

Cowboy Country News

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

Volume X, Issue 8, October 29, 2003



The State of the State's Water

By Susan Combs, Commissioner, Texas Department of Agriculture

We've read volumes about the value and importance of water. Irreplaceable. Essential for our individual and collective survival. Valuable. The object of need for rich and poor alike.

We've seen nations at loggerheads over water. Look at the U.S. - Mexico treaty on water, where Mexico as a nation has basically stiffed its neighbor to the north by refusing to repay the water debt it clearly owes. States are quarreling with each other over water. California is at odds with neighboring states over water. Texas has had differences of opinion with New Mexico and all the states over the Ogalalla Aquifer. Water is not something we relish seeing being parceled out without thought, without comment and without public input. Let's hope that doesn't happen.

Unlike oil, water has no replacement. Oil can be replaced by solar or wind energy, coal, atomic power or synthetic fuels. Water has no substitute.

But we've seen a new player show up in the water game - the State of Texas. A few weeks ago a notion surfaced, the state was going to lease to a few guys the state's precious water from West Texas. Interesting notion. The concept of using a state asset for long term good for all Texans has merit. So far so good.

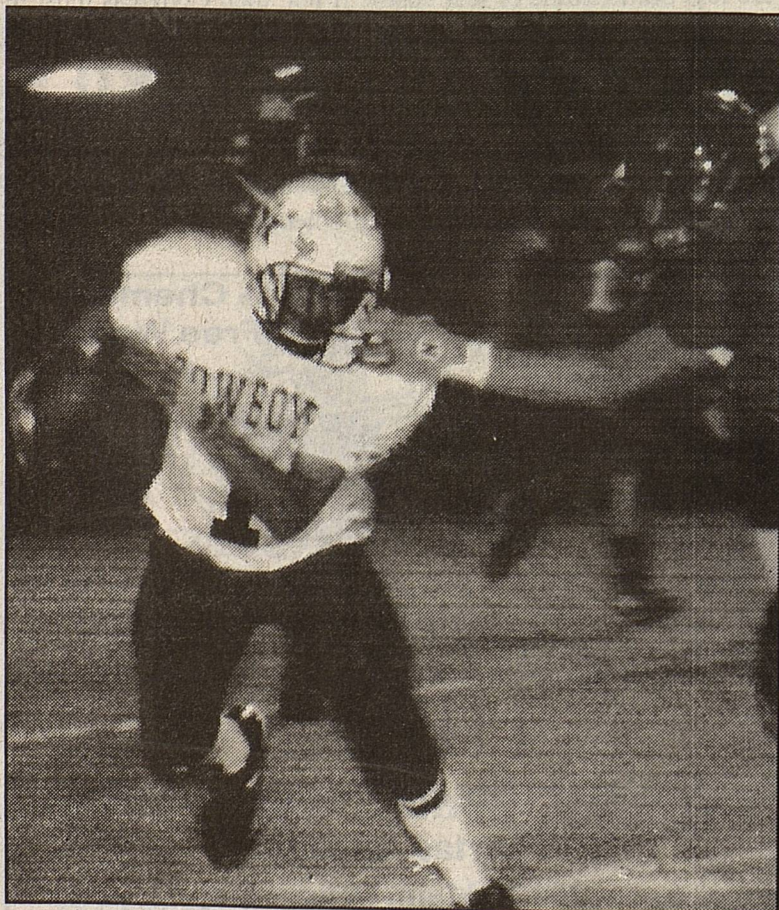
How about some background. Wildlife in that region of the state, deer, javelina, doves, mountain lions, coyotes and livestock depend on it. And let's not forget people - children, the elderly, folks of all ages and sizes - all depend on water for life.

But there are a couple of hitches here. No one in West Texas, the affected area, had heard anything about it. The lease would be covering 646,548 acres, and would be the 600 pound gorilla in an already contentious water arena. Dell City and El Paso are having their water conversations and not all of them pleasant. Antelope Springs near Valentine has been talked about for years as a 'mine of water', with residents concerned about losing their economic future.

Let's talk about the economy. It is fair to say all economic activity follows water - development, jobs, housing, hospitals, nursing homes - every single location depends on water. Rural economic development in a huge chunk of the state would be impaired by this proposal. And the General Land Office so far hasn't seen fit to share the details. Wait. There is one detail. The lease is being proposed for twenty cents an acre. Wow. Adds up to a whopping \$129,000, give or take, to the state for this deal on 646,548 acres. What about leases in the area? I am told they run

Turn to Pg. 2 'State's Water'

Cowboys fall to rough Roughnecks 14 - 7



Although difficult to see, the Sundown on left of photo clearly has his hand on Richard Diaz' face mask. No penalty was called. For game write up and stats, please turn to page four.

Agreement between Denver City, D.C.I.S.D. and County ok'd

In Commissioners Court Monday, the court unanimously agreed to enter into an Inter-Local Agreement between the City of Denver City, the County and the Denver City School District. The proposal was originally presented to the Court in the prior court session by Mike Fears, Director of the D.C. Economic Development Corporation. He had explained to the Court the interlocal arrangement is an agreement between governmental entities to jointly assist in doing projects by providing labor, materials, machinery and possible financial assistance, upon agreement by each entities board of directors.

Fears told the court since that initial meeting he had met with Plains ISD officials, and those of the City of Plains. He was told the school district would place the proposal on their agenda for the November Trustees Meeting. The Plains City Council met in regular session Monday evening, October 27, and after discussing the agreement, unanimously agreed to approve the agreement. Fears noted in all of his

Turn to Pg. 2, "Agreement"

Crime cases in District, County Court

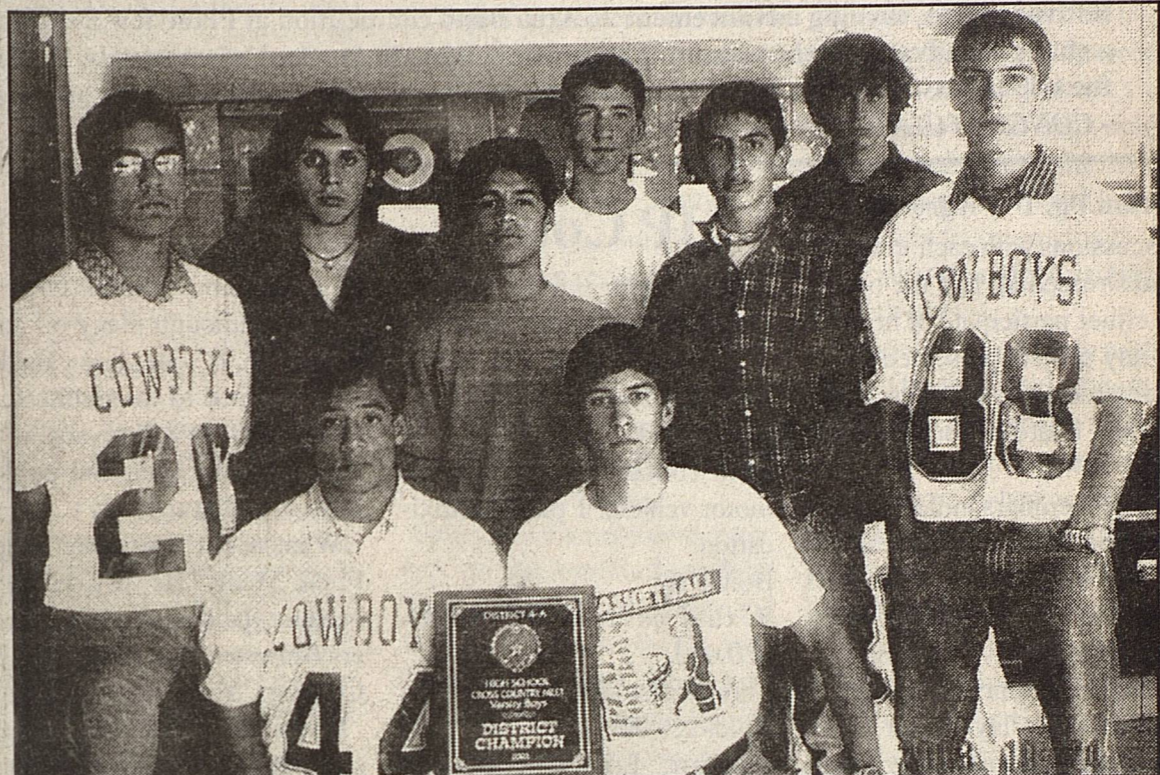
In District Court on October 20, Judge Kelly G. Moore presiding, the state waived enhancement and David Laureles pled guilty to burglary of a habitation. He was sentenced to 10 years in state prison, with credit for 197 days jail time. He must pay \$293 court costs and \$828 restitution to Alfredo Gonzales as a condition of parole. Investigating officer was Jason Cowin, Denver City Police, and Bill McGowan II was his attorney.

In County Court October 22, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding, Senaida Gonzales Orona pled guilty to driving while license suspended. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$211 court costs. DPS Trooper Robert Smith was investigating officer.

Donald Edward King pled guilty to driving with suspended license. He was fined \$100 and must pay \$211 court costs. Investigating officer was Trooper Chris Malloy.

Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state in both court sessions.

Cowboy Cross Country team advances to regional meet

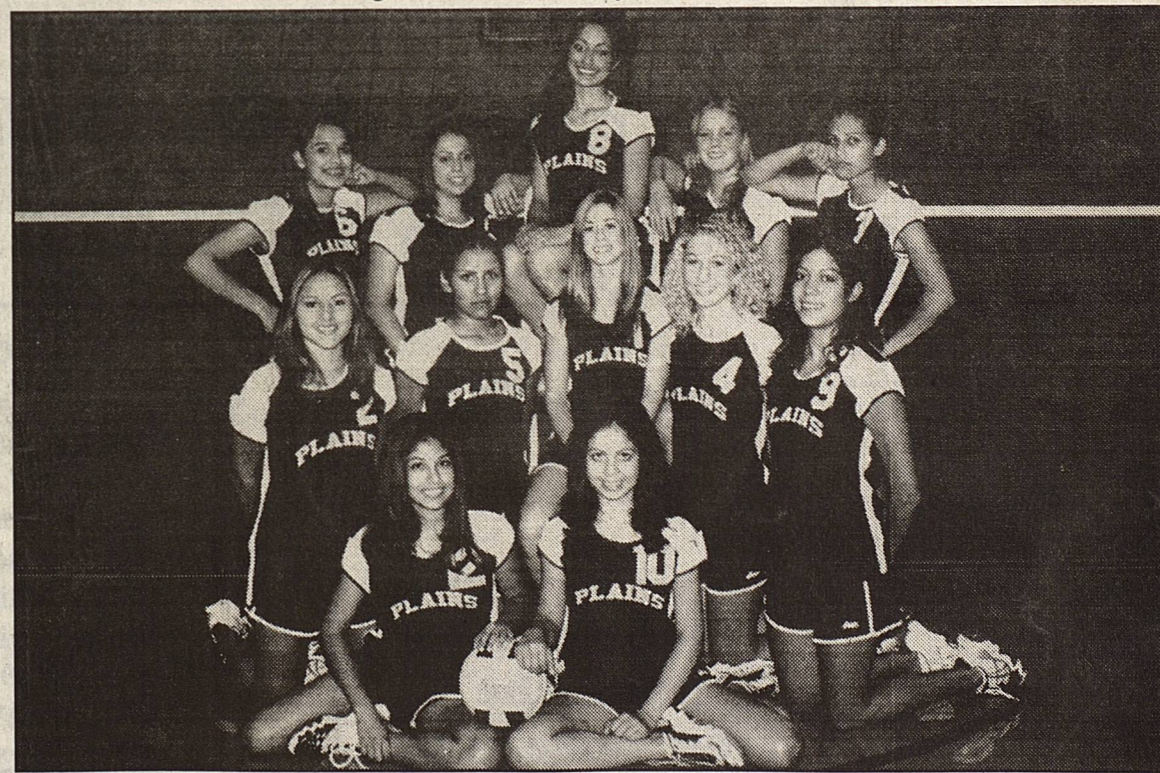


(Varsity Cowboys have * before their names) Front, *Armando Ramirez, *Brandon Davis., Back, Arnold Cordova, Adam Guerrero, *Jose Villegas, *Scott Addison, *Abel Ramos, *Payton Bean. Not pictured, Steven Dominguez and *Chandon Loya.

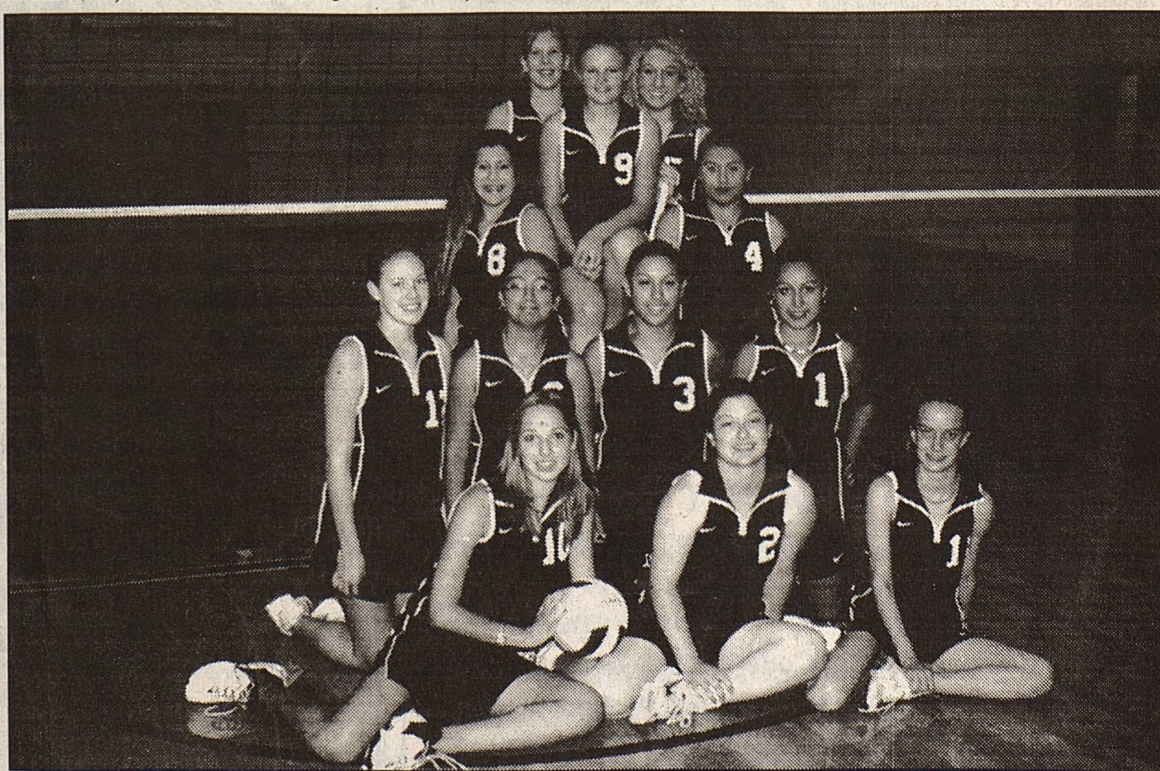
Competing in the large district meet at Mae Simmons Park in Lubbock last week, Cowboy varsity runners won their 12th District title and will compete in the Regional meet at the same location at 9:30 AM Saturday, November 8, for a great chance to advance to the State Meet. For complete write up of District results, see page 4.

Varsity, JV Cowgirls clinch district

Both the varsity and junior-varsity Cowgirls won their District Championships with recent dual wins over Whiteface. CCN congratulates all the lady athletes and their coaches for a great season.

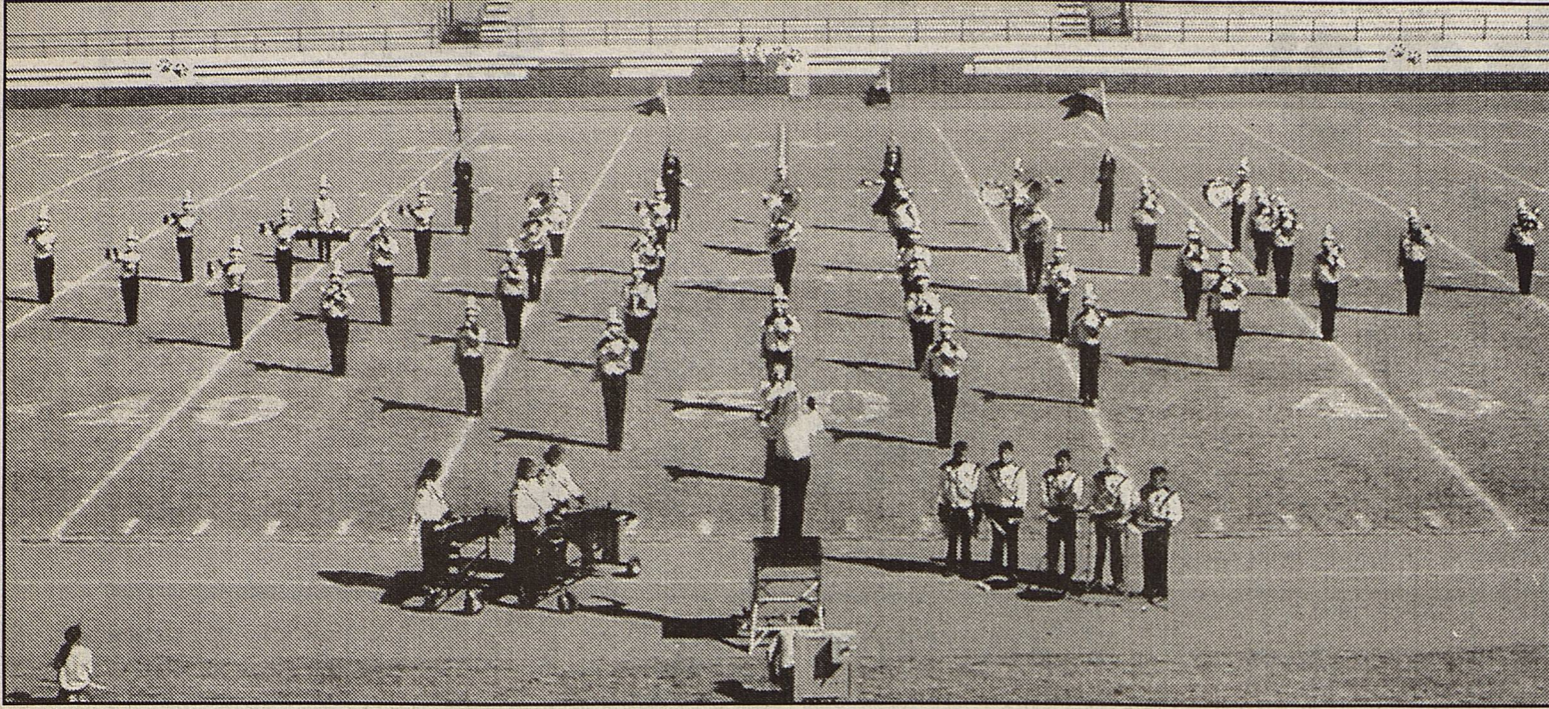


VARSITY: 1st row, Daniela Lazos, Micaela Villegas. 2nd, Prisma Ortiz, Jesenia Suarez, Moriah Traweek, Skylar Keese, Kristian Morales. 3rd, Jamie Covarrubias, Sarah Martinez, Manuela Villegas, La Shonda Diamond, Sandra Gandara. John Harris, Coach.



JUNIOR VARSITY: 1st row, Desiraye Broome, Angelica Mendoza, Callie Howell. 2nd, Nicole Culwell, Josey Cordova, Meghan Garcia, Yesica Calderon. 3rd, Priscilla Mares, Lisa Neufeld, Maribel Mendias. 4th, Allison Friesen, Skylar Keese. Treasure Thaggard, Coach.

Great Job, 2003 - 04 Cowboy Marching Band!!



The Cowboy Band, under leadership of Director Georgann Weisgerber, assisted by Michelle Steward, in October 18th UIL Competition at the Plainview Band Festival, received SUPERIOR ratings from all three festival judges, earning advancement to Area Band competition at Plainview Saturday, October 25, hoping for a chance to advance to the upcoming state competition in Austin. Unfortunately, the judge's votes will not allow the trip to Austin. To the entire band and directors, we salute your hard work and success throughout the year - CONGRATULATIONS ON A GREAT JOB!!

From Pg. 1 'Agreement'

discussions with each entity he had stressed all had the option to either participate or not join in any project presented by an entity member, at the discretion of their board or council members.

Court members indicated they felt the interlocal agreement could make certain projects feasible with the joint participation of the five 'partners'. Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Clay Taylor asked the courts permission to advertise for bids on dialysis machines to be utilized in the new dialysis center currently under construction. Taylor said a total of five machines were needed, with four scheduled for daily use, and one as a reserve stand-by. He said cost of each unit is expected to be from \$13,000 to \$16,000. He anticipated the new center would be operational in March or April of 2004.

NOTICE FOR BIDS THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 A.M., Friday, November 14, 2003, for the purchase of (5) Hemodialysis machines for Yoakum County Hospital Dialysis Center.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, November 17, 2003.

Bid price will be paid from Hospital Equipment Grant Funds. To receive a bid sheet or for more information, contact Clay Taylor, Hospital Administrator,

806/592-2121, 412 Mustang Avenue, Denver City, Texas 79323. Sealed bids should be marked "DIALYSIS MACHINES" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, P.O. Box 456 Cowboy Way and Avenue G., Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Published in Cowboy Country News October 29 and November 5, 2003.

JP Court

The following is a summary of cases heard and bonds set in Pct 1 Justice of Peace Court, Judge Melba Crutcher presiding. Cases filed: 62 traffic cases, 1 open container of alcohol in motor vehicle, 1 public intoxication.

Bonds set:
Sexual assault of a child-\$20,000,
Three cases-indecency with a child-\$20,000,
Assault, family violence-\$1,500,
Two cases-aggravated assault with a deadly weapon-\$7,000.
Motion to revoke probation-held until hearing.

HAPPY Halloween



Be Safe

We will not print the November 12 Issue of CCN. Vacation Time!!

From Pg. 1 'State's Water'

from 50 cents to \$2 an acre for that area of the state.. So why the low cost deal? Who benefits?

There's another hitch. The proposal isn't subject to a competitive bid although many oil and gas leases by the General Land Office are. Is water less valuable? Is there any reason for this not to be opened to the public for comment? Can't think of any. I hope the GLO will reverse it's public position of not seeing any reason for an open and public competitive bid process in the interest of fairness.

What about legitimate concerns expressed by State Senator Frank Madla? He very rightly termed the deal "unconscionable" because the deal has been shrouded in secrecy. His district covers Brewster, part of El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis and Presidio Counties. Yet he wasn't even aware of the deal.

Maybe the worst hitch of all; GLO is contemplating (because state law allows it) not having this bid deal comply with groundwater district rules. This isn't in any of the state or regional water plans. So, we have the state opting out of the rules everyone else has to play by. Maybe the Legislature should take a look at this problem.

Who is supporting this deal? Let's see, El Paso is opposed, every county in the area is opposed. West Texans are surely not happy their water and their future are going to be handed off to a few guys without a by-your-leave.

Let's hope cooler heads and reason prevail. When we for the first time start talking about mining the state's water, and the concept isn't in the state's water plan, or in the plans of the regions affected, maybe it's time to take a deep breath, say WHOA and start a rational plan.

One option might be for the state itself to view this as a public safety matter. We build roads for the public. We think fire and police protection are public goods. What about state water? Otherwise we're going to sell or lease the state's water behind closed doors. After all... this is state water under state land - water for all Texans - not just a few good old boys.

End Of Season Sale !

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From 19th District Congressman Randy Neugebauer

A lot of ideas sound good, until you get to the details. Having food in the grocery store labeled with its country of origin seems like a good idea. Beginning next September, food retailers will have to label or mark packages or have a visible display sign stating the country of origin of the produce, frozen fruits and vegetables, meats, fish and peanuts. Processed foods and food served in restaurants are exempt from labeling.

It sounds simple enough, but as the Department of Agriculture has worked on regulations to implement mandatory country of origin labeling (COOL), more and more people have started to realize that maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all. As Congress, farm groups, food processors and food retailers have gotten a closer look at the details, many of us believe the regulations are unworkable and must be delayed and changed or stopped.

For meat and fish to be labeled as U.S. origin, the animal must be born, raised and slaughtered in the United States. For produce to be of U.S. origin, it must be grown and packed in the United States. However, the food supply chain from our farms to grocery stores is increasingly complex. Beef may come from an animal born in the United States, fed in Canada and then returned to the United States for processing. A package of mixed vegetables or salad greens may contain some vegetables that were grown in the United States and some that were grown in Mexico.

Keeping the necessary records from food production through retail sale will be costly and burdensome. Producers, processors and retailers will not be allowed to 'self-certify' the origin of a product. They will have to maintain records through the entire food supply chain, tracking the identity of each animal and plant from its origin to the grocery store shelf. This requirement raises a lot of questions. Who is going to certify that beef cattle a producer sells to a meat packer, were born and raised in the United States? Who is going to certify that the vegetables a distributor delivers to the grocery store were all raised in the United States?

Because the final responsibility for labeling and verification of origin falls on food retailers, many of them are preparing legal agreements for their suppliers to sign regarding the origin of the foods they are selling to the grocery store. Mandatory COOL will certainly create more liability lawsuits.

If the regulations become mandatory, USDA estimates record keeping costs will near \$2 billion for the nation's 2 million farm and fish producers, 100,000 handlers such as processors, distributors and importers and 31,000 retailers. The last thing farmers need is another production cost, and we all know that farmers and consumers will be the ones paying the bill for COOL.

Given the cost of record keeping, verification and tracking and the potential for new liability lawsuits, we have to ask what benefits COOL would provide. The evidence suggests very few. A label on a package of ground beef stating it was produced in the United States tells the consumer nothing about its nutritional content, its quality or its safety. All food imports must meet the same food safety standards at U.S. produced foods. Under existing tariff and food safety laws, many imported foods are already labeled with their origin. When you're in the grocery store, do you make purchase decisions based on quality and price or on where the food came from? Consumers should have thorough information about the nutritional value and safety of the food they buy, but knowing the food came from the United States does not increase that knowledge.

Many food producers use their own voluntary labeling as a marketing device. We often see the 'Go Texan' logo when retailers promote state grown products, and we're all familiar with Idaho potatoes, Washington apples and California strawberries marked as such in the grocery store. Using this type of branding is a business decision producers should be able to make voluntarily, not one that the federal government should mandate through complicated and expensive regulation.

The future of mandatory COOL is uncertain. I supported keeping a provision in the annual legislation that funds USDA for the coming year that will postpone funding to implement COOL for meats for another year. By giving USDA more time to work with producers, processors and retailers, perhaps they can develop regulations that are less burdensome or less costly. If not, then Congress must reconsider and make COOL voluntary. The details of mandatory COOL prove that it is not a good idea.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Congressman for the 19th District of Texas. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 1026 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-4319 or on your website at www.house.gov/neugebauer.

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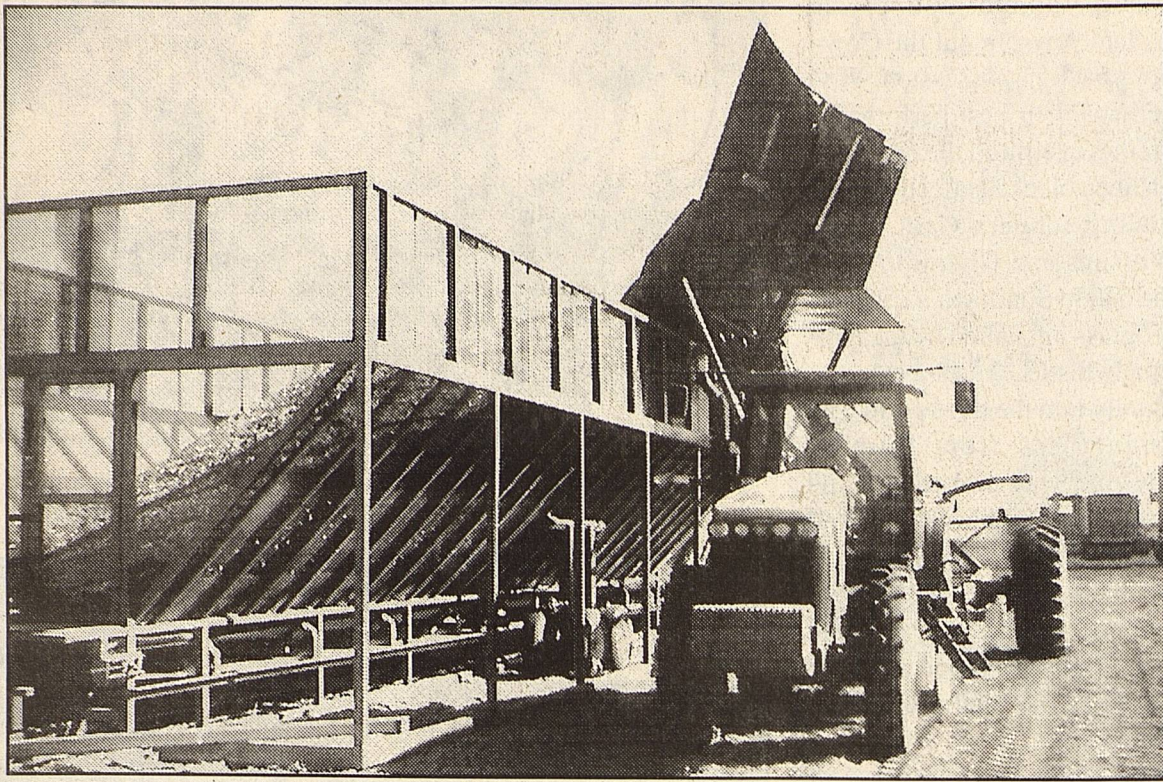
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TPA MEMBER 2003
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Cowboy Country News

Published weekly, each Wednesday at 1205 Copeland Ave., P.O. Box 179, Plains, Texas 79355
Holly Dyer, Publisher Gary Dyer, Editor
Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$18 annually. Other Zip Codes \$20 annually. Periodical 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
ID# 017574 Ph. 806-456-8451 FAX 806-456-2010

Fantastic Fall weather speeds cotton, peanut harvest



This scene is being repeated daily over much of the county and South Plains. This tractor towed trailer contains peanuts which have been unloaded from a peanut combine, and then transported to this huge holding trailer. A hydraulic driven belt in the bottom carries harvested nuts to another conveyor belt and through another trash separator, then the peanuts are sent up a final conveyor to a waiting semi-trailer, which will carry them to a storage facility or processing plant.

The October weather has been virtually perfect for cotton and peanut harvesting, although some peanut producers say the mild weather is drying the nuts too quickly.

In the end, if there is one thing certain, it is this: in Iraq, the mass murder has stopped. And we stopped it. Unfortunately, if you read the New York Times, there are some in Washington, D.C. who seem to be ashamed of that fact. But I am not. I never will be.

I believe that these are critical times in our nation's history. In the Armed Services Committee and in the Senate as a whole right now, we are looking at some very important issues that I believe will decide the state of our military across the board for years to come.

"Transformation" may sound like a beltway buzzword, but as you know, it's something that's very important to us all. As we move into the 21st century, we are truly transforming the way we fight and win wars. The war against terror is a new kind of war, and I believe it requires new tactics and new commitments in order to succeed.

Operation Iraqi Freedom is a prime example - we fought jointly and not as separate services, and we used our technological advances to help our troops communicate and coordinate. We're finding new ways to protect our brave men and women in the field, and give them the tools they need to hunt down the enemy.

Working together jointly will be one of the keys to a successful transformation of the military. But there are also many questions that we must answer as we work to adapt. Does the Army have the adequate end-strength to wage the global war on terror in light of our worldwide commitments? Do we have the proper balance between our Active Duty and Reserve Component? And how should we base our troops overseas in the post-Cold War era? These are all questions that I believe must be answered as we move forward, or else we will end up putting our brave men and women in uniform at unnecessary risk.

One issue that I strongly believe we in the Senate must address is making certain that our soldiers have the right equipment for war in the 21st century. We must ensure that the United States military has the training, the equipment, and the facilities they require to remain the greatest fighting force the world has ever known, in times of war and peace.

And through it all, we must never forget the heroism and sacrifice of those brave soldiers who gave their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan. We must always remember that our own freedom was not won without cost, but bought and paid for by the sacrifices of generations that came before. We must honor these soldiers, these heroes, for their courage and their commitment to the dream that is freedom.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities. Cornyn joined eight Senate colleagues in early July for an Armed Services Committee trip to Iraq and the surrounding region where he visited with Texas troops and received briefings from coalition forces.

CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

Gaining Economic Momentum

"The good economic news keeps coming," read a recent headline in the Wall Street Journal. That positive statement is a welcome shift amidst challenging economic times. But our efforts to strengthen the economy are far from over, and the jobs picture has not yet brightened enough.

In May, Congress passed a \$350 billion jobs and economic growth package to put Americans back to work and stimulate our economy. The legislation provided tax relief to hard working families and contained a number of provisions to help individuals and businesses. Our strategy was simple, when Americans keep more of their hard earned dollars, they'll put that money back into the economy, boosting commerce and jobs creation. By reducing taxes, we did the right thing at just the right time for the American economy.

Throughout the summer and now into the fall, reports from Wall Street to Main Street have reflected an improved economy. On Wall Street, stock market values have increased by \$2 trillion in the last year. Disposable personal income is up by 3.8 percent and families are spending it on Mains Street. Retail sales showed a 12.1 percent annualized increase over the summer, meaning Americans are spending the extra money in their paychecks from the tax relief we passed earlier this year.

Another important economic indicator signaling a strengthening economy is the rise in new housing starts. This summer we experienced a 17 year high of 1.87 million units, and homeownership is at record levels with a 68 percent ownership rate.

Orders of manufactured goods continue to increase and shipments of durable goods increased this summer. More manufacturing output means more jobs for Americans. The Labor Department recently reported that employers created 57,000 jobs in September, the first increase in eight months. And jobless claims are at their lowest point this year.

All of this has led to stronger economic growth. In the second quarter, the gross domestic product grew by 3.3 percent and third quarter numbers are expected to

top four percent.

But we need to do more. The economic growth has not yet translated into the broad job creation we would like to see. Fortunately there are a number of items on Congress' agenda that will help put more Americans back to work. The Senate is working to enact additional legislation to create and retain jobs and further accelerate economic growth.

Two other items of critical importance are class action litigation reform and a bill to rein in runaway asbestos lawsuits. Class action reform will help victims receive their just financial due while ending abuses and helping businesses focus on growth and jobs rather than fighting expensive lawsuits.

Additionally, it will help reduce the 'hidden litigation tax' on U.S. consumers that inflates the cost of goods and services and stifles job creation. Asbestos lawsuits have already accounted for the loss of an estimated 138,000 jobs. Asbestos litigation reform will create new jobs by allowing companies to divert dollars from legal battles costs toward new investments. Both of these reforms help protect jobs and ensure fairness for Americans.

But one of the most immediate actions Congress can take on the jobs front is finalizing the energy bill. Since I came to the Senate 10 years ago, we've tried to pass a comprehensive energy policy.

This year, we finally passed a bill in both the House and Senate, which is currently in a conference committee where differences between the bills will be resolved. The final legislation is expected to create upward of 500,000 new jobs and save even more. Construction of new pipelines, and investment in new technologies, such as clean coal technology, will create new jobs in math, engineering, physics, and, even more important, release our nation from the grip of Middle East dependence.

As we move into the holiday season, when Americans spend more money on gifts and traveling to visit loved ones, Congress is keeping an eye on the fragile recovery, and will continue to make efforts to create stability in the economy.



COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO THE DREAM THAT IS FREEDOM

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn addressed the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) at their breakfast meeting in Washington, D.C. The breakfast was held by the AUSA's Fourth Region, which includes eight chapters from Texas. The following text is adapted from Sen. Cornyn's speech to AUSA:

As a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am personally dedicated to looking after the interests of all of our military personnel.

We are making progress in Iraq. We have finished the major combat operation, but now we need to finish the job. And I believe that everyone who's engaged in fighting this war, from the most junior recruit to the commander in chief, is doing a remarkable job under extraordinarily difficult circumstances.

I was recently briefed on the ongoing search for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. I'm sure you've all heard of these reports, and I am sure that many of you have questions about them. The work in this field is ongoing. Of 130 known Iraqi Ammunition Storage Points, many of which exceed 50 square miles in size, we have thus far searched only ten. And it will be many months before we have a clear picture of things.

We have not found the work in Iraq to be easy. But let me tell you what we have found. We have found torture cells, execution sites, and children's prisons. We have found the legacy of fear and terror, the vestiges of years of blood and cruelty. And we have found three hundred thousand people, maybe more, buried in mass graves spread throughout Iraq, in nearly 100 reported sites. They stretch from Basrah to Baghdad, from Najaf to Kirkuk. These are silent monuments of Saddam's ruthlessness, left behind for all to see.

In his speech before the joint session of Congress, Prime Minister Blair reminded us that we have a duty as a powerful nation to take great care regarding what kind of world we leave for our children. Peace is a good thing, but at what price is it purchased? By turning our backs on suffering and evil? If the 20th Century has taught us anything, it is that we cannot allow dictators like Saddam Hussein to stand.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S State Financial Accountability Rating

Plains Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. November 17, 2003 in the Resource Center at Plains High School 1000 10th Street, Plains

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Plains Independent School District's rating on the State's financial accountability system.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS PLAINS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S Academic Excellence Indicator System Rating

Plains Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. November 17, 2003 in the Resource Center at Plains High School 1000 10th Street, Plains

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss Plains Independent School District's rating on the State's academic excellence indicator system.

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December 31, 2003

7:00 PM—1:00 AM

K&I Ranch
 (formerly the Sue Stevens Ranch)

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

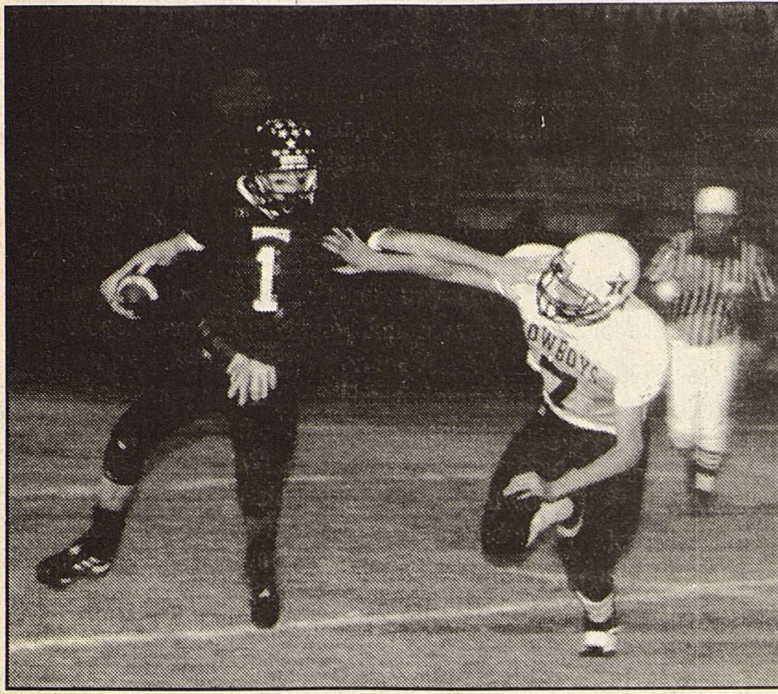
\$100.00

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

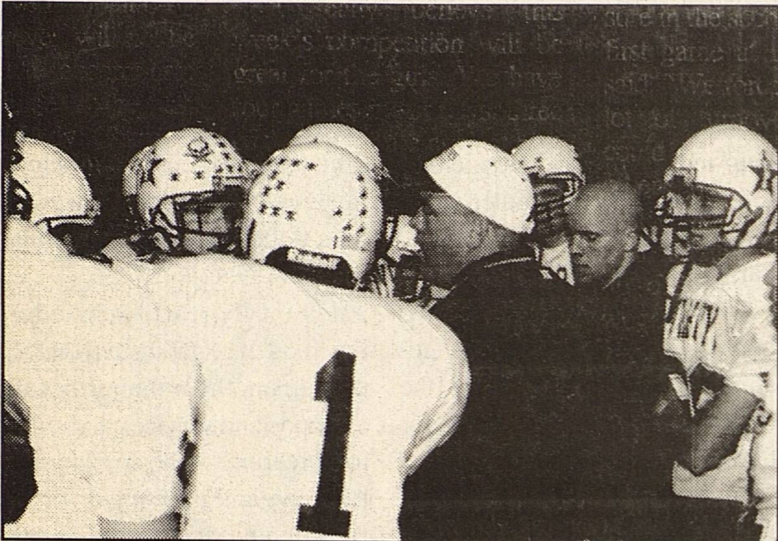
 If you would like to purchase a ticket to the Denim and Diamonds New Year's Eve Ball, please call one of the following Gala Committee Members:

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

Cowboys vs Sundown action scenes



Blake O'Quinn, #7, battles to nail Sundown quarterback



Todd Williams, 33, and Armando Ramirez, 44, try to protect QB Cain



Richard Diaz, #1, heads toward goal line in flank speed



Band members waiting for their cue

From Page 1, Cowboy's

Long time nemesis Sundown out lasted the Cowboys last Friday night to go two losses to one win in district action. The Cowboys outgained the Roughnecks 178 to 142 yards on the ground, but could muster only 28 yards in the air to the Roughnecks 137, and two strikes for scores.

Neither team could mount an effective attack early in the first period. Late in the quarter Sundown moved deep to the Cowboys 30, where the drive ended when Armando Ramirez recovered a Roughneck fumble. Both sides of the Cowboy line opened holes for Todd Williams and Evan Cain to run the ball to Sundown's 49. A pass intended for Zach Broome was picked off at the 18 and returned to the Roughneck 37, and on the next play a good pass went 63 yards for the Roughnecks first score and 7-0 lead.

Arnold Cordova took the kick-off and moved the ball to the Cowboys 28. On the first play from scrimmage, Richard Diaz took the pitchout from Cain, scooted left end and went 72 yards for the Cowboy score, and T.J. Cordova tied the game at 7 all.

In their next possession, the Roughnecks mounted a ground and air attack which pushed the ball to the Cowboys 7, where a

timely fumble recovery by Nolan Newsom put the Cowboys back in possession. With perhaps their best performance of the evening, the up front linemen blocked effectively, allowing runners Cain, Diaz, Williams and Crump to drive the ball to Sundown's 25, good progress but halted by the half-time whistle.

Barely into the third period, an errant pass from Cain to Broome was picked off and gave the Roughnecks the ball at the Cowboy 27. Four plays later their quarterback threw for a 14 yard touchdown strike, and the extra point produced what would be the final score, 14-7 Sundown.

The Cowboys had 10 first downs to Sundown's 13. Cowboys managing fumble recoveries included Armando Ramirez, Isaac Ramon, Grady McNabb and Nolan Newsom. Tackling stats were incomplete but leaders included O'Quinn, Ramirez, Ryan Martinez, Newsom, McNabb, Diaz and Guerrero.

The Cowboys have only two remaining games, here against Smyer Friday, October 31, and in Morton November 7. It's been a long, hard season for the young men, and the coaching staff... give them your support these last two games!!

Varsity, JV Cowgirls clinch district titles

Last week both the JV and Varsity Cowgirls celebrated victories over Whiteface to win their District 4-1A volleyball championships.

The younger JV girls clinched the title by beating Whiteface 25-17 and 25-14. Their record for the season was 15-14. Coach Thaggard said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching these young ladies this season. They worked hard and improved greatly. We had a good season, and you need to keep your eyes on this group of girls for some great volleyball in the future."

The Varsity Cowgirls, coached by John Harris in his first year here, also hammered Whiteface last week in three games, 25-19, 25-16, and 25-8. Prior to the action, the girls presented a rose to their parents in the audience. Coach Harris said, "You'd better watch these girls, they are dead set on going all the way to state."

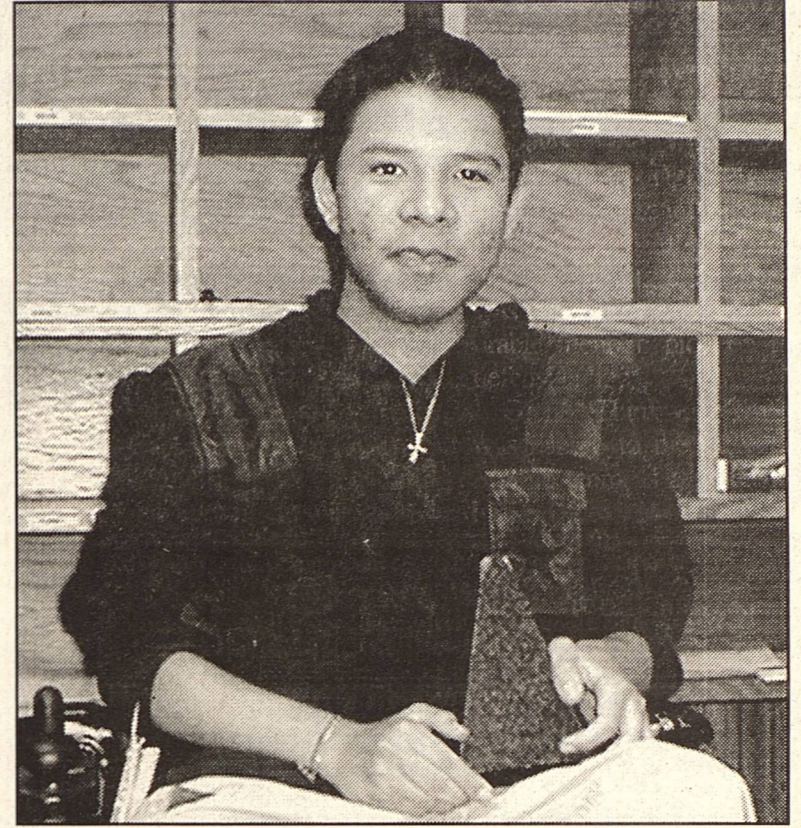
Cross Country frustration, Jubilation

The varsity Cowgirls started things off at Mae Simmons Park last Monday, a day of record high temperatures. Manuela Villegas cruised to an 8th spot finish, qualifying for the regional meet. She was followed by Desiraye Broome, 18th, Micaela Villegas 24th, and Kim Trent 39th overall. Cowgirls Stacie Alldredge and Ashley Vantine were among four victims of heat exhaustion, taken to Covenant Emergency. Coach Davis said, "I've always asked the kids for their best, for all they have, and they certainly gave that." The Cowboys had one of their finer hours, out running highly regarded Sundown and Hart teams to win the district competition and qualify for regional honors. They were again led by Jose Villegas, first in the entire field, followed by Abel Ramos 3rd, Armando Ramirez 6th, Payton Bean 11th, Scott Addison 13th, Brandon Davis 15th, and Chandon Loya 17th. With not enough members for a team, the JV runners had a great performance - Adam Guerrero was first, Arnold Cordova 3rd, Patrick Cotton 4th, Steven Dominguez 10th. In the Jr. High division, and running their last races for the season, Lauren Davis finished 13th, Zach Ramos was 7th.

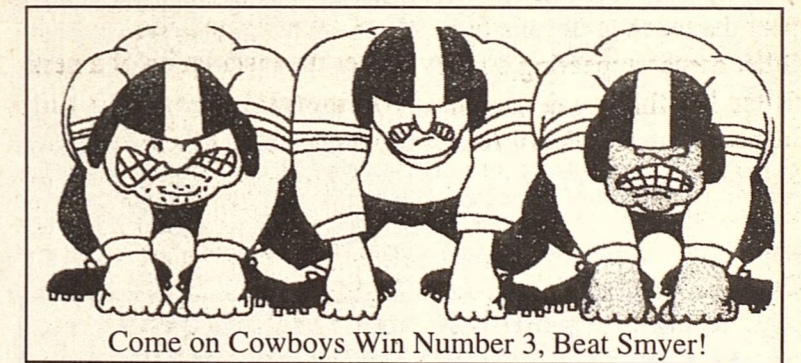


Part of percussion crew in standby mode

Student of the Week



Student of the week is Manuel Mendoza, a sophomore and the son of Manuel and Lucia Mendoza. Manuel was nominated by Treasure Thaggard, who said, "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than success, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, gift, or skill. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes. Manuel's attitude is remarkable. He is always on time and eager to learn. He works hard and stays on task until all work is finished."



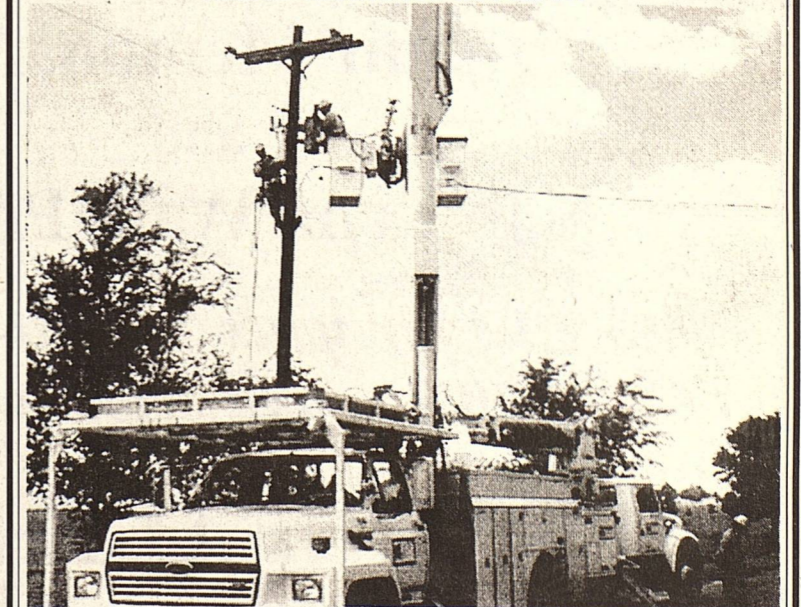
Come on Cowboys Win Number 3, Beat Smyer!

MEMBERS FIRST!

At *Lea County Electric Cooperative*, we put our members first! Unlike the big, impersonal investor-owned companies, we're created "OF, BY AND FOR OUR MEMBERS". At *Lea County Electric Cooperative* you have a VOICE in the decision making, a VOICE in electing your board of directors, and a VOICE in how your cooperative is run!

Local control by our members keeps us responsive to your needs, and keeps us looking for ways to improve our service to you.

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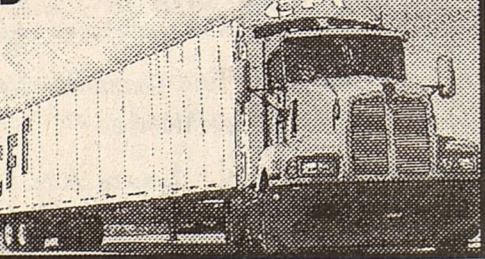
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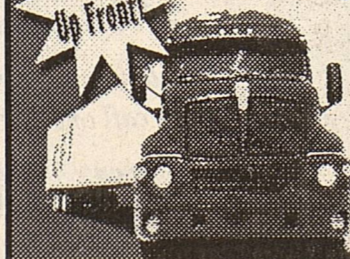
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Lifelines & Styles

Senior Citizens Corner

Monday this week was party time! This was a special celebration for the members of our Senior Center Family who have celebrated ninety or more birthdays. We have six of these people who are in our lunch room everyday. There are four ladies who are Maurine Wehrend, Marsene Beattie, Gladys Thomason, and Zelma Boone. The two gentlemen are I.V. 'Lucky' Harmon and Duncan Ashmore. Recognition was given to each one and many photos were taken to become a part of their memory scrapbook. We are proud of each of these people who constantly portray all of the positive things about aging. Family members who joined them for lunch were Jack Harmon, who came for his father; Claudia Sue and Ted Ferguson who came for Marsene Beattie; and Sandra Ford who came for her mother, Zelma Boone. Sue and Nathan Patterson along with Sharon and Carl Huber came as guests of Gladys Thomason. The ladies are her daughters. Duncan Ashmore was unable to attend at lunchtime, but received his greetings in his hospital room. His daughter, Sandra Harmon, spent the lunch hour with him.

Other names appearing on the visitor list this week include Earnest and Beryl Bullock, Katherine Reed, Delores Moore, and Red Berry. Welcome!

Our turn out for the pool tournament was very low this

month. Both Lovington and Denver City players reported much illness in their families. We hope all are improved by next month.

We had several who were traveling this week. Jean Sparks went with her daughter to El Paso to visit her grandson who is in the Army; Billie O'Neal travelled to Liberal, Kansas, to watch her granddaughter star in a volley ball game; and the Gayles spent the week end in Ruidoso. Melba assures us they came out even! Not all of us are so lucky.

Word has reached us that Darlene Clevenger has suffered a stroke this week. For those who would like to send her a greeting, the address is 300 Madison Ave., Apt 409, Childress, Texas, 79201. Hoot Gibson is recovering from surgery. Mary reports that it has been necessary for him to return to Lubbock, and Paul Sweitzer has moved his RV to Lubbock to have a comfortable place to dwell while he undergoes a series of treatments. Our prayers go out to each of these folks.

We are glad to hear that Lenore Matus is back home again. We look forward to seeing her at the Center again soon.

After the installation of a new commercial freezer in our kitchen area, we find there are two upright freezers we will no longer be using. These are for sale by sealed bid over \$100.00.

You may come and look them over at any time.

Baby Shower "It's a Girl"
Daylee (Born July 22nd)
 honoring Scott & Emily (Blair) Griffin
Saturday, November 8, 2003
10:00am - 11:30am
 in the home of Melba Crutcher
1008 4th St
Selections: WalMart.Com, Brownfield:
Nelson's, Plains: Image n' That

Annual 4-H Nut Sale

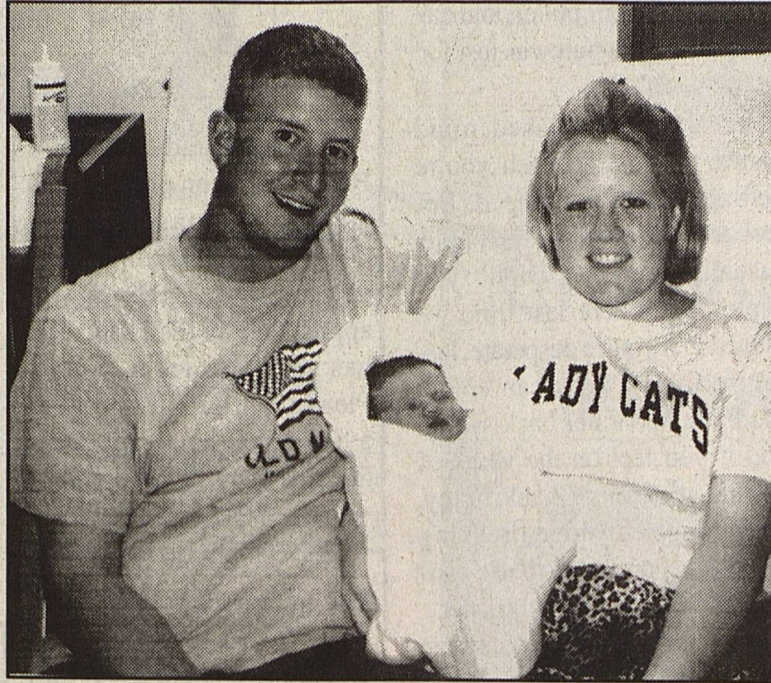
Yoakum County 4 - H members are beginning their Annual Nut Sale fund raiser. Orders will be taken from October 18 through November 20, and products should be received in time for delivery before Christmas. Items available will be similar to last year; pecans, peanuts, flavored peanuts, walnuts and nut and fruit mixes. If you are missed, please call any Yoakum County 4-H member or the County Extension office at 456-2263.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Plains, Texas

40 Days of PURPOSE
CONTINUES,

through Sunday, November 23rd. Come join us in this spiritual growth campaign. Meet in the Sanctuary, Sunday mornings at 9:40 am sharp for video teaching sessions
 Worship at 10:45 am,
 Discipleship Training 6:00 pm
 Come learn to live a lifestyle of
 Worship to the glory of GOD

Brand New Baby Boy!!



Dylon Kyle Redman was born October 7, 2003 at 7:16 pm. He weighed 8 lbs and was 21" long. His parents are Jason and Cassie Redman of Claude. Grandparents are Jeff and Pam Redman of Plains, Jimmy and Karen Floyd of Canadian. Great grandparents are James and Jackie Redman of Plains, Bonnie and F. G. Crofford of Amarillo and Bobbie Floyd of Clarendon. His great great grandmother is Bonnie Tibbets of Wolfforth.

Cisco Networking Academy Registration Set Monday At SPC

Registration remains open for the Cisco Networking Academy beginning Monday (Oct. 27) at South Plains College in Levelland.

Registration is set for 6 p.m. in the Electronics Service Technology Building. Cisco courses are offered through SPC's Electronics Service Technology Program.

SPC will offer Cisco classes 1-4 toward the Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA), and classes 5-7 for

those seeking Cisco Certified Networking Professional (CCNP). Local area management (LAN) and wide area management networks (WAN) will be covered. Tuition and fees for each Cisco semester are \$330. Classes will meet 6-9 pm. Monday, Tuesday and Thursdays.

For more information, contact the SPC Electronics Service Technology Program at 806-894-9611, ext. 2297.

You're as happy as you allow yourself to be...so why be unhappy? Do the things in life that you enjoy, associate with people who are positive and do your best to avoid negatives. It is just as easy, and infinitely less troublesome, to cry tears of joy instead of tears of sadness.



What about?...

In considering the cost of a funeral, let's look at some things funeral directors consider in pricing.

First would be overhead. What does it take to remain available to the community 24 hours a day and the doors open and staffed 365 days a year, plus insurance and vehicles?

In general price lists (GPL), it is generally the cost of the Funeral Director and Staff, the only fee the State of Texas does not permit a family to omit.

Secondly, the cost of caskets and services. Our thought is that people can buy a casket anywhere. That is NOT my reason for being in business, but SERVICE to families IS the reason. So, you will find our pricing for caskets about the same cost as a casket store, but with us we only use a 'brand name' casket company like Aurora Caskets or Batesville Caskets.

Services? Well, we are proud of the methods we have developed as well

as the results of our embalming. So, we consider that a 'specialty' skill and charge more than some other firms.

Recently a family tragically lost their son. They had called area funeral homes to get the cost of a Direct Cremation with no viewing. We charged only \$908.00 total. This included the cremation, required container, completing all paper work and death certificates they needed, as well as transportation to and from the crematory.

In our own check with local funeral homes, prices ranged from \$1,870 up to over \$3,000 for the same services! (Those in our immediate area started at over \$2,200!)

If you're not into cremation, then our services start at only \$2,500 for a chapel service including a steel casket.

So, when you are checking on pricing, be sure to have someone help you 'know' what you are asking and what services are available for right price. Cheapest is not always the best way to go.

Until next time,
 Mark A. Jones

Where The Old South Meets The Wild West

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) launches its newest heritage tourism brochure, the Texas Lakes Trail Region. This colorful travel guide details the area's historic and cultural sites, as it explores the history of communities in North Central Texas from Paris to Dallas-Fort Worth to Wichita Falls.

"The brochure is a map and a history lesson all in one," said Janie Headrick, director of the THC's Texas Heritage Trails Program. "This part of Texas has all sorts of gems for tourist, such as historic railroads, early settlement communities, great museums and recreational opportunities." Separated into four user friendly sections, the brochure guides travelers to the state's best preserved dinosaur tracks, one of America's largest wine festivals and a new Civil War museum that interprets both sides of the war.

The region encompasses 31

counties including: Archer, Baylor, Bosque, Clay, Collin, Cooke, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Fannin, Grayson, Henderson, Hill, Hood, Hopkins, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Lamar, Montague, Navarro, Parker, Rains, Rockwall, Somervell, Tarrant, Van Zandt, Wichita, Wilbarger and Wise.

The Texas Lakes Trail regional brochure is the eighth in a series of free brochures from the THC highlighting the historic people and places that make Texas unique. The Texas Heritage Trails Program is a regional tourism initiative that promotes tourism, revitalizes local economies and fosters community leadership through historic preservation.

For a free Texas Lakes Trail Region brochure or other heritage trail guides, please call 512/463-6254 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us/travel.

TRICK OR TRUNK

When: Thursday October 30th

Where: In front of the High School

Time: 6:45-8:00 p.m.

All Kids Welcome For Candy & Treats!

"Silver Tea Room"

Susan Henson, Chef - Suzanne Graham, Asst. Chef
 106 Plains Hwy
 Phone 806-592-2277
 Serving 11:00 am. till 2:00 pm.
 Meetings and Small Parties Welcome
 Phil & Lynda Haney, Owners

First United Methodist Church
 1202 Avenue G - Plains, Texas



Ninth Annual

Chili Dinner, Bazaar & Bake Sale
 Tuesday - November 4th, 2003
 Cost - \$6.00 per person

Chili Dinner - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Bazaar & Bake Sale - 8:30 a.m. until

Come eat some Chili with us!
Then shop the Bazaar & Bake Sale!

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Jeff Lowery, Sales Assoc.
 Mobile 806-592-1319
 Home 456-3195

From The Hack

The media (and much of the public) are still having fun about the recent Governor Recall Election carnival in California. I guess I was never exposed to the complete list of initial candidates who craved Gray Doofus... er, Gray Davis' Governor's chair, and was mildly surprised when I read in a new-to-me publication created in Lubbock that prominent comedian Gallagher was, early on, a candidate lusting after the office in Sacramento. Reportedly, a few of Gallagher's campaign slogans included these prize winners:

Finally, a Governor you can get drunk with.

Vote for Galagehr, the other white meat!

Why settle for amateurs? California deserves a professional comedian!

Hate politicians? Elect Gallagher. Screw em up. Screw em back.

I couldn't possibly do worse, and I'm only half as crooked.

Vote for me.... together we can really screw the state.

No wonder tourism is down. If Gray Davis pitched a party would you go? California, the party state, with the boring Governor.

California is a six pack. Let's finish it off.

Incompetence.... corruption.... selfishness.... Continue the California tradition!

Vote for me - you've done crazier things!

Why not me? I don't know what I'm doing either.

My candidacy... insanity that makes sense!

Because he's never getting out, to save tax payer dollars, cancel all Charles Manson parole hearings.

Because you act the way you dress, and wearing pants too low allows part of the pooper to show, expand the indecent exposure statute to include this stupid trend.

I made a very valuable find recently. If you are a library patron, you know people very charitably leave give-away magazines out front, after the owners decide they are even too old to serve as door stops or appliance levelers. I found a circa July 2002 issue of Golf Digest, a section of which offered astounding tips on improving ones game, but also, and vastly more important, how to sneakily win MONEY when playing for MONEY, which is the only way the game is played at our local course. I constantly try to limit gambling in our group to winning milkshakes provided by one of the local churches, but am constantly overruled - cash money, or go spend four hours on the putting green, by yourself.

Here are few of the fabulous tips: "Throw the clubhead!" - by Jack Nicklaus. What a farce. I have thrown the clubhead, shaft, grip and all, countless times in my career, and the most impressive result I recall was when I hit the Club Pro's daughter in her maximus glutemous while she prepped for a high school golf event. And then, *Honest To God*, the issue told me, "Keep your butt against the wall during the entire swing."

Thus informed, and aware there were no walls handy on our course,

I tried this in the club house. I managed to keep my skinny butt against the wall, but put holes in the sheet rock in my back swing, and when I followed through. I am sup-

posed to be allowed back on the course when I pay up.

I learned these invaluable gambling tips: "On the greens, keep your hands soft-don't tense up-relax. When your putt comes up short, smile, just mildly beat the ground with your putter, and casually ask, That putt was just for 50 cents, right?"

The article discussed mind games to employ when you're getting seriously stomped. Before teeing off on the next hole, casually inquire, "Didn't you triple bogey here last time we played?" If you're desperate, losing seriously, you can cough loudly in his or her back swing, and if you feel on the verge of having to declare bankruptcy, you might consider breaking wind, but I urge you to use caution before resorting to the latter.

The Digest suggested an absolute last ditch ploy to stop the hemorrhaging of dollars; If you happen to kill a grackle bird when your errant drive goes deep in the rough, drop your club, fall on the ground with a gasp and groan, clutch your chest, and try to roll your eyes back in your skull, thrash your legs around. If your playing companions have an ounce of compassion, they will gather around, and you can feebly gasp, "Get me to my pickup...If I can make it home maybe I'll be ok".

The success of this move I cannot guarantee - I tried it back in July, my friends glanced at me contemptuously and one muttered, "The ass must be out of money again" before speeding off.

I know I shall never attempt that maneuver again. That evening I

DID have a heart attack, and that helicopter flight to Lubbock's UMC Hospital cost me about 529 times what my normal losses would have been that day!

Bernal Promoted



1995 PHS graduate Victor Bernal has been promoted to General Manager of the Gene Messer Hyundai-Kia dealership in Lubbock. He appreciates all the support he has received from Plains. Please call him at 888-265-5960 if you have any questions about an auto purchase!

NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive separate bids until 10:00 AM, Friday, November 7, 2003, for the sale of (2) used 2000 Chevrolet 4-door Impala sedans. Vehicles will be surrendered to bidder (or bidders) upon receipt of new Sheriff replacement vehicles at an undetermined date in 2004.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, November 10, 2003.

To inspect vehicles or for more information, contact Sheriff Don Corzine, 806/592-2747, 1010 N. Main, Denver City, Texas 79323.

Sealed bids should be marked "USED POLICE VEHICLES" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Published in Cowboy Country News Wednesday, October 22 and Wednesday, October 29.

NOTICE FOR BIDS

THE STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF YOAKUM

The Commissioners Court of Yoakum County will receive bids until 10:00 AM, Friday, November 7, 2003, for the purchase of (2) New 2004 vehicles with police package with or without trade-in of (2) used 2000 Chevrolet 4-Door Impala Sedans.

Bids will be reviewed with contract to be awarded in Commissioners Court on Monday, November 10, 2003.

Bid price will be paid from 2004 budgeted funds.

To inspect trade in, receive a bid sheet or for more information, contact Sheriff Don Corzine, 806/592-2747, 1010 N. Main, Denver City, Texas 79323.

Sealed bids should be marked "NEW POLICE VEHICLES" on the envelope and mailed or delivered to County Judge, Dallas Brewer, PO Box 456/Cowboy Way and Avenue G, Plains, Texas 79355. NO FAX COPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Published in Cowboy Country News Wednesday, October 22, 2003 and Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Lovington NM's

26th Annual

ARTS & CRAFTS

FALL

Festival

LEA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

November 1st & 2nd, 2003

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm • Sunday noon - 5 pm

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Country, Western, Southwestern, Victorian & Modern Items

Including:

Fine Art ~ Paintings ~ Metal Art ~ Wood Work ~ Toys
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