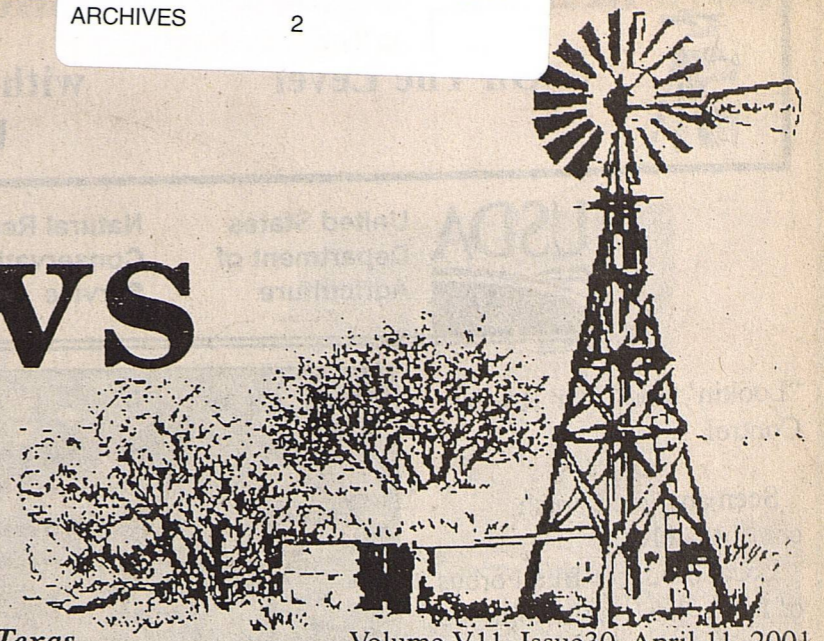


Cowboy Country News



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

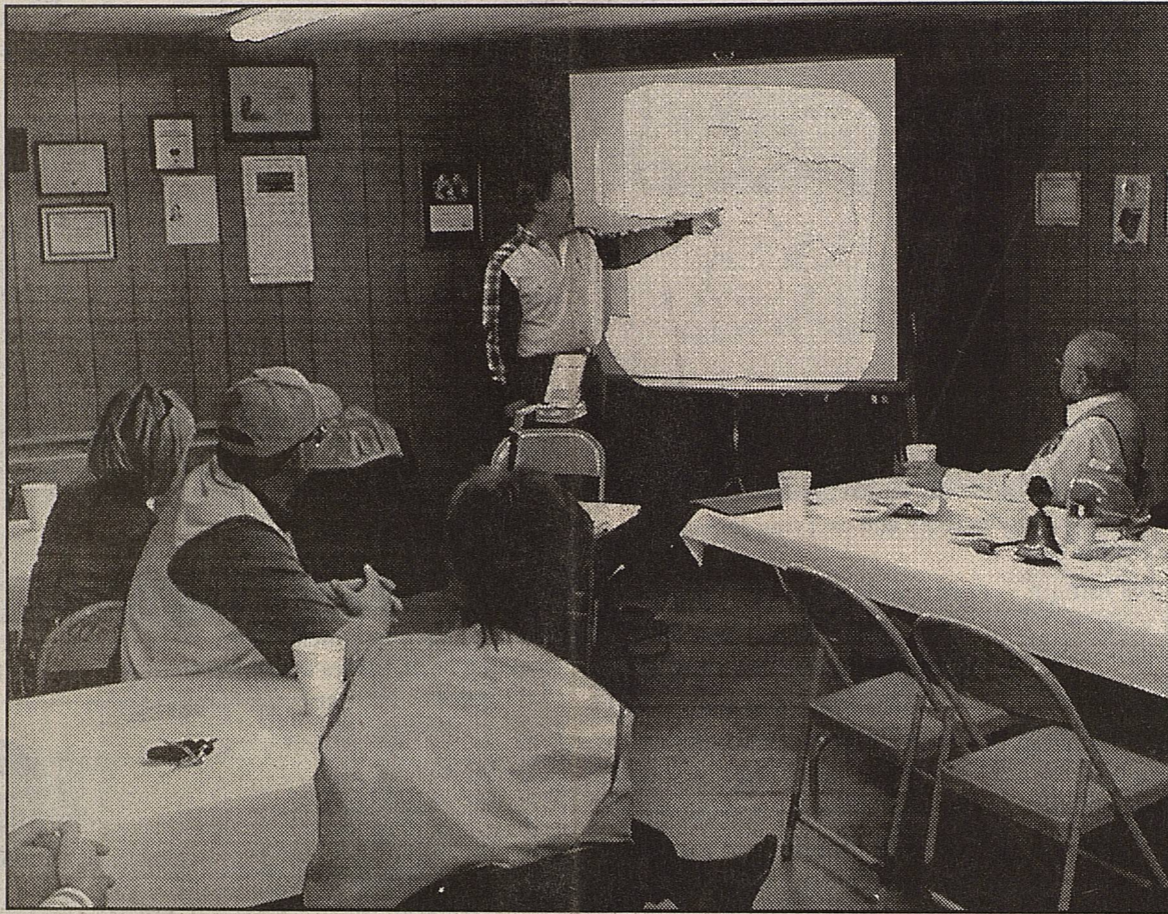
Volume VII, Issue 30, April 11, 2001

Boll Weevil Eradication Program Reviewed By Lions Club

The war being waged in Texas against the boll weevil is being won, but has not yet ended, was the message Plains Lions heard last week from guest speaker Darrel Dusek, Western High Plains Zone Manager with the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation.

Dusek told Lions the weevil eradication program in the five county zone, headquartered here in Plains, started in 1999 with a diapause spraying of the costly cotton pest, followed by a full aerial and ground spraying effort in 2000. Some 819,000 acres of cotton in the zone were closely monitored for weevils found in thousands of traps in the zone. If as many as two boll weevils were found in a 40 acre area, aerial application of the pesticide malathion was ordered.

Dusek said later in the growing season, the trigger level for trapped weevils was raised, in an effort to preserve beneficial insects in the zone, to reduce the possibility of infestations of boll worms and beet army worms. In the 2000 eradication season, cotton fields in the five county zone received an average 6.85 aerial applications of pesticide. "We're waging this war on the boll weevil as economically as possible. The appli-



cator planes cover a 90 foot swath at 130 to 140 miles per hour, and only use 12 ounces of malathion per acre."

Dusek utilized a visual display to illustrate the eradication program. One graphic entitled "How is your dollar being spent?" gave the following breakdown of expenses:

Chemicals.....	.50
Aerial application.....	.27
Wages/Benefits.....	.10
Equipment.....	.05
Interest.....	.04
Travel/fuel.....	.03
Supplies.....	.01

\$1.00

Dusek said during the 2000 eradication period, the boll weevil count averaged 0.703 weevils per trap per week, down dramatically from the 1999 count. At the peak application phase of the 2000 program, 253 full time and seasonal workers were employed in the Western High Plains Zone in Yoakum, Gaines, Andrews and part of Lynn and Terry counties, with 70 employees in the Yoakum County District here.

Lea County Electric to investigate SPS fuel charges

Electric bills issued in April and May could be higher due to sustained increases in fuel charges from Southwestern Public Service, Lea County Electric's wholesale power supplier, according to Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Service's for the Cooperative. "The increase in the fuel component of customer's electric bills has been caused by a significant increase in natural gas prices that began last summer. High gas prices have resulted in dramatic increases in wholesale power costs, as evidenced by SPS' recent overhaul at their Harrington plant, which reduced the supply of coal-fired generation by approximately 350MW. This temporary reduction required SPS to provide replacement power from other generators fueled by natural gas," said Brown.

"Our base rates for electric service have not changed, but fuel costs from our power supplier can and do fluctuate, and these costs are passed on to our customers through a power cost recovery factor (PCRF). We do everything we can to minimize the impact of such changes to our customers by 'leveling' the factor rather than pass through monthly fluctuations from our wholesale supplier, but significant increases have made it necessary to adjust the factor," Brown said. To date, the Cooperative has ac-

crued fuel charges of \$2.2 million it has not collected from its members. According to Brown, the sudden, sharp increases in fuel costs from their wholesale supplier have led the Cooperative to begin an inquiry into SPS fuel charges. "We have communicated our concerns about these rising costs to SPS, and are preparing to launch an investigation into the appropriateness of their fuel cost allocation methods."

The new factor for April and May billings will be \$.01781 per kWh, up from the previous factor of \$.01052 per kWh. The change will result in an increase of \$5.47 for an average monthly use of 750 kWh. "While it seems there is never a good time to collect these fuel costs, we felt it was better to try to recover it during a period of historically low usage to minimize the effect on members' bills," added Brown. Just over 3 miles of this increase will continue for a 12 month period to provide for the previous uncollected fuel charge.

"Our budget payment program can help members avoid fluctuations in electric bills by establishing a fixed monthly payment," according to Brown. Customers interested in obtaining more information on this program are encouraged to call the Cooperative at 505-396-3631 or toll free at 800-510-5232

Deadline near on filing property renditions

Texas businesses have until April 16 to render their property with county appraisal districts, says Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander.

To render is to list taxable property that businesses owned as of January 1, 2001.

Business owners and operators are required by law to render. However, any property owners, including homeowners, farmers and ranchers, may render their property with county appraisal districts.

Rendering allows property owners to record their opinion of their property's value and

ensures them the appraisal district sends them a notice before placing a higher value on their property.

"It's just something businesses need to do in order to protect themselves," said Yoakum County Chief Appraiser Sandra Stephens. "It's just a matter of good business practice."

The Yoakum County Appraisal District will begin sending appraisal notices to business and property owners in Early May, Stephens said. Tax payers will then have an opportunity to question or challenge the no-

tices. The deadline for filing a protest is June 12 and protest hearings will begin June 29. Property values will be officially certified no later than July 25, Stephens said.

According to Rylander, property owners who render are in a better position to exercise their rights as taxpayers. "They ensure the appraisal district has their correct address so they will receive notices of any actions that affect their property or tax bills," she said.

Even if a tax collector cannot

Turn To Page 2,
"TAXES"

County approves new grader and hospital software

In the Monday session of Commissioners Court bids were accepted for the purchase of a new Caterpillar motor grader for Pct. 3. West Texas Caterpillar submitted the accepted bid of \$94,950 after trade in of a 1993 Cat grade for a price of \$173,660.

Another bid was accepted for a three year period of coverage of employees under salary life, longevity life and dependent life for a three year period with Griup Health & Life from the Shamburger Agency of Lubbock, the company which has provided those services a number of years.

The employment of Row Stephens as jailer in the county was approved.

Tax Assesor/Collector Betty Rivas reported tax revenues collected in March were \$ 29,658.

A lengthy discussion concerned the hiring of Doctor Memonby Yoakum County Hospital, currently seeing patients at Plains Family Health Center here on Cowboy Way. The Doctor will be hired as an employe of Yoakum County Hospital. his salary to be paid under the hospital budget. A provision allows the county to pay the Doctor any balance due if hospital funds are not available. He will operate 40 hours per week out of the Plains Family Clinic, along with PAC Jo Lena Wall.

The court also approved a request to fund the purchase computer software for the Yoakum County Hospital which would provide computer access of Radiology/Lab procedures to each of the four doctors in the new physician clinic under construction in Denver City.

Cowgirls, Cowboys lead 1st round in district play



Mackenzie Winn, Liz Wilmeth, Mandi Rogers, Allison Butler

Both Plains High Golf Teams established leads in the first half of district play at Yoakum County Golf Club last Wednesday. The four member Cowgirl team shot a combined score of 447 after the first 18 holes of play, and established a hefty 32 point lead to carry to the second round of play in Big Spring this week. Individual scores

were; Liz Wilmeth 105, Mackenzie Winn 106, Allison Butler 106, Mandi Rogers 130. The Cowboys also lead in the district race, but only by one slim point. Kelsey Blundell shot a very good 74, Aaron Cain 84, Dustin Six 88, Jared Bell 90, and Chase Howell 107. The team had a combined score of 443.



Chase Howell, Jared Bell, Dustin Six, Kelsey Blundell, Aaron Cain



On The Level

**with Donald Haley
USDA/NRCS**

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

"Lookin' Good" On Brush Control

Seen any good brush control lately?

Local producer Bud Forbus of Plains has! Located in the northeast part of Yoakum County in the deep sand hills, Bud sprayed a section pasture of thick sand shinary in the early spring of 1998 with amazing results.

Treated with Tebuthiuron at a ¼ pound per acre rate, the control rate achieved was close to 100 percent.

Another pleasant surprise was the almost total elimination of other invasive species, such as sand sage and yucca, along with the shinary.

Acres were aerially treated in a pattern involving 4 passes sprayed and two passes skipped.

Also, with additional wildlife habitat in mind, sandhills were not treated.

By spraying in this type of pattern, 425 acres of the total of 640 acres were treated.

As you will remember, 1998 was a very dry year, but whatever happened, it happened right for shinary, sage and yucca control!

Even with this dry year, sand bluestem, little bluestem, giant dropseed and hairy grama made a dramatic increase that first year.

As part of the conditions of his Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract, all livestock grazing was deferred for one growing season.

With a little rain the following year and without invasive species competition, the native grass stand made an even more remarkable increase.

Bud leased the section for winter grazing with 32 mother cows from September through December and then pulled off.



BEFORE: Sand shinary, sage and yucca infestation treated February, 1998.



AFTER: Today, the increased productivity and carrying capacity of treated acres can be readily seen.

Presently, the acres remain leased for grazing with 26 mother cows.

The place could run much more, but Bud is a believer in not only protecting, but improving his resource.

To those who know him, they know that Bud is also a believer in leaving things better than he found them. "It's amazing the grass this ole' country can grow with a little help," says Bud.

History books tell of the early settlers to this area viewing waist-high grass as far as the eye could see.

There are stories of early-day riders having to put protective coverings from cloth to old tow sacks to leather to protect the chests of horses from the abrasive action of the tall grasses.

With this successful brush control treatment, Bud has shown that we do not have to sit by and let shinary and other undesirable species take over potentially productive

grazing land.

So, we know the cattle seem to like the changes, but what about the resident wildlife populations.

According to Bud, the deer and the antelope continue to play and do well and the prairie chickens seem to be on the increase.

The cost - just under \$25.00 per treated acre for chemical and application.

Not too bad when you consider the results.

Standing in these waist-high grasses, you can sense what it might have felt like a hundred and fifty years ago to look out across a broad plain of waving grass.

It's a rewarding feeling.

It's a feeling of doing something right that you didn't have to do, but you did.

Or as Bud would modestly say, "it's lookin' good, isn't it?"

Yes, it does.

It looks mighty good.....

**From Page One,
"TAXES"**

deliver a tax bill because of an incorrect address, property owners are still responsible for paying taxes, plus late payment penalties.

Businesses annually report their inventories, furniture and fixtures, machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property. Appraisal districts use

the reports to set business property values. When a business owner doesn't render, a chief appraiser estimates the value of the property.

Rylander said owners whose property value was damaged by a storm, flood or fire last year may file a special decreased value report that could lower their final tax bills. Property owners have until April 16

to file the decreased value report, which indicates the property's condition on January 1, 2001.

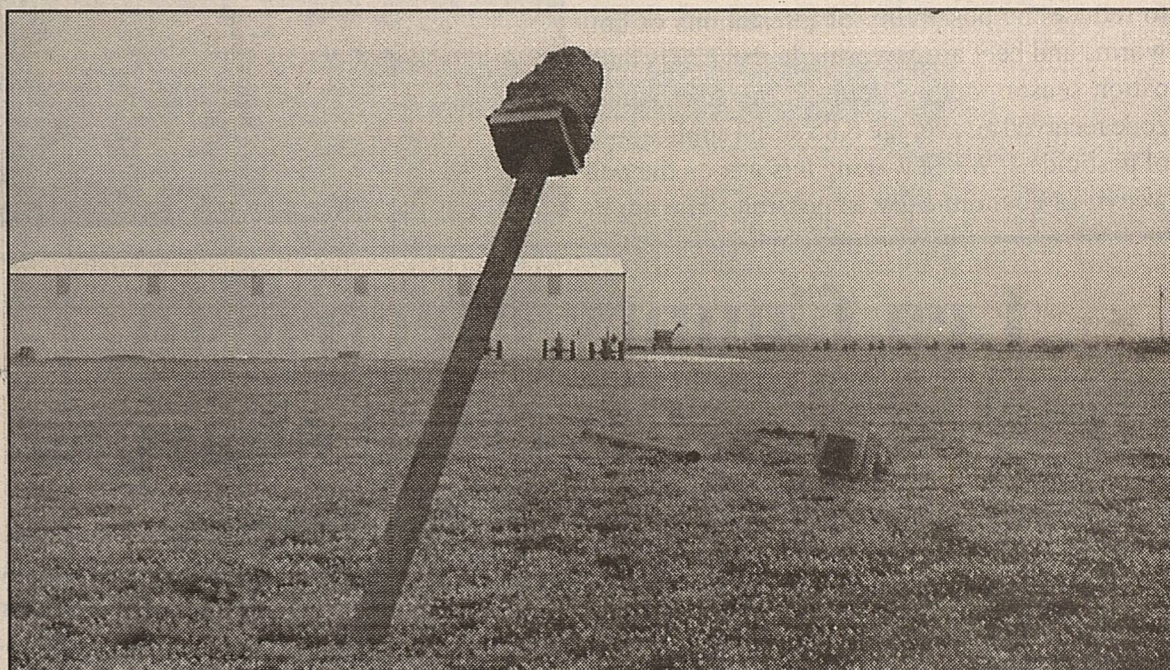
Rendition forms may be obtained at the appraisal office in Plains. Property owners may also e-mail the Comptroller's property tax division at ptd.cpa@cpa.tx.state.us.

High winds bring local damage

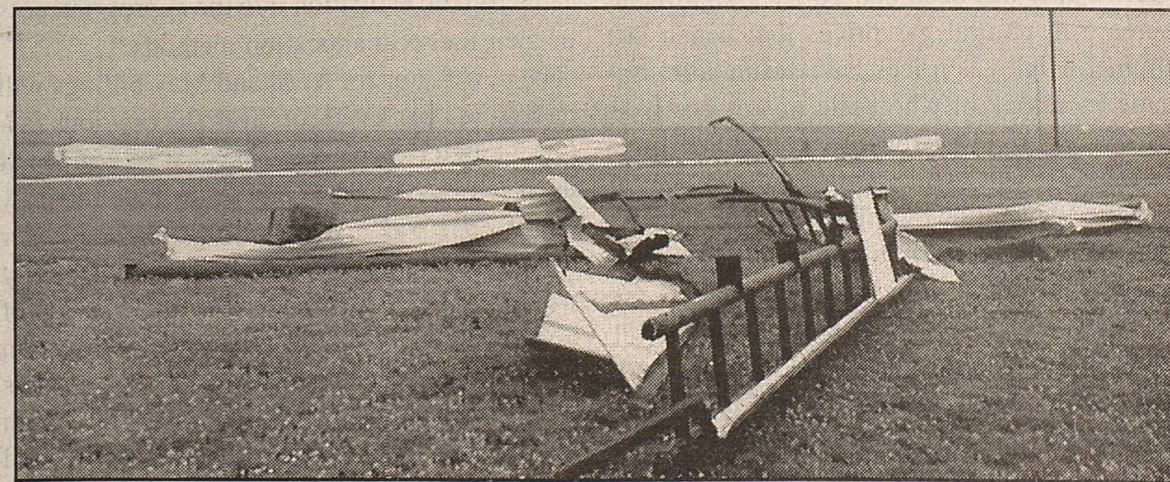
The fast moving weather front which ripped across most of Eastern New Mexico and the South Plains last Friday left a wake of property damage in parts of Yoakum County. Lea County Electric power transmission lines were downed in the New Tex area, forcing a halt of traffic on highways near the stateline. A freakish blast of wind caused extensive damage to a portion of a barn belonging to local Dan Wall about three miles east of the city limits. The photos shown here record only a small portion of the debris scattered north and east of the barn, some of it blown across Highways 82 and 380 into Johnnie Fitzgerald's pasture land.



Tractors and equipment shown were completely covered by a pole barn structure the length of the main enclosed barn, before estimated 60 to 70 miles per hour ripped the structure away.



This support pole, with concrete base still attached, was buried in the ground some 300 yards from the damaged barn. Another pole and base was found hurled across US 82/380, well over twice that distance. The concrete bases were roughly 24 inches in diameter, and were buried in the ground some 30 inches.



More of the pole barn structure scattered across the Dan Wall acreage

Justice Of Peace court summary

March 30, 2001-In Justice of the Peace Court Precinct 1, with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding there were 90 traffic cases, 3 possession of drug paraphernalia. Bonds set: Failure to identify-\$400

bond. Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing. DPS warrant-failure to drive in single lane-\$200 bond. Theft by check-\$500 bond. 4 cases-possession of marijuana-\$500 bond. 2 cases-possession of

drug paraphernalia-\$500 bond. Assault causing bodily injury-\$1,000 bond. Deadly conduct-\$1,500 bond.



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Art Show Winners Announced

The Denver City Art Association Annual Art Show was held in the Yoakum County Connection building April 3 through April 7th, Judge for the show was Herb Bryant, who reviewed a total of 109 entries. Class winners included; **Best of Show Fine Arts**, "Fabric and Flowers" by Susie Powell; **Best of Show Photography**, "Dove Eggs in a Peach Tree" by Marlene Gibson; **People's Choice**, "Hill Country", by J.D. Keel, Jr., Seagraves. **Fine Art Originals; Landscapes & Still Life**: 1st Place: "American The Beautiful" by J.D. Keel, Jr., 2nd Place: "Church at LaLuz, NM" by Carol Skinner Hammond, 3rd Place: "Hill Country"

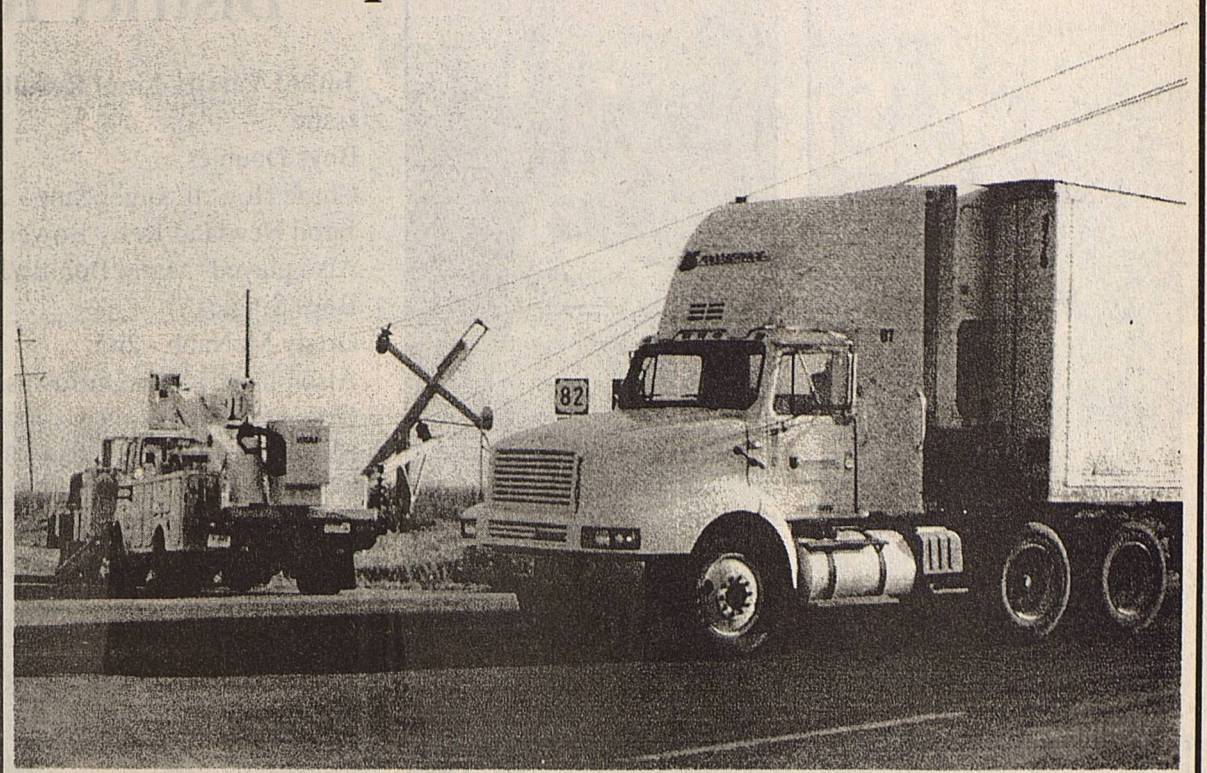
by J.D. Keel, Jr. **Original Wildlife**: 1st Place: "Meet Me In The Garden" by Susie Powell, 2nd: "Webster" by Eileen Fillipp, 3rd Place: "Green Chickens" by Billie Elizardo. **Miniatures**: 1st Place: "Welcome To My Table" by Carol Skinner Hammond, 2nd Place: "3 Pretty Pots" by Carol Skinner Hammond, 3rd Place: "Hyacinth" by Vivian Rice. **Classwork & Copies**: 1st Place "Cotton" by Susie Powell, 2nd Place Tie: "Lone Sunflower" by Marlene Gibson & "Wash Day" by Susie Powell, 3rd Place Tie: "Fall Blooms" by Vivian Rice & "Sunflowers In Vase" by Marlene Gibson. **Students**: 1st Place: "Into the Light" by Andres Alacon, 2nd Place: "In the Garden of Plain" by Maria Perez. **Photography-Land-**

scape: 1st Place: "Green Valley" by Sue Holder, 2nd Place Tie: "Lost Maples" by Sue Holder & "Plaza DeAlfaro" by Eric Banfield, 3rd Place: "#4-Denver City Walking Path" by Sue Holder. **Photography-Portrait**: 1st Place: "(From) Ballerina to Actress" by Elfida Winkler, 2nd Place: "Concentration" by Sue Holder, 3rd Place: "Bubblicious" by Sue Holder. **Photography-Wildlife**: 1st Place: "Still" by Sue Holder, 2nd Place: "Fly On A Fig Leaf" by Pat McNabb, 3rd Place: "Protective Mom" by Marlene Gibson. **Photography-Still Life**: 1st Place: "Daisies" by Sue Holder, 2nd Place: "Midnight Show" by Elfida Winkler, 3rd Place: "Water Can II" by Elfida Winkler.



Art Show Check Winners, L-R, Anne Greer, Sue Holder, Eric Banfield, Bob Fillipp, Mola Moorehead, Marlene Gibson, Euple Taylor, Billy Bob Elizardo

Fierce winds put truck driver in harm's way



Lea County Electric crews work to remove transmission conductors from tractor-trailer rig late last Friday after high winds toppled poles on either side of U.S. Highway 82 at the stateline. The truck driver was uninjured. (Photo by Allan Brown)

Pulitzer Prize Winner To Speak At CSW

David McCullough, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian and author of the monumental work Truman, will be the guest lecturer for College of the Southwest's Spring 2001 Distinguished Lecture Series on Tuesday, April 17 at 7:30 pm. in Tydings Auditorium.

McCullough is twice winner of the National Book Award and twice winner of the prestigious Francis Parkman Prize. In addition to the Pulitzer Prize for Truman, he has received the National Book Foundation Distinguished Contribution to American Letters Award, the Charles Frankel Prize given by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the St. Louis Literary Award, and the New York Public Library's Lion Award.

McCullough's evening lecture on April 17 will begin promptly at 7:30 pm. at Tydings Auditorium on the Hobbs High School campus. Admission is free; however, tickets are required.

In addition, reserved seating is available for members of CSW's Inner Circle (supporters of the College). For tickets or more information, please call College of the Southwest at 505-392-6561.

New Marker Promotes Protection Of Historic Sites On Private Lands

Austin, Texas - An aluminum cast plaque that reads "Historic Texas Lands" is soon to become a familiar site across Texas. This distinctive marker recognizes private landowners who have worked with the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to save archeological sites on their property.

The medallion serves to thank participating landowners, and encourage Texans across the state to protect historic sites on their property. This partnership between the THC and private landowners helps identify and protect archeological sites on private lands.

A grant from the Robert E. and Evelyn McKee Foundation in El Paso funded protection of the first set of finished plaques.

For more information contact Dan Potter with the THC Archeology Division at 512-463-6096. For more information about supporting THC projects, contact Linda Lee, executive director of the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Inc. 512-936-2241.

New fuel station on line here

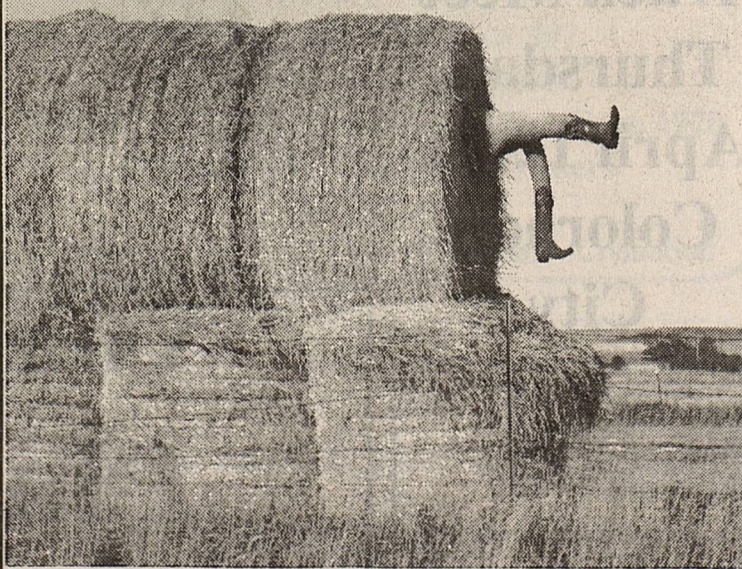


Brownfield Farmer's Coop fuel station, located at the Yoakum County Coop Gin on Hwy. 82, should be fully operational for the automated sale of diesel and gasoline this week. This Monday, members and officials of the Brownfield Coop, Yoakum County Coop Gin, Plains Chamber of Commerce and members of Commissioners Court were on hand for this photo of the opening ceremonies.



Best of Show Photography
Marlene Gibson

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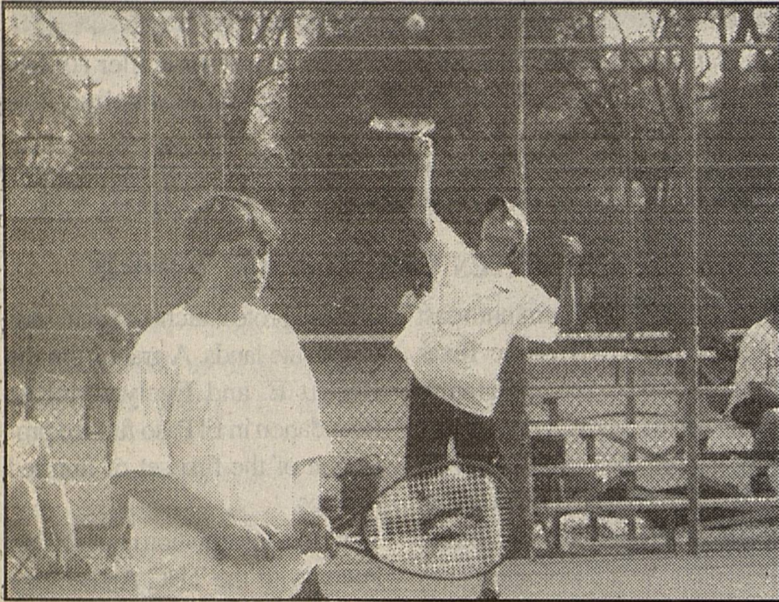
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Elizabeth Clanahan serves



Grady McNabb won this match



Kelly Bowers & Jarod Newland in doubles match



Nicole Haynes returns, Emily Blair goes to the net



Chisum Justus goes up to serve



Mackenzie Winn Serves

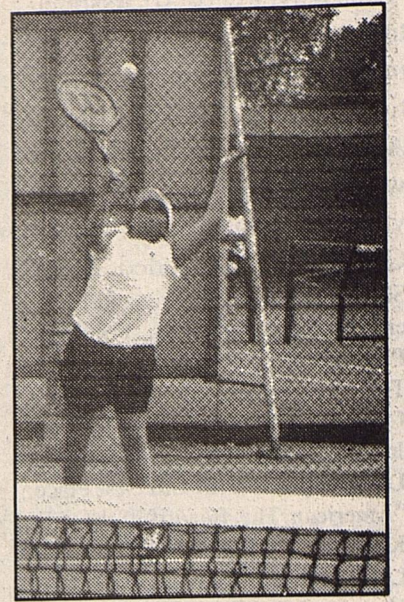
District Tennis Recap

Junior Varsity Final Results Only - Varsity Finals Next Issue

Boys Doubles:
 Chase Howell/Angel Ruiz - 2nd
 Jarod Newland/Kelly Bowers - 3rd
 Also played- Mario Bonilla/Jose Ramirez
 Boys Singles:
 Grady McNabb - 2nd
 Also played - Chisum Justus, Jonathan DeLaRosa
 Girls Doubles:
 Elva Ruiz/Tanya Vasquez - 3rd
 Also played-Martha Casillas/Grisel Molina, Becky Wilmeth/
 Ragan McGinty, Jill Gray/Mackenzie Winn, Lensey Cullins/
 Keri Hansen, Helen Neufeld/April Wilmeth
 Girls Singles:
 Kim Martinez - 2nd
 Also played- Manuela Villegas, Isamari Guzman, Cindy Lopez.



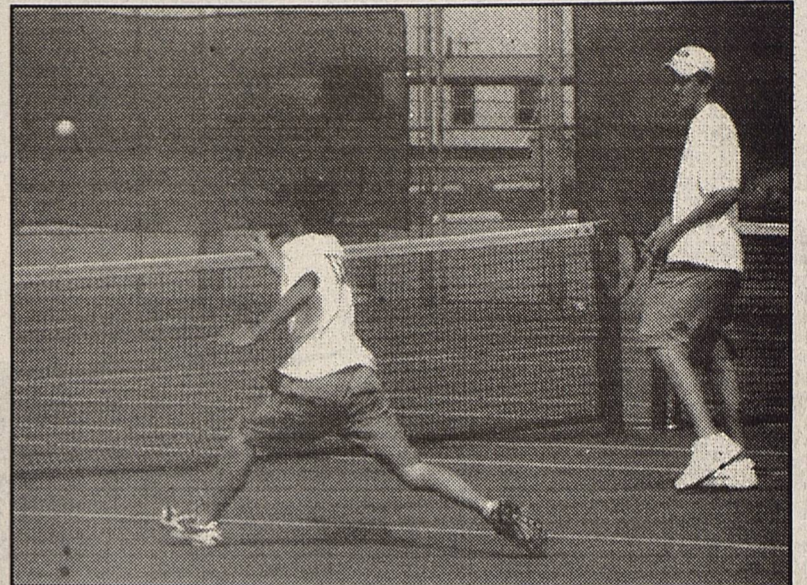
Manuela Villegas in singles



Kim Martinez serves

Cowboy - Cowgirl Relays Summary

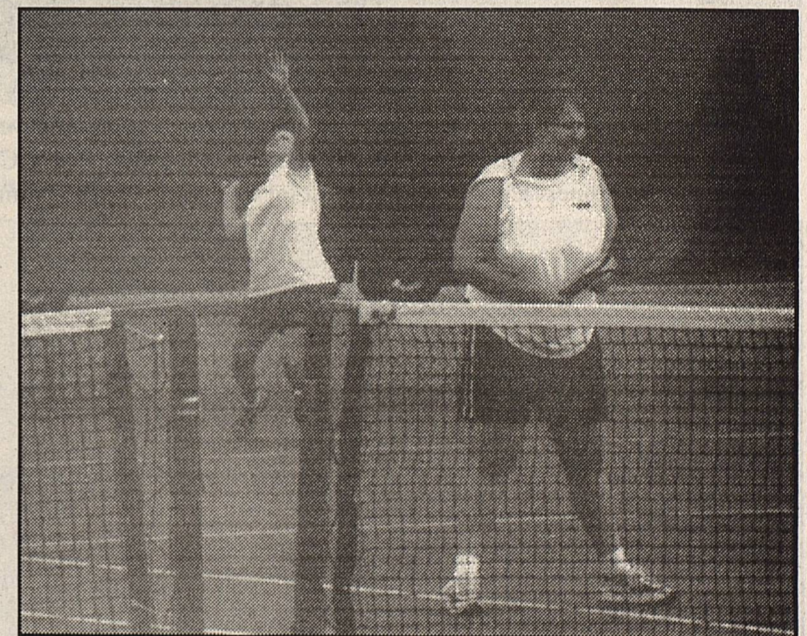
Cowgirls - 4th place with 65 points
 Discus- Kayla Willis 1st, 84'7", Jessica Knight, 4th, 68'1",
 Arasley Luna, 6th, 66' 10"
 3200 M Run - Kenia Molina 4th, 14:36.66, Arasley Luna 5th,
 16:04.81
 Triple Jump- Jessica Rodriguez ,5th, 27' 7.5"
 800 M Run - Chelsea Bloun 3rd, 2:39.72
 200 M Dash- Jessica Rodriguez 3rd, 29.23
 1600 M Relay- Jessica Rodriguez, Kayla Willis, Chelsea Blount,
 Michaela Traweek, 3rd, 4:32.74
 100 M Dash- Moriah Traweek 1st, 13.07
 400 M Dash- Moriah Traweek, 1st, 65.28
JV Cowboys- 2nd place, 112 points
 3200 M Run- Armando Ramirez 1st, 12:50.48, Lary Escobar
 5th, 14:05.04
 800 M Run-Manuel Ramos 1st, 2:23.87, Zach Broome 2nd,
 2:35.24
 110 M Hurdles- Grady McNabb 1st, 18.34
 100 M Dash- Bradley Palmer 6th, 12.75
 400 M Dash- Coty McDonnell 5th, 59.28
 300 M Hurdles- Chase Howell 2nd, 46.55, Grady McNabb 3rd,
 46.78
 200 M Dash- Coty McDonnell 4th, 26.48
 1600 M Run- Armando Ramirez 1st, 5:53.88
 1600 M Relay- Coty McDonnell, Manuel Ramos, Nathan Hays,
 Jeffrey Lollar 2nd, 3:57.48 Shot Put- David Garza 2nd, 35' 3.75",
 Angel Ruiz 3rd, 33'4"
 Discus- David Garza 4th, 86.275"
 Chase Howell 4th, 5'4", Bradley Palmer 5th, 5'2"
Varsity Cowboys- 6th Place, 88 points
 110 M Hurdles- Nick Hays 6th, 16.83
 100 M Dash- Moises Gonzales 1st, 11.21
 400 M Dash- Jared Bell 1st, 52.72
 300 M Hurdles- Arnold Cordova 6th, 45.07
 200 M Dash- Joseph Rodriguez 3rd, 25.04
 1600 M Run- Louis Hernandez 3rd, 5:20.16
 1600 M Relay- 1st, 3:36.50- Joseph Rodriguez, Richard Diaz,
 Moises Gonzales, Jared Bell



Kelsey Blundell, Dustin Six won double match



Tanner Hamm serves, Sterling Justus on ready



Lexi Warren serves, Lesli Rowe guards net

**District
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 April 12, at
 Colorado
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Lifelines & Styles

Women's Protective Services Needs Volunteers in Yoakum County!

Women's Protective Services is currently seeking volunteers to help victims of family violence in Yoakum County. Volunteer opportunities include assisting families who are seeking shelter from abusive homes, completing initial intakes with prospective clients, planning and implementing awareness events, public speaking, and providing transportation to shelter.

A free training for volunteers will be held on Saturday, April 21 from 9 am -5 pm. The training will be held at Even Start Learning Center in Denver City (600 North Soland). Those interested in participating in the training should call 1-800-736-6491 to make a reservation.

For more information on becoming WPS volunteer, please call Kay at 1-800-763-6491.

Art Association Meets

The Yoakum County Art Association met April 3rd for its regular meeting at the Old Courthouse Clubroom. Guests were Lori Vantine, Tina Coffman and Lisa Gentry. The meeting was called to order by President Marlene Gibson and minutes were read by Linda Powell. Betty Estep gave the treasurer's report. The group was reminded about Senior applications for the \$200 scholarship to be given at a Plains or Denver City High School student in May. Susie Powell may be contacted for more information. Several members have entered the Denver City Art Association Show. The group was reminded to enter the T-shirt Contest for the Yoakum County Watermelon Round-Up, supervised by the Denver City Art Association. This deadline is April 20th. There is a paint get together the first Friday of each month at the Old Courthouse Clubroom and visitors are invited, Eileen Fillipp reminded the group. The nominating committee Jeannette Head, Inetta Teaff, and Thelma Cheatham gave their report of officers to be elected at the May 1st meeting. Jean Green of Hereford, Texas will demonstrate. Artist of the month is Betty Estep and the doorprize was won by Lori Vantine. Pat Altman and Marguerite Barron served refreshments of cookies, sandwiches and drinks.

TSA MO GA Leadership Recognition

At the March 26th meeting of the Tsa Mo Ga Club, program chairman Toni Jones presented background information on 4-H before introducing Ragan McGinty who shared her experiences during the Texas 4-H Leadership Conference Tour in Washington, D.C. The hostesses for the meeting were Wilma Powell and Latrell McDonnell. The trip is to honor Texas youth who receive 1st place in State Competition on their record books. The record books reflect a 4-H'ers top 4 projects over 4 years which includes areas of Citizenship, Community Service and Leadership.

ton trip was totally unexpected.

The group stayed at the National 4-H in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Highlights of the tour included visiting Arlington National Cemetery, Ford Theater, Memorials, Monuments, Smithsonian Museum, Holocaust Museum, Union Station, National Archives, Supreme Court Bldg., National Zoo, National Cathedral, White House and the Capitol. At the Capitol, they were given a VIP tour and each participant had lunch with his Congressmen or their pages.

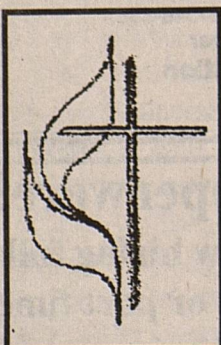
They absorbed a little culture at a White Table Dinner at the Watergate Hotel, and an evening at the Kennedy Center, where they enjoyed the play "Sheer Madness". One actor even wore a Texas 4-H tee shirt in the production.

Ragan stated her goal in preparing her record book was to qualify for the Gold Star Award. Winning 1st at State and qualifying for the Washing-

Order Your Band Calendars NOW. Deadline is April 30th, Contact Band Members or the Library.

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, TX.

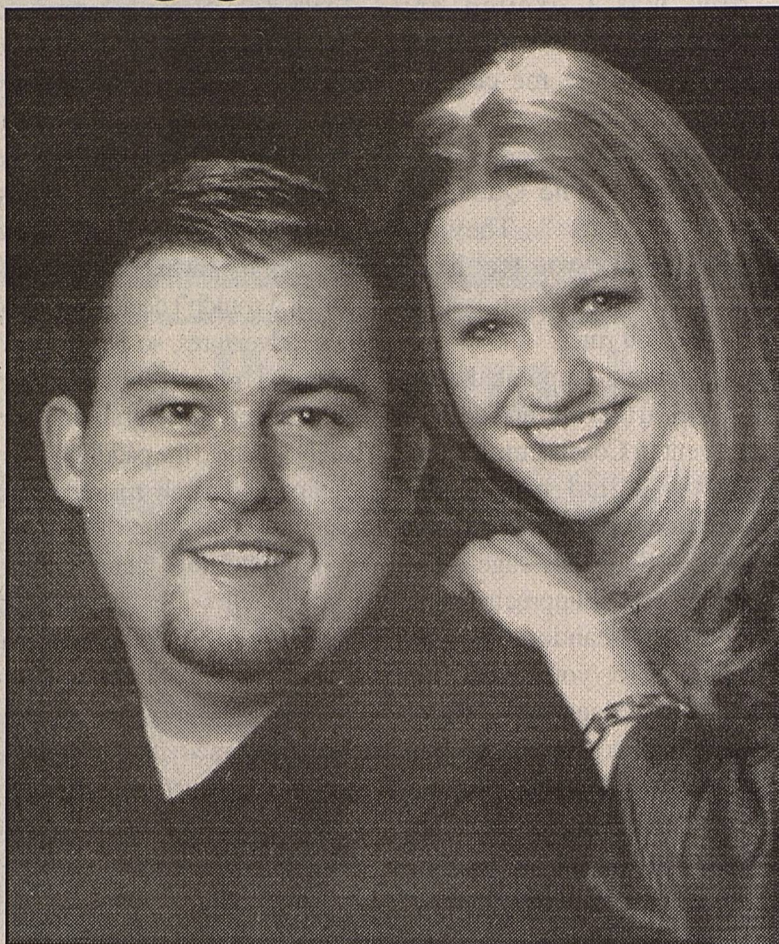
Schedule of Holy Week Services



Maundy Thursday - 6:30 PM
EASTER SUNDAY
Sunrise Service 7:00 AM
(on the hill in the park)
Breakfast at Church - 8:30 AM
Sunday School - 9:45 AM
Morning Worship - 10:45 AM

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

Engagement Announced



Randy and Dianne Peden of Whiteface announce the engagement of their daughter, Kristin Deann, to Jeremy Joe Humphrey, son of Joe and Freda Humphrey of Plains.

The couple will marry June 5 at Cactus Drive Church of Christ in Levelland.

The bride elect attends Whiteface High School and South Plains College and is employed by Peden Energy. The future bridegroom, a graduate of Plains High School, attends SPC and is employed by E&L Electric, Inc.

Library Storytime

Ten boys and girls attended the weekly storytime at the Yoakum County Library on Wednesday, April 4th. Activities began with the pledges to the United States and Texas flags followed by Toddlerobics. The group sang several songs including "If You're Happy and You Know It," "I'm a Little Teapot," and "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." The Easter holiday was the topic of discussion. The

group enjoyed a book entitled: Silly Little Goose!, followed by a film called "The Ordinary Bath." Those attending were Glayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Jentry Wall, Bailey and Evan Rios, Mesa Davis, Madison Davis, Amanda Dusek, Bailey Winn, and Micah St. Romain. The boys and girls are looking forward to the annual Storytime Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Wednesday, April 11th.

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Senior Citizens Corner

This has really been a fast moving week. We have been really busy.

We had a good crowd for birthdays: Harley Evans, Bruce Greer, Layne Black, Walter Gayle, Shirley Mosser, Theresa Lile, Mariana Williams, Gleny Bouns, Cresencia Guerro, & Vergil McCalmen. The ones that did not show missed a really good meal.

Chris Humphrey is still in Veterans hospital in Albuquerque.

Martha Webb is in UMC in Lubbock.

Our prayers, love and sympathy goes to the family of Carl (Skeet) Robertson. He lived many years in Yoakum County and around Plains, also Gaines & Terry county.

Don't forget the Bake Sale on the 12th of April.

Come on down and play dominoes, pool, bridge, walk in the hall & use the exercise machines and line dance with the line dancers. You can just visit or do crafts of different kinds.

We have volunteers that work

the desk and a welcoming committee that will take new people around and show them the center and help with the exercise equipment.

If you do not drive and want to come out all you have to do is call 592-8000, between 9 & 10 am. Sylvia is our bus driver and will be glad to pick you up.

She also delivers lunches to our home bound, helps people on and off the bus and helps in the kitchen. Gloria is our director and still over the kitchen. Mary Flores is our cook now, Mary Moya is her assistant, Stella is the dishwasher and Mary Newman is our dining room hostess. She also helps in the serving line. Anne Holland is our faithful bookkeeper.

The Harvesters will be here the 19th. They sing and play Christian music.

If anyone would like to volunteer their time to teach line dancing. Please notify the center at 592-8000.

Til next week,
Wanda B.

You are invited to a "Wedding Shower"

honoring Miss. Jennifer Sheets

Bride-elect of Mr. Yancey House

Sunday, April 29, 2001

in the home of Mrs. Charlotte Palmer

Plains, Tx - 3:00 - 4:30 pm.

Gift selections: Dillard's, Target and Nelson's (Brownfield)

Plains Little League Parent Meeting, Sign-up and Try-Outs

Parent Meeting; April 19, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. in the Clubroom. Sign-ups will be Saturday, April 21, 2001 at the Little League Baseball Field. T-Ball will sign up from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. Minor League will sign up and try out from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Major League will sign up and try out from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Birth Certificates and Sign-up fee will be required when signing up. Also recruiting coaches and umpires. If interested, please sign up at the meeting, or contact Ruben Diaz at 456-3802.



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From The Hack

I continue to be amazed at the debacle of the Chinese holding our airplane, our guy and gal service people, and the absolute idiocy of some of the suggested remedies to free both plane and airmen.

Conversation at the Table of Wisdom, Johnnie's Restaurant, the D.Q., and over most radio talk shows reveal the following enlightening and sage bits of advice:

"Let's give 'em 72 hours to give us the plane and crew back, unharmed, or we NUKE 'em."

"Let's station about three of our Boomer submarines, the nuclear missile type, that is, off that Island, Hungchow, or what ever. They'll know we're there, they'll give in then for sure."

"Why don't we just embargo everything from China. You know, they sell us lots more stuff than we do them, and they need our money more than we need their nen, or bin, or whatever it is."

"Apologize HELL, I ain't about to apologize to the Chinks who cause me considerable bowel problems every time I venture through one of their All You Can Eat chow lines in Lubbock."

"Tell them this, and tell them

with a poker serious face.... you quit selling your cotton to us for 26 cents a pound, so we can make 47 cents a pound for ours. We'll both all grow broke together."

"If you tell your people to start buying our Stetson hats and and Tony Lama Boots when you free our crew and plane, we'll tell you how to really enjoy a boom box, Tejano music, and the Passover. Both our cultures will be greatly improved."

What really and truly worries and scares me is this - Will we be cowardly enough to follow through with Bill Clinton's dream, offer China full status in the World Trade Association for the exchange? That scares me more than an apology to China - Has not our entire economy already suffered enough from the unfairness of our current policy of encouraging their imports, while yielding to their demands to limit our exports?

Excuse me, Have I gone DUHH on this issue?

Attending recent PISD track meets, my nostalgia button has kicked in, and I have recalled a few memorable but undistinguished moments of my high school track career.

In my sophomore year, under the tutelage of a former Chicago Bear pro-lineman who bossed our football teams, and also the track guys, to furnish himself with a few extra Havana cigars he smoked, as long as he was no closer than 32 miles of a school board member, sidled up to me in a P.E. Class and kindly said, "

Gary, I want you to run the quarter mile this year (there was none of this metric BS then). You're perfect for the race... you're slow, you have trouble getting out of the starting blocks, you couldn't possibly make it 800 yards, but your Doctor's exam hints you may survive that race. Understand, that's a maybe."

Boy, was I excited and exhilarated, so much I stammered, " S'cuse me coach, I gotta throw up!"

I only had about six days time to practice " The Queen Of Running Events ". They call it that because you feel like a queen when you finish last every time you run.

I was really disappointed about my times in the race, and despairing, went to Coach Lumley (we secretly called him Coach Lumphead) for advice. He quickly offered his sage directions: " Gary, I appreciate your honesty and candor. The only remedy is for you to run four quarter practices daily, and if your grandparents will let you, skip Sunday School and run a couple more.,that'll really get you going!"

That conversation ended my frequent doubts. It was indisputable now, the man was a Mongoloid and very cruel idiot.

My first race in serious competition, the official starter came by and asked, " Hey, Slim, you want some starting blocks?" Ever appreciative of dumb advice, I dutifully answered, " No, Sir, but I'd like to have some to help me finish." The gruff guy was not amused.

I recall the gallant finish I made, the slim finish string in sight, held by two lovely young girls, who were so clumsily slow they couldn't even get out of the way when I barfed hugely, celebrating my 6th place finish in the 7 man field. Boy, was I proud!

I watched with great interest last week an announcement on Lubbock TV there would be a regional qualifying try-out there for a participant spot on SURVIVAL III, you know, the forever long episode where males and females are stashed away

in some God forbidden locale, and expected to live without food, shelter, fire, water, or cohabitation among the male and female contestants. The eventual winner walks off with zillions of bucks.

I Mused, " I think I will go to the tryouts. After all, I am a very likely candidate, because if nothing else I am a survivor."

To illustrate; Somewhere around the age of 11, I thought it would be hilarious to either, (A), give my grandmother's old tom cat an enema, or (B) insert one of those small explosive charges in my granddad's cigarette, or (C) let the air out of the town constables patrol car. I couldn't decide which of these adventures, so I performed all three. I barely survived the tom cat, then my irate grandmother, barely survived the paddling from grampa, and barely missed going to jail.

My sophomore year in high school, I fell wildly in love with alluring girls named Tommie Lou, Mona Faye, Amy Susan, and Bertha Belcha Bach. I swear it's true. They all spurned me. I'm particularly glad the Bach girl turned me down; You can imagine how it would have felt to introduce her, " Meet my wife, Bertha Belcha." Again, I survived.



Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

This week has certainly been a hectic one! On Monday April 2, the Land and Resource Management Committee meeting heard 17 bills, which took us nearly all day. As of Friday April 6, there have been 128 bills referred to the Land and Resource Committee. It looks as though there will be many more long committee meetings in the near future. Currently, the House has passed 221 bills, and the Senate has passed 450 bills. After the Easter holiday, there are only 42 days of session remaining. There is not much time left, but there is plenty left to do!

All of my major bills have been heard in their respective committees. Some have been voted out, and others were left pending. My weather modification bill was passed out of the House Ag & Livestock Committee on Friday, April 6. I have been working hard with the water conservation districts and Ag Commissioner Susan Combs,

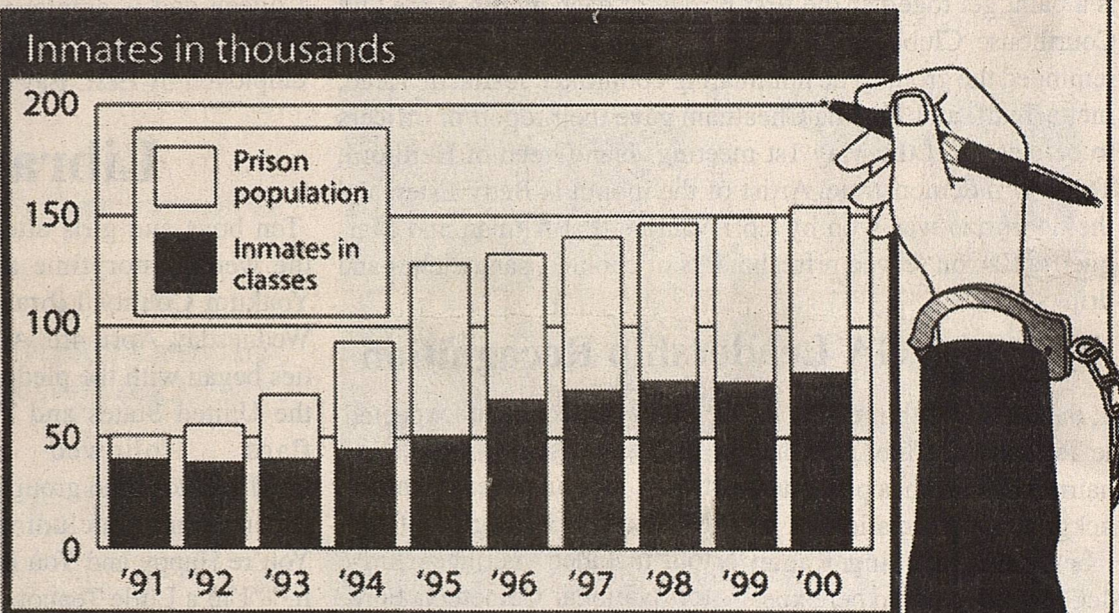
and I hope to see the bill passed on the House floor soon.

I received a copy of the Appropriations bill this week. It is about three inches thick, and is by far the most important piece of legislation that will be passed. We will consider the appropriations bill on Tuesday, April 10th. The appropriations bill will set the budget for Texas for 2002 and 2003. Texas is unlike most states in that it only passes an appropriations bill every two years. Up until now, we have only passed bills with no fiscal implications to the state. When the appropriations bill passes, we will finally be able to pass legislation that provides for state funding. I am ready to get the appropriations bill passed, so we can focus on our redistricting efforts.

Please call or come by the office if you are in Austin. I would love to hear from you! If there is anything that I can do for you, do not hesitate to contact my office.

0 teacher, where art thou?

The state's prison school system has struggled to find enough classroom space and resources to educate a prison population that has tripled since fiscal 1991.



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Department of Criminal Justice and Windham School District.

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