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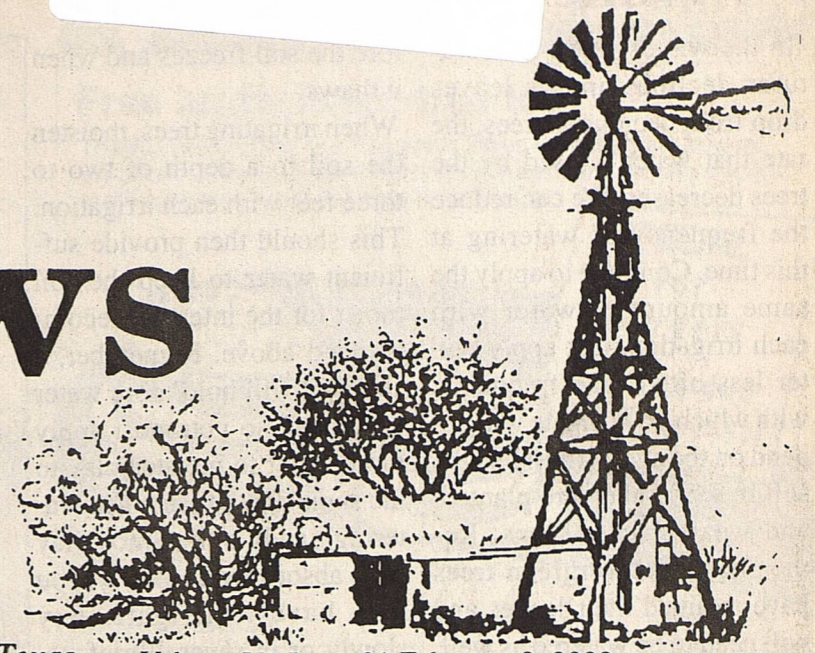
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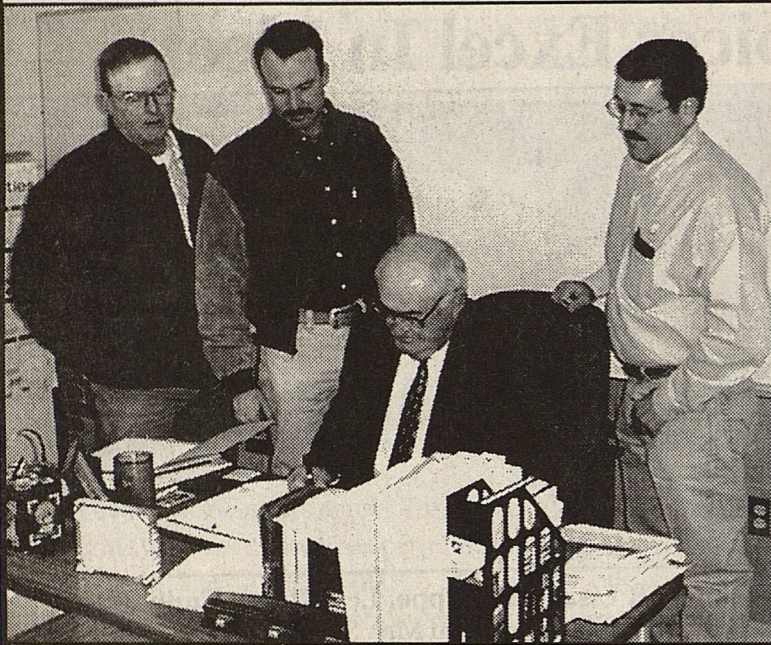
Cowboy Country News

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

Volume VI, Issue 21, February 9, 2000



“Farm Bureau Membership Week” observed here



Farm Bureau officials Newell Squyres, Tim Addison and Ron Craft watch Judge Dallas Brewer sign Proclamation

County Judge Dallas Brewer recently signed a proclamation designating February 7 - 11 as Farm Bureau Membership Week in Yoakum County.

The week is part of a statewide observance in which county Farm Bureaus will make a special effort to enroll new members, according to Tim Addison of Plains, Vice-President of Yoakum County Farm Bureau.

“The Texas Farm Bureau, with more than 300,000 member families, is influential in both state and national affairs on behalf of agriculture,” the proclamation reads.

“Farm Bureau is a grass roots organization. Its foundation is the county unit. There are 208 organized Farm Bureaus in the state including Yoakum County Farm Bureau”, the proclamation states.

Addison said the local Farm Bureau has 328 member families and is seeking to exceed that number in 2000.

The Farm Bureau is a general farm organization that seeks to improve the income of farm and ranch families. The organization represents the farmer and rancher at the county court house, in Austin and Washington, D.C.

UIL redistricting spells travel woes for school students, fans

The University Interscholastic League meeting to consider football and basketball schedules and reclassification resulted in some re-shuffling in Plains' District 3 - 2A which did not exactly thrill school officials and administrators.

The 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 district realignment will consist of high schools from Plains, Seagraves, Coahoma, Colorado City, Stanton and Forsan competing in UIL activities.

Plains ISD Superintendent Jim Haynes told CCN, “We knew there would be some changes in our district, but we hoped lines would be drawn where we could compete mainly against schools north of us. Instead, the district has expanded to the south, and this means a great deal more travel for our students and staff.”

There is no doubt about the

added travel - Plains and Seagraves will continue to compete, a road distance of about 30 miles. It is some 129 miles to Coahoma, 110 miles to Stanton, 128 to Forsan, and 155 miles to Colorado City.

Haynes said during the UIL meeting schedules for basketball and football contests were assigned. In football season next Fall, Plains will travel to Coahoma, Colorado City, Stanton and Forsan.

Reclassifying of District's also took place at the meeting. Requirements for 2A classifications require an enrollment of 170 to 344 high school students. Plains enrollment at the time of the meeting was 191 students. Seagraves 200, Forsan 206, Stanton 245, and Colorado City 343. Colorado City competed in 3A ranks last year.

City electric power to receive ‘Booster Shot’

David Bunch, Linemen Supervisor with Lea County Electric, told Lions Club members last Thursday the electric cooperative is taking another step to improve service for all City of Plains customers.

Electricity currently flows to the city from one of two substations, the ‘Plains unit’, located south and east of town, and the ‘Allred unit’ near that former town.

The cooperative recently began erecting some 60 new utility poles in the vicinity of the Yoakum County Gin, running parallel to Highway 82 to the city limits. New, much heavier wire is strung on these poles. Bunch told the Lions, “You could compare this to a pipeline... larger, stronger pipe allows a greater volume of fluid flow. These new lines will enable more electricity to flow, and reduce any loss of voltage for our customers.

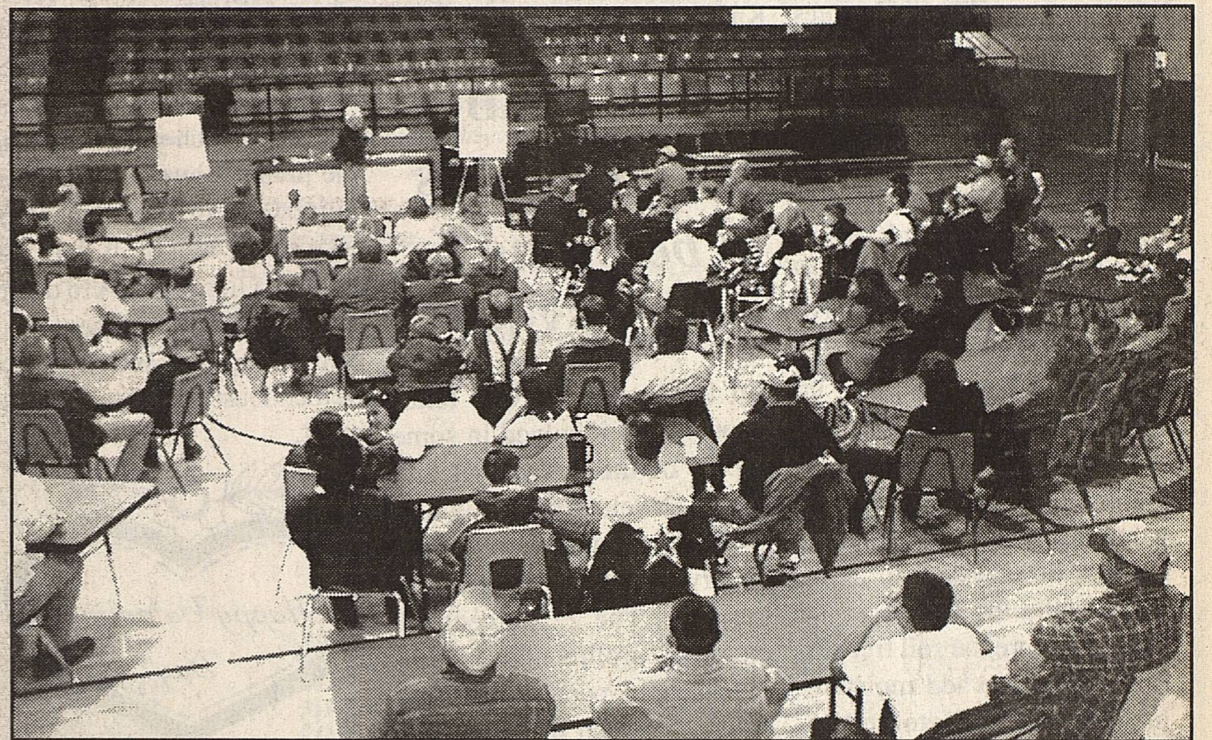
Allan Brown, Lea County Director of Marketing and Customer Relations, told CCN at some point in time the Allred station will be the primary feed source for city power.

Court Cases

January 31, 2000-In District Court with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Richard Clark representing the State; Vidal Zarate Garcia in a plea bargain to a burglary of a habitation cause, was sentenced to serve 5 years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The Court recommends placement of the defendant in the State Boot Camp Program. Defendant must pay court costs of \$296.25 and pay a fine of \$1,000 and pay Attorney's fees of \$250.00. He was represented by Attorney Warren New.

In County Court with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Richard Clark representing the State; Rafael Valles Medina aka Rafael Medina in a plea bargain to a driving while intoxicated cause, was sentenced to serve 90 days in jail with credit for 308 days time served. He must pay a fine of \$750.00 and \$227.00 court costs. He must successfully complete DWI 1st Offenders Program approved by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. A Failure to Appear cause was dismissed. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig.

‘Dad’s ‘n Kids Workshop’ here a thought provoking session



More than five dozen parents, mostly fathers, accompanied their children in grades 5 through 12 in a three hour session emphasizing the importance of parental involvement in the lives of their youngsters. During a break period, a father was heard to remark, “I guess I am guilty of thinking my main responsibility to my kids was making a living for them. I am beginning to see they need much more than that.”

Dr. Ron Klinger, a Psychologist and noted author, with assistance from Alphonso Rincon, offered graphic proof parental involvement, with emphasis on the role fathers should play, is a critical factor in a child's school success, and a happy and successful adulthood.

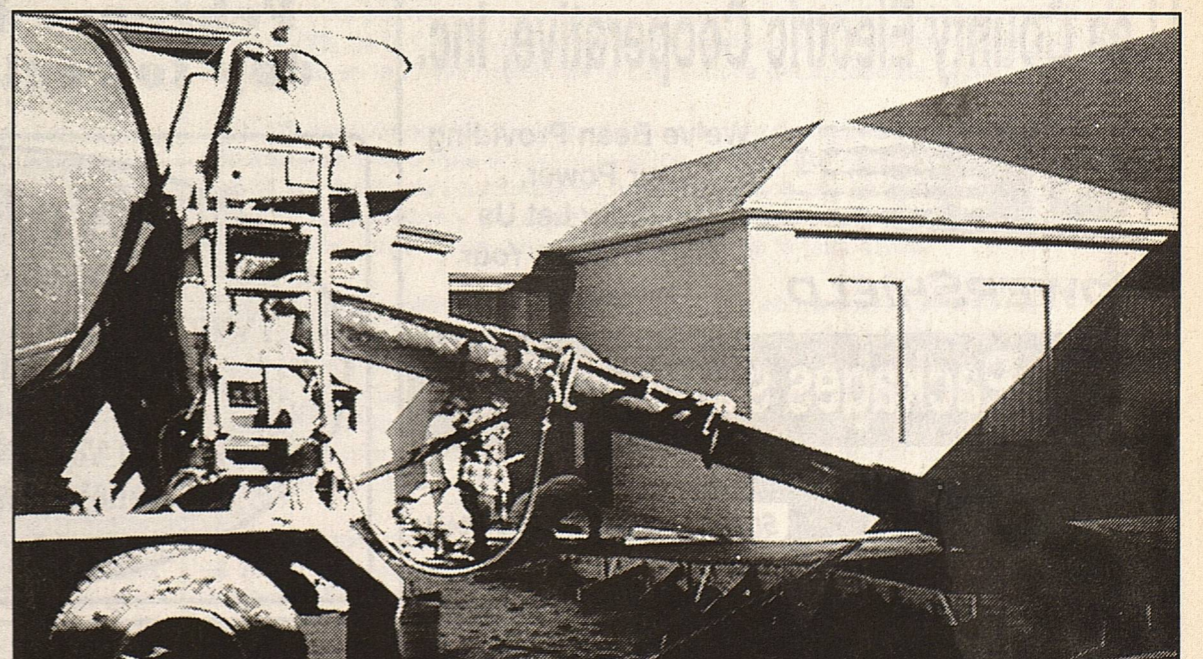
Dr. Klinger reviewed statistics indicating when fathers fail to take active roles in their children's everyday lives, chances of a disastrous adulthood are greatly increased; Kids will be more likely to take part in criminal activities, their school achievements will be poor, more unwed pregnancies occur, and marriages are more likely to fail.

Middle and High School students at the meeting were given a questionnaire, and asked to answer a number of questions about their dads; some of the questions included “Do you think children need a father? Why?; If you had a chance to talk to your dad about anything, what would you talk about?; How often do you and your dad do something together? What do you think is the hardest part of being a dad?”

Kids at the workshop were given a “Dad’s ‘n Kids Fun Contract”, and asked to list activities they would like to share with their dads at school, at work, play, with the entire family, and other fun activities. When the form was filled out, both kids and their dads were required to sign the contract.

DR. Klinger held another workshop the next day with students of Denver City schools and their fathers, or mothers. The workshops were a joint effort sponsored by Plains ISD, Denver City ISD, Yoakum County and the Criminal District Attorney Office.

New home being readied for high school computer classes



In the accompanying photo, workers are shown pouring a sidewalk to the entrance of an unused building behind the main school buildings. When extensive refurbishing work on the large building is complete, it will serve as the main classroom for high school students to further their computer skills. At one time many years ago,

the building was used by PHS vocational ag classes, but was abandoned when a new, larger building was built for the ag students and the schools transportation department.

Superintendent Jim Haynes said the Plains ISD Board of Trustees were aware of the need for more space to house the expanding computer pro-

grams, and felt re-modeling the unused building would be much less expensive than constructing a new building. Hopefully the project will be completed in time for the next Fall semester classes. The building will house up to 30 fully equipped computers for computer application courses.

Winter Tree Irrigation

In the winter when temperatures declines and as leaves drop from deciduous trees, the rate that water is used by the trees decreases. We can reduce the frequency of watering at this time. Continue to apply the same amount of water with each irrigation, just apply water less often. The frequency with which you irrigate will depend on the age of the trees, the soil in which they are planted, and weather conditions. Remember that evergreen trees have retained their leaves and will need to be watered as well.

Young trees have less extensive root systems and should be watered every 14 to 20 days if there has been no soaking precipitation. Older trees, established for three or more years, can be watered every 20 to 30 days. The more frequent irrigation, 14 or 20 days depends on tree age, is required for trees growing in sandy soils which hold less water. Longer intervals may be allowed for trees in heavier soils containing clay. If the weather has been warm and windy, additional irrigations may be needed. If the weather is cool and there have been good slow, soaking rains or snows, irrigations may be skipped. Check the soil to see if there is moisture several inches down. While you don't want the soil to dry totally, there is little reason to apply water while the soil is moist. In areas where the soil freezes, it is difficult to add moisture. In these areas, irrigate well be-

fore the soil freezes and when it thaws.

When irrigating trees, moisten the soil to a depth of two to three feet with each irrigation. This should then provide sufficient water to keep the soil moist for the intervals recommended above. Remember, a clay soil will hold more water than sand, so you must apply more water to moisten clay to the same depth than when watering sandy soil. Since clay soils absorb water slowly, you may have to irrigate very slowly or in several brief, repeated, irrigations to provide enough water to moisten the soil to the proper depth. Water applied too rapidly to clay runs off and does not accomplish your purpose. For more information on proper tree irrigation in the winter months, contact County Extension Agent Tadd Knight at 806-456-2263.

4-H Club enrollment is booming in Texas

In 1999, over 997,000 Texas youths were involved in some aspect of the Texas 4-H and Youth Development Program, the largest enrollment in the history of the 4-H program in the state. The 22 percent increase in enrollment over 1998 indicates 16 percent of Texas youths between the ages of 5

and 19 are involved in 4-H activities.

There has been a concentrated effort the last two years to reach youth of urban counties and suburbs. Today, 4-H is not a rural program, but a program for all youth.

Over 36,000 volunteer leaders worked directly with these youths, and almost 18,000 additional volunteers served indirectly as judges and other behind the scenes work. The volunteers time, effort and other resources represent an equivalent investment valued at \$95 million last year.

Texas A&M, through its Texas Agricultural Extension Service, has set a goal for year 2000 and beyond to see a million youth in 4-H activities, and two million by 2010.

The State Legislature has played an important role in expanding 4-H ranks. Appropriations to Extension service in 1999 represented an investment of \$1 per month in each of those 997,000 youth. Statistics show each youth entering the juvenile justice system requires a state investment of \$3,459 per month. It does not require a licensed CPA to determine the best investment. Supporting 4-H activities is a tremendously important investment.



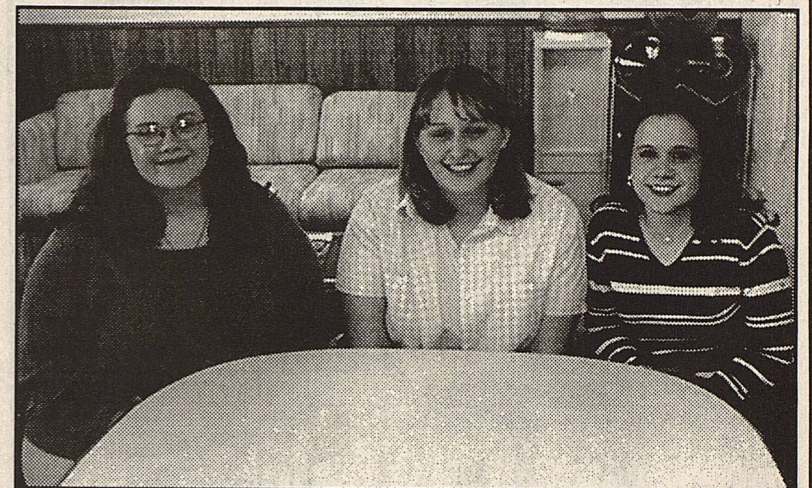
A sign of optimism



This John Deere 8300 tractor was pulling an eight row lister in the Stateline area last week, and another tractor was following, drilling wheat on the bedded rows for a minimum tillage operation. Following a production year featuring adverse weather conditions, insect infestations, and dismal commodity prices for ag producers, they are again preparing fields for the year 2000. "Hope springs eternal" for our agricultural producers.

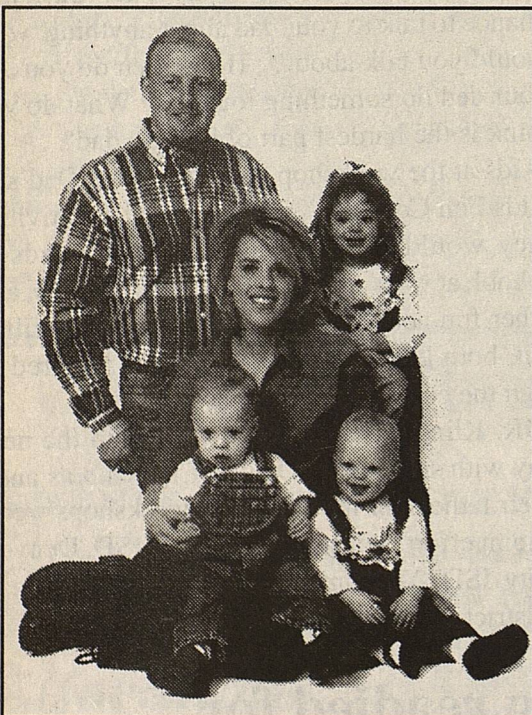
PHS Voices Excel In Meet

Three PHS students were awarded first place medals February 5 in UIL solo and ensemble vocal contests at Evans Junior High in Lubbock. Emily Blair, Lesli Rowe and Lisa San Fillippo each sang first division solos before Judge Robin Mikalunas. Each girl is now eligible to compete on the state level at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos in May. Accompanists for the girls were Mrs. Wilma Rhyne of Levelland and Mrs. Shari McCravy of Plains.



L-R Lisa San Fillippo, Lesli Rowe, Emily Blair.

JEFF LOWREY



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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Someday soon, we Texans may walk into an auto dealership and be told we could not buy a full size V-8 pickup truck or a Suburban. Why? If Texas adopts an emissions standards program equivalent to that of the State of California, as the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) is considering, these new state regulations may preclude the sale of such vehicles.

Texas is a vastly different state from California, and Texans use their vehicles in vastly different ways. For example, Texas ranchers depend on powerful trucks and SUV's to haul feed and cattle and to travel off road to perform normal daily ranching chores. Boaters, campers, hunters and other outdoorsmen need a vehicle that can tow a boat or camper and carry all the gear that's required for their favorite recreational activities. These Texans will be among the hardest hit if the TNRCC adopts the California standards.

Even if these big vehicles, remains available, adoption of the California standards would add \$500-600 to the cost of a truck in Texas. That's a pretty hefty increase for some farmers and ranchers to bear particularly when it is not necessary. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) already has issued tough new nationwide tailpipe emissions standards that will sharply reduce emissions for all vehicles, cars, pick-ups, minivans and SUV's alike. These new standards should adequately address any air quality problems we face in Texas.

We don't need California setting the standards for what we do here in Texas. Why, the California regulations ultimately would require us to drive vehicles that don't have any emissions at all! Can you imagine how small a truck that would be?

It is true that some of Texas' larger metropolitan areas are facing daunting air quality concerns, but solutions exist that not only are less disruptive to our lifestyles, but that also are better suited to our specific problems. For example, late last year, the American Automobile Association (AAA) released a study entitled "Cleaning the Air" that showed that Houston's air quality problems stem largely from industrial sources, rather than from vehicles, as in California. According to AAA, less than 30% of Houston's nitrous oxide emissions come from cars and trucks, a percentage that is expected to continue declining over the next few years.

So, on behalf of ranchers across Texas and all Texans who value their rights to choose the types of vehicles they drive, let us send a strong message to the TNRCC; Reject the California emissions standards policy and preserve Texans' rights to buy and drive the vehicles of our choice.

Sincerely,

Charles Carter

Executive Director, Independent Cattlemen's Association
Member, Texas Coalition for Vehicle Choice

Bobbie bests Butch...again!



Beauty and the Bass... Bobbie Gayle and her 13 plus pound large-mouth bass

Bobbie Gayle is shown with a truly humongous black bass she landed at Lake O.H. Ivie on February 2. The bass weighed 13.02 pounds, and was fooled by a live water dog fished in twenty-plus feet of water.

When the Gayle's got the fish to certified scales at Elm Creek Marina, they learned it was a new lake record largemouth bass. Unfortunately, the record didn't last long.. another angler caught a larger bass just a few days later.

Bobbie donated the live bass to Texas Parks and Wildlife's hatchery at Athens, and the fish will be kept to furnish eggs for breeding even larger bass one day. Budweiser's "Share a Lunger" program will present Bobbie with a free, lifetime Texas fishing license, a replica mount of her catch, parka, T-shirt and plaque for donating the bass to the reproduction program.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Free lunch is tax-free too

There is such a thing as a free lunch. When two meals are sold for the price of one, tax is collected only on the amount actually charged to the customer. The "free" meal is not taxable.

SOURCE:
Carole Keeton Rylander,
Texas Comptroller
of Public Accounts
(www.window.state.tx.us).

**IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY FINANCES
IN THE HANDS OF**
TONI JONES
Treasurer of YOAKUM County, Texas.

COMMISSIONERS' COURT
YOAKUM County, Texas,
In Regular Session
JANUARY 17 Term, 2000

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, as County Commissioners within and for said YOAKUM County, and the Hon. DALLAS BREWER, County Judge of said YOAKUM County, constituting the entire Commissioners' Court of said County, and each one of us, do hereby certify that on this, the 17TH day of JANUARY, A. D. 2000 at a regular term of our said Court, we have compared and examined the report of TONI JONES, Treasurer of said County, for period beginning on the 1ST day of DECEMBER, A. D. 1999 and ending on the 31ST day of DECEMBER, A. D. 1999, and finding the same correct have caused an order to be entered upon the minutes of the Commissioners' Court of said County, stating the approval of said Treasurer's Report by our said Court, which said order recites separately the amount received and paid out of each fund by said County Treasurer since his last report to this Court, and for and during the time covered by his present report, and the balance of each fund remaining in said Treasurer's hands on the said 31ST day of DECEMBER, A. D. 1999, and have ordered the proper credits to be made in the accounts of the said County Treasurer, in accordance with said order as required by Articles 1636-1637, Chapter 1, Title 34 of the Revised Statutes of Texas, 1925.

And we, and each of us, further certify that we have actually and fully inspected and counted all the actual cash and assets in hands of the said Treasurer belonging to YOAKUM County at the close of the examination of said Treasurer's Report, on this the 17TH day of JANUARY, A. D. 2000, and the same to be as follows, to-wit:

RECAPITULATION
MONTHLY

FUNDS	BEGINNING BALANCE	MONTHLY RECEIPTS		TRANSFERS		DISBURSEMENTS	ENDING BALANCE
		RECEIPTS		TO	FROM		
GENERAL	3,824,631.12	63,349.28	8,179.12	27,709.70	372,147.14	3,496,302.68	
PRECINCT #1	551,231.82	7,583.86	629.19	.00	24,533.53	534,911.34	
PRECINCT #2	641,978.07	8,350.98	629.19	.00	32,522.52	618,435.72	
PRECINCT #3	353,470.78	6,179.37	629.19	.00	36,197.26	324,082.08	
PRECINCT #4	373,819.95	6,331.09	629.18	.00	37,197.71	343,582.51	
ROAD & BRIDGE	.00	.00	460.92	460.92	.00	.00	
FARM-MARKET LATERAL	.00	.00	2,055.83	2,055.83	.00	.00	
LATERAL ROAD	18,793.05	63.61	.00	.00	3,932.00	14,924.66	
JURY FUND	52,191.61	315.03	59.49	.00	2,867.03	49,699.10	
C.C. RECORDS MGMT	21,972.84	1,292.23	.00	.00	931.77	22,333.30	
COURTHOUSE SECURITY	7,401.72	377.76	.00	.00	5,844.87	1,934.61	
CDA FEE ACCOUNT	1,050.82	178.03	.00	.00	1,211.82	17.03	
ELECTIONS SERVICES	209.11	.78	.00	.00	.00	209.89	
JUVENILE PROBATION-ST	15,419.35	6,409.14	.00	21.43	3,368.63	18,438.43	
LAW LIBRARY	379.65	76.74	.00	.00	364.04	92.35	
PROBATE EDUCATION	397.33	4.46	.00	.00	.00	401.79	
ABANDONED VEHICLES	1,509.20	5.58	.00	.00	.00	1,514.78	
SPECIAL VIDEO	158.05	.58	.00	.00	.00	158.63	
Y.C. DRUG FORFEITURE	299.55	1.11	.00	.00	.00	300.66	
Y.C.S.O. FORFEITURE	86.23	.31	.00	.00	.00	86.54	
HOSPITAL D/S	822,324.03	28,134.70	.00	15,000.00	4,225.25	831,233.48	
Y.C. RECORDS MGMT	8,379.99	122.85	.00	.00	.00	8,502.84	
YOUTH CENTER	9,519.95	8,616.03	5,000.00	.00	8,994.81	14,141.17	
PLAINS AIRPORT	187.28	.87	.00	.00	109.52	78.63	
LEOSE ALLOCATION	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	.00	
PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT	579,580.87	4,378.99	176.50	.00	1,223.76	582,912.60	
HOSPITAL	127,136.33	392,305.93	22,709.70	.00	421,926.25	120,225.71	
PLAINS CLINIC	6,681.60	2,141.44	15,000.00	.00	21,080.65	2,742.39	
HOSPITAL MEMORIAL	16,193.52	140.96	.00	.00	.00	16,334.48	
JUVENILE PROBATION-TR	5,757.01	21.13	21.43	.00	.00	5,799.57	
AD VALOREM TAX	447,935.38	612,099.71	.00	10,901.13	.00	1,049,133.96	
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	7,227.56	5,694.64	.00	5.21	202.80	12,714.19	
Y.C. FEE ACCOUNT	11,240.83	18,637.49	.00	25.52	14,891.04	14,961.76	
TOTALS	7,907,164.60	1,172,814.68	56,179.74	56,179.74	993,772.40	8,086,206.88	

Texans By Choice

More than 2 million Texas residents were born in other countries, making Texas the state with the fourth largest foreign born population, according to the Census Bureau.

More of these Texas residents - 59 percent - come from Mexico than all the other countries combined.

Nationally, the foreign born population grew more than 168 percent, from 9.6 million in 1870 to 25.8 million in 1997.

Origin countries of foreign-born residents in Texas

Nation	In thousands
Mexico	1,344
India	88
Vietnam	77
El Salvador	64
South America	44
Philippines	37
Germany	30
Dominican Republic	25
Canada	24
Great Britain	19
China	17
Cuba	10
Korea	10
Jamaica	6

States with 1 million or more foreign-born residents in 1997

State	In millions
California	3.1
New York	3.0
Florida	2.4
Texas	2.2
New Jersey	1.2
Illinois	1.1

States whose foreign-born populations exceeded the national average

California	25%
New York	20%
Hawaii	18%
Florida	16%
New Jersey	15%
Arizona	14%
Texas	11%

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NOTICE OF PETITION

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

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

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

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

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

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



AVISO DE PETICIÓN

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

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

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

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

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

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

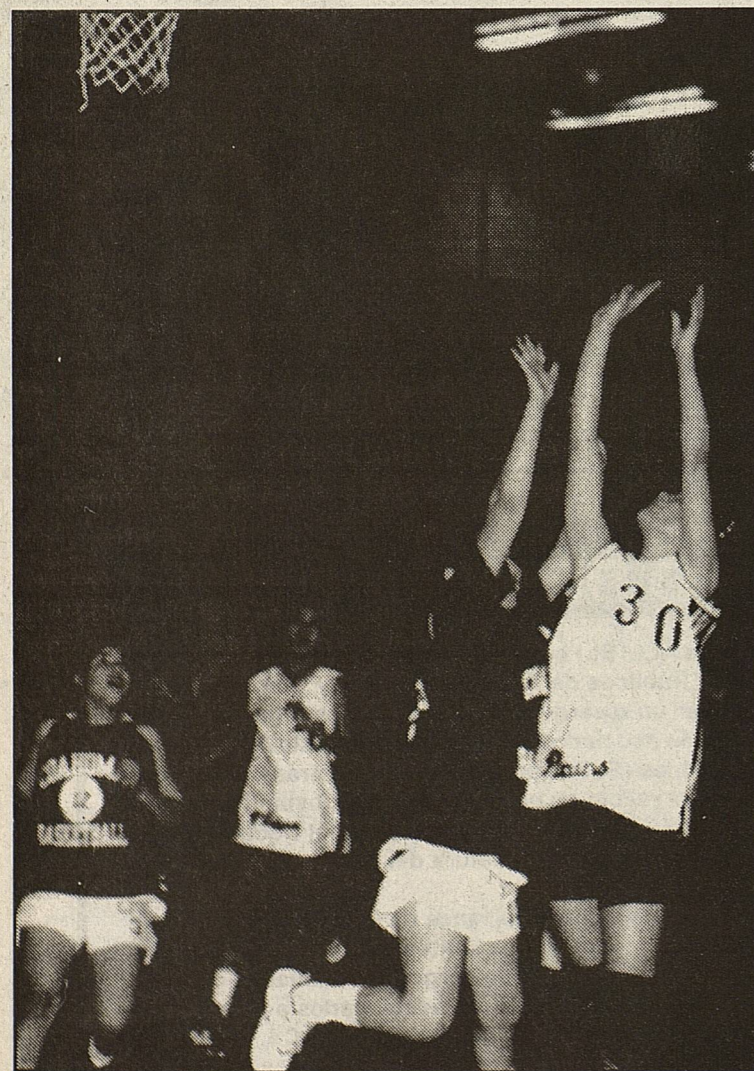
Jr. High Lady Wranglers in action VS Coahoma



Kristian Morales goes after the ball



Jesenia Suarez shoots, Kristian Morales and Sandra Gandara ready to rebound



Sandra Gandara made this shot.

Plains ISD Basketball

Junior High:

7th & 8th Girls - Because of illness and injuries, both grades of Lady Wranglers joined forces and demolished Coahoma here last week, 53-18. Lela Coronado topped scoring with 9 points. Jesenia Suarez had 7, Jamie Covarrubias, Kristian Morales, Sarah Martinez 6 each, Helen Neufeld 5, Mayra Flores 4, Jeannie Longoria and Carmen Ponce 2 each.

7th Wranglers - The 7th boys lost a heart breaker to Coahoma 36-35. Scott Bruton had 11 points, Evan Cain 9, Payton Bean, Kerry Sisson, Cody Flores 4 each, Brant Huerta 2, Cole Krebsbach 1.

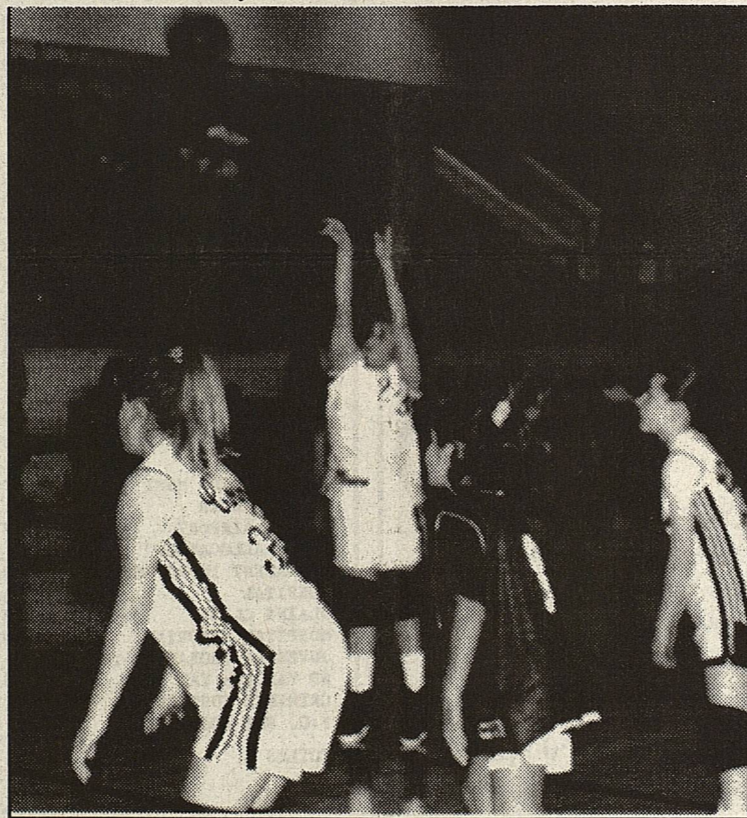
JV Cowgirls - The JV girls played Post closer this second meeting, but were downed 40-29. Chelsea Blount had 10 points, Keri Hansen, Liz Wilmeth and Jessica Rodriguez 4 each, Mackenzie Winn 3, Mandi Rogers and Kayla Willis 2 each. They were also defeated by Coahoma 37-29. Chelsi Wagnon was high with 12 points, Jessica Rodriguex 10, Mackenzie 4, Arasley Luna 2, Chelsea Blount 1. The girls next competed in a district tournament at Seagraves, and won consolation honors. They topped Tahoka 42-40. Mackenzie scored 10, Jessica 7, Chelsea 6, Chelsi Wagnon and Jill Gray 5 each, Keri 4, Kayla 3, Arasley 2.

Varsity Cowgirls - Post was too strong for the Cowgirls last week, and they fell 54-24. Krystle Blundell led scoring with 11 points, Kristen Gray 4, Kim Willis 3, Lexi Warren, Chelsi Wagnon and Candace Bowers 2 each. Candace and Anne Palmer pulled down 9 rebounds each. The girls next fell to Coahoma 43-25. Candace managed 8 points, Krystle 6, Kristen, Lexi and Jessica Flores 3 each, Annaliesa O'Quinn 2. Anne was credited with 3 steals.

Freshmen Cowboys - With just 2.2 seconds on the clock, Angel Ruiz hit two free throws to send the 9th Cowboys into overtime against Coahoma, but were finally downed 46-42. Angel totalled 14 points, Ryan Swann had 10, Miguel Coronado 9, Jonathan De La Rosa 5, Chase Howell 3, Kelly Bowers 2.

JV Cowboys - The younger Cowboys played well and beat Post 49-41. Aaron Cain topped scoring with 17 points, Jarod Newland 11, Moises Gonzales 8. They came up short against Coahoma, 57-48. Jeremy Morphis managed 16 points, Moises had 12, Tanner Hamm 8. Their district record is now 5 wins, 2 losses. In the Seagraves tournament, they won the consolation prize, beating Post again 42-34. Morphis and Gonzales had 12 points each, Jarod 8. Their season record now stands at 16-6.

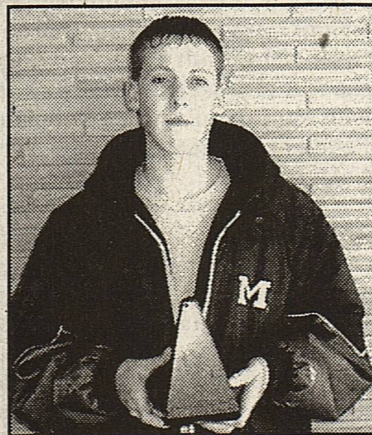
Varsity Cowboys - The varsity outshot Post 50-28. Dustin Six led scoring with 12 points, Patrick McGinty, Kelsey Blundell, Josh Bell and Justin Bennett had 6 each, Eddy Gallegos 5, Brett Squyres 4, Fermin Luna 3, Jared Bell 2. Patrick had 6 rebounds. They next downed Coahoma 69-55. Eddy was high point with 16, Jared had 12, Patrick 11, Justin 9, Josh 8, Dustin 5, Kelsey and Alex Tarango 3 each, Brett 2. Eddy had 8 rebounds, Jared 4 steals.



Sarah Martinez lobs free throw, Jeannie Longoria, Mayra Flores watch for rebound

Student of the Week

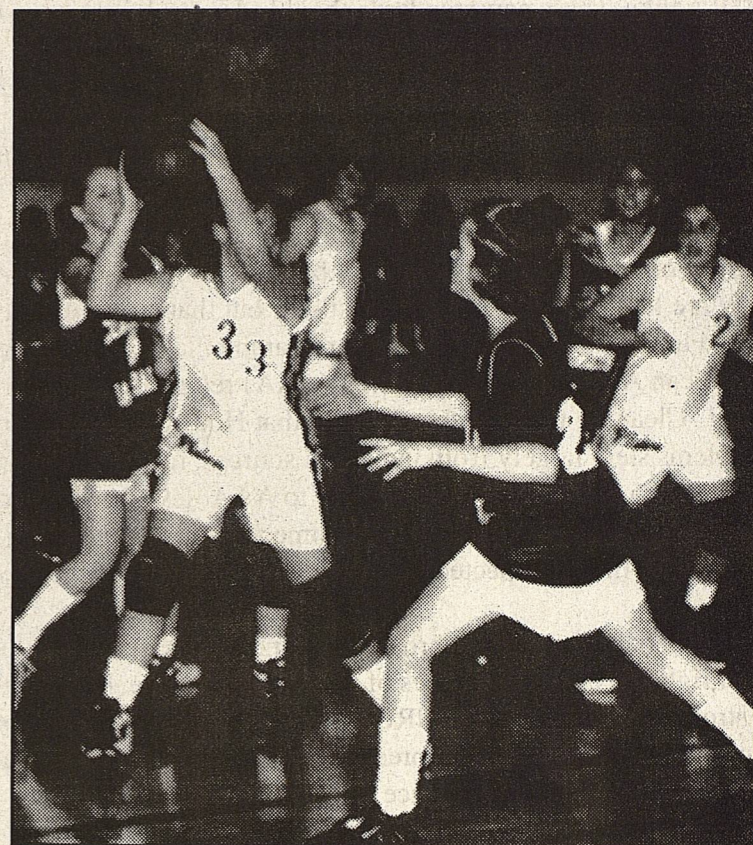
PHS Student of the Week is Jeremy Diamond a sophomore, and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Diamond. Jeremy was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn who said, "Jeremy doesn't take school for granted. This student is absorbed in each day's work, and when he doesn't understand he seeks help and explanation. This student approaches his work seriously and already has a career goal in mind."



L.V.N. Position available in Plains Texas. The nurse will work with an NP or PA in a clinic setting. Contact Ed Rodgers, CEO Yoakum County Hospital, Denver City, Texas. 806-592-2121. Clinic experience and being bilingual helpful, but not required. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. EOE

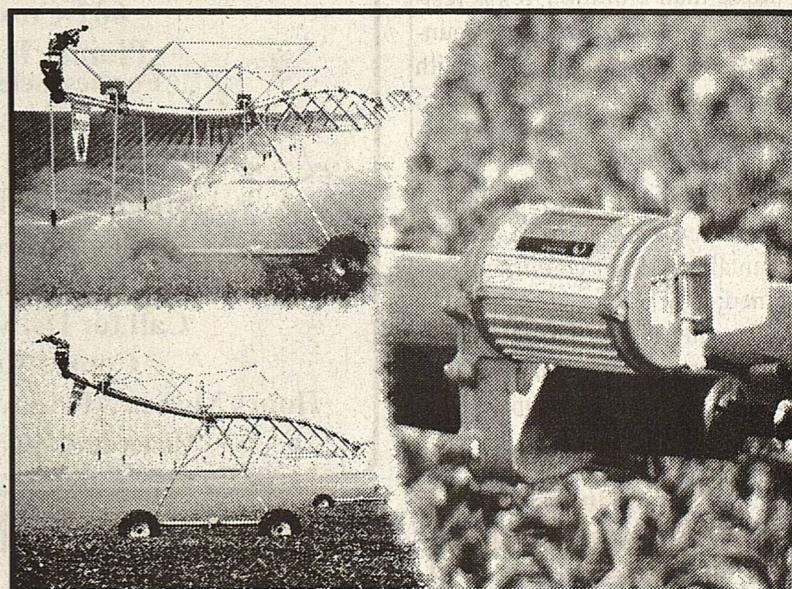


A sea of hands and arms fight for the ball



Jeannie Longoria tries to find help.

Go, Cowgirls, Cowboys!



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Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually
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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

The Ground Hog saw his shadow-some place. I think it may have been covered in icy fog here, so keep out the winter coats a bit longer.

Becky Cryer is home recovering from her accident.

Maggie Powell back at the Center after a bout with illness. Van Wilson is still in Lubbock Hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The report is that the talk given by Dr. Cotton from Lubbock was great and offered some relief from Arthritis far all of us

who are victims of stiff bones, which is just about all of us.

Our condolences to family and friends of Carlice Edwards. He will be remembered as the artist who did the mural on the Old Pool Hall many years ago.

The garage sale goes on. The public is invited to come "Shop" any day.

The old saying "No news is good news."

See you next week, Smitty

Art Association Meets

Yoakum County Art Association met for its first Tuesday meeting at the Old Court House Clubroom on February 1. Susie Powell and Marguerite Barron with Eileen Fillipp served refreshments with a valentine theme. Artist of the month is Inetta Teaff who is currently working in watercolor. Peggy Bingham of Meadow gave the program on pastels. Bingham also works in acrylics when she paints murals. She is currently renowned for her chalk talks, which she does for church and civic groups. The Baptist Church at Meadow is currently in a building program and all monies

from her performances go towards their building fund as her love offering this year. As to her floral lesson, she said "I like to feel it flows and has harmony in color combinations. I hope my paintings show a little touch of the Lord...a restfulness and peace." Members also discussed the upcoming April garage sale to be held in the Art Building on Avenue G. Visitors are welcome at the next meeting which will be March 7 at 7:00 pm., and will feature Jean Green of Olton as demonstrator.

by Linda Powell

Law Enforcement Class On Arrest, Search And Seizure Due

A two day law enforcement short course, Intermediate Arrest, Search and Seizure, is scheduled March 6-7 at South Plains College's Levelland campus.

Registration deadline is February 24. Classes will meet 8 am - 4 pm. both days in the SPC Petroleum Technology Law Enforcement Building, room 107. Cost is \$15 a person.

The course will cover exceptions to search warrant requirements, warrantless searches of vehicles, habitations and persons and probable cause to search, seize and arrest.

The course is required for interme-

mediate certification and also meets standards of credit set by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE).

A minimum of 10 persons must enroll for the class to make. Registration will be completed at the first class session. Either payment in full or a purchase order number is required.

To pre-register or obtain more information, contact the SPC Law Enforcement Office at 894-9611, ext.2291.

50th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bearden of Plains will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary from 2 pm. to 4 pm. Saturday, February 12 at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Plains. Their children, grandchildren and niece will host the event. They are the parents of Nita Williams of Lubbock, Joel and Debra Lowe, Tim and Donna Bowers, Danny and Kathy Bell all of Plains. Bearden and the former Faye Hinkle were married February 8, 1950 in Lovington, N.M. They have 12 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Card of Thanks

Thank you for every expression of sympathy and love shown to us in our time of sorrow. We appreciate the many calls, cards, flowers and donations and especially your prayers.

A special thank you to Karen Tovar and the EMS staff. And to everyone else that helped me that afternoon and in the days that followed.

Remember us in the days ahead.

The family of John Clare, Trucene Clare, Brit Clare, Lee Clare, Kim Johnson, Chris, Randa and Jonathan

Yoakum County Library Filmtime

February 2, 2000-We had a wonderful time talking about Groundhog Day and what it means. We watched the film 'Molly Moo Cow', and read the book 'The Very Bumpy Bus Ride'. We also did a fannel board story called 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. The children attending Filmtime were: Marisol and Percy Sosa, Marina Corrales, Lucas Hernandez, Colby Bearden, Clayton Gass, Whitney Davis, Tanya Hamilton, Autumn Friesen, Karla Powell, Merritt Crump, and Matthew and Aaron Ramos.

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Morning Worship	10:45 AM
Discipleship Training	5:00 PM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
Wednesday Night Supper	5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

TSA MO GA Hosts Education Program

"Key to Education" was the program theme for TSA MO GA Clubs January 24 meeting, with Mary Jo St. Romain serving as program coordinator/ Former Librarian Lattrell Mc Donnell reviewed the library's literacy program. 177 local students took part in the program in 1998 and first half of 1999. Volunteers assisting in the program contributed 750 hours in the weekly classes. Mary Ellen Rodriquez currently teaches literacy classes.

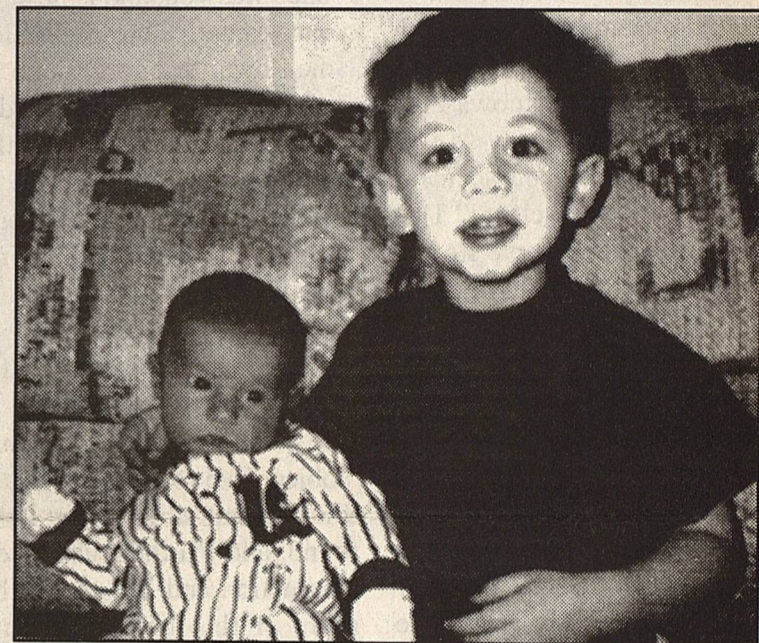
The club has conducted a "Adopt A Library" program for many years, contributing books and funds, and assisting

in the summer reading program.

Judy Head, club President and an Educational Diagnostician, reported great strides taken in the programs to assist students with learning disabilities, and disorders.

Members enjoyed a 'Mexican Fiesta' dinner. The hostesses were Bobby Gayle and Christene Henard. A spokesperson for the Social Security Administration will discuss 'What Every Woman Should Know' about Social Security at the next meeting on February 14.

New Baby Brother



Grant David Payne would like to announce the arrival of his new baby brother Gage Blue Payne, born Monday January 24th at 9:48 pm. at UMC Lubbock, Tx. weighing 8 lbs. 9 oz. Parents of Grant and Gage are Chris and Andrea Payne of Brownfield, Tx. Grandparents are Mike and Jean Payne of Plains, Rusty and Sharlan

Smotherman of Brownfield, Gary and Shelly Sweat of Ruidoso, NM Great Grandparents are Bobby Payne and the late Dick Payne of Plains, Doris Beck of Plains and the late Raymond Beck of Brownfield, Donna Graham and the late Tommy Graham of Brownfield, Patsy and Howard Sweat of Odessa, Tx.

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From The Hack

Please pay attention, ladies; the following supposedly true tales are not, repeat, NOT dumb blonde jokes. I am tired of being cursed and punched out by females with blonde hair following this column's reporting one of those.

There is a nameless but factual couple living in our fair hamlet who purchased a new Ford pickup recently. On one of their first excursions in the Ford, they pulled into a place, the hubby killed the engine, removed the key, and then accidentally hit the switch on the electric window, and low and behold, the window rolled down. Puzzled, he tried the other window, and it too rolled down.

"Well I'll be danged, Cloette, the windows come down when the engines stopped and the keys out of the ignition. I wonder why they built it this way?"

His soul mate and dough mixer said, quite seriously, "Oh, silly, anyone knows that. They built it that way so you could get out if you accidentally locked yourself in!" This was sworn to be a true story.

Another puzzler involving a female spouse, also reportedly Bible under hand truth; A local man sometime back hit a mule deer on the highway between here and Brownfield, in the vicinity of the State placed sign sporting a deer decal, and the warning, 'DEER CROSSING'. His wife was relating to friends the details of the scary accident, and she added, "I just don't understand why the Highway Department doesn't move that deer crossing sign! It's really dangerous!"

I will not accept the blame for originating the following poem. I blame it on Gary Walker, who gave it to me. He also disclaims authorship, and says it came from a Tumbleweed Smith radio spot. Tumbleweed also issues a disclaimer, saying the poem was written by Wally McRee. McRee is not available to disclaim it, so it must be his. It's title is,

A COWBOY'S VIEW OF REINCARNATION

"What is reincarnation?, a cowboy asked his friend. His old pal told him, when your life comes to it's end, they comb your hair, wash your neck and clean your nails, put you in a padded box and you go into a hole that's been dug in the ground. Reincarnation starts when you're planted 'neath that mound. Them clods melt down, just like that box and you who's inside. That's when you're beginning your transformation ride.

In a while grass will grow on your rendered mound, 'till someday on that spot a lovely flower is found. And then, a hoss may wander by and graze upon that flower that once was you, and is now your vegetative bower. Well, the flower that horse done eat, along with his other feed, makes bone and fat essential to the steed. But, there's a part he can't use, so it passes though, and there it lies upon the ground, this thing that once was you. And if by chance I should pass by and see this on the ground, I'll stop awhile and ponder at this object I've found. And I'll think about this object I've found, and I'll think about reincarnation and life and such, and I'll come away concluding, Why, you ain't changed all THAT MUCH!"

For weeks, a six year old kept telling his first grade teacher about the baby brother or sis-

ter that was expected at his house.

One day, the mother allowed the boy to feel the movements of the unborn child in her tummy.

The boy was obviously impressed, but made no comment. He also stopped telling his teacher about the impending baby.

The teacher finally sat the boy on her lap and asked, "Tommy, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

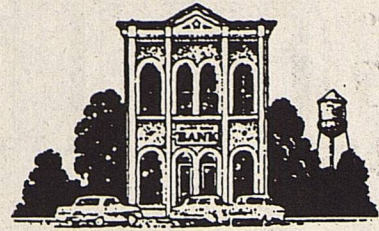
Tommy suddenly burst into tears and sobbed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

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Getting Your Finances in Order

Once you have reached the age of responsibility, you must take measures in addressing personal affairs to prepare for dispersal of assets upon your death. Getting your finances in order and having an estate plan in place will be a great comfort to your family and friends.



Tips from your Community Banker

The following are steps to consider as you organize and separate your business and belongings.

Write a Will

• Although it seems obvious to have a will, many find it difficult to write. List who will inherit property, family heirlooms and other loved possessions. A will gives your family and friends the opportunity to carry out your wishes.

• Most people should have a living will specifying the type of medical care they want or don't want if they become ill and are unable to communicate.

• Make sure to name alternate executors and guardians for children. You never know what circumstances may keep someone from fulfilling your will.

• You need to update your will regularly to encompass

family deaths, divorces, new births and laws that can alter your plan. Failure to update your will can cause confusion between family members on how you would like to handle certain details.

Have a Plan

• The goal of estate planning is to distribute a person's assets and minimize taxes at death. For most, this means making and periodically updating their will.

• Various types of trusts or gifts can be arranged to help preserve assets for heirs. In general, trusts should be set up with the help of an attorney experienced in estate tax issues.

• For those who can, the law allows you to give a gift of \$10,000 to anyone and to an unlimited number of people you choose each year. Married couples can give \$10,000 each, a total of \$20,000.

The best part is that you and your lucky recipients do not have to pay gift or income tax. This offers the opportunity to transfer money out of your taxable estate.

To Find Personal Information

• Make a list of where all your important documents are located. Include bank accounts and numbers, insurance policies, credit cards, your social security number, safe-deposit box and keys, the location of your income-tax returns for at least three years and the names and phone numbers of all your financial advisors.

• This list will help your family protect your assets, including dividends, interest, insurance, pensions, Social Security payments and safe deposit contents.

Be Aware of the IRS

• Know that the larger the estate, the more likely you will be questioned.

• Leaving financial and income tax documentation will help ensure the government will respect the intentions stated in your will.

In planning ahead, you make sure your family and friends will not face a major task in sorting out your affairs.

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