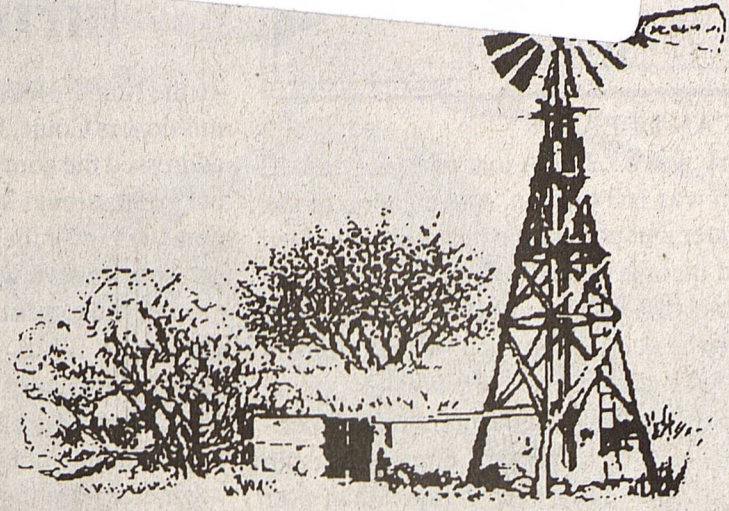


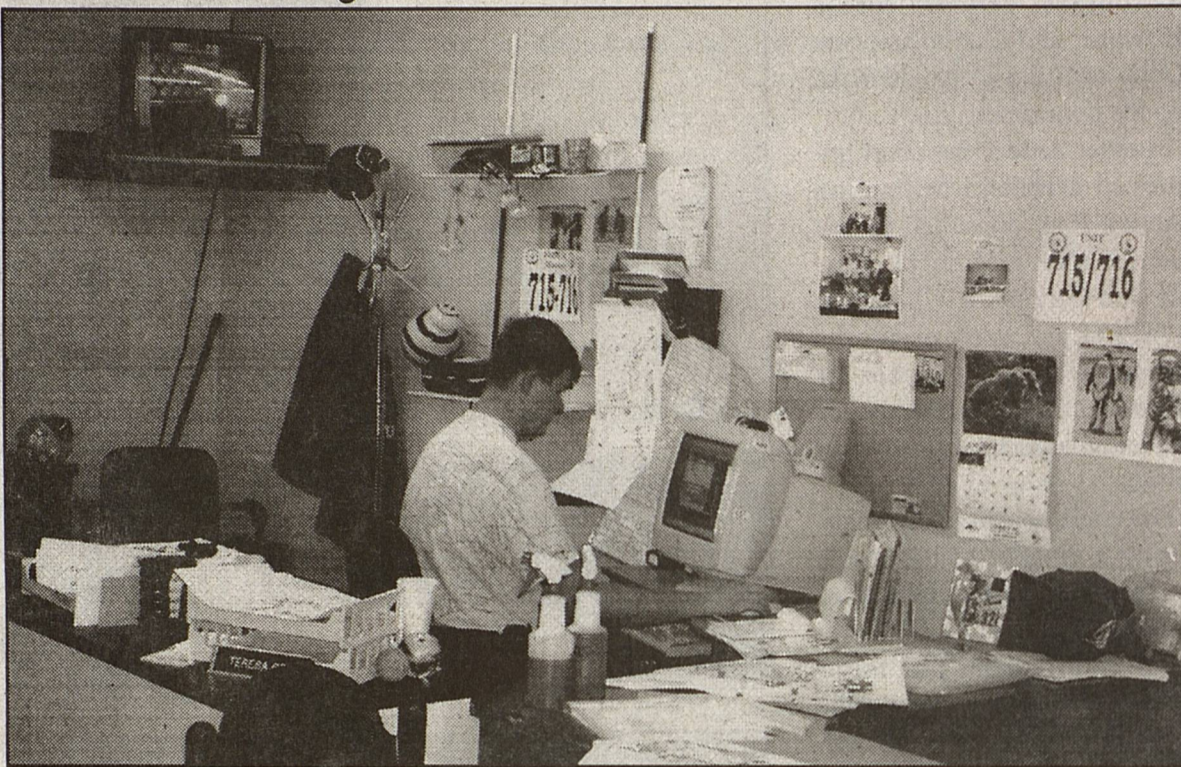
Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 41, June 23, 2004



Round six of weevil war now underway - and we're winning!



Field Unit Manager Johnny Davis plots anti-weevil strategy on his office computer

Darrel Dusek, Manager of the Western High Plains Boll Weevil Eradication Zone, believes "No weevil news is good news", since not a single weevil has been captured since traps were deployed in May in the five Teaxs county zone, plus a large portion of adjoining Lea County, New Mexico. Dusek told CCN " We have deployed weevil traps around 218,463 acres of cotton planted in Yoakum County this year, a sizable increase in acreage. This year we're spreading the traps a bit, now every 3/10 mile around each field, compared to a trap every 1/10 mile last year." He added, " Along ma-

nor U.S. and State highways where cotton is planted we will continue with the 1/10 mile spacing, and also around fields where weevils were trapped after August 15 in 2003." The battle against the cotton pest started with a diapause session in 1999, with full eradication efforts in 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003. This year, the third for Lea County cotton producers to participate in the eradication effort, field personnel have yet to find a weevil in traps deployed on some 15,000 acres of cotton, considerably more acreage than previous years. The New Mexico effort at eradication is

being managed by the Seminole District this year. Dusek reported there are only 34 seasonal employees monitoring the weevil traps, a substantial reduction in personnel. There are now three field unit managers plus one field unit supervisor in the Plains District. Dusek is well pleased with the progress of the ongoing eradication effort. " Sometimes it's hard for me to grasp the fact we have not trapped a single weevil this season, while in the first couple of years we nailed hundreds of thousands of them. That is good progress."

Criminal cases in County Court

Four criminal cases were heard in County Court June 16, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Raul Bernal pled guilty to criminal trespass of a habitation. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail, suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$256 court costs and \$50 monthly supervision fees. He must attend the batterers intervention program at his cost. A cause of failure to identify fugitive from justice was adjudicated. Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police was investigating officer.

Manaka Nacole Rosemond pled guilty to assault causing bodily injury to family member. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. She must pay \$211 court costs and \$50 monthly supervision fees, serve 80 hours community service, and complete the batterers interven-

Turn To Page 3, CRIME CASES

New slate of officers to be sworn in Lions Club



Current President of the Plains Lions Club Vicki Blundell, shown here, will step down from office July 1 after two years of dedicated service. At the June 17 club meeting, members elected by acclamation the slate of new officers nominated by the current Board of Directors.

New officials for the coming year will be Toni Jones, President, Karen Bearden, Vice President, Linda Wall, Secretary-Treasurer, T.J. Miller, Lion Tamer, Gary Walker, Tail Twister, Ed Hansen and Vaughn Culwell, one year Directors, and Melba Crutcher and Johnnie Fitzgerald, two year Directors.

The new officials will be sworn in at the July 1 noon meeting, and presiding over the swearing process will be David Brunson, former City Administrator here and a Lions Club member and officer for over twenty years. He is the current City Manager in Muleshoe.

County Grand Jury returns 29 indictments on 15 defendants

The Yoakum County Grand Jury in session June 14 returned 29 true bills of indictment on 15 defendants. All bonds for felony indictments are set by Judge Kelly G. Moore. The state was represented in the session by Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark.

Esther Garcia Castaneda was indicted for forgery of a financial instrument in nine causes. Each is a state jail felony, and bond in each cause was set at \$1000.

Koty Marie Neels was indicted for engaging in organized criminal activity, a third degree felony, and bond was \$2500.

Nathan Allen Vandenburg was also indicted on engaging in organized criminal activity, third degree felony, and bond was \$2500.

Christopher Scott Tirrell was indicted on engaging in organized criminal activity, and bond was \$2500.

Joe Raymond Flores was indicted on the charge of Retaliation, also a third degree felony, and bond was \$10,000.

William Calloway Brumley was indicted on driving while intoxicated, third or more, a third degree enhanced felony.

Bond was \$3000, bondsman was Lonnie Folmar.

Gerald Don Gatewood was indicted for assault causing bodily injury, family violence enhanced, a third degree felony. Bond was \$1000, by Central Bail Bonds.

Glen Dale Cleveland was indicted for possession of a controlled substance, methamphetamine, a state jail felony. Bond was \$5000, met by Jerome Head. Victor Gonzales Bernal was indicted for third or more DWI, third degree felony enhanced. \$1000 bond met by Lonnie Folmar.

Jeremy Jason Gonzales was indicted on bail jumping and failure to appear, third degree felony. Bond was set at \$25,000. Marcelo Orona Acosta was indicted for Assault CBI/ family violence enhanced, third degree felony. Bond was \$5000.

Corina Villareal was indicted on possession or transport of anhydrous ammonia, third degree felony, bond \$3000; Tampering with physical evidence, third degree felony, \$3000 bond; Possession of chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, second degree felony, bond \$5000; Evading arrest/detention, state jail

felony, bond \$2500. All bonds were met by Jerome Head.

David Longoria was also indicted on four charges; Use of equipment for anhydrous ammonia, third degree felony, Bond \$3000; Tampering with physical evidence, third degree felony; Possession/transport certain chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine, second degree felony; Possession/transport anhydrous ammonia, third degree felony, \$3000 bond. All bonds met by Jerome Head.

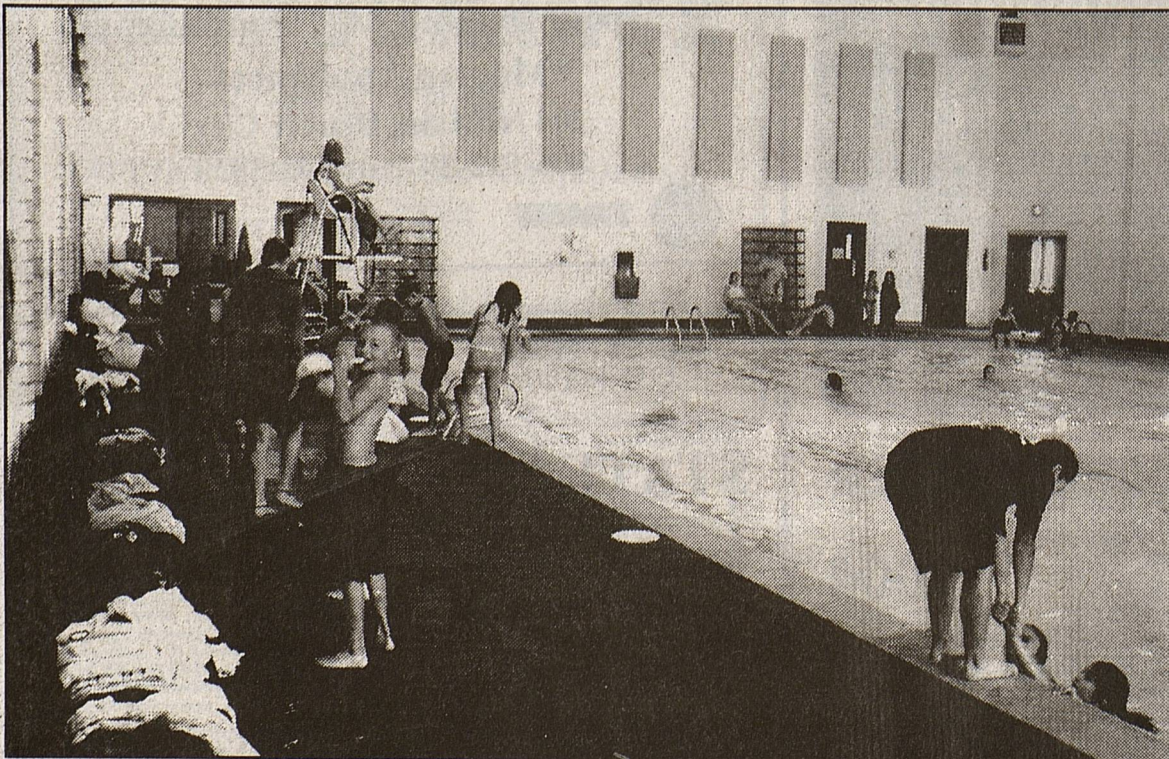
James Walter O'Boyle was indicted on burglary of building, state jail felony. \$2500 bond set.

Gerald Don Gatewood was indicted for aggravated assault with deadly weapon, second degree felony. Bond was \$7500.

Second degree felonies can result in confinement in state prison up to 20 years or less than two years, optional \$10,000 fine. Third degree felonies can include confinement in prison at least two years or not more than 10 years, optional fine to \$10,000; A state jail felony can bring confinement in state jail no less than 180 days or more than 2 years, Optional \$10,000 fine.

POOL NOTICE

Until on order water filters are delivered and installed at the Park, the public may use the school swimming pool between the hours of NOON to 6 P.M.



PISD's decision to allow temporary public use of pool has been Godsend to local youngsters



OWNING THE AMERICAN DREAM

In 1954, the median salary was \$3,200. A loaf of bread cost 22 cents. The U.S. population was 163 million. And a gallon of gas cost 29 cents. Fifty years later, our population has nearly doubled and the median household income is \$41,000. A trip to the grocery store will reveal a loaf of bread can cost up to \$4, and if you've filled your car up at the pump lately, you've undoubtedly been shocked by the \$2 + per gallon price. Fortunately, rising right along with the cost of living, has been the number of American homeowners. In the first quarter of this year, homeownership hit a record rate of 68.6%, meaning more Americans than ever are pulling up to a driveway they own.

For many people the pinnacle of the American Dream is owning their own home - saying goodbye to a landlord and taking the reins of their own future. Homeownership allows Americans to build credit and create wealth. Perhaps more importantly, it also allows people to put down roots in a community, and develop a sense of pride and establishment.

June is National Homeownership Month, a time for Texans who've been dreaming about owning a home to take the first step toward achieving this goal. In this year's proclamation announcing June's designation, the president said, "Homeownership remains an essential part of the American experience and plays a critical role in strengthening families, their communities, and our entire nation. We must not be satisfied until every family seeking to own a home gets put on the path to homeownership."

And while most Americans would agree homeownership is an important part of our nation's foundation, they would also concur buying a home can be a confusing and complex process, especially for first-time buyers. The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has developed a helpful ABC guide to buying a home:

ABC'S OF BUYING A HOME

A. Aim for a home you can really afford. The rule of thumb is, you can afford a house that runs about two and one half times your annual salary/ If your salary is \$50,000, and your credit is good, you could look at homes selling for \$125,000.

B - Begin by looking at your credit. Since you will need to get a mortgage to buy a house, you must make sure your credit history is clean as possible. Before you start house hunting, get copies of your credit report. Make sure facts are correct and fix any problems you discover. The three major credit reporting agencies are: Equifax - www.equifax.com, 888-202-4025; Experian - www.experian.com; and TransUnion, www.transunion.com, 800-916-8800. Start by calling them, getting a copy of your credit report, and examining it carefully.

C. Consult with the experts. HUD is a great resource for helping you through this process. HUD has a list of approved housing counselors who can walk you through this process step-by-step. You can find a counselor near you by visiting www.hud.gov

With our nation's economy continuing to strengthen and more Americans finding work, now may be the time for you to consider buying a home. In May, 248,000 jobs were created, bringing the three month total to nearly one million new jobs. The unemployment rate was 5.6%, lower than the average of each of the three past decades. And after tax incomes are up 11% since December of 2000, meaning Americans are keeping more of their hard earned dollars.

There are a number of federal programs for which many Texans can qualify, such as the American Dream Downpayment Initiative, which will help make homeownership a reality for 40,000 families this year. Housing education programs, grants for lower income families and tax credits for developers who build affordable housing are other initiatives that can bring you one step closer to writing your last rent check.

In Texas the home could be a farm, a mid-town bungalow or something in a suburban neighborhood. Whatever your dream, the government has resources available to help you navigate the maze of homeownership.

County to offer property for sale again, considers hiring grant writer

In the June 21 session of Commissioners Court, Judy London addressed the court and offered her professional services as a grant writer for the County. She gave a brief review of her background and experience in seeking grant funds for Family Learning Center in Denver City, working closely with South Plains College in furthering literacy among residents of both Plains and Denver City. She had earlier met with Commissioners Jack Cobbn and Ty Earl Powell, who had suggested she be placed on Monday's agenda.

London told the court there would be much more to the position than seeking of grant funds. The position would entail development of programs beneficial to county residents, finding a source of funds, and then monitoring the success of the project. A county grant writer would have to work very closely with the South Plains Association of Governments, or SPAG, to follow other county and community projects, their merits and funding sources. She pointed out a major source of grant money is private foundations, who will only make their money available to non-profit agencies. London said a formidable list of charitable foundations exist which the Commissioners Court should be aware of and familiar with.

London has several years association as a county employee, and indicated she would want to be considered a county employee if she were offered the grant writing position. It would not, however, be necessary to

furnish her health insurance because of her years of work with the Denver City School District.

Judge Brewer told the court he felt " We probably missed the boat by not trying to establish a grant writer position earlier. There are always worthy projects the county could be associated with if grant funds were available."

He then suggested forming a committee to meet with Ms. London and to come to a consensus of thought to present at a future court date. He, Attorney Richard Clark, Auditor Darinda McWhirter, Human Resources officer Teresa Howard, and Commissioners Cobb and Lindsey would make up the committee.

In other action, the court approved a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan presented in last week's court meeting by Sheriff Don Corzine. It will be sent to SPAG, and would ensure the county would be eligible for federal assistance in case of future emergency disaster situations.

The court approved re-advertising a number of properties seized for non-payment of taxes and failed to sell in a recent Sheriff Sale. The forthcoming advertisement in the two county newspapers will include the legal description of the property, the current established valuation, and the amount of past due taxes owed on the property. Judge Brewer pointed out no future bid would be accepted on any of the properties lower than either the valuation or the past due taxes owed.

Pair of 2004 Cowboys reap baseball honors

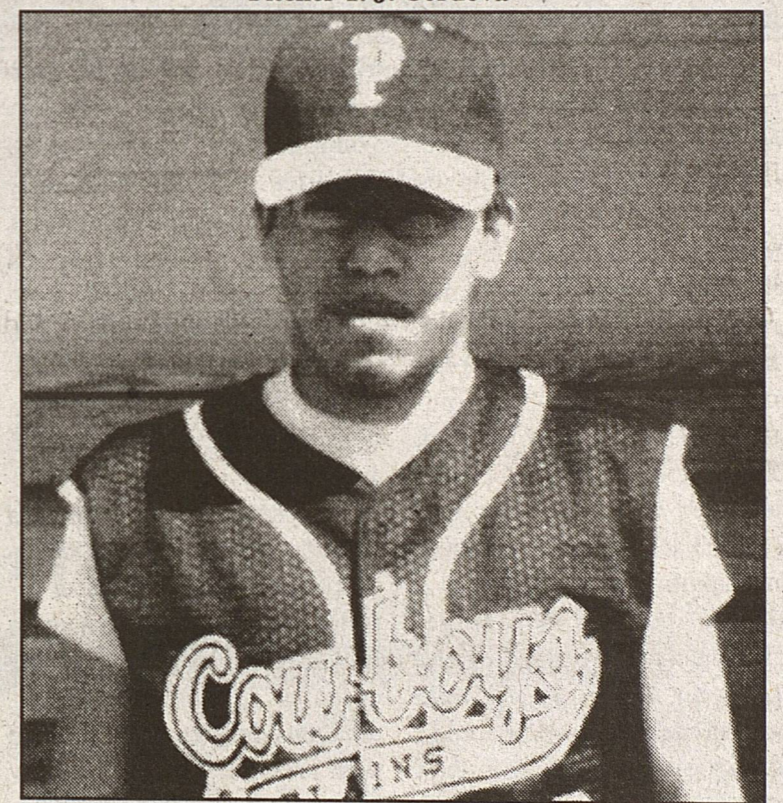
T. J. Cordova and Richard Diaz, members of the Plains Cowboy District 4-1A District Champion baseball team were recently honored for their successes on the field in the exciting 2004 season.

T.J., who will be a Senior this fall, was selected Classes 1A-2A All South Plains Pitcher of the Year. His coach, Kevin Bartley, said "I believe TEAM should come first, but individual accomplishments should also be recognized. T.J. set three new pitching records this year, including striking out 88 batters, throwing two shutouts, and an Earned Run Average of 1.27. He was also recognized as the Most Valuable Player in District 4-1A."

Richard, who graduated this summer, also received a very lofty honor. "Richard was selected to the District 4-1A All District team as an infielder. That honor was topped by his selection to the First Team All-State Team as an infielder, and was chosen in this selection by the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association. I am very proud of both these young men. They worked hard for and deserve this recognition."



Pitcher T. J. Cordova



Infielder Richard Diaz

Roadcheck 2004 Results Announced

DPS troopers inspected 3,968 commercial vehicles during Roadcheck 2004, which ran from June 8 through 10. The inspections found that 1,171 of the vehicles and 157 of the drivers had serious enough safety violations to be removed from service.

DPS Commercial Vehicles Enforcement troops, along with Highway Patrol troopers who have received specialized training in commercial vehicle inspection, stopped commercial vehicles to inspect safety equipment, as well as checking driver licenses and endorsements. Troopers also looked for possible drug or alcohol use.

The annual Roadcheck program, which stretches from Mexico to Canada, is designed to reduce commercial vehicle highway fatalities through increased vehicle safety. The Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance, which sponsors Roadcheck, reports a significant decrease in the commercial vehicle crash rate in North America since the program's start in 1988.

Vehicles passing inspection received a CVSA decal exempting the vehicle from inspection for a 90 day period, unless they have an obvious safety defect.

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 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
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The Eternal Debate - Gun Control

Whether you agree or not, it's an interesting lesson in history. In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control. From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938 and from 1939 to 1945, 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935. From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala, established gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970. From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956. From 1975 to 1977, one million 'educated' people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million.

It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced by new law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by their own government, a program costing Australia taxpayers more than \$500 million dollars.

The first year results are now in: Australia-wide, homicides are up 3.2 percent. Australia-wide, assaults are up 8.6 percent. Australia-wide, armed robberies are up 44 percent (yes, 44 percent). In the state of Victoria alone, homicides with firearms are now up 300 percent. (Note that while the law-abiding citizens turned them in, the criminals did not, and criminals still possess their guns!)

While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically upward in the past 12 months, since the criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed.

There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the ELDERLY. Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort and expense was expended in "successfully ridding Australian society of guns."

The Australian experience and the other historical facts above prove it.

You won't see this data on the American evening news or hear our president, governors or other politicians disseminating this information.

Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun control laws affect only the law abiding citizens.

Take note my fellow Americans...before it's too late!

The next time someone talks in favor of gun control, please remind them of this history lesson.

WITH GUNS, WE ARE CITIZENS. WITHOUT THEM, WE ARE SUBJECTS.

Young gymnasts shine in meet

The Acrospitts Elite Team traveled to Nashville this month for the Jr/Sr National Tumbling and Trampoline Championships. The group was joined by coaches Will Green, Sherry Mulkey, and Kellie Earnest. Members of this team are Amber Cowart, Landon Earnest, Drew Renthro, Amanda Bailey, and Nicole Roethle.

The group qualified for this meet by hitting scores at sanctioned events including meets in Salt Lake City, Utah and Birmingham, Alabama.

Landon Earnest is the 13 year old son of Kellie and Michael

Earnest of Plains. He competed in the Trampoline event where he is one of the youngest. He placed 11th in the Jr Elite Trampoline Event with an outstanding routine which has some awesome difficulty in it.

Sister to Landon is Dakota Earnest who is the youngest competitor in the women's Jr Elite Group competing. She placed in Prelims and moved to 5th in the Finals. She is an outstanding bouncer and everyone will be watching her and brother as they become older. At the age of 10 she is beating some of the best now.

'A' Honor Roll 9th Grade

Jose Luis Gallegos
Erika Loewen
Angelica Mendoza
Araceli Mendoza
Adriana Ponce

10th Grade

David Alldredge
Allison Friesen
Skylar Keese
B.J. Lester
Ramiro Martinez
Blake O'Quinn
Blake Parrish
Abel Ramos

11th Grade

Payton Bean
Evan Cain
Patrick Cotton
Mayra Flores
Breck Hamm
Brandon Hise
Brant Huert
Daniela Lazosa
Kerry Sisson

12th Grade

Stacie Alldredge
LaShonda Diamond
Sarah Martinez
Grady McNabb
Helena Neufeld
Nolan Newsom
Moriah Traweck
Manuela Villegas
April Wilmeth

'A-B Honor Roll 9th Grade

Landon Craft
Antonio Martinez
Colby Wilmeth

10th Grade

Michael Crump

11th Grade

Daniel Estrada

12th Grade

Leonel Anchondo
Brandon Davis
Austin Keese

Aero Care brings locals training assistance



Curtis Coffman, President of the Plains EMS, on right, met the Aero Care helicopter pilot at the airport last week after touching down and bringing two Aero Care Medical Technicians to conduct a training session for local EMS volunteers and members of the Volunteer Fire Department, to get an update on emergency procedures and briefing on how the swift emergency air transport of patients can often save lives.

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king in history.

Spades - King David

Hearts - Charlemagne

Clubs - Alexander the Great

Diamonds - Julius Caesar

Continued from Page One. CRIMINAL CASES

tion program at her cost. Investigating office was William Gardner, Denver City Police.

Brenda Garcia Tarango pled guilty to making false report to a police officer. Her 180 jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. She must pay \$256 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, and \$2,317 restitution to County Pct. 4. She

will serve 50 hours community service. Investigating officer was Trooper Robert Munsell, DPS.

James Junior Phillips pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$100 and must pay \$241 court costs on plea day. Investigating officer was Trooper Munsell.

Neugebauer comments on court action on Pledge

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court avoided a ruling which would have decided the constitutionality of using the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. The court dismissed the lawsuit brought by atheist Michael Newdow because he lacked standing to bring the suit on behalf of his daughter.

"I am pleased the Court has left the Pledge of Allegiance untouched. While the Court did not reach the merits of the case, it is clear students all across America can continue to recite the words 'under God' in the Pledge. We should be allowed to acknowledge our freedoms don't come from government, but from God," Neugebauer said.

"We must resist the efforts of those who wish to push God out of the public square. The Constitution calls for freedom of religion, not freedom FROM religion. It is an historical fact our nation was founded upon Christian principles. The faith of our founding fathers carried them through the difficult challenges of their day. We should always remember their faith and continue to put our trust in God to carry our nation through the trials of our day."

WT A&M Honors Plains Students

Four students from Plains were among approximately 1,200 students at West Texas A&M University in Canyon were named to spring 2004 honor lists.

Students named to the President's List must have a grade point average (GPA) of 3.85 or better on a 4.0 scale and carry a minimum class load of 12 undergraduates. Those named to the Dean's List must have a GPA between 3.25 and

3.85 and carry a minimum of 12 undergraduate hours.

Lesli Rowe, a junior student majoring in Mass Communications/Public Relations was named to the President's List. Those making the Dean's List were Kelly T. Bowers, a sophomore with an undeclared major, Taylor W. Gray, senior, majoring in Agriculture, and Andrea N. Haynes, a senior with a Psychology major.



What About?.....

You know, it's amazing how many people are now wanting into the funeral service profession, but know little about what a funeral director needs. Such as, recently we had a family we were trying to speak with because the hospital would not release their loved one to us. The hospital had to speak with the family about organ donation.

The family told us later the hospital chaplain told them not to worry contacting the funeral home until the following day to make arrangements. Unfortunately, several things were put on hold because of the misinformation.

The family had to take care of some business and had turned off their cell phone. They returned to town that evening to several phone messages from us as well as Life Gift.

So, don't let the hospital personnel convince you to not contact the funeral home when a loved one has passed away. Give us a call when you leave the hospital or when you get home. Many times, the Lubbock hospitals will not call us for up to eight hours after a family members has

passed away.

Please also remember we have monuments at all of our locations. BUT, when there is a death, the "wolves" come out of the woodwork. Many of our families actually come home after the service to find monument brochures complete with a diagram of a proposed monument in the door. Or, the phone rings and it is an out of town or out of state monument company trying to sell them a monument.

We have a full staff associated with us that can professionally design and set a permanent, customized monument in honor of your loved one. Please don't go out of town to someone you don't know. That way, if there is a problem, you know we will be here to service your family's needs. And another thing, remember that for the past two and one half years we have been in this area, we have honored most insurance policies as well as pre-need funeral plans from other funeral homes. Most pre-need policies can be transferred with no money lost for the family. So keep us in mind when you want "Old Fashion Care and Service in a Contemporary Style!"

Until next time.....

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Groundwater: Fact vs Fiction

Richard Bowers, Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts

Suddenly everyone's an expert on ground water. It seems we've come a long way since Texas' Supreme Court ground water to be "mysterious and occult". Now, 100 years later, any water marketer worth his salt will tell you you can pump all the groundwater you want from an area with no serious impact on the region's future water supplies. Other experts will tell you groundwater resources should be controlled by a state agency with standard rules applied uniformly across the state. A few insist managing groundwater resources is the same as managing oil and gas, and if you've done one you can do the other.

At the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts (TAGD), we think 'facts' like these don't hold water, and those experts are all wet. The members of TAGD, 73 of the confirmed groundwater conservation districts in Texas, have listened to considerable wrangling over the amounts of groundwater that may or may not be available in certain areas; we've heard heated discussions on the proper rule of the state in overseeing groundwater; we've winced at inaccuracies about roles and responsibilities of groundwater conservation districts and the efficiency of The Rule Of Capture.

Now it's time for the folks who really know groundwater to have a say. It's time for the real experts, the ones with years of experience monitoring groundwater behavior and developing workable policies for using this precious resource - to detail the real facts of managing groundwater in Texas.

Like Texas, like the aquifers we manager, the conditions we work under, TAGD is a diverse lot, but our experience unites us on several points... the true facts of the situation.

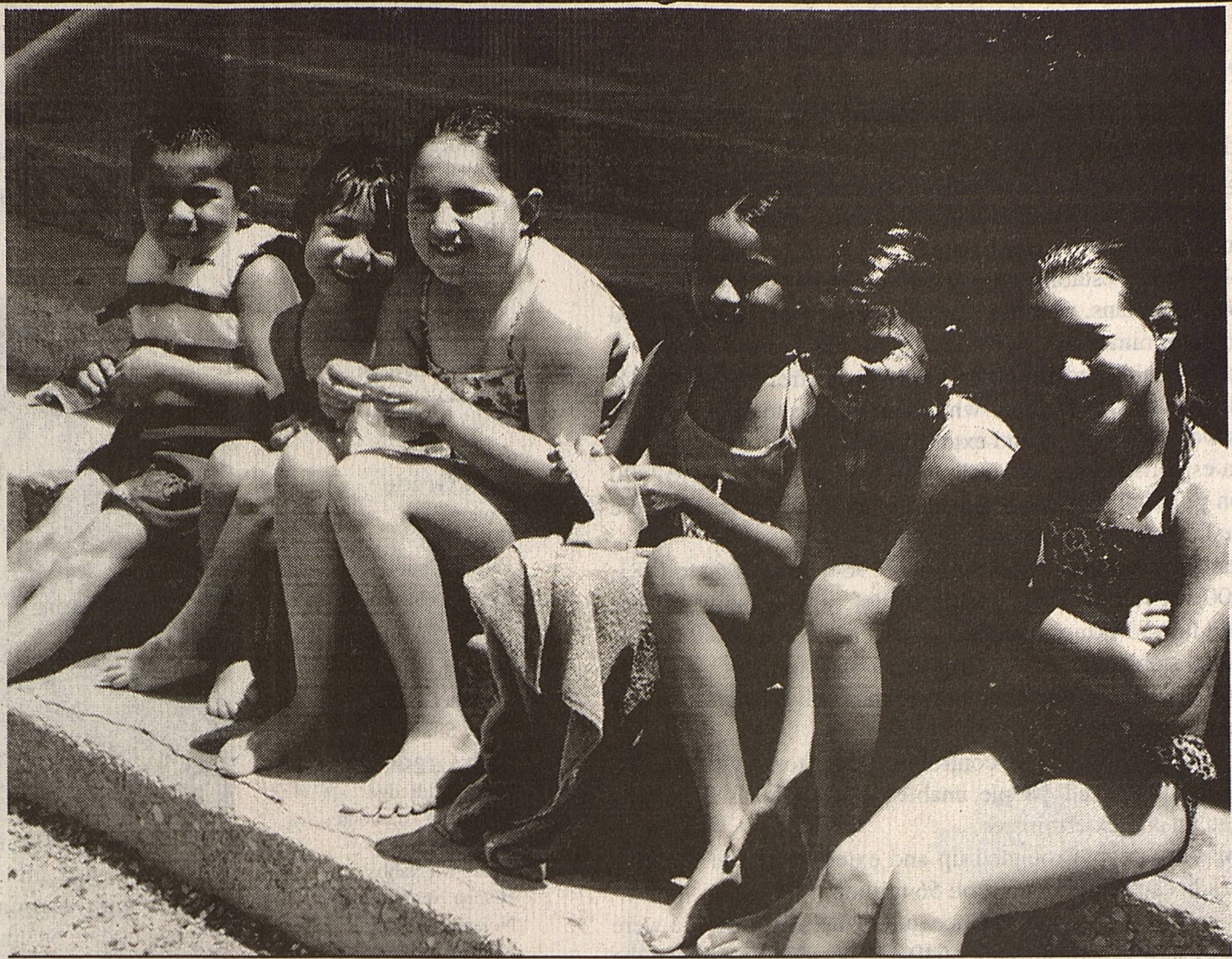
FACT #1 The Rule Of Capture is not broken. Although the rule ostensibly allows anyone to freely pump as much groundwater as possible, there are limits. Pumping must be for a beneficial use; no waste is allowed. Groundwater conservation districts can adopt spacing requirements and production limits. By state law, districts must also develop and implement conservation and drought management plans and permit requirements. All these are important restraints that balance the Rule Of Capture.

FACT #2 - Groundwater management in Texas is not and cannot be one-size-fits-all. Texas boasts 9 major aquifers and 21 minor aquifers. Some are recharged easily; others very slowly or not at all. Some serve major cities, others are used mainly for agriculture. A single agency, especially one charged with a multitude of other responsibilities, lacks the capability and flexibility to respond to specific conditions and needs in a timely manner.

FACT #3 - Groundwater conservation districts are rightly the state's "preferred manner of managing groundwater." The Legislature appropriately wrote this phrase into law. Hands down, a locally elected and locally managed district is the best way to develop and administer well spacing requirements, production limits, drought management and other policies reflecting the conditions of a particular section of an aquifer and the specific needs of the people who draw from it. Thanks to legislative foresight the last few sessions, districts now oversee 89 percent of groundwater use in Texas.

FACT #4 - Local groundwater conservation districts need adequate support and time to develop sound policies for managing our groundwater resources. Many districts are relatively new, few have started with adequate financial and technical resources to do

their jobs properly, and several are threatened by lawsuits even as they organize and establish policies and procedures that fit the needs of their communities. The success of older established districts prove the impact of The Rule Of Capture can be reduced when a district implements scientifically sound management policies. FACT #5 - Groundwater management is an important issue in Texas and dialogue is necessary to define efficient and equitable management techniques and policies. Let's make sure that dialog is based on fact, not supposition. And let's include in the discussion those who breathe, eat, and sleep groundwater. The Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts stands ready to assist with sound science and broad expertise,



How lucky can the little guy on the left be, in with this bevy of bathing beauties soaking up some sun and warmth from the coolness of the indoor school pool.

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City Report On Water Quality

The City of Plains is proud of the drinking water it provides. This annual quality report contains information about the results of the test run on our drinking water. It is published today in the paper as a requirement of the 1996 Safe Drinking Water act. The city of Plains will notify you if there is any reason for concern about our water.

THE BOTTOM LINE: IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK? ABSOLUTELY

Call us for information about the next opportunity for public participation in decisions about our drinking water. Our water source is the Ogallala Aquifer, water is pumped out of the ground throughout the surrounding area. This water is transmitted to our water treatment facilities through a network of underground pipes. A Source-Water Assessment has been performed for our area to provide baseline data about the quality of water before it is treated and distributed to customers. To complete your understanding of our water supply, you can request a copy of the assessment from TNRCC P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711.

WHAT DOES THE TABLE MEAN?

This report is based on tests conducted in the year 2000 and 2004 by and for the City of Plains. MAXIMUM CONTAINMENT LEVEL OR MCL is the highest level of a containment allowed in drinking water.

The City of Plains did not test for Radon or Cryptosporidium.

KEY TO TABLE:

Pci/l=Picocuries per liter (a measure of radioactivity)

PPM=Parts per Million. This corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000

PPB=Parts per Billion. This corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years or a single penny in \$10,000,000

SUBSTANCE	UNIT	ITEMS DETECTED:		
		MCL	DETECTED LEVEL	VIOLA-TION
Alpha Emitters	pCi/L	15	7.8	no
Beta/Photon Emitters	pCi/L	50	8.4	no
Combined Radium 226/228	pCi/l	5	.05	no
Fluoride	ppm	2	4.0	yes
Mercury	ppb	2	.40	no
Nitrate	ppm	10	3.2	no
Selenium	ppb	50	28.6	no
Sulfate	ppm	300	446	yes
Arsenic	ppb	50	5.1	no
Barium	ppm	2	.02	no
Iron	ppm	0.3	.01	no
Total Dissolved Solids	ppm	1000	1124	yes

EXPLANATION OF VIOLATIONS:

The Fluoride and the sulfate along with the Total Dissolved Solids occur from the erosion of natural deposits in the aquifer in this region. In common terms we have "Hard Water". Studies have been conducted to search for other approved sources of water, whose delivery could be obtained at an economical price.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791)

Required Additional Health Information for Arsenic

The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for arsenic will be decreasing from 0.05 mg/l (CCR - 50 ppb) to 0.010 mg/l (CCR - 10 ppb) effective January 23, 2006. TCEQ is providing the following health effects language according to new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) reporting requirements for arsenic.

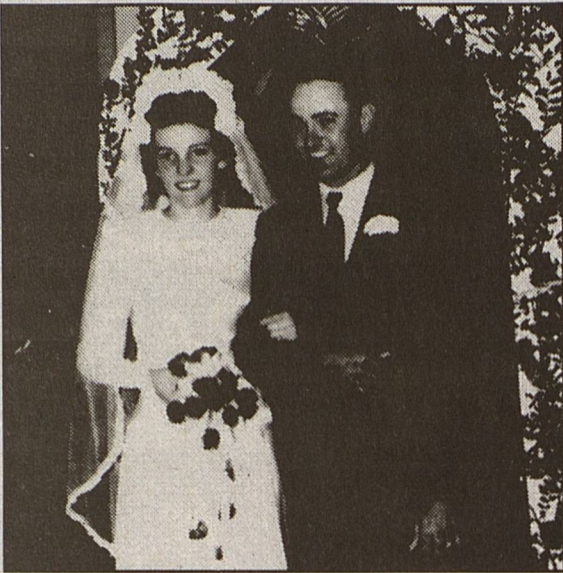
Lifelines & Styles

Bearden's celebrate 55 years of togetherness

Ray and Joyce Bearden will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary with a trip to Mexico. Ray and the former Joyce Clanahan were married June 26, 1949, in the Plains Baptist Church. R.S. Bearden, brother of the Groom, performed the ceremony, with Morris Bearden, another brother, serving as Best Man. Wana Trout, an aunt of the Bride, was Matron of Honor. Mrs. Bearden was born in Tokio, and is a lifetime resident of Yoakum County. Mr. Bearden moved to Yoakum County his senior year in high school, and both graduated from Plains High School.

They attended Tokio Baptist Church and both taught Sunday school there many years until the church disbanded. They have been members of Plains First Baptist Church many years.

The couple have one son, Ricky Bearden and wife Karen of Plains; A daughter, Rhonda Dion and husband Jerry of Lubbock. They have been blessed with six grandchildren including three granddaughters; Kiley Bearden, a teacher in Brownfield, Lisa Torres and husband Bob of Lubbock, and Mindy Dion, a college student and bank employee in Lubbock; three grandsons, Tracy Bearden, youth minister at First Baptist Church in Mineral Wells, Bruce Bearden, who will soon graduate from the Lubbock Police Academy, and his wife Kasey, an RN at UMC Hospital, and Clifton Dion, a student at Texas Tech. The couple are waiting patiently for great-grandchildren to love and spoil. Joyce reported, "Yoakum County has been a wonderful place to live and raise a family. God has truly blessed us!"



The Beardens, 1955



The Beardens, 2004

Womens Protective Service a major force on South Plains

Women's Protective Services of Lubbock, Inc., (WPS) continues its mission to create an environment of empowerment for women, children, and families and to eliminate family violence. WPS strives to nurture self-sufficiency in our clients by providing them the emotional support and life skills to overcome the pattern of violence that has dominated their domestic relationships. Our goal is to help our clients build strong, healthy and promising lives.

Over the past 25 years, WPS has become one of three largest residential shelters in the State of Texas. WPS is the only agency that provides crisis intervention, emergency shelter, and support services to battered women and their children in a 10,500 square-mile region. The new shelter was completed in 1999 and was the first of its kind in the nation to de-institutionalize shelter living by providing traumatized families with their own individual living space and a neighborhood atmosphere to help them build independence and trust. The facility is arranged as a series of quadruplex cottages, comprising of 24 independent living units with each cottage containing 2-3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. Two to three families share a cottage. The families have individual bedrooms and bath and share a common cooking and living area.

The 2003, WPS provided the following services: Provided crisis intervention and supportive services to 4,801 women and children, Provided 3,954 women and children with emergency transportation, emergency shelter, food, clothing, medical assistance, and supportive services, Provided 847 women and children with non-residential services including counseling, legal advocacy, and social services referral, Provide 213,000 referrals for local social services, Provided 2,910 hours of individual counseling, Provided 4,012 adult support groups, Provided 4,202 children's support groups, Assisted 117 women in gaining employment through our on-site Welfare-to-Work Program and Job Assistance for Moms (JAM), Answered 4,112 crisis calls on the agency's 24-hour, toll free hotline, Provided crisis intervention and supportive services to nine men who were victims of domestic violence, Assisted 1,612 women with legal advocacy and protective order applications, Served 308 men in the agency's Battering Intervention and Prevention Program in Lubbock, Hockley, and Terry counties.

Counties served by WPS: Bailey, Cochran, Crosby, Dickens, Garza, Hockley, King, Lamb, Lubbock, Lynn, Terry and Yoakum.

JP Court Summary

June 10, 2004 The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Precinct 1, Justice of the Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding. Cases filed: 139 traffic cases, 2 possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 issuance of bad check Bonds set: Accident involving injury/death \$2,000.00 bond. 2 cases driving while license suspended/invalid \$500.00 bond. Assault causing bodily injury \$1,500.00 bond. Inhalant paraphernalia use/possess to inhale \$500.00 bond. Possession of controlled substance \$500.00 bond. Theft \$500.00 bond. Possession of marijuana \$500.00 bond. Possession of prohibited weapon \$3,000.00 bond. Unlawful carrying of a weapon \$1,500.00 bond. Motion to revoke probation, bond denied. Theft by check/Gaines County \$92.39 pay off.

Our State's Forgotten Children

Comptroller investigates foster care

"They are everybody's children, and nobody's children. They are the forgotten children in the Texas foster care system." Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn's foreboding words open a new report by the Comptroller's office, *Forgotten Children*.

The report is the result of a Comptroller investigation of Texas foster care and the state agency primarily responsible for it, the Department of Family and Protective Services - an agency better known by its pre-February 2004 name, the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services (DPRS). The study was prompted by numerous published accounts alleging fraud and abusive conditions in the state foster care system. *Forgotten Children* confirmed many of these findings and revealed other troubling issues.

"I am appalled at the conditions too many of our foster children must endure," Strayhorn said. "I challenge any defender of the current system to put their child or their grandchild in some of the places I've seen for one day, much less for a lifetime. I want this report to give these kids a voice - and open some eyes," she said.

Among the report's findings: * many children have been neglected and abused in foster care. Some by their care givers and some by other children.

* many children spend their time in foster care being shuttled among many all too temporary 'homes'.

* many children with special needs, such as the medically fragile and those with mental retardation, do not receive the services they need.

* some 'therapeutic' camps offer deplorable living conditions and are not held to the same standards as other facilities.

* many foster children receive

disturbing amounts of mind-altering psychotropic drugs with little or no accountability; * some facilities routinely mix potentially dangerous children, such as sexual offenders and those with violent criminal records, with foster children who may become new victims.

Many Texas foster children, if course, receive high quality care.

"Some find homes with caring foster parents or in treatment centers with experienced and caring providers - but some do not," said Strayhorn.

And even the best families and providers are hampered by the system. Texas foster care has, for instance, state run and privately contracted elements. The state run side of the system, which accounts for just more than a quarter of all days of foster care delivered, consists of families and group homes that contract directly with DPRS. The much larger private side consists of state licensed residential facilities and child placement agencies that recruit and train foster families.

Since DPRS holds primary responsibility for enforcing licensing standards, the dual system in effect requires the agency to regulate itself, a clear conflict of interest.

"We must end the current system that has the fox guarding the hen house," Strayhorn said. "We cannot tolerate a system where regulators regulate themselves."

The system also provides perverse financial incentives. Caregivers can make more money by keeping children in expensive and restrictive placements than by helping them return to their birth homes or become adopted.

Furthermore, caregivers receive the same rates for each service level regardless of the quality of services and facilities they provide.

Forgotten Children offers a

number of proposals to ensure the safety of Texas foster children while improving the care and cost-effectiveness of the services they receive. The Comptroller's report recommends eliminating DPRS's dual system for foster care, allowing the agency to focus its efforts on the all-important role of guaranteeing the safety of foster children.

This step, which should be phased in over three years, would make private child placement agencies responsible for recruiting and contracting with foster families and supplying caseworkers to monitor the care they provide.

Innovative funding techniques outlined in *Forgotten Children* could be used to improve foster care, including amending the state's Medicaid Plan to take advantage of federal funding for rehabilitative and preplacement services.

Forgotten Children recommends steps to ensure accountability in foster care, and case-workers should be subject to formal documentation for all required visits to their charges. Mixing children who have violent tendencies or histories of sexual assault with other foster children should end immediately. FB criminal checks should be obtained for all caregivers working directly with children before they begin work.

Finally, the report notes foster children's problems seldom end when they grow up. They are prone to homelessness, drug abuse and other problems. *Forgotten Children* recommends DPRS and HHSC seek federal funding to help foster youths thrive in the adult world. Another proposal would create a Foster Grandma and Grandpa program, recruiting seniors to provide foster children with mentoring and emotional support.



Vacation Bible School

First United Methodist Church

Friday, June 25
6 PM - 8:30 PM

....
Saturday, June 26
9 AM - 2 PM

Pre-K through 4th Grade

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

A recent reminder from Dr. Wright, my Eye Doc, led to confirming what he had warned me about a little more than a year ago. I told him I was experiencing trouble watching my golf ball as it soared magically many hundreds of yards, straight down the fairways, accomplishing distance even the likes of Tiger Wood envies. He gazed at me calmly, long enough to make me a bit uncomfortable, then muttered, "Yeah, well, maybe I'll walk on water before the cock crows twice, too. Let's see what we have here." An hour later, blind as a bat from the dilating... well, almost blind... he confirmed his last prediction. The cataract in my left eye is causing enough problems it needs to be removed. My first, well thought out question was, with a shriek, "AAAagghhh, How bad will it hurt? How long will it take? Will I be able to walk again? Do you insure me against death? How much of it does Medicare pick up? If something goes wrong, can I sue you AND this Doc in Midland you

refer me to? Truthfully, how much does it hurt?? AAAagghhh!!!" He finally convinced me it was fairly simple, virtually painless, a brief surgical procedure, which, as with all surgical procedures, carries a slight risk factor. When he finally assured me he thought it unnecessary to completely re-write my will, particularly since I don't have plans to leave anything behind, I agreed to setting up an appointment. When I prepared to leave his office, I asked Dr. Wright, "When the cataract is removed, will I be able to follow the ball throughout it majestic, soaring flight when I tee off?" He looked at me sternly, and replied, "I'm not sure I would venture that far, but I will guarantee you, your ball will be much easier to find when you knock it in the rough, surrounded my shinnery bushes, tumble weeds and mesquite trees, and much easier to spot underwater when you dunk it in the duck pond. By the way, killed any Mallards or Canvasbacks with your shots recently?" He's a very entertaining guy.

The following courtesy Gary Walker, entitled "Actual Quotes Taken from Federal

Government Employee valuations";

- * Since my last report the employees has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
- * I would not allow this employee to breed.
- * When she opens her mouth it is only to change feet.
- * He would be completely out of his depth in a parking lot puddle.
- * This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- * He sets low personal standards then consistently fails to achieve them.
- * The employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot.
- * Has a full six pack, but not the plastic thingy to hold it all together.
- * He doesn't have ulcers, but is a definite carrier.
- * I would just love to go hunting with him sometime.
- * He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room.
- * If you see two people talking and one looks boring he's the other one.
- * When his IQ reaches 50 he should sell.
- * Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train ain't coming.
- * Give him a penny for his thoughts, you get change.

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Apply at Key Energy Services, 1 1/2 miles West Hwy. 83, Denver City.

Dispatcher Needed.
Apply At Either The Plains or Denver City Sheriff Office

NOTICE FOR BIDS
The State Of Texas)
County Of Yoakum)
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 4:00 P.M., Friday, July 2, 2004, for the purchase of the following equipment for the labor and delivery room at the Yoakum County Hospital; Two (2) Birthing Room Warmers, Two (2) Fetal/Maternal Monitor and Two (2) Infant Scales.
Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Tuesday, July 6, 2004.
For a more detailed list of the equipment and more information, please contact Darinda McWhirter, Yoakum County Auditor, 806/456-2422 or P.O. Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355.
Sealed bids should be marked "Hospital Equipment" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456/ Cowboy Way and Avenue G., Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED
Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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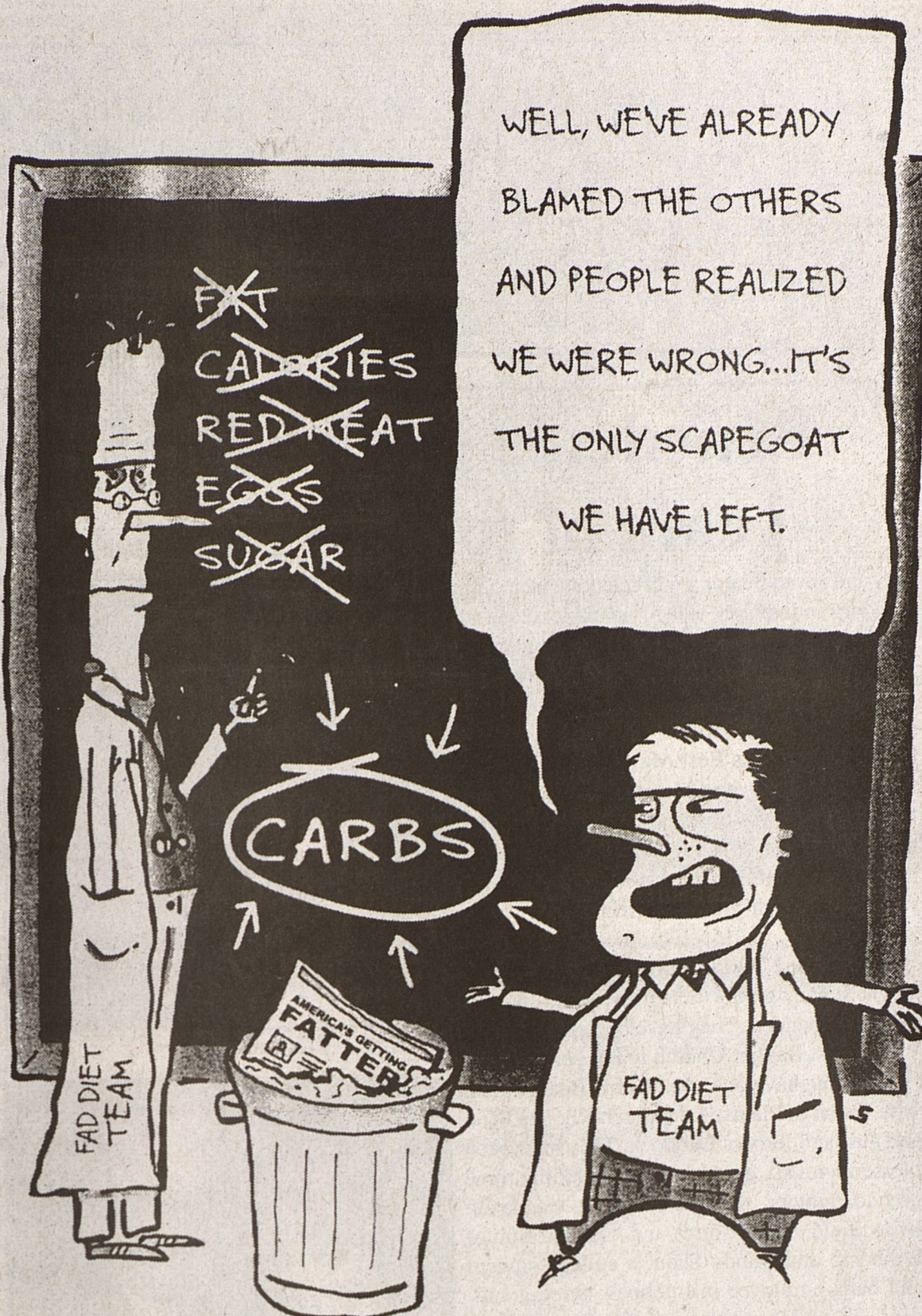
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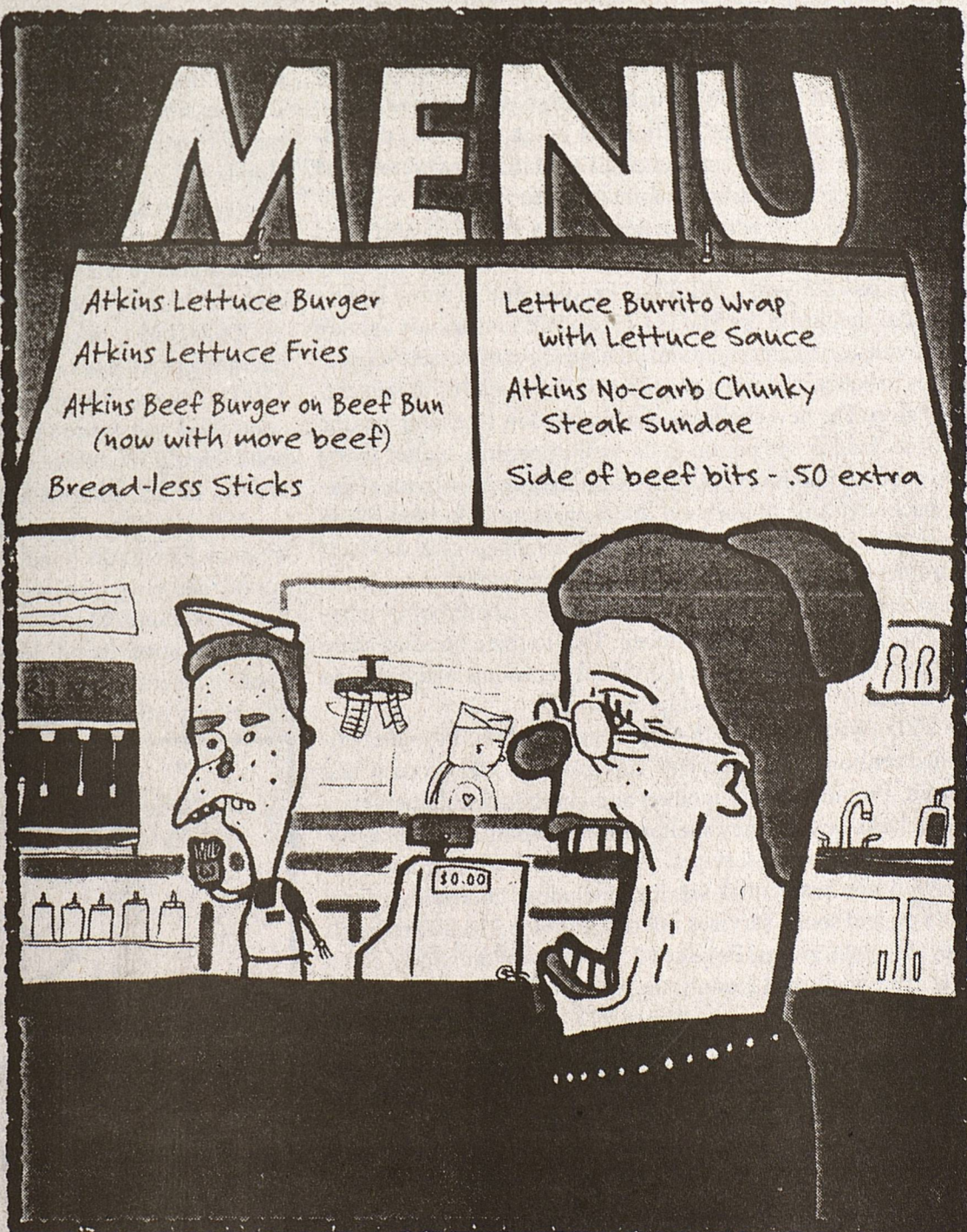
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Where's the bun?