

Cowboy Country

God Bless America!
News



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

Volume V111, Issue 25, March 6, 2002

An appreciation Fund Raising Dinner will be held for Gary Walker, seeking his return to office as State Representative of newly mandated District 83 in the Texas House. The re-scheduled dinner will be served in the Community Building at 7 P.M. Thursday, March 7. Seating space, possibly food, will be limited to the site's capacity. We urge you to come, and BRING YOUR CHECKBOOK !

Lengthy session of County Court

In a busy session of County Court February 27, 14 criminal cases were heard. Judge Dallas Brewer was presiding officer, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Manuel Aragon Soto Jr., pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .106/.109. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. \$226 court costs and \$500 fine will be met with time payments. He will spend 6 days in jail with credit for two days served. He must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, and perform 24 hours community service. Investigating officer was Kenley Powell, Sheriff Deputy.

Alnin Joe Porter pled guilty to possession of less than two ounces of marijuana. He was sentenced to two days in jail with credit for one day served. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Trevor Eayne Lee pled nolo

contendre to possession of two ounces or less marijuana. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. \$211 court costs and \$350 fine will be met with time payments. He must pay \$140 restitution to DPS, complete the drug offenders education program, attend AA/Narcotics weekly meetings, surrender his driver license 180 days, and serve 24 hours community service. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Terry Cordova pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .081/.083. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. \$226 court costs and \$500 fine will be met with time payments. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 9 hours served, complete the DWI first offender program and serve 24 hours community service. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Scott Wayne Turner, pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .234/

Awareness of artistic talent and abilities comes early to many people. Many others often have to wait until mid-life to discover they are capable of creating appealing works of art, and if they are fortunate enough, creating art which can attract customers willing to pay for their talents.

This seems to be the case for locals Mike and Stephenia Blount, who recently discovered they have turned a small time hobby of Mike's into a business steadily drawing interest of western and southwestern art enthusiasts.

Instead of using oil paints and canvas, or the tools of a sculptor, Mike uses a plasma cutting torch, a wire welder machine and other sheetmetal tools to create virtually everything common to our southwest area and culture.

Two well established 'black iron artists' in Tatum have been producing signs, ranch gate decorations and other artistic works a number of years. The major difference in their work and the Blount's is the Tatum artists use computerized designs for their production. Mike says, "I'm not much on computers, so I do it the old fashion way. I just draw my design on the metal I'm working with, then start cutting."

.240. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$226 court costs and \$600 fine, spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 8 hours, attend AA meetings, complete the first offender program, and the Texas Alternative Incarceration Program. Roger Holguin, Den-

Turn To Page 2,
COURT CASES

Interesting local art entrepreneurship



The Blount's "Spur Of The Moment" art gallery and production shop is not exactly on the beaten path. In fact, Mike told CCN when these photos were taken, "Please don't try to give anyone directions here, you'll just get them lost. If they want to come by and take a look, tell them to give us a call and we'll meet and lead them here."

These accompanying photos do not do full justice to the original works. Subjects finished or being completed include artistic tables of square

steel tubing, a novel picture or mirror frame of smaller tubing, custom built lamps using materials including old lariat ropes, horse shoes and deer antlers, a four shelf table constructed of hand twisted steel cable, images of southwestern animals, some beautiful steel wind chimes in the Southwestern motif, and Native American danvers and artifacts.

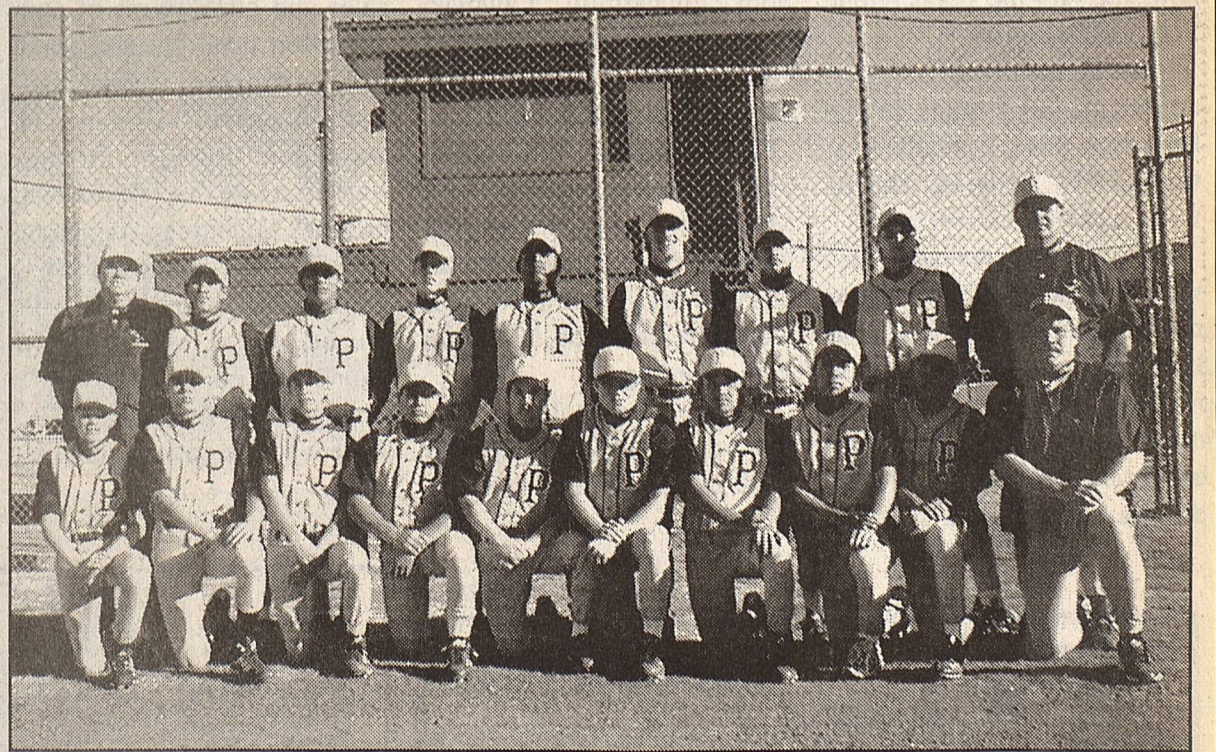
Blount said he produces the art objects, and if any special decorating or painting is desired by a customer, wife Stephenia supplies her talent

for such projects.

Mike told CCN, "We don't have any type of price list for our projects. What we have for sale now we have prices for, but if someone has a special project in mind, they can get our estimate to create it."

Who knows? One of Mike's sheet metal howling coyotes or Navajo dancers could one day be a very valuable collector item. The Blounts' may be contacted at 806-456-7422, or Mike's mobile, 806-592-1691.

Cowboy 2002 team off to fast start



Front, L-R: Landon Craft, Bat Boy, Dominic Dominguez, Brandon Davis, Joseph Rodriguez, Chris Hansen, Nick Hays, Jose Ramirez, Arnold Cordova, Richard Diaz, Coach Todd Davis. Back: Coach Robert Canon, Armando Ramirez, Miguel Coronado, Evan Cain, Ryan Martinez, Jared Bell, Mario Bonilla, Kevin Bartley II, Head Coach Kevin Bartley.

Despite some very drastic weather conditions for both practice sessions and three games, the 2002 Cowboys are showing improvements and lots of hustle and desire early in their season. In their February 16 opener, they downed Amherst 15-6 with pitching from Arnold Cordova and winning pitcher Kevin Bartley II. They were then dropped by Ralls 15-5, with the defense committing six errors. On February 28, they whipped Morton 11-0 in 6 innings, and managed to steal base 14 times.

**This Tuesday morning, Early Voting in the Primary Election revealed these results here and in Denver City;
181 Republican votes,
76 Democrat votes.
Have You Voted yet ?**

An Open Letter To Yoakum County Residents

Dear Neighbor,

The 17th Annual Plains Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held recently with 110 people in attendance. This was the largest crowd we have had in recent years.

Our guest speaker was Dr. Ernie Anderson from Houston. Ernie is a 1963 graduate of Plains High School and is now one of the more renowned dentists in Texas. We thank Ernie and his family for coming back home to take part in this banquet.

There was an array of door prizes, from a "Shop Vac" to "Sole Food for the Fingers". Three middle school students, Desiraye Broome, Nicole Culwell, and Meghan Garcia, were kept busy most of the evening, drawing lucky numbers and presenting the winners with some 50 plus door prizes. We want to say thank you donors for your generosity in donating these door prizes.

For those of you attending, we say thank you for taking the time to spend the evening with

us. You were a big part of the success of the banquet and your support is greatly appreciated.

We have had 7 new members join the Chamber since the banquet. Welcome aboard to Plains IDS, Ed Hansen, Cecil Van Hoose, City of Plains, Jack Cobb, First United Methodist Church and Johnnie's Restaurant.

Other than the annual banquet, the Chamber also is a co-sponsor of the annual Yoakum County Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo, the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, helps promote the Watermelon Round Up and maintains the Marquee located in Pioneer Plaza.

The Plains Chamber of Commerce meets the first Wednesday of each month at Johnnie's Restaurant at 7:00 am. Membership dues are \$5.00 per month for a business and \$1.00 per month for an individual. Anyone is invited to join.

Again, thank you for your support.
Plains Chamber of Commerce

**From Page 1,
COURT CASES**

ver City Police, was investigating officer.

Ubaldo Porras Garcia pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .162/.176. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. Time payments will be made on \$226 court costs and \$600 fine. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 10 hours served, attend AA meetings, and perform 24 hours community service. Joe Ramos, D.C. Polce, was investigating officer.

Cherilynn Gscheidle pled guilty to possession of less than 2 ounces marijuana. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated six months. Time payments will be made on \$211 court costs. She must \$40 supervision fees and \$140 restitution to DPS, serve 50 hours community service, complete a drug offender education program, and surrender her driver license 180 days. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Tomas Vaquera pled guilty to driving with expired license. He must pay \$211 court costs and \$100 fine. Investigating officer was Joe Ramos, D.C. Police.

Larry Ray James pled guilty to first DWI, b.t. .210/.206. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the first offender program, serve 72 hours in jail and 24 hours community service. His attorney was War-

ren New, and investigating officer was William Gardner, D.C. Police.

Rusty Scott Morgan agreed on the state's motion to modify terms of community supervision from a prior marijuana possession cause. He must pay a \$181 fine, \$360 supervision fees, \$59 restitution, and serve 25 days in jail with credit for 25 days.

Robert Garcia pled guilty to criminal trespass of a habitation. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Time payments will meet \$255 court costs and \$250 fine. He must serve 80 hours community service, complete anger management counseling, spend 24 hours in jail with credit for 85 hours served. Chris Ballard, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

Raymond Ryan Bernal pled guilty to possession of less than two ounces marijuana. He will spend 60 days in jail with credit for one day. Consumption of alcohol by minor and driver license suspended 180 days were adjudicated. Deputy Kenley Powell was investigating officer.

Stanley Ramos Caballero pled guilty to first DWI, b.t. .123/.114. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 6 months. He must pay \$225 court costs, complete the first offender program, surrender his license 90 days, spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 9.5 hours served, and 24 hours

community service. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Robert Shugart, DPS, was investigating officer.

Marcos Esquendo Matias pled guilty to subsequent DWI, b.t. .172/.180. A year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He will make time payments on \$225 court costs and was fined \$1000. A failure to appear cause was adjudicated. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 57 days served. He must complete the repeat offender program, the TAIP program, serve 80 hours community service and surrender his license 90 days. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Investigating officer was James Melendez.

**Services held
for Noel
Barron**

Funeral services for Noel Barron, 88, were held at 2 PM in the First Assembly of God Church in Seagraves, with Rev. L.D. Hinsen officiating. Burial followed in Gaines County Cemetery under direction of the Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors of Seagraves.

He was born July 11, 1913, at New Catsle, Texas. He grew up farming and ranching, and later worked for E.C. Roberts as an electrician until he retired in 1994. He was a member of the Woodmen of the World, and First Assembly of God Church.

He is survived by his wife, Grace Dozier Barron; Three sons, Bill of Whitehouse, Alton of Lubbock and Roger of Seagraves; a daughter, Beth Welch of Gorman, 11 grandchildren, 24 great grandchildren.

The family requests memorial be made to Vista Care Family Hospice, 7606 University Ave. Suite C. Lubbock, Tx 79423 or your favorite charity.



A note from the Texas Ag Commissioner

As the old adage goes, the only constant in life is change. And in agriculture, change is as certain as a High Plains dust storm or a dry day in the Valley.

As agriculture evolves, major innovations emerge either as a result of change or in anticipation of it. Years ago we tossed aside the hoe in favor of 18 row cultivator plows. We have undertaken brush control projects in search of new sources of water. We began processing and bagging produce to meet consumer demands for convenience.

The world is on the fast track of change. And we must be visionaries - thinking big, dreaming big and being proactive rather than reactive - if agriculture is going to meet the needs of the world as we blow through the 21st Century and beyond.

But being visionary means more than just pushing forward with technology and inventions. It's a state of mind, and it's got to include a vision for the basics - food safety, land conservation, the availability of water.

ELECTION CALENDAR
Listed below are the major dates concerning the upcoming City Council General Election to be held on Saturday, May 4, 2002.

PURPOSE
To elect one (1) Mayor and two (2) Councilmembers. Those with expiring terms are: Mayor T. J. Miller and Councilmembers Shane McKinzie and Pam Redman.

CANDIDATE FILING DATES
Tuesday, February 19, 2002 through Wednesday, March 20, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE
Thursday, April 4, 2002 is the last day to register to vote in the May 4, 2002 City Council General Election. Voter Registration is at the Yoakum County Courthouse Tax Office.

EARLY VOTING
By Personal Appearance - Wednesday, April 17, 2002 through Tuesday, April 30, 2002. At the temporary Plains City Hall in the EMS/Fire Dept Building at 1104 Ave G from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY
Saturday, May 4, 2002
At the Yoakum County Community Building, 1006 Ave G
Polls open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The events of September 11 are still firmly etched in our minds, and industries across the board are putting their heads together to examine safety issues. TDA organized its own Texas Food Security Coalition to help protect the industry from domestic attacks. And even before September 11 we were heavily engaged in protecting Texas agriculture from outside threats - everything from invasive pests to foot and mouth disease.

The loss of agricultural land - It takes soil to grow food, and millions of acres of U.S. farmland have been converted for other uses. This challenges our nation's ability to feed itself, preserve wide open spaces and curb land fragmentation. The Texas Legislature will be looking closely at the issue over the next year. We simply can't afford to let America's agricultural land continue to disappear, and this continues to be a priority for TDA.

And then of course water - a simple compound that continues to be a complex issue.

Farmers and ranchers depend on water for livestock, crops, fruits and vegetables - they depend on water for their livelihood and their survival. And economic activity follows water - or deal breaker - in the prosperity of our rural communities. We must continue to pore over water ownership, conservation efforts, innovative techniques and long term management strategies to develop fair and equitable solutions.

While agriculture will continue spurring hundreds of innovations that make life easier, the bigger story here involves having a plan that covers the basics. Safety, land and water are essential if Texas is to continue to be an agricultural giant, putting food on tables across the nation and across the globe. As visionaries, we must consider the fundamental elements that keep us grounded and growing.

Susan Combs,
Commissioner,
Texas Department of Agriculture

**Secretary Links Agriculture To
Homeland Security**

Rounding out a whirlwind multi-state tour this month, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, Ann Veneman stopped off in Dallas to address the 2002 National Cotton Council delegation and appoint members and alternates to the National Cotton Board.

Veneman thanked American farmers and ranchers for supplying the nation with safe, abundant food and fiber, emphasizing agriculture's importance to homeland security.

Veneman stated, "we need to do everything we can to protect our food and agricultural sector not only from unintentional threats, but now also from in-

tentional threats to our food supply, and we've been working very hard on this at USDA."

"The Administration supports farm policies that would strengthen the farm economy over the long term, programs that are market oriented and encourage independence but don't hurt producers. The President also wants a farm bill that supports international trade," said Secretary Veneman.

These are welcome words of encouragement to the cotton industry considering the volatile nature of the agriculture economy. Cotton communities in Texas alone lost estimated \$433 million for the 2001 crop year.

Secretary Veneman expressed her desire to have farm policy passed that is "generous but affordable" and able to jump start the agriculture economy through export expansion; increased support for research and technology, conservation,

elimination of unfair trade practices, and risk management.

"A good farm bill must provide a safety net for farmers without encouraging over production which thereby depresses prices. If we set loan rates too high, it could reverse their intended impact and make an already difficult situation even worse," Veneman said.

According to Veneman, passing new farm legislation is just one hurdle facing the Administration. USDA then faces the daunting task of implementing the associated farm program changes. USDA must be ready to quickly deliver the programs once the President signs the farm bill.

Farm Service Agency (FSA), under the USDA umbrella, will be responsible for timely, efficient program delivery which will include distributing payments to producers.

What's The Worst Tax For Texas?

New Study Finds Income, Property Taxes Aorse Than Sales Tax

A new study unveiled in Midland finds that an income tax would be a drag on Texas' economy, and suggests that reliance on sales taxes and user fees will harm economic growth the least.

"During the 1990's, almost 3 million people moved from states with income taxes into states without income taxes. That means that excepting Sunday's, some 1,000 people moved into states without income taxes every day for nine years," said economist Richard Vedder, PhD, referring to his new study for the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The study, the first of a six part examination of taxes in the Lone Star State, is available at the TPPF website, <http://www.tppf.org/tax/worsttax/>.

Vedder, a former economist for the congressional Joint Economic Committee, finds that keeping the tax burden low is the most critical economic priority, but that the "wrong" tax can seriously reduce the growth of jobs and personal income.

He found that real personal income growth was more than twice as high in the states raising taxes the least (or not at all), compared with the states with the biggest increases in tax burden. Further, the increase in tax burden was three times greater in states enacting an income tax within the last forty years compared to states with no income tax, Vedder finds.

"While the income tax has the most economically adverse effects, property taxes are not far behind," said Vedder, noting that sales taxes are less economically harmful. "Lawmakers should tell those who advocate new or increased taxes: Don't mess with Texas!"

TPPF president Jeff Judson told supporters and friends in Midland, Texas, where the findings were announced that state leaders must recognize that there must be limits on state spending.

"People who feel the state must raise taxes to meet human needs in the state are overlook-

ing the mountain of research showing that a tax increase will actually increase human misery, not reduce it," said Judson. "Texas has weathered the national economic downturn in part because our business climate is so good. We shouldn't sabotage ourselves by doing the two things we know will destroy growth: raise taxes or implement an income tax. De. Vedder's study includes four "Principles to Live By" for tax policy decision-making: *Keep the overall tax burden low. * Make relatively heavy use of sales and other forms of consumption taxation, and make little or no use of income taxation. States without an income tax should under no circumstances create one. Try to keep property tax burdens moderate as well. *De-emphasize federal grants-in aid, and do not increase local spending to "match" federal funds. * Change user fees directly to those who use government services.

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Kevin Bartley checks up swing on ball

Cowboy baseball stats

Amherst vs. Plains

Team	R	H	E	1	2	3	4	5	6
Amherst	6	5	2	1	0	3	1	0	1
Plains	15	14	2	3	1	1	3	2	5
Plains	AB	H	BB	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg
Chris Hansen	2	2	3	2	0	0	0	1	1.000
Kevin Bartley II	4	3	1	2	1	0	0	3	.750
Miguel Coronado	4	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	.250
Nick Hays	5	2	0	1	1	0	0	2	.400
Ryan Martinez	3	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	1.000
Arnold Cordova	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	.500
Mario Bonilla	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	.333
Brandon Davis	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Dominic Dominguez	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Team	28	14	10	11	3	0	0	11	.500

Ralls vs. Plains

Team	R	H	E	1	2	3	4	5	
Ralls	15	17	0	0	2	3	4	6	
Plains	5	6	6	3	0	0	0	2	
Plains	AB	H	BB	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg
Chris Hansen	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	.333
Kevin Bartley II	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jerad Bell	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	1.000
Armando Ramirez	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	3	.667
Miguel Coronado	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Evan Cain	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1.000
Arnold Cordova	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Joseph Rodriguez	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Mario Bonilla	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Brandon Davis	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Jose Ramirez	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Team	23	6	4	4	2	0	0	4	.315

Morton vs. Plains

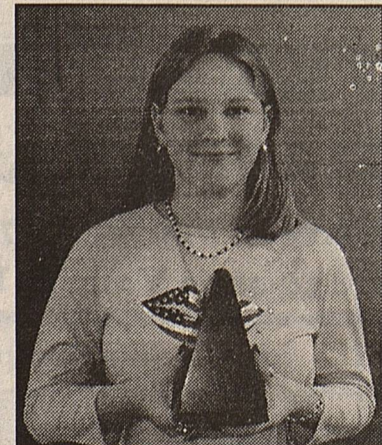
Team	R	H	E	1	2	3	4	5	6
Morton	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plains	11	6	1	1	2	2	3	1	2
Plains	AB	H	BB	1B	2B	3B	HR	RBI	Avg
Richard Diaz	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Kevin Bartley II	4	2	0	0	1	0	1	2	.500
Jerad Bell	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Armando Ramirez	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Miguel Coronado	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	.500
Chris Hansen	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	.500
Joseph Rodriguez	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Ryan Martinez	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Jose Ramirez	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Nick Hays	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	.500
Brandon Davis	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Evan Cain	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	.500
Mario Bonilla	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Team	20	6	8	3	1	1	1	6	.300

Student's of the Week



PHS student of the week is Stacie Alldredge, a sophomore and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Alldredge. Stacie was nominated by Mrs. Lusk and Mrs. Rotunno who said, "This week's student of the week is very optimistic. She has a bubbly personality. She is a delight to have in class. She has an endless thirst for knowledge. She is a very hard worker with a superb attitude. She stands up strong for what she believes is right. She can accomplish any goal she sets by her endless dedication and determination." (Mrs. Lusk) "Paul said in the Bible that he had learned to be content no matter what his situation may be. This week's student of the week interprets and applies this

wisdom in the best possible sense. She takes life as it comes and does not waste time complaining. Instead, she works to improve herself and her surroundings continually. In any activity she commits herself to, she gives 100 percent. She is always willing to do what is asked of her, and the smile on her face makes everyone around her willing to try a little harder also. Kids like her make teaching (and coaching cheerleaders) the best job in the world." (Mrs. Rotunno)



PHS student of the week is LaShonda Diamond, a sophomore and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Diamond. LaShonda was nominated by Mrs. Ortega who said, "Many think success comes from ability alone. However, this week's student of the week proves that sheer determination and hard work can also enable you to

Cowboys win their own track meet

The Varsity tracksters won their own Cowboy Relays last Friday in competition against nine 1A, 2A and 3A schools, scoring an impressive 151 points, compared to Tahoka's second place finish with 99.5 points. The Varsity Cowgirls also had a good outing, finishing in 6th place with 47 points. The Cowboy JV was fifth with 49.5 points.

Individual Performances:

Cowgirls:

Moriah Traweek 4th 100 M Dash - 13.22
 Moriah Traweek 1st 300 M Hurdles - 20.04
 Jill Gray 6th 100 M Hurdles - 20.04
 Jamie Covarrubias 6th 300 M Hurdles - 58.78
 Mackenzie Winn 6th Triple Jump - 29' 1"
 Kayla Willis 3rd Discus - 83' 4"
 800 M Relay - 3rd - 2:02.91 Kayla Willis, Jessica Rodriguez, Jill Gray, Manuela Villegas
 1600 M Relay - 4th - 4:44.01 - Kayla Willis, Manuela Villegas, Jessica Rodriguez, Moriah Traweek
 Varsity Cowboys:
 100 M Dash - 1st Moises Gonzales 11.10, 3rd Joseph Rodriguez 11.56
 200 M Dash - 1st Jared Bell, 22.58
 800 M Run- 2nd Richard Diaz 2:18.04, 3rd Jonathan De La Rosa 3rd 2:18.22
 1600 M Run- 2nd Armando Ramirez 5:33.37. 3rd Brandon Davis 5:37.69, 6th Payton Bean 5:56.35
 3200 M Run- Armando Ramirez 1st 12:19.60, Brandon Davis 2nd 12:51.60, Payton Bean 4th 13:01.30
 110 M Hurdles- 2nd Nick Hays 17.10
 300 M Hurdles- Chase Howell 2nd 45:13.
 4 X 100 M Relay- 1st place, 44.70- Joseph Rodriguez, Arnold Cordova, Moises Gonzales, Jared Bell
 4 X 400 M Relay - Cowboys 1st, 3:37.34
 High Jump- Chase Howell 1st, 5' 6"
 Shot Put - Chris McGinty 1st, 50.6.75
 Discus- 2nd Chris McGinty, 132' 6"
 Cowboy JV:
 800 M- Adam Guerrero 2nd, 2:24.07
 3200 M- 3rd, Chisum Justus, 13:26.44, 4th David Escobar, 15:40.98
 300 M Hurdles- 3rd Grady McNabb, 50.29
 Shot Put- 3rd Cody Flores, 35' 11", Ryan Martinez 5th, 35' 6"



Jared Bell anchors Cowboy 400 relay win



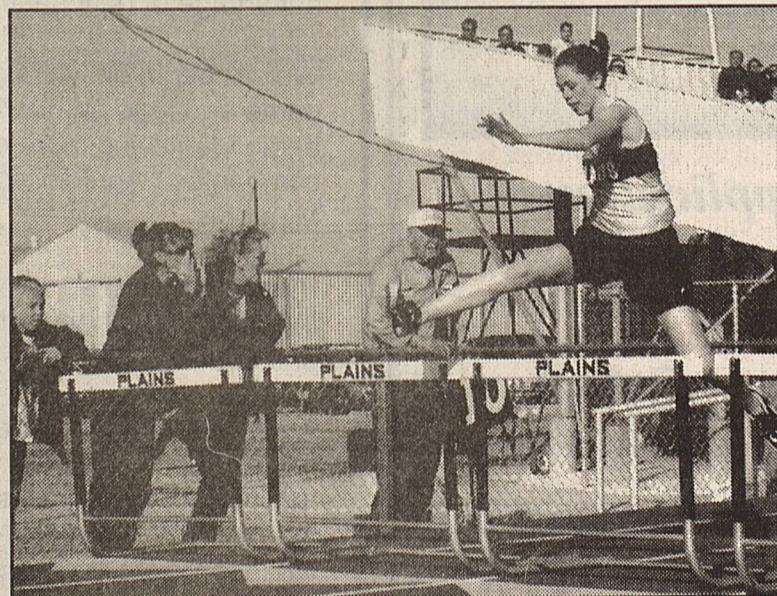
Mackenzie Winn soars in triple jump



Manuela Villegas passes baton to Jill Gray in 800 relay



Chris McGinty's winning shot toss



Moriah Traweek clears last hurdle in her 300 meter win



Armando Ramirez' strong finish in 3200 run

achieve your goals. This student was willing to sacrifice extracurricular activities in order to concentrate on meeting academic goals. By maintaining a positive focus and accepting full responsibility for her own learning and progress, this student will be successful in whatever endeavors she chooses to undertake. In spite of her own academic challenges, she has displayed a charming personality and a willingness to help others."

Middle schol impressive in Whiteface track meet

Both the Middle School Lady Wranglers and Wranglers made good showing in last week's meet at White face. The Girls won first place in the female portion of the meet with 176 points, while the boys finished in second place with 179 points. Individual results included:

Girls-
First place winners;
 Desiraye Broome- 400 M dash, 70.18. 200 M dash, 30.83, long jump, 13' 5.5" Priscilla Mares, Discus- 70' 5", Caitlin Carter- 100 M hurdles, 21.77, 300 M Hurdles, 61.98.
Second Place winners;
 Meghan Garcia, Alice Curtis, Maribel Mendias, Angelica Gomez, 800 relay, 2:15.41
 Meghan Garcia, Caitlin Carter, Alice Curtis, Desiraye Broome, 1600 M Relay, 5:13.95
 Maribel Mendias, 100 M dash, 14.83, Meghan Garcia 200 dash, 32.98, Nicole Culwell, 33 hurdles, 66.85, Desiraye Broome, high jump, 3' 10", Priscilla Mares Shot Put, 26' 11"
Third Place;
 400 Relay, Lisa Neufeld, Angelica Gomez, Maribel Mendias, Araceli Mendoza. 63.27. Nicole Culwell, 100 hurdles, 22.62, Alice Curtis & Araceli Mendoza, high jump, 3' 10"
Fourth Place;
 Allison Friesen, Discus, 48' 5.5"; Alice Curtis, 100 dash, 15.12. Angelica Gomez, 200 dash, 35.43.
Fifth Place;
 Hallie Cotton, 100 hurdles, 24.06, Alice Curtis, long jump, 12' 1". Ashli Hunter, Discus. 47' 9"
Sixth Place;
 Ariceli Mendoza, triple jump, 22', and 100 dash, 15.65.
Boys:
 2400 M Run- 1st, Abel Ramos
 4090 Relay- 2nd, Ricardo Cueto, Ramiro Martinez, Todd Williams- Michael Crump.
 800 M Run- 3rd Mario Ruvalcaba, 6th Scott Addison
 100 Hurdles- Todd Williams 1st, Ben Hayes 2nd, Blake O Quinn 4th
 100 Dash- Ramiro Martinez 2nd, T.J. Cordova 4th
 300 Hurdles- Ben Hayes 2nd, Casson Curtis 3rd, Blake O'Quinn 6th
 200 Dash- Mario Ruvalcaba
 1600 Run- Abel Ramos 2nd, Scott Addison 5th
 1600 relay- 2nd, Todd Williams, Ramiro Martinez, Casson Curtis, Michael Crump
 Shot Put- 1st Michael Crump, 6th Anthony Martinez.
 Discus- 1st T.J. Cordova
 Pole Vault- 1st Casson Curtis, 3rd Ben Hayes
 Long Jump- 4th Mario Ruvalcaba
 High Jump- 2nd Todd Williams, 3rd Casson Curtis

Plains Cub Scouts

Plains Cub Scout Pack #778 held their 3rd Annual Pinewood derby car races, Saturday, February 23rd. The races are divided into different groups which consist of Tiger Cubs: P.J. Pondo, Merrit Crump, Isaac Vasquez and Joseph Sainz. Wolf Group: Christopher Davis and Samuel Melendez. Bears Group: Kevin John Gass, Edgar Vasquez and Micheal Sainz. Weeblos Group: Jacob Brink, Justin Gonzales, Blake Longoria, Robert Davis, A.J. Martinez, Skyler Sainz and Derek Garza. Cub Buddies:

Jaston Brink and Clayton Gass. Overall Grand champion was Jacob Brink, he received a \$30.00 account at the Yoakum County Credit Union. All participants received a patch and trophy.

A special thanks to our start and finish judges, Steve Jones and Dare Walker, who received gift certificates to Johnnie's donated by Dottie Mayes. A big thanks to Yoakum County Credit Union for their donation. Thanks to family and friends for their support.

We are now looking forward to the District Races to be held in Seminole.

Honors Awarded At Southwestern University Convocation

Georgetown, Texas-Student honors were presented at the Southwestern University Honors Convocation, Saturday, February 23, 2002, held in Lois Perkins Chapel during Family Weekend. Honors were awarded by various academic departments, scholarship programs and academic and honor societies.

Clint Field Burrus, son of Tommy and Sara Kay Burrus, was presented as member of Alpha Chi, the National Undergraduate Scholarship Society, and Sigma Tau Delta, International English Honor Society.

Journalism Team Wins!!

The Plains High School journalism team combined for 93 points to win the team journalism award at a home practice meet last Saturday.

Junior Liz Wilmeth won first places in news and editorial writing and senior Annaliesa O'Quinn won first in headline writing and second in feature writing. Junior Mandi Rogers was fourth in feature writing and fifth place in news writing. Senior Chris Hansen was third in editorial writing and sophomore Grady McNabb fourth in headline writing. Freshman Cody Flores also placed sixth in news writing.

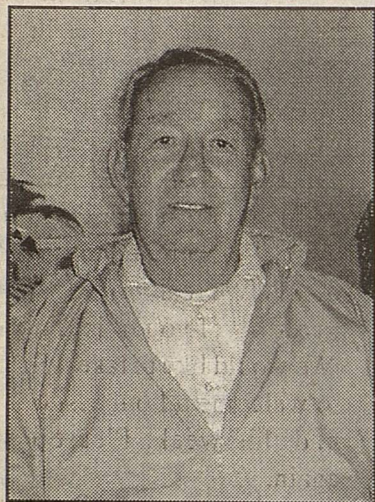
First Day Of Spring Is March 20st



PHS golfers competed last Thursday in the Denver City High Invitational Tournament at the Yoakum County Golf Course in miserable weather conditions. Cold, high winds were not conducive to good scores. The Cowgirls medalist honors went to Mackenzie Winn with a score of 112. Only two Cowboys competed as individuals, with Isaac Ramon carding 108, Cody Flores 113. Show above kneeling, Isaac Ramon and Cody Flores. Cowgirls are Mandi Rogers, Allison Butler, Chelsi Wagnon, Liz Wilmeth, Jill Gray and Mackenzie Winn.

Vote For Jimmy Maynard

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- * U.S. Navy Veteran
- * D.C.I.S.D. Trustee for 12 years
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Pol. Ad paid for by Jimmy Maynard

Re - Elect Toni Jones

Yoakum County Treasurer



Although I'm unopposed in the March 12, 2002 Democratic Primary, I would appreciate your vote, and consider it a vote of confidence in my re-election effort

Pol. Adv. by Toni Jones Campaign, PO Box 302, Plains, TX 79355

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We will begin answering the phone as Agriliance and you'll see the Agriliance name and logo on our trucks, company buildings, and invoices. We're pleased to begin identifying more closely with one of the nation's leading agricultural supply companies. Agriliance's southern operations are located in, and managed from Memphis.

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Additional information about Agriliance can be found at www.agriliance.com. At this site you will also find links to our regional cooperative owners Land O'Lakes, Inc., CHS Cooperatives, and Farmland Industries.

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'Do As I Do' Strategy Best For Improving Kids' Diets

Parents who want their children to eat fruits and vegetables should consider gnawing on some carrots before heading to the soapbox.

In a new study, Dr. Jennifer Fisher, a behavioral nutrition scientist with the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine, found that young girls were more likely to be pressured to eat fruits and vegetables, and less likely to actually eat them, when their parents ate few of these healthy foods themselves. The study findings appear in the January 2002 issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association. "Our findings suggest that if parents want their children to eat more fruits and vegetables, they can't just 'talk the talk,'" Fisher said.

Fisher examined the feeding practices and dietary intake of nearly 200 5-year-old girls and their parents as part of a long term study while she was completing post doctoral work at Penn State University. She found parents who reported consuming the fewest fruits and vegetables were also those who employed the most pressure in their child feeding practices. Yet, despite their efforts, their daughters consumed 1.6 fewer servings of fruit and vegetables per day than the offspring of

vegetable munching parents. Fisher also found that these girls had less nutrition diets overall, containing less vitamin A and folate and more fat.

"These findings underscore our previous studies suggesting that parents who try to tightly control what their children eat can inadvertently make 'healthy' foods like vegetables even less desirable to their children," she said.

Why children's eating habits tend to mirror that of their parents is not known. However, Fisher points out that adults tend to consume most of their daily intake of fruits and vegetables at dinner time, making this a particularly opportune time for children to learn to accept fruits and vegetables as part of their diet by observing their parents' eating behavior. Parents who enjoy fruits and vegetables also tend to bring more of these foods into the home, which gives children the opportunity to taste more of these foods early in life. Studies show that exposure and accessibility play an important role in the acceptance of new foods by children.

"Parents who want their kids to eat fruits and vegetables should understand that when it comes to kids and food, parents' actions really do speak louder than words," Fisher said.

West Texas Outlaws Win!



The New West Texas Outlaws A.A.U. Basketball team is composed of girls from Plains, Denver City, Andrews and Crosbyton. The Outlaws started off the A.A.U. Basketball Spring League in Lubbock this past weekend. The Outlaws played a back to back game and had a double victory. Coach Jim Quintanilla says the team is looking good.

Pictured Row 1: Regina Morales, Katie Winn, Shoni Fugua, Deandra Marquez. 2nd Row: Joani Bell, Lauren Davis, Natalie Franco, Naidya Rubalcava.

Tsa Mo Ga hears Literacy Program

At the February 25 meeting of the Tsa Mo Ga Club, guest speakers Rhonda Carter and Ruth Taylor reported on the Literacy Program currently being offered at Plains First United Methodist Church. The literacy offering is a project offered by the Laubach Literary Foundation, one of the world's largest and founded in 1955. The Methodist Church literacy project assists adults improve their lives and communication abilities by learning reading, writing math and problem solving skills. Attendance at the 7 pm Thursday two hour classes are currently being attended by eight to ten students.

Mary Jo St. Romain reported "Libraries 2000", started in 1997 and is a commitment of the General Federation of Women's Club is approaching its original goal of \$12.5 million in donations to the nation's public libraries, with some \$11 million donated to date.

Members Wilma Powell and Betty Rushing served as hostesses for the evening.

SPC to offer basic police

South Plains College Levelland will offer a summer Basic Police Academy May 8-Aug. 16 form persons who want to take the state peace officers licensing exam. Pre-registration is required prior to April 15.

The 576 hour course meets requirements set by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education.

The course covers Texas laws and procedural requirements, use of force, human relations, professionalism and ethics, fit-

ness and wellness, strategies of defense, mechanics of arrest and other topics.

Classes are 7am - 7pm Monday through Friday in the Law Enforcement/Petroleum Technology Building. Total in-district tuition is \$916, out of district is \$1156.

A \$25 non-refundable application fee is required. Application packets may be picked up in the same building.

Applicants must also be fingerprinted as part of a criminal history background check to ensure eligibility in the police academy. Fingerprinting must be completed prior to April 24. Applicants with a GED must also have 12 college hours.

Senior Citizens Corner

Well here we are the end of February, and the wind has already started to BLOW! Hope to see more moisture in the coming months, this dust is something we don't care for.

We have been having pretty good number in attendance here at the center daily. We all enjoy seeing the new ones who have been here this past month. We hope to see the ones who have gone out of town for the winter here real soon. We sure do miss them. Then we will have a crowd go to the mountains for awhile.

This coming Monday we will have our March Birthday & Anniversary celebration at the center at 11:30 am. We hope to see everyone here!!! Next Friday, March 8th, is Higginbotham night. We all like to go out there and have a good time.

We want to thank everyone who has donated items to the center for the garage sale. We really appreciate them.

It is good to see the ladies all line dancing in the gym every Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. The halls are really busy with people coming in to do their walking because of the wind blowing during these past few days. All the treadmills are still going hard

in the mornings and afternoons. Pool players and the domino players are all still gathering for their fun time daily. Every Monday night we still have pool and games at 6:30 pm. here at the center, in the Pool Room.

Gloria and Ann are keeping us all lined up and keep us well informed on anything that we need to know. The cooks are still turning out good vittles everyday. The van drivers are still out no matter how windy it gets. If you are a senior citizen and would like to come to the center you may call us at 9:00 am. and let us know that you need to be picked up. Our number is 806-592-8000. If you live in Plains you can call, Gloria or Sylvia and they can call the drivers from Plains and get you over here.

Also every 3rd Thursday of every month we have our Pot Luck and Jamboree. We have been having a great turnout when we get together on these nights. We really would like to invite all of you to join us.

We would like to take this time to welcome all our visitors we had this week. Please come again.

Till next time, God Bless Everyone

Wanda B.

Connection, Round Up meeting scheduled

A dual organization meeting of the Yoakum County Connection and Watermelon Round Up is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19 in the Heritage Room of the Plains Library. The Connection meeting will start at 6 P.M., followed by the Round Up meeting at 7 P.M. Officials and volunteers for both organizations are urged to attend these planning meetings.

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 Tuesdays & Thursdays

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From The Hack

Reflections on the War On Terrorism; In just six months since Septemebr 11, our nation has undergone almost unbelievable changes, some of them unbelievably cruel and sorrowful. While it may not be as apparent here in Plains America as it is in New York City, we have all been affected emotionally and yes, even spiritually by those four plunging jet liners manned by fanatic haters of everything American. A tremendous positive attitude of our people has developed since then , it appears to me, a display of genuine patriotism the likes of I have not witnessed since days of World War II. Bride and I have been visiting UMC regularly recently, and while waiting for her last treatment to begin, I fidgeted enough, and told her I was going to prowl about. I drove through the large (but certainly not large enough) parking areas, and it dawned on me I was seeing an amazing amount of Red, White and Blue on the many hundreds of vehicles there.

I decided to take a very unscientific survey; I drove completely through ten aisles of parking space, counting US flagged vehicles on my left, then reversed my trail, counted them on the other side. I now forget the total number of vehicles I passed through, but my pencil whipping figures indicated one in every six proudly displayed an image of our flag, or 'Go USA' type message somewhere on the vehicle.

Put the pencil to that. It's pretty impressive, the message we are sending. For the first time, in a long time, we are at least temporarily united in our efforts

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**February 25
Through March 8.**

combating the terrorists who are sworn and dedicated to bringing us down, like they did the Twin Towers and part of the Pentagon.

I hope our people can sustain this emotion and support, for each day that passes spells it out clearly - the radical Islamic followers are not about to stop now in their efforts to purge the world of all disbelievers of their Allah.

A case in point; An American citizen female in Florida, applied for her driver license. When she passed the test, she was told she must pose for her identity photo, without her all-covering veil, what ever they call it. She flatly refused, claiming wearing the horrible looking and stifling thing would be a violation of her rights as an American to practice her Islamic religion.

Hmmm. I was not aware of the governmental procedure of granting driver licenses had a bearing on religious practices. If it is, pray tell, why were laws passed by Congress many years ago prohibiting those of the Mormon faith denying males the questionable privilege and wisdom of having multiple wives, to warm their bed and gruel? Is that law not denying Mormons their religious freedom?

Another minor question - if your license is supposed to be a form of identification, who the Hell could do the identifying if your face were behind a veil? That's like telling those who must be finger printed for ID purposes, "I's OK, don't worry, we'll let you wear gloves to make sure your rights aren't totally violated!"

As I write this Saturday night, March 2, the airwaves are filled with evidence the Islamic majority are dedicated to absorbing or destroying all non-believers. If that sounds ridiculous, consider there are thou-

sands of them to our dozens.

True, most of the Islamic nations can't hold a candle to the USA in military power and capabilities. But keep in mind, Israel militarily dominates the Mideast, but they can't prevent suicide bombers, male or female from driving them to the brink with Palestinian and Muslim "Patriots and Faithful."

You know, of course, the Koran promises those who die as martyrs in the defense of Allah are guaranteed instant access to Heaven, and 72 virgins to make their Heavenly stay more Heavenly. I find no one talking at all of the supposed rewards of the recent female self bombing martyrs, or is it martyr-esses... are they ushered into the gates to greet 72 skilled male hunks. Is all this getting scarier, or is it just me? You can bet it's far from over.

Are you a Coke lover? After what I heard on KFYO Monday morn you might think twice before guzzling another.

On Jane Prince Jones' morning show, she reported DPS patrol cars carry a gallon of Coca Cola in the trunk, which they use to remove blood stains after wrecks. She also reported Coke makes an excellent toilet bowl cleaner, no matter how grungy. It will also reportedly completely dissolve a T-Bone steak (the meat, not the bone) in a couple of hours, and will also completely dissolve a common builder nail in just two days. She quipped she was going to pour a can in her potty. If the above is true, I'd rather pour it there than my stomach!

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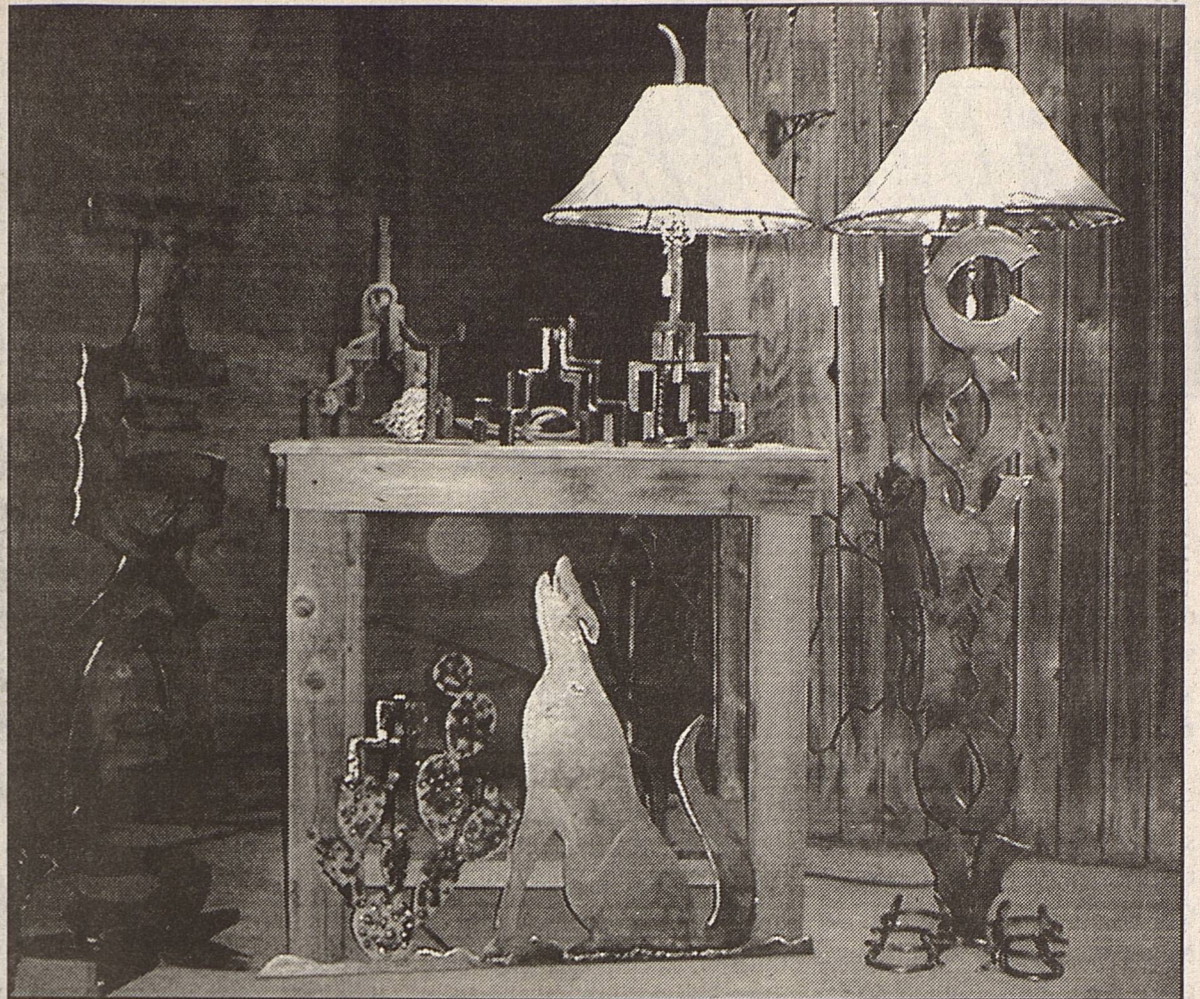
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* Bid Notice *

Sealed bids will be received at the Superintendent's Office, Plains Independent School District, 1000 10th St., PO Box 479, Plains, Texas, 79355, until 2 PM on the 18th day of March, 2002 for the Running Track Refurbishment at Plains High School. Bids will be opened and read at that time. Specifications may be obtained by contacting James Haynes at 806-456-7401 or coming to the superintendent's office located at 1000 10th Street, Plains, Texas. Plains ISD Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and to waive all technicalities.



More 'Spur Of The Moment' Metal Art Work.

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and fines and bonds set in Justice of Peace Court. Pct. 1, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases filed: 46 traffic cases, one felony

Bonds set at jail;

Possession of controlled substance, Tom Green County- \$15,000.

Theft by Check- \$500
Evading arrest/detention- \$5000

Two assault causing bodily injury to family member- \$1500 bond each.

Motion to revoke probation- held until hearing.

Possession of marijuana, under 2 ounces- \$500 bond.

Fugitive from Justice- Nebraska- held until transported.
Bond Forfeiture/criminal trespass- \$3000 bond.

Driving, no safety belt- \$200 bond.

DWI, first- \$1000 bond.

Yoakum County Connection needs a Summer Youth Arts Program Director, to be paid \$2500 for planning/supervising workshops in Plains & Denver City. The workshops have been provided in the month of June in the past. The person chosen would need to apply for Texas Commission on the Arts grant funding and able to work with people, particularly youth. Please send resume to PO Box 117, Plains TX 79355 by March 22. For info or questions, call LeAnn Romines, Denver City, or Linda Powell, Plains

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