

TOP JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS - from left to right, Jacob Lester, Class Salutatorian, son of Bruce and Jan Lester; and Class Valedictorian Yancey House, son of Wayne and Phyllis House.

## Country Caravan begins 17th season of entertaining

Remember when you used to take a Sunday drive with your parents? The windows of the family car were rolled down, and a warm breeze brushed the side of your face and tickled the back of your neck.

The radio might have been on, and you strained to hear your favorite song amid the strains of conversation and the grinding of gravel under the car's rubber tires.

That was quality time. That was before television dominated the American consciousness, before MTV and video games. That was before multi-floor shopping malls and multilane super highways, when dining out meant spreading a blanket on the ground and having a picnic.

The 1993 edition of Country Caravan tries to recapture those feelings and memories of a bygone era with its theme, "Take a Trip to the Country," blending a bit of nostalgia with the chart-topping hits of today.

Country music fans can relive some of those same feelings and memories when Country Caravan comes to Plains on Friday, June 18. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. in the City Park. The show is sponsored by Plains Chamber of Commerce and admission is free.

Produced annually by the Creative Arts Department at South Plains College in Levelland, Texas, this 90 minute traveling country music variety show has entertained audiences for 17 summers now, thrilling country music fans throughout Texas and Eastern New Mexico.
"The show has always had the mission to be as entertaining to a broad-based number of people as possible, from the high school student who likes the current hits to the working people who like to look back on the music that they grew up with," says John Hartin, chairman of the Creative Arts Department at South Plains Col-
...Continued to Page 2

## Honor students announced for Plains Middle School

Yancey House and Jacob Lester have been announced as valedictorian and salutatorian at Plains Middle School. The duo posted grade averages of 95.53 and 94.49 , respectively.

Parents of the honor students are Wayne and Phyllis House; and Bruce and Jan Lester.

Perfect attendance awards were presented recently to Elizabeth Casillas, fifth grade; Corina Villarreal, sixth grade; Roy Ramirez, seventh grade; and Allen Ward, eighth grade.

Fifth grade honor students include Elizabeth Ancinec, Joshua Bell, Krystle Blundell, Candace Bowers, Velvet Canada, Leticia Canon, Linda Castillo, Jessica Flores, Kristen Gray, Wendy Hernandez, Jeremy Humphrey, Chris Leggett and Fermin Luna.

Also Kelton Mason, Patrick McGinty, Laura Morales, Nichole Newsom, Anne Palmer, Patricia Ruiz,

Kyle Sisson, Jason Swann, Alex Tarango and Staci Tuggle.

Sixth grade honor students are Maranda Box, Dustin Brunson, Steven Bunch, Clint Burrus, Cassie Dearing, Marcey House, Tandi Jones, Tommie McNabb, Matt Morgan and Lisa Parrish.

Honor students in seventh grade are Vicki Bayer, Heath Bowlin, Shawna Box, Derek Brunson, Jamie Caballero, Shawn Cullins, Abraham Garcia, Dolly Gonzales, Yvonne Gonzales, Kassie Lowe and Sandi Warren.

Eighth grade honor students are Sonia Avila, Kyley Bearden, Stephen Bitolas, Samantha Blake, Casey Forbus, Kristi Guetersloh, Yancey House, Jacob Lester, Kristy McClure, Mary Morales, Marte Pierce, Lyndi Rowe, Robin Squyres, Tessa St. Romain and Allen Ward.


DAVID CORRALES \& MICHAEL SAINZ

## Cowboy tracksters earn medals at State Meet

David Corrales and Michael Sainz competed in the 1993 State Track Meet recently in Austin and returned home with medals and school records. They placed sixth as a team, compiling 24 points, each contributing 12 .

Corrales became the first Plains Cowboy to win two medals at one state meet. He placed third in the 3200 meter run with a new school record of 9:49.8; bettering his own school record of $9: 59.8$. Previously, the Cowboy record had been held by Andy Ortiz (1982, 10:11.2).

The following day, Corrales captured another bronze medal with a best-ever run, 4:33.0, in the 1600 . His
performance was one second faster than last year's second place winner.

Sainz earned his third gold medal in a row with $1: 56.2$, his second best career time. An hour later, he placed fifth in the 400 with 49.3 , breaking Jason Smith's school record of 49.3. He wraps up his Cowboy track career on the record list in the 400, 800 and 1600 relay.
Coach McAdams stated that "the two runners did a great job in representing a great Cowboy team that had won District and third in Regional. We will miss Michael, but David will be back to lead the Cowboys next year!"

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Caravan Singers...
Continued from Page 1 lege and the general director of Country Caravan.

With audiences of more than 65,000 attending performances annually, Hartin says Country Caravan maintains a something-for-everybody philosophy, adopting the approach of the corner grocery store or the local five-and-dime.

We try to have a nice mix," says Hartin, "a little bluegrass, gospel, western swing, rockabilly, traditional country, new country. It's kind of like the weather in West Texas. You know, they say if you don't like the weather, wait five minutes and it will change. Well, if you don't like one particular kind of Country Caravan music, wait a minute and you'll hear something you do like.

It's like having a hometown business; you work with the same customers year after year. The main principle of business is knowing your market. We spend time trying to put together a product that will be a good match for our students' abilities and our listeners' tastes."

The songs selected for this year's show represent a variety of musical styles that have influenced country music through the years, as well as diverse moods and tempo shifts. From the slow ballads to the fast-paced fiddle of "Orange Blossom Special," the Country Caravan repertoire of tunes is designed to take the audience through a virtual roller coaster of emotions, climaxing with the traditional patriotic finale.

This year's 28 -song show gets rolling with Asleep at the Wheel's "Miles and Miles of Texas," featuring Derek Spence, this year's show emcee, backed by the Caravan Band, a song which could pass as an anthem of sorts for Country Caravan and the many miles logged by the cast and crew on the state's highways and byways each year.

Today's progressive country style is evident with Holly Dunn's "Blue Rose of Texas," Kathy Mattea's "Lonesome Standard Time," and "I Feel Lucky," a smash hit by former Grammy Award Winner Mary ChapinCarpenter.

The show would not be complete without a few country classics. The bluegrass standard "If I Should Wander Back Tonight" by Lester Flatt and Earl Scruggs, and Gene Watson's "Memories to Burn" are featured classics, along with Country Caravan's special tribute to the incomparable Patsy Cline.

Caravan will pay tribute to the legendary Roy Acuff during the show's traditional gospel medley Acuff's "Great Speckled Bird" kicks off the medley, which will also include "Rise and Shine" by Tammy Cash and "Little Mountain Church House" by the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band.

This year's cast consists of 12 multi-talented students and three faculty members from the Creative Arts Department at South Plains College. Featured Caravan performers include nine versatile singers, including eight newcomers.

Cast members were selected from a group of 45 students who auditioned for a spot in the prestigious show in September. Performers include Spence, master of ceremonies and instrumentalist from Tennessee Colony and only returning student in the cast; J Hollinshead and Christy Neison, vocalists from Lubbock, Rusty Quisenberry, vocalist from Idalou; and David Carney, vocalist and instrumentalist from Velma, Okla.

Other cast members are Dan Garton, vocalist from McIntosh, NM, vocalist Sandi Cope from Carlsbad, NM, Jagee Crownover, vocalist from Dumas, and Andrea Cavender, vocalist from Georgetown.

Backing up the featured vocalists is the talented Caravan Band. Faculty members, who are each veteran entertainers, include Rusty Hudelson, music director, keyboards and vocals; John Reid, the new program coordinator for the commercial music department, on bass; and Hartin, who plays electric guitar and pedal steel.

Student members in the band are Jay Pitts, percussionist from Frankston, Wendi Weathersby, saxophonist from Lubbock, and Brent Smith, fiddler from San Angelo.

In charge of costumes is Schahara Hudelson, who also serves as choreographer and performance director.

Country Caravan is set to tour 51 towns and cities, with stops all around the South Plains, Central and East Texas and Eastern New Mexico.


COUNTRY CARAVAN is an energetic country music show featuring the latest country music hits and classics wrapped in a family entertainment package. The show is produced annually by South Plains College in Levelland and showcases the talents of (left to right, front) Brent Smith, Sandi Cope, Derek Spence, Andrea Cavender, Jagee Crownover and John Hartin, director. Middle row, 1 to r , are J Hollinshead, Christy Nelson, David Carney, Wendi Weathersby and John Reid. Back, 1 to r, Rusty Hudelson, musical director and keyboards; Dan Garton, Rusty Quisenberry and Jay Pitts.

## Extension master volunteer program offered

Consumers can learn the skills of crocheting with the start of an Extension Master Volunteer Program in Yoakum County.

The 25 -hour educational program is being sponsored by the Yoakum County Extension Homemakers, the Craft Yam Council of America, and the Hand Knitting Association. The program is designed to train volun-
teers, who will then work with other interested in learning crocheting skills.

The course will be taught by a representative from the Craft Yarn Council. Classes will include workshops, discussion, demonstration and handson experience. There is no charge for the training. The classes will be held on four consecutive days, June 28-July 1, in Plains. It is limited to 30 partici-
pants; each should have basic crocheting skills.

Registration deadline is June 14, for the limited enrollment program. Once registered, participants will receive a list of supplies needed for the course. For additional information contact Joan Chandler, Yoakum County Extension Agent-HE, at 456 2263.

## SixGood ReasonsToVote For Kay Bailey Hutchison For U.S.Senate <br> Her budget as State Treasurer is down by $8 \%$, yet she still earned more for

 - the taxpayers than ever in the state's history.2 As a small business owner, she will fight taxes and push - for more spending cuts.
3. Her \#1 priority is reducing the federal deficit by cutting spending, not by raising taxes.
4. She's for across-the-board cuts in the $\$ 300$ billion the Federal government spends for overhead and has a plan to save $\$ 1$ trillion by limiting the growth of spending
F. Kay is a strong supporter of term limits and
5. reform of Congress.
6.

She wants to stop frivolous lawsuits that
ring our courts and drive up health care costs


## Vote For Kay Bailey Hutchison!



## Michelle Furr, Doug Warren pledge double ring vows

Miss Michelle Furr and Douglas Neil Warren were united in marriage in an evening ceremony Saturday, May 29, at the First United Methodist Church in Littlefield. The Rev. Derrell Patterson, pastor, officiated the double ring ceremony. He was assisted by Mr. Ed King of Levelland.

The bride is the daughter of Ms. Elaine Furr of Eunice, NM, and the granddaughter of Ms. Mattie Dudley of Big Spring. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Warren of Plains, and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Parks and Mr. and Mrs. James Warren, all of Plains.

Mrs. Beverly Thurman of Littlefield provided a prelude medley of classical selections on the piano. "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" by Bach was performed as the grandmothers were seated and "Canon" by Pachelbel was offered as the mothers entered the sanctuary. Mrs. Karen McMinn of Houston, cousin of the groom, presented "The Gift" as the ceremony began, and Matt Swinnea of Littlefield then offered "Forever Is As Far As I Will Go".

The wedding party entered the sanctuary to Clarke's rendition of Trumpet Voluntary. During the lighting of the unity candle, signifying the joining of the two families, Mr. Swinnea and Mrs. McMinn presented "In This Very Room". The traditional processional and recessionals were performed as well as Handel's "Water Music" as the wedding party departed.

Flanking the chancel area were massive ferns and Ficus trees. Two kneeling prayer benches and the unity candle were the focal points of the lush, tropical setting. Three large candelabrum holding candlelight cathedral tapers completed the altar area. Lavish candlelight bridal bows and tulle puffs marked the bridal aisle.

As the carillon bells marked the sixth hour, the bride entered the sanctuary and was escorted by her brother, Bobby Thrash of Albuquerque, NM. She chose an elegant gown of champagne iridescent taffeta and alencon lace designed by Alfred Angelo. The bodice, beaded with sequins and pearls, featured a sabrina neckline, lantern sleeves and a Basque waistline.

The full ballgown skirt was adorned with beaded and sequined appliques and flowed into a heavily embellished chapel length train. The bride wore a floral crown of pearls and crystal beading highlighted with a multi-pouf and double layer of silk illusion veiling falling to fingertip length.

She carried a cascading bouquet fashioned of roses and English ivy. Ribbons of satin and Queen Anne lace flowed throughout the flowers and cascaded from the arrangement.

For something old, the bride chose diamond earrings belonging to her late maternal grandmother. Something new was her wedding attire. For something borrowed, she chose a ring belonging to Mrs. Belinda Callaway, sister of the
bride, and she wore the traditional blue garter. Pennies were placed in her shoe minted in the year of the couple's births. They were a gift of Sonny Kelton.

Mrs. Belinda Callaway of Hobbs, NM, served her sister as matron of honor. Bridesmaids were Miss Debbie Norvell of Lubbock, Mrs. Dawn Garry of Wolfforth, and Mrs. Tammy Demel and Mrs. Linda Espinoza, both of Littlefield.

The bridal attendants' tea length dresses were designed of black satin and featured pleated lantern sleeves that highlighted the sabrina neckline. A peplum enhanced the Basque waistline and the open back featured rows of draping pearls. They carried arm bouquets fashioned with roses, baby's breath and accents of greenery.

Stephen James Warren of Rotan, nephew of the groom, served as ring bearer. In keeping with family tradition, he carried a heart-shaped candlelight pillow detailed with pearls and satin ribbons designed by the groom's grandmother, Mrs. Neil Parks of Plains.

The groom wore a black, full dress designer tuxedo. The tailcoat was accented with a wing-collared candlelight shirt with black studs, black bow tie and cummerbund. Black wing-tip shoes completed his attire. The rosebud boutonniere was detailed with baby's breath and greenery.

Chad Sthele of West Palm Beach, Fla. served as best man. Serving as groomsmen were Russell Warren of Dallas, brother of the groom, Steve Warren of Rotan, brother of the groom, Ritchie Thornton of Plainview, and Bryan Huseman of Littlefield.

Ushers were Monte Pierce, cousin of the groom, Sam Corn of Abilene and Mitch Landry of San Angelo. The gentlemen were attired in black designer tuxedos featuring accents identical to that of the groom.

Mrs. Marci Chilton of Austin registered guests from a table holding the bridal book, a picture of the couple and a massive arrangement of roses, rosebuds, English ivy and lavish greenery in a lead crystal vase.

Following the ceremony, a reception was held in the Fellowship Hall. Both the bride's and groom's tables were laid with candlelight cloths and featured massive arrangements of roses, rosebuds and an array of tropical greenery.

The bride's table held a four-tiered candlelight confection that was surrounded by four satellite cakes. Punch, nuts and mints were all served from crystal appointments. The groom's table held a chocolate cake topped with strawberries and chocolate shavings.

Silver coffee service and silver appointments were used. A silver picture frame with the couple's engagement picture and a miniature silver football completed the table.

A buffet table topped with a candlelight cloth held various trays of fresh fruit, fresh vegetables and dips.

Hors d'oeuvres, canapes and finger foods were also circulated.

Misses Shae and Sarah Callaway, nieces of the bride from Hobbs, NM, distributed rice bags throughout the reception.

Presiding at the tables were Carol Warren of Rotan, Candy Culwell of San Angelo, D'Nene Lawson of Las Cruces, NM, Linda Thrash of Eunice, NM, and Mary Jo Huseman and Cindy Fouts, both of Littlefield. Members of the houseparty included Donna Black, Angie Banda, Betty Ingram, Pam Sewell, Alice Sell and Kathryn Huseman.

The bride received a bachelor of business education degree at Eastern New Mexico University and is currently doing post-graduate studies at Texas Tech University. She is employed by the Littlefield ISD.

Warren is a graduate of Angelo State University where he received a

BS in education. He serves as assistant coach and secondary instructor with the Littlefield ISD.

After a wedding trip to Puerto Plata and the Dominican Republic, the couple will be at home in Littlefield.

Bridal courtesies included a bridal shower in the home of Mrs. Tammy Demel in Littlefield on April 24; a "Spice-n-Rice" shower hosted by Mrs. Ricky Willis, Mrs. Robert Melvin, Mrs. Joe Pierce and Mrs. J.W. Warren in Plains on April 25; also a miscellaneous shower at First United Methodist Church in Eunice, NM on May 8; and a bridal coffee was held in Miss Furr's honor at Plains First United Methodist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Warren honored their son and his bride-elect with a rehearsal dinner at Cattlelac's in Littlefield, with approximately 50 friends and relatives attending.


MRS. DOUGLAS NEIL WARREN

## Michelle Furr complimented with bridal courtesy recently

Michelle Furr, bride-elect of Doug Warren, was honored recently with a bridal coffee in the fellowship hall of First United Methodist Church.

Special guests were mothers of the betrothed couple, Ms. Elaine Furr of Eunice, NM and Mrs. Jim Warren.

Other honored guests were Mmes. Neil Parks and James Warren, grandmothers of the prospective groom.

Graced with a silk arrangement in various colors, the party table was laid
with white lace over mauve. Appointments were crystal and silver.

Sausage balls, ham rolls, pigs-inblankets, fresh strawberries and dip, coffee and punch were served by Brenda and Velvet Canada.

Hostesses presented the honoree with linens.

Relatives attending from out of town and locally were Mrs. Steve Warren of Rotan; Mrs. Belinda Callaway, Shay and Sarah of Hobbs, NM; Linda Cormack of Eunice, NM; and Mrs. Joyce Pierce and daughter, Darce.


COURTESY GIVEN MOTHER AND INFANT - left to right, Helen Pope, Carmaleta McWilliams and infant daughter, Courtnee; Paula McWilliams and Odessa McDonnell.

## Lullaby shower honors little Courtnee McWilliams

Jack Palmer
Kenneth Powell
Pamela K. Rowe
Maye Weed
Jet Wilmeth

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

TO EXPIRE:
IN MAY

Danny Bell Roger Bennett Ace Hamm Joe Humphrey Carl Lowrey

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WIN AT STATE - Left to right, Jared Bell won second in trampoline and second overall and fourth in tumbling; Mackenzie Winn won first place in tumbling; and Kelly Bowers placed fourth in trampoline and fourth in tumbling.



# Plains Independent School District Home of the Cowboys \& Cowgirls 



## Plains' fourth grade students see cowboys brand cattle

Fourth grade students from Plains portion of the brand was his grandfaElementary took a field trip on Friday, ther's and the quarter-circle was added May 7 to the ranch of Crip and Pat Henard. The purpose of the trip was to learn more about the ranching industry in Texas, a topic studied by the students in social studies class.

While at the ranch, students watched cowboys John Mayes, Alan Jones, Greg Jones, Barry Clower and Rusty Henard rope and brand cattle. Ranch owner Pat Henard and his son, Oscar Henard, applied the quarter circle DH brand to the calves with traditional branding irons.

The Henard Family, Crip, Pat, Oscar, Rusty and Kacy, then explained the procedures used and the reasons for them. Pat Henard explained the history of his ranch to the students. The DH
by Pat and Oscar Henard for use on their ranch in New Mexico.

The students, accompanied by teachers, Sharon Brink, Estelle McAdams and Dianne Wilson, also teaching assistant, Melissa Garcia and driver, Shane McKinzie, learned a great deal about ranching. "It was interesting to know that traditional ranching practices are taking place much as they did during the 1860 s1890 s, right here in Plains and the surrounding area.

Fourth grade students and their teachers and sponsors would like to thank the Henard Family and the cowboys for allowing a first-hand look at the ranching industry.


HENARD FAMILY

Kimbe Jones finalist in publisher's contest

Kimbe Jones, fourth-grade student in Mrs. Dianne Wilson's class at Plains Elementary, was the winner of a contest sponsored by Shepherd Publishing of Kerville, TX. Her prize was a tee shirt with the "Feeling Good About $\mathrm{Me}{ }^{\mathrm{l}}$ logo on the front. Kimbe is the daughter of Steve and Kathy Jones.

Earlier in the school year, local merchants sponsored books given to the fourth-graders. The books titled Feeling Good About Me, include stories and pictures intended to improve students' self-esteem. The publisher conducted a contest in which students colored a picture and wrote a paragraph about one of the stories in the book.

Fourth-grade students would like to thank Pay-n-Save, Bayer Lumber, Harry Richardson of Farmers Insurance Group and Newell Squyres of Farm Bureau Insurance for providing the books.


KIMBE JONES


Kodak paper. For a Good Look at the Times of Your Life.


GIRL SCOUTS RE-BURY TIME CAPSULE, dated back to 1987. The girls opened the capsule, examining its seven-year-old contents and then added a few things from 1993, before placing it back into the ground.

## Plains athletes given recognition

Athletes of Plains High School plaques of appreciation by Mrs. Pettiwere applauded recently at the annual Athletic Banquet held in the school cafeteria. Theme of the evening was Cowboy-Cowgirl Magic.

Hershel Smith was master of ceremonies. Invocation was spoken by Rev. Bill Wright.

A video presentation highlighted events of the 1992-93 school year.

Cheerleaders Darce Pierce, Jennifer Day, Amber Bryan, Misty Willett and Amanda Koncaba were presented
grew.

Jose and Ogla Ramirez were presented scholarships. Seniors were given special recognition. A large number of awards were given. Johnnie and Melba Fitzgerald were presented with the Super Booster Award.

Parents met following the event to elect David Bunch as 1993-94 president. Other officers are Cyndy Koncaba, vice president and Lola Bryan, secretary/treasurer.

## Tips \& guidelines given for local recycling program

Recycling bins have been in place in both Plains and Denver City for almost two months. Residents have the opportunity to collect and place plastics - only those labeled one and two, aluminum cans and steel cans in the local bins.

Joan Chandler, Yoakum County Extension Agent-HE states, "County residents are using the bins to do their part in collecting recyclables. The plastic bins tend to fill up first. Presently, they are being emptied twice a week in Denver City and once a week in Plains."

She emphasized the importance of following a few recycling guidelines to keep the recycling effort as efficient as possible. These include:

1. Remove and discard bottle caps and lids.
2. RINSE ALL CONTAINERS! Use leftover dishwater or extra space in the dishwasher in order to conserve water.
3. Crush aluminum cans and plas
tic containers to save space in the recycling bins.
4. DO NOT place containers that have contained motor oil or chemicals in the bins.
5. DO NOT place plastic bags or paper bags in the bins. Instead, reuse them or place them in the trash dumpster located at each recycling site.
6. Removing labels is NOT necessary.
7. To identify acceptable plastics, look on the bottom of the container for the triangular recycling symbol. Only recycle those with the number " 1 " or "2" printed inside the triangle.

By following these guidelines, the county recycled items will be more acceptable to the end market.

For more information about waste management in the home, free educational brochures, or programs dealing with solid waste in the home, contact the Yoakum County Extension Office at 456-2263.

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JENNIFER LOLLAR RECEIVES a gold necklace for her cookie selling exper tise. Standing with her is Tanya McDowell.


More children's books have been published during the 1900s than in all the previous centuries combined.

## Gold necklaces given to top 'cookie-sellers'

Jennifer Lollar and her mother and scout leader, Jerri Lollar, attended the Yoakum County Girl Scout Awards Program recently in Denver City. Miss Lollar and Jenny Miller of Denver City were presented gold necklaces engraved with a "J" for selling the most cookies in the annual cookie campaign. Jennifer sold 486 boxes; Jenny, 214.

Following the awards program, a lock-in was held with 63 scouts and nine leaders attending. They learned about being an airline hostess from a stewardess with Continental Airlines.

Seated around a campfire, the girls learned cowboy history from "The Pioneer Singers" and "The Cowboy Poet". Following a pizza supper, they played "cow patty" toss, stick horse races and had a pig calling contest.

After Saturday morning breakfast, the girls returned to the scout hut where they opened a 1987 time capsule. It was buried again after the girls added items from each of the current troops. Each girl placed a shovel of dirt over the capsule

RECYCLE PLAINS


## PLASTICS

NW Corner of
Hwy. 214 \& 380

Accepting only those marked
 and

(Look on bottom of container for recycling symbol

1. Remove and discard cap (remove any metal rings)
2. Rinse container
3. Flatten it if possible
4. Take to plastic recycling bin

IMPORTANT: CANNOT accept any plastics that contained motor oil or chemicals

## STEEL CANS

Accepting food and juice metal cans

1. Rinse can and lid
2. Take to steel can recycling bin


ALUMINUM
Accepting carbonated beverage cans

| 1. | Rinse |
| :--- | :--- |
| 2. | Flatten |
| 3. | Take to aluminum recycling bin |

## MINTS:



* RINSE AIL RECYCLABLES, but don't waste water: use leftover dishwater or extra space in tl.e dishwasher
* Please DO NOT place plastic bags or paper bags in any of the recycling bins

THIS MESSAGE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PLAINS PRIDE

## ARB to hear protests starting June 16

Property owners in the Yoakum County Appraisal District will have an opportunity later this month to protest proposed appraisals of their property for local taxes. The district's appraisal review board (ARB) will begin hearing taxpayer protests on June 16, 1993.

After the ARB concludes its hearings and approves final property appraisals, local governments will use the appraisal to assess property taxes for 1993.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district and who are appointed by the district's directors. Their responsibilities are outlined by the Texas Constitution, which requires that property be appraised equally and uniformly and that exemptions and productivity appraisal be properly granted.

Property owners may appeal before the ARB to protest any of the following appraisal office actions.

* the appraisal or agricultural value of the property;
* unequal appraisal of the taxpayer's property compared to other property in the district;
* inclusion of the property on the appraisal records;
* denial of a partial exemption, such as a homestead exemption;
* denial of agricultural-use or open-space exemption;
* determination that agricultural land has changed of use and is subject to rollback tax;
* identification of the taxing unit or units in which the property is located;
* determination that the taxpayer is the owner of the property;
* any other action of the appraisal office that adversely affects the property owner.

Saundra Stephens, chief appraiser for the district, outlined the steps by which a property owner files a protest. First, the property owner must file a written notice of protest with the ARB. The taxpayer must file this notice by May 31 or within 30 days after the appraisal district mails the taxpayer a notice of appraised value, whichever date is later.

However, if the ARB sends a property owner a notice of any other kind of change in the appraisal records, or if the chief appraiser issues a notice for a property omitted in the prior year, the property owner has 30 days from the mailing date to file a protest.

Official forms for a notice of protest are available at the appraisal district office. "A letter from the taxpayer is also acceptable," Stephens said, "as long as it identifies the property owner and the property that is the subject of the protest and indicates dissatisfaction with some decision or action of the appraisal office."

Each protesting property owner may offer evidence or argument, either in person or by filing an affidavit with the ARB. Property owners should be aware that the ARB has no authority over tax rates or spending and will not hear protest on those matters.

The ARB will scheduled hearings as property owners file protests and will inform them of the time, date and place of their individual hearings at least 15 days before the hearing date. The property owner will also receive a copy of the State Comptroller's pamphlet entitled Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies \& Responsibilities and a copy of the ARB's procedures.

Stephens said that protest hearings will be held for three days and that the ARB expects to approve the final appraisal roll about July 9, 1993. State law requires the ARB to review and approve the appraisal records by July 20 , or when not more than five (5) percent of the total property value in the district remains under protest.

Property owners protesting their valuation should not attempt to contact ARB members outside the hearing, the chief appraiser stressed. Each ARB member must sign an affidavit stating

## 4-H'ers compete in district contests

Sixteen Yoakum County 4-H'ers participated in the South Plains district 4-H Roundup contests held recently in Levelland. They competed with other youth representing a 19 county area.

Each of the 4-H'ers worked as a team to give an oral presentation to teach information relating to a $4-\mathrm{H}$ project or activity. Usually these presentations range from eight to 12 min utes in length.

Local participants and their ranking include Junior I Division - Elizabeth Clanahan and Ragan McGinty, 4th/Focus on Health; Rustin Knight and Casey Mayes, 1st/Horticulture Preparation and Use; Lesli Rowe and Lexi Warren, 2nd/Natural Resources.

Junior II Division - Conchetta and Lisa San Filippo, 4th/Landscape Horticulture. Senior Division - Billy Braswell and Robert Knight, 1st/Agronomy; Chase Clanahan and Kelly McGinty, 1st/Open Class; Jinger Hancock and Katrina Hart, 2nd/Clothing; Jamey Garland and Amanda Koncaba, 2nd/Foods and Nutrition.

Because all the seniors placed first or second in their class, they will be competing at Texas $4-\mathrm{H}$ Roundup to be held June 7-11 at Texas A\&M University. Julie Hancock will also be representing Yoakum County in the Texas 4-H Food Show at this same event.

All of the 4-H'ers mentioned above would be glad to present their talks to local $\mathrm{c}^{1 \cdots \mathrm{hs}}$ and organizations, according to Joan Chandler, Yoakum County Extension Agent-HE. If you would like to schedule a presentation, either contact one of these 4 -H'ers directly, the Yoakum County Extension Office at 456-2263, or Dottie Mayes at 456-8841. Mrs. Mayes served as the county leader for this activity.
that no such contact has occurred with a property owner or the appraisal staff before the scheduled hearing.

Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies \& Responsibilities is available at the Yoakum County Appraisal District office. For a copy, contact the appraisal district staff at PO Box 748 (500 10th Street), Plains, Texas 79355 or 806-456-7101.


Shawn and Kirk Williams of Sacramento, Ca . announce the arrival of a daughter born at 5:19 a.m. May 22 in Sacramento. The little lass weighed nine pounds six ounces and measured 20 and a half inches long. She has been named Colleen Ann. She has a sister, Shelby, 22 months. Grandparents are Mary Dale and Bud Forbus, Charles Williams of Tokio and Joe and Sharon Markey of San Antonio.

Scott and Pam Munson of Willis announce the arrival of a daughter born at 12:09 a.m. May 15 in Conroe. She has been named Alyssa Amber. She weighed seven pounds four ounces and measured 19 and three-quarters inches at birth. Grandparents are Jenette Bumpass of Lubbock and William and Mary Munson of Willis.

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## Awards Day held at Transportation Dept.

Texas Department of Transportation held their annual Awards Day ceremony Wednesday, May 5th. Four hundred and forty employees and guests were on hand to see their coworkers receive special awards presented to them by Mr. William (Mel) Pope, District 5's engineer.

Receiving awards for the Plains area were David Huerta, 10 years service; Milton Estep, 35 years service; James Wright, 10 years Safe Driving and second place winner by Maintenance Section in the 1993 Roadeo Competition.

Also Maxie McElroy, 16 years safe driving; Elbert Estep, 19 years safe driving and no lost time; Eugene Farnham Sr., eight years heavy equipment; and Gene Phillips, first place winner by Maintenance Section in the 1993 Roadeo Competition.

Mr. Pope stated, "We have seen many changes in the Department since our program last year. We now know that no district will be closed and will continue to serve all the people of Texas in providing a good transportation system. There are many qualified people in the Department and even though some will be accepting early' retirement, the work will continue.
"This Department has a great history of doing a good job and it will continue to be a good place to work. Don't become overly concerned about some new faces in the Department," said Pope. "Continue to do your usual good job of getting the work done in a safe manner."

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