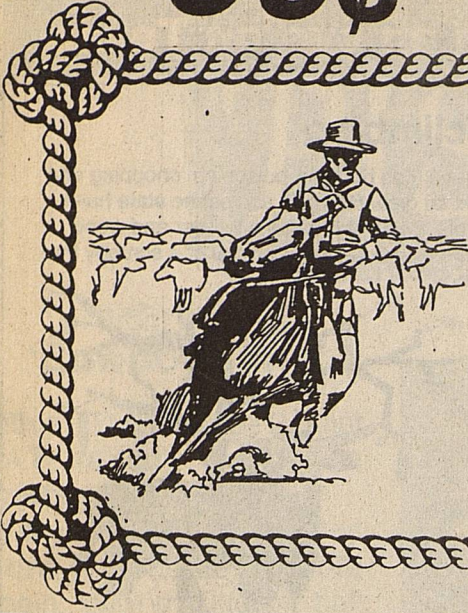


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# Cowboy Country News



Published each Wednesday at the County  
Seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas.

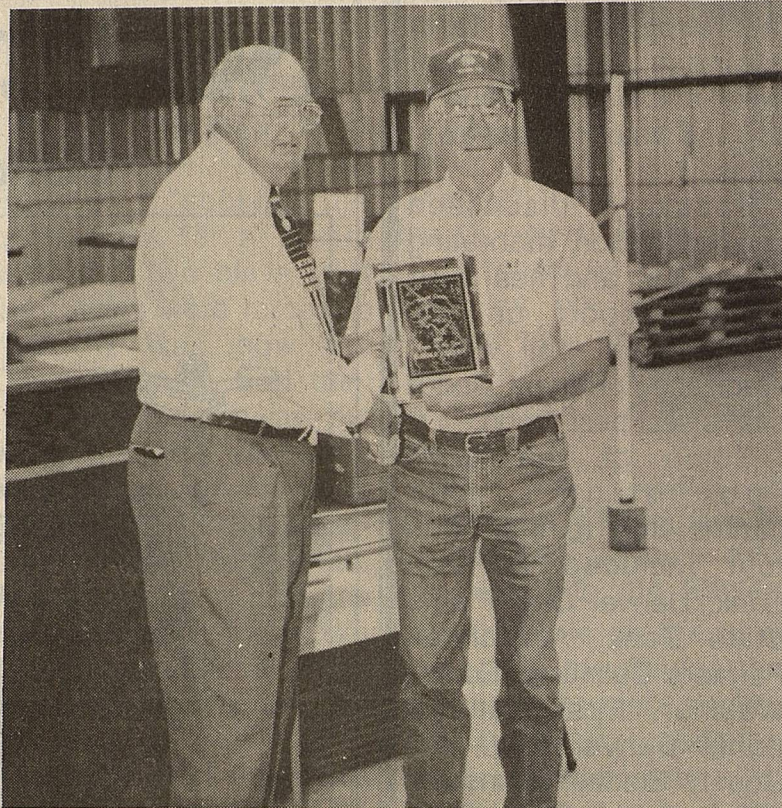
Volume III, Issue 3, Wednesday, September 18, 1996.

## Harold Parrish Named 'Farmer of the Year' Annual Farm Tour Demonstrates Diversity Of County Agriculture

The annual Yoakum County Farm Tour, and announcement of the winner of Farmer of the Year honors, drew some 84 interested spectators Wednesday, September 11. The event is jointly sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Texas Agricultural Extension Service, and the Ag Committee of Yoakum County.

Two large PISD buses transported the 'tourists' to four different agricultural attractions. The first stop was at Larry Morrow's Cotton field on the Lee Roy McCravey farm. Morrow explained the many advantages of using the LEPA (Low Energy Precision Application) pivot watering system. He said the system enables him to customize his irrigation program. Early in the season, the low sprinkler heads are adjusted to the chemigation mode, resulting in a fine, mist like spray, which doesn't melt the clods, cutting down on wind erosion in the spring. The very low heads greatly reduce water evaporation, and the versatile system allows him to fine tune the volume of water he puts on his cropland.

The buses traveled next to Dan Field's cattle feed lot operation, just in New Mexico on the state line. Named the Branch Ranch Mills, with "From Start To Steak" as it's logo, the large cattle feeding installation is still in the growing stage. Manager Paul Herrera said the operation started with one holding pen, and now has 47. Field is currently feeding out



Judge Brewer presents Parrish with plaque

some 3,600 head of cattle. He said the original plan was to finish out cattle from the several Field ranches, using feed commodities from his extensive farming operations in Yoakum County, but they are now custom feeding cattle for several other customers.

While small in size compared to some of the huge feed lots in the northern part of the state, there are currently about 3,600 head being fed at Branch Ranch Mills.

An interesting innovation Field is employing at the lot is the use of whey, a residue produced in cheese production, in his daily feed ration. The whey is regularly collected from the Lovington Cheese Factory and trucked to Branch Ranch, and mixed with corn, milo or some other type ensilage. Herrera also said they had experimented with feeding other 'exotic' commodities,

including pinto beans, known for their high protein content.

Next stop on the tour was at the impressive

Turn to Pg. 2,  
'Farm Tour'

## County Criminal Court Cases

Two sessions of County Criminal Court were held last week, on September 4 and September 11. County Judge Dallas Brewer presided, and Criminal District Attorney represented the State.

Leonardo Villegas, 24, pled true to motion revoke probation from an earlier Resisting Arrest case. He was sentenced to jail for 90 days, with credit for 88 days already served.

Gabriel Trujillo, 30, pled guilty to an first offense DWI charge. He received a 90 day jail sentence, suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$650, must pay Court costs of \$129.50, and serve 3 days in jail, with two days credited.

Mary Rodriguez, 26, pled guilty to an assault charge. She received a 30 day jail sentence, suspended and probated (deferred), was fined \$250, must pay \$192 Court costs, and attend weekly counseling sessions with the Women's Protective Services as a condition of probation. She was represented by Attorney Warren New.

## Cowboys Pluck Eagles 31-0 For First Victory

The Cowboy's season first victory over the O'Donnell Eagle got off to a bizarre start. When the two teams emerged from their dressing rooms just minutes prior to the opening kickoff, smoke was seen pouring from a large electric fuse box, the source of power controlling the stadium lights and score-board. Moments later, all of the west side stadium lights went off, as well as the scoreboard, and half of the overhead lights on the east (Plains) side of the field.

O'Donnell officials gathered around the still smoking disconnect boxes, and one very large wire was burned to a crisp. One official was heard telling another, "Well, we never got around to fix the thing after that electrical storm, and now it's bitten us". The team coaches and officials agreed to play the game "As long as we can see", but fortunately, midway thru the second quarter, temporary repairs brought all the stadium lights on, but the scoreboard remained dark throughout the contest.



Byron Morgan, Tessa St. Romain leading the Band

Fortunately, the Cowboys pass, and following Stephen Bitolas' PAT kick, the Cowboy's led 7-0. One the kickoff, Coley Burgess made a crunching tackle at the Eagle's 22 yard line. Two plays later, he recovered a fumble on the 35, and Garcia quickly hit wide open Jacob Lester

The Cowboy's scoring started early in the first period, following Chris Willett's recovery of an Eagle fumble on their 10 yard line. Adam Garcia found a racing Joe Luna in the end zone with a good

Turn to Pg. 3,  
'Cowboys Win'

## City Hall Eases Tax Rate

Plains City Council voted last Monday afternoon to give local taxpayers a small but welcome break, lowering the tax rate .013 cents less than last year effective tax rate.

City Administrator David Brunson said this year's operating budget was set at \$1,143,355, some \$137,000 less than the last budget, an 11% reduction, due mainly to no extensive capitol outlays such as last year's sewer plant expansion, and updating the water supply system with

new wells and storage tanks.

He explained the effective tax rate is the rate required to bring in the same amount of money as the previous year. The 1996 tax rate was set 2 1/2% below the effective rate, and the 1996 rate is now .515 cents per \$100 valuation.

Brunson said the lower tax rate, and reduced budget, will have no effect on current city services, and will not necessitate any reduction in personnel or salaries.

## Sandy Land Aids Denver City, Plains, With Grant Approvals

A striking example of governmental entities working together for the common good occurred last week when the Board of Directors of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District approved two grant requests for the cities of Denver City and Plains. The Sandy Land Directors, aware of problems facing both city governments involving their water systems, invited the City's administrators, working with their respective City Councils and Mayor's to petition Sandy Land with grant proposals outlining their specific water system needs.

Denver City's governing body submitted a detailed request totaling \$25,000. The requested funds would be used to insure water quality and quantity, and to more efficiently recover

water from the several areas of city owned wells. A series of flow meters would be installed in the flowlines to record water flow amounts, and spot leakages. Equipment would also be purchased to measure draw down and pressure at each well site, and some funds would be used for future development of city owned water rights.

The City of Plains Administrator and Council also submitted a grant proposal in the amount of \$3,500. The funds were needed as part of the completion process of the recent expansion project at the wastewater treatment plant just north of town. The new plant was mandated by Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission (TNRCC). The funding for

the large project included a \$250,000 Community Development Block grant, and previously budgeted City funds.

The additional \$3,500 grant request was needed to purchase lab equipment to monitor effluent gathered at the treatment plant and used for irrigation purposes on 77 acres of farmland at the site. TNRCC required this monitoring to insure no underground water contamination occurred in the process.

Sandy Land, the prime entity involved in Yoakum County's vitally important underground water resources, studied both grant proposal. The Directors, David Turnbough, Darrel Barron, Ray Bearden, Don

Turn to Pg. 2,  
'Sandy Land'

# Grand Jury Indicts Four

The Grand Jury for Yoakum County convened Monday, September 9, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark reports True Bills of Indictment were returned on the following defendants;

Juan Guzman, charged with the third or more DWI offense, a 3rd degree felony, had bond set at \$3000.

Fawah H. Abedrabo, a/k/a Fawaz Husni Abedrabo, charged with criminal attempt of kidnapping, a 4th degree felony, had bond set at \$75,000.

Larry Dewayne McKee, charged with DWI, 3rd degree felony, had bond set at \$3000.

John Lynn Dellings, a/k/a John Lynn Dellings, charged with two manslaughter offenses, both 2nd degree offenses, had \$20,000 bonds set on each charge.

It is not known at this time when these cases will go to court.

From Pg. 1,  
**'Sandy Land'**

Parrish and Dennis Harrison made the decision last Thursday to approve both requests.

The City of Denver City will receive \$11,500, while Plains will get \$3500, for their water plans. Sandy Land Directors tried to award these amounts to both cities, based on their funds available, and in as equal per capita amounts as possible. Both towns received approximately \$2.50 per resident, just pennies difference per person.

Both county towns will benefit from Sandy Land's generosity, and the Board's dedication to vitally needed water conservation efforts.



Macky McWhirter explains his "Great Pumpkin Patch" on farm tour.  
From Pg. 1,  
**'Farm Tour'**

Southwest Spices chili processing plant, just west of the Higginbotham community. The plant is a joint venture between a Kalamazoo, Michigan Corporation, and Kent Hilburn as owners.

Plant Manager Ken Snyder explained the complex operation of the plant, where almost 3 million pounds of chilis were processed last year. The chili pods go thru a drying process, then are flaked, separating seeds from the meat of the pods. Some of the seeds are separated for future planting, and the dried flakes are then shipped to many locations, including El Paso, California, Chicago, Michigan and New Jersey, and depending on the variety of the chili, end up as a food product, or used as a dye for coloring many other products.

Snyder said some 3,000 local areas of chilis had been contracted for this year, but a number of fields had been destroyed in hail storms earlier. Southwest Spices is hoping to process some 9 million pounds of chilis this year.

He said local harvesting should start in two to three weeks, and this year a new mechanical harvester will be employed in many locations.

A new, higher capacity pair of dryers is currently being installed at the plant. Two huge burners and fans will generate some 40 million BTU's of heat when running simultaneously.

Snyder said the plant's main building area is well insulated, but workers must contend with temperatures around 100 degrees. 20 to 25 employees are used during the processing season, working 12 hour shifts.

Last stop on the tour was at a farm north of Higginbotham, where Macky McWhirter is growing a variety of pumpkins under a pivot irrigation system.

McWhirter, one of the principal watermelon producers in the county, said this was his first pumpkin growing project, and said the field contained Jack o' Lantern pumpkins, miniature, ornamental and gourd type pumpkins, and some of them should be ready to harvest in ten days to two weeks.

He told the interested producers pumpkins are relatively easy to get up, need no more water than watermelons but would be producers should have a marketing source before experimenting with them. He said his 'Pumpkin patch' had required three insecticide sprayings this growing season.

Back in Plains at noon, the tour group enjoyed a catered fish and chicken lunch.

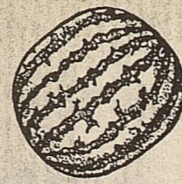
County Judge Dallas Brewer introduced the 1996 Yoakum County Farmer of the Year, a surprised Harold Parrish. In his introductory remarks, the Judge said Harold had farmed in this county more than 35 years. He was one of the original group of founders of the Tokio Co-Op Gin. He has been a director of the cooperative a number of years, and is the current Board President. He is also on the Board of Directors of Lubbock Production Credit Association. Harold has two

sons currently farming in the county, Jerry and Don Parrish, both of Plains.

Brewer said a prime consideration in naming Parrish for the honor was his very sound farm business management skills, and his dedication to soil and water conservation efforts.

Speakers discussed current cotton marketing strategies, and heard an update report on the controversial boll weevil eradication program, and a crop insect pest report.

Some of the firms sponsoring and contributing to the Farm tour included Norwest Bank, Denver City, Plains State Bank, Associated Farmers Delinting, Eddins Walcher, First National Bank, Denver City, Lea County Electric, Sundown State Bank, Brownfield, Tokio CoOp gin, Valley Irrigation and Pump Service, Sandy Land Water Dist., and NewTex Gin.



## Win Tech Football Tickets!

The Plains Athletic Booster's Club is selling \$1 chances to win Tech football tickets. Four tickets to the Texas game, and four to the SW Louisiana game will be raffled off at halftime of the home Wink football game September 20. Please contact a booster club parent and support your home teams. Proceeds will go to the athletic sports banquet and scholarship fund for graduating seniors.

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Mesquite sales climbing

Texas farmers and ranchers have tried burning, poisoning, chopping and bulldozing, but mesquite trees that grow naturally across the state have recently been harvested for profit. Sales of mesquite lumber and wood chips, used for barbecuing, have increased the potential of a scrubby tree previously considered a nuisance.

#### Mesquite

Grows naturally on 55 million acres in Texas.

Chips sold for barbecue. Wood used for flooring, cabinets, furniture, crafts. Beans used in syrups, jellies, bread flour and specialty food.

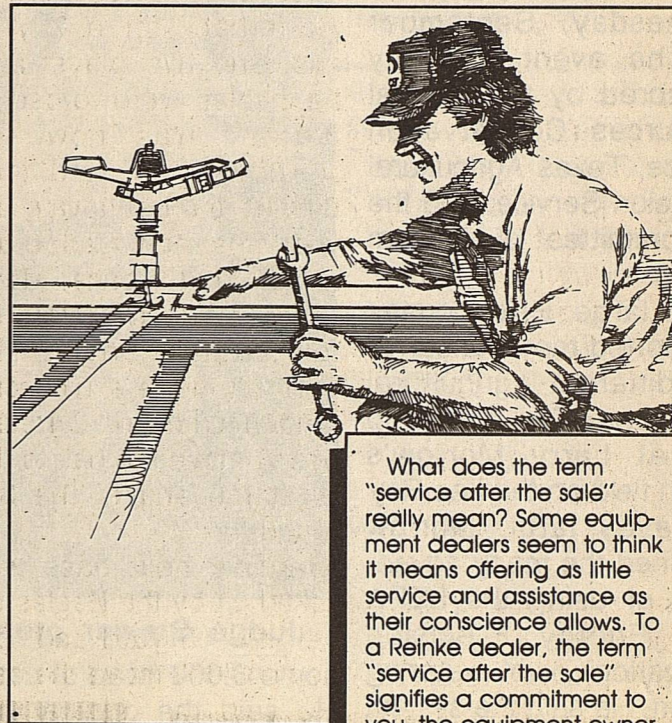
Texas annual sales: about \$20 million.



SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, July Fiscal Notes; and Texas A&M University.



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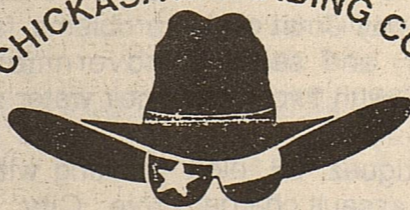
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# 'PISD ACTIVITY PAGE'

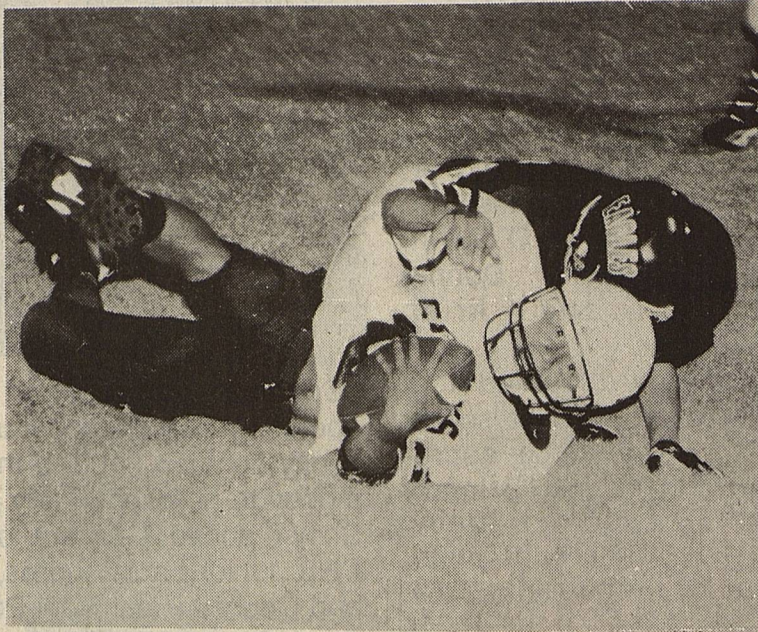
From Pg. 1,  
**'Cowboys Win'**

with a TD pass. The 2 point PAT failed, and the Cowboys led 13-0.

Very quickly, the Eagles were in deep trouble again. With the kickoff ball on their 35, they again coughed it up, recovered by Bunch. A good run by now healthy Stephen Bitolas gained a first down, and once again Garcia completed a 20 yard pass to Joe Luna for their third TD. The PAT kick was blocked, and the score read 19-0 at the end of the first period.

With the ball again following the kick off, Lester and Burgess stopped a long 3rd down run attempt for a big loss, forcing the Eagles punt. Joe Luna had a 20 yard return, Eric Luna's run behind good blocking produced a first down, and two plays later Eric Luna crossed the goal line. The PAT kick was wide, and the Cowboys went in at halftime with a 25-0 lead.

Shortly after the second half opening, a weird series of exchanges occurred, a Joe Luna interception giving Plains the ball at the 40, but the Cowboys promptly fumbled.



Joe Luna's down, but over the goal line.

On the Eagles first possession, Jason Redman sacked the quarterback for a 7 yard loss, and two plays later the Eagles were forced to punt. It was now the Cowboy's turn, and they fumbled the ball away, but when the now desperate Eagles tried a pass, Marte Pierce made an interception on the Eagles 44. Redman made a nice one handed catch of Garcia's toss to move the ball to the 31 at the end of the 3rd period.

Garcia's next pass was picked off by the Eagles on their own 5 yard line, but they couldn't move the ball.

A bad snap over the punter's head gave the Cowboy's the ball again on the 12. where Garcia once more found an open Joe Luna for his pass, and Plain's fifth touchdown. The PAT kick was once more blocked, with Plains 31-0 lead.

With the Eagle's in possession, Tanner Blount intercepted a pass and returned it to the Eagles 24. A fumble on the next play gave the Eagles the ball, with the clock rapidly running down, and the game ended with the Cowboys first win of the year.

## Letter From A Cowgirl Super Fan

Ed. Note: The following letter is from an unidentified Cowgirl fan. The Tournament the writer refers to was held Friday and Saturday at Roswell.

"This weekend the Cowgirls made anyone proud to be from Plains. On Friday, they played 6 games, winning 4, and at 8 pm started a 5 game match against Ruidoso, which lasted 5 hours. The girls were tired, and so were fans, especially in one spot.

In the last game, I heard a fan yell, "Cowgirls Up!", the signal for when the going gets tough, make it work, get tough, smile, help your partner, and that's just what the girls did.

The long trip home, in at 1 a.m., back on the bus at 7 the same a.m., to meet an El Paso Class 5-A team, a school with 3,000 students, several 6 foot girls on the hard playing team. Yes, they won, they won the Tournament.

That evening, the Cowgirls faced a 4-A Hot Springs team with three girls over 6 feet, for another 5 hour, 5 match game, and the Cowgirls took 3rd place honors in the big tournament.

A coach asked me if Plains was a 3-A or 4-A school. I had to smile at her, telling her we are a 2-A school, by just 2 students last year, and they later moved away. I left her standing there, stunned.

**Way to go, Cowgirls, from simply a fan".**

## Cross Country Runners Perform Well At Plainview

The PHS teams journeyed to Plainview Saturday to a large Cross Country meet, and Coach Evert McAdams reported he was well pleased with the individual efforts in the grueling competition.

The JV Boys had a strong showing, finishing second against tough competition. Felipe Reyna won the individual JV honors, with a fine time of 17:56, and other runners, in the order of their finish, included David Luna, 13, Vincent Delgado, 19, Josh Bayer, 31, and Lee Tyson, 33.

In Varsity competition, Jesus Hernandez came in 20th, and Will St. Romain finished 38th in the large field.

The Varsity girls had one of their season's better efforts, and Mc Adams reported all five girls entered scored their best times of the year. Lisa Parrish ran 13:47, Krystle Blundell 14:03, Tanya Hernandez 14:19, Cassie Dearing 14:27, and Anne Palmer 16:21.

The PHS home Cross Country Meet will be held at Yoakum County Park the morning of September 28.



## PISD Volleyball Summary

**Jr. High;** The Jr. High 7th and 8th girls took on teams from Levelland here Sept. 9. The 7th 'A' team was downed by the visitors 9-15 and 13-15, while the 'B' girls also had tough going, falling 7-15 and 13-15. 7th 'A' girls are Chelsi Wagnon, Julie Gonzalez, Elizabeth Clanahan, Rose Marie Loya, Esmeralda Moreno, Analiesia O'Quinn, Dominga Avila, and Arasely Luna.

'B' girls include Becky Coronel, Wendy Fierro, Annie Unger, Ragan McGinty, Josie Ramos, Carmen Mendoza, Erica Bell, Becky Wilmeth, and Liz Ramirez.

The 8th 'A' team fell 2-15, then came back with a 15-13 win, but were downed in the tie breaker 7-5. The 'B' girls also had split matches, losing the first 14-16, then winning 17-15, then were downed 6-15. 8th team members are; Emily Blair, Lena Campos, Martha Casillas, Frances Cordova, Lensey Cullins, Roxane Fuentes, Amanda Garcia, Dawn Garland, mgr., Kari Guetesloh, Kimbe Jones, Ashley Mason, Donita Richardson, Lesli Rowe, Elva Ruiz, Lisa San Filipino, Michaela Traweek, Tanya Vasquez, Lexi Warren, Kim Willis, & Esmer Santa Cruz.

**PHS;** The Varsity Cowgirls competed in the Denver City Tournament September 14, and took home third place honors. They got off to a fast start by downing Levelland in straight sets, 15-5 and 19-17. They found tougher going against a strong Lamesa team, going down 4-15 and 12-15. The Cowgirls bounced against their next foe, downing Denver City 15-8, 14-16, and won the tie breaker 16-14.

In the large Roswell Tournament Sept. 13 & 14, (See letter to left), The Cowgirls had a very strong showing, against some strong teams. They defeated Moriarty, Ruidoso, El Paso Coronado and split games with Hot Springs, losing the first meeting, winning the second meeting. They lost only to powerful El Paso Montwood and Hot Springs, and captured third place in the meet. Coach Horne reported Kyley Bearden made All-Tournament there, and said, "We are starting to pull together as a team, and we always come out a winner, because the girls never quit. I'm real proud of them".

## Wrangler Football

**7th Wranglers;** The 7th graders opened their season at home with a convincing 30-0 win over the visiting O'Donnell Eagles. The halftime score read Plains 22, Eagles 0, following a 20 yard scoring dash by Moises Gonzales, and a 55 yard punt return. Moises scored again on a 45 yard run, and Joseph Rodriguez and Jared Rell both made two point conversion plays. In the second half, Rell scored again on a 20 yard dash, and Gonzales pushed the two point PAT across for the final score. Coach McAdams said the youngsters played very well for their first outing, and said the offensive linemen did a good job blocking up front.

**8th Wranglers;** The 8th graders followed the example of 7th Wranglers, and also downed O'Donnell 36-20. Coach Michael Davis said he was proud of the team effort in their season debut. Brett Squyres nabbed 3 TD passes from Aaron Cain, and also caught a ball for a two point conversion play. Joel Gallegos scored on two runs. He said Adam Garcia, Joel Gallegos, Armando Luna and Gerry Rivas also had good offensive efforts, and Joel Gallegos, Israel Moreno and Armando had outstanding defense performances.

## School Calendar

SIX WEEKS TEST WEEK

THURS: 7th & 8th football, at Wink, 5 p.m. JV football, at Wink, 7:30 p.m.

FRI: Varsity football, here, 8 p.m.

SAT: Cross Country, Seminole, there. 7th, 8th volleyball @ Brownfield, tba

Varsity volleyball, Denver City, Snyder, here, 10 a.m.

9th, JV volleyball, Denver City Tourn., TBA

MON: 7th & 8th volleyball, Levelland there, 5 p.m.

TUES: JV/V Volleyball at Lubbock Christian, 5 p.m.

MENU  
WED: Breakfast, pizza, orange juice, milk. Lunch, Cheeseburger, chips, pasta salad, mixed fruit, peanut butter cookies, milk.  
THURS: Breakfast, pancakes, cereal, raisins,

orange juice, milk. Lunch, Chili-cheese crisp potatoes tossed salad, bow-tie salad, crackers, cake, milk.

FRI: Breakfast, cereal, toast, orange/pineapple juice, milk. Lunch, Roast, brown gravy, fluffy rice, green beans, rolls, sliced peaches, graham crackers, milk.

MON: Cereal, toast, grape juice, milk. Lunch, Hot Sub, fries, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, cake, milk.

TUES: Donuts, toast, apple juice, milk. Lunch, Chicken nuggets, corn, carrot & celery sticks, hot rolls, pears, graham cracker, milk.

**Cowboys, Remember The Last Two Years... Beat Wink!!**

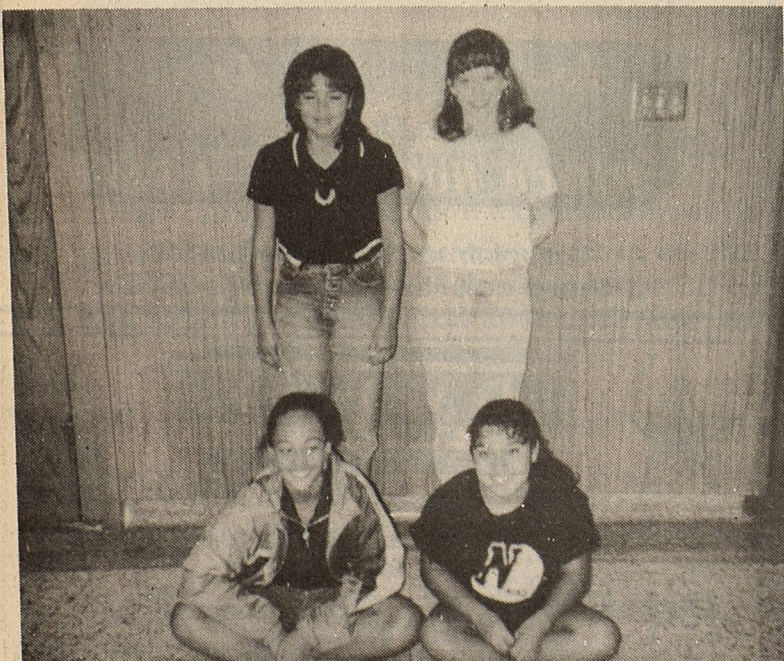


Eric Luna on good gain.



Jason Redman after nice catch.

## Jr. High Pep Squad Working Hard On 'Spirit'



The Pep Squad in Middle School is a busy organization, with 64 girls from grades 5 through 8, participating in both Junior High and Senior High pep rallies, and supporting both campus' athletic teams.

The 7th and 8th girls will attend all at home football games, and a number of out of town contests, while

the 5th and 6th graders will attend in town games, and one out of town game.

Pep Squad leaders this year are shown above. Back row, L-R, 8th girls Tanya Vasquez and Lexi Warren. Front row, L-R, 7th graders Nancy Koncaba and Ashley Gonzales.

**Go, Wranglers!**

## Student of the Week

This week's student of the week is Sophomore Juanita Rodriguez, the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ricardo Rodriguez. She was nominated by Mr. Davis, who said, "Juanita is a hard working, congenial student who is involved in yearbook, band, Student Council and UIL events. She has a positive attitude, and her dedication and spirited personality make her a pleasure to have in class".



## Final Services For Louise Goehry



The community lost another of its longtime residents, and real assets, last Friday, with the passing of Louise Goehry, at the age of 73. She will long be missed, and remembered, for her involvement in many civic, church and youth projects.

She passed away last Friday, September 13 in her home, following a lengthy illness.

Services were held Monday, 2p.m., at the First United Methodist Church, with Rev. Rick Doyle officiating, and interment followed at the Plains Cemetery under direction of Ratliff Funeral Home, Denver City.

She was born Dec. 2, 1922, in Stamford. She married E.H. "Hank" Goehry June 27, 1944, in Kansas. He preceded her in death on September 30, 1985.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star,

Yoakum County Art Assn., Tsa Mo Ga Study Club, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Fine Arts Association. She was formerly very active in the Cub Scouts movement, and 4-H and Garden Clubs.

Survivors include her son, Myron of Denver City, a daughter, Marilyn Reinert, also of Denver City; A brother, Robert Cheek of Evadale; Two sisters, Rita Mae Snodgrass, Tokio, and Marie Snodgrass, Morton; and six grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to the United Way, or to Plains Order of the Eastern Star.

The family received a host of friends at the Funeral Home and Church prior to the services.

## Funeral Services Held For Tollye Burns Munson

Funeral services were held for Tollye Burns Munson, 96, September 13 at First Methodist Church, Lovington, Rev. John Barrett officiating. Burial was at Antioch Cemetery.

She passed away Sept. 11, at the Good Samaritan Home in Lovington. A longtime Lea County resident, she had also lived in Ruidoso and Artesia.

Born March 13, 1900 in Deport, Texas, to L.D. and Sarah Frances Sherman, she was married to Hazel Burns in 1918 at Plains. He passed away in 1947. She married Leonard Munson in 1969, and he died in 1995.

Survivors include two sons, L.D. Burns, Dumas, and Kenneth Burns, Lovington; two step daughters, Thelma Faulkenberry, Roswell, and Lorraine Rogers, Artesia. Five grandchildren, Ginger Byrum, Lionel Burns, Lovington, Diane Robinson of Borger, Ronnie Burns, Glen Rose, Teri Alexander, Yuma Az.; A sister, Tobye Thrush, Lubbock; 11 great grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Antioch Cemetery Assn., c/o Mrs. HH Holderman, 1001 W Fowler, Lovington.

**Our Sincere condolences to both the Goehry & Burns families in their time of loss.**

Holly & Gary Dyer



## PISD Trustees Meeting Held

The PISD Board of Trustees met in regular session Monday, September 9, All members were present, and others attending the meeting included Pete Simmons, Eric Banfield, Steve O'Quinn, Ronnie Watkins, Donnie Weems, and Arlon Alexander.

The Board agreed that option #4 to reduce school district wealth be approved, with the primary partner district being Presidio ISD, with Water Valley or Brownfield ISD being partners if necessary.

It was agreed the teacher appraisal period will begin September 16, and end May 17, with Donnie Weems, Ronnie Watkins, Steve O'Quinn and Arlon Alexander named as appraisers.

A financial report was given by Eric Banfield, and administrative reports were delivered by O'Quinn, Watkins, Weems and Alexander, and Pete Simmons delivered the Superintendent's report.

### Rig Count

According to Baker Hughes Inc., 790 drilling rigs were operating in the United States last week, compared to 766 rigs in the same week a year ago.

Five rigs were listed as miscellaneous, 492 were drilling for natural gas, and 293 for oil.

The company has tracked rig counts since 1940. The count peaked in 1981 when 4,500 rigs were active.



## Alltel Supports Student Council



Continuing its support of school system's in its operating location communities, company officials recently donated \$100 to the PHS Student Council, the money to be used in any project the Council chooses. Shown above, L-R, are local technician Travis Jones, PHS Junior Laura Flores, Senior Sonia Avila, Senior and Council Pres. Roni Ponce, and Ken Barnes, Alltel State Operations Manager.

## Next Year's Brisket Cook-Off Winners To Get Trophy

Next year's Brisket and Hilburn, Billy Boiles, Perry Chili Cook-Off, to be held Hunt, Kevin Gibson, and during the almost sure to Tom Whipple. repeat Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up will matter, Finance Chairman have a new wrinkle, L.J. Sanders reported the according to Gary Walker, Round-Up was not only a one of this years cook-off very well attended and popular event, it was also a

He reported this year's financial success. After all winning brisket team, the bills were paid, the Denver City Culinary 'Connection' turned a tidy Association, had returned profit of \$6,515, a surprising winner's check in the ing feat for the very first amount of \$157.50 to event. The funds will Yoakum County remain on deposit until Connection, the originator 'Connection' directors demand sponsor of the Round-up side on a worthy Up. The money will be community project.

used by the 'Connection' to purchase a permanent 'Traveling Trophy'. the D.C. Culinary Assn. will be allowed to keep and display the trophy until next year's event. They can display it at the next cook-off site if they choose to enter again, and after judges choose the winning brisket cooking team, the trophy will belong to them for the next year. Members of the D.C. team included Ross

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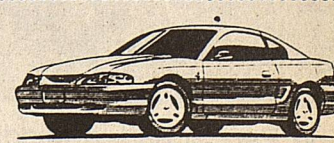


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# Femme Friends



## Fires/Rains exchange wedding vows

The sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church of Kermit was the setting for the ceremony uniting Miss Amy Patrice Fires and Mr. Scotty Carl Rains in marriage on June 1, 1996. The Reverend David Weyant of Monahans officiated in the double-ring ceremony. Amy is the daughter of Alan J. Fires and Patti Franks of Kermit. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fires and Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Carlisle, all of Wellington, and Mr. and Mrs. John Lacy of Arizona. She is the great-granddaughter of Mrs. Chester Fires of Wellington. Scotty is the son of David and Shirley Bunch of Plains and the late Alton Rains. He is the grandson of Mrs. Violetta Rains of Brownfield and Mrs. Ruby Bilbrey of Plains. He is the great-grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Carey of Plains.

Guest were registered by Miss Andrea Lowe of Lubbock.

Ushers for the event were Mr. Andy Fires of Kermit, brother of the bride, Mr. Doug Franks of Kentucky, step-brother of the bride, Mr. Kenley Powell of Plains, brother-in-law of the groom and Mr. Eddie Bilbrey of Lubbock, uncle of the groom.

The mothers were escorted into the sanctuary to "The Wedding Song" performed on the pipe organ and piano by Mrs. Elizabeth Miracle and Mrs. Ann Graves. The couple's mothers were escorted to the unity table where each lit a single white taper candle before being seated. Corsages worn by Mrs. Franks, Mrs. Bunch and Mrs. Sharon Fires, step-mother of the bride, were fashioned of white Jack Frost roses and trimmed in white iridescent ribbon.

Candlelighters were Miss Shanna Owens of Big Springs, Mr. Josh Traweek of Plains, and Jake Fires of Kermit, the bride's brother.

Bridesmaids were Mrs. Lori (Smith) Cottle of Pampa, Misses Melissa Beard, Shelly Knight and Sky Smith, all of Lubbock. Miss Dodie Franks, step-sister of the bride, served as her Maid of Honor.

Ring bearer was Kenyon Powell of Plains, nephew of the groom. Flower girl was Miss Gabriele Gallier of



Andrews, niece of the bride. Jake Fires also served the couple as their Bible bearer, carrying a Bible covered with white satin, lace and seed pearls and belonging to the bride's grandmother. It was the same Bible carried by the bride's mother at her own wedding.

The bride entered the sanctuary to the traditional "Wedding March," played on the organ by Mrs. Miracle. She was escorted by her father, Mr. Fires. During the ceremony red roses were presented by the bride to her mother, step-mother and new mother-in-law. The bridal gown, designed by Mary's and named "A Fairytale Princess," was made of white bridal satin with fitted bodice adorned with intricate pearling accentuated with strands of dangling pearls and clear sequins. Her veil, designed and handmade by her grandmother, Mrs. Fires, featured a headpiece of tiny, white sweetheart roses.

In keeping with tradition, for something old, the bride's father placed pennies in the bride's shoes minted in the years of her's and the groom's births. Something new was her bridal attire and diamond earrings given to her as a gift from her mother

and step-father on her birthday, only the day before. Something borrowed was a diamond ring belonging to Mrs. Bunch, the groom's mother, having been given to her by the groom's father, the late Alton Rains. Something blue was the lace trim on her bridal garter.

Groomsmen were Mr. Brad McMinn and Mr. Jay Rushing of Lubbock, Mr. Brian Wilson of Stephenville and Mr. Ace Williams of Plains. Best man was Mr. Steven Bunch of Plains, brother of the groom. The men wore black tuxedos with gold cummerbunds and ties. The groom's tuxedo was black with white vest and bow tie.

A reception was held in the Fellowship Hall of the Church following the ceremony. The bride's table was draped with a floor-length white double-crushed satin cloth and covered with a white satin pleated overlay. The cake was a four-tiered white confection in a staircase style and adorned with massive clusters of fresh white roses, white lilies,

miniature carnations and Gerbera daisies.

The groom's table was covered in a floor-length white satin skirt, overlaid with gold lame. Gold appointments were used and the cake was a large dark chocolate confection adorned with chocolate roses.

Members of the house party were Misses Janet Graves, Mandy Lopez, and Maribel Aranda, all of Kermit, and Mrs. Paula McMinn and Mrs. Zanna Traweek, both of Plains.

To leave for her wedding trip, the bride chose to wear a white brocade suit identical to those worn by her attendants, but in mini-length. After their honeymoon trip to Cancun, Mexico, the couple will reside in Lubbock.

## Arts & Crafts Winners

The Turner FCE Club sponsored an arts and crafts contest at the recent Watermelon Round Up.

Winners in the several divisions included:

1st Place; 1st grade & under, Brianna Conway, Plains., Mrs. Coway's K class, Plains. James Hayes, 2-6th, Denver City. Wadonna Davis, adult; Velma Dearing, Senior.

2nd place; Melody Wright, 1st & under, D.C.; Mrs. Ramos 1st grade, Plains; Rashaad Williams, 2-6th, D.C., Manuel Mendoza, Plains; Velma Dearing, Sr., Plains.

3rd place; Amber Friesen, 1st & under, Plains, Raul Renteria, D.C.; Amanda Gomez, 2-6th, Plains, Mabel Gutierrez; Bitsy Martin, Sr., Plains.

Most Creative; Mrs. Fletcher's K class, D.C.; Kaitlyn, 2-6th, D.C.; Wadonna Davis, Adult, Plains; Bitsy Martin, Sr., Plains. Best watermelon theme; Liz McCarthy's K class, 1st & under, D.C., Mrs. Morris', Plains; James Hayes, 2-6th, D.C.; Bitsy Martin, Sr., Plains.

Turner FCE thanks everyone who participated in the contest, and especially the teachers, who involved their young-sters in the contest.

## Cosmetology Course At SPC Set

LEVELLAND-Pre-admissions test for South Plains College's spring with colder weather around scheduled Sept. 30 and will be used for daily walks. Oct. 28. The test will be We encourage you to given 9 a.m.-1pm. each come visit us. There is day in the SPC Student something here for every- Assistance Center on the one, especially compan- third floor of the Library ionship - everyone needs a building. Fee is \$4.00 friend! See you next week- Students successfully Smitty. completing the month program will receive a certificate of proficiency and be eligible to take the state board exam for licensure as a cosmetologist in Texas. The program covers the rules and regulations of the Texas cosmetology commission, theory and skills of shampooing, hair and scalp treatment, hair cutting, chemical hair relaxing, hair styling and shaping, manicuring, cold waving, hair coloring and facials. Program advisor is Carolyn Newkirk, assistant professor of cosmetology. For more information, contact the SPC Counseling Center at 894-9611, ext. 2368

## Senior Citizens Corner

Listen up, everyone! We have a new Site Director at the Center, Thelma June Hicks, a really nice little lady. Come visit us and meet her. A big welcome is waiting.

Summer travelers are gradually returning home; Carl and Lucille Fulbright from New York, Betty and Harley Evans from Northern New Mexico, Ed and Elsie Koslelich from Colorado, and the Greens from a month spent somewhere. We're glad they're home.

We recently recognized Carl Davis as Senior of the Month. Our billboard tells all about the monthly

honoree. We have new quarters for the pool room, and new tables are being used. the old pool room is now the sewing and crafts room.

New people are getting interested in ceramics, and the corner, our long hall around the corner, will be used for daily walks. We encourage you to visit us. There is something here for everyone, especially companionship - everyone needs a friend! See you next week- Smitty.

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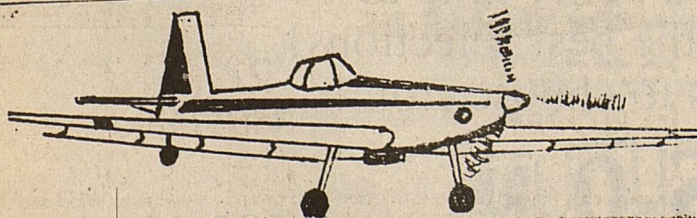


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## From The Hack

A strange, rather eerie event occurred recently at the Table of Wisdom. I dropped by for a short visit, and after a few moments, it dawned on me something very unusual was happening. There were eight of the usual sages, seers and philosophers present, and I hadn't heard a single epithet, obscenity, expletive, blasphemy, or plain old cuss word. Very rare indeed, but simple explanation. Pat McNabb was present. Her feminine presence had automatically cast a censor's blanket over the guys, and they were really suffering. One Table regular, who cannot tell you he got three inches of rain on his north forty without using a minimum 12 naughty words, was stuttering and stammering so badly he spoke gibberish. Another regular caster of pearls before the swine sat there looking puffy, red faced, actually bloated with pent up bad language, about ready to explode.

This went on a few minutes more, till Ms Library McNabb bid her adieu. As soon as the door closed behind she and Hubby, a huge, collective sigh of relief escaped from the bottled up six around the table, actually blowing the A-J paper and a seven month old Field & Stream magazine off the fabled table.

One of the more advanced I.Q. types said, "Whhheew. Ole Pat is a nice ole gal, but #@!^\*!#, when she visits, I get so #\*!-}XX#! nervous I can hardly talk a #@-^\*X#! lick at all!"

We had occasion to spend the night in Lubbock the Friday night of the Abernathy football game, hosted by older sister Dana Strawn.

Eating out in Lubbock is like a dining experience virtually everywhere anymore. Once seated, you are approached by a young person, most likely a college student working hard to get thru college. It is cheerily telling you he, she, is Albert, Susanne, Dilbert, Prudence, Horace or Petunia, so thrilled to be handy to serve you.

Fine, but just bring the bread sticks, salsa, or chop sticks, depending where we are. I really don't care about your ancestry, just hustle up some drinks and grub, after we order soon as we can. We're here to eat and drink, not commune about your birth records.

On the other hand, there's the bride's opinion; "Oh, honey, don't be so caustic. He (or she) is just trying to be nice, trying to earn a tip". I try to explain my thoughts, but invariably, the wait person, Delphinia, Roscoe, Essie Mae, or Willie Moe

skids to a stop by the table, pants, "Are we ready to order now"? Oh yeah, of course we are. I really wanted another drink, but the Bride is putting the eye on me, and I am telling our wait person, Magnolia or Humphrey what she decides we'll eat.

What I'd really appreciate is a young, hungry wait person, skidding to a halt at our table, bearing water in one hand, a menu in the other, breathlessly saying, "quick, gimme your drink order now, we're running behind, and unless you're not in a real, real big rush, don't order the Ostrich Filet, they're having problems in the kitchen with the feathers. You might want'a consider the Scorched Cattfish ala Purgatory".

Just spare me the "Hello, I'm Orthopedic Oscar, and I'm gonna feed ya'll tonight".

## Piranha Caught In Colorado!

An Associated Press article in a recent issue of the LOVINGTON LEADER detailed how a Colorado fisherman in the Grand Junction area, angling for catfish with cut bait, landed a toothy, 14 inch fresh water piranha.

The angler read up on the fish, and consulted specialists with the state's Division of Wildlife, who confirmed the species. The fish have large, sharp teeth, and are a danger to humans or animals in the water. A second piranha was found in an area pond near where the first piranha was caught.

Biologists say it is not unusual for people to dump non-native, unwanted fish in streams or ponds, and the piranha was probably someone's aquarium pet at one time. Some warm-water states outlaw breeding and raising the dangerous piranhas.

The article reported the angler tried to give the fish to a pet store, but it was not wanted, and it now swims in a friends 55 gallon aquarium, feeding on goldfish.

## Texans dismayed at Lincoln's election

Austin, Nov. 24, 1860. News of Abraham Lincoln's election to the presidency has aroused misgivings and fears throughout the State.

Comments from the Texas press around the state included these; Dallas Herald- "The whole of the Northern States have gone for the sectional candidate Lincoln. We have no time nor space this week to comment upon this result, but will refer the reader to the dispatches for the sickening details." LaGrange True Issue- "Since reception of the news of the election, considerable feeling has been evinced by our citizenry. A black flag has been run up in token of mourning, now flapping it's dark folds in the breeze."

Citizens of several Texas towns have staged mass meetings, in which the burning of Lincoln was the feature attraction. THE TEXAS NEWS, FEB., 1861

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## PHS Spirit Builders



This hard working crew is staying busy at the Cowboy games, whipping up crowd enthusiasm, showing the team they are behind them. Pictured left to right, Bell Ringer Doug Rushing, Shawna Box, Shyloh Winn, Kristi Guetersloh, Maranda Box, Sonia Avila, and Bell Ringer Marcey House.

## Booster Club Plans For Athletics Year

The Plains Athletic Booster Club's August 28 meeting set plans in motion to support the 1996 PISD athletic calendar of events.

Some of the fund raising

projects on tap include selling football and volleyball theme magnets, with local sponsors ads.

The club has ordered 100 24"x30" 'Spirit' banners to be sold to the public for \$20 each.

New, classy black and white caps were received in time for the recent O'Donnell game. The attractive caps sell for \$12. T-shirts and sweatshirts have been ordered, the shirts selling for \$17, and sweatshirts for \$18.

Anyone wanting either item should place their order, and size, with any booster club member.

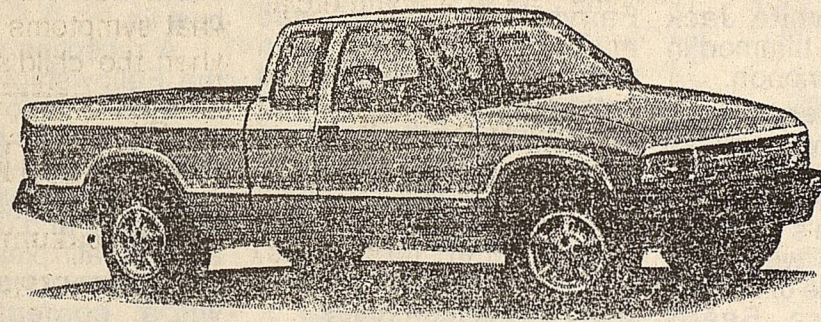
Club President has discussed plans for Bill May to possibly film a video tape for this year's athletic banquet. Member Shannon Squyres has been in touch with the local Pepsi distributor about furnishing the school an electronic scoreboard in the gym. The company has shown interest, at a later date, if only Pepsi products are sold at the concession stand.

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## Commissioner Court Hears Fund Requests

The Monday, September 16 session of County Court heard a number of emergency funding requests. John Avara, Precinct 1, reported on repairs needed on the caretaker's house at Yoakum County Park. A recent hail storm called for a re-roofing of the house, and a leaking evaporative cooler caused extensive damage to ceilings and walls inside the house. A new heat pump unit will replace the cooler, and some \$4,000 over the insurance claim check will be used from the Precinct operating budget for the project.

Chief Juvenile Probation Officer Ted Welch, and Criminal District Attorney addressed the Court with two fund requests. Welch explained an unusually high number of serious juvenile offenses, including the recent conviction of three juveniles involved in the recent attempted murder case convictions, had resulted in an unpredictably high number of detention and placement costs.

The State funds a portion of the Juvenile department budget, but he said the number of cases had exhausted budgeted funds, and requested \$8,044 to pay Lubbock County, the amount owed thru the fiscal year ending August 31. Each year his department negotiates a contract with Lubbock County for the charge of detaining or placing juvenile offenders there, and Welch said the current long term rate is \$75 to \$90 per day, with short term rates \$65 per day. The request was approved, and Welch said his office should receive State funds in the near future to continue operations.

He and Attorney Clark also asked the Court to consider updating the Juvenile department's computer system. They described the three existing computers in the office as impossible to update, primarily because of lack of memory space, and unable to use the State's recently installed Novell System, to be used in all Juvenile Probation offices. No State funds are allowed for equipment purchases in the offices. Upon questioning, Clark told the Court the County's recent

computer updated system in the Courthouse would not be compatible with the State's required programming. The Court approved the request, the money to come from the Contingency account.

Clark also reported on efforts to recruit and train two Spanish speaking volunteers, to conduct Batterer's prevention programs to non English speaking offenders. He reported two Denver City residents were interested in taking training to lead the programs, Robert Diaz and Emma Silvas. Cost of the training will be \$500. He said the Local Extension Service had funds available in it's budgeted Drug and Alcohol Abuse programs, and Extension Agent Kathy Adair agreed to supply the \$500, since both drugs or alcohol are involved in the great majority of family violence cases. The Court agreed to transfer the funds to the Batterer's program.

County Landfill Consultant Gary Walker reported to the Court the new trenching project at the landfill was on schedule, and digging with the leased trackhoe should end this week, with almost 1,000 feet of dumping trenches dug. Each is 20 feet wide and 23 feet deep, and over 17,000 cubic yards of dirt has been removed in the process. Walker told the Court the leasing of the trackhoe, operated by landfill personnel, had saved county tax payers \$4700, compared to a commercial contractor's services.

## District Court Criminal Case

One criminal case was heard in Judge Kelly G. Moore's District Court this Monday, with Criminal District Attorney representing the State.

Elsa Gonzalez, a/k/a Maria Elsa Acosta, pled guilty to a motion to revoke community supervision, ordered in a prior criminal case involving tampering with governmental records.

She was sentenced to jail for 68 days, with that time already served. She must pay \$220 delinquent supervision fees, delinquent attorney fees of \$250, and restitution of \$3137 in \$71 monthly payments. She must also pay \$40 monthly in supervision fees. She was represented by Attorney Bonnie Ericson

## Mental Health Forum Scheduled

The Yoakum County Mental Health Center is hosting their Fall Forum September 23, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the County Park between Plains and Denver City.

The title of this fall's presentation is "How to handle the difficult child", and "How to know when a child needs help." The presentations are geared toward helping parents, teachers and others who work with children know what symptoms to look for when the child's problems



The Plains Lion's Club annual broom and mop sale was forced to move indoors at City Hall last Thursday when a slow, steady rain fell throughout the day.

The weather probably accounted for reduced sales, down somewhat from last year's figure, but the club managed to sell some \$3,000 of household and business products. Club profits from the sale, and thousands of others around the country, will be used in the Lion's program for visually impaired Citizens.

Lion member Debbie Rushing is shown making a sale to Donna Bowers, at end of table, and Jana Sellers, far left.

are serious, and could need more attention.

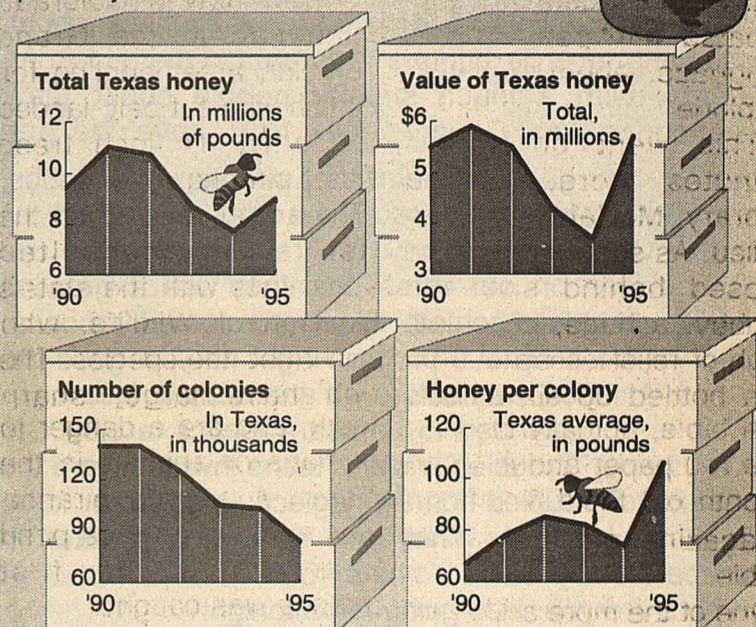
The program also contains strategies for managing children who are more challenging both in the class room and at home. The speaker for the presentations is Tom Winn, LMSW-ACP, from Centers for Children and Families, Odessa. For more information, please call Treon Cobb Ortega at 806-592-8226.

**Cowboys,  
Remember The  
Last Two Years..  
Beat Wink!!**

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Honey brings in money

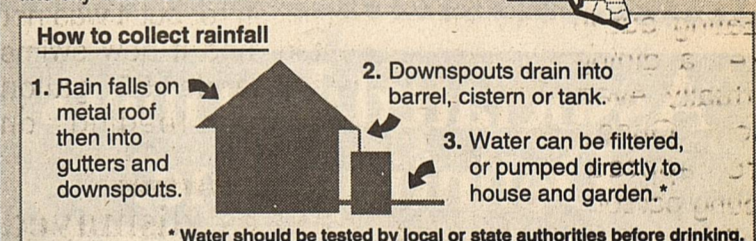
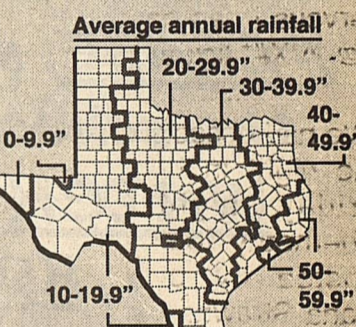
Texas produces about five percent of the honey in the U.S., with beekeepers earning \$5.7 million in 1995 from hives that produced an average of 106 pounds of honey per colony of bees.



## Keeping an eye on Texas

### Collecting rainwater

Mother Nature provides the softest water around—rainwater. Rainwater can be used to make an excellent cup of morning coffee, sprinkle on houseplants and gardens, or fill a swimming pool. In areas of the state that experience less rainfall, rainwater collection systems can be used as a backup to other sources, like city water or wells.



**Rainfall yield:** Formula: Collect 600 gallons of water for every inch of rain on 1,000 square feet of roof surface.

Sq. ft. of roof	Rainfall in inches						The average household uses 60 to 70 gallons of water per person daily
	10"	20"	30"	40"	50"	60"	
1,000	6	12	18	24	30	36	
1,500	9	18	27	36	45	54	
2,000	12	24	36	48	60	72	
2,500	15	30	45	60	75	90	
3,000	18	36	54	72	90	108	

Some cities do not allow residents to disconnect from municipal systems, so rainwater collection can be designed to serve partial household needs. Check with tank manufacturer to determine size of tank, overflow and pressure; and to plan for freezing in different parts of the state.

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Plains, TX 79355  
Office 806-456-8451  
Fax 806-456-2010

Published each Wednesday, Plains, Texas by Holly and Gary Dyer. Subscription Rate \$15.00 per year. Call for Advertising Rates.

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# OUR VIEW

## An Editorial Viewpoint

A very ironic event occurred recently, just one week after we featured the successful prosecution and conviction of three juveniles, and one certified by State Law as an adult, in the capitol murder trial for the attempted robbery of the Allsup's convenience store in Denver City months ago.

We have learned on the day, and hour, of the press conference, called by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark, and attended by law enforcement officers from Yoakum County, Denver City Police Department, Lovington, N.M. Police Department, and Lea County Sheriff's Department, and Yoakum County Juvenile Probation Office, another juvenile crime was taking place in Denver City.

Because of strict State confidentiality laws regarding juvenile crime offenders in Texas, we are not privy to any details of the reported incidents of burglary attempts in Denver City while the press conference was being held.

It appears during school hours that day, a number of juveniles in the Denver City School system decided to 'take the day off', leaving school to take a little crime fling. While not substantiated, it is reported the youths were involved in more than one residential burglary attempt, and were apprehended by Police after they were reportedly observed by neighbors leaving a residence.

Does this possibly make you wonder, "Where's my kid right now?" Maybe it should. Read the article in this CCN issue about Commissioner's Court. The Juvenile Probation Office is out of funds, following an unprecedented rash of juvenile offenders in this county being detained or placed in correction spaces, mandated by the State of Texas, including the young criminals in the Denver City robbery and murder attempt.

Is this just a rare, one time situation? Not hardly. Not one of the veteran law enforcement officials at the press conference had a half-positive outlook about escalating juvenile crime in this area. True, Yoakum County, with a much smaller people count than neighboring Lea County, does NOT have the per capita youth-gang problems of Lovington and Hobbs, N.M. But, talk to any ranking law enforcement officer in the County, and they will readily tell you, the 'Gangs' are on our threshold, they are a growing threat, and unless something unprecedented happens, they will be a serious problem right here in good old Plains, America, way before we are ready to face it.

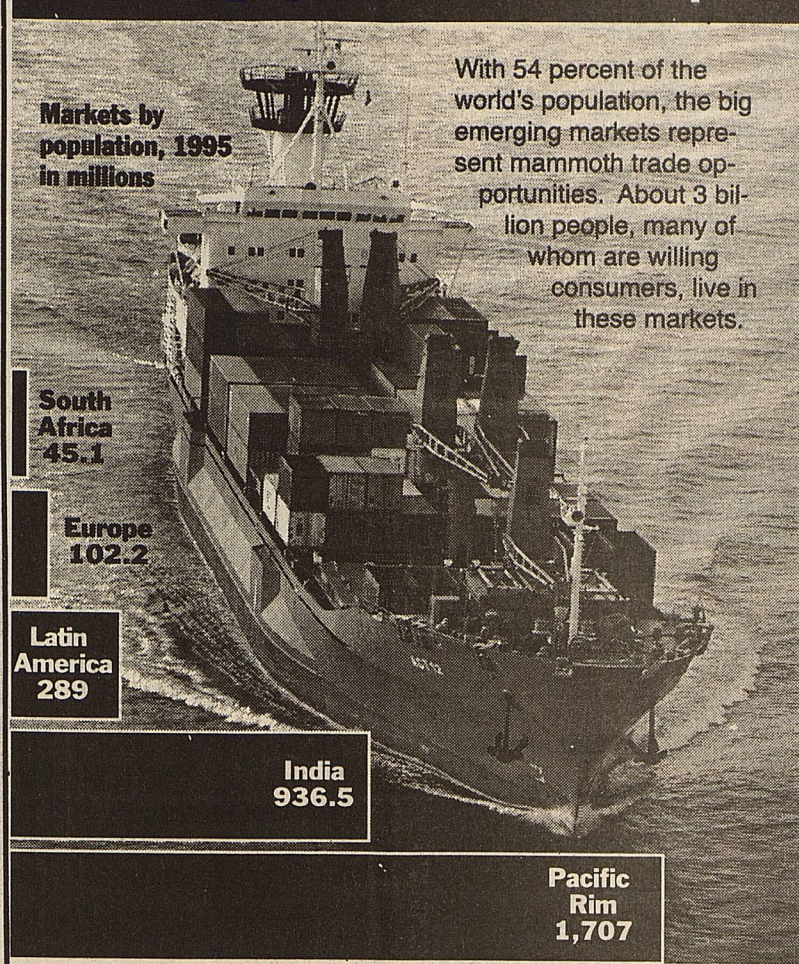
This is not intended to be scare tactics, a silly 'Cry Wolf' theme. Troubled, violent teens invariably are the product of troubled homes, neglectful parents, or drug or alcohol abuse. They are becoming greater in numbers every week. It's here, folks.

Where are your kids going to be tonight?

\*\*\*\*\*  
**School's back in session.**  
**PLEASE, slow down in**  
**the school zone, and**  
**WATCH FOR OUR**  
**KIDS!**  
 \*\*\*\*\*

# State Exports To Hit Almost \$77 Billion

## Big emerging markets for Texas exports



"Texas businesses are discovering huge trade opportunities in developing markets from one end of the globe to the other, State Comptroller John Sharp announced in Austin recently. "These markets key, Mexico, Brazil and Argentina are home to three billion people, more than half the world's population, and are clamoring for products of the state's total trade built by Texans."

Texas exports reached more than \$68 billion in 1995, and the total is expected to reach \$76.7 billion by the end of 1996. Sharp said trade opportunities for Texas companies are especially attractive in developing nations. More than \$38 billion of this year's projected Texas exports will go to consumers in emerging nations.

Noting that trade relations with developing nations can be volatile, Sharp said "Texas companies clearly believe the potential payoff is worth the financial risk."

## Chili Is Hot Item, More Than One Way

"Pueblo Indians and early Spanish colonists prized chili as a natural aid to digestion, food preservation, herb medicine and disinfectant for wounds. Modern day food technologists found that chili was high in vitamins A and C, and commercial in the crop grew. We are now learning of the full medicinal scope of the plant.

"Dr. Andrew Weil, author of the 1995 best seller *Spontaneous Healing* would agree with that assessment. Chilis, Weil notes, contain more vitamin C than citrus fruit. They purify the blood, tone the liver, and clear the respiratory tract. In the West Indies, the pressed juice of chilis is used to treat inflammatory eye disorders, and the water of boiled chili leaves is used as a medication for asthma, coughs, chest colds and tuberculosis.

"Because it causes sweating, chili is included in many folk remedies for alleviating fever. It kills both germs and pain, and a capsaicin based spray is used by some Doctors to combat sore throats. A pulp based version is spread on closed surgical incisions to reduce inflammation and speed up the healing process."

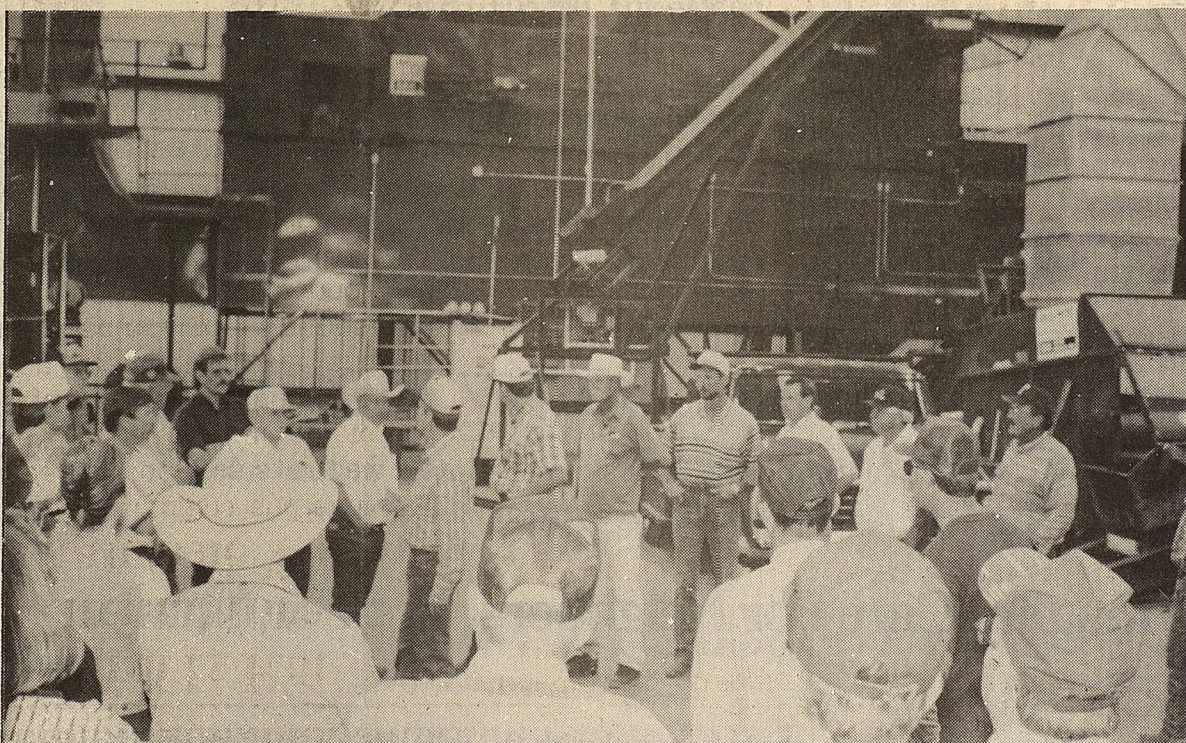
The preceding was from the June 1996 *Chili Pepper magazine*.

At the present time, New Mexico is the largest

commercial producer of chilis in the country, but Texas is pushing closer to the number one spot.

New Mexico's Department of Agriculture reported the state chili harvest in 1995 produced 44.8 million pounds, the lowest amount since 1986. The reduced harvest was blamed on wind damage to new plants, freezing weather in April, and disease and insect problems.

Chili is a warm season crop that requires about the same growing conditions as tomatoes and squash.



Farm Tour at Southwest Spices chili processing plant

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