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Cowboy Country News  
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# Happy Birthday, U.S.A.

## COWBOY COUNTRY NEWS

Volume III, Issue 44, Wednesday, July 2, 1997

### City plans to carefully study rate lowering proposal from Lea County Electric

Formal rate reduction proposal won't be available until after July 22

Lea County Electric Cooperative's proposed rate decrease for their customers within the City of Plains was apparently of little interest to the approximate 200 Cooperative customers in the city. At a previously announced public meeting in their office here last Thursday afternoon, only two Lea County Electric customers showed up to discuss the issue with Cooperative officials, and they were under the impression Lea County Electric was proposing an increase instead of a reduction of billing rates. The proposal had been explained in a press release in last week's issue of CCN.

The proposal will be formally presented to the City on July 22. Since 1953 the city has had regulatory authority to set electric utility rates within the city limits, and can approve or disapprove the Cooperative's proposal. Michael Dreyspring, General Manager of the company, said the proposal was based on a review of residential and commercial billings over the year 1996. During that period, the Cooperative had an average 220 residential customers here, plus 20 all electric home customers. They also served an average 37 commercial customers.

The average residential Cooperative customer here was billed for some 750 Kilowatt Hours monthly, and under the current billing rate set by the city, their average monthly billing for power was \$52.55. Lea County Electric's proposed new rate would see those same customers paying an average bill of \$42.89, a savings of almost \$10 per month, an 18 percent reduction in charges.

Cooperative commercial customers here average using approximately 1750 KWH of power monthly, and their average billing is \$135.35 per month. The new proposal would lower the billing to \$98.55 for the same amount of electricity, a reduction of 27.3%. Dreyspring said Thursday the rate reduction proposal would bring the city rates in line with rates the cooperative currently charges all their Texas rural residential and commercial customers. Present electric rates were last set by the City of Plains in 1980.

In the interview Thursday, Dreyspring said the cooperative viewed the proposed rate reduction as an ongoing effort of his Board of Directors to continue a good relationship with the Plains City Council, and a beneficial economic step for Lea County Electric customers here. Terry Davis, a Cooperative Board member, said he felt the proposal was very generous, and local customers needed and deserved the reduction.

City Administrator David Brunson was interviewed Friday morning following the meeting. "We have not seen the formal reduction proposal, but I am extremely pleased Lea County Electric plans to offer customers lower rates. We met with Coopera-

Turn to Page 2, 'Electric Rates'

### A Real Oddity



It's not very often one finds an automobile stuck in the mud in Plains, Texas, maybe once in an eon, but this older Chevy Impala managed the feat following last week's rains. Apparently the unknown driver ventured too far off the shoulder of the road just north of the football field, and had to abandon the vehicle in the goo.

### Criminal Court Cases Heard

Four criminal cases were heard in County Court June 25. Judge Dallas Brewer presided, and Criminal District Attorney Richard Clark represented the State.

Genaro De LaRosa Muniz, a.k.a. Bobby Muniz, 37, pled guilty to a first offense DWI charge. His 90 day jail sentence was suspended and probated 18 months, he was fined \$360 and must pay, \$227 Court costs. He will serve 7 days in jail with credit for 4 days served. He must serve 50 hours community service, complete the Batterers Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP), and a cause of driving with suspended license, and two assault causing bodily injury causes were adjudicated.

Juan Herrera Jr., 23, also pled guilty to a first DWI charge. His 60 day jail term was suspended and probated 12 months. He must pay a \$500 and \$227 Court costs, and serve 72 hours in jail with credit for 16 hours served. He must complete the Texas DWI education program, attend weekly AA meetings and serve 24 hours community service.

Michael Paul Suniga, 21, pled guilty to a subsequent DWI charge. He was sentenced to 45 days in jail with credit for 15 days served, fined \$500 and his driver's license will be suspended one year. He will pay \$227 Court costs, and a failure to appear cause was adjudicated.

Edward, a.k.a., Eddie Yzaquirre, 20, pled guilty to burglary of a vehicle. He was sentenced to 15 days in jail with credit for 2 days served, fined \$250 and must pay \$157 Court costs.

Ismael Casas Duran, 18, pled guilty to a first DWI charge. He received a 12 day jail term with credit for 2 days served, was fined \$500, will pay \$227 Court costs and must obtain evaluation by Lubbock Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. A cause of unlawfully carrying a weapon was adjudicated, and a .38 caliber pistol was forfeited.

### Summer School Scheduled

Summer school will begin on Monday, July 7 at 8:00 a.m. At Plains Elementary and Plains Junior High for students in Grades Kindergarten through 8th.

Parents and/or students provided notification prior to the end of the 1996-97 school year for student who are expected to attend.

If you have any questions, please call Donnie Weems at 456-7438 between the hours of 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. beginning July 7.

### New PISD Superintendent and family moves in

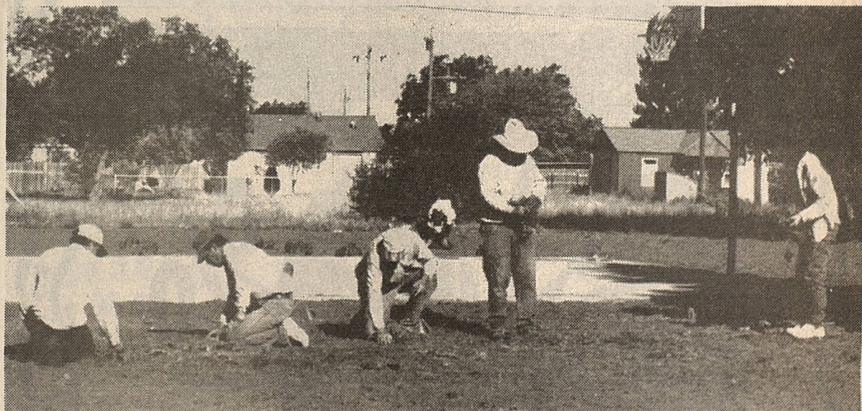


The Haynes family -front, L-R, Reagan, Natalie, Back, Nicole, Kathy and James

The City of Plains' population grew by five last Saturday, when the James Haynes family moved into their residence on Second Street. James, his wife Kathy, daughters Nicole and Natalie and son Reagan drove in shortly after midnight, and the large moving van carrying their household things arrived a little after 8 a.m.

James will assume his School Superintendent duties Monday morning. Nicole, 14, will be a high school freshman, Reagan, 10, will be in fourth grade, and young Natalie, 5, will start Kindergarten. Their Mom Kathy is a school teacher, but has decided to stay at home this year. The couple said they were excited about being in Plains and with James' challenges and opportunities.

### Methodists spruce up around new basketball court



A new basketball court was recently installed on the vacant lot adjacent to the First United Methodist Church, for its youth membership. A number of congregation volunteers took part in the construction project, which also included landscaping and installing a sprinkler system. Recently members Jess Gass, L.J. Sanders and Linda Powell were pictured helping plant new grass in the area, along with the help of a number of farm hands "volunteered" by Ace Hamm.

### Lygus Bugs Infest Area Cotton Fields

The lygus bug is a plant bug which infests several crops including cotton. Lygus are similar to cotton fleahoppers, but are about two to three times larger. There are two species which are considered pests of cotton, the tarnished plant bug, *Lygus lineolaris*, and the western tarnished plant bug, *Lygus hesperus*. The latter is of most concern to area cotton producers.

Lygus bugs affect cotton by inserting their mouthparts into the plant and sucking sap. Damage is very similar to that of the cotton fleahopper. It differs only in that lygus bugs may cause

fruit up to nickel-size bolls to shed. Very young immatures closely resemble immature fleahoppers, but have red eyes and red-tipped antennae. Older immatures are a glossy light green with five black spots on their back. Adult western tarnished plant bugs have a conspicuous white heart-shape on their back.

Since cotton is not the lygus bug's preferred host, infestations in cotton usually occur when a change occurs in the preferred host, forcing the bugs to find a new food source. Preferred crop hosts include alfalfa and potato, but many common weeds are

also hosts. These weed species include pigweed (or carelessnessweed), lambsquarters, knotweed, wild or prairie sunflower, annual mustards, hairy vetch, Russian thistle, lupine, tarweed, and many others.

When a change occurs in the preferred host, such as cutting alfalfa or drying down of weed hosts, lygus bugs will move to adjacent cotton.

Lygus bugs severely damaged a few area cotton fields last year and appear to be more widespread this year. Lygus bugs have been found in many area cotton fields and some fields in Terry, Yoakum and Gains counties have been treated. Fortu-

Turn to Page 2, 'Lygus Bugs'

**From Page 1,  
'Electric Rates'**

tive officials in February of this year, when they presented a reduction proposal, along with their proposal to purchase our electric utility, but the Council felt the proposed rates were still too high. I am pleased to hear of Lea County's response, and I think it's a great achievement for our Council members." Asked specifically if he felt there would be any problems with the City Council approving the reduction plan, Brunson said, "It all depends on the ac-

tual wording of their proposal. If the request contains provisions the new, lower rates be approved by the Public Utility Commission, in other words, removing the City's Regulatory Authority to set and control rates, I would think the Council would resist giving up that authority. Once we have no way of controlling our local destiny, and give that control to an agency in Austin, we are in an untenable position. Regardless of who our wholesale electricity provider is, they could lower our rates, then turn around and appeal to the P.U.C. to raise

them back higher than they were. I'm not suggesting this is a motive of Lea County Electric at all, I'm saying it's a situation our Council just doesn't want to find itself in." Brunson said the City's consultant is still analyzing and evaluating bids for wholesale electricity from Southwest Public Service, West Texas Utilities and Lea County Electric, and was uncertain when his final review and report would be available for the Council. He revealed another recent development leading to another option the City must carefully study. SPS

has asked for permission to submit a buyout proposal to the City for its existing electric utility, but said no action has been taken on the proposal.

"Another issue our Council is seriously considering is the income producing feature of our present electric system, and the implications of selling the system. Since I came on board as City Administrator in 1991, the City has spent some \$850,000 in capital improvements. Over half that amount, \$450,000, was from state grant funds, and the balance came from income derived solely from our two enterprise investments, the gas and electric system. We would not have been able to make these improvements to our gas, water and sewer system, purchase badly needed additional water rights, drill new water wells, expand our water storage facilities, without the revenues, or profits, we have accumulated from the gas and electricity operations. The Council feels citizens deserve lower electric rates, but we have to look at all these options and issues very carefully."

While too early to be making predictions, with a number of options available for study by the City officials, local residents could be facing a 'Win' situation, with a distinct possibility of a needed electricity rate reduction in the near future.

**From Page 1,  
Lygus Bugs'**

nately, some of the insecticides used to control overwintered boll weevils are also effective on lygus bugs. Contact your local Texas Agricultural Extension Service office for more information on scouting and control of lygus bugs. By Phillip Kidd Texas Ag Extension Service Terry and Yoakum Counties

Former Vice President John Nance Garner, who lived to 98, liked cigars & whiskey, said "I'm living a good Christian life... I only get drunk once a day."

**What are dinosaurs doing in Yoakum County?**



Drivers heading west on the Lovington highway in early mornings or late afternoons have been doing double-takes for some time when approaching the Yoakum County Gin. Two tractor mounted harvest machines, when silhouetted against the sky's dim light, at first glance appear to be a pair of ancient dinosaurs, perhaps small brontosaurus. Several youngsters have told parents the pair of 'creatures' look like something out of the current hit movie "Lost World".

**County Court news**

In Commissioner's Court Monday, advertising for bids for the purchase of a new pickup truck for Precinct 2 was approved. The vehicle will be paid for with 1997 funds.

The Court also approved advertising for bids for repairs to the roof of the library in Denver City, using specifications from the Insurance Carrier. This project will be paid for with 1997 funds, and insurance claim

money.

A lease purchase agreement between the County and the Muni-Group was approved, covering financing of a recently purchased motorgrader for Precinct 4.

A contract between the County and the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services was approved, and the Court accepted the Treasurer's report indicating an end of May balance of \$8,576,936.48.

All bills and part-time salaries were approved for payment.

**High Plains Jr.**

**Rodeo Results**

Muleshoe, June 19, 20, & 21; Kimberly Jackson won 3rd place in the 8 and Under Poles, a 6th place in Barrels and held on for a 10th place in the Goat Tying.

Keith Jackson won 8th place in the boys 13-15 Breakaway. Brett Squyers enjoyed her best rodeo to date. She placed 3rd in the 16-19 girls Breakaway roping. During the ribbon roping, Robin roped her calf and

ran down the rope, to find the ribbon had fallen off the calves tail. The judges ruled she would rope it again. On the second try she roped the calf a jump sooner than the time before and won the Ribbon roping with a time of 9.489.

Kipp and Tanner Blount won 3rd place in the 16-19 Team Roping, and Kirk Parrish and Tanner Blount won a 6th place. The next rodeo is in Lovington, Thurs. and Fri. at 7:00 p.m. and 6:00p.m.

Electric Utility Bill Survey	
April 1997 (Residential 1000 KWH)	
<b>INVESTOR-OWNED</b>	
Central Power and Light	April '97 \$90.62
El Paso Electric Company	101.96
Entergy/Gulf States Utilities	73.22
Houston Lighting and Power	80.10
Southwestern Electric Service Company	86.61
Southwestern Public Service	63.92
Southwestern Electric Power Company	54.72
Texas-New Mexico Power Company	87.10
TU Electric	76.74
West Texas Utilities	70.91
<b>INVESTOR-OWNED AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$78.59</b>
<b>COMMUNITY-OWNED</b>	
Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative	April '97 \$65.00
Denton County Electric Cooperative	78.64
Erath County Electric Cooperative	76.70
Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative	71.07
Mid-South Electric Cooperative	71.47
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	79.86
Tri-County Electric Cooperative	69.15
Upshur-Rural Electric Cooperative	54.25
Victoria County Electric Cooperative	70.54
Austin Electric Utility Department	66.96
City Public Service (San Antonio)	58.58
City of Fredericksburg	53.94
City of La Grange	56.97
City of San Marcos	61.84
Kerrville Public Utility Board	64.86
Lubbock Power & Light	63.92
New Braunfels Utilities	58.36
<b>COMMUNITY-OWNED AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$66.01</b>
<b>TEXAS AVERAGE</b>	<b>\$72.30</b>

\* The present residential rate here is \$65.00 per 1000KWH \*

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Liquid Application**

**David and Sarah Guetersloh**

## Weevil eradication vote, election of Board Member nears

A series of educational meetings will be held here Thursday, July 3 for local cotton producers to learn more about the upcoming Texas Boll Weevil Referendum and Election. The first meeting is scheduled at 7:30 a.m. at the Yoakum County Co-Op Gin, followed by another meeting at 9 a.m. at the New Tex Gin, with the final meeting scheduled for 11 am at Tokio Co-Op Gin. Texas Department of Agriculture and Plains Cotton Growers Association officials will be on hand to answer questions about the upcoming referendum and election vote. All cotton producers raising cotton are urged to attend one of the meetings, as are owners of land where cotton is grown.

Reproduced below is a draft copy of the proposed official ballot.

### Official Ballot (Draft Copy Only)

Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Referendum and Election Authorized By Tex. Agri. Code Chapter, 74, Subchapter D, as amended by SB 1814, 75<sup>th</sup> Legislature, 1997.

Eligible cotton producers in the specified counties may vote on the propositions to Establish a Boll Weevil Eradication Program in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Eradication Zone, Establish a Maximum Assessment Rate, Approve a Cooperating Entity to Carry Out Eradication Activities, and Elect a Board Member to the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation (TBWEF) Board of Directors.

<b>For</b>	Establishing a boll weevil suppression program in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Eradication Zone to begin in the fall of 1998. Suppression is defined as traditional fall diapause treatments or reproductive diapause treatments with no in-season chemical control. Counties included are Andrews, Cochran, Crosby, Dawson, Dickens, Ector, Gaines, Garza, Hockley, Howard, Kent, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Motley, Terry, and Yoakum counties; all land in Borden County lying west of a line seven miles west of the Scurry County line running south from the Garza County line to the Howard County line; that area of Midland County north of a line 15 miles south of Interstate 20 running from the Ector County line east to the Glasscock County line. If this proposition passes, growers shall vote again whether or not to initiate eradication efforts on or before August 1, 2001.
<b>Against</b>	
<b>For</b>	Setting the cost-sharing assessment for boll weevil suppression in the Southern High Plains/Caprock Eradication Zone at a maximum \$5 per harvested land acre plus 2 cents per pound of harvested lint cotton. The assessment will be collected annually beginning in 1997 by the TBWEF through direct billing or a contractual arrangement with gins on a date set by the Commissioner of Agriculture through the year 2001 unless extended by a future referendum of growers. Growers who paid their 1996 assessment may apply for rebate of up to 25 percent of the amount paid in 1996 each year for four years. The amount of the rebate each year shall not exceed the grower's total annual assessment.
<b>Against</b>	
<b>For</b>	Allowing the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation to contract with Plains Cotton Growers Inc. to plan and carry out boll weevil suppression activities within the Southern High Plains/ Caprock Eradication Zone through the year 2001 unless growers vote to initiate eradication prior to that date. If this proposition is not approved, the TBWEF may conduct a program or submit another agreement for grower approval.
<b>Against</b>	

**\*NOTE - The official ballot will also allow producers to vote for a Board Member of TBWEF.**

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Gary,  
After subscribing to your "Hometown" newspaper last summer, I have found that I look forward each week to it arriving in the mail! Seems as though it brightens my day tremendously, with all of the humor in the "From the Hack" column.

It only seems like yesterday that we worked together 20 years ago at Plains Farm Supply! If someone had told me then that you would be an editor, columnist, humorist, and not to mention a writer, I would have called them everything short of a liar...You have done well for yourself, and I'm very happy for you.

I always had a lot of respect for you, and your success makes me smile. Keep up the good work, and keep that press a rolling!

See Ya,  
Gene Allen

We appreciate this letter. Gene also enclosed a couple of business cards indicating he is a sales rep. for Valve Sales, Inc., and also a Council Member in the City of Levelland. Our congratulations, Gene.

## Famed fastballer Ryan next Ag Commissioner?

**A real possibility, many analysts say**

Virtually every newspaper in the state of any appreciable size has featured articles recently outlining the possibilities of former baseball pitcher great Nolan Ryan running on the Republican ticket for Texas Agriculture Commissioner. Present Commissioner Rick Perry has decided to climb another political ladder rung and run for the office of Lieutenant Governor, to replace retiring Bob Bullock.

An article in Sunday's *Dallas Morning News* by Texas political writer Sam Attlesey indicated the immensely popular Ryan would be a very strong candidate for the position. Ryan is presently Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Wildlife Commission, and heads up a bank in his hometown of Alvin, where he ranches some 9000 acres and carries 1200 head of cattle.

Attlesey wrote that Bryan Eppstein of Fort Worth has conducted several polls for the Texas Farm Bureau on the viability of Ryan as a candidate for the office. "He would probably lead the Republican ticket in the number of votes received, and in that sense it would have tremendous impact on races below and above him", the GOP consultant said. "He helps Republicans up and down the ballot"

Attlesey wrote "The Farm Bureau and many Republicans started trying to recruit Ryan for the Ag post while he was still pitching no-hitters for the Texas Rangers team, and it appears he is now giving the contest a serious look. He is expected to make his decision on the contest by mid-July."

Ryan's numerous contracts with private corporations calling for him to represent them in radio and television spots led to an associate of Mr. Ryan contacting the Texas Ethics Commission for a ruling on whether he could campaign and continue running the commercials, but no decision has been handed down to date.

The article said many GOP consultants feel Ryan could win convincingly if he runs for the Ag spot. "and once he serves a term or two in that post he could easily move up the political food chain to Governor or U.S. Senate".

Attlesey concluded his article by stating, "To those consultants, the question is not whether he would strike out if he ran. The question is: Is he willing to suit up?"

## Reform in line for IRS? Maybe... a BIG maybe

A number of media reports indicate efforts are underway to improve the image and performance of the Internal Revenue Service, three words most American tax payers dread hearing almost as much as "You have AIDS". It's been reported in 1995 IRS agents answered only 20 per-

cent of tax payers calls to the agency. That performance improved last year, with 50 percent of the calls to their 'hot line' being answered - which translates to half of the calls still being unanswered.

A National Commission on Restructuring the IRS has been formed to study the problems plaguing the agency and its thousands of agents. Attempts are being made to make it more user friendly, reduce its paper load, rely more on electronic filing of tax returns which normally contain far fewer errors, and ease the strain on agents in the bureaucracy. It has been reported the IRS Agents Union supports the efforts to improve and reform the agency.

An example of questionable IRS policy the commission hopes to remedy was reported recently in *TIME* magazine. A teenage girl's \$26 bank account was seized by agents... to help collect her folks tax bill.

The Commission has proposed a Presidential appointed Board of Governors, confirmed by the Senate, to oversee the agency. The Treasury Department now guides the IRS, and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin opposes proposed changes in management, as does the Clinton administration.

The commission feels a board of governors would add accountability to the agency, and ease the high rate of agents leaving the agency. They also endorse the idea of simplifying the present tax code, a document which is now measured in thickness by the foot, not inches.

## Th'ars Gold in Them Th'ar Deals!

Summer Deals Help You Strike It Lucky!

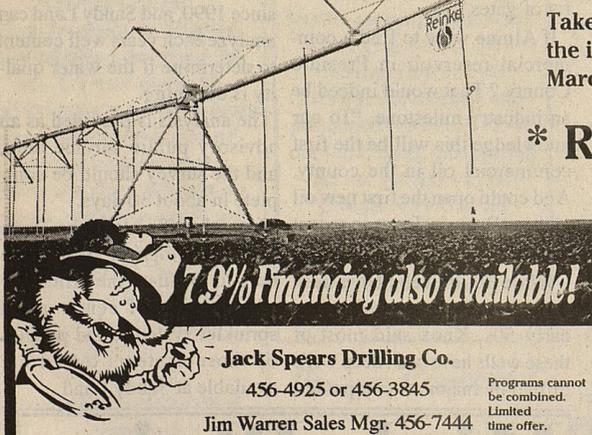
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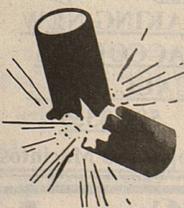
Irrigation Systems

\*Pet Pageant\*Arts & Crafts Booths\*Egg Race\*Water Ball\*Tug-O-War\*Bubbles\*Sack Race

**Fourth of July Picnic**  
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**Golf Tournament**  
3 person Scramble  
10 AM--Tee Time

**Cow Chip Bingo**  
\$1000 to winner



**Beach Volleyball**  
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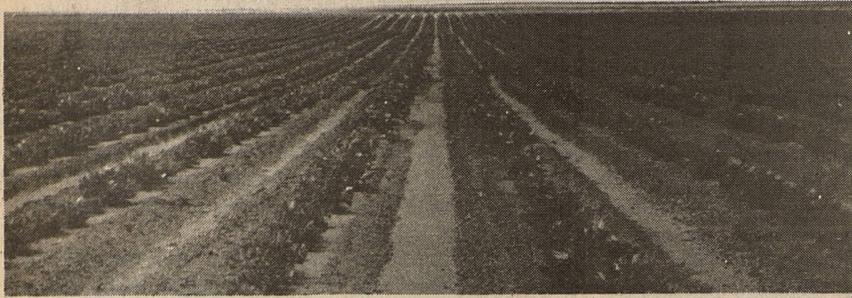
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## Rains benefit some producers, devastate others



This field of peanuts escaped damage from last weeks spotty hail

Agricultural producers in our High Plains area are nearly always ready for spring or summer rains, knowing full well the needed moisture is all too often in the form of ice. Such was the case last Thursday when a frontal system crossed the county and dumped both rain and hail in varying amounts.

It appears some ag producers only had traces of rain, with others receiving anywhere from a quarter inch to almost two inches. Unfortunately, devastating hail accompanied the rain in parts of the county.

There were no reports of hail in the City itself, and apparently the portion of the county receiv-

ing the bulk of the hail was the northwest corner.

Some farmers reported they are feverishly replanting hailed out cotton acres with either milo or soybeans. At press time, no official figures were available on the total extent of the damage.

## Final services for Faye Lusk McConnell

Graveside services for Faye Lusk McConnell 86, will be held Wednesday, July 2, at 10 a.m. in the Plains Cemetery, with Reverend James Moore, First United Methodist Church of Plains officiating.

She died June 30 in St. Mary of the Plains Hospital in Lubbock. Mrs. McConnell was born in Yoakum Co. on November 30, 1910, the daughter of the late W.H. Hague and the former Sally Butler. She attended public schools and lived here until moving to Brownfield in 1992. She married the late Odie Lafayette Lusk, and he preceded her in death July 15, 1957. She married John McConnell, who passed away in 1983. She was a legal secretary for county judges here over 30 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church here.

She is survived by three sons, Harvey and Anthony (Tony) Lusk of Midland, and David Lusk of New Deal; two daughters, LaVerne Newsom, Plains, and Dosia Bryant of San Antonio; a brother, John Hague

of Hobbs, NM; Two sisters, Maggie Reeb, Dallas, and Mollie Clark, Junction; 13 grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two daughters, Billie Faye Lusk and Margaret Ann Lusk.

Pallbearers for the services are Neil Newsom, Chris Bryant, Don Bryant, Harvey Lusk Jr., Clay Lusk, and Anthony Lusk. Arrangements for the service are by Brownfield Funeral Home.



## Looking Back....

Nowhere was frontier violence so bloody or protracted. For forty years, frontier defense and frontier warfare continued in Texas.

The dominant Texan viewpoint was not that Texans settled Texas, but conquered it. Texas was never a refuge for the lowly or oppressed, or a beacon proclaiming human rights. It was a primordial land with a Pleistocene climate, inhabited by species inherently hostile to the Anglo-Celtic breed. Some North Americans chose to conquer it, and in the process came to look upon themselves as a sort of chosen race.

From 'Lone Star', by T.R. Fehrenbach

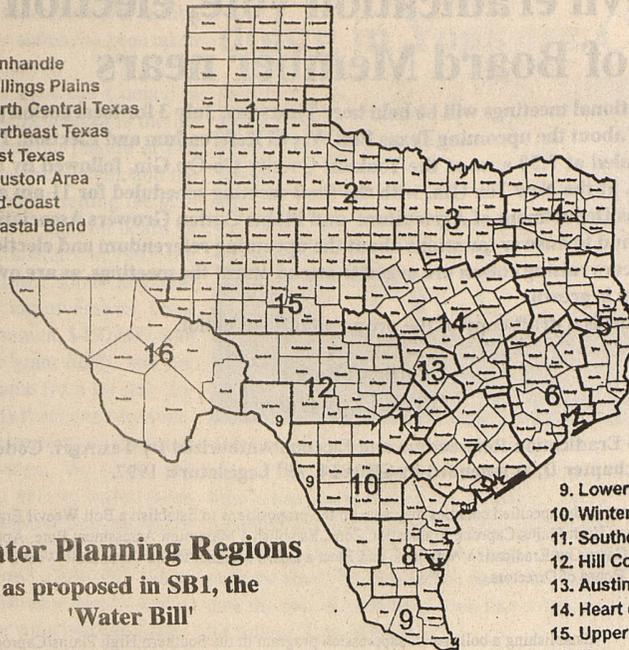
## Rodeo Queen Candidate



Tandi Michelle Jones, 16 year old daughter of Steve and Kathy Jones, will be representing the Plains Chamber of Commerce as Queen Candidate during this year's Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo. Tandi is the granddaughter of Carl & Willie Mae Jones of Plains and James & Sharon Turner of Brownfield.

Tandi belongs to the First Baptist Church of Plains and also is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She will be a Junior at Plains High School this fall where she is a class officer. Tandi enjoys playing basketball and helping with gymnastics. She is currently employed part-time by Cowboy Country News of Plains and First National Bank of Brownfield.

1. Panhandle
2. Rollings Plains
3. North Central Texas
4. Northeast Texas
5. East Texas
6. Houston Area
7. Mid-Coast
8. Coastal Bend



Water Planning Regions as proposed in SB1, the 'Water Bill'

9. Lower Rio Grande
10. Winter Garden
11. Southern Edwards
12. Hill Country
13. Austin Area
14. Heart of Texas
15. Upper Colorado
16. Upper Rio Grande

## Marfa: Is it Texas' newest oil Basin ?

The Trans-Pecos area was once known as the wildcatters graveyard. The warning kept going out: "There ain't no oil west of the Pecos!" That, however, was before they discovered the Yates field.

If the Yates field kicked down the door to Trans-Pecos exploration, a wildcat well in Presidio County may have cracked the door on another wildcatter graveyard- the Big Bend area.

Oil and gas drilling projects have come and gone in the Big Bend area for over decades, with little success. Now, Alpine Inc. Oil Co. of Edmond, Oklahoma has had a "little" success with the completion of its one barrel a day wildcat, the Barrett No. 1, 18 miles southeast of Marfa. According to Texas Railroad Commission records the well on the Alta Vista ranch is producing one barrel of oil, no gas and 13 barrels of water daily from the Canyon formation.

A one barrel well may not be big news in other corners of the Permian Basin, but in Presidio County it's front page news. A story in the Big Bend Sentinel, the Marfa newspaper, paints the discovery as new potential for the area. It may indeed have potential, but if it is it will be against heavy odds. Even though the odds have improved three fold since the well was initially completed, says Steve Knox, president of Alpine Inc. Oil Co.

The well was permitted to 6,000 feet and originally completed at 3,800 ft. in the Road Canyon sand. Alpine has now opened up the dolomite formation directly below the sand for three more barrels or a total of four barrels.

"There are no other zones to complete," said Knox. "That's it. We will watch the well for 60 days then decide whether or not we will drill another well. We will have to see better production, before we become a playmaker."

He said it cost \$500,000 to drill the well and \$70,000 of that was to get the rig on location. "The road and bridge system is just not built for drilling rigs. We had to tear down and replace a lot of gates."

If Alpine were to find a commercial reservoir in Presidio County? That would indeed be an industry milestone. "To our knowledge this will be the first commercial oil in the county. And could open the first new oil and gas Basin in Texas in recent history."

While 30-40 wells have been drilled in the county since the early 50s, Knox said most of these wells have been deep wells drilled by major oil companies,

"Only a couple have been shallow reef tests like ours."

## Sandy Land making water quality survey

Sandy Land Water District is in the process of conducting their annual survey of the quality of county water wells, primarily those used in rural homes, and in some windmill locations.

They annually take samples from about one hundred wells scattered around the county.

This year Cleve Bearden is collecting the water samples for analysis in the district office. Each sample is tested for alkalinity, hardness, chloride, specific conductivity, dissolved solids, fluoride, iron, ammonia, nitrate and sulfate. Records have been kept on test results since 1990, and Sandy Land can analyze each years well content to determine if the water quality is declining.

The analysis is provided as an advisory public service only, and the survey should be complete in about 30 days.

Recently officials of the Texas Water Development Board were here to evaluate the efficiency of a number of center pivot sprinkler systems, and profiles of those systems tested are available at Sandy Land.

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# Femme Friends



## HOWDY!

By: *Kathy Adair*



### Make Physical Activity Part of Your Routine

Regular physical activity improves cholesterol levels; it helps to lower LDL and raise HDL. It can also help you lose weight, if you are overweight. But you don't have to train like a long distance runner to benefit, even doing any physical activity for just a few minutes each day is better than none at all. Try to build physical activity into your daily routine in ways like these:

- \*Take a walk at lunch time or after dinner.
- \*Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- \*Get off the bus one or two stops early and walk the rest of the way.
- \*Park farther away from the store.
- \*Ride a bike.
- \*Work in the yard or garden.
- \*Go dancing.

Try to be active as a family; take trips that include hiking, swimming or skiing. Use your back yard or the park for games like badminton, basketball, football or volleyball.

Vigorous activities like brisk walking, running, swimming or jumping rope are called "aerobic." They are especially good for the health of your heart and can burn heart if you do them for at least 30 minutes, three to four times a week. But even if you don't have 30 minutes, three to four times a week, try to find two 15-minute periods or even three 10-minute periods.

Most people do not need to see a doctor before they start being active, especially if they start off slowly and work up gradually to a sensible plan. But you should get advice from your doctor beforehand if any of these conditions apply to you; if you have a medical condition, if you have pains or pressure in the chest or shoulder area; if you tend to feel dizzy or faint, if you get very breathless after a mild workout, and if you are middle-aged or older, have not been physically active, and plan a fairly strenuous exercise program.

### Summer Reading Program News

Yoakum County Library and Dairy Queen have worked hand in hand for many years to promote a successful summer reading program for children in our area. The theme this year is "The Incredible Dream Machine". The illustrations and colors are the best in many years, and the State Library has stated this program has been most successful in years. If you have not signed up for the program please do so. Stipulations are to read 10 books in your age level and receive a beautiful certificate, a coupon given by the Dairy Queen for a free ice cream cone and your name placed in a box with all the patrons completing the summer program for a drawing. The prize is a large, brightly colored beach towel.

A prize will be given after the Old Settler's Rodeo Parade in August for the best clown contest. The library is promoting kids to dress like a clown and parade down the street in a group to entertain the crowd. Kids, start working now to paint and dress up for the parade and win the prize given by the library.

Do you want to read for fun? Each morning during the week from 9 to 10 someone will be in

the Library Heritage Room to listen to children read a book. If your child wants to read for fun or needs the practice of reading 'bring them on down' to the library. This program is offered thru July 11th and parents are encouraged to bring their children. Melody Morris began this volunteer time in early June, and it has been so successful the library needs other volunteer listeners. Packets of projects are available at the library produced by the U.S. Department of Education, American Library Association, Pizza Hut, Inc., Scholastic, Inc. and Reading Is Fundamental, Inc. They outline many different things to do, and stories to be read by children. Parents can help their children become good readers: Start by having your child read a story or a fable. Make an outline on lined paper with the following questions to answer after they have completed reading the story to you:

Title, main character, setting, problem, resolution, this is only one of the ideas listed in the packet of projects. We want our children to be the best readers in the state and these are only a few of the ways America and your libraries and teachers can help to encourage good readers.

The Plains Chamber of Commerce reminds residents the upcoming Old Settlers Reunion and Rodeo will require lots of volunteer workers to be another success for the community. Workers are needed to help prepare and serve food and drinks for the barbecue in Stanford

Park Saturday, August 2. Other volunteers are needed to take tickets for the rodeo, and help in directing parking. If you would like to help in the annual events, contact Carolyn Culwell, David Brunson or any Chamber member.

### WARD-HENINGTON REPEAT VOWS



Ms. Valynda Zoe Ward of Fort Davis became the bride of Gregory Paul Henington of Terlingua on Saturday, May 10, at noon, at the Wayside Inn Bed and Breakfast, Fort Davis, which is also the home of the bride's parents. The front outside area was the setting for the wedding, barbecue and reception, with the backdrop being the palisades of Sleeping Lion Mountain.

The bride is the daughter of John W. "Jay" and Anna Beth Ward, former residents of Yoakum County and graduates of Denver City High School, the granddaughter of the late Irby and Cora Cole Ward of Denver City and Gainesville; and the late Walter and Martha Camp Anderson, who were both members of pioneering families of Yoakum County.

The groom is the son of Virginia Wickman, Tyler, and Dayle Henington, San Antonio, the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clarence D. Henington, Temple; Mrs. Beatrice Powell, Gatesville and San Antonio and the late Sam A. Powell, Gatesville.

The bride looked radiant in a fitted, white, imported, crepe silk dress, embellished throughout with pearlized bugle beads. Silver and gold sequins, in leaf-shaped patterns, encircled the upper front and back bodice portions, as well as the shoulder parts, just below the high neckline. Sequins in smaller leaf-shaped forms also encompassed

the long fitted sleeves around each wrist. She wore matching pearlized pumps. A simple arrangement of Baby's Breath was used as the headpiece to complete her outfit. She carried out the tradition of wearing something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue.

The double-ring ceremony, composed by the Reverend Kenneth Copeland of Fort Worth and modified by the couple, was performed by the bride's father. Following the impressive, private ceremony, that included communion for the couple, the attendees enjoyed barbecued brisket with all the trimmings.

Valynda, graduate of Fort Davis High School, has been associated with Fort Davis State Bank as an officer for many years and on its Board of Directors in recent years.

Greg was graduated from Gatesville High School, Gatesville. He received his B.B.A. degree from Texas A & M University, College Station, and his M.B.A. from the University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio. He was formerly an officer in the Texas Commerce Bank Houston. He owns and operates several rafting companies, among them being Texas River Expeditions located near Terlingua.

The newly weds honeymooned briefly in San Carlos, Chihuahua, Mexico, at a quaint bed and breakfast, after which they motored to their home near Terlingua.

They are at home in Terlingua and Cotopaxi, Colorado. They plan an extended honeymoon in Sicily in October.

A reception for Valynda and Greg Henington is set for the evening of Saturday, August 2, in the courtyard at the historic Gage Hotel, Marathon. Friends and family are invited to attend, as no local invitations will be posted.



**Thank You!**  
*The Jewell Anderson Family would like to say THANK YOU!*  
 Our friends in Plains will always be dear to us. In our time of suffering we realize how special the people of Plains really are. Thanks for caring so much, even though we have been gone so many years. Your faithful support made our time of sorrow so much easier.  
 Our Love, the Jewell Anderson Family

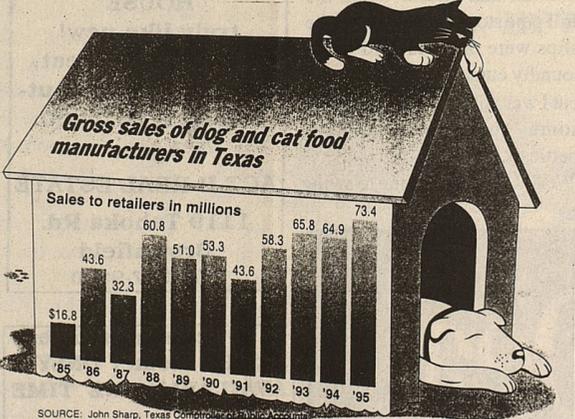
**Band Boosters to Meet**  
 There will be a Band Booster meeting Wednesday, July 9, at 5:30 in the Heritage Room of the Library, this meeting was postponed from June 25, as our fundraising information had not yet arrived. All parents of PHS Band members are encouraged to attend.  
 For information call Jerri Lollar 522-6521

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# From The Hack



The following is SOLELY for my good friends Paul New and Richard Clark.... maybe former friends, after this.

Lawyer Jokes;

Q. What is the difference between a tick and a lawyer?

A. A tick falls off when you die.

Q. What do you have when 100 lawyers are buried up to their necks in sand?

A. Not enough sand.

Q. What's the difference between a dead dog in the road and a dead lawyer in the road?

A. There are skid marks in front of the dog.

Q. What is black and brown and looks good on a lawyer?

A. A fully grown, mean Doberman.

Q. If you see a lawyer on a bicycle, why should you never swerve to hit him?

A. It might be your bicycle.

Q. Santa Claus, the Tooth Fairy, an honest lawyer and an old drunk are walking down the street when they spot a hundred dollar bill. Who gets it?

A. The old drunk, of course, the others are imaginary creatures.

Q. You're trapped in a room with a tiger, a rattlesnake and a lawyer. You have a gun with two bullets. What should you do?

A. Shoot the lawyer twice.

Just good, clean fun, counselors, and Paul, don't spit even more Beechnut on my shoes for this transgression.

.....

I read something quite fascinated off our Web page the other day. Seems this guy near Phoenix found an apparently abandoned wild javelina piglet, in poor physical shape. He takes it home, feeds it goats milk, lets it sleep cuddled up on his chest.

Now the thing he calls 'Hanna' has recovered, is allowed to come inside his house, and enjoys sitting there watching TV with the guy and his wife.

Now wait a minute. Yes, I've heard of oriental fat bellied pigs, Mynah birds, even snakes and lizards being allowed free rein in certain folks homes, people I suspicion with only one oar in the water, and it's upside down. He let's it sleep on his chest? The article did say young javelininas are normally docile, but what if it's sleeping away, has a dream, like animals do, a bad dream, and frightened awake, jumps up, disoriented, and bites the guys nose off with it's sharp tusks (They're 'tushes' in East Texas), mistaking it for the fruit on a prickly pear cactus?

Let's see just how much of a sincere animal rights advocate he is then, with a new plastic nose.

I bet the javelina's favorite thing on television is re-runs of that recent movie "Babe", the film about the little white porker who could think, talk and act.

.....

Thinking about the "fabulous oil strike" reported in Presidio County on another page, I recalled my debut into the oil patch. I was fresh out of the Navy in 1955, eager to make my mark on the world, but I didn't have the right marker. All I knew was high school, and four years in the Navy during the Korean War. Zilch.

A friend and distant cousin stopped me one day, and said, "Hey, you wanta go to work with me? We got a roughneck crew short a hand, and I can get you on workin lead tongs, if you wanta start tonight." I was frothing at the mouth, and said, "Yeah, how much does it pay?" His answer was "\$2.875 an hour, plus overtime". I was a bit disappointed, but rapidly figured that was some \$2.60 cents an hour more than I'd been making cutting Grandmaw's yard.

The driller and crew picked me

up at 11:03 p.m. to make the 30 mile drive to Mentone, north of Pecos, and on the trip, I excitedly thought, "Man, they're starting me off on LEAD TONGS, whatever that means!" I followed the crew into the doghouse, they called it, expecting a friendly cocker spaniel to greet me. I was then led up the steel ladder to the drilling deck, where I met 'Bud', our friendly driller. He looked me over in about six seconds, and said, after spitting a huge wad of beechnut, "Another dam weevil". I thought, "Hey, what's wrong with this Neanderthal, weevils are things that eat cotton bolls!"

He said, "Boys, we're getting ready to trip her... I'm coming out of the hole in eight minutes, get your butts in gear".

Easy for him to say. I had no clue what he was talking about. I looked at my distant cousin, who was for some reason grinning wickedly at me, and I suspicioned I knew why he was distant.

When the huge driller began shifting levers about, stomping on pedals I hadn't seen before, and began yelling obscenities at us to get on the tongs, I frantically looked about. I knew tongs were what you picked up and turned over chicken with, but I saw none anywhere.

With a grunt, groan and roar, the huge engines started lifting drill pipe out of the mysterious hole below the drill platform. I watched, amazed, until someone rudely slapped me on the head and said, "Grab the slips,,, slap your tongs on." Slips? I haven't seen a female in seven hours, and the mysterious tongs were still a mystery. Finally, someone shoved a huge, swinging pincher looking thing at me, which probably weighed half a ton, and screamed, "When we set the slips, grab the pipe with your tongs and push it back to make it bite". I nodded, not a clue what all that meant. When the drill pipe stopped coming up, the 'slips were dropped, and I was soundly cursed for not helping, but I was still looking around for some sort of a womans petticoat..

Well, it got time for me to swing

my tongs in and grab the pipe, so the driller announced in a rocket blast voice. I did, clang, bang, twist, and I securely had my index finger, glove and all, trapped between metal jaws exerting some 1800 psi. The finger looks a bit mistorted to this day.

The first day, or nights, experience wasn't all that bad. When we were relieved by the daylight crew, the agony throbbing in my finger was eased a bit when we stopped in Mentone, and at 8:15, ate breakfast - 3 cans of Coors and a pickled egg.

Thank God for roughnecks... I'm just gald I'm not one of them anymore.

.....

We opened with a friendly swipe at attorneys. How about closing with some "Holy Bloopers", announcements that supposedly occurred in different church bulletins;

"Don't let worry kill you... let the church help.

"Thursday night... potluck supper, Prayer and medication to follow.

"Remember in Prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

"The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belzer.

"This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized on both ends.

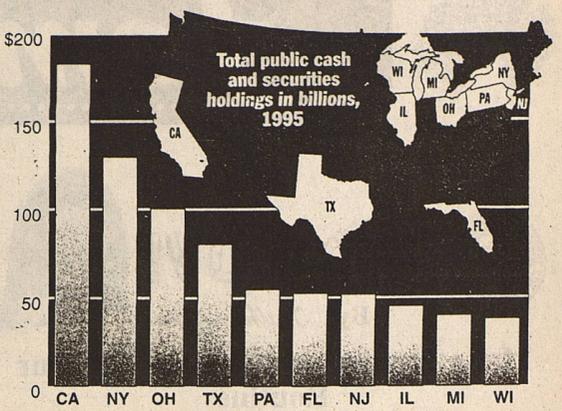
"This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mr. Lewis to to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

"At the evening service tonight, the sermon will be "What is Hell?!" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

.....

## Richest states

Texas ranks fourth in total public cash and securities holdings with \$81 billion, but only 36th in per-capita holdings (\$4,290 in 1995).

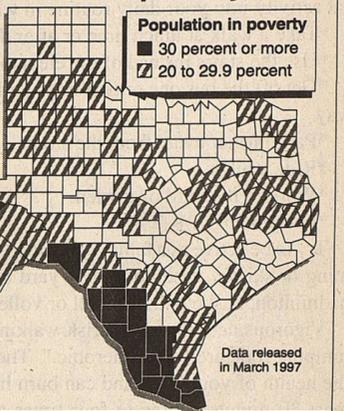


SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

## Keeping an eye on Texas

### One Texan in five lives in poverty

Close to one fifth, 19.6 percent, of Texas' population lives in poverty. The counties with the highest percentage of poor in 1993 are along the Texas-Mexico border. The median household income in Texas was \$28,803 in 1993, while the poverty threshold for a family of four was set at \$14,350.

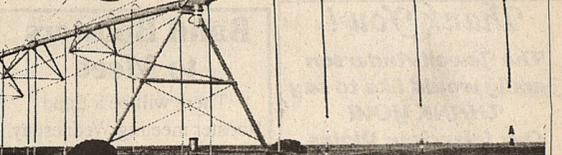


SOURCES: John Sharp, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Data released in March 1997

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