

50 Cents

Cowboy Country

News

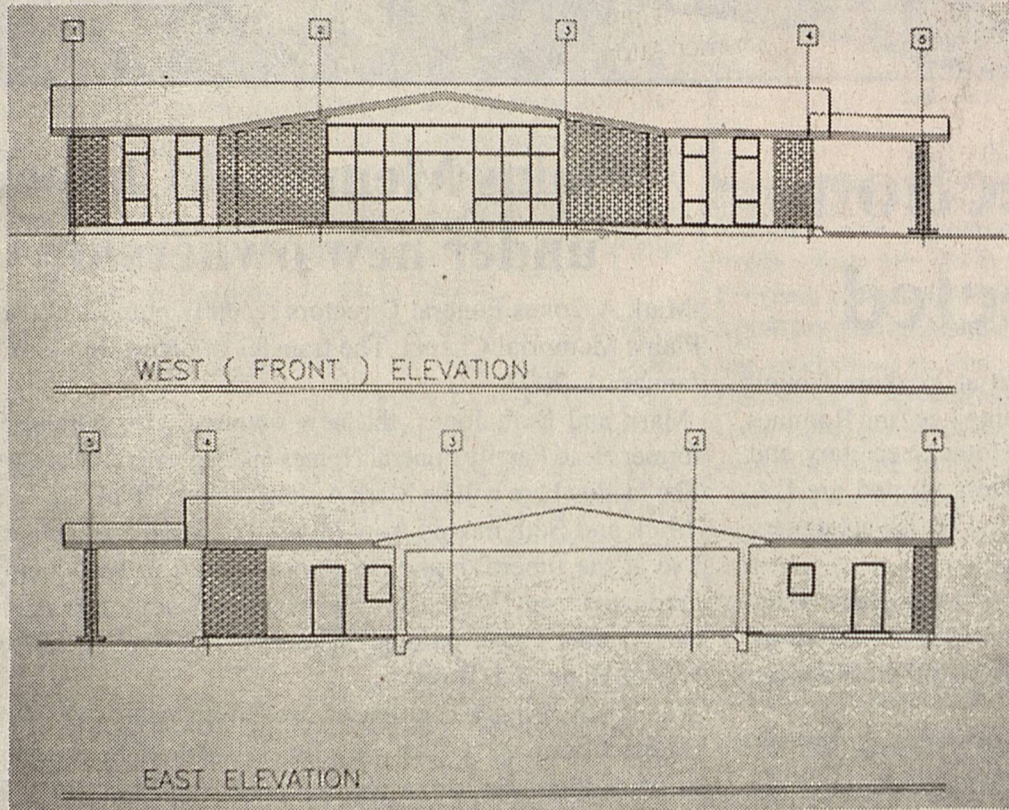
God Bless America!



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

Volume V111, Issue 23, February 20, 2002

Bid approved for construction of new City Hall building



Architect drawing of front and rear of building. The front will face West

In the February 11 meeting of the City of Plains Council, West Texas Concrete of Seagraves was awarded the contract for construction of a new, 3,450 square foot City Hall. The low bid was for \$358,734.

City Administrator Ed Hansen said the exact construction date has not been established because the delivery date of steel for the facility has not been confirmed.

"When actual work starts on the project, we will move operations of City Hall across the street into the new EMS and Fire Department building. We want to minimize our time in that facility, but we have to be out of the old building by April 17, the date we have published early voting will take place in the EMS and Fire Department facility," Hansen said.

He estimates the preparation for and pouring of concrete for the new offices will take some

three weeks, and if no serious glitches occur, city business should be taking place in the new building around September 1, 2002.

Hansen said when advertisements for bids were published, six contractors initially showed interest in the project. Four of these attended a pre-bid conference, but when bids were opened only three actually submitted bids. Hansen believes the uncertainty of steel delivery dates prevented the other contractors from submitting bids. Other firms submitting bids and bid amounts were Master Builders of Lubbock, \$463,430, and Knox Construction, Midland, \$398,419.

When all equipment and supplies are moved to the temporary EMS/Fire Department building, city employees will start razing the old facility, with the assistance of County personnel and heavy equipment. The new building will be all steel construction, with brick trim on the front and sides.

County Court criminal cases

Five criminal cases were heard in County Court February 13, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Eleazar Marin pled guilty to possession of two ounces or less marijuana, and was sentenced to adjudication of guilt deferred. He will serve 12 months community supervision, pay a \$250 fine at \$23 per month, \$211 court costs, and \$140 restitution to DPS. He must complete outpatient Texas Alternative Incarceration Program, serve 24 hours community service, and spend 36 hours in jail with credit for 10 hours served. Investigating officer was Joe Ramos, D.C. Police.

Arturo Molina pled guilty to a subsequent DWI, b.t. 190/190. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He will make time payments on a \$750 fine and \$225 court costs. He must attend weekly AA meetings, spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 12 hours served, complete the TAIP program, install an interlock device and complete the DWI repeat offender program. He was represented by Jimmy Hammons, and Robert Shugart was investigating officer.

Bernardo Irazoqui Galindo pled guilty to DWI, blood test .37. A year jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He will make time payments on a \$1000 fine and \$226 court costs, com-

Turn To Page 2, 'Crime cases'

Farm Bureau AGFUND endorses Gary Walker for House re-election

Texas Farm Bureau AGFUND has endorsed the re-election of State Rep. Gray Walker, recognized as the ground water expert in the Texas Legislature, in the District 83 race for the Texas House of Representatives, citing the four term representative's expertise in rural and agricultural issues. Walker is chairman of the House Committee on Land Resource Management and also serves on the House Natural Resources Committee.

"AGFUND is pleased to endorse Rep. Walker because of his expertise and involvement on issues critically important to the organization," said Donald Patman, President of Texas Farm Bureau and AGFUND. "It's unfortunate House District 83, as drawn by the Legislative Redistricting Board, pairs two current members of the House who are longtime supporters of the Texas Farm Bureau."

"Rep. Walker was instrumental in securing passage of two pieces of 'priority' legislation for Texas Farm Bureau in the 2001 legislative session. He sponsored the bill providing improved protection for Texas farmers producing a plant crop on a contract basis when the buyer fails to pay for the crop and declares bankruptcy. He also ensured the interests of agriculture and rural communities in water resources were

protected in Senate Bill 1 in 1997 and Senate Bill 2 in 2001. His efforts also addressed the needs of groundwater conservation districts."

"Farmers, ranchers, the agriculture industry and rural property owners need a strong voice in the Legislature as our state becomes more urbanized," said Walker, R. Plains. "I will continue to stand up for rural interest not only in my district, but throughout Texas. I look forward to working with the Texas Farm Bureau during the next legislative session, and I am honored by their support in my re-election campaign."

The newly drawn boundaries of House District 83 include Hockley, Cochran, Yoakum and Gaines counties and part of Lubbock County.

"Those of us who represent diverse districts must balance urban and rural interests to ensure both receive fair consideration," Walker said. "While the two constituencies share many of the same concerns, they also have different needs."

Walker, 55, was first elected to the House in 1994. He is a member of the Legislature's Rural Caucus and was appointed by House Speaker Pete Laney to serve on the Texas Water Advisory Council. He is also a member of the Texas Conservative Coalition.

An appreciation Fund Raising Luncheon will be held for Gary L. Walker, seeking his return to office as State Representative of newly mandated District 83 in the Texas House of Representatives. A lunch will be served at the Community Building at noon, Monday, February 25. Space, possibly food, will be limited to the site capacity. We urge you to come, and bring your checkbook!

Plains ISD realignment to Class 1-A benefits UIL activities, but will be costly in Robin Hood recapture funds

The average PISD sports and other UIL extra-curricular activity fan may have been well pleased when the UIL pulled the school district from Class 2-AA ranks, and dropped it to 1-A, but the administrators who manage the tax dollars used to operate the district day by day may not be so pleased.

PISD Superintendent Jim Haynes told CCN the realignment will be expensive in the next few years, escalating the amount of operating money leaving district coffers here, and under the present contract, going to the Presidio district. "Under provisions of the state mandated Robin Hood plan, we were required to send some \$320,000 to the Presidio district last year. In 2002, we had budgeted sending them recapture funds of about \$900,000.

It now looks like we will be sending them about \$1.2 million. We are also projecting we will be forced to send them \$2.5 million in 2003."

In a very convoluted and controversial public school financing plan, Haynes explained the Presidio district will have to return a portion of PISD recapture dollars; of the \$320,000 sent there in 2001, Presidio was allowed to keep approximately one half. When the state determines what sum the Presidio District is allowed to keep for their operation, they must then send 50 percent of that money to the TEA Region 17 Service Center in Lubbock. That money is then used to enhance and expand technology programs in the Region.

Haynes said a dwindling school enrollment census is

costly for Plains ISD and other small, rural districts. The state allocates funds to school district on a per-pupil census figure, which is electronically reported throughout the school year. Fewer students means less state funding.

The recent change from 2A to 1A ranks for UIL activities came from a student census taken last October, and has no bearing on funding for operation of the district.

Haynes added, "Some of our supporters feel going to 1A ranks may make it easier to win a district championship, but it also makes it harder to finance the district. It boils down to this fact; the fewer students we have throughout the school year, the less money we will generate and be allowed to keep."

Cooperation between drug agencies produces Grand Jury indictments and arrests

On November 29, 2001, the Llano Estacado Drug Task Force presented six cases to a Yoakum County Grand Jury. These cases involved Delivery of Cocaine and Criminal Conspiracy. The Grand Jury returned five sealed indictments on Shane Ray Bradley, delivery of cocaine, less than one gram; Gilbert Castillo, Delivery of Cocaine, less than one gram; Carlos De La Rosa, Delivery of cocaine, less than one gram; Mario Barrios Caballero, Delivery of Cocaine, less than one gram; Justin Ray Fenron, Delivery of Cocaine, less than one gram, and Dennis Lynn Fulcher, Delivery of Cocaine, less than one gram.

In addition, warrants were issued by Justice of the Peace Melba Crutcher for Shane Ray Bradley, Gilbert Castillo, Mario Barrios Caballero and Justin Ray Fenron for Criminal Conspiracy as it related to cocaine

deliveries. All but one of the suspects have been arrested by Yoakum County Sheriff Ceputies. Shane Ray Bradley has yet to be arrested.

The arrest of these suspects culminated a month long investigation which began in April of 2001. It involved agents from the Llano Estacado Drug Task Force and the Lea County Drug Task Force in Hobbs, New Mexico.

Delivery of less than one gram of cocaine is classified as a State Jail Felony, punishable by confinement in a State Jail for not more than two years nor less than 180 days and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000.

Criminal Conspiracy to deliver less than one gram of cocaine is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by confinement in a county jail for a term not to exceed one year, a fine of not more than \$4,000 or both.

Bootcamp's behind her



Angelica Hernandez, PHS graduate and daughter of proud parents Terry and Helen Cordova, recently graduated from bootcamp at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center near Chicago. She next will attend 'A' School at Meridian, Mississippi to qualify as a Navy Yeoman.

Services held for Georgia Green

Services were held for Georgia Green, 90 on Monday, February 18, 2002 at Meadow First Baptist Church with Rev. Orville Rogers officiating. Interment followed at Terry County Memorial cemetery, under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. She died February 14, 2002.

Mrs. Green was born October 25, 1911, in Comanche County, Texas. She moved with her parents to the Gomez community in Terry County where she was raised and attended school. She married Raymond C. Chitwood, who preceded her in death in 1943. She married Alton Romie Green, and he preceded her in death November 6, 1990.

Mrs. Green and her husband owned and operated the Needmore Store many years. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Gloria Bowman. She was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Survivors include two sons, Barry Green, Plains, and Larry Green, Fritch; Eight grandchildren, several great-grandchildren.

Services held for Raymond Nathaniel Addison

Services for Raymond Nathaniel Addison, 82, of Hico, were held at 2 PM January 21, 2002, at First Methodist Church, Hico, with Rev. Sharon Robertson officiating. He died January 17. He was born August 25, 1919 at Knapp, in Scurry County. He came to Plains with his parents in 1933 at the age of 14. He graduated from Plains High, and was a veteran of WWII. He married Rachel Walton of Snyder in 1945. He farmed in Plains, then moved back to Snyder and then Hico where he farmed and ranched until he retired in 2000.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Duane and wife Denise; a daughter, Pam and husband Kenneth Hall, McKinney; three sisters, Velma Dearing and Thelma Lee Cheatham, Tokio, and Willie Mae Engle, Pyote; a brother, Claude Addison, Plains, grandchildren Lance Gilson, Casey and Ryan Walker, Stephanie and Kendra Hall, Rhody, Dillon and Jace Addison. Pallbearers were Lance Gibson, Rhody Addison, Ryan Walker, Dillon Addison, Garrick Engle and Marvin Dearing.

Services for Lois Irene McGinty

Funeral services for Lois Irene McGinty were held Wednesday, February 20, 2002 in First Baptist Church, Plains, with Rev. Bill Wright officiating. Interment followed in Plains Cemetery under direction of Brownfield Funeral Home. Mrs. McGinty, 82, was born August 26, 1919, in Dalhart. She graduated from high school in Channing, and later from West Texas State. She married Dick McGinty June 15, 1941 in Plains. He preceded her in death April 15, 1990. She taught school in the Plains School District.

She is survived by two sons, Kenneth and Alton, both of Plains; two daughters, Sylvia Cayce Van Alstyne, and Kathleen Reynolds of Shamrock; a sister, Louise Brietling of Amarillo; 15 grandchildren, 3 great grandchildren, nine nieces and nephews.

From Pg. One, "Crime Cases"

plete the DWI repeat offender program, complete the TAI program, serve 80 hours community service, and surrender his license 180 days. A ten day jail sentence had been met with 16 days served. Charles Higgs, D.C. Police, was investigating officer.

David Lynn Alexander pled true to the State's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior marijuana possession charge. He will spend 60 days in jail with credit for 14 days served.

Nancy Allison Koncaba pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .102/.102. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. Time payments will be made on a \$500 fine and \$226 court costs. She must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program, serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 12 hours served, surrender her license 90 days, complete 24 hours community service. Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer.

Take Me to TEXAS

When it comes to Texas, the numbers don't lie. In 2000, Texas ranked first in the nation for total spending in the state at \$2.9 billion. Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin-San Marcos continue to attract the most travelers and account for the greatest percentage of travel dollars.

DESTINATION SPENDING IN TEXAS 2000 (\$ millions)	
Dallas	\$6,220
Houston	\$5,536
San Antonio	\$3,315
Austin/San Marcos	\$2,423
Fort Worth/Arlington	\$2,025
El Paso	\$714
McAllen/Edinburg/Mission	\$671
Corpus Christi	\$643
Total Texas Spending	\$26,432

SOURCE: Texas Department of Economic Development, Open Business Association
GRAPHIC: Ed Peinar

New Connection officers elected

A number of new officers were elected at Yoakum County Connection's February 12 meeting, including Lee Ann Romines, President, Ed Hnsen, Vice-President, Sue Holder, Secretary, and Pam Burgess, Treasurer. Honorary directors elected are L.J. Sanders, Linda Powell, Judge Dallas Brewer, Elva Lozano, Alonzo Hernandez, and Debbie Pollard.

Sue Holder has volunteered to coordinate building activities, and Linda Powell will head up publicity activities. The Helwig Law Firm was acknowledged for furnishing legal work for the Connection.

To date, 46 paid memberships have been collected, and the organization is seeking more members. Connection dues are used for operation of the Connection, and to help fund art promotions, entertainment and learning in county schools, and summer youth workshops.

Chairperson Jeannette Head is planning the Watermelon Round Up, scheduled for August 31 this year. Volunteers for the Round Up are urged to call 45-MELON to learn how they can serve in the annual celebration. The Denver City Art Association show and sale will be held in the Connection building April 3 thru 6.

Local Judge attends seminar

Judge Melba Crutcher, Justice of Peace Court Pct. 1, was certified at the recent 20 hour Justice of Peace Seminar held January 15-18 in Corpus Christi. The seminar was sponsored by the Texas Justice Court Training Center, a division of Southwest Texas State University, with offices in Austin. The seminar is one of five held for elected Justices of the Peace to fulfill their continuing judicial education requirements mandated by the Texas Government Code. The seminar addressed topics including judicial ethics, creating a bias-free court, traffic laws, inquests, family violence, juvenile law, minors in possession, torts and deed restrictions.

Plains Memorial Chapel under new ownership

Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors recently purchased the local Plains Memorial Chapel. The transfer of ownership took place January 1, 2002.

Mark and Beth Jones, the new owners, also purchased the former Head Family Funeral Homes in Seagraves and Brownfield. The facility here will be Mark A. Jones Plains Memorial Chapel.

Mark and Beth moved from Dimmit to Seagraves, where they live at the funeral home. Mark was raised in Ralls, and Beth graduated from White Deer. He has been around the funeral business over 25 years. They lived in the Dallas area where he worked at Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery.

The Jones bring a new era of funeral service to Yoakum and Gaines Counties. He believe's funerals should be personalized to share about the life of the deceased. The Mark Jones Plains Memorial Chapel is available to assist with pre-arranged funeral plans as well as monument sales. They intend to make the local Chapel a full service funeral home. As people begin to use the chapel, they will add the needed equipment to meet the state's requirements for full funeral home licensure. "every community needs a funeral home they can trust and serve them," Jones said. Plains Memorial Chapel is now open and ready for area families. Regular office hours will start March 4, 2002. To arrange for an appointment at the Chapel or at your residence, the local number is 456-2152.

The Jones plan an open house sometime in March. When they are in full operation, they will appreciate comments on what the community wants in funeral service.

JP Court Summary

The following is a summary of cases filed and bonds set at the county jail:

52 traffic cases	Motion of asurety/assault causing bodily injury- \$20,000
Four possession of drug paraphernalia	Harassment- \$500
One public intoxication	Public intoxication- \$500
Bonds set:	Motion of surety/evading arrest- \$500
3 motions to revoke probation-held until hearing	Bond forfeiture/assault causing bodily injury- \$5000
2 first DWI- \$1000 bond each	2 possession of marijuana- \$500 bond
DWI, second, \$1500 bond, interlock device ordered	Failure to appear/public intoxication- \$500
Bail jumping, failure to appear, Andrews County- \$1000	Driving/license suspended- \$1000

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visits, prayers and concern
during Lanny's surgery and
recovery. Things seem to be going
well, Sincere thanks - Lanny & Sheron

Cowboy Country News

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

Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor

Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually Other Zip Codes \$18 annually. Periodical postage rate paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, TX 79355

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Cow Patty Power ?

Houston based Synagro Technologies Inc will team with AnAerobics Wastewater Treatment Company Inc of New York to convert cow manure into electricity.

Synagro was awarded a \$4.5 million grant by the Inland Empire Utilities Agency to design and construct a pilot facility in California to process the daily manure of more than 3,700 dairy cows. The methane gas produced during processing will be used to power generators at a nearby water desalination facility and to power the electricity generating microturbines.

The pilot method attempts to replicate the natural process in which bacteria breaks down waste material, but at an accelerated rate. The resulting methane is mechanically captured and cleaned and ultimately converted into electricity, some of which is fed back to the processor. The leftover solid waste material is then hauled away and made into compost.

Another Houston firm is taking a different approach to developing renewable energy. Reliant Energy is working with a British Company, Clark Energy, to produce electricity from ort expects the gas from six area landfills to produce more than 32 megawatts of power, partly fulfilling a state mandate that 2000 megawatts

Homestead exemptions reduce tax bills

Homeowners can reduce their property tax bill in 2002 by taking advantage of exemptions. Application forms are available at the Yoakum County Appraisal District Office.

Chief Appraiser Sandra Stephens informs home owners Texas law allows them to file a one-time application for home exemptions. These exemptions reduce the appraised value of the home. "You do not have to pay a fee to file for a homestead exemption," Stephens said.

Property owners who have never received the general homestead exemptions on their homes in which they were living on January 1, 2002, and those who became disabled during 2001, must apply this year to receive exemptions for 2002. Homeowners must apply for the general homestead, disabled, or any local option disabled or percentages homestead exemption before the deadline (April 30, 2002) in the appraisal district where the home is located.

Homeowners 65 or older don't need to own their homes on January 1 to qualify for the over 65 homestead exemption, State law provides they may apply as soon as they turn 65, own the home, and live in the home as their principal residence to receive the over 65 homestead exemption. They will receive the exemption as of January 1. Homeowners 65 or older have up to one year from the date they turned 65 to

file for their homestead exemption for that tax year. State law also allows that is the over 65 spouse dies before applying for the over 65 exemption, the surviving spouse age 55 or older may apply for the over 65 exemption for the deceased spouse. The same filing deadlines apply.

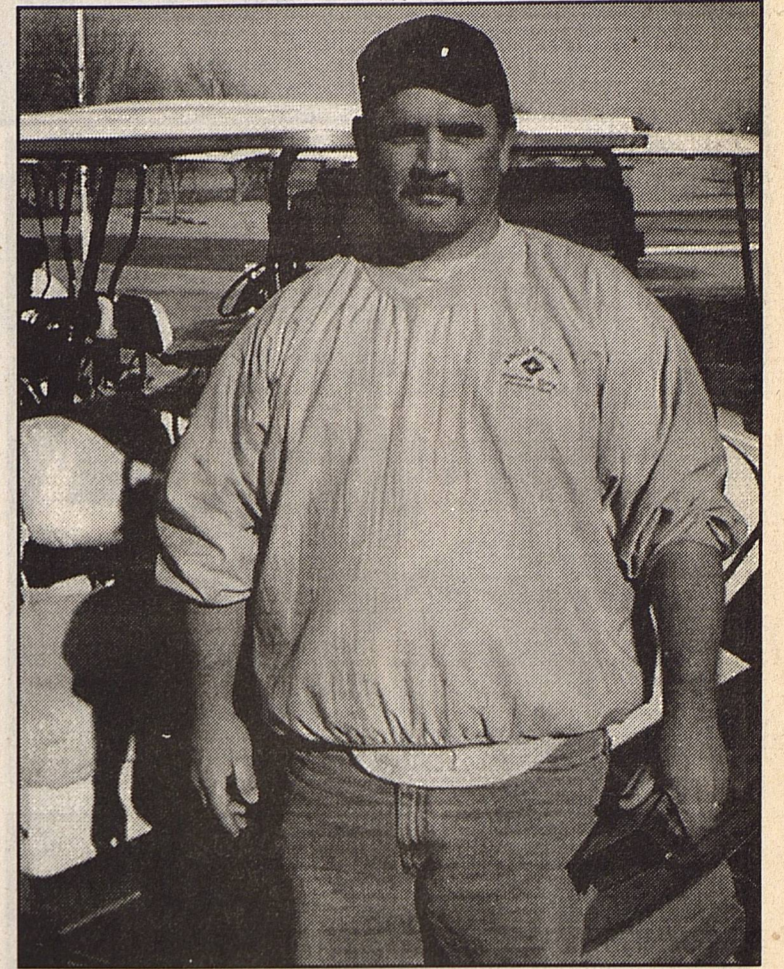
A homeowners principal residence and yard are considered the residence homestead. It can include up to 20 acres of land and improvements, (buildings) such as a swimming pool, greenhouse or other structure,

as long as the owner uses them for residential purposes.

Stephens said a property must meet four tests set by law to qualify for the residence homestead exemption. The person or persons claiming the exemption must own the property on January 1 (homeowners 65 or older need not own the property on January 1 for the over 65 exemption only); the property must be designed or adapted for human residence; the owner must use the property as a residence; and the property be the principal residence of an owner who qualifies for the exemption.

** More on exemptions in future editions.**

Who says February too cold for golf ??



While playing conditions may not have been ideal, the day was fair enough at Yoakum County Golf Club last Saturday to draw almost fifty die-hard, fanatical players to sign up for the second One-Man Scramble of the news season. Steve Owens, shown above, didn't let the weather bother him, and his score of 59 topped the Championship Flight. Next regular toumney is a three-person Scramble March 24-25.

*The Cards, Gifts, and
Loving thoughts keep coming,
and for any of you we have
missed with our sincere Thanks,
we apologize - please accept this
as our deep gratitude.
Holly & Gary Dyer*

Yoakum County Connection needs a Summer Youth Arts Program Director, to be paid \$2500 for planning/supervising workshops in Plains & Denver City. The workshops have been provided in the month of June in the past. The person chosen would need to apply for Texas Commission on the Arts grant funding and able to work with people, particularly youth. Please send resume to PO Box 117, Plains TX 79355 by March 22. For info or questions, call LeAnn Romines, Denver City, or Linda Powell, Plains

Yoakum County Plains Clinic Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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Plains Cowboys Baseball 2002

Date	Opponent	Place	Time
~2/16	Amherst	Plains	1:00pm
2/22	Ralls	Brownfield	7:30pm
2/26	Lockney	Plains	4:30pm
2/28-3/02	Plains Tourn.	Plains	TBA
3/05	Denver City	Denver City	5:00pm
**3/09	Smyer	Smyer	12:00pm
**3/16	Van Horn	Midland	6:30pm
3/19	New Deal	New Deal	6:30pm
3/23	Andrews JV2	Andrews	12:00pm
*3/26	Coahoma	Plains	6:30pm
*3/29	Colorado City	Plains	5:30pm
4/02	Open		
*4/05	Colorado City	Colorado City	5:30pm
*4/09	Coahoma	Coahoma	5:30pm
*4/16	Colorado City	Plains	5:30pm
4/20	Open		
*4/23	Coahoma	Coahoma	5:30pm
4/30	Open		

~Scrimmage

**Doubleheader

*District Games

Head Coach: Kevin Bartley

School Phone: 806-456-7438

Asst. Coach: Todd Davis

Home Phone: 806-456-5709

Robert Canon

Cellphone: 806-787-8766

Athletic Director: Blake McWhirter

Email: kbartley@plainsisd.esc17.net

Principal: Steven O'Quinn

CoachBartley13@cs.com

Superintendent: James Haynes

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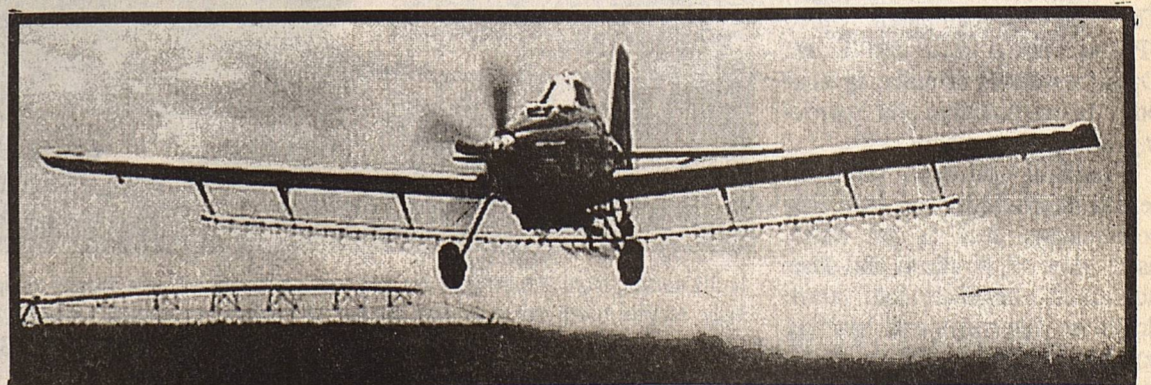
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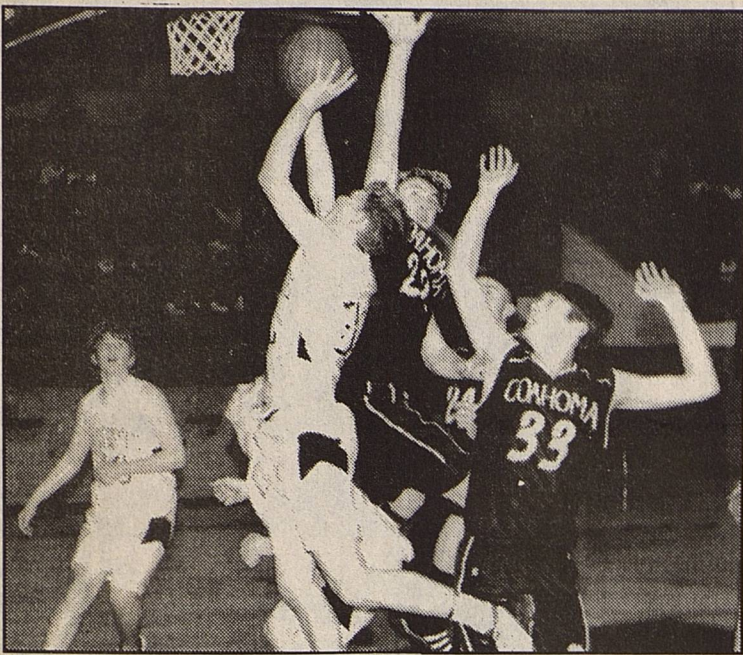
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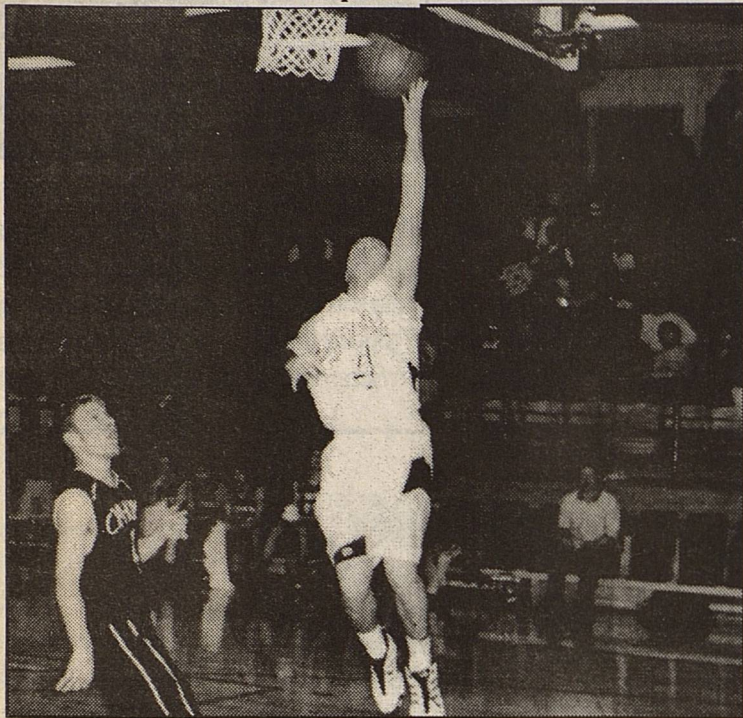
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Action scenes from Feb. 12 Coahoma game



Jarod Newland soars for two points



Moises Gonzales goes high to lay one in



Jaren Bell, Tanner Hamm battle for loose ball



The cheerleaders worked hard to urge boys on

Basketball Recap

JV Cowboys:

On February 5, the younger Cowboys took on Forsan and won 40-34. Scoring points were Evan Cain with 16, Kevin Bartley 7, Angel Ruiz 5, Armando Ramirez 3, Payton Bean and Brandon Hise 2 each, Richard Diaz 1. On February 8, they came up short against Stanton, 44-34. Kevin Bartley led scoring with 13, Evan Cain 6, Angel Ruiz and Cody Flores 5 each, Armando Ramirez and Richard Diaz 2 each, Brandon Davis 1. On February 12 they lost a tough one to Coahoma, 55-50. Kevin again had 13 points, Cody 12, Evan 8, Armando and Richard 6, Angel 5.

Varsity Cowboys:

February 12 the Cowboys played their last scheduled district game against Coahoma, and fell 66-49. The loss produced a tie for the district championship. Moises Gonzales was top scorer with 13 points, Tanner Hamm had 11, Jarod Newland 10.

In the district championship game at Andrews February 15, they were downed again 51-32. Newland managed 9 points, Jared Bell and Moises 6 each.

Computer Science Team second in Lubbock meet

The PHS Computer Science Team competed against 2 and 3A schools in a Texas Computer Educators Association meet in Lubbock February 16, and were edged out of first place by 3A Mulkeshoe. The team members were Elizabeth Clanahan, Colt Richardson and Becky Wilmeth.

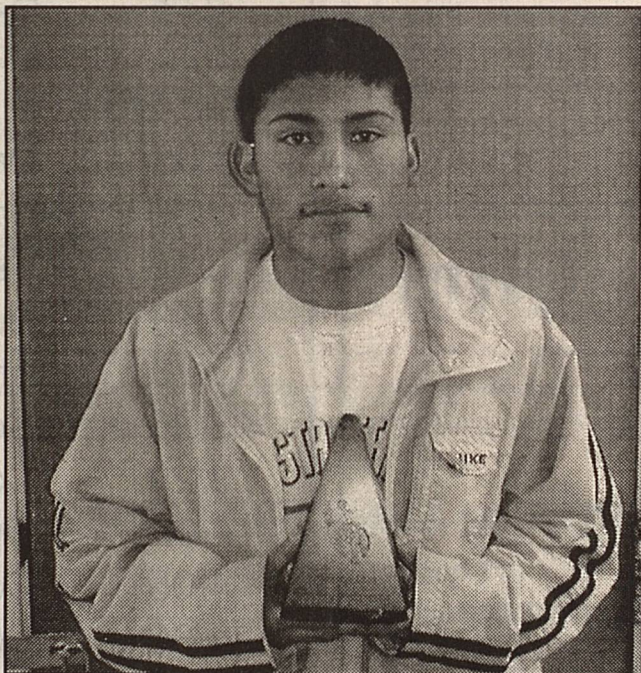
PISD Events On Tap

Power Lifting Meet here Saturday, February 23. Some 200 lifters are scheduled to compete. Lifting will start around 9 AM.

Cowboy Relays scheduled early this year, March 1, with six teams slated to compete. Field events start at 1 PM.

Cowboy Baseball Team faces Ralls in Brownfield February 22, 7:30 PM.

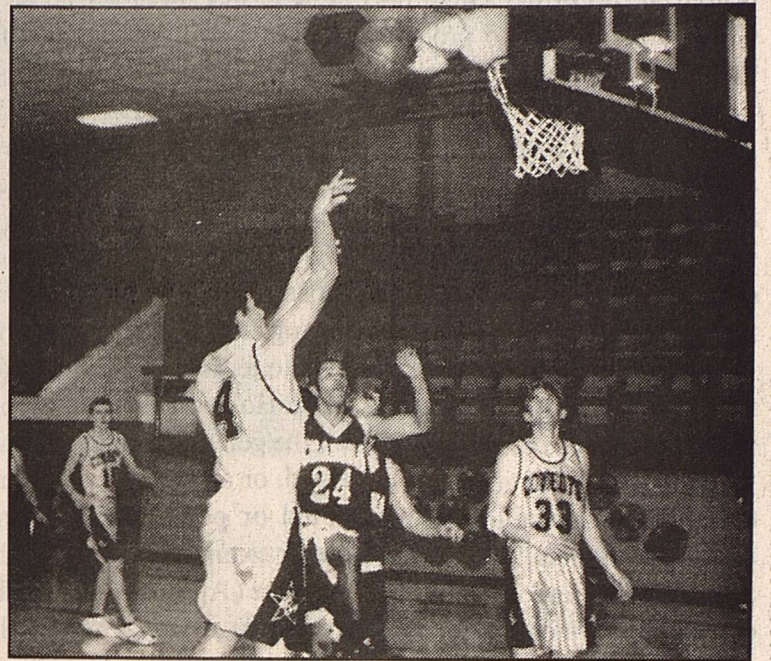
PHS Student of the Week



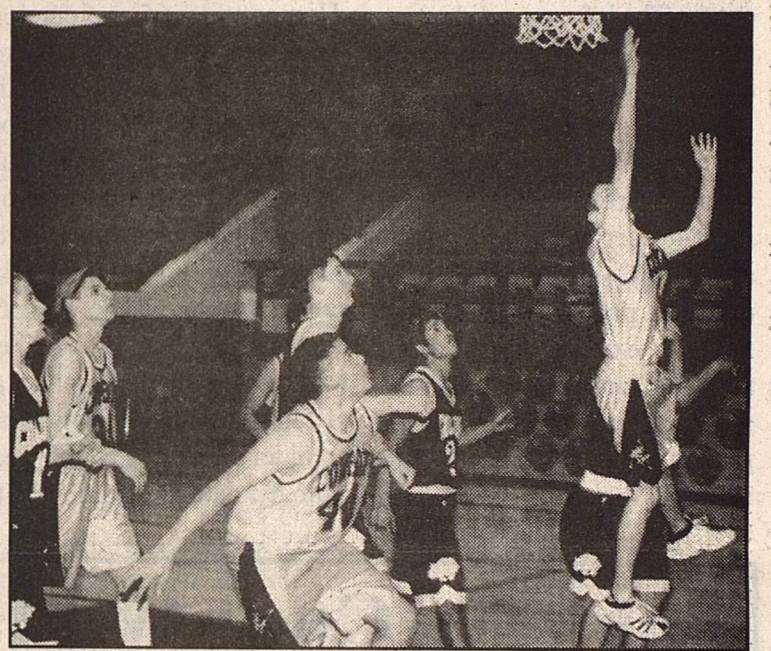
Student of the Week is Larry Escobar, a sophomore and son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Escobar. He was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "I have enjoyed watching Larry develop into a mature student over the past year. He works hard in mt class every day, takes assignmn=ents seriously, and often comes in for extra help. I am proud of his work habits, especially preparing for TAAS, and I want to say, Larry, I appreciate your work."



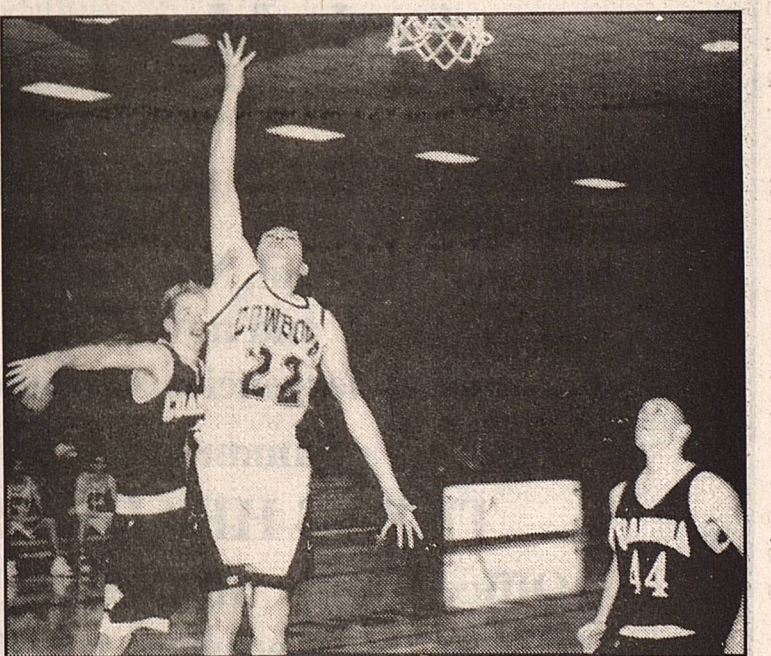
Joseph Rodriguez makes free throw



Armando Ramirez Scores Two



Evan Cain banks one in



Richard Diaz gets open for shot

Texans urged: Please don't feed the storm drain

TNRCC launches statewide campaign

Texans are being urged to pick up after their pets, use lawn products sparingly, recycle used motor oil and dispose of household products properly in a Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) campaign. The statewide campaign, called "Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain," is aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution and improving Texas water quality.

Nonpoint source pollution results from rainwater carrying contaminants such as pet waste, used motor oil, fertilizers and other household chemicals into storm drains or waterways and harming aquatic life, contaminating drinking water and impacting recreational uses.

"TNRCC has identified certain waterways across Texas where nonpoint source pollution is a problem," said TNRCC chairman Robert Huston. "Texans can help improve the quality of these waterways. We're asking them to pick up pet waste and put it in the trash. We're asking them to take used motor oil to a recycling facility, not leave it on the ground. And, we're



In the coming months reminders like this Austin billboard will urge Texans to pick up after their pets, use lawn products sparingly, recycle used motor oil and dispose of household products properly. It's all part of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission's (TNRCC) campaign called "Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain." The statewide campaign is aimed at reducing nonpoint source pollution and improving Texas water quality.

asking them to dispose of antifreeze, paints and other toxic household products properly rather than allowing them to end up feeding a storm drain."

The TNRCC has identified bodies of water in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, Rio Grande Valley and San Antonio as exceeding the maximum level of pollution allowed while maintaining beneficial uses

such as recreation, supporting aquatic life and drinking water.

In Austin, for example, a recent study commissioned by the TNRCC found approximately 1,327 pounds of dog waste are deposited a day in the Town Lake watershed, which includes Lake Austin and hundreds of surrounding square miles. During storms, the waste can wash into creeks and streams and eventually Town Lake,

to contaminate the watershed.

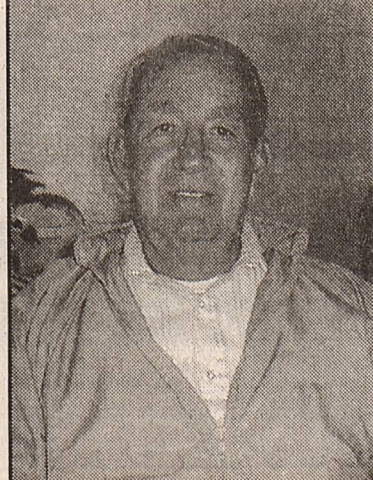
TNRCC's "Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain" public education campaign is funded through an annual grant from the EPA to reduce nonpoint source pollution. The campaign is part of a statewide initiative and will include community outreach and public service announcements.

All TNRCC News Releases are available at www.tnrcc.state.tx.us.

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- * D.C.I.S.D. Trustee for 12 years
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Pol. Ad paid for by Jimmy Maynard

Lifelines & Styles

Blair - Griffin Wed



First Baptist Church of Plains was the setting for the wedding of Emily Grace Blair and Johnnie Scott Griffin. The bride is the daughter of Royce and Cynthia Blair of Plains, and the groom is the son of Greg and Becky Griffin of Andrews.

The double ring ceremony, performed by Bill Wright, Pastor, took place at 2 P.M. December 29, 2001. The sanctuary was decorated with evergreen swags entwined with tiny clear lights and burgundy and pink roses. Tall white pillar candles flanked the silver utility candle in front of banners stating the family names of the couple. Between the family names was a banner with the Christian wedding symbol of a cross and intersecting rings.

The bride selected a white gown of matte satin and tulle from the designers of Eden. The gown featured a halter style neckline with a criss-cross back. The fitted bodice was accented with a corded floral design embellished with crystal beads. The basque waistline allowed the full ballroom skirt of tulle to fall gracefully to the floor and into a sweep train. The skirt was enhanced with organza appliques embellished with the same lovely crystal beads, and the entire hem was edged with a satin band.

The bride carried a church bouquet of two dozen red roses tied with silver ribbon. Bridesmaids wore silver A-line skirts and black jersey bare shouldered tops with matching silver and rhinestone jewelry, a gift from the bride. Each carried a bouquet of baby red roses

and baby's breath tied with silver ribbon.

Bridesmaids were Betsy Brown and Valerie Blair, sisters of the bride, and Velvet Canada, cousin of the bride. The bride was given in marriage by her father, Royce Blair. Groomsmen were Omar Carrasco, Charlie Griffin, brother of the groom, and Jason Lee Halsell, cousin of the groom. Ushers were Cory Stanford and Tye Stanford, cousins of the bride.

Following the ceremony, guests were received in fellowship hall among a winter wonderland of evergreen and bare limbed trees surrounded with tulle and sprinkled with snow. Tables were adorned with white formal length cloths and small evergreen trees.

At the bride's table guests were served crystal punch from a silver fountain and Italian cream cake along with dipped fruit and sugared grapes. The groom's table offered chocolate cake created by the groom's mother, coffee and nuts. An additional table offered cheese, crackers, cheese pinwheels, candy and fruit. Servers included Mrs. Brenda Canada,

Mrs. Linda Stanford, and Mrs. Nancy Skopak, aunts of the bridal couple, as well as Kim Skopak, a cousin to the groom, and Mrs. Terri Hansen.

Following a trip to Ruidoso, New Mexico the couple moved to Odessa, where they will live while attending UTPB and Midland College.

Credit Union Hosts 53rd Annual Meeting

The Yoakum Country Federal Credit Union will host its 53rd annual meeting and supper at 7 PM Saturday, February 23 at the Plains School Cafeteria.

The Credit Union will furnish ham and brisket as well as bread and drinks. Guests are asked to bring a covered dish of salad, vegetables or dessert. Officials up for re-election include

Tommie Brown and Lisa Switzer. Bill Adams, whose term expires this year, is not seeking re-election. New nominees include Linda Kennedy and Jerry Patterson.

Drawings will be held for the many door prizes donated by merchants and individuals in the Plains and Denver City area. Make your plans to attend this enjoyable event.

Senior Citizens Corner

Well, how is everyone enjoying the Olympics? They are pretty exciting at times.

We send our love and prayers to the families of Luella Harmon and Helen Green.

Last week our visitors were Jimmy and Helen Maynard. This week Naomi Goodman had a guest with her, Rev. Ronnie Lundsford, pastor of the Assembly of God Church.

Walter and Elaine Schnieder have made donations to the Craft Corner as a memorial to the loss of their family loved ones. We also had two card tables donated to the Center in memory of Sonny Richards and Billie Dulin, made by Mark Stark. We thank him for honoring our clients.

We will have our 'Pot Luck & Jamboree' Thursday, February 14 at 6:30 PM with "The Harvesters" presenting their good gospel music. Everyone makes a real good dish and brings it to share with everyone. We realize we won't have a crowd like we had for the Christmas party, due to the community having their parties the same night. So we cordially invite you to come and have a good time.

Tsa Mo Ga honors Seniors

Colors of red, white and blue greeted Plains High seniors honored by Tsa Mo Ga Club at a special dinner February 11.

Terry Isaacs, former PHS teacher and now associate professor of history at South Plains College, delivered the message, "Learn from yesterday, Live for Today, Hope for tomorrow." Isaacs challenged the students with the thought; "Live like you'll die tomorrow, dream like you'll live forever." Isaacs also related the most important words for people today - the six most important words are "I admit I made a mistake; the five most important words, You did a good job; the four most important words, What is your opinion?; the three most important words, If you please; the two most important words, Thank you; and the one most important word, We."

Club President Sarah Shelton welcomed the Class of 2002 and led pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags. Michele Jones offered the blessing, and Renetta O'Quinn introduced Isaacs, class sponsors and administration. Each senior introduced themselves and related their post graduation plans.

The club's social committee, chaired by Billie Blundell, hosted and served the meal featuring Mexican dishes, salad, beans and dessert. The clubhouse was decorated in a patriotic theme of red, white and blue

Our garage sale is going pretty well, and again we thank everyone who has made donations to the center for the craft corner, garage sale items and the books.

The halls are still full of friendly folks doing their walking during the day. The treadmills are on the go too. The ladies have a crowd in the dining room to play dominoes and the men play back in the domino room. If you feel you need to get out, this is the place to be. If you like to play bridge, gather your friends and bring them down, we'll set up a table and let you have a great time. We may even have your picture made. We consider ourselves one big happy family. You can also bring your painting, crocheting, check out the garage sale, or just get a book to read.

This week we have our Pool Tournament February 20. We always have a big crowd. Come join the fun, they have 8 ball and 9 ball games.

Well, once again we want to come and join the crowd. God Bless the ISA and everyone in it!!

Til later.... Wanda B.

Engagement Announced



Mr. and Mrs. Tim Bowers of Plains are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Candace, to Steven Bunch, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Bunch, also of Plains.

Both the bride-elect and future brodegroom are graduates of Plains High, and both attend West Texas A & M University. Candace is a major in elementary education, and is employed by the university, and Steven is a sports and exercise major, and is employed by UPS in Amarillo.

The couple will be wed July 13, 2002, at 6:30 PM in the First Baptist Church of Plains.

The bride-elects grandparents are Alfred and Faye Bearden of Plains, and Claude and Peggy Bowers of Seagraves. The future bridegrooms grandparents are Ernest and Ruby Sellers of Plains, and Violet Rains of Brownfield.

Breakfast skipping teens at risk

Teens who do not eat breakfast are twice as likely to have diets low in iron, a shortfall that could be hurting their grades.

"It's important for parents to realize the nutrients teens miss when skipping breakfast are rarely recouped during other meals," said Dr. Teresa Nicklas, Pediatrician at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

In a study of 700 ninth grad-

ers Nicjlas found 19 percent skipped breakfast, including 20 percent of white and 36 percent non-white girls. Intakes of other vitamins were also higher among breakfast eaters, while fat consumption was lower. Poor food choices, skipped meals, and calorie cutting can also jeopardize a teen's diet quality and iron intake.

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From The Hack

My new buddy Ginger Granath who writes for the Lovington Leader sent me the following; The Arthur Anderson partner was on his cell phone when he said, " Ship the Enron documents to the feds."

There is an interesting little feature in most issues of the Lubbock AJ entitled, " I never knew that," penned by K. Van Asselt. In a recent edition, he listed four Supreme Court Justices who never attended law school, including a couple of real notables, John Marshall and John Jay.

Here are the factual results of my very scientific poll: Of 429 people queried, 27% said no, they didn't, but knew of many who spent 13 years in law school and were still unsuccessful; 43% said yes, they did, but those attorneys are all in jail now; 23% said, No, all attorneys they knew attended law school, but they wouldn't recommend using

any of them. The other 7% replied, my attorney graduated from school with highest honors, but I'm thinking of suing him, if I could find a bright attorney.

Another feature addressed in Asselt's writing was under the heading, " These laws should be outlawed." Some of those more fascinating laws included;

Another Oregon law mentioned in the column emphatically stated, " Dead people cannot serve on juries." I am not sure that law could be enforced in our fair Yoakum County - I've sat in on a few court trials here, and I recall a number of jurors I truly thought were comatose.

Another statute mentioned says, " Females cannot be unshaven in public." That is pure hog wash. I have seen a number of fat bearded ladies in the Hobbs, NM Wal Mart, and a few years ago, I saw a 623 pound bearded lady at the State Fair in Albuquerque.

Another puzzler stated, " You may not put ice cream cones in pockets in Kentucky." I recall when I was a sweet, innocent young four or five year old in Eden, Texas, where I tried to put a cone in the Baptist

preachers coat pocket. I wish I had known of that law then.

I had a very unusual thing happen at the golf course recently, and NO, I did NOT win any money. Sometime back in this space I savaged one of the guys I regularly play with about his scurilous habit of telling me he never bought CCN, he preferred to read it free at the Denver City Library.

If he manages to live long enough, and continues to subscribe, there's a faint chance I may recoup some of my losses. I did protect myself, though - I told him emphatically, " Do not ever try to send me your check to renew this thing." I know him far too well to make that mistake.

Something was rotten here. I recently read about a jury trial of a man charged with possession of 500 pounds of marijuana. Prosecutors brought the entire stash of whacky tobacco into the court room. The odor of the dope was overwhelming, to the point it was making the jurors sick, the court reporter sick, the judge sick, and after several hours of smelling the

stuff, the judge ordered it removed from the courtroom. The accused told the court he had no idea the Mary Jane was hidden under the floorboards of his house. When the jury recovered enough from the odor to quit gagging, they voted to convict the perp with the faulty olfactory glands.

SINGAPORE Mechanical engineering students at Singapore's Nanyang Technology University won the school's innovation competition in 2001 by producing a battery-powered artificial thumb, which they plan to patent and market under the name Mimic.

For more information, contact Adrian Lim Choon Yang <adrianlimcy@hotmail.com>

NOTICE

EARLY VOTING BY PERSONAL APPEARANCE FOR THE MARCH 12, 2002 DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ELECTION WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, IN THE COURTHOUSE AT PLAINS AND THE DENVER CITY BRANCH TAX OFFICE, AT 122 W. 4TH ST. Beginning: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2002 Ending: FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2002 VOTING WILL BE CONDUCTED MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. TILL 5:00 P.M. Any qualified voter is eligible to vote early by personal appearance.

EARLY VOTING BY MAIL

Under certain conditions (see below) a qualified voter is eligible to vote early by mail. Application forms for ballot by mail, may be picked up at the Denver City Branch Tax Office, or at the County Clerk's Office, Courthouse, Plains. An application for ballot by mail must be received in the County Clerk's Office on or before March 5, 2002 to be eligible to vote in the Democratic and Republican Primary Election on March 12, 2002.

- Conditions for voting by mail: 1. Voter is or expects to be ABSENT FROM THE COUNTY of the voter's residence on election day. 2. Voter has a SICKNESS OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY that prevents him/her from appearing at the polling place on election day. 3. Voter is 65 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER on election day. 4. Voter is *CONFINED IN JAIL.

Deborah L. Rushing, Yoakum County Clerk

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* Legal Notice * The Plains Independent School District, Plains, Texas, is accepting bids for the following: Year 2002 Improvements (Roof Repair) for Plains ISD. All bids must be submitted by 3:00 PM local time, 7 March 2002 at the Superintendents.s office, or sealed bids may be mailed directly to: James Haynes, Superintendent Plains ISD PO Box 479 Plains, Texas 79355

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