

Cowboy Country

News

God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 42, July 10, 2002

Recent rains restoring hopes

Sandy Land Water District's contract with New Mexico counties should enhance precip chances both sides of border

Recent and long awaited rainfall in most parts of the South Plains has cheered farmers and ranchers throughout the region. A survey of rain gauges deployed throughout Yoakum County by Sand Land Underground Water District is not complete, but it appears most all of the county has received badly needed moisture.

Gary Walker, Consultant at the water district here and chief architect of SOAR (Southern Ogallala Aquifer Rainfall program), told CCN he was elated at the recent precipitation, and was confident recent negotiations with New Mexico officials from Lea and Roosevelt Counties would not only benefit New Mexico producers and residents, but should greatly benefit the Texas counties currently sponsoring the SOAR program, Yoakum, Gaines and Terry.

"On May 8, we signed a contract with New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation districts in Lea and Roosevelt counties. The contracts will furnish us an additional \$120,000 to fund cloud seeding efforts for five and one-half months in most areas of the two counties. The work area would extend over about 3 million acres of New Mexico, plus additional acreage in a large buffer zone.



This gauge in the backyard of CCN shows a total of 1 and 1/2 inches of precip which fell the nights of July 3, 4 and 5. The SOAR aircraft was seeding clouds all three of those afternoons. (yes, the photo was staged - a drop of coffee was added to better show the measurement.)

"When Yoakum, Gaines and Terry county acreage is added, the two aircraft we now have based here will have about six million acres to work with, and three million acres per plane is the ideal size for this type program."

Walker said another pilot to fly the second Cessna 340 aircraft owned by the water district is now aboard here, and has been making familiarization flights with Walker. Shane Johnson, a veteran pilot from Minnesota, had extensive experience in weather projects in 2000. He will live in a travel trailer here

until the end of the contract period on September 30.

Both Walker and SOAR's Meteorologist Duncan Axisa are confident the contract with the two Easter New Mexico counties will be mutually beneficial. There are occasions when proper type clouds build over Lea and Roosevelt counties, and forecasts indicate they may not reach the Texas border. "We can assess the clouds with our radar unit, and go to work on them while they are over New Mexico, really enhancing the chances of rain falling there," Walker explained. "We know the prevailing weather pattern here has potential rain bearing clouds approaching our three Texas counties from either the southwest, west, or northwest. Our radar gives us an excellent image of these cloud formations within a 90 mile radius. We should have ample time to get airborne, treat the clouds over the two New Mexico counties, increasing rain odds there, and also here as they move into our three Texas county work area. It's a win-win scenario for this area of both states," Walker related.

Suitable clouds are treated with silver iodide flares, from either the top of the cloud or

Turn To Page 3,
CLOUD SEEDING

49th Rodeo, Old Settlers Reunion coming up



The banner announcing the upcoming Rodeo and Old Settlers Reunion is again flying over US 82/380 on the east side of town. The Plains Rodeo Association, comprised of the local Roping Club, Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, have been making last minute plans for the annual celebration. The rodeo will run each evening on August 1, 2 and 3 at 8 PM. Rodeo events include team roping, bareback and saddle bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, ladies breakaway roping and barrel racing, and membership ribbon and team roping. Books to sign up for the rodeo will open at 10 AM July 29 and close that evening at 7 PM. Admission prices for the rodeo are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 5 to

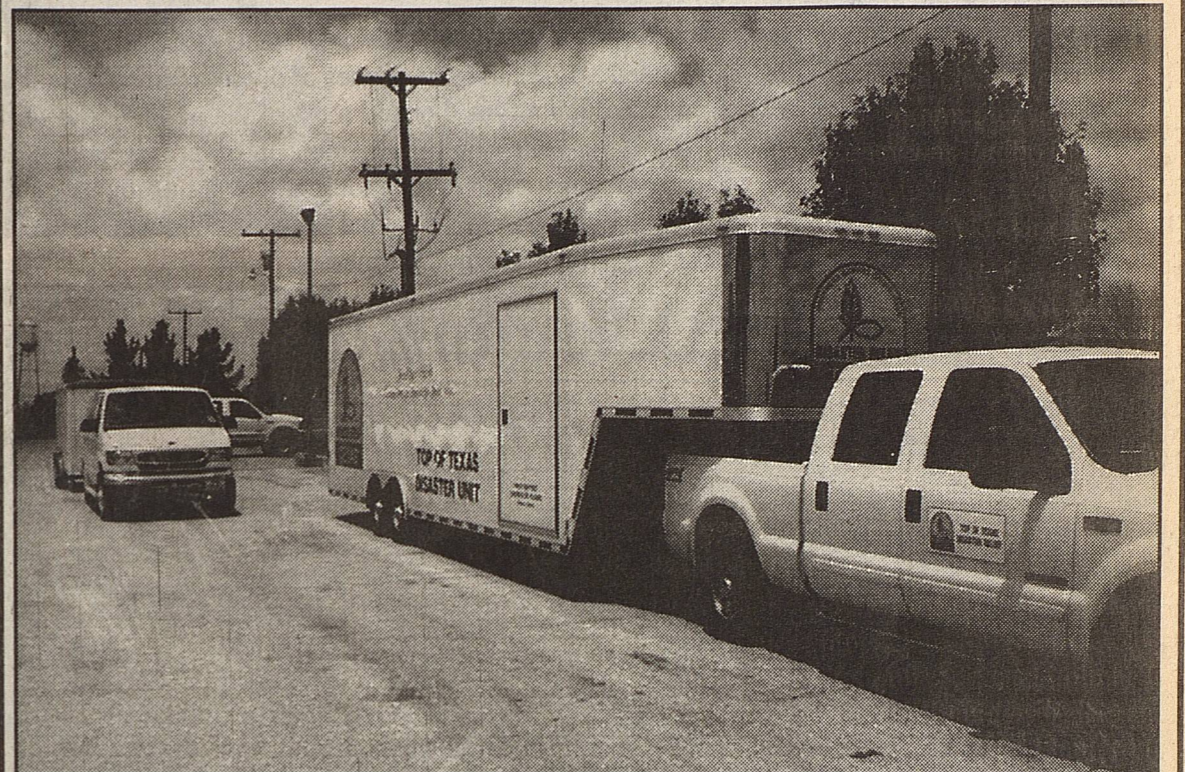
11. The Rodeo parade along Cowboy Way will start at 10:30 AM Saturday morning.

The annual Old Settlers Reunion will again be in Stanford Park, and this years big barbecue feed will be catered by Kay's Katering here in Plains. Tickets for the meal are \$6.

Another big event of the celebration features the Yoakum County Art Association Show and Sale August 2 and 3.

This year's Rodeo Queen contestants are Stacie Alldredge, Chamber of Commerce, Megan Allsup, Roping Club, and Jamie Covarrubias. Plains Lions Club. Buy tickets from the girls.... you could win a custom built western saddle, or five hundred bucks, cash!

"On The Road Again"



Immediately after last Sunday's services, many members of First Baptist Church Disaster Relief Team loaded three vehicles and two large trailers, bound for the Abilene-Brownwood and San Antonio areas to help feed thousands forced from their homes by the devastating floods in those areas. Members and volunteer from other areas going to San Antonio included Judy London, Ricky Henson, Bucky Johnson, Danny Green, Phil & Lynette Barefield, Danny Smith, Jered and Kay Sellers. Jered was 'White Cap' boss coordinating the work in both areas. The team going to Abilene was headed by 'Blue Cap' boss Bill Wright, Marc Traweek, Larry McMinn, Marvin and Elvina Friesen, Marge Cardwell, Pat and Billy Jo Collins, Terry and Twila Forbes, David and Jean Felty, and Brian Crittenden. FBC office personnel said Jeff Roper should be in the Brownwood area by press time, assessing needs there.

Update on City Hall happenings

Each ten years, inspectors from the Insurance Services Office in Austin call on cities and towns to evaluate their fire fighting capabilities for rating purposes. Plains City Administrator Ed Hansen told CCN Monday morning a representative from Insurance Services (ISO) completed an inspection of Plains' on April 30, and when the report was finalized and furnished to the city, it appears home and business owners here could benefit from possible lower insurance rates on fire insurance.

Hansen explained ISO rates each community on a scale of one to ten, ten being the lowest rating, one the highest, or best rating. The prior inspection awarded Plains a 9.5 rating, and an accompanying report related the low rating was the result of the inspector considering the dual city and county water storage systems a detriment, low quantity of water and water pressure, and fire fighting equipment and facilities.

"The ISO inspector this year had a different outlook about our two water storage tanks, and considered our two storage facilities a plus. He also scored us well on our new pump station with high capacity pumps, the new source of water from our wells west of town, and liked our new fire station and the added equipment we have furnished our fire department." Hansen said the inspector was favorably impressed with the storage capacity and increased water pressure.

The city now has a 7 rating, which will be in effect November 1. Hansen suggested all home and business owners contact their insurance agents when the new rating goes into effect. It could lower premium payments.

Hansen also reported Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission recently conducted an annual inspection of city and county water storage towers. The TNRCC inspector gave the city a failure report on the city tower, based on peeling paint on the exterior of the tank portion. Hansen said the city conducted preliminary inquiries on costs to sandblast and repaint the tower, with estimates ranging from \$90,000 to \$200,000. A problem with re-painting the structure would be removing the lead based primer coating under the aluminum paint. "Lead based paint is a hazardous material, and it would have to be removed, then hauled to an approved disposal site," Hansen said. "We checked into cost estimates of building a new tower, one of at least 150 thousand gallon capacity, and we feel a new, larger tower could be constructed for about \$400,000. The council is now considering applying for a state approved grant. These grants are usually on a ten-to-one ratio, which means if a \$400,000 grant is approved, we would have to put up \$40,000 for the new and larger capacity tower. It looks to me it would be much more cost effective to build the new tower, rather than re-painting the smaller tower."

Criminal cases in County Court

Lazaro G. Perez agreed on the State's motion to modify conditions of community supervision from a prior DWI. He will pay additional \$200 court appointed attorney fees at \$34 per month, serve additional 26 hours community service, and complete the outpatient TAIP program.

James William Dowdy Jr, had conditions of community supervision from a prior DWI modified to include a delinquent fine of \$330, delinquent supervision fees of \$254, and serve an additional 25 hours community service.

Jeremy Isidro Ponce pled guilty to a first DWI, BT .105/.96. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay a \$500 fine, \$226 court costs, and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 15 hours served, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, surrender his driver license 90 days, install an interlock device on any driven vehicle, and perform 24 hours community service. His attorney was Emilio E. Abayta, and investigating officer was Trooper Brad Taylor, DPS.

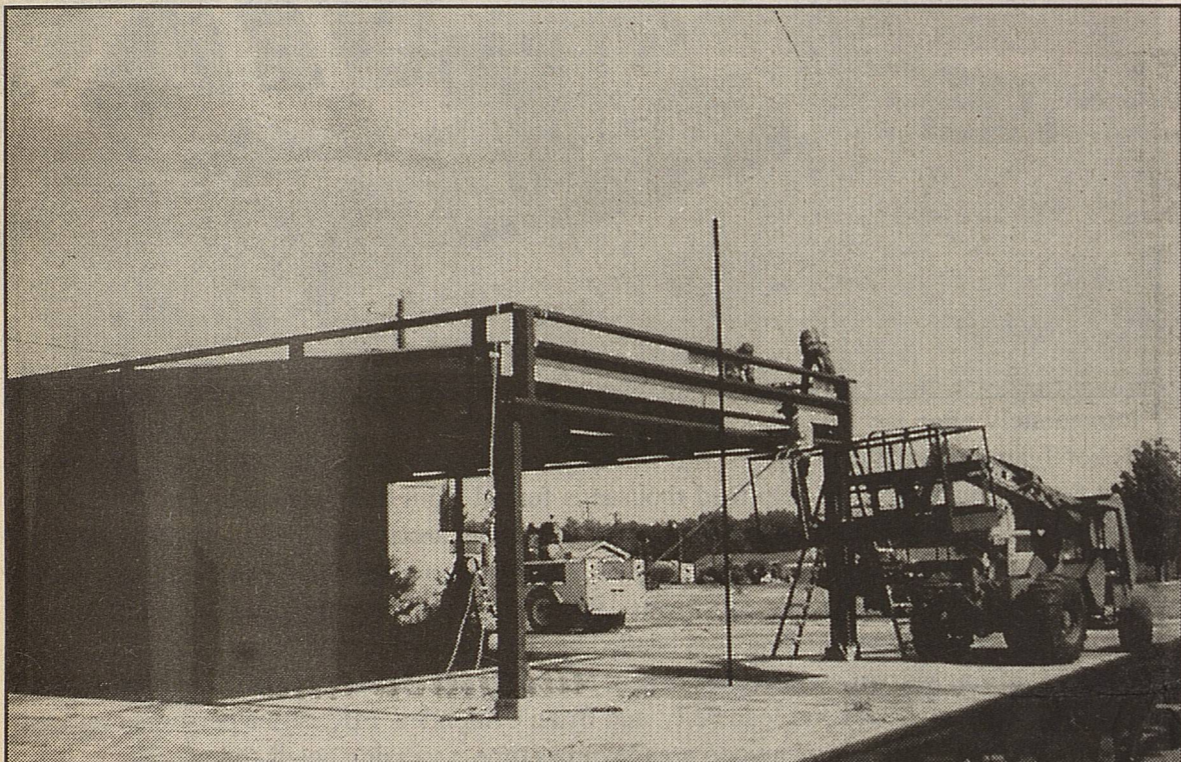
Turn To Page 3,
COUNTY COURT

Brisk business on the 4th



Business was good over the July 4th period at Plains' only fireworks stand just west of town. A quick tour of the city last Thursday revealed a dozen or more scenes of outdoor barbecues taking place, and the sound of fireworks lasted throughout the day and most of the night. Some of the Independence Day activities included a large volley ball tournament in Stanford Park, A day long picnic in the park at Denver City, a three person scramble tournament at the county course featuring a field of 49 teams, and Denver City's impressive annual fireworks show that evening. County residents had many ways of saying Happy Birthday, America.

New ATM coming to PSB



Fryar Construction of Denver City recently completed expanding the customer drive-thru facility at Plains State Bank to two lanes. A new ATM machine will be installed between the traffic lanes. Bank officials are waiting for the ATM to be delivered to Lubbock, and expect it to be in use here by the end of the month.

Co-op trims trees for safety and reliability

Although drought conditions continue to dominate the local weather, nothing seems to grow quite as fast as a tree under a power line. In an effort to eliminate the problems caused by limbs contacting live wires, Lea County Electric crews have been working to trim branches away from the Cooperaive's overhead power lines.

According to Co-op General Manager, Michael Dreyspring, the need for trimming involves both safety and reliability. "Safety is our primary concern, and it's important we maintain adequate clearance along our easements and rights-of-way. A tree growing into a power line could allow a climber to come into contact with energized conductors. Too, trees are an extension of the ground; if branches come into contact with live conductors, a short can occur interrupting power. Recent outages have caused us to examine all areas throughout our service territory where contact has been - or could be - a problem."

While the Co-op is actively engaged in summer pruning, the benefits continue into winter. "Winter storms often bring ice, and a heavy accumulation can easily snap branches; if these limbs are near conductors, they can tear down lines and service wires causing a prolonged outage and possibly damage to residences and businesses," said Dreyspring.

For more information, please call 505-396-3631 or toll free at 800-510-5232.

The XIT Ranch began breaking up in 1901, with one million acres sold the first year. The English company which financed the state capitol disbanded in 1906.

Larry Combest Comments.....

I will continue to support America's families and children by working to improve our nation's welfare system.

One of the greatest legislative accomplishments of the last decade was the historic 1996 welfare reform bill. Until that time, welfare recipients were locked into dead-end avenues of despair with little hope for a better future. The 1996 bill completely changed the welfare program, giving states more flexibility and promoted independence for recipients.

The changes made then have proven to be very effective, and have had a dramatic impact on the nation's welfare system. Welfare caseloads have fallen by 9 million - from 14 million recipients in 1994 to just 5 million today. In addition, the number of individuals receiving cash assistance has dropped by 56%. This means people are truly moving from welfare rolls to the workforce, a win-win situation for the individual and the government.

The 1996 welfare reform bill needed to be reauthorized by Congress this year or it will expire. I was pleased to co-sponsor HR 4737, the Personal Responsibility, Work and Family Promotion Act, which extends the 1996 bill and makes some important improvements.

HR 4737 requires more from those receiving assistance. Recipients are now required to work 40 hours a week instead of the current 30 hours. By increasing work hour requirements, we will better prepare welfare recipients for future jobs. Furthermore, 16 of those 40 hours can be used for vocational training or education, which will further prepare them for future jobs.

This bill increases the minimum work requirements for states to have 70% or more of the welfare families in work programs by FY 2007. Now states are required to have 50% of their welfare caseloads in work programs. If we truly want to be a welfare-to-work program, it is essential we continue to increase the percentage of welfare recipients actually working. Success should be reassured by how few people are on welfare rolls.

This legislation also includes important provisions helping strengthen families. It includes \$300 million for programs encouraging healthy marriages by providing pre-marital education and marriage counseling. It increases funding for state child care programs by \$2 billion over the next five years. I believe programs helping strengthen families is an important part of a successful welfare program.

States have been doing excellent work administering welfare programs, in part due to the flexibility they have been given by Congress. HR4737 increases this flexibility by allowing states to conduct "state flex" demonstration projects giving states opportunities to test and develop innovative welfare programs. Welfare programs that work wonderfully in New York may not be successful in Texas. States need flexibility so they can design and use the welfare programs right for them.

Welfare reform is about lifting up needy Americans and helping them by promoting independence. You can be assured Dec. 31, 1825- The population of Villa de Bejar consisted of fifty married soldiers, three carpenters, a blacksmith and a stone mason.



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MEMBER 2002

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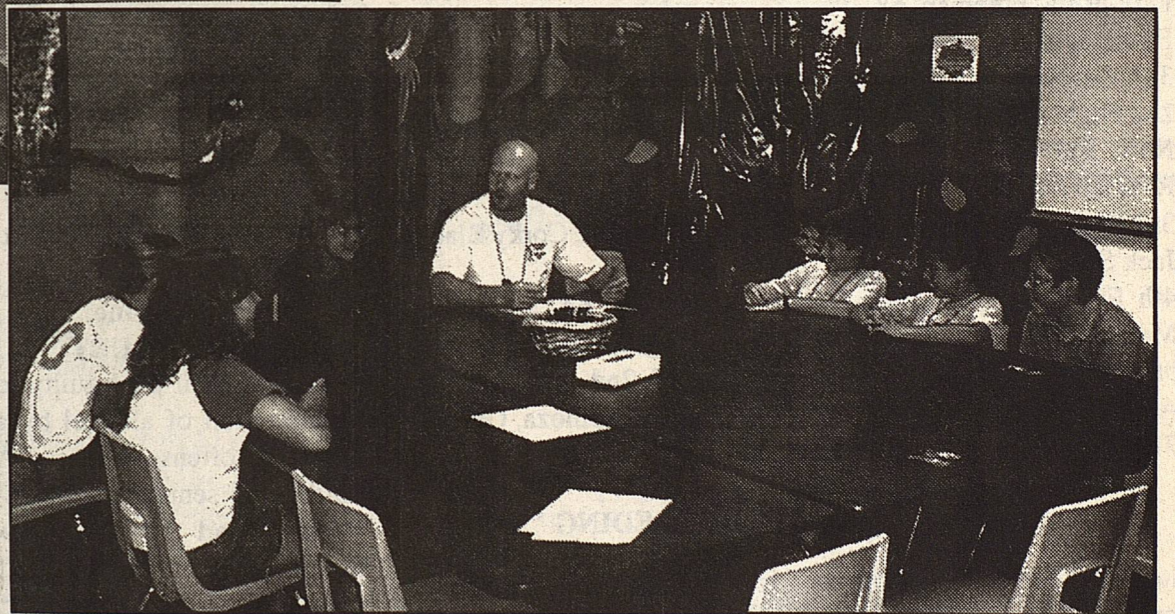
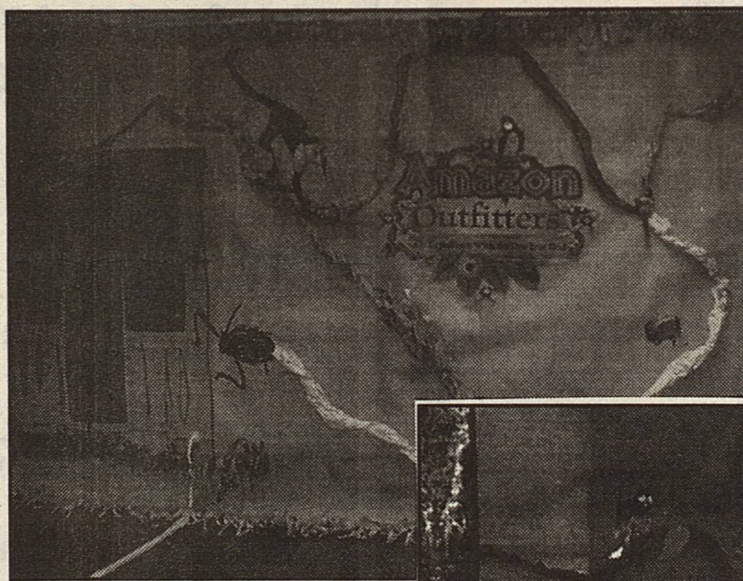
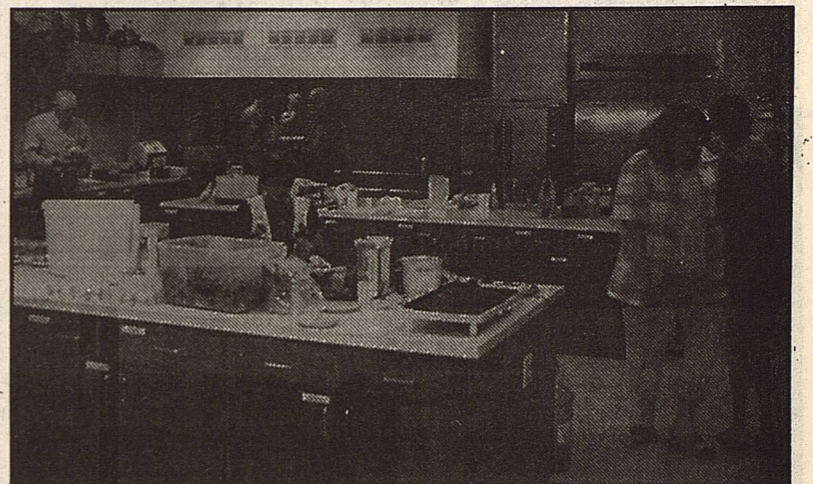
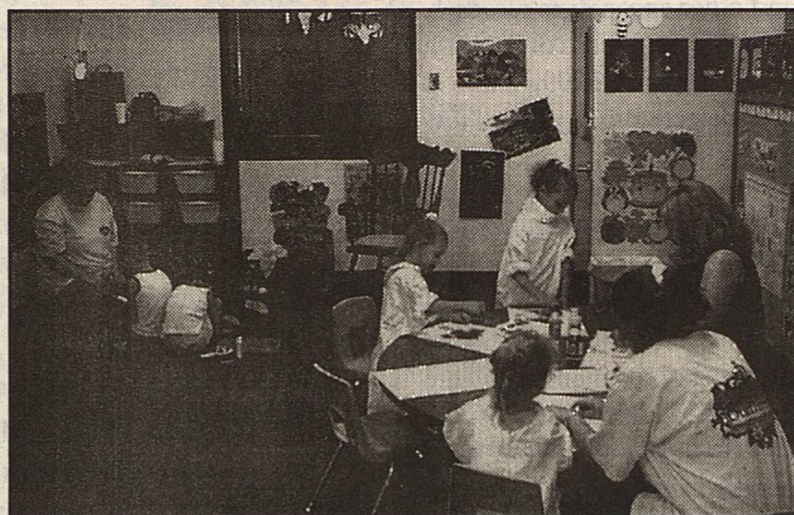
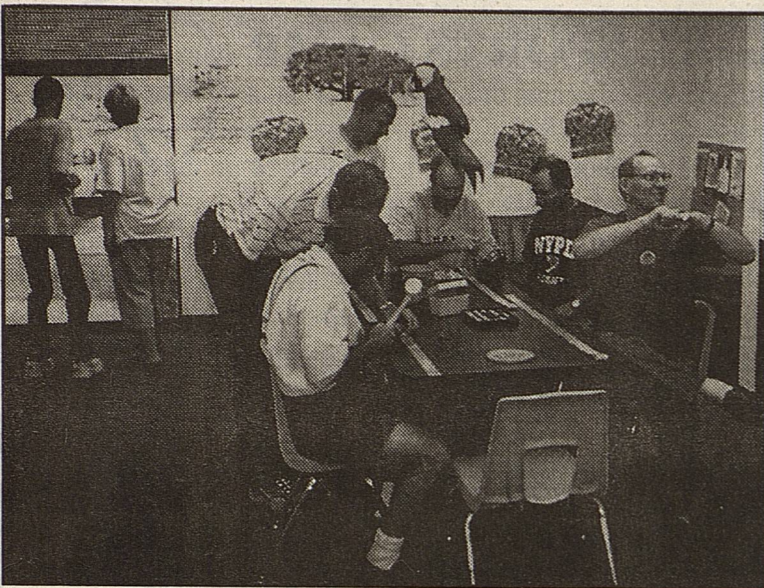
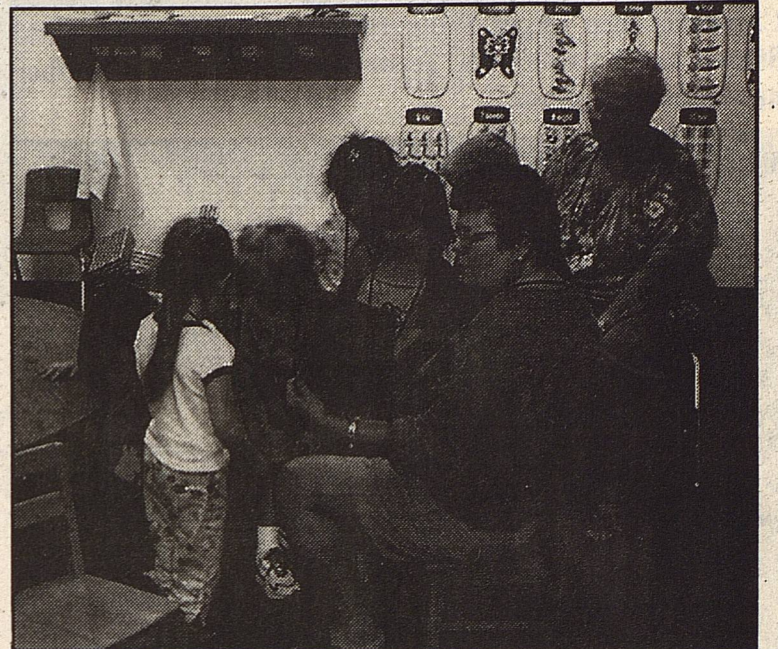
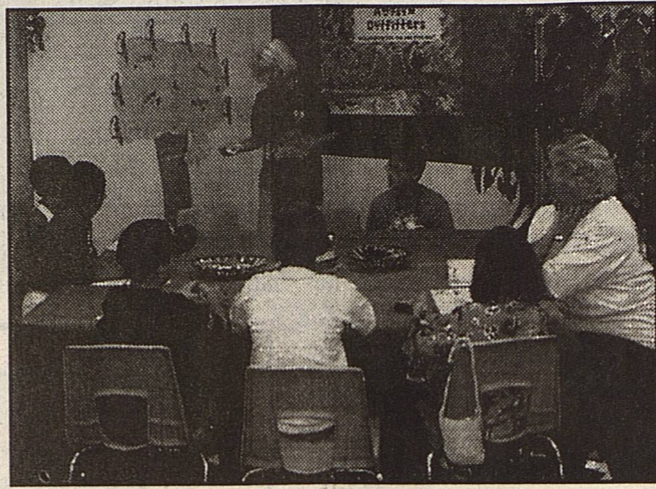
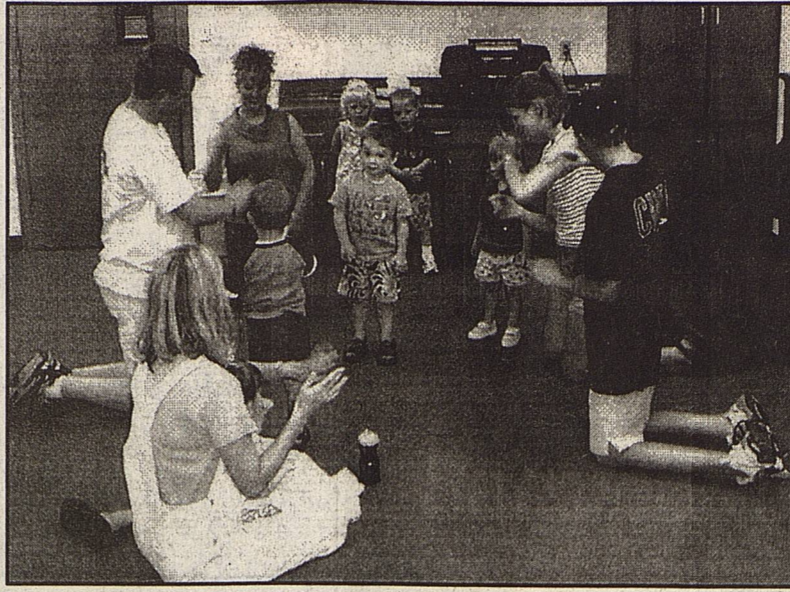
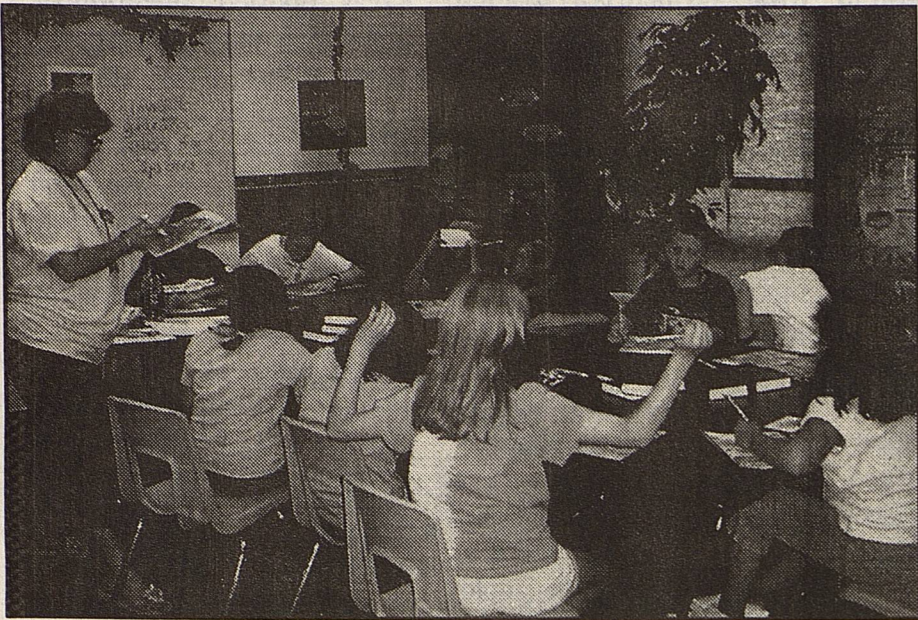
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A smorgasboard of First Baptist Vacation Bible School



Some 80 youngsters
attended and
enjoyed the school

Over 60
volunteers
worked the
four night
school

Weather Forecast From Duncan Axisa, Meteorologist, SOAR Program

DATE	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	WIND	RAIN (Inches)
Today	Partly cloudy	91/66	SE 5-15 mph	Nil
Thursday	Partly cloudy	93/67	E 5-15 mph	Nil
Friday	Partly cloudy; chance of TS	93/68	E 5-15 mph	< 0.25



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July 14, 2002
11:00 a.m. - ???

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July 4th Golf Tourney



Championship Flight Winners with a score of 56, Todd Stroud and Steve Evans. Team member Paul Kindsfather unavailable for photo.



Locals Robby Guetersloh, Bruce Lester and former resident Billy Guetersloh shot 61 to win second place in the First Flight.



Plains golfers Ed Hansen, Bill Butler and Alan Bell shot 64 to take first place in the third flight of the tournament.

Other tournament finishes included; Championship- 2nd, Risley, Black, Hill, 57, 3rd, Sanders, Droogsm, Freeman, 58.
 First Flight- 1st, Dallas Brewer, Kenny Smith, Kenny Dierschke, 3rd, Garcia, Garcia, Hilburn.
 2nd Flight - 1st, G. Black, D. Black, Thompson, 62. 2nd, Paul New, Barry New, David Black, 63, 3rd Trevino, Honnert, Rackley 64.
 3rd Flight- 2nd, Davila, Guerra, Hinojosa, 65, 3rd, Corky Black, Jack Sessions, Red Berry 66.
 4th Flight- 1st, Howell, Burkhalter, Chiles, 64, 2nd, Dial, McCullough, Gibson, 65, 3rd, Arguijo, Arguijo, Arguijo, 66.
 5th Flight- 1st, Boyd, Stewart, Williams, 67, 2nd, Al. Martinez, Ab. Martinez, J. Martinez, 68, 3rd, Conde, Espinoza, Galvan, 71.

From Page One, ' CLOUD SEEDING '

its base, to encourage both the growth in size and lifetime of the clouds. Aircraft on top of cloud formations eject burning flares into the clouds, while planes working clouds from the base use burn-in-place flares, and smoke from the silver iodide rises in the cloud's updraft. " Those flares cost from \$25

to \$28 each. This may sound expensive, but if we can nudge mother nature into letting us have an inch or so of rain, particularly at this time of year for our ag producers, the financial benefits are incalculable."

Texas' first case of West Nile Virus found in horse

Preliminary tests on a sick horse June 29 near Katy in Harris County indicated the animal was infected with West Nile Virus (WNV), a form of "sleeping sickness". " We were notified on July 3 tests run on samples of the horse's blood and spinal fluid were positive for WNV. The tests were run at both the Texas Veterinary Medicine Lab in College Station, and the National Veterinarian Lab in Ames, Iowa," said Dr. Linda Logan, Texas' state veterinarian and executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC). Signs of the disease, including staggering or the inability to rise, can mimic other diseases, including rabies and other encephalitic diseases. WNV was unheard of in North America until 1999, when it was detected in birds in New York. The disease, which causes brain swelling and severe illness, had previously been confined to Africa, Europe, Asia and the Middle East. In 2001, 738 horses or other equine family members were diagnosed in the United States, and about 20 percent of the infected animals had to be destroyed.

Currently there is no vaccine for WNV for people, but fortunately, the disease is extremely rare in humans. Apparently the disease is often spread by mosquitos. Horse owners are cautioned, " If your horse becomes ill and goes off feed, sways, develops head tremors, muscle twitches or cannot rise, contact your Vet so he can collect and send in blood samples to the Texas Veterinarian Medical Department Lab." Laboratory confirmation of cases is particularly important for tracking the movement of WNV within the state.

From Page One, COUNTY COURT

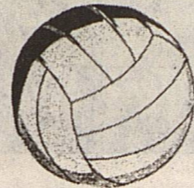
Leanna Corral pled guilty to consumption of alcohol by a minor, 3rd offense enhanced. A 30 day jail sentence was suspended and probated six months. She must pay \$211 court costs, \$200 fine and \$25 time payment fee. She will spend 24 hours in jail with credit for eight hours served, complete the TAIP program, serve 24 hours community service, and surrender her driver license 60 days. Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell was investigating officer.

Court approves grant request for EMS ambulances

In the July 8 session of Commissioner's court, Karen Tovar, Denver City EMS, and Curtis Coffman, Plains EMS, sought the court's approval to apply for grants to purchase a new ambulance for each EMS department. Tovar said the Denver City unit, a 1992 model, had the equivalent of over 200,000 miles, considering idling time while on emergency runs, and needed a complete engine overhaul, estimated to cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. Coffman said the 1986 Plains unit had equally high mileage, and often experienced starting problems. They said preliminary estimates showed each new unit would cost some \$78,000. They proposed applying for two \$35,000 grants, and asked the court to pay the balance on each unit. Tovar said there is a possibility the Denver City grant might not be approved because of other recent approved grants. In that case, the EMS unit there would repair the old ambulance. Coffman told the court he was also applying for an additional \$4000 grant for a new emergency radio system, and asked the court to authorize matching funds for the radio system. The court approved the request. A number of employee changes in the Criminal District Attorney's office were approved, including; the employ-

ment and salary of Chandra Dominguez as third deputy, employment and salary for Veronica Hernandez from part time to full time as third deputy, and promotion and salary for Gwenn Hinson from third deputy to second deputy. Tax assessor/collector Betty Rivas reported collection of \$34,858 in taxes during the month of June.

.....
Marshall, Feb. 14, 1854 - The Texas-Red River Tekegraph Company opened an office here today. The company offers telegraph connections with New Orleans and Natchez, Miss. Present plans call for expanding the line to Rusk, Henderson, Houston and other Texas cities. The wires are strung on trees and small posts, but the company promises good service.
 The Texas News



COWGIRL SPORTS CAMP



When: July 22 - 25

**Time: 9:00 - 12:00 Volleyball
 12:00 - 1:00 *Lunch
 1:00 - 4:00 Basketball**

*** Bring your sack lunch and eat with us! Also, feel free to come eat with your athlete and/or pick them up for lunch.**

**For Who: Girls entering the 3rd grade - 8th grade
 Cost: \$10**

(Please make checks payable to Plains I.S.D.)

Where: Plains High School Gym

Questions: Please contact Coach Lusk at 456 - 2118

If you have not pre-registered, you can register on July 22nd from 8:30 - 9:00.

REGISTRATION FORM:

Name: _____

Age: _____

Grade (Fall 2002): _____

T-shirt Size: _____
 (Please indicate with "Y" for Youth and "A" for Adult)

In case of an emergency, please notify:

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Waiver of Claims:

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Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____

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Looking back to 1957

We did a hasty scouring of the archived local newspapers kept at the County Library, and found some interesting reading in 1957 issues of the Yoakum County Review.

Some things never change, and some were found in a column written by then County Agent Leo W. White; "Many of our farmers and ranchers in the county are going to have to find some new ways to get out of a trap this year that they have never used before. The economists tell us that the prices of the goods that farmers and ranchers have to buy will be higher this year. They also say that the prices for goods that producers have to sell will be higher, but these two increases will not be enough to keep them out of the squeeze.

"Farming and ranching in this area will create a number of problems. When problems become solved we have progress, but progress in farming and ranching does not always mean forging ahead. Farmers and ranchers can go broke by progressing too slowly. An agricultural community can die because it does not keep up with the times."

In a January 1957 issue of the Record, Tax Assessor/Collector Robert Chambliss placed a bold, half page ad, urging resi-

SPC sets student orientation for fall semester

New student orientation, which includes advising and pre-registration for fall classes, is scheduled in July and August for students enrolling this fall at South Plains College in Levelland.

Orientation is scheduled according to major and is strongly recommended for all entering full-time students and transfer students who have fewer than 30 semester hours, or are admitted on a probationary status.

Students who are undecided about their major or are considering majors not listed should call the Counseling Center for the best dates for them to attend.

Students applying to the college will receive a letter notifying them of the date of their orientation. Students who have not yet applied may contact the Counseling Center, 894-9611, ext. 2366 or 2368.

The July orientation schedule is July 17-18, auto/diesel services, auto collision, electronic service technology, heating, air conditioning and welding; July 24-25- accounting, computer information systems, business/transfer/general management, education, English, history, government, law enforcement, math, foreign language, human science, criminal justice, law enforcement, pre/nursing, pre/

physical therapy, pre/occupational therapy, pre/veterinary, pre/radiology, psychology, sociology, speech and drama.

August orientation schedule is August 7-8, pre-med, pre-med tech, art, biology, chemistry, child development, commercial art, economics, forestry, journalism, music, music education, performing arts, physical education, pre-dental, pre-optometry, pre-pharmacy, religion, sound technology and telecommunications, and August 20, orientation for students living more than 200 miles from campus.

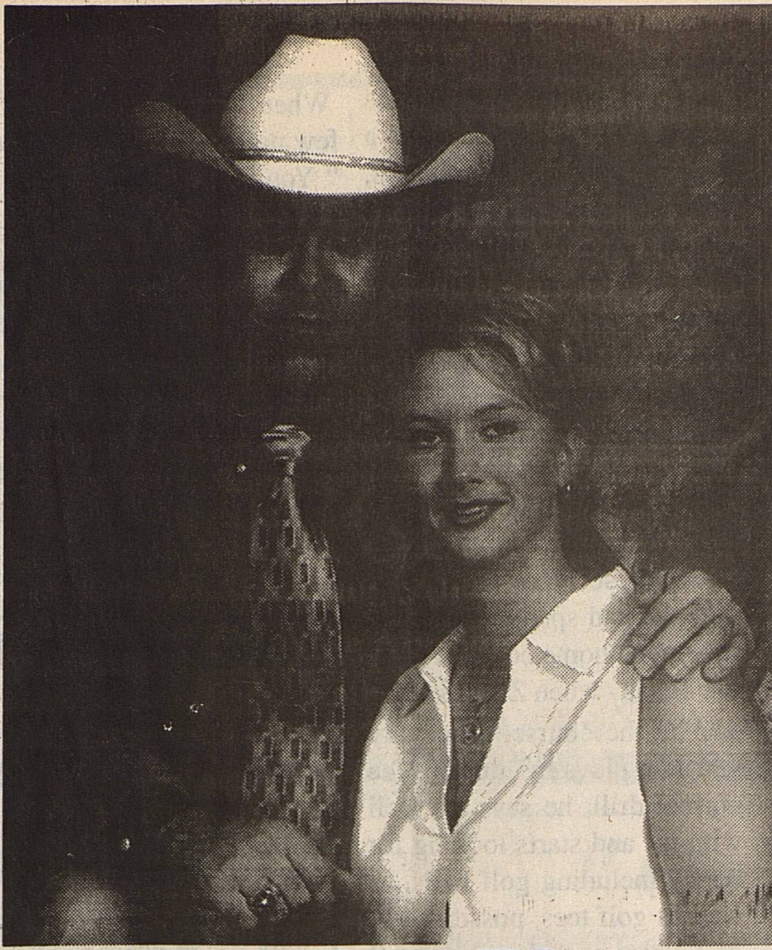
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Wedding Plans

Larry and Ruth Murphree wish to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their son, Tracy, to Candace Lambert of Sanger, Texas, on August 3, 2002, at the Little Chapel of the Woods on the TWU campus, Denton, Texas.

Keeping swimmer's ear at bay

If you've ever had swimmer's ear, chances are you've wanted to pull the plug on the pain. "When water is trapped in the ear canal for a long time, the skin barrier is weakened," said Dr. Jeffrey Vrabc, an associate professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Bacteria can then enter the skin, causing an infection that can become very painful."

Swimmer's ear, or otitis externa, is an inflammation of the outer ear that is most often caused by an accumulation of excess moisture from swimming or daily showering. Symptoms of swimmer's ear include swelling, redness, itching, muffled hearing and/or discharge from the ear. Antibiotic drops are used to treat the condition, and pain can be lessened by applying a warm cloth or by using a heating pad.

"If severe swelling occurs, it

helps to place a cotton wick in the ear to prevent further inflammation and help control pain," Vrabc said.

To help prevent swimmer's ear, Vrabc recommends:

- * wear earplugs and cap when swimming
- * use alcohol based drops before and after swimming and showering
- * use a hair dryer to dry the ear canal and prevent water build-up and infection.

* do not use cotton swabs to remove water from the ear. This can pack material deeper in the narrow ear canal, and irritate the skin and make it bleed.

"It is important not to clean the ear vigorously to prevent infection," Vrabc said. "Excessive cleaning can damage and break down the skin barrier, making bacterial infection more likely."

NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

FICTION:

True To Form...Elizabeth Berg, *Between Friends*...Debbie Macomber, *In This Mountain*...Jan Karon, *To Catch A Spy*...Stuart M. Kaminsky, *This Pen For Hire*...Laura Levine, *Jolie Blon's Bounce*...James Lee Burke, *Vineyard Enigma*...Philip R. Craig, *Sunset In St. Tropez*...Danielle Steel, *The Wailing Wind*...Tony Hillerman, *The Dream Of Scipio*...Iain Pears, *Freedom's Ransom*...Anne McCaffrey, *Cold Company*...Sue Henry, *Hard Eight*...Janet Evanovich, *Don't Look Back*...Amanda Quick, *Midnight Voices*...John Saul, *Old Yeller*...Fred Gipson (cassette) has been donated by Mary Dale & Bud Forbus in memory of Paul Powell.

NONFICTION:

Everyday Memory Builder...Jon Keith, *Let The Cowboy Ride: Cattle Ranching In The American West*...Paul F. Starrs, *Stark Raving Dad!*...Dave Meurer, *Girl Singer*...Rosemary Clooney, *Use What You Have Decorating*...Lauri Ward, Betty Crocker's Health Home Cooking, *Good Things From Tag Sales and Flea Markets*...Martha Stewart, *Staying Home Alone: a girl's guide to feeling safe and having fun*...American Girl Library, *Parkinson's Disease*...Alvin Silverstein, *Will You Miss Me When I'm Gone?*...The Carter Family.

We Get Letters.....

Dear Holly and Gary,

You two do a great job with your newspaper! I am so thankful I have thoughtful parents who give us the gift of our hometown roots. Your paper is just one way they help keep us informed. You provide the best info on agricultural issues pertinent to our area. Our Hobbs paper doesn't feature agriculture very often.

I am interested in the dates for the rodeo and the schedule of associated events, as well as the Watermelon Round Up, as I am considering putting together a PHS Class of 1982 reunion, and I am looking for places, entertainment and options.

Would you put the word out that anyone interested in helping with the reunion, or anyone with addresses of the Class of '82 members, may contact me at:

Kim (Stephens) Van Dyke
13329 N. Denver City Hwy.
Hobbs, NM 88242
(505) 392-4885

If I receive a commitment/interest from at least ten class members, I will proceed with my efforts to organize a reunion. I appreciate your help and service.

Blessings,
KIM

Keeping an Eye on Texas

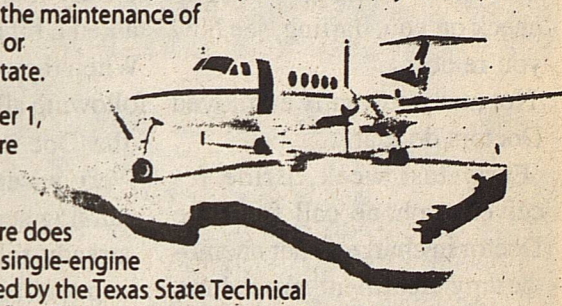
Taking Flight

The Aircraft Pooling Board (APB) was created in 1979 by the 66th Legislature to establish and operate a pool for custody, control, operation and the maintenance of aircraft owned or leased by the state.

As of September 1, 2001, there were 36 aircraft owned by the state. This figure does not include 15 single-engine aircraft operated by the Texas State Technical College (TSTC) for pilot instruction in Waco. The APB operates nine passenger aircraft for use by all state agencies.

Through August of fiscal year 2001, APB aircraft had flown 2,581 flights with 8,652 passengers for a total of 609,160 miles and an average load of 3.62 passengers.

Source: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the State Aircraft Pooling Board. http://www.sapb.state.tx.us/



Outdoor swimming pool party
August 9th
8 P.M. to 11 P.M. Youth
Center Grades.
FOOD & DRINKS

2002 Youth Center Events

Join Us For The Fun!
Outdoor Pool Party
Friday, June 28, grades 7 thru 12
8 PM - 11 PM

Outdoor Pool Party
Friday, July 19, grades 7 thru 12
8PM - 11 PM

Pool Tournament, grades 7 thru 12,
Friday, July 26
Students and Adult, trophies for
1st, 2nd, 3rd place
8:30 PM until tournament is over

Pool Tournament, grades 7 thru 12
Friday, July 26, 8:30 PM
Singles, followed by Doubles
1st, 2nd, 3rd place trophies

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

Sunday Schedule
Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am
Evening Worship - 6:00 pm

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

Other Opportunities
Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm
Tuesdays & Thursdays

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Transforming Lives

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas



Children's Vacation Bible
School July 7 - 11!

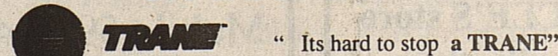
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From The Hack

We have experienced another amazing experience with medical professionals. We wrote in this column in January about the discovery of cancerous cells in the Bride's colon on Friday, December 29. Highly recommended Dr. Ruiz, from the Lea County Hospital in Hobbs, was called by Denver City's Dr. Cotton, and amazingly enough, he readily agreed to come to Denver City on Saturday morning, Saturday morning mind you, to perform the colon scope procedure which confirmed the cancerous tumor. I was amazed at the time with Dr. Ruiz' response, his performance, and especially his bedside manner.

Some three months later, the Bride and I were astounded when good Doctor Ruiz called her one morning, "Just to check on you, darling, see how you're doing."

Not many currently employed Doctors do that.

Early last week, Bride received a phone call from the Doctor in charge of her chemotherapy treatment procedure, one Fred Hardwicke, MD, Internal Medicine, Medical Oncology, working with the Texas Tech Medical Center's Southwest Cancer Center. He is the head med-Guru detailing what treatments are required for her recovery process. He had been highly recommended by her surgeon, Dr. Silva.

We met with Dr. Hardwicke. I confess - I found him a bit reticent conversing about Holly's problems. He is definitely not a babbling, hail you well type. All business, he asked the common questions, probed about on her, took vital signs, didn't have too much else to say, other than giving us her next appointment date.

I think we have had Dr. Harwicke see her three times since. I admit, he has progressively become a bit more talk-

ative, asked a few more questions, been a bit more personal, which we appreciated.

On July 2, Bride answered the phone - "This is Dr. Hardwicke, and NO, you don't have a medical problem, you're doing fine. I just wanted to let you know, I will be bringing my family through Plains on Friday, July fifth. We'll be on our way to Cloucroft for a few days off. I just wanted to know if we might stop by for a few minutes visit?"

Bride was astounded, and so was I when she reported all this later in the day.

I confess - I immediately suspected a late start, change of plans or something would prevent this. WRONG! Friday afternoon, naturally while I was chasing something, anything, down for this summer paper, good Doc Hardwicke rang the bell, accompanied by his lovely wife, a nine year old son, and 7 and 5 year old daughters.

During one of the Chemo treatments and consultations in Lubbock, Bride had mentioned she had a piano, and wished she could play it well. This seemed to truly interest him, and they talked a bit about music.

When they came in the house, following all the introductions,, the Doc asked Bride to play. Very wisely, she refused - the nursing staff at the Center had already told us he was a true concert talented pianist. He asked if he might play something for her.

"Oh, my good Lord, he was fantastic. He plays so beautifully," Bride told me that evening. She said when he finished the work, he asked if his kids could sing Bride an early "Happy Birthday" greeting, in English AND German, which they rendered beautifully. "I was just overwhelmed! The kids put their heart in it!"

I have but one question - Does your Doctor do things like this for you??

Thanks Doc, to you and your family. And all the staff at Southwest Cancer Center.

We were also graced over the Fourth with a visit from our East Texas kin, the Bride's sister Eva and her spouse Zig

Melton, he of the irregularity fame reported earlier in this column They arrived after a lengthy drive from Las Vegas, where they had met their son, Danny, and daughter Sharon and hubby Gary for a mini-family gameing orgy.

For once, my brother-in-law pleased me. He presented me with two dozen sparkling golf balls, including some very high dollar brands like Calloway, Nike, Max Fli. I immediately knew these were scavenged balls he had spent hours finding on his home couse at Center, Texas - when Zig has a bad day on the course, especially when he plays by himself, the normal drill, he says 'to Hell with it,' and starts looking for booty, including golf balls, as well as golf tees, possibly lost golf cleats or clubs which will fit with his K-Mart golf stuff. In his shop at home, he has enough scavenged tees to start another Show Low Arizona Fire, without the help of native trees!

Knowing Zig, he will be infuriated when he learns, after their departure, I used some of the bride's miracle nail stuff to remove lots of the personal players ball markings, and quite a few scuff marks, making them appear near new quality balls, which I immediately sold for three dollars per.

The scuffier, cheaper ones I now am playing with, though not well

Just kidding, Zig. I still want a seat at your table next time we're down there.

How can one careless match start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a barbecue?

When Adam stayed out late a few nights, Eve became upset. "You're running around with other women," she charged. He said, "Don't be absurd. You're the only woman on earth." The argument continued, until Adam finally fell asleep, to be awakened by someone poking on his chest. It was Eve. "What are you doing?" he demanded. "Counting ribs," she answered.

Cancer Support Group will meet Tuesday, July 16, 6 P.M. in the old courthouse Club Room

Rehab Aide needed for 6-8 weeks starting in mid-August. Applications are available at the Business Office, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang, Denver City. Contact Carmela Davis, PT, 806-592-5030, Ext. 222

STATE OF TEXAS

TO: TERENCE QUINTON CROSS a/k/a TERENCE QUINTEIN CROSS, RESPONDENT

NOTICE TO RESPONDENT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty (20) days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment for the relief demanded in the petition may be taken against you.

The PETITION TO ESTABLISH PARENTAGE of DUNHAM JOHNSON and wife, LINDA JOHNSON, Petitioner(s), was filed on March 13, 2002, in the 121st District Court of Yoakum County, Texas, against TERENCE QUINTON CROSS a/k/a TERENCE QUINTEIN CROSS, Respondent, in said suit being numbered 7988 on the docket of said Court, and entitled:

IN THE INTEREST OF QUTRAYVIOUS ALDAYSHEIN JOHNSON, MINOR CHILD

The nature of said suit is a paternity suit, or suit to establish paternity. The date and place of birth of the child, who is the subject of this suit is, Qutrayvious Aldayshein Johnson, born October 24, 2001, in Odessa, Ector County, Texas.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS SUIT TO RENDER AN ORDER IN THE CHILD'S INTEREST THAT WILL BE BINDING ON YOU, INCLUDING THE TERMINATION OF THE PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP, THE DETERMINATION OF PATERNITY, AND THE APPOINTMENT OF A CONSERVATOR WITH AUTHORITY TO CONSENT TO THE CHILD'S ADOPTION.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Plains, Texas, on July 1st, 2002.

ADDRESS OF PETITIONER OR ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER
WARREN NEW
P.O. BOX 670
DENVER CITY, TX 79323
806-592-2129

VICKI BLUNDELL
District Clerk of Yoakum County, Texas
P.O. Box 899
Plains, TX 79355-0899

By: *Sandra Roblez* Deputy
Sandra Roblez

Keeping an Eye on Texas

Measuring up

Next year, the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) will be replaced by a new standardized test, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS).

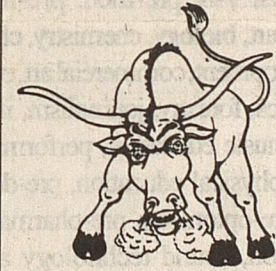
To prepare to switch from TAAS to TAKS, large scale field testing of possible TAKS test questions was done across the state.

Committees of educators, parents, business people and other citizens will examine the field test information in August and September and make recommendations to the State Board of Education (SBE).

The SBE will determine the TAKS passing standards in November. Next spring, students in grades 3-11 will take the TAKS.



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller (www.window.state.tx.us) and the Texas Education Agency.



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Yoakum County Hospital, Denver City, Texas is seeking an individual to fill the position of Radiology Manager. Supervising and directing department personnel and all functions including radiology, ultrasound, CT, Bone Density and mobile services. At least three years experience as a Registered Technologist. Must have Registry or Certification: ARRT and current Texas license required. Fax resumes to Yoakum County Hospital, Attn. Beverly 806-592-2891

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