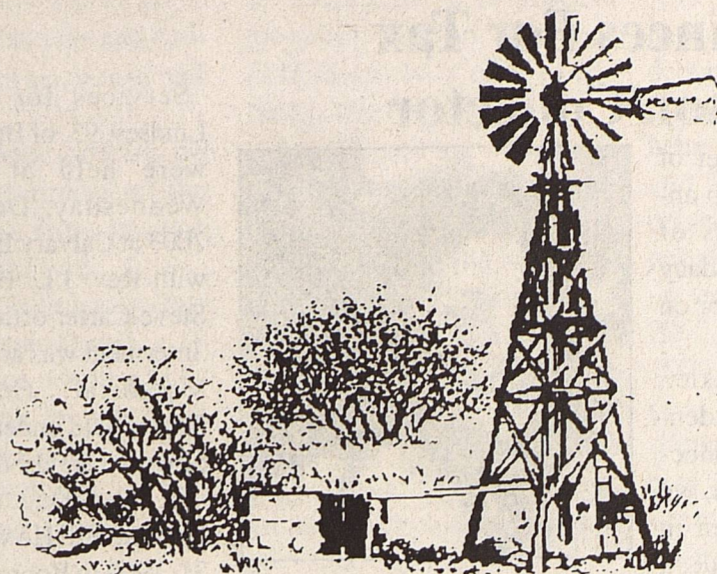


# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 16, December 31, 2003



## Seven hopefuls vie for District 31 Senate job

Seven candidates, six Republicans and one Democrat, filed to run for State Senator in sprawling District 31, stretched over 26 counties from the northern Panhandle southward to the heart of the Permian Basin around Midland and Odessa. They are battling for the senate seat held by Teel Bivins, recently appointed Ambassador to Sweden by President Bush.

The one Democrat candidate is Ms. Elaine King Miller, 52, an education consultant from Amarillo.

She will be opposed by these Republican candidates; Bob Barnes, 49, a restaurant owner from Odessa; Kirk Edwards, 44, a businessman from Odessa; Don Sparks, 64, business owner from Midland; Jesse Quackenbush, 40, restaurant owner and attorney from Amarillo; Kel Seliger, 50, business owner from Amarillo; and Lee Gibson, 50, a farmer from Dumas; The special election date is Tuesday, January 20.

## Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District 2003 Depletion Allowance

Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District announces that the Yoakum County water depletion maps for 2003 are complete. Earlier this month, an agent from the Internal Revenue Service approved these maps, constructed by District personnel from information collected within the District. They are used to determine the amount of decline al-

lowable on 2003 federal income tax returns.

All landowners in Yoakum County who utilize groundwater may claim a cost in water income tax depletion allowance on their federal income tax return. Landowners must have an established value in their water and a decline of the water table for the year of 2003 before the claim can be made.

## Court approves agreement on regional drug task force

In Commissioners Court December 29, Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark explained a proposed interlocal agreement between the County of Yoakum, County of Terry, City of Brownfield and City of Lubbock participating in a State of Texas grant which would fund operation of the South Plains Regional Narcotics Task Force. As explained earlier by Clark, the agreement is necessary to ensure Yoakum County will be eligible for state funds to continue drug enforcement operations locally. Clark told the court the present grant program expires May 31, 2004. Under the new, jointly shared grant, Yoakum County will fund 25 percent of the salary for Task Force Investigator Lisa Switzer's salary, with Lubbock County funding the balance. Clark repeated

Turn To Page 3, Drug Task Force

## A mixed review of state's 2003 cotton crop Local production areas fare much better than many others

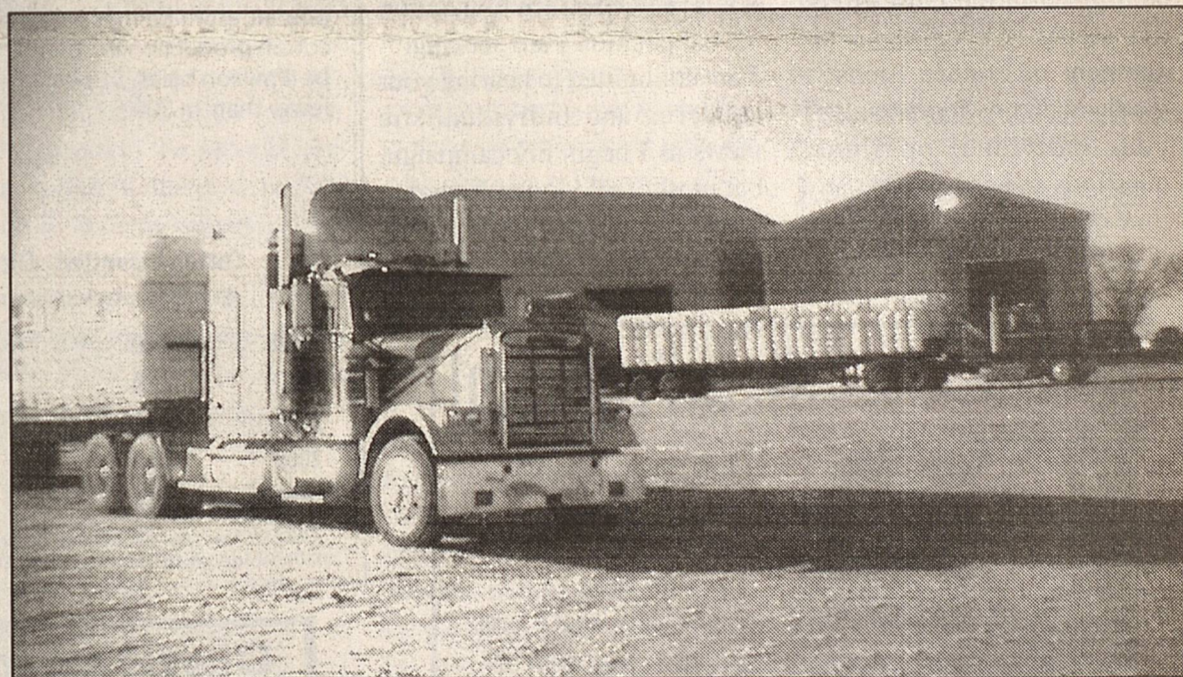
Yoakum County cotton producers may not have hit a production home run this season, but undoubtedly suffered far less adverse conditions than those in many areas across the state.

A quick telephone survey of the cotton gins in the county indicate production will not result in new ginning records, but was undoubtedly better than thought at the beginning of the season.

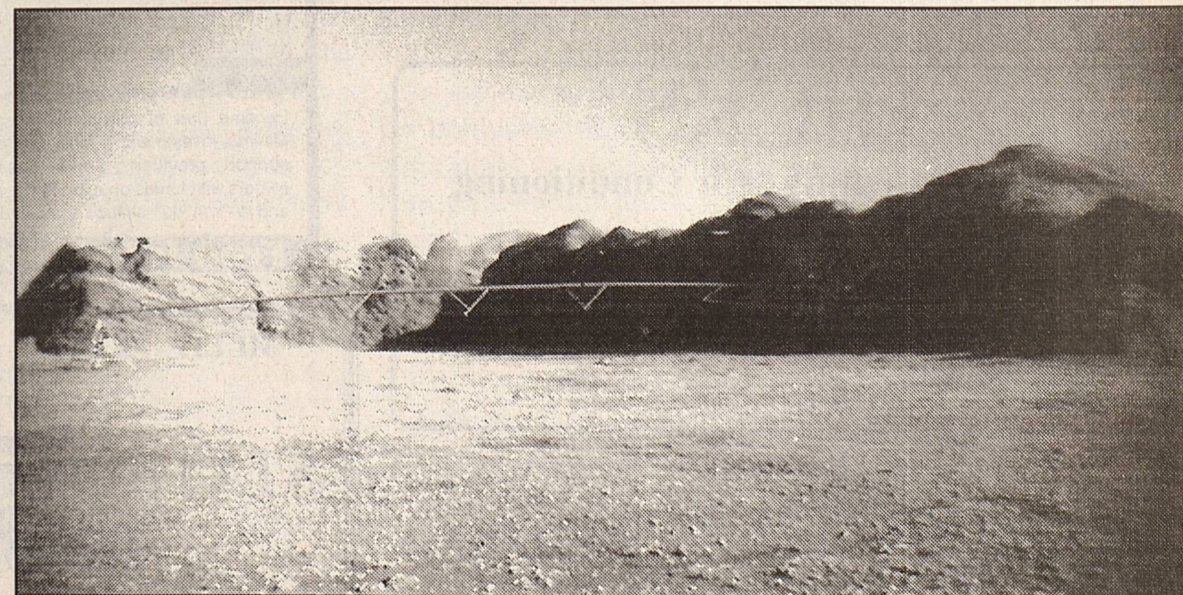
Tokio CoOp Gin Manager Marc Traweck reported he was pleasantly surprised with his customers production. The ginning should be final in the next few days, and he is estimating a final bale count of some 20,600...a healthy increase over last years run of 16,500 bales. He attributed the increase to a dry land crop which produced much better than originally expected.

Yoakum County CoOp officials were also well pleased with their production. The gin had produced some 29,000 bales when contacted early this week, and anticipates a total run of about 34,000 bales, well more than the gin has produced in recent years.

New Tex Gin Manager Ron Craft anticipates finishing the season with about 30,500 bales, some 6,000 bales less than in 2001. "We had a substantial number of irrigated acres planted with peanuts this year, which reduced our output and we also suffered a very dry spell plus some hail damage." Sun Cot Gin's bale count also suffered from Mother Nature when a severe hail storm devastated many acres in the Higginbotham area. They anticipate finishing with a little more than 14,000 bales.



A pair of trucks loaded with cotton bales at Yoakum County CoOp gin ready for trip to Lubbock



A veritable mountain of burr trash continues to build at the gin

EDITORS NOTE: The balance of this article deals with a detailed look at the statewide 2003 cotton crop year, comprised of material from *Fiscal Notes*, a publication of the Texas Comptroller office in Austin.

For Texas cotton growers, 2003 was the best of times and it was the worst of times. Growers in parts of the state battled droughts, heavy rains and hail, which devastated some crops and dropped yields to record lows. Other growers,

including those in the southern part of the state around Corpus Christi, found near perfect conditions for growing cotton, and reported all-time high yields.

While final 2003 production figures won't be available until 2004, Texas agriculture officials estimate that statewide cotton production from 2003 will reach 4 million bales, 21 percent less than 2002, according to an October report from the Texas Agricultural Statistical Service (TASS). Yields for 2003 are expected to average

436 pounds per acre, down from 538 pounds per acre in 2002.

Droughts, hail and poor weather conditions wiped out about 1 million of the 5.6 million acres of cotton planted in 2003, said Jerry Ramirez, crops group leader for the TASS.

"They've (cotton growers) gotten a mixed bag," Ramirez said. "Central Texas has had a pretty good year. Up in the

Turn to Pg. 3,  
"Cotton"

## Elfida Lazos-Winkler Announces For Tax Assessor/Collector

"I, Elfida Lazos Winkler of Denver City, am proud to announce to the citizens of Yoakum County my candidacy for Tax Assessor/Collector on the Republican ticket.

My husband is Tim Winkler, who is employed by Occidental Permian as a shift Production Technician. Together, we have raised four children in Denver City: Mindy Conde, a computer animation major of the Academy of Art College in San Francisco; Micky Conde of Levelland; Oscar Conde of Denver City; and Ashley Conde, a freshman at Midland College.

Being a life-long resident of Yoakum County, I, like many others, began working at a very early age and have learned to appreciate the satisfaction of contributing to my community. I acquired my beliefs, as well as my work ethics, from my parents, Oscar and Irma Lazos, who raised seven children and still reside in Plains. They taught me that the value of hard work doesn't end with earning a paycheck, but is further gratified by one's sense of accomplishment, pride and honor in a job well done, no matter what the job.

"If elected, I am determined to use and incorporate these same principles in managing the position of Tax Assessor/Collector for Yoakum County by using the skills I've acquired during my professional history. Careful budgeting will be utilized in the most effective means to avoid mismanagement of county funds. I gladly open my doors to all of your individual opinions, questions and concerns at any time during the term of office, if elected.



Some of my technical skills include organization and managerial techniques, accounting/bookkeeping, government reporting and computer operations, along with a multitude of personable skills that have grown in abundance while serving the community. I served the county for 5 years as a legal secretary in the district attorney's office. This experience exposed me to different offices and duties within the Courthouse. In addition, as a previous business owner, I have helped to promote business opportunities for local businesses by previously serving as treasurer and as a director of the Denver City Chamber of Commerce. I am currently employed at the Yoakum County Abstract Office in Plains.

Altogether, I have over 20 years of office administration experience, which includes 7 years of legal administrative experience. Being honest, dependable, as well as proficient in computer and office skills goes hand in hand with my self motivation and hard work mentality always striving for efficiency. These assets provide a firm foundation for the position I am seeking. I am committed to hearing your concerns and individualistic views as I begin my campaign, but most of all I look forward to meeting each of you.

### New Program!

**O/O Leasing Program**  
with purchase option

Now Hiring:  
Company • O/O • Singles & Teams  
800-CFI-DRIVE www.cfidrive.com

## HICKS

\*Carpet \*Heating \*Air Conditioning  
\*Maytag Appliances

204 N. Main, Denver City  
806-592-3973 or 592-3930

Its hard to stop a TRANE™

# TPA

MEMBER  
2003

**TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION**

### Cowboy Country News

Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355

Holly Dyer, Publisher      Gary Dyer, Editor

Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodical postage paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, TX 79355

E-Mail us at [ccn@crosswind.net](mailto:ccn@crosswind.net)

ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

## Services Held For Bill Lindsey

Services for W.E. 'Bill' Lindsey, 93, of Brownfield, TX were held at 10:00 am. Wednesday, December 31, 2003 at Calvary Baptist Church with Rev. J.L. Bass and Rev. Steve Carter officiating.

Interment was at Terry County Memorial Cemetery in Brownfield under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. He died Dec. 28, 2003 in Brownfield. He was born Dec. 31, 1909 in Booneville, Mississippi. He married Jonnie Ruth McDonald on Sept. 11, 1929 in Tipton, OK she preceded him in death Nov. 16, 1994. He is

also preceded in death by two sons, Billy and Larry and a grandson Dennis Rasberry.

He moved to Terry County in 1940 and farmed until 1944. He worked for Goodpasture until retiring in 1973. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors include 1 son Sherrill B. Lindsey of Brownfield, 3 daughters Myrna Bolding of Monahan, Sharon Willis and Ruth Rasberry both of Plains, numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and great great great grandchildren.

## Agnes Richardson Services Held

Agnes M. Richardson, 88, of Denver City died December 23, 2003 in Denver City.

Funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, December 27, 2003 at 3:00 p.m. in the St. Williams Catholic Church with interment following in the Denver City Memorial Park under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home.

Agnes was born January 23, 1915 in Cisco, TX to J.J. and Willie Collins. She married Cecil Richardson in Nov. of 1947 in Cisco. He preceded her in death in July of 1976. She

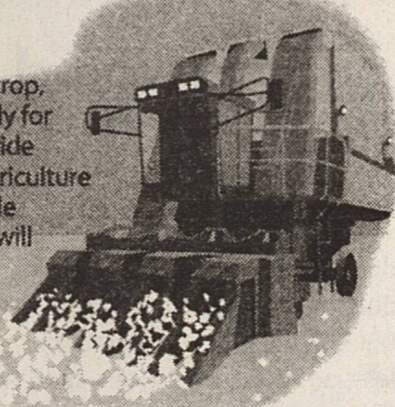
was the office manager for S&G Trucks for many years.

Survivors include a step daughter Jeanne Edwards of Las Vegas, Nev.; two nieces, Cathy Strother and Susan Isenhower both of Lewisville, and one nephew C.J. Collins Jr. of Plano; along with 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Anthony Strother, John Isenhower, Mitchel Isenhower, Jeremy Isenhower, Jay Isenhower, and Bob Edwards.

### Cotton boll

Cotton is the state's top cash crop, generating \$1.6 billion annually for farmers. The crop has a statewide impact of \$5.2 billion. State agriculture officials estimate that statewide cotton production from 2003 will be 4 million bales, 21 percent fewer than in 2002.



	Cotton harvested (in millions of acres)	Cotton produced (in millions of bales)	Value of production (in millions of dollars)
2003	4.40	4.00	*
2002	4.50	5.04	\$919.2
2001	4.25	4.26	580.7
2000	4.40	3.94	868.0
1999	5.10	5.05	993.8

SOURCES: Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2003. \* Estimate not available

### Distributors Wanted!

Become part of our dynamic sales and installation distributor network. Minimal investment in tools and equipment required. Sales and marketing support provided. Small business owners with hands on experience, tools and a "can do" attitude please apply.

**Pioneer Water Tanks**

**Free Info-Line: 1 866 984 4040**

MULTI - PERIL CROP & CROP HAIL

## STATE LINE INSURANCE

DANNY BELL

Office 456-3521 Home 456-6325

Mobile 456-7517

## Nelson Prescription Pharmacy

"Your Business is Appreciated"

Our Toll-Free Number Is For Your Convenience Call 1-800-658-9604 For all your Pharmacy Needs !!

805 Tahoka Rd. Brownfield, Tx

### CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR  
**KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON**

## Texans Talk Homeland Security

Since the terror attacks of 9/11, protecting and defending our homeland has been priority number one for our government. One could hardly escape the images of destruction in New York, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania as they replayed again and again for days on television sets worldwide. The media saturation forced many parents to talk to their children about terrorists and the evil that exists in the world. Since that time we have become a more vigilant society, aware of the potential for terrorism, even with chemical or biological weapons. We are aggressively working to protect against and respond to disasters with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose.

Your response to the following question provided interesting insight into Texans' state of preparedness. "The threat of biological, nuclear or chemical weapons is a concern Americans must consider. The Department of Homeland Security has issued guidelines and life-saving tips to deal with potential attacks, but many people remain uninformed of what to do in case of an attack. In what ways have you prepared for an incident?"

Thirty percent of respondents had discussed potential attacks with their family and prepared them to react to a threat. More than half of all surveyed acknowledged that they look for unusual behavior in public places, and 10 percent of your workplaces have established emergency evacuation procedures. Still there were a number of Texans who checked "yes" when asked if they were unprepared and did not know how to respond to a threat. Below are some of your thoughts: As a truck driver, I am constantly on the alert and ready to report or defend. Robert, Santa Fe. Having lived abroad I don't have the normal American feeling of apathy on the subject of terrorism and feel that I am very aware of my surroundings. Carter, Irving. Water treatment plants, malls, nuclear facilities and downtown areas are all areas of concern. Brandon, McKinney. We have hurricane guidelines...why not terrorism guidelines? Anonymous. Our best defense is a good offence...bring the war to the terrorists in their land. D.H., Austin. I'm constantly mindful of what is going on around me. Marcos, San Antonio. I don't know anything about the issued

guidelines. Where are they posted? Tran, Houston.

There were many who expressed concern that they were unaware of the guidelines or any plans their community had in place in the event of a chemical, biological or nuclear threat. In response to these questions, I've devoted the remainder of this column to helpful resources on how to prepare your workplace, your family and yourself for a potential terrorist attack or emergency situation.

Under the recently formed Department of Homeland Security, the federal government has created simple, easy to follow procedures for all Americans. At [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) <<http://www.ready.gov/>>, Texans can link to a variety of helpful state and local resources. They've posted the following basic guidelines: 1. Make a kit of emergency supplies. 2. Make a plan for what you will do in an emergency. 3. Be informed about what might happen. At the website, you can find descriptions of how best to follow these suggestions and sit down with your loved ones to create a plan of action for your family.

In addition to being prepared on an individual level, many Americans, like those of you who responded to this survey, have wondered what more they can do to protect their communities from terrorist attacks and to prepare for unforeseen emergency situations. Citizen Corps, which was created in response to this desire to participate, brings homeland security efforts to the local level through public education and outreach, training, and volunteer service. Citizen Corps programs build on efforts to establish community safety and emergency preparedness programs like Neighborhood Watch, which has worked successfully for more than 30 years, and enables ordinary people to play an active role in promoting the safety of their neighborhoods and towns. More information about Citizen Corps is available at [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov) <<http://www.citizencorps.gov/>>.

An active and involved citizenry has been the hallmark of America's democracy. Now more than ever it is important to exercise your freedoms and your voice, to safeguard your community and the ones you love. Together, we can continue making our nation more secure.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Plains, Texas

Sunday School  
9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship  
10:45 A.M.

Evening Program  
6:00 P.M.

## 'Back Then' Baptsing in deep East Texas



An East Texas Minister, most definitely a Baptist, is shown years ago about to perform Baptism rites on a young girl, as other young people wait their turn in the turbid looking water, very likely the Sabine River which forms the border between Texas and Louisiana. The young lady patiently watching the ceremony as she stands next in line is one Audrey Scruggs, thought to be between 11 and 13 years old at the time. She is much better known here as the late Holly Dyer. The original black and white photo was thoughtfully sent to the editor by a loving niece in Joaquin, Garvis Jones.

## Justice of Peace Court Summary

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

Cases filed;  
39 traffic cases  
1 driving under influence of alcohol by minor  
1 open container of alcohol in

vehicle  
1 Class B Misdemeanor  
2 Class C Misdemeanors  
Bonds Set:  
Two cases DWI, first offense- \$1000  
No Liability Insurance- \$500  
3 cases minor in possession of alcohol - \$500  
2 cases public intoxication-

\$500  
2 cases possession of controlled substance- \$5000  
Criminal trespass of habitation- \$1000  
Aggravated assault with deadly weapon- \$5000 bond, protective order.  
Assault causes bodily injury-family violence-\$1500  
Interfere with emergency call-\$1000  
Evading arrest- \$500  
Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing  
3 cases delivery of controlled substance- \$5000  
Theft by check- \$500

### From Page 1, Drug Task Force

to the Court the four entity agreement was the only way the state would help fund local drug investigation and interdiction actions. Rick Dickson, current Llano Estacado Task Force Commander, will return to the CDA office as Investigator when the current grant expires.

The court awarded bids to Eddins-Walcher for the purchase of county used gasoline and diesel for the year 2004. Bid prices per gallon, less any taxes, were \$1.0060 for unleaded gas, and .09999 for diesel, with a small discount for transport loads.

Approval was granted the CDA to purchase a new computer and printer from his equipment line item.

### From Pg. 1 'Cotton'

High Plains it's not so good. They've had damages and loss due to drought and due to hail and rain."

State agriculture officials do not have an estimate on the economic loss from the lost cotton, Ramirez said.

Much of the million acres lost was in the Plains region, a 25 county area surrounding Lubbock producing about half the state's cotton, said Dr. Carl Anderson, a professor and cotton marketing specialist at Texas A&M.

"We have exceptionally good crop yields, far above average in the southern part of the state," Anderson said. "Then we have the opposite end of the spectrum out West, over far more acres, that have either been destroyed or will have a very low yield due to adverse weather."

Cotton is the state's top cash crop, generating \$1.6 billion annually for farmers. The crop has a statewide economic impact of \$5.2 billion, including money generated by supporting industries associated with harvesting, transporting, processing and marketing cotton, according to a 2000 report by the Agriculture Program at Texas A&M. In 2002, cotton brought \$974 million in cash receipts, the gross revenue growers received from selling cotton. Cotton ranks third behind the beef and nursery industries, making up 8 percent of all the state's ag cash receipts according to a TASS report.

Texas leads the nation in cotton production and produces about 25 percent of the nation's cotton, Anderson said. In 2002, the state's exported cotton was worth \$426 million. California is the second largest cotton producer with 2002 cotton exports valued at \$286 million.

Farmers grow cotton on more than five million acres in the state. Only a few areas don't have pockets of cotton acreage; the northeast, north of Dallas, around Laredo and much of the Trans-Pecos desert area in West Texas, Ramirez said.

The state boasts two types of cotton: Pima, which produces long fibers and is grown primarily around El Paso and West Texas; and Upland, the most common type of cotton grown in the U.S. Of the 5.6 million acres devoted to cotton in Texas, pima accounts for only 20,000 acres. Pima cot-

ton, used for finer count yarns, is more difficult to grow and more expensive to process than upland cotton. Most production statistics refer to upland cotton, Ramirez said.

Cotton's growing season depends on the region. In South Texas, farmers might plant cotton in February and harvest it in July. When the first bale is harvested in the Valley in July, growers have just finished planting in the Rolling Plains. Growers in Central Texas and the Upper Coast region, around Harris and Brazoria counties, harvest cotton in September. In parts of the High Plains, harvesting ends near Christmas.

Mike Wendt grows 650 acres of cotton at Needville, about 35 miles southwest of Houston in Fort Bend County. He finished harvesting at the beginning of October, and said only about two-thirds of his plants survived due to the combination of drought and heavy rains.

"It's the worst crop I've ever made," Wendt said, who's been farming since 1979. "The rain at the end didn't help, but the biggest harm was the drought."

Southwest of Corpus Christi, grower Jimmy Dodson had a different experience. He finished harvesting his 4,000 acres of cotton in early October. "We had the highest production from our fields in the history of my farm," said Dodson, who has farmed since 1977. He attributes his success to steady rainfall in 2003.

The quality of the 2003 crop runs the gamut in the Plains region, which includes the Northern and Southern High Plains, said Shawn Wade, director of communications for Plains Cotton Growers Inc. His group represents growers in 25 counties surrounding Lubbock who produce 60 percent of the state's cotton crop.

"The further north you go, unfortunately, the worse it gets," Wade said. The Plains area farmers planted around 3.6 million acres of cotton in 2003 but will only be able to harvest between 2.3 and 2.4 million acres, he said. He blames the low yields on poor weather and hail storms in the early and late parts of the growing season. In 2002 the region produced some 3.2 million bales of cotton.

"It's just not going to be a great year, and that's not good news for producers, definitely not good news economically out here. Cotton really provides an important base for this High

Plains region and for the State of Texas."

The price Texas cotton fetches depends on world supply and demand for cotton, Ramirez reported. 2003 prices are a little better than they were in 2002 and 2001. Texas farmers received an average of 41.2 cents per pound of cotton in August, up from 34.6 cents in August 2002, and 33 cents in August 2001 according to a TASS report.

Cotton prices are 30 to 40 percent lower than they were 30 years ago, Ramirez said. "That's largely a function of the strong dollar."

In the past, the infamous boll weevil was a major problem for cotton growers, but a 10 year eradication program has proven successful, according to growers. The 1993 Texas Legislature established the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to oversee the program. Run and funded by cotton growers to eliminate the weevils through a combination of pheromone traps and insecticides. Getting rid of the weevils increases yields and lowers production costs, said Michael O'Connor, communications director for the foundation. Only three cotton producing areas do not participate in the eradication program, and their producers are working to implement it.

Texas cotton producers say their biggest challenges include weather, insects, diseases and the value of the dollar. One producer said, "Everything that determines our success is out of our control. You can make great decisions and have a great business plan and have perfect timing and still be a miserable failure. That's the key frustration in our business."

Karen Hudgins,  
Fiscal Notes

### Legislature passes school aid bill

Austin - In spite of being distracted by investigations of the Governor, the recently adjourned legislature made a good record.

In the field of education, the legislature increased the rural aid appropriation to \$2,000,000 and submitted a constitutional amendment increasing the tax for school purposes to 35 cents, putting aside a portion of the money for the purchase of free textbooks. Less commendable are acts which provide for establishing eight new colleges at a time when nobody believes the colleges are needed. Four would be junior colleges in Arlington, Stephenville, and two in West Texas. The others are normals, to be located in Commerce, Nacogdoches, Alpine and Kingsville. Texas News June 10, 1917

**The BEST**  
Just got **BETTER**  
CFL announces industry leading pay increase!

Company Drivers earn up to 45¢ per mile  
Company Teams earn up to 53¢ per mile  
Owner Operators earn up to 98¢ per mile

800-CFL-DRIVE www.cfl-drive.com

**VIAGRA**  
Prescription Strength Alternative  
Now Available Without Prescription  
(30 tabs-blue 100mg \$79.95)  
TOLL FREE 1-888-527-0870 FREE SHIPPING!  
Mall Order: Send Check or M.O. to:  
P.E. Laboratories  
1025 SW 59th st.  
OKC, OK. 73109

Order Online: [www.rxsexpill.com](http://www.rxsexpill.com)

**Mesothelioma** NO FEE FOR FIRST VISIT

May occur 30 to 50 years after exposure to asbestos. Many workers were exposed from the 1940s through the 1970s. Industrial maintenance and operators are among those at risk for mesothelioma, throat cancer or lung cancer. Call us for professional insight.

Ryan A. Krebs, MD, JD (Doctor-Lawyer in full time Law Practice)  
Richard A. Dodd, L.C.  
Timothy R. Cappolino, P.C. Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law & Civil Trial Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization  
Cameron, Texas

1-800-460-0606  
[www.asbestoslaw.com](http://www.asbestoslaw.com)

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

See us for your Weight-Loss and Tobacco addiction problems

## TEXAS HEALTH STEPS

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8 am.-5pm.

Will take walk-ins

Appointments preferred

Please call 806-456-6365

### First Annual Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball

December 31, 2003

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

K&L Ranch  
(formerly the Sue Stevens Ranch)

Dinner, Dancing, Silent and Live Auctions  
all proceeds will benefit The Yoakum County Hospital Foundation

\$100.00

(One ticket admits one couple or one single person into the ball)

\*\*\*\*\*  
If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball, please call one of the following Gala Committee Members:

Sharon Boyd - 592-2939 \* Edith Kidd - 592-2269 \* Beverly Mills - 592-2121  
Linda Moore - 592-8829 \* Wilma Powell - 456-2288  
Louise Swanson - 592-2069 \* Judy Thompson - 592-2580, or 592-6444



# From The Hack

Prior to Christmas, I had many friends express concerns about how I would make it through Christmas without the Christmas holidays without the Bride. I was probably even more concerned. For me, attending Church on the 21st of December was a tough struggle, but I am very glad I attended, and VERY grateful for all the support I received from the pulpit, and the entire church family. You are greatly appreciated, and all of you know to whom I refer.

I spent most of Christmas day with one of the daughters family in Hobbs, a first time experience for me. We were joined by daughter Shari from Shallowater. Discovered the youngest gal is a very good cook, and didn't develop heartburn until the next day (Sorry, Shelly, you knew I was going to pick on you somehow). Her husband Butch again overcame my helplessness with an electronic problem, and I got to meet his two daughters and son the first time. Also on board for the day were three of my grandkids (Shelly's), and a great grandson, Kelby, 15 months.... last time I saw him he was squirming in momma's tummy. A very good day.

Just reflecting a bit: On the way to Hobbs I passed the Tex-Zona feedlot south of Higginbotham, the day after the ominous news about the Mad Cow scare in Washington state. Thousands of cattle, undoubtedly owned by some very, very frightened (No, frantic!) cattlemen and investors. I can't recall what the

**1,562 Ac. Farm**  
**Approx. 10 miles**  
**W. of Denver City**  
**on Hwy. 83 for**  
**sale or lease. Call**  
**325-942-1227**

**ROJO**  **ELECTRIC**  
**Authorized**  
**Square D**  
  
**Dealer**  
**456-7540**

**Advertise**  
**it here...**  
**Incredibly**  
**Cheap !!**

**Country Home For Sale**  
 1450 US Hwy 82 West  
 3 Bdr, 2 3/4 bath, 2 car,  
 approx. 12.42 acres  
 Very nice, call for  
 appointment  
**Hunt Realty**  
 112 N. Main  
 Denver City, TX 79323  
 Ph 806-592-3556  
 Fax: 806-592-8489

capacity of the Tex-Zona facility is, but somewhere over 30,000 head, I'm thinking. North of us, from Lubbock to the very northern Panhandle area, where many and much larger feedlot herds are fattened for market, hundreds, probably thousands of folks with time and money investments in cattle are anxiously holding their breath to see how the scare will turn out. It's a very frightening scenario. It's incredible to me how ONE diseased animal in the entire USA could create such panic and calamity.

My first morale booster was on Christmas eve. That afternoon, I played golf, mainly as a needed escape from the house. Got home about 5 PM, dreading a long, lonesome evening. About six PM I had a call from a good friend momma, inviting me to join she and husband at their son and daughter in-laws home for a bit of food and pre-Christmas visiting and cheer. I didn't hem-haw or whine around at all, and said I would be very pleased to. Thank you, Dear Lord, for friends.... that long, cold night was much, much more pleasant than what I had originally pictured it.

## A Politically Correct Christmas Poem

(A bit late, but still appropriate)  
 'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck,  
 How to live in a world that's politically correct?

His workers no longer answered to 'Elves',  
 "Vertically Challenged" they called themselves.

And labor conditions at the North Pole,  
 were alleged by the union to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished, without propriety,  
 released to the wilds by the Humane Society.

And equal employment had made it quite clear,  
 that Santa had better not use just reindeer.

**TERRY COUNTY TRACTOR**  
**Massey Ferguson Kubota**  
**Bush Hog Shredders, Lilliston Rolling Cultivators, Lorenz & Buffalo Cultivators, Baker Disc & Switch Plows, Spray Coupe, Wilmar Sprayer Brownfield, Tx. 806-637-4569**

**RN/LVN for 7pm-7am shift. Great benefits, great working environment. Please call Joyce Tedford 806-592-2121, Yoakum County Hospital, Denver City, Texas**

So Donner and Dancer, Comet and Cupid, were replaced by four pigs, and that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his sleigh, the ruts were too dangerous said the EPA.

And people had started calling the cops, when they heard sled noises on their rooftops.

Second hand smoke from his pipe had his workers frightened, his fur trimmed red suit was called 'unenlightened'.

And to show the strangeness of life's ebb and flows, Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose

And had gone on Geraldo in front of the nation, demanding millions in overdue compensation.

So half the reindeer were gone; and his wife, who said she'd had enough of this life,

Joined a self-help group, and left in a whiz, demanding from now on her title was Ms.

As for the gifts he'd never had a notion, making a choice could cause so much commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur, which meant nothing for him and nothing for her.

Nothing that construed to polite, nothing to aim, nothing to shoot.

Nothing that hinted at gender specific, Nothing warlike or non-pacific.

No candy or sweets, they're bad for the tooth, nothing that seemed to embellish the truth.

And fairy tales, while not yet forbidden, were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden.

For they raised the hackles of those psychological, who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

**Grand Entry**  
  
**Western Wear**  
 110 N. Main  
 Denver City, TX  
**BOOT & SHOE REPAIR**  
 806-592-8198

**South Plains Pest Control**  
 Home & Yard. Taking orders for Preemergence.  
**Good Service \* Low Price**  
**806-637-3831**  
**806-638-7384**

No baseball, no football, someone could get hurt, besides, playing sports exposed kids to dirt.

Dolls were said to be sexist, should be passe, and Nintendo would rot your brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled, perplexed, he just couldn't figure what to do next.

He tried to be merry, tried to be gay, but you've got to be careful with that word today.

His sack was quite empty, limp on the ground, nothing fully acceptable was to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift he might give to all without angering the left or right.

A gift that would satisfy, with no indecision, each group of people, every religion.

Every ethnicity, every hue, everyone, everywhere, even you.

So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth. May you and your loved ones enjoy Peace On Earth!

Cheerfully stolen from the Lovington Leader, who stated the author is unknown.

After the Dallas Cowboys were through elevating my blood pressure Sunday, I stumbled onto an unlikely golf contest on another channel.

Remember Mark McGwire, the home run slugger who retired a couple of years back after battling with Sammy Sosa for all sorts of homer records?

He's evidently an excellent amateur golfer now, and calls the game "Absolutely the most difficult sport I have ever experienced."

He was pitted in the ADT Golf Skills Challenge against some pretty big names in that sport, the likes of Greg Norman, Paul Azinger, Rich Beem, Nick Faldo, Collin Montgomery, and a few other notables.

It was a contest measuring their shot making skills, including longest drive, best approach shot to the green, chipping to the green, putting, and hitting short irons to short par three holes.

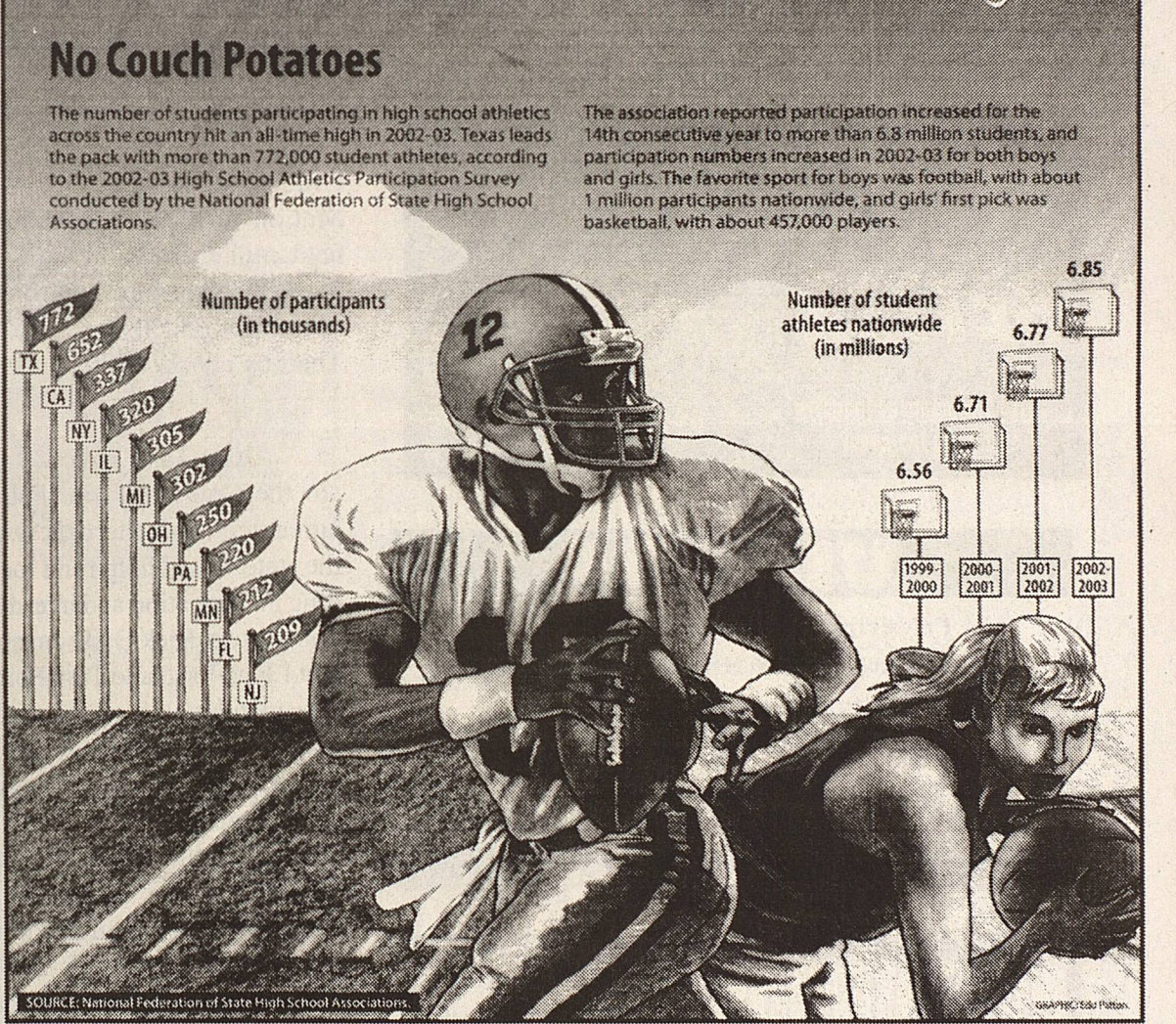
After the first two events,

McGwire was doing remarkably well, much to the pro golfers dismay, although it was in a friendly manner. Then, he placed second in the difficult putting event, first in the chipping contest, and only had to fare well in the par three contest to win the event. Only Azinger and Norman could beat him with excellent shots.

When it was finally his time to hit the 115 yard shot, he asked the players and spectators to cheer as he made his three shot attempts, something which probably caused Ben Hogan to twirl in his grave. His first shot ended 1 foot, 10 inches from the cup, and he had beaten all the pros, much to the crowd and my delight. Presented with a \$122,500 check, he announced he was giving it to charity... "I don't want the money because I'd become a pro and being an amateur is lots more fun!" What a class act... to the Pros charin.

**We continue receiving thoughtful messages after Holly's passing. Thank all of you so much!**

## Texas at a Glance



## Wind Chill Chart

The term wind chill refers to the cooling effect wind has on the skin together with the temperature. As winds increase, heat is carried away from the body at a faster rate, driving down both skin temperature and eventually the internal body temperature. The wind chill chart combines the temperature and wind speed to indicate an equivalent temperature at which the body's heat loss would be the same if winds were nearly calm. A strong wind, even in moderately cool weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.

Wind (mph)	Temperature (°F)													
	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25
Calm	40	35	30	25	20	15	10	5	0	-5	-10	-15	-20	-25
5	36	31	25	19	13	7	1	-5	-11	-16	-22	-28	-34	-40
10	34	27	21	15	9	3	-4	-10	-16	-22	-28	-35	-41	-47
15	32	25	19	13	6	0	-7	-13	-19	-26	-32	-39	-45	-51
20	30	24	17	11	4	-2	-9	-15	-22	-29	-35	-42	-48	-55
25	29	23	16	9	3	-4	-11	-17	-24	-31	-37	-44	-51	-58
30	28	22	15	8	1	-5	-12	-19	-26	-33	-39	-46	-53	-60
35	28	21	14	7	0	-7	-14	-21	-27	-34	-41	-48	-55	-62
40	27	20	13	6	-1	-8	-15	-22	-29	-36	-43	-50	-57	-64
45	26	19	12	5	-2	-9	-16	-23	-30	-37	-44	-51	-58	-65