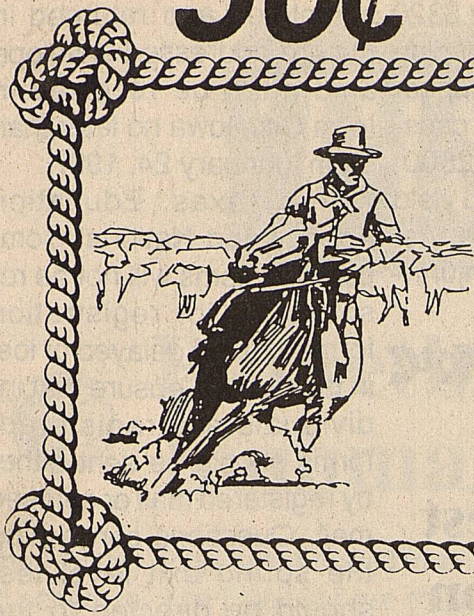


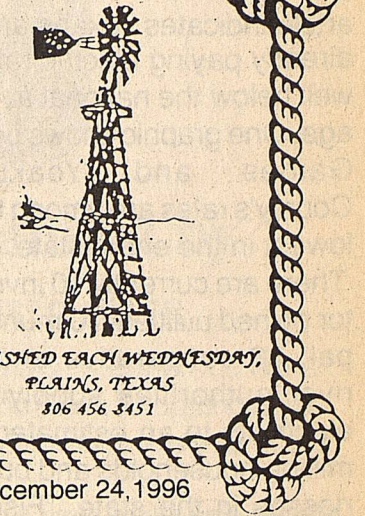
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Cowboy Country News



Volume III, Issue 17 Wednesday, December 24, 1996

Lions hear pitfalls of deregulating electric utilities

Lower consumer rates may not come to pass

One of the thorny, complex issues the State Legislature must grapple with some time after the opening session on January 14 is Deregulation of Electric Utilities in Texas.

Proponents of the idea claim deregulation is long overdue and would result in lower consumer rates for household, commercial and industrial users of electricity. Those opposed to the retail deregulating process say "Not Necessarily So".

Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative, the supplier to many customers in Yoakum County, and the wholesale supplier to the City of Plains, says deregulation is definitely not all it's supposed to be as reported by those pushing for its passage.

Dreyspring was guest speaker at last week's Lion's club meeting. He said "The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) passed an order requiring interstate utilities to functionally unbundle and to grant access to transmission grids. This move affected the deregulation of the wholesale end of electric utility business, granting generators and large buyers, usually wholesale buyers, access to the transmission network so power can be

moved from the transmission site to the large user.

"Unfortunately, another issue was introduced in the FERC proceedings, a procedure called "retail wheeling", seeking distribution utilities, like Lea County Electric, to allow consumers to choose from whom they wish to buy their wholesale power, and simply require Lea County Electric to "wheel" the "retail" power to that consumer".

Dreyspring sees a host of problems with this scenario. He used the analogy of next door neighbors here in Plains, one continuing to buy power from Lea County Electric or the City, the other opting to purchase power from a generating source in San

Diego, California. Lea County would be required to use their lines and service facilities to service the customer, but the customer would be billed by the San Diego firm.

He strongly feels the original "wholesale" deregulating Ferc order has not been given enough time to work as intended. The desired outcome of the order is to induce competition among the electric generators, where high energy costs originate in some parts of the country.

This idea is also borne out by data included in the publication, "Fiscal Notes", published by the Texas Com-

Turn to Page 2, 'Deregulation'



Pair of wrecks same day, same highway bring near disaster

Two area resident's Christmas holidays could have been totally ruined by two serious vehicle crashes last Wednesday on Highway 82-380 east of here.

Shortly before 10 a.m., a cotton module truck driven by Lonnie Collier Jr. pulled onto the highway in front of a 1991 Chevrolet pickup driven by Leonel Muniz of the Tokio area. Muniz's vehicle skidded over 100 feet before striking the truck.

The wreck was investigated by DPS officer Mike Bennet of the Brownfield office. Sources in the Sheriff's Department here reported Collier refused to take a alcohol breathalyzer test, and was arrested by Bennet on suspicion of DWI, and transported to the County Jail here. He was officially charged with failure to yield right of way.

The module truck was owned by O'Brien Co-Op Gin of Knox City. The Muniz vehicle was destroyed, and Muniz was briefly hospitalized with minor injuries.

Turn to Page 4, 'Collisions'

Christmas spirit reigns in community food and toy distribution



"The Merry Christmas Work Crew"

Twenty seven needy families in the community had part of their Christmas celebration early this year, when volunteers distributed large food baskets, complete with a Christmas turkey, and toys for their children. The total number of citizens getting a boost for the Holidays was well over ten dozen. In addition to the large, frozen turkeys, each food basket contained a great variety of canned goods, and staple items such as flour and sugar. Toni Jones served again as Chairperson for the food and toy drive, and expressed her thanks to all the donors and volunteer workers, and to Pay and Save for their help in the program.

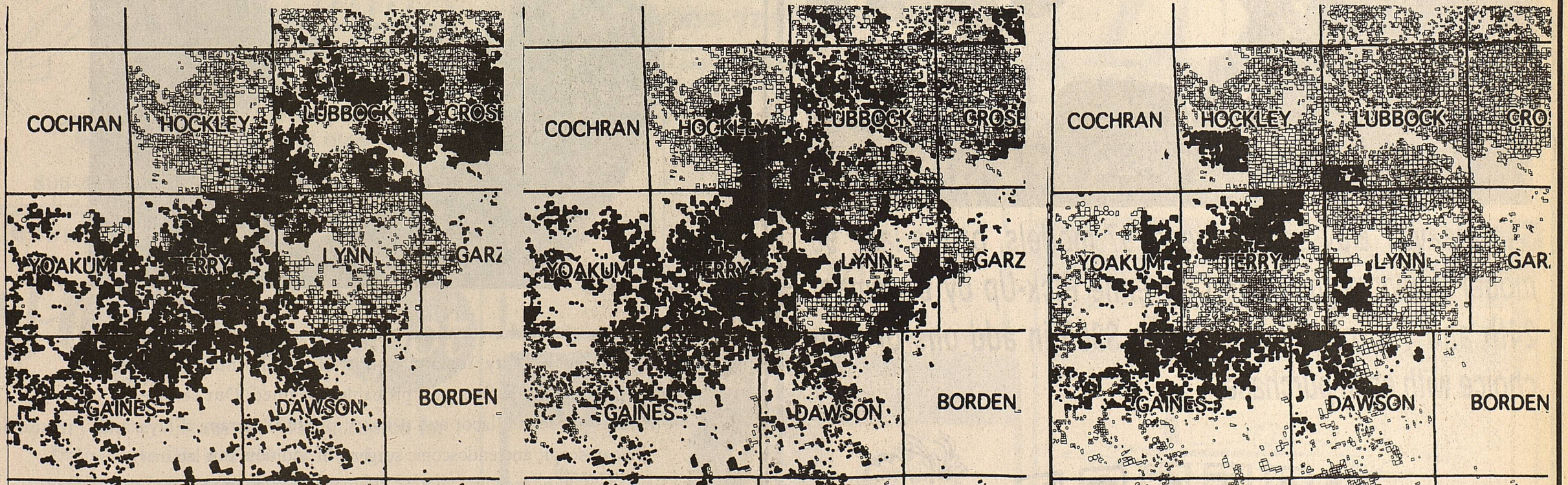
Twenty volunteers showed up at the Courthouse this past Saturday morning to sort and pack the baskets and toys, and then delivered the gifts. Those helping with the busy activity Saturday included T.J. Miller, L.J. Sanders, Toni Jones, Debbie and Morris Rushing, Jerome and Jeanette Head, Pat and Heath Bowlin, Gary Dyer, Denee McDonnell, David Brunson, John Curry, Debbie Smith, Shari McGinty, Linda Powell, Yolanda Gonzales, and Clarence Koncaba

"The Merry Christmas Work Crew"

This is our very last opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas!

Please note.. out of town subscribers will receive the next CCN one day late due to the New Year Holiday

Where the Boll Weevil Diapause Program sprayed in our area this Fall



Sept. 26 - Oct. 9
approx. 1,500,000 acres

Oct 10 - Oct. 24
approx. 1,300,000 acres

Oct. 25 - Nov. 2
approx. 300,000 acres

all infested areas were sprayed at least twice during the program, and portions of Yoakum County were sprayed three times.

From Page 1,
'Deregulation'

troller's Office. Data in the article indicates Texans are already paying electric rates well below the national average. One graphic shows both Gaines and Yoakum County's rates are among the lowest in the entire state. There are currently 10 investor owned utilities, 70 municipal, 86 cooperative and 4 ariver authorities supplying electricity to an estimated 8 million households and businesses in the state. "Fiscal Notes" says there are two opposing forces moving to influence deregulation in Texas. The large industrial users, now joined by power marketers and brokers, are campaigning actively for rapid reform. Their chief opponents are the primary generating companies and major power distributors, Like Lea County Electric.

A major problem facing 'dereg' opponents is "stranded assets". A company with major investments in plants, equipment and distribution systems currently recover their investments in the current regulated rates. If deregulation occurs, lower rates could make recovering dollar investments more difficult if not impossible.

Dreyspring brought out another problem area facing law makers and consumers. Using a local scenario, he pictured a number of customers in Plains making deals with Telemarketers and Brokers for electric power from half a dozen or more other sources, all of it coming over lines and equipment owned by Lea County Electric. Dreyspring asked, "What happens if there are problems, weather damage, power interruptions? Do our service personnel give their first attention to

the "foreign" supplier's customers, or do they take care of OUR customers first. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that answer".

He assured the audience the Legislators in Austin and virtually every other state in the country will be inundated by lobbyists of big business and industry, and hundreds of power marketers, demanding passage of swift deregulation laws. He said the deregulation of the telephone systems, with marketers popping up in every corner and offering every kind of "Super Deals" could be very mild compared to what will happen if deregulation occurs.

**Local
Receives
Degree
From Tech**

On December 14, Brad Ashburn graduated from Texas Tech University in Lubbock, receiving a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing. The 9 a.m. services were held in the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

He completed his internship at the Texas A & M Research Station in Lubbock, with studies in agronomy and weed control.

Brad is a 1993 graduate of Plains High School, and the son of Sheila and Stanley Ashburn of Plains.

**JP Court
Cases Held**

The following is a summary of cases heard and actions taken in Precinct 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

28 traffic cases, one bad check case filed.
Bonds Set; Issuance of bad check - \$123.47; Issuance of bad check - \$123.91; Assault causing bodily injury - \$500; 2 cases indecency with a child - \$5000 bond plus conditions each case; Motion to revoke probation - held until hearing; Violation of protective order - \$2500; Issuance bad check - \$400; Issuance bad check - \$350; Issuance bad check- (2) \$300 each; DPS Warrant, speeding - \$145 fine; Failure to maintain

financial responsibility \$320 fine; DPS Warrant, speeding - \$200 fine; Failure to appear - \$400; Assault causing bodily injury - \$2500; DWI - \$1500; Failure to yield right of way - \$92 fine; Assault causing bodily injury - \$1500.

completed and returned in the pre-addressed envelope and must be received in Iowa City, Iowa no later than 5 pm. January 24, 1997.

The Texas Education Agency and National Computer Systems will not be responsible for registration forms that are delayed or lost in the mail. To ensure that individuals are registered, forms should be sent either by registered mail or certified mail. Questions concerning the spring exit level test should be directed to the Texas Education Agency, Student Assessment Div., 512-463-9536.

**TAAS -
TEAMS test
information**

Individuals who are no longer enrolled in a Texas Public School and who wish to retake the exit level TAAS test, and all individuals who wish to take the TEAMS test may pick up a registration packet at the high school office during school hours. The test registration form must be

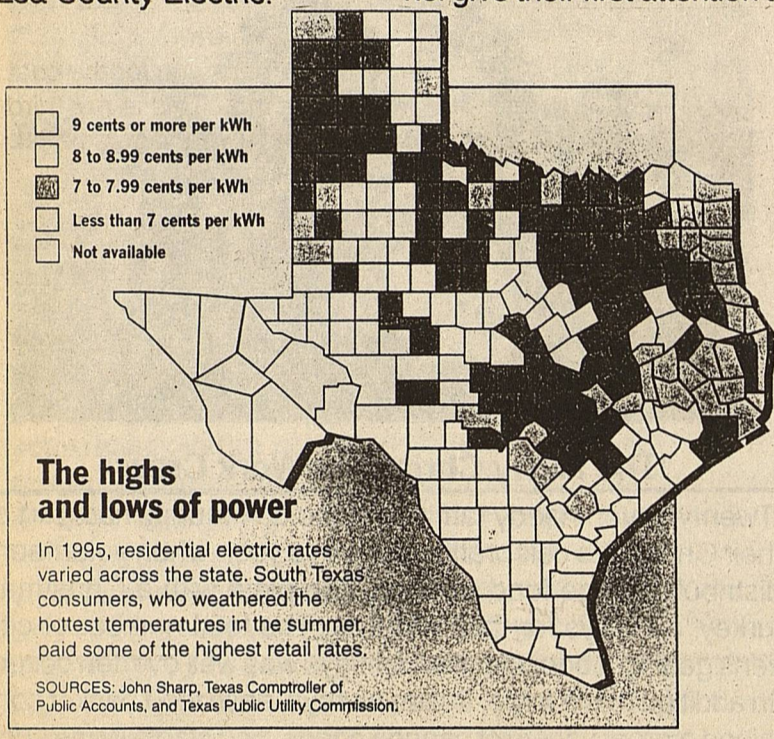


**Caloric intakes soar with number of
Christmas parties, open houses**

Townpeople had difficulties last week scheduling all the open houses and Christmas parties held in the community. Customers and friends could choose from, or attend each event, starting withTsa Mo Ga's annual Christmas celebration reported in last week's edition. Plains State Bank laid out an impressive array of goodies in their beautifully decorated lobby. Texas Equipment attracted hungry customers with everything from sweets to fajitas. Cowboy Country News held open house Thursday, and the really biggie, the annual Courthouse open house drew a steady stream of hungry visitors from 10 until shut down time, and if any walked away hungry, it was their own fault, or they had an ironclad will power

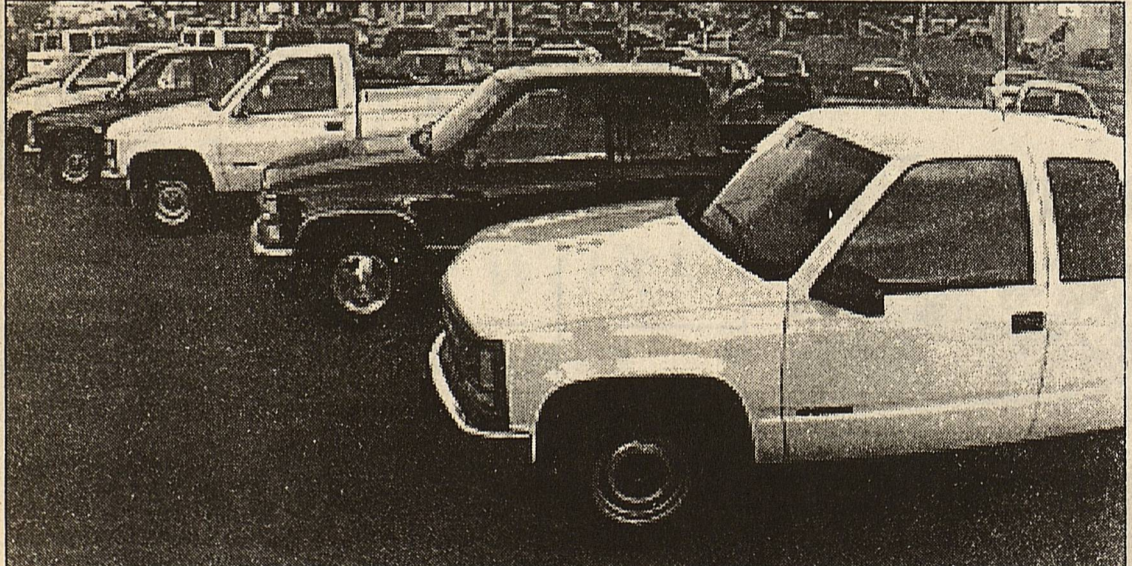


A small portion of the crowd which visited the Courthouse Employees event



**Santa
Shops
Here!**

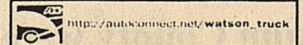
We've Made A List And Checked It Twice. There's No Mistake On These '97 Model Chevy Extended Cab Cheyenne Pick-Ups!



Santa says, "Buy one of these '97 models, or the last '96 model Chevy regular cab Cheyenne Pick-Up by December 24th and you can choose up to \$300 in add ons of your choice with each purchase!"



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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

Basketball Summary

* The Holiday schedule resulted in an abbreviated basketball schedule. The following are the only game results we could get by press time;

7th Wranglers; On December 16, the 7th boys had a good outing and beat Morton 36-26. Coach Davis said their defense was outstanding, and the offense is finding the open man much better. Moises Gonzales scored 10 points, Joseph Rodriguez had 9, Jared Bell and Tanner Hamm 6, Sergio Sandoval 4, and Jeremy Diamond 1.

8th Wranglers; The older Wranglers also did a good job on Morton, winning 42-31. Coach McAdams cited the rebounding efforts by Armando Luna, Jesse Mendias, Dustin Six, Brett Squyres, Adam Garcia and Joel Gallegos. Garcia had 19 points, Squyres 7, and Gallegos 6.

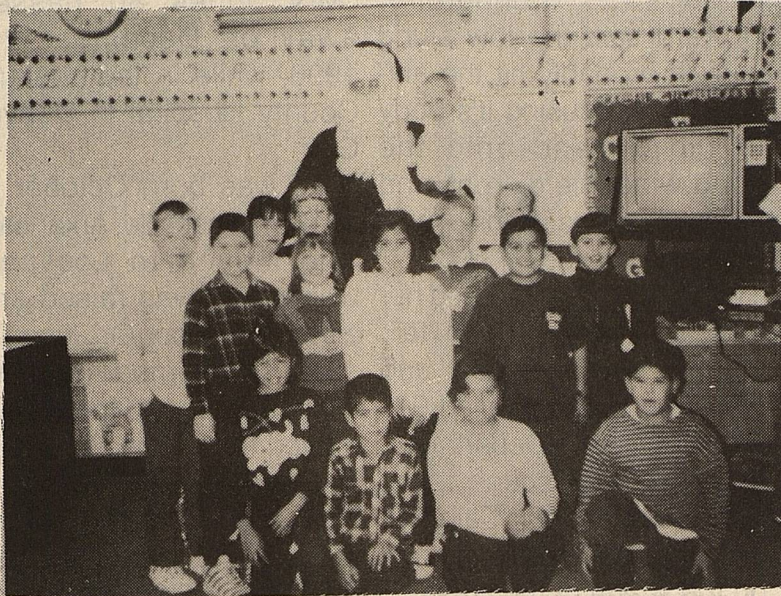
JV Cowboys; The younger Cowboys had a good win over Lubbock Cooper, 65-55. Coach Davis said the offense played well the entire game, and they improved their record to 10-4 for the year. Jason Redman scored 18 points, Will St. Romain had 12, Matt Morgan had 9, and David Luna 8.

PHS Cowgirls; The Cowgirls met a swarming nest of "Hornettes" in Sudan December 20, falling 98-30. Coach Osborn said Sudan had an outstanding team. The first half they made almost 65% of their 3 point shots. Shyloh Winn scored 9 points, Tessa St. Romain had 7, Sandi Warren 4, Kyle Bearden and Kelli Osborn 3 each, Lindsey Six and Kayla Redman 2 each. Six and Osborn led rebounding with 5 each.

PHS Cowboys; The Cowboys had a good and needed win against Lubbock Cooper, 70-67. Coach Williams reported Jamie Caballero was 4 for 4 from 3 point range. Tanner Blount led the scoring with 22, Caballero had 19, Chris Willett had 8, Joe Luna 7, Eric Estrada 6, David Flores 5, and Travis Bennett 2. The Cowboys next scored a badly wanted win against long time nemesis Sudan, 71-56. The only stats we have show Redman had 14 points, Blount 14, Caballero 14, and Flores 14.

Basketball action resumes Dec. 30 against Whitharral, there.

Santa Claus doesn't just bring gifts to kids. He's a very good reader as well!



Mrs. Phyllis House's third grade elementary class was surprised last week when who showed up to be their weekly reader other than Santa Claus himself. He is pictured here with the class, and holding Matt McKenzie. Santa performed his reading duties, then discussed his many activities with the fascinated class

To the P.I.S.D. Trustees, Administrators, Teachers, every Staff Member, and especially every Student, best Holiday Wishes!
Cowboy Country News

Lions Club thanked by Girlstown students

The Plains Lions Club recently made a generous donation to the Girlstown annual Coat and Shoe Shopping spree at J.C. Penney's in Lubbock. The following are some of the letters received by the club.

Dear Lions Club,
Hi, I am Claudia Sandress. I live in Girlstown and I am 15 years old. I go to Whiteface Junior High School. I wanted to thank you for putting this nation wide voluntary system up. We all really appreciate your effort and support you've provided us to live a happy life.

I have heard of this club before, but I never had a chance to meet one of the volunteers. I think it's really cool and nice of your part to do this for us.

Sincerely Yours,
Claudia S.

Dear Lions,

Hello, my name is Sherrie and I wanted to thank you for the coat and shoe trip you provided Girlstown with. I really enjoyed shopping for clothes and shoes. I am a senior and graduating this year so this was my last coat and shoe trip. I really enjoyed it. When I graduate in May, I'm going back to my home town in Canyon, Texas and then going to college at WT A&M. I'm planning on becoming an RN. But I might work up higher than

that. I have really enjoyed the last two years of coat and shoe and I'm sure that Girlstown will keep appreciating your help and your caringness to Girlstown. I would like to invite you out anytime and to make yourself comfortable. Well I hope to see you before I leave.

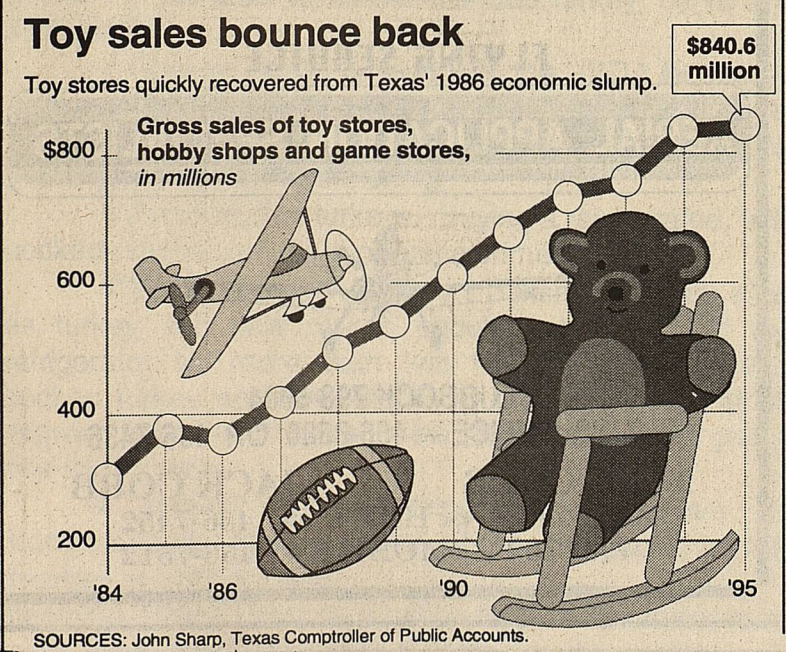
Thank You,
Sherrie O'Donald

Dear Lions,

Hello! My name is Dana Mau. I'm 16 and live in Edelman home at Girlstown, U.S.A. I am writing to thank you for the coat and shoe trip. This is my third trip and each year it gets better. To me not only is it a chance to have great fun, but also an opportunity to purchase many much needed things. This year I purchased 2 chapel dresses, chapel coat, a pair of school shoes, some jeans and a nice top. Without you all I wouldn't be able to have such nice things. Thank you and please feel free to visit our campus anytime.

Love Always,
Dana Mau

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Love, Christian & Tristian

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Some government waste probably inevitable.... but \$350 Billion?

Horror stories about government waste of taxpayer's money are nothing new, and are very likely to be with us well into the future. Dr. Richard L. Leshner, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, published an interesting article recently detailing rampant waste and fraud in various government agencies which have cost taxpayers (read, Us) an estimated \$350 Billion.

He reported a recent audit of the National Park Service (NPS), a branch of the Interior Department, revealed 16,277 property items worth \$27 million are missing and can't be accounted for. Another puzzler involved mandated downsizing of the NPS staff. If you think this sounds like commendable fat trimming, think again. Dozens of employees already past retirement age received \$25,000 buyouts, and NPS negotiated agreements with the same individuals to stay on the job for a year or more.

Construction of a Boston central subway system tunnel will end up costing more than the English Channel Tunnel, a much more extensive and difficult engineering feat.

Dr. Leshner says audits have revealed some employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service were paid 16 hours of overtime for one hour of overtime worked. He reported the Interior Department failed to collect \$1.2 Billion in mineral royalties, and says fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid programs will cost us \$27 Billion this year. If this doesn't cause shivers of revulsion, how

about the Social Security Trust Fund spending \$12.6 million to pay federal employees to work on union activities, or the USDA making an estimated \$2 Billion in overpayments in the food stamp program which are never recovered?

Dr. Leshner says many factors are involved in this criminal waste of government funds, including lack of accountability in upper management levels, and to a large extent, the strength of federal labor unions. He says "In the public sector as in the private, labor unions fight tooth and nail to obstruct any effort to foster efficiency, productivity and accountability. The status quo remains, waste and fraud are rampant and commonplace".

Remember all the campaign promises and rhetoric prior to the national Congressional and Presidential election this November, the talk of "reinventing government", a return to morality and ethics? It should be interesting to see how those lofty ideals and goals fly after the first of the year. I'm not fond of cynicism in most scenarios, but I know what my instincts tell me about the success of efforts to stop this \$350 Billion waste each year. The chances are razor thin to none.

For 2 hours a day, 4 days a week, Corpus Christi students can call for help with homework on any subject taught in the 5 school districts around Corpus. The program is in its 13th year. Teachers manning the homework hotline a full library of teacher's edition textbooks for all subjects.

From Page 1, 'Collisions'

Later that same evening local Teresa Howard was homebound on the same highway about 8:30 p.m. According to her husband Jerry, a Sheriff Department Deputy here, about three miles east of Brownfield she saw a young calf on the side of the road. She concentrated on the animal, afraid it might cross into her lane. At that point, a very large black, pregnant cow appeared on her side of the road and walked directly into the path of her 1996 Thunderbird. Howard said the low slung vehicle probably hit the animal's legs, causing it's body to flip up and onto the hood, windshield, roof and trunk of the car, which was totally destroyed.

He reported Teresa used her cellular phone to call him, telling him "I've hit a cow, and I'm bleeding". He called 911 and the Sheriff's Department, and sped to the scene. Local residents Beth Ann Cain and Wayne Lee Davis happened on the scene of the crash.

Teresa was taken by ambulance to the Brownfield hospital, and treated for a broken left wrist and glass cuts on her right hand.

Howard said there is no doubt in his mind the seat belt and airbags in the car saved his wife's life. The force of the animal's body crushed the hood and frame under it, forced the roof down and towards the back of the car several inches, and crushed the trunk.

Services held for Irene Jones

Funeral services were held for Irene Jones Monday, December 23, at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church of Plains. Reverend Bill Wright of the Church conducted the services, and interment followed at the Plains Cemetery. The services were under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. Mrs. Jones, 80, passed away on December 21, 1996, while in the Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City.

She was born October 4, 1916, in Nashville, Arkansas. She moved to Lockney, where she was raised and attended school. On June 16, 1942, she married Robert M. (Bob) Jones, and the couple moved from Lynn County to Yoakum County in 1951. They farmed on their home place west of Plains until his death in 1994. Mrs. Jones continued to live on their farmland, which she rented out. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Plains.

She is survived by a brother, Les Ferguson, of Waco, and a number of nieces and nephews. Pallbearers for the services were Lee Roy McCravey, Tim Byrum, Greg McCravey, Ty Earl Powell, Joe Hayes and Macky McWhirter.

County Court Meets

Commissioner's Court met Monday, December 23, and the following agenda items were discussed and acted on.

A petition from Pinnacle Natural Gas Company was approved to lay and maintain a gas pipeline across county roads.

Richard Dickson, a former employee of the Permian Basin Drug Task Force, was commissioned a Deputy in the County Sheriff's Department.

The Court approved raising Elvida Winkler from 2nd Deputy to 1st Deputy, and Linda May from 3rd Deputy to 2nd Deputy in the Criminal District Attorney's office. The promotions were recommended by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

The Court voted to pay annual membership dues of \$50 to the Yoakum County Connection.

AUSTIN—State Comptroller John Sharp says he will recommend a "low-expense, high-return" proposal to the 1996 Legislature—one that will reward career educators for their years of dedication in the public school classroom.

In a letter to legislative leaders and the Governor, Sharp said one of his upcoming Texas Performance Review recommendations for the next legislative session would provide Texas teachers with an incentive to stay in the teaching profession by giving their children free college education.

"The children of a teacher who sticks with it for at least 10 years would receive free tuition at any Texas public college; children of teachers who remain on the job for at least 15 years would also have their required fees paid by the state," Sharp said of his recommendations.

"The goal is a simple one—keep teachers teaching," Sharp said.

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Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



FOOD SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are upon us which means lots of parties and invariably lots of food. Therefore, you should take some food safety precautions to ensure that your holiday meals and buffets are deliciously safe.

The traditional holiday meal is still very important, but these days not everyone has time to prepare a beautiful home-cooked dinner. Instead, many people are opting to purchase a cooked turkey with all the trimmings, but take some precautions to make sure that your prepared dinner is worth the price when you get it home.

"Complete and safe holiday dinners are available from reputable restaurants, caterers and supermarkets," said Dr. Peggy Gentry-Van Laanen, nutritionist with the Texas Agricultural Service. "However, as with home-prepared turkey dinners, the safety of a take-out meal depends on proper handling after the dinner is picked up or delivered."

According to Van Laanen, food experts agree that the best way to keep your take-out holiday meal safe is by the following these tips:

- Pick up food hot from the oven and keep it hot. Harmful bacteria multiply fastest between 40 degrees and 140 degrees. To keep turkey hot, set oven temperature at 200 degrees or higher -- enough to maintain an internal temperature of 140 degrees or more when measured with a meat thermometer.

- Handle turkey dinners safely. It's not a good idea to try keeping the foods hot longer than two hours. If eating much later, turkey and trimmings will be safer and taste better if you remove all stuffing from the turkey cavity immediately and refrigerate. Cut turkey off the bone, slice breast meat. Legs

and wings may be left whole. Refrigerate turkey meat, potatoes, gravy and vegetables in small shallow containers with covers.

- Keep cold foods cold. Some turkey dinners are cold when you pick them up or when they're delivered. For turkey and trimmings that were refrigerated after cooking, refrigerate as soon as you get home (always within two hours of pickup). Do not reheat the turkey whole. If you plan to reheat the cold turkey, carve and refrigerate.

- Cooked frozen turkeys with the USDA inspection seal. These turkeys have been processed under controlled conditions. Follow package directions for thawing, reheating, and storing.

- Avoid stuffed turkeys. Buying a refrigerated, fully cooked, stuffed turkey is not recommended.

- Store leftovers properly. Perishable foods such as turkey and side dishes should not be out of the refrigerator for more than two hours. Store leftover cooked turkey and side dishes in the refrigerator at 40 degrees or below for three to four days; stuffing and gravy, one to two days.

- Reheat cooked dinners and leftovers as recommended. Always reheat leftover thoroughly to 165 degrees or until hot and steaming. Bring gravy to a rolling boil. In the microwave oven, cover food and rotate dish so it heats evenly.

When preparing food for a buffet, the same basic storage and reheating methods and guidelines should be followed.

Library Filmtime


Wednesday, Dec. 18, was the Christmas Program time at Filmtime, and Santa came to see all the good children. The refreshments were supplied by the mothers. The Library staff thanks the community for all their help and participations.

There were 38 pre-school youngsters that attended including: Kevin John Gass, Adam Nixon, Rhaela Stall, Kelsey Curry, Carolina Hernandez, Dakota Earnest, Hunter Welch, Kristen Knight, Lexus Jimenex, Meagan McElroy, Brett Hawthorne, Marina Martinez, Joseph Williams, Troy Parrish, Katelynn Young, Cody Friesen, Jacob Brink, Darian Squyres, J.D. Martinez, Isaac Doyle, Chase Ortega,

Rhaemi Stall, Sean Curry, Shelby Corvarrubias, Lariah Johnson, Haley Welch, Cameron Knight, Kristie Lopez, Tanner Patterson, Andrew Conway, Ashley Hainer, Jaxton Williams, Jaaron Bell, Raegan Young, Autumn Friesen, Jaston Brink, Courtney Byram, and Greg Andozola.



Santa at Filmtime



Our sincere thanks to all who so generously supported our annual


'Operation Christmas Card'

Mary Dale & Bud Forbus*Pierre & Mary Jo St Romain*L.J. & Virginia Sanders*Rhuey Edwards*Jerome Head family* Dan & Linda Wall*Duane & Lattrell McDonnell*Doris Smith*Harry, Dean & Donita Richardson*Dolores Davis*Carl & Marie Lowrey*Sallye Shoemaker*Florence Bookout*Lois & T.J. Miller*Babe Hamm*Raymond, Marjorie & Marie Diaz*Burve Overton*Bob & Wilma McDonnell*Nell & Dunk Brian* Judy & Vennum Fitzgerald*Nick, Megan, Maudie & Mallory Olenick*Ita Young*Velma Dearing*Melvin, Dawn and Dearing family*Marvin, Terry & Dearing family*Willie May & Kenneth Engle*Ila Trout*Buddy & Janelle Brantley*Redel Cogburn.

Your generosity enables us to continue our Cemetery Beautification project

Plains Dirt Gardeners

Gookbooks For Sale!



Horsin' Around In The Kitchen

Published by members of the 1996 Yoakum County 4-H Horse Program

Members of the Yoakum County 4-H Horse Program are selling cookbooks for their 1997 fundraiser. Proceeds are used to purchase year-end awards. Cookbooks contain many favorite recipes and family traditional recipes. Books may be purchased for \$15 from any 4-H student belonging to the Horse Program or the Extension Office located in Plains. Additional copies are available by calling Kathy Jones at 456-2155 or 456-3200 or Eunice Hamrick at 592-2986.

Senior Citizen Corner

The last chance to say "Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year." I sincerely hope every one has a safe and happy holiday.

This cold weather is a bummer for us old people. Now I am 100 percent qualified to say old people. Today (Thurs.) is my birthday, but I am only saying "39 and Holding."

Visiting at the Center this week: Mr. Etters Brather and his wife. Also Gladly Thonreason's daughter buzzer on the ladie's dominoe game for a few minutes.

Essie Donahue has been in the local hospital. Also Bees Veazy. Both ladies are back home.

Congratulations to the local "Press." We have a new editor and he has a column in this weeks paper. I enjoyed every word of it. Seems as if our West Texas

wind irks him. Wonder what March will do?

Up Coming Events will be short:

Mon. Line Dancing at 9: 30 a.m. Pool/Game at 6:30 p.m.

Wed. and Thurs. Closed for Christmas.

Center will be open, and hopefully everyone will be ready for a good meal, after lots of turkey. Now thats not stated right, turkey is a good meal but a change-of-pace will be good also.

Have a good time, and remember the day means more than food and family.

See you next week, Smitty.

Almond Tea Punch

Base: 1/2 C. Lemon Juice
2 C. Sugar
1 C. Strong Tea
1T Vanilla Flavoring
2T Almond Flavoring
1 Qt. Water

Freeze the above base in zip lock bag. 2 hours before serving take out and "mush-up", with fork. Add one 2 liter ginger ale to 1 part base. ENJOY!

Happy Holidays!

May the joys of Christmas bless you and your family throughout the coming year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

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Computer Problems?

Perhaps I can help. Memory upgrade, install software. Knowledge of most Microsoft programs & products, computer diagnostics, cleaning, whatever you need. **GOTTA PROBLEM?** Give me a call 456-7133

'Good enough to eat, & come back for more!'

A new, unique cookbook experience, with great recipes, great moments from earlier years, tips, anecdotes about a better life. 334 pages of enjoyment! Just \$25 plus tax. Call Jennola Maple, 806-456-4945 You'll be glad you did!

From The Hack



Remembering Christmases past; There have been some memorable, wonderful ones, but then there have been a few which were memorable, but not exactly wonderful. I think it was the first Christmas the Bride and I shared after we entered into our pact of connubial bliss. We lived out near the state line, and had a few windows, but very few pots to throw anything out with. I'd heard of a guy selling pure blooded Weimeraner dogs for just \$30, and always considerate and frugal, I asked the Bride if I could buy one. "Sure", she said, "long as you can stand sardines and crackers the next 12 days". I had to give that some serious thought. I finally got the solution worked out. "Look, honey buns, here's how we can get that beautiful grey dog, I know you'll just love it! You give me part of the money you were going to spend on me for Christmas, I'll take half of what was going for you, we'll use that to get the dog... we'll both still get a present, and I'll be giving you half the dog, and you'll be giving me half the dog. We'll split the Christmas dog half and half. Which half you want?" She looked me right in the eye and said, "OK, but don't pull that 'which half stuff'... I'll take the right half, you get the left". It was pretty late Christmas Eve before I could go pick up the Weimeraner, a beautiful seven month old female. She was extremely nervous around me, and riding in her first car, and I'm quite sure that accounted for creating a rather large wet spot on the rear seat. I decided to call her Eva, Adolf Hitler's mistress, remember, because she was a German dog, after all. I proudly tugged her into the house, and introduced her to the Bride. Neither spoke to

nally got the mess cleaned up to her satisfaction.

She finally spoke to me just before we carved the turkey. I was preparing to do so, and she said softly, but sternly, "When you ask the Blessing, you probably should give special thanks that dog didn't make that pile on any of my presents. And I'm going to give you another \$15 next week. I'm buying the other half of the dumb dog. I will then own both halves of her, and I'm gonna sell her to the first idiot who comes along with at least \$10. Now, dear, enjoy your turkey. I saved the tail especially for you".

I heard the most preposterous, most difficult to believe story in my entire life, last week, during our Open House event. The only reason I find it credible is it was reported by Vaughn Culwell, Esquire, whom I have never known to lie.

While munching our freebies in an amazing speed, Vaughn casually related he had heard Gayle Craft, his seasonal employer during the ginning run, completely, convincingly admit he had come up against someone he could not out-talk.

"Bull scatterings", I said, "no one has ever done that". Mr. Culwell said, "No, this lady, not known to me, therefore un-namabale, walked into the New Tex Gin office one day last week, made a few opening remarks, and asked if she could talk to Craft Sr." He obliged. A big mistake. The conversation started about 2 p.m., and the lady gaily waved goodbye and good night at 6:58 p.m.

It was reported Craft Senior was blue in the face with repressed anguish about words he could not get in edgewise, or in any other manner. When the door closed after her, he reportedly sank into a chair, and a tear trickled down his cheek as he hung his head in shame.

Finally composing himself, he said, "It had to happen, I suppose. She talked me under the pavement. Never thought I'd let this happen. I did my best. But she stomped me. What do you think I should do? Where should I resign something? I'm whipped/ I'm ruined... disgraced... my reputation is shattered!"

This next item is even more difficult to explain or believe. We had a call from Gwenn

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Apaches, Comanches, Spaniards and the San Saba Mission

In the early 1700's, Apache war parties waged guerilla warfare against the Spanish kingdom of Texas, especially in the mission area of present day San Antonio. For fifty years, they raided, plundered, stole and killed, but in the early 1750's a strange event occurred. A party of Lipan Apaches appeared in San Antonio, and told the Spanish priests they desired a mission of their own, and the priests and government officials were delighted. In 1757, Spanish soldiers and priests built a mission and presidio on the banks of the San Saba River, just west of present day Menard. The Apaches were slow to respond to efforts to convert them, saying it was their hunting season.

One day, the Spaniards awoke to find every Apache gone, vanished. On March 16, Mass was held, and then the priests heard wild yelling. They climbed to the parapets, and were shaken to see more than 2,000 mounted Comanches surrounding the mission. All were armed with lances and bows, and over 100 carried muskets. One warrior walked to the gate, opened it, and Indians began to pour in. Hoping to keep the peace, the priest handed out tobacco and beads.

Word had gotten to the main body of soldiers at the Presidio, and a large troop rode off to the mission, only to ride into a force of Comanches, and in minutes, all but one soldier was dead. At the mission, priests, friendly Indians and soldiers were slaughtered, and the building was put to the torch. Only years later did the Spanish realize the culpability of the Apaches. The Indians hated the Spaniards, but hated their dread enemy, the Comanches, more. They lured the mission project to the San Saba, knowing it would draw the Comanche's interest, and wrath

Short, the daughter of ex Plainsite's Archie and the late Vance Glover. She wanted the bride to give her the address of another out-of-towner, and then said, "Please tell your idiot husband to write more about his irregular Brother-In Law, the constipated one in East Texas. He has to be a real character!"

See Zig, despite your cursing me, I have made you famous. The next time at breakfast you have to gag down your millet, prunes and Metamucial, think of me with appreciation instead of loathing. When everything comes out alright, you will appreciate your Bro-In-Law more. You should really appreciate your mate for cooking that gruel for you, too.

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Keeping an eye on Texas

Pizza by the acre

Americans eat 100 acres of pizza each day.

Texas pizza facts

The average Texan spends about \$57 a year on pizza.

The pizza capital of Texas is Killeen-Temple, with one of 10 restaurants serving pizza. Other top markets are El Paso, San Angelo, Wichita Falls, McAllen, Brazoria, and College Station.

2,360 retail pizzerias in Texas had annual sales of \$1 billion in 1994.

Half of all pizza orders occur from Friday to Sunday.

Each consumer eats pizza an average of two to three times a month.

The popularity of pizza decreases with consumer's age.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Restaurant Association.

TELCOT Report

A WEEKLY SUMMARY OF COTTON MARKETING NEWS

The market traded quietly this week before bouncing in response to a higher weekly U.S. export number and a surprising increase in U.S. mill consumption for the month of November.

U.S. textile mills in November used cotton on a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 11.09 million bales, up from a revised October figure of 10.7 million, the National Cotton Council (NCC) said. The November number was a pleasant surprise to most analysts as the figure was considerably higher than the previous month and up 7.4 percent from the November, 1995, consumption figure of 10.32 million bales.

An economist at NCC headquarters in Memphis, TN, said the heavy November usage appeared to have come in anticipation of a good Christmas shopping season for the textile sector. Retail analysts this month have indicated high-tech items have fallen from favor on consumers' shopping lists, to be replaced by apparel and other textile related items. However, given the shortened Thanksgiving-to-Christmas span this year, there is some uncertainty about how total seasonal sales will turn out and how December mill usage will hold up, the economist said.

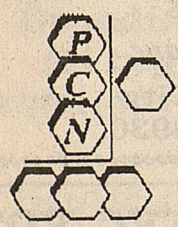
USDA's most recent U.S. export report also captured market attention as the department reported export sales of 1996-97 U.S. cotton increased a net 153,300 bales in the week ending December 12, four times the previous week's total of 38,300 bales. Featured buyers were Mexico, Thailand and China.

High U.S. cotton prices, relative to world cotton prices, have

required the U.S. to establish a special upland cotton import quota for the 69th time since early April 1995, USDA said this week. The special import quota is triggered whenever average weekly prices for the lowest-priced U.S. cotton delivered to Northern Europe exceeded the Northern Europe cotton price by 1.25 cents per pound for 10 consecutive weeks. The latest quota will allow the importation of 98.99 million pounds of upland cotton from February 1 to July 30. The amount is equal to one week's domestic mill use.

Meanwhile, spot cotton sales slowed slightly in light of lackluster market activity earlier in the week. In fact, sales on TELCOT for the five trading days ended December 19 totaled 73,285 bales, down from the previous week's figure of 114,701 bales. Average daily prices received by producers on the electronic marketing system ranged from 64.29 to 66.13 cents per pound.

On the home front, subfreezing temperatures were reported on the Texas Plains this week where the cotton harvest is nearing completion. Although the low temperatures restricted any outdoor activities, little cotton remains on the stalk and ginning activities were unimpeded by the cold weather. The harsh winter weather was not entirely unwelcome in the High Plains area. One High Plains producer commented that he appreciated the extremely cold weather as it will help kill overwintering insects, namely bollweevils. Meanwhile, the Oklahoma cotton harvest is progressing well and should conclude by early January barring any delays due to adverse weather.



PLATEAU CELLULAR NETWORK

Christmas Promotion

Beginning November 15 and continuing through December 31, PLATEAU CELLULAR NETWORK will be waiving activation fees, plus giving a one time \$25 airtime credit for all new activations which will be reflected on the January bill. This is a total customer savings of \$50 !!

Please contact Jill Durham at

The Plains Depot

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