

50 Cents

# Cowboy Country

## God Bless America! News



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

Volume V111, Issue 44, July 24, 2002

### Careless dumping causing delays in garbage pickup

Officials at Plains' city hall are on the verge of wringing their hands over problems caused by residents dumping of unauthorized objects in trash dumpsters. City Administrator Ed Hansen told CCN Friday, "One of our trucks is currently down with mechanical problems. Our other unit is now laid up with hydraulic problems caused by the compacting unit being damaged when it impacted damaging material which never should have been placed in the dumpster."

Hansen said all too often trucks carrying trash to the county landfill contain foreign objects which can cause serious damage to the units hydraulic system. "Landfill personnel have found car and truck wheel rims, steel pipe as large as six and eight inches diameter, large masonry blocks, sacks of ready mix cement which solidified after being wet, large tree limbs and trunks.

"We need our citizens help. If we don't have at least one truck running soon, we may have to rent a truck and driver from some other town, and if these practices and damages continue, we may be forced to seriously look at raising rates for our garbage disposal service."

Hansen reminded residents the city will pick up all materials described above which should never be placed in a dumpster. "If people will just place this type of material beside the dumpster, we have a crew which will load it on a trailer and carry it to the landfill." He also warned residents the city is not allowed to remove any abandoned refrigerators, unless the unit has been purged of the freon coolant and a sticker is attached to the unit by a licensed firm or individual certifying the gas has been removed.

### A Lofty Job Assignment



This huge Trumble Company crane was stretched to its full 140 foot height last week, used to remove and replace heating and cooling units on the Plains ISD campus. The roof of several of the buildings had been renovated earlier.

### Peanut Field Day Scheduled

The Yoakum Co./Terry Co. Peanut Field Day will be Thursday, July 25th in Brownfield, meeting at the Nikki Vinson Center at 110 W. Hill St. at 9:00 am.

Speakers and their topics include: Dr. Todd Baugham-varieties, row patterns and row widths; Dr. Chip Lee-soil borne diseases; and Dr. Calvin Trostle-inoculants.

Field stops will be held on the Andy Timmons farm and the J.W. Hawkins farm. Producers attending will receive 2 CEU's (1 IPM, 1 General) for their private applicators license.

### Visiting Aussie impressed with SOAR program

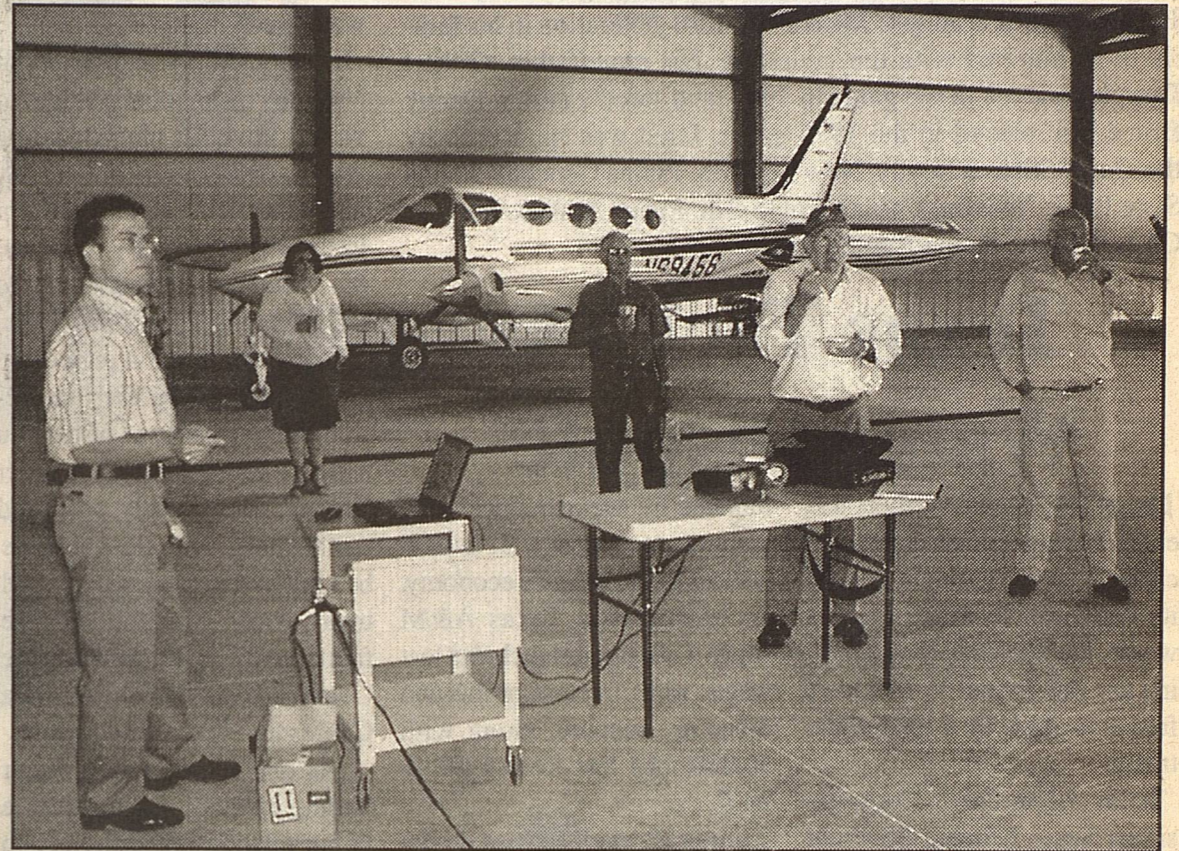
John Forrest, a member of the Australian Parliament, told Gary Walker, his pilot bringing him to West Texas from Austin, "What I'm seeing below us could pass for the Outback of my country - it's dry, and badly needs rain."

His government dispatched Forrest, upon his continued urging, to Texas to study first hand precipitation enhancement programs here. He hopes to be able to gather enough data to encourage his fellow law makers to authorize another attempt to encourage rainfall on the vast and dry continent.

Forrest was a guest last Friday morning at Sandy Land Water District's aircraft hangar, where two of the aircraft used in the Southern Ogallala Aquifer Rainfall program are based. Judge Dallas Brewer welcomed Forrest to Texas and Yoakum County, and Gary Walker briefly spoke of his visit.

SOAR Meteorologist Duncan Axisa narrated a slide program which graphically depicted how the state of the art radar and a computer program here can analyze approaching clouds, and assess the possibility of them being potential rain bearing clouds, and if cloud seeding flights could enhance the chances of rainfall.

Following the slide presentation, Forrest told visitors he was truly impressed with the technology and equipment in place at the local site. He said some years back there were similar programs tried in Australia. "Unfortunately, we



L - R, Meteorologist Duncan Axisa, Lindsay Kimborowicz, Sandy Land Director Ray Bearden, visiting Australian John Forrest, SOAR Manager Gary Walker. Cessna 340 cloud seeding aircraft in back ground.

didn't persist in our efforts to encourage Mother Nature to be more bountiful with rains, we didn't persist in improving our methods and equipment as you have here in Texas. When I get back home, it will be my job to convince the other law makers to study what you people here have and are doing."

He related Australia is a continent remarkably close to the size of the continental United States. "We have a population of some 90 million, while you number over 250 million. We must be careful about opening our doors wide to all wanting to live down under - our most critical problem is lack of water."

Several ag producers in the audience asked Forrest if

ground water was used in Australia in the production of crops. He reported there is extensive irrigation there, but ground water is used principally on food plants, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, wine grapes, and application of the water is usually by drip or trickle type systems. "We raise cotton in Australia, the same as you do here, but we don't use these huge pivot systems. Our cotton is grown where there is normally enough rainfall for the crop, and in some cases with irrigation from a few of our rivers. We just don't think there is enough money in cotton to justify more expensive irrigation methods. Our producers do make money on the other crops we grow."

Forrest was particularly impressed with one slide in Axisa's presentation, an analysis of 731 seeded and 731 non-seeded clouds tabulated over a period of time by the San Angelo precip enhancement program. The slide depicted the lifetime, area, volume of the clouds, height, and volume of precipitation contained in the seeded and non-seeded clouds. The seeded clouds dramatically lasted longer, covered larger areas, built to greater heights, and had greater volumes of precipitation. Forrest told the meteorologist he definitely wanted a copy of the disc this data as stored on. "This is strong stuff, telling me the programs work."

### 2002 Yoakum County Art Show

Judge - Janet Byble  
July 30 - Entries ...9 am.-7 pm.

July 31-Purchase  
Awards...9 am.-1 pm., 5 pm.-7 pm.

Aug 1 - Judging 10 am.  
Aug. 2 - Public Viewing - 12 pm.-6 pm.

Aug. 3 Public Viewing 10 am.-12 pm., 1 pm.-4 pm.

Entrie fees: Members \$3.00  
non members \$5.00, students no fee

Eligibility only work not previously entered in YCCA

All paintings must be framed and wired for hanging

Miniatures not to exceed 5x7

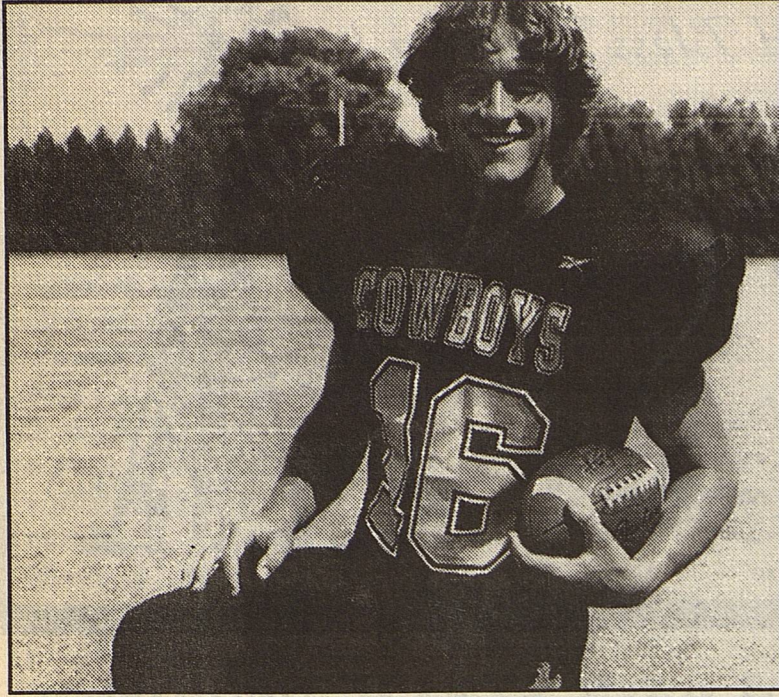
Others not to exceed 30 in x 40 in.  
Uvonne Morgan 456-2121  
Lisa Gentry 456-5255

### What the Watermelon Round Up is about



The Lowe produce shipping facility on the stateline at New Tex was busy last week, sorting and packing both seedless and seeded watermelons. Workers have been busy in fields of local producers Ricky Hartman and Brad Palmer. The always volatile market price has been good for the first of the harvest season. Millions of pounds of the county's famed melons will be shipped this summer and early fall to virtually every state in the nation.

## Third generation Bell to play in North - South All Star game



Jared Bell, a 2002 Plains High graduate, has been invited to play in the annual North-South All Star football game July 30 in Houston's Rice Stadium. Jared is the third generation in his family to be honored with the invitation. His grandfather, Gilbert Dan Bell played in the game in 1957, and Jared's father, Danny Bruce Bell played in the 1977 game. Jared was sponsored by the Guy Williams family, New Tex Gin, Plains Coaches, Plains State Bank, Yoakum County CoOp Gin, Plains Athletic Booster Club, and the Kevin Bartley family.

## Texas Tackles Water Dispute

Lower Rio Grande farmers had entered this summer under dire circumstances. Drought was on its way, and to make matters worse, the Rio Grande was drying up, due in part to Mexico's failure to abide by a 1944 water treaty.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs, Governor Perry, U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, as well as many of the region's producers have worked diligently with U.S. and Mexico's top officials, urging a resolution to the ongoing dispute. By June, however, prospects for even a partial repayment to carry farmers through the summer appeared dim.

The total value of the 1.5 million acre-foot water debt accu-

mulated by Mexico since 1992 amounts to almost a \$1 billion net loss to the Valley's economy, according to a Texas A&M study. This amount includes lost wages, rents, interest, profits and other net income, along with 30,000 jobs lost from 1992 to 2002.

In contrast, evidence has shown the Mexican state of Chihuahua has built up its agricultural crop sector - even during drought years. A May 2002 Texas A&M report showed over the last decade, Chihuahua had shifted from growing low value crops requiring less water, such as barley, wheat and soybeans, to higher value crops requiring more water, like alfalfa, peanuts, tree fruits, cantaloupes and on-

ions. Chihuahua crop yields were also up 8 percent during the drought years of 1995 to 1999.

"We have satellite photos, first hand eyewitness accounts of visits to the Rio Conchas Basin, and we have reports from Mexico's own agricultural agency," Combs said. "These all illustrate concretely Mexico has water, even though they will not admit to it, and show they are releasing this water for cropland in the Chihuahuan desert at the expense of our farmers."

After learning from news reports as much as \$420 million in North American Development Bank funds had been requested by Mexico to upgrade irrigation systems, Combs sent a letter to NADBank chair, Tres. Secretary Paul O'Neill, urging no U.S. funds be used in Mexico until the water treaty terms were met.

In May, Mexican President Vicente Fox announced Mexico would unveil a plan detailing water conservation in Mexico, and water deliveries to conform to the 1944 treaty. By mid-June his announcement continued to be delayed. The Texas Farm Bureau has recommended the treaty be scrapped if that becomes the consensus of the Rio Grande Valley farmers. A water district has seriously proposed a 400 mile gravity flow pipeline be built to divert Mexico bound treaty water - 1.5 million acre feet annually that flows from the Colorado river in Arizona to Baja California - to the Rio Grande.

"As one of our state's major trading partners, the importance of our relationship with Mexico cannot be over emphasized," Combs said. "But this water treaty dispute has put a real strain on relations, which I hope we can quickly mend and strengthen again."

By Ramona Nye,  
Texas Agriculture Today



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### CSW Offers Computer Science Degrees

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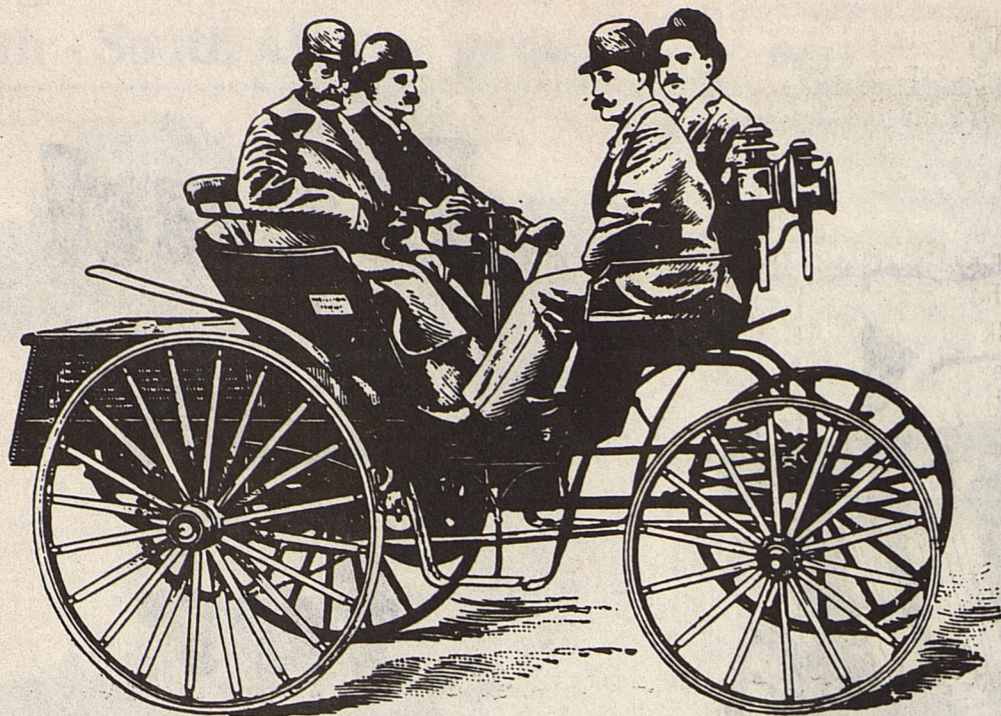
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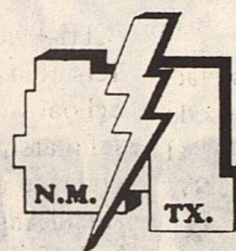
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Rushing,*

**Yoakum County Clerk**



*Join Us For  
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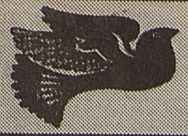
**Plains Chamber  
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**" Proud of the past, plans for the future "**

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Be Wild  
And  
Wooly !**

**The Mayor, Council  
and Staff of  
The City Of Plains**





## Obituary

### Services Held For O.W. "Red" Harbour

O.W. "Red" Harbour, 81, of Plains died Tuesday evening, at the Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City.

Graveside services were held Friday morning at 10 am. at the Plains Cemetery in Plains with Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Burial was under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home in Denver City.

Mr. Harbour was born on Oct. 10, 1920 in Medicine Mound, Tx. He served in the Navy in WWII. He married Flossie Lee Emonds on Jan. 26, 1947. She died on March 20, 1967. He married Zelma Jo Smith on Dec. 2, 1977. He retired in 1985 after 18 years as a computer pumper with ARCO. He was a member of the Odd Fellows in Plains and First Baptist Church in Plains.

Mr. Harbour was preceded in

death by a grandson, James Ian Chapmond, and a granddaughter, Michelle Lynn Chapmond, and a sister, Nellie Jo Showers and a brother, Jack Harbour.

His survivors include: wife, Jo of Plains; 2 sons: David Michael Harbour of Slaton and Michael Wendell Smith of Clinton, Utah; 4 daughters: Linda Kay Ragan of Quanah, Marsha Jo Langford of Abilene, Gail Irene Jennings of San Antonio & Brenda Elaine Thompson of Mandeville, LA.; a brother, Ray Harbour of Vista, Ca

The family suggests memorials to the Plains First Baptist Church Disaster Relief Fund.

Pallbearers included Brent Langford, Don Langford, Nathan Harbour, Kellan Harbour, Thomas Clemmons & George Ragan.

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College of the Southwest is now offering Computer Science degrees. Students at the Hobbs campus can major in Computer Science, Management Information Systems, or Computer Science with a mi-

nor in Mathematics.

For more information, contact Toni Dunn at tdunn@csw.edu or Bruce Mills at bmills@csw.edu, or call CSW at 505-392-6561.

**Due to remodeling, the Yoakum County Tax Office will close Thursday, July 25 at 1 PM and re-open August 1 at 8 AM. To pay taxes or for motor vehicle help or information, please contact our Denver City office at 4th and Avenue B, or call 592-2331.**

Thank You,  
Betty Rivas  
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### WE NEED YOUR \$\$\$\$\$ HELP!!!

Each year, the Plains Rodeo Association finds it more difficult to fund the Saturday Barbecue lunch for the Old Settlers Reunion. To help keep this old tradition alive, we're asking for your financial support. Your donations can be given to any member of the Plains Roping Club, Chamber of Commerce and Plains Lions Club. Checks should be payable to Plains Rodeo Association.

THANKS

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

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

## Youth Safety Camp Scheduled For Wednesday, July 31st

Now that most children are out of school and on break, summer brings endless hours of sun and fun. Yet it's also an opportunity for both small and serious injuries, from lawnmower accidents to falls in the home and on the playground. The Yoakum County 4-H and Youth Development Committee is sponsoring a Safety Camp at the Stuffy Moorehead Park in Denver City on Wednesday, July 31st from 9:00 to 12:00 noon. There will be safety prevention tips on lawnmower and weed eater safety, weather safety, bicycle safety, seatbelt safety, school bus safety, electrical safety, oilfield safety, swimming safety and CPR. A rollover convincer has been reserved to show participants what can happen if they don't

buckle up. Buster the robotic school bus will be present to talk with youth on the proper way to get on and off the bus; and make their ride home a safe one. Exhibits at the park will be hands on and interactive. We invite all school age children in kindergarten through 12th grade to attend the Safety Camp. (Please no Pre-K or under). Lunch will be provided for all participants. There is no charge for participation in the camp and all handouts and materials will be provided free of charge. Mark your calendars and make plans to participate in the Safety Camp on Wednesday, July 31st. Participants are in for lots of fun and will learn how to prevent summer accidents.

## Sandy Land Announces Local Scholarship Winners

Chris Hansen, son of Ed and Terri Hansen, is the Plains High School winner of the \$1,000.00 scholarship. Chris is a 2002 graduate of PHS and plans to attend Angelo State University in the fall. He then hopes to receive an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Chris has been very active in school events since moving to Plains three years ago. He has participated in varsity football, baseball and power lifting. He was a regional qualifier in power lifting in two weight classes for two years. Also, he has been active in UIL events, including Math, Science, Number Sense, as well as being a regional qualifier in News Writing. He is a member of the National Honor Society and also attended Boy's State. He participated in the annual Quiz Bowl, and was voted by his classmates to be "Most Likely to Succeed" as well as having the "Best Smile". Chris has also been selected as "Student of the Week" on two occasions. Chris attends the First Baptist Church in Plains. He has a sister, Keri

and a brother, Brent.

Jeffrey Lollar is the Plains High School winner of the \$500.00 scholarship. He is eighteen years old and a 2002 graduate of PHS. His parents are David and Jerri Lollar. He also has a sister and brother in law, Jennifer and Drew Blessing, and a nephew, Harrison.

Jeffrey is a lifelong resident of Yoakum County. In high school, Jeffrey played sports, including basketball and football. He was also very involved in the Ag program, and was a member of Future Farmers of America. He participated in Livestock Judging and Stock Shows. When Jeffery was a sophomore, he was awarded the Star Greenhand Award in Ag. In his senior year, he received the Top Hand Award. Jeffery will attend Western Texas College in Snyder in the fall, where he plans to study Agricultural Science. He would then like to attend Tarleton State University, after which he will pursue a career in agriculture and teaching. Jeffery attends First Baptist Church in Plains.

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## Senior Citizens Corner

An interesting two week survey of Center activities includes an average of seventy two people per day in the dining room for lunch. Two hundred sixty three home delivered meals were made in the Plains bus drivers and Sylvia Lozano, our dependable Denver City bus driver, who also was responsible for making sure one hundred twenty nine seniors had a ride to and from the Center during that period and who makes a bus trip to Hobbs available once each month for shopping and recreation for those unable to drive.

In addition to the above statistics, eleven hundred and nine people used the Center as a recreation facility during that period. Recreational uses at the Center include those who come to play dominoes in the afternoons, those who line dance in the mornings, those who play pool in the afternoons, those who join the Monday night pool party, those who come to have hearing and blood pressure testing, and the many who walk the nice air conditioned hallways for exercise. How fortunate are we seniors of Yoakum County to have this Center available. Everyone over sixty is recognized as eligible to come and enjoy all

these things. The spouse of anyone who is sixty is also considered eligible even though he/she is under sixty. So consider this a personal invitation to come join us--you are WELCOME and you are NEEDED!

Seven of our seniors attended the monthly Invitational Pool tournament at Lovington last week. June Hanneman brought home a first place win in 8-ball. Our Invitational Tournament is the third Wednesday of each month. Several come from surrounding towns to participate but there is always room for more. Come enjoy the competition, coffee, doughnuts, and good fellowship and while you are here, stay for lunch with us. Our cooks always plan something special for Pool Day.

Faye Black, a long time "senior family member", is ill in Lubbock. We all pray her surgery will become a prelude to real healing.

We have been given a tentative schedule of something during the first week of August for the HEALTH FAIR mentioned in last week's column. Stay tuned.

Thought for today: "There are only two lasting bequests we can hope to leave our children. One of these is roots; the other is wings." (See Isaiah 40:31)

## Kid's Health Briefs July 2002

Most Serious Summer Injuries Are Swimming Related

The summer months show a seasonal variation in the types of injuries that send children to the emergency room.

Dr. Paul Sirbaugh, assistant professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine,

said the most common types of summer injuries are sports related, and the most serious are swimming related.

"Supervision is the key always, always, always," said Sirbaugh, who also serves as director of emergency medical services at Texas Children's Hospital.

## You are invited to the PHS Class of 1942 60th Class Reunion

August 3, 2002

Schedule Of Events

11:30 am Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo Bar-B-Que in Stanford Park  
1:30 pm Assembly in Methodist Church Sanctuary honoring all war veterans

2:00 pm Individual Class meetings for Class of 1940 through Class of 1950  
2:30 pm Reception in Fellowship Hall  
Everyone is invited to come by for a visit!

Ya'll Come !!

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



Sunday Schedule  
Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Morning Worship - 10:45 am  
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

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

Other Opportunities  
Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm  
Tuesdays & Thursdays

Experiencing God's Love  
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# From The Hack

I read an interesting article in the Sunday AJ about the migration of Cattle Egret birds from Africa to South America, and finally to North America. The report indicated experts figured a flock of egrets flying at 20 miles per hour, aided by say, a 20 mile an hour tail wind, could easily reach South America in two days time.

Compared to some of the birds I've hunted, that seems incredibly slow, about the equivalent speed of paint drying. I know for an absolute indisputable fact it's quite common for mourning doves to exceed the speed of sound when they flash by my much slower swinging

shotgun. I have actually been rocked numbers of times by the accompanying sonic boom following their passing.

I've hunted pheasants a few times in Kansas - when a big, burly cock exploded into the air just feet in front of me the first time, I thought I was witnessing the launch of a Patriot missile. Not all birds are terribly swift, of course, and those coming to mind first are the dozens who foolishly tried to surpass the speed of many vehicles I've driven and have died quickly but very messily on the windshield.

That's better than what happened to a rancher and his hired hand I knew at Eden many years ago. They were tooling along a country road, and saw a gathering of buzzards ahead, feasting on some sort of road kill. The rancher said he started blaring his horn as usual, and the ugly, fowl creatures began to take wing. He just kept blaring his horn, tooling right

along. Four of the buzzards cleared his pickup, but one overgorged clumsy brute of a buzzard smashed into and through the windshield. The rancher said he somehow managed to keep from turning the rig over, and finally skidded to a stop in the bar ditch. "I looked at Ralph, and immediately started to throw up, he looked at me, and he immediately started to throw up. The inside of the truck was covered with feathers, buzzard guts, blood, some other even worse stuff, and a buzzard foot hung off Ralph's ear."

I remember this story every time a dumb meadow lark darts in front of me on the road, and I always cringe and duck.

I recently read a blurb from the Texas Comptroller's office announcing their 4th annual Texas Sales Tax Holiday for August 2,3 and 4. The tax holidays exempt local sales taxes on most clothing and foot wear, even

stuff like underwear and socks. I was elated, and immediately visited several golf specialty stores and feverishly started gathering up fancy golf shoes, socks, slacks, hats, and even threw in half a dozen pair of Nike/Tiger Woods jockey type shorts, with Nike's famous "Swoosh" logo on the crotch and rear. I told the salesman to put this stuff away, and I would return August 2, chortling over the fact I would save really big bucks without the infernal sales tax.

I was severely deflated when he told me golf stuff will not be exempt from taxes. Then I became enraged. This is sheer discrimination against all golfers and would be golfers, the latter group to which I belong.

I argued the point with the sales guy, to no avail. Really boiling now, I told him to take all my stuff and stick it where the sun doesn't hardly ever shine and huffed out.

I rushed home and fired off a very irate e-mail to Carole Keeton Rylander, the State Comptroller, protesting this bias against thousands of golfers. To date, my reply box remains empty

When I related all this to the Bride, she giggled, "Oh, I do hate that.... I would have loved seeing you with that swoosh on your crotch and fanny!"

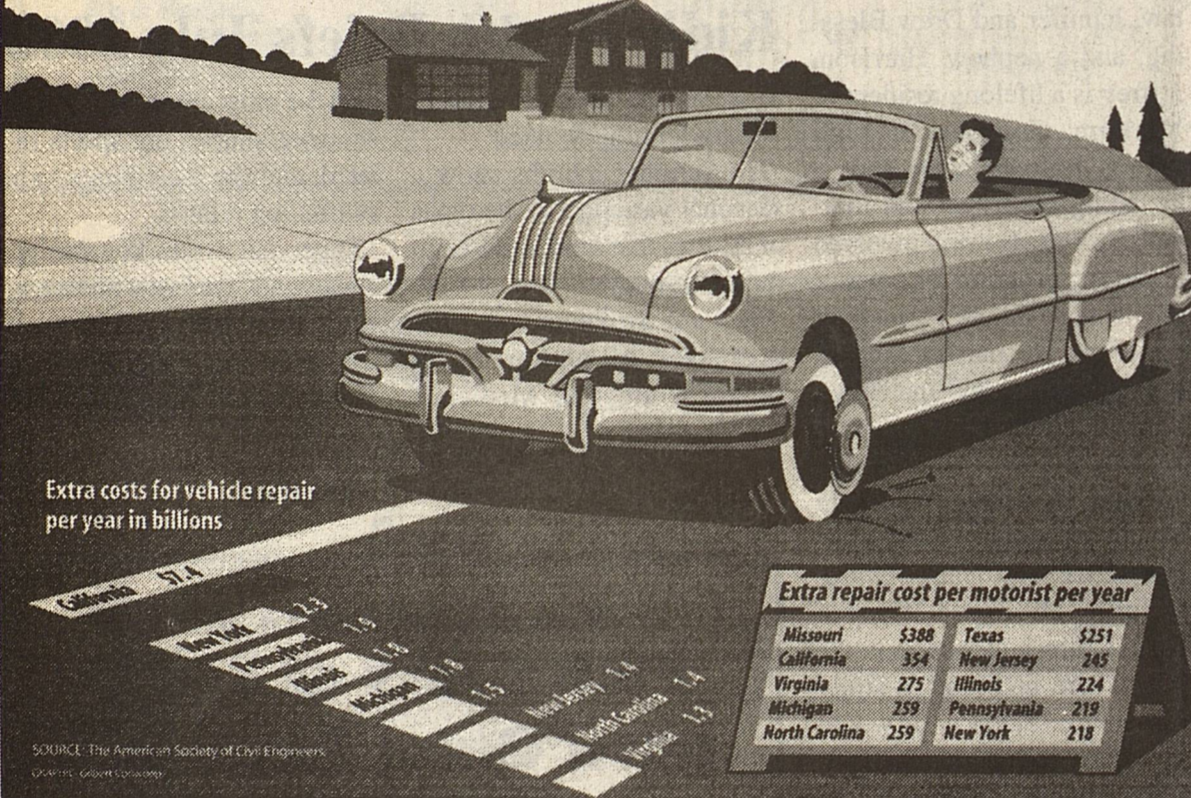
### Three day forecast by Duncan Axisa, Meteorologist for SOAR Program

DATE	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	WIND	RAIN (inches)
Today	Partly cloudy; slight chance of a few TS	95/68	SE 10-20 mph	< 0.01
Thursday	Mostly sunny	95/69	SE 5-15 mph	Nil
Friday	Partly cloudy and warm	98/69	SE 5-15 mph	Nil

## A Pothole in Your Pocketbook

In a state where the department of transportation says it can only afford to meet about a third of the state's transportation needs, it's not surprising if you hit a few potholes on the way home. Roads in need of repair can be more than just annoying to motorists. They can be expensive.

In its 2001 Report Card for America's Infrastructure, the American Society of Civil Engineers says Texas motorists spend \$3.4 billion a year—\$251 per motorist—in extra vehicle repairs and operating costs due to roads in need of repair. Only California racks up a bigger bill.



Extra costs for vehicle repair per year in billions

SOURCE: The American Society of Civil Engineers

**Yoakum County Hospital, Denver City, Texas** is seeking an individual to fill the position of Radiology Manager. Supervising and directing department personnel and all functions including radiology, ultrasound, CT, Bone Density and mobile services. At least three years experience as a Registered Technologist. Must have Registry or Certification: ARRT and current Texas license required. Fax resumes to Yoakum County Hospital, Attn. Beverly 806-592-2891

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**Rehab Aide needed for 6-8 weeks starting in mid-August.** Applications are available at the Business Office, Yoakum County Hospital. 412 Mustang, Denver City. Contact Carmela Davis, PT, 806-592-5030, Ext. 222

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