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Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V, Issue 25, Wednesday Mar. 3, 1999



Cowboy baseball debut here creates many new and FUN firsts



Steven Bunch displays good form delivering the very first pitch in the historic game.

A great many historical firsts for Plains High School sports occurred during the Cowboys baseball season opener double header here last Saturday. The marathon length event started at 11 a.m., and the last pitch was thrown sometime after 6 p.m., producing back to back wins, 10-9 and 11-6, over the visiting Lovington JV Wildcats.

Saying the two wins in the first ever baseball season at Plains was a satisfying event for the Cowboys would be the equivalent of reporting Moses event on the Red Sea was a mere ripple of the surface. The dugout and field was littered with delirious and elated Cowboys in their new black and gold uniforms.

Coach Eddie Carter was equally jubilant. "It was really exciting to experience a double win in the school's first baseball outing. I For more "BASEBALL", turn to Page 3

Cloud seeding in High Plains region starts this year

Three underground water conservation districts in Texas High Plains have resumed precipitation enhancement operations within a 17-county target area in an attempt to increase the natural recharge to the Ogallala Aquifer.

Effective February 1, the 1999 Central Southern High Plains Rainfall Enhancement Program target area includes Bailey, Castro, Cochran, Hale, Hockley, Lubbock, Lamb, Lynn, Parmer, Terry, and Yoakum Counties, as well as portions of Armstrong, Crosby, Deaf Smith, Floyd, Potter, and Randall Counties. Curry, Roosevelt, and Southwestern Quay Counties of New Mexico are expected to join the program on May 1.

"We hope we will have more precipitation enhancement opportunities this year," said A. Wayne Wyatt, High Plains Water District manager. "Because of persistent drought conditions, there were many days last year when we did not have a cloud in the sky. When clouds finally formed, it appeared that they were affected by smoke particles in the atmosphere resulting from

Turn To Page 2,
"Cloud Seeding"

The law's hands across the border; Is this father, son Sheriff duo a first?



Sheriff Keith Rice, left, of Lea County, New Mexico, shakes the hand of his father, Jim Rice, of Yoakum County, Texas, straddling the boundary of the two states and counties.

The stage was set for what may be a unique record when Keith Rice of Lovington, New Mexico, was sworn in as the new Sheriff of Lea County, our Yoakum County neighbor to the west. There may be other occurrences of a father and son serving as elected sheriffs of neighboring counties and states, but if so, CCN's initial research hasn't revealed it.

An interview which took place on the stateline Saturday revealed a number of similarities in the pair of law enforcement officers.

Keith Rice readily admits his dad Jim's long career in law enforcement work was the major factor in his choice of the same profession for a career. Their backgrounds are remarkably similar.

Jim Rice, 63, with a total of 26 years experience in law enforcement, began his career in Lea County in the Sheriff's Department there. He would later move to Yoakum County, run successfully for the office of sheriff, the office he has held since 1979.

Keith Rice, 44, already has a total of 23 years experience in law enforcement, including a number of years with the New Mexico State Police, and the Hobbs, New Mexico Police Department. He is a past Commander of the Lea County Narcotics Task Force, and he too has impressive awards and recognition for his professional performance.

Both officers admitted there are times when they have moments of concern about each others safety. Keith said "We are both well aware virtually every type of law enforcement experiences potentially dangerous moments. I suppose we both worry a bit, but we also are aware of our experience, and we have a lot of confidence in each other."

Jim Rice, whose term of office expires December 31, 2000, said his current intentions are to run again for the office. Both he and Keith hold office as Democrat candidates.

Yoakum County has a population a little less than 9,000, and covers approximately 900 square miles. Sheriff Jim Rice's department payroll covers 26 employees. Sheriff Keith Rice's work area, Lea County, sprawls over some 6,000 square miles, inhabited by some 65,000 residents. His department is served by 67 employees. Both officers are concerned about the current slump in the oil and gas industry, with current valuations of minerals in the two counties taking a nose dive, and the almost sure to follow severe budget restraints in both counties.

Keith Rice said, "We're already hearing rumors of at least a 10% reduction in future operating money, and of course no one can guarantee it won't be even more."

His father echoed those thoughts, observing there would probably be no way to avoid a large cut in funds, which inevi-

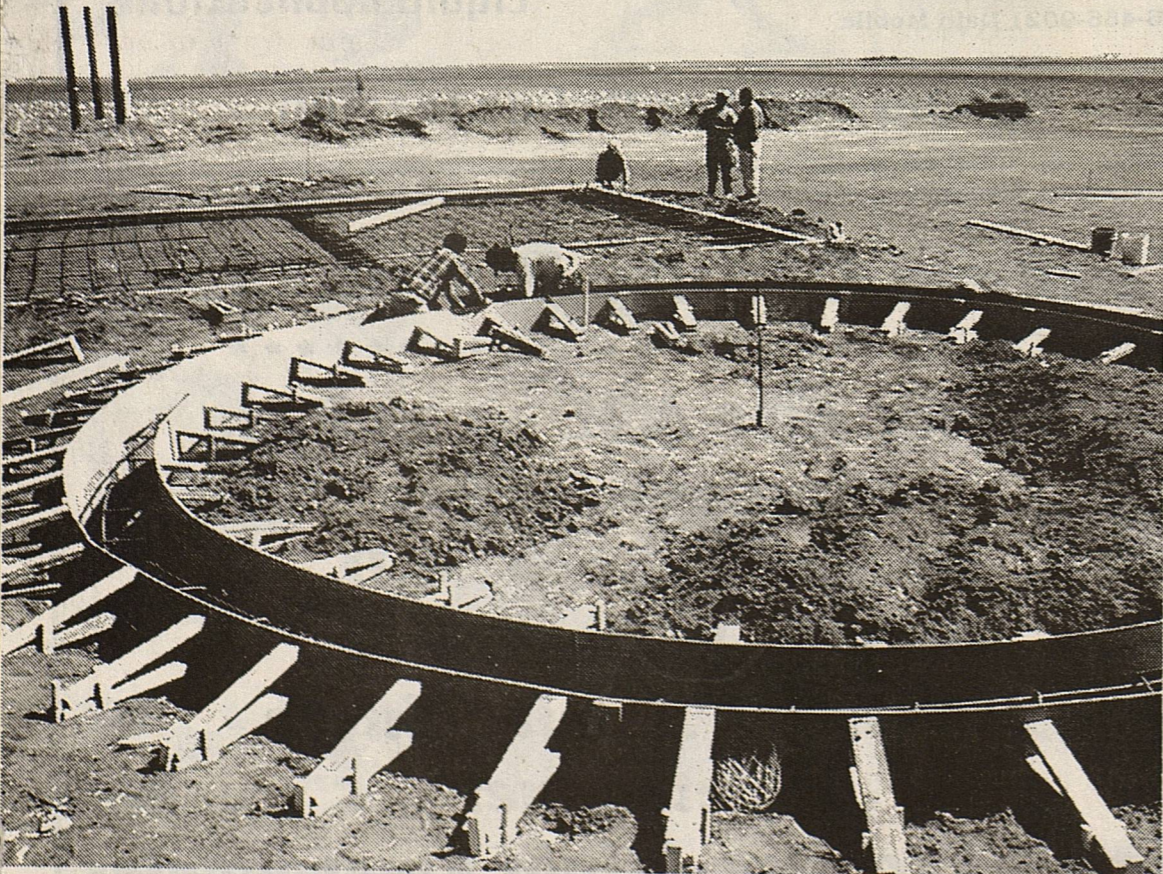
tably leads to a reduction of the workforce, followed by a reduction in services for residents.

Both officers were asked, "What do you like best about your profession?", and again, both replies were very similar. Jim Rice said, "I detest stealing, all forms of stealing. In the environment of these two counties, most people accumulate things important to them through hard work, and it really gets me to find some character taking those rewards from others." He grinned and said, "It's not always fun putting people in jail; But there are times when it's not so bad, either." Both men said, like other public service professions, a normal personal life is difficult if not impossible. An officer is never truly off duty, and Keith Rice added, "There is a constant strain on your personal and family life." He added, "I think the way I was raised made me appreciate law enforcement. I learned to respect people and their property, and there's a lot of satisfaction in finding a way to help folks."

Jim and his wife Vivian have two daughters, and ironically, one of their husbands is also in law enforcement. Keith, often called 'Keko' by friends and family, and his wife Shannon, also have two children.

The relationship between law agencies in Lea County and Yoakum County has always been excellent. With this duo, it could be even better

Tank, pump station construction underway for new water supply



Workers of West Texas Concrete were busy Friday afternoon finishing forms for the 100,000 gallon water storage tank and pump station building at the site of the City of Plains' three new water wells. Cement was to be poured for the foundation and footings later that day. The laying of the twelve inch transmission line to the city distribution system is currently ahead of schedule, and at the time of this photo Friday, city employees had completed the line to about two hundred yards west of the home of Darrell Barron on the Old Lovington Road. City Administrator David Brunson said, "Unless unforeseen problems arise, we should have a new and plentiful supply of water in town late this spring."

Hollywood finally gets it right

My opinion..... by Gary Dyer

I finally had the opportunity to see the movie, "Saving Private Ryan". Perhaps a better phrase would be, "I had the privilege of seeing the movie."

The film has been nominated for a total of 11 Academy Awards. If I had been on the nominating committee, when those 11 nominations came in I would have declared nominations closed, and the Private Ryan film selected for all by acclamation. I do not have a voice in such lofty deliberations, and I would not wager a Mexican five peso bill it takes Best Picture of the Year awards. If it does not, the only half plausible reason I can imagine is, too many of the eligible Hollywood voters have a big prejudice against War, War Films, or Steven Spielberg, it's brilliant director.

OK, none of us with a twopence of sense likes war. War films may be another matter - come on and admit it, you cheered when Gary Cooper won World War One as Sergeant York; John Wayne, Jimmy Stewart, Gregory Peck and just a handful of others saved the world in WWII; Peck again, and William Holden conquered in Korea, and old John Wayne again rescued us from the Viet Cong a little later.

Let me tell you something for true.... all those celluloid epics, with the heroes walking off carrying the flag, or, sniff, dying some sort of heroic death at the very end, were truly non-event films compared to Private Ryan.

You want to know what war, real war, personified by personal and collective courage is? You want to know what the thousands of G.I.'s experienced, landing on beaches against the Japanese all over the Pacific, later Africa, Sicily, Italy, and finally, fortress Europe in the Normandy Provence of France? You can read of it, imagine it,

even talk to old veterans about what it was like. But let me tell you this, plain and true; Unless YOU experienced it, you'll never understand the sheer horror and absolutely terrifying fear of those moments unless you see Private Ryan. It won't be the REAL thing, of course, but it will be as close as you can get without actually being there.

The opening few minutes of the film are enough to make hearts of stone at least dribble a bit, when a mother of four G.I. sons, all overseas in war zones, sees an official government auto bearing up to her front yard and a bevy of uniformed officers disembark, their somber faces telling her instantly one (or more) of her sons could be dead.

Shift immediately, with appropriate terrifying background noises, to the scene of the huge D-Day, 6th Of June, 1943 Allied assault on the beaches of Normandy, Omaha Beach in particular.

It felt to me, in my neat, plush theater seat at Tinseltown in Lubbock, I was actually on that landing craft as it labored ashore under the most intense sound of enemy gunfire you can imagine.

When the assault craft ground ashore on the beach, the ramps fell down, and the G.I. troops started stumbling shoreward, I actually felt I was under the murderous fire of Nazi defenders on the cliffs overlooking that terrible beach. Men are decimated so graphically I actually jumped or jerked in real pain.

Believe-me, it gets worse; A slow, overhead panning of the long, bloody beach, littered with our dead men, and white, rotting fish blown from the waters along the beach, lying beside the soggy, torn bodies. I felt I, too, had drowned when I stepped off that landing craft, laden with almost one hundred pounds of gear, into water far deeper than the officers had promised.

You think I am getting carried

away, a little too graphic? Hey, I am only describing less than the first 25 minutes of this film. If it's too much for you, OK. I would suggest, however, you forget your preconceived ideas of the horror and carnage of war. FORCE yourself to see the movie, if there is the tiniest of doubts about the courage it took for the guys just like you and I, but those who actually did it, fought it, won it, and died in it. I am serious about this; If you, man or woman, with just a modicum of intelligence, just a bit of compassionate being in your soul, can sit through this film, and not feel a rip and tear in your heart, and something wet flowing down your face, I truly feel sorry for you; I'm afraid you are beyond caring for your fellow man.

From Page 1, "Cloud Seeding" the forest fires in Mexico. This eliminated many clouds as suitable targets for cloud seeding."

Precipitation enhancement, or cloud seeding, is an attempt to stimulate clouds to generate more rainfall that they would otherwise by adding silver iodide as a seeding agent. The silver iodide provides additional condensation nuclei that can allow more cloud moisture to be converted to large enough raindrops to survive the fall through the dry sub-cloud layer and reach the ground as meaningful rainfall.

Weather Modification Incorporated (WMI) of Fargo, North Dakota is returning as the contractor for the 1999 project. Under the contract, WMI provides a project meteorologist who uses weather radar displays, standard meteorological data and forecasting procedures, surface weather observations, and pilot reports to select clouds suitable for seeding. With this information, the meteorologist in the C-band radar unit at the Littlefield airport can direct air-



Lea County Electric Crews have now completed approximately 2/3 of the line conversion within the City of Plains. The projected completion date for all work is July, 1999. In this photo, Lea County Electric linemen work to replace a pole while keeping the line energized. Precision maneuvers like this are all in a day's work for the power professionals.

craft stationed at Amarillo and Lubbock to eject silver iodide flares at cloud-top levels into selected clouds within the target area. A third aircraft will be stationed at Portales when the New Mexico participants join the program on May 1.

Information about the 1999 precipitation enhancement program is available on the Internet at the High Plains Water District home page, www.hpwd.com.

Project sponsors are the High Plains Water District in Lubbock, the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District in Plains, and the South Plains Underground Water Conservation District in Brownfield. The Llano Estacado Weather Modification Association begins its sponsorship of the New Mexico portion of the program on May 1.

Each sponsor pays a pro-rata share of the fixed and reimbursable costs, based on the total number of acres in the target area.

District Court cases heard

Three criminal cases were heard in 121 st. District Court February 24, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

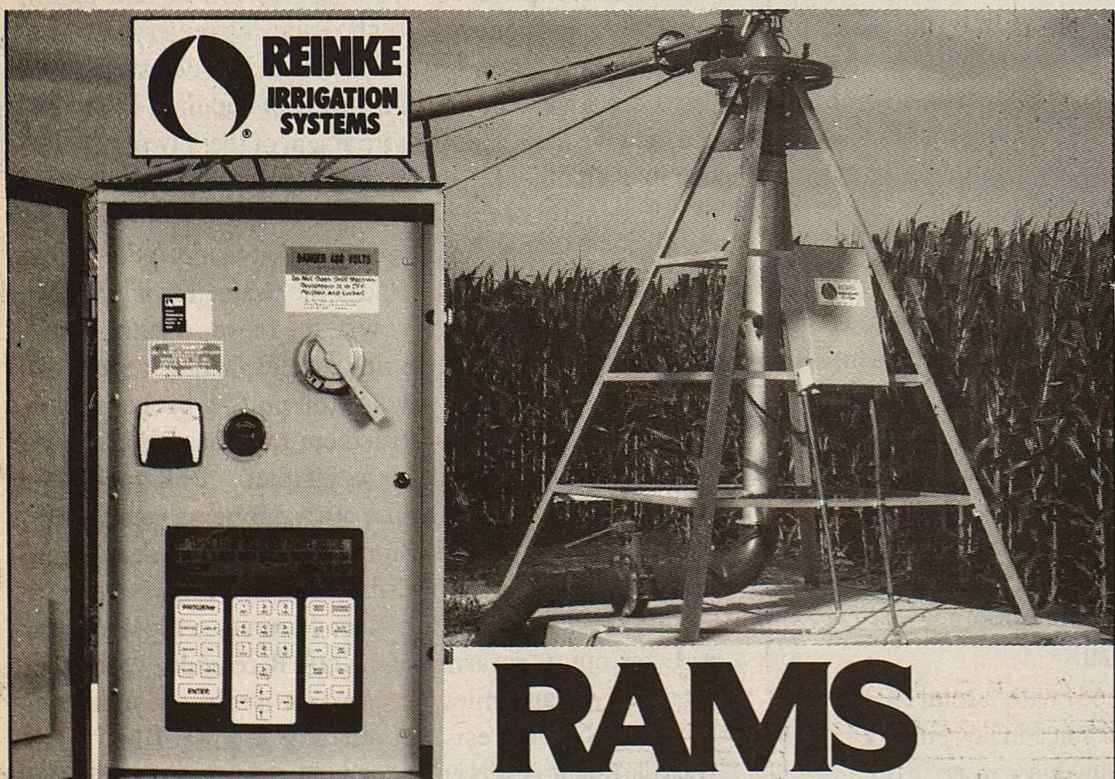
Miguel A. Soto, 41, charged with tampering with or fabricating physical evidence, was sentenced to 20 years in the state prison system. He was represented by Attorney Jimmy Hammons.

Leonel Garcia Gaspar, AKA Leonel Garcia, Juan Gutierrez, 31, pled guilty to forgery. A five year prison sentence was suspended and probated five years. A \$750 fine, \$236 court costs and appointed attorney fees of \$250 will be met with time payments. He must serve

60 days in jail and 160 hours community service.

Merced Loya Jr., 23, pled guilty to unauthorized use of a vehicle. Terms of his plea bargain include, two years in prison, suspended and probated five years. A \$1000 fine, court costs and attorney fees will be met with time payments. Former causes of burglary, terroristic threat, failure to appear, indecent exposure and criminal mischief were adjudicated. He must spend up to 180 days in jail or until space is available in a substance abuse facility, up to one year and not less than 90 days. e must also perform 120 hours community service and attend weekly AA meetings.

Sam Houston, Texas President, U.S. Senator, Governor, born in Virginia. He died at his home in Huntsville on July 26, 1863. March 2, 1793



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From Page One, "BASEBALL" was very proud of the way our men responded in the first game. We were ahead, Lovington came back, took the lead, and our guys just kept battling back to pull out their first win, and it was a big one for the team."

The first game lasted 11 innings. Steven Bunch, the starting pitcher, threw for 9 2/3 innings before he ran out of steam. At that point, the score was tied, and Josh Bell entered the game in relief. He pitched 1 1/3 innings, and his team mates managed to get the winning run across the plate, and Bell was credited with the win.

There were many "Firsts" in the inaugural sporting event for

Plains High, including:
 * First pitch - Steven Bunch
 * First PHS batter - Adam Garcia
 * First hit - Adam Garcia
 * First double - Aaron Cain
 * First home run - Alex Tarango
 * First strikeout at bat - Gerry Rivas
 * First pitched strikeout - Steven Bunch
 * First flyball caught - Vincent Delgado
 * First double play - Aaron Cain to Adam Garcia to Gerry Rivas
 * First fielding error - Aaron Cain
 * First stolen base - Adam Garcia
 * First pitcher starting and finishing winning game - Gerry Rivas.



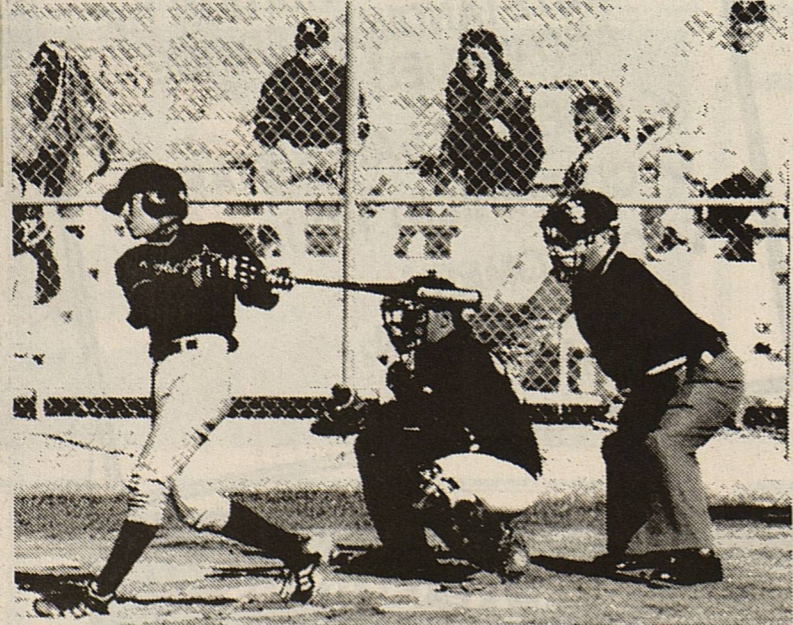
Alex Tarango rounds third after smacking first home run



Gerry Rivas and form used in winning second game of double header



Adam Garcia records first base hit



Aaron Cain pounds first double

PISD Honor Roll

4th Six Weeks

Elementary 'A' Honor Roll

First Grade
 Claudia Andazola
 Taylor Banfield
 Natalie Butler
 Brandon Craft
 Emilia Gallegos
 Brett Hawthorne
 Natalie Haynes
 Nathan McCravey
 Troy Parrish
 Alex Penner
 Shyann Vantine
 Katelynn Young

Second Grade
 Chris Addison
 Brianna Conway
 Wyatt Dearing
 Landon Earnest
 Reyna Gallegos
 Christopher Garza
 Derek Garza
 Zachary Ramon
 Maria Ruiz
 Eva Unger
 Holden Welch
 Lydia Whitzel
 Kimber Williams

Third Grade
 Maria Andazola
 Chandra Carpenter
 Ryan Crump
 Lauren Davis
 Amber Friesen
 Trent Hawthorne
 Lauren Hise
 Marissa Melendez

Junior High

Fifth Grade
 Micheal Crump
 Allison Friesen
 Able Ramos

Sixth Grade
 Payton Bean
 Evan Cain
 Marlie Diaz
 Cody Flores
 Mayra Flores
 Breck Hamm
 Brandon Hise
 Kerry Sisson

Seventh Grade
 Trent May
 Grady McNabb
 Helen Neufeld
 Manuela Villegas

High School All A's.

Ninth Grade
 Annaliesa O'Quinn

Tenth Grade
 Emily Blair
 Chris Estrada
 Roxy Fuentes
 Nicole Haynes
 Lesli Rowe
 Elva Ruiz

Eleventh Grade
 Josh Bell
 Candace Bowers
 Velvet Canada
 Leticia Canon
 Jessica Flores
 David Granados
 Kristen Gray
 Wendy Hernandez
 Laura Morales
 Anne Palmer
 Patty Ruiz
 Kyle Sisson
 Jason Swann
 Alex Tarango

Twelfth Grade
 Maranda Box
 Dustin Brunson
 Jolyne Burgess

Zachary Ramos
 John Tyson

Fourth Grade
 Scott Addison
 Caitlin Carter
 Landon Craft
 Nicole Culwell
 Kimberly Jackson
 Angelica Mendoza
 Araceli Mendoza
 Adriana Ponce

'A'-B' Honor Roll

First Grade
 Ernesto Calderon
 Carmen Gomez
 Ignacio Lozano
 Hector Luna
 Victoria Valverde

Second Grade
 Crystal Tarango

Third Grade
 L'Shae Arnett
 Curtis Arteaga
 Joani Bell
 Douglas Conway
 Rubi Castillo
 Britnie Duran
 Matthew Jimenez
 Juan Lara
 Cody Mayes
 Sergio Olivas
 Colby Ortega
 Katie Winn

Fourth Grade
 Jose Luis Gallegos
 Erika Loewen
 Margaret Martens

Eighth Grade

Jordan Bean
 Jill Gray
 Liz Wilmeth
All A's, 1 B

Fifth Grade
 Cade Arnett
 Reagan Haynes
 B.J. Lester
 Adam McCravey
 Blake O'Quinn

Seventh Grade
 Nolan Newsom
 Moriah Traweek

Eighth Grade
 Sandra Gallegos
 Krystal Gonzalez
 Kayla Willis

Clint Burrus
 Cosme Casillas
 LaCresha Johnson
 Tandi Jones
 Tommie McNabb
 Lisa Parrish
All A's, 1 B

Ninth Grade

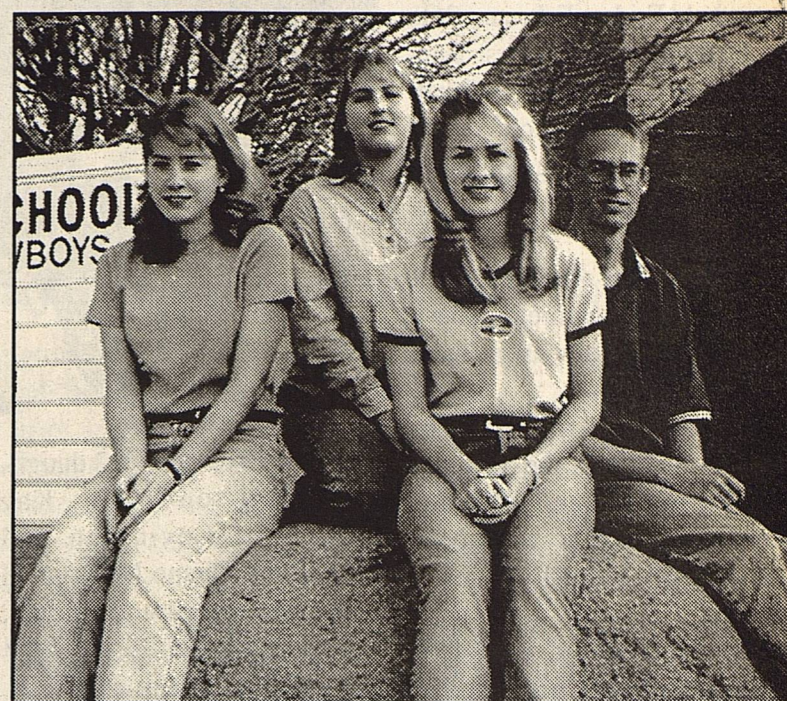
Jarod Bell
 Allison Butler
 Becky Wilmeth

Tenth Grade
 Lensey Cullins
 Kari Guttersloh
 Lexi Warren

Eleventh Grade
 Krystle Blundell
 Elizabeth Casillas
 Chris Leggett
 Fermin Luna
 Nichole Newsom
 Staci Tuggle

Twelfth Grade
 Steven Bunch
 Cassie Dearing

PHS Journalism Students Take Meet Honors



L-R Nichole Newsom, Nicole Haynes, Anne Palmer and Clint Burrus.

Plains journalism competitors placed second in sweepstakes at a practice UIL meet at Midland College February 19. Clint Burrus won first place in headlines and news writing and Nicole Haynes won second in news writing and eighth in feature writing. Anne Palmer was

second in editorial writing, and Nichole Newsom was fourth in editorial writing. The four earned 36 points to place second behind Denver City, which had 41 sweepstakes points. The group competed in the small schools division.

PHS Boys Off To Fast Start In Golf



Second Place Cowboys-Aaron Cain, Dustin Six, Kelsey Blundell, Jarod Bell, Colt Winn.

The Denver City High School sponsored golf tournament at the County Course drew a large field of schools, many with far larger enrollment than PHS'. The Cowboy golfers managed to emerge second in the field, just behind first place Post. The team of Kelsey Blundell, Jared Bell, Aaron Cain, Dustin Six and Colt Winn over came strong and gusty west winds to shoot a combined score of 343 (only the lowest four scores are tallied).

The young Cowgirl team found the weather conditions and course plenty tough. Erica Bell, Autumn Deaton, Allison Butler and Leticia Canon finished with a score of 513. When final results were posted, players from Post, Colorado City, and Kelsey Blundell had identical low scores of 76. In a score card playoff, Kelsey's score on the fourth hole allowed him to bring home the low medalist ribbon and medal.



Tired Cowgirl golfers-Leticia Canon (standing), Allison Butler, Autumn Deaton, take a break.

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Services held for Doris Smith

Doris Snodgrass Smith died Tuesday, February 23rd at 7:15 pm. in Brownfield. Services were held Friday, February 26th at 11:00 am. in the First Baptist Church of Plains. Officiating were Brother Alton West of Brownfield and her nephew, Brother Hugh Hays of Lubbock.

Arrangements were under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home and burial was in Plains Cemetery.

She had lived in Tokio and Plains until 1992, she moved to Brownfield's Nursing Center until her death. She was a member of First Baptist Church in Plains.

Doris was born July 1, 1916 in Tokio and was preceded in death by her husband, Amos Smith on February 20, 1992, a son, Lavon Smith, a son-in-law Earl Ellison, a grandson, Kay Ellison and her mother and father, Dolores and Hugh Snodgrass; 2 brothers, Toad and Bill Snodgrass. She is survived by 2 sons and daughter-in-laws, Olan and Suzanne Smith of Kermit, Gary and Barbara



Smith of Brownfield; 2 daughters and a son-in-law, Kay Ellison of Lovington and Latrell and Duane McDonnell of Plains; nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 1 great-great granddaughter; a multitude of nieces nephews. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Jesse and Rita Mae Snodgrass of Tokio; her sister and brother-in-law, Dolores and James Hays of Lancaster; and her sister-in-law Marie Snodgrass of Lehman, Dolores Booker of Richardson and Opal Smith of Brownfield.

PHS Student of the Week

Student of the Week is Anne Palmer, a Junior, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brad Palmer. She was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said; 'Wisdom is knowing what to do next - Skill is knowing how to do it' - David Starr Jordan.

"Anne is skilled in many areas, from books to basketball. She uses her skills to make exceptional grades, play hard, and excel in Student Council and



other extracurricular work. Her academic skills have made her an excellent editorial writer."

Officials attend conference

Judge Dallas Brewer and Commissioner Woody Lindsey joined more than 500 county officials at the 41st Annual County Judges and Commissioners' Continuing Education Conference and Education Exposition February 22-25, 1999 at the College Station Hilton Conference Center.

The event is conducted by the V. G. Young Institute of County Government, which is part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. The Institute seeks to provide information and education and technical assistance to elected officials

at no additional cost to taxpayers.

"Texas is one of a very small number of states that requires all elected officials to earn continuing education credits," explained John Gilmartin, Extension Coordinator of the Institute. "We provide that service to County Commissioners, Judges, Treasurers, Tax Assessor-Collectors and County and District Clerks."

Gilmartin said he believes better informed county officials means better county government.

Math/Science Team

Competes at Lake View High

The Plains Math and Science team traveled to San Angelo, Saturday, February 20th, and competed in the Lake View High UIL Practice Meet. The Number Sense (NS), Calculator (C), and Math (M) teams took first place and the Science (S) team finished third. All schools A through AAAAA competed together for the Sweepstakes trophy and Plains came in second behind 5A Lubbock Coronado.

Individual performances: Freshman: Annaliesa O'Quinn 1st NS, 1st Cal, 2nd M, 8th S. Sophomores: Amanda Garcia 3rd NS, 5th Cal, 8th M, 10th S. Nicole Haynes 6th NS, 6th Cal, 6th M, 6th S. Juniors: Kristen Gray 1st NS, 1st Cal, 1st M, 1st S. Seniors: Clint Burrus 1st NS, 2nd Cal, 1st M, 3rd S. Tommie McNabb 11th NS, 1st Cal, 4th M, 4th S.

Kriaten had the second highest Number Sense Score, the highest Calculator score, and the highest Math score at the Lake View contest. Tommie McNabb had the second highest Calculator score at the meet. Clint Burrus had the third highest Calculator score.

Allen enters Funeral Service

Gene Allen, formerly of Plains, a 1978 graduate of PHS, and a 1998 graduate of South Plains College, has been accepted into mortuary school at Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. He will start with the May 1999 class to endure a rigorous 12 month program to become a licensed funeral director and embalmer.

Gene is currently serving out his second term on the City Council in Levelland, and works for George C. Price Funeral Directors.

Gospel Meeting

Victory

with Milton Langston from Jal, N.M.

March 7-10

Daily Topics

Sunday 9:00 Don't Miss the Victory
 Sunday 10:00 The Change Towards Victory
 Sunday 11:30 Fellowship Meal
 Sunday 7:00 Our Connection to Victory
 Monday 7:00 Our Commitment to Victory
 Tuesday 7:00 Our Entrance into Victory
 Wednesday 7:00 What Victory Looks Like

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Lifelines & Styles

Tsa Mo Ga Honors PHS Senior Class

The Tsa Mo Ga Club honored the Senior Class of 1999 on February 22, 1999. Judy Head, President welcomed the guests and club members.

Mr. Terry L. Isaacs, Associate Professor of History, South Plains College, was guest speaker. His theme was Our Youth-Investing in the Future, Accepting the Challenge. He said there are four very important things they should know and remember; Moral Compass-gives direction for honesty and integrity; Patience-sense of time and everything in it's season; Compassion-the concern and care for others; and Work-stands for action, effort, willingness.

Mr. Isaacs mentioned several former students of Plains High with these qualities, including Brad Palmer, Dr. Steve Smith, Dr. Kevin Smith, Julie Culwell, Irma Lazos and Lebert Powell, among many other PHS graduates.

Mr. Isaacs concluded with one last piece of advice for the Seniors; "Act justly, walk humbly and love tenderly."

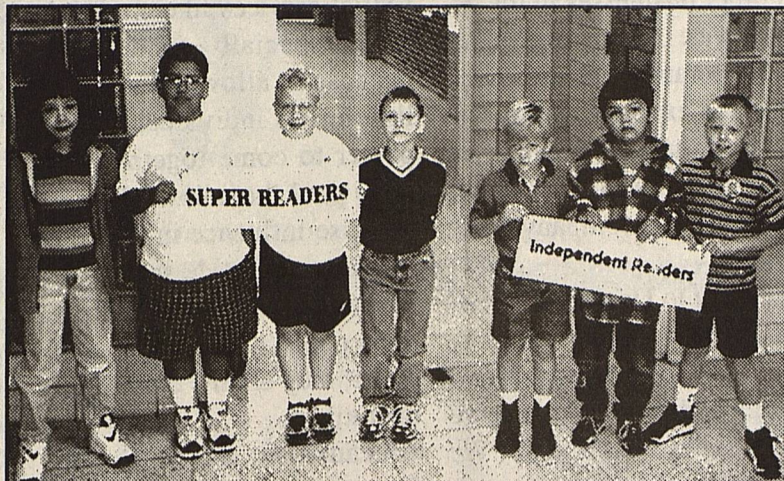
Following his address, the students introduced themselves and told the audience about their plans for the future. Stu-

dents attending were Mike Bell, Tanner Blount, Maranda Box, Dustin Brunson, Steven Bunch, Jolyne Burgess, Clint Burrus, Cosme Casillas, Norma Delgado, Vincent Delgado, Renee Garcia, Mike Guerra, Sonia Hernandez, Lachesha Johnson, Tandi Jones, Juan Tony Lazos, Jennifer Lollar, Melissa Martinez, Lisa Parrish, Kayla Redman, Juanita Rodriguez, Krystal Sellers, Isaac and Ofelia Trevino, Stephanie Vasquez and Corina Villarreal.

Guests were Mrs. Kathy Haynes, Mrs. Kay Canon and Mr. Tom Pettigrew. Tsa Mo Ga members were Carolyn Culwell, Dolores Davis, Mattie Field, Bobbie Gayle, Judy Head, Crip Henard, Ann McGinty, Connie McWhirter, Rennetta O'Quinn, Wilma Powell, Debbie Rushing, Betty Rushing, Sarah Jane Shelton, Elouise St. Romain, Mary Jo St. Romain, Valeria Winn and Zareta Winn.

The dinner was served and hosted by the Social Committee, Zareta Winn, Carolyn Culwell, Ann McGinty, Martha Palmer, Elouise St. Romain, Valeria Winn and Mary Jo St. Romain.

Accelerated Readers continue to move up



L-R, Supers-Alice Curtis, C.J. Tarango, Colby Wilmeth, Jacob Brink, Independents, Morgan Willis, Arthur Ruiz, Cody Friesen.



L-R, Stars: Caitlin Carter, Araceli Mendoza, Scott Addison. Advanced: Steven Dominquez, Callie Howell

Senior Citizens Corner

The dreaded winds of March are here. I hope no worse than last Monday.

The big lunch news this week was "Turkey Day". Most every seat in the dining room was taken. Visitor's for the day were Nelda and Stanley Helners and Peggy Parter all of Monahans, Mutt Rogers of Seagraves, and Howard and Mary Welborn of Louisiana.

The '42' Tournament was well attended. Ladies winning were Marcene Beattie and Inez Turner. Winners in pool and '42' Tournament are now being recipients of a Free Lunch ticket. Maybe it will make everyone play harder. Everyone is invited to take part in the games.

Gladys Thomason is back after a week out with the bug.

Oneta McAdams has had a stay in the local Hospital but is home.

Remember the Free Choles-

terol Check at 10:00 am. on March 4.

The garage sale goes on also lots of exercise and good food. See you next week, Smitty

Extension Cords, Power Strips May Be Dangerous, U.S. Says

Washington-Millions of foreign made extension cords, power strips and surge protectors may contain faulty wiring or loose connections that pose serious dangers to consumers, the government says.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a warning to consumers Wednesday about the faulty items, which can cause fires, shocks or electrocutions. According to the agency which has recalled 2 million defective cords, power strips and surge protectors since 1994 many of these products are made in China and sold at discount stores or small retailers. Computers, VCRs, and other home appliances have fueled

use of cords, power strips and surge protectors, Commission Chairman Ann Brown said. "Many meet current safety standards, but the poorly constructed models recalled in recent years are a hidden fire and electrocution hazard," Brown said.

In the last five years, the commission has announced 25 recalls of such devices, most of which were sold at discount stores or small retailers for between \$1 to \$7. Many have no identifying marks or model numbers. In some cases, they have counterfeit Underwriters Laboratories labels-the certification mark that a product has passed industry safety standards.

'We Thank You'

The good people of Plains have a unique and wonderful community who comes together in times of sorrow and need as evidenced recently when Buddy Brantley passed on.

So many gave freely and cheerfully, and without reservations, of themselves--they truly went the second mile. They called by phone, traveled to the hospital in Lubbock, while Buddy was still in ICU, cooked and served food for the family at home, and on the day of the funeral, prepared and brought food to the church.

The outpouring of love and the generosity of the people is a true testimony of a community who practices Acts 20:35, "It is more Blessed to Give than Receive." Sonny and JoAnn Brantley Midlothian, Texas

You have to accept whatever comes, and the important thing is, meet it with the best you have to give. Eleanor Roosevelt

Wedding Shower

for
Daphne Lowe
bride-elect of Mike McKaskle

Saturday, March 31, 1999

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

In the home of Mrs.
Carolyn Culwell

1002 1st Street

Selections: Nelson's in
Brownfield & Dillard's and
Target in Lubbock

LCU Honors Listed

Pamela Tungate of Denver City and Marcey House of Plains have been named to the Dean's List at Lubbock Christian University for the fall semester of 1998.

In order to be considered a part of the Dean's List, a student must be taking a minimum of 12 semester hours and achieve a 3.5 grade point average or better for the entire semester.

Plains Acrospirits Attend Clinic

Members of the Plains advanced session of the clinic Acrospirits, a group of young tumbling and trampoline athletes training and competing with the South Plains Acrospirits group in Levelland, took part in all levels two day training clinic there. The clinic was led by Judy Wills Cline of Las Vegas, Nevada. Cline was recently named National Team Coach for the U.S. in power Plains Acrospirits attending

included Michelle Norman, Dakota Earnest, Courtney Miller, Landon Earnest, and Taylor Earnest. Local PHS student Chris Estrada attended elite level of the clinic. Instructor Cline considers Estrada to be one of the four top trampolinists in the nation. He could be a member of the year 2000 U.S. Olympic Team if he performs well in the World Championships later this year.

School Board election slated

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees has called a school board election for Saturday, May 1, 1999 for the expiring terms of Danny Ball (District # 3) and Wayne Sisson (District # 4). Persons wanting to file for a place on the ballot may do so at the school superintendent's office beginning February 15th and ending on March 12th. Early voting by personal appearance starts on Wednesday, April 14th, and ends on Tuesday, April 27th.

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From The Hack

Much to my amazement, I found myself enjoying last Saturday's day of Plains High baseball, even if it was equal in length to the book, 'War and Peace'. I am normally not much of a baseball fan. Well, I did get a bit into it last season when McGuire and Sosa were knocking those balls out of the park.

My usual reaction to baseball on the tube is a yawn or two, followed by snoring.

The Bride encourages me to watch the game on TV. She says it's much cheaper than taking sedatives or strong drink to bring on sleep.

They didn't play baseball where I semi-enjoyed high school. I recall a bunch of us getting together one Spring Saturday for some sort of make-up vacant lot game. We drew straws to see who had to catch. Notice I said 'had to' catch. No one ever wants to catch. I lost, in what I am still convinced was a crooked drawing.

Only an idiot could enjoy playing catcher. (No offense, Mr. Morphis, I'm sure my theory doesn't extend to you!) You squat down in that stupid looking position, sticking your hand up for a ball hurtling at you about 150 mph, some burly brute swinging a big bat around over your head.

In real, professional baseball, even in high school and college ball, the catcher is semi-protected with all sorts of garb over his face, shins, chest, and other unmentionable areas. In vacant lot baseball the catcher is protected only by that glove stick-

up in front of him, and his agility in leaping out of the way of really hot, errant throws.

I didn't make much of a catcher

that day. My imagination just went wild. All I could think of was that hard, fast baseball coming straight at my adam's apple. I vaguely recall holding that glove before me with both hands, hopefully making it bigger, my eyes shut in terror.

Mercifully, the first couple of throws sailed well over my head. Then, the other idiot, the one pitching, managed to get one over the plate.

Suddenly there was excruciating pain in both my hands. I held them so high in self defense the clod at the plate almost amputated both when he swung the bat.

My last catching experience. You can have it, Morph.

District Sponsors Scholarship...

The Sandy Land UWCD is again sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Denver City and Plains High Schools.

All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. Contest winners from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1st Place and a \$500 scholarship for 2nd Place to the college(s) of their choice.

The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area and contain proposals for future conservation of that water.

The essays, due no later than April 5, 1999, should have a minimum of 1,000 words, and be typed and double spaced with parenthetical footnotes. References must accompany the paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land UWCD office in Plains. In submitting the papers, students must supply cover sheets containing their names, essay title, local high school and date.

For further information, please contact the district office at 456-2155.

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Letter to the Editor

One of the exciting things about working with cooperatives is the ability to help people accomplish things for themselves. The banner of empowerment and self determination is one that electric cooperatives will proudly carry into the new century.

We've known for a long time that other businesses in the energy service industry don't share our cooperative business principles. An example of this was recently found in an employee newsletter from Cinergy, an energy monopoly company based in Ohio.

According to Don Ingle, president of that company's Energy Services Business Unit, Cinergy has no reason to serve unprofitable customers. "We shouldn't try to keep all customers, because not all customers are profitable to us." Ingle said, "After deregulation is a reality and we no longer have an obligation to serve, we can't afford to hang on to loss customers and even marginally profitable ones. As any company in a competitive environment, we'll focus our resources on those customers who will give us the targeted rate of return expected by our shareholders."

That's their bottom line. If you can't make Cinergy and its stockholders "the targeted rate of return," you can count on them casting you aside like yesterday's newspaper. Ingle's words are similar to those heard from big power monopolies 60 years ago regarding the electrification of rural America.

Some things never change. Restructuring is bringing about that same attitude but this time it applies to millions of Americans and thousands of small business owners who are "marginally profitable" to the investor owned power monopolies. The notion that huge numbers

of people may be left behind hasn't been examined much in the debate over restructuring. Can consumers with the least amount of market influence expect anything more than being left with the highest rates?

In the coming year, we need to step forward and remind everyone that there is a different kind of business model that works, and works well. For essential services like energy, it is an especially good model because it allows those with little or no individual market power to come together in a large pool that allows them to exercise influence in the marketplace alongside huge individual consumers of energy. Such pools already exist in 46 states; they are the electric cooperatives.

Because we at Lea County Cooperative are so close to the issues, it is sometimes hard for us to recognize the tremendous potential electric cooperatives have in a changing marketplace. History does have a way of repeating itself. We must remember the lessons of history and never forget the lessons we have learned. As our competition continues to reveal its true colors in comments like the ones made by Cinergy's Don Ingle, that job gets a little easier every day.

Sincerely,
Michael A. Dreyspring

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Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Committee Work

This week has been a busy one for committee work. The committee I chair, Land and Resource Management, heard testimony Monday from 8 am. until 4:30 pm., breaking only for the House session. In the end, we kicked out two good bills; one allowing some newly annexed folks in Waco to vote in the upcoming city elections, and one to help some landowners whose land has been declared conservation habitat. So far, we have had over fifty bills referred to our committee. We will definitely be picking up the pace in the weeks ahead.

I worry that I will have to ask people to shorten their testimony before the committee soon. Otherwise, all of the bills will not have their chance to be heard. Each bill represents a lot of work on the part of the author as well as a lot of effort from their folks back home. I try to give each members' constituents the chance to be heard, and in return, other members listen to the concerns I have in my district, and how they can help my constituents. A little regard for other people goes a long way.

On Tuesday, two of my own bills

were heard in committee. The Transportation Committee heard HB 385, relating to the speed school buses can travel on their way to extracurricular events. The Committee on Civil Jurisprudence heard HB 881, relating to jury service. Both bills were left pending, which is standard practice in many House committees, but I hope to see them voted out by next week. If voted out, their next stop is the Calendars Committee, which schedules bills for floor debate.

Wednesday was the day for our first hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee, of which I am a member. We heard my HB340, which relates to groundwater district exemptions. This bill was also left pending at my request, giving us a week to sort out the various testimony.

This week, I had visitors from Brownfield, Lamesa, Plains and Stanton. As always, it's good to see a face from home. I also had some very special visitors from Houston: my parents came to Austin to celebrate their 60th anniversary. It's quite a milestone, and I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to celebrate with them.

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