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Cowboy Country News

God Bless America!



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

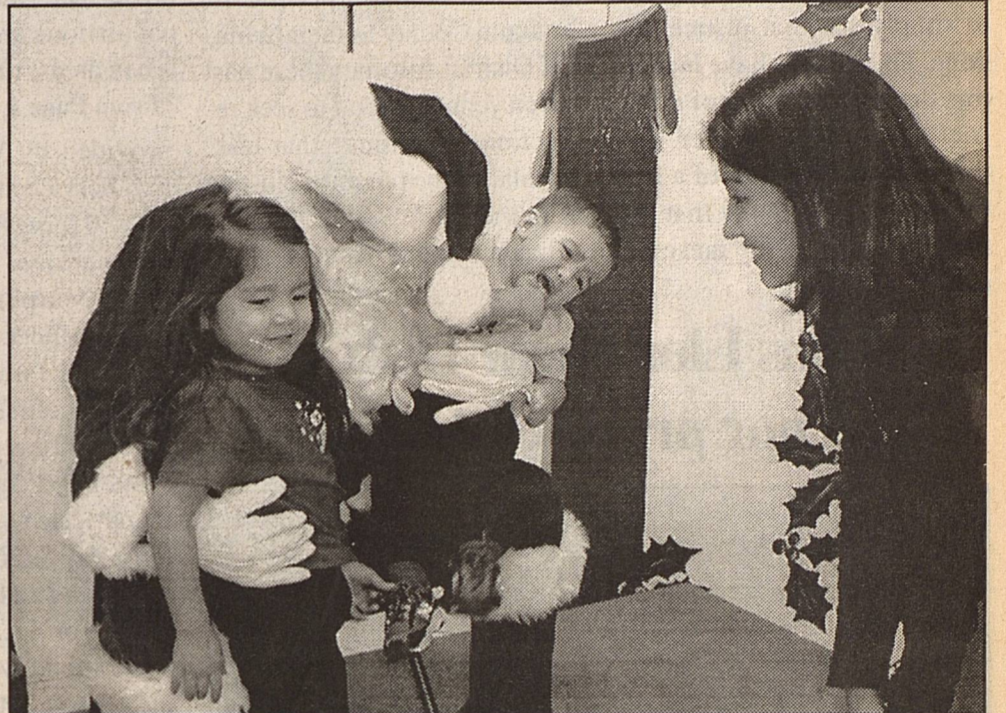
Volume V111, Issue 14 December 12, 2001

Santa Claus Makes Brief Stopover Here



To the delight of dozens of Plains youngsters, Santa paid a brief visit here last Wednesday evening, and graciously allowed his photo to be taken with bright eyed, excited kids.

The Photo Op was sponsored by the Plains Chamber of Commerce, with the assistance of Extension Service employees and volunteers who served hot chocolate, members of the Volunteer Fire Dept., while Chamber members snapped picture after picture of the kids telling Santa exactly what was expected of him come Christmas morning. Many more photos inside.



2001 Cotton Harvest In Final Stages



Loading a truck of Yoakum County CoOp cotton destined for compress in Lubbock.

A survey of area cotton gins Friday afternoon, December 7, produced varied responses from ginners of the much troubled 2001 crop. The growing season this year has delivered more than one damaging blow to cotton producers throughout the South Plains area, the nation's largest 'Cotton Patch'. A telephone interview with area gins Friday, December 7 revealed current data of the 2001 crop as of that date: Marc Traweek, Manager of Tokio Co-Op, said his plant had produced a little over 12,000 bales at that time, and he expected the final production tally to be somewhere around 15,000 bales. Traweek said most of this year's crop had produced good grades. "The predominant question, or problem, this year is the prevailing dismal market price producers will receive. Traweek said, "One of our major problems is current trade agreements. Many spinning mills in the Caribbean area are buying cheap, low quality Chinese cotton, which makes our premium quality cotton cost

prohibitive, resulting in many of our primary market mills going out of business." Chris Chambliss, manager of Yoakum County Co-Op Gin, reported they had ginned some 17,000 bales and were hoping the final bale count to be 20,000, possibly 21,000 bales. That would be a healthy increase over last year's 14,300 bale production. He too was pessimistic about current prices improving in the near future. Officials at New-Tex Gin said as of Friday they had produced some 25,000 bales of cotton, and were hopefully counting on finishing the season with about 28,000 bales, well above last year's 23,000 bale production. Queried about the current market price for this year's production, they agreed with the other gin's assessment, and added, "All of the above are important factors, and we desperately need a new, effective and operable farm bill, which seems to be quagmired in Washington politics."

Turn To Page 3, "COTTON"

Criminal cases in District, County Court

On December 3, in 121st Judicial District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Johnny Leroy Criswell pled guilty to possession of cocaine, more than one gram but less than four grams. He was sentenced to five years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (institutional division) with credit for 136 days served. He was fined \$1500, and must pay \$202 court costs. Causes of Marijuana possession, assault causing bodily injury, and unlawful possession of firearm by felon, with waiver enhancement to second degree felony punishment, forfeiture of firearm. Investigating officer was William Gardner, Denver City Police, and his attorney was Daniel Hurley. In County Court December 5, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Juanita Petree Bernal pled guilty to hindering apprehension/prosecution. She will serve 240 hours in jail, with credit for 70 hours served. Investigating officer was Sheriff Deputy Inoe Valdez. Zachary Brent Mensch pled guilty to criminal mischief, \$50 or more, less than \$500 damage. He was fined \$100, will pay \$256 court costs, and \$64.65 restitution to James Wilson. Investigating Officer was Deputy John Matus. David Longoria pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$300 and must pay \$211 court costs. He was sentenced to 36 hours in jail with credit for 107 hours served. He must complete Anger Management Counseling

Turn To Page 2, "COURT CASES"

The new open container law

Area law enforcement officials say there is apparent public confusion about the "Open Container Law" enacted by the 77th Legislature. The following clarifying article was furnished by the official publication of the State Bar Of Texas. "As of September 1, 2001, it is illegal to possess an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle. House Bill 5 makes it a class C misdemeanor to possess an open container of alcohol in the passenger area of a motor vehicle which is on a public highway or the right of way adjacent to a public highway. What Is An Open Container? An open container is a bottle, can, or other receptacle that contains any amount of alcoholic beverage and that has been opened, that has a broken seal, or the contents of which are partially removed. What is 'passenger area' of a motor vehicle? The passenger area is the area designed for the seating of the

operator and passengers. It does not include a locked glove compartment or a similar storage container that is locked, the trunk of a vehicle, or the area behind the last upright seat of the vehicle if the vehicle does not have a trunk. What is a public highway? This includes any public road, street, highway, interstate, or other publicly maintained way if any part is open for public use for the purpose of motor vehicle travel. Does the motor vehicle have to be moving for a violation to occur? No. Under the law, a person commits an open container offense by possessing an open container in the passenger area regardless of whether the vehicle is being operated or is stopped or parked. There is an exception for people who are passengers in a bus, taxi or limousine, or who are in the living quarters of a motorized house coach or motorized house trailer, including a self contained camper, motor home, or

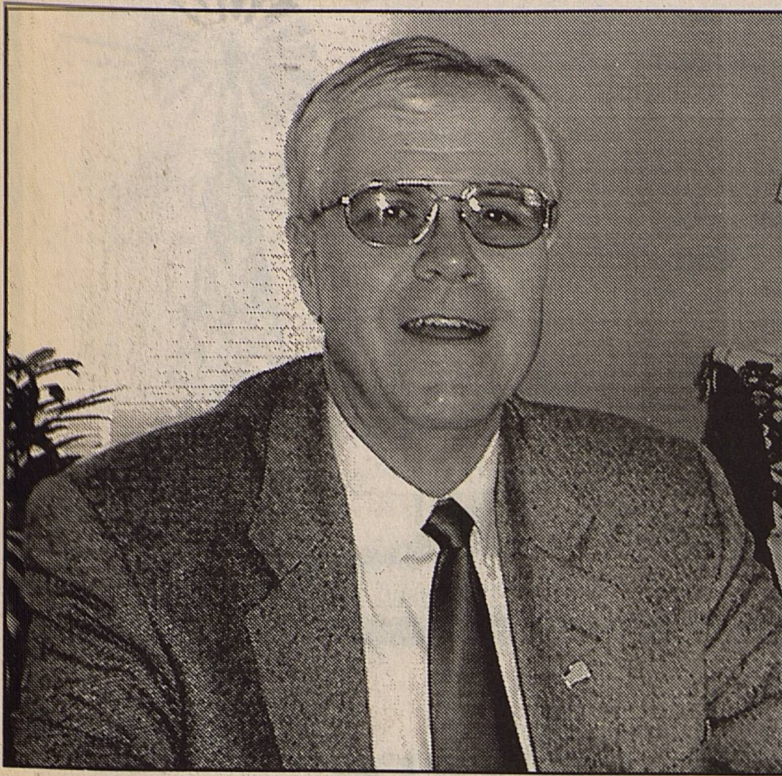
recreation vehicle. Did the Legislature also change DWI laws? Yes. HB 5 strengthens the punishment for repeat DWI offenses. A second DWI conviction within five years of the first requires a mandatory one year suspension of the offender's license. Upon reinstatement, the offender must have an ignition interlock device installed on his or her vehicle for an additional year. Why were the open container and DWI laws changed? Before the 77th Legislature, Texas was not in compliance with federal open container and DWI repeat offender laws, and risked losing federal highway construction funds apportioned to the state. The state is now in compliance with federal laws. The Department of Public Safety has observed in the majority of alcohol related crashes, an open container is present. The law is intended to curb the problem of driving while intoxicated."

Veteran Memorial dedication in Denver City



Some 200 Denver City, county and out of town folks attended the impressive dedication of the granite and marble Memorial in Memorial Park Cemetery, containing the names of 256 veterans at rest in the cemetery. The service was the culmination of many weeks work by the Denver City Memorial committee and dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly raising donations to fund the almost \$30,000 memorial. The patriotic themed ceremony included patriotic songs, posting of the colors by Cannon Air Force troops, and a memorable dedication speech by Lt. Commander Chuck Eineichner, Commander of Lubbock Naval Reserve, followed by the playing of Taps.

Richard Clark Seeks Re-Election As C.D.A.



At one time I thought that the duty of a District Attorney was to simply see that justice was done. Over time I have learned that the responsibility of a District Attorney is greater than that. The greater duty of a District Attorney is to see that justice balanced with mercy is done.

I appreciate the opportunity to have served the people of Yoakum County as their Criminal District Attorney these past seven years. I intend to seek re-election to continue that task, to balance the pursuit of justice with mercy.

Thank You For Your Support.
Richard Clark

Plains Lions hear District Governor praise clubs growth



At last Thursday's noon meeting of the Plains Lions Club, District Governor Wendell Dunlap, Plainview Lions, suggested the local Lions ask themselves, "What affect would your community feel if their were no Lions Club in Plains?" He said there would be no local support of the Eye Bank for visually impaired, no funding of eye glasses for needy children in school here, no annual support of the Girls Town pre-Christmas shopping trip, no financial help for the Crippled Children's Camp at Kerrville, serving 1,700 to 1,800 needy children in the state every year.

He told the members they, and the community should be proud of the local club's mem-

bership growth - from a club with less than 20 members, the present membership has grown to almost 60 members, the largest gain in membership of any club in Texas this year.

Dunlap, a forty year veteran in public education and a Lion for 38 years, said Lions International is now active in 186 countries around the world, and foreign countries are experiencing greater growth than the U.S.

He urged the Lions to do a bit of self evaluation - "Ask yourselves if your club is doing the best it is capable of; Are your fund raising events successful, are there needs in the community which the club could help fulfill? There is always room for improvement."

Federal Funds Available For Rural Communities

Lubbock, Texas- Bryan Daniel, State Director, Texas USDA Rural Development announced today that federal funds are available for USDA's Rural Utilities Service Water and Waste loan program. The effort is part of USDA's national program to help provide rural areas with safe, dependable water and modern sewage systems. "One of the goals of USDA Rural Development is to provide water and wastewater treatment programs that target public health benefits and provide economic opportunities to America's rural communities. USDA's water and wastewater loan program helps rural communities keep pace with the needs of their rising populations," said Daniel. "With lower populations and tax bases than urban areas, rural residents can

From Page 1, "Court Cases" provided by Womens Protective Service at his cost of \$25. He will serve 80 hours community service. Sheriff Deputy Larry Murphree was investigating officer.

Michael James Holmes pled guilty to a first DWI, B.T. 078/.081. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500 and must pay \$226 court costs. He will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 13.5 hours served, must attend weekly AA meetings, serve 24 hours community service, and complete the DWI First Offender Program. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Dawn Tenney Carter pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .096/.099. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. She was fined \$500 and must pay \$225 court costs. She will attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, perform 24 hours community service, and spend 72 hours in jail, and complete the DWI first offender program. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS. Her attorney was Bill Helwig.

Jeffery Derle Keith agreed to the state's motion to modify conditions of community supervision from a prior unlawfully carrying a weapon charge. It was ordered he will successfully complete Manged Care Center In-Patient treatment program, and after care counseling. Attorney for defendant was Dan Sullivan.

utilize our programs to help provide essential public services that will enhance the quality of life for all rural residents."

USDA's water and wastewater program is designed to bring fresh, clean drinking water and sanitary, environmentally sound sewage facilities to rural America's 53 million residents. Loans and grants are available to rural communities of fewer than 10,000 residents. Public bodies, corporations operated on a nonprofit basis, and Indian tribes, that are unable to obtain credit from other sources at reasonable rates and terms, are eligible for assistance.

For more information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Lubbock Office at 806-785-5644, Ext. 4.

Barbara Wright seeks County Treasurer job



Barbara Wright of Dever City has filed as a candidate seeking election to the position of Yoakum County Treasurer, subject to the March Republican Primary.

New entrepreneurship project



These new mini-storage units should be ready for rental by CCN's publication of this issue, according to owner Tommy Guy Box. The new storage facility is just east of Ferrell and 17th Streets, directly in front of the east, or City watertower. Box said there are

twenty 10' by 10' units, and by removing the center partition, could be converted to 10' by 20' units. The state of the art steel units will be well lit with security lighting on each side of the buildings, and will soon be enclosed in a security fence.

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Tim Addison

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TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

LOCATION: 221 North Avenue B

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HO HO HO! Santa Posed With Lots Of Bright Eyed Kids



**From Page 1,
"COTTON"**

Sun Cot Gin is currently at the 20,000 bale mark and hopes to finish the year with a 25,000 bale production run. The current cotton quality is very good, but their total production will probably be down from last year's 27,000 bale run.

West Texas Invites All

West Texas towns and communities are doing all they can to encourage immigration, which, after running in reverse a short while in 1886, is again flowing west. Agencies to encourage immigration have been set up in many West Texas towns. For example, Abilene has a Progressive Committee; Ballinger, a Board of Immigration; Albany an Immigration Society, and Brownwood a Bureau of Immigration. These societies do not paint the virtues of West Texas in modest terms; in literal truth they do invite the world to come.

The Texas News, December, 1891.

Shooting Sports Meeting

The Yoakum County 4-H Clubs and County Extension Agent, Arlan Gentry are hosting an informational meeting about a tentative Shooting Sports Program on Wednesday, December 12 at the Denver City Community Building in the East Room at 7:00 p.m.

4-H members or any youth (3rd grade - 12th grade) and interested parents are invited to attend to learn more about the 4-H Shooting Sports Program, particularly trap shooting. We hope there is enough interest from both youth and adults to start in the spring or early summer.

We will have 3 or 4 speakers giving information about the major issues involved in a shooting sports program. Your questions and comments would be greatly appreciated. If you are interested in getting involved in shooting sports and will not be able to attend, please call our office at 456-2263.



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PHS ALL-DISTRICT HONOREES



Cowgirl Volleyball All-District honorees, front, Kayla Willis, Chelsea Blount, Annaliesa O'Quinn, back, Manuela Villegas, Mackenzie Winn, Jessica Rodriguez.

Plains High School received notification recently of athletes named to the District 3-AA All District Volleyball and Football squads. Cowgirl volleyball standouts shown above made the elite All-District Team. Annaliesa O'Quinn was named the Outstanding Hitter. Named to the First Team were Juniors Chelsea Blount and Jessica Rodriguez. Junior Mackenzie Winn was named to the Second Team, and Sophomore Manuela Villegas and Junior Kayla Willis received Honorable Mention honors.

The 2001 Cowboy football team also received its share of honors; Moises Gonzales, Senior, was named 1st Team running back, 1st Team kickoff return specialist, 2nd team punter, and 2nd team defensive back. Senior Jared Bell was named 1st team linebacker, 1st team punt return specialist, and 2nd team quarterback. Senior Joseph Rodriguez was honored as 2nd team kicker, honorable mention fullback and linebacker. Tanner Hamm, senior, was 1st team wide receiver, 1st team defensive secondary. Senior Louis Escobar was 1st team offensive lineman and 1st team defensive lineman. Junior Nick Hays made the 2nd team as defensive end, and Junior Kevin Bartley received honorable mention as defensive secondary.



Cowboy Football All-District honorees, front, Joseph Rodriguez, Moises Gonzales, Nick Hays, back, Tanner Hamm, Jared Bell, Louis Escobar. Kevin Bartley not present for photo.

PISD Sports Recap

Jr. High:

7th Girls- The 7th Lady Wranglers lost a close match against Seagraves 26-23. Desiraye Broome led the scoring with 10 points, Regina Morales had 8, Meghan Garcia 3, Nicole Culwell 2.

8th Girls- The older Lady Wranglers also found Seagraves too tough and were downed 37-19. Cecilia Bonilla managed 8 points, Ashli Hunter 5, Allison Friesen 3, Maribel Mendias 2, and Skylar Keese 1.

7th Boys- (no dates on report, may not be in right order) The 7th Wranglers fell behind 7 points in the first period, but came back to beat Seagraves 34-33 when Chase Guetersloh made a two pointer with 2 seconds on the clock. In another game against Seagraves, they were downed 44-25. Landon Craft led scoring with 14 points, Chase Guetersloh had 8, and Spencer Ortega stood out on defense. In the Seagraves Tournament, the boys were again downed by Seagraves 35-28. Scott Addison was high point man, and J.L. Vasquez was cited for his hustle and defense. The 7th Wranglers lost a squeaker to Denver City 33-32. Scott Addison and Landon Craft led scoring, Justen Henry was noted for hustle, Chase for defense.

8th Boys- The 8th Wranglers finished second in the Seagraves Tourney, winning two, losing one. They fell to Seagraves A team 37-28, but bounced back to down Denver City 51-40, and Seagraves B 41-10. Coach Brink said their ball handling and free throw shooting both improved

in the tournament.

High School:

JV Cowgirls- The young Cowgirls played well the first half against Sundown, but were downed 44-22. Sandra Gallegos had 10 points, Jamie Covarrubias 4, Daniela Lazos, Kristian Morales, Marlie Diaz 2 each.

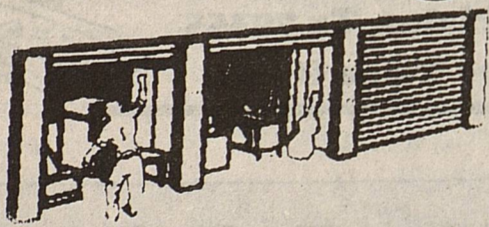
Varsity Cowgirls - The Cowgirls met Sundown December 4, and fell 44-24. Jessica Rodriguez and Annaliesa O'Quinn topped scoring with 7 points each, Chelsi Wagon and Mackenzie Winn had 4 each, Moriah Traweck 2. Annaliesa O'Quinn pulled down 7 rebounds, Chelsi 6, and Jessica Rodriguez and Chelsi each had 3 steals. No Stats Available From New Deal Tourney

Varsity Cowboys- The Cowboys felled old time rival Sundown 63-54. Moises Gonzales topped scoring with 18, Tanner Hamm 14, Jarod Newland 12, Jared Bell 10. Hamm and Bell each grabbed 5 rebounds, and Moises had 8 steals. The Cowboys made a clean sweep in the New Deal Tournament with three wins and Championship Honors. They first beat Smyer 60-38. Top scorers included Hamm 17, Bell 16, Newland 9, Zach Broome 8. They next bombed New Deal 74-39. Bell was top scorer with 14, Hamm, Newland, Gonzales 13 each, Kevin Bartley 8. They wrapped the tourney up by beating Lorenzo 60-56. Bell and Gonzales each had 16, Newland 13, Hamm and Bartley 7 each. Their record is now 5 wins, 3 losses.



This file photo shows Chelsi Wagon going up for layup in recent basketball action

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Student of the Week

PHS Student of the Week is Helana Neufeld, a sophomore and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Johan Neufeld. She was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn who said "Achieving excellence takes planning, preparation and hard work. Helana is someone who works hard and gives her very best to be the best. She is focused on academics and is an attentive student who strives to learn something new each day. She is a pleasure to have in class."



Go, Cowboys, Cowgirls!

PLAINS JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL 2001-2002

		BOYS	GIRLS	
NOV. 19	STANTON	THERE	THERE	5:00
NOV. 26	COAHOMA	HERE	THERE	5:00
DEC. 3	SEAGRAVES	THERE	HERE	5:00
DEC. 7 & 8	SEAGRAVES JR. HIGH TOURNAMENT			TBA
DEC. 10	COLORADO CITY	HERE	THERE	5:00
DEC. 13 & 15	POST JR. HIGH TOURNAMENT			TBA
JAN. 10	STANTON	HERE	HERE	5:00
JAN. 17	COAHOMA	THERE	HERE	5:00
JAN. 24	SEAGRAVES	HERE	THERE	5:00
JAN. 31	COLORADO CITY	THERE	HERE	5:00
FEB. 7	FORSAN	HERE	THERE	5:00

TPA MEMBER 2001
Cowboy Country News
TEXAS PRESS ASSOCIATION

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THC Hosts Annual Historic Preservation Conference

Abilene, Texas-The 2002 Annual Historic Preservation Conference will be held April 18-20 at Abilene's Embassy Suites Hotel. The Texas Historical Commission (THC), in association with Preservation Texas, Inc. and the Texas Historical Foundation, hosts the event. The 2002 theme is "Frontier Folklore: Preserving the Lone Star Legacy."

The three day conference will feature seminars, workshops and roundtable discussions on a variety of important preservation issues by some of the state's most knowledgeable experts in architecture, archeology, downtown revitalization, heritage tourism and lo-

cal assistance. The event also offers opportunities for exploring historical sites and preservation projects in Abilene and the surrounding area.

The conference is open to professional and volunteer preservationists, county historical commission members, local government officials, history buffs, students, teachers, community activists or individuals considering careers in preservation.

Brochures and more information will be available in February 2002. For more information contact the THC Marketing Communications Division at 512/463-6255.

Infertile Couples Could Conceive Through Ovum Donation

Houston, Texas-Infertile couples who fear they will never experience the joys of parenthood have the option of ovum donation through a program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"This is a great opportunity for women to share their fertility with other women who do not have ovaries or who have ovaries that do not function," said Dr. Sandra A. Carson, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of the assisted reproductive technology program at Baylor.

Ovum donation is a fertility

choice for women who are unable to produce ova for conception, but are able to become pregnant. The ovaries are stimulated and the donor and recipient's cycles are synchronized. The transferred eggs are then transferred, while the remaining embryos are preserved for use in additional transfers, if necessary.

To donate, participants must be between the ages of 21 and 30, have had a successful pregnancy, have no venereal diseases and must complete some psychological and medical evaluations.

Gospel Concert Announced

The Brownfield United Pentecostal Church will present a Gospel Concert featuring Jimmy Blackwood, who performs with the Gaither Concert series. He is also a member of the legendary Blackwood Brothers Quartet, and was also

a member of the Stamps Quartet. The Concert will be at 7:30 P.M., Friday, December 14, at the Rialto Theater, 408 N. Main in Brownfield. Adult tickets are \$7.00, children 6-12 are \$4.00. For more information, call 806-766-7019.

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"Welcome to our World"

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Sanctuary Choir
Morning Worship

December 16th

Library Storytime

We had a wonderful time at Storytime, Wednesday, December 5th, 2001. We sang Christmas carols and read the book; Christmas Mice; and watched the movies; One Turkey, Two Turkey and Pluto's Christmas Tree. Amanda Dusek celebrated her 2nd birthday with cookies and punch supplied by her mom, Shannon.



Peyton McWhirter, Amanda Dusek, Madison Davis. Not shown-Mesa Davis.

New Books At The Library

FICTION:

A Century of Great Suspense Stories. edited by Jeffery Deaver, *Flesh and Blood*. Jonathan Lellerman, *Good Bones and Simple Murder*. Margaret Atwood, *Murder at the President's Door*. Elliott Roosevelt, *The Pillars of Creation*. Terry Goodkind, *A Season of Miracles*. Heather Graham, *Violets Are Blue*. James Patterson, *The Way of the Cowboy*. Elmer Kelton, *Clinical Trial*. April Christofferson, *Guest Shot*. David Locke.

NONFICTION:

The Carbohydrate Addict's Life Spam Program. Dr. Richard F. Heller, *The Final Days: The Last, Desperate Abuses of Power by the Clinton White House*. Barbara Olson, *A Gift of Love: Reflections for the Tender Heart*. Charles Stanley, *A Quiet Knowing: Devotional Thoughts for Troubled Times*. Gigi Graham Tchividjian, *The Old Farmer's 2002 Almanac*. Robert B. Thomas, *Our Finest Hour: The Triumphant Spirit of America's World War II Generation*. Killian Jordan.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR 'OPERATION CHRISTMAS CARD'?

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Plains Independent School District intends to destroy records of students who have received special education services. Records to be destroyed are for persons who received Special Education, including speech therapy services, prior to 1993-1994 school year. These records are located at Plains ISD, 806/456-7498, Box 479, Plains, TX 79355. Legal parent/guardian or adult student with disabilities may request copies of these records at the school.

AVISO

Aviso esta dado que La Escuela de Plains tiene intencion de destruir documentos de wstudiantes que reciben servicio de Educacion Especial. Documentos que deben ser destruidos son para personas que reciben educacion especial, incluyendo servicios de terapia de lenguaje hasta el ano escolar 1993-1994. Los unicos documentos que van estar destruidos son los que estan localizados en Plains ISD, 806/456-7498, Box 479, Plains TX 79355. Padres/guardian legal o estudiantes adultos con incapacidades fisica/mentales pueden pedir copias de sus documentos en la escuela.

First United Methodist Church

1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.
456-3727



invites you to worship the Lord through music & drama on Sunday - December 16th

as

the Choir presents

"A Christmas Package of Praise"

during

Morning Worship-10:45 AM

and the

Choir, Children and Youth present

"Let Earth Receive Her King"

at 6:00 PM

Refreshments afterward

God loves you and so do we!

Come grow in Christ with us!

CSW Receives Saludos

Hispanos Education Award

College of the Southwest was recently named one of *Saludos Hispanos'* 100 Educators of Distinction for the year 2001. *Saludos Hispanos* is the leading career and education site and magazine for bilingual Hispanics.

The award is presented annually to the top 100 institutions that have demonstrated a commitment to higher education success for Hispanics. According to Rosemarie Garcia-Solomon, publisher of *Saludos Hispanos*, "Poverty and language barriers have traditionally kept Hispanics from

achieving higher education. For an educational institution, reaching and effectively serving this community is a challenge that CSW has met in a most positive way." She states further that institutions such as CSW "lead the way by providing high standards of education, career planning, and counseling to Hispanic students."

Saludos Hispanos is a 30 year old organization dedicated to increasing opportunities for Hispanic people through education and career development.

Texas Highway Patrol Association Awards 2001

Medal Of Valor

San Marcos, Texas-The Texas Highway Patrol Association presented Highway Patrol officer, Jeffrey Dale Sones with the 2001 Medal of Valor, December 8, 2001 in San Marcos, Texas. Sones is the tenth recipient of the award, and received a \$1,000 check and an award plaque. He will also be honored with a permanent plaque in the Texas Highway Patrol Museum, located in San Antonio. The award is given annually to a Texas Highway Patrol officer whose actions are deemed he-

roic by Association members. Sones was selected to receive the award for his actions in August of 2000.

Sones risked his life in the line of duty when he apprehended Melvin Hale, a capitol murder suspect, bringing to an end a dangerous situation that had already claimed the life of Trooper Randall W. Vetter.

Sones also received a Medal of Valor from the Department of Public Safety for the same incident.

COLD WEATHER CAN CREATE DEADLY PROBLEMS

Cold weather, with frost, chilling winds, ice storms or snow, can create severe problems that many people in the state are not used to dealing with especially following months of comfortably warm temperatures, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees F. Because the temperature drop may be gradual and an early symptom of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know there is a problem. And health officials warn that vulnerable people can die from cold weather.

In 2000, hypothermia was a contributing factor in 53 Texas deaths. People most susceptible to hypother-

mia include those 60 and older, infants and small children, people who are sick, those taking certain prescription drugs or drinking alcohol, the homeless, auto or boating accident victims and those unable to find temporary shelter in cold weather.

Often an older person's metabolism is slower than that of a younger person, or the older may already be in poor health and taking medications that can alter awareness of dangerously low temperatures. People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people because the body's natural alarm signal, the reflex of shivering that increases blood flow, lessens with age. Some hypothermia victims die because they are simply unaware of gradual temperature changes.

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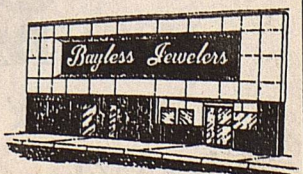
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From The Hack

Heard this on talk radio last week; The King of Swaziland in Africa recently decreed no one could marry girls under 18, to discourage teenage motherhoods. Last week, however, he succumbed to the charms of a 17 years old beauty and married her. He announced "I have broken the law, and I hereby fine myself - one cow." Honest

Ever notice when you blow in a dogs face it gets irritated but when you take the dog in a car it wants to stick its head out the window?

Why is it if someone tells you there are billions of stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you a wall or something is wet with paint you have to touch it to be sure?

Ever wonder about those people who pay \$2 for a little bottle of Evian water? Spell Evian backwards - NAIVE.

Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant sort of like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?

There are three great religious truths; 1. Jews do not recognize Jesus as the Messiah. 2. Protestants do not recognize the Pope as the leader of the Christian Faith. 3. Baptists do not recognize each other in liquor stores or Hooter's.

Christmas is almost upon us, which the Bride reminded me of this AM when she uttered those exact words, munching Yogurt Pancakes, one of her specialties I normally try to avoid by telling her it's the morning of the monthly, weekly, whatever breakfast meeting of the Racoon Society, an idea I stole from Ralph Cramden /AKA Jackie Gleason. She said, licking Yogurt from three fingers, "Come on. I know you want SOMETHING for Christmas!"

I looked at her in my sexist Tom Hanks manner, and kidded, "I know what I would like to have, but I know I can't have it, because it's no longer available, and if it were, I would not have a clue what to do with it." She leaped up, grabbed my neck and bussed me, saying, "Oh, that's so sweet!!! I just love you for thinking of *THAT*

this time of year!" All I could think of to say was, "Well, Honey, that particular golf ball Titelist made is Kaput, and that's OK, I hit the cheap ones just as well."

I assure you, that was the wrong response I finally, after 37 minutes of frigid air in our presence, managed to convey to her what I would really LOVE to receive from Santa, and did NOT want in my stocking or scattered about the house;

WANTS: Bin Ladin. Preferably dead, grave yard dead. Would save us billions of bucks in legal stuff.

DON'T WANT: Another whiskey jigger entitled, 'Thanks, Goobers Landing.'

WANTS: A 21 foot Triton Bass boat. A Champion wouldn't be bad, a Ranger would be very acceptable.

DON'T WANT: "Another offer of a five million dollar credit card with zero interest for three days, then, cover your hiney!"

WANTS: A comped trip to what Connie McWhirter calls Sodom and Gomorrah, Las Vegas, with a five million dollar credit card and zero interest indefinitely.

DON'T WANT: Another notice from the IRS telling both of us we have received a magnificent raise on our social security checks, 6 bucks for me, 4 for Bride. Wouldn't mind hearing of a REAL raise!

WANTS: All of our service men and women in and around Afghanistan home safe and sound- This one may be hard to come by any time soon.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., Thursday, December 27th, 2001, for the purchase of one (1) New 2002 Pickup Truck for Precinct #3 with or without trade-in of one (1) 1993 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, December 31st, 2001.

Bid price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds. For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422, P.O. Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355, or Ty Earl Powell, Commissioner, Precinct #3, P.O. Box 120, Plains, Texas 79355, 806/456-4371.

Sealed bids should be marked "PRECINCT #3 VEHICLE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in Cowboy Country News December 12, 2001.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., Thursday, December 27th, 2001, for the sale of one (1) 1993 Chevrolet 1/2 ton pickup truck from Precinct #3.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, December 31, 2001.

To inspect vehicle, contact Ty Earl Powell, Commissioner, Precinct #3. Sealed bids should be marked "PRECINCT #3 VEHICLE SALE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in Cowboy Country News December 12, 2001.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., Thursday, December 27th, 2001, for the purchase of one (1) new pickup truck for Precinct #4 with or without trade-in of one (1) 1993 4 X 4 Chevrolet Pickup.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, December 31st, 2001.

Bid Price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422, P.O. Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 or Jack Cobb, Commissioner, Precinct #4, P.O. Box 207, Plains, Texas 79355, 806/456-6525.

Sealed bids should be marked "PRECINCT #4 VEHICLE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in Cowboy Country News December 12, 2001.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., Thursday, December 27th, 2001, for the purchase of one New Vehicle for the Plains Volunteer Fire Department.

Bids will be reviewed and contract awarded in Commissioners Court Monday, December 31st, 2001.

Bid price will be paid from 2001 budgeted funds.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355, or Jack Cobb, Commissioner, Precinct #4, PO Box 207, Plains, Texas, 79355, 806/456-6525.

Sealed bids should be marked "FIRE-VEHICLE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas, 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in the Cowboy Country News December 12th, 2001.

Larry Combest comments

The budget experts and economists in Washington are currently debating whether or not our country is "officially" in a recession. I do not need economists or experts to tell me we are in a recession. I know from talking to the people in Hereford and Brownfield and from hearing from my neighbors in Lubbock. Our cities and towns have been fighting an economic downturn for quite a while. While the economy of West Texas is at a greater risk because it is driven by the oil and gas and agricultural industries, the nation is now experiencing what we in West Texas have known for some time, the economy is slowing down.

Although the U.S. economy has been struggling for over a year now, the September 11 attacks damaged it even more. Almost 700,000 Americans are jobless as a result of the September 11 attacks. Hundreds of businesses were devastated and others were completely destroyed. The travel and tourism industry has suffered greatly, forcing many hotel and restaurant employees out of work. The airline industry continues to reduce its flight schedules and lay off employees. Our economy needs help like never before.

President Bush has taken the lead by encouraging consumers to remain confident, to buy

more and invest in America's companies and their stocks. The Federal Reserve Board has continued to cut interest rates. Both of these are important steps, but I believe Congress must do its part to help the economy. This is exactly who I supported the Economic Security and recovery Act of 2001, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives five weeks ago. This legislation provides much needed assistance to workers and American small businesses and individuals incentives to buy and invest.

The bill offers immediate assistance to those who are unemployed as a result of September 11 by providing additional funds for states to expand and produce jobs. As businesses rebuild and grow, they will create more jobs. It is estimated that this legislation will create nearly one million new jobs by 2006. This legislation also helps small businesses, which is crucial for West Texas and its hundreds of small business owners and employees. This is also important for America since more jobs are created through small businesses than through large corporations. This bill will enable small businesses to write off more of their capital investments, \$35,000 annually for two years, which will help them expand and hire more employees.

This is essential for the survival of small businesses during these tough economic times.

Some critics of this legislation believe that the tax cut incentives should be targeted to only one specific group. We cannot expect one "targeted" tax cut to provide the kind of assistance America needs. Our entire country was affected by September 11th and the entire country needs help now. If we really want to help our nation's economy, we must pass comprehensive legislation that includes tax deductions for individuals, and assistance for unemployed workers.

This economic package passed by the House is a major step towards regaining a healthy economy. Each of the components of this legislation will help stimulate different areas of the economy and promote economic growth and jobs. This legislation will help put our economy back on the right track.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in the Senate have waited almost a month before taking action on this measure. Senate leaders are now saying that they plan to consider it soon and I am very hopeful that they will. Our country cannot afford for them to wait any longer.

Comptroller of Public Accounts - Property Tax Division

CATEGORY	COUNTY	SCHOOL DIST.	
		DENVER CITY	PLAINS
A. Single-Family Residential	79,078,380	60,141,490	16,854,770
B. Multi-Family Residential	1,141,160	1,072,550	68,610
C. Vacant Lots	2,191,750	1,530,320	655,850
D. Acreage (Land Only)	135,400,636	29,199,930	95,067,436
E. Farm & Ranch Improvements	18,207,460	8,158,060	10,149,050
F1. Commercial Real	15,475,460	12,609,620	2,836,310
F2. Industrial Real	114,882,160	97,820,740	16,867,100
G. Oil, Gas & Minerals	928,469,860	680,753,690	215,881,650
H. Vehicles	0	0	0
J. Utilities	134,630,460	90,483,570	42,555,610
L1. Commercial Personal	10,085,232	7,049,959	3,025,273
L2. Industrial Personal	19,517,860	12,137,100	6,010,330
M. Other Personal	2,432,220	1,521,140	974,400
N. Intangible Personal	0	0	0
O. Real Property, Inventory	0	0	0
S. Special Property	0	0	0
Total Values	1,461,512,638	1,002,478,169	410,946,389
Deductions - FM	14,548,720	18,897,180	7,358,330
Deductions - GF	11,504,220	0%	20%
% HS Exempt Grant		2,728,616	3,344,640
FM & FC Rate	0.09819	10,322,590	604,930
FM & FC Levy	1.354.651	0	0
General Fund Rate	0.41818	4,167.101	936.618
General Fund Levy	5.782.036	0	0
Road & Bridge Rate		1.217	1.42
Road & Bridge Levy		0.087	0
Total County Rate	0.51637	1.304	1.42
Total County Levy	7.136.687	12.631.534	5.118.135

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