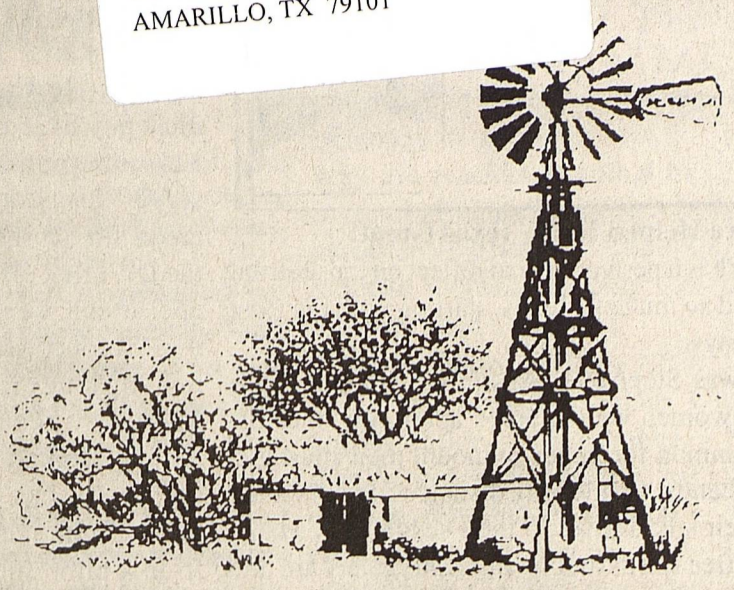


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Public School funding and school reform

By James Haynes, Supt. Plains ISD

If you listen to the leadership in Austin these days you might come to the conclusion public education in Texas is failing miserably. I would argue the government of the State of Texas is failing education and the children of our state miserably.

The leadership says we must go beyond the minimal standards we are achieving. I have been an educator through the administration of the TABS test, TEAMS test, TAAS test, and now the TAKS test. Each time a new testing (accountability) system has been required of education the previous system has been labeled "minimum skills". Public Education in Texas is performing at the top nationally when compared to other states. Several years ago when the Rand Corp. reported Texas' success in educating our students, our legislators couldn't brag enough. Now, for some reason, when a clear need for more money is shown, they have decided we need to be held

more accountable because we're not reaching the mark.

The legislature which has said we should have local control in our school districts now wants to mandate the dates school will start and end. Their concern about school start dates is driven by the entertainment industry in the state, even though the excuse given is it will save money on energy costs. It's a shame education is taking a backseat to Shamu's feeding schedule. (I stole this line from a source not wanting to be quoted.) They also have included in their reform bill pay raises they will require, but they will not be covered under their new reform bill. This is the same legislature promising there will be no unfunded mandates.

Our state leaders would have you believe public education is wasting taxpayer money, and there is plenty of money to support the public education system at the current levels of funding. If there is enough money,

Turn To Page Three
SCHOOL FUNDING

City makes second try at grant funds for badly needed watertower

The Plains city government met for lunch and business Friday, March 11, and the main order of business was to review plans to replace the ancient watertower on the south side of town. Because of its age and documented deterioration, it must either be replaced, or completely renovated.

Kay Howard, grant administrator for A&J Howco, Inc. discussed plans for a grant application to be made to the Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) in Austin. Howard indicated a decision from TCDP could be reached as early as June this year.

City Administrator Terry Howard (no relation to Ms. Howard) said during the noon meeting the council evaluated six proposals from engineering firms interested in contracting the installation of the new tank if the grant proposal is accepted. The council considered criteria including experience, work performance, capacity to physically perform the project and affirmative action. This rat-



Shown left to right clockwise, Councilwoman Cristy Brink, grant writer for A&J HOWCO Kay Howard, City Secretary Pam Rowe, Mayor Shane McKinzie, City Administrator Terry Howard, councilmen Steve Allredge and Dan Wall. The council discussed a number of agenda items at a working lunch March 11.

ing evaluation is a requirement of TCDP, and the council was required to award each interested firm rating points, which would be evaluated by TCDP in the project if funding is approved. If the grant is approved,

the city would solicit bids from the highest ranking firm, and if satisfactory negotiations could not be reached, the next firm on the list would be approached. Administrator Howard said the price tag for the new tower

would be approximately \$350,000. The grant request would be written for \$240,000, with the city of Plains agreeing to pay the remaining \$110,000. That amount is currently deposited in city reserves.

DPS warns Spring Break drivers, slow down or move over

Drivers headed to Spring Break destinations are reminded state law requires drivers nearing stopped emergency vehicles with emergency lights activated to either slow down or change lanes.

The law states a driver must either slow down 20 miles per hour below the speed limit or vacate the lane closest to the emergency vehicle with emergency lights activated if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction. Drivers should only move over if they can safely and legally do so; otherwise they should slow down.

Troopers continue to see drivers who do not slow down or move over for stopped emergency vehicles with lights activated, including police, emergency medical service and fire vehicles. A violation of the slow down/move over law is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200. If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to \$500.

Troopers also remind Spring Break travelers to make sure drivers are well rested. Troopers will be looking for speeders, drunken or impaired drivers and seat belt violators.

"The drinking age in Texas is 21 and there is a zero tolerance law in Texas when it comes to underage drinking and driving," warns Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., Director of the DPS. "If you're under 21, you face charges and license suspension if you drive with any detectable amount of alcohol in your system."

Criminal cases in County, District Court

Seven cases were heard in County Court March 9, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Veronica Darlene Ramirez pled guilty to delivery of marijuana, less than 1/4 ounce. A one year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. She was fined \$600, must pay \$211 court costs, \$140 restitution to DPS Lab, and \$25 time payment fee. A cause of

delivery of marijuana in drug free zone was dismissed in District Court. She will serve 80 hours community service, must complete the drug offender education program, surrender her license 180 days and attend weekly narcotics meetings. Paul Mansure was her attorney and Investigator Lisa Switzer was investigating officer.

Fabian Flores pled guilty to first DWI. b.t. .160/.153. An

Turn To Page Two
COURT CASES

Royalty Visits Plains!



Tyler Willis, the reigning Miss Texas USA, was special guest and speaker at the February 28 Tsa Mo Ga dinner meeting honoring the 2005 PHS Senior Class. For a different look at Tyler and "friends", read the story on Page Five.



In the Cowboys dugout during their recent win over Denver City JV Mustangs. The Cowboys won 16-6, and they are now 6 and 1 for the season. Their first district game will be at Seagraves Saturday, March 19.



Women Have Helped Make Texas Great!

Women's History Month is a perfect time to reflect on those strong women who contributed so much to Texas, starting with the Lone Star Republic's early days.

Mary Austin Holley was Stephen F. Austin's first cousin. She noted that early Texas women were a breed apart. She once observed, "it is not uncommon for ladies to mount their mustangs and hunt with their husbands, to ride long distances on horseback to attend a ball with their silk dresses in their saddlebags. Hardy vigorous constitutions, free spirits and spontaneous gaiety are thus induced and continue a rich legacy to their children, who it is to be hoped, will sufficiently value the blessing not to squander it away in the eager search for the luxury and refinement of polite life."

Thomas Rusk, the first senator to hold my seat, and a close friend of fellow senator Sam Houston, wrote about the women and their contribution during the War for Independence. His wife Mary had helped oversee the calm evacuation of Nacogdoches by the women and children left behind after the men had gone off to war.

They feared the Mexican Army and their Indian allies might be on the way, so the women took their children eastward in an exodus, remembered as the "Runaway Scrape."

Rusk wrote; "The men of Texas deserved much credit, but more was due to women. Armed men facing a foe could not but be brave, but the women with their little children around them without means of defense or power to resist, faced danger and death with unflinching courage."

Mtyleat-great grandmother, Anna Maria Taylor, and four of her children made that arduous escape through harsh weather. Their children perished from illness during the ordeal, but after the Taylors returned to Nacogdoches, they raised nine more. Since those days, Texas women have continued to display the grit and strength of character those pioneers passed on to their children.

Oveta Culp Hobby, mother of long serving former Lt. Governor Bill Hobby, came up with the plan during World War II to recruit and train women to fill jobs in our military so men would be freed up for combat. Gen. George C. Marshall backed the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps known popularly as the WACs. At first, the list of jobs women were expected to fill was only 54, but by the war's end the list had expanded to 239.

Oveta did not want to head the WACs, but was prevailed upon to do her duty. At first she found herself a one-woman recruiting drive for the organization, traveling from city to city giving speeches, urging women to join. Because she became the first American woman to become a commissioned officer, she had to design her own uniform. She carried an iron with her to press it each night when she made her pitch in various towns and cities throughout the country. She later became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Service Medal, our nation's highest non-combat award.

Her leadership continued after the war. She insisted that Armed Forces Day celebrations in Houston would be open to everyone, regardless of race. Later, her leadership skills were tapped by President Eisenhower, who named her to head the new Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a cabinet secretary. When she passed away in 1995, she left a media empire, a loving family and a legacy built on hard work.

One of those legacies is me. After I graduated from the University of Texas Law School, I could not find a law firm willing to hire me. I decided to try journalism instead, and applied for a television reporter job with KPRC TV in Houston. There were no women television reporters in Houston at the time, but the news director and station manager went to Mrs. Hobby, who said it would be a great idea to have a woman with a law degree as one of her reporters. That was my start. I owe her a great deal.

Today Texas women serve in Congress, in the state legislature, as scientists, teachers, business leaders and artists. Even more important, many Texas women have embraced motherhood and have taken on the difficult job of raising the next generation. My only hope is all of us who are raising children will succeed in instilling the Texas virtues of independence, strength of character and love of our state we received from our parents."

From Page One, COURT CASES

180-day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$750, must pay \$326 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 72n hours in jail with credit for 10 served, complete the DWI first offender program and attend weekly AA meetings. Trooper Robert Smith was investigating officer and David Martinez was his attorney.

Abel Edmundo Garcia pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior unlawfully carrying a weapon cause, he was ordered to spend 90 days in jail with credit for 59 days served.

Humberto Villalobos Olivas pled guilty to DWI, b.t. 110/109, open container. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$326 court costs and \$250 appointed attorney fees and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 6 days in jail with credit for two days, serve 24 hours community service, complete the DWI first offender program and attend weekly AA meetings. His attorney was Warren New, and Trooper Robert Munsell was investigating officer.

Jimmy Ocie Smith pled guilty to DWI, open container. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$600, must pay \$226 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 14 hours, serve 24 hours community service, complete the first offender program and attend weekly AA meetings. Cooper Brad Taylor was investigating officer and Barry Crutchfield was his attorney.

Allison Fenton pled guilty to making false report to peace officer. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. She must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, serve 24 hours community service, complete the batterers prevention program and complete her GED. Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police was investigating officer.

In District Court March 7, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Glenn Dale Cleveland pled guilty to aggravated assault with a deadly weapon with affirmative deadly weapon finding. He was sentenced to 20 years in state prison, with credit for two days served. Seven prior causes in Yoakum County and District Courts and Gaines County District Court were adjudicated. Lawrence Barber Jr. was his attorney and Investigating officers were DPS Troopers Robert Munsell and Justin House, and Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell.

Local Judge attends certification seminar

Precinct 1 Justice of Peace Judge Melba Crutcher recently attended a twenty hour Justice of Peace seminar in Austin. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Texas State University-San Marcos, officed in Austin. The seminar is one of six held for elected JPs in order for them to fulfill their continuing judicial education requirements set forth in the Texas Government Code. Topics featured in the seminar included judicial ethics, recusal and disqualification, judicial demeanor, juvenile law, failure to attend school issues, evictions, inquests, magistrate duties, traffic law, peace bonds and emergency protective orders, rules of evidence and contract law. Judge Crutcher has served in her office since

Commissioners OK contract with Doctor, grant application to renovate golf pro-shop

In the March 14 session of Commissioners Court, a four year contract between Yoakum County Hospital and Dr. Scott Frankfather was approved, granting the Doctor a position with the hospital as a resident OB/GYN physician, and a loan of \$150,000, which would be repaid by the doctor in his four years here. Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor told the court Medicare would actually pay some \$50,000 of the loan during the employment period. The Doctor will graduate in May this year from Texas Tech School of Medicine. Judy London, Grant Writer for the county, asked the courts permission to apply for a funding grant to be used for the removal and renovation of the golf club pro shop at Yoakum County Park. The grant request would be for \$25,000. The request was approved.

Tax Assessor/Collector Jan Parrish reported the payment of \$76,869 in taxes during the month of February. Representatives from Bruckner Truck Sales and Lubbock Truck Sales were invited by Commissioner Powell, Pet 3, to discuss their bids for the lease purchase of a new pull truck for the precinct. The bid notice specified the proposed lease purchase could be for a five or six year period. The Buckner representative said his company offered a six year lease purchase payment of \$13,398. The Lubbock Truck Sales rep reported his firm's bid was for 5 years, with a payment of \$15,284. Commissioner Powell stated he had chosen to accept the Buckner bid because it was the lowest figure submitted to him. The court approved the action.

PEIT JURY SELECTION FOR THE 121ST DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 22, 2005 AT 9:00 A.M.

A Petit Jury selection will be held for the 121st District Court on March 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. in the courtroom of the Yoakum County Courthouse in Plains, Texas. The following citizens are asked to appear:

- DENVER CITY RESIDENTS:**
LINDA CRYSTAL DOMINGUEZ
JUAN YANEZ
VALDON DEE THOMPSON
GINA RACHELLE BEARD
RYAN EARLE MINCHEW
RACHEL TENORIA
MICHAEL ANTHONY YAGUIRRE
AMBER LEE POWELL
MARY DEVANCY THOMAS
TOMASA RODRIGUEZ MEDRANO
DONALD RAY COLLIER
MICHAEL TIMOTHY KELLY
BEATRIZ ADRIANA MERINO
STACY SUZANNE SKILES
CELINA ANN HERNANDEZ
ALLEN TRAVIS WALKER
ELSA ORONA
WAYLON GRANVILLE BECK
ISIDRA GOMEZ LONGORIA
DENNIS JAMES WARREN
MARJORIE WILLIAMS
JOELDA RODRIGUEZ
MARY LOU RAMOS
RONALD B. STEPHENS
WILLIAM ROBERT FLIPPIN
LARRY DUWAYNE PERRY
JESSE GARATE
WILLIAM DALE MERIDETH
MONICA DARLENE ALBAREZ
BEATRIZ MARIE LOPEZ
THOMAS C. FRYAR
LINDA BROWN
SYLVIA MOROLES
MARISELA CASTRUITA FRANCO
TRACI RENE SUMMERS
BRENDA LIE NAVARRO LOZANO
KYLIE NICOLE CARTER
TOMMY LYNN GRAHAM
PEGGY ANN BIBI
LELAND TUCKER
CARMEN MONTANA CHACON
DEBORAH LEE CADDELL
WILMA MERIDETH
- PLAINS & TOKIO RESIDENTS:**
ADAN DANIEL HERNANDEZ
JAMES WRIGHT, JR.
ERMENIA GARCIA
TERESA G. BELL
DOTTIE B. MAYES
DOMINGA G. SPENCER
JANNELLE BRANTLEY
MARK LEE LEWIS
WILLIAM MICHAEL DAVIS
ALEX C. BITOLAS
DAVID HUERTA
RUSSELL JORDAN BEAN
LUIS RAMON ARMENTA
TYREL EUGENE TYSON
TERRI LYNN HANSEN
BALDEMAR ESTEVAN VASQUEZ
MATTHEW TYLER MCKINZIE

- GENEVIEVE MCCUNE
MENDY ALYCE JOHNSON
DENICE ANN CLINTON
STEVEN EUGENE STARR
ELVA LOZANO
SHARNEE A. HORTON
JOHN GLENN WILLIAMSON
SULIEMA SALAZAR GONZALEZ
LYNDA DOUGLAS ISBELI
RICK ALLEN MITCHELL
ADRIAN RAUL ESCALANTE
KENNETH WAYNE CRAWFORD
TAMMIE D. ROGERS
JOSEFINA ORTEGA RAZO
EUGENIO GARCIA CHAVARRIA
CARMELA JO DAVIS
ARMANDO BAYONA
CRISTINA CENICEROS
JAQUELYN CASTLEMAN SPEARS
VICTORIA BOBBIE SANCHEZ
GLENDA D. GRAY
PEDRO BARRIENTOS
WILLIAM FRANKLIN BULLOCK
TENESY VILLARREAL
ROXANA CLARK SMITH
GENOVEVO REYES GALVAN
RAMON ROMERO AYALA
GERALD SMITH
ROBERT W. BANKS
JAYNINE RUTH EFIRD
OLGA NEVAREZ
SHAWN MATHEW GAYLE
SOILA GONZALES
OCIE LEON SMITH
DON GILBERT JONES
ANDREW FLORES
CRYSTAL RENE MELENDEZ
LYNDAL C. TROUT
SANDRA RODRIGUEZ
WENDELL MAURICE GRIFFIN
JAMES G. WEIR
KRISTIN LEIGH LONG
VERONICA PORTILLO

- MARIA TERESA MARTINEZ
MANUEL RIVAS
BENNIE L. LAVOIE
REBECCA JO CARR
MELISSA ROSIE BRADY
JOAQUIN EUSTULIO QUINTANILLA
PRESTON LAMAR RODEN
SERGIO ALARCON MARTINEZ
BELINDA S. PENA
JILL ANN TRICE
BRENDA SALAZAR
MARILYN MCCURLEY
NICOLAS M. LOZANO
FLOYD W. EASTTEAM
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ALICIA TERRAZAS TARANGO
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TAMI MARIE TYSON
JUAN PEREZ
ALICIA SAENZ CAMPOS
RAY PORTILLO, JR.
SYLVIA ANN LIRA
PAULA MARTINEZ MEJIA
LARRY K. MASON
N C CLANAHAN
GLORIA CORONADO
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From Page One, School Funding

why have the courts ruled the educational system is underfunded? If there is plenty of money in the current system, why are teachers leaving the profession? This is ironic, because the very people who don't want to increase funding say teachers need a pay raise.

The education reform bill (HB2) is supposed to pump 3 billion dollars of new money into the system for the next biennium. The leadership says each district will receive a 3% increase in funding over last year's amounts, but they don't explain they expect that 3% to cover a \$3000 per teacher pay raise, and they are mandating 1% of a district's operating budget to be used to provide incentive pay to teachers. They also don't explain the money they are appropriating will not cover the amount of money per student the courts have said is needed to fund districts to a point that would support 50% of the students passing the TAKS test.

The state leadership made some bold claims before the session. They said they would cut property taxes and would fix the ailing education funding system. It is my opinion they have made a decision that cutting taxes is more important than the education of our children. Their education reform bill is no longer a bill whose purpose is to improve or support public education in Texas: it is a tax cut bill. The legislature's stated reason for cutting taxes is to keep the state attractive for more economic development, and to take part of the burden for funding public education off the property owner. These are goals which should be pursued. The public should expect to get the very most for every tax dollar spent, but that goal, however, should never be achieved at the expense of a good education for the children of our state.

Pesticide applicator, handler training to be held

Area residents in need of a private pesticide applicator license from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) can attend training in Brownfield March 29. The private applicator license allows an individual to apply restricted use pesticides to their own property for production of an agricultural commodity. The license does not allow the application of pesticides to property of any other individual for a fee. Texas Cooperative Extension Agents (TCE) in Terry, Yoakum, Cochran, Gaines and Dawson counties will be working together to conduct this area wide training, required by TDA before an individual can take the test for a license.

The training will be at the Terry County Livestock Barn at Brownfield, starting at 8:30 AM until noon. A TDA representative will be at the location at 1:30 to administer the Pesticide Applicator test (no fee). Those planning to attend need to call the Terry County TCE office, 806-637-4060 to make a reservation and order study materials, available for a \$20 fee.

During the same time period, persons needing the EPA Pesticide Handler Card (green card) can attend one of two training sessions - at 9 AM at the Enoch Stewart Party House, adjacent to the Livestock Barn, training will be presented in Spanish and at 10 AM in English. There is no fee for this training, geared toward persons who work around pesticides under supervision of a licensed applicator. Hired hands, field scouts and other persons handling pesticides need this safety training. For more information contact Scott Russell, 806-637-8792 or Arlan Gentry, 806-456-2263.

Randy's Roundup.....

U.S. Representative Randy Neugebauer
19th Congressional District

Last week was a busy week, as I met with a large number of constituents, groups and local officials from across the District who had made their way to our nation's capital. On the policy front, agriculture was my primary focus last week. I testified before the House Budget Committee, some of the House Agriculture Committee to put pressure on Japan to meet its international trade obligations, and the WTO ruled on Brazil's challenge to U.S. cotton programs.

One of the hot issues working its way onto the front burner is the budget for fiscal year 2006. The House Committee will begin writing the budget bill this week, and the House will likely vote on the bill next week. In writing the bill, we will be setting an overall spending limit shaping the 2006 appropriations process. As we debate and vote on this bill, I caution folks not to read too much into it. The bill only answers the "how much" question in the process to fund federal programs. It does not set specific funding priorities. Only after Congress agrees on how much money has been budgeted will we move to determine where the money goes.

I wanted to make sure producers in the 19th District had a voice in this debate, so I testified before the House Budget Committee to tell its members what I have been telling folks in the District: While producers are willing to do their share to balance the budget, this goal cannot be reached on the back of agriculture alone. I told the committee disruption of the Farm Bill is bad policy and could cause further harm to agriculture down the road at future WTO negotiations and 2007 Farm Bill discussions.

Last week I joined colleagues on the Agriculture Committee in supporting a resolution calling for Japan to stop dragging its feet in complying with an October agreement to open its borders to American beef. The resolution, if passed, would call on the the U.S. Trade Representative to levy economic sanctions against Japan if it contin-

ues to shut its doors to our beef. This is not my first choice, but the U.S. cattle industry has proven it produces the safest beef in the world. It's my hope Japan now realizes the U.S. Congress is serious about adhering to science and playing on a level field when it comes to world trade.

Just as we ask Japan to implement science based trade policies, we must do the same when dealing with Canada. The closed border with Canada is adversely affecting other sectors of the cattle industry. Processing plants, like the Cargill facility in Plainview, are being forced to reduce hours of operation as a result of beef shortage. This disturbing trend will hurt our beef industry in the future as it could cause American processing plants to relocate north of the border. Fewer processing plants translates into fewer market options and higher transportation costs for our ranchers and cattle feeders.

We received disappointing news last week the WTO Appellate Body upheld Brazil's challenge to U.S. cotton programs. While I strongly disagree with the result, I want to reassure cotton farmers the decision has no immediate impact on our farm programs. I intend to work with the administration to determine the best response for the United States.

I earlier mentioned the financial strain the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is placing on rural communities. This well intentioned yet burdensome and often unnecessary federal regulation is causing counties across the 19th district to spend thousands of dollars in compliance costs. The problem is not unique to our area. I joined five other members of the Texas congressional delegation last week sending a letter to Texas Secretary of State Roger Williams urging him to consider less costly, "lower-tech" voting systems so rural counties will have greater flexibility as they work to meet the requirements of HAVA.

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The Pledge Of Allegiance

By Senator John McCain

Editors Note:

The following article was received by Kathy Clark in Denver City and forwarded to us. With the continuing idiocy decrying any use of the word GOD, forbidding anything smacking of a religious nature in our schools, and the all too often desecration of our nation's flag, this message seems especially timely.

"As you may know I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the North Vietnamese Army (NVA) kept us in solitary confinement, or no more than two or three men to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room.

This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change, and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home. One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. He came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13. At 17 he enlisted in the US Navy, and later earned a commission in Officer Training School. He became a flight officer, and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen, deep appreciation of the opportunities our military provides for people who want to work and succeed.

The Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of the packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike found a bamboo needle. Over several months he created an American flag and sewed it on the inside of his shirt. Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we hung Mike's shirt on the wall and said the Pledge of Allegiance. In that stark cell, this was indeed a most important and meaningful event.

One day the Vietnamese searched our cell and found Mike's shirt with the flag and took it. That evening they returned, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for several hours. We later cleaned him up as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the cell, and sitting there with his eyes almost closed from the beating under a dim light bulb was my friend Mike Christian, with a piece of red cloth and a bamboo needle, making another American Flag. He was not making the flag because it made him feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us, to be able to Pledge Our Allegiance to our flag and country. The next time you say the Pledge, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world. You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country. "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

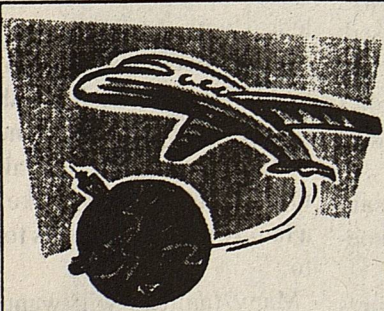
JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases heard and fines and bonds set in Pct. 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.

Cases Filed:
1 minor in possession alcohol
1 public intoxication
1 possession drug paraphernalia
1 juvenile warning and statement

Bonds set:
Assault causing bodily injury/family violence- \$1500
Resisting arrest- \$1000
Theft by check- \$500
Assault causes bodily injury/family violence-enhanced: \$5000 and emergency protective order plus 48 hour detention.

Criminal trespass- \$500
Driving/suspended license- \$500
2 charges, revocation of probation Navarro County- bond denied
Motion to revoke probation, Mason County- bond denied
Criminal trespass, habitation- \$2000
Notion to revoke probation- terry County- \$2000



NEED A PASSPORT?

The Yoakum County District Clerk is a Passport Acceptance Agent. We can provide you with the necessary forms and process your application. **IT IS IMPORTANT TO APPLY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO AVOID A DELAY IN RECEIVING YOUR PASSPORT PRIOR TO DATE OF DEPARTURE.**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vicki Blundell, District Clerk
Courthouse, Second Floor
Cowboy Way and Avenue G
Plains, Texas
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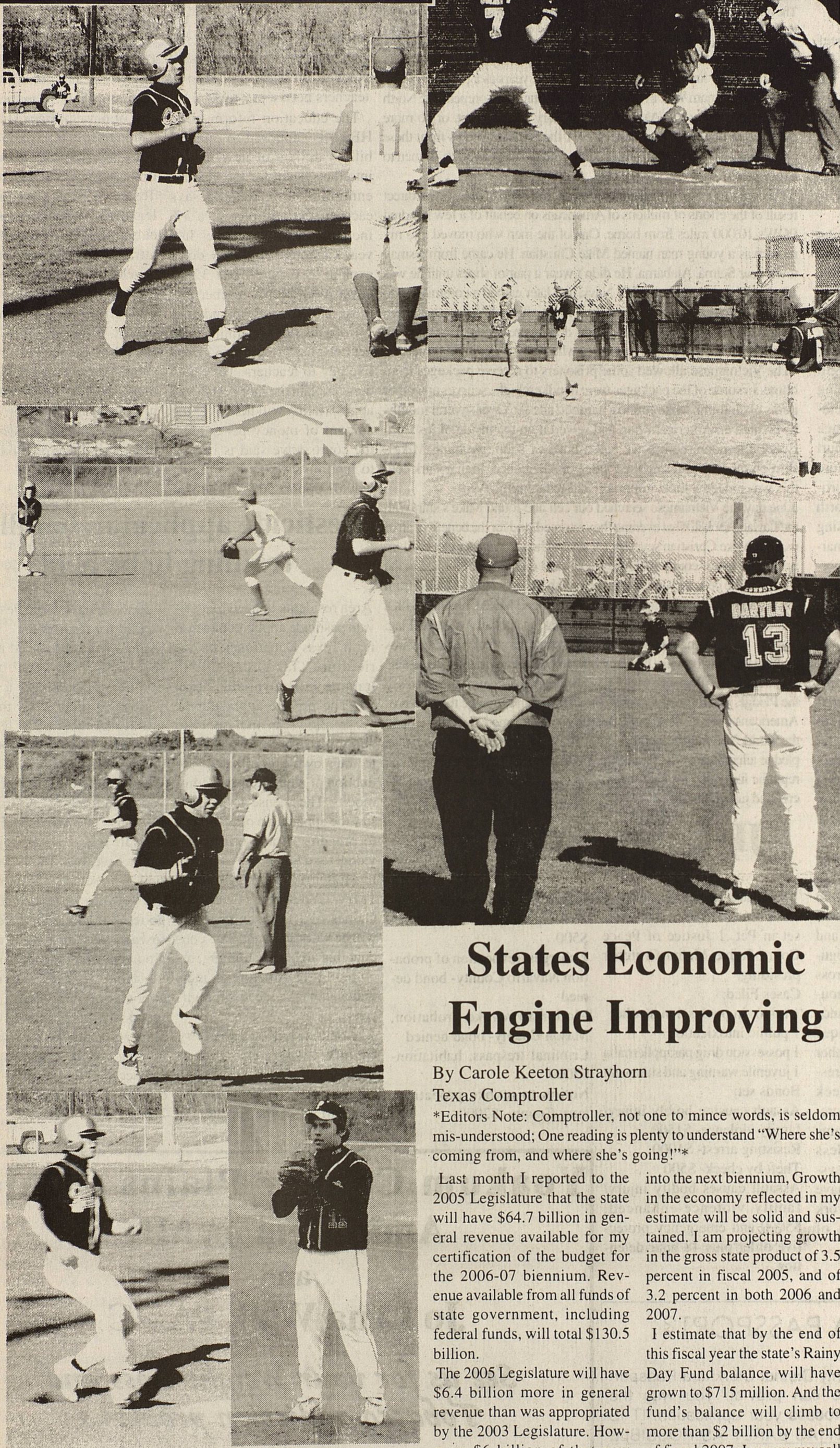
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Cowboys vs Denver City JV baseball scenes



States Economic Engine Improving

By Carole Keeton Strayhorn
Texas Comptroller

Editors Note: Comptroller, not one to mince words, is seldom mis-understood; One reading is plenty to understand "Where she's coming from, and where she's going!"

Last month I reported to the 2005 Legislature that the state will have \$64.7 billion in general revenue available for my certification of the budget for the 2006-07 biennium. Revenue available from all funds of state government, including federal funds, will total \$130.5 billion.

The 2005 Legislature will have \$6.4 billion more in general revenue than was appropriated by the 2003 Legislature. However, \$6 billion of that new money would be needed to maintain today's spending levels through fiscal 2007, leaving a scant \$400 million extra over the next two years.

Texas has rebounded from the shocks that confronted it the last time I presented the biennial revenue estimate. Our state's great economic engine is improving. We have experienced 16 months of positive sales tax growth, and seven of the 10 economic indicators I watch every day are up.

I expect to see a continuation of growth trends in 2005 and

into the next biennium. Growth in the economy reflected in my estimate will be solid and sustained. I am projecting growth in the gross state product of 3.5 percent in fiscal 2005, and of 3.2 percent in both 2006 and 2007.

I estimate that by the end of this fiscal year the state's Rainy Day Fund balance, will have grown to \$715 million. And the fund's balance will climb to more than \$2 billion by the end of fiscal 2007. I renew my call on the Legislature to allow this balance to grow to \$3 billion, only 5 percent of our general fund balance and the minimum needed for a reliable source of cash in case, God forbid, we have a natural disaster or terrorist attack in our Lone Star State.

I will continue to fulfill my constitutional responsibility to monitor the performance of the economy and the state revenue system and report any changes, positive or negative, to the 2005 Legislature and the governor as quickly as possible.

Cowboy Baseball Schedule

03-19-2005	Plains	* Seagraves
03-22-2005	Plains	* Smyer
03-25-2005	Seagraves	* Seagraves
03-28-2005	Plains	* Whiteface
04-02-2005	O'Donnell	* O'Donnell
04-05-2005	New Home	* New Home
04-09-2005	Morton	* Morton
04-12-2005		Bye
04-16-2005	Smyer	* Smyer
04-23-2005	Whiteface	* Whiteface
04-26-2005	Plains	O'Donnell
04-30-2005	Plains	* New Home
05-03-2005	Plains	* Morton

COWBOY and COWGIRL VARSITY TRACK SCHEDULE 2005

Location	Date
Texas Tech	January 21
Texas Tech	February 19
Frenship	February 26
Seagraves	March 4
New Deal	March 11
Sundown	March 24
Plains	April 1
Sundown - District	April 7 and 8
TBA - Area	April 15
Texas Tech Regional Qualifiers' Meet	April 21
SPC - Regional	April 29 and 30
Austin - State	May 13 and 14

JR. High Track

March 22	Sundown
March 31	Seagraves
April 5	Morton
April 14	Here - District

What About.....



Sometimes a family will have requests or want things done differently from what we as a community might be used to.

There are lots of reasons for a family's request. It could be a family member's health problems, personal wishes of the deceased, something the family has seen done at a funeral which they didn't like or something new to the area they did like.

In one funeral the family said there would be nearly 200 immediate family members.

This did not include cousins, aunts and uncles and other distant relatives. The church was small and would only seat about 350 people with no choir area for overflow.

The family asked that we restrict the reserved area to only children, brothers and sisters or those held in a special area of the church. Other family members would have to sit in the general seating.

You can only imagine how upset some people got. Some would only tell us they "were family and they WILL sit with the family."

People got offended until a family member came out and asked them to follow the request.

At other times we have been asked by families to make sure they didn't have to stay and visit immediately after the graveside service.

One family said, "We want everyone to go to the house to visit

with no visiting at the graveside. Please escort us through the crowd and don't let people stop us."

So we used the limo to try and get the job done. Even then, people would reopen the door as the limo tried to leave.

People mean well, and want to share the grief and their condolences with the family but sometimes do not understand why a funeral director is trying to shield a family or specific family member.

Please remember, a funeral director will only do things like this if a family specifically asks for them to.

Many families will want to do what they have seen at other funerals while others will have more personalized requests.

So the next time a funeral director tries to direct you or a crowd to a different situation than you're accustomed to, just remember it's what a family has requested.

In today's time of funeral service, many different things are happening than we are used to. Funeral services are changing to meet the needs of our families.

Until Next Time.....
Mark A. Jones
Funeral Directors

March 16, 1861 - Gov. Sam Houston refused to take an oath of allegiance to the Confederate States of America. He was replaced by Secessionists for Lt. Gov. Edward Clark

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Friends Or Lovedones Is April 1 !!

Lifelines & Styles

Miss Texas USA guest speaker at Tsa Mo Ga PHS 2005 Seniors Honored At Dinner Meeting

By Renetta O'Quinn

Although Miss Texas USA Tyler Willis is preparing for the Miss USA pageant April 11 in Baltimore, Maryland, she was not too busy to make a stop in Plains recently to honor the senior class at a dinner hosted by Tsa Mo Ga February 28 at the Methodist Church.

The following morning Willis was scheduled to be honored by Texas legislators at the capitol in Austin, and was to receive a proclamation presented by Senator Robert Duncan and House member Pete Laney.

Willis, a native of Brownfield and daughter of Joetta and Ricky Willis, and granddaughter of Jerry Warren and the late James Warren, was crowned Miss Texas USA last July in Laredo. She has been "intensely preparing for the pageant by speaking, walking and working out," her mother said. She spoke to seniors on "Developing the Leader Within," a mentoring program she has created. As a preface to her speech, she recognized the seniors by having them introduce themselves and give future plans.



Tyler Willis and special "friends", mother Joetta Willis and grandmother Jerry Warren

She encouraged each one to pursue their plans and goals, no matter what the obstacles.

In her speech she gave four characteristics a good leader must have. The first, integrity, includes being trustworthy, fair, honest and sincere.

The second was self-esteem. "You must believe you can do

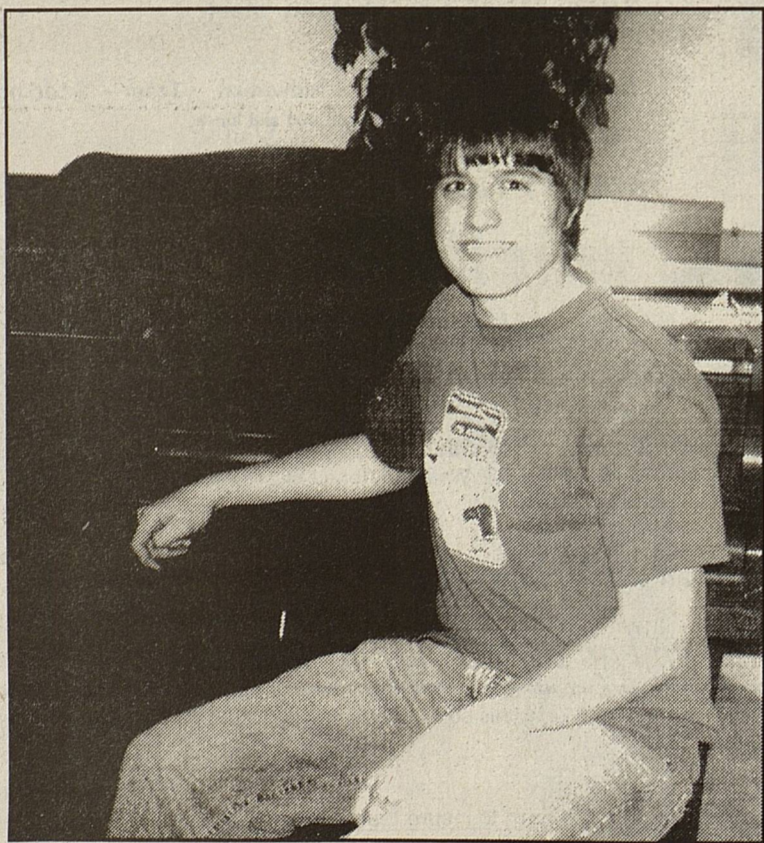
this. You never know what twists and turns along the way can change your destiny."

Her third point was being responsible, which includes being on time, being prepared and bringing everything you need. Her final point was setting goals and sticking with them. "Set small goals to get you there,"

Willis said. "Maintain all the little steps and stick to your plans."

She currently has 21 family members who plan to make the trip to the East Coast and cheer her on in the quest for the title. Willis has earned both a bachelor's and masters degree from Texas Tech University.

B. J. Lester going to state piano competition in concert at Rialto



B.J. Lester, a PHS Junior and the son of Bruce and Jan Lester, was recently a first place winner at the Lubbock Sonata, Sonata and Concerto Contest at Texas Tech University recently. He performed his winning sonatina at the Winner's Recital in Himmle Recital Hall. Lester also qualified for the UIL Piano Solo Competition recently and received a 1 Rating. He will be going to the state competition in May. He is a student of the Jalene Young Piano Studio.

The Brownfield Rialto Theater will host country music legend Gene Watson and the Farewell Party Band Friday, March 18 at 7:30 PM in the Rialto Community Theater. The theater is located at 408 W. Main in Brownfield.

Gene Watson has had 20 Top Ten songs in his career, which started in 1974. He has won numerous music awards from the Academy of Country Music as well as the Country Music Association. Some of his biggest songs include 'Farwell Party', 'Love in the hot afternoon', 'Paper Rosie', and 'Should I come home or should I go crazy?'

Nikki Lee, a 16 year old singer from Lamesa, will open the show. Lee has been in negotiations with several Nashville record labels regarding a developmental record deal.

Rialto Theater is a non-profit organization. All funds raised will go toward renovating the theater. Renovation costs will be approximately \$25,000

Reserved seats are \$23 and can be purchased by calling 806-770-2000 or toll free, 1-800-735-1288.

These planning to attend are encouraged to purchase tickets as early as possible, as they are selling fast, and the theater only seats 419.

Senior Citizens Corner

The turkey dinner Sunday was a success and was delicious! Our thanks to our dedicated staff who used part of their Sabbath to make the meal possible, and thanks to everyone who came to share the meal with us. We felt it was a successful fund raiser and we hope you all went away satisfied. It was interesting to watch the different church groups come when their worship service was over. We especially appreciated seeing folks who drove from Plains to enjoy the meal with us. This is one of our efforts to supplement the other funding made available to us so our center may continue to operate. A special thanks to Danny Moore who made a generous monetary contribution to the center.

It's good to see the Greens back on a regular basis. We have missed them while they were away caring for their daughter who is recovering from donating a kidney to a friend. Opal Robert brought her sister, Betty Lamb, with her to lunch one day this week. Betty is visiting Opal and they appear to be finding all kinds of sisterly mischief to get into. Other visitors during the week include Billie Renfold, Sara Rodriguez, Billie Render, Eliza Render, Gene Benningfield, Stella Montez, Becky Rodriguez, Korina Pate, Pam Young, Judy Hasell and Maria Rodriguez.


Reports are Imogene Deaton has been spending time in the hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery. It's good to see Elsie White back after a bout with the flu as well as other Center families suffering with the symptoms of winetr flu and cold.

On March 9 the Senate Budget Committee will begin debating the Fiscal Year 2006 budget. It will include spending allowed for Medicaid which includes essential coverage for health and long term care for Alzheimers. If this is a concern for you, call U.S. Senator Cornyn's office, 202-224-2934 and make your concerns known.

We all want to wish a very happy 90th birthday to James Williams! Everyone is invited to help him celebrate March 13 from 2:30 to 5 PM at the Plains Community Building.

An AARP driver safety training class will be held in the conference room of the Senior Center March 21 and 22, 10 to 11:30 AM and 12:30 to 3 PM each day. This is an eight hour course and costs \$10 per student. Attendance at the refresher course will provide you a 10% reduction in the cost of your auto insurance. You should repeat the class every third year to obtain continued reductions on your insurance. Check with Harold Brown, the instructor, 592-2018 if you are not sure if this is the year to repeat the course. There will be a sign-up sheet in the dining room or you may call Mr. Brown to register.

The deadline for ordering a commemorative brick to help fund the new electronic sign in Pioneer Park has been extended until Friday, April 1. Please don't wait too long to help in this worthy project, and remember someone, some organization, some event, some important date. Order your brick now from a chamber member!

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 Plains, Texas

Sunday School
 9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship
 10:45 A.M.

Evening Program
 6:00 P.M.

Daffodil Day Festival - Celebration 2005
 Saturday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Round Rock Senior Center,
 205 E. Main St. (across from library), Round Rock

- Food Booths
- Baked Goods
- Crafts
- Entertainment
- Auction (1:00 p.m.)
- Door Prizes

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From The Hack

I actually heard this in a brief portion of a talk radio show I tuned in last week. The main guy was talking politics, naturally, and he solemnly intoned, "There is absolutely no doubt come 2008 Hilary Clinton's gonna get the nomination. There's no Dem out there who can come close. Kerry is dead unless he gets a new face lift and he's already tried that. Gore is walking poison for the party. The Edwards guy will have lost all his pompadour hair by then. She's gonna get the nomination, for sure!" The announcer's guest then quietly asked, "Will Chelsea be her VP choice? It sure ain't gonna be Bill."

I gotta give credit to this to a book Sandy Land exec Gary Walker loaned me for a couple of months ago last June. It appears in "Don't Throw Feathers At Chickens", a title the reason I have kept the book so long, wondering what the Hell it Means. The collection of Texas related political tales is hilarious and especially relevant with the current legislative circus going on in Austin. It caught my eye because I instantly recognized a name well familiar to me, actually, a distant, almost completely forgotten relative, El Paso County Judge Woodrow Bean.

The article read, "The hard drinking judge underwent a serious piece of stomach surgery. Later the doctor told him, "Judge, the best thing for you to do is give up the booze." Woodrow replied, "Well doc, I've been such a sorry reprobate all my life, what's the second best thing to do?"

True story: After getting out of the Navy, I wound up in El Paso a few years later. I happened to be in the neighboring city of Juarez one evening, shopping for quaint, ancient Aztec Indian relics, naturally, and after exhausting bargaining, my throat was parched, and I timidly entered an establishment, much to my surprise which served... GASP... booze! And there, also incredibly, sat one Woodrow Bean at the bar.

Well, he was downing strong spirits rapidly, and when I ordered a Sasparilla, he guffawed, and demanded, "No Sir. No kin of mine partakes of kindergarten stuff. Give this honorable veteran a double shot of Jose Cuervo, on ME!"

That's the kind of guy he was, probably one of the reason my grandmother detested him, his mother was a bit unsure, his dad had already written him off, and I was an ardent admirer.

By the way, there in El Paso, I had an opportunity to vote for John F. Kennedy in his first and only presidential campaign. I showed up at the polling place, wanting to make my X, and no way could they find my name on the registered voter list. I was furious, demanding another search.

The Clerk dutifully did. No me. I was REALLY hot now. I told

her, "Call Judge Woodrow Bean, he knows me, he will vouch for me!" Believe it or not, she did. He told her, "Hey, let the guy vote. I know he's voting the democrat ticket!"

An absolutely true story, one of the few you will find in this space. Especially hard for some of you to believe is the part about the Kennedy vote. Also absolutely true. Probably the Juarez tequila leftover reaction.

The following is possible from the benevolence of Stephen Henry, Mogul of the Levelland and Hockley County News Press. He will not be aware of his benevolence until he reads this and realizes I have again stolen thunder from him: BUMPER STICKERS:

- .. If you can read this I have lost my trailer.
- .. Horn broken - watch for single finger
- .. If we quit voting will they all go away?
- .. So many pedestrians, so little time!
- .. Illiterate? Write us for help!
- .. Cover Me! I'm changing lanes!
- .. Fight Crime ! Shoot Back!
- .. GUYS: No Shirt, No Service.
- GALS : No Shirt, everything free!
- .. I refuse to have a battle of wits with an un-armed person.
- .. Boldly Going Nowhere!
- .. (Seen upside down on a Jeep)
- If you can read this, please flip me back over!
- .. Honk if you've never seen an Uzi fired from a car window!
- .. Grow Your Own Dope - Plant A Man!
- .. All Men Are Animals; Some Just Make Better Pets

Plains Chamber Of Commerce P.O. Box 364 Plains, Texas 79355

Plains Chamber of Commerce initiated a fund raiser to replace the marquee sign that is located south of the courthouse. At this time we are taking orders for bricks that will be used at the base of the new sign. The price of a brick will be \$50.00. The brick can have up to three lines with a maximum of 16 letters and spaces per line.

Please complete the form below and return to the address above with your check in the amount of \$50.00 for each brick ordered. This is not a war memorial, but you can honor a veteran if you wish. We would like family names, clubs and businesses (with the date of establishment), events, in memory of, and anything that might be a part of the history of our town.

DEADLINE IS APRIL 1, 2005, for purchasing bricks. Donations will be accepted past this date.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR INFORMATION IN THE BOXES. REMEMBER ONLY 16 CHARACTERS (INCLUDING SPACES) TO EACH LINE.

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

LINE 1 (16 LETTERS OR SPACES)

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Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

Texas far exceeds the national averages for rates of overweight and obesity in schoolchildren. Poor nutrition and poor exercise habits will rob our children of a bright future and cause them to suffer from illnesses that are preventable. That could force Texas taxpayers and Texas employers to pay an overwhelming cost.

I recently chaired the Governor's Conference on Childhood Obesity in Texas, and we had candid discussions throughout the day on everything from exercise to the impact of obesity in the workplace. The conference brought together a broad-based group of experts from the health industry, business and industry, schools and state government to bring a Texas perspective and to develop Texas solutions to the growing obesity epidemic.

Eating habits are established early in life, and it is more important and cost efficient to prevent obesity than to treat it. It's important to change the environments our children are exposed to by encouraging walking and exercise programs, and this environmental change should occur within our communities. TDA has created some innovative ways to communicate this message, including the creation of our Square Meals Web site at www.squaremeals.org, providing schools with information on non-food rewards and fundraisers and creating meal planning and cooking guides.

It's clear that everyone agrees that the obesity epidemic sweeping the nation is urgent and real. And we in Texas are working to make sure we combat the problem with the help of our schools, parents and the farmers and ranchers who grow our nutritious food.



YCH Foundation Golf Tournament

DATE: April 28 2005, Thursday
TIME: 10:00 a.m. Shotgun Start
ENTRY FEE: \$50.00 - Individual, Team - \$200.00
includes golf cart and lunch
FORMAT: Four Person Scramble

ENTRY DEADLINE: April 21, 2005

LOCATION: Yoakum County Golf Course (806-592-2947)
5 miles north of Denver City on Hwy 214. From Lubbock at Wellman, take FM 213 west to course.

Questions?: Call Clay Taylor 806-592-2121

All Proceeds will go to YCH Foundation

(Cut on line and return only this bottom portion)

Entry fee must accompany this form to insure team placement.

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