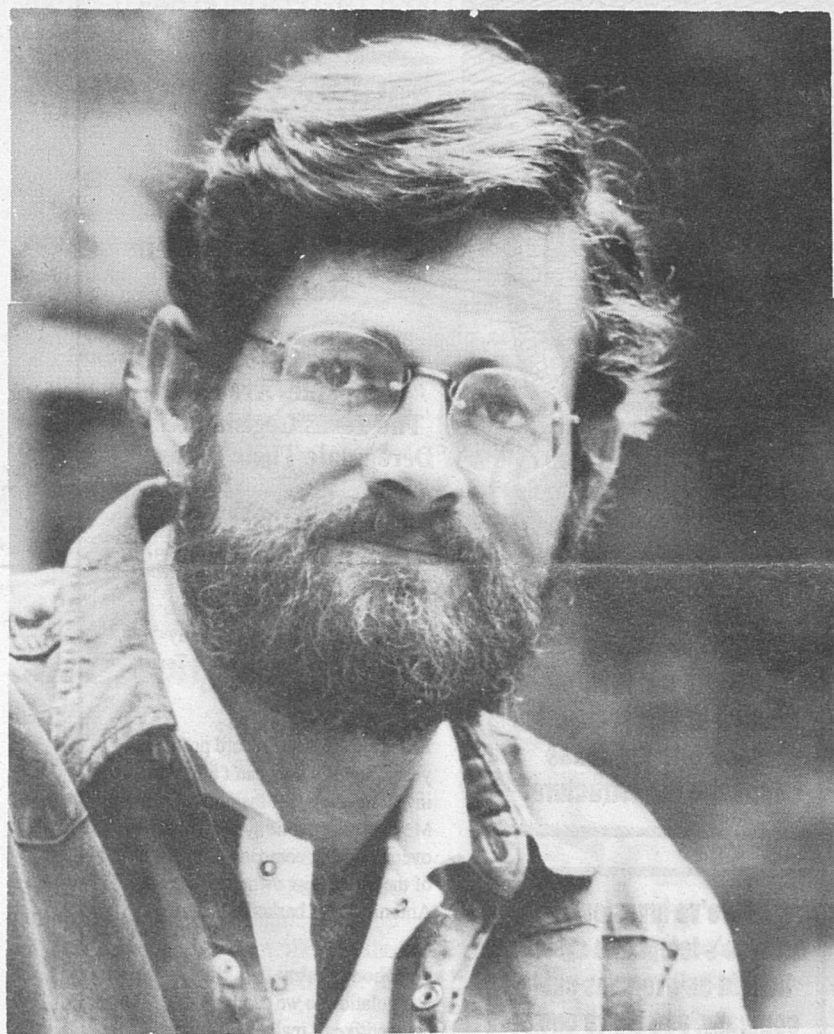


# THE PLAINS PRIDE

PLAINS, YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1993 30¢



JOHN ERICKSON

## Hank the cowdog author to speak at assembly

An invitation is extended to the public to attend an assembly at 9 a.m. Thursday, May 13 in the school auditorium to hear John Erickson, author of "Hank, the Cowdog."

Popular with men, women and children, Erickson has published 31 books, 19 books-on-tape and some 500 articles. He has established a reputation as a speaker and performer and has appeared at conventions, conferences and banquets in 17 states and provinces. He has been a keynote speaker at conventions attended by li-

brarians, teachers of English, reading, special education and drama and has spoken at the Library of Congress, Institute of Texas Cultures, Houston Children's Museum and Witte Museum in San Antonio.

Yoakum County Library has forms for ordering Hank the Dog tee shirts, books, books on cassette, posters and Hank's Greatest Hits. Forms should be filled out and returned to the Resource Center by May 5.

## Sacred music program slated for Sunday, April 25

Thirty-third Annual Fine Arts Sacred Music Program will be held Sunday, April 25 in First Baptist Church. Choirs of all churches are invited to participate in the event which will get underway at 2:30 p.m.

Individuals and groups are also invited. The program will include re-

ipients of the 1993 Vera Smith Memorial Music Scholarship, Betsy Blair, Jimmy Robertson and Manual Chavez.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Dolores Davis or Carolyn Culwell by April 21.

## Early voting underway for Sandy Land UWCD

Early voting by personal appearance began April 12, 1993, for the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District's Board of Directors Election and will continue through April 27, 1993. Two (2) at large positions are up for grabs. Candidates for the May 1st election are incumbent Ray Bearden; Lynwood (Lyndy) A. Payne, Dennis Harrison and Jim Jackson.

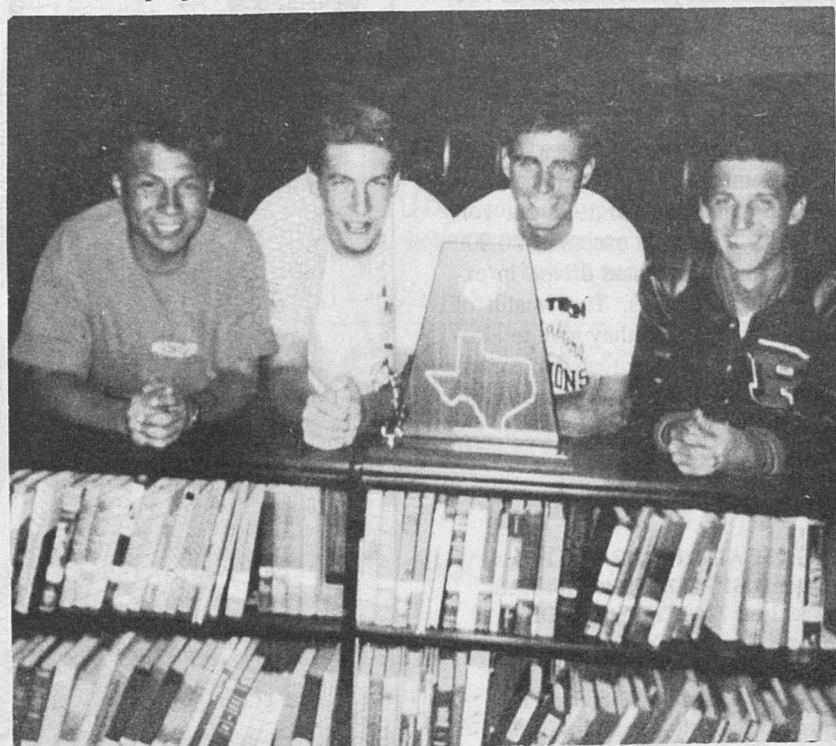
To be eligible to vote, a person must be at least 18 years of age and a registered voter in Yoakum County.

This year registered voters will have the convenience of voting early by personal appearance at either Plains or Denver City. In Plains, County residents may vote early at the Sandy

Land UWCD Office, located at 1012 Ave. F in Plains, TX. Voting hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. In Denver City, branch early voting facilities have been set up at the Denver City Chamber of Commerce, located at 104 W. 3rd, Denver City, TX. Branch early voting hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., closed 12:00 p.m. till 1:00 p.m.

Applications for ballots by mail shall be mailed to: Kathy Jones, Early Voting Clerk, P.O. Box 130, Plains, TX 79355. Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 23, 1993.

For any additional information, contact the Sandy Land UWCD Office at 806-456-2155.



DISTRICT TENNIS CHAMPIONS - Qualifying for regional are, left to right, Victor Bernal, Brad McMinn, Brian Wilson and Ladd Winn.



**DEAR EDITOR:**

Dear Editor:

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the people I believe are the most dedicated volunteers in our region, the volunteers of Hospice of Lea County, Inc.

Most people know that hospice provides a very special kind of care for terminally ill persons and their families, but it's less known that we are a non-profit agency that could barely function if it were not for volunteers.

Hospice uses a team approach to care for dying persons. While our hospice employs paid professionals, we also rely heavily on volunteers to provide assistance at all levels of skill. Some of our volunteers work with patients and their families directly, while others help in our office and help with fundraising and community development.

Volunteers are so important to hospice that Medicare regulations require that part of our workhours be provided on a volunteer basis. This makes hospice unique. Nationally almost 70,000 of the total of about 90,000 hospice workers are volunteers, and last year, they gave well over 5 million hours of their precious spare time to serve the dying and their families! No task is too big or too small for our volunteers, but often the most important thing they can do is just "be there" for patients, to reassure them they are not alone, to hold a hand, to offer a smile, or to share a "good cry." It is not easy work, but the personal rewards are enormous. The strength and courage of patients provide a constant source of inspiration, and volunteers usually feel they gain more than they have been able to give.

Our hospice is growing as more and more persons seek our help. For this reason, we have a constant need for new volunteers. If you would like to learn more about hospice volunteering, I invite you to visit us at 901 E. Bender in Hobbs, NM or call (505) 393-4717.

In the meantime, we should all be grateful to have 94 volunteers currently providing service to Lea, Gaines and Yoakum Counties. From March of 1992 through March of 1993 our volunteers have given in excess of 20,000 hours of their time, and driven in excess of 14,000 miles. The wealth of time and compassion they give to Hospice for the betterment of our area is greatly acknowledged and appreciated.

Kim Martin

Volunteer Coordinator

**THE PLAINS PRIDE:** The Plains Pride (USPS 757-130) is published weekly at 716 Main Street, Olton, Lamb County, TX 79064. Second Class Permit paid at Olton, TX 79064 **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to The Plains Pride, P.O. Box 774, Olton, TX 79064.

**Demonstration set by SPS**

Kay Davis, home economist with Southwestern Public Service, will present a demonstration on quick and economical meals Thursday, April 22 in the Adult Learning Center in Denver City Adult Learning Center at 500 N Avenue C. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the event is sponsored by SPC, Home/School Partnership and Yoakum County Extension Office. Call 456-2263 for reservations by noon Wednesday.

**It's not a secret anymore.**

If you were exposed to mustard gas during field and chamber tests of protective equipment while in military service, you may be eligible for VA benefits for certain health

problems related to that exposure. Find out by calling the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs **1-800-827-1000.**

Survivors of exposed veterans should also call. ☺

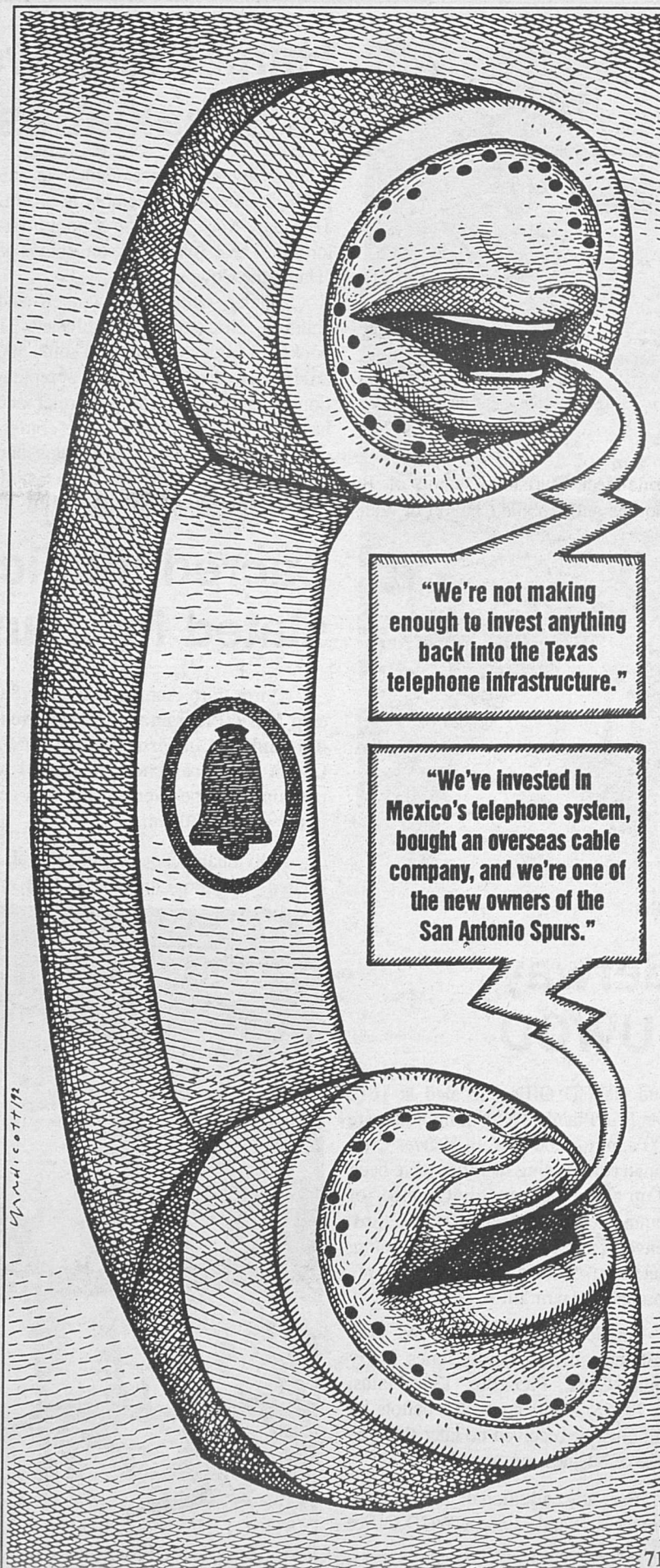
**AMERICAN DIABETIC ASSOCIATION**  
Texas Affiliate  
9430 Research Bldg. 2  
Suite 500  
Austin, Tx. 78759

**NATIONAL KIDNEY ASSOCIATION**  
OF WEST TEXAS  
5211 Brownfield Highway  
Box 4  
Lubbock, TX 79407

**INFORMATION NEEDED:** Name of memorial recipient. Name and Address of family of the memorial recipient. Name and Address of persons sending the memorial.



Sterling silver is about 92 percent silver and eight percent copper.



**The Telephone Companies Are Talking Out Of Both Ends Of Their Receivers.**

**The Texas Telephone Companies Are Asking The Texas Legislature To Deregulate Their Industry.**

**A Presentation Of Their Claims And The Real Facts:**

**Telephone Claim:** "We are not making enough money to really invest anything back into the Texas telephone infrastructure."

**FACT:** They made record profits last year. They say they can't afford to invest in Texas, yet they invested in Mexico's telephone system, bought an overseas cable company and are one of the brand-new owners of the San Antonio Spurs basketball team.

**Telephone Claim:** "We want deregulation so we can be competitive. It really has nothing to do with the rates we will charge customers."

**FACT:** The telephone companies under their proposal will be able to increase consumer rates as much as 10 percent a year (25 percent in some cases). Their bill is all about money - more for them, less for the consumer.

**It Is Time To Hang-up On The Telephone Companies.**

**Call your legislator and say NO to telephone deregulation**

**LEGAL ADVERTISING PAID FOR BY THE PLAINS PRIDE 716 MAIN ST. OLTON, TX 79064**





BRIDE-TO-BE HONORED IN CHARLOTTE PALMER HOME RECENTLY. Left to right, Lorri Walker and her mother, Frankie Walker.

### Courtesy compliments Lorri Walker

Miss Lorri Walker, bride-elect of Donnie Cunningham, was complimented with a pre-nuptial courtesy recently in the home of Charlotte Palmer.

Honor guests were Mrs. Frankie Walker and Mrs. Fannie Merle Welch of Wharton, mother and grandmother of the bride.

### Sarah J. Shelton directs program on County's history

Sarah Jane Shelton directed a travelogue of Yoakum County's historical landmarks for members of Tsa Mo Ga Study Club Monday evening.

Describing the terrain of the county as it appeared in the late 1800s and early 1900s, she detailed the grove of oak trees located in the southeast corner of Yoakum County before there were windmills and roads.

These trees, she explained, are some of the only naturally occurring large trees in the county and have been scientifically confirmed as very old.

She reminisced about Plains and its landmarks of the 1930s, naming numerous buildings and businesses and the people who owned and operated them. She shared historical references concerning the establishment of county schools and the installation of city utilities, noting the contribution of efforts by D.B. McGinty.

Ms. Shelton also related the origin of Stanford Park. Several members shared stories of family history and personal experiences during the twenties, thirties and forties in Plains and Yoakum County.

Members wished Sit Jones a happy ninetieth birthday.

Hostesses Betty Rushing, Linda Simmons and Malisa Rogers served strawberry cheesecake and fruit.

Women's health issues will be the topic of discussion for the April 26 meeting.

Guests registered in at a table featuring a photograph of the couple and a bride's book.

Laid with white lace over burgundy, the bride's table was appointed in crystal with a spring bouquet and another photo of the couple. Petit fours, nuts, mints, punch and coffee were served by Martha Palmer and Carolyn Culwell.

Out of town guests included Laren Mercer of Midland, cousin of the bride-elect, Barbara Clanton of Balmorhea and Robbie Clanton of Valentine.

Assisting with hostess duties were Kathy Jones, Sue Barron, Virginia Sanders, Joyce Bearden and Vi Turnbough of Denver City.





**Peanut Buster® Parfait**  
DQ® soft serve loaded with hot fudge and Spanish peanuts.

**\$1.29**



**The Dude\***  
Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich.

**\$1.29**

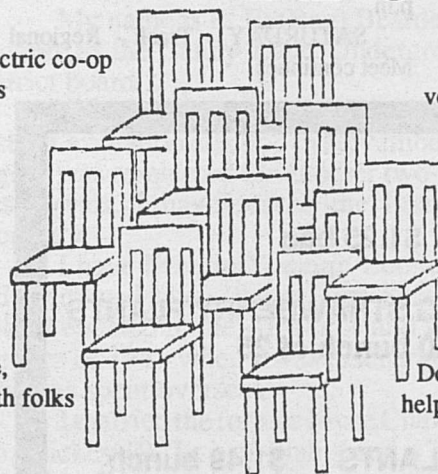
On Sale April 19-May 2, 1993

©Reg. TM Am. D.Q. Corp. \*Reg. TM Tx D.Q. Op. Coun. ©Tx. D.Q. Op. Coun. At participating Dairy Queen stores.

## STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

Once a year your rural electric co-op holds a very important meeting. It's YOUR meeting because it brings you up to date on co-op operations and other business.

As a consumer-owner, you're invited to air your views, discuss things with your fellow members, and vote for directors to serve on the co-op board. Families are welcome, too, and it's a good time to visit with folks you don't see often enough.



Remember - you have a voice and vote in co-op matters. Because we're locally owned and controlled, we can better serve you. And that makes us different from other kinds of electric utilities.

Your presence counts - your vote counts. Don't miss your annual meeting! Don't miss this special opportunity to help keep your co-op working for your benefit and your community!

## Lea County Electric Cooperative

### Annual Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 1993  
Pannell Auditorium - 700 W. Avenue K  
Lovington, New Mexico

Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. Meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

(Mountain Standard Time)

Door prizes to be given away.





# Plains Independent School District Home of the Cowboys & Cowgirls

## Honor rolls announced for fifth six weeks

Principal J.B. Wilson announces the honor rolls for the fifth six weeks period at Plains Jr. High School.

**FIFTH GRADE** - Elizabeth Ancinec, Candace Bowers, Krystle Blundell, Velvet Canada, Leticia Canon, Linda Castillo, Kristen Gray, Christopher Leggett, Fermin Luna, Kelton Mason, Laura Morales, Anne Palmer,

### School Menu

#### BREAKFAST

**MONDAY** - Toast, oatmeal, grape juice and milk.

**TUESDAY** - Toast, cinnamon rolls, apple juice and milk.

**WEDNESDAY** - Toast, cheese toast, orange juice and milk.

**THURSDAY** - Waffles, syrup, butter, fruit punch and milk.

**FRIDAY** - Toast, cereal, pineapple juice and milk.

#### LUNCH

**MONDAY** - Pochitos w/cheese and chili, French fries w/catsup, combination salad, crackers, pineapple slices and milk.

**TUESDAY** - Mexican casserole, pinto beans, onion rings, Kosher spears, cornbread, peach cobbler and milk.

**WEDNESDAY** - Hamburgers, lettuce, tomatoes, onion rings, Cheetos, fruit, banana cake and milk.

**THURSDAY** - Fish w/tartar sauce, mashed potatoes, green peas, hot rolls, peanut butter and honey and milk.

**FRIDAY** - Salisbury steak w/gravy, rice, green beans, hot rolls, peaches and milk.

Patricia Ruiz, Kyle Sisson, Jason Swann, Alex Tarango and Staci Tugle.

**SIXTH GRADE** - Maranda Box, Dustin Brunson, Stephen Bunch, Clint Burrus, Marcey House, Tommie McNabb, Matt Morgan and Lisa Parrish.

**SEVENTH GRADE** - Vicki Bayer, Heath Bowlin, Shawna Box, Shawn Cullins, Abraham Garcia and Sandi Warren.

**EIGHTH GRADE** - Stephen Bitolas, Samantha Blake, Yancey House and Jacob Lester.

**ALL A - 1 B**

**FIFTH GRADE** - Joshua Bell, Jessica Flores, Isaac Gonzalez, Wendy Hernandez, Jeremy Humphrey, Paul Lopez, Patrick McGinty and Nichole Newsom.

**SIXTH GRADE** - Tandi Jones.

**SEVENTH GRADE** - Dolly Gonzales and Kassie Lowe.

**EIGHTH GRADE** - Arthur Hernandez, Kristy McClure, Marte Pierce Lyndi Rowe, Robin Squyres and Tessa St. Romain.

### School Events

**MONDAY** - Tennis - District Jr. High Tournament - SPC - Levelland

**TUESDAY** - Tennis - District Jr. High Tournament continues; Trooper Bud - Elementary K-4

**WEDNESDAY** - Fourth Grade Swimming Olympics

**THURSDAY** - Third Grade Trip to Lubbock; Tennis - Regional Tournament - Levelland

**FRIDAY** - Track - Regional Meet - Boys & Girls - SPC; Tennis - Regional Tournament continues; High School Band Trip - Lubbock - 3:45 p.m.

**SATURDAY** - Track - Regional Meet continues



**POETRY TO BE PUBLISHED** - Mrs. Foster's sixth grade students participated in a nationwide poetry event. Shown below are students who were notified their poems will be published in the 1993 Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans. Left to right, back row, is Clint Burrus, Maranda Box, Tandi Jones, Chad Clayton, Dustin Brunson and Lee Tyson. Front row, Adrian Rios, Crystal Calsoncin, La Cresha Johnson, Marcey House and Mike Guerra.

Remember *Secretary's Week* April 18-24



**Yoakum County Florist & Gifts**  
592-8067 Denver City, TX



**YELLOW ONION SETS \$1.25 bag**

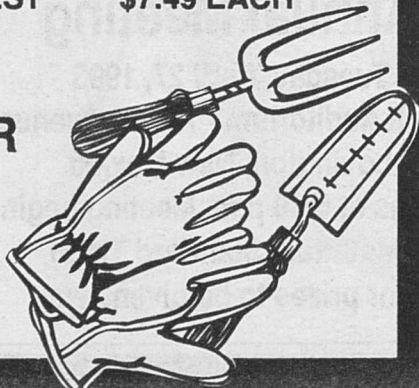
**QUINAULT EVERBEARING STRAWBERRY PLANTS BAREROOT \$4.50 bunch of 25**

**Texas 1015 Y SUPERSWEET ONION PLANTS \$1.49 bunch**

**DR "X" ROACH SPRAY \$3.99 can**

**SEVEN QUART ICE CHEST \$7.49 EACH**

**BAYER LUMBER  
1018 AVE E.  
PLAINS, TX  
456-4800**



**Vote  
May 1st  
to elect  
Bonnie Earnest  
to the  
Plains City Council**



**I would like the opportunity to serve the citizens of Plains. This community and its needs are important to me. I will work for the betterment of Plains and for its citizens.**

EARLY VOTING by personal appearance is April 12-27.

(Political Adv. paid for by Bonnie Earnest)



## Index of leading cultural indicators

By Philip C. Clarke

We've all heard of the Index of Leading Economic Indicators by which the Census Bureau since the early 1960's has periodically measured the nation's commerce and industry in 11 major categories. Now comes the "Index of Leading Cultural Indicators."

The brain-child of William J. Bennett, the former Education Secretary, the cultural index draws a statistical portrait of the moral and social ups and downs of U.S. society from 1960 to the present. "What is shocking," says Bennett, "is just how precipitously American life has declined in the past 30 years, despite the enormous governmental effort to improve it."

Based on data from government and private sources, the index is divided into eight "cultural indicators" ranging from the violent crime rate (up 560%) to an increase in average daily TV viewing - from just over 5 hours in 1960 to 7 hours and 4 minutes in 1992. When compared to the growth of government and the economy, the contrast is striking.

"Since 1960," says Bennett in Wall Street Journal article, "the U.S. population has increased 41%; the gross domestic product has nearly tripled; total social spending by all levels of government (measured in constant 1990 dollars) has risen to \$787 billion - more than a fivefold increase. Meantime, inflation-adjusted spending on welfare has increased by 630% and spending on education by 225%."

But during the same 30-year period, the cultural indicators have shown a steady regression. For example, the rate of violent crime has soared from 16.1 per 100,000 population in 1960 to 75.8 per 100,00 in 1991. At the same time, the median prison sentence for serious crime has fallen from 22.5 days in 1954 to only 8 days in 1990.

Other comparisons are equally alarming. Between 1960 and 1990, the percentage of births that are illegitimate grew from 5.3% to 26.2% - an increase of 419% - while divorce rates have quadrupled. The number of children living in single-parent homes has risen from 8% in 1960 to 22% in 1990, a nearly 300% increase, and the rate of teenage suicides has nearly tripled, from 3.6% in 1960 to 11.3 in 1990.

And although government spending on education has risen to an all-time high, there has been a drop of almost 80 points in SAT or Scholastic Aptitude Test, scores - from a com-

bined verbal and written 975 in 1960 to 899 last year.

Bennett suggests that America's cultural decline reflects a radical shift in public attitudes and beliefs. Moral values and the family no longer are important as in years past. He quotes Alexandr Solzhenitsyn's diagnosis in speech earlier this year: "The spiritual axis of life has grown dim." Author John Updike put it this way: "The fact that compared to the inhabitants of Africa and Russia, we still live well, cannot ease the pain of feeling we no longer live nobly."

"The good news," says Bennett, "is that what has been self-inflicted can be self-corrected." To encourage cultural renewal, he suggests the enactment of "morally defensible social legislation," including a "more tough-minded criminal justice system ... a radical reform of education through national standards and school choice; a system of child-support collection

whereby fathers would be made to take responsibility for their children; a rescinding of no-fault divorce laws for parents with children; radical reform of the welfare system," and the removal of "destructive incentives" of welfare itself. Above all, says the conservative educator and public-policy spokesman, "We could temper our expectations of what government can do. A greater hope lies elsewhere."

Not surprisingly, William Bennett's remarks and cultural index - compiled with the help of the Heritage Foundation and Empower America, a new political organization of which he is co-director - provoked a vigorous and voluminous response, pro and con. Many letter writers criticized his failure to address the decline of leadership and ethics in the business community. On balance, however, there are now encouraging signs that Americans are concerned about our cultural decline and want to do something about it.

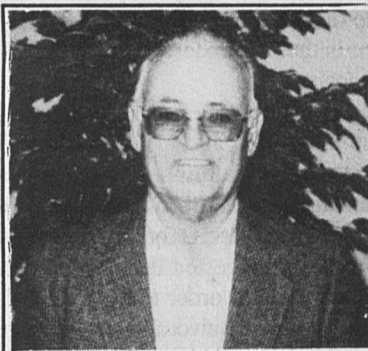
To The Voters of Yoakum County,

### Vote May 1st

to Re-Elect

incumbent

### R. E. (RAY) BEARDEN



to the Board of  
Directors of  
Sandy Land  
Underground  
Water Conservation  
District

My name is R. E. (Ray) Bearden and I am running for re-election to the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District board.

I was elected for an initial two-year term during the District's creation election in November of 1989. In May of 1991, I again was re-elected for another two-year term. During both of these terms, I have served the Board of Directors as Board Secretary.

I have lived in Yoakum County since December of 1939 and graduated from Plains High School in 1940. In August of 1942, I enlisted in the Air Force and served during W.W.II until October of 1945 when I was discharged. Twenty months of my duty was spent overseas.

I married the former Joyce Clanahan in 1949. We have one son, Rickey (R. L. ) of Plains and a daughter, Rhonda Dion of Lubbock. We started our farming career in 1950. After 40 years in the farming business, I retired, except for running a small herd of cattle.

I have served on several boards and committees in Yoakum County; consisting of: ASC, FmHA, Plains ISD, Farm Bureau and again the FmHA committee. My family and I have been active members in the Tokio Baptist Church since 1951. I am proud of having been able to serve and trust that I can continue to be a worthy servant to the residents of Yoakum County.

Your Vote and confidence will be appreciated.

Yours truly,  
/s/ R. E. Bearden

Pd. Pol. Adv. by R. E. (Ray) Bearden, Plains, TX

#### GENERAL ELECTION (Eleccion General)

SANDY LAND UNDERGROUND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
(Distrito de Conservacion de Agua  
Subterranea de Sandy Land)

May 1, 1993 (1 de mayo de 1993)

#### SAMPLE BALLOT (BOLETA SAMPLE)

##### INSTRUCTION NOTE: (NOTA DEE INSTRUCCION:)

Vote for the candidate of your choice in each race by placing an "X" in the square beside the candidate's name. (Vote por el candidato de su preferencia en cada carrera marcando con una "X" el cuadro al lado del nombre del candidato.)

##### Directors

- Vote for None, One or Two.  
(Directores  
- Vote por ninguno, uno, a dos)

R. E. (RAY) BEARDEN

LYNWOOD (LYNDY) A. PAYNE

DENNIS G. HARRISON

JIM JACKSON

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write - in/Voto Escrito)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Write - in/Voto Escrito)

Early Voting by Personal Appearance is open now through April 27, 1993 at either Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 104 W 3rd, Denver City, TX; or Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, 1012 Avenue F, Plains, TX.

Applications for ballots by mail shall be mailed to Kathy Jones, Early Voting Clerk, P.O. Box 130, Plains, TX 79355. Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 23, 1993.

Polling places for the Saturday, May 1, 1993, election are: Sandy Land UWCD office, 1012 Ave. F, Plains, TX, for precincts 303 and 404 and Denver City Chamber of Commerce office, 104 W 3rd, Denver City, TX, for precincts 105, 106, 202, 207, 308 and 401. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.



## ROBIN HOOD

How it affects you as a taxpayer  
by State Rep. Kent Grusendorf  
House Public Ed. Committee

On May 1, the people of Texas will finally have an opportunity to affirm or reject the infamous "Robin Hood" constitutional amendment, otherwise known as Proposition #1 on the ballot.

Superficially, Robin Hood takes money from "rich" school districts in one part of the state and gives it to the "not-so-rich" districts in other parts of the state.

However, voters should beware - the actual effect of Proposition #1 is more sinister. If passed, taxpayers would be forfeiting basic constitutional right: the right to authorize a specific taxing entity to impose a tax and the power to restrict or limit the rate of such a tax. If passed, this power would be relinquished to the Texas Legislature. In effect, the end result would be to take from those with little political power (taxpayers) and give it to those with a great deal of political power (legislators, lobbyists, and special interests groups).

Many people think that the current school finance plan was ruled unconstitutional because it failed to achieve equity. **WRONG!** The current CED (County Education Districts) system is very equitable. In fact, it is one of the most equitable in the country. **The Texas Supreme Court ruled that the current system was unconstitutional because the Legislature failed to allow the public to exercise their constitutional right to vote to authorize CED's to impose a tax and to set their tax rates at the local level.** These taxpayers' rights are currently provided by Article 7, Section 3 of the Texas Constitution. This section of the Constitution protects the taxpaying public by denying the legality of any tax unless that taxing authority has been approved by voters to impose such a tax. Now with Proposition #1, the Legislature is asking the voting public to give up that constitutional protection in the name of equity and to pass that power on to the Legislature.

**Trust him - his name is Robin Hood.**

**He is from the Government and he is here to help you.**

Most school districts in the state have a taxpayer imposed limit on their maintenance and operation tax rates of \$1.50 per \$100 evaluation, (1/2% of value). A few have a slightly lower limit, but none have limits above \$1.50. Many districts are rapidly approaching the \$1.50 tax cap. Currently, no school district can tax over the \$1.50 level without a vote of the taxpayers within a district. When a district reaches its limit, taxpayers can at their sole discretion demand more accountability and efficiency from the district. Retaining voter approval of tax increases requires a school administration to be more accountable to the voting public and to operate more efficiently.

A case study currently exists in the Arlington ISD. Taxpayers refused to raise the tax cap; consequently, the district dramatically reduced administrative

expenses and restructured itself to achieve more efficiencies and to make itself more accountable to the community. In the opinion of many, including the new school superintendent, the district has achieved significant progress and will benefit in the long-term from this belt-tightening experience. If Proposition #1 passes, taxpayers would lose this leverage over their school districts, and tax rates could steadily increase while school performance declines. Without having the ability to voice dissatisfaction through a local vote, inefficiency, waste and mediocrity could continue and schools would avoid this difficult, but very worthwhile growth experience.

For example, if your school district is currently taxing at a rate of \$1.38, the school board, due in part to restrictions in the Texas Constitution, can only increase your tax rate by 12 cents for a total of \$1.50 before coming to you, the taxpayer, and asking for approval of the higher tax rate. However, if Proposition #1 were to pass, the Legislature, not taxpayers, could authorize your school district to increase property taxes up to an additional \$1.12, for a total of \$2.50, without going back to the taxpaying public for a vote of the people. Twelve cents versus \$1.12 - that a significant difference.

**Trust him - His name is Robin Hood.**

**He is from Austin and he is here to help you.**

Do you as a taxpayer want to retain your constitutional right to approve future taxing limits, or do you want to delegate that authority to the Legislature? That is the real underlying question to Proposition #1.

**All it takes to keep the current system in place, and to make it constitutional, is to allow taxpayers their constitutional right to authorize and set their tax rates.** Overzealous proponents have suggested that Proposition #1 must pass in order to keep schools open. That is unequivocally untrue. Judge McCown has said himself that a constitutional amendment is not required. All knowledgeable authorities agree that schools will not open or close as a result of action on Proposition #1. Even the most outspoken proponents of this proposed amendment have now admitted that the passage or failure of Proposition #1 is irrelevant to the closure of schools.

**Furthermore, many other alternatives exist. Some require amending the constitution; others do not.**

**House Bill 2411 -** Maintains the status quo by allowing taxpayers to authorize CED's to impose a tax. It

requires no constitutional amendment and taxpayers do not give up any constitutional right or protection.

**House Bill 669 -** Establishes a county unit system and allows taxpayers to set their own tax rates. If a county failed to adopt a tax, all ISD's within the county would be consolidated. In my opinion, this bill requires no constitutional amendment and taxpayers do not give up any constitutional right or protection.

**House Bill 2412 -** Provides for a total restructuring of our education system. Money would flow directly to the school campuses, thus allowing each

campus to run autonomously, similar to the running of a small business enterprise. This plan would provide for approximately \$500 million dollar savings in administrative costs which could then be redirected to the classroom effort or to a teacher pay raise. It requires no constitutional amendment; however, it could provide a significantly better educational system.

These bills are not the only alternatives available. But they represent some of the solutions which should be considered and which do not take away taxpayers' authority through a constitutional amendment.

In fairness to the proponents of Proposition #1, it should be noted that all taxes entail some degree of Robin Hood (i.e. taxpayers make payments in different proportions than they receive benefits.) Additionally, all school finance plans have some Robin Hood aspects. Poor school districts receive more state money per student than wealthy school districts. Likewise, all alternative solutions to the current dilemma use some Robin Hood scheme. County education districts, for example, allow for the redistribution of wealth within the CED. Proposition #1 differs in that it provides for a type of Robin Hood that is currently prohibited by the Texas Constitution and effectively provides for a statewide property tax which is also prohibited by the Texas Constitution.

Proposition #1 does not fix the problem - it is only a stop-gap measure. It does nothing to limit or stop future litigation. It will not keep us out of the courts. It will not keep us from getting a personal income tax. It has nothing to do with keeping the schools open. It does absolutely nothing to improve or restructure the education system. It is not the only answer; in fact, from the taxpayers' perspective, it may even be the worst of all the available options.

Other options are available, any one of which could be passed after Proposition #1 fails. Do not be a victim of false scare tactics. All it takes to keep the current system in place and to make it constitutional is to allow taxpayers their constitutional right to authorize and set their own tax rates. If you really want to save our schools, vote NO on Proposition #1. This is no time for band-aids. Demand that the Legislature restructure and improve our educational system instead of just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic.

In a democracy, ultimate power lies in the hands of the people - as it

should. Exercise that power. Do not delegate your constitutional right to the Legislature.

**His name was Robin Hood. He was sent back to Austin.**

**The people helped themselves.**

## American Cancer Society identifies cancer, lists warning signs

### A. What is cancer?

Cancer is a large group of diseases characterized by uncontrolled growth and spread of abnormal cells. If the spread is not controlled, it can result in death.

### B. What causes cancer?

Cancer is caused by both external (chemicals, radiation and viruses) and internal (hormones, immune conditions and inherited mutations) factors. Causal factors may act together or in sequence to initiate or promote carcinogenesis. Ten or more years often pass between exposures or mutations and detectable cancer.

### C. How can you help

1. Protect yourself.
2. Eat more vegetables and fruits.
3. Eat less fried foods and fat.
4. Exercise.
5. Use sunscreen.
6. Get a check-up.

In addition to seven warning signs, cancer provides many warnings. You cannot prevent cancer by recognizing them, but will prevent unnecessary spread through early treatments.

Know cancer's warning signals!

1. Change in bowel or bladder habits.
2. A sore that does not heal.
3. Unusual bleeding or discharge.
4. Thickening or lump in breast or elsewhere.
5. Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing.
6. Obvious change in wart or mole.
7. Nagging cough or hoarseness.
8. Unexplained weight loss.
9. Changes in menstruation, as in excess bleeding.
10. A mole that appears suddenly, gets bigger or changes its color.

Research is our most powerful weapon against cancer. Mammography and the Pap test have helped save many lives. Thanks to research, we have a 50% survival chance overall.

## Vote For Cyndy Koncaba Plains School Board Place #7

Your Vote and Support Will Be Greatly Appreciated

Political Adv. paid for by  
Cyndy Koncaba, Rt. 1 Box 44, Tokio, TX 79376



## Elementary students compete in UIL Events recently

Plains Elementary students competed in UIL literary events recently in Smyer.

Creative writing - Second grade, 1st place, Jill Gray; 3rd, Kayla Willis.

Ready writing - Third grade, 6th, Tanner Hamm; fourth grade, 2nd, Joel Gallegos.

Spelling - Third grade, 2nd, Trisha Garza; fourth grade, 1st, Aaron Cain, 2nd, Briana Garza.

Picture memory - Fourth grade, 2nd, Briana Garza, Kari Guetersloh,

Elva Ruiz.

Storytelling - Second grade, 2nd, Krystal Gonzalez, 4th, Kelly Bowers; third grade, 1st, Tanner Hamm, 3rd, Ragan McGinty; 5th, Jared Bell.

Oral reading - Third grade, 3rd, Justin Calsoncin, 5th, Nancy Koncaba; fourth grade, 2nd, Lensey Cullins, 3rd, Emily Blair, 4th, Kimberly Jones.

Plains Elementary and Junior High students won the UIL meet with a combined total of more than 900 points.

## Junior High students excel in UIL literary contests

Plains Junior High students did well in the recent UIL Literary Events held in Anton. Winning the event with 720.5 total points, students will receive awards at an assembly next month.

Other schools competing and their scores were Whiteface, 390; O'Donnell, 348; Anton, 339.5; Smyer, 335; and Ropes, 172.

Impromptu speaking - Seventh grade, 1st, Conchetta San Filippo; eighth grade, 1st, Samantha Blake, 3rd, Lyndi Rowe, 5th, Billy Braswell.

Picture memory - Fifth grade, 2nd place, Patrick McGinty, Wendy Hernandez and Patricia Ruiz.

Calculator - Sixth grade, 1st, Marcey House, 4th, La Cresha Johnson, 7th, seventh grade, 1st, Shawn Cullins, 3rd, Heath Bowlin.

Music memory - Fifth grade, 1st, Kyle Sisson, Chris Leggett and Kelton Mason. Sixth grade, 1st, Matt Morgan, Crystal Calsoncin and Cassie Dearing.

Life science - Seventh grade, 1st, Derek Brunson, 4th, Clint Burrus.

Earth science - Eighth grade, 2nd, Kristy McClure, 6th, Jacob Lester.

Number sense - Fifth grade, 1st, Velvet Canada, 3rd, Kelton Mason; sixth grade, 1st, Marcey House, 6th, Matt Morgan; seventh grade, 1st, Shawn Cullins, 2nd, Heath Bowlin, 4th, Shawna Box; eighth grade, 1st, Yancey House.

Maps, graphs and charts - Fifth

grade, 6th, Jessica Shorter; seventh grade, 1st, Shawn Cullins, 2nd, Vicki Bayer; eighth grade, 5th, Mary Morales.

Listening skills - Fifth grade, 2nd, Joshua Bell, 5th, Ann Palmer, 6th, Wendy Hernandez; sixth grade, 1st, Lisa Parrish, 6th, Cosme Casillas; eighth grade, 1st, Samantha Blake, 4th, Tessa St. Romain.

Ready writing - Fifth grade, 2nd, Isaac Gonzales; sixth grade, 1st, Clint Burrus, 2nd, Marcey House; seventh grade, 4th, Conchetta San Filippo, 5th, Yvonne Gonzalez, 6th, Anthony DeVore; eighth grade, 3rd, Lyndi Rowe.

Spelling - Fifth grade, 1st, Kristen Gray, 2nd, Laura Morales, 3rd, Kyle Sisson; sixth grade, 1st, Maranda Box; seventh grade, 1st, Yvonne Gonzales, 3rd, Tanya Hernandez; and eighth grade, 2nd, Mary Morales.

Dictionary skills - Fifth grade, 3rd, Patricia Ruiz, 6th, Jeremy Humphrey; sixth grade, 1st, Tandi Jones, 3rd, La Cresha Johnson; seventh grade, 1st, Vicki Bayer, 5th, Tanya Hernandez; eighth grade, 4th, Coley Burgess.

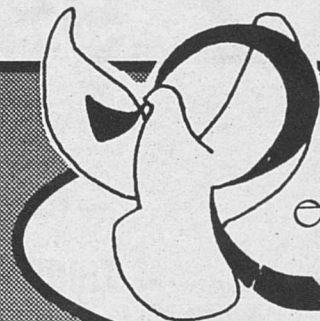
Oral reading - Fifth grade, 1st, Krystle Blundell, 3rd, Velvet Canada, 4th, Jessica Shorter; sixth grade, 1st, Dustin Brunson, 2nd, Maranda Box, 4th, Clint Burrus; seventh grade, 2nd, Kassie Lowe, 5th, Andrew DeVore; eighth grade, 1st, Kristi McClure, 3rd, Samantha Blake, 5th, Lyndi Rowe.



ELEMENTARY WINNERS IN UIL SPEAKING EVENTS - left to right, back row, Kelly Bowers, Tanner Hamm, Nancy Koncaba, Jared Bell, Kimberly Jones. Front row, Justin Calsoncin, Ragan McGinty, Krystal Gonzalez, Lensey Cullins and Emily Blair.



ELEMENTARY WINNERS IN UIL WRITING EVENTS - left to right, back row, Jill Gray, Briana Garza, Kayla Willis, Elva Ruiz and Kari Guetersloh. Front row, Tanner Hamm, Joel Gallegos and Aaron Cain.



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Political adv. paid for by  
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Selections:

Kristi Cobb & Matt Swinnea  
Doug Warren & Michelle Furr





## FILMTIME

Filmtime youngsters helped Amber Friesen celebrate her third birthday at Wednesday's story hour at Yoakum County Library. Her mother furnished cookies and punch.

Films of the day were "Animal Friends" and "Hug Me." Story of the day was "Little Red Hen."

Attending also were Paige Hol-lensed, Alisha Wauson, Justin Perry, Allison Friesen, Michael and Ryan Crump, Blake Parrish, Lauren Davis, Abel and Zachary Ramos, Nicholas Curtis, Holden Welch, Lauren Hise, Jordan Chambliss, M'Leah McKinzie, Todd Williams and Challie Johnson.

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