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# Cowboy Country News

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

Volume V11, Issue 17, January 10, 2001



## High Tech expands on three Plains ISD campuses

The breadth and scope of technology via the ethernet appears to make quantum leaps each passing week, and while Plains Independent School District may not be keeping pace with M.I.T or Stanford University in micro-age technology, it is not letting grass grow under its students feet.

Last week PISD Superintendent Jim Haynes informed CCN final work was taking place installing a new, faster and higher capacity server to be utilized in the district's Integrated Learning Center.

In an interview last Friday, Robert Canon, PISD Technology Specialist, said final prep work on the server would probably be finished by January 12. Final work has been completed on the latest computer lab for the district in Plains Elementary. There, students will have access to 18 new computers, and first graders will get their first official instructions in computer assisted learning programs. The Middle School campus also has a computer lab fully equipped with computers, and the high school students will have access to a new lab with 21 computers. Another 16 computers are available in the high school for all grade levels and instructors.

Canon said the bulk of the funding for the expanded technology equipment came from substantial TIF grants, reported earlier in CCN.

### Emergency Farm Loan Applications Being Accepted

Applications for emergency farm loans for losses caused by drought and excessive heat conditions are being accepted at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office located in Seminole, Texas FSA Farm Loan Manager Richard G. Young, said today.

On December 19, 2000, Secretary of Agriculture, Dan Glickman declared the entire state of Texas as agriculture disaster area, making producers eligible for USDA emergency farm loan because of losses caused by drought, excessive heat, and other disasters that occurred during 2000.

Young said farmers may be eligible for loans of up to 80 percent of their actual losses or the operating loan needed to continue in business, whichever is less. For farmers unable to obtain credit from private commercial lenders, the interest rate is 3.75 percent.

"As a general rule, a farmer must have suffered at least a 30 percent



Robert Canon, Technology Specialist with PISD, and John Chumbly, Technician with MicroAge, Lubbock, prepping the new server to be used in the Integrated Learning Center.

One of the major fields to be utilized in the Integrated Learning Center is assessing and improving language skills of migrant students, from the first grade upwards. Canon reported students will complete a series of lessons, and usually at the end of two weeks of computer work, will take a test. Instructors can then evaluate each students needs for additional work leading to improved reading

and speaking skills. "The teachers can analyze each exam, and work more fully with the individual student. The computerized program allows instructors to quickly and accurately follow students progress through each semester."

The technological learning process will continue through all three levels of public school.

### Start of 2001 makes lengthy court agenda

The first session of Commissioner's Court on January 8 found 18 business items on the long agenda.

Tax Assessor/Collector Betty Rivas reported \$934,334 in county taxes were collected in the month of December.

The court approved advertising for bids for the year on gravel, hot and cold mix, and asphalt, plus unleaded, premium unleaded and diesel fuels for all four precincts and county parks.

A holiday calendar for 2001 was approved, salaries for full time employees were set as reflected in the budget, and part time remained at \$6 per hour for clerical workers, \$7 per hour for road hands.

The court voted to leave jury

Turn to Page 4,  
"Court Agenda"

## CCN's Year 2000 In Review

The following is a sampling of stories and events reported in CCN last year;

**Jan. 5, 2000** - Y2K's horrors spare Yoakum County. Dreaded event turns into Ho-Hummer.

**Jan. 26** - Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet held, County Treasurer Toni Jones named Citizen of the Year.

**Feb. 2** - Sandy Land Underground Water District celebrates tenth year of service to county.

**Feb. 23** - Plains' City Council approves plans to build new City hall, Fire Department and EMS facility.

**Mar. 8** - Kristen Gray becomes second PHS Senior to receive National Merit Scholarship. 1999 graduate Clint Burrus was

first honored in 1999.

**March 22** - The High Plains Precipitation Enhancement Program to start April 1. Sandy Land's aircraft to take part in cloud seeding efforts.

**April 5** - Yoakum County ranks third in Texas in crude oil production during the 1990's.

**May 10** - Rodeo Queen Candidates were Candace Bowers, Allison Butler, Elizabeth Clanahan. Elizabeth would win the crown with record number of ticket sales.

**May 24** - Less than two weeks after First Baptist Church's Disaster Relief Trailer was ready to roll, it was dispatched to the huge Los Alamos, NM fire scene. Based at Glorieta, almost three dozen volunteers from here and the area would utilize

the trailer in preparing and shipping some 22,000 emergency meals to thousands of fire fighters battling the blaze.

**June 14** - Crude oil prices bounce back to over \$30 per barrel, bringing mixed blessings to area and state. Gasoline prices rise to \$1.66 per gallon.

**June 28** - U.S. Supreme Court ruling on school prayer issue infuriates most, but leaves room for few options.

**July 19** - Blake McWhirter, a Plains native son, appointed PISD Athletic Director, replacing resigned David Williams.

**August 23** - Six new teachers added to District's staff. Elementary and high school earn Exemplary ratings from TEA.

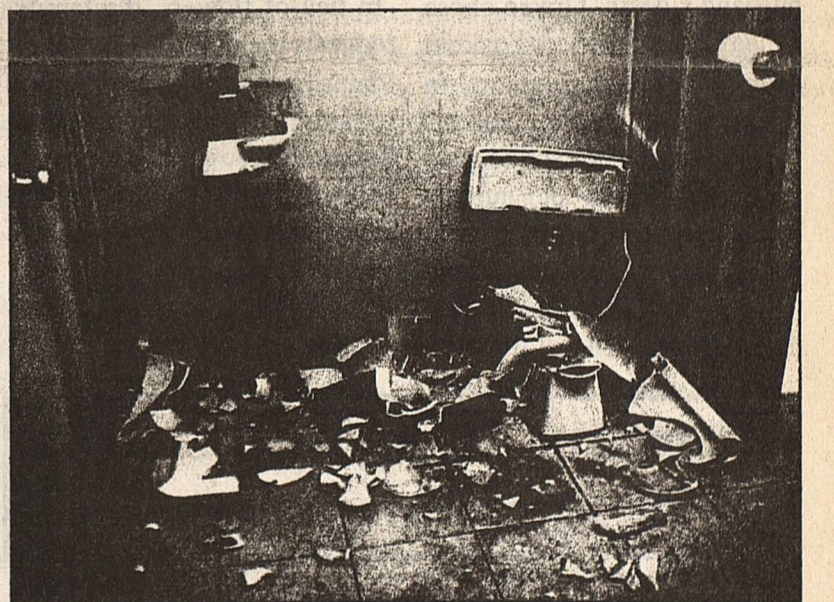
Turn to Page 3,  
"2000 Review"

## Law agencies cooperation leads to arrests

On November 27, Andy Miller, Foreman for Cross Timbers Operating Inc. contacted the Yoakum County Sheriff Department and reported a burglary of their Cornell Unit warehouse, shop and pump station, located at the old Cornell Camp northwest of Denver City. The burglars took approximately \$2,600 in tools and equipment and did an estimated \$3,000 in damages.

Deputy Larry Murphree, of the Yoakum County Sheriff's Department, stated that entrance into the shop building was made through a large hole the burglars had knocked in the fiberglass over head door at the rear of the building. Murphree stated after the burglars entered the building the broke out light fixtures, painted obscenities on the walls, and destroyed all of the bathroom fixtures.

On the same night of the Cross Timbers burglary the radar machine belonging to the Denver City Police Department was vandalized. Deputy Murphree met with Chief Jack Miller and Lt. Gary Hester, of the Denver City Police Department, at the scene where the radar machine



Demolished bathroom at crime scene

had been vandalized. By comparing evidence found at both scenes they concluded both crimes were committed by the same people.

Approximately one week into the investigation, Lt. Hester received information of a possible suspect and relayed the information to Deputy Sheriff Inoe Valdez. Murphree and Valdez followed up on the information, which lead to the arrest of two male subjects, one 16 year old and one 17 year old juvenile adult. The 17 year old suspect confessed to the dam-

age to the radar machine and gave Murphree and Valdez the location of the stolen property taken from the burglary.

Newly elected Yoakum County Sheriff Don Corzine stated, "This case is a good example of the results that comes from Yoakum County law enforcement agencies working together. Criminals were apprehended and stolen property was recovered." The two agencies will continue to work together in the future, to better serve the people of Yoakum County, says Sheriff Corzine.

## Drug task force to be reinforced

According to Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark and Investigator Rick Dickson, the war on illegal drugs being fought by the recently organized Llano Estacado Drug Task Force is intense enough to require more troops in the battle. The task force, a joint venture sponsored by Terry and Yoakum County and principally funded with state grant funds, will soon receive a new trooper in the battle.

Clark and Dickson told Commissioners Court on Monday a new grant request must be in Austin by January 12. If approved, funding would be available to operate the two county task force from June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002. They recommended the court approve hiring former

Deputy Lisa Switzer as an additional investigator and to assist with administrative work of the task force.

Newly elected Sheriff Don Corzine, and a board member of the drug task force, told the court he recommended hiring Switzer, and added "She is an experienced and well qualified law official, and we need the added help."

The county must pay Switzer's salary and benefits, a little over \$21,000, until the state grant money is released. After June 1, the state grant would pay 75 percent of her salary and benefits.

Commissioner J.R. Slentz, Pct 2, asked Clark,

Turn to Page 2, "Task Force"

## Obituaries

### Memorial Services Held For Gracie Rushing

Memorial services for Gracie Rushing were held Saturday, January 6, 2001, 3:00 P.M., at Grimes Funeral Chapel. Graveside services were held Sunday, January 7, 2001, 3:00 P.M., in Plains Cemetery, Plains, Texas.

Gracie Rushing, 97, of Kerrville, passed away on Wednesday, January 3, 2001, at Alpine Terrace. Gracie Kleata Camp was born June 17, 1903, in Wellington, Collingsworth County, Texas, and was the oldest of four children born to L.D. "Doc" and Sallie Lee (Benge) Camp. Her parents moved to Yoakum County when Gracie was around one year old where they filed on some land. She graduated from Plains High School in May, 1919. Gracie became a Christian and joined the Plains Baptist Church during her final year in high school.

Gracie married James Albert "Dad" Rushing on January 31, 1925, in Lamesa, Texas, but they lived in and around Plains throughout their marriage of over 46 years. Her husband was a livestock broker and school bus driver. Gracie retired from Plains Post Office in 1971 after being employed as a postal clerk for over 30 years.

The Rushings' only child, a son, James A. Rushing, Jr, was born in 1932.

In 1997, five years after her husband's death, Gracie chose to leave her beloved Yoakum County family and friends to move closer to her son and his family in Kerrville. She adapted to her new home and quickly made friends. Gracie loved music and attended many musicals held in friends' homes. She was a member of the Trin-

ity Baptist Church in Kerrville. She was preceded in death by her parents, her youngest sister, Martha Camp Anderson, and her only brother, John Thomas Camp, II, all of whom are buried in Plains, Texas.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, James A., Jr. and Syble Rushing of Kerrville; three grandchildren, Mike Rushing of Austin, Jay and Traci Rushing of Carrollton, and Terri Rushing of Atlanta, Georgia; three great-grandsons, Tyler, Tate and Trent of Carrollton; step-granddaughter and her husband, LaDonna and Ron Jones of Houston; step-grandson, Ray Crockett of Brownwood; step great grandson, Jason of Houston; one sister, Mrs. Frankie Camp Cobb of Yuma, Az.; niece and nephew-in-law, Earlene (Anderson) and Durwood Whitefield of Kerrville; two other nieces and one nephew, as well as numerous other Benge-Camp cousins and their descendants.

Gracie embraced the members of her husband's family and claimed them as blood relatives and they loved her as their own. In this family, she leaves a nephew and wife, Polly and Betty Rushing of Plains; a niece and husband, Ilene and Lee Roy Hairston of Gatesville, as well as many other beloved Rushing family members.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be made to Plains Cemetery Association, c/o Virginia Price Sanders, Plains, Texas 79355, or to the charity of one's choice. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Grimes Funeral Chapels of Kerrville.

### Lea County Electric offers scholarships

Area high schools received scholarship application forms last week that will allow students whose families are members of Lea County Electric Cooperative to apply for scholarships in the amount of \$500 per semester. Recipients of the renewable scholarships may use the funds to attend any accredited institution of higher learning in New Mexico or Texas up to a maximum of eight semesters. Applicants must enroll as full-time students, and maintain at least a 2.50 cumulative grade point average.

According to Mike Dreyspring, Administrator for the Lea County Electric Education Foundation, the program has been providing scholarships to area students since 1988. "Scholarships for the fall semester of 2001 will total \$25,000. We're able to fund the program through individual donations to the Foundation as well as undeliverable capital credits that would otherwise escheat to control of the state. The awarding of over \$330,000 over the last 13 years signals our trustees commitment to the education welfare of the communities within the Cooperative's service territory," Dreyspring said.

### CSW To Present Bestselling Author Of Iwo Jima Battle

As part of the Hatton W. Sumners Speaker Series, College of the Southwest in Hobbs, New Mexico, will present James Bradley, author of the *The New York Times* #1 best-seller *Flags of Our Fathers*, which powerfully chronicles the glory, triumph, and heartbreak of the six young men who raised America's flag to Iwo Jima in World War II.

When Bradley takes the stage at R.N. Tydings Auditorium in Hobbs on Monday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, he will recount the mesmerizing events of one of the most famous moments in American Military history.

Although Bradley's presentation, "Lessons in Leadership", will provide a universal salute to heroism, loyalty, and leadership, his focus is much more personal. He will examine the individual stories of the six young men, including that of his own father, who have come to symbolize-through the world famous photograph and statue-the courage and indomitable will of America.

Bradley is considered a brilliant storyteller who delivers an inspirational story about the personal lives of many of the soldiers who fought in the Pacific during World War II, the impact on their families at home, and how the Marines utilized a winning attitude to overcome great obstacles "to do the impossible". By using war as a metaphor, Bradley demonstrates that success on and off

The Foundation also offers the Jackie C. Noack Memorial Scholarship which provides recipients with \$375 per semester up to a maximum of four semesters at New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, NM.

Application forms are available at the main office of the Cooperative in Lovington, as well as their offices in Tatum and Plains, and are due no later than February 9, 2001. An online version of the application will soon be available at the Cooperative's website at [www.lcecn.com](http://www.lcecn.com). For further information contact Allan Brown at (800) 510-5232.

### From Page 1, "Task Force"

"You've asked us to consider some options. What do you think we should do?" Clark said he hoped the court would approve hiring Switzer now. "We need additional help, we need to have more drug cases in our files, to show Austin we're serious about fighting drugs, and that will help us continue to obtain the state's help in funding this program."

The court unanimously approved Switzer's hiring.

### Probation violation leads to much stiffer sentence for convicted forger

According to information from the Criminal District Attorney office here, Michael D. Martin, recently appearing in court on a five count forgery charge in District Court here, will now serve a much longer prison sentence, the price of violating provisions of a prior probation sentence in armed robbery case also involving a homicide.

During the the forgery case here, Martin appealed for a new trial, claiming insufficient defense by his attorney. Judge Kelly G. Moore granted the request for a new trial around the end of January.

In the mean time, District Judge Parks in Ward County ruled Martin had violated conditions of his parole and community supervision ordered for his participation in the armed robbery case. The Judge sentenced Martin to prison for nine years in a unit of the Texas Criminal Justice Department.

A representative for the Criminal District Attorney here told CCN, "The Ward County Judge would probably not have ruled for revocation of Martin's parole if it hadn't been for the testimony of Yoakum County victims of his forgery scam. Corky Black of Denver City and other citizens spent many hours traveling to testify across West Texas and New Mexico in the case. Their cooperation led to Martin receiving a much stiffer sentence than would have been rendered in our court case. In all probability, he would have pleaded true to our case, and would have received a maximum 20 month prison sentence. Now, he will serve nine years, and the 20 month sentence will run concurrently with the nine year sentence."

Jan. 3, 1834. Stephn F. Austin arrested by authorities whiel in Mexico. He did not return to Texas until Sept. 1835


Jan. 19, 1857. Colonel Robert E. Lee passed his fiftieth birthday on duty with the US Army at Ft. Brown, Texas.

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6610 LOVINGTON HIGHWAY  
HOBBS, NEW MEXICO 88240  
or by calling (505) 392-6561

### Turning ideas into reality shortage of engineers slows that reality

Gerhardt Schulle Jr., Executive Director of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, says the future growth of the high-tech industry in Texas depends on higher education. "Engineers are fond of saying they turn ideas into reality, but it is the truth. Every technological advance requires engineers to take a concept and make it work."

"Whatever you do - the roads you travel, the cars you drive to work and home, the machines in your house, all took engineers to design and produce. Nationally, the country benefits from about 65,000 new engineering graduates each year, but that number is not enough.

"We're now forced to import engineers from around the world. Congress just increased the number of working visas to fill nearly 200,000 jobs for skilled workers per year over the next three years, and many of those will be engineers. The biggest threat to high tech in Texas is the shortage of engineers, and higher education is the only homegrown source."

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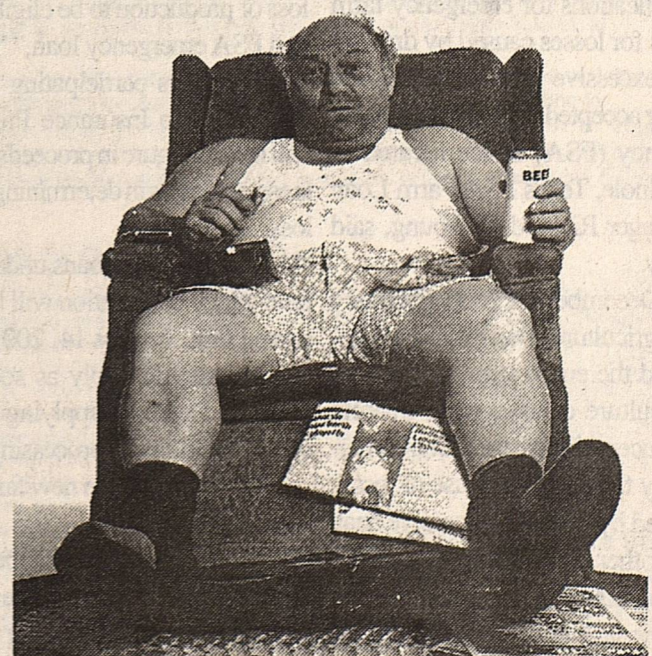
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## Plans for 49th Junior Livestock Show Almost Wrapped Up

The 49th annual Yoakum County Junior Livestock Show will kickoff Thursday, January 25, and wind up Saturday, January 27 at the 1:30 PM Premium Sale. FFA and 4-H students from Denver City and Plains will exhibit their rabbits, goats, lambs, pigs and steers in the following schedule;

Friday, Jan. 26:  
Steers - 8-9 a.m.  
Swine - 9 a.m.  
Lambs - 1 p.m.  
Goats - 2 p.m.  
Rabbits - 4 p.m.

On Saturday, a special Ranch Brand ceremony will be held at the concession stand. A buyer's Luncheon will be held in the Plains School Cafeteria from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm.

At 1 p.m. Saturday, Queen Candidates will be presented in the main show ring. This year's contestants are Amanda Jezisek, D.C FFA, Ragan McGinty, Plains 4-H, and Donita Richardson, Plains

FFA. Chris Chambliss, General Superintendent of the show, reminded all 4-H and FFA exhibitors the deadline for exhibitor fees is Monday, January 15th, and they must contact their County Agent or FFA Advisor by that date.

Other Livestock Association Superintendents and assistants include Beef Cattle- Kreg Keesee, Tim Addison. Swine- Bill Rowe, Casey Clark. Lambs- Bill Anderson, Kevin Gibson. Goats- Jimmy Bearden, Mike Roberts. Rabbits- Tracy Moore, Danny Williams.

Show judges are;  
Steer, heifer and swine- Cody Hill.  
Lamb and Goat- Marvin Enser.  
Rabbits- Jennifer Beckham  
Showmanship- Cody Smith.  
Reggie Trout will be the auctioneer for the sale, and Woody Lindsey will announce the show.

### From Page One, "2000 Review"

middle school rated Recognized.

Sept. 6 - 5th annual Watermelon Round Up bigger, better than ever, draws crowd estimated at 5 to 7 thousand.

Sept. 20 - First bale of Yoakum County cotton, grown by Terry Davis, ginned at Sun Cot Gin.

Sept. 27 - Locals Bill and Zareta Winn celebrate 50th wedding anniversary.

Oct. 11- Senior Lexi Warren crowned PHS Homecoming Queen. First cotton gin 'walking floor' module feeder west of Mississippi installed at New Tex Gin.

Oct. 25 - Bids for new, four doctor clinic accepted by Commissioners Court. Second year of Boll Weevil Eradication Program nears end with numbers of cotton pests drastically reduced.

Nov. 1 - Front page article in CCN asks, "Will Electoral College play role in presidential election?" Boy, did it ever!

Nov. 8 - Mock Presidential Debate among PHS seniors prompts student body to heavily favor George W.

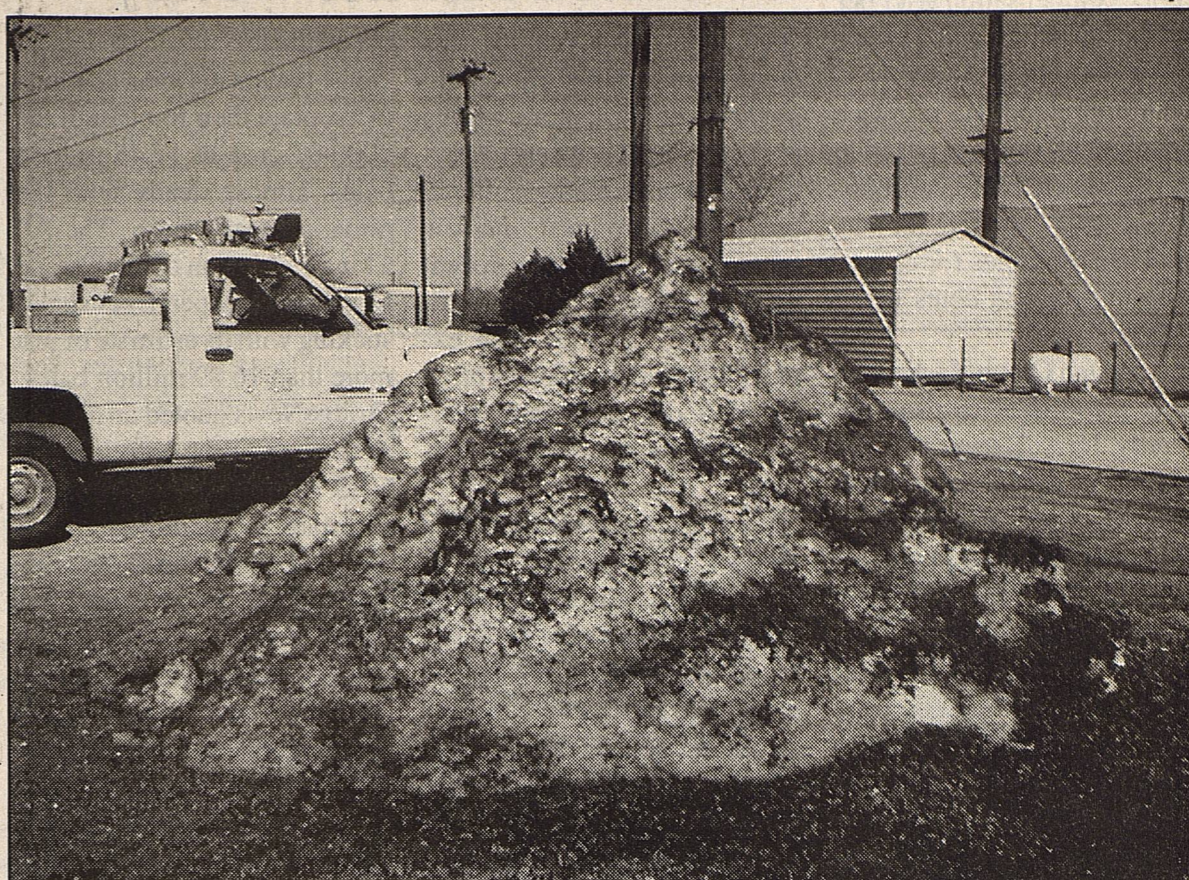
Nov. 15 - New faces in county offices; Don Corzine, Sheriff, Ty Earl Powell, Pct. 3 Commissioner, Betty Rivas, Tax Assessor/Collector, Gordon Sefcik, Constable, Pct. 2.

Nov. 22 - Texas Historical Society grants historical road marker at site of former Center Point School between here and Denver City.

December 13- Art Association building to be razed to provide site for new City Hall complex.

January 1- HAPPY 2001!

## Winter Weather Reminder



On Monday of this week, this snow pile in downtown measured approximately six feet tall. When it was first piled up by a county loader following the December 26 snow storm, it was about 14 feet in height, testifying to our continued cold weather

## LOOKING AHEAD CSW Prof Sees Dip, Then Prosperity

\*\* This article, written by W.H. Graham, appeared in *The Lovington Daily Leader* on December 31, 2000.

First, the bad news. There's a bump in the road ahead, and not much we can do to avoid it. The good news is that after we get over the bump, times should be good for America - including our part of the Southwest - for the next ten years.

In a nutshell, that's the view of Fred Di Ulus, associate professor of market economics at College of the Southwest. The Leader asked him to take a look at 2001 and beyond.

A follower of free market economics (no surprise at CSW), Di Ulus says we shouldn't be shocked that a correction is on the way. "Everything that goes up has to come down," he says. "That is the real nature of the free enterprise system."

The year 2000 brought talk of a New Age for the New Millennium, and the beginning of a New Paradigm for the US economy. Doesn't work that way, asserts the college prof, and traditional lessons taken from long experience are still in place.

He is not afraid to use the 'R' word, as he puts it, but he prefers to call the coming dip an adjustment, not a recession. And it will be healthy, leading to new levels of prosperity. "It will basically get rid of the excess, tighten things up, and then we will go on," he believes.

Di Ulus says two declining quarters in the U.S. economy have signaled the end of the long bull market is at hand. He defends recent comments of President-elect George W. Bush who has been making statements to that effect, and says they're not just window dressing for his tax cut plans.

Di Ulus has just returned from a visit to the East Coast and had a chance to put his ear to the ground. "The buzz in the New England press is somewhat optimistic, but also some-

what cautious about the new administration. Anytime you have caution or uncertainty, people are going to be unwilling to make large investments. This would have happened even if Gore had been put in office. We got used to Clinton, and even if we didn't like him, we knew what we were in for. Now it's uncertainty."

Di Ulus says if a recession comes it won't be George W.'s baby, unlike that which hit his father when president. The elements of the dip are already in place. And the decline won't heed the urging of the master skipper Allan Greenspan, he says. Cutting interest rates will not arrest the slide.

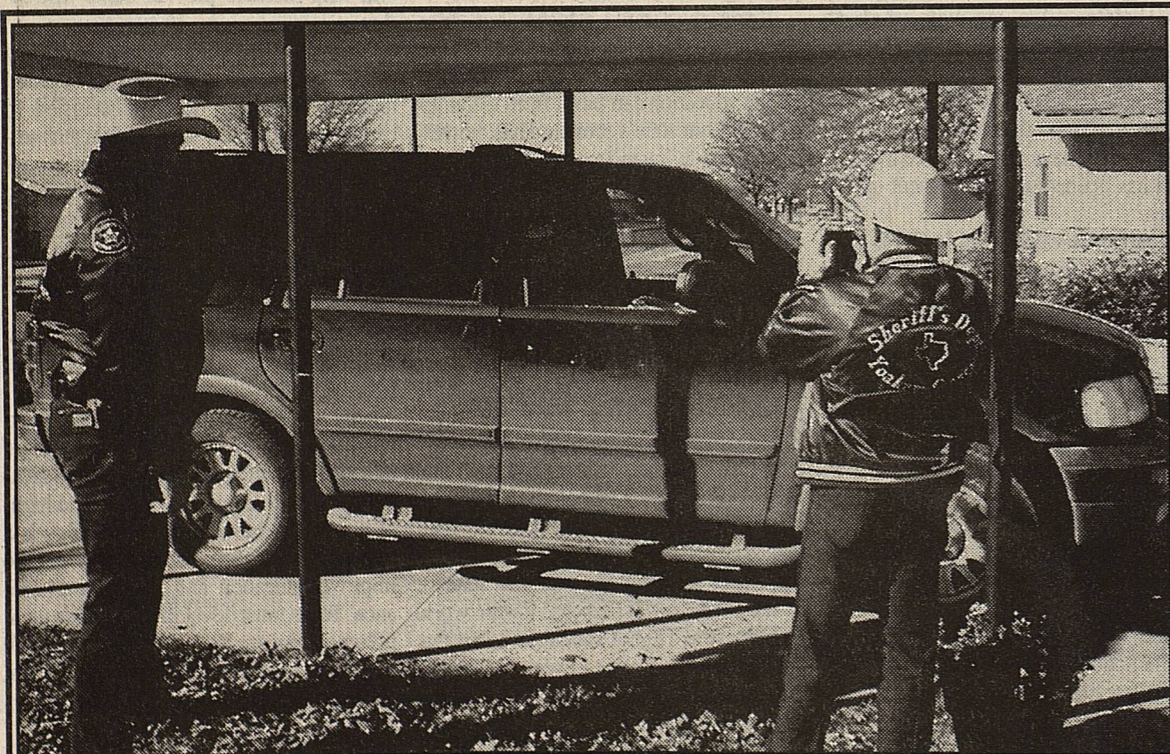
"I think Greenspan is absolutely the most brilliant we've ever had, but he can only manipulate it so far. Lowering interest rates at this time will only be a stop gap measure." He says polls showing declining public expectations are the key. Public confidence is what fosters a strong economy. It doesn't make any difference who is president."

Showing his free market roots, Di Ulus says, "Frankly, I don't know why everybody should be upset about a recession. There's a lot of excess out there, and this is healthy for the market. It's not hard to make money when everything is going up. Now we will see who really are the good managers."

He sees the U.S. as being the leader in the world's economies. "We have the technology, and we are able to attract great talent from all over the world. It also means great opportunities for our kids. You can see the handwriting on the wall."

Looking at the regional view, Di Ulus says the current high price of oil "is certainly bullish" for this area, and will lead to stimulation of the local economy. "We may be moving in the opposite direction of the nation, quite frankly," he says.

**\* Employment Opportunities \***  
**(1) Administrative Secretary for Yoakum County Sheriff Department**  
**(2) Patrol Deputy with Certified Law Officer credentials. Deadline for resumes is January 19, 2001.**  
Send resumes to Sheriff Don Corzine, PO Box 189, Plains, TX 79355



Sheriff Deputies Kenley Powell and Larry Murphree are shown investigating a vehicle break in on Second Street last week. Someone smashed in the window of this SUV belonging to PHS Coach Jan Newland and stole personal items in the vehicle.

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Table 3.1  
Texas and U.S. Earnings from College Compared to High School Degrees, 1992-1998

	Texas			United States			Texas Versus US	
	HS	BA+	Difference	HS	BA+	Difference	Ratio (%)	3-Yr Avg
1992	\$18,589	\$37,178	\$18,589	\$20,851	\$38,685	\$18,034	103.1%	
1993	\$19,184	\$36,111	\$16,927	\$20,598	\$38,671	\$18,073	93.7%	
1994	\$18,696	\$37,392	\$18,696	\$21,180	\$38,208	\$17,029	109.8%	102.2%
1995	\$18,186	\$37,361	\$19,175	\$21,542	\$38,286	\$16,744	114.5%	106.0%
1996	\$19,748	\$36,378	\$16,630	\$21,724	\$38,536	\$16,812	98.9%	107.7%
1997	\$19,399	\$36,918	\$17,519	\$21,993	\$39,415	\$17,463	100.3%	104.6%
1998	\$20,850	\$40,000	\$19,150	\$22,425	\$41,028	\$18,603	102.9%	100.7%
Average	\$19,236	\$37,334	\$18,098	\$21,467	\$39,004	\$17,537	103.3%	104.2%

	Texas			United States			Texas Versus US	
	HS	BA+	Difference	HS	BA+	Difference	Ratio (%)	3-Yr Avg
1992	\$21,511	\$41,545	\$20,034	\$23,017	\$43,972	\$20,956	95.6%	
1993	\$21,744	\$42,771	\$21,027	\$23,432	\$47,224	\$23,791	88.4%	
1994	\$22,259	\$43,111	\$20,852	\$23,790	\$47,671	\$23,881	87.3%	90.4%
1995	\$22,477	\$48,032	\$25,555	\$24,412	\$46,525	\$22,112	115.6%	97.1%
1996	\$25,080	\$49,579	\$24,499	\$24,618	\$47,462	\$22,844	107.2%	103.4%
1997	\$24,320	\$52,015	\$27,695	\$24,798	\$48,585	\$23,787	116.4%	113.1%
1998	\$24,143	\$54,872	\$30,729	\$24,999	\$50,221	\$25,222	121.8%	115.2%
Average	\$23,076	\$47,418	\$24,342	\$24,152	\$47,380	\$23,228	104.6%	103.8%

Sources: Carolis Keeton Rylander, Comptroller of Public Accounts; US Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey.

From Page 1, "Court Agenda"

service compensation at \$7 per day for reporting, and \$14 per day for serving as a juror.

After noting the IRS allows a deduction of 34 cents per mile for business use, the court approved raising the rate for personal used vehicles for county business from 25 cents to 30 cents per mile.

Sheriff Don Corzine asked the court's approval to promote Deputy Jerry Howard to the position of Lieutenant in the department. He will receive a \$50 per month raise in pay for the promotion.

County Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers and Controller Clay Taylor presented a review of proposed hospital salaries and an amendment to the hospital budget. They reported the hospital's board had approved a 2 per cent raise in salaries for hospital and clinic employees, some \$59,000 annually. Currently the medical facilities employ some 75 people. The court approved the request, and also a request to amend the hospital budget for approximately \$10,000 to cover additional social security benefits.

## Cotton Market Weekly

January 4, 2001-Printing this report in red ink possibly could be the most appropriate means of describing this week's activity as the cotton market suffered one of the strongest one-tow punch combinations in recent memory to begin the new calendar year: a worse than expected domestic consumption report; and a surprisingly bullish Chinese production estimate.

One market analyst described the two reports as the 'coup d' grace' from which the cotton market will not recover quickly. He added, "this is not only a new year, but a new ballgame for all of us."

The Chinese production estimate from the country's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) included a stunning increase in China's 2000 crop production that slammed cotton futures prices in heavy trading on January 2. NBS put the crop there at almost 20 million bales, and it touched off widespread conjecture among traders and analysts, including some in China, regarding accuracy of

the estimate.

Some traders in China continue to maintain their forecast of the 2000-01 crop at 17.45 million bales, almost steady with the previous year's crop. The All China Federation of Supply and Marketing Cooperatives also is sticking with its estimate of just more than 16.89 million bales. BridgeNews quoted an official at the agricultural division of NBS saying its higher output estimate is attributed to expanded cotton area and improved the planted area and yield, BridgeNews reported.

Meanwhile, traders in China said there have been no factors to support the NBS estimate. The traders, however, noted strong cotton prices in early 2000 prevented cotton area from shrinking further despite the government's efforts to limit cotton planting, and 2000 planted area is seen as roughly in line with the 1999 acreage, sources told BridgeNews. Other sources noted unfavorable weather in northern and eastern China during October should have cut yields. USDA's latest estimate of Chinese cotton production was 18 million bales.

The International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC) plugged the NBS figure into its latest estimates showing world cotton production will total

87.27 million bales, up from last month's estimate of 85.57 million. ICAC's projection of world cotton consumption was virtually unchanged from last month. The net result is an increase of about 2.02 million bales in projected world ending stocks.

The second blow to the cotton market this week was a dismal domestic consumption report. Based on Census Bureau data, the National Cotton Council (NCC) put annualized mill use at 9.12 million bales. One trader stated the report was worse than expected with declining consumer demand attributed to the fall in mill use.

## Court Proposes Historical Committee Members

In Monday's session of Commissioners Court, the following names were submitted to serve as the Yoakum County Historical Committee.

**Plains Residents;**  
Mary Jo St. Romain, Mattie Field, Linda Powell, Johnnie L. Fitzgerald, Brenda Canada, Laverne Newsom, Christine Henard, Janelle Brantley, Latrell McDonnell and Wilma Powell.

**Denver City Residents;**  
Euple Taylor, Hazel M. Akin and Vera Bennett.

## Bridging Educational Gap Means Closing Digital Divide

By Annette T. Griffin, Ed.D.

Through the ages, inventions have changed the way people learn and the way they receive information. Inventions such as the printing press, the phonograph and microscope opened up new worlds of words, sounds and sights. Education has truly benefited from these and other discoveries. They definitely have influenced the instructional methods teachers use in their classrooms.

Today, technology and the Internet are changing how all of us access, analyze and distribute information. In public school classrooms, educators are finding that 21<sup>st</sup> century technology can revolutionize instruction. Texas public school students can use technology as a tool to support their work as individuals or groups. With technology, they can solve problems, synthesize knowledge, and evaluate results. As a veteran educator, I believe it is imperative that all Texas public school students have access to technology. To provide such access is one of our state's greatest challenges.

Eighteen months ago, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) launched a pilot program, *Texas Educational Technology Providing Increased Learning Opportunities for Texas Studies*. Through this pilot program, TEA is determining how the latest technology can boost student learning and achievement.

Vivian Field Middle School in the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District (C-FB ISD) is one of the 13 Texas public schools selected to introduce students to the concept of anytime, anywhere learning by providing technology access, 24 hours/7 days a week.

Through the In-Step Program at Vivian Field Middle School, students receive lap-

tops as well as interactive software and supplemental software in the areas of mathematics, science and social studies. They also receive high-speed Internet connections at school and at home.

The Vivian Field Middle School staff is seeing remarkable benefits. Students access information more rapidly, which increases their time on task. They are excited about learning, and they are stretching themselves academically like never before. We are witnessing an increase in self-esteem as students introduce the world of technology to their families, many of whom do not have home computers. Through the district, the students' families have access to free training, which has opened up employment opportunities.

Diversity is valued within C-FB ISD. We selected Vivian Field Middle School to pilot the In-Step Program because of its diverse student population. Today, 958 sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students attend the school, with 67% of the student body being American Indian, Asian, African-American or Hispanic. Just over 48% of the families are identified as low-income households. In all, 48% of these students use English as a second language.

If public schools effectively use technology as an instructional tool, we can bridge the educational divide. The In-Step program and the work of the Vivian Field Middle School staff and community illustrate to our great state of Texas that if the resources are available, technology can significantly impact not only student achievement but families as well.

In his book, *Growing Up Digital*, Don Tapscott says today's generation is experiencing the birth of a new medium - technology. Because today's young people are "the digital generation," we need to

expand the use of all types of technology in our schools. Through expanded technology, public schools can continue to move from a "one-size-fits-all" curriculum to a customized one for individual students.

Texas public schools can promote the importance of life-long learning through technology. Educators already see technology as a powerful tool that allows them to transform their classrooms to interactive learning environments.

Texas must build a technology infrastructure so our students can develop skills that will prepare them for the future. Public education can profit from technology just as our state's economy has; however, children living in Texas rural and underprivileged urban areas are in danger of being left behind educationally and economically because their schools may not have the necessary technology access and tools. Increasing the availability of technology in these areas of our state will allow public education facilities to keep pace with the technology already available to other Texas students.

As public schools work to improve student achievement, bridging the digital divide is essential. Technology can play an integral role in our state meeting the challenges of raising the achievement bar for students. Every student in the state of Texas must be well prepared for the world of tomorrow. Higher standards mean that we want all children to excel and master the academic concepts that they will use throughout their lives.

In 2003, the state's testing program will assess at a higher level and will be aligned with the state's more challenging curriculum. From elementary to high school, students can benefit from more educational technology. Interactive web-based instructional materials, with built-in diag-

nostic testing, can help teachers pinpoint an individual student's problems and strengths and give him or her more practice in areas where it is most needed.

Not only will students benefit directly from interactive materials and the necessary high-speed Internet connections, but students also will benefit if their teachers have access to on-line, interactive subject-specific training. Access to such training will help teachers provide better instruction.

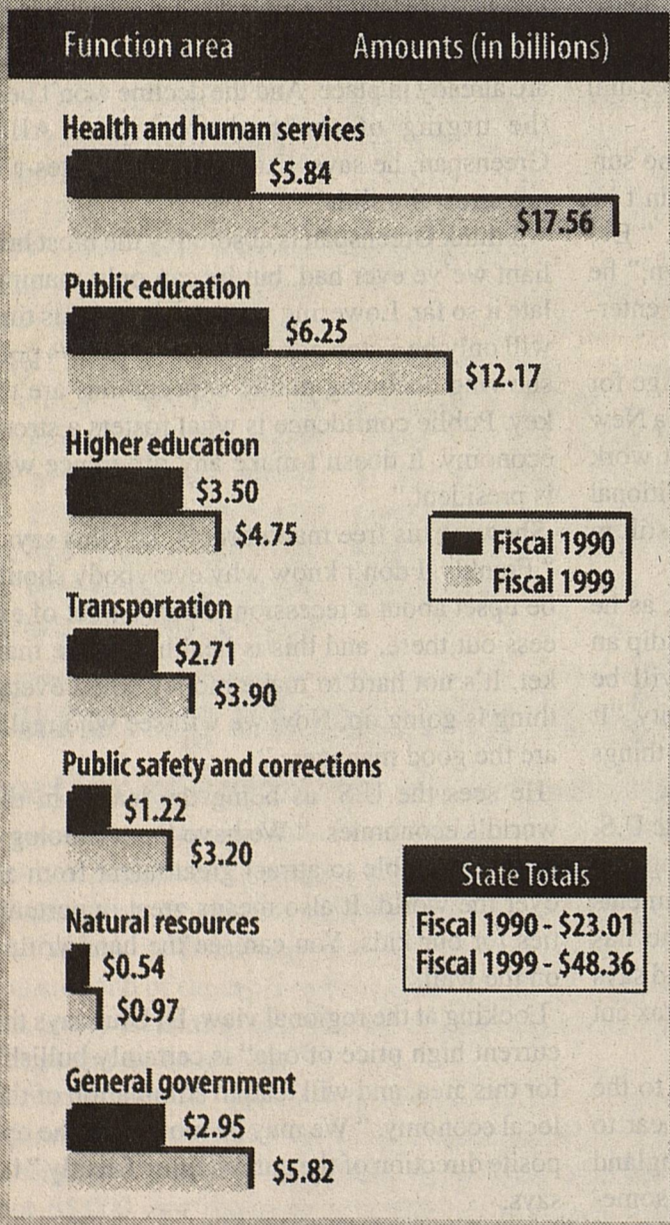
Texas and the United States are facing a critical shortage - shortage of certified teachers, especially teachers certified in certain subject areas. Educational technology could provide school districts across our state more access to training. By using such technology as video conferencing, school districts with limited resources could have access to master teachers or subject-area experts.

Texas public education has made great strides in improving student achievement because we have set well-defined goals for quality education. Texas needs continued well-defined technology goals to ensure that all Texas students have access to technology so they can obtain higher and higher levels of achievement. Technology is a powerful tool that teachers can use to improve education and student performance. Texas must develop a statewide technology infrastructure that will provide technology access to all public schools, students and staff.

Dr. Annette T. Griffin is superintendent of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD and was named 2000 Texas Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Association of School Boards.

### To protect, serve and pave

In the 1990s, Texas increased spending on transportation, public safety and other needs. Spending on health and human services more than tripled while spending for public education nearly doubled.



SOURCE: Carolee Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

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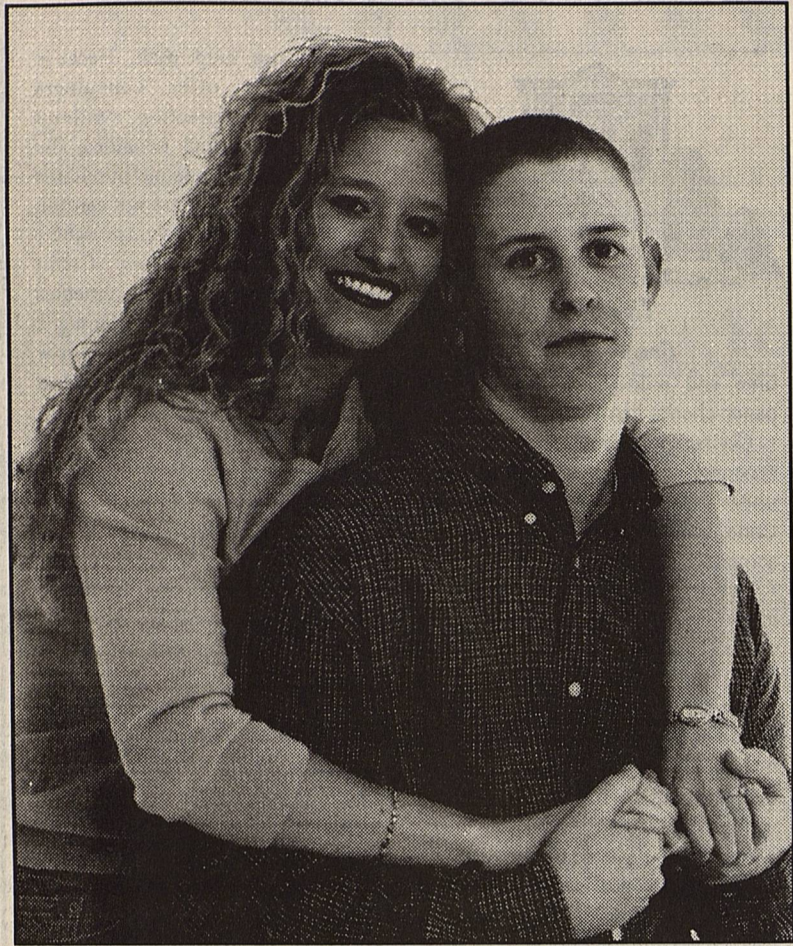
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# Lifelines & Styles

## Wedding Plans Announced



Stacey Ann Jones and Jason Owen Sutton, both of San Angelo will be married March 10, 2001 at Southland Baptist Church.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Jones of Plains. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Sutton of Spring. Miss Jones is a 1995 graduate from Plains High School and received a bachelor's degree in psychology in 2000 from Angelo State University, and is employed by Texas Department of Human Services. Her fiancée is a 1997 graduate from Lake View High School and is employed by Rosa's Cafe.

## Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

During the recent snow storm on December 26, many travelers were stranded throughout much of the state. Our local Texas Department of Transportation Maintenance Office personnel, under Jerry Morphis' direction, are to be commended for the super job they performed in keeping area roads and highways as clear and safe as possible. Our home never looked so good to this traveler! Thanks to each man for your work and efforts!

Sincerely,  
Mary Dale and Bud Forbus

### Little Dribblers Meeting

January 17th 8:00 pm.  
Organizational Meeting for parents at Club Room in Old Courthouse

### \*Note\*

We have added Jermoe and Jeannette Head to Operation Christmas Card

### Baby Shower



Honoring

### K-Lyn Pool



baby daughter of Kayla and Garrett Pool in the home of Karen Bearden  
2:00 to 3:30 pm.  
January 14th  
Selections: Nelson's, Target and Toys R Us

## Senior Citizens Corner

Hope all had a safe and Happy New Year's Eve. We sat up and just had some quiet time. No T.V. or music. We each read.

Thelma Hicks finally got back to Denver City last Thursday after the roads cleared enough. She is still in the hospital.

We have all wanted some moisture and cold weather for the last several years. Well, we got it and it was very welcome.

Our condolences, love and prayers goes to the Richman family on the passing of Faye.

There have been several that have fallen on the ice. Virbon

"Sparky" Sparks is in a hospital in Oklahoma where he was visiting and fell.

Frances Womack is in the local hospital. Also R.C. Sparks and Lena Stafford are in the local hospital.

Hope everyone has a very prosperous New Year.

Just remember this is Yoakum County Senior Citizens Center, not just Denver City. So all you Seniors from Plains start coming to the South to get your good food each day!!

Until next week,  
Wanda B.

## Lea County Electric to sponsor Washington, D.C. trip for two area students

An all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June will be awarded to two young people from this area by Lea County Electric Cooperative, Inc., according to Allan Brown, Manager of Marketing and Member Services. Approximately 1,400 students from rural electric cooperatives around the country will converge on the nations capitol as guests of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Students will visit many of the famous Washington landmarks and museums, as well as the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

Brown said winners of the Youth Tour essay contest/interview would be awarded the 13 day trip which begins June 14, 2001. Area high school students who are enrolled in one of the area's public, private or home schools, and whose parents or legal guardian are members of the Cooperative are eligible to enter the contest.

Contest entrants are required to prepare responses to several essay questions on energy and cooperative-related subjects. Applications and resource materials helpful to contestants are available from the Cooperative's main office in Lovington, or from either of the district offices in Tatum or Plains. Each entrant's essay responses will be judged on the basis of the student's knowledge of the subject, originality, composition, neatness and grammar. Deadline for submitting essays is February 9, 2001. Five finalists will be selected to appear for interviews by a committee of judges. The top two winners will each receive a trip to Washington; the third through fifth place finalist will receive cash prizes of \$200, \$125 and \$75 respectively. For more information contact Allan Brown at (800) 510-5232 or 505-396-3631.

### Employment opportunity in Yoakum County:

**Office Manager/Secretary.** Job requires heavy data entry, be able to work independently and under pressure, and meet deadlines.

**Strong Organizational Skills a must.**

If you meet these requirements, please mail resume and salary requirements to:

Secretary,  
Box 179 X, Plains, TX 79355

## Card of Thanks

*We wish to thank our many friends for coming to help us celebrate our 60th Wedding Anniversary on December 23rd at First Christian Church in Brownfield. We had a great time visiting each and everyone of you. We appreciate you coming.*

Ray and Dorothy Jones

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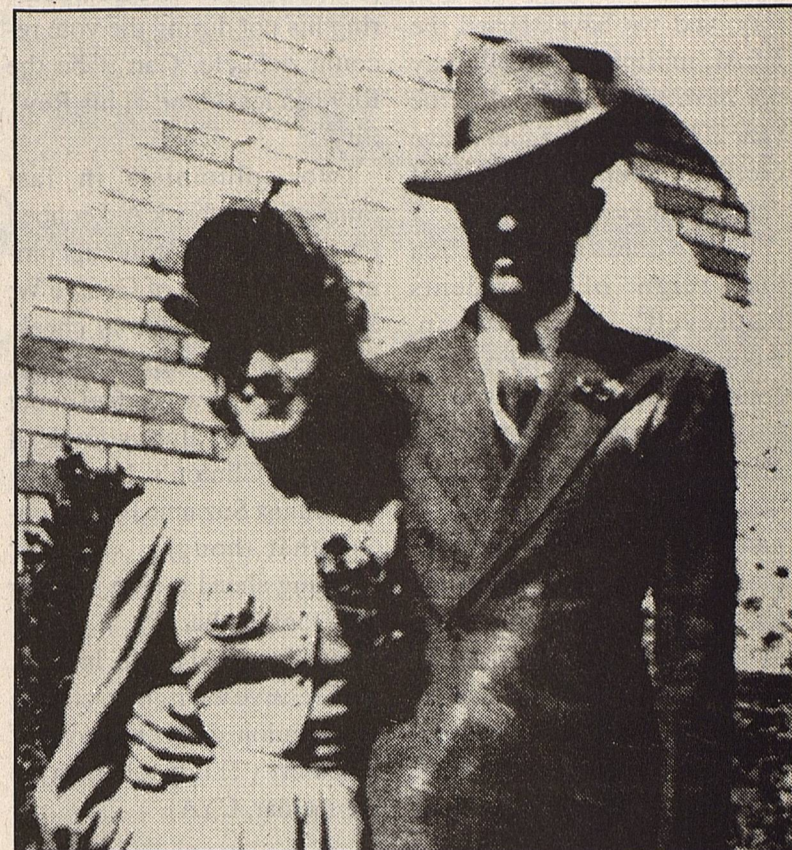
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## 60th Wedding Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. James Warren were honored on their 60th wedding anniversary with a party in the home of Joetta and Ricky Willis of Brownfield. Honoring their parents were Jim and Lela Warren of Plains, Joe and Joyce of Plains, Joetta and Ricky Willis of Brownfield, Jane and Robert Melvin of Las Cruces, N.M., Jerry Warren of Phoenix, Az. and their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Market Gardening Course Offered

A continuing education course, Market Gardening For Farmer Markets, will be taught February 19, 20, 22, 23, 2001 at South Plains College, 1302 Main Street, Lubbock, TX. The course will cover fertilizers, mulches, crops, winter protection, marketing, irrigation, etc. Videos will be shown and books, magazines, seed catalogs, etc. will be displayed.

For information or to enroll or to request catalogs call 806-

747-0576 ext. 4681. The course will be taught by Ken Hargesheimer at <minifams@aol.com> or 806-744-8517.

The farmer's markets on the South Plains have the customers but need farmers to grow and sell. The average gross sales is \$8,000 per acre across the USA. Besides the usual vegetables, there is a market for organic beef, range raised eggs and fryers, raw milk, etc.

### Sisters and Friends

Happy New Year to ALL!

After Christmas SALE!

January 2nd thru 10th

Clothing 30% to 50% off

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Sunday School 9:30

Morning Worship 10:45

Evening Program 6:00 pm.

Wednesday

5:15 - 6:30 pm. Supper

6:00 pm. Zombies

7:00 pm. - RA's, GA's, Mission Friends, Generation X, Sanctuary Choir Practice



First United Methodist  
Church of Plains  
Invites you to Worship!

Sunday School 9:45 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 6:15 pm

Wednesday Evening Study 6:30 pm

Tuesday Afternoon Study 5:15 pm

