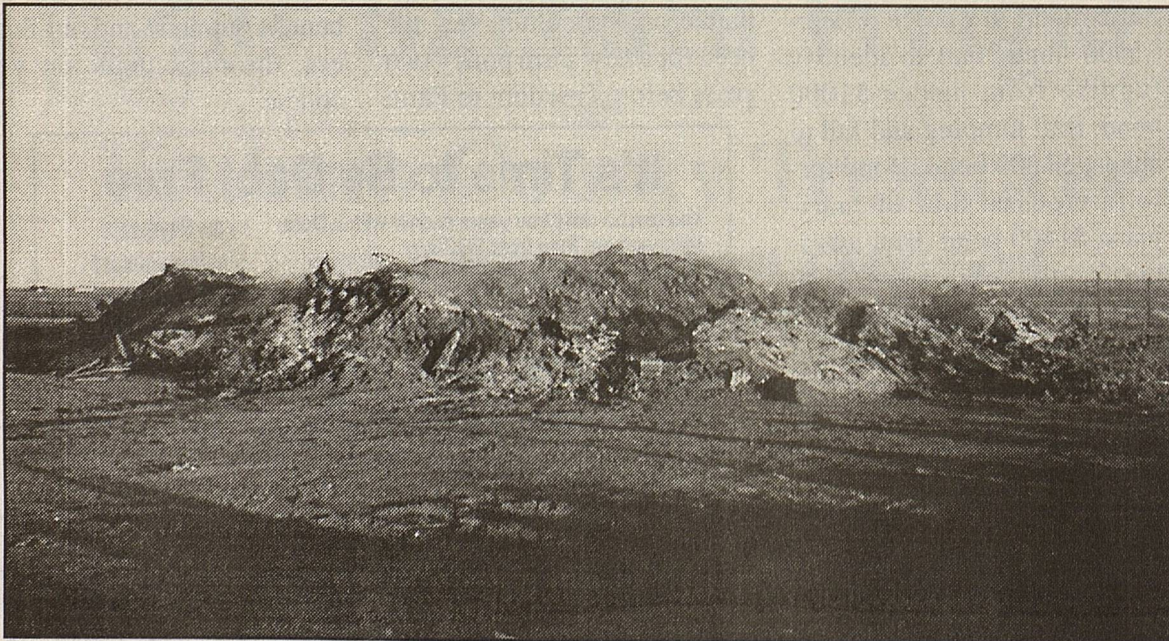


Sr. Homecoming Queen Kerri Hansen, escorted by her brother Chris



Sr. Queen Candidate Jill Gray, escorted by Chisum Justus

Premature fire dashes hopes for PISD Homecoming Bonfire



The annual Plains school homecoming bonfire was evidently fated not to be. Originally scheduled for Wednesday evening, September 18, the event was cancelled at the last moment by high north winds creating a threat for pasture land and several homes south of the site. School officials were reluctant to schedule the bonfire for the next night because of the absence of many junior high and high schools students, attending football games in Wink. Thursday, an announcement was placed on the city's billboard marquee, re-scheduling the bonfire for September 26. Unfortunately, around 8 PM that Thursday evening, Sheriff Department personnel called in a report the impressive mountain of planned bonfire material was blazing. The city's volunteer firefighters responded to the then huge blaze, and could only watch it burn, and stand by in case of a wind driven spread to the surrounding area. There were no clues to who or how the premature fire started.

Aerial application war on weevils picks up

Aircraft were resuming spraying malathion on cotton acreage last week in the Plains District of the Western High Plains Zone of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Federation. Darrel Dusek, Zone Manager, told CCN, "It's a normal situation this time of the year, when remaining boll weevils become more active, moving from one field of cotton to others.

Dusek said some 12,000 acres of cotton were sprayed during the week. Field personnel monitored 20,290 deployed traps, and reported a count of 153 weevils, which triggered the spraying activities. Ground misting units were also used to spray sensitive areas and ground under or near electric utility lines. Dusek said all traps would continue to be in-

spected until a killing frost occurs, or no more hostable cotton exists.

"We are extremely pleased with the results of this eradication season. We have drastically reduced the weevil numbers in the Plains District and throughout the Zone. We are winning the weevil battle."

Wildcats claw Cowboys 33-6

The visiting Wink Wildcats put a damper on last Friday night's Homecoming ceremonies with a convincing 33-6 win over the Cowboys. With six players on their roster registering over 200 pounds, and aggressive defense and speedy backs, they racked up 363 yards total offense, most in the first three periods.

The Cowboys took the opening kick off at their 38, and Nick Hays returned the ball to the Wildcats 38, but a fourth down run fell short of the first.

On the third play from scrimmage, their good runner Gizmo Ruiz dashed 62 yards for the

score, and the PAT kick put them up 7-0. Neither team's offense was effective the remainder of the first quarter.

Barely into the second period, Gizmo Ruiz scampered around his left end for another 20 yard TD, and the kick gave them a 14-0 lead.

Half way into the second quarter, the 'Cats threatened again, driving the ball to the 8. Nick Hays sacked the quarterback for a 12 yard loss, and the Wildcats tried a field goal which was wide, giving the Cowboys the ball on the 20. They gained a first down on a penalty, but could go no further than the 35,

where Bartley was forced to punt.

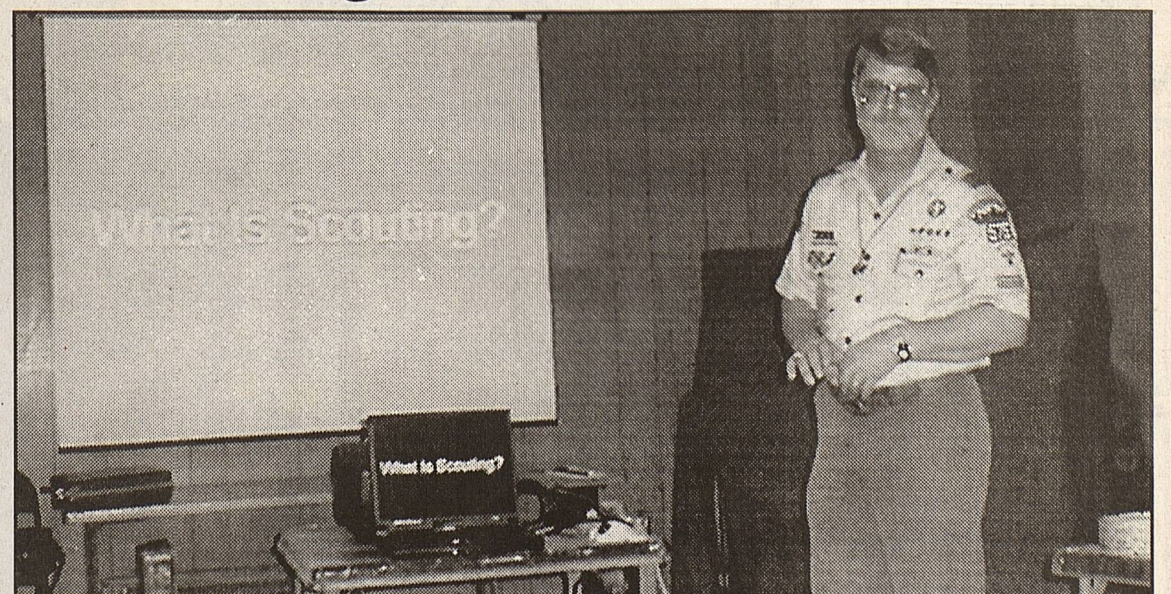
The 'Cats threatened again, driving to the 40, where Jose Ramirez fell on a fumble to stop the drive at the 49. A Bartley to Richard Diaz pass was intercepted, giving the Wildcats the ball on the 32 to end the first half.

Mario Bonilla opened the second half with a kickoff to Gizmo Ruiz, who scampered 87 yards for another score and the Wildcats were up 21-0.

With the ball again, the Cowboys gained a first with runs by

Turn to Page 4, 'Cowboys'

Plains club learns of ties between Scouting and Lions International



Russel Jones, a former resident of Yoakum County and 1969 graduate of Plains High, was guest speaker at last week's Thursday meeting of the Plains Lions Club. Jones said he had been actively engaged in the scouting program since his grade school days, and is currently a Scout Master in charge of a very active Scout troop in his hometown of Wolfthorh. Jones told Lions he, Jackie McDonnell and Billy R. Kennedy were the first, and last local scouts to achieve the level of Eagle Scouts before the local post was abandoned. He reported Lions International to be one of the largest organizations assisting the Scouting program.



Obituaries

Services Set For William Edward Cockrell

Memorial services are scheduled for William Edward (Buddy) Cockrell, 53, at 2 PM Friday, September 27 in the Northside Baptist Church of Odessa. He died September 17 at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa.

He is the son of Audrey (Holly) Dyer of Plains, and stepson of Gary Dyer and John Holly of Plains.

He was born March 31, 1949 in Logansport, Louisiana.

He moved to Hobbs, New Mexico at an early age where he was raised and educated.

He volunteered for the Navy and served four years, including a tour as a gunner in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. He worked as a



Services Held For Joseph Harvey Harris

Joseph Harvey Harris, 61, died at home in Carrollton on September 19. He was born June 3, 1941, in Portales, New Mexico, to Irby Olen Harris and Quimby Florence Harris.

He received his BS in Chemistry, MS in Chemistry, and Ph. D. in Microbiology from Texas Tech University. Dr. Harris was an engineer at Texas Instruments in Lubbock from 1978-1982. He taught chemistry and biology at Howard Payne University in Brownwood, College of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico, and Collin County Community College in McKinney, Texas. He was a researcher at Howard Hughes Medical Institute in Dallas from 1987 until he retired in January 2002.

He taught Sunday School at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church for ten years. He was mentor and friend to dozens of coworkers, friends, and family members.

He is survived by his wife, Sharon Anderson Harris, a

teacher at Newman Smith High School in Carrollton, three daughters, Jessica, of Austin, Emily, a student at Rice University, and Mary, a student at SMU. He is also survived by parents, Quimby Harris of Tatum, New Mexico, and Arnold and Reuby Tom Maeker of Lubbock, brother Archie Harris of Plains, Texas, sisters Bea Etta Harris of Albuquerque, Olene Wilcox of Grand Junction, Colorado, and Alice Hahn of Eunice, New Mexico, and many nieces, nephews, and grandnieces and nephews.

A family graveside service at Murphy's Chapel, New Mexico was held Saturday, September 21, 2002 at 1:00 PM. A memorial service will be held at Holy Covenant United Methodist Church in Carrollton at 7:00 PM Wednesday, September 25. Memorial gifts may be made to the J. Harvey Harris Memorial Fund at Holy Covenant.

Larry Combest comments

A recent analysis by the House Committee on Agriculture shows that the Farm Bill will provide a significant boost to the 19th District's economy beginning this year. That substantial benefit from the Farm Bill for our producers is not an accident. It is the impact that I worked hard to achieve throughout the process of creating the new Farm Bill.

I believe the bill is balanced regionally and by commodity, but it undoubtedly will be an economic shot in the arm for the West Texas region.

Data compiled by the House Committee on Agriculture shows that 15 area counties combined will receive \$150 million more in support this year under the new Farm Bill than under the Freedom to Farm bill, which would have remained in place had the new Farm Bill not been signed into law. The counties included in the analysis are Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Floyd, Garza, Hale, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Motley, Terry and Yoakum, every county analyzed will receive a significant economic boost from the new Farm Bill. The figures include benefits from government payments associated with cotton, corn, sorghum, wheat, sunflowers, barley, and oats.

Our farmers and ranchers knew that the Freedom to Farm bill needed to be replaced, and I agreed with them. Facing consecutive years of drought and low commodity prices, our area farmers needed help. Farm net cash income had fallen to the lowest level in real dollars since the Great Depression. There were no assurances that the market would turn around and help correct the depressed agriculture economy. The farm bill under which we have lived since 1996 offered no safety net to the farmers who needed it most, and when they needed one in place. The House Committee on Agriculture saw the need for a new farm policy two years before Freedom to Farm

law was set to expire. I saw the devastating effect that Freedom to Farm was having on our West Texas producers, and was anxious to ensure that the new Farm Bill would help farmers when they needed assistance.

The House Committee on Agriculture, of which I am chairman, held hearings two years before Freedom to Farm expires. Those meetings helped shape the Farm Bill we have in place today. The hearings gave those who know agriculture production best an opportunity to inform members of the House Committee on Agriculture about the impact that the depressed agricultural economy was having on producers and communities in West Texas, and nationwide. After holding those discussions, the House Committee on Agriculture began crafting a sensible and fiscally responsible farm policy that included the policies that producers needed in order to survive the challenging agriculture economy.

I am proud of the bill that the House of Representatives produced, and I believe that we maintained the foundation of the house policy throughout the conference committee with the Senate, of which I was proud to have served as chairman. As producers in the 19th District of Texas are keenly aware, it took an excruciatingly long time to bring the policy to conference because the Senate was so late in drafting their own farm policy. It was a goal of mine to put a good farm policy in place before producers needed to plant this year's crop, and that goal also was achieved.

I have been criticized by national media because the Farm Bill benefits producers and communities in the 19th district of Texas. I welcome that criticism, because I believe that constituents want me to represent our interests in Congress. I believe the new Farm Bill will benefit our area, and our farmers, throughout its six year course.

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JP Court

The following is a summary of cases filed and fines and bonds set by Judge Melba Crutcher, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1. Cases Filed: 33 traffic cases, 3 felony cases filed, 1 disorderly conduct, 1 public intoxication. Bonds Set: 3 driving while intoxicated-1st-held for border patrol. Driving under the influence by minor-\$300 bond. Public intoxication-\$500 bond. No drivers license-\$200 bond. No liability insurance-\$200 bond. 4 cases-Public intoxication-\$500 bond. Disorderly conduct-\$150 bond. Fugitive from justice-held until transported. Possession/transport anhydrous ammonia w/intent to manufacture controlled substance-\$5000 bond. Theft-0/\$1500-u/\$20,000-\$2500 bond. Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. 2 cases-Failure to appear-DPS warrants-\$400 bond. Assault causing bodily injury to a family member-\$1500 bond. False report to a peace officer-\$1000 bond. Fail to identify fugitive from justice-\$1000 bond. Bail jumping and fail to appear-\$1000 bond. Bond forfeiture/possession of marijuana-\$1500 bond. Bail jumping/failure to appear-\$2500 bond. Bond forfeiture/terrorist threat-\$1000 bond. Minor in possession of alcohol-\$300 bond.

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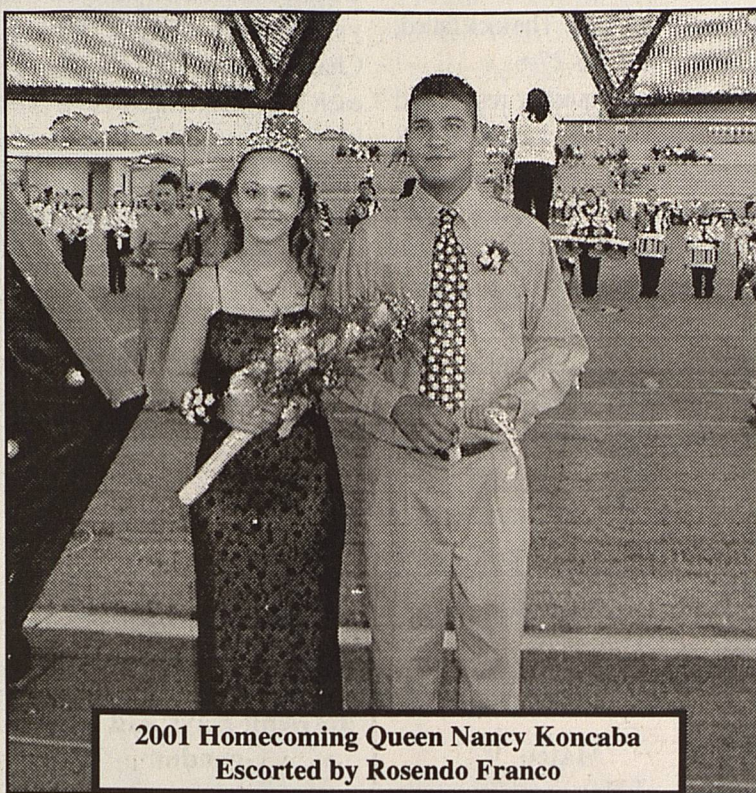
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Watermelon Round Up Car Show Results

Best in Show- Shirley Bethel, Abilene, '56 Ford Panel
Participants Choice- Shirley Bethel, same
Best Club Participation- Permian Basin Hot Wheels.
Mayor's Choice- Shirley Bethel, same
Watermelon Pick- Randy Hensarling, Wolforth, '67 Cobra
CLASS WINNERS:
T-Bucket - 1st, Bobby Meurer, '27 Ford, 2nd, JD Johnson, '23 Ford
Street Rod Sedan- 1st Dale Cook, 33 Ford, 2nd Kenneth Houk, '33 Chevy town sedan, 3rd, Don Lester '49 Chevy
Open Street Rod- 1st Webbie Russell, 32 Ford, 2nd Ron Smith 32 Ford roadster
Street Rod, Ford & others- 1st, Wayne Creel, 32 Hudson, cpe., 2nd Buddy Magruder 40 Ford coupe, 3rd Jack Lyle 40 Ford coupe
Stock Cars, 50's - 1st Adam Garza, 58 Chev. Impala, 2nd Sammy Cridler '58 Chev. Impala, 3rd Eddy Allen '58 Buick Spec.
Stock Cars, 60's- 1st Bobby Vieth 63 Chev. Impala, 2nd Denise Hart '63 Chev Nova, 4rd Fred & Anita Blount '65 Barracuda
Stock Cars, 70's- 1st Jic Frailey '70 Ford Torino, 2nd Val Perez '71 Buick GS, 3rd Jose Perez '78 VW Beetle
Modified Cars, 50's- 1st, Jim & Billie Huckabee '55 Chev, 2nd Glenn Fish, '55 Chev, 3rd John Bethel, '56 Ford PU
Modified Cars, 60's- 1st Gary & Stacy Crownover '66 Chev. Nova, 2nd, Susie Payne Chev. Camaro, 3rd Lyndel & Heather Fish '67 Ford Fairlane
Modified cars, 70's- 1st Bobby Dan Wood 72 Chev. Malibu, 2nd David Childs '70 Chev Nova
Antiques- 1st Doc Brinkley '31 Ford Model A, 2nd James Myers '33 Ford, 3rd Truett Jones
Corvettes- 1st Joe Palomo 82 Corvette, 2nd Tag Price 63 Corvette, 3rd Lynn Lynch
T-Birds- 1st Melvin Lowrey '57, 2nd Sheila Stephens '56, 3rd Wayne Harral '62
Classic Chevy '55-57- 1st Irvine Vierra '55 Bel Air, 2nd Jack, Linda Burdick '56 Chev 210
Mustangs- 1st Paul Fisher '69 Mach 1, 2nd Jean Thetford '65, 3rd Truett Jones '66 GT convertible
Muscle Cars- 1st Rusty Taylor 72 Chev El Camino, 2nd Terry Barnes 69 Chev 3rd Eddie Earnest 63 Chev 409
Street Rod sedan, '40-49- 1st Ed Helbert 40 Chev sed., 2nd Don Lester 49 Chev 4 dr, 3rd Sydney Simmons 40 Ford 4 dr.
Pickup, stock '50s- 1st Jerry Poole 55 Chev, 2nd Johnny Leija 53 Chev, 5 window
Pickup, stock 60's- 1st Al & Linda Briseno 65 Chev El Camino, 2nd Roger Robles 63 Chev, 3rd Carroll Walker 64 Falcon Ranchero
Street Rod Coupe, Chevy- 1st Jim & Cecilia Sitterly 38 coupe, 2nd Sammy Boyce '34 coupe, 3rd, '33 rumble seat coupe
Pickups, Mod. 40's- 1st James Doeling 40 Ford

Pickups, mod. 50's- Ken Locke 55 Chev Cameo, 2nd, Wayne Ranch, 55 Ford, Les Catoe 55 Ford, 3rd, Jason Durham 56 Chev.
Pickups, Mod. 60's- Rex Lynette Muncieff 68 Chev, 2nd Gary & Debbie Titus 70 GMC Blazer, 3rd Travis Ware 63 Ford.
Special interest- 1st Shirley Bethel 56 Ford panel, 2nd Randy Hensarling 66 Cobra, Frank & Linda Olthoff 66 Cobra 427
Unfinished- 1st Mike Vuicich 54 Chev sedan, 2nd Craig McPherson 57 Chev Bel Air, 3rd Tommy, Margaret Munson 40 Studebaker
Mustang, Modified- 1st Jerry Connell, 94 GT, 2nd John Blake Mustang LX
New Muscle- 1st Steven Peterson, Prowler, 2nd Billy Hunt 95 Chev Camaro, 3rd Aaron Cain 91 GMC Cyclone
Foreign- 1st Ivanna Newport 55 VW Cabrolet, 2nd Curtis King 92 Isuzu pickup
Motorcycle- 1st Martin Stafford 62 Cushman Eagle, 2nd Bill, Linda Belcher 87 Honda Rebel
Pickups, cruiser, 50's- 1st Garland, Sandy Goolsby, 59 Chev Apache, 2nd Buck McGee 54 Chevy, 3rd Joe Grimes 52 Chevy Panel.
The Classic Car Show was again headed up by Terry & Wadonna Davis, and drew 111 entries.

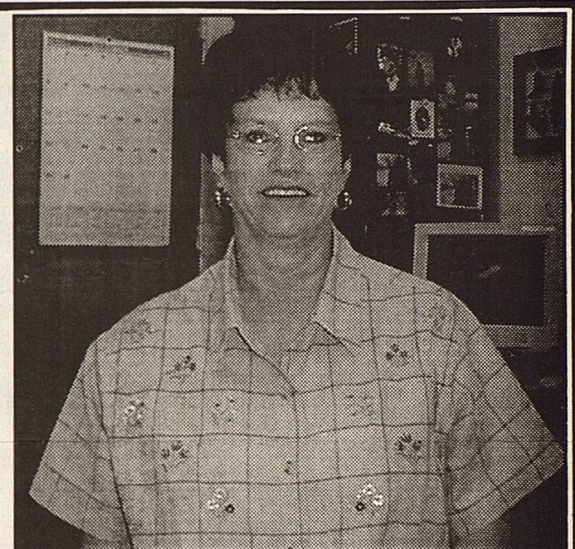


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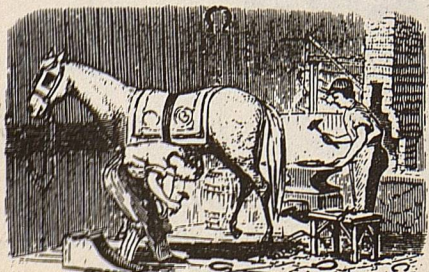
2003 Yoakum County Historical
Calendars now on sale!



\$10 each if you pick up ... sites in Denver City are Yoakum County Sheriff office, DC Museum, Denver City Chamber of Commerce... or contact Grace New, 592-3076. In Plains, contact Mary Jo St. Romain, 456-8855, Linda Powell, 456-3171, or any County Historical Commission member.

\$15 each if we mail them... send check to Yoakum County Historical Commission, Box 38, Plains TX 79355.

Calendars include original poems by Yoakum County Wordsmith's, and 100 early day Yoakum County photos and other tidbits of yesteryear.



This calendar is a fundraiser for the Historical Commission in anticipation of and preparation for the Centennial Celebration in 2007. If you are not in this calendar, you may start hunting family photos for the 2004 calendar. Connie Webb, 592-7774, is still accepting anecdotal and humorous stories about Yoakum County residents to use in the Historical Drama to be presented for the 2007 Centennial

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County Clerk explains recent Republican mailing

Debbie Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk, after her office received dozens of phone calls, wants to set the record straight- neither she, nor her office, mailed recent multi-colored political material explaining how easy it will be to vote by mail in the upcoming November General Election.

"The multi-page material clearly states, even if in rather small type, it is being mailed by the Republican Party, and is being sent ONLY to voters who voted Republican last March in the Primary election," Rushing told CCN.

The mailing is entirely legal, but prospective voters should remember - it is a campaign tactic urging Republican Primary voters to again vote Republican, by mail, this November.

The Republican mailing is addressed to individual Primary voters, and the application to the County Clerk office for a Vote-By-Mail ballot is already filled out for the addressed party - all they have to do is

sign it, place a stamp on it and mail it to the County Clerk office.

Rushing said, "This is all very legal, and if we receive the completed and signed application, we will send that party a vote by mail ballot. We just want to make sure all our voters understand, This application is for this election only."

Use of farm machines shows big increase

College Station- The rapid increase in numbers of tractors on Texas farms has made it necessary for farmers to become mechanics. The number of tractors now in use is estimated at 25,000. A recent study shows, however, the machine age has not reached farm women. A survey of several central Texas counties indicates 57% farm women used wood stoves for cooking, 50% used oil lamps, 63% used flat irons for ironing, 60% washed by the rubbing and boiling method, and less than 50% had telephones, but 85% had automobiles. About one third of the women said the Bible was the only book in the house.
The Texas News
October 10, 1931



Cowboy 'D' swarms a Wildcat



Nick Hays off for good gainer



Richard Diaz picks up yardage



Kevin Bartley, wearing towel, turns the corner

From Page One, "COWBOYS"

Hays and Bartley, but back to back penalties stopped the drive, forcing a Bartley punt. Three plays later, Ruiz went 46 yards for another score, and the failed kick put them up 27-0.

The Cowboys had their best effort with the next possession. Diaz went over left guard for 2 yards, Hays gained 5, but then the Cowboys suffered three consecutive penalties. Bartley found Diaz open for 20 yards, but suffered another penalty. Bartley gained 9 yards back for a first, and from the 21 hit Diaz with a 6 point strike. The kick failed, and the score was 27-6.

The Wildcats quickly responded with a passing attack, and with 8 seconds on the clock scored on a 27 yard completion. Mario Bonilla blocked the PAT kick, but the 'cats were up 33-6.

In the final period, the Cowboys showed some offense, with runs by Hays and Bartley and a pass to Justin Chambliss for a first, but could advance no further than the 34. With six minutes on the clock, Bartley threw to Diaz and Hays to push the ball to Wink's 16, where Cain's pass to Diaz was intercepted, stopping the drive for the final 33-6 score.

Computer stats credited Bartley with 39 rushing yards, Manuel Ramoz 31, Hays 17. Bartley completed 6 passes for 116 yards, Diaz caught 3 balls, Chambliss, Hays and Ramirez one each. Bonilla averaged 43 yards on kickoffs and leading tacklers were Bonilla, 9, Ramirez 7, Grady McNabb 6. Hays and Ramirez each had a QB sack.



Plains ISD would like to thank the following organizations, businesses, and personal donations made toward the 16x16 star located in the middle of the football field.

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| | Glenn and Sheila Trout |

On behalf of the faculty and students of Plains ISD, I would like to personally thank each of these organizations and citizens for their generous donations toward the school logo that is painted on the 50 yard line. This symbol represents the spirit of Plains Cowboy Pride. We thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Blake McWhirtner
Athletic Director

PISD Sports Capsule

Volley Ball:

Jr. High- 8th Lady Wranglers faced Levelland, and both the A and B squads had big wins. The A girls won 15-2, 10-15 and 16-14, and the B girls won 15-2, 15-7.

JV Cowgirls- The young Cowgirls took on Estacado Sept. 17, and fell to the Lubbock School 12-15, 9-15. In the Denver City tourney, they met Seminole in match 1, and were downed 15-3, 15-5. In match 2, they played much better, but were downed 5-15, 15-9, 2-15. Coach Thaggard said they are working hard to improve their consistency. Team members are Marlie Diaz, Josie Cordova, Sarah Martinez, Lasgonda Diamond, Daniela Lazos, Ashlei Vantine, Jamie Covarrubias, Priscilla Mares, Skylar Keese, Micaela Villegas, Maribel Mendias, Kim Trent, Jessica Knight, Cecilia Bonilla, Allison Friesen.

Varsity Cowgirls- Lubbock Estacado proved too much for the girls, winning 10-15, 8-15. On the 21st, They fell to Levelland 4-15, 7-15. Coach Lusk reported they had difficulty scoring, but had some great rallies and showed great hustle.

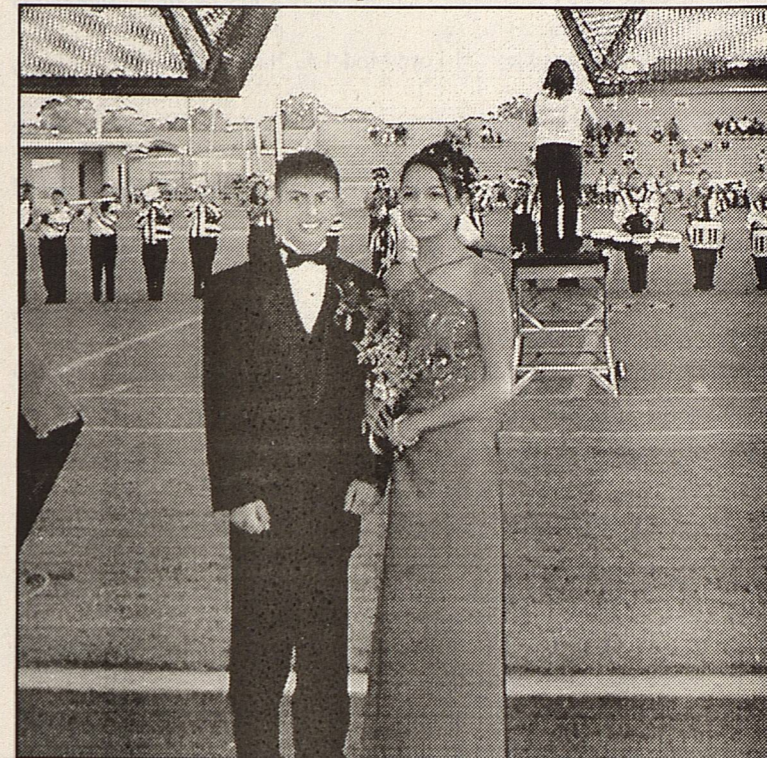
Cross Country: The Cowboy team claimed the team title at the Olton cross country meet, and also defeated the 6th rated team in the state, Hart, by 48 points. 17 teams competed in the tourney. Team captain Jose Ramirez led the team and finished 3rd, in 17.52. Armando Ramirez was 4th, Payton Bean 10th, Chisum Justus 18th, Jonathan DeLaRosa 21st, Arnold Cordova 28th, Abel Ramos 31st, Former coach Evertt McAdams said, "Cross country is all about heart and mental toughness," and the Cowboys are apparently ready to make a grab at the top ten status.

JV Cowboys could not compete as a team. Adam Guerrero finished 35th, and Brandon Davis was 40th. Jr. High Wranglers did not run as a team, but individual results included Jose Villegas 1st, Zachary Ramos 9th, Steven Dominguez 30, Jacob Rivera 41st. Lady Wranglers claimed 11th place in the meet, with Desiray running 6th, Lauren Davis 41st, M'Leah McKenzie 116th, Meghan Garcia 118th, Nicole Culwell 119th.

Homecoming Duchesses & Escorts



Freshman Ashli Hunter & Joseph Martinez



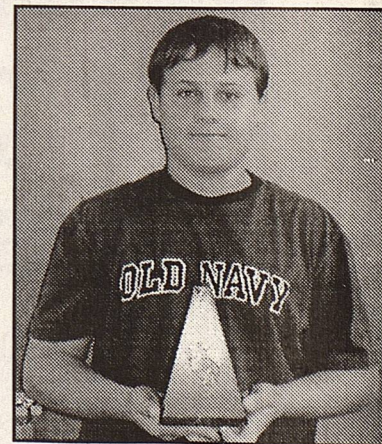
Jamie Covarrubias & Abel Ramos



Manuela Villegas & Ben Hays

Student of the Week

Student of the week is Peter Neufeld a freshman and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johan Neufeld. He was nominated by Mrs. Wilkins, who said "Peter has impressed me with his care and concern for fellow students, his willingness to do what it takes to understand what he is learning and then to turn around and make sure his peers understand



also. He has a positive attitude every time he walks through my classroom doors."

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Lifelines & Styles

Plains Junior High 2002-2003 Wrangler Cheerleaders



8th Grade Cheerleaders-Desiraye Broome, Nicole Culwell, Lisa Nuefeld
7th Grade Cheerleaders-Katie Winn, Lauren Davis, Joani Bell. Sponsor: Judy Justus

Certified Nurse Aide Class Begins October 7

A Certified Nurse Aide class begins October 7 at South Plains College in Levelland.

The necessary skills for working in long term care, home health or hospital environments will be covered and on site clinical instruction will be included.

Classes will meet 5:30-9:30 pm., Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays, with clinical instruction arranged on Saturdays. Instructor is Barbara Brattain.

Tuition and fees are \$369.75. Textbook is Skills and Tech-

niques for the New Nursing Assistant. Tuition includes a \$69.75 state exam fee.

After completing the course, students will take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Exam.

Students must provide proof of immunization for MMR, Tetanus and have a current negative TB test prior to enrollment.

Preregister is required, along with proof of immunization.

For more information, contact the SPC Division of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

by the Admissions and Records Office. Last fall's headcount at SPC was also a record setting enrollment.

"South Plains College continues to grow as a result of our educational partnerships and the efforts of our faculty and staff to recruit and retain students," said David Jones, vice president for student affairs. "We are very excited about this landmark enrollment record. It is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of many people."

College officials report this fall represents a normal growth year for the college from a historical perspective. New students total 3,803 individuals or

42.2% of the college's total headcount this fall.

"The bottom line is that we have been able to retain our students and recruit new students," said Jones. "This is the state's goal for community colleges in its Closing the Gaps initiative. More and more people in our area are becoming aware of the quality educational programs offered by South Plains College."

A breakdown of enrollment by campus shows 4,955 students are registered for classes on the college's main campus in Levelland. That headcount is up 6.6% over last year's enrollment of 4,650.

Another 4,081 students are registered for classes at the college's two locations in Lubbock, namely the SPC Reese Center and the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center. That number is up 11.4% over last year's count of 3,662 students at those locations.

Since 1997, South Plains College's enrollment has grown 43.6%. The college has set six consecutive fall enrollment records in that time.

You can't be brave if you've only had wonderful things happen to you.
Mary Tyler Moore

Rural Healthcare, The Great Battle

It has always been a struggle to provide adequate much less quality healthcare to the rural areas of the world including our beloved West Texas. We all appreciate the high quality of life we lead here and pity those unknowing folks in the big city who are stacked in like sardines, constantly fighting traffic, always worried about crime, and don't even know their neighbors. We can't understand why more people don't want to leave all of that and move to West Texas. Most of us pretty much know that our lives are much better here than they could ever be in the big city. So why is it that we feel that we have to go elsewhere for our healthcare?

I think many people over the years, for various reasons, have developed the concept that quality healthcare is not available anywhere except in major metropolitan areas. The rural areas have, on occasion, been so desperate for doctors that they tended to encourage anyone who would, or could, to hang up a shingle and practice medicine. Sometimes backgrounds and credentials were not appropriately checked and this led to problems in credibility as well as competence which resulted in a "Revolving Door" effect of physician presence. There was little continuity because Doctors came and went frequently as they got a better offer from somewhere else. In the meantime rural small hospitals were struggling to stay alive. It seems that our medical system, especially Medicaid and Medicare, are designed to benefit the large hospitals in the big cities while attempting to drive the small hospitals in the small towns out of business. We feel like we have been at "War" in small towns for survival of our hospitals for many years now and, the fact is, there have been a lot of casualties. It is a sad event when a hospital closes in a small town or country and it has been entirely too frequent of an occurrence.

The small town hospitals that are left open in West Texas as well as the rest of our country truly deserve our respect. They are clearly a tribute to the diligence of their administrators and board members who have served on the battle field in this war of survival.

I suspect it has been less of a challenge for an administrator to keep a large hospital open than one of our small hospitals. The problems lie clearly in numbers. The small hospitals lose business to the larger hospitals because people seem to think that size invokes quality and capability. It seems like it is sometimes a status symbol for some people to get sick so they can suffer the arduous pilgrimage to the big city where they can be a part of the masses herded through the enormous facilities like cattle. I suppose seeing five specialists for each individual problem makes one feel more special than seeing a single doctor for all of one's problems and if the family has to drive 100 miles to visit someone in the hospital

instead of 5 then they must really hold this loved one in higher esteem. At the same time, reimbursement from Medicare and Medicaid is traditionally less than 50% of what is billed and rural areas are reimbursed on a lower scale than urban areas. While insurance reimbursements are marginally better than Medicare and Medicaid they all expect discounts from the small hospitals before they will allow them to participate in the care of their patients and, indigent care obviously reaps no reimbursement at all. The larger hospitals face similar problems; however, they make up the defects through larger numbers of patients, many of which leave their small towns for the larger hospitals. There are several ironies here. The first and foremost is that the small town hospital is, in virtually every case, supported by tax money from citizens to use their hospital district. It should be intuitively obvious that it will behoove these citizens to use their hospital facilities since they are paying for it whether they use it or not. Using the hospital will increase the "numbers" and, therefore, the revenue, and will decrease the amount of tax money required to keep the hospital open, ultimately saving the taxpayer and patient money. Going to the larger hospital in the big city costs the patient in more ways than one. Another irony which I find is that some feel their hospital facilities are not adequate for their needs except when they have an emergency. The small

town emergency room is quite convenient for them. To me, good enough for emergencies...good enough for everything. Many believe they need "Specialists" for their care and it never ceases to amaze me when people drive 100 miles or more in labor to have their baby or to get care for their diabetes instead of using a local doctor and hospital who, in most cases, is just as capable of providing the same level of care at a decreased cost to the patient and at substantially more convenience.

The small town hospitals which have survived the onslaught of governmental rules, regulations, price cuts, etc., have done so by providing increasingly more efficient services at or above the standard of quality care despite the lack of support of their local people. Imagine what they could do if everyone stopped leaving town for their care. I think the future of the rural hospital is brighter today. There are several reasons for this. There is a national nursing shortage which doesn't appear to have any short term resolution. The larger hospitals are actually having problems taking care of larger numbers of patients because of this and are relying more upon the rural hospitals to take up the slack.

There is also some renewed interest in the Federal Government to benefit rural hospitals. Technology has become more affordable and available to rural hospitals enabling them to take care of more patients which previously had to be transferred. Our hospital is busier today than it has been in many years and provides most of the services available at the larger hospitals. People don't tend to think of small hospitals being industries which contribute to the economy; however, our local hospital system is now the only industry which is growing in our county and is the major employer. It definitely has an impact upon our economy. In short, there are numerous reasons for everyone to support their local hospitals. Think strongly about doing something to benefit yourself, save you some time and money, and benefit your community. Shop for your health care at home. It makes sense!

Larry C. Boyd, MD

SPC Tops 9,000 Student Enrollment Mark

South Plains College has topped the 9,000 student enrollment mark for the first time in its 45 year history with a sixth consecutive enrollment record this fall.

The college has registered 9,034 students for the 2002 fall semester, a 5.4% increase or 460 students more than a year ago, according to the official 12th class day census prepared

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.
456-3727



Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Choir Rehearsal - 5:00 pm

Wednesday Connection
Food, Fellowship & Study
5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities
English as a Second Language
Thursday Evenings - 6:00-7:00 pm

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Plains, Texas

Sunday School
9:30 am.
Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Evening Program
6:00 pm.

From The Hack

It wasn't pleasant trying to get photos of our Cowboys getting downed in last Friday's Homecoming affair. To me, it was a real Dejavu experience I was a Junior in Pecos High, a fearless running-blocking back and defensive giant at 5-10, 139 pounds if they allowed me to keep the jock strap on. I was not a starter on the varsity team, which I suspicioned was because of Coaches-Bias - I knew I was a superb player, they thought I was ridiculous.

We took the old yellow school bus to Wink that Friday afternoon. The 50 some miles seemed like child play, even at its top speed of 48. Pulling up to our gym dressing room, we exited the yellow bus with the Pecos Eagle's famous war cry -

a heartfelt shriek as we grabbed each others, well, groin areas, just to show we were girding up for serious warfare. Of course, there were always a few of our players left on the bus whimpering, but not us true Eagle gladiators.

I casually mentioned earlier I was not a starter my junior year.

After the first half of action I witnessed I was on my knees praising God I was so incompetent he had spared me from the bloody carnage on the field.

I recall when the half whistle blew, Wink had barely eased ahead of us Eagles by the slim margin of 36-0. Our coach hustled us off the field shouting,

"Way to go guys, we think we know how to really turn it around this next half, so come in, you bleeders get your stitches taken care of, and those of you needing splints get lined up - we gotta have a real skull session!!!!"

At the moment, I was wishing my folks would call me with news of a family death, requesting my presence home immediately. I'd forgotten we

didn't have a phone.

God must have been miffed with me. He allowed two more of our backs to go down, candidates for M.A.S.H units had the Korean War been on then.

Our coach was furious. His name was Lumley, all 327 pounds of him, a former Chicago Bear lineman (TRUE!), and the earth trembled as he stalked up and down our sideline, then spotted me. He KNEW I would be his salvation, his turn-arounder, and as he slapped my skinny butt way too forcefully, prolelling me about four yards, he gasped,

"For God's sake, Dyer, do something, anything! I gotta recruit one of our cheerleaders if you get broken to bits." I appreciated his motivating, warm send-off. Our quarterback, with a broken nose, bloody mouth, glared at me, and said "It's about time somebody else joined us to have some of this fun!"

He called the only play number I still remember to this day-

"42 on 2!" I almost gagged and threw up! That was me! I was supposed to take a simple handoff and plow straight ahead over our right tackle's planned block. "Excuse me, I whimpered, you didn't say 42 on 2 did you?" I whined.

I dutifully lined up, heard our fearless leader make the count, then, everything was a wild blur. I felt the ball in my arms, seemed rocket propelled forward.

Have you ever witnessed a baby carriage colliding with a fully loaded Mack truck? That's what I thought when I groggily started to focus again, and then wished I hadn't... four Wink Wild cats lay on top of me, twisting, wrenching what ever portion of my body they could fight over. The largest lineman, I swear, was foaming at the mouth in demonic glee, and the second largest actually had steam steaming from his nostrils as he industriously sought to rip my thigh bone from my hip bone.

Incredibly, absolutely incredibly, I drew the wrath of the officials and a fifteen yard penalty when, solely in self defense, I tried to bite the nose from the steam snorter, strictly in self defense. My plea to the Ref went unheeded. Escorted to the sideline, I

breathed a silent Thank You Lord, and a much more quieter To Hell With Wink!

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM, Friday, October 4, 2002, for the purchase of (3) New Flex-Wing Rotary Mowers with trade-in of (1) Used Flex-Wing Rotary Mower for Precinct #1, #2 and #4. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, October 7, 2002. Bid Price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds.

To inspect the trade-in, please contact Woody Lindsey, Commissioner Precinct #1, 139 E. Broadway, Denver City, Texas 79323, or call 806-592-3601.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 (806/456-2422) or Woody Lindsey, Commissioner Precinct #1, 139 E. Broadway, Denver City Texas.

Sealed bids should be marked "MOWERS" on the envelope and mailed to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. **NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject all bids.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM, Friday, October 4, 2002, for the purchase of (1) Used two-wheel drive tractor for Precinct # 4. Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in the Commissioners Court on Monday, October 7th, 2002. Bid price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 (806/456-2422) or Jack Cobb, Commissioner Precinct #4, PO Box 207, Plains, Texas 79355 (806/456-6525).

Sealed bids should be marked "TRACTOR" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains Texas 79355.

NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids

Cause No. 1410

In the estate of Florence Bookout, Deceased.
In the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas
NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST ESTATE OF FLORENCE ELIZABETH BOOKOUT
Administration of the Estate of FLORENCE ELIZABETH BOOKOUT, Deceased, has been commenced by the issue of original Letters Testamentary to the undersigned on the 12th day of September, 2002, by the Probate Court of Yoakum County, Texas, acting in Cause No. 1410, styled IN THE ESTATE OF FLORENCE ELIZABETH BOOKOUT, DECEASED, in which court the matter is pending. All persons having claims against the estate are hereby notified to present them to the undersigned at the address shown below within the time prescribed by law. Dated this 14th day of September, 2002.
KENNETH DWAYNE CANADA,
Independent Executor
BY: GARY A. WARD
sbn #20841000
WARD & FREELS, LLP
Attorneys at Law
PO Drawer 53310
Lubbock, TX 79453
Phone (806) 798-7288
Fax (806) 474-0404

Sorghum Crop Shortest Since 1956, But High Value Markets Increasing

The first production forecast for the 2002 crop year is 380 million bushels, down 26% from 2001. If realized, this will be the lowest sorghum production since 1956.

Based on August 1 conditions, the average U.S. sorghum yield is forecast at 50.3 bushels from last year. Yield decreases are expected in 9 of the top 11 producing states, mainly in the western part of the growing area.

Despite lowering estimates for 2002 feed and export use in re-

sponse to the lowered supply forecast, the more high value markets of food seed and industrial use, including ethanol, for 2002 the sorghum crop were left virtually unchanged and projected at 10.3% of total supply.

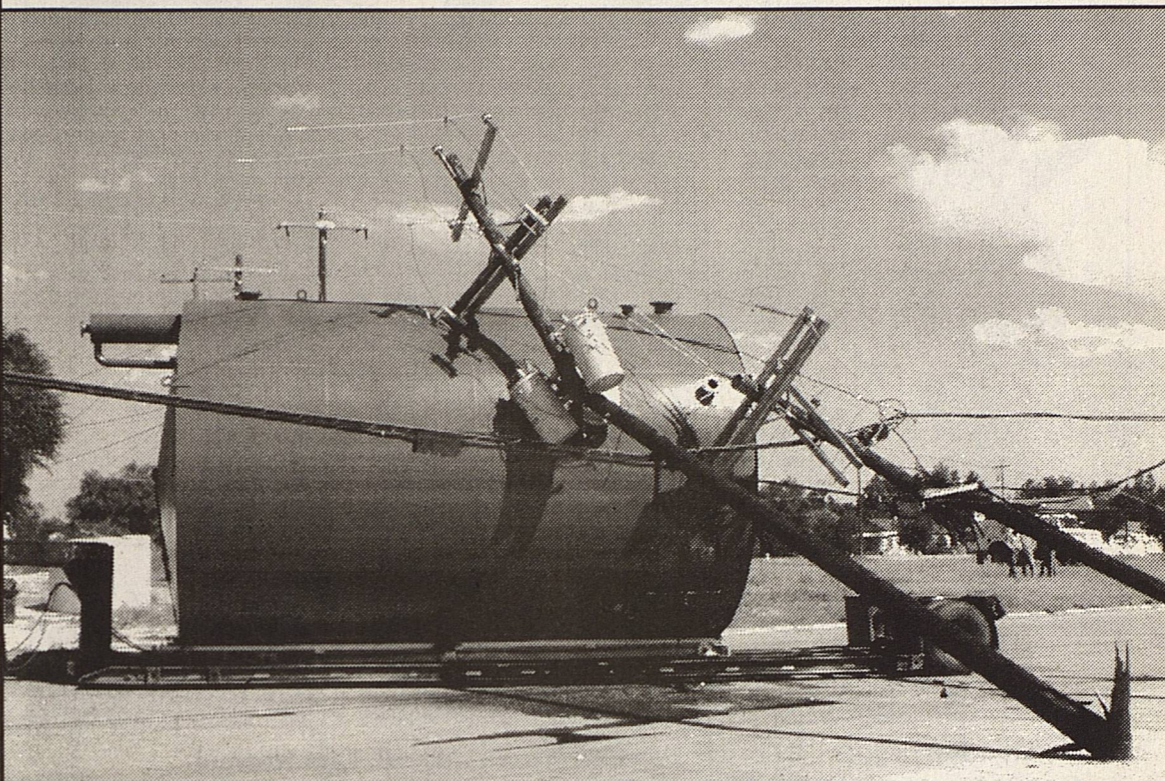
"This continues to demonstrate strong demand from end users to whom NGSP and the state check-off organizations have demonstrated the benefits of sorghum in applications for ethanol, pet food and other high

value uses," says Tim Snyder, NGSP marketing director.

NGSP also is working to pass a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS) as part of energy legislation, which add more ethanol manufacturers.

Snyder adds that these higher value markets are typically more inelastic for sorghum than traditional feed markets for which many starch sources will surface. Additionally, basis for these higher value markets is typically stronger, he says.

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