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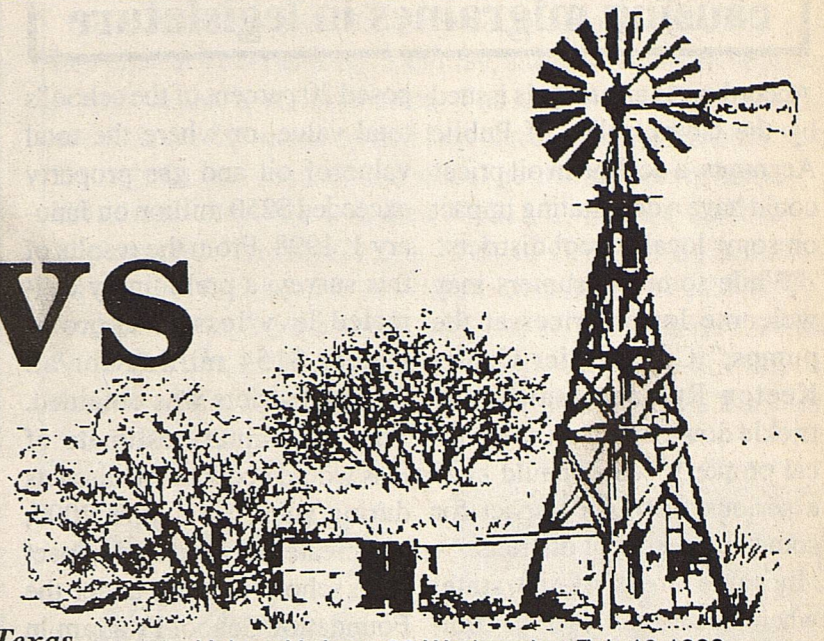
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# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 22, Wednesday Feb. 10, 1999



## Natural Resources Week observed in state

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is celebrating February 8-12, 1999, as Natural Resources Recognition Week in Texas. In a statement issued by John P. Burt, State Conservationist, the week is designed to encourage all Texans to reflect on the importance of natural resources in our daily lives. "Our abundant natural resources of soil, water, air, plants, and animals continue to provide us with a healthy environment," Burt said. "The wise use of these resources sets us apart from every other country in the world. We are fortunate to have a conservation ethic that encourages landowners and all citizens to conserve and protect those things which benefit all of us." In Texas, NRCS works with 216 local Soil and Water conservation Districts (SWCD) to address

local resource issues. The NRCS is involved in programs dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of the many resources the state is blessed with. Today, the environment and wildlife resources are greatly improved, and county and area SWCD's have played a major role in these improvements. NRCS and SWCD's work voluntarily with landowners, individual producers, schools, and civic organizations. Here, the Yoakum SWCD, along with NRCS volunteers, sponsor conservation theme poster and essay contests in both county school districts; sponsor an annual Conservation Jamboree at both middle schools; conduct soil and water stewardship events each year, and select the Yoakum County Conservation Farmer of the Year. The local

NRCS actively takes part in many conservation practices, including planning terraces and planting grasses to reduce erosion. Phillip Carter, Range Specialist with the NRCS office here, said "We are fortunate to continue to have people on the SWCD Board of Directors who are aware of the vital importance of conservation programs, and who give so freely of their time and efforts to protect and improve are resources." Local SWCD Directors are Don Burgess, Chairman, Danny Bell, Vice-Chair, Cindy Gray, Secretary, Dan Wall and Larry Nelson. For more information, contact your local USDA-NRCS office or visit the NRCS website at <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>

## Baseball Comes to P.H.S.



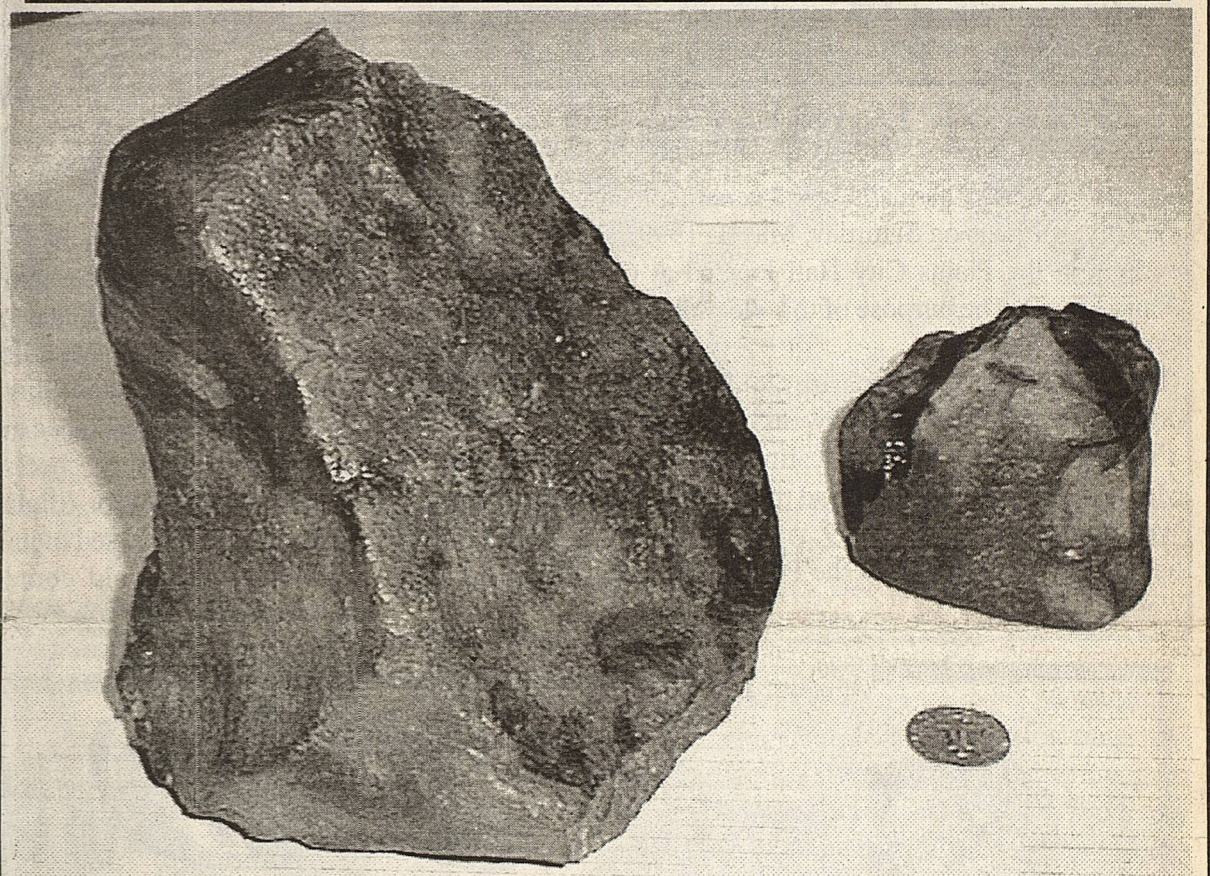
Coach Eddie Carter, right, demonstrates correct ground ball fielding position to Cowboys

What may, or may not be a first for the Plains High Athletic program will get underway here February 27 when the Cowboy Baseball team opens their season in a match-up against the Lovington, N.M. Junior Varsity team. A few of our 'more seasoned' residents report they can recall baseball games in years past against nearby schools, but no one is certain the games were an officially recognized athletic event of Plains High. The only thing CCN is able to determine is the high school yearbook in 1943 and later years make no mention of the sport being part of the athletic program. To date, 28 would-be PHS baseball stars have signed up for team tryouts, although a number of the boys are still involved in the basketball season. Head Coach Eddie Carter furnished the following list of hopefuls; Seniors: Tanner

Blount, Steven Bunch, Cosme Casillas, Vincent DelGado. Juniors: Joshua Bell, David Ganados, Luis Hernandez, Patrick McGinty, Jeremy Morphis, Alex Tarango, Chris Willis, Colt Winn. Sophomores: Aaron Cain, Eddy Gallegos, Adam Garcia, Fabian Garza, Gerry Rivas, Brett Squyres. Freshman: Jared Bell, Noel Castillo, Luis Delgado, Tanner Hamm, Manuel Hernandez, Ramon Lazano, Flavio Martinez, Chris McGinty, Joseph Rodriguez, Carter, a high school science instructor, has sound credentials which earned his title of Head Coach. A long time teacher in the Lovington school system. Carter also served there as an assistant baseball coach a number of years, then rose to the head coach position. During his stint as top baseball boss, his team achieved the State Runner Up position two consecutive years.

"We have a few boys signed up who have never played the game before. Of those who have some experience, most of it came from Little League play," Carter said. "The guys I'm aware of with any experience beyond Little League include Steven Bunch, Joshua Bell, Jeremy Morphis, Eddy Gallegos, Adam Garcia, Fabian Garza, Gerry Rivas, Sergio Sandoval and Jared Bell." The Cowboys will compete in a district comprised of Coahoma, Tahoka, Morton, Hale Center, Olton and Post. Coach Carter added, "I'm excited the community has adopted the high school baseball program. I hope this is an opportunity for those students who have chosen not to get involved in sports to do so now. The program needs the support of the community to be successful, and I fully expect to see that support."

### Don't cuss if you get a rock hung in your cotton stripper; It may be more valuable than your cotton



The meteorite on the left weighs 9.6 pounds, the smaller one on the right, a portion cut to reveal its inner composition, weighs 2.5 pounds. The density and heaviness of the specimens is made apparent by comparing the size of the quarter in the photo

There are two items which commonly cause cotton producers problems and valuable time during harvest; Cotton strippers halted with either a mesquite grub or rock hung up in the strippers row units. Local producer Chris Blundell advises fellow cotton farmers to take a careful look at any rock stopping a row unit. The troublesome rock may be an interesting, and valuable, meteorite. Blundell has three of the terrestrial visitors which leave such a spectacular, fiery trail when they enter earth's atmosphere, and all three were found by hands operating his cotton strippers north of town. He recently sent two of the specimens to the Texas Tech Department of Geosciences, and after analysis, Professor Calvin Barnes, PhD, confirmed they are iron type meteorites. Blundell has done considerable

research in learning more about the ancient rocks originating in the asteroid belt circling earth. He said the Internet is an excellent source for detailed information on the subject, and there are literally dozens of strange and exotic types of the dense rocks. Freshly fallen meteorites are usually easiest to identify, as they are surrounded by a fusion crust produced when the surface of the meteoroid was melted by friction with Earth's atmosphere. The crust is usually dark grey, black or brown. If one is fortunate to find such a recent specimen, they should be carefully handled, to preserve the crust. Positive identification may be obtained by sending the specimen to a credible laboratory, such as at Texas Tech. The smaller meteorite in the photo had a portion of its surface removed by a special saw at the Tech lab, revealing the

interior heavily flecked with shiny iron and nickel particles, accounting for the density and surprising weight. All meteorites are also magnetic to some degree. Blundell's meteorites have apparently been exposed to the elements, for the exterior surface is oxidized, and a dark, rusty color. He said there is an active market throughout the country for meteorite specimens, and the average offered price for the more common iron meteorites is around \$125 per pound. Some of the very rarest and exotic specimens can bring as high as \$3000 per gram - there are 28 grams to the ounce!. Blundell says he has no immediate plans to sell any of his collection, and he will continue to remind all his hands to take a very close look at any rock they dig out of a stripper row unit this coming fall.

## Law Enforcement Explorer Post formed here

A joint effort by the Yoakum County Sheriff Department and the South Plains Council of Boy Scouts is familiarizing a number of local youth with police operations and law enforcement functions. The youngsters have an opportunity to see first hand the work of commis-

sioned law enforcement personnel. There are currently 10 Plains youth taking part in the program. The Law Enforcement Explorers meet every other Thursday for approximately two hours of training and familiarization with police work. Law enforce-

ment officials assisting in the training include James Melendez, Associate Advisor, Lori Vantine, Explorer Advisor, John Matus, Committee Chairman, and members Lisa Switzer, Rick Dickson and Turn to Page Two, "Explorers"

### Sagging values, school finance causing migraines in legislature

According to an analysis issued by the Comptroller of Public Accounts, a decline in oil prices could have a devastating impact on some local school districts. "While some consumers may welcome lower prices at the pumps," Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said, "the trickle down effect on some local property values could have a serious financial impact for some Texas school districts."

In some areas of the state, where oil and gas reserves comprise more than \$250 million, it is estimated total school district losses for the next year will be approximately \$150 to \$160 million.

"The financial shortages facing some school districts as a result of the crisis in the oil and gas industry are staggering," Rylander said. "Without emergency assistance Texas homeowners may see their property tax rates climb even higher."

Specific information was requested from school districts where oil and gas property com-

posed 20 percent of the school's total value, or where the total value of oil and gas property exceeded \$250 million on January 1, 1998. From the results of this survey, a preliminary estimated levy loss of approximately \$154 million for all school districts was obtained. This preliminary estimate of loss would occur to the districts during state fiscal year 2000, and create an associated impact state school funding under the Foundation School Program in state fiscal 2001. The actual appraised value losses will not be known until the appraisal districts complete their work this July.

Some of the projected value losses in area county school district include: Some of the projected tax levy losses in area county school district include: (In millions) Andrews \$7.4; Ector \$6.4; Gaines \$5.4; Denver City \$5.25; Crane \$3.9, Midland \$3.6; Sundown \$3.09; Levelland \$2.79; Plains \$1.87 and Whiteface \$1.53

From Page One, "Explorers"

Chris Ballard.

The program progresses from class room training to "Hands-on" experience, which includes radio procedures and call signals, tours with on duty deputies, security procedures at public events such as the local rodeo and Watermelon Round Up.

The Sheriff Department will assist in obtaining standard uniforms for the Explorers, who will also conduct various fund raising events to complete the uniform wardrobe.

Some of the experience areas the Explorers will be involved in include the history of law enforcement, traffic control and radar procedures, crime prevention programs, patrol procedures, communications, custody, search and arrest procedures and criminal investigation.

Advisor Lori Vantine stated, "The Law Enforcement Explorer program is a really worthwhile community program, and it is an excellent initial training course for young people interested in future careers in any branch of law enforcement service."

The Explorer Post here is limited to both boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 20. Current Explorers include Michael Bell, Steven Bunch, Noel Castillo, Luis Delgado, Jeremy Diamond, Joel Gallegos, Jason Garcia, Jesus Mendias, Joseph Rodriguez, and Sharla Vantine. Prior to acceptance into the Post a background check is made on each applicant. Eligible young people interested in joining Explorers should contact any of the Advisor group.

## "Y2K Meeting"

Got questions about Y2K?

Concerned about the effect the change to the Year 2000 will bring to the electric utility industry? If so, please make plans to join Lea County Electric's General Manager, Mike Dreyspring on **Thursday, February 18, 1999 at 12:30 p.m. at the Scout Hut in Plains, Texas** for the latest on the Cooperative's efforts in addressing the Year 2000 event.

(To join us for lunch, please notify David Bunch, (456-3322) David Brunson (456-2288); or Pete St. Romain (456-8855) by noon on February 17.)

For more information on this important meeting call Lea County Electric at 456-3322 or toll-free at (800) 510-5232.

Celebrating 50 Years Of Cooperation!

### City Election on Tap

Mayor T.J. Miller has called for a general election to be held in the City of Plains on Saturday, May 1, 1999. The election will be held at the Plains City Hall located at 601 11th street in Plains, Texas. The purpose of this election will be to elect three (3) Councilmembers.

Those with expiring terms are Councilmembers Bonnie Earnest, Shane McKinzie and Owen Schneider.

First day for filing and application for place on the ballot is Monday, February 15, 1999 and the filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 17, 1999. Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up at the Plains City Hall during regular working hours.

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THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, FEB. 11, 12 & 13

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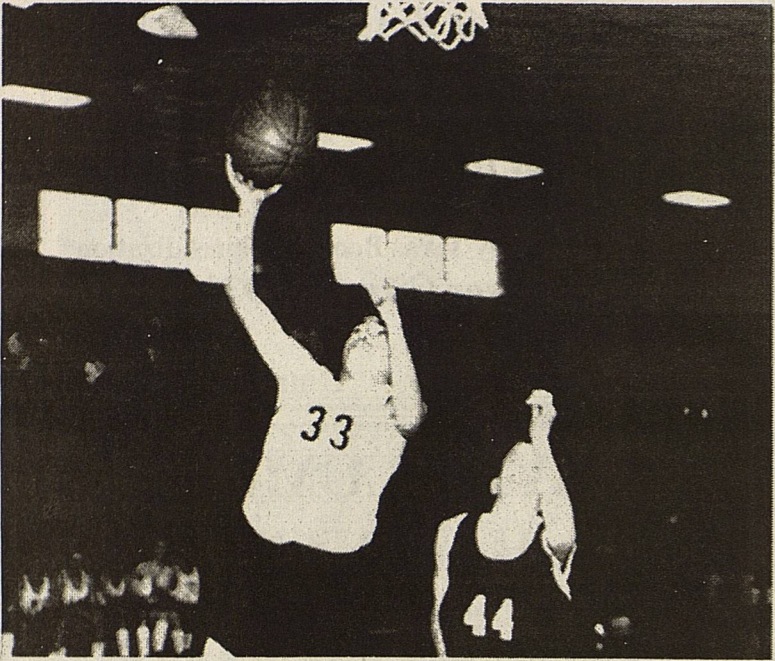
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## PISD Basketball Summary

### JUNIOR HIGH:

**7th Girls** - The 7th girls were one of only two teams to earn a victory over Coahoma last week, coming out on top 15-14. Moriah Traweek and Jeannie Longoria managed 4 points each, Manuel Villegas had 3, and Helen Neufeld 2 points. Coach said they are much improved, and are starting to pick up the open player and get the ball to them much better.

**8th Girls** - The older Lady Wranglers lost a tough match to Coahoma 23-21. Jill Gray topped scoring with 6 points, Kayla Willis and Chelsea Blount had 4 each, Jessica Rodriguez 3, and Joana Diaz and Sandra Gallegos 2 each.



7th grader Richard Diaz lays up two

**7th Boys** - The younger Wranglers were downed by Coahoma 34-29 in a hard fought game. Richard Diaz and Trent May took scoring honors with 11 points each, and Zachary Broome had 7.

**8th Wranglers** - The 8th Wranglers also found Coahoma too tough, and went down 30-22. Chase Howell topped scoring with 9 points, Jonathan DeLaRosa had 7, Angel Ruiz 4, and Kelly Bowers 2.



Trent May gets jump shot off

### HIGH SCHOOL:

**JV Cowgirls** - The younger Cowgirls lost to Post 43-28, which was a big improvement over their prior meeting when they fell by thirty points. Chelsi Wagnon had 13 points, Julie Gonzales 5, Annaliesia O'Quinn 4, Kim Willis and Amanda Garcia 2 each, Frances Cordova and Michaela Traweek 1 each. Annaliesia had 10 rebounds, and Chelsi managed 6 steals. The girls next lost to Coahoma 35-28, but the 7 point difference was an improvement over their prior 14 point loss. Amanda led the scoring with 6, Julie 5, Frances and Arasley Luna 4 each, Annaliesia, Chelsi and Lexi Warren 3 each.



Chelsi Wagnon brings the ball down court



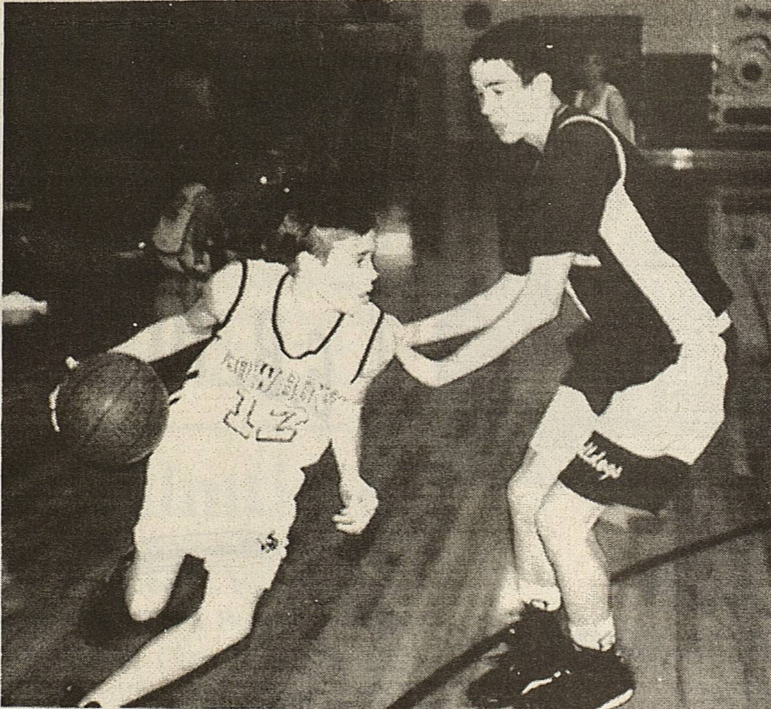
Lexi Warren gets shot off

**Varsity Cowgirls** - The Cowgirls could only manage 24% of their shots from the floor against Post, and were downed 47-33. Kimberly Newland led the scoring with 12 points, followed by Kayla Redman 9, Anne Palmer 4, Kristen Gray 3, Candace Bowers and Jessica Flores 2 each, and Krystle Blundell 1. Kayla had 11 rebounds and 4 steals. The girls also fell to a good Coahoma team 71-54. Kimberly contributed over half the scoring with 29 points, Kayla had 12, Kristen 5, and Krystle, Maranda Box, Candace and Kimberlee Jones 2 each.



Kayla Redman made this against Coahoma

**JV Cowboys** - The young Cowboys had a convincing 44-28 win against Post. Brett Squyres led the scoring with 11 points, Kelsey Blundell and Jarod Newland 8 each, Aaron Cain and Matt Willis 6 each, Moises Gonzales 4, and Taylor Gray 1. The JV Boys had a great game against Coahoma, winning 56-50. Kelsey got hot for 22 points, Brett had 8, Moises and Rodriguez had 6 each, Aaron 5, Matt 4, Delgado and Newland 2 each.



Tanner Ham moves around defender

## Math/Science Team 'Sweeps'

The Plains High Match/Science Team competed in a UIL practice meet at Levelland last Saturday, and again won Sweepstakes honors in the A-AAA division. The Calculator (C), Math (M), and Science (S) teams earned first places, and the Number Sense Team (NS) was second. Individual performances included; Freshman - Annalies O'Quinn 3 NS, 1 C, 12 M, 6 Science. Sophomores - Lensey Cullins 7 NS, 13 C, 9 M, 9 S. Lesli Rowe 10 NS, 7 CV, 17 M, 6 S. Amanda Garcia 6 NS, 3 C, 20 M, 19 S. Juniors - Jason Swann 11 NS, 14 C, 16 M, 13 S. Velvet Canada 7 NS, 4 C, 10 M, 16 S. Kristen Gray 1 NS, 1C, 1 M, 1 S, 1 Physics. Seniors - Clint Burrus 4 NS, 1 C, 3 M, 5 S. Maranda Box 7 NS, 3 C, 7 M, 12 S.

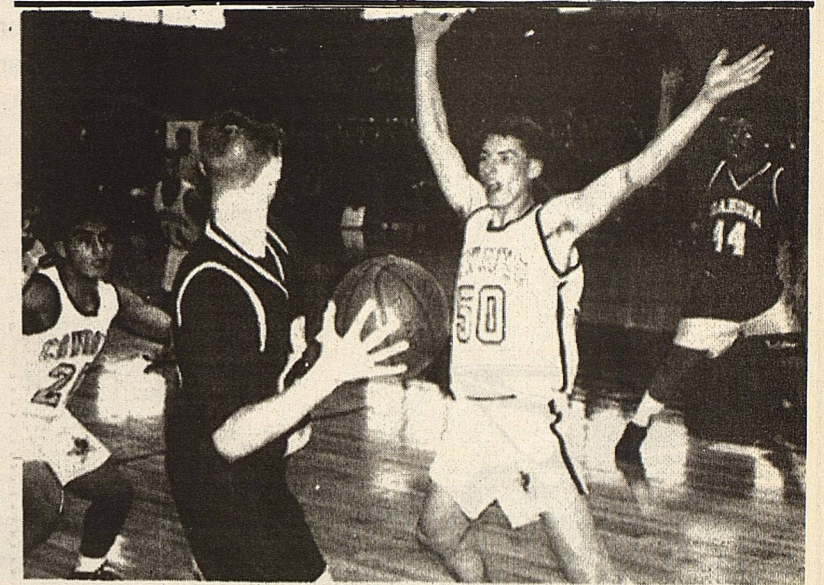
## Student of the Week

Student of the week is Nichole Newsom, a junior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Newsom.

She was nominated by Mr. Brink, who said, "This young lady is a very quiet student who goes about her work conscientiously and with great diligence. She is a pleasure to have



in class because of the attitude she brings with her."



Chris Willis plays defense

**Varsity Cowboys** - Despite a poor shooting percentage, the Cowboys downed Post 55-43. Tanner Blount topped the scoring with 12, Adam Garcia 11, Eddy Gallegos 9, Kyle Sisson 6, Joel Gallegos and Fermin Luna 4 each, Dustin Six & Justin Bennett 3 each, Josh Bell 2, Jared Bell 1. Eddy had 9 rebounds, Adam 4 steals.

Hopeing and fighting to make the district playoff competition, the Cowboys ended tied with Coahoma in regulation time, and through the first overtime period. With one second remaining on the clock in the second OT, Coahoma scored, for a 76-75 victory which had to be very hard to swallow for the Cowboys and Coach Williams. Tanner made 21 points, Adam had 18, Eddy 16, Fermin 8, Justin 6, Dustin 3, Kyle 2, Alex Tarango 1. Tanner had 12 rebounds, Eddy 11, and Tanner had 6 steals.

## 1999 Plains Cowboys Baseball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Feb. 27, Sat.	**Lovington J.V.	Plains	11:00 & 1:00
Mar. 1, Mon.	Frenship J.V.	Frenship	4:30
Mar. 4, 5, 6,	Brownfield Tourn.	Brownfield	TBA
Mar. 8, Mon.	Denver City J.V.	Plains	4:30
Mar. 11, 12, 13	Frenship J.V. Tourn.	Frenship	TBA
Mar. 16, Tues.	*Coahoma	Plains	5:00
Mar. 19, Fri.	*Tahoka	Tahoka	5:00
Mar. 26, Fri.	*Morton	Morton	5:00
Mar. 30, Tues.	*Hale Center	Hale Center	5:00
Apr. 2, Fri.	*Olton	Plains	5:00
Apr. 6, Tues.	*Post	Plains	5:00
Apr. 9, Fri.	*Coahoma	Coahoma	5:00
Apr. 13, Tues.	*Tahoka	Plains	5:00
Apr. 20, Tues.	*Morton	Plains	5:00
Apr. 23, Fri.	*Hale Center	Plains	5:00
Apr. 27, Tues.	*Olton	Olton	5:00
Apr. 30, Fri.	*Post	Post	5:00

\*Denotes District Games  
\*\*Denotes Double-Headers

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### Routine Day in Court

In Monday morning's session of Commissioners court, Ron Hatfield of Denver City was appointed to replace Angel Hernandez on the Yoakum County Hospital Board. Hernandez's term was to expire February, 2000. The court approved the hiring of Sandra Roblez as third deputy in the District Clerk's office. Former deputy clerk Shari Earnest resigned in January, and current first deputy Naomi Goodman is slated to

retire later this month. A number of county board and committee members whose terms expire in February and March this year were reappointed. The court approved the Tax Collector/Assessor report indicating a total of \$5,452,510 in taxes collected in January. Approval to advertise for the sale of a 1989 Ford Ambulance formerly used by the Denver City EMS was approved.

### Scholarships Offered

The Texas Trial Lawyers Association is again offering college "TRUE-NEED" college scholarships to Texas high school seniors. The Association is interested in reaching the student who has a sincere desire to attend college but needs assistance. For example, the senior may not have high enough grades to qualify for most scholarships, or may not have the eligibility for government aid, or, may have lower grades due to family problems

or the necessity to work outside school, but has improved grades during the junior and senior years, showing the student can do college level work. The number of \$1000 need-based scholarships are determined by funds available. 32 scholarships were awarded last year. For more information, and applications, interested applicants should contact PHS Counselor Arlon Alexander. Deadline for applications is March 5, 1999.

### Another PHS Senior going to College



Tandri Jones, a Plains High Senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Jones, received confirmation recently she has been accepted as an entering Freshman at Texas A & M this fall. Tandri plans to major in business administration at A & M. She is shown here with Lisa Parrish, who will also be a Freshman at A & M next September, and plans for a marketing major.

### Important Tax Case Coming Up?

On October 13, 1998, Harris County District Judge Dwight Jefferson ruled that companies conducting business in Harris County do not have to provide a list of their taxable property to the Harris County Appraisal District. The appraisal district oversteps its authority in ordering companies to do so. The decision sets the stage for a legal battle in the appellate courts that will have major state wide implications. Jim Robinson, Harris County Appraisal District chief appraiser, believes the case to be the most important property tax case before the courts this decade.

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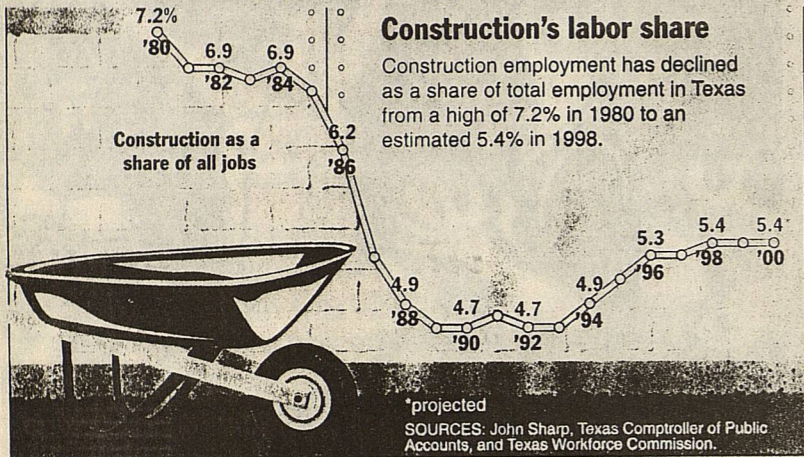
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Accelerated Readers are really Accelerating



Super Readers: Kneeling, Front Row-Katelynn Young, Nathan McCravey, Katie Winn. Middle Row-Wyatt Dearing, Chris Addison, Chris Garza, Holden Welch, Jacob Garza. Back Row-Curtis Artega, Cody Mayes, Maria Andazola, Chris Gonzales, J.L. Vasquez. Star Reader-Caitlin Carter, far right on top row.



Independent Readers: Right, Back Row - Jason Durham, Troy Parrish. Front Row-Miguel Lopez, Sydney Cueto, Lydia Whitzel, Shyann Vantine. Advanced Readers: Back Row-Curtis Artega, Elias Carrillo, Trent Hawthorne, Matthew Jimenez, Middle Row-Jose Villegas, Shae Arnett, Zachary Ramos, Kneeling-Flor Lara, Eva Unger, Katelynn Young.

## Kid's Author Scheduled Here

Noted children's book author Michael Daniel, or "Uncle Mike" as the kids call him, will be in the PISD Resource Center February 10. The author of the very popular "The Little Doobiddles and Doobetterdees" is also a wonderful storyteller to children, stressing the message of doing the right thing, and caring for others. There are only a few hundred of the first printing of "Doobetterdees" available, and they may be pre-ordered from Mrs. Pettigrew at the center. Adult and kids T-shirts featuring the book's logo may also be ordered.

Parents and family members are urged to come hear Daniel. He will visit with kindergarten at 9:00 am. February 10, grades 2-3 at 9:30 am., grades 5-6 at 10:30 am., grades 7-8 at 12:30 pm., and 4th grade at 1:30 pm. Copies of the book are \$11.00 and T-shirts \$11.00 and \$14.00.

## Senior Citizens Corner

Birthday honorees for February was on Monday. Present were Smoky Altman, Mary Hinkle, Chris Edwards, Maurine Wehrend, and Robert Winn. It

## Wedding Announced

Mr. and Mrs. Joe St. Romain of Plains announce the marriage of their daughter, Rebecca Jo, to Gilde Flores 111, of Lubbock. He is the son of Linda Flores, Lubbock, and Gilde Flores 11, of Hereford. The couple were married November 16 in Lubbock.

Rebecca (Becky) is majoring in Computer Office Programs at International Business College where she is also employed, and Gilde is also pursuing a Major in Administration at I.B.C.



was a nice day.

The Flu Bug is still around, and some are having to stay home.

I visited with Johnnie and Gaston Hodges by telephone this week, they are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday. Lets all remember them.

Last week snow is just a

memory, but everyone should remember how nice it is to have the long hall for walking, the exercise equipment, crafts, games, and a nice meal-all nice and warm and good for everyone-right here at the Center!

See You Next Week, Smitty

## Treat Your Loved One To A Valentine Day Special

### Prime Rib For Two

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Sunday, February 14,

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.,

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## Wedding Shower for Mrs. Gilde Flores

(nee Becky St. Romain)

Sunday February 14, 1999

2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

In the home of Mrs. Kenneth McGinty (1 mile north of Plains on Morton Hwy.)

Selections: Target, Lubbock, Nelson's, Brownfield

Remember  
**VALENTINE'S DAY**  
Sunday February 14

## Filmtime

There were 17 children in attendance at Filmtime they were: Karla Powell, Whitney Davis, Clayton Gass, Taya Hamilton, Matthew Ramos, Silas Williams, Ashley Sellers, Dakota Earnest, Kristie Lopez, Autumn Friesen, Reagan Young, Haley Welch, Macy Banfield, Merrit Crump, Jaxon Williams, Steeli Sellers, Sam Melendez.

The children played a game, sang three songs, heard a story, and watched a movie.

The program this week was about Valentine's Day and the party at Filmtime next week.

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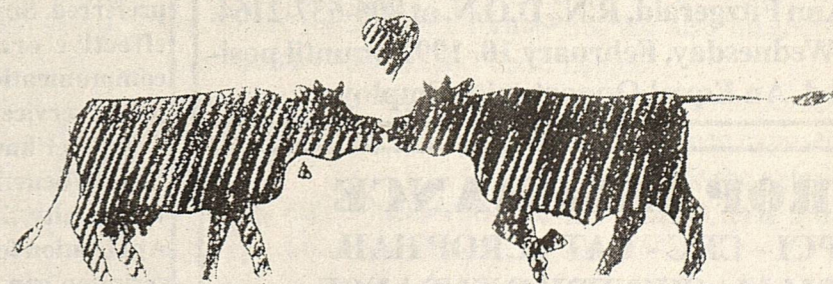
Medical Social Worker

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Seminole, Texas

## JOHN DEERE

## February Ladies Specials



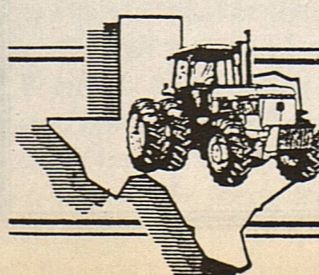
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# From The Hack

Just read a semi-fascinating article about what actually happens when the face of a golf club strikes the cover of a golf ball at the very instant of impact. The article, while very technical, was written in such a manner retardos like yours truly can understand the event (just to be safe, make that 'half-way understand').

Consider this - the article states the club face is in contact with the ball for less than one-half millisecond. I beg to differ with this scientific statement. I can name you far, far too many times my club face and ball have been complete strangers, and never met each other for even one-tenth that long.

The article further explains when the club and ball meet so violently, the ball is actually compressed, and when the ball is clear of the club, it is traveling 1.5 times faster than the speed of the club.... at that point in time, the sound of the impact has only traveled six inches towards the player's ears.

Wrong again! Dozens of times, no, hundreds of times, I have stood there, waiting for the sound of the impact. and the only sound I heard was the 'WHOOOSSSHH' of the club going through the air. What followed was usually gales of laughter from the inconsiderates I am usually forced to play with. For some perverted reason, they think it extremely hilarious when I miss the ball all together.

The scientific article also claimed at the exact moment of

impact the ball starts to slide up the clubface, resulting in the ball rolling and startin to spin. That's not exactly correct, either. Probably 87.5% of the time, the stupid ball starts it's slide, allright, but going either left or right, NOT UP, and I never know whether to look right or left for my errant shot.

All of this probably serves to illustrate why I never have any problem finding golfing companions, as long as cash money is involved. They see me coming, and beam welcomes like the preacher greeting a new convert who has green money in the bank.

I am not too good at taking golf instructions either, verbal, written or via the tube. When just starting the game, I read, "Strange as it seems, when playing a fairway shot with an iron, it is mandatory to hit DOWN on the ball to make it go UP." Ok, I decided to try the weird sounding tip. About 150 yards out, I took an iron, concentrated fiercely on hitting DOWN on the ball hard as I could.

I hit DOWN on it so brilliantly the ball and my clubhead were buried 4 inches DOWN in the ground, and I was whirling around with the broken shaft in my hands, which ached considerably.

I also heard one is to address the ball, gripping the club lightly, begin a slow, controlled back swing, all the while concentrating on keeping the left arm straight, the shoulders and hips turning in synch, head down and very still, right elbow in close, feet planted firmly, and by all means one's eye focused at all times on the ball. It sounded so difficult I developed an acute hernia just reading the voodoo gibberish.

Just follow my advice pardner.. just go out there, try to knock the unmentionable out of the ball. If

you miss, take another swing. This is much simpler if you are keeping score.

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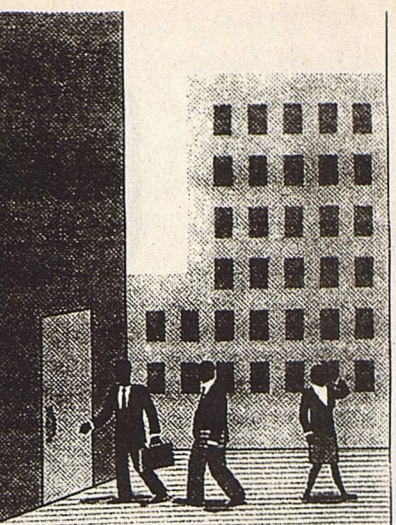
## Help Wanted

The City of Plains is accepting applications for a Utility Supervisor. This position will be responsible for operation and maintenance of water, sewer, and natural gas utility systems. Current Class "C" water and wastewater license preferred. Supervisory skills, effective oral and written communication ability, and public service skills required. Computer knowledge and bilingual beneficial. Must live within city limits of Plains. Application form and job description can be obtained by calling 806-456-2288. Salary range \$23,000 to \$27,000 DOQ, health insurance and retirement. Send application, resume and references to: City of Plains, P.O. Box 550, Plains, Texas 79355. Open until filled. The City of Plains is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## Employment in the Texas 100, by sector

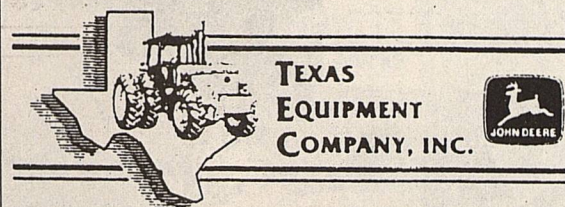
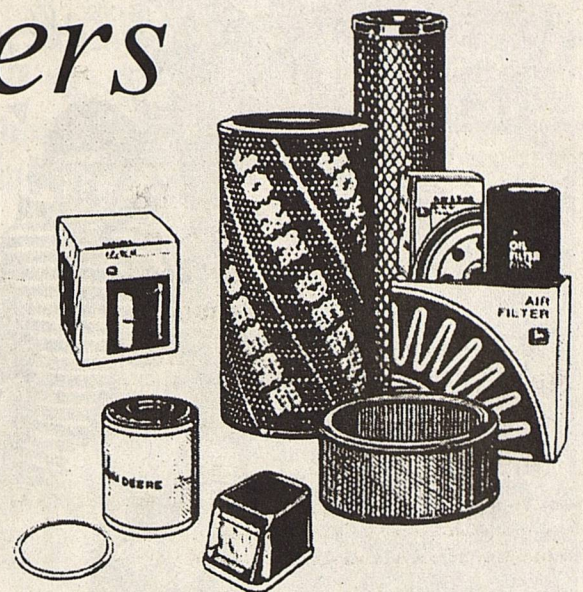
The labor-intensive field of retail trade dominates the sectors in the new stock index, which is based on employment within the state. The Texas 100 represents about 930,000 jobs in Texas.

Sector	Employment in thousands	Number of firms
Retail	293.3	20
High technology	182.8	19
Entertainment/travel	145.5	15
Energy	141.0	18
Services and finance	124.3	19
Other manufacturing	42.7	9



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