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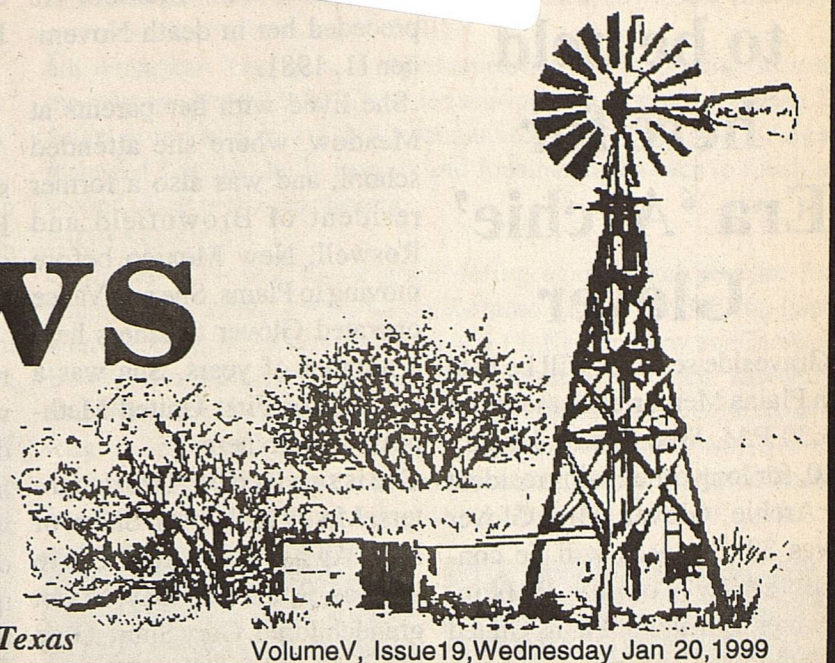
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Cowboy Country News

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



Volume V, Issue 19, Wednesday Jan 20, 1999

School funding a worrisome issue in Austin - and right here in Plains, America

Small wonder the eyes and ears of so many Texans involved in public education are tuned into the halls of the State Capitol. State Senators and Representatives attending the 76th Legislative session are about to lock horns with the equivalent of a 500 pound gorilla - and they must win the battle to ensure a sound educational future for Texas youngsters.

With the drastic drop in oil prices, most motorists are grinning when they fill up, but most public school administrators and board members are worried, and crunching numbers. Such was the case in the January 11 meeting of the Plains ISD Board of Trustees.

Prior to the meeting, Superintendent James Haynes and Business Manager Eric Banfield prepared extensive charts detailing how PISD funding could be affected by a number of scenarios resulting from the drastic drop in tax valuations on the states mineral reserves. Eleven of the twelve possible scenarios are not encouraging.

PISD is a Chapter 41 school district under the notorious 'Robin Hood' law. The current statute says our district's cap on valuation per student is \$280,000. If valuation exceeds this amount, the district must either send local tax money to Austin or share the excess with a designated 'poorer' school district. Superintendent Haynes is hoping the Legislators will raise the per student cap to \$310,000. That would result in the district being able to keep about \$400,000 of 'wealth', which is, of course tax money. This scenario is valid, however, ONLY if property values remain at last year's values, and that is

not going to happen.

While the local appraisal district has not released any official tax valuation figures, it is no secret mineral valuations in Yoakum County will be greatly reduced because of oil prices. Superintendent Haynes said "It's pretty obvious at this point we, and all the other so called 'rich' districts around the state, are facing a serious reality check in our operations."

Another aspect of falling valuations is the effect on the 'poor' school districts now benefiting from the share the wealth aspects of Robin Hood. When the 'rich' districts tax revenues are cut, they become 'poor' districts, no longer able to send money to the original 'poor' districts, which will then become poorer districts.

The local administrators and school board members are well aware of possible hard times ahead. Haynes said there are provisions in present statutes which supposedly protect districts losing more than 6% of their tax values. "The problem," he said, "Is the legislature must appropriate funds for those districts to support the statutes." The legislature, on the other hand, must always contend with unlimited needs and limited dollars.

The pending crisis will probably result in another effort by lawmakers to find a method of public school funding other than relying on property owner tax dollars. That is another 500 pound gorilla issue to be wrestled with.

The superintendent and board are committed to legislative efforts which will ensure Chapter 41 districts survive current and future hard times.

Walker delivers nomination speech for House Speaker Pete Laney

Immediately following the swearing in ceremonies opening the 76th legislative session in Austin January 12, an unusual and important event occurred involving Gary Walker, State Representative from Plains, representing House District 80 in West Texas.

Walker, a Republican, was chosen to deliver the nomination speech seeking re-election of Pete Laney, a Democrat, to the important and powerful position of Speaker of the House.

CCN, after obtaining a copy of Representative Walker's nominating speech, felt the bi-partisan address was important enough to partially reproduce here.

"Four years ago, I cast my first vote as a member of the House. I watched the green light by my name, and felt an incredible thrill I was actually part of this process. My first, and one of my very best votes, was for Pete Laney as Speaker of the House.

"Now, I stand before you to nominate the same man.



Walker at House podium

"Speaker Laney has known all along it doesn't matter whether you have a D or R in front of your name. He knows he and I men can stand adversity, but if we have different consonants by our names, but what matters to Pete is not consonants; To Pete, what matters is, you represent your constituents to the best of your ability.

"We have gone through a cycle of declining trust in the institutions of our democracy. The

President, Congress, the courts, have all been weakened by a cross fire of attacks on their integrity. In the Texas Legislature we haven't suffered quite so much. I believe it's because we all work together.

"In this House, the aisle down the middle doesn't separate Democrats and Republicans. It's where we come together to debate and share ideas.

"The best way to represent our parts of Texas is to do the best we can, to the best of our ability, leave partisan bickering for someone else, and elect someone who will guide us to doing a better job. That person is Pete Laney.

"Lincoln once said, 'Nearly all you want to test a man's character, give him power'. Pete has been given power six years, and his character stood the test.

"It is with great pride, and for Texas, I nominate James E. 'Pete' Laney as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives"

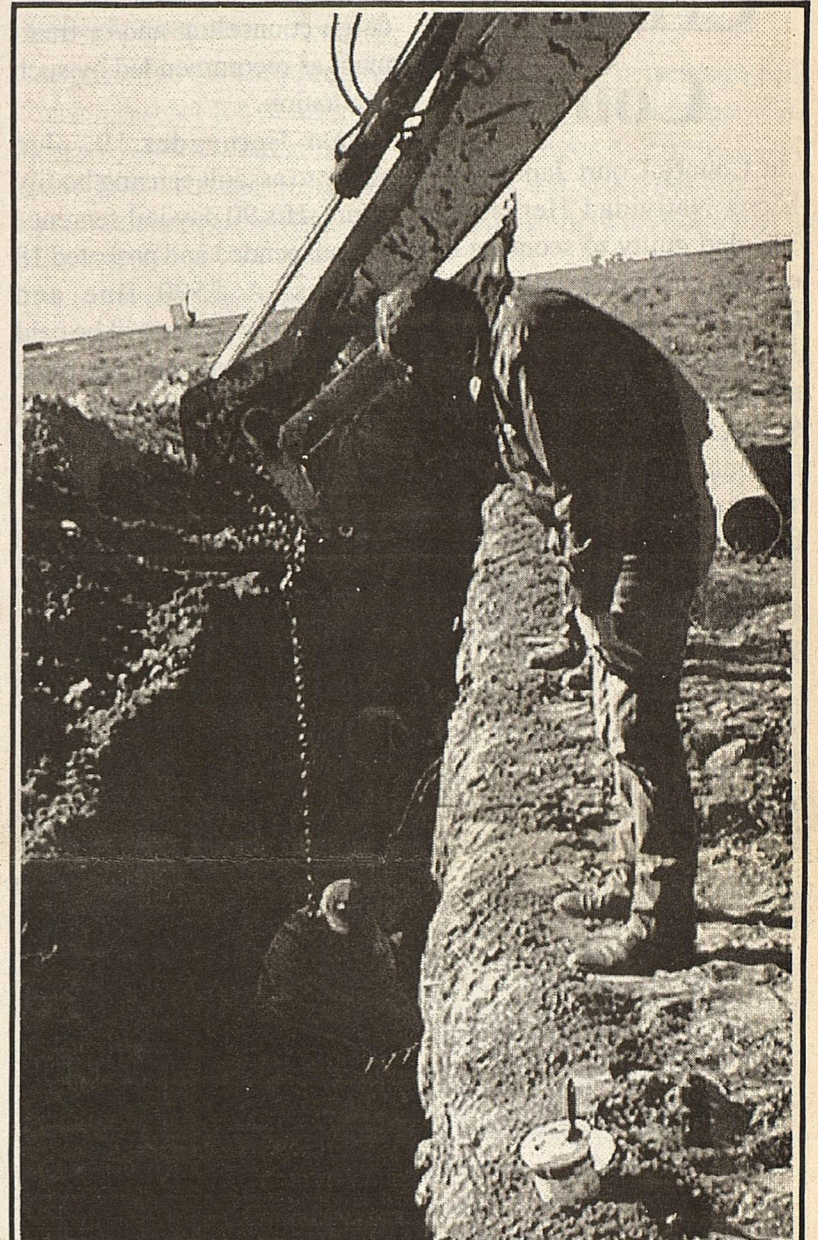
Final phase of City water project underway

The massive stacks of blue PVC pipe stored on city land just west of town will, hopefully, be dwindling in numbers daily. City employees are now laying the pipe which will bring badly needed water to Plains from three new wells some 3.5 miles west of town.

City Administrator David Brunson said a city owned backhoe is digging the trench for the 12 inch PVC pipe. Specifications call for the pipe to be covered with a minimum 40 inches of soil, and the trench is averaging about five feet in depth.

Each 400 pound, twenty foot joint of pipe must be layed in the trench with the backhoe. Each joint contains a rubber seal, and the joints must be 'stabbed' together by pulling them with a steel strap and a 'Come-Along' tool. Brunson said now that employees are getting familiar with the procedures, he hopes to be able to lay twenty joints of pipe per day.

This first phase of pipelining will tie the three water wells together, and eventually connect into the 100,000 gallon storage tank to be constructed



David Brunson checks on progress of city employees Jerry Dominguez and Joe Martinez Jr. in trench



Alex Barrientes, on backhoe, unloads PVC pipe for waterline project

on city owned section 423.

When this phase of the project is finished, the water line will turn south and extend to the old Lovington Road, and from there into the city distribution system just west of city limits.

Brunson said construction of the tank and pump station and building is scheduled to start around February 1, and the target date for completion of the entire extensive project is May 15, furnishing some 750 additional gallons of water per minute to meet city needs.

Don't Forget!!

Chamber of Commerce Banquet
Jan. 21, 7 PM, School Cafeteria
Bar BQ - Door Prizes - Citizen
Of The Year - Speaker Tuffy Cooper
Tickets at City Hall now \$6.50 ...
\$7.50 at the door.

Join Us!!

Services to be held here for Era 'Archie' Glover

Graveside services will be held in Plains Memorial Cemetery at 3:30 P.M. Wednesday, January 20, for long time Plains resident 'Archie' Glover. Mrs. Glover was 89. Services will be conducted by Tommy Wilson, former Minister of Plains United Methodist Church. She passed away January 17, 1999, at Bridgeport, Texas. She was born September 29, 1909, at Seagraves, Texas. She married the late Vance

Glover on February 16, 1930, in Lovington, New Mexico. He preceded her in death November 11, 1981.

She lived with her parents at Meadow, where she attended school, and was also a former resident of Brownfield and Roswell, New Mexico before moving to Plains. She and Vance operated Glover Cleaners here a number of years. She was a member of First United Methodist Church here.

She is survived by; Two daughters, Mrs. Virgil Gwen Short, of Run-Away Bay, and Dixie Perkins, Run-Away Bay; Seven grandchildren, Gary Short, Greg Short, Van Short, Geoff Gentry, Cheryl Estrada, Darr Spencer, and Dina Hammonds; Eleven great-grandchildren, Blair Short, Maranda Buchanan, Jacob Estrada, Leauana Estrada,

Swade Hammonds, Kelsie Spencer, Kaeland Spencer, and Keefer Spencer.

"Dash For Cash"

The PHS Student Council will sponsor a fund raising "Dash For Cash" event at halftime of the Cowboy basketball game January 26.

The Council is selling tickets now for the event, and tickets will be available at the game. A drawing will be held prior to halftime, and some lucky fan will have a chance to 'dash for cash'. \$100 in different denominations will be placed around the gym floor, and the contestant will have 30 seconds to scoop up all the money possible in that time.

Profits from the event will be used to award a Senior council member a scholarship.

credit for 4 days time served. He must obtain alcohol/drug dependency evaluation and undergo counseling and/or treatment as recommended by such evaluation.

Omar Hernandez, 19, pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. A \$500 fine and \$184.25 court costs will be paid with time payments. He must attend anger management counseling and pay \$340.45 restitution to Yoakum County Hospital.

He was represented by attorney Bill Helwig.

Juan Herrera Jr., 24, agreed on the state's order to modify conditions of community supervision on a prior DWI 1st offence charge. His period of community supervision shall be extended for six months. He must

pay a fee of \$40 each month for community supervision and successfully complete the Batterer's Intervention Prevention Program.

He was represented by attorney R.C. "Eric" Augeson.

Dale Edward Crider, 38, agreed to the State's order to modify conditions of community supervision on a prior charge of unlawfully carrying a weapon. He must serve 7 days in jail with credit for 8 days time served. Pay fines totaling \$385 to be made in time payments. He must successfully complete the Drug Offender's Program.

Tara Renae Cutis, 18, pled guilty to hindering apprehension or prosecution charge. A 30 day jail sentence was probated and suspended 6 months. A fine of \$200 and court costs of \$184.25 will be made in time payments.

Donald Wayne Ferguson, 43, agreed to the State's motion to modify conditions of community supervision on a prior charge of DWI 1st offence. He must successfully complete the TAIP program, attend AA meetings and continue counseling.

January 25, 1839: The Lone Star flag was adopted by the Third Congress of the Republic of Texas.

Services held for John B. Hague

Graveside services for John B. Hague, 89, were held at the Plains Cemetery at 2 p.m. Friday, January 15, with George Sanderson officiating. Mr. Hague died at Hobbs January 12.

He was born May 29, 1909, in Yoakum County. He was a long time resident of Hobbs, M.N.

For most of his life he was a machinist.

He and his wife Margaret were married December 31, 1984.

He is survived by his wife; his children, Robert Lee Hague, Gaynell Hague, John William Hague, Ruby Lee Hague, and Sandra Hague Gentry; a sister, Margaret Reeb; six step children, George, Billy and Delbert Sanderson, Marion Calloway, Dorothy Denny and Nancy

Ross; Five grandchildren, Robert Lee Hague Jr., Matthew Wayne Hague, Danielle Nicole Hague, Sheryl Johnson, Susan Kiniry, and four great grandchildren.

January 2, 1856: Camp Cooper established on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River in Throckmorton County to protect the reservation Indians living there. It was abandoned by Union Forces, February 21, 1861.

County Criminal Court

In County Court January 13, Elena Natividad Hernandez, 31, pled guilty to securing execution of document by deception. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. A \$250 fine and \$214.25 court costs will be paid in time payments. She must successfully complete a batterer's treatment program. Felipa Mendoza Perez, 31, pled guilty to DWI 1st offence. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay a fine of \$500 and \$199.25 court costs, to be made in time payments. He will serve 6 days in jail with

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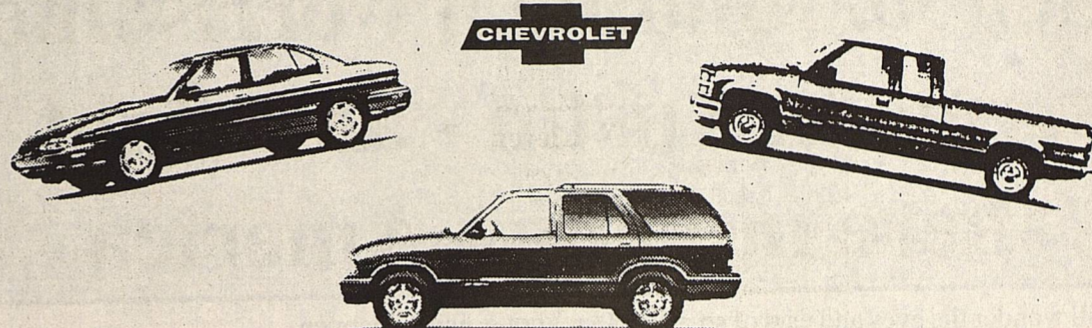
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PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Plains, Texas

COMBINED STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES-- ALL GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES Year Ended August 31, 1998

	GOVERNMENTAL FUND TYPES		TOTALS (MEMORANDUM ONLY)	
	100-199	200-499	98	97
	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	AUGUST 31, 1998	AUGUST 31, 1997
REVENUES:				
Local, Intermediate, and Out-of-State	\$ 7 134 988	\$ -	\$ 7 134 988	\$ 6 264 435
State Program Revenues	328 499	124 708	453 207	348 484
Federal Program Revenues	158 306	167 843	326 149	348 541
Total Revenues	7 621 793	292 551	7 914 344	6 961 460
EXPENDITURES:				
Instruction and Instructional Related Services	3 146 243	291 616	3 437 859	2 832 595
Instruction and School Leadership	310 008	-	310 008	289 568
Support Services - Student (Pupil)	842 299	2 809	845 108	848 423
Administrative Support Services	287 389	-	287 389	275 980
Support Services - Nonstudent Based	986 800	-	986 800	1 015 519
Ancillary Services	9 366	-	9 366	2 748
Capital Outlay	5 626	-	5 626	-
Intergovernmental Charges	1 585 964	-	1 585 964	1 657 742
Total Expenditures	7 173 695	294 425	7 468 120	6 922 575
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	448 098	(1 874)	446 224	38 885
Other Resources	3 831	-	3 831	3 660
Other (Uses)	(736)	-	(736)	(367)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Resources Over Expenditures and Other Uses	451 193	(1 874)	449 319	42 178
Fund Balance--September 1 (Beginning)	2 072 358	1 874	2 074 232	2 032 054
Fund Balance--August 31 (Ending)	\$ 2 523 551	\$ -0-	\$ 2 523 551	\$ 2 074 232

PISD Honor Roll

Junior High 'A' Honor Roll

Fifth Grade

Michael Crump
Allison Friesen
Reagan Haynes
Skylar Keesee

Sixth Grade

B.J. Lester
Adam McCravey
Abel Ramos
Evan Cain
Cody Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Kerry Sisson

Seventh Grade

Trent May
Grady McNabb
Moriah Traweek
Manuela Villegas

Eighth Grade

Jordan Bean
Jill Gray
Liz Wilmeth

All A's and 1 B

Fifth Grade

Blake O'Quinn
Sixth Grade

Sixth Grade

Payton Bean
Marlie Diaz
Mayra Flores

Seventh Grade

Austin Keesee
Helen Neufeld

Eighth Grade

Kelly Bowers
Justin Chambliss
Sandra Gallegos

Krystal Gonzalez

Isamari Guzman
Kayla Willis

High School

'A' Honor Roll

Ninth Grade

Annaliessa O'Quinn

Tenth Grade

Emily Blair
Aaron Cain
Lensey Cullins
Roxanne Fuentes
Taylor Gray
Kari Guetersloh
Nicole Haynes
Kimbe Jones
Lesli Rowe
Elva Ruiz
Lexi Warren

Eleventh Grade

Joshua Bell
Velvet Canada
Liticia Canon
Jessica Flores
Kristen Gray
Wendy Hernandez
Chris Leggett
Angie Longoria
Fermin Luna
Laura Morales
Kimberly Newland
Anne Palmer
Patty Ruiz
Kyle Sisson
Jason Swann
Staci Tuggle
Chris Willis

Troy Parrish and Alex Penner

were left off the Elementary Honor Roll list.)

Twelfth Grade

Maranda Box
Dustin Brunson
Steven Bunch
Clint Burrus
Cosme Casillas
Cassie Dearing
Norma Deigado
LaCresha Johnson
Tandi Jones
Tommie McNabb
Lisa Parrish
Juanita Rodriguez
Taylor Gray

All A's and 1 B

Ninth Grade

Allison Butler
Servando Luna
Esmeralda Moreno
Scott Tirrell
Becky Wilmeth

Tenth Grade

Chris Estrada
Maria Reyna
Matt Willis

Eleventh Grade

Krystle Blundell
Candace Bowers
Autumn Deaton
Patrick McGinty
Nicole Newsom

Twelfth Grade

Jolyne Burgess
Kayla Redman
Krystal Sellars
Ofelia Trevino
Stephanie Vasquez

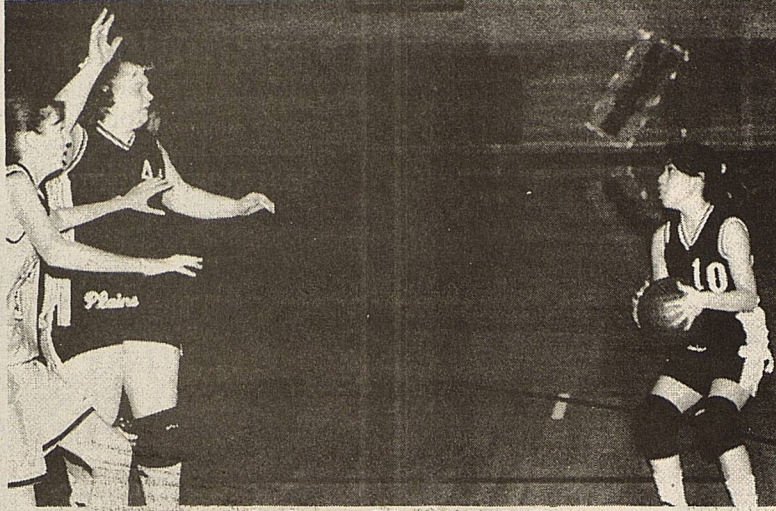
PISD Basketball Recap

JUNIOR HIGH:

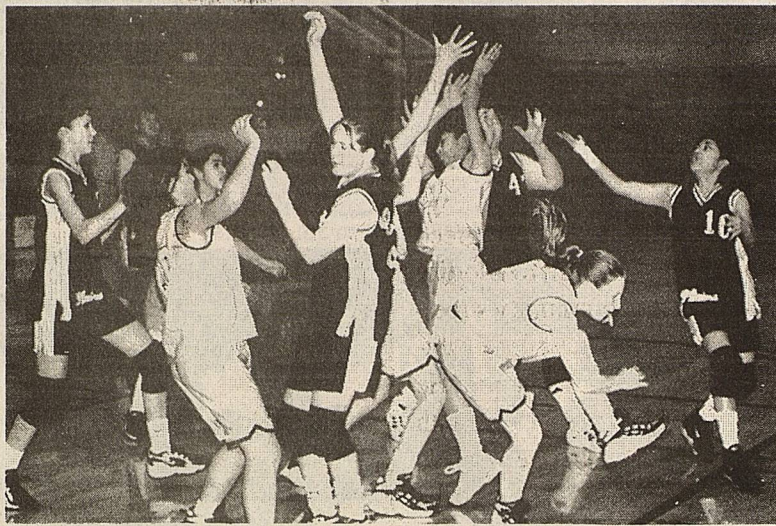
7th Lady Wranglers unavailable at press time.

7th Wranglers - The younger Wranglers came out on top of Tahoka in district action Jan. 11, 27-17. Trent May led the scoring with 11 points, followed by Tony Escobar 6, Mike Lopez 4, Armando Ramirez, Richard Diaz 2, Austin Keesee and Zachary Broome 1 each.

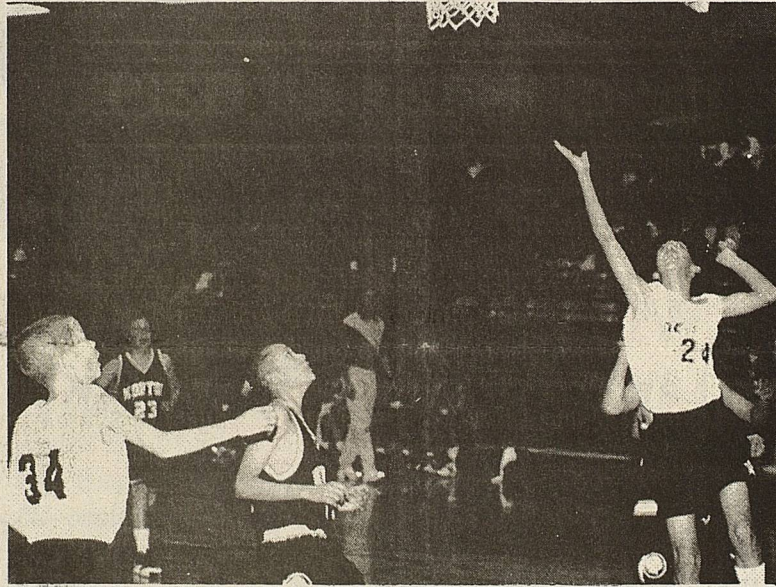
8th Lady Wranglers- The 8th girls fell to Tahoka 36-20. Chelsea Blount topped scoring with 6 points, Kayla Willis 3, Joana Diaz, Elda Fierro, Jessica Rodriguez, McKenzie Winn 2 each.



Liz Wilmeth gets ready, Joana Diaz works ball



It gets rough and tough under the basket



Jonathan DeLaRosa shoots, Chase Howell ready to rebound

8th Wranglers- In their district outing against Tahoka, the boys were downed 47-34. Jonathan DeLaRosa had 12 points, Chase Howell 8, Bradley Palmer, Angel Ruiz and Miguel Coronado 4 each.

JUNIOR HIGH TOURNAMENT - The 7th boys opened tourney action against Whiteface and fell 43-34. Zachary Broome had 10 points, Trent May 7, Richard Diaz 6, Mike Lopez 4, Larry Escobar 3, Armando Guetersloh and Rodney Guetersloh 2 each. They next faced Morton and came out on top 40-25. Trent had 14 points, Richard 9, Mike 4, David Escobar 3, Larry, Austin Rodney, Zachary and Tony Gomez 2 each. They continued winning ways by downing Meadow 41-20, with Trent leading the scoring with 15, Larry 10, Zachary 6, Mike 5, Richard 4, and Rodney 1.

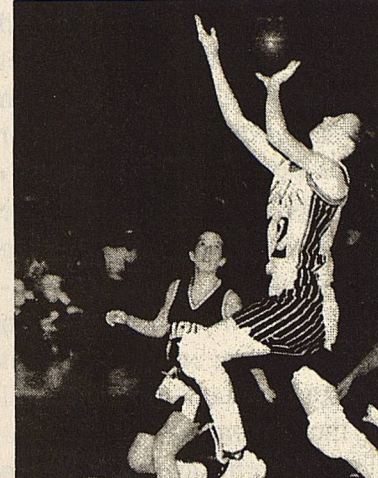
8th Lady Wranglers- The girls bombed Morton 23-7 in their tournament opener, with Jessica scoring 6, McKenzie and Chelsea 4 each, Liz Wilmeth 3, Jill Gray and Sandra Gallegos 2 each. The girls had perhaps their best game of the season, but fell just short to Tahoka 27-25. McKenzie and Jessica had 6 each, Kayla 5, Chelsea 3, Mandi Rogers and Elda 2 each. They also fell to a good Whiteface team 37-23. Jes-

sica managed 10 points, Chelsea and Liz 4 each, Kayla and Joanna 2 each for a third place tourney finish.

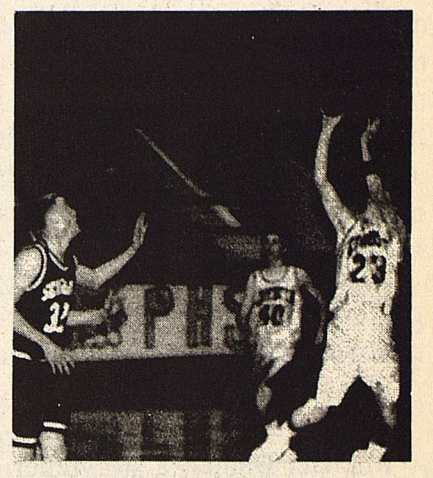
8th Wranglers- The boys avenged an earlier loss by beating them in the tourney opener 25-20. Chase led scoring with 8 points, Jonathan 7, Angel 6, and Miguel 4. Tahoka outmanned the 8th boys 43-23. Angel managed 8 points, Kelly Bowers and Jonathan had 4 each to finish in second place in the tournament.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Cowgirls- The girls had a good outing against arch district foe Seagraves, winning 45-40. Kayla Redman had the hot scoring hand with 20 points, Kimberly Newland had 19, Kristen Gray and Candace Bowers 2 each, Krystle Blundell and Maranda Box 1 each. Kimberly pulled down 9 rebounds, and Kristen had 7 steals. The Cowgirls had a tough 44-39 loss to Tahoka Jan. 15. Kayla and Kimberly shared scoring honors with 11 points each, Candace had 8, Kristen 7, Jessica Flores had 2. Kayla topped rebounding with 12, and Krystle has 3 steals.



Kristen lays one up

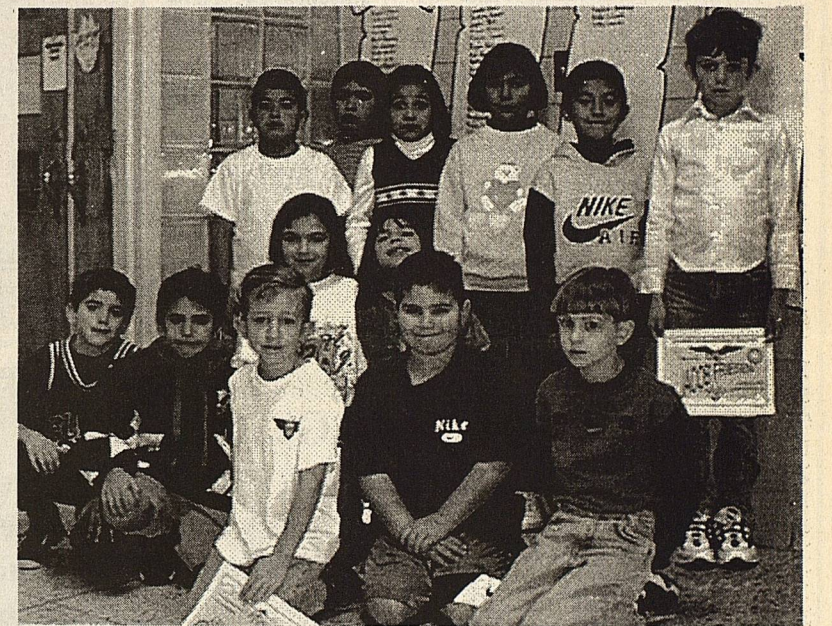


Tanner shoots for two pointer

Cowboys- The Cowboys improved their shooting percentage and downed district foe Seagraves 57-49. Tanner Blount dropped in 21 points, Adam Garcia had 19, Eddy Gallegos 6, Fermin Luna 3, and Joel Gallegos, Josh and Jared Bell and Justin Bennett had 2 each. Tanner grabbed 11 rebounds, and along with Eddy had 4 steals each.

The Cowboys continued winning ways by beat Post 73-65. Tanner made 22 points, Adam Had 14, Josh 8, Jared and Justin 4 each, Joel and Fermin 5 each, Kyle Sisson and Eddy 2 each. Jared grabbed 8 rebounds, and Adam had 5 steals.

Accelerated Reading Achievers



Bottom Row- Brett Hawthorne, Zachary Guerra, Nathan McCravey, Skyler Sainz, Landon Earnest, Middle- Briana Conway, Crystal Tarango, Back- A.J. Martinez, Chris Garza, Mari Ruiz, Reyna Gallegos, Jonathan Mindieta, Jacob Friesen



Front L-R- Zachary Guerra, Taylor Banfield, 2nd Row- Derek Garza, Joe Luis Gallegos, Ryan Crump, Doug Conway, Eva Unger, Reyna Gallegos. Back- Caitlin Carter, Elias Carrillo, Jacob Rivera, Amber Friesen, Margaret Martens, Landon Craft, Erica Loewen, Nicole Culwell, Angelica Mendoza, Chandra Carpenter.

PHS Student of the Week



This weeks Student of the Week is Laura Morales, a Junior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Angel Morales. She was nominated by Mr. Cannon, who said, "Raymond Berry, a Hall of Fame football player,

said he had average talent and ability. So, what made Berry a Hall of Famer? His teammates said it was his work ethic before, during and after practice. He spent hours running pass patterns and catching balls until it became an instinct on the field.

You've heard 'practice makes perfect.' Laura has practiced for years self-motivation, developing study skills and work habits which will help her be 'above average'. Her hard work and dedication will lead to success in whatever area she wants to enter.

We did not receive JV basketball results Friday morning. We will report them next week.

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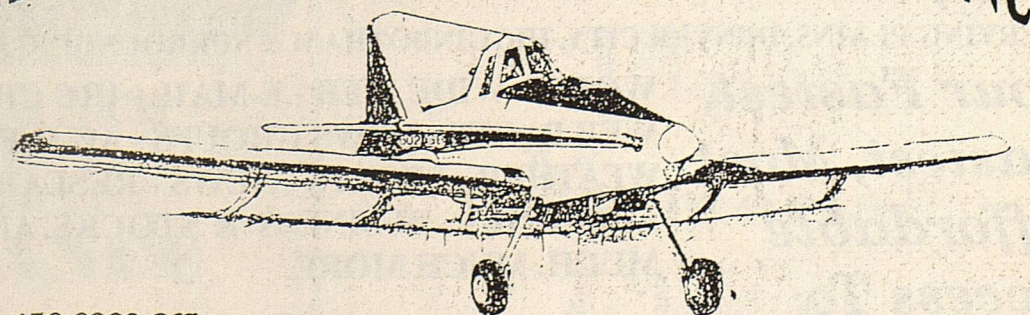
Yoakum County Hospital

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In the latest Texas Assn. of Basketball Coaches poll, the PHS Cowboys were rated **FIFTH** in State 2A ranks!

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Yoakum County Connection Programs Under Way

Yoakum County Connection held its annual meeting on January 14, at the Yoakum County Park Party House. Thirty seven members and guests enjoyed the Denver City High School Show Choir in their performance of several songs. Re-elected directors include L.J. Sanders and James Altman of Plains and Elfida Winkler of Denver City. New directors elected are Billy Boiles and Sue Holder of Denver City. Chair Carolyn Culwell presided over the meeting with L.J. Sanders giving the financial and activity report.

The Denver City Chamber of Commerce will share the downtown building on Denver City main street with the Connection as of May this year. Michael Daniel, a storyteller with the Doobetter Company, will be in the Plains School on February 10 and the Denver City School on February 11. His performances will be sponsored by the Connection and Texas Commission on the Arts. Anyone interested in helping with the Watermelon Festival or Summer Youth Program is urged to contact Jeannette Head. Retiring directors Ron Hatfield and Ann Hartman were presented certificates of appreciation by Culwell. Door prizes given by the following individuals and businesses were awarded the attendees; Andrea Chavira, Coast to

Coast, Vaughn and Carolyn Culwell, Dairy Queen of Denver City, Grand Entry, Ron and Candy Hatfield, Jerome and Jeannette Head, Kay and Kompany, Ramona's Hair Affair, Renaissance Productions, Sellers Ag Supply, Tsa Mo Ga, Rep. Gary Walker, Yoakum County Art Association. Nancy Dickerson was in charge of this event.

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District and Yoakum County Extension Service were commended for their help with the programs and other activities. "What we are learning today is preparing us for all the good and challenge that lies ahead. We can find comfort in our constant progress," stated Linda Powell in the welcome. "We are investing our energy in Yoakum County people, places and things we care about." "We don't know the destination, but we are headed in the right direction...we have proven county citizen, organization, and government cooperation is possible and can be the catalyst for better days ahead; we will never give up on the future of our area in Texas."

January 17, 1874: Reconstruction declared ended in Texas when President U.S. Grant refused to send troops to Austin to oppose the election of a Democratic governor.

Jr. High Conservation Jamboree

The Yoakum Soil and Water Conservation District hosted its annual Conservation Jamboree for some 35 Junior High 5th graders here last Tuesday.

During the two hour presentation, the youngsters toured demonstration stations illustrating a number of area resources and conservation issues and practices.

David Turnbough, Sandy Land Water District, showed a video on water conservation. Cindy Gray, a SWCD Director, discussed animals found on county farms and ranches. Larry Morrow, former SWCD Director, explained peanut production in the county, and Dan Wall, SWCD Director, manned a cotton production display station. Danny Bell, SWCD

Board Vice-Chairman, discussed a display of trees common to the county. L.J. Sanders, former SWCD Director, displayed types of grasses found here.

Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel manned several of the display stations; Phillip Carter, James Gordon showed a display of soil types in the area, and Don Haley explained the importance of reducing soil erosion. Donald Gibbons and Gordan Paden displayed and explained instruments used in land surveying.

Linda Powell, former SWCD Director, played the role of 'Sally Sunshine', and Emma Tobar, SWCD Clerk, portrayed 'Sammy Soil Saver' in the jamboree.



Phillip Carter explains wildlife display to 5th graders



Dan Wall explains how cotton is grown, marketed and used

An Editorial

by James Haynes, Superintendent, Plains I.S.D.

January is School Board Recognition Month as proclaimed by Governor George Bush. As the superintendent of schools I would like to publicly express my thanks to our board members for the dedication that they show to the children and citizens of our community.

Many times we forget about the important role school board members play in assuring local control over our public schools, control that is in the hands of people we know...people who are our neighbors.

Often we forget that, in the tradition of a representative democracy, school board members are our connection to influencing how our public schools are governed.

Often we are quick to criticize school board members without really knowing all the details that went into any given decision.

Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded.

Since January is School Board Recognition Month, this would be a great time for everyone to express our appreciation and to understand how board members work together to provide leadership for our schools.

The school board works closely with parents, education professionals, and other community members to create the educational vision we want for our students.

The school board is accountable to the public. It is responsible for assuring the public that the money allocated to the public schools is providing a good return on the investment. Thus the board oversees regular assessment of the district's students, staff, and program.

The school board is also a strong advocate for public schools and is responsible for communicating the needs of the school district to the public and the public's expectations to the district.

Please join me and with others throughout the district and state to thank the men and women who provide grassroots governance of public schools. Make a special effort to tell each school board member that his or her hard work has been noticed and is truly appreciated. The Plains ISD board members are: Tim Addison, Wayne Sisson, Brad Palmer, Anna Gonzalez, Dwayne Canada, Randy Tuggle, and Danny Bell.

**Chamber of Commerce Banquet
Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 P.M. !!**

Booster Club and DQ Basketball Shoot Out

The Plains Athletic Booster Club and the local Dairy Queen are sponsoring a "Big-Shot" contest to be held at all remaining PHS district home games. Tickets will be given to adult fans attending the games, and one ticket will be drawn to determine the "Big-Shot" contest. The contest will be held at half time of the Cowgirls game. The adult fan will have one and only one chance to make a shot from the three point line. If the shot is made at the next home game, the shooter receives \$75 cash from DQ. If the shot is missed, DQ will add \$25 to the prize at the next home game.

The next game here on January 22 has been designated "Pack the GYM NIGHT", and the Booster club urges all Cowboy and Cowgirls to be on hand and show your support. There will also be drawings for prizes donated by local business supporters.

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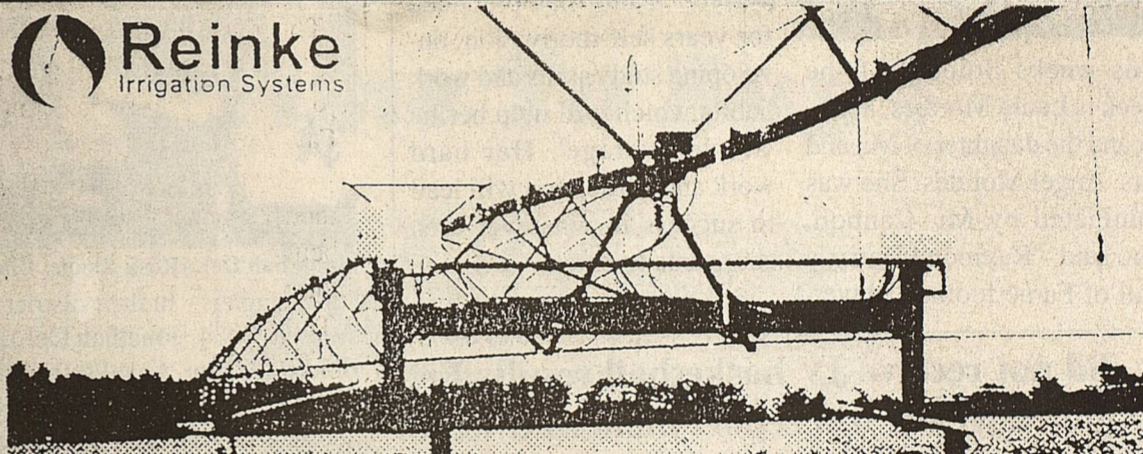
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Lifelines & Styles



All four grades of Plains Elementary participated in the recent Mathathon program sponsored by the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital again this year. The youngsters raised \$2,763.90 for research. Marissa Melendez raised the largest amount and received a jam box prize. A hospital spokesperson said 217 children from Texas had been treated at the St. Jude Hospital. The generous support of the community was greatly appreciated.

Tsa Mo Ga hears program on learning disabilities

The Tsa Mo Ga Club met January 11, 1999 at the Library for a program with special emphasis on Learning Disabilities in children.

Dolores Davis, program coordinator, spoke on the special needs of children with disabilities, and showed a video on the subject, "How Difficult Can This Be". The video presents striking simulations that allow viewers to experience the same frustration, anxiety and tension that children with learning disabilities face in their daily lives. A question and answer period was a learning experience for the club members.

Mary Jo St. Romain, Special Projects Chairman, presented the video to Latrell McDonnell, Librarian, to provide members, teachers and the community with education about learning disabilities.

Wilma Powell, Federation Counselor, reminded members that October was National Learning Disabilities Month. She quoted Booker T. Washington, Educator "You measure the size of accomplishments by the obstacles you had to overcome to reach your goals."

Hostesses Billie Blundell and Mary Jo St. Romain served refreshments to seventeen members, Dolores Davis, Bonnie Earnest, Mattie Field, Crip Henard, Toni Jones, Latrell McDonnell, Ann McGinty, Rennetta O'Quinn, Wilma Powell, Debbie Rushing, Betty Rushing, Elouise St. Romain, Sarah Shelton, Valeria and Zaretta Winn.

The next meeting will be January 25th, 7:00 p.m. at the Plains Library, featuring a slide presentation and talk by local la-

dies, Wadonna Davis and Jo Ann Barron, covering their trip to the African Nation of Malawi.

Filmtime

There were nine children in attendance at Filmtime on January 6th. They were; Karla Powell, Whitney Davis, Clayton Gass, Merrit Crump, Dakota Earnest, Autumn Friesen, Johnathan Davis, Sam Melendez, Matthew Ramos.

The children played two games, sang five songs, heard a story, and watched two movies.

Little Dribbler Parents

There will be a meeting for parents of kids who will be playing Little Dribblers this season. The meeting will be held on Jan. 23, Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at the clubroom in the old Courthouse.

New Baby Girl

Cassidy Lynn Tuggle of Grandbury announces the birth of her baby sister, Taylor Nicole Tuggle who was born on December 30, 1998 at Harris Methodist Southwest Hospital in Ft. Worth and weighed 6 lbs. and 6 oz. and is 19 1/4 inches long.

Parents are State Trooper Steve Tuggle and his wife Carri of Grandbury. Grandparents are Danny and Tink Tuggle also of Grandbury.

Proud Great Grandparents are Dorris and Louise Tuggle of Plains and Dockie Hulse of Brownwood.

Thank You !

We want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards, food and flowers that we received after the loss of our dad. We really appreciate all that everyone did for Sherm during the last several years. With help from loving friends he was able to stay home longer than he would have without the love and concern shown. Thank you for your love and prayers.

God bless each of you,
Eddie & Pam
Lee & Nancy
and families

Senior Citizens Corner

News is hard to find around the Center. Cold days and illness seem to be the everyday thing.

Ladies back at the Center after long stays at home are Bess Veazy, Lerrone Matus, Zelma Boone and Louise Green. Its good to see them out.

The domino tournament on Tuesday was fun. Helen Phipps joined the group of regulars. Fay Black and I won overall. No contest any more with the men. They either think they are better players than us or afraid they will get beat.

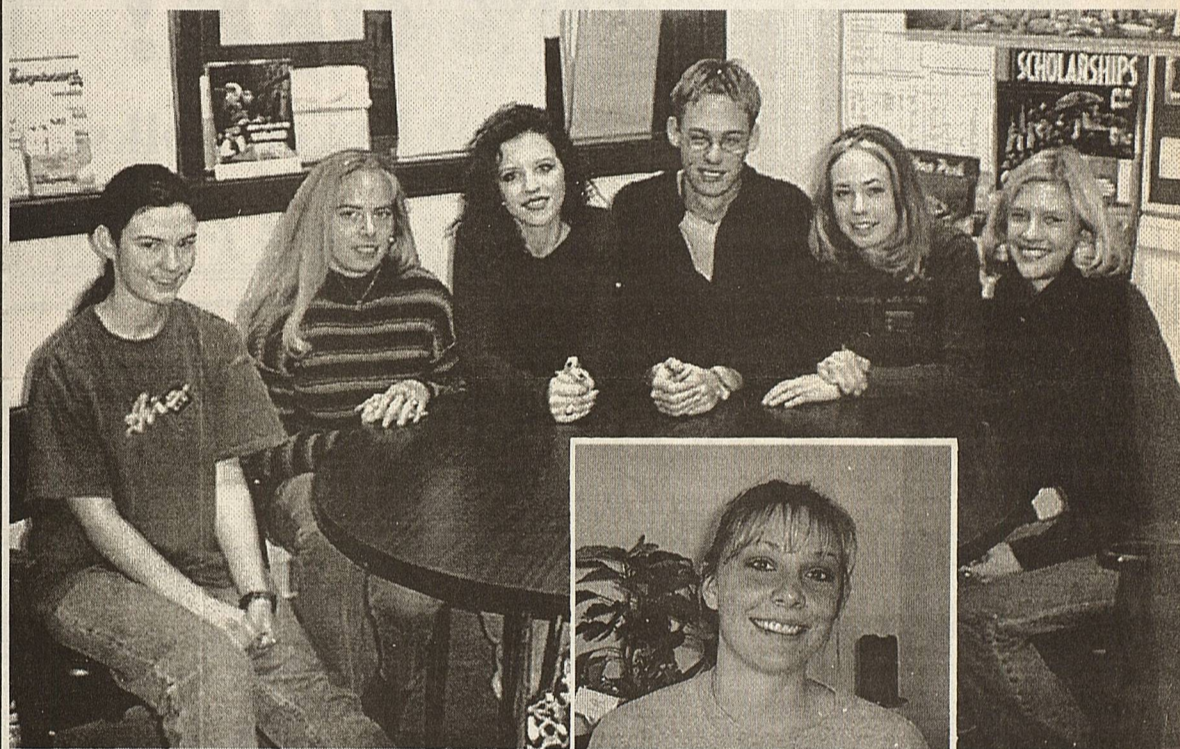
The "Jamboree" next Thursday is for everyone. It is a covered dish supper, music, visiting and fun. So come on in and enjoy the evening out.

The garage sale goes on and on. Come in any day and browse and while visiting the sale, take time to try out the exercise machines.

The hall is busy every day with walkers. It's better than the cold outside. There's something for everyone here at the Center. Come and see!

See you next week,
Smitty

PHS Seniors with plans for the future



The seven senior students shown here have all been formally accepted for admission to colleges or universities. As other '99 graduates are accepted, we will feature their profiles. In their seated order, Tommie McNabb, 17 year old daughter of Darryl and Pat McNabb, has been accepted and offered a scholarship at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Tommie plans to work towards a degree in bio-medical engineering. Cassie Dearing, 18 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Melvin Dearing, has been accepted for enrollment at West Texas A&M, Canyon. She has applied for acceptance at Texas A&M, College Station, and should have their decision sometime in February. She plans to study Veterinary Medicine. Maranda Box, 18 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Tommy Box, has been accepted at Abilene Christian University and offered a Trustees scholarship. She is thinking of pursuing a degree in Psychology. Clint Burrus, 17 year old son of Mr and Mrs Tommy Burrus, has been accepted at both the University of Texas, Austin, and at Southwestern University, Georgetown. At the present he is undecided about his major field of study. Lisa Parrish, 18 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Jerry Parrish, has been accepted at Texas A&M, College Station, and will seek a Marketing major degree. (Inset) Jolyne Burgess, 17 year old daughter of Mr and Mrs Don Burgess, has been accepted at Howard Payne University. She also considering Vernon Jr. College and Midwestern University. She hopes to follow a field of study leading to a career as a speech pathologist or physical therapist.

Brand New Babes

Halee proudly announces the birth of her new brother and sister. Born January 5, 1999, at 5:14 p.m., Hagen Dray weighed in at 4 pounds 15 ounces and was 17 3/4 inches long. Hannah Dru weighed in at 4 pounds 7 ounces and was 17 1/2 inches long. The proud parents are Jeff and Amanda of Plains.

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From The Hack

If you thought for a moment there are ludicrous, travesty type events taking place on Capitol Hill with the Presidential impeachment trial, how do you characterize the bit on CBS Evening News this Monday at 5:30 P.M.?

Don Rather, seemingly struggling to keep a straight face through the bit, explained the government, the U.S. Government, was now keeping a very close, suspicious eye on the Furbie Dolls, such a red-hot item for kids this Christmas.

The National Security Administration (NSA), just inches away in profound knowledge, wisdom and intelligence gathering from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), has called for a moratorium on the sale of Furbies, made in China, supposedly because they may be "Spies".

Yes, the goggle-eyed ugly creatures, according to the NSA, may have recording devices imbedded in their plump, fuzzy bellies, storing data on all sorts of secret stuff here in the U.S. For some reason it's a bit difficult for me to picture kids the Furbie loving age having a great deal of access to many national secrets, but nevertheless, the NSA apparently thinks differ-

ently. Dan's report failed to detail how the dastardly spying Chinese will recover the secrets from the Furbie bellies. Maybe they have some huge electronic listening device in the Gobi desert and they can tune in the Furbies and download them.

Seems to me this might be a golden opportunity for entrepreneurship. A go-getter type could rent space in the Lubbock mall, put out a sign reading, "Exploratory Surgery On Furbies Here", where he could open them up, check for recorders, then sew 'em back together for, say, five bucks per belly. If any recorders were found, I'll bet heavily the government would pay a handsome reward for them. Might be worth looking into.

I want to get serious a moment. I usually don't have a lot of time to spend staring at some idiocy

on television, but last night, after the CBS News mentioned above, and later followed by Dateline, a thought finally worked its way through my 'brain', a thought I am not one hundred percent sure I like.

It is now 6:55 A.M. on Tuesday, January 19, 1999, and I am going way out on a limb and saying I now think there is a very realistic chance William Jefferson Clinton will be impeached and removed from office. A few weeks ago I was saying, no way, the Senate will never convict him of an impeachable crime.

I don't think there is any one reason for my mind changing. Last night, however, I sensed the very tone of CBS and it's news anchors, long noted for fervent liberalism, has subtly changed. When Rather spoke on the impeachment subject, it seemed to me he was saying between the

lines, 'yes, it is very possible Clinton may be impeached by the Senate, and it's not such a far fetched idea as I first thought'.

Later Monday evening, Dateline left absolutely no doubt in any watchers minds about their characterization of Clinton as a habitual liar from childhood to present, and the farcial absurdity of his repeated protestations his time spent with Monica was nothing more than playing patty-cakes, and was 'certainly not a sexual act.'

Forget about your personal likes and dislikes of his possible removal from office. It is a frightening scenario, booting the President from the highest of high offices, something never done before in our history.

If it happens, I hope we can pick up all the pieces. There's sure to be lots of them scattered about.

The nation will survive, if it happens, but it's going to be an ugly story in future history books.

PHS Math/Science Team 2nd in meet

The PHS Math/Science Team finished second in a UIL meet at Midland Lee last weekend. The Number Sense Team finished 3rd, Calculator Team 2nd, Math Team 2nd, and Science Team was 1st. Individual results included; Sophs- Amanda Garcia 6th NS, 7th C. Nicole Haynes 9th NS, 9th C, 8th Sci. Leslie Rowe 6th, C, 5th Sci. Annaliesa O'Quinn 1st NS, 8th C. Juniors- Jason Swann 6th Sci. Velvet Canada 8th C, 5th M, 10th Sci. Seniors- Clint Burrus 4th NS, 4th C, 3rd M, 2nd Sci, 2nd Chem. Tommie McNabb 9th NS, 3rd C, 4th M, 4th Sci, 3rd Bio. Maranda Box 10th NS, 8th C, 7th M, 8th Sci.

Lea County Electric to Sponsor Washington Trip

An all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June will be awarded to two young people from this area by Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc., according to Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services. Around 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives around the county will converge on the nation's capitol as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Students

will visit many of the famous Washington landmarks and museums, as well as visit the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Brown said winners of an essay contest would be awarded the 13 day trip which begins June 17, 1999. Area high school students who are enrolled in one of the areas' public, private or home schools, and whose parents or legal guardians are members of the Cooperative are eligible to enter the contest.

Contest entrants will be required to prepare responses to several essay questions on energy and cooperative related subjects. Applications and resource materials that may be helpful to contestants are available from the Cooperative's main office in Lovington, or from either of the district offices in Tatum or Plains, Texas. Each entrant's essay responses will be judged on the basis of the student's knowledge of the subject, originality, composition, neatness and grammar. Deadline for submitting essays will be February 12, 1999. Five finalists will be selected to appear for interviews by a committee of judges. The top two winners will each receive a trip to Washington; the third through fifth place finalists will receive cash prizes of \$200, \$125, and \$75, respectively. For more information, contact Allan Brown at (800) 510-5232 (LCEC) or 396-3631.

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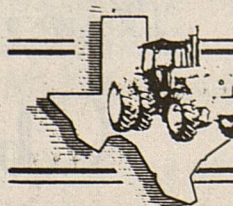


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