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Cowboy Country News



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

Volume VI, Issue 16, January 5, 2000

Local office seekers make last minute filing deadline

Political business picked up in the Yoakum County Clerk's office just prior to the last filing deadline for those seeking election or re-election in the coming March Primaries.

Early Friday morning, local Suann Parrish registered as a Republican candidate for the office of Tax Collector/Assessor, hoping to replace Wanda Smith, who earlier announced her plans to step down at the end of her term in December. Parrish will appear on the Republican Primary Election Ballot.

Last week local ag producer Terry Davis signed up as a Republican candidate for the Precinct 3 County Commissioner. He hopes to replace retiring Commissioner Jim Barron.

Late Friday evening, just prior to the official 6 P.M. deadline, Eddie Coker, longtime employee of the Denver City School District, filed as a Republican candidate, running against incumbent Commis-

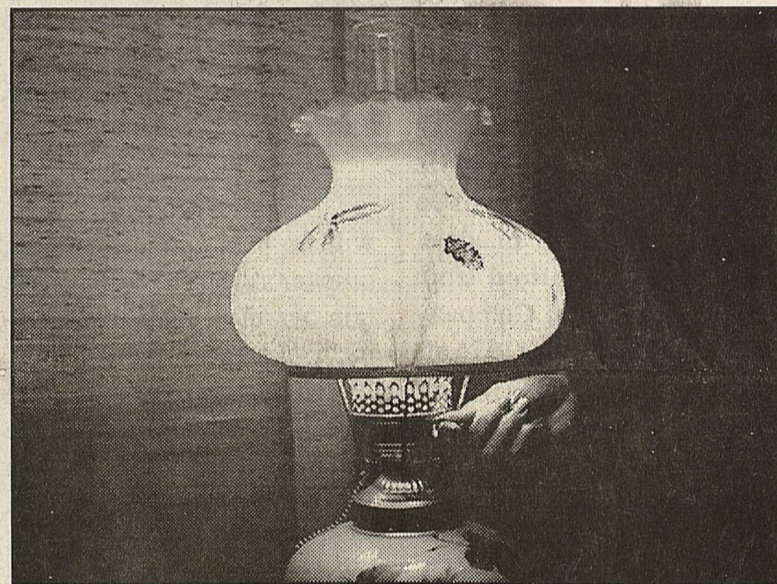
sioner Woodie Lindsey. Barely minutes later, Jeffrey Lowrey, a local ag producer, filed as a Democrat candidate for the Tax Collector/Assessor office. Betty Rivas, a clerk in the office, had earlier filed as a Democrat candidate for the position.

In other recent political filings, former Deputy Sheriff Don Corzine of Denver City, filed as a Republican, hoping to unseat incumbent Democrat candidate Sheriff Jim Rice. Corzine is a former Sheriff Deputy and employee of the Denver City Police Department.

Earlier, local Dene Rafferty had filed to seek re-election as Constable of Precinct 1., while Don Sefcik was the only candidate for the Precinct 2 spot.

Early voting for the Democrat and Republican primary elections start February 28, and run through March 10. The election day is Tuesday, March 14.

The long awaited, much bal-lyhooped, fearfully predicted arrival of Year 2000 has come and gone. Amazingly, to some, the world continues to spin in the correct orbit, and the ground didn't part to swallow us all when the equally overplayed crystal ball descended in Times Square at the stroke of midnight... what's



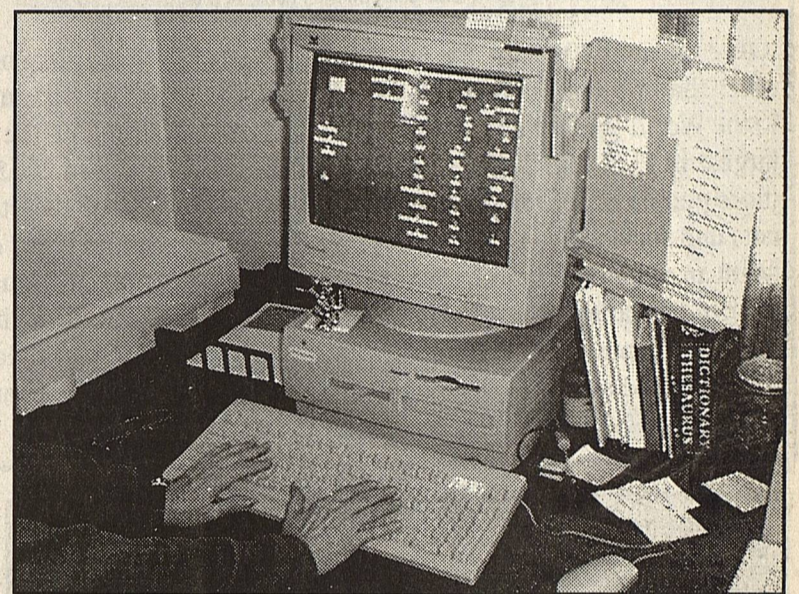
We still have electricity

correct, midnight, or New Year's Day?

While true it may be many days, weeks, even months before we know the full outcome of predicted computer disaster events are all tallied, it is fairly clear the predicted electronic Armageddon was not the disaster millions of people were predicting and dreading.

Y2K in Yoakum County.....

Ho Hum!

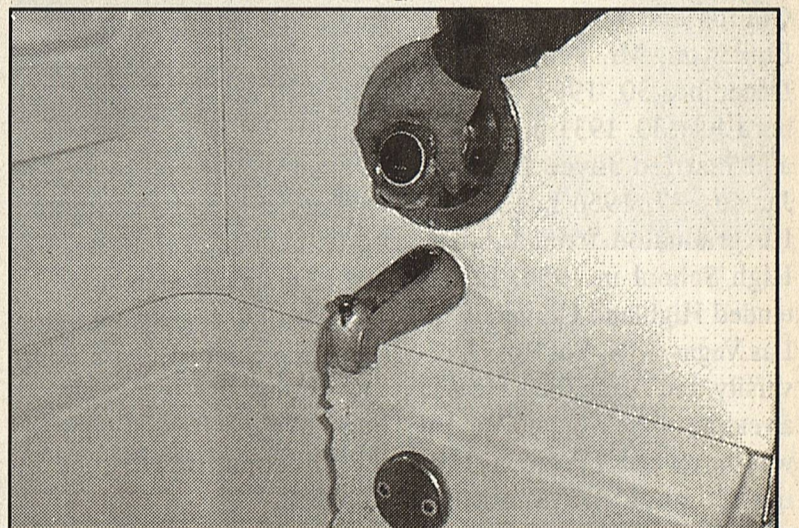


12:07 AM January 1, 2000 - the computer still works

Here in our quiet hamlet, the New Year was welcomed with what most expected - quiet, and no known disastrous events. For several months prior to the "date of destiny", all local entities furnishing necessary community services had reported they were ready for Y2K; Lea County Electric,

source of electric power for most of the county, had issued statements detailing steps the Cooperative had taken to ensure no outages resulting from Y2K computer glitches.

The City of Plains had described it's efforts to tell residents they were confident utility services, particularly gas



Water is still flowing - Life is good!

bill of health. Virtually every business firm in the county, and most individual computer owners, consulted with electronic experts, making sure their systems would survive the dreaded Y2K Bugaboo.

To our knowledge, they, we, all survived - we continue to have power, water, all utilities, all services, the TV still works, radios still function, food deliveries continue, bills continue to come in - it's life as usual, in the New Millennium!

Help us solve this mystery !

We want to know who these folks are

Where in the world is Tokio, Texas?



The photo above was scanned and copied from The October 29, 1999 issue of *The Dallas Morning News*. It was featured this size in an advertisement promoting the 2000 - 2001 Millennium Edition Texas Almanac, which is published by the News.

The advertisement reads in part, "we're especially proud to include an invaluable treasure for fact collectors, genealogists and historians alike; a list of 14,000 Texas town names - ghost towns as well as existing towns....."

A call to the News produced no information as

to the identity of the people in the photo, and the handwritten notation on the photo, 'Tokio 1914' continues to intrigue us. A trip to the library proved fruitless. A quick search in "Early Settlers of Terry - A History of Terry County" contained nothing resembling the photo, nor did a similar publication, "A History of Gomez, Texas".

If any of our readers can identify any of the six individuals pictured, and tell us anything about their history, we will appreciate hearing from you.

and water, would not be interrupted by electronic problems, and of emergency plans in case unforeseen events managed to take place.

Our School District spent extensive time, effort and funds in having expert inspection of their entire power, computer and electronic processing systems, plus their systems providers, to ensure they were compatible with the coming of Year 2000.

The county itself had it's entire spectrum of facilities and systems analyzed, inspected, and certified as Y2K compliant. Yoakum County Hospital, including it's local clinic, underwent the same scrutiny by analysts, and emerged with a clean

Top CCN Features Of 1999

A quick browse through the archives of Cowboy Country News for the year 1999 produced reminders of some interesting events affecting our citizens.

State Representative Gary Walker was honored when he was chosen to deliver the nominating address for Pete Laney's re-election as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives.

Walker said in part, "Speaker Laney has known all along it doesn't matter whether you have a D or R in front of your name. To Pete, what matters is, you represent your constituents to the best of your ability. In this

House, the aisle down the middle doesn't separate Democrats from Republicans. It's where we come together to debate and share ideas."

A very important event for all residents of Plains was securing badly needed additional water. The City of Plains purchased Section 423, some 3.5 miles west of town. Three good water wells were drilled, a large, 100,000 gallon storage tank was constructed at the site, and a 12 inch PVC pipeline was laid to tie into the city's distribution system. When the valves were opened the first week of May, an additional 750 gallons of water per minute

assured residents and businesses of adequate water for years to come.

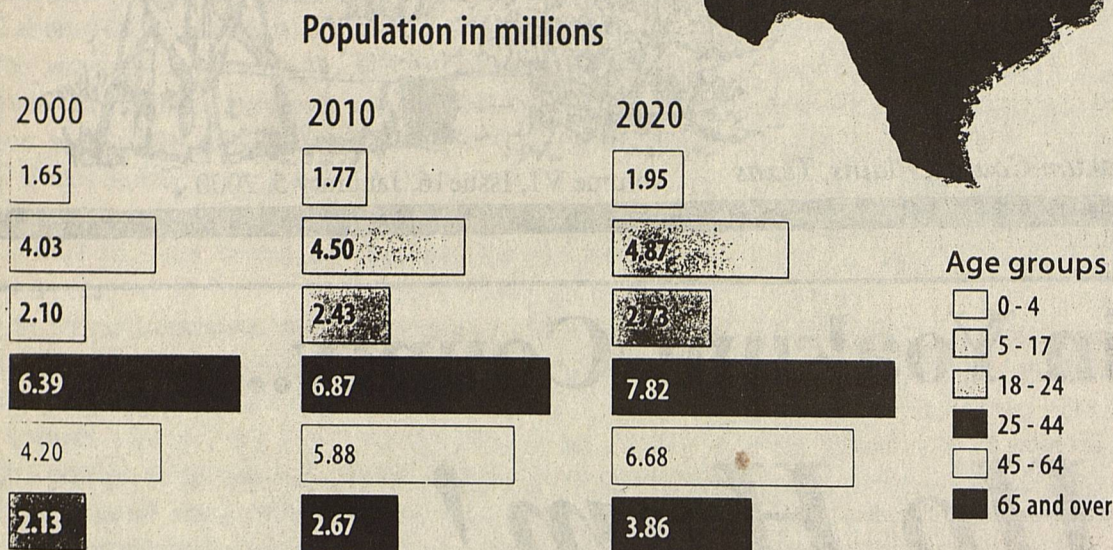
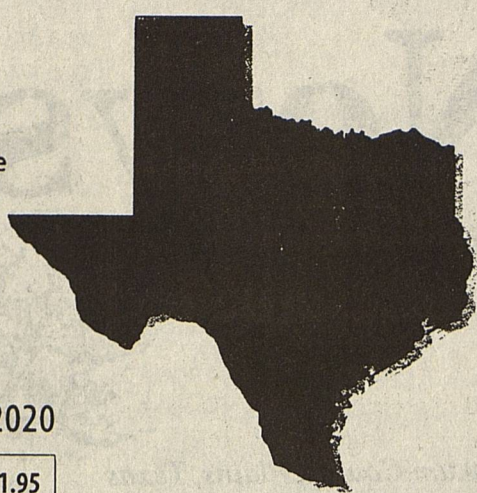
With the participation of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, Yoakum County became part of the Central Southern High Plains Rainfall Enhancement, along with Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Hale, Hockley, Lubbock, Lamb, Lynn, Parmer and Terry Counties. Contracted, radar guided aircraft successfully seeded clouds in the area to enhance rainfall and suppress damaging hail storms. In 2000, a cloud seeding plane

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Greyer Texans in 21st Century

Young at Heart in Texas

While Texans aged 25-44 will continue to make up the largest portion of the state's population from 2000 to 2020, the number of Texans age 65 and older will grow 81 percent over the next 20 years.



SOURCE: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Over the next 20 years, the number of Texans older than 65 will increase 85 percent, thanks to the World War II babyboom generations, the largest in U.S. and Texas history. This means more people of retirement age and more products and services geared towards them.

With an older population, there will be a growing need for alternative housing, transportation and health care.

There will be more Texans overall in 2020. The population will grow 36 percent over the next

20 years, reaching nearly 28 million two decades into the new millennium.

Nationally, the older population will grow 78 percent by 2025.

Most of the state's population will be in its urban crescent covering Dallas, San Antonio, Austin and Houston; the Hill Country, because of growth in the retiree population; and the broder, particularly Laredo to Brownsville, because of birth rates, immigration and economic development.

TDA Hosts Townhall Meetings

Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs is taking the Texas Department of Agriculture directly to the people it serves. And she's learning what's on the minds of rural Texans in the process.

At a series of 15 town hall meetings throughout the state, Commissioner Combs is talking with farmers, ranchers and people from rural communities and discussing issues affecting agriculture and rural Texas. These are open forums where producers and members of the community can voice their concerns as well as present their ideas and solutions to the commissioner.

"These visits are one way I can meet face to face with the hard working men and women in our agricultural industry," Combs said. "I get to listen and to hear their concerns first hand. That's important to me."

"At TDA, we'll turn those questions and issues into action so Texas agriculture can remain a strong and competitive industry well into the 21st century."

This fall, meetings are being held in Mt. Pleasant, Lufkin, Winnie, Victoria, Uvalde, Wichita Falls, Big Spring, San Saba, Plainview, Ft. Stockton, Weslaco, Alice, Floresville and El Paso.

At the town hall meetings across Texas, Agriculture Com-

missioner Combs is learning there are some issues on every producer's mind;

*Low commodity prices *Rising cost of production *Water availability *Trade *Food and foreign policy *Drought *Federal farm aid assistance *Ability to finance next year's crop *Building public awareness of agriculture *Loss of farmers *Expanding environmental rules and regulations *Available transportation to ship commodities *Legislative changes affecting Texas agriculture *Inheritance tax on agriculture property *Ways to diversify agricultural production.

During these town hall visits, Combs has also met with city and county officials, senators, representatives and other community leaders to discuss rural economic development opportunities for their communities. "Agriculture and rural communities throughout Texas are the backbone of this great state," Combs said. "And when agriculture suffers, so do the rural communities; from the feed store to the grocery store and banks, the ripple effect is felt by everyone."

TDA worked with the Texas Farm Bureau, Texas Agricultural Extension Service and various commodity groups to organize these town hall meetings across Texas.

Watson Is New Exec Of Sorghum Groups

The Texas Grain Sorghum Board (TGSB) and the Texas Grain Sorghum Association (TGSA) have hired Ray Watson as executive director of both organizations. Watson replaces Dr. Bruce Maunder who was appointed as interim executive director after former executive director Travis Taylor stepped down in October. Watson will assume his duties leading both organizations on January 3.

A native of Southland, Texas, Watson holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas A&M University. In addition to farming experience, Watson has experience with the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service (FAS) and the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in Washington, D.C.

TGSB, headquartered in Lubbock, administers marketing, research and educational programs made possible by Texas grain sorghum checkoff funds. TGSA, also headquartered in Lubbock, represents Texas sorghum growers on legislative and regulatory matters. TGSA programs are made possible through voluntary membership dues and contributions.

Obituaries

Billy James Pearson

Services for Billy James (Jammie) Pearson, 66, of Lamesa, Texas were held Saturday, January 1, 2000 at 3:00 PM at First Baptist Church with Reverend Dennis Teeters officiating, assisted by Dr. Lester Collins and Reverend Brian Pinkerton. Mr. Pearson died December 30, 1999. He was born July 30, 1933 in Lamesa and married Joyce Long on January 27, 1956 in Lamesa. He graduated from Lamesa High School in 1950. He attended Highland University at Las Vegas, MN, Sul Ross University, and Texas Tech. He was a veteran of the Korean War. He was the owner of Pearson Drilling Company in Seminole where he was instrumental in turning undeveloped land in many West Texas counties into productive farm land through irrigation. He was a member of the First Baptist Church and the Auditorium Sunday School Class.

Burial was in Lamesa Cem-

etry under the direction of Branon Funeral Home.

Survivors include his wife Joyce, mother Mary Lou Pearson, both of Lamesa, 3 sons Don and Brenda Pearson of Dickinson, Tx; Eddy and Charlotte Pearson of Tyler, Tx; Ray and Ophelia Pearson of Edmonds, WA, a daughter Robin and Tim Hart of Goldthwaite, TX, 2 sisters Cynthia and James Parker of Abilene, TX and Janelle and Lester Collins of Houston, TX and 12 grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the Stained Glass Window Fund or Bereavement Fund of First Baptist Church, the Gideons, or Hospice of Lubbock.

Rufus Calvin Bryan

Services for Rufus Calvin "Grandy" Bryan, 85, of Seagraves were held December 31, 1999 at First Baptist Church with Reverend Floyd Haddock officiating. Mr. Bryan died December 29, 1999 at Covenant Medical Center-Lubbock. He

was born July 30, 1914 at 18 ranch in Fisher County, TX. He married Elizabeth Ammons on August 30, 1935 in Enadale, TX. Mr. Bryan retired from Columbian Carbon Company Plant #2 in September 1976 after 25 years of employment there. He farmed and ranched as a young man and was the owner of Bryan Home and Auto in Seagraves. He was a member of First Baptist Church in Seagraves.

Survivors include his wife Elizabeth, 1 son S.J. Bryan of Hobbs, NM, 1 daughter Jeanetta Mills of Seagraves. Seven grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren. Two sisters Allene Browne of Terrell, TX and Parilee Sanders of Rhome, TX. He was preceded in death by his parents Sidney and Ollie Bryan, 2 brothers W.J. Bryan and Vivian Bryan, 1 great grandson Nathaniel Cardwell.

Pallbearers include Craig Lacy, Tommy Lacy, Keith Addison, Woody McKinzie, Alton Shirley and Earnest Spradlin. Honorary Pallbearers include The Adult 4 Men Sunday School Class, Harry Grimes, and Buck Solley.

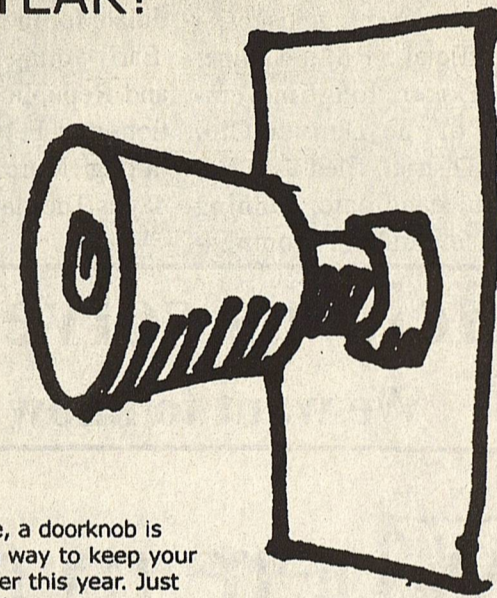
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will be based here, enabling quicker response to possible rain bearing clouds in the immediate area.

When an ag producer referendum was passed allowing the creation of the Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, Plains was chosen as the headquarter site for the five county zone. The first diapause phase of the massive effort to eliminate the costly cotton pest was considered highly successful by both producers and Eradication personnel. The next aerial spraying campaign will start up again when zone cotton fields are producing plants with pin-head squares.

The state legislature passed an education bill affording badly needed relief for so called wealthy school districts, suffering from reduced tax revenues caused by plummeting oil and gas prices. Public school teachers also benefitted when a provision increasing the retirement multiplier was passed in Austin.

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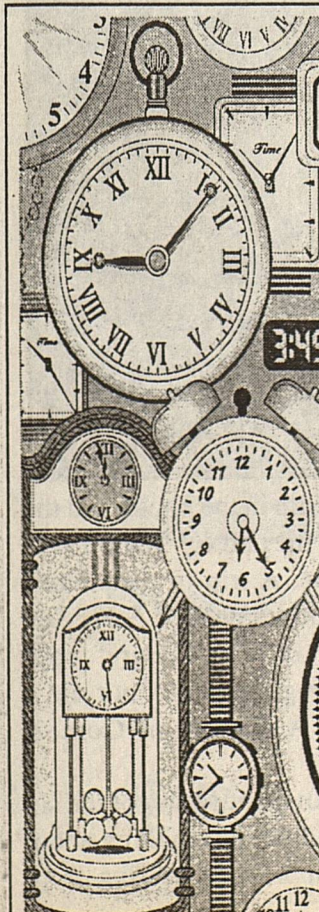
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New VP At Plains State Bank

Plains State Bank announces the appointment of Kathy Six to the position of Vice President.

Mrs. Six has been employed with Plains State Bank since October 1987, currently serving as the banks cashier. In addition to serving as Vice President, she will continue her duties as cashier.

President John Adams and First Lady Abigail Adams moved into the still-unfinished White House in November, 1800.



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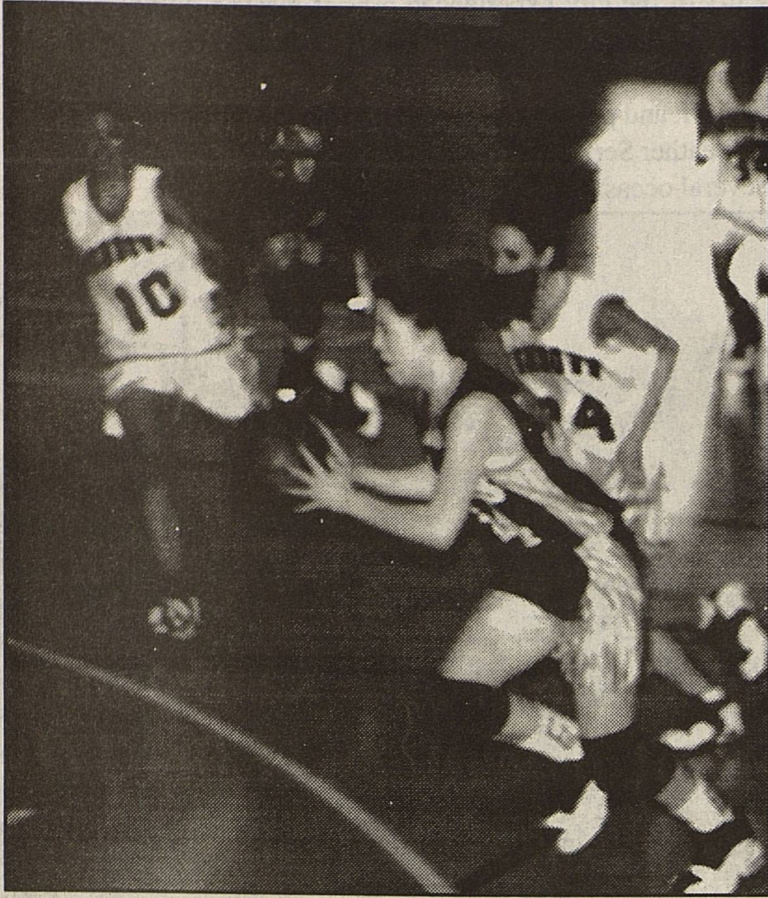
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PHS Basketball



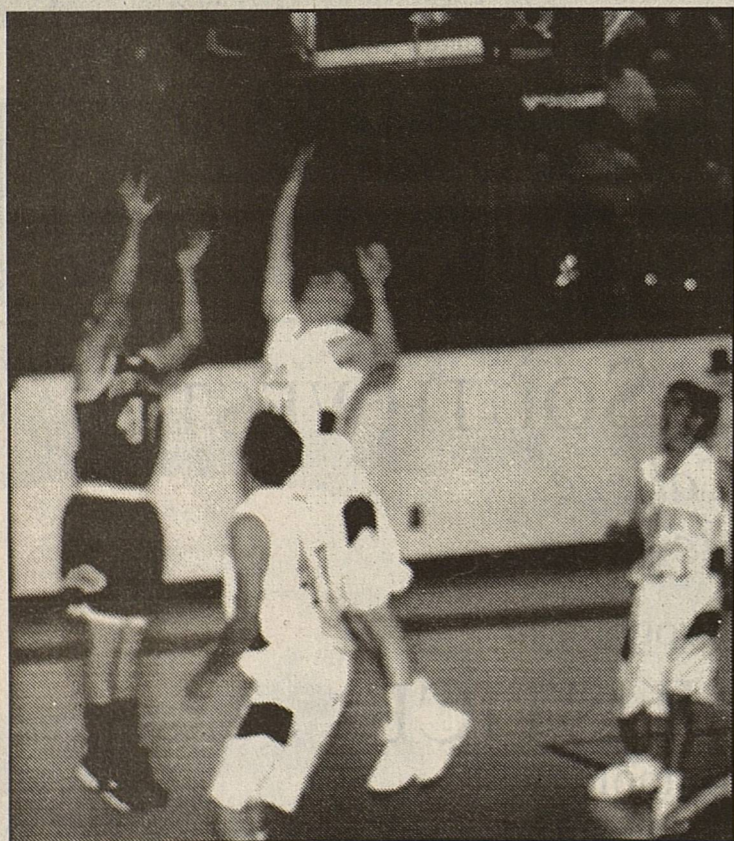
Action Scenes



Michaela Traweek drives with ball



Kim Willis, 40, was in her face, but she got shot off anyway



Petersburg players get shot off over Cowboys

PISD Basketball Summary

Jr. High:

7th Girls - The 7th Lady Wranglers did a good job in downing Coahoma 47 - 22. Sandra Gandara led the scoring with 16 points, Jesena Suarez had 15, Kristian Morales 6, Jamie Covarrubias 5, Lela Coronado 3, and Daniela Lazos 2. Coach said there were only 6 players, but they had their best outing of the season.

8th Girls - The older girls played well, but fell to Coahoma 28-20. Kim Trent managed 8 points, Marlie Diaz had 5. Moriah Traweek, Helen Neufeld and Sarah Martinez had 2 each, Mayra Flores 1 point.

7th Boys - The 7th Wranglers had a good game against Coahoma, winning 31-21. Daniel Parker topped scoring with 8 points, Scott Bruton had 5, Brant Huerta and Cody Flores 4 each, Evan Cain 3, Brandon Hise, John Wagnon and Cole Krebsbach 2 each, and Kelby Johnson 1 point.

JV Cowgirls - The young Cowgirls had a very cold first quarter, and suffered a 45-32 loss to Smyer. Chelsea Blount and Jessica Rodriguez each had 8 points, Arasley Luna, Chelsi Wagnon and Mackenzie Winn 4 each, Mandi Rogers and Liz Wilmeth 2 each. They had a great 3rd quarter, outscoring Smyer 14-1.

High School - Sundown Tournament.

Cowgirls - The Cowgirls were downed by a good Sundown squad, 53-29. Candace Bowers led scoring with 10 points, Anne Palmer had 6, Jessica Flores and Krystle Blundell 4 each, Tanya Vasquez 3, Annaliesa O'Quinn 2. Candace had 7 rebounds, and Kristen Gray 3 steals. They came back to defeat House, NM, 46-30. Kristen topped scoring with 13 points, Jessica had 5, Lexi Warren 4, Krystle 3, Kim Willis, Michaela Traweek, Candace and Anne 2 each, Tanya 1. Anne pulled down 6 rebounds, and Krystle had 12 steals. They next fell to Roosevelt, 57-30. Krystle managed 10 points, Kristen 7, Lexi, Jessica and Michaela 3 each, Annaliesa and Candace 2 each. Candace and Jessica had 5 rebounds each, Candace had 5 steals.

The Cowgirls had a very cold first half, and fell to Whitharral 33-22. Krystle led scoring with 8 points, Jessica had 6, Candace 4, Anne and Michaela 2 each.

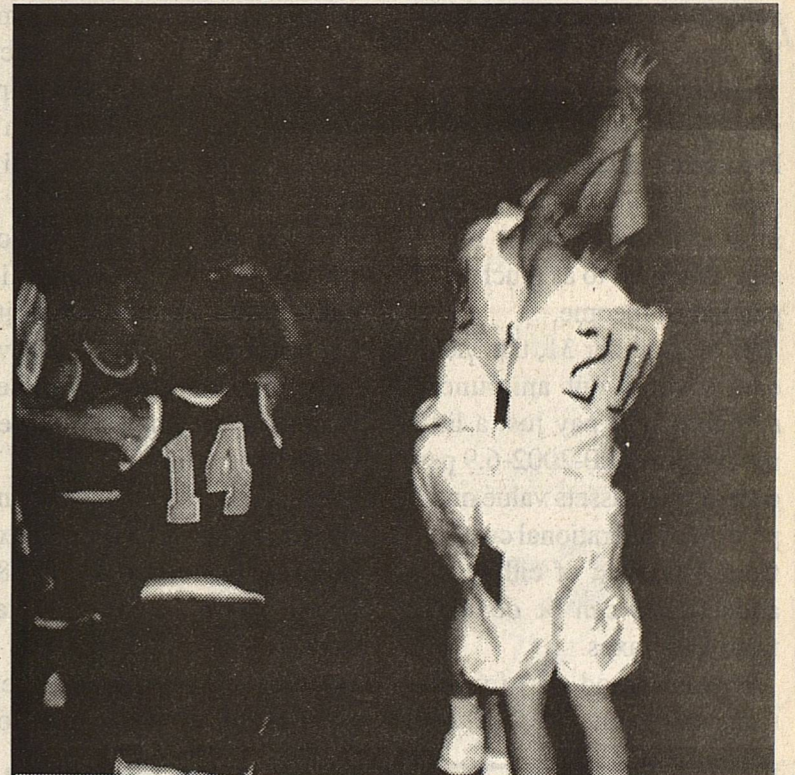
Cowboys - The Cowboys opened with a good win over Petersburg, 66-35. Jared Bell had 15 points, Brett Squyres and Josh Bell 13 each, Justin Bennett 8, Alex Tarango 7, Patrick McGinty 5, Kelsey Blundell 3, Dustin Six 2. Josh had 8 rebounds, Brett 4 steals. They had a tough 59-54 loss to Abernathy next. Alex, Patrick and Josh all scored 10 points, Dustin had 9, Jared 6, Justin 4, Brett 3, Kelsey 2. Josh grabbed 7 rebounds, Oatrick had 3 steals. The Cowboys beat Borden County 66-33. Dustin scored 20 points, Justin 12, Alex, Patrick and Josh had 8 each, Jared 6, Brett 4. Josh had 8 rebounds and 5 steals. The Cowboys took Consolation honors with another win over Petersburg, 61-42. Patrick managed 17 points, Josh 14, Alex 10, Dustin 7, Brett and Jared 4 each, Kelsey 3, Justin 2.



Kelsey Blundell tries to work ball inside



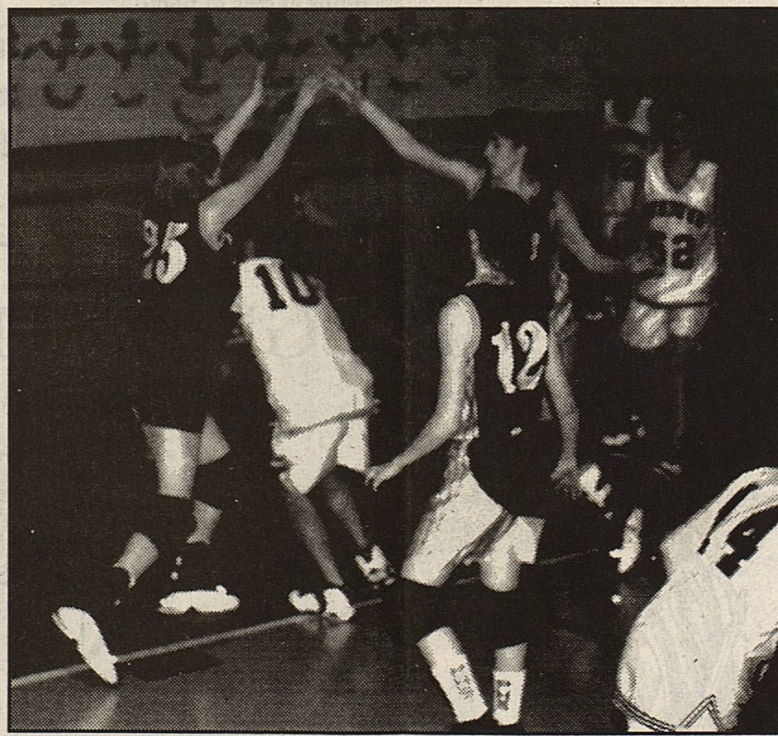
Dustin Six gets off jumper



Brett Squyres, 20, other Cowboy battle for ball

Student of the Week

This week's student of the week is Alex Tarango a senior and the son of Hortensia Tarango. He was nominated by Mrs. Pettigrew who said, "It has been my pleasure to watch this young man grow up while attending Plains schools. This year he has worked for me in the Resource Center and has given me the opportunity to get to know him better. He is a very pleasant student to be around, very dependable and always willing to do what ever job is ask of him. He loves sports and accepts a leadership role on the football field and the basketball court."



Annaliesa O'Quinn, Candace Bowers watch #10 scoot between them



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Status Of Border Manufacturing Uncertain

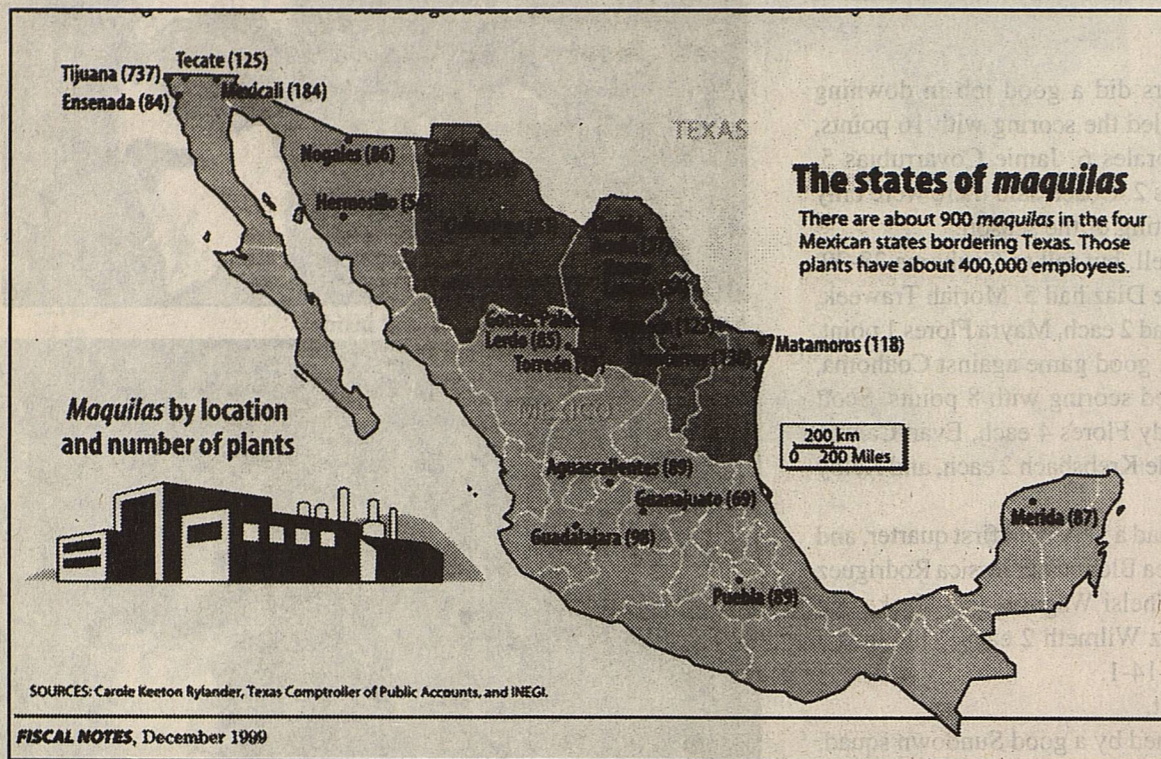
While Mexico has postponed higher taxes on American owned maquiladoras, their threat could still stifle economic growth in the border region.

"We've put a hold on future investments in Mexico, and I know several other companies have done the same," said Tony

Mexico in terms of the maquiladora industry," said Carlos Angulo, incoming chairman of the Border Trade Alliance. "But we have to make sure that this plan isn't merely transitional, but a definitive measure. In order to make sure this is indeed carried out, the plan must be enacted by law."

infrastructure improvements required by the rapid growth of the maquiladora industry in the past decade.

The low cost of doing business as a maquila has drawn American manufacturers, including some of the largest automakers and electronics companies, to the border. Maquilas have duty



Capella, president of Kemet Electronics Corp. in Brownsville and Matamoros, and president of the Maquiladora Association of Matamoros. "Many companies are looking for alternatives to Mexico. We would like the Mexican government to return maquilas to temporary establishment status permanently." Higher taxes would have come with the enforcement of the Permanent Establishment Law, passed this year. It could have increased the total tax hit on maquiladoras to as much as 75 percent of income.

But on October 31, the Mexican government announced maquilas will pay just a little more from 2000-2002-6.9 percent of fixed assets value or 6.5 percent of operational costs, up from 5 percent of either. The added costs can be deducted from U.S. taxes.

"This is a good start for relations between the U.S. and

Maquiladora owners are concerned about what will happen after 2002. Many fear the worst is yet to come. "The problem is for businesses already doing business in Mexico," said Don Michie, a consultant with Nafta Ventures in El Paso. "Many have placed expansions on hold. That also will affect employment in the U.S., since companies aren't going to hire people in the U.S. if they don't increase manufacturing in Mexico."

The maquila program is one of Mexico's biggest economic engines and presents an inviting tax target to a federal government struggling to offset fluctuating revenues from taxes on oil production.

Mexico's 3,300 maquilas generated about \$60 billion in exports for Mexico in 1998, nearly half of the nation's total exports.

Mexico officials also say they need more money to pay for

free status on the import of components and the export of finished goods. They also have received favorable tax treatment. A drastic increase in taxes could send manufacturers to other countries such as Honduras or China.

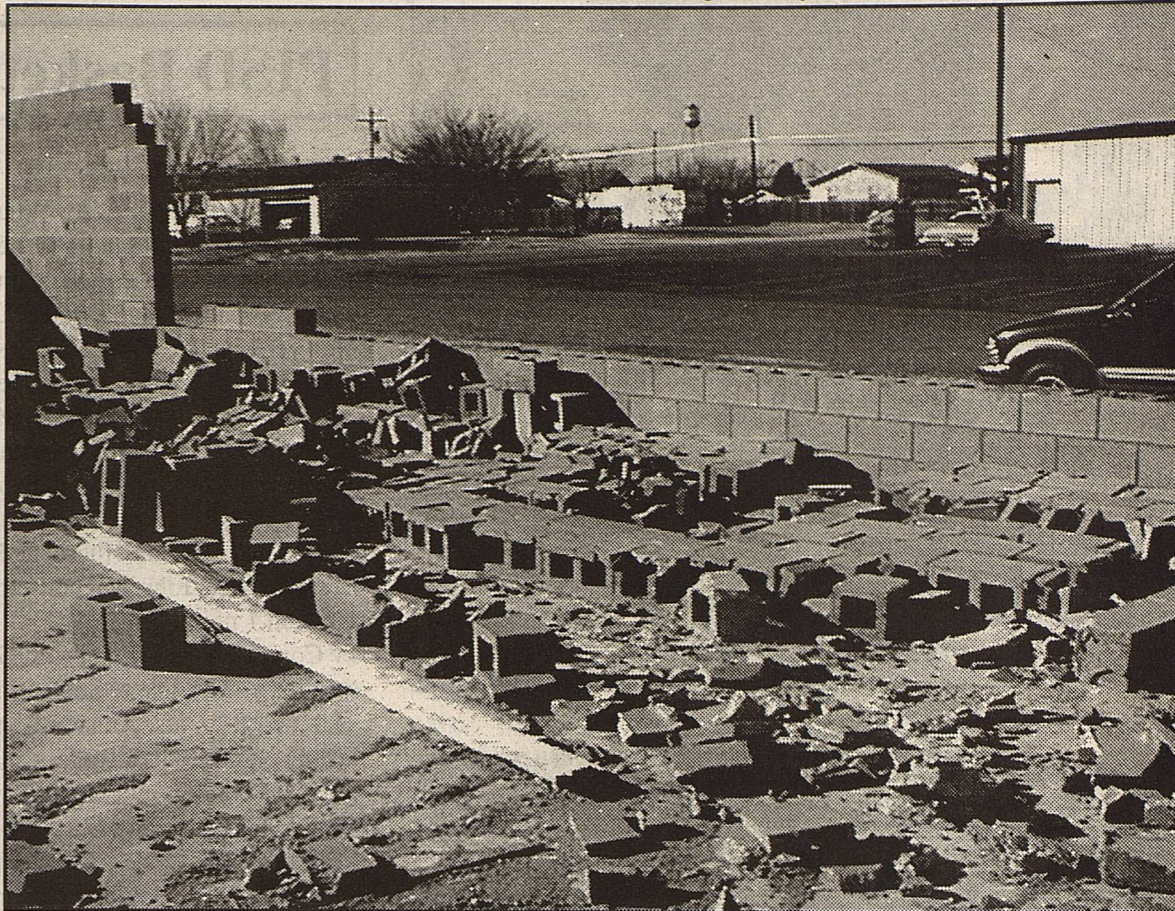
That would send shock waves through the border region.

There are about 625 maquilas in Ciudad Juarez, Matamoros, Nuevo Laredo, Ciudad Acuna and Reynosa, with employment of nearly 400,000. The majority of the maquilas are owned by American corporations, and they are growing rapidly. There are thousands of suppliers and support companies on both sides of the border that would also suffer from any blow to the maquila system.

House considered a bill to reform the federal courts in the Northwest Territory. January 1800.

Monday's winds create havoc

The high winds which swept through Plains most of last Monday left several vivid reminders of the damage they can cause. Parts of the city experienced a brief electric outage before noon. The wind also demolished most of the cinder block west wall of the new building being constructed for Lalito's Restaurant on Cowboy Way. A mobile home in the 200 block of West 8th Street had part of its roof blown off, and part of a large elm tree beside the home was also blown to the ground. The National Weather Service wind velocity gauge at City Hall recorded gusts over 50 miles per hour on several occasions during the day.



About 80 percent of the cinder block wall of Lalito's Restaurant new building was left lying on the inside of the structure.



Debris from the roof of the mobile home at far right is shown piled against fence at left. Note broken tree limbs at side of home

Yoakum County Connection will hold its annual meeting to elect Board of Directors and Officers Thursday, Jan. 13, 7 PM in the Connection Building, 118 N. Main, Denver City

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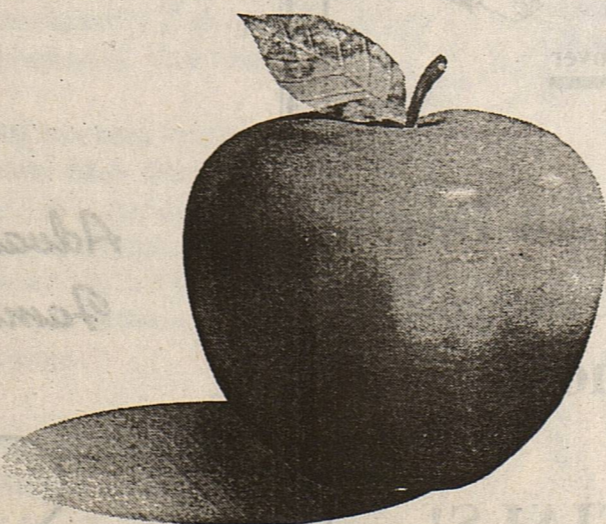


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50th Wedding Anniversary



A reception to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of William and Helen Worsham will be held Sunday afternoon, January 9, 2000, at the Plains Community Center from 2 pm. to 4 pm. Your presence is the only present needed to make this a memorable occasion. EVERYONE IS INVITED!

SPC Schedules Alternative TASP Test Monday

South Plains College's Levelland campus has scheduled an alternative exam Monday, January 10 for students who have not yet taken an official TASP test. The alternative TASP exam will be given at 10 a.m. on the third floor of the Library building. Fee is a \$29 money order, payable to SPC. Students need to bring a driver's license and one other form of identification.

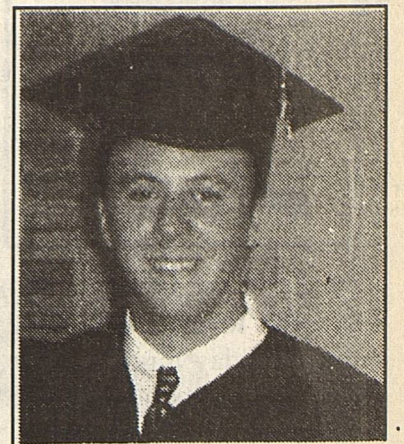
School Board Recognition Month

Whereas, the mission of the public schools is to meet the diverse education needs of all children and to empower them to become competent, productive contributors to a democratic society and an ever changing world; and
Whereas, local school board members are committed to children and believe that all children can be successful learners and that the best education is tailored to the individual needs of the child; and
Whereas, local school board members work closely with parents, educational professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students; and
Whereas, local school board members are responsible for ensuring the structure that provides a solid foundation for our school system; and
Whereas, local school board members are strong advocates for public education and are responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district;
Now, Therefore, I, Dallas Brewer, do hereby declare my appreciation to the members of the Denver City ISD and Plains ISD School Boards and proclaim the month of January 2000, as School Board Recognition Month in Yoakum County. I urge all citizens to join me in recognizing the dedication and hard work of local school board members and in working with them to mold an education system that meets the needs of both today's and tomorrow's children.
In Official Recognition Whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 3rd day of January, 2000.
Dallas Brewer
 County Judge

Yoakum County Connection election meeting Thursday, Jan. 13, 7 P.M., Connection Building, 118 N. Main, Denver City

Jay London Graduates

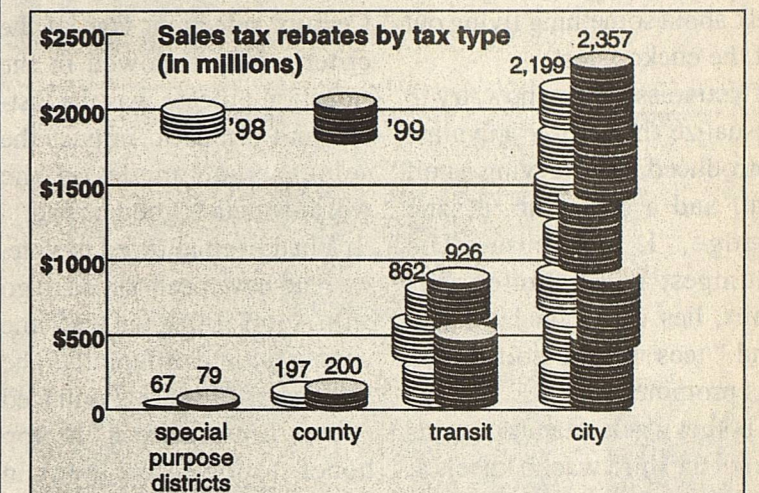
Jay Clayton London received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Texas Tech University on Saturday, December 18, 1999. Jay is the son of former Plains residents Judy London of Denver City and Jack London of Plainview. He attended elementary school in Plains and graduated with honors at Plainview High School in 1994.



Keeping an eye on Texas

Your 2¢ counts—and adds up

Texas cities, counties and other local taxing entities collected \$3.5 billion in sales taxes in 1999—a new one-year record for local sales tax revenue, and an increase of 7.1 percent compared to 1998. In addition to the state sales tax of 6.25 cents on the dollar, communities may impose local sales taxes of up to an additional two cents on the dollar to fund items and services like roads, hospitals, fire and police protection, economic development, libraries, parks, property tax relief, and other purposes.



SOURCE: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us).

Your Attention Please!

Effective January 5, CCN will put into effect new rate schedules for certain services. These charges are necessary because of recent increases in our printing costs, and we hope you will understand the necessity.
 Funeral Notices - No Charge
 Thank You's From Family Deaths - No Charge
 Other Thank You's - \$3 per column inch
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 Birth Announcements - \$3 per column inch
 Wedding Reports - \$3 per column inch all reports over 10 column inches, including photo.
 Family reunion - \$3 per column inch all over 10 col. inches
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 All political ads \$3 per column inch paid UP Front.

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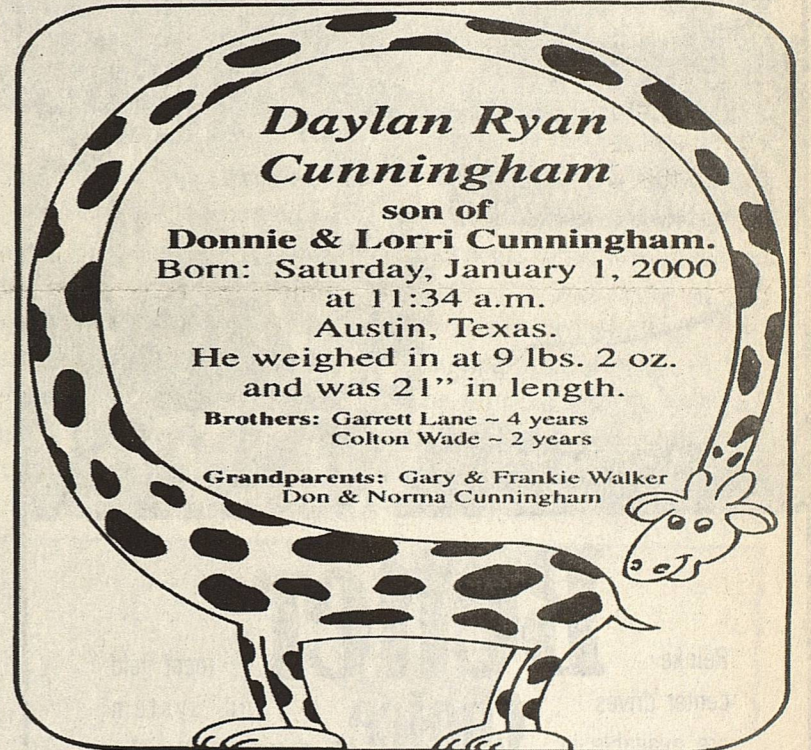


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Daylan Ryan Cunningham

son of
Donnie & Lorri Cunningham.
 Born: Saturday, January 1, 2000
 at 11:34 a.m.
 Austin, Texas.
 He weighed in at 9 lbs. 2 oz.
 and was 21" in length.
 Brothers: Garrett Lane - 4 years
 Colton Wade - 2 years
 Grandparents: Gary & Frankie Walker
 Don & Norma Cunningham

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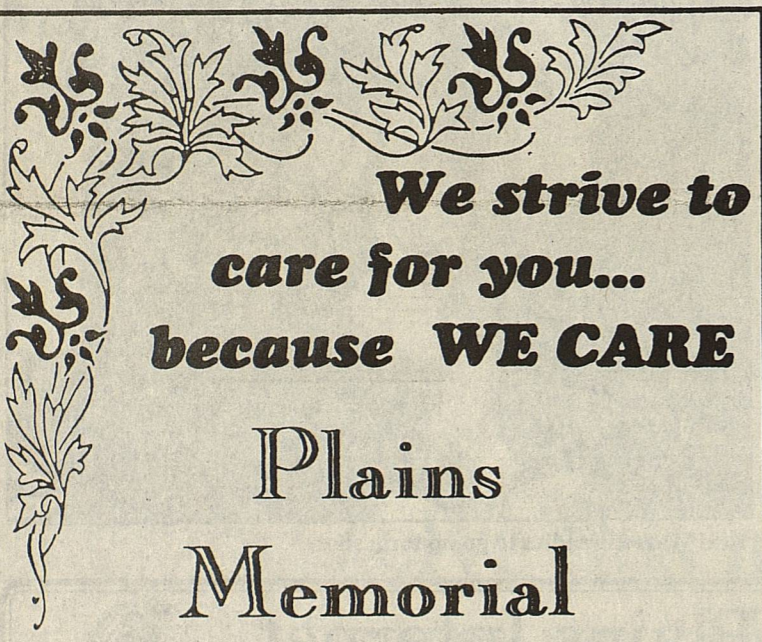

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From The Hack

The Bride and I made a valiant effort to stay awake long enough Friday night to greet the arrival of 2000. She made it till about 10p.m. and I fell by the wayside about twenty minutes later. What a pity we missed seeing two jillion idiots in Times Square jostling for breathing room, waiting for a glass ball to ooze down a greased pole.

While David Letterman will never get my vote to receive a Grammy Award, or what ever TV comics vie for, we did watch a portion of his way earlier than normal show. Man, talk about something flying out of the cuckoo nest.

If you missed this show, try to visualize this; Three guys are introduced, one carrying a golf ball and a golf club, a sand wedge, I feel sure. The plumpest guy unbuttons his shirt, lies down on his back, and 'tees up' the golf ball in his prominent navel.

Another wacko stands over his head, the third wacko kneels at

the fat guys feet. The guy at his head takes the sand wedge, and proceeds to smack the ball off tubby's navel, and it flies unerringly into the open mouth of the guy at tubby's feet. I would really like to try this trick next time I go to the course, me with the club, of course.

Letterman's next guests were just a bit weird, also. A rather nice looking couple, granted, but obviously deprived of much grey matter. The guy inserts a deflated balloon in the gals mouth, grabs her head, covers her entire nose with his mouth and starts to quite lustily blow through her nostrils, and lo and behold, the balloon inflates to its full size.

I don't know, we might have been better off watching the idiots in Times Square.

No doubt most have heard of Time Magazine's long awaited choice for their Citizen Of The Century selection. One of the criteria they followed in the selection process was the last-ing and dramatic impact the selectee had made on the world, whether good or bad.

If I had been allowed to vote, I would have been forced to go with Adolf Hitler, but the Time people figured differently. The December 31 issue announced Albert Einstein won the top honor, followed by Franklin

Delano Roosevelt and India's Mahandos Ghandi. Hitler was in the top ten selectees. I read the entire issue very carefully, and could find absolutely no mention anywhere of me in the listings. Pity.

I suspect my better half is a bit put out about the almost non-event Y2K thing. I also suspect when reality fully settles in she will decide to have a garage or yard sale. We've got to do something to get rid of all those flashlights and batteries and lamp oil she had me store up. I am not, however, going to put those 787 plastic jugs of water in the sale.... I'll just use it this spring to water the petunias and rutabagas

Speaking of jugs of water, we journeyed to Hobbs last Thursday evening to get film developed and do a bit of shopping at Albertson's (more flashlight batteries, don't you know), and probably for the first time in recorded history folks were lined up buying more bottled water than they were booze, and this on the eve before New Years eve. Incredible.

The following E-Mail was recently sent to one of the county gins. No additional comments are necessary;"Can you imagine working at the following company? It has a little over 500 employees with the following statistics:

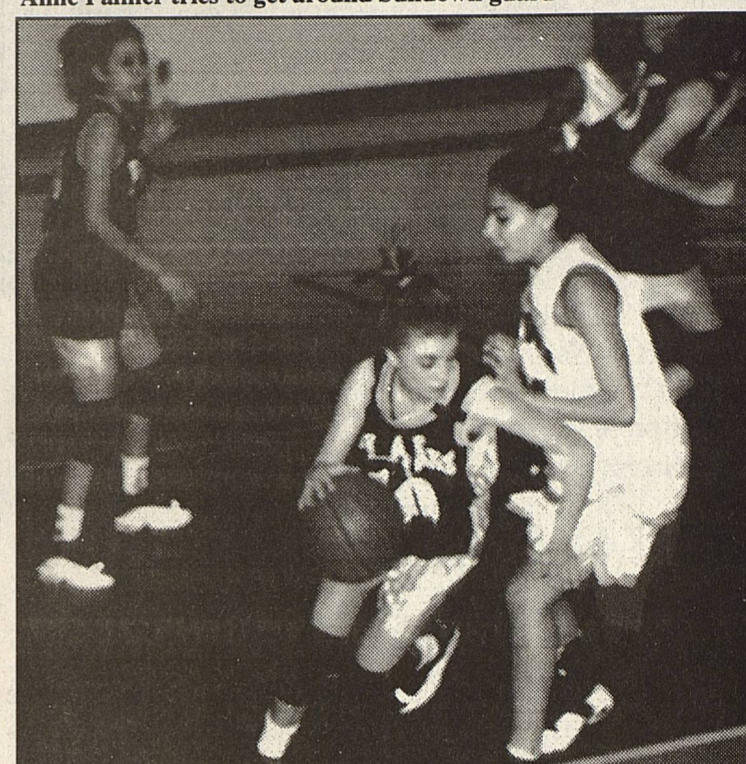
- * 29 have been accused of spousal abuse
- * 7 have been arrested for fraud
- * 19 have been accused of writing bad checks

- * 117 have bankrupted at least two businesses
 - * 3 have been arrested for assault
 - * 71 cannot get a credit card due to bad credit
 - * 14 have been arrested for shoplifting
 - * 21 are current defendants in lawsuits
 - * In 1998 alone, 84 were stopped for drunk driving
- Can you guess which organization this is? Give up? It's the 535 members of your United States Congress. The same group that perpetually cranks out hundreds upon hundreds of new laws designed to keep the rest of us in line."
- Because we speak it, you think English is easy? Consider these tidbits;
- * He could lead if he got the lead out.
 - * This farm used to produce produce.
 - * The soldier decided to desert in the desert.
 - * The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
 - * The present is a good time to present the present.
 - * A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
 - * The dove dove into the bushes.
 - * I did not object to the object.
 - * The insurance for the invalid was invalid.
 - * The bandage was wound around the wound.
 - * They were too close to the door to close it.
 - * Upon seeing the tear in my clothes, I shed a tear.

More Cowgirl Basketball Action



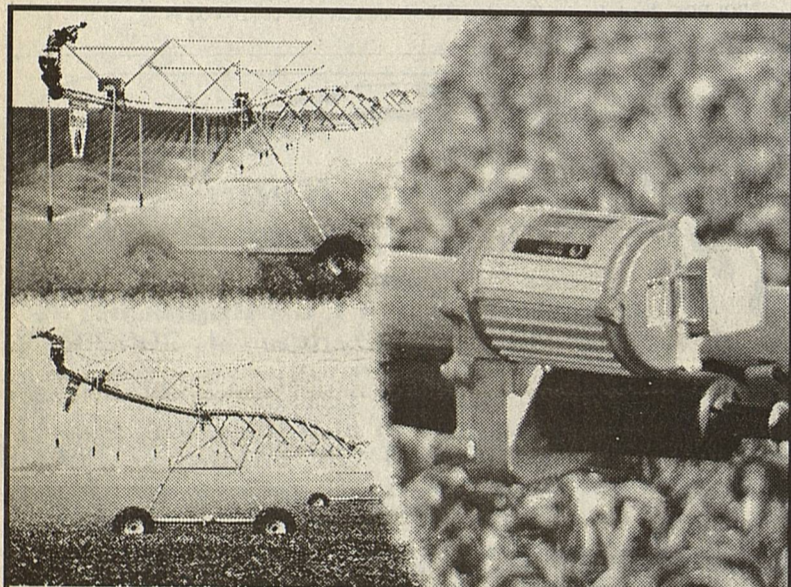
Anne Palmer tries to get around Sundown guard



Krystle Blundell on her way inside with ball



Lexi Warren readies to go up for a shot



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Sage observations to start 2000 with;

- * I started with nothing, and still have most of it.
- * My wild oats have turned into prunes and All Bran.
- * It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- * It's official. All reports are in. Life is now officially unfair.



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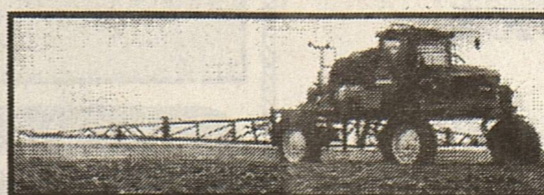
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