

Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume VI, Issue 10, November 24, 1999

Offenders Help Kids Have A Better Christmas

Adult offenders do double duty with their court ordered community service. Through 121st Judicial District Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD), offenders who are required to provide community service to their community collect aluminum cans. The CSCD supplies the collection sacks and the county stores the cans until they are sold near Christmas time. The money is then donated to various benefit groups to help children have a merry Christmas. Offenders clean up their community while knowing the money generated from the sale of the cans will allow the children of their community to have a better Christmas. Everybody feels good about this project a win-win project!



Serena Elmore, left, Director of Community Supervision and Corrections Department, presents County Treasurer Toni Jones check for Youth Christmas Program.

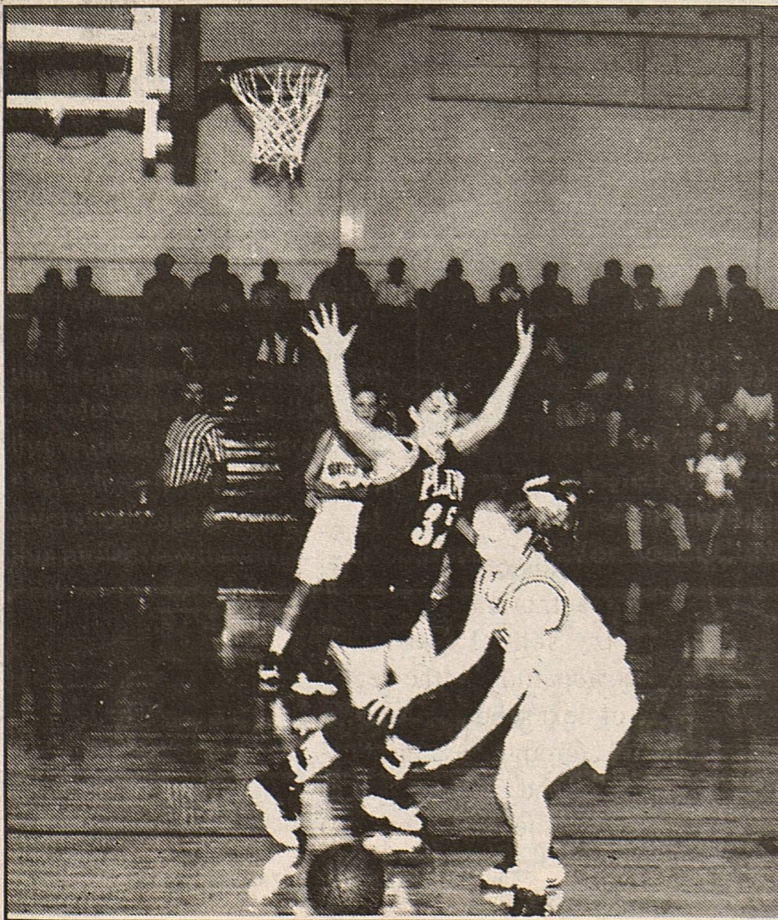
Filing Date For Candidates Nears

Candidates for county political offices will be able to officially file for a place on the Primary Election ballots on Friday, December 3. Ray Young of Plains serves as the County Republican Party Chairman, and B.R. Moore of Denver City Chairs the County Democrat Party, replacing Ty Earl Powell who will seek the office of Precinct Three Commissioner.

Tentative plans will have Democrat filing application forms on hand in Plains at City Hall, and at the Chamber of Commerce office in Denver City. Republican Party applications will be available from Ray Young at the Church of Christ office here. Last day to file for office will be January 3, 2000. The statewide primary elections will be held on March 14.

County offices up for election this year include sheriff, tax assessor/collector, two constables, and commissioners for Precinct 1 and 3. The general November election will include the office of the President, U.S. Senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison, incumbent, all 30 House Representatives from Texas, a number of judges, 15 state Senators, and 150 state House members.

Basketball Action



Cowgirl Candace Bowers, 32, playing good defense against Denver City Fillies in recent action. More Cowgirl, JV Cowboy action shots inside

Court Ok's emergency request for X-Ray

In Monday's session of Commissioner's Court, County Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers sought the court's permission to purchase a desperately needed portable X-Ray machine, to be used primarily in the emergency room of the hospital.

He reported the room's present machine was many years old, had been overhauled many times, was now inoperable and could not be repaired again. "A portable machine in the emergency room is absolutely critical. Many times a patient's critical condition makes it impossible to move him to the main X-Ray lab, and many times the attending physician must have a current X-Ray".

Rogers told the court the hospital was not requesting emergency funding for a new machine, which will cost some \$34,000. "We have enough money in our equipment budget to handle a down payment, enabling us to purchase the machine now, and not have to go through the normal advertising and acting on bids received. The balance for the new machine would be paid from funds already budgeted for 2000. We just need your OK to get the machine coming here". The request was approved.

Judge Brewer told the court a bill passed by the legislature, and an opinion from the Attorney General, would make it

Turn To Page 3, "Court"

Power of the Press

Editor's note: The following story is reprinted with permission from *Texas Co-Op Power* magazine, the publication of the Texas Electrical Cooperatives. The story emphasizes the power of community newspapers. The writer is a free-lancer but also a longtime reporter at the *Blanco County News* in Blanco.

By Sheryl Smith-Rodgers

Something always pulls me outside. A need to pray. A want to share. A wish to be a part of an unfolding story.

Tonight, I stand in the chilly darkness and wait. The damp grass feels smoochy between my toes. I rub my bare arms in a futile attempt to warm them. Long minutes pass as I search the sky above the black line of live oaks and strain to hear the deep familiar sound. I keep a lone vigil in my front yard. A mile away, maybe more, others wait, too. But their hands are busy, their minds intent on the mission before them - save this life.

In the distance I detect a faint thump-thump-thump. It grows stronger, steadily louder, more powerful with each repetition. Then a bright ball of white light appears above the trees and moves toward me. Thump, thump, thump. The whirling blades of the helicopter cut through the air as it races closer. I watch as the light speeds across the sky, over the trees, above and then beyond me.

With sadness, I turn back toward the house. Do I know the person aboard the helicopter? Is he a man or woman, young or old? A child perhaps? Will he live or die?

Tomorrow I will know the answers. Because tomorrow I must do my job, play my own role in this small town I claim as home, where I feel so tightly interwoven in the life that unfolds here that sometimes I feel like the narrator in a novel. After I learn the answers to my questions, I'll sit before my computer in the corner of our liv-

ing room and write.

I'll share as many details as I can, dispel as many rumors as possible, put aside my own emotions, perhaps absorb someone else's, and write the story. That's part of what I do for a living - I'm a reporter for a small-town newspaper.

It's not always an easy job, writing about your neighbors and your community. For a little more than a decade I've done it for the *Blanco County News* in Blanco, a Hill Country hamlet of approximately 1,400 and one traffic light.

In a small town you know almost everyone AND whom they've been married to in the past, businesses they've owned, accomplishments they've achieved, traffic accidents they've been in, children they've lost tragically. As a reporter, you know the stories even more intimately, which leads to further quandries. Which stories do you print? Which ones do you leave out?

Roy Eaton has published the *Wise County Messenger* since 1973 in Decatur, a town of 4,500 residents north of Fort Worth. He doesn't duck any story.

"Our responsibility is to report the news, not make friends," he says. "Our job is to cover the news in a fair and impartial manner. To do that, you are going to make some people mad, namely elected officials."

To maintain the paper's integrity and avoid conflicts of interest, Eaton instituted two policies years back. "First, we do not report misdemeanor arrests or charges," he says. "Everyone is going to make a mistake now and then. We do report felonies. Secondly, no staff member can run for public office or serve on any board that has the final authority to spend tax dollars. We instituted that policy after an employee was appointed to the tax appraisal board."

See Page 2, "POWER"



Workers were busy Saturday pouring cement for the floors of a new car-truck wash being constructed by Jack Spears. The site is on Cowboy Way, next door to Anne's Mini-Mart. Spears said the facility will have two large wash bays, one tall enough to accommodate full size trucks and tractors, and new equipment throughout.

U.S. Supreme Court Agrees To Hear Prayer Case

The Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA) recently sent the following release to Jim Haynes, Plains ISD Superintendent; The U.S. Supreme Court announced this week that it will consider the appeal of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in *Doe v. Santa Fe ISD*. The Supreme Court is limiting its consideration to the single issue of whether or not Santa Fe ISD's policy permitting student led, student initiated prayer at football games violates the Establishment Clause of the U.S.

Constitution.

The Court taking up the appeal means that it will confront the prayer issue directly. The resulting decision will finally provide authoritative direction to every school district in Texas, hopefully by the beginning of next school year.

TASA, through the Legal Assistance Fund, will be filing a "friend of the court" brief in support of Santa Fe ISD's position that student led, student initiated prayer at football games does not violate the Constitution.

WEATHER

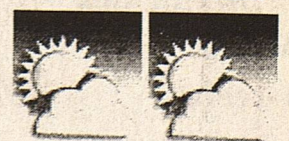
WEDNESDAY THURSDAY



40S 50S

Low 27 Low 23

FRIDAY SATURDAY



60S 60S

Low 30 Low 39

Brrrr at last!

**From Page 1,
"Power"**

Brothers Jim and John Tracy, third generation owners of the *San Patricio County News* in Sinton, didn't sidestep stories either, no matter the cost.

"I had a couple of friends from high school, and their son was busted for drugs," Jim says. "I had to run his name in a list of indictments. The mother didn't talk to me for more than a year. Another friend's dad was charged with the murder of his wife, my friend's mother. I was offered bribes if I didn't run the story and threatened if I did. We published it anyway. You have to. You have to maintain the integrity of your paper. If you start picking and choosing, then readers will say, 'Who are they gonna leave out this week?'"

Publisher Sam Keach (who gave me my first paying job as a reporter in 1978) likens his paper in nearby Robstown, *The Nueces County Record Star*, to a family newsletter, filled with accounts of the past week. Despite the down-home comparison, Keach has faced his share of tough decisions.

"I go by 'When in doubt, leave it out,' while others might argue, 'when in doubt, put it in,' he muses. "But you have to balance the public's right to know and what's best for the community. Those two things are often in conflict. Sometimes I ask myself, 'Does the public need to know this?'"

One of Keach's most memorable challenges came in 1970 when he went up against city council members who were conducting business behind closed doors. In a dramatic move, he ran a huge headline across the top of a news story (with his byline). It began "City fathers Monday....." and ended with "..... the meeting was adjourned." More than 30 inches of nothing filled the space between the two brief

sentences. A fiery editorial, headlined "A stinky situation," ran on the page's bottom half. The edition won Keach a national award but cost him several friendships.

"The mayor lived only four doors down from us," Keach remembers. "He and the city attorney didn't speak to me for several years."

"Some think small town journalism has to be objective and you can't get involved," he adds. "But we're fooling ourselves if we think we can do that. We couldn't survive and publish a paper in a small town if we did."

Laurie Ezell Brown, editor of *The Canadian Record*, believes a strong newspaper is vital to a community. Thus, she spends a lot of time on the streets, talking with people and understanding the local issues. Some of the stories she encounters go in the paper; some don't.

"It's a judgement call, and there's 800 of those a day," she says. "I know I don't make the right decision everytime, but I try. I've never shied away from taking on difficult issues. It's easy to write a strong editorial about what's going on in Washington D.C., but it's much harder - and more vital - to write a strong editorial about what's happening in Canadian, Hemphill County or the Panhandle."

Case in point: Brown's investigation a few years ago of a new business, an oil filter recycling center, being recruited by the Economic Development Council. "One day a council member asked me what I knew about this business," Brown recalls. "I did some research, and it consumed me after awhile. I found out it was an oil filter incineration facility, which is different from a recycling center. I made a report to the council that blew the lid off

everything."

Brown's findings made a lot of people in town mad. They also led to the council director's resignation. "The good part was we helped recruit a woman from the community to take his place," Brown says. "She's doing a great job, like promoting nature tourism, which doesn't destroy what we love about this place, the natural beauty."

That chilly November night one year ago in Blanco, two elderly women, longtime friends and neighbors, crossed Main Street after Christmas light festivities on the square. They never reached the other side. An oncoming car struck them. They were taken by helicopter to San Antonio hospitals, where they later died.


The driver, a 75 year old woman, had been taking her own family to see the lights. She simply hadn't seen the two women in time to avoid hitting them.

Yes, I knew those two Blanco women. And yes, I wrote the news story for the next week's newspaper. I interviewed the police, talked with family members, and later, the driver. The following week, I covered a town meeting at the old Blanco Courthouse, where more than 25 residents talked about preventing a similar tragedy.

I also attended both funerals. I had to. I wanted to. Because something pulled me there. A need to pray. A want to share. A wish to be a part of Blanco's unfolding story.

* From CCN Editor: This article tells a lot about small town papers everywhere.

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Alfalfa	496.9
CRP	76,181.5
Dried Peas	334.5
Fallow	1,768.0
Grapes	36.7
Guar	268.8
Millet	60.0
Mung Beans	1,162.2
Oats	546.0
Onions	92.7
Peaches	25.0
Chile	845.8
Peanuts	21,037.3
Corn	159.9
Rye	5,297.4
Potatoes	112.0
Sunflower	6,383.1
Sorghum	12,753.2
Soybean	84.0
Spinach	45.8
Haygrazer	1,580.5
Triticale	217.0
Turnips	75.0
Cotton	140,345.5
Watermelons	4,665.2
Wheat	13,547.9
Greens	301.8
Carrots	110.0
Pumpkins	462.5

Data from Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District

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Lea County Electric rates lowest in Texas

Residential rates in Plains, Texas are among the very lowest in the state of Texas according to a recent analysis of electric rates by the Public Utility Commission of Texas. The Commission's calculations are based on charges by various investor-owned, municipal and cooperative electric utilities in Texas for monthly residential bills of 500 and 1,000 kilowatts-hours. According to Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative, the supplier of electric power for residents of

the City of Plains, the Cooperative's charges compared favorably to those of its wholesale power provider, Southwestern Public Service. "We were only \$.31 higher than SPS on the 500 KWH bill, and \$1.73 lower than SPS for the 1,000 KWH usage in October. Our board is pleased to report these figures as representative of the Cooperative's continued commitment to providing the best value in retail power to our Texas members," said Dreyspring.

Card of Thanks

A sincere thank you! To say that we are devastated by the loss of our beloved grandson is inadequate. Our hearts are broken. However we are blessed to live in the community of Plains where our friends and neighbors care deeply. Our hearts are warmed by your outpouring of love. You are wonderful folks and your prayers, love and concern help to carry us through these dark days. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts for your loving concern. For all the prayers offered on our behalf, for the beautiful flowers and cards, the telephone calls, the memorials, the delicious food and comforting visits, we thank you. Sincere thanks also to those who traveled so many miles to be with us at Elijah's funeral. You are truly a blessing to us. Your love eases our pain and we know that your prayers lift us up to the Lord who will heal our hearts. You are a wonderful, caring community and we will never be able to thank you enough for all you have done and for all you mean to us. We pray that the Lord will richly bless each and every one of you. With much love,
Don and Pat Hinkle and family.

County Court Cases

Two cases were heard November 17, 1999 in County Court with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Juan Carlos Verdugo, Jr., a/k/a Juan Verdugo, Jr. pled true in a plea bargain to State's Motion to Revoke Community Supervision on a driving while licenses suspended offense. Defendant must serve 30 days in jail with credit for 24 served; pay delinquent fees of \$450.00 for fine and \$530.00 for Community Supervision fees.

Policarpio Casarez a/k/a Poly Casarez and Policarpio Cazares in a plea bargain pled guilty to resisting arrest. He was sentenced to Community Supervision for 11 1/2 months; pay court costs of \$184.25; pay a fine of \$750.00; pay Restitution of \$160.00 to William Gardner and \$40.00 to Tracy Hinson. He must successfully complete the Batterer's Intervention Prevention Program. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

County Officials Booklet Offers Interesting Reading

Precinct 3 commissioner Jim Barron recently loaned CCN a historical review of the County Judges and Commissioners Association of Texas. Barron has served separate terms of office as President of the association, 1989-90, and 1995-96.

Early history of the association is sketchy. The booklet states the first organizational meeting was held in 1922 a

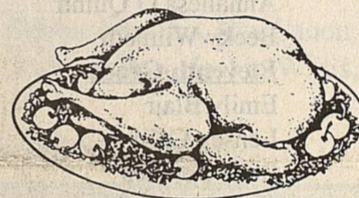
quick read of publication makes clear the underlying reasons for the association being; "The CJCA came to be recognized not alone for benefits to the counties, but also as the best possible safeguard against needless and foolish legislation from Austin."

In the CJCA January, 1929 meeting a committee prepared a committee prepared the following demands for the state Legislature then in session; A tax increase to four cents per gallon on gasoline, and authorization for counties to return the first \$50,000 collected from fees and licenses on motor vehicles.

In 1930, the association passed resolution requested "that state land be taxed for benefit of county and local school purposes," and a request for the "legislature to submit to a general vote a raise in the general fund tax rate from 25 cents to 35 cents per \$100."

In 1931, a long drawn out battle by the association succeeded in the legislature approving organizing Loving County, the last county in the state to come into its own, and the county's 195 voters chose Mentone as county seat.

In 1933, the CJCA won a major battle with the state which in effect provides "the power to thoroughly, accurately and, comprehensively supervise all the business of the county," on county home rule. The authority to govern counties at that point rested with Commissioners Court.



PISD To Hold Equipment Auction

Plains ISD has contracted with Ken Petris' Auction Service at Clovis, NM to conduct an auction of used school equipment. The auction will be held December 7, 1999, in Clovis, NM. The following items will be offered:

47-IBM computers
10-Apple computers
7-Televisions
20-Overhead projectors
2-C.P.U.'s (big computers)
Clothes washer
Cedar wardrobe
8-Chalk boards
5-Copy Machines
Antique player piano (damaged)
4-Chemical dispensing stations
3-Cafeteria tray carts (aluminum)
3-Rollaway book shelves
2-Teacher desks (1-wood, 1-steel)
Large projection television
1-Set D.R.'s scales

"Maico" hearing tester
Maple/plywood, semi round sales counter
4-Rectangular tables
Books
4-sections of lockers
1-Set metal shelving
24-Boxes-"NAP-LAM" laminated material
Refrigerated reach in milk box w/lockable doors
Slide projector
Record player w/carring case
2-Office chairs
2-Wood benches
3-4'x6' rectangular tables for groups of computers
2-5' round tables

From Page 1, "Court"

necessary to appoint a temporary Justice of Peace under certain circumstances, when both of the county's JP's were out of town at the same time. In the past, the Judge could handle inquest and autopsy requests when both Justices weren't present, but now, a definite

appointment must be made upon each occurrence of the absence. The appointed replacement must also be compensated for his time, at the daily rate equal to the JP's daily salary based on a 365 day year. The court approved compensation for an appointed JP at the rate of \$85 per day.

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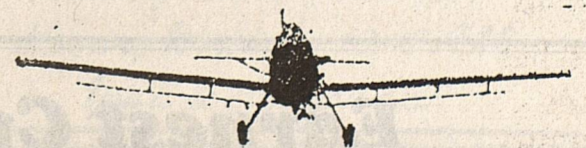
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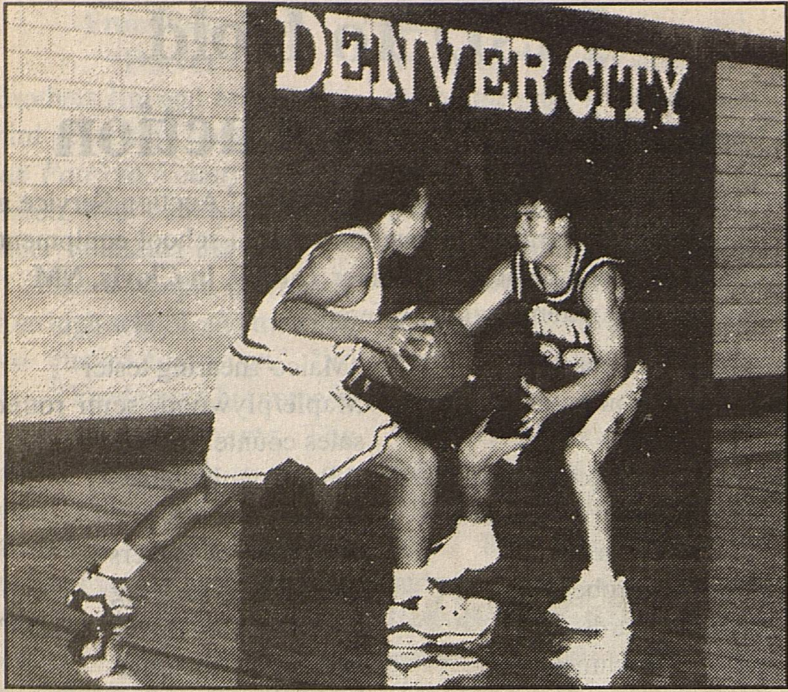
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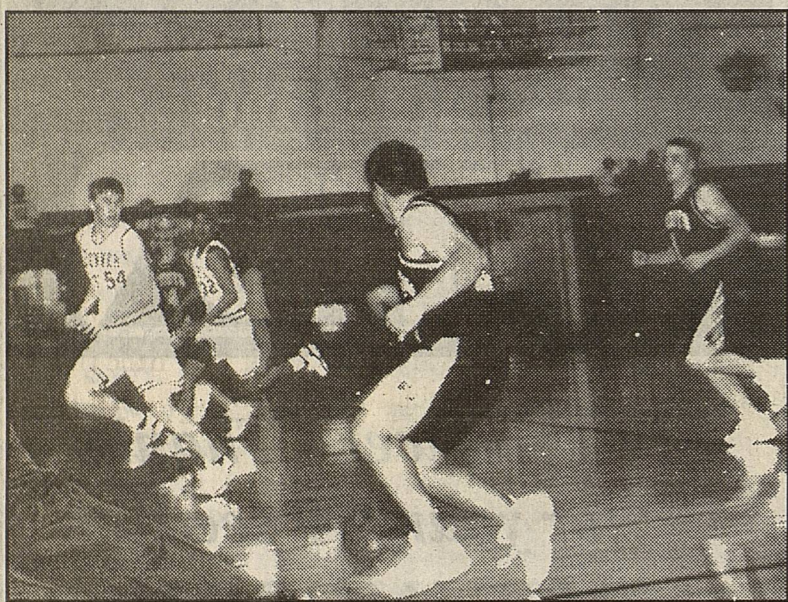
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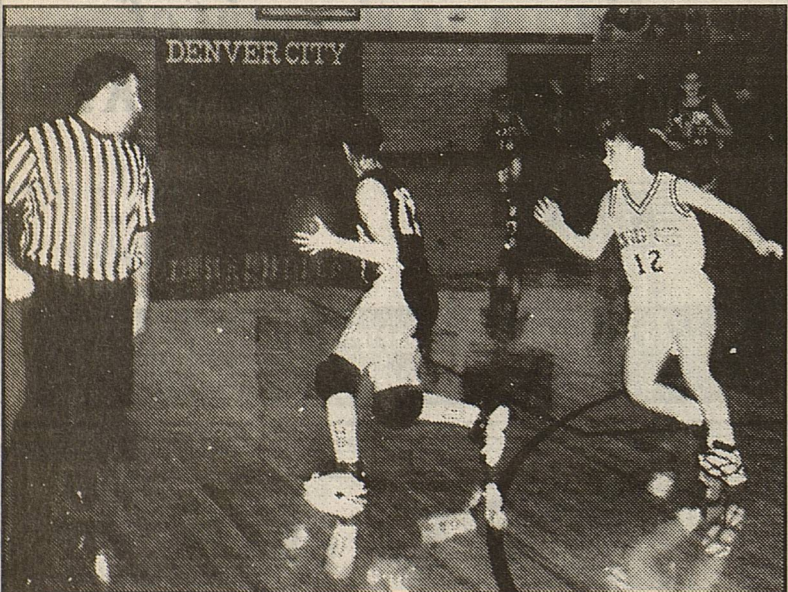
Moises Gonzales defends under JV Mustang basket



Tanya Vasquez goes after ball, Krystle Blundell comes up to help



Joseph Rodriguez about to pounce on loose ball at his feet



Kristen Gray tries to maneuver ball around a Denver City Filly

PISD Basketball Recap

Jr. High:

7th Girls - The 7th Lady Wranglers competed in the Whiteface Tournament last week. They met and defeated Anton 26-16 in their first match. Sandra Gandara took scoring honors with 8 points. They found Lockney too tough, and were downed 33-15. Jamie Covarrubias managed 6 points to lead the scoring. In their final match, they fell to Whiteface 27-10, and Mayra Flores managed 4 points.

JV Cowgirls- The younger Cowgirls lost a heart breaker to Denver City, 56-55. They were down by five points most of the game, and almost pulled it out in the final period. Chelsi Wagnon and Chelsea Blount shared scoring honors with 15 each, and along with Mandi Rogers were cited for their hustle and free throw shots. Roosevelt proved too tough for the girls, losing 53-40. Kayla Willis and Chelsea Blount were top scorers with 10 each, Arasley Luna had 6 points and a good rebounding game. Varsity Cowgirls. In their season opener, the Cowgirls were felled by Denver City 39-27. Candace Bowers scored 13 points, had 5 rebounds, Anne Palmer and Krystle Blundell had 3 steals. Other scorers were, Krystle, 4, Kristen Gray 3, Lexi Warren 3, Annaliesa O'Quinn 2, Michaela Traweek 1. The Cowgirls were downed 59-27 by a good Roosevelt team. Kristen Gray had 10 points, Krystle and Tanya Vasquez had 4 each. Coach Newland said it wasn't one of their better games, but was optimistic they would come back stronger.

JV Cowboys- The young Cowboys showed lots of hustle in their opening loss to Denver City, 56-49. Jarod Newland managed 15 points, and David Luna had 14. They had a good game against Roosevelt, coming out on top 66-64. David led scoring with 20 points, Jarod 16, Moises Gonzales 13, and Joseph Rodriguez 10.

Varsity Cowboys- The Cowboys opened strong, downing Denver City 62-45. Dustin Six and Patrick McGinty had 13 points each, Justin Bennett and Brett Squyres 10 each, Kelsey Blundell 5, Josh and Jared Bell 4 each, Fermin Luna 2, Aaron Cain 1. They next routed Roosevelt 66-49. Alex Tarango and Dustin were top scorers with 12 each, Jared had 11, Patrick 9, Brett and Fermin 8 each, Kelsey 3, Josh 2, Justin 1.

High School

'A' Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Sandra Gallegos

Jill Gray

Tenth Grade

Ragan McGinty

Annaliesa O'Quinn

Becky Wilmeth

Eleventh Grade

Emily Blair

Lensey Cullins

Roxy Fuentes

Kari Gutersloh

Nicole Haynes

Kimbe Jones

Eric Nixon

Lesli Rowe

Elva Ruiz

Lexi Warren

Twelfth Grade

Krystle Blundell

Candace Bowers

Velvet Canada

Leticia Canon

Jessica Flores

David Granados

Kristen Gray

Wendy Hernandez

Chris Leggett

Brenda Lozano

Patrick McGinty

Laura Morales

Nicole Newsom

Anne Palmer

Patty Ruiz

Kyle Sisson

Jason Swann

Staci Tuggle

'A'-1B' Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Jordan Bean

Mario Bonilla

Krystal Gonzalez

Joshua Salazar

Kayla Willis

Liz Wilmeth

Tenth Grade

Allison Butler

Arasely Luna

Eleventh Grade

Aaron Cain

Joel Gallegos

Amanda Garcia

Armando Luna

Twelfth Grade

Joshua Bell

Elizabeth Casillas

Isaac Gonzalez

Fermin Luna

Jeremy Ponce

Math/Science 'sweeps' again

The PHS Math/Science won sweepstakes awards again at Van Horn last Saturday, winning the Class A - AAA division. Number Sense and Calculator teams finished first, and the math and science teams finished in second place. Individual results included: Freshmen- Jordan Bean 6th NS, 2nd Cal., 5th Math, 1st Sci. Jill Gray 1st NS, 1st Cal, 2nd Math, 6th Sci.

Sophomores- Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 3rd Cal, 4th Math, 4th Sci.

Juniors- Amanda Garcia 4th NS, 5th Sci.

Seniors- Kristen Gray 1st NS, 1st Cal, 1st Math, 1st Sci, 1st Physics, 1st Chem.

Student of the Week



This weeks student of the week is Mario Bonilla a freshman and the son of Francis Bonilla and Jose Silos. Mario was nominated by Mr. Williams who said, "Mario Bonilla is a hard working and studious freshman. He realizes that he is in control of his education and exhibits the motivation to succeed and make the most of his time here at PHS."

Cowboys on All-District Teams

The following Cowboys were honored with nominations to the 3 - AA District Football Team;

Alex Tarango, 1st team offense and (*) defense tackle.

Josh Bell, 1st team (*) Line backer, 2nd team fullback.

David Luna, 1st team (*) offense receiver, (*) defense secondary.

Colt Winn, 2nd team tight end, defensive end.

Jeremy Morphis, 2nd team center.

Jared Bell, 1st team offense back.

Hon. Mention- Kyle Sisson, QB, Skyler Johnson OT,

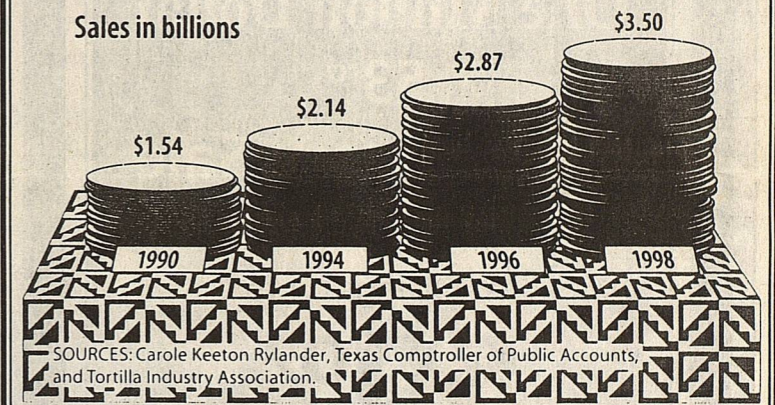
Fermin Luna D-Sec, Joel Gallegos, LB

* - Unanimous selection

Not a flat market

Tortilla sales in the U.S. grew from \$1,540 billion in 1990 to more than \$3.5 billion in 1998.

Sales in billions



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Tortilla Industry Association.



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Wedding Shower Held



Mrs. Chris Ballard, nee Krystal Sellers, was honored with a wedding shower on Sunday, November 7, 1999 in the Heritage Room of the Yoakum County Library. Pictured left to right; Lisa Ballard of Roswell, NM, groom's sister; Shandi Sellers, bride's sister and Tammy Sellers, mother of the honoree, both of Plains; Joyce Gatewood of Denver City, grandmother of the bride; the honoree; Betty Land and Martha Sellers, both of Denver City, grandmothers of the honoree; seated is Mary Hicks of Seminole, great grandmother of the bride.

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Senior Citizens Corner

Wednesday's Pool Tournament was mostly Denver City contestants. Lovington was a bit short of players. In the men's games 8 ball first place was won by Guy Williams, second place Sparky. 9 ball first place Thurman Myers, second place Hoot Gibson. First place in the women's games in 8 ball was won by Inez Turner, second place Ireta Davis. First place in 9 ball was won by Betty ?, second place Inez Turner.

Today (Thursday) is our Thanksgiving Turkey Day with all the trimmings and the dining room all decked out for company. A nice crowd is expected.

Mrs. Scott is in the local hospital for tests. Laverne Clevenger is home and doing well following surgery.

The real Thanksgiving Day is next week and we wish all a safe and Happy Day.

See you next week,
Smitty

Garden Club Meets

The Plains Garden Club met Tuesday November 16, 1999 in the clubroom for their monthly meeting, with President Jackie Willis presiding.

The project of planting tree's in the cemetery has been completed. The club will remove the underbrush and trim the foliage.

Operation Christmas Card will be sponsored again this year. Anyone wishing to donate may contact Ita Young at 456-8811, or any Garden Club member.

A Christmas Show and Tell was the feature program, with Kay Canon directing. Each member brought something they made and described how it was constructed.

The next meeting will be December 14, 1999 at the home of Deanie Richardson.

Those attending the meeting were; Debbie Morphis, Kay Canon, Velma Dearing, Mary Lou Parks, Ruby Sellers, Jackie Willis, and Deanie Richardson.

HINT: It's time to select and plant tulips and pansies.

Wedding Announced



Zachery and Darian wish to announce the joining of their family. Their parents, Javier (Harvey) Lazos and Shannon Squyres were united in marriage on October 23, 1999.

Melba Crutcher officiated, with Jimmy Gomez as the best man, and Chad Cline, cousin of the bride, as the man of honor. Zachery was the ring bearer, and Darian the flower girl.

Javier is the son of Oscar and Irma Lazos of Plains. Shannon is the daughter of Newell and Peggy Squyres of Plains and granddaughter of Fred and Ruby Squyres of Wellington.

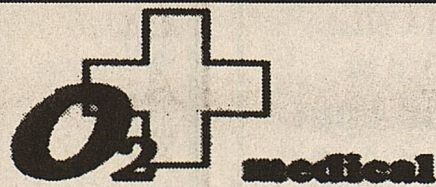
The couple want to thank everyone who helped make the day so special, especially Steve and Melissa Crump for the use of their beautiful pond.

Filmtime

Thanksgiving was the focus of the Filmtime Program on November 17, 1999 at the Yoakum County Library. The game, "Duck, Duck, Goose" was followed by the pledges to the United States and Texas flags. The group enjoyed singing "I'm a Little Teapot", "If You're Happy and You Know It", "Old Macdonald Had a Farm", and "One Little, Two Little, Three Little Turkeys." Everyone sang "Happy Birthday" to Marina Corrales who is five and Iris Mejia who will be three next week.

The book *Why We Have Thanksgiving* was read with a discussion about the things we eat at a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. A video, *Thanksgiving*, from the Holidays for Children Series, was shown. The children made a colorful Thanksgiving turkey to take home. The children attending were: Marina Corrales, Percy, Ysidra and Sieana Sosa, Evan Robles, Colby Bearden, Lucas Hernandez, Matthew and Aaron Ramos, Ruby Carrillo, Macy Banfield, Micah St. Romain, Merrit Crump, Iris and Kevin Mejia, Whitney and Johnathan Davis, and Clayton Gass. The Dairy Queen gave a coupon for ice cream to each of the children.

**Yoakum County Connection
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From The Hack

I must grudgingly admit, there are a few nice Doctors and Lawyers scattered around the world. I must also admit I know very few of them. The only nice ones I am vaguely familiar with have never charged me money; make that much money

I now have to further admit, there may be a few - very few - exceptions to my observation.

Paul New, the Very Senior member of the county's Counselor crew, comes very close to qualifying for my "Nice" award, and would be a shoe-in if he would just stop spitting Beech Nut on my white golf shoes and trousers. I am only saying this semi-nice thing about Paul because I believe in treating my elders better than they treat me - Grandma taught me that. Also, he occasionally allows me to sign a legal note when my golf losses outnumber my cash reserves.

Doctors fill a similar category. 'Good Uns' are few and far between, when it comes to a satisfactory working relationship under serious conditions. In September, I wrote of Surgeon Dr. Gordon chopping out a major size cyst from my back. Actually, I had other cysts on my forehead and back, but Doc Gordon said they should come later. Later was last Wednesday.

This knife wielding surgeon is a small, quiet talking, kind, and gentle man - until he is poised above your body, ready to whack away and transform the shape of your exterior flesh.

He took out the needle, smiling gently, said, "This first stick may sting"-and proceeded to jab me 14 times about three inches deep.

I honestly believe Doc Gordon was low on tools and had to rely on a grubbing hoe to get the back cyst dug out. He was actually cheery sounding when

he told me to flop over, "For the next marvelous adventure on your forehead", the site of my last offending ugly cyst.

Doctor peered intently, called his assistant for weapons of war I didn't recognize, and comfortingly told me, "OK, here we go, I'm gonna have to hurt you again, and I'm sorry, but this time, please try to control your theatric screams, and do not threaten to grab me in highly sensitive areas if I hurt you too much - remember, I hold the knife!"

Man, that will get your attention. Now, believe me, the following is Gospel, pure Gospel truth. He sliced and whacked, probed and tugged, and then in his soft voice I heard him mutter, "Hmmm ... this is strange". A few more whacks, chops, pulls, and he breathes, "Hmmm... real strange". I am now almost paranoid, and gasp, "What's so strange?"

By now, Doc Gordon is panting, puffing, sweating on me, and I sense doom. "What is it, Doc?", I manage to gasp.

He too is panting now, trying to pull part of me through myself, and he gasps, "I've never seen a cyst like this - (pant, puff) - I have no clue what it is - (pant, puff) - OOOOhhhh, this is messy... there's stuff coming out of it've never seen before... oh, My God, Mr. Dyer, I hope I'm not removing part of your brain!"

I managed to gasp, "Pretty doubtful, Doc, there's not much up there anyhow."

I wasn't very comforted seconds later when Doc Gordon panted, "Nurse, get this off to pathology immediately I have to know for sure if it's brain matter or some sort of grey putty - mark it urgent".

It's been another good week.

I may win a Pulitzer for the following revelation:

EXTRA! Scandal In Church House! Sheriff Deputies Bribe Local Minister!

In last Sunday morning church services at First Baptist here, Pastor Bill Wright, overly full of the Thanksgiving spirit, exhorted the congregation to "Get, up, go greet and welcome

someone. Give them a smile and handshake! If you're a bit shy about this, just pick out someone you think looks most like a Thanksgiving turkey!"

In the blink of an eye, two clowns sitting directly in front of me whirled around, grinning like demented fiends, and al-

most pumped both my hands off. The pair are ostensibly on the county payroll as deputies, one Jerry Howard and Larry Murphree.

Their sneaky deed didn't go unnoticed by those on our side of the building, and if anyone did fail to catch their act,

Brother Bill brought them up to speed when he got back on the PA system and announced, "Well, there wasn't much doubt about who won the most graphic turkey award.... a couple of guys had Gary Dyer picked out almost before I made my announcement!"

I had to grin and bear the following guffaws, but after the services, a kind little old lady

sidled up to me and whispered, "Oh, you poor man! You should know, I saw those two corner Brother Bill in the hall, and I saw them both slip him twenty dollar bills! Goes to prove I've been right all these years... you can't trust either one of them, and Bill Wright will do ANYTHING for a fast buck!"

Take That, all three of you!

Request For Bids On Texas Highway Construction

Sealed proposals for 225.233 mi. of seal coat on US 87, FM 1914, SH 214, US 385, SH 114, US 180, FM 54, FM 1313, FM 2008, FM 1767, FM 3183, FM 597, FM 2130, FM 303, FM 41, FM 400, US 60, SH 86, and SH 214 covered by CPM 68-4-29, CPM 68-4-29, CPM 1750-2-6, CPM461-7-11, CPM 227-1-21, CPM 130-2-18, CPM 295-1-20, CPM 563-7-5, CPM 453-10-12, CPM 2108-2-8, CPM 1750-1-9, CPM 2691-1-4, CPM 3272-1-4, CPM 1291-6-5, CPM 1630-1-11, CPM 820-1-20, CPM 645-1-14, CPM 1041-3-5, CPM 1041-4-7, CPM 1055-1-9, CPM 453-11-5, CPM 168-1-24, CPM 302-4-17, CPM 461-5-8, and CPM 461-8-17 in Dawson, Hale, Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Floyd, Garza, Hockley, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Parmer, Swisher, and Yoakum County, will be received at the Texas Department of Transportation, 200 E. Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas, until 1:00 P.M., December 7, 1999, and then publicly opened and read. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that the sealed proposal arrives at the above location and is in the hands of the letting official, by the specified deadline regardless of the method chosen by the bidder for delivery.

Plans and specifications, including minimum wage rates as provided by Law, are available for inspection at the office of Steven Perez, Area Engineer, Littlefield, Texas, and at the Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas. Bidding proposals are to be requested from the Construction Division, 200 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704-1205. Plans are available through commercial printers in Austin, Texas at the expense of the bidder.

The Texas Department of Transportation hereby notifies all bidders that it will insure that bidders will not be discriminated against on the ground of race, color, sex or national origin, in having full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation, and in consideration for an award.

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Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

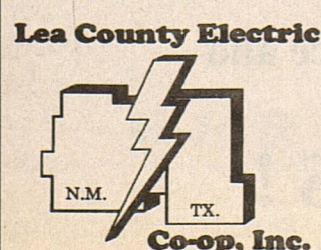
will offer the following vehicles for sealed bid:

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330	1992 Chevy 1/2 Ton, V6, Auto, 4X4
352	1978 Intl. Model 2575, 13 speed, 290 HP

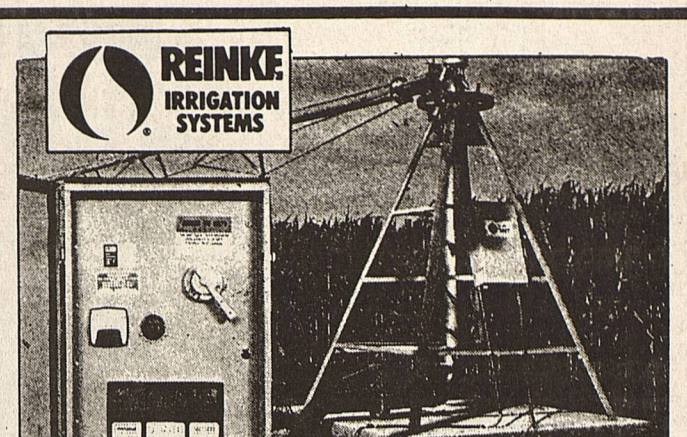
All vehicles may be seen at Lea County Electric Plant Yard in Lovington between 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Please contact Butch Taylor at 396-3631 ext. 101 for an appointment to view the vehicles.

Bid Forms may be picked up at Cooperative's main office in Lovington or at district offices in Tatum or Plains. 10% of bid must be enclosed (check or money order). All Bids must be either hand delivered or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. on Dec. 3rd, 1999. Unsuccessful bids will be returned by mail -- LCEC has the right to reject any and all bids for any reason. Board Members and employees of LCEC are prohibited from submitting bids.

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.



Michael A. Dreyspring, General Manager
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