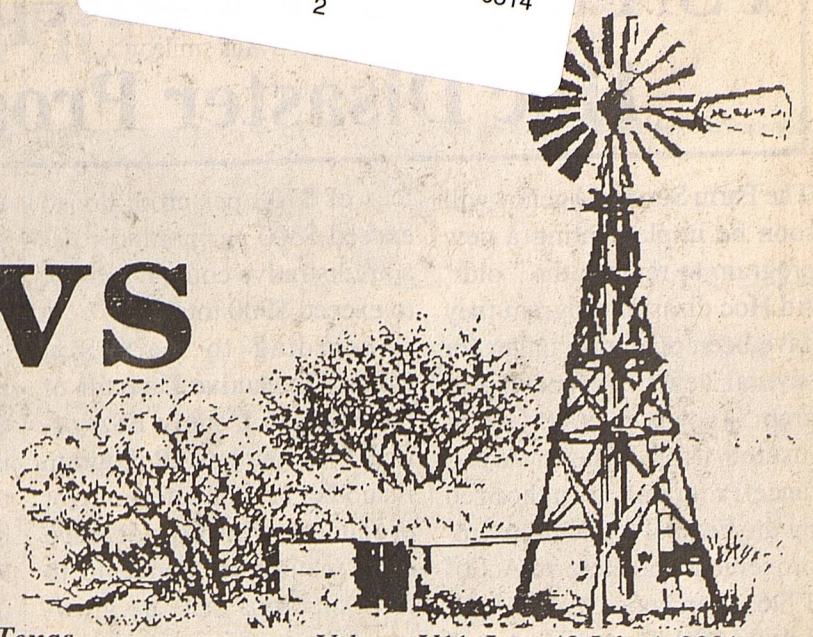


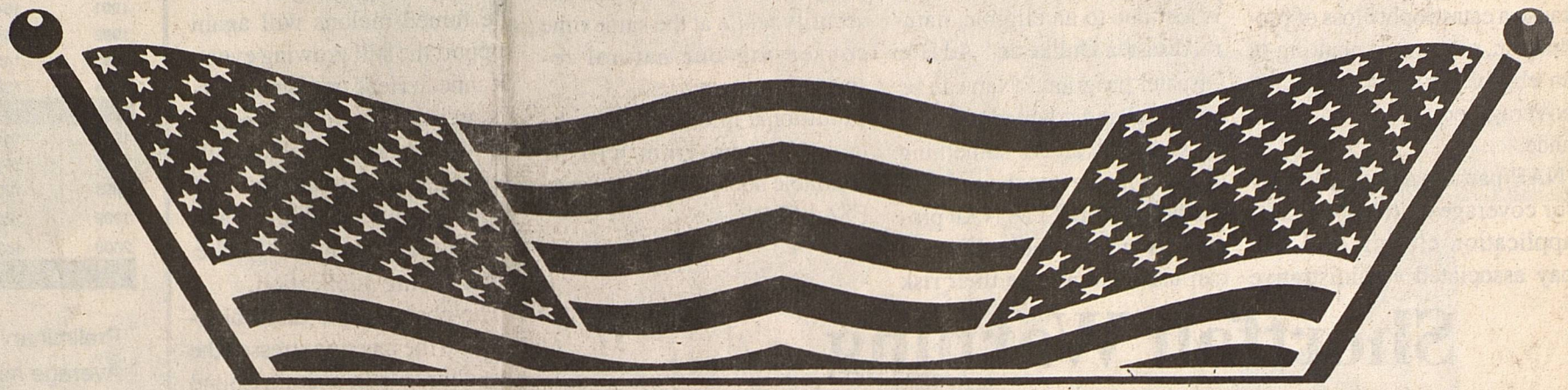
Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue42, July 4, 2001



Have A Grand
And Glorious
July 4th!



Good police work nets 'Speed' lab here

In a Monday morning interview this week, Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine told CCN, "Officers of this department, acting on information discovered Friday, June 29, followed good law enforcement procedures leading to the discovery of a Methamphetamine laboratory operating here in Plains. I am proud of the efforts and procedures these men used to result in the arrest of the suspect, one James Alexander."

Chief Deputy Jerry Howard first got word of the possible existence of the 'Speed' lab Friday evening. He alerted other department deputies, and notified the Llano Estacado Drug Task Force of the possibility of a methamphetamine purchase at the Alexander residence, and furnished the Task Force a description of the purchaser's vehicle. The vehicle was subsequently stopped, and the Speed was discovered.

On Saturday, off duty Sergeant Larry Murphree and Deputy Inoe Valdez were in the vicinity of the Alexander residence, and saw smoke rising from the backyard. Valdez remarked to Murphree it looked like someone was burning weeds or trash, and Murphree said, "There's a good possibility it's being burned to cover up the odor of methamphetamine cooking." He mentioned Alexander's name, and Valdez told

him, "We have an outstanding warrant for his arrest from a two count felony theft case in Taylor County," and the decision was made to arrest the suspect, after the officers notified Sheriff Corzine and Deputy Howard. The drug task force was also notified of the proposed action.

Alexander was arrested on the theft warrant, and the officers could smell the strong odor of chemicals used to manufacture the drug. A search of the house revealed all the elements and equipment for a fully operating lab, commonly called a "Nazi Meth Lab."

Drug Task Force personnel including Commander Rick Dickson and Agent Lisa Switzer were on hand, and had notified Drug Enforcement Agency personnel from Lubbock of the "bust." A special Hazardous Material Team was also called from Sherman, Oklahoma to dismantle the lab, after all evidence had been secured. The material will be taken to an approved disposal site.

Officers Howard and Murphree said the arrest and investigation of the lab site started about 1:30 P.M. Saturday, and didn't conclude until 1:30 A.M. Sunday. In small doses, Speed has a street price of about \$100 per gram, the normal

TURN TO PAGE 2, "SPEED LAB"

County onion harvest underway

The scenes shown here were captured last Friday in a thirty acre irrigated plot of white and yellow onions northeast of Plains. A number of other county producers are currently harvesting the "fields of tears". Some of the onions shown were the size of grapefruit, and the contracting foreman said they were excellent quality. The growers are all holding their breath, hoping the always volatile produce market price will result in a profitable venture.



What you may NOT know about July 4, 1776

We Americans know our Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia July 4, 1776, the magnificent document which freed our nation from Britain's control, right?

Only partially. Delegates to the Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia approved Jefferson's amended draft, including the statement "That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States."

John Hancock, President of the Congress, signed the document, and it was attested by Charles Thompson, Secretary. History refers to the moment as "the signing", although the other delegates did not sign until August 2 or later. Copies were ordered, and on July 5, a Pennsylvania newspaper printed the document - in German.

A rider delivered copies to
Turn to Page 2, 'JULY 4, 1776'

Better safe than sorry



City-County joint effort. City employees Alex Barrientes and Jerry Dominguez assist County employees Jess Gass and Danny Steffens free-up a city fireplug.

Last week, after experiencing problems with sand accumulations in the underground lawn sprinkler system at the courthouse complex, Maintenance Foreman Danny Steffens suspected a possible build of sand in the main line feeding the grounds and leading to the City fireplug shown in this photo. City employees attempted to open the fireplug, and experienced freezing of the valve. It was decided to dig the line up, and check the main line for a build up of sand. The city needed to make sure the fireplug valve could be opened, in case of a nearby fire. To be on the safe side, an emergency cut off valve was on hand just in case the fireplug broke open. It turned into a non-event when the fireplug was finally successfully opened.

Update on plans for 6th Watermelon Round Up

The Sixth Annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up promises to be bigger, and better. That's the consensus of many volunteer workers and chair people attending last week's planning meeting here.

The Biggest Melon Contest will give way to the first Best Decorated Melon Contest. Sundown State Banks in Denver City and Brownfield will award the overall winner with a \$500 savings bond. Wells Fargo Bank of Denver City will present the best senior entry (60 and up) with a \$250 savings bond, and Plains State Bank will award both the Junior (up to 9 years) and Youth winners (10-20 years) years with \$250 bonds.

This year's T-shirt design winner Billy Jo Ayers has her tal-

Turn To Page 2,
"ROUND UP"

Census numbers call for redrawing lines in Plains Independent School District

The Plains ISD met in a special called meeting Wednesday, June 27 with Portia Bosse, a lawyer representing the firm of Allison, Bass & Associates. Plains ISD has received demographic information from DeskMap Systems, Inc., which indicated the need to redraw the single-member district lines after the 2000 Census information was released. The Board met to consider their options for redrawing the lines for the five single-member districts of the Plains School Board. Plains currently has five single-member districts and two at-large districts.

The law requires redistricting if the total population between the highest populated single-member district and the lowest populated single-member district varies more than ten percent. The census numbers indicated Plains Trustee District 5 had a population of 268,

while District 2 had a population of 480. These numbers amounted to a Total Maximum Deviation of 56.9 percent.

Ms. Bosse brought a computer with her containing the information needed to redraw lines and develop a preliminary plan for redistricting. Additional analysis will take place after this preliminary work. A public meeting must be held before any final action can be taken. While a final date for the public hearing has not been set, it will probably take place in late July.

*** Attention Farmers ***
An article explaining the new USDA 'NAP' disaster relief program, administered by FSA offices, appears on Page 2. Additional info will be mailed and covered by CCN.

FSA'S New NAP Replaces Ad Hoc Disaster Program

The Farm Service Agency will soon be implementing a new program to replace the 'old' Ad Hoc disaster program they have been operating under for several years. The new program, known as NAP (Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program) is authorized by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996, as amended by the Agriculture Risk Protection Act of 2000. Nap was designed to reduce financial losses that occur when natural disasters cause a catastrophic loss of production, or prevent planting of an eligible crop, by providing coverage equivalent to insurance.

NAP participants must apply for coverage by the applicable application closing date and pay associated administrative

fees of \$100 per crop, not to exceed \$300 per producer per administrative county, and not to exceed \$900 total.

According to Gary Six, County Executive Director of the Yoakum County FSA office, "The new NAP program is another needed safety net for producers who do not have crop insurance available to them on crops they are growing. Like crop insurance, producers purchase the coverage and know up-front what they will be eligible for if their crop is lost due to an eligible, natural disaster. Unlike an "Ad Hoc Disaster program," Nap can be budgeted and counted on, on a yearly basis, and is something they can figure into their annual financing plan." The NAP program is another tool producers can use to minimize their risk

and loss by knowing ahead of any future disaster what their crop will be worth if it is lost and at what level it is lost.

According to Six, USDA is assisting producers in planning their operations and minimizing their risks while we work together to get through the 'hard times'. USDA continually looks for ways to assist not only the agricultural producers of the country, but also every citizen by supporting markets, reducing risks, and securing the stability of food, fiber and national security while at the same time conserving our natural resources.

Additional information on the new NAP program will be available soon from the county FSA office.

From Page 1, "ROUNDUP"
ents displayed on this year's Round Up T-shirt. Chair Mary Dale Forbus said she will take orders for the shirts, or contact the local library. Prices range from \$10 to slightly more for extra-large sizes. This year's Mens Round Up caps will sell for \$10, women's are \$12.

Both arts/crafts display booths and food booths have been selling well for the September fun day. Dene Richardson will replace Mary Jo St. Romain as chair of the registration and information booth.

Toni Jones, who for the sixth year will oversee the day long serving of free slices of cold watermelon says she is confident the many area growers of the famed melons will again support the still growing event. Jeannette Head and Linda Harris are hard at work completing the newspaper tabloid advertising the Round Up, and reported over \$5000 in ads have already been sold for the fund raising publication.

The chair people and volunteers at the meeting stressed the need for help in making Round Up number 6 another success. "There's plenty of work for more people. We need the support of all our county citizens."

Those attending the meeting were urged to remind friends and neighbors to contact their out of town kin and friends and urge them to join the day long fun event.

From Page 1, ' JULY 4, 1776 '

General Washington on July 9. Abigail Adams heard the document read to a crowd in Boston July 18. Around that time, a child born in Connecticut was named Independence, and an innkeeper was jailed for deriding the document. It took more than a month to circulate the declaration around the 13 colonies.

Few people outside the Continental Congress knew the author was Thomas Jefferson until that fact appeared in newspapers in 1784. He lived through all the belling and speechmaking without any personal commendation from the press.

Table 8: Consumer Cost of Motor Gasoline per Gallon and per Mile Driven, 1973-2001 (2001 cents)

Year	Cost Per Gallon	Passenger Cars		Vans, SUVs, Pickups	
		Average Miles Per Gallon	Cost Per Mile Traveled	Average Miles Per Gallon	Cost Per Mile Traveled
1973	154.1	13.4	11.5	10.5	14.7
1974	190.2	13.6	14.0	11.0	17.3
1975	189.3	13.0	13.3	10.5	17.7
1976	187.1	13.8	13.6	10.8	17.3
1977	186.8	14.1	13.2	11.2	16.7
1978	176.3	14.3	12.3	11.6	15.2
1979	214.2	14.6	14.7	11.9	18.0
1980	251.2	16.0	15.3	12.2	21.4
1981	262.4	16.5	15.9	12.5	21.0
1982	234.0	16.9	13.8	13.5	17.3
1983	216.8	17.1	12.7	13.7	15.8
1984	203.3	17.4	11.7	14.0	14.5
1985	183.0	17.5	11.4	14.3	13.7
1986	149.8	17.4	8.6	14.6	10.3
1987	148.5	18.0	8.3	14.9	10.0
1988	143.5	18.8	7.6	15.4	9.3
1989	150.7	19.0	7.9	16.1	9.4
1990	164.2	20.2	8.1	16.1	10.2
1991	154.8	21.1	7.3	17.0	9.1
1992	149.5	21.0	7.1	17.3	8.6
1993	143.1	20.5	7.0	17.4	8.2
1994	139.7	20.7	6.7	17.3	8.1
1995	139.4	21.1	6.3	17.3	8.1
1996	144.7	21.2	6.8	17.2	8.4
1997	141.8	21.5	6.6	17.2	8.2
1998	120.6	21.6	5.6	17.2	7.0
1999	129.2	21.4 ^a	6.0	17.1 ^a	7.6
2000	160.0	21.4 ^b	7.5	17.1 ^b	9.4
2001	157.0	21.4 ^b	7.4	17.1 ^b	9.3

^a Preliminary estimate

^b Average miles per gallon estimates for 2000 and 2001 are not yet available. The figures shown for 2000 and 2001 is the 1999 preliminary estimate.

Sources: API calculations based on Table 5 and U.S. Federal Highway Administration, Highway Statistics Annuals.

Shortfall Warning.....

By Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller

This month I certified the 2002-2003 biennial budget, but warned legislators that next session the state budget could be \$5 billion in the red.

This is tough news, but I am committed to being the voice of fiscal responsibility and the people of Texas need to know just what we are facing next session.

Appropriations for the 2002-03 biennium from General Revenue, at approximately \$61.7 billion, balance with the \$61.7 billion in funds currently expected to be available. This balance masks underlying discrepancies that could make the budget next session a challenge.

The appropriations base for General Revenue for the subsequent biennium (2004-05) will be at least \$1.4 billion

more than the \$61.7 billion because Senate Bill 1 includes funding for only one year of teacher health insurance at \$1.25 billion and delays the last Medicaid premium payment of \$150 million.

The 2002-03 budget also relies on a projected \$2.9 billion surplus for this biennium as part of the revenue base used to fund the \$61.7 billion in appropriations and an additional \$800 million is funded by one time measures that cannot be repeated next biennium.

While this does not necessarily mean there will be a \$5 billion shortfall next biennium, it does imply the seeds have been sown for significant challenges for budget writers next session.

I am pleased the Legislature took my advice and chose not to raid the state's Rainy Day

Fund, the balance of which is expected to increase to more than \$1.1 billion by November 2003.

The budget I certified appropriates a total of \$113.8 billion from all funds for the 2002-03 biennium. Of that amount, \$61.7 billion is from General Revenue, \$4.5 billion is General Revenue dedicated, and \$47.5 billion is from federal and other funds.

When the Legislature adjourned two years ago, total appropriations from all these funds was \$98.2 billion. All funds appropriations of \$113.8 billion for the next biennium represents an increase of 15.9 percent, compared to an increase of 11 percent for the 2000-01 biennium over the 1998-99 biennium.

Keep your tires properly inflated. For every pound per square inch your tires are under-inflated, you use one to two percent gas mileage

Plains employee tagged for Levelland position

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recently announced the appointment of Jerry Morphis as maintenance supervisor for its Levelland offices Morphis replaces Tracy Cumby who moved to Lubbock to take a district maintenance job. Morphis will assume his duties on July 1,

As supervisor, Morphis will be responsible for overseeing 15 employees in the Levelland section and for supervising all highway and right - of - way maintenance in Hockley County.

Morphis Joined TxDOT in 1984 as a maintenance technician in Plainview, and he was promoted in 1994 to supervisor in Plains office where he spent seven and a half years. He and wife, Debbie, have four children - Dustin, 30, Chad, 28, Tonya, 26, and Jeremy, 19.

July 10, 1716: Domingo Ramos founded Mission San Jose de los Naciona on Bill's Creek, Nacogdoches County; moved to San Antonio in 1731

July 18, 1917: The 36th (Texas) Division organized; first American division to invade Europe in WW II.

Plains, Texas Monthly Averages and Records

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Average
Avg. High	53 °F	58 °F	66 °F	75 °F	83 °F	89 °F	91 °F	89 °F	83 °F	75 °F	63 °F	55 °F	73 °F
Avg. Low	22 °F	26 °F	33 °F	42 °F	50 °F	59 °F	63 °F	61 °F	55 °F	43 °F	32 °F	24 °F	43 °F
Mean	38 °F	42 °F	50 °F	59 °F	67 °F	75 °F	77 °F	76 °F	70 °F	60 °F	48 °F	40 °F	64 °F
Avg. Precip.	0.40 in	0.70 in	0.60 in	1.00 in	2.10 in	2.40 in	2.60 in	2.70 in	2.60 in	1.30 in	0.70 in	0.70 in	17.80 in Record
Record High	81 °F (1972)	85 °F (1979)	95 °F (1971)	98 °F (1965)	102 °F (1998)	111 °F (1994)	109 °F (1998)	106 °F (1969)	103 °F (1948)	100 °F (1977)	87 °F (1950)	80 °F (1971)	111 °F Record High
Record Low	-12 °F (1948)	-12 °F (1951)	4 °F (1948)	16 °F (1973)	25 °F (1967)	42 °F (1970)	50 °F (1952)	49 °F (1967)	34 °F (1984)	18 °F (1993)	-2 °F (1957)	-4 °F (1989)	-12 °F Record Low

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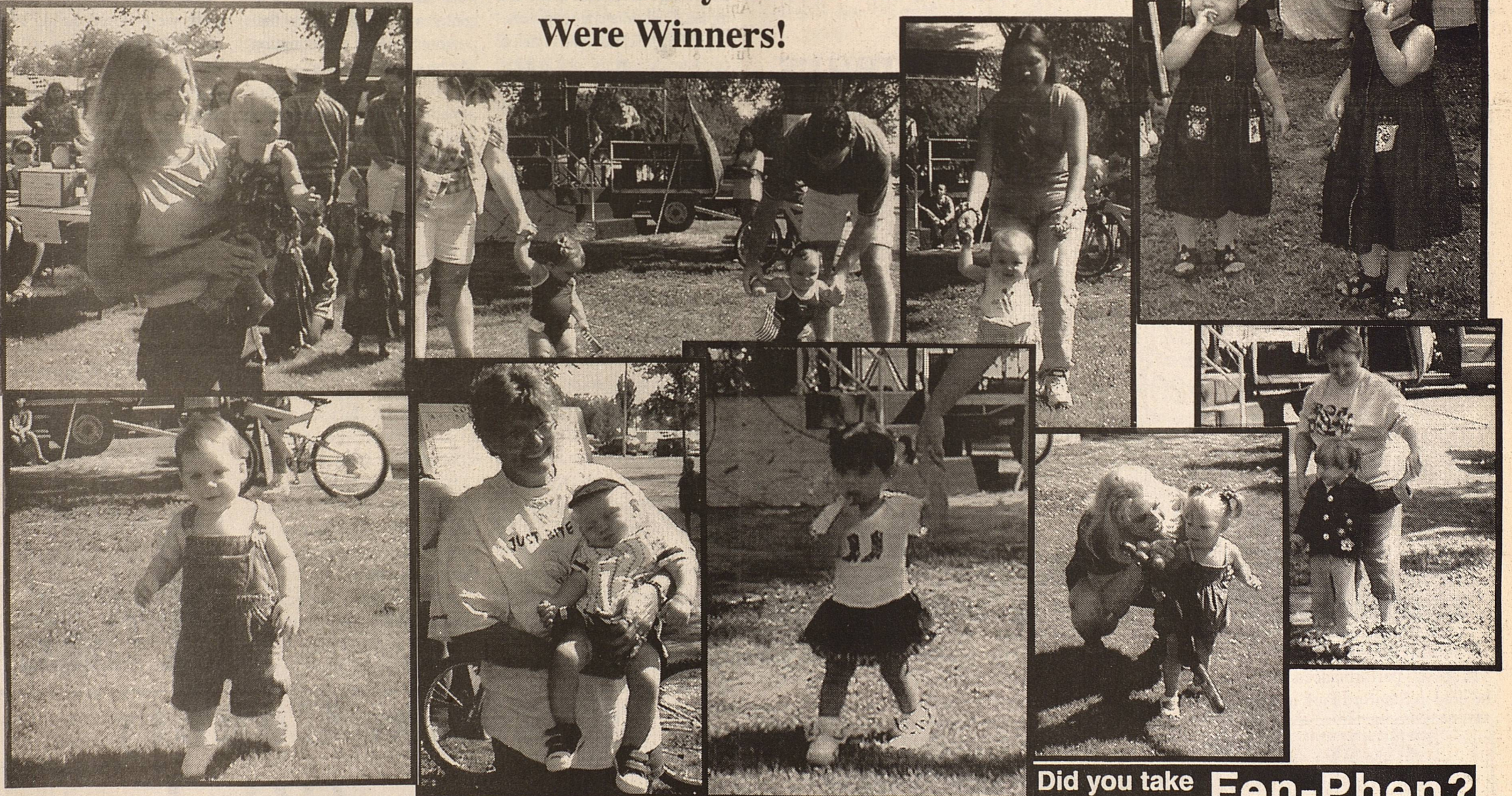
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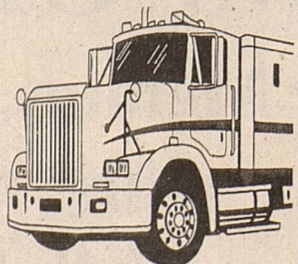
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Lary Combest Comments

Life on the farm isn't easy, especially when uncontrollable circumstances arise, like wild market swings or devastating weather conditions. I grew up on a farm, and I know the risks that come with working the land. During my years serving as your representative in Congress, I have used this background and my agriculture experience to shape federal policy that protects and strengthens the backbone of West Texas - the agriculture producer. Now, as Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I look forward to meeting the challenge of rewriting a new Farm Bill - one that adequately addresses the needs of farmers, with minimal government interference.

Farmers are facing a fourth straight year of record low prices and increased input that require immediate and long term attention. This farm recession ranks among the deepest in our nation's history. Net cash income over the last three years fell in real dollars to its lowest point since the great depression. Crop prices for the year 2000 were at a 27 year low for soybeans, 25 year low for cotton, a 14 year low for wheat and corn, and an 8 year low for rice.

When the 1996 Farm Bill passed - with fixed but declining contract payments - neither side of the political aisle predicted today's high costs and low commodity prices. I had major concerns about Freedom

To Farm, because of the decoupling of program benefits with commodity prices. But, in the first two years of the 1996 Farm Bill, we saw record high returns for producers and higher government payments. However, that tide turned. In recent years, producers have borne the financial consequences of rising fuel costs, a strong dollar, global crop surpluses, and continued trade barriers.

When farmers are unsure about income, bankers are not sure about lending. That uncertainty ultimately affects local retailers, suppliers, and equipment dealers. Predictable farm income support programs provide farmers with the ability to make sound, long term financial decisions. This Spring, President Bush committed an ADDITIONAL \$79 billion over ten years for agriculture - nearly doubling the commitment to agriculture.

To meet producers long term needs for a predictable farm policy, I plan on presenting a new farm bill to Congress by this August. House Agriculture Committee Members have sat down with producers in rural communities across the nation, and focused commodity groups on specific plans to pass a new farm bill this year. We have the long term budget commitment to build a strong counter-cyclical support measure into the next farm bill and maintain planting flexibility for producers.

On the other hand, our immediate problems remain. For the 2001 farm year, diesel prices will average \$1.50 a gallon - up 50 percent from last year. - while natural gas prices have fueled sharply increased costs for irrigation and nitrogen fertilizer. World markets awash in three years of bumper crops mean a large availability in countries whose own currencies offer consumers more buying power against the strong U.S. dollar. Despite some progress in lowering trade barriers, U.S. farm products arriving in foreign markets are slapped with an average 63 percent tariff.

To meet these immediate needs, I am working to make sure Congress will provide 2001 crop year assistance. I believe the need for a complete market loss assistance program is there, and I strongly support providing an amount of money similar to what was provided last year.

If Congress had not provided more than \$25 billion in additional backing during the last three years, tens of thousands of farmers would have been forced out of business, devastating rural America and throwing our local economy into a nosedive. With a new farm bill in place for the 2002 crop, farmers will no longer be forced to bank on a hope Congress will provide assistance - they will have a permanent program in place.

FERC's Umbrella New Mexico 'Protected' By New Order

By W.H. Graham
Lovington Daily Leader

A recent decision by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission affecting 11 western states surprised and dismayed the manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative.

"The FERC decision was a monumental error in my opinion," said Mike Dreyspring last Friday. Up until now they have resisted the political pressure to use price caps, and they finally caved in, undoing nine years of work toward deregulation of the wholesale electricity market."

Dreyspring, who had been critical of the California approach to deregulation but who does not oppose it in principle, added, "There had been very good movement toward a deregulated electric industry at the wholesale level, which is really all that is required. California Gary Davis finally got FERC to do something they should not have done."

So far, it has been unclear in published industry reports as to just how the agency order might affect New Mexico, but Dreyspring is optimistic on that. "I don't know at this point where the price caps will apply," he said, "but I really do not see any financial or reliability impact for Lea County Electric's members."

Of greater importance to LCEC, Dreyspring says

he was told last week by officials of Southwestern Public Service Company, which supplies wholesale power to the Co-Op, that the Texas generator will abandon its efforts to rewrite the exclusive supplier contract it has with the Lovington based cooperative, which serves part of of six counties in Eastern New Mexico and includes portions of Texas' Gaines and Yoakum counties.

Undoing the contract could have opened the door to major increases in electricity costs in the next few years. The effect of this means local users can expect to benefit under the existing low-cost power agreement through 2015.

The reason SPS, now a part of Minneapolis based Xcel Energy, backed off is the legislatures in both Texas and New Mexico have pushed back state deregulation plans for five years. A divestiture order from the Texas Public Utility Commission for SPS to sell much of its generation capacity has thus been removed - at least for the time being.

Lea County Electric was contesting the attempted change with litigation before the FERC.

Dreyspring, surveying the turbulent times through which the electric utility industry is now passing, observed, "Politicians do not understand economics. This (the FERC order covering the western states) will fail,"

Capitol Comment

U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Eight years of neglected and short-sighted policies have brought our country to the worst energy supply crisis since the 1970's.

Energy shortages are hurting millions of Americans; drivers are paying skyrocketing prices for gasoline, on average 30 to 40 cents per gallon more than a year ago. Winter heating bills in some states have tripled. Californians are experiencing rolling blackouts and high fuel costs are destroying jobs in transportation, lumber and agriculture sectors. A fundamental imbalance of supply and demand has brought on the crisis.

We rely on foreign imports for over 56 percent of our oil. Our energy infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate. Not a single major oil refinery has been built in nearly 25 years. Our outdated network of generators, transmission lines and pipelines is in critical need of modernization.

Unless we act, the situation is only going to deteriorate, America's future energy needs far outstrip current levels of production. In the next 20 years U.S. oil consumption will rise by 33 percent, natural gas consumption more than 50 percent, and demand for electricity will rise by 45 percent.

The President has issued an emergency call to arms, a balanced energy policy that includes:

Modernization of our energy sup-

plies;

Diversification of energy supplies; Modernizing, increasing our conservation and efficient energy use.

I plan to offer legislation that will compliment the Administration's energy initiatives by creating two kinds of tax credits set to encourage production from marginal wells, and another offering tax incentives to people who cut their personal energy consumption. My proposals include:

A tax credit for small oil and gas producers whose marginal wells produce less than 15 barrels a day.

Allowing a \$250 tax credit if, from June 1, 2001 to December 31, 2001,

a taxpayer can show a reduced home energy consumption of 10 percent when compared with usage over the same period the previous year

Allowing a \$250 tax credit to a taxpayer who purchases a fuel efficient vehicle operating above 27.5 miles per gallon in calendar year 2001.

This is common sense. If people lower their energy consumption by 10 percent, or buy a fuel efficient car, let's give them a tax credit.

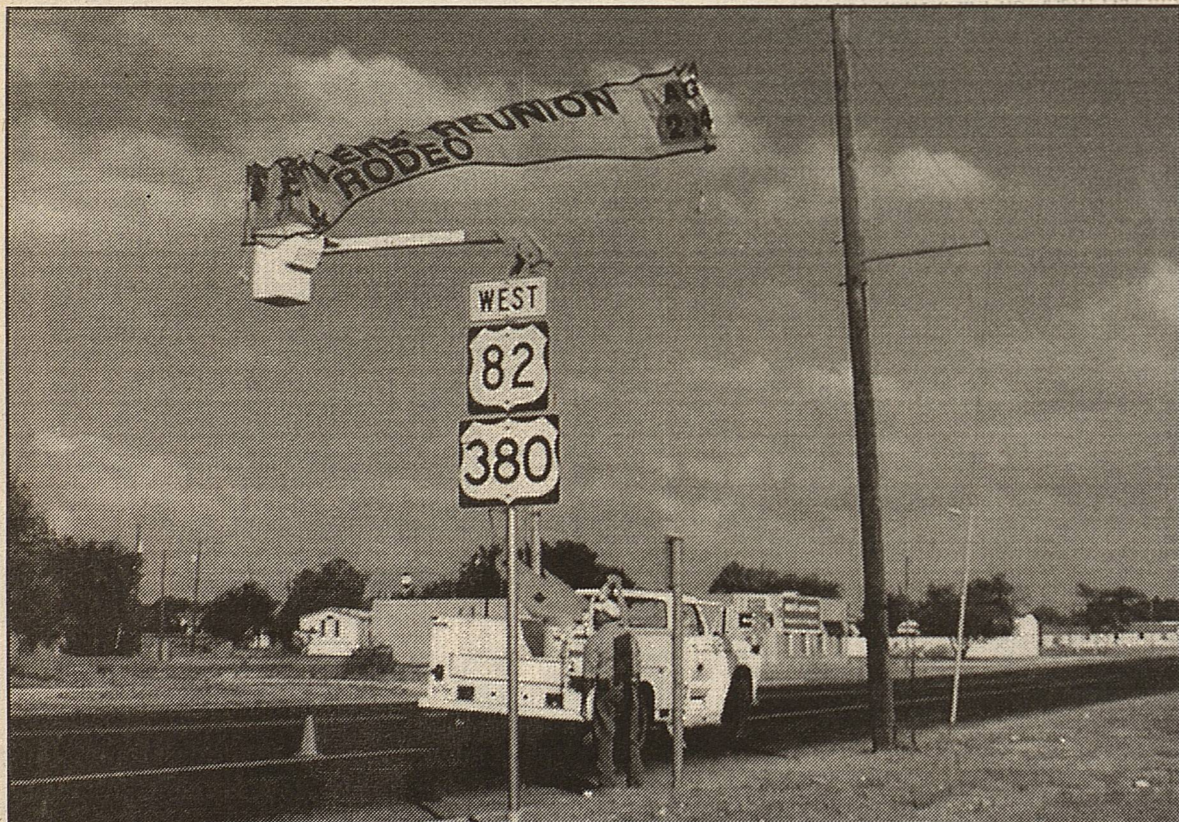
But it is also critical our domestic producers have the incentives to keep our wells pumping. The only permanent

way to address the supply problems driving consumer oil and gas prices sky high is to boost domestic production from existing wells by offering incentives to make them more cost effective to operate. It's estimated my bill would spur the reopening of 75,000 domestic wells able to produce 250,000 barrels of oil a day, and includes provisions to encourage natural gas production.

More than 150,000 domestic wells were closed during 1997 and 1998 when prices fell below \$10 per barrel, cutting production by 500,000 barrels per day. Many independent operators are reluctant to incur high costs associated with reopening these wells unless reassured oil prices will not fall below break even levels.

Curtailed dependence on foreign oil is the only way to discourage disruptive spikes in energy prices. America's long term economic and national security may well depend on it.

Rodeo, Reunion time nears



City employees Alex Barrientes (in bucket) and Jerry Dominguez are seen hanging the banner announcing the annual Plains Rodeo and Reunion scheduled for August 2nd through August 4th. Rodeo performances will be held all three nights, and the Reunion and barbecue lunch will be held in Stanford Park at noon Saturday. Make your plans now to attend!

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Rules for Watermelon Round Up melon decorating contest

1. Winners must live in Yoakum County or reside within 10 miles of county line. Award of \$250 savings bonds go to age groups Junior 1 - 9, Youth 10 -20, Seniors 60 and up. Any age is eligible for the Best in Show \$500 savings bond.
2. Winner must verify savings bonds have Name, Address and Social Security number with donor bank
3. Persons are eligible for grand prize of \$500 savings bond regardless of other age groups wins.
4. A whole or parts of real watermelon of any variety may be used.
5. No restrictions apply on decoration materials except they must be in good taste, Chair will determine if inappropriate in case of dispute.
6. Painting or carving may be done on the melon(s).
7. If prop to hold watermelon in a certain position is needed, contestant is responsible.
8. Contestant must leave watermelon on display from 10:00AM until 5:00PM on day of contest. Disposal of melon or materials will be handled by chair if contestant doesn't claim it.
9. Only one entry per person; forms to be filled out will be at the information desk when entering contest.
10. Name plates may accompany entry if it adds to understanding of decoration

Testing for Technology

Pre-entrance exams for the SouthPlains College surgical technology and vocational nursing program at the Reese Center will be given Sept. 13 in SPC'S computerized testing facilities on the Levelland campus. "We have testing for these programs on the Levelland campus to facilitate the testing procedure for the benefit of the students," said Marla Cottenor, Dean of the Health Occupations Division. "This will allow students to get their test scores immediately and give them more time for re-testing, if needed. It should

make the testing procedure run more smoothly.' Computerized testing is scheduled at 9:am and at 1:pm. in the Technical Arts Building, room 110. Fee is \$ 25, payable by money order. Pre - registration for the testing is required.

Additional exams are scheduled Sept. 20. The exams are among requirements for admission to the spring classes in surgical technology and vocational nursing at the Reese Center. For more information or to pre - register, contact Lissa Sharp, testing coordinator, at 894 - 9611, ext. 2367 or 2530.

Taylor Gray receives FFA Scholarship

The National FFA Organization awarded a \$1,000. scholarship to Taylor Gray of Plains High School. The Scholarship is sponsored by Dairy Management Inc. a special project of the National FFA Foundation, Inc. Taylor plans to use the funds to pursue a degree in Animal Science at West Texas A&M University. Taylor's parents are Jim and Cindy Gray of Plains. The Dairy Management Inc. scholarship is one of 1480 awards

through the National FFA Scholarship Program this year. This is the 18th year that scholarships have been made available through the National FFA Foundation by business and industry sponsors to reward and encourage excellence and enable students to pursue their goals. Taylor was also awarded a Sandy Land Water District \$1000. scholarship, a \$600 Agriculture scholarship at West Texas A & M, and a \$ 1000 FFA National Scholarship.

Engagement Announced



Dr. and Mrs. Reinhard Schwarz of Munich, Germany wish to announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter Suzanne to Devin Phillip Zuber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip R. Zuber of Mitchellville, Maryland. The couple will be wed in Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania on Saturday, July 28, 2001. Following their marriage the young couple will reside in New York City where they will attend graduate school. Suzanne is the granddaughter of Vera Bennett and the late Gene Bennett. Her mother Becky is a 1968 graduate of Denver City High School, and her father Blackie was the first foreign exchange student to attend school in Denver City. Blackie lived with Ralph and Sue Townes during his stay in Denver City.

Senior Citizens Corner

It seems like only yesterday I was doing this very thing. Monday night Billie McDonnell and Billie O'Neal won the pool game. Every Monday is pool and games night at the center at 6:30 PM.

Tuesday was the '42' Tournament, and winners were Ireta Davis and Eileen Fillipp. On Tuesday Dr. Halipoto made an interesting talk on Osteoporosis, and how to care for your bones to keep them from breaking.

We finally had news on Bertie Smith, also known as "Smitty" and used to write this column before moving away. She is in Lubbock now and seems to be doing well.

We would also like to see all the faces and smiles from the ones who have been sick, or gone on trips, back at the Center real soon.

Our condolences to the Greer's on the loss of Bruce's brother.

Next Monday, July 2, is Birthdays and Anniversaries. All seniors will be honored at 11:30 AM, so be sure to come if you have a birthday or anniversary in the month of July.

I would also like to let you know we are enjoying some of our family members visiting with us. Our grandson just finished six months in Kosovo, but will return to Germany. That's about it for this week.

Till next week,

Wanda B.

Helping children learn the value of money

Most of what children learn about managing money comes from their parents, and we all hope our offsprings will grow up to be financially responsible adults. Here are some ways you can teach your kids to save and instill a healthy dose of financial responsibility they can carry to adulthood.

Start early. Even very young children can learn to tell different coins apart. Give them each a bank and teach them to deposit their coins and watch their banks fill up.

Make savings a habit. Encourage children to save a portion of their income, even if it's only a small amount from a monthly allowance, earnings from a lemonade stand or a part-time job later on.

Give regular allowances. Allowances give kids the chance to manage cash "hands on," a chance to practice how to save regularly and plan their spending. Of course, the amount should fit the child and be determined by you.

Open an account in your child's name. Savings can show youngsters how their money can earn more money through compound interest. They will also see that their funds are in a safe place, recorded and available when they need it. Regular deposits, however small, will help them feel comfortable handling their own accounts. Referring to their

statements reminds them their savings are there and growing.

Help plan a budget. Have your kids practice writing down what they'll buy during the week and how much each item costs. Then, suggest they compare the list to their weekly income. If it doesn't add up they'll have to prioritize their immediate needs and wants. Encourage goal setting. Help your kids acquire the planned savings habit by helping them make a "wish list" and a schedule for savings for with a target date for acquiring the wished for items. Encourage money-earning ventures. Suggest older children find creative ways to earn money beyond their weekly allowances—doing special chores or seeking jobs around the neighborhood such as raking leaves, running errands or pet sitting.

Fiscal responsibility want happen overnight. If you begin early, however, by the time your children are ready to start their own investment, the ground work will be in place for them to become savvy investors.

To learn more about teaching kids money matters write to Wes Pearson, 4010 82nd ST. Ste 110 Lubbock, Tx 79423

Burrus makes Dean's List

Southwestern university students who have been named to the 2001 Spring Dean's List for academic achievements must have at least a 3.6 grade point average on a 4.0 scale with at least 12 graded hours and be in good standing with the University. Students named to the 2001 Spring Dean's List include Clint Field Burrus of Plains, son of Tommy and Sarah K Burrus also of Plains

* Help Wanted *

We are looking for a friendly, concientious and hard working person to be a part of the Soil and Water Conservation District as Secretary/Bookeeper. This is a part-time position at 15-20 hours per week, \$7.50 per hour. Please apply in person at the soil and water conservation district office located at 1305 Cowboy Way

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Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

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Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm

Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

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ATTENTION LADIES!

Fruit cobblers are needed for the noon barbecue at the Old Settlers Reunion. You may pick up serving cups at the Dairy Queen, and the cobblers should be delivered to Stanford Park no later than 11 A.M. Saturday, Aug. 4.

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From The Hack

I have been cajoled, threatened, begged pleaded with long enough to do the following bit about women. Actually, it wasn't any of the above which pressured me into this - I was threatened with four subscription and three ad cancellations if I failed to comply. Forgive me, ladies, for you will understand my persecution.

"Why can't women understand these simple things about men."

Learn to work the toilet seat - If it's up, put it down. We need it up, you need it down - no more complaining.

If you don't dress like Victoria's Secret girls, don't expect us to act like soap opera guys.

If you think you're fat, chances are you are. Don't ask us. We will refuse to answer.

If you ask a question you don't want an answer to, expect an answer you don't want to hear. (really, really listen to this one.) Sometimes, we're not thinking of you. Live with it.

Don't ask us what we're thinking about unless you're prepared to discuss golf, fishing, navel lint or beer-food, in either order.

Shopping is not a sport, and no, we shall never consider it as such.

When we have to go somewhere, absolutely anything you wear is fine - really fine!

You have enough shoes. You have enough clothes. Crying is blackmail!

Ask for what you want. Subtle hints, strong hints, obvious hints don't work. Just say It!

Using the facility is much easier standing up. Odds are we'll miss sometimes.

Most guys own three pair of shoes. Why think we'd be any good choosing out of thirty you own with anything you wear?

Yes and No are acceptable to most questions.

Come to us with a problem if you seek help solving it. Sympathy is what girls do.

A "headache" lasting 6 months is a problem. See a Doctor.

Check your own oil!

Anything we said six months ago is inadmissible in an argument. All comments become null and void after 7 days.

If one of the things we said makes you sad or angry, we meant the other.

Let us ogle - we're going to look anyway - it's genetic!

All men see in only 16 colors. Peach is a fruit, not a color.

If it itches, it will be scratched.

If we ask what's wrong, and you say nothing, we will act like nothing's wrong. Simple enough, right?

Again, I emphatically deny any collaboration in assembling any or all of the above, and if irate callers or writers swarm me, I

promise to divulge the TRUE source of all this blasphemy!

An innocent, recent trip to the Library has caused me immense anguish. My appetite has dwindled, I have backslidened to gnawing my finger nails, I can't sleep at night, and lie there writhing like an eel out of water. I started to write, writhing like a snake, but the Bride's fear and hatred of snakes prompted me to use eels - If she suspicioned I was writhing like a snake, I'd be banished to our deck come bedtime.

What brought about this malaise? I happened to spot the current issue of NEWSWEEK magazine, the cover of which was devoted colorfully to the subject, "How the Univers will end."

I read the lengthy article. I read it again - and again, and each time, it seemed to grow longer, more confusing, if not completely incomprehensible.

We are doomed. All forms of life on our planet are doomed. That much I fully understand. But the truth is, I don't begin

to understand a tenth of what I have read and re-read.

You start throwing words and terms at me like turbo-charged expansion, protons, Quarks, neutrons and neutralino, axion, milimetric extragalactic radiation, millimeter anisotropy, dark matter and dark energy, you have left me light years behind.

I think the article explains scientists accepted theory of the 'Big Bang' creation some 15 billion plus years ago, I also think the article is a scholarly attempt to tell us, the universe is expanding, flying apart at incredible light year speeds. I KNOW it's predicting, with pretty convincing data (only a teeny proton of which I understand), the earth's sun is doomed; It will expand, grow hotter and hotter, to the point life on earth will be impossible.

Are you scared yet? I was. But finally, I managed to plow my way through the scientific stuff about the eleventh time, and it dawned on me - the Bride and I, nor YOU, have to worry about all this.

Scientists estimate the sun is about halfway through it's projected 10 billion year lifespan, and they cheerfully project it will be about another billion

years before it becomes hot enough to boil our oceans away.

I feel much better, don't you? And if you local wearers of clergy cloth are considering irate phone calls or letters to your truly, admonishing me about writing about all this, let me assure you of a couple of things;

It is much easier for me to understand, "And on the seventh day HE rested," and waiting for the Rapture is a much more pleasant thought than waiting in line to board the last space ship to escape our doomed world. I'll bet the rapture is a much swifter journey, too.

There is a tree on the fifth hole of the Yoakum County Golf Course un-affectionately referred to as the 'Hell Tree', or other much more powerful terms.

The large and growing elm tree is an obstacle all golfers must confront with their tee-shot, be it from the black, red, yellow, even the women's tee boxes. You miss it, you have a chance - you hit it, you're dead meat.

I usually hit it. My hatred of the abysmal growing monster grows faster than it does. I am comforted with the knowledge my hatred is shared by 99.2 % of golfers play-

ing the hole.

I have witnessed these desecrations against the ogre, ever growing tree; I saw a player bash the rotund trunk of the tree three times with a \$300 three wood - the tree survived, the club is history. Countless times I have witnessed irate male golfers approach the tree, and ease their blader upon it's sturdy trunk, hoping to over fertilize and eventually kill the fiendish tree. I did not witness this, but I heard a former D.C. insurance agent on numerous occasions slipped from his home late at night and sped to the tree, working furiously trying to set it aflame with a Bic lighter and roll of toilet paper. He finally quit the practice when his lighter exploded and singed his nose, throat and eye brows one frosty night. I also know an affluent player who tinkers with a cotton gin in the fall and winter who tried to bribe an aerial spraying firm to give it a dose of Agent Orange.

Why do I bore you with all this? Because, naturally, I hit it this week-end. Tell you what, tree hugging idiots, you better not be hugging this sucker when I get my chain saw working again!


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Driver License Office
OPEN June 25th thru July 2nd 9:30 am. to 4:00 pm. CLOSED June 26th thru 29th.
CLOSED July 3rd thru July 6th.
REGULAR office hours will resume Monday, July 9th.

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Hooked

More than 5,500 bass fishing tournaments are held in Texas each year, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) estimates. About 14 percent—more than 200,000—of the nearly 1.5 million freshwater anglers licensed in Texas participate in tournaments. Prize packages are often hundreds of thousands of dollars—sometimes millions.

No one knows the total economic impact, but a 1999 TPWD study of a Lake Fork Reservoir tournament showed that 121 participants who came from out of state each spent an average of \$213 in the Lake Fork area and \$54 in other parts of Texas on the same trip. The entire tournament brought more than \$126,000 to the area.

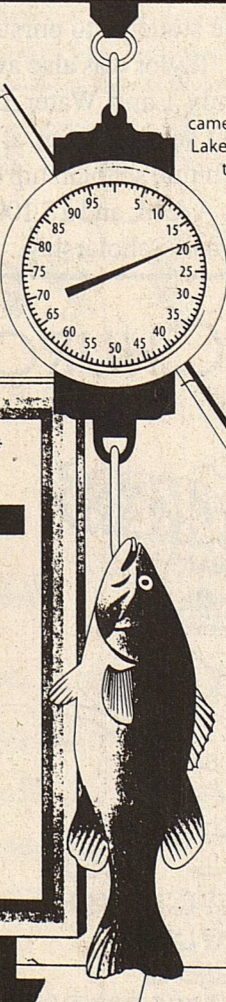

And that was a fairly small tournament. One of the largest tournaments in the state is at Lake Sam Rayburn with more than 5,000 participants a year.

Texas freshwater rod and bass records*

Species	Weight in pounds
Striped	53
Hybrid Striped	19.66
Largemouth	18.18
Smallmouth	7.93
Spotted	5.56
White	5.56
Hybrid Guadalupe	4.69
Hybrid Yellow	3.86
Guadalupe	3.69
Yellow	1.37

* As of April 12, 2001

SOURCE: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
GRAPHIC: Gilbert Consoop.

Texas at a Glance