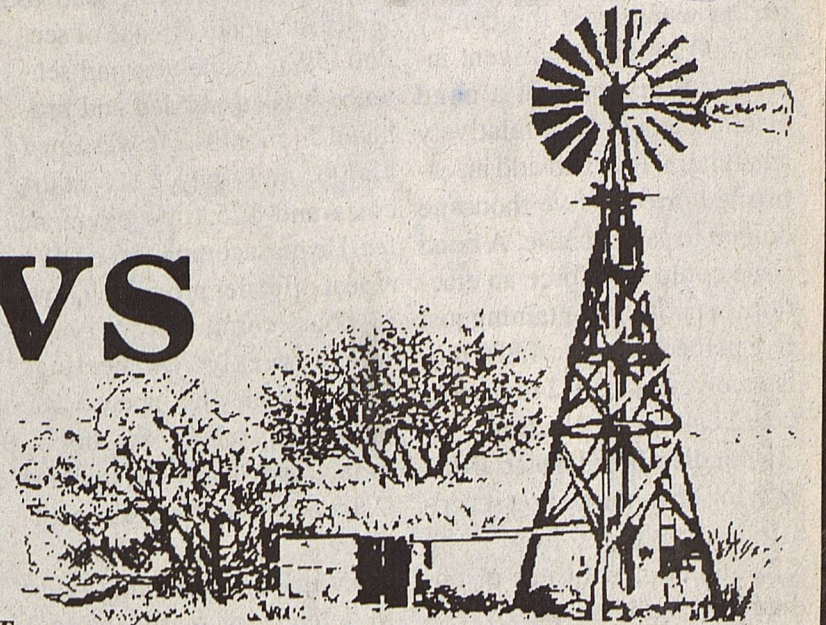


Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V1111, Issue 10, November 6, 2002

General Election Special Issue

The following is a summary of voting in all Yoakum County Precincts as posted in the courthouse Tuesday evening. Only the TOTAL county votes are listed here because of our print deadline. The results are not official until the votes are canvassed in Commissioners Court. Candidates are listed as their names appear on the official ballot.

<i>U.S. Senator</i>		Barbara Hernandez (Lib).....	127	Paul Womack (Rep).....	1148
John Cornyn (Rep).....	1215	Michael McInemey (Grn).....	8	Pat Montgomery (Dem).....	522
Ron Kirk (Dem).....	530	<i>Commissione of Agriculture</i>			
Scott L. Jameson (Lib).....	23	Susan Combs (Rep).....	1285	Cathy Cochran (Rep).....	1176
Roy Williams (Grn).....	11	Tom Ramsay (Dem).....	470	J. R. Molina (Dem).....	489
<i>U.S. Representative, Dist. 19</i>		Vincent J. May (Lib).....	28	Ollie Ruth Jefferson (Grn).....	17
Larry Combest (Rep).....	1570	Jane Woodward Elioseff (Grn).....	12	<i>Member State Board Education Dist 15</i>	
Larry Johnson (Lib).....	112	<i>Railroad Commissioner</i>			
<i>Governor</i>		Michael Williams (Rep).....	1117	David Shaeffer (Dem).....	1104
Rick Perry (Rep).....	1292	Sherry Boyles (Dem).....	540	Brent Russenberger (Lib).....	555
Tony Sanchez (Dem).....	516	Nazirite Flores Perez Lib).....	93	State Senator Dist. 31	39
Jeff Daiell (Lib).....	61	Charles L. Mauch (Grn).....	7	Teel Bivins (Rep).....	1402
Rahul Mahajan (Grn).....	3	<i>Chief Justice Supreme Court</i>			
<i>Lieutenant Governor</i>		Tom Phillips (Rep).....	1194	Delwin Jones (Rep).....	1362
David Dewhurst (Rep).....	1023	Richard G. Baker (Dem).....	512	David 'Inky' Scott (Lib).....	224
John Sharp (Dem).....	788	Eugene J. Flynn (Lib).....	32	<i>Chief Justice 7th Crt. of Appeals District</i>	
Mark David Gessner (Lib).....	25	<i>Justice Supreme Crt, Place 1</i>			
Nathalie Paravicini (Grn).....	14	Mike Schneider (Rep).....	1162	Phil Johnson (Rep).....	1072
<i>Attorney General</i>		Linda Yanez (Dem).....	496	Floyd Holder (Dem).....	608
Greg Abbott (Rep).....	1181	Quanah Parker (Lib).....	58	<i>Criminal District Attorney</i>	
Kirk Watson (Dem).....	543	<i>Justice Supreme Crt., Place 2</i>			
Jon Roland (Lib).....	43	Dale Wainwright (Rep).....	1082	Dallas Brewer (Dem).....	1452
<i>Comptroller of Public Accounts</i>		Jim Parsons (Dem).....	577	<i>District Clerk</i>	
Carole Keeton Rylander (Rep).....	1308	Brad Rockwall (Grn).....	28	Vicki Blundell (Rep).....	1545
Marty Akins (Dem).....	410	<i>Justice Supreme Crt. Place 3</i>			
Bowie Ibarra (Lib).....	44	Wallace B. Jefferson Rep).....	1109	Debbie L. Rushing (Rep).....	1525
Ruben L. Reyes (Grn).....	45	William Moody (Dem).....	548	<i>County Treasurer</i>	
<i>Commissioner, General Land Office</i>		<i>Justice Supreme Crt. Place 4</i>			
Jerry Patterson (Rep).....	1086	Steven Wayne Smith (Rep).....	1079	Barbara Wright (Rep).....	955
David Bensen (Dem).....	518	Margaret Mirabal (Dem).....	600	Toni Jones (Dem).....	923
		<i>Judge Crt. of Criminal Appeals</i>			
		Tom Price (Rep).....	1176	Steve Slentz (Rep).....	235
		John W. Bull (Dem).....	462	Ben Coston (Dem).....	296
		Stephan Kinsella (Lib).....	38	<i>Commissioner, Pct. 4</i>	
		Robert (ROB) Owen (Grn).....	14	Jack Cobb (Dem).....	360
		<i>Judge Crt. of Criminal Appeals, Pl. 2</i>			
				Troy Scott (Dem).....	966

Court hears plans for hospital projects and proposed financing

Clay Taylor, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator, met with Commissioners Court Monday, and presented the hospital board's recommendations for expansion projects and possible financing details.

The hospital board has recommended construction projects and additional facilities including equipment with these cost estimates:

New Dialysis Center	\$525,000
Physical Therapy Center & Meeting Room	\$ 1,170,000
Emergency Room Expansion.....	\$ 600,000
Birthing Rooms	\$ 325,000
General Capital & Improvements.....	\$ 250,000
Total Construction Costs	\$1,820,000
Total Equipment Costs	\$1,130,000
Total	\$ 2,950,000

Taylor told the court the hospital board had explored two types of possible financing for the proposed expansion project, Tax and Revenue Certificates of Obligation, and General Obligation Bonds. Taylor explained some of the features of certificates of obligation include not having to be voted on but require a publication of Notice of Intention that is subject to petition, paid for primarily by tax revenues, but the hospital system revenues can also be used; Proceeds may be used for both construction and equipment.

Questioned by Judge Brewer why the hospital board favored the certificate/obligation route to fund the proposal, Taylor explained, as a result of a recent Needs Assessment questionnaire mailed by the hospital and featured in issues of CCN and the Denver City Press, 77 percent of the respondents stated they would support a bond election. He also noted time is a factor - selling general obligation bonds takes more time than required to sell certificates of obligation, plus the fact possible interest

Turn To Page Two, "County Hospital"

Criminal cases in County, District Court

In District Court October 28, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, five cases were heard.

Vicente John Torres pled guilty to delivery of cocaine. A two year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1500, must pay \$230 court costs, \$140 restitution to DPS, \$400 court appointed attorney fees, and \$25 time payment fee. Causes of engaging in organized criminal activity, delivery of cocaine and marijuana and failure to appear charges were adjudicated. He will serve 120 hours community service, service, attend weekly AA (Narcotics) meetings, surrender his license 180 days, and complete the drug offender program. He was defended by Paul Mansur, and investigating officer was Antonio de la Cruz, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force.

Turn To Page Two, "Court Cases"

Smyer thumps Cowboys 34-7

Second half woes hand Cowboys ninth defeat



Richard Diaz, #1, and Isaac Ramon, #52, prepare to block for runner Todd Williams

A complete write-up of the Cowboy-Smyer game is unavailable. The personnel who normally man the computer recording game action and all statistics were unable to get inside the tiny, jam packed press box at last Friday's game, played in a cold, constant drizzle. The computer could not be utilized outdoors in the elements. We apologize for the lack of coverage. The Cowboys end their long and frustrating season at home this Friday, 7:30 PM.

Judge Melba Crutcher, unopposed for re-election to the Justice of Peace position, Pct. 1, was mistakenly omitted from the election results above. She received a total of 487 votes, and we apologize!

CCN next on November 13, THEN NEXT NOVEMBER 27 !!

From Page One, County Hospital

rate increases during the time period would cost the county \$88,500 for each half-cent increase. While cost of a bond election would be a relatively small item, it would add an estimated three to five thousand dollars to the expense. A bond issue could also force an election - a petition containing just five percent of some 4,800 registered voters, only 240 people, could call for an election. Taylor distributed material displaying an amortization schedule showing how the \$2,950,000 certificates of obligation could be repaid over a 10 year period, assuming an interest rate charge of 4 percent. At the end of the ten year period, total debt service would be \$3,707,660, which includes \$757,660 interest.

Taylor said the current hospital tax rate is one of the lowest in the area for similar size operations, .0780 cents per \$100 tax valuation. This compares to 27 cents at Tulia, 27 cents at Brownfield, 21 cents at Andrews, and 17 cents at Seminole. If the almost \$3 million dollar expansion project is approved, along with the proposed certificates of obligation financing, the hospital tax rate would be raised .022 cents, or a total new rate of ten cents per \$100 valuation, still considerably lower than many other hospitals.

Administrator Taylor told the court if the proposal is approved, the building project could be completed around the end of 2003 or the first of 2004.

After further discussion, the court tabled the issue until next court session Tuesday, November 12.

From Page 1, Court Cases

Lewis Henry Nelson pled guilty and was sentenced to lesser included offense of second DWI. A one year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$2000, must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He must complete the DWI repeat offender program, serve 80 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings and surrender his license 180 days. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Sheriff Deputy Inoe Valdez was investigating officer.

Clinton Page Parks pled guilty to delivery of marijuana to a minor. A ten year prison sentence was suspended and probated 10 years. He was fined

\$2500, must pay \$217 court costs, \$140 restitution to DPS and \$25 time payment fee. He forfeited \$542. He must attend weekly narcotics meetings, surrender his license 180 days, and complete the drug offender education program. Sheriff Deputy Kenley Powell was investigating officer, and Jimmy Hammons was his attorney.

Timothy John Nelson pled guilty to tampering with or fabricating physical evidence. A three year prison sentence was suspended and probated three years. He must pay \$1000 fine, \$302 court costs, \$140 restitution, \$250 attorney fees, and \$25 time payment fee. Investigating officer was Joe Ramos, Denver City Police, and Paul Mansur was his attorney.



Obituary

Services Held For Lonny 'Buddy' Hanna

Services were held for Buddy Hanna, 71, of Plains. Services were held at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Plains under the direction of Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors. Burial was in the Plains-Yoakum County Cemetery. He passed away November 1, 2002 in Denver City. He was born June 24, 1931 in Morton, Texas. He married Ruby Lee in February, 1953 and they moved to Plains in 1958, where they started Buddy's Auto Parts. While in Plains, Mr. Hanna served as Mayor and Past President of the Yoakum County Golf Association. He was also an active member of The Southwest

Officials Association (SOFA) for over 40 years. He officiated in Baseball, basketball and football games. Mr. Hanna served in the United States Army in the Infantry Division in Germany during the Korean War.

Survivors include, wife Ruby Lee of Plains, 2 sons: Rick Hanna of Hereford, TX and Nick Hanna of San Angelo, TX. One daughter: Jan Lester of Plains. 2 Brothers: Royce Hanna of Lubbock, and H.L. Hanna of Rolla, Kansas. 3 sisters: Betty Jean Neugebauer of Lubbock, Bonny Heath of San Angelo and Doris Richardson of Morton. 10 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. He was preceded in death by 2 sisters, Joyce McGhee and Pearly Kiker.

The family requests memorials be made to the Sacred Heart Youth Organization, PO Box 656, Plains, TX 79355.

Before, circa 1998



The top photo shows beds prepared for planting small seedling 'Four Wing Saltbush' on the Don Burgess farm northwest of Plains. The photo below shows the Saltbush plants, now five feet tall. They not only serve as a valuable windbreak, but provide habitat and valuable food source for deer, quail, doves and other area wildlife. Contact the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District for information on the District's Windbreak Tree Program.

After, circa 2002



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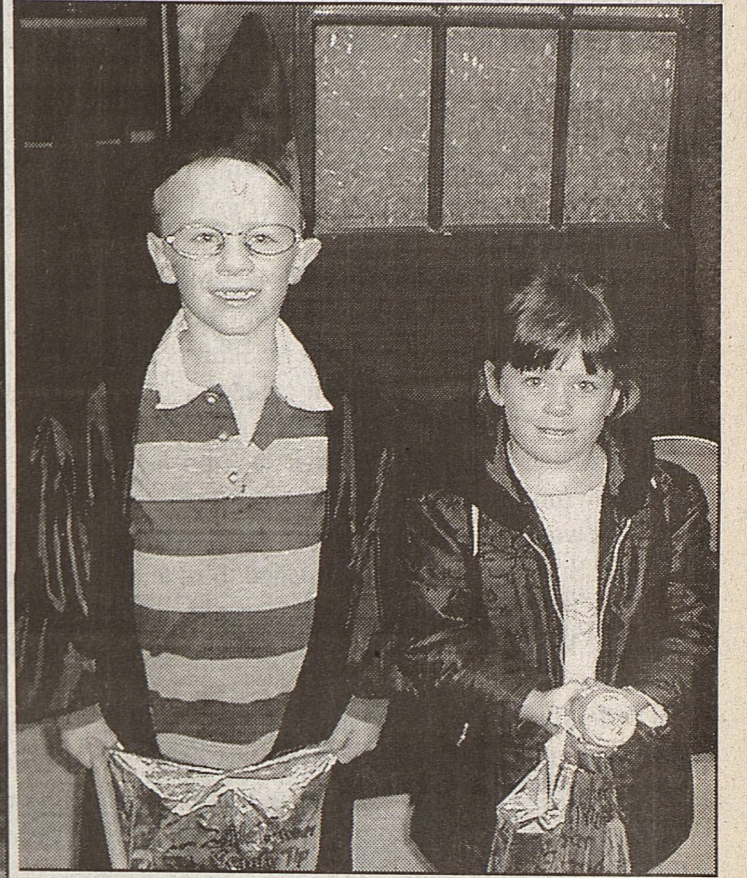
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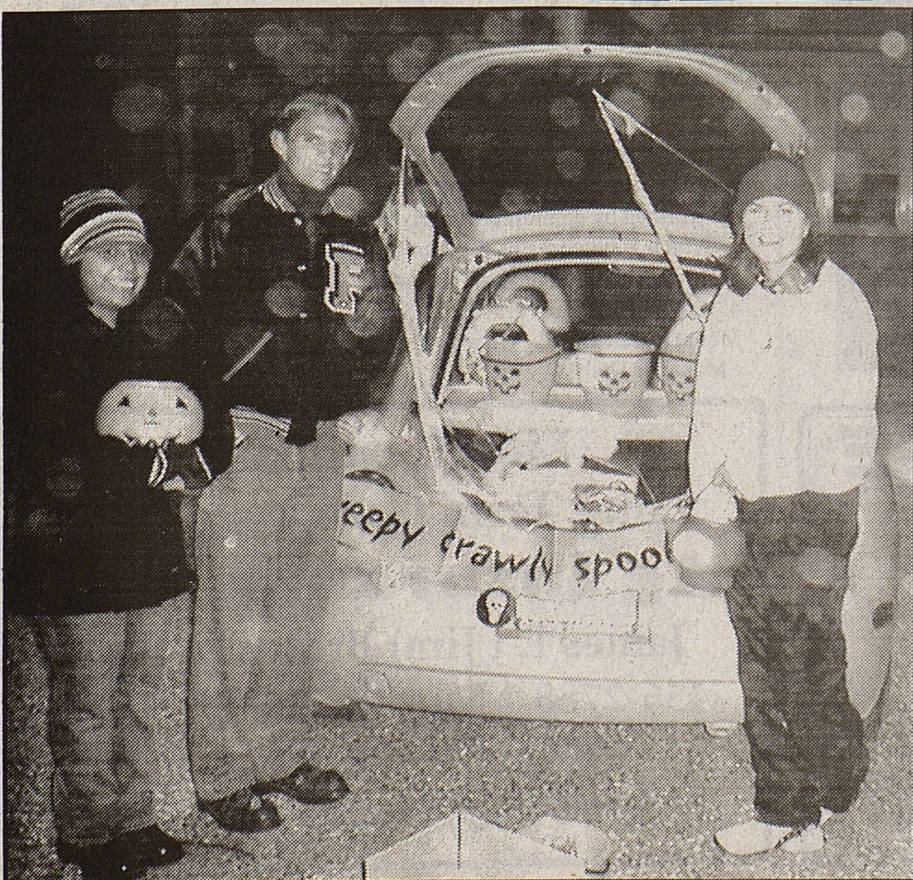
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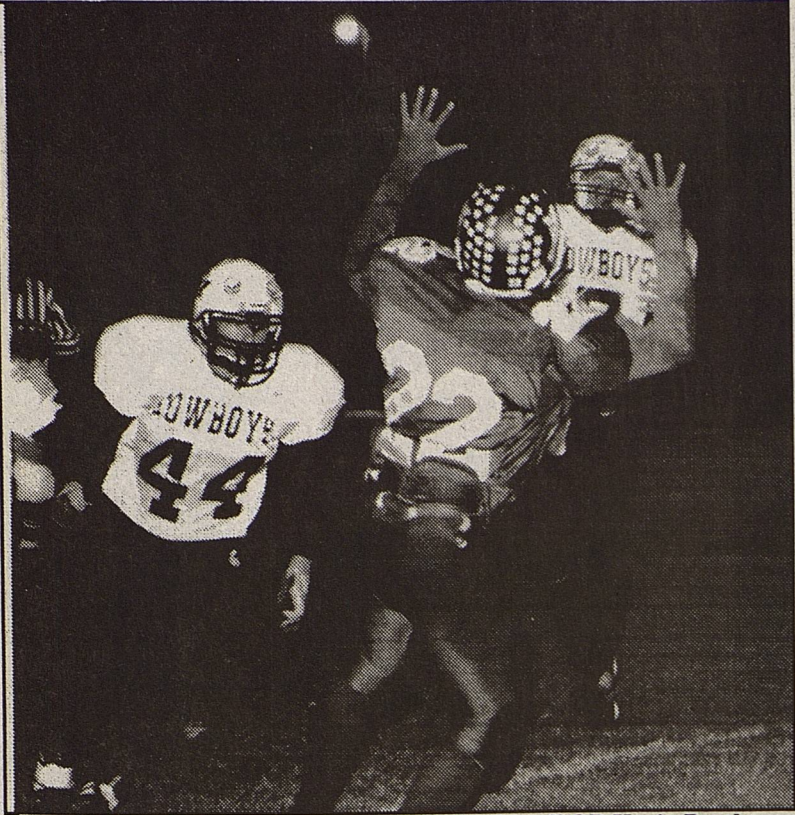
'Spook Nite Scenes

Witches & Goblins Trick or Treating,
PHS students at "Trick or Trunk" event
(Scenes at school were shot in mist, and moisture caused the circles)



Boo!





Nick Hays, 44, fights to keep Smyer defender off QB Kevin Bartley

PHS cross country team misses trip to state meet

The Cowboy cross country team season ended last Saturday when they placed seventh out of 32 teams at the regional meet in Lubbock. Running in near freezing temperatures and rain, the Cowboys fell just short of their goal, making it to the state meet in Austin.

Team Captain Armando Ramirez was top finisher for the team. Jose Ramirez both slipped and fell in the mud, but still finished second and third in team finishers. Seniors Jonathan DeLaRosa and Chisum Justus closed their careers with a very hard race to make the top five Cowboy runners. Payton Bean, sick all week, was sixth, and Arnold Cordova seventh on the team. All the Cowboy runners finished in the top 30 percent of the field.

"What was really disappointing was two teams we beat to win district, Sundown and Hart, finished third and fourth. Sundown is going to state, while our kids are staying home," said Coach Davis. "We just had too many negative things happen for us to overcome."

In reflecting on the season, the team had a remarkable year, finishing in the top three places in every meet, and winning three meets outright. "I can't say how proud I am of these kids," Davis said. "They have remarkable heart and have accomplished much. They are just the best!"

Student of the Week

Student of the week is Kayla Willis, a senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Timmy Willis.

Kayla was nominated by Mrs. Thaggard, who said, "Kayla is an outstanding student in all her classes, a tremendous athlete, and active in the community and Church. She is in AP classes, FCA, Volleyball, Basketball, Track, Zombies Youth Choir, and helps children during Vacation Bible School. Kayla has a wonderful and



compassionate personality and exhibits all the pillars of a strong character. I am very honored to present this wonderful award to Kayla.

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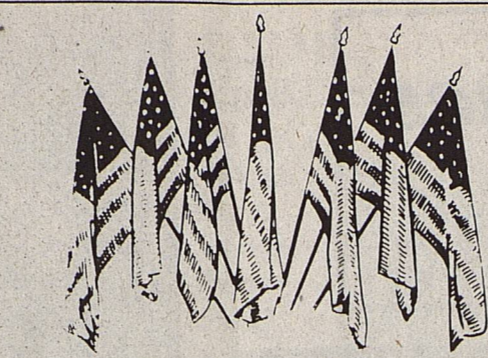
In 2001 Bayer Corp. recalled its cholesterol lowering statin drug, Baycol due to potential kidney & liver complications, fever, nausea, dark urine, muscle (weakness, pain & deterioration), myopathy and a rare, and often fatal, disease called Rhabdomyolysis (severe muscle loss and muscle cell damage). IF you took BAYCOL and are suffering from any of these symptoms, then CALL NOW FOR A FREE CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION.

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**Veterans Day
November 11**



Law Enforcement Officers Attend Training Seminar

Eighteen local and area law enforcement officers participated October 21, in a Full-Impact Defensive Tactics Seminar. These seminars are presented by the United States Deputy Sheriffs Association at no cost to the sponsoring agency and provide eight hours credit toward a commissioned officer's yearly educational requirements required by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement. It was sponsored locally by the Yoakum County Sheriff's Department.

The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association (U.S.D.A.) is a nationwide organization headquartered in Houston and is a nonprofit organization which exists solely to assist smaller sheriff's departments across the nation. It has donated thousands of dollars worth of requested equipment ranging from body armor and radar systems to portable breath testers and car video systems, but U.S.D.A.'s founder, Steve Van Dyke, state that his greatest rewards come "when a member tells me how they would not be alive today if it were not for one of our training seminars." The U.S.D.A. does not solicit funds from individuals and is financed totally through advertisements purchased by concerned businesses and distributed through the country in The Deputy

Sheriff Magazine.

In addition to Van Dyke, Instructor Mike Willis and Texas State U.S.D.A. Coordinator Rodney Mannino traveled to Denver City to present the seminar, which was held at the Field House of the Denver City High School. Van Dyke hailed the Field House as "the nicest facility ever made available to us."

Participating in the local seminar were ten members of the Yoakum County Sheriff's Department, two reserve officers from the Denver City Police Department and three members of the Cochran County Sheriff's Department. The officers were taught techniques to effectively control subjects with minimum risk if injury to the subject, while maintaining officer safety as a primary concern. They learned techniques on taking control in close area and ground fighting, as well as effective take down techniques.

Although the need to know hand to hand combat techniques in an area such as Yoakum County is minimal, the need tends to arise unexpectedly, and an officer who is well prepared is always more likely to walk away from the situation with both him and his prisoner uninjured. This is a benefit not only to the participants of the altercation, but also to the community at large.

NAP deadline nears for native grass and improved pastures

Gary L. Six, County Executive Director for the Yoakum County Farm Service Agency (FSA), reminds local farmers and ranchers the application closing date to sign up for the Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) for native grass and improved pastures is December 1, 2002.

NAP covers crops damaged by severe weather resulting in loss of 50 percent or greater. Losses are generally determined by percentage of loss compared to the producer's actual yield history. Lost production eligible for payment is paid at 55 percent of crop value.

"Producers interested in obtaining crop insurance on perennial pastures should visit their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to complete an application for their 2003 acres," said Six. "Producers with acres in multiple counties should be aware carrying capacities for pasture acres covered under NAP may vary

by state and by county, so they need to check with their local FSA office for details," he added.

Nap coverage is only available for crops where coverage is not available under the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIC). "For all native grass and improved pastures, producers must report acres and file notices of loss in a timely manner to ensure eligibility. However, production evidence is not required for perennial pastures that are grazed only," said Six.

The December 1, 2002 deadline to purchase NAP coverage also applies to persons who have an existing policy and want to renew their coverage for 2002.

For detailed NAP information and application eligibility criteria contact the Yoakum County office, 806-456-2132 or visit on the World Wide Web, www.fsa.usda.gov.

Ride the 'Fan Bus' to see the Cowgirls volleyball Bi-District game vs. Buena Vista at Andrews November 9. Just \$1 per person! Game tickets \$2 students, \$3 adults. Bus leaves bus barn 4:30 PM, returns about 7:45 PM. Money and permission forms are due in Junior or Senior High School offices NO LATER THAN NOVEMBER 7!

JP Court Update

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Precinct One Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding.
 Cases filed;
 169 traffic cases
 1 case driving under influence of alcohol by minor.
 1 case possession of drug paraphernalia
 4 cases open container of alcohol in vehicle
 6 felony cases
 3 county court cases
 2 cases consumption of alcohol by minor
 Bonds set:
 Deadly conduct- \$1500
 Fugitive from justice- no bond
 Fugitive from justice- \$2500 cash bond.
 Motion to revoke probation- \$1000 bond.
 2 cases driving while license suspended- \$500 bond.
 Driving under influence of al-

cohol- \$200 bond.
 Purchase/furnish alcohol to minor- \$500 bond.
 Fugitive application to revoke probation- held until transported.
 3 charges possession of marijuana under 2 ounces- \$500 bond.
 2 charges possession drug paraphernalia- \$500 bond.
 2 charges possession of controlled substance- \$3000 bond
 2 charges possession of chemicals with intent to manufacture- \$5000 bond.
 Hindering apprehension- \$2000 bond.
 Fail to identify to police officer- \$500 bond.
 Public intoxication- \$500 bond.
 Theft, over \$50, under \$500- \$500 bond.
 2 charges DWI, open container- \$1000 bond.
 3 charges motion to revoke probation- held until hearing.

How's your geography IQ ?

1. Which state has more square miles of national forests - Montana or Indiana?
2. Lake Powell, which straddles the border between Arizona and Utah, was formed by damming what river?
3. Which state contains a major deposit of coal - Kentucky or Nevada?
4. Acadia National Park, located on Mount Desert Island, is in which state - Maine or Utah?
5. Mammoth Cave National Park, which contains an intricate system of limestone caverns, is in what state - Arkansas or Kentucky?
6. Ancient cliff dwellings can be found in Canyon de Chelly, a national monument located on the Navajo Indian Reservation in which state?

Answers found on Page 6

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TSA MO GA Meeting

Yoakum County Extension Agent Debbie Pollard presented a program on 'Leadership Styles' to TSA MO GA members at the October 28 meeting.

Noting that every organization needs leaders and workers to cover all aspects of club operation, Pollard asked members to participate in a group activity that would determine their style of leadership qualities. Members divided into groups of 'loins, foxes, or St. Bernards' to help determine the role each could play in better service to their club.

Pollard noted that the 'loins' are the ambitious, competitive visionaries who like to be in control and direct others to goals. 'Foxes' are the analytical bookkeepers of a group who are methodical and plan an orderly approach to any task. Pollard characterized the 'St. Bernards' as the supporting and nurturing type person who is optimistic, cares about others' feelings, and likes being helpful.

Pollard also noted that this year celebrates the national 100th birthday of 4-H clubs, which started out in communities as 'tomato and corn clubs.' She commented on the leadership, citizenship, decision making, and public speaking opportunities that 4-H members are exposed to as part of the club's activities.

Club president Sarah Jane Shelton presented her club theme and dedication for the 2002-2004 years: "WEAVING a TAPESTRY of COMMUNITY SERVICE: THE COMMON THREAD: SERVICE to OTHERS." The club year is dedicated to the "citizens of Plains...ministers and co-workers who exhibit their positive attitudes and concerns for others with love of God..."

Hostesses for the meeting were Carolyn Cullwell and Terri Hansen.

The club's next meeting November 11 will feature high school representatives from Girls and Boys State and the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar.

College For Texans program launched

Mandated in the 77th Texas Legislature, College for Texans will be a top priority item of the state's media in coming months. It will be a statewide campaign to tell students, parents and others who influence students about higher education benefits, how to prepare for it academically and financially, and to motivate students to prepare for it.

The campaign was prompted by the following factors:
* Only 4.9 percent of people in Texas are enrolled in college education, a lower rate than California, 6.1%, Illinois, 6%, Michigan, 5.7%, and New York, 5.6%, and many other states - and the Texas rate is declining.

* If the state's participation rate continues to decline, it will reach 4.6% by 2015, making Texas a less educated, less prosperous state.

* Large gaps exist in higher education participation and success rate within Texas, especially by race/ethnicity, income and region.

* The campaign aims, by 2015, to enroll an additional 300,000 academically prepared people - beyond the 200,000 enrollment growth current projection - into higher edu-

cation.

College For Texans is focused on these goals:

* Assist parents unfamiliar with navigating the college application and financial aid process.

Explaining why many parents over-estimate the cost of enrolling in a state college or university.

* Familiarize parents with the TEXAS grant program, paying the college costs of students completing the college prep Recommended High School Program and in financial need, and the Texas Tomorrow Fund, allowing prepayment of college costs.

* Overcoming students concerns about making the highest grades, and parents citing their child's lack of interest in college.

* Overcome the fact 98% of parents say their kids will probably attend college, but only 32% of 9th graders enroll in college after high school

The Texas Press Association is assisting in getting this message delivered throughout the state, and as a member of the Association, CCN will periodically feature following articles on the issue.

Senior Citizens Corner

About a decade ago an exercise class was organized among some of the Senior Center women which continues until today. We call it Line Dancing. Classes have been held three mornings each week since that time. The number of class members fluctuates but there are still several of the original students dancing in the gym every other morning. For part of that time a class was held for beginners at 9:00 am. and advanced members at 10:00 am. We had between twenty and thirty dancing one summer when we worked with Yoakum County Connection to provide summer activities for the youth. We went to Seagraves one summer to help them get a class started at their senior center. We also held classes in the evening one season. We have learned between fifty and sixty dance routines but enjoy coming back to favorites during a part of each session. This is very good exercise for anyone although the classes in the various centers are usually made up of ladies. Besides the exercise, the fellowship is great and this comes as a personal invitation

for YOU to come join us. The beat goes on...

Voting time, if you have not taken advantage of the early voting days, don't forget to vote next Tuesday to make your choices known and counted.

Ed Kostelich has returned from a Las Vegas rendezvous with family members from the western states.

Gladys Thomason and June Hanneman won the free meal tickets in the '42' tournament last week.

Lucille Ashmore has returned from the local hospital and things are back to normal in their home.

Paul Sweitzer returned from a successful fishing trip and brought fish to share with the rest of us. Thanks, Paul.

Charlie Gillis spent a few days in central Texas visiting family and getting firewood for the cold days ahead.

Last reports indicate that Walter Holland is improving and may be able to come home in a few days.

Thought for Today: "Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open." John 10:10

CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

FOR THOSE WHO SERVE:

Every Veterans Day Americans publicly acknowledge the sacrifices of our veterans and thank them for preserving our nation's legacy of liberty.

The men and women who serve in our military today follow a long line of brave Americans who answered the call to defend our freedoms. Each swore an oath to live by a common code and a cherished set of values. That bond links veterans of every generation, from those who served in WWI to those who fought in Desert Storm. These veterans have inspired a new generation many of whom have joined the fight against terrorism and are serving in Operation Enduring Freedom today.

Since November 11, 1918, when Armistice Day was set aside to honor those who fought in WWI, until 1954 when President Dwight D. Eisenhower proclaimed November 11 as Veterans Day to honor all veterans, Americans have commemorated the legacy of service of our Armed Forces. Americans commitment to the finest training, equipment, education, and quality of life for our military make the U.S. Armed Forces the envy of nations around the globe. Our soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines go to battle with the respect and admiration of our country.

Our sons and daughters stand guard so the rest of us may live freely. And that freedom comes with a price. Thousands who answered the call to duty during Americans history never lived to be called veterans. But none served in vain.

The Lone Star State has a rich tradition of military leadership. Our young men and women have signed up to serve their nation and are stationed

here and in all corners of the globe. More Marines join the Corps from Texas per capita than any other state. And we are home to more Army and Air Force bases than any state.

I have been privileged to visit Texas troops at many foreign posts, from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to Saudi Arabia to Macedonia. One of the highlights of my overseas trips was my visit to spend Easter 2000 with the members of the Texas Army National Guards 49th Armored Division commanding the military mission in Bosnia. I observed first hand the crucial role the Guard played in maintaining the fragile stability in Europe, the first such mission in the Guards history. For the troopers of the Lone Star Division, it was their finest hour. National Guardsmen and reservists have become increasingly vital to our nations overall military might. Their expanding role in our national security efforts must not be overlooked.

It is not only overseas where our veterans answer the call to arms. On September 11, 2001, three F-16 pilots from the Texas Air National Guard were sent on a mission so secret that their commander could not brief them on the details until they were airborne. Three officers from the 147th Fighter Wing in Houston were not told who they were protecting until they were in sight of Air Force One. They guarded the President during those tumultuous hours after the terror attacks.

On this Veterans Day, we express our heartfelt gratitude to our nations veterans for a debt we can never repay. We remember those who have gone before and honor tomorrows veterans who serve our country today.

Putting Infants To Sleep On Their Backs Good Safety Practice

Results of a recent study conducted by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) indicate what public health officials and pediatricians have thought for years, putting infants to sleep on their stomachs increases the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS).

Study findings were published this month (October 2002) in Pediatrics, the journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Getting infants to sleep on their backs cannot be overemphasized, according to Jere Brewer, a pediatric nurse practitioner with the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "Since the American Academy of Pediatrics began an educational campaign called 'Back to Sleep' in 1992, the number of SIDS cases has dropped nearly 50 percent," she said.

Efforts are underway in Texas to educate parents, child care providers and other care givers to reduce infant mortality and increase the safety of children. "The Texas Department of Health is working with the Texas Cooperative Extension, other state agencies and non-profit organizations to educate

parents about infant health and safety issues such as SIDS," Brewer said.

SIDS is the sudden, unexplained death of an infant in the first year of life and is the leading cause of death in children under 1 in the United States. A total of 233 infants under 1 died of SIDS in Texas in 2000, the latest year which statistics are available.

National statistics also show that infants in child care centers or in the care of someone other than their parents have about a 20 percent higher risk of dying from SIDS.

Brewer encourages parents who put their infants into child care centers to ask about rules regarding sleep positions and to check with their pediatricians to see if their children have any medical condition that would prevent the infants from sleeping on their backs.

"If the baby is medically okay and it is all right with the physician to place that child to sleep on his or her back, make sure that the day care center staff does that," Brewer said. She also urges parents to discuss these precautions with all the child's baby-sitters.

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Adult Sunday School – 9:45 am
Morning Worship – 10:45 am

Exercise Daily.
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From The Hack

November - What an exciting month. In addition to election day on November 5, know what other exciting events are coming your way?

Nov. 3 - 9 is Notary Public Week!! Be sure you give Pam and Sylvia at City Hall a big gooey kiss if you have them perform notary services that week.

If that doesn't stir your emotions, how about Nov. 11 - 17, Random Acts Of Kindness Week. I fervently Pray a certain local minister who takes up considerable time and space in FBC's pulpit will observe the celebrated week by sending a few bits of random kindness in MY direction. Of course, since he has never done so, he will undoubtedly have to spend a great deal of time in practice, probably making him very late for the occasion.

A really biggie is the week of Nov. 13 - World Kindness Day. Yeah, sure. I can see Saddam and Osama sending us their heartfelt best wishes that week.

One the Bride has already circled on the calendar, Nov. 14 is American Teddy Bear Day. I suspect she is hinting to receive one of the fuzzy critters.

The next to last month of the year also includes National Adoption Month, Children's Book Month, National Diabetes Month, and National Home Care Month. Be still, my fluttery heart!

Cheerfully stolen from Stephen Henry's column in the Loveland News-Press;

If you can start the day without caffeine,

If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,

If you can eat the same food

everyday without complaining,

If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,

If you can overlook when people take things out on you,

If you can take criticism and blame without resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit,

If you can conquer tension without mediocrity help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep soundly every night.....

You are probably the family DOG!

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 AM, Friday, November 22, 2002, for the purchase of (1) New Operating Room Table for the Yoakum County Hospital.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, November 25, 2002.

Bid price will be paid from 2002 budgeted funds.

For bid forms and specifications, please contact the Yoakum County Auditor, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355 (806-456-2422) or Clay Taylor, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas 79323 (806-592-3917).

Sealed bids should be marked "OPERATING TABLE" 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 and or all bids.

Answers To Geography Quiz

- 1 - Montana
- 2 - Colorado River
- 3 - Kentucky
- 4 - Maine
- 5 - Kentucky
- 6 - Arizona

Increased State Spending Increases Poverty

Some in Texas are asking the legislature increase taxes to close an expected budget shortfall, suggesting the state even levy a progressive income tax to help the poor. However, a new study commissioned by the Texas Public Policy Foundation debunks those claims, finding that higher tax burdens are actually associated with greater poverty, reducing the ability of the poor to invest and save.

In the final installment of the six part 'Taxing Texans Series, economics professor Richard Vedder, Ph.D. studied the relationship between poverty, taxes and state spending using a regression analysis of US Census records and other data. The full report is available at www.tppf.org.

The findings are strong and startling, writes Dr. Vedder, an internationally acclaimed economic formerly with the US Congress, Joint Economic Committee. "Higher tax burdens are associated with greater poverty. Big government that is tax financed is more likely to add, rather than subtract, from poverty rolls."

Dr. Vedder notes these results merely reflect what has been widely acknowledged by economists around the world.

Several decades of studies by economists confirm the proposition that the higher the level of taxation, the lower the rate of economic growth. A low rate of economic growth will always disproportionately impact the poor, who are at the margins of employment and job security.

For those who believe that income taxes are less regressive, Dr. Vedder found that there is no statistically significant relationship between the proportion of taxes derived from income taxation and the rate of poverty.

In a state like Texas, many might worry about the data being skewed by a high immigrant population. But Dr. Vedder's research finds the relationship between immigration and poverty is not even statistically significant.

In developing his study, Dr. Vedder found that Texas, low tax rate and relatively low spending have helped keep poverty rates lower than might otherwise have been the case.

Dr. Vedder concludes, the research and the models clearly point to one conclusion, high taxes hurt economic growth, and especially hurt the poor. Texans shouldn't mess with Texas taxes.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court will receive bids until 10 AM Friday, November 22, 2002, for the sale of (1) Used C-10 Pickup for Precinct #4.

Bids will be received with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, November 25, 2002.

To inspect the vehicle, please contact Commissioner Jack Cobb, PO Box 277, Plains, Texas 79355 or call 806/456-6525.

Sealed bids should be marked "USED PICKUP" 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 and all bids.

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