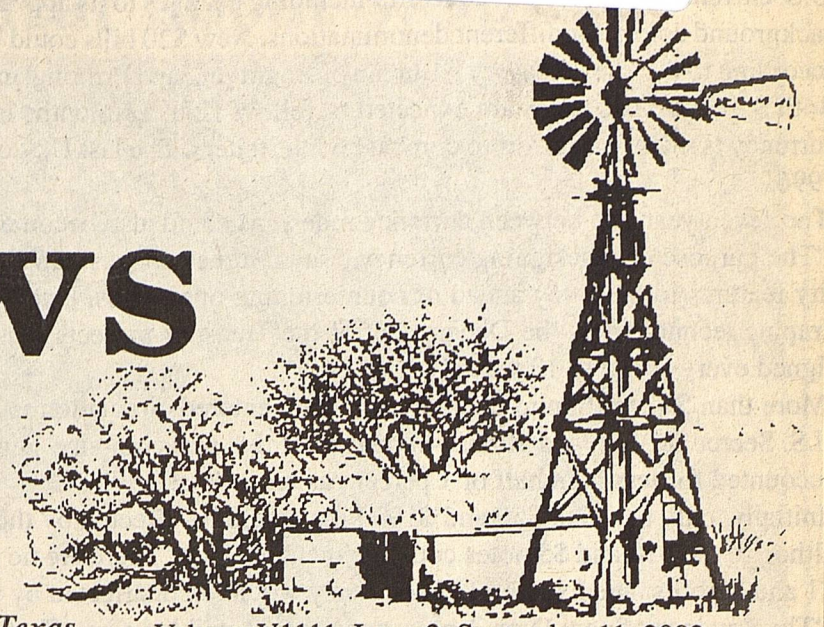


Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume V1111, Issue 2, September 11, 2002

Brownfield joins push to expand U.S. Highway 82

CCN received word last Friday the Brownfield Economic Development Corporation has joined other entities along U.S. Highway 82 from Brownfield to Alamogordo, New Mexico urging the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to expand the highway to four lanes. The issue was first developed by the Lovington, New Mexico Economic Development organization, chaired at the time by Michael Dreyspring, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative.

A recent CCN article outlined efforts of civic and governmental groups in Plains, Lovington,

Artesia, Cloudcroft and Alamogordo adopting resolutions directed to TxDOT urging the expansion of the ever busier corridor. The Plains Chamber of Commerce, Lions Club, City of Plains and Yoakum County Commissioners Court joined in sending their resolutions to Austin.

Proponents of the highway expansion drive are convinced such a project would not only ease increasing congestion, and enhance highway safety.

The updated four lane highway would unquestionably be a valuable boost to the economies of those towns on the route.

Commissioner Court adopts resolution seeking indigent defense grant funds

In the Monday session of Commissioner's Court, a resolution seeking an indigent defense fund grant from the State of Texas was adopted. In recent legislative sessions, the state has provided at least partial funding for court appointed attorneys representing those unable to afford attorney fees. County Judge Dallas Brewer reported the grant from Austin was approximately \$7,500, "Which certainly is nowhere near enough to pay our court appointed attorneys for both County and District Court." He expects the new grant for 2003, if approved, would be for approximately the same amount.

He pointed out the 2002 budget had contained \$35,000 for

court appointed attorneys, and that line item account was now overdrawn. Following the approval of the resolution, the next item on the agenda was the transfer \$20,000 of funds from the contingency account to pay anticipated appointed attorney fees for the balance of the year. The transfer was unanimously approved.

Other court business included approving the Tax Assessor/Collector report of \$43,168 in taxes collected in August.

A bid for the purchase of a new Chevrolet pickup for Pct. 2, with trade-in of a 1990 Chevrolet pickup with a net price of \$15,342 was approved. Mustang Country was the only bidder on the vehicle.

Criminal cases in District, County Court

In District Court September 3, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Ricahrd Clark representing the state, Santiago Coronado Tapia pled guilty to a third or more DWI A five year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1500, must pay \$238 court costs, \$250 attorney fees and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend 25 days in jail, serve 120 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings, surrender his license 180 days, complete the Texas Alternative Incarceration Program (TAIP) and the DWI repeat offender program. He was represented by Attorney Paul Mansur, and investigating officer was Sheriff Deputy Inoe Valdez.

Laura Ann Berck pled guilty to injury to the elderly, and was sentenced to adjudication of guilt deferred. She must pay \$303 court costs, court appointed attorney fee of \$397, serve 320 hours community service, and pay restitution totaling \$6,453 to Medicare. His attorney was Bill McGowan II, and investigating officer was Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police.

James Brandon Connolly pled guilty to aggravated assault with deadly weapon, and was

Turn to Page 3, 'Court'

Cowboys fall to Eagles 43-12

The long time nemesis Seagraves Eagles proved too much for the Cowboys last Friday night, who suffered their second defeat of the young season.

Plains got off to a dismal start, fumbling the game opening kickoff and giving the Eagles the ball on the 24 yard line. Almost miraculously, the Cowboy defenders stopped the Eagles at their three, but the offense could not move the ball, and Kevin Bartley was forced to punt.

The Eagles started from their 38, but good defense by Bartley, Nolan Newsom, Ryan Martinez, Grady McNabb stalled the Eagle drive, and Mario Bonilla recovered an

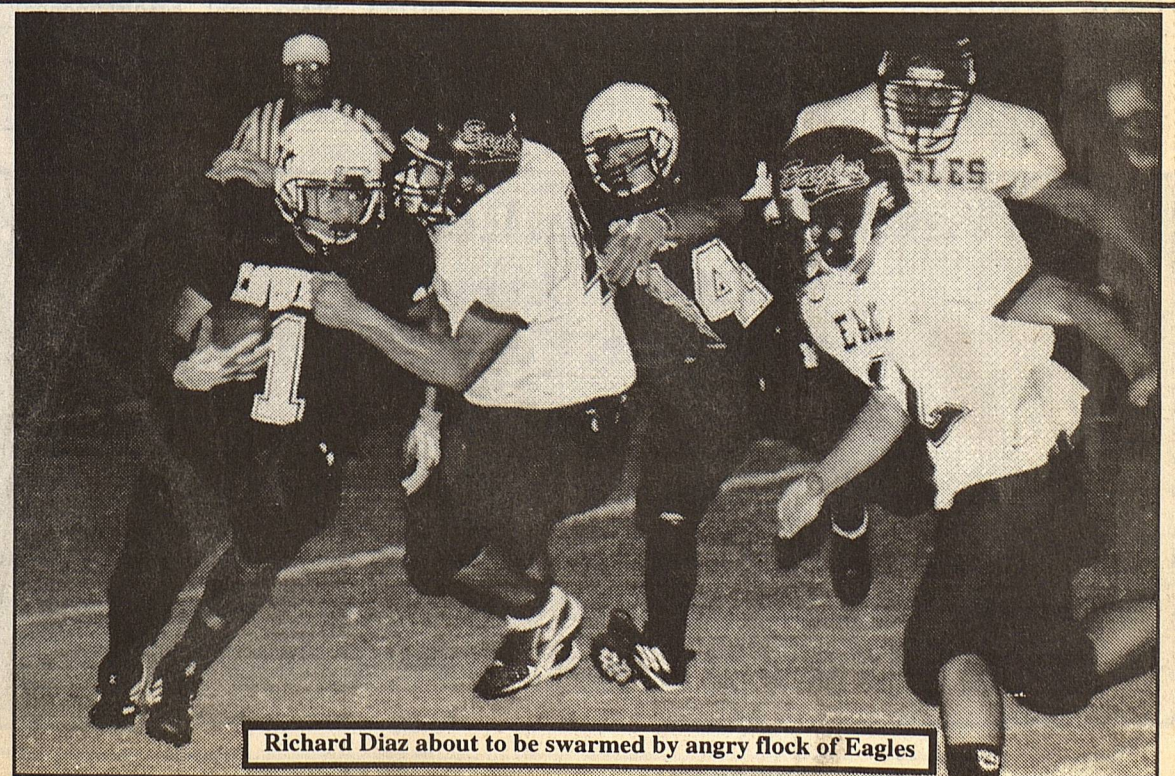
Turn to Page 3, 'Cowboys'

Remembering 9-11-01



Americans with enough age often reminisce about where they were, and what they were doing on the anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941, or November 23, 1963, when President John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. We now have another day to remember, with sorrow and horror, September 11, 2001. Who can ever forget the scenes of carnage on TV screens throughout that long day, live, graphic scenes of the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City burning, then crumbling to the ground, and grinding thousands to horrible deaths in pulverized concrete and twisting steel. Shortly later, a third hijacked jet was deliberately flown into the Pentagon, killing hundreds more in the fiery explosion. And then, the confirmed report of another jet plunging into a field in Pennsylvania, adding dozens more to death lists when some of the passengers tried to fight back against the Muslim terrorist hijackers. After Pearl Harbor Day, our nation went to war, and after almost four bloody years, defeated the Axis powers, a victory costing almost 300,000 Armed Forces deaths. In that war, we knew exactly whom we had to defeat. Today, we are at war against an enemy not so readily found and identified, but an enemy which must be destroyed, before they destroy us. We must never forget September 11, 2001, and we must never forget the enemy dedicated to our destruction - we must fight and win a war against **TRUE EVIL**.

Our sincere thanks to local artist Evert McAdams for the use of his art work depicting New York City Firefighters raising Old Glory at the World Trade center on 9-11-01.



Richard Diaz about to be swarmed by angry flock of Eagles

Having homeowner insurance rate woes?

The problem is being addressed

If your homeowner insurance rates have gone up - skyrocketed, in many cases, the Texas insurance industry, and the State of Texas is taking a hard look at why, and even offering tips with which you can address to your insurance company or agent. Material recently circulated by the Texas Coalition for Affordable Insurance Solutions (TCAIS) outlines some of the causes for the dramatic rise in insurance rates.

TCAIS estimates property and casualty insurance providers paid more than \$2.6 billion in claims in 2001, mainly caused by a 1,306% jump in the number of claims filed for mold damage. TCAIS reports a number of steps have already been taken by state agencies addressing the high rates, and the issue will also be addressed by the Texas Legislature this January.

The Texas Department of Insurance periodically reviews market conduct of the entire insurance industry doing business in Texas. In April this year, TDI conducted examinations of the three largest insurers in the state. In August, the Attorney General's office issued a cease and desist order to one of those companies, and the other two examinations are still underway.

TDI cracked down on a major fraud ring in Houston where claims estimated at \$5 million were filed on intentionally flooded homes. More investigations are underway. In 2001, the Speaker of the House charged the House Insurance Committee with reviewing mold issues, as well as underwriting practices of

Turn to Page 3, 'Insurance'

The Color Of Money

U.S. currency may be in for a facelift, including changes to its appearance and the use of different background colors for different denominations. New \$20 bills could be in circulation by fall 2003, according to the U.S. Treasury's Bureau of Engraving and Printing and the Federal Reserve Board. Both \$50 and \$100 notes are expected to follow 12 to 18 months later. The proposed change in currency is mainly an effort to combat counterfeiters. The last U.S. currency redesign occurred in 1996.

The seven year gap between currency redesigns could also become the norm for U.S. currency. "The purpose of redesigning currency," says Bureau spokesman Jim Hagedorn, "is to add security features to help stay ahead of counterfeiting operations. Due to the advancements in reprographic technologies, the Department of the Treasury projects that U.S. currency will be redesigned every seven to 10 years."

More than \$47 million in counterfeit money entered circulation in fiscal 2001, according to the U.S. Secret Service, and almost 40 percent of that was computer generated. Computer generation accounted for less than half of 1 percent as recently as 1995.

Initially, only the \$20, \$50 and \$100 bills would be affected by the change, known as NexGen, although the \$10 and \$5 notes could be included later. There are no plans for the inclusion of the \$1 and \$2 bills, and existing U.S. currency would be unaffected by the changes.

"The issuance of new (NexGen) currency notes will have no affect on money already in circulation," Hagedorn says. "New notes will simply co-circulate with older series notes. The U.S. Government has never recalled or devalued its currency. Older notes will maintain their full face value."

The new currency will not change in size and will use images similar to the ones used on previous currency. It will likely, however, include more colors in the denominations as well as serving as a security feature to deter counterfeiters.

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Three day weather forecast by Duncan
Axisa, Meteorologist for S.O.A.R.

DATE	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	WIND (mph)	RAIN (inches)
Today	Cloudy bec partly cloudy; slight chance showers	85/63	SE 5-15	< 0.2
Thursday	Partly cloudy; slight chance of isolated showers	86/64	SE 5-15	< 0.3
Friday	Partly cloudy; TS possible	88/64	SE 5-15	< 0.3

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Western Peanut Growers Research Farm Tour Set For September 18

(Seminole, Texas) At the beginning of 2000, Western Peanut Growers Association, Inc. (WPGA) began the operation of a 320-acre research farm located approximately 10 miles west of Seagraves. As this farm's third crop is reaching maturity, WPGA will hold a Peanut Research Farm Tour on September 18, 2002 beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Funded by WPGA, the peanut research farm is the first of its kind, forming a unique research alliance consisting of USDA - ARS, Texas Tech University, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The research farm provides a consistent site to conduct tests that would otherwise be virtually impossible to perform on a single producer's farm year after year. Water needs and irrigation research are a large focus of the farm, along with soil fertility, crop rotation, cultivation, plant population, improved genetics, and economic analysis of production systems.

Tentative Tour Schedule and Speakers:

8:30 am Register for 2 CEU's (General) - WPGA Research Farm, Located 1 mile west of the intersection of County Roads 226 and 211 in Gaines County, Texas.

9:00 am Opening statements & Recognition of participants
Subsurface Drip Irrigation Research - Larry Powell
Peanut Pythium Pod Rot, Water Interactions - Terry Wheeler
Transgenic Cotton Research - Terry Wheeler
Peanut Breeding - Mark Burow, Charles Simpson, Yolanda Lopez
Weed Control Research - Pete Dotray, Wayne Keeling
Peanut Rhizobium, Fertility, Variety Trials - Calvin Trostle, Todd Bingham
Pivot Irrigation Research - Dana Porter, Meg Parajulee
Precision Ag Research - Mike Schubert
Receive CEU Certificates & Depart

Western Peanut Growers Association, Inc. is a non-profit organization funded and governed by peanut producers primarily on the South Plains. WPGA is the only voice dedicated to the West Texas peanut producer. The main purpose of the association is to improve the West Texas peanut industry, using tools such as education, research, technology, and promotion. To learn more about WPGA or the research farm tour, contact the WPGA office in Seminole at (915) 758-2050.

Interesting Letters;

(The following letter was received by Dwayne (Butch) Mack, Immediate past President of the Plains Lions Club)

Dear Mr. Mack:

Enclosed is the charter granted to the Plains Lions Club in 1940. My father, H.B. Horn apparently was the President of the Club, which was in the process of formation in August, 1940. In our phone conversation you told me that Pete St. Romain recalls that the Club was disbanded because of WWII and rechartered following the War. My father did not leave Plains until 1948, so I am not sure why he retained this 1940 charter. Our family moved to Friona in 1948 and then to Dumas in 1950. My father died January, 2001 and my mother died in June 2002. I am in the process of preparing to sell her house and found this charter while removing items from a cabinet.

I don't know whether or not Friona had a Lions Club when we lived there. Dumas has a large and very active Lions Club. My father has a fifty years membership in the Plains Lions Club when we were living in Friona.

Please give my best wishes to Pete and Mary Jo.

Yours truly,
Joe Horn

Beginning Word Processing Class for adults will be taught in the High School Lab beginning Monday, September 16, 2002, from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost will be \$25 for six weeks. We will be learning to use Microsoft Office Word 2000. Teacher will be Brenda Canada. You may call the high school to register at 456-7445. There will be a limit of 15 students in the class.

Director Election And Notice

The Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District #150, Board of Directors hereby Orders and gives Notice of an Election for the purpose of Electing one Director each for Subdivisions, #1 and #2.

In accordance with provisions of V.T.C.A., Agriculture Code, Section 201.073; Qualified Voters of the above named District will assemble on October 1st, 2002 at 8:00 am. at the Plains Community Center, to conduct the Election.

Early Voting by personal appearance for eligible Voters will begin on, Saturday, September 14, 2002--From 8:00 am. to 4:30 pm. at The Farm Service Agency located at 1305 Cowboy Way.

Additional Election information is available by contacting The Yoakum County SWCD at the Farm Service Agency located at 1305 Cowboy Way, or by calling (806) 456-3703.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENT OF PROPOSED
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
Special Election
NOVEMBER 5, 2002

Explanatory Brief for HJR 2

HJR 2 would amend the constitution to allow the commissioners court of a county to declare the office of constable dormant if that office has been vacant for at least seven consecutive years. The records of a constable office that is declared dormant will be transferred to the county clerk. If the office is declared dormant, the previous officeholder does not continue to hold the office. The office may not be filled by election or appointment unless the commissioners court votes to reinstate the office or a majority of votes cast in an election held on the issue favor reinstatement. The reinstatement election may be held if the commissioners court on its own motion orders such an election, or the reinstatement election must be held if the commissioners court receives a petition signed by 10% of the registered voters of the constable precinct.

The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows:
"The constitutional amendment authorizing the commissioners court of a county to declare the office of constable in a precinct to be dormant if the office has not been filled by election or appointment for a lengthy period and providing a procedure for the reinstatement of the office."

Este es el informe explicatorio sobre la enmienda propuesta a la constitución que aparecerá en la boleta el 5 de noviembre de 2002. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis por llamar al 1/800/252/8683 o por escribir al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711. PUBLISHED BY SECRETARY OF STATE GWYN SHEA

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and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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From Page One, Cowboys downed by Eagles

Eagle fumble at the 20. On the third play from scrimmage, the right side of the Cowboy line opened a hole over tackle to allow Richard Diaz to dash 82 yards for the first Cowboy score. A pass from Bartley to Justin Chambliss failed for the two point conversion, and the Cowboys were up 6-0.

The Eagles took the kickoff at the 35, but could go no further than the 31, where Jose Ramirez recovered an Eagle fumble to put the Cowboys in control at the 18. Diaz gained 6 yards on the ground, and three plays later Bartley found Zach Broome open for a touchdown pass. Once again the PAT conversion run failed, but the Cowboys led 12-0 at the end of the first period.

In the third quarter, neither team could muster an effective offense. With just 59 seconds on the clock, the Eagles pushed the ball to the Cowboy 6 at the end of the quarter. After the start of the final period, they scored and upped the score to 22-12.

A few plays later, a Cowboy fumble gave the Eagles the ball

on the 15, from where they completed a touchdown pass and went ahead 29-12. With four minutes on the clock, Eagle runner Cole dashed 39 yards for another score and the PAT kick had them in front 39-12. Disaster was not through with the Cowboys. With less than a minute in the game, a pass from Bartley to Diaz went awry, and an Eagle defender went 38 yards with the interception and the final and convincing 43-12 win.

Computer stats gave the Eagles 320 yards total offense, the Cowboys 177. Richard Diaz had 101 yards rushing. Zach Broome had 3 pass receptions, Evan Cain 1. Bonilla kicked off 4 times for an average 45.5 yards. Diaz and Bonilla recovered two fumbles, Chambliss, Ramirez and Newsom had one each. Leading tacklers included Martinez 10, Mc Nabb 7, Bartley, Newsom and Bonilla 6 each, Chambliss and Ramirez 4 each.

The Cowboys take on always tough Sudan there this Friday. They definitely need your support. **BE THERE!**

Turnrow Meeting

Friday, September 13, 9:00 am., Yoakum County Co-Op Gin. Terry & Yoakum County I.P.M. will cover harvest aid materials and applications. Earn one C.E.V. in I.P.M.

From Page 1, 'Court'

sentenced to adjudication of guilt deferred. He will be under community supervision 10 years, must pay \$303 court costs, and restitution totalling \$39,950 to Yoakum County Hospital, University Medical Center and Texas Department of Public Safety. He must perform 240 hours community service and 180 days in jail or until space is available in a substance abuse felony punishment facility (SAFPF) no more than one year or less than 90 days. Causes of evading arrest and marijuana possession were adjudicated. His attorney was Bill McCowan II, and investigating officer was William Gardner, D.C. Police.

In County Court September 4, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Jeffrey Allan Keys pled guilty to theft, more than \$50 but less than \$500. He was sentenced to 51 days in jail with credit for 51 days served. Investigating officer was Sheriff Deputy Inoe Valdez.

From Page 1, 'Insurance'

insurers. The committee is also preparing a report on the importance of credit histories and prior cancellations of policies to be submitted to the 79th Legislature.

TCAIS urges homeowners to carefully shop for insurance coverage, and ask questions. You should be fully aware of and fully understand a number of items in policies; Total amount of coverage; Deductible amount; Is the coverage based on actual cash value or replacement

Lions hear about S.O.A.R.



Plains Lions Club Members at the September 5 noon meeting saw and heard a power point presentation on efforts of Sandy Land Water District sponsored Southern Ogallala Aquifer Rainfall (SOAR) project, encouraging precipitation by treating, or "seeding" potential rain producing clouds. In this photo, SOAR Meteorologist Duncan Axisa and Sandy Land Contractor Gary Walker use the Power Point system to describe the make up of the clouds they search for over Lea County, New Mexico, and Yoakum, Gaines and Terry Counties. When the meteorologist locates proper cloud formations on the radar operating at the local airport, Walker or another stand-by pilot are notified and scramble to get one of two aircraft bearing silver iodide flares into the air to "seed" the cloud, hoping to enhance it's size, volume, and extend it's life. Daily, weekly and monthly reports from Axisa graphically illustrate the seeding efforts work when the right type clouds are present. Unfortunately, most of our late spring and summer "Good Clouds" have been few and far between, and there have been relatively few seeding flights to date.

Toni Jones On National Steering Committee

Washington, D.C. - Yoakum County Treasurer Toni Jones has recently been named a member of the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee by NACo President Kenneth A. Mayfield.

NACo's 11 steering committees form the policy-making arm of the association. Each committee is comprised of approximately 60-100 county officials who meet several times during the year to examine issues critical to local government.

The Taxation and Finance

Steering Committee focuses on financial resources of counties; fiscal management; federal assistance; municipal borrowing; county revenues; federal budget; and federal tax reform.

The steering committee's recommendations on legislative policies and goals are presented to NACo's membership during the association's Annual Conference. If approved, the recommendations become a part of the *American County Platform*, which is the basis of NACo's efforts in representing counties before Congress and the White House.

Mold and foundation coverage; You should also be fully aware of any discounts offered for burglar alarms, fire extinguishers, hail resistant roofs, smoke detectors, sprinkler systems, and senior citizen discounts. More information is available from your insurer, or from Texas Department of Insurance, 1-800-252-3439.

ment value; Guaranteed replacement cost for personal property; Personal liability in case of accident on your property; Medical payments for injured persons on your property;

JP Court

The following is a summary of cases filed and fines and bonds set by Judge Melba Crutcher, Justice of the Peace, Precinct 1. Cases filed: 181 traffic, 1 felony, 1 public intoxication, 1 open container.

Bonds Set: Possession of drug paraphernalia-\$500 bond. Possession of marijuana-\$500 bond. Driving while intoxicated/open container-\$1,000 bond. 2 cases-Assault causing bodily injury/family member-held for Border Patrol. Possession of controlled substance w/ intent to deliver-held for Border Patrol. Possession of controlled substance-held for Border Patrol. Public intoxication-\$500 bond. Violation of probation on possession of marijuana-\$500 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500 bond. Failure to appear/burglary of a habitation-no bond. Failed to maintain financial responsibility-\$200 bond. Fugitive from justice-Curry County-no bond. Motion to revoke probation-Bailey County-no bond. Parole violation-held until transport.

YOAKUM COUNTY FARM TOUR

The Yoakum County Farm Tour will be on Wednesday, September 18 at 8:00 a.m. We will meet at the County Extension office. Breakfast burritos, coffee and drinks will be available. County Extension Agent Arlan Gentry and Agronomist Calvin Trostle will give crop updates and a Farm Bill update. We will travel to Rickey Bearden's farm, near Tokio, and tour the large plot variety test there. Randy Boman and his technicians, along with IPM Agent Scott Russell will discuss different topics. Two CEU's will be given to producers.

New Books At The Library


FICTION:

Ranger's Trail...Elmer Kelton, Miss Julia Throws A Wedding...Ann Ross, Kaleidoscope...Dorothy Gilman, Sin City...Harold Robbins, Dead Midnight...Marcia Muller, A Fine And Bitter Snow...Dana Stabenow, Whirlpool...Lorena McCourtney, The Memory Book...Penelope Stokes, Savage Run...C.J.Box, The Blue Last...Martha Grimes, An Accidental Woman...Barbara Delinsky, Distant Shores...Kristin Hannah, Blood Of Victory...Alan Furst, Absolute Rage...Robert Tanenbaum, The Soul Catcher...Alex Kava

NONFICTION:

Let's Roll...Lisa Beamer

LIONS CLUB



Plains Lions Club

BROOM & MOP SALE

Courthouse Yard

Thursday - September 12, 2002

Starts: 8:00 AM

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Cowboy Action Scenes



Eager Cowboys take the field



A pair of Cowboys lead Richard Diaz around the corner



Justin Chambliss catches pass, just short of goal on extra point try



Trainer and Mario Bonilla help Kevin Bartley off field with dinged knee

PISD Sports Summary

JV Football: The JV Cowboys faced Farwell here August 29, and were downed 41-12. Highlights included Todd Williams rushing for over 180 yards, including a 100 yard scamper for a touchdown. Cody Flores stopped a Steers drive with a pass reception. Quarterback T.J. Cordova was injured in the second half, replaced by Blake O'Quinn who led the Cowboys to another score.

On September 5, the Cowboys were edged out at home by Seagraves, 24-20. Blake O'Quinn made the first score on a quarterback scramble, and Patrick Cotton made a great catch for the two point conversion. In the 4th period, Todd Williams scored on an 84 yard run, O'Quinn threw a 15 yard TD strike to Williams had 147 rushing yards, Michael Crump gained 56 yards, Cotton caught two balls for 56 yards in the hard fought game.

Volleyball: The 7th Lady Wranglers defeated Levelland August 26, 15-11, 14-16 and 15-5. Team members are Skye Sellers, Joani Bell, Katie Winn, Amber Friesen, Lauren Davis, Mareta Trent, Maria Andaloza, Lauren Hise, Marissa Melendez, Flor Lara, M'Leah McKinzie, Coached by Thomas Rotunno

8th Lady Wranglers (A Team) fell to Levelland August 26, 1-15, 16-14 and 7-15. Team members are Desiraye Broome, Caitlin Carter, Hallie Cotton, Nicole Culwell, Meghan Garcia, Angelica Mendoza, Regina Morales, Lisa Neufeld. The B girls defeated Levelland 15-11, 6-15, 15-10. Team includes Yesica Calderon, Araceli Mendoza, Callie Howell, Adrianna Ponce, Angelica Gomez, Kimberly Gonzalez, Nancy Lozano, Clarissa Zorilla.

In the Denver City Tourney Sept. 7, the girls lost to Denver City 10-15 and 14-16. They were also downed by Brownfield 15-12, 9-15, 10-15.

JV Cowgirls: They had a big win over Midland Trinity August 27, 15-12, 12-15 and 15-13. On September 3, the young Cowgirl fell to tough Lubbock Christian 9-15 and 9-15. In the second match, they were downed by Brownfield 4-15, 10-15. On September 7, the Gold Cowgirl team fell to the Cooper Frosh 1-15 and 6-15. The Black team were also downed by Cooper JV 6-15 and 3-15. Coach Thaggard says the young ladies are gaining valuable experience, are talented, hard working and constantly improving... the wins will come!

Varsity Cowgirls: On August 27 the Cowgirls defeated Midland Trinity 15-11 and 15-9. In the D.C. tournament, they were downed by Denver City 1-115, 7-15. They also lost to Perryton 7-15, 8-15, but bounced back to defeat Frenship 15-8, 15-9. They then fell to Lubbock trinity 9-15, 5-15. On Aug. 31, they fell to Lamesa0-15, 0-15. On Sept. 6, in the Frenship Tourney, the girls lost to Frenship 15-11, 8-15 and 17-19. They were downed by a good Canyon team 6-15, 5-15. They rallied to defeat Cooper 17-15, 6-15 and 16-14. The following day they fell to Lubbock High 6-15, 7-15. They then beat Whiteface 15-2, 15-1, but were dropped by Cooper 10-15, 8-15. Coach Lusk says "The girls play hard and are improving each match. They are still working on 100% effort, 100% focus, 100% teamwork, 100% of the time!"

Crosscountry: Brownfield Jamboree - Jr. High Girls- Desiraye Broome finished fourth in a field of more than 75 runners. Boys- Won 3rd as team; Jose Villegas 1st, Zachary Ramos 13th, Rudy Gonzales 19th, Kurt Alldredge 34th, Jacob Rivera 37th, Jose Luis Gallegos 42nd.

JV Boys- Adam Guerrero 7th, Daniel Estrada 26. Varsity boys- Jose Ramirez 8th, Payton Bean 14, Armando Ramirez 21, Chisum Justus 29, Arnold Cordova 33, Brandon Davis 41. Seminole Romp in the park- Jr. High Boys- Jose Villegas missed the course record by 3 seconds, finishing 1st. Zachary Ramos was 19th, Kurt Alldredge 45, Jacob Rivera 54. JV Boys- Brandon Davis 22nd, Daniel Estrada 47th. Varsity Boys- Plains finished first in small school division, and sixth place overall. Jose Ramirez ran the three miles in 16.31.49, Payton Bean ran 16.49.54, Adam Guerrero 17.01.52, Armando Ramirez 17.02.52.



Cowboys swarm Eagle runner

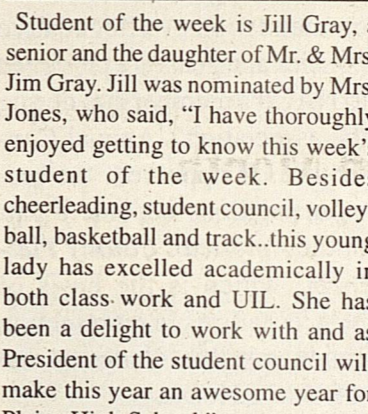


Three Cowboys converge on Eagle back

Students of the Week



Second student of the week is Chelsea Blount, a senior and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mike Blount. She was nominated by Mrs. Jones, who said, "Hard working, dedicated, growing and learning are words that come up this week's student of the week. I have watched her blossom into a beautiful young lady over the past three years and work on increasing her overall potential as a future leader. She has been an excellent asset to our school and community."



Student of the week is Jill Gray, a senior and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jim Gray. Jill was nominated by Mrs. Jones, who said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know this week's student of the week. Besides cheerleading, student council, volleyball, basketball and track...this young lady has excelled academically in both class work and UIL. She has been a delight to work with and as President of the student council will make this year an awesome year for Plains High School."

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Lifelines & Styles

Safely Home

I am home in Heaven, dear ones; Oh, so happy and so bright! There is perfect joy and beauty in this everlasting light. All the pain and grief is over, every restless tossing passed; I am now at peace forever safely home in Heaven at last.



Written in memory of Joyce Shifflett
We miss you!!
Love, Your Family & Friends,
Jan. 21, 1917-Sept. 14, 2001

You are invited to help celebrate Jim & Vivian's 50th Wedding Anniversary Saturday, September 14, 2002, 4:00 p.m. at the home of Keith and Shannon Rice. It is the desire of Jim and Vivian that in lieu of gifts, donations be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of North east Texas in memory of their grandson, Zachery Allen North, No RSVP necessary.
Keith and Shannon's, 302 Nadine Road, Hobbs, 505-397-0142
Directions form Hobbs: On highway 18 go south about 3 miles turn east on Nadine Road, go approximately 1/8 mile 2nd house on the right Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 2929 Carlisle, Ste. 230, Dallas, TX 75204, in memory of Zac North

September Is Texas Food Safety Education Month

Governor Rick Perry and the Board of Health will sign a proclamation designating September as Food Safety Month. This is the ninth annual initiative. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that 76 million persons experience foodborne illnesses each year, resulting in 5,000 deaths annually; and through most consumers have a good foundation of food safety knowledge, problem areas still exist.
The South Plains Public Health District offers these reminders:
Hand washing protects you and the food you prepare, thoroughly clean your hands, especially after handling raw meat or poultry. Always wash and sanitize surfaces, and utensils between tasks. Never place cooked food on a plate that previously held raw food. Cook foods thoroughly, reheat to 165 degrees, hold foods at 140 degrees, cool foods down quickly and refrigerate promptly. Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. All these practices will help you serve safe food. For more information call your South Plains Health District Office.

Develop a zero-tolerance attitude for asthma attacks.

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Morning Worship
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Evening Program
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Hormones-What Do We Do Now?

Most everyone is aware of the recent developments regarding hormone replacement therapy in the news. It seems that a study to determine the benefits of hormone replacement was abruptly discontinued when the preliminary results showed a significant increase in the risk for cancer in the participants who were taking the hormones as compared with the control group of participants who were not taking hormones. The study seemed to be definitive but has done little but generate confusion. Everyone wants to know what to do. Do we take hormones or do we not take hormones? Unfortunately the answer is not a simple yes or no. To begin with, my understanding is that the study addressed a drug that contained a combination of estrogen and progesterone only. It did not address estrogen only applications for menopause hormone replacement therapy. This is very important because many women are taking an estrogen only hormone replacement regimen for their menopause as opposed to the combination estrogen and progesterone regimen. At this point, the data is specific to the estrogen and progesterone combination therapy and not for the estrogen only therapy.

The estrogen/progesterone combination therapy for menopause is a relatively new concept, which arose from the belief that estrogen only therapy increased the risk of endometrial hyperplasia in a small subset of women. Endometrial hyperplasia in time, increases the risk of endometrial or uterine cancer so; it seemed like a good idea to give the uterus a break from "Unopposed Estrogen" by using progesterone along with the estrogen. It appears from the study that this is not the case and the combination actually increases the risk of cancer.

For quite a few years now, it has been felt that estrogen is good for women in numerous ways. It does appear to decrease the risk of osteoporosis and hip fracture significantly and it tends to cure the uncomfortable symptoms of menopause known as "Vasomotor Symptoms" which consist of things like hot flashes, emotional lability, decreased libido and others. At one time it was also thought to improve one's "Cardiac Profile" or decrease the risk for heart disease. This does not currently appear to be the case. There probably is no added significant benefit in the Cardiac Profile from taking

estrogen; however, it has always been felt that this was a very small risk and the benefits of taking estrogen outweigh the risks so we have continued to prescribe it. There is also an increased risk for "Thrombotic Events" or blood clots and strokes in women taking estrogen particularly if they are smokers or have uncontrolled hypertension.

Estrogen is a naturally occurring substance in the body and, with the onset of menopause tends to indicate that a female in the age range of 40-50 years old reaches a point in her fertility cycle where she stops ovulating and her ovaries generally decrease their production of hormones. Increasingly, there is also the phenomenon of surgical menopause where women are undergoing hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy or removal of the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries. The significance of this is that these women have no ovaries or uterus; therefore, they should have no risk of uterine or ovarian cancer.

So, to try to answer the question of whether or not to take hormones, I am personally recommending that my patients taking the estrogen/progesterone treatment discontinue it. I think there are still significant benefits to be had in taking estrogen and, at this point, until something shows me that it is significantly dangerous to take it, I believe the benefits are greater than the risks. Women who have had hysterectomies don't have the same risks for ovarian and uterine cancers as those who have not had hysterectomies and, therefore, in this sense, have less of a risk of adverse effects from taking estrogen. It is possible that women who were taking estrogen/progesterone replacement therapy may simply be changed over to estrogen only therapy with a satisfactory risk to benefit profile. We all have to assume some measure of responsibility in our lives and we all must take some risks in everything which we do so, I believe a properly informed woman is capable of making a decision whether or not to take estrogen based upon her own risk factors, potential benefits, and symptoms. I will continue to prescribe estrogen replacement therapy as appropriately as I can while taking note of the compelling data that suggests that the benefits from combination therapy may not outweigh the risks.

Larry C. Boyd, M.D.



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Senior Citizens Corner

Everyone awoke to a beautiful, cool morning on Saturday, just right for the Watermelon Round Up! Our 'fun' day began when the car phone rang as we were on the road to Plains, inviting us to attend the fly-in breakfast at the Plains airport. We gladly attended and enjoyed a wonderful meal and good fellowship with other members or our aviation community.

We found close parking to the festivities and the first sight was seeing children enjoying a ride down main street in the local 'train'. We strolled down the main thoroughfare of booths which offered every kind of treasure for sale. There's no way to remember them all but, as in any large flea market setting, many people appeared to be looking at and buying from the countless crafts they offered.

We wondered to the seating section and found a spot to sit and visit with friends and enjoy the music and dancing presented by various groups. It was a beautiful setting as the giant trees, towering skyward, provided cool shade for everyone.

People wandered aimlessly, solo or in groups of two three or more as they enjoyed the gaiety. I was impressed that, in the midst of all our world's chaos, people can still laugh and love and enjoy being alive.

Fearing I may forget (a 'senior' moment it's called) part of the things we witnessed in those two or three hours, I borrowed a pen from a kind lady sitting behind me to jot down some of my thoughts and discovered she was grandmother of the young lad who won "Best of Show" in the watermelon decorating contest! She proudly shared that his name was Jaaron Bell and that he is nine years old. His watermelon football looked real enough to be used by Plains High School. I counted about fifteen creatively decorated melons on the exhibit table.

Gazing over the crowd, I noticed that the men's hat styles are changing. The West Texas

cowboy hats were around and the usual ball cap that is so familiar in recent years but several of the fellows were sporting the new shaped straw hat. Most of the ladies appeared to be braving the sun and breeze with just Mother Nature's provision.

All kinds of food booths were available so I made my way to the Funnel Cake booth for my annual treat and it was as good as I remembered. Then, departing for home, we enjoyed the restored antique auto display. A Great Day!

GARAGE SALE: Remember to save Saturday morning on September 21st to drop by the Center and check out the 'goodies' available. This is also a reminder to call us if you have things at your house you'd like us to drop by and pick up for the sale. (592-8000) All of your contributions are appreciated.

HEALTH FAIR: We remind you again of the health fair being held in the gymnasium at the Center on Tuesday, September 24th. Call the office at 592-8000 to tell us if you plan to come and if you have any questions regarding any of the tests planned.

We are saddened by the death of Rev. Wilbur Gaede who pastored at our local Methodist Church for many years. He is a brother in law to Opal Jefferson.

A big welcome home to Lenore Matus who has spent several weeks visiting family in Puerto Rico. She says there's no place like home (referring to Denver City).

We shall be looking forward to reading about our Senior Center family members as one of them is profiled each week in this column. You will learn about the many and varied locales from which they came to this place and share the saga of their lives as they have become a part of making Denver City what it is today. You may wish to file the columns to keep for the future reference about friends.

Thought for today: "Don't go through life, grow through life". (See John 15:5)

First United Methodist Church 1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx. 456-3727



Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Choir Rehearsal - 5:00 pm

Wednesday Connection
Food, Fellowship & Study
5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities
English as a Second Language
Thursday Evenings - 6:00-7:00 pm

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From The Hack

I spent Labor Day, September 2, hard at labor. Well, about 4.6 hours, at least.

I played golf. Not just me - me and my team, against a huge throng of REAL golfers in the local Labor Day Scramble, a very aptly named event, for we had to scramble to escape with our lives and clubs, but naturally no money.

Let me tell you about my team. One guy recently had a complete hip replacement, and continues to have a very painful looking limp, but which he swears does not really hurt. When he first returned to the stupid game of golf, he boasted of the components of his state-of-the-art new hip. He proudly proclaimed the plastic components were made of the very same stuff the nose of the space shuttles are covered with, guaranteed not to rust, bust, melt or bite the baby. The key metal hip parts were supposed to be pure Titanium, the most fantastic metal ever to hit the market place. Always suspicious of his verbal versions of about anything, I placed a discreet call to his surgeon, and after plying him with the promise of a jug of strong spirits, learned the truth. The so called titanium is actually recycled Coors cans, and the plastic stuff is really melted down store bought plastic water bottles.

My other team member was also physically challenged, also walked with a limp. His knee and a good portion of his leg was wrapped in something which I thought looked a lot like that plastic stuff women use in the kitchen, you know, Clang, or Siren Wrap, whatever. I asked, "What's that plastic stuff on your leg?" He replied, "I gotta bum knee, got it wrapped in box full of that Clang or Siren Wrap, whatever it is."

"How come you didn't buy you a knee brace, Doofus?", I asked.

"Are you kidding? Those things cost big bucks. This plastic stuff I stole from the wife's cupboard don't cost hardly nothing. I saved a bundle!"

All this from a guy who has about \$3,000 worth of golf stuff he's loading on the cart.

As soon as we were called to tee it up and get started, I sensed trouble brewing. The bad hip guy hit a screaming, arrow straight drive which would have gone much further had it not killed a mallard duck dutifully bobbing for what ever they bob for in the lake on #13. The gimp knee guy decided he would play it a bit more conservatively, and hit a 5 wood off the tee. He was a bit over conservative, for he only rolled the Wal Mart Special ball about 18 inches.

I wasn't quite ready to hit, frantically trying to bribe the other team with a fifty to let me join their ranks, but all they could say in unison was, "We don't need money THAT bad!"

I played superbly, of course. Well, there may be a bit of controversy over that statement. Perhaps I should say, I played. Period. Not well enough, however, to carry my two overweight, crippled partners. We failed to get in the tournament money. We DID, however, play bad enough to lose a hefty Nassau bet to the other team, who must have studied score card manipulation at an Arthur Andersen Accounting firm. As soon as we paid them off, they all shouted in unison, "We want to play with you guys again next time we get a chance... which will be everyday, if you continue to show up! You guys are really FUN to be around!"

Yeah. I could have had about as much fun watching a descending guillotine blade.

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We continue to receive calls, one-on-one inquiries about the Bride's progress with her chemo therapy. This issue of CCN will be published Wednesday, September 11, and as of about 11 AM Thursday, she will, Praise God, have completed her last treatment. During our last visit with the Oncologist monitoring the chemo, he told us, "You are right on schedule, right in line with where we expected you to be. Your blood work looks good, and when we're through with you September 12, you and I won't have to visit for at least three months."

Both of us, of course, are elated. It is not a pleasant experience for her, but one she never considered resisting. It has also been enlightening for the two of us. The Southwest Cancer Center at UMC is a busy facility. The treatment room seems to be busy, usually full each Thursday we're there. Patients range in age from much older than Bride, to a tiny three year old girl with leukemia. I was depressed the first visit, and so was Bride. Amazingly, 90% of the patients were not.

The staff, male and female nurses, are superb, work tremendously hard, and do everything possible to ease the two to eight hour treatments for those hooked up to bewildering tubes and machines. I praise their dedication to what has to be a traumatic work experience.

We feel the devouring wolf is no longer at our door. Holly and I prayerfully thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

Yoakum County Hospital is accepting applications for the position of OUTPATIENT Admission Clerk plus accounts payable and other duties. Applicant should have high school diploma and needs computer experience, must have the ability to work well with the public. Yoakum County Hospital has excellent benefits. Application can be picked up at the Yoakum County Hospital Business Office located at 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas E.O.E.

Solving Texas' Medical Malpractice Crisis Requires Limits on Damages

Serious consequences await consumers, physicians and the Texas economy unless dramatic changes are made to our state's medical malpractice insurance system. The signs of strain already are evident and will only worsen with inaction.

Members of the Texas Association of Business and the public have identified holding the line on rising health care costs as this state's top priority. When physicians are in the street protesting skyrocketing insurance rates, doctors are forced to either close their practices or leave Texas, and patients - many in this state's most medically underserved areas - are denied health care, then it's time for our leaders to step forward and meet the challenge. That time is now.

Outrageous jury awards and frivolous lawsuits are strangling the delivery of health care in this state.

The American Medical Association has identified Texas as one of 12 states that are in serious danger of doctor shortages because of the sharp increase in medical malpractice insurance premiums. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that a medical malpractice insurance system containing reasonable rates on non-economic damages will save taxpayers at least \$30 billion each year by reducing federal health-care spending.

TAB has proposed an eight-point plan to reform Texas' medical malpractice insurance system. The reforms are designed to return financial stability to the marketplace and allow physicians to concentrate



Bill Hammond

on patient care instead of defensive medicine.

The highlights of TAB's medical malpractice reform package include:

- Limit non-economic damages, such as pain and suffering, to \$200,000 for each claimant and establish in statute that "economic damages" does not include punitive or non-economic damages.

- Ensure the bulk of any award goes to the claimant by establishing a sliding scale for attorney contingency fees of 33 percent for the initial \$100,000 in damages, with fees decreasing as the recovery increases.

- Strengthen expert witness requirements that are now being abused, and allow the defense to immediately appeal a decision on expert witness qualifications or a trial judge's failure to dismiss a lawsuit when expert witness reporting requirements are not met.

- Encourage the use of arbitration to settle disputes.

Lawmakers are taking notice. A special Senate committee and the House Insurance Committee have been directed to look into the medical liability insurance issue and to recommend legislation to the 2003 Texas Legislature.

Indicative of their public policy importance, the reforms also have been sent to Gov. Rick Perry, gubernatorial candidate Tony Sanchez and lieutenant governor candidates David Dewhurst and John Sharp, the officials who will lead Texas and who also must commit to tackling this problem head-on.

Our proposals are modeled after legislation California adopted in 1975, and which observers have pointed to as a blueprint for solving the medical malpractice crisis.

The reforms are designed to ensure that Texas' medical malpractice system fully compensates any patient injured through negligent acts. But at the same time, a stop must be put to trial lawyers who use our courts primarily to enrich themselves at the expense of consumers, patients, doctors and our health care system.

The medical malpractice reforms are one component of a comprehensive package of proposals TAB has developed to make health care more affordable and accessible in Texas.

The volunteer task force that developed these health care solutions had a single goal in mind: to make Texas a better place to live and work. We trust that our state's leaders and legislators will accept TAB's recommendations in that spirit: an earnest attempt to solve a common problem.

Bill Hammond is president and CEO of the Texas Association of Business, which was founded in 1922 and is a broad-based, bipartisan organization representing more than 140,000 small and large Texas employers and 200 local chambers of commerce.

* Public Notice *

City of Plains Texas Community Development Program

City of Plains is giving notice of the city's intent to submit a Community Development Fund application for a grant from the Texas Community Development Program. The grant application requested is for grant funds up to \$250,000 for water system improvements in the City of Plains. The application is available for review at City Hall during regular business hours.

Shaken, not deterred

The Texas Department of Economic Development's Travel Research Section says Texas tourism, which relies heavily on automobile traffic, fared well in the months following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Compared to 2000, auto traffic in the last quarter of 2001 through the state's Travel Information Centers rose significantly.



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