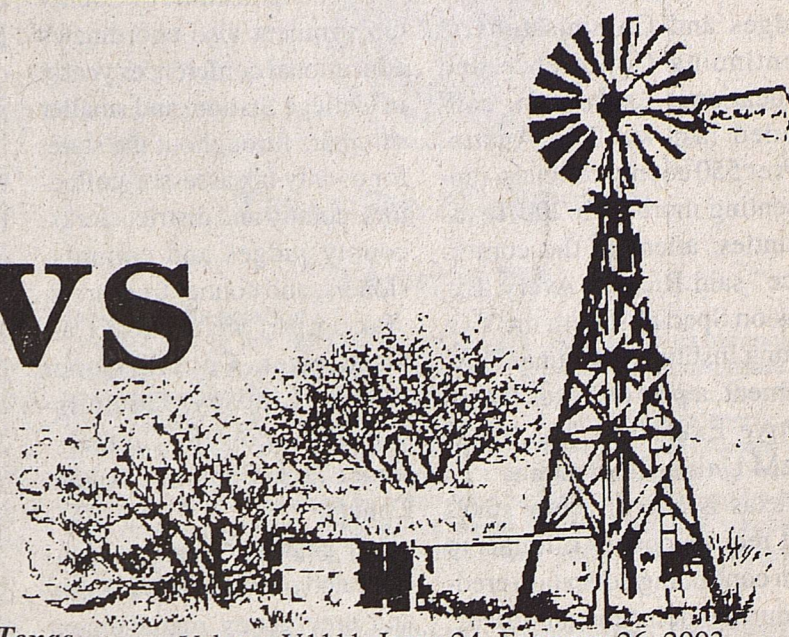


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume VI111, Issue 24, February 26, 2003



Water District to call election

In a regular session of Sandy Land Underground Water Conservation District Board of Directors February 12, the board called for a board of directors election to be held May 3, 2003, for the purpose of electing three board of directors at-large. Application for a place on the ballot is open and will be received until 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 19, 2003. Applications for filing for place on the ballot may be picked up at the Sandy Land District office.

There are three positions up for election. The incumbents for these positions include David Turnbough, Don Parrish and Darrell Barron. These men have indicated they will seek re-election to these offices. These positions are for four year terms.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at the Sandy Land District office, 1012 Avenue F, Plains, Texas, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. beginning on April 16, 2003, and continuing through April 29. Additional early voting by personal appearance will be held at the Denver City Chamber of Commerce, 120 N. Main, Denver City, Texas, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Applications for ballot by mail should be mailed to Cindra Box, Early Voting Clerk, at PO Box 130, Plains, Texas 79355. April 25, 2003 is the last day to receive applications for early voting by mail. For any additional information, call 806-456-2155.

Credit Union hosts 54th annual meeting Two new directors elected



Yoakum County Credit Union held its 54th annual meeting February 22 in the Plains School Cafeteria. 164 members and guests were served a ham and brisket dinner with all the trimmings. The credit union was organized in 1949, and the only surviving charter member of the credit union, Pierre St. Romain, was recognized at the annual meeting. The credit union now has some 950 members, and assets totaling \$2,780,000. Treasurer-Manager Teddy Knox reported 2002 was a very successful year, and at the start of 2003, the credit union had no delinquent loan accounts.

President Melvin Dearing and Vice President Ruby Sellers presided during the business meeting and election of directors. Incumbent nominees for directors Dearing and Sellers were joined by new nominees Joan Breith, Lanny Smith, Robert Canon, Tim Willis, Ben Coston

and Korin Pate. When the ballots were tallied, directors for 2003 will include Dearing and Sellers, Tommie Brown, Linda Kennedy, Lisa Switzer, Ruby Sellers, Robert Canon and Lanny Smith.

Owen Schneider, who chose to step down after serving as a credit union director 15 years, was presented with a gift clock for his services.

Dearing reported the National Credit Union Administration had recently notified the credit union it had received a '5 - A' rating, the very highest rating awarded by NCUA.

Manager Knox expressed her appreciation to business firms and individuals from Plains and Denver City for donating 165 door prizes awarded during the meeting. The Invocation was offered by Bill Adams, the Benediction by Evert McAdams.



Charter member Pierre St. Romain, son Joe and wife Mary Jo

Drug case in District Court

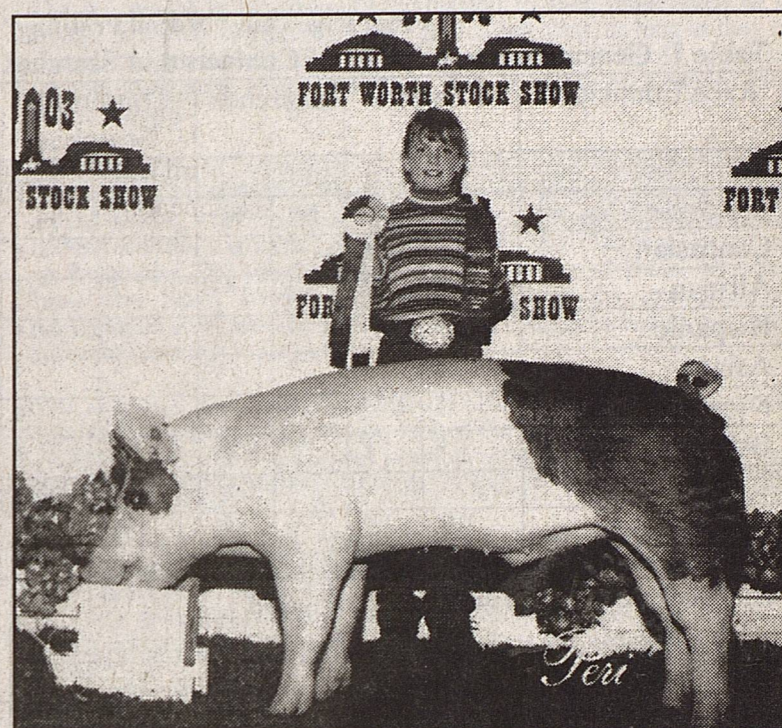
In the February 14 session of District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, Jimmy Joe Fowler pled guilty to methamphetamine possession, less than one gram. A two year state jail sentence was suspended and probated five years. He was fined \$1000 and must pay \$223 court costs, \$140 restitution to DPS and \$25 time payment fee. A cause of possession or transport of chemicals with intent to manufacture methamphetamine was adjudicated. He must attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings three times a week, surrender his driver license 180 days, complete the drug offender program, and complete the Southwest Institute for Addictive Diseases program at University Health Science Center. DPS Trooper Brad Taylor was investigating officer, and David M. Guinn Jr. was his attorney.

Disaster Assistance Bill Passed

When Congress passed the Omnibus Fiscal 2003 Appropriations Bill late Thursday they included a much needed disaster assistance package for farmers. The package addresses the severe weather related crisis that has gripped farm country across America for several years.

Noting the key role played by Vice President Cheney in brokering the negotiations that allowed the disaster package to be included in the Omnibus Bill, the National Association of Wheat Growers President, Tommy Womack of Tulia, Texas said, "I want to thank the Vice President for taking a constructive interest in the farmers of the United States and we

Local youngster wins big at Fort Worth



Kristen Knight, the daughter of Tadd and Scotta Knight and a Plains 4-H member, exhibited the Reserve Champion Crossbred Barrow at the Junior Barrow Show during the 2003 Southwestern Exposition and Livestock Show on January 30.

The stock show's Junior Division drew 9,200 youth entries, with junior premiums exceeding \$86,000. The junior list is part of the overall count of more than 21,000 animals exhibited during the 23 day run of the livestock show and the World's Original Indoor Rodeo. Last years show hosted 951,000 visitors from 60 nations.

Sheriff details department's program to combat racial profiling

In the February 24 session of Commissioners Court, Sheriff Don Corzine presented a broad outline of the Sheriff Departments efforts to avoid racial profiling by department officers during law enforcement assignments. The sheriff said during the 77th session of the Texas Legislature, the Texas Racial Profiling Law (SB 1074) was passed, prohibiting racial profiling practices by any law enforcement agency. The sheriff's report to this session of the court is also mandated by SB 1074 and due by March 1 each year.

Corzine reported his department's nine commissioned peace officers, five commissioned reserve officers and five commissioned jailers, plus six civilian staff members, have received instructions and training on racial profiling and adhere to an official policy banning the practice.

Corzine reported the fairly recent installation of video cameras in patrol vehicles, and microphone recorders worn by officers on duty play an important role in protecting the officer, as well as a safeguard for a suspects legal rights.

Western Peanut Growers Annual Meeting Set March 4

Western Peanut Growers Association will be hosting their Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday March 4, 2003 at the Gaines County Civic Center, 402 NW 5th Street, Seminole, TX. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 a.m. followed by the program of activities. All members are encouraged to attend this informative meeting.

Guest Speaker, Bib Bor a Washington, D.C. attorney, will be discussing the new farm bill and the future problems and challenges involving the peanut program. Mr. Bor and FSA State Peanut Specialist, Kathy Sayers and FSA District Di-

rector, Branda Boomer, will be airing questions from the membership.

Ted Higginbottom, Chair of the National Peanut Board, will give a brief presentation on the National Board's activities.

Business to be conducted will include reading of the minutes, a financial report, a research farm update, and an election of fill two expiring director terms.

Members are urged to make a list of questions and encouraged to invite new peanut producers and friends of the industry.

Judges, commissioners meet in Austin

The 45th Annual County Judges and Commissioners' Continuing Conference and Educational Exposition, concluded last week in Austin. "Over 550 county officials, representing more than 200 Texas counties, attended the conference," said Richard Avery, Extension Specialist with the V.G. Young Institute of County Government, a part of Texas Cooperative Extension, The Texas A&M University System. "Texas is one of a few states that require county officials to earn continuing education credits during their time on office," Avery said, adding that "county judges and county commissioners are required to have 16 hours of continuing education per year and this conference is one of the places where they can earn that credit." In addition,

V.G. Young Institute of County Government also coordinates educational conferences yearly in College Station, and smaller seminars throughout the state, for county tax assessor-collectors, county and district clerks, county judges and commissioners, and county treasurers. Taking part were Judge Dallas Brewer, Commissioner Woody Lindsey, Commissioner Ty Powell, Commissioner Jack Cobb of Yoakum County.

This year's conference concentrated on homeland security and emergency management and response. Topics included discussions on interoperability, terrorism intelligence, pipeline safety and the federal election reform bill;..

"What makes this conference

unique is that county officials have the option to choose 'specialized tracks' to attend during afternoon workshops. Tracks included special judicial training for county judges, sessions for county commissioners (coordinated by the Engineering, Utilities and Public Works Training Institute of the Texas Engineering Extension Service), as well as Curriculum 2000 courses to fulfill requirements of this advanced certification program," said Avery.

Judge Dallas Brewer said, "county judges and commissioners can prepare to meet future challenges and better meet the demands of today by taking part in professional certification through successful completion of continuing education courses."



Credit Union members line up for sumptuous dinner at 54th annual meeting last Saturday

port. Limited Government, Unlimited Opportunity. I have offered 64 separate proposals and 179 individual recommendations addressing general government, health and human services and education. These proposals will improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of state government while producing \$1.7 billion in additional general revenue over the next biennium, without raising taxes.

I will not abdicate my responsibility to the people of Texas. I will continue to search for additional savings. I will monitor economic indicators and revise the revenue estimate as needed. And I will continue to tell it like it is! To paraphrase the country western song, I'm going to see to it that Texas doesn't have "too much month at the end of the money."

Tightening Our Belt

Carole Keeton Strayhorn, Texas Comptroller

I'm going to tell it like it is. If Texas lawmakers don't make the tough choices of tightening up our state's budget, Texas taxpayers face a \$9.9 billion shortfall in the upcoming biennium.

Two years ago, I warned that while the Legislature had technically balanced the budget, they had done so in such a way that we would inevitably be facing a shortfall of \$5.1 billion when the 78th Legislature convened. The spendthrift decisions by the last Legislature to blow the \$3 billion surplus, stacked upon the passage of unfounded obligations, have now collided with an anemic economy.

Since my original projection, our economy has suffered an economic triple play: the after-effects of September 11 and the continued threat of war and terrorism, the bursting of the dot-

com bubble and the drag on business investment ignited by the Enron and WorldCom financial scandals.

Many will use this news to issue a call for higher taxes. Some will say this means we need a state income tax. I say either of these ideas will only dig a deeper hole for Texas taxpayers, and I will fight against them both each and every day throughout this legislative session and for as long as I hold public office.

We will learn from this budgetary challenge. The Legislature must make a commitment to the people of Texas that they will never again spend every last dime of taxpayer money, nor establish program after program, while leaving an IOU for the next generation.

In January, I proposed \$3.65 billion in revenue savings and efficiencies in my e-Texas re-

City General Election Slated

The City Council for the City of Plains has called for a General Election to be held in the City of Plains on Saturday, May 3, 2003. The election will be held at the City of Plains City Hall located at 1015 Ave F in Plains, Texas. The purpose of this election will be to elect three (3) Council members.

Those with expiring terms are Council members Arlon Alexander, Christy Brink and Owen Schneider.

First day for filing an application for a place on the ballot is **Tuesday, February 18, 2003 and the filing deadline is 5 PM on Wednesday, March 19, 2003.** Applications for a place on the ballot can be picked up at the Plains City Hall during regular business hours.

From Page One, "Racial Profiling"

Table 1. General Demographics of Contacts and Searches

Table with 12 columns: Race/Ethnicity, Contacts (N, %), Searches (N, %), Consensual Searches (N, %), PC for Search (N, %), Custody Arrest (N, %). Rows include Caucasian, African, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, Other, and Total.

This chart reflects the number of contacts and searches made by sheriff department officers and racial background of those citizens contacted

"If an officer stops a motorist for a traffic violation or some probable cause, the video captures the scene, and the microphone records any conversation between the officer and the subject. If the motorist or pedestrian later complains to my office the officer was rude, belligerent, the video and re-

CORDING can be replayed to prove, or disprove the complaint." He said the tape and recordings are kept for 90 days, longer if they must be used in court proceedings.

Corzine told the court since SB 1074 was passed in 2002, his department had experienced no charges of racial profiling. He

also explained patrol officers are expected, when stopping a motorist for any perceived violation, to issue the motorist a citation, either in the form of a warning or an actual ticket. This confirms to the motorist the officer did have probable cause to stop the motorist.

Sandy Land UWCD Rainfall Measurements In Yoakum County 2002

Large table showing rainfall measurements for 20 measuring sites in Yoakum County for each month from January to December 2002, plus a total column.

The most precipitation, 18.60 inches, was recorded in section 167, about 4 miles north of Bronco, followed by 17 inches in section 163, some 3 miles east of there. The least amount, 7.80 inches, fell in section 575, about 5 miles southwest of town. March was the wettest month, with almost 65 inches of precip collected at the twenty measuring sites.

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Obituaries

Service Held For Hazel Lackey Carpenter

Services for Hazel Lackey Carpenter were held Thursday, February 20, 2003 at Plains Baptist Church in Plains, TX with reverend Glen C. Smith officiating and Mr. Raymond Wolfe assisting. Burial followed in Plains Cemetery. Services were under direction of Resthaven Funeral Home of Lubbock.

Hazel Lackey Carpenter passed away Saturday, February 15, 2003 at Carillon House, in Lubbock, TX, after a brief illness. She was born at Harrold, TX., October 23, 1908. She was the first child of Harold Main Smith and Willie Vanzoe Smith. She went of school in Oklaunion, Ford School, and Vega High School, where she graduated valedictorian of her class in 1926. Hazel attended West Texas State Teacher's College in Canyon for 3 1/2 years. She finished her B.S. Degree 24 years later, in 1950. She played the piano at silent movies in Canyon while attending college. Hazel married Ray Lackey in Canton, Tx. July 7, 1928. He preceded her in death August 10, 1988. Hazel taught elementary grades and music in the public schools of Plains, Brownfield and Union, Tx., for many years. She was an accomplished pianist and artist and played for worship services in the churches she attended and

at Carrillon Retirement Center. She was preceded in death by her father H.M. Smith December 21, 1968, and her mother Willie V. Smith September 28, 1987; one sister, Frances Louise Wood in 1968, and one brother, Farris H. Smith April 6, 2001. Hazel married Alf Carpenter July 27, 1990 in Farmers Branch, TX. He preceded her in death February 2, 1996.

Hazel is survived by their two sons, Don Lackey Of Decatur, Georgia, George Lackey of San Angelo, Tx, five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren, by three sisters: Dorothy Vogelsang of Edwards, Missouri, Evelyn Gault of Albuquerque, NM, and Billie Zoe McCravey of Plains, Tx. and two brothers; Edward T. Smith of Brownfield, TX. and Reverend Glen C. Smith of Sundown, Tx., one step daughter, Elsie Light of Lubbock, TX., six step grandchildren and twenty step great grandchildren.

Hazel was a member of Lakeside United Methodist Church and the Terry County Retired Teachers Association and a past member of the Order of the Eastern Star.

The family suggests memorials to the Carillon Senior Living Campus Chapel Fund 1717 Norfolk Ave. Lubbock, TX 79461, or the charity of your choice.

Private Service Held For Geraldine Perez

Private services for Geraldine T. Perez, 81, of Plains will be held at a later date.

The family hosted a reception from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. February 24, 2003 at 104 Ave. G in Plains.

Arrangements were under the direction of Mark A. Jones Funeral Directors in Plains.

She died Saturday, February 22, 2003.

She was born April 6, 1921, in Humboldt, Iowa. She married Jimmy Perez on December

31, 1940. He died January 15, 1995. She moved to Everett, Washington, at an early age and attended schools there. She moved to Alaska in 1950, where she owned and operated the Knik Lodge for many years. She moved to Plains in 1997. She was of Lutheran faith.

Survivors include a daughter, Jeannette Head of Plains; three grandchildren; four great grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to a favorite charity.

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Plains State Bank Joins Governor's Amber Network

Plains State Bank of Plains, Texas is participating in the Governor's Amber Alert Network as part of a grassroots effort by members of the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT).

The organization of community bankers joined the statewide network at the request of Governor Rick Perry, making available the services of the banks' electronic message systems and lobby and drive through facilities to alert the public of missing children.

Governor Perry created the Network through executive order as a cooperative program involving the Governor's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Department of Transportation and the Texas Association of Broadcasters.

"Every minute counts when a child is abducted," Governor Perry said. "There is no more urgent cause than that of finding an innocent, abducted child and returning that child to their loved ones."

The governor emphasized the statewide network will work in coordination with local systems already in place in some Texas cities.

"That's where we can help," Chris Williston, President/CEO of IBAT, said. "Our members can put information on the missing children on their electronic message boards by the roadside. They can put pictures of the missing by the teller's windows and at their drive through locations."

Williston said that there are 1,500 independent banks and branches that can be available to participate in the Governors' program. "We surveyed our membership and received an overwhelming response to help in their effort."

The Amber Alert concept originated in Texas after nine year old Amber Hagerman was kidnapped from her Arlington home in 1996 and murdered. A neighbor was able to provide details of a car believed to be involved in the abduction, but there was not a system in place to get that information to the public quickly.

After Amber's death, local residents worked with area radio stations to develop the Amber Alert. The network has been credited with helping safely recover more than 20 children across the nation.

Officials issue warning on gas price gouging

State leaders have issued a warning to Texas businesses about gasoline price fixing.

A possible war with Iraq, a stagnant US economy, a strike affecting the Venezuelan oil market, and a colder than normal winter in the northeast have pushed refined oil prices higher.

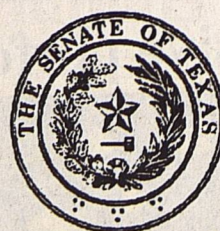
But state leaders say nothing accounts for the unwarranted spikes some consumers have seen recently across the state.

Governor Rick Perry said, "A sudden increase in gas prices, as consumers have experienced in recent days, concerns all Texans. We have heard complaints of gasoline selling in Texas well over \$2 per gallon. The vast majority of Texas companies conduct their businesses legally and ethically. Complaints received in our offices, however, will be investigated by the Attorney General, and I stand firm with General Abbott in warning companies against trying to exploit consumers."

AG Greg Abbott said, "Texas has always had a very competitive oil and gas market, and we encourage that. But we will not tolerate underhanded business dealings, intended to reap big profits by exploiting the national mood of uncertainty. My office will make every effort to ensure pricing is fair among businesses in this sector, and if it is not, we stand ready to stop it."

The two leaders noted that the preliminary investigation will focus on gasoline producers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers.

Perry and Abbott urge businesses to use restraint in the pricing of fuels in the face of uncertainty nationwide.



TEXAS SENATE REVIEW

February 14, 2003

Insurance Regulation

The first bill of the 78th Legislative session was passed unanimously on Tuesday, about two weeks after Gov. Rick Perry declared insurance to be an emergency matter. Senate Bill (SB) 310, sponsored by Sen. Troy Fraser from Marble Falls, requires all insurers of residential property doing business in Texas to immediately file their current rates and estimated rates for the next six months, as well as any supporting data, with the commissioner of insurance on a one-time basis. The commissioner has 30 days from the passage of the bill to report to the Legislature whether the rates are just, adequate, reasonable, and not excessive or unfairly discriminatory.

The Senate Committee on Business and Commerce heard further testimony on SB 14, which regulates the rates of automobile and homeowners insurance under a file and use system in which an insurer is required to file rates and supporting data with the commissioner of insurance. The commissioner has 60 days to disapprove the rate, otherwise it becomes effective.

Education

The Senate Committee on Education passed SB 86, sponsored by San Antonio Sen. Jeff Wentworth, after hearing public testimony on Tuesday. The bill would grant automatic admission to state universities to any student in the top 10 percent of their graduating class, as long as they take a prescribed curriculum. Sen. Wentworth also presented SB 83, which calls for the observance of one minute of silence during each school day in public schools.

The Military

The Senate Committee on Veteran Affairs and Military Installations held a joint hearing with the House Committee on Defense Affairs and State-Federal Relations and the Texas Strategic Military Planning Commission on Wednesday. The panel discussed the current state of Texas' 18 military bases and heard invited testimony concerning the upcoming Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) review in 2005, which is to trim excess domestic base infrastructure.

That afternoon, Sen. Eliot Shapleigh of El Paso held a press conference to announce the filing of legislation termed the "Military Preparedness Act of 2003" as an effort to prevent possible military base closures in Texas during the BRAC review.

A ceremony recognizing and saluting the Texas military was held on Wednesday in the Senate Chamber. Lieutenant Gov. David Dewhurst and Gov. Rick Perry, both U.S. Air Force veterans, as well as Sen. Leticia Van de Putte from San Antonio, McAllen Sen. Juan Hinojosa and others, expressed their gratitude to the active members and veterans of the Texas military.

The Budget

Hearings concerning the budget continued when the Senate Committee on Government Organization and the House Committee on Government Reform met jointly to hear testimony from State Auditor Lawrence Alwin. Alwin briefed the legislators on the two recent reports released by his office and outlined a series of proposals designed to help agencies better utilize their employees and make the most of their tightening budgets.

Children's Health

Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr. from Brownsville targeted what he called the growing epidemic of obesity by filing SB 474, the Texas Schoolchildren's Nutrition and Health Act. Lucio introduced the legislation limiting access to so-called junk foods, such as vending machine snacks and foods high in fat or sugar, in a press conference on Thursday. The bill also calls for the creation of a 12-member Schoolchildren's Nutrition and Health Advisory Council to develop a plan designed to improve the nutritional health of schoolchildren.

The State of the State

On Tuesday, Gov. Perry gave his 45-minute State of the State address before a joint session in the House Chamber. He outlined his suggestions to balance the budget without raising taxes and presented his top three priorities for the Legislature -- education, the economic security and safety of citizens, and the fiscal responsibility of government.

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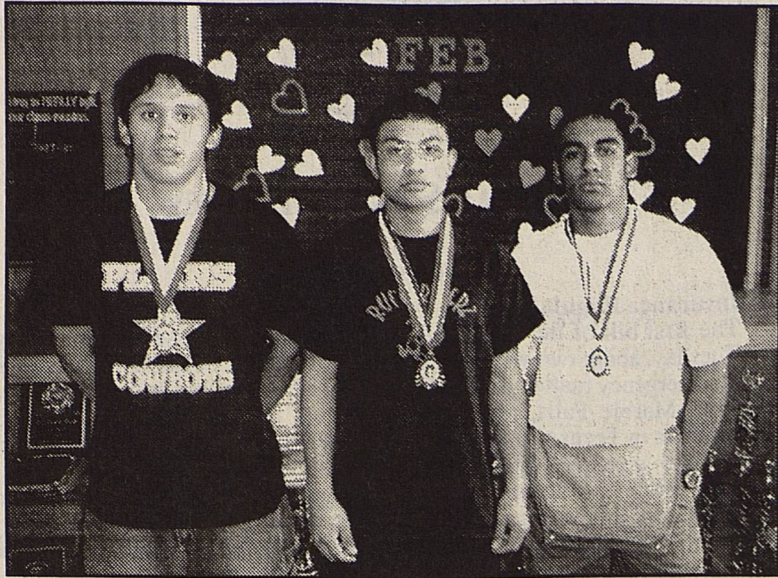
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PHS Power Lifters continue impressive performances



PHS power lifters Adam Guerrero, Jose Ramirez, Manuel Ramoz

Plains High had only three power lifters in the 16 team meet last Saturday, but managed to finish in fourth place, behind Brownfield, Morton and Lamesa.

Senior Manuel Ramoz lifted a total of 1155 pounds in the 165 pound class for a first place win. He qualified for the Regional meet in Floydada March 8, and is ranked in the top ten in the state.

Jose Ramirez, a senior and in the 148 pound class, had a total lift of 1065 pounds, and was named second best overall lifter. He is also in the state top ten and qualified for the Regional meet.

Junior Adam Guerrero was second in the 165 pound class with a total of 1055 pounds. Coach McWhirter reported he may also have qualified for Regional, but results would not be available by press time.

Band members advance in solo and ensemble contests

22 Cowboy Band members competed in the UIL solo and ensemble contest in Lubbock February 22.

Competing in a clarinet quartet were Allison Friesen, Skylar Keesee, Isamari Guzman and Caitlin Carter. Mandi Rogers, Kayla Willis, Krystal Moreno, BJ Lester, Stacie Alldredge and Colby Wilmeth performed in a percussion ensemble.

Receiving division one ratings and advancing to the State UIL solo and ensemble contest were Kim Martinez, TJ Cordova,

Nick Curtis, Meghan Garcia, Adam McCravey, Reagan Haynes, Cody Mayes, Elias Carrillo, Liz Wilmeth, Austin Keesee, Jordan Bean and Steven Dominguez. Jordan Bean and Liz Wilmeth also advance to the state contest with solos. The 12 advancing band members will travel to San Marcos/Austin in May. Band Director Ray Portillo said, "We have some of the best musicians in the state, and we plan to give them the exposure they need to become recognized."

UIL Journalism Meet Results

Three Plains High students placed in journalism events at the Midland College UIL meet February 21.

Sophomore Evan Cain placed fourth in headline writing, senior Liz Wilmeth placed fifth in news writing and eighth in editorial writing, and freshman Allison Friesen placed fifth in editorial writing. They competed with students from 1A to 5A districts.

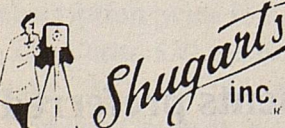
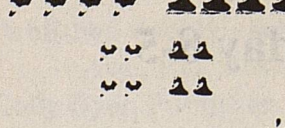
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Cowboy Baseball Update

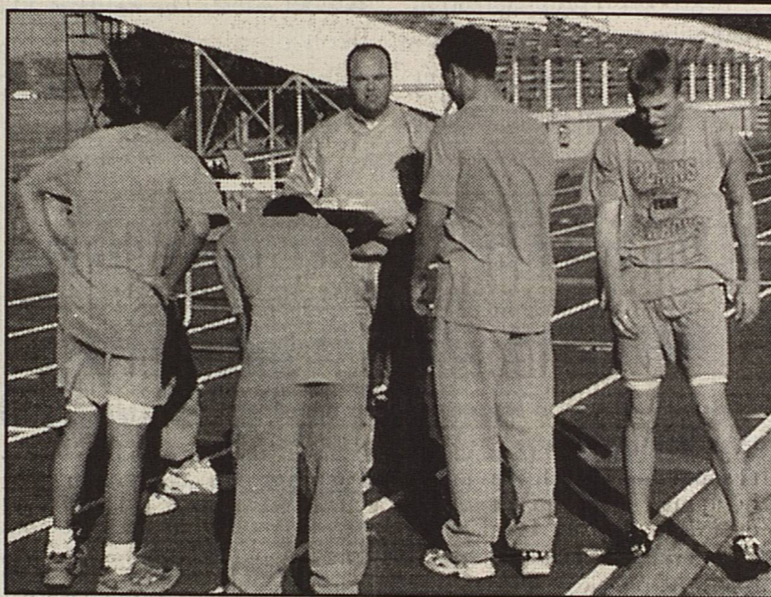
The Cowboys started their season with a convincing 9-2 win over the Lamesa JV. Kevin Bartley II and Arnold Cordova's doubles helped build a quick 5-0 lead. Evan Cain singled and drove Armando Ramirez in for a 6-1 lead. Nick Hays hit a double to score two runs, and T.J. Cordova hit his second double to drive in the final run for the win. Richard Diaz's pitching produced 8 strikeouts and only 5 hits, and the defense was error free.

The Cowboys traveled to Denver City February 22 and defeated the Mustang JV 12-3. Cowboy bats were hot, and they led 7-0 after the first inning. Arnold Cordova had a good day on the mound, allowing only 3 runs off 5 hits, and had two strikeouts. The younger Cowboys met Denver City in the second game and fell 2-0, and Coach Bartley thought their play was outstanding. Blake O'Quinn and David Alldredge both had great fly ball catches and throws to pick off runners.

PISD 2003 Track Schedule

Junior High:
March 1 at O'Donnell
March 6 Open
March 13 at Whiteface
March 27 at Plains
April 1 at Sundown
April 10 District - Zone at Plains

High School:
March 1 at O'Donnell
March 7 at Plains
March 14 at Whiteface
March 17-21 Spring Break
March 29 at Sundown
April 3 District at Sundown (4 PM)
April 4 District at Sundown (all day)
April 17 Area Meet
April 25-26 Regional at Levelland
May 9-10 State Meet at Austin



Coach McWhirter consoles tired Cowboy runners



Ashli Vantine works hard to get in shape

Final Wrangler Basketball Game

The 8th grade Wranglers ended the basketball season on a sour note, losing to Smyer 42-32. Scott Addison had the hot shooting hand with 18 points, JL Vasquez 6, Landon Craft and Rudy Gonzales 4 each. Coach Bartley cited the defensive play of Steven Dominguez and CJ Tarango, Jacob Rivera's hustle and two steals on defense.

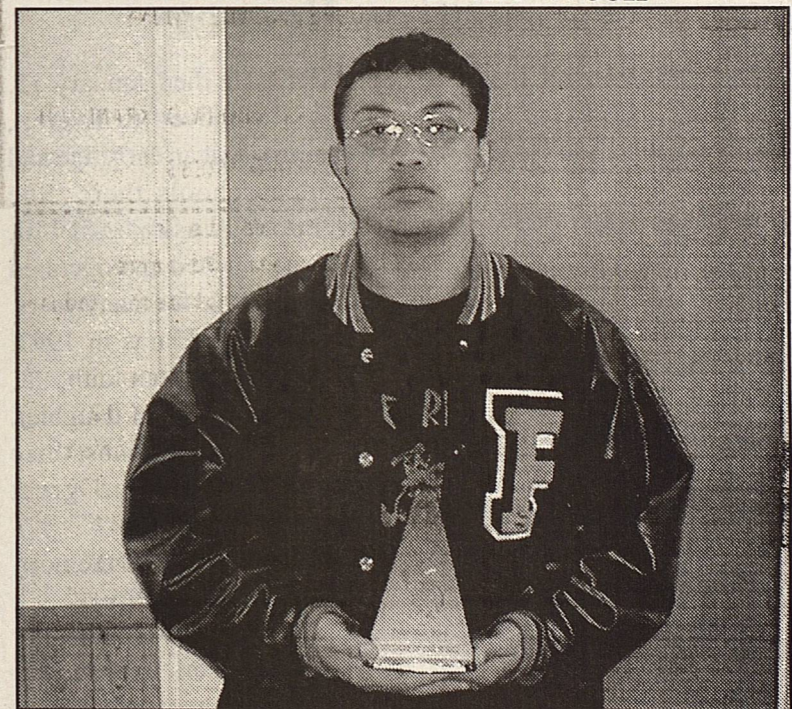


Anibal Gonzalez finishes part of daily 2000 meter conditioning

PHS 2003 Tennis Schedule

Feb. 20	Denver City @ Plains	4PM
Feb. 24	Brownfield @ Plains	4PM
March 4	Denver City/Seagraves	4 PM
March 10 or 11	Needed	
March 13	Sundown Tournament	4PM
March 17-21	Spring Break	
March 25	Needed	
March 28-29	SPECA Tourn.-Levelland	8AM
Mar.31-Apr. 1	District - Levelland	TBA
April 23/24	Regional- Levelland	TBA

PHS Student of the Week



Jose Ramirez, a senior and son of Carlos and Martina Ramirez, was nominated by Mrs. Wilkins, who said, "The words that come to mind when I think of Jose are heart and determination. He gives 100% in what ever he's doing, whether athletics or academics."

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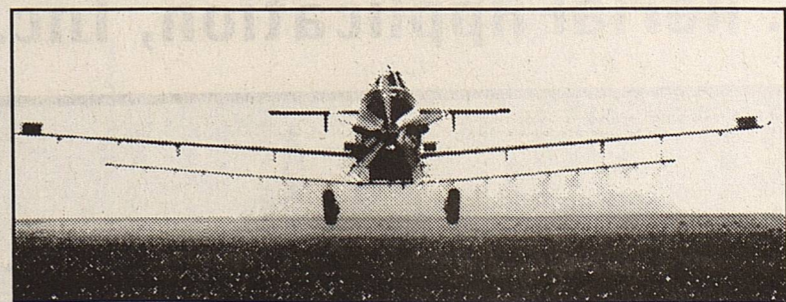
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If you have any questions feel free to stop by the office or you can contact us by phone at:

Office 456-6300, David Guetersloh Mobile # (806) 535-0065,

Dain Guetersloh Mobile # (806) 632-5375

Lifelines & Styles

New At The Library

FICTION:

- WIND...CALVIN MILLER
 - FINAL JUSTICE...W.E.B. GRIFFIN
 - THE CAT WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE HOUSE...LILIAN JACKSON BRAUN
 - ACORNA'S REBELS... ANNE MCCAFFREY
 - THE DANTE CLUB... MATTHEW PEARL
 - THE FIRST LAW... JOHN LESGROART
 - THE FIFTH ANGEL... TIM GREEN
 - DERAILED...JAMES SIEGEL
 - THE BEST REVENGE...STEPHEN WHITE
 - LIBERTY...STEPHEN COONTS
 - THE KING OF TORTS... JOHN BRISHAM
 - THE MASTERS BUTCHERS SINGING CLUB...LOUISE ERDRICH
 - THE SKRAYLING TREE...MICHAEL MOORCOCK
 - THE SECRET HOUR...LUANNE RICE
 - FLASHBACK...NEVADA BARR
 - DROWNING WORLD...ALAN DEAN FOSTER
 - SEVEN DIALS... ANNE PERRY
 - THE LAST DETECTIVE...ROBERT CRAIS
 - SCOTT FREE...JOHN GILSTRAP
- NON-FICTION:**
- THE NET STUDY GUIDE FOR NURSE ENTRANCE TEST... EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES, INC.
 - THE ROOTS OF TEXAS MUSIC...EDITED BY LAWRENCE CLAYTON
 - ALL THE PRESIDENTS' CHILDREN...DOUG WEAD
 - FUNDRAISING FOR NONPROFIT GROUPS...JOYCE YOUNG
 - CREDIT REPAIR... NOLO PRESS
 - THE BEST JOBS FOR THE 21st CENTURY...RONALD KRANNICH
 - 101 LAW FORMS FOR PERSONAL USE...NOLO PRESS



AUSTIN, Texas - (February 18, 2003) - Kurt and Jonathan Bliss, both preterm babies, play in a mound of March of Dimes beanie bears which represent the 877 preterm babies born in Texas each week. The March of Dimes Texas Chapter launched a five-year statewide awareness and education campaign to reduce the number of babies born prematurely. In the past decade, the rate of preterm birth in Texas has increased more than 13 percent and is the number one cause of newborn death statewide. Many preterm babies who survive have serious health problems and can suffer lifelong consequences such as blindness, mental retardation and asthma. The Texas campaign is part of a \$75 million nationwide effort across the U.S. Photo by Alan Pogue

Insurance Regulation Bill Passed

The first bill of the 78th Legislative session was passed unanimously on Tuesday, about two weeks after Governor Rick Perry declared insurance to be an emergency matter. Senate Bill (SB) 310, sponsored by Senator Troy Fraser from Marble Falls, requires all insurers of residential property doing business in Texas to immediately file their current rates and estimated rates for the next six months, as well as any supporting data, with the commissioner of insurance on a one-time basis. The commissioner has thirty days from the passage of the bill to report to the legislature whether the rates are just, adequate, reasonable, and not excessive or unfairly discriminatory.

The Senate Committee on Business and Commerce heard further testimony on SB 14, which regulates the rates of automobile and homeowners insurance under a file and use system in which an insurer is required to file rates and supporting data with the commissioner of insurance. The commissioner has sixty days to disapprove the rate, otherwise it becomes effective.

Senior Citizens Corner

Universally regarded as one of the greatest figures in U.S. history, and known as the 'father of his country', this man of personal wealth served as our first president for eight years. His name is George Washington. His photo has hung in countless school rooms for over two hundred years. We remember him today and are thankful for his immeasurable contribution to life as we know it.

Twelve seniors successfully completed the AARP Driving Class. Our thanks to Fred Nelson who came to be the instructor. He was accompanied by his lovely wife, Bernette. We enjoyed having them join us for lunch.

Leon and Ruth Gooch attended the class and they too, were luncheon guests. We hope to see them back again soon.

The Lovington Pool Tournament was well attended by our folk this time. Hoot Gibson won two trophies in the Men's competition, while Eileen Fillipp and June Hanneman brought home prizes from the ladies side of the room.

The Valentine Bake Sale was deemed a success with all kinds of goodies finding their way into various homes. The office reported a total of \$206.00 in profit. Thanks to everyone who participated in any way.

Six folks walked off with winning tickets at the Bingo tables on Tuesday. Inez Turner won the most with three wins which netted her a free meal ticket. Two time winners were Ruby Kennedy, Theresa Lile, and Jean Sparks. Genevive Gordy and Elmer Hanneman were also winners. This is a fun time after lunch on two Tuesdays each month. Come join us!

Fred Burkett, who has been coming to lunch with his granddaughter lately, has suffered a stroke and is confined at home. We miss him and hope he will soon be able to come back.

Dorothy Wood, from Imperial, TX., was a luncheon guest of Sally Sims on Tuesday. She is Sally's sister.

Margie Forbus reports that an evening spent watching the 'Cher' performance in Lubbock was exciting in every way. Watch her eyes sparkle as she tells about it.

Ann Holland and Pat Altman will drive to Lubbock for the Senior Forum on Wednesday. We expect them to bring home some exciting news of what's going on in the Senior world on a state and national level.

Social Security Questions and Answers

QUESTION: I work and pay Social Security taxes on my earnings and hope to retire in the next five years. Someone told me that the money I pay into the Social Security trust funds is being used for SSI payments. Is this true?

ANSWER: No. Social Security Trust Funds are used only to pay benefits to people who have worked in jobs covered by Social Security. The SSI (Supplemental Security Income) program is financed through general funds of the U.S. Treasury such as personal income taxes, corporation taxes and other taxes. The Social Security Administration is responsible for determining who is eligible for SSI, makes the basic payments to recipients and maintains a master record of SSI recipients.

QUESTION: I just started receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Can I also get social services from the state?

ANSWER: People who get SSI also may be able to get social services from the state they live in. These services may include free meals, housekeeping help, transportation or help with social problems. You can get information about services in your area from your state or local social services or welfare office.

QUESTION: I understand that if I qualify for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), I also will be eligible for other assistance, such as Medicaid. How does this work?

ANSWER: Medicaid eligibility depends on your state. In most states including Texas and New Mexico, SSI recipients also get Medicaid. SSI recipients are also generally eligible for social services provided by the state, city or county where they live. More information is available at the local public assistance office. SSI recipients may also qualify for food stamps in most states.

QUESTION: I'm a 66-year-old man. My only income is my \$380 Social Security retirement check. I've been able to supplement my check with my savings account so I can pay bills. But I've exhausted my savings account and I can't make ends meet. What can I do?

ANSWER: Contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213. You may be eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits as well as your Social Security benefit. SSI pays benefits to people age 65 or older, or blind, or have a disability and who don't own much or have a lot of income. If you qualify for SSI, you may also get Medicaid that can help supplement your Medicare coverage.

My name is
Holt Warren Pierce
I have a baby brother, his
name is
Hays Thomas Pierce.
Born: October 9, 2002
Parents: Monte & Jenifer
Pierce of Wimberley, TX
Grandparents: Gilbert
Pierce, James & Jerry
Warren all of Plains and
lots of great
grandparents.

The staff at Whiting Petroleum Corp. wish to sincerely thank the personnel of both the Plains and Denver City Volunteer Fire Departments for the very prompt and professional manner in which they responded to the fire at our facility the night of February 19. Your speedy assistance with the fire allowed our employees to shut-in wells in the area and avoid a real disaster. We thank each and every one of you who came to our assistance!

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas

Sunday School
9:30 am.

Morning Worship
10:45 am.

Evening Program
6:00 pm.

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"After all, tomorrow is another day."
Scarlett O'Hara, as written by Margaret Mitchell

First United Methodist Church
1202 Avenue G - Plains, Tx.
456-3727

Sunday Schedule

Children's Choir - 9:45 am
followed by Sunday School
Adult Sunday School - 9:45 am
Morning Worship - 10:45 am

If your headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns!

From The Hack

Had an exasperating experience last week. While I was making rounds the Bride received a phone call from Major Howard, a few years back graduate of PHS, now serving in the US Army. The young man said he was at an airfield, waiting to board a transport aircraft to the "Middle East, I can't tell you where." He also told Bride to have me call as soon as possible, as his transport aircraft was being prepared for a soon to be announced departure.

When I returned home, I immediately called the cell phone number he had given, got a recording telling me my message had been received, and if possible would be answered.

We did not receive another call from the young soldier, and I truly regret I was not able to speak to him. I do not know if this is his first or second deployment overseas. The last

time we spoke I believe he told me he had been to Bosnia, but I could be wrong.

In any event, I feel I know why the guy wanted to speak to me. He's going somewhere which will most probably be in Harm's Way, he's a bit nervous, most likely already homesick for his family, and if I understood the recording correctly, his wife. He wanted to talk to someone about the awesome experience of going to war for your country.

Young man, I truly regret I was not able to talk with you. You can be assured you have our prayers and thoughts with you.

Thank you, Sweet Lord, for at least one TV corporation unloading on the constant bombardment of assinine "Virtual Reality Programs."

You know, contests between those who have expertise in biting the heads off poisonous reptiles before their own heads are bitten.

I find it very difficult to stomach, much less understand, why a contestant in a reality show would be willing to dunk their entire head in a vat of cow blood.

Even more difficult for me to decipher is why contestants would enter a contest to determine who can pick up the most dead rodents in their mouth and hustle them over the finish line. Is this the latest, perverted version of "The Rat Race"??

Have you seen some of the hideous singing contests on the Reality shows, men who seem

to snore and belch the lyrics, females who would put all screech owls to shame?

Some of this, of course, is contrived on the TV sets. Not, however, the aptly named game, "JACKASS." This non-winning thing features idiots consenting to be gnawed by lions, smited in the crotch with sledge hammers, dumped into trash dumpster trucks and compressed, contestants wearing bikinis attempting to leap over charging bulls with three foot horns.

How much Enough is Enough?

SUCCESS:

At age 4 success is not wetting your pants

At 12 success is having friends

At 16 success is having a driving license

At 20 success is having sex

At 35 success is having money

At 50 success is having money

At 60 success is having sex

At 70 success is having a driver license

At 75 success is having friends

At 80 success is not wetting your pants.

Other great truths....

Raising teenagers is like nailing jello to a tree, and,

wrinkles don't hurt.

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fax 806-592-2891

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*RN/LVN for 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. Shift differential.

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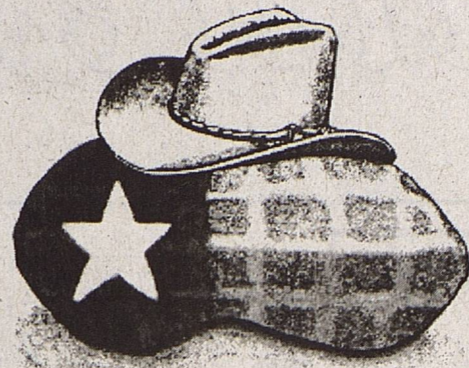
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ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN PEANUT GROWERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2003

12:00 NOON

GAINES COUNTY CIVIC BUILDING
402 NW 5th Street Seminole, Texas

WPGA Members and Friends:

Please make plans to attend your annual meeting. **Washington Attorney, Bob Bor, will be discussing the new farm bill and thuture problems and challenges involving the peanut program.** Lunch will be served beginning at 11:45 a.m. followed by the business meeting, a legislative update and a **question & answer session**

Tentative Agenda

Welcome.....Ted Higginbottom, Vice President

"Future Peanut Program Challenges".....Guest Speaker: Bob Bor, Washington Attorney

Call Business Meeting to Order.....Doyle Fincher, President

Minutes and Financial.....Roger Neitsch, Secretary/Treasurer

Election:.....The membership will be nominating and electing directors to fill the positions of two expiring director terms.

National Peanut Board Update.....Ted Higginbottom, NPB Chairman

Research Farm Update.....Roger Neitsch, Committee Chairman

Peanut Legislation / Q&A Session.....Doyle Fincher, WPGA President
Bob Bor, Washington Attorney, Kathy Sayers, State FSA Peanut Specialist and Brenda Boomer, District FSA Director

Grower Farewell.....Mary Webb, TPPB

Other Business Adjourn



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