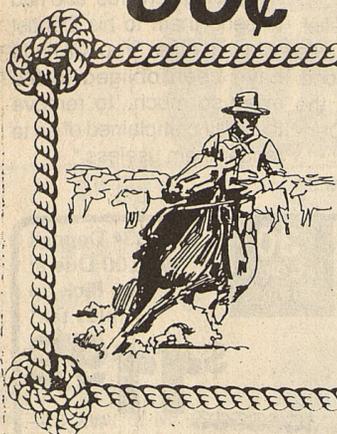


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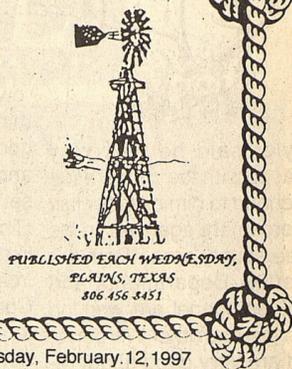
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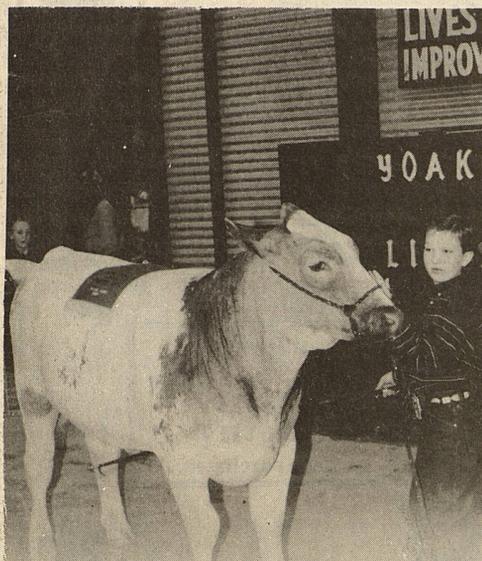


Cowboy Country News



Volume III, Issue 23, Wednesday, February 12, 1997

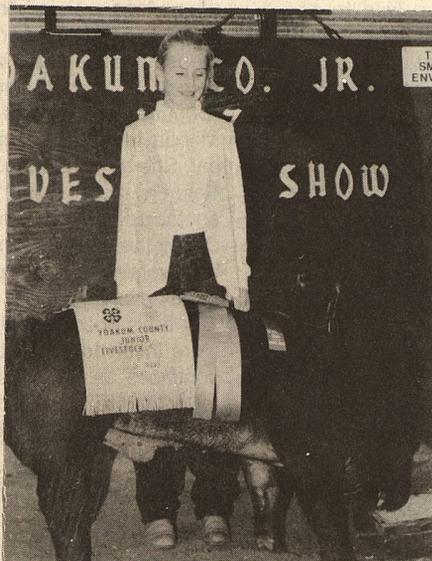
45th County Livestock Show Another Great Success



Austin Keesee & Grand Champion Steer



Ashlei Mason & Grand Champion Swine



Amanda Hiller & Reserve Champion Swine



Chase Kitchens & Grand Champion Goat

Well more than one hundred Yoakum County youngsters exhibited animals in the annual Junior Livestock Show, sponsored by the County Livestock Association for Plains and Denver City 4-H and

FFA organization members. Divisions of show animals included steers, swine, lambs, and rabbits. The swine division once more drew the largest number of entries, 184. A new division was

this year for Wether Meat Goats, a stock animal growing in popularity throughout the state. A new wrinkle was added to the popular stock show this year. County ranchers and cattlemen, past and

present, were honored when they were allowed to decorate the front of the recently enclosed concession stand with their herd brands. Two propane heaters were brought into the show to heat dozens of

cattle branding irons. Some of the brands burned into the wood front of the building dated back to the very early 1900's, creating a historical and nostalgic atmosphere to the show.

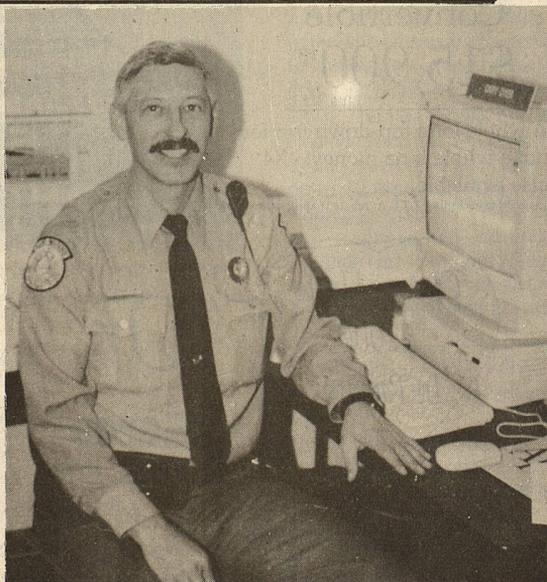
The event was well attended from the Thursday opening throughout its run till Saturday afternoon. Please find more Livestock pictures in following pages.

New Game Warden has unusual background

Jay Oyler (pronounced 'oiler'), Game Warden with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, was in town last Thursday, and agreed to a hour plus interview in our office. Knowing he was a 'rookie' warden, but noting the grey in his hair, he was asked his age, and surprisingly, said he was 40, a bit mature for a rookie officer, we noted. Smiling, he said he was finally getting started in an occupation he had always wanted, dealing with people, but in an outdoor environment.

Oyler said his parents were from East Texas, and he graduated from East Texas State University at Commerce, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree with a major in Zoology. "I couldn't find the job I wanted in the field I'd studied, and enrolled in the Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas. I received my DDS Degree in 1981, and was a practicing Dentist in Belton 4 years, and in Carrolton 9 years."

He said he had always been interested in the outdoors and all types of wildlife, and as the years passed, the field of Dentistry began to pale for him. In 1994 he learned the TPWD was recruiting for Wardens, and he applied for training at the Game Warden Training



Academy in Austin. He had a long wait before he was notified he had been selected, and then completed the rigorous 7 month training program. When asked how he handled the harsh physical sessions at the Academy at his then 39 years, he smiled and said, "I managed ok, and surprisingly, I was not the oldest recruit in the class - there were three guys older than me, one who was 52".

The Academy training session included time on the firing ranges, a great deal of swimming including rescue from swift water, pursuit driving, body recovery from lakes and streams, lots of physical

exercise, and even more running. He also had to successfully pass the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards test, and like sheriff deputies, police officers and DPS Troopers, is a certified state law enforcement officer.

Oyler said as a Game Warden, he has all the authority of that position as well as other varieties of police officers. He reported he recently had arrested a DWI violator on the highway while performing his regular warden duties.

Turn to page 2, 'Game Warden'

Santa Monica, California to Washington D.C. - on skates!

A quick test of your commitment to a cause, a very worthwhile, perhaps even noble cause; Would you volunteer to skate on roller blades from Santa Monica, California to Washington D.C., through eight states, well over 2,800 miles, in the dead of winter, for that cause?

Laura Clark, 25, made that commitment, and when she rolled through Plains last Friday morning, followed closely by her traveling companion and traffic watcher Roy Clakker in a Nissan pickup, they had covered some 1180 miles from their start on the ocean pier in Santa Monica.

Tipped off about their pending arrival in Plains by John Graham, publisher of the Lovington Leader, we intercepted Laura and Roy about eight miles west of town, and invited them to visit us the following morning, and they seemed pleased to accept.

They camped out that night in Stanford Park, and ate breakfast with us Friday morning. A very interesting couple. She is a graduate of the University of West Florida with a degree in International Studies, Roy graduated from the University of Florida, and then took his Master's degree in Organizational Psychology at West Florida.



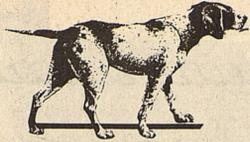
The first question posed, of course, was Why? Laura said she was deeply interested in and concerned about child welfare. She said this concern was fostered by incidents happening to she and her younger sister many years ago - both young girls were molested by an uncle. "There are more than 3 million children in the U.S. killed on average daily. Those statistics, and mine and my sisters experience led me to affiliate with the Child Welfare League of America. That's what this crazy skating trip is about, promoting CWLA,

hoping those figures can be decreased".

The couple began their promotional trip amid fanfare - both CNN and ESPN filmed their departure, and have shown segments across the country. They have been interviewed by newspapers, radio and TV stations in California, Arizona and New Mexico. Laura said, "We are both so amazed at the curiosity, the welcomes and the friendship we have received on the trip. A good example is right here in Plains. The

Turn to Page 4, 'Skater'

From page 1,
'Game Warden'



Oyler said he was very pleased with the cooperation extended to him by other law enforcement agencies in his three county area. "Both the Sheriff's Departments and DPS personnel are working with me and other Warden's, and are very good about reporting Parks and Wildlife violations". He said it was a common occurrence for both agencies to call him at night if they observe spotlights being used in fields and pastures. "We have absolutely no quarrel with hunters spotlighting coyotes at night, but we strongly urge those hunters to notify their sheriff's department where they will be hunting coyotes. If they don't, we must assume someone is spotlighting and poaching deer or antelope".

Oyler lives in Leveland, is married to his wife Kristie, and has three children, daughters Rashel and Kimberley, 9 and 5, and son Dave, 7.

The Warden briefly talked about the proliferation of mule deer in the county, a phenomenon unknown just a few years ago. "We think the reason there are so many good specimens of good buck deer being reported by landowners and residents is simply due to the good environment found in the sandhills area, which they appear to be thriving in, and the fact they have not been hunted. They therefore have longer lifespans, and naturally grow bigger, and their horns grow as well".

While no official word has been released from TPWD in Austin, Oyler feels Yoakum and other surrounding counties will enjoy some form of mule deer hunting season in 1997. "I'm guessing it will probably be about a 5 day season, and not a permit type season. It will probably allow individual landowners to allow only a certain number of hunters on their land, and controlling the number of deer to be harvested". He added, "Knowing the conservative nature of the land-

owners in my area, I would think they would take very good control of this natural and very fragile natural asset".

The Warden said he would like to inform the public in his Yoakum, Terry, and Cochran County duty area he wants to encourage all to enjoy the hunting and fishing opportunities here and around the state, but hope's they will realize the state's growing population, and resulting dwindling wildlife species, make it imperative the public cooperates in preserving our wildlife resources. He added, for the benefit of possible poachers of our area's impressive mule deer with their large racks, "Don't forget, illegally killing a game animal can result in a hefty fine - in the case of an illegal kill of a mule deer here, the guilty could not only be assessed a hefty criminal fine. They could also be subject to a Civil Restitution fee, similar to the criminal liability trial just resolved with O.J. Simpson; in the case a person illegally shoots a good specimen of a local mule deer, he could not only be fined in criminal court, but could be found guilty under civil restitution laws.

He said two of the most common problems he finds in his three county area is people hunting off roads, and poaching game. " Many people don't realize you must be outside the right of way of any public road to legally hunt game". He explained hunting from a vehicle is legal - in some cases. "If you are on private property, with permission, of course, you can legally hunt from a moving or standing vehicle - but not for any migratory birds". If the animal is deemed a valuable asset of the state, in the case of a mule deer, it would be judged according to Boone and Crocket standards for it's rack, or horns, and a civil fine could be added to the criminal fine, possibly doubling, even tripling the cost of the crime.

Poaching could be a very expensive past time.

Juveniles go on two night vandalism spree

Last Friday and Saturday nights were both marked by a series of criminal events, including burglary of vehicles and buildings, and vandalism to private property here. The two night binge started Friday evening, January 31. While the four Plains High basketball teams were in action in Seagraves, a student's car at the parking lot was 'keyed' (scratched), and two other student vehicles were entered.

A number of personal items including tapes and sunshades were taken from the vehicles. Apparently the perpetrators then entered the main high school and the junior high boys gym, and removed items from a number of lockers.

Sheriff Department spokesmen said there were six juveniles involved in these activities. Later that night they proceeded by automobile to the north side of town, and tossed eggs at and on at least six houses. The spokesmen said there were a total of nine youths involved in the 'Egging'.

On Saturday evening, a number of teens were gathered in the parking area in front of the Courthouse, when a vehicle passed, and a number of eggs were thrown from it at the teens. One managed to record the license number of the vehicle, and reported it to the Sheriff's Department.

Deputies were unable to find the vehicle Sunday, but on Monday morning located the female juvenile owner of the car. She furnished the names of three of the males in the Saturday night 'egging'. When the three male juveniles were contacted, they divulged the name of another girl in the car during the episode. The also learned the identities of the six juveniles who took part in the school ground actions on Friday evening.

Six boys and three girls, ranging in ages from 13 to 16, were involved in the two night's incidents. Investigation continues on the case. Six of the youths have been referred to the County Juvenile Officer. Some of the juveniles could face felony charges for burglary of the buildings and automobiles, the others can face criminal mischief charges, a misdemeanor.

Notice For Bids

The State of Texas
County of Yoakum

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 a.m., Friday, February 28, 1997, for the construction of a pool building at Stuff Moorehead Park in Denver City, Texas.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, March 3, 1997.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact J.R. Slentz, 700 W. Cedar, Denver City, Tx. 79323 (806-592-3287) or Mr. James Thompkins, West Texas Consultants, Inc., 501 W. Industrial, Midland, Tx 79701 (915-685-3800).

Sealed bids should be marked "BID - POOL BUILDING" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way @ Ave. G, Plains, Texas 79355. No FAX copies will be accepted.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and or all bids.

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'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

PHS Student of the Week



Sandi Warren, a Junior and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Howard is this week's student of the week. She was nominated by Mrs. Robertson, who said, "She possesses many admirable qualities. She is extremely disciplined, dependable, hardworking, respectful and respected both academically and athletically. She

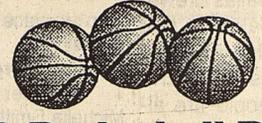
puts forth extra effort in everything she attempts. I believe she has what it takes to achieve the goals she sets for herself".



Matt McKenzie & Dawn Garland "Herding" their show goats



Rebecca Robertson & Dad give old "Oink" a cold shower



PISD Basketball Recap Long season ends February 7

7th Lady Wranglers- The 7th grade girls were idle last week. They had a tough season, winning only 4 games, but Coach Lusk is still proud of them; "The girls have done a great job this year. They have all improved 110%, both mentally and physically. Annaliesa O'Quinn was the leading scorer for the season, followed by Chelsi Wagnon, Arasley Luna, Julie Gonzales, Nancy Koncaba, Ashley Gonzalez, Rebecca Coronel and Elizabeth Clanahan.

7th Wranglers- The 7th grade boys wound up their season with a 22-14 victory over Morton, and ended the year with an 8-7 record. Jared Bell led the scoring with 9 points, followed by Tanner Hamm and Moises Gonzales with 4 each, Joseph Rodrigueux 3, and Patrick Brintle 2.

8th Lady Wranglers- The 8th girls lost to Morton 25-17 in their season finale. Coach Haragan used their season record against Tahoka to illustrate their improvement over the season; They lost the first game 47-22, then fell 34-27, and in the final meeting, lost by only 43-40 in overtime. The top five scorers for the season and their game averages were Kimbe Jones, 4.4 points, Lexi Warren 3.5, Kari Guetersloh 3.4, Tanya Vasquez 3.0, and Kim Willis 2.2. Haragan said "the girls will continue to work hard to help the Cowgirls next year".

8th Wranglers- The older Wranglers had a very good 13-3 season, beating Morton in the last game 38-32. Brett Squyres had 14 points, Adam Garcia 12, Armando Luna 6. Coach McAdams said he was "very proud of this team; They're very coacable kids who did a great job."

JV Cowgirls- The young Cowgirls fell to Sundown Feb. 4, 44-36. Kristen Gray led the scoring with 10 points, Rebecca Robertson 7, Patty Ruiz 5, Jessica Flores 4, Anne Palmer and Maranda Box 3 each, Krystle Blundell and Tandi Jones 2 each. The girls defeated Moron in the final game 26-21, to extend their season record to 26-21. Kristen and Jessica each had 8 points, Tandi scored 4, Patty and Lisa Parrish had two each, Krystle and Rebecca scored one.

JV Cowboys- The young Cowboys dropped Sundown 61-48 on Feb. 3, which extended their record to 13-10. Fermin Luna had 10 points, Matt Morgan and Patrick McGinty had 9 each, Cosme Casillas 8, Mike Bell 6, Alex Tarango and Clint Burrus 5 each, Josh Bell 4, Kyle Sisson and Justin Bennett 2 each, and Salvador Granados 1. (Morton game results unavailable)

PHS Cowgirls- The Varsity girls fell to Sundown 55-45 on Feb. 4. Kayla Redman led the scoring with 15 points and had 12 rebounds. Kyley Bearden had 8 points, Sandi Warren 7, Tessa St Romain 6, Kelli Osborn and Lindsey Six 3 each, and Jolyne Burgess 1. In their season finale against Morton, Shyloh Winn launched a 3 point shot with just two seconds left on the clock to give the Cowgirls a 49-48 win. Kayla had 10 points, Tessa 9, Kyley 7, Kelli, Sandi, Shyloh and Candace Bowers had 5 each, and Jolyne 3. Coach Osborn said "I am proud of the girl's determination and consistent effort. They kept playing hard in every game when many teams would have folded. They deserve praise for the way they represented our school and community".

PHS Cowboys- The Cowboys lost a heartbreaker to Sundown, 73-72. Tanner Blount had 21 points, Joe Luna and Jason Redman each had 17, Jamie Caballero 7, Eric Estrada and Adam Dominguez had 4 each, and Travis Bennett 2. Redman pulled down 12 rebounds. They had a final moment of glory Feb. 7 when they bombed Morton 99-51. They shot 48% of their field goal attempts, and Joe Luna led the scoring with 21 points. Redman had 18, Blount 15, Jamie 14, Shawn Cullins 11, Bennett 9, Eric 6, Will St Romain and Adam had 2 each, And Chris Willett 1. Redman again lead the rebounding with 10.



Chase Howell with Grand Champion Rabbit, Tommie McNabb with Reserve Grand Champion




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Jr. High Track Meet Schedule

Fri., Feb 28 - Here vs. Seagraves, Sundown, Wellman, Seminole

Thurs., Mar. 8 - Denver City

Thurs., Mar. 13 - Seagraves

Tues., Mar. 25 - Here vs Whiteface, Sundown, Seagraves

Thurs., Apr. 3 - Sundown

Thurs., Apr. 10 - Morton - District

* High school schedule in next issue *

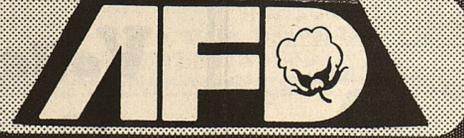
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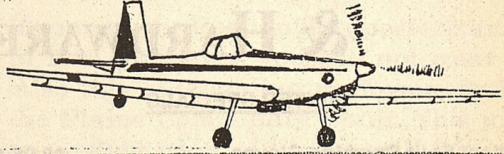


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From Page 1, 'Skater'

Sheriff's Department learned of our overnight stay, and they checked on our safety thru the night. I still don't know how, but your Sheriff Jim Rice received a call from someone telling him I had a cousin in Brownfield, someone I didn't know existed. He came to the park and gave us the number, and I called the number from the Dyer's house and I talked to a cousin I'd never heard of. They want us to spend the night with them, and I am so excited, because they just had a baby I'm related to".

Asked if she and Roy had experienced scary moments on the journey, she said "One especially scary one. We left California, me skating, Roy following then on a bicycle pulling a small trailer carrying all our gear. Close to the Arizona line, we started up this road under repair, up a nine mile incline up a big hill. There were no shoulders on the road, and cars and big trucks were whizzing by at 70 plus miles an hour, just inches from me, stirring dust and gravel up in my face, and when two of the wind gusts knocked me completely off my feet, I just had to quit, in tears. That was the point it was just too dangerous to go on, skateing in front of a bicycle. I was close to quitting, but Roy reminded me, hey, we knew this was going to be tough, now you get tough. It was then we knew we had to get a vehicle for Roy to drive following me, with flashing lights, for safety".

Roy told us, "This is one tough, strong girl. Coming up the road over Guadalupe Pass, the road is surfaced with real rough, gravelly type material. By the time Laura made it up and down that mountain, her knees were killing her from the pounding, but she made it".

When they arrive in Denton, they will drive into Dallas and take part in a Child Welfare League rally which will be covered by national media. Their route will continue to the Nashville, Tennessee area where they will visit Laura's parents and take a brief rest break before continuing the skate marathon thru Virginia to Washington, D.C. There, they will

join several thousand other CWLA supporters, led by the Vice President's wife, Tipper Gore, and will "storm Capitol Hill", calling on Congressional members to support the fight against child abuse and neglect.

Laura said she was convinced their trip was having a positive effect on many of the children they have talked to on the trip. "they see me in my skate gear, and it really gets their attention, opens them up to my talk. Some of these kids have been exposed to bad situations, abuse and neglect, and when they hear me tell them there are people and organizations trying to help them, you can actually see the appreciation and love in their eyes".

Both Roy and Laura work about six months of the year in Alaska. She serves as a tour guide on a 45 foot boat carrying tourists to view the huge glaciers near Seward, and to see and photograph the many humpbacked whales in the Alaskan Gulf. Roy works on a charter fishing boat working out of Seward, seeking salmon and halibut. At the end of September, Laura has another job, in Canada. She again serves as a tour guide during the annual migration of polar bears to Hudson Bay when the waters freeze over, drawing the bears to their seal hunting grounds. She had some interesting stories about trips out on the ice near Churchill in motorized sled enclosed vehicles to follow the huge bears. She said the largest bear she was aware of was over 18 feet tall and weighed more than 2,200 pounds.

In the near future this skating girl will return to school. She plans to earn her Master's Degree in social studies, and work full time in some organization involved in children's welfare. With her determination and drive, the smart money will be on her achieving that goal.

The CWLA is a non-profit organization uniting over 900 public and private organizations devoted to the welfare of children. For more information, or to make donations, write CWLA/Development Office, 440 First St. NW, Suite 310, Washington D.C. 20001.

Judge speaks to Lions Club

County Judge Dallas Brewer was guest speaker at last week's Lions Club meeting. In a humorous vein, the Judge said "People are always asking me exactly what I do as County Judge". He then read a fictitious chronicle of a typical judge's day. One of the logged entries read, "11:15 a.m. - received phone call from distraught lady in Ft. Worth, saying her 15 year old daughter was pregnant, asked just exactly what I intended to do about it".

In a more serious vein, Judge Brewer discussed provisions in the Code of Judicial Conduct for Judges of Texas. The "Bible" detailing what all judges can and cannot do. Judicial duties take precedent over Judge Brewer's duties as a County Administrator; Judges must be faithful to the law, unswayed by sentiment or knowledge of a case or it's principals; They may exhibit no bias or prejudices, cannot talk to a defense attorney without the District Attorney's presence, must abstain from public comment about pending judicial matters, cannot solicit funds from any organization, and cannot endorse election candidates, but may support a political party.

Visiting guests at the noon meeting included Sheriff Jim Rice and his wife Vivian, Jonnie Hise, State Highway Department, Toby Perales, new City Utility Supervisor, and Holly Dyer.

The next Club meeting will be at noon on February 20.

45th Junior Livestock Show Results

(Top six place winners listed)

SWINE:

Chester Barrows;

1. Summer Howard.
2. Michelle Smith
3. Trey Cleveland
4. Phil Grandon
5. Coley Burgess
6. Melissa Parrish

Lt. Wgt. Duroc Gilts;

1. Alecia Bearden
2. Calli Birkenfield
3. Trey Cleveland
4. Austen McMillin
5. Trey Cleveland
6. Nancy Koncaba

Hvy. Wgt. Duroc Gilts;

1. Blake O'Quinn
2. Alisha Cummings
3. Jessica Knight
4. Davela Maynard
5. Jonathan Teaff
6. Chelsea Blount

Lt. Wgt. Duroc Barrows;

1. Blake Parrish
2. Staci Tuggle
3. Ashley Unger
4. Gideon Traweck
5. Kerry Sisson
6. B.J. Lester

Hvy. Wgt. Duroc Barrows;

1. Amanda Hiller
2. Jeremy Humphrey
3. Doug Rushing
4. Dusty Bryan
5. Jessica Brown
6. Melissa Asebedo

Lt. Wgt. Hampshire Gilts;

1. Rustin Knight
2. Landon Craft
3. Casey Mayes
4. Sawyer McMillin
5. Misty McDowell
6. Ashley Unger

Hvy. Wgt. Hampshire Gilts;

1. Stetson Sellers
2. Summer Jones
3. Kelton Mason
4. Justin Nevarez
5. Jonathan Teaff
6. Lesli Rowe

Lt. Wgt. Hampshire Barrows;

1. Richard Nevarez
2. Rustin knight
3. Harley Taff
4. Michele Smith
5. Dustin Cummings
6. Davela Maynard

Mid Wgt. Hampshire Barrows;

1. Sandi Anderson
2. Ryan Crump
3. Kelton Mason
4. Marte Pierce
5. Jeremy Hum-

phrey 6.D.J. Robertson

Hvy. Wgt. Hampshire Barrows;

1. Skylar Keesee
2. Blake Parrish
3. Elizabeth Clanahan
4. Ragan McGinty
5. Chelsea Blount
6. Doug Rushing

Lt. Wgt. spot Poland;

1. Becky Trout
2. Gideon Traweck
3. Jennifer Hiller
4. Tanner Blount
5. Kelly Bowers
6. Summer Howard

Hvy. Wgt. spot Poland;

1. Amanda Hiller
2. Chelsea Blount
3. Sandi Anderson
4. Rustin Knight
5. Summer Jones
6. Callie Howell

York Gilts;

1. Ashlei Mason
2. Landon Craft
3. Annaliesa O'Quinn
4. Scott Addison
5. Ragan McGinty
6. Sawyer McMillin

York Barrows;

1. Ragan McGinty
2. Richard Nevarez
3. Coley Burgess
4. Rebecca Robertson
5. Justin Brown
6. Mist McDowell

OPB Lt. Gilts;

1. Scott Addison
2. Austin McMillin
3. Sandi Anderson
4. Justin Nevarez
2. Kerry Cummings
3. J.D. James

OPB dark Barrows;

1. Jordan Ragan
2. Major Howard
3. Stormy McDowell
4. Rustin Knight
2. Tanner Blount
3. Richard Nevarez

Lt. Wgt. Cross Gilts;

1. Rustin Knight
2. Tanner Blount
3. Richard Nevarez
4. Ragan McGinty
5. Cassandra Coronel
6. Kerry Cummings

Hvy. Wgt. Cross Barrows;

1. Ashley Mason
2. Kelton Mason
3. Cody Mayes
4. Cody Birkenfield
5. Michael Crump
6. Stormy McDowell

Lt. Wgt. Cross Barrows;

1. Jennifer Hiller
2. Elizabeth Clanahan
3. Staci Tuggle
4. Marte Pierce
5. Jacob Lester
6. Austin Keesee

1. Jennifer Hiller 2. Elizabeth

Clanahan 3. Staci Tuggle

4. Marte Pierce 5. Jacob Lester

6. Austin Keesee

Mid. Wgt Cross Barrows;

1. D. J. Robertson
2. Tanner Blount
3. Jessica Brown
4. Justin Nevarez
5. Ashley Winton
6. Kipp Blount

Hvy. Wgt. Cross Barrows;

1. Skylar Keesee
2. Dustin Cummings
3. Summer Jones
4. Chase Howell
5. Michael Crump
6. Krishna Grandon

GRAND CHAMPION-ASHLEI

MASON, HVY. WT. CROSS

GILT.

RESERVE CHAMPION-

AMANDA HILLER, HVY.

DUROC BARROW.

LAMBS:

Fine wool Wethers;

1. Mart Roberts
2. Mandi Anderson
3. Kutter Anderson
4. Luke Sellers
5. T.J. Kitchens
6. Chance Kitchens

Fine wool cross;

1. Jerry Lindt
2. Mandi Anderson
3. Rebecca Lozano
4. Tadd Coston
5. Jennifer Coston
6. Chance Kitchens

Southdown Ewes;

1. Kaylyn Hix
2. Mandi Anderson
3. Lance Unger
4. Courtney Hix
5. Rebecca Lozano
6. M'Leah McKinzie

Southdown Wethers;

1. Kaylyn Hix
2. Sandi Anderson
3. Courtney Hix
4. Kutter Anderson
5. Sandi Anderson
6. Lance Unger

Medium Wool Ewes'

1. Jerry Lindt
2. Jennifer Coston
3. Jennifer Coston
- Lt. Wgt. Med. wool Wethers;
1. Jerry Lindt
2. Jerry Lindt

More show results on page SEVEN

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| Folding Scissors | 1.99 ea. |
| Swiss Style Pocket Knives, Asst. Colors | 1.25 ea. |

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TEXAS LEAN SMOKED TURKEY BREAST STRIPS
NUTRITION FACTS
Serving Size 1 oz. (28g)
Calories: 70 • Fat Calories: 5
*Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on 2,000 calorie diet.

Amount/Serving	%DV*	Amount/Serving	%DV*
Total Fat 1g	1%	Total Carb. 1g	1%
Sat. Fat 0g	0%	Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Cholesterol 70mg	23%	Sugar 1g	2%
Sodium 380g	74%	Protein 1.2g	2%
Iron 4%			

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Femme Friends



HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



Getting Rid Of Sugar Calories

Empty one-fourth cup sugar, brown or white, adds close to 200 empty calories to your recipes by cutting the amount of sugar called for by 24 percent to 50 percent. For starters, try using one-third less sugar than the recipe calls for in pies, puddings or fruit crisps. Add more cinnamon, nutmeg, vanilla, almond, or other extracts to spark the flavor. Also, many naturally sweet fruits, such as pears, bananas and certain types of apples sweeten some desserts all by themselves. A substantial number of sugar and fat calories from a cake can be eliminated if you replace icing and frosting with confectionary sugar. Sprinkle confectionary sugar over the top after cake has cooled.

THANK YOU

To our friends and neighbors in Plains and surrounding neighborhoods - Our sincere thanks to everyone for the love and concern shown to us during the loss of our loved one, Preston (Wimpy). Thanks for the many calls, flowers, cards, and the memorials and tributes given in his honor. Thanks also for the food sent to the house, and the lovely meal served at the Church. To those who came by the hospital and

the house, giving words of comfort. Thanks to 'Generations' for your care and love; without your help it would have been hard. Also to Dr. Boyd who came by the house, and to the staff at Yoakum County Hospital. Thanks to Brother Bill Wright and Brother Rick Doyle for a beautiful service, and to Patrick Hamilton and the men's quartet.

Important Information Concerning Alternate Operator Services

When you travel, using the telephone can cost more than you expect if you don't know which long distance company or carrier is handling your calls. Travelers should always be aware that they may encounter an Alternative Operator Service when making operator-assisted, collect, or calling card calls from places like: hotels, hospitals, colleges, or pay phones. Long distance companies or carriers known as AOS's specialize in long distance calls which require operator assistance: person-to-person, collect, third-party billed and credit card calls. AOS providers are not subject to the same regulations as local and long distance telephone companies and can set their rates as they desire. To avoid unexpected charges on your calls, ALLTEL offers the following tips to consider:

- * AOS providers are required to identify themselves. Their identity may be listed on or near the phone you are using.
- * AOS providers must post their charges near the telephone, or provide such information upon request. If you cannot locate rate information, be

sure to ask before your call is placed.

- * Know the access code for your preferred long distance company and know the dialing instructions on how to use it with a calling card. If you do not receive information that you have been connected with your preferred long distance company, hang-up and request that the AOS provider connect you with your preferred long distance company. AOS providers are required to connect you with your preferred provider and most will do so when requested.
- * Hotels using an AOS provider may automatically route calls from your room through the AOS. If the AOS will not connect you to your preferred long distance company, consider using a public telephone in the hotel lobby.

"ALLTEL has no relationship with these companies other than to offer the same billing services made available to all long distance companies," said Terry Beeler, vice-president--Texas Telephone Operations. "The rate charged by these companies are set by them and not by ALLTEL."



Senior Citizens Corner

The Ground Hog is proving his point. Today is Thursday Feb. 2nd, and it cloudy and sure feels like winter. One good rain would make everyone feel good. On Feb. 27th we are having an Auction. Starts immediately after lunch. So come enjoy the meal and fun. The Auction will be all "Home Made" items, which could be anything you do - wood work items, baked goods, hand made items, pictures you have painted, canned goods. The list could go on and on so bring in anything you have created and help the center. Our condolences to the family and friends of Elsie Curtis. Her funeral was Friday the 7th in Oklahoma.

Everyone is happy to see W. D. Ashmore back at the center for lunch. Next Weeks Events.

Monday - Wednesday - Friday- Line Dancing-10:00 AM.

Monday-Pool/Game at 6:30 PM.

Tournament.-10:am. MST. We wish all a happy Valentines Day. Guys dont forget your best girl. She deserves a box of candy.

See you next week. Smitty

School Lunch Menu

Monday- Feb. 17

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Grape Juice, Milk.

Lunch - Corndogs w/Mustard, French Fries, Sliced Peaches, Vanilla Waffers, Milk

Tuesday- Feb. 18

Breakfast: Cinn. Rolls, Toast, Apple Juice, Milk.

Lunch: -Nacho w/Meat & Cheese Sauce, Shredded Lettuce & Tomatoes, Corn, Crackers, Brownies, Milk.

Wednesday- Feb 19

Breakfast: Cinn. Toast, Raisins Orange Juice, Milk.

Lunch- All American Cheeseburger, Chips, Mixed Fruit, Peanutbutter Cookies, Milk.

Thursday - Feb. 20

Breakfast: Waffles or Cereal, Raisins, Fruit Punch, Milk.

Lunch -Stew, Pinto Beans, Kosher Spears, Cornbread, Apple Cobbler, Milk.

Friday- Feb 21

Breakfast: Cereal, Toast, Orange/ Pineapple Juice, Milk.

Lunch: Chicken Fried Steak w/Gravy Broccoli and Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Hot Rolls, Pear Halves, Milk

prerequisites for college, visit program areas they are interested in and tour labs and facilities.

Third Annual Senior Sneak Preview at SPC

LEVELLAND--South Plains College will sponsor its third annual Senior Sneak Preview Feb. 27 to give area high school seniors a taste of college life.

Activities will include registration from 12:30-1 p.m., academic and technical advisement sessions and campus tours beginning at 1:30 p.m., parents workshop at 2:30 p.m., college information fair, housing tours, SPC club fair and entertainment from 3-5 p.m. and a Los Tejanos Cultural Event at 3:30 p.m.

The Los Tejanos Cultural Event will include a panel discussion on "Success in the Year 2000" by Adrienne Tovar, a news anchor at Channel 13 in Lubbock, Sam Ortegón, coordinator of program services for Lubbock Regional Mental Health Retardation, and Lina Reyes Trevino, an SPC graduate who is now a prosecuting attorney for the City of Lubbock.

Monica Marquez, the reigning Miss Fiesta del Llano and a graduate student at Texas Tech University, will perform a mariachi solo, and an SPC Tejano ensemble will also provide entertainment during the Los Tejanos Cultural Event.

"The Senior Sneak Preview will give students an opportunity to meet with college students and faculty, explore careers and see the campus first-hand," said J.J. Graham, coordinator of new students services at SPC. They will get information on career choices, possible majors and

Graham said that letters of invitation have been sent to 80 high schools within the college's service area and about 30 high schools in New Mexico. Last year's Senior Sneak Preview drew more than 600 students.

Entertainment will feature the SPC Jazz Band, Texas Cheerleaders, Terrible Tex, p.m., parents workshop at 2:30 p.m., college information fair, housing tours, SPC club fair and entertainment from 3-5 p.m. and a Los Tejanos Cultural Event at 3:30 p.m.

For more information on Senior Sneak Preview, contact the SPC Office of College Relations at 894-9611, ext. 2213.

Library Filmtime

Twenty-two preschool kids attended Filmtime on February 5, 1997. They sang three songs, played two games, watched a movie, and read one book. They also discussed their Valentine's Day Party that will take place next week.

Those attending included: Kevin John Gass, Rhaela Stall, Kelsey Curry, Carolina Hernandez, Lexus Jimenez, Lariah Johnson, Jacob Brink, Darien Squyres, Brittany Shaw, Hunter Welch, Katelynn Young, Isaac Doyle, Rhaemi Stall, Sean Curry, Cody Friesen, Kristie Lopez, Adam Nixon, Jaston Brink, Diane Blake, Katrina Shaw, Haley Welch, and Brett Hawthorne.



LET ALL HEAVEN REJOICE

From Heaven's Throne, The Angelic Celebration Of Easter!

If you saw the Passion Play performance in 1995, you know you will not want to miss this outstanding performance by the Plains Community Choir. This joyous celebration of Easter will be presented at 7 p.m. on March 5, at the school auditorium. Plan now to attend, and tell your friends and neighbors!

For more information, contact Director Patrick Hamilton, 456-3661

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Mark Your Calendar
Now! Plains Chamber of Commerce Banquet will be held the evening of Feb. 20.
Watch CCN for future plans & details

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Final Services held for Ruby M. Taylor

Funeral services were held in Plains, Saturday, February 8, 1997, for Ruby Martha Taylor, age 86. She passed away in St. Mary of the Plains Hospital, Lubbock February 6, 1997, following a lengthy illness.

She was born October 6, 1910, to her parents John Samuel Hinkle and the former Tillie Mead in Azle, Texas. In 1927, she married R.M. (Marvin) Taylor in Plains. She was a housewife who helped in the family ranching business.

Mr. Taylor preceded her in death on July 24, 1964, and her son, Edward Taylor, on November 26, 1991.

Services were held in Plains on February 8, 1997, in First United Methodist Church, with Rev. Rick Doyle, Pastor, officiating. Interment was held in the Plains Cemetery under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home.

Mrs. Taylor was a member of the First Baptist Church in Smyer, Texas. She is survived by two daughters, Juanita Drachenberg, Smyer, and Joyce Hoffman, Lubbock; A brother, John Samuel Hinkle, Burnet; a sister, Mary Louise Gray, Indio, California; 9 grandchildren, 3 great-granddaughters.



City Council election slated

Mayor T.J. Miller has called for a general election to be held on Saturday, May 3, 1997. The purpose of this election will be to elect three Councilmembers to the Plains City Council. The election will be held at Plains City Hall, 601 11th Street.

Those with expiring terms are Councilmembers Owen Schneider, Shane McKenzie and Bonnie Earnest.

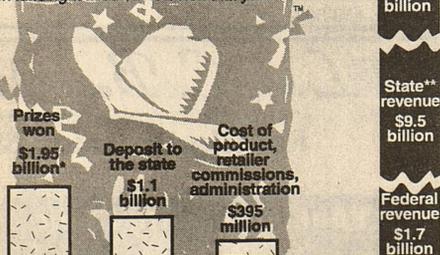
The filing period for this election will begin Monday, February 17 and will close at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 1997. Write-in candidates must file a "Declaration of Write-in Candidacy" by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19. Applications for a place on the ballot and write-in declaration forms can be picked up at City Hall during regular working hours.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted at the Plains City Hall during regular working hours, April 14 through April 29. Request for application to vote by mail must be made to; Suann Parrish, City Secretary, PO Box 550, Plains, Tx 79355, and must be received by 5 p.m. on April 25, 1997.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Lottery take vs. education funding

The Texas Lottery earned \$1.1 billion for the state from September 1, 1995 to August 31, 1996. Public education funding totaled \$21.8 billion that year.



*Does not include annualized value of Lotto Texas jackpots

**State revenue includes Foundation School Program funding, textbook purchases and state-matching contributions to the Teachers' Retirement System

SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Education Agency and the Texas Lottery Commission.

Old Branding Irons Enhance Stockshow Arena

The Newly remodeled and enclosed stock show barn concession stand is shown recently adorned with many old and current cattle brands



Criminal cases heard in County, District Court

In County Court on January 5, Michael Gene Braddock, 22, pled guilty to an assault causing bodily injury charge. He received a 60 day jail sentence, suspended and probated 12 months, was fined \$250, and must pay \$157 Court costs by March 5. He must successfully complete the Batterer's Intervention and Prevention Program at his expense. Judge Dallas Brewer presided, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

In Judicial Court on February 6, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Richard Clark representing the State,

three criminal cases were heard. Osby Dale James, 36, was sentenced on the State's agreed order on community supervision modification. The revocation was on conditions of his original offense of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He will be confined in Managed Care Center, Lubbock, for 30 days, and complete the Batterer's Program, and attend AA meetings weekly. He must also work 200 hours in the District Community Service Program. He was represented by attorney Warren New.

Larry Dewayne McKee, 37, pled guilty to DWI, 3rd or more. He received a 10 year probated prison sentence. He will be confined in a Substance Abuse Felony Treatment Facility (SAFF) at least six months but no more than one year. He must serve 180 days in jail, with credit for two days served, or until placement in a SAFTF. His \$1500 fine will be waived until 30 days after release from SAFTF. He must pay \$251.50 Court costs, surrender his driver's license 180 days, complete the Texas DWI repeat offender program, and install an interlock device on any vehicle driven within 30 days release from Jail,

SAFTF or any continuing care. He was represented by Attorney Jerry Corbin.

Glen Dale Cleveland, 40, pled true to the State's motion to revoke probation. He too will be confined in a SAFTF facility at least six months but no more than one year, and will spend 180 days in jail or until space is available. His community service will be extended until completion of SAFTF and all delinquent fines, attorney fees are current. Monthly payments shall begin 30 days after defendant is released, and he must pay an additional Attorney's fee of \$200 and \$40 per month for community service fees for the extended period.

Felipe Aranda, 60, pled true to the State's order to proceed with adjudication of guilt. His original offense was possession of more than five pounds of marijuana, but less than fifty pounds. He was sentenced to 13 years in the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice Institutional Division, the sentence to run concurrently with a judgment previously handed down in Lea County. He will be credited with 32 days for time already spent in jail. He was represented by Attorney Jessie Herrera.



G.W. Cleveland was the first "branding iron artist" to adorn the concession stand wall with some of his family's brands. His father George filed on four sections of land here in 1904.

Hospital, St. Mary of the Plains give Commissioner's Court favorable report

In the regular session of Commissioner's Court last Monday, representatives of St. Mary of the Plains Hospital and Ed Rogers, hospital administrator, delivered a financial and operational report on the status of the County Hospital in Denver City. Roughly one and a half years ago, Yoakum County and St. Mary's entered into a management contract, relieving the County of many of the responsibilities of the Hospital's day to day operations. According to Ed Rogers, current Hospital Administrator, the facility is operating efficiently, effectively, and has plans to expand and improve services in the coming years. Rogers introduced Becky Briscoe to the Court, the hospital's new resident controller, Steve Beck, St. Mary's Regional Controller, and Richard Pope, Vice President of St. Mary's Regional Services. Beck presented a portfolio of financial data to the court which detailed growth in both patient admissions and gross patient revenue.

The report showed more than 1100 patients were admitted to the facility for either acute care or observations, and gross patient revenue for 1996 amounted to \$5,168,069. Beck pointed out operating costs totaled \$5,204,727, and the total county tax dollars used in the operation totaled \$746,000. He explained the deficit was caused by Medicare and Medicaid patient utilizations, where the patient's total bill is not always covered, by expensive emergency room treatments of patients with no insurance and limited abilities to pay, and bad patient debts.

The positive side of the dollar balance sheet shows county expenditures for the hospital have declined substantially since the St. Mary management contract was initiated in 1994. That year, \$1,160,000 of taxpayer dollars were spent on the hospital's operation. In 1995, the amount fell to \$1,045,000. Last year's \$746,000 expenditures reflect a reduction of \$414,000 in tax expenditures since 1994.

Other data contained in the 1996 Annual Report showed 91 babies were born in the hospital last year, compared to 65 in 1994. Inpatient Medicare and Medicaid patients accounted for over 57% of the facility's use, and there were 2,063 visits by patients utilizing the new physical therapy facilities at the hospital.



Jerry Lindt and Grand Champion Lamb

Ashley Unger with Reserve Champion Lamb

Outstanding Citizen

My nominee to receive the 1996 Plains Chamber of Commerce CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

is

I believe that he or she should be named for this honor because:

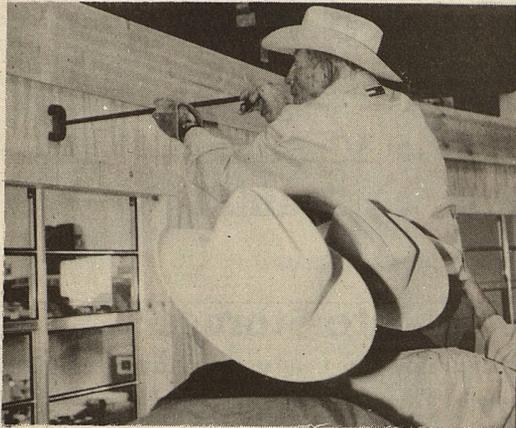
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DEADLINE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1997

Michelangelo's with a hot iron

These ranchers displayed their talents during stockshow



'Crip' Henard



Gene Bennett



Johnnie Fitzgerald

More livestock show results

Lt. Wt. Med. wool wethers;
 1.Jerry Lindt 2.Jerry Lindt
 3.Tadd Coston 4.Jolyne Burgess
 5.Cody Mayes 6.Dawn Garland
 Hvy. wt. Med. wool wethers;
 1.Lance Unger 2.Ashley Unger
 3.Krystal Sellers 4.Tadd Coston
 5.Ashley Unger 6.Krystal Sellers
 GRAND CHAMPION- JERRY
 IND. MED. WT. EWE.
 RESERVE CHAMPION-
 LANCE UNGER, MED. WT.
 WETHER.
 STEERS;
 Lt. wgt.;
 1. Austin Keese 2.Rebecca
 Robertson
 Hvy. Wt.;
 1.Austin Keese 2.Rebecca
 Robertson 3.Skylar Keese
 GRAND CHAMPION-
 AUSTIN KEESEE, HVY. WT.
 RESERVE CHAMPION-
 REBECCA ROBERTSON,
 HVY. WT.
 WETHER MEAT GOATS:
 Lt. Wgt:
 1.T.J. Kitchens 2.Jolyne Bur-
 gess 3.Dawn Garland
 4.Austen McMillin 5.Justin
 Nevarez 6.Justin Nevarez
 Mid. Wgt.:
 1.Chance Kitchens 2.Chelsea
 Sellers 3.Casey Mayes
 4.Ashlei Mason 5.Dawn Gar-
 land 6.Chance Kitchens
 Lt. Hvy. Wgt.
 1.Jerry Lindt 2.M'Leah
 McKenzie 3.Ragan McGinty
 4.Summer Jones 5.Ashlei Ma-
 son 6.Matthew McKinzie
 Hvy. Wgt;
 1.Edward Smyres 2.Jerry Lindt
 3.Lance Unger 4.Trey Walker
 5.Skye Sellers 6.Ragan

McGinty
 GRAND CHAMPION-CHANCE
 KITCHENS
 RESERVE CHAMPION-
 JERRY LINDT
 RABBITS
 GRAND CHAMPION
 CHASE HOWELL
 RESERVE CHAMPION
 TOMMIE MC NABB
 Megan Allsup 9-7
 Aleca Bearden 2
 Chelsey Ann Bearden 6
 Erica Bell 9
 Christopher Burnip 12-13
 Chisum Deaton 4-7
 Sterling Deaton 5
 Colby Dill 3-1
 Kristin Elliott 6-4
 Jeremy Horn 4-1
 Callie Howell 3-1
 Chase Howell 4
 Jeremy Humphrey 7-7
 Summer Jones 10
 Anthony Loya 3
 Casey Mayes 5-5
 Cody Mayes 12-14
 Grady McNabb 2-2
 Arturo Perez 6
 Rhett Price 2-3
 Tara price 8-1
 Donita Richardson 4
 Mandi Rogers 5
 Ryan Rogeers 2
 Chelsea Sellers 15
 Dustin Sellers 8
 Krystal Sellers 13
 Shandi Sellers 8
 Skye Sellers 11
 Stetson Sellers 6
 Matthew Thomason 3
 Trey Walker 11

Beneficial Windbreaks

On a farm or ranch, home-
 stead windbreaks determine
 where the production land
 ends and the homestead or
 "yard" begins. In Yoakum
 County such windbreaks es-
 tablish more than living
 boundary, they also provide
 protection for the residence.

Homestead windbreaks,
 when planted 100 feet from
 the home, block the hot dry
 winds of summer and the
 cold gusts of winter which
 in some regions, may also
 involve snow. Such protection
 increases the heating and
 cooling efficiency of the resi-
 dence, according to Robert
 Fewin, TFS area forester,
 Lubbock. Multiple row
 breaks also add natural
 beauty, privacy and value to
 a homestead, and act as a
 sound barrier to highways or
 farm road traffic.

To ensure maximum perform-
 ance Fewin recommends a
 four-row farmstead wind-
 break: an outside shrub row,
 providing low density protec-
 tion, two interior evergreen
 rows, supplying year round
 security, and an inside tall
 deciduous row, extending
 the zone of protection.

Within a homestead wind-
 break each row and its spe-
 cies play a unique and yet
 concerted role in the life and
 effectiveness of the break. In
 regions where snow drifting
 is a concern, a north side
 shrub row planted 40 feet
 from the main windbreak, be
 it of naking cherry or aromatic
 sumac, wildlife, the shrubs
 produce fruit, cover and
 browse which will attract and
 sustain wildlife populations.

The interior evergreen
 rows, the backbone of wind-
 breaks, create year-round
 surveillance and foliage of up
 to seventy-five years or more.
 The deciduous tree row
 which produces a tall barrier
 quicker than the evergreens,
 provides earlier protection
 and also extends the maxi-
 mum zone of protection on
 the leaside.

To create a farmstead
 windbreak in the spring of
 1997, seedlings produced by
 the TFS West Texas Nursery
 can be ordered today through
 the Yoakum Soil and Water
 Conservation District. For
 more information or for assis-
 tance in planning a multiple
 row, farmstead windbreak
 call the Yoakum SWCD at
 456-3703.

Lea County Electric makes proposal to buy City's electric system

The Plains City Council and
 staff heard a proposal by Lea
 County Electric Cooperative
 (LCEC) to become the exclu-
 sive supplier of electric
 power for the city, by pur-
 chasing the entire city sys-
 tem. The proposal occurred
 at the Monday afternoon
 meeting of the Council, and
 lasted a little more than one
 hour.
 Michael Dreyspring, Gen-
 eral Mgr. of LCEC, was chief

Marcey House attends 1997 'Hide Party' in Houston



Marcey House, PHS Junior and the daughter of Wayne and Phylis House, was honored
 with an invitation to attend the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo annual "Hide Party"
 there on January 28. The steer auction committee of the livestock show host the cele-
 bration prior to the Livestock Show and Rodeo, and young exhibitors who showed the
 top ninety steers in the previous year's show are guests, where the hides of their winning
 steers are exhibited. The Houston Livestock Show is the world's largest, and the steer
 sale is the largest dollar volume Junior steer sale in the world. In the 1996 show, Marcey
 showed the Reserve Grand Champion steer in the Other Breeds and Crossbred Divi-
 sion, and the animal brought \$27,500 in the auction. She is shown here with the purchas-
 ers of the steer, and the hide of the steer in the background.



Walker, Texas Rep



Howdy, Friends,

To borrow an old expression, "This joint is jumping!" The first 30 days of the session have
 proven to be fast and furious. Ground work for important legislation having long lasting
 impact on the great state of Texas is in progress.

Senate Bill 1, more commonly known as the water bill, is one of such far reaching mea-
 sures under work. After carefully reviewing the bill I see a lot of good, and some things that
 require more research. Overall, I believe it is important to have a statewide water man-
 agement plan.

Another important measure that we have considered is the "stalking bill". Senate bill 9,
 sponsored by Senator Moncrief, dealt with the overturning of a previous measure creating
 penalties for the act of stalking. The new bill provides a clear definition of stalking and
 extends protection to members of a victim's household.

For the past week the various subcommittees of the Appropriations Committee have
 been working diligently to ensure that the state's money is spent wisely and that perform-
 ance measures are being adhered to.

In the upcoming weeks the full committee will consider budgets dealing with billions of
 dollars and encompassing state agencies with staffs of thousands to staffs of two. Friends,
 let me tell you, this is no easy task. There are many agencies doing outstanding jobs for
 the state. However, there is only so much money to go around.

As you may know, the Governor has released his property tax reduction bill. Pete Laney,
 Speaker of the House, has appointed a select committee to review the Governor's propo-
 sal. I agree something must be done regarding property taxes and the funding of our
 school system. I look forward to the recommendations of this committee.

I would like to encourage you to continue to offer your support and ideas on any legisla-
 tion you feel is important. I look forward to your ideas on the water bill, property tax reform
 and electric deregulation. It is with your help I can make the best decisions for the folks of
 District 80.

Thank you and God bless.

Gary Walker
 State Representative

spokesman explaining the proposal. He was accom-
 panied by the LCEC Board of
 Directors, including Robert
 Caudle, John Engle, Terry
 Davis, Bobby Burnett, Dean
 Kinsolving, Thurman
 Duncan, Esten Alexander,
 Billy Royce Medlin, J.W,
 Spears and Jackie McMillan.
 Because of the late break-
 ing news item, and the com-
 plexity of the proposal con-
 tained in the thick manual
 detailing the transaction and
 new franchise agreement,
 more details will be featured
 in a future issue of CCN

From The Hack



Every year around February 14, Valentine Day, my head and heart swarm with memories. No, No, not of cupid and hearts and all that swill; February 14, 1951, when I was sworn into the U.S. Navy; sworn in that day, sworn AT the next four years.

I still vividly recall the ceremonies at Albuquerque so long ago, about fifty of us listening to an officer standing before the flag, hands raised, solemnly repeating the oath. When it was finally over I heard some poor soul mutter, "Oh, Lord, what have you let me do?" As I recall, one single tear trickled down my young tender cheek, amazed at my own stupidity. It didn't get any better when they gave us a very thorough physical exam. There is something very demeaning about standing buck naked with fifty other idiots as the Docs and Medics walked along the lines, poking, prodding areas of our anatomies I had been told all my life were strictly off limits to me, and especially anyone else. I remember the drill vividly; "OK, when I probe under here, turn your head and cough.... I SAID TURN YOUR HEAD FIRST, STUPID!"

Life certainly didn't take on a new glow when we arrived at Boot Camp in San Diego, either. What a bummer of a of a memory trip.

The Bride and I were disturbed at supper Monday evening by a phone call, and further disturbed when we learned it was from old D.C. and Plains resident Andy Townes. He called to explain why he was three months late renewing his subscription, and hoping we would continue sending our rag to his new address, subject , of course, to receiving his post dated check, which he failed to sign before he forgot to put it in the mail. I assured him we would continue the relationship, subject to 28% interest charges, which his Pap Vernon used to do to me.

Andy and wife have finally been able to move into their new lakeside home on Lake Bridgeport. He assured me if we would visit, the room fee would be minimal, but who's

to believe a Lawyer's seed? In the conversation, somehow the name of Jim Brown came up. They are somehow related, but both violently deny it.

We both recall a bass fishing tournament years ago when Brown must have eaten 39 four leaf clovers and said 84 Hail Mary's to enable him to win a tournament on Lake Brownwood. His low rent bass boat wouldn't start at the opening gun, and Brown paddled, pulled and pushed the thing around the teeny little area the launch was in, and either bought, stole, or borrowed enough bass to win the thing. I still simmer, and Andy is still very suspicious.

Anyway, it was good to hear from young Townes, whether he ever pays us a nickle or not.

We watched the movie "Tin Cup" on Prime Star last night; half way through the comedy, the Bride looked at me, puzzled, and said "I thought it was going to be about beggars asking for money".

Wrong, of course. It's about goof... oops. Spelled it wrong, it's golf. A comedy, which of course, the subject matter is.

Yes, the thing has a few unchoice words which tender ears will not appreciate - but then, tender eared souls should not play golf, either.

One scene featured this kook, would be pro-golfer, Kevin Kostner, riling his caddy up to the point the lowly hired hand snaps one of Kevin's ('Tin Cup's) clubs in frustration. To make a point, Kostner then methodically removes each club from his bag, snaps it over his putter, save for a 7 iron. He then, of course, proceeds to win the tournament only with the 7 iron, demonstrating his infallibility with the game.

Hogwash. Bah, Humbug. It could not happen that way! A true, frustrated golfer, like the legendary 'Tin Cup' would have also broken his 7 iron, stormed off the course, vowing vengeance against his caddy, all other players, the course, the course management, the U.S. Golf Association, golf equipment makers,

advertisers, even cursing junior golfers who got in his way. Come on, Hollywood, get real about this game! Us true golfers know how to handle real, true life situations!

We appreciate each and every one of our subscribers, even those who occasionally express a small gripe. We received a renewal check, and a note from a reader recently saying "I wish the paper had more local news".

A bit puzzled, and concerned, we went back through the last three weekly issues, and counted the total number of stories and articles, 72 in number. Of these, 58 dealt with Plains or Yoakum County people or events. That translates to 76% percent "local" coverage. The great majority of the other 24 articles dealt with Texas events, people or issues, most of them impacting local and county residents.

We always welcome news of local events, and are happy to report them. Since many things happen which we can't attend, or in many cases even know about, we can't report them. We will not publish a 'gossip' newspaper, but we do want to cover our locals - if we don't get the news, we can't print it.

Bid Notice

Plains Independent School District will accept bids to re-roof a portion of the main campus until 2:00 pm, February 19, 1997, in the Administration Office. Bids will be opened and read at that time. The specified roofing is flood coat and lava rock. Information can be obtained by contacting Eric Banfield, Business Manager, Plains I.S.D., Box 479, Plains, Tx, 79355, or by calling 806-456-7483.

Plains I.S.D. Board of Trustees reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids and waive all technicalities.

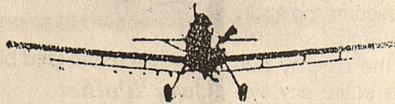
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