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Cowboy Country News

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Volume V, Issue 38, Wednesday, June 2, 1999



You Can Help and Serve- Be A Volunteer!



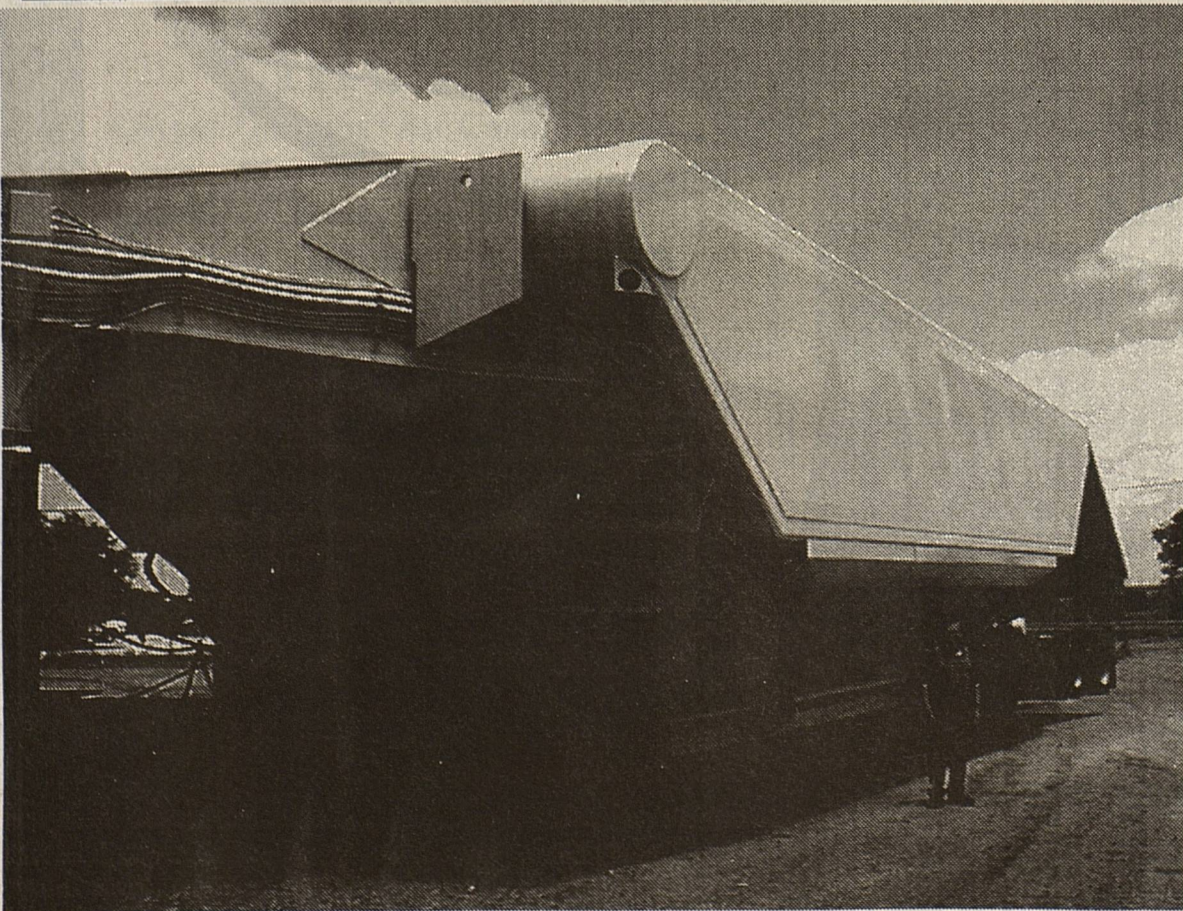
Plains EMS Certified Technicians Charles Diamond and Marc Traweek shown with units newest ambulance.

Who do you call when you have an emergency? Most will answer 911. But where do the people come from who will respond to your need for emergency medical help? The Plains Emergency Medical Service will respond to your call, with highly trained, certified and caring Emergency Medical Technicians who are willing to volunteer their time for their friends and neighbors.

Plains EMS is currently staffed by four certified technicians, Charles Diamond, Freda Humphrey, Marc Traweek and Joe Humphrey. Another volunteer is in recertification training, and another is intraining for certification.

They are the people willing to give of their time to be of service to our community, and they need more help. Plains EMS encourages anyone interested in joining to serve their neighbors to call City Hall to learn how to become a certified EMS volunteer.

"Caution - Wide Load" is understatement of the year



Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cobb is shown here, dwarfed by a huge belly dump trailer parked for a rest stop here last week. The truck drivers and accompanying escort vehicle drivers said the trailer, built in Tulsa, was on the way to a lignite coal mining operation in Grants, New Mexico. Logistics on the trailer are impressive; Empty, the unit weighs 176,000 pounds, and can haul a pay load of 270 tons, or 540,000 pounds. It is 21' 6" tall, without it's wheels and tires, and is 18' 8" wide, and almost seventy feet long. The trailer is powered by diesel electric motors, and is assisted by an equally huge tractor type unit.

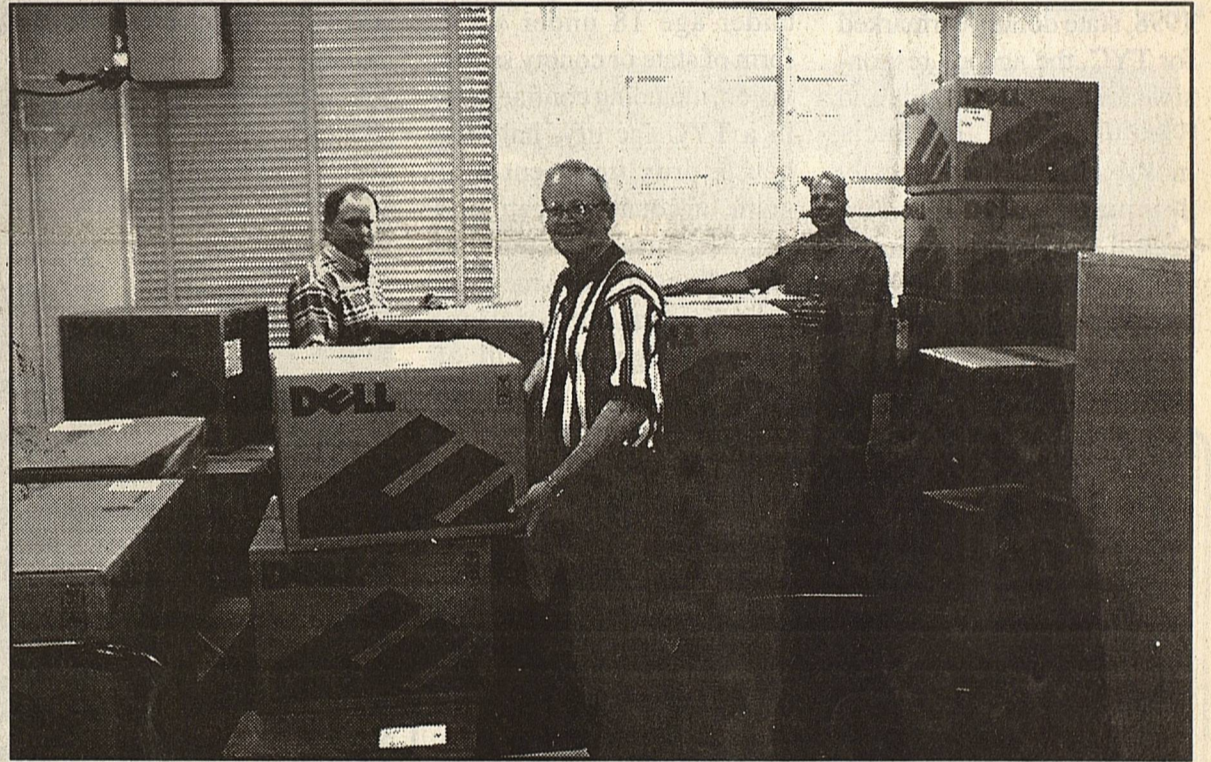
Eradication 'Troops' set up camp to wage total war against boll weevil

The offices in the old courthouse last occupied by the Extension Service Agents appeared last week to have been transformed into a storage warehouse crammed with the latest in electronic equipment. Boxes of computers, monitors, printers, scanners, backup devices were stacked almost wall to wall, high tech equipment which will be used in the South Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone.

Darrell Dusek, Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's Zone Manger, discussed plans for the upcoming all out battle against the pesty weevil which costs cotton producers millions of dollars each year in production and eradication expense.

A graduate of Angelo State University, Dusek has been employed by the Foundation since 1994. He was a Field Unit Manager for the Foundation in the San Angelo area before promotion to his position here.

He told CCN, "We will start our operations in Yoakum County with four full time people. As the eradication program progresses, we will have 17 employees operating out of this office, plus a large number of field monitoring people." He said the exact number of weevil trap monitoring employees couldn't be determined until total planted cotton acreage was established and plotted on



Eradication Foundation employees busy setting up computer operations here. Forground, Tom Alvis, District Supervisor, Brownfield, left, Darrell Dusek, Eradication Zone Manager, right, Joe Barnes, District Supervisor, Plains District Supervisor.

maps. Asked if it appeared infestation of weevils is up from last year, he said not enough data was available to definitely know, but added, "Following such a mild winter, it certainly won't surprise me if the count numbers are up."

He said the number of aircraft to be used in the spraying program across the five county zone was not known at this time. "The spraying jobs are awarded on a low bid basis. The Foundation encourages local aerial applicators to bid on the jobs, because they are familiar with their areas." The eradication spraying will start around mid-August.

Dusek said a number of the 17 employees who

will work out of the local office will be seeking housing. "Some of them will commute from nearby towns, but a number of them will be needing to buy or rent homes in Plains." He suggested locals with available housing to contact the Foundation office at 456-4108.

Hopefully the new and permanent building for the Foundation office at the county airport will be ready for occupancy around August 1. Dusek and his wife Shannon expect their first child in September. "I'm looking forward to getting settled in here, and go to work eliminating these weevils. We know it can be done, because it's been a success in other areas around the state."

CDA Action Benefits Human Services

Stephanie Ashburn, clerk in the Criminal District Attorney's office here, is shown presenting a \$2,517 check to Joe Hargraves, with the Texas Department of Human Services. The check represents restitution paid by a defendant falsely claiming property ownership to collect welfare assistance funds through the state Human Services Department. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark successfully prosecuted the case.



'99 cotton crop off and running



In this photo, Farm Services Administration local Executive Director Gary Six is shown examining a field of minimum tillage cotton south of Plains.

Six estimates about 90 percent of this year's irrigated and dry-land cotton has been planted. Final acreage totals are not yet available, but he anticipates some 130,000 acres will be planted by the June 7 deadline.

Off to a good start, cotton producers have little to worry about, other than sagging market prices, insect infestations, blown out fields, and crop destroying hail storms.

Juveniles doing time at a cost

In the last four years, the number of 10- to 17-year old Texans confined in Texas Youth Commission (TYC) facilities has more than doubled from 2,200 to 4,900 inmates. State spending to imprison juveniles has increased even faster. From fiscal 1988 to fiscal 1998, state dollars earmarked for TYC, the agency responsible for the care, custody and rehabilitation of the state's most violent and chronically delinquent youngsters, increased 195% to \$158 million outpacing the increase in overall state spending by 70%. During the same period, general revenue spending on

public schools increased 88% and human services expenditures increased by less than one tenth of 1%. The additional spending reflects a spurt in young Texans serving time for doing wrong. By 1995, Texas ranked second only to Florida in the number of juveniles under age 18 under some form of state or county supervision, including confinement in a TYC facility, halfway house, drug treatment program, on county probation or another form of detention, according to the American Correctional Association. Local judges mindful of TYC's inmate

"resocialization" program characterized by one official as "tough, without being mean" began referring more youngsters to the state facilities. And finally, more teens were committed to TYC for probation violations, a change from previous local practices when judges tended to give youths second or third chances in community programs before sending them to TYC. TYC has been 12% over capacity. Since 1994, the average daily population has increased at least 19% each year. TYC bed capacity is expected to top 5,600 by the end of 1999, including 450 beds at a new facility near Waco, set to open in Oct. At \$110 a day, the state cost of caring for each TYC inmate is

nearly three times the average \$40 cost for adult prisoners. Critics might question the difference, but TYC officials and others say the additional spending reflects valuable extra attention given younger prisoners, who typically attend school year round and follow tight, organized schedules during 16-hour days. TYC reports its charges increasingly come into state custody with backgrounds of chemical dependency, abuse, neglect and poverty. Of 3200 new referrals to TYC in 1998, 37% were identified as gang members, 40% required special education, 37% were emotionally disturbed and 45% were chemically dependent. The median age of

TYC youths is 16, although incarcerations include children as young as 10. In 1998, 47 new inmates were younger than 12. "TYC is not a substitute for the family," said Pamela Ward, a TYC spokeswoman, "but with some of these young children, we end up raising them. Some have stuffed animals on their beds, and we have included a story time for them." **Profile of a juvenile delinquent:** In fiscal 1998, TYC offenders had these characteristics: *90% were male-*41% were Hispanic-*34% were African-American-24% were Anglo-*37% were gang members-*median age at commitment was 16-*median reading

and math achievement level was 5th grade (5 years behind peers)-*77% had an IQ below the mean of 100-*45% were chemically dependent-*37% were emotionally disturbed-*about 40% were enrolled in special education-*vast majority had a history of abuse or neglect-*more than half came from poverty-*75% came from chaotic environments-*more than half prior convictions

To date, 12.40 inches of rain have been recorded on National Weather Service instruments at City Hall, well more than recorded all last year

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Last Six Weeks Honor Roll

ALL 'A's

5th Grade

Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Reagan Haynes
Skylar Keese
B.J. Lester
Adam McCravy
Blake O'Quinn
Abel Ramos

6th Grade

Evan Cain
Marlie Diaz
Cody Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Kerry Sisson

7th Grade

Trent May
Grandy McNabb
Nolan Newsom
Moriah Traweek

8th Grade

Jordan Bean
Jill Gray
Kayla Willis
Liz Wilmeth

ALL 'A's 1B

6th Grade

Mayra Flores
7th Grade
Gerry Granados
Helen Neufeld
Manuela Villegas

8th Grade

Krystal Gonzalez
Nick Hays
Ryan Swann

ALL 'A's

9th Grade

Servando Luna
Annaliesa O'Quinn
Scott Tirrell

10th Grade

Emily Blair
Lensey Cullins
Chris Estrada
Roxy Fuentes
Amanda Garcia
Taylor Gray
Kari Guetersloh
Nicole Haynes

Lesli Rowe
Elva Ruiz
Lexi Warren

11th Grade

Joshua Bell
Krystle Blundell
Candace Bowers
Velvet Canada
Leticia Canon
Jessica Flores
Kristen Gray
Wendy Hernandez
Fermin Luna
Laura Morales
Nichole Newsom
Anne Palmer
Patty Ruiz
Kyle Sisson
Jason Swann
Staci Tuggle

12th Grade

Maranda Box
Dustin Brunson
Steven Bunch
Clint Burrus
Cose Casillas
Cassie Dearing
Norma Delgado
Vincent Delgado
LaCresha Johnson
Tandi Jones
Tommie McNabb
Lisa Parrish
Ofelia Trevino

ALL 'A's 1B

9th Grade

Nathan Hays
Becky Wilmeth

10th Grade

Joel Gallegos
Kimbe Jones
Matt Willis

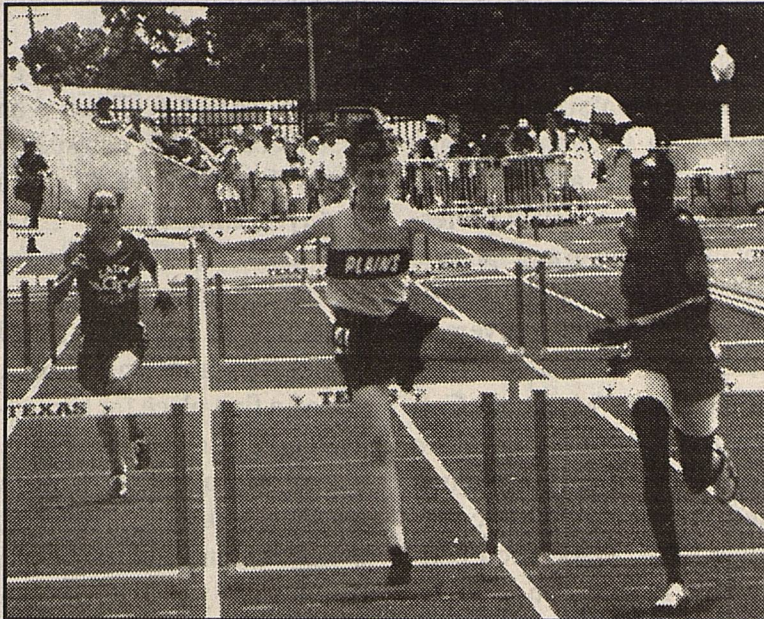
11th Grade

Elizabeth Castillas
Chris Leggett
Angie Longoria
Alex Tarango

12th Grade

Jolyne Burgess
Kayla Redman
Krystal Sellers
Isaac Trevino

Kristen Gray named to All State Track Team



Kristen Gray, a PHS Senior next year, is shown here in the 300 Meter Girls Hurdle event at the huge state high school track meet in Austin recently. Immediately prior to the start of the race, the announcer informed the thousands of spectators Kristen had the fastest 300 hurdle time in the state, an extra load of pressure to cope with. Unfortunately, Kristen hit the third hurdle, which cost her the lead. She fought back, regained the lead, but couldn't quite hold it. She returned home with the third place Bronze Medal, missing the Gold with a time of 46.78, just six tenths of a second behind the winner. A great effort by a tough competitor who will undoubtedly make a return trip to Austin next year.

Velvet Canada makes it to State Tennis Tourney

Velvet Canada, a PHS Senior next fall, took second place in Regional Tennis action at Abilene, and advanced to the prestigious State Meet in Austin. Only eight girls in 2A schools made it to the championship singles event.

It was a hectic day. Velvet started play at 11 am, then rain delayed the matches until 6:45 pm. She got off to a fast start, taking the lead in both sets, but finally fell 5-7 in the first, and then lost in the tie breaker.

Her coach, Michael Davis, said he was proud of her hard work and good performance all season.

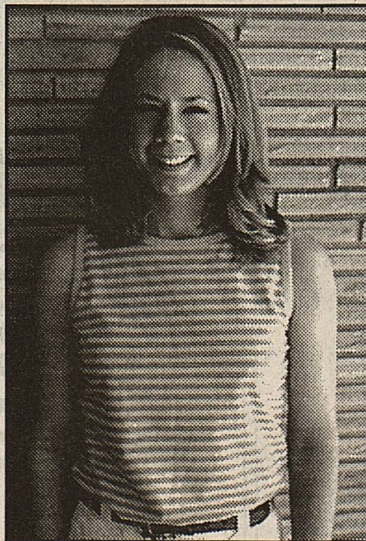


Cross Country Team members receiving awards at Athletic Banquet included David Granados, Felipe Reyna, Luis Hernandez and Ramon Lozano. Felipe had earlier been named a member of the All State Cross Country Team with a fourth place finish in the state meet.

New members inducted in NHS

The National Honor Society induction ceremony for new members was held May 4. Fourteen PHS students were inducted into the prestigious academic society. They are Nichole Newsom, Cassie Dearing, Nicole Haynes, Lexi Warren, Elva Ruiz, Krystle Blundell, Lensey Cullins, Armando Luna, Roxanne Fuentes, Emily Blair, Leslie Rowe, Kimberlee Jones, Aaron Cain, Chris Estrada and Eric Nixon.

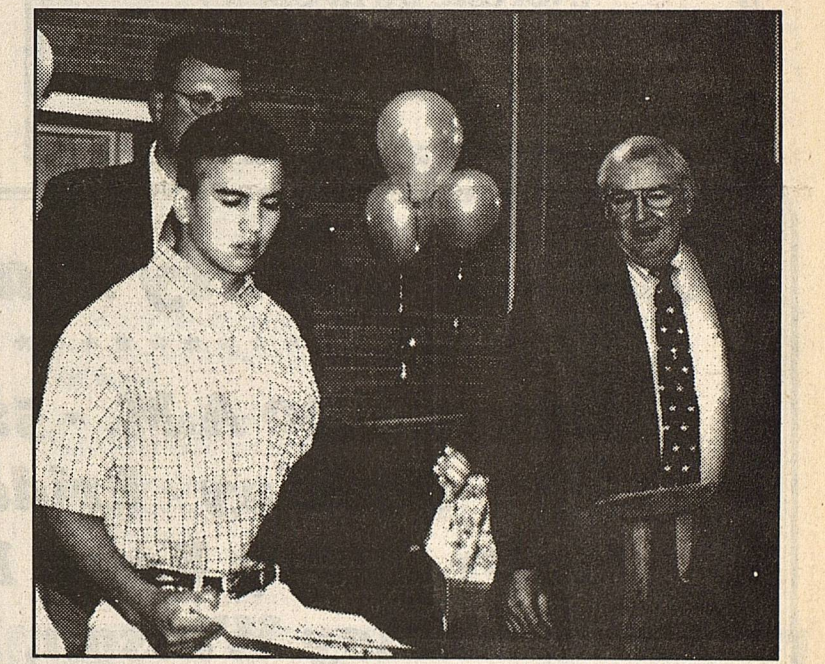
Named to Academic Track All State Team



Lisa Parrish, a recent PHS graduate, was named to the Texas Girls Coaches Associations Track Academic All State Team. Lisa ran the 800 meters and on the 1600 relay team. She served as President of the Plains High Student Council, and was a member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Texas A&M University this fall. She is the daughter of Jerry and Jan Parrish.



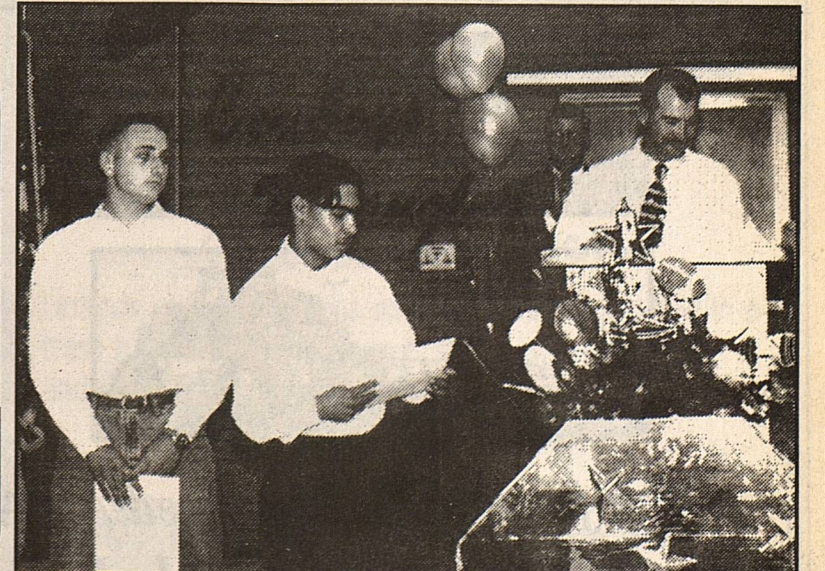
Kayla Redman received the top volleyball player award at Booster Club's Athletic Banquet



Adam Garcia receives Football Award from Coach McMinn

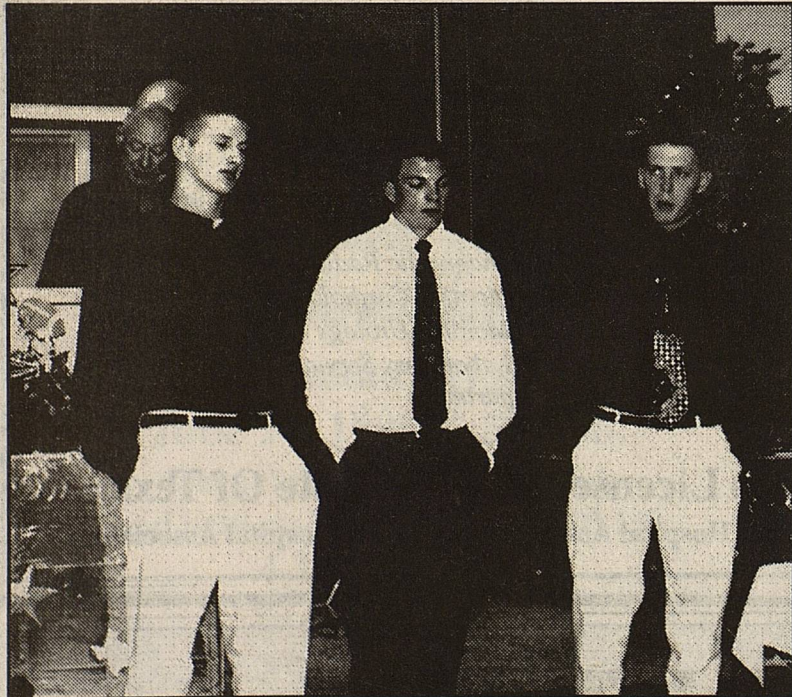


Coach Williams recognizes girl golfers Leticia Canon, Autumn Deaton Erica Bell and Allison Butler.



Coach Carter presents Baseball Award to Jeremy Morphis and Vincent Delgado.

We salute ALL the 1998-99 PHS Athletes and Coaches!



Cowboy Track members Dustin Brunson, Tanner Blount and Steven Bunch with awards at Athletic Banquet

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New 'Reg's' in effect for courthouse shelter use

Most residents are accustomed to hearing the city fire sirens sounding a long, steady wail whenever threatening weather is sighted and imminent in the immediate vicinity. For many, particularly in the spring and early summer tornado season, this is a signal to hurry to the courthouse, and take shelter in the spacious basement.

County officials urge citizens to continue to use the courthouse during threatening weather, but to be aware of new regulations in effect during this use. In addition to the information in the notices below this article, residents should also understand NO private vehicle parking will be allowed in the covered breezeway between the main building and the county jail. The space is strictly for official and emergency vehicle use.

Please continue to use the courthouse shelter whenever necessary, but be aware of these rules, and those posted in the building.

STORM SHELTER ENTRANCE

**Please Use Door By
Tax Office
(Northeast Side of Courthouse)**

No Animals Please

ENTRADA EN CASO DE TORMENTA

**Por Favor Use Puerta
Cerca de Impuestos de la
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(Noreste de la Corte)**

NO SE PERMITEN ANIMALES

SPC Plainsman Press Staffers Win Awards

Students on the staff of the Plainsman Press, South Plains College's student publication, recently won six first place awards in state and regional competition, according to Dale Husen, assistant professor of journalism and sponsor.

They competed with two year college and university students in a 13 state region at the Rocky Mountain Collegiate Media Association convention in Albuquerque and at the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association convention in Kerrville.

At the Rocky Mountain meet, John Leeson from Abernathy won two first place awards for his cartoons in the humorous and editorial cartoon categories; and Kristen Harter from Andrews won first place for a single ad she designed. Honorable mentions went to Amalia Aguerro from Lubbock for a news story and

Jr. High District Golf

Jr. high Boys Finished in Fourth Place with a score of 227. Chase Howell 55, Chisum Deaton 55, Trent May 56, Austin Keesee 60, Jordan Bean 64.

Girls finished in First Place with a score of 259. Mackenzie Winn 59-First Place Medalist, Mandi Rogers 65-Second Place Medalist, Liz Wilmeth 65-Second Place Medalist, Kimberly Trent 70, Ashley Vantine 78.

The nine hole tournament was held on May 10th at Tahoka.

Conchetta Filippo from Plains for a feature story.

At the TIPA convention, Jay Ortega from Levelland won first place for his newspaper series titled, "Native America Today." Line Armes from Levelland won first place for his photography in the news page design category; and Azalia Barajas from Lubbock earned a first place for her layout work in news page design.

Honorable mentions went to Amanda Hamilton, formerly from Levelland, for her general column, J'lyn Green from Levelland for feature page design and Jimmy Robertson from Plains for sports page design.

The 1998-1999 edition of the newspaper was edited by April Cook from Three Way. The on line version of the paper, accessed at www.spc.cc.tx.us/ press, was edited by Kande Duknatik from Whitharral.

*A special
THANKS to the
McNabb family
for placing U.S. Flags
on graves of all
known veterans
resting in the Plains
Cemetery.
A total of 64 flags
were flying
Memorial Day*

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

During the weekend of April 16, 1999, my wife, Kathy and I journeyed to Texas A&M to spend Parents' Week with our son, Justin. He is a sophomore in the Corps of Cadets and attends A&M on a Navy NOTC Scholarship. His mother asked Justin why he chose to go into the military. His answer: he wanted to do something honorable.

On Saturday afternoon of that weekend we visited the replica of the Vietnam War Memorial at the George Bush Presidential Library. From a distance, the replica is not impressive - slabs of polished, blackish gray arranged in a low wall. It is slightly angled inward.

As you approach there is silence, only the wind. Then you see the names; ranks and ranks of thousands of names, kids who suffered and died so far from home. Here and there someone has left a wreath,

a photograph, a bundle of flowers or a medal.

I remember one from that war that I helped bury back here in "the world" when I was a college student. The family doctor was called in to identify him so his mother could be sure she was burying her boy.

As you're standing there you notice something curious. In the polished surface of the wall, you see reflections of people. It startles you because, for a moment, you think it's the dead; but it's not. It's only your reflection and those of the rest of the spectators.

Every American president, general, and admiral should be required to walk single file in front of that low gray wall and be humbled by it.

Thanks for your time.

Yours,
Richard Clark

Texans remember veterans

Memorial Day, May 31, is more than a long weekend. It is a reminder of the tens of thousands of Texans who gave their lives in America's wars this century.

Texas war casualties	
World War I	1,729
World War II	14,248
Korea	1,718
Vietnam	2,789
Persian Gulf	16
TOTAL	20,470

SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.



Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Monday - Friday

Dr. Larry Boyd, M.D.,

Shirley Watson, R.N.,

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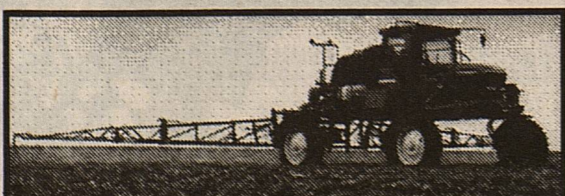
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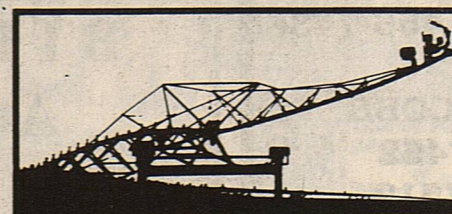
If it is right for your field conditions, I'll also recommend an energy-saving low pressure system.

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Lifelines & Styles

TSA MO GA "Friends of the Library"

TSA MO GA Club will continue to help the Plains Library with GFWC Libraries 2000 Project. Books and materials for the literacy programs and , monetary gifts have been donated. The summer reading program will start June 1st, thru 11th, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. each morning. Members will be helping as listeners each morning. Additional volunteers from the

community would be helpful with this project. Contact the Library for a morning to help with the reading program.

TSA MO GA Club will hold a yearbook workshop, May 25th, 5:30 p.m. at the Library and all members are encouraged to attend to work on the program and projects. The Theme for 1999-2000 is "Spirit of Unity and Commitment In The 21st Century" Millennium.

Plains Students Receive Diplomas at SPC

Students from Plains were among 664 students at South Plains College to receive diplomas during SPC's 41st commencement exercises.

Plains recipient of the Associate of Applied Science Degree is Rhonda Rachele Cowart Griffiths, Radiologic Technology.

Plains recipient of the Associate of Science Degree is Kyley Jo Bearden, Academic Non-Major.

Plains recipient of the Certificate of Proficiency is Amber Leigh Bryan, Surgical Technology.

"I want to congratulate the graduates of our 1999 class," said Dr. Gary McDaniel. "This is an important milestone in their lives. They have completed two years of college, and they and their families should be proud. We extend our best wishes to our graduates in their future endeavors."

Amanda Kaye Alexander from Levelland and Joe David Langenhennig from Mason were named the 1999 recipients of the Vera Sue Spencer and Thomas Spencer, Sr. Awards.

The cash awards were by Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. The awards are presented annually to a male and female student for their outstanding leadership and service and are named in honor of SPC's founding president, the late Dr. Thomas Spencer Sr., and his daughter, Vera Sue.

Alexander and Langenhennig graduated with highest honors with associate of science degrees.

Senior Citizens Corner

Memorial Day - our day to pay homage to our Country's Patriots, and our own loved ones. Let us all remember the ones who have given so much to make our lives safe.

Remembering - recently I caught a news bit on TV about a tornado in Dekalb. The word Dekalb brought a flashing memory of a good neighbor - Reba Baker. She was a real "rooter" for Dekalb. Her life was truly dedicated to her church, family, Yoakum County Senior Citizens and Dekalb, Texas - the place of her birth.

Ireta Davis remains in Lubbock Hospital and Gurtrude Coats in the Local Hospital.

The Ladies played the "42" Tournament Tuesday. Those winning "Free" lunch tickets were Billie O'Neal and Billie McDonnell. It's fun, so why don't more of you ladies come join in? I do not know if the men played. They just lost interest- eh guys?

The good rain was appreciated. Its so long since we had a real thunder, it was scary.

To those who travel during the Holiday, drive safely, and remember those who are away.

See you next week,
Smitty

Cancer Center begins trial of Breast Cancer Vaccine

The Joe Arrington Cancer Research and Treatment Center (JACC) announced recently the initiation of a Phase 111 trial of Theratope vaccine for treatment of metastatic breast cancer.

The randomized double blinded trial will evaluate the therapeutic vaccine's effectiveness in treating patients with metastatic breast cancer following first line chemotherapy. Part of a multinational trial, this study is being sponsored by Biomira, Inc., a Canadian based biotechnology company, and Chiron Corp. at about 70 sites throughout North America and Europe and will involve up to 950 patients, making it the largest cancer study of its kind.

Earlier clinical studies suggested possible survival benefits in patients with metastatic breast cancer. In one study arm of two parallel, prospectively

randomized trials, Theratope vaccine treated patients had a median survival of 26.5 months compared to 9.2 months for matched patients in a retrospective control group. This study is an attempt to produce the results in a much larger population. The primary end points are time to disease progression and survival.

"The Joe Arrington Cancer Center is committed to bringing innovative new cancer therapies to the people of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico," said Charles E. Geyer, Jr., M.D., medical director of JACC and principal investigator for the trial. "We are pleased to have the opportunity to join Biomira, Chiron and other cancer centers around the world in evaluating this exciting new approach to controlling metastatic breast cancer."

Junior Band Camp Accepting Registrants

The Junior High Band Camp at South Plains College is still accepting registrations from young musicians in grade 7th through 9th.

The week long camp is scheduled for June 7-12 and designed for middle school and junior high students who have completed at least one year of band. Camp sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. each day and conclude at 4:00 p.m.

"The camp is designed to provide young musicians with musical training, encouragement and enthusiasms to excel and develop their musical talents," said Lynda Reid, the camp's director and associate professor of music at SPC.

Camp clinicians will include Willie Owens, band director at Estacado High School in Lubbock, and Matt Knight, band director at Abernathy High School. Other area high school and junior high band directors will serve as camp staff.

Each day students will participate in band rehearsals, a section rehearsal, elective classes and recreational activities. The week's activities will conclude with a concert at 10:00 a.m. June 12 in the SPC Women's Gymnasium.

The camp is a commuter camp, Reid said. On campus housing will not be available. "Most band directors will provide group transportation, so students should check with their directors," she said.

Cost for the week of instruction and activities is \$65. For more registration forms and information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at South Plains College, 806-894-9611, ext. 2341

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texas children are especially vulnerable to skin cancer



Because of the possible link between severe sunburns in childhood and greatly increased risk of melanoma in later life, children, in particular, should be protected from the strong Texas sun. The American Cancer Society predicts 2,900 new cases of melanoma in Texas for 1999, third behind Florida and California.

What you can do to protect your children and yourself:

- Use a sunscreen with an SPF (solar protection factor) of 15 or higher.
- Limit or avoid exposure to the sun's strongest ultraviolet rays during 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- When outdoors, cover as much skin as possible with a hat that shades the face, neck, and ears, and a long-sleeved shirt and long pants.

SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), and American Cancer Society (toll free 1-800-ACS-2345).

YOAKUM COUNTY CONNECTION Watermelon Round Up Meeting

Plains Community Building
June 17, 1999, 7:30 p.m.

The public is urged to attend,
and help make the 3rd ROUND UP
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PET VACINATION

Saturday, June 12

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Tim Faulkenberry

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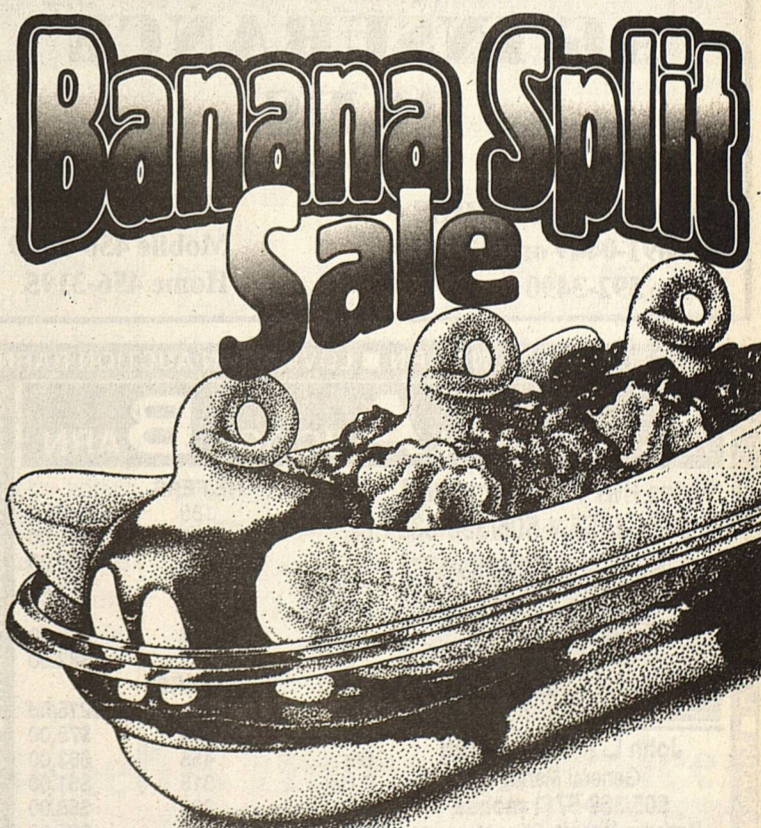
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From The Hack

From the mouths of babes; The internet recently contained letters from young children addressed to God, with questions they would like to ask him if possible.

Jane wrote, "In school they told us what all you do. Who does it when you're on vacation?"

Anne wrote, "Is it true my father won't get in Heaven if he uses his golfing words in the house?"

Bobby wrote, "Thank you for the baby brother, but what I prayed for was a puppy dog."

Joyce asked, "Did you mean for the giraffe to look like that, or was it a big mistake?"

Larry wrote, "Maybe Cain and Abel wouldn't kill each other so much if they had their own rooms. It works with my brother."

Woops, I did it again! I broke a solemn vow made a few years back, which I made in dead dog seriousness. Some of you may recall my relating a flight in a light aircraft, photographing dairies in the Hobbs and Lovington area, the plane flown by the illustrious Bill Bovell. Attempting to land the craft in a 45 mile per hour crosswind, Bovell was cursing the stupid aircraft, the stupid wind, and stupid me for screaming hysterically, my hands twisting the frame of the seat on which my bottom was compressed, and gnawing away at the naugahyde cover. When we finally, miraculously rolled to a stop, out of harms way, I fell out the door, gagging, weeping, cursing Bovell,

and promising to shoot him grave yard dead if he ever mentioned flying to me again. On the drive home from the aircraft at eight miles an hour, the fastest I could manage with my head out the window retching by then what I knew was part of my liver, maybe even toenails, I swore solemnly I would never, ever, ever set foot in an aircraft less than 120 ft. long, powered by a minimum of two jet engines, flown by a grey haired pilot with gold on his cap and coat sleeves, with a pretty attendant trotting to my seat bearing strong drink.

I didn't keep my word. Against my better judgement, I let a local guy talk me into going up with Jack Cobb to shoot some photos of a piece of property. Before I left the house for the airport, I took three tranquilizers, and was in decent shape when I pulled up to Cobb's plane, carrying my camera bag. Jack greeted me, and remarked about the large bag, and I told him not to worry about it, and we loaded aboard. Taxing to the end of the runway, I unzipped the bag, retrieved my camera, then carefully, laid a loaded 45 pistol and a full box of shells between my legs.

Cobb looked at me quizzically, and asked, "What's the gun for, think we might see a coyote or two?"

"No, Jack," I said in my best Clint Eastwood voice, "the gun is for you. If you should even think of making a fancy dive, practice a stall recovery, practice the slightest kind of cute maneuver, I will shoot you as close between the eyes as possible, then I will take my chances on getting this stupid thing on the ground, but I AIN'T putting up with any cute flying stuff!"

We roared down the runway, and were about over the cemetery, and I could already feel hot flashes, a jumping stomach, and I put my hand on the gun, and told Cobb, "OK, Jack, you'd better stop it." He looked alarmed and puzzled and said "what are

you talking about?" "I'm talking about this bouncing up and down, this weaving side to side, that's what I'm talking about!" He looked a bit astonished, and calmly said, "Gary, that's just minor air turbulence, and at this altitude in the summer, there's no way to avoid it." That sounded only halfway reasonable, but I calmed a bit, and then, honestly, truthfully, my side door popped open! I swear this happened, ask Jack! Miraculously, I didn't fall out - that was impossible, for I not only had my seat belt on, but I had sneaked his over my loins also before take-off. Somehow I got it slammed shut.

I managed to shoot over a dozen photos as we circled for what I considered an eon or two. Cobb graciously asked, "Would you like me to go a round again, at a little different angle?" I had one hand clasped over my mouth, sweat on my brow blinding me, and I put the other on the gun and violently shook my head NO, and nodded, towards the ground. He got the message, and we headed back in silence, Cobb because he was probably miffed, me because I knew death was imminent if I didn't get on the ground SOON.

As soon as that winged beast from hell pulled up to the hangar, I feverishly leaped out and struggled toward my four wheels on the ground, and thank God for it vehicle. I gasped at Cobb, "Don't worry, I won't call you again soon." His reply was a curt, "Might be a good decision."

High Plains Jr. Rodeo results

May 8th and 9th the Portales Jr. Rodeo was sponsored by the ENMU Rodeo Club. Blake Parrish won a 7th place in the 9-12 Steer Stopping with a time of 9.473. Marcy House placed in 3 of her 4 events. Marcy won a 4th place in the 16-19 Girls Ribbons, an 8th place in the 16-19 Breakaway and a 9th place in the 16-19 Poles.

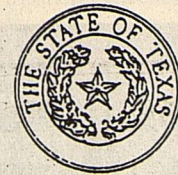
Brett Squyres won 2nd place in the Boys 13-15 Breakaway roping with a time of 3.303 seconds. He also placed 6th in the 13-15 Ribbon roping in a time of 7.907.

The Odessa HPJRA rodeo was held May 22 and 23rd at the West Texas Horse Center. Marcey House placed 7th in both the 16-19 girls Breakaway and Ribbon roping. Brett Squyres won 4th place in the 13-15 boys tie down calf roping with a time of 12.020 seconds.

Estate Sale
Saturday, June 5, 1999
8 a.m. - 8 p.m.
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Plains

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Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

The legislature adjourned on May 31, Memorial Day, and this is the final column for the 76th Legislative Session. We passed a lot of bills in the last few days. SB4, the education bill, passed the House and ended up in the hands of a conference committee. A last minute agreement sent the bill to the governor's desk. The bill calls for a property tax break, as well as a raise for teachers. The bill increases the equalized wealth level at which recapture occurs, and includes a hold harmless clause for Chapter 41 schools. There is additional funding to cover projected losses in many school districts due to low oil prices. Overall, it is the largest infusion of money into the public school system in the state's history. SB 7, the electric deregulation bill, was voted out by the House, along with SB 560, a bill designed to lower phone bills. SB 5, relating to franchise tax credits for economic development projects, was knocked down on a point of order, but later re-attached to another piece of legislation. You really have to pay attention around here. A bill's death is not necessarily a real death.

I am particularly interested in the portion of the tax credit bill that helps our agricultural economy. The legislation creates a tax credit to go to agribusiness companies that create agricultural processing jobs in counties with a population less than 50,000. Currently, the vast majority of agricultural products must be shipped out of state for processing. The bill also offers a sales tax break on over the counter medications and school supplies.

My own legislation has done well. I have several bills headed to the governor's office. A bill I co-authored, relating to agriculture and state agricultural policy, is on its way, along with a bill that relates to the application of oil and gas severance taxes to high-cost gas production and inactive oil and gas leases. Several senate bills I co-sponsored in the house that relate to the boll weevil eradication program are also on their way to becoming law. I served on the conference committee for SB 1128, a bill I also co-authored, raising the multiplier for teacher retirement. That bill is also on its way to the governor's desk.

*** Tx Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation ***
Ag Mechanics needed for Plains, Brownfield, Seminole and Seagraves offices. Will work on high cycle mist blow equipment used in cotton field. Electrical and hydraulic experience. Mechanic position includes benefits. Must be insurable driver according to TWBEF Fleet Ins. Policy. Minimum age 18 years. Send applications to TBWEF HQT, Attn: HR Dept, PO Box 5089, Abilene Tx 79608-5089 or FAX 915-677-1006, For more info call 915-672-2846 Ext. 3131, 3117 or 3109.

PRIVATE SALE
A private sale will be held at 10:00 a.m. Monday, June 7, 1999, at the office of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District in Plains, Texas (1012 Avenue F) to sell the following collateral:
One (1) 1994 - 2664 Zimmatic Center Pivot Irrigation System, Serial Number #L49184, and One (1) 1996 - 2603 Zimmatic Center Pivot Irrigation System, Serial Number #L53969.
Sandy Land UWCD reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Interested parties should call 806/456-2155 for more information.

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4 BMF	483	\$79.50
7 BMF	418	\$82.00
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Blk	455	\$83.00
7 Hol	315	\$61.00
Brn	395	\$88.00
3 Mix	503	\$85.00
2 BMF	437	\$90.00
BWF	405	\$87.00
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Hol	1860	\$39.80
Hol	1675	\$39.00
Hol	1585	\$38.00
Hol	1860	\$39.80
Hol	1610	\$39.25
Hol	1600	\$38.50
BULLS		
Red	1615	\$50.40
5 WF	868	\$53.50
GOATS & SHEEP		
3 Mix	Goats 78 lbs.	\$61.00/hd
4	Nannys 86 lbs.	\$78.00/hd
Wht	Nanny 125 lbs	\$74.00/hd
Mix	Nanny 80 lbs	\$80.00/hd
2 Tan	Nannys 118 lbs	\$77.00/hd
2 Mix	lambs 53 lbs	\$81.00/cwt
5 BF	ewes 247 lbs	\$34.00/cwt
8 Mix	lambs 88 lbs	\$84.00/cwt
3 BF	ewes 112 lbs.	\$40.00/cwt
7 BF	ewes 124 lbs.	\$35.50/cwt

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