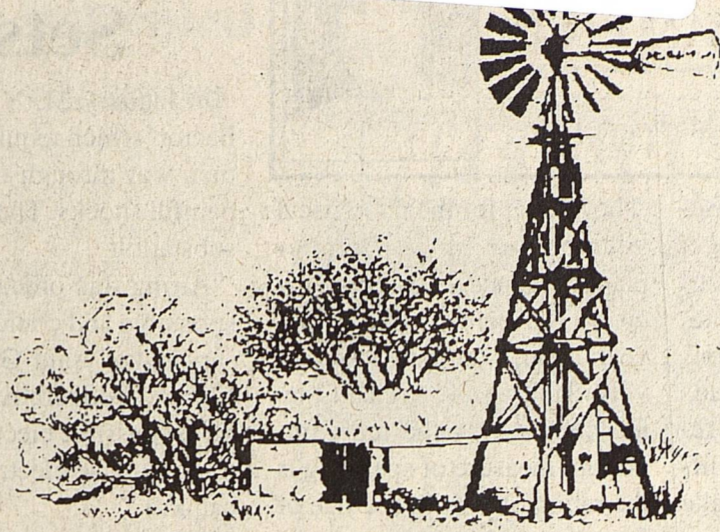


Cowboy Country News

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

Volume XI, Issue 23, February 16, 2005



Huge battle brewing between congress, administration and agricultural interests

If you live virtually anywhere in Texas, or any other major agricultural producing state or area, you are either fully aware of the approaching storm between backers of President Bush's proposed cut in the USDA budget, including major adjustments in the 2002 Farm Bill, and opponents including producers and ag industry giants opposed to cutting those dollars. As one producer related, "Anyone not aware of the coming battle must be asleep with that Pennsylvania groundhog, however his name is pronounced."

An indicator of the complexity of the problem is hinted at in recent front page headlines in Lubbock's Avalanche-Journal: On February 10, the header read, "Smaller farmers see big problems with curbs on aid". The February 11 top line read, "New agriculture chief backs Bush farm cuts." No doubt many more negative headlines will be observed in coming weeks and months.

The USDA sponsored Farm Service Agency, which has producer serving offices in each of the state's 254 counties, recently delivered two page documents detailing the scope of federal agricultural funds provided through the FSA offices. Local FSA County Executive Director Gary Six told CCN the FSA is anxious to re-

late to the public the role FSA plays not only in this state but across the nation.

John T. Fuston, FSA State Executive Director said in the recent two page report, "The USDA Farm Service Agency delivered more than \$1.3 billion in federal program payments and loans to Texas farmers and ranchers in FY 2004. These payments are a continuation of new or enhanced programs outlined in the 2002 Farm Bill or from programs enacted by special Congressional authority."

Included in the two pages of data and pertinent to Yoakum County producers:

Commodity Program Payments - \$ 867 Million. Includes:

Commodity Loans - \$269 Million - loans available to eligible producers using stored crops as collateral.

Loan Deficiency Payments - \$58 Million. Benefit producers who agree to forego loan in return for payment on eligible commodity.

Peanut Quota Buyout Program - \$4.6 Million. Assures producers fair market value for quota pounds under certain provisions.

Acreage Grazing Payments - \$473,962 - provides payments to producers of wheat, barley,

**Turn to Pg. 2
'Ag Programs'**

Crime cases in County Court

In the February 9 session of County Court, Judge Dallas Brewer presiding and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark representing the state, two criminal cases were heard.

Justin Gabriel Gonzalez pled guilty to possession of alcohol by minor, enhanced. A 120 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 12 months. He was fined \$500, must pay \$211 court costs, serve three days in jail with two days credit, pay \$50 supervision fees, serve 24 hours community service, attend weekly AA meetings, and surrender his license 180 days. Investigating officer was Patricia Valdez, Denver City Police.

Jesus Manuel Corral III pled true to the state's motion to revoke community supervision from a prior criminal trespass cause. Supervision was revoked and he will serve 60 days in jail with credit for 46 days served.

Sergio Ordaz pled true to the state's motion to revoke supervision from a prior DWI cause. He was sentenced to 120 days in jail with credit for 81 days served.

Danny Glenn Sipes pled guilty to making false report to police officer. He will spend 24 hours in jail with credit for 7 hours. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$211 court cost. Public intoxication and failure to appear causes were adjudicated. Jimmy Hanmons was his attorney, and Karen Hobbs, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Albert Anthony Jimenez pled guilty to offering false I.D. as a peace officer. A 180 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$1000, must pay \$211 court costs and \$25 time payment fee. He will spend 24 hours in jail

**Turn to Pg. 2
'County Court'**

City of Lovington, New Mexico residents and supporters should be justifiably proud of the most recent addition to the city's business scene - the almost 24,000 square foot office headquarters of the Lea County Electric Cooperative at 1300 West Avenue D, more well known to Yoakum County residents as the Artesia Highway.

The sparkling new complex of office space was started in September, 2003, and finished for move-in November 15, 2004. Because of the hectic nature of moving all of the Cooperative's office equipment and furnishings from the old downtown location, and installing new equipment and machinery in the new building, the Grand Opening Celebration was delayed until last weekend.

Cooperative members, visitors and guests were given an interesting tour of the facility, and also were treated to burgers and all the trimmings. The hamburgers were prepared on the Cooperative's huge, trailer mounted wood and charcoal cooking grill, built by co-op personnel. It will be available for the public to use at large crowd events.

General Manager and Executive Vice President Gary Hurse was not on board when plans for the new facility were being drawn, but his enthusiasm for the new building is apparent.

"We hope all our valued members in the Plains and Higginbotham area will pay us a visit soon. We think this project will serve the co-op's needs for many years to come."

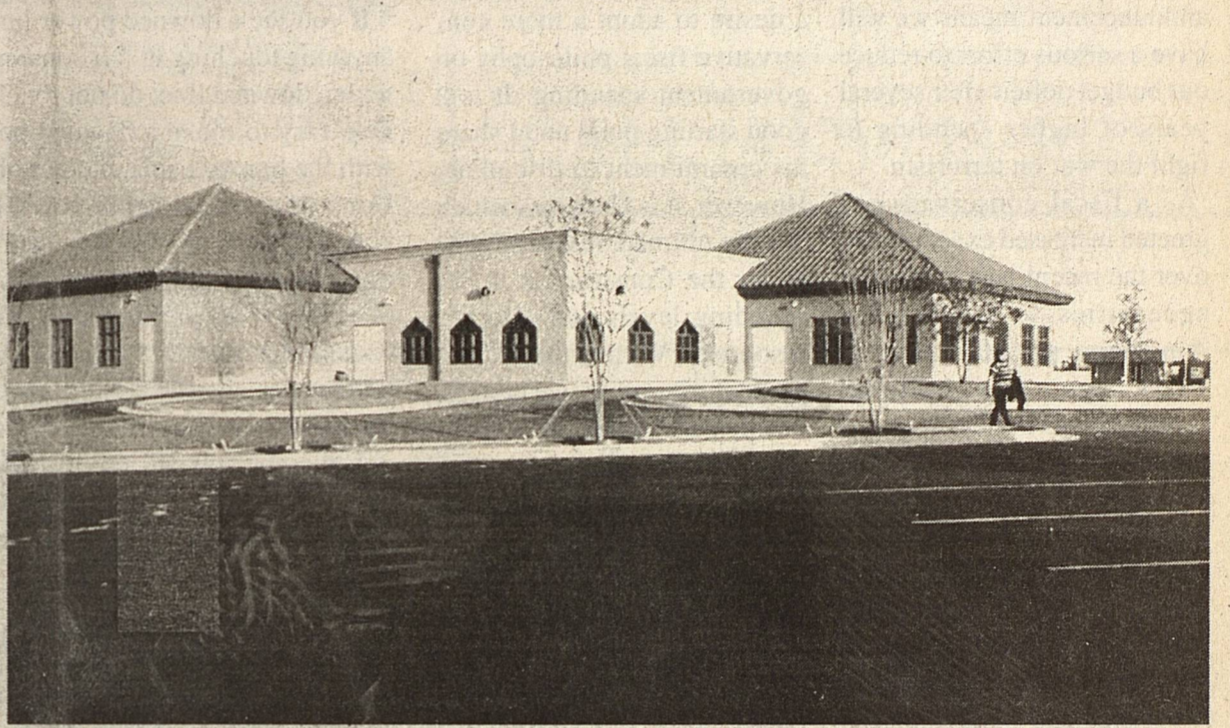
Mr. Hurse told CCN Saturday, "This project, and my relatively short period of time here has really kept me busy, but re-establishing close ties with our friends in Plains is high on our priority list. I have already discussed this with Suzie Brown, our Marketing and Member Services Manager and asked her to prepare for the two of us visiting you people in Plains, and on a regular basis. We feel we can definitely be beneficial for one another."

Details of the impressive construction include: Architect was Dick Waggoner, and general contractor was Lasco of Hobbs, NM. Size of the complex is 23,368 square feet. It contains 23 cubicle offices, and 11 private offices. The parking area is capable of handling 133 vehicles.

Gary Hurse said the final cost

New Lea County Electric quarters big hit with staff and members

Weekend Open House Draws impressive numbers



A view of the west side of the electric cooperative's spectacular new quarters in the 1300 block of West Avenue D, or, US 82 enroute to Artesia.



The Friday, February 11 grand opening of the cooperative headquarters draws many hundreds of visitors, well wishers and hungry members feasting on burgers over a four hour period Friday.

of the project will be \$2.8 to \$3 million. "People should realize that while that sounds like a very costly building, they should consider how many years the cooperative was in the old building and all the expanding and remodeling that took place there. This building is going to be our business home for many years to come."

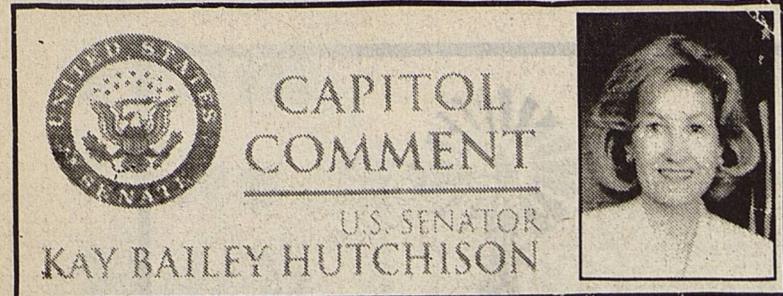
The cooperative is in its 56th year of service. The organizers obtained an REA loan of \$775,000 in 1947, but funds were not immediately released. In 1949 Inland Power Co. was purchased, and the cooperative began operations with eight employees. At the time, 136 miles of distribution line served 1,250 customers. Today, LCEC's revenues exceed \$50 million per year, and the service area sprawls across portions of Lea, Eddy and Chavez counties in New Mexico, and portions of Yoakum, Gaines and Cochran counties in Texas.



Gen. Mgr. Gary Hurse, at home in his efficient corner office, hopes to meet with local residents soon



Suzie Brown, Director of Marketing and Member Services plans to work closely with Plains area members and community



Our country, like most households, operates on a budget which seeks to balance our spending with our income. Budgets are a time for serious discussions weighing needs and wants with available resources. In Congress it is a difficult process which can take a great deal of time.

The tone of the budget debate is usually set by the President's recommendations for spending. The two separate houses of Congress then work on their versions of a budget, which becomes the blueprint for the appropriations process.

I was encouraged by President Bush's overall proposal of a \$2.7 trillion budget because the announcement means we will have a serious effort to reduce our budget deficit after several years of higher spending to fight the war on terrorism.

As a fiscal conservative, I greeted increased expenditures over the recent past as painful necessities to protect the American people. Several years ago, our national economy was buffeted by several extraordinary events. The economy entered a recession after the internet bubble burst and a wave of corporate scandals rocked the markets. In the midst of this adjustment, the 9-11 attacks took place, killing thousands and paralyzing our economy. Since that time, we have gone to war in Iraq and Afghanistan to upend terror-sponsoring regimes and free millions of people. While we have been victorious, the effort has been, and will remain, expensive. But for a safer and more secure homeland, that cost is a relative bargain.

As our nation dealt with these challenges, Congress and President Bush passed bipartisan tax relief which jump started the economy and led to strong job creation and lower unemployment. This year, with our economy on the upswing, and after initial expenses to bolster homeland security, we are in the best position yet to begin reducing the deficit.

President Bush's budget envisions increasing defense spending by 4.8 percent. Spending on the Department of Homeland Security would rise by 7 percent. The proposed budget would scale back increases of discretionary programs to 2.1 percent, which is less than the rate of inflation.

The budget for the 2006 fiscal year beginning in October plans to reduce the budget deficit by 8.6 percent in the first year alone, excluding costs involved in Iraq and Afghanistan. Economists say the most important measure of spending is the ration of debt to the size of a nation's economy, or Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The President's budget projects a budget deficit amounting to 3 percent of GDP for 2006, down from 3.5 percent this year.

If we follow this roadmap, we can cut the budget deficit by half to 1.5 percent of GDP by 2009, according to White House budget officials.

The President's budget marks a desire to adopt a more conservative fiscal philosophy on government spending. It is a good starting point and I share his commitment to discipline. However, it is Congress which has the ultimate responsibility under the Constitution to set spending levels and allocate resources. Within the framework of a conservative budget, I will work to find savings in other areas. The state and Criminal Alien Assistance program, which reimburses states for the costs involved with illegal aliens, is one example of a program which appears underfunded. NASA's traditional; science programs and Amtrak are others. We must assure our farmers all have the help necessary to keep making healthy food for our country and for export. Holding the overall line on expenditures will be often difficult, but we know we have an ally in the White House as we rein in spending.

In times of tighter budgets, as you may guess, it is sometimes hard to secure funding for projects in our home states. The level of scrutiny always increases when funding is more restricted, but I remain optimistic. I have always approached budgeting as a serious matter, and have presented my colleagues with the best evidence available that particular projects are good, not only for Texas, but for our nation. If I continue using the yardstick, I believe we will gain what is right for the Lone Star State and to stick to conservative fiscal principles which will make our nation and economy stronger in the long run

NBC's 'Fear Factor' Sets Bad Example

On January 31, NBC ran a segment of the reality show 'Fear Factor' which required barefoot, handcuffed contestants to work their way through an electrified maze as they received numerous painful shocks. The set was designed to look like a high-voltage substation.

"Airing this ordeal and labeling it as entertainment was irresponsible and could encourage children to take similar unnecessary risks," said Gary Hurse, general manager of Lea County Electric Cooperative. "Our goal at the cooperative is to make the safest possible electric environment for member-customers. At a minimum, an electric shock is painful. In extreme cases, a shock can kill."

NBC emphasized that the stunt was designed and monitored by professionals and that the general public should not attempt stunts using electricity, but participants on the show were not confident they should be attempting it either. "This isn't right," said one contestant. After completing the maze through groans and gritted teeth, another contestant said, "I'm still shaking. I can feel that (electric) pulse inside my body."

Lea County Electric Cooperative reminds customers to take electricity with deadly seriousness: * Use caution around electric appliances. Keep them away from water. * Never use or touch frayed electric cords. * Don't overload electric circuits. * Stay clear of electric fences. * Never cut the third prong on an electric cord. * If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it. * If someone is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead. * Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick. * Don't drive over downed power lines. * If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric co-op immediately. * Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidance. * Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.

Established in May 1946, Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc., is a member-owned co-op headquartered in Lovington, New Mexico. Branch offices are located in Tatum, New Mexico and Plains, Texas. Lea County Electric provides service to 6327 customers.

From Pg. 1 'Ag Programs'

The following data shows Texas FSA Program payments to area South Plains Counties: Cochran County - \$10.3 M. Dawson County- \$19.8 M. Gaines County- \$ 32.2 M. Hockley County- \$14.8 M. Lamb County - \$18.4 M. Lubbock County- \$19.1 M. Lynn County- \$10.2 M. Terry County- \$19.4 M. Yoakum County- \$10.3 M.

Oats and Triticale rather than harvesting for sale.

Conservation Funds- \$198.9 Million. Includes; Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)- \$144 million-financial incentives to convert erodible lands to long term vegetative cover.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)- \$54 million. Volunteer conservation program providing technical and financial assistance in priority areas.

Disaster Assistance- \$123 Million Total

Crop Disaster Program- \$ 103 Million- for crop losses due to adverse weather or natural disasters in 2001 and 2002
Livestock Assistance Program- \$9.4 Million- For grazing losses for 2001 or 2002 losses due to drought.

Farm Loans - \$181 Million- Guaranteed Loan Program- \$130.5 Million. FSA guaranteed loans made by conventional ag lenders for up to 95% of any loss.

Direct Loan Program- \$50.5 Million- Provides assistance to those unable to obtain guaranteed loans.

From Pg. 1 'County Court'

with credit for 13 hours served. He must perform 100 hours community service, and pay \$50 supervision fees. Gene Walters was his attorney, and Eddie Bishop, Denver City Police, was investigating officer.

Cotton Market Weekly

Despite a weekly export sales report showing an impressive new marketing year high, analysts said commodity funds and locals were more interested in selling, causing cotton futures on the New York Board of Trade to settle sharply last week.

USDA reported net export sales of U.S. cotton in the week ended January 27 totaled 373,100 bales, 51 percent more than the previous week and 55 percent better than the four week average. The major buyer was China with 131,800 bales followed by Indonesia and Turkey, 45,900 and 33,200 bales respectively.

Export shipments of 249,000 bales were nine percent more than the previous week but lower than the four week average. Turkey, with 47,100 bales, was the primary destination. Mexico followed with 36,700 bales, and Korea, with 31,300 bales.

In spot cotton news, Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas producers sold 22,673 bales online the week ended February 3 compared to 30,576 bales the previous week. Prices received by producers selling on line ranged from 33.70 to 35.03 cents per pound compared to the previous weeks range of 35.69 to 36.88.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) released its latest assessment of the global cotton balance sheet. The changes were widely anticipated and pre-empted by USDA figures in mid-January. The committee increased its world production estimate by 1.6 million bales, due in part to a million bale increase in Pakistan and a 200,000 bale boost in the U.S. World cotton consumption gained 600,000 bales of which 500,000 originated from China. Carryout stocks grew by 900,000 bales. ICAC increased its 2005 estimate for world production 1.5 million bales. Consumption was also bumped up 700,000 bales

Don Parrish named to weather modification advisory committee

The Texas Commission on Licensing and Regulation recently voted to appoint a new member to a seat on the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation's Weather Modification Advisory Committee. The new member is Don Parrish of Plains with a three year term expiring January 13, 2007.

The Weather Advisory Committee provides technical expertise to the Commission on applications for weather modification licenses and permits. The committee consists of an atmospheric scientist, engineer, businessman, attorney and agricultural producer and meets quarterly, usually in Austin, to review applications for licenses and permits.

Commission members are appointed by Chairman Leo Vasquez of Houston with the approval of the Commission. "I am very pleased we were able to find such a qualified person willing to volunteer his time to serve in this important role," Vasquez said.

See the February 23 issue of Cowboy Country News about Plains Independent School District Board of Trustees election May 7

Elderly Errand Run
How much do you hate going out in cold weather just to run errands? In February, Student Council members will be volunteering to go out for those of you who need us to run those errands for you. This service will be free of charge. Call Clarissa Zorilla at 456-8446 or Melisa Dorsett at 456-7445 (8:00-3:45) to set up a service for you.

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Regional Workshops Feature Peanut Production

Peanut producers and industry personnel may receive the latest research and extension recommendations for peanut production in the Texas South Plains. The annual events will be held from 8:30 am. to 3:00 pm., Wednesday, March 2, in Brownfield (Nikki Vinson Youth Center near the northwest corner of Main Street and U.S. 62/82) and Thursday, March 3, in Littlefield by Texas Cooperative Extension in conjunction with Texas Peanut Producers Board and Western Peanut Growers Association. Pre-registration is encouraged to determine the lunch count and for educational materials. The Brownfield meeting will highlight Runner and Virginia production and the Littlefield meeting will emphasize Spanish and Valencia production. Information for all market

types, however, will be available at both sites.

"Information in the meeting is targeted to help producers make better management decisions for their peanut crop," says Calvin Trostle, Extension agronomist, Lubbock. "If the information isn't readily useful to a producer then it won't help us accomplish our objectives."

Topics include general sessions for varieties, weed control, and plant disease as well as a choice of up to eight topics available in concurrent breakout sessions. These include 'How a peanut plant grows', irrigation, fertility and Rhizobium, marketing, and insects, as well as short updates from peanut commodity boards. Each concurrent session will be repeated once so producers can choose their topic of interest.

To register call the Yoakum County Extension office, 806-456-2263.

Yoakum County Credit Union Annual Meeting

The Yoakum County Credit Union will conduct their annual membership meeting at 7 PM Saturday night, February 26, in the Plains School Cafeteria.

For the evening meal ham and brisket, beans, potato salad, tea and coffee will be furnished, and all those attending are asked to bring a side dish, either a salad, vegetable or dessert.

During the business session of the meeting four members of the Board of Directors will be elected and installed. The board members whose term of office is expiring includes Melvin Dearing, Ruby Sellers, Robert Canon and Lanny Smith. All four are seeking election to another term of office. A new nominee is Jean Patterson.

Credit Union Manager Teddie Knox reported over 200 door prizes have been donated by county businesses and individuals to be awarded during the meeting.

Neugebauer Reintroduces Crop Insurance Bill

Congressman Randy Neugebauer reintroduced his crop insurance bill last week in an effort to provide an additional risk management option for farmers and reduce the need for ad-hoc disaster payments.

Neugebauer first introduced his Risk Management Enhancement Act in June of 2004. The bill was not considered before Congress adjourned last year, and Neugebauer believes the need for this legislation still exists.

"I was encouraged by the positive response my crop insurance bill has received from other members of Congress as well from West Texas and Big Country farmers," Neugebauer said. "Because of this response and because drought and other disasters are not one time occurrences, it makes sense to continue to push for enhanced crop insurance options for our farmers."

The Risk Management Enhancement Act would allow producers to get more protection against widespread drought and storm losses for a relatively small increase in premium. Neugebauer's proposal builds additional risk protection into crop insurance by allowing farmers to stack Group Risk Protec-

tion (GRP) coverage on top of an individual Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) policy. Farmers can choose to purchase GRP coverage up to the deductible portion of the individual policy, not to exceed 100 percent.

Congress has passed more than \$30 billion in emergency assistance packages in recent years to help producers who have suffered substantial crop loss. This includes \$2.8 billion in disaster assistance that Congress passed in November of 2004. The enhanced insurance coverage in Neugebauer's legislation would help reduce the need for such packages in the future.

"We are seeing now more than ever the effects tight budgets can have on agriculture," Neugebauer said. "By providing better crop insurance, we can make producers less dependent on a political process that can be very unpredictable."

The Texas Cotton Producers Association and American Cotton Producers have endorsed Neugebauer's legisla-

Texas Agrees To Concealed Handgun With Colorado

Texas Governor Rick Perry has signed a proclamation allowing citizens with concealed handgun licenses issued by Colorado to legally carry concealed handguns in Texas. Based on this proclamation, Colorado law allows Texas citizens with concealed handgun licenses to legally carry concealed handguns in Colorado. This action has the same effect as a reciprocal agreement.

"In essence, this agreement allows licensed Texans to enjoy the same of similar privileges their licenses give them at home," DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. said.

This is the 15th reciprocity

agreement Texas has reached with another state. (These agreements were made possible by 1997 and 2003 changes to the Texas concealed handgun law.) Texas also has reciprocity agreements with Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah and Wyoming.

"Texans should remember that laws vary from state to state, and before traveling, license holders should educate themselves about laws in other states that govern where and when they can legally carry their concealed handguns," Davis said.

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Employment Opportunity

Plains State Bank is currently accepting employment applications

for the following position:

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Previous banking experience is preferred and salary will be predicated on experience. Applications will be

accepted until the position is filled. Plains State Bank is an equal opportunity employer. For information or to obtain an application, contact Plains State Bank at (806) 456-2022, P.O. Box 549, Plains, TX 79355.

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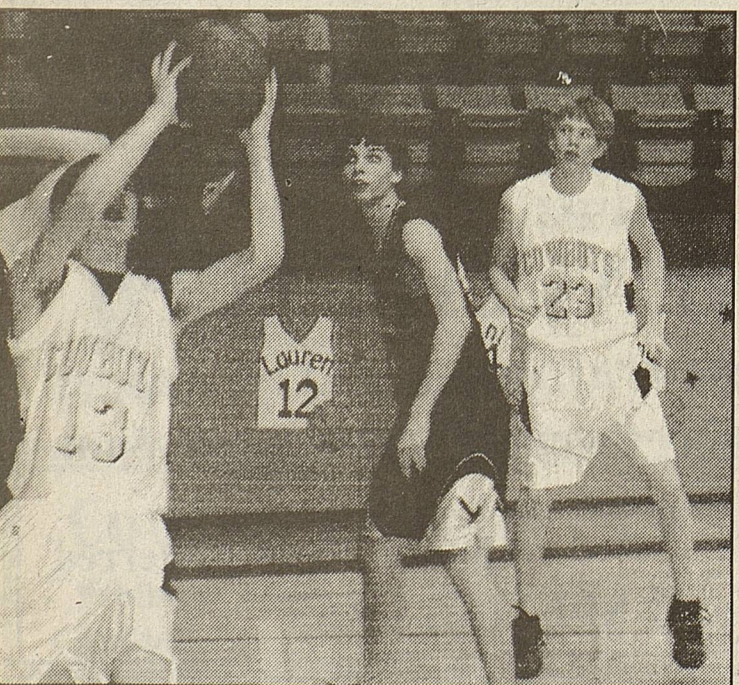
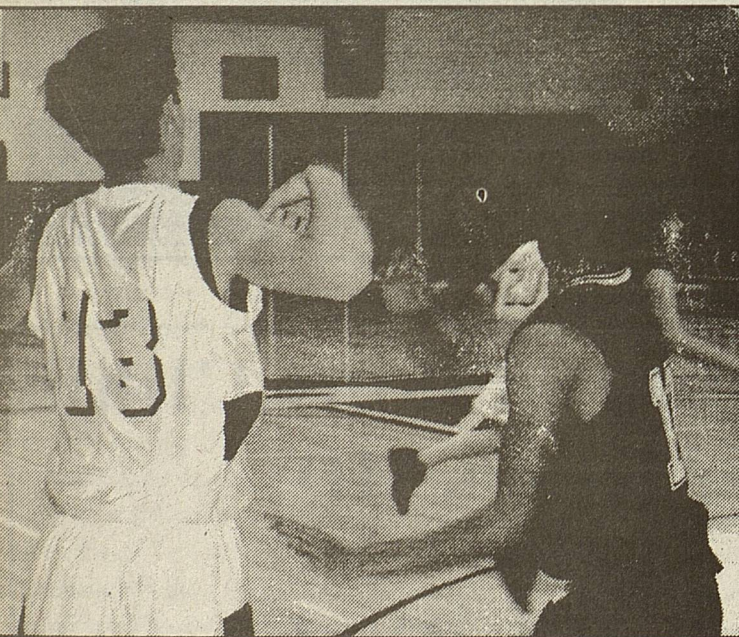
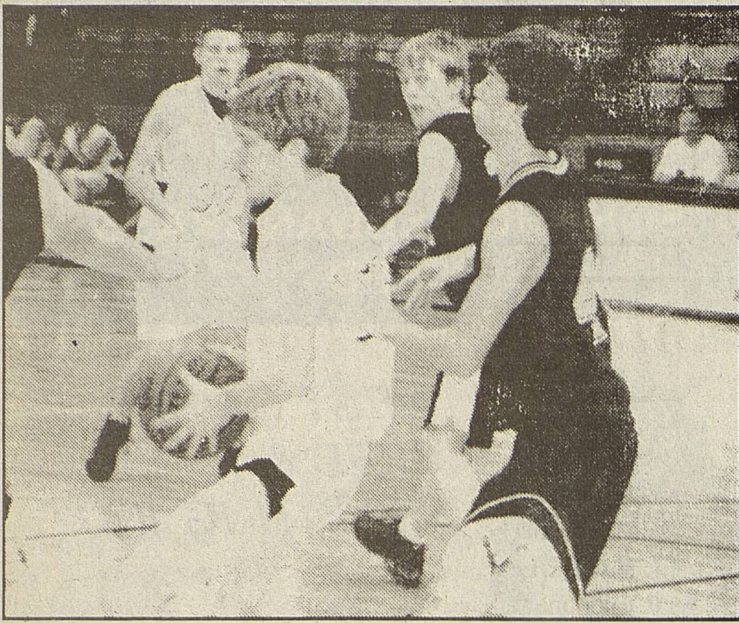
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JV Cowboys in Season Finale vs O'Donnell



JV Cowboys have great season

The younger Cowboys ended their basketball season in great style. They first downed Smyer last week 72-21, with all the players racking up points. Scott Addison led scoring with 18, Blake Parrish had 14, B.J. Lester 13, Landon Craft 10, Zach Ramos 7, Todd Williams and Casson Curtis 4, David Alldredge and J.L. Vasquez 1. They next ended their season with a big 51-38 win over O'Donnell. Coach Brinks said they had one of their best halves of the season, coming back from a 3 point halftime deficit to out score O'Donnell 29-13 in the finale and clinching the district championship with a 7 and 1 record. Landon led scoring with 12, Casson and Zach had 10 each, B.J. and Blake 6 each, Todd 4, Scott 3. We congratulate the young Cowboys!

Varsity Cowgirls

On February 4, the Cowgirls traveled to Whiteface and lost 73-35. "It was a disappointing loss and hopefully we will learn to play our best more consistently," Eddelman said. Allison Friesen had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist. Katie Winn had 6 points, 3 rebounds 1 assist, 1 steal. Regina Morales had 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, Desiraye had 5 points, 8 rebounds, 1 steal. Joani Bell had 4 points, 13 rebounds, 1 block shot. Meghan Garcia had 3 points, 3 rebounds, 3 steals. Lauren Davis had 3 points, 2 blocks, 1 assist. Priscilla Mares had 2 points, 2 steals, 1 assist. Jamie Covarrubias had 1 rebound, 1 steal. On February the Cowgirls played Smyer here and lost 54-34. "I thought the girls played a pretty good game, but Smyer was really tough to defend because of their outside shooters and their inside post players," Eddelman said. The team was led by Joani Bell with 10 points, 15 rebounds, Meghan Garcia 9 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assists, 1 steal, Desiraye Broome 4 points 12 rebounds, 4 steals, 2 block shots, Regina Morales 4 points, 4 assists, 1 rebound, Lauren Davis 3 points, 2 rebounds, 1 steal, Jamie Covarrubias 2 points, 1 rebound, Katie Winn 2 points 1 rebound. The Cowgirls finished with an overall season record of 12-14, 1-9 in district.

"We didn't finish the season as strong as I would have liked, but I feel we made a lot of progress this year, and think we are headed in the right direction," Eddelman said. "The team and I would like to thank the student body, cheerleaders, parents, teachers, coaches, administrators, school board members, and fans for your love and support throughout the 2004-2005 basketball season."

8th Wranglers: The 8th Wranglers ended their season with a swamping 61-4 win over Smyer, and had a 12 win, 6 loss season. Chris Gonzales led scoring with 20 points, followed by Chris Addison 13, Danny Contreras 10, AJ Martinez and Derek Garza 4 each, Skylar Sainz 3, Holden Welch 2.

Varsity Cowboys: The Cowboys played their next to final game here against Smyer, and fell to the District Champs in a low scoring 32-25 game. Coach Davis said the teams were tied at the end of the first period, at halftime, but cold shooting proved the difference in the end. Brandon Hise managed 9 points, Blake O'Quinn 6, Evan Cain and Daniel Parker 4, Cody Flores 2. In their finale against O'Donnell, poor shooting again spelled their doom, in a 43-30 final season loss. Blake managed 9 points, Daniel 8, Evan and T.J. 4 each, Kerry Sisson 3, Abel Ramos 2.

UIL Team Triumphs

Plains High School UIL Literary team wins again. On Saturday, February 12, 2005, they defeated fourteen other 1A-3A Schools at the Hub of the Plains meet at Lubbock Monterey to win the 1st place sweepstakes trophy. Results are as follows:

Mathematics Team - 1st

Overall
Brandon Hise - 1st

9th Grade
Kurt Alldredge - 1st

Amber Friesen - 4th

Lauren Davis - 9th

12th Grade
Brandon Hise 1st

Kerry Sisson - 5th

Breck Hamm - 6th

Ready Writing Team - 1st

Angelica Mendoza - 2nd

Maria Andazola - 4th

Literary Criticism

Colby Ortega - 5th

Science

9th Grade
Kurt - 3rd

Amber - 6th

Ryan Crump - 8th

Lauren Davis - 9th

10th Grade
Jose Luis Gallegos - 4th

Angelica - 7th

12th Grade
Brandon - 8th

Computer Science 1st Team

Brandon - 1st

Kerry - 6th

Angelica - 7th

Number Sense Team - 1st

Overall
Brandon - 1st

Kerry - 4th

9th Grade
Kurt - 2nd

Amber - 5th

12th Grade
Brandon - 1st

Kerry - 4th

Calculator Team - 1st

Overall
Brandon - 1st

Evan Cain - 4th (tie)

Amber 4th (tie)

9th Grade
Amber - 1st

Lauren Davis - 2nd

12th Grade
Brandon - 1st

Evan - 4th

Editorial Writing

Erika Loewen - 1st

Jose Luis - 5th

Feature Writing

Lauren Hise - 1st

Headline Writing

Evan - 1st

News Writing

Ryan - 2nd

Spelling/Vocabulary Team - 1st

Maria - 1st

Flor Lara - 4th

Skylar Keesece - 7th

Computer Applications

Araceli Mendoza - 4th

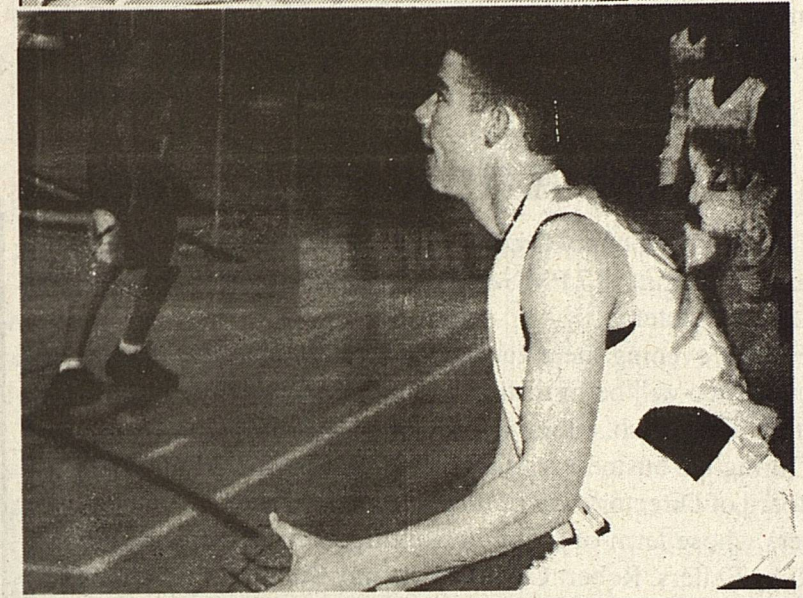
Nancy Lozano - 6th

Current Events

Ramiro Martinez - 9th

Student of the Week

Student of the Week Joani Bell, a freshman and the daughter of Danny and Kathy Bell. Joani was nominated by Mrs. O'Quinn, who said, "Joani might seem to have a split personality, but that's a good thing. She is quiet and shy in class, yet she is not hesitant to ask for help. In athletics she exhibits a big presence, still maybe quiet, but certainly not shy. She is diligent in whatever the work and puts forth maximum effort."



Yoakum County Golf Club

Tournament Schedule 2005

March 2

March 5

March 9

March 19 - 20

March 21

April 9

April 12

April 28

April 30 - May 1

May 7

May 30

June 4 - 5

June 24-25-26

June 29

July 4

July 30 - 31

August 6 - 7

August 27

September 5

TBA

DCHS Invitational

1 Man Scramble (tentative)

Plains HS Invitational

Spring Scramble- 3 person

Aerify greens-course closed

Rotary Club

AA District Golf

Y.C. Hosp. Foundation

2 Partners - Stableford

Mustang Sta. Scramble

Memorial Day Scramble

Parent Child

Cotton Kilpatrick/Pro Am

West Texas Jr. Tour

Chamber of Commerce

Club Championship

Couples Scramble

United Fund Scramble

Labor Day Scramble

Challenge Cup



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One day someone's husband died, and on that clear, cold morning, in the warmth of their bedroom, the wife was struck with the pain of learning sometimes there isn't any more hugs, no more special moments to celebrate together, no more phone calls just to chat, no more "just one minute." Sometimes, what we care about the most gets all used up and goes away... never to return before we can say good-bye, say "I love you." So while we have it, it's best we love it.. and care for it when it's broken.. and heal it when it's sick. This is true for marriage, old cars, children with bad report cards, dogs with bad hips and aging parents and granparents. We keep them because they are worth it. Some things we keep .. like a best friend who moved away, or a classmate we grew up with, or a relative we've lost touch with. There are just some things that make us happy, no matter what. Life is important, like people we know who are special - So, we keep them close! I received this from someone who thought I was a "keeper"! It's your turn now to send this to all those people who are "keepers" in your life. Thank them for being a special part of your life.

Author Unknown

We want to thank all of our friends and neighbors for the many acts of kindness that you have shown us during this difficult time. The prayers, cards, flowers, and food were a blessing to us.

Thank you to the ones that provided the beautiful music for the service and Rev. Weldon McCormick for the message. To the many women and men, we want to thank you for cooking and serving the wonderful meal at First Baptist Church.

Jean is smiling down from Heaven for all the many blessings that you have bestowed on her family. God Bless each of you for your support. Travis and Brad Jones and all of Jean's family.

"Remembering Vietnam...and Ann Margaret"

"Richard, (my husband), never really talked a lot about his time in Vietnam other than he had been shot by a sniper. However, he had a rather grainy, 8 x 10 black and white photo he had taken at a USO show of Ann Margaret with Bob Hope in the background that was one of his treasures.

A few years ago, Ann Margaret was doing a book signing at a local bookstore at 12:00 for the 7:30 signing.

When I got there after work, the line went all the way around the bookstore, circled the parking lot and disappeared behind a parking garage.

Before her appearance, bookstore employees announced that she would sign only her book and memorabilia would be permitted.

Richard was disappointed, but wanted to show her the photo and let her know how much those shows meant to lonely GI's so far from home. Ann Margaret came out looking as beautiful as ever and, as second in line, it was soon Richard's turn.

He presented the book for her signature and then took out the photo. When he did, there were many shouts from the employees that she would not sign it. Richard said, "I understand. I just wanted her to see it."

She took one look at the photo, tears welled up in her eyes and she said, "This is one of my gentlemen from Viet Nam and

I most certainly will sign his photo. I know what these men did for their country and I always have time for 'my gentlemen.'

With that, she pulled Richard across the table and planted a big kiss on him. She then made quite a to-do about the bravery of the young men she met over

the years, how much she admired them, and how much she appreciated them. There weren't too many dry eyes among those close enough to hear. She then posed for pictures and acted as if he were



the only one there. Later at dinner, Richard was very quiet. When I asked if he'd like to talk about it, my big strong husband broke down in tears. "That's the first time anyone ever thanked me for my time in the Army," he said.

That night was a turning point for him. He walked a little straighter and, for the first time in years, was proud to have been a Vet. I'll never forget Ann Margaret for her graciousness and how much that small act of kindness meant to my husband.

I now make it a point to say, "Thank You" to every person I come across who served in our Armed Forces. Freedom does not come cheap and I am grateful for all those who have served their country."

* Thanks to a friend for this e-mail message.

Senior Citizens Corner

The history of Valentine's Day and its patron saint is shrouded in mystery, but we do know that February is the month of LOVE. Legend tells us that Saint Valentine fell in love with a girl while he was in prison serving time for helping Christians escape harsh prison treatment. He wrote a letter to the girl, thought to be his jailer's daughter, who visited him during his confinement, and signed it "from you valentine" and so, from the Middle Ages, comes our romantic holiday of LOVE.

"Ninety-five" is the magic number around the Center this week! On Thursday 'Lucky' Harmon brought a birthday cake to share with everyone at lunchtime and on Friday Maurine Wehrend was proudly wearing a corsage of roses presented to her by Genevieve Gordy in honor of her special day. How fortunate we are to have these two great people with us each day as part of our Senior Center Family. They are an example of how to handle the passing years and are an inspiration to all of us. We have some others who have passed the ninth decade mark among our daily gathering of seniors. We are thankful for each of them and hope to be such as example to our fellowmen if God grants us that many years. Happy Birthday, Maurine and 'Lucky'!

We gladly welcome Chic Coats as a new member on our Site Council. These ladies are at work each day in an effort to make our Center a more gracious and welcoming place to gather. Their duties are endless and sometimes unappreciated or unnoticed. Please don't miss a chance to pass on a note of appreciation as you enjoy the welcome and homey atmosphere of our Center.

Ray Baker's, Gerald, was a dinner guest on Thursday and Maidelle Mitchell had as her guests, Betty and R.I. Webb, from Lubbock (former Denver Citizens). On Friday we see the names of Josefina and Victor Saez on the register, and on another day Lupe Zubriate and Patty Horton dined with us. Vicky Delgado claimed the handsome young man named Vinvente Delgado as her husband at lunchtime on Tuesday. Welcome to each of you.

Mary Gibson was her usual upbeat self when I checked with her this week. She is having a good week and will be going back for more treatment next week.

The Board of Directors and the Site Council will be working together to initiate the new lunch program

as we increase our daily price from \$2.00 to \$3.00 beginning on February 14. Two people will be at the greeting table each day for your convenience to help you with your lunch tickets. Please feel free to inquire of them anything you do not understand about the program. The cooperation of everyone is greatly appreciated.

There are five fundamental laws of the universe that appear worthy of mention before we move on here. My thanks to the person who shared them with me. (1) The law of Mechanical Repair: After your hands become coated with grease, your nose will begin to itch! (2) The law of the Telephone: When you dial a wrong number you never get a busy signal. (3) The law of the Result: When you try to prove to someone that a machine won't work, it will. (4) The law of the Theatre: At any event, the people whose seats are the farthest from the aisle arrive last. (5) The Law of Biomechanics: The severity of the itch is inversely proportional to the reach.

It appears the 'flu' bug, as well as some of its relatives, abound everywhere this week. Our site director, Rosa Lopez, was ill on Tuesday and had to go home. When she contacted our bookkeeper, Anne Holland, to substitute for her, Ann was ill also and was unable to respond to the call. Claudia Ferguson handled the announcements; Maurine Wehrens, with the help of Charlie Gillis, very handily completed the daily treasurer's report so all went well, however, we do look forward to seeing our personnel up and well and back in their places soon.

Someone told me this week that we humans could learn a lot from crayons! Some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors, but they all exist very nicely together in the same box.

I am told that birthdays are good for you! The more you have, the longer you live! I am glad for each one I've celebrated. Next week Elmer and I are joining our children on a cruise to celebrate the last one I had. We are excited about having our family together for a week with no home responsibilities (including compiling a Senior Column for the Denver City Press & Cowboy Country News in Plains). Things will be back to normal the following week.

Thought for Today: A clear conscience is usually a sign of a faulty memory!

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School Retirees Meet

The Yoakum County Retired School Personnel met on Tuesday, February 8, in the Learning Center in Denver City. It was stated that Sue Alexander will accompany President Brenda Canada to the state meetings in March. The decision was made to hold the meetings in Plains until more retired personnel from Denver City participate.

The list of charter members will be discussed at the next meeting. The group then toured the West Texas Retired Lifestyle and Rehab Center after the meeting. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 12, at Johnnie's Restaurant at 11:00 AM. Everyone who is interested is urged to attend the meeting.

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Sunday School
9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship
10:45 A.M.
Evening Program
6:00 P.M.

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