



PLAINS' "COUNTRY CLASSICS" BAND entertained at the "Walker for West Texas" fundraiser, held in Stanford Park, Friday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. Approximately 200 people attended. Left to right, are members of the band, Lee and Diane Brown; James Altman; guest fiddle player Valerie Moss of Dimmitt; and Buster Kennedy.



FUNDRAISER GIVEN REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE GARY WALKER FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 80 - left to right, are Tim Addison, chairman of fundraiser; Delwin Jones, State Representative, District 83 from Lubbock; Frankie Walker; Gary Walker and Dare Walker.

## Approximately 200 people turn out for Walker campaign fundraiser

A fundraiser for Gary Walker, Republican candidate for State Representative District 80, was held on Friday, July 15 at 7:30 p.m. in Stanford Park. Approximately 200 people enjoyed hamburgers with all the trimmings and homemade peach cobbler. Coordinator for the event was Tim Addison, fundraiser chairman.

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On hand to address the group was Lee Arrington, manager of South Plains Water District in Brownfield, along with State Representative Delwin Jones of District 83 of Lubbock. The invocation was given by Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer.

The "Country Classics", a band comprised of Plains residents, provided the evening's entertainment, playing country music favorites. The band was accompanied by Miss Valerie Moss, a fiddle player from Dimmitt. Many attended from Plains, as did guests from Levelland, Brownfield, Seagraves, Andrews and Denver City.

A lot of fun and good food was enjoyed by all who attended.

District 80 is an area which includes Andrews, Dawson, Gaines, Hockley, Loving, Martin, Reeves, Terry, Winkler and Yoakum Counties. The general election will be on Tuesday, Nov. 8.

#### Mary Coffman buried in Ft. Worth

Services for Mary Coffman, 91, of Plains were held at 11 a.m. Saturday, July 16, 1994 in Greenwood Funeral Home Chapel in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Burial was in Laurel Land Cemetery, under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Mrs. Coffman died Monday, July 11, 1994, at her residence.

She was born on April 18, 1903, in Fort Worth, where she married Clarence Coffman. He died in May, 1957. She moved to Plains from Coleman in 1992 and was a member of First Baptist Church in Plains.

Survivors include a son, Jan of Harlingen; a daughter, Karen Baucom of Plains; a sister, Fay Markle of Bridgeport; nine grandchildren; and six greatgrandchildren.

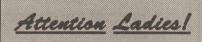
#### Drawing planned by Tsa Mo Ga Club

Tsa Mo Ga Study Club will give away a jewelry armoire Saturday night, Aug. 6 during the Plains Reunion Rodeo.

A club fund raiser, those interested in buying a ticket may contact

any member of Tsa Mo Ga Club. One dollar donations are being taken for a chance at being the lucky ticket holder.

The armoire is on display at Plains State Bank.



Please bring cobblers to the Old Settlers Reunion and Barbecue on Saturday, Aug. 6th. Donations will be accepted to help defray the cost of potato salad and beef for the barbecue. Mail donations to: Plains Chamber of Commerce P.O. Box 364 Plains, Texas 79355

# Get your Saddle Tickets from these three young ladies

Introducing the 1994 Rodeo Queen Candidates...

ROBIN SQUYRES, 15-year-old daughter of Newell and Peggy Squyres, is an active member of Plains High School Cowgirl volleyball, basketball and tennis teams. Enjoying all sports, her favorite pastime is riding horses with her Dad. A sophomore this fall, Robin is an honor roll student at Plains High School. Robin says she is "very proud to be representing the Plains Roping Club, and would like to thank the members for their support." AMANDA ANNETTE DURHAM, 14year-old daughter of Cheri Cochran of Denver City and Bobo Durham of Plains. A freshman at PHS, she is representing Plains Lions Club. Amanda lists her favorite hobbies as shopping, traveling and talking on the phone. She also likes basketball and volleyball. She says, she chose to run for Rodeo Queen, because she enjoys people and making new friends and thought it would be a great experience. SELENA HUMPREY, 17-year-old daughter of Joe and Freda Humphrey, will be a senior student this fall at Plains High School. Elected by her classmates, she will serve as Senior Class Secretary for 1994-95. Selena plays golf for the Plains Girls Golf Team and she also enjoys running with the girls track team. Representing the Plains Chamber of Commerce, she is also a member of the Yoakum County Teen Court.

from your sponsors:

**Good Luck, Girls** 

Plains Chamber of Commerce Plains Lions Club Plains Roping Club

We'd like to welcome everyone to the 1994 Old Settlers Rodeo & Reunion

## **Double ring ceremony unites Stacie Carmichael & Keith Earnest**

Stacie Kay Carmichael of Sweetwater and James Keith Earnest exchanged wedding vows here in First Baptist Church Saturday, June 4 at 7 p.m. Officiating the double ring ceremony was Bill Wright.

Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. C.E. Carmichael of Sweetwater and Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Earnest. Grandparents of the bride are Clark and Jo Hitt of Crowell and Claude and June Carmichael of Brownwood. The groom is the grandson of F.L. Earnest of Brownfield and the late Alice Earnest and Nadine Clanahan and the late Leon Clanahan.

The ceremony was performed before a setting of arch and tree candelabrum entwined with English ivy. Candle votives with ivy, ribbon and baby's breath completed the church decorations. Lighted candles with greenery graced the organ and piano.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a full-length white gown of satin, with a fitted bodice embellished with clear sequins, pearls and lace. The train was styled with the same pattern.

For "something old" and "something borrowed," the bride carried her grandmother Hitt's handkerchief. "Something new" was her gown and pearl earrings given to her by the groom. "Something blue" was her garter and the groom's first Bible.

She slipped a penny in her shoe which was coined in the year of her birth. It was given to her by her grandmother Carmichael.

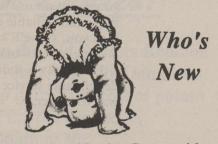
The groom was attired in a black tuxedo, with white vest and tie.

Attendants included Kim Shryack of Lamesa, who served as Maid of Honor and Shauna Richardson of Lubbock. They each wore a magenta pink dress and carried bouquets of fresh magenta pink roses and carnations, accented with fresh baby's breath and greenery.

Flower girl, Nicole Matysek of Crowell, wore a floral print dress with a white collar, trimmed in a dainty lace. She carried a white basket trimmed in flowers and ribbon. The best man was the brother of the groom, Michael Earnest. Groomsman was Brad McWhirter. Ushers were Andy Carmichael of Sweetwater, brother of the bride; Blake McWhirter and Steve Crutcher. Landon Earnest, nephew of the groom, served as ringbearer. They were all dressed in black tuxedos with black vests and ties.

Cynthia Blair was pianist/organist. Melba Crutcher sang "Love of the Lasting Kind," and Steve Crutcher sang "The Lord's Prayer" during the lighting of the unity candle. Jennifer Earnest, sister of the groom, read scripture from 1 Cor. 13:4-8, 13.

A reception was held immediately following the ceremony. The bride's cake was an Italian cream, three-tiered off-white cake with cascading flowers. Fresh greenery and gardenias surrounded the bottom of the cake. The groom's cake was Kahlua fudge with



Terrie and Stephen Gressett wish to announce the arrival of their daughter, Berkleigh Reagan, born Thursday, June 30 at 3:31 a.m. at Lubbock's Methodist Hospital. Weighing seven pounds five ounces, she measured 21 inches long. She has a brother, Sherman, 16 months old. Maternal grandparents are Shelby and Earl Davis of Amarillo. Paternal grandparents are Sara and Don Gressett of Snyder.

B.J. and Rick Doyle would like to announce the birth of their son, Isaac Mason, born Tuesday, July 19 at 1:12 a.m. in University Medical Center in Lubbock. The little lad weighed nine pounds six ounces and measured 21 and one quarter inches long. Grandparents are Louise and Louis Doyle of Fort Worth; Betty Ramsey of Pasadena; and Betty and Charles Leonard of Lamesa.

"Cards of Thanks" in the paper....can save you time and money ~ on postage stamps, envelopes and writing thank you cards...and you're sure to let the word out that you are grateful for what kind deeds have

come your way.

For just 15¢ a word, you can tell just about everyone "Thank You" and not leave anyone out.

Remember...

"Thank you write-ups" for families who've lost a loved one are always free of charge. lattice work on the sides and topped

with light and dark chocolate curls. The couple is at home in Plains.

Events honoring the couple included a shower hosted by Frankie Walker April 9. The groom's parents hosted a rehearsal dinner June 3 at the church.



MRS. JAMES KEITH EARNEST



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Host families are being sought for high school exchange students from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Austria, Turkey, Greece, Hungary, South Korea, Netherlands, Poland, Peru, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil, Ecuador, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Portugal, Uruguay, Czech Republic, Slovakia. Thailand, Russia, Ukraine and Croatia for the SCHOOL YEAR 1994-1995 in a program sponsored by the American Intercultural Student Exchange (AISE).

The students, ages 15 through 18, will arrive in the United States in August, 1994, attend a local high school, and return to their home countries in June 1995. The students are fluent in English, have been screened by their school representatives in their home countries and have spending money and medical insurance.

Host families may deduct \$50.00 per month for income tax purposes.

AISE has intercultural opportunities available for American High School Students to participate in summer homestay or year programs throughout Europe and Australia.

Families interested in either program should call Toll Free 1-800-SIB-LING.



#### PAGE 4, JULY 27, 1994, THE PLAINS PRIDE

#### **Plains Chamber** to meet Aug. 2

The Plains Chamber of Commerce will have its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 2 at 7 a.m. at Johnnie's Restaurant.

All those interested in promoting our community are invited to attend.

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. POST-MASTER: Send address changes to The Plains Pride, P.O. Box 774, Olton, TX 79064-0774.

NOTICE **BEAUTICONTROL** cosmetics. Call Holly Dyer, 456-8451.

#### SUBSCRIPTIONS TO EXPIRE

JULY

J.D. Brown

**City of Plains** 

Barry Morgan

**Homer Shelton** 

Bertha Halfmann

**Roger Harvey** 

Sue Russell

Don Young

APRIL Myrtle L. Patton **Guy Williams Dean Andrews** Clarence Koncaba R.B. Jones **David McGill Dallas Powell** David Turnbough **Kirk Williams** MAY

Danny Bell **Roger Bennett Royce Blair** Joe Humphrey Jet Wilmeth

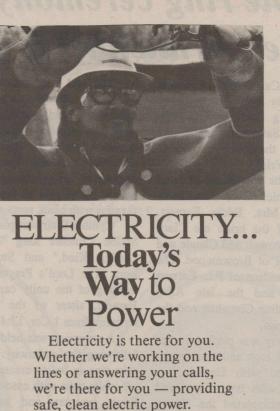
JUNE J.B. Ashburn H.W. Culwell **Terry Davis** Louise Goehry **Plains State Bank** Melody Record Felipa Villarreal **Roy Dodds Steve Jones** Kim Van Dyke

AUGUST Dwayne Canada **Bob Jones** Macky McWhirter Newell Squyres Billie Faye McDonnell Dan Wall Yo. Co. Extension Office **Pharon Pharr Fred Squyres** 

> **\$15 YOAKUM COUNTY \$16 OTHER AREAS The Plains Pride** Box 774 Olton, Texas 79064

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dependable service...today's way to power.

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### **Yoakum County Library News**

"Summer Reading Program has been a great enjoyment to all of the young readers this summer," says a local library spokesperson. "We have had 238 (youngsters) sign up for the reading program and at this date, there have been 81 completed. Dairy Queen ice cream is a real calling card and our Judge Dallas Brewer signing the reading certificates has made receiving these certificates another joy. We are hoping our children will work hard to finish reading 12 books this year."

New books at the library are "Love can Build a Bridge" by the Judds; "Haldeman Diaries - Inside the Nixon White House" by Haldeman; "More Memories" by Ralph Emery; CHAMBER by Grisham; "On the Brink" by Hagga; "The Tangle Box" by Terry Brooks; "Decider" by Dick Francis; "Crossing" by Francis; "The New Dare to Discipline" by Dobson; "Lightning Bolt" by Storm; "The Music Men" by Terrel; "Catch Rope" by Erickson; and "Hey, Mom I'm Home Again" by O'Kane.

New Videos include "Beethoven", "Lassie Comes Home", "Delta Force II", "Premo Baby", "Egg and I" with Ma and Pa Kettle, "Turn Your Radio On with Bill and Gloria Gaither and Their Homecoming Friends", "A Few Good Men", "On Golden Pond", "Mrs. Doubtfire", "Ben Hur", "City Slickers", and "Peter the Great". Books on cassette are "Jim Ugly" by Fleischman; "Chambers" by Grisham;

"Will Rogers", "The Warden" by Anthony Trollope.



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FORMER RESIDENTS VISIT RECENTLY - On their way to visit in Olton, another place they used to call home, Amanda and Amber Davis, daughters of Melissa and Doug Davis, stopped in to surprise the library ladies. Moving from Plains almost four years ago, the two reported on family happenings. Amanda graduated in May and plans to attend A&M this fall; Amber will be a junior in high school; older brother Joaquin has completed his second year in college and will also be attending A&M in January. The family resides in Brackettville, Texas, where their parents - Melissa, works as a secretary for Sterling C. Evans; and Doug is ranch manager for U-Bar Ranch in Brackettville. The library ladies are always happy to see familiar faces pop in at anytime.

Parfait

Spanish peanuts.



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

#### Dear Editor:

#### Dear Editor,

After watching the recent Breyer confirmation hearings, my wife, a high school government teacher, raised an interesting question. Why do we allow strangers to control our lives?

Each year she quizzes her students on the names of our elected leaders. Apparently, few have problems recalling their mayor, state representative, senator, governor or president. Many can even list some county commissioners, city council members, and school board trustees. Yet, when it comes to naming members of the judiciary, there's generally nothing but silence.

To test whether this lack of information was restricted to school students, I conducted my own little survey. The results were quite amazing. Upon being asked to name at least three members of the Texas Supreme Court or Texas court of Criminal Appeals most adults, regardless of age, could not. Nor could they generally recall who sat on their regional court of appeals or district and county courts.

This was truly disturbing given the power judges wield. Excluding the numerous lobbyists and special interests involved, it takes 21 senators, 76 representatives and one governor to make a law, but only one judge to throw it out. More importantly, judicial decisions escape public debate or critique before they are rendered. Indeed, a judge is prohibited from so revealing potential ruling. Thus, whether to strike down a school finance law, release a convicted murderer into our community, create new grounds to sue someone, interfere in the operation of the public schools and prisons, deprive parent's of their right to raise children, or do anything else is generally up to each judge's personal view of the law.

Admittedly, the independence court's enjoy is important, but that very same independence creates a chance for abuse. So, the risk must be minimized. The easiest way of doing this is through the exercise of care in

selecting judges. At the very least, we should find out who they are. The extent of their real life experience, legal intelligence, and integrity are also important factors to investigate.

Texans are wary nowadays of strangers. Unlike Isaac, in the Bible, we shouldn't let people trick us into believing they are something they are not. Nor should we allow strangers to control our wallets, our taxes, our jobs, our families, our homes and our freedom.

Sincerely,

Brian Quinn 1722 Broadway Lubbock, Texas 79401 Yoakum County Cemetery Association met July 19 in the Library for regular business meeting. There were 14 present. Ita Young reported on the on-going Garden Club project.

**County Cemetery Association** 

holds meeting Tuesday, July 19

The Garden Club is urging the Community to "please help them and the Cemetery Association in identifying 50 or more unmarked graves in the old part of the cemetery.

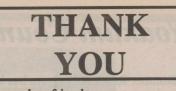
The club is prepared to use the "Operation Christmas Card" funds to place a marker at each known grave. The graves which can be identified will have the engraved markers placed on them. "Anyone having knowledge of an

## NOTICE

DANISH HIGH SCHOOL EX-CHANGE STUDENT, boy 17, needs host family. Likes basketball, cycling and track. Arriving in August. For more information call Eleanor 817-467-1417 or 1-800-SIBLING.

Starting Aug. 1, we'll be selling breakfast burritos and also homemade lunch plates. Come by Mrs. Jimenez's 1229 11th Street. 456-6655 unmarked grave should contact Jess Gass at Precinct 3 or a Garden Club member. We'd like to thank all those who have offered assistance."

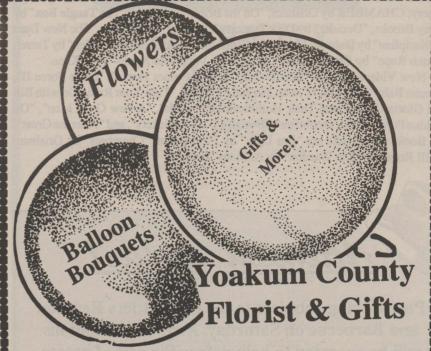
Anyone interested in attending the meetings of Yoakum County Cemetery Association are welcome.



To my dear friends,

Thank you so much. It was a wonderful party. Thank you for thinking of me, and thank you for the gifts, and Thanks most of all for being my friends ~ I love you all.

**Tommie Brown** 



**Yoakum County Hospital** 



## If Delivering at Yoakum County Hospital

## **Classes Offered At No Charge**

If Delivering Elsewhere - \$20.00 for the six week session

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Education

Contact Cynthia Hunt 592-5484 or 592-3445

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THE PLAINS PRIDE, JULY 27, 1994, PAGE 7

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PLAINS SCHOOL SUMMER BASKETBALL CAMP 'Make it with Denim' contest planned for Sept. in Littlefield

A Make It With Denim competition will be held in Littlefield, Sept. 6 in conjunction with the first Annual Denim Festival planned Sept. 4-10.

The week-long community-wide event will provide style shows, photography contests, cornbread and bean supper, health fair, tightest and ugliest jeans contests, and the denim competition.

"Objectives of the Make It With Denim contest are to encourage the study, promotion and use of denim fabrics and to recognize individuals who use their knowledge of natural fibers to sew garments made of 100% cotton," states Joan Chandler, Yoakum County Extension Agent-HE.

Youth and adults both are invited to compete on Sept. 6 in this competition. All contestants will receive recognition for their entries. The top three entries in each age category will receive awards.

For additional information and entry materials, call 456-2263 or the

### FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE - 3 bedroom, 1 bath. Backyard fenced. 1307 16th Street. 456-7001.

#### **Position** Available

The Yoakum County Community Supervision and Corrections Department, an Equal Opportunity Employer, announces a job opening for a full time probation officer to work in Plains. Position requires a Bachelor's Degree. Basic function is to provide full range of probation services. Good communication skills and criminal justice experience desired. A criminal history background investigation will be conducted and references verified. Salary in the \$20,000 to \$21,000 range with excellent benefits. Qualified applicant may contact the Texas **Employment Commission, Box 392,** Brownfield, Texas 79316 or call (806) 456-2955 for instructions. ~ 17/2tc

A Make It With Denim competiwill be held in Littlefield. Sept. 6 4004.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

#### ON THE

YOAKUM COUNTY APPRAISAL

DISTRICT BUDGET

The Yoakum County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on the budget for the 1995 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 9, 1994 at 2:00 PM in the office of the Yoakum County Appraisal District.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

Total amount of the budget is \$232,950.00.

The total amount of decrease from the current year's budget is \$6.00.

The total number of employees compensated in the 1995 budget will be 2 full-time employees.

The total number of employees under the current budget is 2 full-time employees.

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from the local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

By final approval by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, the budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school districts and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the budget is available for inspection in the office of each of the governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

YOAKUM COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

500 10TH STREET

PLAINS, TEXAS 79355

806-456-7101

### Walker testifies before Texas House Committee

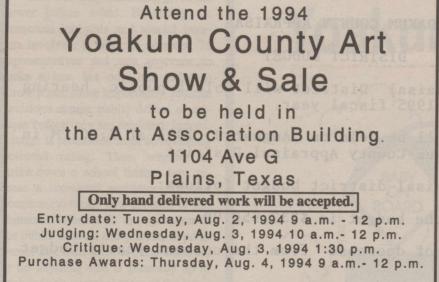
nominee for the Texas House of Representatives, District 80, has returned back home to West-Texas after representing Texas before a special hearing of the Environmental Protection Agency. The hearing, held in Washington D.C., was conducted to discuss alternatives to ground water monitoring at rural landfills in the Western United States. Walker joined United States Representative Charles Stenholm, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commissioner Peggy Garner, and Jim Haley in providing testimony before the EPA.

Walker, the District Manager of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, was asked to testify before the EPA because of his expertise in dealing with rural solid waste disposal. Walker is responsible for the construction, management, and operation of Yoakum County's Subtitle D landfill. Walker guided the landfill through both the EPA's and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's certification process. Walker's testimony centered specifically on the Subtitle D regulation which requires rural landfills to drill monitor wells and take routine samples from those wells. The wells and the

Gary Walker, the Republican subsequent tests are very expensive. Many rural landfills are contemplating closing rather than installing the wells. Walker said that closing rural landfills forces municipalities to transport solid waste to other landfills, usually hundreds of miles away. The additional costs associated with transporting the waste are then transferred to the taxpayer.

> Walker offered the EPA an alternative to the monitor wells. He suggested monitoring soil moisture underneath landfills to detect if a leachate is being produced. If no leachate is produced, contamination of ground water could not occur. "Many landfills are closing needlessly because they cannot afford to drill monitor wells to analyze contaminate which doesn't exist," Walker said. "By simply monitoring soil moisture we can achieve the same water safety goals with much lower costs," Walker added.

Walker, a fiscal conservative, who says that water and property rights are the top issue in his campaign for the Texas House, said he hopes the EPA will consider his alternative. He said that he feels that his alternative creates a perfect balance between ensuring water quality safety and protecting



Open to the Public: Friday, Aug. 5, 1994 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday: Aug. 6, 1994 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The following schedule has been set for Plains High School students to meet with principal Steven L. O'Quinn to review their schedules and academic goals for the 1994-95 school year. Students are requested to come by the High School Office during the scheduled times:

> **SENIORS** 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Monday, August 1

> JUNIORS 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Monday, August 1

**SOPHOMORES Tuesday, August 2** 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

FRESHMEN **Thursday, August 4** 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. taxpayer's dollars. He said that many rural landfills now considering closing could remain open if the EPA adopts his alternative.

**BUDGET HEARING** Plains ISD will hold a public hearing on the 1994-95 budget at 7:30 p.m., August 8, 1994, in the board room of Plains ISD.

**NOTICE OF** 

#### **HELP WANTED**

Plains ISD is taking applications for a school nurse. Qualifications should include either LVN or RN certification. Bi-lingual is desired but not required. Applicants should send a resume to Pete Simmons, Supt. Plains ISD. **Deadline for receiving applications is Monday, Aug. 8, 1994** at 9:00 a.m.

Plains ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

17~ 2tpd

Can



## **Regulators are Threatening** Texans and Their Rights

exans, be wary. Your property rights are under assault by the federal government. Washington wants to regulate matters as basic as whether a city can pump water to someone's house. Protection of plants and animals has been given a priority over people, thanks to illconsidered federal laws and regulators.

One high profile case can be found in South-Central Texas. The single supply of water for the city of San Antonio is the Edwards aquifer. But changes in the aquifer level could adversely impact certain animals, such as blind salamanders, in violation of the Endangered Species Act.

Instead of allowing state and local citizens and elected officials to resolve the problem, the U.S. Justice Department stepped in. Citing a technicality in yet another federal law, the Department of Justice rejected Texas' plan, approved by the state Legislature, to regulate the aquifer. So, claims the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 69 federal agencies doing business in the aquifer region must protect these species.

Just think about this. The federal government can stop the flow of water to anyone who owns property. Farmers may not be able to grow crops. Land development will be stymied. Homeowners may see their water service drastically curtailed. And all this because people in Washington believe that some amount of water taken out of Edwards aquifer will permanently harm these salamanders - a claim that no study conclusively supports.

We simply cannot allow unelected bureaucrats from Washington to take over decisions the should be reserved to the people and their elected representatives.

Burdensome mandates, as dictated on the federal level, are not confined to the San Antonio area. In a 20.5 million acre area of Central and Southwest Texas, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing to designate all or parts of 33 counties as protection areas. The reason? To protect a bird called the golden-cheeked warbler.

If this proposal is adopted, businesses would be discouraged from forming and expanding, workers could lose jobs, and property-owners would be at risk. Any development judged as adverse to the golden-cheeked warbler would be prohibited by the government. Landowners, whether individuals or businesses, would in many cases be required to get formal federal approval to clear or develop property.

As Congressman Lamar Smith has noted, such a plan could wreak havoc on area businesses. "Left unclear is whether anyone in the (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) has taken time to consider the economic impact on (these) 33 counties," he said. "It could be devastating."

These developments infringe on individual property rights in violation of the Constitution. Needless to say, the federal regulators will not pay for the damage or economic disruption caused by their actions. But the 5th Amendment prohibits that "private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

One of the greatest challenges facing us as a society is ensuring that mankind can make progress in harmony with its environment. Striking this balance is not always easy. It will take a concerted effort on all levels of government and cooperation between the public and private sectors. One thing, however, is clear: we must find ways to achieve that balance without trampling on individuals' constitutional rights.