

# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V1111, Issue 21, February 5, 2003



## County voters OK bond issue for hospital plans more than 2 - 1

The county wide election determining the fate of Yoakum County Hospital's expansion and improvement plans with a \$2.95 million bond issue undoubtedly must have surprised many voters, as well as pleasing and displeasing many.

According to numbers released by County Clerk Debbie Rushing the Saturday evening after all polling places had closed, and her office had tabulated the results, county residents cast a total of 643 votes for the passage of the bond issue, with 310 voters against the issue. Mrs. Rushing reminded all residents, "These vote totals will not be official until they are formally certified by the Commissioners Court."

The county hospital's proposal included plans for a dialysis center, expanded emergency room, new birthing facilities, a physical therapy center including an aquatic pool for therapy, and a community meeting room. A new heliport would also be built adjacent to the hospital.

Early after the hospital announced the planned expansion plans, a group of both Denver City and Plains citizens circulated a county wide petition calling for a formal election to determine the fate of the hospital's proposal. Enough signatures were ob-

Please Turn To Page 2, "Election Results"

## New City Hall draws rave reviews

Last Thursday several hundred visitors received a 'Cooks Tour' of the sparkling new City Hall building. Plains Mayor and Council members, the City Administrator and office staff conducted visitors throughout the long awaited and needed office building.

Administrator Ed Hansen told CCN "We're extremely pleased with and proud of our new headquarters, and we are glad so many residents and out of town visitors joined us for the Open House."

The demolishing of the old city building started in February of 2002, and offices were moved to temporary space in the EMS and Fire Department building. Actual construction of the new building started in April of 2002.

Hansen said construction of the 4,300 square foot building came in under the approved budget figure of \$435,000, which included all costs of tearing down the old facility and ground work. The project was



City officials pose before dedication plaque in new building. Shown left to right, City Administrator Ed Hansen, Council members Cristy Brink, Pam Redman, Bonnie Earnest, Owen Schneider, Secretary Sylvia Martinez, Mayor Shane McKinzie, Secretary Pam Rowe. The plaque honors former Mayor for 22 years T. J. Miller.

paid for with city reserve funds, part of which originated with the sale of the city's old electric distribution system to Lea County Electric several years ago.

The new facility contains a and many storage areas. West Texas Concrete was the general contractor, and West Texas Consultants was the engineering firm. The new facility contains a spacious main office area, administrator and mayor's office, conference room, staff office, a break room with kitchen facilities, council meeting room

## Sandy Land District Accepting Applications For Loans

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has approved a \$500,000 loan from the Agricultural Water Conservation loan program to Sandy Land UWCD.

Sandy Land UWCD will use the funds to make low interest loans to area farmers for the purchase and installation of more efficient water conservation equipment. The interest rate for this year's program is 4.67%.

The Sandy Land UWCD service area includes all of Yoakum County covering approximately 531,200 acres in the southern high plains of Texas. There are more than

95,000 acres of irrigated land in Yoakum County.

Loans are limited to 80 percent of the purchase price of the aboveground, recoverable equipment of the new center pivot irrigation system and 75 percent on used equipment and/or sprinkler packages. The due date for all annual payments will be February 15 with a seven (7) year payout for new systems and a five (5) year payout on used systems.

To apply for a loan, borrower/applicant must complete a loan package and submit a non-refundable application fee of \$50. Loan packages are available

from the District office in Plains.

Loans will be secured by a first lien on the equipment for the purchase money security interest. The borrower/applicant will be required to keep in force natural disaster insurance on the system throughout the life of the loan and provide proof of insurance to the District annually. Land on which the new center pivot system to be installed must be located within the Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District.

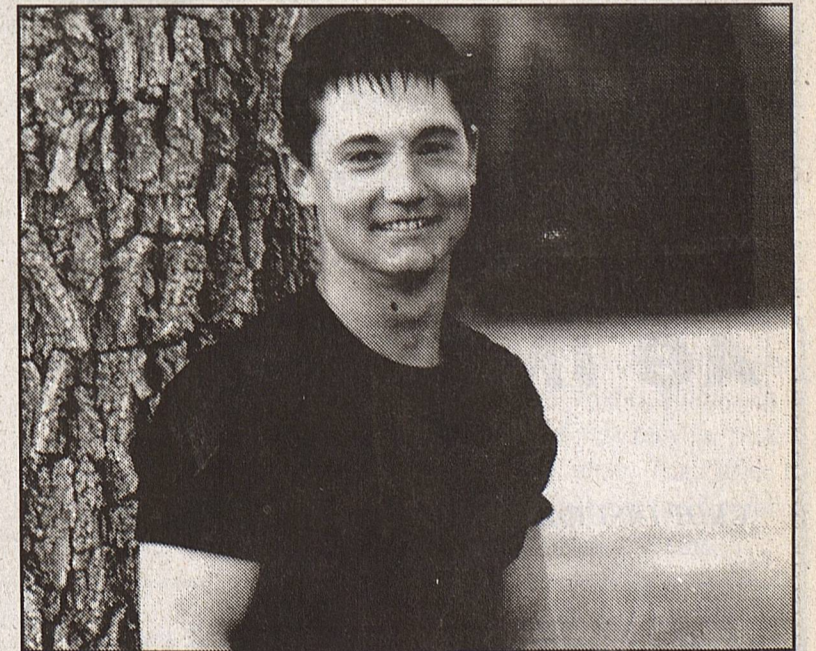
For more information, contact the Sandy Land UWCD at 806/456-2155.

## Criminal cases in County Court

In a recent session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Saul Licon Montana pled guilty to evading arrest/detention. He was sentenced to spend 35 days in jail, with credit for 35 days served, and was held for the U.S. Border Patrol. Bill Helwig served as his attorney, and Officer Joe Ramos, Denver City Police, was the investigating officer.

In the January 27 session of court, Josefina Jordan Carrillo received a sentence of adjudication of guilt deferred for possession of less than two ounces marijuana. She will be under community supervision one year, pay \$211 court costs, \$140 restitution to Texas DPS, and \$200 court appointed attorney fees. She must attend weekly AA (narcotics) meetings, serve 24 hours community service and complete the TAIP program (Texas Alternative Incarceration Program). A cause of cocaine possession was dismissed. Bill Helwig was her attorney, and Lisa Switzer, Llano Estacado Drug Task Force was investigating officer. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in both court cases.

## Chris Hansen Nominated By Combest For Naval Academy



Chris Hansen, a 2002 graduate of Plains High School and the son of Mr. & Mrs. Ed Hansen, has been nominated by U.S. Representative Larry Combest, 19th Congressional District, to attend the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis.

Chris recently received a letter from Congressman Combest's office, which stated, "I am pleased to advise you that today I have submitted your name in nomination for appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

I congratulate you on your fine performance in the competition thus far and am confident that the Academy will share my high appraisal of your file. I hope that you will be offered an appointment soon by the Admissions Board, for you have proven yourself to be the caliber of person the Naval Academy seeks and requires.

You should receive official notification of your nomination from the Academy and instructions on any further action which may be required. Please be assured of my continuing support for your nomination and that I will be following your progress in the coming weeks with great interest."

To attend a Military Academy, students must have an above average academic record, be in good physical condition with above average strength, endurance and agility.

Chris, currently a student at Angelo State University, anticipates hearing from the Academy sometime in February.

## Up And Out On A Limb



County employees have recently been busy at the Courthouse Square trimming and removing dead and broken branches from the elms. It will soon be a nicer and safer area, but the resident squirrel population has not been overjoyed with all the noise and commotion.



**From Page One, "Election Results"**

tained to mandate the county wide election.

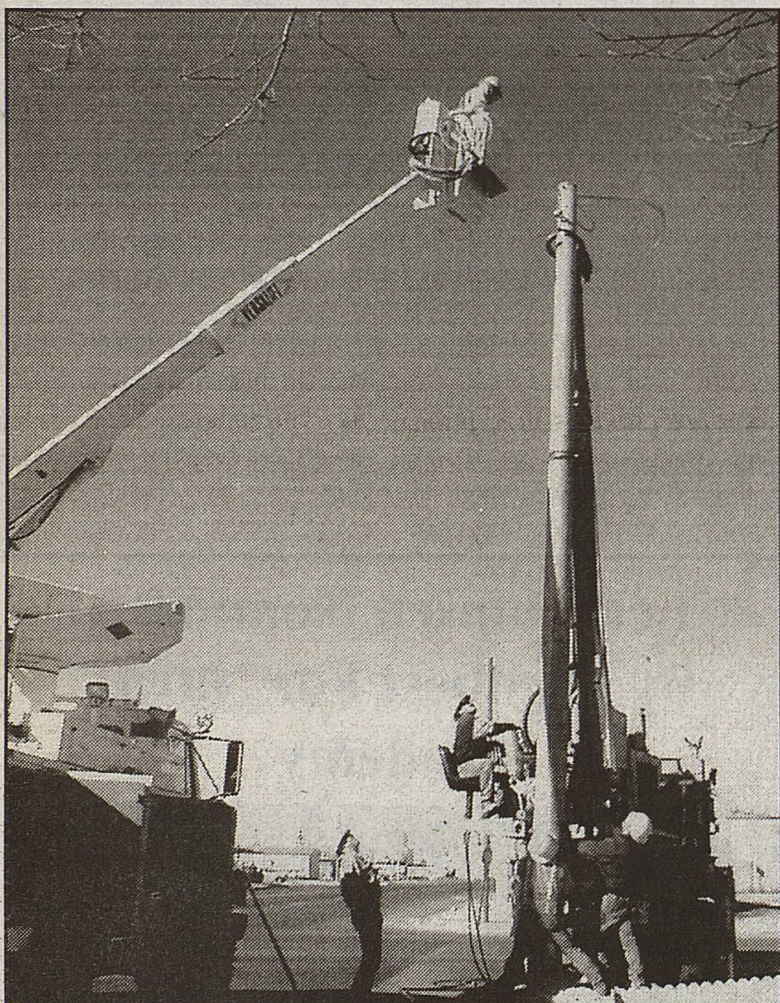
Jack Cobb, President of the Hospital Board of Directors, furnished this statement to CCN; "As spokesman for the Directors, I want to say it was very gratifying to see the number of county residents who responded to the hospital expansion and improvement plan by voting in the February 1 bond issue election. This is a positive indicator county residents are concerned with the progress of the hospital, and agreed there is a real need for all the planned projects. The board has been convinced the plans will furnish not only county residents but patients from other area communities medical services previously not available, and needed improved and expanded facilities. We thank the supporters for this positive step".

Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, stated "We are excited and pleased the residents of Yoakum County have chosen to increase the capabilities and services available at the hospital. We appreciate the support of those who took time to vote, and those who supported the election with their letters and advertisements. The dialysis center will ease some of the burden currently placed on some dialysis patients living in and around our county. As recently as Friday of last week, we were receiving calls from dialysis patients in the area who were interested in the progress of the service. Other additions such as the physical therapy center, ER expansion and birthing rooms will allow us to offer services never offered locally, and provide a better setting for those services currently offered."

Here are the final election results obtained from the County Clerk's office following the election:

VOTING PCT.	FOR	AGAINST
101	95	20
202	67	26
303	26	41
305	9	7
404	47	33
406	32	10
EARLY VOTE	367	173
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>643</b>	<b>310</b>

**A VERY LOFTY ASSIGNMENT**



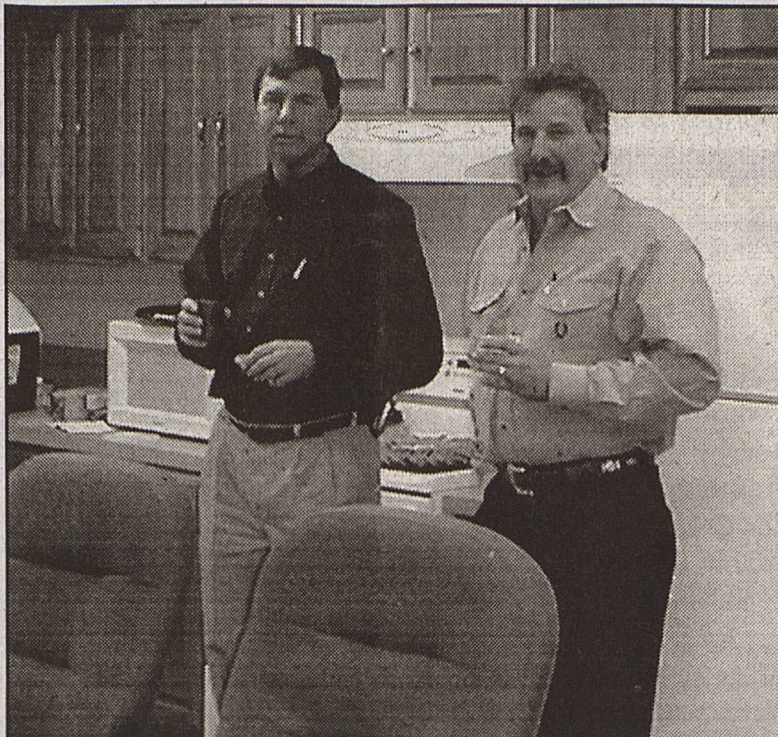
Lea County Electric line crews were pictured at work last week removing a deteriorated metal utility pole on Cowboy Way as a safety measure

**City General Election Scheduled**

The City Council for the City of Plains has called for a General Election to be held in The City of Plains on Saturday, May 3, 2003. The election will be held at the City of Plains City Hall located at 1015 Ave F in Plains, Texas. The purpose of this election will be to elect three (3) Councilmembers.

Those with expiring terms are Council members Arlon Alexander, Christy Brink and Owen Schneider.

First day for filing an application for a place on the ballot is Tuesday, February 18, 2003 and the filing deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2003. Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up at the Plains City Hall during regular business hours.



Former City Administrator David Brunson and Plains Mayor Shane McKinzie did some visiting at the recent City Hall Open House. Brunson, now City Manager at Muleshoe, brought several guests with him to the Open House celebration.

**Texas Historical Commission offers new Civil War brochure**

Texas in the Civil War, a 24 page brochure detailing historical and cultural Civil War sites in Texas, is now available from the Texas Historical Commission (THC). Described as a history lesson with a road map, the colorful brochure explains the history and lore surrounding this important period in American and Texas history. The Civil War brochure is the seventh in a series for free brochures from the THC that highlight historic people and places in the state. For more information, or for a free brochure, call 512/463-6254 or visit [www.the.state.tx.us](http://www.the.state.tx.us).

**Working hard for trip to Washington, D.C.**



Plains Junior High students Nicole Culwell, Meghan Garcia and Caitlin Carter are pictured at a recent PHS basketball game, manning the concession stands. They are among a group of local students hoping to raise funds for a whirlwind tour of the nation's capitol in June. Sponsored by *WorldStrides* of Charlottesville, Va., and being organized by Brownfield's Tom Pettigrew and assisted by his wife Mary, the Plains students will be joined by a group of students from Brownfield for four days of Washington and visits to dozens of historical sites and events.

Some of the events on the schedule include the Washington Monument, Arlington Cemetery, Space Shuttle Museum, Mount Vernon, Vietnam Veterans Monument, The Smithsonian, FDR, Lincoln, Jefferson and Iwo Jima Memorial Monuments, Kennedy Center, National Cathedral, Capitol Hill and much more.

Other local students hoping to make the trip include Cody Wilmeth, B.J. Lester, Abel Ramos, Todd Williams, Steven Dominguez, Douglas Conway and Jose Luis Gallegos

**Texas Tech Honors Locals**

During the December 2002 Commencement Ceremonies, Daniel Canada was awarded a Master of Science Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies, and Jose Martinez III graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree, Exercise and Sport Sciences. The following Plains students were named to the Fall 2002

Dean's List; Kyley Bearden, Senior, Krystle Blundell, Junior, Abraham Garcia, Senior, Christopher McGinty, Freshman, and Anne Palmer, Junior. To be on the Dean's List, a student must have a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9, having taken a least 12 qualifying course hours during the semester.

**NOTICE OF PETITION**

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) petitions for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is based on the Commission's Substantive Rule 26.221, a measure established in Senate Bill 632 in the 73rd session of the Texas State Legislature.

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues recoverable through a surcharge are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee, and are to be recovered from all access lines within the company. Because the ELCS surcharge that Texas ALLTEL customers are currently paying on the ELCS routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996 and in the year 2000 was only approved by the Commission for two years, that portion of the surcharge customers are currently paying will expire in February 2003. The breakout of the surcharge customers are currently paying is:

Business	Residential
\$1.60	\$ .80 (Expires October 2005)
\$1.22	\$ .61 (Expires February 2003)
\$2.82	\$1.41 Total customers are currently paying

The costs and lost revenues for which recovery is sought in this petition are for ELCS routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996 and those implemented in the years 2000 and 2002. If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the surcharge that customers will pay will be:

Business	Residential
\$1.60	\$ .80 (Expires October 2005)
\$2.20	\$1.10 (Requested in this Petition—Includes add'l routes implemented in the year 2002)
\$3.80	\$1.90 Total customers would pay, if petition is approved

Customers will see no change in their monthly bill until and unless the Commission approves a surcharge different from the surcharge currently being charged. When a final rate is approved by the Commission, customer bills will be changed to reflect the new approved monthly surcharge with an effective date of February 20, 2003, with appropriate retroactive adjustments made as needed.

The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost revenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the increased direct cost of service associated with all ELCS petitions placed in service prior to September 1, 1996 and after January 1, 2000. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$41,250 monthly.

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

The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 27033 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by February 10, 2003. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. For information on intervening, please call the Commission at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

**AVISO DESOLICITUD**

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una solicitud ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Public Utility Commission of Texas) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar ingresos perdidos y el aumento de los costos asociados con la solicitud del Servicio de Expansión de Llamadas Locales (Expanded Local Calling Service) (ELCS) para varias áreas de Texas ALLTEL. La presentación de esta solicitud se basa en la Regla Legislativa 26.221 de la Comisión, una medida establecida en el Proyecto de Ley 632 del Senado en la 73a sesión de la Legislatura del Estado de Texas.

El ELCS permite que un área amplíe los límites del área de llamadas locales para incluir a una o más áreas si los clientes dan su aprobación por medio de una votación para el pago de una tarifa por el ELCS en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos e ingresos perdidos recuperables a través del recargo son aquellos que no son recuperables a través de la tarifa por el ELCS, y serán recuperados de todas las líneas de acceso dentro de la compañía. Debido a que el recargo por el ELCS que los clientes de Texas ALLTEL están pagando actualmente en las rutas del ELCS implementadas antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y en el año 2000 fue aprobado por la Comisión solamente por dos años, esa porción del recargo que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad caducará en febrero de 2003. El detalle del recargo que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad es:

Comercial	Residencial
\$1.60	\$ .80 (Caduca en octubre de 2005)
\$1.22	\$ .61 (Caduca en febrero de 2003)
\$2.82	\$1.41 Total que los clientes están pagando en la actualidad

Los costos e ingresos perdidos para los cuales se desea obtener la recuperación en esta solicitud son para las rutas del ELCS implementadas antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y aquellas implementadas en los años 2000 y 2002. Si se aprueba la solicitud de Texas ALLTEL, el recargo que los clientes pagarán será:

Comercial	Residencial
\$1.60	\$ .80 (Caduca en octubre de 2005)
\$2.20	\$1.10 (Solicitado en esta petición—Incluye rutas adicionales implementadas en el año 2002)
\$3.80	\$1.90 Total que los clientes pagarán, si se aprueba la solicitud

Los clientes no observarán ningún cambio en su factura mensual hasta que la Comisión apruebe un recargo distinto al recargo que se está cobrando en la actualidad. Cuando la Comisión apruebe una tarifa final, se cambiarán las facturas de los clientes para reflejar el nuevo recargo mensual aprobado con una fecha de entrada en vigor del 20 de febrero de 2003, con ajustes retroactivos aproximados según sea necesario.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será "cero" ya que el recargo solicitado reemplaza ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el costo directo creciente del servicio asociado con todas las solicitudes del ELCS puestas en servicio antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996, y después del 1 de enero de 2000. El total calculado de los ingresos perdidos y el aumento de los costos que Texas ALLTEL desea recuperar a través de este proceso es de \$41,250 mensuales.

Si tiene preguntas acerca de este cargo o desea más información, por favor llame a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

La Public Utility Commission ha asignado el número de proyecto 27033 a este proceso. Las personas que deseen intervenir o hacer comentarios sobre este proceso deben avisar a la Comisión antes del 10 de febrero de 2003. Todas las solicitudes para intervenir deben ser enviadas por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información para intervenir, llamen a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Las personas con problemas auditivos o del habla que tengan un teléfono de texto (TTY) pueden llamar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.



**AG INSURANCE PLUS**

CROP INSURANCE MPC1-CRC-CAT-CROP HAIL  
456-2788

Jim Brown, Agent  
Mobile 806-891-0449  
or 891-0450  
Home 592-3490

Jeff Lowery, Sales Assoc.  
Mobile 806-592-1319  
Home 456-3195



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ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010



## 100 Consecutive Days In School



Shown L-R are Percy Sosa, Claire Carpenter, Adora Ramos, Perla Corrales, Jonathan Fierro, Haley Lowrey, Madison Davis. Not pictured, Bailey Winn & Lucas Hernandez. These elementary youngsters were recognized last week for perfect attendance during the first one hundred days of school in 2003-03.

### TSA MO GA Meets, Plains High Senior Dinner

At the January 27 Tsa Mo Ga meeting, it was announced the Plains High School Class of 2003 will be honored by Tsa Mo Ga members at a Senior Dinner Monday, February 10, at 7 pm., at the Community Building. Travis Spears, retired professor of history and government from South Plains College, will speak to the 44 member class and sponsors.

Members were given reports on international and local projects by program coordinator Billie Blundell, Mattie Field and Dolores Davis.

Mrs. Field presented facts about Heifer International, which operates around the world and encourages people to become self reliant for food and self achievement. The program has spread from country to country and allows families to have a source of income by helping each other. Mrs. Davis introduced a video on "Operation Smile," a program where doctors and medical personnel travel nine weeks during the year to foreign countries, providing free operations to children with facial deformities.

Mrs. Davis also provided information on food baskets and Christmas aid provided to county residents at Thanksgiving and Christmas. She cited the Tree Lighting and community visit by Santa Claus as another successful project Tsa Mo Ga supports with members donating food for the local food pantry. Club member Toni Jones reported that an abundance of food and donated turkeys, plus toys were distributed to families in the area. A surplus of food was available thanks to donations to the scavenger hunt sponsored by the high school Student Council. Mrs. Jones also attributed the generous offering taken at the community wide Thanksgiving church service was used to support local aid to families. Martha Palmer and Betty Rushing were hostesses for the international affairs meeting that was held at the library.

## Lovington Chamber Of Commerce

Presents

# 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Show Of Wheels

## Lea County Fairgrounds

### February 8th & 9th

Lovington, New Mexico

Drawing For A 1968  
**CORVETTE**  
during awards ceremony  
Tickets Available from Lovington  
Chamber of Commerce.

Buy a Ticket to the Show  
SATURDAY and place it in the  
box in the office for a drawing  
for  
**\$500 CASH**  
to be drawn 5:30 pm Saturday

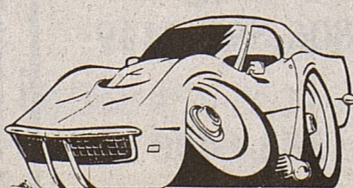
For More Info:

Lovington Chamber of Commerce ~ (505) 396-5311

Steve Conner ~ (505) 369-7852

James Wright ~ (505) 396-0513

Ron Carson ~ (505) 396-3661

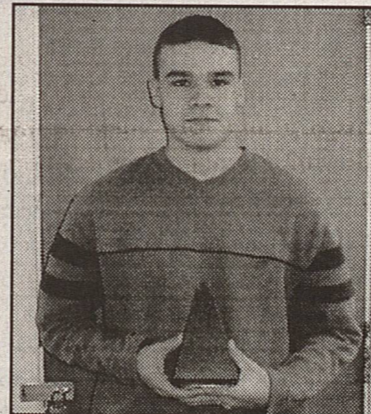


## JP Court Summary

January 31, 2003-In JP Court Precinct One with Judge Melba Crutcher presiding the following cases and bonds were set: Cases filed: 78 traffic cases, 1 felony, 10 minors in consumption of alcohol, 8 issuance of bad check cases, 1 juvenile warning issued with statement.

Bonds set: purchase or furnish alcohol to a minor-\$500.00 bond. Motion of surety/possession of a controlled substance-\$5,000.00 bond. Manufacture/deliver controlled substance-Coke Co.-\$100,000.00 bond. 2 cases-Motion to revoke probation-Scurry Co.-no bond-transferred. Assault causes bodily injury to family member-\$1,500.00 bond + emergency protective order. Fugitive from justice-\$2,000.00 bond. Failure to appear-Lubbock Co.-\$700.00 bond. 2 cases-DPS warrants-Lubbock Co.-\$300.00 bond. 2 cases-Possession of drug paraphernalia-\$500.00 bond. 2 cases-Possession of Marijuana-\$500.00 bond. Evading arrest-\$500.00 bond. Driving while license suspended-\$500.00 bond. Unlawful consumption of alcohol by minor-\$500.00 bond. 2 cases-Driving while intoxicated-\$1,500.00 bond + interlock device ordered. Public intoxication-\$400.00 bond.

## Student of the Week



Student of the week is Cody Flores, a sophomore and the son of Cody & Diana Flores. He was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "Cody doesn't say too much, unless you know him really well. Although he pretends to be the silent type in class, that's really a disguise. He quietly absorbs knowledge and then puts it into action. He has already received a ribbon today for his achievement in UIL and is usually the leading scorer on the boys' JV basketball team."

## Taxpayer Info Available From Appraisal District

Sandra Stephens, chief appraiser for Yoakum County Appraisal District, offers property owners a 2003 pamphlet called *Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities* to help them save on their property taxes.

Stephens noted that the pamphlet applies to property taxes collected by all types of taxing units: counties, cities, school districts and special districts (such as municipal utility, junior college, water districts and hospital districts.)

"Home owners may file for various property tax exemptions offered by taxing units on residence homesteads," Stephens said. In Texas, a homestead is generally the house and yard used as the owner's principal residence. The pamphlet explains each exemption and how to apply for it.

"A tax freeze, or ceiling, for school taxes is a benefit for home owners once they become 65 years old," Stephens said. "New law provides that home owners who turn 65 may apply during the year, rather than waiting until January 1."

"An elderly home owner's taxes that pay for public schools cannot increase above the total school tax amount on that home in the first year that the home owner receives the over 65 home owner exemption," Stephens continued. "But it may increase if the home owner improves or adds to the house, such as adding a pool or patio."

The law provides an additional school tax benefit for certain home owners. If the surviving spouse of an over 65 home owner is at least 55 years old at the time of the older spouse's death, then he or she can keep the school tax ceiling. The tax ceiling, however, does not apply for other taxing units such as the county and city.

The surviving spouse also may retain the over 65 home owner's exemptions offered by the local taxing units, if the surviving spouse is at least 55 years old at the time of the older spouse's death and owns and lives in the home.

The chief appraiser pointed out that home owners 65 or older do not need to reapply for the exemption this year if they received the exemption and tax ceiling last year. Home owners turning 65 during the year may file for the

over 65 exemption up to one year from the date they turn 65, owned the home, and lived in it as their principal residence. Only those who have never had the exemption and tax ceiling, such as the surviving spouse age 55 or older, must apply in 2003.

Home owners are also eligible for a \$3,000 general exemption because the county levies a tax for farm to market roads.

Stephens added that any taxing unit may offer a local option exemption that allows a percentage reduction in each residence homestead's appraisal value. In 2003, a taxing unit may exempt up to 20 percent of each qualified home's appraised value. Plains ISD is the only taxing unit that offers the 20 percent exemption.

"1-d-1" productivity appraisal is another type of tax relief available to agricultural owners. The landowner must file a signed, sworn application with the chief appraiser by April 30. The owners do not need to reapply each year, unless the chief appraiser requests in writing that they do so or if they purchase new land. The application must be in the name of the current owner. However, if the land's use changes to a non-agriculture one, the period for recapturing lost taxes is five years.

"Appraisal district staff can offer more information about special land appraisal, tax reductions and exemptions," Stephens said. She said the "Remedies" pamphlet also contains information about protesting to the appraisal review board (ARB). The ARB is a citizen board that hears taxpayers protests to ensure that property values are fair and uniform.

"Urge all property owners in the Yoakum County Appraisal District to read the pamphlet and learn about the property tax system and all possible property tax relief," Stephens said.

"Remember, taxpayers must file exemption applications with the appraisal office by April 30 and must file all protest at the appraisal office within 30 days after the appraisal notices are mailed. Since this is not a reappraisal year, not all property owner in the county will receive a notice this year.

Copies of *Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies & Responsibilities* may be picked up at the County Tax Office in Denver City or at the Appraisal District Office in Plains.

## Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

Will take Medicaid, Medicare, Major Insurance  
and now CHIPS

Will see Minor Emergencies, Chronic Medical Problems,  
Immunizations

**TEXAS HEALTH STEPS**

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 8-5

Wednesday 8-5

Thursday & Friday 8-5

Will take walk-ins

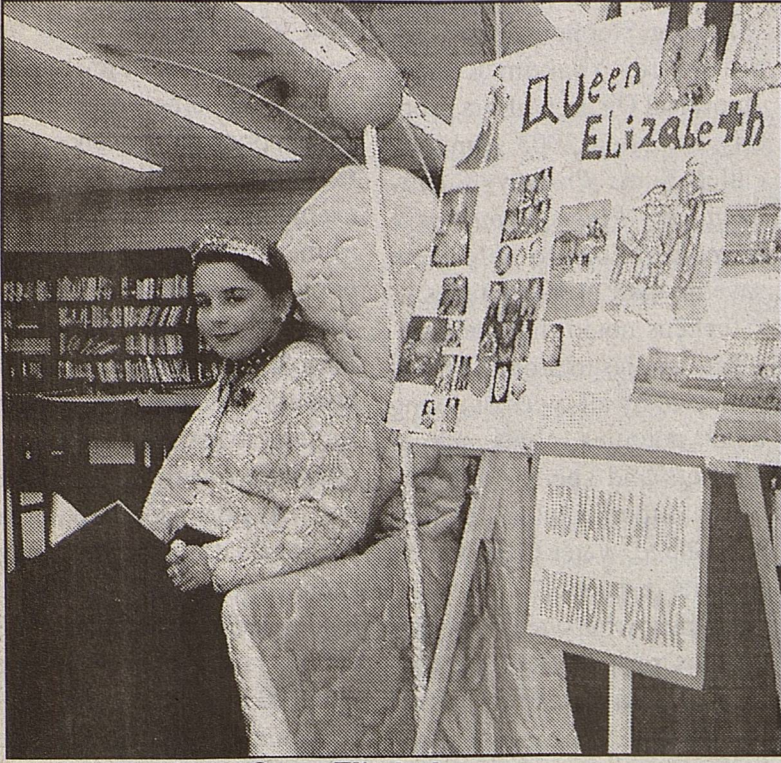
Appointments preferred

Please call 806-456-6365



# Plains Elementary's Famous Wax Museum

Students portray famous historical characters



Shyann Vantine as Queen Elizabeth



Chase Ortega as Abraham Lincoln



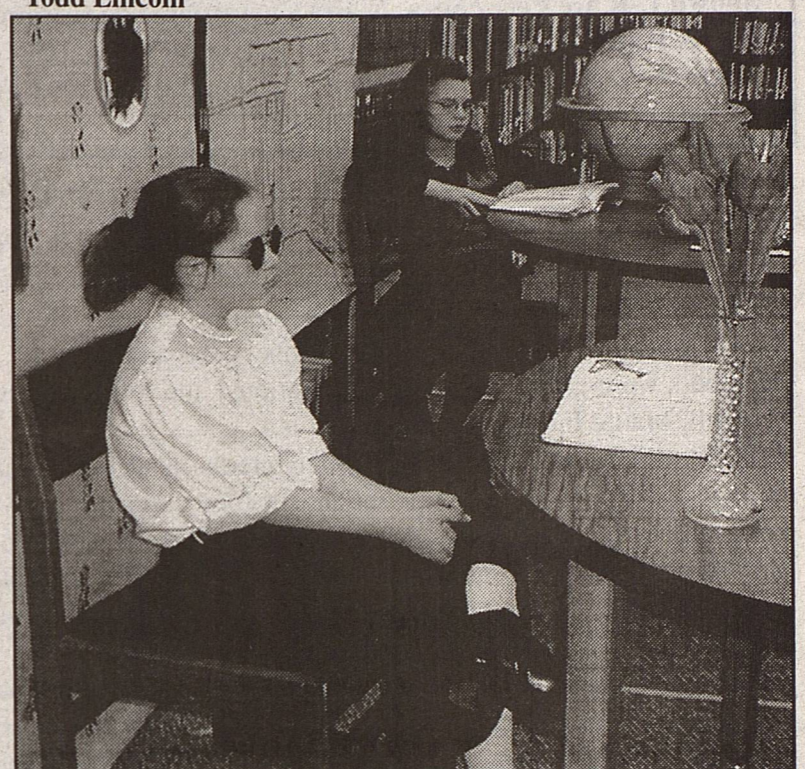
Hunter Welch as Johnny Appleseed, Reyna Gallegos as Mary Todd Lincoln



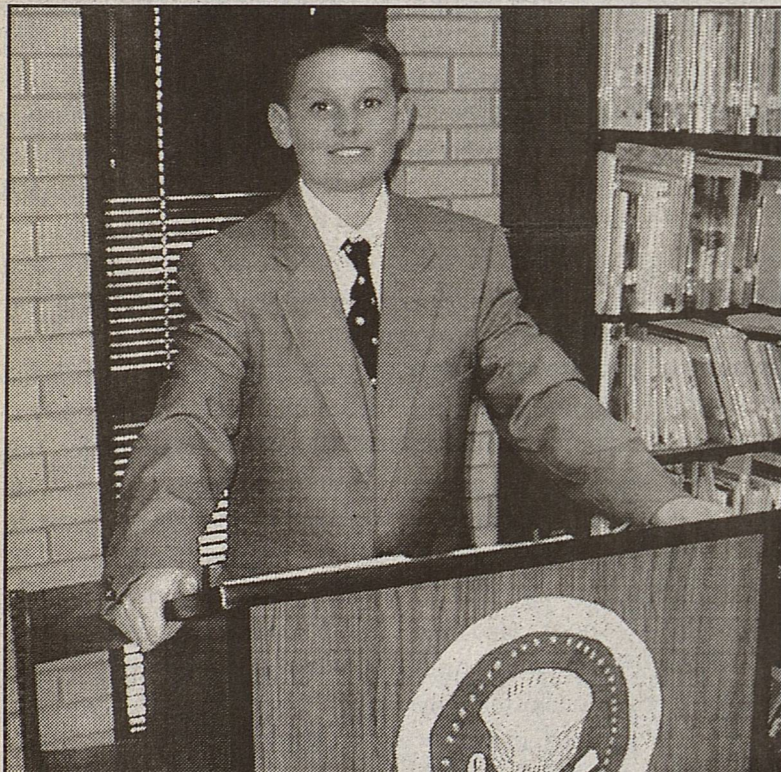
Brock Carter as Patrick Henry, Cody Friesen as Davy Crockett



Nathan McCravey as Nathan Hale



Hannah Crump as Helen Keller, Stephanie Addison as Laura Bush



Troy Parrish as John F. Kennedy



Natalie Haynes as Princess Diana, Emilia Gallegos as Jackie Kennedy

## PISD Sports Capsule

Basketball:

Jr. High-

7th Girls- The younger Lady Wranglers continued winning ways by defeating Sundown 47-12. Joanie Bell and Lauren Davis shared scoring honors with 17 points each, and Katie Winn, Lauren Hise and Amber Friesen were recognized for outstanding performances.

8th Girls- The Lady Wranglers pounded Anton, 47-4. Desiraye Broome and Regina Morales poured in 16 points each, Hallie Cotton 8, Meghan Garcia 6, Callie Howell 1.

7th Boys- The younger Wranglers downed Anton 43-35. Cody Mayes topped scoring with 17 points, followed by Elias Carrillo 14, Zach Ramos and Doug Conway 4 each, Juan Lara and Kirk Allredge 2 each. Also seeing action were John Tyson, Trent Hawthorne and Curtis Arteaga.

8th Boys- The older Wranglers edged Anton 36-34 in a tough match. Scott Addison scored 15 points, Landon Craft 9, C.J. Tarango 7, Rudy Gonzales. Steven Dominguez was cited for his defense, Jacob Rivera for hustle.

High School:

JV Cowgirls- The girls played hard against Anton, tying the game several times but finally falling 22-20. Sandra Gallegos led scoring with 8, Cecilia Bonilla 6, Allison Friesen 4, and Micaela Villegas and Stacie Allredge were recognized for hustle and defense. The team made 80% of their freethrows. They came back with a big 24-5 win over Whiteface with only 5 players to Whiteface's 11. Sandra led scoring again with 13, Cecilia 4, Ashli Hunter 3, Allison and Stacie 2 each.

JV Cowboys- The young Cowboys were slowed by team illness, and fell to Anton 55-23. Michael Therwhanger managed 5 points, Patrick Cotton, Todd Williams, Cody Flores 4 each, T.J. Cordova 2, Brandon Davis 1.

Varsity Cowgirls- The Cowgirls fell hard to Anton, 76-24. Jessica Knight topped scoring with 10, Chelsea Blount 6, Jamie Covarrubias 4, Kayla Willis and Sarah Martinez 2 each. Chelsea and Kayla had 6 rebounds each, Jamie 5. The girls next faced Whiteface the second time of the season, and while losing by 17 points, 68-51, fared much better than the first 41 point loss. Chelsea topped scoring with 23 points, Jessica Suarez had 10, Jessica Knight 7, Jamie 5, Kristian Morales 4, and Daniella Lazos 2.

Power Lifting:

Sundown Meet- Jose Ramirez was named Outstanding Lifter in meet, 1st place in 148 lb. class with 1,055 lbs. -Manuel Ramoz, 1st in 165 lb. class, 1,130 lbs.- Brandon Davis 6th in 132 class, 560 lbs. -Arnold Cordova, 11th 148 lb. class, 820 lbs. - Armando Ramirez 10th in 165 lb. class, 810 lbs. - Reagan Haynes 19th 165 lb. class, 660 lbs. - Brent Huerta, 6th super hvy. wgt class, 890 lbs. \*\* In an earlier Floydada meet, with 205 contestants, Jose Ramirez was Outstanding Lifter for

light platform, and ranks 1st in Region of A-AAA schools. Manuel Ramoz was 1st in 165 lb. class, beaten only by Jose for Outstanding Lifter by 10 lbs, and is ranked 2nd in the Region. Adam Guerrero was 5th in the 165 lb. class.



Front-Brandon Davis, Manuel Ramoz, Reagan Haynes  
Middle-Arnold Cordova, Armando Ramirez, Adam Guerrero  
Back-Ryan Martinez, Brent Huerta

Three PHS students placed in journalism events at the first annual Idalou Invitational Meet February 1. Senior Mandi Rogers won first place in feature writing and senior Liz Wilmeth was second in editorial writing. In news writing, sophomore Cody Flores placed fourth and Rogers and Wilmeth won fifth and sixth place ribbons.

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
CAUSE NO. 8099

WESTGATE ENERGY PARTNERS, INC. §  
VS. §  
THE UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS OF CRESCENT §  
OIL & GAS CORP. §

IN THE 121<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COURT  
OF  
YOAKUM COUNTY, TEXAS

TO: THE UNKNOWN STOCKHOLDERS OF CRESCENT OIL & GAS CORP. and THEIR HEIRS, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, IF ANY OF SAID PERSON ARE DECEASED, DEFENDANTS IN THE CAUSE HEREIN DESCRIBED. GREETINGS:

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's Petition at or before 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next after the expiration of forty-two (42) days after the date of issuance of this citation the same being Monday, February 24, 2003, before the Honorable 121<sup>st</sup> District Court of Yoakum County, at the Courthouse in said County in Plains, Texas. Said Plaintiff's Petition was filed in said Court on January 2, 2003, in the above-entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit:

This suit is brought to have a receiver appointed under the provisions of Section 64.09 of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code for undivided leasehold interest owned by the Defendants in the following described lands in Yoakum County, Texas, to-wit:

A tract of land, being the Southwest Quarter (SW/4) and North Half of the Southeast Quarter (N/2 SE/4) of Section 5, Block K, PSL, Yoakum County, Texas;

and to execute term assignments thereof to the Plaintiff and take such other action deemed necessary under the provisions of said statute.

as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's Petition on file in this suit.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at Plains, Texas, on January 8th, 2003.

ADDRESS OF PLAINTIFF OR ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF  
BRAD MILLER  
500 W. TEXAS, STE. #1310  
MIDLAND, TX 79701  
915.684.9990

VICKI BLUNDELL  
District Clerk of Yoakum County, Texas J.M. COULSON  
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Senior Citizens Corner

Another Super Bowl has come and gone and Tampa Bay is rejoicing! While reviewing some statistics since the first Super Bowl game in 1966, it is interesting to note that the smallest audience was 29,556 in San Diego when Houston was the winner and the largest turn out was in Los Angeles where 91,445 fans watched Los Angeles fight their way to victory over Seattle.

It is good to see the smiling face of Ruby Kennedy at the reception desk this week. We appreciate each one who volunteers to accept this task.

We will miss the quiet presence of Lenore Matus who has decided to return to Puerto Rico, her family home. She promises to return to see us in two years.

Gleny Bownds, Louise Welch and Gretchen Ford report a great evening in Lubbock where they enjoyed the Champions on Ice performance at the coliseum.

Ireta Davis won both 8 ball and 9 ball for the ladies on Monday night while Carl Davis won the 8 ball and "Lucky" Harmon beat everyone else out in the 9 ball pool competition.

Wanda Black has spent several days in the local hospital. She is missed here at the Center and we look forward to having her back and doing all the things she finds to do around here.

Bingo on Tuesday was well attended with many winners. Thanks to Bruce Greer for calling the numbers for us this time, and to Pat Altman for seeing that all went well.



Council members and City Hall open house visitors enjoy kitchen facilities in break room.



Pulling the plug on the I Do Tax: What if I told you we discouraged something that could reduce instances of poverty and child abuse; lessen the likelihood for children to be depressed or have developmental problems; dramatically cut adolescent drug use; and decrease instances of domestic violence?

Unfortunately That's exactly what happens in our country every day. The benefits of marriage are well established, and research shows us that the host of societal ills mentioned above, are far less likely to occur in a married household. Yet our countries tax code penalizes couples for saying I do, placing an added tax burden on those who choose to marry. Americans should not have to choose between love and money. Yet poorly conceived tax laws force them to do just that. Fortunately, in 2001, Congress took a step in the right direction, passing sweeping tax relief, including lowering the marriage penalty, for all Americans at just the right time. No one could have foreseen the economic turndown that followed the terror attacks on our nation, and the tax relief helped create jobs and grow the economy.

Congress eliminated the death tax, lessened the marriage penalty, increased retirement savings limits and boldly reduced the tax burden for every taxpayer. Unfortunately, because of procedural rules in the Senate this tax relief will sunset after 10 years. In 2011, all of that relief will vanish. One of my highest priorities in 2003 is to accelerate this tax relief and make it permanent. The Ameri-

can people deserve to have consistency in the tax code so they can adequately plan and prepare for their retirement and for their families future.

That's why in January I introduced a bipartisan bill in the Senate to provide immediate and permanent tax relief from the marriage penalty, effectively ending this inequity for most couples.

The bill is simple, straightforward and effective. It would immediately increase the standard deduction for married couples filling a joint return so it is twice that of the basic standard deduction for single individuals. The bill would also widen the 15 percent tax bracket. For 2003, the threshold would jump nearly 20 percent, from \$47,450 to \$56,800. With these changes, a couple earning \$30,000 could keep \$800 they now pay in taxes, while a couple earning \$80,000 could pocket more than \$1,300.

The bill also would increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) phase out levels for married people. The EITC, which is given to people whose wages are too low to pay taxes, is an important benefit for some of our nations poorest citizens. By increasing the phase out level, we help reduce the risk that low income workers will lose their benefit simply by getting married.

This is a surefire way to put money in peoples pockets and will help give the economy a needed boost. Nearly half of all married couples in America currently pay a marriage penalty, and on average they pay \$1,400 more each year in taxes than they would if they were

single. The legislation I introduced would benefit an estimated 35 million married couples by increasing the standard deduction by an average of \$1,500 for married couples filing jointly this year. In Texas alone, this bill would benefit an estimated 2.4 million families.

I have introduced this bi-partisan legislation along with my colleague from Indiana, Sen. Evan Bayh, because we want to ensure this issue is quickly addressed by Congress. In the current economy, it is critical we enact immediate tax relief so couples can spend more of their hard earned money to meet their needs not the governments. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress to make sure the dreams and hopes of couples across the country no longer help line the coffers of the IRS.

Hearts and flowers are all part of Valentines Day, but for many Texans hearts fail. Heart disease is the number one killer of Texans, and stroke is number three. Things you can change that put you at risk for a heart attack or stroke are being a smoker, having high blood pressure, having a high blood cholesterol level, being overweight and being physically inactive.

Heart attack warning signs; \*uncomfortable pressure, \*Fullness, \*Squeezing or pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back, \*Pain that spreads to the shoulder, neck or arms, \*Chest discomfort with light-headedness, \*Fainting, \*Sweating, \*Nausea or shortness of breath.

Stroke warning signs; \*Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body, \*Sudden confusion, \*Trouble Speaking or understanding, \*Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes, \*Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination, \*Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Not all these warning signs occur in every stroke or heart attack. If some start to occur, don't wait. Get help immediately! These are medical emergencies, call 911.

To learn more about being heart healthy call the South Plains Public Health District.

## New Books At The Library

### FICTION:

Crossroads Of Twilight...Robert Jordan, Catch Me If You Can...Frank Abagnale, The Briar King...Greg Keys, Winner Take All...T. Davis Bunn, Mr. Lincoln's Wars...Adam Braver, The Other Twin...Katherine Stone, Warlord...S. M. Stirling

### NONFICTION:

Tried & True: Quick & Easy Top 200 Recipes...Editor Tim Hunt, Digital Photography For Dummies...Julie King, J.K. Lasser's Your Income Tax 2003, Raising The Hunley: The Remarkable History And Recovery Of The Lost Confederate Submarine...Brian Hicks, And Words Can Hurt Forever: How To Protect Adolescents From Bullying Harassment, And Emotional Violence...James Garbarino, PH.D., Chicken Soup For The Romantic Soul...Jack Canfield, Cooking For Dummies...Bryan Miller, Hawaii For Dummies...Cheryl Leas, Photo Retouching & Restoration For Dummies...Julie King, New Better Homes & Gardens Cookbook, The Right Man: The Suprise Presidency Of George W. Bush...David Frum, Wildcatters...Charlie Moncrief, Kings Of Texas, The 150 Year Saga Of An American Ranching Empire...Don Graham, Backyard Brawl, Inside The Blood Feud Between Texas and Texas A&M...W. K. Stratton

To raise money for the athletic scholarships the Plains Athletic Booster Club will take orders for Little Caesars pizza kits on February 4th & 7th at the basketball games. The kits include everything you need to make a pizza at home. The price range is \$20.00 to \$12.00 per kit. The last day to order is February 11 with delivery date scheduled for the week of February 17. Thank you for all your support this year.

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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## The price of admission

According to the College Board, the creator of the SAT, college costs are rising. Most students in 2001 paid \$96 to \$890 more for tuition and fees than they did in 2000. But college isn't as expensive as some might think. The College Board says the vast majority of undergraduates nationwide, 73.6 percent, paid less than \$8,000 in 2001-02 for tuition and fees, and 42.8 percent paid less than \$4,000.

Distribution of 2001-02 full-time undergraduates at four-year institutions by tuition and fees charged	
Tuition and fees charged	Percentage of the nation's undergraduates
\$24,000	6.0%
\$20,000 to \$23,999	4.4%
\$16,000 to \$19,999	8.5%
\$12,000 to \$15,999	7.5%
\$8,000 to \$11,999	3.9%
\$4,000 to \$7,999	26.9%
Less than \$4,000	42.8%

SOURCE: The College Board.

**First United Methodist Church**  
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.  
456-3727



**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?  
Come worship with us  
and get a faith lift!



# From The Hack

## NEWSPAPER HEADLINES IN YEAR 2035:

Ozone created by electric cars now killing millions in 7th largest country in the world, California.

White minorities still trying to have English recognized as California's third language.

Spotted Owl plague threatens northwestern U.S. crops and livestock.

Baby conceived naturally.... scientists are stumped.

Authentic 2000 "chad" sells at Sotheby auction for \$4.6 million.

Last remaining Fundamentalist Muslim dies in the American Territory of the Middle East (formerly known as Iran, Afghanistan, Syria and Lebanon).

Iraq still closed off; physicists estimate it will take ten more years before radioactivity decreases to safe levels.

Castro finally dies at age 112; Cuban cigars can now be legally imported, but President Chelsea Clinton has banned all smoking.

George Z. Bush declares he will run for president in 2036.

U.S. Postal Service raises price of first class stamp to \$7.79 and reduces mail delivery to Wednesday only.

35 year study reveals diet and exercise is key to weight loss.

Massachusetts executes last remaining conservative.

Supreme Court unanimously rules punishment of criminals violates their civil rights.

Upcoming NFL draft likely to focus on use of cloned mutants.

Average height of NBA players now nine feet, seven inches.

Microsoft announces it has perfected its newest version of Windows so it crashes BEFORE installation is completed.

New law requires all nail clippers, screwdrivers, fly swatters and rolled up newspapers must be registered by January 2036.

Congress authorizes direct deposit of illegal political contributions to campaign accounts.

Capitol Hill intern indicted for refusing to have sex with congressman.

New IRS lowest tax rate is set at 75%.

Don't chuckle too hard... some of these are entirely possible!

And from a California reader, these are supposed to be actual newspaper headlines in the year 2002;

Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers.

Iraq head seeks arms.

Prostitutes appeal to the Pope.

Panda mating fails, Veterinarians take over.

Teacher strikes idle kids.

Miners refuse to work after death.

Juvenile Court to try shooting defendant.

War dims hope for peace.

If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last much longer.

Cold wave linked to temperatures.

Red tape holds up bridges.

Typhoon rips through cemetery, hundreds feared dead.

New study of obesity seeks larger test group.

Kids make nutritious snacks.

Chef throws his heart into helping feed needy.

Local high school dropouts cut in half.

Hospitals are sued by seven foot doctors.

--A day without sunshine is like, well, night.

--On the other hand, you have fingers.

--Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

--I just got lost in thought, it was unfamiliar territory.

--When the chips are down, the buffalo is empty.

--Seen it all, done it all, can't remember most of it.

--Those who live by the sword get shot by those who don't.

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The Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District is again sponsoring an essay writing contest for senior students at Plains and Denver City High Schools. All senior students are eligible to enter the essay contest. The contest winner from each school will receive a \$1,000 scholarship for 1<sup>st</sup> place and a \$500 scholarship for 2<sup>nd</sup> place to the college(s) of their choice.


The topic of the essay should relate to an evaluation of the water situation in our area at the present time and contain proposals for future conservation of that water. The criteria for the contest is:

1. A minimum of 1000 words.
2. Typed and double-spaced with footnotes or endnotes.
3. References must accompany paper in the form of a bibliography page. Reference material may be acquired from the Sandy Land U.W.C.D. office located in Plains.
4. Cover sheet containing: student's name, essay title, local high school, and date
5. The essays are due no later than March 17, 2003.

For further information, please contact the District office at (806) 456-2155.

**\*NOTICE TO CREDITORS\***  
Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Bruce Edward Durham, Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2003, in Cause No. 1422 pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to: Donna Colleen Durham Rushing.  
The residence of the Independent Executrix is in Yoakum County, Texas. The post office address is:  
Donna Colleen Durham Rushing, c/o Bradford L. Moore, P.O. Box 352, Brownfield, Texas 79316  
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the Executrix at the above listed address within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 28th day of January, 2003.  
Bradford L. Moore  
Attorney for the Estate

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fax 806-592-2891  
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**\*RN For Home Health.** Home Health experience preferred. Call Linda French to schedule an appointment.  
**\*Radiology Technician** must be state certified, evening shift with shift differential. Fax resume.  
**\*LVN for Clinic.** 8am-5pm. Call Janet Andis, 806-592-9501  
**\*RN/LVN for 7pm - 7 am** Shift differential. Call Joyce Tedford.

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