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Cowboy Country News

Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas Volume VI, Issue 22, February 16, 2000



NASA to host Plains High School student



L-R, State Representative Gary Walker, Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes, Aaron Cain, Instructor Richie Cullins, and PHS Principal Steven O'Quinn.

The year 2000 marks the advent of a new educational program for Texas high school juniors, an outreach program between the NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) and the State of Texas.

Plains High Junior Aaron Cain, the son of Charles and Beth Ann Cain, was notified recently he was one of 200 Texas students selected for the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program. Members of the State

Legislature nominated the students, and Representative Gary Walker submitted Aaron's name.

The students were required to have an aptitude for math, science, engineering or computer science, and instructors in those fields were required to recommend students in one or more of the fields of study. Richie Cullins, Aaron's instructor in math and science, submitted supporting recommendations

of Aaron. Aaron was also required to submit an essay detailing reasons for wanting to participate in the program. In a portion of the essay, he detailed his experience in the PHS CISCO Networking class, for which he received last year's award for Outstanding Student in the class.

Aaron will spend a week at the JSC, and will commit to a year long relationship with JSC, with many classes and projects via the Internet.

Moore seeks to return as Judge of 121st District Court

District Judge Kelly G. Moore (R - Brownfield) has filed for election to a second term as Judge of the 121st District Court covering Yoakum and Terry Counties. Appointed to the office by Governor George W. Bush in 1995, Moore was elected to his first full term in 1996.

During his tenure as Judge, Moore has attained membership in The College of the State Bar of Texas, a program designed to enhance and maintain professional skills and quality of service to the public by attorneys through significant voluntary participation in continuing legal education. Moore has been active in the Judicial Section of the State Bar of Texas, having served on the Legislative Resource Committee during the last legislative session, and recently completing a term on the Student Scholarship Committee.

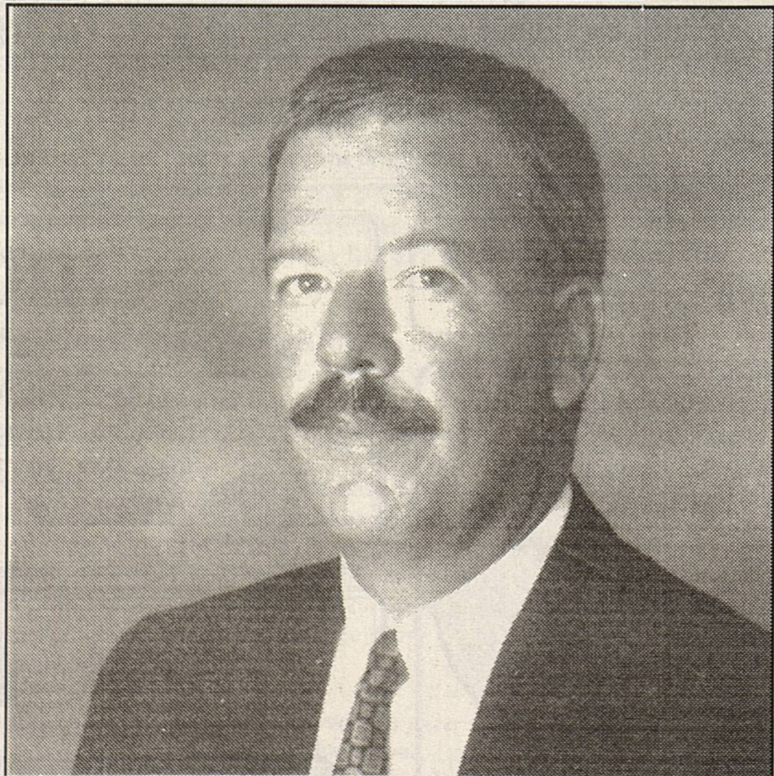
Moore's judicial duties include presiding over all cases, whether criminal or civil, filed in the District Court in Yoakum or Terry County. Moore is also designated as alternative juvenile judge in each county, pre-

siding over juvenile proceedings in the absence of the County Judge.

In addition to his judicial duties, Moore serves on the Juvenile Board of each county, and is responsible for the establishment of the Community Supervision and Corrections Department for the district.

"Serving the 121st District as Judge has been challenging, but very rewarding," said

Moore. "I pledge I will continue in faithful and impartial performance of the duties of the office. I will renew my efforts to find ways to shorten the time required for resolution of legal disputes, to encourage peaceful settlement of legal disputes through mediation and other forms of alternate dispute resolution and to reduce the overall costs of litigation through effective case management."



Precinct 3 Commissioner Candidates Express Views

Six locals have tossed their hats into the political ring as candidates for County Commissioner of Precinct Three. Present Commissioner Jim Barron has announced his intentions to step down at the end of his term this coming December.

Early voting for the March 14 Democrat and Republican Primary Election will start February 28 and end March 10. Recently CCN wrote letters to all six commissioner candidates asking them to respond in writing to a series of identical questions. The candidates were asked, (A) *What do you consider the most important issues facing residents of Yoakum County (1) at the present time, and (2) in the long term future?* (B) *Considering the importance of the position you are seeking, and knowing the position requires people and monetary skills, what do you consider your strongest job qualifications?* (C) *If elected commissioner, what will you consider your most important responsibility as a member of Commissioners Court?* (D) *What specific goals, if any, would you like to achieve if elected to this office.*

Here are the responses from the candidates, listed by their party in alphabetical order;

Democrat Candidates:

Cody Flores - Question A; Most important issues facing the county are drought and tax valuation. Our farmers are facing the threat of another year of drought. Yoakum County relies on our farming community to stimulate the local economy through employment and sales. Our county government has to help farmers address their problems or the economy will suffer. The future of our county depends on our ability to attract new business to stimulate our economy and ensure stability for our communities. Question B; I believe my strongest asset is an ability to listen to problems and create solutions that are fiscally responsible. I have been in county management 13 years developing these skills. My years of fiscal and personnel management have become the basis for my seeking this position. I am qualified and com-

mitted to do the best job as county commissioner. Question C; My most important responsibility will be to listen to you. I want to know what our community and families need, and this can only be done by being accountable to each member of the community. After listening, I want to develop policies to address your issues in a fiscally responsible manner. Question D; My goals for the county would be to build on our tradition of a strong family and caring community by enhancing education and developing new business. To ensure success, I want to establish dialogs with our seniors who can share their experience, and our youth, who will shape our future. Our community strength is our community.

Ty Earl Powell - (A) The most important issues facing county residents at the present are, Keeping monthly bills paid; Making mortgage payments or rent payments, and vehicle payments. Fear of losing a job; Ability to pay health insurance premiums, and citizenship and character development. Long term issues are preparing for children's public school or college education; Retirement planning or solvency of Social Security System; Wages keeping up with cost of living increases; Soil and water conservation issues. (B) My strongest job qualifications include experience with organizations handling large amounts of funds and large operating budgets, including Plains Coop Oil Mill and National Cotton Board; My own farm/ranch operation involving employees and a budget; Lifetime residency in Yoakum County; Working with people in organizations including Plains ISD Board, Yoakum County Coop Gin, County Appraisal District; BS Degree in agricultural economics from NMSU. (C) Important responsibilities as a member of Commissioners Court include management of the budget, management of employees, communicating and meeting taxpayers needs, maintain all roads for accessibility and safety. (D) My

Commissioner Views Page Two

Council Election Slated

Mayor T.J. Miller has called for a general election to be held in the City of Plains on Saturday, May 6, 2000. The election will be held at the Plains City Hall located at 601 11th Street in Plains, Texas. The purpose of this election will be to elect a Mayor and two (2) Councilmembers.

Those with expiring terms are Mayor T.J. Miller and Councilmembers Pam Redman and Kent Welch.

First day for filling an application for place on the ballot is **Monday, February 21, 2000 and the filing deadline is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 22, 2000.** Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up at the Plains City Hall during regular working hours.

Cub Scouts lend helping hands



Front, Blake Longoria, Jacob Brink, Justin Gonzales, Arthur Ruiz. Back, Tony Benson and Cissy Gomez

These youngsters of Cub Scout Pack 778 are learning the merits of being good neighbors. Several days a week, they gather at the Cowboy restaurant in the afternoon, and pick up boxes of food donated by owner Tony Benson. Their Pack Leader Cissy Gomez and helper Debbie Longoria then drive the boys to the homes of people with difficulties in getting about. At the present time some 15 people are on the Cub's list of people needing a helping hand.

More Candidates Views from page 1

goals if elected include improving the efficiency of our county government, promote and keep good relations between Plains and Denver City, a good working relationship with other commissioners and their precincts, and continue to make Yoakum County a great place to live.

Republican Candidates:

Terry Davis - (A) The most important issues now are our tax base, county services, and tax rate. We need to support the petroleum and agricultural industries, as they affect all businesses and our tax base. In the future, viable agricultural and petroleum industries will encourage people to stay here, and increase our tax base and allow better county services. (B) Teaching school and board service have taught me how to work with people. I have served on the PISD Board, County and State Farm Bureau Boards, and now on the Lea County Electric Board of Trustees. I have worked successfully within large and tight budgets, and farming has taught me the use and maintenance of equipment. (C) My most important responsibility is to represent the people who elect me, and to study each issue and vote according to the study. I will respect the other members and work to gain their respect, but always vote my conscience. It is my responsibility to remember I represent the citizens on each and every vote. (D) My goals are to keep the tax rate manageable and county services good. We need good roads, libraries, parks, airport, golf course, health care, cemetery, and extension service. I've paid taxes many years, and my goal is to consistently use tax money wisely.

Greg McCravey - Yoakum County must be ready to embrace the fact that the county and state are changing. The oil industry is a mere shadow of what it was 15 years ago, and it is increasingly difficult for agriculture to compete in what has become a world market. We must also recognize the face of Texas is changing. People who were once considered the minority are rapidly becoming the majority. For the past eight years I have used most of my vacation time working for and with the people along the Texas-Mexico border. I be-

lieve this is time spent ministering to people who may one day be our neighbors. I believe it is our responsibility, as people of Yoakum County, to partner together to better serve each other for the good of all. I see the job of the Commissioners Court as being a team working toward that goal of serving the people of Yoakum County.

Hershel Smith - I'm a people person. When you listen, to other people you learn. Things I don't know about, I'm willing to learn. When I'm wrong, I will admit it and correct what I can. Our tax base is set by the appraisal office, and this is the market value of your home or land. When the tax base drops, often taxes go up to meet needs of operations within the county. One of the many responsibilities of a commissioner is to cut spending to try to avoid a tax increase. As your commissioner, in the long term my goal is not to raise taxes unless it cannot be helped. By working with the employees of Precinct 3 we can better utilize our time, fuel, materials used, and job performances. These things can save money. A goal of mine is to keep you informed through the newspaper on jobs being done, why we do some of the things we do, and why we cannot do some of the things you ask of us. By staying in touch, my goal is to keep you, THE VOTERS, informed about how your tax money is spent.

Rex Swann - (A) Being very fortunate in the past with a strong tax base and plentiful revenues, we now face a shrinking tax base and increasing taxes. Learning to do more with less will take innovative decision-making and working together to ensure efficiency throughout our county government. In the long term future, the most important issue is maintaining the lowest tax rate possible by implementing sound decisions based on research and cohesiveness not only in Precinct 3 but the entire county. (B) People and business skills are my strongest qualifications. Practical experiences including formal education (business degree-WTSU), personal business experience (25 years agriculture), and community boards (4 terms FSA, 2 terms YCCG) have given me a

unique insight to work for, and with, the public. My ability to change with the times has helped me to prosper in my business and be progressive in my community endeavors. (C) Sustaining the quality of life and county maintenance with a reduced budget by conservative and innovative government. Overseeing the county's business affairs including taxes, budget, policies, personnel, expenditures, properties and road infrastructure, while listening to the people and acting responsibly. People-

skills will enable me to work within Commissioners Court, helping direct through cooperation, to achieve our desired goals. (D) Conservatism is a must, but with a common sense approach, whereas not to become stagnant. Through research and study, we can keep efficiency of manpower and resources foremost, and then act responsibly and decisively. I would like to see Yoakum County just as strong 20 years from now as it is at present, or was 10 years ago. The future is our responsibility.

Final Rites for Calvin Holley

Calvin Holley, 81, of Ralls died Thursday, February 10th in Lubbock's Covenant Medical Center. Services were held at 2:00 pm. Sunday February 13, 2000 in Ralls First Baptist Church with Reverend Randy Bartley Pastor officiating. Burial was held in Ralls Cemetery under the direction of Adams Funeral Home-Ralls.

Mr. Holley was born November 4, 1918 in Keota, Okla. He married Dora Viola Davis December 9, 1939 in Keota. He was a member of Ralls First Baptist Church and Woodmen of the World. He moved to Ralls in 1961 from Hale Center. He retired as manager of the Pleasant Hill Gin in 1984 and was a World War II veteran. Family suggests memorials to the American Lung Associa-

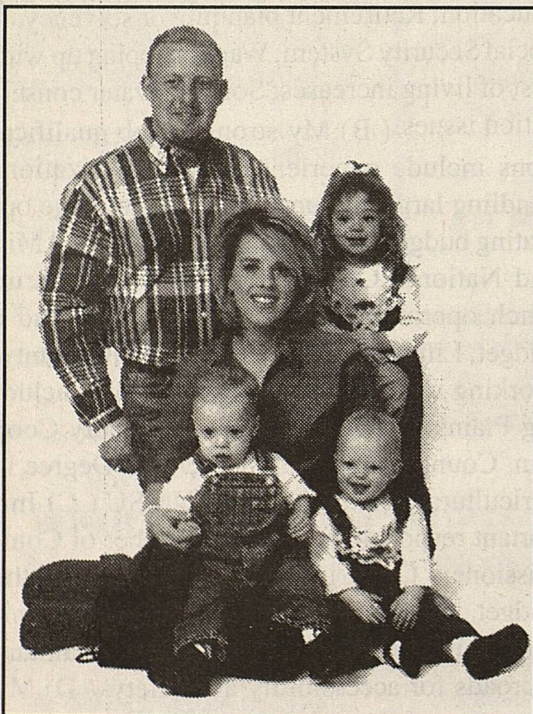
tion.

Survivors include his wife Dora of Ralls; 2 sons Carrol of Wylie and Jerry of Plains; 1 daughter Kathy Robertson of Petersburg; 9 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Chip Holley, Justin Holley, Ronnie McQueen, Scott Darby, Tanner Robertson, Sterling Spencer, and Ryan Robertson.

Your support and words of encouragement have been overwhelming. Thanks a million! Wayne House

JEFF LOWREY

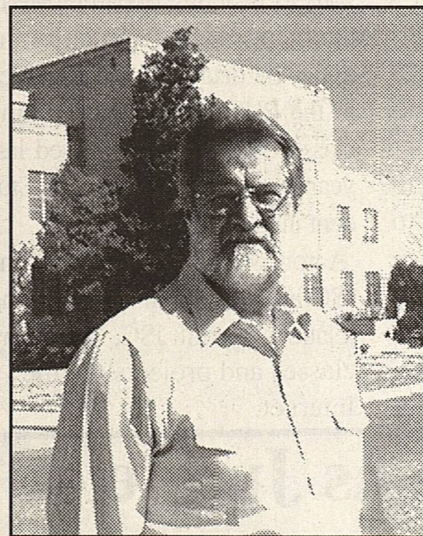


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Family man* Strong background in Agricultural and Insurance Management*
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Political advertisement paid for by Jeff Lowrey

Rex Swann



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- * People Skills - 3 years Social Work
- * Personal Business Experience - 25 Years Agriculture
- * Community Boards
- * Lifetime Yoakum County Resident

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Republican Candidate For
Yoakum County Commissioner Precinct 3

Political advertisement paid for by Rex Swann

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The Annual Quiz Bowl scheduled for February 14-18 has been cancelled until further notice.

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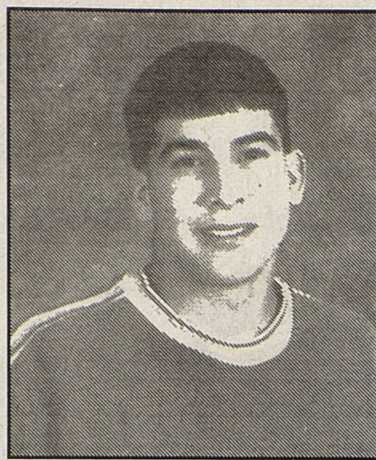
Jack Cobb

Home 456-7452

Mobile 456-7512

Estrada makes Trampoline Team

Christopher Estrada, 16 year old son of Mr. & Mrs. Manuel Estrada of Plains was recently selected to the U.S. Trampoline Senior National Team. Seven women and eight men were named to the team, sponsored by Olympic Training Center grants, in an effort to make the U.S. more competitive in the sport. The U.S. was 13th in men's and women's trampoline at the World Championship.



Chris lives in Levelland with Randy and Sherry Mulkey, owners of West TX Training Center, and trains with his

coach Will Green seven days a week, twice a day. He is a member of South Plains Acrospirits tumbling and trampoline team of Levelland.

He is a Junior at Whitharral High School, and a member of the National Honor Society.

In 2001 he wants to be a competing Senior member of the USA Trampoline Team. The 2004 Olympics is his long range goal, and his coaches feel this could become a reality.

Chris thanks all the people

who have supported him the last few years, including G&B Aerial, Sellers Ag Supply, Saul and Corina Dominguez, and many others who have contributed to his travel fund.

Services held for Barbara June Massey

Barbara June Massey, 70, of Plains died Tuesday, February 8th in the Yoakum County Hospital in Denver City. Memorial services were held at 4:00 pm., Thursday in the First Baptist Church of Plains with the Reverend L.D. Hinson of the Plains Assembly of God Church, officiating and Reverend Bill Wright, Minister of the First Baptist Church of Plains, assisting. Services were under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City. Private graveside services were held at 2:00 pm., Thursday in the Plains Cemetery. Barbara was born to Raymond and Faith Elms on July 8, 1929 in Brownwood, Texas. She married Clois Massey on December 26, 1946 in Brownwood. She had been a resident of Plains since 1951. She was a member of the Plains Assembly of God Church and was a homemaker. She was preceded in death by her brother, Roy Elms.

Survivors include her husband, Clois Massey of Plains; 2 sons, Jimmy of Denver City and Larry of Graham; 1 daughter, Rebecca Winn of Plains; 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. Donations may be made to the Plains Assembly of God Church.

Pallbearers were Gary Williams, Vic Lazono, Everet McAdams, Carl Green, Carl Lowery, and Lindel Bates.

Reminder

**Yoakum County
Federal Credit Union
51st annual supper
Feb. 19th 7:00 pm.
Plains School
Cafeteria**

Yoakum County Hospital proposes status change

Rural community involvement in the local decision making process is a critical requirement for introducing any new program for affected citizens. Yoakum County residents will have the opportunity to learn about a new proposed program, ask questions, voice opinions on an issue of interest to all citizens. On February 17, Yoakum County Hospital will host a town hall type meeting at the Yoakum County Park on Highway 214 between Plains and Denver City to outline a proposed status change of the facility.

In 1997 Congress passed the Medicare Rural Hospital Flexibility Program as part of the Balanced Budget Act. The program, based on the demonstration projects of the Essential Access Community Hospital/rural Primary Care Hospital and Montana's Medical Assistance Facility, provides flexibility to rural hospitals allowing them to provide an appropriate level of service for their community.

This flexible hospital is called a Critical Access Hospital (CAH). As the name suggests, the existence of the hospital is critical to assuring local access to health services. This program provides an opportunity for greater flexibility for small rural hospitals. Through participation in the program, rural hospitals will be able to convert to CAH status and be given flexibility and relief from Medicare regulations that are designed for full service acute care hospitals.

Texas is working to improve the health care delivery systems and the regulatory and reimbursement climates for small institutions working to maintain primary care in rural communities throughout the state. The Medical Rural Hospital Flexibility Program offers an opportunity for substantial progress in this effort. The most difficult area to manage in a rural hospital is low

volume. There cannot be, nor should there be, less of a standard of patient care just because volume is below the breakeven point. When the Balance Budget Act went into effect it was structured in such a way that it would have cost Yoakum County Hospital an additional \$200,000 in lost Medicare charges over the next 3 years. To become a Critical Access Hospital will change the payment structure from the government and in so doing they will pay our cost after the annual audit. Just paying our cost will increase our Medicare income \$300,000 over the 3 year period and thereby reducing the tax burden of county residents and provide additional stability to our medical care.

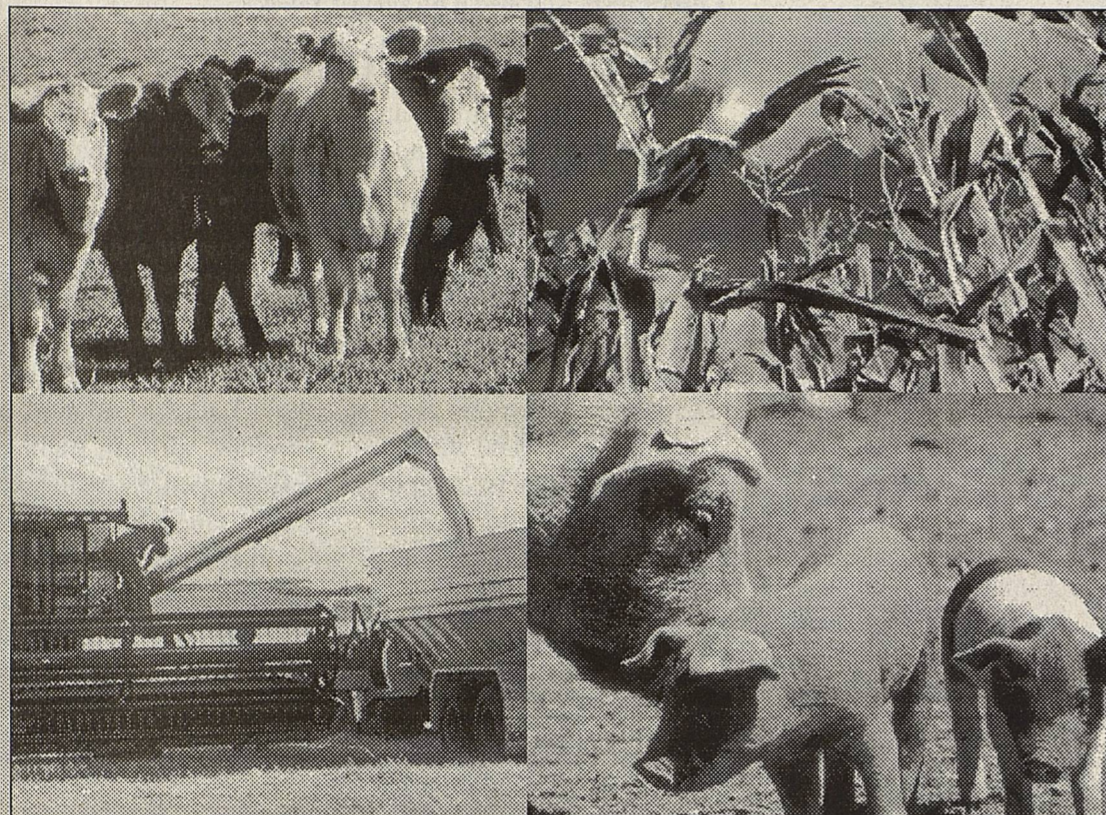
Many hospitals across the nation are beginning to change to the CAH status. The change should be seamless as far as the patient or public is aware of in that there should not be any different in the care and availability of service.

Richard Hoeth from Texas Hospital Association will be here to add his expertise in that he helped develop the program and has a vast knowledge of the programs. Any questions you may have should be easy for him to answer.

The original requirements on a 96 hour maximum hospital stay and having to collect the deductible from lab patients have been removed from the law. The program as it now stands will be good for the people of Yoakum County and for Yoakum County Hospital.

Anyone who has an interest in CAH or would like to know more about the program is encouraged to attend the Town Hall meeting on Thursday evening.

Plains High will host the first of an annual Power Lifting Meet Saturday, February 19. The meet will start at 9 AM, and the public is urged to attend !!



Whatever The Reason...

Whatever The Season

Farming today is not just the growing season, it's a year-round, full-time occupation. In fact, before and after the season can be the busiest time for a lot of farmers. That's when decisions about repairs, new equipment and heavy maintenance usually takes place. Unfortunately, income during this down time is not always at its highest. That's where we come in. We can advance you the money with a farm loan and arrange a repayment schedule to coincide with your harvest times.

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NOTICE OF PETITION

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is in accordance with the Commission's Substantive Rule 23.49 (c)(12), a measure established as a result of Senate Bill 632 in the 73rd session of the Texas State Legislature.

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with this petition are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee.

If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the company's basic local exchange customers will be assessed an additional monthly surcharge of \$2.30 for business, \$1.15 for residential and \$0.40 for Tel-Assist customers per access line. If approved by the Commission, the additional monthly surcharge will begin, on an interim basis, with the March 25, 2000 billing cycle, with an agreement to refund all or part of the charge if the Commission does not finally approve the rate.

The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the increased direct cost of service associated with all ELCS petitions placed in service since September 1, 1996. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$41,027 monthly.

If you have questions about this charge or would like further information, please call Texas ALLTEL at 1-800-452-5354.

The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 21891 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by March 10, 2000. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. For information on intervening, please call the Commission at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

ALLTEL
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AVISO DE PETICIÓN

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una petición oficial ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Tejas (Public Utility Commission) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar los ingresos perdidos y los costos incrementados asociados con las peticiones de Ampliación del Servicio de Llamadas Locales (ELCS) para varias de las áreas de Texas ALLTEL. Esta petición se presenta en base a la Regla Substantiva número 23.49 (c)(12) de la Comisión, una medida establecida en el Documento 632 del Senado en la 73ava sesión de la Legislatura del Estado de Tejas.

La ELCS permite que un área amplíe su alcance de llamadas locales para que incluyan una o más áreas, sólo si los clientes aprueban el pago de una tasa ELCS mediante una boleta en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos y los ingresos perdidos relacionados a esta petición son aquellos que no son recuperables mediante la tasa ELCS.

Si se aprueba la petición de Texas ALLTEL, los abonados en el área local básica de la compañía recibirán un cargo mensual adicional de \$2.30 para abonados comerciales, \$1.15 para abonados residenciales y \$0.40 para los clientes Tel-Assist por acceso de línea. Si la Comisión lo aprueba, el recargo mensual adicional comenzará provisoriamente con el ciclo de facturación del 25 de marzo del año 2000, con el acuerdo de reembolsar todo o parte del recargo si la Comisión finalmente no aprueba la tasa.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será igual a cero ya que el recargo solicitado reemplaza ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el incremento directo del costo de los servicios asociado con las peticiones ELCS implementadas a partir del 1 de septiembre de 1996. Se estima un total de ingresos perdidos y costos incrementados de \$41,027 por mes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este cargo o si quisiera obtener información adicional, sírvase llamar a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Número de Proyecto 21891 a este proceso. Las personas interesadas en participar o expresar algún comentario con respecto a este proceso deben notificar a la Comisión antes del 10 de marzo del año 2000. Cualquier solicitud de participación debe ser enviada por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información sobre cómo participar, llame a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Aquellos individuos con problemas de oído o de habla que tengan teléfonos teletipo pueden contactar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.

J P Court

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace Court by Judge Melba Crutcher.

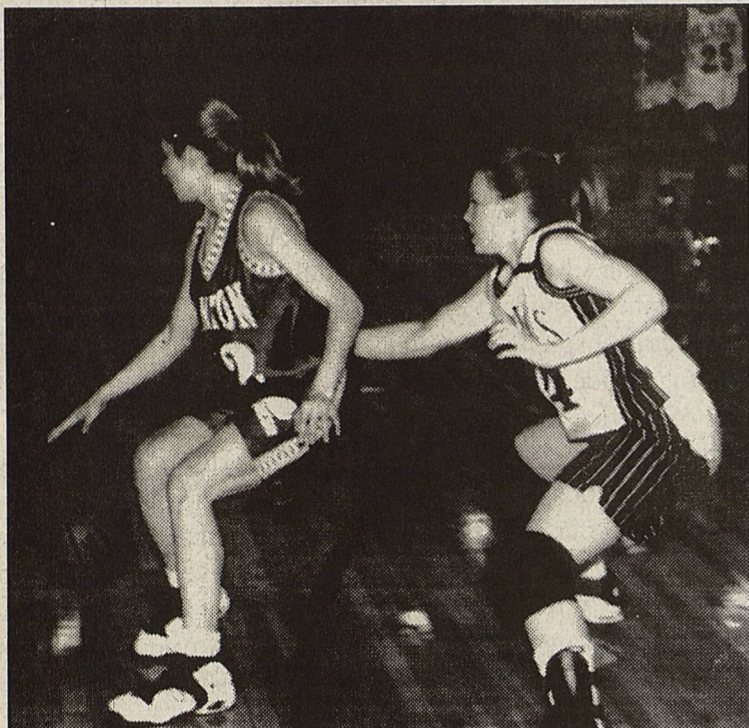
Cases filed: 67 traffic cases, 1 cases filed by Yoakum County Sanitarian, 2 public intoxication, 2 consumption of alcohol by minor, 1 driving under the influence of alcohol by minor, 1 possession of drug paraphernalia

Bonds set: Evading arrest - \$1,500 bond. Two cases theft \$0/\$50 - under \$500 - \$500 bond. Possession of marijuana - \$1,000 bond. Public intoxication - \$500 bond. Driving while intoxicated-1st - \$1,000 bond. Driving while intoxicated-3rd - \$2,500 bond and interlock device ordered by Judge. 2 cases-Assault on Public Servant - \$2,500 bond. Escape while arrested - \$2,300 bond. Evading arrest using vehicle - \$1,500 bond. Driving while license suspended - \$500 bond. Failed to maintain financial responsibility - \$500 bond.

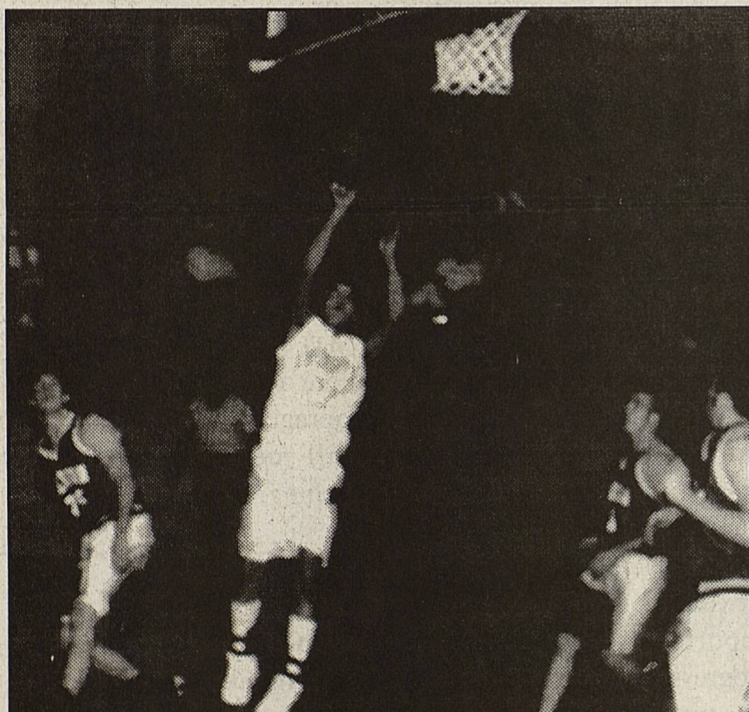
Basketball action VS Stanton



Patrick McGinty makes layup



Lexi Warren on defense



Eddy Gallegos goes high with shot



Krystle Blundell tries to work ball inside

PISD Basketball Summary

The Cowboys clinched the third team playoff spot, and will meet Farwell at Frenship High Monday, February 21 at 6:30 P.M.

Junior High:

7th Girls - The younger Lady Wranglers ended their season last week with a 37-34 loss to Stanton. Sandra Gandara topped scoring with 17 points, Jesenia Saurez had 12, Lela Coronado 3, Daniela Lazos 2.
 8th Girls - The 8th girls also fell to Stanton 45-11. Stats unavailable.
 7th Boys - The 7th Wranglers pulled out a win in their last outing, downing Stanton 24-18. Cody Flores had 10 points, Evan Cain 6, Scott Bruton 4, Breck Hamm and Trey Cleveland 2 each.
 8th Boys - No report.

High School:

Freshmen Boys - The younger Cowboys lost their season finale to Stanton, 45-20. Coach Brink said they gave a great effort and improved consistently throughout the season. Angel Ruiz had 8 points, Chase Howell 4, Ryan Swann, Kelly Bowers, Benny Loewen and Noel Castillo 2 each.

JV Cowgirls - The JV girls were downed by Stanton 33-25 in their final game of the season. Their season record was 9 wins, 15 losses, and 3-7 in district play. Jessica Rodriguez managed 8 points, Chelsi Wagnon and Chelsea Blount had 5 each, Jill Gray 3, Kayla Willis and Liz Wilmeth 2 each. Coach Lusk they worked hard and improved 100% throughout the season.

Varsity Cowgirls - The Cowgirls played hard against Stanton, but fell 54-42 in their final game. Krystle Blundell and Annaliesa O'Quinn had 10 points each, Kristen Gray 8, Candace Bowers 7, Anne Palmer 3, Lexi Warren and Kim Willis 2 each.

Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys played Stanton much closer in their second meeting, but finally lost 62-53. Patrick McGinty led the shooting with 18 points, Dustin Six 10, Eddy Gallegos 9, Josh Bell 5, Alex Tarango 4, Fermin Luna 3, Justin Bennett 2, Kelsey Blundell and Jared Bell 1 each. Justin and Eddy had 6 rebounds each, Patrick and Dustin both had 3 steals. The Cowboys also played Tahoka closer but were downed 60-41 by the district winner. Eddy led scoring with 12 points, Josh had 7, Duistin 5, Jared and Justin 4 each, Kelsey 3, Fermin 2.

Band Students Earn Honors

On January 28 and 29, 16 Plains Junior High and High School students participated in the Association of Texas Small School Bands region 16 all region band and honor band. They auditioned for the bands earlier in January. They competed for selection into the band with all the A-AA schools in region 16.

The students who made the junior high All Region Band were: Allison Friesen, Peyton Bean, Cade Arnett, Kerry Sisson, Evan Cain, and Austin Keese.

Jill Gray and Liz Wilmeth

were selected for the A-AA high school All Region Band.

The honor band is composed of students selected during the first round of competition for the ATSSB All State Band. Students in the honor band were: Krystal Gonzales, Isaac Gonzales, Ross Rogers, Chris Geschedle, Chris McGinty, Amanda Garcia, Skyler Johnson, Elizabeth Clanahan.

Chris McGinty was also chosen from the auditions for the ATSSB All State Band was held in San Antonio February 9-12.



Cheerleaders whooped it up against Tahoka

Tech Prep School To Work

15 PHS students participated in the Tech Prep Job Shadow Day February 2, 2000. They visited several businesses in Lubbock and Levelland, learning how a business operates, and learned first hand what type of education and skills were needed in that business.

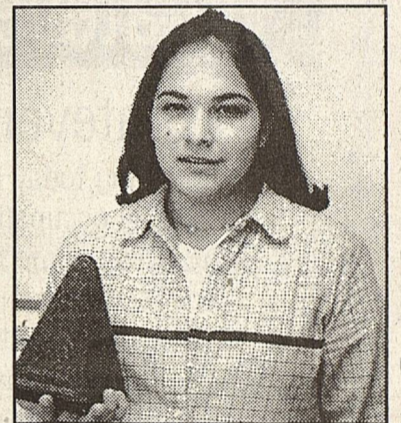
The students worked with doctors, nurses, teachers, computer technicians, network technicians, manufacturing companies, architects, draftsmen, radio DJ's, veterinarians, boy scouts, and the postal service. The students learned the importance of communication skills, public relations, and the use of

math in most of the fields.

Students participating were Joshua Bell, Aaron Cain, Velvet Canada, Leticia Canon, Lensey Cullins, Lisa San Filippo, Isaac Gonzales, David Granados, Nicole Haynes, Kimberlee Jones, Armando Luna, Laura Morales, Nicole Newsom, Adrienne Ramos, and Lesli Rowe. Instructor Robert Canon said, "We are looking for an even greater number of students next year. This has been a wonderful opportunity for our students to explore jobs they may want to pursue as a career."

Student of the Week

PHS student of the week is Kim Martinez a freshman and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Martinez III. Kim was nominated by Mr. Friesen who said, "Kim Martinez was nominated because of her attitude and diligence to learning. She is self motivated and asks for help when help is needed. She has a great personality and is a model student. Kim is a reflection of what excellent upbringing will do for young ladies.



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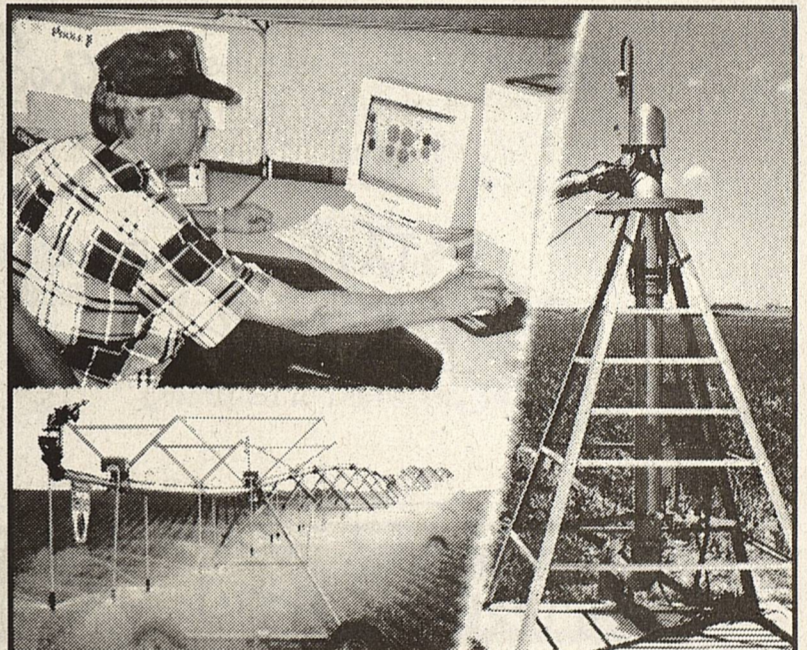
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Senior Citizens Corner

Happy Birthday this month to Claudia Sue Furgerson, Maurine Lehnert, Dorothy Anderson, Sonny Richards, Jack Sessions, Frank Gurero, and Dorothy Connally. Happy Anniversary to Wanda and Calvin Moore.

The 'Free Lunch' winners of the '42' Tournament were Gladys Thomason and Jean Poage.

Becky Cryer is in the local

Hospital. Our wishes are she will be home soon.

New faces at the Center this week were Mike Fears, Stanley Wright, and Jerry Patterson. New people are always welcome.

Valentine Day is coming soon, A Big Bouquet of roses to everyone.

See you next week, Smitty

Yoakum County Federal Credit Union 51st Annual Supper Feb. 19th - 7:00 pm. Plains School Cafeteria Please bring a salad or dessert

New Girl In Town

Emily Lynn Davis announces the arrival of her sister Courtney Brook Davis who arrived February 8, 2000 at 8:30 am. She weighted 7 pounds 9 ounces and was 21" long. Her maternal grandparents are James and Margaret Altman and her paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Terry Davis.



Miller-Gonzalez Announce Engagement



Stephanie Dawn Miller and Henry "Ricky" Gonzalez both of Denton, Texas are happy to announce their engagement. Stephanie is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Miller of Caddo Mills, Texas and a graduate of Sanger High School. She is employed by North Texas Medical Center in Denton. Ricky is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Gonzalez of Plains and a graduate of Plains High School. He is employed by Albertson's Food and Drug. The couple plan to marry Saturday February 19, 2000.

Yoakum County Library Filmtime

The children attending Filmtime were: Micah St. Romain, Sol, Sieanna and Percy Sosa, Marina Corrales, Clayton Gass, Whitney and Johnathan Davis, Bailey Rios. Following the pledges to the United States and Texas flags, the group played two games, sang three songs. The book "Barney's Happy Valentine's Day" was read. The video shown was "Be My Valentine".

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SPC Announces Plains Students Named To Fall Dean's List

Vicky Bayer, Dustin Brunson, Laura Flores, Yvonne Gonzales and Lyndi Rowe from Plains have been named to the Dean's Honor List for the fall 1999 semester at South Plains College.

"We are always pleased to recognize those students who have maintained excellent grade point averages during the semester," said Dr. Gary McDaniel, SPC president. "Being named to the honor list is a tribute to them and something they should be very proud of."

Students represent SPC's campuses in Levelland, Lubbock and at the Reese Center.

Student named to the President's Honor List must maintain a 4.0 or straight A grade point average while carrying a full time minimum number of hours of college level work.

Students named to the Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA of full time college level work with no failing grades.

Bridal Shower honoring Miss April Day Bride Elect of A.J. Deardorff

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2000 10-11:30 am.

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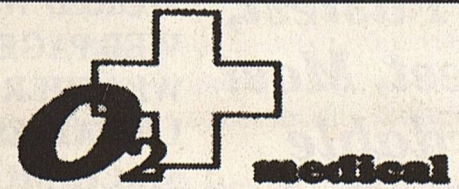
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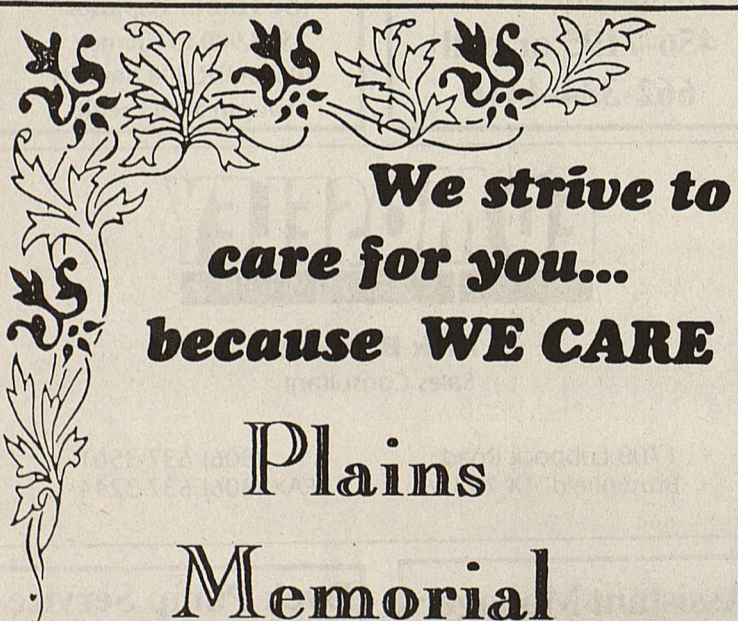
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From The Hack

Last week we poked a bit of fun at a couple of nameless females in this column. I was stopped on the street recently and told rather emphatically by a lady who looked graveyard serious, "That's OK, sport, for you to make fun of us gals.... but I sure better read something in your column next week that gigs you male gender clods!" I got the message. Naturally, the following was sent to us by a femme;

Don't imagine you can change a man unless he's in diapers. If they put a man on the moon they should be able to put them all up there.

Never let your man's mind wander... it's toolittle to be out alone.

You might as well go for younger men. They never mature anyway.

A bachelor is a man who has missed the opportunity to make some woman miserable.

Love is blind. Marriage is a real eye opener.

The best way to get a man to do something is to suggest they are too old for it.

If you want a committed man look in a mental hospital.

The children of Israel wandered around the desert 40 years. Even in biblical times men wouldn't ask directions.

If a man asks what type of books you're interested in, tell him checkbooks.

Remember, a sense of humor does not mean you tell him jokes, it means you laugh at his.

Sadly, all men are created equal.

There you are, ladies, feel better now?

We have a guest columnist this week. Don Haley, one of the Gurus at the local TNRCs office, does a regular column for the *Winters Enterprise*, and sent the following bit to us last week. I am sure many of our readers are sighing, "Well, thank God we don't have to read the Hack this time." Let me tell you something... I'm pretty glad to... I don't have to write all of it!"

The column subject is MICROMAN..

6:30 p.m.

"Hello," says my wife on her mobile phone.

"Where the heck are you," I cry.

"At a meeting," she says. "I told you I wouldn't be home before 9:00 o'clock."

"How in the name of the Lord Almighty do you work this dang-blasted micro-wave?"

"It's not that hard, Einstein. Push 'Time,' the minutes you want to heat, and 'Start.' You can handle that, can't you?"

"Yea...I reckon I can now. I didn't know about that 'Time' button...bye."

7:00 p.m.

"Hello."

"It's still froze."

"What's still 'froze,' your brain! I'm in a meeting!"

"My stew...it's still froze harder'n a spinster's heart."

"I done pushed 'Time' like you said."

"And I figured about three minutes was right to heat it up hottier'n a two dollar pistol and then 'Start.'"

"I done that already ten times. It oughta be thawed out and hottier'n a hen in a sack, but it's still froze..."

"Now listen this time," she says. "To defrost, push 'Cook Control,' then '30,' then 'Cook Control' again and heat for five minutes. Can't you read, it's right there on the front of the microwave. Now I've got to go, I'm in a meeting!"

7:05 p.m.

"Let me guess...it's still 'froze.'"

"Course it's still froze, the dang microwave won't start."

"You did push 'Time,' punch in five minutes and push 'Start' after you set the 'Cook Control' sequence, right?"

"Huh..."

"Listen to me. I'm going to say this really slow so you'll understand. I...am...in...a...meet...ing... Could you please just make you a sandwich?"

"I reckon I could, but I really wanted that stew."

"I know, Honey. I really wanted to marry a rich oil tycoon so my only worry would be what color to paint my fingernails! I guess life's a disappointment to us both! Now bye!!!"

7:08 p.m.

"What!"

"I cain't find the darn lettuce..."

CLICK.

"The mobile customer you have called has turned their unit off..."

© 2000 Don Haley

While watching the Buick Open on the tube, curious to see if Tiger Woods could extend his tournament wins to seven straight (he didn't), I heard an announcer solemnly state, after a player duffed a shot, "Golf is a cruel game." Maybe so. But GOLF PLAYERS are much more cruel, I assure you.

An example - recently I was

playing with a group I suppose I should label 'Butts', and that is the most charitable description I can think of. I happened to hit a magnificent drive on my tee shot on number 13, and admittedly a bit carried away, I turned to the four and said, "I'll bet you thought Tiger Woods hit that one!"

A friend immediately piped up with, "When you swung, I thought I was witnessing a ruptured Albatross trying to flap away from a hungry shark." Another chimed in, "My Aunt Griselda could hit it further than that, and she had gout, three frozen vertebra, and severe gas disorders." The third guy, ready to strike his ball, said, "If I don't outdrive that wimpy effort I will take up knitting and finger painting!" He did, and I continue to hate the game.

Our guy who preaches to us

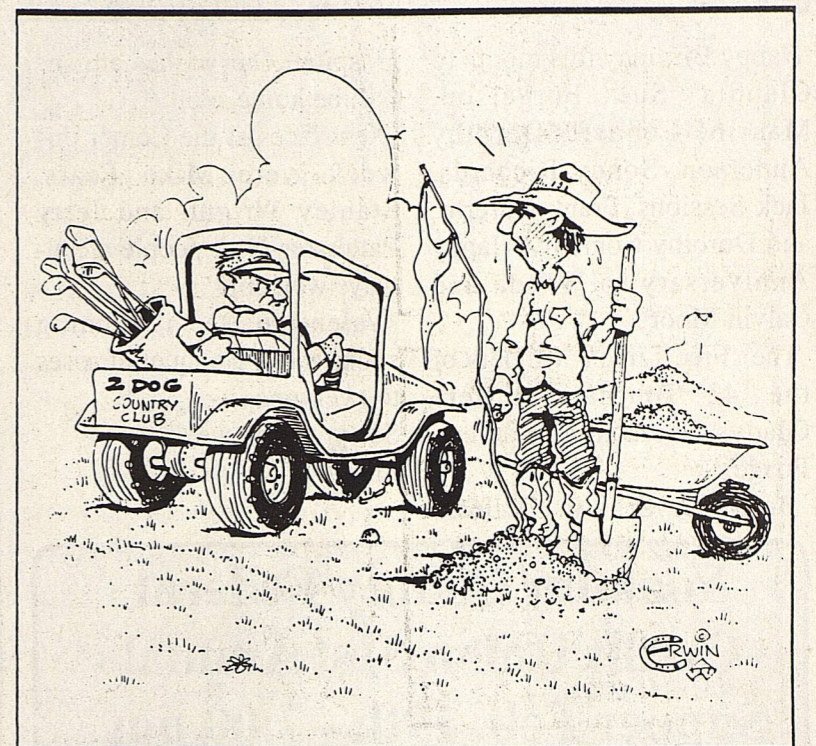
had a pretty good outing this Sunday past. Why is it he ALWAYS nails me? He very stoutly told us, "If you tell me you love everyone you know, 'You're Lying !!!' OK, guilty again. I confess, Bill, in all honesty I can't state I love each person in Plains, Texas. Would you believe me if I told you, "I don't KNOW everyone in Plains Texas?"

He would say, "Poor excuse, get to know them and love them!" I'd say, "But some of them are pretty hard to like, much less love.", and he would say, "I lost you again, didn't I?"

What's the main difference in Jessie Ventura and Donald Trump? Ventura shaves his head. Trump should.

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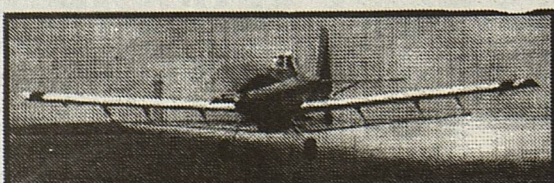
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