

Cowboy Country News

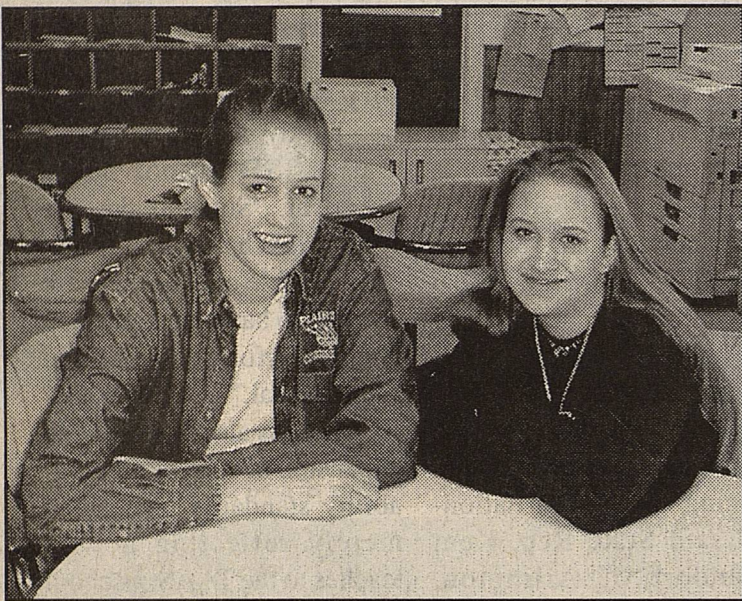
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Published each Wednesday in the county seat of Yoakum County, Plains, Texas

Volume V11, Issue 11, November 29, 2000



Two PHS students chosen for the Texas Aerospace Scholars Program



Annaliesa O'Quinn & Ragan McGinty

For the second consecutive year, Plains High students will take part in the demanding and prestigious Texas Aerospace Scholars (TAS) Program offered by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at Houston.

Gary Walker. Before attending the summer workshop on site program at NASA's Lyndon Johnson Space Center, the girls must complete a grueling series of computer on-line assignments. NASA requires the students to complete twelve assignment units, each assignment requiring one to two hours time on-line.

NASA educators will review all submitted assignments, and if either or both of the students are selected as a primary scholar for the workshop at the Space Center, they must also submit a final research and design project. Topics of the assignments include the space shuttle, space station, the moon and Mars.

If selected for the summer workshop, the girls will join a team of 32 other students who will work with an engineer and educator to complete a project on Mars exploration. If selected for the Space Center workshop, they will attend presentations by astronauts, take part in hands-on scientific projects, tour Space Center Houston and the Houston Museum of Natural Science. They must also submit an evaluation of the complete TAS program. Aaron Cain, now a PHS Senior, was nominated by Representative Walker to attend last year's TAS program.

Hospital posts good quarterly report

Precincts 3 and 4 swap work areas

Yoakum County Hospital Administrator Ed Rogers and Controller Clay Taylor presented a quarterly report of hospital operations in this Monday's session of Commissioners Court. The report showed the average daily patient census as of September 30, 2000 at 3.1 patients, up from the 1999 average of 2.7 patients per day.

Total admissions to the report date were 308 patients, up from 263 in 1999. Emergency room visits were also impressively up, 3,925 compared to 3,463 patients last year. Physical therapy patients and treatments both showed notable increases, and surpassed the goals set in this year's operating budget.

Hospital revenues as of September 30 were \$5,443,69, compared to \$4,835,137 in 1999, an increase of \$620,862. Net income stood at \$9,490, over \$4,000 more than last year at the same time. Since the start of year 2000, the local Plains Family Clinic has shown a dramatic increase in the number of billable patients, almost 1,400 visits.

In other hospital business, Rogers asked the courts approval to modify certain hospital personnel policies, which would reward nurses and technicians by reducing their number of sick leave days. Rogers said he hoped encouraging those employees to cut down on absenteeism would ease the chronic shortage of trained personnel most small town hospitals face. The employees would still be able to accumulate sick leave days like other county employees.

Commissioner Jim Barron, who will retire at the end of this year, told the court he had talked with Pct. 4 Commissioner Jack Cobb and Pct. 3 Commissioner-elect Ty Earl Powel about changes in operations at the local rodeo arena, livestock barns and county airport. In the past, Precinct 4 personnel had been responsible for the upkeep of the arena and livestock barns, with Precinct 3 maintaining facilities at the airport. Powel and Cobb agreed on a change in their operating areas, and Precinct 4 will now operate at the airport, with Precinct 3 responsible for the arena and barns.

Alcohol cases heard in County Court

Four alcohol related offenses were heard in the November 22 session of County Court. Judge Dallas Brewer was the presiding officer, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the state.

Gildario Balderama-Sigala pled guilty to a first DWI, breath test .121/.132. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for four days served, must pay court costs of \$225, and complete the first offenders program or have his license suspended 180 days.

Bryan Dee Justice pled guilty to purchasing or furnishing alcohol to a minor. He was fined \$200 and must pay \$210 court costs.

Martin Mendoza pled guilty to an DWI offense. A 30 day jail sentence had been met with 42 days served, and he must pay \$225 court costs. A resisting arrest cause was adjudicated.

Jason Wayne Allen pled guilty to a third minor consuming alcoholic beverage charge. An 180 jail sentence was suspended and probated 24 months. He was fined \$250, and must pay \$210 court costs. He will be jailed 72 hours, with credit for 16 hours served. He must also perform 50 hours community service.

Unusual Bike, Interesting Trip



Last Tuesday afternoon, the gentleman shown here was spotted coming into town from the east on this strange looking bicycle, and when he pulled behind Lowe's, our interest was piqued enough to stop and ask the rider a few basic questions.

Charles DiBella is on the homeward bound leg of a bike journey which started in Flagstaff, Arizona September 21, destination the Ozarks in Arkansas. With Tuesday being the day we print CCN, there was not enough time for a lengthy visit with Charles, but he furnished his e-mail and web site address, from which material for this article was assembled.

Di Bella, in his forties, is founder and director of Another Byte, a non-profit organization which has been furnishing free computers and technical services to people and organizations by re-cycling used computers and equipment. He said he normally visits public libraries in towns where he stops and furnishes information about his organizations re-cycling program, and he visited our local library Tuesday afternoon.

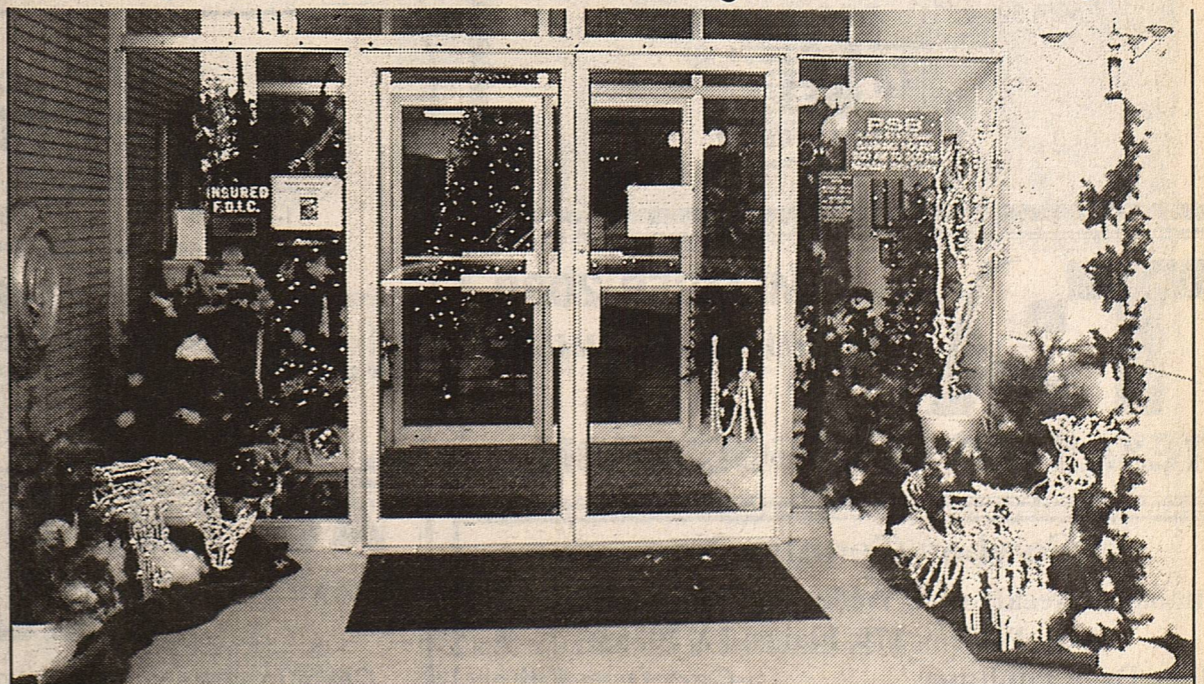
He maintains a travelogue on the web site detailing progress on his trip. The Lightning Stealth brand of recumbent bike he rides carries everything needed for the grueling trip, including clothing, tent, sleeping bag, food, cooking gear, and tools. His log details some nasty weather he has encountered, and at least one near disaster; In Oklahoma, riding on the extreme outside of a highway, with red safety flag flying, he was struck in the neck and shoulder by a door side mirror on a car passing him. The driver stopped, and told Charles, "I just didn't see you." He was bruised, but not seriously injured.

Some nights he camped out on the trip, but many days was invited to spend the night with hospitable strangers.

Like all bikers, DiBella's daily progress is governed by weather, and breakdowns. He said he can make up to 50 miles per day, "But not bucking the head winds you've had here in West Texas the last few days." He hopes to be home in Arizona in mid-December.

*Turn to Page 2 for footnote to this story

'Tis The Season (Almost)



Plains State Bank was the first commercial firm to dress up with festive Christmas decorations, and a few residences are also ready for the Holiday Season. Santa Claus will visit here Wednesday, November 29 in Pioneer Plaza Park. The Chamber of Commerce annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony will start at 5:45 P.M. The Cowboy Band will perform a medley of Christmas tunes, and Bill Wright, Pastor of First Baptist Church will deliver the Christmas Story. All children who bring at least one can of food for the Christmas Assistance Program will be able to have their photo made with Santa Claus, who is scheduled to arrive after the tree lighting and Christmas Story.

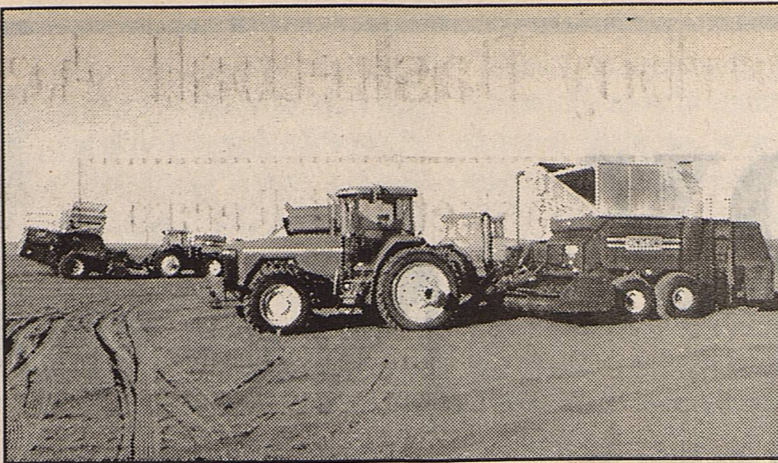
From Page 1, "Bike Story"

** After completing this article Thursday morning, CCN received an e-mail note from Charles DiBella. He reported he was invited to bed and board with locals Evertt and Estelle McAdams, and a warm house and bed was a great improvement over camping out in cold weather.

DiBella also said after considerable soul searching he made

the decision to call a halt to his trip. A friend was supposed to be in Plains Wednesday evening to pick him up for the trip home. "The weather is just too cold, and I understand more snow is on the way. It's just too difficult to fight the elements and have a good time too."

We concur - a warm car ride to Scottsdale sure beats pedaling a bike this time of year.



This peanut harvesting equipment sitting idle was a common sight last week. Recent rain, snow, heavy fog and drizzle have seriously delayed harvest of the legumes, as well as the 2000 cotton crop.

National Home Care Month Finds Welfare Of Elderly and Disabled At Risk In Texas

As the country celebrates National Home Care Month in November, the home care industry in Texas and its 130,000 elderly and disabled Medicaid clients are facing a crisis. Wages paid to home care attendants, set by the state, are so low it is becoming very difficult to hire and retain people who provide care to these clients in their homes.

"The result of not being able to hire and keep attendants is that the Medicaid clients they serve may be forced to seek care at emergency rooms in charitable hospitals or prematurely enter costly nursing homes," said Anita Bradberry, Executive Director of the Texas Association for Home Care. "At a time when the Federal government has instructed State Medicaid programs to de-institutionalize those persons who can and choose to be served in the community, it is difficult to staff the clients currently enrolled in the programs," Bradberry said.

Bradberry says the association will ask the Texas Legislature to raise home care attendant wages during the next legislative session. The legislature convenes in January 2001.

Bradberry has already testified before a joint hearing of the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor's Budget Office this fall on the issue.

"Our research shows neighboring states pay higher wages to attendants than Texas. Currently, the average wage in Texas is about \$6.00 per hour. An increase of at least \$1.00 per hour is needed to provide the quality of care our clients deserve," said Bradberry.

Home care attendants go into the homes of frail, elderly or disabled Medicaid clients to help them with daily living tasks such as meal preparation, bathing, dressing, assistance with medication, and transfer or ambulation. Many health care professionals say individuals enjoy a better quality of life if they can stay in their homes with help from a caregiver.

"National Home Care Month presents an excellent opportunity for our lawmakers and opinion leaders to recommit to these vital services that help support individuals and families in their homes. Raising the pay of home care attendants is not just the tight thing to do, it also makes good economic sense," concluded Bradberry.

Art Association Honors Helen Hunter



Yoakum County Art Association honored Helen Hunter at a special meeting held on November 16 at the Old Courthouse Clubroom in Plains. Helen and her husband Ed moved to Plains in 1956. She taught school in Denver City and was an active Yoakum County Library supporter, creating most of the library bulletin board displays the last 20 years. Her love and inclusion of birds in her art will be remembered. She will be at home at 1110 S. Hwy. 80, Box 1, Space 129, Benson, AZ 85602. Jimmie Bayer organized the money tree gift and served refreshments. It was sadly voted

to sell the art building and property on Avenue G to the city of Plains for the construction site of the new fire station. Members agreed they have constructively used the Old First Christian Church building for 20 years, but could not keep up with the repairs, nor afford to refurbish the facility. Plains Lions Club will use an air conditioner donated to them from the building. Another air conditioner, pews, podium, antique display and other items will be sold. The annual Christmas Party will be held December 8th at Jeannette and Jerome Head's home. Couples are invited.

Education Reform Caucus Unveils Legislative Proposals

-The Three R's of Education Reform designed to build on state's educational progress-

Outlining what they call *The Three R's of Education Reform*, a group of education reform advocates recently unveiled a series of legislative proposals to raise the quality of education in the state even further.

The Texas Education Reform Caucus—a group of classroom teachers, school administrators, parents, policymakers and business leaders—has spent the past nine months reviewing the state's education system, debating new ideas and coming up with a list of suggestions to build upon the recent successes of Texas public schools.

Noting that significant progress has been made, but saying that the state must do even more, the caucus pointed to the numbers of students in low performing schools, teacher shortages and retention problems as some signs that additional work is needed.

"We have the country's best education accountability system. We have dedicated teachers. We have students who are outpacing their peers nationally," said State Rep. Kent Grusendorf of Arlington, founder of the caucus. "But we shouldn't let the progress of our recent past leave us complacent. As Texans, we can do even better."

"The fact is, the reforms we've implemented during the past decade are now shining a bright light on the work we need to do now," said Grusendorf, a member of the House Public Education Committee who has carried major school accountability measure in the House since 1989.

The three R's—recruit, report and reward—offer new approaches to help ensure that Texas students get the best education possible. The initiatives allow restructuring of low performing schools; reward teacher and school academic improvement; provide sign up

bonuses for teachers who transfer to low performing campuses; and support a statewide math initiative designed to improve student math scores.

Chief among the proposals are those that offer schools a chance to ease teacher shortages, which this school year will reach an estimated 45,000 out of a total teacher workforce of 250,000, according to the State Board of Educators Certification.

"We want to give local school districts the flexibility to find new ways to ensure that students have the most knowledgeable teachers on specific subjects," said caucus member Sandy Kress, a former Dallas ISD school board president. "Students deserve to be taught by the best teachers available and teachers are entitled to have the tools they need to perform at their highest potential."

The caucus also called for an expansion of current accountability standards. Instead of merely reflecting how it teaches to the TAAS, a school could show how well they rank outside of TAAS, such as readiness for college; foreign language; math/science proficiency; rankings on national tests and Advantage Placement and International Baccalaureate tests.

"There is no question that we have proposed strong measures for improvement," said Will Davis, a member of the State Board of Education. "Some may argue with the approach, priority or method of *The Three R's of Education Reform*. For us, the bottom line is we can do even more for our students, teachers and community."

The proposals will be presented to members of the Legislature for their consideration during next year's session.

Cotton ginning report not encouraging

Cotton producers across the High Plains have faced virtually every type adversity imaginable with the year 2000 crop; Lack of rain, excessive heat, some hail storms, high winds, then untimely rains and two early snowstorms, and insect

infestations. A survey of area cotton gins indicates the severity of Mother Nature's treatment.

Tokio CoOp Gin Tuesday morning had ginned 9,052 bales, and hope to reach a total of 12,000 bales. This compares

to 22,554 bales in 1999.

Yoakum County CoOp has produced 11,000 bales to date. They are hoping to reach a total of 20,000 bales, but Manager Chris Chambliss reported, "That's our goal, but the crop continues to deteriorate everyday." Last year they ginned 26,118 bales.

Sun Cot Gin ginned over 37,000 bales of cotton last year. To date, they have produced 21,500 bales, and are keeping their fingers crossed they will reach 25-26,000 bales.

New Tex Gin's report was no brighter. They have ginned 16,000 bales, and are hopeful they can produce 27,000 or a little more. Last year their production was 34,000 bales.

All gin personnel reported the quality of the 2000 crop is well down from the previous year. Excessive rain and snow have caused falling locks, some discoloring, lower micronaire counts and shorter staple than normal. Coupled with very low cotton prices, it has been a very tough year for producers.

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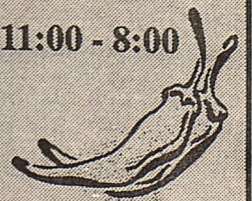
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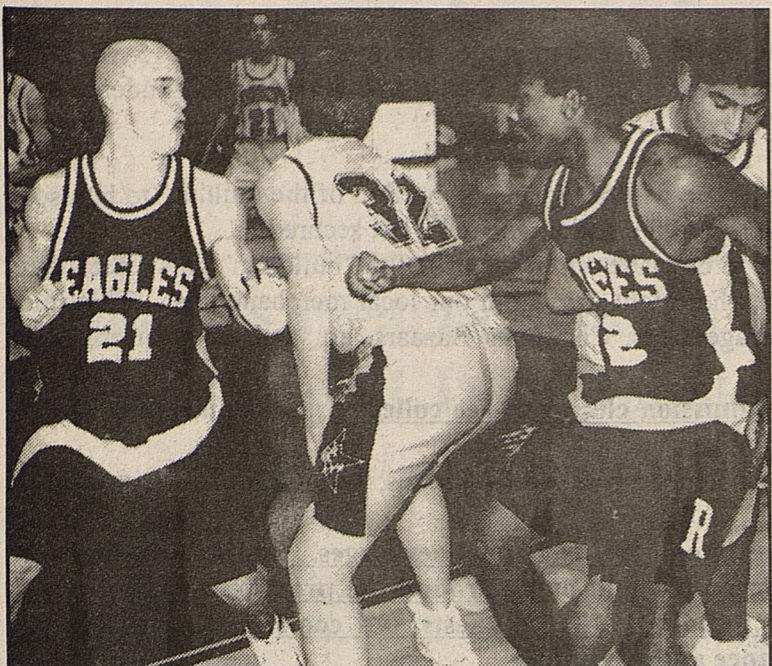
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JV, Varsity Cowboy Basketball Action Scenes



JV Kelly Bowers boxed in by Roosevelt Eagles



Fierce battle under the boards against the Eagles



Eddy Gallegos soars high for free throw rebound



Dustin Six looks for some help

PISD Basketball Recap

Jr. High:

7th Lady Wranglers - (Game report unavailable)

8th Lady Wranglers - The 8th girls took on Stanton last week and fell 33-20. Jamie Covarrubias was top scorer with 7 points, Marlie Diaz and Mayra Flores had 4 each, Jesenia Suarez and Lela Coronado 2 each, Jessica Henry 1. Coach Haragan said, "Stanton has been working on basketball since August, while we started the first of November. We lost, but I am really proud of our hustle and hard play."

7th Wranglers - All 10 Wranglers made the scoring column in their 30-22 win over Stanton last week. Michael Therwanger had 6 points, Blake Parrish, B.J. Lester and Abel Ramos 4 each, Casson Curtis and T.J. Cordova 3 each, David Allredge and Blake O'Quinn 2 apiece, Todd Williams and Cade Arnett 1 each.

8th Wranglers - The older Wranglers fell to Stanton 41-26 in their season opener. Breck Hamm and Cody Flores led scoring with 6 points each, Evan Cain and Brant Huerta each had 4, Patrick Cotton and John Wagon 2 each, and Cole Krebsbach and Kelby Johnson 1 apiece.

JV Cowgirls - The JV girls fell 65-22 to a good Post team last week. Jill Gray, Jessica Rodriguez and Jessica Knight led the scoring with 5 points each, Keri Hansen had 3, and Kayla Willis and Mandi Rogers scored 2 each. The girls bounced back with a 35-28 win against Morton. Jessica had the hot shooting hand with 15 points, Mandi and Jill managed 6 each, Kayla had 4, Moriah Traweek 3, and Keri Hansen 1. Coach Lusk said the girls showed great hustle and mental toughness to play two back to back road games.

JV Cowboys - The JV Boys took on Post last week and fell 31-22. Benny Loewen led scoring with 6 points, Sterling Justus had 5, David Garza and Jonathan Peppin 4 each, Kelly Bowers 3, Angel Ruiz, Jeremy Diamond and Joseph Martinez 2 each. The younger Cowboys were downed by Morton 35-30 last week. Angel Ruiz scored 11 points, Zach Broome 6, Jonathan Peppin 5, Chase Howell 3, David Garza and Jeremy Diamond 2 each, Sterling Justus 1.

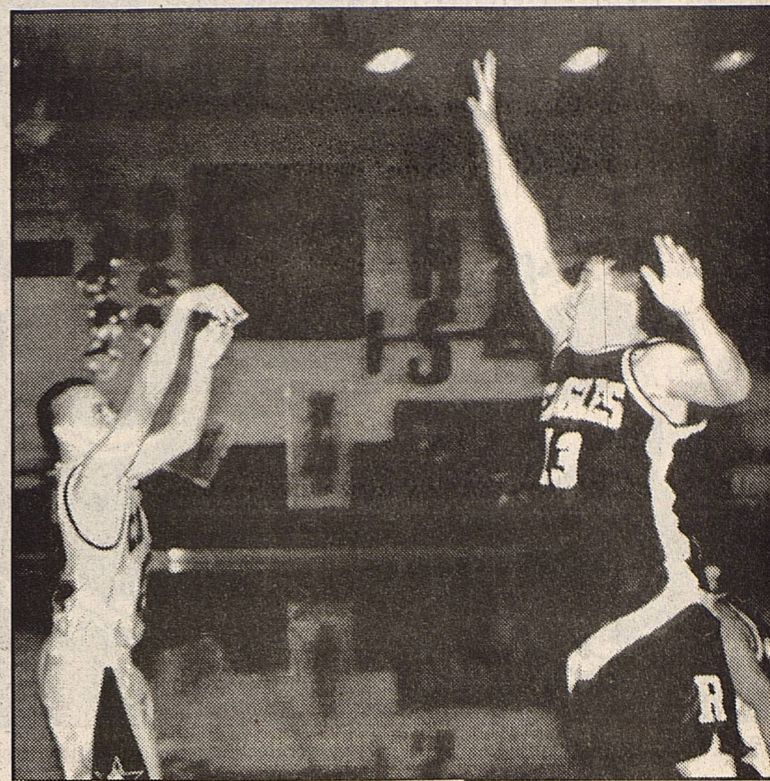
Varsity Cowgirls - (game reports were unavailable at press time)

Varsity Cowboys - The Cowboys continued their winning ways with a 57-48 game against Post last week. Eddy Gallegos led the scoring with 17 points, Adam Garcia had 15, Kelsey Blundell 9, Jarod Newland 7, Dustin Six 6, Brett Squyres 2, Tanner Hamm 1. Dustin pulled down 7 rebounds, and Adam and Eddy each had 4 steals.

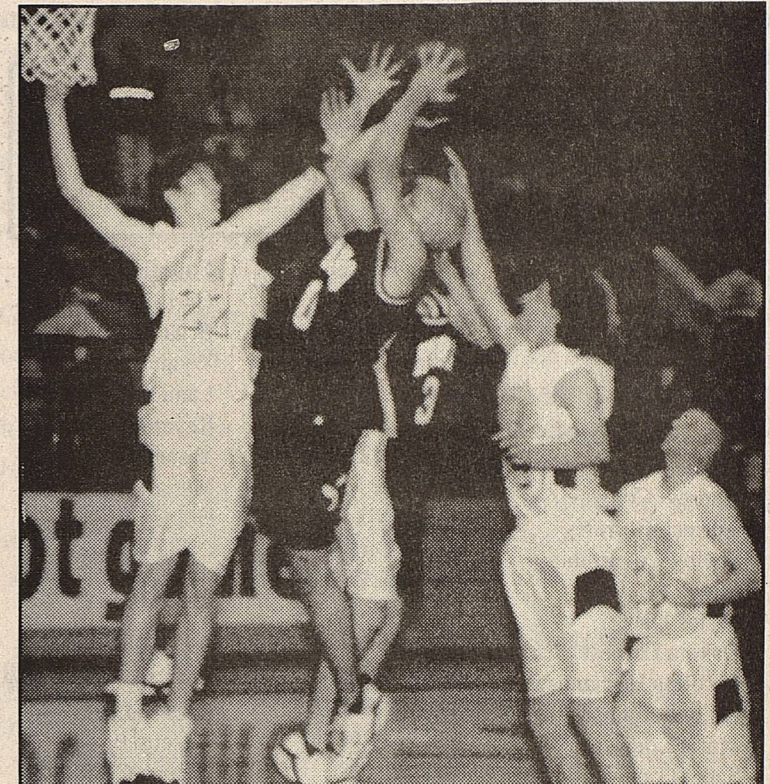
The Cowboys next dominated Morton 95-37. The four leading scorers were Dustin, 21, Eddy, 16, Jared Bell 12, and Kelsey 10.



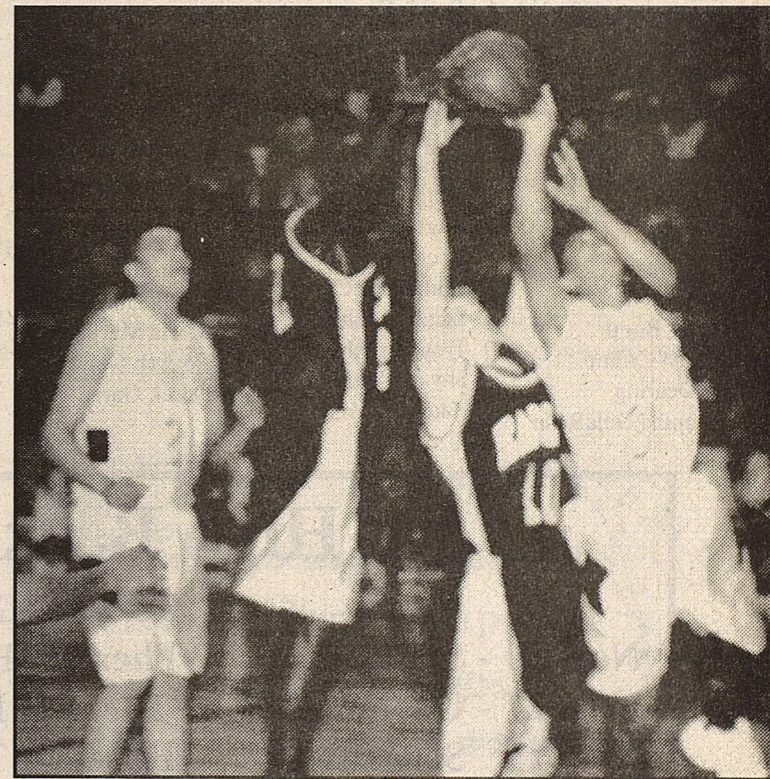
David Garza lays one in



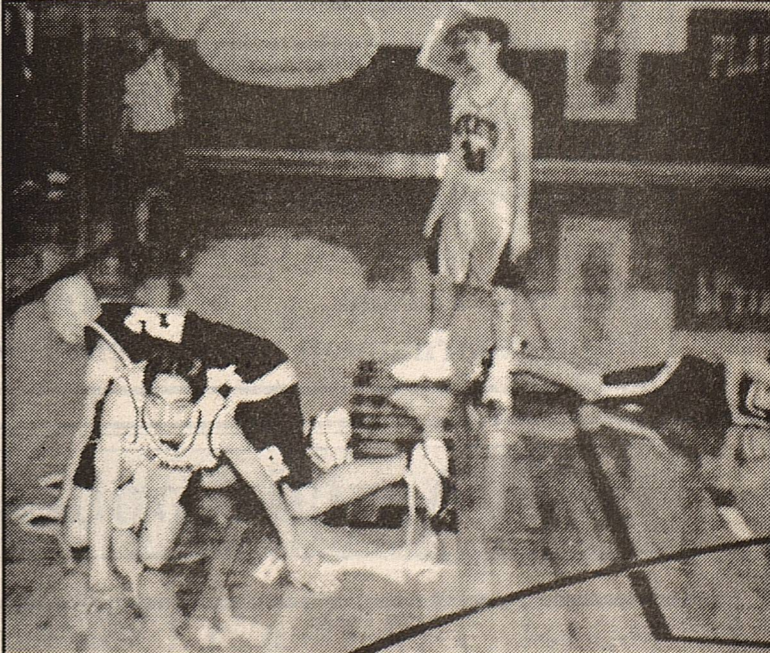
Jonathan Peppin shoots over an Eagle



Dustin Six tries to block a shot



Adam Garcia, right, has shot blocked



JV Cowboy, Eagle bodies litter the floor

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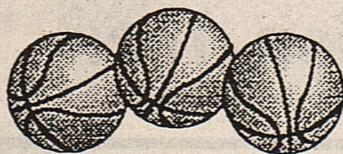
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The PHS Cheerleaders threw mini-footballs into the stadium earlier this year. Now they are trying to whip up fan enthusiasm by tossing mini-basketballs into the stands. Shown are Allison Butler, Kari Guetersloh, Lensey Cullins, Keri Hansen and Kim Trent.

Elementary Honor Roll 2nd Six Weeks

**Elementary
'A' Honor Roll**

First Grade
Troy Alldredge
Greg Andazola
Vanessa Andazola
Miguel Carrillo
Andrew Conway
Adriana Corrales
Shelby Covarrubias
Mayra Cueto
Myles Diaz
Dakota Earnest
Carolina Hernandez
Zachary Lamar
Maria Loewen
Sahara Loewen
Mariela Martinez
Samuel Melendez
Fabiola Rubalcaba
CamiShay Rubio
Denise Tarango
Destini Thomas
Second Grade
Stephanie Addison
Patricia Avila
Jaxon Bean
Jaaron Bell
Forrest Booth
Hannah Crump
Lee Dearing
Samantha DelaRosa

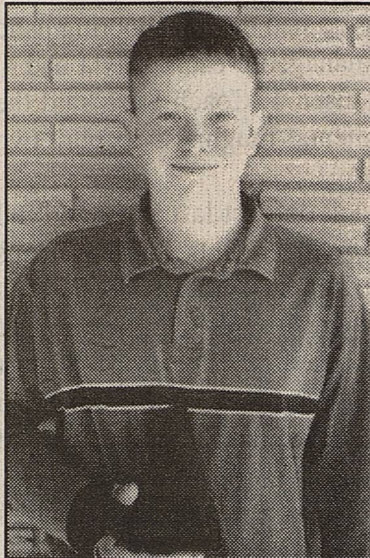
Cody Friesen
Gladys Gallegos
Kevin John Gass
Johnny Harms
Kristen Knight
Lupe Lara
Brittanie Lira
Rochelle Moya
Adam Nixon
Chase Ortega
Suzanna Penner
Edgar Vasquez
Hunter Welch
Third Grade
Claudia Andazola
Taylor Banfield
Jacob Brink
Natalie Butler
Brock Carter
Hannah Cotton
Brandon Craft
Emilia Gallegos
Brett Hawthorne
Natalie Haynes
Abigail Hernandez
Miguel Lopez
Hector Luna
Nathan McCravey
Jacob Neudorf
Troy Parrish
Shyann Vantine
Katelynn Young

Fourth Grade
Chris Addison
Brianna Conway
Wyatt Dearing
Landon Earnest
Reyna Gallegos
Yesenia Loya
Maria Ruiz
Holden Welch
Lydia Whitzel
Kimber Williams

**Elementary
'A-1 B' Honor Roll**

First Grade
Suzette Bonilla
Bianca Corrales
Cedrick Flournoy
Hunter Parrott
Cynthia Rodriguez
Second Grade
Jose Corrales
Pino Martinez
Peter Neudorf
Mychal Sainz
Third Grade
Courtnei Asebedo
Justin Gonzales
Maria Martinez
Fourth Grade
Derek Garza

Student of the Week



PHS student of the week is Nolan Newsom a freshman and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Newsom. Nolan was nominated by Miss McCravey who said, "Nolan is a very bright student. He is extremely interested in science and very determined to make a perfect score on all of his assignments. He may have been set back with a minor hand injury, however, his cast has not stopped him from completing all of his assignments in my class. I foresee many academic accomplishments in his future."

Jr. High Basketball

	BOYS	GIRLS	TIME
Nov. 20 - Stanton	There	Here	5:00
Nov. 27 - Coahoma	There	Here	5:00
Dec. 7 - Seagraves	Here	There	5:00
Dec. 8-9 - Seagraves	Jr. High Tournament		
Dec. 14 - Colorado City	There	Here	5:00
Jan. 11 - Stanton	Here	There	5:00
Jan. 11 - Coahoma	Here	There	5:00
Jan. 25 - Seagraves	There	Here	5:00
Feb. 1 - Colorado City	Here	There	5:00
Feb. 8 - Forsan	There	Here	5:00

Plains tournament not yet scheduled

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Yoakum County agrees to rent its Community Building located at 515 W. 15th, Denver City, Texas to the undersigned, subject to the following rules. The undersigned agrees to follow these rules:

- The Building Committee will designate the portion of the building to be used by a group, and the rest of the building is to be left secured.
- No personal gain is to be made out of the use of the building. This affects out of town merchants who might gain from our local merchants loss. This rule does not affect garage sales, Christmas Bazaars, art, and woodcarving and exhibits, etc.
- There will be no admission charge or fee collected for any activities in the Community Building.
- Public Dances are not permitted, which means, you cannot make personal profit from a dance.
- Under no circumstances are alcoholic beverages, drugs, firearms, or deadly weapons to be brought on or around the premises of the Denver City Community Building. All ice chests and coolers will be checked when there is a dance at the building.
- Parties for young children of Junior High age and under are allowed in the east room with plenty of adult supervision, and must end at 11:00 pm.
- All groups of young people must be sponsored and supervised by adults.
- For all types of dances, you must provide at least two (2) licensed security guards or peace officers.
- Fees for dances is \$100.00 plus a \$50.00 deposit which will be returned if there are no damages done to the building and contents during the event. The \$50.00 is required at the time of reservation. You will be given 2 to 3 days to bring the deposit after you reserve the building. If you cancel the dance, you must notify us at least two weeks before the event, or you will lose your deposit.
- All dances must end at 12:00 midnight.
- The Denver City Community Building will be rented only to Yoakum County residents.
- Report any damages at the time that the keys are returned.
- No chairs, tables, utensils, mops, brooms, or cleaning materials shall be removed from the Community Building at any time.
- All tables and chairs shall be left neatly stacked in the assigned storage areas. If they are damaged, you will be charged for the damages.
- The floors and all restrooms must be left clean. The trash must be taken out to the containers that are outside to the east and west sides of the building.
- Please leave the kitchen, including the refrigerator, the stoves, the sinks, the garbage cans, and the floor clean.
- Please secure all doors before you leave. Be sure to double check that all doors are locked properly, and all the lights have been turned off.
- Check all around the outside of the building, and pick up all the litter that has been left before you leave.
- Return the keys as soon as you have finished with the cleanup, and you have secured all doors.
- Hold Harmless:** You will indemnify and hold Yoakum County harmless against all claims, demands, damages, cost, and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees for defending claims and demands arising from your conduct on the premises or your use of them, from any breach by you of any conditions of this agreement, or from any act of negligence of you, your agents, contractors, employees, subtenants, concessionaries, or licensees in or about the premises. If any action or proceeding is brought against Yoakum County, by reason of any such claim, you, on notice from Yoakum County, will defend the action or proceeding by counsel acceptable to Yoakum County.

This is your Community Building! These are your rules. Abide by them or you must forfeit your rights to the use of the building. They are effective immediately.

For information and to reserve the Denver City Community Building, please call Elida at 806-592-3957.

Signature _____

Date _____

Tree Seedlings, produced by the Texas Forest Service West Texas Nursery in Lubbock, are now available for order through the Yoakum County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Stock is limited and landowners are encouraged to order trees as soon as possible. Final order date is 2/19/01. Orders will be delivered to the Yoakum SWCD Office in Plains at 9:00 a.m. on 3/2/01. Please contact Daina Butler at 806-456-3703 ext. 3 to place your order.



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Lifelines & Styles

Dillard's Pledges Benefits From Holiday CD To Ronald McDonald House

Dillard's recently announced its seventh annual fund-raiser, "Make Christmas Magic and Help a Child," to benefit Ronald McDonald Houses in communities it serves. Focus of this year's charitable project is an all new CD and cassettes featuring holiday music now on sale in all 345 of Dillard's stores nationwide. And again this year, the company will be donating all profits from sale of the music to Ronald McDonald Houses serving its local communities in Texas, including Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Harlingen, Temple, Austin, Corpus Christi, Amarillo, Lubbock, Houston, El Paso and Galveston.

Dillard's already has donated more than \$2.2 million to Ronald McDonald Houses during past campaigns, according to Denise Mahaffy, Vice President of advertising and product development for Dillard's. "While we're very pleased with this past support from our employees and customers," said Mahaffy, "we're really enthusiastic about assisting Ronald McDonald House Charities again this year."

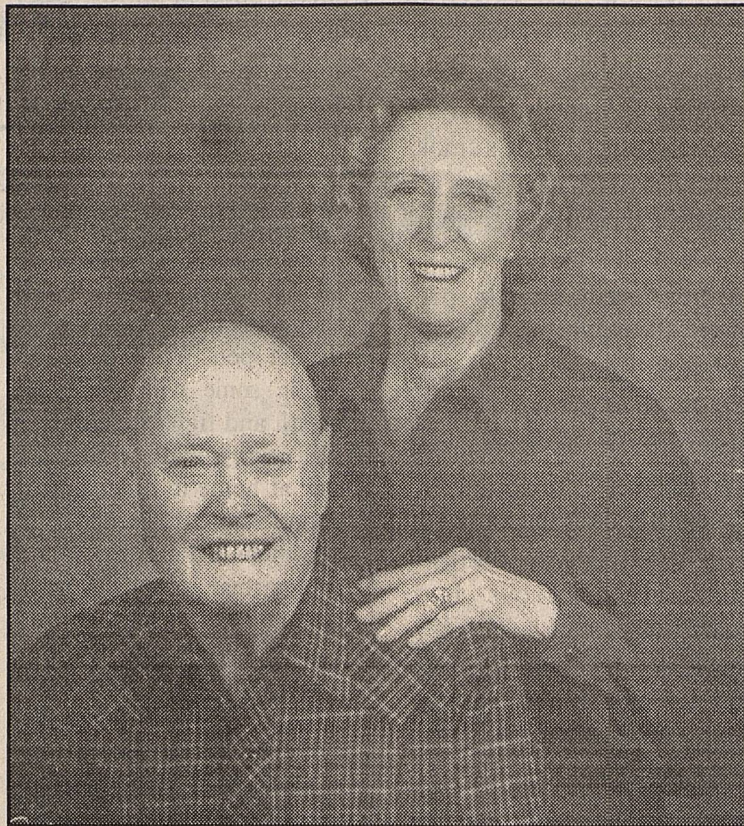
Mahaffy said the general public can assist by stopping by a Dillard's store and purchasing several of the CD's and cas-

settes to complete their shopping lists. "They make a great addition to the holiday spirit two ways," she said. "While the music includes a great selection of Christmas songs by some of the country's top artists, everyone purchasing the CD's and cassettes also should have a good feeling that they are helping benefit local families in their time of need."

Founded in 1974, the Ronald McDonald House organization provides a "home away from home" for families of seriously ill children receiving treatment at nearby hospitals. Since the program's inception, more than two million people have been helped in some 200 Ronald McDonald Houses, located in 19 countries.

The Dillard's Christmas Collection 2000 features the following songs and artists: Lena Horne, "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow", Nancy Wilson, "Christmas Waltz", Eartha Kit, "Santa Baby", Vince Guaraldi Trio, "O Tannenbaum", Grover Washington, Jr., "Blue Christmas", Johnny Mathis, "Silver Bells", Ella Fitzgerald, "Sleigh Ride", Dean Martin, "White Christmas", Melissa Manchester, Mel Torme, "Christmas Time Is Here".

50th Anniversary!



Mr. and Mrs. H.E. "Polly" Rushing will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary November 30th. They were married in Lovington, New Mexico. They are the parents of Morris Rushing of Plains and Peggy Testa of Dallas. They have four grandsons, three step grandsons and two great grandchildren.

Christmas Wrapper

As your stockings are hung by the chimney with care, are your gifts not wrapped and looking bare?

CALL
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leave a message

The 2000 Christmas Assistance Program will accept applications to the following times: November 18 - December 4th, 2:00 pm. - 5:00 pm. The applications will be accepted at the County Treasurer's Office at the Courthouse. Only one adult per household may register.

Applicants must have a driver's license or other identification and a receipt of payment from a gas or electric bill with correct address.

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Ceramics, Quilting Exhibition

The Buddy Holly Center presents **Crafts Etc.**, an annual exhibition of artist made fine crafts. This year the Center features **Y2Klay** and **Full Deck Quilts**. Both exhibits open for viewing Tuesday, December 5th, with an opening reception that night from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Y2Klay is an exhibition of contemporary ceramic work created in celebration of the new millennium. Jamie Walker, internationally recognized artist and Professor of Art at the University of Washington, Seattle, selected this national competition of ceramics. Texas Tech professor of Art, Juan Granados, conceived the idea to bring together artists celebrating the turn of the millennium through high quality ceramic artwork.

"The turn of the millennium only happens once a thousand years, the next turn of the mil-

lennium will be Y3K," said Granados.

Also featured is **Full Deck Quilts**, a traveling exhibition of 54 fine art quilts representing a full deck of cards. **Full Deck Quilts** combines the rich tradition of quilting and the universal appeal of playing cards to create a unique and exciting art collection. This exhibition was conceived and curated by Sue Pierce; she dealt one card each to 54 professional artists, and the project took off. Delightful and with universal appeal, this collection vividly illustrates the vitality and diversity of contemporary art quilting.

Full Deck Quilts has been touring the United States by means of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES), with a constant waiting list of museums and galleries still hoping to mount the exhibition.

Garden Club Meets

The Plains Garden Club met Tuesday, November 21st in the clubroom for their monthly meeting, with President Debbie Morphis presiding.

"Operation Christmas Card" will be sponsored again this year. Money collected for this project goes to improve or beautify the cemetery. Anyone wishing to donate may contact Ita Young at 456-8811, or any Garden Club member. Kay Canon reported on the November 1st District Zone meeting in Levelland. Deanie Richardson attended the State Meeting in Midland, reporting there was a good attendance, and very interesting. A Christmas Show and Tell was the feature program, with each member bringing something they made and described how it was constructed.

The next meeting will be December 19, 2000 in the clubroom with Deanie Richardson presenting the program.

Those attending the meeting were: Debbie Morphis, Kay Canon, Ruby Sellers, Deanie Richardson, Mary Lou Parks and Ita Young.

HINT: Plant spring flowering bulbs, pansies, flowering cabbage and kale.

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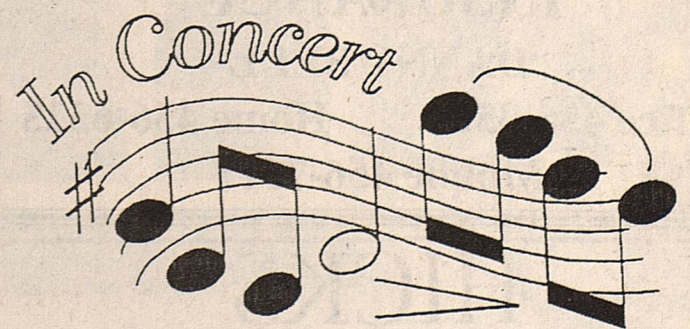
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Plains, Texas



The Messengers

Sunday Morning
December 3, 2000

From The Hack



Drinking coffee in Johnnie's Restaurant last week was an enlightening experience. Waitress Dene Rafferty was counting her tip change when she exclaimed, "Some deadbeat left me a foreign coin. It's from Tanzania. Now who would do that!?"

A farmer type asked, "Where's Tanzania?" Another chimed in, "I think it's off the coast of Australia, or maybe New Zealand." One countered that guess with, "Nah, seems I remember it an island off the coast of Greenland."

The geography question debate ended when one guy stated emphatically and correctly it was a nation in Africa. This led to another wag offering, "Hey, I bet one of those Baptist women who've been over in Africa on a mission trip left the coin for your tip."

Dene said, "Oh, I don't think any of those nice ladies would do that to me." The question was definitely answered when another guy offered, "Well, I know their preacher would have!" True tale.

The Bride dutifully arose before dawn Thanksgiving Day and began preparations to bake the turkey and all the other stuff that went with it. I offered to baste the bird with the special butter-wine stuff while it cooked. She declined my offer, claiming in years past I had sipped experimentally on the wine so much the sauce was reduced to pure butter. It was a lovely meal. So were the leftovers that evening and

the next day. So were the turkey enchiladas, the turkey hash, the turkey fritters, the turkey crepes, the turkey goulash, turkey pancakes, turkey stew and soup, turkey sandwiches, turkey pasta, turkey meat loaf, ad nauseum.

I swear I have eaten so much turkey my body hair has started to moult, and the last time the Bride announced her latest left-over turkey plans, it sounded exactly like she was gobbling like an old Tom turkey in heat.

Speaking of turkey experiences, my older sister (I refer to her that way because her hair is MUCH greyer than mine - of course, she has much more than do I) called Thanksgiving. She and her clan of kids and grand kids, joined by a few friends, were having trouble cooking the turkey in one of those counter top cookers, and it wouldn't brown.

Sister Dana said, "OK, we'll put old buster bird in the oven and brown him."

She readily admitted friends and family had been offering their thanks for the day with uplifted glasses of wine, all enjoying the holiday. Suddenly, a guest shouted, "Oh my God, the bird's on fire!"

Sister told us it was a big bird, and when they had to cram it in the oven, a carcass apparently the size of an escaped Emu, someone in the group hit the 'Broil' button on the stove, instead of bake.

She reported suddenly smoke was boiling in the kitchen, and the turkey actually appeared on

fire. A son-in-law shouted, "Call 912! His wife, my niece, calmy countered, "It's 911."

The other niece present screamed, "No, just open the oven, we'll all try to blow it out!" Dana said nine people and her two dogs stood there huffing and puffing away, and the flames grew. One of the more intelligent ones yelled, "throw some of the wine on it!"

Calm reason then kicked in when one of sister's son in laws said, "Throw the cheap stuff first!" Dana said some were babbling, "Oh, it's smoking the house up!", which was immediately countered by, "House be damned, save the turkey!"

Calmer heads finally prevailed. A guest quietly asked, "Where's your baking powder?" He then scattered it over the fiery fowl, and peace was finally restored.

Older sister concluded, "You know, baking powder turkey is not nearly as gross as it sounds!"

After writing all of the above, I realized I am going into the dreaded PTS malady - Post Thanksgiving Syndrome. It has finally burst through my faulty memory bank, "Christmas is next, Dumbo!"

Christmas does not bring out the stronger points of my intelligence. I have had plenty of years experience being a dolt come time we celebrate the event. I recall, sadly, when I learned there might be some suspicious about Santa's reality I recall my distinct disappointment when, about 6 or 7, I awoke to go to the necessity room about 3 AM, to spy my parents on the floor, wrestling, I thought, dad uttering bad words I didn't fully understand. (No, no, they weren't doing THAT!)

Later in life, I realized they were putting the stuff together Santa Claus had brought me. It was much later in life I found myself doing the very same thing - wrestling with instructions for assembling a walking, talking bear whipping on a drum, or something.

Today, I am so eternally grateful I do not have to endure the hours of shopping, wrapping, assembling, and especially the COST of doing Christmas for kids.

Upon re-reading the above, I may have exaggerated just a bit; it would be nice to see a kiddo under the Christmas tree again.

As I peck this out, we are far from the point of knowing definitely, absolutely, 100% certain who our next president will be. I did some research, which Bill

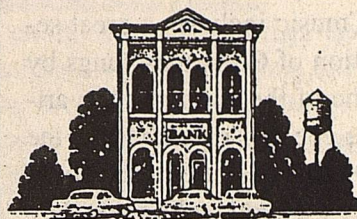
Wright will be extremely proud of, I hope: I went to the Bible, and then looked up Methuselah, according to the Bride's issue of "Who's Who In The Bible" He is credited as being the longest-lived person in the Good Book. He was quite a man - anyone making a son at the age of 187 is worthy of news space.

Has it occurred to you we all may have to achieve Methuselah's age before we determine who our next president is? I still feel there is merit in the idea

expressed on a radio talk show: Dredge a HUGE canal across the top of Florida, let it float away. We'd be rid of jillions of mosquitos, alligators and hurricane disasters. Maybe it would float over to Cuba and let Elian rejoin his kinfolks. It would also make a far more difficult decision for drug running pilots flying between Columbia and their former favorite site.

I don't want to live as long as Methueselah, but I would like to know who succeeds Slick Willy.

Holiday Shopping



Tips from your Community Banker

This season, customers are taking advantage of all their shopping choices as they hit all the hot spots. Where do you fit? While some will take a big breath and fight the crowds at the nearby mall, others will stay at home to order gifts by phone from merchants on television and many more will visit virtual stores that allow consumers to buy gifts online at a click of a mouse.

No matter what your shopping style, you want to get a good deal. The Independent Bankers Association of Texas has some suggestions on how you can shop smart this holiday season.

Things we all know.

- Try to shop early. This will ensure you will miss the heavy mall and postal traffic and will also increase your chances in buying the products you want before they are sold out.
- Set a budget and do not exceed it! Following a budget keeps you from overspending and making impulse purchases. You don't want to get yourself into a predicament in which you are still paying for gifts long after the holidays are over.
- Ask about refund and return policies before you buy and keep all your receipts.

Things to consider when ordering by phone or mail.

- Be familiar with the company's reputation before ordering. Know the refund and return policies, product availability and total costs of your purchase before you place your order.
- Shipping time should be considered. Most companies specify how long an item will take to reach you. If no time is promised, the product should arrive within 30 days. When a company cannot ship within an allotted time, you must be given a choice to either delay your order or cancel it for a refund.
- Try to order early, allowing plenty of time for shipping and delivery during this busy season.
- Remember to keep records of all orders. Note the company's name, address, phone number, date of order, items listed, stock codes and confirmation material.

It is best to make copies of order forms when possible.

Things to recognize when shopping online.

- Know who you are dealing with. If you are not familiar with the company, check its physical location and try to find third party information on its reputation.
- Try to protect your privacy as much as possible. Know who is collecting your personal information, why it is needed and how it will be used. Read the company's privacy policy before you fill out an order form.
- Do not share your passwords. Avoid using easily guessed codes such as telephone numbers, birth dates and your social security number.
- Only order on a secure server. Check your browser toolbar or its information screen to ensure your information is in fact in a secure environment.
- Don't forget to factor in shipping and handling fees.
- Keep printouts of your transactions, including return policies.

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

The Yoakum Soil and Water District

is now hiring a part-time secretary; 24.0 hours per week. Starting salary \$6.50 per hour. Responsibilities include Bookkeeping, Typing, Computer, Monthly Board Meeting Preparations, etc. Applications may be picked up at the Yoakum SWCD/NRCS office located at 1303 Cowboy Way (USDA Building).

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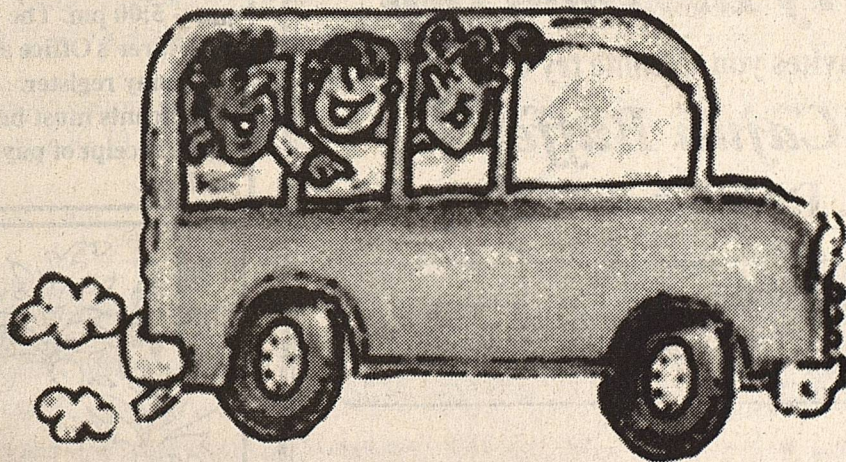
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