

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 32, May 2, 2001



Walker discusses redistricting

A "working plan" for the Texas House of representatives redistricting map was released on Monday, April 24. In the map offered by Chairman Delwin Jones (R-Lubbock) Representative Gary L. Walker (R-Plains) would represent Gaines, Yoakum, Terry, Lynn, and part of Lubbock County. The proposed plan pairs Chairman Walker and Representative Carl Isett (R-Lubbock).

"We knew when the census numbers came out it didn't look good for West Texas," Walker said. "Our part of the state has not kept up with the increase in population experienced in urban areas."

In the proposed plan, West Texas is forced to lose a representative from the delegation. Walker currently represents ten counties; Andrews, Dawson, Gaines, Hockley, Loving, Martin, Reeves, Terry, Winkler, and his home county of Yoakum. Under the map released Monday, Walker would only continue to represent Gaines, Terry and Yoakum. Additionally, he would pick up Lynn County to the east, and would also have

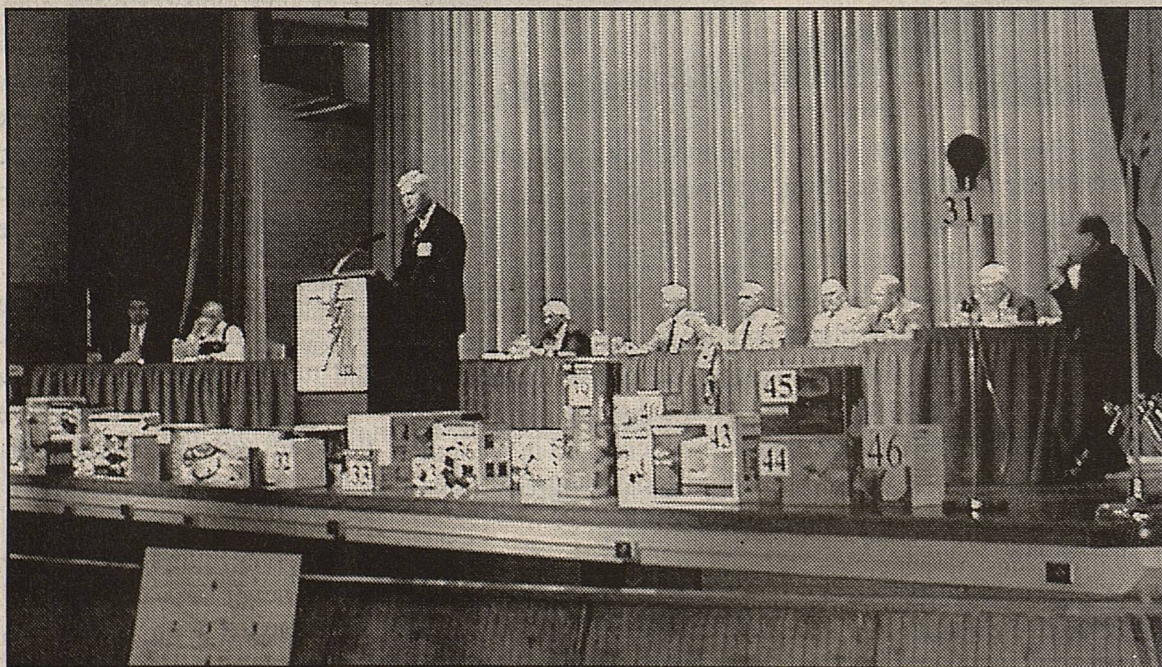
part of Lubbock County.

Representative Walker expressed concern he might not continue to represent several of the counties currently in his district. "Certainly the worst part is all the people I have come to know, and facing the fact they may not be my constituents after all is said and done," Walker added.

The House Committee on Redistricting will hold a public hearing Wednesday, April 25 at 2 PM, or upon adjournment of the House of Representatives. Chairman Walker praised Chairman Delwin Jones' work on the redistricting plan, "Certainly, the Chairman did not have an easy job, and I appreciate the time he has spent working with the members. We'll see how it goes. This is a working plan, and I imagine we have a long way to go until everything is finalized."

Representative Walker was elected to the House of Representatives in 1994. He is Chairman of the House Committee on Land and Resource Management. Additionally, he serves on the Natural Resources Committee and the Committee on Calendars. **Turn To Page 2, 'Walker'**

2001 LCEC Annual Meeting



Some four hundred members attended Lea County Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting in Lovington's Parnell Auditorium the evening of April 27. The Cooperative's General Manager Mike Dreysspring introduced winners of the annual Youth Tour Essay Contest winners, including Plains High students Annaliesa O'Quinn, winner of a trip to Washington, D.C., and Allison Butler, fourth place winner who received a check for \$125. Elementary school student winners of the annual coloring contest were introduced, including Tatum's Marcus Tarango, and Lovington's Laura Mendoza and Andres Catano.

Dreysspring delivered the annual General Manager's Report, and detailed another successful year's operation for the Cooperative. Kwh sales in 2000 increased a dramatic 98 percent over 1999 sales, due primarily to irrigation, commercial and industrial demands. Operating revenues for the year reached \$44,648,723, almost an \$8 million increase over 1999.

General Manager Dreysspring reviewed the Cooperative's School and Community Grant Program, established in 1998, and it's Education Foundation, founded in 1988. In 2000, the Foundation awarded \$50,000 in youth scholarships, and a total of over \$330,000 since its inception.

Guest Speaker for the meeting was Lewis Baumgartner, a humorist self-proclaimed as the "World's Worst Farmer," whose description of his life and performance on his Missouri farm earned the title he deserved, and "had worked hard for."

In the brief Business portion of the meeting, Board Trustees Esten Alexander, Dist. 2, and Billy Royce Medlin, Dist. 5, were re-elected for five year terms of office.

At the conclusion of the meeting a drawing for almost 50 valuable door prizes was held, and among Plains member winners were Pierre St. Romain, Cathy Jones, Jo Ann Warren, and Pat McNabb.

Nigerian money scam surfaces here again

On April 19, Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark furnished CCN a copy of a letter originally mailed from Houston to a Yoakum County businessman. It was very similar to

another letter furnished us by the CDA office several weeks ago. The latest letter, in very convoluted and archaic writing style, explained the writer was the widow of the former Nige-

rian head of state, now deceased. His estate, totaling \$45.5 million, was on deposit and ad-

Turn To Page 2, "Money Scam"

Phase Two of Weevil War On Go



Field personnel training on proper placing of boll weevil traps around cotton fields; L-R, Spencer Deaton, Tammie Wood, Cecilia Moreno, Donny Jenkins, Felipa Villareal, Millie Perez, Field Unit Supervisor Jamey Garland, Assistant Supervisor Shan Seaton.

The third stage of the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's battle against the boll weevil, Nature's arch insect enemy of all cotton producers, is planned, staffed, and ready to roll. The Foundation's Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, headquartered here, along with the Plains District office, reports

hiring of seasonal field personnel is almost complete, and training of personnel will continue until actual eradication spraying starts, with ongoing training throughout the season. Earnest Taylor, District Supervisor, told CCN last Friday, "We have hired 37 field personnel, with another 15 people expected to be on board in the

very near future. That will make a total of 52 seasonal field people, the same number we employed last season. The District office here at the airport has 16 full time workers. Our people are currently in daily training sessions, and will be fully ready when the actual

Turn To Page 2, "Weevil War"

Criminal cases in County Court

Eight criminal cases were heard in County Court April 25, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Juan Manuel Ruan Jr. pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior assault causing bodily injury cause. He was sentenced to jail for 180 days, with credit for 53 days served.

Carol Trey Robinson pled guilty to unlawfully carrying a weapon. He must pay \$219 court costs and a fine of \$100, and forfeit one butterfly knife. Arresting officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Luis Carlos Galvan pled guilty to a first DWI, breath test .153/.159. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. A \$500 fine and \$225 court costs will be met with time payments. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 17 hours served, attend weekly AA meetings, surrender his license one year or 90 days if an ignition interlock device is installed, complete the DWI first offender program, and serve 24 hours community service. Arresting officer was Joe Ramos, D.C. Police.

Turn To Page 2, "Crime Cases"

77th Legislative Session busy with county issues

According to *County Issues*, a publication of the Texas Association of Counties, almost 5,700 bills have been filed during the current legislative session. 2,637 of these bills would have an impact on Texas counties, their citizens and governments. The April 18 issue of TAC's publication contained a lengthy list of such bills, with most of them appearing in the abbreviated description as serious efforts at lawmaking, while other verged on the frivolous.

A sampling of the proposed legislation;

HB 232- exempts rural reserve peace officers in counties under 20,000 from regulation under Private Investigators and Private Security Act,

HB 383- would require a public vote on the salary increase of a county commissioner.

HB 622- would create the Rural Water Assistance Fund to provide low interest loans to eligible political sub-divisions for water projects, including the purchase of well fields, the purchase or lease of rights to produce groundwater.

HB 644- would authorize the commissioners court to call for an election to abolish county salary grievance committee requirements.

HB 950- requires reimbursement of \$40 to each grand juror or petit juror in a district court, criminal district court, county court, county court at law, or justice court.

HB 1336- Peace officers would be required to submit a detailed report of each traffic stop made by the officer. The information would be compiled and presented to the governing body of each county or town the officer serves, then analyzed and submitted to the Commission of Human Rights. If the information was found to be disproportionate to the population of the entity's race or ethnicity, an investigation would be conducted.

HB 1354- Would require certain defendants in municipal or justice courts to make payments to a crime stopper organization.

HB 2115- Raises the amount paid an election judge or clerk from a cap of \$6 per hour to \$6 per hour, with the 'appropriate authority' able to authorize payments of more than \$6 per hour.

HB 2466- Provides defendants convicted of misdemeanor offenses and confined in county jail as a condition of probation would have to reimburse the county \$25 per day for the length of their confinement.

No less than twenty constitutional amendment bills calling for the abolishment of the office of constable in as many counties have been filed in the house,

Austin Bound!



These students will represent Plains High School at the prestigious U.I.L. Academic State Final Meet in Austin this weekend. They won the honor with a stellar performance at the UIL Regional meet in Abilene, placing first over 67 other schools in the big meet. Seated are Seniors Nicole Haynes, Lesli Rowe, Eric Nixon, Emily Blair, and Amanda Garcia. Standing, Jill Gray, Annaliesa O'Quinn, and Chris Hansen. GOOD LUCK!

Proposed \$5 Bed Tax Could Worsen Long-Term Healthcare Crisis

Austin-None of the measures currently being considered by the Legislature begin to adequately address the growing long-term healthcare crisis in Texas, and one proposal actually could worsen the situation in the long run for many nursing homes.

That is the warning sounded this week by Mike Burris, chairman of the Texas Alliance for Nursing Homes in a letter to legislators after both House and Senate committees reported out bills dealing with Medicaid reimbursement issues.

Burris noted that he has received numerous calls inquiring about legislation proposing a \$5 per day tax on every occupied nursing home bed in Texas. "Family members are extremely concerned that their parents or grandparents, who have never asked the government for financial assistance regardless of their eligibility for such benefits, are going to have to pay thousands of dollars more each year when they are already subsidizing Medicaid resident care," Burris said. "When you consider that the average resident is an 80 plus year old female, it is easier to explain why it is becoming broadly known at nursing homes across the state as a Granny Tax."

Burris noted that Texas ranks 47th in Medicaid reimbursement, \$25 below the national average. "Now, the state proposes to patch the system through a scheme overly dependent on federal matching funds that may be less and less

reliable in the future, and one that will move even more residents onto Medicaid."

Under measures before both houses (SB 1592 and HB 2906), every licensed nursing home in Texas would be taxed \$5 per occupied bed per day as a "quality assurance fee." But private pay facilities would receive no reimbursement, homes with fewer than 40 percent Medicaid residents would get back less than they would be forced to pay in taxes, and only those with more than 40 percent filled Medicaid beds potentially would get reimbursement at a later date of more that they must pay immediately. Burris said even those facilities would get back for less that the amount needed to overcome the current disparity between allowable costs and reimbursement.

The lack of meaningful action to increase Medicaid reimbursement demonstrates anew why nursing home operators recently filed suit in federal court seeking enforcement of a 1997 agreement by the state to provide adequate reimbursement of costs, according to Burris. "With over 25% of Texas nursing homes already in bankruptcy, we had no alternative but to file the lawsuit if we are to save the nursing home community in Texas and preserve decent long-term healthcare for our elderly," he said.

The Alliance is composed of independent nursing home operators, suppliers, health care professionals, community organizations and families of residents.

From Page 1, "Crime Cases"

72 hours in jail with credit for 11.5 hours served, attend weekly AA meetings and serve 24 hours community service. Arresting officer was William Gardner, D.C. Police.

Maggie Bernice Hernandez pled guilty to driving while her license was suspended. She was fined \$100 and must pay \$210 court costs.

Rudy Joe Silva pled guilty to a first DWI, BT .107/.105. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He will make time payments on a \$600 fine and \$225 court costs. He must serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 17 hours served, complete the DWI first offender program, attend weekly AA meetings, and serve 24 hours community service.

Ken Alan Burris pled guilty and was sentenced to a lesser included offense of disorderly conduct, a Class C Misdemeanor. He was fined \$100 and must pay \$225 court costs. Chris Ballard, D.C. Police, was arresting officer.

Sandra Renee Elms pled guilty to a first DWI, BAC .23. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. She must make time payments on a \$460 fine and \$225 court costs, and pay \$140 restitution to the DPS. She will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 18 hours served. She must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, and serve 24 hours community service. Arresting officer was Robert Shugart, DPS.

Sammy Esquivel pled guilty to purchase/furnish alcohol to a minor. Time payments will meet a \$400 fine and \$210 court costs. He will serve 72

Business Informational Seminar Scheduled

The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland, a division of South Plains Community Action Association, Inc., along with the Texas Workforce Commission of Levelland, announces and welcomes you to a free Business Informational Seminar to be held Wednesday, May 9, 2001, from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.. The seminar will be held at SPCAA's Regional Housing and Community Services Administration Building in Levelland, located at 1611 W. St. Rd. 300. Two Labor Market Specialists with the Texas Workforce Commission of Austin will present topics of information including; Where is Texas employment going? Where we have been.

Top 25 area occupations. Fast growing occupations in our area.

The seminar is available to all area businesses and interested citizens of our communities. The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland services Cochran, Hockley, Terry and Yoakum counties. If you are interested in attending the seminar, please call Chrystal Madewell at the Texas Workforce Center, 806-894-5005 or 1-800-419-9675, or come by 410 Houston in Levelland. The seminar is limited to the first 100 respondents.

The Texas Workforce Center is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aides are available upon request.

From Page 1, 'Walker'
Walker added, "I want to assure you my primary concern during this redistricting process will be my constituents. This is not a political issue to me. It is not about Republicans and Democrats, or protecting incumbents. For me, the priority is making sure that rural Texas, and West Texas in particular, have the greatest possible representation at the legislature in the future. This is not a fun process."

From Page 1, "Money Scam"

ministered by a family lawyer, David Okpiah. Now, the new Nigerian government was threatening to seize her money. The widow sought the local business man's help - if he will agree, the \$45.5 million would be sent to an account here which he would open and keep secure. For his troubles, the business man was promised 20%, or over \$9 million for his trust and cooperation.

He was asked to contact the family lawyer immediately, before the government stole her estate money.

On April 26, we received a very similar letter from Mr. Clark's office, which was originally mailed to Yoakum County Treasurer Toni Jones.

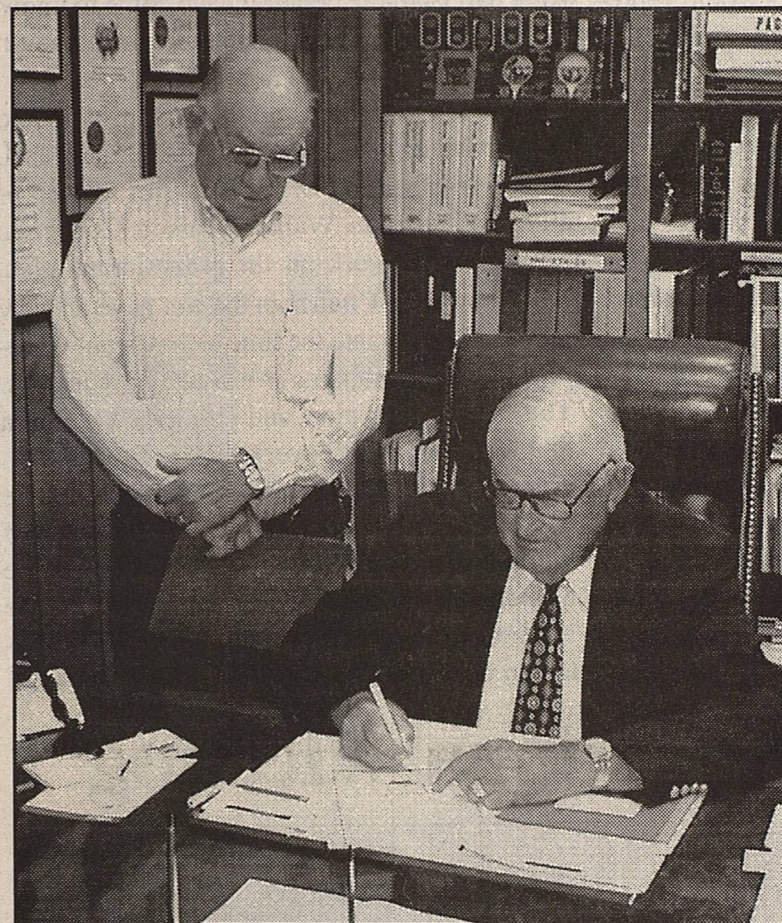
This letter upped the ante; The writer, one Engineer Aminu Umar, claimed to be a member of a Nigerian committee entrusted with an account of some \$80 million U.S. dollars, which the committee desired to transfer to an account here, arranged by someone of trust. The committee would immediately wire transfer \$21.5 million to the Treasurer, and once the committee was assured the funds were on deposit, the balance of \$58.5 million would also be transferred. For her trouble, and reward for her cooperation and trustworthiness, she would be able to claim 25% of the total.

CDA Clark forwarded the original letters to the Postal Department Inspector office in Lubbock. He earlier told Clark the scam would eventually require the cooperating U.S. citizen to put money into the hands of the perpetrators, which they would never see again.

Be warned - the back of a Texas Lottery ticket comes right out and tells players the odds against winning the big prize is some 25,807,000 to one. Never-the-less, those odds are better than the Nigerian letter scams.

May 22, 1953- Waco tornado kills 114, injures 541, causes \$250 million damage

Soil & Water Stewardship



Bud Forbus, Board member of Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District, standing, watches County Judge Dallas Brewer sign a proclamation announcing Soil and Water Stewardship Week. The proclamation read in part, "We are ethically bound to care for the surrounding natural resources that sustain our life. Wildlife, plants and people are equally dependent on healthy, safe places to live, and the loss of critical habitat can be a tragedy to all. Locally led conservation districts have established sound conservation practices, and in recognition of the role habitat plays, I proclaim April 29 through May 6, 2001, Soil and Water Stewardship Week."

From Page 1, "Weevil War"

eradication work starts."

Taylor said actual eradication spraying of the cotton pest will not start until growing cotton reaches the pin head square stage. "With our current weather, and some producers already planting, we could see some spraying flights possibly in late May."

The Plains District is divided into 6 areas, each under supervision of a District Field Unit Supervisor, an Assistant Supervisor, and six field personnel.

District Supervisor Taylor told CCN, "We want to get the word out to all our cotton producers - we need your input. We ask all cotton farmers to contact us as soon as possible, tell us of their planting intentions, help us identify production fields so we can start our mapping process for deploying traps, and future eradication spraying."

TPA MEMBER 2001
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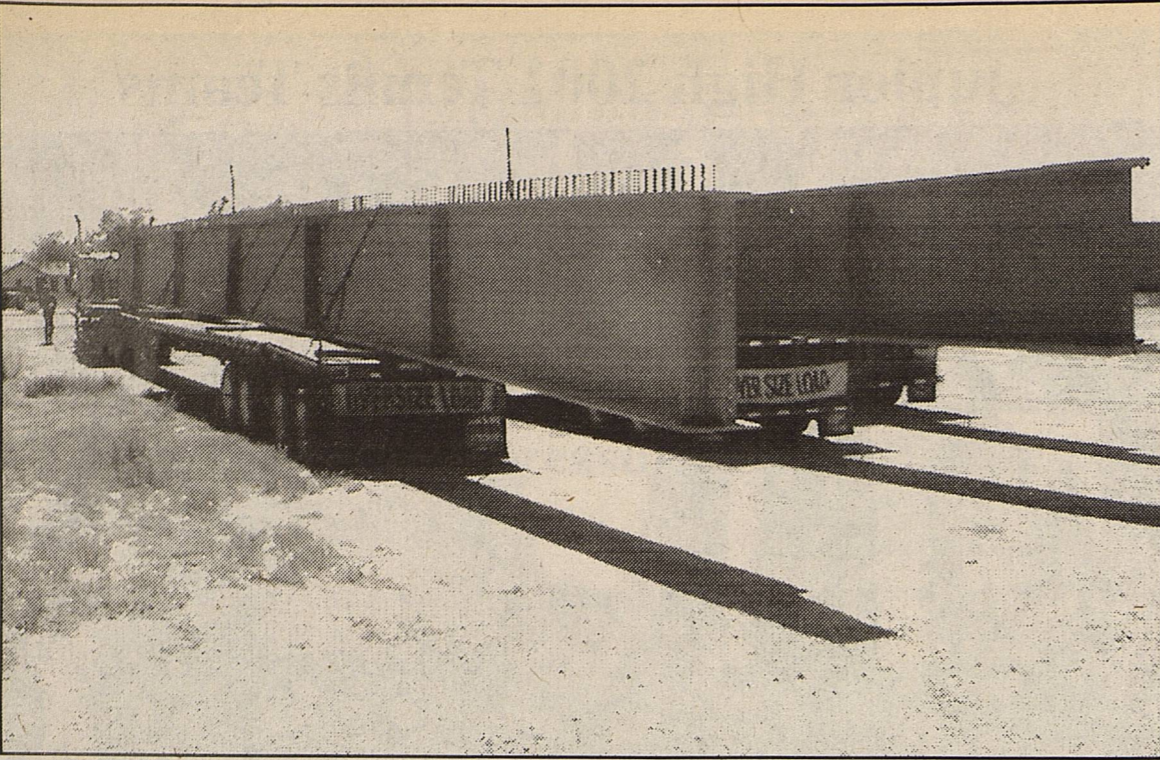
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The huge steel eye-beams shown here in Plains waiting for over size load escorts were manufactured in San Angelo, and were enroute to Albuquerque, N.M., to be used in highway over pass bridges. The longest beam was six feet tall, and 133 feet in length.

Letter to the editor

To all who may be concerned: It has come to my attention there has been some misunderstanding concerning a young man bearing the same name as my son. The young man was picked up in January for a charge of possession of marijuana.

I want to take this means to assure all our friends the young man who was in possession of

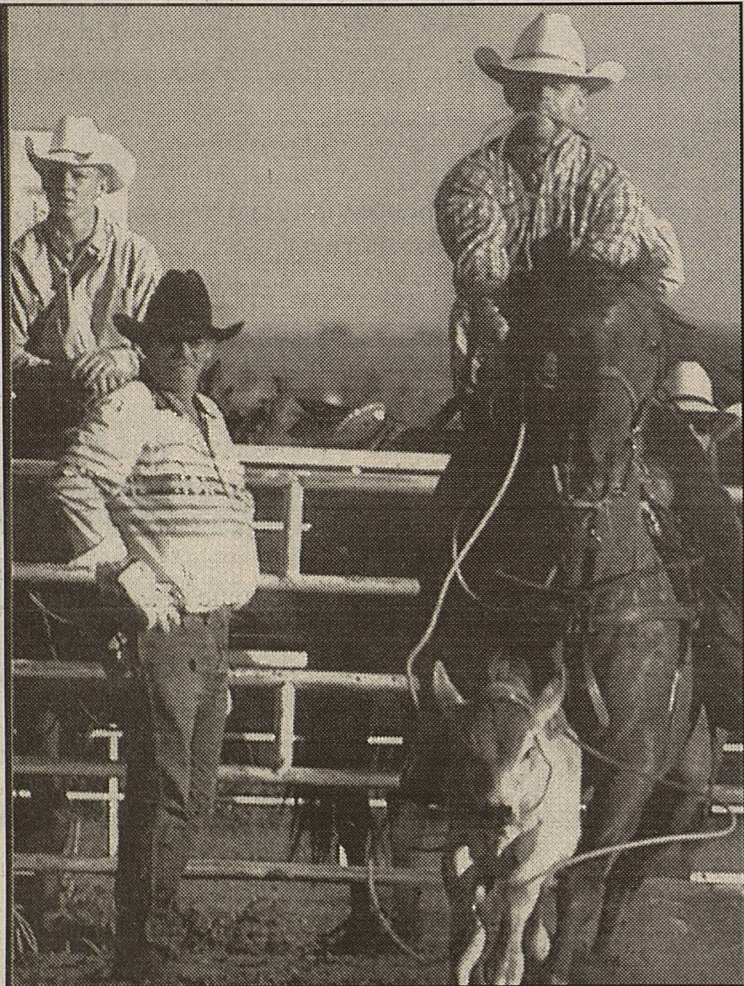
marijuana has a different middle initial from my son, and resides in another state. Please be assured, my son Travis A. Bennett resides in Brownfield, and has not been arrested for possession of drugs.

Sincerely,
Dianne Bennett,
Plains, Texas

Justice of Peace Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds or fines set in Precinct One Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

- Cases Filed:
99 traffic cases, one case filed by county sanitarian, one possession of marijuana.
- Bonds set:
Four cases, motion to revoke probation - held until hearing. Driving while license suspended- \$2500 bond.
Failure to appear, Dawson County- \$2500 bond.
DWI, Titus County- \$3500 bond.
Bond forfeiture, Garza County, \$3000 bond.
DWI, Hockley County- \$5000 bond.
Escape, Hockley County- \$5000 bond.
Four cases DWI, first offense- \$1000 bond.
Possession drug paraphenalia- \$200 fine.
Prohibited weapons- \$1500 bond.
Capias pro fine?IBC- \$476 fine.
Theft over \$1500, under \$20,000- \$5000 bond.
Assault causes bodily injury, family member- \$1500 bond.
Possession marijuana- \$500 bond.
Fail to stop and render aid- \$1000 bond.
Bond forfeiture, motion to revoke probation- \$5000 bond.
Failure to appear, motion to revoke probation- \$10,000 bond.
DWI, second offense- \$1500 bond, interlock device.
Failure to appear, Bailey County- \$1000 bond.



Competing in his 1st High Plains Jr. Rodeo Assoc. event of the year in Lubbock April 21 & 22, Brett Squyres posted a time of 10.3 sec. in tie-down calf roping for 1st place.

Scholarships Available!

The Texas Workforce Center has limited funds available to assist youth to provide specialized assistance in job search or attend approved colleges, vocational schools or short-term training programs. Call or stop by today to see if you qualify. The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland serves Hockley, Terry, Yoakum and Cochran counties

Texas Workforce Center of Levelland
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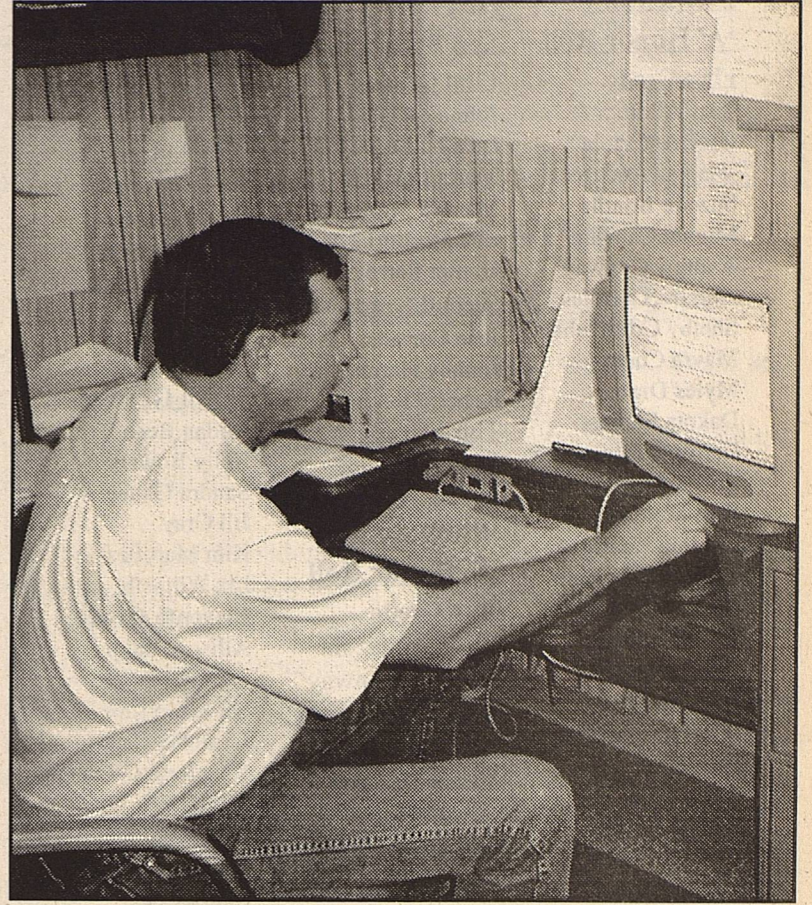
PO Box 40
806-456-2152

Brunson named to Utility Board

In a three day meeting in Austin last week, City Administrator David Brunson was appointed to the 15 member Board of the Texas Municipal Utility Association (TMUA). The association was organized in 1925 to promote the proficiency of the utility management association and utility operations.

The TMUA works closely with the Texas Municipal League to represent the views and issues of utility operations in the state's cities and communities. TMUA regularly holds its Spring meeting in Austin when the Legislature is in session to afford members of the association to speak out on water, natural gas and electric utility issues.

Brunson will represent Region I of TMUA, a vast area stretching from the Panhandle south to the Rio Grande and west to



El Paso. The association meets twice yearly. Brunson accepted the City Administrator job here in 1991, moving here from that position in Quitaque.

Value of 2001 Texas Agriculture Projected to Reach \$15 Billion

COLLEGE STATION-The value of 2001 crops and livestock produced in Texas is expected to reach \$15 billion, boosting the economies of rural communities throughout the state, according to an economist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

"As we look at the year ahead, we can expect a \$1 to \$2 billion increase, which will put us at \$15 billion, perhaps \$16 billion including all crops, livestock and related activities that are growing and strengthening our economy," said Dr. Carl Anderson, and extension economist. "That's going to be a plus in keeping our rural areas viable."

Above average rainfall in many parts of the state is making for a potentially excellent growing season for crops, while beef prices continue to maintain steady.

"We've got a bright spot in crops," Anderson said. "We've got good moisture across the state and even though prices are not high, we could see crop income reach about \$6 billion this year. Beef is a big commodity. We've got some of the best beef prices for calves and for fed cattle that we've had many

May 9, 1916: President Woodrow Wilson ordered militias of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona to be mobilized on the Mexican border.

years."

Anderson said other agricultural income sources this year will come from poultry, dairy, sheep, swine and egg production.

Horses used for recreation, coupled with the leasing of land for hunting and fishing rights, along with the timber industry in East Texas will add \$1.7 billion this year to the state's agricultural income.

An extremely wet spring has recharged soil profiles through most of the state as farmers are anticipating a normal growing season following the 2000 drought and droughts experienced during the latter part of the 1990's.

"As we look across the state of Texas, many production areas have had different levels of moisture," Anderson said. "We've had good rains in November, December, January and February throughout all of the state, particularly in the eastern half. Moisture conditions are excellent going into the growing season and we are seeking the opportunity to make a full crop yield. But we could be getting too much of a good thing if the wet spring

delays crop planting beyond optimal dates.

"We've got good moisture conditions up to the Southern High Plains and in the Lubbock area there, not quite as much, but they've had good snowfall, even seeing an inch to an inch and a half of rain recently falling in that particular area where we've got about 4 million acres of cotton.

"Of course Texas is the largest cotton producing state in the nation. We're all excited about getting our cotton crop planted. I think we'll have about 6.5 million acres statewide."

"Anderson said cotton acreage has an excellent chance of making a good crop "providing we have some good rains throughout the growing season."

The nursery industry is also thriving in Texas, thanks to new construction both in the residential and commercial sectors, "Anderson said.

"We're seeing a very diversified agriculture coming into Texas," he said. "That's what we're going to need as we see some commodities that will be greater in competition as we continue the globalization of agriculture."

Conservation Across Texas

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is using "Conservation Across Texas" as its central theme to recognize the importance of conservation on private lands. In a statement issued by USDA-NRCS State Conservationist John P. Burt, the initiative continues to encourage all Texans to reflect on the importance of natural resources in our daily lives and how everyone has a stake in conservation.

"Our abundant natural resources of

soil, water, air, plants, and animals continue to provide us with a healthy environment," Burt said. "The wise use of these resources sets us apart from every other country in the world. Private landowners in Texas have built one of the strongest conservation programs in the country. Their dedication to a better environment is the heart and soul of the conservation movement. But we still have much to do as more pressures are brought on our natural resources."

Your VOTE and SUPPORT appreciated

CHRISTY D. BRINK

for

City Council

May 5th at Plains City Hall
7:00 am. - 7:00 pm.

Pol. Adv. paid for by Campaign Treasurer Edwin Brink

PISD Honor Roll 5th Six Weeks

Elementary

'A' Honor Roll

First Grade

Troy Alldrege
Greg Andazola
Vanessa Andazola
Suzette Bonilla
Miguel Carrillo
Andrew Conway
Adriana Corrales
Shelby Covarrubias
Mayra Cueto
Myles Diaz
Dakota Earnest
Carolina Hernandez
Zachary Lamar
Sam Melendez
Cynthia Rodriguez
Fabiola Rubalcaba
CamiShay Rubio
Denise Tarango
Destini Thomas

Second Grade

Stephanie Addison
Paty Avila
Jaxon Bean
Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Lee Dearing
Samantha DelaRosa
Cody Friesen
Gladys Gallegos
Kevin John Gass
Kristen Knight
Lupe Lara
Brittanie Lira
Sara Martens
Adam Nixon
Chase Ortega
Edgar Vasquez
Hunter Welch

Third Grade

Claudia Andazola
Taylor Banfield
Jacob Brink
Natalie Butler
Brock Carter
Hannah Cotton
Brandon Craft
Jason Durham
Emilia Gallegos
Brett Hawthorne
Natalie Haynes
Abigail Hernandez
Miguel Lopez
Hector Luna
Nathan McCravey
Jacob Neudorf
Troy Parrish
Shyann Vantine
Katelynn Young

Fourth Grade

Chris Addison
Reyna Gallegos
Holden Welch

Elementary

'A-1 B' Honor Roll

First Grade

Johnny Hiebert
Lexi Isaacs
Maria Loewen
Mariela Martinez
Eva Neudorf
Hunter Parrot

Second Grade

Jose Corrales
Johnny Harms
Roberto Reyna

Third Grade

Justin Gonzales
Hunter Parrot

Fourth Grade

Lauren Davis
Amber Friesen
Lauren Hise

Junior High

'A' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Maria Andazola
Douglas Conway
Ryan Crump

Sixth Grade

Scott Addison
Caitlin Carter
Landon Craft

Seventh Grade

Nicole Culwell
Joe Luis Gallegos
Erika Loewen
Angelica Mendoza

Seventh Grade

David Alldredge
Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Reagan Haynes
Skylar Keesee
BJ Lester

Junior High

'A-1B' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Adam McCravey
Blake Parrish
Abel Ramos
Eighth Grade

Payton Bean
Evan Cain
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise

Junior High

'A-1B' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Kurt Alldredge
Anna Harms
Marissa Melendez
John Tyson

Sixth Grade

Araceli Mendoza

Seventh Grade

Casson Curtis
Blake O'Quinn

Eighth Grade

Marlie Diaz
Cody Flores
Brant Huerta
Kerry Sisson

High School

'A' Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Jordan Bean
Kelly Bowers
Sandra Gallegos
Jill Gray

Tenth Grade

Kim Martinez
Liz Wilmet

Eleventh Grade

Allison Butler
Wendy Fierro
Servando Luna
Jarod Newland
Annaliesa O'Quinn
Scott Tirell
Becky Wilmet

Twelfth Grade

Emily Blair
Aaron Cain
Martha Casillas
Lensey Cullins
Roxy Fuentes
Taylor Gray
Nicole Haynes
Skyler Johnson
Kimbe Jones
Armando Luna
Eric Nixon
Lesli Rowe
Elva Ruiz
Lexi Warren

'A-1B' Honor roll

Ninth Grade

Helena Neufeld
Nolan Newsom

Tenth Grade

Jared Bell
Tanner Hamm
Chris Hansen
Arasely Luna

Twelfth Grade

Adam Garcia
Dawn Garland
Keri Guetersloh
Donita Richardson
Gerry Rivas
Dustin Sellers
Dustin Six

The following information was not available to CCN last week when we featured an article on PHS Regional UIL Meet results: Both the Accounting Team and Spelling Teams competed in events at the Region meet. Accounting Team members were Allison Butler, Wendy Fierro and Becky Wilmet. The Spelling Team included Sandra Gallegos, Elizabeth Rodriguez and Grady McNabb.

PHS Sports Potpourri

Cowgirl Golf:

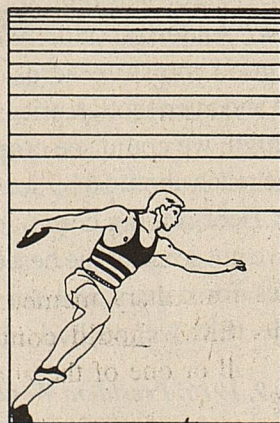
The District winning golf team suffered bad luck at the Regional event at Baird last week. Team member Mandi Rogers became ill and was unable to compete, and with only three players, Plains was unable to compete as a team. In a tough field, the three remaining Cowgirls, playing as individuals, managed these scores; Liz Wilmet 92-89, 181; Allison Butler 107-96, 203; Mackenzie Winn, 119-103, 222.

Cowgirl Track:

The Cowgirls were up against some very talented athletes at the Region meet in Abilene last week, and none of them were able to make the finals. Jill Gray competed in the 100 hurdles, Jessica Rodriguez, Moriah Traweck, Chelsea Blount and Michaela Traweck made up the 800 Relay team, with Jessica, Kayla Willis, Moriah and Michaela ran on the 1600 Relay. Moriah Traweck, a freshman, ran her fastest 100 meters, and set a new school record, 12.85.

Cowboy Track:

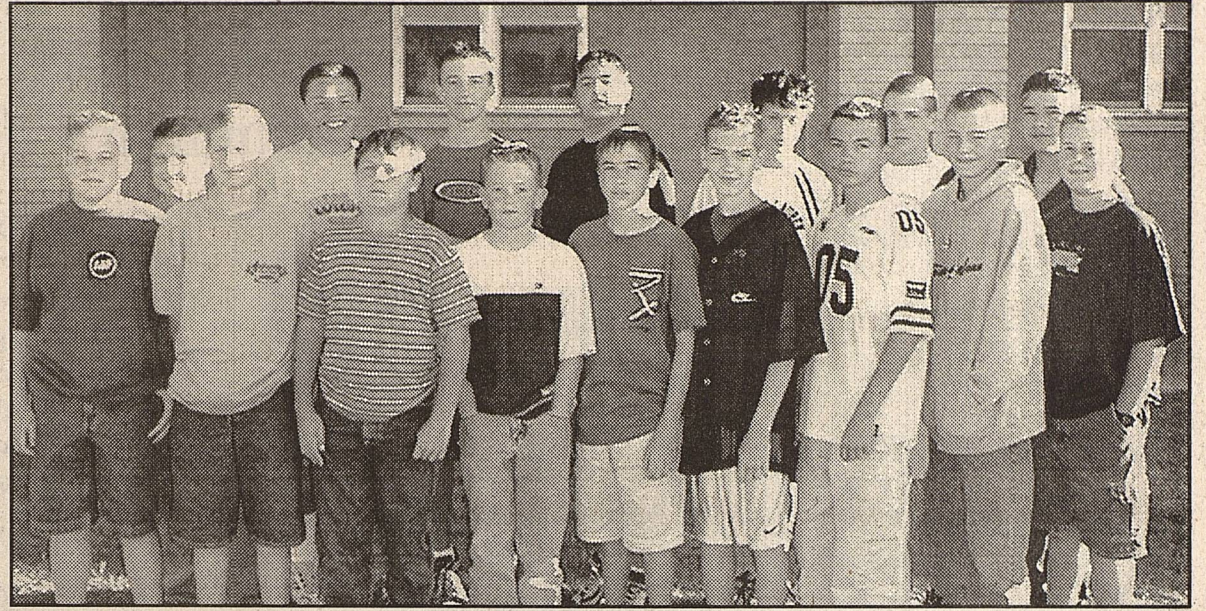
The Cowboys could not advance any athletes to the state meet, but Coach Blake McWhirter reported some accomplishments. The Cowboy 400 meter Relay team ran their fastest time of the year, and Jared Bell also ran his fastest 400 meters of the season.



Junior High 2001 Tennis Teams



Lady Wranglers - L-R, Jamie Covarrubias, Allison Friesen, Kristian Morales, Jessica Henry, Daniela Lazos



Wranglers - Front - Blake Parrish, Blake O'Quinn, Peter Neufeld, Michael Therwhanger, Breck Hamm, Payton Bean, John Wagnon, Kerry Sisson, Adam McCravey. Back, B.J. Lester, Cole Krebsbach, Brandon Hise, Brant Huerta, Patrick Cotton, Evan Cain, Cody Flores.

District Wrap Up

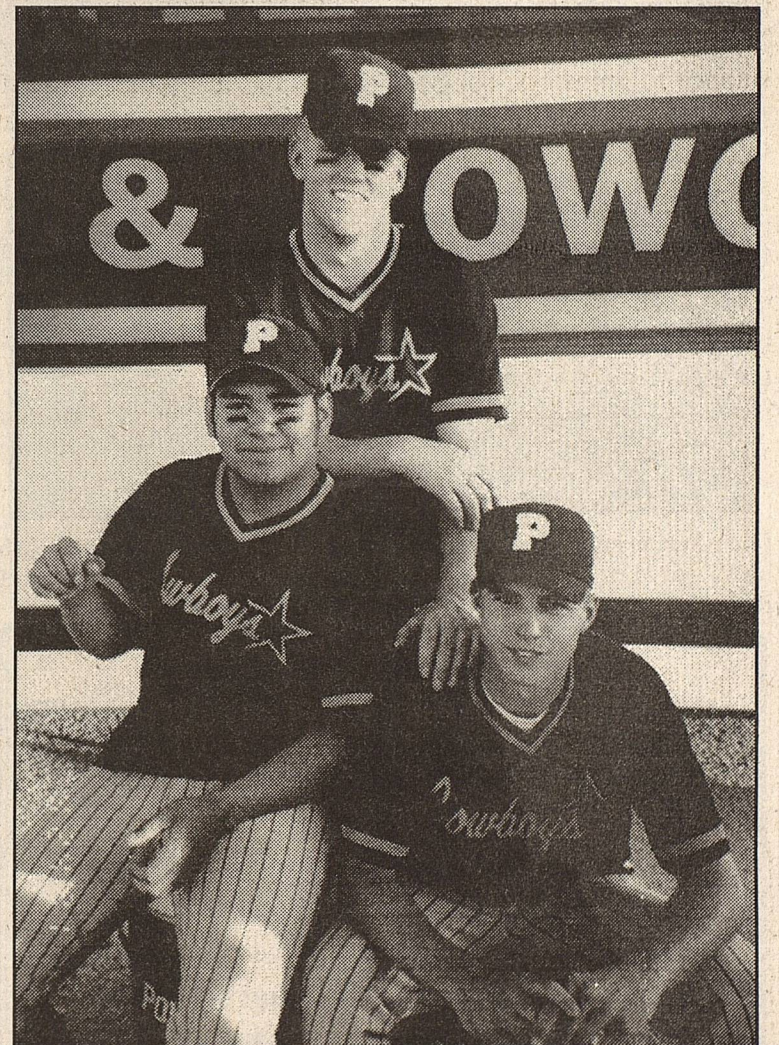
In the District Tennis finale held at Forsan April 21, Plains Middle schoolers made credible showings. The 7th Lady Wranglers had tough competition and couldn't get into the win columns.

8th Lady Wrangler Daniela Lazos took fourth place in singles, and Kristian Morales and Jamie Covarrubias won second place honors.

The 7th Wranglers had winners in two events - Michael Therwhanger and Peter Neufeld were third in doubles, and T.J. Cordova had a third place win in singles.

The 8th Wranglers teams had a strong tournament. In boys doubles, Brant Huerta and Cole Krebsbach came in first, Brandon Hise and John Wagon took second place, while Payton Bean and Breck Hamm took the third place medals, and Evan Cain won second in singles, and Patrick Cotton was in fourth place.

Last PHS baseball season for these guys



Graduating June 1 are seniors (top) Brett Squyres, infielder, pitcher/first base Gerry Rivas, pitcher, fielder Aaron Cain.

Student of the Week

PHS student of the week is Crystal Garcia a sophomore and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Trinidad Garcia. Crystal was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "The healthy and strong individual is the one who asks for help when he needs it. This week's student of the week is never hesitant to admit that she needs help with an assignment, and she seeks explanation to make sure she understands a task. This student turns in work each day that is neat and well done, even



though she has many responsibilities outside school. She is a pleasure to have in class.

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29th Annual County Treasurers' Seminar Held April 16-19

Toni Jones, Yoakum County Treasurers and Deputy Treasurers for the 29th Annual County Treasurers' Continuing Education Seminar April 16-19 at the University Center Complex at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The annual continuing education seminar is sponsored by the Institute of County Government at Texas A&M, which is part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, The Texas A&M University Systems, in cooperation with the County Treasurers' Association of

Texas, The Office of Continuing Education, Texas A&M University and The Texas Association of Counties.

The Institute provides the seminar to help Texas County Treasurers complete their state mandated minimum continuing education requirement. Treasurers who attended all of the sessions received 23 hours of continuing education credit.

This year's seminar theme was "County Treasurers: In God We Trust," selected by Association President Martha Gustavsen, Montgomery County Treasurer.

Senior Citizens Corner

Boy these days and weeks are really flying by!

We have really been busy at the Center. We got our tickets to sell for the raffling of the afghan that Darlene Clevenger made from thread that was donated to the Center.

Yesterday was '42' tournament. Faye Black and Billy McDonnell were the winners, this is twice in a row for them.

We have a few new people coming to the Center. May the 5th is our birthday dinner. Please come if you can.

The Center is for everyone. We

welcome all new comers. There is a \$2.00 donation for 60 and over, if you can pay. It is not mandatory. Under 60 is \$4.00. There is a sheet that we are required to sign every day. If we do not sign and are there, we will be fined for that meal. There is a weekly sheet that is put out on the desk on Thursday and Friday, each week. That is how the cooks know how much food to cook each day.

Til Next Week,
Wanda B.

CSW Announces Commencement Speaker

An anticipated crowd of approximately 1,500 at College of the Southwest's graduation on May 12 will be in for quite a treat.

Phillip J. Hogue, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Daniels Fund, will be CSW's spring 2001 commencement speaker and according to President Joan Tucker, his presentation promises to be 'memorable' and 'inspiring'.

In August of 1998, Mr. Hogue began assisting Bill Daniels in the development of his foundation, which is expected to be one of the largest independent foundations in the United States. Mr. Hogue's responsibilities include the development of an innovative multi-state scholarship program, the design of several grant making programs, the establishment of the foundation's internal operating systems, staffing, and annual budget and distribution requirements. The Daniels Fund will concentrate its activities in the states of Colo-

rado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming.

Prior to assuming his present responsibilities, Mr. Hogue was Chairman of Daniels & Associates, one of the nation's most prominent and respected providers of investing banking and services to cable television, mobile communications, and other media investment media companies. Before joining Daniels & Associates, Mr. Hogue was President of Lincoln Trust Company from 1981 to 1983.

Mr. Hogue is Chairman of the Young Americans Education Foundation and the Young Americans Bank of Denver, both founded by Bill Daniels in 1987.

CSW's commencement ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. in R. N. Tydings Auditorium on the Hobbs High School campus. Ninety five students are scheduled to receive baccalaureate and graduate degrees at that time.

CHIPS sign-up announced

Plains Independent School District's English as a Second Language/Migrant Department and West Texas CHIP Coalition will be hosting a sign-up day for all children of Yoakum County who are in need of health insurance. Sign up will be at the Plains Community Center Friday, May 4, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. ESL/Migrant staff will be there to help families fill out applications for insurance. CHIP is a new Children's Health Insurance Program providing health insurance to uninsured children whose net income is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL), but are not eligible for Medicaid.

For example, a family of four could earn up to \$34,100 and qualify for CHIP. The federal government pays for 75% of the cost, while the State of

Texas pays for 25% of the cost. Texas is using the tobacco settlement fund money to pay for their portion of CHIP.

Coverage is available to children throughout the State of Texas. Children must be between the age of birth and 18 years of age. If a child is a legal resident they are eligible for CHIP.

Please bring the following when you come to fill out an application; proof of income or any money you regularly receive, such as pay check stub, your children's social security number, a copy of a Green Card, an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) document that proves the child's legal immigration status.

If interested parents have any questions, please call Cindy Conway, 456-7438.-

New Books at the Library

FICTION: *A Texas Sky*.Lori Wick, *Long Eagle*.Danielle Steel, *Grandmother Spider*.James Doss, *Slightly Shady*.Amanda Quick, *Looking Back*.Belva Plain, *Death In Holy Orders*.P.D.James, *Bad Connection*.Michael Ledwidge, *Hotel Honolulu*.Paul Theroux

NON FICTION: *Into His Presence*.Charles Stanley, *Paper Shadows*.Wayson Choy, *Absolute Power*.David Limbaugh, *Crafts For All Seasons*.Kathy Ross, *First Mothers: The Women Who Shaped The Presidents*.Bonnie Angelo, *Weight Watchers Annual Recipes For Success 2001*.Editor Suzanne Henson, *First Son: George W. Bush And The Bush Family Dynasty*.Bill Minutaglio, *Presidential Inaugurations*.Paul Boller, Jr., *She Flies Without Wings: How Horses Touch A Woman's Soul*.Mary Midkiff, *A Feel For The Game*.Ben Crenshaw

Library Storytime

Six boys and girls attended Storytime at the Yoakum County Library on Wednesday, April 25, 2001. Activities began with pledges to the United States and Texas flags followed by Toddlerobics. The group sang 'Old Macdonald Had a Farm' and 'Five Little Monkeys.' There was a discussion about gardening and the responsibility of taking care of flowers, plants and the soil. The book, 'Two Little Gardeners, was read and a video entitled 'My First Green Video' was viewed in which the group saw a demonstration on the proper planting of seed. Kim Gass, a successful gardener, showed the boys and girls various kinds of flower and vegetable seeds. Amanda Dusek, Bailey Winn, Clayton Gass, Jentry Wall, Claire Carpenter and Madison Davis then planed their own green bean seed in containers to take home for their gardens.

Plains EMS alive & well

Plains Emergency Medical Service recently graduated four new members of the EMS system. This brings the current volunteer staff to eight active members, comprised of two intermediate and sic basic EMT's, with one RN and a respiratory therapist certified in pre-hospital emergency care.

The addition of these four EMT's will greatly enhance the EMS capabilities of covering medical emergencies in Plains and Yoakum County. Congratulations to Linda Wright, Diane Bennett, Terri Dearing and Kay Sellers. Anyone interested in becoming a certified EMT or auxiliary member of Plains EMS should contact City Hall or one of the above EMT's.

The friends who are most stimulating to us are those who disagree with us. It is they whose ideas we should ponder.

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First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, TX.

Cordially invites you to worship and grow in Christ with us!



Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connections
Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm
Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities
Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

GOD loves you and so do we!
Come grow in CHRIST with us!

An Invitation

On behalf of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to extend a warm invitation to all of our West Texas friends and neighbors to the Regional Business Expo on May 17th at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center.

With over 200 exhibitors representing a wide variety of business products and services, you can find almost anything you're looking for, plus learn new ways to make your business more successful. Tickets are available at the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, a special 'Economic Outlook' Luncheon will be presented from 11:30 - 1:00, with keynote speaker Martin Regalia from the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Tickets are \$12 and are available at the Chamber door.


Don't miss this opportunity to support out local West Texas businesses. By shopping locally, we keep our dollars here in West Texas, thus helping to grow the entire West Texas re-

gion. Mark you calendars now to attend the Regional Business Expo on Thursday, May 17, from 9:00 am. - 6:00 p.m. For more information and for tickets to the Economic Outlook Luncheon, contact the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce at 806-761-7000, or call your local Chamber of Commerce.

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From The Hack

Enroute to Lubbock last week for the Bride's checkup on her knee-hip-leg progress, we listened to a talk radio show which repeated the apparently syndicated article: A handy-man about the house, this hubby was working on some project involving the use of a chainsaw. Apparently as clumsy as a new-born pup, he managed to saw his hand from his arm. The reporter of the event said when the guy quit screaming from the pain long enough to grasp reality, he promptly decided he had to stop the hurt. He immediately had a cracker-jack idea - He grabbed up his power nail-gun, and shot three nails into his cranium. "I figured," the reporter quoted, "if I nailed myself in the head, it would divert some of the pain from my severed hand to my nailed head. You know, it really worked. Almost immediately my hand and arm pain decreased, but, MAN, I sure developed a head ache!" This was an actual story. I went to high school with a few guys who immediately leaped to the fore when I heard the broadcast. One fellow classmate, already held back two years for a bit of mental deficiency syndromes, attempting to help our shop instructor, singed his hand with an old blow torch. Enraged by the pain and his stupidity, he swore a mighty oath and kicked the handy shop anvil, promptly breaking his ankle. I once, years ago, watched the Bride try to kick a cat, only to suffer a broken toe, which now stays cold all the time, and

which she still slides up my backside at night during the winter, whispering, "It still hurts! Warm it up for me, hiney-rump." I suppose the guy with the nail gun story proves the validity of the Biblical admonition, "If thy eye offend thee, pluck it out." Just make sure the plucking doesn't hurt more than the offending.

What does LOVE mean? Four to eight year-olds answered this way; Love is that first feeling you feel before all the bad stuff gets in the way. Love is when my mommy makes coffe for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is okay.

Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.

Golfers are all familiar with the term, 'Handicap'. It normally means the number of strokes over par you normally shoot. In my case, the figure is on the verge of being astronomical. Do not bother to ask what it is - I will only lie to you in the vilest manner.

Last Saturday, however, I learned a brand new meaning to the H word. My handicap Saturday came in the form of one Patrick Hamilton, Music Director at FBC, who politely enough asked if he could join the group of reprobates I was about to tee off with.

What kind of answer did he expect? You can't just tell a man of the cloth, Hell No, can you? I didn't mind him playing with us. I was, of course, very apprehensive he might break into 'Bringing In The Sheaves' about time I was ready to putt.

There is no doubt I did feel handicapped during the 18

holes of play. I just could not force myself to relax and act my normal self. It became so frustrating I drove my golf cart out in the deepest rough, telling the group I was looking for a lost golf ball, but once out of earshot, I released all those pent up ugly words I told the Bride I had completely forgotten. I looked up, and here came Patrick, shouting he would help me find the ball. I screamed at him, "Stay where you are, I'm not through blaspheming yet!"

When we finally finished, Patrick came to me and said, "You didn't have to mind your manners and mouth, Gary, things like that wouldn't bother me a bit. You've got to remember the guy I work for!"

For all the nice ladies I have managed to offend in this column;

The Purple Hat

When a woman looks in the mirror.....

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Age 8- She looks in the mirror and sees herself as Cinderella/Sleeping Beauty.

Age 15- She sees herself as Cinderella/Sleeping Beauty/Cheerleader or if she is PMS'ing sees Fat/Pimples/Ugly (Mom, I can't go to school looking like this!)

Age 20- She looks at herself and sees too fat/too thin/too short/too tall, but decides she's going anyway.

Age 30- She looks at herself and sees too fat/too thin/ too short/too tall/ too straight/too curly, but decides she doesn't have time to fix it..she's going anyway.

Age 40- She she's too fat/too thin/ too short/too tall/ too straight/too curly, but says, 'at least I'm clean' and goes anyway

Age 50- She looks at herself and sees " I Am " and goes wherever she wants to go.

Age 60- She looks at herself and reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. She goes out and conquers the world.

Age 70- She looks at herself and sees wisdom and ability, and goes out and enjoys life.

Age 80- She doesn't even bother to look in the mirror. She just puts on a Purple Hat and goes out to have fun with the world.

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Lea County Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U. S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

Lea County Electric Cooperative's nondiscrimination compliance efforts will be coordinated by Janette Faris, Manager of Administrative/Personnel Services. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feel that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible. EMPLOYMENT NOTICE: The Cooperative will accept employment applications at any time regardless of whether there is a vacancy at the time the applicant applies. Applications will be considered active for six (6) months and kept on file for two (2) years.

A limited number of summer jobs will be open to full time students (at least 18 years of age). Students interested should contact the Cooperative for more information.

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