

Cowboy Country

God Bless America!

News



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

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"Read Across Texas" summer program underway here

Tsa Mo Ga club members hosted special activities and refreshments to kick off the Yoakum County Library's Read Across Texas campaign June 3.

Approximately 90-100 children and adults attended the program held under the trees on the old courthouse lawn, and ended inside the library.

The program consisted of a Cowboy/Indian theme, with special demonstrations given by rancher Tommy Burrus, who demonstrated tying a horse halter and hobbles with rope, and Michael Davis and Tanner Blount teaching the youngsters the techniques of roping a stationary steer dummy. Children and adults were also given the opportunity to test their roping skills.

Tsa Mo Ga club members Sarah Jane Shelton and Wilma Powell were dressed in period clothing as an Indian and Cowgirl. Mrs. Shelton talked on Indians while exhibiting a drum, doll and other artifacts displayed on an Indian blanket.

Following the demonstrations, club members served refreshments of cookies and lemonade, and each visitor received a "Dairy Queen Loves Me" button and a coupon for a free sundae. The kickoff was part of the state-wide Texas Summer Reading Club which encourages reading for school age children. Head Librarian Opal Roberts reported some 85 youngsters had enrolled for the program. (More photos inside)



Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002

Summary copy 15 pages long - actual bill is 84 pages

State Representative Gary Walker recently furnished CCN a summary copy of the controversial, long awaited Farm Bill sent to him by Congressman Larry Combest, one of the chief proponents and architects of the agricultural bill. The summary is referred to as "Talking Points and Program Explanation." While the mini-version of the actual bill, the 15 pages definitely contains plenty for ag producers to talk about. Included in Representative Combest's "talking points" are these items;

* H.R. 2646 (the bill) complies with the Congressional Budget Resolution.

* HR 2646 stems the tide of un-budgeted ad-hoc assistance required year after year, including well over \$30 billion spent over the last four years.

* HR 2646 fully maintains the planting flexibility of the 1996 farm bill.

* HR 2646 provides for the largest investment in conservation ever - 80% above the levels of the Boehlert conservation amendment to the 1996 farm bill.

* HR 2646 is critically needed now, with U.S. farmers facing the lowest real net cash income on the farm since the Great Depression - The 5th straight year of record low prices - Record high costs of production - Foreign tariffs averaging 62%, compared to an average U.S. tariff of 12% - Foreign subsidies nine times greater than help to U.S. farmers, \$342 per acre for European Union farmers, compared to \$43 per acre for U.S. farmers - the prohibitive trade barrier of the strength of the U.S. dollar.

Other areas addressed in the 2002 Farm Bill include revising marketing loan rates for many commodities including soybeans and grain sorghum. Counter-cyclical payments will be made on many commodities when the effective price for a covered commodity is less than the target price. Most producers of common area crops including cotton and sorghum should find some

financial relief in the new bill's loan rates, direct rates and target prices.

The summary from Congressman Combest's office details significant changes in the peanut program and states, "the peanut program will help protect our domestic peanut industry for the future.... the program is now facing increased burdens from imports as tariff protection declines under NAFTA and GATT." The marketing quota program will be terminated and quota holders will be compensated at \$0.11 per pound per year for five years. A peanut marketing loan will be provided at \$355 per ton, and producers with peanut base would receive a direct decoupled payment of \$36 per ton, and counter cyclical program with target price of \$495 per ton.

The 2002 farm bill contains many features pertaining to conservation programs and practices. The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be reauthorized through 2007, and the enrollment cap will be raised from 36.4 million acres to 39.2 acres.

The 2002 farm bill contains dozens of miscellaneous programs, including; market access program providing \$650 million funding over ten years, increase in funding for Food For Peace program, continuation of the bioenergy program to expand production of biodiesel and fuel grade ethanol, loans and guarantees for expansion of wind driven energy producers, improvements in the food stamp program, expanding grants for community food programs, country of origin labeling for meat, fruits, vegetables, fish and peanuts, provisions to allow the Secretary of Agriculture to permit wind turbine installations on CRP lands.

Gary Six, Executive Director of the Yoakum County FSA office here, told CCN, "We now have a copy of the actual bill itself, all 84 pages. At this time, we are waiting on further information from the USDA on actual implementation of the program."

Criminal cases in County Court

Five criminal cases were heard in County Court sessions June 5 and 6, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Hermenegilda Rascon Verdugo pled true to the State's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior DWI conviction. The defendant's 90 day jail sentence had been met with 110 days served.

Noemi Ramos Guzman pled guilty to possession of less than two ounces marijuana. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$211 court costs, \$350 fine and \$25 time payment fee, \$40 supervision fees and \$140 restitution to DPS. He must attend weekly Narcotics meetings, serve 24 hours community service, surrender his driver license 180 days, complete the drug offender program, complete the TAIP program and serve 36 hours in jail with credit for 13 hours served. Investigating officer was Deputy Jerry Howard.

Jim Lee Graham pled guilty to DWI, b.t. .081/.081. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay a \$500 fine, \$226 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 18.5 hours served, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, and serve 24 hours community ser-

SPS fuel increase affects Lea County Electric bills

Lovington, NM:

Electric bills issued in June will likely be higher for most of the Cooperative's members due to increases in fuel charges from Southwestern Public Service, Lea County Electric's wholesale power supplier. According to Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services for the Cooperative, "The increase in the fuel components of customers' electric bills is caused by fluctuations in the price of natural gas. For the past six months, we have been providing a credit of \$.00953 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) to all our customers through the Power Cost Recovery Factor (PCRF); beginning in June, this factor will change to a charge of \$.00110 per kWh."

The difference between the two factors is \$.01063 per kWh. Residential customers who use an average 1,000 kWh each month will see an increase of \$10.63 per bill. The plan is to continue using this factor through November, 2002, at which time another analysis will be made to determine if the

PCRF requires further adjustment.

"Although our base rates for electric service have not changed, fuel costs from our power supplier can and do fluctuate. We do everything we can to minimize the impact of such changes to our customers by 'leveling' the PCRF over six month intervals rather than pass through monthly fluctuations. Increases from our power supplier, however, make it necessary to periodically adjust the factor," said Brown.

"The Cooperative's Levelized Budget Payment Plan can help our members avoid broad fluctuations in month-to-month electric bills by averaging their current bills with their previous 11 months bills," advised Brown. "It's based on a running average of electricity usage, and while the monthly payment amount will fluctuate slightly, it will be much easier to plan and budget for."

Customers interested in obtaining more information on this program are encouraged to call the Cooperative toll free at 1-800-510-52532.

Sheriff Reserves Receive Financial Boost



Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine is shown with Reserve Deputies Ron Craft and Greg Hix. Hix, an employee of ChevronTexaco, recently submitted a grant request to his company, seeking financial assistance for the Reserve Officers equipment and supplies. Earlier this month, ChevronTexaco forwarded a \$500 check to Hix, shown presenting the check to Reserve Craft. The Sheriff Departments has a total of six Reserve Deputies.

Investigating officer was Brad Taylor, Texas DPS.

John Edward Anthony Jr. pled guilty to possession of less than two ounces marijuana. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay \$210 court costs, \$250 fine and \$25 time payment fee. He will surrender his license 180 days, attend weekly AA meetings, complete the drug offender program, and serve 24 hours

community service. Investigating officer was Deputy Inoe Valdez, and his attorney was Paul Mansur.

Daniel Garza pled guilty to failing to identify a fugitive from justice. He was sentenced to 12 days in jail, with credit for 12 days served. He was represented by Attorney Bill Helwig, and investigating officer was Chris Malloy, DPS.

36 Hour Weather Forecast From Duncan Axisa, Meteorologist, SOAR Program

DATE	WEATHER	TEMP (°F)	WIND	RAIN (Inches)
Today	P/C with TS late in the evening	98/68	S 10-20 mph	< 0.05
Thursday	P/C with chance of TS	93/66	S 15-25 bec N 20-30 mph	< 0.2
Friday	P/C, cooler with TS possible	85/65	NE 10-20 bec SE 10-20 mph	< 0.1

2001 School Tax Burden Who Paid and How Much?

In 2001, Texas school taxes increased more than 13 percent to reach \$15 billion, as reported to the Comptroller's Property Tax Division by 1,034 independent school districts (ISD's). Who paid these school taxes and what was the percentage of tax burden?

Texas business and residential properties paid almost the same total amount in school taxes, with businesses at \$6.9 billion and residential properties at \$7 billion.

Texas businesses paid almost 46 percent of 2001 local school taxes, about \$694 million more in 2001 school taxes than in 2000. Of all business properties, only the utilities' category experienced a tax decrease at almost \$15 million.

All residential properties - single-family homes, multi-family units and residential inventory - saw the school share increase just under

\$924 million, or about 46.6 percent of local school taxes.

Owners of single-family residences paid almost 41 percent of local school taxes and saw their 2001 school property taxes grow by \$820 million.

Vacant lots, rural acreage and farm and ranch improvements generated just under 7 percent of local school taxes with about \$1 billion, an \$85 million increase from 2000.

The table shows Texas properties grouped into 14 categories and then grouped into four main property types: residential, business, acreage/lots/farm and ranch improvements, and other personal property. The fourth type - other personal including privately owned vehicles in school districts where they are taxed - represented about one half of 1 percent of total school taxes at \$89 million.

School Property Tax Burden - 2000 to 2001

Property Category	2000 School Taxes	% of Total	2001 School Taxes	% of Total	\$ Change from 2000 to 2001
Residential Property					
Single-Family Homes	5,349,052,288	39.94	\$6,168,813,110	40.83	\$819,760,822
Multi-Family Residential	734,426,870	5.48	\$820,830,720	5.43	\$86,403,850
Residential Inventory	33,076,813	0.25	\$50,704,338	0.34	\$17,627,525
Subtotal, Residential	\$6,116,555,971	45.67	\$7,040,348,168	46.60	\$923,792,197
Acreage/Lots					
Vacant Lots	362,911,605	2.71	\$402,009,276	2.66	\$39,097,671
Acreage	365,154,359	2.73	\$375,830,689	2.49	\$10,676,330
Farm and Ranch Improvements	227,718,402	1.70	\$263,443,317	1.74	\$35,724,915
Subtotal, Acreage/Lots	\$955,784,366	7.14	\$1,041,283,282	6.89	\$85,498,916
Business Properties					
Commercial Real Estate	2,375,367,698	17.73	\$2,621,397,117	17.35	\$246,029,419
Commercial Personal	1,174,673,095	8.77	\$1,253,195,870	8.29	\$78,522,775
Industrial Real Estate	931,712,238	6.96	\$1,028,551,949	6.81	\$96,839,711
Industrial Personal	697,292,282	5.21	\$769,134,760	5.09	\$71,842,478
Oil & Gas	410,425,863	3.06	\$613,446,419	4.06	\$203,020,556
Utilities	618,892,126	4.62	\$604,323,022	4.00	(\$14,569,104)
Special Inventory	36,317,428	0.27	\$48,529,547	0.32	\$12,212,119
Subtotal, Business	\$6,244,680,730	46.62	\$6,938,578,684	45.92	\$693,897,954
Other Personal Property					
Vehicles	4,333,528	0.03	\$3,261,345	0.02	(\$1,072,183)
Other Personal	72,669,446	0.54	\$85,293,599	0.56	\$12,624,153
Subtotal, Other Personal	\$77,002,974	0.57	\$88,554,944	0.59	\$11,551,970
Total	\$13,394,024,041	100.00	\$15,108,765,078	100.00	\$1,714,741,037

Reported to Comptroller's Property Tax Division by independent school districts. SOURCE: Comptroller's Property Tax Division.

Annual City Pet Vaccination



The town's fire hall was literally awash with canine pets, most of them wagging friendly tails, a few with a bit surlier attitudes during Saturday's city sponsored annual pet vaccination day. The few feline pets in the shot waiting line made things a bit livelier. Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Faulkenberry administered 153 shot to the animals.

Why is air travel so high? Federal taxes add a huge chunk to the ticket price

While Yoakum County may not have impressive numbers of regular air travel customers, the ones here who do fly occasionally are certainly aware "it ain't cheap." A recent article in *The Tax Reformer*, the official newsletter of the Americans For Tax Reform organization, makes it clear airline travelers can't blame the high ticket prices totally on the airlines.

Consider the following. The airlines already pay a multitude of taxes for each flight, already included in the ticket price. In addition, travelers pay other taxes on top of the base fare, including the following:

Federal Ticket Tax - an additional 7.5 % of the basic fare, deposited in the Airport Airway Trust, which funds most of the FAA annual budget.

Federal Security Surcharge - (also known as the Sept. 11 security fee); This is a \$2.50 fee each time you board a commercial plane, with maximum charge of \$5 per one-way trip, \$10 round trip. In other words, you catch a Southwest flight in Lubbock to Las Vegas, with a change of planes in El Paso - the trip costs you an extra ten bucks for boarding.

Airport Passenger Facility Charge - Authorized Federal taxes, but levied by local airport operators who can charge up to \$4.50 each boarding, with a maximum of two per one-way and four per round trips.

These are hefty chunks the government has added to your cost to fly, but wait - the government slaps a heavy load of taxes on the airlines, too, and be assured, the airlines pass those same taxes on to you, the customer. Some of their taxes include:

Frequent Flyer Tax - When passengers receive free tickets for frequent flyer miles, who pays the 7.5% federal taxes on it? The frequent fliers do, of course, and so do all other passengers who purchase tickets. Since this tax is charged to the airline, they have to add it to the price of the base fare ticket.

Jet Fuel Tax - You didn't think the government would forget to charge a fuel tax, did you? For each domestic gallon of jet fuel sold, the airlines have to pay 4.3 cents in federal taxes - with their passengers dollars, of course.

LUST Fuel Tax - No, not the type of lust you're thinking. This is another penny for each gallon of domestic jet fuel used to fund the 'Leaking Underground Storage Tank' program.

Airline Security Fee - Another tax not yet implemented, but in addition to the Federal Security Surcharge, and expected to be about \$1 per boarding when it goes into effect.

Southwest Airlines, known for their specials and no-frills attitude, is forced to add rising tax costs to its tickets. An example;

"Southwest is currently offering a flight from Manchester, N.H. to Detroit, Mich, for \$184.18 round trip. Added to this is the federal ticket tax and federal flight segment tax of \$31.82. Don't forget the federal security surcharge and passenger-facility charge of \$23.50... this does not even include the taxes already in the base fare, which puts the average airline ticket at 40% taxes... under certain circumstances, taxes and fees can be as high as 50% of the cost of the flight.

It's official - Texas loses cattle TB 'Free' status

Texas ranchers will need more than a truck and trailer to move breeding cattle and bison out of state for the foreseeable future. On June 6, the US Department of Agriculture published its "interim rule" that officially down graded Texas cattle tuberculosis status from Accredited Free to Modified Accredited-Advanced.

Texas' status was lowered because TB infection was confirmed in two Texas cattle herds in 2001. Unless moving directly to slaughter, breeding cattle must be officially identified and tested for cattle TB 60 within 60 days of being shipped across state lines. Untested Texas cattle and bison can still move freely within the state.



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Larry Combest Comments

I had the opportunity to view the collection of Vatican artworks exhibited at the Museum of Texas Tech this week, and I am still in awe at the beauty the artworks hold. I highly encourage anyone who has not taken the opportunity to see the exhibit to do so before these international treasures leave West Texas.

This marks the first time these priceless works have left their home country of Italy, and they will return to the Vatican after their display in Lubbock.

The journey to Lubbock has been long. Preparations to bring the exhibit to Lubbock began 14 years ago. The timeless efforts of people, including Malcolm Neyland and other community leaders eventually convinced Vatican Museum officials to procure the exhibit to Lubbock. The exhibit will remain open to the public through September 15. The exhibit consists of 31 medieval frescoes created by master painters of the Roman School during the 12th and 13th centuries. The priceless works of art were originally painted on drying plaster, which became part of the Roman churches of St. Agnese outside the walls and St. Nicola in Carcere. The works have recently been cleaned to revive

the colors their creators originally intended, and which many Romans likely appreciated hundreds of years ago. In viewing the frescoes and other items included in the exhibit, a person cannot help but be awestruck by their brilliance. Art historians say these medieval painting which we can all appreciate for their intrinsic beauty, have much farther reaching significance.

These works were created at a time when few people could read; therefore, artwork was one of the important media through which stories were told. The events and people portrayed in the paintings remind us, as they did the people who admired them 900 years ago, of the morality lessons crucial for a responsible and constructive society.

The paintings also are important in what they represent artistically. Art historians suggest the frescoes were done by students in the Roman School, which was believed to be strongly influenced by Petro Cavallini, an important Italian painter and mosaic designer.

The exhibit of important works of art reflects well on Lubbock and the people who devoted so much effort to bring them here. Lubbock today is a place of international impor-

tance. The Vatican Museum in Rome has never before exhibited this collection of frescoes. Securing the priceless artworks in Lubbock for residents and visitors to see this summer is a remarkable accomplishment for Lubbock. I believe all who see this exhibit will cherish the experience, as

I have, and it is a historic occasion for us to enjoy some of the world's treasures with our friends and families.

It has been a privilege to work with the Vatican Exhibit Foundation and many others to bring this amazing exhibit to West Texas. I had the opportunity to participate in numerous events this week celebrating the exhibit's opening, and throughout the process of bringing it here, I have had the pleasure of helping with numerous passports and visas and acting as liaison to the Customs Service and the State Department. The Vatican exhibit is truly an example of the Lubbock community pulling together to accomplish a world-class cultural event.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of this great opportunity and travel to the Museum of Texas Tech to see the internationally important works of art that might never again be displayed on American soil.

Services held for Lytta Brasfield

Lytta A. Brasfield, 73, of Odessa passed away June 6, 2002 at her home. She was born September 15, 1928 to Harley and Annie Keck in Wilson, Arkansas.

Services were held at 2 PM Saturday, June 8 at Sunset Memorial Chapel. Burial followed at Denver City Memorial in Denver City.

Lytta moved to Odessa in 1996 from Mississippi. She was a homemaker who enjoyed jigsaw puzzles and card games. Her daughter, Jo Evelyn Baldwin in 1987 and husband Wilton Joyce Basfield in 1992 preceded her in death.

She is survived by ten children; Betty Bunch of Odessa, Barbara Young of Odessa, Wilton Brasfield Sr of Brownfield, Ann Hartman of Plains, Donald Brasfield of Firth, Nebraska, Ernest Brasfield of Texas, Lisa Bowen of Ashdown, Arkansas, Teresa Hall, Ashdown, Evelyn Jean Sykes of Odessa and Bobby Bunch of Odessa; Two sisters, Wilma Patterson of Illinois and Nancy Van Pelt of Parkin, Arkansas; 17 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Services were under direction of Sunset Memorial Funeral Home.

Seniors Making A Difference

The term 'senior citizen' used to conjure up images of gray haired folks sitting in rocking chairs, but no longer. Americans are living longer and healthier lives, and many are working beyond retirement age. Others are making meaningful contributions through community service.

Thousands of Texans 55 and older are affiliated with RSVP, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, a division of the National Senior Citizen Corps. The corps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

"RSVP started in Texas in 1971 with just 10 projects," says Jerry Thompson, Texas' CNCCS state director. "Today we have 32 projects with more than 30,000 senior volunteers across Texas."

RSVP serves as a clearing house for volunteer opportunities for organizations wanting to take advantage of the skills and experience of older Texans. In 2001, Texas RSVP volunteers served more than 6.2 million hours, worth some \$99.5 million.

"The program, which provides insurance coverage for its members as well as nominal reimbursement for expenses related to volunteering, has undergone two major changes since it started," Thompson says.

First, programs have shifted from providing meaningful activities for seniors to providing significant community service. Second, RSVP measures the impact of its volunteers' efforts. For example, a tutoring program no longer just counts how many children are tutored in reading, but also how much their reading improves.

In Abilene, eight women known locally as the Granny Squad match about 7,000 pawn shop tickets each month with police reports to help recover stolen goods.

"In 2000 alone, the Granny Squad worked more than 1,100 hours and helped return more than \$92,000 worth of goods to rightful owners," says Brenda Trocjak, Abilene's RSVP director.

In Waco, 12 seniors mentor children who are potential dropouts through the Heart of Texas RSVP, using a Kellogg grant. Frances Cook, 69, works with third and fourth graders in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods. She's a former nurse, and a grand mother who tutors in math, reading and geography.

In Travis County, about 1,200 RSVP volunteers work at 167 sites, and in 2001 they put in 237,000 hours of service worth an estimated \$3.25 million. "Think of a need and there's probably an RSVP volunteer working on it in Travis County," says RSVP director

Fred Lugo.

In nine cities, including Denton, Big Spring and Fort Worth, seniors counsel new mothers at hospitals to remind them how important it is to get childhood immunizations and then follow up to make sure they have not forgotten.

In cities all across the state, computer-savvy seniors also volunteer to teach computer skills to others in their age bracket. In San Angelo, eight volunteers at Concho Valley RSVP teach computer classes at the senior center. Two also teach classes at a retirement facility.

In Levelland, the Hockley County Senior Citizens Association Inc. has three RSVP volunteers who teach eight to nine seniors in computer lab. First they teach a four-week course in computer basics, then another four-week course on using the Internet.

It's not just those who receive help who benefit from RSVP. The volunteers like it too. David Miller, 77, is a retired insurance salesman who contacted Corpus Christi's RSVP office 12 years ago. The agency told him there was an opening for a volunteer at the Red Cross, and he's been helping out ever since, working primarily with the Armed Forces Emergency Services.

When an emergency occurs, such as a birth or death in the family or other special situation, Miller works with the armed services to notify service men and women of the circumstances and provide the documents necessary to grant emergency leave.

"I'd never volunteered and didn't know anything about it, and just looked in the Yellow Pages," Miller says. "After 12 years at it, I still work eight hours a day, five days a week without a vacation. It's the best job I've ever had. I have all the pleasure of doing exactly what I want to do but with none of the pressure."

With school out for the summer, please carefully watch for children crossing and playing in the streets

Many seal coat jobs scheduled in area

Highway seal coating jobs are scheduled for Terry, Yoakum, Dawson and Gaines Counties in the Lubbock TxDOT District. The \$5 million project will be completed in late summer. Contractors have already started seal coating in Yoakum County, covering US82 from the Terry County line to the New Mexico State line at New Tex. SH 214 will be coated from FM 2065 to US 82 in Plains.

Other area seal coating

Yoakum County repeats, wins safety award again

Yoakum County has been awarded a 2001 Safety Award by the Texas Association of Counties (TAC), which administers a Workers Compensation self-insurance pool for counties and other local governments.

The award was earned for the county's record of involvement and commitment to safety in the workplace, as well as for controlling their Workmen's Compensation claims.

The honor means Yoakum County, which participates in the county's pool through TAC, is obtaining substantial savings for their taxpayers as a result of their TAC Workmen's Comp coverage. Premiums are minimized for public entities lowering their claim rates and participate in other coverages through the self-insurance pools administered by TAC.

To qualify for this honor, the entity must have a safety program rated in the top 15 percent of approximately 300 governmental entities collectively self-insuring their Workmen's Compensation in this pool. Only 23 entities were honored with the award this year. The programs are evaluated to develop loss control and safety programs. TAC safety awards are presented annually.



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CSW offers special summer courses for teachers, students

College of the Southwest will offer a number of education related courses this summer, for both teachers and undergraduates.

A two day course entitled "DSM-IV - Especially For Teachers" will be held Saturday, June 22 and June 29, from 9 AM to 5 PM each day. Cost for the course is \$170 for undergraduates, \$178 for graduate students.

Another education theme course, Current Trends In Spe-

cial Education" will also be held June 22 and June 29, 9 AM to 5 PM each day. Cost for undergraduates and graduates is again \$170 and \$178.

Another two day course, "Play Therapy Techniques for Intervention with Children" will be offered June 28 and 29, 9 AM to 5 PM each day. The same \$170 and \$178 fee applies.

For more information or to register, contact College of the Southwest, 505-392-6561.

Treatments help soothe arthritic knees

Arthritic knees are a constant concern for millions of Americans, causing discomfort, or, in many cases, limiting movement. According to Dr. John Ciana, assistant professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, several lubricating solutions are available and have been successfully used to treat osteoarthritis, or arthritis of the knee.

"The normal joint is surrounded by a fluid that acts as a lubricant and shock absorber," Ciana said. "Manufactures forms of this substance can be injected into the knee as a substitute. They don't cure osteoarthritis, but they have been shown to reduce pain in the knee."

Synvisc and Hylagan are two such lubricants. The Synvisc treatment consists of three injections, given one week apart over a three week period. Many patients see positive results within six to eight weeks. The Hylagan treatment includes three to five injections over a five week period. It appears to have few side effects.

"Both treatments can be effective in reducing pain from osteoarthritis by acting as a cushion and lubricant for the knee," Ciana said. "When injected, the liquid covers the inside of the knee and literally bathes it."

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Any Future L.A. Lakers or New Jersey Nets here?



A summer baseball camp is underway for future PHS Cowboys roundball experts. The young athletes are under the tutelage of Coach Edwin Brink, assisted by Coaches Michael Davis, Todd Davis, and Blake McWhirter. 22 youngsters were on hand for the first practice session Monday, June 3.

PHS Final 6 week Honor Roll

Freshmen- All A's: Evan Cain, Mayra Flores, Brandon Hise, Kerry Sisson. All A's, 1 B- Breck Hamm
Sophomores: All A's: Grady McNabb, Helena Neufeld, Nolan Newsom. All A's, 1 B- Manuel Villegas, April Wilmeth
Juniors: All A's: Jordan Bean, Kelly Bowers, Sandra Gallegos, Krystal Gonzales, Jill Gray, Ismari Guzman, Kim Martinez, Ryan Swann, Liz Wilmeth. All A's, 1 B- Kevin Bartley, Chelsea Blount, Justin Chambliss, Nick Hays, Kayla Willis.
Seniors: All A's- Allison Butler, Elizabeth Clanahan, Ashley Gonzalez, Tanner Hamm, Chris Hansen, Servando Luna, Ragan McGinty, Jarod Newland, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Joseph Rodriguez, Scott Tirrell, Becky Wilmeth. All A's, 1 B- Dominga Avila, Jared Bell, Louis Escobar, Wendy Fierro, Moises Gonzales, Nancy Koncaba, Arasley Luna, Flavio Martinez, Chelsi Wagon.

Coach Bartley's Pitching Camp



June 24th-28th
Completed 3rd Grade -
Completed Eighth Grade

Each session will be 30 minutes, for 5 days. All sessions will be video taped. One - On-One pitching lessons with Coach Bartley. Cost - \$30. Call Coach Bartley, 456-5709 to schedule time. Times begin at 8 AM - 12 Noon and 1 PM - 4 PM in 30 minute intervals. Deadline for sign-up is Friday, June 14. Times will be on first come, first served basis.

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Perry slams Sanchez on border inspections

While in Mission recently, Governor Rick Perry said Tony Sanchez is jeopardizing Texas security and economic opportunity - and jeopardizing future federal border funding - by attacking unprecedented federally funded border inspection stations in Texas.

At the urging of Governor Perry and a bipartisan group of state and federal leaders, the US Department of Transportation last week announced \$40.8 million of the \$54 million in available funding for border inspection stations will come to Texas. This is the largest single federal highway discretionary program ever awarded to Texas.

"Tony Sanchez's attack on new border inspection stations raises serious questions about his commitment to improving border security and border transportation, especially in the wake of September 11," said Governor Perry. "I urge Mr. Sanchez to change his position and join me in praising the Bush administration for improving the safety of NAFTA trucks and cross-border commerce while enhancing homeland security for all Texas citizens and communities."

The federal funding announcement was praised by groups like the Teamsters Union, and leaders like Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas), Congressman Henry Bonilla (R-San Antonio), Silvestre Reyes

Texans For Lawsuit Reform unveils 2003 legislative agenda

Texans for Lawsuit Reform (TLR), the state's leading civil advocacy group, today announced several key tort reform proposals for the 2003 Texas Legislature, as well as the recruitment of the organization's 10,000th grassroots supporter.

"The fact 10,000 Texas citizens from all walks of life are now active supporters of TLR clearly indicates the importance the public places on making our state's civil justice the most fair and balanced in the nation," said TLR President and CEO Richard W. Weekly. "TLR's membership continues to grow because Texans recognize a small, powerful group of plaintiff lawyers are abusing the system for financial gain, resulting in harm to consumers and the Texas economy."

In an effort to build on the landmark lawsuit reforms enacted in 1995, TLR unveiled its legislative agenda for the 2003 Legislative session. Several items on TLR's agenda include:

*** Medical Malpractice reform:** Excessive awards and litigation costs threaten the future of quality health care in Texas. While protecting injured parties, **fairness and balance** must (D-El Paso), Solomon Ortiz (D-Corpus Christi), Ruben Hinojosa (D-Mercedes), and El Paso Senator Eliot Shapleigh, (D-).

The federal funding is consistent with 1999's SB913, authored by Senator Shapleigh, co-authored by Senator Judith Zaffirini (D-Laredo), and sponsored by Rep. Henry Cuellar (D-Laredo) in the Texas House. The legislation, which Governor Perry supported, called upon TxDOT to establish and maintain one-stop border inspections in Laredo, Brownsville and El Paso.

"These inspection stations will help enhance state and national security while expediting the free flow of safe and legal commerce and NAFTA truck traffic, creating jobs and economic opportunities in Texas," Perry continued. "The Texas Department of Transportation and Department of Public Safety will continue to work with local leaders, and conduct public hearings, as they work to improve border safety and ease border traffic. Mr. Sanchez's irresponsible comments are also a slap in the face to the Republican and Democratic leaders who helped Texas secure this vital funding for the Texas-Mexico border."

be brought to malpractice litigation.

*** Legal Ethics reform:** As officers of the court, Texas lawyers are expected to behave according to the highest ethical standards. The disciplinary process that holds lawyers to these standards must be improved.

*** Class Action reform:** To allow for Supreme Court review of class certifications to rein in the gaming of the Texas legal system.

"When the Legislature convenes in January, TLR will have many important and well researched proposals ready for consideration addressing compelling abuses of our civil justice system that are costing every Texas consumer," said TLR Legislative Director Dick Trabusi. "We must address the inequities that allow plaintiff attorneys to game the legal system for their own personal gain at society's expense."

TLR speakers have met with hundreds of civic groups in cities across Texas in the last two years. In early May, Dr. Nancy Finney, a San Antonio obstetrician, joined supporters representing 1,085 businesses, professions and trades and occupations in 472 Texas towns and cities to become TLR's

10,000th supporter.

In joining TLR, Dr. Finney noted how excessive lawsuits have changed medicine for the worse. Before seeing a single patient, she spent \$20,000 on medical liability insurance, and she must also order additional procedures and tests to protect against possible lawsuits. These extra measures create a more expensive medical system and ultimately result in less access to medical care for consumers.



Dr. Finney

"The reforms enacted in 1995 were an important step in returning fairness and balance to Texas' civil justice system. But there is still work to be done. During the 2003 Legislature, TLR will offer a significant package of proposals we feel are necessary to build on the past progress," Trabusi said.

Highway collision kills 10 athletes

Round Rock- In a few seconds of horror, ten basketball players from Baylor University lost their lives here today when the bus in which they were going to Austin collided with the Sunshine Special.

Witnesses say the green and gold bus, driven by a freshman athlete, slowed on the slippery highway as it approached the railroad crossing, then picked up speed and swerved sharply, apparently trying to avoid the speeding train. The locomotive hit the right rear of the vehicle. The scene was immediately one of horror, the air and ground littered with uniforms, bodies and wreckage. Of the 24 passengers, ten were dead, another five seriously injured. The tragedy has cast a pall over the entire state. *The Texas News*, November 2, 1927

Less mess in Texas

Keep Texas Beautiful (KTB) works with 320 communities statewide to help Texans improve their environment. KTB hosted more than 4,600 events in 2000-01.

Number of cleanup events	4,643
Number of volunteer hours	1.89 million
Miles of highway rights-of-way cleaned	123,748
Miles of streets cleaned	195,878
Miles of lakeshores, beaches cleaned	4,603
Acres of parks cleaned	1.62 million
Number of participants in Texas Recycles Day Nov. 15	176,332

SOURCE: Keep Texas Beautiful.

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Reduce cancer risks with sun sense

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer today. Not following some sort of sun protection is putting you at unnecessary risk. Avoiding sunburn by using protective clothing and sunscreen is the best way to keep your skin healthy.

Limit exposure to mid-day sun, between 10 AM and 3PM. If you must be out, choose long sleeve shirts, long pants, and wear a hat. "You can prevent 70 percent of cancer inducing rays from hitting your skin by wearing a broad brimmed hat," Dr. John Epstein, Clinical Professor of Dermatology at the University of California said.

Use sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher. Apply sunscreen

at least an hour before going into the sun, and again after swimming or perspiring.

You may get burned on a cloudy day, and the sun's rays can reach down three feet into water. Be aware at high altitudes too.

Whatever your skin type, do a monthly self-exam to note any moles or blemishes or birthmarks. Check them once a month, and if you notice any changes in size, shape or color, or if a sore does not heal, see your physician. The different types of skin cancer are highly curable when detected early.

The American Cancer Society says:
SLIP ON A SHIRT
SLOP ON SUNSCREEN
SLAP ON A HAT!

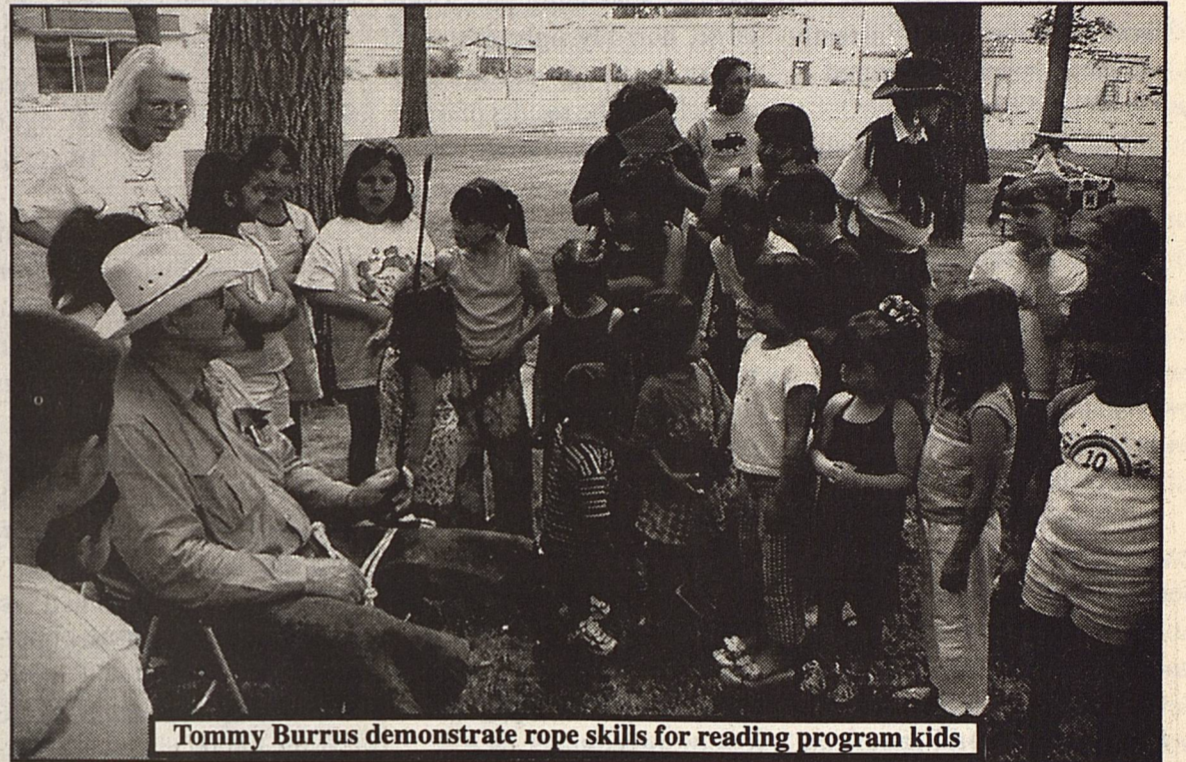


Special Recognition - South Plains Community Action Association Executive Director Bill Powell presents a special award to Anna Gonzalez of Plains for four years service as Secretary of the Board for the association. She was recognized during SPCAA's annual awards banquet on Friday, May 10, in Lubbock. Photo courtesy *Levelland News-Press*

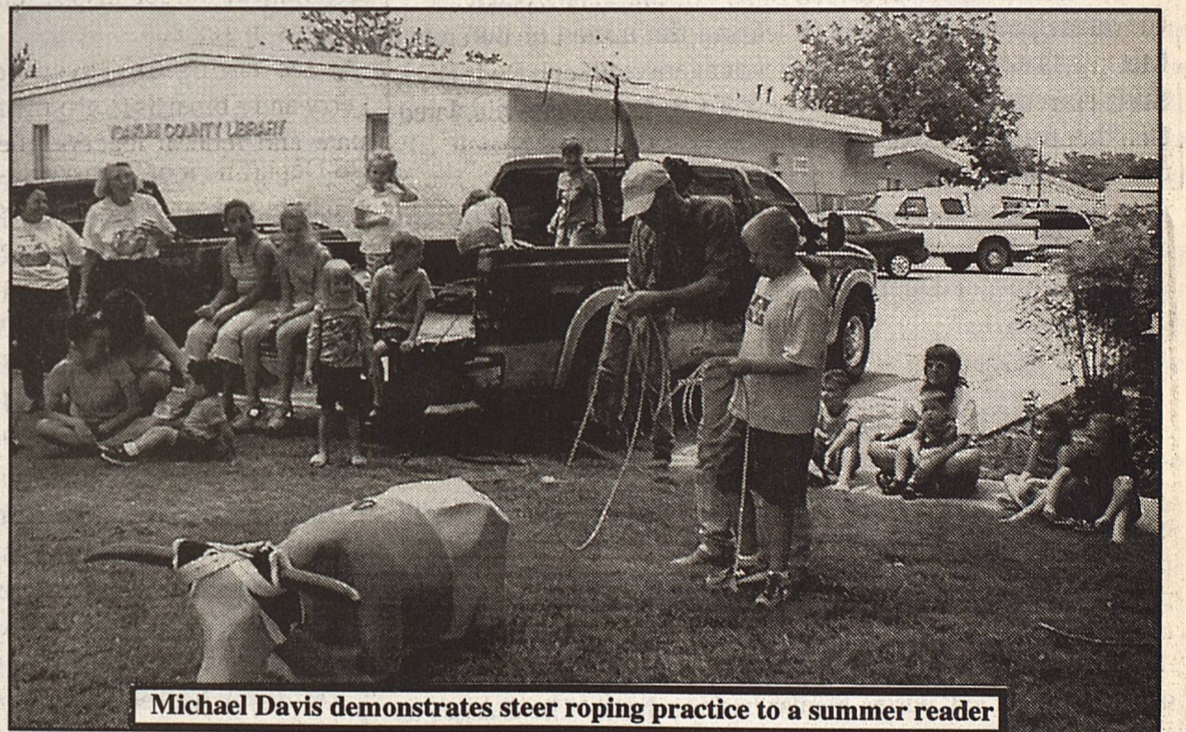
Share Your Heart and Home

HOST FAMILIES are needed to host international teens over 30 different countries for the 2002/2003 fall semester or academic year. They are in need of caring families to provide a home and share with them this unique experience. The host family will provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in August for enrollment in their new high school.

All students are between the ages of 15 and 18, and will attend the high school closest to their host family's home or a private high school. Families are able to review students' applications and select the student they feel will best match their family. The Share! High School Exchange Program is sponsored by ERDT, a non-profit educational foundation. For more information, please call Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 1-800-914-3738.



Tommy Burrus demonstrate rope skills for reading program kids



Michael Davis demonstrates steer roping practice to a summer reader

Where do I sign up?

Anyone age 55 or older who wants to learn more about RSVP, its parent organization—the National Senior Service Corps—or other programs operating under the corps' umbrella, such as the Foster Grandparent Program or the Senior Companion Program, can visit the Senior Service Corps Web site at <www.seniorcorps.org>.

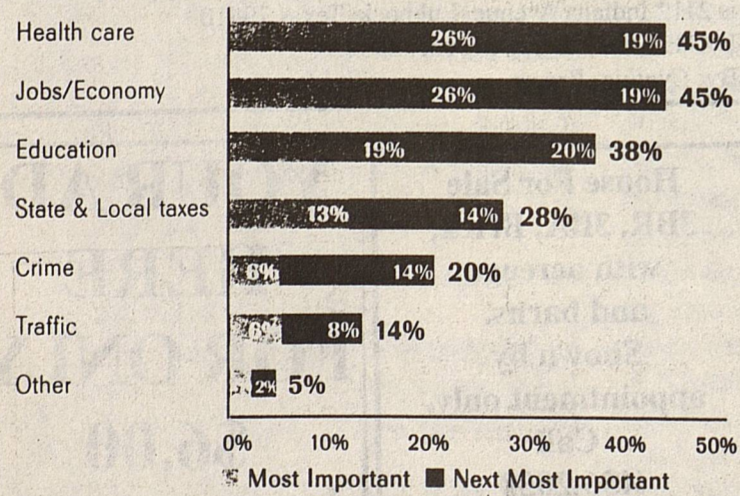
To reach a Senior Service Corps' representative in Texas, call 512-916-5671 or send an email to the state office at <tx@cns.gov>.

A list of the state's 32 RSVP projects, their coordinators, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is available at <www.seniorcorps.org/joining/rsvp/tx.html>.

Additional information on volunteering opportunities in Texas is available from the Texas Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service at <www.txserve.org/>.

As a girl my temper often got out of bounds. But one day when I became angry at a friend over a trivial matter, my mother said, "Elizabeth, anyone who angers you conquers you." -Sister Elizabeth Kenny

Most Important Issue Facing You and Your Family On A Daily Basis



First United Methodist Church
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 456-3727

*Experiencing God's Love
 Transforming Lives*



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

Wednesday Connections
 Food, Fellowship & Study
 5:30-7:30 pm

Other Opportunities
 Fitness/Exercise Class - 5:30-6:30 pm
 Tuesdays & Thursdays

*God loves you and so do we!
 Come grow in Christ with us!*

Remember Old Dad!
Father's Day
June 16



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Senior Citizens Corner

Here it is another week gone by, and June is already here. So let's all try to remember all the good times that have gone by. Well this week we have had a few of our clients out for several reasons, many have gone to the doctor, or have been ill, or in the hospital. We pray that everyone will be well again and be able to be with us here at the center.

We had birthdays & Anniversaries this Monday for for the month of June. Those present were: Edith Clements, Maggie Powell, Leonor Matus, Gladys Thompson, Royce Hemmeline, Wanda Black. We had a few here for anniversaries also.

It is good to see such a good turnout these past few days. We have been having a few people come by and eat with us here, that work in town and come to join us during their lunch break. We enjoy having them here at our center.

one!!! We would like to invite you to come by and get acquainted with the center.

We have had a few more items brought in for the garage sale, so come by and check this out. We still have the tickets for sale on the chain saw that will be given away at the 4th of July celebration also.

We also have a variety of cards for sale to the public at 50 cents each. We try to keep a assortment of them at many times. So come on by and get a glance at these you may find what you want. Till next time Wanda B.

Bridal Shower
 honoring
Miss Cassie Floyd
 Bride Elect Of
Jason Redman
 Sunday, June 23, 2002, 2:00 - 3:30 pm.
 in the home of
Mrs. Debbie Rushing - 902 3rd, Plains, Texas
 Selections: Lubbock - Target, Dillard's
 Brownfield - Nelson's - Plains - Bayer's

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Plains, Texas

Sunday School 9:30 am.
Morning Worship 10:45 am.
Evening Program 6:00 pm.

Wednesday
 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Supper
 6:00 pm. Zombies
 7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends,
 Sanctuary Choir Practice

From The Hack

Last Thursday the Bride and I visited the Furr's Cafeteria on Slide in Lubbock - you know, where the Geritol and Metamucil crowd hangs out. I sincerely believe I was a victim of rank, vile female chauvinism, and unless the Bride orders me to, I shall not return to the establishment.

We went through the line... well, that's not exactly accurate... we oozed along at a pace which any self respecting snail could beat.

The snitty, well wrinkled female who hands you your ticket smiled warmly at the Bride, a smile which instantly vanished when she glared at me. Why, I have no clue.

At the table after we finished the Old Folks Blue Plate Special, I happened to look at our ticket. I was astounded, as well as enraged, and I started to say madder than Hell, but I know I can't get away with it.

The Bride's meal appeared under the heading "Adult Special," while my order of gruel was listed, "Senior Special." I sputtered, "How come she didn't refer to YOU as a Senior, you're older than I am!" (No, I will not tell you how much older Bride is than me - I'm not too bright, but I'm sure not a lunatic. I fumed some more, and announced I was going to take a ticket, wave it in the snitty persons face and demand the other meal be a Senior Special like mine. Bride killed that idea, pointing to her watch, indicating we had only 13 minutes to keep her Doctor appointment.

PUBLIC NOTICE OF CHANGES IN ELECTION PRECINCTS

Pursuant to # 42.035, Texas Election Code, The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County, Texas, herein provides notice of changes in County political boundaries as adopted by the Commissioners Court, and as precleared by the United States Department of Justice on the 24th day of April 2002.

Interested individuals may review the adopted changes in the office of the County Clerk during regular business hours. The changes in county voting precincts were necessitated by redistricting of County Court precincts in compliance with the United States Constitution and 42 U.S.C #1973, also known as the Voting Rights Act, following the release of 2000 Census data. Changes in county election precincts were designed to achieve numerical balance between the four commissioner court precincts, and to insure the voting rights of all citizens of Yoakum County, Texas

Deborah L. Rushing,
County Clerk

AVISO PUBLICO DE CAMBIOS EN ELECCION RECINTOS

Conforme a #52.035, Tejas Eleccion Codigo, la Corte de Comisario, Condado Yoakum, Texas aviso cambios en las fronteras politicas de condados segun se adopto por la corte de comisario y aprobado (precleared) por Estado Unidas Ministerio Justicia el 24th de Abril, 2002. Los individuos interesados pueden repasar los cambios adoptados en la oficina del oficial Condado (County Clerk) durante horas de oficina regulares. Los cambios en recintos de la voting del condado fueron hechos necesario por cambios de los recintos de comisiones del condado en conformidad con la constitucion de Estados Unidos y 42 U.S.C/ #1973, tambien sabido como Derechos Al Voto, despues del desblquear do los datos 2000 de censo. Cambios en eleccion recintos del condado fueron disenados para alcanzar los derechos al voto de todos los ciudadanos del condado Yoakum de Tejas.

Deborah L. Rushing
Oficial de Condado
(County Clerk)

RN/LVN WANTED

Yoakum County Hospital has an immediate opening for a RN/LVN to work 12 hour shifts. We offer competitive wages with experience increases, vacation and sick leave, free health insurance, and a retirement plan. Interested individuals should contact Nancy Chamberlain or Joyce

Tedford, Yoakum County Hospital, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas 79323, 806-592-2121. Applications will be accepted until position is filled.

If somehow she talks me into returning to that Furr's I will insist she wear a card on her lapel, " I've been a AARP member 38 years."

Did you read Dave Barry's column in last Sunday's Avalanche-Journal, the one about the foolishness of gifts for old Dad on his special day June 16? Neither do I want to get a necktie and mushy card. I especially don't want to get another book entitled " How to grow mushrooms in your closet" That gift years ago produced grievous results when I experimented with that project in Bride's closet - you didn't think I would try it in mine, did you?

I've seen some pretty weird gifts for other special occasions, too. When the bride and I married several Eons back, a lady in this town at the time gave us a wedding gift, a very large, horribly ugly ashtray. I swear the thing was the identical color of the results of a successful BM. What made it more obscene to both of us, we had seen the thing in her home probably ten times on visits. When Bride finally got the thing unwrapped, she forced a smile, stood up, said, " I'll put this nice gift up," and disappeared in the kitchen, and then I heard a terrific crashing noise. I leaped up and hurried to the kitchen, and there she stood, beaming happily down at the shattered ash tray. " Oh, silly me," she purred, " I clumsily dropped our lovely gift," a lovely smile on her face.

From the minds of our much younger scholars:

* To write a story in the first person means to write it like Adam would.

* I try to be formal but very polite when undressing a stranger.

* Because of George Washington I once told the truth even

though I thought I might get in trouble. I was right!

* We are not to run in class even when teacher don't see us because even if teacher don't see us Jesus can and he might tell the principal.

* Even though I am now a child I will someday be a man or a woman.

* Santas reindeer get around so fast because they have atheletic feet.

* You can get a happy medium by doing it this way, First pay the fortune teller but then hit her right after.

* Ducks are not caring where they lay eggs so until they do don't let them go swimming. Or above you.

* I have never been a cowbird so I don't know which is which half.

* Pigs like to be clean, They try to do it by rolling in mud and all that stuff, not being as smart as we.

* We don't know who lost New York in the first place but Peter Sylverson founded it again somewhere in the 16 hundredsth.

* When they had sheep the pinears made their cloths from sheep wool. When they had no sheep they got wool from bufalos and other wild things, which was much harder.

* In the old days they had good indians and bad indians. The bad indians were the ones that shot back.

* The Pony Express was a system worked out so they could send ponies though the mail.

* Little Big Horn sounds as confusing to me as General Custard.

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for more information.

Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc.

The Driver License office in Denver City June 17 from 10am to 4 pm, then closed June 18 thru June 21. It will Monday June 24 from 10 am to 4 pm, then closed June 25 thru June 28. We will re-open July 1 with regualr office hours.

Thank You

TEXAS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM COMPLAINT AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

The City Of Plains has adopted complaint and grievances procedures regarding its Texas Community Development Program. These procedures outline the steps for a citizen to follow if he wished to file a written complaint about proposed TCDP activities or implementation of past TCDP assisted activities. The City will make every effort to respond fully to such written complaints within 15 working days. Citizens may obtain a copy of these written procedures at the City Hall between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm on Monday through Friday. Citizens may also request the procedures to be mailed to them by calling Pam Rowe, City Secretary at 806/456-2288.

Notice to all Persons having claims against the estate of Brooks Slover, deceased

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Brooks Slover, deceased, were issued on April 29, 2002, in Docket No. 1395, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to Cynthia Brown, who now holds such letters. All persons having claims against the Estate which is currently being administered are hereby required to present them to my attorney, Samuel J. Hawthorne, at the address given below, before suit on same are barred by the general statutes of limitation, before such estate is closed, and within the time otherwise prescribed by law. The address to which claims may be presented is 2112 Indiana Avenue, Lubbock, Texas 79410.

DATED this 5th day of June, 2002.
By: Cynthia Brown

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Temporary Program Technician. Vacany announcement: 02-01, Grade: CO-3 to CO-5. Date of announcement: 6-12-02. Application must be received by 6-19-02.

Location: Yoakum County FSA Office, 1305 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas 79355. To apply: Send FSA-675 to Yoakum County FSA, PO Box 70, Plains, Texas 79355. FSA-675 is "Application for Employment". Blank forms may be obtained from any FSA County Office or from address shown above.

Duties: To assist in the administration of federal farm programs, greeting public, measuring acres, operating numonics, filing. Experience with Microsoft Word and Excel, and a farming background is a plus. Applicant will be responsible for accurately completing assigned tasks.

Employer Equal Opportunity. Candidates will be considered without discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, political affiliation, personal sponsorship, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, or other non-merit factors.

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