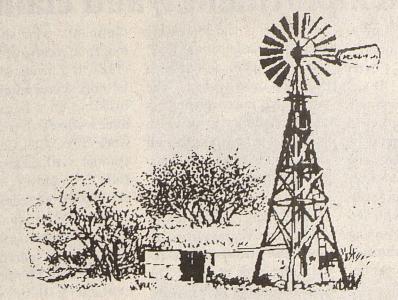
Cowboy Country News



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

Volume XI, Issue 2, September, 15, 2004

Second Denim & Diamonds Gala Plans Announced

The Yoakum County Hospital Foundation Board of Directors and Planning Committee have announced plans for the second annual Denim & Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball. The gala fund raising event will again be held at the K & T Ranch, just outside of Denver City on the Hobbs highway. Last years Ball was a smash hit, featuring a night of feasting, dancing, and a very successful fund raising auction.

formed in May, 2003, exists to raise funds through tax deductible donations from individuals and business firms, used to develop improvement programs of the hospital, and purchase Parrish. equipment.

This year's Denim & Diamonds night tickets are available by advance purchase only, Foundation member and at the permit one person to attend the istrator.

gala event, and must be presented at the door. Only 200 tickets will be available, and should be obtained early.

This year the dinner will be be catered by Jena's Feed Bag of Levelland, followed by dancing to music supplied by Lubbock DJ David Hodges, with live and silent auctions, and awarding of door prizes throughout the evening.

The Foundations Planning Committee for this year's event The Hospital Foundation, includes, Hortencia Castillo, Wilma Powell, Jeannette Head, Edith Kidd, Sharon Boyd, Linda Moore, Louise Swanson, Beverly Haynes, Janet Andis, Beverly Mills and Suann

The Foundation's Board of Directors includes Edith Kidd, Chair, Denver City, Wilma Powell, Plains, Joe Kay, Denand are available from any ver City, Jim Barron, Plains, Dale Carter, Denver City, and hospital. Tickets are \$100 each, Clay Taylor, Hospital Admin-

W.P.G. hosts Farm Tour

Western Peanut Growers Association (WPGA) will host a tour of its research farm beginning at 8:30 a.m. on September 15, 2004. Participants are encouraged are encouraged to register from 8:30 -9:00 a.m. for 2 (General) CEU's. Following registration, twelve WPGRF research collaborators are scheduled to present information concerning research being conducted at the farm. CEU certificates will be passed out at the end of the tour. Following the tour, a luncheon

will be served at the Gaines County Party House. The W.P.G.A. research site is in its fifth and final year of operation. The farm is operated in conjunction with Western Peanut Growers Association (WPGA), Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Tech University and USDA/ARS. The 173-acre site has provided a consistent location to allow longterm experiments to be conducted.

Cowboys fall to old foe Sudan 20 - 7

The Cowboys traveled to Sudan last Friday and were stung badly by the come from behind Hornets who scored unanswered points in the second and final periods.

The Cowboys came out red hot, taking the openeing kickoff and reeling off three first downs on rushes by Tyler Caffey over his left and right guard, but the Hornets stiffened and Cowboy quarterback Evan Cain was sacked for a ten yard loss to stop the drive at the 20. With three minutes left on the clock, Daniel Parker intercepted a Hornet pass and put the Cowboy offense to work at the 30. On the third play Caffey burst over right tackle and went 19 yards for the TD, and T.J. Cordova's kick put the Cowboys up 7-0. Unfortunately, this would be their offensive high point of the evening.

The Hornets went to the air early in the second quarter, and scored on an 18 yard pass. Their kick failed, and the scoreboard read Cowboys 7-6. Neither team's offense was ef fective until late in the second period, when the Hornets again went to the air and scored on a 21 yard pass, and another pass added two more points for their 14-7 lead.

In the second half the "up front Cowboys" came alive and effectively blocked to open holes for Caffey to reel off good yardage and three first downs, pushing the ball deep in Hornet territory, but the good drive sputtered and a fourth down effort fell short at the one yard

Almost incredibly, the Hornets Turn To Page 3,



Running back Tyler Caffey, #4 with ball, racked up good yardage with runs like this against the Hornets.



'The Cheers' work hard to stir up both the team and the Cowboy fans - L_R, Joe Louis Gallegos, Yessica Calderon, Desiraye Broome, Sandra Gandara, Jamie Covarrubias, Daniela Lazos, Kristian Morales and Adriana Ponce.

COWBOYS YCH new Rehab Center impressive



The recently completed Rehabilitation and Fitness Center at Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City drew enthusiastic visitors last friday morning. The state of the art facility, complete with hand ball court and rehab swimming pool, is equipped with a bewildering number of exercise machines useful in rehabilitation and general fitness. The Center is open to the public on a membership basis. During the open house, many visitors were seen enlisting in the monthly program.

Watermelon Round Up Highlights

Watermelon Round Up last weekend again faced the perplexing question of attendance numbers. Since entrance tickets are not used, and only a small percentage of visitors actually register at the inforthe attendance.

In making a very brief, very unscientific poll of the to generous sponsors and all the show people. day-long and come-and-go visitors, the majority opinion expressed was, "This is the largest crowd yet!" The Chairman of the annual event, Jeannette Head, echoed that sentiment when she furnished CCN with contest results and penned in at the bottom of her sheet, "Think the attendance was about

Locals Terry and Wadonna Davis once more organized the very impressive classic car show, inviting car enthusiasts from all over Texas and adjoining states to their well organized showing of beautiful and very expensive - collector vehicles. This year Betty Michaelson 3'. one hundred seven classic cars, pickups and trucks Decorated Melon Contest: Best In Show-Danielle competed for very impressive trophies. Winners of special trophies included; Best in Show - Jim Huckabee, Andrews, 55 Chevy. Mayor's Choice -Gene & Nancy Plink, Midland, '41 Willis Fargo Bank, West Texas Bank.Cook Off Winners-Coupe. Superintendents choice-Strickland, Clovis NM, 31 AA Truck. Participants 3. Marshall Toung. Ribs category- 1 David Massey. Choice- Johnny Leija, Brownfield, ' 53 Chevy 2 Joel Trevino 3. Mike Cobb. Brisket category- 1-Pickup. Best Car Club Participation-Caprock Clas- Terry Roberts 2- Mike Cobb 3.-Chan Kim.Overall

Deroy Anderson, Edinburg TX, '49 Ford Pickup.

Watermelon Pick - Allen Ransom Canyon, '67 Ford

Officials and volunteer workers at the 9th annual Cobra. Invaluable help to the Davis' was performed by their show car crew; Red Davis, Johnny Don Davis, Shane McKinzie, Charles Cain, Jim Haynes, Reagan Haynes, Stoney Garland, Aaron Cain, Evan Cain, Mark Dorsett, Joe Cain, Danny McCormack. mation booth, only 'guesstimates' can be made of Tyler McCormack, Tina Davis, Beth Cain and Melba Crutcher. The Davis expressed their thanks

> Chair Head reported this year 114 food, arts and craft vendors attended the Round Up. Game and contest results included:

Door Prize- Metal watermelon windchimes, Mike & Steffana Blount. Melon seed counting contest -Archie Harris guessed 4215 count was 4236. 1st Cow Patty Bingo, Gracie Lazos, \$500. 2nd Bingo, Shuckie Willis \$500. Seed spitting: H.S. Boys-Jack Tedford, 6'1". Adult men-Ronnie Hazelwood 18' 5". Adult women- Shannon Vanderberg 15'. Senior men- Luther Cope 10'. Senior Women-

Swisher. Jr. Division-PeytonMcWhirter. Youth-Brandon Hise. Adult-Amber McWhirter . Prizes donated by Plains State Bank, Sundown State Bank, Wells Dan Chicken category-1-DarrellDusek 2, David Massey sic Cars, Lubbock. Longest Distance Contestant- Champion - David Massey.

Last year's car show drew 87 entries.

Texas Workforce cracks down on unemployment fraud claims

In an aggressive effort to crack down on Unemployment Insurance (UI) overthe Texas payments, Workforce Commission (TWC) has strengthened policies to ensure the most effective use of tax dollars, and only qualified applicants receive benefits. The new policies already have achieved measurable results, preventing overpayment of an estimated \$83 million, a 19 percent de-

Preventing overpayments is a challenging process. TWC continuously works to increase UI claimants' understanding of the unemployment insurance process and eligibility requirements. By verifying compliance with work search requirements and increasing employer participation, TWC has made significant strides in reducing overpayments. The agency has improved process and technology to increase accuracy and strengthened collection efforts to cut overpayments as well.

UI benefits distributed to ineligible claimants are the sole cause for overpayments. In some cases, overpayments result from error or fraud. The fraud detection unit investigates questionable claims, represents TWC in appeals and prepares materials for use in prosecution at the local level. Workforce boards have increased follow-up activities after referring claimants to job openings, thus identifying

claimants who should no longer be receiving benefits.

Texas is a national leader in UI work source requirements, insisting on a minimum of three work search contacts per week. TWC Call Center Operations staff makes weekly calls to employers to verify claimants work search. In addition, TWC administrative staff contacts businesses listed on the work search forms. More than 50,000 work search contacts will be verified through this process by year's end.

In some cases when employers do not respond during the initial determination process, overpayments can result. Claimants begin receiving benefits after an initial determination. Additional information discovered in an appeal may determine the claimant does not meet criteria to receive benefits.

"By strengthening these policies, TWC is making tremendous inroads in the effort to direct benefits to qualified claimants and focus our efforts on helping people get back to work," said Program Integrity Division Director Fran Carr.

Art Club Meets

The Yoakum County Art Association met September 7 with 13 members and one guest present, President Lisa Gentry presiding. Minutes from the July meeting were read, and a Treasurer's report was given by Julia Lemley. The recent 2004 Art Show and Sale was a big success. Guest demonstrator for the meeting was Kay Smith of Big Spring, presenting a most enjoyable watercolor demonstration.

CAPITOL COMMENT U.S. SENATOR KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

This month marks the third anniversary of the tragic September 11 terror attacks. That fateful day was the first time since Pearl Harbor that we were assaulted on our own soil and the first strike on the continental United States in over a century. Everyone, even young children, remembers where they were when they heard the terrible news and saw the grisly images. Those terrorist acts have forever changed the American mindset. But despite the losses of that day, Americans have proven they are up to the challenge. Citizens, soldiers and law enforcement have answered the call in the war on terrorism.

That we did not see the attacks coming is a collective burden that transcends political parties and falls on all branches of government, past and present. Since that horrible day, we have made tremendous, bipartisan progress to make America far safer. We have designated a new department with the sole mission of protecting our country and nearly tripled homeland security funding. I'm especially proud to have co-authored a law to better safeguard our airplanes, enhancing baggage and passenger screening and expanding the air marshals program. Law enforcement officials estimate more than 100 planned terrorist attacks on our soil have been thwarted since 9/11, from an airplane passenger's simple plot to carry explosives in his shoes, to more complex designs that remain

classified for our safety. Al Qaeda has been chased and other hardships with deterfrom Afghanistan and is on the mination and humility. Today run. In Iraq the brutal Saddam Hussein regime that supported terrorists is no more, through our enemies are making a desperate last stand. We must continue to help establish democratic governments in Afghanistan and Iraq to eliminate safe harbors for terrorists across the more secure future. globe. We will see this mission

through and send a message to terrorists and the world that freedom will triumph.

Clearly, we have more work to do to better protect our homeland, especially to improve rail and port security. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would strengthen and coordinate security measurers for cargo shipping and use smart box technology. We must ensure our borders with Canada and Mexico are a priority and have the resources needed to stop would be terrorists while keeping commerce flowing.

We must also ensure our law enforcement has the tools they need. The PATRIOT Act helped us thwart terrorist attacks by granting new authority to law enforcement. But this law will expire at the end of 2005 unless Congress acts. We must not let these tools slip away.

The September 11th Commission recently proposed a number of changes including a single national intelligence director. Our commander-inchief must receive comprehensive and accurate national security data, so I will give this recommendation serious consideration. Congress has already held many hearings and I believe more action should follow within the coming months.

In the three short years since the terrorists struck, we have achieved significant progress. The surprise attack on our country in 1941 created the climate that produced the Greatest Generation. These men and women overcame evil regimes we are in the midst of a similar battle. It is calling we did not ask for but that we have no choice but to accept. Working together, we are on the path to defeat the terrorists, expand freedom and ensure our children and grandchildren enjoy a

Community colleges work with universities to ease students transitions

For nearly 50,000 Texans each the growth. year, the best way to get into a big college is by going to a little college first. Texans' success in making the jump from public, two-year colleges to four-year universities is helping drive tremendous growth at the state's community colleges.

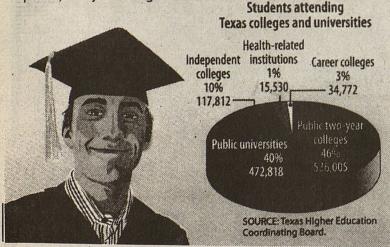
Between fall 1999 and fall 2003, enrollment at public, two-year colleges jumped 23 percent to more than 536,000, said Don Brown, former commissioner of Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). Students at public, two-year colleges made up 56 percent of the enrollment growth in Texas higher education between 2000 and 2003, Brown said. Students at four-year universities and

Community colleges offer students, particularly those who are the first in their families to attend college, a valuable boost. The lower costs, open admissions, flexible class schedules and option of living at home make community colleges an attractive option for many students intent on earning a four year degree.

To ease the transition to fouryear schools, some institutions of higher education have developed partnerships that help students move from a small community campus to a university. Blinn College in Brenham has been a trendsetter, making agreements with several schools to ensure Blinn stuhealth related institutions made dents get course credit when up the remaining 44 percent of they move on.

Where the boys and girls are

Nearly 1.2 million Texans attended Texas colleges and universities in fall 2003. The largest percentage went to public, two-year colleges.







MEMBER 2004

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Blinn and Texas A&M University have forged a particularly close relationship. About 76 percent of all Blinn College students who transfer to four-year College Station campus.

In June 2001, Texas A&M and Blinn created the Blinn TEAM (Transfer Enrollment A&M) program, designed for students who were not accepted for admission at Texas A&M, but who are on the university's waiting list.

Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) developed a special relationship with the University of North Texas (UNT), said Ann Hatch, district director of media relations.

"UNT was impressed with our Rising Star scholarship program for Dallas County high

school students who need financial aid; we have more than 2,000 students receiving help now," Hatch said.

UNT offered scholarships to universities go to Texas A&M's some Rising Star students under a UNT program called Complete the Dream, sponsored by JP Morgan Chase.

> "DCCCD students are now applying for the scholarship to start in the fall at UNT's Dallas Campus," Hatch said.

In 2000, South Plains College in Levelland and Texas Tech University in Lubbock created the joint Gateway program.

Agreements between community colleges and universities are exactly what Texas higher education needs, said Glenda Barron, THECB's associate commissioner for community and technical colleges.

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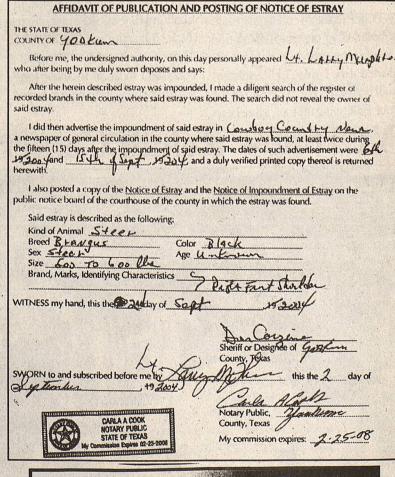
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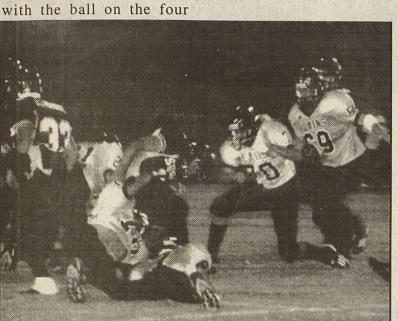


The Cowboys, late in the final period, managed to mount an effective attack from their 28 yardline. Linemen opened holes for Caffey, Williams, Cain and Martinez to drive the ball deep into Hornet territory,

yardline when the final whistle blew, and the final 20-7 score. The Cowboys had an effective JV Cowboy Football:

ground game resulting in 224 yards gained, with only ten through the air. Tyler Caffey gained 184 yards, followed by Williams 28, and Cain and Martinez. Scott Bruton was O'Quinn and Payton Bean. Daniel Parker and Bean each had interceptions.

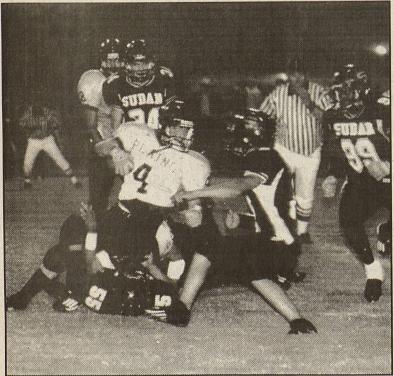
The Cowboys will rest next points and 40-0 win. Friday, and resume action here against Dimmitt September 24.



Cowboy defense corrals a Hornet



Tyler Caffey has an ankle of Hornet, but ball is away



Caffey brought to earth after good gain

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PISD Sports Update

The younger Cowboys shutout the Sudan Hornet JV last Thursday by a convincing 40-0 score. In the first Period quarterback Casson Curtis sneaked the ball in for 6 points, then threw to J.L. Vasquez for the two pointer to go eight up. A 22 yard dash by Cody Mayes produced the scond TD, and Curtis' toss to Michael Therwhanger made the score 16-0. Before the half ended Mayes leading tackler with 6, followed raced 30 ayrds for another score and then went in for the two by Caffey, Cain, Blake pointer and a 24-0 halftime lead. In the second half Curtis ran 26 yards for 6 points, then threw to Chase Guetersloh for two moreand 32-0 score. Sergio Olivas recovered a fumble leading to Curtis' score, and John Tyson took the ball in for the final two

Cowgirl and Wrangler Volleyball:

September 7 the Cowgirls fell to Snyder in fourvery close games, 19-25, 25-16,21-25,23-25. Coach Harris reported several times the girls had an advantage, but let it slip away. He thought they all played well, and learned from the loss. He credited Skylar Keesee with the best block, Joani Bell the best kill, and Prisma Ortiz had the best overall game. The Cowgirls next faced Levelland, and won the first two games, then faltered on the final three. Coach Harris said it was a good team effort, and he cited the play of Katie Winn, Jesenia Suarez and Sandra Gandara.

The 7th girls claimed second place in the Brownfield tourney last weekend. They downed Lubbock Cooper 25-12, 25-8, then defeated Brownfield Red 25-18, 25-15, but fell in the championship match to Lubbock Trinity 14-25, 23-25. They next fell to Lubbock Christian Thursday 17-25,25-18, 12-25. Sidney Caffey was top server with 12 points, Jasmine Mares 6, and Sara Neudorf and Natalie Butler combined for 10 points.

The 8th girls also won second place in the Brownfield 8th tourney, downing Cooper 25-15, 25-10, outlasted Brownfield Red 25-23, 21-25, 15-4, but then lost a three game match to Trinity in the Championship. They went on to best Lubbock Christian 25-18, 18-25, 25-16, 25-20 at home Thursday. Kimber Williams had 23 service points, Heather Parrott 17, Briana Conway 6.

Cross Country: The Cowboys won another team title this weekend by winning the Morton Invitational by 9 points over Levelland. Because of injuries only five runners ran varsity so the JV could field a complete team. All five of the varsity Cowboys finished in the top twelve. Jose Villegas finished second, completing the 3 mile course in 16:56, only three seconds behind the winner. Abel Ramos was 4th, Payton Bean 6th, Scott Addison 8thand Chandon Loya was 12th.

JV Cowboys finished bare points behind Seminole's Varsity Team, running earlier in cooler weather. Freshman Joseph Loya was 5th, Zachary Ramos 7th, Landon Craft 12th, David Alldredge 14th and Daniel Estrada 17th.

Newcomer Jennifer Eccles, sole runner for the JV girls, had a great race and finished second in her first race. Coach McAdams siad, "She shows lots of talent and natural ability."

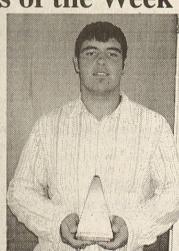
The Wranglers did not field a complete team. 7th grader Jonathan Lira had a great showing, finishing first over all in the two miles in 12:19. Brandon Craft placed 22nd, Arthur Ruiz 24th, Chris Gonzales 26th.

Coach Todd Davis reported the Cowboys will take their #1 state ranking against the best in the region when they face Sundown and other powerhouse schools at the Olton Invitational.

PHS Students of the Week

First Student of the Week is Brant Huerta, a senior and the son of David Huerta and Gail Moore. He was nominated by Jennifer Everitt, who said, He has a smile for everyone and a helping hand for everyone. He's a senior looking forward to college. He's a star football player and a great help in Student Council. He participates in UIL speaking events, is fun to have in class and always keeps things interesting. He is a great

Second Student of the Week is Jordan Williams, a freshman and the daughter of Curtis and Laura Williams. She was nominated by Adam Jones, who said, " Sometimes it's what is not done that makes you good at something, no matter what the particular thing may be. What makes you good at it is not complaining, not taking the easy way out, letting someone else do it for you, not quitting when others think it it is too hard to finish. Jordan does none of these things, and she is truly a stellar student and is very de-



asset to PHS.



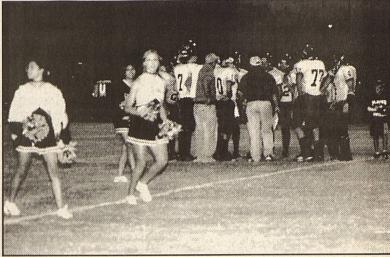


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Cody Flores, lead blocks for Todd Williams



"Cheers" take the field supporting Cowboys



Evan Cain, #10, in Harm's Way



Flores leads Williams again- note #88 Bean after destroying a Hornet



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8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FRONT OF OLD COURTHOUSE







The Cowboy Marching Band gets in a few practice licks before halftime performance

Yoakum County Family Literacy Fall Registration

Morning Classes

Wednesday, September 29 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Adult Tuition fee: \$10 per month or \$25 for semester (due at registration)

Childcare fee: \$5 per month per family

(Cash Only)

Plains Elementary

Classes de la Mañana

Miercoles, September 29 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Costo por Adulto: \$5 por mes o \$12.50 por semestre (pague cuando se registre) (solo effectivo)

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I appreciate all you volunteer workers, advertisers and donors for your generosity and help.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Head

Chairman



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF YOAKUM

Notice is hereby given that the Honorable Judge Kelly G. Moore of the 121st Judicial District, will hold a public hearing at 9:00 AM in the District Courtroom at the Courthouse in Plains, Texas for the purpose of setting the amount of compensation for the year 2005 for the Yoakum County Auditor, Assistant Auditor and Court Reporter

All interested parties and citizens will have the opportunity to be heard.

Yoakum County Plains Clinic Amir Memon, MD and

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Lifelines & Styles

Chewing in less room to lose weight?

The latest gadget in the weight loss craze is not a new fad diet or exercise routine; it's a retainer. Unlike a standard retainer from a dentist or orthodontist, this mouthpiece doesn't fit into the roof of the mouth. Instead, it creates an artificial roof several centimeters below the actual roof to decrease the capacity of the mouth, limiting how much food it will hold.

Atlanta based Scientific Intake developed the retainer called the DDS system, to help dieters trigger the response which tells people they are full and to stop eating, said CEO William Longley. "people struggle with over eating and there has been varying success with current solutions. Our dentatl device retrains you to eat more slowly."

To sell the device dentists must register with Scientific Intake and take a four hour course on eating and weight disorders. Dieters can find one of the 3,000 certified dentists at www.ddssystem,com. Since July 2004, more than 6,000 of the retainers have been sold, from \$400 to \$500.

Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

Agriculture isn't just a career for most Texas producers — it's a way of life. It takes courage, imagination and strength to persevere through the unique challenges the industry faces each year. But success in agriculture is uniquely rewarding. With their own two hands, producers work their way toward a goal, often alongside family, friends and neighbors.

That's why every year the Texas Department of Agriculture hosts the Family Land Heritage ceremony. Hundreds of families descend on Austin to take part in a special ceremony that recognizes farms and ranches that have been owned and operated by the same family and in continuous production for at least 100 years.

The ceremony will take place in March 2005 and will mark the 30th anniversary of the program. The deadline to submit applications for properties established in 1904 or before is Nov. 15, 2004.

The first Family Land Heritage ceremony took place in 1974, and since then the program has honored almost 3,900 farms and ranches in 222 counties. These families have nurtured life from the land to make a future for their children, all the while making their mark in Texas history. The Family Land Heritage Program has long been proud to acknowledge those who handed down their land, their livelihoods and their legacies to the people who are now the modern farmers and ranchers of Texas.

Program applications are available through TDA, county judges and on TDA's Web site at www.agr.state.tx.us. For more information, contact Family Land Heritage Coordinator Melissa Blair, Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711 or (512) 463-2631.

Homecoming Friday, Sept. 24



9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Evening Program
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Former PHS students among 1,187 Texas Tech graduates

In summer commencement ceremonies at the Texas Tech University United Spirit Arena in Lubbock, 940 students were recently awarded undergradu-

ate degrees, 196 received master's degrees, and 51 earned doctoral degrees.

Among the graduates were former Plains students Leticia Bell Canon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Canon, who received a BS degree in architecture, and Anne Charie Palmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Palmer, who received a bachelor of business administration degree with Magna Cum Laude honors. Anne was also named to the Dean's Honor List

Editors Note; The following is from a special California reader. Being raised mainly by grandparents, I can certainly relate to the message, as I am sure many of you can.

I grew up with a practical parent - my grandmother. God love her - she ironed Christmas wrapping paper and reused it and washed aluminum foil after cooking in it, then reused it. She was the original recycle queen, before they had a name for such a thing. It was the time for fixing things - a curtain rod, the kitchen radio, screen door, the oven door, the hem in a dress. Things we keep.

It was a way of life, and sometimes it made me crazy. All that re-fixing, reheating, renewing, I wanted just once to be wasteful. Waste meant affluence. Throwing things away meant you knew there would always be more.

But then my grandmother died, and as I sat in my kitchen that Sunday afternoon reading her old handmade cookbook in a binder, I was struck with the pain of feeling all alone, learning sometimes there isn't any "More". Sometimes, what we care about most gets all used up and goes away... never to return.

So, while we have it, it's best we love it.. and care for it.. and fix it when it's broken.. and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage..and old cars.. and children with bad report cards.. and dogs with bad hips.. and aging parents..... and grandparents, because they are worth it, because we are worth it.

Some things we keep. Like a best friend who moved away... a classmate we grew up with. There are just some things that make life important, like people we know who are special... and so, we keep them close



What about?

I have just had the most awesome time in Lubbock for a few

days at a church men's retreat. It was so neat to see and hear over 250 men singing praises to God!

Today, Saturday, we heard Major Challis. He is an Army Chaplain. He was in Baghdad for a year long deployment.

During his presentation, he showed many slides of the area, Sadam's massive palaces and told many heart moving stories. I think he may be coming to Seagraves in the future. So if you get the chance, be sure to hear his testimony about 'The Rest of the Story on Iraq that the Media Doesn't Tell You'.

He shared one story about a young Marine named Sgt. Chris, age 23. No one told us about him when he died. He was not even mentioned as a hero. On day in Iraq, a helicopter took off carrying a crew of 4 went down into a large river. All aboard the helicopter died in that crash.

Sgt. Chris was not aboard that copter. He was only riding his Humvee beside the river on a small road. When he saw the copter go down, he stopped the Humvee, ran to the river bank and jumped in.

Now remember these soldiers carry all kinds of gear. I understand many pounds of clothing and gear.

This soldier, at age 23, died in the water with the other 4 crew members. He was trying to save someone he had never known. Seeing the copter go down, he knew someone had to be in there needing help.

Later, many stories of courage in the line of combat all though out Iraq came in about Sgt. Chris. Sgt. Chris was laid to rest up north somewhere...without any of us knowing about him and his heroic story. No one knew about his sacrifices in the line of combat and his duty to his country.

So many of our young and older men are fighting heroes but we never get to hear the 'good stuff'. We only hear about the bad times our soldiers are having in Iraq. Not about the crowds of people meeting our troops on the roadsides who have supported our troops setting their people free.

Until Next Time! Mark A. Jones

www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com. email comments to: markajones@door.net.

Senior Citizens Corner

Labor Day is a national legal holiday that is over 100 years old. Over the years it has evolved from a purely labor union celebration into a general 'last fling of summer' festival. In 1894, Congress passed a law recognizing Labor Day as an official national holiday. Today Labor Day is observed not only in the U.S. but also in Canada and other industrialized nations.

Here on the High Plains of West Texas, we observe it not only as the beginning of autumn, but as the ending of the watermelon season. On the Saturday preceding Labor Day, we took our family to enjoy the annual fly-in breakfast served by fellow pilots at the Yoakum County Airport in Plains. We observed some of the activity building up on the courthouse lawn and surrounding areas after the clouds cleared away, then we drove home. As we did so, we met countless automobiles transporting other Denver City residents to the Watermelon Festival. This annual celebration, which appears to improve with each passing year, has become an important part of the history and the

economy of our area. As I have viewed the countless melons accumulating at the different sorting areas around our part of the country, I found myself thinking about and being thankful to the countless individuals who come to this area for the melon harvest. How many of us could follow in their footsteps? Could we bend all day as they do? Could we lift one heavy melon after another to be transported to the sorting areas? Could we stand all day at the moving belts which transport and sort each melon? Could we survive under the hot sun and work such long hours?

I grew up on a Kansas farm and from early childhood learned to enjoy the excitement of the golden wheat harvest. As a child I loved watching the combines and trucks at work and, along with the adults, watched the skies while praying for continued good weather until the grain was gathered in. Years later, on our homestead in Idaho, I shared with my own family the excitement and hope for good weather until potatoes were all harvested and in the spud cellar. During the forty years since coming to this country, and being in an agriculturally dependent business, I have watched the green cotton fields turn to white and be ready for defoliating and harvest. Yes, harvest time has a special glow, with the watermelon harvest probably being the most exciting of all. Our thanks to all those who spend the year preparing this harvest festival celebration each year so we can all share in the excite-

As I mentioned last week, all of our 'first generation' offspring are joining us for a family reunion week and I have noticed a strange phenomenon

as we gathered this time. A laptip computer was a part of the luggage packet of each family right up there beside the cell phones. Vacations are different these days. You vacation without ever leaving home except for the physical body. I learned that each of them have the game of Spider Solitaire on their computer. This is increasingly popular two-deck solitaire game. I understand it was one of Franklin D. Roosevelt's favorite games, so it has been around for awhile. I enjoy playing is as a 'good night' computer thing, but I discovered this week that you can play it while visiting, in a crowd, and win most of the time! Ah, this electronic age, what will be

Around the Center this morn-

ing, it sounded like almost everyone spent part of the holiday entertaining family members. Everyone looked rested and ready to enjoy the Birthday/Anniversary monthly celebration, but there were not many who were celebrating today. Bill McCubbin and Gene Moore were comparing their numbers of birthdays and Ann Holland was at the Anniversary end of the holiday table. June and Elmer Hanneman will celebrate sixty-three years this month, but opted to share their regular eating place with their daughter, Linda Stallings, who, along with her husband, Ken, is visiting from Jonesboro, Arkansas. The major activity for the men appears to be centered at the local airport where they are giving Ken's plane its annual inspection while it is here. Gladys Thomason called in to say she is headed to the west coast as part of two of her daughters' RV caravan group. She was excited about the tour and didn't know just when they would return to Denver City. Anna Taylor stood right there before God and all of the seniors today and assured us that there really is new hope for old joints. Ears prickled up all over the place as she explained that doctors are learning that surgery isn't always the answer but that there is now information pointing to the successful use of proper medication and exercise in tis stead. We appreciate Anna's cheerful attitude and varied information lessons she brings to us.

It is time to give a note of recognition and thanks to the different men among our senior family who reverently stand each day to thank God for pur food, our families, our homes, our center, our national leaders, our military, and the numberless other things we enjoy in our lives. What a blest people we are to live beneath the protection of our national eagle, and recognize the God who makes it possible.

Thought for Today: "A reporter who was interviewing a 104 year old woman asked her "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104"? The little old lady replied, "No peer pressure."

HICKS

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" Its hard to stop a TRANE"

From Hack

pay enough attention to my health providers. I reported in this space last week I was, by now, to have survived LASER surgery to utterly destroy a cataract on (or is it IN) my

this, and the cataract is totally gone, I survived with absolutely no pain, but in lieu of the old laser beam, my offending abnormality was zapped by, GASP, an even sexier ULTRA SOUND BOMBARDMENT gizmo, the operational function of which I understand every bit as clearly as the theory of relativity and nuclear osmosis.

I do know I was mightily impressed by the entire process. I checked into Dr. Ingram's Clinic 22 minutes early Tuesday, and upon oath, was admitted to his inner sanctum 9 minutes earlier than expected. Absolutely AMAZING! A cheerful but very firm lady with a bit more silvery hair than mine seated me (actually, she was much more silver-haired, and had about a pound MORE hair than Moi), took my vital signs to ensure I was truly alive, squirted some magic elixir in my offending eye, firmly said, "Don't you dare rub that eye. Don't you dare get too comfortable in that chair. We play musical chairs in here, and I'm

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gonna be moving your bottom pretty often. By the way, how much do you weigh.. it looks pretty skinny to me!"

She was an honest woman. I moved three more times until I was next to what another Nurse person, one who gaily announced, "Voila! You have arrived before the famed portals of CLARITY! Soon you will OK, OK already, so I don't walk away from here, and in just short days, will be able to discern THE TRUE WORLD!" Oh, man, I was moved. Truly moved. I would soon be able to really focus on life.... see clearly my golf friends cheat when they kick the ball out of Well, it's late Friday as I peck the rough... establish for once and forever John Kerry is truly alive and not a revived cadaver!

They hustled me into this inner sanctum, reverently flopped me back in a NASA designed chair, and I truly thought I could hear Heavenly hymns roaming the room, but decided it was probably the Valium they'd provided for me earlier.

Almost instantly, Dr. Ingram miraculously appeared at my side, and for a moment I thought he intoned, "Bless you, my son", but what he really said was "don't sweat it. man, we'll soon be done".

They wrapped and wrapped protective stuff around my eye as if expecting it to be the target of nuclear attack, and finally, Dr. Ingram said in his most professional manner, "Now Mr. Dyer, you blink, twitch, breathe too hard, snort or that other thing, the results could be truly nasty. Do you feel comfortable?" I was too scared to nod yes, so I went ' MMMM, which was as close to mmmm as I could muster.

He magically produced some sort of magic wand, held it over the offending eye, started moving it about, side to side, up, down, around, like he was drawing kindergarten stuff, all the while chatting, joking with another Doc in the inner sanc-

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tum, and I'm lying there thinking, "What the Hell, he's practicing open air caligraphy and I'm trying to get a cataract zapped?"

In truly a remarkably brief spell, he patted me on the shoulder, said, "Well, Mr. Dyer, that went very, very well, and I congratulate you!" I was a bit confused and said "For what?" And then he grinned down at me and said, "You are through, less one ugly cataract! You can get up and go

Miraculous! I did not experience one bit of pain. The actual procedure could not have taken more than ten, fifteen minutes. I had to stop at another nurse station for clearance, and asked this happy spirit, "You have any idea how long before I can play golf again?"

She asked how far from home I was, I told her, she smiled and said, "Well, if you hurry on home, you can get in at least nine holes this afternoon. Of course, you need some of your friends to do the bending down to tee the ball up, and pick it up when you've finished a hole".

Oh Lord, you can't imagine my disappointment.... I don't play with a single SOB who will stoop to those chores!

Moses, upon returning from the mountain, assembled his people and said, "Well, the Good news is, we got them down to ten. The bad news is, adultery is still one of them...

RN NEEDED 7 am - 7 pm evening shift, with shift differential. **Contact Joyce** Tedford, Yoakum **County Hospital** 806 - 592 - 2121

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503 Teams compete for \$24,000 in Prize Money!

503 teams entered this year's Watermelon Round Up Roping, competing for a share of the \$24,000 in prize money and trophy buckles. With these ropers come their families, who spend time and money, shopping, spending their money at the Round Up food and show booths, benefiting the roping club, the vendors, and helping make the annual Watermelon Round Up so successful.

The Yoakum County Roping Club wishes to thank the following sponsors for their generous donations to the Watermelon Round Up Roping. These donations help make the prize money attractive enough to keep the ropers wanting to come back each year!

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- * Jay Andrews, City Bank, Lubbock
- * Ryburn Muffler
- * Darinda McWhirter, County Auditor
- * Aubrey Cox

Thank You

NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS **COUNTY OF YOAKUM**

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the Lease-Purchase of one (1) New Track Loader with or without trade-in of one used 1996 Caterpillar 963B Track Type Loader for the Yoakum County Landfill.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004.

For more detailed list of the ditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box Texas 79355. 516, Plains, Texas, 79355.

Sealed bids should be marked " NEW TRACK LOADER" on the the envelope and mailed or delivenvelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and NO FAX COPIES WILL BE AC- BE ACCEPTED. CEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the Sale of a used 1996 Caterpillar 963B Track Type Loader from the Yoakum County Landfill.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004.

For more information please equipment and more information, contact Darinda McWhirter, please contact Darinda Yoakum County Auditor, 806/ McWhirter, Yoakum County Au- 456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains,

Sealed bids should be marked " USED TRACK LOADER " on ered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS **COUNTY OF YOAKUM**

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM Monday, September 27, 2004, for the purchase of Billing Services for Dialysis of West Texas at the Yoakum County Hospital.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, September 27, 2004.

For a more detailed list of the service requirements and more information regarding such service, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355.

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Sealed bids should be marked on the envelope " BILLING SER-VICES" and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL NO FAX COPIES WILL BE AC-

CEPTED. Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.