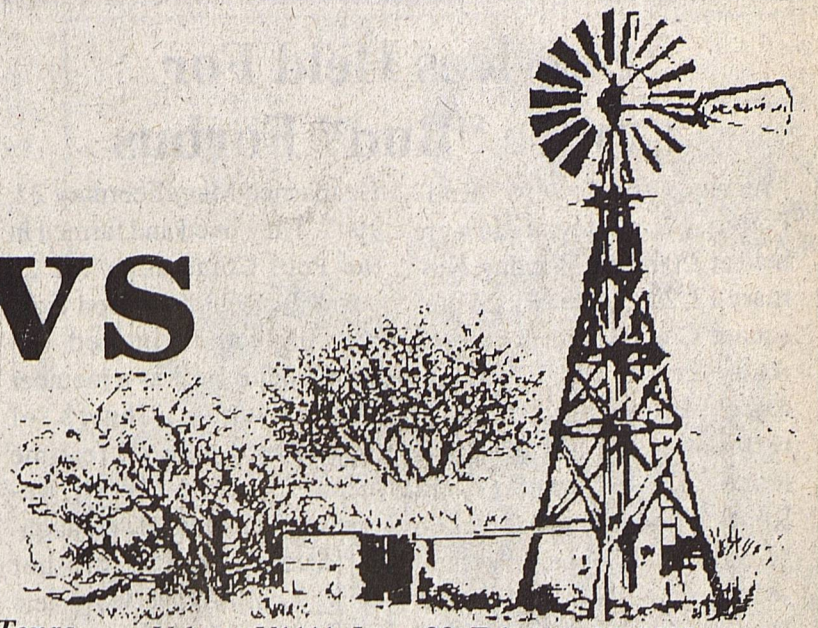


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V1111, Issue 23, February 19, 2003



"Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue"

Quote from Chester Nimitz, World War II Pacific Fleet Admiral

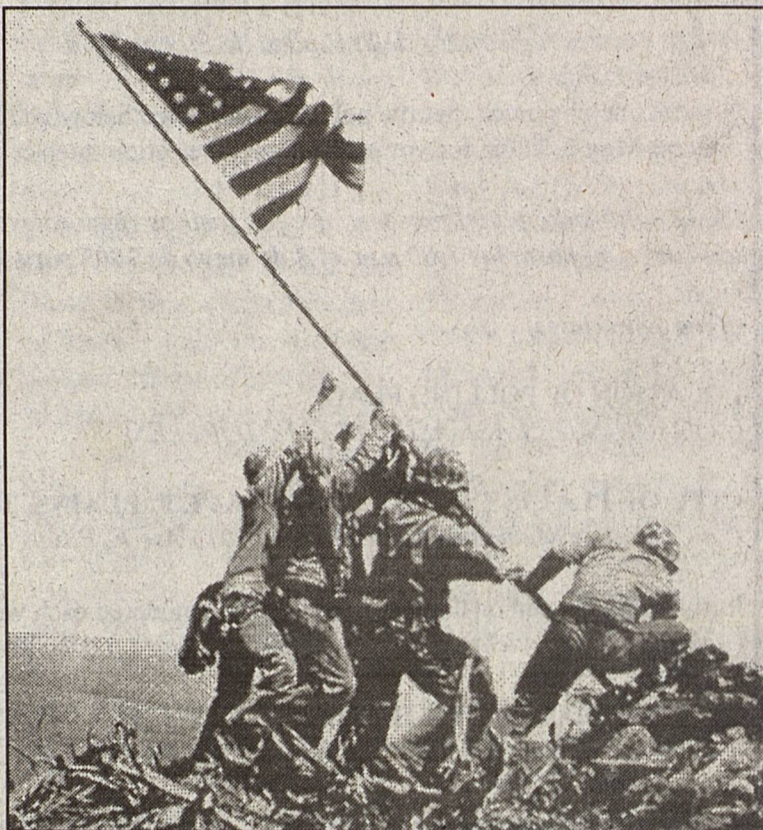
** Fifty three years prior to the date of this printing, US Marines launched their epic invasion of Iwo Jima. We commemorate this date with the following brief article;

By early February, 1945, U.S. Armed Forces had recaptured most of the territory taken by Japanese forces in the Pacific theater of World War II. But not the small island of Iwo Jima, some 660 miles south of Tokyo. Military planners had determined the island was vital as an emergency landing site for Air Force B-29 bombers returning from raids on Japan.

On February 16, 1945, a huge air and naval bombardment of the tiny island commenced, planned to destroy some 25,000 Japanese troops. The 72 hour bombardment was mostly ineffective against the Japanese forces, dug into hundreds of well fortified caves, many of them linked by elaborate tunnels and shafts.

On February 19, Navy landing craft began putting ashore men and equipment of the 4th and 5th Divisions, U.S. Marine Corps. The dug-in Japanese offered fierce resistance, and Marine casualties began to mount as the first wave of landing troops poured ashore.

On February 21, the 28th Regiment, 5th Division was ordered to take Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano rising 550 feet to dominate the island. By nightfall the next day the Marines had almost surrounded Suribachi. On the



morning of February 23, men of Company E, 2nd Battalion started the tortuous climb to the top, and managed to place a small American flag at the summit, visible to thousands of Marines all over the island.

That afternoon, when all of the slopes were clear of enemy resistance, five Marines and a Navy Corpsman raised another, larger flag; Marines Sgt. Michael Strank, Cpl. Harlon Block, Pfc. Franklin Sousley, and Marine casualties began to mount as the first wave of landing troops poured ashore.

On February 21, the 28th Regiment, 5th Division was ordered to take Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano rising 550 feet to dominate the island. By nightfall the next day the Marines had almost surrounded Suribachi. On the

which now serves as the Marine Corps War Memorial in our nation's capitol. It is dedicated to all Marines who have given their lives in the defense of our nation since 1775.

The battle for Iwo Jima was the single most costly to the Corps in its long history. Over 5,900 Marines were killed in action or died from their wounds, while more than 17,000 were wounded. The Japanese suffered much more in losses; an estimated 25,000 dead, with less than 500 taken prisoners.

Fleet Admiral Nimitz now famous tribute to the fighting men on Iwo, *Uncommon Valor was a Common Virtue*, is engraved in the base of the 78 foot tall memorial.

Grand Jury Indicts Seven

The Yoakum County Grand Jury convened February 13, and returned true bills of indictment against seven defendants in eight cases. All bonds for felony indictments are set by District Judge Kelly G. Moore. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Woodrow Kent Dunn, possession of methamphetamine, less than four grams, 3rd degree felony. \$5000 bond.

Reynaldo Orona Jr., possession of cocaine, less than one gram, state jail felony. \$5000 bond.

Vicente Ortiz Garcia, DWI, 3rd or more, 3rd degree felony. \$1000 bond.

Tammy Jo Kidd, possession of methamphetamine, state jail felony. \$3500 bond.

Juan Carlos Verdugo, DWI, 3rd degree felony. Defendant in jail. Judy Lynn Dunn, possess or transport certain chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, state jail felony. Defendant in jail.

Judy Lynn Dunn, possession of methamphetamine, state jail felony. Defendant in jail.

Jake Neufeld Penner, burglary of a building, 2nd degree felony. \$3500 bond.

The range of punishment of felonies include; 1st degree, confinement in prison for life or not over 99 years, or less than 5 years.

2nd degree- confinement in prison not more than 20 years or less than 2 years, optional \$10,000 fine

3rd degree- confinement in prison not more than 10 years or less than two years, optional \$10,000 fine.

State Jail Felony- confinement in a state jail for up to 2 years or less than 180 days, optional fine of \$10,000

Vickie Sutton Announces Candidacy For Congressional Seat



Vickie Sutton, center, flanked by staff members Cathi Davis and Ruth Schiermeyer.

Following a whirlwind tour of counties in the congressional district which started in Monahans, Sutton, accompanied by two staff members made announcement meetings in Andrews, Seminole, Denver City, and after her appearance here continued her northward trek.

A number of citizens and courthouse employees attended Sutton's brief stay in the courthouse here. Sutton had stressed in her statement she was vitally interested in issues involving small, rural communities in the sprawling district. A resident suggested he was hopeful that interest would key on the agriculture and petroleum industries which dominate most of the district. She replied both

industries were high on her list of priorities. She reported she was deeply concerned about water issues in West Texas. "As the large metro areas of North Texas, East Texas and Southwest Texas continue to grow with both people and industry, residents there will be looking with much greater interest at our supply of groundwater here, the bulk of which is invested in the agricultural economy in this district, and I will work hard to protect our West Texas constituents."

Sutton is currently a Professor of Law at Texas Tech University, and holds a PhD in Environmental Sciences, Master's in Public Administration, BS in Animal Science, and BS in Zoology.

Sandy Land Water District to call board election

Sandy Land Underground Water District announced an election of three Board of Director members will be held Saturday, May 3, 2003. Three board members with expiring terms include David Turnbough, Don Parrish and Darrell Barron. All three incumbent officers have indicated they will seek office again in the election.

More information about early voting, applications for filing for a place on the ballot, and voting dates and deadlines will be featured in a future issue of CCN. More information is available from the Sandy Land office, 456-2155.

PISD Board Of Trustees Approve Bond Election

In the Board of Trustees meeting on February 10, the board voted 5 to 2 to call a bond election for the school district. James Haynes, Plains ISD Superintendent, said, "The use of bond money to pay for some of the maintenance costs of the district would save some local money from being sent to Austin in the form of recapture. Plains ISD is spending money out of our fund balance this year to maintain our program. This problem has occurred because we have lost a large number of students over the past three years, which means the state wants more of our locally generated tax money."

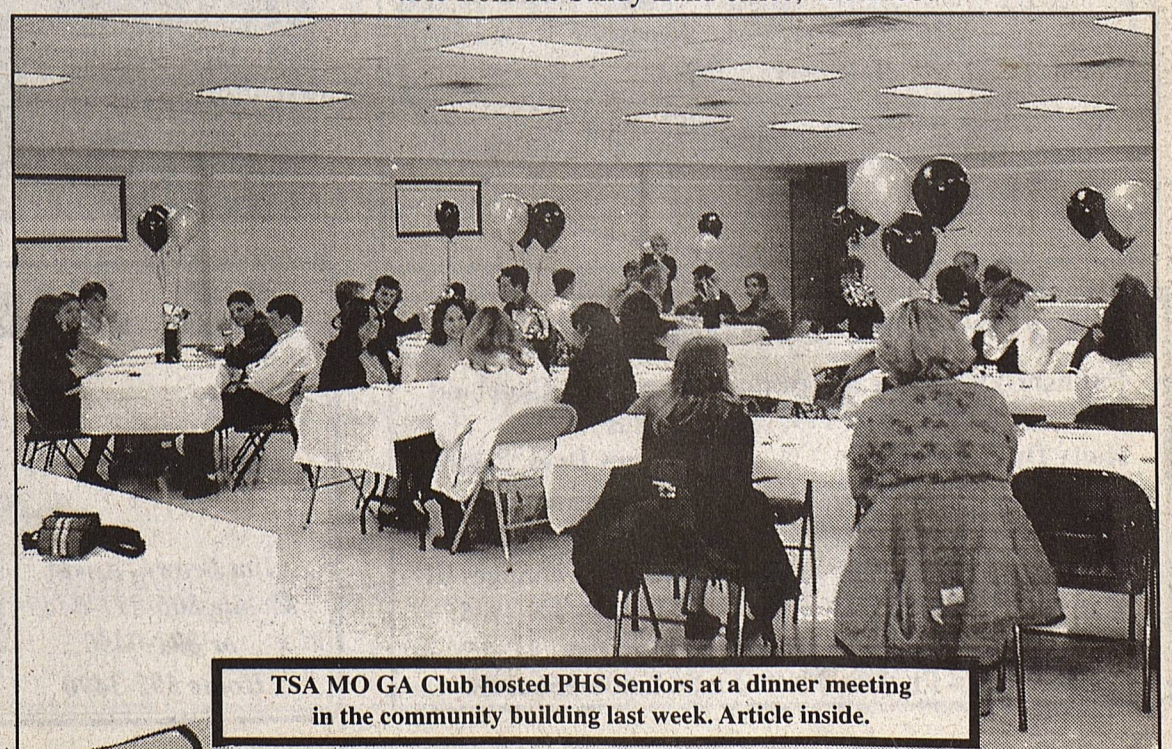
The bond proposal would be for a total of \$ 2,160,000, and

would be used over a period of three years. It would be used for care of maintenance issues and replacement of equipment, including busses and other school vehicles.

Haynes continued, "The passage of a bond would not solve the finance problem by itself, but it would be a good first step. The district has looked at other ways of cutting costs, including a retirement incentive package for the highest paid certified staff. The district will evaluate the position vacated by a person taking advantage of the package to determine if the position can be left vacant. Any positions left vacant will be large savings to the district. There will be budget cuts in

every area using local money for funding, and there could be a reduction in staff if all other strategies do not save enough money. I am concerned the district you see next year will look a great deal different than the one we have seen to this point."

Haynes continued, "We have given the employees eligible for the retirement incentive until March 25 to let us know their decision. After that, there will be additional decisions made concerning the program or employee cuts. This is a time in our district when we will have to look at new and creative ways to provide services for our children, and save money for the district."



TSA MO GA Club hosted PHS Seniors at a dinner meeting in the community building last week. Article inside.



Obituary

Services Held For Leveré "Bud" Forbus

Services for Leveré "Bud" Forbus, 62, of Brownfield were held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, February 17, 2003 in the First Four-square Church with Reverend Andy Pruitt and Reverend Ronald Brown officiating. Interment was held at the Ropesville Cemetery in Ropesville under the direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. Mr. Forbus died 2/14/003 at Brownfield. He was born 9/27/1910 at Abilene, TX. He married Mary Ussery Altman February 22, 1947 at Clovis, NM. Mr. Forbus moved with his family from Abilene to Childress then on to Ropesville in the 1930's. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1940 serving in both Germany and Belgium during WWII. He also served in the Medical Corps for 5 years.

He married Mary February 22, 1947. They lived and farmed in the Pool Community for 26 years. In 1973 he retired from farming and moved to Brownfield. He was a member of Firstsquare Church of Brownfield and a life time member of the VFW. He was preceded in death by a daughter Sue Forbus, a brother George Forbus and two sisters Floe Helen Moxley and Mary Alice Jerred. He is survived by his wife of Brownfield, son Randy Forbus, Plains, 2 step-sons James Altman, Plains, Jimmy Altman, Lovington, NM, 1 sister Geniva Moore, Lubbock, 10 grandchildren and 17 great grandchildren. The family suggests memorials to Charity of choice.

State health coverage of one in five Texans plunges budget into red

The state of Texas has taken on more than it can financially handle by providing health care to nearly one out of every five Texans. Health care costs now make up half of the almost \$10 billion deficit the state faces. Reductions in health care spending that will be necessary to balance the budget cannot be realized by exempting any one group or program.

The sheer enormity of the health care component of the budget deficit means it cannot be resolved unless all programs and covered groups share equally in the solution. The bigger picture must be examined by the Legislature, including state-funded health care for public school district employees, higher education employees, state employees, Medicaid, and CHIP.

When the last legislature expanded Medicaid and related health care programs, it also took on the responsibility of a new group of 600,000 people - public school district employees. What was previously a local financial responsibility became a \$2.5 billion burden on the state budget.

Of the 600,000 public school district employees now covered by state-funded health care, less than half are teachers; the rest are district employees ranging from administrators to bus drivers to cafeteria workers and other non-instructional staff. In fact, public school district employees who work as little as 15 hours per week or drive a single bus route are eligible for full health benefits at taxpayer expense.

The state of Texas employs 150,000 full-time workers, not including higher education, to carry out all of the state's business



Gary Anderson
Texas Public Employees Association

and to provide vital services in our prisons, state hospitals and on our highways.

State employees serve Texas efficiently. According to the State Auditor, the state's workforce has not grown appreciably in the last 10 years, even though demand for services has grown with an increased population, and the prison system has tripled in size.

Recently, the Comptroller proposed cutting costs in state employee health care by instituting measures such as a waiting period for insurance coverage for new employees and increased copays. If such benefit reductions are to occur, they must apply equally to the 600,000 public school district employees and the 135,000 employees of institutions of higher education; otherwise, the needed reductions in the burgeoning health care cost component of the state's budgetary shortfall cannot be achieved.

Health care is the single largest component of Texas' budget, and health care costs are the primary component of the current budgetary shortfall. State employees are willing to do their part to help the state address the budget shortfall, especially in the area of controlling health care costs, but it is only appropriate that any changes in coverage be applied in an even-handed fashion.

JP Court Summary

February 14, 2003-In JP Court Precinct One with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding the following cases and bonds were set: Cases filed: 96 traffic cases Bonds set:

Public intoxication - \$400 bond. Criminal mischief - \$1,500 bond. Driving while intoxicated - 1st - \$1,000 bond. Driving while intoxicated - 3rd - or more - \$2,500 bond + interlock device ordered. Motion to revoke probation - Gaines County - \$5,000 bond. Failure to appear - Nueces County - \$7,000 bond. Failure to identify - \$500 bond. 2 cases - Driving while intoxicated - 2nd - \$1,500 bond + interlock device ordered. Parole violation - held until transported. No liability insurance - Terry County - \$800 bond. 4 cases - Motion to revoke probation - held for hearing - no bond. Probation violation - U.S. Marshals Service - held - no bond. 2 cases - Driv-

ing while license suspended - \$500 bond. Failure to appear - Terry County - \$250 bond. Burglary of a vehicle - Winkler County - \$3,000 bond. Assault causing bodily injury - \$3,000 bond + emergency protection order. Assault causing bodily injury - \$1,500 bond. Possession of Marijuana - \$500 bond. Theft by check - \$500 bond. Possession Marijuana - Terry County - \$2,000 cash bond. Theft - \$500 bond. Parole violation - Texas Youth Commission - no bond. Minor in possession of alcohol - \$250 fine - time served.

City Officials Meet In Austin

Plains Mayor Shane McKinzie, Mayor Pro-Tem Owen Schneider, Councilmembers Christy Brink and Pamela Redman were in Austin February 7-10, 2003, to attend the 38th Annual Institute for Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners. The meeting provided an opportunity for elected officials to enhance their knowledge of city government and sharpen their leadership skills. In addition, the Institute offered an opportunity to visit with elected officials from across Texas to learn how other cities are coping with similar challenges. During this event, Institute attendees were offered a number of ses-

sions on topics such as technology, council/manager relations, liability, and police and fire issues. In addition, networking sessions were held to allow for an informal exchange of information among elected officials from cities of a similar size. Elected officials from all over the state attended the Institute which was sponsored by the Association of Mayors, Councilmembers and Commissioners, an affiliate of the Texas Municipal League. The League is a voluntary association of over 1,100 Texas cities. The City of Plains is a member of the League.

CITY OF PLAINS NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION GENERAL)

To the Registered Voters of the City of Plains, Texas:

(A los votantes registrados de la Ciudad de Plains, Texas:)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on **May 3, 2003**, for voting in a general election to elect **Three (3) Councilmembers**

(Se la notificado, por el presente, que las casillas electorales nombradas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el **3 de mayo de 2003** para votar en la Elección General para elegir **Tres concejales**)

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE
(L.O.CACION DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

CITY OF PLAINS CITY HALL, 1015 AVE F, PLAINS, TEXAS
(La Ciudad de Municipalidad de Plains, 1015 Ave F, Plains, Texas)

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at
(Las votaciones adelantadas en persona se llevará a cabo de lunes a viernes en)

CITY OF PLAINS CITY HALL, 1015 AVE F, PLAINS, TEXAS
(La Ciudad de Municipalidad de Plains, 1015 Ave F, Plains, Tx)

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on April 16, 2003 (entre las 8:00 de la mañana y las 5:00 de la tarde empezando el, 16 de abril, 2003) and ending on April 29, 2003 (y terminado el 29, de abril, 2003.)

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

(Las solicitudes para boletas que votarán en ausencia por correo se deben enviar a:)

Pam Rowe

Name of Early Voting Clerk

(Nombre del Secretario (a) de la Votación Adelantada)

P.O. Box 550

(Address) (Dirección)

Plains, Texas 79355

(City) (Ciudad) (Zip Code) (Zona Postal)

Applications for ballot by mail must be received no later than the close of business on (Las Solicitudes para boletas que votarán en ausencia por correo se deben recibirse para el final de las horas de negocio en)

April 25, 2003

(Date)

25 de abril, 2003

(Fecha)

Issued this the 3RD Day of February, 2003
(Emitada este día 3 de febrero, 2003)

Shane Mckinzie

Signature of Mayor (firma del alcalde)

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Cowboy Country News
Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355
Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodical postage paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, TX 79355
E-Mail us at ccn@crosswind.net
ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

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Texas Board of Legal Specialization PRINCIPLE OFFICE - HOUSTON, TEXAS

Funeral Director's web site provides listing, resources for area armed forces personnel

Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors has begun a new program called "Help Our Troops!" The idea is to provide personal hygiene items to soldiers in the Middle East.

Each of us have loved ones in the military, or know someone who does. Mark and Beth Jones have a son, Spc. Keith Jones who just left with the US Army 82nd Airborne for Kuwait. Many other families in the area are experiencing this.

"It is our duty as citizens to help these men and women risking their lives," Mark states. "In other wars, our citizens in all standings of life came together for these sol-

diers. They worked in factories, sweatshops and other hard jobs when our troops left. It's time to help out again."

Area soldiers have told us the military strongly suggests items of personal hygiene they don't supply, but will make the troops more comfortable, such as Gold Bond Medicated Powder, waterless soap and shampoo. In the battle areas of Iraq the troops are not expected to have water for bathing, and temperatures are expected to be over 120 degrees in the next few months.

The funeral directors are asking citizens to help furnish these and other items. They must be donated in sample

sizes, and NO aerosol containers. If you have items for the program, call 637-8993, 456-2152 or 546-2121 and they will be picked up.

"On our website (www.majonesfuneraldirectors.com) we list about 30 military listed from the area and a list of the needed items," Jones said. "We are asking others to provide us with other names and addresses of other military so we may help supply their units. Our email address is markajones@door.net. Our company will fund storage and shipping of the items and maintain the troop lists. For more information, please call us."

On Friday, February 14, Lyndia Alexander donated an unusual and very special Valentine Day gift - over four feet of her hair.

Lyndia told CCN she had not cut her hair since 1980. She knew of children suffering from cancer and they had always had a special place in her mind and heart.

Then, she learned of *Wigs For Kids*, a special program sponsored by the American Cancer Society. She obtained more information about the program, and made the decision to cut and donate her hair which would be used to make wigs to be donated to cancer stricken kids.

Lyndia said, "The wigs are created by a firm in Ohio, and I learned they are normally priced at five to six hundred dollars each. *Wigs For Kids* sees that children receive the wigs free. I know children who have lost their hair from the disease and chemo treatments must experience self-conscious mental problems. A good looking wig is bound to make a real difference in their outlook." She said a wig must contain a minimum of twelve inches of



Christy Brink and Lyndia Alexander display four feet of Lyndia's hair donated to *Wigs For Kids*. When Image'n That's Christy Brink finished cutting Lyndia's hair, it measured 48 1/2 inches, 42 inches after it was braided. Some four young cancer patients will soon be able to wear an attractive, lustrous black wig.

Capitol Comment : Kay Bailey Hutchison-U.S. Senator

The Guardians Of Medical Research - In 1900, the average life expectancy for a man born in the United States was 47 years. By 1950, Americans were living somewhat longer to 68 years still youthful by today's standards. Half a century later, children born in 2000 can reasonably expect to draw their last breath in 2077.

The increase in life expectancy can be attributed to many factors environmental, dietary and societal to name a few but the greatest contributor is breakthrough medical research. And no one organization can take more credit in the advancement of modern medicine than the National Institutes of Health (NIH), our nation's steward of medical and behavioral research.

NIH is the federal agency responsible for funding medical research. With the far reaching mission to uncover new knowledge that will lead to better health for everyone, it has focused on the health and well being of Americans since the late 1700's. Originally founded as the Marine Hospital Service on July 16, 1798 by President John Adams, the organization has since evolved into a top notch research center. Building laboratories, research centers and worldwide respect along the way, NIH ul-

imately became the center of medical excellence it is today. With centers ranging from the Office of Research on Women's Health aimed at enhancing research into conditions and diseases that affect women, to the Division for Environmental Health Sciences which focuses on the biological, chemical and physical effects of environmental agents, NIH now tackles every imaginable health concern facing humanity.

Its overall goal is to acquire knowledge in how to treat, prevent, detect and diagnose everything from life threatening genetic disorders to the common cold. With such a vast calling, NIH officials realized early on that success would not be determined by government scientists in federally run laboratories alone, but by the utilization of the tremendous assets scientific and human that existed in the medical community.

Today, NIH invests 84 percent of its budget to grants and contracts supporting research and training in more than 2,000 institutions in every state as well as overseas.

In the late 1990's Congress realized the full potential of NIH could not be achieved without adequate funds and committed to doubling the NIH budget over

a five year period. In that short time, NIH has provided it is worth its weight in research funding by making life altering discoveries. From giving hope to the paralyzed by treating immune cells to repair injuries and restore lost nerve impulses, to mapping the human genome medical research funned through NIH has exploded. And as Dr. Michael DeBaake, chancellor emeritus at the Baylor College of Medicine put it, we are on the brink of discoveries that will make the next decade a renaissance of genetic treatments and cures.

A 50 percent decrease in the death rate from strokes; an 80 percent success rate of reducing or eliminating schizophrenia symptoms; and a 36 percent decrease in mortality rates from heart disease, are just a few off the medical breakthroughs made possible by NIH.

In the new millennium, NIH is at the forefront in addressing contemporary concerns like the emerging threat of bioterrorism, and we can be assured it will continue the cutting edge discoveries that have become the agency's hallmark.

For more information on the National Institutes of Health log on to www.nih.gov

Productive Appraisal Saves Farmers, Ranchers Tax Dollars

Landowners must file for special appraisal at the appraisal district office by April 30. Those who must file this year are landowners whose property did not previously receive 1-d-1 appraisal and new owners of qualified land. The appraisal district must accept late filed 1-d-1 appraisal until the day before the appraisal review board approves the 2003 appraisal records.

To qualify for 1-d-1, the owner must use the land for agriculture or timber production. This form of appraisal does not restrict ownership to individuals and does not require agriculture to be the owner's primary business. This special appraisal re-

quires that the land's use in a qualifying agricultural or timber purpose meets the degree of intensity generally accepted in the area. The owners must show that they devoted the land's use principally to a qualifying use for at least five of the preceding seven years.

The law also provides that a property owner may use the land for wildlife management to receive the special appraisal, if the land had been qualified for agriculture in the preceding year. "In addition, landowners should know," Stephens said, "that the law provides specific penalties for taking qualified land out of agriculture." The roll back tax is the differ-

ence between the taxes paid under productivity appraisal and the taxes that would have been paid if the land had been put on the tax roll at market value. The law also requires the roll back tax include interest charges. Under 1-d-1 appraisal, an owner triggers a roll back by changing the land's use to a non-agricultural use. The roll back taxes are based on the five years preceding the year of the change.

Landowners must apply for productivity appraisal with each appraisal district in which they have land. Failure to do so could result in landowners paying taxes on the land's full market value.

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Daffodil Day Festival - Celebration 2003

Saturday, March 1, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Round Rock Senior Center,
205 E. Main St. (across from library), Round Rock

- Food Booths
- Baked Goods
- Crafts
- Entertainment
- Auction (1:00 p.m.)
- Door Prizes

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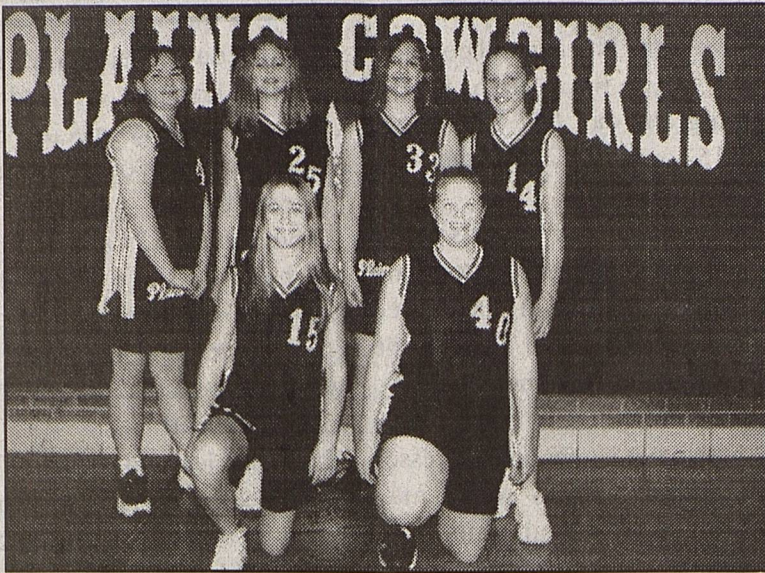
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2002-03 Plains ISD Basketball Teams

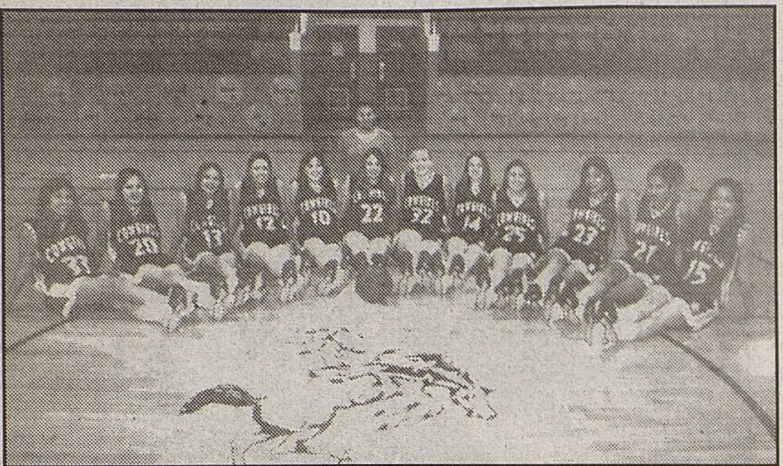
(Photos courtesy Mrs. Mary Wilmeth - 7th Boys photo unavailable)



Varsity Cowboys: Back, Kelly Bowers, Kevin Bartley, Evan Cain, Zach Broome, Brandon Hise, Benny Loewen. Front: Armando Ramirez, Bradley Palmer, Angel Ruiz, Richard Diaz, Chase Howell



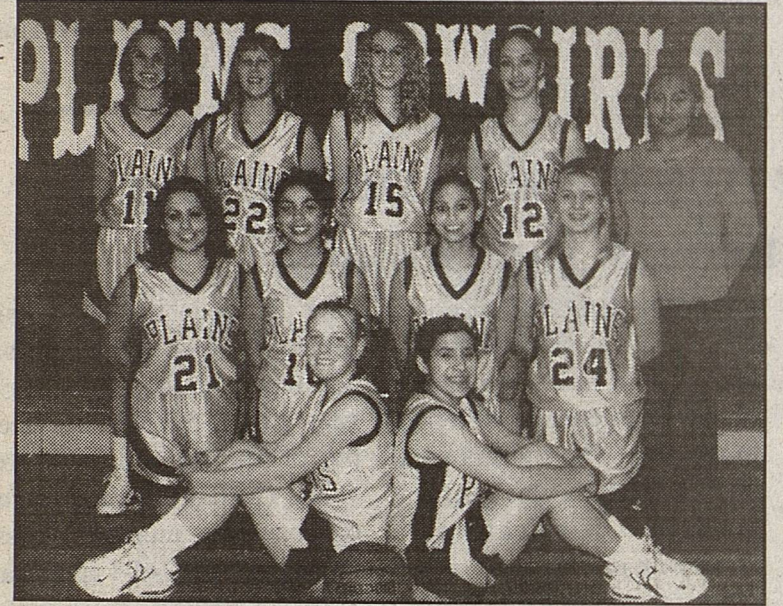
7th Lady Wranglers: Back, Skye Sellers, Lauren Davis, Joani Bell, Lauren Hise, Front, Katie Winn, Amber Friesen



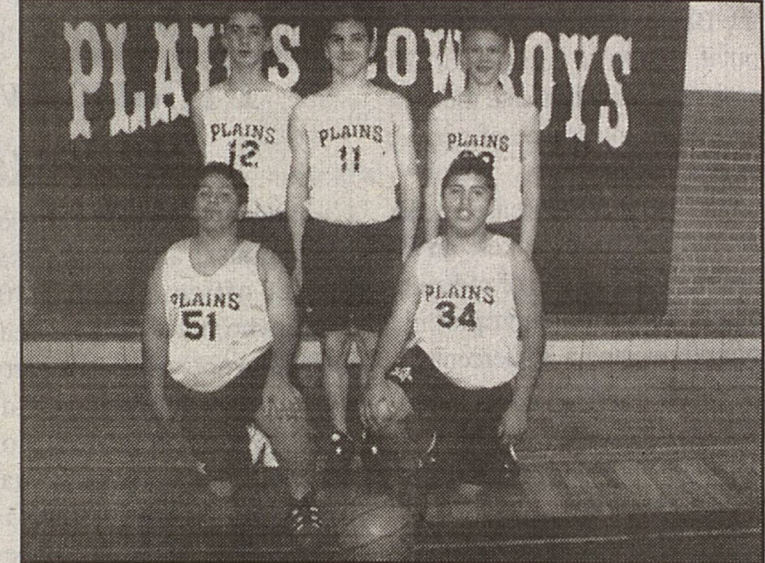
Varsity Cowgirls, L-R Daniela Lazos, Prisma Ortiz, Jamie Covarrubias, Jill Gray, Chelsea Blount, Kayla Willis, Jessica Knight, Moriah Traweck, Marlie Diaz, Kristian Morales, Josenia Suarez, Manuela Villegas, Maribel Mendias



8th Lady Wranglers: Back, Clarissa Zorilla, Nicole Culwell, Hallie Cotton, Desiraye Broome, Caitlin Carter, Middle, Meghan Garcia, Regina Morales, Angelica Gomez, Callie Howell, Front, Kimberly Gonzalez, Lisa Neufeld, Angelica Mendoza.



JV Cowgirls: Back, Stacie Alldredge, Allison Friesen, Skylar Keese, Cecilia Bonilla, Maribel Mendias, Middle, Sarah Martinez, Micaela Villegas, Sandra Gandara, Ashli Hunter, Front, LaShonda Diamond, Priscilla Mares, not pictured Kim Trent



8th Wranglers: Back, Scott Addison, Steven Dominguez, Landon Craft, Front, C.J. Tarango, Justin Vasquez.



JV Cowboys- Back, Brandon Davis, Blake O'Quinn, Cody Flores, Patrick Cotton, Kerry Sisson, Payton Bean, Front, Todd Williams, Arnold Cordova, T.J. Cordova, Abel Ramos

Student of the Week

Student of the Week is Moriah Traweck, a junior and the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Mark Traweck. She was nominated by Coach Thaggard, who said, "She plays an active role at school, church, and community. Moriah is conscientious and hard working, a tough competitor in sports; volleyball, basketball, and track. She is active in many church functions and youth choir. She displays the pillars of character; honesty, dependable, respectful and compassionate. She is a joy to be around."



PISD Sports Capsule

(Very limited information available at press time)

Junior High Basketball:

7th Girls - The younger Lady Wranglers finished a great season with a convincing 28-8 win over Smyer. Katie Winn had 12 points, Lauren Davis 8, Lauren Friesen 4. Their season record was 14 and 2, and they won both tournaments they competed in. The improved each week of the season by working very hard.

8th Girls- The older girls also had a big win over Smyer, 43-25. Desiraye Broome topped scoring with 18 points, Meghan Garcia 8, Lisa Neufeld 7, Caitlin Carter and Regina Morales 4, Nicole Culwell 2. They had an 8 and 8 record, and Coach Lusk noted the teams improvements, and thinks they face a great future in basketball.

7th Boys- The younger Wranglers finished their 8 and 6 season with a good 35-29 win over Smyer. Elias Carrillo led scoring with 13 points, Juan Lara 9, Cody Mayes 5, Zach Ramos and John Tyson 4 each. Doug Conway, Kurt Alldredge, Trent Hawthorne and Curtis Artega also saw action in the finale game.

JV Cowboys- The young Cowboys were plagued with cold shooting and turnovers in their last game, losing to Sundown 49-30. Kerry Sisson had 9 points, Payton Bean 8, T.J. Cordova 5, Patrick Cotton 3, Todd Williams and Cody Flores 2, Blake O'Quinn 1. Their season record was 13-1-, and they went 5 and 4 in district play.

Yoakum County Golf Club Presents.....

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE 2003

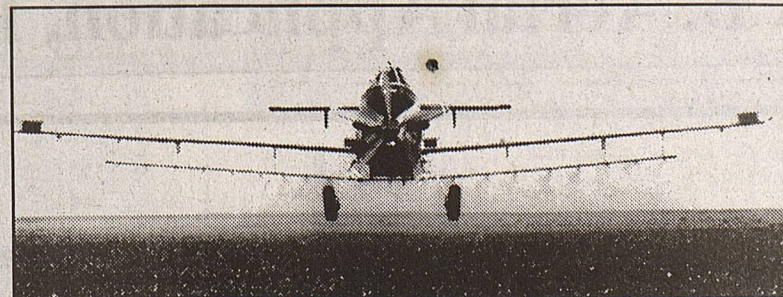
FEBRUARY 15	1 MAN SCRAMBLE
FEBRUARY 26	DCHS INVITATIONAL
MARCH 15	1 MAN SCRAMBLE
MARCH 29-30	SPRING SCRAMBLE (3 PERSON)
APRIL 8	AAA GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL
APRIL 12	ROTARY CLUB SCRAMBLE
APRIL 14	AERIFY GREENS
MAY 10	MUSTANG STATION SCRAMBLE
MAY 26	MEMORIAL DAY SCRAMBLE
JUNE 7-8	2 MAN PARTNERSHIP
JUNE 14-15	PARENT-CHILD TOURNAMENT
JULY 4	CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
JULY 11-12-13	COTTON KILPATRICK & PRO AM
JULY 26-27	CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP
AUGUST 9-10	MENS STABLEFORD
AUGUST 23	UNITED WAY SCRAMBLE
AUGUST 30	1 DAY QUALIFIER (CHALLENGE CUP)
SEPTEMBER 1	LABOR DAY SCRAMBLE
SEPTEMBER 20-21	CHALLENGE CUP

2003 Cowboy Baseball Schedule

Game Date	Game Time	Location	Opponent
02-15-2003	11:00am	Plains	--LCHS
02-18-2003	5:30pm	Plains	Lamesa JV
02-22-2003	1:00pm & 3:30pm	Plains	**Denver City JV
03-04-2003	6:00pm	Seminole	Seminole JV
03-06-2003	3:00pm	Ralls	Olton
03-07-2003	W5:30/L12:30	Ralls	Ralls or Whiteface
03-08-2003	WW5:30WL3:00LW12:30LL10:00am	Ralls	TBA
03-11-2003	5:00pm & 7:30pm	Plains	**Hobbs JV2
03-13-2003	4:30pm & 7:00pm	Plains	**New Home - JV Games
03-17-2003	12:00pm & 2:30pm	Plains	** Muleshoe
03-24-2003	6:00pm	Lubbock	LCHS
03-28-2003	5:00pm & 7:30pm	Lubbock Roosevelt	** Lubbock Roosevelt JV
04-01-2003	5:00pm	Plains	* Smyer
04-05-2003	1:00pm	O'Donnell	* O'Donnell
04-08-2003	5:00pm	Morton	* Morton
04-11-2003	7:30pm	Plains	* Whiteface
04-15-2003	Open	Open	Open
04-18-2003	1:00pm	Smyer	* Smyer
04-22-2003	5:00pm	Plains	* O'Donnell
04-26-2003	8:00pm	Plains	* Morton
04-29-2003	5:00pm	Whiteface	* Whiteface

The Cowboy baseball team has a new website featuring schedule, roster, stats, directions to game sites, photo album and school records. The new site is:
www.baseball-teams.com/teams/plainscowboys

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Lifelines & Styles

Plains Students Named To SPC Honor Lists

Students from Plains are among those named to the President and Dean's Honor Lists for the fall 2002 semester at South Plains College.

Students named to the President's Honor List maintain a straight A or 4.0 grade point average while carrying a minimum full time load of 12 semester hours of college level work. Students named to the

Dean's Honor List must maintain a minimum 3.25 GPA while enrolled in at least 12 semester hours of college level work with no failing grades.

Joshua Bayer and Joel Gallegos from Plains have been named to the President's Honor List, and Ryan Rogers and Dustin Sisson from Plains have been named to the Dean's Honor List.

Connection Meeting Held

Yoakum County Connection met for a regularly scheduled meeting on February 11 at the Connection Building. Officers elected include Chair LeAnn Romines, Vice-Chair Ed Hansen, Secretary Elsa Moya, and Treasurer Pam Burgess.

Jeannette Head reported on Watermelon Round Up organization for the August 30 event. Denver City Art Association will handle the T-Shirt design contest again this year. The winning entry will receive \$100 from the Connection, plus have numerous shirts with their design paraded around all summer and fall. The Yoakum County Wordsmiths will supervise the poetry contest with awards for the winning entries from the Connection and best poems printed in the tabloid that will be supervised by Linda Harris.

Merchants and individuals who gave door prizes at the January annual meeting were

SPC Sets Spring Enrollment Record

South Plains College has set a new spring enrollment record, registering 8,930 students, according to figures released by the Office of Admissions and Records.

The spring headcount increased 818 students or 10.1 percent over last spring's record enrollment of 8,112 students.

"South Plains College is continuing a pattern of growth," said David Jones, vice president for student affairs. "Better retention of a record fall class is a contributing factor to our growth this spring. Students are also discovering that SPC provides an excellent educational program that is delivered by outstanding faculty."

The college's spring enrollment has grown 60.2% since 1997 when SPC reversed a slight enrollment decline. "Our ongoing partnership with Texas Tech University through the Gateway program, our concurrent enrollment programs with area high schools, and continued growth of our technical programs have enabled South Plains College to grow," said Jones.

SPC's Levelland campus has registered 4,751 students, up 560 students, the college's Lubbock locations have registered 4,268, up 408 students. An additional 870 students are enrolled in other off campus courses, primarily dual credit college courses being taught at 45 area high schools.

PHS 2003 Seniors Guests At TSA MO GA



Guest speaker Travis Spears and Tsa Mo Ga Club President Sarah Jane Shelton visit before start of program

Retired South Plains College Professor Travis Spears spoke to members of this year's Class of 2003 at the annual Tsa Mo Ga Dinner February 10.

Spears challenged the group by stating, "You have a name to live up to," noting that in his tenure at South Plains College Plains' students had a good name and were "well prepared and ready to go to work."

Spears also told the group "This is one of the best times of your life. Savor this time. It's right up there with marriage and the birth of your first child." The speaker encouraged the seniors to maintain contact with classmates, and noted at his 40th class reunion, "How different we looked, but how little we had changed."

In his message "Lessons in Character for Your Future," Spears started with the expression "Character is what you are when no one else is around." He listed important character traits as "honesty, integrity, self discipline, motivation, and a strong faith."

He challenged the group to ask themselves some questions: "What makes you laugh? What makes you cry? and What makes you angry?" He encouraged the seniors to learn from their mistakes and always try to improve. He also said, "Make no compromise between right and wrong," and "To thine own self be true."



Sisters Wilma Powell and Mary Jo St. Romain registered guests before the Senior Class dinner

Donations continue to be accepted at City Hall for the purchase of new radios for Plains EMS ambulances. A number of generous contributions have been received, for which EMS is very grateful, but additional funds are needed. Please remember, these volunteers are always ready to come to our aid when we need them..... Now we can assist THEM!!

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Senior Citizens Corner

We remind you again of the three important dates coming up next week. On Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th the AARP Driving Class will be held here at the Center. We remind you again that when you notify your auto insurance company of the completion of this test, you automatically receive a ten percent decrease in your insurance. On Wednesday, February 19th, there will be a Senior Community Forum held at the senior Center at 2001 Nineteenth Street in Lubbock. The things presented and discussed that day will affect our lives. Plan to be there and make your opinions known.

Well it's that time of year again when Dan Cupid makes his presence known. Have you received (or given) a box of candy, a bouquet of flowers, a pretty card, or maybe just a really big hug to your someone special? This custom has been with us for eons. On a long ago

Valentine Day I wrote the following poem:

Saint Valentine lived so long ago I can't recall the date, but he did so many lovely things, that each year we celebrate! Shakespeare and Chaucer both contend, that on this special date, in early spring each little bird, sets out to find his mate. So when this day in February, rolls around again each year, we send tokens of affection to those we hold most dear. There are many kinds of greetings, some with lace and big red hearts. There are those on which Dan Cupid stars with a quiver full of darts. There are verses just right for everyone, be it Dad, Sweet-heart of Friend, even for cousins and in-laws are loving verses penned. There are serious ones and funny ones, all of them are neat, so don't forget that special one who makes your life complete.

Credit Union Annual Meeting Scheduled

Yoakum County Federal Credit Union will hold its 54th annual supper, Saturday, February 22 at the Plains School Cafeteria beginning at 7:00 pm.

The Credit Union will furnish the meat which will be ham and brisket as well as the bread and drinks. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetables or desert.

Officials up for re-election are Ruby Sellers and Melvin Dearing.

Owen Schneider whose term expires this year is not seeking re-election.

New nominees - Ben Coston, Lanny Smith, Tim Willis, Joan Breith and Robert Canon.

There will be a drawing for the many door prizes donated by merchants and individuals in the Plains and Denver City area.

A very enjoyable evening is being planned, so make your plans to attend this annual event.

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Morning Worship
10:45 am.

Evening Program
6:00 pm.

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Sunday Schedule
Children's Choir - 9:45 am
followed by Sunday School
Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Are you wrinkled with burden?
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and get a faith lift!

From The Hack

Do YOU want to go to war with Saddam Hussein? Please note, I did not say Iraq. If the President deems it necessary to wage war, it will not be against the nation of Iraq and its people, it will be against their fanatical, murderous and deranged President and his hand picked regime.

I DON'T want to go to war, and I truly hope it can be avoided by methods which will totally ensure Saddam is once and for all rid of ALL weapons of mass destruction - and Saddam himself gone. That is my optimistic desire. Run a reality check on my gut feelings, and you will learn I don't think that is going to happen with the present UN inspection scheme.

A large portion of the world over the weekend was demonstrating against the war and President Bush's plans for invading and destroying Sadistic Saddam. There is going to be tremendous pressure on the U.S. to back off and allow the UN inspection debacle to continue. England's Tony Blair and his party continue to be staunch supporters of George W. but Great Britain's Parliamentary type government has capricious ways, and they could call for a vote of confidence at any time.

Are we going to war with Saddam? Tough call. Can we fight a war in Iraq and continue our operations in Afghanistan, and at the same time maintain our anti-terrorist efforts here in our homeland? The probable answer is Yes, but for how long.

Oh, I forgot another little item. The recent announcement North Korea probably has a ballistic missile capable of hitting the Western portion of the nation, although "it hasn't been test flown yet." Knowing the nature of that country, and it's total commitment to maintaining the worlds' third largest army at the expense of starving its citizenry, this is another genuine and very dangerous concern. I continue to suspicion their despot leader is after concessions and US money, and that type of cash diplomacy may be what we are faced with. Can we afford it? Of course not. Will that matter? Of course not. Ah, such comforting, rewarding times. Glad we didn't get started on the economy or soaring gas prices..... that would really be depressing!

Speaking of the possibility of war, the local D.Q. convention of locals each Saturday and Sunday mornings reminds me of a war planning room, lacking just a tiny bit of the wisdom and expertise of such a room of military experts. These are a few of the tidbits I picked up this week end past:
 "You think old Ben Lading is dead?"
 "Nah, he ain't dead, he's too evil to die."
 "I think he's dead."
 "From what... his putrid kidneys

or our bombs?"
 "I imagine our bombs burst his putrid kidneys."
 "Nah, don't think so."
 "Why you so hard headed about it?"
 "Cause I heard him talking on the TV and radio both. You can't talk when you're dead, you dumb pup."
 "Well, how you know for sure it was old Ben... it could be somebody like that guy on TV a few years ago, Rich Little, I think, the guy who could look and sound like anybody - Ed Sullivan, Red Skelton, Richard Slick Nixon, probably even Martha Stewart if she'd been around when he was. He could imitate old Ben to a tee."
 "That sounds a bit whacky. Where is this Little guy now?"
 "Why, I don't know. Who cares? He could'a died from his kidneys too, far as I know. I doubt our bombs got him though."
 "Yeah. Maybe. I dunno. Any thing's possible these days. Say, what's your thinking on the Columbia shuttle thing. You reckon old Ben Lading had somethin to do with that too?"
 "Why Hell no, you dummy, I told you old Ben is dead!"
 A vist to the DQ is always an enlightening and rewarding trip.



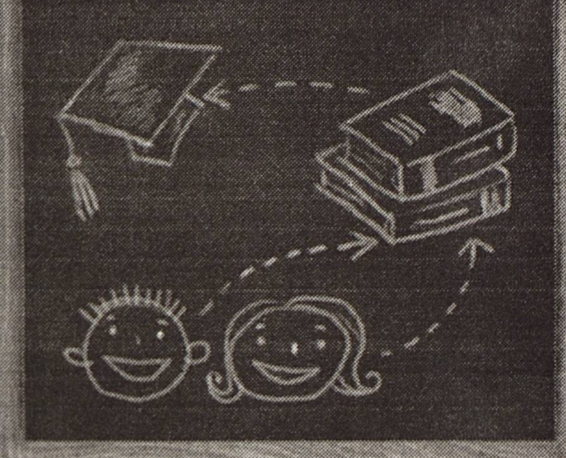
Pretty sight-young wheat under sprinkler system

Wanted: teachers

According to the Texas Education Agency (TEA), there's more than one factor contributing to Texas' teacher shortage. Not only did student enrollment increase by about 20 percent during the 1990s, but the number of teachers who left teaching increased almost yearly as well.

Year	Teacher count	Percentage of teachers not returning
1996	250,000	8.5 percent
1997	257,000	8.9 percent
1998	263,000	9.98 percent
1999	270,000	9.69 percent
2000	277,000	10.5 percent

SOURCE: Texas Education Agency and Texas State Board for Educator Certification.



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