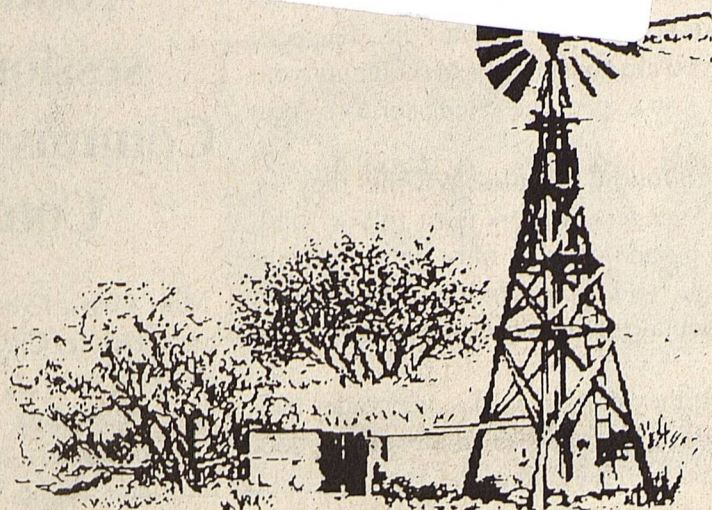


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Cowboy Country News

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Volume XI, Issue 18, January 12, 2005



The Ten Commandments For Supporting Student Athletes

By James Haynes PISD Superintendent

This article is a reprint from one that I wrote several years ago. I feel that it presents a good set of guidelines for us to follow as parents and supporters of student athletes at Plains ISD. I do not know who originally wrote these Ten Commandments but I think they are worth following. Our student athletes need to go onto a game motivated to do one thing and that is to win. If they are successful, they should win with grace; and if they are unsuccessful, they should lose just as gracefully and without excuses. This is also the time of year when I hear parents complaining about the amount of playing time that their child is getting. Please be reminded that our coaches are instructed at the Varsity and Jr. Varsity level to win the ball games. They are motivated to do so and will use the student athletes in the best way they know how to accomplish that goal. Please read these Ten Commandments for parents and supporters of our student athletes and apply them. It is a great way to support our school.

1. Be Positive with your child: Let them know that they are accomplishing something by simply being a part of the team. Don't put them down. Turn to Pg. 2 'Ten Commandments'

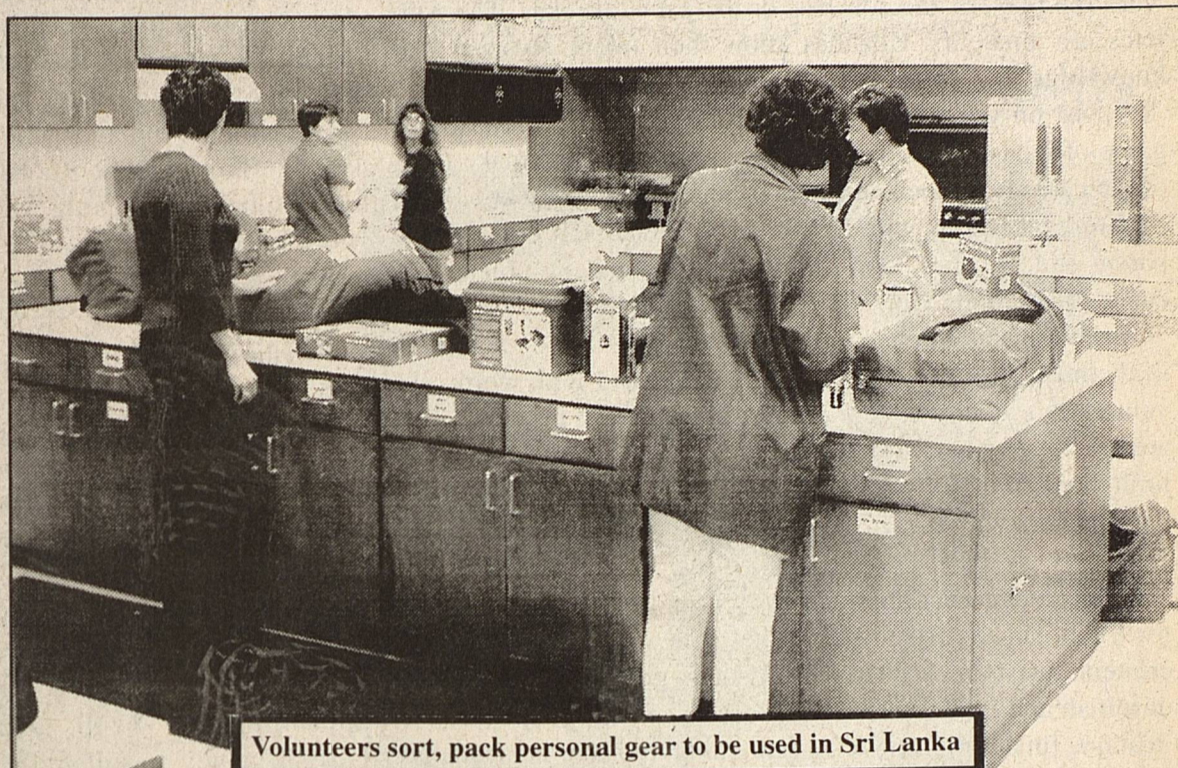
The Chamber of Commerce memorial brick sale deadline has been extended for a brief period of time. Several sources are in the process of submitting plans for the construction of a memorial brick base and foundation for placing the new electronic sign. If you have a workable plan you would like to suggest, please submit a rough sketch of the design to CCN, City Hall, Sandy Land, or the County Library. And remember, you still have time to purchase YOUR brick!

Local Baptist disaster relief unit to help feed thousands of Sri Lanka tsunami survivors

As this issue of CCN was being printed Tuesday, seven members of Plains First Baptist Church were enroute to Dallas, where they would board an aircraft which would serve as their first leg conveyance to the South Asia nation of Sri Lanka. There, they will be met by an advance party of Texas Baptist Men disaster relief volunteers, who will assign the FBC team to a mobile kitchen. Local church members include Pastor Bill Wright and wife Linda, Tim Willis, Jerome Head, Gale McDonnell, Connie McWhirter and Karen Bearden. They will be assisted in the Herculean task by Joe Henard and Gib Webb, Paramount Baptist Church, Amarillo, and Donovan Phipps, First Baptist, Welch.

The Plains volunteers first learned they would be needed almost two weeks ago when the Texas Baptist Men organization alerted them to start securing passports and various inoculations. The 30 hour long air journey will leave DFW, with stops in Detroit, Frankfurt, Germany, and on to Colombo, capitol of Sri Lanka.

The FBC disaster relief has been thoroughly vetted since its inception in 2000. The state of the art mobile kitchen trailers



Volunteers sort, pack personal gear to be used in Sri Lanka

have seen action - and a tremendous amount of hard labor and long hours by their volunteer workers - starting with the Los Alamos forest fires. Later they fed thousands following the massive flooding in Houston. They worked long hours in New York City feeding rescue crews after the 9 - 11 tragedy, then returned to Colorado and Arizona to feed forest fire fighting crews. They were again on hand in San Antonio to care for hundreds displaced by flood waters, and later they responded to feed flood victims a bit closer

to home, in Abilene last year. The crew and other volunteers gathered at FBC Saturday morning for a final "shake-down meeting" prior to their departure here Tuesday of this week. The crew members paid particular attention to personal gear for the trip, including sleeping bags and cots, portable showers, lanterns, and an impressive amount of junkfood, in case the food they will be preparing in Sri Lanka "offends my delicate West Texas stomach" one volunteer quipped. Pastor Bill Wright told CCN,

"Our visa's are only valid for ten days in that country. When the ten days are up we will head home, but we already have a second crew ready to replace us. No one has the slightest clue how long this effort will last, but we intend to do our part." Zanna Traweek, one of the church secretaries, told CCN a number of individual church members had also volunteered for disaster relief missions. She and husband Marc spent time in Israel and Gaza on a mission, and former resident Jered Sellers labored in El Salvador and Turkey.

2004

SANDY LAND UWCD RAINFALL MEASUREMENTS YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

2004

SECTION #	1/31/2004	2/28/2004	3/31/2004	4/30/2004	5/31/2004	6/30/2004	7/31/2004	8/31/2004	9/30/2004	10/31/2004	11/30/2004	12/31/2004	TOTALS
575	0.30	0.20	2.25	2.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.35	10.00	2.45	1.70	0.00	19.85
579	0.50	1.80	2.25	6.40	0.00	0.70	2.00	1.40	9.10	1.20	1.00	0.00	26.35
535	0.60	0.40	1.40	4.40	0.00	0.80	0.50	1.20	9.25	1.20	1.55	0.00	21.30
852	0.45	1.80	1.20	4.80	0.60	1.70	2.60	0.40	8.90	1.00	5.00	0.00	28.45
793	0.70	2.20	1.40	4.20	0.70	0.80	2.90	3.00	9.10	0.80	5.50	0.20	31.50
832	0.55	1.90	1.55	5.10	1.00	0.70	2.80	2.40	9.80	0.70	4.95	0.10	31.55
759	0.90	2.20	1.30	3.70	0.00	1.90	4.10	2.80	9.00	4.20	4.20	0.10	34.40
753	0.85	2.00	1.90	2.90	0.20	4.60	3.00	2.40	13.50	1.60	5.00	0.20	38.15
563	0.95	2.60	1.65	3.80	0.00	1.70	2.90	2.00	8.20	0.20	2.55	0.50	27.05
568	0.85	2.00	1.55	3.80	0.00	0.80	1.60	0.80	8.00	2.85	4.80	0.00	27.05
432	0.20	0.80	2.20	3.90	0.00	1.10	1.90	1.30	9.00	5.10	6.10	0.20	31.80
1	0.40	2.70	4.10	4.70	0.10	2.20	2.80	1.40	7.25	7.80	5.85	0.20	39.50
265	0.60	1.80	2.20	4.80	0.00	1.80	7.00	1.40	7.10	3.90	5.30	0.30	36.20
255	0.95	1.30	2.10	3.80	0.40	2.60	2.60	1.60	7.10	3.80	4.65	0.40	31.30
308	2.20	2.10	1.05	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.80	3.30	4.25	0.10	19.00
187	0.55	0.70	2.70	3.70	0.00	2.30	1.10	1.05	10.35	3.80	4.40	0.00	30.65
163	0.50	1.20	2.40	4.20	0.00	3.40	3.00	0.95	8.25	3.55	4.35	0.20	32.00
167	0.20	0.90	2.25	3.90	0.00	1.50	4.20	1.40	11.10	2.95	3.90	0.40	32.70
298	0.20	1.40	3.10	5.20	0.00	1.10	2.10	1.65	10.80	3.00	4.65	0.50	33.70
342	0.40	0.90	1.60	5.60	0.00	1.20	2.70	0.20	5.80	3.85	4.30	0.10	26.65
34	0.65	1.20	2.15	3.90	0.00	1.40	2.90	1.85	8.55	2.35	4.35	0.00	29.30
148	0.60	1.40	1.95	3.90	0.00	1.10	2.10	2.60	8.50	3.05	4.80	0.50	30.50
371	0.50	2.70	1.15	3.40	0.00	0.70	1.51	0.54	10.40	4.50	4.20	0.50	30.10
420	0.35	1.80	0.8	4.20	0.00	0.40	0.90	0.60	7.40	5.75	4.75	0.00	26.95
673	0.65	2.40	1.2	3.80	0.70	0.00	2.10	3.30	11.60	1.80	4.70	0.00	32.25
714	0.70	1.80	1.85	4.30	0.20	2.20	1.80	1.55	8.95	0.80	5.25	0.00	29.40
Averages	0.63	1.62	1.89	4.16	0.15	1.41	2.35	1.47	8.84	2.90	4.31	0.17	29.91

A frequently heard remark from many of our more "seasoned" citizens has been "Well, I've been around these parts a mighty long time, and I sure can't remember it raining this much!" This chart, furnished to CCN by Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, chronicles the year's precipitation, collected from 26 rain gauges placed around Yoakum County by Sandy Land personnel, who read and recorded the contents of

all gauges during the 12 months of 2004. The gauges indicated an average accumulation of 29.91 inches fell throughout 2004, with the month of September the wettest of the year. Apparently the wettest spot in the county was on Section 1, north of the Harold Parrish home, some 9 miles east and a mile north of US 82/380. Another very wet area was recorded at Section 753, some two miles south and west of the old Pleasant Hill Gin. The

official Weather Bureau instruments at City Hall recorded a total of 31.38 inches during the year. And who can forget the sight of water flowing across US 380, into Stanford Park and on down Sulphur Draw, a truly rare event, never witnessed by many locals. A true record breaking year.

(SEE MAP PAGE 6)

From Pg. 1 'Ten Commandments'

2. Don't offer your child excuses if they are not playing. Encourage them to work and do their best.
 3. Don't put their coaches down. Remember the coach represents the 'Leader', the 'Authority', the 'Parent', the 'Teacher', and the 'Role Model'. If you are constantly bad mouthing your child's coaches, how can you expect the youngster to respect and play for them?
 4. Encourage your child to follow the rules. Whether they are First Stringers or Fourth Stringers, players must follow rules. Athletics is very demanding and coaches must concern themselves with a player's off the field/court activities in order to get maximum physical and mental performances out of their players.
 5. Insist on good grades. If they don't have passing grades they cannot play. Emphasize the importance of grades throughout the year, Beginning, Middle, and the End of the Year.
 6. Don't try to live vicariously through your child. Athletics is a kid's game; Let them play it. Don't show animosity or jealousy to any of your child's teammates. This type of envy can rub off on your child and devastate a team. Who cares who scores as long as everyone does his/her job to the fullest?
 7. Don't be a know it all. The coaches work with the players nine months a year and they know what each kid can do and what they cannot do. As a fan, you are entitled to scream your head off, but please don't become belligerent and arrogant toward the players, the coaches, or the game officials. The Athletes are amateurs. Coaches know their talent. Respect that knowledge.
 8. Insist on your child's respect for team rules, school rules, game officials, and Sportsmanship. Don't let them make fools of their family, school, and team by some 'uncalled for' gesture. Self respect begins with Self control. Model self control as a parent and as a fan. Don't embarrass the student athletes because of your behavior.
 9. Encourage children to improve their self-image by believing in themselves. Every person has been created with worth and value. Always remind your child of this fact. Tell them that they are special and that they are only limited by the degree that they limit themselves. Don't compare or contrast your child with family members who played previously. Every youngster is different.
 10. Encourage your child to play for the love of the game, not for a scholarship or something that is in the of the college recruiters. Insist on unselfishness. Usually good things happen to unselfish and hard working people.
- Just one final reminder; A fan screaming for his or her team has never upset a referee, but a fan screaming at a referee about their control of a game could affect our team in a very negative way. I appreciate every person that comes to support our student athletes and our school and thank you for that support.

Neugebauer Opens Abilene Office, Appoints Staff

Congressman Randy Neugebauer announced Monday that Jeremy Brown and Sylvia Leal have joined his staff. Both Brown and Leal will work out of Neugebauer's Abilene office which is now open and is located at 500 Chestnut Street, Room 819.

"Jeremy is a hard worker who possesses deep knowledge of the needs and concerns of the people living in the Big Country," Neugebauer said. "And Sylvia is a long time resident of Abilene with extensive ties throughout the community. Both will prove to be valuable additions to my staff and excellent resources for the constituents of the 19th district."

Brown will serve as Neugebauer's Regional Director for the Abilene area. He will be responsible for bring Neugebauer's liaison in the Big

Country. Another priority for Brown will be establishing ties with constituents in Abilene and surrounding counties in the 19th district.

Leal comes on board as Neugebauer's Office Manager in his Abilene office. Her duties include scheduling, handling constituent casework, and overseeing the day-to-day operations of the office.

The phone number for Neugebauer's Abilene office is 325-675-9779 and the fax number is 325-675-5038.

"I'm excited to get the office up and running in Abilene," Neugebauer said. "This office exists to serve the people of Abilene and the Big Country. As is the case with all my staff, the folks in my Abilene office will be working for the constituents of the 19th district."

Lengthy, routine session in Commissioners Court

Mike Fears, Executive Director of Denver City's Economic Development Corporation, gave the January 10 session of Commissioners an update on the status of the State Rubber tire re-cycling plant in Denver City. He said the plant, which takes in old tires, and through a multi-stage process reduces them to a very fine ground rubber and small bits of steel, both products then sold. Fears said the plant reported taking in some 5 million pounds of abandoned tires, which were reduced to almost 4 million pounds of ground rubber and steel, which were then marketed. He said State Rubber anticipates increasing the workforce to 24 employees sometime in February, running the plant 24 hours daily. He reported the increased manpower and longer production runs would be necessary to meet the higher demand for the rubber product, with the bulk of the product going to producers of asphalt.

Troy Scott, Precinct 2 JP, was granted permission by the court to purchase an office desk for approximately \$100. Jan Parrish, newly installed Tax Assessor/Collector, received approval to purchase some \$1400 of equipment for her office, and was also granted \$2100 to be used as fees for representatives of Thomas Y. Pickett, Inc. to conduct a training session for her office here.

Kathy Six was approved as new third deputy in the County Clerk office, while Delia Ramoz and Marianna Hinojosa were approved as third deputies in the Tax Office.

Other agenda items included approving part time salaries, clerical \$7 per hour, road hands \$8 per hour; Reporting for jury duty, \$7 per day, serving as juror \$14 per day; Mileage for personal vehicles used in county business, .35 cents per mile.

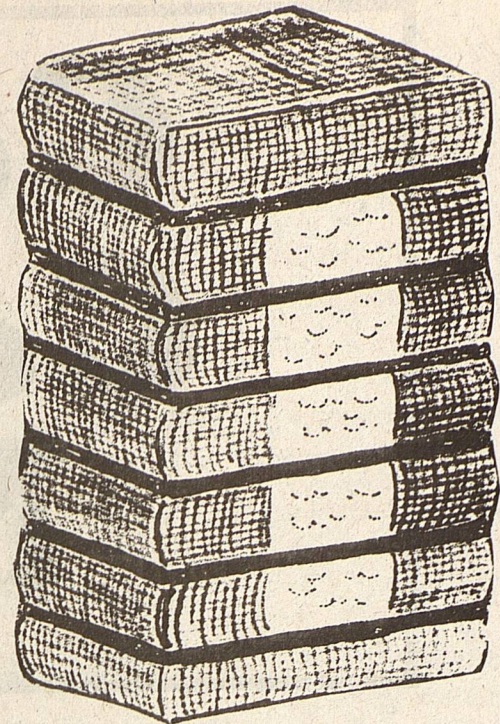
Locals named to President's List at LCU

Jody Helms and Autumn Justus, both of Plains, have been named to the President's List at Lubbock Christian University for the fall semester of 2004.

In order to be considered a part of the president's list, a student must be taking a minimum of 12 semester hours and achieve a 4.0 grade point average or better for the entire semester.

The number of LCU students named to the list has increased dramatically in recent years due to a stronger emphasis on campus toward academics. The administration has developed a new program over the last several years to help students in completing their academic responsibilities, including the Academic Support Center, which offers free student tutoring.

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Plains Chamber of Commerce is initiating a fund raiser to replace the marquee sign that is located south of the courthouse. At this time we are taking orders for bricks that will be used at the base of the new sign. The price of a brick will be \$50.00. The brick can have up to three lines with a maximum of 16 letters and spaces per line.

Please complete the form below and return to the address above with your check in the amount of \$50.00 for each brick ordered. This is not a war memorial, but you can honor a veteran if you wish. We would like family names, clubs and businesses (with the date of establishment), events, in memory of, and anything that might be a part of the history of our town.

DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2004. All monies will be refunded in the event that we do not receive enough money to complete this project. Any donation will also be appreciated.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION IN THE BOXES. REMEMBER ONLY 16 CHARACTERS (INCLUDING SPACES) TO EACH LINE.

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LINE 1 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

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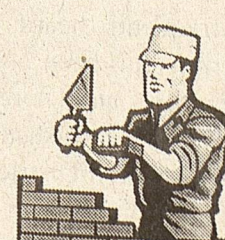
LINE 2 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

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LINE 3 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

ORDERED BY _____ DATE _____

CHECK NUMBER _____ CASH _____



Cowboy Country News

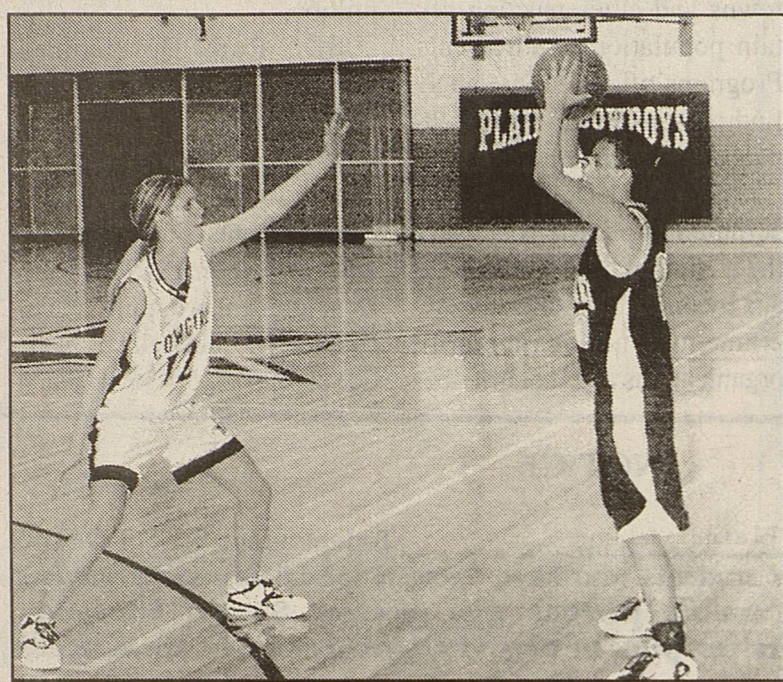
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Cowgirl vs O'Donnell Shots



PISD Sports Capsule

JV Cowboys - The young Cowboys dropped a close 51-48 game in their first outing since the Holiday break. Coach Brink noted a great effort in a fast paced game, as the Cowboys almost closed out with a win. Scoring included Scott Addison 13, Landon Craft 8, Casson Curtis, BJ Lester 6, Todd Williams 5, Zach Ramos 4, David Alldredge and Blake Parrish 2 each. Their record is now 9-4. They bounced back the following Friday with a 65-40 win over Friona, using a good pressure defense and running the court well for easy shot opportunities. Landon had 18 points, Scott 17, Blake 10, Casson 9, Zach 5, B.J., Todd and J.L. Vasquez 2 each, to move their record to 10-4.

Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys journeyed to Wellman to take a close 57-55 win. Coach Davis cited periods of good play then losing the lead with just two minutes left in the game, and suffered unforced turnovers. Cody Flores had 16 points, Brandon Hise 11, Tyler Caffey and Evan Cain 8, Kerry Sisson 7, Payton Bean 3, Daniel Parker and Abel Ramos 2 each. They next suffered a 53-44 loss to Friona, where turnovers and poor shooting spelled the difference. Brandon managed 14 points, Evan 11, Abel 8, Blake O'Quinn 4, Kerry 4, Payton 2, Tyler 1.

Varsity Cowgirls - On Tuesday, January 4, the Plains Cowgirls traveled to Wellman-Union and won 52-36. "I thought the team did a great job on defense and executing the fastbreak when giving the opportunity," Eddleman said. "We were able to get off to a great start early in the ball game and pretty much had total control the rest of the game." The team was lead by Desiraye Broom, Whitney Caffey, and Regina Morales. Desiraye had 15 points, 9 rebounds, 2 assists, 4 steals, and 1 block shot. Whitney had a double-double with 12 points and 11 rebounds. Regina had 12 points, 3 assists, 2 steals, and 1 rebound. Meghan Garcia had her best game of the year with 7 points, 6 rebounds, 4 assists, and 2 steals. Lauren Davis had 4 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Jamie Covarrubias also had 2 points. On Friday, January 7, the Plains Cowgirls started district play against the O'Donnell Eagles and won 39-26. "We got off to a slow start at the beginning of the game, but midway through the first quarter we switched to our man to man defense and began to take control," Eddleman said. "I thought the team showed a lot of character and determination throughout the game and I was really proud of all the girls." The team was lead by Desiraye Broom and Lauren Davis. Desiraye has 14 points, 9 rebounds, and 2 assists. Lauren had her best game of the year by hitting 4 out of 4 three pointers. She finished up with 14 points, 3 rebounds, 1 assist, 1 block shot, and 1 steal. Meghan Garcia had 3 points, 7 assists, and 4 rebounds. Regina Morales had 3 points, 4 assists, 4 rebounds, and 3 steals. Whitney Caffey had 3 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 steals. The Cowgirl's overall season record is 12-5 and 1-0 in district play. The Plains Cowgirls will be playing Seagraves at home at 6:30 pm., Friday, January 14.

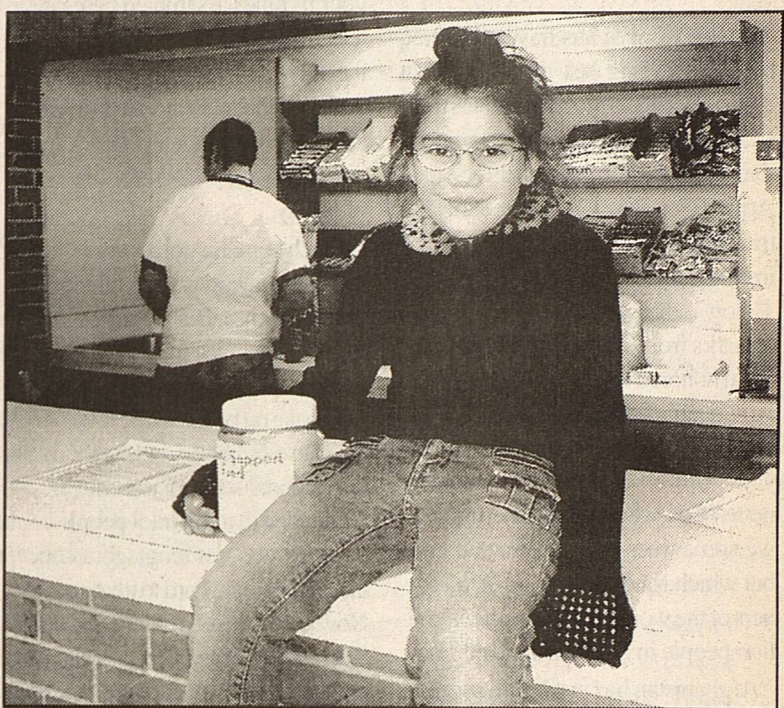


Council, students show generosity



The PHS Student Council members conducted a "Hurry Up" fund raising event last week which ended Friday afternoon at the Cowgirls basketball win over O'Donnell. Council members shown here, Jacob Rivera, Brant Huerta Lela Coronado, with Sheriff Deputy Jerry Howard, Prisma Ortiz, and Cheerleader Daniela Lazos, had just presented Howard with a sack containing over \$ 600 which the officer was to deliver to First Baptist Church, to be used in the disaster relief work in Sri Lanka. Daniela was chairman of the council's Community Service Committee, and sponsors were Mrs Dorsett and Mrs Ortega.

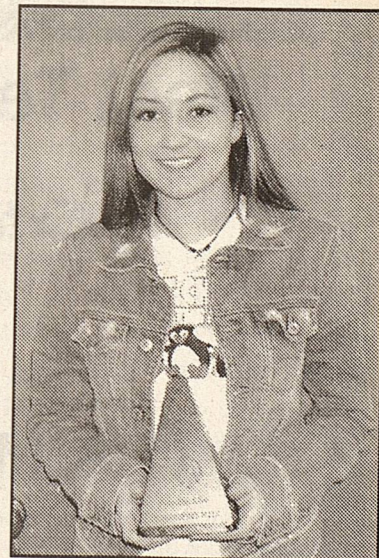
Very tiny girl - Very big heart



Seven year old Bethany Mares, a first grader in Mrs. Morrow's class, displayed lots of heart recently. She told her mom she wanted to give money to help feed the refugee kids in Sri Lanka. Mom suggested she open her piggy bank and take out part of the money she had saved from Christmas and birthdays, but she said, "No, I want to give it all to them. They need it lots more than I do." At last week's O'Donnell game, Bethany presented almost \$70 to the PHS Student Council members to give to the FBC disaster relief team journeying to the distressed country.

Student of the Week

PHS Student of the Week is Maretta Trent a freshman and the daughter of Dare and Donetta Walker. Maretta was nominated by Mr. Jones, who said, "This week's student of the week is someone that always puts forth the maximum effort in class and isn't afraid to ask for help when she needs it. She also never hesitates to help others in class when they may be having trouble on their work. She is fun to have in class and should be commended for the effort she puts forth in class."



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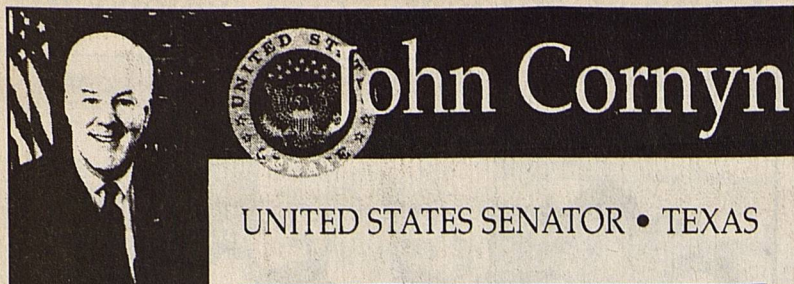
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John Cornyn
UNITED STATES SENATOR • TEXAS

Cornyn Honors Troops Heading To Iraq In Major Farewell Ceremony

Approximately 3,000 Texas National Guard Troops Deploying To Support War On Terror

U.S. Senator John Cornyn, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, addressed the official farewell ceremony for soldiers of the Texas National Guard's 56th Brigade Combat Team, who are deploying this week to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Global War on Terror. The ceremony, held at Baylor University in Waco on January 1, honored troops from various parts of the state and drew approximately 30,000 family and friends. It is anticipated that the troops will serve in Iraq for one year.

Senator Cornyn has traveled to Iraq twice, including last month, to visit Texas troops and receive updates from U.S. and Iraqi officials on operations there. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he has traveled at all 17 active duty military installations in Texas.

Below is the text of Senator Cornyn's remarks from the farewell ceremony. "I'm honored to be standing here with America's finest: the Texas National Guard. Without you, and warriors like you from all corners of our nation, none of us would enjoy the freedom we sometimes take for granted here, but which is now spreading to all corners of the world, including the 53 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq. "Afghanistan has just held a successful national election; at the end of the month, Iraq will follow suit. The brave men and women you will soon join have brought an end to the execution sites, children's prisons and brutalities too awful to mention. They've ended Saddam's legacy of fear and terror, the vestiges of years of blood and cruelty under a terrible regime. To date, we've found more than 300,000 people buried in mass graves spread throughout Iraq, in nearly 100 reported sites. These mass graves stretch from Bastah to Baghdad, from Najaf to Kirkuk. These

are silent monuments of Saddam's ruthlessness, left behind for all to see. "The challenge in Iraq is clear and the task ahead remains a difficult one, but the outcome is not in doubt. It is a battle between those who want to give democracy and freedom a chance, and those who would prefer a world of fear, oppression and tyranny where they are the Master and the Iraqi people are the slaves. Texans have a long tradition of fighting for liberty, and today you carry on that proud tradition. You, and your families assembled here, are a testament to the very best America, the very best of Texas. It is only in America that we send our bravest to spread Democracy and freedom so that others may enjoy the blessings of liberty.

"Much remains to be done in Iraq, and the challenges you will face there are tough ones. But the difference our forces have made in such a short time is undeniable. And the differences you will make on behalf of the Iraqi people, the cause of liberty and freedom, and our national security are critical.

"The idea that the Iraqi people could live free was not long ago a concept that some found hard to treat seriously. Now the dream of a free Iraq is in sight. Soon, a free Iraq will be a reality. And thanks to you, thanks to America's warriors and patriots, it is coming soon. "When history is written, let it show that the Texas National Guard helped ensure that the children here today and the children in Iraq and Afghanistan will have an opportunity to grow up as free men and women.

"We wish all of you and your families the very best, secure in the knowledge that you are the very best. We hope and pray for your triumphant return to the loving arms of your families and a grateful nation."

Cotton Market Weekly

Cotton futures on the New York Board of Trade settled on firmer ground for the third consecutive session on Thursday in response to an improvement on the technical outlook for cotton earlier in the week.

The week's export sales report reflected a predictable drop in sales due to the Christmas and New Year's holidays, but the figures still were considered 'healthy' by the market. USDA reported net export sales of U.S. cotton in the week ended December 30 totaled 141,000 bales. The figure was 42 percent less than the previous week and the prior four-week average. Primary buyers included Turkey, China and South Korea.

U.S. export sales for the season have remained ahead of the pace set last year. For the 2004-05 season to date, export sales total 3.0 million bales while commitments total 8.0 million bales.

Export shipments of 243,400 bales were 64 percent more than the previous week and 37 percent better than the four-week average. Major destinations included China, Turkey, and Thailand.

Cotton prices were slightly higher this week, and spot cotton sales were active as more cotton became available for sale. Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas producers sold 132,149 bales online in the week ended January 6 compared to the previous week when 67,411 bales were traded. Prices received by

producers selling their cotton online ranged from 34.69 to 36.33 cents per pound versus the previous week's range of 33.77 to 34.69 cents per pound.

Meanwhile, the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) now projects world cotton production to hit a record high of 114.2 million bales in 2004-05, a 20 percent increase from the previous season. The committee also expects consumption to rise to an all-time high of 103.5 million bales in

the upcoming year.

As if to help bring to fruition the reports of higher world cotton production, sources in Pakistan now say the crop there will reach a record 13.7 million bales this year, 3.0 million bales more than USDA's estimate, due to timely rains, increased acreage and improved water supplies.

Closer to home, misty and foggy conditions, coupled with sub-freezing temperatures and high humidity levels, halted harvest progress on the Texas High and Rolling Plains this week. Despite the adverse weather, the retrieval of modules from fields continued where possible, and ginning activities, however, remain well behind normal. Local analysts say approximately 55 percent of the region's crop has been ginned. Some gins may be finished by early February while many larger, higher capacity gins are unlikely to complete work before mid to late March.

USDA Rural Development meeting scheduled here

Representatives of USDA Rural Development will be at the Yoakum County Courthouse, Commissioner's Court Room, 600 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas, on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, from 10:00 am. until noon. A representative will assist individuals with applications and provide information about the various housing, community and business and cooperative programs.

USDA Rural Development's housing programs offer loans and grants to very low, low, and moderate income persons in towns and cities meeting certain population requirements. Programs offered assist qualified persons to buy, build, repair or maintain a home.

USDA Rural Development's community programs enhance the quality of life for rural Texans by providing funds to governmental entities, nonprofit organizations and Indian Tribes

to enlarge, improve or construct schools, libraries, medical clinics, assisted living centers, public buildings, community centers and fund new and improved water and wastewater facilities.

USDA Rural Development's business and cooperative programs provide the needed capital to expand economic opportunities and development in rural areas throughout Texas by working with banks and community lenders. There is no minimum loan size and the maximum loan size is up to \$25 million.

USDA Rural Development was created in 1994 and with a mission to use the resources of USDA to help enhance the quality of life for the nation's rural residents. For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, please contact the Lubbock Local Office at (806) 7850-5644, Ext. 4.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Plains Independent School District intends to destroy records of students who have received special education services. Records to be destroyed are for persons who received Special Education, including speech therapy services, prior to 1996 -1997 school year. These records are located at

School	Plains ISD
Phone	(806)456-7498
Address	Box 479 Plains, TX 79355

Legal parent / guardian or adult student with disabilities may request copies of these records at the school.

AVISO

Aviso esta dado que La Escuela de Plains tiene intención de destruir documentos de estudiantes que recibieron servicio de Educación Especial. Documentos que deben ser destruidos son para personas que recibieron educación especial, incluyendo servicios de terapia de lenguaje hasta el año escolar 1996 -1997. Los unicos documentos que van estar destruidos son los que estan localizados en

Escuela	Plains ISD
Teléfono	(806)456-7498
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Connection Meets

Yoakum County Connection will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, January 20, 2005 at the Connection Building on North Main in Denver City at 7:00 pm. Honored guests and performers will be the Denver City School Choir under the direction of Fran Barber. L.J. Sanders and Esme Salas have been working on the nominations for director positions. Linda Harris is helping Jeannette Head with door prize solicitation from local businesses. Barbara Wright has agreed to supervise the refreshments. Janie Ramos, Summer

Youth Arts program director, will report on her plans for the 2005 program. Jeannette Head will talk about the Tenth Annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up which will take place September 3, 2005 on the Courthouse Square in Plains, Texas. The public is cordially invited to attend this important meeting to support the arts in Yoakum County. "Your input is vital for continuation of these and other activities the Connection sponsors," states chair Sue Holder.
by Linda Powell

Yoakum County Library Receives Grant Dollars



Pictured here are Librarian Pat McNabb and Earth Team Volunteer Jerry Poole. Not pictured Stan David, Wes-Tex Director, Yoakum County.

Librarian Pat McNabb applied for and received a \$500 matching grant from Wes-Tex Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc. The funds were used in conjunction with local funds and donations to purchase audio books for the patrons of the library.

Mrs. McNabb stated "Our rural community has a need for new and diverse audio books. The agricultural and oil field workers, office workers, families traveling, and individuals who are home bound or sight challenged will benefit from

the recent purchases." 2004 marked the fourth year that We-Tex RC&D has made matching grant funds available to the communities and organizations within the sixteen county area. "We are currently accepting applications for the 2005 Matching Grant Program," said coordinator Cindy Poole. Anyone that has a project idea, and needs additional information can contact her at (806) 266-5067. Applications received by January 14, 2005 will be considered for the first round of funding.

Senior Citizens Corner

2004 has walked into history! As we drop it into the silent limbo of the past, we are thankful we can let it go for it was imperfect. Our yesterdays walk with us. They keep step and are faces that keep peering over our shoulder. Can we do better than 2005?

Did you hear about the three seniors who were asked, "When you're in your casket and friends are mourning over you, what would you like them to say?" The first one answered, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful husband, a fine spiritual leader, and a great family man." The lady beside him commented, "I would like them to say I was a wonderful teacher, and servant of God who made a huge difference in people's lives." The last one said, "I'd like them to say, 'Look he's moving!'"

We've started the new year at the Center with visions of more Yoakum County seniors joining us for the daily lunches so carefully prepared and served, and for the many different opportunities to relax with friends playing games, visiting, or exercising together. Our Site Director challenged each of us to bring a new client, who will return on a daily basis, during this new year.

Once again, we want to thank all of those who contribute to making this Senior Center one of the best in the region. At the risk of omitting someone I hesitate to list names, but you know who you are, our city and county entities, various organizations, personal contributions, and SPAG. The life of every senior in Yoakum County is enhanced because of what you do.

It is time, once again, to introduce those who will be serving on our Board of Directors for the next year. With the retirement of Royce Hemmeline and Walter Gayle from the board this year, we are left with Opal Roberts, June Hannerman, Charlie Gillis, Ken White, Gail Ribble, Ty Powell, Jack Sessions, and Ben Coston. New members coming on board for 2005 are Jewell Hemmeline, Bob Thurston, Ted Ferguson, and Mike Fears. As I looked

back into some of the attendance records of previous years, I discovered that the combined total years of attendance at the Center of these folks who will be representing us for the next year is fifty-nine years. Officers for 2005 will be Ben Coston as Chairman. Gail Ribble as Vice Chairman and June Hanneman as Secretary.

Turkey Day brought in its usual surge of visitors this time. Some of the many names listed were Stanita Wright, Jesus Ezaguirre, Carla Cooke, Carol Childer, Shirley Bruton, Ruby Icenbice, Pam Young, and Gloria Garch. Randy Phillips, Eric Phillips, and Robert Fox, young men who are working on the roof of our building, came down to have lunch with us, and Nicia Willis, from Seminole, who is part of the Hospice team working with Coy Black, also came to check us out and have lunch. On another day the names of Jeanie McKinney, Rosa Lance, Patty Farquhar, and Ann Gaaskins appeared on our guest list. It is great to see these new faces!

Margie Moore and her daughter were lunch guests one day. Margie is recuperating from a bad fall. It is good to see her out again. We miss seeing her at her usual morning exercise time on the treadmill.

We are told that Mary Gibson is continuing with her treatments and looking forward to better days ahead. We miss you, Mary, hurry back!

Jack Sessions has returned from an extended Christmas vacation. Raymond Singletery reports that Santa was good to him and that he is ready for the new year, and Joe Nevarez has chosen to come back to Denver City for awhile. He keeps returning after all of these trips, so 'Home' must be the best place after all.

Just a passing thought: It lawyers are disbarred and clergymen defrocked; doesn't it follow that electricians can be deluged, musicians denoted, cowboys deranged, models deposed, tree surgeons debarked, and dry cleaners depressed?

Thought for today: If swimming is good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Registration January 18 For Spring Cisco Classes At SPC

Registration is January 18 for eight Cisco networking classes offered this spring by South Plains College, designated a Cisco networking academy. Registration will be on the first night of class, beginning at 6:00 pm., January 18 in the Electronics Service Technology Building on the Levelland campus. Instructor will be Raymund Elizondo, assistant professor of electronics service technology. Classes lead to the networking associate certification and advanced certified network pro-

fessional certification. The eight-week CCNA (Cisco Certified Networking Associate) classes will meet 6-9 pm. Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays, and the 16-week CCNP (Cisco Certified Networking Professional) classes will meet 6-9 pm. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$342 per course. For more information, contact SPC Electronics Service Technology program at 884-9611, ext. 2997 or 2352 or e-mail jharell@southplainscollege.edu.

SPC Registration

South Plains College's spring 2005 registration will be Wednesday and Thursday January 12-13.

Enrollment Wednesday January 12 at the Levelland campus will be 12:30 - 1:30 pm., for orientation students and 1:30 - 6:00 pm., for regular registration, beginning in the Administration Building.

Sign up for classes at the SPC Reese Center campus and Byron Martin Advanced Tech-

nology Center in Lubbock will be 8:30 - 11:30 am. and 1:30 - 6:00 pm. Thursday, January 13 at Reese, Building 8.

Registration permits are required for regular registration. Classes begin January 16 at all SPC locations. Late registration will be January 18-21.

To obtain a registration permit, contact SPC Levelland at 894-9611, ext. 2578 or 2572 or the SPC Reese Center campus at 885-3048, ext. 2902 or 4660.

Yoakum County Hospital offers a position for Housekeeping. Please call Jerry Cowart at 806-592-2121.

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From The Hack

The Texas Legislature will soon be in full swing. Why do words like this make me think of Paul Revere's frantic dash around the countryside yelling, "The British are coming, the British are coming!"

I suggest you do become forewarned. This 79th session holds promise of a real donkeybrook; not necessarily Dems VS Repubs so much as the frantic search for the source of some \$10 billion, the predicted amount needed to meet all needs and deficits. The lawmakers will be vigilantly trying to protect funding for THEIR pet projects, at the same time hoping to force some new source of funds, another clever way of disguising the word TAXES.

I recently read where back around 1971 some group polled its membership and ranked all 50 of the state legislatures. The Texas bunch came in 38th. One member of that legislature read the report and supposedly muttered, "My God! You mean there are 12 worse than US?"

I recall an old joke about this man taking his young son to the opening of a session of the Texas House of Representatives. The House Chaplain came to the microphone and dad told his son he was the preacher for the House members. The little boy asked, "Is he going to pray for them?" Dad paused, then said, "No, son, he's going to pray for the State of Texas."

Since redistricting will not be an issue (Thank You, God!) it's doubtful either party faithful in the House or Senate will flee to an Oklahoma hidey-hole. I hear the Okie Restaurant and Motel Association is already busy lobbying their other bordering states, praying they can stir up something to attract more legislators on the lam from their sessions.

This session will most certainly see new taxation measures proposed, which is always dangerous ground to tread. I read the story of a State Senator from deep East Texas who referred to "introducing new taxes is kind

of like trying to milk an alligator - full of danger at both ends." Nevertheless, there will be plenty of new proposals. There is probably no program on the books now entirely safe from budget cut proposals. One House member years back likened cuts in one of his pet projects regrettable but necessary. "It's like having to drink out of a spittoon - if you gotta do it, do it in one gulp!"

For you untutored, it's a simple task to recall some of the mental giants who have faithfully served our Lone Star in either the House or Senate in past sessions. A former Senator, after a savage attack from a preacher on his bad habits, addressed the preacher thusly: "Yes, I am a retired sinner. But yes, I do come out of retirement every now and then." (I will have to remember this for Brother Bill when he returns.)

Noted columnist Molly Ivins wrote years ago about a Lub-

bock man elected state senator, in an Austin hotel with another senator-elect, drinking a little whiskey and 'interviewing' secretaries. There's a knock on the door and a lobbyist offers the Lubbock senator \$200 for a certain medical bill, which he accepts. Couple of weeks later, the bills comes up, the Lubbock guy votes against it, throwing the lobbyist into serious rage. "You take my money and vote AGAINST my bill", he screams at the senator. The Lubbock guy says, "yeah, but the other guy gave me \$400 to vote against it." The lobbyist goes ballistic, cursing the senator violently. Finally having enough, the Lubbock guy goes, "OK, OK, but you knew I was weak and sorry when I took the \$200! Ahh, the fun of politics!"

Rabies case confirmed here

The Yoakum County Sheriff office reported and confirmed a case of rabies in the county last week. Sheriff Corzine told CCN a skunk was found in the yard of a family living some 5 to 6 miles west of Plains on January 5. The skunk was chasing the family dog before the homeowner killed the animal with a shotgun.

The skunk carcass was taken to a veterinarian clinic, then

shipped to the lab of the State Health Department in Austin, which verified the case of rabies.

All pet owners within town or living in the country are urged to have their animals vaccinated for the easily spread disease, Sheriff Corzine said. Because of health privacy rules, the family who dispatched the rabid skunk cannot be identified.

said

"We will also offer hand loading and reloading classes, if there is sufficient interest. Reloading classes will require a minimum of four participants, but we would prefer at least 10," he said.

"The workshop offers volunteers hands-on instruction in all sessions, dedicated to teaching the marksmanship in each shooting sports discipline."

Volunteers who complete the training also qualify to become National Rifle Association certified smokeless and black powder firearm instructors in the discipline they take. Those who complete the archery training can qualify for instructor certification with the National Archery Association and National Field Archery Association.

The deadline to register for the shooting sports instructors workshop in Lubbock is January 28, Davis said. Registration forms and other information are available at the Yoakum County Extension office, or by calling Arlan Gentry at (806) 456-2263.

Texans in the war

Texans of all ages and walks of life, including many not called for service in the field, joined together to make the state's record in the recent world conflict another thrilling chapter in Texas history. A Texan was the first to propose the United States sever diplomatic relations with Germany after the sinking of the Lusitania, and the state has been in the vanguard ever since. It is estimated almost 200,000 Texans actually fought in the armed forces, with the 36th and 90th Divisions winning honors in combat. The 90th, or "Tough 'Ombres" Division is still in Germany on occupation duties. 450 nurses served overseas and in army camps. Texas casualties exceeded 5,000, with most of them occurring during active service in the army.

The Texas News, August, 1919

4-H Shooting Instructor Training Slated In Lubbock

Texas Cooperative Extension will offer a 4-H shooting sports leader and coaches workshop February 25-27 at the Texas A&M University Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Lubbock. The center is located 1/2 mile east of Interstate Highway 27 on FM 1294. "4-H members gain the opportunity to test their shooting, hunting and sportsmanship skills by participating in our shooting sports program," said Brad Davis, Extension 4-H and youth specialist based at the Lubbock center. "They can participate in county, regional, state and national competitions, and some even advance to Olympic shooting sports competition."

Local 4-H shooting sports clubs are open to all youth aged 8 and in the 3rd grade to 18. 4-H teachers shooting sports to more than 300,000 youngsters nationwide each year. Volunteers who are interested in shooting sports can become involved in existing county clubs, or work with Extension agents to help establish a shooting sports club.

"All volunteers who attend our

shooting sports instructor workshops are trained by state instructors certified to teach these courses," Davis said. "Volunteers who complete shooting sports instructor workshops and demonstrate experience with a local club can qualify to serve as instructors and coordinators with state and national 4-H shooting sports teams."

"The workshop we are offering at Lubbock in February, 2005, is a perfect opportunity for volunteers to get started with the 4-H shooting sports program."

The February workshop will cover archery, pistol, rifle, shotgun, black powder shooting and instruction specifically geared for coordinating a local shooting sports club or program. Instructors will cover teaching and coaching techniques, the fundamentals of safety and firearms nomenclature, and strategies for success in youth program leadership.

In addition to these general session topics, participants can choose one extra study track in archery, program coordination, pistol, rifle or shotgun, Davis

NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 AM Friday, January 28, 2005, for the purchase of Asphalt for all four (4) Precincts and Yoakum County Parks for Calendar Year 2005.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, January 31, 2005.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355.

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

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

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