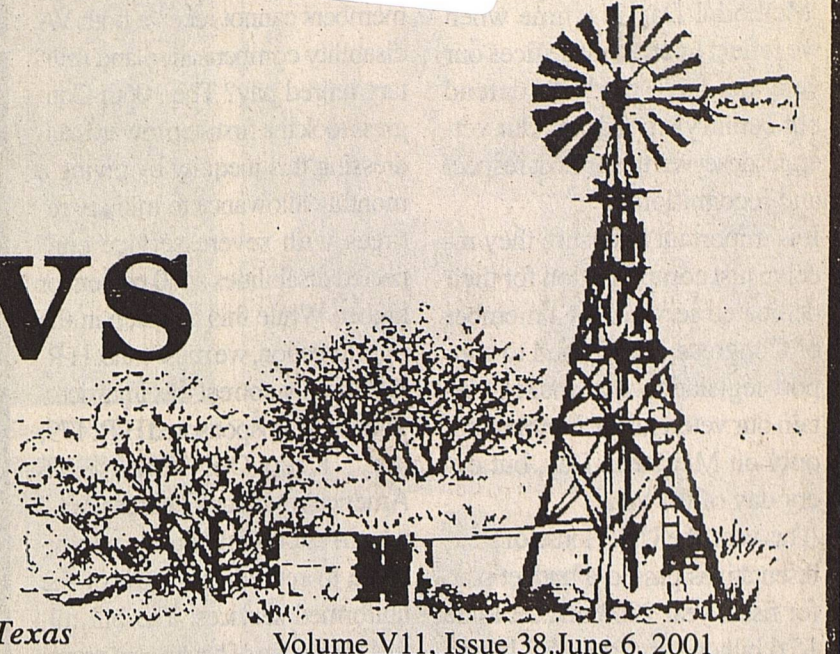


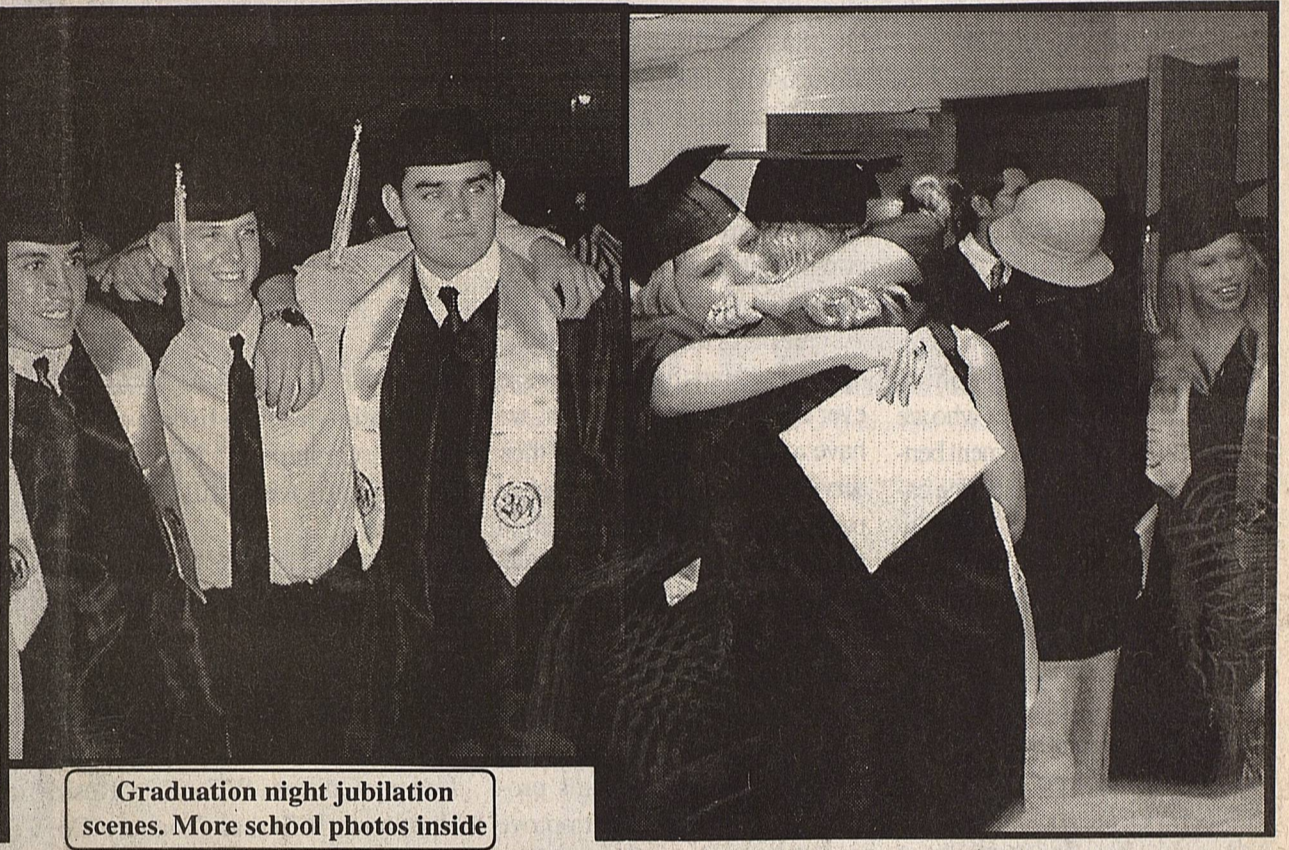
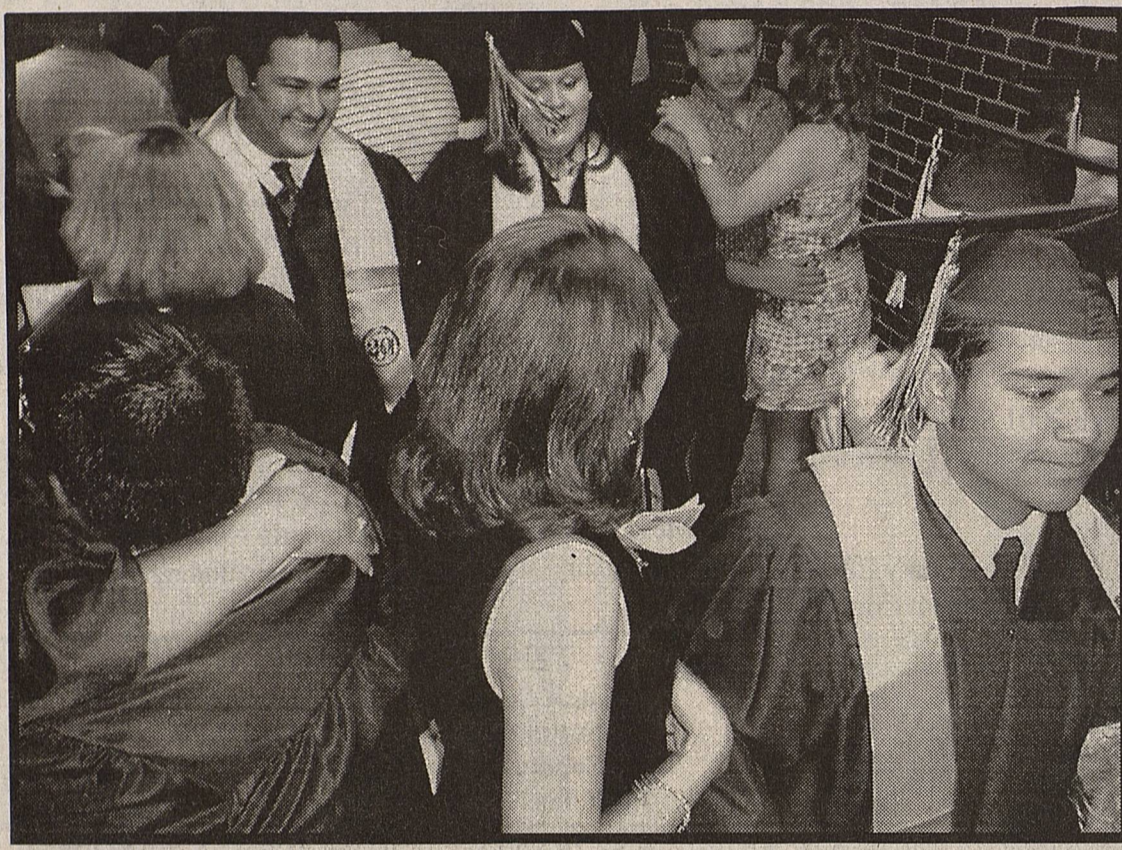
# Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V11, Issue 38, June 6, 2001

## Their Night At Last!



Graduation night jubilation scenes. More school photos inside

### Gary Walker reviews 77th Legislative Session

District 80 State Representative Gary Walker returned home to Plains last Wednesday after completing the long and grueling 77th Legislative session in Austin. Now back behind his desk as Consultant for Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District, Walker granted a joint interview last Thursday with Cowboy Country News and the Denver City Press.

Asked what he considered the most important bill passed in the session for West Texans, Walker stated, "It's difficult to single out one particular bill from all the rest, but certainly one of the top priority items was passage of SB 2, our water resources bill. Water is a precious resource everywhere, but particularly so here in West Texas, where adequate water supplies have always been problems." He thinks the bill, and the recently created 16 Regional Water Planning Groups around the state are positive steps to ensuring water needs in the future.

Walker reported another bill benefitting small school districts, particularly those in property tax poor counties, is a bill authorizing the state to provide \$1.24 billion for teacher and school employee health insurance. Participation in the program would be mandatory for districts with 500 or fewer employees, optional for larger districts. The program will go into effect September, 2002.

The Representative said his



Walker gestures during legislative session interview

crystal ball is not crystal clear on the ongoing redistricting issue. The House drafted a redistricting map, which the Senate failed to ratify, nor could the Senate agree on a new districting map from their chambers. The highly charged redistricting issue now rests in the five member Legislative Redistricting Board, which convenes this week. They have 60 days to submit a new redistricting map. Walker said there is also a possibility Congressional redistricting problems could force Governor Perry to call for a special 30 day maximum session.

Walker was particularly proud of being able to be co-author of HB 7, a measure creating the Office of Rural Communities Affairs (ORCA). "This is a new agency, one devoted to small communities and rural areas, and it would not be

headquartered in a large metro area. There is a real possibility the headquarters could end up in Lubbock. ORCA has an approved initial budget of \$80 million, and will start with a staff of some 60 people. Landing the headquarters for ORCA would be a windfall for the selected town, and a number of towns will be offering tax and financial incentives to the selection committee." ORCA would deal with many rural issues, including health, transportation, governmental actions, and economic development.

Walker declared he was more than ready to return home. "It got pretty hectic in Austin during the session. I usually got to my office by 5 A.M., and many times it was after 1 A.M. before I returned to my apartment." He averaged spending fourteen hours a day in his office during the session.

### Quantum leap in Internet access speed at County Library, PISD

Internet users on the Plains ISD campus or at the Yoakum County Library here will no longer have to sit impatiently watching their nails grow as they wait for the Internet to come up on the computer monitor. The Library recently installed an antenna at their facility which picks up signals from another antenna at PISD, linking the library's computers to the school's fiber optic T-1 line, boosting access time over 200 percent. Internet users familiar with conventional dial up service, which operates at about 23 kilobytes per second, are amazed at the now incredible access time utilizing the school's T-Line. The T-Line accesses the net at a speed of 11 megabytes per second - it takes 1000 kilobytes to make up one megabyte.

County Librarian Opal Roberts told CCN library patrons are amazed at the speed of the internet connection. "We appreciate Plains ISD working with us to give our patrons better, faster service. We're hoping this will encourage more people to visit us and access the internet."

### All three school campuses score high on TAAS Test

Interviewed last Thursday, Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes was elated to report preliminary information from the Texas Education Administration indicates Plains students on all three campuses did exceptionally well on the annual Texas Academic Achievement Scores.

Both the high school and middle school students earned Exemplary ratings, the very highest level of achievement on the TAAS, and elementary students achieved a Recognized rating, the next highest ranking on the TAAS.

"We do not have individual scoring data yet, but we're confident these preliminary ratings will stand up. The Board of trustees and I are extremely proud of our students efforts on the TAAS tests, and the hard work our teachers put in to achieve these outstanding ratings."

Asked to comment on public school issues addressed in the recently ended 77th Legislative session, Haynes said, "The passage of the Teachers Health Insurance Program was very beneficial for many school districts, particularly smaller districts in so called 'tax poor' counties. I'm not sure it helped Plains ISD that much, for we have offered teachers health insurance benefits for a number of years, and it has served as a valuable recruiting tool to bring the best qualified teachers to

our district." Haynes said the Board would probably continue to supplement the state's new health program to ensure teachers and employees have the best, quality coverage.

Haynes declared he thought the so-called math initiative bill was sound policy. The bill establishes math academies to better prepare teachers, and helps recruit and reward well trained math teachers with bonuses of up to \$5000.

Commenting on legislative efforts to move the start of school back to a later date, Haynes said, "When the bill passed mandating Texas schools start during the week of August 21, it was pretty much a moot issue here. Our Board had already determined we would start later this year than in past years. Our start date is August 20, which is actually in the week of August 21."

During the session, the controversial 'Robin Hood' public school finance issue was again raised. Haynes said he had hoped the Legislature would give some relief to so called "rich" school districts by raising the tax recapture tax limit from \$295,000 per weighted average daily attendance student to \$320,000. The recapture amount was raised to \$300,000 for 2001-02, and to \$305,000 in 2002-03. The higher amount would have kept more county tax money in the district.

## Larry Combest comments

Memorial Day is a time when we reflect upon the sacrifices our veterans have made to defend our country's freedom. Our veterans deserve the utmost respect and recognition.

It is important to ensure they receive just compensation for their dedicated service. As a member of Congress, I am proud to support legislation that makes certain our veterans are honored not only on Memorial Day, but every day of the year.

This year, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a budget plan for fiscal year 2002 that set aside \$5.6 billion- up from \$5.2 billion in 2001- addressing the urgent needs of our veterans. These funds will improve medical and mental health care, long term care, rising pharmacy costs and emergency care. Additional funds have also been specifically set aside to increase military pay, improve military housing and expand health benefits for military retirees.

Once again, I am cosponsor of H.R. 303, the Retired Pay Restoration Act, which would permit members of the armed forces who retire with over 20 years of service and who have service connected disabilities to receive compensation from the VA concurrently with retired pay, without deduction from either. Some military retirees who are eligible for military retirement benefits as a result of a full service career are also eligible for disability compensation from the VA, based on a medical problem they incurred while in the service. Under the current law, these service disabled retirees must surrender a portion of their retired pay if they receive the disability compensation to which they are entitled. Nationwide, more than 40,000 disabled military retirees must give up their retired pay to receive their VA disability compensation. I believe this must stop.

How can we expect to maintain a viable national defense if service

members cannot receive both VA disability compensation and military retired pay? The 106th Congress took the first step towards addressing this inequity by giving a monthly allowance to military retirees with severe service connected disabilities at 70 percent or higher. While this is a step in the right direction, we must enact H.R. 303 to fully correct this injustice.

I have also cosponsored H.R. 179, the "Keep Our Promise To America's Military Retirees Act," which restores full health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services. The bill fulfills the pledge of health care promised to and earned by all military retirees by allowing participation in the federal retirement program.

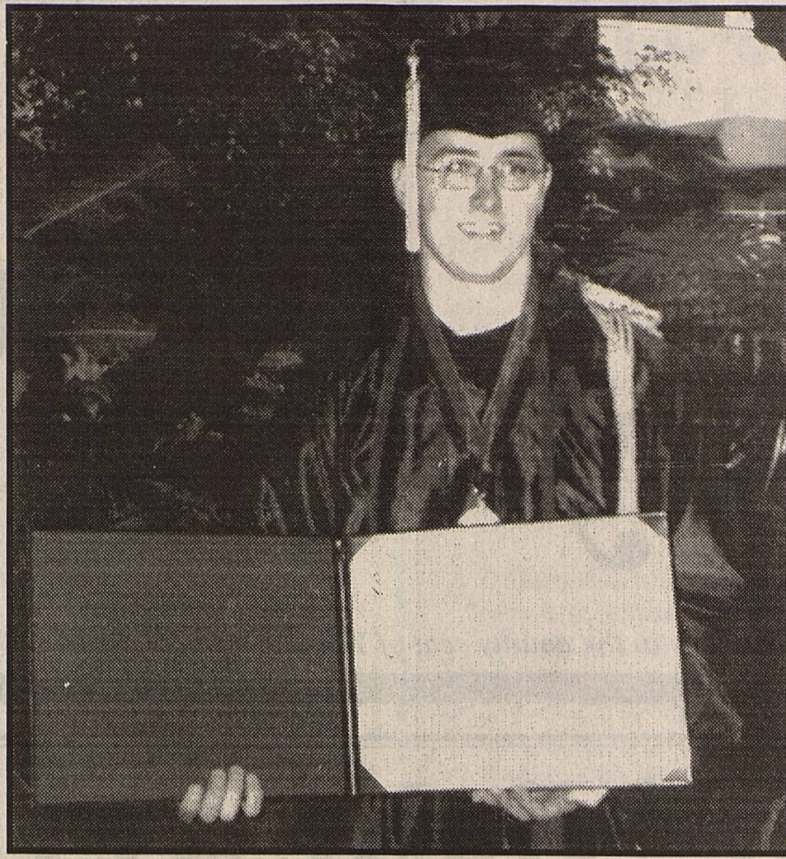
Our nation has not been involved in a major war in several years. However, we currently have American troops deployed all over the world, in various types of missions.

We must not forget the men and women who are dedicated to protecting our nation. It is especially important we show our servicemen and women respect by providing them with the tools and compensation to complete their missions.

As citizens of this great nation, we owe our veterans more than we can ever repay. At the very least, we have a sacred duty to honor their service, sacrifice and unabashed patriotism by supporting them in time of need. Congress has shown overwhelming bipartisan support for veterans issues. Fortunately, our President and Vice President also have a deep understanding and a genuine appreciation for the connection between veterans programs and the ability to improve our national defense. It is my honor and privilege to do all I can to fully provide for our American heroes.

**THANKS  
for reading  
CCN!**

## Jacob Lester Graduates



Congratulations to Jacob Lester who on May 18th graduated magna cum laude from Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center with the degree of Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science. Jacob recently completed a 6 month preceptorship at the VA Medical Center in Dallas and

will now be employed by University Medical Center in Lubbock.

He is the son of Bruce and Jan Lester and the grandson of Buddy and Lee Hanna, all of Plains, and Teny Lester of Austin. Jacob is a 1997 graduate of Plains High School.

## 2001 PHS Scholarship awards

The following is a listing of Plains High 2001 Seniors receiving scholarships. \*\* Note- at press time, a number of expected scholarships were still pending.

Student:  
Emily Blair- Bob & Irene Jones, Fine Arts., Lea County Electric, W. T. A&M Music, WT A& M residence, Yoakum County Gin  
Kelsey Blundell- Yoakum Co. Golf Assn.  
Aaron Cain- Yoakum Co. Golf Assn., UT Arlington, Yoakum Co, Art Assn., Laura & Bob Johnson.  
Lensey Cullins- WT A&M Residence.  
Roaxanne Villareal- Yoakum Co. Credit Union  
Amanda Garcia- Elizabeth Clark, Fine Arts Assn.  
Dawn Garland- American Legion  
Chris Gscheidle- Howard Payne Honors, Howard Payne Mu-



## Obituary

### Warren Services Held

Funeral services were held May 29, 2001 for Jody Phil Warren, 41, at First Baptist Church of Lamesa. Rev. John Warren officiated, assisted by Rev. Dennis Teeters. Burial was in Dawson County Cemetery under the direction of Branon Funeral Homes.

Mr. Warren died May 25, 2001, at Covenant Medical Center in Lubbock. He was born April 14, 1960 in Lamesa. He graduated from Lamesa

High in 1978. He worked for Frank Brown Honda and farmed in Gaines County many years. He was active in youth and choir activities at First Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife Donna; his parents Charles and Duronell Warren, Lamesa; three daughters, Sandi and Jennifer, Lubbock, and Lexi, Plains; a son, Jason of Lubbock; a sister, Kelli Matlock, Coppell, Tx.; a brother, Jon Warren, Albuquerque, and grandparents Ona Dee and Cotton Phillips, Lamesa.

Ministerial Alliance, Fine Arts Assn.  
Nicole Haynes- Robert Byrd Honor, Lea County Electric, Residence scholarship., Don & Sybil Harington, Baylor Presidential, Midland College, SPC Tuition. Tuition W.T. A&M, Texas Public colleges.  
Angelica Hernandez- US Navy college fund  
Skyler Johnson- Fine Arts, All-State Band  
Kimbe Jones- Lea County Electric, 4-H Watermelon  
Armando Luna- Sandy Land  
Eric Nixon- American Legion  
Ross Rogers- Yoakum Co. Credit Union, Sue & Arlon Alexander  
Lesli Rowe- Lea County Electric, W.T. A&M residence, Midland College, Arlon & Sue Alexander, Bob & Laura Johnson, SPC Tuition, 4-H Watermelon  
Elva Ruiz- Presidental Plus, UTPB  
Lisa San Fillippo- Lon Morris, Sit Jones, Fine Arts  
Dustin Sellers- 4-H Watermelon  
Dustin Six- Ed Clark, Yoakum Co. Golf Assn.  
Alexis Warren- Lea County Electric, WT A&M residence, WT A&M Mesa Academic, Mike & Kimberly Newland  
These scholarships totalled \$126,380, not including those pending.

### TURNROW MEETING

Meadow Co-Op Gin, Tues., June 5, 8:30 am  
Needmore Gin, Tues., June 5, 10 am  
Terry County Co-Op Gin, Wed., June 6, 8:30 am  
Fiber Tex Co-Op Gin, Thurs. June 7, 10 am  
Scott Russell, EA-IPM for Terry-Yoakum counties will conduct an informal meeting to discuss Current Pests, scouting techniques, control options.  
Earn one credit in IPM

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Mobile 806-891-3133  
Home 456-3195



MEMBER 2001  
Cowboy Country

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## Scholarships Available!



The Texas Workforce Center has limited funds available to assist youth to provide specialized assistance in job search or attend approved colleges, vocational schools or short-term training programs. Call or stop by today to see if you qualify. The Texas Workforce Center of Levelland serves Hockley, Terry, Yoakum and Cochran counties

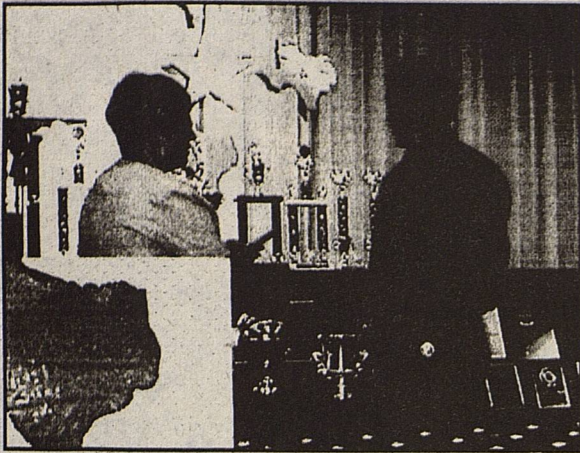
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\* Federal eligibility and suitability requirements must be met.

# PHS 2001 Academic Award Scenes



Servando Luna accepts English III award from Ms. Canada



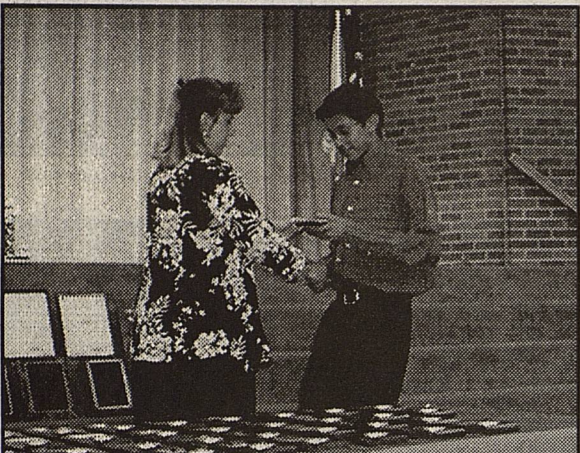
Skyler Johnson with Computer Repair award from Mr. Canon



Ms. Canada presents BCIS award to Scott Tirrell



Kimbe Jones with Art award from Mr. Davis



Ms. Lusk presents Algebra I award to Joseph Martinez



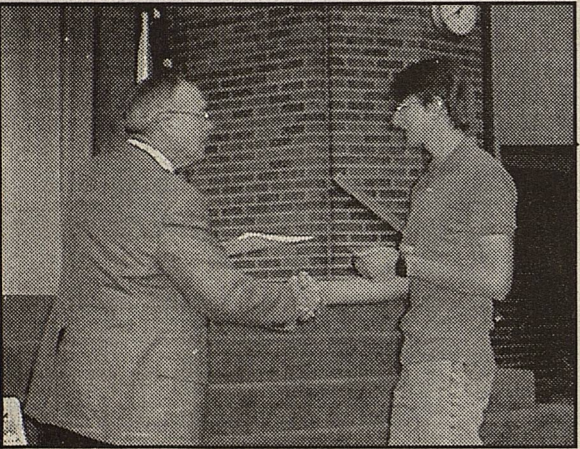
Nolan Newsom accepts Biology I award from Ms. McCravery



Roxanne Villareal receives Credit Union scholarship



Aaron Cain receives Physics award



Eric Nixon receives American Legion scholarship



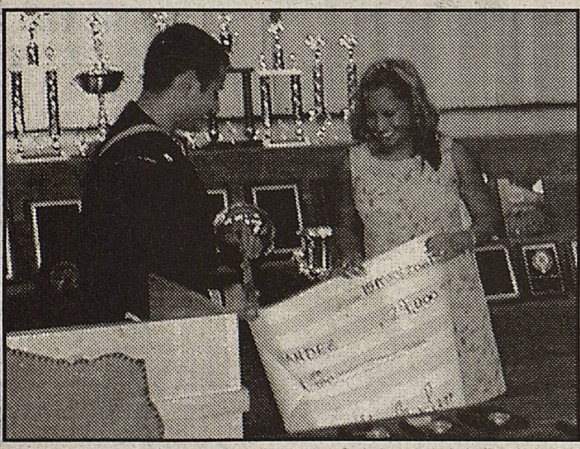
Mr. Cullins presents Chemistry award to Jill Gray



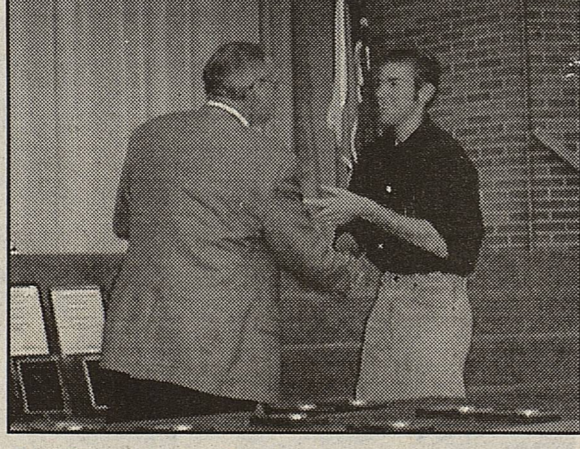
Carolyn Culwell presents Fine Arts Club Music awards to Lisa San Fillippo, Emily Blair, Chris Gscheidle, Amanda Garcia, Skyler Johnson



Annaliesa O'Quinn and Lea County Electric Youth Tour award



Angelica Hernandez with US Navy \$24,000 education 'check' for enlisting



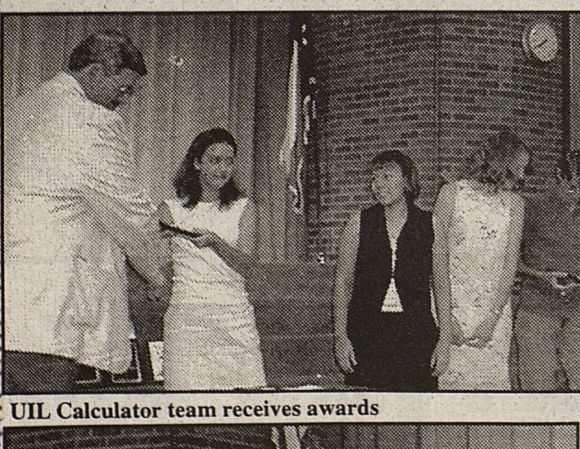
Ross Rogers receives Sue & Arlon Alexander scholarship



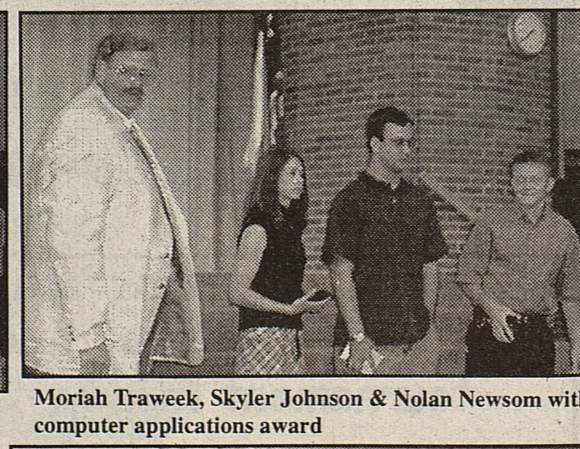
Chelsea Blount receives English II award



Amanda Gaecia receives Elizabeth Clark scholarship



UIL Calculator team receives awards



Moriah Traweek, Skyler Johnson & Nolan Newsom with computer applications award



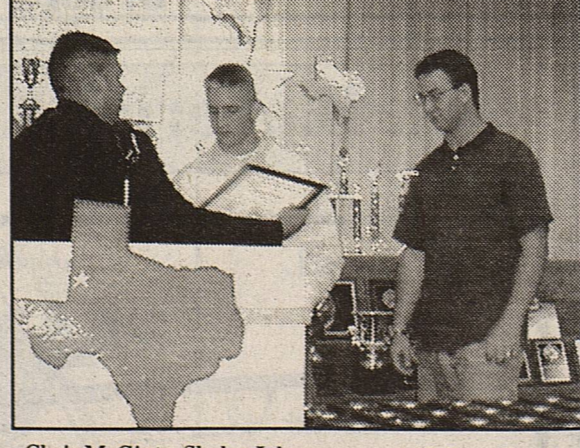
Gary Davis presents Yearbook award to Dawn Garland



Becky Wilmeth receives Accounting award



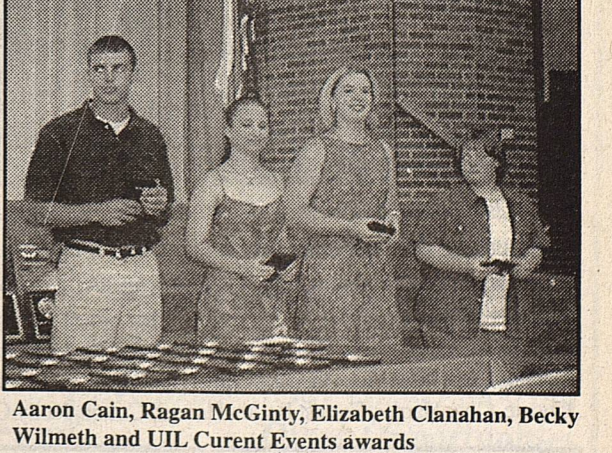
Noe Martinez accepts English III award



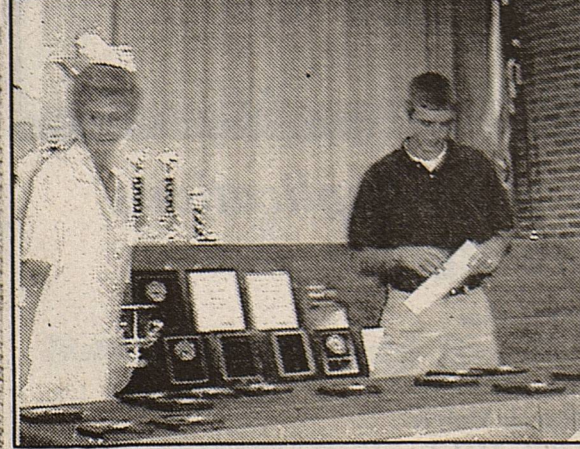
Chris McGinty, Skyler Johnson accept All State Band awards from Ray Portillo



Joe Pierce presents Star Chapter Farmer award to Dustin Sellers



Aaron Cain, Ragan McGinty, Elizabeth Clanahan, Becky Wilmeth and UIL Current Events awards



Aaron Cain with Yoakum County Golf Assn. scholarship



UIL Debate award goes to Jordan Bean



Grady McNabb accepts Geometry award from Mr. Friesen



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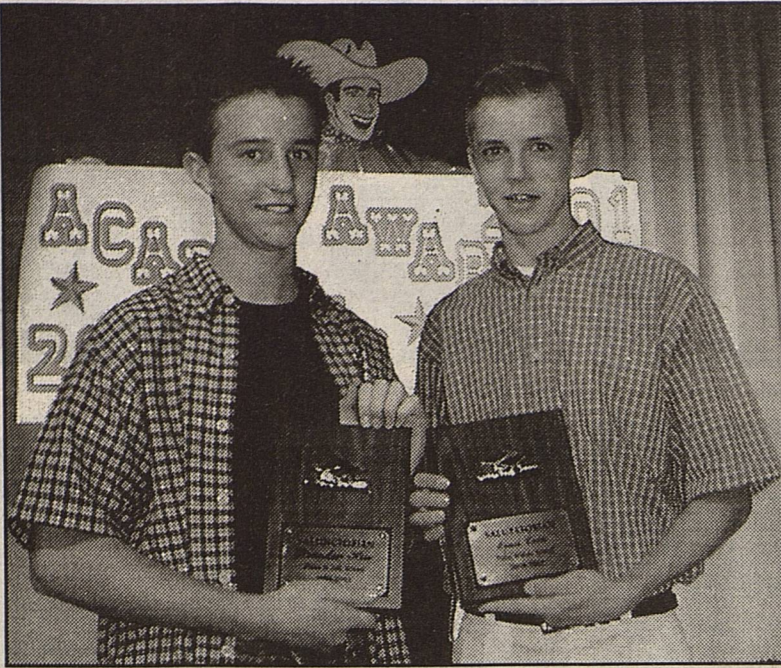
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## Top Middle School Grads



**8th Grade Valedictorian Brandon Hise and Salutatorian Evan Cain** Brandon wrote, There have been many people in my life who have helped me achieve this success. I would like to thank all of them, especially my teachers and my parents. Without their support and inspiration, there is no way I could have received this honor.

While at PJHS I have enjoyed many things. More than anything, I've enjoyed playing sports. I also had fun at the District UIL Academic Meet this year. I placed first in Number Sense, second in Calculator and Science, and third in Mathematics. Being a part of a winning High School Band was also an exciting activity.

Next year I'm looking forward to being involved in the high school athletic program, especially basketball. I also plan to be a member of the student council. Once again, thanks to all of the people who helped me receive this honor.

Evan wrote, I am an active member of the First United Methodist Church here in Plains, and enjoy playing basketball, baseball, football, track, and golf. I also received second in 8th grade singles this year in tennis. I participated in oral reading, ready writing, calculator, listening, modern oratory, and science this year in UIL. I play the French Horn in the Plains Cowboy Band, and the guitar in my spare time. My hobbies are drawing and putting models together. I would like to thank my teachers and my parents for supporting me, and plan to continue to study hard as I enter high school and eventually go to college. I don't know what I want to do when I grow up yet, but I have interests in computers and engineering. This summer I plan to work, play baseball, golf, and get ready for high school next year.

## Student of the Week



Student of the week is Michaela Traweek a senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marc Traweek. Michaela was nominated by Mrs. Lusk, who said, "Magic Johnson once said, "Ask not what your teammates can do for you. Ask what you can do for your teammates."

Michaela has a heart of gold. She took this quote to heart this year on the track. She also gives 100% at all she does in and out of the classroom. She was one of the few students who took the AP English exam this year. She has done a tremendous job this year serving as the President of the Class of 2001."

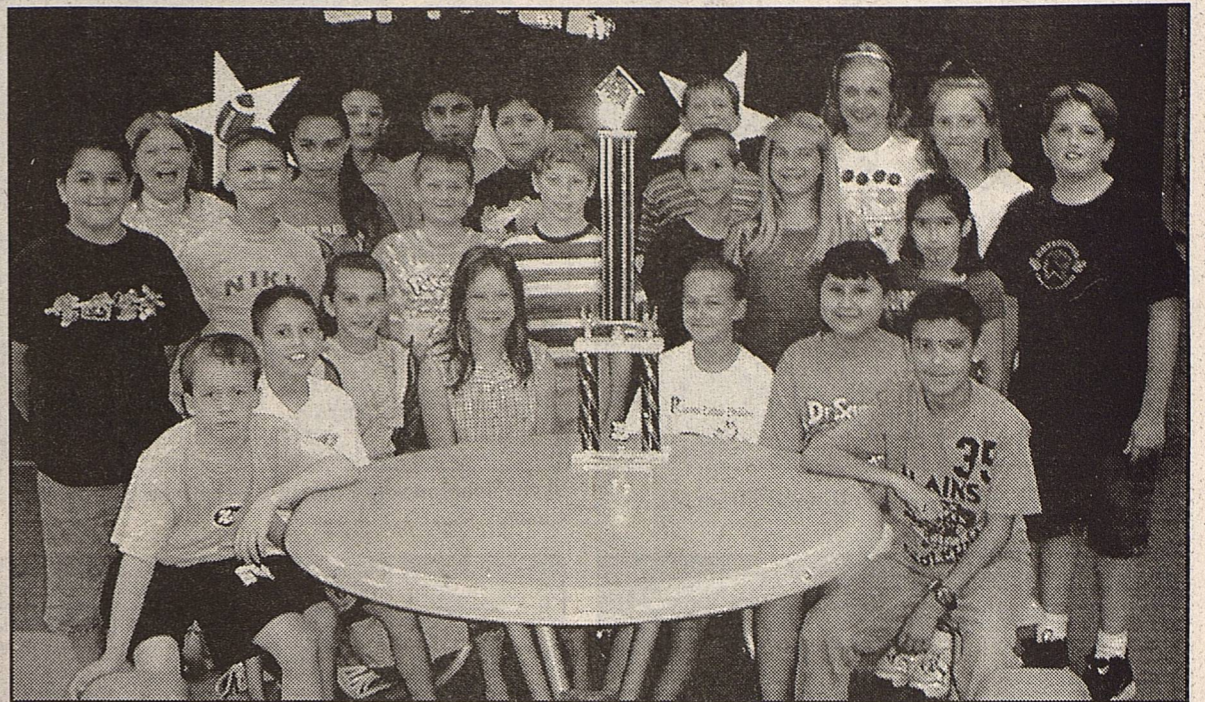
### Decorated Cakes for Any Occasion



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## Middle School Band Excels in Competition

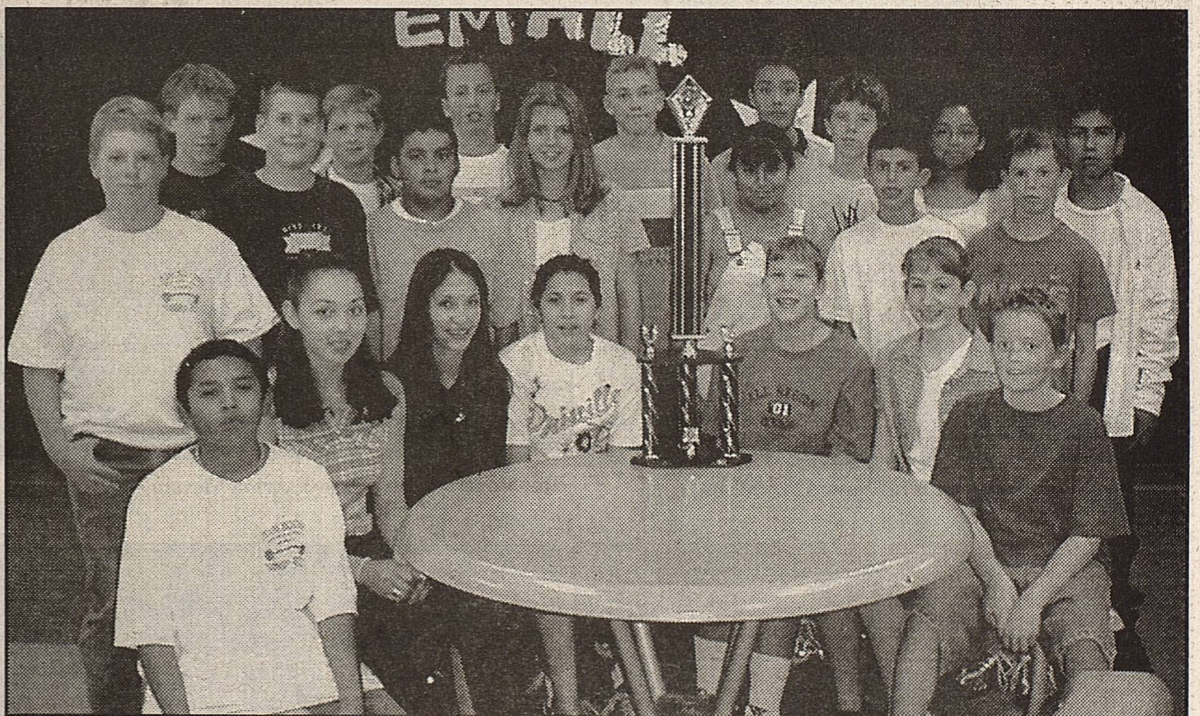
On Saturday, May 12, 2001 members of the 5th, 6th, & 7th grade bands performed at the Abernathy Band Festival. In preparation for this event, the students worked very hard and their efforts were rewarded. Each band brought home superior ratings from every judge for their performance. 5th grade participated in the Concert portion of the contest only and received a First Division trophy for their performance. The 6th & 7th grade bands participated in both Concert & sight reading and received superior ratings in for both portions of their performances. Earning each group a Sweepstakes award. Ms. Weigerber and Mr. Portillo would like to thank band members and their parents for a fantastic year and we look forward to the future!!!



Fifth Grade Band



Sixth Grade Band



Seventh Grade Band

## Youngsters 'Soar' at Gymnastics Meet



18 young area gymnasts competed in the Acrospirits Meet held recently at Girlstown, and their hard work and training paid off in impressive scores. They train at Plains Power Tumbling, and are coached by Kellie Eamest, Karen Norman, Chris Estrada and Allison Butler. Meet results included; Pictured on back row, L-R, (Trampoline and Tumbling places listed in that order) Tatum Williams, 2nd, 1st. Kameran Loya 1st, 1st. Landon Earnest 1st, 1st. Tess Williams, 1st, 1st. Front Row, Lexie Allen 1st, 1st. Courtney Miller, 1st, 1st. Haley Welch 1st, 1st. Myka Warlick, 1st, 1st. Dakota Earnest 1st, 1st. Zachary Lamar 1st, 1st. Kay'd Lamar 1st, 1st. Not pictured, Maretta Trent, Chrystal Jensen, Carla Choate, Cory Harper, Forrest Booth, Hannah Cotton, Holly Cotton.

**Plains Youth Center will sponsor a water volleyball tournament Friday, June 8, 8:30 pm. till ?? Grades 7 thru 12**

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

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Will see Minor Emergencies, Chronic Medical Problems, Immunizations

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# Lifelines & Styles

## SPC's TASP Test July 28

The next Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) test at South Plains College in Levelland will be given July 28.

Registration deadline is June 29.

The state mandated test measures strengths and weaknesses in reading, writing, and math and is required of all new students entering Texas public col-

leges or universities. Certain exemptions apply.

The test will be administered from 8 am. to 2 pm. in the Counseling Center, located in the Student Services Building. Fee is \$29.

For more information, contact Lissa Sharp, coordinator of testing at 806-894-9611, ext. 3267.

## Three Class Reunion Slated

A class reunion for 1950-51-52 Plains Seniors will be held August 4th at the City Community Building immediately following the barbecue for the Old Settlers in Plains.

The time has been set for 2:00 PM until the exes and their friends have retired from visit-

ing. Everyone interested in visiting is encouraged to join in. Coffee and tea will be furnished and the class members are asked to bring their choice of hors d'oev-vres, chips, dips, sweets, or whatever.

Tell all of your friends to make plans for this celebration!

## Senior Citizens Corner

Here it is Thursday the last day of May. I have been out some this last week and also we had that holiday.

I am blank this morning. It is lonesome without Maggie being here.

The line dancing, pool playing, dominoes and bridge are still going also pool and games on Monday nights at 6:30 - ??

We had a really good crowd for turkey and dressing on Thursday the 14. Layne and I had 3 visitors, our daughter and 2

nieces. I an sort of short on news.

Remember to call the day before or by 10:30 the day you want to eat. We have a weekly sheet that we sign on Thursday or Friday to eat the following week. Remember that there is a donation of \$2.00, that is not mandatory, or \$4.00 under 60.

We are glad to see Loyd Hart coming. He told us the other day that Elaine is doing better.

Till next week,  
Wanda B.

## 70th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Amos Shifflett of Plains will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary, Sunday, June 10, with a reception at the Plains Community Center from 2 pm. to 4 pm. Their children and grandchildren will host the event.

They are the parents of Homer Shifflett of Wolfforth, deceased son Gene Shifflett of Sundown, Imojean Owens of Emmett, Idaho, Virgie Collins of Morecroft, Wyoming, and Wanda Clevenger of Aztec, New Mexico. They have numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren. Amos and Joyce were married in Marietta, Oklahoma on June 9, 1931.

## Liz Wilmeth

### HOBY Ambassador 2001



Tsa Mo Ga selected Liz Wilmeth HOBY Ambassador 2001. The Plains Tsa Mo Ga Club recently selected Liz Wilmeth as their 2001 delegate to the annual HOBY Leadership Conference for sophomore students in Amarillo. She is the daughter of Ty and Mary Wilmeth. Liz commented to CCN, "On May 4-6 I attended HOBY leadership conference in Amarillo. We attended seminars informing us about business, technology, and careers in education. I learned alot, and met some new friends. By the end of the weekend we were all very close. I hope that all of the sophomores next year will at least think about going. I wasn't very sure about it but in the end I learned a lot."

## Walk Across Texas To Kick Off Monday, June 11th

If Earnest Tubbs could waltz across Texas for love, couldn't you and a group of friends walk across the Lone Star State for health?

*Walk Across Texas* is an eight week program that will spark some friendly competitions in Yoakum County. Teams of eight will compete to see who can log the most miles walking, jogging, or even biking. The kickoff date for Yoakum County is Monday, June 11th.

Teams will keep track of their miles which will be posted in the Extension office and the Yoakum County Libraries in Denver City (205 W. 4th St.) and Plains (901 Ave. E.), said Debbie Pollard, Yoakum County Extension Agent.

Many people are unaware of the positive benefits of exercise. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the No.1 problem in the United States. The risk of heart disease could be significantly reduced by regular exercise.

According to the Texas Department of Health, the positive effects of physical activity are not limited to lowering the risk of heart disease.

Not only does regular exercise help relieve stress and anxiety,

"physically active people out-live inactive people," a TDH report stated.

"Participating in *Walk Across Texas* is not only a great way to get involved with our community, it's a healthy habit," Debbie Pollard added.

To participate in *Walk Across Texas*, first get a team together. Biking and jogging teams are limited to four people. Choose a team captain and name your team. Fill out a registration form available at the Yoakum County Extension Office, 901 Ave. G in Plains of at the Yoakum County Libraries in Denver City (205 W. 4th) and Plains (901 Ave. E) and return the completed forms to the Yoakum County Extension Office, P.O. Box 360, Plains, Texas 79355.

Competition kicks off on Monday, June 11th so complete forms must reach the Extension Office on or before that date.

For more information, call the Extension office at 806-456-2263. *Walk Across Texas* results will be posted at the Extension Office and the Yoakum County Libraries in Denver City (205 W. 4th) and Plains (901 Ave. E).

### Junior Golf Program Announced

Wylie Osborne, Club Professional at Yoakum County Golf Club, will conduct a Junior Golf Clinic at the course each Friday morning during the summer months. Boys and girls age 12 and over are scheduled from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and children 11 and under are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Golf clubs and practice balls are provided, and there is no charge for the Junior Golf Program.

### First United Methodist Church

1202 Avenue G - Plains, TX.

Cordially invites you to worship and grow in Christ with us!



### Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

### Wednesday Connections

Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm

Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

### Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

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

## THANK YOU!

For all the prayers, cards, food and flowers.

With Much Love,  
Bobbie Payne

## Nelson Prescription

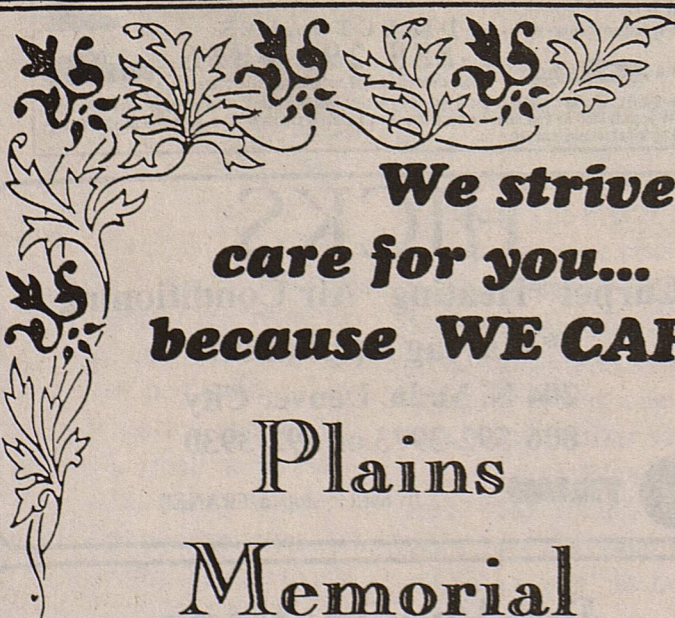


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Morning Worship 10:45 am.  
Evening Program 6:00 pm.

6:00 pm. Zombies  
7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,  
Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice

# From The Hack

Ye Gods! The Table of Wisdom has evolved into a gathering of medical experts!

Last week I happened by a meeting of seers and sages of the venerable institution, and listened in amazement to a round table (in this case, the table is rectangular - like some of the brains present) discussion of home remedies of various human ailments. You know, stand upside down in a corner, and try to urinate simultaneously to combat hiccups.

This one rather young regular related he had suffered from external hemorrhoids for years, excruciatingly at times. Now, before we go further, if you're offended by the H terminology, I will have to assume you are offended by the constant TV ads featuring the medical problem, the zillions of dollars spent advertising over the counter remedies available, and much grimmer, paid notices of highly trained physicians skilled in the use of sharp instruments to rid ones self of the problem. If all that bothers you, proceed no further.

This guy said, "I was standing at a crap table in a Las Vegas casino, and heard this guy next to me moan, 'Man, these dice and my hemorrhoids are killing me, and I don't know which hurt worse!' The relater of the story asked the dice buddy, 'Are yours external or internal?'"

The sufferee said, "External. Like great big clumps of burning welding rods!"

Our local sage, with a high five of companionship,

shouted "Hallelujah, Brother, shake with a fellow sufferer!", and then asked what he did for the torture. He almost fell away from the table when the guy said, "I did what my grandmother told all our family. I got a clove of garlic, peeled it and, well, uh, very gently I applied it to the inflamed area. In just 79 seconds I was eased, and in two minutes it stopped altogether."

The local seer figured he was being put on, and queried, "Are you SURE he said garlic?"

The dice shooter replied confidently, "Sure I'm Sure it was garlic. When I got home for dinner that night, first thing the wife said, was what, you been eating garlic?"

The unanimous question which was desperately being begged around the Table of Wisdom was, well, have you tried it?

The relater of all this said, "Well, not exactly, but the other day I was stuck on a tractor, and those things started killing me!"

A Table regular asked excitedly, "Did you try the garlic?" The answer was, "No, didn't have no garlic, but I was plowing a field of onions, and figured if garlic was good, onions would be a close second choice."

"DID IT WORK?", the Table screamed.

"Of course it worked. Immediate relief. Only problem, when I got home that night, the spouse uttered, 'Uggghh, you've been chewing onions! You sleep on the couch tonight.'"

True tale, I swear

Thank you, Lord, for an occasional faithful reader who unknowingly comes to my rescue.

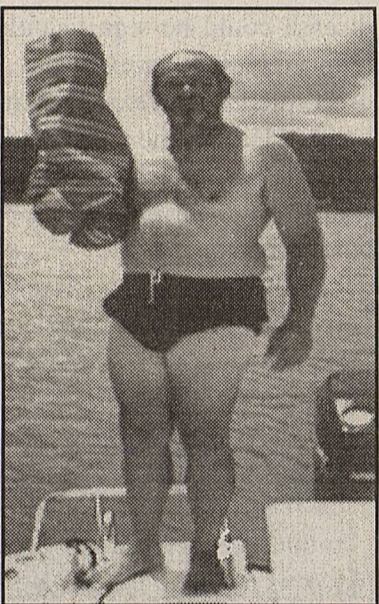
Last week I found a mysterious manila envelope from subscriber Geoff & Beth Gentry of San Antonio. Geoff's many former classmates here recall he was voted "Most Likely To Fail Miserably, But Also Most Likely To Find A Good Wife Capable Of Supporting Him." They earlier furnished us an announcement of the arrival of Ryan, their first child. Last week's mysterious manila envelope contained a very professional looking color brochure heralding Ryan's momentous arrival. The layout was professional looking enough to make me certain Beth was its creator.

It contained several 'news features', all of which dealt with the absolute majesty of their new son, along with a few color photos, mainly of Prince Ryan.

It is a VERY humorous publication, and rather than me taxing my already over-taxed brain following all that stuff about hemorrhoids, I am going to steal portions of it to fill this space. Thebrochure is titled,

### The Ryan Report and the first fetaure is headed, Beautiful baby born in San Antonio

Babies are born everyday but in San Antonio, Texas, doctors were stunned by the amazing beauty of Ryan Gentry, born at St. Luke's Baptist Hospital on May 4th. Ryan's doctor was quoted as saying, "I've delivered a lot of babies but I've never seen anything like this. This must be the most perfect specimen I've ever seen. Of course, having met the father I can understand, but it really is amazing." The child's mother, Beth Gentry, did not seem surprised. "Well, one of the reasons I married his father," she said, "was because he is so handsome. I wanted those genes!"



(Ed. Note- The cut-line under this photo read, 'Father of stunning baby displays source of newborn's beauty' It did not explain the bulky object held aloft by Geoff was a sleeping bag filled with iced Budweiser.)

News organizations from all over the country have arrived on the scene to photograph the baby and interview the parents. Rumors are flying that Hollywood press agents have already made offers to feature this newborn infant in movies and television. The baby's father, who appeared modest and somewhat embarrassed by all the publicity, told reporters, "I couldn't help it. His mom ain't too shabby either, you know."

The father fielded reporters' questions at a standing room only press conference that overflowed the Alamodome with members of the media. Over 100 members of the for-

sign press were on hand to cover the event. Several celebrities, including Michael Jordan, George Bush, Ben Stiller, the Pope, and Cher, are scheduled to arrive tomorrow to seek an audience with the baby.

### The next feature is entitled, Crowds Swarm Area Hospital

St. Luke's Hospital was overwhelmed with a crush of visitors who stood in line for hours today in hopes of seeing baby Ryan Gentry. The throng began forming as soon as word spread through radio and television stories about the new baby's stunning beauty and perfection. Members of the enthusiastic crowd came from as far away as Australia, Pango Pango, and Outer Mongolia, and camped out in line for several hours. Roads into San Antonio are jammed with visitors who have come to see the baby. Some of those who arrived first reportedly sold their places in line for as much as \$10,000; hospital officials have turned many away.

Well wishers seem to come away from seeing the baby with the same reaction. The wife of a former from Osceola, Arkansas, who, with her husband, was permitted a glimpse of the child after standing in line for 27 hours, said, "I didn't know who was prettier, that baby or his daddy." Her husband added, "Yep, I reckon."

### New Baby Forward Thinking

Ryan Andrew may be new on the scene but he is already thinking about the future. While many might think his gurgling and cooing are normal baby sounds, his parents believe that Ryan is already communicating his hopes and dreams for the future. (It is not clear whether or not sleep deprivation may be influencing his parents' perceptions). According to his parents, Ryan has expressed interests in becoming an astronaut, sports celebrity, philanthropist, concert pianist, hip-hop rapper, carpenter, fireman, scientist, superhero and/or policeman when he grows up. He has also mentioned becoming a cowboy, movie star or international diplomat. His father insists Ryan is leaning strongly toward becoming a saltwater fishing guide. Ryan's baby sounds have also been interpreted by his parents to indicate concerns about recent trends in the stock market and hopes that the Fed will continue to intervene judiciously in monetary issues. "Hey, I've got to think about the impact of inflation on my future college expenses," Ryan reportedly cooed.



Ryan went home for the first time May 6. He is on a steady diet of mother's milk and affection. His normal day consists of 8 feeding sessions, and about the same number of wet and poopy diapers.

There's not much doubt in my mind mom Beth being the layout out artist, and absolutley no doubt about who wrote all the BS about Daddy!

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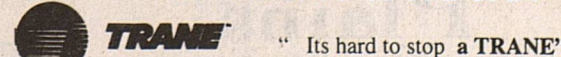
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