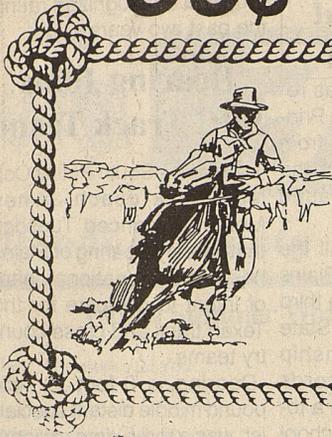


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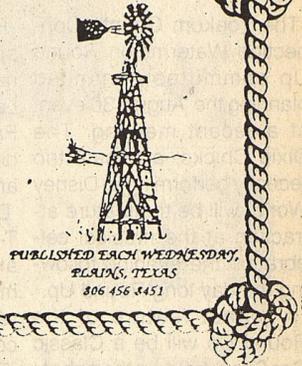


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Volume 111, Issue 40, Wednesday, June 4, 1997

Yoakum County CRP Accepted

Plains, Texas—68,000 acres of CRP offers were accepted into the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program enabling producers to take highly erodible and environmentally sensitive land out of production, according to Yoakum County Committee FSA Chairperson, Tommy Box. Mr. Box stated that, Yoakum County had 309 offers to idle fragile land into the CRP Program and the United States Department of Agriculture accepted 305 of the offers. Offers accepted were rated on the County's Environmental Benefits Index (EBI). Offerer's received points for seven categories derived from Wildlife Habitat Benefits, Water Quality Benefits for Reduced Erosion, Runoff, and Leaching, On Farm Benefits of Reduced Erosion, Long-Term Retention Benefits, Air Quality Benefits, Benefits of Enrollment in Conservation Priority areas and cost per acre. Box stated that Yoakum County fared pretty well considering that the State of Texas only had 53% of the acres offered accepted. Over 1.2 million acres of Texas land were removed from the CRP Program. Land devoted to the Conservation Program the past ten years has had a major impact on the preservation of wildlife and the reduction of blowing sand and soil erosion. The current program is a ten year program that will assure future conservation benefits and protect fragile lands for generations to come. Mr. Box thanked all participants for their dedication to conservation and their willingness to participate in programs that will enhance the land and secure our future. Mr. Box also stated there will be more sign-ups in the near future and hopefully we will be able to place additional land in this valuable program.

Suann Parrish honored with retirement reception



Some of the many attending Ms. Parrish's reception include, L-R, Judy Addison, Kathy Jones, Holly Dyer, Pam Rowe, and honoree Suann Parrish.

Suann Parrish, whose resignation as City Secretary became official Friday, May 30, was feted with a reception in City Hall that afternoon. Parrish, who held the position seven and one half years, said she needed to devote more time to her family, including husband Don and their two young sons. Her position was recently filled by Pam Rowe, also a Certified Municipal Clerk. City Administrator David Brunson said Rowe's former position as Billing Clerk would soon be filled by recently hired Sylvia Martinez, an employee in the Adult Probation Office.

Court OK's bid for airport facelift

County Commissioner's Court approved a bid of \$394,958 submitted by Reece-Albert, Inc. of Midland for general improvements and refurbishing of the local airport facility. The Texas Department of Transportation will absorb 90% of the projects cost, with the county paying approximately \$39,496 of the cost. The improvements include dirt work, asphalt and concrete work, lighting, markerguidance signs and electrical work.

Denver City resident Ross Hilburn appeared before the court to explain his case regarding his receipt of a tax statement showing delinquent personal property taxes totaling \$23,000 including penalties and interest. Hilburn stated he purchased the Sun Cot Gin west of Denver City in 1986 in a courthouse foreclosure sale held against a group of nine previous farmer owners who declared bankruptcy follow-

Turn to page 2
'AIRPORT'

tion seven and one half years, said she needed to devote more time to her family, including husband Don and their two young sons.

Her position was recently filled by Pam Rowe, also a Certified Municipal Clerk.

City Administrator David Brunson said Rowe's former position as Billing Clerk would soon be filled by recently hired Sylvia Martinez, an employee in the Adult Probation Office.

Mother Nature's cooperation boosts cotton producers optimism for '97 crop year

Bad weather, insect problems still major worries



Dry land cotton planting south of town last week

Cotton farmers, area ginners, agri-business dealers and owners, even casual Ag observers are bubbling with optimism over prospects for the coming crop year. All agree, conditions look very favorable compared to last years shaky start, which ultimately produced a much better yield than initially expected.

Timely rains, moisture from earlier snows, and amazingly enough, much milder Spring winds have made tending cotton production land much simpler this year. Marc Traweek, manager of Tokio Co-Op Gin, reported in his customer area, "Planting is at least 95% complete, and I estimate about 80% of it is up and looking good. To my knowledge, no farmer has had to replant his crop because of weather, which is a real rarity". He said the general area had received some 4.9 inches of precipitation in May alone.

On the other, western side of the county, rainfall has not been so abundant, but is far ahead of totals for this time last year. In the immediate New Tex area, an estimated average of five inches of rain have fallen this crop year.

B.G. Craft, of New Tex Gin, said "This is the best start we have had in years and years. We're a long time away from having the crop on gin yards, but this could possibly lead to the best cotton crop in many, many years".

All agricultural optimism must be tempered by the reality of adversity always looming in the background. Many cotton producers are seriously worried about the threat of the boll weevil infestation across the North Plains and

many other areas of the state. The recently passed legislative bill on the weevil eradication program leaves a host of unanswered questions about destroying the dreaded pest.

No one seems to know what the final provisions of the bill will contain, and even possibly more worrisome is news coming from the proposed Northern District under jurisdiction of the weevil eradication bill. Some northern district producers are already opposing any dollar assessments for the program. Here in the southern district outlined in the bill, producers know the weevil is a devastating threat to the millions of acres of south plains cotton land. Just 37 miles away, inside the city limits of Lovington, New Mexico, the weevil is news. The Lovington Leader reports an ongoing contest of weevil counting in the city yards, some reported to harbor up to sixty of the voracious critters. Historically, the weevil seeks any site to subsist, waiting for an emerging cotton crop to migrate to and display it's destructive powers.

Apparently the legislative weevil control law will provide a plan for funding only the diapause portion of the eradication efforts, the spraying of weevil habitat during the winter hibernating months. During the cotton growing season, producers will be on their own in spraying programs to control and kill the weevil and other emerging insect pests.

With a few more timely rains, and diligent efforts by producers to seek and destroy the weevil, this production year looks extremely favorable. The perennial question for a cotton producer remains, however; "If I can grow it, what can I get for it"?

Boat towers, ranchers, ropers, take heart... trailer towing speed limit relief takes effect September 1

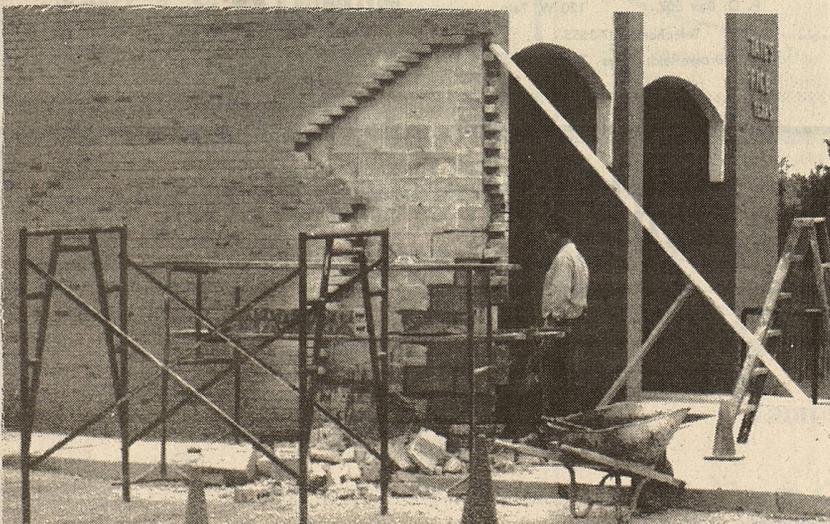
A faxed report from District 80 State Representative Gary Walker's Austin office early Monday morning spells relief for Texans who routinely pull trailers bearing recreational boats, horses or live stock. Speed limits for such vehicles will be increased to 70 miles per hour effective

September 1. Walker successfully attached an amendment to a transportation bill some three weeks ago, which cleared the House, Senate and Conference Committee last Sunday, in the waning hours of the Legislative session which drew to a close

Monday. The measure must still be signed by the Governor. The legislation becomes a portion of Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes, and reads in part, "(b) Unless a special hazard exists that requires a

Turn To page 2
'SPEED LIMITS'

'And the wall came tumbling down'



Brickmasons were busy last week at the local Post Office repairing the brick and cinder block corner of the east wall. Earlier in May, an unknown motorist's vehicle apparently jumped the sidewalk curb and crashed into the building, causing extensive damage to both the exterior and interior. Postmaster Norris Jones said the identity of the driver is still unknown, and repair work on the privately owned and leased building will cost several thousand dollars.

"Connection" continues plans for Watermelon Round Up

The Yoakum County Connection Watermelon Round Up committee continued planning the August 30 event at a recent meeting. The Dixie Chicks, a female trio recently performing at Disney World, will be the feature attraction at the musical celebration the evening following the day long Round Up. A repeat feature of the Round Up will be a Classic Car Show held on the school parking lot adjacent to the courthouse square. Kathy Adair reported "Kids need special activities in addition to the watermelon games, and the 4-H youth are planning a petting zoo for this years event".

Linda Powell said Kathy Jones, Sandy Land Water District, and Joni Hancock of the Extension office have prepared for mass-mailing brochures promoting the Watermelon Round Up.

County residents have until June 15 to sign up and pay for booth space. Limited booth space will then be available to out of county parties.

Ron and Candy Hatfield, Ann and Jerry Hartman, Vaughn and Carolyn Culwell and the Plains Chamber of Commerce collaborated in arranging for a large billboard in Ropesville to advertise the Round Up during the months of June, July and August.

Benny Loewen will be responsible for seating arrangements at the festival. Last year hay bales from J&A Farms were used by the audience at day long live music arranged by James Altman.

Dolores Davis is planning a T-shirt sale again this year, and Olivia Robertson reminds people of this years repeat watermelon theme costume/style show.

Following the planning session of the meeting, Reverend Rick Doyle was honored with a watermelon decorated cake. Doyle and his family are moving to Abilene this month. He said he planned to come back to Plains for the Watermelon Round Up and run in this years 5K Race.

From page 1 'SPEED LIMITS'

slower speed for compliance... the following speeds are lawful:

(2) 70 miles per hour in daytime and 65 miles per hour in nighttime if the vehicle is a passenger car, (or) motorcycle, passenger car or light truck towing a vessel, as defined by Parks and Wildlife code, that is less than 26 feet in length, or passenger car or light truck towing a trailer or semi-trailer designed and used primarily to transport livestock, on a highway numbered by this state or the United States outside an ur-

ban district, including a farm-to-market road..."

The amendment should be appreciated by many West Texans who routinely travel long distances towing pleasure boats to distant lakes, ranchers moving livestock, and many rodeo and roping fans transporting horses to those events.

From page 1 'AIRPORT'

ing their purchase of the gin in 1984. When Hilburn bought the gin, he paid all outstanding taxes prior to the closing of the sale, and obtained a Title Policy for the purchase, and has continued to pay taxes on the property since. It was only recently when he entered into contract to purchase another gin in Floyd County he learned of the delinquent \$23,000 tax bill for 1984, 85 and 86, when the nine prior owners had the gin. Hilburn's position was he didn't understand how previous title and tax searches failed to reveal the delinquent taxes, and why the previous owners had not been summoned to pay them.

The Court agreed to take the matter under advisement, talk to Tax Assessor/Collector Wanda Smith, and the county tax law firm. Hilburn was told the Court would meet with him again in next weeks session.

Bids for the purchase of a new motorgrader were received from Yellowhouse Machinery and West Texas

Caterpillar. The lowest bid, from West Texas Caterpillar, was approved, calling for the lease purchase of a new Cat 140H grader with a price of \$146,403, less trade in of a 1985 grader for \$61,190.

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance of \$9,079,00 at the end of April was approved, and soil conservation requests for fire lanes for Ty Earl Powell, L.J. Sanders, Weldon Newsom and Buster Graham were approved.

Crime Line offers reward for church break-in artist

During the month of May, unknown burglars broke into the First United Methodist Church sanctuary... Twice.

The first foray resulted in speakers used in the Church sound system being carted away. Apparently the burglars decided to update their sound system, for they returned just a few days later and took the Church equalizer machine.

Crime Line in Denver City is offering a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the burglars. Any information given to Crime Line will be kept confidential.

It Happened In Texas In June

June 11, 1865-State Treasury robbed of \$17,000 before outraged citizens drove off bandits.

June 24, 1860- Lt. Wm Echols left San Antonio with 20 camels, 25 pack mules, to reconnoiter western part of Texas between the San Antonio to El Paso road, the Rio Grande and the Pecos River.

Good news at Plains High

The following letter was recently received by PHS Principal Steven O'Quinn, from Bill Farney, Director of the University Interscholastic League:

"Congratulations to all the students and faculty of Plains High School on placing third in the Conference 2A State Academic Championship competition. Our records show you accumulated a total of 60 points. For a school to send even one student to State Meet is quite an accomplishment, but to send several students and place in multiple events is truly exemplary. We appreciate your school's commitment to academic excellence, and we look forward to seeing your students again next spring".

Another excellent achievement by PHS students was also announced.

Plains High School Sophomores scored in the 90's on all three parts of the Exit Level Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test taken in March.

The students scored 94 percent in both writing and reading, and 91 percent on the mathematics section of the test. Ninety-one percent of students passed all three sections of the test.

Twenty-one out of 32 students taking the test mastered all objectives on the reading test, 17 mastered all objectives in writing.

The percentages earned by sophomores on the TAAS puts PHS in line to receive an exemplary rating from the state if attendance and drop out rates also meet exemplary criteria. The school has

received a recognized rating the past two years.

Dearing Joins SPC Track Team

Leveland-- South Plains College track coach James Morris announced Tuesday that Jeremy Dearing of Plains has signed a national letter of intent to compete for the Texan track and cross country teams.

Dearing, a 6-foot-1, 145-pound middle distant specialist, was a three-time regional qualifier in cross country and a three-time regional qualifier in track.

The valedictorian of the 1996 graduate of Plains High School was a member of the district championship cross country in 1993, placed third in 1994 and finished as the runner-up in 1995.

Dearing placed second at the district meet and fourth at the regional meet in cross country as a senior, going on to finish 11th at the state meet in 1995.

Dearing also was a three-time regional qualifier in the 800-meter run. He was the district champion in the 800 in 1995 and the district runner-up in 1996. He placed fourth in the 800 at the regional meet as both a junior and a senior.

"He comes from a really competitive program," Morris said.

"I think he has the speed, strength and maturity to help us out."

Dearing earned a prestigious Smallwood Scholarship at South Plains College, where he also is a member of the SPC Symphonic Band. He attended South Plains during the 1996-1997 academic year but did not compete.

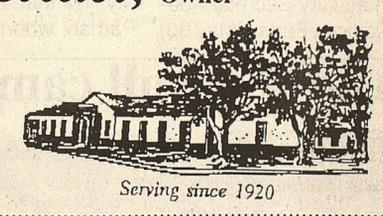
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Yoakum County Connection

Plains Summer Workshops

Class: Accessories for You
Date: June 18
Time: 2-4 p.m.
Location: Plains Club Room
Fee: \$5.00 to County Extension Agency
Age Group: 9-14 years old
Enrollment: 15
Presenter: Kathy Adair
Class Description: Students will watch a video on adding accessories to their wardrobe and will select from making a decorated cap or jewelry. No sewing involved.

Class: Fabulous Snacks and Desserts
Date: June 19
Time: 10:00-12:00 a.m.
Location: Plains Club Room
Fee: \$1.00 to County Extension Agency
Age Group: 9-14 years old
Enrollment: 15
Presenter: Kathy Adair
Class Description: Students will learn to make snacks and desserts that are as good for them as they are to eat. Low fat recipe modification cooking methods, and nutrition will be discussed. Kids will make a snack and dessert.

Class: Photography
Date: July 8-10
Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Location: Yoakum County Art. Assoc. Building Ave. G. Plains
Fee: No fee
Age Group: 12 and up
Enrollment: 8
Presenter: Bonnie Earnest
Class Description: Students will learn the fundamentals of photography using their own cameras. Each student must provide their own 35mm film.

Class: Clay Play: Hand Building
Date: July 14-17 Mon.-Thurs.
Time: 9-12 a.m.
Location: Yoakum County Art. Assoc. Building Ave. G. Plains
Fee: No fee
Age Group: 8 and older
Enrollment: 15
Presenter: Margaret Williams
Class Description: Students will hand build class sculptures. There is nothing like the feeling of class between your hands and fingers. Learn clay building techniques and create a product to take home and display with pride.

Lisa Ellison Duran received a Dean's Honor Roll Certificate from South Plains College for the Spring, 1997 school term. She is pursuing an accounting associate degree there, and is the daughter of Sandra and Leland Ellison

Do You Have A Hobby You'd Like To Display In The Yoakum County Library? Your Friends Will Appreciate Your Talent.

'The Incredible Dream Machine' Summer Reading Program at the Library

Yoakum County Library has Summer Reading Program sign up sheets available for children to read library books or be read to. Below school age children can have someone read to them and receive a Read-To-Me certificate. Children are urged to join the reading program this summer. Dairy Queen is giving free ice cream to all participants who read 10 books in their reading level. There will be a prize drawing at the end of the reading program for some lucky readers. The certificates awarded to those completing the program are signed by Texas Governor George W. Bush. State Librarian Robert S. Martin and Yoakum County Judge Dallas Brewer. The certificates are designed with a black lab pulling a load of books. The Incredible Dream Machine is our 1997 theme.

SPC Band Camp Scheduled

LEVELLAND—The 1997 South Plains College Junior High Band Camp is scheduled June 9-14.

The camp is open to all middle school and junior high student through ninth grade this fall who have completed at least one year of band.

Activities will include band and sectional rehearsals, a concert, electives and a variety of recreational activities. Cost for the commuter camp is \$60, which covers tuition, fees and a camp T-shirt. Participants need to bring a sack lunch or lunch money each day.

Camp instructors will be faculty from SPC's music program and area high school music personnel.

"The band camp is a special week filled with music, learning, friends and fun, designed to provide young people with encouragement and enthusiasm to excel as they develop their musical talent," said Lynda Reid, director of the Symphonic Band and band camp director.

To register, participants should send their application form to the SPC Continuing Education Office, South Plains College, 1401 S. College Avenue, Levelland, Texas 79336. For more information contact Reid's office or the Continuing Education Office at 89409611, ext. 2265 or ext. 2341.

Thank You

Dear Plains,
 Thank you so much for the wonderful expressions of love shown us at our farewell reception. All the kind words, cards, and gifts are greatly appreciated. We are reminded of the love we have felt over the past four and a half years. We will miss Plains because of the people. Our prayer for you is that Jesus remain first in our hearts and His love continues to pour out to others. Come see us in Abilene.

Isaac, B.J., and Rick Doyle

Learning to Control Your Diabetes

Learning to control your diabetes can be the single most important strategy in your life. Diabetes can nega-



HOWDY!

By: Kathy Adair



Read The Fine Print

One of the most common problems people run into when borrowing money deals with the language in the contract. Balloon, acceleration, security-- they're all types of clauses you may encounter when you take out a loan. Financial lingo can cost you if you don't understand the terms. A balloon clause is one of the most common because it often allows consumers a lower interest rate. People think they will be able to save enough money to cover the balloon payment when often times they cannot. Be sure you can make that last large payment or have a good enough credit line to refinance the loan. An acceleration clause is also fairly common. It allows the lender to demand total payment of the loan if the borrower misses one payment. It is also wise to know if you have a right of set-off clause. That comes into play if you have put up your savings account as security for a loan. The bank can transfer funds from the savings account to cover missed payments and you may not realize it. A security agreement is even more harsh in that property you put up as collateral may be seized to cover the default. It pays to read the fine print.

tively affect many parts of toes, flour tortillas, beans, your body such as eyes, cir- and breads. Proteins are culation, kidneys and the car- foods like meat, cheese, and diovascular system. Many of cottage cheese. Each of your daily meals should include these factors can cause severe problems if blood sugars remain uncontrolled.

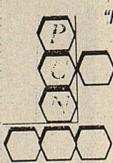
Diet is the key to successful blood sugar control. Decreasing the amount of starches and increasing the number of protein, vegetables, and fruits in the diet can be the first step. Some examples of starches or carbohydrates are corn, pota-

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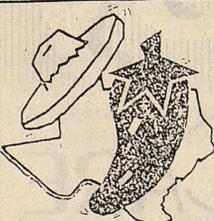
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Booster Club Athletic Banquet Wrap Up

The Plains Booster Club awarded a number of scholarships at its annual Athletic Awards Banquet recently. PHS graduating Seniors Mary Morales, Sonia Avila, Wayne Willett and Stephen Bitolas each received \$350 scholarships. Dean Easter also presented Sports Med scholarships to graduating Kristi Guetersloh and Marte Pierce. The Yoakum County Golf Club also presented a new scholarship to graduate Jacob Lester.

The Club's Super Booster awards went to John Kitto and Ray Young. The club expressed special appreciation to Beverly Lowrey, Bill May, Ray Young and Pat McNabb for their help in the banquet, and all who brought desserts and helped decorate and clean the cafeteria.

"Most Outstanding Athlete Awards went to; Volleyball-Sandi Warren; Football- Joe Luna; Basketball- Tessa St. Romain, Kyle Bearden and Tanner Blount; Golf- Tessa St. Romain and Jason Redman; Power lifting- Distin Brunson; Tennis- Robin Squyres and Mary Morales, Yancey House and Wayne Willett.; Cross Country- Tanya Hernandez and Jesus Hernandez; Track- Kristen Gray and Jesus Hernandez. Black & Gold awards went to Sandi Warren, Jacob Lester and Stephen Lester.

Booster Club officers for 1997-98 are Pam Redman, President, David Brunson, Vice-President, and Kathy Jones, Secretary/Treasurer.



Jason Redman with special basketball award from Coach David Williams



PISD Trustees Brad Palmer, Danny Bell and Kathy Bell in banquet serving line



Kyley Bearden with award from Steve Osborn



Kristen Gray with Track award from Steve Osborn



Tanya Hernandez and award from Coach McAdams



Williams awards Jamie Caballero



Outgoing Booster Club President Peggy Squyres

Murphey named top faculty at South Plains Lubbock

Jimidene Murphy was recently named an outstanding instructor on the South Plains Lubbock Campus.

Murphey, associate professor of office technology, received the Excellence in Teaching Award, the college's highest honor for full-time faculty members. She was presented with a plaque, along with a \$1,500 honorarium from Norwest Bank of Texas.

Miller, instructor in reading, was selected as the Associate Faculty Member of the Year. She was presented with a plaque, along with a \$500 honorarium from Southwestern Bell Telephone.

Murphey, who has 15 years of office experience and taught for three years prior to arriving at South Plains College, has served as a full-time faculty member in office occupations since 1989.

The Plains native has been both an innovator and leader in her field. She has taught 21 different preparations in office technology, general business and management and marketing at the SPC, developed Power point materials for use in textbooks on business and personal finance, and served as a pre-

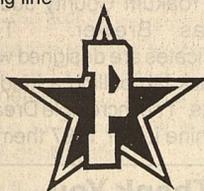
sender at the Tech Prep State Conference. Murphey is the daughter of Sidney and the late Preston Murphey of Plains.

In 1995, Murphey led an extensive research project in Lubbock which surveyed the office skills need in local employers and resulted in major revisions for the office technology program.

She is currently serving as business administration section chair of the Texas Community College Teachers' Association and is president-elect of District 17 of the Texas Business Educators Association. She was named as the association's district teacher of the year in 1993.

She holds a bachelor of business administration degree in office management and a master of business administration degree in marketing and management, both from Tarleton State University. She also has a master of arts degree in English rhetoric and composition from Texas Tech University.

She will assume chairmanship of the Business Administration Department on the Lubbock Campus in August. He who gives phony compliment gives nothing... he who accepts compliment gets less



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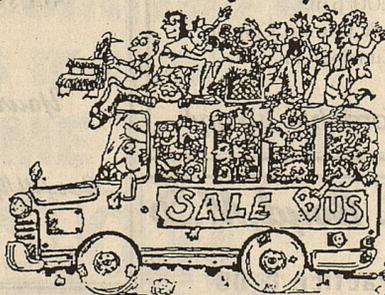


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Walker, Texas Rep

Friends, by time you read this, the session will be officially over. We have sifted through, approved, debated and disagreed on more than 1500 pieces of legislation. These are just the fortunate ones that passed from committee to the floor.

Before I get into the highlights of the session, I want to tell you what a privilege and honor it is to serve you. During the past 140 days, I had the pleasure of working on, defining and supporting legislation that will affect the folks of District 80 for years to come.

Senate Bill 1814 relating to the new boll weevil program was signed by the Governor May 30. Senator Duncan, I and several members of the House crafted what I believe is a logical program allowing for more logical involvement in the process. The new program has the sound basis to be an excellent framework to build upon.

Many long hours of debate and compromise were recently rewarded with the passage of SB1, the water bill. It makes provisions for interbasin transfers, the creation and development of water districts and studies regarding our aquifers. As a conferee, I can assure you the ten members of the conference committee worked diligently with leadership of the House and Senate. I am certain the plan provides a foundation for the course of water management for the new milenium.

During the session, the Legislature passed more than two dozen bills tightening the justice system. With the current revisions to codes, repeat offenders will receive stronger sentences and serve longer terms. Mandatory release will no longer be an option for repeat sex offenders. "Good time credit" I am looking forward to dis-eliminated for this type habitual offender under the new provisions.

As many of you know, I did not support the much anticipated HB4 relating to property taxes. I am the first to admit Texans need some

type of relief from the burdensome taxation system in place. However, I am not willing to make that rollback at the expense of schools and the quality of our children's education. Now that the tax bill is dead, many have asked, "What will happen to the billion dollar surplus we heard so much about?" A select committee of senators and representatives have hammered out a compromise to allocate the surplus equitably. Teachers at the state base will received a much deserved 6% pay raise over the next biennium. The remainder of the funds will offset the increase of homestead exemption from \$5000 to \$15000. The exemption is contingent upon a referendum scheduled for August.

The Governor and the Legislature will continue to study property tax relief. We must find better ways to increase the state's contribution to school funding, revise the Robin Hood plan and roll back property taxes while ensuring quality education.

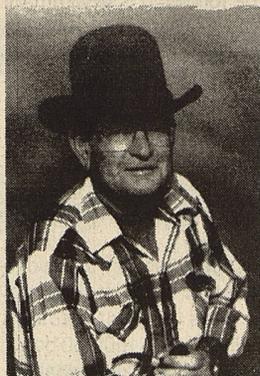
The state broke with more than 150 years of tradition by passing home equity lending. I did not support the measure. Not because I am against change, but because I am for citizens safety. I cannot support a measure that is a potential threat to the economic stability of the elderly and the agricultural community. The final decision on home equity lending will come in November by way of a referendum.

Electric deregulation was an issue thought to be "definite" this session. However, no such bill appeared. The history of deregulation and the fallout that follows when issues are hastily considered, has prompted the state to take a slow and thoughtful look at retail wheeling.

I am looking forward to discussing the past 140 days with you at various civic functions. If you have specific questions about legislation, feel free to contact me

Gary L. Walker,
State Representative,
District 80

Final Rites for Bob Lester



Bobby F. (Bob) Lester, 63, died Saturday, May 31, 1997, losing a battle with cancer for almost a year. The day of his death marked the date of his retirement from The State Department of Transportation and Highways. His goal was to reach this date before his death.

Bob was born to Vaden and Vera Lester December 3, 1933, in Jones County, Texas. He grew up in Lamesa and finished high school at Welch. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Terry.

Bob farmed many years in Yoakum County before moving to Austin in 1987. He became a traffic recorder with the Highway Department at that time.

Bob is survived by his wife Teny of Austin; A daughter, Cyndy Koncaba of Plains, son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Jan Lester; Three grandsons, Jacob and B.J. Lester, and Daniel Lee, all of Plains; three granddaughters, Brandy(Lester) and husband Chris Gayle of Lubbock, Amanda and Nancy Koncaba, Plains, and a new light in his life, great granddaughter Halee Deigh Martin of Plains; Three aunts, Millie Boone, San Antonio, Betty Haught, Hamlin, and Ruth Wingate, Cottonwood, Arizona; an uncle, Starkey Cozzens, Lamesa, and brother-in-law Shawn Rogers of Plains, and a host of cousins and friends.

Bob enjoyed his family along with considered 'adoptees' to the Lester family whose love and care supported him both

during his life and his illness. These include Mike and Garby Campasso, T.J. and Sandra Greany, Jennie Savage, all of Austin, Augie and Lyndra Carrasco and B.J. of Buda, Mark and Debbie Green of Rosanke, Mike and Debbie McRae of Smithville, Mark and Valerie Harmon of Weimar, and Tina Halliday of Taiwan.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 9, at the First United Methodist Church in Plains, with Reverend Pendergrass officiating.

He enjoyed fishing on Lake Amistad, and plans are pending for the scattering of his ashes at the conjunction of the Pecos and Rio Grande Rivers west of Del Rio.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to the Unity Church of Austin, Hospice of Austin or a favorite charity.

Gonna Be a Good Year

Plains, Texas—Gary Six, County Executive Director, of the Farm Service Agency reported that Yoakum County is "well on the way" to having a good year as far as crops and production is concerned. Mr. Six state that as planting is coming to an end, producers need to be reminded that they need to certify their crops as soon as they have completed their planting. Producers have until July 15, 1997 to certify Cotton, Corn, Grain Sorghum, Peanuts, Fruits and Vegetables or any crop in which they have crop insurance or would like to receive price support protection or Non-Insured Assistance. Mr. Six also stated that producers need to be reminded that they have until June 16, 1997 to file for temporary release or request reapportioned quota peanuts. Six stated that "in prior years requests have been many" and this year they have failed to request or were not interested.

The ladder of success contains many splinters, not apparent until one is sliding down it.

DELICIOUS !!

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To students and faculty of Junior High

"Middle School students and teachers are to be congratulated on your outstanding achievements on the Texas TASS tests. Our students should be proud of their results. The teachers worked diligently throughout the school year to provide the knowledge and background for the students.

The Middle School has been a Recognized Campus the past two years, and will continue to be honored as a Recognized Campus in 1997. To the students and teachers of the middle school, I congratulate you again, and offer my thanks for your hard work and service to Plains Independent School District"

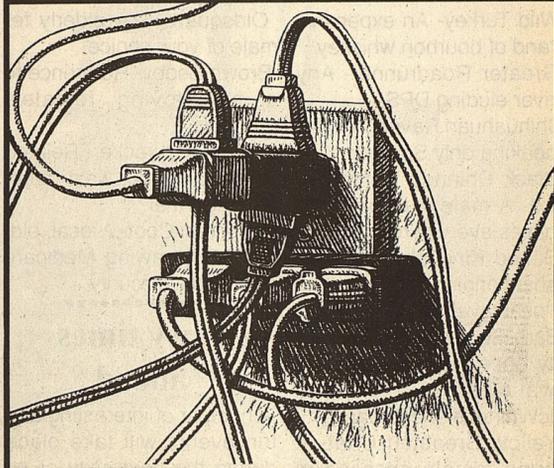
Ronnie Watkins,
Middle School Principal
(We apologize for our oversight in failing to publish this letter in last week's edition).

Call Before You Dig

Are there utilities buried in your property? Chances are the answer is yes, whether it is power lines, gas lines, water pipes, cable TV lines, or telephone lines. Since this is a busy time for outdoor work, it is important to keep buried cable in mind if you or someone you've hired is digging on or near your property.

ALLTel would like to encourage all customers to call 1-800-662-5583 before you start to dig. A service technician will be happy to come out and identify the exact location of the lines on your property. The call is free and so is the visit to locate the cable.

Puncturing a cable line cannot only be costly -- it can be dangerous, too. Additionally, telephone lines can be the lifelines for emergency services such as hospitals and fire or police departments.



STICK AROUND FOR THE FIREWORKS.

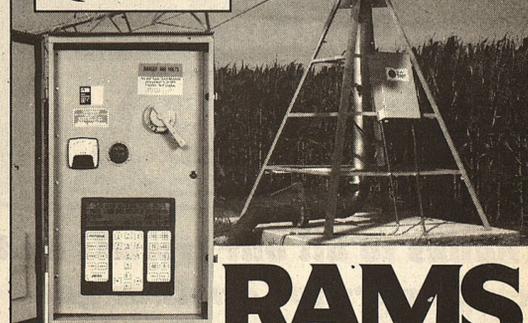
Here's an accident waiting to happen. A standard wall outlet designed for two plugs, totally overloaded. It's an all too-common occurrence. Overloading can result in electrical shorts, power outages, fires and personal injury. All of which are easily avoidable. The best rule is to use only one plug per outlet, and a little common sense. And remember that with every additional plug, you're increasing your chance of an accident. Or, at least some fireworks.

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From The Hack



Frequently in this column we refer to watching birds from the deck in our backyard, and often have to refer to reference books to identify some of the less notable species. Still having problems with names and descriptions, we stumbled upon a "Hipster's Guide To Bird Watching" in a Lubbock book store recently. It's a great help. For example;

Northern Pygmy Owl- A small owl depending on yankee dwarfs for sustenance.

Elf Owl- Another owl with a preference for slightly larger elves.

Scaled Quail- A western quail properly weighed and certified to run like hell.

Wild Turkey- An expensive brand of bourbon whiskey.

Greater Roadrunner- Any driver eluding DPS.

Chihuahuan Raven- A crow speaking only Spanish.

Black Chinned Hummingbird- A male hummer who shaves every third day.

Belted Kingfisher- A kingfisher hanging out too long at a local tavern.

Barn Swallow- A local variety once reported to have swallowed Macky McWhirter's sheep barn.

Yellow Breasted Chat- A young female encased in yellow bra who can't shut up.

Dickcissel- Better pass here.

Brewer's Sparrow- The bird which laid eggs and other stuff in Judge Brewer's golf bag.

Brown Headed Cowbird- Ugly looking bird standing too near rear end of Hereford Bull.

Lewis' Woodpecker- Named

for Civil War Vet with prosthetic device.

Yellow Bellied Sapsucker- A favorite of Chinese people.

Hairy Woodpecker- An offshoot from Lewis' strain.

Three-Toed Woodpecker- An obvious mutant of the above.

Bridled Titmouse- A definitely handicapped mouse with an affinity.

Plain Titmouse- A common bird with no concern for standards.

Gray-Cheeked Thrush- An old drunk.

Worm Eating Warbler- One of the guys you play golf with.

Yellow Eyed Junco- One of those birds you saw in Tiajuana when you were in the Navy.

Oldsquaw- The elderly female of your choice.

Brown Booby- Reference to a sun loving female's anatomy.

Clark's Nutcracker- Related to the D.A., but we'd better not go further.

American Coot- A local, elderly bird drawing Medicare and Social Security.

Busy times ahead

A number of interesting and fun events will take place during the next sixty or so days. The annual Denver City Fly-In Breakfast will be held at their airport Saturday morning, June 14, from 8 to 11 a.m. The event draws aviation buffs from around the state and other states.

The 44th Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo will run from July 31 thru August 2. Rodeo Queen candidates and their sponsors this year

include Marcey House, Yoakum County Roping Club, Tandi Jones, Plains Chamber of Commerce, and Krystal Sellers, Plains Lions Club Rodeo performances will be held Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and the Reunion and big barbecue feed will be in Stanford Park at noon Saturday.

The Yoakum County Watermelon Round Up, which in its debut last year drew approximately 3,000 visitors, is scheduled for all day Saturday, August 30. Yoakum County Connection, which sponsors the Round Up, is busy making plans for an even bigger festival this year.

USA TODAY Four Day Forecast

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
90S	80S
FRIDAY	SATURDAY
80S	80S

Wednesday: Variable clouds with showers & thunderstorms, high 90, overnight low 60.

Thursday: Variable clouds with showers and thunderstorms, high of 83, overnight low 60.

Friday: Partly cloudy, high of 88, overnight low of 61.

Saturday: Partly cloudy, periods of sunshine, high 87, overnight low 61.

Men-do not try to change your wife of forty for two twenties.

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NOTICE
Commodities will be delivered in Plains on Thursday, June 12

Legislature Sends Strong Signal: Kids Can't Wait, Child Support Now!

by John Sharp, Comptroller of Public Accounts

In 1983, the year before the state's child support enforcement program was transferred to the Attorney General, Texas was a laughingstock. Known as a safe haven for child support fugitives, collections that year were a meager \$18 million, and the program ranked at or near the bottom by nearly every measure among the 50 states.

Things have changed. Last year, collection totaled nearly \$620 million. State lawmakers have strengthened many laws through the years. Innovative approaches have been tried, the most successful adopted. And public attitudes have shifted. The failure to pay child support is no longer socially acceptable.

This is all well and good. But for all the increased collections, the state's child support caseload has risen even further—up from 175,000 back in 1983 to more than one million today.

Meanwhile, high divorce rates and more out-of-wedlock births have produced growing numbers of children who depend on the financial support of an absent parent, usually the father. Unworked cases continue to multiply. Tracking down parents who are obligated to support their kids—but don't continue to prove difficult and costly. And far too many children continue to do without even the basic support they deserve.

The facts are startling. Only one in every five Texas kids eligible for child support is receiving it. Many of them come from low-income families. Two-thirds of them are living in poverty. Most of them lack health insurance, and so do more than 100,000 of their working mothers—because even if their employers offer it, they can't afford to take advantage of the offer. These mothers and their children are the first to fall into the gulf of poverty.

Moreover, the number of these children who should be—

but aren't—receiving help from their own absent parents keeps growing, too. As many as 15,000 new cases are added to the state's child support enforcement program every month.

Now, based on a package of proposals in my Disturbing the Peace report, state lawmakers have taken several important steps to help turn the situation around. Legislation sponsored by State Senator Chris Harris and State Representative Toby Goodman, both of Arlington, along with State Representative Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio and Elliott Naishtat of Austin, gives Texas new tools to send the message that no one is exempt from parental obligation.

The bill, which has been sent to the Governor for his signature, will boost the effectiveness of the child support program by streamlining the procedures for filing liens in local courts on the property of child support scofflaws, enhancing state technology for tracking delinquent parents, and establishing a "most wanted" bounty program to identify publicly parents who owe child support and refuse to pay up.

Another provision will authorize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to collect social security numbers from people applying for new driver's licenses, or renewing old ones, and by allowing DPS to then deny licenses to those who refuse to supply the information.

One of the most important provisions is a campaign called "Kids Can't Wait: Child Support Now!"

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Garage Sale!
What: Fun Machine organ, television, kids toys, furniture, household items, and other stuff galore.
When: Friday & Saturday, June 6-7.
Where: Brick building just east of bank- 609 9th St.

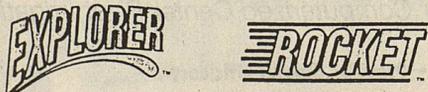
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