News

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

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79101

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 microage technology, it is not letting grass grow under it's 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 TIFF grants, reported earlier in CCN.



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

Emergency Farm Loan Applications Being Accepted

Applications for emergency farm loss of production to be eligible for Manager Richard G. Young, said loss.

caused by drought, excessive heat, season," Young said. and other disasters that occurred FSA is a credit agency of the U.S. during 2000.

for loans of up to 80 percent of their gency loans to recognized farmers

"As a general rule, a farmer must citizens hold a majority interest. have suffered at least a 30 percent

loans for losses caused by drought and FSA emergency loan," Young and excessive heat conditions are said. Farmers participating in the being accepted at the Farm Service Federal Crop Insurance Program Agency (FSA) office located in will have to figure in proceeds from Seminole, Texas FSA Farm Loan those programs in determining their

"Applications for loans under this On December 19, 2000, Secretary emergency designation will be acof Agriculture, Dan Glickman de- cepted until August 14, 2001, but clared the entire state of Texas as farmers should apply as soon as agriculture disaster area, making possible. Delays in applying could producers eligible for USDA emer- create backlogs in processing and gericy farm loan because of losses possible over into the new farming

Department of Agriculture. It is Young said farmers may be eligible authorized to provide disaster emeractual losses or the operating loan who work as and rely on farming needed to continue in business, for substantial part of their living. whichever is less. For farmers un- Eligibility is extended to individual able to obtain credit from private farmers who are U.S. citizens and commercial lenders, the interest rate to farming partnerships, corporations or cooperatives in which U.S.

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 precints 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

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The following is a sampling of first honored in 1999. stories and events reported in March 22 - The High Plains 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, duction during the 1990's. County Treasurer Toni Jones May 10 - Rodeo Queen Candinamed Citizen of the Year.

Feb. 2 - Sandy Land Under- Allison Butler, Elizabeth ground Water District cel- Clanahan. Elizabeth would win ebrates tenth year of service to the crown with record number county.

Feb. 23 - Plains' City Council May 24 - Less than two weeks approves plans to build new EMS facility.

second PHS Senior to receive National Merit Scholarship.

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 pro-

dates were Candace Bowers, of ticket sales.

after First Baptist Church's Di-City hall, Fire Department and saster Relief Trailer was ready to roll, it was dispatched to the, added to District's staff. El-Mar. 8 - Kristen Gray becomes huge Los Alamos, NM fire ementary and high school earn scene. Based at Glorieta, almost three dozen volunteers from 1999 graduate Clint Burrus was 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 infuriatesa 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 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 scenes they concluded both stated after the burglars entered crimes were committed by the the building the broke out light same people. 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 suspect confessed to the dam- Sheriff Corzine.



Demolished bathroom at crime scene

had been vandalized. By comparing evidence found at both

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

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

Drug task force to be reinforced

According to Criminal District Attorney Rich- Deputy Lisa Switzer as an additional investigawar on illegal drugs being fought by the recently organized Llano Estacado Drug Task Force is Newly elected Sheriff Don Corzine, and a board sored by Terry and Yoakum County and principally funded with state grant funds, will soon cial, and we need the added help." receive a new trooper in the battle.

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 efits. from June 1, 2001 through May 31, 2002. They recommended the court approve hiring former

ard Clark and Investigator Rick Dickson, the tor and to assist with administrative work of the task force.

intense enough to require more troops in the member of the drug task force, told the court he battle. The task force, a joint venture spon-recommended hiring Switzer, and added "She is an experienced and well qualified law offi-

The county must pay Switzer's salary and ben-Clark and Dickson told Commissioners Court efits, 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 ben-

> Commsssioner J.R. Slentz, Pct 2, asked Clark, Turn to Page 2, "Task Force'



Memorial Services Held For Gracie Rushing

January 6, 2001, 3:00 P.M., at her parents, her youngest sister, Grimes Funeral Chapel. Martha Camp Anderson, and Graveside services were held her only brother, John Thomas Sunday, January 7, 2001, 3:00 Camp, II, all of whom are bur-P.M., in Plains Cemetery, ied in Plains, Texas. Plains, Texas.

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 was around one year old where graduated from Plains High School in May, 1919. Gracie became a Christian and joined ing her final year in high school. "Dad" Rushing on January 31, 1925, in Lamesa, Texas, but they lived in and around Plains and their descendants. throughout their marriage of being employed as a postal clerk for over 30 years.

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 sicals held in friends' homes. of Kerrville. She was a member of the Trin-

Memorial services for Gracie ity Baptist Church in Kerrville. Rushing were held Saturday, She was proceeded in death by

Survivors include her son and Gracie Rushing, 97, of daughter-in-law, James A., Jr. Kerrville, passed away on and Syble Rushing of Kerrville; Wednesday, January 3, 2001, at three grandchildren, Mike Alpine Terrace. Gracie Kleata 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 Yoakum County when Gracie Ron Jones of Houston; stepgrandson, Ray Crockett of they filed on some land. She Brownwood; step great grandson, Jason of Houston; one sister, Mrs. Frankie Camp Cobb of Yuma, Az.; niece and nephewthe Plains Baptist Church dur- in-law, Earlene (Anderson) and Durwood Whitefield of Gracie married James Albert Kerrville; two other nieces and one nephew, as well as numerous other Benge-Camp cousins

Gracie embraced the members over 46 years. Her husband was of her husband's family and a livestock broker and school claimed them as blood relatives bus driver. Gracie retired from and they loved her as their own. Plains Post Office in 1971 after In this family, she leaves a nephew and wife, Polly and Betty Rushing of Plains; a niece The Rushings' only child, a and husband, Ilene and Lee Roy son, James A. Rushing, Jr, was 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 armade friends. Gracie loved rangements are under the direcmusic and attended many mu- tion of Grimes Funeral Chapels

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 hightech 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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Subscription price in Zip Code 793 \$15 annually Other Zip Codes \$18 annually. Periodical postage rate paid at Plains, Tx. POSTMASTER; Send address changes to Cowboy Country News, Box 179, Plains, Tx. 79355

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Lea County Electric offers scholarships

last week that will allow students whose families are mem-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 Brown at (800) 510--5232. 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 un- approve hiring Switzer now. " deliverable 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 ser- The court unanimously ap-

Area high schools received The Fouindation also offers the scholarship aplication forms Jackie C. Noack Memorial Scholarship which provides recipients with \$375 per semesbers of Lea County Electric ter 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.lcecnet.com. For further information contact Allan

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 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."

vice territory," Dreyspring said. proved Switzer's hiring.

CSW To Present Bestselling Author Of Iwo Jima Battle

As part of the Hatton W. Summers Speaker Series, College of such universal themes as leadthe 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, tri- Speaker Series is presented young men who raised World War II.

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 statuethe 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 battlefield is achieved by ership, courage, the power of positive thinking, and the will to survive.

College of the Southwest's annual Hatton W. Sumners umph, and heartbreak of the six through the support of the Hatton W. Sumners Founda-America's flag to Iwo Jima in tion. Sumners, a Texas Congressman from 1912 until When Bradley takes the stage 1947, was respected as the greatest constitutional lawyer in Congress, and is still revered as a man of great moral courage. He believed in the vigorous participation by individual citizens in their government, and he recognized that a strong and independent judiciary and legal system are necessary to the survival of the American system of Constitutional government.

CSW proudly joins the Trustees of the Hatton W. Sumners Foundation in encouraging students and adults to heed Sumners' call to leadership and to fulfill their obligations as responsible citizens by participating in matters affecting their community, state, and nation. For more information about

the Hatton W. Sumners Speaker Series or to purchase tickets at \$5.00 per person for James Bradley's presentation on Monday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m. at R.N. Tydings Auditorium on the Hobbs High School campus, 1300 East Scharbauer, please call the College at (505) 392-6561.

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.

Probation violation leads to

much stiffer sentence for

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. Stepehn 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.



COLLEGE OF THE SOUTHWEST HOBBS AND CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

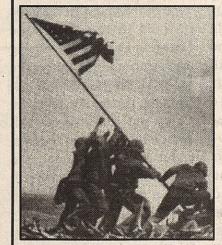
The Hatton W. Sumners Speaker Series Lessons in Leadership

featuring

James Bradley

Author of The New York Times #1 Bestseller Flags of Our Fathers

Monday, January 29, 2001



7:30 p.m. **Tydings Auditorium Hobbs High School Campus** 1300 East Scharbauer Hobbs, New Mexico \$5 per person

Advance tickets may be purchased at: COLLEGE OF THE SOUTHWEST 6610 LOVINGTON HIGHWAY Hobbs, New Mexico 88240 or by calling (505) 392-6561

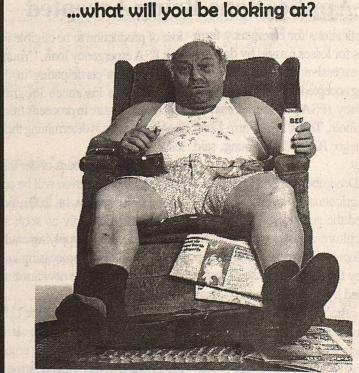


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Plans for 49th **Junior Livestock Show Almost Wrapped Up**

The 49th annual Yoakum FFA. County Junior Livestock Show will kickoff Thursday, January 25, and wind up Sat- reminded all 4-H and FFA exurday, January 27 at the 1:30 hibitors the deadline for ex-PM Premium Sale. FFA and hibitor fees is Monday, Janu-4-H students from Denver ary 15th, and they must City and Plains will exhibit their rabbits, goats, lambs, FFA Advisor by that date. 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

Chris Chambliss, General Superintendent of the show, contact their County Agent or

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

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.

* 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

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 Missippi installed at New Tex Gin.

Oct. 25 - Bids for new, four doctor clinic accepted by Comissioners 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 presedential election?" Boy, did it ever!

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

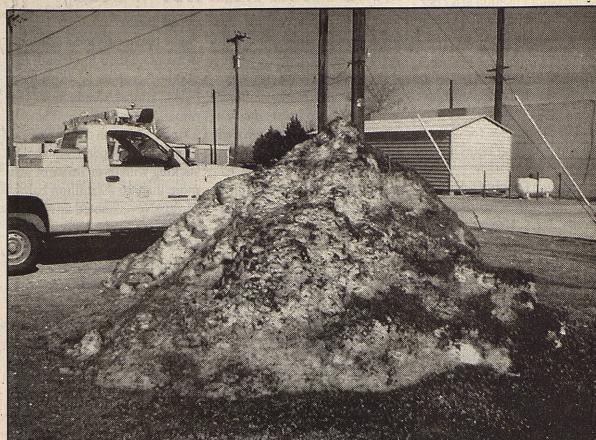
Ty Earl Powell, Pct. 3 Commis-cember 31, 2000. Constable, Pct. 2.

Denver City.

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

January 1- HAPPY 2001!





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

Nov. 15 - New faces in county ** This article, written by W.H. Graham, apoffices; Don Corzine, Sheriff, peared in The Lovington Daily Leader on De-

sioner, Betty Rivas, Tax Asses- First, the bad news. There's a bump in the road sor/Collector, Gordon Sefcik, ahead, and not much we can do to avoid it. The good news is that after we get over the bump, Nov. 22 - Texas Historical So-times should be good for America - including ciety grants historical road our part of the Southwest - for the next ten years. marker at site of former Center In a nutshell, that's the view of Fred Di Ulus, Point School between here and 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 Millenium, and the bginning 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

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.

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

"I think Greenspan is absolutley 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."

not arrest the slide.

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 oile" is certainly bullish" Di Ulus has just returned from a visit to the 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



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

	Median Earnings Texas United States Texas Versus U							
	HS	BA+	Difference	HS	BA+	Difference	Ratio (%)	or consensus contract contract
1992	\$18,589	\$37,178	\$18,589	\$20,851	\$38,885	\$18,034	103.1%	
1993	\$19,184	\$36,111	\$16,927	\$20,598	\$38,671	\$18,073	93.7%	
994	\$18,696	\$37,392	\$18,696	\$21,180	\$38,208	\$17,029	109.8%	102.29
995	\$18,186	\$37,361	\$19,175	\$21,542	\$38,286	\$16,744	114.5%	106.09
996	\$19,748	\$36,378	\$16,630	\$21,724	\$38,536	\$16,812	98.9%	107.79
997	\$19,399	\$36,918	\$17,519	\$21,953	\$39,415	\$17,463	100.3%	104.69
998	\$20,850	\$40,000	\$19,150	\$22,425	\$41,028	\$18,603	102.9%	100.79
Average	\$19,236	\$37,334	\$18,098	\$21,467	\$39,004	\$17,537	103.3%	104.29
			М	ean Earnin	ជ្ញេន			
	6.0	<u>Texas</u>		<u>United States</u>			Texas Versus US	
	HS	BA+	Difference	HS	BAs	Difference	Ratio (%)	3-Yr A
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%	
994	\$22,259	\$43,111	\$20,852	\$23,790	\$47,671	\$23,881	87.3%	90.49
1995	\$22,477	\$48,032	\$25,555	\$24,412	\$46,525	\$22,112	115.6%	97.19
	\$25,080	\$49,579	\$24,499	\$24,618	\$47,462	\$22,844	107.2%	103.49
1996	\$24,320	\$52,015	\$27,695	\$24,798	\$48,585	\$23,787	116.4%	113?19
			400 000	\$24.999	\$50,221	\$25,222	121.8%	115.29
1996 1997 1998	\$24,143	\$54,872	\$30,729	974'222	1900,001	940,444	121.070	110.67

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.

To protect, serve and pave

than tripled while spending for public

\$5.84

\$6.25

education nearly doubled.

Health and human services

Function area

Public education

Higher education

Transportation

\$1.22

\$0.54

\$0.97

Natural resources

General government

\$2.95

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

\$3.50

\$2.71

\$3.90

Public safety and corrections

\$3.20

In the 1990s, Texas increased spending on

transportation, public safety and other needs.

Spending on health and human services more

Amounts (in billions)

\$12.17

Fiscal 1990

State Totals

Fiscal 1990 - \$23.01

Fiscal 1999 - \$48.36

\$17.56

Cotton Market Weekly

January 4, 2001-Printing this the estimate. 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 esti-

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

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 market this week was a dismal more than 16.89 million bales. BridgeNews quoted an official Based on Census Bureau data, at the agricultural division of the National Cotton Council NBS saying its higher output (NCC) put annualized mill use estimate is attributed to ex- at 9.12 million bales. One yeild, BridgeNews reported.

Meanwhile, traders in China tributed to the fall in mill use. 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 In Monday's session of Complanted area is seen as roughly missioners Court, the followin line with the 1999 acerage, ing names were submitted to sources told BridgeNews. serve as the Yoakum County Other sources noted unfavor- Historical Committee. able weather in northern and Plains Residents;

visory Committee (ICAC) Powell. plugged the NBS figure into its Denver City Residents; cotton production will total and Vera Bennett.

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 domestic consumption report. panded cotton area and im- trader stated the report was proved the planted area and worse than expected with declining consumer demand at-

Court Proposes Historical Committee **Members**

eastern China during October Mary Jo St. Romain, Mattie should have cut yields. USDA's Field, Linda Powell, Johnnie L. latest estimate of Chinese cot- Fitzgerald, Brenda Canada, ton production was 18 million Laverne Newsom, Christine Henard, Janelle Brantley, The International Cotton Ad- Latrell McDonnell and Wilma

latest estimates showing world Euple Taylor, Hazel M. Akin

TDA prepares for 77th Legislative Session

Statewide water policy and redistricting will be two areas of focus during the 77th legislative session which started January 9. Both issues will have major impacts on rural Texas and agriculture, says Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs. "All of Texas cannot prosper unless rural Texas prospers," Combs said. "Water and redistricting are vitally important to rural economic development and agriculture. The Texas Department of Agriculture will be closely following these issues as well as other areas during the session.

WATER: During the past year, groundwater stakeholders including officials from groundwater districts as representatives from business, agriculture and nature conservation groups met to form a consensus plan for improving groundwater management in Texas. The resulting report includes statutory recommendations to be presented to the Legislature for consideration. They range from repealing the junior rights provisions now in effect for interbasin water transfers to providing groundwater districts with the authority to charge an export fee for water used outside the district

REDISTRICTING: The Legislature will re-draw boundaries for legislative, congressional, judicial and State Board of Education districts. Preliminary census figures indicate about 85% of the state's residents live in urban areas, compared with 15 % living in rural and agricultural areas

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: An initiative to promote the formation of agricultural development districts statewide is expected in the session. As proposed, agricultural development districts will allow producers to operate or contract for the building and operation of an ag processing facility, such as a beef packing plant. The districts will be able to issue tax free revenue bonds to obtain capital as well as access to other , tax incentives. The 76th session created such a district in Chambers County. The Texas Ag Finance Authority will also seek to broaden its rural economic development scope by issuing revenue bonds to provide financial assistance in rural areas for economic development, providing access for rural political subdivisions, and adding a new rural development loan project category to the Linked Deposit Program with a \$5 million allocation.

Bridging Educational Gap Means Closing Digital Divide

By Annette T. Griffin, Ed.D.

they receive information. Inventions such nections at school and at home. as the printing press, the phonograph and The Vivian Field Middle School staff is coveries. They definitely have influenced excited about learning, and they are the instructional methods teachers use in stretching themselves academically like

changing how all of us access, analyze and duce the world of technology to their famcan use technology as a tool to support funities

Learning public schools selected to introduce stu- achievement but families as well. 24 hours/7 days a week.

tops as well as interactive software and expand the use of all types of technology nostic testing, can help teachers pinpoint Through the ages, inventions have mathematics, science and social studies.

never before. We are witnessing an Today, technology and the Internet are increase in self-esteem as students intro-

such access is one of our state's greatest body being American Indian, Asian, to other Texas students. African-American or Hispanic. Just over

Farmers Branch Independent School resources are available, technology can throughout their lives. District (C-FB ISD) is one of the 13 Texas significantly impact not only student In 2003, the state's testing program will

learning by providing technology access, Tapscott says today's generation is experi- lum. From elementary to high school, stu- ent of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD encing the birth of a new medium - tech- dents can benefit from more educational and was named 2000 Texas Through the In-Step Program at Vivian nology. Because today's young people are technology. Interactive web-based Superintendent of the Year by the Texas Field Middle School, students receive lap- "the digital generation," we need to instructional materials, with built-in diag- Association of School Boards.

supplemental software in the areas of in our schools. Through expanded technol- an individual student's problems and ogy, public schools can continue to move strengths and give him or her more pracchanged the way people learn and the way They also receive high-speed Internet con- from a "one-size-fits-all" curriculum to a tice in areas where it is most needed. customized one for individual students.

learning environments.

Texas must build a technology infration. structure so our students can develop skills thesize knowledge, and evaluate results. pilot the In-Step Program because of its tools. Increasing the availability of tech-subject-area experts. As a veteran educator, I believe it is imper-diverse student population. Today, 958 nology in these areas of our state will

Eighteen months ago, the Texas 48% of the families are identified as low-dent achievement, bridging the digital that all Texas students have access to tech-Education Agency (TEA) launched a pilot income households. In all, 48% of these divide is essential. Technology can play an nology so they can obtain higher and highprogram, Texas Educational Technology students use English as a second language. integral role in our state meeting the chaler levels of achievement. Technology is a If public schools effectively use tech- lenges of raising the achievement bar for powerful tool that teachers can use to Opportunities for Texas Studies. Through nology as an instructional tool, we can students. Every student in the state of improve education and student performthis pilot program, TEA is determining bridge the educational divide. The In-Step Texas must be well prepared for the world ance. Texas must develop a statewide techhow the latest technology can boost stu- program and the work of the Vivian Field of tomorrow. Higher standards mean that nology infrastructure that will provide dent learning and achievement. Vivian Middle School staff and community illus- we want all children to excel and master technology access to all public schools, Field Middle School in the Carrollton- trate to our great state of Texas that if the the academic concepts that they will use students and staff.

assess at a higher level and will be aligned dents to the concept of anytime, anywhere In his book, Growing Up Digital, Don with the state's more challenging curricu-

Not only will students benefit directly Texas public schools can promote the from interactive materials and the necesmicroscope opened up new worlds of seeing remarkable benefits. Students importance of life-long learning through sary high-speed Internet connections, but words, sounds and sights. Education has access information more rapidly, which technology. Educators already see tech-students also will benefit if their teachers truly benefited from these and other dis- increases their time on task. They are nology as a powerful tool that allows them have access to on-line, interactive subjectto transform their classrooms to interactive specific training. Access to such training will help teachers provide better instruc-

Texas and the United States are facing that will prepare them for the future. a critical shortage - shortage of certified distribute information. In public school ilies, many of whom do not have home Public education can profit from technolo-teachers, especially teachers certified in classrooms, educators are finding that 21st computers. Through the district, the stugy just as our state's economy has; however certain subject areas. Educational technolcentury technology can revolutionize dents' families have access to free training, er, children living in Texas rural and under- ogy could provide school districts across instruction. Texas public school students which has opened up employment oppor- privileged urban areas are in danger of our state more access to training. By using behind educationally and eco- such technology as video conferencing their work as individuals or groups. With Diversity is valued within C-FB ISD. nomically because their schools may not school districts with limited resources technology, they can solve problems, syn- We selected Vivian Field Middle School to have the necessary technology access and could have access to master teachers or

Texas public education has made great ative that all Texas public school students sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade students allow public education facilities to keep strides in improving student achievement have access to technology. To provide attend the school, with 67% of the student pace with the technology already available because we have set well-defined goals for quality education. Texas needs continued As public schools work to improve stu-well-defined technology goals to ensure

Dr. Annette T. Griffin is superintend-

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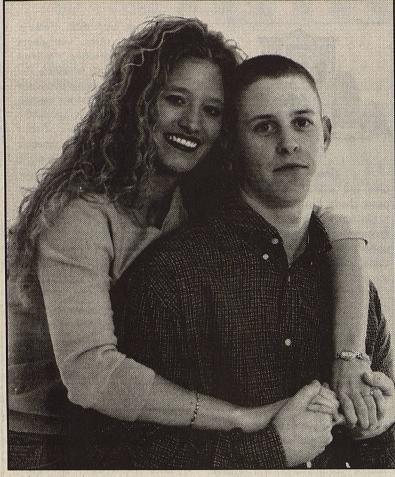
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"BOSS" RED LEATHER GLOVES \$2.95 Pair **WD-40** \$1.98 **BROWN JERSEY GLOVES** \$.99

Lifelines

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 fiancee is a 1997 graduate from Lake View High School and is employed by Rosa's Cafe.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor.

Sincerely,

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!

Mary Dale and Bud Forbus

Little Dribblers Meeting

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

Note

We have added Jermoe and Jeannette Head to Operation **Christmas Card**





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

Plains, Texas

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

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 alll 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

Contest entrants are required to prepare responses to several essay questions on energy and cooperatie-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

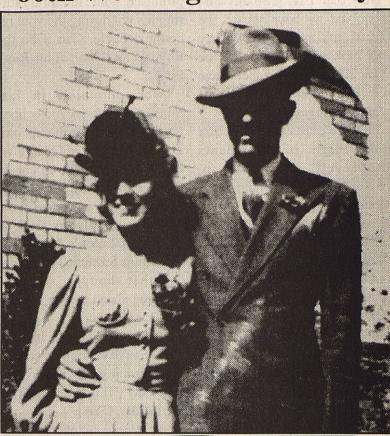
Card of Thanks

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

Ne son's Prescription Pharmacy "Your Business is always appreciated" Use our Toll-Free Number 1-800-658-9604 For All Your Pharmacy Needs!! 805 Tahoka Rd. Brownfield, TX

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 greatgrandchildren.

Market Gardening Course Offered

A continuing education course, 747-0576 ext. 4681. The course Market Gardening For Farmer will be taught by Ken Markets, will be taught Febru- Hargesheimer ary 19, 20, 22, 23, 2001 at South <minifarns@aol,com> or 806-Plains College, 1302 Main 744-8517. Street, Lubbock, TX. The course will cover fertilizers, South Plains have the custommulches, crops, winter protec- ers but need farmers to grow tion, marketing, irrigation, etc. and sell. The average gross Videos will be shown and sales is \$8,000 per acre across books, magazines, seed cata- the USA. Besides the usual

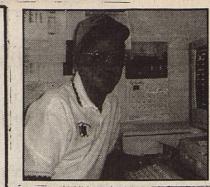
The farmer's markets on the logs, etc. will be displayed. vegetables, there is a market for For information or to enroll or organic beef, range raised eggs to request catalogs call 806- and fryers, raw milk, etc.



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

From The Hack



tory, and we have started the REAL millineum, I feel I may not have seen it ALL, but the Rev has lost some of his Rev? year 2000 makes me feel I have Pity. certainly seen ENOUGH of certain things.

and reign of Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush Sr., and Clinton. Everyone of those elections were virtually non-events compared to the pre-election cam-George W. The months of frantic stumping about the country by the would be Chief Executives reminded me of either a Bailey Circus, an old Marx vernacular, CYA). Brothers black and white, or a Three Stooges re-run, I'm not sure which.

Both of the two finalists participated in the comedy of errors; Gore persisted in posing as a modern day Galileo, Leonard de Vinci, and Einstein, all wrapped in one brilliant package. George W verbally shot himself in the feet so many to the Immaculate Conception he didn't hemorrhage to death. Once again the national media covered the entire campaign and election fairl and honestlythey were fairly certain Gore would triumph, and they honestly didn't have a clue what was really going on election night.

sleep, tossing and turning, wor- Card." Jesse Jackson predicted, no,

> TERRY COUNTY **TRACTOR**

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MULTI - PERIL

Now that Y2K is finally his- promised, while in Florida stirring his pot during the vote recount debacle. Can it be the

Sunday's Lubbock A-J echoed I have witnessed the election my feelings about the upcoming inauguration of George W; Molly Ivins, tongue in cheek, referred to Bill Clinton thusly; "No matter how you feel about him, you can always think of 2000 as Clinton's last year." Columnist Suzanne Fields echoed that thought, saying " paigns and final decision for Looking ahead is sure sweeter than looking back."

For right now, I agree, ladies... but I reserve the right to change my opinion down the road if Ringling Brothers-Barnum & necessary (This is called, in the Batman, Robin, and the Phan-

> I recently violated my own, self-imposed rule of quickly, politely but firmly saying no to any kind of solicitations delivered via the telephone. It turned L.A. out OK, however.

The self assured voice said, "Mr. Dyer, I am following up on a recent mailing we sent you in which we offered to issue times it's a miracle comparable you a pre-approved Visa credit card. Do you recall receiving our offer?"

> "Oh, I'm terribly sorry. Is your address still Box 179, Plains, Texas?"

"No. It's Box 971."

"I'm terribly sorry for our mistake. May I tell you a bit about our fantastic offer?"

I have lost hours and hours of "Only if it's a Gold Visa

rying myself sick, when are the Pause. "Uh, Mr. Dyer, our massive civil disturbances Gold cards require very substantial incomes to qualify. Do you have that substantial an income?"

last year."

A longer pause. "That's pretty substantial. Mr. Dyer. Our initial credit report investigation indicates quite a bit less income."

"Of course it does. You think I go around telling the truth to everyone, including IRS? I don't even tell the truth about that to my wife or God. How much interest will you charge for my Gold Card?"

"Well, Mr. Dyer, we will give you the first six months at an amazingly low 4.9%, and the

CROP & CROP HAIL

next 18 months at an equally amazing low 9.9%."

"Hog swill! I borrow money at my bank for 2.73%!"

Now a really serious pause.

"That's a very low interest rate, Mr. Dyer, how do you do that?" "My banker is an idiot. I hope

his boss never finds out what he charges me. He'll probably up the interest to 3.76%."

I could hear heavy breathing on the other end of the line. The voice said, "3.76 is still a very low rate."

"Yeah, his boss owns three or Two columnists in last four banks, and he's a bigger idiot than my own bank idiot. Do I get the Gold Card?"

> "Uh. well, I'll have to get back to you, but while I have you on the phone, could you possibly give me the name of your

> "Certainly. It's the West Bank Of The Pecos."

> The following click was extremely satisfying.

A few things I mightily worry

Why did the Lone Ranger, tom wear masks? Shyness? Modesty? Severe Acne? I know one thing, wearing a mask, dressed as they were, they wouldn't last long today in downtown Dallas, Houston or

Do you think Spiderman survived todays pesticides?

How did Superman really fly? You know, no propeller in eveidence on his hunk body. No jet exhaust I ever saw escaping from the only portal on his body I can imagine being feasible.

Why doesn't Motel 6 change it's name? You know, they've been victimized by inflation too. I guess Motel 43.99 wouldn't market too well.

Why are all the kids today bonkers over these shiny scooters. They were around when I was a kid and I hated them. I detested putting one foot on the thing then working like Hell with the other to make it go. I wanted a bicycle, so I could make BOTH feet work like Hell to make it go.

" Three million and change A real puzzler; Who coined the phrase, "I gotta BARF."

Why do people in Texas say, it's too cold to snow, when the temperature is twenty or so degrees. I saw a news clip the other day showing a scene in Siberia when it was snowing. It was also 70 Below Zero!

AA/AL-ANON Meeting Alcoholic's Anonymous meeting will be held Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:00 pm. Al-Anon Mondays at 7:00 pm. Pate Trucking Co., 214 Plains Hwy. Denver City, Texas.

Call 592-8660 or 592-3455.

* House For Sale* PRICE REDUCED 4 Br., 2 Bath 1508 Ave. G For appointment to see. Call Tim 456-7195 or 662-334-4416

Large House for Sale 2-3 Br., Lg. Den, Lg. Fenced backyard on corner lot 1101 17th St. 456-7110

If you know the answer to any of these perplexing puzzles, please don't call me. I am already sick of the subject.

A guy sticks his head in a barber shop and asks, "How long before I can get a haircut?" The barber looks around, says," About two hours." A few days later, the same guy

haircut. Again, the barber says, " when he left here?" tells a friend, "Hey Bill, follow that

sticks his head in the door and again guy and see where he goes. He asks how long before he can get a keeps asking how long to wait for haircut. The very busy barber looks a haircut but always leaves." Bill around, says "About 3 hours." A follows the guy, and awhile later few days pass, and the guy returns returns laughing hysterically. The and asks how much of a wait for a barber asks, "Where did he go

At least two hours," and the guy Bill, Tears of mirth in his again leaves. Puzzled, the barber eyes, replied, "Your house!"

And How Would You Like To Pay For This Purchase?

To most, choosing a form of payment at the cash register does not take much thought. It depends on what you have - cash, checks, credit cards and even debit cards are alternatives these days. However, the wrong payment option could mean heavy costs. To avoid mistakes, it would be best to be familiar with all payment options to make practical decisions that can save time, money and inconvenience. The Independent Bankers Association of Texas offers this list of the potential risks and rewards of payment options.

Cash · Pluses. Basic consumer payment in cash is simple, involving no fees or other time consuming steps. It's accepted by other consumers as well as by all merchants. And because cash is money you already have you can't get in debt from using it. Cash is also anonymous. · Potential Problems. If you don't keep good records and receipts on cash transactions, it will be hard to

spending. Bills and coins are also easily lost or stolen. · Consumer Protections. There are limited regulations for the purchase of a product that can turn bad. You cannot stop payment, as with a check or dispute payment,

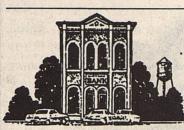
resolve disputes or track your

as with a credit card. · Remember. Keep receipts, warranties and documentation for the purpose of explanation if needed in a dispute.

Personal Checks

· Pluses. Checks are easy to use and are frequently accepted by merchants and individuals. With a check, you can avoid overextending family finances and can build a good payment history. Some accounts may earn interest and funds are insured up to \$100,000 at federally insured institutions. Checks can also provide a comfortable alternative for those who are unsure of electronic payments and debit cards.

Potential Problems. Some



Tips from your Community Banker

time and money. Not to mention, paper checks can be lost or stolen. · Consumer Protections. Checking accounts are covered by state law, under the Uniform Commercial Code, which can limit you losses if someone steals your checks and forges your signature. This code also grants the right to stop payment on a check. Canceling payment will require you to act quickly before the check has cleared and will force you to defend your action when the merchant demands payment. Know

· Remember. Make sure you are still getting a good deal on your checking account, in terms of fees, minimum balance requirements and interest benefits. It is important to use your checkbook responsibly by keeping your account balanced and monitoring for errors and unauthorized transactions.

that stopping payment does not stop

Credit Cards

your liability.

· Pluses. The most obvious benefit is that you are able to buy goods today and pay later. And don't worry, plastic is widely accepted at neighborhood stores, while traveling, on the Internet, through mail and even by telephone. Credit cards serve as a support in emergencies, offering funds that you might not have, for unexpected medical care or automobile repairs. Many card issuers extend rewards for purchases, such as cash rebates and bonus points for airplane tickets. In addition, credit cards are safer to carry than cash and can be easily replaced when lost or stolen.

· Potential Problems. Interest charges and fees can add up. When merchants do not accept checks. you pay interest on a purchase, you immediately deducted from your Writing and mailing checks takes will pay more for the item than if you account. Keep good records.

were to use hard cash. Because credit cards offer consumers immediate satisfaction without immediate financial penalties, the chances for spontaneous purchases increases and if you are not careful, you could rack up a sizable debt. · Consumer Protections. Credit

cards offer the best legal remedies against billing errors, damaged merchandise and other buyer concerns. If your credit card is lost or stolen, federal laws limit your losses to a maximum of \$50. Another protection allows consumers to withhold payment on

billing disputes. · Remember. Try to pay off your credit card balances each month so you can avoid or minimize interest charges. If you expect to carry a balance most months, use a card with a low Annual Percentage Rate and a grace period for new purchases before finance charges are imposed. Monitor fees and service charges regularly and be aware of the potential to become overextended with debt.

Debit Cards · Pluses. Debit cards are easier and faster than writing a check and are a good way to pay for purchases without having to pay interest charges. Importantly, safety features are included in the payment option. On-line cards require a Personal Identification Number and off-line cards, known as "check cards," require a signature, as do personal

checks. · Potential Problems. Debit cards are not accepted as payment by individuals and some small businesses. Funds are deducted from accounts so quickly, it is unlikely to stop a payment in a

· Consumer Protections. As with credit cards, a "check card" will generally hold a \$50 limit on losses if your credit card is lost or stolen. In the event of an unauthorized transfer, it is important to promptly notify your card issuer.

· Remember. Transactions are

Provided as a public service by the Independent Bankers Association of Texas (IBAT)

NOTICE OF PETITION

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) has filed a petition with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission to establish a surcharge to recover lost revenues and increased costs associated with Expanded Local Calling Service (ELCS) petitions for several Texas ALLTEL exchanges. The submission of this petition is based on the Commission's

ELCS permits an exchange to expand its local calling scope to include one or more exchanges if customers approve by ballot the payment of an ELCS fee in lieu of long distance charges. The costs and lost revenues associated with this petition are those not recoverable through the ELCS fee. A portion of this surcharge is to recover ELCS costs associated with routes implemented prior to September 1, 1996, and will replace the surcharge approved in January 1999 that expires in February 2001. The remaining portion of this surcharge will recover ELCS costs associated with new routes

If the Texas ALLTEL petition is approved, the company's local exchange will be assessed an additional monthly surcharge of \$2.84 per business line, \$1.42 per residential line and \$0.50 per each Tel-Assistance customers per access line. The resulting total ELCS surcharge will be \$4.44 per business line, \$2.22 per residential line and \$0.78 per Tel-Assistance line. If approved by the Commission, the additional monthly surcharge will begin, on an interim basis, with the February 21, 2001, billing cycle, subject to refund all or part of the charge if the Commission does not finally approve

he proposed surcharge The net annual effect on the revenues of Texas ALLTEL will be zero since the requested surcharge replaces lost evenues and reimburses Texas ALLTEL for the direct costs of service associated with all ELCS petitions. The estimated total lost revenues and increased costs Texas ALLTEL seeks to recover through this proceeding is \$51,634 monthly. If you have questions about this charge or would like further information, please call Texas ALLTEL at

-800-452-5354 The Public Utility Commission has assigned Project No. 23301 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene or comment in these proceedings should notify the Commission by January 21, 2001, the deadline for intervention. All requests to intervene should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission's Office of Consumer Affairs at (512) 936-7120. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512) 936-7136.

AVISO DE PETICIÓN

Texas ALLTEL, Inc. (Texas ALLTEL) ha presentado una petición oficial ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Tejas (Public Utility Commission) (Comisión) para establecer un recargo para recuperar los ingresos perdidos y los costos incrementados asociados con las peticiones de Ampliación del Servicio de Llamadas Locales (ELCS) para varias de las áreas de Texas ALLTEL. Esta petición se presenta en base a la Regla Substantiva número 26.221.

La ELCS permite que un área amplie su alcance de llamadas locales para que incluyan una o más áreas, sólo si los dientes aprueban el pago de una tasa ELCS mediante una boleta en lugar de cargos por llamadas de larga distancia. Los costos y los ingresos perdidos relacionados a esta petición son aquellos que no son recuperables mediante la tasa ELCS. Una porción de este sobrecargo es para recuperar los costos del ELCS asociados con los trayectos interrumpidos antes del 1 de septiembre de 1996 y eemplazarán al sobrecargo aprobado en enero de 1999 el cual caduca en febrero de 2001. La porción restante de este sobrecargo es para recuperar los costos de ELCS asociados con los trayectos interrumpidos en el año 2000.

Si la solicitud de Texas ALLTEL es aprobada, el área local básica de la compañía recibirá un recargo mensual adiciona de \$2.84 para clientes comerciales, \$1.42 para clientes residenciales y \$0.50 para clientes de Tel-Assist, por línea de acceso. Esto hará que el recargo total de ELCS sea \$4.44 para clientes comerciales, \$2.22 para clientes residenciales y \$0.78 para Tel-Assist. Si la Comisión lo aprueba, el recargo mensual adicional comenzará, mientras tanto, con el ciclo defacturación del 21 de febrero de 2001 con un acuerdo de reembolso de la totalidad o parte del cargo si la Comisión no aprueba la tarifa.

El efecto anual neto sobre los ingresos de Texas ALLTEL será de cero ya que el sobrecargo solicitado reemplaza los ingresos perdidos y reembolsa a Texas ALLTEL por el aumento del costo directo del servicio asociado con todas las solicitudes de ELCS. La cantidad total prevista de ingresos perdidos y aumento de costos que Texas ALLTEL desea recuperar a través de este proceso es de \$51,634 por mes.

Si tiene alguna pregunta con respecto a este cargo o si quisiera obtener información adicional, sirvase llamar a Texas ALLTEL al 1-800-452-5354.

La Comisión de Servicios Públicos ha asignado el Número de Proyecto 23301 a este proceso. Las personas nteresadas en participar o expresar algún comentario con respecto a este proceso deben notificar a la Comisión antes del 21 de anero del año 2001. Cualquier solicitud de participación debe ser enviada por correo a la Public Utility Commission of Texas, 1701 N. Congress Avenue, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, TX 78711-3326. Para obtener información sobre cómo participar, llame a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120. Aquellos individuos con problemas de oido o de nabla que tengan teléfonos teletipo pueden contactar a la Comisión al (512) 936-7136.

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