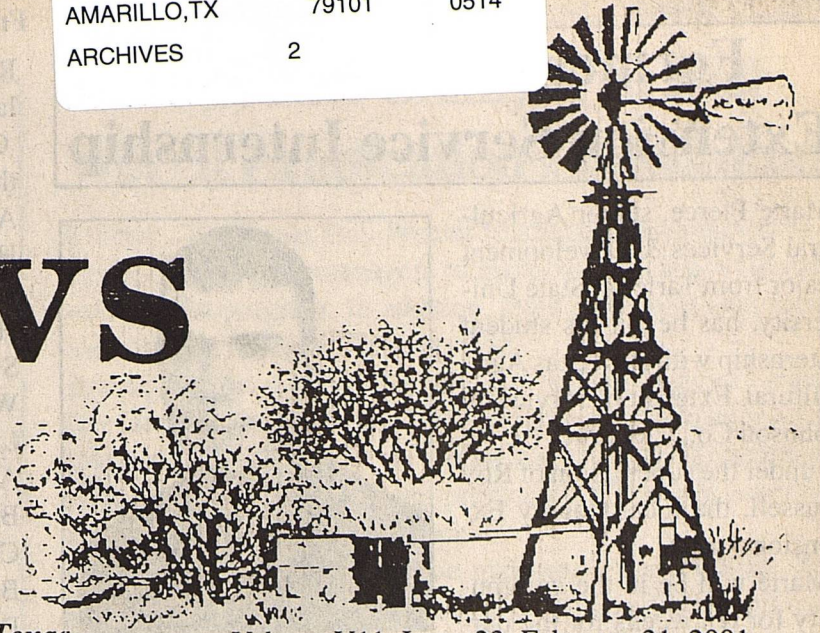


# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 23, February 21, 2001



## Superintendent disagrees with USDA stance on soda, snack machines in school

A recent article by Brian Williams in the *Lubbock Avalanche Journal* details the efforts of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to prompt Congress to curtail soft drink and snack vending machines in schools. USDA already requires schools to meet nutritional standards of breakfasts and lunches, and the department now says it should have authority to set nutritional standards for all foods and beverages sold in schools.

Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes is not in complete agreement with the USDA's opinion. "Part of the report USDA is studying makes it seem students can step outside the school cafeteria and be surrounded by drink and snack machines. That is certainly not the case in our District."

He explained drink and snack vending machines in all three school campuses are located well away from the central cafeteria. "Our elementary and middle school students are supervised during our free breakfast times, and are escorted to the cafeteria for lunch. There are vending machines near the Principal's office of each school," Haynes said. He stated the only vending machines in the high school campus are located near the main gym area, where students are allowed to visit during the early break period.

The superintendent sees merit in contracting with a Coca Cola distributorship to stock and maintain the vending machines. "The contract we have with the distributor has enabled us to acquire two state of the art electronic score boards for our athletic department, one at the football field, one at the baseball field. Not a dime of public tax payer money was spent on these two needed score boards," the superintendent reported.

He continued, "Our Trustees feel we have a good food program at PISD. We offer each and every student a free breakfast and free lunch every single school day, and even a free lunch during the twenty some days of summer school. Our cafeteria staff does an excellent job in preparing nutritional, as well as tasty food."

Haynes feels the USDA has far more pressing issues to address than drink and snack vending machines in public schools. "The contract we have with the distributor has enabled the district to do some things which we would not have had funds for without the machines. I feel if the federal government wants to intrude in our operations and ban the machines, they should be willing to fund these projects, which we consider definite assets for our district."

## Guilty pleas in County Court

Seven guilty pleas were heard in County Court February 14, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Albert Ray Martin pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision resulting from a prior DWI case. The defendant will serve 16 days in county jail. Michael Rodriguez, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Daniel Rodriguez Madrid pled guilty to a first DWI, breath test .110/.118. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Her must pay \$225 court costs and a \$500 fine. He must serve 72 hours in jail, with credit for 9 served, attend weekly AA meetings and complete the DWI First Offenders Program.

James William Dowdey Jr. pled guilty to a second DWI. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. \$225 court costs and a \$750 fine will be met with monthly time payments. He must pay \$40 community supervision fees, attend AA meetings, serve 80 hours community service, have his license suspended 90 days and install an interlock device

Turn to Page 3, 'Guilty'

## Down with the old, up with the new Bid awarded for new EMS, Fire Department building



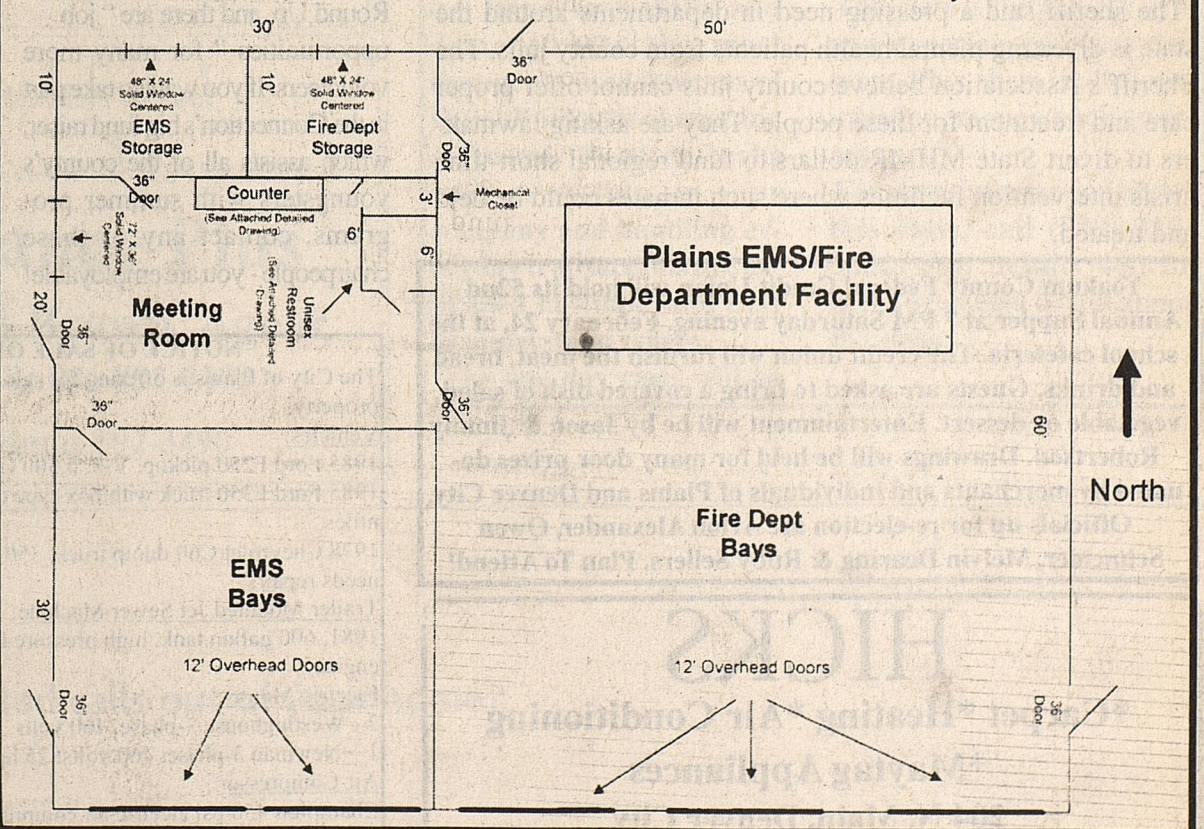
Precinct 3 employees made short work of demolishing the old Art Association building, completing the project in one day last Wednesday. All of the material was hauled to the county landfill. Hershel Smith is shown operating the loader used to demolish the structure.

In the regular meeting of the Plains City Council, a bid was awarded to Fryar Construction of Denver City for erection of a new fire department and EMS building at 1104 Ave. G, the site of the former Yoakum County Art Association building.

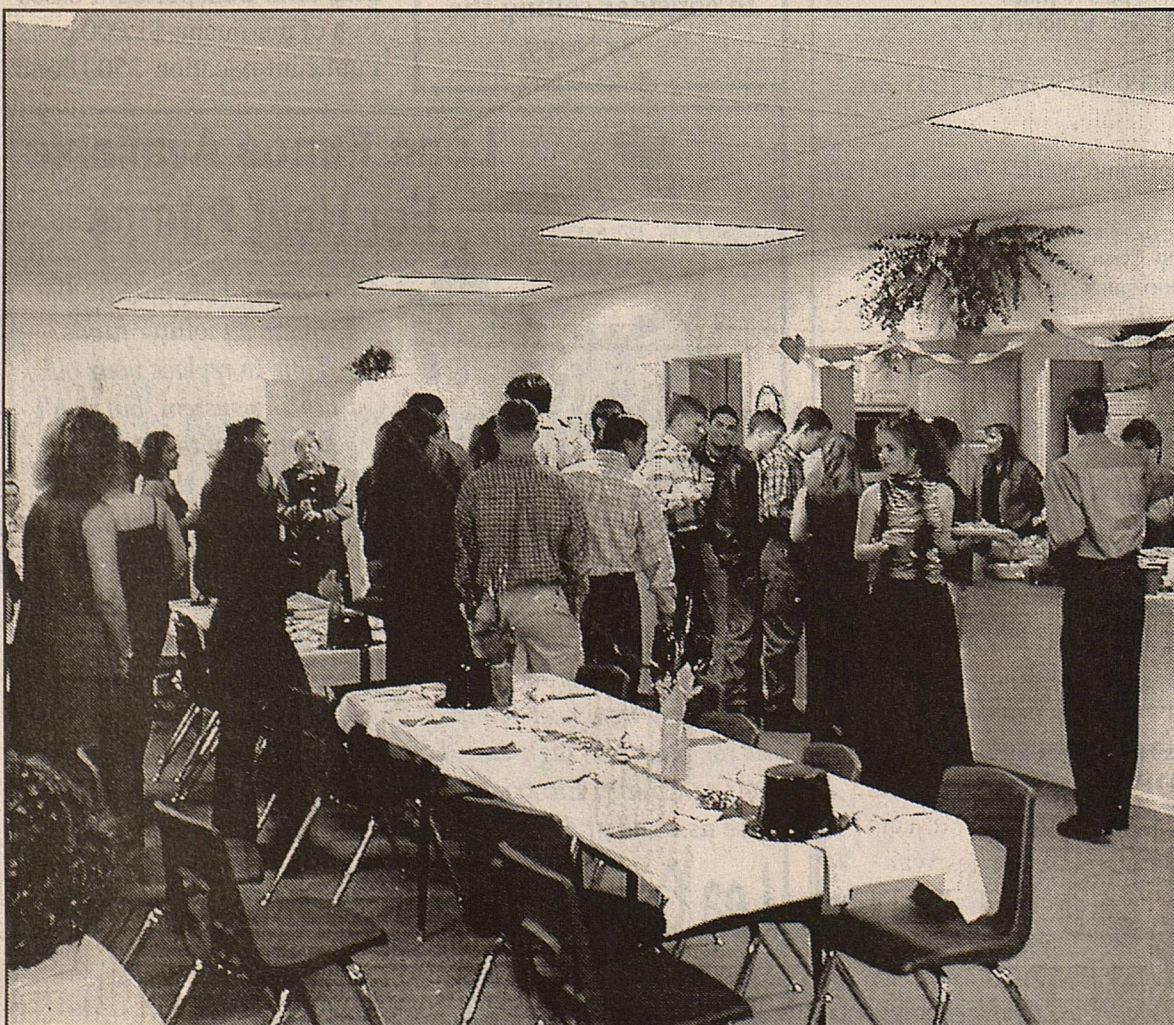
Fryar bid \$69,000 for construction of the 60' by 80' steel building. Other bidders and bids were Malouf Construction, Levelland, \$69,500; Bailey Construction, Lubbock, \$70,168; West Texas Concrete, Seagraves, \$79,324; Plains Builders, Lubbock, \$89,766, and QVC Millwrights, Olton, \$133,872.

City Administrator David Brunson reported Fryar will order the material for the new building, which should be delivered in four to five weeks. The project should then be completed in approximately three weeks, weather permitting.

Upon completion of the new building, notice for bids will be advertised for construction of a new City Hall building at its present location. When the bid is awarded for that project, the old City Hall will be demolished. The present metal Fire Department building will remain as a storage building for the city.



## Tsa Mo Ga honors senior class



Over three dozen members of Plains High Class of 2001 and their sponsors were special guests of the Tsa Mo Ga Club February 12. They are shown here in Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church, preparing to be served a multi-course dinner by club and church members.. See related story on Page 5.

## Plans drawn for 6th Watermelon Round Up

The first organizational meeting for the sixth annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up was held in the community building here last Thursday. Overall Chair Person Jeannette Head said most of the committee chair people have been enrolled to organize the many events and projects for the September 1 festival.

Sponsored by the Yoakum County Connection, this year's fun and fund raising event promises to be bigger and better. An estimated crowd of 6 to 8 thousand visited the day long

Turn to Page 2, 'Round Up'

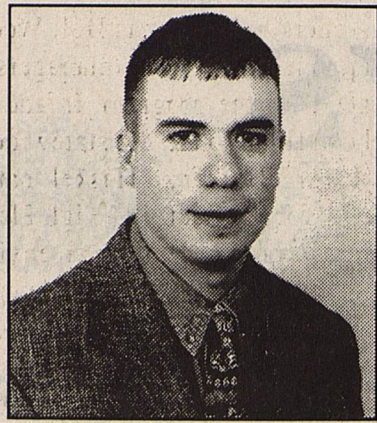


Clockwise from left, Linda Powell, Linda Harris, Mary Jo St. Romain, L.J. Sanders, Bill Helwig, Jeannette Head, Debbie Pollard, Carolyn Culwell, Bud Forbus, Mary Dale Forbus, Wadonna Davis, Cindra Box, Tommy Box. Present but not pictured, Wilma Powell, James Altman, Gary Dyer.

## Former resident starts Extension Service Internship

Marte Pierce, senior Agricultural Services & Development major from Tarleton State University, has begun his student internship with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service in Johnson Co., Cleburne, Tx. He is under the supervision of Roy Russell, the local County Extension Agent.

Marte will be in the community for ten weeks for the purpose of receiving training in Agricultural Extension activities. This arrangement has been made by mutual agreement between the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Tarleton State University. The intern will assist with all activities con-



cerning the local agricultural program. Upon completion of this training period, he will receive the Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Services & Development from Tarleton State University

## Sheriff's Association calls on state legislators

183 of the state's sheriff's gathered in Austin February 7 for the 125th Annual Sheriff's Association of Texas Conference. During the conference, the officers visited the capitol and called on the House of Representatives and Senate. Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine attended the conference, and said one of the main items on the conference agenda was lobbying the legislature in a number of areas for help in making statewide sheriff departments more efficient and cost effective.

A major problem for Yoakum County and other sheriff departments is state issued Blue Warrants. Corzine explained, "Very frequently a convicted and then paroled individual will violate the terms of his probation. Sometimes our local law enforcement will arrest them for an offense, and we will discover they've violated their parole. When notified, the state issues a Blue Warrant, which means we have to hold the prisoner in county jail. Often the person will come to trial here, or plead guilty. If the person goes to jail and serves our local sentence, we still have to keep them incarcerated until the state tells us to ship the person to a state facility, and this is at the county's expense, not the state."

Corzine said this often leads to overcrowding of the jail, which is certified for a maximum of 13 prisoners. Inmates are often jailed in area towns with adequate jail space. Yoakum County currently has a contract which reserves five jail spaces in the Brownfield facility, at a cost of some \$32 per space per day. Other area jails often charge more for their space. He said the Association has been asking the legislature to change procedures which will cut down on the time blue warrant prisoners can remain in county jails.

The sheriff said a pressing need in departments around the state is diverting mental health patients from county jails. The Sheriff's Association believe county jails cannot offer proper care and treatment for these people. They are asking lawmakers to divert State MHMR dollars to fund regional short-time crisis intervention facilities where such inmates could be held and treated.

**Yoakum County Federal Credit Union will hold its 52nd Annual Supper at 7 PM Saturday evening, February 24, at the school cafeteria. The credit union will furnish the meat, bread and drinks. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetable or dessert. Entertainment will be by Jason & Jimmy Robertson. Drawings will be held for many door prizes donated by merchants and individuals of Plains and Denver City. Officials up for re-election are Arlon Alexander, Owen Schneider, Melvin Dearing & Ruby Sellers. Plan To Attend!**

## HICKS

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MEMBER 2001

Cowboy Country  
News

TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

### Cowboy Country News

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

### From Page 1, 'Round Up'

Round Up and Team Roping last year.

Committees and Chair people this year include;

Advertising Tabloid- Linda Harris, Joni Hancock.

Color Brochure- Linda Powell  
Hospitality Room- Sheila Stephens

Watermelon Slices- Toni Jones  
Logistics- David Brunson

Arts & Crafts Booths- Cindra Box

Commercial Booths- Tommy Box

Publicity- Gary Dyer, Lori Vantine, Linda Powell

T-Shirts, Caps, etc.- Mary Dale Forbus

Chili-Brisket Cookoff- Ted Welch

Car Show- Terry & Wadonna Davis

Stage Shows- James Altman  
Food Booths- Carolyn Culwell

Finances- L.J. Sanders  
Kids Games- Karen Williams

Horseshoe Pitch- Karen Williams

Fun Run, etc.- Melvin Dearing  
Evertt McAdams

Info. Booth- Mary Jo St. Romain

Cow Patty Bingo- Kathy Jones, Ty Powell

Melon Sales- Debbie Smith

Highway Signs- L.J. Sanders

4-H Petting Zoo- Dottie Mays

Team Roping- Jerry Parrish

Melon Contest- Bill Helwig

A few new wrinkles will be added to the 2001 Round Up. Dottie Mays and Extension Agent Arlon Gentry will head up planning for a pig race in front of the courthouse. Chair Jeannette Head said there has been interest in organizing a softball tournament for the big day, but plans are incomplete. Bill Helwig reported interest in the Big Melon contest has slacked off, and suggested many of the watermelon producers might be interested in a contest judging a group of the most uniform melons, or the sweetest melons.

A tremendous amount of work goes into staging a successful Round Up, and there are "job opportunities" for many more volunteers. If you want to take part in the Connection's big fund raiser, which assists all of the county's youngsters with summer programs, contact any of these chairpeople - you are employable!

### NOTICE OF SALE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY

The City of Plains is offering for sale by sealed bids the following surplus property:

#### Vehicles:

1985 Ford F250 pickup, V-8, 6,300 GVWR, 66,315 miles

1985 Ford F350 truck with box-type dump bed, 10,000 GVWR, 75,445 miles

1978 Chevrolet C60 dump truck, 350 V-8, 19,200 GVWR, 17,714 miles, needs repairs

#### Trailer Mounted Jet Sewer Machine:

1981, 600 gallon tank, high pressure Beam Pump, 600 ft 1" hose, 4 cyl Ford engine

#### Electric Motors:

2 - Westinghouse 3-phase, 460 volts, 50hp, vertical shaft

1 - Newman 3-phase, 460 volts, 25 hp, horizontal shaft

#### Air Compressor

Champion 450 psi electric air compressor with medium size tank

Items may be examined 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday by contacting the city hall.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope and the item bid should be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope. Bids must be submitted before 4:00 pm on Friday, March 2, to the Plains city hall. The bids will be opened and publicly read at that time and date. The city may hold the bids for a period not to exceed 30 days to determine weather to accept or reject any or all bids.

All items are to be sold "as-is" with no warranty.

The City of Plains reserves the right to reject any/or all bids and waive any informality that will benefit the city.

For additional information contact David Brunson at 806-456-2288.

## Energas Agricultural Services Sets Area Ag Meetings

Lubbock - Beginning Monday, February 19, Energas Ag Services will hold four Community Ag Meetings. All meetings will take place at 10 a.m. Locations for the meetings are - Monday, Feb. 19, Plainview, 113 W. 8th Street; Wednesday, Feb. 21, Brownfield, VFW, Cedar and E. Webb Lamesa Highway; Thursday, Feb. 22, Hereford, Annex Bldg., 511 N. 25 Mile Ave.; Monday, Feb. 26, Muleshoe, Bailey County Coliseum, 2206 W. American Blvd.

The community Ag meetings are designed to give farmers and other interested persons the opportunity to visit with company representatives about the new Energas contracts and the future of natural gas prices. Energas Ag Services wants to make sure farmers are making decisions based on accurate information. There is a great deal of misinformation in the field right now and many farmers are understandably confused and concerned. That is why we are planning these four Ag meetings. For customers in the rest of our service area, field representatives will be hosting meetings in communities close to you.

"We are very concerned about how high energy prices will affect irrigation customers this

upcoming season. All of us are in a unique situation and we at Energas feel we must all work together to find solutions good for everyone concerned. Agriculture is vital to our area and vital to the success of Energas. Therefore, we are making ourselves available to all of our customers to ensure good communication is maintained as we work our way through this difficult time," according to Kelly Grimes, General Manager.

The new irrigation contracts reflect the commitment of Energas to provide natural gas at as competitive rates as possible while continuing to work on providing irrigation customers with unparalleled service. Energas Services is only concerned about the SUCCESS of its customers.

All Energas Ag Services customers are urged to attend these important meetings. We also strongly encourage anyone involved in the irrigation business who may have an interest in high energy prices to attend. For more information contact Kelly Grimes - General Manager of Energas Ag Services in Lubbock, 806-798-4477.

## Legislature Receives Abolition Bills

Rep. Delwin Jones of Lubbock has filed two proposed constitutional amendments aimed at abolishing the office of constable.

The first measure, HJR 30, would amend the constitution to allow the commissioner's court of Lubbock County to hold an election as to whether the office of constable in the county should be abolished. If a majority of the voters actually voting on the measure in Lubbock County approve the proposition, the office is abolished, transferring all the duties to the Lubbock County Sheriff.

The second bill HJR 29, is far more reaching, it allows the commissioners court of any county to hold an election on whether the office of constable should be abolished. Again, if a majority of the voter turnout approves the proposition, the constable's duties will be transferred to the County Sheriff.

Representatives Warren Chisum of Pampa has filed ten

proposed constitutional amendments aimed at abolishing constables in ten different counties: HJR33 Dallam County, HJR 34 Sherman County, HJR 35 Hansford County, HJR 36 Ochiltree County, HJR 37 Lipscomb County, HJR 38 Hemphill County, HJR 39 Wheeler County, HJR 40 Collingsworth County, HJR 41 Hall County, and HJR 42 Hartley County. The amendments would become effective January 1, 2002, if approved by a majority of the voter turnout in each of the ten counties.

In 1999, 12 bills were filed in the House abolishing the office of constable, including many of those that have been filed this year. There was also one bill filed in the House abolishing the office of treasurer. These bills received a hearing, but were never reported out of committee. A companion abolition bill did pass out the Senate last session, but it never received a hearing in the House.

## JP Court

**February 16, 2001**-In Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding there were 63 traffic cases, 1 felony, 2 disorderly conduct, 1 driving under the influence of alcohol by minor, 5 juvenile warnings administered, 1 consumption of alcohol by minor.

Bonds set: 4 cases-Driving while intoxicated-\$1,000 bond. 3 cases-Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. 2-cases-Driving while license suspended-\$500 bond. 2-cases-Purchase/Furnish alcohol to a minor-\$500 bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$1,000 bond. 3-cases-Driving while license invalid-\$500 bond. 2-cases-Assault causing bodily injury-\$1,500 bond. Consumption of alcohol by a minor-3rd/enhanced-\$500 bond. Theft of service-\$1,500 bond. Failed to maintain financial responsibility-no bond. Violate promise to appear-no bond. Driving while intoxicated-3rd or more-\$2,500 bond + interlock device ordered. Parole violation in Austin-held until transported. Theft by check-\$500 bond. Issuance of bad check-\$200 bond. Motion to revoke probation-\$3,000 bond. Fugitive from justice-held until transported. Possession of marijuana-\$1,000 bond. Public intoxication-\$500 bond.

**1843: Navy Commission of the Republic of Texas arrived in New Orleans to consider selling the Texas Navy.**



## Loan Funds Available For Heat Pumps

Heating bills putting the freeze on winter funds? Time to replace your old heating system, but don't know how to pay for it? We've got the answer! Lea County Electric has Energy Resource Conservation (ERC) loan

funds available at 5% interest. With our ERC loan program, members can borrow money at a low, low 5% for up to seven years for a new heat pump or dual-fuel heat pump? Don't settle for your old, high-cost, low-efficiency heating system! Stop by Lea County Electric at 18 W. Washington in Lovington or give us a call at 396-3631. Funds are limited, so call today!

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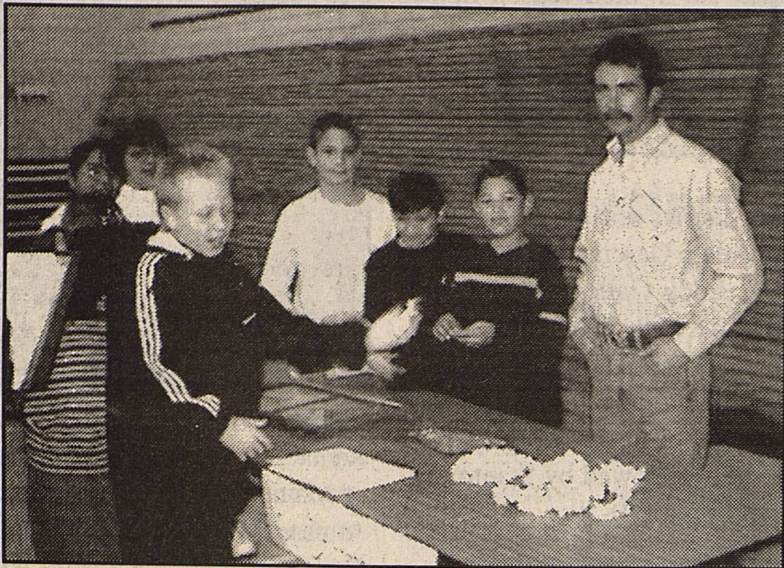
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## Middle School Attend Conservation Jamboree



Larry Nelson SWCD Board member explains to 5th grade students about how cotton is grown & its uses.

Fifth grade students from both Plains and Denver City Junior High Schools attend the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation annual Conservation Jamboree. The Natural Resources Service also sponsors the event. This year's presentation was held on January 16, at the Denver City Intermediate School. About 135 students from Plains and Denver City attended the Jamboree. During the three hour program, the students moved from station to station to see demonstrations of the need for conservation of our resources and heard explanations of the displays from conservation volunteers. The learning stations featured water conservation, area wildlife, grasses, trees, insects, ag-

riculture crops including cotton and peanuts, trees and soils. Assisting in presenting the program were locals Carolyn Culwell of the Sandyland Underground Water District, former SWCD Board members L.J. Sanders and Larry Morrow, Arlan Gentry Yoakum Co. Extension Agent, Judge Dallas Brewer and Ray Cragar of Texas Forest Service in Lubbock. Current SWCD Board members assisting were Don Burgess Chairman, Larry Nelson, Danny Bell and SWCD secretary Daina Butler. NRCS employees helping in the Jamboree were Donald Haley, Philip Carter, Donald Gibbons, Warren Givens and Willie Crenwelge.



Philip Carter NRCS tells about the different wildlife we have in the area.

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## Jury List County Court Monday, February 26, 2001 9:00 A.M. County Courthouse

**Plains/Tokio residents:** Presentacion Gonzales, Margie Diaz, Steve Esteban Hernandez, Manual Estrada, Charles Cain, Janet Parrish, Debra Leann Crump, Juan Antonio Lazos, Charley James Ellis, Macky McWhirter, Jean Payne, Marilyn Pippen Ellison, and Douglas Shannon Patton.

**Denver City residents:** Juan Antonio Padilla, Terry Cummings, Nancy Terrel Dickson, Lela Locklin, Judy Lynn Thompson, Kenneth Mark Hemmeline, Guadalupe Sanchez, Eliza Render, Jerry Sparks, Babars Qualls, Francisco Javier Yanez, Debbie Newtom Frazell, Stephen Benningfield, Gina Rachelle Beard, Sylvia Young Adcock, Dale Underwood, Emily Freeman, Jodi Raquel Mendoza, Nikki Lynn Welch, Stacy D. Green, Deborah Baker Birkenfeld, Veronica Flores, Stacie Jan Decker, Betty Rivas, Robert Wayne Banks, Danielle Bacardi Swisher, Gredrick Lee Barber, Mr. Fermin Mereles Rivas, James Russell Moody, Anna Greer, Brenda Trantham Bailey, Jesus A. Sanchez, Juan Fehr Reimer, Bob L. Fred, Jerry D. Lavoie, Jerry D. Patterson, Marcille K. Johnson, Mrs. Rita G. Lightfoot, Robert Fleming, Albert Reynaldo Rivers, Sandra Harmon, Shirley Bruton, Janet Burkett Andis, Jerri Lynn Kekkey, Joanna Teague Fears, Carl Cecil Johnson, Joe Kay, Donna Reed Pendleton, and Sammie Wray Burchard.

### From Page 1, 'Guilty'

on any driven vehicle, and complete the outpatient treatment program at the Managed Care Center. Investigating officer was Lisa Switzer, and Madison Sowder was the defendants attorney. Harold Wayne Cutler pled guilty to theft of service, more than \$500 but less than \$1500. An 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. \$225 court costs and \$500 fine will be met with time payments. He must pay \$611.61 restitution to Butch Mack, and serve 80 hours community service. Investigating officer was Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell.

Juan Verdugo pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. A 90 day jail sentence was sus-

pended and probated 12 months. Time payments will meet \$255 court costs and \$250 fine. He must attend weekly AA meetings, enroll in a batterer's prevention program and perform 80 hours community service. Investigating officer was Kenley Powell, Denver City Police.

Richard Palmares Flores pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$225 court costs and complete family counseling through MHMR.

**1923: The Texas Legislature created Texas Technological College, now Texas Tech University, and required it to be located in West Texas.**

## Life, Health and Long Term Care Insurance

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## Personnel Changes In Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation

Abilene - The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation has appointed five zone managers to meet the growing personnel needs of the program. In addition, three other positions have been filled to aid the statewide effort.

Patrick Burson, a Haskell native, has been named zone manager for the Southern High Plains/Caprock zone. He joined the Foundation in 1996 as an environmental monitoring specialist in Haskell, where he was later promoted to field unit supervisor. He will be based in Lubbock.

The Southern Blacklands zone manager is Joey Hogan. He was formerly the zone manager in the Northern Rolling Plains zone. Hogan anticipates he will be based in the Bryan/College Station area.

Wes Jones has accepted the zone managers position in the Northern High Plains zone. He began working for the Foundation in 1996 as a field unit supervisor, and he anticipates the zone office being based in Plainview.

Two existing zones have new zone managers. In the Northwest Plains zone, Stanley Mote has accepted the zone manager position. He joined the Foundation in 1999 at Lamesa and later moved to Big Spring to become the district supervisor.

In the Permian Basin zone DeAnn Yates has been named the new zone manager. Yates has been employed by the Foundation since 1999 as district supervisor in Stanton.

Terry Futch is a former zone manager in the Northwest Plains, and will now be in charge of inventory, acquiring equipment and securing leases for all Foundation offices. He will also assist the program director and assistant program director in the training and quality control of all field personnel. He began his duties as logistics director in January.

Other recent changes at Foundation headquarters include the creation of two new positions, a training director and fleet manager. Holly Mote will head up the statewide training of Foundation employees. She was previously the assistant zone manager in the Permian Basin zone. She will be based in Littlefield where her husband Stanton is the zone manager.

Rick Gordon has been named fleet manager and will oversee all management aspects of fleet services, which includes all Foundation vehicles. Gordon will be based at Foundation headquarters in Abilene.

## QuickBooks Class Coming To Plains

An "Introduction to QuickBooks" class will be presented in Plains on Wednesday, March 7th by Dan Cowan of Accelerated Learning Center.

"This hands on class covers important skills and demonstrates the most commonly used features of QuickBooks bookkeeping software. Routine tasks such as setting up your company and handling everyday transactions are explained in simple and easy to understand terms.

The one day class will be

held in Plains, from 9:00 am. to 4:00 pm., at the Plains Community Building, 1006 Ave. G. The cost is \$129 per person. Call (888) 320-5552 to reserve your seat or obtain more information.

This class is suitable for new and experienced computer users. Plus, there is a full satisfaction, money back guarantee.

For more information about this class, call (888) 320-5552. Full details will be faxed or mailed to you about the class.

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## Cowboy Baseball On Deck



Coach Eddie Carter demonstrates bunting techniques to Cowboy baseball team. Players shown include, L-R, Gerry Rivas, Cody McDonnell, Brandon Davis, Ryan Martinez, Arnold Cordova, Armando Ramirez, Richard Diaz, Miguel Coronado. They will be joined by a number of other players at the conclusion of basketball playoff action.

### 2001 PLAINS COWBOYS BASEBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	SITE	TIME
Feb. 17, Sat.	**Tahoka	Plains	11:00
Feb. 24, Sat.	Morton	Plains	1:00
Feb. 26, Mon	Denver City J. V.	Denver City	4:30
Mar. 1, 2, 3	Brownfield Tournament	Brownfield	TBA
Mar. 5, Mon.	Denver City J. V.	Plains	4:30
Mar. 8, 9, 10	Frenship J. V. Tournament	Frenship	TBA
Mar. 23, Fri.	*Colorado City	Colorado City	5:30
Mar. 27, Tues.	*Coahoma	Plains	5:30
Mar. 31, Sat.	Portales	Plains	2:00
Apr. 6, Fri.	*Colorado City	Plains	5:30
Apr. 10, Tues.	*Coahoma	Coahoma	5:30
Apr. 17, Tues.	*Colorado City	Colorado City	5:30
Apr. 24, Tues.	*Coahoma	Plains	5:30

\* Denotes District Games

\*\* Scrimmage

### WTNB contracts with Massachusetts Mutual

West Texas National Bank (WTNB) is making space for a roommate this week, as President Mark Mann announced a signed contract with Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company (Mass Mutual), the parent company of the Mass Mutual Financial Group.

Mass Mutual, a nationwide company, has entered into a strategic alliance with WTNB, to provide insurance, investments and other financial products and services to WTNB clients. Mass Mutual agent Kevin Freeman is contact person for the new alliance, with 12 years insurance experience. Kevin grew up on a

farm and graduated from Loop High School. He attended South Plains College and Texas Tech before working in management positions with Metropolitan Life Insurance Company and MONY Life Insurance.

Mark Mann mentioned one of the bonuses of this alliance is convenience offered to WTNB customers, as well as the insurance and investment planning services of a well established financial services professional. Customers will have access to mutual funds, annuities and life insurance, to name a few.

With eight million clients and more than \$200 billion in total

assets under management, nearly a ten fold increase since 1988, Mass Mutual is a member of both the Fortune 500 and the Fortune Global 500.

Mann said the opening of the Mass Mutual office in the bank is part of a growing trend seen in recent years towards 'one-stop shopping'. "It's just another service people have wanted," he said.

The increased assets gained from the recent merger between WTNB and First National Bank in Seminole and the subsequent alliance with Mass Mutual has resulted in the ability to provide these services

## Cowboy Basketball Recap

### JV Cowboys:

The younger Cowboys were edged out in their season finale against Coahoma 46-42. David Garza, Zach Broome and Chase Howell all managed 8 points, Jonathan Peppin had 6, Kelly Bpowers 5, Richard Diaz 3, Jeremy Diamond and Sterling Justus 2 each.

### Varsity Cowboys:

The Cowboys closed their regular district season with a convincing 79-34 win over Coahoma. Adam Garcia was top scorer with 17 points, Dustin Six had 13, Eddy Gallegos 10, Aaron Cain 9, Kelsey Blundell and Jared Bell 8 each, Moises Gonzales 6, Brett Squyres 4, Jarod Newland and Joseph Rodriguez 2 each. Brett was leading rebounder with 7, Eddy had 6, and Brett was credited with 4 steals. The Cowboys, 7-3 in district play, finished behind district winner Colorado followed by Stanton 6-4, Seagraves 4-6, Coahoma 3-7, and Forsan 0-10.

## One Man Scramble Results

Yoakum County Golf Club hosted the second one man scramble last Saturday under much improved weather conditions than the January event.

Flight results included: (ties determined by score card play-off)

Championship- 1st, Ray Gilstrap, 65. 2nd, Greg Black, 67. 3rd, Kenny Dierschke, 68. 4th, Jim Brown, 68.

First flight- 1st Reggie Martin, 68. 2nd, Jim Beall, 68. 3rd, Chris Blundell, 69, 4th, Newt Garcia, 69.

Second flight- 1st, Johnny Jones, 71. 2nd, Jerry Morphis, 71, 3rd, Jack Sessions, 71. 4th,

Ernest Hillburn, 72.

Third flight- 1st, Ed Hansen, 68. 2nd, Jeff Green, 71. 3rd, Veronica Sanders, 71. 4th, Waymon Boyd, 74.

Fourth flight- 1st, Gilbert Espinosa, 75. 2nd, Gary Dyer, 76. 3rd, Kelly Tooker 76. 4th, Mike Payne, 78.

\$225 of entry fee money was earmarked for the Club's scholarship fund. Money from various club events throughout the year is equally divided between senior members of both Denver City and Plains high school golf teams. In 2000, some \$2,000 went to the senior recipients.

## Student of the Week



Student of the week is Armando Ramirez a freshman and the son of Martina and Carlos Ramirez. Armando was nominated by Mrs. Canada who said, "Eli Wiesel said, 'The only way for us to help ourselves is to help others.' This student does so by helping others who do not understand. Armando is a quiet student who does the work that is required of him. He likes to work with computers and likes football, baseball, and basketball."

The following Middle School students were not listed in the UIL District Meet results last week: 8th Grade Modern Oratory-4th Brant Huerta-8th grade Oral Reading-1st Payton Bean-8th Grade Impromptu Speaking-1st Breck Hamm.

### \*IRS Tax Tips\*

\* Sign your return. On joint returns your spouse must also sign. \* Provide a daytime phone number \* Arrange schedules and forms in order shown in upper right hand corner \* Attach W-2, W-2G & 2439 to front of Form 1040 \* If tax is owed, make check payable to US Treasury. Do not attach payment to your return

\* Use coded envelope to mail your return. If you did not get envelope, see where to file inside back cover of tax instruction booklet. You may be mailing to a different service center this year since IRS has changed the filing location for several areas to provide better customer service. An incorrect location could slow a refund.

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# Lifelines & Styles

## Connection Board Meeting

The Yoakum County Connection regular board meeting was held February 13 at the Connection Building in Denver City. Chair Linda Powell reminded the group to "Change how you see things and see how you change things." Yoakum County Extension Agent Debbie Pollard explained the orientation and leadership semina which was held Saturday, February 17, led by Joe Frank Wheeler of Borger. He discussed the meaning of service to the individual, community, state and nation. It is hoped clubs and organizations will nominate young leaders to participate in the March 30, 31 and April 1 Young Leaders Conference to be held in Ruidoso, NM. Yoakum County Commissioners Court and Yoakum County Connection have authorized partial funding for the event and following workshops by Mr. Wheeler and others. It is hoped groups or churches nominating future leaders will pay a fee of \$50 for a person or couple they would

like to see encouraged in county/community leadership. Denver City Lions Club, Yoakum County Art Association, Yoakum County 4-H Adult Leaders and several businesses have already authorized sponsorship for this event.

Anyone with questions may contact Debbie Pollard at 456-2263 or Linda Powell at 456-3171. L.J. Sanders reported the Connection now has 48 memberships for the year 2001. Please send in your dues at P.O. Box 38, Plains, TX 79355. New director Pam Burgess has agreed to help him install the finance records on the computer. LeAnn Romines discussed the student art show to be held in May. Sue Holder invited everyone to be thinking of and painting for the Denver City Art Association Show and Sale to be held the first week in April. Connection Officers elected include David Brunson, Chair; Linda Powell, V-Chair; Secretary Sue Holder; Treasurer L.J. Sanders.

## ENROLLMENT FOR MANICURIST PROGRAM

Tuesday (February 20) is the next date for enrollment in South Plains College's 12 month Certified Manicurist Program.

Registration is scheduled at 5:30 pm., in the SPC Cosmetology Building on the Levelland campus. Classes begin that evening.

Additional registration dates

## Library Storytime

The weekly Storytime on February 14th, began with pledges to the United States and Texas flags. Followed by Toddlerobics. The group sang several songs. The books read were I Love to Cuddle and A Valentine Bouquet. The video shown was entitled Richard Scarry's Be My Valentine. The boys and girls enjoyed special Valentine refreshments served by their mothers. Those attending were Kay'D Lamar, Bailey and Evan Rios, Clayton Gass, Micah St. Romain, Amanda Dusek, Madison Davis, Bryanna Garcia, Anthony and Angel Torres.

are February 27 and March 6, 20 and 27.

Students will learn how to apply all types of artificial nails and do manicures and pedicures. Instructor is Scarlett Claunch.

For more information, contact the SPC Division of Continuing and Distance Education at 806-894-9611, ext. 2341.

## Plains Student Named to CSW Honor Roll

College of the Southwest recently named one student from Plains to the President's List and Vice President's List for the fall 2001 semester. In order to be named to the President's List, a student must maintain a semester GPA of 4.0. Students named to the Vice President's List must maintain a semester GPA between 3.70 and 3.99.

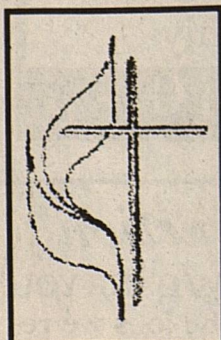
A full time student, Laurel L. Vantine, was named to the President's List.

Whoever is happy will make others happy, too.

## First United Methodist Church

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### Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am  
Morning Worship - 10:45 am  
Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

### Wednesday Connections

Food & Fellowship - 5:30-6:30 pm  
Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

### Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

GOD loves you and so do we!  
Come grow in CHRIST with us!

## 2001 Seniors Honored by TSA MO GA



The TSA MO GA Club hosted the Plains 2001 Senior Class and their sponsors February 12 at First United Methodist Church. They were served a dinner of Mexican Casseroles and a decorated cake prepared by club member Shannon Dusek.

Program coordinator Zareta Winn introduced guest speaker Wayne House, Investment Representative for Edward Jones. House stressed to the seniors the building of character was as important as building as investment portfolio, and urged them to attend church, and remember their parents. He illustrated how a small but regular daily investment could make them millionaires, but reminded them to strive to be millionaire citizens, workers and husbands and wives.

Club member Billie Blundell presented the seniors with "Bucks For Luck", and President Judy Head conducted a Fun and Games session. Hosting the Mexican Dinner were

Renetta O'Quinn, Martha Palmer, Connie McWhirter, Zareta Winn, Dolores Davis, Valerie Winn, Shannon Dusek and Billie Blundell.

Seniors in attendance were; Emily Blair, Kelsey Blundell, Aaron Cain, Martha Casillas, Frances Cordova, Lensey Cullins, Sterling Justus, Roxanne Fuentes, Joel Gallegos, Adam Garcia, Amanda Garcia, Jason Garcia, Dawn Garland, Fabian Garza, Taylor Gray, Kari Guetersloh, Nicole Haynes, Angelica Hernandez, Skyler Johnson, Kimberlee Jones, Grisel Molina, Israel Moreno, Eric Nixon, Maria Reyna, Donita Richardson, Gerald Rivas, Lesli Rowe, Elva Ruiz, Lisa San Filippo, Dustin Sellers, Dustin Six, Brett Squyres, Michaela Traweek, Sharla Vantine, Tanya Vasquez, Alexis Warren, Tanner Hamm.

PHS Sponsors attending included; Brenda Canada, Brad Friesen, Michele McCravey, and Larry McMinn.

**In an effort to build a better system of care, The Mental Health Planning Advisory Committees of the Lubbock Regional MHMR Center will hold an open meeting. The meeting is designed to allow consumers, family members and other interested persons to give their opinions and comments regarding services and needs in the community. This meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2001 at 1602 10th Street in the Board Room from 5:00 pm. - 6:30 pm. The meeting is open to any interested agencies, organizations, support groups or individuals. Depending on attendance, responses may be time limited in order to hear all comments.**

For more information, call Irene Barrientes at 806-767-1746.

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30 am.  
Morning Worship 10:45 am.  
Evening Program 6:00 pm.  
Wednesday

5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper

6:00 pm. Zombies

7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,  
Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice

## A Prescription For Savings

More than a third of Texas' two million Medicare recipients have inadequate prescription drug insurance coverage or none at all. Meanwhile, drug prices are increasing rapidly.

Older Americans without prescription drug coverage must pay full price for their drugs. In contrast, those with prescription drug coverage pay lower prices because large purchasers of prescription drugs, such as government and private insurance companies, can get better prices from both pharmaceutical manufacturers and retail pharmacies.

Insurers, HMO's and state Medicaid programs typically purchase brand name prescription drugs for 20 to 40 percent less than average wholesale price. Pharmacy retail prices generally are set at wholesale price plus 4 percent, but can vary from one pharmacy to another.

Health insurance companies also offer mail order pharmacy services to pass along the lower prices they negotiate directly with the drug manufacturer without having to add the overhead of a retail pharmacy.

In 1998, mail order pharmacies accounted for about 12 percent of the retail prescrip-

tion market and are expected to continue capturing a larger proportion of the retail market. Only those with drug coverage can enjoy the savings negotiated on their behalf by their insurers.

The Comptroller's report, e-Texas: smaller, smarter, faster government, recommends the state enable Medicare recipients to purchase pharmaceutical drugs at the lower Medicaid price by requiring pharmacies that participate in the state's Medicaid program to sell Medicare recipients drugs at the Medicaid price.

Pharmacies are not required to participate in the Medicaid program and could continue to choose to participate in the Medicaid program on not. In Texas, 79 percent of eligible pharmacies participated in the Medicare program in June 2000.

To receive the discounted price, Medicaid recipients would present pharmacists with their Medicare cards and prescriptions. The pharmacist then would look up the Medicaid price in the state's database and charge the patient no more than the Medicaid reimbursement amount, plus a small transaction fee to cover the cost of accessing the state's price list.

## Senior Citizens Corner

Here I am one more time. We have been having really good attendance here the last few weeks. Layne has been telling me. I have been staying home and trying to get things caught up around here.

Friday is our Site Council meeting. On the 3rd Thursday of each month we have pot luck starting at 6:00 pm. We have live music and really have a good time. We really do have good food and music and enjoy visiting with friends. It's lots of fun! Next Wednesday the 21st is pool tournament. Come on and join us for good food and fellowship, Monday thru Friday 8:30 am. to 3:30 pm.

Till next week,  
Wanda B.

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# From The Hack

Thank the Good Lord Valentine's Day is once more past. It's been pretty traumatic for me. Recalling years past when I forgot the event, I faithfully remembered the Bride this year.

I bought her a Hallmark card for way too much money. It depicted a color photo on the front of one of those fat, ugly, remorseful looking English bulldogs. It looked so sad I thought I would weep when I paid \$2.99 for the thing. I mean, this dog looked in anguish.

Inside, the message read, "It's Valentine's Day! Couldn't you just pee from the excitement?" Bride opened it and began to shriek hysterically with laughter. She actually enjoyed it, appreciated it. She even kissed me warmly, and said tenderly, "I love you too, you butt!"

All was fine for awhile, until she began to mention this to her friends, and that's when the phone calls began.

One femme friend hissed, "Gary, you idiot, you're supposed to say something sweet, lovely, romantic to your wife, something she wishfully remembers, something she will cherish you for, forever and ever."

I heatedly defended myself, moaning "Hey, I bought her a bedside lamp last year in the shape of a seven pound bass with the bulb in it's mouth, and she flung it at me. Before, I got her a free pass to the Lubbock Gun & Knife Show, and she screamed if she went she'd buy something to use on me. I think I'm making some real headway!"

I received about half a dozen of those calls, and I'd had enough. One of the Bride's choir member buddies screamed in my ear, "You are really too crude. You should have done something sexy,

something exciting for that darling woman! She doesn't think things like that are funny."

By now, I was a bit perturbed, and shouted back, "Lady, years ago, I mean YEARS ago, I stripped off naked-nude, draped heart shaped red candy boxes all over my body, entered our bedroom, and ended up calling 911 for the EMS when she almost laughed herself to death. Don't tell me she doesn't have a sense of humor!"

Just a random thought, no politics intended; When it's my time to go, I sincerely hope Bill Clinton makes it up there ahead of me, and some way lies his way into becoming Saint Peter's chief gate keeper - if anyone can pardon me, he certainly can.

Recently I played golf, and as usual, shot my near immaculate round. Afterwards, unloading my cart, an ex-county commissioner roared up on his cart, and asked me to play a round with him. He has foolishly just started the game, and usually shoots about 107, if no one else is counting his score. I declined, telling him I had to leave for the bank in Denver City. A bit huffily, he set sail for the number one tee box. I was finishing my unloading when he came back by, and sheepishly grinned and said, "I suppose I'd better go back and get my clubs if I'm going to play."

I promised I would not mention his name in this column, but he formerly represented Precinct 4

Here's a very weighty question; How much does the Earth weigh? Wrong! Guess again! According to a scientific magazine I scanned through at the library, it weighs, in the neighborhood, expressed in pounds, 13,160 followed by 21 zeros. I tried reference books to establish the word for that amount, and it doesn't exist. That proves I am smarter than you. Of course, if you'd found the ar-

ticle before me, you would have been smartest. The guy who figured it out would have to be smarter than all of us, I suspicion.

Here's a tidbit I stole from the Levelland paper Editor Stephen Henry; A dietitian spoke to a Chicago crowd and said "The material we put in or stomachs is enough to have killed most of us years ago. Red meat is terrible. Soft drinks corrode your stomach. Chinese food is loaded with MSG. But there is one item we can eat which is the most the most dangerous we can possibly eat. Do you have any idea what it is?"

A 72 year old man in the audience stood up and answered, "Of course, wedding cake!"

Approaching another birthday in April, I performed a quick review of the knowledge I have acquired over all these years. I learned in kindergarten one does not advance in the teachers eye by erasing a girl's work on the blackboard, particularly the teacher's niece.

Early in elementary school, I learned you do not repeat some of the words at the supper table you'd learned on the playground.

Deep in elementary school, I learned girls are much softer and smell much better than boys when wrestling.

Late in junior high, I learned the emergence of testosterone, although I had no clue what it was, why it existed, but how it could drive you mad.

My learning process became more advanced in high school. I learned I was not nearly as smart as Jerry Lou Modessette, our future valedictorian, but my grades were always much better if I sat very close to her.

I learned heartbreak my senior year when it became clear to me not 100% of my classmates adored me. I learned further heartbreak when I discovered all the lovely girls did not desire to desire me.

I really began to learn serious stuff when I joined the U.S. Naval Service, and learned Uncle Sam, did not recognize me as astounding Navy material.

I learned humility of an advanced degree when I wed the Bride, and learned she felt she was as important as I.



## Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

As I write this, there are 118 days left in the legislative session, and we've barely gotten started. There is still so much work to do, and the pace is definitely starting to pick up. As of this week, over 2000 bills have been filed in the House of Representatives alone, and that doesn't include bills from the Senators.

This week the committees I serve on started meeting. Natural Resources met to take testimony from groups interested in the water issues being dealt with this session. In the committee I chair, Land and Resource Management, we heard testimony on a variety of issues. Land Commissioner David Dewhurst spoke to the committee about the General Land Office, and we also got

an update on rural issues from the Rural Caucus. I'm glad the caucus is really beginning to play an active role in promoting the needs of rural Texas, such as House District 80.

In addition to the committees I serve on, I have been paying attention to several other issues being focused on this session. The Speaker appointed a select committee to study our options for Teacher Health Insurance, and they have already met several times to hear from teachers, administrators, and other people who have ideas about how we can help pur educators out.

The Appropriations Committee has been meeting every day since session began a few

weeks ago. I have to admit, our finances are going to be tight this year. We were hoping the Comptroller would be able to give us some good news in April and we could adjust the numbers on the budget to be able to help out more at home, but things might be tight. Just know that I am keeping a close eye on the meetings, and I always keep the needs of the constituents of District 80 foremost in my mind when the time comes for decisions to be made.

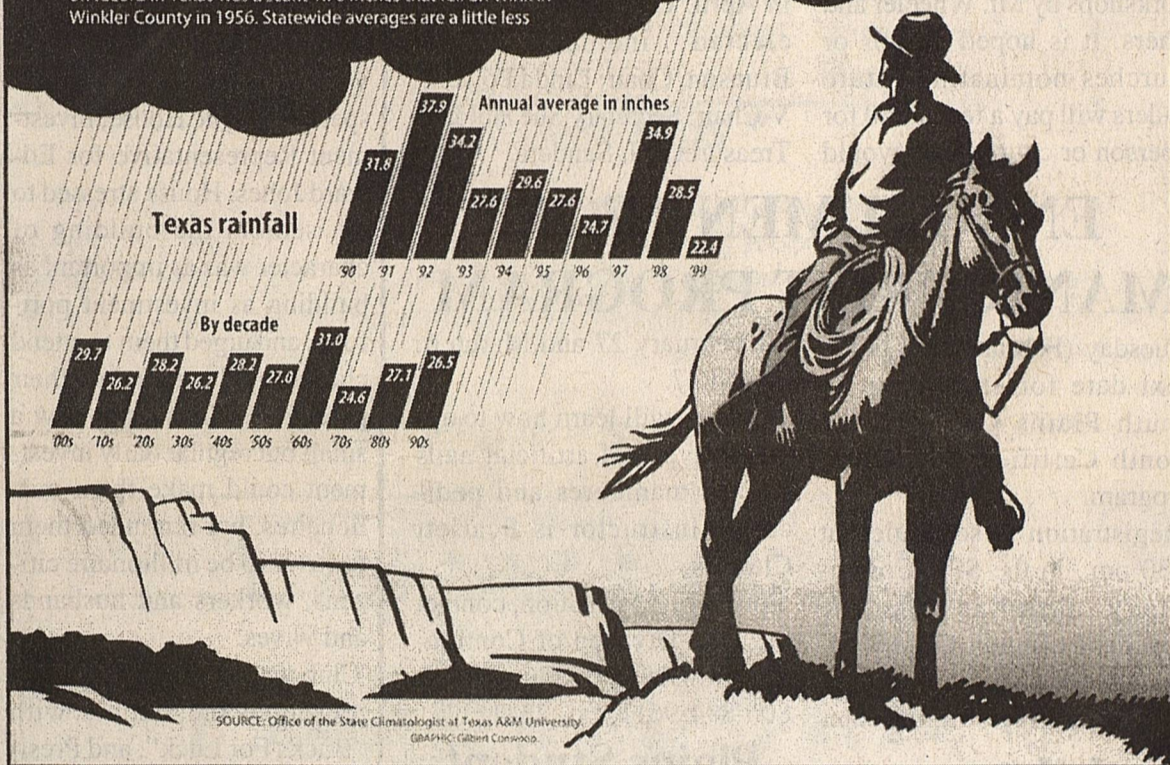
If you're in Austin during the session, feel free to stop by and visit my office. All the committee meetings keep me pretty tied up, but I do hope to visit with those who make the long drive to our Capitol.

### Texas at a Glance

#### A few good rains

You might not always get them when you need them, but Texas' rains have been setting records for more than a century. The heaviest recorded 24-hour rainfall in U.S. history was 38.2 inches that pummeled Thrall in Williamson County on September 9, 1921, according to the Office of the State Climatologist at Texas A & M University. The heaviest annual U.S. rainfall on record, 109.38 inches, deluged Clarksville in 1873. On the other hand, the driest year on record in Texas was a scant 1.76 inches that fell on Wink in Winkler County in 1956. Statewide averages are a little less

dramatic. The wettest year on record for the state during the past 100 years was 42.62 inches in 1941, and the driest, with just 14.30 inches, was 1917. State climatologists also calculate the "normal" annual rainfall, which is the average from the previous 30-year period. Normal Texas rainfalls range from 12.5 inches a year in West Texas to 46.91 inches along the upper Gulf coast.



SOURCE: Office of the State Climatologist at Texas A&M University  
GRAPHIC: Gilbert Cornejo

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