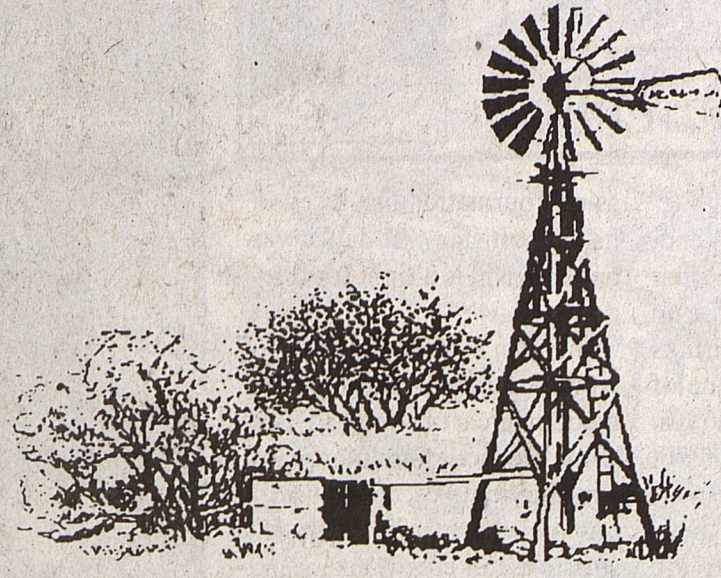


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 42, June 30, 2004



Number of irons in fire at City Hall

City Administrator Ed Hansen reported work continues on the replacement of the old and leaking two inch steel gas line west of town along US 82. It will be replaced with a two inch plastic line which will eventually supply natural gas to the Hydrocarbon Recovery Unit now in place on the west side of Uncle's Convenience Store. The State and EPA mandated program calls for the unit to be used in removing leaked gasoline which has been trapped in the water table below the store. Hansen expects to be able to deliver the natural gas around the first of July. He also reported the city will soon be laying a four inch plastic line to bring natural gas to the Attebury-Williams peanut facility detailed in this issue.

In another agenda item concerning natural gas, the City of Plains is negotiating for a new gas contract to replace the current contract expiring in August. The old contract, with a very favorable price of \$3.09 per MCF (one thousand cubic feet), has resulted in lower gas bills here than those in most area towns and cities. The very volatile market will, in all probability, result in the city paying over \$6 per MCF, and would affect gas bills accordingly. Hansen said the council is looking at all its current options, including a floating charge based on a floating market. If wholesale gas prices go up, the city's charge rises accordingly; if it declines, gas bills decline. It is almost a certainty any contract will be at higher prices and for shorter lengths of time.

Drug case in District Court

In the June 22 session of District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, Noel Ruth Beasley pled to adjudication of guilt deferred in a cause of methamphetamine possession, less than one gram. She will be under community su-

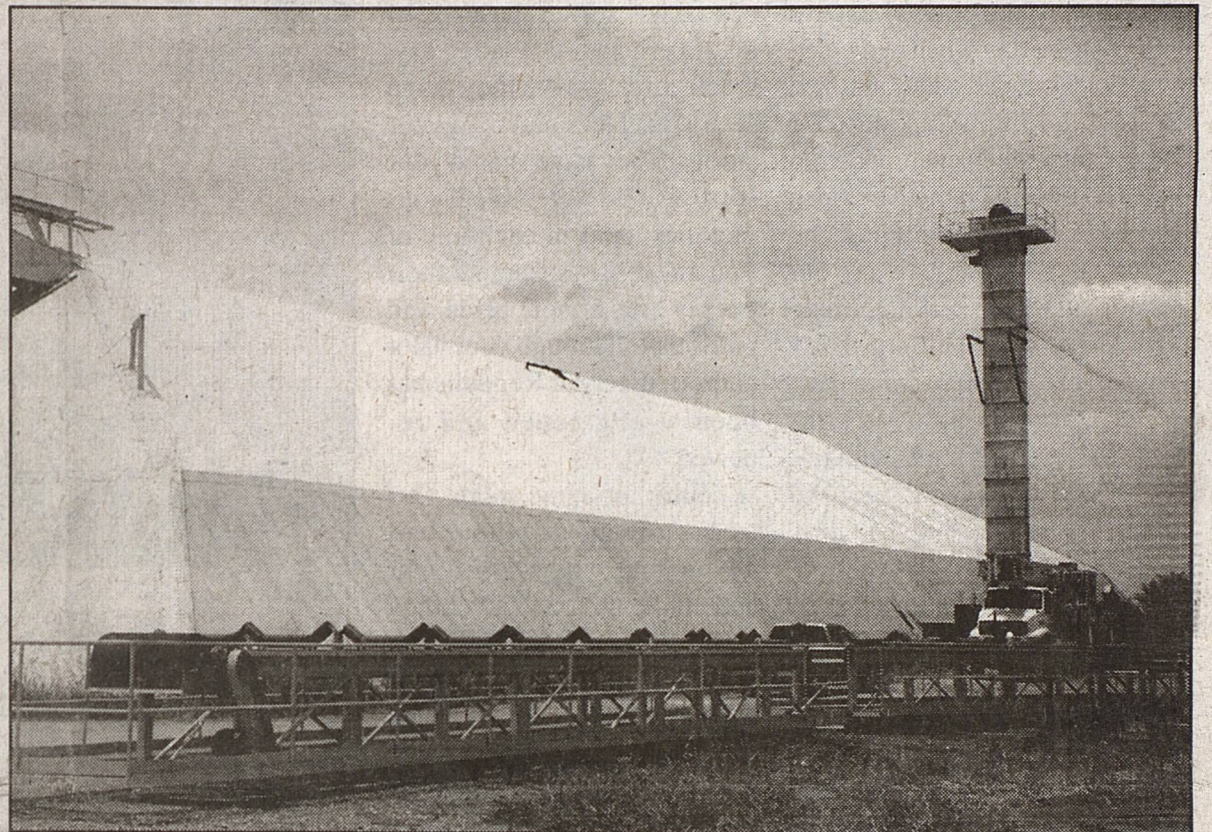
pervision five years, was fined \$1000, and must pay \$223 court costs and \$140 restitution to Texas Department of Public Safety. She will attend weekly Narcotics Anonymous meetings, serve 120 hours community service and complete the TAIP outpatient program.

The old Goodpasture Inc. grain storage facility, a landmark on the west side of Plains since the 1950's, is rapidly changing its image from grains such as milo and wheat to a legume handling facility. Attebury - Williams LLC purchased the Plains and Brownfield Goodpasture plants some time ago, and are making major changes to receive, grade, store and ship peanuts. Attebury-Williams employees Chris Elkins and Ollie Hall conducted CCN on a brief tour of the site Friday and described the conversion work in progress.

A new 63 foot truck lift will be installed on the east side of the main storage barn, where trucks will dump their harvested peanuts. They will be taken to the top of the storage barn on a brand new, high speed lift leg and conveyor. A new sand screen shaker unit will be installed to clean any loads bearing too much soil.

Hall, overseeing the construction and conversion work here, and who is the plant manager of the large Clint Williams Peanut Operation facilities in

Conversion of old grain facility to peanut buying site underway



The new conveyor in foreground of photo will eventually connect the new lift leg at right to the top of the main storage barn in background

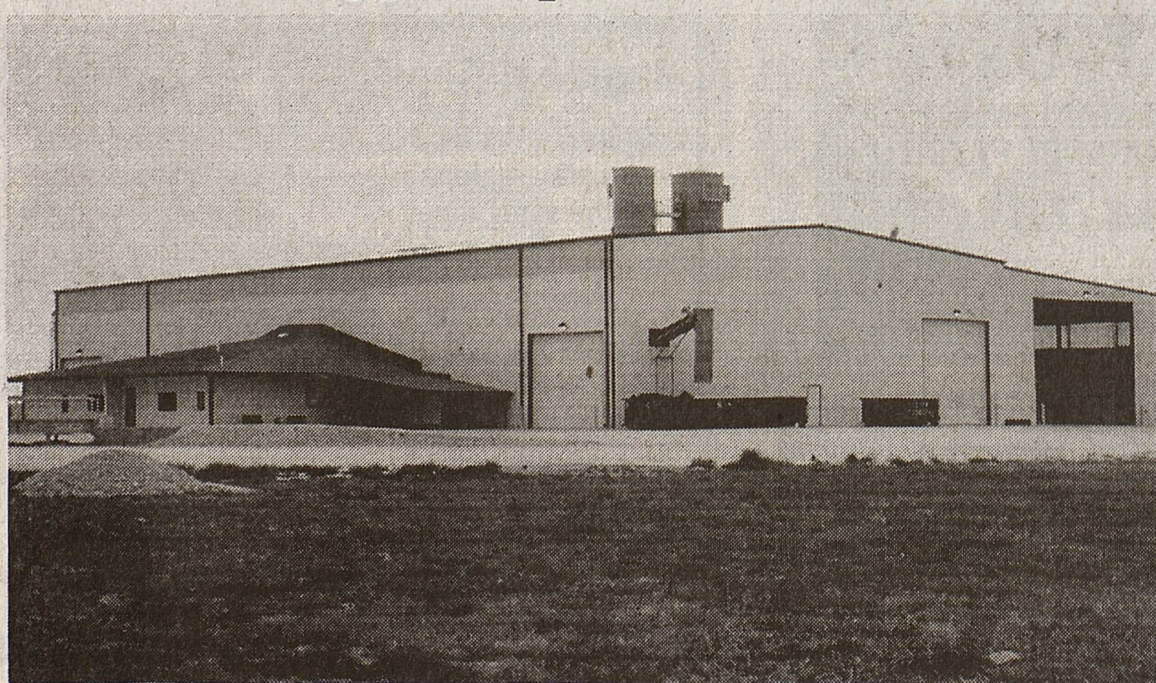
Madill, Oklahoma, told CCN, "All of the work here should be completed by the end of August, well before this year's crop is ready for harvest." The present office building will be completely renovated, and a 23 by 30 foot addition will be added to the old building. Hall and Elkins said they are

currently digging ditches to install well over 1,500 feet of natural gas and electric lines to operate ten dryers which will be installed this year. There will be ample space to install more dryers if needed.

Elkins said a grade and sample station will be installed on the west side of the property.

"Each load of incoming peanuts will be inspected and graded by personnel of the Texas Cooperative Inspection Service. Asked what condition the current crop of Yoakum County peanuts is in, Elkins said "All the fields I have personally looked at appear to be in excellent condition for this time of year."

Tire recycling plant operational and impressive



The State Rubber & Environmental Solution plant some three miles north of Denver City has had its 'Shake Down Cruise', and the three hundred some visitors to the lunch and guided tour of the pristin tire recycling plant last week came away well fed and impressed with the huge facility now ready to convert old rubber tires into ground up rubber in large demand by road building contractors. A more detailed look at the operation will be featured in a coming issue of CCN. Many photos taken on the tour can be found inside.

Court OK's two more dialysis machines, hires Judy London as grant writer

In the June 28 session of Commissioners Court, County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor told the court the new dialysis treatment center has received treatment applications from 13 to 15 potential patients. When the Texas Department of Health makes the final certification of the state of the art facility "We are reasonably sure we will be getting more applicants needing dialysis. We have seven machines now, but are required to keep one idle just for emergencies,

and if we treat the 13 to 15 patients, we will have to have staff available for three shifts, instead of two, and that's not financially feasible. Two more machines will make a much more efficient operation. We would like to purchase two more Gambro machines to be fully compatible with what we now have. With the same machines, our treatment staff, as well as our technicians who service the machines would Please Turn To Page 4, "COURT"

Congressman Neugebauer Unveils New Crop Insurance Bill At Area Conference

Congressman Randy Neugebauer unveiled new legislation Monday that creates a crop insurance option for producers that would cover both individual and area yield or revenue losses. Neugebauer highlighted his proposal at a Lubbock County farm.

"In my conversations with farmers, they continue to tell me about shortcomings in the crop insurance program," Neugebauer said. "After working with producers and insurers, I'm pleased to present this legislation that takes a first step in improving risk management options."

The Risk Management Enhancement Act, H.R. 4702, builds additional risk protection into crop insurance by allowing farmers to stack Group Risk Protection (GRP) coverage on top of an individual Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) policy. Farmers can choose to purchase GRP coverage up to the deductible portion of the individual policy, not to exceed 100 per-

cent.

"My goal with this legislation is for growers to have more choices as well as more coverage," Neugebauer said. "The delivery of this new coverage should be fairly straightforward as it combines existing insurance products, rather than starting from scratch."

This legislation builds more disaster coverage into insurance by allowing producers to stack area based coverage on their individual policy, giving them more protection against widespread drought and storm losses. It also increases coverage for a relatively small increase in premium.

Congress has passed more than \$30 billion in emergency assistance packages in recent years to help producers who have suffered crop loss. The enhanced insurance coverage in Neugebauer's legislation would help reduce the need for such packages in the future.

"Budget constraints and other political roadblocks are making

it harder and harder in Congress to pass emergency packages," Neugebauer said. "My bill makes growers through their risk management choices."

Joining Neugebauer at the press conference on Monday were Ed Reynolds, a cotton producer from Lubbock and Rickey Bearden, a cotton producer from Plains. Ronnie Holt, a crop insurance agent from Muleshoe presented an insurance perspective on the legislation, and Curtis Griffith, chairman of City Bank in Lubbock, discussed the bill from a lender's perspective.

"Growers will have another tool to be insured at higher levels so they can withstand the harshness of the West Texas weather," Bearden said.

"This legislation would be an excellent foundation that we can build on for better risk management," Holt said. "It will be a great benefit to farmers that they don't have to wait for disaster legislation each year."



CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON



MORE THAN A BBQ

This Fourth of July weekend, thousands of Texans will gather with family and friends, fire up the grill, ice down some drinks and sit back and enjoy one of our nation's favorite holidays, Independence Day. In 1776, when the Declaration of Independence was signed, there were 2.5 million people living in the 13 colonies. Today, there are more than 293 million Americans inhabiting 50 states, who will celebrate the founding of our great nation. And the Declaration that secured our independence still stands as the foundation of our democracy. The quintessentially American celebration gives each of us an opportunity to commemorate the birth of our country and reflect on the day when dedicated patriots founded a nation based on freedom. Marquis De Lafayette, the Frenchman who was so moved by the American quest for independence, he crossed the Atlantic to join our battle said it this way, "Humanity has won its battle. Liberty now has a country."

For 228 years now, America has been synonymous with liberty. It is rooted in our heart and soul. It is woven into the fabric of our being. As a current television advertisement states, "Don't fence us in", is practically our national motto." We are the embodiment of freedom to people everywhere, which is why thousands of people still arrive from the far reaches of the globe on our shores each year. They come in search of a better life for their families and a greater hope for their future. So, the Fourth of July is more than a birthday party, it is a celebration of our hard fought freedom and our God given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is also a time to honor those who continue the battle against terror and oppression to keep our freedom secure.

Today we are engaged in a struggle as fierce and as vital as any our nation has faced in its short history. Today's war on

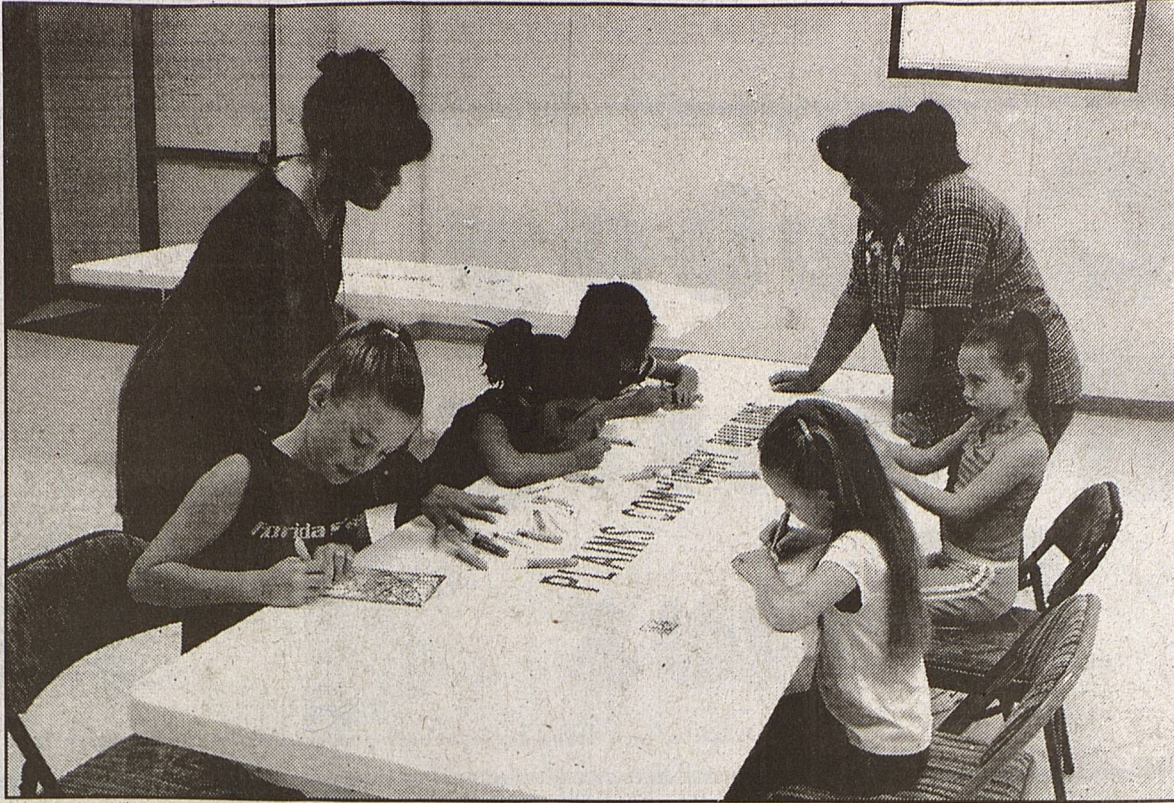
as any our nation has faced in its short history. Today's war on terrorism is a fight for freedom.

American soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq face the modern threat of terrorism. But while the tactics are more violent, the motives more insidious and the means more destructive, this enemy shares the common goal of all enemies throughout history: destroying freedom. We must not, and we will not, let them win.

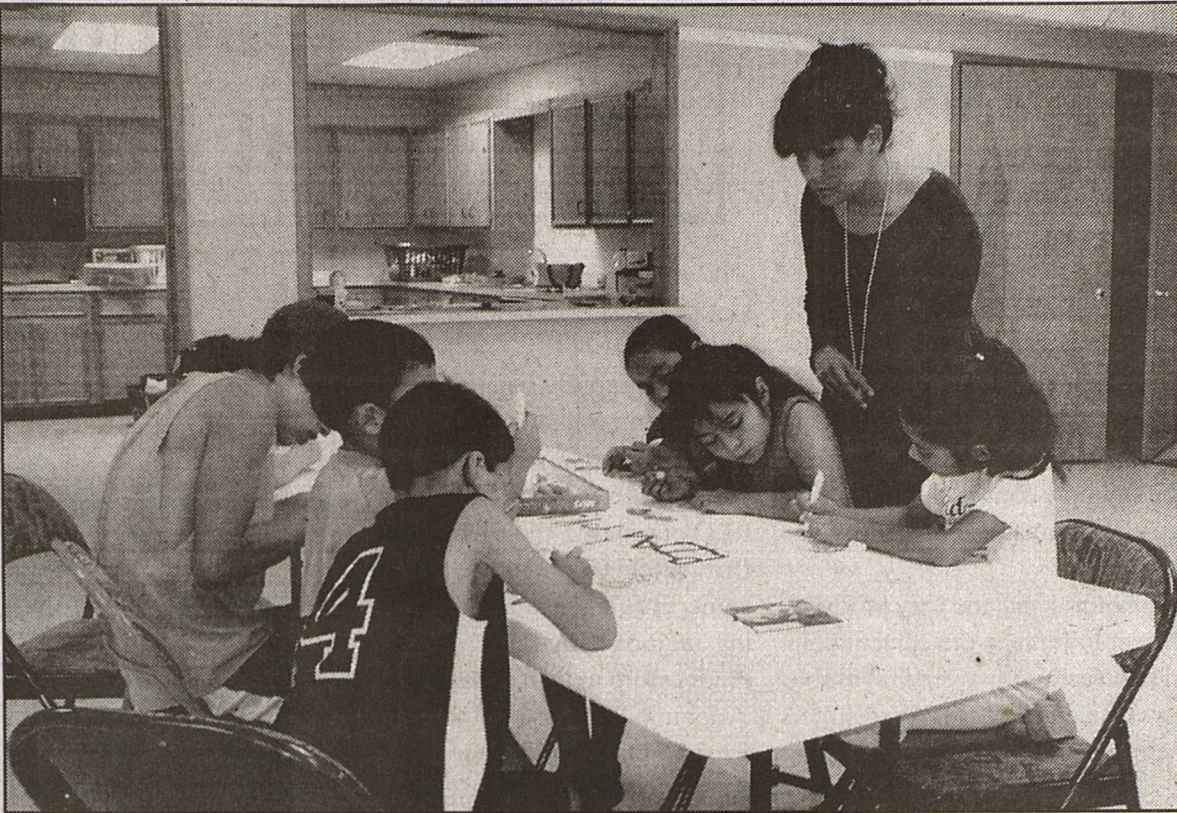
Last year, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld addressed our troops on the Fourth of July, saying, "You are the men and women who are fighting this new war. Your gallantry and courage in the face of evil has stirred the souls of all Americans. Day after day, week after week, they have seen your faces and read your stories. They have shared your sorrows and celebrated your victories. And in each one of you they see reflected their deeply felt honor, pride and patriotism. Through your valor and sacrifice, our Republic has been strengthened and renewed."

I could not agree more. Our troops, many of whom call Texas home, face a difficult and challenging task, yet they do it with bravery and with honor. I have visited them in the battlefields and I have seen their commitment firsthand. They know the gravity of their mission and the importance of their success. These proud patriots serve with distinction and deserve our gratitude.

This year, remember that it's more than a backyard BBQ, red-white-and-blue streamers, downtown parade or fireworks display, the Fourth of July is a celebration of the freedoms afforded to us as citizens of the United State of America. This year, as you set out to enjoy your holiday take a moment to remember those who are sacred and even their lives, so that you may enjoy yours. God Bless America and Happy Fourth of July.



Yoakum County Connection dollars at work in youth program



Services Held For Anna Jo Adams

Anna Jo Wilson Adams, 72 of Centralia, Missouri, went to be with her Heavenly family on June 20, 2004. She was born September 9, 1931 in Mexico, Mo. to William Joseph and Anna Bess Wilson. On June 19, 1949, she was married to Jack L. Adams in Mexico, Mo. She is survived by her husband and two daughters and their husbands, Marcy and Arnold Reynolds of Fort Scott, Kan. and Jan and Jerry Parrish of Plains, Texas. Also surviving are three grand children, Kirk

and Lisa Parrish, and Aaron Parris; one great grandchild, Anna Kathryn Cody Parrish; and one brother, Robert W. Wilson, of Columbia, Mo.

Her parents; a brother, Virgil Wilson; and a grandson, Ben Parris; preceded her in death.

She was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Centralia and of the Chapter KZ of the PEO Sisterhood.

She and her husband owned Adams House of Furniture and Jack Adams Ford in Centralia, Mo.

Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner
SUSAN COMBS

With the cattle industry in England facing many of the same issues we are in the United States, I was recently invited to the United Kingdom to study what innovative steps can be taken to prevent an animal disease outbreak in Texas.

As a guest of the British government, I met with ranchers, veterinarians and livestock researchers to study cattle movement and animal identification, and how these issues might affect Texas. As the largest cattle state in the nation, we certainly have a sizeable stake in the matter.

Unfortunately, some of what I found was discouraging. The United Kingdom's animal identification system, which is used to help track cattle and prevent the spread of disease, is not flawless. The amount of paperwork required of British farmers alone makes the system cumbersome and difficult. A similar system would be tough on U.S. producers, particularly considering that 80 percent of our cattle producers have fewer than 50 head.

Another flaw involves timing. After studying how the UK handled its outbreak of foot and mouth disease, I found that it took 14 days to determine conclusively that FMD was present. This lag time can make the disease very difficult to control. The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease lasted nine months in 2001 with a total cost to the UK of about \$20 billion in losses to agriculture, the food industry, travel and tourism and related businesses.

While I came away with plenty of information that can be applied to the United States' effort to combat foreign animal diseases, I also found that much work remains to be done. We are continuing to seek solutions to keep our vital cattle industry secure.

Only two people signed the Declaration of Independence July 4th, John Hancock and Charles Thomson. Most others signed on August 2, but the last signature wasn't added until five years later

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My Sincere Thanks

to Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes for providing the county the use of the school swimming pool, and to members of his staff for their assistance. Your cooperation allowed our community youngsters an excellent place for their summer fun.

Ty Earl Powell
Commissioner, Pct. 3.

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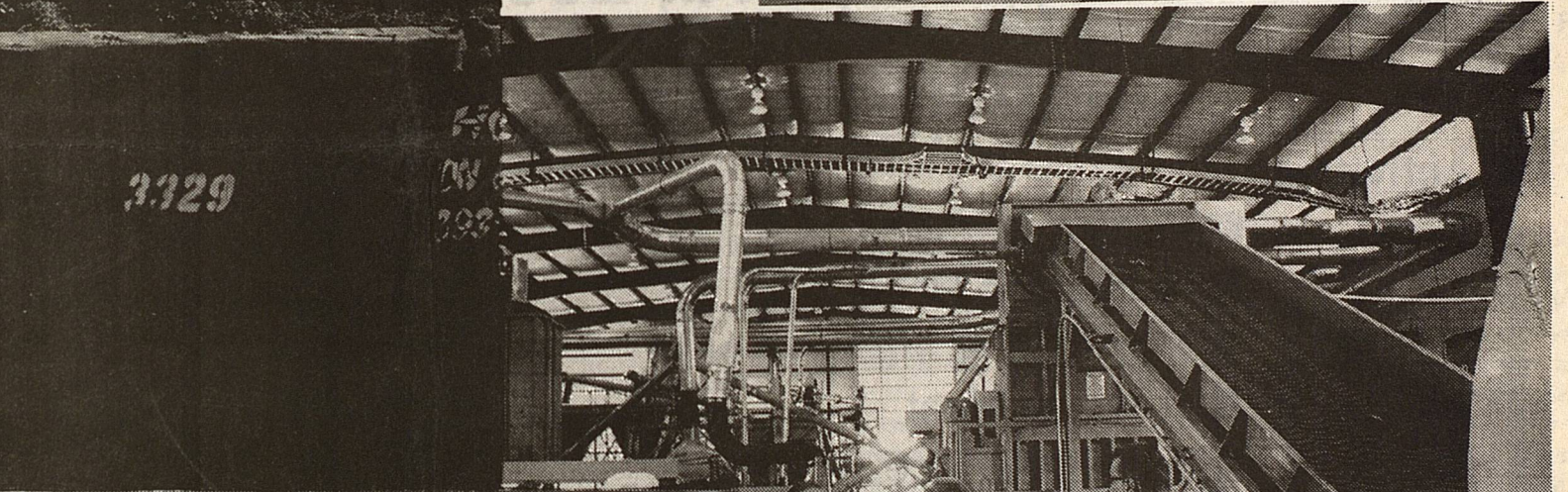
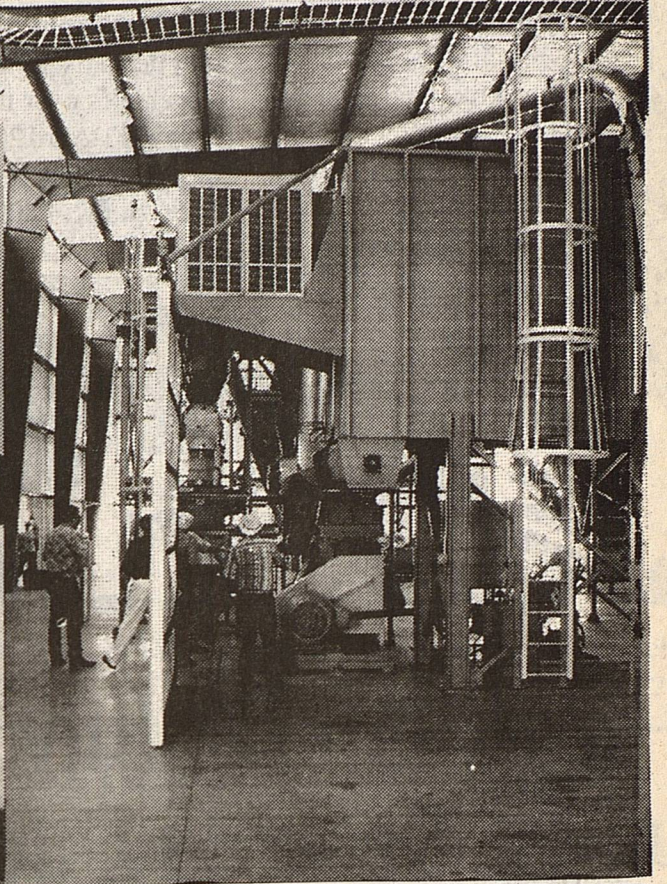
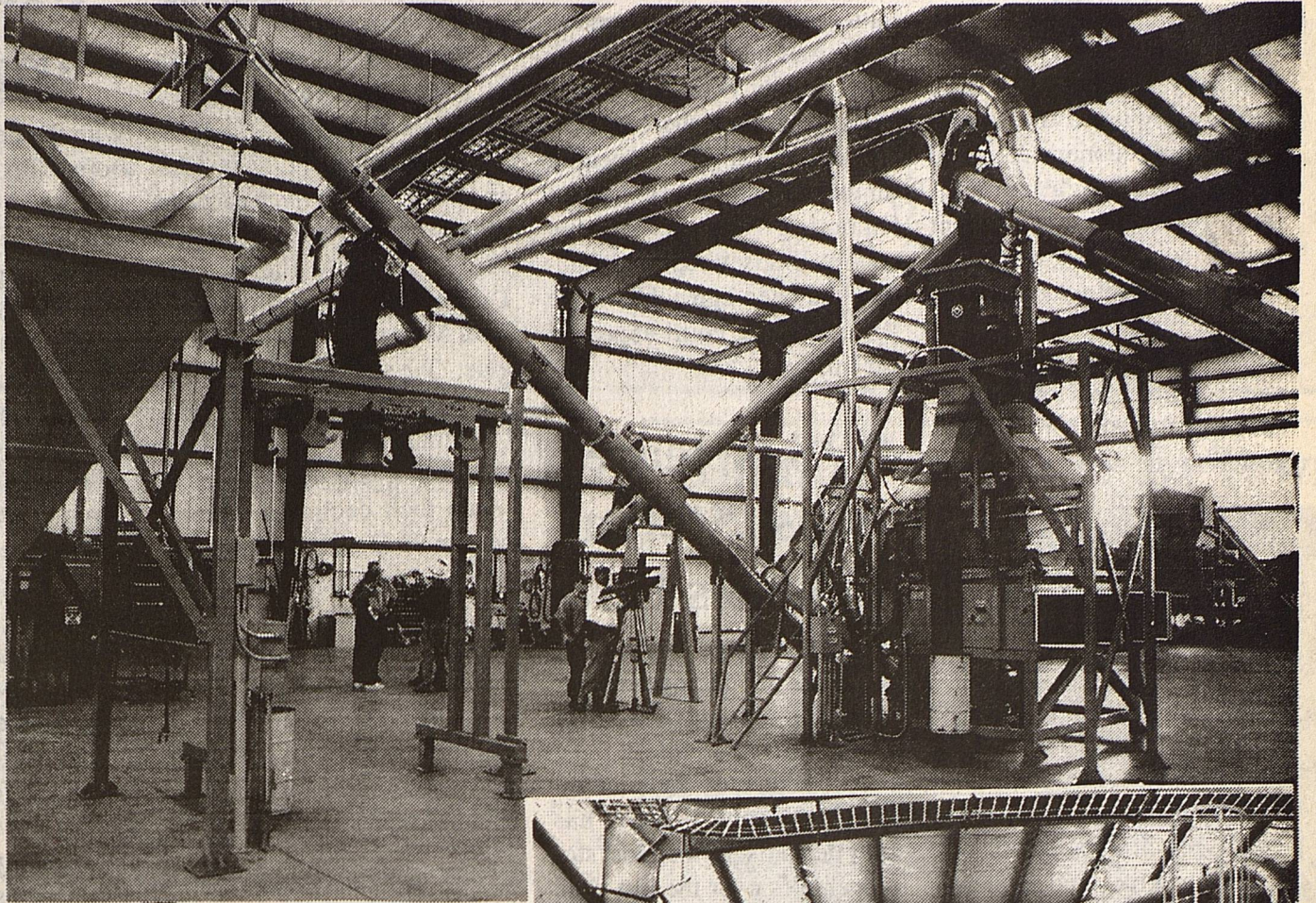
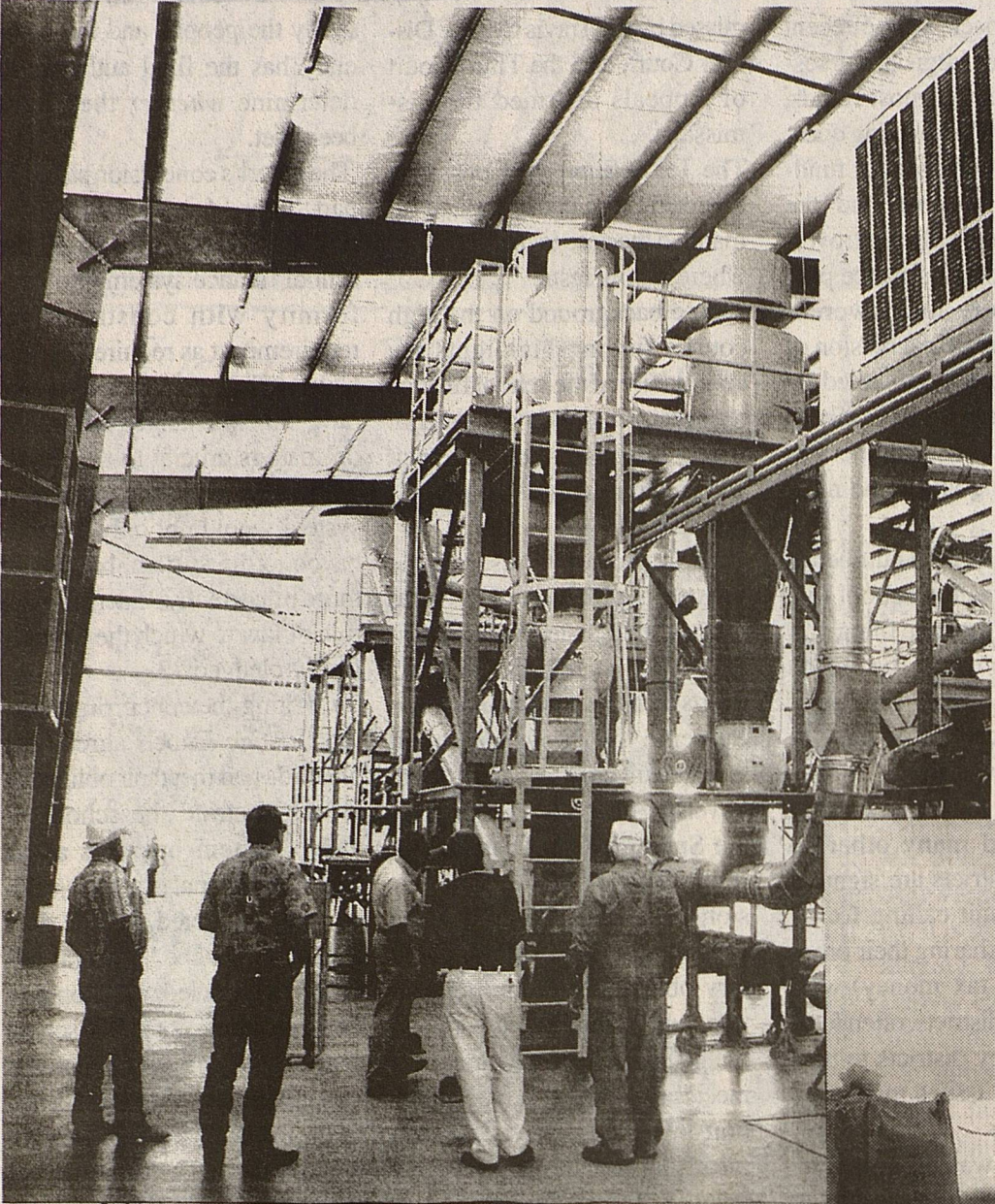
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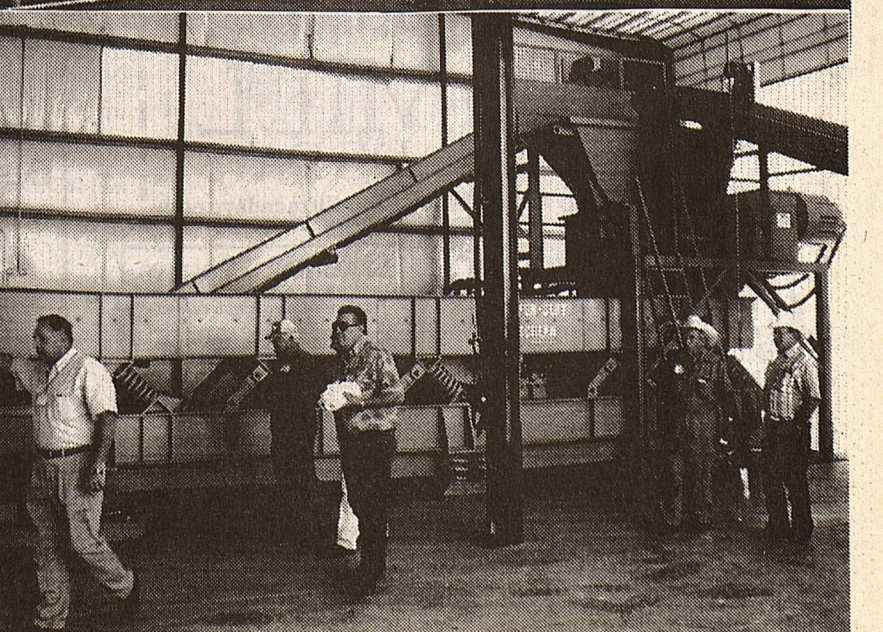
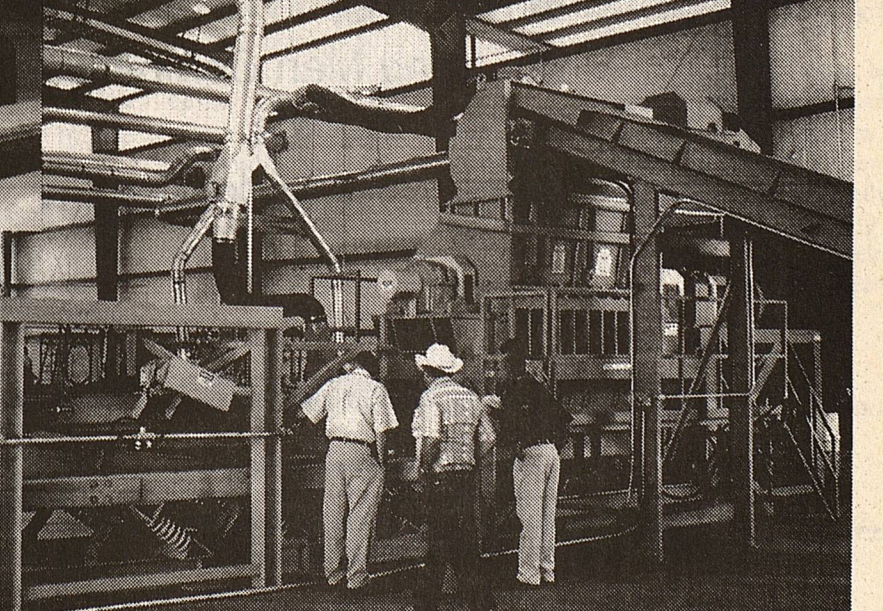
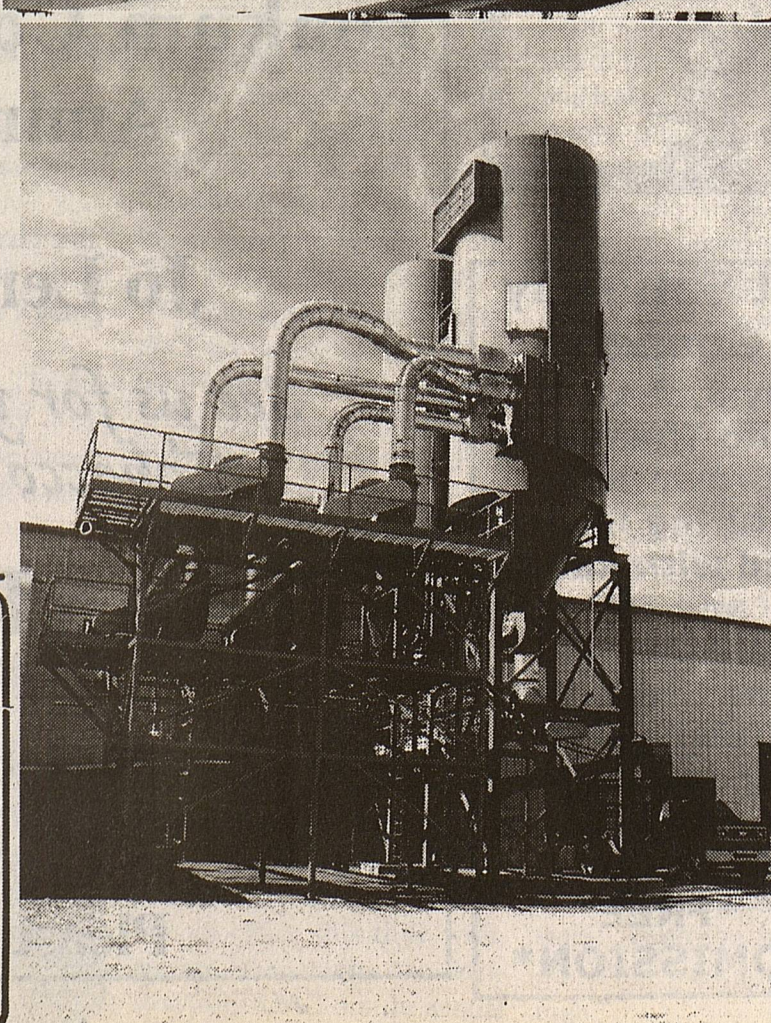
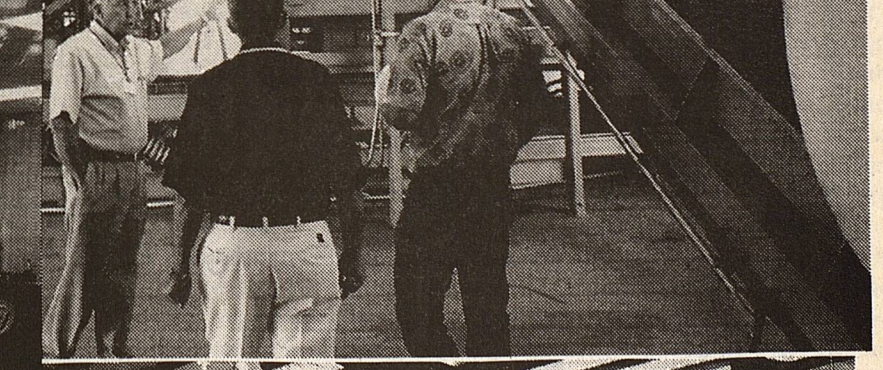
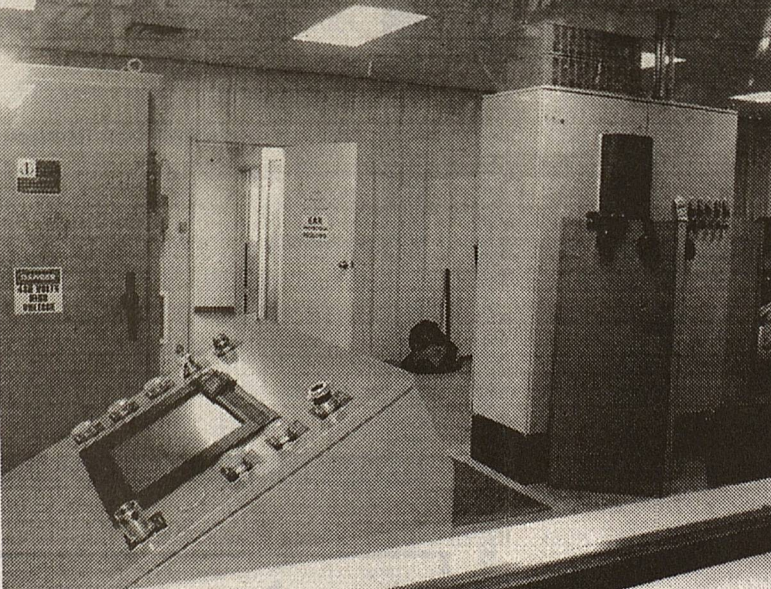
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**From Page One,
COURT**

In the week prior court meeting, Judge Dallas Brewer had suggested to the court a committee be formed to meet with London and discuss employment options. The committee consisted of Commissioners Lindsey and Cobb, Auditor Darinda Attorney Richard Clark, and Human Services Clerk Teresa Howard. Commissioner Lindsey told the court after lengthy discussion, with London present, they had agreed to hire her services effective July 1 for \$24,000 per year, with no more than 24 hours per week

pursuing grant funds. The committee also will have London make monthly reports on the status of any grant she is pursuing, and keep the court informed on available matching funds and other advantageous financing options for the county. Lindsey reported London had been agreeable to the terms, and the court approved her hiring.

**DPS Releases
Most Stolen
Vehicles List**

Auto thieves don't take a summer vacation, making the summer months the peak season for vehicle theft in Texas.

To help fight auto theft and increase awareness, DPS has compiled a list of the most stolen vehicles over the last year. (May 2003-April 2004) 1. General Motors pickups (9,155), 2. Ford pickups (4,802), 3. Honda

Accord (2,929), 4. Dodge pickups (2,714), 5. GM Suburban (1,925), 6. Honda Civic (1,870), 7. Toyota Camry (1,539), 8. Ford Taurus (1,170), 9. Ford Mustang (1,073). "Car and truck models five years and older account for about 70 percent of all auto theft," said David Griffith, commander DPS Motor Vehicle Theft Service. "We saw some promising numbers for auto theft in 2003, but summertime is not the time to let our guard down."

Auto theft declining 4.6 percent in 2003 after two straight years of increases. The auto theft rate (which takes into account population growth) was the lowest since 1978. However, there were still 98,174 vehicles stolen in Texas in 2003, accounting for \$782 million in losses.

28 % of Africa is wilderness. Over 38 % of North America is considered wilderness.

**Many questions remain on school
finance issue, outcome of lawsuit**

With the debacle of the recent aborted Texas Legislative sessions still fresh in most minds, the outcome of perplexing questions about public school funding, property tax relief and the demise of the highly controversial 'Robin Hood' finance plan remain largely unanswered. While another special session of the legislature will be called by Governor Perry to face school funding questions, another aspect of the ongoing issue must be settled;

a lawsuit signed by a number of so called "wealthy school districts" around the state filing suit in opposition to the "rich schools feeding the poor schools" perception of the current finance provision.

Both Plains ISD and Denver City ISD and many other so called rich districts are signatories to a lawsuit calling for an alternative to sharing their property wealth (tax money) with less fortunate districts, often forcing the wealthy districts to pass revenue bond issues to finance their programs.

This lawsuit was prompted by the outcome of an original lawsuit filed by four school districts, West Orange, Coppell, LaPorte and Port Neches-Grove ISD's on the grounds the state had instituted an unconstitutional State Property Tax with the current public school finance system. That suit was ultimately dis-

missed by the Travis County District Court, and the Third Court of Appeals affirmed the dismissal.

The Texas Supreme Court then reversed those decisions and remanded the case to district court, where it now rests.

Some background on the high court's finding highlights the complexity of the school finance question. The following material was obtained from the internet, and is a summary of those court proceedings.

The four districts asserted the finance system has evolved into a prohibited state property tax, and the district and appeals courts dismissed the charges. The Supreme Court overruled and sent the suit back to district court. Seven of the eight members of the Supreme Court agreed on reversal of district court decisions. The high court said the Constitution imposes a mandatory obligation on the Legislature, and "both empowers and obligates." The legislature must meet three standards; the education level must be 'adequate'; means to provide the necessary level of education must be 'suitable'; and the overall system must be 'efficient', and further stated, "the final authority to determine adherence to the Constitution resides with the Judiciary; The Legislature has the sole right to decide how to meet the standards

set by the people, and the Judiciary has the final authority to determine whether they have been met.

The Court's conclusion stated in part, "For 14 years the Legislature has worked to bring the school finance system into conformity with constitutional requirements as required by this Court. To announce now we have simply changed our minds on matters crucial to the development of the public education system would not only threaten havoc to the system, but would more importantly undermine the rule of law to which the Court is firmly pledged."

In writing the concurring opinion, Justice Enoch agreed the plaintiffs had met their obligation to demonstrate the school finance system operates as an unconstitutional state ad valorem tax. He noted that the duty to provide for the "general diffusion of knowledge" belongs to the Legislature, not public school districts. In his view, districts may allege they must tax at a rate set by the State to meet accreditation requirements, but may not assert the existence of an impermissible state ad valorem tax to provide "a general diffusion of knowledge" since that is not their duty."

If all this confusion continues to reign among actual lawmakers, and those who determine

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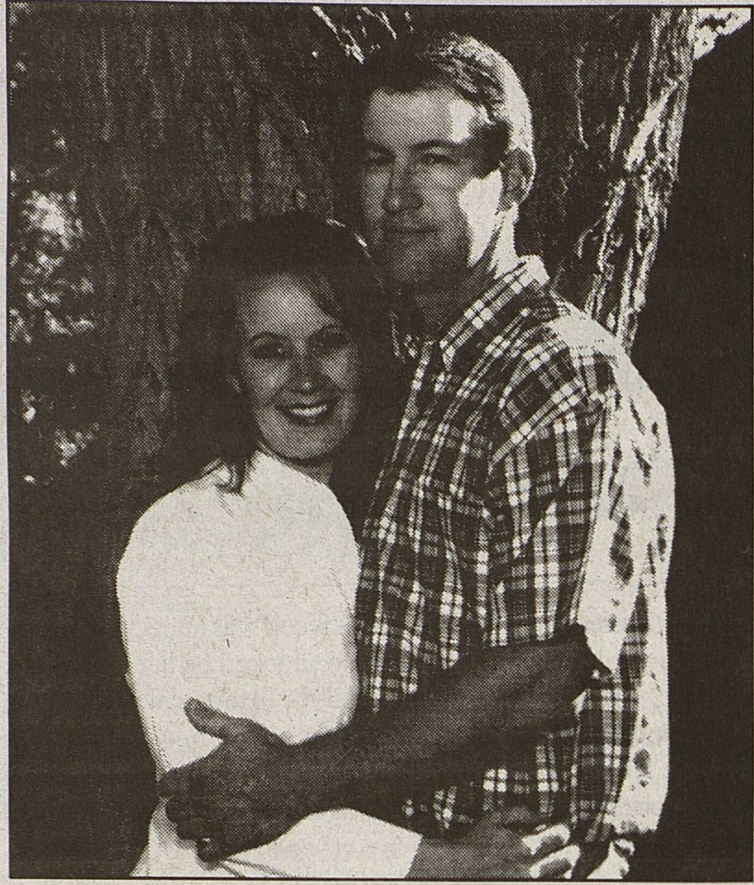
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Wedding Plans Announced



Roy and Sharon Graham of Midland and Larry and Paula Morrow of Plains are proud to announce the engagement of their children, Darla Graham and Layne Morrow.

The couple plans to be married September 4, 2004 at Circle Six Baptist Ranch in Stanton.

The bride elect is a graduate of Texas Tech University and Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary. She is currently employed by First Baptist Church of Lubbock.

The future bridegroom is a graduate of Texas Tech University and is self employed.

Texas Tech University Awards More Than 2,330 Degrees At Spring Commencement

Spring 2004 commencement at Texas Tech University saw approximately 2,330 students awarded degrees. Degrees awarded included approximately 1,830 undergraduate degrees 435 master's degrees and 54 doctoral degrees. Commencement ceremonies took place May 15 in the United Spirit Arena on campus.

Among the graduating students was Lindsey Michelle Six of Plains, the daughter of Gary and Kathy Six.

Also for the Spring 2004 semester, Texas Tech University had 2,126 students qualify for the Honors List, which is comprised of the President's List and Dean's List. To be on the President's List or the Dean's List, a student must have taken 12 quality hours during the semester and maintained either a 4.0 or a 3.5-3.9 grade point average, respectively.

Named to the Dean's List were Plains students Leticia Canon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Canon, and Anne Palmer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Palmer.

Area-Wide Girls' Conference "A Princess For The King"

Calvary Baptist Church 409 Broadway Brownfield, TX 79316
August 14, 2004, 8:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Calvary Baptist Church, Women's Ministry Team, Brownfield, TX, will sponsor "A Princess For The King". This conference will be geared toward girls in grades 7th-12th.

There will be 4 separate talks: Family, Friends, Fellas and Faith. All speakers are deeply committed Christians and are involved in various ministries. We will also have a praise team leading worship, drama and a fashion show/make-over.

Registration forms have been mailed to area churches. The fee for the conference is \$25.00 until June 30th, \$30.00 July 1-15. After July 15, t-shirt and study material cannot be guaranteed. For more information please contact Calvary Baptist, 806-637-7511.

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Senior Citizens Corner

We read in the Avalanche Journal and hear reports from friends about the terrific traffic trouble there in Lubbock these days. It's all true. Today I verified it. Time, as always, is of essence when traveling to the city with more items on the list than can possibly be accomplished in the length of time allowed. Back home again, a new list is made of those things left undone and awaiting the next venture into the metropolis. It is frustrating and yet challenging, isn't it? We see other Denver Citizens in the same predicament as we maneuver our way through the maze of closed streets, new routes, other roadways, and countless signs. We come home with a sigh and are glad for good old Main Street and Broadway and all of the familiar, smiling faces.

Stella Montez, our acting van driver in the absence of Sylvia Lozano, has made an exciting eight-hour drive this week to see her grandbaby be baptized. She reports that it was well worth the long drive.

Gladys Thomason has returned from a family reunion at Dripping Springs, Texas. She tells us there were thirty-five of her family gathered there and everyone had a wonderful time.

Aurora Dominguez, Ella Cervantes, Lupe Aguilar, and Byron Prewitt were new names on our visitor's list this week. We welcome each of these folks. Aurora Dominguez is serving as a caregiver for Lenore Matus and Byron Prewitt assists Raymond Singleterry so that he is able to live independently.

Fourteen people gathered in the rec room for a time of Bingo on Tuesday. Several winning tickets were received along with the fun and laughter.

Pat Altman is responsible for the repair of several of the dining room chairs which have been standing unused because of their condition. Thanks, Pat.

There are twenty home delivered meals going each day to seniors in Plains who are unable to enjoy coming on the van to the dining room. We encourage all those who are able to ride the van provided by the county to join us each day for the extra fellowship provided in the congregate setting of the Denver City Senior Center.

We again applaud our ladies of the Site Council for their efforts to do a thorough housecleaning of our senior center. Things accumulate, as they do around our homes, that are no longer in use and these ladies are systematically sorting, repairing, putting back to use, and discarding countless things long since stored and forgotten. It's a difficult and often thankless task. We appreciate you, Ladies!

Our bookkeeper, Ann Holland, returned from her monthly meeting at the SPAG (South Plains Association of Governments) office this time with, among other things, the decision from SPAG that the annual

Budget Proposal, which we struggle with each spring, needs to be redone. Each of the fifteen counties in our district will have to present the revised Proposal by July 2nd to meet new directives from the state. This is another of our staff that we cannot applaud often enough. We all depend on Ann to keep things in order for us and we are delighted with the news that Yoakum County has been singled out as an example by SPAG for the other counties to follow in this regard. Her job has been especially challenging these past months while we have been operating without a Site Director. Some of the clients have helped in various ways and these, too, need to be applauded and thanked. This Center belongs to all of us, not only enjoy but also to be mindful of where we can be helpful in making it the best place we can for our seniors of Yoakum County.

The list of accolades cannot be ended without recognizing the constant attention to and handling of various needs of the Center by our County Commissioners and City Council. Without their help, we could not function, and as more of our people become seniors who are ready to enjoy the benefits of the Center, we realize anew how fortunate we are to have a caring group of younger people serving on these boards.

With Independence Day just around the corner, let share a story I heard this week. It is the story of "Taps." During the Civil War, a Union Army Captain was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land. The captain heard the moans of a severely wounded soldier. Not knowing if he was a Confederate or Union soldier, the Captain decided to risk his life to bring the stricken soldier to his location for medical attention. In the dim light he recognized the soldier as his own son who had been studying music in the South when the war broke out and had joined the Confederate Army. The boy died in his father's arms. The father asked to have the Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son from a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the dead youth's uniform. The wish was granted. The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps" which is used at military funerals, was born. These are the words: "Day is done...Gone with the sun...From the lakes...From the hills...From the sky...All is well...Safely rest...God is nigh...Fading light...Dims the sight...And a star...Gems the sky...Gleaming bright...From afar...Drawing nigh...Falls the night...Thanks and praise...For our days...Neath the sun...Neath the stars...Neath the Sky...As we go...This we know...God of nigh."

Another Teenager In Town



Kimber L. Williams celebrated her 13th birthday at the school swimming pool with family and friends on Sunday, June 27th.

Plains Student Earns Academic Honors At HPU

Plains native Elizabeth Wilmeth, a student at Howard Payne University, was named to the Dean's List for the 2004 spring semester.

Students must achieve a 3.65 to 3.99 grade point average to be named to the Dean's List.



What about?

The other day I was on the Internet looking for resources on Grief. Have you ever done

that? I know you would really be enlightened at the various resources on Grief. There is one site about 'Grief for black heavy-metal' bands. Of course one band is called 'Grief.' I would think listening to a band in that category would cause anyone to go into deep grief or into a severe migraine headache what ever your choice!

There were the sites about grief that looked like they would be very helpful for someone. I then realized you had to 'come out of your inner self to really experience the fullness of your grief and come to the full reality of your existence in this lifetime... or your past life! I couldn't help but think about Shirley McClain and her being 'out on a Limb' with that one.

And then again, I found the online psychologists to help you with your grief if you will only join their email groups, of course for a fee. They even guarantee your privacy and 'no one will know what you have said.' (Well, except for those other 40,000+ grieving souls who have read your email?)

One I thought was cute and possibly a help to people was at www.legacyofhope.org/grief. The home page has cute little dancing bears loving each other and a really neat

poem someone's grief.

Or for stories and poems from others who have lost a love one, I found www.grieflossrecovery.com very interesting. Some of the stories and poems were really thought provoking and uplifting to read.

For the Christian approach www.gospelcom.net/guidanc/grief.shtml was a good one. It has good writings which are designed to encourage the heart along with good Bible Scriptures. (As if some were bad.) Another pretty good one was the Salvation Army at www.grieving.org. I also enjoyed www.aarp.org/griefandloss, www.grieving.org, well as the web site from the Kansas State University at www.ksu.edu/counseling/grief.html. It gives the stages of grief, how to go through the different stages and tasks of grief and mourning.

Grief is not a funny subject, but it is something that many of us never quite know how to handle when death comes to our families and friends.

Even Beth and I, with our daily dealings with death, never really know what to say to a family to help them cope. We all need more education on that topic!

Until Next Time!

Mark A. Jones
www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com
email comments
markajones@door.net.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

Less than five months until the general Election. I am not at all sure I will be able to survive that length of time. Not that I am so eager to vote.... I just want the blood letting to stop. In the last Presidential election I truly thought Al Gore did a fairly adequate job of convincing most - no, some of us, he was not a complete blithering idiot.

Which proves all of us, at any given time, can be dead wrong. I forgave him for his oft references to Tipper, and how they were joyously, sweetly, stickily so in love they jointly throbbled with excited joy if they were in the same state, much less the same bedroom. Now he has successfully wiped his nose from his defeat. He has now begun to get back in the swing of things... recently, he decided he would play Harold Dean, and was shown on the tube gyrating, swinging his arms, his hair actually just a bit mussed, almost gyrating like Elvis, and doing his best to scream, or is it squeal, like Dean. Too bad, Al, you're still not numero uno... Dean sounded much more like a javalina than you.

.....
 Somethings wrong here. For Fathers Day, I received a book entitled, " Jokes For Adults Only ". Honest. From a daughter. Honest. I cannot believe she has such impeccable taste!!

While in my personal library, on my special chair, which some crudely refer to as the bathroom and stool, I have been pouring thru the thing, actually chuckling while engaged in what many others would consider serious business.

Here are a few samplings of items I have come across:

OLD AGE - Seniors at a home are comparing ailments. " My arm is so weak I can hardly hold a glass."

" My cataracts are so bad I can't see my cup."

" I can't lift the cup because of arthritis. I guess that's the price we pay for getting old."

" Well, it's not all bad. We can be thankful we can still DRIVE!"

* An officer pulled an elderly driver over and said, " Don't you realize your wife fell out of the car four miles back?"

" Oh, thank God! I thought I had gone deaf!"

MEN - What act do married men report they perform twice as often as single men?

Change their underwear.

Male chauvinist indicators:

What's worse than a male chauvinist pig? A woman who won't do what she's told.

Why do women have smaller feet than men? So they can stand closer to the kitchen sink.

Why do men pass more gas than women?

Women won't shut up long enough to build up pressure.

WOMEN - If a man says something in the woods, and there is no woman around..... is he still wrong?

Great Female Comebacks;

" Haven't we met before?"

" Yes, I'm the receptionist at the AIDS Clinic.

" Your place or mine?"

" Both. You go to yours, I'll go to mine."

" What do you do for a living?"

" I'm a female impersonator."

" Hey, sweetheart, what's your sign?"

" Do Not Enter."

GOLF - A good walk spoiled, and an infuriating game that brings out the very worst in people, so named because all the other four letter words were taken.

BLONDES - A blonde sweetie was shopping at the supermarket. As she placed her groceries on the scanner the clerk asked, " Paper or plastic?"

" It doesn't matter, I'm b-sacksual."

" I can't find the cause of your illness, but I think it's because of drinking", the Doc told the blonde.

" In that case," she replied, I shall come back when you're sober."

I would suspicion I am now deep enough in trouble, but you still should blame the daughter-she's blonde, you know.

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Think Texas

by Agriculture Commissioner SUSAN COMBS

With three of the 10-largest cities in the United States located here, Texas has become much more urban over the years. As Texas cities rise in prominence, rural Texas cannot be left behind in terms of infrastructure, water, jobs, health care, technology and economic development. There's still a substantial rural population and many rural issues that need to be addressed quickly and carefully.

Many rural Texas communities are finding that through grit and innovation, there are solutions to these challenges. With the U.S. economy making a positive turnaround, the Texas Department of Agriculture is poised to help rural Texas move forward.

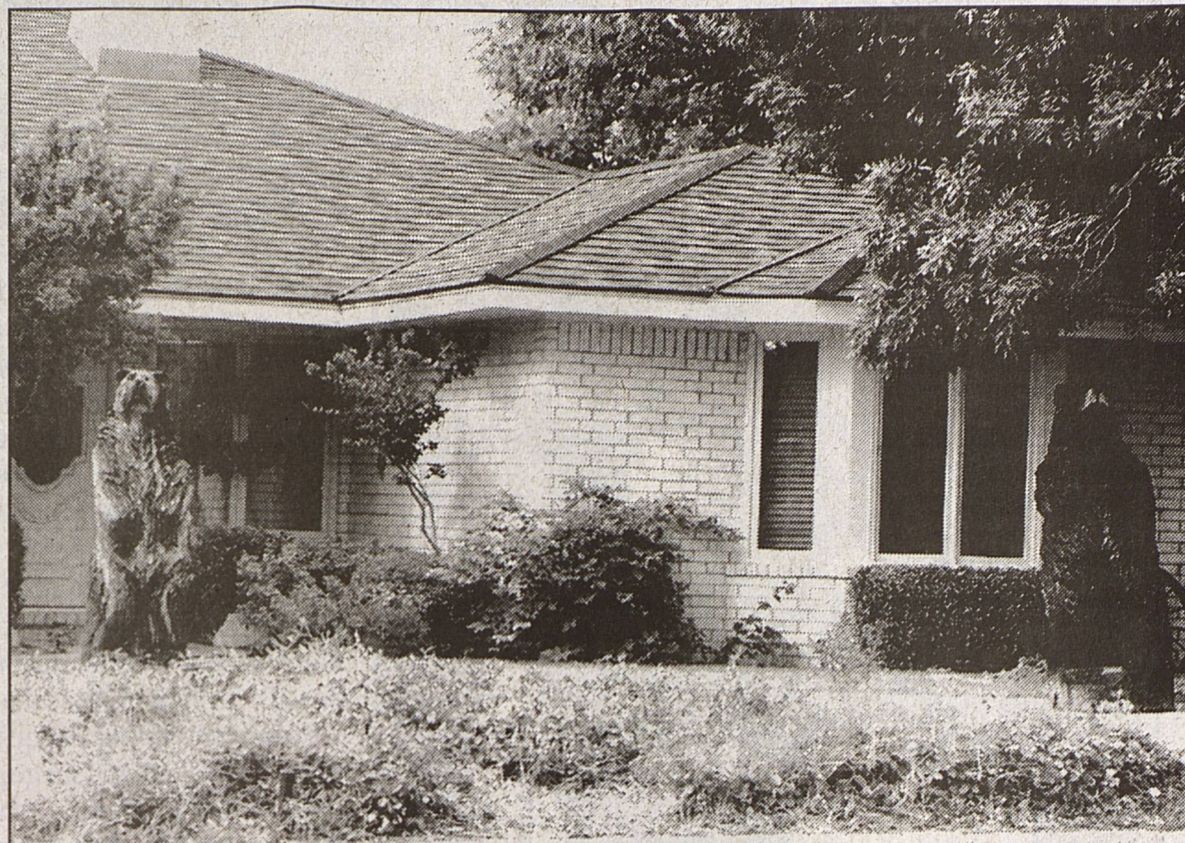
Various programs are in place to assist rural communities in creating jobs and boosting business development. Texas Yes! is the agency's campaign to promote agricultural diversification, small town revitalization and rural tourism; and the Texas Capital Fund program promotes business development and retention by providing funding awards to qualified applicants.

In fact, a new Capital Fund program was recently developed called the Downtown Revitalization Improvements Program. It is a matching fund program that provides financial assistance for projects that breathe new life into downtown areas. It puts hard dollars toward new, inventive projects, and we expect to see great things from communities across the state.

With a variety of resource guides and rural development specialists positioned across the state, TDA offers hands-on assistance to communities looking to grow.

Texas was built on homegrown successes and roll-up-your sleeves determination, and we are tapping into this spirit to gather fresh ideas for the future of rural Texas. Together, let's not leave rural Texas behind.

Giant, fierce looking bears spotted in north Plains



An unidentified motorist traveling on 4th street in north Plains last week was startled when these two fearsome creatures reared up in the yard of a house. He was so shocked he had only enough composure to snap this photo and flee. Later, he could not recall the address where the huge beasts were spotted. He did recover enough to return and find the scene, but the bears were gone.... " But I did find two very large feeding bowls in the yard. One bowl was green and had ' Baylor ' written on it. The other bowl was gold colored, and was named ' Univercity ', which was spelled wrong." Quite a mystery.



Top photo shows employees digging ditches for natural gas and electric lines to dryer site, photo below shows lines to be routed and buried at Attebury-Williams Peanut plant



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