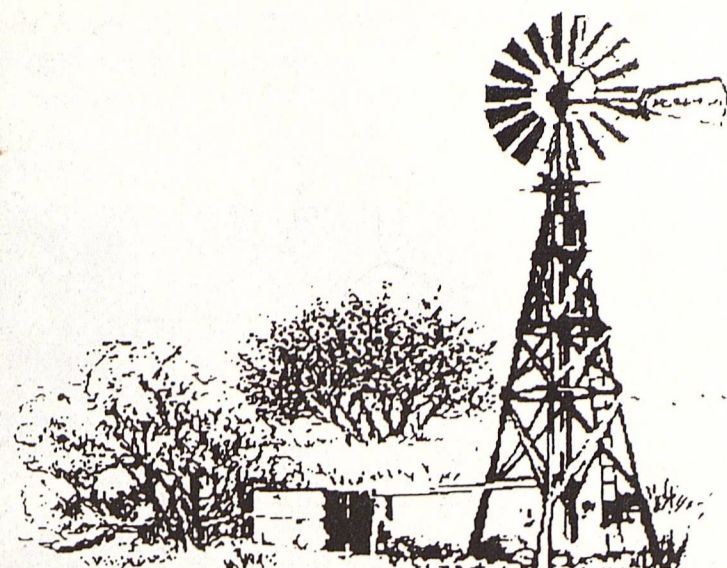


Cowboy Country News

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

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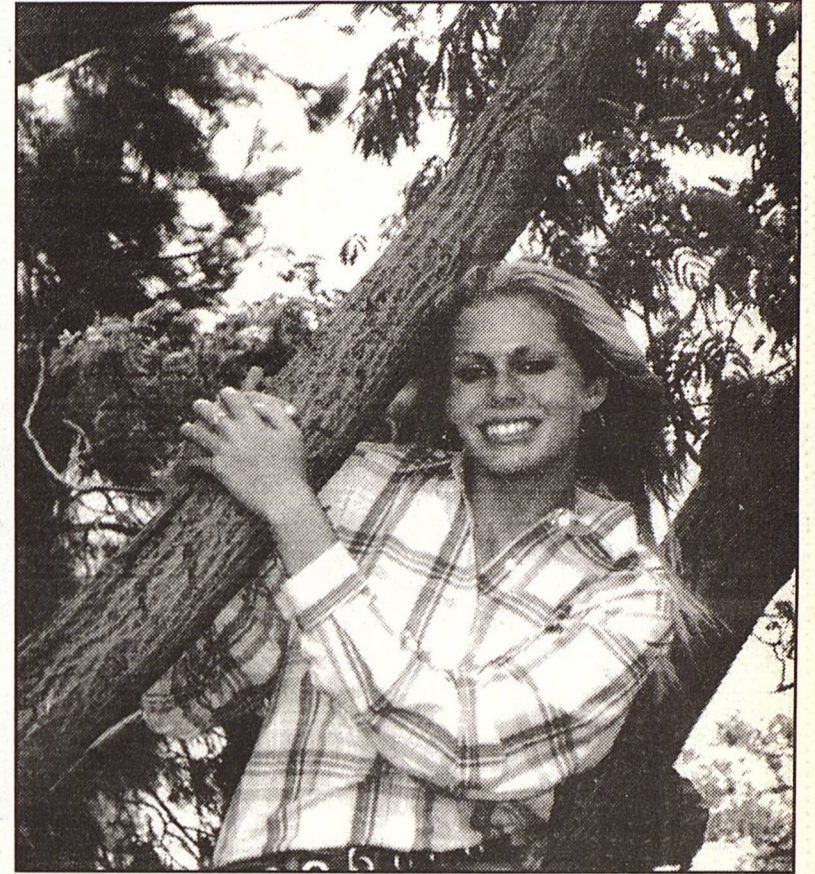
One of these young ladies will become the 50th Anniversary Rodeo Queen!



Allison Friesen, 15, represents the Plains Chamber of Commerce. She is a sophomore, and will be active in basketball, volleyball, UIL activities and band. She is an active member of First Baptist Church, and her parents are Brad and Donna Friesen



Ashley Hunter, 16, will be a sophomore this year, and the Cowboy Band Drum Major, as well as her class president. She is active in student council, basketball and track. She is the daughter of Joe and Denise Humphrey, and is the Roping Club candidate



Ashley Vantine, 17, a senior at Plains High this fall, represents the Lions Club. She has been employed as a lifeguard at the county swimming pool this summer. Her parents are Lori and John Matus, and grand parents are Jerome and Jeannette Head.

Summer vacation does not apply to school administrators, staff, board

When recently asked how he was enjoying the summer school vacation period, Superintendent Jim Haynes replied, "Are we having one?"

The three campuses administrators, support staff, even the Board of Trustees are finding the months of June, July and part of August to be periods of 'business as usual'. He outlined for CCN some of the pressing issues facing the district before classes start again.

"We are interviewing and taking applications for a number of staff positions. We must recruit a counselor for the High School after we accepted Gary Davis' resignation when he was hired as the new Assistant Principal at Denver City High School."

That is one of several key staff positions he and the board are trying to fill. A Junior High School principal must be hired, Steven O'Quinn, High School Principal, needs a full time social studies teacher, Junior High School needs a combination social studies teacher and coach. Haynes did find one bright spot in staff concerns. "The staff reductions we made earlier which CCN reported are going to save the district some \$400,000 in salary expense."

Personnel challenges are not the only issues facing the district. A bid will soon be awarded for re-roofing the entire school facility, severely damaged in last October's hailstorm. "We think this project will cost at least \$1.2 million, possibly more, but our insurance will cover all but \$270,000 for the work. That amount will be taken from funds generated in the recent bond election."

The school maintenance department will be busy this summer deep cleaning all buildings

of the three campuses, and will take care of many large maintenance requests.

A number of older school vehicles will not be replaced. The transportation department will be busy performing safety checks and both major and minor repairs on three activity buses, seven route buses, four vans, and five staff vehicles prior to the coming school year.

Haynes said part of his "leisure summer time" would be spent re-writing handbooks for students of all three campuses, and employees handbooks. A campaign is underway to identify and recruit all migrant students in the district. "For every migrant student going to school here we receive substantial funding from the state, although it is actually federal funds."

Schedules are being prepared for school athletics, UIL and other activities throughout the school year.

Asked his thoughts on the probable second session of the legislature to face public school finance issues, Haynes said, "I'm just guessing, but I don't think it will be called before next Spring. There will be a great deal of lobbying going on in Austin when they face the issue. Our efforts will be focused on supporting two lobby groups, both representing Chapter 41 districts, or "Rich Districts" under the Robin Hood concept. The Texas School Coalition represents these schools statewide, and we also rely on the Small Rural School Finance Coalition, a group of mineral wealthy districts from the Iraan-Sheffield area to the south and north to the Sudan area. I think it's possible we may get some relief with Robin Hood, but because of funding cycles, it won't help us until 2005."

Local girls detail Washington trip

Nicole Culwell, an incoming freshman at Plains High, and Caitlin Carter, who will be leaving Plains soon as a new student at Sundown High, were guest speakers at last week's Lions Club meeting.

They were part of the 35 students from Brownfield and Plains recently flying to the nation's capitol for a whirlwind four day learning experience and tour.

The students were housed at Fairfax, Virginia. On their search of the many wonders of Washington, D.C. they toured the Smithsonian, Arlington National Cemetery, the Lincoln and Washington monuments, Tomb of the Unknowns, the Marine Corps, Korean War and Vietnam National Memorials, Mount Vernon, Washington National Cathedral and the National Library.

Nicole showed a video she purchased in the capitol city



Caitlin Carter, left, and Nicole Culwell, right, flank recently installed Plains Lions Club President Vicki Blundell

detailing the dozens of historic treats available there. Caitlin described searching the sprawling Vietnam Memorial, in search of a deceased veteran with the last name of Carter, and her feelings when she etched the name on paper for one of her relatives. Both girls credited the trip with giving them a better understanding of our nation's history, and expressed their appreciation to the Lions who assisted with funds for the trip.

New TAKS test results show bright spots, but room for improvement

Last April, Plains ISD students from nine of twelve grade levels received their first taste of the controversial, but state mandated Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) exam. With different grade levels taking exams featuring different test subjects, areas of education included Reading, Math, Writing, Science, Social Studies, and English.

Superintendent Jim Haynes reported, "We were for the most part very pleased with the test results. The elementary and middle school students had excellent passing percentage numbers. Our next year sophomore and

junior students need to show improvements in math, science and English. Our 2003-04 seniors had low scores in the same three subject areas."

Haynes said some high school instructors and administrators think the incoming seniors low scores could be attributed to lack of incentive. They had already passed the former TAAS exams, a requirement for high school graduation.

The always controversial TAAS test was initiated by the Texas Education Agency some ten years ago. When the replacement TAKS exams were being formulated, many teachers and school

administrators expressed opinions about the increasing difficulty of the 'pass or don't graduate' testing scheme. One administrator felt, "They keep raising the bar, and regardless of student abilities, there are levels of achievement they are able to reach, and levels others cannot."

The TAKS benchmark test results will allow TEA to study the trial results, and give students a year to prepare for the 'real thing'.

Unless ground rules change, third thru eleventh graders will face TAKS next school year - and this years tenth graders must pass the test then to qualify for graduation.

Upcoming Summer Happenings

The 50th annual Plains Rodeo is scheduled July 31, August 1 and 2, and the annual Yoakum County Art Show and Sale will be held those same dates. The Old Settlers Reunion will start in Stanford Park immediately after the downtown parade. Johnnie's Barbecue in Odessa will cater the meal. The 8th Watermelon Round Up will be on Saturday, August 30, and Connection officials promise it will be bigger and better. The Plains Chamber of Commerce will soon have full color brochures describing why we're proud of Plains, and final design and art work is being completed on colorful 'Throws' depicting our town and area. They will be milled in North Carolina, and should be ready in time to sell at the Round Up. A fun summer!

Plains 11-12 year old All Stars win District

In a recent three night Pool Play Baseball Tournament at Brownfield, the 11 and 12 year old Plains All Stars got off to a slow start, falling to Sundown in the first game. They bounced back the next night and won against Brownfield, to advance to the Championship Game against Sundown. They fell behind, but came on strong to win 13-11 to clinch District Champ honors. Results of the Section Play Tournament in Lubbock will be announced in a later edition.



Coach Eddie Carter watches with full approval as his team celebrate the Championship win with an exuberant "Dog Pile."



The Team - Kneeling, Derek Garza, A.J. Martinez, Brandon Craft, Brock Carter. Standing, Coach Alfred Martinez, Cody Friesen, Arthur Ruiz, Wyatt Dearing, Zack Ramon, Chris Gonzales, Chris Addison, Coach Eddie Carter.

County 4-H Shooters Perform Well In Meet

The District 2-4H Shooting Sports Contest was held June 27th and 28th in Lubbock with seven participants from Yoakum County entering events. The shooters participated in trap, skeet and five stand events.

Entering the events were Matthew Hilburn in the Sub Jr. Class; Colby Wilmeth, Leo Sellers, Logan Wood and Kille Collinsworth in the Jr. Class; and Josh Horn and Reagan Haynes in the Sr. Class. Each shooter had excellent rounds with two of them shooting perfect scores in their rounds. Lo-

gan Woods and Kille Collinsworth shot perfect 25's in trap rounds during their events.

Coaches Jamey Collinsworth, Jim Haynes, and Extension Agent Arlan Gentry helped with the events in pulling and scoring as well as transportation and coaching the individuals during the events. Jamey Collinsworth said, "I am very proud of the shooters in Yoakum County 4-H. They only have a trap range and they participated in other events that other shooters practice every week. We held our own and had

some very respectable scores. These young shooters continue to improve every week we practice and we always encourage new participants."

This is only the second year of the Yoakum County 4-H shooting team participation. They will have the Yoakum County shoot at the Gaines County Shooting Range on August 2nd and would encourage the public to come and watch. It will be a fun time for all. For information call one of the shooting sports coaches or Arlan Gentry at 806-456-2230.

TPA

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Crime Line Reward Offered

Criminal Mischief, A State Jail Felony, at two (2) location;
(A) 1 mile North of County Road 330 on CR 355.
(B) 1 mile North and 3 miles West of CR 355, 200 yds South of CR390.

Transformers and electrical boxes were shot and destroyed on June 7, 2003. \$500 reward offered for information leading to arrest, indictment and conviction regarding each incident. Call 592-8477. Informant remains anonymous.

TAKS Summary Report On Test Results

GRADE:	Subject	Number of students passing	Percent Passing
Third Grade:	Math	30	94
	Reading	30	91
Fourth Grade	Reading	33	92
	Math	31	86
	Writing	27	84
Fifth Grade	Reading	27	93
	Math	25	86
	Science	25	86
Sixth Grade	Reading	20	95
	Math	20	95
Seventh Grade	Reading	23	92
	Math	24	96
	Writing	19	79
Eighth Grade	Reading	30	97
	Math	28	90
Ninth Grade	Social Studies	30	100
	Reading	25	89
	Math	21	75
Tenth Grade	English	22	76
	Social Studies	27	90
	Math	25	83
	Science	22	76
Eleventh Grade	English	12	46
	Math	19	79
	Social Studies	23	88
	Science	18	67

A principled approach to immigration reform

U.S. Senator John Cornyn outlined his plan for a new guest worker program this week, calling it "a common sense solution to our broken immigration system, which addresses the need for better border security and acknowledges the important contributions immigrants make to our economy."

It will bring hard working immigrants out of the shadows and onto our tax rolls, while removing incentives for human smuggling and other exploitation," said Senator Cornyn.

The proposal calls for the departments of State and Homeland Security to facilitate the guest worker program and develop standards of training, enrollment and monitoring of workers. The plan addresses the realities of our flawed immigration system, Cornyn said, while encouraging undocumented immigrants to "come out of the shadows."

The guest worker plan is neither an amnesty program, nor a path to citizenship. Undocumented immigrants already in the U.S. can apply, in conjunction with their employers, for guest worker status within the first year of the

program's enactment.

There are an estimated 10 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. who remain unaccounted for. Cornyn's program recognizes we can no longer turn a blind eye to this reality: it understands the need to account for the millions of immigrants already in our nation whose whereabouts and intent are unknown to any law enforcement or homeland security agencies.

Cornyn added, "The legislation will provide substantial enforcement mechanisms to deal with those who flout existing immigration law, remain in the country without applying for guest worker status, traffic in human smuggling or fail to comply with labor laws.

"For too long, we have failed to address the flaws in our immigration policy. The problem is even more urgent in a post 9/11 world, yet our system is still entrenched in the inadequate policies of the past and must be brought into the 21st century."

Cornyn added, "My plan acknowledges millions of undocumented men and women go to work everyday in America in violation of our immigration law, our

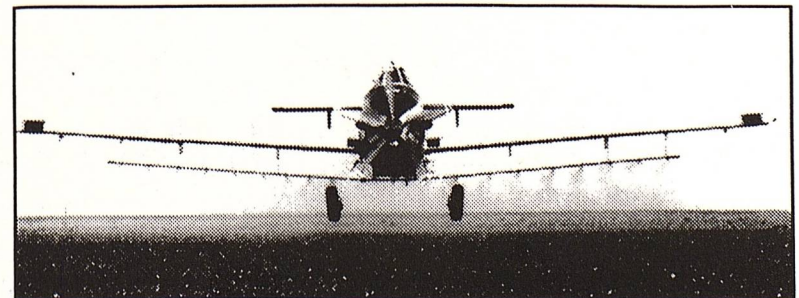
government knowing nothing of who or where they are. This program will allow us to account for immigrants who are no threat to America, and distinguish them from those who are. Our homeland security demands we account for the millions of unknown immigrants living within our borders."

Cornyn's proposal would allow immigrants to work and provide for their families under protection of our laws. The program will help stop human smuggling. For too long immigrants have been exposed to dangerous smugglers who place little or no value on their lives, and unscrupulous employers who exploit workers unable to report abuses.

"The truth is, the vast majority of immigrants, documented or undocumented, are here because they want a piece of the American dream. Many of them risk everything they have to come to this country, seeking a better life for themselves and their families", Cornyn said.

Although legislative language is still being finalized, Cornyn outlined his principals in a Senate floor speech last week for a bill to be introduced later this month. A separate guest worker bill is anticipated soon in the House of Representatives.

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As the time to start a new crop this year rapidly approaches, it is obvious that agriculture in West Texas faces many challenges. The need for producing a crop with input costs held to a minimum is a must for most producers. Please keep the following in mind as you make your management decisions. We offer the following at very competitive prices:

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Dain Guetersloh Mobile # (806) 632-5375



The Three-Man Scramble Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Denver City Chamber of Commerce and held at the local county course, drew a field of 50 teams on a very hot 4th of July. Results in the six flight event with local golfers making the "Pay-Window" included; Championship-Arlan Gentry, with Lanny and Lisa Wood., 59. First Flight-Tony and Ladd Winn, and ? Bruhn, 62. Third Flight- Jay and Morris Rushig and Jim Brown, 64. Fifth Flight- Vicki and Brad Ancinec and ? Cummings, 68, Bill Guetersloh, Vaughn Culwell, Gary Dyer, 69.

Both sides blinded in Iraqi WMD debate

** Editors Note - The following article by Charles D. Ganske, a Fellow at the American Freedom Center in Austin, is offered solely as food for thought.*

Amidst the partisan maneuvering that passes for debate on the question of Iraq, there seems to be one premise both sides are unfortunately accepting from the start. That is, Saddam, in order to be a threat to the U.S., had to have his weapons of mass destruction on hand for immediate battlefield use, or at least within Iraq's borders. Neither side, for different reasons, wants to consider Saddam may have shipped his weapons of mass destruction out of the country before the war.

Team Bush says the MWD's will be found. They assert Iraq is a country the size of California, and there are many places the weapons could be hidden. But what if they are not found? Does that mean President Bush was lying when he said Saddam had the MWD's, and Saddam was telling the truth when he said he didn't?

The other side in this debate demands, "Was the case for war based on conjecture, the administration seeing what it wanted to see, or even outright lies? They point to British forgeries that somehow made it into the dossier the President made in his 2003 State of the Union address. They downplay the administration's contention that Al-Qaeda operatives based in Baghdad assassinated a U.S. diplomat in Jordan, and ignore

documents found in Iraq's intelligence headquarters showing Iraqi efforts to cooperate with Al-Qaeda as early as 1998.

Given the dilapidated state of Saddam's forces, even the most hawkish administration officials insisted the real threat was that Saddam would supply some of the weapons to terrorists, including Al-Qaeda, not in conventional attacks against the U.S. or region allies. Opponents in the war, in turn, relied on their assumption that even if Saddam had WDM's he would never risk shipping them beyond Iraq's borders. They insisted 'secular' Saddam could never cooperate with Islamist fanatic terrorists like Al-Qaeda.

One reason the administration would be reluctant to admit Saddam could have shifted the weapons out of the country is the possibility UN inspections might have been more effective than the administration had been willing to admit. Another reason would be an inability to answer the question begged immediately if the MWD's still exist - where, or to whom, did Saddam ship his VX and bio-toxins? What if our intelligence is inadequate to answer that question?

The most likely WMD destination given geography, Baathist politics, Damascus' penury, and Saddam's billions stashed in secret accounts, is Syria. Speculation aside, Secretary Powell's pre-war presentation to the UN began with Baathist officials

caught on tape referring to nerve gas and moving large amounts of something important. U.S. human intelligence is inadequate to say if this was baby milk or Saddam packing his precious arsenal on trucks bound for Bekaa Valley. Satellite and U-2 photos would only reveal a usual pattern of traffic. Without eyes and ears on the ground the truth is we have no way of knowing. As Ahmed Chalabi, chairman of the Iraqi National Congress recently acknowledged, Baathist

disinformation tainted pre-war intelligence coming from INC agents inside Iraq. Inadequate funding, due to a suspicious State Department, also hindered the INC's efforts to recruit agents before the war.

The Administration may still be courting trouble by sticking to story A, "The WMDs are still in Iraq and will be found." However, many of those who opposed the war and now seek some vindication in the lack of WMDs found may yet discover that instead of option B - "Bush saw what he wanted to see, or even lied," there is an option C - "Saddam moved his weapons out of the country for safekeeping before the war."

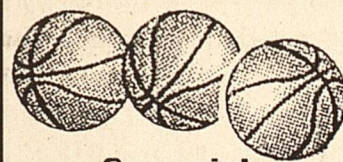
The muddled nature of the WMD debate is caused by a lack of solid intelligence. When unleashed for a specific mission, routing the Taliban in Afghanistan, or destroying Saddam's regime in Iraq, the CIA has by all accounts performed superbly. But in peacetime intelligence gathering, the Agency may still have a long way to go.

Galveston named to list of prestigious Dozen Distinctive Destinations

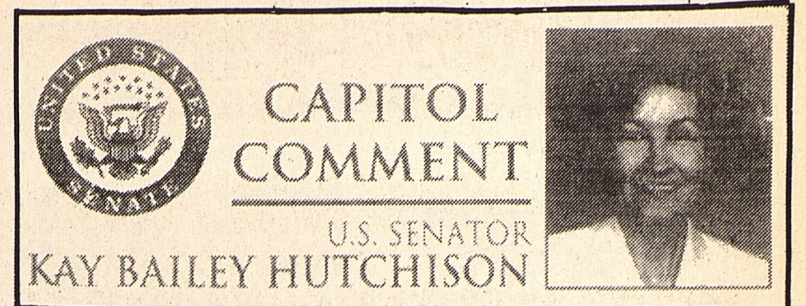
The historic coastal community of Galveston was named to the National Trust for Historical Preservation's list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. The list offers alternative destinations dedicated to historic preservation.

The Trust for Historical Preservation, the nation's largest private, non-profit preservation organization, recently released the annual list that includes such communities as Vancouver, Washington, Portland, Maine, and Jekyll Island, Georgia. Galveston is a city which rose from ruins after a devastating hurricane which killed thousands, and now offers a cache of historic buildings, restaurants, shops and art galleries, as well as the historic sailing ship Elissa.

This is the fourth year the National trust has compiled the list of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations. Preservation organizations and local communities nominated more than 50 destinations in 27 states. Cities named demonstrate a commitment to preserving historic landmarks, revitalizing downtown landmarks and protecting their unique heritage. For more information about the annual list, visit www.nationaltrust.org



Cowgirl Basketball Camp
July 14, 15, 16, 8:30 - 11:45 AM
3rd thru 8th Girls. \$20 fee includes free T-shirt. Call Coach Thaggard, 456-3866, or bring entries to High School.



School's out for the summer, but Texas educators are hard at work bringing our schools into the 21st century. In June, Rod Paige, our nation's Secretary of Education, gave Texas the stamp of approval for its efforts to comply with the landmark education reform legislation, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Designed to change the culture of Americas schools, it encourages creativity and flexibility, teaches students based on what works, and perhaps more importantly, makes schools accountable for achievement.

The reform required each state to formulate how it will close the achievement gap and make sure all students achieve academic proficiency. This month, for the first time in history every state submitted an accountability plan. The Texas plan is a blueprint to ensure each of our children receives a quality education. In addition to infusing accountability into our schools and requiring students to meet minimum testing requirements, the legislation also provided schools with other options to creatively address the challenges they face.

On element, the "Transitions to Teaching" provision, I fought hard to include in the legislation. Transitions to Teaching is based on the successful military program "Troops to Teachers" that placed former military personnel in the classroom. The Prototype has successfully placed more than 4,300 teachers around the country in every state.

The Transitions to Teaching program recruits and retains highly qualified mid-career professionals, retirees and recent college graduates as teachers in high-need schools. It supports the development and expansion of alternatives to initial teacher certification. With many states, including Texas, facing a shortage of teachers, filling those positions with qualified professionals is retaining them as educators, which is why the legislation calls for training, guidance, and support to encourage those who enter the program to make

teaching a long term career. Single sex schools and classrooms are another creative attempt to provide greater educational options for public school children. Studies have shown that single sex programs can reduce barriers to learning by providing a less intimidating and more productive classroom. That has been shown particularly in urban areas and middle to high school grades. Girls educated in all girls environment often have more confidence and tend to pursue more science and math courses. Boys in same sex classes gain leadership qualities and are often more successful in language and writing courses when the distractions of the opposite sex are removed.

Last August I attended orientation at the William A. Lawson Institute for Peace and Prosperity Academy for Boys, or WALIPP Prep Academy in Houston. WALIPP was one of the first public single sex schools in the nation to open its doors since the Act passed. Its mission aims to enable its students to, "achieve academically, develop vocationally and become productive citizens." This spring, WALIPP completed its first year serving middle school boys in inner city Houston and moved into a permanent facility to continue to expand on that mission.

While single sex schools and classrooms are not right for every child maybe not even for most children, they should at least be an option, and that's what is now established. The Department of Education will soon set forth guidelines for school districts interested in establishing single sex schools and classrooms. When they are formulated, more of our schools will be encouraged to utilize single sex offerings as a way to meet the requests of parents.

Texas is encouraging its schools to innovate and reach out to our children. Across the board, the education reforms will continue to expand public school opportunities and try to prepare the next generation to lead our nation in the future.

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD
and
Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

We have Meningococcal Vaccines for Meningitis. It is recommended for students entering college, and may be required for some schools. Vaccinations at the Clinic are offered only until July 2. Please come to see us by this date!

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Silence Is Bliss For Texans On No-Call Lists

Many Texans long ago lost patience with one of the most vilified practices of the 20th century, telemarketing.

Relief came with two state "no-call" lists. Consumers pay to be on the lists, which marketers must purchase to make mass calls. Marketers can be fined if they call anyone on the lists.

Texas' first list, the Electric No Call List, went into effect in 1999, according to Terry Hadley, director of communications for the Texas Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Electric No Call List applies only to utility providers. In 2000, the Texas Legislature created the Texas No Call List, which applies to all other industries. The PUC oversees both lists, which are maintained and distributed by a private contractor, Gryphon Networks of Norwood, Mass.

Relief for cell phone users

one signs up for both lists, the listings last five years, Hadley says

The statewide list is open only to residential numbers. The Electric No Call List is available to residential and business numbers.

Telemarketers pay \$45 a quarter for the statewide list and \$50 a quarter for the electric list. The lists are updated and published on January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

All the money generated from fees goes to Gryphon Networks, which receives no other payment for maintaining the lists.

Not every telephone solicitor needs to purchase the list. Exceptions include companies that have an existing business relationship with a customer and business trying to collect debts. Charities also are exempt if they are not trying to sell anything, according to the PUC.

Off the list

On April 8, 2003, nearly 900,000 Texans had signed up for either the State No Call List or the Electric No Call List. To sign up for the lists, call 866-896-6225 or visit www.texasnocall.com.

No-call list subscribers

Electric list only	28,007
State list only	177,718
Subscribe to both lists	688,542
Total subscriptions	894,267
Cost of subscriptions	\$3.4 million



SOURCE: Public Utility Commission of Texas.

could be on the way with House Bill (H.B.) 147, which would add cell phone numbers to the lists, and H.B. 149, which would remove addresses from the telemarketers' lists. State Reps. Burt Solomons and Beverly Woolley filed the bills in 2003. The bills passed the Senate and House and await the governor's signature.

"Consumers were unhappy that telemarketers were getting a no-call list with their addresses on it, which would go right onto a direct mail list," says Bonnie Bruce, Rep. Solomons' legislature director.

Gryphon Networks compiles the lists on a quarterly basis. About 894,000 Texans are signed up for one or both lists, Hadley says.

The cost to be on the lists is \$2.25 for the statewide list and \$2.55 for the Electric No Call List. Registration for either is good for three years. If some-

Companies that use automated dialers must purchase the list.

The PUC is responsible for enforcing compliance with the no-call lists.

"When we get complaints, we see if we have several for the same companies," Hadley says. "It has to be a sizable number of complaints, not just a handful."

Hadley says about 30 states have no-call lists, and Congress is considering creating a national list. Hadley says the Texas Attorney General's Office is monitoring the federal no-call list bill.

"Texas is the first state we've done list maintenance for," says David Boulter, vice president of operations for Gryphon Networks. "There's been a lot of positive feedback, especially from consumers. Everyone has been writing us letters, thanking us for signing them up."

July is *Anti Boredom Month * National Ice Cream Month *National Parks and Recreation Month *National Blueberry Month * National Purposeful Parenting Month

Play Ball! Texas Baseball
June 14, 2003 - Jan 4, 2004!

Swing by and see this special exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

See www.TheStoryofTexas.com or call (866) 369-7108 for details.

Sandy Land 2003 Essay Winners

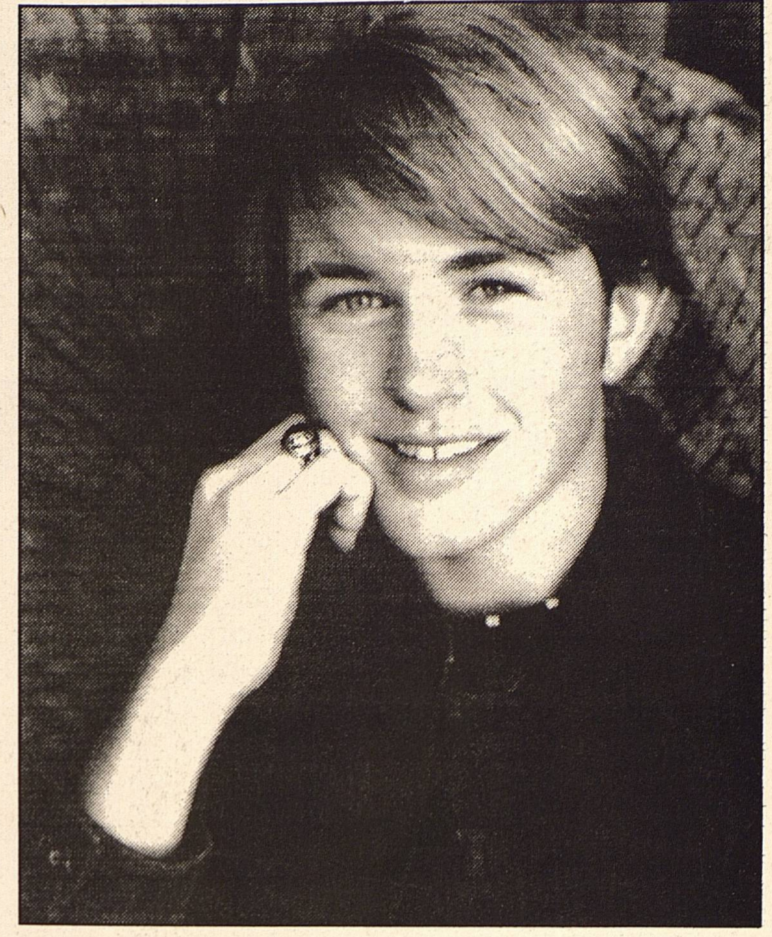
Sandy Land Underground Water District recently announced their annual essay scholarship contest winners. Plains & Denver City High School students submitted essays on conservation and other groundwater issues in the contest for a \$1000 and \$500 scholarship to two students in each school.



Ryan Swann is the Plains winners of the \$1000 scholarship. He is a graduate of Plains High School, a member of the First Baptist Church in Plains, and will attend Texas Tech University starting this fall. While attending Plains High School, Ryan has gone through a wide variety of courses, many of which were Advanced Placement classes. Ryan has taken as many computer and mathematic courses he could fit into his schedule to help prepare himself for the computer science field. Among these courses are BCIS 1 and 11, four semesters of CISCO Networking courses, Computer Science, all basic math classes and Advanced Placement math

courses such as Physics and Calculus. Ryan has not only concentrated his efforts in those areas, but has diversified his studies to include English, Art, Athletics, Spanish, History, Science, and Agriculture. Also, he has had a Texas Aerospace Scholar.

He is very active in his community and school. Ryan has had two years of Student Council, was an officer of Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and active member of the First Baptist Church. He plans to continue his education at Texas Tech University this fall with a major in Computer Science, and then translate his knowledge into a career in the computer field.



Kelly Bowers, the \$500 Scholarship winner from Plains, is the eighteen year old son of Tim and Donna Bowers. His grandparents are Alfred and Faye Bearden and Claude and Peggy Bowers. He is a member of the First Baptist Church and youth choir in Plains. He participated in basketball and tennis all four years of high school. He was All Academic All District his senior year in basketball and made it to the regional tournament in tennis. He was in the One Act Play his junior and senior years and advanced to the regional competition both years. He also was elected historian of the

Student Council where he prepared the school scrapbook, and received a state award. Kelly was also elected vice president of the National Honor Society. Kelly received "Student of the Week" both his sophomore and senior years. His junior year he received the school Art Award and Top Five Award. His sophomore through senior years he was selected to be on the National Honor Roll and Who's Who Among American Students. Kelly will be attending West Texas A&M University in the fall of 2003.

Court considers Victim's I.D. Notification program

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, Sheriff Don Corzine and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark briefed the court on the Texas Attorney General's sponsored Victim Identification Notification Everyday (VINE) grant program.

Designed to assist crime victims awareness of the status of the perpetrator of a crime against the victim, it would enable crime victims to dial a phone number, supply the computerized VINE data bank with identification data of the offender, and receive a detailed report of his whereabouts, pending court appearances, the bonding company if bail had been made, whether the offender was in jail and where, and other information valuable

to the victim. Sheriff Corzine reported the voluminous printed material he had received from the A.G. office indicated a grant would be made to the county should the court want to contract for the VINE services. The dollar value of the computer software VINE package and a maintenance agreement would be around \$14,000.

CDA Clark said he could see merit in the VINE program, as it appeared law enforcement agencies, the county and district clerk's personnel, and his staff could be spared from supplying public record data on an offender, and it would tend to better assure crime victims rights.

Sheriff Corzine said a victim

calling VINE for information on a perpetrator would probably be connected with a taped message, but live personnel could also be reached, and information would be available in both English and Spanish. After considerable discussion, Judge Brewer requested Corzine to make all the information available to the court for a more thorough review before taking action on the program.

The court discussed appointing a Health and Human Service Director for the county. The judge said the issue had been discussed in previous budget workshops, and research indicated the position would be beneficial for many county residents, but the appointment would not be made until after the first of January, 2004.

New Mexico Junior College Basketball Thunderbird Camp of Champions. Camp runs; July 20-24, 2003. For boys 2nd - 11th grades. For more information call: Jeff McCool @ 505-392-5772 or John Baldwin @ 505-392-6556. Overnight and day campers welcome!

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In Remembrance

WORLD WAR II WAS OVER! There were laughter and hugging and rejoicing everywhere! Tears of relief flowed and prayers were prayed! Troop ships docked and parades filed along the streets of cities, towns, villages, and hamlets. Blue stars came down from the windows! Speeches were made! Bands played! Reunions were held and families reunited!

But not all of the boys came home. This is the story of one of those. He was called "Ken" Markley. He flew a P-38 Lightning as part of the 367th Fighter Group. He had completed his missions and was awaiting shipment home. More pilots were needed for one Sunday morning mission. When asked, he agreed to go. He never returned. The last radio message from him was, "Boys, I'm hit!" Other pilots reported seeing his plane going down in flames. This was August 27, 1944.

Messages of "Missing in Action" and "Assumed Dead" were received by the family. Later information indicated he died in the crash of his plane which was followed by another story that he had been taken prisoner and the prisoner train was bombed by the Allies, causing his death.

The years passed. In 1949, a soldier was brought home from a French graveyard and reburied in the family plot on a country hillside in central Kansas. A grave to care for brought a sense of peace, and the young pilot, twenty-three years old, has lived in the annals of family history as a legend of bravery. The mystery of his death has always left the saga unfinished.

Fifty-nine years later, early last week, I received an e-mail from a young (thirty-five year old) French history teacher stating the crash had occurred near his village, that he had always been fascinated by the story and with the help of a friend has searched crash sites in the area for the last ten years.

One more effort was made to locate family when the time came to prepare a ceremony as they dedicated a 'stele' (monument) in Ken's honor in the local cemetery of this little French village. A part of material has arrived from France indicating that there were eye witnesses to the crash and subsequent French action to wrap his body in a parachute and bury him in the local cemetery. The allies were moving in at the time, and his crash became another incident in the saga of war. Sadly, many Americans were lost during those few days of intense air battles.

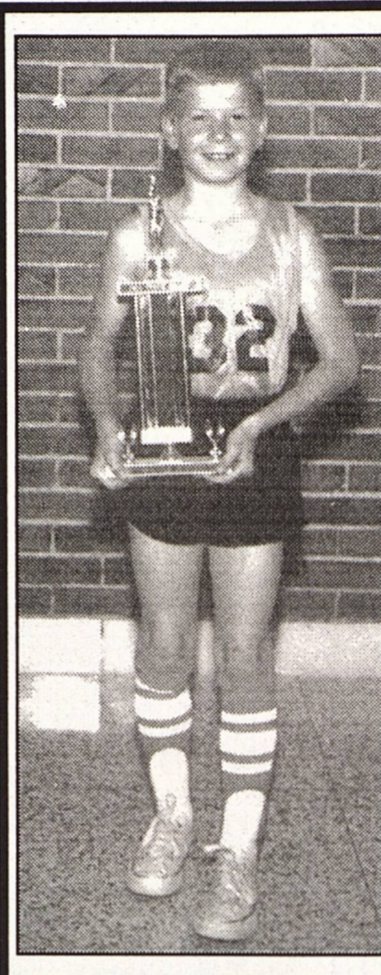
Three new generations of Markley family young people have been told the story, which never really had an ending-until now. Ken's son, who was one month old at the time of his father's death, will be present, in France, to participate in the dedication ceremony. I quote him to say, "The only event in my father's life that I was able to be a part of was his funeral, so I am looking forward to this dedication."

Somewhere in the midst of those passing years, another poem found its way into Ken's memory book.

TO KEN

The years keep on passing
 Since you've gone away
 But your memory still lingers
 As though it were today.
 Wherever you lie,
 We're never apart
 For though the years come and go
 You're still in my heart.
 I will never forget
 Though the passing of time
 That you helped make life better
 For your son and mine.
 I know you're at peace
 From the life that you led,
 And I'm glad you can't know
 Of the tears that I've shed.
 Fate seemed so unfair,
 But God knew and He cared,
 For you go right on living
 Through the dreams that we shared.
 And tho life must go on, Ken,
 And we can't look behind,
 Your memory goes with me
 Though the passing of time.
June (Markley) Hanneman

June Hanneman writes the Senior Citizens column



*The love for
 basketball will
 always be -
 As forty years
 crept up on me !*

**Happy 40th
 Birthday, Brent!
 Mom, Dad,
 Stephanie,
 Brooklynn,
 Zach, Brianna,
 Brad,
 Charlotte,
 Anne and
 Bradley**

CSW Recognizes Former Resident

Cindy Koncaba, a former resident and now living in Denver City, recently received this letter;

"Dear Cynthia, Please accept my congratulations for making the Vice President's list for the 2003 spring semester. Your grade point average of 3.80 clearly places you among a distinguished group of our most successful students. Making the Vice President's

list is recognition of the dedication with which you have approached your academic career here at College of the Southwest. Meeting this criterion of excellence as established by our faculty is no small task, and we share in your pride of accomplishment. I want to personally thank you for bringing such positive recognition to the College."

William L. Klarman
 Vice President for Academic Services

Want To Win A New John Deere?

And do a good deed?

Women's Protective Services of Lubbock, Inc. (WPS) will host its 4th Annual Tractor Raffle, Planting the Seeds for Change, August 9th at 7:00 p.m. at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. A 150 hp 2003 John Deere Tractor will be raffled off at the end of the evening.

Tickets are on sale now and must be purchased prior to August 9th. Proceeds benefit WPS. Only 2,000 tickets will be sold and may be purchased

for \$100. Ticket price includes admission for two, one raffle entry, a barbecue dinner provided by J&M Barbecue, a silent auction and live entertainment by the Rex Thomas Band. Mr. Gary Ivey of Ralls, TX was last year's winner of the John Deere Tractor.

For more information on where to purchase tickets, check with your local bank, John Deere dealer or call (806) 748-5292 for sales outlets in your area.

Workers needed for Water Melon Round Up. Good opportunity for a group fund raiser. Interested parties should contact Ed Hansen at City Hall 456-2288.

Couples Bridal Brunch

Honoring

Clint & Katie Kirkendall

Saturday, July 12, 2003

10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.

**In the home of Chad & Jolena Wall
 1070 CR 305, Plains, TX**

Selections: Image 'n That, Dillard's, Nelson Pharmacy

Our Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to thank each and everyone of you who showed their love to us during our time of grief, with prayers, cards, flowers, food, calls and just for caring. Also we would like to thank Dr. Cotton, his staff, the nurses of Yoakum County Hospital, and all the Home Health staff and nurses for their constant care and attention for our loving Mother during her illness. Our family gives their gratitude and loving respect.


The family of Hazel Allen: Chris & Anita Luther, Darrel & Beverly Lowrey, Marion & Judy Allen, Annie Laurie Hardin, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren

Bridal Shower
 honoring
Lexi Warren Bride Elect of Joshua Bell
 Saturday, July 19, 2003, 10:00 - 11:30 AM
 in the home of
Mrs. Melba Crutcher
 1008 Fourth Street
 Selections: Lubbock: Dillard's, Target, Brownfield: Nelson's, Plains: Image'n That, Lamesa: McCall Gift Shop

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 9:30 am.
Morning Worship
 10:45 am.
Evening Program
 6:00 pm.

First United Methodist Church
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 456-3727

 Sunday Schedule
 Children's Choir - 9:45 am
 followed by Sunday School
 Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am
 Morning Worship - 10:45 am
**For all you do,
 His blood was for you!**

Come Join the Summer Fun!
Out door Swim Party-
 Friday, June 27, 8-11 P.M., Grades 7 thru 12-Refreshments
Youth Center Pool Tournaments-
 Friday, July 11, Plains Students and Adults-Grades 7 thru 12, trophies for 1st, 2nd, 3rd. 8:30 PM until finished. Saturday, July 12, Grades 7-12, singles and doubles, 8:30PM until finished.
Outdoor Swim Party-
 Friday, July 25, 8-11 PM All Youth Center grades-food and drinks.

From The Hack

How was your Fourth of July? Ours was great, if I can manage to forget a few down moments. I played in the 4th Scramble golf event. I should say, I donated to the event. \$40 bucks to enter, \$5 for a mulligan ticket, \$5 for a D.C. Chamber of Commerce Cow Patty.

I didn't need a CPA to figure my balance sheet. Fifty bucks going in, my not immaculate conception team managed to take third place in the not too illustrious last flight. We won \$50 each.

OK, not too bad to break even, but the other two Stooges who completed our three Stooges team beforehand had made a few side bets. Because of faithful church doctrine, I am violently opposed to gambling of any nature, and I groused somewhat about how they had pledged my money in such a scurilous manner. My protests fell on deaf ears when my partners told me I had to cough up \$25 for my share of the disaster.

It was truly golf under extreme difficulties. I was, for the entire 18 holes, fearful of some devious trick our opposing three Jackals would pull to distract us,

Jackals would pull to distract us, like toss a firecracker upon my putting stroke, kick my ball further in the rough after an errant drive, or stick my driver in one of their bags. It's really difficult when you play with immoral foes.

On one hole, vitally important, I was lined up on a crucial putt, in my backswing, when I heard a hoarsely whispered, "He looks like a pregnant Stork about to drop an egg!"

My putt was not found for eleven minutes, finally stumbled on by my team in a recently dug gopher hole 23 feet off the green.

The July 4th heat had nothing to do with our miserable play. I shall forever blame my unnamed partners, but whose initials start with V.C. and B.G. My back will probably never recover from your collective riding!

Our opponents included the watermelon Czar of the Nation, The FSA Chief Janitor and his son, who was exposed to some really bad stuff from daddy.

"What is the secret of your success?" a reporter asked a bank president.

"Two words.... right decisions," replied the banker.

"And how do you make right decisions?" asked the reporter.

"Experience," replied the banker.

"And how do you get the experience?"

"Two words," replied the banker. "Bad decisions."

OPEN HOUSE

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2:00 - 4:00 pm
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City Report On Water Quality

The City of Plains is proud of the drinking water it provides. This annual quality report contains information about the results of the test run on our drinking water. It is published today in the paper as a requirement of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water act. The city of Plains will notify you if there is any reason for concern about our water.

THE BOTTOM LINE: IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK? ABSOLUTELY

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. Our water source is the Ogallala Aquifer, water is pumped out of the ground throughout the surrounding area. This water is transmitted to our water treatment facilities through a network of underground pipes. A Source-Water Assessment has been performed for our area to provide baseline data about the quality of water before it is treated and distributed to customers. To complete your understanding of our water supply, you can request a copy of the assessment from TNRCC P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

WHAT DOES THE TABLE MEAN?

This report is based upon tests conducted in the year 2000 by and for the City of Plains. **MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LEVEL OR MCL** Is the highest level of a containment that is allowed in drinking water.

The City of Plains did not test for Radon or Cryptosporidium.

KEY TO TABLE:

Pci/l=Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)
PPM=Parts per Million. This corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000
PPB=Parts per Billion. This corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000

SUBSTANCE	UNIT	ITEMS DETECTED:		VIOLA-
		MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	
Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	15	7.8	no
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50	8.4	no
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/l	5	.os	no
Fluoride	ppm	2	4.0	yes
Mercury	ppb	2	.40	no
Nitrate	ppm	10	3.2	no
Selenium	ppb	50	28.6	no
Sulfate	ppm	300	446	yes
Arsenic	ppb	50	15.2	no
Barium	ppm	2	.02	no
Iron	ppm	0.3	.01	no
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	1124	yes

EXPLANATION OF VIOLATIONS:

The Fluoride and the sulfate along with the Total Dissolved Solids occur from the erosion of natural deposits in the aquifer in this region. In common terms we have "Hard Water". Studies have been conducted to search for other approved sources of water, whose delivery could be obtained at an economical price.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic will be decreasing from 0.05 mg/l (CCR - 50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/l (CCR - 10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. TCEQ is providing the following health effects language according to new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting requirements for arsenic.

Because the highest reported arsenic level on this report is above 10 ppb, this information is required by EPA:

"Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer."

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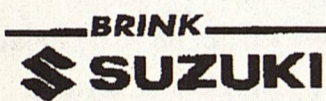
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