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Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V, Issue 35, Wednesday May 12, 1999

Severe Weather causes Electric Outages, some Property Damage



This barn belonging to Larry Rawls on the Allred Road was hit by extremely high winds in last Tuesday's bout with heavy rain and reported tornados in the area.

Severe weather throughout the Lea County Electric Cooperative service territory caused numerous outages Friday. Tornadoes were reported around Plains, Texas, in the vicinity of Bronco, New Mexico, and along the state line south of the Newtex Gin.

At approximately 6:00 a.m. Friday, isolated outages and line operations began occurring in the western portions of the Cooperative's service territory as the weather system began moving in a generally easterly direction. At 3:18 p.m. CDT, severe storms caused a two hour interruption in power to agricultural/irrigation customers along the state line south of the Newtex Gin.

At 8:18 p.m. CDT, most residents and businesses in and around Plains, Texas were without power after a faulted line section caused a substation breaker to operate. Service crews were able to isolate the problem, and switched customers to alternate feeds. The outage was limited to approximately 20 minutes for most residents.

At 9:08 p.m. CDT, high-winds blew a barn roof into a 3-phase line west and south of Plains; service crews isolated the faulted line section, cleared the debris and restored power at 11:17 p.m.

Connection, D.C. Chamber Share Building

the Yoakum County Connection and Denver City Chamber of Commerce joined hands this Tuesday. An Open House celebration of their joint work in refurbishing the Connection Building on Main Street, Denver City.

Under the joint agreement, the two organizations will share use of the building. In return for renovation funds, the building was given to the Chamber, and the Connection will, for one dollar per year, lease the location for fifty years.

The spiffed up building will be used for art exhibits, summer youth programs, the Connection annual meeting and other civic and county programs.

The Connection reports work progresses on the Water Melon Round Up to be held here September 4. Chair Jennette Head says brochures have been printed, and posters will be ready for D.C. and Plains Elementary students to color.

Tonya Lowery Patton, summer youth program coordinator, reports 14 instructors have agreed to conduct summer programs, and information on the activities will be available at the County Libraries soon.

New city water is a reality Careful planning, hard work and dollars assures city of adequate supply



Council members at ritual valve opening - Front, L-R, Pam Redman, Bonnie Earnest. Back Owen Schneider, T.J. Miller, David Brunson, Shane McKinzie.

City Council members, staff and employees gathered at the new pump building near the city's three new water wells this week for the symbolic opening of valves, bringing long awaited and long needed fresh water to the city's distribution lines.

The almost 14 month long project started last March, when the sale of County Section 423 to the city closed. A \$250,000 grant had already been secured through the Texas Community Development Program to help fund the development.

Bids for the total project were approved early last summer, and the drilling of three water wells started shortly thereafter. Under direction of West Texas Consultants, an engineering firm in Midland and Andrews, the wells would be drilled and

developed, tied together, and almost four miles of 12 inch water line would be laid to tie into the city system just west of town. A 100,000 gallon storage tank was built, along with a building for the massive pumps and valves.

When word was received from Austin of the state's final approval of the water quality, the news brought smiles of relief to faces of all the city employees and Council.

City Administrator David Brunson said, "It was an expensive but absolutely vital necessity. I am extremely proud of the work our employees performed

in the project. They laid almost 20,000 feet of line well ahead of schedule, and their efforts saved the city residents over \$50,000 in costs. I want to publicly thank employees Alex Barrientes, Charlie Diamond,

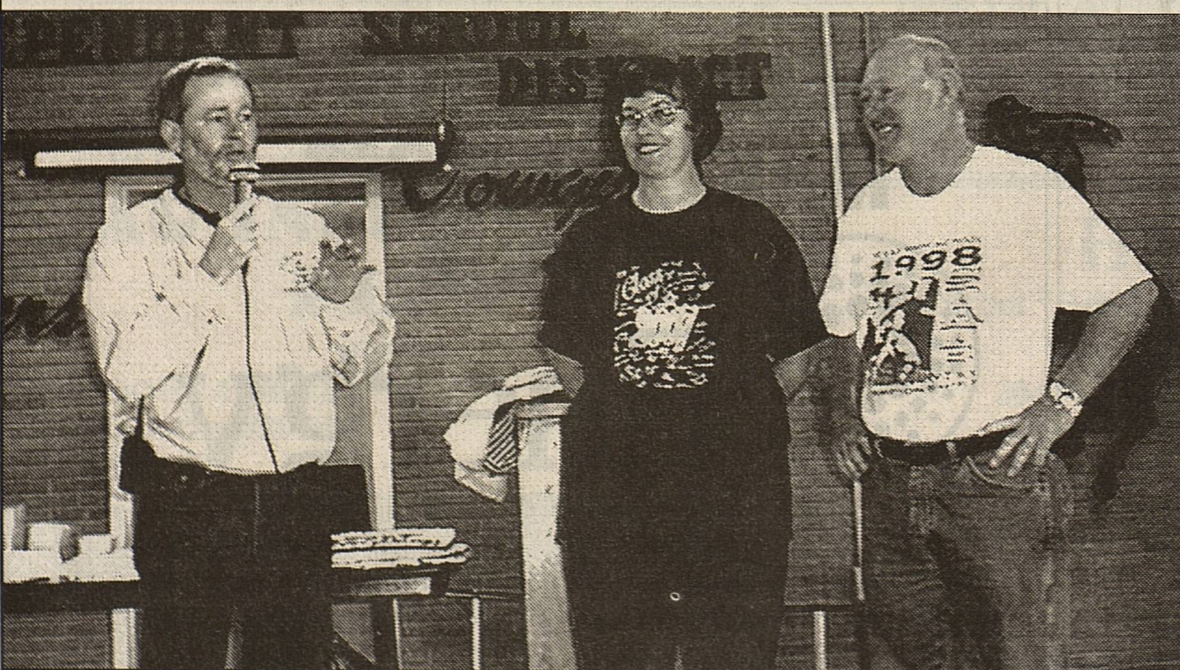
Valentin Luna, Joe Martinez, temporary helpers Rudy Gonzales and Jimmy Gonzales, and Ed Hansen for their dedication."

Mayor T.J. Miller, almost sighing with visible relief, said "I am very grateful we have come to this final stage. I can recall far too many times in the summer when we desperately needed more water, and it just wasn't there." Brunson said,

"The Mayor and Council deserve a great deal of credit for their forward thinking on the present and future needs of the city for this water."

Pumps have been set to produce about 800 GPM of water. In peak demand days of summer, the city can use up to 900,000 gallons of water daily. The new system, if run 24 hours, should make 2.3 million gallons available.

Veteran educators to retire



Principal Don Weems announces pending retirement of the McAdams' to elementary school

When Elementary Principal Donnie Weems announced to students, teachers and guests the upcoming retirement of Estelle and Evertt McAdams, he said, "During the 25 years this couple has played a role in the education of Plains students, they have, in a very positive way, touched and influenced the lives of over 12,000 of our young people."

Evertt started his teaching/coaching role here in 1974. He has taught classes of history, government and art in all three Plains campuses. He has played the role of coach in football, basketball, and his favorite, track and field.

Estelle didn't start teaching here until 1977, because of the young ages of their children. She has been in Plains Elementary the length

of her career here.

The McAdams' plan to remain here in Plains when they hang up their teaching and coaching cloaks. They have projects involving their family, and have no definite plans of further employment. Everett said last Thursday his wife, who has assisted in gospel ministry at the county jail, may continue work in a similar field. They are members of the First Assembly of God Church here.

As the kindergarten through fourth grade youngsters filed out of the cafeteria following the meeting, their love and respect for the McAdams' was apparent. Virtually each child stopped by the couple to say goodbye, and gave each hugs of appreciation.



The city employees who did the hard work, in record time and in dollars saved, kneeling, Valentin Luna, Alex Barrientes, Back, Joe Martinez, Jerry Dominguez, Charles Diamond, Ed Hansen.

Kayla Redman signs Letter Of Intent



Pam Redman, left, and Coach Mark Johnson, right, witness Kayla Redman signing letter of intent.

Kayla Redman, soon to graduate from Plains High, signed a letter of intent last week to play collegiate Volleyball this fall with Cisco Junior College. The college is a Division I school, and a member of the Regional V Conference of the NJCAA. "We are extremely proud to have this quality student athlete coming to the Lady Wrangler Volleyball program. She will be a tremendous asset to the team. We feel fortunate to get Kayla, and I look forward to working with her this fall," said Coach Susan Moore.

Supreme Court upholds 'Rule of Capture' ground water law in suit

Area underground water district managers are praising the Texas Supreme Court's unanimous May 6 decision to uphold the state's 95 year old 'rule of capture' law for ground water use. While pleased with the decision, they remain cautious about the Court's ruling, which leaves open the possibility of future changes in ground water law if the water law reform in Senate Bill 1 does not achieve its desired effect. A future court ruling will almost certainly have a different outcome if Texas ground water conservation districts fail to provide for the conservation, preservation, protection, recharging and prevention of waste of ground water.

In the original lawsuit, Henderson county landowners sued Great Spring Waters of America (Ozarka) for negligently draining their water wells. According to their allegations, Ozarka began pumping 90,000 gallons of ground water per day, seven days a week, from land near the plaintiffs. The suit alleged plaintiff's wells were severely depleted as soon as pumping began.

Ozarka said drought conditions and local water use, not the company, lowered levels of the Carrizo Aquifer.

District Court in Henderson County, in a summary judgment, said the 'Rule of Capture' barred the landowners claim. The case went to the Court of Appeals, which affirmed the previous court de-

cision. Plaintiffs then asked the Supreme Court to change the ground water law to a 'reasonable use rule', such as the State of Ohio.

A brief filed by six water district in the Texas High Plains said the change in the old law was not necessary. They contended prior legislation allowing the creation of water districts to reduce well interference, incorporate reasonable and beneficial water use, conserve aquifers, and protect water ownership rights was sufficient management.

Judge Craig Enoch, writing for the Court, said the case presents "compelling reasons for ground water use to be regulated," but a change in the law would be inappropriate just two years after the 75th Legislature declared local ground water districts to be the preferred method of managing ground water in Texas.

The six districts in the High Plains region include, Plains Underground District, Lubbock, North Plains District, Dumas, White Deer, Mesa District, Lamesa, South Plains District, Brownfield, and Sandy Land District, Plains.

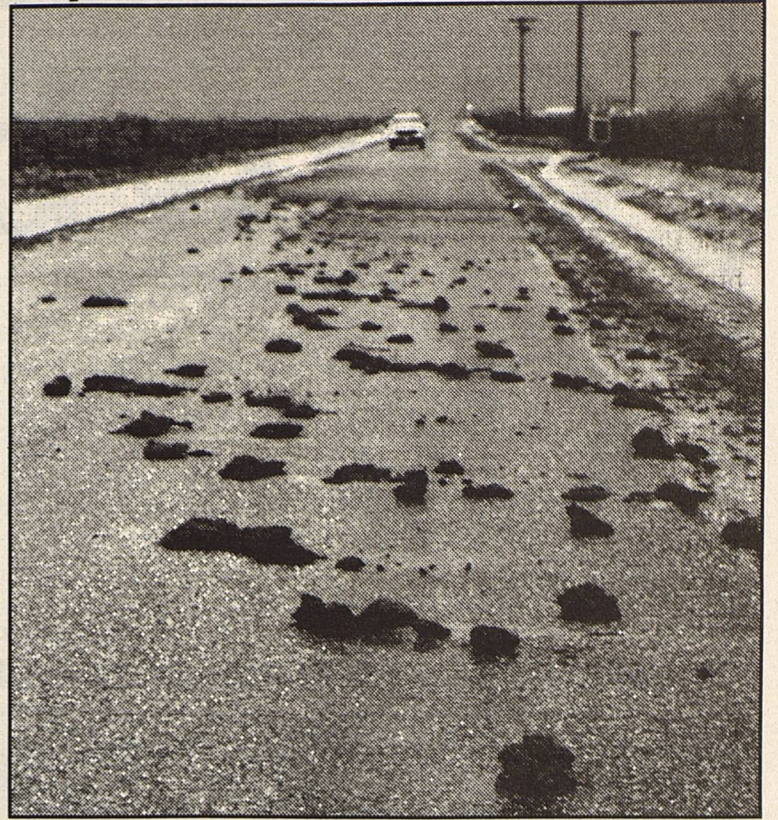
SPC schedules Junior Band Camp

Registrations are being accepted for South Plains College Junior High band camp to be held June 7 thru 12 on the Levelland campus. Students will participate daily in band and section rehearsals, electives and recreation. Electives include flags, twirling, drum majors, conducting and others. Camp clinicians will be Willie Owens and Matt Knight, band directors at Estacado and Abernathy High.

Recreational activities include basketball, volleyball, swimming and game room activities. The camp is the commuter type, and on-campus housing will not be available.

Cost for the week long camp is only \$65. For more information, call 806-894-9611, ext. 2265.

April 30th rain was real "Floater"



The morning after the rain, these 'cow chips' had floated out of Henard and McGinty pastures, and littered the road to the airport.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Texans can hoop it up

A family of four will pay an average \$216.50 to attend a Texas NBA game in 1999's abbreviated season.

What it costs to go to the game

Items	DALLAS MAVERICKS	SAN ANTONIO SPURS	Houston Rockets
Ticket*	\$27.00 x 4 = \$108.00	\$47.00 x 4 = \$188.00	\$42.00 x 4 = \$168.00
Beer	3.50 x 2 = 7.00	4.00 x 2 = 8.00	4.25 x 2 = 8.50
Soft drink	3.00 x 4 = 12.00	2.50 x 4 = 10.00	2.75 x 4 = 11.00
Hot dog	2.25 x 4 = 9.00	2.50 x 4 = 10.00	3.00 x 4 = 12.00
Cap	6.00 x 2 = 12.00	10.00 x 2 = 20.00	15.00 x 2 = 30.00
Program	4.00 x 2 = 8.00	5.00 x 2 = 10.00	5.00 x 2 = 10.00
Parking	5.00 x 1 = 5.00	3.00 x 1 = 3.00	n/a**
Total	\$161.00	\$249.00	\$239.50

*Ticket price is the median price of the lowest seven ticket prices for each team.
**Parking for Rocket games is included in the ticket price.

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Dallas Mavericks, Houston Rockets, and San Antonio Spurs.



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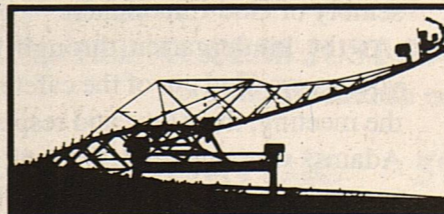
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Benefactors boost both County Libraries

The Plains and Denver City Libraries have benefitted to the tune of almost \$11,000, thanks to the generosity of a philanthropic foundation.

Local Librarian Lattrell McDonnell reported last week the Plains Library received a grant from the Tocker Foundation in the amount of \$5369. She said \$2,869 of the money will be used to purchase badly needed furniture for the library's expanded computer section, including tables for the internet and book catalog computers.

The remaining \$2,500 will be used for the purchase of books recommended by Plains Elementary to assist in their Accelerated Reading Program. The program calls for each elementary student, with participation of their parents, to read enough books to accumulate the goal of 8,000 points, based on the number of books the youngsters read.

Denver City Librarian Opal Roberts said the Tocker Foundation donated a grant of \$5,594

to their library, and the money will be used to purchase display cases and a video projector for patrons use.

The Tocker Foundation was established in 1964 to implement the philanthropic interests of Phillip and Olive Tocker. Tocker was a practicing attorney who later purchased a Waco outdoor advertising plant. He later became President of The Outdoor Advertising Assn. of America. He and his wife endowed the foundation with their estates in 1993 and 1994.

The Foundation focuses their grant distributions on small, rural libraries serving populations of 12,000 or less. Their philosophy is to assist those libraries serving as community information referral centers, and provide literacy and bilingual programs. Thanks to the generosity of the Tocker Foundation, small libraries have been able to greatly expand and update their services which greatly benefit their communities.

Texas Joins National Effort, to Collect Unclaimed Funds, Assets

Businesses and financial institutions that report overdue unclaimed property to the Texas Comptroller's Office before October 31 will not be charged a penalty or interest, Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander said. Texas is joining with 37 other states which are simultaneously offering an amnesty from penalty and interest.

Comptroller Rylander was announcing the state's second unclaimed property amnesty program and its first national initiative.

Texas law requires business and financial institutions to report unclaimed property to the Texas Comptroller on November 1 each year. Unclaimed cash and other assets are considered abandoned when efforts to locate the rightful owners have been unsuccessful for three to five years. The Comptroller attempts every year to locate the owners of the property reported the previous year by advertising their names in Texas newspapers and on the Internet.

Last year, when the Comptroller's office launched its first amnesty program, more than \$25 million in unclaimed property was collected over three months from more than 1,200 businesses.

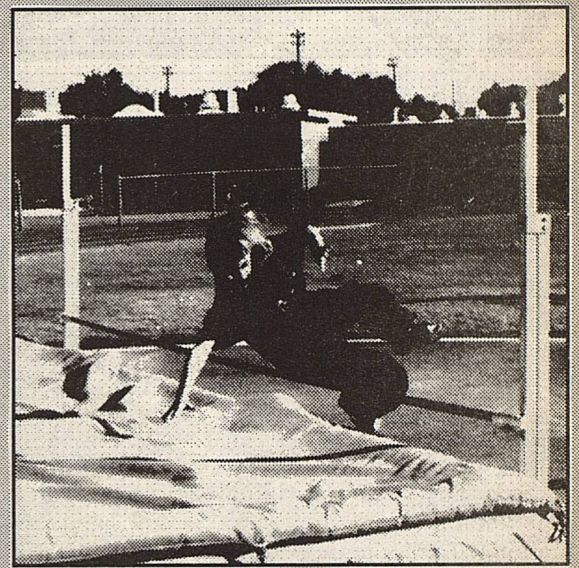
Examples of unclaimed property include checks that have not been cashed; abandoned stocks, bonds, mutual fund accounts, and safe deposit boxes; credit balances, utility deposits and other consumer refunds; mineral interests and royalty payments; and, inactive bank accounts.

Walker Hosts UIL Team in Austin



Last Saturday, State Representative Gary Walker held an open house in his office for PHS students competing in the State UIL Meet, their coaches and parents. Students shown here include, seated - Kristen Gray, standing L-R Clint Burrus, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Nicole Haynes, Gary Walker, Krystle Blundell, Lesli Rowe, Tommie McNabb and Kyle Sisson.

Jr. High Track Scenes



These girls were in action at last week's annual Junior High Track event. Shown top, clockwise, are Nicole Culwell tossing shot in winning effort, Callie Howell in the high jump, and Adrianna Ponce clearing the bar.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Tee time

Texas ranks 4th in the nation in the number of golfers, at 1.4 million, and 4th in the number of golf courses, with 860.



Texas' golf score card

Number of golf courses	860
Number of golfers	1.4 million
Percent of golfers who take their clubs when they travel	87%
Average handicap	13
Percent who play with customers or associates	69%
Percent who agree slow play is the worst golf headache	36%

SOURCES: Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts (www.window.state.tx.us), National Golf Foundation, and Gulf Coast Golfer.

DON'T FORGET THE ATHLETIC BANQUET MAY 17, 1999

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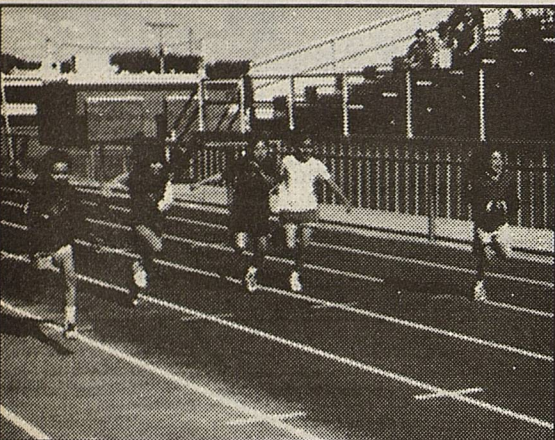
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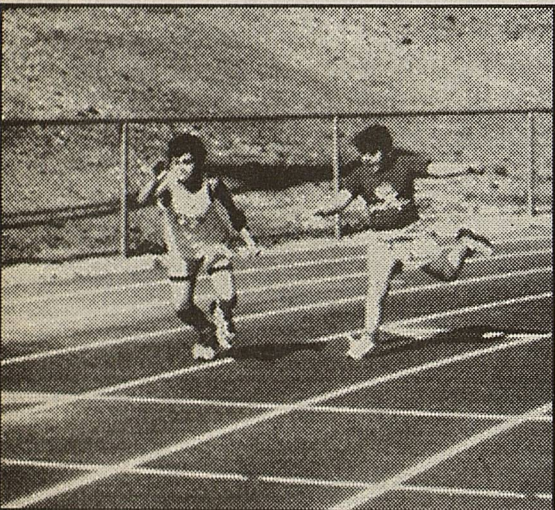
Annual elementary school track meet action



Coach McAdams doing what he enjoys, helping younsters in track



It was a dead heat between these girls.



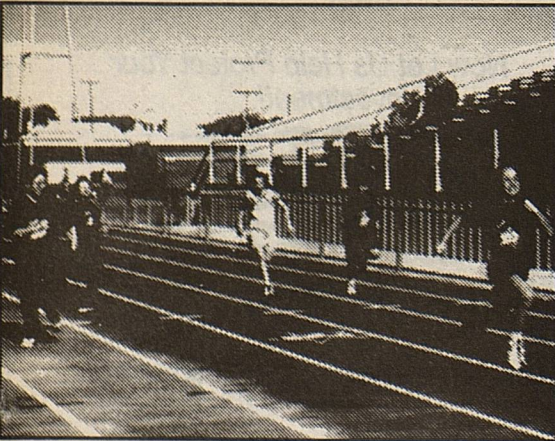
Joani Bell takes baton from Flor Lara.



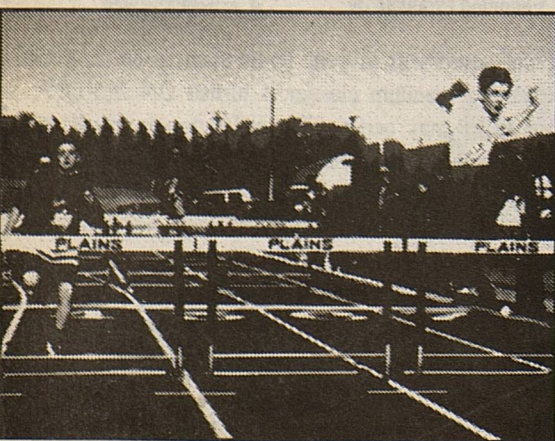
Zachary Ramos hands baton to Jacob Garza.



Chris Addison flies.



Desiraye Broome leads the pack.



Scott Addison won the hurdles.

PHS academic squad scores high in UIL State Meet

Plains High released data Monday morning on the results of the big UIL meet in Austin last weekend. Individual and team results include;

Kristen Gray - 1st calculator, 2nd number sense, 3rd math.

Kyle Sisson - 4th computer applications

Tommie McNabb - 5th calculator.

Clint Burrus - 6th number sense.

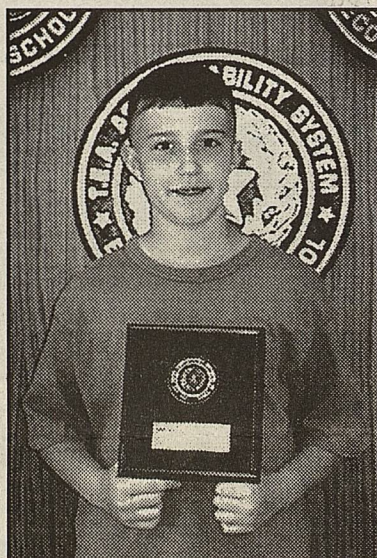
Teams:

Number sense, 2nd - Clint Burrus, Kristen Gray, Annaliesa O'Quinn

Calculator team, 2nd - Clint Burrus, Kristen Gray, Tommie McNabb.

An outstanding performance by a very talented group!

Poster Contestant advances



Brandon Hise

In recent poster art competition heralding Natural Resources Stewardship Week, Junior High students Brandon Hise and Abel Ramos got high marks in county competition. Brandon's poster won 1st place, and Abel's was 3rd. Brandon's poster advanced to regional competition, where it won 2nd place. He was presented this plaque at awards ceremonies in Plainview. His poster is now in Austin in the state finals.

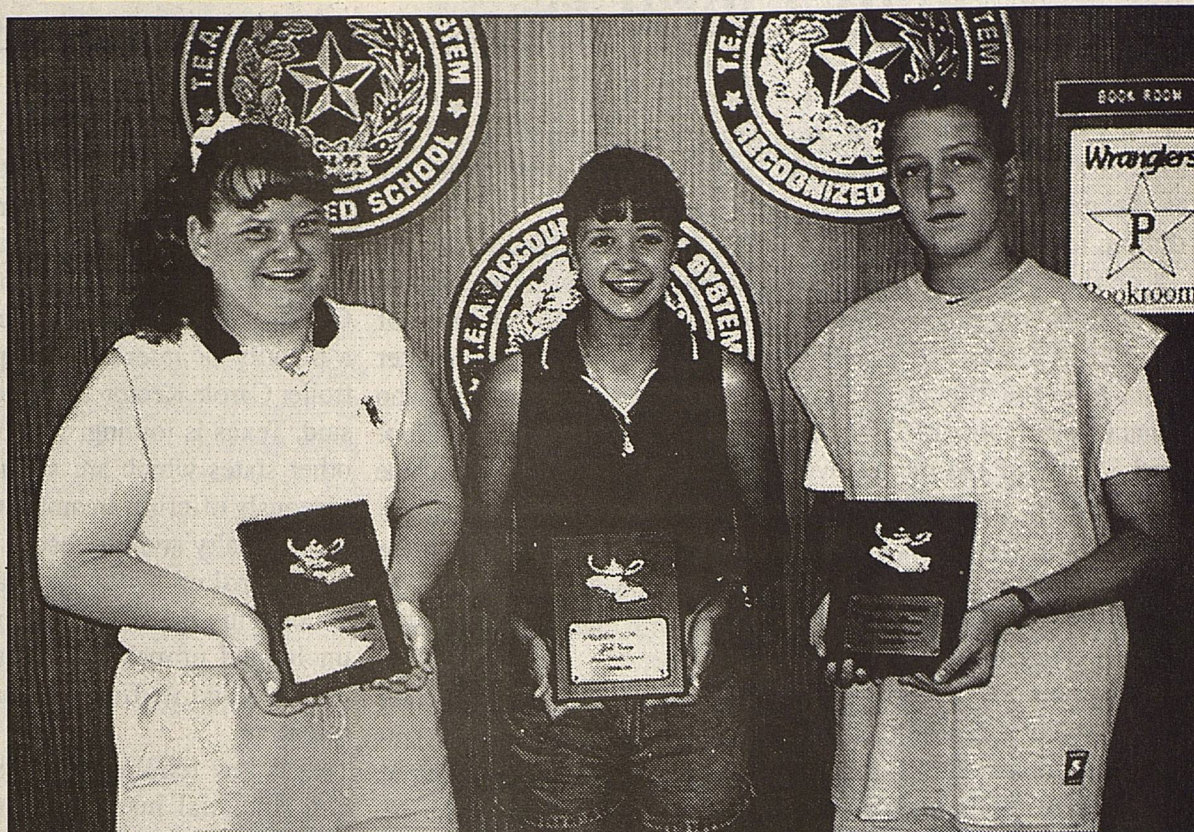
The contest was sponsored by the county Soil and Water Conservation District.

Student of the Week



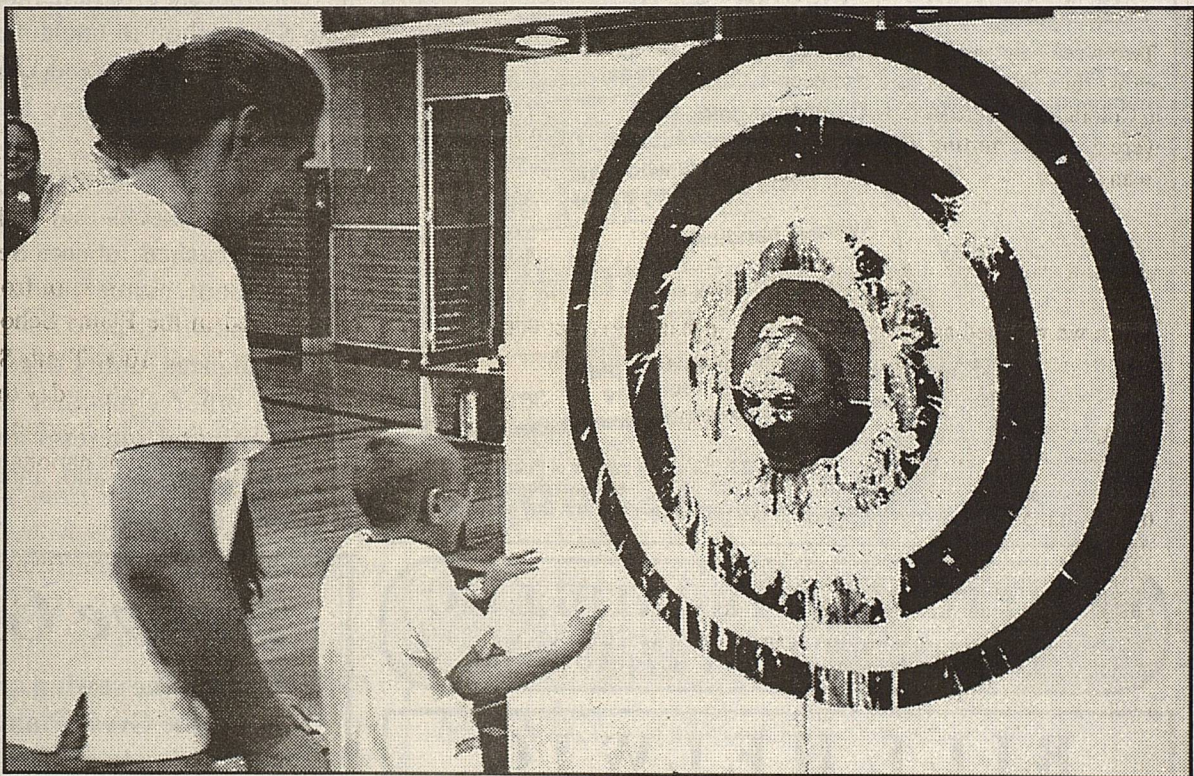
Student of the week is Corina Villarreal, a senior and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Juan Villarreal. She was nominated by Mrs. Pettigrew, who said, "Corina is a student I have enjoyed getting to know this year. She has been a big help in the Resource Center. Since I have new software some of the inventory was not in the computer and there were a number of books to be catalogued and all the paperback books had to be added. She was a big help in this. She plans to attend South Plains College, and I expect to hear good things about her the next few years."

Middle schools Top Three



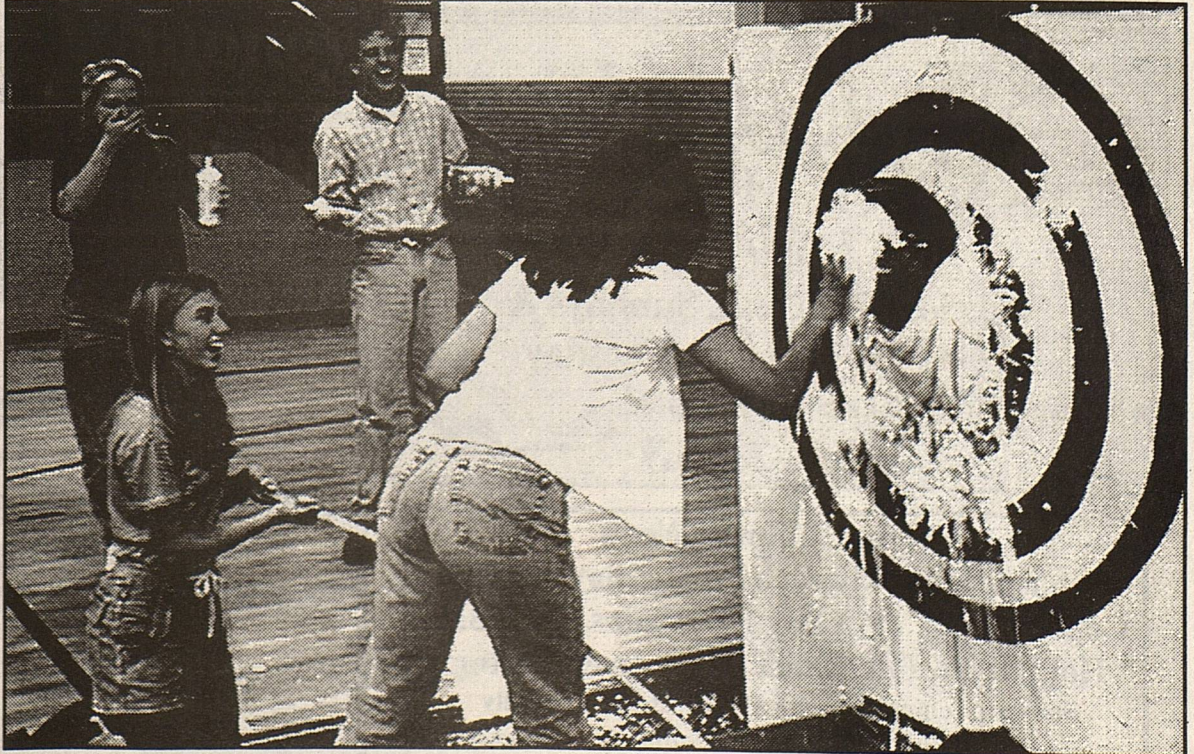
At school graduation time, the academic top two students are usually honored with Valedictorian and Salutatorian awards. This scenario was changed just a little at Plains Junior High. Jill Gray, center of picture, earned the top Valedictorian with an outstanding 96.6 grade average. She was followed very closely by not one but two students for Salutatorian honors, Liz Wilmeth and Jordan Bean, both with 94.6 averages. Principal Ronnie Watkins said this was a first in the five years he has been here, and he had Secretary Johnnie Green calculate the two tied students grades five times, and they remained deadlocked. "They both deserved the recognition for their hard work, and we're happy to give them identical Salutatorian awards."

'Pie In Your Face' assembly draws cheers from kids, earns money for worthy program



Matt McKinzie was delighted to hit Ronnie Watkins with a pie.

It's easy to tell school is almost out for the summer; both students and teachers have gone a little crazy. Last Tuesday at an all school assembly, 28 PISD teachers and administrators allowed students from all three campuses the golden opportunity to smash them in the face with a whip cream pie. This "Pie In Your Face" assembly was not only a fun event, it was a fund raising event for a serious and very worthy cause. Originally scheduled for April, during national Child Awareness Month, school scheduling postponed the event until last week. The event was sponsored by the Yoakum County Child Welfare Board and Plains High Student Council. Junior High instructor was 'ramrod' for the event. Student Council members sold chances for twenty five cents to throw a pie at a school official. The number of chances was unlimited, and in the assembly, winners were announced, and many of the students raced across the gym floor to grab a pie and the opportunity to smack it into a volunteers face. The pie ingredients were generously donated by Lowe's Market here. Hise said late Wednesday afternoon the final tally was not complete, but the event raised some \$300, which will be donated to the Child Welfare Board. There are currently 14 Yoakum County children in foster care sponsored by the Board. We urge you to see the statement read by Mr. Hise just prior to the assembly, re-printed on Page 5 of this issue of CCN.



Patty Ruiz was brave - She smeared her pie on Steven O'Quinn.

Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

The rains finally came, but the storms are bad. Let us hope all stay safe.

Anna Taylor came Tuesday and gave a talk on nutrition - partly in the dark, while the electricity was off. Would you believe we learned it was unsafe to eat "Wennies" without cooking.

The Line Dancing ladies are asking anyone who wishes to join them for lessons, please do so, especially the teachers who are free from classes this summer. A fun day to stay in shape.

Also Wanda Sweitzer will teach a beginners class in Bridge. Call her if interested.

Mrs. Scott is now recuperating at home. Our condolences to the family of Lucille Fulbright who passed away Sunday night. Also to Walter and Ann Holland on their loss.

Thanks to the teachers and students who presented the Cinco De Mayo program.

Don't forget the "Domino Tournament". It's fun and tests your skill.

Martha Webb and Van Wilson were the only Birthdays after age 16.

A big bouquet of roses to all us grandmothers, great grandmothers, and great great grandmothers.

See You Next Week,
Smitty

Child Abuse Awareness Promoted by School

The following is a copy of the address Instructor Vernon Hise delivered to last weeks "Pie In Your Face" assembly.

Two weeks ago, we sat in shock as reports of an unbelievable event poured across the news wire. There had been a shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado. As further reports came in, it was confirmed children and teachers were dead and hurting. Others were missing or hiding in fear for their lives. In an instant, students all across America lost something very valuable. They no longer felt safe at school.

Yesterday, four busloads of teenage kids were returning to Lubbock from a weekend church retreat in the mountains. As they approached a pickup with a camper, a sudden gust of wind pushed the camper into the side of the bus. Again we watched as it was reported six teenage girls were dead and many others were injured. Children were once again robbed of their sense of security. They no longer felt safe on highways.

As we watch pictures on the news and hear stories like these, it's hard to understand why these things happen. They make us feel sympathy for the kids and their families. But there is an even grater tragedy in America today. It seldom makes the news and most of the time we don't even realize it exist. It is no less horrific or newsworthy than those other stories and yet we choose to ignore it, hoping in some subtle way it will go away. It is the problem of child abuse. There are thousands of children each day who are neglected, beaten, are abused by the very people who are supposed to be there to give them love and support. These children have been robbed the most. They no longer feel safe at home.

Currently there are 14 of these children from Yoakum County. They are in foster homes because it is no longer safe at home. Your generous donation will be used to buy school clothes, birthday gifts, and other things they need. But most of all, you give them something far more than money. You give them hope that there are still people who really do care about them. You help provide them with a place to be safe. For that, the child welfare board thanks you. I would also like to thank the student council for helping sell tickets, the administration for allowing us to have this assembly, the teachers and administration who are participating, and Lowe's Pay - N - Save for the whip cream.

Vernon Hise

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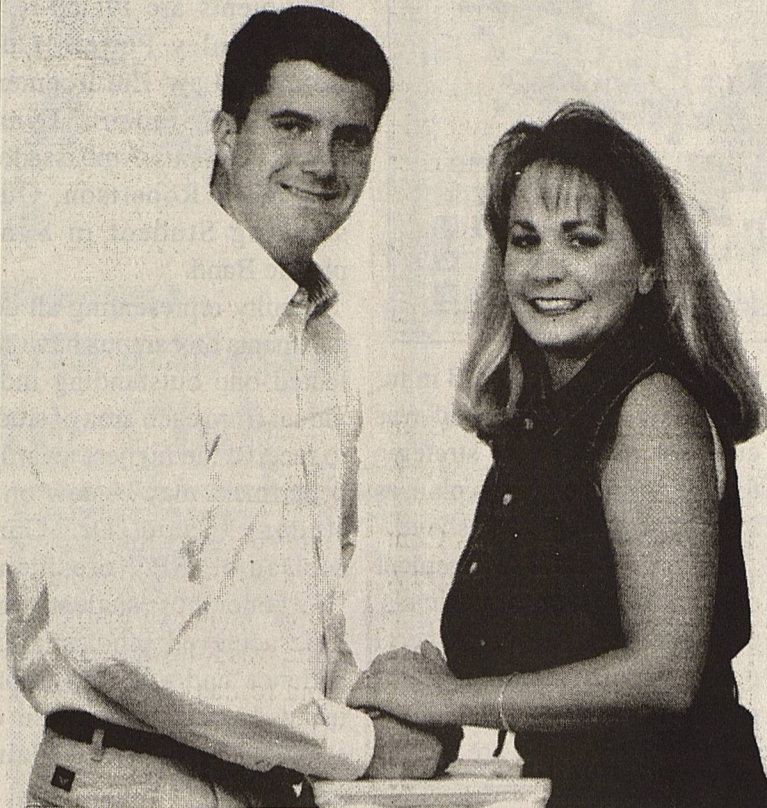
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Vows to be Exchanged



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Melvin of Vado, New Mexico and Ron Naylor of El Paso, Texas proudly announce the engagement and forth coming wedding of their daughter, Amy Jeanette to Gary Davis Simms, son of Micky and Susie Simms, Clovis, New Mexico.

The couple will marry June 19th in El Paso.

The bride elect and future groom are graduates of Texas Tech.

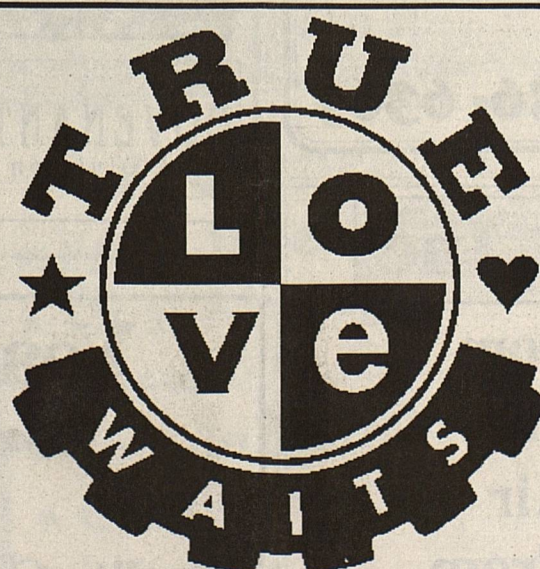
Please do your part in the CITY WIDE CLEANUP

May 12 thru May 19

The Plains Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program to be held in conjunction with summer school from July 5th - July 30th. Meals will be provided in the Plains School Cafeteria to children from ages 1 through 18, at 1000 Tenth Street, Plains, Texas from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been discriminated against should write immediately to Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Note: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

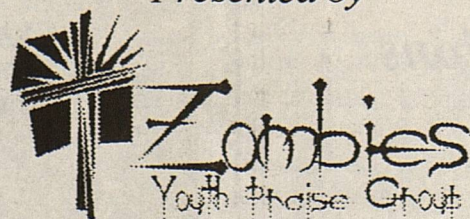
BAND CALENDARS!!

Your band calendar order is due now! If you haven't ordered yet, please do so as soon as possible! Forms are available at the Public Library, Band Hall, and Lowes, or call Cindy Gray at 456-2473



The Musical

Presented by



MAY 16TH, 6:00 P.M.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

TSA MO GA Attends State Convention

TSA MO GA members attended the 102nd annual Texas Federation of Womens Clubs in Lubbock May 1, 1999. The club, along with 21 other clubs in the Caprock District hosted the event, with the theme "Accepting the Challenge; Dare to Dream and Deliver."

Among features at the convention included messages from a number of speakers, a review of clubs' community improvement projects, the presentation of awards, and a tour of the Ranch Heritage Center.

TSA MO GA received 14 state awards in the Arts, Conservation, Education, Literacy and other fields. Member Mary Jo St. Romain won the final door prize drawing, free lodging, meals and registration at the Fall Board meeting in Austin.

Other members attending included Judy Head, Sarah Shelton, Wilma Powell, Zareta and Valeria Winn, and Mattie Field.

History Program at Library Cancelled

Just hours after last weeks issue of CCN was printed, Librarian Latrell McDonnell was notified by Fax the "History as it happens" program, scheduled here on May 25, has been cancelled.

On April 30, when torrential rains and tornado warnings were taking place here, the same bad weather was visiting Carlsbad, New Mexico. One of the history Authors scheduled to present the program was injured trying to secure his RV. during gale force winds. Gary Wiles said his performing Author partner, Delores Brown, escaped injury, and expressed his regret for having to cancel 13 presentations scheduled for Texas.

Filmtime



Filmtime May 5th, 1999- There were seven children in attendance: Lucas Hernandez, Roberto Castillo, Whitney Davis, Sammy Melendez, Iris Mejia, Clayton Gass, Johnathan Davis. The children played two games, heard a story and watched a movie.

The program this week-Clayton Gass celebrated his 2nd birthday. His mom brought donuts and punch for all the children. We had a very special visitor from school, Clifford the Big Red Dog and his friend, Ofelia Trevino, who read the children a story about Clifford. Clifford even played Ring-Around-the-Rosie with the children.

30 Color Photos

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State earns high marks for management practices

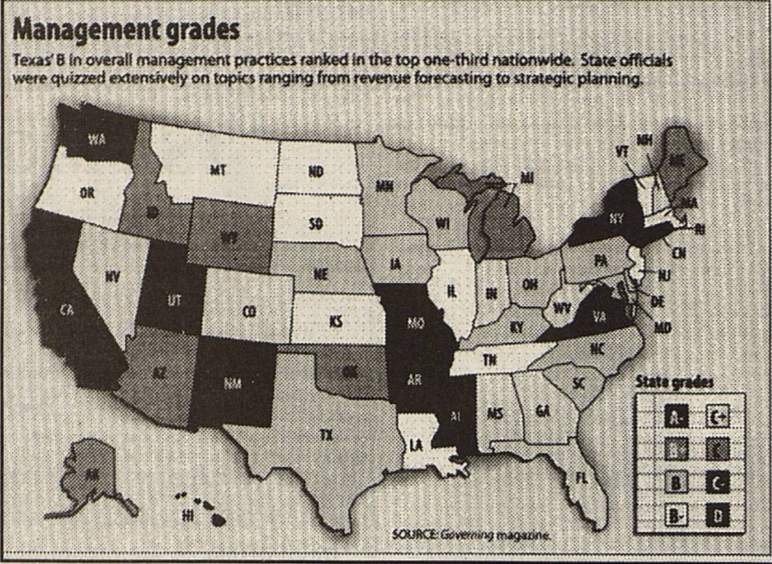
A national study of state governments' management practices has concluded Texas rates an overall B for its handling of the public's business, ranking it in the top third of the nation.

Governing, a magazine devoted to state and local government issues, conducted the study with the assistance of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs.

The performance project focused on state operations from 1997 to 1998. States were rated in five categories; financial management, capital management, human resources, managing for results, and information technology. Texas received a B or better in four categories, and a C in capital management.

Texas was one of 11 states receiving B ratings. Only five states scored higher; Michigan got a B plus, and Missouri, Utah, Virginia and Washington earned A minuses.

The state earned a B in financial management, and was cited for "good revenue and expenditure estimates, solid cash management, and flexibility for agencies to manage their budgets.



A weak spot, according to the study, is the state's "miniscule rainy day fund", a real problem when recession hits.

Texas only earned a C in Capital management because of no statewide plan for acquiring and maintaining buildings and equipment, and fails to distinguish between capital and operating budgets.

The study found Texas is the only state with no centralized human resources department, but received a B, better than average grade for personnel practices, training, and a good job classification index.

The state also scored a B in information technology, and was cited for its five year strategic technology information plan, as individual state agencies have.

The results of the management study provides elected officials, policymakers and the general public a way to gauge the states performance, and an overview on how other states are attacking common problems.

The overall B grade enhances the state's reputation as a leader in public policy and financial management.

PHS students in State Industrial Technology meet

Seven PHS students qualified to attend the prestigious State meet in Austin with their class projects. Instructor Canon's wood and other materials students individual results included; Ross Nixon, 3rd, napkin holder. Armando Luna, 1st ring, 2nd vase. Felipe Reyna, 2nd, vase, 3rd saddle. Stephanie Vasquez, 1st ring, 1st internal carv-

ing. In drafting; Tandi Jones, 2nd, crane hook. Josh Bell 1st, hand rail column, 2nd anti-vibration mount. Leticia Canon 1st gate valve, 2nd offset bearing, 3rd gear.

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Monday - Friday

Dr. Larry Boyd, M.D.,

Shirley Watson, R.N.,

Advanced Family Nurse

Practitioner

Family Practice - Minor Emergencies

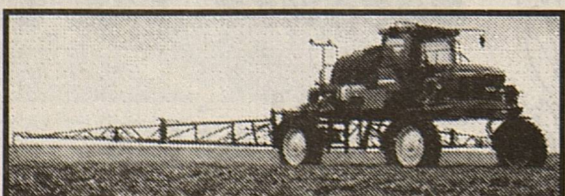
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Plains SPC Students Receive Awards

Students from Plains were among those who received the highest awards bestowed by individual department at South Plains College during the recent Departmental Awards Assembly in Texan Dome.

Recipients are Plains residents Kenley Powell, Outstanding Law Enforcement Academy Student, Lyndi Rowe, Campus Ambassador, and Jason Robertson, Outstanding Student in Symphonic Band.

"Faculty representing all departments on campus have selected one outstanding individual from each area of study to receive the highest award a department may bestow on a student," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president.

"We honor those students who have achieved scholastic excellence and who have contributed to the improvement of student life at South Plains College."

A total of 134 students were recognized for academic excellence in their respective

departments.

Brandi Price, an elementary education major from Quitaque, was the 1999 recipient of the President's Student of the Year Award during the ceremonies.

Mr. and Miss SPC, chosen in

a student body election as outstanding campus leaders, are Joshua Fox from Amarillo and Jennifer Bryson from Whitharral. Both are representatives of Kappa Psi Omega.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Lea County Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

Lea County Electric Cooperative's nondiscrimination compliance efforts will be coordinated by Janette Faris, Manager of Administrative/Personnel Services. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination, may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Electrification Administration, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE: The Cooperative will accept employment applications at any time regardless of whether there is a vacancy at the time the applicant applies. Applications will be considered active for six (6) months and kept on file for two (2) years.

A limited number of summer jobs will be open to full time students (at least 18 years of age). Students interested should contact the Cooperative for more information.

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- *Laboratory Service

*24-Hour Emergency Department

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Plains Athletic Banquet

Monday, May 17
School Cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.
Catered meal by
Johnnie's Bar - B - Q
\$7 per plate
(Athletes, Coaches no charge)
Join us in recognizing our PHS athletes!
Plains Athletic Booster Club

Booster Club to honor all PHS Athletes

A total of 112 Plains High School athletes, coaches, cheer leaders and sponsors will be in the community spotlight May 17 at the annual Athletic Booster Club Banquet. A special pre-banquet video of school athletic events will be shown to the audience, and copies will be on sale following the event. PHS Athletic Director David Williams will deliver a review of the years sports activities. Dozens of presentations will be made to student athletes throughout the evening. A special presentation will be made to the graduating Senior athletes, along with naming the recipients of the prestigious Black and Gold Awards. The Booster club will also announce the winner of the organizations annual scholarship award. It is truly a special, prestigious event for the young athletes, and we urge all community families and friends of these Cowboys and Cowgirls to be on hand for the evening.

Mark Your Calendars Now Y2K woes may not be limited to January 1, 2000

According to information in several state publications, the arrival of the year 2000 on January 1 may not pose the only problem for computers and their owners. Many computers may not recognize 2000 as a leap year, or may misinterpret other significant dates, including the following:

In 1999:

- * July 1 - Many state or local governments begin fiscal year 2000.
- * August 21 - Global Positioning Systems (GPS) date rollover affects military, transportation, geographic information systems and automatic vehicle indicators.
- * September 1 - Texas state government begins fiscal year 2000.
- * September 9 - Programmers use 9/9/99 to mark the end of a file or for infinity.
- * October 1 - Federal and some state governments begin fiscal 2000.
- * December 31 - End-of-year

baseline (to be used in rollover scenarios).

- * January 1, 2000 - Y2K begins.
- * January 10 - First date requiring full use of seven digits (1/10/2000)
- * February 28 - Day prior to leap year, used in rollover scenarios.
- * February 29 - Leap year, which many systems may not recognize in 2000.
- * February 30 - Invalid date used to ensure leap year logic is functioning.
- * October 10 - First date requiring full use of eight digits (10/10/2000).

As if not enough to worry about, many everyday devices are controlled by computer chips using two digit date systems, including medical equipment, communication systems, fire alarms, streetlights, water and sewage treatment plants, 911 phone services, even newer cameras and video devices.

Services Held for Mrs. Taylor

Joy Ruth Hill Taylor, age 68, died April 19, 1999 in a Baton Rouge, La. hospital of Muscular Dystrophy. She is survived by one son, Carl Bellatti, also of Louisiana, and one daughter, Rhonda of Boston, Mass. and four grandchildren. One brother, Weldon Hill of Irving, Texas and one sister Aline Tucker of Anahuac, Texas.

SPC to offer Jr. Band Camp

Registrations are being accepted for South Plains College Junior High band camp to be held June 7 thru 12 on the Levelland campus. Students will participate daily in band and section rehearsals, electives and recreation. Electives include flags, twirling, drum majors, conducting and others. Camp clinicians will be Willie Owens and Matt Knight, band directors at Estacado and Abernathy High. Recreational activities include basketball, volleyball, swimming and game room activities. The camp is the commuter type, and on-campus housing will not be available. Cost for the week long camp is only \$65. For more information, call 806-894-9611, ext. 2265.

CITY WIDE CLEAN-UP

MAY 12 - 19

Please Help By Cleaning Your Property & Helping Someone Else

Call 456-2288 For Info

**** Place discarded items by city dumpsters. City and County crews will pick these items up on May 20th and 21st. ****

ENHANCED SMART BUY INCENTIVES

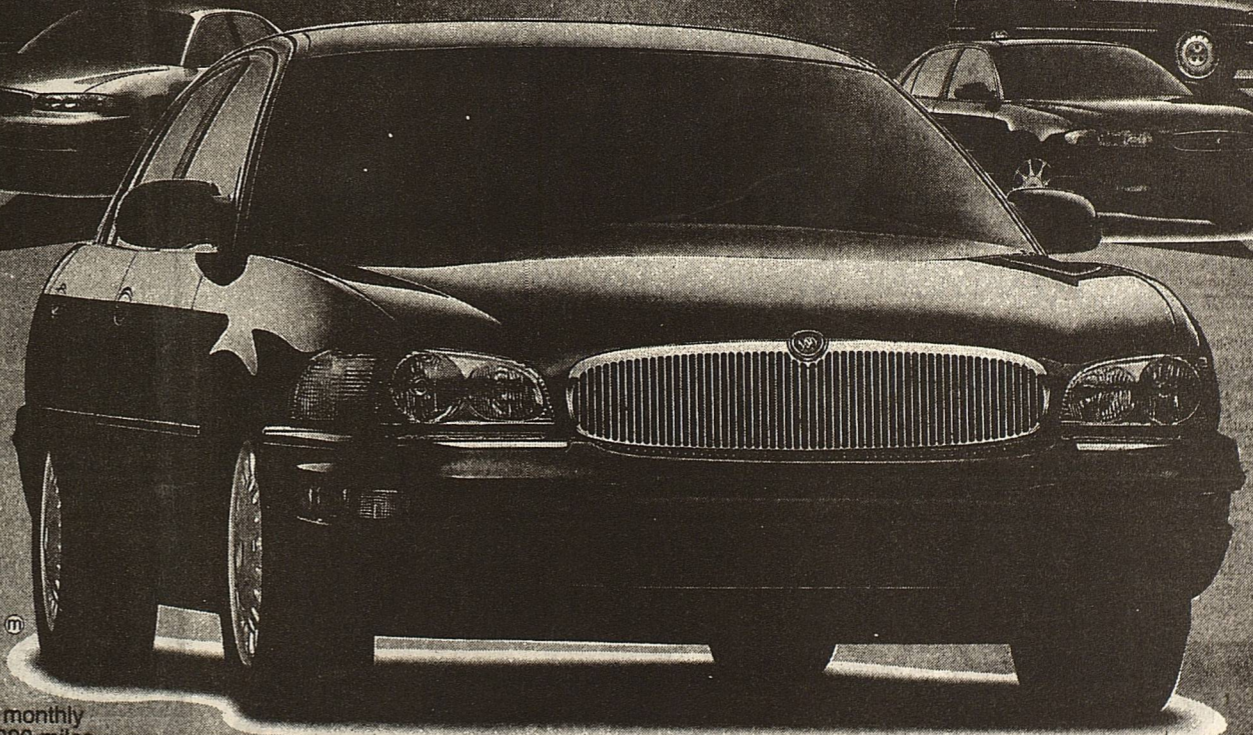
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From The Hack

Anniversaries - all couples have and celebrate them, if they survive the first year, of course. The Bride and I celebrated our 28th (the exact number is irrelevant - we can't agree on the figure) year last Saturday. I mistakenly told a guy these figures, and he shook his head in sorrow, saying, "I wish I hadn't heard that. I always thought Holly had better intelligence," which made me feel extremely good.

I will have to admit, the old girl has 'True Grit', according to John Wayne's movie epic of the same name. She has endured, not prospered, you might say.

We exchanged vows in Las Cruces, New Mexico, standing trembling before a JP in the historic town, with two good friends from Pecos as witnesses. We had to bribe them to perform the roles.

When news reached Plains, it is rumored the entire town guffawed at one time, which almost caused the town siren to go off for some sort of dire emergency. One guy came up to me and said, in a rather hostile manner, "You should do better than treat that lady so badly." That, naturally made me like him all that much more.

The wife, years later, confessed, "One day in the Post Office, this high and mighty type came up to me while I was

going through the bills, deciding which we could put off another month or so, and she sniffed, "Well, I certainly hope you don't totally ruin that nice young man." (I have tried for years to get Bride to tell me who that very nice, intellectual lady was, so I could personally thank her for her smarts and insights, but of course she remains anonymous.)

I would love to describe here some of the funny, ludicrous, idiotic things we have experienced over these years as ruler and ruler's subject. Yes, of course you know who plays which role. I had an entire list of hilarities all ready for the column this week, but the obstinate party who pulls my covers to her

side of the bed told me, in no uncertain terms, "Just whisper a bit about a few of those tidbits, old boy, and you'll discover how cheap it is for two to live together, compared to a divorce prepared by your golfing pal Paul New!"

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MY DEAR BRIDE !

While just a bit tardy for observing Mother's Day, these observations deserve scrutiny and a bit of thought:

"My mother taught me logic.. if you fall off the swing, you can't go to the store with me."

"My mother taught me Medicine .. If you don't stop crossing your eyes they'll freeze that

way!"

"My mom taught me ESP .. Put your sweater on, don't you think I know when you're cold?"

"My mother taught me to meet a great challenge - What were you thinking? Answer me when I talk to you! Don't talk back to me!"

"My mother taught me humor .. When the lawnmower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me!"

"My mother taught me how to become an adult.. eat all your vegetables."

"My mother taught me all about sex - How do you think I got here?"

"My mother taught me about genetics - You are exactly like your father!"

"My mother taught me about the wisdom of age - When you get to be my age you will fully understand."

"My mother taught me to anticipate - Just wait until your father gets home."

"My mother taught me about receiving - You are really going to get it when we both get home."

"My mother taught me about justice .. One day you will have kids, and I hope they turn out just like you and you'll see what it's all about."



Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Final House Bills

Many of the committees have suspended their regular meetings, and are just meeting briefly to pass out the last of the House bills and deal with the Senate bills as they come over and are referred to committee. May 10 is the last day that a House bill can be heard in committee and have a chance of final passage.

Several interesting bills were on the floor this week. HB 1702 allows a retired teacher to return to full time teaching without a loss of retirement benefits provided that; the teacher is teaching in an acute shortage area, was properly certified, had been retired for at least twelve months, and had not taken early retirement. If passed by the Senate, the bill would apply beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.

An attempt was made to repeal the "veggie libel law." Current law allows producers of perishable food products to sue persons disseminating information to the public about a food product that the person knows to be false and that states or implies that the product is not safe for public consumption. Efforts to overturn this important agricultural law were fended off, and the statute remains in place.

Several sales tax exemption bills are on their way to the Senate. HB 2371 exempts diapers, HB 2372 exempts all over the counter medication, and HB209 exempts certain school supplies. HB 551 exempts certain small corporations from the franchise tax.

The school bus limit legislation, which I authored, is over in the Senate and is expected to be eligible for the floor by Wednesday. The compromise bill would allow yellow school buses to go 60 miles per hour when transporting students to extracurricular events. Larger, commercial type buses would be able to travel the posted speed limit. Senator Duncan will be carrying the bill in the Senate.

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BMF	400 lbs	\$87.00
Char X	390 lbs	\$86.00
Red	920 lbs	\$59.25
Blk B/Y	550 lbs	\$82.00
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Hol	1585 lbs	\$38.25
Hol	1170 lbs	\$38.75
Hol	120 lbs	\$41.50
Hol	1430 lbs	\$38.50
Hol	1140 lbs	\$42.00
Hol	1240 lbs	\$44.00
Hol	1140 lbs	\$42.85

BULLS		
Char	1865 lbs	\$44.85
Blk	1095 lbs	\$44.00
WF	1850 lbs	\$47.10

PAIRS & BRED COWS		
RMF	1255 lbs	\$605/pr
Red	1315 lbs	\$600/pr
Brn	1500 lbs	\$580/pr
Char	1110 lbs	\$550/pr
Char	1110 lbs	\$640/pr

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Nanny	\$52.50 hd
Billy	\$97.50/hd
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