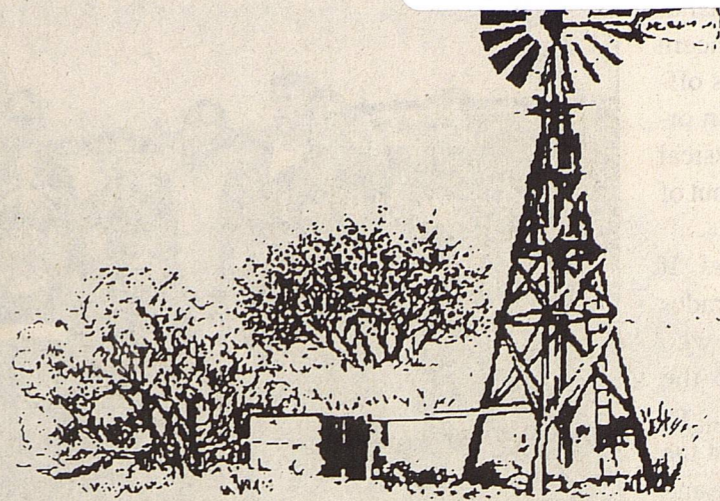


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 15, December 24, 2003



Seven indictments handed down on six defendants by Yoakum County Grand Jury

The Yoakum County Grand Jury, convened December 8., returned seven true bills of indictments on six defendants. All bonds for felony indictments are set by District Court Judge Kelly G. Moore. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Alfredo Garcia Chavez was indicted for cocaine possession, more than one gram but less than four grams, a third degree felony. \$5000 bond by Jerome Head.

Charles Gregory Dillon was indicted for possession of methamphetamine, more than four grams, less than 200 grams with intent to deliver, a second degree felony. A \$1000 PR Bond was set.

Angelica Maria Herrera was indicted for forgery, a state jail felony. \$2,500 bond by Jerome Head.

Jimmy Lamar Dawson was indicted for cocaine possession, less than one gram, in a drug free zone, a third degree felony. \$3,000 bond by Lonnie Folmar.

Aurelio Robert Sanchez was indicted for aggravated perjury, a third degree felony. \$7,000

Car meets calves - no winners



Sheriff Deputy David Bryant was driving this patrol car last Friday night on routine patrol along Highway 83 some ten miles west of Denver City, when a pair of three to five hundred pound Black Angus calves decided to use the same highway. The front of the patrol vehicle was demolished, and the calves didn't fare too well either. Deputy Bryant suffered a minor glass cut on his hand.

bond by Lonnie Folmar.

Johnny Garza Jr. was indicted for aggravated sexual assault, a first degree felony. He was also indicted for indecency with a child, a second degree felony. The defendant is in jail.

The range of punishment for felony convictions includes; 1st degree- confinement in state prison not more than 99 years or less than five years, optional fine up to \$10,000.

2nd degree- confinement in state prison no more than 20 years or less than 2 years, optional fine up to \$10,000.

3rd degree- Confinement in state prison not more than 10 years or less than 2 years, optional fine up to \$10,000.

State jail felony- confinement in state jail not more than 2 years or less than 180 days, optional fine up to \$10,000.

Our Apologies

To all our subscribers, readers, and advertisers. The sudden death of Holly Dyer made publishing CCN the last two weeks an impossibility. If you are one of the hundreds who honored us with every expression of love and kindness, but our family missed with a formal thank you message, please accept our apologies.

We are still overwhelmed at the outpouring of affection for this lady who was our soul mate, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and dear friend.

Thank you all so very much.

New flags offer Christmas greetings



City employee Jerry Dominguez, on ground, watches co-worker Alex Barrientes install colorful Christmas flags along Cowboy Way. The flags were recently purchased as a joint project of the City Council, Plains Chamber of Commerce and the local 4-H Club members

Criminal cases in District Court

Five criminal cases were heard in the December 15 session of District Court, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding. Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Jessi L. Glenn pled guilty to possession of Methamphetamine, less than one gram. Adjudication of guilt was deferred. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$213 court costs, \$255 court appointed attorney fees, and \$140 restitution. He will be under community supervision five years and will serve 120 hours community service. He must testify truth-

Turn to Pg. 3
District Court

Upcoming elections feature hotly contested offices

The deadline for county candidates to file for a spot on the March 9 Primary Election is 6 PM Friday, January 2. At presstime this week, three candidates have filed for the office of County Tax Assessor/Collector following Betty Rivas' decision to retire from the office at the end of 2004, after 27 years on the job. Candidates for the office include Karen Bearden and Jan Parrish from Plains, and Elfida Winkler from Denver City, all running as Republicans. Bearden is a clerk in the County Clerk office, Parrish is a secretary in the Llano Estacado Drug Task Force office, and Winkler is a clerk for Yoakum County Abstract Company.

Incumbent Precinct 3 County Commissioner Ty Earl Powell, Democrat, will be challenged by locals Rex Swann and Tim Willis. Swann, an ag-producer, is filing as a Democrat. He was narrowly defeated by Powell in the 2000 General Election. Willis filed as a Republican, and is owner of Willis Automotive.

Other offices on the ballot include the office of County Sheriff, currently held by Don Corzine who will run as a Republican; Pct. 1 Commissioner Woody Lindsey seeks re-election as a Republican; Brownfield resident Kelly G. Moore will be an unopposed candidate to return to office as Judicial District Judge for Yoakum and Terry counties.

Democrat Billy Ray Moore and Republican Steve Slentz, both from Denver City, will seek re-election as their party county chairmen.

President Bush's appointment of District 31 State Senator Teel Bivins as Ambassador to Sweden resulted in a special called election. The District covers a large area of the Panhandle from north of Amarillo to Midland and Ector County in the south. To date five candidates have filed for spots on the ballot for the January 20 election; Bob Barnes and Kirk Edwards, Odessa, Don Sparks, Midland, Jesse Quackenbush and Kel Seliger, from Amarillo. All filed as Republican candidates.

The true purpose of athletic competition

By James Haynes,
Superintendent, Plains ISD

It seems that yearly you will read an article written by me to discuss sportsmanship and good behavior by fans, parents and student athletes. I feel the need to do this to remind myself and everyone else why we have student athletics for our High School and Junior High students. The University Interscholastic League has in its constitution and contest rules a statement of purpose I would like to share with you. It reads as follows;

"Students are the focus of our endeavor and deserve an opportunity to: refine physical and mental attitudes, nurture self-realization and build self-confidence, feel a sense of pride and dignity, experience teamwork and develop a sense of fair play, develop the ability to lead and the willingness to follow, foster self-discipline and perseverance, appreciate that rules, consistently applied, create order and discipline, learn to accept graciously the decisions of judges and officials, affirm self-worth in times of disappointment as well as adulation, cultivate lifetime skills, compliment their class work with practice and performance, have fun, experience the joy of achieving their potential in a wholesome environment and,

discover that ultimately the true meaning of winning is doing one's best."

Please notice, the purpose of competition was never mentioned to be the attainment of the best won/loss record at the expense of all else. The purpose of this whole endeavor is to build better people. With that in mind I would like to share with you again the Ten Commandments for Parents/Supporters of student athletes. I hope we can take them to heart so the true purpose of competition can be realized.

1. *Be positive with your child:* Let them know they are accomplishing something by simply being a part of a team. Don't put them down.

2. *Don't offer your child excuses* if they are not playing. *Encourage them to work* and do their best.

3. *Don't put their coaches down.* Remember the coach represents the "Leader", the "Authority", the "Parent", the "Teacher", and the "Role Model". If you are constantly bad mouthing your child's coaches, how can you expect the youngster to respect and play for them?

4. *Encourage your child to follow the rules.* Whether they are first stringers or fourth

Turn to Pg. 2,
"Athletic"

From Pg. 1
'Athletic'

Christmas is a time of the heart

stringers, players must follow rules. Athletics is very demanding and coaches must concern themselves with a players off-the-field/court activities in order to get maximum physical and mental performances out of their players.

5. *Insist on good grades.* If they don't have passing grades they cannot play. Players who can't suit up can't help the team. Emphasize the importance of grades throughout the year, Beginning, Middle and End of the Year.

6. *Don't try to live vicariously through your child.* Athletics is a kids game, let them play it. Don't show animosity or jealousy to any of your child's teammates. This kind of envy can rub off on your child and devastate a team. Who cares who scores as long as everyone does their job to the fullest?

7. *Don't be a know it all.* The coaches work with the players nine months a year and know what each athlete can and cannot do. As a fan you are entitled to scream your head off, but please don't become belligerent and arrogant toward the players, coaches or the game officials. The athletes are amateurs. Coaches know their talent. Respect that knowledge.

8. *Insist on your child's respect for team rules, school rules, coaches, game officials, and sportsmanship.* Don't let them make fools of their family, school and team by some 'uncalled-for' gesture. Self respect begins with self control. Model self control as a parent and as a fan. Don't embarrass the student athletes because of your behavior.

9. *Encourage children to improve their self-image by believing in themselves.* Every person has been created with worth and value. Always remind your child of this fact. Tell them they are special and they are only limited by the degree they limit themselves. Don't compare or contrast your child with family members who played previously. Every youngster is different.

10. *Encourage your child to play for the love of the game, and for the team, not for a scholarship or something in the hands of the college recruiters.* Insist on unselfishness. Usually good things happen to unselfish and hardworking people.



This youth group from Sacred Heart Catholic Church were getting into the Christmas spirit last Wednesday evening at the old fire hall, sorting food donations to be delivered to needy families in the community for the holidays.

Criminal cases in County Court

Six criminal cases were heard in County Court December 3, with Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state.

Shawn Adrian Fisher pled guilty to possession of marijuana, less than two ounces. He was sentenced to 15 days in jail, with credit for two days served. He must pay \$211 court costs and surrender his license 180 days. His attorney was Clifford Payne, and Chris Malloy, DPS, was investigating officer.

Jorge Avalos pled guilty to having alcohol in dry county with intent to sell. A 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 11 months. He was fined \$250, must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He must obtain waivers of conflict of interest between himself and City of Denver City, forfeit \$81 and all beer and liquor, and serve 80 hours community service. Robert Smith, DPS, was investigating officer, and Warren New was his attorney.

Celia Jimenez pled guilty to DWI, b.t. .096/.107. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated. She must pay \$226 court costs, serve 72 hours in jail with 10 hours credit, and complete the DWI first offender program. Judgement will run concurrent with a District Court cause of cocaine possession. Her attorney was Warren New, and Robert Smith was investi-

gating officer.

Armando Ramirez pled guilty to possession of less than two ounces marijuana. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$600, must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee, \$50 supervision fee, and \$140 restitution to DPS. He must attend weekly narcotics meetings, serve 214 hours community service, surrender his license 180 days, and complete the drug-offender program. Brad Taylor, DPS, was investigating officer, and Warren New was his attorney.

Amy Kay Gonzales pled guilty to harassment. A 60 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 180 days. She must pay \$256 court costs, serve 24 hours community service, and complete the anger management program. Jeff Massie, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Gilbert Lee Garcia Sr. pled guilty to assault causes bodily injury. He must pay a \$46 delinquent fine, complete the batterers intervention program, and pay \$200 court appointed attorney fees. Warren New was his attorney.


Bearden announces for tax assessor/collector



I would like to take this opportunity to announce my candidacy for Yoakum County Tax Assessor. Being a life long resident of Yoakum County, it would be my honor to serve the citizens of Yoakum County in this office. Your support in the Republican Primary on March 9, 2004 would be appreciated.

Sincerely,
Karen Bearden

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Texans Talk Foreign Affairs

Each year I ask Texans to gather around my "listening post" and give me their opinions. Hearing from you enables me to learn firsthand what's affecting you and your families throughout our great state. Not surprisingly, I hear from a great number of you on issues ranging from homeland security to tax relief. This year, our survey hit the information superhighway and was for the first time available online. An overwhelming number of you responded to the survey via e-mail, and this is the first of several *Capitol Comments* devoted to your answers.

The topic of foreign affairs garnered a host of strong opinions. Many of you feel very passionately about our place in the world, and I received a huge response to the following question: "Civil unrest is plaguing many regions of our world. Often the United States is called upon to help restore peace and meet the humanitarian needs of civilian populations. But our involvement in regional conflicts comes at a high price, both in dollars and by putting our uniformed men and women in harm's way. As our troops are stretched thinner and thinner, how do you think we should respond?"

A whopping 90 percent of you felt we should eliminate any involvement where no clear U.S. security interest is at stake. On the question of working through NATO or the United Nations to deal with regional conflicts, Texans had a variety of opinions. Below is a sampling our your thoughtful contributions:

"We are spreading ourselves too thin. It is important to pro-

tect ourselves from terrorists, but not get involved in areas where the U.N. and NATO can manage." *Jane, Boerne*

"Stop sending troops and giving money to countries that do not support free and open democracy. Stop giving money to countries that take our money and vilify us for being Americans." *Anna, Fort Worth*

"I definitely do not want our troops under the direction of NATO or the U.N." *Shannon, Friendswood*

"Get the U.N. out of the U.S. and the U.S. out of the U.N." *James, San Antonio*

"We need to increase the size of the U.S. military." *Natalie, Whitehouse*

"The U.N. has been successful. It is wrong to downgrade their accomplishments." *Don, Sugarland*

"We can't do anything right in the eyes of the world so we must do what we feel is right for America. If that is helping to secure another nation's peace and freedom from tyrannical dictators or seeing that human rights violations do not occur in any nation then we must..." *Chelsea, Austin*

"I feel the rest of the world needs to step up to the plate and take more responsibility." *Johnny, Odessa*

"Every nation needs to fulfill their responsibilities to the extent of their resources. We have been mightily blessed. To whom much is given much is required." *Gladys, Conroe*

"For Heaven's sake let's get out of the nation-building business." *Richard, Pennington*

I share the opinion that our involvement with NATO and the United Nations must be continually reviewed.

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Parrish announces for tax assessor/collector



My name is Jan Parrish and I am pleased to announce to the community my plans to seek the office of Tax Assessor/Collector for Yoakum County.

I have lived in Yoakum County 28 years. I am married to Jerry Parrish, a Yoakum County native. We have raised two children in this community. After attending Texas A&M, our son Kirk is now raising a family of his own in Cameron, and our daughter Lisa recently graduated from Texas A&M, and works as an assistant buyer for Neiman Marcus in Dallas. Our family has been in the agricultural business in Yoakum County since Jerry's father, Harold Parrish, started farming here in the 1950's. We have seen good times and bad in the farming industry. I know the importance of managing funds.

I also realize people's opinions on taxation and know there should be avenues in which people can resolve individual tax issues. I am aware in today's world taxpayers want efficient government and I will strive to make that happen within the Tax Office, should I be elected.

Today the Tax Office is responsible for a never-ending stream of reports to the state. For the last two years I have worked for Yoakum County as the financial Analyst for the Llano Estacado Drug Task Force. There, I deal heavily with state and federal reporting. I am familiar with the courthouse staff in Yoakum County and am familiar with county policy and procedure. I feel I could make a smooth transition into the tax office.

I am running on the Republican ticket and hope to have an opportunity to speak to you in person between now and the elections.

Services held for Carl Green

Carl Curtis Green, 79, of Denver City died Wednesday, December 17 in Lovington.

Funeral services were held Saturday, December 20 at the First Assembly of God Church in Denver City, with the Reverend L.D. Hinson officiating and Reverend Kevin Bruton assisting. Interment followed in the Plains Cemetery under the direction of Ratliff Funeral Home of Denver City.

Mr. Green was born on May 24, 1924 in Hardeman County, Texas. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII from May 1944 to February 1946. He was Seaman 1st Class and was stationed on the USS Sanborn. He received the Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal and the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal.

Mr. Green was a pumper for Getty Oil and Texico Oil for 30 years. He then worked for Bright and Company for 30 years, just recently retiring. He

Services for Levi David Blessing

Graveside services for Levi David Blessing were held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 3, in the Elmwood Memorial Park Babyland in Abilene. Officiating was Bro. Bill Wright of Plains, with Marc Traweek, also of Plains, providing the music.

Levi was born November 19, 2003. He is survived by his parents, Drew and Jennifer Blessing and brother, Harrison of Dyess AFB (Abilene), maternal grandparents David and Jerri Lollar of Tokio, paternal grandparents Andy and Carol Blessing of Abilene, great-grandparents Truett and Dixie

married Naomi Goodman-Green in February of this year. He was preceded in death by his wife of 32 years, Velma Faye Beard and his wife of 20 years, Helen Sellers, along with 8 brother and sisters.

Carl is survived by his wife Naomi, 1 daughter, Zelma Arteaga of Plains and 2 grandsons; Jason Jacobs of Lawton, OK and Curtis Arteaga of Plains; 1 brother W.T. Green of Wichita Falls and 1 sister; Maime Lytle of Anson. He is also survived by 7 step sons, 1 step daughter, step grandchildren and great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were Roland Taylor, Glen Huffaker, Danny Sellers, Bill Isenberg, Lavoy Robinett, and Arzell Sellers.

Memorials may be made to Charlie's Lunch c/o First Assembly of God Church, 602 E. Broadway, Denver City, TX 79323

Jones of Brownfield, Ruth Lollar of San Antonio, Joy Blessing of Abilene, and Don and Jesse Wilson of Seattle, Washington. He is also survived by five uncles-Jeffrey Lollar of Tokio, Cliff, Noah, Baylor, and Chester Blessing of Abilene and one aunt-Grace Blessing of Abilene.

The family requests that memorials be made to Cook's Children's Medical Center Donations, 801 7th Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas 76104, Hospice of Hendricks-1682 Hickory Abilene, Texas 79601, or Born Angel, PO Box 1653, Abilene, Texas 79604.

From Pg. 1 'District Court'

fully against all co-defendants, and complete the TAIP outpatient program. Investigating officer was Carmen Medrano, DPS, and Warren New was his attorney.

Celia Jimenez pled guilty to cocaine possession, less than one gram, and was sentenced to adjudication of guilt deferred. She was fined \$1000, must pay \$233 court costs, \$250 appointed attorney fees, \$140 restitution and \$25 time payment fee. She will forfeit \$671 in another cause, and serve 120 hours community service. Warren New was her attorney, and Robert Smith, DPS, was investigating officer.

Janie Reyna pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior cocaine delivery cause. She was sentenced to five years in state prison with credit for 67 days served in jail. She must pay \$603 delinquent supervision fees, \$271 delinquent court costs and additional \$55 court costs.

Mario Barrios Caballero pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a cocaine delivery cause. He will spend 18 months in state jail, with credit for 241 days served.

Kristy Marie Lozano pled true and conditions of community supervision from a prior theft cause were modified. She will remain in jail for 180 days or until space is available in the Jefferson County restitution Center for no less than three months nor more than 24 months. Delinquent supervision fees of \$240 will be paid as collected by the Center, and appointed attorney fees will be paid at \$10 per month after her release.

SPC among fastest growing community colleges in the nation

South Plains College is among the fastest growing community colleges in the nation, according to a report in the Dec. 8 edition of Community College Week.

SPC was among 19 Texas colleges that made the list in the lead story, Big Numbers, the Incredible Growing Community College.

SPC, which has campuses in Levelland and Lubbock was number 30 nationwide among the top 50 schools in the 5,000-9,999 student enrollment category, according to the report by Dr. Victor Borden, associate vice chancellor for information management and institutional research at Indiana University/Purdue University Indianapolis.

In the article, SPC showed an enrollment increase of 10.8 percent from the fall 2001 to fall 2002 semester. The college has had consecutive enrollment increases for the past seven years, growing a remarkable 35 percent in that time. "The college is excited to be recognized in a national publication for the enrollment growth we have shown. We have experienced dramatic growth in the last several years, and that is due in large part to our excellent faculty and accessibility," believes David Jones, vice president for student affairs.



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Lots of good food, large crowd made for another successful courthouse Open House last week

Student Of The Week



First student of the week is Toni Murgia, a senior and the daughter of Maria Toscano. She was nominated by Ms. Jami Pitts, who said, "We write our own destiny. We become what we do. These statements explain what CHOICE is all about. It is a conscious behavior. As human beings, we have inherited the capacity to choose between right and wrong, truth and falsehood, action and inaction. Life, and everything in it is a series of choices, some large, some small. We are confronted with literally hundreds, if not thousands of options every day. Toni chooses to take control of her future by seizing every opportunity coming her way. She walks through the door every morning with a smile on her face and an optimism that provides a solution to her challenges. She works hard to be successful. She empowers others by extending her encouragement and enthusiasm and by lending an ear to those who seek her help. She is an inspiration to others, a fun-loving, intelligent and creative young lady."



Second student of the week is LaShonda Diamond, a senior and the daughter of Charlie and Donna Diamond. She was nominated by Michele Jones and Treasure Thaggard, who said, "There is such a need for leadership in the world today. We must have strong, character based leaders who will not wilt in challenging situations. LaShonda is an excellent role model to this demand. She has the ability to ignite a spark in all who work with her. She is extremely thoughtful to the needs of others. Charles Schwabb remarked, "A man can succeed at almost anything for which he has unlimited enthusiasm." The enthusiasm as seen in this young lady's smile will continue to propel her forward to achieve her dreams."

Operation Christmas Card Merry Christmas

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Vicki Blundell
Janelle Brantley
Martin & Felicita Huerta
David & Brant Huerta
Christy, Edwin, Jacob, Jaston Brink
Davis, Alice, Angelica, & Margarita Gomez

Services for Sue Bowman

Sue Kennedy Bookout Bowman died in Fort Worth on December 7, 2003. She was born June 28, 1934. She graduated from Plains High School in 1952. She married Dobbie Bookout in 1952. Mr. Bookout passed away November 27, 1978. She later married Pete Bowman in 1981. She is survived by three daughters, Kathy Bookout, Ft. Worth, Sandy Bookout, California, and Sherry Bookout, Lake Arrowhead, California; seven sisters, Peggy Russell, Ruidoso, New Mexico, Jimmie Blount, Plains Pat Bates, Plains, Georgia Rice, Gray, Louisiana, Doris Kennedy, Levelland, Faye Horton and Gene Richey, Lubbock; four grandchildren and three great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Bulah Kennedy; her husband Dub Bookout; a sister, Snooks Gayle, and three brothers, L.V. Buster and Billy Kennedy.

Neugebauer Launches Official Website

Congressman Randy Neugebauer proudly launched his new official U.S. House of Representatives website Monday. This site allows constituents of the 19th District to regularly contact the Congressman via e-mail. It also provides several services, including grant application information, press releases, town hall meeting notices, and research through the Library of Congress on exact bills being debated in Congress. "It's important to offer a place where people of the 19th District can learn what's going on in Congress that affects them directly," said Neugebauer. "If you're planning on visiting Washington, DC or you just want to learn more about issues before Congress you should visit this site. I consider this YOUR site, not mine." It is also important to the congressman that the site be bilingual. He hopes to have translation completed soon. "This is a great site for people of all ages and backgrounds. Farmers can learn how I'm paying close attention to what's going on in agriculture, while students can do legislative research and learn how to apply to military academies," said Neugebauer. Neugebauer encourages constituents to sign up for monthly e-newsletters on the website to keep informed. His website may be accessed at www.house.gov/neugebauer.

Local task force to join South Plains Regional Drug Task Force

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark and Llano Estacado Drug Task Force Commander Rick Dickson reported the pending absorption of the local Yoakum and Terry County drug fighting task force by a 15 county South Plains Regional Drug Task Force. Clark said the Governor's office had mandated the alliance. "If we don't join forces with the region, our grant funds from the state will be cut off, and we'll be out of business." Dickson said the drug office at the county park would remain in operation, and the three investigators here would remain on the job. Dickson's position as commander of the operation would be abolished, and he will return to his former position, special investigator for the criminal District Attorney. Both were optimistic about the new alignment, and confident the battle against illicit drugs in our small rural counties would continue to be successful. Clay Taylor, Yoakum County Hospital Administrator, reviewed bids received for 7 hemodialysis machines to be installed in the hospital's new dialysis treatment center. He reported the Hospital Board had approved purchasing 7 Gambro Renal Products machines, for a total price of \$94,500, to be purchased with budgeted funds. The court also approved the purchase. The court approved a low bid of \$19,555.97 for a new 2003 Chevrolet pickup for Pct. 1 from Mustang Country, and a cash bid of \$712.25 from Kenny Dierschke for the 1994 Chevrolet pickup trade-in from Pct. 1. Sheriff Don Corzine's emergency request to replace a patrol vehicle for his department, destroyed in a recent collision with cattle was approved. He will receive a 2003 Chevrolet Impala from Mustang Chevrolet for \$19,412, and will purchase radio, lights, cameras and other safety items for the new vehicle and for the sheriff's 2001 auto put in service following the wreck. The total request of \$29,950 for new auto and all equipment was approved. The employment and salary of Frances Seymour as third deputy in the Treasurer's office was approved.

Emergency farm loan applications being accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by excessive rain, hail and high winds, are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in Seminole, Wayne Cornelius said today. In November the Secretary of Agriculture designated two Texas counties as primary disaster areas. This action is based on damages and losses caused by excessive rain, hail, high winds, that occurred from June 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003. Also in accordance with section 321A of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 10 additional counties are named as contiguous counties. Yoakum County was named as one of the ten contiguous counties recently named by Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman eligible for loans to cover part of actual production losses from the excessive weather. Wayne Cornelius, Farm Loan

Manager, said farmers may be eligible for loans up to 100% of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue the agricultural business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75%. "As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least 30 percent loss of production to be eligible for an FSA emergency loan" Cornelius said. Farmers participating in the Federal Crop Insurance program will have to consider proceeds from those programs in determining losses. "Applications for loans under this emergency designation will be accepted until July 6, 2004, but farmers should apply as soon as possible. Delays in applying could create backlogs in processing, with possible delays into the new farming season", Cornelius said.

Yoakum County Plains Clinic

Amir Memon, MD

and

Jo Lena Wall, PA - C

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First Annual Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball

December 31, 2003

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

K&T Ranch
(formerly the Sue Stevens Ranch)

Dinner, Dancing, Silent and Live Auctions
all proceeds will benefit The Yoakum County Hospital Foundation

\$100.00

(One ticket admits one couple or one single person into the ball)

If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball, please call one of the following Gala Committee Members:

Sharon Boyd - 592-2939 * Edith Kidd - 592-2269 * Beverly Mills - 592-2121
Linda Moore - 592-8829 * Wilma Powell - 456-2288
Louise Swanson - 592-2069 * Judy Thompson - 592-2580, or 592-6444

Lifelines & Styles

Squyres - Ramsey Wed



Robin Diane Squyres wed Daniel Gaylon Ramsey on Saturday, November 15, 2003 at 3:00 pm in the First Baptist Church of Plains, officiated by Reverend Bill Wright. Robin was given in marriage by her parents Newell and Peggy Squyres. Danny is the son of Samuel and Jenny Ramsey of Trinidad, Texas. Matron of Honor was Mrs. Tessa Bearden of Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, daughter of Joe and Elouise St. Romain of Plains. Maid of Honor was Kyley Bearden of Brownfield, daughter of Rickey and Karen Bearden of Plains. Bridesmaid was Angela Ramsey, sister of the groom from Tyler, Texas. Darian Gonzales, niece of the bride served as the flower girl. The Bestman was Jeffrey Martin from Trinidad, Texas, and the groomsmen were James Lockaby of Stephenville,

Texas, and Brett Squyres, brother of the bride also of Stephenville, Texas. The bride wore a lace long sleeve satin gown with hand beading with a long chapel length train. The bride's attendants wore floor length sapphire blue beaded gowns. Their hair was done by Chad Cline of Dumas, owner of FX Hair Salon. The groom and his attendants all wore black tuxedos with sapphire blue vest and ties. Cousins of the bride, Saber, Stormy and Stefani Pierce of Duncanville, Texas served at the reception and register guests. The couple will make their home in Corsicana, Texas where Robin works for the USDA/NRCS and Danny works for Tarrant County Regional Water Authority.

Senior Citizens Corner

It is Christmas time - the season of "Peace to all." "Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace..." thus begins the inspired prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi. Peace can be achieved only through people. World wide peace or peace in our own home, family, and community depends on each of us putting into action the art of peace. Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas!

Lupe Escobedo and Janie Durham were luncheon guests this week. They distributed a 2004 calendar for each of us from the Wells Fargo Bank.

On the same day the girls from the County Clerk's office came to visit the Center. They were loaded with goodies for everyone. A sack of cookies, candies, and nuts was given to each one present.

Thirteen folks took time after lunch on Tuesday to try their luck at Bingo. There were many lucky winners before the hour and a half was finished. Come join this group each Tuesday afternoon when there isn't a domino tournament. Pick up a Menu/Activity calendar for the month to verify these dates.

A big selection of all kinds of Christmas goodies was brought in by our people for the Toys for Tots program. They were delivered to the EMS folks for distribution around the city.

Our sympathy goes to Dottie Braswell, Betty Scott, and Debbie Rushing in the loss of a loved one this week. The Christmas season always makes this kind of loss more difficult.

What a pleasant surprise to see Betty Boatman come walking into the dining room this week. We tried in vain to convince her that Denver City is a better place to live than Tucumcari, New Mexico.

Walter Holland is in Covenant Lakeside Hospital in Lubbock

at the time of this writing. Our information indicates that he is recovering from emergency surgery and is comfortable.

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas all around the dining room. Thanks to Pat Altman, Gloria, and the Site Council helpers for making the season festive for all of us.

The annual Christmas dinner of turkey and dressing was well attended on Wednesday. It was also our monthly invitational pool tournament, so the dining room was full.

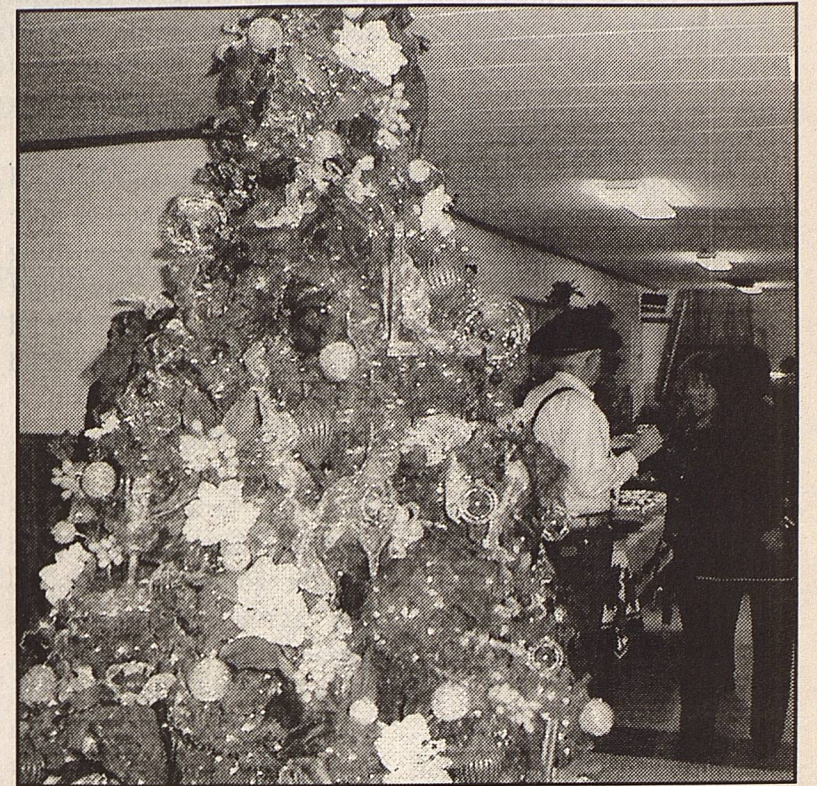
Several people arrived early on Monday morning to enjoy the Christmas carols sung by the Pre-K group of children and their teachers. What a delight they were as their excitement about Christmas spilled over into our lives.

Duncan Ashmore and Hoot Gibson were each back to join us this week for lunch after a long absence due to illness. A special welcome to each of them.

Five of our six Center family members, who were honored last month for having passed their nine decade milestone, were on hand Monday at lunch-time to receive their "memory scrapbooks." How fortunate our group is to have these folks join us on a daily basis. Zelma Boone was unable to attend, but Maurine Wehrend, Gladys Thomason, Marsene Beattie, Duncan Ashmore, and I.V. "Lucky" Harmon were on hand to receive their books and get their photos made. Congratulations to each of these people.

A windy Monday night found nearly a dozen folks gathered in the pool room for playing pool and dominoes. All seniors are welcome, so come on down and enjoy the fellowship, snacks and coffee.

Thought for today: "To forgive is to set the prisoner free, and then discover the prisoner was you."



The Courthouse tree was resplendent for Open House

SPC Spring Registration Jan. 14-15

South Plains College's Spring 2004 registration is Jan. 14-15. Registration on the Levelland campus, 1401 S. College Ave., will be 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 6 p.m. Jan. 14 in the Counseling Center.

Registration at the SPC Reese Center campus, W. 4th and Quitsna Ave. in Lubbock, will be 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 - 7 p.m. Jan. 15 in Building 1, Administrative Offices. Students can sign up for courses offered at Reese and the Byron Martin Advanced Technology Center in Lubbock, 3201 Ave. Q. Spring classes at all locations begin Jan. 20. Late registration is Jan. 20-23.

Library Kids Wrote Santa.....

"I want a blue silver fighter and a yellow transformer..." Will Wilkins

"I want a roller skates, Barbie, Swan Lake and Chaps to wear riding Gypsy my pony. And I want a Pogo Stick..." Gentry Wall

"I want a back pack..." Trenity Wall

Certified Nurses Aide Course Begins Jan. 26

A short course in Certified Nurse Aide begins Jan. 26 at South Plains College in Levelland.

Classes will meet 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays through Feb. 28 in the Technical Arts Building, Room 100. Clinical instruction will be arranged at the Levelland Nursing Home.

Instructor is Barbara Brattain, L.V.N. Tuition is \$325. State exam fee is \$76, and cost of the textbook is \$36.58. Textbook is Skills and Techniques for the New Nursing Assistant, 6th edition, by Barbara Gillogly.

The course provides detailed education, training, work-based experience and direct patient/client care at a clinical site. Clinical experiences are unpaid external learning experiences. Students will learn the necessary skills to work in long-term care, home health or hospital environments.

After completing the 60 hours of classroom and 24 hours of clinical instruction, students will be required to take the State of Texas Certified Nurse Aide Competency Examination.

Students must provide proof of MMR, Tetanus and have a current negative TB test.

Corral Youth Center Pool Tournament Results

Singles

- 1st Jose Ramirez
- 2nd Brant Huerta
- 3rd Trey Cleveland

Doubles

- 1st Jose & Armando Ramirez
- 2nd Chris Gonzales & Skyler Sainz
- 3rd Brant Huerta & Tray Cleveland

Student & Adult

- 1st John Wagnon & Uncle Larry Logoria
- 2nd A.J. Martinez & Dad Alfred
- 3rd Brant Huerta & Dad David

To The Voters Of Yoakum County

After 27 years of service, I would like to announce my retirement at the end of my term, December 31, 2004. It has been an honor serving as your Tax Assessor - Collector.

I would like to thank my staff, Sheila Stephens, Sheila Ashburn, Alice Bearden, Jeanette Serna, and Sue Holder, for all the hard work and support they have given me.

Betty Rivas

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH Plains, Texas

Sunday School

9:30 A.M.

Morning Worship

10:45 A.M.

Evening Program

6:00 P.M.

From The Hack

I found this underlined in one of Holly's little inspirational books; "You may search my time-worn face; you'll find a merry eye that twinkles. I am NOT an old lady, just a merry little girl with wrinkles".

In the days following her beautiful services, I have been overwhelmed with kind gestures of love, understanding and sympathy, as have the other members of our family.

I have also had many of those who attended her services express their regrets they did not get to visit with me and all our family following the memorial services, and this I need to explain.

As the official obituary detailed, we planned a very brief, private graveside interment service at 10:30 AM Friday, December 12, followed by regular memorial services back at the church at 11 AM. The cemetery procession was actually pulling away from the Church when word was received by Mark Jones there was a major problem at the cemetery. The firm supplying the concrete casket liner was late getting to the site, and somehow dropped and wedged the liner in the grave.

The procession was halted, and it took a bit of time to get all of the invited guests out of their vehicles, while Cemetery Custodian Jess Gass called and made arrangements to lift and properly replace the liner. This

disrupted the original service time schedule, and we proceeded with the planned memorial services at about the scheduled time.

I hope you were there - it was wonderfully strong stuff provided by Brothers Bill Wright and Tom Carter, the most impressive music I can ever remember in such a service, and according to long-time church members, the greatest display of beautiful flowers in the history of the church.

Knowing the Bride fairly well after all these years, I'm sure she would have said something like, "Good Lord, they didn't have to do all THIS"! And then, she would have beamed in pleasure.

THANK YOU!

Knowing how mysteriously swift, a bit faster than the speed of light, gossip and occasionally actual, factual news spreads across our fair hamlet, it's probably old news to you, but Bill Guetersloh suffered a heart attack last week, and at last report was doing very well, a Stint in place in one artery, probably another to be installed in the near future. This was a BIG shock to me, as he was one of our confused pall bearers in the above mentioned services for the Bride.

Being as now I am a veteran heart attack victim, circa July 28, 2003, I have some words of wisdom to pass to Bill. These are some of the things you will hear and have to put up with from (a) perfect strangers on the street, (b) people posing as your friends, (c) people who detest you, and (d) people YOU detest:

2,728 in the next 30 days will say, "My, that's strange, didn't

know you had a heart!" 1,981 will say, "Cold as yours was, did they have to thaw it to work on it?"

1,567 will tell you, "Hate to hear that. Got your will prepared, I guess?"

1,344 will say, "Well, you've lasted a Hell of a lot longer than I ever dreamed."

942 will pause, scratch their head and ask, "Too bad. How much money did I loan you in '93"?

648 will hug you, pretend to wipe a tear from an eye, and casually ask, "You planning to give your putter to anyone soon?"

At least seven car dealers you've done business with will call and pant, "Bill, don't wait until it's too late... I gotta real deal for you NOW... you can always leave it to your wife or kids!"

A few of your more sincere golfing friends will call, and solemnly say, "Well, hope you get along OK... if worse comes to worse, I'll let you get by with two strokes front and back."

An even lesser few will call and scream, "You better get that other stint stuck in your heart, I still gotta have more than two strokes, front and back!"

You're getting ready to discover some real friendships, Bill.

I don't recall who sent this, but it had to be from the feminine gender;

"Waiting for my appointment with a new dentist, I read his full name on his official certificate. I suddenly remembered a tall, handsome boy with the same name had been in my high school graduating class some 30 years ago. When I was led into his office and introduced to him, however, I thought, this balding, grey-haired guy with a deeply lined face must be way too old to have been in my class. Never the less, I asked him if he had gone to my high school. He said yes, he had. Excited now, I asked him when he had graduated, and he replied "In 1970. Why?" Very excited, I exclaimed, "You were in my class!" He looked at me very closely, obviously puzzled, and then asked, "What did you teach?"

The YCH Foundation

would like to send out a

BIG THANK YOU

to the following businesses and individuals for their generous contributions and donations to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball to be held

December 31, 2003

Individuals

Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Ashcraft
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Boiles
Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Tearl Covington
Mrs. Mattie Field
Mrs. Sarah Jane Field
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Harrison
Mr. and Mrs. James Haynes
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Hilburn
Mr. Ron Hendrix
Mr. and Mrs. Delwin Jones
Mrs. Michele Jones
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kay
Mrs. Gene Kidd
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Kidd
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Warren New
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Parker
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fillipp
Mr. and Mrs. Ty Earl Powell
Mrs. Wilma Powell
Ms. Deborah Rushing
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Swanson
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Walker
Mr. and Mrs. Chad Wall
Mrs. Linda Wall

Businesses

Ag Insurance Plus - Jim & Jaymie Brown
Aladdin Casino - Las Vegas
Big Lots - Hobbs
Cattle Baron Restaurant - Hobbs
Cowboy Country News - Gary & Holly Dyer
CTS, Inc.
Denver City Press - Gene Snyder
Designing Women - Cindy Kegley
Evelyn's Dress Shop - Evelyn Vuicich - Hobbs
Gill's Furs - Lubbock
Hester McGlaun Office Supplies - Lubbock
Jenna's Feedbag Catering - Levelland
Just Silver - Phil & Linda Haney
Lucky Services - Dwayne Taylor - Hobbs
Molly's Gifts - Jake & Molly Tucker - Lubbock
Newsom Vineyards
Outwest Photos - Sheila Huffaker
Oxy Permian Ltd.
Pizza Hut
Plains State Bank
Production Fishing & Rental Tools
Ramona's Hair Affair - Ramona Stephenson
Ratliff Funeral Home
Sundown State Bank
Tangerine Treehouse
Texas Delights of Amarillo - Amarillo
Thriftway Grocery Store - Dale Carter
Troy Vinson Jewelers - Fort Worth
Wasson Investment Stock Club
Wells Fargo Bank
Wentz Orthodontics - Lubbock
West Texas National Bank
Yoakum County Abstract

There is still plenty of time to make a monetary contribution or donate an auction item. For more information, call Beverly Mills at the Yoakum County Hospital, 592-2121 or Linda Moore at 592-8829.

Applications are being accepted until January 12, 2004 for temporary full-time positions with USDA-Farm Service Agency. These GIS Field Technician positions will be located throughout Texas. Salary ranges from \$11.04 to \$12.35 per hour. Successful applicants will be proficient as a PC user with the ability to navigate within Windows. Experience with GIS and familiarity with ortho maps is preferable. Position will require travel 90% of the time with applicant providing their own reliable transportation. Application form FSA-675 can be obtained from USDA-FSA at Yoakum County FSA Office, 806-456-2132, 1305 Cowboy Way, Plains, Texas 79355. Completed application forms must be returned to the Yoakum County FSA Office, P.O. Box 70, Plains, Texas 79355 and must arrive by January 12, 2004 to be considered. Faxed applications will not be accepted. USDA is an EEO employer.

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Texas at a Glance

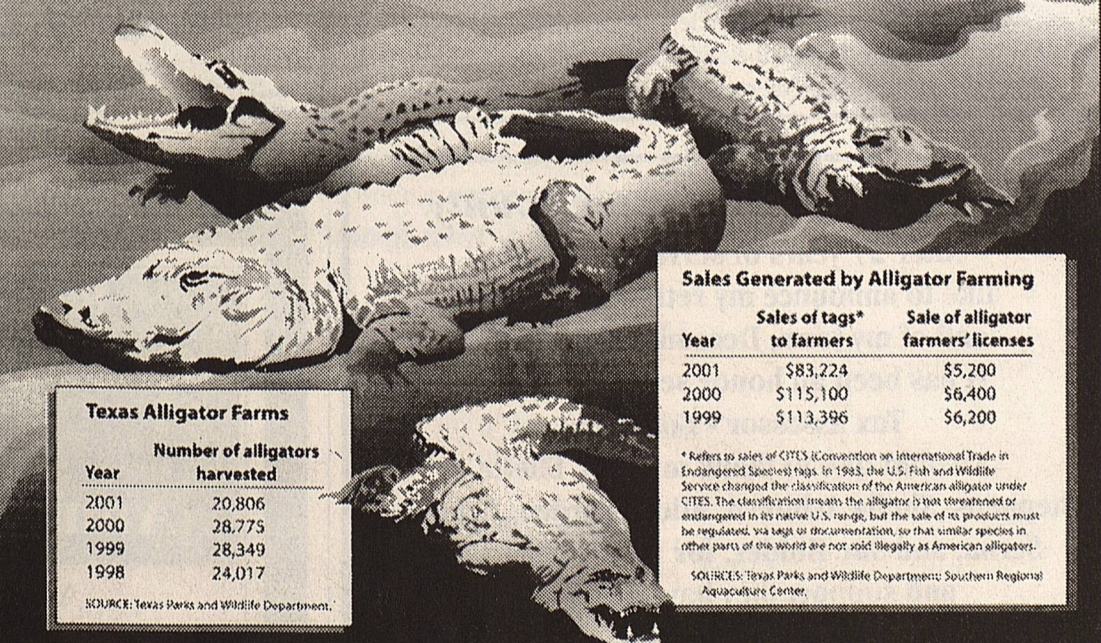
An Industry with Teeth

Fascinating and frightening to some, the alligator is the basis of a booming industry in Texas. Texas has the third-largest number of alligator farms in the nation, with 29 licensed farms and 44,000 alligators in captivity in 2003, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). Louisiana leads the nation with 122 licensed alligator farms.

Alligator farming is a \$10 million industry in Texas, said Amos Cooper, alligator program leader for TPWD. That figure comes from estimated sales of hides and products made from hides, including boots, purses, belts and other items.

The first alligator farmer in Texas was licensed in Rockport in 1986 with 206 alligators. By 2001, Texas alligator farmers harvested or killed and sold hides for leather from 20,806 alligators, down from 28,775 during 2000.

Texas farmers harvested fewer alligators in 2001 than in previous years. The number of alligators harvested in 2002 is not expected to exceed 30,000 due to decreased production by two major farmers, who are improving old farms to meet economic demand, according to TPWD.



Year	Sales of tags* to farmers	Sale of alligator farmers' licenses
2001	\$83,224	\$5,200
2000	\$115,100	\$6,400
1999	\$113,396	\$6,200

Year	Number of alligators harvested
2001	20,806
2000	28,775
1999	28,349
1998	24,017

* Refers to sales of CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species tags. In 1983, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service changed the classification of the American alligator under CITES. The classification means the alligator is not threatened or endangered in its native U.S. range, but the sale of its products must be regulated, via tags or documentation, so that similar species in other parts of the world are not sold illegally as American alligators. SOURCES: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Southern Regional Aquaculture Center.

May Peace And Joy Be With You This Holiday Season!

Gary

