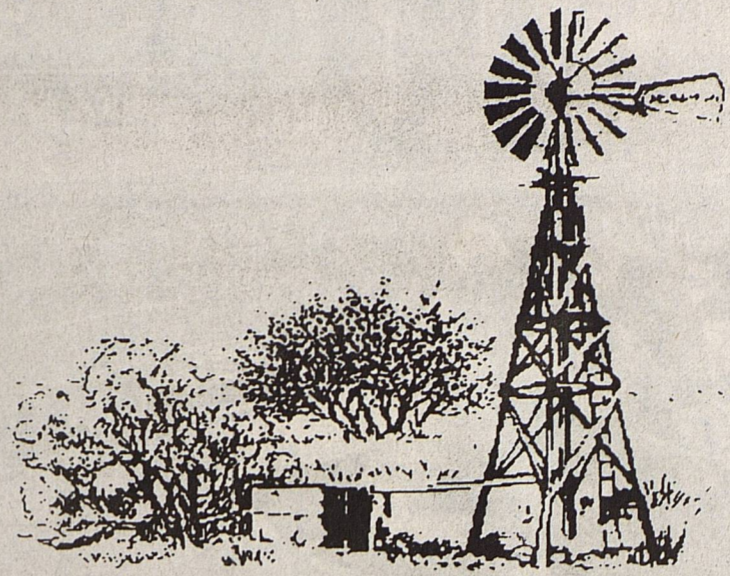


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# Cowboy Country News

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



Volume XII, Issue 43, JULY 19 5, 2006

## A brief, painful economical review

The top photo was taken July 22, 2003 by local Chris Blundell, who told CCN, "I guess to highlight my attitude about what I thought about the high price of gasoline at that time."

The bottom photo was taken by the editor Thursday, July 13, 2006, of the same sign at the same location, Allsup's Convenience store in Plains. The other two retail gas locations, Anne's Mini-Mart and Uncle's both displayed the same \$2.959 price for unleaded regular.

Telephone calls to a number of retail locations in Denver City, Lovington and Hobbs, NM, Seagraves and Brownfield on Monday, July 17, indicated prices for unleaded gasoline were all lower than those of Plains. As a small consolation, we should be thankful we don't live and drive in Honolulu, where resident were recently paying \$3.499 per gallon



## We're Winning The Weevil War

No news is often good news, especially when news is almost non-existent about cotton boll weevil presence in the Western High Plains Zone. Darrel Dusek, who heads up the Plains District office, told CCN last week, "We have yet to trap a single weevil here this season. We just recently learned two weevils had been trapped in cotton fields southwest of Brownfield, which will have by now been treated".

Dusek said 27 field monitoring employees were hired by the local office this season. 292,576 acres of irrigated and dryland cotton were planted in the county this year, up considerable from some 260,000 acres in 2005. The Plains District is also involved in the eradication efforts in neighboring New Mexico. Lea, Eddy and Chavez counties had over 28,000 acres of cotton planted this year, and no weevil activity has been recorded there.

Field personnel in the area will continue to monitor traps until a killing freeze occurs. Dusek said it is common for a few weevils to migrate from eradicated and harvested cotton fields to the south.

A 'Now & Then' comparison reveals dramatic success in the 'Weevil War'; In 2001, the third year of the eradication effort, 3,401 weevils were trapped in the Plains District, compared to none to date this year. That year, one weevil trap for each ten acres of planted cotton were deployed, while today only one trap per 25 acres is in use.

The Western High Plains Zone is comprised of Yoakum, Terry, Garza, Andrews and the south half of Lynn County, and the portion of New Mexico counties.

## 25 year prison sentence issued

In the July 14 session of District Court, with Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the State, Kevin Dwayne Kennemur entered a plea bargain 'Nolo Contendere' to the charge of intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle and affirmative finding of vehicle as

deadly weapon, a second degree felony.

Defendant was sentenced to state prison for 25 years, with credit for 229 days previously served. He must also pay \$468 court costs. Investigating officer was DPS Trooper Mark Matlock, and Warren New served as his attorney.

## Judge Kelly G. Moore Honored By State Bar

Hon. Kelly G. Moore of Brownfield received a Presidential Commendation from State Bar of Texas President Eduardo Rodriguez for leadership in improving justice in Texas and for being among the first judges in the state who have met the standards of certification of special competence. Moore, Presiding President of the 9th Administrative Judicial Region and the 121st District Court, was among 146 individual graduates of the Texas College for Judicial Studies to receive such a Commendation at the State Bar of Texas Annual Meeting held in Austin June 15 and 16.

President Rodriguez also presented the Texas Center for the Judiciary with a Presidential Citation for providing outstanding educational opportunities to the judges of the State, noting exceptional recognition was deserved for the Center's leadership in increasing the specialized competence of Texas judges

## USDA helps Ag Producers protect food supply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released a new guide to help ag producers enhance security at the farm level, announced Gary Six, County Executive Director for the Yoakum County FSA.

"There is no one size fits all approach to protecting agriculture, but the 'Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines 2006' is a guide addressing potential security concerns for an agricultural operation regardless of size or type," said Six. Food and agriculture biosecurity

is an important component of USDA's mission. Improving awareness through enhanced outreach and communications is a key element of USDA's homeland security efforts. The voluntary guidelines and checklists were developed based upon recommendations made by producers throughout the US. Guidelines have been developed for general agriculture, dairy, crops, cattle and poultry security.

Agriculture and food account for 13 percent of the gross domes-

tic product, 18 percent of its employment and \$140 billion in revenue. USDA continues to work with federal, state, local partners as well as industry protecting the nation's ag and food production, from threats such as natural disasters and either the naturally occurring, intentional or unintentional introduction of diseases and pathogens, as they do not respect geographic borders. USDA's local FSA Service Center are dis-

TURN TO PAGE 2, USDA

## County receives high S&P credit rating for new jail project funds

In the July 17 session of Commissioners Court, Vince Vialle, spokesman and Sr. Vice-Pres. of the investment banking firm First Southwest Company of Lubbock, told the court the Credit Rating Division of Standard and Poor's had granted the county a credit rating of A-, a very high rating.

"This should be a strong asset in marketing the certificates of obligation we will issue for construction of the new jail," Vialle reported. Par amount of the bonds is \$6,500,000.

The county's debt free status, and a very strong tax base

were determining factors for the rating, despite lower than normal personal incomes.

Bond Insurance rating on the certificates will be set at AAA, the highest in the financial market, according to Vialle.

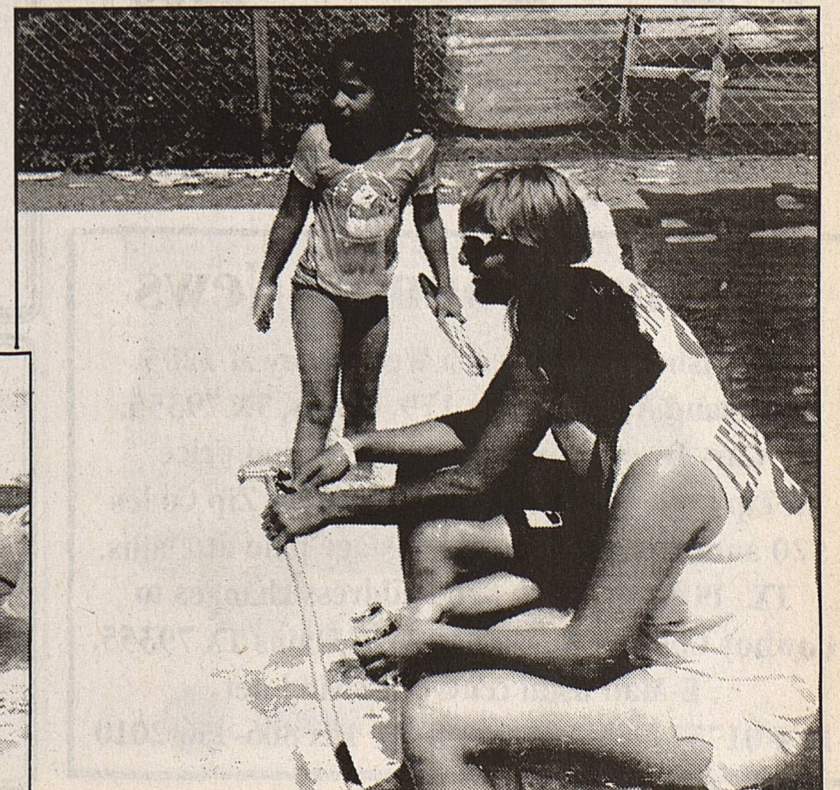
The final closing date on the issue of CO's is scheduled August 17. Additional tests and planning steps will be necessary before actual construction starts on the jail project.

The appointment of Gloria Covarrubias to the Plains Youth Center Board was approved, as was deputation of Karen Givan in the County

TURN TO PAGE 2, JAIL

## Summer time's most popular spot

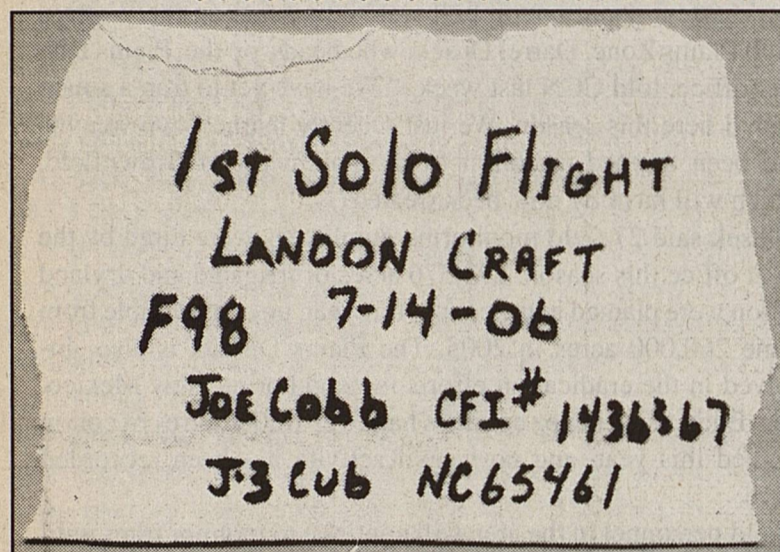
Off duty lifeguards Desiraye Broome and Kevin Bartley had as much fun hosing down a little winged angel as she did



# Never too early for a little football



Cowboy Field was the scene of a different football format - new head coach and athletic director Tom Harvey called it 'Seven On Seven', in this case, seven man teams from Plains, Artesia, New Mexico and Lubbock Coronado competed in what amounted to a non-stop passing assault against seven defenders. Stats were not kept, scores went uncounted; as Coach Harvey told his Cowboy charges, "Just go out there and have some fun, and start getting in shape." For such an early debut, the photographer was impressed.



This is a photo of a portion of the shirt worn by Landon Craft when he completed a successful solo flight from the county airport last week. The "shirt cutting" is a ritual celebrating the big event. Landon is the son of Ron and Sandy Craft and will be a PHS senior this year.

## Plains Family Health Clinic



The professionally trained and dedicated staff of Plains Family Health Clinic are available and ready to meet the medical needs of the community

**Prescription Assistance Friday, 1:00 - 4:00 PM**

For more information call 592-2121, EXT 521 or

592-2121, EXT 506, or the Plains Clinic

Please call 806-456-6365

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### Cowboy Country News

Published weekly each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., PO Box 179, Plains, TX 79355.

Gary Dyer, Publisher. Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodicals postage paid at Plains, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains TX 79355.

E-Mail us at [ccn@crosswind.net](mailto:ccn@crosswind.net)

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## This Land Is My Land

By U.S. Sen. John Cornyn

Texas is growing and our housing market is strong. The value of housing is rising. New home construction is growing rapidly in many areas.

Encouraging home ownership has been a national priority for decades, for good reason: Nothing better symbolizes achievement of the American dream than owning your own home. It provides economic security, peace of mind and the assurance that you will be able to pass to your heirs something of value.

So imagine this: One day the long arm of the government reaches out and makes a grab for your home - not for a road or a fire station, but for a new shopping center or a manufacturing plant.

The reality of that danger was underscored by a U.S. Supreme Court decision handed down a year ago in the case of *Kelo v. City of New London*.

Disregarding the Constitution's specific protection of private property, the high court ruled that your home, business or family farm - any private property - may be seized by the government not just for public use, but for the benefit of another private entity, such as a real estate developer. The purpose of this could be to generate more tax revenue for government, or even to make the area look more attractive.

The City of New London, Conn. condemned the home of Susette Kelo and 114 other residential and commercial lots to carry out its economic development plan. The plan included a new hotel and conference center to help attract a drug manufacturing plant to the area. Homeowners protested, but the high court agreed with the city.

Our country was founded on a respect for private property. It's troubling to realize that right stands on such shaky ground.

A silver lining has already appeared. The decision sparked a new awareness about abuse of eminent domain - the government's ability to take private property without the owner's consent in particular cases. *Kelo* didn't create the abuse, but it certainly put a spotlight on it across the country, and since the case there's been a major outcry.

The critics have a strong legal argument. The Fifth Amendment makes clear that "private property" shall not "be taken for public use without just compensation." The same amendment provides protection against abusive eminent domain by only permitting the government to seize private property for "public use."

In my view, *Kelo* veered far off course, allowing

property to be taken far outside the limits envisioned by our founding fathers. The Institute for Justice has identified more than 10,000 properties either seized or threatened with condemnation for purposes of private development in a recent five-year period. If anything, *Kelo* encouraged that practice.

But other parts of the government are taking action to bring balance to the practice of eminent domain.

The Texas Legislature last year approved a measure that protects property from being seized for purposes of economic development. The Texas Senate this summer is studying proposals for additional protection for private property owners.

President Bush last month signed an executive order preventing taking of private property by the federal government "merely for the purpose of advancing the economic interest of private parties to be given ownership or use of the property taken."

I've introduced a bill, *The Protection of Homes, Small Businesses and Private Property Act* (S. 1313) to ensure the power of eminent domain is used only for true public uses, as guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment. Under my proposed legislation, the government could not seize property simply for private economic development.

As we work to protect private property rights, I'm well aware we must be cautious. There is no question that, where appropriate, eminent domain can play a positive role in society, through true public use of property.

But no American, rich or poor, should have to live under the constant threat of a questionable taking of his property by the government. The protections of the Fifth Amendment represent some of the most fundamental principles conceived by our nation's Founders, and we must take all necessary actions to preserve them.

Sen. Cornyn is a member of the following Senate Committees: Armed Services, Judiciary, Budget, Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and Joint Economic. He is the chairman of the subcommittees on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge.

For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: [www.cornyn.senate.gov/column](http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/column)

## County, District Court Cases Heard

In the July 12 session of County Court, four criminal cases were heard. Judge Dallas Brewer presided, and Criminal District Attorney Clark represented the state.

Angel Villega Martinez pled guilty to a first DWI, b.t. .106/.107. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$335 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 12.5 hours served. He must attend weekly AA meetings, complete the DWI first offender program and perform 24 hours community service. Eddie Bishop, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

John Ray Wagon pled guilty to marijuana possession, two ounces or less. A 180 day jail

sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$220 court costs, \$250 appointed attorney fees and \$25 time payment. He must attend weekly narcotics meetings and complete the first offender drug offender program. Warren New was his attorney and Deputy Inoe Valdez was investigating officer.

Andres Ruiz pled true to the State's motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI conviction. He was sentenced to 35 days in jail with credit for 19 days served. He must pay \$145 delinquent fine and \$150 supervision fees.

Anna Froese Penner pled guilty to DWI, b.t. .168/.178. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months. She was fined \$600, must pay \$226 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. She will spend 72 hours in jail with credit for 10 days served, and bail was waived for good

cause of four minor children at home. She must attend weekly AA meetings and perform 30 hours service. DPS Trooper Carmen Medrano was investigating officer.

**Urgent Blood Drive**  
**July 27, City Hall,**  
**1:30- 7pm. Supply**  
**Is Very Low-**  
**Please Do Your**  
**Part!!**

FROM PAGE 1, USDA

tributing 'Pre-Harvest Security Guidelines and Checklist 2006' to ag producers throughout the country. For more information, go to [www.usda.gov/homelandsec-urity](http://www.usda.gov/homelandsec-urity).

FROM PAGE 1, JAIL

Clerk office, and Sheriff's office personnel.

A bid of \$ 5,000 from Yesenia Andrade for the purchase of Lots 35 and 34 in the Newman Addition in Denver City was accepted. \$8,680 back taxes were owed on the property, held by Yoakum County Property in Trust. The property will be returned to county tax rolls.

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# Lifelines & Styles

## Keeping summer's bounty safe to eat

Fresh melons and berries fill the aisles of markets. Roadside produce stands full of home grown fruits and vegetables along the highway. All of these signs summer is here and so is a bounty of fresh produce. "Summer's harvest of fresh fruits and vegetables is an important part of a healthy diet," said Debbie Pollard, County Extension Agent. "Just remember to handle fresh produce safely to prevent foodborne illness."

The Centers for Disease Control estimate there are 76 million cases of foodborne illnesses each year resulting in 325,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths. Fresh fruits and vegetables have recently been linked to several outbreaks, because fresh produce is often eaten raw. In fact, in recent years the proportion of foodborne illness linked to fresh fruits and vegetables has increased.

The Partnership for Food Safety Education ([www.fightback.org](http://www.fightback.org)) gives six recommendations for safe handling of fresh produce: **CHECK:** "Food safety for fresh produce begins at the store," Debbie said. Make sure produce is not bruised, cut or damaged. If buying pre-cut items such as melons, or packaged such as salads, buy only items that have been refrigerated.

**CLEAN:** Hands should be washed in warm soapy water before and after handling produce, and cutting boards and utensils should be clean before using. Fresh produce should be rinsed before eating, as well as rinds and skins that will not be eaten. Do not use detergents or bleach on fresh produce.

**SEPARATE:** In the grocery cart keep fresh produce away from cleaners, detergents and raw meat, poultry and fish, and that advice holds true in storage at home. Don't use the same cutting board for produce and meat unless it is cleaned with hot, soapy water.

**COOK:** If produce has been in contact with raw meat, throw it away or cook thoroughly.

**CHILL:** Store all cut, peeled or cooked produce in the refrigerator within two hours.

**THROW AWAY:** "If in any doubt about the safety of a fruit or vegetable, throw it out!" said Debbie.

**You've got seven seconds. That, psychologists say, is the amount of time it takes a stranger to form an opinion of you.**

*Lynn Shurnberger*

**\*\* Luz Ponce of Plains was named to the Honor Roll for the 2006 spring semester at Howard Payne University. Students must earn a 3.5 - 3.69 grade point average to be named to the Honor Roll.\*\***

*Thank you, Youth Center Board, for my retirement party. For everyone who had a part in making it so special. Thanks to Judge Brewer and Commissioners Court for their interest in our youth, and providing swimming pools, youth center and ball parks. To all the parents who made my job fun. I am blessed to have been employed by Yoakum County and to live in Plains. Thanks again, Bobbie Payne*

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Urgent news for people who took

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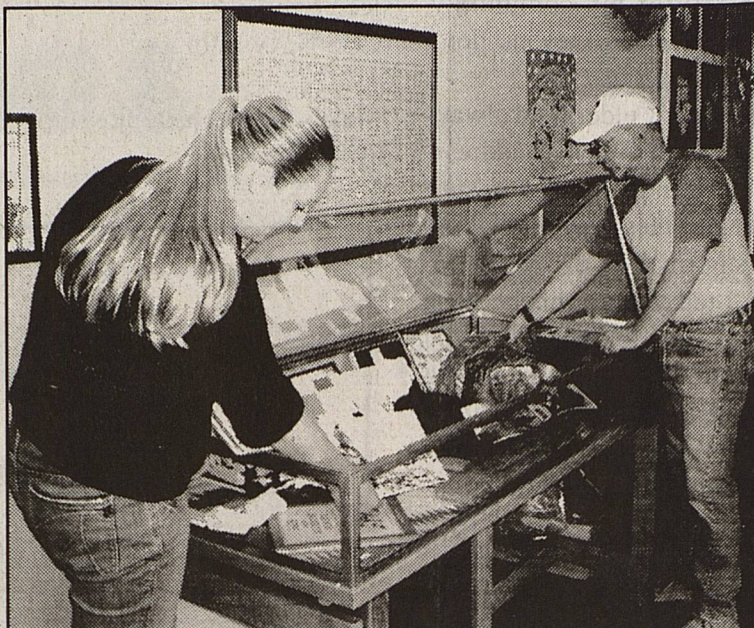
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## Impressive Southwest Collection In Library



Emily Nash and Richard Kyle setting up display case in library hallway



L-R, Brittany Thomas, Kimberly Anderson, Johnathan Anderson, Bethany Mares, Liz Perez enjoying old black and white photos

Even before the team was finished setting up their Southwest Collection displays, they were drawing 'oohhs and ahhs' from Plains library staffers and patrons last week. Emily Nash, Sr. Specialist for Texas Techs exhibits and outreach missions, with help from her partner and archival assistant Richard Kyle, restocked the hallway display case with memorabilia from much earlier times around the South Plains, and an equally impressive black and white photo collection in the meeting room. Many of the photos even resemble some of the early settlers in the earliest days of Yoakum County. County Librarian Pat McNabb reported the displays will remain in the local library a full week, until Friday, July 21 when they will go on display in the Denver City library for another week.

## Band Calendars Are Here!

Please Pick Yours Up At The Library!



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## A Gold Mine in Bedroom Drawers

Newswire: People are selling their old scrap gold that is gathering dust for its cash value because gold prices are so high. With the price of gold at a 25 year high (over \$650.00 per ounce), it makes sense. ScrapGold.com, a gold recycler, offers free insured recycle kits so people may cash in their scrap with 24 hour service and guarantee satisfaction. They accept

broken and outdated items like chains, charms, rings and more. "Everyone has bits of gold just lying around which can be turned into cash" says Richard Zakroff, VP of marketing. "Even old dental gold has value." ScrapGold.com processes over 10,000 recycle Kits per month. People can get a free GoldKit at 1-800-283-4700 or ScrapGold.com.

## PLAINS I.S.D. GIRLS VOLLEYBALL/BASKETBALL CAMP FOR ALL GIRLS ENTERING 3<sup>RD</sup> - 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADES MONDAY, JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> - SATURDAY, JULY 29<sup>TH</sup>

Volleyball Fundamentals: Monday-Wednesday

Basketball Fundamentals: Thursday-Saturday

Camp Instructor: Blake Eddleman will direct the camp.

Camp Activities: The camp will consist of volleyball/basketball fundamentals, drills, contests, and game situations that will help each girl improve their volleyball/basketball skills.

Cost of Camp: Cost of camp will be \$6.00 for each camper. Camp includes:

- Camp instructions
- Contests
- Awards
- Certificates for each camp participant
- Drink and candy during the break
- Have fun

General Information: Campers need to wear proper workout clothing: shorts, t-shirt, socks, and athletic shoes.

### Daily Camp Schedule:

9:00-12:00 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades will practice  
1:00-4:00 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Grades will practice

For More Information: For more information about the Plains I.S.D. Volleyball/Basketball Camp, contact: Blake Eddleman Head Girls Basketball/Volleyball Coach Plains I.S.D. Plains, Texas Home: (806) 456-4127



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9:30 A.M.

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10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

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# From The Hack

I just read an explanation of why men are happier than that other gender:  
 Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Weddings take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can be President. You can never be pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park. You can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another restroom because one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think about which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress \$5000, Tux rental \$100. No one stares at your chest when they talk to you. The well rendered belch is almost expected. New shoes don't maim and blister your feet. You know stuff about army tanks. You can open your own jars. Your underwear is \$8.95 for a three-pack. Three pair of shoes are plenty. You almost never have a strap problem in public. You cannot see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays the same color. The same hairdo lasts for years, or decades. You only have to shave your face

and neck. You can do your nails with a pocket knife. You can do Christmas shopping for 26 relatives Christmas eve in 36 minutes. No wonder men are happier. ( Ladies, be assured, I did not originate this ... I just stole it.

Does the world seem to you even a bit more insane the last few weeks? Train, subway bombings, terrorist threats in every direction, near war again in the Middle East, hate, death threats spewing from blood seeking muslims around the globe.

I did have a recent up lift. The following came from my ex Marine buddy Ron, and it suits my present attitude perfectly. The opening subject message on the e-mail reads, " I am Coming."

Dear Terrorists;

I am a Navy pilot. I was born and raised in a small town in New England. I come from a family of five. I was raised in a middle class home and taught my values by my mother and father.

My dad worked in finance jobs and my mom took care of us kids. We were not an overly religious family but attended church most Sundays, in a nice, small church. I have a brother and sister and I'm the youngest. I was the first in several generations to attend college.

I have flown Naval aircraft for 16 years. For me the flying was never a lifelong dream or calling, it just happened. I continue to do it today because I feel it is important to give back to a nation which has given so

much to me. I do it because, although I will never be rich, my family will be comfortable. I do it because many of my friends have left for the airlines and someone has to do it.

My government has spent millions to train me to fly these multi-million dollar aircraft. I make about \$70,000 a year and after 20 years will be offered a pension. I like baseball but think the players make too much money. I am in awe of firemen and policemen and what they do each day for my community, and like teachers, they just don't get paid enough.

I respect my elders and always use sir or ma'am when addressing a stranger. I'm not sure about kids these days but I think that's normal for every generation. I tell you all this because when I come for you I want you to know me. I won't be hiding behind a woman or child. I won't be disguised or pretending to be something I am not.

I will be in a U.S. issue flight suit. I will be wearing standard US flight gear, and I will be flying a Navy aircraft clearly marked as a US warplane.

I wish we could meet up close in a small room where I could wrap my hands around your throat and slowly squeeze the life out of you, but unfortunately, you're hiding in a hole in the ground, so we will have to do this a different way.

I want you to also know I am very good at what I do. I can put a 2,000 pound weapon through a window from 10,000 feet. I generally only fly at night, so you may want to start

sleeping during the day. I am not eager to die for my country but I am willing to sacrifice my life to protect it from animals like you. I will do everything in my power to ensure no civilians are hurt as I take aim at you.

My countrymen are a forgiving bunch. Many are already forgetting what you did on September 11th. *BUT DO NOT FORGET. I AM COMING.* I hope you know me a little bit better... see you soon... sleep tight.  
 A US Navy Pilot

Makes me feel better just typing the message.

The following was e-mailed from a very nice lady who married well below herself:

" While I was watching the World Cup and Tour de France this weekend, my wife and I got into a conversation about life and death and the need for living wills. During the course of the conversation I told her I never wanted to exist in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and taking fluids from a bottle.

She got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all my beer."

At an Austin gala many years ago, then Governopr Ann

Richards was the targeted "roaste". Local personality and comedian Cactus Pryor aimed these jibes at Ann:

" Ann would save the state of Texas \$5000 a year if she would give up Spray Net."

" The Texas Rangers had to call the ASPCA when they found her lap dog was a pit bull."


" Ann makes Madalyn Murray O'Hair look like Mother Teresa."

For some reason I am reminded of the old adage, politics is the systematic organization of hatreds.

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**NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF EUPLE TAYLOR, DECEASED**  
 Notice is now given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Euple Taylor**, deceased, were issued on July 10, 2006 in Cause No. 1494, pending in the County Court of Yoakum County, Texas, to **Stanley Leo Daniel, Sr.**

The residence of such Executrix and where claims may be presented is as follows:  
 Stanley Leo Daniel Sr.  
 PO Box 1541  
 Denver City, Texas 79323

All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within four (4) months after the date of the receipt of this notice and in the manner prescribed by law or the claim will be barred if not barred by the general statutes of limitation.

Dated: July 10, 2006  
**Warren New**  
 Warren New, Attorney for the Estate  
 PO Box 670, Denver City, Texas, 79323  
 Phone: 806-592-2129  
 Fax: 806-592-7733

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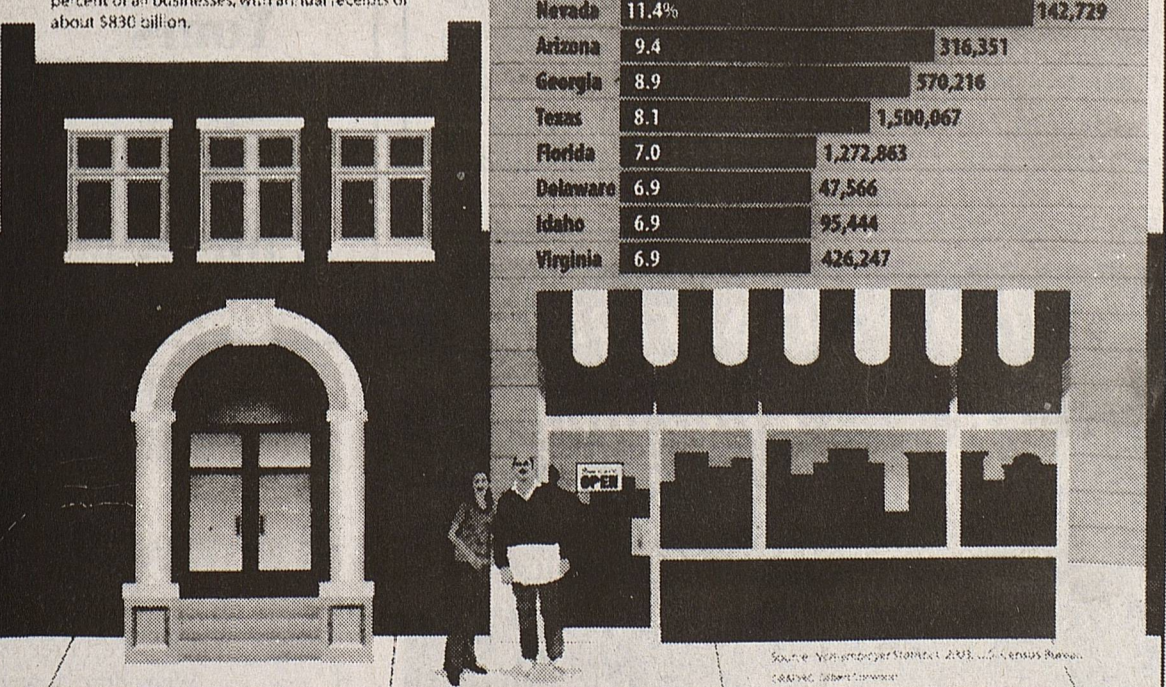
*Texas at a Glance*

**Mom & Pop's GENERAL STORE**

**Self-employed businesses, 2002-03**

	Percent Increase	Number in 2003
Nevada	11.4%	142,729
Arizona	9.4	316,351
Georgia	8.9	570,216
Texas	8.1	1,500,067
Florida	7.0	1,272,863
Delaware	6.9	47,566
Idaho	6.9	95,444
Virginia	6.9	426,247

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Survey of Professional and Self-Employed Businesses



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