

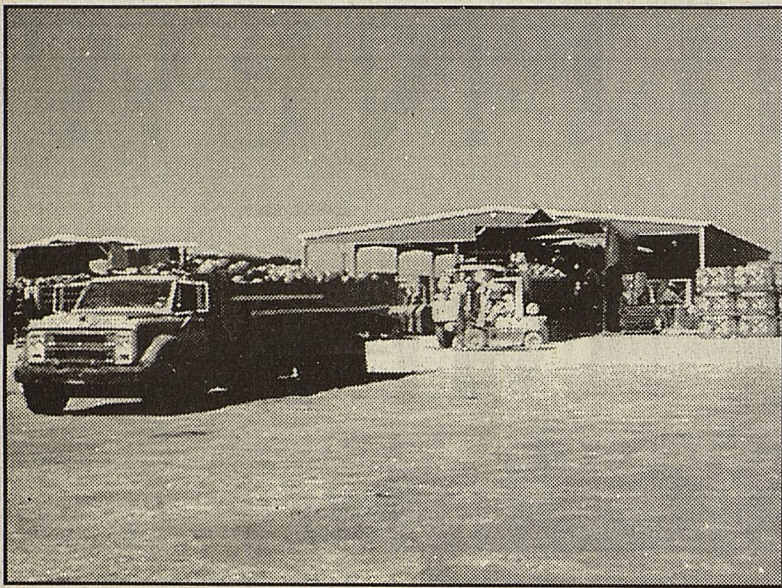
# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V Issue 49, August 18, 1999



## There should be plenty of subject matter for 4th Watermelon Round Up



Scenes like the above were in abundance up and down the state line area Monday afternoon. Hundreds of field harvesters, field truck drivers and dock workers were busy shipping the county's famed watermelons all over the country. A quick count while passing by Southwest Spice, Borders Produce, Warren Produce, Sugar Line, Jackson & Berry and Anderson Produce docks here showed 29 semi-trucks waiting to be loaded. Estimates of the total acreage planted to irrigated melons varies from 10,000 to 15,000 acres. Please see page seven for more details on the Round Up.

## Tracking the Boll Weevil

August 2nd/8th Previous		August 9th/15th Previous	
UNIT	COUNT	UNIT	COUNT
713	164	713	108
714	830	714	550
715	368	715	1027
716	232	716	1484
717	116	717	1191
718	1010	718	2621
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2720</b>	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6981</b>

The above charts reflect a dramatic 64% increase in boll weevils trapped by District Eradication personnel last week. At the end of the week, 2,952 weevil traps were deployed around area cotton fields.

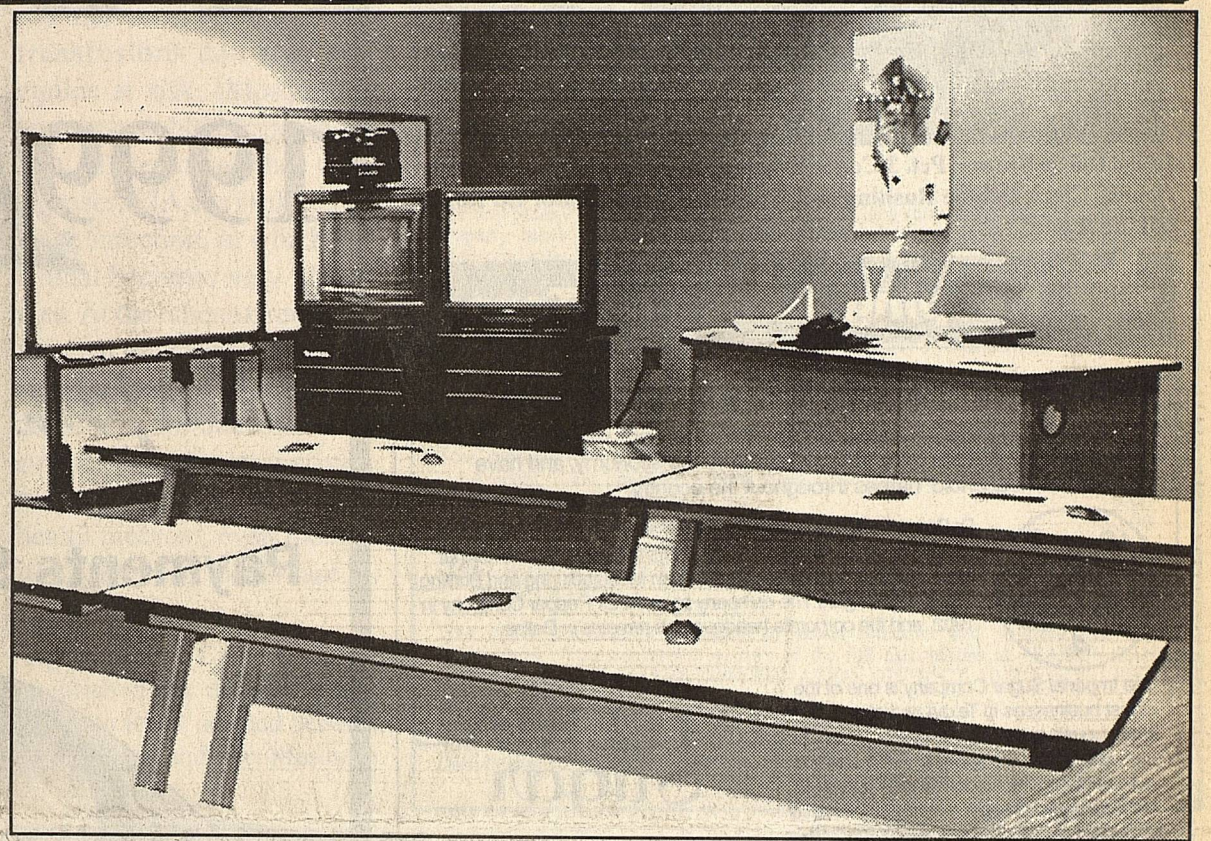
## PHS students will soon be learning via telephone line

Video Tele-Conferencing Center to expand field of courses

Advanced technology will soon enable Plains High students to further their education via 'long distance' telephone lines. Final work is taking place in the new Video Tele-Conferencing room in the Junior High campus which will allow Plains students to take a variety of high school classes not offered here, as well as college credit courses offered by Texas Tech. South Plains College will also offer video courses in the near future.

The Technology room currently has two large television monitors for the students to watch, and two more monitors for an instructor to watch. A video camera sits by each pair of monitors. A state of the art overhead projector is available to transfer images of material to the monitors for the students. In addition, an instructor has access to a "smart board" upon which he can make notes, illustrations, etc. in various colors to add to images on the monitors.

The room has four tables accommodating a total of 16 students. Each student has access to an electronic button. If the button is depressed, the video camera automatically focuses on the student. His question or comment is carried to the instructor, who could be in another high school, or on the Tech or South Plains campus.



Some of the electronic equipment to bring "long distance" learning to PHS

Superintendent Jim Haynes told CCN "This facility opens a broad range of classes to high school students which would be impossible to offer without the hiring of additional staff. It also enables college bound students to earn credits, and allows teachers to pursue credits toward advanced degrees without spending time and money traveling to another location."

Haynes said in the past, under provisions of the "Robin Hood" financing plan, Plains ISD had contributed funds to other districts for the video teleconferencing program. A

recent development allowed the District here to secure a federal grant to fund the expensive equipment. The final cost of the project is around \$60,000.

Plains ISD Business Manager Eric Banfield told CCN more than a dozen school districts in the TEA Regional Service Center at Lubbock had come aboard for the new electronic program. "It amounts to continuing education over a special T-1 phone line between the schools and the network at the service center.

A student taking a course not offered in high school here

would not have any fee to pay for his credits. A course from either Tech or South Plains would require a fee, but Banfield said it was not known at this time what the fee per credit hour would be.

The installation here should be completed within some 60 days. At that time, the region service center should be able to list courses available from other high schools in the region, as well as the college courses from Texas Tech and South Plains. In all probability other colleges and universities will contract with the regional service center for the service.

## County employees annual picnic, awards held Friday

Yoakum County Park swarmed with employees of the county, their families and friends last Friday evening. The annual get-together and presentation of time in service awards is an opportunity for all the employees, department heads to enjoy burgers, homemade ice cream, and a little shop talk and visiting.

Following is a list of employees and their departments receiving commemorative pens for their years of service to the county:

### Five Years

Gerald Baker, Cnty. Clrk; Vicki Blundell, Dist. Clerk; Ginger Wilson, D.C. Library; Mary Padilla, Hosp.; Kay Sellers, Hosp.; Diane Brunson, Comm. Svc.; Brenda Arriola, Corina Hilburn, Gilbert Ochoa, Hosp.

### 10 Years

Jesse Flores, Pct. 1; Beverly Moreno, Sheriff Dept.; Joyce Rice, Hosp; Maurcene Lowe, Sheriff Dept; Julia Rodriguez, Hosp.

### 15 Years

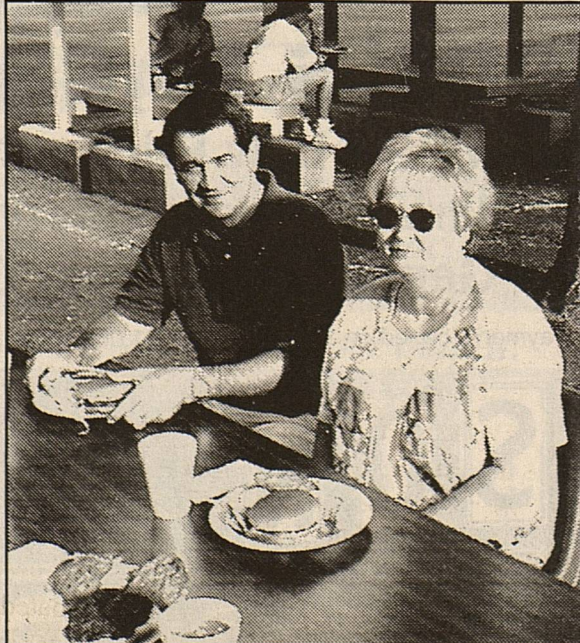
Kenneth Upchurch, Pct 1; Linda Fausey, Hosp.; Ramon Diaz, Pct 4; Leslie Efird, Y.C. Park; Carla Burns, Hosp, Hershel Smith, Pct 3; Nancy Baize, Sheriff Dept; Bobbie Payne, Plns. Youth Cen.

### 20 Years

Debra Joiner, Hosp; Dorothy Johnson, Betty Rivas, Sheila Stephens, Tax Off.; Toni Jones, Treas., Roce Randall, Plains Park.

### 25 Years - Watch

Wanda Smith, Tax Office



Kenny & Wanda Smith. She was honored for 25 years employment with the county

## PISD student enrollment figures up

Enrollment figures released by the Superintendents office last Thursday morning indicated enrollment numbers are up at all three of the school district campuses.

Plains High had 184 students enrolled, compared to 172 the same date last year.

Middle school students totaled 156 compared to 154 in 1999. Elementary school attendance was 195, with 187 last year.

The total of 535 students is the largest enrollment in many years, and does not include Pre-Kindergarten students.

The office said more students would probably enroll in the three campuses during the next few days.

## Criminal cases heard in County Court

Six criminal cases were heard by County Judge Dallas Brewer in County Court on August 11. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Cecilio Cerda Cruz pled true to the State's motion to revoke community supervision resulting from a prior DWI conviction. He was sentenced to 45 days in jail with credit for 16 days served. He must pay a delinquent fine of \$405 and supervision fees of \$80.

Hilberto Villegas Herrera, 24, pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He will serve 5 days in jail, and must pay \$184 court costs.

In a plea bargain guilty plea, Adrian Dan Rios pled guilty to striking a fixture. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He will make time payments on \$229 court costs, was fined \$250,

and will pay restitution of \$1226 to Lea County Electric. He must attend AA meetings, and complete a first offenders program.

Rafael Mendoza Ortiz pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision for a prior DWI case. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, with credit for 55 days served. He must pay a delinquent fine of \$585 and \$40 supervision fees.

Julio Coronado Martinez Jr. pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$200, and must pay \$184 court costs.

Fernando Guterrez Gonzalez pled guilty to driving while license suspended in a plea bargain. He was fined \$400, must pay \$184 court costs, and will spend 3 days in jail, with credit for one day served.



## County Picnic Scenes



A large part of the county's 200 employees and their families, plus many retired employees, lined up for the evening feed



Judge Dallas Brewer, Pct. 3 Commissioner Jim Barron, Kyler Rushing, County Clerk Debbie Rushing and Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers talking it over

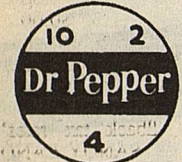
## 1999 PLAINS JV FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 1999 PLAINS JR. HIGH FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME	DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE	TIME
Sept. 2	Abernathy	There	6:00	Sept. 9	Sudan***	Here	5:00/6:15
Sept. 9	Sudan	Here	7:30	Sept. 16	Wink	Here	5:00/6:15
Sept. 16	Wink	Here	7:30	Sept. 23	Petersburg	There	5:00/6:15
Sept. 23	Petersburg	There	7:30	Sept. 30	Sundown	There	5:00/6:15
Sept. 30	Sundown	Here	6:00	Oct. 7	Stanton	Here	5:00/6:15
Oct. 7	Stanton	There	6:00	Oct. 14	Tahoka	There	5:00/6:15
Oct. 14	Tahoka	Here	6:00	Oct. 21	Post	Here	5:00/6:15
Oct. 21	Post	There	6:00	Oct. 28	Seagraves	Here	5:00/6:15
Oct. 28	Seagraves	There	6:00	Nov. 4	Coahoma	There	5:00/6:15
Nov. 4	Coahoma	Here	6:00		***Scrimmage		

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Oldest companies still going strong

The 19th and early 20th centuries saw the beginnings of many Texas companies that are still a vital part of the Texas economy, and have become household names throughout the country.



Dr Pepper was created by Charles Alderton, a Waco pharmacist, in 1885. It was a hit with the customers in Morrison's Old Corner Drug in Waco, so in 1891, the Artesian Manufacturing and Bottling Works was begun. The company became Dr Pepper Company in 1902, and the corporate headquarters remains in Dallas.

The Imperial Sugar Company is one of the oldest businesses in Texas operating continuously on the same site. The company has operated at the same location and has manufactured the same refined sugar and blackstrap molasses since 1843. The facility in Sugar Land is one of the most modern in the industry, with refining capacity exceeding four million pounds of sugar each day.



Humble Oil and Refining Company began in 1911 when Texas businessman Floss Sterling obtained two producing oil wells in the Humble field. By 1912, the company's official headquarters was in Houston. In 1959, Jersey Standard bought out all of Humble's stock and in 1972, all Standard Oil companies became known as Exxon. In 1990, Exxon Corporation moved its corporate headquarters to Irving.

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Send us your comments and questions to: [lcecnet@lcecnet.com](mailto:lcecnet@lcecnet.com)

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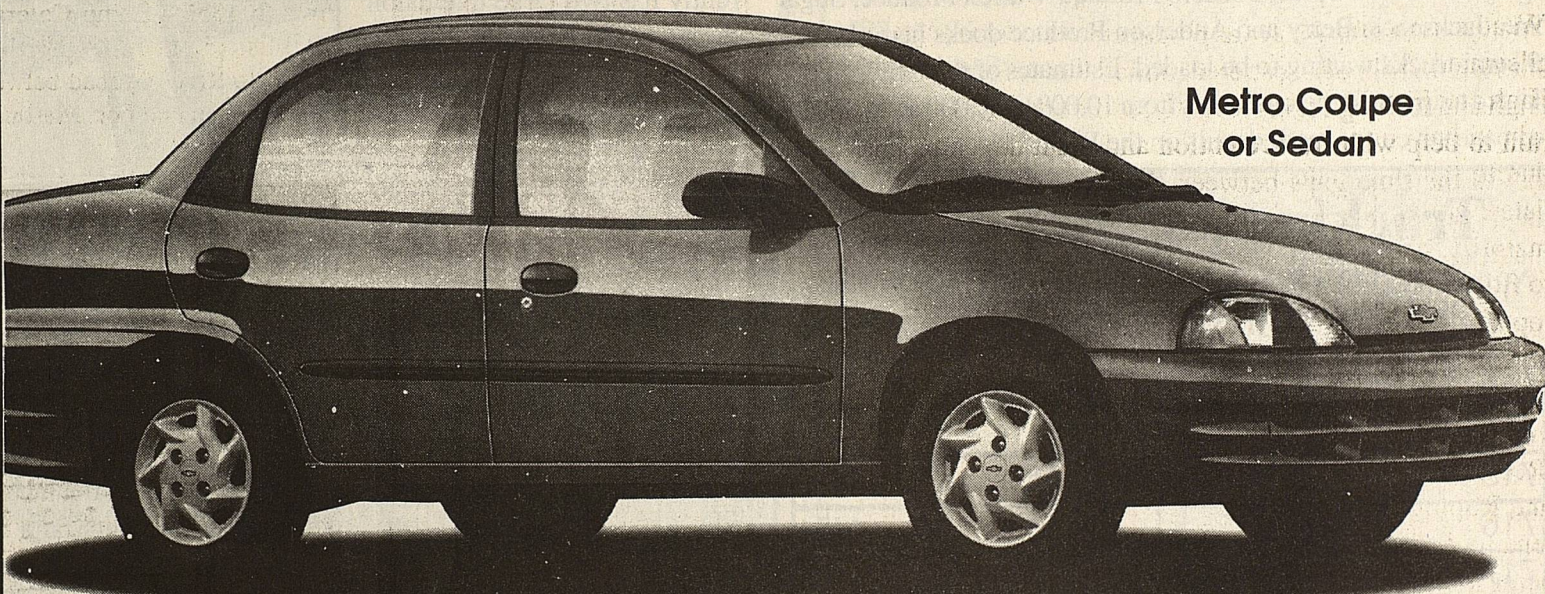


**STATE LINE**  
**INSURANCE**  
**DANNY BELL**  
Office 456-3521 Home 456-6325  
Mobile 456-7517

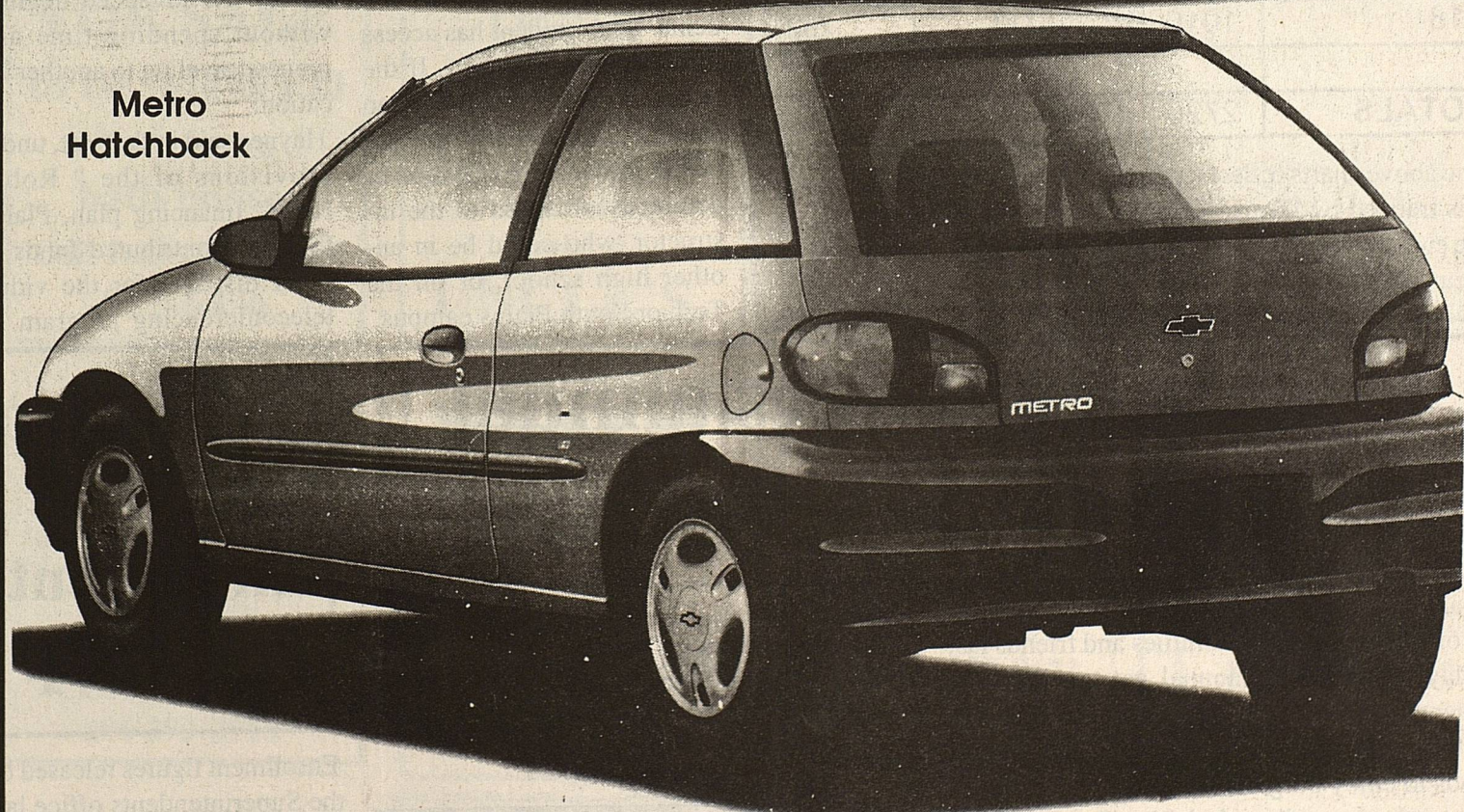
# A BRAND NEW 1999 CHEVROLET METRO

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Payments Starting At **\$182<sup>28\*</sup>** Per Month  
for 60 mos. W.A.C.\*



Metro Coupe or Sedan



Metro Hatchback

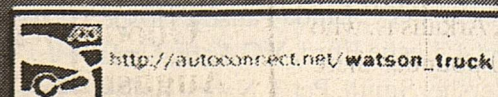
## MANY MODELS TO CHOOSE FROM

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- Standard: New-car safety features
- Genuine Customer Care

\* Payments based on 3.9% APR with \$1,000 down, T.T.L. included!



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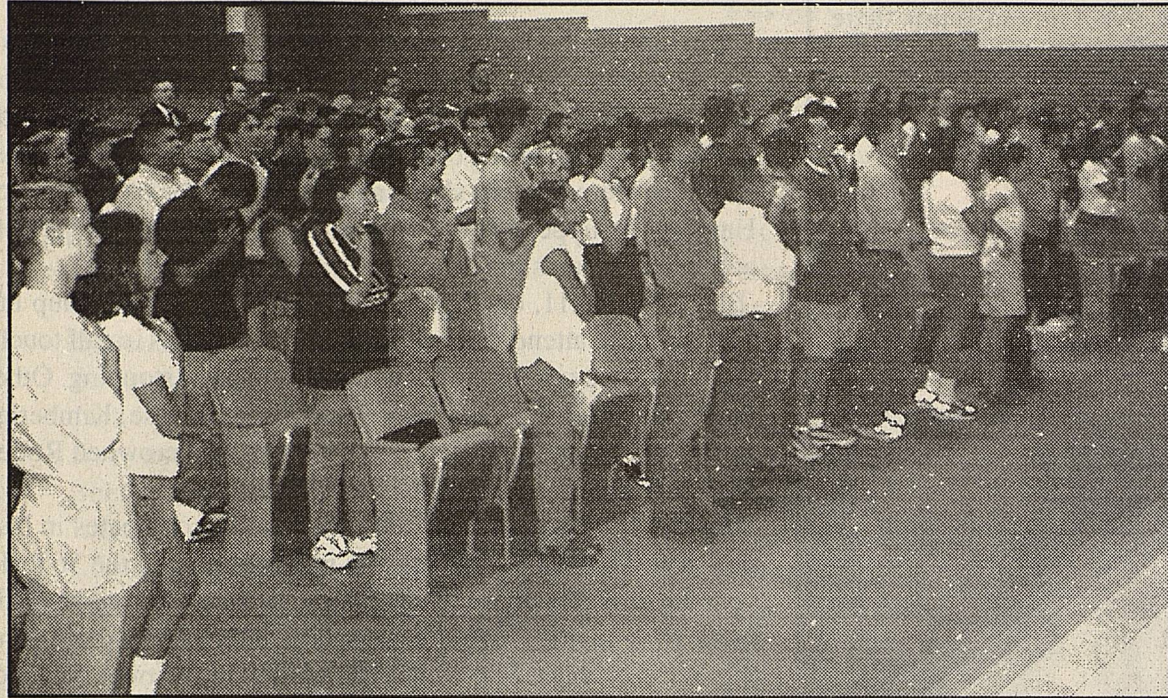




## PHS '99-2000 Student Council Officers



In the first PHS assembly of the year, Mrs. Dorsett presented the Student Council officers. Shown here, L-R, Mrs. Dorsett, Sponsor, Wendy Hernandez, Senior, Reporter; Lexi Warren, Junior, Secretary; Krystle Blundell, Senior, President; Jessica Flores, Senior, Historian, and Anne Palmer, Senior, Vice-President.



The PHS student body pledges allegiance to the flags of the nation and state

## Cotton Outlook From The TelCot Report

Weather concerns for Texas producers have not completely been alleviated. Although scattered rainfall was received on the Texas High and Rolling Plains recently, some areas still are in need of rain to help with fruit retention and plant development. Also, due to the time gaps between the earliest and latest planting dates, cotton plants in both regions are in various stages of maturity. Fields planted late in the planting season have begun to flower, while some older cotton has begun to bloom out the top in response to moisture stress. Also, irrigated cotton in the northern High Plains has been troubled with lygus bug and flea hopper infestations which may be heavy enough to restrict yields.

Recently, a survey of weather related losses on the Texas High and Rolling Plains was released by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Abandonment has been estimated at 624,100 acres in a 16 county area due to heavy rain and hail in late May and early June. Some question remains, however, whether plantings are 200,00 acres greater than the official estimate on 4.68 million acres in both areas.

## County Clerk named to state association post

Yoakum County Clerk Debbie Rushing was notified last week she had been appointed to the Audit Committee of the County and District Clerks' Association of Texas. The appointment was made by Amalia Rodriguez-Mendoza, President of the Association.

## Reader responds to melon record

Sue Russell (she and spouse Bill lived at Bronco many years) sent a clipping from their *Temple Daily Telegram*, featuring a photo of a local grower with his 76 pound watermelon. The article also refers to last years Watermelon Roundup big melon contest winner, John Loewen's 183 pounder, which is the current Texas record holder.

The article from Temple takes just a bit of the luster off of the local state record holder; The world record holder is Ivan Bright of Hope, Arkansas, who produced a 260 pounder there in 1986!

Aug. 1, 1845 - Zachary Taylor and federal troops land at Corpus Christi.

## Don't get bucked off by new equine law!

Planning to sell Ol' Paint? After September 1, Texas law will require that equine, including horses, donkeys, mules and asses, have a test for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), (also known as "Coggins" or "Swamp Fever") within 12 months before the animals undergo any change of ownership. The law exempts nursing foals changing ownership with their test-

negative dams, and equine sold to slaughter. Persons who sell equine and fall to comply with the law, passed as House Bill 1732 in the 76th Texas Legislature, commit a Class "C" misdemeanor.

"Buying test-negative animals will reduce the chance of taking home an infected animal," said Dr. Terry Beals, executive director of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. "It's a real shame to buy an untested horse, get home, and find out later that the animal is infected and has exposed your best horse to the disease."

EIA is a viral disease spread from an infected equine to a 'clean' equine by blood-to-blood contact. Biting flies can mechanically carry the disease from one horse to another, and unsterilized medical instruments or blood transfusions can also put equine at risk. (Mosquitoes are not capable of spreading EIA.) Like some other viral diseases, EIA can strike as an acute infection, in which the animal becomes very ill and dies. At the other extreme are infected equine that show no signs of being ill, but test positive for the disease. These equine pose a threat, as no one suspects the animal has a health problem, even though it is a reservoir for disease.

Aug. 2, 1856 - Camp Colorado established six miles north of Colorado River on road between Fort Belknap and Fort Mason.

## 1999 Property Tax Rates for the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District

This notice concerns 1999 property tax rates for the SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT. It presents information about three tax rates. Last year's tax rate is the actual rate the taxing unit used to determine property taxes last year. This year's effective tax rate would impose the same total taxes as last year if you compare properties taxed in both years. This year's rollback tax rate is the highest tax rate the taxing unit can set before taxpayers can start tax rollback procedures. In each case these rates are found by dividing the total amount of taxes by the tax base (the total value of taxable property) with adjustments as required by state law. The rates are given per \$100 of property value.

Last year's tax rate:	
Last year's operating taxes	\$ 166,234.00
Last year's debt taxes	0.00
Last year's total taxes	166,234.00
Last year's tax base	1,497,608,277.00
Last year's total tax rate	0.1111/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 166,176.00
/ This year's adjusted tax base (after subtracting value of new property)	1,111,154,980.00
= This year's effective tax rate	0.01495/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:	
Last year's adjusted operating taxes (after subtracting taxes on lost property)	\$ 166,162.00
/ This year's adjusted tax base	1,111,154,980.00
= This year's effective operating rate	0.01495/\$100
x 1.08 = this year's maximum operating rate	0.01615/\$100
+ This year's debt rate	/ \$100
= This year's rollback rate	0.01615/\$100

### Schedule A Unencumbered Fund Balances

The following balances will probably be left in the unit's property tax accounts at the end of the fiscal year. These balances are not encumbered by a corresponding debt obligation.

Type of Property Tax Fund	Balance
No unencumbered Fund Balances	\$0.00

### Schedule B 1999 Debt Service

The unit plans to pay the following amounts for long-term debts that are secured by property taxes. These amounts will be paid from property tax revenues (or additional sales tax revenues, if applicable).

Principal or Description of Debt Property Taxes	Interest Contract Payment to be Paid from Taxes	to be Paid from Property to be Paid	Other Amounts	Total Payment
-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	
Total required for 1999 debt service				\$0.00
- Amount (if any) paid from funds listed in Schedule A				0.00
- Excess collections last year				0.00
= Total to be paid from taxes in 1999				\$0.00
+ Amount added in anticipation that the unit will collect 100% of its taxes in 1999				\$0.00
= Total Debt Levy				\$0.00

This notice contains a summary of actual effective and rollback tax rates' calculations. You can inspect a copy of the full calculations at: SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, 1012 Ave. F., Plains, Texas 79355.  
Name of person preparing this notice: WANDA SMITH  
Title: YOAKUM COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR-COLLECTOR  
Date Prepared: August 3, 1999

# Finally, a free checking account with interest...

**THE HERITAGE CHECKING ACCOUNT**

From the bank that first offered free checking, here's one better -- free checking with interest.

The Heritage Checking Account pays interest on collected balances of \$1,000 or more without a monthly service charge. Plus your cancelled checks are returned to you.

The Heritage Account is for customers 55 and over who value smart banking and who've worked hard to protect their financial well-being. We want to work with you to sustain your economic future and help it grow.

Open your HERITAGE ACCOUNT today at any of American State's 24 West Texas Locations.

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### Water Processing, your professional dealer

for the proper Reverse Osmosis drinking water system to assure good tasting, odor free water. As low as \$21.45 per month!

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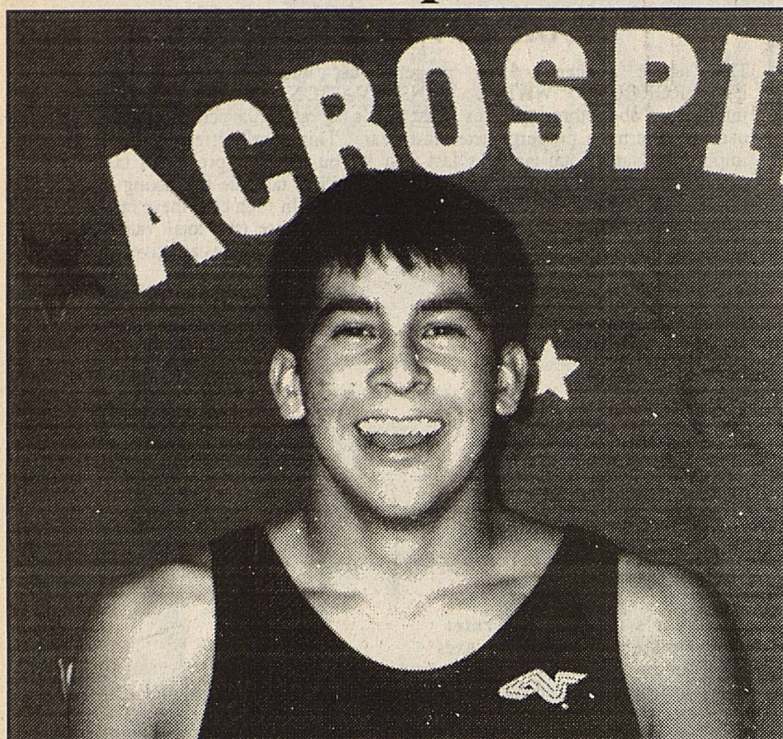
Serving yor neighbors over 36 years !

Save \$50 With This Coupon!

Good toward Rental/Purchase thru August 25. New customers only, please



## Chris Estrada Soars in Trampoline



Chris Estrada has returned from the Team Trials in Knoxville, Tennessee. He has for the third time made the USA Trampoline and Tumbling Team which will travel to Sun City, South Africa on September 24th - October 5th. Chris is the 16 year old son of Manuel and Corina Estrada of Plains. He is a member of the South Plains Acrospirits team, headquartered in Levelland and runs an extension program in Plains. His coaches are Will Green, Sherry Mulkey, and Kellie Earnest.

Christopher attended the first team trial in Salt Lake City, Utah, then the National Championships in Anaheim, California, and then to Knox-

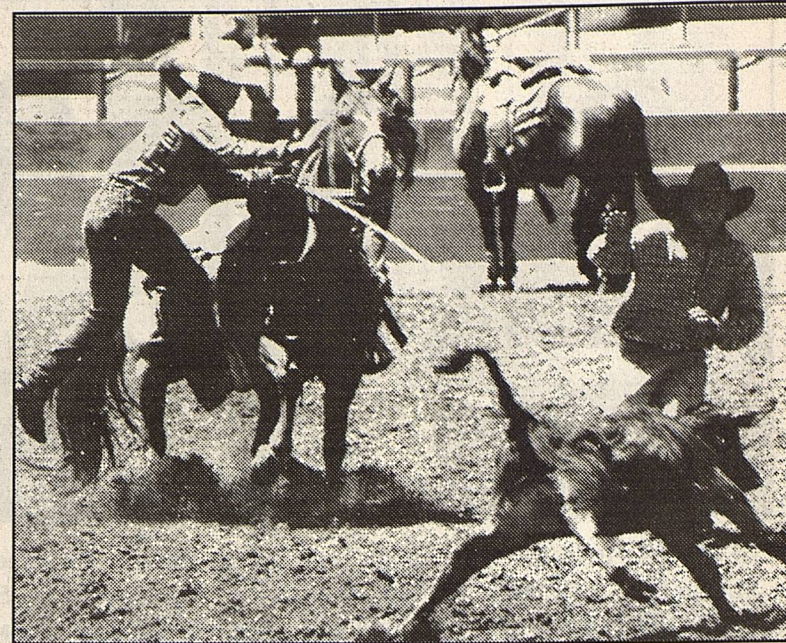
ville for the last trial. Chris is considered one of the most upcoming trampolinist in the country and with trampoline going into the Olympic, his future is great if he can stay healthy and focused. It is a long hard road which causes him to give up many things normal teenagers do. He will live with his coach Sherry Mulkey this year in Levelland and be home schooled in order to have enough time to train properly for his future.

He also was given an invitation to exhibition trampoline at the USAG Women's Gymnastics finals in Sacramento, California on August 27th, one of only four trampolinist from the United States invited.

## PISD Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 20-21 - Wink Tourney, V.  
 Aug. 23 - Jr. High - Denver City 5PM, there  
 Aug. 24 - JV, V - LBK Christian 5PM here  
 Aug. 27, 28 - V Denver City Tour  
 Aug. 28 - JV Trinity Tour  
 Aug. 30 - Jr. Hi - Levelland 5PM here  
 Sept. 4 - JV, V - Brownfield here. 9th - Snyder Tour  
 Sept. 7-9, JV, V - Levelland 5PM here  
 Sept. 10, 11 - V - Andrews Tour. JV- Lamesa Tour.  
 Sept. 11 - Jr. High- Denver City Tour.  
 Sept. 13- Jr. High- Tahoka, 5PM here  
 Sept. 14- 9th, JV, V- Cooper/Estacado at Estacado 5 PM  
 Sept. 18- V- Presidio, Denver City 1 PM here. 9th, JV, Denver City Tour. Jr. Hi - Brownfield Tour.  
 Sept. 20- Jr. High- Levelland, 5PM there  
 Sept. 21- 9th, JV, V- Brownfield there  
 Sept. 25- JV, V Wink here.  
 Sept. 27- Jr. High- Denver City here 5PM  
 Sept. 28- 9th, JV, V- Midland Christian here  
 Oct. 2- JV, V - Wink 1PM there. 9th- Lamesa Tour. there  
 Oct. 5- 9th, JV, V- Midland Christian 5PM there  
 Oct. 11- Jr. High- Tahoka there 5PM  
 Oct. 12- JV, V- Lubbock Trinity there 5PM  
 Oct. 16- 9th- Frenship there 1 PM  
 Oct. 18- Jr. High- Seminole there  
 Oct. 19- JV, V- LBK Trinity there 5 PM  
 Oct. 23- 9th, JV, V- Tahoka here 10 AM  
 Oct. 25- Jr. High- Brownfield there 5 PM  
 Oct. 26- 9th, JV, V- Tahoka there 5 PM  
 Oct. 30- Presidio at Ft. Stockton.

## HPJRA Season Final



Brett going after ribbon after his mugger grabs calf.

The High Plains Junior Rodeo Association held the final Rodeo in Clovis, New Mexico, on July 27. Approximately 360 members competed. Church services were held every afternoon and on Sunday morning before the awards were given out. Other activities were a talent show, auction, Chamber of Commerce Hamburger supper and two dances for all members and parents at the fair grounds in Clovis.

Blake Parrish, 11, qualified in the boys 9 to 12 age group but was unable to attend due to illness. He participates in calf touching, breakaway roping, ribbon roping and steer stopping. Other Plains members who attended were Marcey House, Kimberlee Jones, and Brett Squyres. Kimbe, 16, was just crowned Rodeo Queen. She competes in the 13 to 15 barrel race.

Marcey, 18, attends L.C.U. in Lubbock. She competes in barrels, poles, breakaway roping and ribbon roping in the 16 to 19 year old girls division. Marcey placed 7th in the 1st round of the breakaway roping, 7th in the 1st round of the ribbon roping and 9th in the average. She won a 7th and 9th in the two rounds of pole bending and was 6th in the average. In the year end totals she was 7th in poles, and 9th overall in the ribbon roping.

Brett Squyres, 16, competes in team roping, tie down calf roping, breakaway roping, and ribbon roping. He won 5th in the 1st round of the team roping, and 8th in the average. He also won 1st place in the 1st round of breakaway roping, and 8th in the average. He roped two calves in 8.071 seconds. Brett won 2nd place in the 1st round, 4th in the 2nd round of the ribbon roping, and was 1st in the average. Brett qualified for the short go Saturday night in three of his four events, team roping, breakaway roping and ribbon roping. The top five for the year were showcased for one more round for \$100 cash to the 1st place winner and \$50 to the 2nd place winner. Brett won \$50 in the team roping. He finished the year with three 5th places and an 8th place in the tie down calf roping. He will soon compete in the Texas High School Rodeo Association. Brett, Blake, and Kimbe all participated in the Plains Old Settlers' Rodeo this year for the first time, with Brett and Blake carrying the flags at all three rodeo performances and the parade.



Krystle Blundell was named first Student of the Week for this school year.

### Yoakum County Even Start Registration

\*August 23rd through 26th  
 \*8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

\*The Learning Center-600 N. Soland-Denver City  
 (north side of Kelley Elementary School)

Bring: 1. Your Social Security Card

2. Shot records for children not enrolled in school

Even Start classes will begin on August 30th at 8:00 a.m. !!!

QUESTIONS? Call 592-5977

Enrollment is limited, so register on these dates or call to let us know your plans.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Even Start del Condado Yoakum Registros

\*Agosto 23 hasta 26

\*8:00 a.m. hasta las 12:00 p.m.

\*The Learning Center-600 N. Soland-Denver City

Favor de traer: 1. Su tarjeta de seguro social

2. Tarjetas de vacunas de los niños que aun no estan en la escuela

Las clases de Even Start comienzan el 30 de agosto a las 8:00 a.m.

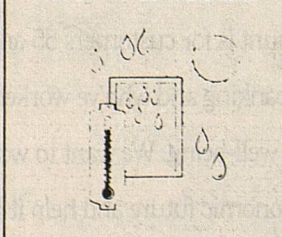
PREGUNTAS? llamen al 592-5977



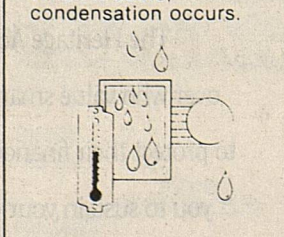
## No One Does More to Protect Your Investment.



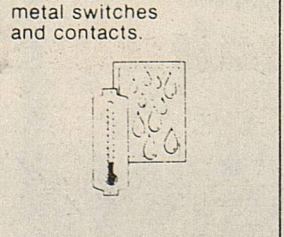
Hot air holds moisture.



When it cools, condensation occurs.



Moisture forms on metal switches and contacts.



Condensation is the number one cause of electrical problems in irrigation. But not in a Reinke Irrigation System.

Reinke offers you special protection built into every motor, control box and other critical parts of each system.

These extra steps help stabilize operating temperatures to eliminate condensation. They also give protection from sunlight and direct streams of water.

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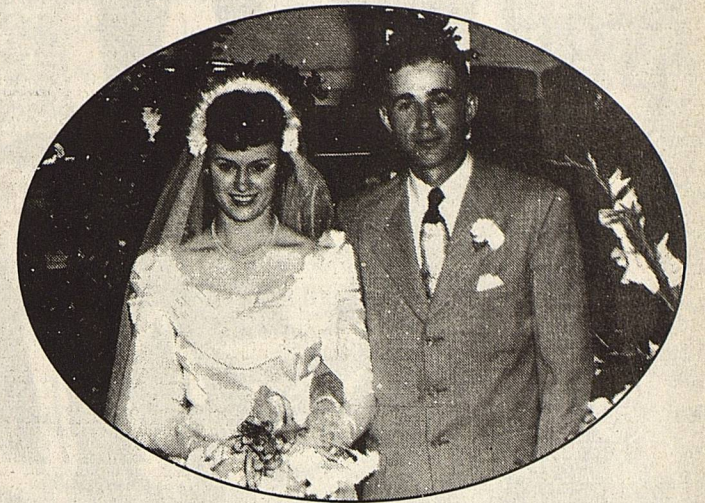
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Melba Bearden  
Mike Yeater & Lee Hanna  
L.J. & Virginia Sanders  
Linda & Archie Harris

## Mildred Jones Celebrates 86th Birthday

On Sunday, August 8, 1999, the Charley Jones family gathered in Plains to celebrate the 86th birthday of Mildred Jones. Mrs. Jones first moved to the Tokio community in fall of 1914. She attended Harris, Turner, and Brownfield schools and Texas Tech. She and Charley moved back to Tokio the fall of 1942 and remained there until moving to Plains in 1963. Mrs. Jones enjoys quilting and gardening.

Celebrating with Mildred were Roy and Dot Jones of Brownfield; Elaine and Cheryl Lewis of Hamlin; Barbara, Ted and Angel Bowman of Wichita Falls; Samuel Roberts of Sunset; Travis Jones of Plains; Brad and Vicki Jones of Lubbock; Linda and Royce Carmack of Eunice, New Mexico; Marilyn, Don, and Matt McCormick of Levelland; and Mildred's brother, J.W. (Dub) and Bonnie Cox of Atoka, Oklahoma.

## Golden Wedding Anniversary



Melba and Johnnie Fitzgerald  
August 28, 1949

"We have lived and loved together through many changing years" Kindred spirits from golden chains that lengthen through golden years. Because you have been a part of our chain we invite you to add another link to our memories as we celebrate with a "Celebration Party" on Saturday, August 28th, 1999, at 7:00 p.m. in the Godbold Cultural Center, 2601 19th Street, Lubbock, Texas. NO GIFTS PLEASE

**Meet the Cowboys and Cowgirls at 8:30 P.M. Monday, August 30th, at Cowboy Stadium! Plains Athletic Booster Club invites everyone to meet the 1999-2000 Plains athletes and coaches. Help kick off a great new year. Refreshments will be served!!!!**

**Plains Power Tumbling**  
Tumbling-Trampoline-Cheerleading  
**FALL REGISTRATION**  
Aug. 23 - 3:30-6:30 p.m.  
New Building, Adjacent to First Baptist Church  
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**ALL AGES**  
**ALL LEVELS**  
USA Gymnastics Certified  
Coach Kellie Earnest  
For more information call  
456-2205 or 456-7581

## Tandi Jones Off To A&M Soon



In awards ceremonies at the end of the school year, Tandi Jones, daughter of Steve and Kathy Jones of Plains, received the second \$500 scholarship presented by Cowboy Country News. Tandi will leave soon for Texas A & M University where she will enroll as a freshman.

*I would like to take time to Thank the Lions Club and it's members for sponsoring me for Rodeo Queen. Also many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets from me.*  
Erica Bell

*I would like to thank those who supported me during the Plains Rodeo Queen Contest. It was your generous contributions that helped make my success possible. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude towards the Plains Roping Club for giving me this special opportunity.*  
Kimberlee Jones

Thank You!

*Coming Sunday,  
August 29th  
"Family of God"  
performed by  
First Baptist Church  
Sanctuary Choir  
Dinner on the grounds  
No Evening Services  
Family Night  
THE PUBLIC IS  
INVITED*

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Clothing Liquidation  
**ALL CLOTHING**  
**ITEMS**  
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## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

\*\*\*\*\*  
**Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.**  
**Monday - Friday**

**Dr. Larry Boyd, M.D.,**  
**Shirley Watson, R.N.,**  
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**Practitioner**

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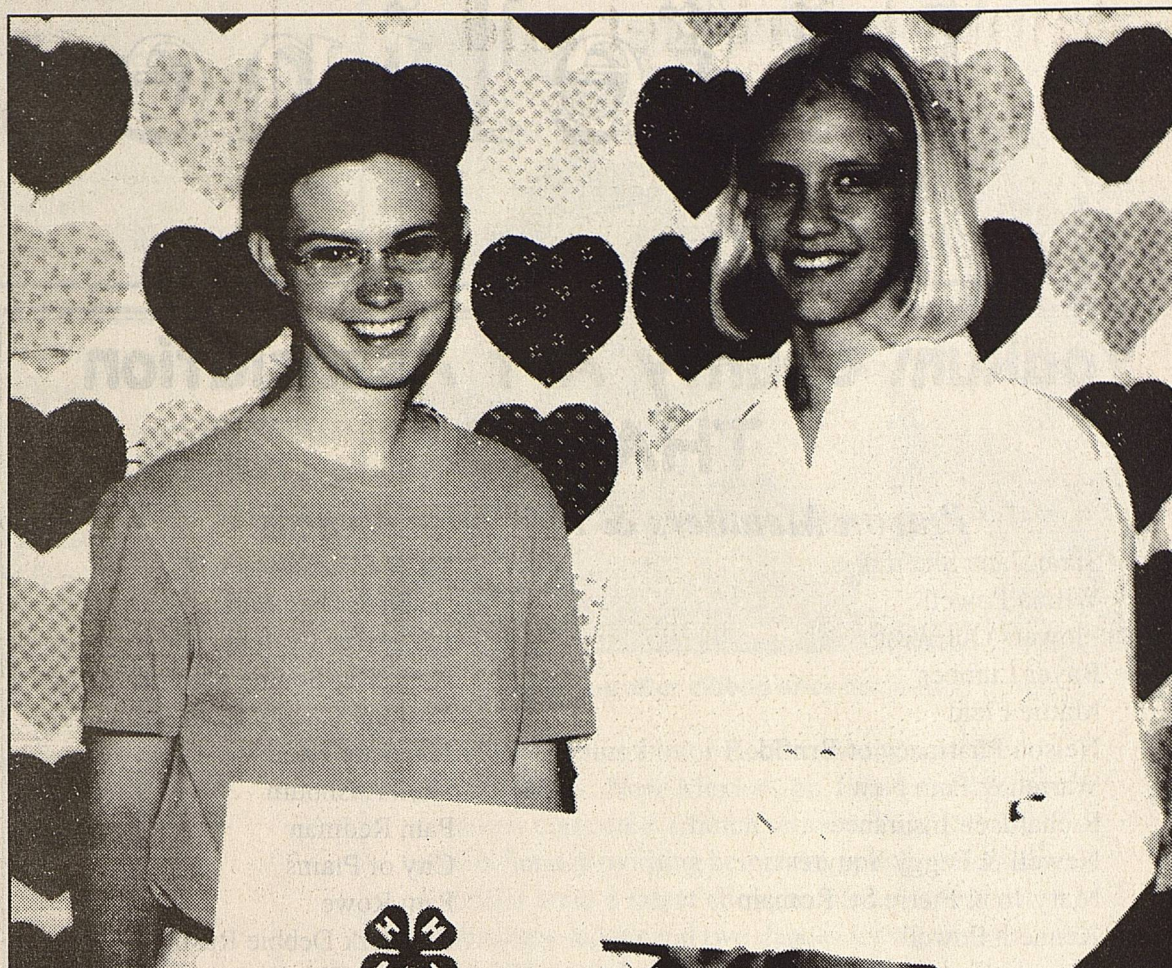
Ph 456-6365



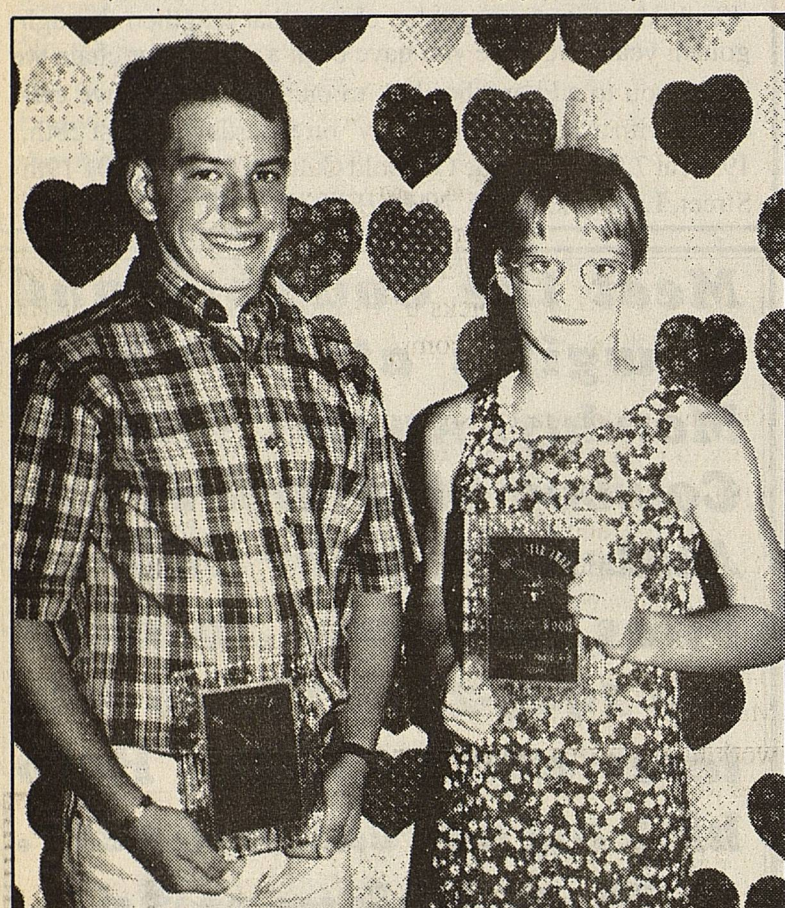
# 4 - H Annual Banquet & Awards night



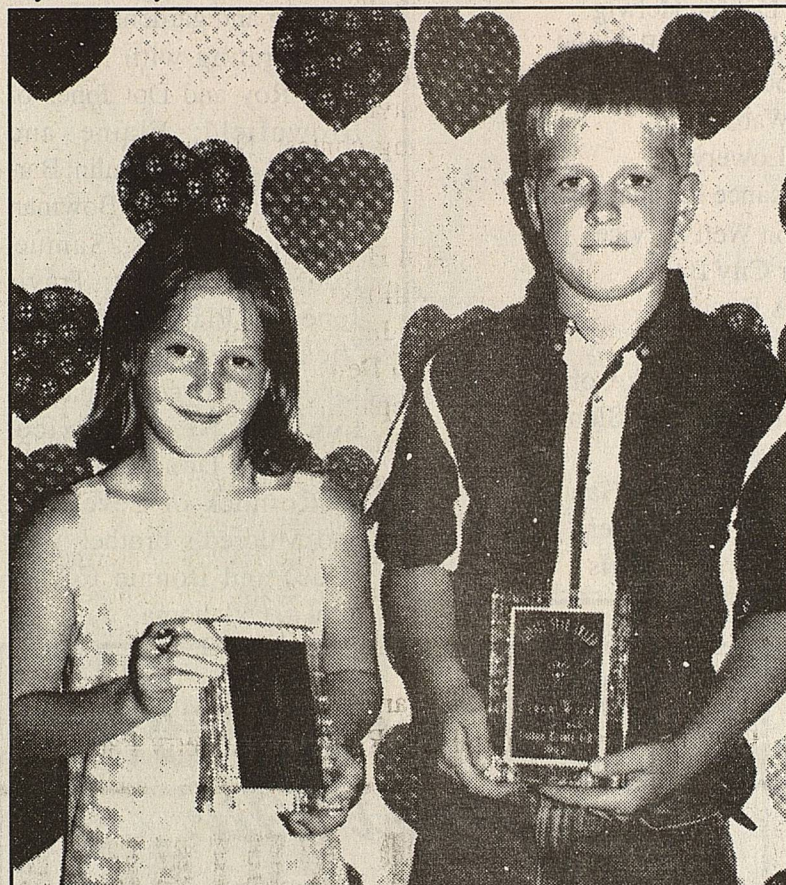
Kneeling, Cody Mayes, Logan Wood; Middle row, Chance Kitchens, Ragan McGinty, Chelsey-Anne Bearden, Landra Wood, T.J. Kitchens, Kaylyn Lowrey; Back, Casey Mayes, Jeremy Horn, Joel Horn



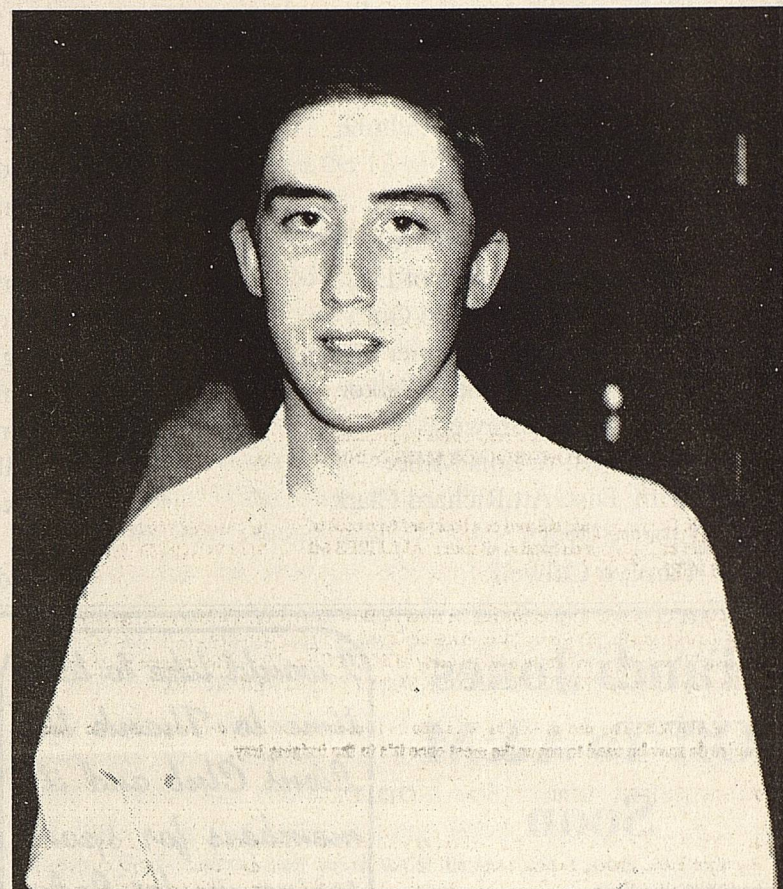
Tommie McNabb, 4-H Watermelon Scholarship, Jennifer Lollar, Tokio CO OP Gin Scholarship



Chance Kitchens, Landra Wood, Silver Star awards



Kaylyn Lowrey & Logan Wood Bronze Star winners



Jeremy Horn, "I Dare You" award

## Yoakum County Hospital

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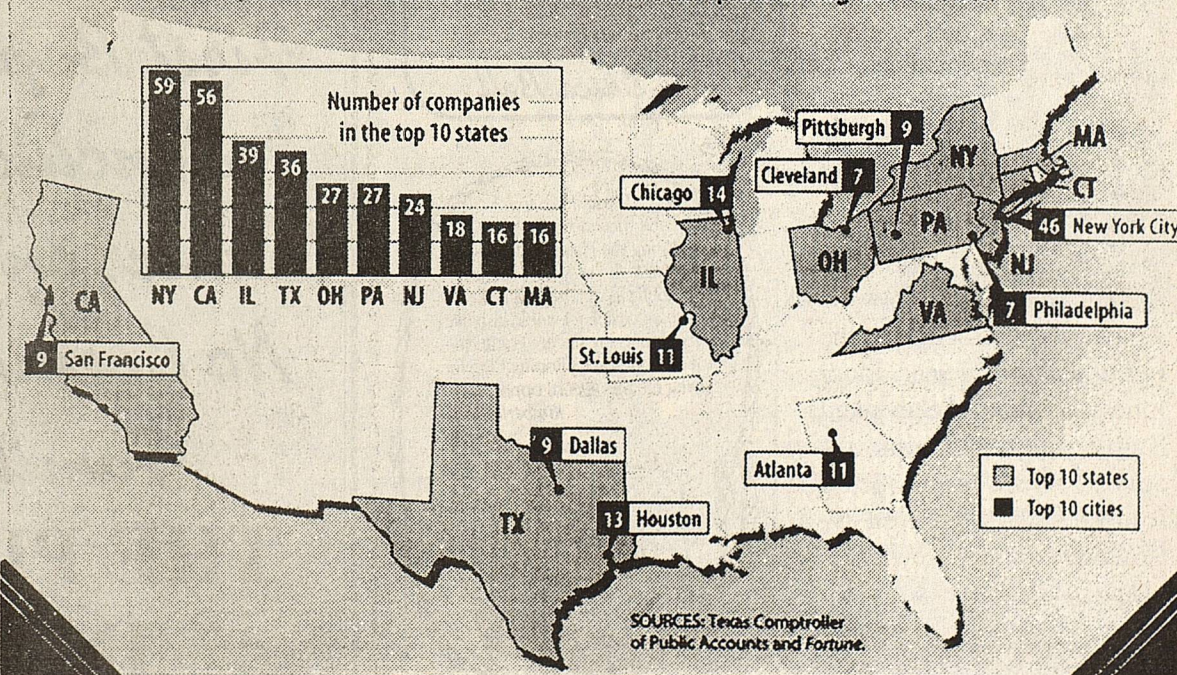
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- \*24-Hour Emergency Department
- \*Diagnostic Radiology
- \*Monthly Cardiology Clinic
- \*Monthly Urology Clinic
- \*Laboratory Service

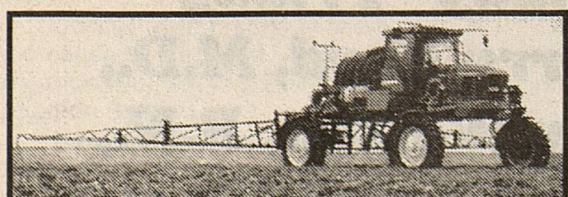
Yoakum County Is Licensed By The State Of Texas and is a member of American Hospital Association & Texas Hospital Association

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## Yoakum County 4th Annual Brisket and Chili Cook-off

The fourth annual Yoakum County Brisket and Chili cook-off will be held September 3rd and 4th, 1999, at Stanford Park, Plains, Texas. The cook-off held each year in conjunction with the Yoakum County Watermelon Roundup, will commence with the Cook's meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 3, 1999.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the first and second place winners in each category. The Traveling Trophy will be awarded to the Grand Champion Team, determined by overall point totals in both categories. To qualify for the Championship Trophy a team must enter both meat divisions.

The Traveling Trophy is currently in the hands of team B & J Cookers, made up of Jackie Allen and Bruce Lester. Both Allen and Lester

have assured the BCCO Committee that the trophy has a permanent home unless, of course, another team can outpoint them in the competition. Only one other team, the Sun Cot Chefs, has held the trophy and the Committee is seeking talented teams to give these two teams a run for the money and of course, the trophy.

Cook sites are on a first come, first choice basis beginning at 6:30 p.m. on September 3, 1999. Yoakum County Precinct Three Commissioner, Jim Barron, is again making Stanford Park available and overnight camping is permitted. Water, electricity, as well as restrooms are accessible.

An entry deadline for the event is September 1, 1999. To request information or additional entry forms, please contact Ted Welch at 806-592-8027.

### 1999 YOAKUM COUNTY WATERMELON ROUNDUP BRISKET & CHILI COOK-OFF RULES

- COOKED ON SITE:** Any and all meat that will be entered into judging will be cooked from scratch (raw) on the site. Precooking, marinating, and other preparations will be allowed after check in on site. NO MEAT TO BE JUDGED WILL BE COOKED INSIDE MOTOR HOMES OR TRAVEL TRAILERS.
- TEAMS:** Teams may consist of one (1) or more persons.
- SANITATION:** Each cook is responsible for preparing all foods in a sanitary method as possible. EACH COOK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING A TRASH FREE CAMP AND COOK SITE.
- PITS:** Cooks may use tailored or a backyard type cooker. It is recommended that each pit/cooker have a fire extinguisher on hand at all times. ALL FIRES MUST BE CONTAINED. NO GROUND FIRES PERMITTED.
- CATEGORIES:** Two meats can be entered, Beef Brisket and Chili Beef. The meat will be furnished by the BCCO Committee. Each cook will be required to turn in their whole brisket for judging. The briskets will remain the property of BCCO Committee. The remains of the chili may be kept by the cook. SALES FROM COOK SITES ARE NOT PERMITTED.
- SAUCES:** The use of sauces or marinade is permitted during cooking only. No sauce or marinade may be used to cover the meat once it's in the judging tray.
- ENTRY FEES:** BRISKET \$75.00 CHILI \$25.00
- TIMES:** Cooks meeting will be held at 6:30 P.M. on September 03, 1999, at the Gazabo in Stanford Park, Plains, Texas. Meat will be delivered at this time. Turn in times on Saturday, September 04, will be Chili 2:00 P.M., Brisket 2:30 P.M. for judging. Winners will be announced at 4:00 P.M.
- COOK SITES:** Sites will be available beginning at 6:30 P.M. on September 03, 1999, on a first come basis. Cook sites cannot be claimed any earlier.
- THE HEAD JUDGE:** The judge will be appointed 30 days prior to the cook-off. He will be on location at Stanford Park the day of the cook-off to answer any questions and to assure that all cooks have the same opportunity to succeed.
- GRAND CHAMPION:** A grand champion will be determined by the following point system: FIRST 10 pts, SECOND 9 pts., THIRD 8 PTS. Both Brisket and Chili must be cooked to qualify for Grand Champion.
- VIOLATIONS:** Any violation of these rules may cause a disqualification of your team.
- PRIZE MONEY:** The BCCO Committee will return as prize money all entry fee monies, less expense of meat and supplies. FIRST PLACE in each category will be awarded 60% of available monies. SECOND PLACE in each category will receive 40% of available monies.

### 1999 YOAKUM COUNTY WATERMELON ROUNDUP BRISKET & CHILI COOK-OFF ENTRY FORM

September 04, 1999

BRISKET.....\$75.00 Per Team       CHILI.....\$25.00 Per Team  
BRISKET IS INCLUDED WITH PAID ENTRY FEE      CHILI MEAT IS INCLUDED WITH PAID ENTRY FEE

TEAM NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM CAPTAIN \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM MEMBERS:  
(One or More)

- 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
2: \_\_\_\_\_  
3: \_\_\_\_\_  
4: \_\_\_\_\_  
5: \_\_\_\_\_  
6: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "YOAKUM COUNTY CONNECTION"  
\*ENTRY FEES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM\*

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 01, 1999

JUDGING TIME:  
CHILI.....2:00 PM  
BRISKET.....2:30 PM

Mail all entries to:  
Ted Welch  
Chairman Cook-Off Committee  
412 West 5th Street  
Denver City, Texas 79323  
806/592-8027

COOKS MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 PM SEPTEMBER 03, 1999  
STANFORD PARK, PLAINS, TEXAS

Cowboy Country News  
Published Weekly each Wednesday at 1205  
Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355  
Holly Dyer, Publisher      Gary Dyer, Editor  
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## 4th Annual Watermelon Roundup Update

NOW is your chance to volunteer for the BIG YOAKUM COUNTY WATERMELON ROUND-UP in Plains, Texas, Saturday, September 4. A committee meeting will be held on the 19th of September at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Building in Plains, announces Chair Jeannette Head. Terry and Wadonna Davis expect OVER the 80 cars that were in the contest last year. Sponsoring the Classic Car Show will be G & B Aerial Application Inc., Suncot Gin, Lea County Electric Coop, and Terra Corporation (Argo Distribution LLC). First National Bank of Brownfield is sponsoring the Horsehoe Pitching Contest with Alltel donating money for the Volleyball Tournament. Contact Karen Williams to sign up for either of these activities. Leaco Communications of Lovington is again sponsoring the Fun Run and Karen William's Tupperware the new Toddler Run. T-shirts with designs by David Mitchel's Denver City art students Mayvi Parra and Alex Ornelas are on the Run T-shirts. Jennifer Sturdivant won the contest, and her drawing is on the Official Watermelon T-shirt. Betty Estep will sell you a large and under T-shirt for \$10. Ice for the watermelons is being donated by G & B Aerial and Altura Energy Ltd. Toni Jones is gathering a crew of watermelon slicers for the watermelon give-a-way. Her job is one of the hardest, but workers get to see everyone when they hand off the cod, sweet slices. Plains State Bank is again selling watermelons to the through traffic and donating two of the savings bonds for Youth and Junior Divisions of the Growing contest. Norwest Bank will donate a \$250 savings bond to Senior Division and Sundown State Bank will give a \$500 savings bond to the champion county grower. Attorney Bill Helwig is in charge of the watermelon weigh-in which will take place in Pioneer Park in front of the new courthouse. Interested chili/brisket contestants need to call Ted Welch of Denver City for an entry form. Yoakum County Sheriff's Department Explorer Group Post 778, under the direction of Lt. James Melendez, will help patrol booths for dangerous toys or discourage potential problems during the festival. Alice and Neal Bearden will take charge of the seed-spitting contest. The TX/OK Watermelon Queen Kristi Lee Allred of Marshal, Texas will be here with her sponsor, Wanda Letson. The MO/AK Queen Abby Houseworth and her sponsor Debbie Johnson will also be present. Kathy Jones and Gary Walker are working on the Cow Patty Bingo, and Team Roping chair Jerry Parrish is

recuperating from the Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo weekend so he and Jan can greet the 200 plus expected team ropers. Elva Lozano reports the multicultural dancers are practicing for their popular part of the music program directed by James Altman. Melissa Crump and Karen Williams are rounding up ideas for kids' games. The positive response to the tabloid has cheered Joni Hancock and Jeannette Head. "We make mistakes says Head, but forgive us in advance. Remember we are all volunteers and inexperienced." Publicity committee member Tonya Lowery has contacted all the area radio stations for public service announcements. Stephanie Ashburn, Vicki Blundell, Wilma Powell, Eileen Fillipp and Russell Jones have talked to T.V. stations and Debbie Steffans has written articles for the area newspapers. Contact 4-Hers for Watermelon Flags.

### Students Invent Device to Test Watermelon Ripeness

Four mechanical engineering students from the University of Delaware have developed an ingenious device to test for watermelon ripeness.

Green watermelons are a serious economic threat to growers and a disappointment for consumers are automatically rejected by this new machine.

The prototype takes into consideration what one needs to test for ripeness the old fashioned way; a hand to thump on the melon and an ear to listen for the telltale, hollow sound.

Only this machine uses a mallet as a metal arm to rap the melon. A microphone picks up the sound and transfers it via electric signal to a laptop computer, which analyzes the acoustic signal.

On watermelons tested so far, the frequency of the echo appears to correlate closely with how ripe it is. The prototype reports a ripeness reading in 12 seconds. The machine weighs about 18 lbs. and costs less than \$1,000 to build.

The computer controlled ripeness sensor ultimately could result in huge savings for the watermelon industry, according to William Watson, NWPB executive director.

The prototype isn't ready for the market just yet and inventors Matt Behr, Dave Bartoski, Allan Cohen and Jason Firko are working on testing their invention in the field.

# START THINKING WATERMELON!

Family Fun Day    Courthouse Square

## Yoakum County WATERMELON Round-Up

9:00 am til 6:00 pm

Plains, Texas Courthouse Square

Art, Crafts & Food  
Live Entertainment  
Team Roping  
Kids Activities  
Classic Car Show  
Brisket/Chili Cook Off  
Volleyball Fun Run



### Saturday, September 4, 1999

INFO (806)45MELON  
(806 - 456 - 2288)





# From The Hack

After covering the recent three day rodeo, and two days of the Club Championship tournament at the county course, it occurred to me golfers and bull riders have much in common. Before you laugh me out of the city, consider this: I heard at least two bull riders bitterly complain, after being tossed and stomped into the dirt, "The stupid brute was 'sposed to turn to the right,, the idiot wheeled left!"

At the golf course, I heard more than one finalist moan, "That putt was supposed to go left, everyone saw that... it broke right!"

The commonality is, both bull riders and golfers are whiners. Sobbers. Cry babies.

Before you go blabbing my comments to any burly, bad boy bull riders, or burly, bad boy golfers, just remember, we're talking generalities here! No offense to either bad bunch!

While on the subject of golf, I stumbled on a few witty, and mostly pertinent observations of the game:

Many men who are too tired or old to help around the house play golf daily.

Golf is a sport in which a small white ball is chased by men

who are too old to chase anything else. (this especially fits the group I normally play with) Anyone who finds it easy to improve his golf score probably does it with a pencil. (again, sounds very familiar for my group)

Golf was invented so even the man who isn't in politics would have something to lie about.

There are many golfers who play a completely honest game - especially when you watch them very closely. (Fits every group I have EVER played with!)

About the time a man gets his temper and cursing in control, he goes out and plays golf again. (I know one local golfer whose clubs have spent more time in the air than a retired United Airline Pilot.)

We just received a lengthy and detailed E-Mail concerning a scam which is apparently sweeping the country... and no, we are not kidding around, as is usual in this space..

In the event you receive an E-Mail message, or answering machine, or pager message urgently telling you to immediately call an 809 area code, IGNORE IT!

According to the National Fraud Information Center, the message may be a threat... "This is a final notice to settle your past due account within 24 hours or legal proceedings will occur"..... or the message may indicate a call to the 809 area code number will reveal an important matter about a family member.... or possibly

indicate you have qualified for a fabulous prize; Again, DO NOT CALL the 809 number.

The 809 area code is located in the British Virgin Islands, or the Bahamas. U.S. communication laws and regulations do not apply there.

The party at the 809 number will attempt by whatever means necessary to keep you talking on the phone as long as possible, and the rate is some \$20 per minute. Naturally, nothing is said about the charges for your call, and the bill will arrive from your long distance carrier. If protested, they will be unable to help you avoid payment, and you will end up dealing with a foreign company.

Again... 809 area code numbers should be TABOO!

### \*NOTICE\*

The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District will hold a meeting at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 26, 1999 at 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 1999. The proposed tax rate is .01495 per \$100 of value.

Published this 18th day of August 1999.

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