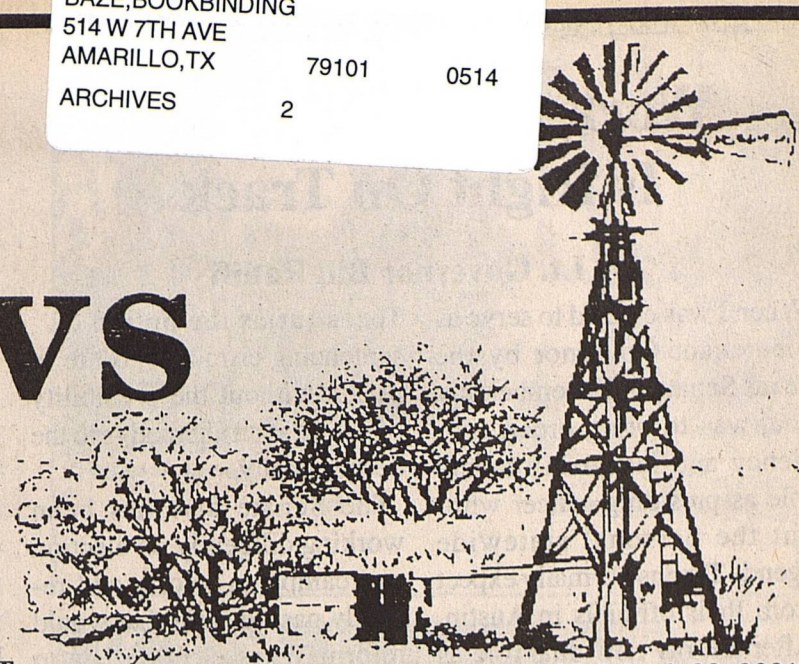


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 28, March 28, 2001



Only one May 5 election on tap here

Neither Sandy Land Underground Water District or Plains Independent School District will find it necessary to hold elections for board members this year. Neither entity had new candidates file for spots on the ballots by the March 21 deadline.

Incumbent School Board Trustees Randy Tuggle and Dwayne Canada will return to their spots on the board, and Sandy Land Directors Ray Bearden and Dennis Harrison will both return to office.

The only required election May 5 will be for spots on the Plains City Council. Council members Arlon Alexander and Owen Schneider had earlier filed to run again, and were then followed by newcomer candidate Christi Brink. Incumbent Rick Ramos filed for re-election just a few minutes before the five P.M. deadline last Wednesday, requiring the At-Large May 5 election. This will be the first contested City election since 1994.

City Secretary honored by Clerk's Association



City of Plains Secretary Pam Rowe and Clerk Sylvia Martinez attended the March 21 quarterly meeting of the South Plains Chapter of the Texas Municipal Clerk's Association. Rowe was honored by being voted the Chapter's Municipal Clerk of the Year in the 16 county group.

Rowe has been an employee of the City almost eleven years, and was named Secretary by the City Council three years ago. She achieved certification as a Municipal Clerk in the Texas Association in February, 1996. Rowe said the certification process is long and demanding; She had to pass four tests, attend eight seminars and complete book reports, and must qualify for re-certification each five years.

Rowe has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the South Plains Chapter, and last December moved up to the position of Vice-President. She told CCN, "I was very pleased, and very honored to be named Clerk of the Year. I am glad my bosses, David Brunson and the entire City Council, encouraged me to join the association and achieve my certification."

Brunson, City Administrator, said, "We're all very proud of Pam's accomplishments. I feel this is strong indication of our City Council's commitment to our employees, to encourage them to continue their learning skills and by so doing become more efficient and productive."

City Billing Clerk Sylvia Martinez is also involved in earning credits for achieving certification as a Texas Municipal Clerk.

DWI cases draw jail prison sentences in District Court

In District Court March 26, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, Kenneth Owen Gatewood was sentenced to eight years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, institutional division. He must pay \$287 court costs and was fined \$1500. Causes of hindering apprehension

and displaying a suspended driver license were adjudicated. His attorney was Warren New.

Adam Paul Ocanas, aka Adam Ocanas, pled guilty to a third or more DWI charge. A 10 year prison

Turn To Page 2,
'DWI Cases'

Plains girls serve as Pages in House

Four Plains ISD students traveled to Austin during Spring Break to participate in the Honorary Page Program for the Texas House of Representatives. Kimberlee Jones, Maretta Walker, Nicole Culwell and Jill Gray were sponsored by Representative Gary L. Walker. The Honorary Pages were paired with the House Sergeants, who are responsible for member services, which include everything from making deliveries to assisting on the House floor.

While at the capitol, the girls met Speaker of the House James "Pete" Laney, and served as messengers while the House was in session.

According to Representative Walker, "The Honorary Page Program is a wonderful opportunity for young people to see first-hand how our state government operates. It was a pleasure to sponsor these girls, and I hope they learned a lot from their trip." Each member is allowed to sponsor up to ten Honorary Pages per session, and pages must be between the ages of 8 to 18.

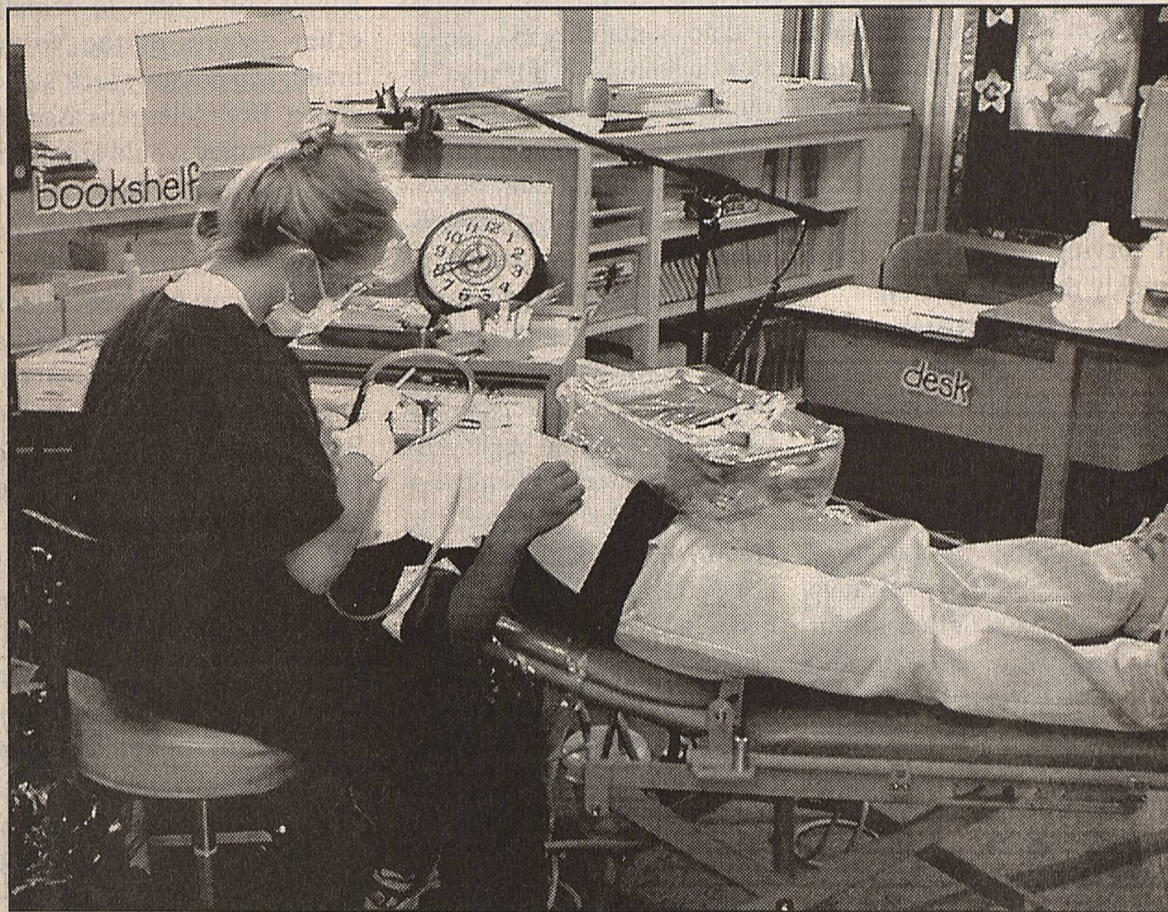
Proposed firefighter tax bill raises questions from many

Last week House Bill 2604, by state Rep. Jim McReynolds, D-Lufkin was being considered by the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock. McReynolds proposal would help fund fire departments in rural communities with a \$1 surcharge per month on homeowners' insurance policies. The bill would create the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance Program, according to McReynolds. The representative points out rural fire departments usually face funding problems for training and equipment. He proposes insurance companies collect the surcharge, deposit the funds with the state comptroller office, which would then be placed with the Texas Forest Service, and the money would then be available in the form of grants to rural fire departments.

Both the Plains and Denver City Volunteer Fire Departments are funded by taxpayer dollars, both city and county. Both Plains Mayor T.J. Miller and City Administrator David Brunson see little merit in the proposed legislation.

"The dollar per month per homeowner policy is in effect another tax citizens would be

Elementary students offered tooth cavity prevention service



Oral Hygienist Laura Eckerd applies plastic coating to elementary student

Almost 90 Plains Elementary students were examined last week by staff of the Texas Department of Health, Oral Health Division, as a preliminary step in a preventive process designed to drastically reduce cavities in their teeth. Many of those children needing dental attention and whose families met required guidelines received treatments involving placement of a plastic sealant over surfaces of selected teeth.

The procedure helps teeth from decaying by covering the deep grooves and fissures which trap food and bacteria, making the teeth difficult to properly clean. By preventing bacterial plaque

and food from starting the decaying process, future dental problems are greatly reduced.

All the children examined did not receive the plastic coating procedure, and determining factors included history of decay, current fillings, previous sealants, anatomy of the teeth, and level of oral hygiene. Those selected for treatment watched a short color video about the process, featuring animated cartoon characters to assure the students about the painless process.

The dental care was provided by Dr. Dale Drennan, DDS, Laura Eckland and Olga Alonzo.

County receives bids on bank depository and motor grader, tables items for more study

In the Monday session of Commissioner Court, representatives from Sundown State Bank and Wells Fargo Denver City Bank met with the court to answer queries about their recent bids for the county depository for the next four years. Sundown State currently serves as the depository.

Judge Brewer told the bank officials the court had studied the detailed and intricate proposals of both firms, and knew he and court members needed clarification on several features in the bids. Treasurer Toni Jones questioned Wells Fargo officials about their proposed earnings credit feature; as an example of how it works, the county could have \$2 million in the bank. Every day of the year, at the close of business, the county's account would be 'Swept', leaving only somewhere around \$500 thousand on deposit. That remaining sum would generate the earnings credit, averaging about 4.8%.

The 4.8% would not be credited to the county account, but would in effect offset all bank fees for services provided for the account. The 'Swept' money would earn daily interest, which averaged around 5.33% in 2000.

Pct. 2 Commissioner J.R. Slentz had questions for Wells Fargo and Sundown officials, and concluded by suggesting postpone awarding the bid "to give me a little more time to absorb and understand all these rules and regulations."

Sales representatives from West Texas Caterpillar, Lubbock, and ASCO, Lubbock attended the court session to answer questions about their bids for a new motor grader for Precinct 3. ASCO, a dealer for Volvo motorgraders, detailed selling features of his machines, and the Caterpillar rep explained features of his line.

They fielded questions from

Turn To Page 2,
'Commissioner Court'

Work Of Texas Senate Is Right On Track

by Lt. Governor Bill Ratliff

When I was elected to serve as Lieutenant Governor by the Texas Senate in December, my goal was to bring order, efficiency and leadership to my role as presiding officer without the personal statewide agenda Texans normally expect from their officials in Austin. After all, my new dual role as Lieutenant Governor and Senator is unique, without the historical precedent that often guides government in uncharted waters.

Midway through the biennial legislative session, I am pleased to report that the work of the Senate in 2001 is on schedule. Although many capitol insiders feared the decennial chore of redistricting would mean a legislative logjam, we have been able to get down to the business of serving Texans even more quickly than last session.

Budget issues have taken center stage with enormous legislative and public support for a state health insurance plan for Texas teachers, efforts to expand medical care to more uninsured children, pay raises for our prison guards who have been overlooked often in our criminal justice system, and pay raises for our state social workers who are on the front lines protecting abused and neglected children, our elderly, and other Texans who cannot care for themselves, all crucial areas that are seriously threatened by shortages and high employee turnover rates.

Road construction and other transportation needs are other areas that have captured the attention of senators who are well aware of the need to improve the Texas highway system and relieve the traffic congestion that is choking so many parts of our state. Proposals for more toll roads and other funding methods are percolating in the Capitol along with plans to improve the safety of commercial trucks that have surged through Texas sense the North American Free Trade Agreement went into effect in 1994.

Criminal justice reform is another issue that is getting the statewide attention it deserves. A bill giving prisoners the right to request DNA testing on biological evidence passed the Senate in February by a unanimous vote. Other important legislation under consideration would guarantee indigent defendants the right to the competent counsel equal justice demands, and another bill senators are working on would give

Texas juries the option of sentencing criminals to life in prison without the possibility of parole as an alternative to the death penalty.

The Senate also has been working diligently on election and campaign reform and recently passed a bill that would reform Texas election law to ban the use of punch card ballots and mechanical voting booths and replace those antiquated systems with new technology that would be phased in equally throughout Texas counties. Among other changes designed to improve fairness and accountability in our election system, the bill also requires political candidates to report more detailed information to the Texas Ethics Commission and lowers the minimum amount on campaign contributions and expenses that must be reported to the state.

Once the current session ends on Memorial Day, preparations for the next one will begin. And during the interim I firmly believe the Legislature needs to readdress one of the toughest issues the Legislature has ever had to tackle, public school finance.

The recapture plan Texas is using today was passed in 1993 to get public schools out of court while avoiding a state income tax. This stop gap strategy, which was designed to bring more equity to the state's system of school finance, was never meant to be anything more than a quick remedy to address a critical problem, and current data shows it is approaching the end of its useful life. Texas House Speaker Pete Laney agrees with me, and we plan to appoint a joint commission to study new ways the state can fund public schools in the future that will be fair and equitable and remain legal under the Texas Constitution, using the valuable time before the next legislative session to give this important issue the careful time and attention it deserves.

As Lieutenant Governor, I am proud of the members of the Texas Senate. They continue the time honored tradition of working hard on the issues our state is facing while keeping the best interests of all Texans close to heart. There is truly no greater honor than to be chosen to serve as Lieutenant Governor by the men and women Texans have elected to represent them at their State Capitol.

From Page 1, 'DWI Cases'

sentence was suspended and probated 10 years. A \$2,500 fine and \$322 court costs will be met with time payments. He must serve 180 days in Lubbock County jail or until space is available in a Substance Abuse Felony Treatment Facility for at least 90 days but not more than one year. He must attend weekly AA meetings, surrender his driver license 180 days, successfully complete the DWI repeat offender program, and perform 160 hours community service. His attorney was Emilio Abeyta. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

From Page 1, 'Commissioner Court'

the court, and Pct. 3 Commissioner Ty Earl Powell said he would prefer time to contact other owners of the Volvo brand, and possibly look at the grader. Both sales reps assured the court they would arrange a demonstration of both brands, and their proposed bids would be good for 30 or more days.

In other court business, after a brief statement from Mike Fears, Economic Development Director in Denver City, Judge Brewer stated, "I think it's time we made an effort to take some action and try to get things going again in Yoakum County. I make a motion to approve Mr. Fears' request for the \$24,000 he asked us for last week. We want to point out we can only act on this money for this year. We can't act on funds for 2002, for we have no budget in place.

Charla Mitchell, representing South Plains Emergency Medical Services, reviewed programs and projects of the 24 county organization. She reported there is a move in Austin to introduce legislation in the current session which would allow the state to take over operation of the current 911 emergency telephone system, a move SPEMS strongly opposes. Judge Brewer expressed his opinion voters should contact their representatives in Austin and voice their objections to the proposal.

San Antonio - Texans for a Traditional School Year today praised and thanked the Senate Education Committee for quickly passing a revised Senate Bill 108.

SB 108 would require school districts to start school no earlier than the week in which August 21 falls.

"My biggest concern is a little statistic that I received not too long ago that indicated 250,000 kids were absent the first day of school," said Senator Eddie Lucio (D-Brownsville), the bill's author. "SB 108 gives school districts a lot of flexibility while addressing the concerns of parents and teachers," he said. "This bill has changed during the last few months to reflect compromises stemming from the input I have sought."

In addition to low attendance numbers, according to Senate hearing testimony, the early August school start date creates headaches, heartaches and hardships for Texas teachers, students and families. "When school is allowed to start earlier and earlier in the summer months it inhibits teachers' abilities to continue their education," said Tina Bruno, executive director of Texans for a Traditional School Year, a state wide grass roots organization.

"With all the discussion about the need for teachers to receive advanced training in specialized areas, it is more important today than ever to ensure teachers have a full summer to pursue advanced degrees," Bruno added.

"Starting school in early August also minimizes students' opportunities to gain workplace experience yet provides no ad-

March 25, 1843. Texas prisoners from the Mier Expedition drew black beans to determine those to be executed. 17 black beans and 159 white beans were drawn. Survivors were marched to prison in Mexico City

Senate Education Passes School Start Date Bill With No Opposing Votes

ditional class time or educational benefit to our students," Bruno said. Other Senate hearing testimony revealed that the early August school start date is adding to ozone related problems, increased electric bills for schools and a possible decline in revenue for the state.

Among the other groups signing cards of support for SB 108 were the Texas State Teachers Association, the Weslaco Federation of Teachers, Rio Grande Labor Council and the Greater Houston Partnership.

A spokesman from the Texas Federation of Teachers said his organization was not taking a position on the legislation, but reported a recent survey agreed school districts should be prohibited from starting classes prior to September 1.

Critics of the proposed legislation say it takes away local control from the school districts.

In response Senator Teel Bivins, (R-Amarillo) told the Amarillo Globe News, "While I am a strong supporter of local control, I feel there is a point where the state has a legitimate interest. He added that after studying school start dates he finds the bill to be a "reasonable compromise."

Senator Lucio added the bill simply sets a starting point for the school year. "School boards have total control in setting holidays, semester divisions and the last day of school," he said.

Senators Bivins, Zaffirini, Nelson, Sibley, Truan and Van De Putte all voted for the bill. Senator Shapiro abstained and Senators Staples and Cain were absent with no vote.

In her closing remarks, Bruno asked the committee to ponder on last thought: "As a state we not only set the schedules for high school sporting events via the UIL, but we tell coaches how many days before the first game they can practice and how long those practices can be. When I asked coaches why they needed these guidelines their response was quick and simple, to ensure fairness in the game."

"The TAAS test is the academic game in Texas, yet kids taking that test can differ by as much as four weeks of instruction. Is it fair to judge our students on the same scale when not all have the same practice time? As a mentor of an at risk student, I know the incredible progress she makes during on month. For many children, I am sure one month could mean the difference between passing and failing. If uniformity is important in sports to ensure fairness, shouldn't we work to return fairness to academics?" Bruno said.

Texans for a Traditional School Year is a grass roots, non profit organization concerned about the negative impact the early August school start date has on students, teachers and families. Their mission is to raise public awareness about this issue as its direct impact on Texas youth and the education we expect them to earn.

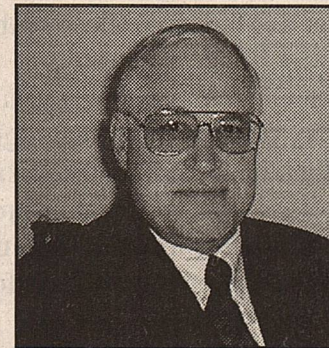
For more information on the negative impact of the early August school start date on teachers, families and students, contact Texans for a Traditional School Year toll free at 877-531-9011.

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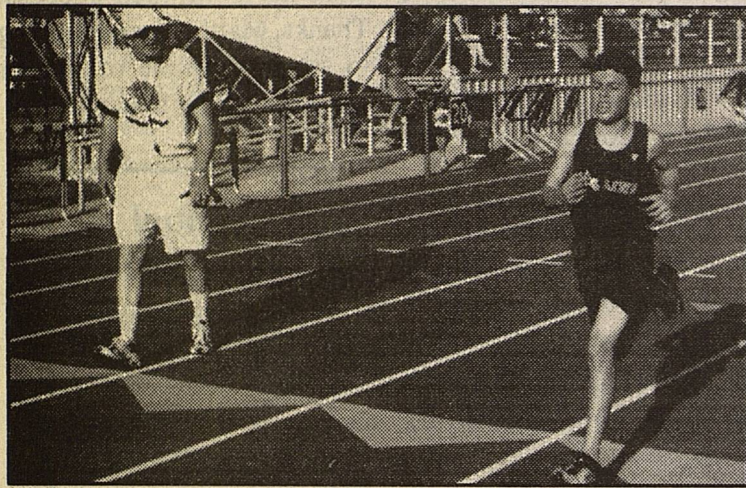
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PISD TRACK SUMMARY

Junior High:
 Lady Wranglers - Plains Middle School hosted their annual invitational track meet last week.

7th Lady Wranglers:
 100m Dash- 5th, Maribel Mendias, 6th Josy Cordova
 100m Dash- 6th, Josy Cordova
 200m Dash- 6th, Josy Cordova
 Shot Put- 1st, Priscilla Mares
 Discus- 1st, Priscilla Mares
 High Jump- 3rd, Skylar Keesee

8th Lady Wranglers:
 2400m Run- 3rd, Micaela Villegas
 300 Hurdles- 3rd, Jamie Covarrubias
 200m Dash- 5th, Daniela Lazos
 1600m Run- 2nd, Micaela Villegas

7th Wranglers:
 400 M Relay - 6th place - Ben Hayes, Michael Crump, Todd Williams, Casson Curtis
 110 Hurdles- Todd Williams 4th, Ben Hayes 5th
 2400 M Run- Abel Ramos 4th
 Long Jump - Todd Williams 6th
 1600 M Run - Abel Ramos 6th Pole Vault - David Alldredge 2nd, Casson Curtis 3rd. High Jump- Casson Curtis 4th.
 300 Hurdles- Casson Curtis 5th, Ben Hayes 6th
 400 M Dash- Michael Crump 3rd
 800 M Dash- Cade Arnett 5th
 1600 M Relay- 5th, Ramiro Martinez, Casson Curtis, Todd Williams
 Michael Crump

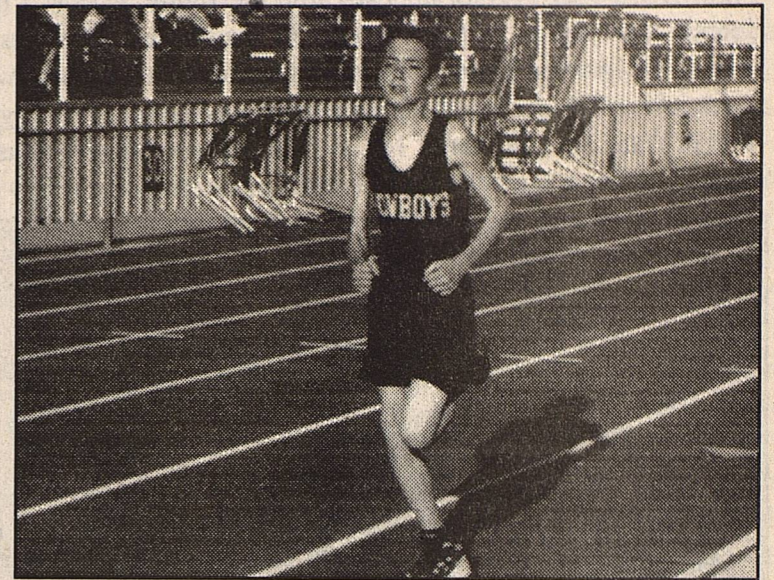
8th Wranglers:
 400 M Relay- 6th, Kelby Johnson, Daniel Estrada, John Wagon, Patrick Cotton
 800 M Dash- 1st, Patrick Cotton
 2400 M Run- Payton Bean 2nd
 1600 M Run- Payton Bean 3rd
 Shot Put- 4th, Cody Flores
 400 M Dash- 5th, Kelby Johnson

PHS Cowgirls-
 New Deal Meet:
 200 M Dash- Michaela Traweek 1st, 28.39
 100 M Dash- Moriah Traweek 2nd, 13.39
 1600 M Relay- Jessica Rodriguez, Moriah Traweek, Kayla Willis, Michaela Traweek 4th, 4:41.
 400 M Dash- Michaela Traweek, 6th, 67.
 100 Dash- Jessica Rodriguez 6th, 13.93

Seminole Meet:
 Moriah Traweek, 4th, 200 M dash, 28.70. 5th, 100 M, 13.25.
 7th, 400 M, 68.85
 Kenia Molina, 5th, 3200 M Run
 Jessica Rodriguez, 200 M, 29.38

Cowboys:
 Seminole Meet
 Chris McGinty- Shot Put- 1st, 47' 7.5". 3rd Discus, 120' 10"
 400 M Dash- Jared Bell 3rd, 53.47
 400 M Relay- 3rd, 44.78, Moises Gonzales, Israel Moreno, Joseph Rodriguez, Jared Bell.
 3200 M Run- Jose Ramirez 6th

JV Cowboys:
 3200 Run- Brandon Davis 4th
 800 M Run- Richard Diaz 1st, 2:13
 400 M Dash- Richard Diaz 1st, 56.1, Coty McDonnell 3rd, 57.



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6th Annual PHS Quiz Bowl

Following the Spring Break, Plains High students returned to class last week, and concluded the Finals of the 6th annual Quiz Bowl, a contest requiring brain power, not athletic brawn or skill. The Sophomore class surprised most of the campus by defeating the Seniors to advance to the finals to meet the Junior team. The 10th graders downed the Junior team without too much trouble to claim the high school student championship, and in the grand finale, competed against three of the faculty members for the overall bragging rights. Unfortunately for the Soph's, seasoned age triumphed over the young team by a convincing 160 to minus 20 points. One of the faculty team members exiting the auditorium was heard asking, "Do you think they will name the stadium, or the gym, maybe the Learning Center after us?" The event featured some tough, mind bending questions; In the New Testament Book of Matthew, what city did the Three Wise Men first visit? (Jerusalem, not Bethlehem). On a computer and typewriter, what symbol appears atop the figure 2? (@) In 1908, what volcano eruption forced cancellation of the Olympic Games? (Mt. Vesuvius) Who was the financier who owned the ill-fated Titanic, and cancelled his trip on the ship when it sailed on it's first and last voyage? (J.P. Morgan) What large lake was the scene of large battles in both the French and Indian Wars, and the War of 1812? (Lake Champlain) What is the first color mentioned in the song, ' America the beautiful'? (Amber).



High School Champs - Sophomores Jordan Bean, Mario Bonilla and Jill Gray.



High School Runners-Up - Allison Butler, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Becky Wilmeth.



Over-all Champions - Blake McWhirter, Jill Rotunna and Treon Ortega

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PHS Student of the Week

Student of the week is Martha Casillas, a senior and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cosme Casillas. She was nominated by Mr. Portillo who said, "Actions are stronger than words. I continue to learn this daily as I work with students and peers. It is not about how much knowledge you have but how you apply the knowledge to continue educating yourself. As an educator, it is our job to find that 'diamond in the rough'. We must always be willing to find ways to motivate, and above all, to educate students.



"Every once in awhile a student comes along to remind us of the examples we should set. Our student of the week lets her actions speak louder than her words. Her dedication is evident by the progress she has made in all of her activities. The world is full of people who get

caught up about what needs to be done tomorrow, and forget to seize the day they already have. I am very pleased with Martha's accomplishments and

wish her continued success. Thanks, Martha, for continuing to set an example of actions speaking louder than words."

PHS Golf Update

Sundown Invitational Tournament, March 20, 21.

Cowgirls:

The Cowgirl golf team finished in 4th place at the Sundown tourney. Individual scores included Liz Wilmeth, 93, Mackenzie Winn, 107, Allison Butler, 114, and Mandi Rogers, 134.

The Cowboys opened the season at Sundown and came in 3rd. Individual scores were Kelsey Blundell, 78, Aaron Cain, 80, Jared Bell, 85, Dustin Six, 87, and Chase Howell, 99.



Annual Viticulture meeting at Newsom Vineyard Friday, March 30, 10:30 AM. Catered lunch follows



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Lifelines & Styles

Don't Mess With Texas Trash-Off Set For April 7

Everything is bigger in Texas, and community cleanups are no exception as more than 100,000 volunteers take to the streets on Saturday, April 7, to declare war on trash. This year, volunteers will pick up an estimated 2 million tons of litter throughout Texas.

In Yoakum County, there are three Adopt-a-Highway groups who keep 12 miles of road clean during the year.

According to TxDOT, the number of groups adopting highways in Texas has hit a plateau of approximately 3,800 volunteer groups at a time when Texas has more miles of Road and more drivers than ever before.

"Adopt-a-Highway volunteers clean only 10 percent of the state's roadways, and state tax dollars must be used to keep the remaining stretches clean," said Penny Mason, Lubbock District public information officer. "Adopting a highway not only helps keep our state beautiful, it also allows tax dollars to be used for road improvements and beautification instead of trash pickup."

TxDOT's litter prevention pro-

grams include the Don't Mess with Texas public education campaign, the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Together, these programs have reversed a trend in the increase in the amount of litter on Texas highways, resulting in a 72 percent reduction in litter and savings to taxpayers of \$2 million to \$4 million per year.

However, according to a 1998 study conducted for TxDOT by NuStats International, even though 96 percent of Texans are aware of the Don't Mess with Texas slogan, one in three admit they continue to litter.

TxDOT's grassroots partner, Keep Texas Beautiful, is a nonprofit, environmental umbrella group consisting of a network of private citizens, communities, industries, civic groups, schools and government agencies.

Anyone interested in participating in the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off can call Penny Mason at 806-748-4337 or Cat Soto at 748-4446.

Kitchen artist wins big in San Angelo show



Shannon Dusek and 15 month old daughter Amanda, pose before the remains of her prize winning cake, preserved in the freezer since its entry in the recent San Angelo 39th Annual Creative Arts Show, a co-event with that city's Livestock Show.

The cake, originally in the shape of a heart, is a white cake, extensively decorated with multi-colored flowers on the top layer, the sides enclosed by a basket weave pattern of green and white stripes. Shannon told CCN, "My husband Darrel and I are originally from the San Angelo area. He thinks I bake good cakes, and encouraged me to enter this year's competition. In the final judging, when the judge tasted my cake, twice, and said, 'I think this is the best taste I've ever experienced', I was just about to faint!"

Shannon's entry was in the baked food division, iced cakes class. The cake earned a class first place ribbon and \$5 cash award, and would then win best of show entry in the division, another ribbon and \$100 cash prize.

Shannon apologized for the appearance of the winning cake, roughly a third the size of the original. "The Judges just kept nibbling on it" Daughter Amanda was more interested in tasting the prize winner than posing for the photo.

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

The one period of time dedicated to the many children who live with abuse and neglect, and to remind ourselves that there may be something we can do to alleviate their suffering.

There is an organization of caring adult volunteers who speak up for the best interests of abused and neglected children who have been removed from their homes and are in foster care. The volunteers serve, at no cost to taxpayers, as an additional safety net to ensure a child does not get lost in the overburdened court and social service system, and does not return to an unsafe home.

It doesn't take a special background or knowledge to be a CASA/GAL volunteer. They are everyday people from a variety of backgrounds, who share the desire to care for some of the most vulnerable

children in our communities. Each advocate is thoroughly trained so they can work effectively and with confidence.

Last year in Texas, 2,119 volunteers helped 9,521 abused and neglected children in areas served by CASA programs. There were also 18 confirmed victims of child abuse and neglect in Yoakum County who did not have a CASA volunteer. Now CASA volunteers will be able to help these children, too. New CASA Volunteer training for Terry and Yoakum counties will begin in Brownfield starts April 23rd.

Make April the month you decide to step forward and become a powerful voice in a child's life. If you are interested in receiving more information about the CASA program, please contact CASA at 763-2272.

The chances for success you had yesterday are nothing compared to the opportunities that still await you today...and tomorrow. To create affluence in the future, let go of the past and embrace the present.

Bridal Shower: honoring

Miss Ginny McEntire

Bride Elect of: Brad McMin

Sunday, April 8, 2001: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

in the home of: Mrs. Connie McWhirter-1104 4th St.

Selections-Lubbock: Target, Dillard's, Linen 'n Things Brownfield, Nelson's Plains: Local Merchants

Library Storytime

Storytime was held on Wednesday, March 21st in the Yoakum County Library in Plains. After saying the pledges to the United States and Texas flags, we sang songs, read three books, and watched two Bugs Bunny cartoons. We celebrated a belated

St. Patrick's Day with a party of snickerdoodles and punch complete with shamrock decorations. The children attending Storytime were: Clayton Gass, Claire Carpenter, Amanda Dusek, Micah St. Romain, Madison Davis and Lucas Hernandez.

Denver City Art Association is coordinating the annual Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up T-Shirt Contest. It is open to all ages, in and out of school. Designs must be an original design no larger than 8 1/2 x 11" in size and must have "Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up" on it. Watermelon Willie is optional on this year's shirt. Yoakum County Connection is awarding \$100 cash for the top design picked by the judges. Entries will be accepted beginning March 23, 2001, with the deadline on April 20, 2001. For more information call Sue Holder at (806) 592-2960, after 5:00 p.m. Mail unfolded entries to Denver City Art Association at Box 854, Denver City, Texas 79323, or hand deliver to Bayer Lumber in Plains or the Chamber of Commerce office in Denver City.

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, TX.

Fine Arts Sacred Music Program

Sunday, April 1, At 2 p.m.

Sunday Schedule

Sunday School - 9:45 am

Morning Worship - 10:45 am

Youth Fellowship - 5 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Connections

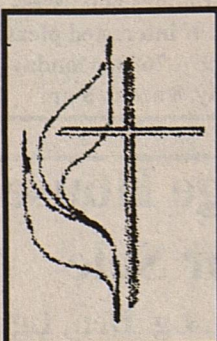
Food & Fellowship-5:30-6:30 pm

Eve. Bible Study - 6:30 - 8:00 pm

Other Opportunities

Afternoon Bible Study - 5:15 pm Thursdays

GOD loves you and so do we!
Come grow in CHRIST with us!



You are invited to a
WEDDING SHOWER

Honoring Michele McCraevy & Bedford Jones
1st United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

Sunday, April 1, 2001, 6:60 - 8:30 PM

Gift selections Bayer's, Dillard's, Gourmet Pantry

Senior Citizens Corner

We really had a big crowd Thursday. It was pool tournament and turkey and dressing day. There were several people here that need to come more often. We have some new people that have started coming nearly every day. We all need the fellowship along with

our food. Everyone has a good time visiting, laughing and going on.

Our garage sale is still going on. We had some new things brought in, so come on down and browse around.

Till next week,
Wanda B.

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Collectables

Wearables

D. C. Art Show and Sale Scheduled

The Denver City Art Association Art Show and Sale on April 3rd through April 7th, 2001.

The show will be at 118 N. Main (the Yoakum County Connection Building), in Denver City, and will include paintings, graphics and photography. Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, April 3rd from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Judging will be on Thursday, April 5th, with the Judge's critique from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. The show will be open to the public on Wednesday, April 4th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., on Friday, April

6th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be awards presentation and reception at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 7th. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best of Show in Photography and in Fine Art, and to ribbon winners in original categories.

Anyone needing any further information can call Sue Holder at 806-592-2960 (after 5:00 pm.), Mola Morehead at 806-592-3187, or Euple Taylor at 806-592-2704.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Corn Bible Academy Choir

Presents

IT PAYS TO FOLLOW

JESUS

April 1st - 6:00 PM.

Director - Charles Regier

The public is invited to attend this Sacred Concert. No admission charge.

From The Hack

Here are some of the world's shortest books;
Successful swimsuit modeling, by Janet Reno
Things I love about Bill, by Hillary Clinton
Things I can't afford, by Bill Gates
Guide to the Pacific Ocean, by Amelia Earhart
A collection of motivational speeches, by Dr. Kervorkian
The dating etiquette guide, by Mike Tyson
My plan to find the real killers, by O.J. Simpson
Things I would not do for money, by Dennis Rodman
My book of morality, by Bill Clinton

The recent release of official US Census figures brought mixed emotions to the fabled Table of Wisdom Group. Some lamented the fact the county's population dwindled almost 1500 folks, primarily from shifts in Denver City prompted by the fluctuating oil and gas economics.

Others actually cheered the fact Plains' people count SOARED from the 1990 figure of 1422 souls, to an astounding 1450 actually alive people.

A Table regular, who has self-appointed himself Secretary-Treasurer of the Table, although not one associate has voted for him or ever will, nor trust him with money, is ecstatic over the hamlet's growth. "I cain't believe it... It's astounding! We went from 1422 to 1450 in just ten years. I believe that's some 67% percent increase in population, if I recall my economics correctly." Unfortunately, he failed math seven times in his six-year tenure in high school.

He did attract some attention, however. One retired and very broke cotton/peanut/milo/alfalfa/pumpkin/watermelon/wheat/guar/rye/onion/chili/artichoke/cattle/sheep/goat/chinchilla and mink producer offered, "I think I have an idea to give us a bit of economic development, and if I can sell it to some rich group, I can get my fanny out of hock. I think we should apply for a federal grant to install a Rapid Transit Transportation System here. It could start at the east caution light, and run all the way to Allsup's, stop for passengers and a coke, go to the courthouse to drop off criminals up for trial and folks wanting a divorce, and needing to use the you know, facility, then swing by the Library for people to pay their over-due book fines. They could get off at Sellers to get a dollars worth of fertilizer, drop by Johnnie's for coffee, then stop off at Uncle's on the west end of town for a much needed, uhh, facility stop before we

started back home." This was not a universally loved and accepted proposal. A well known detractor of ANYTHING emphatically stated, "You idiot, I submitted that to the City Council 13 months ago, and they're still considering bids for the project! You KNOW good ideas need time for development!"

The Montana Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters, fishermen and golfers to take precautions and be on alert for bears while in the state's many National Parks and Forests.

They advise people to wear noise producing devices such as tiny bells on clothing to alert but not startle bears. They also advise carrying pepper spray in case of encounter with a bear.

It is also a good idea to watch for bear signs. People should be able to recognize differences between black bear and grizzly bear droppings. Black bear droppings are smaller and contain berries, possibly squirrel fur. Grizzly droppings contain bells and smell like pepper spray.

Legal Notice

The Plains Independent School District, Plains, Texas is accepting bids for the following:

Year 2001 Improvements (Jr High and HS School Re-Roofing) for Plains ISD
All bids must be submitted by 10:00 am., local time, 05 April, 2001 at the Superintendent's Office, or sealed bids may be mailed directly to:

James Haynes, Superintendent
 Plains ISD
 PO Box 479
 Plains, Texas 79355

Plans and Specifications are available and may be acquired from:

Grimes and Associates,
 Consulting Engineers
 PO Box 65
 Wolfforth, TX 79382
 806-863-2462

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at 10:00 am., local time, 29 March, 2001. All interested parties should meet at the Superintendent's Office, Plains, Texas.

The Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and waive all formalities.



Walker, Texas Rep

By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

This week has certainly been a busy one! Many exciting events have taken place in the last few days, and with each day of session, the days get longer and the night shorter. A number of committee hearings ran into the wee hours of the morning this week, including the House Natural Resources Committee which I serve on.

Two of my bills, HB 924 and HB 675, were passed by the House of Representatives this week. HB 924 relates to granting an easement to water districts, and HB 675 reduces the number of hours of investment training required for financial officers of water districts.

I am very pleased to announce HB 7, which would create an Office of Rural Community Affairs, has been voted out of

the House Land and Resource Management Committee. I am very supportive of this bill, and hope to see it passed on the House floor soon. This bill could do much for the residents of the South Plains and other areas of rural Texas.

This week was Texas Agriculture Week at the Capitol. Ag Week was kicked off by a press conference and agricultural exhibits all over the capitol. On Wednesday, Ag producers from all over the state met and hosted a Taste of Texas Agriculture Luncheon, where only Texas products were served. Ag Commissioner Susan Combs has been working hard to promote Texas products with her 'Go Texan' Campaign, which encourages consumers to purchase Texas grown products.

ucts. The lunch was a great display of what an important role agriculture plays in Texas.

Hopefully, I will have all my bills heard in their respective committees by the first week of April. It is my goal to have my bills on track, so I can more fully concentrate on redistricting and my duties as a Chairman. The first public redistricting hearing was held Tuesday. I am hopeful we will redraw the district lines so each area of Texas will have the best representation possible. Additional redistricting public hearings have been scheduled for March 28 and April 5 in Austin.

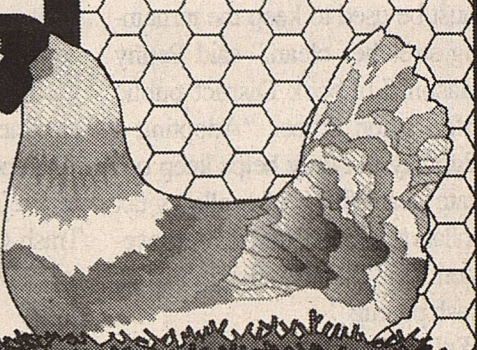
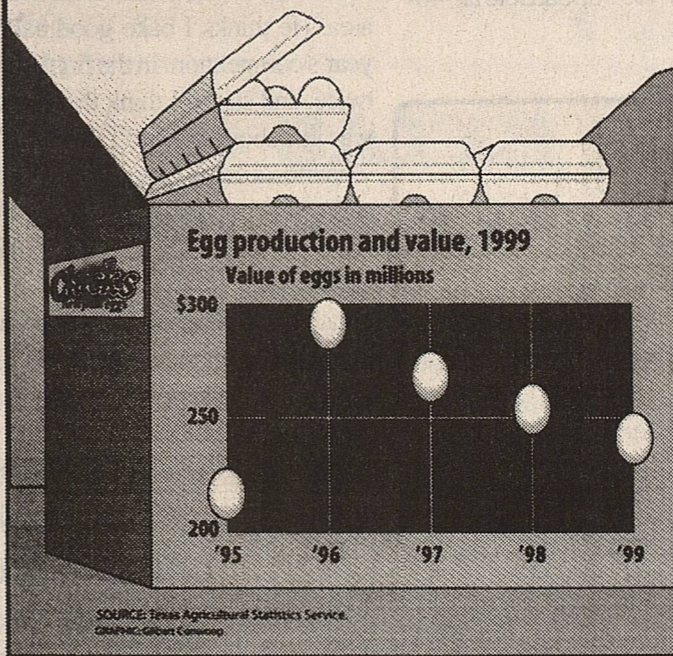
I would encourage you to stop by if you are in Austin. If I can ever be of assistance to you, please feel free to contact my office at 512-463-0678.

Pliny the Younger (AD 61-113) advised against using vulture quills as a toothpick, as it led to halitosis. He recommended using a porcupine quill instead

Texas at a Glance

Shelling out for Texas eggs

Total egg production in Texas topped 4 billion eggs in 1999—only six states produced more. Those Texas eggs were the product of more than 18 million hens that had reached egg-laying age, also good for seventh nationally—though it's debatable which came first. Each hen is good for about 250 eggs a year. Each dozen eggs is sold at wholesale for about 65 cents. Total egg production in Texas was worth about \$240 million in 1999, down from a recent high of \$290 million in 1996. Texas farmers have about 24.4 million chickens, with an average value of \$2.80. Total value of Texas chickens? \$68.3 million.



State	In billions of eggs
OHIO	8.2
IOWA	6.8
CALIFORNIA	6.6
PENNSYLVANIA	6.1
INDIANA	5.8
GEORGIA	5.2
TEXAS	4.0
ARKANSAS	3.5
MINNESOTA	3.1
NEBRASKA	2.8

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* Position Available *
 The Denver City Chamber of Commerce is now accepting applications for the position of Executive Vice President. Qualification requirements are: high school education, college degree preferred but not necessary; managerial, motivational and organization skills; communication and computer skills with excellent command of the English language; accurate financial and record-keeping abilities; energetic, enthusiastic, with pleasing personality and attitude. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send resumes to: Search Committee, Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. Main St., Denver City, TX 79323. Deadlines for receiving applications is April 15, 2001.

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For more information, apply in person:

Plains 1179 CR 305 806-456-4121	Brownfield Rt. 5, Box 61 806-755-2617
Seminole 1104 Hobbs Highway 915-758-1261	Seagraves 510 Railroad Ave 806-546-8858

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