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Cowboy Country News



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

Volume V, Issue 28, Wednesday Mar 24, 1999

"and I will send rain upon the earth"

I Kings, 18 - 1



This is not a scene in Louisiana bayou country. Water is shown standing just east of Stanford Park



The Cowboy Baseball Park infield was inundated with last week's welcome rains.

Life, and the weather, are full of ironies. Last Wednesday's issue of CCN contained an article about Yoakum County being included in a list of 167 Texas counties declared in emergency fire hazard zones. The ink was barely dry in that edition when that same evening, the entire county and much of the South Plains received desperately needed rains.

The official National Weather Service instruments at City Hall recorded 2.77 inches of precipitation Wednesday evening. Previous recordings included .84 inches in January, none during the entire month of February, and one-tenth earlier in March for a year to date total of 3.71 inches. Unofficial reports from individuals in the county ranged from two inches to over three inches

of moisture.

One local 'Wag' summed up the feelings of county farmers and ranchers following the rain. "I was in the coffee shop this morning and thought I must be in the wrong town. Everyone looked completely different - they were grinning!"

The drought may not be over, but at least it's had a setback.

House Passes Farm Bankruptcy Bill Senate Clears \$450 million

On March 11, the House approved the Short-Term Extension of Farm Bankruptcy Law (HR 808) by a vote of 418-1. The bill allows for bankrupt farmers to continue operation while they reorganize their debts until October 1. The House Judiciary Committee agreed on March 2, to grant a three-month extension to Chapter 12 of the bankruptcy code, a program specifically geared to assist farmers in debt. Chapter 12 was first enacted in 1986 to provide relief to farmers during the 1980's farm crisis; the program was initially set to expire in 1993 but was extended through October 1998. After a bankruptcy bill, which included permanent authorization for the farm program, died last Congress, a six-month extension provision was included in the omnibus spending bill (PL105-277).

House Judiciary Commercial and Administrative Law Subcommittee Chairman George Cekas (R-PA) has introduced a new bankruptcy bill (HR833) which includes permanent authorization for the farm program. However, HR833 could take months to approve and lawmakers did not want the temporary program to expire during the process. The Senate is expected to consider HR808 in the coming weeks.

Further, the Senate cleared a bill (HR822) that would give loan relief to farmers on March 8. HR822, a bill to allow the early release of the \$450 million in reserve funds to farmers while Congress completes work on the supplemental appropriations bill, was introduced two weeks ago by House Agriculture Chairman Larry Combest (R-Lubbock) and Ranking Member Charles Stenholm (R-Abilene) and passed the House by voice vote. Chairman Combest urged the President to "Sign the legislation (HR822) Congress recently passed to free up nearly \$500 million in loan authority for farmers". The President has not indicated his position on this issue.

Local FSA County Executive Director Gary Six told CCN, "A portion of this \$450 million is earmarked for a number of county producers whose loan requests have been approved. To date, however, we have received no official word on when the funds will be in place. Approval of this money would allow many of our producers to return to their fields with the use of these emergency expedited loans. Receiving these funds would have another county wide benefit, allowing many of these farmers to bring their accounts up to date with many ag related business firms in the area."

Information for this article was furnished CCN by State Representative Gary Walker's office.

A small community such as ours is always saddened, often shocked by the passing of a well respected, well known resident.

The entire community and county is devastated when the loss involves one of our young people.

Friday evening, a series of phone calls to Plains friends throughout the community brought news of the tragic death of 16 year old Plains High School Junior student Kimberly Dawn Newland just hours before.

Kimberly, along with her brother Jarod and mother Jan Newland had been spending a portion of the school spring break vacation with family and friends in the Wheeler and Amarillo portions of the Panhandle. She died in a terrible auto accident, which also caused Jarod severe lacerations and bruises, and a possible broken chin.

Kimberly was born May 28, 1982 in Pampa to Michael Lee and Janis Irby Newland. She spent 12 years of her young life in Wheeler, three years in Dimmitt, and last years school year in Plains.

She was one of the more respected and loved student in Plains High. She was a top quality player on the Cowgirls Basketball team. She had just recently been notified she was a

selectee on the TGCA ALL STATE TEAM, and was a former ALL DISTRICT honoree in 1998.

Kimberly went to the Finals competition in A.A.U. basketball with the Texas Tar Heels Team the last two years.

She was an officer in FHA, a Dimmitt Student Council member two years, and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Kimberly, her brother and mother Jan belonged to the First Baptist Church here.

A testament to Kimberly's popularity, and the love and affection the town and school felt for the entire Newland family was reflected by the very large number of well wishers attending funeral services here Monday morning in the school auditorium. Brother Bill Wright,

Pastor at First Baptist, officiated in the moving, emotional services.

A very large number of friends and family from the Amarillo, Wheeler and Claude area of the Panhandle attended services, and after a noon meal, accompanied Kimberly back to Wheeler, where she was buried beside her father, the late Michael Lee Newland, who preceded her in death in 1993.

In addition to her mother and brother, Kimberly is survived by grandparents David and Louise Newland, Downing, Missouri, and Dale and Lorene Irby, Clovis, New Mexico.

Plains School Superintendent James Haynes told us about Kimberly, "She was such a lively, beautiful girl. She was a leader, and a joy to know. Her coming here provoked a bright

spirit for other students in our school, and I believe they greeted she and Jarod with welcome arms. I think Kimberly loved Plans and Plains ISD, and I know we loved her. Kimberly will certainly be missed, but she will live on in our memories."

Our favorite memory of Kimberly is, she dared to be different from most high school students around adults. Most kids, when they are surrounded by their peers, tend to ignore adults. Not Kimberly. Each and every time we crossed paths in the halls of PHS, she would greet you with an 'eye ball to eye ball smile on her face', and a true friendly greeting, morning, noon, afternoon.

Memorials are suggested to the Mike and Kimberly Newland Scholarship fund at Plains High.

Entire town, school suffers from tragic loss of Kimberly Newland



Cowboy baseball boosters are erecting advertising signs on the outfield fence of Cowboy Park. To date, Alltell Communications, State Line Insurance, New Tex Gin, B.F. Rowe Welding and the PISD Board of Directors have placed signs. The billboard type signs are available for \$500 and \$300 annual renewal fee.

D.C. Art Association Annual Show and Sale Slated

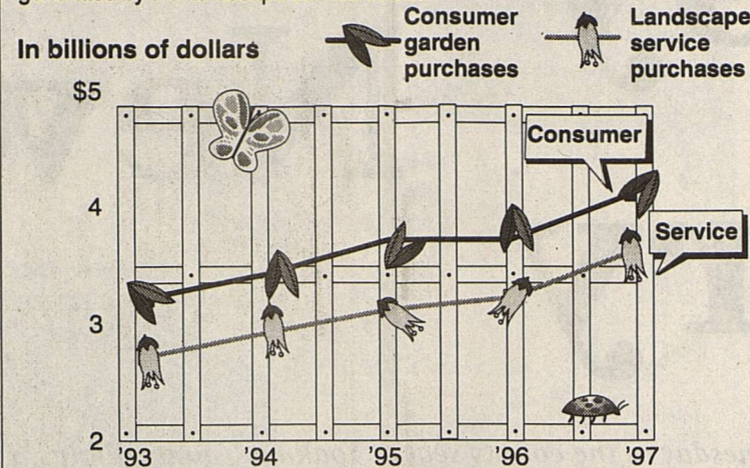
The Denver City Art Association is having its Annual Art Show and Sale on April 6 through April 10, 1999. The show will be at 118 N. Main, and will include paintings, graphics and photography. Entries will be accepted on Tuesday, April 8th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The show will be open to the public on Tuesday, April 8th, from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.; on Friday, April 9th, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; and on Saturday, April 10th, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be an awards presentation and reception at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 10th,

from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be an awards presentation and reception at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 10th. Cash prizes will be awarded for Best of Show in Photography and in Fine Art, and to ribbon winners in original categories. Anyone needing any further information can call Sue Holder at 806-592-2960 (after 5:00 pm.), Mola Moorhead at 806-592-3187, or Euple Taylor at 806-592-2704. Categories include: Classwork Copy, Classwork Original, Original, Photography, Graphics, Copy

Keeping an eye on Texas

How do Texans' gardens grow?

Texans love their gardens so much that green industry sales exceeded \$7.7 billion in 1997. About 55 percent of sales are through retail marketing channels by do-it-yourself gardeners. The remaining 45 percent are generated by the landscape service sector.



SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, and Texas Nursery and Landscape Association.

Larry Combest Comments

Security. We seek it in every walk of life. Job security, security from intruders in our homes, security in retirement, and the security most Americans take for granted, security from attack by a foreign nation. Not since Pearl Harbor has a foreign country successfully attacked a target within the American borders. Since then, we have been lulled into a false security. Dramatic advances in weapons technology have led many Americans to believe we have a missile defense system to protect us against attack. The fact is, we don't.

The world is becoming increasingly dangerous. Rogue nations like North Korea and Iraq are developing the missile capacity to strike the U.S. much sooner than previously predicted. A new report just released concludes North Korea now has the capability of propelling a missile to the U.S. Nuclear proliferation and increasing terrorist activity are a dangerous combination for America. According to the CIA, at least 20 nations already have or may be acquiring the capability to launch ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, including chemical, biological and nuclear.

The most powerful nation in the world is defenseless against missile attack. If a ballistic missile is launched at a U.S. city, there is absolutely nothing the U.S. can do to prevent it striking its target and killing thousands or millions of Americans.

Whether a missile is launched deliberately or accidentally, we have no defense system to pro-

tect American families, and the time is long over due to implementation one.

In 1995, the Republican Congress passed legislation requiring the administration to deploy a national missile defense system. President Clinton vetoed the legislation and objected to a missile defense system "our intelligence community does not foresee needed in the upcoming decade."

However, with overwhelming congressional support on both sides of the aisle, President Clinton recently announced he will sign legislation before Congress requiring a missile defense system.

For about \$10 billion, roughly two-thirds the cost of Clinton's peacekeeping mission, the U.S. can build a limited missile defense system. With a projected surplus of \$724 billion over the next five years, \$10 billion seems a small price to pay to protect our families from missile attack.

A strategic missile defense plan will make every American more secure. Implementing such a plan means we will be able to put our children to bed each night with a new security we do not currently enjoy. If we do not, the consequences might one day be measured in American lives.

Declaration of Independence adopted by the convention at Washington-On-the-Brazos. March 2, 1836

Cornerstone laid for the present Capitol building. March 2, 1885

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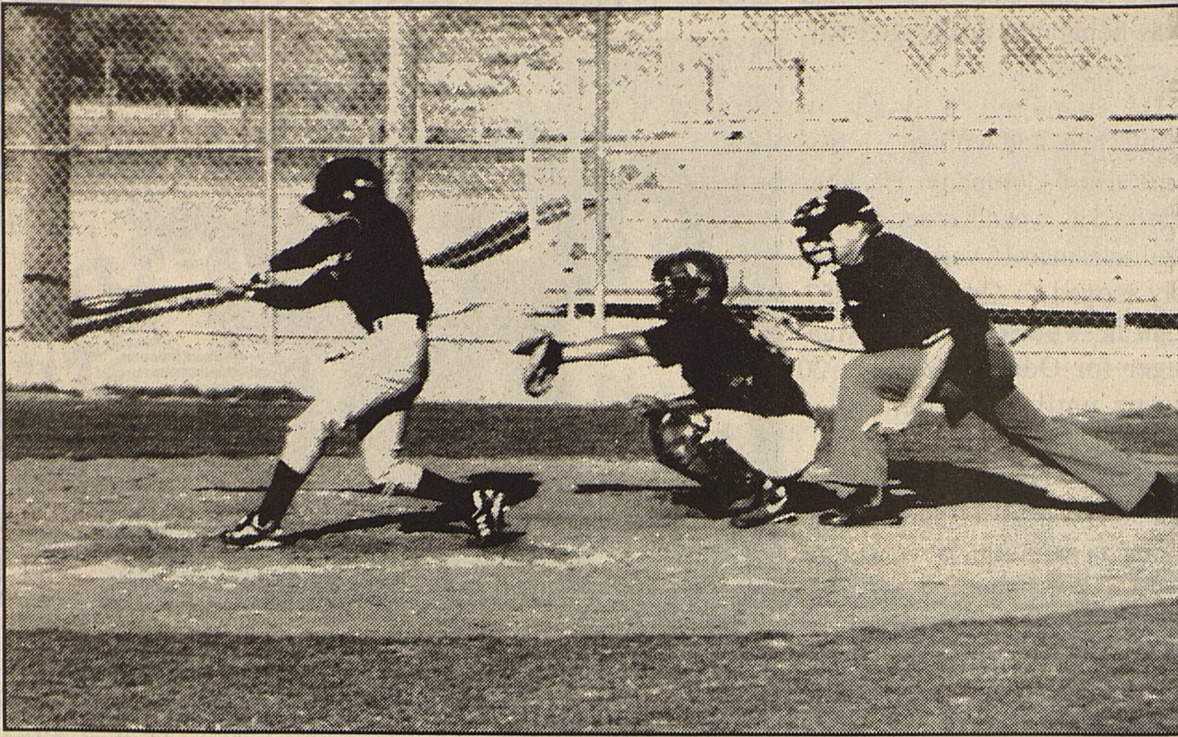
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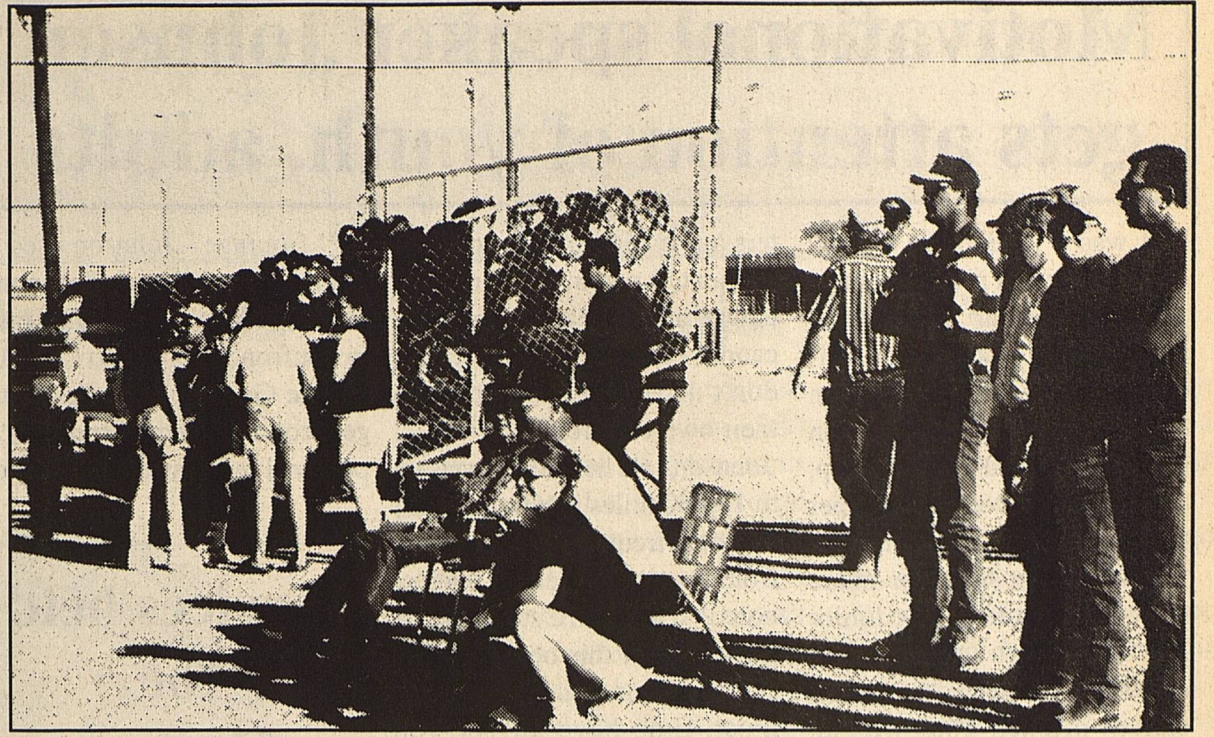
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Cowboy Baseballer's Busy Over Spring Break - Downed By Coahoma 8-4 In First District Game



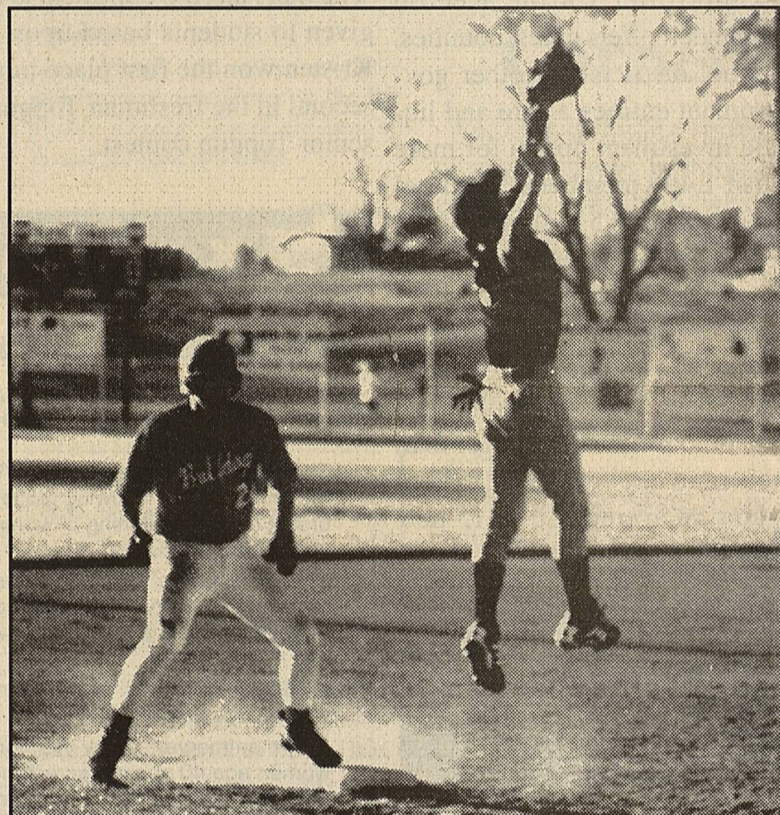
Vincent Delgado takes a mighty cut at the ball



A few of the Cowboy fans enjoy the game from lawn chairs.



Aaron Cain Tags Home Plate After Homerun



Josh Bell Had To Go High For Ball At Third



Gerry Rivas, Center, Grabs High Pop-Up Against Coahoma

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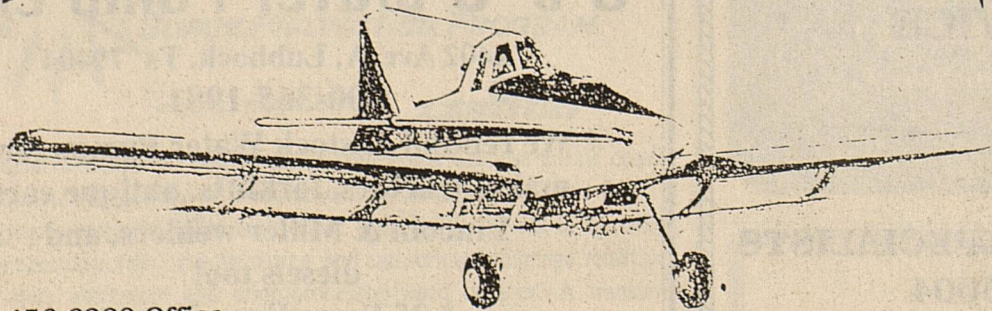
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Motivational speaker Johnson gets attention of youth, adults

"I was a juvenile in a New York City court room, facing a possible 25 year prison sentence, and I talked very seriously to the Lord, and told him if he would let my lawyer win the case, I would straighten up, I'd do good, I would help other teens avoid my situation." The speaker, Ron Johnson made this statement to Plains Junior and Senior High students Monday afternoon in a very somber, serious manner. Then with an infectious smile and booming laugh, he added "Of course I have to tell you, every person who ever faced prison has made the same 'plea bargain' appeal to God."

In the hour meeting, it became apparent his prayer was heard, and Johnson has kept his end of the bargain, with an amazing track record of success in counseling both youths and their adult parents.

He told the audience life is a continual learning experience, that boys must learn to become men, and girls must learn to become women, and the sexes must cross separate bridges to adulthood. "you can't learn from your friends... you must learn from adults... only mothers can successfully motivate girls, and only fathers can successfully motivate boys.

Johnson's central theme, couched in moments of hilarious delivery, is, Manhood, and Womanhood, are vital social functions which must be learned, and the lessons involved are all too often painful. He added, "The compelling reason I speak to moms and daugh-

ters one meeting, dads and sons the next, is parents must realize, adults must be teachers, and one cannot effectively teach if they don't understand how to reach their own children."

Johnson said he often travels up to 18,000 miles in a month, and the most frequently heard gripe from youth he meets is, "We're bored!" He told the students, "A great deal of this boredom you can blame on yourselves. How much time have any of you spent together in the organized planning of something to fight boredom?"

Johnson met with mothers and daughters one evening, dads and sons the next, and presented what he terms his ten step "Rites Of Passage" plan to draw families closer together. "One of these rites emphasizes the personal aspect of development - Hardship is a part of life, and it occurs to each and every single one of us - if you're expecting a jolly stroll in the park, you are in for a huge shock."

Some of the points stressed in his 'Rites' presentation include:

- * Avoid the growing and alarming trend of accepting mediocrity
- * Self-Image - appreciate what you are, not what you wish you were.
- * Vision - make a list of the important things you want for yourself, and then, add a list of things you envision for others around you.
- * Reality - Stop whining and making excuses, realize you are living in the REAL world.
- * One cannot expect to have all of everything RIGHT NOW.

* Courage - Johnson used a hilarious parody of God confronting Moses, compelling him to confront Pharoah to "let My People Go." He said the strongest courage stems from one's personal relationship with God.

Services held for Horace McAdams

Services for Horace Ware McAdams, 77, were held at 2 P.M. Tuesday at First United Methodist Church, of Odessa with the Rev. Bill Heggenmeier officiating.

Interment followed in Sunset Memorial Garden under the direction of Hubbard - Kelly Funeral Homes.

Mr. McAdams died Saturday, March 20, in his home.

He was born September 26, 1921 in Fayetteville, Arkansas. He moved to Muleshoe, Texas in 1926. He graduated from Muleshoe High School, and was class President all four years. He played football, and his team won the District Championship his senior year. He also ran track, and his teams went to a number of state competitions.

He was a student at the University of Texas Pharmacy School.

He married Anna Lucy Bray October 5, 1941, in Muleshoe. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard and attended Columbia University Pharmacy School in New York.

He served as Chief Pharmacist

Mate on the USS LST 71, and was honorably discharged November, 1945.

He managed a dairy in Muleshoe, and worked for E.R. Hart Company. He later worked as a pharmaceutical detail salesman 15 years. His family moved to Odessa in 1957, and he worked as Book Manager for Odessa College 20 years until his retirement in 1985.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church, President of the Wildcat Toastmasters, and the High Noon Optimist Club. The McAdams family owned the ABC McAdams Playschool 39 years.

Survivors include his wife; a daughter, Julie Jones, Clint; Three sons, Evertt, Plains, Ben, Odessa, and Ken, Plainview; a sister, Bettye Oliver, Muleshoe, and nine grandchildren.

The family suggest memorials to First United Methodist Church, Family Hospice of Odessa, or the American Cancer Society.

TexPool funds hit new high

The State Comptroller office announced recently the Texas Local Government Investment Pool (TexPool) reached a record high of \$11.1 billion in February. TexPool, according to Comptroller Carole Keeton Rylander, offers cities, counties, school districts and other government entities a safe and liquid investment option for more than 1,400 members. "TexPool returned \$393.5 million in interest to local government last year," the Comptroller said.

Yoakum County currently has some \$4.2 million in the investment pool. The Comptroller said the fund is now 40% larger than this time last year, and TexPool gains an average 10 to 15 new members per month.

UIL Math/Science Team Results



Back Row, Annaliesa O'Quinn, Clint Burrus, Jason Swann. Front, Kristen Gray, Maranda Box, Amanda Garcia

The Plains Math and Science team traveled to San Antonio over spring break and competed in the annual Texas Math and Science Coaches Association State Meet. Nineteen of Texas' best AA teams showed up at the contest. The Number Sense Team placed second. The Calculator Team placed 4th, the Mathematics Team placed 4th, and the Science Team placed 5th. Plains ended up as the third place Sweepstakes team behind Salado and Stamford.

Individual performances:

Freshman: Annaliesa O'Quinn 2nd NS, 2nd Cal, 4th Math/7th Sci

Sophomores: Amanda Garcia 10th NS, 12th Cal, 17th Math, 20th Sci

Juniors: Kristen Gray 1st NS, 1st Cal, 2nd Math, 3rd Sci. Jason Swann 15th NS, 17th Cal, 19th Math, 42nd Sci

Seniors: Clint Burrus 6th NS, 5th Cal, 7th Math, 6th Sci. Maranda Box 19th NS, 10th Cal, 12th Math, 9th Sci.

Kristen had the highest Number Sense AA score, the 2nd highest Calculator AA score, and the 2nd highest AA Math score at the contest. Kristen also had the highest AA score on the physics portion of the Science test.

The San Antonio contest also had a Topgun award. Awards were given to students based upon results from all 4 of the contests. Kristen won the first place junior Topgun award. Annaliesa was second in the freshman Topgun contest. Clint came in 5th in the senior Topgun contest.

Keeping an eye on Texas

Breast cancer claims lives

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among women in Texas. It claimed the lives of 2,396 Texas women in 1996.

The American Cancer Society (ACS) recommends the following guidelines for breast cancer screening of women without symptoms:

1. Clinical Breast Exam by a health care professional every 3 years for women aged 20 to 39, and annually for women age 40 and over.
2. Breast Self-Exam monthly for all women age 20 or over.
3. A mammogram every year for all women age 40 or over (screening may begin earlier if clinically indicated).



For more information call toll free 1-800-ACS-2345

SOURCES: Carole Keeton Rylander, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Cancer Reporting News, Texas 1996 Cancer Mortality Statistics, American Cancer Society, National Cancer Institute and National Breast Cancer Coalition.

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Has your doctor told you that you have high blood cholesterol?	yes	no
Is there a history of heart disease in your family?	yes	no
Are you a diabetic?	yes	no
If you're a man, are you over 45 years of age?	yes	no
If you're a woman, are you post menopausal?	yes	no
Are you overweight?	yes	no
Do you lead an inactive life-style?	yes	no

Saying "yes" to even one of these questions nearly doubles your chances of having a heart attack. For each additional "yes" the risk goes even higher.

For more information on heart disease and heart attacks please contact your physician or South Plains Public Health District.

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Lifelines & Styles

We Get Letters

Not all are thrilled with TAAS

No doubt Texas legislators had the best of intentions when they voted for the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills. However, they have unwittingly created a climate in the classroom that is not conducive to real education.

The truth is that TAAS has led to mediocrity. The curriculum has been narrowed, and the preoccupation with test scores has left little scope for the creative teacher.

In a recent column in the Abilene Reporter-News, Mike Moses, Commissioner of Education for the Texas Education Agency, pointed with pride to the "impressive annual gains on the TAAS".

As a classroom teacher, I can tell Mr. Moses why those impressive gains have been made.

Scores have risen because teachers have been pressured to send a disproportionate amount of time teaching test-taking skills and focusing on preparation for the TAAS.

The pressure is exerted in not so subtle ways. The teacher's own evaluation depends, in part, upon the accountability rating the school receives from the Texas Education Agency.

According to Shakespeare, "Comparisons are odious." This is certainly true of the Texas Education Agency School Rating System.

No allowance is made for diversity of backgrounds. Students in a school district in a small rural community with a stable population, with a higher expenditure per student, earn scores on the TAAS that gives the school an "exemplary rating."

On the other hand, students from a school district in an urban setting, one that serves a totally different population, may, despite the best efforts of the teaching staff, score lower. That school will receive an "acceptable", or in some cases, an "unacceptable" rating.

Dirt Gardeners Meet

The Plains Dirt Gardeners held their monthly meeting March 17. Dean Richardson gave the district delegate report. There was some discussion on plans for Arbor Day. Refreshments were served by Debbie Morphis. Those attending were Debbie Morphis, Mary Lou Parks, Jackie Willis, Ruby Sellers, and Dean Richardson.

Finally, there is one fall-out from TAAS that is largely ignored by its supporters and the expanding bureaucracy the testing program has created.

It is the student who has completed all required courses in high school but still is not allowed to graduate because he has not passed the TAAS exit-level test.

Last year in Big Spring, two students could not graduate for this reason.

In Abilene, the number was six. There are many reasons this can happen. Students with some degree of dyslexia, or other learning disability, are in the regular classroom, not in special education, where they would be exempt from the TAAS.

Some students are weak in only one subject, like reading or math. Some students are poor "test takers". They worry excessively, and their anxiety hampers their performance on a test.

Whatever the reason, the blow to self-esteem for such young people is unimaginable.

Before Texas legislators vote to increase the amount of state testing, I hope they will study all aspects of TAAS.

I hope they will spend a day in a classroom and learn, first-hand, the effect of TAAS. Perhaps, by working with teachers, they could devise a plan that would truly help all Texas students.

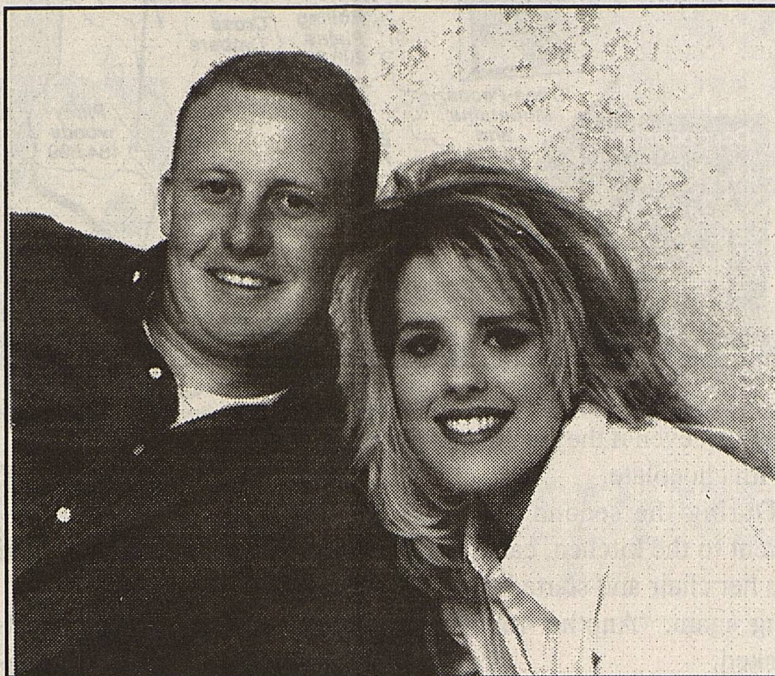
Jean Warren is a retired educator and frequent contributor to the Big Spring Herald. She is the aunt of Teresa Howard of Plains.

Thank You!

From the family of Doris Smith; We would like to try and express words of appreciation and love to the friends of our family. So many unselfish and perfect acts of kindness were done for us during this time of our Mon's celebration from this life to being with Jesus, that she had prepared for and looked forward to. We could never find words to express how much everyone meant to us during this time; songs, prayers, words, food, visits and so many acts we fail to mention. We love you and to all of Mom's sweet friends she shared her lifetime with, "We love you very much".

The Sisters, Brothers, Children, Grandchildren, Nieces, Nephews, In-Laws

Wedding Announced



Two lives, two hearts joined together in friendship, united forever in love. It is with joy that we, Amanda M. Koncaba and Jeffrey B. Lowrey invite you to share the first day of our new life together on Saturday, the third of April nineteen hundred and ninety-nine at three o'clock in the afternoon, Little Chapel of Brookhollow, 31 East Brookhollow, Lake Canyon, Texas. Reception following ceremony.

Senior Citizens Corner

Wednesday nights sound of thunder was nice as music, and the rain is just a bit of what we need a big lot of.

A new person is Mildred Harvey. Welcome!

Betty Evans is recovering at home. Ireta Davis is back at the Center after several weeks of treatments.

Some of our regulars have grandkids who are on springbreak. Earma and Spencer Rundolph are home from their winter stay in warmer climate.

The Center has been the re-

ipient of Memorial Donations of loved ones or friends. This money will go toward the financial aid of the Center. Anyone wishing a contribution in memory of Earl Dolloff, Wayne Terry, and Billie O'Neals Brother.

Red and Maggie Powell in memory of Wayne Terry.

Bertie Smith in memory of Claude Beattie, Sam Bruton, Loy and Ella Mae Black, Earl Dalloff and Carl Fulbright. These donations are greatly appreciated.

The '42' Tournament will be great fun. All seniors are urged to take up your dominoes and try to win. First place winners are awarded a "Free Lunch ticket. A Great time to all!

See you next week,
Smitty

Eye Injury and You!

According to Prevent Blindness America, more than 1,000 eye injuries of all types occur every day. Each year some 100,000 of these injuries will cause vision loss. Prevent Blindness America has named March as National Workplace Eye Safety Month. During March 1999, Prevent Blindness America is encouraging employers and employees alike to prevent eye injuries in the workplace. The organization will offer free literature on workplace eye safety, including facts on workplace eye injuries, tips to prevent and avoid work-related accidents, as well as recommendation for selecting industrial-grade protective eyewear.

A recent survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics found that three of our five workers who

suffered an eye injury had worn no protection, and of those who did, 40 percent wore the wrong kind. With the use of protective eyewear, 90% of workplace eye injuries are preventable.

As part of National Workplace Eye Safety Month, Prevent Blindness America is also celebrating the 51st Anniversary of Wise Owl, an incentive and education program sponsored by the organization to help employers encourage workplace eye safety. Membership information is available by contacting Prevent Blindness' toll-free information hotline or by visiting www.preventblindness.org/texas on the Internet. You may also contact the Panhandle/South Plains Branch office at 806-797-6701 or on the Internet at www.PBTLUBBOCK@door.net

TGSA Elects New Directors

The membership of the Texas Grain Sorghum Association (TGSA) recently held director elections for the association's districts in the Panhandle, West Texas, Central, and Coastal Bend.

Re-elected to continue their terms were West Texas director Jim Boston of Roscoe, Texas and Coastal Bend director Bill Kubecka of Palacios, Texas.

Two new directors were also elected by the organization. Jimmy West of Roxton, Texas, was elected as a director from the Central district. West replaces Tim Chesney of Aubrey, Texas. Daniel Krienke of

Perryton, Texas, was elected as a director from the Panhandle district. Krienke replaces Brent Hoover of Perryton, Texas. There is currently a vacancy in the Valley district.

TGSA is a statewide organization for the grain sorghum producers of Texas. The main purpose of the organization is to increase the profitability of grain sorghum through legislative and regulatory channels. TGSA consists of five districts with two representatives from each district elected by the membership to represent the interests of grain sorghum producers.

We learn as much from sorrow as from joy, as much from illness as from health, from handicap as from advantage...and perhaps more..... Pearl S. Buck

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DATE: Saturday, March 27, 1999

WHEN: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: 412 W. 5th Street
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From The Hack

The following article appeared in the March 16 issue of The Lovington Leader; "THE FOX DID ITThe fox wasn't in the hen house, but in a Lea County Electric substation Sunday night causing a short power outage for Lovington residents.

"A fox found it's way into the diesel plant substation and onto switching equipment, causing a major short. "The Fox was blown clear of the switch, according to Allan Brown of Lea County Electric. The men in the control room noticed the outage and restored power in less than one minute. "The fox caused a good bit of damage," said Brown, adding, "Crews will have to degenerate and bypass the station this week for repairs"

To say my interest was aroused by this article is similar to saying I would be mildly pleased to win the Lottery. I hastily called Mr. Brown (their 800 number, naturally... I was not so anxious for an interview to spend our dime)... I told Brown I had two major concerns about the article. (1) What happened to the poor fox? Brown , very carefully phrasing his reply in case the SPCA might be listening, said, "Well, let's just say he, or she, who could tell, will not make a very attractive neck piece for some ladies fur coat."

I posed question (2) - Why are you company higher-ups making your crews degenerate? I happen to know Mr. Brown holds a college major in English, and I could almost hear him blushing on the phone while he composed himself and his answer. " I was afraid someone would catch that. Actually, when I was interviewed by John Graham of the Leader, I told him the crews would have to 'DE-EN-

ERGIZE'. He must have misunderstood me." I told Allan his version sounded faintly reasonable, but I thought he should stick with the original word in the story. You know, if we here in Plains have to put up with a number of degenerate Lea County Electric workers, why shouldn't the customers in Lovington, also?

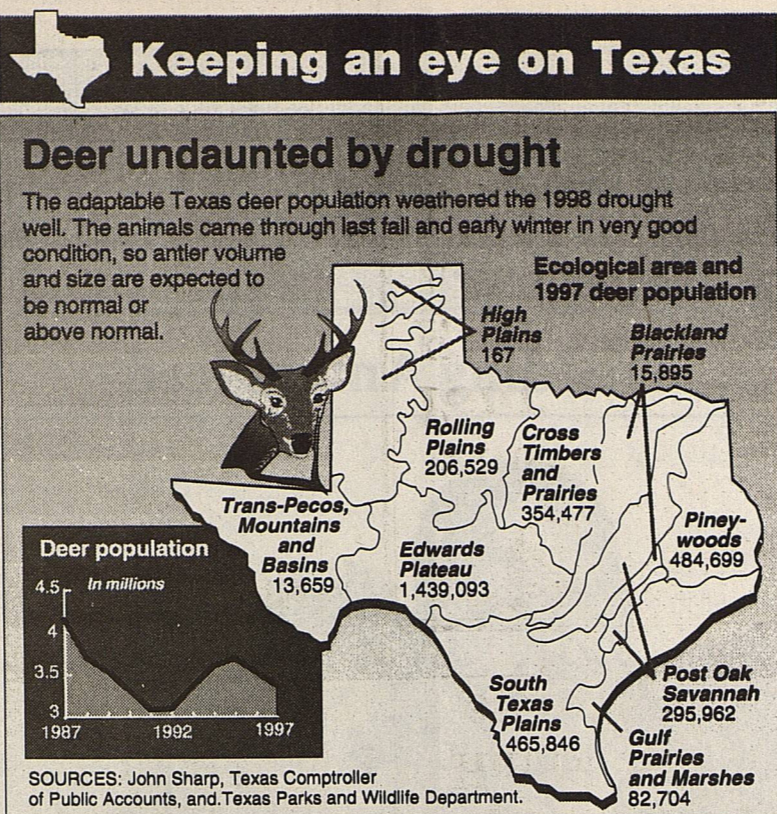
At that point the phone went dead. Sure hope my attempt at wit hasn't screwed up their advertising arrangement with us!

Watching the Lady Raiders recent great game against North Carolina State, the Bride really got into the fast and furious action.

When N.C. pulled close in the second half, I thought she was near cardiac arrest. She was screaming at Tech's great 3 point shooter Rene Hannebutt, "Come on, Honey Butt, you can do it, girl!" The Lady Raiders good ball handler Smucker (pronounced 'Schmicker') drew Bride's attention as well - "Atta girl, Schmucker, you're sweet as that jelly!" She was not quite so admiring of NC State's giant post player, Summer Erb, who drew barbs from the Bride, "You better not step on or fall on one of our girls, Summer Herbal!"

She is normally not so emotional watching basketball on the tube. Closer to the truth is the statement, "She doesn't watch ANY basketball unless the Lady Raiders are playing." I wondered about her rabid behavior, but then I saw her munching on something, and asked what she was eating. She licked her fingers and mumbled "A rabbit." A rabbit, I thought in wonder, "when did you start eating rabbits?"

"It's a chocolate rabbit. You know, a candy rabbit. It's almost Easter, you know." she licked her lips and fingers and added, "I like the ears best. Their little feet aren't bad, either. I'm not real crazy about their bellies, but I'm not going to waste them," and proceeded to take a big bite out of the rabbits belly button. I sat there in amazement. I detest those stupid marshmallow



rabbits, even if they are covered with chocolate.

During the second half, she went to the kitchen, came back to her chair and started munching again. "Another rabbit?" I asked.

"No, you dolt, can't you see these are jelly beans?"

My sensitive stomach almost revolted as I saw her toss half a dozen of the multi-color things down. I hate jelly beans more than chocolate rabbits. They have always reminded me of something rabbits leave behind them, sort of a calling card on the ground, even if they are technicolored.

I was really puzzled about the Bride's behavior, eating rabbits and jelly beans while screaming at the tube. When I went into the kitchen, my suspicions were confirmed. The blackberry wine jug had been seriously depleted.

So you think editing a newspaper is easy? So did I, about four and half years ago. To prove the point, IT AINT, we're reproducing some actual headlines written (Blush, Blush), in papers across the country:

Some are mere slips of the tongue, such as

"GRANDMOTHER OF EIGHT MAKES HOLE IN ONE"

"POLICE BEGIN CAMPAIGN TO RUN DOWN JAYWALKERS"

"DEAF MUTE GETS NEW

HEARING IN KILLING"
"HOUSE PASSES GAS TAX ONTO SENATE"

"TWO CONVICTS EVADE NOOSE, JURY HUNG"

And then there are the headlines which become mildly suggestive, including

"QUEEN MARY HAVING BOTTOM SCRAPED"

"PANDA MATING FAILS - VETERINARIAN TAKES OVER"

"DR. RUTH TALKS ABOUT SEX WITH NEWSPAPER EDITORS"

And from the nation of Italy, "PROSTITUTES APPEAL TO POPE"

Plain grammatical errors often cause mayhem in headers "SQUAD HELPS DOG BITE VICTIM"

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Walker, Texas Rep
By State Representative Gary Walker, Dist. 80

Legislative News

Several bills reached the House floor for debate this week. One of the first was one of mine, a minor correction regarding the makeup of grand juries. We didn't hear it, though, I postponed consideration for two weeks. The Senate companion, a duplicate of my bill which originated in the Senate, has already been heard by that body and is on the way to the House. It saves time to just hear the Senate bill when it comes over, rather than approve my House bill, send it over to the Senate, and make them hear it all over again. Although I won't have my name on the final piece of legislation passed, it saves time and sanity in both Houses to show a little consideration towards other members.

There was lots of committee work this week. Land and Resource Management heard legislation from our regular meeting time of 8:00 am. Monday until about 5:30 p.m., breaking only for the session of the House. We had a pair of bills that were controversial. Although this is oversimplifying the purpose of the bills, they attempt to limit the city's ability to change building requirements for construction in progress once the permit

has been approved. The builders approve the idea, the cities accidentally repealed by other state legislation.

In Natural Resources on Wednesday, we heard a bill that would create a water district in Bastrop and Lee counties. Normally, such legislation would pass our committee easily, but the city of San Antonio sees the bill as a threat to its possible future water supply. The debate was long and sometimes acrimonious, but finally ended about 8:00 p.m. The bill was left pending for now, and we are hoping for some kind of compromise. Lots of good folks from Bastrop and Lee counties testified. It's good to see citizens taking part in the process.

We had lots of visitors from Denver City this week, as well as Plains, Levelland, and Seminole. UIL events are beginning to take place, and we have so many talented students from West Texas that I get to see a lot of my folks. Thanks to their parents for bringing them to see the capitol.

U.S. recognizes the Republic of Texas as an independent nation. March 3, 1837

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Red	910 lbs.	\$44.00
Hol	1620 lbs.	\$36.00
Hol	1465 lbs.	\$38.80
Hol	1495 lbs.	\$38.90
Hol	1665 lbs.	\$38.80
Hol	1405 lbs.	\$39.50
Hol	1325 lbs.	\$40.75
Red	1370 lbs.	\$38.50
Hol	1180 lbs.	\$38.50
Char	1160 lbs.	\$42.00
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Hol	1700 lbs.	\$53.50
Hol	2055 lbs.	\$52.40
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