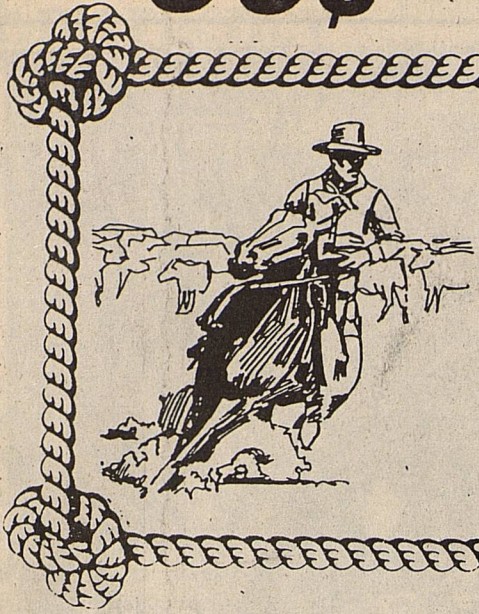


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# Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County  
Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

Volume III, Issue 15, Wednesday, December 11, 1996

## Eleven Grand Jury indictments set

The convening of the Yoakum County Grand Jury on November 22 resulted in true bills of indictment handed down on seven individuals in eleven different causes. The following bond amounts were set by District Judge Kelly G. Moore. The State was represented by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark in all cases.

Four cause offenses attributed to Richard Summers Moreland, Jr., previously reported in CCN November 27, resulted in two First Degree Felony charges, with a total of \$15,000 bonds set. Two other cases resulted in Second degree charges with a total of \$10,000 bonds. All four charges involve insurance scams involving two elderly County women.

Santana Gonzales Flores was indicted for two charges of indecency with a child, both second degree felonies and a total of \$10,000 bonds were set.

William Eldredge Fitzgerald was indicted for Driving While Intoxicated, third or more, a third degree felony.

A \$2,500 bond was set. Jose Manuel Carrillo was indicted for indecency with a child, second degree felony, had bond set at \$15,000.

Joel Dewayne Dossey was indicted for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, second degree felony, had his bond set at \$15,000.

Efrain Chavez Moreno was indicted for DWI, third or more, and had bond set at \$2,500.

Dennis Lee Duval was indicted for possession of methamphetamine, one gram but less than four grams, a third degree felony, and bond was set at \$7,500.

First degree felony punishment ranges for life or any term not more than 99 years in prison, or less than five years and optional fine up to \$10,000.

Second degree convictions can lead to 20 years or less than two years prison time, and optional fine not to exceed \$10,000.

Third degree felonies can lead to ten years in prison or less than two, optional fine no more than \$10,000.

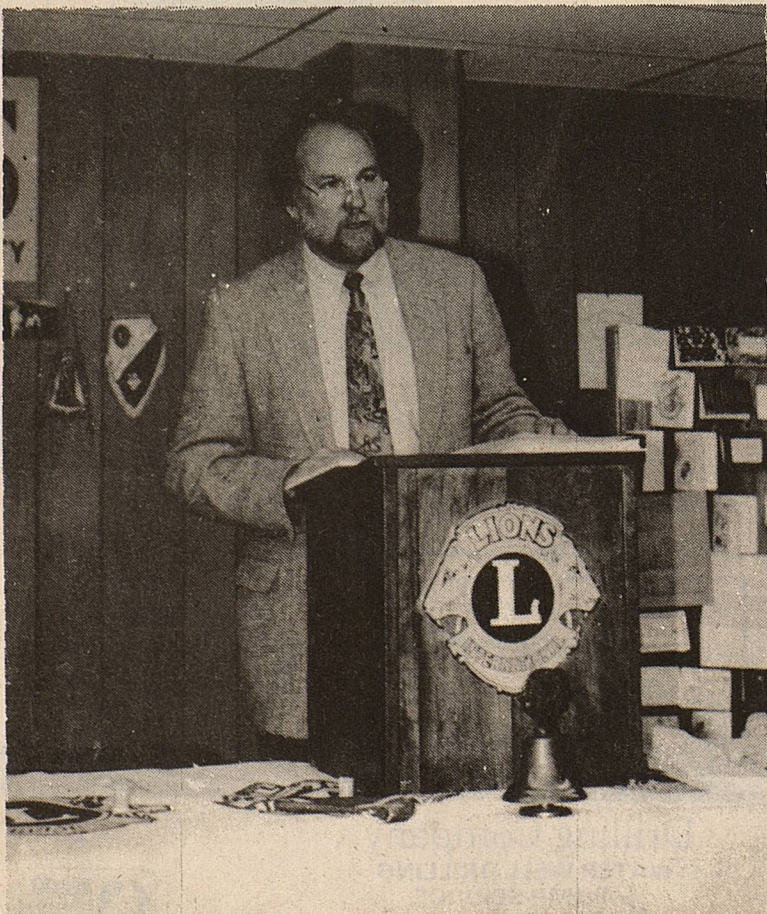
## Juvenile crime, probation issues and problems outlined at Lions Club

Ted Welch, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for the county, told last Thursday's Lions Club audience juvenile crime continues to be a major, and growing problem around the state, and right here in Yoakum County.

Welch, who assumed his present duties in January

1987, said the escalating crime rate and case load led to the hiring of his Assistant Probation Officer, James Adair, in March of 1995. "It had become a physical impossibility for one Probation

Turn to page 2,  
**'Juvenile Crime'**



Ted Welch addresses Lions

## Tree lighting, Santa's visit draws big crowd



Santa rests his reindeer, arrives by firetruck

Santa Claus' annual visit to Plains, via the Volunteer Fire Department's fancy truck, and the simultaneous lighting of the Xmas tree, Nativity scene and Courthouse drew an enthusiastic crowd of the young and not so young last Thursday evening.

The event heralding the Christmas season featured the PHS Cowboy Band, playing an impressive array of Christmas music. Earl Hainer, Minister of the Plains Assembly of God, read the Biblical passages recording the Holy Birth of Jesus, and



It's never too cold for the young at heart to see Santa

delivered the invocation, and City Administrator David welcomed the audience.

When the hundreds of youngsters heard the siren on the approaching truck carrying Mr. Claus, near pandemonium set in, with the kids rushing to the Community

building, lining up for photos with Santa for the price of a donated can of food, and to receive Christmas candy.

The annual event always brings out an appreciative crowd, and the expressions on the young faces makes it well worth attending.

## Legislators face wide array of bills & topics

A little over a month from now, on January 14 the Texas Legislative Session will be gavelled to order in Austin. State Senators and Representatives, for at least 140 days, will wrestle with multitudes of issues and problems affecting Texans.

Our District 80 Representative Gary Walker recently furnished CCN a computer generated list of bills which have already been filed in the House, well before the opening session, with many more expected to be filed by January 14.

The 330 bills listed cover a great multitude of issues and problems, some of them sounding on the verge of frivolous, but apparently important enough to be officially recorded. Walker told us "the fact a bill is filed is no assurance it will ever come to the floor for a vote. Many of these and later introduced bills will not get out of the committees and subcommittees they are assigned

Here is a sampling of some of the topics of the bills the Legislators will be studying in the months ahead.

Bill relating to - Parental rights and duties; Regulation of abortion; Alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles; Performance incentives for high school principals; Participation by home school students in UIL activities; Publication or recording of the name of

an individual who is the subject of arrest warrant or other criminal process; Required instruction of public school students in basic values of the United States; Referral to Juvenile Court of certain children; Eligibility for release on parole of certain dangerous offenders; Creating the offense of false disparagement about the AIDS or HIV status of an individual; Disclosure of ingredients in cigarettes and tobacco products; The expulsion or placement in an alternative education program of a public school student who commits an assault; Authority of the governing body of a municipality to set speed limit for farm to market roads

Turn to page 2,  
**'Legislation'**

## Irrigation, grain seminar here draws great attendance

More than 120 area AG Producers attended last Thursday's Irrigation—Small Grain Seminar here. The event was sponsored by the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District, the National Resources Conservation Service and the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District.

Some of the topics discussed in the morning long seminar included cotton staple, grass varieties for irrigation corners, wheat grazing, minimum tillage, irrigation and low energy precision application (LEPA), and winter grains.

Speakers included Tom Blanchette, Du Pont Co.;

Philip Carter, NRCS Plains; Gary Walker, Sandy Land; Dr. Wayne Keeling and Dr. Bill Lyle, Experiment Station in Lubbock; Harry Sullivan, Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District; Brent Bean, Amarillo Experiment Station. The invocation was delivered by Don Burgess, Chairman of the YCSWCD.

Seventeen exhibit booths were featured at the seminar, representing area and national firms involved in agricultural irrigation, equipment, chemicals and cotton processing.

River Smith's of Lubbock served the catered noon meal.



Local producers hear Dr. Keeling on minimum till



From page 1,  
**'Juvenile Crime'**  
 Officer to cope with the work required." He explained his office deals with juveniles age ten up to their 17th birthday. Seventeen years old is now considered adults in the Juvenile Justice System.

Welch said several new programs are being utilized here now. With help from the local Mental Health and Mental Retardation agency, and other out of town counselors, some youthful offenders are responding well to efforts aimed at rehabilitation, rather than detention programs.

He noted illegal drug use by juveniles is definitely on the increase, and added for emphasis, "Yes, drugs are available for kids, and adults, right here in Plains, Texas."

Welch distributed literature about juvenile crime and probation, including an up to date listing of the case load his office is currently working. The four page document revealed no names or addresses, but showed there are currently 35 juvenile offenders afoot of the law in the county, involved in 42 cases.

A sobering aspect of this document showed the youngest offender to be ten years old; there was one 11 year old, one 12, five 13, four 14, nine 15, nine 16, and five 17 years old who attained the adult age after they were sentenced in Court. Six of the 35 were females, their offenses ranged from the most serious Felony I level to Class B Misdemeanors.

Welch said his one greatest fear in rising juvenile crime problems is the growth of youth gangs. He indicated there are gang activities taking place in Denver City now. He said the threat of gang activity in Plains is real and growing, but is probably at the "Wanna Be a Gang Member" stage now. He said "Once a teen, male or female, is coerced, persuaded, even forced into an active gang, takes part in their criminal activities, he or she is virtually certain to be lost to society. Friends, family, schools, churches, organizations, and law enforcement agencies find it impossible to reach, and salvage these kids. It's almost like drug addiction, or brain washing."

Welch said a huge percentage of youthful offenders come from broken homes or environments of drug or alcohol abuse, or homes with family violence. He described the chief problem in combating juvenile crime and conducting effective proba-

tion programs is lack of funds. He said his office staff is paid from both County and State funds. The fewer juveniles in a county, the less money the State contributes to Juvenile Programs. Yoakum County has slightly more than 1400 juveniles, while cities such as Dallas, Houston and San Antonio have hundreds of thousands.

From page 1,  
**'Legislation'**  
 cated in municipality; Rights to inspect appraisal records relating to the appraisal of a person's property; Mandatory transfer to Criminal Court of children engaging in criminal behavior involving use of a firearm; The distribution of condoms at public and private institutions of higher education; Jurisdiction over the Alamo; Suspension of students from participation in extracurricular activities; Punishment for obscenity involving songs or poetry; Human rights instruction in public schools.

There are, of course, several Big, Big issues which will perplex the lawmakers, including property tax reform, and possible alternative public school funding, and deregulation of the electric utility industry in the State.

The 140 day or longer session should be interesting to watch.

## PISD Superintendent Profiling Committee Meeting Held

The PISD Board of Trustees appointed committee assigned to develop a profile for professional and personal characteristics of the Superintendent met with the public in the cafeteria last week. They had previously held meetings with the school system's faculty and staff.

Twenty one people were present for the last of the scheduled meetings seeking input to assist the Trustees in their search for and hiring of a superintendent. The problem with that figure is, eleven of the number were committee members, indicating public interest in the matter is lukewarm, at best.

Some of the suggestions presented to the group included recommending to the Board they should seek an individual who understands and enjoys a small town with it's many pluses and minuses, someone not eager to move on to a larger school or city. One person said the Board should seek someone young enough to have children in the school system, giving them a closer feel for day by day operations and problems in the system. An-

other expressed the desire to find a morale builder and morale sustainer in the staff and faculty, and who would become more personally involved with the students themselves. Another hoped to find a superintendent who wants to continue the cooperation between the system, and the city and county government systems, and hoped the new superintendent would spend more time out of his office, getting to know the public.

One attendee expressed his appreciation of the Trustees for their bravery in asking for the public's suggestions and input. Pity more of the citizenry didn't care to take advantage of this opportunity to be heard.

### In Texas in December

Dec. 3, 1842; Republic of Texas President Sam Houston orders archives of the Land Office in Austin to be moved to now Houston. Austinites objected and fought the "Archives War" to keep the records in the national capital of Austin.

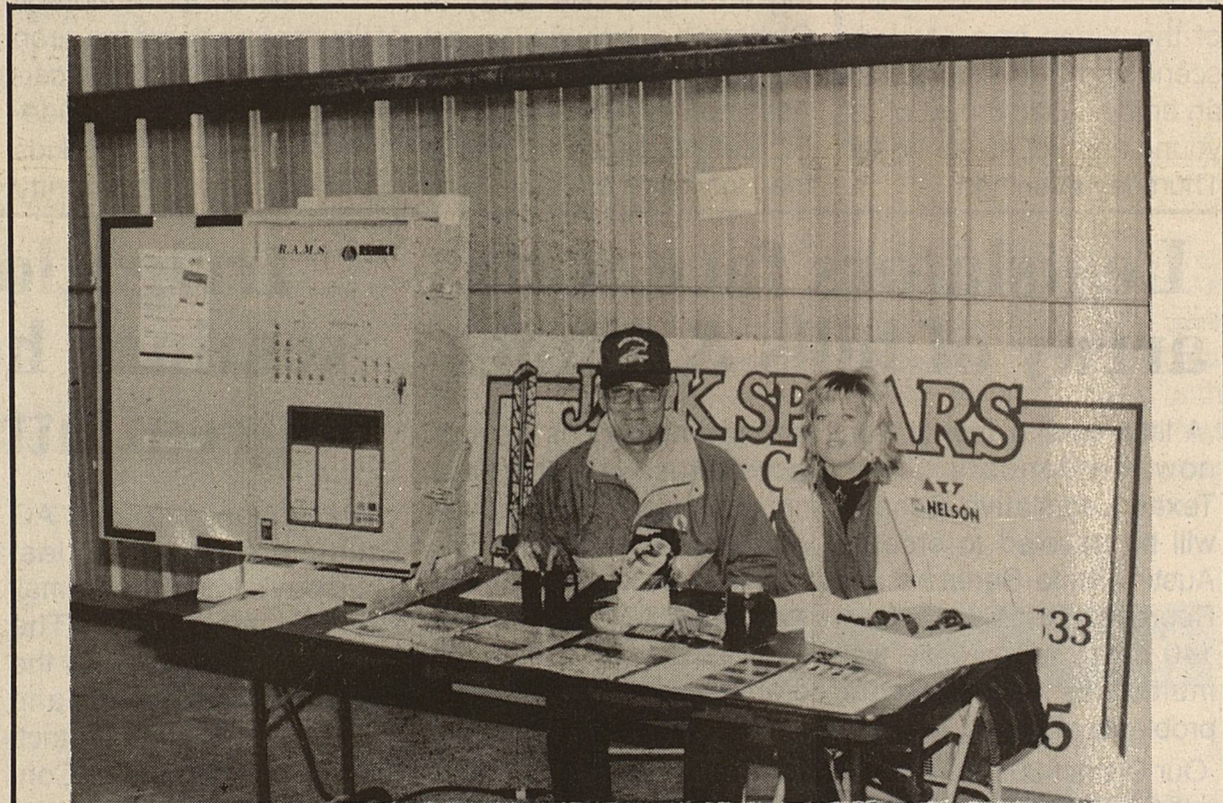


Earl Hainer opens the Tree Lighting and Santa's visit event last week, reading the New Testament's Christmas story, heralding the birth of Christ.

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Sales Manager Jim Warren and Secretary Donna Allsup are shown manning the Jack Spears Drilling Co., and Reinke Irrigation Company exhibit booth at last weeks 'Irrigation-Small Grain Seminar,' sponsored by the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service local office, and Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District.

Eleven more shopping days till Christmas

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## Emergency loans available to area producers

In accordance with a letter received from County Judge Dallas Brewer, Yoakum County has been designated by Governor George W. Bush as a natural disaster area where eligible farmers and ranchers may qualify for Farm Service Agency emergency loans due to damages and losses caused by drought, high winds and excessive heat, which occurred from October 1, 1995, through June 10, 1996, as well as hail and flash flooding, which occurred on May 18, May 21, and June 2, 1996.

A total of eight Texas counties are named as contiguous counties where eligible family farmers may qualify for FSA EM physical and production loss loan assistance pursuant to sect. 321a(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act. These counties include Andrews, Cochran, Winkler, Loving, Gaines, Yoakum, Hockley and Terry.

Emergency loan applications will be received through May 26, 1997, for physical and production losses; applications pending on that date may be processed and completed. EM loans will be made under FmHA Instruction 1945-D.

Emergency loan status was requested of Governor Bush back in June of this year by Judge Brewer.

## County Court Meets

Commissioner's Court considered a very brief agenda list Monday, December 9.

The Tax Assessor/Collector's report showed \$177,415 collected taxes in November.

A bid from Mustang Country, Denver City, in the amount of \$22,041 for the purchase price of a 1997 Dodge Minivan was accepted. The van will be used for transporting Senior Citizens.

A Soil Conservation request for levelling a sand ridge on property owned by Emmit Campbell in Section 749 was approved.

All County bills and part time salaries were approved

## JP Court Cases

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

53 traffic cases, 2 felony cases filed. Bonds set; 3 charges of securing execution of document by deception, \$6500 bond each; Theft, over \$20,000, under \$100,000, \$6500. Issuance of bad check, \$350; Speeding, DPS warrant, \$145; Fail to maintain financial responsibility, \$500; Fugitive from justice, held till transported; Motion to revoke probation, held till hearing; revocation of probation, \$1000 bond; Assault, bodily injury, \$1500 bond; DWI, first, \$1000; Possession of marijuana, under 2 oz., \$2000 bond; Fugitive from justice, \$5000; Motion to revoke probation, held till hearing.

## 'Disturbing The Peace'

John Sharp, State Comptroller, recently issued his fourth review of Texas state government to the Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House and State Legislators. Titled 'Disturbing the Peace, the report summarized

## Hospice Tree Ceremony Held



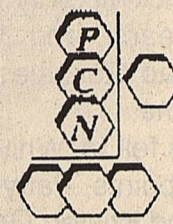
Last week's Lighting of the Hospice Christmas Tree at the library was well attended by a host of the public. Precinct 4 Commissioner Macky McWhirter welcomed the audience, who were entertained by Kindergarten students of Mrs. McGinty's, May's and Conway's classes. The youngsters sang a medley of Christmas songs. McWhirter briefly explained the many functions of the Hospice organization, and the care they provide the terminally ill and their families.

Following the program, donors to the Hospice program hung white doves on the tree as symbols of their remembrance of lost loved ones. A total of forty one of the 'memory doves were hung on the tree by individuals and organizations.

145 issues, and 428 detailed recommendations to make State Government more efficient and effective. Sharp says implementing the proposals would free up more than \$1 billion in general revenue.

A few of the issues detailed in the huge report include reducing business regulations, elimination of vacant state jobs, promotion and merchandising of Texas products, a statewide campaign to reduce diabetes, fighting Medicaid fraud, encouragement of business contributions to college scholarships for the needy, and stiffer penalties for food stamp and AFDC fraud.

"The stakes are too high for government to be a spectator sport." -- Barbara Jordan



## 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 !!

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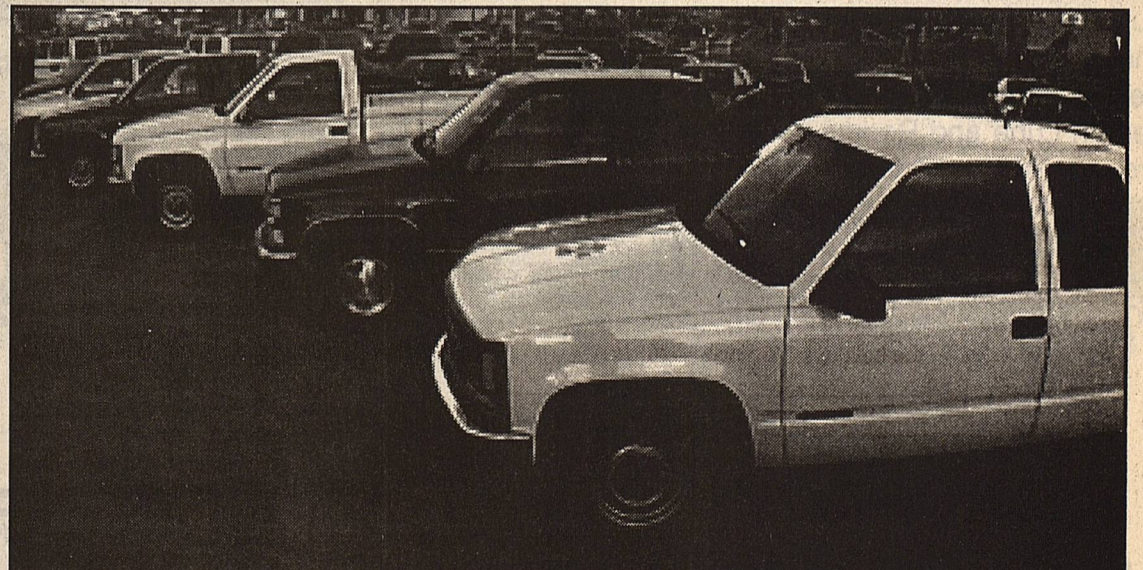
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# 'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

## Basketball Recap

**7th Lady Wranglers;** The 7th grade girls found a hostile environment in Seagraves last week, and fell 46-17 to the Eagles. Annaliesa O'Quinn scored 4 four points, Elizabeth Clanahan, Chelsi Wagnon, Julie Gonzales and Ashley Gonzalez each had two, and Nancy Koncaba scored one.

**8th Lady Wranglers;** the 8th girls also had problems in Seagraves, and were downed 37-15. Kimbe Jones managed 4 points, Kim Willis 3, Roxy Fuentes, Elva Ruiz, Kari Guetersloh and Angelica Hernandez each had 2, and Lexi Warren and Lesli Rowe had one each.

**7th Wranglers;** The young Wranglers fell to Seagraves 27-17 last week. Joseph Rodriguez had 10 points, Jared Bell 4, Chris McGinty 2, and Tanner Hamm 1.

**8th Wranglers;** The 8th graders fared a bit better against the Eagles, winning 36-27. Adam Garcia had 14 points, Brett Squyres and Joel Gallegos each had 6, and Armando Luna 4. Gallegos had a good defensive game, and Squyres rebounded well.

**Freshmen Cowboys;** The youngest Cowboys were dropped by Seagraves 49-28. Josh Bell had 7 points, Alex Luna 6, Kyle Sisson and Colt Winn 4, Patrick McGinty, Chris Willis and Salvador Granados had 2 each, and Justin Bennet scored 1. Jeremy Morphis, Isaac Gonzales and Keith Jackson also saw action in the game.

**JV Cowgirls;** The JV girls fell to Whiteface 38-20 last Tuesday. Kelli Osborn had 7 points, Patty Ruiz 5, Candace Bowers 4, Tandi Jones 3, and Kristen Gray 1.

**JV Cowboys;** The JV boys handled Whiteface 53-41. Fermin Luna led the scoring with 19 points, Matt Morgan had 11, and David Luna 10, to improve their season record to 5-0.

**Varsity Cowgirls;** The Cowgirls fell to Whiteface last week, 78-53. Their shooting was off in the contest, scoring only 34.9%. Kayla Redman managed 18 points, Jolyne Burgess had 11, Sandi Warren 10, Lindsey Six 7, Tessa St Romain 3, and Shawna Box and Kyley Bearden 2 each. Kyley had 7 rebounds, Shyloh Winn, Jolyne and Kayla had 5 each.

**Varsity Cowboys;** The boys handled Whiteface with ease, winning 96-55. Joe Luna accounted for 25 points, Tanner Blount got 24, Shawn Cullins 14, Eric Estrada 8, Travis Bennett and Adam Dominguez 7, Jamie Caballero 6, David Flores 3, and Chris Willett 2. Dominguez had 7 rebounds, 4 steals and 3 blocked shots, Blount had 5 steals, and Luna had 4 assists and 4 steals. Cullins hit 3 from the three point line.

### Denver City Tournament;

**JV Cowgirls;** In their tourney opener, the girls fell to Seagraves 38-30. Candace Bowers scored 12, Jessica Flores had 5, Anne Palmer 4, Maranda Box 3, Tandi Jones, Kelli Osborn and Kristen Gray had 2 each. In their second outing, they lost to D.C. 43-21. Box led the scoring with 5, Krystle Blundell had 4, Palmer 3, Flores, Gray, Ruiz and Lisa Parrish each had 2, and Jones scored one. The fell again to Lamesa in their third game, 58-25. Gray led the scoring with 11, Jones had 7, Palmer, Box and Ruiz each had 2, and Parrish had one.

**JV Cowboys;** The younger Cowboys took third place in the D.C. Tournament. They dropped their opener against Seagraves 50-43. Matt Morgan scored 11 points, Will St. Romain had 9, and Jason Redman had 8. They next downed Sundown in a good game, 50-48. Redman totalled 13 points, and St. Romain had 11. They scored another victory over Denver City 51-44, in which David Luna had 15 points, Fermin Luna and Redman 10 each. They were halted by Brownfield in their final game, 74-57. Redman had 21 points,



David Luna 14, and Fermin Luna had 12.

**Varsity Cowgirls;** In their first tournament action, shooting just 30.2% from the floor, the Cowgirls fell to D.C. 67-55. Redman led the scoring with 15 points, followed by St. Romain 14, Bearden 9, Winn 7, Warren and Six 4 each, and Burgess 2. Redman again led rebounding with 12. The girls next fell to a tough Lovington team 73-52, again plagued by 24.2% shooting. St. Romain scored 18 points, followed by Redman with 14, Bearden and Warren 6 each, Six 4, and Burgess and Winn 2 each. The Cowgirls dropped their final game against Seagraves 51-48. Tessa led the scoring with 15, Kayla had 12, Kyley 8, Sandi 6, Shyloh 3, Lindsey and Jolyne 2 each.

**Varsity Cowboys;** The Cowboys started off strong in the tournament, beating Seagraves 70-54. Blount scored 24 points, followed by Luna with 13, Cullins 8, Caballero 7, Flores 6, Estrada 5, Dominguez 4, and Willett 2. They had tougher going next game, falling to D.C. 73-63. Luna and Blount had 16 points each, Estrada and Caballero 10, Flores 4, Dominguez 3, and Willett and Bennett had 2 each. Luna had 5 steals, Blount 4, and Dominguez blocked 2 shots. A super quick Lovington Wildcat next felled the Cowboys, 77-59, shooting only 30% from the floor. Luna made 22 points, Blount 16, Caballero 6, Flores and Estrada 5 each, Cullins 3, and Dominguez 2. They next played well, but fell to Muleshoe 60-55. Blount led the scoring with 20 points, Luna 11, Caballero 10, Estrada 9, Willett 3, and Dominguez 2.



**CEN will publish Santa Claus letters from the elementary students next week**



PHS Cowboy Band performing Christmas program during tree lighting

## Math/Science Team scores again

The PHS Math and Science team, competing with just a portion of the full team, took Third Place honors in the UIL competition at Seminole December 7. The number sense team finished third, the calculator team first, mathematics fifth, science sixth, and computer science team 4th.

Individual standings are as follows; Sophomores- Clint Burrus, 2nd calculator, Marcey Hious 2nd number sense, Tommie McNabb, 6th number sense, 1st calculator, 3rd mathematics, and 8th science; Juniors; Shawna Box 2nd number sense, 7th calculator, 5th math, 4th science; Heath Bowlin, 7th number sense, 1st calculator, 8th science; Seniors, Yancey House 3rd number sense, 4th calculator, 5th math, 6th science; Jacob Lester, 9th number sense, 7th calculator, 8th math, 10th science; Coley Burgess, 8th calculator, 10th math. In overall computer science, Tommie McNabb was 7th, Yancey House 8th, Clint Burrus 10th, and Jacob Lester 10th.

## Student of the Week



PHS Student of the Week is Christy Ruiz, a Junior, and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elva Ruiz. She was nominated by Mr. Friesen, who said, "Christy was nominated because of one very important characteristic; She is a diligent worker. She also has a great attitude and a charming personality. She is the type person one can't help but like once you know her. The rest of the teachers and I want her to know she is appreciated, and her hard work has not gone unnoticed.

## More basketball....

(The following two games were received after we completed the Basketball Recap.)

The Freshmen Cowboys had two games last week. They dropped their contest against Denver City 65-41. Alex Luna led the scoring with 18 points, followed by Kyle Sisson 8, Josh Bell 6, Justin Bennett 3, Colt Winn 3, Isaac Gonzales 2, and Jeremy Morphis 1. Also seeing action were Keith Jackson, Patrick McGinty, Chris Willis, and Salvador Granados. Brownfield downed the boys 63-41. Winn scored 14 points, followed by Belland Willis 6, Bennett, Mprphis and Jackson 4, McGinty, Granados 2 each, and Sisson 1.

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# Femme Friends



## Future new owners at Renaissance open house



Wilma Powell welcomes Sharie & David Sanders

Linda Powell's Renaissance Flowers and Gifts was the scene of the company's last Open House Celebration last week. Linda has announced the firm will formally change hands at the first of the coming new year. David and Sharie Sanders, now residing in Houston, and the son and daughter in law of Virginia and L.J. Sanders, expect to complete the purchase of the business shortly after New Year's Day.

They will reside in the former home of the late Baine Price family on ranchland now owned by the Sanders.

David is a professional stuntman, working the Hollywood and TV circuits, previously featured in an article in CCN. He will continue his profession, traveling to assignments from Plains, and his wife Sharie will manage the new business, to be re-named 'The Lavendar Patch'

## Art Association X-Mas Party

The Yoakum County Art Association held their annual Christmas Dinner and Party at the Clubroom on Tuesday, Dec. 3 with member Wilma McDonnell, Marguerite Barron, Mary Dale Forbus, Wilma Powell, Linda Powell, Jimmie Bayer, Betty Estep, Inetta Teaff, Eileen Fillipp, Helen Hunter, and guest Gwen Carter, Dianne Brunson, Jeanette Head, and Mariene Gibson in attendance. Following a delicious ham dinner, a short business meeting was held after which the group enjoyed games of 'cops and robbers' bingo. A gift exchange was held enjoyed by members and guests at the end of the evening. Hostesses were Betty Estep and Inetta Teaff. Eileen Fillipp, Secretary

## Fine Arts Club Meets

The Plains Fine Arts Club met Thursday, December 5 in the home of Paula McMinn. Co-hostess for the event was Christi Brink. Members brought the Christmas salad meal, with the hostesses furnishing refreshments, rolls and dessert.

Following the meal, a brief business meeting was held. It was decided at least one more fund raising Baked Potato Sale would be held at one of the basketball games, amoney raising event for the club's scholarship fund.

The Club voted to join the following the reading of Judge Dallas Brewer's letter of invitation. The hostess gift was won by Carolyn Culwell, and the members enjoyed a Chinese Gift Exchange. The next meeting date is Thursday, January 9, with Carolyn Culwell and Dolores Davis serving as hostesses.

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## HOWDY!

By: Kathy Adair

Have you noticed all the negative publicity families have received lately? Who is not considered dysfunctional or at risk? Juvenile crime and delinquency has increased substantially and some say it is all the family's fault.

For those of you who can sympathize with this and Ann Murray's song entitled "A Little Good News Today", I have a hope for you. We have wonderful families here in Yoakum County! If you do not believe me, ask the kids. Recently, I solicited responses to a family survey to find a few outstanding families to recognize in the county. I received over 250 nominations - mostly from youth who think their family is the cream of the crop. How refreshing! Even though all of them deserve recognition, I could only select six to be featured in this and upcoming papers.

The selection committee was impressed by the responses and suggested that they be shared. Here they are:

### What makes this family special?

Helping each other out, loving each other in good or bad times, pinching pennies for something special, listening to what other person has to say, making coke floats, putting I love you notes in special places, caring for animals, knowing what goes on in the community, and kids helping with summer jobs.

### What does the family do to have fun together?

The top response was anything as long as the family was together. Working in the yard, playing board games, showing animals, and going to fun parks, major league games, lakes, camping, to Lubbock or Hobbs were also high on the list.

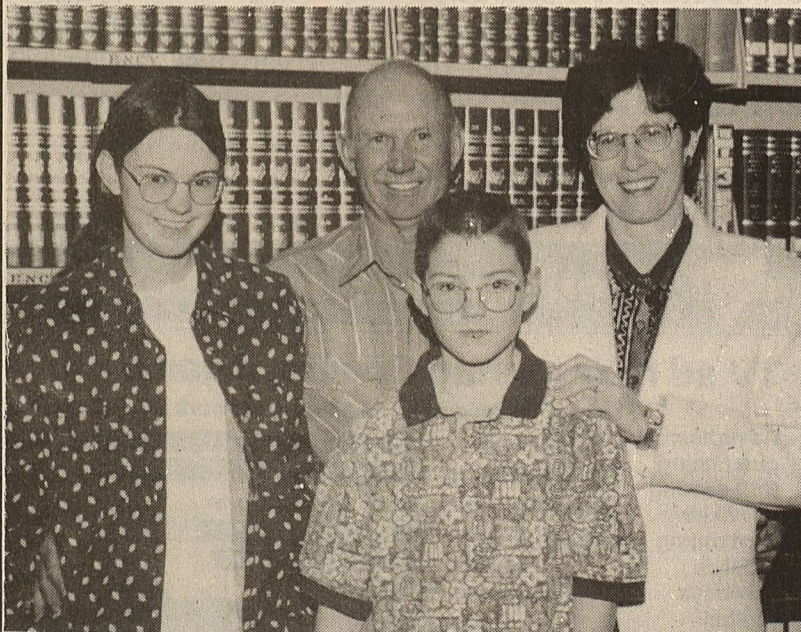
### How does the family serve the community?

The parents participate as volunteer firemen, little league coaches, Sunday school teachers, band sponsors, school board members, positive role models in the community, and in various community organizations. They give blood, toys and food to the needy, valentines to nursing home residents, and rides to band practice. Recycling, not littering, and cleaning up after events is also important. One special family likes to take in stray children. They have raised not only their children, but several others that needed a temporary or permanent place to live.

I hope you enjoy reading about the outstanding families. The few featured do not even begin to mention the many marvelous families in the county. This holiday season, think about what your family means to you and what you have done for others. I think you will find that the 'Little Good News' starts at home.

### The McNabb Family Nomination by John Curry.

Dedication to the community, ages in the community. They enjoy going to car shows, rabbit shows, movies, and humoring Pat as she takes numerous pictures of her photogenic family and wind-mills.



Pictured are: Tommie, Darryl, Grady, and Pat McNabb.

### The Box Family- Nomination by Joni Hancock

What makes this family so special is their dedication to the family and what it means to our society. They love and support each other in individual activities as well as spending the important time together as a family unit. This dedication was especially evident in the loving care and support they gave to Tommy's dad during his lengthy illness and now by caring for Margaret. Cindra has cared for Tommy's parents as though they were her own. In supporting each other, they never neglect to let it overflow into the lives of everyone they meet. They are the example of what "family" truly means. They enjoy ball games, cheerleading, UIL, and church activities. Tommy serves as a deacon at the Plains Church of Christ and is on the NRCS board. Cindra works with the Gifted and Talented program and is on the High School Site-based Committee.



Pictured are: Maranda, Tommy, Cindra, Shawna, and Margaret.



These family members were totally absorbed by the events at the tree lighting last week.

## Senior Citizen Corner

Plains was visiting on Wednesday. We are always happy to see visitors.

Darlene Clevenger is ill. We wish her a speedy get-well.

Some weeks on Thursday, this column just takes another holiday and there is not much nerve, especially after a Holiday.

No new faces in the dining hall this week.

Our condolences to Elsie Koslich who lost a sister. Also I would like to remember the family of Grady Turner. His funeral is today. Grady was one of our oldest and best customers at the store.

Irene Cook has been in the hospital but is home. Wanda Black is home from her hospital stay, but not at the Center most days. Carman Wilson has not been able to work since Thanksgiving due to an injury.

The Cowboy Editor from Smitty

The hall is full of walkers these cold days, come join in and stay out of the cold.

The Calendar of next weeks events:

**Mon.** Line Dancing at 9:30 a.m. Birthday, Anniversaries, Sr. of the Month at 11:30 a.m. and Pool/Games at 6:30 p.m.

**Wed.** Line Dancing at 9:30 a.m.

**Fri.** Line Dancing at 9:30 a.m. Lovington Pool Tournament at 10 a.m. Site Council at 10:30 a.m.

Pearl Harbor Day is coming up. Lets all use up our Thanksgiving unused thought to the hopes that we never have another tragedy hit like that Dec. 7.

See You Next Week,

**Darlene's**  
Dress Shop  
Starting Now, Our  
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# From The Hack



It's "BAH, HUM BUG" time again. The Bride and I spent six miserable hours in Lubock last Friday shopping, and we bought not one Christmas present. Which means, of course, we have to go back and do it again before Santa comes. That smacks of double punishment to me, but Bride says it's perfectly legal and called for, especially when you forget some of the things you went up there for in the beginning.

To accomodate some new computer equipment we have ordered, we needed new office supplies and furniture. Bride tells me, "Wal Mart has a super sale on some of this stuff". Fateful, dreaded words. Everyone shops Wal Mart - everyone hates shopping Wal Mart.

We have to put new tires on the car, and get the oil change job done, so we check the car in there first before we go shopping. The guy quotes us a price, and as the surrounding signs say, "We'll mount and balance your new Wal Mart tires in 59 minutes, or your next lube job free". Sounds OK to me - I tell

### Notice for Bids The State of Texas County of Yoakum

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 a.m., Friday, December 20, 1996, for the sale of (1) Used 1991 Chevrolet Suburban.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, December 23, 1996.

To inspect the vehicle, please contact Kathy Adair, Yoakum County Extension Agent, 806/456-2263.

Sealed bids should be marked "BID-USED SUBURBAN" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way @ Ave. G, Plains, Texas 79355. No FAX copies will be accepted.

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

Bride no way they can do it. Off we go into the cavernous store. We go staggering around looking for Christmas decorations, something you'd think would be displayed as prominently as Madonna in the tabloids. We push the shopping cart over someone's foot, and hastily apologize to Lee Roy McCravey. I tell him we're lost, and he doesn't help by saying he is too. We part, finally find a semi-coherent employee who can partly guide us to our next designation. Miraculously, we find the stuff, but the stuff is not the size we need, and the Department Manager, after I search her out, eating a Corn Dog, says, "Uhh, well, I guess that's part of that stuff that got back ordered, and I guess you can get the stuff about March, if the stuff come in at all - you know, stuff happens".

We cross off the back ordered stuff, think of a little more stuff we need, then carry all the stuff to the 'Speed Checkout Lane'. Too speedy, I guess, I burn rubber on the cart's wheels to get there, and knock some guy half way into a display of stuffed Christmas Polar Bears. Guess who. Lee Roy McCravey again. I am a bit perturbed by now, and snarl an apology at Lee Roy, again, but push off muttering about how clumsy he is. Bride by now is a bit huffy with me, but I speed the cart up to the checker waiting like a vulture for a fresh kill. I sob semi-silently as Bride writes the check, and we shove off with our two buggies full. Two point seven miles later, we arrive at the tire and lube area. I weep as I scan the bill for four new tires and a

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squirt or two of oil. I say, "Honey gimme the check book", and she suddenly looks dumb, then horrified, and screams, "Where's the checkbook??"

I have it figured out in two nano-seconds - she left it at the checkout counter. I give her a hasty glare, and dash off down the seven miles to I careen around a corner, and collide with Lee Roy McCravey again. Both of us get up from the floor, apologies flowing, and Lee Roy confesses he has lost Billie Zoe again, the third time in two hours, and what's worse, he is now lost himself. I point him towards where they take your money, sure that's where she would eventually surface.

Sure enough, the checker had the check book, laughed hysterically at me for the Bride's dumb mistake, and I charged off again to bail our car out of hock. I jerked open the door to the Lube-Tire service area, and banged heads with some idiot. We fell back, and went to apologizing once more... Lee Roy and I had one more time almost fatally met. This time, it seemed his good, deep Baptist faith was almost shaken.. he told me, "Gary, I would like to say it's been nice running into you, but I don't like to lie.... If you're SURE you guys are leaving the store, we'd like to do just a bit more shopping".

I have seen a number of basketball games in my time, especially during the years of CCN's history. Never, however, have I seen games I enjoyed anymore than last week's 7th and 8th grade Wrangler games. I don't refer to either game's final score - I refer to the Zebra's officiating the contests. For some reason, the scheduled Ref's didn't show, and guess who had to pant and puff up and down the Court? None other than Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Larry McMinn, and Jr. High

Principal Ronnie Watkins, both just a tad under conditioned, the audience and I observed.

Watkins wanted to explain to me, between gasps of anguish, why he was officiating, but I told him to keep his distance... I knew he was about to throw up, and I didn't want it on me.

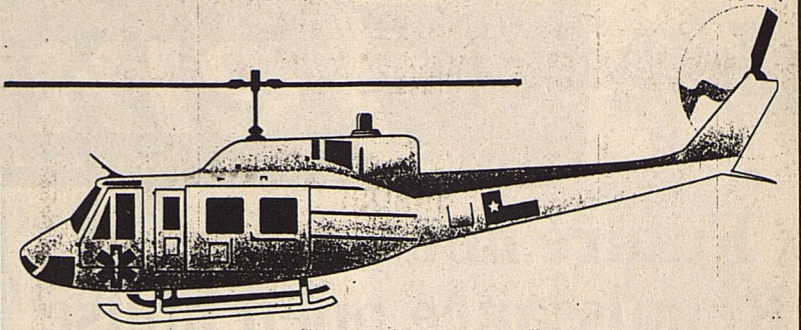
Larry, pausing just moments while sucking furiously on three Cokes during the one game he endured, painfully managed to chuckle when I jibed him about already calling the EMS ambulance to stand by just in case, gasped, "I don't care about any ambulance... call St. Mary's or Methodist Hospital to send their helicopter".

Ahh, pay back time is glorious... these are the guys who scream at their athletes and students, "Let it all hang out!". Believe me, it was all hanging out of these two.

McMinn must have pulled seniority or superiority or something, for he crawled off the court after the the 7th grade game and headed to the house as fast as his wobbling knees would carry him. There may have been a bribe or something involved, for he was replaced by Bill May. Watkins, on the other hand, must be in deep stuff at the school. He had to finish the 8th grade game also.

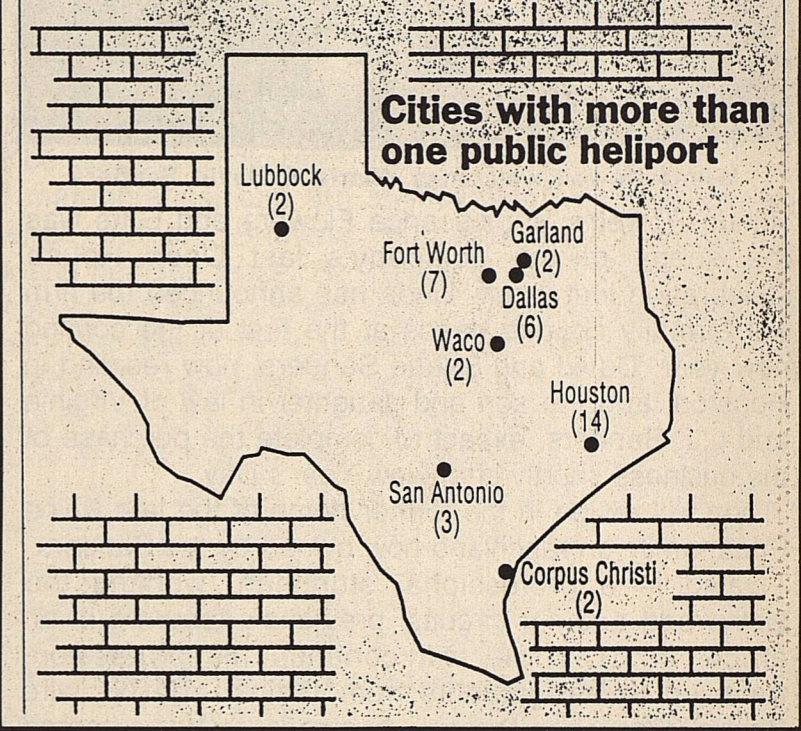
I really wanted a close up shot of Ronnie after both games, but he threatened me rather severely. Have you watched National Geographic, and ever seen one of those episodes about Africa? He reminded me of one of those overweight lizards, tongues hanging out while panting for air, eyes bulging, appearing near death if some one or some thing didn't give it water and sympathy soon. Really, men, you called both games very well. It was just difficult to take them very seriously.

## Texas' public heliports, 1996



When it comes to transporting critically wounded patients in an emergency or scouring the countryside for dangerous criminals, a helicopter's speed and quick take off and landing capabilities often make it the perfect way to travel. Demand for helicopters in such situations has led to the construction of 39 heliports at Texas hospitals and police stations, accounting for about 60 percent of the public heliports in the state.

Currently about 800 helicopters operate in Texas; most are privately owned and based at private heliports. Only 64 of the state's 400 heliports are publicly owned or operated. Although helicopter use is still rare in the state compared to air travel by plane, about one-fourth of the state's 1600 aircraft landing facilities are heliports, due to their small size and ease of construction and maintenance.

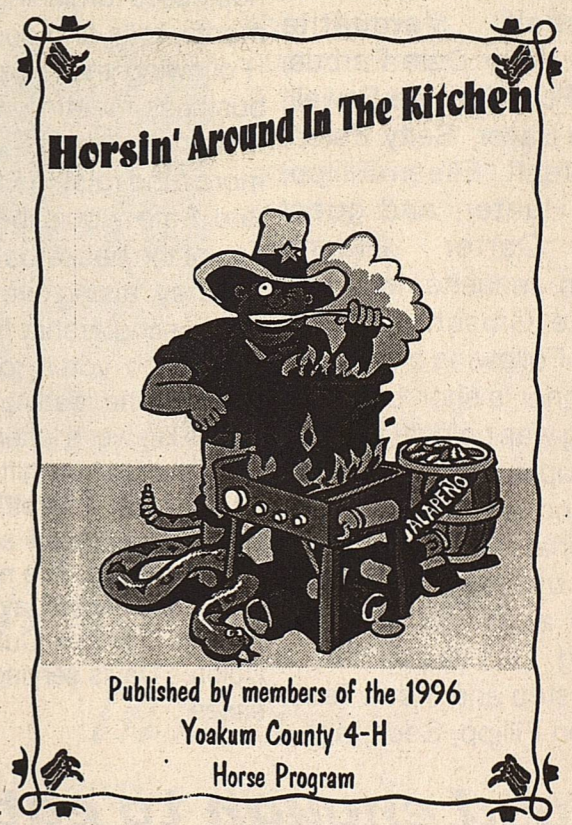


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**Cowboy Country News**

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## Gookbooks For Sale!



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.

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## Keeping an eye on Texas

### TV ad rates during Cowboys game

<b>Cost of 30-second ad on national network</b>	
NBC Sports	\$175,000
FOX Sports	\$140,000
<b>Cost of 30-second ad on local stations</b>	
Dallas/Fort Worth	\$30,000
Houston	\$8,500
San Antonio	\$5,000
Austin	\$3,000
Beaumont	\$3,000
Lubbock	\$2,000
El Paso	\$1,500
McAllen/Brownsville	\$1,500
Tyler/Longview	\$1,250
Bryan/College Station	\$1,200
Temple/Killeen	\$1,200
Waco	\$1,200
Amarillo	\$1,000
Midland/Odessa	\$1,000
Corpus Christi	\$800
Wichita Falls	\$800
Abilene	\$625
San Angelo	\$500
Laredo	\$400

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Sherry Matthews Advertising & Public Relations.

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