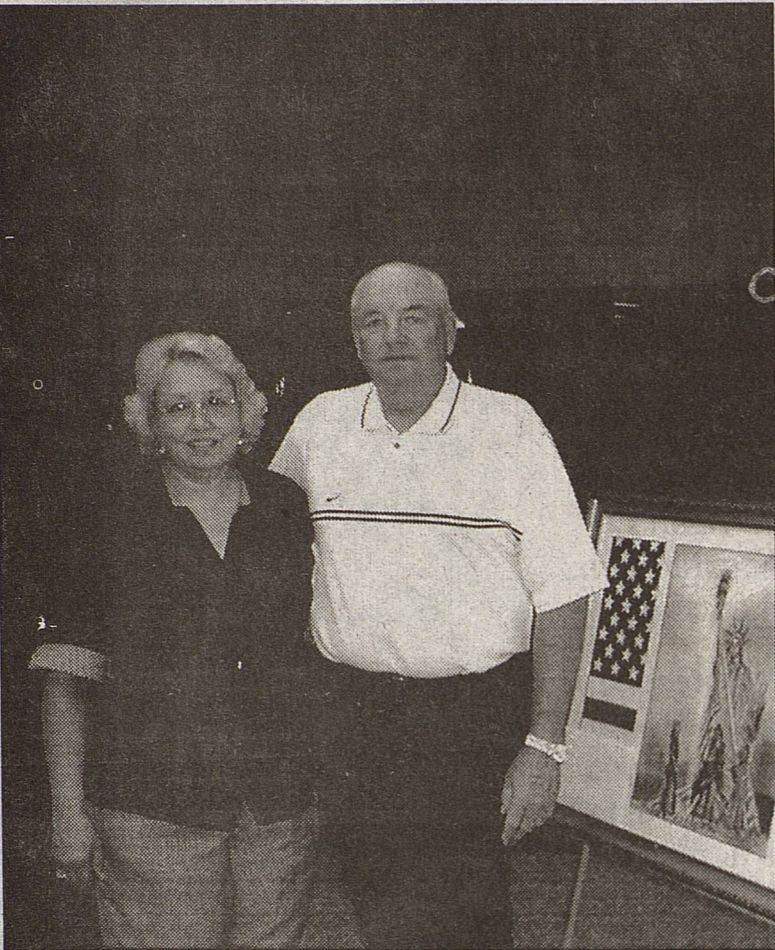
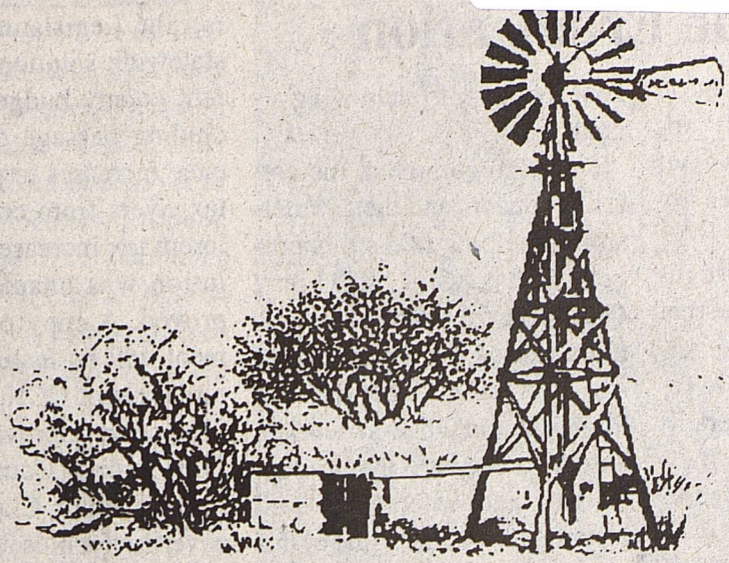


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume IX, Issue 35, May 21, 2003



Paula and retiring Coach Larry McMinn

PISD Retirees honored at public reception

A large crowd of well wishers attended last Thursday's reception in the school resource center to honor retiring Larry McMinn and Pam Smith. McMinn was presented a version of local artist Evertt Mc Adams flag scene from 9 - 11, and another picture was presented to Mrs. Smith, framed and matted by McAdams. The retirees received many other gifts from well wishers.

At the PHS Athletic Banquet April 13, current PISD Athletic Director Blake McWhirter paid tribute to Larry McMinn's long teaching and coaching career. "Larry started his career in 1968 at Ballinegr, coaching there four years. He then moved to Idalou for a year, then to Dimmit for three years. His next U-Haul move was to Plains, where he has worked hard for 27 years. He helped win over 100 football games, and scores of basketball games, and he has touched thousands of kids lives in the classroom and on athletic fields.

"I want to thank you, Coach, for your modeling of Christian values and morals. You are the reason I became a coach. You taught me how to persevere through trials and tribulations, and I learned from you the importance of working hard to obtain goals. You are the epitome of the word 'winner', and on behalf of Plains ISD, I thank you for your 27 years."

Please turn to page 2, "RETIRES"



Retiring PHS Secretary Pam Smith

West Texas Medical Center, Plains Clinic lend a hand to Plains athletes

Last Thursday the two county health clinics demonstrated a much appreciated display of community service when physical fitness exams were given to 236 student athletes from Plains and Denver City school districts.

Janet Andis, Manger of both the West Texas Medical Center and Plains Clinic, reported the 236 students received full medical examinations between 2:30 and 5:30 PM. "Our Physician Assistants from the two clinics, Jo Lena Wall, Heather Reed and Andria Carter examined the female athletes, and Doctors Larry Boyd, Chris Cotton, Thepchartri Bodindr and Amir Memnon worked with the males. Our staff had all the details organized extremely well, and we thought it was a very successful effort. Plains sent 89 athletes for exams, and Denver City had 147. Plains ISD Athletic Director Blake McWhirter told CCN, "It was really a team effort on the clinics part. In the past we've had to bus our

athletes to Lubbock for the exams. usually spend a lengthy time for the process, then make the trip home, which invariably took the better part of a full day. Our kids who've had the exams before in Lubbock were amazed how fast it went in Denver City, but no more surprised than I was."

Another very pleasant surprise for the Plains District was the money the Denver City site saved. Plains students were only charged \$5 per student for the physicals. The Lubbock exams were costing \$8 to \$10, plus travel expense. Manager Andis said, "Our medical professionals have wanted to extend our services to the Plains athletes for sometime, but they had commitments in Lubbock. We're anxious to make all our county residents aware of the wide range of excellent medical services available to them right here at home. The athletic physicals were

Turn to page 2, "Examinations"

NRCS makes EQIP financial assistance available here

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced financial assistance will be available in Texas to conserve natural resources and address environmental concerns on private lands. These funds are part of conservation provisions contained in the 2002 Farm Bill and authorized by the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). Eligible farmers and ranchers may apply for these funds as cost-share assistance.

In making the announcement Dr. Larry Butler, State Conservationist for NRCS in Texas, said, "Each county will be provided a base allocation. Local work groups have established resource concerns, eligible conservation treatment practices, and developed the ranking criteria and screening process. This is government at its best, where local landowners and operators establish local conservation priorities at the grassroots level."

In Texas, NRCS works with 216 local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to address local resource issues. Donald Burgess, Chairman of the Yoakum County SWCD, said he was pleased with the input they have received in developing the local conservation needs criteria for this county. "This is an excellent opportunity for local people to provide substantial information in order to administer EQIP for our district." Applications for the 2003 EQIP program in Texas will be accepted through June 13, 2003.

Pat McNabb named County Librarian

In the May 19 session of Commissioners Court, Precinct 3 Commissioner Ty Earl Powell nominated current Plains County Library staffer Pat McNabb to assume the duties of Librarian for both county libraries. She will replace Opal Roberts, who retires the end of May. Powell told the court he had received a number of applications for the position, and felt her years of service at the library here warranted his nomination to the head librarian position. McNabb's duties will officially start June 1.

Judge Dallas Brewer read a resolution submitted to all

Turn to page 2,

Four cases heard in County Court

in County Court May 14, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, Victor Manuel Herrera Jr. pled guilty to tampering with a government record. He was sentenced to 25 days in jail with credit for 25 days served. He must pay \$211 court costs. Investigating officer was Chris Malloy, DPS, and his attorney was Enrique Martinez. He was held for the U.S. Border Patrol.

Victor Solis Castruita pled guilty to a second DWI. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He must pay \$226 court costs, \$600 fine and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 30 days in jail with credit for two days, must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI repeat offender program, surrender his license 90 days, and install an interlock device on any driven automobile. Bill Helwig was his attorney, and Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer.

Joseph Andy Spradley pled guilty to a second DWI, b.t. .093/.097, open container. He was fined \$750 and must pay \$226 court costs, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the repeat offender DWI course, complete the TAIP program, and surrender his license 90 days. Brad Taylor was investigating officer and Bill Helwig served as his attorney. A. Charley Ford pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$100 and will pay \$211 court costs. Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, DPS.

Prestigious Black and Gold award winners announced at PHS Athletic Banquet



Plains Athletic Director and Master of Ceremonies Blake McWhirter at last week's Booster Club Athletic Banquet told a very large audience of PHS sport fans the annual Black and Gold Awards, usually given to the outstanding female and male senior athlete, would have to be shared this year; "We simply couldn't pick one winner from each gender." The award will be shared by seniors Chelsea Blount and Kayla Willis, and Cowboys Kevin Bartley II, Angel Ruiz and Nick Hays. More banquet photos inside.



Early voting for the June 3 Congressional Election ends May 30. Have You Voted Yet?

NRP Cotton Growers To Continue Eradication

Northern Rolling Plains cotton growers overwhelmingly approved continuing boll weevil eradication in their area by nearly a 10-1 margin.

The vote represented the highest approval of any zone that has voted on retaining an eradication program. State law requires cotton growers in eradication zones to reaffirm their commitment every four years. "Of course we're pleased with the results," said John Inman, the zone's representative to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation's board of directors. "I think it shows that the growers are committed to finish the job we've started."

Foundation trapping data show the zone has experienced a 99.7 reduction in average weekly catches of weevils, meaning the

zone is close to achieving its goal.

"I want to commend the cotton producers and their leadership in helping make this program so successful," said Lindy Patton, the foundation's executive director. "The zone steering committee and Rolling Plains Cotton Growers worked hard to make sure the producers and landowners were well informed about the value of this program and the importance of the vote."

The Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is a non-profit, grower-initiated and funded organization dedicated to eliminating the cotton boll weevil from the state in the most cost effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

From page 1, 'Retirees'

Pam Smith is another PISD veteran who will be missed. Mrs. Smith started with the district in 1979, working in the Business Office. In 1985 Pam had the opportunity to advance to the position of Middle School Secretary. In the Fall semester of 1988, she advanced again to become Secretary of Plains High. At last week's reception her current boss, Principal Steven O'Quinn had kind words for Mrs. Smith's skills and dedication. "I have been Principal here nine years, and it didn't take me long to realize Pam was my right arm. She knew what was going on when I was just learning the ropes. She could anticipate things I had to wait for. More importantly, she knew how I would respond to events whenever I wasn't around, and I relied heavily on her. One of her greatest assets is knowing the students, and how to interact with them. She treats them correctly, and they respect her. I will miss her help, but she's certainly earned the opportunity to retire and enjoy life."

From Page One, 'EXAMINATIONS'

just another effort to show we want to be involved in both communities, and are supporting all of Yoakum County.

From page 1, 'Commissioners Court'
member counties of the Texas Association of Counties, urging the Legislature to seek a statewide solution to the current county budget crises, including passage of state revenue increases to protect local taxpayers from county ad valorem tax increases. The resolution was unanimously approved. A copy of the document will be featured in a future issue of CCN.

The court approved a request from Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor to advertise for bids for a new, full size pickup truck for hospital use, with or without trade-in of a 1995 Dodge Dakota truck.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The State Of Texas
County Of Yoakum
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 A.M. Friday, June 6, 2003, for the purchase of (1) new Dodge 2003 Pickup for the Yoakum County Hospital, with or without trade-in of (1) used 1995 Dodge Dakota pickup.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, June 9, 2003. Bid price will be paid from 2003 budgeted funds.

For bid forms or specifications, please contact Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, 412 Mustang Ave., Denver City, Texas 79323, or call 806/592-2121 or you may contact Hazel Lowrey, County Auditor, PO Box 516, Plains, Texas 79355, or call 806/456-2422.

Sealed bids should be marked "HOSPITAL VEHICLE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

The State Of Texas
County Of Yoakum
The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10 A.M. Friday, June 6, 2003 for the sale of (1) Used 1995 Dodge Dakota Pickup.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, June 9, 2003

To view the vehicle please contact Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas 79323, or call 806/592-2121.

Sealed Bids should be marked "HOSPITAL USED VEHICLE" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

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2003**

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Cowboy Country News

Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355

Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor

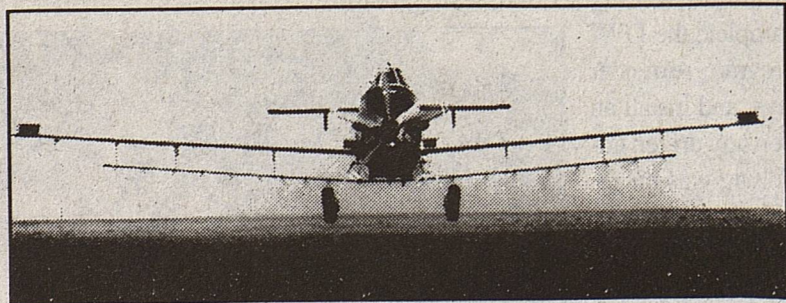
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PHS Student Council announces the first POWDER PUFF football game! Sr./Frosh Girls vs. Jr. Soph Girls! (boys may only cheer!) Friday, May 23, 5 PM, Cowboy Stadium - and it's FREE !!

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South Plains Leaders Are Putting Their Names On The Line For Randy Neugebauer

✓ Randy understands jobs, agriculture, ranching and energy issues in a way only a man whose family makes their living from those areas can know. His family has lived on the South Plains for nearly 100 Years.

✓ Randy will fight to keep the Farm Bill intact to keep our economy strong and moving. He will ensure our country's international policy honors our farm and energy policy.

✓ And, Randy's record of working with Larry Combest shows he has the proven experience to get results. As the leader of Ports-to-Plains, Randy fought for and recently won President George W. Bush's approval of this important jobs and transportation corridor.

✓ Randy has earned the respect and support of the Texas Farm Bureau, 14 regional mayors and a long and growing number of trusted community leaders across West Texas - a testament to his integrity and ability to get positive things done in Washington.



TEXAS FARM BUREAU FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE FUND (AGFUND), INC.

May 9, 2003
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WACO - Texas Farm Bureau's Friends of Agriculture Fund (AGFUND, Inc.) has endorsed the candidacy of Lubbock land developer Randy Neugebauer in a runoff election for the 19th Congressional District of Texas. The seat is being vacated by retiring U.S. Congressman Larry Combest.

The date of the runoff election has been set on Tuesday, June 3. Neugebauer received the most votes among 17 candidates in a May 3 special election.

Neugebauer, a Republican, is president of Lubbock Land Company and has a record of effective community leadership. He has held numerous positions in the land development, banking and higher education fields. The 1972 Texas Tech University graduate has held elected offices as a Lubbock city councilman and Lubbock Mayor Pro Tempore.

"As a conservative West Texan, Randy Neugebauer wants to permanently eliminate the death tax. He wants education decisions to be made by the state and local school districts and not imposed by Washington, and he wants to protect traditional family values," said Kenneth Dierschke, president of the Texas Farm Bureau and the AGFUND Board of Directors. "Mr. Neugebauer will represent agricultural interests of the rural 19th District quite well in the U.S. Congress."

AGFUND is TFB's political action fund. It is a legal entity separate from the Texas Farm Bureau and may endorse and contribute financially to political candidates. AGFUND is funded only by voluntary contributions from TFB members.

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Day - Mize Engagement



Jennifer Day and Jeff Mize, both of Lubbock, announce their engagement. The couple will marry July 28 in Ocho

Rios, Jamaica. The bride-elect is the daughter of Carl and Teresa Stroup of Plains and Lynn Day of Lubbock. The bride-groom-elect is the son of Jon and Marlene Mize of Lubbock and M.C. and Marlene Northam of Lake Belton.

The bride-elect, a graduate of Plains High School and South Plains College, is employed by University Medical Center. The future bridegroom, a graduate of Coronado High School and South Plains College, is also employed by University Medical Center.

Connection Announces Plans

Yoakum County Connection met May 13 at the Plains Public Library. Secretary Elas Moya read the minutes of the last meeting. Lee Ann Romines asked for a Watermelon Round Up report from Jeannette Head. She reported the Labor Day festivities are on schedule. Susie Powell again won the T-shirt Design Contest directed by the Denver City Art Association. Yoakum County Wordsmiths have entries for the Watermelon Poem Contest yet to be judged. The DCHS Art Show held May 2 to 7 had 100 entries. Jim Bob Salazar of Sul Ross University judged. \$115 in cash prizes were awarded students by the Connection. L. J. Sanders reported 50 paid memberships in the Connection. It is not too late to join and support the Connection activities in this manner. It was voted to donate \$100 to Denver City Chamber of Commerce for prizes in their July 4th celebration. Debbie Pollard, Texas Agricultural Service, reported the Buster School Bus will be at the Health Fair Saturday in Denver City. It will also be used in a youth art class. She is also teaching several classes for the Summer Youth Art Program.

Janie Ramos, Summer Youth Art Program director, gave a report of the 21 classes to be offered free of charge this summer to area youth. Most of these will be offered in Denver City and Plains some more than once with different age groups. Ramos has applied for several grants and has received a thousand dollars from Mid America Arts Alliance. She is waiting to hear about two more applications. Registration began May 19 at the County Libraries in Plains and Denver City, and will close on June 2, and class size is limited. Instructors will include Sandy Ramos, Linda Powell, Donna Friesen, Pam Burgess, Treon Ortega, Tera Price, as well as Janie Ramos and Debbie Pollard.

The Plains Independent School District announces the sponsorship of the Summer Food Service Program to be held from June 2nd - June 27th. Meals will be provided in the Plains School

cafeteria to children from ages 1 through 18, at 1000 Tenth Street, Plains, Texas from 12:00 noon until 1:00 p.m. on Monday through Friday. People who are eligible to participate in the program must not be discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, or political belief. Anyone who believes that they have been

discriminated against should write immediately to : Director, Civil Rights Division, MC W-106, Texas Department of Human Services, P. O. Box 149030, Austin, Texas 78714-9030 or the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250. NOTE: Discrimination complaints based on religion or political beliefs must be referred only to the Director, Civil Rights Division, Texas Department of Human Services.

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Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am

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Senior Citizens Corner

WAIT. That's the name of the game. You've all been there and done that. On a sunny day last week I did it. I waited. The corridors were sparkling; the nurses and doctors were efficient; the housekeeping staff was busy; the waiting room was cold. The chairs all matched, straight backs, wooden arms, green cushions. The TV, hanging at a peculiar angle from the ceiling, showed a snowy scene while the narrator droned on just below normal human hearing level. Plants of various, unidentifiable origin and size filled empty window sills, all except one window. There sat four boxes of 500 piece jig saw puzzles. I considered spreading one out on the floor and starting in on it, but hoped I would not be there long enough to finish the job.

On a small, low table lay many choices of magazines, beginning with a 1972 National Geographic, graduating to a growth process report on the national septuplet in another magazine, and on to Time's current report on the world situation. On a small, two shelf bookcase beside my chair were countless paperback books of questionable ventage, subject matter, and care. Again I refrained from getting involved in the faint hope I would not have time to finish reading one.

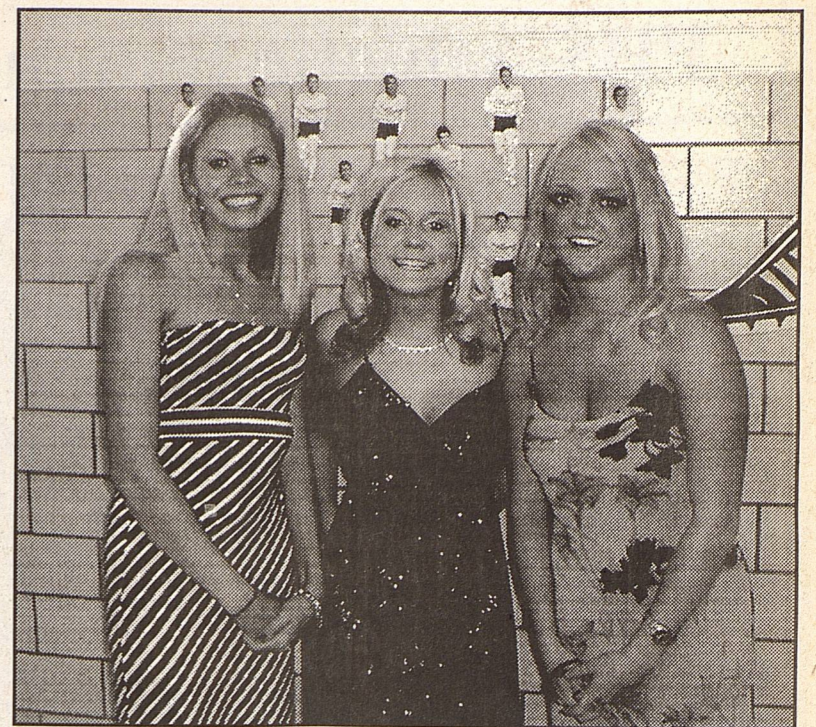
The ceiling contained 120 tiles, four air conditioning louvers, five fire nozzles, and four lighted tile spaces. At a small, round table in the corner sat four young Morman men, volunteers at the hospital, who were setting up a new program in no way related to the hospital but requiring much conversation, tearing of paper, and stapling. This woke me from my small catnap. After they left, I counted to ten, praying that everything would work after such a long sitting spell, rose slowly and walked unsteadily to the low table where the black, black coffee waited in a pot. Accompanied by a cup of the liquid and a sticky donut of questionable origin, I made my way to the round table to enjoy a late breakfast.

While in this new sitting position and stirring my coffee with the little plastic stick about twice as long as a toothpick, my attention was drawn to the ever present VA calendar trio, last

month, this month, and next month. On the same wall hung a picture of a snowy scene in some northland wintertime. There was an occasional groan as someone stood to stretch and move around. The volunteer lady in the red blouse, behind the little desk in the corner, stayed busy with her paperback and answering occasional calls for someone who was waiting. The most interesting moment came when this one cowboy type fellow with blue denim shirt and jeans, cowboy hat, and boots, decided to try to make himself comfortable by removing one boot and hiking up his sock with a sigh of satisfaction then replacing his boot. I felt glad for him. Somebody needed to be comfortable.

The next thing I knew everyone had left for home or for lunch and I had the place to myself. The phone rang. I promoted myself to 'desk lady' and answered it but no one would talk to me. After an unsuccessful tour down the hall in search of a warmer climate, I returned to my post at the desk. By this time I considered myself an essential part of the VA team.

Soon a lady, who was waiting for her husband, returned from lunch and sat down to tell me her life story. I recognized the area from whence she came, so was digesting her descriptive stories with caution. Finally, in self defense, and feeling she needed a breather, I told a story or two of my own. Life became interesting along about then as we traded story after story, each on topping the other. I could readily see I had lived longer than she had, a fact that should result in a greater wealth of stories. Probably I will timidly stand before the pearly gates one day while saint Peter runs these past me for verification, but as for today, it seemed the only way to go. We had just entered into her rendition of what you do when a rattle snake gets under your cabin, when the telephone rang. I quickly jumped into my responsibility of 'answerer' and the doctor told me Elmer was ready to go home. I will never know how she handled the snake situation, but it was probably good that the phone rang because I'm not sure where I could have come up with something to top that!



These three PHS blonde coeds approached the photographer at last weeks athletic banquet and begged to have their "picture taken for the paper, PLEASE!" They pled their case saying, "Other kids get in the paper lots more than we do!" It's apparent their sales pitch worked.

*To honor 30 years of bestowing knowledge to children a retirement reception will be held for Sue Alexander.
You are cordially invited to attend on
May 22, 2003
from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.
in the Plains High School...Resource Center*

New Books At The Library

FICTION:

Wild Orchids...Jude Veceraux, Shutter Island...Dennis Lehane, Someone To Watch Over Me...Judith McNaught, Home Before Dark...Susan Wiggs, A Gathering Place...Thomas Kinkade, Haunted Ground...Erin Hart, Not Even For Love...Sandra Brown, Late For The Wedding...Amanda Quick, Naked Prey...John Sanford, No Second Chance...Harlan Coben, The Sinister Pig...Tony Hillerman, Oryz And Crake...Margaret Atwood, A Cold Heart...Jonathan Kellerman, And The Shofar Blew...Francine Rivers.

NON-FICTION:

Terrific Tomatoes, Sensational Spuds, and Mouth Watering Melons...Jerry Baker, Perfect Perennials...Jerry Baker, The Acne Cure...Terry Dubrow, M.D., Are You Hungry, Dear?...Doris Roberts

Early voting in the US Congressional election at the County Clerk's office began May 19 and runs through May 31. PLEASE exercise your right - VOTE!

Nelson's Prescription Pharmacy

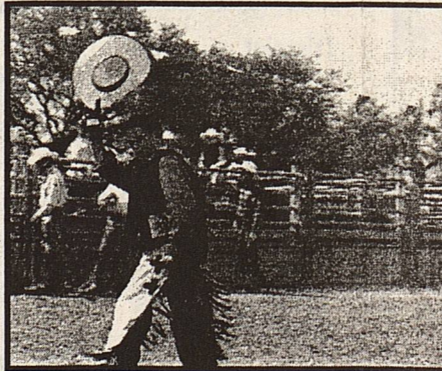
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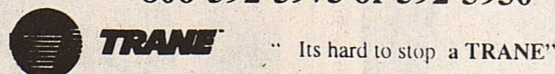
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Morning Worship
10:45 am.
Evening Program
6:00 pm.

PHS Athletic Banquet Scenes



Regional qualifying Cross Country Team



Cowgirl Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball Teams



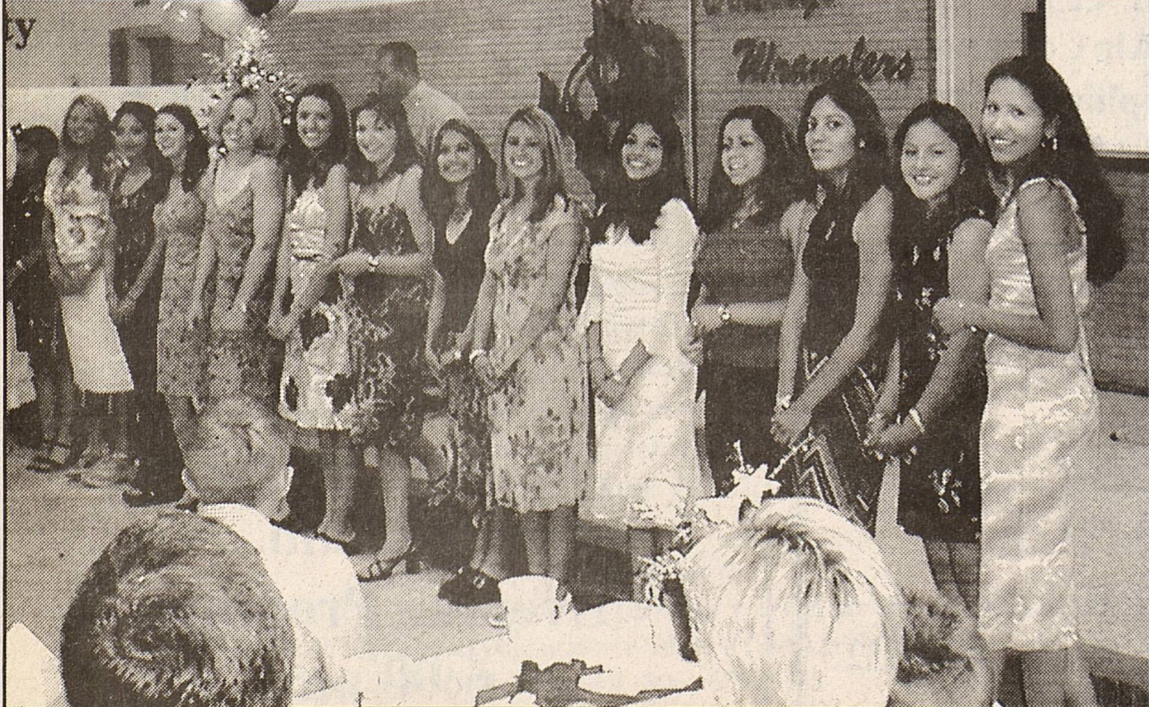
Junior Varsity Cowboy Football Team



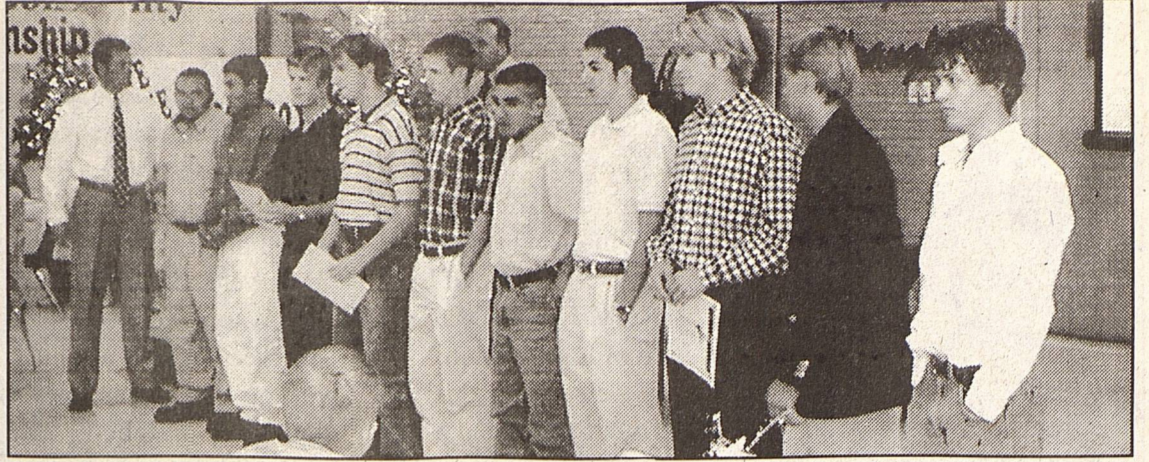
Varsity Cowboy Football Team



JV Cowgirl Basketball Team



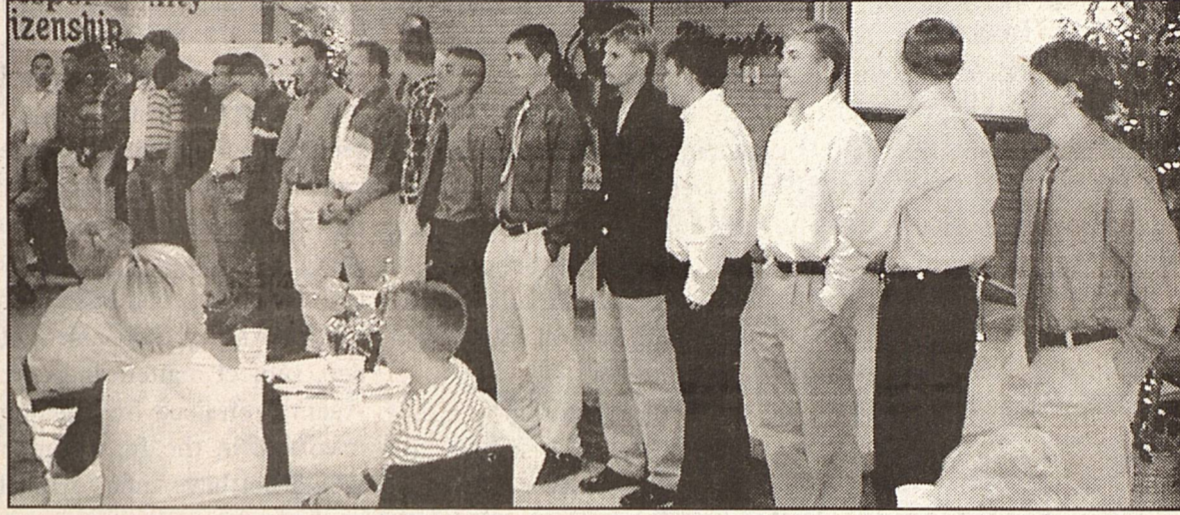
Varsity Cowgirl Basketball Team



Varsity Cowboy Basketball Team



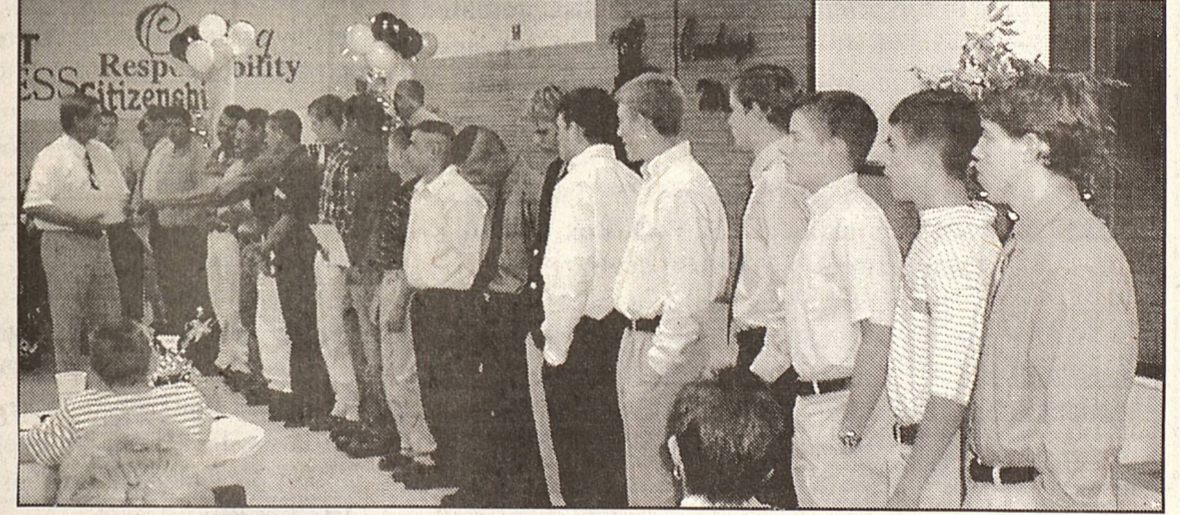
Cowboy Powerlifters, including Regional qualifier Jose Ramirez and 5th in State Manuel Ramoz



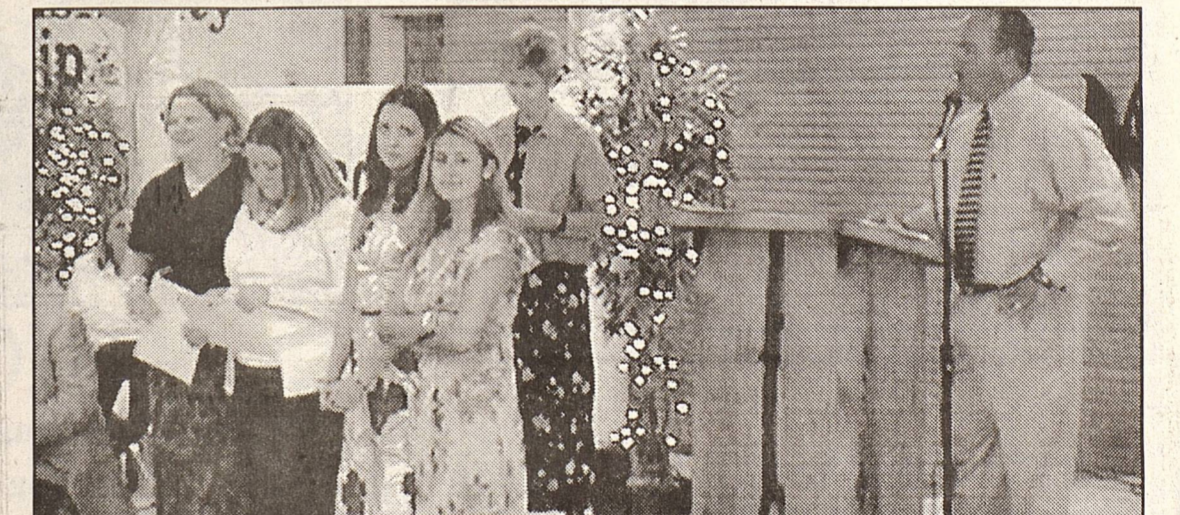
Cowboy Track Team



Cowgirls Track Team



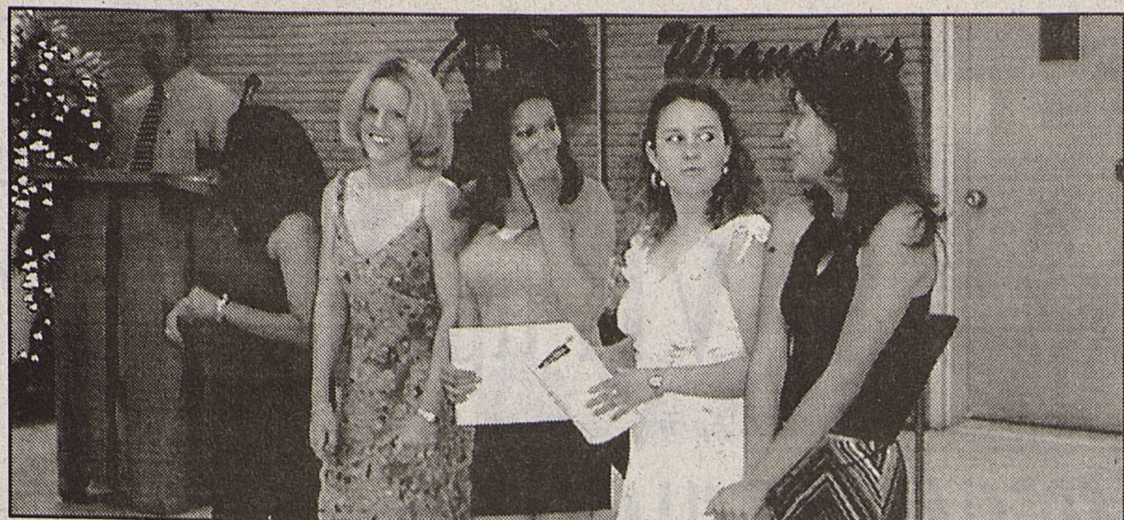
District winning Cowboy Baseball Team



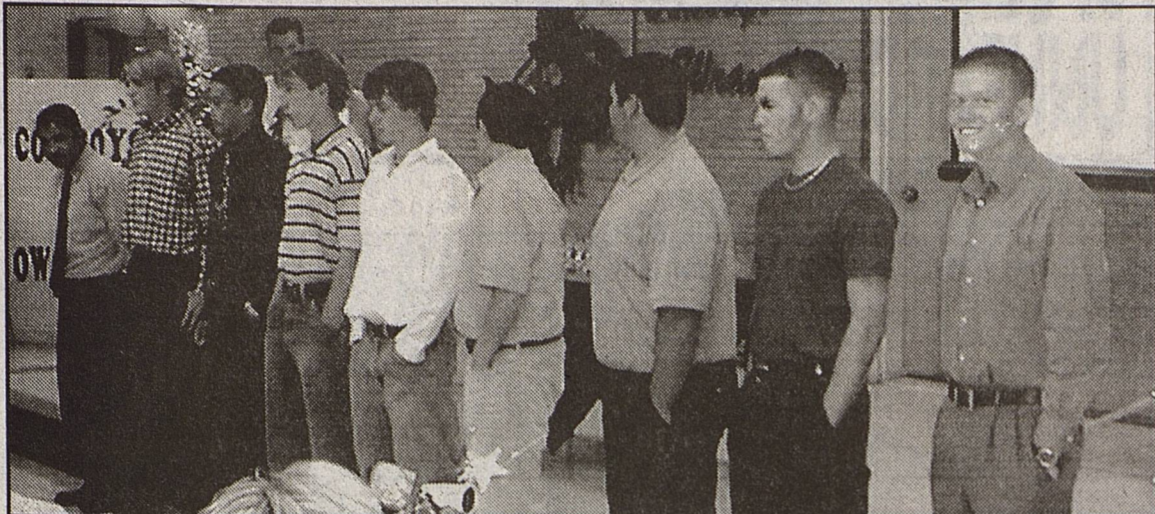
District winning Cowgirl Golf Team



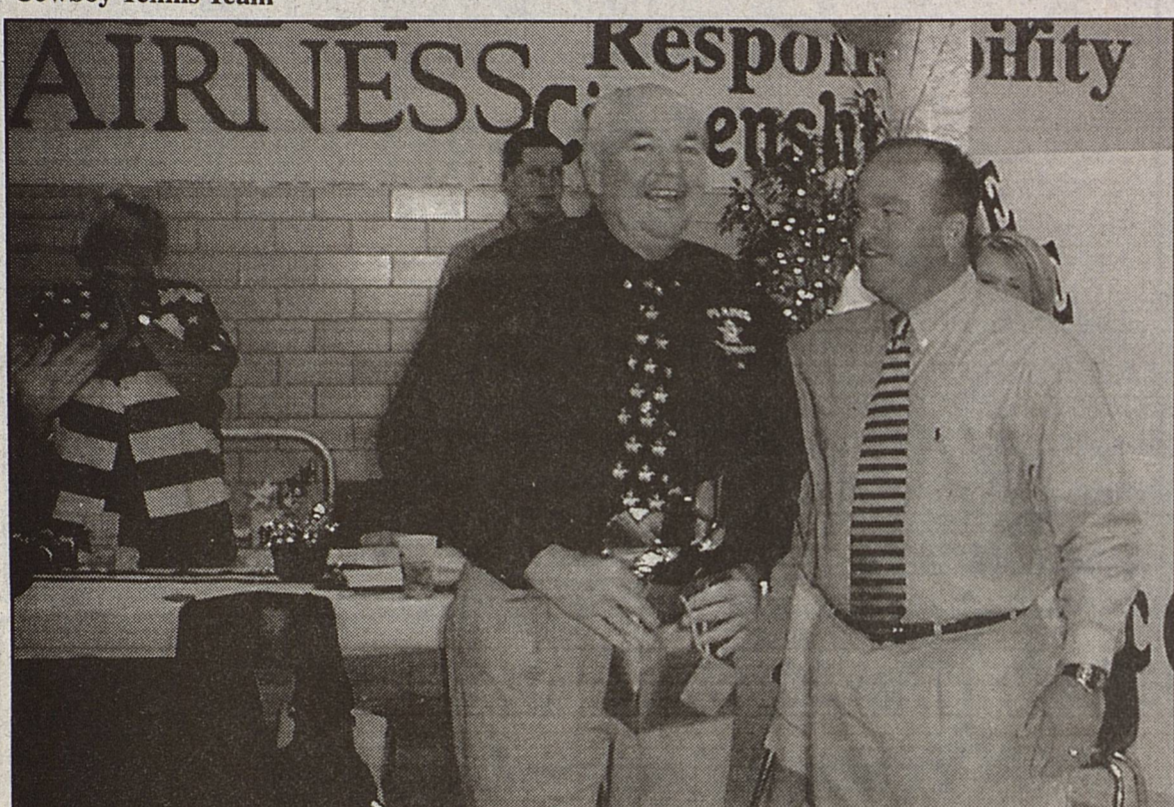
Cowboy Golf Team



Cowgirl Tennis Team



Cowboy Tennis Team



Athletic Director Blake McWhirter, right, paid special tribute to retiring Coach Larry McMinn

CCN salutes each and every PHS athlete who worked hard and achieved much this year!

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Student of the Week is Anibal Gonzalez, a freshman whose guardians are Manuel and Lucia Mendoza. He was nominated by Michele Jones, who said, "I am always amazed by students having the ability to keep a positive attitude throughout their daily schedules. Anibal always has a smile on his face, cares about his fellow students and teachers, and is confident in a learning environment. He is willing to lend a helping hand, a very bright young man who has maintained a 90 or above average in Biology all year. I look forward to seeing and hearing of his accomplishments in years to come. I really admire his compassion for life."

PHS Student Of The Week



The resplendent Cowboy Marching Band posed before the state capitol in Austin, where they received the highest "Distinguished" ranking in the State UIL Contest.

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From The Hack

Don't blame me... this is all from the internet:

What's the difference between a girlfriend and wife? About 45 pounds.

Why's it so hard to find sensitive, caring and good looking men? Because those men already have boyfriends.

What did the blonde say when she discovered she was pregnant? "Are you SURE it's mine?"

Why did O.J. Simpson want to move to West Virginia? Because everyone has the same DNA.

Did you hear about the dyslexic Rabbi? He walks around saying 'Yo'.

What is the Cuban National Anthem? "Row, row, row your boat."

Where does an Irish family go on vacation? A different bar.

Did you hear about the Chinese couple who had a retarded baby? They named him 'Sum Ting Wong'.

What do you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other? A speech impediment.

What's the difference in a southern zoo and a northern zoo? The southern zoo has a description of the animal on the front of the cage along with a recipe.

Years ago when white men with clubs chased a black man they were called the Ku Klux Klan. Today they are called the PGA Tour.

Why is there no Disneyland in China? No one is tall enough to go on the good rides.

What does it mean when the flag at the post office is flying at half mast? They're hiring.

How do you get a sweet little 80 year old lady to say a really, really BAD word? Have another sweet little 80 year old lady to yell BINGO!

And finally.....

An old man was sitting on a bench at the mall. A young man walked up and sat next to him. He had spiked hair in green, red, orange and blue colors. The old man just stared at him. The young man sarcastically asked, "What's the problem, old timer? Never done anything wild in your life?"

Without batting an eye the old man replied, "Got drunk once

and had sex with a parrot. I was just wondering if you could be my son?"

Early voting in the June 3 Congressional election ends May 31

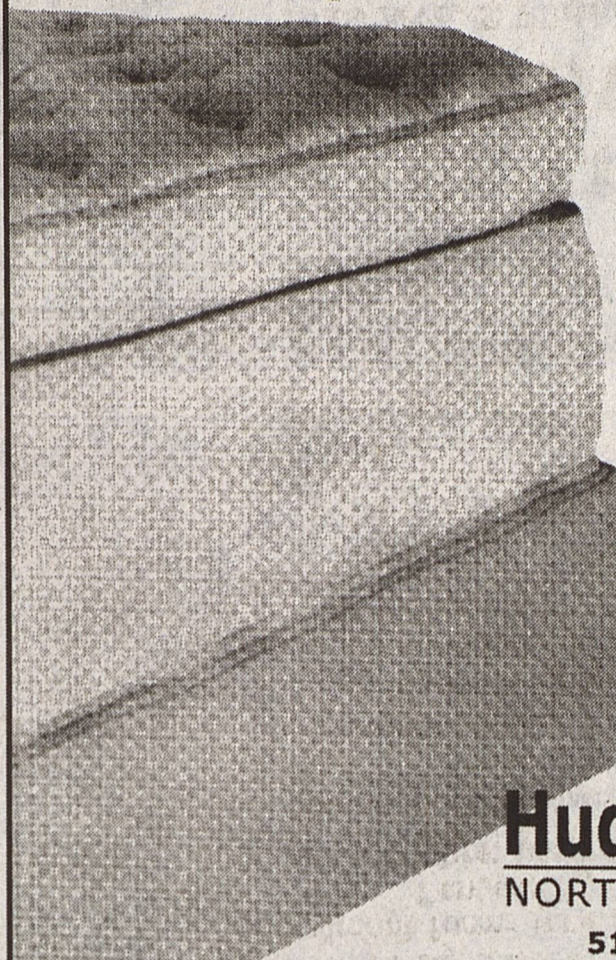


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